



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Thursday, 18 October 2018 at 8pm in Killearn Village Hall

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Adoption of Minutes of AGM of 20 October 2017
4. Convenor's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Directors
7. Reports from Working Groups:
 - a) All Killearn Archive
 - b) Colourful Killearn
 - c) Community Sports Pavilion
 - d) Fireworks
 - e) *Killearn Courier*
 - f) Path Group
 - g) Village Hall
 - h) Woodland
8. AOB

MEMBERSHIP MAY BE PAID ON THE EVENING OF THE AGM.

THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEE IS £1.00 PER ADULT AND CAN ONLY BE ACCEPTED WITH A MEMBERSHIP FORM. DOWNLOAD IT HERE:

<http://www.kcfc.co.uk/admin/form.pdf>

TEA, COFFEE AND BISCUITS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE MEETING.



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
Killearn Community Futures Company
Thursday, 19 October 2017**

Welcome

Peter Wilks, the Convenor, extended a warm welcome to all members present. The meeting was quorate with 53 members attending as well as members of the community.

Apologies

The following apologies were received:

Douglas Arthur	Gavin Hunter	Elizabeth Rennie
Tilly Arthur	Jane Hunter	Maurice Rennie
Pat Ashworth	Richard Hunter	Catherine Riches
Peter Bailey	Diana Jackson	Mary Short
Bob Beck	Shona Kelday	Roger Short
Sue Beck	Marcia Kelly	Connie Simmers
Tim Bedford	Nigel Kelly	Jean Sinclair
Catherine Davies	Madge Kennedy	Lorna Sinclair
Dai Davies	Miranda Mason	Kirsty Smith
Valerie Dron	Lewis Mackenzie	Gillian Smith
Gaylor Dron	Douglas Mackinlay	Donald Stewart
Marion Drummond	Gillian Mackinlay	Paul Wotton
Gill Emmanuel	Hugh McArthur	Sandy Wotton
Mary Fallas	Jessie McArthur	Heather Wright
Gordon Gibson	Mary McArthur	James Wright
Ros Gibson	Hilary McGregor	Kathleen Wright
Matthew Gingles	Sara Melville	
Sheila Gingles	Neil Metcalfe	
Meg Hale	Craig Michie	
Jackie Hawkins	Susan Michie	
Nick Hawkins	Pat Monaghan	
Clare Henderson	Anne O'Neill	
Erma Hermens	John O'Neill	
Iain Howie	Rosemary Parker	
Christine Hunter	Michael Pell	

Adoption of minutes of the last AGM on 20 October 2016

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were presented to the meeting as a true and accurate record of the Annual General Meeting of Killearn Community Futures Company 2016. Proposed by Ian Dickie and seconded by Brenda Pell. The minutes were adopted by a unanimous show of hands.

Convenor's Annual Report

Copies of the Convenor's Report have been circulated to the membership prior to the AGM. Peter Wilks emphasised how much of what we enjoy and depend on in the village is down to the hard work of volunteers. He showcased the excellent work of the KCFC working groups with particular reference to the large crowds at the Fireworks in November, Colourful Killearn's involvement with the 'On The Verge' project, the updated Path group maps and Killearn Archive's ambitious World War I centenary book project. But he went on to hope that volunteers might be found for new groups, too, such as a 'Friends of Killearn Glen', a revitalised Sustainable Killearn and, especially, the Hoolie – remarking that the Board had been delighted by the success of the Hoolie Dhu. He particularly thanked outgoing directors Neil McArthur (Fireworks) and Gwenda Watt (Killearn Market) as well as Bob Ballantyne (Treasurer), Brian Simmers (Village Hall) and Nancy Bailey for their work and support over the past year. He also thanked all present members for their continuing support.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Ballantyne (Treasurer) referred the members present to the Company Reports and Accounts for the year ending 31 July 2017, which had been approved by the Board. The Financial Review was distributed to the membership prior to the AGM, and the full Accounts were available to members at the AGM on the night.

The results for the year show a net surplus of £514 (2016: £27,227) after capitalising expenditure of £1,199 (2016: £4,291).

The results are after a depreciation charge of £41,949 (2016: £43,393) which has been partly offset by a deferred income credit of £25,626 (2016: £25,626). The depreciation and deferred income policy is explained in the notes to the accounts.

The bank balances at the end of the financial year totalled £115,695 (2016: £107,783) and reserves are £427,390 (2016: £426,876).

Bob reminded the AGM about the difference between restricted and unrestricted funds and that OSCR (the Scottish charity regulator) requires this. The total funds in both restricted and unrestricted categories total £427,390 (2016: £426,876).

He also drew the AGM's attention to the Balance Sheet (page 8), the project groups (page 11) and the Examiner's report (page 13).

The full Company Reports and Accounts for the year ending 31 July 2017 are included as a paper of these Minutes.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Margaret Harrison and seconded by Mike Gray. The minutes were adopted by a unanimous show of hands.

Election of Directors

The AGM accepted with regret the resignations of Neil McArthur and Gwenda Watt.

As required by the Articles of Association, the three longest serving members of the Board are required to retire from office, but this year there were only two who fit the criteria. Brian Simmers and Bob Ballantyne (both October 2015). Both have agreed that they are willing to serve. It was therefore proposed that they be re-elected to serve as Member Directors of the Company. Norman McNab proposed the motion and it was seconded by John I. Bowie, and their election was confirmed by a unanimous show of hands.

Killearn Trust has mandated Jamie Parker to act on their behalf as a Director of KCFC. The Community Council has mandated its Chairperson, Margaret Harrison to act on their behalf as a Director of KCFC.

Reports from Working Groups

Ten working groups reported to the AGM in 2017. These are: All Killearn Archive, Colourful Killearn, Community Sports Pavilion, Fireworks, Implementation Group, Killearn Country Market, *Killearn Courier*, Path Group, the Village Hall Operations Committee and the Woodland Group. All reports had been distributed to the membership prior to the AGM.

In addition to each report, several groups set up small presentations showing their work over the past year.

Matters arising, but not included in the reports:

- *All Killearn Archive*
 - The group has many projects either in hand or in the planning stages: the World War I war memorial book, the history of Killearn Hospital, working with the Stirling Cemetery Group on tidying the old cemetery, and exploring the history of some of the local large estates.
 - The group would particularly like to thank Margaret Harrison for setting up the group's basic catalogue. They are seeking more volunteers willing to upload information onto the computer and further helping with listings.
- *Colourful Killearn*
 - Although the group had nothing to add to their report, comments from the floor were very complimentary.
- *Community Sports Pavilion*
 - The group is still waiting for a resolution with Stirling Council concerning the Building Warrant and the issuing of the completion certificate.
- *Fireworks*
 - Neil McArthur thanked everyone for their help last year, and reminded them that help was needed every year.
 - He particularly asked for help from younger parents, since the display is mainly an attraction for children, and also to pass on information on how it is all put together each year to a new group. Margaret Harrison suggested getting in touch with the primary school's Parent Council. Neil replied that he hadn't done so previously, but that he would also expect that volunteers would come forward to participate in such a wonderful village event rather than having to be begged to help.
- *Killearn Market*
 - There will be a Christmas market this year, and it is hoped that further Markets might be set up, as well as another Hoolie Dhu, to support a Hoolie Gala Day, tentatively set for 2019.
- *Paths*
 - Further to path renovation or establishment, the removal of trees on paths requires the help of the landowner, and although slow, it does eventually get done.
- *Village Hall*
 - Brian Simmers, convenor, outlined who uses the Hall. New for this year is a music group, keep fit and an after-school club.
 - Commenting on the Hall finances, he reported that the surplus above £10,000 was due to a VAT refund.
 - Brian reported that the Village Hall has 35 wedding booked so far this year.

- Brian thanked all the KVHOC committee members for their hard work behind the scenes. Peter Wilks also thanked Mike Gray specifically for his handyman capabilities.
- The Youth Club is up and running, and there's space for new members.

AOB

Peter Wilks recommended that the AGM take the time to chat with Doug Ashworth and Euan Shaw at their Community Wi-Fi display regarding a possible wireless internet system for the village.

Jim Fallas, in regard to the need for volunteers, suggested that 'old fashioned' advertising might also be a way to attract younger villagers (especially parents of school-aged children) to step forward. Apart from the Fireworks, he wasn't sure there was enough done for younger members of the community. Gwenda Watt suggested that the Board might consider having an events director and work more closely with the primary school PTA.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 21.00 and everyone was invited to stay for refreshment provided by the *Courier* Group with help from Fiona Rennie and Joanna Donaldson of KVHOC.



Convenor's Report

Achievements and Performance

Membership

The membership of KCFC currently stands at 240, which is still a relatively small proportion of the population of the Parish. Considerable effort this year has been put into recruiting new members – we have an on-going campaign of attendance at local events with a display board, articles and inserts in the *Killearn Courier* and leaflet drops around the village to promote the Company and raise awareness of our activities. The Annual General Meeting is always well attended and provides a further opportunity to showcase the achievements of our working groups and receive feedback from our members.

Project Activity

The active working groups of KCFC (listed below) continued to promote the Company's charitable objectives:

All Killearn Archive	Colourful Killearn	Country Market
<i>Killearn Courier</i>	Paths Group	Community Sports Pavilion
Fireworks	Hoolie	Killearn Community Action Plan
Killearn Village Hall Operating Committee and Development Group		

Sadly neither Sustainable Killearn, nor the Woodlands group have been active in the last year and the Country Market is now much reduced in scope, though efforts are being made to rekindle enthusiasm, as well as form new groups to help with the management of Killearn Glen and the Playpark. KCFC is assisting the Community Council with developing a Resilience Plan for the village in times of difficulty such as the recent hard winter weather.

The Village Hall (KVHOC) continues to attract numerous community clubs, events, exercise classes of various sorts, as well as the youth club. Partnership with Three Sisters Bake in hosting weddings and other events provides essential income to maintain the Hall and subsidise community use.

The Community Sports Pavilion is now open and in use, primarily for the Football Club, but hopefully other groups and events (such as the 10k run) will make use of the facilities. Although more detailed reports from all the groups appear elsewhere, of particular note is the success of the *Killearn Courier*. Well done to the contributors, production team and distributors in making it a lively and essential read! Meanwhile Colourful Killearn continues to expand its activities with wildflower patches, extra barrels, planters and assisting with landscaping the Pavilion. The Paths Group have published a second edition of the popular Killearn walks leaflet, and the reputation of the Fireworks display spreads far and wide, attracting both large numbers of villagers and, increasingly, visitors.

Once again the Co-op Local Community Fund is supporting KCFC work, with a grant being awarded for the development of the Youth Club at the Village Hall.

My sincere thanks go to all my fellow directors, working group colleagues and to our Company Secretary for the loyalty all have demonstrated to KCFC and its activities. Their commitment reflects the highest standard of community volunteering and plays a major role in the current successful position of the Company.

Mike Gray, Convenor



Financial Review 2017/2018

The results for the year show a net surplus of £6158 (2017: surplus of £504) after capitalising expenditure of £nil (2017: £1,199).

The results are after a depreciation charge of £40838 (2017: £41,949) which has been partly offset by a deferred income credit of £25,626 (2017 £25,626) The bank balances at the end of the financial year totalled £125,587 (2017: £115,695) and reserves are £433,445 (2017: £427,390).

Details of the financial transactions of all projects active during the financial year are shown on page 11 of the full Accounts.

Reserves Policy

The directors believe the level of reserves as shown is required principally to protect loss of income from the wedding market and unexpected costs related to the buildings.

Risk Management

The Directors have not carried out a formal risk assessment. However, they have considered the major risks to which The Company is exposed, in particular, those related to the operations and finances of the company, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.



Register to become a KCFC Director

I wish to register my interest in becoming a Director of Killearn Community Futures Company and am willing to be proposed as such at the AGM of the Company.

I understand that this nomination will be brought forward at the AGM and that a proposer and a seconder who are members of KCFC will be needed at that time.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No. _____

Email: _____

Signed _____
(to signify willingness to stand)

Date _____

Return to the Secretary (Nancy Bailey, 20 Station Road OR endrck.water@gmail.com) at least seven (7) days before the date of the AGM (that is, 12 October).



Annual Working Group Reports

All Killearn Archive (AKA)

Members of Group

The current membership of AKA is Nancy Bailey (Secretary), Jim Fallas, Robert Hunter, Heather McArthur, Hilary McGregor, Gill Smith (Treasurer), Peter Smith (Acting Chairman), Duncan Clark, Morna Knottenbelt and Jenny Wilks. The group needs more active members willing and able to devote time to specific research projects.

Activities in the year 2017-2018

Various members have continued with WWI research adding to the knowledge we have gained on those who served and life in the village at the time. The work abstracting data from the 1891 and 1901 censuses for the parish has now been completed and the 1881 census is almost finished. The Valuation Rolls for Killearn for 1691, 1831, 1855-56, 1865-66 and 1914-15 have been abstracted. It is intended collect the data from all available valuation rolls eventually to allow the construction of a detailed account of the development of the village and parish over time.

With the help of Margaret Harrison and her knowledge of archives an 'Acquisitions Book' has been prepared. This will be updated as new items are added to our collection. A filing cabinet has been installed in the Village Hall Store and many of our holdings are now filed in a more organised and accessible manner. It is now necessary to prepare a detailed listing of the items we hold to enable them to be used for research. This is one of a number of projects we wish to pursue but are lacking the resources needed, mainly in peoples' time, to carry forward.

The group has now formally joined the "Friends of Stirlingshire Historic Graveyards". This is an organisation set up to help preserve the historic graveyards of Stirlingshire, which includes Killearn, to record history and information relating to the sites, to encourage their use by visitors and researchers for educational purposes, and to raise funds for maintenance of the sites. A travelling display, showing a number of the sites within the organisation, will be on show in the Village Hall during the AGM. AKA has now extracted the burial records for the old Killearn graveyard, which are held in a hand written form held in Stirling Archives, into a searchable digitised format. These cover the period from late 1800s to 1969. A electronic copy of the files will be given to Stirling Archives as a contribution to their programme of digitising records. Work is underway to link the burial records to a map of the graveyard and the inscriptions on the individual graves. We have established that the initial graveyard was extended twice and only the oldest part has been mapped with a hand-drawn plan. AKA held a work day at the graveyard in the summer to remove vegetation from the walls and to tidy up the private plots which are not maintained by the Council. More work days are proposed. After about 2 years of campaigning a Commonwealth War Commission plaque has now been erected at the entrance to the old graveyard. We also provided the Commonwealth War Graves Commission with a photograph of Killearn Cemetery to replace the one they had which was actually Strathblane!

Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society produced Journey's End in September. AKA supplied background information abstracted from the local papers. AKA, Balfour Heritage Group and Strathblane Heritage Group also mounted displays showing the various villages' contribution to the war at the venue.

Once again AKA contributed a wreath in memory of Killearn men who died in the two world wars at the Remembrance Day service. The wreath was illustrated by pictures of Walter Fairlie and David Marshall who died in 1917.

In the course of the year the group has continued to support the *Killearn Courier* by submitting

articles, based on the results of our research, in each edition.

Peter Smith, Convenor

Colourful Killearn

Our core work of looking after the tubs and containers around the village has certainly paid dividends this year. The miserable winter weather held the daffodils back, so that they were flowering concurrently with the beautiful blue violas and, hopefully, gave everybody a bit of a lift in the spring. To top that the summer display has been spectacular! Hard work keeping everything watered, mind, but more than worth it for the results. Our normal collection of 38 barrels plus the planter at ex-Spar were supplemented with another eight barrels and two troughs stuffed full of begonias, courtesy of a donation of Stirling Council's excess plants. Even these were not sufficient to accommodate them all, so extra odd pockets of colour popped up all over the village. As well as the tubs, we've managed to keep some control over the beds opposite the Co-op, at the end of the Ibert and under the noticeboard.

A separate effort has also gone into our wildflower project. In addition to the patches done last year at the sports pavilion, we have started a couple of new trials. A small area of the Glebe, behind the Village Hall, has been used to compare three different methods of introducing wildflowers with encouraging results. In a desperate attempt to brighten up the dismal roundabout at Blane Smithy, a load of seed was scattered directly on to the recently trimmed rubble, and some adventurous cornflowers are already showing a splash of colour.

What else have we done?

- ✓ The Christmas tree at the Kirk
- ✓ Locating a "Pinus in a Pot" (a dwarf mountain pine) at the Village Hall
- ✓ Fund-raising display stalls at Co-op, Country Markets and the KCHS annual show

Huge thanks are due to all our fantastic volunteers for the work put into both fundraising and looking after our various containers and beds, along with invaluable support from:

Thanks to individuals in the village for personal donations, large and small:

- S & J Duff & Son (Buchlyvie) for very kindly donating the Christmas tree, in tribute to Donny Beaton;
- Killearn Co-op, The Old Mill and Killearn Pharmacy for hosting collection tins;
- Oakwood Plant Centre for discounted plants, bulbs and supplies;
- Killearn Country Market for welcoming our profile/fund-raising efforts;
- Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society for giving us space at their Show;
- On The Verge Stirling for continuing to 'seed-fund' our wildflowering;
- Stirling Council for over-stocking with bedding plants.

Mike Gray, Treasurer

Fireworks

Killearn Fireworks gives donations to many worthy local causes, and this year Balfour High School received £900 to help make sure that finance was not a barrier to any of the new S1 students being able to attend a week-long outdoor residential week. Each of the three Houses at the High School attends a different outdoor centre and their week away is an important part of their transition from primary to high school.

Headteacher Elaine Bannatyne wrote to the Fireworks Committee thanking them for the donation and explaining how important it could be for some students. This time away allows the students to develop resilience and determination and improve their communication skills, all important for their success in school. The jump from P7 to S1 can be daunting. Through a range of outdoor activities focussing on team building, support and trust – with a good dose of fun thrown in – the fledgling high school students are able to establish friendships and get to know all the other S1s in their House as well as to build a relationship with key members of the school's staff.

In addition, Killearn Primary School received £500 to assist with an initiative to enthuse the pupils in developing numeracy and literacy skills, while £900 was donated to various youth groups several of whom distributed the Fireworks promotional brochure.

We have an enthusiastic group of volunteers who will be working hard to once again deliver an exciting evening which this year will take place on Saturday, 3 November. We are however always looking for additional members of the working group and if you would like to help please contact me via the KCFC website.

Graeme Fraser, Fireworks Convener

Killearn Courier

The *Courier* continues to accumulate a modest sum of cash, some of which is kept aside to finance an issue should ever the occasion arise where we need to self-finance; for example, if we lost our advertisers. Fortunately, this is an extremely unlikely scenario, so we will be using part of our surplus as seedcorn financing to back KCFC's efforts to continue exploration of the Glen's archaeology, and explore the possibility of a proposed Heritage Trail around the village, including the Glen.

The Group now numbers 15 members, including three Cubs. Our 'graduate' Cubs occasionally send us articles from wherever their next steps take them, and we are hoping this will continue and prove to be of interest and inspiration to our younger readers, whether they aspire to pursue further education, travel or a career.

We also make every effort to promote the interests of the KCFC and its working groups, and I think all this keeps the community informed.

We are fortunate that we continue to receive regular contributions to the *Courier* which are well received and engender favourable comments from many of our readers. As well as items of news, we attempt to cover diverse interests such as the weather, bridge, sport, health and nature as well as having a few light-hearted items in the vein of Joyce Begg's thoughtful comments and our new storyteller, Christine Bowie. While many of our articles lean naturally towards our more adult population, given our practice of recruiting young people and having them write articles, we provide articles of interest for the young people of the parish, too. All of this is a deliberate policy on our part and is achieved in the main by the efforts of the various members of our group who voluntarily give their time to produce a well-received, informative (and eagerly awaited) *Killearn Courier* three times a year.

At the risk of being accused of immodesty, I suggest that it is clear to the membership that the *Courier* is a resounding success. I have no doubt it will continue to be so.

Ian Dickie, Editor

Path Group

During the year there have been three meetings of the Path Group.

Work completed during this period included further work on the paths in the Kingdom Woods and the repair of the link path between Branziert Road North and Ibert Road. This latter work involved the use of 25 tons of materials and required a significant input from volunteers and professional support. We also received support from Stirling Council officials in acquiring the materials.

The work achieved during year has been heavily curtailed by particularly challenging weather, which gave rise to postponed meetings and cancelled working parties. It is hoped that next year will be more accommodating and busier. We also hope to make our initial steps toward a significant new path linking Killearn with Boquhan and onto Balfron.

We have continued to maintain our involvement with SWS (South West Stirlingshire) Joint Path Group. The Group raised concerns with the Council over the state of the West Highland Way between Station Road and Gartness. Officials have visited this stretched and acknowledge that their help is required. The Council is in the process of appointing a new Access Officer who will be the person to whom path defects are reported.

Ken Alexander, Convenor

Sports Pavilion

The contractors, A21 Construction, have advised me that they rectified the minor issues raised by Stirling Council re obtaining the completion certificate and we have contacted the Council requesting they revisit to check that they are now able to issue the certificate. We have at their request fitted

handrails to both ramps at a cost of £245 which was not part of the original plan and the Board has agreed to meet this unexpected cost from the General Fund.

Following efforts by Councillor Graham Lambie, I have an email from Brian Roberts of Stirling Council confirming that the £800 we were required to pay to them as a result of having to reapply for a fresh building warrant (as a result of their failure to trace the notification of start form) will be refunded to us.

Bob Ballantyne

Killlearn Village Hall Operations Committee (KVHOC)

Committee

We were extremely sorry to receive Michael Pell's decision to retire from the committee. Michael has been an important member: Convenor of the original Village Hall Management Committee since 1979 and also a member of the development committee and KVHOC of the renovated hall. In recognition of this remarkable length of service of nearly 40 years, a flowering cherry (*Prunus Kanzan*) was planted at the entrance to the hall along with a small plaque. This ceremony was followed by afternoon tea and cake provided by Three Sisters.

The committee now consists of Brian Simmers (Convenor), Peter Wilks, Joanna Donaldson, Mike Gray, Graeme Fraser, Fiona Rennie and Ado Adolphus (Hall Manager), ably assisted by our self-employed helpers Frances Devoy (Cleaning) and Susie Wilson (Assistant Treasurer). Sincere thanks to all of these ladies and gentlemen and other helpers for their hard work and support during the year.

Property and equipment maintenance

The renovated village hall is an elderly building and has now been extremely active for five years. Mike's maintenance and decorating schedule has been essential in identifying required maintenance work and we are gradually working our way through this. Some of the decorating work has been carried out personally by Mike, Joanna and others while Frances, Fiona, Ado and Callum Adolphus have also done a fantastic job of cleaning the hall floors.

Alba Facilities Services continues with its programme of servicing all heating, gas and electrical systems, fire alarm and other equipment. The company also provides a service for major property maintenance and a single contact point for system breakdowns and emergencies.

During the year we responded to the requirements and recommendations following a full insurance survey and fire risk assessment including fire drills, evacuation, training, health and safety, etc.

In addition to the day-to-day maintenance of the property and equipment carried out by our local tradesmen, there have been material costs on further window repairs and the external Main Hall wall. We have started a programme of replacing all carpet tiles, with a generous contribution from Three Sisters, and the boundary wall will be repaired.

Peter oversees the hall's IT/PA/lighting/website and is researching the installation of a hearing loop in the Main Hall.

Bookings

Joanna and Fiona handle our bookings extremely professionally and we have seen an excellent increase this year in our Room Hires. In addition to the regular weekly/monthly events covering badminton, dance, yoga, tae kwon do, Monday Club, youth club, Townbreak/Friendship Group and more, covering a wide range of ages, there are around 170 meetings, workshops, exhibitions, concerts, lunch and dinner parties, etc., taking place during 2018. Our weddings, which help to subsidise our other bookings, have also increased from last year, and this allows us to hold our hire charges for another year and to continue to discount the standard hire rate by 50% for registered charities and community fundraising events.

The Children's Book Festival was a great success in September, and we are hopeful that a Film Festival and After School Child Care Club may be introduced in 2019.

Our bookings documentation for all hirers is being regularly reviewed along with the introduction of the KCFC GDPR/Privacy Policy.

Three Sisters Bake (TSB)

The café is as popular as ever and attracts a considerable number of customers throughout the year. TSB's excellent reputation as caterers has helped to attract the strong wedding market mentioned above. We intend to extend the licence with TSB for a further five years.

Colourful Killearn

Sincere thanks to Mike/Colourful Killearn who planted out the corner of the hall section of the Glebe with wild flowers and introduced very colourful tubs beside the hall entrance and tower.

Rotary Club of Strathendrick

We were sad to be informed that the Rotary had decided to close. However we were particularly pleased to receive their generous offer of an inscribed bench which will be located at the Station Road entrance to the hall with views over the Glebe to Loch Lomond.

Financial

Bob Ballantyne will be reporting on the financial results for KCFC which incorporate the income and expenditure for the Village Hall. We are pleased to report that a surplus of £13,548 was achieved in 2018, and we will transfer £12,000 of this to the hall's sinking fund, increasing the fund to £42,000, which will be held to cover future major expenditure. Our thanks to Graeme and Susie for their considerable help with our financial recording and reporting.

As mentioned above and often before, we are always conscious that we are operating a community hall and we try hard to ensure affordable charges for our community users and balance these with a more commercial approach to charges for weddings and other major and non-charitable events. We are constantly looking at ways of attracting different categories of users, so let us know what activities and events you would like to see introduced.

If you would be interested in being part of our Operations Committee, please have a word with one of our committee members, as we are always looking for volunteers. It's fun – honestly!

Check www.killearnvillagehall.co.uk for details, and Facebook for further news.

Brian Simmers, Convenor

Woodland Group

The level of inactivity has almost increased, although assistance the Paths Group was given in a significant refurbishment of the paths within the Woodland known as the Kingdom.

Concern has been raised regarding lighting for the main pathway from Beech drive to Lampson Road, and I believe that Stirling Council propose to remedy this. At the time of writing, there has been no action.

Nature continues to dominate the area with considerable tree growth which has, in turn, reduced the light and subsequently the bramble growth. We continue to observe nature take her course, but this is not necessarily in keeping with our remit to promote biodiversity.

Douglas Arthur, Convenor