



Village Developments?

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For a little village, there are potentially big changes in the pipeline for Killearn.

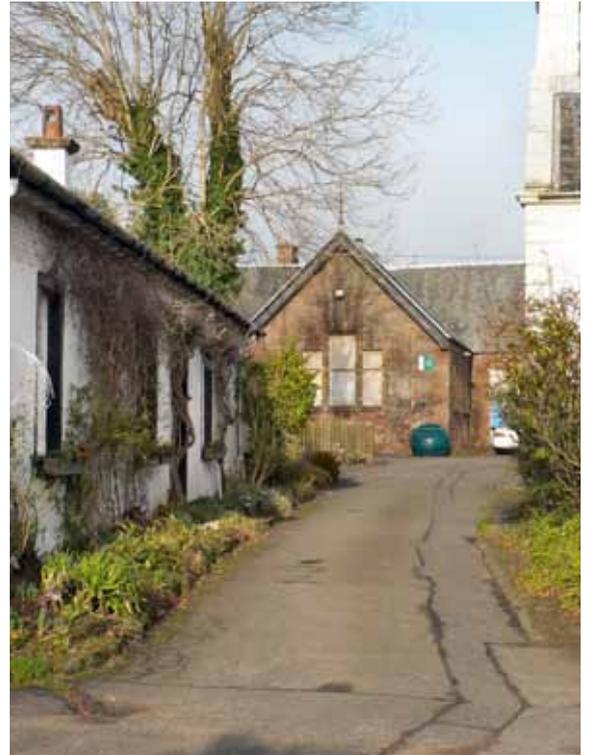
Stirling Council has been in consultation with the community about a wish-list of traffic calming measures, mainly on the Balfron Road and Main Street. The upgrading of Beech Drive is on-going, to the delight of all who live in The Trees.

On a larger scale, planning permission is being sought for the proposed windfarm on Ballindalloch Muir. This development has focussed interest on wind power as a renewable energy in the parish, as well as turning the spotlight on the Braes of Doune turbines and the other

windfarm developments in the Stirling area. Articles have appeared in *The Herald*, and the subject has stimulated lively debate online.

Closer to home, the Dinardo Partnership has put forward a proposal for the development of the Old School site, formerly the Leisure Centre. This building and the surrounding land was the subject of an unsuccessful 5-year attempt by KCFC to develop the site for community use before it was put on the market by Stirling Council.

Stirling Council Planning Department specified a maximum of two dwellings on the site, with the retention of the original Victorian red sandstone building. The Dinardo Partnership drawings show a two-phase development. The first phase would



see the entire footprint of the building, including the former kitchens and football changing rooms transformed into six flats. The second part of the site's development would include further dwellings of unspecified type and number on the site of the former Scout hut. The initial proposal includes 22 parking spaces.

Site access is the key to major development on this site. The Dinardo Partnership hopes to convince the Council to alter its criteria with drawings that show how access could be achieved. In these, the present lane, shown in the photograph above, accessing the site would be closed off by moving the boundary of the Schoolhouse property to within 1.2 metres of *Hillview (1 Main Street)*.

Continued on page 2

Killearn Courier published by:



KILLEARN
COMMUNITY FUTURES COMPANY

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Summer edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 16th August 2008.

Advertisements and Artwork

All adverts should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by **Friday, 4th July**. *Gwen Stewart* can be contacted on 01360 550856 and *Sara Hudson* on 01360 550806.

Contributions

All contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by **Friday, 4th July**. Send them to:

20 Station Road, Killearn

or email to courier@kcfc.co.uk.

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FREE

KILLEARN PATHS MAP WITH THIS ISSUE!



Continued from page 1

What is now a narrow flower border on either side of the front door of Hillview appears on the plans as access to the front of this property.

A new route to the Old School would be taken through the present path between the Schoolhouse and Bruce Cottage. As can be seen from the photograph on the left, an attractive part of the conservation area would disappear under tarmac. The additional land for creating this new, 5-metre-wide road would be taken from the south side of the Schoolhouse garden, and would swing around behind that property to provide access to the garage of Hillview. An extension to the Schoolhouse is also shown on the drawings.

In a recent development, the owners of Hillview have established servitude (or easement) in regards to their long-term use of the lane and have notified Stirling Council of this fact.

This speculative plan has aroused strong feelings generally in the village, and particularly amongst those whose properties border the proposed development. The Old School's central location, the site's historical importance to the village, and concerns about appropriate development both in the village and its surroundings, have made the Dinardo Partnership proposals of acute interest to residents in Killearn.

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Drane – Beck



Alethea Drane and Michael Beck were married on a cold but clear 2 February in St Salvator's Chapel, St Andrews.

The groom's uncle, Rev. Robin McAlpine, welcomed everyone and shared the service with Rev. John Drane, the bride's father, who gave the bride away and married the couple. The service was really a family affair: both their mothers did a reading.

St Andrews graduates, Alethea hopes to get onto a Scottish GP training scheme in August. Michael is completing an MSc in Oceanography from Florida State University. The couple are currently based in Manchester.



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EDITORIAL

It's gratifying to realize that this issue represents the start of our 4th year of publication. Time has indeed flown by. It seems we just finish putting one issue together when we start on the next. They just seem to run together, a bit like the seasons.

Is it my imagination or are the snowdrops, daffodils and crocus earlier this year? By the time you read this, Easter is upon us and we've got some articles in this issue which hopefully will give a feeling of Easter. Then, a week later, the clocks go forward and we are well and truly launched in to Spring.

This issue sees the start of 2008 and in this issue, we try to give you a taste of things which will affect the Village during the year; things that could well impact throughout the Community. The article on the Front Page presents situations of interest and concerns, the Killearn Community Futures Company obviously has some plans for the Community and there is good news regarding the Scouts. The work of the Paths Group has borne fruit and the outcome benefits us all.

Indeed, there is a lot going on in the Village. All of it is intended to make the Parish of Killearn a better place to live in and give us something to be proud of and enjoyed by all.

It goes without saying (but I'll say it anyway), none of the 'good news' happens without the commitment of the dedicated few. What now has to happen is that the 'dedicated few' are supported by the Community – and that means you! Enjoy the first 2008 issue.

Ian

Ian Dickie
Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters and emails. Please include your full address (not necessarily for publication). We reserve the right to edit letters. Contact addresses on the front page.

Dear Sir,

Over the festive season, there were lots of fireworks set off, particularly on Hogmanay. Fireworks are a great way to celebrate events and, indeed, it is part of our culture to set them off at any excuse.

On Hogmanay, we left our dog in the house while we went out to attend a party and do a bit of first footing. When we got home, we found our dog in a terrible state and cowering in a corner.

She had obviously been frightened by the fireworks set off by our neighbours. Had we known that they were going to be setting off fireworks, then we could have taken steps to minimise the alarm to our dog.

Through your pages, can I ask that people letting off fireworks remember any nearby domestic animals and tell their owners? Thank you.

Dog Lover

Musings of a "Teenager"

School borrring
Dark nights borrring
Killearn borrring

Got an idea – 'pop!'
Bottle vodka from a shop
Up the road, get some more
Blackcurrant cordial from a store
Drink them down, no one can tell
mixed together, there is no smell

Feeling good, a bit unsteady
Get the gang and then I'm ready
Round the houses here we go
Eggs in hand, ready to throw
Throw at windows then run off
Lights come on, what a laugh

Little old lady, lives alone,
Afraid to call or even 'phone
Just sits there crying in the dark
The helpless victim of a 'lark'

Parents home watching screen
don't even ask me where I've been
Off to bed to a good night's snooze
I need it after all that booze
Then when I'm halfway up the stair
a sudden thought

do my parents care?

ANON (no longer a teenager)

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DRYMEN POTTERY

The Health Centre will close at 12.30 on the following dates for training purposes.

The dates do not affect Physiotherapy appointments.

*Wednesday, 13 May
Wednesday, 11 June
Tuesday, 26 August*

Killearn Health Centre News

Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire: We would like to thank all of our patients who took the time to complete our annual questionnaire. We were very pleased with the results, and a copy of the Summary is available at the Reception Desk in the Health Centre. Please take the time to have a look at it next time you visit. We will be running this year's Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire in the autumn, and would once again value your participation.

Patient Group The Health Centre Team are pleased to have developed a Patient Participation Group. The Group comprises six patients and six members of the Practice Team. The aim is to strengthen the relationship between practice staff and patients and

improve communication to enable the practice to develop for the benefit of all. The first meeting took place in November. In the future we will be looking into health promotion events for the community.

We have tried to develop membership by looking at a cross-section of age range and the area we cover. We are still looking for a further member in the 18 to 25 age range. The Group meets about twice a year and if you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Practice Manager, Marta Emmerson-Gray.

The next meeting will take place on the 18 February. If there are any points regarding the practice you would like to be raised on your behalf, please do not hesitate to pass these to Ms. Emmerson-Gray.

Albert Harrison 1934 – 2007



Albert was born in Lancaster and enjoyed a very stimulating life. Early employment on the railways in Lancaster and Kendal sowed the seeds of a lifelong interest in railways and steam trains.

He followed a career in academic libraries in South Africa, Ireland and the UK, where he held the post of University Librarian at Strathclyde University. The move to Glasgow brought about another change in Albert's life when he met Margaret and married her in 1985.

Apart from his academic career, Albert had many other interests including tennis, golf, gardening and an immense appetite for English literature. He was also very interested in sailing, and enjoyed cruising holidays on the Norfolk Broads. During the last stages of Albert's life his thoughts very often related to his early days in Lancashire and Westmorland, and memories of South Africa.

PW

Walter Hutchison 1931 – 2008



Walter lived nearly all of his life in Killearn, attending Killearn Primary and Balfroon High with his twin brother, John. In his first job at Buchanan Castle Hotel in Drymen he learned to grow vegetables, which was the forerunner to a lifelong horticultural career with Milngavie and Bearsden and subsequently East Dumbartonshire Council. After retirement, a number of gardens in Killearn benefited from his skills as a part-time gardener. His professional skill was shared with the community as a member of the Killearn Cottagers Horticultural Society for over 40 years. The photograph shows Walter (*on left*) receiving an award in 2004 for 40 years service with the Society. He grew countless plants which he generously divided up with others, and many gardens in Killearn benefited from his guidance, and his love of colour and design spoke volumes about his character. He won numerous awards in the annual show and acted as a judge for many other horticultural societies.

Gardening was not his whole life as witnessed by his worldwide travels. He collected china, and was keen on genealogy, spending many happy hours researching his family tree. He also took a full part in the social life of the village, and gave generously of his time fund-raising for the *Old Folks Committee*. His quiet presence will be sorely missed.

Kathleen Winifred Bennie 1920 – 2008



Kathleen Winifred Bennie ("Binky" – a name given to her by her brothers) retired to Killearn in 1975 with husband, John. Their daughters, Susan, Joey and Kate were, by then, independent and Binky and John enjoyed socialising with new friends and their close family living in the area. An avid crossword solver and talented at art and knitting, Binky loved the competition of a good board game, especially Scrabble, often accompanied by a refreshing gin and tonic. Although not a driver herself, Binky did not let John's death in 1989 keep her indoors. She was a familiar figure in the village, enjoying a good walk to the shops, although latterly, she was very grateful for the many lifts and visits she received from a number of loyal friends. Her cheery nature will be missed.

Ian Sommerville



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William Connal 1925 – 2008



William Connal was born 3 January 1925 in Glasgow and was part of a family of six: three boys and three girls.

He left school at 14, and went to serve his apprenticeship as a motor mechanic with Hurry and Partners, Bishopbriggs. His apprenticeship was disturbed by National Service. He was a Craftsman in REME, and served in Germany and England. On returning to “Civvy Street”, he finished his apprenticeship and became proficient in diesel engines which had been fitted to different mechanical vehicle equipment such as fishing boats, generators, earth-moving equipment, trucks and coal-mining equipment, both above and below ground. His performance as an engineer was of the highest standard, and he rose to be Managing Director.

In 1950 he met Flora Ponton, and they married and took up residence in Killearn. Their family, Sandra and Stuart, were born in 1953 and 1955. His social activities were indoor and green bowls at Fintry and Balfron. His hobby was gardening, growing both flowers and vegetables. He was a very active Freemason, being a member of three lodges (Kenmuir Bishopbriggs, Buchanan Killearn, where he was a Past Master, and he was an Hon Member of Strathendrick Balfron). He received his 50 certificate in 2001.

Willie’s contribution to the Strathendrick area was considerable and done with enthusiasm. He will be sadly missed by all, and our condolences are offered to Flora, Sandra, Stuart and the grandchildren.

JF

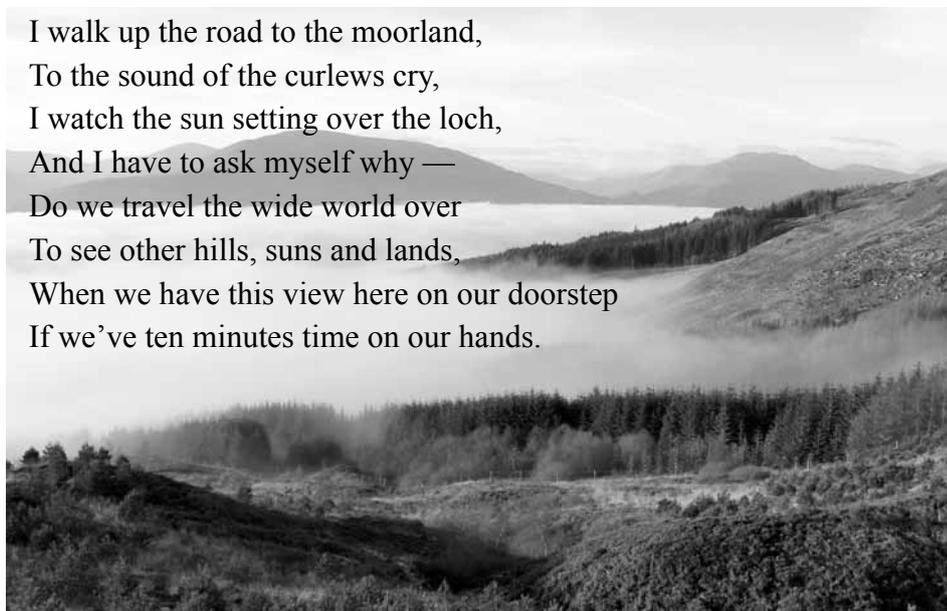


- | | |
|----------|--|
| 20 Mar | <i>Strathendrick Rotary Club</i> Charity Bridge. Village Hall, 7 for 7.30 pm. |
| 21 Mar | <i>Killearn PTA</i> Family Music Night. Village Hall, 7–10 pm.
<i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>The Lives of Others</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm. |
| 23 Mar | New Salsa Course (absolute beginners). Village Hall, 7.30 pm. Phone Duncan James for more information (0785 599 5157). |
| 27 Mar | <i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> An illustrated talk by Gordon Urquhart, “Glasgow’s Lost Country Houses”. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm. |
| 29 Mar | <i>K.C.F.C. Paths Group</i> Map Launch. Exhibitions by All Killearn Archive and Woodland Group. Tea and coffee served. Village Hall, from 10 am. |
| 30 Mar | <i>Strathendrick Singers</i> Spring Concert. Killearn Kirk, 7 pm. |
| 2 Apr | <i>Strathendrick Rotary</i> Charity Bridge. Village Hall, 7 for 7.30 pm. |
| 4 Apr | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Offside</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm. |
| 19 Apr | <i>Strathendrick Rugby Club</i> Sevens Tournament. Fintry Sports Club. Spectators welcome. |
| 24 Apr | <i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> An illustrated talk by David Roberts, “The History of the Working Horse”. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm. |
| 25 Apr | <i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Bread and Tulips</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm. |
| 26 Apr | <i>Strathendrick Rugby Club</i> President’s Day. Fintry Sports Club. Spectators welcome. |
| 26 Apr | <i>Inner Wheel</i> Charity Spring Fair. Village Hall, 10 am – 12 noon. |
| 27 Apr | <i>Strathendrick Mini Rugby</i> Charity Festival, raising funds for Strathcarron Hospice, Robin House and the Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice. Fintry Sports Club, 1 pm kickoff. |
| 2 May | <i>Killearn PTA</i> Bag2School. Killearn Primary School, 8.50–9.15 am. |
| 7 May | <i>Stirling Council</i> Core Paths drop-in consultation. Village Hall, from 1 pm. |
| 5–10 May | <i>FADS</i> production of Tony-award winning musical <i>The Life</i> , Menzies Hall, Fintry. For tickets, phone Liz Brown (860078). |
| 17 May | <i>KCHS and Friends of Guiding</i> Gardeners’ Market and Coffee Morning. Plants, bric a brac, Traidcraft, mounted photos for sale, coffee. Village Hall, 10 am – 12 noon. |
| 17 May | <i>Killearn PTA</i> School Fête. Killearn Primary School, 11 am – 1 pm. |
| 25 May | <i>Strathcarron Singers</i> Spring Concert in aid of Strathcarron Hospice, Cancer Research UK and Scottish Motor Neuron Disease Association. Albert Halls, Stirling, 7.30 pm. |
| 21 June | <i>Killearn PTA</i> Duck Race. Endrick River, 11 am. |
| 21 June | <i>Killearn PTA</i> BBQ. Killearn Primary School, 5–8 pm. |
| 6 Aug | <i>Killearn Cottagers’ Horticultural Society</i> Learn how to stage exhibits for the Show. Village Hall, 7.30 pm. |
| 30 Aug | <i>Killearn Cottagers’ Horticultural Society</i> , Show. Village Hall. Entries can be staged on Friday evening, 7.30–9 pm or Saturday morning, 7.30–10 am. Doors open 2–4.30 pm, prizes will be announced at 2.30 pm. For a schedule, contact Glenda Asquith (550142). |

If you have any dates for the August 2008 issue (mid August to mid November) of the Diary, please contact Pat Ryall (550713).

Thoughts on Killearn

I walk up the road to the moorland,
To the sound of the curlews cry,
I watch the sun setting over the loch,
And I have to ask myself why —
Do we travel the wide world over
To see other hills, suns and lands,
When we have this view here on our doorstep
If we’ve ten minutes time on our hands.



KCC News

Recent meetings of KCC have been well attended – obviously the agenda has aroused particular interest. Draft proposals by Stirling Council for traffic management in the Main Street and the Balfroon Road have been advertised and residents have been encouraged to participate in the on-going consultation. The volume of traffic, private cars and HGVs passing through the village has increased in recent years, and much of it drives through the village far too fast. Managing this as well as on-street parking whilst trying to conserve the traditional aspects of the village is something of a challenge, and consultation is likely to continue until agreement is reached on Stirling Council's proposals. Implementation of such plans will go ahead as funding becomes available. Meanwhile plans for traffic management in Beech Drive are underway.

Planning issues also arouse interest and, preparatory to addressing the application by npower to construct a wind farm on Ballindalloch Muir, an extra meeting was held at the end of January. A range of guest speakers on both sides of the argument addressed the meeting and time was allowed for questions and statements from the floor. The gathering of around 100 was overwhelmingly against the proposal. That viewpoint has now been communicated by KCC to Stirling Council Planning Department.

Plans for altered access to the Old School are under discussion.

Youth Wardens were the main subject of February's meeting.

With the co-option of Christopher Riches, KCC is pleased to be at full strength for the first time for several years. Residents are always welcomed at our meetings.

B.Pell

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Village Diary

The Community Council has been asked if it can provide a village diary so that all village organisations can enter their meetings for the year. This would avoid events clashing on the same date and also allow people to check the time and dates of functions in which they were interested.

Unfortunately in the absence of a meeting room or library, it is difficult to provide an actual diary as there is no suitable place to keep it where it can be accessed.

Luckily there is already an internet village diary maintained on the *Killlearn-on-the-Web* site which at the moment is much underused. I realise not everyone has access to the internet, but I am sure that in all village organisations there will be at least one person either on the committee or a friend who would be willing to enter events and feed back any clashes to the events organiser. There is also free access in the local libraries.

If all village organisations would agree to use this on-line diary, it would avoid unfortunate conflicts and gradually become an important source of information for those lucky enough to have the internet at home. So let's go for it!

How do you use it? Easy! Go to web address: www.killlearnontheweb.co.uk/community/calendar, click on the *launch the calendar* link and follow the instructions. Your event will then appear in the calendar within the week.

PW



Don't forget that Stirling Council Libraries come to the village with their attractive, well-stocked library vehicles each Thursday afternoon.

The local stops are:

New Endrick Road	3.45 - 4.10
Allan Road	4.15 - 4.35
MAR	20
APR	3, 17
MAY	1, 15, 29
JUN	12, 26
JUL	10, 24
AUG	7, 21
SEP	4, 18
OCT	2, 16, 30
NOV	13, 27
DEC	11

Branziert Road North	3.30 - 3.55
Branziert Road	4.00 - 4.20
Graham Road	5.30 - 6.50
MAR	27
APR	10, 24
MAY	8, 22
JUN	5, 19
JUL	3, 17, 31
AUG	14, 28
SEP	11, 25
OCT	9, 23
NOV	6, 20
DEC	4, 18

23rd Killearn Beaver Scout Group

Killearn Beaver Scouts are a group of boys aged 6 to 8 years old who meet in the village hall most Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. The Beaver motto is *fun and friends* and we do have a lot of noisy fun!!! We share the hall with other organisations so cannot meet every week, however from term to term we follow a programme with help from other visitors such as Mugdock rangers.

If you can spare an hour on a Wednesday to help this enthusiastic group of boys have fun we could do with your help.

Contact Mary on 550983 or Fiona on 550667

Killearn Scouting

Scouts have been absent from Killearn for many years and we are delighted that Jan Biggart and a band of willing helpers have agreed to re-start the Group. Initially they will meet monthly with a strong emphasis on outdoor activities. We also have the help and youthful enthusiasm of Kieran Boland and Jamie North as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme.

Cubs and Beaver continue to thrive. In total the three groups involve 60 children with more than 20 on the waiting list. The Group is now operating with a new Committee and team of ten Leaders and Assistants. Our grateful thanks to them all for giving up their precious free time. We also want to thank the retiring Committee for their hard work and dedication over many years.

LS



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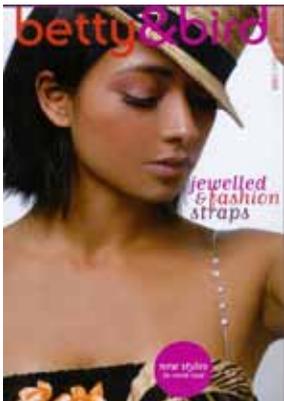


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Strathendrick Classic Car Club



This MGTC has been owned by one of our members for more than 34 years and has been restored from virtually scrap to its present condition.

MGTCs were built in Abingdon from 1945 until 1949 and utilise an XPAG 1250cc engine. The body is steel clad on to an ash frame which is then bolted on to the rolling chassis. There were just 10,002 built, and approximately half still remain. The new price was around £250 in 1945! This car is in regular use.

(Ed: We hope to feature a member's car in each edition of the Courier, and this is the first.)

Strathendrick Classic Car Club was formed about five years ago, with the intention of bringing together local car enthusiasts, particularly enthusiasts for old cars, and now has around 38 members. Members' cars range from pre-war to relatively recent, the majority being from the '50s, '60s and '70s. Meetings take place most months, except during July and August, with speakers, runs and events, some mildly competitive, others more so!

Any type of classic or interesting car can join the runs and events, no experience is necessary, and speed is definitely not of the essence! We also try to take part, as a Club, in other events not organised by ourselves.

Last year the Club entered cars in the rally run to mark the centenary of Argyle Cars, and the Best Period-Dressed Occupant's Award was won by one of our members, driving the oldest car in the club. Ten of our cars took part in the Arnold Clark rally, run by the local Rotary, and enjoyed a magnificent run to Kenmore and Glen Lyon in beautiful weather. Although classed as a rally, this was really a run – neither time nor speed mattered, and would have wasted the scenery, and the navigation notes were easy to follow. We will be going again this year. Some members joined Helensburgh enthusiasts in August in a run to Loch Melford and back. No doubt, something similar will take place this year.

Our principal event is based around the Drymen Show. Last year we had a navigation event before

the Show, which did need, if not skill, then application, followed by lunch and a visit to the Show, where we held a manoeuvring contest, and paraded our cars through the show ring. We expect to do much the same again this year, perhaps with a barbecue instead of a restaurant meal.

Membership costs just £15, and you do not have to have an old car to join. If anyone wishes to join they can get details of our forthcoming events from the secretary, *Phillip Pain (550752)*, or the chairman *Robert Livingstone (550465)*.

PJP

Strathendrick Rotary

Following on from last year's very successful Classic Car Tour, the Rotary Club of Strathendrick is busy organising the 2008 Tour which will take place on Sunday, 13 April. This year, the event is being sponsored by NFU Mutual, and will start and finish at Culcreuch Castle. Tour details, awards, and entry and sponsorship forms can be downloaded from:

www.strathendrickrotary.org

TID

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The Strathendrick Singers Welcome New Members



Strathendrick Singers entertaining at their recent coffee morning

Mark Evans is currently teaching in the Music Department of Douglas Academy, Milngavie and is a Research Teaching Assistant in the Music Department of Glasgow University and also Music Manager of Aberdeen International Youth Festival. He has previously conducted various choral groups performing a wide repertoire, including a year as Conducting Fellow with RSNO chorus. He is a member of the Chamber Choir and part time chorister with St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow.

After their Spring concert on 30th March of this year, the Strathendrick Singers will resume in September when new members will be very welcome to audition. Please contact choir Secretary, K Heron (01360 551174) to arrange appointment.

Strathendrick Singers Spring Concert will be held in Killearn Kirk on Sunday 30th March at 7.00pm. Tickets available from choir members.

Ever wanted to paint with watercolours but didn't know where to begin?

WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOPS

with local artist Iona Buchanan

BEGINNERS

Friday 28th March

10am – 3.30 pm

Killearn Village Hall

IMPROVERS

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Killearn Village Hall

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Strathcarron Singers

Spring Concert

in aid of Strathcarron Hospice, Cancer Research UK and
Scottish Motor Neuron Disease Association
in The Albert Halls, Stirling
at 7.30 pm on Sunday, 25 May 2008



The Strathcarron Singers are giving a concert of light-hearted music with something for everybody in The Albert Halls in Stirling as their major fundraising event for 2008, and we would ask you to note the date in your diary now and come along and support us!

Last year the event was a sell-out so please be sure to get tickets early as they will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis.

The Choir has been going for three years and we have raised over £20,000 for Strathcarron – all of which went directly to the hospice – there are no deductions whatever as we all pay our own way. Only the unavoidable costs of hall rentals and professional fees (where applicable) are deducted.

Tickets cost £10 per person; there are no concessions. Included in the price is a glass of wine or a soft drink in the interval.

Tickets are available from The Albert Halls (01786 473544) and Strathcarron Hospice (01324 826222) after 1 April, and from any choir member or the following at any time, who will deliver them once tickets are printed:

Molly Parsons (550945) David Marr (440991)

If you are unable to join us we would be very grateful for a donation to this year's chosen charities. All cheques should be made payable to Strathcarron Hospice.

We do hope you can come and support us and look forward to giving you a most enjoyable and relaxing evening of music for all tastes.



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Are you on the voters' roll?

The current Register of Electors for Stirling County published on 1 December 2007 showed an increase of 600 from the previous year to 65,829 electors.

Brian Byrne, Electoral Registration Officer, advised that he was disappointed that approximately 13% of households had still to return a registration form and that further efforts would be necessary to try and get the occupiers to register to vote.

However, of the majority who did register significant numbers of electors made use of the new internet, telephone and text message options this year. It is hoped that these paperless options will help reduce the postage and printing costs as uptake increases in the future.

According to the register, there are 1,610 voters in the village. Over the whole area, statistics also show an increase of 3.5% to 24.7% in the number of electors who have chosen to withhold their names from the Edited Register of Electors (which is the register sold to marketing companies).

Anyone who thinks they are not registered can check in the local library to see that their name is included the printed register. Anyone who needs to register, or who has moved address, or changed their name and needs to re-register can do so by completing and returning a form which is available in libraries or by downloading a form from www.saa.gov.uk/central.

As well as not being able to vote, if you are not registered to vote it can cause credit reference difficulties now and in the future as all major credit reference companies use the register to help verify residence.

Anyone needing more information on registration or voting options, including absentee ballots, should contact the Electoral Registration Office, Hillside House, Laurellhill, Stirling FK7 9JQ (01786) 892289.

Roll On ROLASS!

The pupils and staff of Balfron High School are busy preparing for the arrival of six Malawian pupils with five members of their staff in June of this year. Plans are underway for their integration into classroom lessons, sports and extracurricular activities, social occasions and excursions. The Sixth-Year pupils who visited Malawi last year are organising visits to The David Livingston Centre, Blantyre, Stirling Castle and a local farm to name but a few.

Pupils of all year groups are forging links with pupils of Robert Laws Secondary School through letter writing (penpals).

Fundraising is also at the fore. Each House within Balfron are raising funds for bursaries in the hope of sending nine pupils to school at ROLASS.

Claire Appelquist

Thoughts on Easter

As someone who uses Beech Drive, I am delighted to see the repairs. Merely adding a fresh layer on top of the old surface always allowed the potholes to return; so the workmen broke up the entire width, pulverised the rubble to re-use it, and compacted it into a new foundation, before adding the first layer of tar and gravel. We drove slowly in the bumpy stage, looking forward to the end product.



There was no such expectation to see the disciples through the darkness of that Friday when Jesus was unjustly executed. Three times he had tried to explain he would die and rise again, but they were so dismayed by the mention of his dying that they could not take in his words.

Like most Jews then, they expected the Messiah to conquer death, true; but they thought that meant, by *not dying*. Another prisoner said, 'Save yourself, and us while you're at it.' He had no idea that Jesus was

indeed aiming to save humanity from sin and its results, by dying innocently in place of the guilty. He could only do that by *not* saving himself from death.

So Christians call it *Good Friday* because they have found forgiveness from God through Jesus' death. But the Sunday was even better. Women hoping to complete burial rites were mystified to see the grave stone out of place and the tomb empty. One of them, eyes filled with tears, encountered the risen Jesus and at first

mistook him for the gardener, till he said her name; but the male disciples dismissed the women's reports as idle chatter.

When Jesus appeared to ten of them that first Sunday evening, their disbelief was trounced. They had a hard job convincing Thomas, the absentee, but even he believed when Jesus appeared the next Sunday evening, declaring, 'My Lord and my God!'

For Jesus, there was no resurrection till he had gone through death; for us, no top dressing can hide the wrongs in our lives; we need to admit those wrongs in prayer, ask for forgiveness, and accept Jesus as Lord. That sets up a new foundation that rearranges our inner being. It brings the first part of resurrection: new life on earth, filled with God's love, joy, peace. In gratitude, we *want* to serve. Christians have discovered death before life. Rather like Beech Drive.

Rev Phil Malloch

Kirsty Smith, M.B.E.

The *Courier* is proud to congratulate Kirsty Smith who was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours.

Kristeen Smith, Kirsty to most of us, is well known throughout the Stirling area and beyond for her work with the caring services. She was born and brought up in the west end of Glasgow and was educated at Hilhead High School. A year after leaving school she joined the BBC, working for ten years in administration and personnel. She married Donald in 1968 and left employment on starting a family. The family moved to Killearn in 1973 and after a few years rearing son, Gordon, and daughter, Sarah, Kirsty joined the WRVS and, in 1978, became the Tufty Leader, teaching road safety to young children. From this she moved on to Meals on Wheels and then became the Killearn representative of the WRVS Emergency Services and progressed to become Vice Chairman of Emergency Services Scotland, heading the First Response team. In this capacity she was involved in providing aid following the tragedies of Lockerbie and Dunblane.

From her involvement with the Year of the Disabled in 1981 grew



the West Stirling branch of Crossroads. Kirsty, with two colleagues from Kippen, was a founder member, and she was deeply involved with Crossroads for many years.

She was a member of the Forth Valley Health Board from 1991–2001, becoming Vice Chairman.

She joined Abbeyfield in 1990 as a member of the House Committee and again progressed to being Secretary in 1998 and then Convenor in 2003. Here she is fully involved in the life of the house far beyond the demands of administrative meetings.

As House Convenor she is closely involved with the residents and their well-being and, in times of emergency, she readily steps in to provide practical help.

She is an elder of Killearn Kirk, where she is Roll Keeper and Child Protection Coordinator and was Sunday School teacher for 20 years. Her care for children is shown each year at the Guild sale, where she will be seen presiding over the goodies from Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

In what continues to be a lifetime of caring service one might ask whether Kirsty has time for any personal interests. She can be seen starting her day with a brisk walk around the village and enjoys reading and, of course, contact with her children and grandchildren. When pressed for comments on the locality, she conceded she has concerns that there is a lack of facilities for young people, but, that apart, she enjoys life in Killearn. One thing is certain: both in and around Killearn, Kirsty's contribution has made a big difference to the welfare of others. Her years of service, quietly undertaken, deserve the recognition she has now been given.

BP

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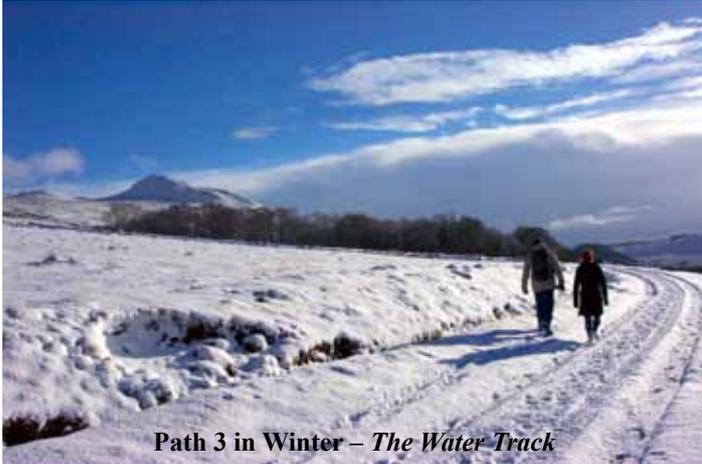


KCFC OPEN DAY - DROP IN FOR SATURDAY, 29 MARCH 2008



Every household in Killearn now has its copy of the Paths Leaflet, circulated with this edition of the Courier. The project was financed by a generous grant from 'Awards for All'

Members of the group are joining with the KCFC board to celebrate its publication, by leading two guided walks as part of the Open Day on March 29th.



Path 3 in Winter – *The Water Track*

Walk 1

This will take about an hour around Kirkhouse Wood (Path 1 on the leaflet) and is suitable for families (but unfortunately not for buggies). There will be fun activities for all, such as a Scavenger Hunt, there may even be small prizes!

This walk will start from Spar at 2.00pm

Walk 2

For those with longer legs and time to spare the two and a half hour walk to and from Gartness (Path 5 on the leaflet) will take in some items of local historical interest – you may well be able to tell us more!

This walk will start from the Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Both walks must be pre-booked, either at the Paths stall in the Village Hall in the morning when you are enjoying your free coffee and looking at other KCFC projects, OR by contacting the Pascoes on walks@kcfc.co.uk or by phoning 550022.

Please note: clothing and footwear must be appropriate for the weather – some mud is sure to be encountered!

The Paths group has regular contacts with the Ranger Service of Stirling Council and is actively working to improve and extend the paths network around Killearn.



KCFC UPDATE

Many thanks to those of you who have become new members of KCFC, our membership numbers now stand at 127. Your membership makes it possible to approach grant-awarding bodies in order to secure funding for community projects. Becoming a member is easy – just contact any of the Board for a form.

Speaking of funding, the long-awaited Scottish Rural Development Plan has finally been accepted by Brussels and is going through the statutory process at Holyrood. Meetings have been going on all over Scotland to explain the process and opportunities for rural communities.

Your KCFC is ahead of the game and has already applied for a Business Reference Number which is a prerequisite to access any of the £1.6 billion in the programme. A certain amount of this funding is allocated specifically for village halls as the Scottish Government recognises their value and importance to thriving communities.

I am pleased to say that Brian Simmers, who will be well known to most, has agreed to head up a Village Hall project group and is in the process of identifying a quality

consultation process. Brian is determined to ensure that the process includes and reaches the youth in the parish.

The advantage of having a readymade company with charitable status is gradually becoming recognised within the village. We have been approached to run the fireworks display in November for example, and we will be very happy to take this on. A more pressing problem is the lack of changing facilities for the football club, as the sale of the Old School means that their current ones have been lost. KCFC is actively seeking ways in which it can help the football club to raise the necessary funds for a new facility.

I would like to see an economic development project being set up to encourage local produce, both food and craft. We've already seen some of this at the various events which have taken place within the Village Hall. We could have people using the Hall as a sales venue for 'Killearn' items such as mugs, tea towels, calendars, etc. I bet there are people out there with great ideas. Young entrepreneurs would be encouraged. If any groups of individuals have project ideas, please get in touch.

Daye Tucker

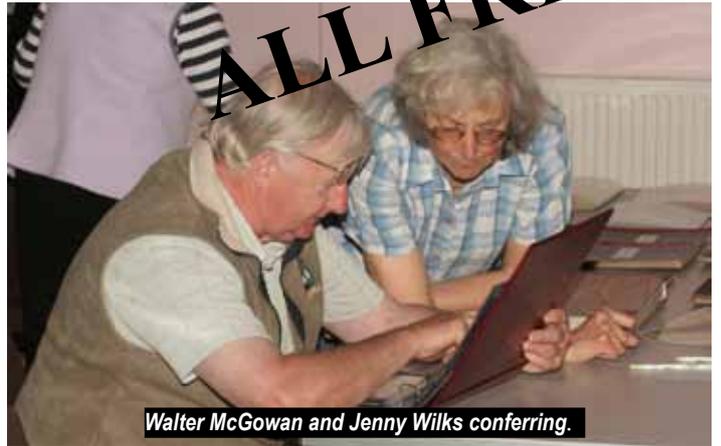
REFRESHMENT & INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL from 10.30 am

ALL FREE!



Dr Hector Campbell shares a memory last year.



Walter McGowan and Jenny Wilks conferring.

All Killearn Archive is dedicated to recording and preserving the heritage of Killearn. At the moment, the group is busy collecting material for the archive, with the vision that sometime in the future there will be somewhere where it can be permanently displayed. It is also intended that the archive becomes a resource for future generations to know their history and those wishing to research the past.

Last year *AKA* asked you to come and bring along photographs and other memorabilia to add to the archive. It was so successful we are asking anyone who can spare some precious time to come to the Village Hall and bring anything related to the history of Killearn. We will look after it with care and record it for posterity. Even if you don't have a photograph or object to bring, perhaps you have a story to

tell or a memory to relate. We will have equipment to record it while you share a cup of coffee or tea.

The memories and photographs you brought last time have now been recorded on disc, and there will be a continuous showing of these throughout the day.

Even if you have nothing to share, we would still welcome your questions about our heritage – members of the group will be on hand to try and answer them.

We look forward to meeting with you all again and hope you have an enjoyable time reliving times gone by.

Photographs, postcards, old albums, slide show and CHAT, plus refreshments. DO COME ALONG

Helen Loudon

The Woodlands project at 'The Kingdom' has been going ahead well, and some essential felling for reasons of safety and opening up glade areas for biodiversity has been carried out. Some coppicing to encourage new growth of ageing trees has also been undertaken. By the time of the Open Day, it is hoped that there will be opportunities for you to help with some planting, and maybe even putting up bird and bat boxes and deciding where to site them. This is your opportunity to really make part of the village your own, so, especially you young folk, come along and get stuck in. And of course, you will be eligible for free refreshments at the Village Hall too! More details will be on the Village Notice Board near the time, so watch out for times and arrangements.

Clive Emmanuel

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- Fireworks
- The Playpark
- Killearn Courier
- Killearn Archive
- Village Hall Project
- The Woodland Project
- Football Club Facilities



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A New Life for Killearn House



Pictured here in its heyday, Killearn House has seen great changes, emerging once again, rebuilt, as a modern-day mansion house. The house is located off the road leading from Blane Smiddy to Finnich Toll and had more recently been known as 'the ruin beside the Killearn Fishery which was the house featured in C4's *Grand Designs*.'

The photograph, taken around the turn of the 20th century, was copied from a 1904 postcard from the collection of Hugh McArthur. At that time the House was in the ownership of the Blackburn family. John Blackburn, a Glasgow sugar merchant, purchased Killearn Estate in 1814 and built the mansion house on the current site, perhaps with stone from the original Estate house which was called the Place of Killearn, situated in the Glen. Killearn House passed down through the Blackburn family until 1939. One of the farms and subsequently Killearn House were purchased by David Young, senior. It was more recently sold in a ruinous condition to a locally-based developer by David Young, former Chair of the Community Council, who farms Killearn Home Farm.



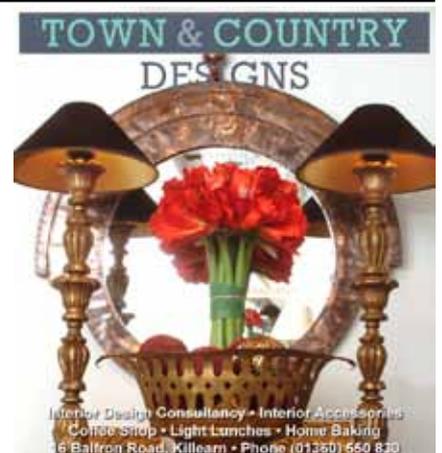

Due for completion in spring/summer 2008, Killearn House offers 10 stunning and individual apartments which are of superb size ranging from 1357sq ft up to the Penthouse of 3430sq ft. Luxurious finish with Porcelanosa kitchens and bathrooms, feature glazed central atrium and lift to individual floors. Private garages for each apartment, lovely parkland/wooded setting with wonderful views, some of which over loch to the Campsies.

Prices ranging from £350,000 - £850,000



The current structure is newly built with the southwest corner and lintels utilising original stone from Killearn House. In accordance with modern demand, the house is no longer in single ownership, but comprises ten apartments, two mews cottages and a detached cottage. Estate agents, Corum are selling agents for what they describe as an outstanding development in a magnificent situation. The properties are some of the largest they have been concerned with, and will provide purchasers with something rather special and unique. GS

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Definitions *by Joyce Begg*



How would you react to hearing someone who has been a resident here for 40 years say that Killearn was no longer a village?

Surprise? Disbelief? Or would you find yourself in agreement? Standing outside Spar in freezing rain, I didn't get the chance to pursue the question, to ask what was meant. Could it be that Killearn has become just another dormitory suburb, or did this person mean that we no longer have a village mentality? Or both?

I looked up my dictionary when I got home, and found that a village is defined as "a small assemblage of houses, smaller than a town or city and larger than a hamlet." In its adjectival form, it is defined as "rustic or countrified." I then turned to my copy of Roget's *Thesaurus*, which put "village" in the same category as "country town" and "crossroads", so really the definition is pretty wide. How big is a "small assemblage"? Does that include the school, church, shops, surgeries, pubs, tennis courts? Or do these amenities turn us into something else?

Historically speaking, Killearn must have been pretty tiny before the houses on Graham and Buchanan Roads were built. Ancient photographs show a small population involved in rural occupations, though there must have been enough people to support all those churches. Expansion seems to have been slow to start, but accelerated in more recent decades with the advent of the large family house and the big mortgage, involving so many people in working long hours to service it. This kind of financial development must affect the social life of any village. There are surely lots of people who would love to join more in local pursuits, but barely get home from work in time to say goodnight to their children. This is a modern phenomenon, but hopefully it doesn't mean we're less of a village.

Isn't it interesting how often one hears city dwellers say of the area where they live, "It's really more of a village. It has a village atmosphere." It's as though village life is what we all basically crave. There is something deep and necessary about living close to fields and animals and woodlands, even if all one does is look at them. We may no longer fit the "rustic or countrified" dictionary definition, but we do seem to need the air and the greenness of the country. City dwellers don't get that, whatever they say about their immediate environment. What they may sometimes get, and what villagers have in spades, is the feeling that they are part of a community.

The downside of a close community, of course, is the feeling that you can't sneeze without everyone knowing it. C.H. Spurgeon's definition of a village as "a hive of glass, where nothing unobserved can pass" does point that up. But it's a small price to pay for genuine neighbourly concern. We may sometimes know too much about each other, we may even indulge in occasional gossip, but when it comes to the crunch, we look out for each other. And in that respect, as well as lots of others, Killearn is definitely a village.

Scoop that Poop

Britain is a nation of dog lovers, with over seven million people owning one. They provide a great excuse for getting out and enjoying the fresh air. But some owners are failing to take their responsibility of dog ownership seriously. Previous studies in Scotland concerning waste and litter have consistently placed dog fouling near the top of the public's most-despised list.

Dog mess can contain a number of parasites which can make people ill – the best known is *toxocara canis*, which is a roundworm. This parasite can cause a range of troubles from aches and pains to bronchial conditions. In rare cases, eyesight can be damaged. The *toxocara* eggs can live in the environment for years, and a 2006 study estimated that between 14–37% of healthy adults in rural western areas tested positive for the organism.



Dog owners can reduce risk to others by worming their dog regularly, adopting the good hygiene practice of

always clearing up after their dog and by washing their hands after contact with a pet. They are also reminded to use dog waste bins. But if there are no bins around, take the dog mess home and dispose of it there. If that is not possible, then as a last resort wrap the dog mess in a plastic bag and dispose of it in a litter bin. Please do not, as seems to be coming increasingly common, put the dog mess in a plastic bag and then throw it under a hedge or leave it in the gutter.

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What's in a Name? *by Richard Neville*

Place names punctuate our childhood. They give structure to our tiny little universes. The Killearn *Courier* is peppered with street names, house names, surnames and landmarks that bring memories of the village flooding back to exiles like me.

Some names are peculiar to a generation and probably vanished from use long ago. Parker's Loan, The Garages, The Horses' Field and Blackies will, perhaps, exist only in memories for some.

But what about The Turnip Field? An item in recent community council minutes about the state of the path through the park reminded me of a battle of wills and wellies that claimed a new thoroughfare for Killearn in the 1970s.

When New Endrick Road was being built and more families were moving into that side of the village, the route to the primary school was supposed to be along Old Endrick Road through the park up the path beside the old kirk and down Crosshead Road.

For the kids from Allan, Endrick, Napier and Lampson roads this seemed ridiculous when there was a perfectly good shortcut straight through the field from the park to the school.

Looking at it now you would never know the field between the end of Birch Road and the rear of the houses in Crosshead Road had been farmed.

The year we decided to plough through the crops to school, it was planted with turnips. Gradually a path opened up as the turnips were kicked around like footballs and foliage was scuffed back by welly-clad feet. The farmer fought back with improved fencing and our parents told us to take the long way round. We, of course, ignored them.

The following year the field was left fallow and the path grew more established. The fence separating it from the park deteriorated such that a bicycle could be ridden over the fallen wires if taken at speed. Another autumn and winter passed and the turnip crop returned. But the will of the farmer was waning as the path grew wider and the vegetables were never harvested.

Mud and bike tracks forced it out into the field and bit by bit it became a permanent fixture. One day someone came along and spread black ash gravel on our path. That's when we knew we had won. How the ownership changed I don't know, and don't care. It was our field – The Turnip Field – and that's all there was to it.

To the farmer I apologise on behalf of a bunch of lazy kids who couldn't be bothered to go the long way round. For the village it was "right-to-roam" ahead of its time.



The Turnip Field as it is today



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The Path Through the Turnip Field – The Way Ahead

Every three or four years Stirling Council repairs the eroded path through the Turnip Field by tamping down a load of whin dust which, for a few days – even a few weeks – is restored to the semblance of a country track leading from the big oak tree down to the foot of the park by the school. The first heavy fall of rain after this begins the process of erosion. A channel forms in the grey dust and meanders downhill. Within a short time this has developed into a veritable stream bed. The whin dust is washed downhill and deposited at the foot of the path and disappears into the end of Crosshead Road. The path reverts to its worn, uneven surface, scored by a deep fissure which lies like a predator to catch the wheels of prams, buggies and bikes, and the feet of the unwary.

Why couldn't this path be repaired with a decent lasting surface?

Well, the answer is costs. The budget will not stretch to more than whin dust.

A change is coming... The Playpark Group, their project completed, find themselves with a surplus of cash and in the happy position of being able to offer Stirling Council some of their excess funds that will enable a proper tarmac path to be laid from the oak tree down the turnip field slope to the end of the park opposite the school. This project is scheduled to be undertaken now. When this is completed, one of the Playpark aims of 'accessibility' will have been achieved, and some ankles may have been spared.

BP

Rugby Round-Up

So the 2007–08 season draws to a close – with competitions reaching their climax and summer Sevens and Touch Rugby tournaments in prospect. Once again, in the annual jamboree that is the Six Nations Championship, Scotland have just failed to live up to their pre-tournament promise. However all the teams in the area have had at least some success to celebrate: Glasgow Warriors came within one victory of clinching a place in the Heineken Cup Quarter Finals – and Edinburgh beat mighty Leicester in the same competition.

Local clubs in the Scottish Hydro-Electric Leagues have had mixed fortunes: Stirling County have struggled all season in Premier Division 1 – but they look likely to avoid the drop. However West of Scotland have had a tremendous season and are favourites to win promotion from Premier Division 2. County have always had a strong youth and development set-up and not only are their 2XV top of Division 1 of the Scottish 2XV League, but their U-18s won the John Lewis Youth Cup, beating Musselburgh 30–0 at Murrayfield.

Closer to home, Strathendrick 1st XV made a slow start to their League campaign before putting in some excellent performances – the Fintry team currently lie fourth in West Division 1, but promotion will elude them. However the 2XV have had a great season – currently topping

their division with the promotion race likely to go to the wire with their final league game of the season – away to Kilmarnock at the end of March. The seniors then look forward to the annual Sevens Tournament at Fintry on 19 April and the President's Day on 26 April (spectators are most welcome at both events).

The Strathendrick U-16s won their league this year – a credit to all concerned; the S1/2s have made steady progress and the Minis look forward to their second Charity Tournament on 27 April – last year's event was a fantastic success and raised over £4,000 for local charities!

And, finally for this rugby year, congratulations to Balforn High School who won through to the semi-final of the Bell Lawrie Scottish Schools Plate competition before going down valiantly to Queen Victoria School of Dunblane. Well done to all the players, coaches, referees and supporters involved.

NH

We're all going to the
Strathendrick
Mini Rugby Charity Festival
at Fintry
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K.O 1.00 pm

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One of Strathendrick's Polish Players - Pete Pietrzyk - breaks the defensive line



Strathendrick Club Captain
Mark Gibson on the rampage

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Endrick Water *by Top Gun*

Salmon and sea trout were once abundant in our little local river. In fact, catches in the 1950s and 1960s were so large that some locals needed a wheelbarrow to take the fish home – at least that's the story.

Sadly, in the 21st-century, things have changed dramatically. Forest drainage, modern farming practices and, I dare say, global warming have adversely affected the fish population. The river is, now, what we call a spate river. It only fishes when there is sufficient water, such as when



the weir at Gartness is well covered.

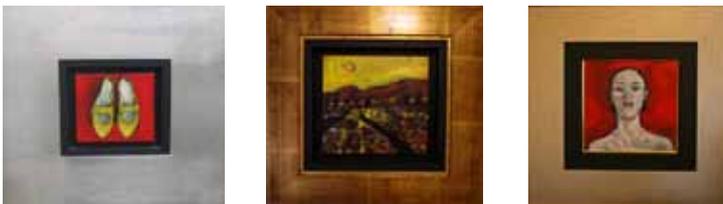
We have a stretch about 200 yards above Gartness Bridge. Our predecessors' records show 125 salmon and 290 sea trout were caught in 1966. Last year, my friend 'Stan the Man' caught two salmon and eight sea trout, all on the fly. We have agreed we shouldn't fish with anything else. Stan returned most of his fish hoping that they would help the stocks in future years. I think this is common practice on most of the river. I went down, only once, on the second to last day. I rose a fish and I fell in, so my season was not a success. I think we had about 15–18 days in the whole season when the river was worth fishing.

You have to be an optimist to fish in Scotland nowadays. However, people who live in Killearn and can make the time have the advantage that they can go rod in hand at very short notice. If you don't know someone with a stretch, and there are about 45 owners from the Carron Dam, above Fintry, to Loch Lomond, you can join the Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association. Membership is £160 per annum with a small initial joining fee. That enables you to fish Loch Lomond and the River Leven, as well as the Endrick. The season runs from 11 February until 31 October.

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In the Swim

The Balfroon Barracudas are off and running. Correction: swimming! We are delighted to announce that a new swimming club has been established for local kids looking to work on and improve their swimming talents beyond a basic level.

After initial encouragement from Active Stirling, a committee was formed by parents willing to give up their spare time to help create this much needed sporting outlet for children. From the first meeting in February 2007 it became apparent that the main obstacle would be persuading a coach to travel to Balfroon for short training sessions every week, but thankfully promotional leaflets produced proved to be successful and they were very pleased to offer Harriet Floyd the position. Active Stirling then approached the Jarvis Company with a view to obtaining time slots at Balfroon High School for the swimming classes and managed to secure an hour on a Monday night and two hours on a Saturday.



To ensure that the children applying had the basic skills needed, trials were held over two nights, which brought a very favourable response and as a result the Balfroon Barracudas were formed. At present there are 42 members who appear to be relishing the challenge and opportunity now available to them with a further waiting list in place. The committee decided the club should have its own logo to promote its identity and offered the members the opportunity to design it. With plenty to choose from the coach picked the successful entry, which was created by Katie Townsend from Balfroon. Well done, Katie!

The Committee members have worked tirelessly over the last year to make the initial idea a reality and by their own admission it has proved to be a continuing learning curve for them all. They have discovered and had to comply with rules laid out by the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association and Child Protection Agency. Each member will be attending First Aid and Child Protection Courses and has been through Disclosure by Scotland to vet their suitability in dealing with young children.

One of the parents, Derek Townsend, has very kindly offered to set up a website for the club, which should be available within the next month and the club wish to thank him for his time and expertise.

Anyone wishing to join the committee, offer donations or sponsorship, or seek further information on the Balfroon Barracudas please feel free to contact a committee member, whose details are listed below:

Frank Nuttall, *Chairperson*,
Shona Barrett, *Vice-Chair*,
Grace Strachan, *Treasurer*,
Joanna Lynch, *Secretary*,
Kirsten Pettigrew, *Child
Protection Officer*,
Rhona Maitland, *Publicity/
Fundraiser*.

Coaches: Harriet Floyd,
Neil Stewart,
Vicky Rafferty.

Websites:
www.balfroonbarracudas.org.uk
www.scottishswimming.com

Killearn Tennis Club



The lease for the club has finally been signed, so now the planned refurbishment of the courts will get the go-ahead. It is good that the long period of uncertainty is now behind us.

The new season is now underway with the usual pattern of club nights. A full list of matches and other events have been scheduled for the year. Children and junior coaching will start in April, which is a chance for local youngsters to learn or improve their game.

The Club looks forward to welcoming old and new members alike. Friendly fun and healthy exercise right here in the village. What are you waiting for?

For details of membership and club times, contact:

Ann Delargy (550253) or email a.delargy@gmail.com

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A Spring in Your Step

Walk About Stirling has quickly established itself as a firm favourite among the area's keen walkers, offering a multitude of walks spread right across Stirling and the rural areas' breathtaking countryside. It is a key component of the Active Stirling programme, and is run by a trained walk co-ordinator and valued volunteers. In fact, they recently received the Volunteer Team of the Year award for their efforts.

Patricia Cumming, Active Stirling's Co-ordinator for *Walk About Stirling*, said: "We are fortunate to have this dedicated group of volunteers. They have willingly undergone first aid training and they meet regularly to research new walking routes and plan the monthly walking schedules. We are also involved with the National Park project which will be giving people the opportunity to experience the beautiful landscape of the park and the surrounding rural areas, whilst improving their health and fitness. This has been made possible with funding and backing from *Paths to Health*, the National Park and other partners. We have also received financial support from *Awards for All*, which allows us to offer help and support to all of the volunteers and the development of the walks.

There are currently five groups operating each week, ranging from a shorter 45-minute walk at a very moderate pace to a longer walk lasting 75–90 minutes. Anyone can join the walking groups, as they cater for a wide range of physical fitness and abilities. The walks are free of charge and there is no need to register in advance. Sensible footwear is the only equipment required.

For those who prefer to walk independently, Stirling Council's Countryside Service along with *Active Stirling* have developed an independent walking pack which aims to make the countryside more accessible by providing information about walk routes. Each pack contains 16 routes for short walks around the Stirling Council area. Information includes user-friendly maps and details on public transport links, the kind of surfaces covered, and what kind of slopes will be encountered. We can send you one on receipt of a cheque for £2-60 made payable to *Stirling Council*. Cheques should be sent to Countryside Service, Room 124, Stirling Council, New Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET.

More information can be had from:

<http://www.stirling.gov.uk/index/leisure/countryside/walks/walksforall.htm>

For further details about *Walk About Stirling*, contact:

Tricia Cumming on (01786) 432323
or cummingp@activestirling.org.uk.

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Lemon Pinwheels

Ingredients:

8 oz (225g) plain flour
5 oz (150g) caster sugar
4 oz (125g) butter, softened
1 small egg
¼ tsp salt
½ tsp milk
¾ tsp baking powder
½ tsp almond or vanilla extract
Icing sugar (for dusting)
1 tsp lemon extract
¼ teaspoon yellow food colouring
You will also need 2 sheets of greaseproof paper



Method:

In one bowl combine the flour, sugar, butter, egg baking powder, flavouring, salt and milk. Beat until smooth.

Divide dough into 2 equal portions.

Dust the greaseproof paper with icing sugar, and roll one portion of the dough into a 12" x 6" rectangle. (Lightly sugar rolling pin to avoid sticking.)

Into the remaining dough, mix the lemon extract and yellow food colouring. Once completely mixed, roll into a 12" x 6" rectangle on another sheet of greaseproof paper, dusted with icing sugar. Carefully lay lemon rectangle on top of plain rectangle. Remove greaseproof from top.

Gently roll up like a swiss roll as tightly as possible, being sure to remove wax paper as you go. Wrap with one of the greaseproof sheets, and chill in the refrigerator until firm (3–4 hours).

Cut rolls into ¼-inch slices. Place on lightly greased baking trays. Bake at 180°C for 12–15 minutes, being careful that the biscuits do not brown. Cool on racks. Makes about 4 dozen. NB

Accommodation required?

Relatives, Friends, Wedding Guests



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News from the Horti

Looking forward to summer? We have a few events to tell you about.

First of all, we have our Gardeners' Market and Coffee Morning on 17 May, from 10 am in the Village Hall. Lots of plants, coffee and delicious cakes as well as bric a brac, Traidcraft and pictures for sale. Come along and bag a few bargains.

On 6 August, come along to the Village Hall at 7.30 pm and discover the secrets of how to prepare your produce for the Show. We'll be there to give advice on how to display everything from carrots and pansies to cakes and paintings.

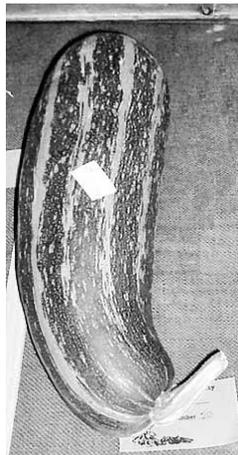
Saturday, 30 August is Show Day! We hope to see lots of you there enjoying the exhibits and perhaps entering a few things yourself. Teas will be served to round off the day.

We are taking a trip to Dundee Flower Show on 6 September. Travel is free, a grand day out for the price of the entrance ticket. First come first served, tickets sold out quickly last year.

Our Hidden Garden competition was new last year and we had some really great gardens for our judge. If your lovely garden is hidden from view of the road do let us know so that it can be included in this year's competition.

Last, but not least, we have a CHALLENGE for you. We want to see who can grow Killearn's biggest marrow. Will you have a go? Start preparing soon and – who knows? – you might grow a winner.

For information on any of the above please call *Glenda (550142)*.



Mega Marrow Competition

Calling all gardeners young and old. Enter the Horti's newest competition to grow the most massive marrow in the area.

Start preparing now for the big weigh in on Show Day, 30 August. See the Show Schedule later in the spring or call *Glenda (550142)* for an entry form. Adult and Junior sections. The bigger the marrow the better the prize.



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Garden Notes

Easter is traditionally the time when we are expected to get out into the garden and plant our tatties. However, this year Easter is so early that taking up this recommendation would definitely not be sensible. The deciding factor which determines whether seeds and tubers burst into life is not the date, but soil temperature. While we all wait for global warming to give us a Mediterranean climate, there is something we can do to speed up the warmth of the soil. In the past, glass cloches were employed, but we are now more likely to use polythene sheets. You can lay black polythene on the dug and well-manured soil (*well, what have you been doing all winter!*) which will warm the ground. The added bonus is that the sheet will also suppress weed growth and dry out the soil.

When you come to plant your seeds or potatoes in the warmed soil, cover with garden fleece to continue the protection. I prefer fleece to a polytunnel as not only does it prevent heat loss, it seems to deter the mice which just love to find and devour your carefully planted broad bean and pea seeds. Onion sets can be planted through the black polythene by cutting slits 6" (15 cm) apart.

Don't forget to sow your other vegetable and flower seeds in small seed trays (the plastic punnets in which strawberries are sold are ideal), and if you haven't a greenhouse, a warm, sunny window ledge will do. Prick them out at the two-leaf stage, pot on and you'll not be paying silly prices for plants from the garden centre. Sweet pea tubes can be made from newspaper – roll into a hollow cylinder and fix with a staple, fold over and staple the bottom then fill with sowing compost. If you have remembered to save them, toilet roll inners in a seed tray are even easier.

Runner beans are an easy crop worth growing as they are always expensive to buy. Plant the seed mid-April into 3" polythene pots or homemade newspaper ones. A little warmth indoors to aid germination and then in greenhouse or cold frame. Plant out early June when all fear of frost has passed into well manured ground and you'll be enjoying delicious beans until the frost returns.

Finally, visit the Scottish Garden Show, *Gardening Scotland 2008*, at Ingliston, west of Edinburgh, 30 May to 1 June, when you can spend all the money you have saved on the irresistible plants. PW

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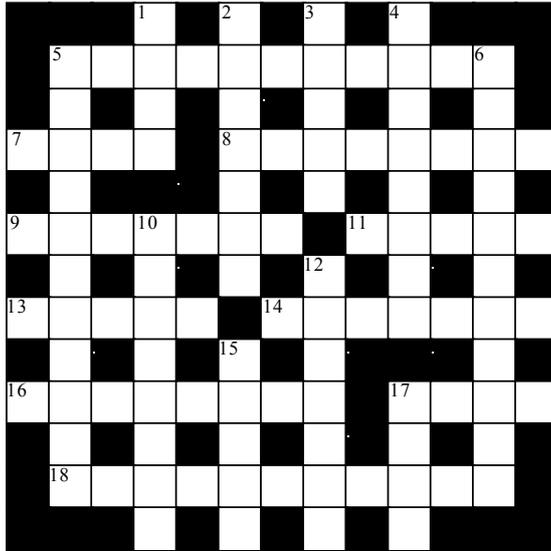
Exterior

- Gutter cleaning & repair
- Garden tidying
- Painting
- Fencing
- Sheds
- Decking
- Pressure washing

(This list is not exhaustive, if you do not see your job listed just phone.)

Call 01360 551100
or 07748754583

Solve the crossword, fill in your name and address, and place it in the box in Spar. The first correct entry to the crossword drawn out of the box after the closing date will win a **Family Ticket** to the **King's Theatre** or **Theatre Royal, Glasgow**, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days.



ACROSS

- 5. Would Bablefish help with this? (11)
- 7. One of many coming from 16 (4)
- 8. Tin in the bank (8)
- 9. O'Hara's car let in Red (7)
- 11. Flags without hesitation announce the marriage (5)
- 13. Beat the typist with love (5)
- 14. Right it is in the wing, but could be on the wall (7)
- 16. Find warm characters at Ballindalloch? (8)
- 17. Transport disfigure from beginning to end (4)
- 18. Science studied come rain or shine (11)

DOWN

- 1. Quick, don't eat! (4)
- 2. Pursuer about to get pirate (7)
- 3. Spoil honour this month (5)
- 4. Sounds like plain transport (8)
- 5. The rich sat around the 1st of May and liked this philosophy (11)
- 6. Coloured power from 16 (5,6)
- 10. Speed round the dairy pit (8)
- 12. Shade of 9 (7)
- 15. I hear Churchman should be fired! (5)
- 17. This captain could prepare a meal (4)

<i>Shout!</i>	25 - 29 Mar
Richard Alston Dance Co	22 Apl
<i>The Emperor's New Kilt</i>	24 - 26 Apl
<i>Falstaff</i>	13 - 24 May
<i>Sleuth</i>	26 - 31 May
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	4 - 7 June
<i>NDT2</i>	20 - 21 June
<i>And Then There Were None</i>	23 - 28 June
<i>Fiddler On The Roof</i>	18 - 23 Aug

For more information:
<http://www.theambassadors.com/theatroyalglasgow/>

<i>Zorro</i>	25 - 29 Mar
<i>Half A Sixpence</i>	31 Mar - 5 Apr
<i>Havana Rakatan</i>	8 - 12 Apr
<i>Pam Ann</i>	13 Apr
<i>Hello Dolly</i>	15 - 19 Apr
EUROBEAT	22 - 26 Apr
<i>Joseph</i>	5 - 10 May
<i>The Rise and Fall of Little Voice</i>	12 - 24 May
<i>Wedding Singer</i>	9 - 14 Jun
<i>La Boheme</i>	16 - 18 Jun
<i>La Traviata</i>	19 - 21 Jun
<i>Cbeebies at the Theatre</i>	30 Jun - 1 Jul
<i>Disney's High Sch Musical</i>	4 - 16 Aug

For more information:
<http://www.theambassadors.com/kings/>

Name

Address

Phone No.

Solution to the last Crossword Across 1 Nel; 3 stuffing; 8 kite; 9 mince pie; 11 decoration; 14 spirit; 15 advent; 17 acrobatics; 20 crackers; 21 figs; 22 ringside; 23 hymn. Down 1 nakedest; 2 eutectic; 4 thirty; 5 face ordeal; 6 impi; 7 glen; 7 fruit cakes; 12 senility; 13 it is a son; 16 torrid; 18 scar; 19 wain.

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword : Michael England, Balfron

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Find ten differences in the picture on the right and ring them. Write your name, address and age below, cut out the pictures and place in the box in Spar to win a £10 voucher. To enter the competition you must be 12 years or under.



Name Age

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Louisa Pettigrew (9)

Closing Date for both competitions – 12 April 2008.

Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

NATURE NOTES

Daffodils



Daffodils, what does that bring to mind? Wordsworth's dancers? Varieties like King Alfred, Ice Follies, Rippling Waters, Yellow Cheerfulness? That last name epitomises the drifts of gold that we see in March – if spring is on time. Just to be confusing, all daffodils are *Narcissus*, but this Latin name is used, in English, only for the flowers with long trumpets, so not all *Narcissi* are daffodils... Our British (and Wordsworth's) delicate wild daffodil is *Narcissus psuedonarcissus* and has many local names: Lent Lily, Daffydowndilly, Easter Lily, Ladies Ruffles, Hen and Chickens. An old Scottish name was Queen Anne's Flowers; that unfortunate queen, last of the Stuart monarchs, was born on 16 February (spring must have been earlier then!). Although Geoffrey Grigson, in his fascinating book *The Englishman's Flora*, states that the common name comes from medieval Latin *affodilus*, in the mistaken belief that it was an asphodel, the downward-looking flower gained its Greek name, *Narkissos*, from the mythological youth who leaned over the pond admiring his own beauty. Gloucestershire is the main home of wild daffodils, though they are said to be naturalised in Scotland – I would be interested to know where they might be found?

We admire them for their promise of warmer times, but in the Middle Ages they were used as a 'purge and a vomitive, and a cure for erysipelas and the palsy'. However as the chemical the bulbs contain is lycorine, which is poisonous, please don't try this at home. Just admire their beauty.

FP

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EASTER DECORATION

To make egg decorations, blow an egg by making a hole in either end with a pin and blow forcefully until egg drips from one end. Once the egg is empty, rinse out gently with warm water and blow again (smelly if you don't). You may need to do this several times.

Make a hanger with a small piece of garden wire, 1 cm long, tied with a loop of cotton thread and poke the wire gently into the top of the blown egg. Once dry, the egg is ready for decorating. Use an egg cup for ease.

Ideas for decorating:

Paint your own design using acrylic or suitable paint

Tear up small pieces of coloured tissue paper, stick on with PVA glue

Use bought egg transfer sheets or scraps or stickers

Make sure to cover all designs with PVA glue or clear nail varnish to seal and protect your egg so it can be used year after year. Remember handle with care, they are delicate.

To display your eggs, homemade or bought, find a suitable twig or twigs and lodge in dry oasis in a pot. Insert a jam jar with fresh spring flowers and cover surface with moss. Hang your eggs from the twigs to make an Easter Tree. SH



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Chips and Garden Peas*
- Chicken Parmigiana
*Escalope of Chicken coated with Breadcrumbs and Parmesan,
pan-fried and served on a bed of Rice with a Rich Tomato Sauce*

DESSERTS

- Hot Chocolate Fudge Cake with Vanilla Ice Cream
- Banana Split
- Sticky Toffee Pudding with Vanilla Ice Cream
- Mull Cheddar and Biscuits

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