

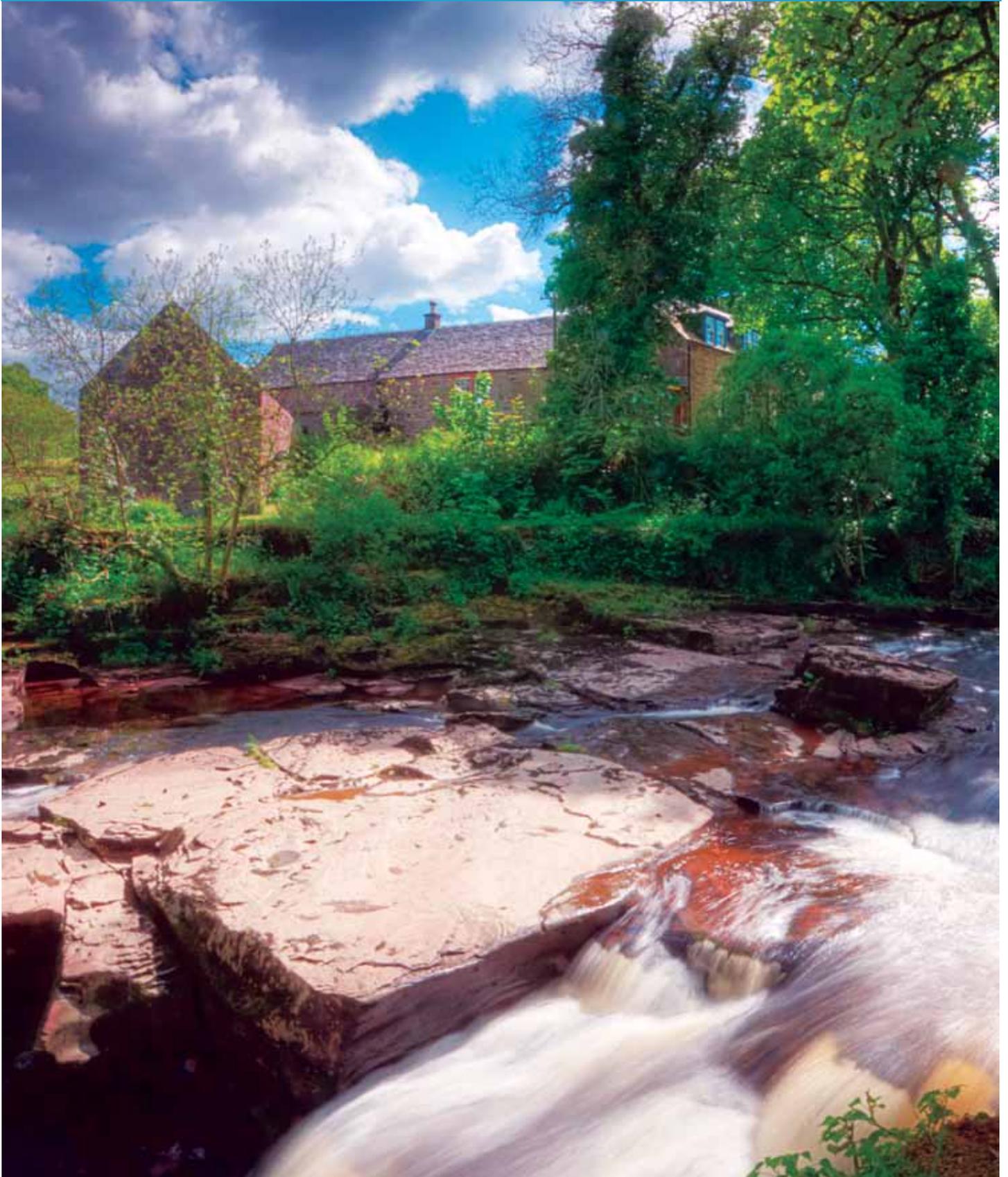


Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 28

SPRING 2014

£1



Care with Confidence

If you look after a family member or friend, you could benefit from the Care with Confidence sessions starting on 18 March in Killearn Village Hall.

Each session starts at 10:30am and lasts for around two hours. Attending these information sessions will give you the opportunity to meet other carers and exchange your experiences and concerns. Learning new skills in a friendly environment can also improve your confidence and self-esteem.

18 March We start the programme by looking at the practical and emotional support available to all carers via the Carers Centre.

25 March We will talk about the importance of a Power of Attorney, and how this can help with your caring responsibilities.

1 April Community Psychiatric Nurses Paul Ginnell and Senga Currie will discuss the importance of support for the carer who is caring for someone with dementia.

8 April We will explore ideas and methods to help ease feelings of anxiety and tension.

To book a place on any or all of the sessions, contact:

Donna Mulder on 01324 611510
donnamulder@centralcarers.co.uk



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Sir

You were kind enough to print my letter about the loss of my walking stick in your last issue.

I am delighted to be able to report that a kind gentleman living in the village rescued my walking stick and returned it to me, for which I am extremely grateful.

Also, my thanks to the *Courier* for helping me to recover it.

Stephen Holden

Glad to help. Ed.

Dear Sir

Over the past few months, I have been observing a number of fit and able bodied motorists parking their vehicle in the two disabled bays at the Spar, Main Street, Killearn, and also at the disabled bay within the Bank of Scotland car park in Killearn. The majority of these culprits are local people.

I have seen with my own eyes drivers with a disabled badge displayed on their vehicle being unable to park in the designated areas because of these selfish and lazy individuals. These disabled spaces have been put there for a reason.

Sincerely

Stuart Macdonald, Killearn

This is an on-going problem which we have highlighted before. The people who suffer are those who have to face enough trials and tribulations without having this sort of inconsiderate behaviour to contend with as well. Ed.

Dear Sir

Further to the letter from Mr R. Knight (*Courier* Issue 27) concerning the village's name 'Kill ear rhinn', he is correct that there is no letter 'k' in the Gaelic alphabet. However, we here below the Highland Line spoke and wrote Lowland Gaelic which developed into the Scots language, and we used the full Latin alphabet.

This area was blessed by four saints. St Ninian, based in Stirling, who called this clachan in the early millennium Krill or (Kill in the West). St Blane travelled through the area between Blanefield and Dunblane. St Kessog lived in this area and it has been said he brought the Roman Catholic faith to Strathblane and Strathendrick. The next saint to visit and stay for a while was St Kentigern, the subject of a stained glass window in our Kirk (Tom Downie, Elder of the Kirk, did the research for it). Under his more usual name of St Mungo, he is said to have founded the cathedral in Glasgow, which was dedicated to him.

Mediaeval pilgrims travelling from Glasgow came through this area, mostly avoiding the otherwise boggy valley of the Kelvin and Flanders Moss by staying slightly higher, coming through Bearsden, Blanefield, Killearn and Fintry on the way to Cambusbarron and on to their destination at Dunblane. Even today, Blanefield's Roman Catholic church is dedicated to St Kessog.

Please note 'k' in both Kessog and Kentigern. St Kentigern's name may be of a very early Celtic derivation, and it would seem that both 'c' and 'k' were used, and in any case there were always early borrowed words from Latin and even Greek, particularly to do with the church.

The subject of the village's name is treated in *The Parish of Killearn*, now in its third edition. Whilst not wanting to make a fuss, and with respect to Mr Knight, I feel I must put the Gaelic name of our village in its proper perspective.

Yours sincerely

Jim Fallas

Cover Picture:

Gartness by Andy Summers

Killearn Courier
published by:



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Summer edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 16 August 2014.

Advertisements and artwork should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 4 July 2014. Contact Gwen Stewart on 550856 or Sara Hudson on 550806.

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 4 July 2014. Send them to:

36 New Endrick Road, G63 9QT or email to: courier@kcfco.co.uk

Please support our advertisers who make the *Courier* possible.

The Courier is not responsible for the content of advertisements.

Editorial

Hello and welcome to the first issue of 2014. I hope our front cover with its blue skies, fluffy white clouds and sunshine cheers you up a bit after the rainy days we've had over the winter.

Looking back to what I wrote last year at this time, I see that I mentioned that 'the houses in the Turnip Field are progressing nicely'; they are still progressing nicely! Hopefully they will be ready for occupying soon, and the field returned to some sort of normality.

Speaking of land being returned to normality, what about the plight of several residents in Blane field? Their houses have been built on what is now classed as contaminated land, with arsenic and lead residue being caused by materials from a print factory which operated in that area over 100 years ago! Stirling Council has a regulatory duty to ensure remedial work is done and the residents concerned could be landed with bills for thousands of pounds. The £630,000 total cost has now been assured by contributions of £125,000 from Stirling Council, up to £300,000 from the Scottish Government and £225,000 from the UK Government.

What has all this got to do with Killearn you might ask? Well, we have Killearn Hospital on our doorstep, contaminated by asbestos. Stirling Council is rightly assisting the residents in Blane field, but I suspect they will not have enough money to do the same at the former hospital site, no matter what the outcome of the referendum in September.

We've got all sorts of interesting and informative articles in this issue including items from the 'new' chairs of the KCFC and the KCC, both looking at matters which will affect the village in the near future. There is a very apt article from our local Policeman David McNally which should settle the nerves of those worried about the possible lack of policing in Killearn. There's also an item about a bogus workman being jailed for the third time for duping householders out of thousands of pounds. The message there? Don't take on cowboys who appear uninvited on your doorstep; use your local firms instead. Our advertisers continue to support your *Courier* so please support them in return.

As always, there is something in this issue for everyone, so sit back, have a read and enjoy.

Ian
Ian Dickie, Editor



17 Mar	<i>Strathendrick Rotary Club</i> meeting. Black Bull Hotel, 6.30 for 7pm, thereafter every Monday except bank holidays and the fifth Monday of a five Monday month. Contact Steve Holden (550764).
18 Mar	<i>Stirling Carers Centre</i> . Care with Confidence, Killearn Village Hall: See page 2.
19 Mar	<i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
20 Mar	<i>Thursday Club</i> meets in the Kirk Hall, 2pm – 4pm and thereafter every Thursday. For all pensioners over 60. Contact Peggy Gardner (550558).
21 Mar	<i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Brave</i> . Balfour Campus, 7.30pm. www.film-society.org .
22 Mar	<i>Whitleys' in the Village</i> Pop-up restaurant. Theme: Scottish Larder with an Asian Twist. Killearn Village Hall, bookings from 7pm. Contact Simon (01360 316067).
23 Mar	<i>Strathendrick Singers</i> Spring Concert. Programme to include Mozart's <i>Requiem</i> . Killearn Kirk, 7pm. Tickets from choir members or contact Ken Allen (550415). www.strathendricksingers.org.uk .
25 Mar	<i>Stirling Carers Centre</i> . Care with Confidence, Killearn Village Hall: See page 2.
26 Mar	<i>Killearn Kirk Guild</i> AGM and lunch at the Old Mill. 12 for 12.30pm.
27 Mar	<i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> . Talk by Stephen Digney on 'The King's Knot Geophysical Survey'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Non-members welcome. www.drymen-history.org.uk .
29 Mar	<i>DRU Yoga Workshop</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10.30am – 4.30pm. Details page 7.
1 Apr	<i>Stirling Carers Centre</i> . Care with Confidence, Killearn Village Hall: See Page 2.
4 Apr	<i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>North by Northwest</i> . Balfour Campus, 7.30pm. www.film-society.org .
5 Apr	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Kirk Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
8 Apr	<i>Stirling Carers Centre</i> . Care with Confidence, Killearn Village Hall: See page 2.
13 Apr	<i>Killearn Kirk Palm Sunday Service</i> . 10.30am.
16 Apr	<i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
18 Apr	<i>Killearn Health Centre</i> closed. See page 17.
20 Apr	<i>Killearn Kirk Easter Sunday Service</i> . 10.30am.
21 Apr	<i>Killearn Health Centre</i> closed. See page 17.
24 Apr	<i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> Members' Night and AGM, preceded by cheese and wine. Drymen Village Hall, from 7.15pm. www.drymen-history.org.uk .
26 Apr	<i>Whitleys' in the Village</i> Pop-up restaurant. Theme: Augusta Masters in the Village. Killearn Village Hall, bookings from 7pm. Contact Simon (01360 316067).
28 Apr	<i>Monday Music</i> summer term starts. Kirk Hall. For children 0– 5 years old. Contact Clare Cushing (550166) or cecushing@btinternet.com .
3 May	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 1 pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
5 May	<i>Killearn Health Centre</i> closed. See page 17.
21 May	<i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
31 May	<i>Killearn Golden Years Club</i> annual outing.
31 May	<i>Whitleys' in the Village</i> Pop-up restaurant. Theme: Cocktails and Tapas. Killearn Village Hall, bookings from 7pm. Contact Simon (01360 316067).
5 June	<i>Killearn Kirk Guild</i> . Summer Rally. Viewfield, 7.30pm. Contact Elizabeth Mathieson (550373).
7 June	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 1 pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
18 June	<i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
21 June	<i>Whitleys' in the Village</i> Pop-up restaurant. Theme: Midsummer Madness. Killearn Village Hall, bookings from 7pm. Contact Simon (01360 316067).
5 July	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
4 Aug	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
30 Aug	<i>Killearn Horticultural Society</i> Annual Show. Village Hall, 2pm – 4.30pm. Teas from 2.45pm. Entries to be staged Friday 7.30pm – 9pm. or Saturday 7.30am – 10am. For schedule, contact Glenda Asquith (550142).

If you have any dates for the summer issue of the Noticeboard (end of August until the end of November), please contact Heather McArthur (550137), heather.mcarthur@virgin.net

Are You Dancin'?

Ever since the phenomenal success of *Strictly Come Dancing*, much has been made in the media about the recurrence of interest in ballroom dancing. One doesn't quite know who to blame for its demise in the first place. Like grammar, it no longer seems to be taught in schools, whereas in past decades, basic dancing was often considered part of a normal education. Perhaps not as vital as punctuation, but definitely a desirable refinement. Where did it all go wrong? Scottish country dancing seems to have been taught, but not ballroom. Why not? As anyone who has learned it will tell you, it can be highly enjoyable. And you don't have to be brilliant. You do not have to achieve the glitter ball to do very well at the dancin'.

When we came to the village some decades ago, the 'dinner dance' was a regular feature of social life, particularly in the winter. Every club, society or political party had their own annual dinner dance, from the Young Wives to the Conservatives, by way of the Speakers, the Tennis Club, and the Residents Association.

These events were held in various locations, not always in the village itself. Usually they took place in hotels in Drymen or Kippen or Balfron, and there would often be a communal bus which took you home after 'Auld Lang Syne'. The tickets, on the whole, were not too expensive, considering how much pleasure the event afforded. The dinners were generally fine, the company excellent and the bands were great. One had one's favourites, but on the whole the standard was pretty good. The music compelled you to your feet, even after a three-course meal with tablet. Some of these bands must have had a crowded season, a nice little earner after the day job. And well deserved.

There didn't have to be a dinner, of course. Some events were just dances, and were great occasions for mixing. People new to the village could be included in a party and meet all sorts of interesting folk. You didn't have to be a perfect dancer – you just had to get yourself round the floor in a convincing fashion and chat as you did so. Bands had more respect for one's

eardrums in those days. And should the dance be in the village instead of outside the parish, you could go home whenever your feet gave out.

Since my dancing days are now behind me, I have done very little research into whether or not these events are still on the go, even intermittently. I certainly haven't seen any advertisements for them, or heard the kind of music one might expect from a dance, say, in the Village Hall. Has anything replaced them, or is there just a void where they used to be? People still dance at weddings, don't they, though I understand that the young couple frequently have to be taught professionally in the art of the simple waltz to start off proceedings at the evening reception. On the other hand, I have heard that salsa classes do very well, so some people are getting the message that dancing is good fun. Perhaps one day the pendulum will swing the other way, and the villages will once again resound to the sound of a classic band thumping out 'slow slow quick quick slow.' Vive le quickstep.

Joyce Begg

www.
BLANEVALLEY
CONSTRUCTION
.co.uk

Builders	General & New Build
Joiners	All levels of Projects
Electrical	Installations & Repairs
Roofing	Slate, Tile & Flat Roofs
Plumbing	Domestic and Heating
Maintainance	All Trades Repairs

ONE COMPANY ONE CONTACT ALL TRADES
73 Glasgow road Blanefield, 01360 770983

Steven Skinner
Joinery, Glazing & Property Maintenance

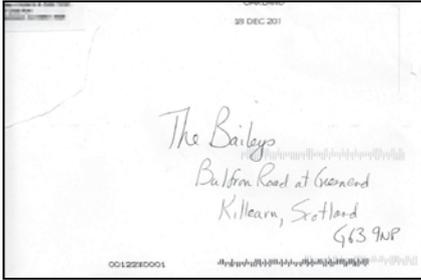
Glazing Repairs
Misted/cracked double glazing units replaced

ALL TYPES OF JOINERY WORK UNDERTAKEN
Upvc/timber windows and doors,
Upvc roofline cladding
and Kitchens all supplied and fitted

CALL NOW FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
11 Strathview Terrace
Balfron G63 0PS
Telephone: 01360 449 080
Mobile: 07713 805 086
Email: stevenskinnerjoinery@gmail.com


FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES MEMBER

First-Class Delivery



Christmas seems a very long time ago, but this is the first opportunity to thank the tireless posties – not only in the village, which goes without saying, really – but the legions of fellow workers who manage to get much-anticipated greetings and round-robin brags from one side of the world – California, in this case – to the other.

This is a pithy example of what a combination of ingenuity and lateral thinking can achieve. The only correct information on this envelope is the recipient's name, the village and country (presumably anticipating a 'yes' vote). The postcode was in 'close but no cigar' territory. Getting it to the proper sorting office was probably relatively simple. After that, its safe delivery depended entirely on local knowledge. It arrived before Christmas.

Mercifully, the senders had the correct postage!

The typically beautiful Christmas stamp has been added to the collection for Jim Fallas's leprosy fund, a worthy end to a shaky start.

NB

Fruits & Roots

Stocking a wide variety of fresh seasonal fruit & veg at good prices. New products on sale include Graham's dairies milk and cream, yogurt, cheese and frozen yogurt by Katie Rodgers!

Fruit & Veg boxes can be ordered and picked up weekly or delivered locally.

Pet food and supplies inc bird seed, small animal hay & straw, etc

30kg bags of burning peat £7.99 and bags of kindling at £3.95

151 Buchanan St, Balfron G63 0TE
Tel: 01360 440245

Open: 8.30am - 5pm Monday - Saturday
www.fruitsandrootsbalfron.co.uk






Firewood for Sale

Forthvale Contractors
Tel: 01877 387 202
Mobile: 07890 331 702
drew@forthvale.co.uk



The Bakers & More

Hayloft Café & Bakery
Traditional Scottish Fare & Beautiful Home Made Cakes



The Bakers & More

Come on over and give yourself a real treat!
Balfron 440424

INTERIOR DESIGN SALE

FABRIC WALLPAPER LAMPS
CHANDELIERS MIRRORS RUGS
FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES

A GREAT RANGE OF FABRIC REMNANTS
& LARGE PIECES IDEAL FOR CUSHION COVERS,
BLINDS AND COVERING CHAIRS.

NEW OPENING TIMES

TUES, WED, THURS 10-3pm

WEEKENDS 12-4pm

AT PANIK GALLERY, 13 MAIN STREET, KILLEARN

Tel: 01360 550830 / 551166



handmade lampshades

Bespoke lampshades made to order using fabric, wallpaper or vintage maps

Handmade Lampshades is now based within the Interiors Shop in the old Panik Gallery

****NEW...lampshade re-covering****

Dawn Cullen 07760 114845
ilovehandmadelampshades@gmail.com
ilovehandmadelampshades.co.uk

Strathendrick Singers Hit the High Notes!

If you are anywhere near Balfron Kirk on a Monday evening, you will hear, drifting through the air, the glorious harmonies of the Strathendrick Singers as we work hard, rehearsing for our annual Spring Concert on 23 March.

We had a very successful Christmas Concert on 13 December in front of a full and enthusiastic audience in Killearn Kirk. Among the many highlights conducted by our musical director, Mark Evans, were movements from Handel's *Messiah*, a beautiful setting of 'Sure on this Shining Night' by the American composer, Morten Lauridsen and 'Christus Natus Est' by British composer Cecilia McDowall, plus many traditional carols, including some for the audience to join in. We were joined in the concert by the Douglas Academy Chamber Choir and soloists, and the Douglas Academy String Quartet – such talented young people. Of course, what everyone was waiting for was Joyce Begg's traditional Christmas Message, which as usual had us all roaring with laughter. With mince pies and a glass of wine at the interval, this concert was an admirable and enjoyable prelude to the Christmas season of good will and good cheer.

The following day, 14 December, the Singers were again in action, entertaining people at the Killearn Christmas Market in the Village Hall with a selection of carols, ably accompanied by Helen Barclay.

Now the Singers are looking forward to another successful evening of music-making in Killearn Kirk on 23 March at 7pm. This year we are performing one of the great classics of music, Mozart's *Requiem*. It is a work of great drama and beauty, and the singers are relishing its many challenges. We are again led through the work by Mark Evans, aided by our talented accompanist, Geoffrey Tanti, and by vocal coaching by the well-known soprano, Claire Evans, who has performed previously with us.

We are also performing the *Sunrise Mass* by Ola Gjeilo, a young Norwegian composer based in the USA. This is a very beautiful, peaceful work which has become established in the States as a modern choral classic. Modern works



like the *Sunrise Mass* are often described as 'accessible', which means that they use traditional harmonies, but with a modern twist. We actually performed part of this work, 'The Ground', a year ago to great acclaim. There is also a fine choral work by Will Todd, who also wrote one of the carols we performed at Christmas.

The Singers have also been busy fundraising, as many of our usual sources of funds have dried up. We again ran a successful Coffee Morning in Killearn Kirk on 15 February. And we now have the support of the Friends of Strathendrick Singers, to whom we extend our sincere thanks. If you have enjoyed our concerts and would like to support our work, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please phone Alison Brown (660737), or email alisonbrown10@virgin.net.

We are also always looking for singers to join us and, like most choirs, especially men! Our secretary, Ken Allen, would be delighted to hear from you: contact him (550415) or at kenallen12@btinternet.com.

Visit our website: www.strathendricksingers.org.uk and follow us on:

Facebook at facebook.com/StrathSing and
Twitter @StrathSing.





FRASER C. ROBB
engineering support for all industries

Fraser C. Robb is an Agricultural and General Engineer company based in Drymen, we have been established for over 35 years, and are a family business. We are constantly evolving to accommodate the needs of our customers and embrace new technology.

We sell and service all types of Agricultural and Horticultural Machinery (new and second hand), also Parts and Accessories. We are approved dealers for the brands below plus many more.

Visit our custom built showroom in Drymen, we offer our customers good service, superb prices and the best quality product to suit their needs.

.....

sell » hire » service » repair

Stirling Road • Drymen • Glasgow • G63 0AA

01360 660 688
admin@frasercrobb.co.uk
www.frasercrobb.co.uk

We sell trimmers, hedgetrimmers, garden hand tools, pressure washers plus much much more!






Astrid String Quartet

Local girl Sarah Leonard made her debut Fringe performance at Edinburgh in 2013 with her prize-winning group, the Astrid String Quartet. The quartet's concert series, Five by Five – five quintets in five consecutive days – was selected to be part of 'Made in Scotland 2013', which is the Scottish Government's showcase for home-grown talent at the Fringe.



Orchestra of Europe), Dávur Juul Magnussen (Principal trombonist of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra) and illustrious pianist, Scott Mitchell. Reviews included 3 stars from *The Times*, and *The Strad* string magazine referred to the Astrid series as a 'festival highlight'.

This concert series was part of a very busy season for the award-winning quartet – a year which has included concerts in Edinburgh

The concert series took place in the historic and beautiful Greyfriars Kirk and was both well attended and enthusiastically received.

This ambitious project featured performances of major works by Elgar, Dvořák, Brahms and Schubert, and included world premieres by Scottish composers Richard Greer and Claire McCue.

The quartet was joined by different special guests each day including William Conway (Principal cellist of the Chamber

at the Usher Hall and National Gallery of Scotland, as well as performances in Inverness, Morvern and an alumni recital for the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland.

Sarah, a former pupil of Killearn Primary and Balforn High, graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in summer 2012 and is currently studying for her Masters degree in Solo Performance at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

FREE ESTIMATES



N. D. STEWART
Electrical Services
Killearn

TEL: 01360 551509 MOBILE: 07970 755414

 **House-to-House Collection**

CRUK Strathendrick Local Committee will be conducting their annual House-to-House Collection from Monday, 31 March until Sunday, 6 April 2014. Last year's collection raised in excess of £9,700, and the committee hopes that everyone will be as generously supportive once again.

Lesley R. Keighley
Secretary, CRUK Strathendrick Local Committee

dru YOGA WORKSHOP
Killearn Village Hall
29 March, 10.30am – 4.30pm
For information contact 01324 820392
Look out for Dru Yoga Course details in the August issue of the Courier.

Lumsdaine Halls
Therapy Rooms



- **Physiotherapy**
- **Therapeutic Massage**
- **Speech & Language Therapy**
- **Acupuncture**
- **Foot Health**
- **Counselling**
- **Hypnotherapy**

13 Balforn Road Killearn
01360 551783
www.lumsdainetherapy.com

1979 Volvo 244DL

In the early days of motoring in Sweden most cars were sourced from America. It made sense to set up a company to manufacture cars at home – cars rugged enough to survive Sweden's poorly surfaced roads and severe winters. The first car was driven off the production line in 1927.



From the outset, the fledgling company believed in quality. A guiding principle for the founding engineer, Gustav Larson was that it was cheaper to do the job properly the first time rather than skimp on design or manufacture and then have to do it again. This perfectionist attitude won Volvo respect throughout the motor industry. For the public, the company's emphasis on safety also appealed. Volvo saw the big picture. It was not only ahead of its time in pioneering work on seat belts, crash resistance and child seats, but also led the way on environmental awareness, realising – way before this became fashionable – that protecting the environment was an important issue in all areas of manufacturing.

Why the Volvo name and logo? 'Volvo' is Latin for 'I roll', a reference to the fact that the initial investment came from a company known for manufacturing bearings. The logo was a diagonal line incorporating a circle which enclosed an arrow. This is the Swedish symbol for iron, known as the Mars symbol, and remains instantly recognisable.

The best known Volvo classic is the iconic P1800 white coupé driven by Roger Moore as Simon Templar in the 1960's TV series *The Saint*. The car bore the number plate ST1. The producers, Associated Television, had initially wanted to feature a Jaguar E-type. Jaguar declined to take part so the P1800, which was first built at the Jensen Motors factory, was used instead. The programme proved to be a big hit and another P1800 was supplied. (Surely one of the most successful examples of product placement.)

In 1974 the Volvo 240 series was launched and further established the company's reputation for boxy cars that put safety, reliability and practicality before anything else. It proved to be an incredibly successful philosophy. The 240 became a cult car, especially the estate version, which was popular with antique dealers and tradesmen, thanks to its cavernous cargo area. Sales continued to boom and if it had not been for the estate, there is a good chance that the range might have been discontinued much earlier than it was. Time was called in 1993. This was the end of an era because the car had been produced for 19 years, nearly 2.7 million rolling off the production lines in that time.

Despite its non-sporting image the Volvo 244 was a successful competitor touring car racing in the 1980s. So what made this series so popular for so long? The answer is very clear: it was reliable. The engine could be expected to run without trouble for over 100,000 miles. Indeed, figures in

excess of 200,000 were not uncommon.

Volvo Group sold its car division to Ford Motor Company in 2000. It was placed with the Premier Automotive Group alongside Jaguar, Land Rover and Aston Martin. Volvo engineering resources and components were used in various Ford, Land Rover and Aston Martin products, with the second generation Freelander designed on the same platform as the Volvo S80. Ford sold the Volvo Car Corporation in 2010 to Geely Automobile of China for \$1.8 billion, following the earlier sale of Jaguar Land Rover and Aston Martin

An old Volvo can make a good, practical classic car. The 140/160 has the looks and feel of an old car. The 240 series had far better anti-rust treatment and was made of galvanised steel. Unfortunately many were disposed of as a result of the Vehicle Scrappage Scheme in 2009–10, but good examples can still be obtained for modest prices.

The car in the photograph has been owned by one of the members of the Strathendrick Classic and Sports Car Club since 2006. It came with a full service history and plenty of documentation, 74,000 miles on the clock and one previous owner. The original purchase receipt showed that it cost £5,536 when new in May 1979 – the month Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister and Blondie was number one with 'Sunday Girl'. After a service, oil change, new tyres and thermostat, it was almost as good as new and is used regularly.

DP

The Chimney Sweep (BSIT)



- ✓ Chimneys swept
- ✓ No mess
- ✓ Problems solved
- ✓ Nests removed
- ✓ Fully trained
- ✓ Certificates issued



SOLIFTEC MEMBER
THE SOLID FUEL TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

www.cleanyerlum.co.uk

CALL T: 0800 158 3818 M: 07805 453369

Strathendrick Classic Car Club

Since last reporting for the Club, most members will have stored their precious vehicles for the winter, but will now be looking forward to the Spring runs.

As I write this, at least two of our members have taken off from Paisley on a tour following the Monte Carlo Rally. One, Joe Norman, hopes to go all the way to Monte Carlo. Doug Ashworth is heading as far as Dumfries.

The first major run of the year will be Joe Norman's Rotary Classic Car Tour. The tour starts from the Beech Tree Inn on Sunday, 27 April, at 9.30am. The charities being supported this year are the Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance and Mercy Ships.

The first Club run is a tour to the Solway region with overnight stays at the Powfoot Hotel, starting on Saturday, 24 May.

The winter programme started with a talk on Rally Car Scrutineering by Roger Whittaker – not the singer!

Our Annual Ladies Night Quiz was very well attended and hosted by a new quiz master, Dennis Pattenden. This focused on cars and music, most of which passed over the oldies, probably because of memory lapses!

The New Year began with a talk and video presentation on 'The History of the MG' by Douglas Arthur, who was saved from an electronic grave by Doug Ashworth after the computer failed to go.

The next talk was given by Doug Ashworth on 'Morgans' at the Buchanan Castle Golf Club.

The winter programme continues with a visit to a car restoration business in March.

The AGM will be held in April, when there will be a talk on 'Ecurie Ecosse' by Hugh McCaig.

The Club continues to grow, but new members are always welcome. A car is not essential – just an interest in the subject.

*Douglas Arthur,
Chairman SCCC*



**Candy Floss
Machine**
Available to hire
• Events •
• Parties etc •
07817 106943



We make beautiful curtains, cushions and roman blinds to your specification.
Local embroidery services for schools, clubs and businesses



Call Gwenda on 07876 028764, email: needleworx4u@yahoo.co.uk
www.needleworx4u.co.uk www.facebook.com/needleworx.co.uk



BODY CONTROL PILATES® CLASSES

Body Control Pilates® transforms the way you use your body, using slow, controlled movement to improve posture, tone and general wellbeing.

Small class sizes allow for individual tuition, making Body Control Pilates® a benchmark for safe and effective teaching of the world-famous Method.

For details of daytime and evening classes in Gartocharn and Blanefield, call Jane Meek on 01360 771742/07759182236 or e-mail janemfr@tiscali.co.uk

Body Control Pilates and the Body Control Pilates logo are registered Trade Marks used under licence.



Killearn Village Hall
Balfroon Road
Killearn G63 9NL
t. 01360 316067
e. yum@whitleys.co.uk

cafe weddings pop-up events restaurant catering

At Whitleys', we think we've created the perfect coffee shop at our home in Killearn Village Hall, where you're guaranteed a warm welcome, and great cooking.

We also love to make special occasions even more so by offering a range of catering services for weddings, events and functions taking place in the Village Hall and beyond!

Why not pop in to see our new place, or call us on **01360 316067** to book a table? We look forward to meeting you soon.

Simon & Sarah



www.whitleys.co.uk



Killlearn Village Hall: Community Update



In only a few short months since our official opening in July 2013 we have seen Killlearn Village Hall become a very active part of the village, with local residents and visitors making great use of our facilities, and creating a unique space for community events such as Fireworks Night, the Rotary music evening and Burns Night – all of which were great successes!

Our own in-house café, Whitleys' in the Village, has become a regular draw with its ever changing menu and culinary offering conjured up by Simon Whitley six days each week, in addition to hosting a number of innovative events and pop-up restaurants, such as the popular St Andrews Night, upcoming wine tasting dinners and a number of tea events. In addition to such events putting Killlearn Village Hall at the very heart of our community, this also ensures we have a stop-off point and unique offering for those visiting the village, too.

To help support the on-going financing of Killlearn Village Hall, including outgoings and upkeep, we do need to encourage additional activities and events to assist in increasing the number of groups and the different kind of events being held in the Hall itself, while ensuring we also respond to community demands.

We're currently working on a plan to assist in encouraging more private hire opportunities of the Hall and its facilities, which has seen us already holding some wonderful individual weddings, christening celebrations, a variety of private parties and, sadly, some funerals. Unlike many other

facilities, our ability to be flexible, and our world-class culinary offering, makes us quite unique for all budgets, and we're happy to work to fixed price options for most types of events. As those of you who have visited the Hall will know, we have some quite amazing views – which allows for some fantastic photography, especially for weddings.

Simon Whitley works closely with organisers of events, and for bridal enquiries. 'Killlearn Village Hall has been a huge hit to date with both brides-to-be and those looking to hold personal events, too – with the opportunity to hire the whole facility, or just certain areas, our facilities are perfect for a number of different events. The opportunity to dress the hall as you wish and to create your own personal menu are also proving popular, as brides are more keen to bring their own touches to their big days and really make it their own. The outdoor balcony and our fantastic outlook over Loch Lomond really are the perfect scene setter for any wedding or event – and we have them all here on our doorstep.'

'Our excellent collaboration with Killlearn Kirk allows us to bring together a full package that many would envy. We're also happy to have been recommended as a unique Scottish wedding venue by wedding blogger Braw Brides,



and were delighted to recently play host to a wedding photo shoot, too.'



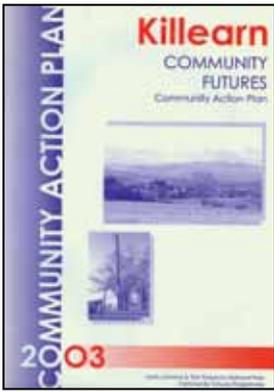
To find out more about all that we are doing and upcoming events, we'd recommend you link into our website www.killlearnvillagehall.co.uk – or why not join us on Facebook to keep in touch with what's happening?

For those looking to hold a future event in the Village Hall please call us (550328) or email killlearnhall@btinternet.com for more details.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Brian Simmers (brian@simmers.org.uk)

KCFC and the Village Action Plan



Do you remember having a copy of this (pictured left)? If you were living in Killearn ten years ago it would have come through your door just around the time KCFC came into existence. It was produced by a small local steering group with the professional assistance of officers from the newly formed Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. The idea was to get communities in and on the

periphery of the Park to set out what they liked about their area, what aspects they were critical about and what they felt should be changed, what new features should be introduced and developed and, generally how the local area should be managed in accordance with what the residents wanted.

Ten years on and KCFC feels it is time to evaluate what we have achieved in Killearn in this time and what we might hope to see in the years to come. Thumbing through the pages of the 2003 Action Plan, we notice that quite a number of the proposals have been achieved – often as projects undertaken by KCFC working groups – though there are several others which we guess might appear again on a new wish list.

Any Village Action Plan must arise from the hopes and wishes of those who live in and around the community and regard Killearn as their home. It is not to be an imposed blueprint from some ‘higher’ body, but a composite of local opinion: what is appreciated in Killearn; what aspects could be improved; what innovations are needed; what modifications are desirable; what future hopes might be achieved.

We need to start by evaluating the achievements of the previous Action Plan, and then decide upon a new and realistic plan for the next decade. The involvement of everyone will be needed. We are starting with two members

of the Killearn Community Futures Company Board, who have produced a Business Plan – a ‘plan for the Plan’, which has been approved by the KCFC directors. The next steps will be to gather information, opinions and statistical data. This will be done through a questionnaire which will be delivered to every household, by a series of interviews with specific groups of people and by one or two open meetings with workshops/discussion groups to which all will be invited. Then all the material will be collated and analysed and a first draft made of the plan. Further open meetings will evaluate this and the results will lead to a redrafting of the final plan, which will be presented to the public. It is anticipated there will be close liaison with Killearn CC and with Stirling Council’s Community Engagement Team, as well as ample consultation with the residents of Killearn.

The initial group of two will need to be augmented by other people to form a Steering Group; some ‘foot soldiers’ will also be needed to help with deliveries and collection of information. KCFC would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to help in any way with this enterprise. We would particularly like to hear from you if you have expertise in designing questionnaires. If you are concerned about how much you would be letting yourself in for, may we assure you that this is a short-term commitment. By Spring 2015, we hope the new Village Action Plan will be compiled, printed and distributed. So we are seeking just a few months of intermittent local volunteering from a dozen or so people. If you would like to offer, please contact KCFC via their website (www.kcfc.co.uk), or either of the names below, or drop an email to the *Courier*. But we also want the whole community to be involved in this, so *everyone* can play their part by completing the questionnaire, taking part in the public meetings or interviews, and just by letting us know what *you* would like.

This Village Action Plan should not be confused with Stirling Council’s Local Development Plan.

Brenda Pell, Peter Wilks

Village Hall Wins Awards

The refurbishment and extension of Killearn Village Hall, completed in 2013, saw the B-listed former church completely revamped and excavated to form two levels, providing a large multi-use hall, committee room, a kitchen designed to commercial standards and toilets in the ‘old’ part, while the major extension in the ‘new’ part includes a coffee shop, meeting rooms, games room and a youth club area.

The RIAS Stirling Society of Architects awards, presented in conjunction with the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, seek to recognise excellent work being carried out by an architectural practice across Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire, and it recently conferred two awards on the Village Hall which were received by Alisdair MacDuff of MacDuff Architects, the project architects.

The awards are for the Best Use of Slate and for Best Building of the Year.

On receiving the awards, Alisdair MacDuff said, ‘I am delighted to receive these awards on behalf of all at MacDuff Architects, other consultants involved in the project and, in particular, our client, the Killearn Futures Community Company. It has been a pleasure working closely with representatives of the community of Killearn to adapt and extend this Grade B Listed Building, using innovative design, to provide up-to-date facilities for the benefit of the whole community.’

Seen here is Brian Simmers, who has been involved in the project from its inception, receiving the awards on behalf of the KCFC from Alisdair MacDuff. The awards will be on permanent display in the Village Hall.



First Concert in Killearn Village Hall a Sell Out

The inaugural musical concert in the new Killearn Village Hall (29 November 2013) was successfully organised by the Rotary Club of Strathendrick and was a sell-out, with 160 people in attendance.

Performing a medley of popular songs on the evening were the Strathcarron Singers, while the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland Jazz Ensemble provided an excellent repertoire of contemporary jazz, all of which had the audience enraptured.

Organised by the Rotary Club as both a community event and fundraiser, the concert was a huge success on both fronts – with £1,500 being raised for charity. Donations of



£500 were given on the night to the charities of the Strathcarron Singers and the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, and a further £500 has been donated to Shelterbox, the international disaster relief charity.

Robert Cranstoun, Social Convenor of Strathendrick Rotary Club, said, 'We are delighted with the success

of the concert and, apart from everyone having a most enjoyable evening, it is fantastic that we raised so much for charity at the same time. I would like to express thanks to all involved in making the evening such a triumph.'

Moyra Peffer



Endrick Blooms



'Fabulous flowers for every occasion'

* *Bespoke wedding designs*

* *Floral gifts and treats*

Don't forget... Mothers Day is 30th March this year! Call the shop for inspiration.

01360 550404

Visit us on [facebook](#) !

physiofast

Physiotherapy & Sports Injuries Clinic
Lumsdaine Halls, Killearn



Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy for:

- Back/neck pain
- Sciatica
- Shoulder injury
- Tennis/golfers elbow
- Knee/ankle pain
- Arthritis
- Ante/post natal problems
- Recovery from orthopaedic surgery
- Muscle strains
- Ligament tears

Women's Health Physiotherapy

- Specialises in the treatment of bladder and bowel dysfunction
- Care of women undergoing gynaecological and breast surgery
- Common conditions treated are: incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, post operative hysterectomy care

Following detailed assessment and diagnosis, physiotherapy treatments offered may include:

- Specific exercise programme
- Clinical Pilates
- Joint mobilisation/manipulation
- Electrotherapy
- Soft tissue massage
- Joint taping/strapping
- Posture re-education
- Acupuncture

Home visits available

physiofast offers highly skilled physiotherapy services

- Members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- HCPC registered

To book an appointment please call:

Judith: 01360 550185
07721 718893

Anne: 01360 770069
07711 363769

www.glasgowphysiofast.co.uk

Registered with most major health insurance companies

All Killearn Archives News

There has not been a great deal of activity over the winter.

One former employee of Killearn Hospital has been interviewed as part of the project to write up the history of the hospital. Notes have also been received regarding the biography of a former resident of 'The Square'. The display cabinets in the Village Hall remain in use with occasional changes to the items on display. We intend to organise a formal rota to change the displays on a regular basis, but this is still to be implemented.

Use was made of the Committee Room of the Village Hall to give a talk to members of the Killearn Club using information from the archive. The talk was divided into two parts. A short history of the construction and modification of the Hall, with reference to the original documentation relating to the initial construction, formed the first part. Information on the construction and dedication of the War Memorial, and the known stories behind some of those named on the Memorial, formed the second part of the talk. The talk appeared to be well received and we hope to be able to present more of the information that AKA hold in similar meetings in the future. *Peter Smith, AKA interim chairman*

Killearn Path Group

A Call for Members and Volunteers

The Killearn Path Group maintains paths in Killearn, organises work parties, consults with Stirling Council access officers, investigates and promotes new path developments, and publishes a local paths guide.



The Group is currently challenged by the amount of damage to our paths as a result of the recent weather (*just one example pictured left*) and by the loss of committee members who have moved away from Killearn. We are currently without a Secretary. This is not an onerous position since the Group meets about five times a year.

To remain effective we need new committee members and to increase our pool of volunteers.

Without help, the Group will struggle to remain effective. Do you enjoy the many walks around Killearn and feel you could help us formulate our path planning, maintenance and new projects? Please consider joining our Committee.

Do you simply want to contribute usefully and have some good fellowship and fun? Become a Path Volunteer. No specific skills are required – just your enthusiasm.

For further information please contact: Norman McNab (550441) or if your interest is primarily in becoming a Volunteer: Mike Gray (550962) or email mike@kfcf.co.uk



Strathcarron Singers Grand Gala Concert

To celebrate our Tenth Birthday we will be giving a grand Gala Concert on Saturday, 17 May 2014 in the Albert Halls, Stirling, which will include music for all tastes.

As well as fine choral singing, we will have a brass band and talented soloists taking part. Details of the programme and soloists will be publicised nearer the time.

The choir was founded ten years ago by Molly Parsons and June McKinnon as musical director with just eight people. Today we are more than 43 choristers who sing together for the sheer pleasure of making music and raising what has turned into a very substantial sum of money for Strathcarron Hospice – over £80,000!

We give freely of our time and talents and pay all our own expenses, buying our own music to enable us to channel as much as possible to the Hospice. Even our Musical Director and Accompanist give of their talents and time without charge.

We sing for local groups and churches in this region. Tickets – apart from our annual concert in Stirling and any special extra concerts – usually cost no more than £5.00. The two recent special concerts, which were requested and supported by The Rotary Club of Strathendrick and Gleneagles Hotel respectively, were both sell-outs.

If you would like tickets for the Grand Gala Concert, they are £10.00 each with no concessions. As last year's concert was a virtual sell-out, please let me know if you would like to have tickets as soon as possible and I will undertake to get them to you as soon as possible.

Orders can be sent to me at the following address together with a cheque for the correct amount made out to 'The Strathcarron Singers': David Marr, Strathcarron Singers, c/o Croftside, 2a Spokers Loan, Balforn G63 0PA.

www.MacColl
Landscaping.com
Rooted in Quality
Tel: 01360 550997
Mob: 07727 045939
For further information please look at our new website

Architects
New Build Houses
Extensions
Conservation
Green Buildings
House Types
Thomas Robinson Architects
www.thomasrobinsonarchitects.co.uk
01360 661144

Colourful Killearn

I make no apologies for blowing our own trumpet. Killearn would indeed be a duller place without the work put in by Colourful Killearn's redoubtable volunteers! Villagers often express surprise when they learn the extent of what we do, year in, year out:

- ✂ Forty half-barrels around the village: plant them up for both Spring and Summer displays, keep them watered, weeded, repaired and even replanted when vandalised. The large planter at Spar is ours, too.
- ✂ Naturalise bulbs in prominent positions: daffodils in roadside verges, crocus beside the Village Hall. More to come!
- ✂ Look after established planted areas such as the four large beds opposite the Co-op and the Paul Memorial bed at the top of the Glebe.
- ✂ Supply, erect and decorate the village Christmas tree at the Kirk every year.

So it isn't the Council colouring Killearn, it's your friends and neighbours! We hope you enjoy the results.

Speaking of trumpets – by the time you read this, the tubs should be resplendent with daffodils (Tete-a-tete again this year), ably supported with an under-planting of violas. If they haven't been washed away, that is...

Sound like fun?

Contact Mike Gray (550962) or mike@kcfc.co.uk.



MG



**HERON
HOUSE**
EARLY YEARS

- Nurturing environment
- Encouraging active learning
- Promoting positive attitudes
- Supporting health and well-being
- Using curriculum for excellence
- After school facility

A Nurturing and Learning Environment

Heron House Early Years,
Beech Drive, Killearn, G63 9SD
t: 01360 550 162
e: killearn@heronhousenurseries.co.uk

Heron House Early Years,
959 Crookston Rd, Glasgow, G53 7DT
t: 0141 810 5777
e: crookston@heronhousenurseries.co.uk

Killlearn's New Community Council

Every four years, Community Councils throughout Scotland are disbanded and applications are invited from people interested in representing their local community by serving as a Community Councillor. Elections are held if there are more applicants than places – a community the size of Killlearn is entitled to have eleven Community Councillors plus two Youth Members. The new Community Council in Killlearn has some familiar faces and some welcome new members who bring fresh ideas, but we have lost a great deal of expertise with the departure of long-serving members Brenda Pell, Nigel Kelly, Peter Rea and Peter Wilks. The new Community Council comprises Margaret Harrison (Chair), David Scott (Vice Chair and Treasurer), Margery Burdon (Secretary), Christine Bauwens (Minutes Secretary), Jim Allan (Roads Correspondent), Andrew Donaldson (Webmaster), Heather Wright (Health and Waste Management Correspondent), Janet Duncan and David Morley. Ellie Cairns and Eilidh Robertson continue as our Youth Members. We still have three vacancies, including Planning Correspondent, so please consider serving your community by joining the Community Council.

Community Councils exist to consult the local community and represent their views to the local authority and other public bodies. Our meetings are open to the public and regular business includes responding to correspondence and consultations, scrutinising planning applications and discussing problems and concerns raised by members of the public. Since taking office in November 2013 we have responded to several important consultations – on Stirling Council's Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) process, on the Scottish Government's draft Community Empowerment and Renewal (Scotland) Bill, and on the proposed relocation of Dumgoyne Post Office.

Stirling Council has held a series of public meetings to discuss the difficult decisions that must be taken in order to meet savings targets of £29 million over the next five years. KCC expressed concern over cuts to music, PE and swimming provision for primary school pupils, decrease in emotional and social support and respite care services, and reduction in grants to voluntary bodies. Less frequent wheelie bin collections would also be of concern, whereas reduction in grass cutting would have less impact. Alternative ways to deliver services are being considered where possible and suggestions for savings from members of the public will be welcome.

On the draft Community Empowerment and Renewal (Scotland) Bill, we were broadly in favour of

- community ownership or control of assets such as land and buildings
- community participation in improving service delivery
- onus on local authorities to establish and publicise registers of all Common Good assets
- extension of community right to buy to all areas of Scotland
- establishment of Community Planning Partnerships between local authorities and public sector bodies in their area, to strengthen community planning

- encouragement of allotments in areas where there is a demonstrated demand

The Post Office consultation on the proposed relocation of Dumgoyne Post Office and Sorting Office to the Oakwood Garden Centre generated very positive comments. KCC greatly appreciated that a Post Office would remain in the Dumgoyne area, Oakwood had good car parking facilities and easy access for disabled customers, and the proposed seven-day service would be very much welcomed. It was agreed also to express appreciation of the excellent service given by Killlearn postal workers.

We will have some important business on our agenda in the coming months.

The Local Development Plan for Stirling should be published in the near future, and we should find out where the allocation of 50 new houses to Killlearn will be built, and whether any development of the former Killlearn Hospital site will at last take place. The High Hedges (Scotland) Act will come into force, and there will be discussions on improving rural broadband provision. Our meetings are held at 8pm in Killlearn Primary School on the third Wednesday of the month from September to June. Agenda and minutes are displayed on the village notice board at the Spar. Some information is also displayed in the Village Hall. Our website www.killlearncc.org.uk is very informative, with minutes and information about local developments. Email us at ContactUs@killlearncc.org.uk.

Margaret Harrison, Chair, KCC



EVEREST ARE DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE TRIPLE GLAZED WINDOWS

Windows, choice of uPVC, Aluminum and Timber

Secondary Windows

Doors, choice of uPVC, Aluminum and Timber

Patio Doors in uPVC, and Aluminum

Bi-Fold Doors in Aluminum

Porches

Garage Doors, manual and automatic

- Double sectional

- Single sectional, roller, one piece, side hinged

Conservatories, Driveways, Flat Roofs,

Roofline (Soffits, Fascias, Bargeboards, Guttering,

Downpipes and Cladding)

Residential and commercial enquiries welcome

Contact Peter Ramsay your Local Consultant for an early appointment Telephone 07816 934364

Everest Ltd, Everest House, Sopers Road, Cuffley, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 4SG

Chocolate Ginger Biscuit Cake

This is my 'poshed-up' version of the traditional biscuit cake.
It's more fun, needs no cooking and is horribly addictive!

Juliet Edmonstone



Ingredients:

- 300g (3 bars) plain chocolate
- Grated rind of an orange
- 3 tbs golden syrup
- 175g butter, cut into smallish pieces
- Small packet of ginger biscuits (175g)
- ½ cup each of:
 - Mixed dried fruit
 - Sultanas
 - Chopped natural colour glacé cherries
 - Flaked almonds
 - Prunes

These amounts are purely arbitrary – use whatever you've got in those squishy bags.

You'll also need a shallow tray (22 x 32cm) lined with cling film

Method

Set a largish bowl over – but not touching – simmering water.

Break the chocolate into pieces and put in the bowl with the orange rind, golden syrup and butter.

Give a couple of short stirs and allow the mixture to slowly melt.

Bash and shake the ginger biscuits into smallish bits in a plastic bag with a rolling pin.

Add the fruit and nuts to the melted chocolate off the heat.

Stir the bashed biscuits into the melted chocolate and pour into a shallow tray (22 x 32cm) lined with cling film.

Spread with a spatula and leave in fridge or freezer to harden.

Invert onto board and slice into smallish squares as it's quite rich and everyone takes a second one!

HANDY ANDY

SMALL JOBS, GARDEN & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Examples of jobs done

Interior

- Decorating
- Assembling Flat Pack Furniture
- General woodwork
- Kitchen fitting
- Basic Plumbing & Electrics
- Bathroom Suites

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**

OLDHALL HOLIDAY COTTAGES

Also available for short breaks

**Too many weekend guests?!
Planning a wedding
or a party?**

We can accommodate you.

www.oldhallcottages.net
e: oldhall@glensidehouse.co.uk
T: 01360 440136

FREE IMPARTIAL BIOMASS SURVEYS

www.transitionstirling.org.uk

We are a charity and here to help you

Call: 01786 451888

wood for all



The project is run by Transition Stirling with funding from the Climate Challenge Fund. Towards Transition Stirling is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC043469

Killlearn Health Centre News

Staff Changes

Dr Greg Cunningham left us in February 2014 to continue his training. He will be back with us in August 2015 to complete his final year of GP training.

Dr Jennifer Davidson has joined us as a locum GP to cover the sessions previously covered by Dr Elms.

Travel Vaccinations

We offer a full Travel Vaccination service at the surgery. Please contact Christine Montgomery, our Practice Nurse, with any questions you may have regarding travel.

Easter Holidays

Please note we will be closed on Friday, 18 April and Monday, 21 April 2014. Please make sure you order prescriptions to cover this period.

Prescriptions can be ordered 24/7 at:

www.killlearnhealthcentre.com.

Killlearn Health Centre, Balfron Road, G63 9NA.

Telephone: 01360 550339

Out of Hours: 08454 24 24 24



FETCH AND FRAME

EXPERT PICTURE FRAMER AND ART GALLERY
ESTABLISHED 25 YEARS



Call in for a friendly, helpful, professional service.

For all your framing requirements.

We are open

7.30am to 5pm (3.30pm Saturday)

Closed Sunday and Monday

64 Clober Road Milngavie Glasgow G627SR
0141 956 4414

fetchandframe@btinternet.com

MEMBER OF THE FINE ART TRADE GUILD

www.gordonwilsonart.com

Village Hall Operating Committee

The Village Hall Operating Committee is looking for a Secretary. The major task is compiling the minutes for the Committee's monthly meeting, plus minor correspondence. If interested please contact:

David Rodger (550521)

or email d.rodger@btinternet.com.

Forthvale CONTRACTORS



Tree
Surgeons

Firewood
Suppliers

Fencing

Chemical
Spraying

tel: 01877 387 202
mobile: 07890 331702
drew@forthvale.co.uk

Craig Tree Care Professional Tree Surgeons

full range of work with trees including:

- Pruning and reduction
- Tree removal and replacement
- Consultancy and advice
- Conservation and preservation

t: 01360 449 275

m: 07725 834 846



www.craigtreecare.co.uk

BATHROOM SPECIALIST

Plan, design, install

PLUMBING, CERAMIC TILING

STEPHEN MacMILLAN

FREE ESTIMATES

Established 1991

2 Lomond Terrace, Balfron, Glasgow, G63 0PQ

(01360) 440534

Mobile: 07887 567 051





Killearn Hoolie

What is the big event of 2014? The World Cup? The Commonwealth Games? The 700th anniversary of Bannockburn? The Scottish Independence Referendum? The Ryder Cup? NO! It's the third Killearn Hoolie: eight great days of frolics, fun and festivities. Building on the momentous success of the last two events, this year's Hoolie promises to be even bigger and better than ever – with the most popular elements returning plus new attractions, too.

The Run Saturday, 7 June

The Hoolie Mile kicks off proceedings at 10am: a celebratory run/jog/walk through the streets of Killearn promoting fun and fitness for children and all the family. Now established as one of the most spectacular and best organised events of the runners' calendar, the Killearn 10k at 11.00 takes the runners through the village and out and back along the Water Track, affording some beautiful views of The Campsies and Loch Lomond along the way. Booking for this year's event is already open, so don't leave it too late if you aspire to perspire! Sign up now at www.killearn10k.com.

The Beer Festival Saturday, 7 June

Then in the afternoon from 3pm to 10pm the hugely popular Killearn Beer Festival returns for its third year. This year's festival will again focus on providing a wide range of quality beers. This is very much a community event for all the family, so there will be a wide range of non-alcoholic drinks, while food will be available all day.

The Wee Fling Sunday, 8 June

The Final Fling has proved to be a brilliant climax to previous Hoolies, but it is an affair for grown-ups. The Wee Fling is a family ceilidh for children, their parents and friends dancing to traditional Celtic music – under the guidance of a caller.

The Hoolie Week

Throughout the week beginning 7 June, a number of community organisations will be staging their own events in association with the Hoolie, including the Strathendrick Rugby Club Treasure Hunt on the Sunday afternoon, the brilliant Killearn Football Club Street Football Competition, a Beetle Drive, and new this year – a Cheerleading Workshop, Scottish Dancing Workshop, a Spot the Little Hoolie People competition and The Great Hoolie Bake Off run by Whitleys' Café, to name but a few!

The Final Fling Saturday, 14 June

The frantic fortnight will be brought to a glorious end on the Saturday evening by the best party in town! The kilted lads and bonnie lassies will muster in a grand marquee on The Glebe to enjoy cocktails, canapés and entertainment from the delightful Tina Jordan Rees with Grainne Brady. A superb stand-up supper supplied by Edenmill, will prepare revellers for the Final Fling headliners: Roadhouse – an outstanding eight-piece party band who will play classic covers and everyone's fav-raves through until the early hours!

Tickets for this must-be-there-date will be only £25, *details on the Hoolie website.*

Apply now as tickets are strictly limited. Please fill in and return the application form on page 35.



Hoolie Is Back!



The Main Event – Hoolie Gala Day Saturday, 14 June 2104

A fabulous programme of events is lined up again this year, with something for everyone to enjoy! Keeping with tradition, proceedings will kick off with a procession along Main Street

led by Strathendrick Pipe Band, local Classic Cars and young entrants for the Fancy Dress competition. By 'Hoolie Appointment' the Gala King and Queen will be on hand to oversee the parade and help judge the Art, Classic Car and Fancy Dress competitions.

At 12 noon the Gala will officially open and the fun and games will begin. . .

Strathblane Birds of Prey Display; Commonwealth Tea Room & Art Competition; Animal Man; a climbing wall (for all ages!); the Hoolie Market; Bannockburn – The Horrible History; Archery; a Cheerleading Display and tempting treats from Edenmill Burgers, Fantoosh Fish, Glengoyne Distillery and Chocolate Demonstration by Nucoco, plus many more traditional family favourites.

A full rundown of all events throughout the Hoolie will be in our programme out mid May, distributed to all households in the area.

Keep up to date by visiting the Hoolie website: www.killearnhoolie.com



Abbeyfield celebrates Rabbie Burns



Nina Phillips of Strathendrick Pipe Band with Barbara Roberts of Abbeyfield House

The skirl of the pipes could be heard on 24 January when Friends of Abbeyfield organised the first Burns Supper to be held in the House. The traditional bill o' fare prepared by Barbara Roberts was followed by entertainment organised by Molly Parsons. Nina Phillips of Strathendrick Pipe Band played a melody of Scottish tunes and Hugh Parsons piped in the haggis, which was addressed by Mike Menzies. Pat Rodger sang a selection of Burns' songs accompanied by Heather Smith on the piano, and all the residents and guests were able to join in. John Anderson gave a humorous account of the specially bred 'Donegal haggis' and one of the residents, Olive Hendry (*pictured right*), gave a superb recital of 'To a Mouse'.

The event was rounded off by Chairman Michael Pell, who proposed the vote of thanks. After the success of this Burns Supper, there is no doubt it will become an annual event.



Charity Burns Supper

An evening of Burns poetry, light-hearted speeches and ceilidh dancing took place on Burns Night in the Village Hall. For many it was a first chance to experience and enjoy the new hall. The smart venue well suited this black tie event, and Whitleys' excellent catering completed the evening.

The haggis was piped in by Ian Sinclair and addressed by Richard Hunter. Speeches declaring the merits of women and men were given by Alastair Sloan and Gwen Stewart, and an equally entertaining vote of thanks was given by Derek Bell.

The Charity Burns Supper originated as a Round Table event and has been kept alive by Heather McArthur and her committee.

Keeping with tradition, a local charity was chosen to benefit from the proceeds of the raffle. This year it was Crossroads Caring Scotland – West Stirlingshire. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses who donated prizes, and in particular to Endrick Properties and Glengoyne, together with a star raffle prize of an original oil painting by Balforn artist, Ewen Duncan of Art4You Scotland, a total of £650 was raised for Crossroads in Balforn.

Teresa Prescott of Crossroads adds her thanks to all those who contributed and stresses the importance of fundraising to enable the work of the charity to continue. Crossroads provides care support for someone of any age, in their own home, so that the family member who is the main carer can have a meaningful break – whether it's to attend appointments, shopping or simply enjoy time with friends. It is an invaluable service as this opportunity to take 'time out' from their responsibilities is often enough to enable carers to continue in their caring role.

Heather and her team are passing on the organisation of the Burns Supper and are hoping others will come forward to take on the task. It is an excellent village social evening and more than worthwhile continuing the tradition, both in terms of the benefit to local charities and as a traditional event in the village calendar.

Vacancy for a part-time stylist – phone 551160

LMH Hair & Beauty



Why travel to town?

**We specialise in
colouring and cutting**

phone: 01360 551160 for an appointment



lynncmvicar@btinternet.com






20 Main Street, Killearn, Stirlingshire, G63 9RJ www.lmhhair.co.uk

Killearn Primary School News

The stars came out for Christmas!

At Killearn Primary School we all worked hard to put on an amazing production. The theme for our show was a Christmas Awards Ceremony. All the pupils from Killearn Primary School and Nursery helped make a fantastic show. Each class performed a song, and made their own costumes and props for the performance. Some of the pupils from P7 auditioned to have a main part as compères in the award ceremony. Other P7 pupils helped to do the lighting, sound and the important job of being runners. P1 pulled off a great Nativity with the Star of Bethlehem winning the award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Christmas'!

Money totalling £320.58 raised from selling programmes, the Santa Post and our Church service has been donated to Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

Visitors to the school were also treated to carols in the outdoor classroom each day, as each class took a turn singing to raise money for the Philippines. Thank you for all donations. We raised a grand total of £282.78.



Scottish Focus in Killearn Primary

January has been a busy month in Killearn Primary, with children learning about different aspects of Scotland.

On Tuesday, 21 January, the whole school was jumping when drum and pipe band Clanadonia came to the school. The whole school was up and dancing. It was very loud and the floor was vibrating! Everyone had a great time. Mrs Craigie had a go on one of the drums – she was great!

Each class worked hard to learn a Scottish poem and songs. Three finalists were picked from each class, and then a class winner was selected to perform at the annual Burns Assembly on Friday, 24 January. The finalists (*pictured left*) were: P1 Ollie; P2 Eva; P3 Olivia; P4 Katie; P5 Katie; P6 Ciara; P7 Charlotte and Sandy. The overall winner of the Jean Pairman Award was Katie in P4, who gave a fabulous performance of 'The Puddock'.

The community was then treated to performances of our songs and poems at the PTA Burns Coffee Morning, on Saturday, 25 January, in the Church Hall. There were lots of people there enjoying the entertainment and home baking.

Primary 6 and 7 musicians took part in the Young Musician Rotary Competition 2014 on Thursday, 23 January. This involved both instrumental pieces and vocals. There were a lot of different instruments including the clarinet, piano, flute and even the bagpipes. It was a very close competition and the judges made their decision. The winner for the vocalist, with an amazing performance of 'Food, Glorious Food', was Sean Farren from P6. The winner for the instrumentalist, who

played 'Shhh!' on his clarinet as well as the piano, was Aidan Grevemberg from P7. The standard was extremely high. Sean and Aidan will be going through to the District Final in the Royal Conservatoire of Glasgow on 29 March.

The Press Gang



Police Report

Keep in Touch

The first of April 2014 marks a year since policing in Scotland moved from eight regional forces to one national force – Police Scotland. While change can often be unsettling and take a while to get used to, police staffing at Balfron Police Office remains broadly the same as before. Killearn and surrounding areas continue to have 24-hour police coverage and the reception at Balfron Police Office remains open to visitors between 9am and 1pm each day (it is hoped this will be extended to 5pm in the near future upon recruitment of an additional receptionist).

One area which has changed significantly is the various methods by which the police can be contacted and followed. First, the old Balfron Police Office telephone number is no longer in use. To contact Balfron police officers, please dial 101. Details of any incident you are reporting will be noted via this number, and you can also be connected directly to myself or my colleagues via this number.

Other methods to consider when contacting police include email, Twitter and Facebook. The majority of inquiries made of Balfron police officers are non-urgent requests for information or other services. Where this is the case, contact

can be made with me or the other three Balfron Community Police Officers by emailing us at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. Email should only be used for non-urgent enquiries as it may take a few days for us to respond. Your email will, however, be dealt with by Balfron police officers who are familiar with the area.

Finally, Police Scotland are making increasing use of social networking to provide live updates of what is going on in the local area. If you have a Twitter or Facebook account please follow us on:

Twitter: [@StirlingPol](https://twitter.com/StirlingPol) or

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland.

Balfron Police Office frequently update these sites with information regarding road closures due to weather and accidents or other relevant issues such as ongoing crimes and events.

Of course, there continues to be a large number of people who prefer the more traditional methods of communication (including me). For those of this ilk, please feel free to have a blether with me any time you see me or my colleagues in the village.

David McNally

Bogus Workman Jailed for Third Time

An unscrupulous doorstep criminal has been jailed for 11 months following a joint operation between Stirling Council, North Lanarkshire Council and Police Scotland.

William McPhee, from Carfin, pled guilty to two charges under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 at Falkirk Sheriff Court on 25 November 2013.

Between April and May 2013, McPhee attended at two addresses in Drymen where he initially provided a quote for work then, when nearing completion, he returned and tried to get thousands more. In one instance he quoted £5,700, then came back looking for

£11,000. In the other, he quoted £5,000 and then returned asking for £18,000. Trading Standards officers from Stirling Council were contacted and began an investigation that would span Central Scotland.

This is Mr McPhee's third conviction for similar offences. He was jailed for four years in March 2000 and for another five and a half years in August 2006, in both cases for carrying out poor quality or unnecessary work at the homes of elderly residents across Ayrshire and Lanarkshire.

Trading Standards in Stirling and Clackmannanshire participate in the 'Buy With Confidence' scheme

at www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk which provides a list of local traders who have been approved by Trading Standards. The scheme is free and further details can be obtained from Trading Standards (01786 443322).

Trading Standards are keen to identify any other bogus workmen operating locally. If you or any of your neighbours are or have been approached by workers keen to carry out work at your property, or you have not been given written cancellation rights by a trader, please contact Trading Standards.

*Callum Spreng,
Stirling Council*

DAVID Mac DONALD

Quality Family Butcher

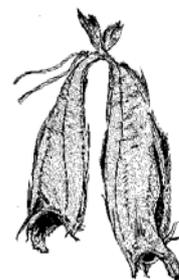
The Square
Drymen
Tel: 01360 660512



54 Main Street
Killearn
Tel: 01360 550502

Top quality Beef, Lamb, Pork, Poultry, Fish and Game
Home-made Award-Winning Steak pies, Sausages and Burgers
Fruit and Vegetables
Wide selection of Cheeses and Pâtés

STUARTS FRESH FISH *delivered to your door*



EVERY
WEDNESDAY
Balfron – a.m.
Killearn – p.m.

Orders taken/
phone for service
01241 876254

Visit our website for smokies by post
www.arbroathsmokiesdirect.co.uk

Encryption SCAM Warning

A new type of malware threat – Cryptolocker – has emerged recently which is particularly nasty. It works by encrypting your files and then cybercrooks (possibly hosted in the Ukraine) require you to pay to have them decrypted.

The current targets seem to be limited to bigger business users as they have most to lose, and may be more easily taken in by the scam. However any size of business or a residential user could be attacked.

Windows-based systems are the typical targets, but any computer is potentially at risk and the user equally helpless to respond to it.

So how does the scam work? An email arrives supposedly sent by a genuine company. Typically this will be a financial organisation, but it could be a courier, your ISP, or even an internal department in your business. In a new twist, the malware might arrive as an email from ‘Ammazon’ (misspelling and all) or, lately, Lloyds Bank. The mail has an attachment. This will be a ZIP file, but may well disguise its name as a PDF. The body of the mail contains a message of some kind requesting you to open or otherwise examine the attachment, to avoid some ‘inconvenience’. Opening the attachment starts the infection.

An active antivirus package should alert you that the attachment is suspect, and not to continue. Even if you do continue, the more modern versions of Windows will ask you to confirm that you want to make changes to the system. You should NOT agree. Some of the anti-malware companies have produced additional utilities to provide either an additional obstacle to installation or warning of this specific type of attack.

Your simplest and most effective way to combat this is to have backups of your files. If you haven’t done so already, make backup copies as soon as you can!

Once you’ve done that, you can relax a little. Make sure your antivirus is up to date, and that you are using one that provides you with active protection (one that looks at files as you use them rather than just scanning from time to time or when manually requested. All the current, main-stream products DO work in this way, but you may have an older version of the software even though you have a current subscription.

Be aware that ANY connected storage device is vulnerable. This includes an external hard drive or memory stick that you leave plugged in, a shared network drive, Dropbox and any Cloud-based storage that you leave permanently mapped. If they are not actually in use for backup, disconnect them.

If you do get infected, then while the infection mechanism can be removed (and thereby halted), the file encryption cannot. The only way to get the files back is to pay up – in an interesting twist – using bitcoin, the peer-to-peer payment system, which is almost untraceable. The current price is 2 bitcoin, which can range between \$300–\$460 (£185–£282). And just to prove these cybercrooks have a heart, now they offer a ‘service’ to let you pay up a bit later – but for an even higher price!

Go make those backups now!

Doug Ashworth

There is a BBC News item about this and how to report it:

www.tinyurl.com/l5q8chb

Stirling Council’s Broadband Strategy

The Scottish Government’s Step Change Programme to bring better broadband access and faster speeds and thus deliver real economic and social benefits to all of Scotland gets fully underway this year and should be completed by 2017.

Stirling Council has contributed £0.6m to get increased coverage of superfast broadband to more premises. The extra funding means that BT Openreach is able to offer next generation broadband coverage to 93.4 per cent of premises in the Stirling area, well beyond the 75 per cent of premises covered by the Step Change Programme.

Phase 1, due to be completed in summer 2014, covers at least 5,300 premises including those in Gargunnoch and Bridge of Allan as well as Bannockburn, Dunblane and Stirling itself. Killearn exchange is ‘Under Evaluation’.

The Broadband Advisory Group, formed in June last year includes public representatives and plays a key role, giving expert advice to the Council on implementing the broadband strategy. Recognising that some harder-to-reach premises, especially in rural areas, are not currently in scope to receive superfast broadband, the Broadband Advisory Group is investigating alternatives, including satellite broadband, and working with Community Broadband Scotland to find solutions.

For further information, please contact Deborah Kilpatrick, Senior Communications Advisor, Stirling Council:

telephone: (01786 233033)

email: kilpatrickd@stirling.gov.uk

website: www.tinyurl.com/nh9cgwv

Doug Ashworth

Broadband Advisory Group

The Drymen Pottery

Coffee Shop, Restaurant & Bar

Come and try something of our menu, we have a great selection, with one of our most popular dishes being our fish and chips. Or why not sit by one of our open fires and try our Highland Beef Steak Pie and finish your meal off with a slice of our home baking.

If you don't have time to stop, The Pottery has a wide range of meals on our carry out menu.

Available from 9.30am-9pm

9-11 Main Street, Drymen, Glasgow G63 0BJ Tel: 01360660458 E: info@thedrymenpottery.co.uk



Ashworth Computing Services

01360 - 550074

- Personal Support and Training
- Internet & Anti-Virus solutions
- Windows, Mac and iPad
- Service improvement and IT consultancy for business



Email: info@ashworthcomputingservices.co.uk

Vaulting to New Heights

Four Years of Balfroon Gymnastics Club

January 2014 marked the fourth birthday of Balfroon Gymnastics Club. In those four years, club membership has grown to more than 130 children, who train each week during school term time. And there's been competition success for the club's young gymnasts.

Louise Nuttall and Wendy Denton started the club in 2010 to provide gymnastics training for their children and friends. It quickly became clear how children of all ages enjoy gymnastics, and want to take part if they have the opportunity. Across Scotland, there's a real lack of local gymnastic clubs, and so our club meets a pressing need in the Balfroon area.

Training takes place on Saturdays at Balfroon High School. The classes cater for both boys and girls, from pre-school age right up to senior school pupils. They train on floor exercises and vault. The club's run by local volunteers, and the committee's currently chaired by Clare Henderson from Killearn.

The growth in membership has allowed the club to invest in new equipment to improve the children's performance and ambitions. In 2013, the club obtained charity funding to help buy a superb 14-metre inflatable tumble track, which allows the children to train safely at hand springs, cartwheels, tumbling, and all the other amazing floor exercises you might have seen in the Olympics! December's club competition

featured a tremendous demonstration of vaulting by some of the older club gymnasts, which left parents astonished and impressed – and the younger gymnasts inspired and dreaming of gold medals!

Jacqui Inglis has been head coach at the club since its inception. She's highly experienced, and also runs Forth Valley Gymnastics club. Under her guidance, the club's developed a strong track record in



Molly Cornes learning hand springs on the inflatable tumble track with coaches Fiona Forsythe (left) and Jacqui Inglis.

coach development. This has provided the club with a ready supply of coaching talent, and it has allowed high school students to gain important skills for the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme under high-quality supervision.

Last year children from the club took part in their first local competition in Stirling and scooped a large number of medals!

This January marked the Stirlingshire heat of the Scottish Gymnastics Schools competition, with 68 teams from the region competing at different age groups and levels. With the support of the club, Killearn Primary School entered four teams in the primary 1–3 and primary 4–7, Level 1 categories. All four teams performed superbly, and did the school proud. The Primary 4–7 team took joint third place with Strathblane Primary, even though two of the team members are still only in Primary 3! This success for the school is a sign of good things to come. In the Secondary Level 1 competition, first place went to Hannah Gibson, a Killearn resident and a member of the club.

With membership growing and ambitions rising every year, gymnastics is going from strength to strength in our area.

If you'd like further information about gymnastic classes, you can get in touch with Clare Henderson on balfroongymnastics@gmail.com.

David Henderson

JOHN CURRIE BRICK & STONEMASONRY TRADITIONAL SKILLS FOR YOUR HOME & GARDEN

STONE WALLING & TRADITIONAL BRICKWORK
NATURAL INDIAN & YORK STONE PAVING SPECIALIST
BARN & PROPERTY RENOVATION
BESPOKE FEATURES
DRY STONE WALLING
LIME MORTAR WORK & REPOINTING
STEPS & PATHS
PATIOS & SLABBING
FIREPLACES
GENERAL BUILDING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

CALL TODAY FOR FREE
ADVICE & QUOTATION

Telephone 01360 550087

Mobile 07966 864811

Email johncurrie@hotmail.com



BAXTER
Accounting & Tax Services



11 Milngavie Rd, Strathblane

*For all the accounting and tax needs of
you and your business*

- Self Assessment
- Accounts preparation
- Corporation tax
- Payroll and PAYE
- VAT
- Capital Gains & Inheritance tax
- Companies House admin
- Stamp duty & SDLT

01360 770320

www.baxtertax.co.uk
enquiries@baxtertax.co.uk

On Your Marks... Get Set...

In just three months time one of the world's great sporting festivals will come to Glasgow: over a million tickets have been sold; athletes from the 17 sports are in training; the 14 venues are ready; the Queen's Baton Relay is off to the Falkland Islands as we go to press; many local people have tickets for the Commonwealth Games and others are directly involved as volunteers.

Glasgow 2014 received a total of 50,811 applications for the 15,000 volunteer positions (more than the combined total of the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester and the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne!). Maybe people realise that volunteering is a great way of engaging with such special events; maybe the ethos of volunteering is becoming more established in our society; or maybe people saw what a great job the Gamesmakers did in London 2012 and would like to be part of a similar experience. Given that Glasgow 2014 could only accommodate less than a third of the number that applied, organisers are keen to acknowledge people's enthusiasm and support: an unsuccessful application will have been a disappointment, but it is no reflection on the people involved – simply a factor of the phenomenal response and the limited number of roles available. Glasgow 2014 are keen to encourage unsuccessful applicants to engage with the Games by other means – or to take up volunteering opportunities with other organisations.

Valerie Mitchell, Glasgow 2014 Head of Workforce, talking to the *Courier*, explained that 300 volunteers have already been involved in recruitment (interviewing over 20,000 applicants) and that 400 more will now be involved in training fellow 'Clyde-siders'. All volunteers will receive at least three training sessions starting this month: orientation training at the Emirates Arena, role training at Hampden and venue training at their own location. Team leaders will also receive event leadership training so visitors, athletes, officials, media and sponsors will be in good hands.

Volunteers will cover a huge range of roles divided into 24 functional areas ranging from the specialists, such as medics, to the more general, such as catering cleaning and waste. Each will play a part in delivering a great Games. Areas are hugely varied and include Arrivals and Departures, Accreditation, Brand Protection, Media Communications, Press Operations, Spectator Services, Sponsor Services, Village Operations, Uniforms, Sports Services, Results Technology, Transport and Venue Operations.

Andy Summers, from Killearn, is a keen Scottish Rugby referee and is delighted to have been appointed to the Rugby 7s Athletes or Venue Services team. Andy is hoping to get a team host/liaison role and feels that 'the Games in Glasgow are a great chance to get in involved with a unique event in his home country, with the opportunity of being part of a collective warm welcome to visitors and competitors alike.'

What are other villagers involved in and what do they hope to achieve as volunteers?

Jane Hunter, will be a Team Leader for Photographers in Press Operations and she wants 'to give visitors and competitors alike a warm, friendly and positive impression of Glasgow'. Ian Wright is going

to be a Team Leader in Spectator Services and – along with bringing enthusiasm and commitment to his role – wants to help give a 'warm welcome to the Games' – so there is definitely a theme emerging here!

Graeme and Gill Fraser are going to be drivers in the Transport Team, and so look forward to showing visitors the best of Glasgow.

Younger people from the village are getting positively engaged, too. Trisha Scott is one of 65 young people from across Scotland selected through a scheme run by Action for Children and Inspiring Scotland, sponsored by BP and the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust. Trisha (21) will be part of the Spectator Services team at one of the big football stadia and she is looking forward to 'meeting world-class athletes and spectators from around the world'. Trisha plans to bring a 'welcome smile and happiness to all the visitors to Glasgow'.

Flora Matthews (18) – part of a keen cycling family – is delighted to have been chosen to be a runner for the Press Operations Team at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome. Heather Banks (17), is going to be part of the Village Operations Team as a resident centre team member. She will be working to 'help make the athletes' stay as comfortable and fun as possible'. Heather is extremely grateful to be a part of this great event

and thinks it will be character-forming as well as giving her fantastic stories to tell in future. Heather is a regular *Courier* scribe so hopefully we will hear more of her – and other Killearn folks' – experiences in future editions.

Head of Workforce Valerie Mitchell has worked for Glasgow 2014 for four years and believes that managing volunteers is very similar to managing paid staff except that one should recognise that they are giving up their time – and that many are covering their own expenses to travel to and stay in Glasgow (many are from elsewhere in the UK and abroad). Considered, well planned training, support and guidance – together with a measure of camaraderie and good communication – a smart uniform and appropriate acknowledgement should ensure a content and engaged workforce!

Good luck to all Killearn's volunteers – we are sure you will do Glasgow proud – and enjoy a memorable experience at a fantastic Games!



Curling – Second Stones

The first half of the 2013/14 season for Strathendrick Curling Club is now complete. The only disruption for bad weather being the storms of 5 December, when several roads were blocked by fallen trees. However, the mild weather has meant that there has not been even the slightest possibility of outside curling.

The main club Autumn League was won by Donnie MacDonald's team of Maurice Rennie, Gill Smith and Phillip Pain by two points from Mike Jackson's team of Stan Moore, Gillian Kingslake and Luisella Mosley (one of our new members). Seven teams competed in this competition this year.

The Annual Ladies v Gents competition was won by the Ladies for the third year running. The result was again very decisive, with the Ladies winning by 23 ends to 9. The bonspiel was followed by a supper at the Glass's house where we were joined by partners and members of the club who had not played earlier.

The Pairs competition took place just after New Year. Six couples took part and the winners were Rosemary Miller and Tony Flisch with 8 ends. Maurice Rennie and Ronnie Myles were runners-up with 7 ends.

The Ladies' Section Peat Trophy League has been run into January to enable a double round robin with five teams to be played. Because of the disruption by the weather, it did not finish until 30 January. The winning team was skipped by Pat Rodger with Gill Smith, Isabel Robertson and Gail Pain. They won by one point from Muriel Holroyd's team of Rita Harris, Alison Robinson and Marion Richardson.

The Christmas Bonspiel was won by Rita Barth's team of Gill Smith, Norma Mitchell and Roz Gibson (another of our new members). This was followed by an excellent lunch at the Riverside in Stirling, where we were joined by some non-playing members.

The Ladies played a friendly match against West Stirlingshire Ladies. Each club won one match, with Strathendrick winning by scoring 15 shots to 13. In both matches, we started well and then struggled to maintain our lead as the opposing teams got their games going. As the two clubs share quite a number of members, it was a very friendly occasion.

In the Forth and Endrick Province leagues, Strathendrick have had some disappointing results and are lying well down the table in the Robert Paterson Shield. However, in the Forest Hills League, we are tied for first place with Buchlyvie but are second on shots up. Our



final game is against Buchlyvie, but they also have a game in hand against the bottom-placed club.

The Jim Carswell knockout competition is being played as a double knockout this year. We have won two matches, but lost to Drymen, who get a direct entry to the final. Strathendrick now go into a semi-final against Kippen.

In the Province Medal bonspiel, Strathendrick tied with Fintry on 10 ends. Unfortunately, we came second overall as we were only 6 shots up to Fintry's 12. This was an unusually close finish for this competition as normally

one of the clubs builds up a substantial lead.

The away day at Kinross against seven other clubs had a similarly close finish. In this, we finished joint fourth, two ends behind the winners.

Six members of the club went to Ayr along with ten members of our neighbouring clubs to play in the Waldie Griffith competition. We did not do very well, but enjoyed the day out and meeting the players in Ayr.

On the social front, we had our usual successful meander on 2 January. Unfortunately, due to problems of illness, flooding at the Pond, etc., the route was fairly fluid until the actual day. However, the two unexpected hosts coped admirably and a good time was had by all.

If you want an interest and some exercise to keep you occupied during the winter months and would like to have a go at curling contact Fiona Glass (550646) or Gill Smith (550726), or look at our website at www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.





At The Ward Toll
Balfron Station G63 0QZ
4 miles south of
Aberfoyle on the A81

 Follow us on facebook

**Everything you need to get
your gardening year going.**

**Flower & Veg seeds, seed potatoes
Summer flowering bulbs
Shrubs, trees, propagation equipment.
Greenhouses on display.**

**Farm shop stocking veg, cheeses,
preserves, biscuits, cakes etc**

Opening Hours:
Mon-Sat: 9am - 5pm Sun: 10am - 5pm
info@benviewgardencentre.co.uk 01360 850525
www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk

Scottish Ladies Curling Tour To Sweden

As a regular visitor to Norway in the winter, I was foolish enough to say one day that, if I ever went on a curling tour, it ought to be to Sweden rather than the alternatives of Canada and USA. So when a poster went up on the Stirling Ice Rink noticeboard in Autumn 2012 asking for volunteers, I decided I had better apply. After all, the Royal Caledonian Curling Club could only say no to my application.

However, Sweden turned out to be not as popular as Canada and there were only 20 applications for 16 places. This meant I got accepted straight away! Then the fun really started with the Tour meetings held about once a month from March to October 2013. We also managed to fit in a couple of games together before the Tour started.

While many of the matters discussed at meetings were obvious topics such as most suitable flights (Edinburgh to Stockholm Arlanda via Amsterdam), insurance and gifts for our hosts, some were more surprising. A songbook for entertaining our hosts! Uniforms for both on and off the ice! Quite a shock for someone whose sartorial decisions are usually between curling trousers, cord trousers or respectable trousers.

Eventually, with help from previous tourers, the Lady President of The Royal Club, and a clothing consultant, together with a lot of bulk purchasing via the internet, we all managed to get the appropriate items of the agreed wardrobe.

Finally November arrived, and the 16 ladies managed to get to Edinburgh on time, with the correct items in our luggage (including an alarming number of Glengoyne miniatures), and were formally seen off by representatives of The Royal Club. The flights went smoothly and we arrived in Stockholm on time to be greeted by our two permanent Swedish representatives, one of whom was dressed in the blue and yellow Swedish national costume.

The next ten days passed in rather a blur of curling, travelling, sight-seeing and trying to remember what we were supposed to be wearing and where we were supposed to be and when!

The first two nights were spent in the attractive university city of Uppsala.



During the morning, we were shown the cathedral and the university, the alma mater of Anders Celsius and botanists Carl Linnaeus and Daniel Solander. After lunch at the ice rink, we played our first two games.

We then travelled west to Karlstad for two nights in an hotel beautifully situated on the river. Here we played another two matches on one of the rinks which was used for the 2012 European Curling Championships. We also visited the local museum and were entertained to lunch by the Deputy Mayor.

Over the following three days we continued our travels, first south to Jönköping where we happened to cross the Göta Canal, which was designed by Scotland's own Thomas Telford. Here we played the Swedish version of points as there were not sufficient players to arrange proper games. We then went northwest to Norrköping for two nights staying with hosts. The town was a former textile manufacturing centre and the old mills and canals have been beautifully adapted for housing and university buildings. Here we were entertained to lunch by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor before going to the ice rink for two matches against local teams. We started the games by marching round the ice behind the Scottish and Swedish flags.

Our final three nights were spent in an hotel close to the centre of Stockholm. In the first afternoon, we went to see the Swedish regalia at the Royal Palace and walked round the old city. I was intrigued to see the Royal Palace steps – which are boarded up and covered in snow when the televised city-centre cross country ski race takes place in March!

The next morning we were greeted at the ice rink by an archway of brooms for our final matches. Yet again, the

ice rink was beautifully kept and in a relatively new building unlike many of our Scottish rinks – Stirling, of course, excepted. After our final games, the Scottish teams were ahead by 177 shots to 159, so we returned victorious.

Our final day in Sweden was free for us to spend sightseeing. Most people went to the Abba Museum, but I achieved a long-held ambition to see the World Heritage Site of Drottningholm Palace. As well as being the main home of the Swedish royal family, it also has a perfectly preserved eighteenth-century court theatre.

The next day it was farewell to Sweden, eventually landing in Edinburgh, where we were greeted by The Royal Club representatives.

Quite an experience! *Gill Smith*

Speaking of Curling...



Lauren Gray, for those few who missed the news, is a local girl who attended Balfour High School, was picked to go to the Winter Olympics at Sochi as alternate in the Ladies' team skipped by Eve Muirhead. Her career so far has been impressive by any standard: she has been curling since the age of eight, and won gold playing second at the 2009 Youth Olympic Winter Festival. She was also part of the team that won Gold at the World University Games in 2011, being crowned world Junior Champion in 2012. In 2013 she was part of the team that won Gold at the World Championships and Silver at the European Championships.

The Ladies' team came home with a Bronze medal, after beating Switzerland 6–5. Theirs was the third medal of the tally for Team GB. The *Courier* joins everyone in congratulating the Ladies on their wonderful achievement.

Stirling Sports Awards



Killearn had several nominees for the recent Stirling Sports Awards. Killearn Primary School U11s lacrosse team, represented by Katy Burr (*pictured right*) and Balfron High School U16s Rugby Team, lead by skipper Ross Stevenson, were nominated in the Young Sports Team of the Year category.

John Leonard (*pictured centre*) of Killearn Tennis Club and Nick Hawkins (*pictured left*) of Strathendrick Rugby Club were nominated for the Local Service to Sport Award.

Although none of them were winners, they all enjoyed the awards ceremony at Dunblane Hydro and were proud recipients of commemorative plaques.

Balfron Pupil Wins Euroscola Trip to Strasbourg

For the second consecutive year, the Rotary Club of Strathendrick sponsored a Balfron High School pupil to take part in Euroscola. Hannah Brisbane from Drymen travelled to Strasbourg as one of 26 young people in their final year at school who were chosen to represent Scotland and the Rotary at the February 2014 Euroscola events.

Hannah joined some 500 young people from across the EU to take part in a day of presentations, questions, discussions and voting on issues relevant to them. The day was led by officials of the European Parliament and was structured to ensure all young people fully participated. The participants were treated very much as MEPs: sitting in the debating chamber, electronic voting, etc.

Other parts of the programme included visits to schools and institutions as well as undertaking a market research questionnaire in French. This encouraged those taking part to develop their French language skills, helped them develop European awareness and encouraged them to build their self-confidence and presentation skills.

David Froom, President of the Rotary Club of Strathendrick, was delighted to sponsor another pupil from Balfron High to have this fantastic opportunity to travel and learn more about the European Union, and mix with peers from other member countries.

Hannah will make a presentation about her trip and experiences to Rotary following her return.



Summer Bridge

Tuesday Evening Summer Bridge will recommence in the McLintock Hall, Balfron, on Tuesday, 29 April at 7.30 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to spend a pleasant evening playing mildly competitive and friendly bridge, with no partners required.

Further details from: Tilly Arthur, 550535 or Valerie Dron, 550291 or email tillyarthur@gmail.com

Tennis Club News

Tennis starts in earnest in the Spring, and as always the Club has a full programme of activities planned for 2014. Social tennis is available for adult members on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, with special events scheduled for some Saturday sessions. The Club is fielding a ladies and gents team in the Tennis Central Leagues, along with two junior teams (Under-12 and Under-14). Existing members receive an email with full details and prospective members can obtain information from the website: www.killearntennisclub.org.uk

With all-weather courts, the season – in theory – never ends. Unfortunately, the seemingly constant rain in the early part of 2014 put paid to much winter tennis. However, the Club's intrepid coach, Hannah Pickford, arranged an eight-week block of lessons, starting in early January. As the forthcoming season progresses, the intention is to organise further blocks of coaching for all age groups.

The Club has continued to offer refreshments at the monthly Country Market, and funds from the sale of tea, coffee and cakes make a welcome contribution.

One piece of good news from the winter period is John Leonard's nomination for a Stirling Sports Award. John is pictured above. For over 40 years John has been the Club's lynch pin. Playing a central role in getting the Club established, he continues to play tennis as often as he can. He is always willing to play in tournaments, partnering and encouraging new and/or junior members. He also works tirelessly as the unpaid handyman, fixing fuses, clearing debris from the courts, weeding, mending nets and fencing, painting and decorating the clubhouse, and setting up tables, etc., for fundraising events. Congratulations, John!

Rugby Makes the Games

Rugby Sevens is for the first time included in the Commonwealth Games, and Scotland's team Captain is local boy, Colin Gregor. Colin was brought up in Strathblane and went to Balfour High, playing for Strathendrick and later Glasgow Warriors before leading his country. Scotland's Sevens squad were recently asked to nominate their most influential coach and Colin cited David Barrett, Strathendrick RFC coach, hero and stalwart. Colin and David were invited to a reception at Murrayfield with up and coming players David Wallace from the 1st XV and Oscar Armstrong and Struan Agnew from the juniors.

2013-14 has been a tough season for the Strathendrick RFC seniors. Only running one team at present, the side has been battling against the threat of relegation. As we go press there is still everything to play for – two or

three wins could take the Club away from its rivals. The transition from older to younger players will take time to complete.

Having recently enjoyed its Annual Dinner Dance at the Killearn Village Hall, the Club is looking forward to its Annual Dinner and President's XV game on Saturday, 26 April.

The junior sections of the Club are flourishing, however, with the Minis enjoying a series of tournaments before their Annual Charity Festival on Sunday, 27 April.

The Midis (secondary school age groups) are also developing well, working in conjunction with Balfour High School. An excellent S1/2 team has been playing great rugby and is planning a tour to Harrogate later this month.

For more information, news and photos go to tinyurl.com/q7hm7ja

NH



David Barrett, Colin Gregor, David Wallace, Struan Agnew, Oscar Armstrong

What a Team – Strathendrick Under-13s

In the summer of 2012 I had the opportunity to join the coaching staff at what is now the Under 13s of Strathendrick Football Club. Having coached in the past I was very reluctant to participate, eventually agreeing to give it a try for a few weeks. I am delighted I did!

I was astonished at the quality of their football, scoring Hollywood goals from champagne flowing football: I was involved and inspired.

Initially we had two teams playing 7-a-side. I cannot remember either team losing more than once or twice, and the tributes from other team managers – and particularly the referees – kept rolling in.

The 2013 season started with a continuation of the 7s with a procession of spectacular performances and then, after the summer break, we began playing 11-a-side on 'the big pitch'.

For Strathendrick, the ball was set rolling by Head Coach, James Clark, back in 2008, ably assisted a year later by Alistair Maclaren, and joined by Craig Michie and myself in 2012. James's approach was simple and effective: 'get the ball on the deck and play'. This was drilled into the players every Thursday night at training – together with the technical skills. Another ethos is to commit to develop every player involved at the club.

As for the team, they are a collection of startling individuals full of skill, power, finesse and, of course, a little bit of

attitude at times! But above all they are a great team.

August 2013 arrives at last! 11-a-side! We procured a pitch complete with modern facilities in Kippen. Thanks go to Tom at Kippen Sports Development Ltd for listening to

the club's representations and providing us with a home for the new season.

The costs were now significant, particularly for 30 new football strips, 15 each home and away, provided by Roddy Stewart and his company RS100 Music Systems. Thank you for the invaluable sponsorship. Parents have been fantastic, too, supporting the team home and away in all weather (mostly bad!). They even supply hot

drinks and hot rolls at our home games, and this is much appreciated.

We have an open door policy, so any boys or girls are welcome. Training is from 7-9pm every Thursday at Balfour High School.

At the time of going to press we are halfway through the season in a competitive league, having adapted astonishingly well to 11-a-side. Referees, spectators and quite a few football scouts have continued to comment on the quality of performance. We are currently in second position (in a chasing group), six points behind the leaders with four games in hand and undefeated... what a TEAM!

Russell Deacon



Killlearn Football Club

After a slight improvement in results during Season 2013, the club held their Player's Presentation Night in the Old Mill Inn at the end of November. After the meal, Club Chairman Donald Beaton thanked all the players and committee for their efforts during the past season.

Honorary President Hugh McArthur then presented Club trophies. Alan More received the Barclay Shield (Top goal scorer), Fraser Cameron received the Riverways Shield (Player's Player of the Year), Ewan Woodley received the John MacColl Trophy (Young Player of the Year) and Simon Sweeney received the James Gladstone Cup (Club Player of the Year).

After the presentation, Club Secretary Ian Cameron thanked the Old Mill for their service and spoke words of encouragement to all for Season 2014.

Shortly after the presentation night, the Club were very disappointed to be informed that their application to **sportscotland** for a grant towards the changing rooms had been rejected. It would appear that the conditions to qualify for grants from their organisation are aimed at clubs with a much higher status than Killlearn FC.

The committee will continue fundraising (49 Club, etc.) while looking for other grants that might be available to help complete the project. *Donald Beaton*

Laura Bruce.
Beauty

WE HAVE MOVED
Ballat Cross Roads
Balfour Station
Glasgow G63 0SE

01360 440 850
07817 106943

All major credit cards accepted

Find us on Facebook

Heart to Heart

A local charity giving hope to those affected by relationship breakdown. We are the only Scottish charity supporting those coming to terms with divorce, separation and family breakdown.

We have two projects



bringing hope to those affected by divorce or separation

Firstly Heart to Heart helps adults address their current social and emotional needs and deal with complex life situations by providing a 6-week group support course. Courses run regularly throughout the year and are on a structured, yet informal and friendly, basis. The weekly group topics are centred on:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Coping with Change | Forgiveness | Relationships & Boundaries |
| Communication | Legal/Moral Issues | Handling/Resolving conflict |

Our second project is called H2H: bringing hope to young people affected by parental divorce or separation.

H2H continues to **impact** and **change** the lives of 11–18 year olds living **rurally in the district of Stirling**. H2H supports these young people through an individual **support plan** delivered by young adult volunteers who have been through a similar experience, these volunteers are called **Lifeguides**. Lifeguides are trained in a unique toolkit that employs basic **cognitive behavioural therapy** principles to alleviate anxiety and put in place positive coping methods.

Could you be a Lifeguard?

- Are you 18–25?
- Did your parents separate?
- Do you live rurally?
- Would you like to help change teenagers lives?
- Could you volunteer?

Full training given
Expenses paid

call Hannah on
07790 437713



- Are you 11–18?
- Have your parents split up?
- Would you like someone to talk to?
- Can you spare one hour a week for six weeks?

contact Hannah on
07790437713
rurallife@hearttoheart.org.uk

Are you over 18? Do you want to come on an adult group support course?
Email us at
info@hearttoheart.org.uk
or ring 01877 339966



Hannah Sanderson. Heart to Heart and Rural H2H
Room Three, Callander Kirk Hall, South Church Street, Callander FK17 8BN
01877 33 99 66 07790437713
hannah.sanderson@hearttoheart.org.uk www.hearttoheart.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity No SC036813. Rural H2H is financed by youngstart. Heart to Heart is financed by The Baird Trust, the Moffat Charitable Trust and the Church of Scotland



Peggy Murray 1926 – 2014

Peggy was born in Stirling, one of four children. She received her education in the Port of Menteith area and on leaving school trained as a nursery nurse and worked with children in various residential nurseries. Her family moved to Fintry and it was here that she met Colin, whom she married at Fintry Church in 1952. The couple spent the early years of their married life in and near Fintry and here they raised their four children.

During these years Colin and Peggy set up the Post Office and general stores in Killearn in the shop which is now McVicar's hairdressers. Although small in size, it was amazing how many people could squeeze into this space and much sociable chat went on whilst waiting to be served. The business thrived and Colin and Peggy commissioned a new-build shop, with family flat above, to which they and the business moved. Peggy played a prominent role in the shop, and even more so when Colin's sudden death whilst fishing on the Endrick left her as sole owner. Her determination and her outgoing personality helped her through this tragic loss and she presided over the delicatessen counter with grace



and courtesy. Helped by family members, the business continued to serve the village until it was taken over by Spar.

Peggy moved to Allan Road and in her retirement enjoyed much foreign travel, and relished time spent with her children and grandchildren. As her health declined she moved first to a flat in The Oaks and finally to Canniesburn Nursing Home where she received excellent care.

For many years Peggy was a central figure in village life. As well as being the owner/manager of the shop, she was active in village life, and was a past president of the Inner Wheel and an active member of the Guild.

Always immaculately presented, with hair elegantly coiffed and dressed in discerning fashion, she was quickly the focal personality at any gathering and yet was modest and quite unassuming. She always appeared serene and smiling and was greatly loved by a wide number of people as well as by her four children and their partners, her grandchildren and recent great-grandchild. With her death, a part of village life has passed into history.

BP

Margaret (Peggie) Aitken

Peggie Aitken came to live in the parish of Killearn when she married Commander John Aitken in 1979. Initially they lived at Parkhall – a large late Victorian house on the Fintry Road with land stretching from the Endrick to the Campsies. This had been the family home of Johnnie's first wife Elizabeth Warrand-Connal until her death in 1977. In 1984, Johnnie and Peggie moved into Mullanhead which they had converted from the original Parkhall stables and coach house.

Johnnie and Peggie had a very happy but quiet life together until Johnnie's death in 1999, when the thrilling story of Johnnie's wartime heroism was revealed. First Lieutenant Aitken was serving on HMS *Bulldog* in the North Atlantic when an armed party boarded an enemy U-boat and after six hours aboard returned with code books, minefield charts and an Enigma machine. King George VI described this as 'the most significant event of the war at sea'. For his courageous war-time exploits, Johnnie was awarded the DSC, the War Medal with Oak Leaf and was also mentioned in dispatches. Johnnie never spoke of these experiences, but Peggie was justly proud of his achievements.



Margaret Pomeroy was born in Plymouth into a naval family and spent a happy childhood in Devon. She married a naval officer and as a young woman enjoyed touring Europe and in particular Italy. She always greatly appreciated the artistic side of life. By this first marriage she had two sons – Nicholas and Jonathon Beilby. Nicholas died in 2011, which was a great sadness to Peggie. She is survived by his three children, Sadie, Max and Christian, and Jonathon, who lives in New Zealand.

Peggie had a great love of life and people – especially children and King Charles spaniels. She loved parties and always made a real presence as, exquisitely turned out and supremely elegant, she could be the centre of any gathering right into her 80s. She was an intensely private person, but was always caring and considerate to her friends.

She died aged 88 at Mullanhead, 14 years to the day after her husband. Her memorial service was held at St. Mary's, Aberfoyle, where she had been married and had worshipped for over 30 years.

LD

Robert King 1929 – 2013



Robert (Bobby) King was born at Gartness, the youngest of three sons. He was educated at Killearn Primary School and Balfron High School and had his first work experience at Drumore Farm. He then went on to an apprenticeship at Mason's Garage in Drymen, after which he gained employment at the Caterpillar Tractor plant at Uddingston. When his brother, Alastair, bought a garage which became known as Kings of Ballat, Robert joined him and worked there for 25 years. This was a highly successful business which attracted customers from far and wide. On the death of Alastair, Robert set up his own garage business, Blaireissan Garage in Drumtitan Road and here he continued servicing cars until he was in his seventies, much trusted and respected as a motor mechanic.

Robert and May first met at Killearn Youth Club and they were married in Killearn Kirk in 1957. They enjoyed a long and loving union which was blessed by a daughter, Lesley, who has given them much love and support.

Robert was well known throughout the area, a kind and friendly man whose garden full of gnomes gave delight to children. Always with a smile on his face and a twinkle in the eye, he would greet anyone who passed his gate. As his health declined in latter years, May and Lesley were devoted to his well-being and his last weeks were spent in the care of Blanefield House.

BP

Jamie Pearson Independent Funeral Directors

Fintry Manse, Kippen Road, Fintry

01360 860 345

also at 2 Service Street, Lennoxton & 54 Cowgate, Kirkintilloch



Woodland Burial

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



Judy Broad 1946 – 2013

Judy Broad was born in Germany, but came to the UK in childhood when her parents made the decision to relocate and settle in South Wales.

She was educated at Whitchurch Grammar School and Aberystwyth University where she read German and where she met Roger, soon to be her husband.



They shared a love of the natural world and a spirit of adventure. This led them to seize an opportunity to make their first home on Fair Isle where they managed the Fair Isle Bird Observatory. Running a small hotel in such a remote area was a challenge which Judy met with her customary positive manner, but it was a steep learning curve, especially when the births of a son and daughter changed the partnership into a family. Many difficulties were met and problems overcome, and many lifetime friendships made. When the family departed after seven years, Judy had left her mark on Fair Isle and the island had left its mark on her. They were not to return for many years, but when they did in 2011, it was to find their old friendships as strong as ever.

In 1978, the family came to the mainland, living for some years near Inverness, where Judy juggled family life with working as a nursing auxiliary in Raigmore Hospital. They came to Killearn in 1983 and Judy trained as a teacher, gained a post at Lenzie Primary School and worked there until her retirement.

Always active and energetic, and with their abiding interest in the world, she and Roger travelled extensively for holidays in far-flung places. At home she was a highly capable cook, loved walking and was an active member of the Tennis Club. She delighted in her family and the three grandchildren. Somewhat surprisingly, she also developed a passion for motorcycling and, on her 1000cc Yamaha Fazer, enthusiastically enjoyed touring with fellow bikers.

Renowned as being placid and unflappable in temperament, Judy had a resilient and positive personality, qualities which were to help her face the sudden onset of the irrevocable short illness which claimed her.

BP

Margaret Davidson and Nan Young

The *Courier* records the passing, during recent months, of Margaret Davidson, formerly of Cedar Road and more recently of Abbeyfield House, and Nan Young, a resident of Abbeyfield for a number of years. Both were ladies of great independence of spirit with sharp minds and strongly held opinions, and both appreciated the comfortable atmosphere of Abbeyfield in the latter part of their lives.

BP

Hannah Valentine McNeillis (Ann) 1930 – 2013

Ann was born on Spike Island in County Cork, Ireland, on 16 October 1930. She was the eldest of four sisters and moved with her family to England in 1937. Ann and her sisters grew up in Erith, Kent, during which time she met the love of her life, George, whom she married in 1951 and four children followed. Following George's promotions with his employment, the family moved to Killearn in 1970.

Her first employment, after leaving school in 1944 at the age of 14, was to learn her craft as a dressmaker in London. Her attention to detail and natural abilities meant that her creations, including wedding and bridesmaid dresses and other 'posh frocks' were stocked and sold by House of Fraser department stores and Harrods of Knightsbridge, London.

Ann also spent 35 years working for Avon and became well known as 'Killearn's Avon Lady'. She did so well with her sales that she would be awarded prizes, including such things as a much cherished holiday to Monaco where she visited the casino. Avon gave Ann some money to gamble at the



tables, but she gave that a miss and spent the money shopping instead.

Ann's love of shopping ensured that she was always well presented. She loved shoes, handbags, make-up, gloves, brollies and brightly decorated and jewelled jackets.

Ann was well travelled and used to accompany George on many exotic business trips, including Fiji, Bali and South Africa. She loved to holiday and enjoyed many trips with family all over the world.

Ann was always known as being a very generous person and loved to 'give' – especially to her children, her twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Ann had heart problems dating back to the late '90s but she was otherwise in good health. Following a succession of health mishaps starting in January 2013, she suffered both heart and kidney failure. She died peacefully in her sleep at Gartnavel Hospital on 19 November.

She is greatly missed by her family and her many friends.

NJ

Scottish Water Opens New Communication Channels

Scottish Water has opened a number of new community-focused social media channels to help keep customers informed about improvements to services in their area.



This supports the existing Twitter account [@scottish_water](https://twitter.com/scottish_water) which provides customers with the latest service updates

and has over 7,500 followers. Customers can also telephone the Customer Helpline around the clock on 0845 601 8855.

Five new Twitter accounts covering the regions of Scotland have been launched, headed up by Scottish Water's regional community managers who are working to keep communities informed about campaigns on subjects such as water efficiency and water safety, as well as new projects in and around communities to provide the best possible water and waste water services.

The new community social media channel which covers our local area is [@SWJaneMcKenzie](https://twitter.com/SWJaneMcKenzie). Jane covers Stirling, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and West Dunbartonshire.

Scottish Water has also launched a dedicated news account on Twitter to keep customers and stakeholders up to date with breaking news stories from around Scotland – media campaigns, work to refurbish infrastructure such as water mains and sewers, build new treatment works and refurbish existing facilities and so on. The account name is [@ScotWaterNews](https://twitter.com/ScotWaterNews), and all the up-to-date news, can also be found at www.scottishwater.co.uk. The website is also useful for real-time information customers such as burst pipes or road works as a result of improvement work.

Attention XP Users

Support for Windows XP is finishing in April 2014. Many people are still using XP even after 12 years as it has been such a popular and usable version of Windows. When Microsoft stop issuing corrective updates in April, XP systems will become easier targets for threats, and the anti-virus programs can only do so much to help protect you.

The choice seems to be between carrying on as you are, and hoping your system resists any attack, or upgrade. An upgrade to Windows 7 is a possibility but you may find, in common with Windows 8, that your older printer, scanner, etc., may not be compatible. While Windows 8.1 seems to be far better than 8, it looks quite different and, depending what other software you want to run, you may be restricted as to what hardware you can choose. Windows 7, though slightly older, would give users a more familiar feel.

Tablets are a popular choice for many these days. If you are just using email and surfing the net, you'll probably be OK; printing can present problems, though, as can some types of attachment. Make sure to check that the software you want to use will work on your chosen tablet before buying.

Doug Ashworth

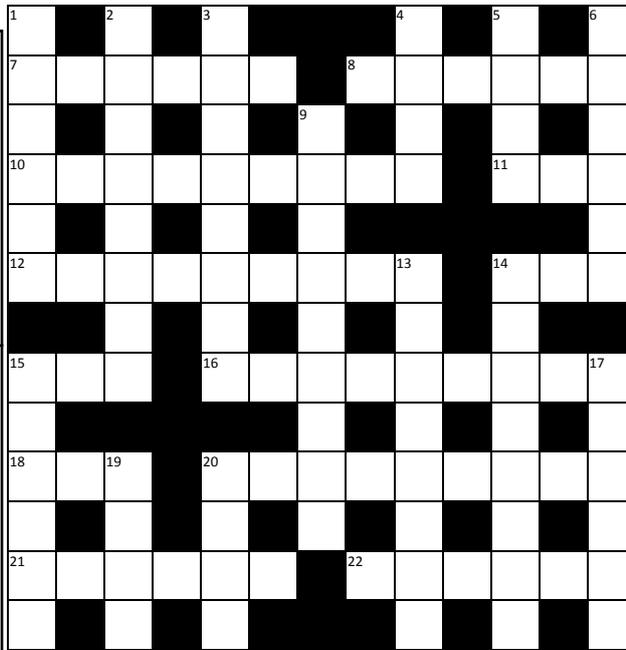
Solve the crossword, fill in your name and address, and place it in the box in Spar.

The first correct entry to the crossword drawn out of the box after the closing date will win a Family Ticket to Theatre Royal or The King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days.

Welcome to King's Theatre and Theatre Royal, Glasgow

The King's Theatre and the Theatre Royal are Scotland's leading live entertainment venues, showcasing the best West End and touring productions in the UK each and every year.

telephone: 0844 871 7627.
ambassadorsortickets.com/glasgow



ACROSS

- 7,18. This holiday is rated easy (6,3)
- 8. Play smoothly inside leg at opera (8)
- 10. Cook with this goat at large (9)
- 11. Note after degree – not good! (3)
- 12. Work clothing angered us (9)
- 14. Bird walking dangerously (3)
- 15. Twitchy if parasite loses bottom (3)
- 16. Praising without ringing the bell (9)
- 18. See 7
- 20. Aimlessly draw on insect for flying bomb (9)
- 21. It is OK around the lab use (6)
- 22. Learner follows car in outer space (6)

DOWN

- 1,4. Does a spider walk on these? (6,4)
- 2. Fitness drink made by ICI – not so! (8)
- 3. Waste mix, we agree around start of spring (8)
- 4. See 1
- 5. Part of frame sounds to be in a fix (4)
- 6. This 18 is said to give one the blues (6)
- 9. Love can act on the heart of lions (9)
- 13. Altruistic when the personality is reduced (8)
- 14. Not a canary in a cage, a convict (8)
- 15. Sounds as though a hymn of praise is boring (6)
- 17. Music session with leg around is a laugh (6)
- 19. There are 52 6's in this (4)
- 20. Herb initially delights when not well(4)

Solution to the last crossword
 Across: 1 country market; 8 rod; 9 pneumonia; 10 serenade; 11 twin; 13 pirate; 14 turner; 16 aide; 17 newsreel; 20 spaghetti; 21 log; 22 Steeplechaser.
 Down: 1 cards; 2 undergraduate; 3 topknots; 4 yields; 5 army; 6 King Wenceslas; 7 trainer; 12 gunsmith; 13 praises; 15 pestle; 18 lager; 19 chip.

Name

Address

..... Phone

Congratulations to the winner of our last crossword: Donald Retson, Buchlyvie

CHILDREN'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE sponsored by SPAR

The first correct entry pulled out of the box will win a £10 voucher which may be spent on anything in your local SPAR.

Find 10 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: Ben Lennox age 10

Closing Date for both competitions – 30 March 2013. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

Labour of Love

If there's one mammal we rarely see, but absolutely know is there, it's the mole. Subterranean in the extreme, the closest we usually come to glimpsing one is when we're lucky enough to be next to a molehill in the making. At such times the bubbling up of loosened soil from a previously undisturbed piece of ground is the dead giveaway that this stubbornly invisible creature is actually about to put in an appearance.



certain rustic charm to my immediate surroundings. And when one day I did have the joy of prolonged and close-up views of a mole above ground (possibly a sick individual), the whole idea of making life more difficult for them felt unpalatable.

A group of moles is called a 'labour', although they tend to lead solitary lives

But if your undisturbed piece of ground is also part of a pristine lawn, then moles are unlikely to be welcome. Considered as pests by many gardeners and farmers, moles are associated with a whole range of products designed to deter, remove or kill them outright.

I myself have given up caring and acknowledge molehills as part of my home and landscape. Just like the spiders' webs spun between outside walls and fences, and the long-abandoned house martin nests under the eaves, they add a

outwith the breeding season. Their networks of tunnels are designed to trap prey, mainly earthworms and small invertebrates, which they consume at a rate of about half their body weight a day. Moles detect such delicacies with their well-developed senses of touch and vibration. Specially adapted red blood cells enable them to survive in otherwise asphyxiating underground environments, safe from predators such as owls.

So love them or loathe them, moles are one of our most amazing animals of the countryside. Try not to get too ratty with them...
Martin Culshaw

The Final Fling – Application Form

If you do not want to cut into your *Courier*, just send your cheque with your details to Nick Hawkins, or use our downloadable form at: www.tinyurl.com/lmn9fyz



The Final Fling 2014

I would like to purchase tickets (max 6 per application) @ £25

I enclose payment of £..... Please make cheques out to 'Killern Hoolie'

Name.....

Address..... Postcode

Contact No Email

Please return form to Nick Hawkins, 5 Elm Road, Killern, G63 9RY.

Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Sorry, over 18s only

Booking Opens 17 March

Competitions

We hope you will enter our competitions and try for our magnificent prizes! The box to enter is behind the counter in Spar, just ask the counter assistant to put your entry in the *Courier* box.

If you don't want to cut into your *Courier*, you will find a downloadable version which you can print off and use at: www.tinyurl.com/psxhcpy and the pictures are bigger!

The Old Mill

Bar and Restaurant

6 Balfroon Rd, Killearn, G63 9NJ



Proud to be your local!

It really is Something...



“Something Tasty”

We now sell Crofters Pale Ale, a lightly-flavoured, golden ale with a hoppy flavour and somewhat dry finish. It comes from the Micro-Brewery called An Teallach Ale Company

This Brewery was opened in 2002 by David and Wilma Orr on their croft in the Highlands. The brewery operates a 5 BBL brewing plant and packages in casks as well as bottles. We sell it at £3 a pint and the regulars are loving it!

Make sure you visit our annual beer festival in the garden on Saturday 7th June, a great day out for the family!

KIDS' CLUB
MENU



“Something for the Kids”

As well as our play area within the beer garden, we will soon be launching an Old Mill Kids Club Menu, designed with kids and healthy eating in mind.

“Something Social”

Check our new Facebook page, The Old Mill Killearn for updates, please like and share it. You can also follow us on Twitter on @OldMillKillearn



“Something New”

We have a new house menu featuring a range of new dishes, such as scallops and black pudding, our smoked venison, or try our fresh mussels in a cider cream broth.



“Something Fresh”

The public bar is currently being refurbished but will be kept in a style befitting that of a country pub.. warm, cosy and welcoming.

FREE WiFi

“Something Free”

We are now delighted to have free Wi-Fi in the bar and restaurant, despite the massively thick 18th century walls.



“Something Entertaining”

We have live bands performing in the public bar once a month including Loud Mouth and Acoustic Station.

We also have our very popular and entertaining Banksy's Pub Quiz join us on Sunday 16 March then every second Sunday night at 7pm.

“Something Special”

Make sure you visit us at the weekend and enjoy our Saturday and Sunday Specials Menu.

Monday – Friday 12pm – 6pm
2 course lunch for £9.95 then
6pm-9pm 2 course dinner for
£13.95.



“Something Medium or Dry”

We have just launched our new wine list where we have carefully selected a wonderful selection both old and new world options.

For bookings please call 01360 550068
or email bookings@old-mill-killearn.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/TheOldMillKillearn>