

ISSUE 32

SUMMER 2015

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## Letters to the Editor

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 Please include your full address (not for publication).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

Dear Sir

Last year, around this time, I wrote to you about the dreadful state of the path between Old Endrick Road and the Park. As you probably know, it now bears no resemblance to what it was, and is now a path to be proud of – no more bouncing prams and shaking bones.

I like to think that by you printing my letter, it resulted in action, so thank you.

Young Mum

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Dear Sir

The proliferation of street furniture continues. There are the usual smiley faces to light your day as you pass them and, of course, the quaint mini roundabouts. They may or may not be effective, but the placebo effect will at least make us feel better.

The contagion of the speed bump has arrived in Killearn by way of a car-crunching monster that clatters low-riding cars. All speed bumps must be loved by somebody, even if it's only their mother.

I have heard people shriek out that it's 'big' and it's 'ugly', which is unkind, but true. That it was also 'born out of wedlock' is best known to those who conceived it.

Anon.

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Dear Sir

I would like to thank the *Courier* for the wonderful prize they have for the crossword. My husband and I were able to enjoy *The Sound of Music* in Glasgow. It was brilliant – an excellent evening out.

Thank you.

Sue Beck

Dear Sir

So, sadly the village has lost its wonderful butcher's shop. It has been such a pleasure for us Frasers to visit, shop and enjoy the 'craic' over the past years with, originally, Calum and then Donald and Douglas. We wish D & D all the very best for the future. As the legendary Andy Stewart might have sung...

Let the wind blow low let the wind blow high  
Am off out for my steak pie  
It would make a popeseye cry  
Donald, where's your bootchers?  
Let the wind blow high let the wind blow low  
Off to Drymen they will go  
On the bus we'll need to tho'  
Donald, where's you bootchers?...  
Douglas, where's your bootchers...  
Donald, where's your bootchers?! (and fade).

All the best, and many thanks, boys.

Roo, Mary & Steve

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Dear Editor

I have just finished reading the spring edition of the *Courier* and what a treat it was to read *Speed the Plough* by Hugh McArthur. I particularly enjoyed the photo of Hugh on the Fergie. That tractor is probably the first tractor I had driven and was the cause of some harsh words between my brother Ian and myself as he had fallen off the trailer due to my heavy-handedness with the clutch. My son and I currently own a diesel Fergie.

During the war I remember getting off school to go tattie howkin'. It was always muddy and, as a young boy, I did not earn much. Going from memory, the farmer of Laigh Park was Dan Patterson and he had three tractors that I was aware of – a David Brown, a Fordson with metal wheels and the Fergie.

I played football in the Killearn football team alongside Hugh McArthur, and won the Cameron Cup in 1954.

Thank you for publishing the *Courier* and thanks to Andrew Young for sending it to me. Oh, happy days.

Ken Lyon  
186 Albatross Rd  
Lakes Entrance  
Victoria 3909 Australia

## Courier News

Nothing stays the same and this is also true for the *Courier*. The good news is that Anne Lindsay has rejoined the group and will be involved in the laying out of each issue along with Peter Wilks. Our two 'Cubs' – Morven Paterson and Rosalie Williamson – each got an award at Stirling Council's annual Community Newspapers Award Ceremony for their articles published in our Christmas issue. Brenda Pell, Nancy Bailey, Peter Wilks, Gwen Stewart, Nick Hawkins and Heather McArthur also received a certificate 'in recognition and appreciation of (their) exceptional contribution(s) as volunteers'.

The bad news (for us, anyway) is that Morven is leaving us to attend Aberdeen University; many thanks to Morven for her time in the Group and we wish her well in the future. The result is that the *Courier* has a position vacant. Any potential 'Cubs' out there? Please get in touch.

Ed

**Killearn Courier is published by  
Killearn Community Futures Company**



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Autumn edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 14 November 2015.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by 2 October. Contact Gwen Stewart (01360 550856) or Gillian Sims (07540 686758).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by 2 October. Please send them to:

36 New Endrick Road, G63 9QT or  
email: [courier@kcfc.co.uk](mailto:courier@kcfc.co.uk)

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## Editorial

Hello and welcome to the summer issue of your *Killearn Courier*. This opening line is more or less the same one I've used for the last two summer issues – the difference being that on both previous occasions, we were enjoying sunshine. This time, as I write, we are into our fifth consecutive day of rain with more forecast!

However, there is always a ray of sunshine somewhere and this time, it is in this issue. Our permanent layout man, Peter Wilks, was joined by Anne Lindsay who replied to a plea in our last edition for help in this area of production. This must be a first, so let us hope that there are more willing volunteers out there to organise the Christmas Post, take on the Hoolie, help Colourful Killearn, and respond to the pleas from the youth organisations in this issue. As ever, many of our organisations are struggling to keep going – indeed, the local Cubs were on the point of folding until someone stepped in at the last minute. If you think you can spare a couple of hours of your time to help with any of our community activities, please do. You know the saying, many hands. . .

Anne was able to bring her professional skills to encourage the team to produce a wonderful new layout! The main changes are a new typeface and an attempt to give the *Courier* a brighter appearance. I'm sure you will approve of our new look; please, feel free to send us your comments.

The makeover of the *Courier* has not affected our articles, contributions or adverts; they remain as before so you can catch up with all the community news. We hope you enjoy reading them.

The mention of 'community' reminds me to tell you that you will find the outcome of the Community Action Plan as an insert in this issue. Do take time to read it; after all, it affects your village

Since the last issue, the editor, his wife, Pat, and Killearn resident Fiona Glass were delighted to attend the Queen's Garden Party at the Palace of Holyrood on 1 July. It was a grand day, the weather stayed dry and the cucumber sandwiches were to die for, as was the chocolate ganache topped with a dark chocolate leaf embossed with a crown. And you thought being an editor was easy!

*Ian*

IAN DICKIE, EDITOR



- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 17 Aug  | <b>Strathendrick Rotary Club. Meeting</b> , Black Bull, 6.30pm for 7pm. Every Monday thereafter except bank holidays and the last Monday of a five Monday month. Contact David Rodger (550521).  |
| 20 Aug  | <b>Community Action Plan Launch</b> . All welcome. Killearn Village Hall, 7.30pm.  |
| 24 Aug  | <b>Monday Music</b> . Autumn term starts for children between six weeks and five years. Kirk Hall. Contact Clare Cushing (550166).   |
| 29 Aug  | <b>Killearn Horticultural Society</b> . Show. Killearn Village Hall and Kirk Hall. Entries can be staged Friday, 7.30pm – 9pm or Saturday, 7.30am – 10am. Doors open 2pm – 4.30pm, prizes announced 2.30pm. For schedule, contact Glenda Asquith (550142).       |
| 3 Sept  | <b>Thursday Club</b> . The club meets in the Kirk Hall, 2pm – 4pm and thereafter every Thursday. For all over 60s. Contact Peggy Gardner (550558).   |
| 6 Sept  | <b>Killearn Country Market</b> . Killearn Village Hall, 1pm – 4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt ( <a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a> ).<br><b>All Killearn Archive Blether</b> . Killearn Village Hall Club Room, 2pm – 4pm. All welcome. |
| 7 Sept  | <b>Strathendrick Singers</b> . Rehearsals resume, Balfron Church, 7.30pm. New members, especially men, welcome. Contact Ken Allen (550415).<br><a href="http://www.strathendricksingers.org.uk">www.strathendricksingers.org.uk</a>                              |
| 16 Sept | <b>Killearn Community Council</b> . Meeting, Killearn Primary School, 8pm.   |
| 17 Sept | <b>Ballroom Dancing Classes</b> . Each Thursday, Killearn Village Hall, 7.30pm.<br><a href="http://www.costep.co/killearn">www.costep.co/killearn</a>  |
| 24 Sept | <b>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</b> . Talk by Dan Sweeney, 'Shadows of the city: Glasgow's mansions and houses'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Non-members welcome. <a href="http://www.drymen-history.org.uk">www.drymen-history.org.uk</a>       |
| 28 Sept | <b>Killearn Health Centre</b> . Open as normal.  |
| 4 Oct   | <b>Killearn Kirk</b> . Harvest Thanksgiving service, 10.30am.<br><b>Killearn Country Market</b> . Killearn Village Hall, 1pm – 4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt ( <a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a> ).                                  |
| 6 Oct   | <b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b> . Opening meeting. Harvest supper, Linda More entertains. All meetings, Killearn Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.   |
| 20 Oct  | <b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b> . Colin Jones, talk on the Salvation Army's work. 7.30pm.   |
| 21 Oct  | <b>Killearn Community Council</b> . Meeting, Killearn Primary School, 8pm.   |
| 22 Oct  | <b>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</b> . Talk by Ian Logan, 'Kidnapped and the Appin Murder'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Non-members welcome.<br><a href="http://www.drymen-history.org.uk">www.drymen-history.org.uk</a>                          |
| 24 Oct  | <b>Killearn Community Futures Company</b> . AGM, Village Hall, 8pm. All welcome.<br><b>Broadband Open Day</b> . Killearn Village Hall, 10.30am – 3.30pm.   |
| 1 Nov   | <b>Killearn Country Market</b> . Killearn Village Hall, 1pm – 4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt ( <a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a> ).   |
| 3 Nov   | <b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b> . Work of the Street Pastors – one of our projects. 7.30pm.   |
| 7 Nov   | <b>KCFC Bonfire and Fireworks Display</b> . The Glebe, 7.15pm.   |
| 8 Nov   | <b>Killearn Kirk Remembrance Service</b> . War Memorial, 10.45am, followed by a service in the church.   |

If you have any dates for the November 2015 issue of the Noticeboard (mid November to mid March), please contact Heather McArthur (550137/[heather.mcarthur@virgin.net](mailto:heather.mcarthur@virgin.net)).

## Community Action Plan

The Community Action Plan will be launched at a social meeting on Thursday, 20 August in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is cordially invited to come along and celebrate this, chat with friends and neighbours and enjoy light refreshments.



Stuart Ashworth and Sophie Spence were married on 20 June 2015 at The Culag, Luss. Stuart grew up in Killearn and met Sophie, from Balloch near Inverness, while studying at university. They have set up home in Glasgow where Stuart works as an independent IT consultant and Sophie is a veterinary surgeon at Glasgow Vet School.

The marriage of Grant Peters, son of Jim and Catherine Peters of Killearn, to Colleen Howe, Tempo, Northern Ireland, daughter of Eamon and Margaret Howe took place on 25 May 2015. Grant is the Course Manager at Linlithgow Golf Club and Colleen is an Office Administrator with Glasgow University. The couple met while guests at a friend's wedding in Ireland.



On Easter Saturday, 4 April 2015, Jennifer Beck, a trainee solicitor in Edinburgh and Lt Richard Kantharia, a submariner in the Royal Navy, were married in Killearn Kirk by Jennifer's

uncle, Rev. Robin McAlpine. They celebrated their wedding with their families and friends in Killearn Village Hall.

## Top Prize for Strathendrick Rotary

On Saturday, 30 May, the Rotary Club of Strathendrick erected their brand new tent at the annual Drymen Show, and with its bright colours and logo, it was soon attracting visitors.

With the aim of raising money for local charities, the Club set up a coconut shy and a darts competition, both of which proved very popular.

The darts competition saw players throwing three darts aiming to win the top prize of dinner for two at The Wayfarers, Croftamie, and after a fairly close count, Stuart Dick from Drymen came out on top, scoring 87 points. The highest score for ladies was 81 points and Julie Liney from Gourrock won Marks and Spencer vouchers.

The coconut shy also proved to be very popular – so much so that the Club ran out of coconuts!

However, the day was not just about raising money. The Club had on display a Shelter Box and its contents. These boxes provide a family with basic requirements and shelter in disaster areas, and the Club has sent one to Nepal along with £1,000.

Prizes were not confined just to those who took part in the fun – the Club won the top prize for the best charity stand.

At the end of the day, our stand had been visited by more than 200 people, many of whom stopped and chatted about Rotary. More than £350 for charity was raised, and Strathendrick Rotary Club would like to thank all those who donated on the day, as well as The Wayfarers for giving such a wonderful prize.

TID



Bill Astley-Jones, Pamela Maxwell, John Anderson and John Macfarlane admiring their winning rosette

## Primary School Quiz



Rotary District Governor, John Waddell presents the Killearn team with their certificates

For the past decade, Strathendrick Rotary Club has organised an annual Primary School Quiz, and this year's quiz was held in March in the theatre at Balfour High School.

Every primary school in the Club's catchment area entered, with seven schools taking part. Some schools entered two teams, which brought the total contestants to 44 (plus reserves).

A large audience of family and friends made for a great atmosphere. You could almost taste the tension as the evening progressed, with several teams being neck-and-neck. Eventually Killearn 'A' pulled ahead and took the trophy.

They went forward to the District Finals at Pollockshaws Burgh Hall on 1 June, but unfortunately, despite a sterling effort, they did not manage to win a place.

TID

## Success for Lomond School Enterprise Group

The Lomond Young Enterprise group have done brilliantly at the Young Enterprise Dunbartonshire awards, winning four awards and coming second in the eco category. They made a fantastic product: recycling old vinyl records and making them into clocks.

Following this great achievement they went on to compete in the Scottish Finals in June where they came in third in the QTS Innovation category.



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## Killlearn Path Group

The Path Group, ably assisted by the Path Group's volunteers, have had an energetic start to the season with three projects. The first involved the repair of a washout scour on the path between Blackhill and Boquhan. Our next was a significant undertaking to improve the path, which was in a particularly poor state of repair, between Endrick Road and the play park,

We started on Saturday, 28 March, with preparatory work, including clearing the gutter and removing surface vegetation. This was followed on the Tuesday when eight tons of hardcore was laid and compacted along the length of the path. Every shovelful of gravel had to be barrowed by hand, and for this heavy labour-intensive work we had the assistance of three volunteers from Scottish Water: Lorna Gilchrist, Jane Buchanan and Stuart McCondichie. Lorna is the project manager for the water main renewal work with which we are all familiar. Lorna jokingly suggested that her help was her way of apologising for all the disruption and inconvenience. The path was completed by laying and compacting two tons of whin dust as a hard-wearing surface.

In early April, the top end of the Branziert-Ibert link path was relaid. It has suffered several deep washouts since it was originally regraded several years ago. The work involved moving eight tons of hardcore to raise the path, providing a cross fall and installing a cross drain. The job was completed a week later, when a whin dust wearing surface was laid and compacted. In May, two metres of plastic drain were installed to divert surface drainage.

We were grateful for 16 tons of hardcore and 4 tons of whin dust which were supplied and delivered by Stirling Council for the Endrick Road and Branziert – Ibert projects. The Path Group is also grateful to John Phillips and MacColl Landscaping who supplied, free of charge, the plate vibrators required for the vital path compaction work.

The Group is also helping the Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust with the Trust's Invasive Non-Native Species project. You can read more about this elsewhere in this edition of the *Courier*.

None of this work could have been completed without the enthusiastic assistance of the Path Group volunteers. Everyone enjoys this outside work, much of which was carried out in rain, sleet, hail and even warm sunshine.

If you fancy joining something which helps the community, contact Mike Gray, Path Group Volunteer Coordinator (550962), or Norman McNab, Path Group Convener (550441). Please email [paths@kcfc.co.uk](mailto:paths@kcfc.co.uk), to be kept informed about all future activities.

NMcN



Top: Volunteers working on the Branziert-Ibert link path  
Below: Repairs to the path between Blackhill and Boquhan  
© Norman McNab



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## Killlearn Country Market



Wonderful local produce and quality crafts can be found at the Killlearn Country Market – now on the first Sunday of every month – from 1pm to 4pm, in Killlearn Village Hall.

There's always something new to see, and our regulars sell fresh sour-dough bread, rare-breed sausages, free-range eggs, fresh hand-made pasta and popular gluten-free cakes. Watch out for other local groups showcasing at the market, too, from locally grown plants and vegetables, to local charities and school groups. We're always on the lookout for new food producers and quality crafts. If you are interested in taking a stall, please email [gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk) or visit our website ([www.killlearncountrymarket.com](http://www.killlearncountrymarket.com)).

The market dates are included in the *Courier* Noticeboard on page 3. You can also find Killlearn Country Market on Facebook or check our website to see what's happening each month.

## Killlearn Health Centre News

- Dr Katy Woods will leave us in August 2015 to continue her training before returning in August 2016.
- Dr Greg Cunningham and Dr Andrew Lennox will be joining us as trainees in August 2015. They have both been here before, so you may well have met them.
- Laura Main, our receptionist for the last 10 years, left us for pastures new in July 2015. We wish Laura all the very best for her future career.
- 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.
- Out-of-Hours Access – if you require access to medical services when we are closed, the NHS 24 contact number has changed to 111.
- Online Services – in addition to being able to order your prescriptions online, we are pleased to offer online booking for GP appointments at [www.killlearnhealthcentre.com](http://www.killlearnhealthcentre.com) where you can also find details of how to use this service.
- Flu Vaccination – it may still be summer when you read this, but autumn can come around quickly, so keep an eye during September for details of our flu vaccination clinics.

## The Killlearn Hoolie

[www.killlearnhoolie.com](http://www.killlearnhoolie.com)

### COULD YOU TAKE ON THE KILLEARN HOOLIE? IT'S TIME FOR NEW BLOOD, FRESH ENERGY AND IDEAS

Three hugely successful Killlearn Hoolies have been held on alternate years since 2010, featuring the Gala Day, the Final Fling, the Wee Fling and spawning the Killlearn 10k, the Killlearn Beer Festival and a host of community events. Surplus revenue generated has been used to support other community activities.

Due to other commitments, the current organisers are unable to continue and if no volunteers come forward, there will be no Hoolie next year. Could you be the one to take it on? Starter funding, sound advice, valuable contacts and loads of goodwill are available.

If you could help to make the Killlearn Hoolie happen in 2016, contact Jennifer Brown ([550681/jnfr.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:550681/jnfr.brown@btinternet.com))

## Abbeyfield Activities



Abbeyfield Killlearn has had a busy time since Christmas. A Burns Lunch took place at the end of January with singing by George Bone and Pat Rodger. The pipes were played by Ian Sinclair. The residents enjoyed their Burns fare and the entertainment that followed.

In mid March, Rachel Ward (11) from Dunblane, a member of the National Youth Choir of Scotland, entertained the residents singing and playing her cello. Val Dron hosted a Daffodil Tea Party in her house in April, where everyone enjoyed superb baking by committee members. Residents also attended the Baka Beyond show in Fintry and had a riotous night out. An Abbeyfield Family Tea took place in May, when residents were joined by their families and friends for afternoon tea. Barbara, our housekeeper, and her husband, David, together with Peter Allison from Abbeyfield Edinburgh provided impromptu musical entertainment afterwards that had everyone's feet tapping. Residents also enjoyed a trip out on a glorious day in May for afternoon tea at Katy Rodger's in Fintry.

At the beginning of June, Bridge of Allan Abbeyfield joined us in Killlearn Church Hall for tea provided by the committee and a quiz which was enjoyed by all.

The regular film shows, news reviews and Rotary discussion groups have been well attended. The reviews and discussion groups promote much debate and many remedies are formulated to sort the country's problems over a cup of coffee. There are many activities and events planned for the next few months, so there is never a dull moment at Abbeyfield.

The Friends of Abbeyfield Committee works very hard, with each member providing their own area of expertise to enhance the wellbeing of the Killlearn residents and provide that little bit of extra enjoyment.

The Friends of Abbeyfield Killlearn are winners of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2014.

## Classic Car: TR7 V8

It was the summer of 1977, and I was on a family holiday in the back of my Dad's Vauxhall Viva when we were passed effortlessly by something from the future. Well, as far as I was concerned it looked like something from the future. It was, in fact, a TR7 Coupé and this sighting was a pivotal point in my car life. It led to a fascination with this wedge-shaped beast and eventually, after a long search, to the purchase of a TR7 in 1994. Of course, by the time I came round to purchasing my TR7, it was the Drophead version, which to my mind was in a different league to the early Coupé I had seen in 1977.

It's been 21 years since I bought my TR7 and, despite British Leyland's reputation for poor build quality, it has given me little in the way of trouble. I did get it re-sprayed in 1995, but apart from regular maintenance, it remained untouched until 2011 when, at 30 years old, I decided to 'invest' in it and start a conversion to a TR7 V8. It's a common conversion for the TR7 and one which I had done professionally, as it was a job way beyond my 'tinkering' capabilities.

What started out as a fairly simple mission turned into a multi-year project with a list of new parts that involved taking out all the mechanicals and interior trim and replacing them with new. The typical V8 used for conversions is the Rover 3.5l V8, but these are getting on in age and usually require a complete strip down and rebuild, so the chance to get a factory-crated 4.0l V8 direct from Land Rover was too good to miss. The project was completed in early 2014, and I am enjoying my second season in a very different, yet visually similar, car to the one I bought in 1994 and first fell in love with in the summer of 1977.



The TR7 celebrated a 40th anniversary in 2014 and this was marked by 40 cars taking a journey to the three British Leyland (BL) factories that made the TR7 – Speke, Canley and Solihul. It was ultimately the poor build quality that dogged the early models built in Solihul, combined with the persistent industrial disputes at BL that marred the reputation of the TR7 and led to its cancellation in 1981.

The TR7 and TR8 variant were the last of the TRs, but not the last of the Triumph marque. In 1981, Triumph had a joint venture with Honda, and their variant was the Triumph Acclaim. By coincidence, it was in a 1981 Midas Gold Triumph Acclaim that I passed my driving test. Little was I to know then that I would eventually buy a 1981 Midas Gold Triumph TR7. ARCHIE BRYCE

## Strathendrick Classic Car Club

Many of our members took part in the Rotary Drive-it-Day Charity run. We started from Dobbies in Stirling to allow a more northerly route that took us through Glen Quaich where we met some flurries of snow, dashing my hopes for blue skies and sunshine somewhat. The Club had its AGM after a short run round local roads with many large potholes, but all made it to the meeting.

The Club's next event was our three-day run to Pitlochry, which was attended by 11 crews with their cars. Our route master, Mike Gastall, took us via Killin and Bridge of Balgie, then along the Tay to Pitlochry. The next day involved a run to include the obligatory stop for retail therapy at Bruar. Surprisingly, we managed all three days with the hood down – but clad like Eskimos.

The programme for the remainder of the year is filling up. Our Annual Run (ex championship) was organised for 2 August and when the *Courier* went to press, the route was still a closely-guarded secret. On Tuesday, 15 September, we are having a lunchtime run to the Sheriffmuir Inn. This will be followed by a trip to the Famous Grouse Experience near Crieff for lunch on Wednesday, 14 October, organised by our committee member, Richard Hunter. Wednesday, 18 November will see the start of our winter programme, with talks and films of motoring interest to be held again at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. The first meeting is at 6.45pm for 7.15pm. Our Ladies Night will be held on Wednesday, 2 December. New members and guests are always welcome – no vehicle is required, you just need an interest in the subject.

DOUGLAS ARTHUR



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## Fibre Broadband for Killearn

Fibre-enabled broadband, also known as Next Generation Broadband (NGB), Next Generation Access (NGA) or Superfast Broadband will soon be available in the village. You may also hear other names for it depending on the provider (ISP), for example, BT's 'Infinity' offering. The good news is that this will offer faster connections both download and, especially in a business context, upload. The bad news is that line length and the quality of your 'copper' connection that still forms the last part of the connection from the exchange to your premises, are a very significant factor in determining what speed is actually possible to an individual customer.

Digital Scotland's website enables you to determine the availability in the area and shows Killearn will soon be enabled ([www.digitalscotland.org/whereandwhen](http://www.digitalscotland.org/whereandwhen)). It also allows you to see how you are connected to the Killearn exchange. There are three routes at present: via cabinet E1 (at Blane Smithy), via cabinet E3 (beside postbox at top of Station Road), or directly from the exchange (called Exchange Only or EO lines). Initially, only the cabinets will be enabled, with orders taken for the service sometime from July to December 2015 (in reality nearer the end of this period). After this, during January to June 2016, the EO lines will be enabled. Exactly how this latter phase will be done is yet to be clarified.

Line length and quality determine whether the connection speed will actually be any better than at present. Check your line length at [www.kitz.co.uk/adsl/max\\_speed\\_calc.php](http://www.kitz.co.uk/adsl/max_speed_calc.php).

Many lines from the 1980s were connected using aluminium cable rather than copper as a cost saving. Aluminium is not such a good conductor so makes the line appear longer than it really is. Of course, the lines are not delivered 'as the crow flies' – they typically follow the roads – so your premises may well be further from the exchange than you think. Checking your router may let you get an indication of the 'effective line length' to the exchange and an idea of the connection speed. If you are willing to share this information, please contact me (see below).

In line with current ISP wording, the superfast packages typically only offer an 'up to' speed due to these individual aspects. While better, connection speeds may be well short of the 'superfast' advertised rates that set very high expectations of the new service. You should ask for a more definitive indication of what speed to expect.

Killearn Community Council ([www.killearncc.org.uk](http://www.killearncc.org.uk)) will be monitoring the local implementation, and lobbying for the best possible result for the village and surrounding area serviced by the Killearn exchange. Regular updates will be posted on the KCC website, and the Community Council will host a community broadband event in the Village Hall, on 24 October in Killearn Village Hall, 10.30am – 3.30pm.

DOUG ASHWORTH  
Broadband Advisory Group Public Representative  
email: [drashworth@aol.com](mailto:drashworth@aol.com)

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## Choral Treats in Killearn Kirk

In May, the stirring sound of Handel's *Zadok the Priest* sung by nearly 100 voices, resounded through Killearn Kirk. The Strathendrick Singers were joined by around 50 of the KVV Singers from Yorkshire with their Music Director, Frank Smith, accompanist and friends for the first of several concerts in Scotland. The fantastic free concert, largely showcased the very varied repertoire of the KVV Singers, and also included contributions from the Strathendrick Singers plus the excitement of the two choirs singing together. The members of the KVV Singers were delighted to be in Killearn, and we really enjoyed the company of the KVV singers and hope to make a reciprocal visit to Yorkshire next year.

The Strathendrick Singers had already given a successful concert in March, with a programme of four coronation anthems by Handel, including the aforementioned *Zadok*. The second part included a tremendous performance of Dvorak's *Te Deum*, accompanied by a large orchestra. Our soloists in the Dvorak, Deborah Rudden and Christopher Nairne, also delighted the large audience with popular arias and duets from operas by Puccini and Mozart. Many of the audience commented on how well the Singers are performing and tackling demanding repertoire. We are, as ever, grateful to the patient training by our inspiring Music Director, Mark Evans.

The new season for the Singers starts on Monday, 7 September in Balfron Church at 7.30pm. We welcome new members, and if you would like to join us, even if you haven't sung for years, please contact our secretary, Ken Allen (550415/ email [secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk)).

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## View from the Glen



Walkers in Killearn Glen now have a magnificent bench to rest awhile. The bench, about 100 metres along the path from the Beech Drive entrance, is part of a wood carving project around Stirlingshire, commissioned by Stirling Council.

Rather than simply installing generic wood carvings in villages and towns in Stirlingshire, places were identified with site-specific themes that would help improve the area, showcase best features and enhance tourism where possible. Killearn was fortunate that a suitable site was identified in the Glen. It was the intention to use fallen oak from the Glen for the bench, but unfortunately the wood was unsuitable, so cedar was used instead. The spectacular wood carving depicts the Ladies Linn and other native wildlife.

The seat was carved by Iain Chalmers of Chainsaw Creations. Iain, who is from the Black Isle, has won the chainsaw carving competition 'Carve Carbridge' several times. He carved the Ladies Linn seat using only photos and has completed many other carvings now installed across the Stirling Council area.

Thanks are due to Stirling Council for this initiative in times of financial stringency, and it is hoped that everyone will cherish it.

PW

## Killearn Glen

The Glen is well known to many Killearn residents as a place to walk the dog, look at the bluebells, or just have a pleasant stroll. But why is it there?

The landscape of the Glen formed part of a larger planned landscape within the Policies of 'The Place of Killearn', often referred to as Old Killearn House. The only map we know of at present which shows the location of the Place of Killearn and its associated landscaped area is the Roy Military Map of 1747–55. This indicates 'The Place' was located in the sledging field close to the Ladies' Linn. An area immediately around the house appeared to be set out as a formal garden. A wider landscaped area extended from the east side of the Glen to about the line of Station Road and from Beech Drive down to at least the bottom of the Glen.

A large wooded area, with a system of radiating paths, was located on Crow Hill, now under housing. The first Ordnance Survey map of 1865 still showed a plantation on Crow Hill, and the line of limes at the head of Lampson Road may be the last vestiges of this. Some of the land boundaries shown on Roy's map can still be identified today.

*The First Statistical Account* for Killearn, written by Rev. David Ure in 1793 refers to the Place of Killearn and its lands. 'About a mile and a half south of the village is the Place of Killearn, anciently the seat of a cadet of the Montrose family, but lately of Robert Scott of Killearn, Esq; and now the property of

the Right Hon. James Montgomery, Lord Chief Baron for Scotland. The present edifice, which is far from being large, was built in the year 1688. Numerous plantations, regularly disposed in form of clumps, belts, and wildernesses, beautify and shelter an extensive tract of pleasure ground round the house. This part of the country is far from being destitute of exotic plants in a high degree of perfection. This is particularly the case with respect to the larch, a great number of which adorn the banks and enclosures at the house of Killearn. They are about 60 years old, being amongst the first of the kind that were planted in the open field in Scotland; they are generally 3 feet in diameter at the thickest and have grown to the tallest of nearly 100 feet. For beauty and size very few, if any of the kind in Scotland surpass them. In the vicinity of the larches are many beautiful spruce and beech trees, of uncommonly large dimensions. The oriental maple, the sweet chestnut and tulip trees have, in this place, arrived to great perfection and beauty.'

*The Second Statistical Account*, written by Rev. John Graham in 1841 tells us that 'The estate of Killearn was purchased in 1814, by John Blackburn, Esq. of Jamaica, who has recently fitted up an elegant mansion house on the banks of Blane.' It appears that the old Place was demolished at this time and the stone incorporated into the new house. A geophysical survey of the site some years ago, and a more recent trial excavation by Murray Cook, the Stirling Archaeologist, revealed little.

This suggests complete removal of the building materials for re-use, but further work may allow the footprint to be established.

The larch trees mentioned in the *First Account* are referred to – 'Besides the usual forest trees, of which there are many beautiful specimens at Killearn, he was among the first that introduced the larch into Scotland. From want of timely thinning, the larch trees have not thriven, as they are remarkable only for extreme height; many of them being 100, and one 114 feet high. In the former Statistical Account, they are said, when sixty years

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## Killlearn Glen, continued

old, to be three feet in diameter; now when they are upwards of 100 years, I could find only one that was 3 9/12 feet, at the height of three feet from the ground.' In the Glen there is a stand of larch planted close together. Are these the survivors of those mentioned? If they are, we have some of the oldest larch trees in Scotland.

Rev. Graham's report also refers to the use of woodlands in the area. He writes, 'There is little natural wood in the parish. The extent under plantation, is about 1,140 acres. The object of proprietors is to convert these plantation into copse, filling them entirely with oak, and cutting them, every twenty years.' He also refers to the falling prices for the oak due to the end of the (Napoleonic) war suggesting such coppicing may not continue. Murray Cook has pointed out evidence of coppicing of oak, and other species, within the Glen suggesting that there may have been commercial exploitation of the land in addition to its recreational value.

Some of the paths within the Glen run along quite deep hollows. These were probably cut as features for the recreational use of the area, but may also reflect the wear caused by removal of commercial timber over many years. An observant walker in the Glen in late winter, when the undergrowth has died back, will be able to identify old, now disused, pathways. One loops down to the Ladies' Linn from the east side of the burn designed to bring the walker face-to-face with the Linn.

Murray Cook suggests the Linn would originally have had a figure on the top and the stream below would have been crossed by a bridge designed to give a view of the feature.



The Ladies' Linn

There is evidence that the course of the stream was altered to enhance the view. Limited excavations along the western edge of the Glen close to the Linn have identified a structure, possible a 'Tea House', which would have been the route from The Place of Killlearn into the Glen and, in particular, to view the Linn.

While we tend to take the Glen for granted, it is clear that it has an interesting history. It may well be part of one of the first designed landscapes in Scotland. There is a need to carry out more research into the area, including a full survey. There may be scope to reclaim some of the old pathways, restore some of the features, and use the area for outdoor educational purposes, including reviving some of the old management systems.

PETER SMITH

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## Ken's John Muir Way for Malawi



Ken Allen (right) and Colin Bowles at the John Muir Museum in Dunbar

**Ken Allen completed the 215-mile John Muir Way, from Helensburgh to Dunbar, by bike and canoe over four days in May, raising funds for the Killlearn Malawi Group.**

I decided it would be good to attempt to cycle the John Muir Way, but it was suggested I should canoe the parts of it that followed canals. I lived in Malawi more than 40 years ago as a volunteer and I wanted to raise funds for the work of the Killlearn Malawi Group. I was accompanied on the trip by a fellow volunteer, Colin Bowles, from Derbyshire.

There were steep climbs on first stage, cycling from Helensburgh to Croy, and in fine weather there were wonderful

views over Loch Lomond, and the Campsie Fells. It was good to see such familiar places freshly through Colin's eyes. On our second day, we launched a canoe at Croy and made steady progress, mostly in a straight line! At the Falkirk Wheel, we had to carry the heavy canoe up the slope to the top of the wheel – no luxury of heavy-lifting engineering for us. We finished by paddling to Polmont, passing through the Falkirk Tunnel.

The next day we cycled from Polmont to Linlithgow, then over the hill to the shore of the Firth of Forth at Bo'ness, past Blackness Castle, and through the magnificent grounds of Hopetoun House to South Queensferry. The views up and down the river are quite stunning. Continuing along the coast, we reached the edge of Edinburgh at old Cramond Brig. At this point we cheated – going back down to the shore of the Forth and cycling through Granton and Newhaven to Trinity instead of taking a route through Edinburgh.

Our final day took us through Leith to Portobello – where a Luca ice cream was obligatory – following the shore around East Lothian to North Berwick, where we had a struggle against the wind going south towards Dunbar. We arrived in Dunbar, rather soggy, just in time to get our certificates of completion at the John Muir Birthplace Museum. I think we are the first people who have paddled part of the way.

We raised an excellent sum of around £2,500 for the Killlearn Malawi Group, which will be used to resettle some of the 600,000 people displaced in the floods at the beginning of this year and to build a science block for a secondary school. It will also support the work of the Rev. Levi and Ruth Nyondo who visited Killlearn in June from Malawi by providing a craft workshop for women, a nursery and a primary school.

If you would make a donation, you can contribute online at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/ken-johnmuirway>.

## Generous Residents Smash Target



Volunteers taking part in the annual house-to-house collection for Cancer Research UK were delighted with the increase in donations this year. In recent years, the total raised has hovered around £9,000. This year the Strathendrick Local Committee and volunteer collectors hoped to reach £10,000. But this target was smashed with generous residents giving £11,630.27.

The committee would like to thank collectors for their time and local residents for their generous donations to the important work and research carried out by CRUK.

The breakdown by village is as follows:

Balfon	£3,021.56
Buchanan	£175.00
Buchlyvie	£1,104.07
Croftamie	£272.68
Drymen	£1,128.47
Fintry	£1,241.28
Gartmore	£281.20
Killlearn	£2,672.60
Strathblane/Blanefield	£1,733.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,630.27</b>

LESLEY KEIGHLEY, STRATHENDRICK LOCAL COMMITTEE

## Killlearn Rotakids Do It Again



Some of the Rotapeeps manning their stall at the Killlearn Country Market

Rotary International have a campaign which aims to eradicate polio worldwide. The Bill Gates Foundation donates £2 for every £1 raised. Rotakids is a club which is part of Rotary International and its aims and objectives fit in with the school curriculum, especially in the field of community involvement.

This is the second year that there has been a Rotakids Club at Killlearn Primary. Last year, the Killlearn RotaKids Club sent £2,500 to the End Polio Now campaign. This year, the 'new' Rotapeeps sent £4,500 to the campaign.

Ian Dickie, Youth Convenor of Strathendrick Rotary Club said, 'It is quite humbling to see the efforts these kids put in to raising money for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign. Their enthusiasm is boundless and they could teach many adult fundraisers a thing or two. Strathendrick Rotary is grateful for the support of everyone at Killlearn Primary School as well as the mums and dads, friends and neighbours who also give their support.' TID

## Drymen Artists Show Success



Bill Black, Club President, with Herwiyani Homfray, Wendy Shuker prize winner  
© Bill Black

With 13 members selling 32 pictures in just three days, Drymen Art Club demonstrated again that it is in good heart. Herwiyani Homfray won the Wendy Shuker prize for the most votes from visitors to the exhibition for her soft pastel and acrylic picture 'Wild Red Poppies'. New members are welcome when the club year starts on Wednesday, 23 September at 1pm in Drymen Village Hall. To find out more, contact club secretary, Mike Gastall, 8 Montrose Way, Drymen G63 0DR or email Tom Gilchrist ([gilchristthomas@aol.com](mailto:gilchristthomas@aol.com)).

## It's Show Time at Fintry

Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society's (FADS) next production will be *The Winslow Boy*. A missing five-shilling postal order causes 13-year-old Ronnie Winslow to be dismissed in disgrace from his Naval College. Set in middle-class London in 1911, World War I approaches, and a family is in turmoil as the injustice makes national headlines and disrupts Parliament. This true-life drama by Terence Rattigan has recently had huge acclaim on Broadway and London, and two films have been made of the gripping tale. *The Winslow Boy* is brought to the stage by a superb cast from Britain's top amateur drama club of 2014.

Three performances only, Thursday, 24 to Saturday, 26 September, 7.30pm, Menzies Hall, Fintry. Tickets £7 from Liz Brown (860078), or check out Fintry Drama Facebook and our website ([www.fintrydrama.org.uk](http://www.fintrydrama.org.uk)).

## KCFC Membership Renewal

It's time to review your annual membership of Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC). For just £1 a year you become an active part of village life as you help to support the various groups that operate under the umbrella of the Company. We are grateful for all your support and this year we are aiming to encourage an even larger membership

Our biggest project, the Village Hall, has now successfully completed its second year of operation. Running the Hall as a viable concern is dependent on securing an adequate income while providing a community venue that is available to, and affordable by, residents and local groups. Balancing these requirements is what the Operating Committee strives to achieve. You can read about the latest Hall news on page 23.

As a Company, we endeavour to learn and develop so that all our projects fulfil their objectives and meet local needs. The Community Action Plan (CAP) has been circulated with this issue of the *Courier*. The CAP Group appreciates the interest and support of the community and trusts that the Plan will provide the framework for the village's future development and wellbeing.

The other working groups of KCFC have had a productive year and I am indebted to the members of these groups for their work that adds so much to the appearance and community spirit of our village .

All groups will provide a full account of their activities at the KCFC AGM on Thursday, 22 October, to which everyone is welcome.

The many positive comments in the CAP residents' survey show how much everyone cares for our village and how much it means to everyone living here. If you haven't already done so, please help KCFC's continuing work by renewing your membership for another year. Contact Nancy Bailey (550226) for a membership form.

BRENDA PELL, KCFC CONVENOR

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## Killearn Community Council Annual Report 2014 – 2015

Membership of KCC during 2014 – 2015 comprised: Jim Allan (Roads Correspondent), Margery Burdon (Secretary), Andrew Donaldson (Webmaster), Janet Duncan, Margaret Harrison (Chair), Hilary McGregor, David Morley, Jim Ptolomey (Planning Correspondent), Kirstie Robertson (Youth Member), David Scott (Vice-Chair and Treasurer) and Heather Wright (Health and Waste Management Correspondent). Christine Bauwens served very ably as Minutes Secretary.

Some important issues were discussed during 2014 – 2015:

- KCC responded to Stirling Council's consultation on Priority-based Budgeting, one of only 9 out of 42 Community Councils to do so. Cuts in winter gritting of rural roads were rejected by Stirling Council, but it is proposed to introduce road-end bin collections on private roads. The latter will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and KCC will monitor the effect on Ibert and Endrick roads.
- Stirling Council instituted an early review of the Local Development Plan last year with a call for sites for development. KCC responded that it was the clearly-expressed wish of Killearn residents that no more large housing developments should be built in the village, the Blaressan site should be limited to the 30 houses allocated, and the former Killearn Hospital site should be developed before any further green field sites are allocated. A Main Issues Report will be published for consultation in summer 2015.
- On-going roads issues include relocating the 30mph sign on Station Road from Napier to Lampson Road, and addressing speeding issues on Birch Road. A meeting was held with Stirling Council senior staff to discuss those issues and a commitment was given to create a 40mph buffer zone on Station Road from Napier Road to a point below Lampson Road during 2015 – 16 financial year. Speeding vehicles on Birch Road are a danger to local children as this is a route to Killearn Primary School, and the Parent Council have given their support to a 20mph speed limit on Beech Drive and all roads off. Inconsiderate parking on pavements and at the school entrance remains a problem.
- Superfast Broadband is expected to reach Killearn from July 2015 onwards, although it will not cover all premises initially. Stephen Chambers of Digital Scotland gave a presentation at our June meeting and explained that 189 houses are scheduled for Superfast Broadband between July and December 2015, served by the green connection boxes in Station Road and at Blane Smithy. A further 331 'Exchange Only' houses will be connected between January and June 2016. Killearn has around 900 houses, and plans to connect the remaining houses are not yet clear. A particular concern is the needs of local businesses outwith the village. Rural businesses are at a communications disadvantage compared with businesses nearer city centres, and it is essential that they are upgraded as soon as possible. There are still many uncertainties and we have set up an implementation group under the chairmanship of Doug Ashworth to monitor developments and lobby for better coverage for Killearn.
- KCC was unable to support the proposal for a Comfort Partnership between the Village Hall Committee and Stirling Council, replacing the existing public toilets which would then have been closed and demolished.

- Under the new policing arrangements, we receive police reports in a new format, with provision for feedback of comment from the community. The Smartwater anti-theft system launched in Killearn last year appears to have reduced the number of burglaries in the village.
- Creation of wildflower meadows to encourage biodiversity and reduce grass cutting.
- Killearn Winter Resilience plan is in abeyance as the plan was out of date. It is hoped to revise the plan in time for next winter.
- A wooden bench in memory of Derek Stuart, well known Killearn worthy and former member of the Community Council, was purchased with donations from family, friends and local residents. The bench is located outside the Village Hall.

We welcomed external speakers to some of our meetings: a presentation by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland at KCC January meeting, Killearn Community Futures Company in March on the analysis of responses to the Killearn Community Action Plan Survey and in May, Green Aspirations, a community interest company based at Tir na nOg, on their proposed project in Killearn Glen to research the history and use of the Glen.

The long-awaited repair to the dangerous footpath between Killearn and Boquhan was completed in June 2015. John Harrington's before and after photographs on page 17 show the vast improvement. KCC supported the application, but its success is a tribute to the petitioners who convinced Stirling Council of the need for this repair. KCC also paid tribute to Killearn Path Group and volunteers from Scottish Water for resurfacing the path from Endrick Road to the playpark.

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## Killlearn Community Council Report continued

During the year we introduced a mailing list to which anyone can subscribe. We send out local information, usually on a monthly basis. If you are interested in joining the mailing list please do so via our website [www.killlearncc.org.uk](http://www.killlearncc.org.uk).

The Community Council will be in abeyance during July and August. When we resume in September, priority items of business will be:

- Monitoring the implementation of Superfast Broadband in the village, including arranging a public event for October when people will be able to discuss their particular needs.
- Commenting on the Main Issues Report and seeking views on any new development sites for housing proposed by Stirling Council.
- Monitoring developments at the Blaressan and former Killlearn Hospital sites.
- Participation, along with Strathblane and Balfon CCs, in a Community Empowerment test site – as yet we have few details on this project.
- Reviving a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Killlearn if there is sufficient interest from local residents.

Thanks to all KCC members for their hard work throughout the year, and to the members of the public who have attended our meetings and contributed to our discussions. Thanks also to our elected Councillors, Alistair Berrill, Graham Lambie and Ian Muirhead, who work tirelessly on our behalf. Unfortunately we are losing David Morley, who has had to resign owing to work commitments. We have two vacancies for Community Councillors, so please consider joining KCC for the duration of this Council, until October 2017.

MARGARET HARRISON, CHAIR

## Bridge by Zorro

Pre-emptive bids are well named as they create problems for the opposition, potentially preventing them from finding a good contract, as illustrated by this hand from a recent match. What would you have done? (See page 37 for how the hand was played.)

Dealer: North  
North/South vulnerable

		<u>North</u>		
		♠ A Q 10 9 6 3 2		
		♥ 5 2		
		♦ K 10		
		♣ 9 7		
<u>West</u>	♠ K J		♠ 8 4	<u>East</u>
	♥ K Q 7 4		♥ 10 9 3	
	♦ A Q 5 2		♦ J 9 8 4	
	♣ A 6 2		♣ Q 5 4 3	
		<u>South</u>		
		♠ 7 5		
		♥ A J 8 6		
		♦ 7 6 3		
		♣ K J 10 8		

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## The Weather Channel

I'm writing this on the last day of June and we are still waiting for some summer weather, so I thought it appropriate to examine why our summer has failed to materialise.

Although we experienced some fine and relatively warm weather in late March and early April, the months of May and June were disappointing. Temperatures in the South East of England were 7 to 10°C warmer than here, with far less rain. We are 400 miles north, which partly explains the temperature difference, but there is another major factor on this occasion.

Weather forecasters on national TV increasingly mention the jet stream when they comment on unusual weather patterns. At high levels of the atmosphere a belt of strong winds, known as the jet stream, exists as a result of significant temperature and pressure differences. It typically occurs at around 35,000 feet and can attain speeds of up to 180mph. The jet stream influences the position and strength of the weather systems – such as low pressure centres – lower down in the atmosphere.

Our northern hemisphere jet stream can meander towards the North Pole or towards the equator, and as a consequence affects winds near ground level. It only needs a slight shift in the jet stream for the low-level wind to switch from southerly to northerly or vice versa, with air of tropical origin being replaced by air of Arctic origin, with all that implies for the weather.

It appears that May and June had the jet stream a little

further north than it normally is and at a lower altitude. This allowed a series of fronts to cross western Scotland bringing lower than normal temperatures, a great deal of rain and several spells of high winds.

Meteorological summer officially starts on the first day of June. The outside temperature at 1pm in my garden was 9.4°C and we had 22.5mm of rain! Hopefully, the jet stream will move to a more convenient location and allow some warmer and less wet weather this summer.

TOM RENFREW

Half-Yearly Summary for Killearn (2015)						
Killearn 2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Highest Temp	11.9	5.9	20	26.7	23.5	28.7
Lowest Temp	-4.1	-2.1	-2.1	-1.6	-4.4	4.4
Mean Temp	3.6	4.6	5.7	8.6	9.8	13.6
Days Below Freezing	8	4	2	2	1	0
Highest Wind Gust	34.9	21.3	37.4	20.6	49.4	18.3
Monthly Rain	139.8	74.4	110.1	40.8	107.1	69
Most Rain in 24 hours	34.5	11.7	17.1	13.2	19.2	22.5
Days without Rain	5	4	11	15	10	7
Cumulative Rainfall	139.8	214.2	324.3	365.1	472.2	541.2
Temperature in °C, rainfall recorded in mm, wind speed in mph						

## Stirling Council Library Service

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## People Power in Action

Anyone who walked the path along the road from Killearn to Boquhan before June this year would have used the section approaching Blackhill Cross with trepidation as the kerb had almost disappeared and the path was at a lower level than the roadway.

The South West Stirling Joint Paths Group, of which the Killearn Paths Group is a member, submitted a petition to Stirling Council's Petitions Panel requesting a site visit to see the dangerous state of the path. This was done last September and, as a result, the Council agreed that a section of the path would be repaired.

Following lengthy delays due to works by Scottish Water, the work was completed and the final surface laid in June. The new path is slightly wider than the old one, has a good surface and is raised well above the road with a good stone kerb. It is suitable for pedestrians and usable by prams and wheelchairs. An off-road route between Killearn and Balfron would be ideal but, thanks to public support, we now have a usable path along the entire way.



## Stirling Local Development Plan

Work has already begun on the Stirling Local Development Plan which will replace the Plan which covers the period 2014 – 2024. Local Development Plans are reviewed and updated every five years; however, to comply with latest Scottish Government advice, there is a need to identify more sites for housing in the Stirling area. The normal review timescale is therefore being brought forward. The opportunity is also being taken to review and update, where necessary, other parts of the plan.

In June 2015, the Council agreed to publish a Main Issues Report focusing on the elements of the Local Development Plan that need to change, as the first consultation stage in preparing an updated Plan. This includes proposals for a further 488 to 788 homes across 18 new sites, mostly located within the core area of Stirling, Dunblane, Bridge of Allan.

Consultation on the Main Issues Report will take place over 10 weeks from 3 August to 9 October 2015, during which time the Council is inviting views and comments on the proposals it sets out. The report and related documents are available to view on the Council website at [www.stirling.gov.uk/localdevplan](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/localdevplan).

If you have any queries about anything relating to the Local Development Plan and the Main Issues Report consultation, you can get in touch with the Planning and Policy team:

Phone: 01786 233660

Email: [ldp@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@stirling.gov.uk)

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## Miniature Garden Competition

Early in June, the Benview Garden Centre at Ward Toll held its second annual Miniature Garden Competition for children, which attracted a large number of entries from local primary schools. The gardens could be individual creations or the work of a small group of pupils, and the schools could submit an unlimited number of entries in the four age categories.

The judges were impressed by the wide range of ideas behind the children's entries and by the craft skills evident in the construction of miniature cottages, castles, greenhouses and vegetable plots, washing lines, ponds and seating areas. Some of the entries showed the children's interest in their own playthings: the commando camp in a jungle clearing, fairies at the bottom of a garden, all manner of 'wild' creatures lurking among the undergrowth and gardens with space for ball games. Others were built around characters from favourite stories.

Several had a definite eco-friendly theme, providing attractive habitats for insects and birds and one was a recycled garden. Some entries like the Skye garden and the seaside garden revealed not only good craft skills, but also good observation in the creation of the particular localities. Others used unusual containers – some in large broken crocks which cleverly demonstrated the problems



of creating a hillside garden.

The judges were faced with a hard task to select the winning entries, but Benview kindly provided all children who entered with a goody bag, so no one went home empty-handed.

When children and their families arrived on a particularly cold and wet Saturday, the glasshouse was filled to capacity for the viewing and prize-giving. Buchlyvie Primary School won the £100 Benview Garden Centre voucher for the Best in Show award and, there were several names from Killearn Primary School among the prizewinners. Well done to the entrants and also to the enthusiastic staff of Benview Garden Centre for organising such a rewarding event.

BP



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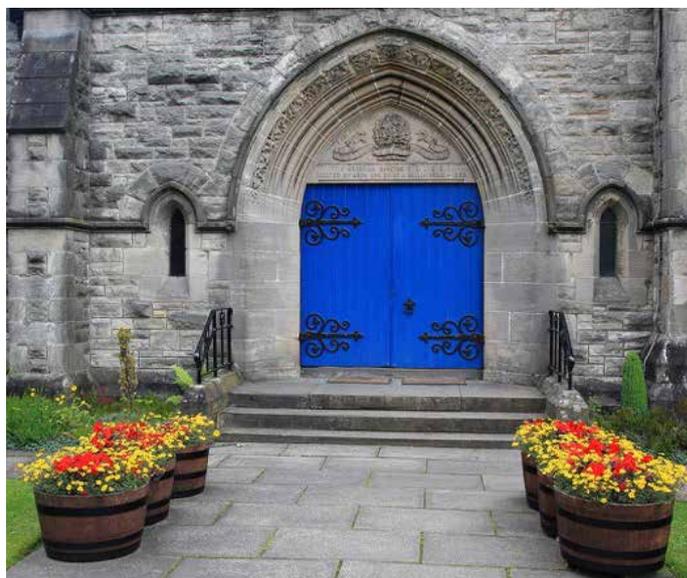
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## Colourful Killearn Update

### What we do

For more than 20 years, Colourful Killearn volunteers have nurtured vivid splashes of floral colour with tubs, planters, beds and verges throughout our village.

Daffodils brighten up early spring, supplemented in due course with pansies and violas. Then hardly a break before the bulbs are removed and given new homes by the roadside. And on to summer bedding, breathlessly taking us through to autumn, when the cycle can begin again. Between times there is watering to be done, shrubs to prune and weeds to pull. Quite like a real garden, but fragmented. Even in the depths of



We'd love to establish a community orchard, perhaps under planted with a wild flower meadow. Killearn's impressive carved village signs need some ongoing maintenance and maybe a bit of a horticultural lift. And how about a proper village green, complete with pond...?

### What you can do

We are a completely voluntary organisation, funded only by public donations, increasingly scarce grants and assistance from other charitable organisations and trusts. The Community Pride grant is great, but it doesn't cover 'consumables', ie flowers, compost and maintenance.

Offers of help are greatly appreciated. Keep us growing with a donation or by sponsoring for a season or a year – promote your business, or dedicate a 'family tub'.

For more information, or if you would like to get involved, please contact:

Mike Gray, 30 Branziert Road North, Killearn  
phone: 01350 550962/email: [branziertroad@gmail.com](mailto:branziertroad@gmail.com)



winter, the village Christmas tree appears as if by magic at the Kirk (with a little help from the CK elves – buying it, erecting it and lighting it).

### What we want to do

Our amazing new Village Hall deserves attention and we are raising funds to install a couple of flower-towers to frame the entrance, which should at least draw the eye. We've been made a good start with a Community Pride grant of £1,150 for two towers and five plastic, wood-effect tubs to continue replacing the old and rotting half-barrels.

We have already begun to naturalise crocus, snowdrops and narcissus in the grassy surrounds. This is a work in progress that will gather pace over time.



### Gift Aid

If you are a tax-payer and would like us to treat your donation as Gift Aid, please fill in your details below and return to Colourful Killearn at the address above.

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Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full home address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Cry of the Snow Lion – Tibetans in Exile

Nick and Jackie Hawkins from Killearn spent part of their recent trip to India as volunteers teaching English in McLeod Ganj, a small town in northern India, home to the Tibetan Parliament-in exile.

It is late on Good Friday when we arrive McLeod Ganj. The mountain light is fading as we climb the steep, twisting road to our home for the next six weeks, living and working with the Tibetan refugee community, tutoring English.

The town is named after Lord David McLeod, the English lieutenant governor of Punjab, who founded it in 1848 as a retreat from the heat of the plains. We found McLeod Ganj a wonderful place to spend time, although it felt like a different world. Nestling in the Himalayan foothills, the air is fresh and the views are stunning. The weather may have been cold and wet, but the welcome from our hosts couldn't have been warmer – these resilient, hardy people have a tough existence, but they are kind, compassionate and generous.

The narrow streets are often bustling, but the feeling is less pressurised than elsewhere in India. This is because of the people – a complete mix of Tibetans, Indians and travellers. We don't have enough hair or body-piecing to fit in with most of the latter, but the laid-back atmosphere is appealing and the limitless holistic offerings (yoga, reiki, meditation, massage, music) and the strong Buddhist influences are intriguing. However, McLeod is essentially Tibetan – the gentle, peace-loving, disenfranchised folk from across the mountains.

After Mao Tse Tung's Red Army invaded Tibet, the 14th Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959. He settled in McLeod Ganj and built a temple there, and it has since become the home of the Central Tibetan Administration. With the continued suppression of the unique Tibetan culture and traditions, and the exploitation by China of their country's natural resources, many younger Tibetan people decide to make the perilous journey to a safer life.



We soon meet our colleagues from Lha, the charity we were working with, and take up our teaching roles. Each afternoon we do conversation class, a drop-in session where anyone can come to practise their English – and they do! Up to 50 participants and eight coaches cram into two small rooms and, sitting cross-legged on the floor, speak English for an hour. It can be exhilarating, but it's pretty taxing too, especially when Jackie takes the beginners. We also do one-to-one teaching, and from our students we learn something of their stories.

Nick's student is a 29-year-old Buddhist monk called Tenzin; we are to become firm friends over the next few, precious weeks. Tenzin, living in a family of semi-nomadic farmers in Tibet, lost both his parents within a matter of days when he was 16 and had to make a decision about his future. Like many Tibetans, he decided to commit to a life of study, prayer and abstinence and join a monastery. However, the constraints imposed on Buddhist monasteries by the Chinese authorities are intolerable, so under the cover of darkness, without even telling his siblings, Tenzin joined a dozen escapees who set out with a mountain guide to trek over the Himalayan snow fields to Nepal. Travelling mostly at night to avoid border patrols, they feared discovery at any moment. Some suffered frostbite, others snow blindness, on the three-week journey. but they finally made it to the safe haven of the refugee reception centre in Kathmandu. Tenzin, with others, then made his way to India where he joined one of several Buddhist monasteries in McLeod Ganj. His story is very typical of many of the Tibetan refugees now living in Nepal or Indian enclaves.

As a monk, Tenzin has few worldly possessions and little money; he and his brother, also a monk, are supported by a family benefactor. A highlight of our trip was an invitation to their monastery to make momos (traditional Tibetan dumplings) and to learn something of their way of life.

Everywhere in McLeod you see the claret robes of the Tibetan monks and nuns. Their day consists of an early rise, collective prayer, Buddhist study and debate, and some monastic duties. Many spend time learning English; most enjoy meals out and have some leisure time. The strictness of their routine varies hugely from one monastery to another.

The monasteries are supported by donations from the community and funding from Lamas' speaking tours and grants. They provide accommodation, basic meals and, of



course, the monks' spiritual guidance. The monks pay for their own clothing, smart phones and other expenses and most have a benefactor – a generous relation or other donor. Many join a monastery as young as 6 or 7 years old; some become ordained and remain monks for life; many serve for some years and then leave to have a family or take up other work. It is a social structure that is thought-provoking to those of us from the secular, generally non-practising West.

Jackie's student is a young mother, called Samten. Her flight from her homeland is a similar tale to Tenzin's, but once in McLeod she met her future husband, Lobsang. In order to try to better provide for his family, Lobsang continued his journey overland, across borders, without a passport, to Belgium, where he currently does casual work and sends money home. He hasn't seen his wife and son for over two years and who knows when, if ever, they will be able to join him in Europe. So Samten hugely values her time with Jackie – taking every opportunity to further her study of English.

The Tibetans in McLeod Ganj are a caring, considerate people. When the devastating earthquake struck Nepal in April this year, the Tibetan community was heartbroken, as many have friends and relations there. The Tibetans have very little money, so rather than donations they offered spiritual support. McLeod businesses, cafes and restaurants closed for an afternoon and more than 2,000 people gathered at the Dalai Lama's Temple to offer prayers. Although we are not Buddhist, we joined this demonstration of sorrow, solidarity and support, and it was one of the most moving experiences ever.

On another remarkable occasion, we joined several hundred Tibetans watching His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, make a presentation at the local Tibetan school. This coincided with Archbishop Desmond Tutu's visit to his old friend; so we witnessed these two great statesmen of our age, live, onstage together! Desmond Tutu dancing as we sang *Happy Birthday* to HH (he is 80 this year) was a sight to behold!

The Tibetan refugee community are massively appreciative of the support and time we give as volunteers – but the truth is we gain as much in learning about the unique cultural traditions and compassionate Buddhist values of these lovely people.

If you would like to read more of Jackie and Nick's adventures visit [www.jacandnick2015.blogspot.com](http://www.jacandnick2015.blogspot.com) or find out more about Tibet or volunteering at Lha [www.contactmagazine.net](http://www.contactmagazine.net).

## The Day the Earth Moved



Nepal is a popular destination for backpackers, high altitude trekkers and serious mountaineers climbing Mount Everest. The country is beautiful and varied, from elephants roaming in the Chitwan National Park to the breathtakingly stunning mountainous region of the Himalayas.

It was trekking at this high altitude in the Himalayas that attracted Gordon Stewart to a 24-day trip tackling some of the high passes and peaks up to 5,546 metres (equivalent to six Munros) passing through Everest Base Camp at 5,335 metres. At the time, Gordon was 18 and enjoying a gruelling adventure, travelling alone but within a group of six trekkers.

The group returned to Kathmandu on Friday, 24 April, with time for last-minute sightseeing and a farewell meal before the flight home on the Sunday. However, Saturday, 25 April, turned out to be unimaginably disastrous. Gordon was in the Garden of Dreams in the old Tahamil district, a popular tourist area of Kathmandu enjoying a quiet beer at 12.20pm when the birds noisily took to the sky... then the earth literally moved.

At first he had no idea what was happening – perhaps a bomb had gone off, but the ground kept moving, walls were collapsing, people falling to the ground and fish being thrown from their pond. There was a continuous rumbling, the birds screeching and people screaming and shouting. Outside the Garden there was devastation. The closely-packed buildings were no match for an earthquake of 7.8 on the Richter scale, the equivalent of 20 atomic bombs. People were crushed, old buildings collapsed and fires burned. The army personnel in this district corralled people away from falling buildings.

Gordon made a harrowing journey across the city to his hotel hoping to find his group. He found them, one of whom was injured, in a park nearby. In the early aftermath of the quake, it was every man for himself... except for the Sherpa of Gordon's group, Silash. He made sure the group had shelter in the park and emergency food. He had lost his home, but after making sure his family was safe, returned with tents and more food, and stood guard over them through the night as the park filled with frightened and displaced Nepalese. In Gordon's words, Silash was a 'top man'. He got transport for Gordon, their injured companion and one other to the airport on the Sunday, and they were lucky to find that one of the three planes on the tarmac was their flight to Delhi. Gordon arrived in Glasgow on the Monday morning, surely one of the first Scots to return home after witnessing the devastating earthquake first hand. Gordon says the Nepalese are some of the nicest people he has met, and is proud he survived this ordeal with them.

At the time of going to print the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for Nepal is still open at [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk).

## Whatever Next?

On a recent visit to Milngavie, I found myself peering into the window of what was once the bookshop, and was truly disconcerted to see nothing but a big oblong space. Not a shelf, not a card stand or a cash desk remained. It was completely stripped. No one would have known it had ever sold books. At least with the butcher's shop in Killearn Main Street, we can reminisce over the bacon slicer, still on view through the window at the time of writing.

Having said that, the shop does look a little forlorn. The door that always stood open is firmly shut, there is no aroma of freshly made steak pies in the cabinet, and no Stornoway black pudding. There is no queue to chat to, and no cheery shout from the back shop. It marks the passing of an era.

Eras have passed before, of course. According to Jessie, the butcher's was once a grocer's. And just as the hairdresser on Main Street has undergone various metamorphoses, including general store and post office, fish and game shop, pharmacy and indeed a previous hairdresser, perhaps the butcher's will also be transmogrified. Which prompts the question, what will it turn into?

I do not often watch daytime telly, but one of my guilty pleasures is an occasional gawp at *Homes Under the Hammer*, where people take on very unpromising buildings and convert them into lovely homes. The before and after pictures are fascinating. Could this happen here? Could there soon be a state-of-the-art kitchen where now resides the deep freeze? Or a plasma screen instead of the vegetable stand? Does it have to be a shop?

The main road in Drymen went through a bad spell several months ago, with a whole promenade of shops becoming vacant. Not only is that not a good look, but it is a real inconvenience on a significant tourist route. The village must also have lost shedloads of money. It looks fine now, though. The shops look lovely. What Drymen has to contend with now is a mad traffic island designed specifically to cause mayhem. So far we have escaped that in Killearn.

Apparently, Balfron has a couple of new shop units in the building of apartments that was once the electricity showroom. You used to be able to get lots of electrical appliances and white goods in there. I speak as the proud owner of a small spinner which is ever so handy, and I'm sure I got a kettle there as well. Speculation is rife about what these new units will offer. The trouble with Balfron is that it already has pretty well everything. Apart from the shops and the library, you can get your eyes, teeth and feet fixed while waiting to get your back straightened. Who could ask for more?

So what could we really do with in Killearn? What is missing that would fit in nicely? A bakery? A dress shop? A deli? A nail bar? Answers on a postcard, please. In the meantime, let's remember the prime meat, the wonderful selection of sausages, the fish and fancy cheeses. And then there are the illuminating postcards, and the unexpected mistletoe suspended from the ceiling throughout the year. Most of all, let's enjoy the distant sound of laughter and cheerful chat that still hovers over Donald's shop.

JB

Alice & Mark Silverwood and the team welcome you to

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Dear Killearn

Thank you for making our first three months at The Old Mill so welcoming, friendly and exciting! It is always nerve-racking being the newcomers, but we have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know those of you that we have met, and look forward to meeting many more of you.

Mark and I have only been in Scotland for three years. We have both worked in catering all our lives, and it was while working together – Mark, as a head chef, and myself, as a commercial manager – at an independent school in Brighton, that we realised we were ready to go it alone. We joined friends to run Venachar Lochside just outside of Callendar to get a feel for the area, and then took over The Inn at Kippen in January 2014. We were married last June and, figuring we really didn't have enough going on, we took over The Old Mill in April this year.

We have some very exciting plans for The Mill. We now have a yurt that extends the restaurant seating and can be a private dining space. The garden is also getting a make-over, and now has a hammock and fire pit. Plans for a vegetable garden and a new adventure play frame are ready for next summer. Inside, we have spruced up the restaurant and bar, and are planning a refurbishment for November.

We are also just getting plans under way for live music (of all kinds), comedy nights, gin and whisky tastings, as well as getting our Christmas menu together.

We are still really keen to hear your ideas, so please tell us if there is something you would like to see happening.

Come in sometime and say hello. We look forward to getting to know many more of you in the coming months.

Alice and Mark Silverwood

## Village Hall News

The Monday Club requested a meeting with the Operations Committee in March to discuss the redesign of the committee room and the provision of an improved self-catering operation for all hirers. The approach was constructive and persuasive, and as a result KVHOC agreed to carry out the proposed work which was completed in late June at a cost of almost £8,000.

The photo shows the end result and confirms KVHOC's willingness to listen and, if affordable, respond to requests from hirers and the Killearn community. This new self-catering area, with two refrigeration units (one provided by Three Sisters Bake), will allow self-caterers to operate almost entirely within the committee room and with limited requirement for the kitchen, which will assist all self-catering hirers and Three Sisters Bake.

Kay Pollock, President of the Monday Club, said, 'The Club welcomes the satisfactory outcome of their discussions with KVHOC and appreciated their generosity in establishing such a practical new facility available for use by local organisations for self-catering events. This can only add to the involvement with and enjoyment by the Killearn community of the new Village Hall.'

This reorganisation will not affect any other current usage by hirers of the committee room.

We have received some complaints regarding waste collection by Stirling

Council and are looking at the cost of using private collectors. We have recently purchased a storage shed which helps within the hall's grounds, but we and others are not happy with the recycling collection on Balfron Road.

Siobhan and her Yoga classes will not be returning after the summer as she has found more conveniently-located premises. However, a new ballroom dancing class has been booked for Thursday evenings.

The making of *Hebrides – Islands on the Edge* presented by Nigel Pope and Jackie Savery at the end of March was extremely well received by a capacity audience in the main hall. Many thanks to Nigel and Jackie for their fascinating film evening.

The folk concert by The Outside Track in May was much enjoyed by a smaller audience. Ideas for entertainment, educational or activity classes in the village hall will be warmly welcomed. Our thanks to Colourful Killearn for their planting under the café balcony and beside the Sustainable Killearn noticeboard, and for their future decorative floral plans which will depend on grant applications.

Jim Wright, our property/user management member, has decided to stand down after nine years on the management team. His energy, support and time working on behalf of the village hall both before and after the refurbishment, and in Killearn generally, has been invaluable and we wish to thank him most sincerely.



Kirstine Simpson has also decided to resign due to pressure of work. Kirstine has been our Treasurer since the opening in 2013, and we wish to thank her for her hard work and expertise in this role. Joanna Donaldson has taken over the bookings role from Michael Pell, who is now sharing the job of Treasurer with Brian Simmers. Peter Wilks looks after all things IT and complicated.

We are a small committee and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to help us in these areas of property and financial management

Our sincere thanks to the voluntary committee, Ian Sinclair and Frances Devoy for looking after all operational aspects of the village hall, and to Three Sisters Bake for their successful running of the café and as well as weddings and major events.

BS

## Christmas Post

Unless a volunteer or volunteers come forward, there will be no local collection and delivery of Christmas Post this year. Sue Beck, who for 22 years with the aid of the local youth organisations, has collected, sorted and arranged delivery of your cards, has reluctantly decided she has to retire.

The Christmas Post supports Robin House with your donations. Over £11,000 has been sent to CHAS over the period – just over £790 last year.

Can you give a little of your time to allow this important charitable service to the community to continue?

Please contact Sue (550485) or email [sbeck89@aol.com](mailto:sbeck89@aol.com) and she will give you the information you need to get started.

It will soon be Christmas, there must be a little Christmas spirit out there somewhere.



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## Local Environment Project

Since 2012, the Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust (LLFT) has been working on the Invasive Non-Native Species project (INNS) within the Endrick Water catchment area. The project was commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage to deal with infestations of invasive non-native plant species, namely giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. Sadly all three species are widely distributed along the banks of both the Endrick and the Blane, often in very dense stands.

These plants are particularly damaging as they threaten the biodiversity of the local environment by outcompeting and excluding native plants. Furthermore, giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam go through a winter dieback which can leave our river banks open to erosion. In addition, their presence can reduce the amenity of our catchment by restricting access to a number of leisure and sporting activities.

Unfortunately there is no easy fix, and managing these species is a long-term process that requires a great deal of staff and volunteer dedication. Over the last two years, the LLFT has been using a number of different treatment methods to reduce the scale of the infestations across the catchment. However, for these methods to be effective they require multiple applications throughout the growing season, so we are heavily dependent on the goodwill and cooperation of the local landowners, tenants and farmers who allow us repeated access to the river banks.

The Trust is also looking to involve the local community by providing information and advice as well as volunteering opportunities. With this in mind, the Trust recently invited the Killearn Paths Group to visit a site where all three species are established along the Blane Water to learn more about the invasive plant species, demonstrate treatment methods and explain how the group may get involved.

LLFT would also like to extend this invitation to anyone else who might want to learn more about the project or volunteer with us. Previous experience with these plants is not necessary as training and equipment will be provided.

It is hoped that the INNS project will not only rid the catchment of these invasive non-native plants, but present volunteers with an opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people and see the catchment in a new light. For more information about the project, please visit [www.llft.org](http://www.llft.org) or our Facebook page.

CAROLYN BRYCE, BIOLOGIST (LLFT)

## Girlguiding in Killearn

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK, with volunteers leading units to help create amazing opportunities for girls. In Killearn, we have Rainbow (5 to 7 years), Brownie (7 to 10 years), Guide (10 to 14 years) and Senior Section (14 to 25 years) units all run by volunteer leaders. The units give girls space to build their confidence, raise their aspirations and have fun. The programme is exciting and relevant for each age, enabling the girls to grow in a fun environment. Some recent activities include a visit to Green Aspirations to experience woodland life in an evening, attending the Tartan Gig pop concert in Glasgow, and learning more about the village through exploration.

Guides and Senior Section enjoy camps at home and trips to international camps abroad, while Rainbows have sleep-overs and Brownies can go away overnight or longer. They have all been involved in community-based activities.

Visit [girlguiding.org.uk](http://girlguiding.org.uk) to find out more about the sections, register your interest for your daughter to join, or if you wish to help as an adult.

SUE BECK



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## Killearn Primary Fundraising Group

Killearn Primary Fundraising Group began the year supporting Killearn Country Market as they moved to their new Sunday events. On Sunday, 1 March, they ran a family craft event to make cards, pictures and bookmarks for Mother's Day. Some artistic mums did face-painting and our juniors ran a nail bar.

The Scholastic Book Fair came to Killearn Primary in May and we held our first Sunday Fair in the school. Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre brought two of their well-behaved Shetland ponies, Echo and Wispa, and many of the children enjoyed their first pony ride and they proved a very popular attraction. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Heritage Trust arrived with a fantastic restored Scania appliance and two volunteers – to the delight of all the young would-be fire fighters. The Trust bring not only a valuable fire safety message to youngsters, but also work for the preservation, restoration and conservation of fire appliances and equipment, interacting with communities and attending events all over Scotland. We were thrilled that they were able to come to Killearn.

In addition to Scholastic books, we had a great range of stalls and games, coffee/tea and home baking. A total of £487 was raised for school funds and almost £1,000 worth of Scholastic books for the school library.

On Sports Day, the Fundraising Group provided teas, coffees, home baking and ice lollies to cool down the crowd on one of the sunniest days we had seen. It was a great success, raising almost £300 and provided much-needed refreshments after the excitement of the games.

Having done a Mother's Day stall we could not be seen to forget Dads so a pop-up Father's Day shop opened for business and the children had the chance to buy a gift for Father's Day.

Almost £5,000 has been raised this school year through the generosity of parents, pupils, villagers and local businesses. Our thanks go to everyone who has helped and contributed. This success is only possible with your continued fantastic support



Photos:  
Pony rides,  
nail bar and  
confectionery at  
the Sunday Fair

and every penny raised is used directly for school funds, events and activities and benefits the children of Killearn.

We look forward to beginning again in August and to welcoming new parents to the fundraising group. Please visit our Facebook page, Killearn Primary Fundraising Group.

K. LINDSAY



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e: heronhousecrookston@gmail.com

## Mini Rugby Round-up



Another successful year for Strathendrick Mini Rugby has seen player numbers swell by more than a third with players from Kippen, Fintry, Drymen, Strathblane, Balfron, Killearn and anywhere in between. We have teams at each of the Mini Rugby levels: P1–3, P4, P5, P6 and P7. The Club was one of the early adopters of the Positive Coaching Scotland (PCS) programme and is now PCS accredited. As more parents have become involved and by adopting the PCS ethos and standards, we have seen the Mini Rugby section grow in numbers, enthusiasm, quality of play and, importantly, enjoyment of all.

For the third year running, Strathendrick had a Mini Rugby Tour, and this year the P6 and P7 teams travelled to Bargoed

and Abergavenny in Wales. Coaches, parents and kids held fundraising events for the tour throughout the year. Mini Rugby is huge in Wales and the tour exposed our teams to a totally different culture.

Our journey included a visit to Wilmslow Rugby Club where two of their New Zealand youth development coaches took the boys for a run-around.

Our hosts at Bargoed are a championship club which had just won their league and were trying for a totally unbeaten season. Games were arranged against the equivalent age groups for P6 and P7, both of which were drawn. Sunday saw us at Abergavenny for one of the main Junior and Mini Rugby festivals of the year where more than 200 teams from all over Wales and beyond come to compete. Both P6 and P7 fought hard against very much larger opposition in three highly competitive pool matches, but neither side was able to progress to the final. The endeavour, teamwork and sportsmanship from all sides were a real credit to all the kids who played. The day ended with the tournament medals being given out and an impromptu rendition of *Flower of Scotland* by the Strathendrick visitors.

At many of the year levels, Strathendrick are now one of the 'teams to beat' in their circuit, and the club is actively recruiting for more players. After weekly tag rugby sessions during the summer, established training resumes at the start of the rugby season in August.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Ed Sansom ([ed.sansom@ewm.co.uk](mailto:ed.sansom@ewm.co.uk)) to be put in touch with the appropriate Strathendrick year coach.

ED SANSON

## Strathendrick RFC 40th Anniversary

This year – 2015/16 – marks four decades since the founding of our Club.

To celebrate, SRFC is planning an informal day of sport, camaraderie and craic, and we would like as many past players, committee, supporters and friends as possible to come and join us at Fintry on Saturday, 29 August.

- 1pm: SRFC 2000 Cup Semi-finalists vs SRFC 2011 Bowl Finalists
- 3pm: Scotland vs Italy in the Fintry Sports Centre lounge
- 6pm: Informal Dinner with guest speakers
- 8pm: Live Band
- 10pm: Disco

Tickets (£25) are available from Ian McVean ([ianmcvean@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ianmcvean@yahoo.co.uk)/440016) or Stu Campbell ([stuartcampbell01@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stuartcampbell01@yahoo.co.uk)).

Please confirm attendance asap to assist the organisers in the planning of the event.

## Killearn Tennis Club News

The season got off to a busy start with several open days, match play, social events and the club championships. The Great British Tennis Weekend, a national event, was celebrated at Killearn in May.

The three coaches provided support, advice and having fun with new members using the ball machine and measuring serves with the speed gun

The Strawberries and Cream Day was also an enjoyable event, with exciting tennis and delicious strawberries washed down with a drop of Pimms. We hope the new faces will continue to take part in events and play tennis.

Our coaches, Tricia Scott and Louise Arbuckle, have qualified as LTA Level 2 coaches under the expert supervision of Hannah Pickford (Head Coach).



Congratulations to Tricia and Louise on this excellent achievement.

The autumn coaching block will start after the schools return. Look out for posters of forthcoming tennis events on village noticeboards.

For membership and coaching information, contact Elaine Henderson (email [elaine\\_hen11@hotmail.com](mailto:elaine_hen11@hotmail.com) or phone 551120) or visit our website [www.killearntennisclub.org.uk](http://www.killearntennisclub.org.uk).

S. BELL

## Loch Ard Sailing Club



Come and enjoy the delights of this beautiful, quiet loch situated on the south edge of the Trossachs. We are a friendly club, offering relaxed weekend racing on three Sundays and one Saturday a month, with social sailing on the other Sunday. There are also a number of social activities throughout the season, which will run until mid October.

Our aim is for members to enjoy the location, race, 'mess about in boats', or relax by the loch shore. We have club boats for members to borrow if they don't have their own. In addition to sailing, the club site at Kinlochard is also a great base for canoeing, swimming, walking and trail biking. Visit us any Sunday afternoon – we look forward to meeting you and see our website [www.lochardsc.org.uk](http://www.lochardsc.org.uk) for information about the club.



Joe Carr, our senior member, at 90 still regularly races a Heron dinghy, and is pictured above enjoying a trip on Loch Ard in a steam launch (we also have a steam launch section).

## Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Bank

Since the closure of Drymen branch of the Royal Bank, a Mobile Bank from Helensburgh is in the car park opposite Killlearn Co-op on Friday from 10.50am to 11.10am. Thereafter it goes to the car park in Balfron from 11.30am to 11.50am.

The Mobile Bank is also in the Stirling Road car park in Drymen on Monday from 1.45pm to 2.45pm.

This timetable may change with the closure of the branch in Drymen, but can be checked on the Royal Bank website.

<http://tinyurl.com/rbsmobh>

## Sailing to Success

Killlearn's talented junior dinghy sailors, Isla and Rory Harper, Harris Cartwright and Calum Bell, learned their skills at local sailing clubs and are now taking part in events across the UK, including Weymouth, the London 2012 Olympic sailing venue, and in Europe. They are all part of RYA Scotland's Development Team and attend regular training weekends at the National Watersports Centre on Cumbrae, mainly through the winter.

Rory Harper (14) has been sailing in the Optimist dinghy for eight years, is a member of the GBR Optimist team and won his first trophy when he was six. Rory is having a fantastic year, regaining the title of Scottish Optimist Champion, winning trophies at Lake Garda in Italy and competing in the Optimist European Championships in Pwllheli, North Wales. At the end of the summer he will be moving into a fast double-handed dinghy called a 29er.

Harris Cartwright (14) won the Scottish Optimist Traveller Series Trophy for the best results across the four junior regattas this year. Harris has been sailing in the Optimist class for several years and is also a member of the GBR Optimist team. Harris has competed recently at events in Malta and The Netherlands and, like Rory, at the Optimist Nationals at Pwllheli.

Another Optimist sailor, Scott Forbes (12) came runner-up to Harris in the Scottish Series Trophy and runner-up to Rory at the Scottish Championships. Scott achieved a third place at the Eric Twiname Championships at Rutland Water near Leicester, and competed in The Netherlands over Easter.

Calum Bell (14) won the Scottish Topper Traveller Series Trophy for the best results across the four junior regattas this year. Calum was also runner-up, by a single point, in the Scottish Championships in June. Calum has only been sailing in the Topper class for two years and has a busy summer planned, with events across the UK, including the Topper Nationals at Weymouth in August.

Isla Harper (16), Rory's sister, sails in a 420, a two-person dinghy, representing Scotland at events throughout the UK with her sailing partner, Rebecca Bryant. At Easter the girls competed in the RYA Youths at Weymouth, and later this summer they will be competing in the Coupe International d'Été, the French 420 Nationals, in Crousty in South Brittany.

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## Curling Sweep Up



Left to right: Tony Flisch, John Phillips, Margaret Falconer, Muriel Holroyd, Rita Harris and Stan Moore with the new Harris Falconer Trophy

The 2014/15 season ended with the AGM and prize-giving at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. Donnie MacDonald was elected President and Sandy Park Vice-President and Secretary.

In the mixed club matches, the Spring League was narrowly won by Fiona Glass' team of Walter MacGowan, Sandy Park and Ronnie Myles with eight points and 29 ends. John Phillips' team of Rosemary Miller, Keith Hyam and Anne Lang were second with 8 points, but only 21 ends.

The postponed Pairs Competition was eventually played in March and won by Tony Flisch and Keith Hyam with Donnie MacDonald and Luisella Mosley as runners-up. We had a new competition in March with a four-team knockout played over consecutive ice sessions. This was a hard-fought event with Bob Glass' team of Rita Harris, Gill Smith and Jean Verrall just beating Donnie MacDonald's team of Richard and Gillian Kingslake and Anne Lang in the final.

The Province Points competition was abandoned due to the loss of ice in the autumn so the points trophy was awarded to the Club's leading player in the Peak Points competition – Donnie MacDonald who scored 33 points from a maximum of 64 over 8 disciplines.

The closing bonspiel, played for the first time for the Harris Falconer Trophy, was won by John Phillips' team of Tony Flisch, Muriel Holroyd and John Roy.

In the Ladies Section, Marie Elder's team of Anne Lang, Norma Thornton and Angela Higginson won the Rowan Salver Spring League with Gill Smith's team of Muriel Holroyd, Marion Richardson and Heather Burns second.

The Ladies finished their season with a closing bonspiel at Kinross which was won by Rita Harris' team of Gail Pain and Roz Gibson. Everyone enjoyed the change of venue and the lunch

## App of the Issue – Pinterest: the 'visual discovery tool'



Pinterest is the perfect way to find all forms of inspiration. The app is easy to download and create a personal homepage.

Once set up with your own account, you can search for anything that takes your fancy, be it Parisian interior design or holiday destination ideas.

If there are any particular photos that you want to keep your hands on when they are brought up in the search engine, you can 'pin' them – they will be automatically added to a tailored album ready to be viewed on your homepage.

It's a game changer!

MP

afterwards, but the real highlight for many was the visit to the Green Hotel shop. Fiona Glass was Club Curler of the Year and Muriel Holroyd was the Ladies Section Curler of the Year.

The Club finished in the middle of the Robert Paterson Shield league and coming second to the Buccaneers in the Forest Hills League. Although the club came in the middle of the Gordon Mitchell Rosebowl bonspiel results, four of our lady members – Muriel Holroyd, Isabel Robertson, Gill Smith and Rosemary Miller – made up half of the West Stirlingshire Ladies team which came second.

At the end of May, some club members took part in a bowling afternoon at Balfron Bowling Club against members of Balfron Curling Club.

Congratulations to the Stirling Wheelchair Curling Club volunteers, who were recently awarded a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – a sort of MBE for organisations. Fiona Glass, Muriel Holroyd and Rosemary Miller were among the six names put forward for the award; other members of the club have also helped.

We are a very friendly club and enjoy a variety of social events. Our curling standards cater for all ranges of abilities. If you are interested, please contact Donnie MacDonald (01389 830442) or Gill Smith (550726) or visit our website [www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk](http://www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk).



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## Killlearn 10k 2015

On one of the the wettest days of summer, 192 runners lined up for the third Killlearn 10k. This year's winner was Del Young in 34mins 58secs, two minutes under the course record. In second place, Garry Mathew beat his time from last year and Marco Consani made it a 1, 2, 3 for Garscube Harriers. Peter Harper maintained the coveted fastest G63 local male runner title with a seventh place time of 37mins 48secs. In 25th place overall, Louise Tyler finished first woman in 43mins 15sec – leaving Stephanie Hannigan's 2014 course record intact for another year. Angela Martin (East Kilbride Triathlon) finished second, just over a minute behind and Fiona Wright (Portobello RC) shortly after.

The first 75 runners all recorded sub-50 minute times – remarkable given the weather and muddy terrain and demonstrating the calibre of entrants the Killlearn 10k attracts each year. Sarah Bridge (Scottish Prison Service AAC) retained first local G63 female runner with a time of 48mins 53secs, and the U20 male winner was Stuart MacDonald (there were no U20 females competing on the day). Prizes were also awarded to V50 winners Davie Armour (Vegetarian Cycling & AC) and Fiona Greer, and V60 winners Norman Baillie (Garscube Harriers) and Sheila Morrison of Dunbar Running Club.

The increased number of places, the early sell out of the event, and the year-on-year improvements in finish times demonstrate that Killlearn is now one of the key events on the



Scottish 10k race calendar. Entrants travelled from across the country, and their efforts were rewarded with a bespoke medal, a technical running vest and other post-race goodies. Category winners were presented with individual prizes generously provided by our sponsors.

The Killlearn 10k committee and runners extend huge thanks to the local businesses and organisations who supported the 2015 event: Mulberry Bush Montessori, Glengoyne Distillery, Lumsdaine Halls Therapy Rooms, art4you, Endrick Property, Killlearn Co-operative, Killlearn Spar, Three Sisters Bake, Killlearn Trust, Killlearn Hoolie, Bridge of Allan Run4It, Barrs, Tunnocks, Active Stirling, 23rd Forth Valley Scout Group and 1st Killlearn Brownies.

## Marshalling Community Spirit



The Killlearn 10k wouldn't be possible without the support of the team of marshals who give up their time to ensure the route is accessible and safe for runners, locals and road users. They are also a source of much-needed encouragement on a day of such dire weather conditions. Their duties begin well before the start of the race, when they don their hi-viz vests and set out for their marshalling points – some at the start and finish, some at stages along the route, even at the furthest point, and others opening and closing gates on the pipe track and directing runners.

The 10k committee are also grateful for the local support ahead of the event to risk-assess the route and deliver water to the drinks stations. Thanks are due for help with the timings and finish line photography. and to the Brownies, Cubs and Scouts who helped on the day. The team is too numerous to name individually but the committee extends thanks everyone involved. The support of local landowners, businesses and local residents is appreciated as crucial to delivering a truly excellent event that attracts people to our beautiful village and places Killlearn firmly on the running map.

## Killlearn Mile 2015

On Saturday, 6 June, our hardy Killlearn kids (and some adults) turned up to run the 2015 Killlearn Mile – possibly the wettest, but definitely the funniest, mile around the streets of Killlearn, cheered on by neighbours, some from inside their cosy homes.

The 51 hardy souls donned wet weather gear and lined up for a warm-up lead by Alison Grey from Active Stirling and Jude Holt from the Killlearn Mile organising committee.

Perhaps spurred on by the prospect of the medal awarded to all participants, or maybe in a bid to escape the rain and wind, it wasn't long before the winner crossed the finish line. Amy Kirkpatrick (11) finished comfortably in first place. Rosie Eckersley (12) finished second and Gregor McArthur (13) was third. Not far behind the leaders was Ruairidh Stickland (12) from Bearsden, followed by nine year-old David Kirkpatrick, hot on the heels of his big sister, taking fifth place.



Organised in conjunction with Active Stirling, the Killlearn Mile, (little) sister event to the Killlearn 10k and the Mile demonstrate that Killlearn is a fun and fit village. Well done to all the participants and supporters.

## Poet's Corner

Ann Rawson is an award-winning poet whose first visit to Killearn inspired this lyrical picture of our village.

### Killearn

Initially, it was the frame that drew me in –  
the Campsies, the greenery, the freshness,  
the act of leaving Glasgow far behind  
so early in the morning –  
too soon to guess prevailing weather trends.  
New prospects made it fine: this  
kaleidoscopic drive through tunnels  
of over-arching trees, of flickering leaves.

Arrived: easy to park by a community hall  
where I watch a silhouetted yoga-arm  
raised inside a pointed window;  
hear the chittering sound of children going to school;  
see tea shops yet to open  
and read the history of the Monument;  
walk to view the Cenotaph, the Kirk, the Pub and Toll house  
where a century ago I would have had to pay  
two shillings for the road.

I stand at the ruined church: aware of  
jackdaws cawing on lichen stone;  
petals fluttering from hawthorn and cherry.  
I hear a quarrelling of crows; a distant sound of sheep;  
a singing chaffinch; and I stroll  
over to the daisy-covered football pitch –  
where a girl with flossy hair smiles and laughs.  
I see carpets of trees in the dip in the field.

I am still – but have to leave this place  
of Pieris Forest Flame, of rhododendrons,  
of wellingtons and dogs – where tall red beeches blush  
near cool green limes. My time is up.  
The journey back: past trees left fallen in a wood  
Like ninepins in a story; a sight of swifts' flight  
high as grey-white clouds;  
And my own voice – singing a new song.

But I am outside the frame now.  
The real Killearn is hidden in there – behind me  
the other side of doors I've never opened.

ANN RAWSON, MAY 2015

### Mr Fox

The urbane, urban fox  
Mocks  
With well-hung brush  
The rush  
    Of traffic;  
No red-clad horsemen here  
To fix the adrenaline of fear  
    But for him, the fox, easy prey  
In bins, or bags or food just thrown away  
No hunter's call  
No dog will maul  
Just a well-manicured lawn  
    And oh  
The urbane, urban fox  
    Will rise and call  
Thank you – thank you all.

CELIA LIVINGSTONE

## Book Review by Rosalie Williamson

This month, local author Moira McPartlin follows up her Saltire Award-nominated debut novel *The Incomers* with the gripping and atmospheric *Ways of the Doomed*, the first part in a trilogy aimed at young adults.

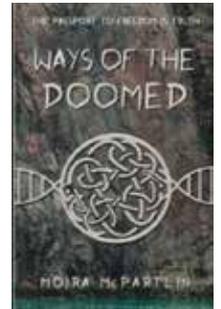
Set in the troublingly near future of 2089, the novel explores a dystopian world where the Privileged and the Natives are divided by an accident of birth: your genes determine where you end up in society. Moira has described this novel as sitting in a tradition which she terms 'Speculative Fiction', or even 'Cli-Fi', drawing on her concerns in relation to climate change and the rise of extremist, hate-fuelled political parties like UKIP – as Moira says, 'altered, but still recognisable as our own world... different from traditional Sci-Fi which has connections with space and aliens and is harder to relate to reality. I think it is this recognition of reality that makes it so attractive to readers. Reality TV, social media and tracked personal devices mean we already embrace a world where few secrets exist. These novels play on these familiar themes and push them to the boundaries of our imaginations.'

Part of the breath-taking attraction of this novel is its memorable protagonist, the initially spoilt and infuriating Sorlie, who takes us on a journey which is both physical, as he travels through the powerful geographical settings of the novel, through a twisted, but still familiar version of our own beautiful Scottish landscape, and also emotional, as he pursues his quest for truth and justice. By the end of the book, I found myself really rooting for the teenage Sorlie.

But I suspect that it's not just teenagers who will enjoy this book. I asked Moira McPartlin what had led her to write a novel categorised as being for young adults. She explained that she had not intended it to be for younger readers, and did not make a distinction in her mind as she wrote it: 'When I started *Ways of the Doomed*, I had an adult audience in mind, I still think adults will enjoy it. I always write the stories I want to write and hope others will want to read them. When I was a teenager I read George Orwell, Graham Greene, and lots of political non-fiction... *Ways of the Doomed* is... about social injustice and families.' From Harry Potter to *The Hunger Games*, crossover young adult fiction has never been more popular, and the publishers' distinctions about who should read what are increasingly blurred.

The themes of *Ways of the Doomed* are ones which will resonate with many readers – identity, mortality, how we connect to our families. This is clearly very personal for Moira: 'I didn't realise this until [afterwards]... but when I wrote this book I was grieving the death of my own mother and must have put some of that grief into Sorlie's story. Identity as a subject interests me.'

Moira has already begun work on the second book in her *Sun Song* trilogy. I am sure that I will not be the only reader waiting in eager anticipation for the next books, which promise to dig even deeper into the fascinating fictional world that Moira has created.



## All Killearn Archive News

The Archive Group has been working mainly on the War Memorial Project over the last few months. The Group has taken part in two exhibitions under the auspices of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The first in Arrochar in November and the second in Gartmore in April. The first exhibition concentrated on information about the men who are named on the War Memorial.

For the second, information was added about life in Killearn during the war, including details of two village families seriously affected by the conflict. One mystery uncovered during the research was the disappearance in Glasgow of Agnes Sanderson, daughter of Hugh Sanderson, the Free Church Minister. The *Stirling Observer* of 3 November 1917 reports her disappearance, but we have found no further information. Was she ever found? Has anyone any information?

For the Gartmore display we were able to borrow two mannequins (unfortunately female) which allowed Sir John Wilson's Coldstream Guards uniform to be displayed together with a jacket belonging to his brother, David Wilson, who is one of the fallen. Tony Pollard, who was the keynote speaker, was very interested in the former.

After a lot of research by Robert Hunter on the internet, in the Mitchell Library and in Kew, and days of searching through the Stirling papers by other group members, we now have information about all but one of the men on the memorial. The exception is Thomas Mackie, whom we still cannot connect to the village.

The archive collection now includes pictures of 18 of the 28 men.

The Group is now researching the approximately 170 men with Killearn connections who served and returned.

Those of you who frequent the Village Hall have hopefully noted our extravagance in purchasing various stands to hold the items in the display cabinets. Hopefully this improves the look of the display.

The late Dorothy Pattenden presented the Archive Group with an embroidery stitched under her direction by the Primary School pupils when the new school was built. It features the Victorian school, the 1960s school and the present school. We hope to put it on display in the Village Hall once we have made a few minor repairs and obtained a suitable display cover.

On Sunday, 6 September, we intend to hold a Killearn 'blether' to coincide with the Country Market. We will have available various photographs, including Elma Young's collection of Killearn Primary School photographs, and hope that visitors will help us solve some identification myseries.

We also hope we can collect some interesting stories of village life and will



have scanning equipment available to copy any historical items people may bring along. More details later.

Finally, the Group is considering a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the

end of the First World War on Saturday, 10 November 2018. The aim would be to hold a 1918-style evening, including the launch of a book on the soldiers and possibly the unveiling of a new plaque to add some missing men.

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## From Killearn to Gallipoli

My wife, Leonora, and I have been spending holidays in Turkey for more than 25 years. We have always hired a car and have discovered many hidden villages and remote areas. We have been to the Iranian border and travelled through central Turkey, which is nearly three times bigger than the UK and with an interesting history going back thousands of years. We have never been keen on sitting by the pool – our interest was always in the history, both recent and ancient.

Our interest in graveyards took us to Gallipoli, where the Allied Powers (Russia, France, Britain and Commonwealth troops) were soundly defeated by the Turks and their German allies in 1915/16. It was during a recent visit that we found a new Turkish Museum at Gallipoli with thousands of battle artefacts from both sides and it was there that I took this photograph of the Buchanan sweetie tin. It was with interest that we read about Alexander 'Sweetie' Buchanan in the last *Killearn Courier*. Did the soldier take it with him to Gallipoli or did his mother send it out? All we know for certain is that it has survived and now has pride of place in its display case forever.



In Killearn Old Kirkyard there is a grave stone to the Linn family. This family had strong Killearn connections. They ran the shop at Dumgoyne Station and Victor Linn was an Elder in the Kirk. On the gravestone is an inscription to John Linn, who was killed in action at Gallipoli on 22 May 1915. John, his brother, Robert, and his sister, Helen, were raised in 451 Bilsland Drive, Maryhill, Glasgow, which is still in use as a family home. John, Robert and Helen emigrated to Australia between 1910 and 1912, and the brothers joined the army at the outbreak of war. They were posted to Egypt



for training and sent on to Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. John had been promoted to sergeant – probably a field promotion since he only signed up on 9 October 1914. He was killed in action at Shrapnel Valley on 22 May 1915. He had served in the field for less than four weeks. Robert survived Gallipoli and went on to serve in France, returning to Australia after the war. Helen eventually returned to Killearn, where she died in 1949. We have visited John's grave many times at Shrapnel Valley and laid our poppies and Scottish, Australian and Turkish flags on his grave.

We will never know if the wee sweetie tin belonged to John or Robert, but we can let our imagination run riot and hope that it just might have belonged to one of the brothers.

We are returning to Gallipoli in October this year and again will carry out our devotions to John and the others in the Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries. There are 32 of these spread over the Gallipoli peninsula, in immaculate order and attended by Turkish tradesmen who take great pride in their duties. Visiting Turkey and Gallipoli is an experience never to be forgotten, and Leonora and I would recommend it to everyone.

FRASER MURRAY

## Stirling VE Day Commemoration



Provost Mike Robbins lighting the Stirling beacon, with local cadets in attendance.

I was privileged to attend the Commemorative 70th Anniversary of VE Day at Stirling Castle on 8 May 2015. It was entertaining listening to the band playing 1940s and '50s dance music plus wartime songs, which made some of our older people's feet tap. This was followed by a pipe band recital which again made us square our shoulders and sit erect.

The Navy, Army and Air Force plus a contingent of RAF Cadets formed a Guard of Honour for the Lone Piper, Provost and his coordinator, Elizabeth Lewis, to march to the beacon. Prior to lighting the beacon, the Provost gave a resounding speech using quotes from speeches delivered on the same day in 1945. At 9.32pm the beacon was lit, and the corresponding beacon on Dumyat Hill above Menstrie was lit by the Menstrie Scout group. Stirling was part of the nationwide lighting of beacons, starting at Windsor Castle at 9.30pm, followed by Stirling Castle then all the way north to Thurso at 9.45pm. It all went without a hitch.

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## Times Past

In 1940–41, my family moved to Killearn because my father wanted us out of Glasgow – a move prompted by the bombing of my grandfather's house in the next street. Our first home in Killearn was half of the White Horse Inn, which was at the top of Station Road across Balfron Road from the Toll House. The other half was occupied by Mrs Vida Rowan. Diagonally across from us was Paton, the butcher's shop; the Atkinson family – Bert, Maud and co also lived on that side.

We had no luxuries such as electricity or hot water, so it was pretty hard on my mother who already had two children (me and my brother) and was expecting a third. The Inn was, in fact, a condemned building when we moved in, and comprised a room and kitchen with an outside toilet. It still had rings on the wall for tethering horses. Luckily, my father was an electrician and he soon had the house wired up and life became a bit better.

The Old Mill Inn was unoccupied and beside it was Jock McGregor's Pen. Jock was the coalman who delivered the coal by horse and cart – the horse knowing what houses to stop at. Carbeth House had a walled garden and gates which were locked, but this did not stop us getting in to the grounds and sampling the hard sour apples and grapes. Next to the football field was a house we called The Hatter's Castle which was occupied by the owner of McLaren's, the gentlemen's outfitters in Glasgow. He kept two footballs in his garden which we were allowed to play with as long as we put them back.

The local telephonist was a Miss Lesley Dickson, who was a close friend of my mother, Ena Lyon. Lesley knew everyone's phone number and you could just pick up the phone and ask to be put through to the person you wanted to talk to. She could tell you if they were at home, or away on holiday.

One vivid memory from during the war was the day two Spitfires flew low over the village, dipping their wings. They were piloted by the sons of a lady who lived in Killearn whose name I can't remember. Both lads were killed during the war. On VE Day, there was a massive bonfire, including fireworks, in the field which is now Buchanan Road. The VJ celebrations were also held there and an effigy of Tojo (Japanese Prime Minister during the war) was burnt.

After leaving the White Horse Inn, we moved to Ivy Bank, which was a step up from the Inn. After my father passed



away, we moved to Boquhan. I was 15 then and started an apprenticeship in Glasgow before being conscripted to the RAF. Later, I got married and in 1966, we moved to Australia. We are friendly with a couple who live in Melbourne – the lady is originally from Killearn and her maiden name was Veronica McDonald.

I get a copy of the *Courier* sent to me and enjoy it very much. What a treat it was to read Hugh McArthur's article *Speed the Plough*. Hugh and I played football for Killearn and we won the Cameron Cup in 1954. The tractor in the photograph was probably the first tractor I drove. I remember getting off school during the war to go tattie howkin' at Laigh Park farm where the farmer, Dan Patterson, had three tractors – a David Brown, a Fordson with metal wheels and, of course, the Fergie.

Happy Days!

KEN LYON

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When we asked Lynda Turner what her aims for the classes are, she said: "My aim has always been to ensure that each of my pupils receives my personal tuition. I believe that this enables them to to develop confidence and to reach their full potential – a good training in dance technique is the basis for all dance forms. All pupils take part in an Annual Stage Production held in the Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow. Pupils are also entered for examinations of the Scottish Dance Teachers Alliance."

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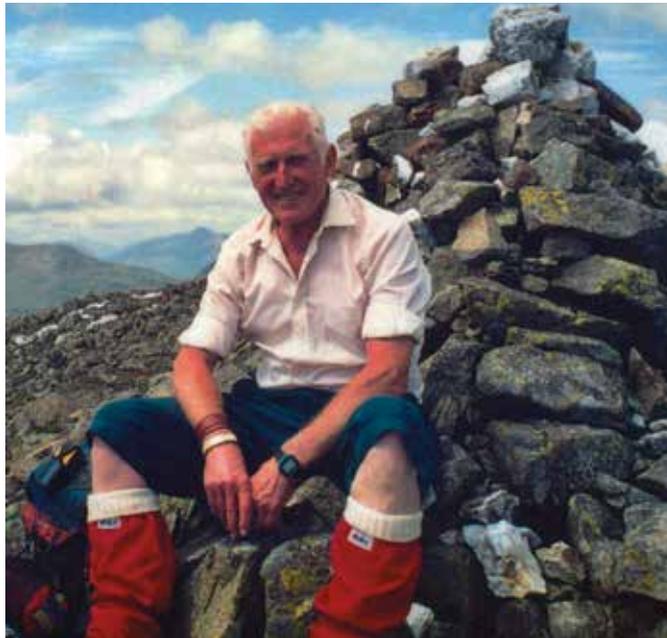


## Daniel MacDonald 1932 – 2015

Daniel MacDonald, or Dan as he was known to everyone, was born at Lettermill, Dumgoyne, where his father worked at Dumgoyne Station. He was the eldest of three sons and a daughter. After his education at Killearn Primary and Balfron High School, Dan completed his National Service in the RAF, where he was often in demand for his piping skills.

He met Rena at a dance at Balfron and their courtship began with her fascination with his motorbike. They married in 1959 and after the briefest of honeymoons – one night away – they returned the next day to enable Dan to play in the cup final of the local football league between Killearn and Blanefield. (Although Dan scored a goal, Killearn lost the match.)

The couple's married life was lived in Buchanan Road, first with Dan's mother at number 4, then they moved



to number 20 where their daughter, Yvonne, was born and grew up, and finally, at number 31. Here, in the centre of the village, many friendships were made and, in due course, the family's happiness was increased by the birth of a grandson, Liam.

Dan spent his entire working life with British Rail as an accountant, gaining his qualifications at evening

classes and coming first in the list in his final accountancy exams. He took early retirement at the age of 55 and from then on was able to pursue his many interests.

As well as his proficiency with the pipes, Dan was a great sportsman: a keen footballer, playing for the Killearn team, and golfer, playing at Hilton Park, enjoying both sports for many years.

He was very much an outdoor man with a great love for the natural landscape of Scotland. Family holidays always included trips to Islay where his remaining brother still lives. Fishing, watching the wildlife and hill walking all over Scotland were interests he passed to his daughter and shared with many friends. He became a 'Munro bagger' and had climbed over 170 Munros before failing health caused him to give up such demanding walks.

He was a quiet but caring man whose steady, dependable nature was much appreciated by all who were close to him. Marriage and his family, friends and neighbours were central to his life, and the love and companionship that he gave and received helped him to face the challenges of failing health over latter years.

He died at Blanefield House, where he spent his final few weeks and there received compassionate care. For this, and for the caring help of neighbours, his family are so grateful. BP

## James David Smith 1943 – 2015



James (Jim) Smith, at 72 years of age, died of cancer which had crept through him in a matter of months. His death was all the more tragic given that he had lost his beloved wife, Rena, from chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) less than two years before.

Born in Glasgow, Jim was the eldest of three children. He completed his education at

Shawlands Academy where he was a member of the school rugby team. He started his working life as a compositor, but after a few years, decided that it was not for him and started a career in sales, dealing with well-known brands such as Crombie, Jaeger and Aquascutum. Many of his customers became personal friends.

It was while the family were staying in Bishopbriggs that he met Rena and they married in 1968, eventually settling in New Endrick Road. In 1974, their cherished son Stuart arrived. Later,

Stuart married Claire and their children, Ruairidh and Freya came into the family. Jim was besotted with them as they were with him.

He was a very affable man and was a 'weel-kent' figure in the village who enjoyed a blether; indeed, he left his home in New Endrick Road every morning and walked to the Co-op for his paper – always the *Herald* – a journey which should take no more than 15 minutes. It was not unusual for him to be away for two hours or more, having stopped for a chat with someone or other. His great passion was golf and as a member at Buchanan Castle Golf Club he consistently won competitions about which he was always very modest. He enjoyed watching football and in his earlier years was a frequent attender at a certain large stadium in Govan. His love of football led him to starting Killearn Cubs Football team and he travelled with them to their various games. He later became a referee and could be found blowing his whistle at their matches in the football field. His whistling was not only confined to the wee boys playing their hearts out; he used it to good effect to quieten down the more vociferous fathers!

Jim tackled his illness with courage and made every effort to continue his life as normal, but eventually it all became too much and he found himself in Strathcarron Hospice, where he succumbed to this dreadful disease.

That he was well respected and well known was evidenced by the huge number of people from far and wide who attended his service at Dalnottar Crematorium.

He will be sorely missed.

TID

## Margaret McQueen 1922 – 2015



Margaret McQueen was born in Gartness, the youngest of the four children of John and Margaret Sinclair. The family moved to Blacklands in Killearn and it was here in the village that Margaret grew up in a happy environment. She was educated at the primary school and later at Balfron High School. After leaving school, she worked in the local grocery shop, helped in a relative's sweetie shop at Blane Smiddy and assisted with the bookkeeping in her brother's joinery business. She was very much a part of village life and took part in amateur dramatics and later the church choir.

Margaret met Archie McQueen, whose family owned Hawthorn Cottage in Killearn, using it as a 'retreat' from Glasgow. They married in 1948 and lived initially in Glasgow, then Carmunnock. But Margaret was homesick for Killearn and when the opportunity arose, they bought a plot of land and Archie, an architect, built Two Gables in Drumbeg Loan in 1951. Here they lived for over 50 years, raising their family, Linda and Alasdair, participating in village life and enjoying Archie's favourite hobby – sailing. Their marriage lasted for over 64 years and the card received from the Queen to celebrate their diamond wedding was a source of great delight to them. In 2002 they 'downsized' to The Oaks, where they lived for ten years until Archie died, and Margaret moved to Blanefield Care Home for her remaining years.

Margaret was a great homemaker and was renowned for her baking and preserves. She was a hard worker with a strong and positive attitude which was the foundation of the happy family life she provided for her children, and the close bond she had with them and with her grandchildren and great grandchildren of whom she was so proud. She maintained her love of the countryside all her life and spent many happy hours in her garden.

She will be remembered for her care and concern for others and the readiness with which she devoted herself to nursing family members, as well as Archie, when their health declined. For her part, she bore her own failing health with dignity and fortitude and was greatly appreciative of the care she received at the Blanefield Care Home, where she was regarded with much affection. She lived a life of loving devotion to her family and will be held in the fond memories of them and all who knew her. BP

## Dorothy Pattenden 1946 – 2015



Dorothy was born in Llandyrnog, in the beautiful Vale of Clwyd in North Wales and had many relatives in the farming community in that area. She trained as a textile designer at Huddersfield and moved to Dunfermline in 1967 to work as a designer in a silk factory and a few years later as a carpet designer in Dundee. She moved to Killearn in 1979 with husband Dennis, and devoted time at home to bring up her young family, Iain, Sian and Ross. She adored her grandchildren, Isla and Annie.

Dorothy enjoyed living in Killearn, and worked in Balfron and Killearn schools helping children with special needs. She became a teaching assistant at Killearn Primary School and loved working with the children, using her artistic skills, patience and kindness to help them develop. She ran a lunchtime art club and took great delight in helping the young people produce a tapestry depicting the three Killearn schools.

She took an active part in village life, helping with the Cubs, willingly participating in Jumble sales, Ladies Circle, and as a committee member of Killearn Horticultural Society provided tea and cakes for functions, and was a formidable competitor at the annual show.

She used her calligraphy skills to produce school or Rotary club certificates and also as a Duke of Edinburgh award instructor. She had many talents and interests: art, reading, knitting, upholstery, silversmithing, gardening, skiing, cycling and walking, her great love of cooking and sharing her hospitality.

A celebration of her life was held in Killearn Kirk. Donations to Cancer Research UK raised over £2,000. For this, the family would like to express their thanks.

Her family and friends remember her as a modest, caring, lovely, gracious lady with a warm, beautiful smile. DP

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## Allan Smith 1929 – 2015

Allan Smith was born and brought up in Wallasey, Cheshire, and moved with his parents to Lanarkshire, where he was educated at Coatbridge High School.

His creativity was a major strength which was further developed at the Glasgow School of Art. While engaged on a summer job in Helensburgh, Allan met Rosemary, recognising her as a fellow art student and the pair began a courtship which led to a long and happy married life. A travel scholarship, long vacations and a Lambretta combined to allow the pair to embark on journeys of exploration through Spain and Scandinavia. Their home in Station Road was named Denia as a reminder of their explorations in Spain.

After graduating from the Art School, Allan gained teaching qualifications at Jordanhill College and began his career at Chryston High School, where he later became Head of Art. He greatly enjoyed his chosen metier, finding it stimulating and fulfilling; he was highly regarded by pupils and fellow colleagues.

With the arrivals of a daughter and two sons, the Smith family was complete and Allan was content to develop his creative abilities in his home and garden, and to enjoy family life. He loved sport – at one

time represented Scotland in archery – and played a good game of golf. He also played a role in the community, serving on the committee of Abbeyfield and for many years on the Horticultural Society Committee, for which he organised the art exhibition at the annual Show.

Although skilled in working in wood and silver, his great passion for much of his life was photography. He never went anywhere without his camera and could always see the potential for a picture. In this field, as with every project he took on, Allan displayed an insatiable curiosity, researching his subject meticulously and relishing his newly discovered knowledge. He became fascinated by the bromoil process – a technique that was popular with photographers in the early years of the 20th century – which combined a blend of photography and painting. Allan was a respected member of the Bromoil Circle of Great Britain and exhibited regularly at their exhibitions. He was also an active member of the Scottish Photographic Circle. He set high standards for himself and achieved these in the work he produced.

He took great joy in the natural world. He loved being out of doors and relished the beauty of the landscape around him. His funeral service, held in the Woodland Cemetery, was a fitting farewell to this gentle, modest and genial man.



A devoted father and grandfather, his family were central to his life and he will be held in affectionate memory by Rosemary, Pauline, Gary, Ross and his eight grandchildren.

BP

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## Caroline Cuthbert 1938 – 2015



Caroline Cuthbert was born in Edinburgh, the second of four children of Alec and Rosemary Mitchell. She was educated in Edinburgh, Bermuda and Hertfordshire where, as head girl at Downham School, she displayed the emerging talents that were to mark her life as an enthusiastic and successful leader and supporter of charitable causes.

In childhood, she spent much happy time with her Mitchell grandmother in Tulliallan Castle, then a family home, and on leaving school went on to Edinburgh College of Domestic Science where her creativity was developed and where she learned to cook for all events, small and large.

## Betty Smith

It is with great regret that we announce that Betty Smith, late of Allan Road, died in Cedar Court Care Home, Cranleigh, Surrey on 11 July 2015.

A full obituary will be published in the next issue of the *Killearn Courier*.

In 1960, she married William Cuthbert of the Clyde Shipping Company and they established a happy family life with their three children at Old Ballikinrain. She entered fully into the life of the village and quickly became deeply engaged in a variety of charitable activities. Using her home and grounds, she hosted a range of fundraising events for good causes. In the 1970s, she set up the charity Take n' Give for which she cleared houses, recycled the contents and held sales of household goods and old treasures, raising thousands of pounds for Camphill Newton Dee. Old Ballikinrain also became the venue for the Endrick Branch of Riding for the Disabled and a favourite outing for the children who came to the summer camp run by the WRVS in Killearn.

Caroline was a great support to William, especially during his role as chairman of the National Trust for Scotland. After his early death in 1989, she continued to devote her time to charitable works – she was on the Board of Visitors of Cornton Vale Prison, she was a trustee of the MacRobert Trust, served as a Deputy Lieutenant for Stirlingshire, was the regional organiser of the WRVS for five years and, in more recent years, was a great supporter of Crossroads and the Thursday Club.

Killearn Kirk was a central part of Caroline's life. Her faith was profound and her support of the church active and constant. For many years she was the lynchpin of the Guild and especially in her organisation of the annual sale when almost single-handedly she could transform the venue into a Christmas wonderland. Her stall, stocked with the artistic and imaginative goods she had been preparing at home for much of the year, always attracted attention.

Although she professed to have little scholarly ability, Caroline had an enquiring mind and a wide range of interests. Her planning of her eco house at Mains of Branshogle and her enthusiasm for this project marked a culmination of her many interests and her philosophy of living. Two of her great loves were the natural world and circle dancing which, in her barn, she introduced to many others. She wore her abilities lightly, but she was, nevertheless, a lady of considerable talent and wisdom. Always with a serene countenance and a ready smile, she was full of ideas and enthusiasm and had the skills to implement these and to inspire and support others.

She will be greatly missed in Killearn by all whose lives she touched, by her many friends and most particularly by her family, Louisa, Alan and Paddy and their families, to whom she was a devoted mother and grandmother.

BP

## How Zorro played the hand (from page 15)

The pre-empt bid is expected to offer at least 7 cards in the bid suit, 6 tricks with the bid suit as trumps, and preferably one of these to be an outside trick (in one of the other suits).

My partner (North) opened 3 spades, passed by East and myself (South) as I could only offer 2, maybe 3 tricks. West then doubled (holding 19 points!) for take-out. North passed (now in game should the contract be made) and East (forced to bid with no defence to a spade contract) said 4 clubs. Sitting South I passed, feeling the contract might not make, but not prepared

to double them into game. Boldly, West then bid 5 clubs which was passed round to me where I now felt a double might return our side a good score. Indeed, 5 clubs doubled went 5 off giving us 1100 points compared with 3 spades doubled, maybe with overtricks, depending on the lead, for 730 points at least. Meanwhile, even with such a good hand, West will find making 9 tricks hard in either hearts or diamonds.

This hand also illustrates the value of distribution counteracting high-card point values.

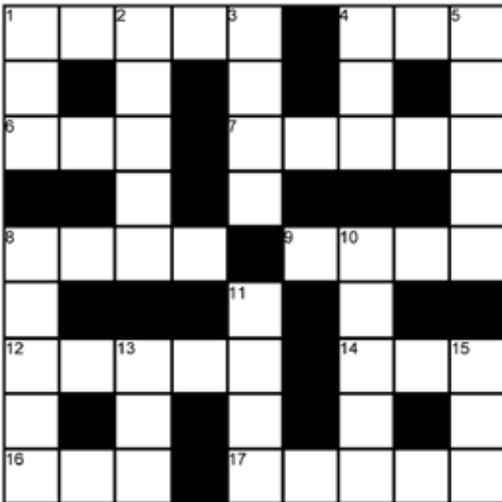
# PRIZE CROSSWORD

Our prize for the *Prize Crossword* is a Family Ticket to the *Theatre Royal* or the *King's Theatre*, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days. This has been donated by Scotland's leading live entertainment venues, showcasing the best West End and touring productions in the UK every year. Telephone: 0844 871 7627.

Our prize for the *Children's Picture Prize Crossword* is a £10 voucher. Entrants must be 10 years old or under.

Complete the crossword and place it in the box in Spar or in the postbox outside the Village Hall, with your name, address and a contact number before **Sunday 30 August 2015**.

## CHILDREN'S PICTURE PRIZE CROSSWORD



### ACROSS



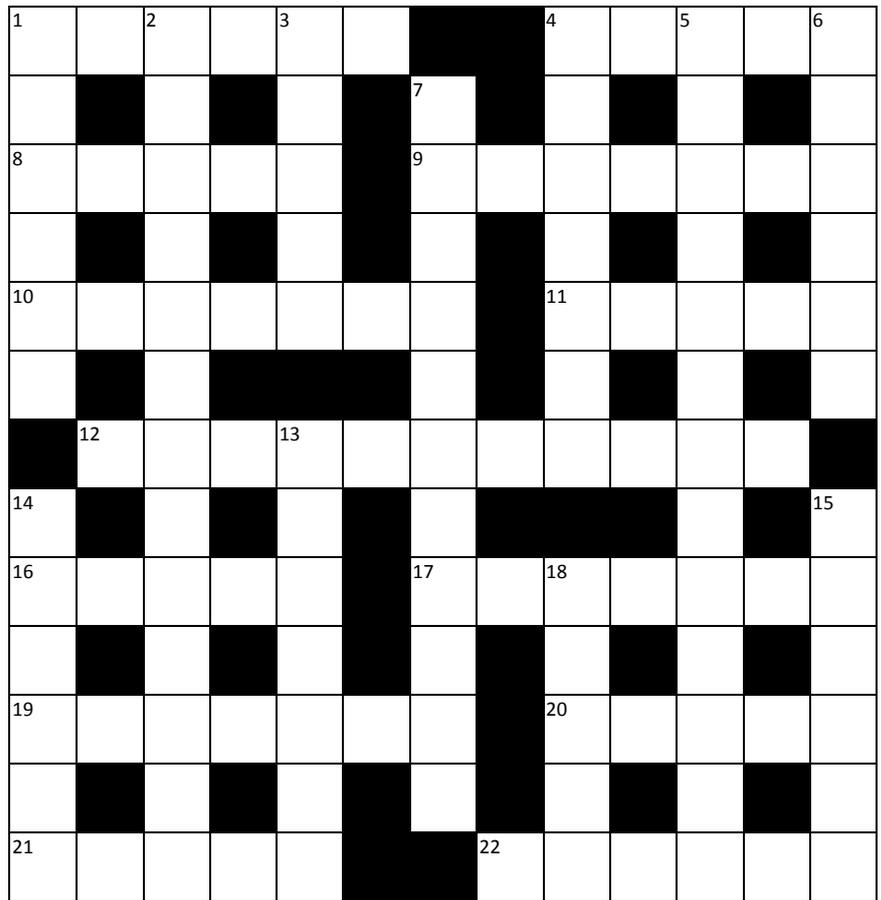
### DOWN



Name .....

Age ..... Phone .....

Address .....



### ACROSS

1. You could find this thin plate back in the zoo. (6)
4. Dreadful draw fully contained. (5)
8. Performer may play on gold. (5)
9. Time has passed when drug expired. (7)
10. Is this written in the stars. (3,4)
11. Short joint goes east then north – heroic. (6)
12. Regeneration comes from talk after relaxation. (11)
16. Endless husk is mixed up for Japanese food. (5)
17. German dog in empty tower makes a noise. (7)
19. Russian leader has to be told to dress. (3,2,2)
20. Hydro before English church – could be empty. (5)
21. Tramp loses shilling to prescriber of drugs. (5)
22. Bad dog in pen is indigestible. (6)

### DOWN

1. A big river is also 2 down. (6)
2. These require 5 down to avoid frustration. (8,5)
3. There is nothing in craft, a blood vessel. (5)
4. Counter an increase on a good man. (7)
5. Internet promise – quick, speedy gang. (4,9)
6. First leave snake, you need this to get up. (6)
7. If we ever get 5 down we will be an acting rebel. (13)
13. One of 2 down makes noise like a bird. (7)
14. Crustacean is nothing on seed case. (6)
15. Newsmen in dull colour is voracious. (6)
18. Distressed when coup settled. (5)

*Set by PeeWit*

### Solution to the last crossword

Across: 6,8 tenth anniversary; 7 eleven; 10 narcotics; 11 roe; 12 instances; 14 mat; 15 eel; 16 strategic; 17 sea; 18 oversized; 20 reader; 21 adunc. Down: 1 reprisal; 2 ottomans; 3 alms; 4 over; 5 insecticide; 9 discarded; 13 set aside; 14 magazine; 18 alas; 19 open.

### Last Edition Winners

Crossword: Catherine Gilfinnan, Killeam  
Spot the Difference: Ben Gibson, age 11

THE  
KING'S  
GLASGOW

THEATRE  
ROYAL  
GLASGOW

Name .....

Address .....

## Getting Butterflies

Is it just me, or does the onset of spring seem to have more and more false starts with each passing year? One minute we are seduced into thinking that winter is behind us, the next it's as if it never left. We become increasingly vigilant for signs that warmer, calmer, brighter days really are just around the corner. This may, of course, be bird song, emerging daffodils or even hares boxing. But a good marker has to be the first butterfly of the year.

For me, spring has definitely sprung only once I see my first Green Hairstreak of the year. This tiny insect, generally looking rather dark in flight, reveals its true beauty only once it settles. At rest on a leaf or blade of grass, the green of its wings is both natural and lurid at the same time, a real jewel of the heaths and bogs which are its haunts. It has to be one of my favourite creatures, and something we can all aim to see in the right habitat between April and July.

With Green Hairstreaks you need to get your eye in – they are very small! However the male butterfly becomes more conspicuous when another male, or indeed any other insect, flies too close. This prompts the resident male to fly up from cover in furious pursuit of the intruder to drive him off his territory.

Another local favourite of mine is the Small Copper. This is also a small butterfly (but larger than the Green Hairstreak) on the wing from May to October. Favouring a wide range of habitats, particularly heathland and grassland, its small size and bright metallic copper-coloured forewing make it easy to identify for expert and novice alike.

One of the great things about butterfly species is that they all have different adult flight periods lasting just a few weeks to several months. This forms something of a natural barometer, with adult emergence varying slightly year on year depending on the weather. So between early spring and late autumn there is always something to look out for to indicate just where we are in nature's calendar.

MARTIN CULSHAW



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- 9th August – Moodswing
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- 23rd August – Hoochie Coo
- 30th August – The Jazz Pack



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