



ISSUE 1

SPRING – MARCH 2005

Welcome to the first edition of the new-look Killearn Courier. It will be published three times a year, in spring, summer and autumn. It's a community newspaper. In other words, it's your newspaper so what it will become depends a lot on you.

This edition contains articles from people living in the village and surrounding parish, adverts from local businesses and trades people as well as stories from various community organisations. It was put together and produced by a group of local people who have formed themselves into the Killearn Courier editorial board. In case you think it's the same 'old' faces who are always involved in everything in the community, it's not! The board has volunteers from 16 to 60+ so we really can reflect the community across all age groups. It's not just a lot of old fuddy-duddies imposing their ideas on you. In fact, you can join the team if you want, just let us know.

There will be other regular features in each edition. For example, there will be a *Letters to the Editor* section, a puzzle page with a prize crossword and a competition for children. There will be a section written by and reflecting the views of local teenagers.

The team, pictured on page 2, is bursting with ideas. We want people to tell us about good eating-places – not the local ones, but the places you have visited that are within reasonable travelling distance from Killearn. We want to hear from local organisations – what they do, how to join or help out; local concerns and issues – indeed, anything which is part of community life.

Do you have a story to tell or a business to advertise? Do you have an issue dear to you that affects the community? Do you have anything you want to say? If so, tell us. Contact addresses can be found on page 15.

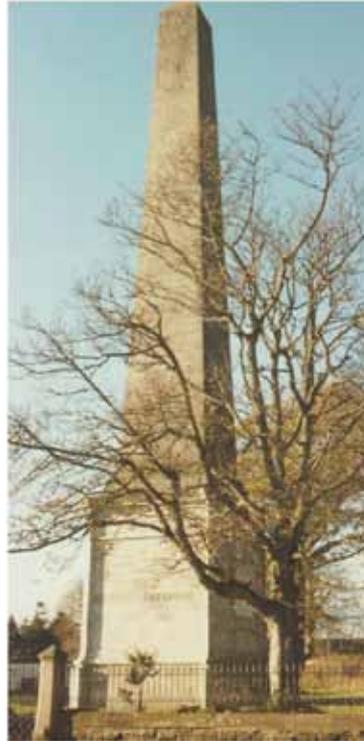
Tell us what you think of this edition, what you would like to see in it or how you think it could be improved.

Remember – it's your newspaper. What it is and becomes will depend on you. Let's hear it from you.

Enjoy your first edition.

Ian Dickie

FUTURE OF BUCHANAN MONUMENT



The Buchanan Society has approached Historic Scotland for a grant to repair the Buchanan Monument and adjoining area.

A surveyor from Historic Scotland has already visited the site and an advisory report currently being prepared will establish the condition of both the monument and its surrounding wall and recommend repairs. Iona Hordern, a director of the Buchanan Society, explained that, following an application for grant assistance, Historic Scotland had identified *A need for assistance from public funds.*

Although the Killearn monument is legally in its care, the Society is a charitable foundation set up to support those in financial difficulty and to provide education grants. As Iona Hordern puts it: *"Our role is looking after frail and elderly Buchanans, not frail and elderly walls and that what little income the society has is*

earmarked for the care of people and not monuments".

The Society hopes that a grant from Historic Scotland will allow this iconic structure and its immediate surroundings to be refurbished and that a transcription of the dedication be mounted on a plaque at the front where interested parties can easily read it.

Coincidentally, 2006 is the 500th anniversary of George Buchanan's birth. Born at The Moss in February 1506, Buchanan was a leading light of the Scottish Reformation and famous throughout Europe as a scholar, educator and poet. The monument was raised to his memory during the 18th century and underscores his association with the village.

Developments at Killearn Hospital Site

Mr. Graeme Sword owner of the Killearn Hospital Site is to host a meeting on 8 March at the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. when he will present proposals to develop the site of the old Killearn Hospital. This is an open meeting for all to attend. The village will be interested to learn of what is proposed.

Station Road Bridge

The bridge at the foot of Station Road, formerly under the ownership of British Rail, was judged to be weak some months ago. It is for this reason that access has been restricted and bus routes diverted. In addition, and for this reason, this section of Station Road has lost its priority status for winter treatment. Work to restore the bridge to full European standards was planned to start in February.

Killlearn Community Futures Company – KCFC – was founded to help to bring to fruition those things which are best accomplished by a community working together. It is a charitable company with four broad aims: to provide facilities for recreation and leisure pursuits in the village; to preserve, restore and improve the environment; to promote trade and industry; and to establish other projects of a charitable nature which will benefit Killlearn. We have made a start, and the Courier is one visible expression of what we hope to achieve. The regeneration of the Old School is a major project, and probably the best known, of a number of developments with which the company is already involved.

The article on page 7 by Jim Fallas and on page 8 by Hugh McArthur show that Killlearn has always needed – and found – people willing to give time and energy to benefit the village. Yes, we've been here before. How KCFC wishes it had the sort of patron the Recreation Club found in Mr Wilson back in 1939. Rumour has it that Killlearn is home to 41 millionaires. Can that be right? The directors anticipate a time, once the Old School is up and running, when KCFC will have income of its own. In the meantime, however, the company is entirely dependent on grants and goodwill to achieve its aims, and we will be letting you know soon about pain-free ways to help.

The most important thing you can do right now is become a member of the Company. For the nominal sum of £1 you can help ensure that the projects that we are tackling become a reality, whether this supports the tennis club, the Kingdom and the Courier or means improving the playpark, establishing a coherent network of paths or refurbishing the Old School itself. To know more about the company, log on to www.kcfc.co.uk. Membership forms are also available from the website or from any of the directors.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow



Unfortunately for almost all the children in the village, the best snowfall of the season arrived on a Tuesday. There was enough to turn the area into something from a fairytale, and the roads were icy – the hill on Station Road and the ice-rink of Beech Drive being particular trials for morning commuters – but there was not quite enough snow to close the local schools.

As is the way of these things, by late afternoon it was mostly gone, except on the well-known runs on the Cow Field and the Glebe. While it lasted, however, the bright blue sky and crisp air proved irresistible for some, and perhaps the dog pulled the sledge back up the hill!



The Courier team – can you identify them?

From the front left:

Sara Hudson, advertising
 Ian Dickie, editor-in-chief
 Gwen Stewart, advertising
 Siobhan Wilson, youth issues

From the back left:

Brenda Pell, secretary and contributor
 Nancy Bailey, sub-editor
 Nick Hawkins, treasurer and contributor
 Peter Wilks, layout and DTP
 Pat Ryall, contributor

The team would like to thank all those who contributed articles and photographs; you made this issue possible.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to the next edition, please email to courier@kcfc.co.uk

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Arthur C. Clarke 1924 – 2005



Arthur Clarke, who died on 11 February, came to Killearn with his late wife, Isobel, in 1977. By profession a quantity surveyor, he put his energies and

enthusiasms to serve the community. He was a member of the Community Council for some years and a volunteer with the WRVS Good Neighbours scheme, becoming the first male member of the WRVS in order to take on the duties of treasurer. He was active in the Horticultural Society and was a founder member of Colourful Killearn, undertaking a great deal of the work of that group. He created a memorial garden between the church and the village hall, sadly lost when the new church hall was built.

His great hobby was to work with wood and the evidence of his handicraft is around our village. He made the community noticeboard and framed the banners and other works of the Embroiderers' Guild. He was active in the early years of the STIG group at the primary school. Every project that had as its aim the conservation and environmental improvement of the village had the hand of Arthur in it.

His good nature, his cheery manner, his willingness to help people and his readiness to engage in so many matters that have been of benefit to the village will be sorely missed. Our sympathies go to his daughters and their families.

The Wright family invite anyone wishing to contribute a memory of Arthur to contact them at 1 Main Street or email to acc@apuddock.com so that this could be put on Arthur's website where it will form part of a memorial to his life. *BP*

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Colourful Killearn

Colourful Killearn is a group of residents interested in maintaining the attractiveness of the village by establishing and maintaining flower beds and tubs. We count all residents of the parish of Killearn as members.

Our next dates for events are:

2 April, at 10am, will be our biannual work party at which the Notice Board, Co-op and Beech Drive flower beds will be targeted. We meet in the car park opposite the Co-op.

21 May is the Coffee Morning in the Village Hall, jointly organised with KCHS. Tearoom with home baking and various plant stalls and tombola.

Killearn Brownies Need Your Help!

Killearn Brownies meet every Wednesday at 6.15 p.m. in the Village Hall. Currently, there are 25 girls in the pack. The girls enjoy a varied programme of activities and we also have social outings – a pantomime and ten-pin bowling for example. However, we are victims of our own success in that we have a large waiting list of over 20 girls waiting to join. We will not have any spaces until after the summer and even then we will only be able to take on a few girls.

We desperately need volunteers to run another unit and give these girls the opportunity to enjoy Brownies. Training and assistance will be given to all new leaders. If you would like to help, further information can be had from Carole Young (550994)

Turnbull — Leitch



On Saturday, February 19, the Turnbull family returned to Killearn Kirk for the wedding of their eldest daughter, Claire, to Dr. Andrew Leitch. Nancy and Rod lived in Killearn for 16 years, and were active in the village before moving to Worcestershire. Claire and Andrew are both doctors, living in Edinburgh.

Thank you again to everyone who sent us their contributions for the Courier. We were overwhelmed by your responses and ran out of space so if your article does not appear in this edition, it will in the future. *Ed.*

PEACHES

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Albert John Mearns 1938 – 2005

Bert, as he was known to everyone in the village, died after a long illness in Gartnavel Hospital on 14th February 2005. Although born in London, Bert lived nearly all his life in Scotland, his family moving to Gordon at the beginning of World War II. After a happy childhood, he studied as an electrician at Dundee Technical College, serving his apprenticeship in Montrose. The move to Glasgow for a better job proved to be the turning point in his life, for it was there that he met Rita who was to become his wife and lifelong companion. In 1964 he moved into Carbeth Lodge and settled into life in Killearn. He soon was playing a full part in his new community: he was a founder member of the Strathendrick Rotary, a Community Councillor and, in 1969, when he branched out on his own, became the man we all depended on when the lights went out, our local electrician. The business prospered to become the electrical contracting business it is today.

However, it is not as a local businessman that his many friends will remember Bert. They will remember his love of the outdoors, his dry sense of humour, his hobby breeding budgies and other birds, and as a loving and generous family man. He will be missed by many, his vans being a constant reminder of the part he played in the life of the area.

PW

NEW BUSINESS IN KILLEARN

Panik Gallery opened in Killearn in the summer of 2004 as a venue for contemporary Scottish art and design although Paul Brown and Annika Simpson, who run it, have been operating a printed textile design studio, Panik Designs, in the village since 2003.

Panik Gallery holds bimonthly group exhibitions which have included painting, printmaking, photography, textiles, ceramics, jewellery and glass. Paul and Annika like showing the work of emerging as well as established artists and designers.

'Having recently graduated from Glasgow School of Art ourselves, we know how difficult it can be to get your work seen, so we like to provide a space where talented new graduates can exhibit their work next established artists and designers,' says Paul.

Panik Designs, which is situated behind the gallery, creates exclusive hand-screen printed and digitally printed textiles for domestic and commercial interiors.

Working closely with interior designers and architects, as well as private clients, Paul and Annika produce one-off custom designed and hand printed fabrics for a variety of interior applications including curtains, roman blinds, cushions, upholstery, tableware and wall hangings.

The current exhibition which will open on March 7th and run until May 5th includes paintings by June Todd and Iona Leishman, photography by Naomi Campbell, jewellery by Gisella Peacock and Ruth Gordon, plus other designer showcases.

The gallery is open 7 days, from 10 am to 5:30 pm Monday to Friday and 11 am to 5 pm Saturday and Sunday. If the door is locked then please ring the doorbell as Paul and Annika will probably be working in their studio at the back.

Panik Gallery / Panik Designs 13 Main Street, Killearn G63 9RJ (01360) 551166

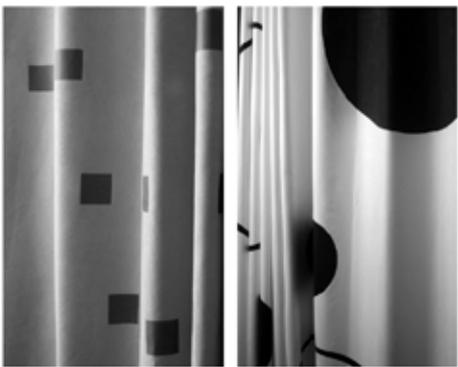
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Local artist wins award

Connie Simmers, well-known local artist, has won the prestigious Scottish Arts Club Award. The award was made in January for her mixed media painting *Backstreets, Old Town, Italy*. Her painting was inspired by images accumulated from holidays in Italy with sketchbook in hand.

The award entitled Connie to two years membership of the Arts Club plus the opportunity of having her own show at the Club. The winning painting was on show at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh, but can now be viewed on her website, www.simmersart.co.uk, together with a selection of her other work.



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Do you walk or cycle for recreation, health, the dog, to get from place to place?

Where do you walk/cycle now?

Where would you like to walk or cycle that you can't?

KCFC is compiling a list of paths in Killearn and proposing where new paths can be made.

If you can help, please email peter@kcfc.co.uk or ring 550269

Get Reel

UPDATE



Get Reel is alive and well and living in rural Stirlingshire, and aiming to provide group tuition in traditional music, dance, song, storytelling and related arts. We had our first event – a Family Come and Try Event – in October 2003 and followed this up with a session tour, family ceilidh and Big Picnic in the first half of 2004. We established a quality tutor team and started 13 classes for children and 3 for adults at the Balfour Campus in August 2004.

Amy Geddes (fiddle) and Sandy Wright (guitar/vocals), shown in the photo, opened our concert series and were a great success. We hope to bring regular traditional music concerts to the area and involve local musicians. Look out for our session tour posters. We hope to be back in Drymen in March – venues for April and May are still to be confirmed. We are considering another larger event in June.

Places are still available on some of our children's classes – storytelling and fiddle beginners on a Thursday 4–5 pm. We have also started an improvers fiddle class from 6.15–7 pm for those who have been playing for over a year.

Get Reel is also making a mark on the wider scene. Tutors at the Celtic Connections workshops as well as a recent music publication by the Tolbooth arts team in Stirling (Infobooth) have helped to bring in many interested adults. We hope to launch mixed instrument groups in the winter on Sunday afternoons. We have had requests to run another guitar class on a Thursday evening with a singer/songwriter emphasis, too. Currently we are applying for funding to run a one-day adult workshop in storytelling and stepdance, run other Come and Try events and appoint a part-time administrator.

There are plenty spaces for more adult learners and we would be delighted to hear from you if you have a guitar, fiddle or whistle getting dusty. You can contact us, get regular updates on our classes and events on www.get-reel.net.

Sara Bell

POLICE MATTERS

As Spring approaches everyone, particularly the elderly, should be aware of bogus workmen who call and claim that roof, gutters, etc. are in need of urgent repair, work which they must carry out immediately to avoid further deterioration. They will charge exorbitant prices for work of poor quality or no work at all. If they get away with it, they will 'invent' other work and keep coming back for more money. One example where an elderly resident was swindled out of a large sum of money, the culprit was convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

With this type of incident, or any other, it is only through villagers reporting anything they think is suspicious, be it vehicles or people, that we stand a better chance of catching the offenders. Please call the Balfour Police Office on 01360 440220 and you will be put through automatically to a call centre at Headquarters when an operator will relay your information immediately to local Officers who will then be able to respond accordingly.

If you don't want to go through this system, and have e-mail, contact me at:

peter.brown@centralscotland.police.uk



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Killlearn Woodland Burial Site

It was announced recently that Stirling Council is to develop the field adjacent to the cemetery as a 'Green' Burial Ground. This area will be used for interments in biodegradable containers and there will be no stone gravestones or similar markers. Instead, families of the deceased will be invited to plant a tree to mark the grave.

The whole area will be minimally landscaped with grassy pathways dividing groups of plots or lairs and

a perimeter boundary will be planted with hedging. A short length of hard-surfaced pathway will allow access for a hearse and a vehicle for mourners, but apart from this the burial ground will, in time, take on the appearance of a small woodland. It will be available for any who wish this type of interment and will not be restricted to those with a connection to Killlearn.

Brenda Pell



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KILLEARN CHURCH HALL**

**Contact: Siobhan Gardiner
0141 584 9924**

THURSDAY CLUB



Club members showing the Christmas decorations they have made

All villagers over the age of 60 are invited to join the Thursday Club. The club meets in the Church Hall every Thursday at 2pm between September and May. Games are available, social events arranged and outings are undertaken.

The club is ably organized by Betty Smith with help from volunteers who arrange car transport if necessary and provide refreshments to members, the club is friendly and fun.

If interested in joining, phone Betty on 550486.

How about getting fit at Killearn Tennis Club. . . .

Killearn has had a tennis club since two courts were laid in 1923 for the sum of £190. Over the years these have been replaced and upgraded and there are now three all-weather courts with floodlighting, providing good facilities for year-round play. Members have raised the money for these improvements in a variety of innovative ways. Perhaps the most unusual was the 1968 'fayre' which featured a children's dog parade and included prizes for the 'most attractive mongrel' and the 'dog with the most soulful eyes'!

The present membership is a very healthy 240, half of whom are junior members. The Club has four senior teams and one junior team in the Central District Leagues. There is an active coaching programme available to both senior and junior members, whatever their standard of play. Senior members can play most days, and court times can be booked. Juniors also have reserved times.

So why not have fun and keep healthy at the same time? Fees are very good value at £65 for Seniors, from £10-£30 for juniors, depending on their age, and £150 for a family membership. No joining fee is applied and new members are always welcome. Forms are available from the Clubhouse (top of the village across from the former Church Hall) or contact Anne Delargy on 550253

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

KCC continues to meet on the third Wednesday of the month to deal with matters affecting the village. Much of our work is routine, including reports on youth issues, police matters, the Treasurer's report, reports on planning applications and a listing of correspondence received. There is always a place on the agenda for residents to raise any issue from the floor. This may be in the nature of a complaint, a suggestion or just an observation. We are grateful to those who come to meetings to watch us at work and to contribute in this way, but we will also report any phone calls or personal approaches made to any Councillor on matters of concern.

Sometimes a representative from Stirling Council will address the meeting on a specific topic. In recent months we have invited John Risk to put forward the controversial proposal of Stirling Council to close local offices, such as the Balfour Office, and to replace these with a 24-hour telephone service and a central 'one-stop shop' in Stirling. This provided an excellent opportunity for residents to question closely such proposals and to express local views. David Bright visited in November to give a presentation on Stirling Council's Emergency Planning Service. Weeks later he could be seen on the TV news putting his planning into action when floods affected parts of the Stirling Councils area.

We are often successful in getting things done, and the installation of lighting at the garages in September marks one achievement. We are currently trying to get new goal posts installed in the park for the youngsters. An area of concern over a long period is our lack of a Village Officer. Stirling Council acknowledge their failure to fill this post and are doing what they can by sending the 'mobile team' along every week to sweep and tidy the streets and pavements, but this is not as satisfactory as having our own Village Officer who, on a daily basis, can share our pride in keeping Killearn looking as clean and attractive possible.

If you want to know what we are doing, do come to our meetings, or read the Minutes which are displayed both on the noticeboard by the Spar and on our website: www.killearncc.org.uk.

We still have three vacancies on the Community Council. If you would like to fill one of these, please contact any of the council members.

Brenda Pell

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Dumgoyne WRI

The Rural meets on the third Monday of each month at 7.30 in the Village Hall. The group has been in existence for over 80 years and although times and people change, the ethos of friendship and learning remains the same. Over the next few months our meetings will feature cookery, craft, a talk on gardens from Lapland to the Mediterranean, and how to display and preserve old photographs. We welcome all ages, so come along for a chat and a listen - we even go out for curries. Contact Sara Hudson (550806) or Irene Davison (550866).

Half a century of the Strathblane and Strathendrick Welfare Fund

Prior to the foundation of the NHS in 1948, West Stirlingshire had a Nursing Association – two nurses attended to the sick and carried out midwifery duties. One was based at Bankend Farm in Milngavie and one in Buchlyvie, both at the extreme ends of the area. The Nursing Association had financial backing which was left in limbo. The original welfare committee had access to this fund, and this local charity was founded in 1954 by Sir George Wilson (Killearn), Dr David Harrison (Strathblane) Mr John Dunkeld (Balfron), Miss Mabel Warren (Fintry) and Rev John Turner. They wrote a constitution, made interest-generating investments and registered it as a charity.

The Welfare Fund covers Strathblane, Killearn, Balfron and Fintry and today each are represented by two trustees. The present trustees are Alastair Birrell (chairman); Jean Browning, Jim Andrews (Balfron); Mary Bannerman, Hugh Edmond (Fintry); M. McKain, Jean Dunning (Strathblane); Helen Loudon and Jim Fallas (Killearn).

At the annual meeting, trustees put forward names of people in their area who are less fortunate. Originally, help was likely to be bags of coal, now electricity tokens and television licence tokens. In 2004, £900 was distributed to 35 people and a donation was made to Strathendrick Old Folk's Home Christmas Party.

The Welfare Fund has income from investments, although not enough to meet its obligations. Charity tins can be found on shop counters and there is also a function in each village.

On March 12th, the B-Flat Choir, together with supporting artists, will sing 'Songs from the Shows' at 7.30 in Killearn Village Hall. Tickets will be available at the door or in advance from Jim Fallas (550618). Wine, soft drinks and refreshments will be served.
Jim Fallas

and talking of the Village Hall

The management committee of Killearn Village Hall try to make improvements in the Hall – the installation of the heavy sound-deadening curtains last year and a modern public address system have effected a huge improvement.

The committee would love to have new members, so if you would like to join this us, please contact any of the officers listed on the Hall notice board. We are desperately in need of a new Hall Keeper so please get in touch if you would be willing to undertake these (paid) duties.

If you would like to book the Hall or discuss any function, contact Graham Pollock on 550262.
Mike Pell



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Sweet Potato Soup with Coconut Milk and Coriander

Serves 4

- 2 Pints Chicken Stock
- 1 Small Tin Coconut milk
- 2 tablespoons Fresh Coriander
- 1½ Sweet Potatoes
- 1 Large Onion
- Fresh Coriander to Garnish

Chop potatoes and onion, add to the stock and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer for one hour. Add the coriander and coconut milk, simmer for a further five minutes. Blend in a liquidiser.

Garnish with fresh coriander and serve with crusty bread.

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Village Past Times by Hugh McArthur

The earliest records for the men-only Killearn Recreation Club show that it was meeting in the Village Hall in 1927. As well as the AGM, regular committee meetings were held at which events for fundraising – dances, whist drives and concerts, and the skips and teams for summer-ice games – were discussed. In that year there were 49 members: 46 men paying a subscription of 3/- and three younger members who paid 1/6d. The final balance of the club's funds stood at £21/17/4.

The members took part occasionally in carpet bowls, draughts, dominoes, cards, darts and billiards, and there were always books and magazines available. The Annual Whist Drive and Dance was popular, and in 1935 there were 39 tables at the whist drive. Prizes for the various competitions within the club could be a roast, steak-pie, cakes, a box of oranges, cigarettes and cash. Once, when Miss Watson's cakes were donated, it was decided that it was too long to keep them and so they were raffled and the hope was that another prize might become available. At that time the club opened on 5 nights a week. Visitors were asked to pay 3d each night or 6d for the week.

Summer-ice was the main activity, however, and the club took part in two tournaments, playing against clubs from neighbouring villages. These were competitions for the Sir Steven Bilsland League Cup and the Lady Cayzer Cup. On occasions there would be a competition between, for instance, married men and single men or North of the village vs South of the village. In these games the

losers were to give 20 cigarettes to the winners.

In 1932 it was decided that the club remove to the hall at the Wheat Sheaf Inn. Mrs Dingley charged 1/- per night for which she would be willing to light the fire and the lamps. By 1937 the decline in membership (and fees) was a concern. A General Meeting the next year discussed the possibility of Townfoot Cottage as a likely place for a recreation club. The cost to the club towards the repairs to the cottage would be £260, raised by



letters of appeal and a door-to-door collection. Killearn Trust were to make a grant of £100 towards this venture. In June 1939 the Building Fund was only £168, but Mr T.G. Wilson advised the club to proceed with the building scheme and he would guarantee the necessary balance. In October 1939 the club moved to Townfoot Cottage, hired a cleaner at 5/- a year and agreed to let space to other groups, but by March 1940, the club was closed for the duration of World War II.

The club reopened on New Year's Day 1946, meeting between 2 and 5 nights a week. A new fireplace was built and a gift was received of a Tilley heater.

In 1951 a television was purchased at a cost of £157/15/0. It was obviously a distraction. Refusal to play any ties in which you were involved because you were watching TV meant forfeiting the game. In 1953 an invitation was given to older people in the village to come and see the Coronation on the television with refreshments served. In February 1957 'the next matter discussed was the repairing of the TV which is at present inoperative, and the probable cause is the aerial which is broken.' A year later, a new television was bought, costing £71/4/0.

In 1953 the membership was 37 and it was decided to withdraw from the Bilsland league. The membership continued to decline and in June 1961, with repairs needed and Killearn Trust anxious about the state of the building, club meetings were discontinued and the building abandoned. Furnishings were disposed of, and the summer-ice table offered to other

village clubs. However, the offer was not taken up and eventually the table was broken up. The club was put into abeyance until such time as a Recreation Club was needed or wanted in the village.

In October 1971 the funds of £345.89 were transferred to eight village organizations: the Junior and Senior Boys' Brigade, the Junior and Senior Girls' Brigade, the Football Club, the British Legion, the Old Folk's Committee and the Sunday School.

Acknowledgements of these transactions are recorded in the treasurer's book of the Killearn Recreation Club.

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A Good Walk Ruined? by Joyce Begg

Vigorous walking is a good thing, and to be encouraged for all sorts of reasons, but should you be tempted to take a walk through Killearn village of a fine morning, there are several hazards which may distract your attention or impede your progress. It is as well to allow for these before you set out.

For a start, there is the view from the Glebe field, guaranteed to stop the most earnest walker for at least ten minutes. At that point, the element of risk increases. Try crossing the dodgem circuit that is the bank car park. Generally speaking, courtesy reigns among the drivers, but you might just meet someone on a bad day and find yourself leaping up the steps to the safety of the 'hole in the wall'.

Proceeding in a south-easterly direction, you should be fairly free of obstacles till you reach the Spar. You may well be fortunate and find that there is no queue at the Post Office, but if there is, your reading interests will be catered for by the contents of the chill cabinet. The Co-op – a friendly and well-stocked store considering its dimensions – can occasionally be reminiscent of an army assault course, should you arrive at shelf-stocking time. Otherwise the main hazard is the fact that the doors will whizz open and shut ten times while you pick up the *Herald* and check the magazines. From there it is a quick step to the butcher's where the principal danger is that of being hit by a gale of amusement emanating from the shop. There is a permanent air of jollity over the steak mince and Cumberland sausages, which may well divert you from the seriousness of a good walk.

Depending on the season, there is constant distraction in the gardens of Graham and Buchanan Roads. You can slow right down and lose valuable time admiring the floral displays, and are advised to march swiftly past, eyes straight ahead. From then on, only the possibility of a football game on the playing fields will impede you, though the risk there is substantial, and may be prolonged by injury time.

However, there is another, even greater, threat to a vigorous cholesterol-reducing march, and that is the population itself. Be



A garden in Buchanan Road

prepared at all times for conversation, for discussion on the weather, village events, the weather, village history, the weather, global news and, of course, the weather. For such random forgathering is the great charm of the place. That is why we live here. On the whole, we like each other and enjoy communication. So don't worry if your exercise is interrupted. You can do it all again tomorrow.



1st Killearn Boys Brigade

The 1st Killearn boys brigade celebrated its 50th Anniversary in November 2004. The company consists of the four sections: Anchor Boys (ages 6 – 8); Junior Section (ages 8 – 11); Company Section (ages 11 – 15); and Senior Section ages 15 – 18).

The company meets on Thursday evenings in the Church Hall at the following times: Anchor and Junior Sections 6:45 to 7:45 pm and Company and Senior Section 7:45 to 9:30 pm.

The junior section enjoys individual games skills, team game skills, inter-squad competition games, and develop craft and communication skills. Party nights are held at Christmas and Halloween, which are always a great success.

The company section activities are wide and ranging. Badge work is carried out on community, communications, interests, physical and hobbies.

The company section also has many external activities such as football, camping and climbing wall events.

Over the last few years we have managed to run both summer camp and ski trip events, which are always very successful and well attended. Other events such as swimming and badminton nights are run as often as possible to vary the activities open to the boys.

The company also is proud of its record of fund raising for different charities along with its own needs. For more information, contact Alastair Smith (Captain) 550935.

CURTAIN CALL

It is intended to revive *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness* which was performed and greatly enjoyed in 1979 and 1995. The play has been chosen because it involves both children and adults and there are many parts for all ranges of acting ability.

Ken Barrett will produce and the Music Director will be Mrs Marjory Barrington. Performances will be at the end of October 2005 in the Village Hall.

We need your help – on stage, back stage or production – so please ring Ken Barrett on 550508 if you would like to be involved in any way.

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GOLFING GLORY



The Stirling County Order of Merit for 2004 was won by Killearn's Joseph Paterson. Joseph, 15, a student at Balfron High School, entered 4 out of a possible 10 Junior Open Championships, winning both the Callander and Glenbervie Opens. The accumulated points won him the County Order of Merit.

This is not his only achievement, as Joseph also managed to slash his golf handicap during the 2004 season by 12 strokes, a feat many more experienced golfers would struggle to emulate. Taught by his father from the age of 3, he now plays as often as he can at Buchanan Castle and

St Andrews. However, the youth's favourite golf course is Glenbervie in Larbert – perhaps due equally to the quality of the course and his own success there! He says his most memorable hole was the par 5, 15th where he used his 1 iron to reach the green and then tapped in the putt for a birdie.

The forthcoming season will see Joseph working on further reducing his handicap, entering competitions and looking forward to the big event: the summer meeting at Grangemouth. He also hopes to gather a few useful tips as a spectator at the Open Championship in St Andrews this summer.

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BOUNCING TO SUCCESS

Amy MacGregor brought home the gold medal to Killearn Primary School at the Scottish Schools Trampoline Championship in Perth in December. Amy, who is in Primary 4, won the under 9s, level 5 championship.

This is not her first taste of success, as both Amy and her sister, Kirsten (11), qualified for the Scottish National Championship and went on to win silver medals in their respective age classes (level 6) in November.

The girls started trampolining at a recreational class in Bishopbriggs Sports Centre where their potential was spotted. They were invited to join the Bishopbriggs Trampoline Club only last February. Despite being a novice in the sport, Amy has



also added another gold medal, a Club Championship.

SUCCESS FOR KILLEARN FC

Killearn Football Club is a founder member and now one of twelve clubs that make up the Forth & Endrick Football League, formed in 1910. In the early 1920s the league clubs were affiliated to the Scottish Welfare F.A. KFC had a great season in 2004, winning the league, the Margaret White Trophy and the Telfer Cup.

Games are played in the local villages on a Saturday and Tuesday evenings from April to September. It has long been the rule that all players must either have been born in the area or reside in the village to be eligible to play, something the S.P.L. is just beginning to contemplate! The team is always looking for new players and anyone wishing to play, train or support KFC should contact Club Chairman, Donald Beaton (550679) or Player's Representative, Alan MacColl (551034) for further information.



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New Garden Centre for Strathendrick Valley

Currently under construction on the A81 at Killearn the new garden centre and food hall will be known as Oakwood Garden Centre. Formerly known as Laighparks the Henderson family run a wholesale nursery as well as a small plant centre for the public.

Director James Henderson is looking forward to serving an ever-widening customer base in the Central Belt.

The new building should provide home to an excellent range of all things horticultural and locally-sourced high-quality foods. Light lunches will be served in the Clock Tower Café. The existing business remains unaffected by the new development and the staff look forward to serving you all this year.

CLASSIC CAR CLUB

One of many memorable events from the Balfon 700 celebrations in 2003 was the sight of some 30 pre-war and post-war classic cars which toured around the local villages. This proved to be the inspiration for the Classic Car Club. Currently, there are 33 members. Car ages range from 1939 to 1984 and include pre-war sports cars, post-war saloons, and ex-rally and sports models.

The Club had its inaugural run on 29th May 2004 with 16 cars being led off by Duncan Laing in his 1929 MG. Unfortunately, this number was reduced to 15 when Michael Pell's 1933 Austin Seven lost all drive, but he did manage lunch at Culcruech nonetheless! The run culminated at Drymen Show with a parade in the ring and a manoeuvrability test. The grass was still wet from an earlier shower so a light right foot was the order of the day with over exuberance ending in a delicate pirouette and an embarrassed laugh from the offender!

The club held two more runs in 2004, a perfect day for a run to St Fillans in July, and an outing in September to Cove, successful despite the foul weather.

Anyone with a classic car or motor cycle and interested in the club can get details by telephoning (01360) 440488, 550752 or 660416.

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The Ivy Cycling Club



The Ivy Cycling Club meets every Thursday at Torrance Community Centre at 7pm, throughout the year. There is a full confined event calendar in the summer months with Time trials and Pursuit Rides around the Campsie Glen. In addition there are more informal club runs out of season. Don't be put off if you've never raced before, there is a fair handicap system, so every one stands a good chance, regardless of age or ability. It's great fun and the patter is excellent. Stay and have a brew and a blether afterwards. There is a superb website where you can see the results of your endeavours, supported by photographic evidence! The new season usually starts around the end of April, but you are welcome to drop in any time, as the club meets socially in the winter months.

Visit www.ivycc.co.uk, email to: barbaralex@btinternet.com, or contact Alex Smith on 0141 772 4535.

Strathendrick & District Cycling Club.

The Club was formed in 1998 to promote an interest in cycling as a sociable activity by organizing rides and events for families and individuals primarily in the local area.

Our day out in November proved to be one of those 'iffy' days when things have an uncertain outcome. We set out from Drymen Square intent on reaching Balloch for lunch. Deteriorating weather decided the leader to head due north through Gartocharn and the warm fire-side of Ross Priory, a place much to be desired on a cold November day. Luckily, one member of the party had membership of Ross Priory so we were able to relax over lunch before returning to Drymen. Our December run from The Trossachs Holiday Park was by contrast cycled in dry frosty conditions through Aberfoyle and round Loch Ard. The mists were down on the hills, the waters like mirrors reflecting the trees and the mist in the Loch, inspiring! No cameras with us, it always happens that way.

Our first fixture of 2005 was to be a repeat of a previous year's run to Port of Mentieth, but fate decreed that we got no further than morning coffee at Ward Toll! February saw us on a circular tour through Fintry for lunch.

Details of future events from:
01360 660437 or 01389 830248 .

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Balfour High School was the venue for the Battle of the Bands on January 21st which was a fundraising event held during the lunch break, and organised by the sixth years. It involved auditions and the successful bands performed in a final concert. The winner won the majority of votes from the audience of pupils. The 50p entrance fee went to the Tsunami appeal. This year the winner was indie band Nothing Left (fifth-year students Javoud Habibi on guitar, James Dunaway, bass and William Hudson, drums). They go on to the next round in Stirling's Albert Hall on March 24th.

The amount raised for the appeal was the grand total of £2200.

Siobhan Wilson

Beavers and Cubs do their bit

23rd Killearn Beavers and Cubs are doing their bit for charity along with 'having fun with friends!'

In November all 20 Beavers danced for 10 minutes and were silent for 5 minutes collecting £219.50 in sponsorship money which they donated to the national Children in Need appeal. A big thank you to all Beavers, their friends and families!

Meanwhile the Cubs were doing their bit for charity, busily making crafts for the annual Scout 'Bring and Buy Sale' held at the end of February. Money raised went to the Tsunami Disaster appeal fund.

PLAYPARK UPDATE

At the Killearn Community Council meeting in June 2004 representation was made by a number of residents about the condition of the Playpark in the recreation field behind the Black Bull. Stirling Council acknowledged the poor maintenance and as a result repaired the equipment where possible, renewed the bark covering and repaired and repainted the fence. This was a significant improvement, but it was acknowledged by the Council that there was still a need for new play equipment and for a more inviting and interesting layout.

After the Killearn Community Council meeting, local residents established a working group of the Killearn Community Futures Company. With support from Stirling Council and a landscape architect, outline plans have been drawn up for the refurbishment of the playpark. These outline plans are exciting and ambitious, but the final plans will inevitably be determined by the outcome of the fund-raising process. Copies of the outline plans will be available for public consultation on the notice board outside Spar, and in the Church and Village Halls. Please take the time to look at the plans and let the group have your thoughts on the plans, which can be emailed to:

killearnpark@freeuk.com, or deposited in a box at the Post Office

After the consultation, the group will go ahead with fundraising. If you have an interest in assisting us, please let the group know.

Alan Cairns

YOUTH OPINION

94p return to London with Ryanair... or Strathblane for £2 Return.

And that's a child's ticket. For the teenagers of Killearn there's the ongoing struggle to find things to do and places to go. The short term solution to our problems was 'Go into town on Friday and Saturday nights'. This would get us out of the way of our local residents and keep us out of trouble from the police. However, there then occurred another problem: the public transport.

If you're lucky enough to get on a bus, which are nearly always running late or just don't come, the cost to sit on a damp, cold, uncomfortable, dirty bus is more expensive than going on a short city break. When asking the young people of Killearn what would make the village better, they said *more buses* and *cheaper buses*.

We think that the bus company should do a cheaper all-day ticket for the safety of the younger people who use the service. For example, if you are going out, you only have enough money for your bus ticket and nothing else, and when you get there you end up stranded and you don't have enough money for a ticket home. However, if you had bought an all-day ticket you could use that.

Another reason is most of the people that use the public buses are either OAP's or teenagers so therefore don't have full-time jobs and can't afford to spend a lot of money on transport to get to work.

It would make a lot of difference to the people that use the busses and wouldn't make much difference to the bus company as it has to make the journey anyway, whether I get on the bus or not.

KILLEARN PRIMARY PTA NEWS



The PTA would like to thank parents and residents for their continued support of our events. Tea towels decorated with a self-portrait of every child in the school have raised nearly £1,000 to date. This money was used to provide 2 Sony camcorders which will benefit the whole school. The Primary 6 and 7 children will find them particularly useful for creating their citizenship projects.

In addition, our regular events including the Halloween disco, Christmas Fayre, Jumble Sale and Burns Coffee Morning have raised a further £2,000. With your help we are well on our way to reaching this year's target of £5,000.

Forthcoming dates for your diary are:

Friday 11th March – Kids 'stars in your eyes' night, Village Hall, 7 – 10pm.

Saturday 21st May – School Fete 11am – 1pm at the school.

Saturday 18th June – Duck Race 11am River Endrick then Family BBQ in the playground 6 – 9pm

The children will also be taking part in a sponsored Fun Run in April. *Lynn Simmers*



**23rd Forth Valley
Scout Group**

JUMBLE SALE
KILLEARN VILLAGE HALL
Saturday 19th March
10.00 till 12.00 a.m

Admission £1.00 (50p conc)

Enquiries – please phone:
Fiona McVicar ~ 01360-550667
or Lynn Simmers ~ 01360-550769

BALFRON HIGH IN JAPAN by David Steel

In October this year one teacher and a group of 8 students in 3rd and 4th year went on an exchange trip to Japan. After about 28 hours of travelling, we arrived at Sanwa Town Hall where a welcome party awaited us. Most of the Scottish students stayed in pairs with their Japanese families, but two of the students stayed alone with families who they already knew.

We were introduced to our Japanese families during the welcome party and afterwards we went home with them to get used to Japanese life. My Japanese family consisted of a mother, father, 3 children, a grandmother and a great grandmother. They all stayed in one house which we were surprised to find was very big, along with many of the other houses in the area.

The weather in Japan was very hot and sunny for nearly all of the holiday, but

the last two days was very wet and quite windy due to an advancing typhoon.

During the trip we did many new and exciting activities. One of my favourite trips was to Ninja Moora, where there were



assault courses, mazes and target practice all in the ninja style. Another of my favourites was the bobsleighbing. We all took the ski lift to the top of a big hill where there were great views of the surround-

ing area, then we raced each other down with almost no idea of how to make the thing slow down.

We also had many other activities like sports events and visits to the local school. We learned many new skills in Japan like how to use chopsticks and how to write our names in Japanese. We did learn to speak a little Japanese before the trip which came in handy, but things did get a bit confusing when grandmothers attempted to converse with you in fluent Japanese!

The food there, as you would expect, was very different, but delicious all the same. Rice and fish made up most of a meal, often with fruit for starters. It took a while to get used to using chopsticks but by the end most could.

After 10 days in Japan it was time to say goodbye. There was a farewell party for us all the day before we left and the Japanese children played instruments or gave us demonstrations of different things like karate. After that it was the Scottish students turn and Suzy Smith did us proud with some highland dancing and Andrew entertained us with his bagpipes.

The following evening we said a tearful good bye to our friends and 'families,' and began the long journey home. When we arrived in Scotland we were all very happy to see our families again, but not quite so happy to be back in Scotland!

Everyone who went on the Japanese exchange had a really great time and most of us would like to return in the near future. I learnt so many new things and made many new friends and I would definitely recommend the Japanese experience to anyone!

LETTERS

We welcome letters from readers. Please include a full name and address (not necessarily for publication). Contact addresses on page 15.

We reserve the right to edit letters.

Dear Editor

The kids of Killearn would like some new football goals because the original goals are rusty, have no good netting and one of the goals are bigger than the other. Some people have complained about new goalposts and I think if we got new goals then we will all be happy.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Norval

Dear Sir

Killearn is generally a lovely place to live and a place of natural beauty. However, there are a few points I would like to raise that could make Killearn a better place.

Firstly, there is no proper pavement going up or down Station Road or through the park and past the Black Bull. This has been noted particularly by myself and several friends who walk from the bottom of Killearn to get the school bus everyday (due to alterations in bus service as the bridge is closed). It is dangerous and very muddy.

Secondly, there is poor street lighting in Killearn, particularly at the bottom of Station Road and going past the park and the Black Bull to get the school bus on a dark winter morning and returning in the evening.

Lastly, it is imperative that the bridge on Station Road gets fixed immediately so that school bus service can resume normally (as well as other transport services). This is not because of the walk, but because school pupils get soaked on the walk and many pupils (especially seniors) have a large volume of heavy books to carry. Moreover, it is imperative that this bridge gets fixed so that normal gritting services can resume and ensure safety on the roads in Killearn.

Yours sincerely

Christina Barr

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Closing date – 30th April 2005

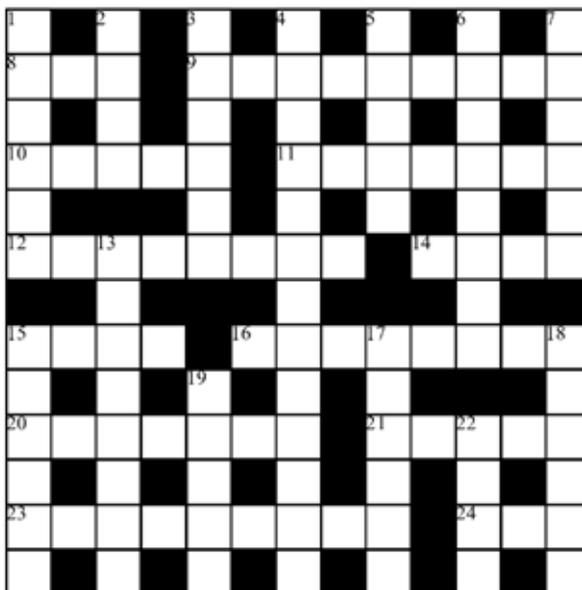


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Across

- 8 With it seed (3)
- 9 Clinton not in, gone away to this Cheshire town (9)
- 10 A Greek chemical bond (5)
- 11 The Scots snuggle right for this messenger (7)
- 12 You have to murder to make money here! (8)
- 14 A hundred in line for a bird (4)
- 15 Standard iris (4)
- 16 The peacekeepers are listened to – no they're not! (8)
- 20 A single headland can be united (7)
- 21 This drink is hot (5)
- 23 I rude? Not I, I have learning (9)
- 24 To the Scot, food goes down backwards! (3)

Down

- 1 The mixed up sheik – right to cry out? (6)
- 2 Being receptive, I love to write (4)
- 3 99 twice the French is frozen water (6)
- 4 Anchor antics I find old-fashioned (13)
- 5 Sounds like 16 down came from the mill (5)
- 6 O the bishop in a demure manner can fix the carpet (5,3)
- 7 This saint is apt to wander (6)
- 13 Omit this – the soldier's pass has expired (5,3)
- 15 Sounds like 5 is in the border (6)
- 17 Out of the tepee is the compass (6)
- 18 In this village chaps are thirsty (6)
- 19 Scottish mountain in West Africa (5)
- 22 Information has changed the end date.

Place your completed crossword in the box in Spar.

Name

Address

CHILDREN'S WORD SEARCH (12 and under only)

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- 1. The name of the hill above our local distillery. _____
- 2. Change the letters around to find a road. ETRIB _____
- 3. Which shop is the Post Office in? _____
- 4. A lovely wooded place. _____
- 5. Where a girl might go on Wednesday evening. _____
- 6. What colour is the bull? _____
- 7. A country with a king is called this and a wood to play in. _____
- 8. A street beginning with B (find which one!) _____
- 9. Which building has two clocks on its spire? _____
- 10. The name of the road where the new cemetery is _____
- 11. How many full-size courts at the Tennis Club? _____
- 12. The surname of the man with a monument. _____
- 13. Which road has *New* in its name? _____
- 14. The house on Balfron Road where taxes were collected. _____
- 15. If you are a boy you might be in this, baby lions are so called. _____
- 16. Unjumble the letters to find a road. RNEAZTBIR _____
- 17. The grassy place where the fireworks are held. _____
- 18. The name of Killearn's new newspaper. _____

Find the answers to the questions about Killearn in the wordsearch.

Closing date – 30th April 2005

Circle your answers, enter your name and address, and place your completed word grid in the box in Spar.

The first correct entry pulled out of the box after the closing date will win a £10 Spar voucher.

Name Address

BEAR EXCHANGE

Killearn Primary School and Sherwood Heights have done a Bear Exchange. It all started when Mrs Scott went to America and visited some schools in Maine.

Mrs Scott thought of the idea to do a Bear Exchange. So a couple of people went to the Bear Factory and got a bear they also got him some trendy clothes. Primary six chose the name Scotty, and the surname Mac for the bear. Then a couple of people went to the Post Office and posted the bear to Sherwood Heights School in America.

A few weeks later we received two bears – a wee one called Liberty and a big one called Justice.

The two bears have a happy life going home and coming back to school with people from Primary six.



Justice



Scotty



Liberty

BT AWARD

Killearn Primary School has been awarded £2,000 to develop talking and listening skills in recognition of the work the school has undertaken to develop good citizenship among its pupils. As part of their curriculum work they have focussed on key aspects of good citizenship. Primary 6 contacted many famous people to ask them about their own values. The result is a 'Big Book of Values', which includes many of the responses they received from famous and important people such as Provost O'Brien, Gordon Brown, Prince William and the Queen. Primary 7 has been carrying out research in Killearn to find out who are the good citizens in the village. Boxes asking for nominations were in many of the village shops late last year. The class is now planning to host a Good Citizens of Killearn Awards evening in March.

STIG NEWS

In Killearn Primary School, the Steering Team for the Improvement of the Grounds, STIG for short, has been helping the school for over ten years now. In 2004, we concentrated



on a bare space to which we gave a maritime theme. The basis of the "Seascape" was an old rowing boat, which was turned into a piece of play equipment by a parent. We also built a jetty beside the boat, creating an open angle in which a class could be gathered for outdoor lessons, a performance could be staged or a game played out. The theme continued with a gravel area planted with grasses and edged with bamboo to give the feel of a reedy riverbank or a shingle beach. Lots of parents helped with this. The idea is not just to be a great place to play, but to make a resource to use in classwork. It can be a Viking ship, a seaside habitat, part of a story or a topic for any class in the school.

After completion we waited (impatiently) for Stirling Council to examine the Seascape for safety. Unfortunately it was November when they announced all it needed was a non-slip surface on the jetty and we have been waiting ever since for the wood to be dry enough to coat with a special non-slip paint. Hopefully, by the time you read this all will be complete, the boat will have been named and it will be carrying crews of Killearn Primary schoolchildren to all sorts of adventures on the high seas of the school grounds.



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