



## Development of Old School site

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An extra meeting of Killearn Community Council was held on 9 July, prompted by the importance of the planning concerns surrounding proposals for the Schoolhouse and Old School site on Main Street.



Around 80 villagers attended the meeting in the Village Hall. Plans for the proposed changes to both the Schoolhouse and Old School were on display before the start of the meeting.

Chairman Brenda Pell set out the responsibilities and constraints on the Community Council in planning issues, as well as giving a short history of the Old School, commenting that since being taken into Council hands 'loss of heritage' had become a sensitive issue arousing 'strong opinion' in the village.

Carlo Dinardo and Karen Dinardo were invited to introduce their plans for these two important village sites. Mr Dinardo concentrated on three main issues: change of use of the Old School, access to the site,

and the proposed extension to the Schoolhouse. The Community Council accepted the need to make use of the site, however, the question of access to the site and the extension of the Schoolhouse aroused the most debate during questioning by Community Councillors and villagers. Mr Dinardo answered questions from both the Councillors and the Chair, with occasional interventions from Ms Dinardo.

The plans show the solution to the access problem by the creation of a new road between Bruce Cottage and the Schoolhouse. This would use a portion of the Schoolhouse garden to widen the current Public Right of Way (PROW). The metalled lane between Hillview and the Schoolhouse would be incorporated into the Schoolhouse garden, although the occupants of Hillview Cottage have established servitude over their use of the existing lane. Mr Dinardo stated that Stirling Council's Road Department agreed that the new entrance between the Schoolhouse and Bruce Cottage might be a solution to the problem of access. However, he failed to convince many at the meeting, several of whom pointed out that the change would put another entry into the Main Street between Crosshead Road and Headrigg Square and be very close to the entrance to Calibae. A point was also made that new

### View from the top

See page 11 for a birds-eye view from Killearn's top spot.



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COMMUNITY FUTURES COMPANY

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Christmas edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 15th November 2008.

#### Advertisements and Artwork

All adverts should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by **Friday, 3rd October**. Gwen Stewart can be contacted on 01360 550856 and Sara Hudson on 01360 550806.

#### Contributions

All contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by **Friday, 3rd October**. Send them to:

2 Elder Road, Killearn  
or email to [courier@kcfc.co.uk](mailto:courier@kcfc.co.uk).

**Our advertisers make the Courier possible, so please support them.**

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*Continued inside on page 5...*

## Thought for the Day – Paul’s Secret

In June, nine members of the Robert Laws Secondary School visited Balforn High School. They stayed with local families, four of them in Killearn, one in the Manse.



**Mr Nation Mafuleka**

Mr Nation Mafuleka is a biology teacher, and a keen Christian. He had helped the voluntary group ‘Student Christian Movement of Malawi’ to grow until half the school had joined – by professing faith. He was a delightful guest.

He and his wife have five children, plus three nephews and nieces orphaned by AIDS. He supplements his meagre teacher’s salary by farming

and marking exam papers. He thinks nothing of cycling 25 miles each way if he has duties at another school. His nearest internet connection is 60 miles by bus.

The visitors all laughed to hear us call Killearn a ‘village’, and could not get over the length of daylight. I’d like to share Nation’s words as he prepared to leave for home.

We had been stuffing and weighing cases until late on the eve of his departure, hoping to take as many of the donated clothes as the airline would permit. Next morning, he said he had read *Ecclesiastes* before going to sleep. That’s a book in which Solomon recognises that all his wealth, power and women were meaningless without God.

Nation had worked out how he could leave our luxury and return to a simple lifestyle: ‘All the *things* that people possess mean nothing, if they do not have Christ.’

He had learned Paul’s secret: ‘I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord... I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want: I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.’ Philippians 3:8; 4:12–13

As we in Scotland enter a period of economic upheaval, maybe society is going to have to learn that contentment is more important than wealth; that having a personal relationship with Jesus is safer than having money in the bank.

*Philip Malloch*

## Malawians Come to Scotland



**At the Leaving Party**

After last year’s highly successful trip to Robert Laws Secondary School, it was Balforn High and the local community’s turn to welcome the returning Malawian pupils and teachers to Scotland! The visit was 3–19 June, and during this time they managed to pack in a whole host of activities, including visits to Linlithgow Palace, Edinburgh Castle, a local farm, Inchcailloch, the Scottish Parliament, Glasgow Science Centre and Ardmay House activity centre, as well as an entertaining hike up Dumgoyne! A lot of the time was spent in Balforn High itself and with the local host families – Augustine Chirambo, the headteacher, Nation Mafuleka, Madalitso Sanga and pupil Robert Malongo were all staying in Killearn. It was fantastic to be able to welcome the Malawians to Scotland and into our homes, and the Balforn High – Robert Laws exchange grew greatly in strength. Some reflections on the trip from the Malawians themselves will be appearing in the next edition of the *Killearn Courier*.



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# EDITORIAL

When I read through the proof of this edition, I became very aware of the amount of time spent by numerous local people in their support of charities, local groups and the community in general. Just think for a moment what it would be like if we did not have unpaid volunteers working away for the benefit of our Community – no Community Council, no KCFC, no Scouts, Guides, Boys' Brigade, no *Courier*! Killearn would be so much poorer if we did not have such people in our midst.

But like all things, changes do take place for a variety of reasons, people retire or move on, or find that they are unable to spend as much time as they would like doing what they are involved in.

The *Courier* is no exception and we have had a couple of changes. In fact, this is the last edition that will have Fay Pascoe's regular *Nature Notes*. Many thanks to Fay for her support over the years and we wish her well in her new surroundings. Not to worry though – we have Jenny Wilks taking her place.

We also say goodbye to Nancy Bailey, our sub-editor. Every contribution passes across her desk where, if needed, they are 'tweaked' to suit our layout, to read better, etc., without losing the meaning. Her job is the one that kick-starts the whole process involved in producing an edition, and her loss will be keenly felt by all members of the Group. She has given much of her time, unstintingly, to the *Courier* and many thanks for that.

When we heard of her 'departure', we followed along the lines of a well-known TV programme (but without involving Andrew Lloyd-Webber), in our hunt for a 'Nancy'. Fortunately, we found one in Lennie Lindsay.

So, we lose a valued member of the Group and a regular contributor at the same time but, lo and behold!, two volunteers step forward and we are back on track.

Restores your faith in people, doesn't it? Enjoy this issue.

Ian

Ian Dickie  
Editor

## LETTERS

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

18 March 2008

Dear Editor

The Dinardo Partnership was surprised to make the headlines relating to plans for the Old School etc. There were a number of inaccuracies and unfair criticism and innuendos, which you might be kind enough to take note of.

1. The proposals with conservation in mind were initial thoughts to introduce flatlet units, in the old retained and repaired school building, that would be popular for Killearn. The number of units would exceed those laid down by Stirling Council provided the limited restrictive existing access road was resolved.

If resolved, to a superior, safer format, to that which exists today, and the due legal Planning process allowed more units, then more units would be built.

There is no question whatsoever that anyone would be allowed to exceed those to be permitted by the Planners.

The purchase price for the site will increase if more than 2 units were to be permitted.

2. The alternative road access solution would remove the problems of narrowness, and the proximity to the elbow of Main Street-Balfron Road and would produce a safe extended sight-line arrangement than exists today. Parts of the Old School House would be utilised.

Once that is provided the existing problem is removed and the added number of units and their cars can be accommodated quite simply. It would not exceed other similar existing working arrangements nearby.

3. We wish to establish that the developers intend to conserve, improve and preserve (in use) old Killearn buildings and their accesses to them to the advantage of all, both private and public interests., It is exactly for this reason that we have made our initial thoughts known to all parties at an early date, so that the consultative process is achieved with the best interests of the neighbours of Killearn.

Once all parties have made their views known and this process is exhausted, the Council will thereafter award their consents and approvals.

It is necessary not to jump ahead and draw wrong conclusions, stirring up unnecessary controversy, when none, none at all, is merited. The plans will be modified now and resubmitted based on responses and views received.

Developments in Killearn will be towards improvements which will benefit us all in the community.

Regards

Yours sincerely

Dinardo Partnership

## Deadlines

I'm often asked why we want contributions and adverts in to us by a certain date. The reason is really quite simple – we have to meet deadlines!

To get the *Courier* through your letterbox when we say we will, time is needed to do any editing required, contact contributors and advertisers if there are any problems, and get everything 'laid out' ready for printing. A 'late' submission will either miss out on the issue or cause a re-jigging of the entire lay-out.

Then the whole lot goes off to the printer, who needs about 2–3 weeks to get it done. All of this takes time, hence the deadline date which we always publish on the bottom left-hand corner of the front page.

All that said, many thanks for your continuing support and keep these contributions coming!

Ed

## Killearn Health Centre

will close at 12.30 pm on the following dates for training purposes. The dates do not affect Physiotherapy appointments.

Tuesday 26 August

Wednesday 24 Sept

Thursday 23 October

Wednesday 26 November

## WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOPS

with local artist Iona Buchanan

### PAINTING FLOWERS

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September

10am – 3.30 pm

Killearn Village Hall

Tuition, Materials and Lunch at the Old Mill all included

### STEP-BY-STEP

### LANDSCAPE PAINTING

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October

10am – 3.30 pm

Killearn Village Hall

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For more information and to book call Iona on

01360 860 121



## Days Like This

An exciting nationwide project is being run by Scottish Book Trust and BBC Radio Scotland called Days Like This.

Days Like This will give people across Scotland the chance to be a part of the nation's history by writing about a special day in their life which made a strong impression on them. The project aims to gather thousands of extraordinary tales, from born-and-bred Scots to newly-arrived immigrants, from Moffat to Orkney.

To take part in Days Like This, all people need to do is write about a day in their life that was a bit extraordinary: it could be the day they didn't get married, or the day they got lost in a supermarket; it could be a childhood memory or something that happened yesterday. If the story is true and centres on a single day, we want to hear it!

Author Irvine Welsh, broadcaster Hardeep Singh Kohli, mountaineer Jamie Andrew, actress Siobhan Redmond, percussionist Evelyn Glennie and Idlewild frontman Roddy Woomble have joined the project as celebrity curators, writing and recording their own story as an inspiration for people to do the same.

Anyone can send a story – content is what matters! Stories should be no longer than 1,000 words and can be about anything, as long as it's true! All stories will appear on the BBC website for everyone to read. The celebrity panel will choose their favourites to be recorded and discussed in a series of radio programmes and published in a book in 2009. The deadline is 1 November 2008.

For more details (including the curators' stories), click on:

[www.bbc.co.uk/radioscotland/dayslikethis](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radioscotland/dayslikethis)

The project leaflet can be found on the website:

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

For a hard copy, contact:

Clare Rodgers, Programme Assistant

Telephone: 0131 524 0166

[clare.rodgers@scottishbooktrust.com](mailto:clare.rodgers@scottishbooktrust.com)

## Robert Hugh MacCallum Gourlay 1947–2008

Robert was born in Maryhill in Glasgow to Grace and Robert. At the age of one, his family moved to Dumgoyne. His father was a vehicle mechanic with the Alexander Bus Company. Robert was the oldest of eight children, and received his schooling at Killearn and Balfron, leaving school at 15 to become a delivery boy with the Co-op in Killearn. He carried on in the food retail trade and became manager of Low's Supermarket in Milngavie. To further his career, he trained as a technician with M.I.T.A. photocopier manufacturers, and was stationed in London, travelling to Hong Kong and Japan. He then gave up this travelling and stressful job, and joined Stirling District Cleansing Department. He was very conscientious in his work, and many here in West Stirlingshire were thankful for his aid and advice on how to get rid of unwanted articles. Robert was a colourful character, and a former member of Killearn Boys' Brigade, rising to the rank of corporal. His generosity to local charities was given with a free hand. His exuberance toward Killearn Football Club was unstinting – his first appearance in a Killearn strip was at the age of 14 in 1961. His golfing was good: he had a hole in one on the Aberfoyle course (no one else has achieved this honour to date). At darts he excelled, and when we look at Robert, anything competitive appealed.

His health deteriorated greatly in his last years, but he had visitors, and the vast throng who attended his cremation at Clydebank and afterwards at the Black Bull speak of his popularity with the community.

JAF

## John MacGowan 1976–2008



It was with great shock that the village learned of the sudden and unexpected death of John MacGowan at the age of 32.


John was the son of Ros and Walter MacGowan, and grew up in Killearn. In childhood he was a lively member of the Cubs, and played the Raven in a memorable village production of *Noyes Fludde* in 1983.

School did not appeal to John and his growing-up years are described by his parents as 'colourful!' He was an active Celtic supporter despite being brought up in his father's traditional allegiance to Partick Thistle.

His sense of mischief and his inventiveness became transformed into a strong entrepreneurial bent as he grew to adulthood. He tried several types of job, set up his own successful internet business and was thinking of new business possibilities when he died.

It is the cruellest stroke of fate that John's life ended when he was on the threshold of marriage to Kirsten, the love of his life, to whom he was utterly devoted. To her and to his parents and his sister Kate, her husband, Robert, and their two children, to whom John was a beloved son, brother, brother-in-law and uncle, the *Courier* extends its sincere sympathy.

BP



## Woodland Burial

...an environmentally sensitive alternative

The new woodland cemetery in Killearn has been created to meet a growing demand for natural burial. For information or a brochure on how to plan a woodland burial and for all types of funeral arrangements please contact me...

**Jamie Pearson**  
Funeral Director DipFD MBIFD

Fintry Manse · Kippen Road · Fintry · G63 0YQ  
[jamespearson@btinternet.com](mailto:jamespearson@btinternet.com)

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# Development of Old School site

(continued from page 1)

traffic calming measures, specifically a mini roundabout at the corner of the Balfron Road and Main Street, would go some way to slowing traffic, making the new access unnecessary.

A number of questions explored the relationship between access and the size of the eventual build. Mr Dinardo explained that the site had been bought on condition of two units being built, but that improved access would allow the three that appear on the plans. Dinardo Partnership would pay Stirling Council an increased amount if more units were approved. The plans show spaces for between 17 and 19 vehicles, and these were described as parking for guests of the property owners.

Questions from Councillors also examined the proposed extension to the Schoolhouse. These plans include a two-storey round turret. The property, considered one of the finest in Killearn, is within the conservation area but not a listed building. Questions from the Council showed concern that the additions neither related to nor were sympathetic toward the original house, a necessary constraint in a conservation area. Mr Dinardo gave several examples of instances where turrets had been added to homes.

Other concerns raised at this generally thoughtful and well-organised meeting included the retention of the steps leading down to Calibae from the proposed new access road, the manner in which the Calibae neighbours were consulted about the proposed buildings, the preservation of roosting bats, and the legality of Stirling Council including the PROW in the sale without first establishing legal ownership. Another strong concern was expressed in relation to the field behind the site, and whether improved access might lead to it also being sold to developers in the future. Killearn Community Councillors summed up their views at the end of the meeting, based on the existing plans and arguments from the Dinardo Partnership and from the floor. The Council unanimously opposed the extension to the Schoolhouse, based predominantly on conservation area issues. They also opposed the plans for the Old School by a majority. This was based on concerns about the change of access. They also voted to oppose the number of units increasing from two to three unless the current access was retained.



- 19 Aug *Panik Gallery*. Local Artists' Exhibition (until 14 September).
  - 20 Aug *Balfron High School*, new session begins.
  - 20 Aug *Killearn Primary School*, new session begins.
  - 20 Aug *Playgroup*, new session begins. Church Hall, 9.30–12 noon.
  - 21 Aug *Walk About Stirling*. Meet 10.45 am Oakwood Nursery. Walk along West Highland Way (for schedule of weekly walks, contact Susi 440849).
  - 24 Aug *Strathendrick Cycling Club*. Cycling near Auchterarder and Social Cycling Fortnightly. Contact Morag Jervis (660437).
  - 27 Aug *Thai Chi* (every Wednesday). Church Hall, 1-3 pm. Contact Karen Limb (550461).
  - 30 Aug *Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society* Show. Village Hall. Doors open 2–4.30 pm. Contact Glenda Asquith (550142).
  - 2 Sept *Get Reel* Registration plus Come & try. Balfron Campus, 4–6 pm. Contact Sara Bell (550770).
  - 4 Sept *Probus Club of Strathendrick* First meeting of the season. Church Hall, Killearn, 10 am.
  - 4 Sept *Thursday Club* First meeting of the season. Church Hall, 2 pm. Contact Betty Smith (550486).
  - 6 Sept *Wee Green Market* Village Hall, 10 am. For further information contact Jaqui McAlpine (551659).
  - 8 Sept *Strathendrick Singers* First Rehearsal, Kirk Session House, 7.45 pm. New members welcome. Contact C. Heron (551174).
  - 10 Sept *Inner Wheel* First meeting Black Bull, 6.45 pm.
  - 21 Sept *Panik Gallery* Autumn Exhibition (until 2 November).
  - 27 Sept *Drymen & District Local History Society* Two illustrated talks: John Mitchell, "Sheillings on Loch Lomondside" and Libby Urquhart, "Cashel Sheiling Project". Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
  - 4 Oct *Wee Green Market* Village Hall, 10 am. For further information contact Jaqui McAlpine (551659).
  - 5 Oct *Harvest Thanksgiving*. Killearn Kirk, 10.30 am.
  - 6 Oct *Monday Club* Bridge and badminton start. Village Hall, 1.30 pm.
  - 7 Oct *The Guild* First Meeting, Harvest Evening. Church Hall, 7.30 pm.
  - 7 Oct *Colourful Killearn*. AGM. Village Hall Committee Room, 8 pm.
  - 9 Oct *Friends of CINI* Lunch and Bridge. Millennium Hall, Gartocharn, 12 for 12.30. Contact M. Kennedy (550474).
  - 18 Oct *Friends of Strathcarron*. Autumn Fair. McLintock Hall, Balfron, 10 am – 4 pm.
  - 23 Oct *Drymen & District Local History Society* An illustrated talk by Lesley Brown, "The Maid of the Loch". Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
  - 25 Oct *RNLI*. Coffee Morning & Sale of Christmas Cards. Village Hall, 10 am – 12 noon.
  - 27 Oct *Monday Club* First Social Monday. Village Hall, 2 pm.
  - 29 Oct *Strathendrick Rotary* Charity Bridge. Village Hall, 7 for 7.30 pm.
  - 30 Oct *Killearn Community Futures Company* AGM, Village Hall, 7 pm.
  - 31 Oct *Killearn PTA* Hallowe'en Disco. Village Hall, 6.30–9 pm.
  - 1 Nov *Crossroads*. Coffee Morning. Village Hall, 10 am.
  - 5 Nov *Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society*, talk by James Williams of the National Vegetable Society, "Growing and Showing Vegetables", Village Hall, 7.30 pm.
  - 7 Nov *Panik Gallery*, Christmas Exhibition (until 24 December).
  - 8 Nov *Wee Green Market* Village Hall, 10 am. For further information contact Jaqui McAlpine (551659).
  - 14 Nov *WR/Whist Drive*. Village Hall, 7 pm.
  - 21 Nov *Strathendrick Country Dance Club* Annual Charity Dance. Village Hall, 7–11.30 pm.
  - 27 Nov *Drymen & District Local History Society* An illustrated talk by Ewen Donaldson, "The Restoration of the Kibble Palace". Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
  - 29 Nov *The Guild* Sale of Work. Church Hall, 2 pm.
- If you have any dates for the November 2008 issue (mid November 2008 to mid March 2009) of the Diary, please contact Pat Ryall (550713).**



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# Changes at the Abbeyfield

Our Abbeyfield House in Beech Drive which provides very sheltered housing for the elderly has provided an important service for residents of Killearn and their families for over 20 years. Changes have taken place in the organisation and management of Abbeyfield Societies all over the UK and we in Killearn have opted to join with the majority of the Scottish Societies to follow this lead. This will not affect the operation of the House, which is still firmly established in our community, or the care provided for the residents, which will be maintained at the high level we have been used to and look forward to this continuing for many years.

The Killearn Abbeyfield Society has been an independent charitable body since its formation, in common with all Societies in the Abbeyfield movement. The management of the Society has been invested in a group of volunteers who have taken responsibility for operating it as an Industrial and Provident Society in the same way as any commercial organisation, with all that that entails in the multiplicity of legal requirements which safeguard the residents of the house and its links with the community. These complex aspects of running a business never detracted from the volunteers' main aim which was to provide a happy and comfortable home for those who have found a need for the support that the Society can offer.

We have always succeeded in meeting our aims, both on the business side and the care of the residents. But the world is changing, and we have to alter our methods to meet the new challenges. The

volume of legislation coming out of Holyrood and Westminster, aimed at providing protection for the elderly from unscrupulous landlords, bogus tradesman and others, has escalated in recent years and resulted in the establishment of many new Government agencies for enforcement. We have had to accept that the bureaucratic overload, in addition to the responsibilities at law that this entailed, had reached proportions that imposed an excessive burden on the volunteer Executive.

In common with over 30 Scottish Abbeyfields and around 400 in England, we found that this was also making it difficult to recruit new volunteers so we supported the proposal to set up an Abbeyfield Housing Association to take over the administration of the Societies, using professional staff. It was recognised from the beginning that the strength of Abbeyfield was in the ethos produced by the volunteer element and that even though the business side could be handled by a central organisation, the well-being and support for the residents would still have to be provided by a local group which would be called 'Friends of Abbeyfield'.

This is the point that we have reached at our Abbeyfield House in Killearn. The new body, called 'Abbeyfield Scotland Ltd', is based in Edinburgh and has recruited a small staff of peripatetic area managers, each with responsibility for a group of Societies. Our Housekeeper, now more of a House manager, reports to the area manager but maintains close links with the Friends. Virtually all the previous committee members have agreed to maintain their relationship with the house as Friends and have willingly accepted responsibility for providing whatever support or assistance the residents may need in addition to the organisation of in-house entertainment and outings. This continuity is very important for the residents who might otherwise be fearful of the change in management procedures. I am glad to say that everything is proceeding with the same enthusiasm as before.

Abbeyfield is still going strong and will continue to provide accommodation for



as long as there is a need for it. We have a very happy house in Beech Drive, and if any reader would like to consider it as a possible home for a relative or friend, the Friends group will be pleased to show you around and to put you in touch with Abbeyfield Scotland if requested. Similarly, as always, we would be pleased to welcome anyone who feels that they would like to join the Friends and participate in the pleasure of supporting the activities of the House.

*Michael Pell (Chairman)*

## Jane Crawford Retires

It is with much fondness that the parents and children of Killearn and surrounding villages would like to wish Jane Crawford a very long and happy retirement. Jane has been a much-loved and respected childminder in the village for 18 years, and we will all be lost without her. She and her husband, Lawrence, will certainly not be stuck for something to do. With five children and nine grandchildren to visit around the globe, there will be a lot more foreign travel on the cards. Jane has also designed three large vegetable patches in her beautiful garden, so she can turn her attention to nurturing her carrots and runner beans instead of the villages' children.

Good luck Jane and Lawrence. Thank you for all your care and attention.

Bon voyage and happy gardening!

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# CARROCHAN



Passing through Balloch one cannot fail to notice the impressive new building that has gone up opposite the Co-op supermarket.

Carrochan is the new headquarters building of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority. The new building had to represent in a visual way what the park stands for, be environmentally sustainable, yet be economic to construct and run. The sensuous curves of the building are designed to make sense of the site which is placed on a circular junction with Balloch Park to the north and the busy Road to the Isles. The architect calls it the soft 'S' plan which inhales the sweep of the roundabout and exhales it in a counter twist towards the Country Park! Whatever the reasoning, most people I have talked to find the structure both attractive and eye-catching.

The architect's brief required them to meet the highest environmental

## Orienteers

Forth Valley Orienteers are planning to hold an orienteering event around Killearn on Wednesday, 27 August 2008 from 5–8 pm. This event is part of our summer evening programme and will involve approx 50–60 participants.

If you would like further details on orienteering you can visit our website at:

[www.fvo.org.uk](http://www.fvo.org.uk)



benchmark possible within the allocated budget. This determined that the structure would be timber framed, clad in natural slate and stone and insulated with sheep's wool, all sourced locally if possible. It was decided after much research to use green (that is untreated and not kiln-dried) Douglas fir for the frame, all of which was obtained from Grampian and Cumbria. The Burlington slate used for roof, walls and floors came from the Lake District after it was decided that it was not possible to reopen the Aberfoyle quarry. Over 2,500 local sheep sacrificed their winter coats for the insulation.

On walking into the building the first thing that strikes you are the massive wooden beams, which being green are cracking and moving as they dry. The inside of the building is designed to be a work space, a social space and a community space. The whole office is open plan, but the curved walls do not give the impression of working in a large open area. Overhead natural lighting and the high roof make it a really light and pleasant working environment. The social space gives staff places to interact, share ideas or just relax. The community space is for the use of local communities, partner agencies such as SEPA, and the local community.

To meet the strict environmental requirements, the building is heated by a biomass boiler using wood chips as a fuel. It is planned that grey water



harvesting and solar panels will be retro-fitted, and the boiler converted to generate electricity when this becomes possible. The building has a very low carbon footprint, generating less than half the carbon of a conventional office building. One important requirement, that the site be easily accessible by public transport, has been realised.

Carrochan is a rare beast, environmentally friendly, a first-rate place to work, looks good and was built on time within the budget. Staff moved in on 21 April 2008, which just happened to be the birth date of John Muir, the founder of national parks in the USA.

PW



## FRASER C ROBB

**AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL ENGINEER  
STIRLING ROAD**

**STRIMMERS**

**DRYMEN G63 0AA  
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The car was produced from 1949–53 and was classed as a super sporting car. The chassis is formed from a rigid box section frame 6.5 inch depth (162mm)! This is further strengthened by four crossmembers. All points on the chassis requiring periodic lubrication are attended to by a pedal-operated ‘oneshot’ system.

Independent suspension is used at the front, employing a laminated transverse spring and wishbones connected to double hydraulic dampers of Bristol’s own design. The rear suspension is by torsion bars assisted by hydraulic dampers. The engine is a six-cylinder Bristol which has three down draught Solex carburettors which produces 80 bhp at 4200rpm.

The bodywork is of great interest as the designers have followed the constructional lines laid down by Superleggera of Italy in which a lightweight tubular structure carries the alloy panelling.

The bonnet, the petrol filler and luggage boot lid are all spring-loaded and can be opened from within the car. There

are no door handles; instead the doors are operated by flush-fitting push buttons, the advantage of which is that leverage cannot be applied to force the door. The car has a reliable cruising speed of 78mph, and petrol consumption of 23.5mpg. Bristols are still being produced today.

*PJP*



## STRATHENDRICK CLASSIC CAR CLUB

The previous report on the activities of the Strathendrick Classic Car Club asked that anyone interested in joining the club should contact us, and the results demonstrated the power of the press – membership jumped by 10 and now stands at 40.

Since the last issue, the club has held its two main events. The first was at the Drymen Show at the end of May. A manoeuvring test was set up in a corner of the ground, carefully planned to allow all cars a relatively even chance. In fact, the tight layout and the slippiness of the grass put the more powerful cars at something of a disadvantage, as those who tried to use too much power found to their cost – their wheels simply spun while the car went nowhere. After a free barbeque, members took part in a short but intriguing navigation run into some minor roads that most of us had never seen, let alone driven. The results of the manoeuvring test and the navigation run were combined, and Jamie Gibbon, who was driving a 1969 Rover 2000TC, was awarded the Club Championship for the year. The award for the most interesting car went to Bill McCreath’s 1939 Rover 13hp drop-head coupé.

Another navigation run was held at the end of June. Although the route was set using the ‘tulip’ form of instructions, this was only to add a bit of extra interest to a run along a number of obscure, and scenic, roads in the area, with coffee at Loch Katrine, and a buffet at Drymen at the end (not to mention bacon butties at the start) and there was sufficient information to ensure that nobody missed any of it. We were joined by a number of cars from Helensburgh Classic Car Club, and 23 cars participated, driving a route which took in part of the Carron valley, Thornhill, Callander and the Trossachs.

The next meeting is in September, and anyone interesting in joining or coming as a guest should contact the secretary on 550752.

*Robert Livingstone, Chairman*

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*Hamamelis virginiana*



# Hills and Flatland *by Joyce Begg*

For many people, one of the inherent pleasures about going on holiday is the coming home again. It is when one arrives back in this country from abroad that one notices the good things, like how green everything is, and how sleek the cows are. Various embarrassments draw themselves to one's attention too, of course, like the dirt and litter that proliferate our public places. There is not quite the same dramatic impact involved in returning from a week's sojourn in Suffolk, but just the same it is interesting to note variations in different parts of the United Kingdom.

Take the architecture. Killearn has its share of old houses, witness the top end of Main Street, the Square, and the Balfron Road. Many of these buildings have a fine historic pedigree, perhaps undergoing alterations as the centuries progress but still maintaining their status. And they are distinctly Scottish. No one would ever place them in Suffolk, just as Suffolk's ancient buildings would look most odd in Killearn. But they are both saying the same thing. These are the houses of ordinary people, occupied and looked after by generations of workers, tradesmen and professionals. The major difference is that the ones in Suffolk are often deeply thatched, usually half-timbered, and much more likely to appear on a chocolate box or jigsaw puzzle. They are breathtakingly pretty.

The landscape, too, is very easy on the eye. This is Constable country, and though one does not necessarily run into




a hay-wain at every corner, modern farming has not totally wrecked the Suffolk that Constable knew. It would be difficult to change its flatness, for a start. The soil is dark and fine and fertile, and the country lanes still have luscious hedges, home to wild roses, honeysuckle, and the odd darting stoat. The painter would surely also have recognised the huge billowing skies, where even the clouds seem full of light.

He would, however, have been deeply surprised at the quality of the roads. They are 21st-century roads, smooth, well maintained, in excellent condition – not

a pot-hole in sight. The contrast with West Stirlingshire is damning. One can only hope that ongoing roadworks in our area will make such a comparison out-dated. Eventually. In the meantime, although other parts of the country are very pleasing, we have much to love and appreciate about our own neck of the woods. The Glen is probably much as it always was, a haven of refreshment and loveliness. Then there's the brooding presence of Dumgoyne – unmistakable in its outline, immeasurably old, and reassuringly local. This is, after all, our very own extinct volcano. The whole surrounding area is green and pleasant, and the amount of moss around means we breathe very fine air. The old houses are handsome, and the newer ones provide a mixture of styles, so that they all seem to blend and settle. Just as people removed from Suffolk pine for their open landscape and their huge and ever changing skies, so we love our pretty village, our undulating fields, and our constant hills.





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# Traffic Management

In cooperation with Killearn Community Council and residents, Stirling Council are producing a plan for traffic management through the village. The plan will address the problems of speeding traffic, parking issues and the safety of pedestrians and will be implemented as finance becomes available, but we should be seeing the introduction of certain features later this year.

The first measure to be selected is the installation of a mini roundabout at the right angled bend at the top of Main Street in an attempt to make the approach from the Balforn Road to the Black Bull and the bank a safer manoeuvre.

After this, attention will turn to the Main Street where it is agreed that, by allowing parking in selected blocks on both sides of the street, the traffic will be effectively slowed.

Further measures require more consultation with householders and businesses but among the measures proposed are the installation of a mini roundabout on Balforn Road at the junction of Drumtlan Road in order to slow traffic at the entry to the village, pedestrian crossings at the head of Station Road and close to the Spar, a further mini roundabout at the junction with Beech Drive, a change of position for the speed slow sign and also for the bus stop by Spar

The opinions expressed so far reveal a range of views. What is certain is that it will be impossible to please all of the people all of the time! It is a subject that will continue to provoke argument, but Stirling Council has promised not to impose measures against the public will. If you have strong views, why not come along when this subject is on the agenda of a KCC meeting and add your opinions to the discussion.

BP



## Boys' Brigade

Our company is growing, and the boys' activities are expanding. Your local company gave a lot of money to charity, such as Children in Need and the Erskine Hospital for Veterans. However, as things grow so does the need for more helpers. Any former members, former officers or parents are very welcome to come along and help on Thursday nights. Contact Alastair Smith (550935).

## Buchanan Monument - Repairs Complete

The Buchanan Society is a registered charity and was founded in 1725 as 'The Buchanan's Charity' by a group of Glasgow merchants to 'assist the poor of the Clan and Septs and to further the Education of Members of the Clan and Septs showing promise.' These continue to be the objects of the Society.



The monument or obelisk in Killearn was erected in 1788 by the parishioners of Killearn in memory of George Buchanan. It was designed by James Craig who was also the architect of the New Town in Edinburgh.

In 1836 the monument fell into serious disrepair and the Buchanan Society contributed to the cost of restoration. In 1881 the

Society made further contributions to the repairs of the monument and this time ownership passed to the Society. All of this was in total breach of the constitution and objects of the Society, and has left the charity with the burden of upkeep of the monument. In addition the monument has been listed as a grade A structure, which means it is of national significance, and that repairs are considerably more expensive.

Recently urgent repairs were required to the monument and its surrounding wall costing in the region of £125,000. The Society was able to obtain a grant from Historic Scotland of £77,776, but has had to foot the bill for the rest of the repair costs plus professional fees which has been a considerable drain on its charitable resources.

The Buchanan Society is now concerned that the handsome, newly rebuilt wall is not damaged, yet again, by vehicles using adjacent roads and hopes to find some way of protecting the wall. It is also concerned that a monument of such national significance is left to the care of a small charity which could be called to question by the Charities Commissioners for inappropriately spending money on something which is totally outwith its charitable objects.

The future of the monument is secure for now, but questions must be asked about its long term future.

*Fiona M. Risk*  
Secretary, The Buchanan Society

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While the ladders were erected on the monument, the opportunity was taken to take photographs of the village from the top.

If you are interested in any of these photographs, contact:

*Hugh Cameron, 01360 550649.*



© Hugh Cameron

## Oswalt – MacNeill

Robert MacNeill of Allan Road, Killearn, and Sarah Oswalt of Bluffton, Indiana, in the US, were married on 5 January 2008 at



Uniondale United Methodist Church in Indiana. The reception was held at Timber Ridge Golf and Country Club.

After graduation in Biosciences from Glasgow University, Robert studied for an MBA at Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee, where Sarah was an Art History undergraduate. Now resident in Knoxville, Tennessee, Robert is in sales and marketing, and Sarah is pursuing postgraduate studies.

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### LMH THEN AND NOW

Opening in September last year, with a small team of two, LMH aimed to bring to Killearn the style and professional standards usually found in city salons. Today, with three stylists, two trainees and client numbers growing daily LMH is now firmly established as one of Killearn's thriving businesses.

Lynne McVicar who owns and runs the salon says "We have been amazed by the number of regular clients we have already. This has allowed us to bring forward our plans to develop beauty rooms and offer a tanning service upstairs."

# Business As Usual at the Tennis Club

With all the negotiations about the future of the club now settled and the lease renewed it has been great to be able to concentrate on the usual business of the tennis club.

The junior coaching programme resumed in the spring and again has been very successful and well attended. No Andy Murray clones emerging just yet, but we live in hope.

The Gents' team finished their season on a high note with a fine win away to Linlithgow II securing their place in the Central and District 1st Division for another season. Unlike some previous seasons in the top flight, all matches have been keenly contested this year. This has been due to the strong pool of players that the team can now call upon. It has been particularly encouraging to be able to introduce one of our junior members, Cameron Nicol, to the Gents' first team. Cameron played very well and held his place on merit, and it has been excellent to see his game improve as the season has gone on. Hopefully we will be able to include Cameron in the team for quite a number of seasons to come. On the downside we still have not been able to commit to fielding a 2nd team. This is something we continue to aspire to.

The Ladies team have had a mixed season. The results have been varied with only one win and three draws at time of

writing, with two re-arranged matches still to play. Whether or not we manage to stay in the second division will depend upon the results of these two matches, so it is all to play for. Despite entering only one team in the leagues (instead of our usual two) there have been weeks when we have struggled for players. Those who have played have done so with commitment and enthusiasm, and the team spirit has been

great with the emphasis being upon enjoying the games. While some of the team have played together for a few seasons the Ladies have also enjoyed getting to know those who have chosen to play for the team for the first time this year. New team players, whether it be from existing or new club members, will be very welcome. Don't be shy – let us know if you want to play.

On the social side, the club has organised a number of open afternoons throughout the season. However, it has been a bit disappointing that numbers

haven't been better. These afternoons have been enjoyed by those who have attended and we would encourage everyone to come along. New members and existing will be made most welcome.

Look out for notices or contact John Forshaw on 550185.



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Front Row: Ian Georgeson, James Chalmers, Cameron Nicol.

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## Scout News

In April, the Cubs had a 'litter pick' evening in the park and football pitch to help keep Killearn tidy.

In May, the whole Scout Group undertook a sponsored walk from Blanefield to Killearn along the pipe track with the Scout members of the group climbing Dumgoyne along the way. Over 60 boys took part and raised over £1,200 for Scout funds.



Last week we said goodbye to Mary Fraser who has been our devoted Beaver leader for five years. We wish Mary all the best with many thanks for her hard work and commitment. Derek Bell and Angus Cartwright will be taking over in August.

*Lynn Simmers*



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# Scottish National Champions

Killearn Primary School's Lacrosse team are the Scottish Pop Lacrosse champions!

Pop Lacrosse is a junior version of the game and was introduced to the pupils by their PE specialist teacher, Mrs McKie, herself a Scottish Lacrosse Team player.

The P7 team took part in the Stirling Regional Pop Lacrosse tournament at Balfron High School from which the first two teams in the Open Section, Killearn and Drymen Primary, went through to the Scottish National Championship at Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh, in April. The national championship hosted teams



Calum Biggart, Stuart MacDonald, Fraser Boland, Lewis McLean, Heather Banks, Robyn Hillman, Nicole Harley, Amy MacGregor.

from five regions of the country. It was a hard fought day with Killearn making a dramatic come back from sixth place to win every one of their playoff matches. Cheered on by family and teachers, in one of the most exciting matches of the day and with a nail-biting finish, the Killearn team won 3-2 against Dumfries and Galloway's Lochmaben team to take the national championship shield.

A great achievement for our village school.

## Killearn Primary's Premier Performance

Killearn Primary School came second out of 14 teams in the Rotary District Final of The Primary Schools Quiz held in Clydebank Town Hall on Tuesday, 3 June. Killearn Primary School went forward to the District Final (covering primary schools in the West of Scotland from Stranraer to Oban covered by 56 Rotary Clubs) having won their initial round on 27 February. The team consisted of Heather Banks (Captain), Callum Watson, Ruairi Fraser and Rachel Maitland.

The initial round was organised by The Rotary Club of Strathendrick for all the feeder schools to Balfron High School and Val Corry invited the Club to host the event at Balfron.

This is the third quiz that Strathendrick Rotary has staged, with a record number of 10 teams representing 6 schools taking part this year.



There were 4 pupils, both boys and girls, from Primary 7 in each team. The format on the night was 10 topics and 6 questions per topic. After 5 topics there was a break for tea and biscuits for the supporters and soft drinks and crisps for the teams. Senior pupils were on hand to help, and their support was very much appreciated.

Peter Rea, Strathendrick Rotary Club President (pictured above), visited the school and presented the winning team with their certificates and congratulated them on their efforts.



Killearn entered 2 teams, with the first going through to the final and the second team coming third against some stiff competition. Drymen also entered 2 teams, finishing second and fourth. Other strong contenders were Fintry, winners 3 years ago, Strathblane School and Buchlyvie. As in previous years there was a very high level of general knowledge shown.

Certificates were presented to all the participants and the emphasis was on fun, with each team's supporters very vocal in their support.

Killearn Primary School's effort in not only winning the opening round by beating nine other teams but also then going on to mount their challenge in the District Final against 13 other teams was a fantastic result. Isabel Tempest, Depute Head of Killearn Primary, stated that the team had held special general knowledge classes, on a completely voluntary basis, out of school hours and there was no doubt that this had helped in obtaining such a magnificent result.

MM

# Killearn Primary School News

*Royal Highland Education Team Workshop* We kick started our summer term with a 'Healthy Eating Workshop' on Friday, 25 April. This was provided by the Royal Highland Education Team. The workshop offered lots of useful advice about how to make healthy eating choices. The pupils learnt the names of some unusual fruits and vegetables (and some not so unusual!) and about where some foods come from. However, the highlight was most definitely the smoothie tasting. This went down a treat!

*PTA Summer Fête* Our hard working Parent Teacher Association organised another successful summer fete this year. It took place on 17 May. We had a large number of stalls and activities, including story telling, face painting, hair streaking, and hot dogs! The rain even managed to stay off for the day which is probably a first!

*Ardentinny* The families of our P6 pupils had their hankies at the ready when they had to wave goodbye to their children for a week! The pupils left on Monday, 19 May, to spend a week at Ardentinny outdoor adventure centre. They took part in all sorts of exciting activities such as gorge walking, abseiling, and archery. It was a fantastic week and has been enjoyed by many classes from our school in previous years.

*Sports Day* Our school sports day took place this year on Monday, 26 May. It was a great opportunity for all the classes to get together to enjoy themselves outside! There was a variety of races as well as some fun events such as a football dribble and netball shoot. The school's lacrosse team also showed us their skills (as they are now the National Champions!). Families came and watched, and even took part in the 'Dads' or 'Mums' races!

*Brainiacs* Mrs Tempest, our Depute Head, worked very hard with a group of P7 children last term to increase their general knowledge in a 'Brainiac' after-school club. They entered the Strathendrick Primary Schools Quiz against other schools in the cluster and won! As a result, they went on to compete in the Scottish Finals in Clydebank on Tuesday, 3 June, where they came second.

*Once Upon a War* P7 worked very hard to write and edit their own school show – 'Once Upon a War'. There were two

showings – 4 and 5 June – during school hours. Not only well acted, but the costumes looked fabulous, too. A great success.

*New Primary One Parents' Curriculum Workshop* A workshop for the parents of new Primary One pupils was held on 6 June. It provided an insight into what will happen when their child starts school in August. It was a chance to share information and an opportunity for parents/carers to ask any questions they might have had.

*Wheelie Fun Day* Our Pupil Council planned a fundraising day on 6 June. The purpose of the day was to raise money to help one of our pupils to buy a new wheelchair. Therefore, the day had a theme: 'wheels!' The pupils brought their bikes, scooters and skateboards to school to use in the many activities we planned. It was certainly a memorable day!

*P7 Visit to Balforn High School* On 10 June, P7 visited Balforn High School for their induction day. This gave the pupils an opportunity to tour the school and meet some of the staff.

*P1 Induction* Although we said goodbye to the P7 pupils, we welcomed the new P1 children. They came with their parents/carers to visit the school on the afternoon of 10 June.

*PTA Duck Race and Barbecue* This year another successful duck race and barbecue took place on 14 June.

*End of Session Assembly* The end of session assembly is a time to wish our P7 pupils luck as they move on to high school. This year it took place on Wednesday 25 June. It was difficult to spot a teacher or parent with dry eyes!

The school has been very involved with activities with a green tinge. P3 and P4 have been planting bedding plants which were kindly donated by the Co-op and parents. They also worked with our local Ranger to make bird boxes for the school grounds. Mrs Pattenden, the Learning Support Teacher, has been working with a group of pupils to develop the garden 'den' area to allow pupils to have a 'hands on' experience. Every class in the school has an 'eco' job to do, such as looking after our compost, or managing our recycling. The P4/5 class is making a DVD to show all of this. Even the adults got involved: the Parent Council organised the planting of some new trees in the school grounds.

*Linsey Rees, Principal Teacher*

## Special Prizes at the Primary School

Killearn Primary prize giving took place on Wednesday 25 June, and it proved to be a bit different this year. The Ogilvie Achievement Award is usually awarded to an individual. In a break with tradition, this year it has been awarded to the lacrosse team in recognition of their winning the Scottish Pop Lacrosse Championship. WH Smith vouchers were also given.

The annual citizenship award was won this year by P7 pupils Jenny Tolland and Stuart Macdonald. This award is made to individuals who have been good role models displaying the values and qualities of citizenship at all times. The winners received a silver quach and £20 WH Smith vouchers.

Congratulations to all the prizewinners!

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## Driving to Change the Face of Golf

Buchanan Castle Golf Club is adapting their 'offering' to keep ahead of the game!

At Buchanan Castle Golf Club, owned by the Duke of Montrose, a £200,000+ development aimed at laying out the welcome mat to beginners, families and juniors is underway and the Club has introduced an 'Academy Membership'.

The idea is that you can arrive not knowing a thing about golf, join as an Academy Member for a low subscription that includes coaching, use the par-3 course and practice facilities where you can play and improve without getting in the way of members. Eventually, when you are confident enough, you can join as a full member progressing to the scenic 18-hole parkland course, set within the Loch Lomond National Park area.

A six-hole par-3 course – there are plans to increase it to nine – and a dedicated short-game area are already in place, complete with golf range that is open to all. Three holes of the classic James

Braid designed course have been realigned and improved to accommodate the new facilities, all located close to a clubhouse that is filled with history. An extensive refurbishment of the Clubhouse is also planned for the near future.

Driving range facility is also available to all – contact the Pro Shop for details.

### *Starting them young*

Buchanan Castle has also become the main centre of the area for the Scottish Government backed 'Clubgolf' Programme that is aimed at introducing every nine-year old in Scotland to golf – that's around 50,000 children. Keith Baxter, club professional, says the sport has been crying out for this kind of facility. "We now have a pathway here that can take golfers from complete beginner right through to international level," he said.

"Our ultimate goal is to have the whole family playing golf," added Keith. "A lot of emphasis nowadays is put on family time, but golf is not really set up for it,



even though it is one of the few sports where the whole family can play together as equals thanks to the handicap system. We are fully committed to this programme to encourage more people to the game."

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## Rugby Round-Up

Strathendrick Rugby Club's 2007-08 season finished on a high with a thrilling President XV versus Club 1st XV match ending in a draw before the President's Dinner with guest speaker, former internationalist Peter Wright. This was followed the next day by the second Strathendrick Minis' Charity Festival where – on a glorious, sunny Fintry day – literally hundreds of young rugby players plus parents and supporters enjoyed a great tournament and raised an incredible £6,300 for local hospices. Organised by Iain Somerville and crew this is a fantastic event.

And so the Club looks forward to a new season: the Minis will be holding their Open Day at Fintry on Sunday, 31 August – all potential players, boys and girls, from P3 to P7 are most welcome.

The Midi and Youth section will be running an S1 / S2 and Under-17s teams this year; and an Under-18s in collaboration with Balfour High School. Excitingly, the Youth section is planning a tour to the USA and Canada at the end of the season: more in future editions.

The seniors are already in pre-season training with 1st and 2nd XV league games kicking off on 6 September. The Club's ambition is to win promotion to National League

Division 3 this season, so support from players, spectators and sponsors is always welcome.

Killlearn has a fair representation in the Strathendrick set-up as not only do key men Iain Somerville (Minis Convenor) and Andy Summers (Midis and Youth Convenor) and Mark Gibson (Club Captain) hail from our village, but so do new appointees Nick Hawkins (Club President), Gavin Hunter (Treasurer) and Sue Buchanan (Youth Tour Organiser) – quite apart from coaches, players and supporters at all

levels! There's no escaping!

NH

**Rugby Contacts:**

**Minis** — Iain Somerville (550842)  
**Midis / Youth** — Andy Summers (550147)  
**1st and 2nd XV** — Nick Hawkins (550576)  
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# Curling Sweep Up

Another enjoyable curling season came to an end for Strathendrick Curling Club with the Annual General Meeting and prize presentation held at Glengoyne Distillery.

The main mixed club matches were played on Tuesdays at Stirling Ice Rink at various times between 2.30 pm and 9.55 pm. Two Leagues were operated during the season. The Autumn League was won by Margaret Falconer with Diana Jackson, Gill Smith, John Bowie and Iain Bowie by two points from John Phillips' team. There was an exciting finish to the Spring League with three possible winners at the start of the final session. Eventually, Mike Jackson's team of Stan Moore, Matt Gingles and Iain Bowie were the winners, again pushing John Phillips' team into second place.

The pairs competition was won by Steve Holden and Betty Meikle, while Mike Jackson was our top-placed player in the Points Competition (compulsory disciplines) which was played at Braehead Curling Rink with our neighbouring clubs in the Forth and Endrick Province. Fiona Glass was Curler of the Year.

Our Ladies section, who play at Stirling Ice Rink on Thursday mornings, also played Autumn and Spring Leagues. The winner of the Autumn League was Anne Roy's team of Jenny Knox, Carol Hill and Norma Thornton. The winner of the Spring League was Margaret Falconer's team of Barbara Andrew, Gill Smith/Gail Pain and Carol Hill. The Ladies had their own Pairs competition which was won by our Pairs specialist, Betty Meikle, this time playing with Barbara Andrew (repeating their victory of 11 years ago!). Gill Smith was Curler of the Year.

The Club has had a very successful season in the Forth and Endrick Province. They won the Robert Paterson Shield league competition at Stirling against eight other clubs, and came joint second in the Forest Hills League at Braehead



Prize winners at the AGM at Glengoyne Distillery

against seven other clubs. They also achieved their first ever victory in the Jim Carswell Trophy knock-out competition, winning the final against Drymen Curling Club.

The club also had its usual social events including a golf outing, Dinner Dance and New Year Meander.

If you want an interest and some exercise to keep you occupied during the winter months and would like to have a go at curling contact Stan Moore or Fiona Glass, or look at our website ([www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk](http://www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk)).

GS

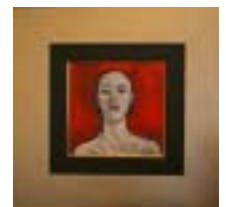
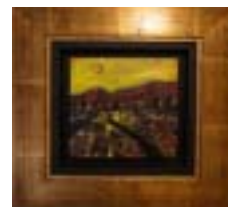


Strathendrick in action against Lochard Curling Club.

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## Local Girls Climb to the Top

Killearn's Christie MacLeod was one of three area girls to compete in the Scottish Youth Climbing Championships at Extreme Dream in Aviemore on Saturday, 31 May. Along with Jasmine Ryan from Callander and Eleanor Hopkins from Kippen, all three girls are club members of Young Explorers Scotland (formerly Callander Adventure Activity Group), an adventure club based at the McLaren Leisure Centre, Callander.

Active Stirling's Outdoor Instructor, Jamie Leith said: "The young climbers competed on some of the most difficult indoor climbing in the country, on slopers, lips, mantles, roofs, another world for most of us but an extremely exciting sport for young people."

Young Explorers Scotland is always looking for new members and adult volunteers looking to satisfy their adventurous spirit. The group take part in a vast range of fully supervised water and land-based adventurous activities.


If you are aged between 10 and 16, or an adult keen to volunteer, and would like more information on this great project or would like to find out how to take part, please contact Jamie Leith (07717 544795 or [leithj@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:leithj@stirling.gov.uk)).



Competitors from Young Explorers Scotland in the final

## Midsummer at The Old Mill

The Old Mill celebrated their re-launch recently with a midsummer party. An evening of superb gastronomy, great company and much enjoyed Glengoyne 'Kilt-lifter' cocktails. The new and talented Chef, Paul Morrison, created a very impressive buffet, featuring a wide selection of locally sourced seafood, meats, vegetarian delights and homemade desserts to die for. Entertainment included a unique and interactive falconry display, female folk singer with the voice of an angel, a superbly talented duo of small pipes and accordion, a clarsachist and finally a rather unusual performance of Gaelic Mouth music... the place was alive and just exactly how the new manager, Ian Curran, wants it to be!

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'Community capacity' is a phrase rising up the Government's agenda.

It is a phrase used to describe the skill base of a community, not just practical and intellectual skills, but most importantly, also, communication skills.

So how would you describe your community's capacity or skills base? Do you feel we are rich in capacity – or could do better?

I attended one of the excellent community training workshops run by the National Park. It became very clear, listening to other community participants, that we were rich in the first two and could do better in the latter.

Our newest project, The Village Hall Development, is designed to address any shortfall in Killearn's community capacity. The Wee Green Market is another project with enormous potential to bring more

# KCFC



**KILLEARN**  
COMMUNITY FUTURES COMPANY

of the community together on a regular basis. This project has grown from the vision of one resident and is self-funding at this stage. Jaqui McAlpine has felt passionately enough about Fair Trade issues that she has done something about it and brought it to a local level.

Local people now have an outlet for their produce, the first Saturday of the month, in the Village Hall. Jaqui's project began last year just prior to Christmas. The quality of craft and food stallholders is outstanding. Several have since secured orders from stores such as Liberty of London and Selfridges. These are local people producing on our doorstep. Jaqui is working on bringing together those

who garden and grow vegetables and whose surplus could be channelled to the Wee Green Market to add to the organic boxes. The next challenge is to raise the profile of the market.

You must have noticed an improvement to our roads over the year. Your Community Council is represented on the Rural South West Forum which, over the past three years, has been meeting with the Roads Department and by their lobbying have succeeded in getting Stirling Council to increase the budget for rural roads.

Communication is a two-way process, and we want to hear your views and ideas. One idea has been for a notice board outside the Village Hall with a programme of 'what's going on' in the village.

*Daye Tucker, Convenor KCFC (551060)*

## Colourful Killearn

Colourful Killearn will be holding their AGM in the committee room of the Village Hall on Tuesday, 7 October 2008 at 8 pm. All welcome.

Anyone glancing over to the plant beds opposite the Co-op during the months of April and May would have been delighted to see the flaming azalea bush at the back. It looked glorious when the sun shone on it – which was often.

As always, we would welcome more helpers. We have a great team who plant out, weed and water the tubs throughout the village but we need more willing helpers to weed and prune the beds opposite the Co-op and also our Beech Drive beds.

Talking of which: a huge thanks to Handy Andy who re-did the wooden surrounds for the Co-op beds at no cost – a very generous and much appreciated offer. What a difference this makes, as the old wood was crumbling underfoot.

At time of writing the village tubs have been planted with their summer flora and we hope that the reds and purples are cheering folks as they make their way through the village. We have tried a varied theme this year and some of the tubs have a yellow and white theme – more sophisticated and less gaudy?

## WANTED

### Minutes Secretary!

Killearn Community Futures Company are seeking a Minutes Secretary.

KCFC comprises 13 Directors, all local people serving the community one way or another. They meet locally four times a year and meetings last between 2 and 2 ½ hours.

The Minutes Secretary prepares the agenda, takes the Minutes and circulates them.

If you are interested and would like to do your bit for the community, please contact Daye Tucker (551060).

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## More Success For Archive Group

We had a large gathering of our supporters come again to the KCFC and Paths Group Open Day in March. This was our second 'drop-in' day, and our friends came and viewed what we had put together in our first year. Using a computer, a continuous show of pictures was available to view in the Village Hall Committee Room and this proved very popular.

Our work is progressing. We are continuing to interview people and record their memories. A few families in the village have become so interested in what we are doing that with the aid of online access to documents such as registers and census records they are finding out the history of their own homes, which is very encouraging and helpful for us.

Everything is being transcribed and stored on disk – thanks to our computer experts within All Killearn Archive (AKA.).

At present we do not have anywhere to store or exhibit our finds. We would ask that if anyone has any memorabilia concerning Killearn, village clubs or organisations within their keeping, would you please contact me or anyone in AKA, so that we may record where things are at present. The most unlikely things are important: photographs, Horti show catalogues, Killearn Primary School brochures will all, one day, be history!

Recently, we have been invited to talk and show pictures to various local history societies. A talk was given to the Strathblane Heritage Society, the Thursday Club and the Rotary Club of Strathendrick. These have been most enjoyable to do, and we have had good feedback, too.

**Accommodation required?  
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All Killearn Archives will next be in evidence when we serve tea at the KCFC Annual General Meeting in October.

*Helen Loudon*

## Just Friends?

Roll up! Roll up on 18 October for the Autumn Fair at the McLintock Hall, Balfron! Start with a refreshing cuppa and then check out the crafters' stalls for early Christmas presents and cards, get lucky in the raffle, have a face-paint or indulge in some truly wicked cake and candy. And as you do so, massage your conscience with the knowledge that you'll also be helping the West Stirlingshire Friends of Strathcarron Hospice.

Located in Denny, the hospice may not seem particularly close to Killearn but, in fact, it serves the whole Forth Valley area and also parts of Lanarkshire and Cumbernauld. Those of you who have experience of it know about its lively day centre, its sensitive palliative care

for in-patients and support for those at home, and the bereavement counseling which it has been offering patients and their families for the last 27 years. But this service costs £45,000 a week, slightly under half of which comes from the NHS. Strathcarron is therefore very dependent on sponsored events, its charity shops, the well-known Strathcarron Choir (featured in the last edition of the *Courier*) and the efforts of its 14 groups of Friends.

The West Stirlingshire Friends, based mainly in Balfron and Killearn, came into being on 11 September 2000, and raised £4,000 in their first year with a variety of activities. As present Convener, Rina Cranstoun, says of the committee, "We all have different



backgrounds and experience to tap into for ideas." Since 2000, they have held highly successful fashion shows, a Valentine's Day Dance, a Race Night and now annual their Autumn Fairs. They also regularly run the teas and organise the Craft Tent at Callander Highland Games. Last year, they raised about £10,000 according to Friends Treasurer, Celia Hamilton, who pays grateful tribute to the generosity of all who have helped them.

And what about 2008? As the public tightens its belt, Strathcarron's costs increase, and the Friends are looking not only to their existing loyal supporters but also to new ones, who can contribute not just money but time and talents as well. "We're all busy people on the committee," says Rina, "and we really need more – and younger – volunteers, so if you have some spare time and would like to help, please get in touch. All suggestions welcome – except bungee-jumping! And meantime, mark 18 October in your diaries now!"

*KJVT*

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# Killearn Community Council Annual Report 2007–2008

*A full version of this report is available on the noticeboard and on the website*

Killearn Community Council reaches the midpoint of the current session with a full complement of members. We are happy to have the support of our local Councillors: Alistair Berrill, Graham Lambie and Colin O'Brien who attend meetings on a rota basis and Pam Campbell, Rural Villages Development Officer. Police presence is provided by PC Eddie Goldie who is appointed temporary Community Police Officer.

He has reported relatively few problems in the past year, these mainly limited to incidents of vandalism.

There have been two extra meetings during the past year in order to consider matters of local importance. The first, in January, examined the question of renewable energy particularly the expected application by Npower to install nine large wind turbines on Ballindalloch Muir. KCC thought it important that the subject be aired publicly and invited a variety of speakers to present both sides of the argument. At the end of the meeting it was clear an overwhelming majority were opposed to this proposal.

KCC reflected this opinion when called to respond to the planning application.

A second extra meeting in May dealt entirely with plans for Road Safety and Traffic Management. Two Stirling Council officers have been working with KCC throughout the past year to prepare a plan that will meet residents' concerns regarding the speed of traffic passing through the village, parking problems and the needs of pedestrians. Traffic calming measures have been introduced in Beech Drive; other features have been prioritised in a plan that covers the Balfron Road and Main Street. Community involvement in the production and acceptance of this plan has been of great importance and will be ongoing.

Planning issues form a large part of the work of the Community Council whose role is to consider every application on its merits with reference to planning guidelines and to offer our opinion. The decision-making process is done by Stirling Council. The application to construct three very large houses on the woodland adjoining Garteneaglais was granted on appeal to the Scottish Government causing great disappointment that a battle to preserve this much loved natural area seems to have been lost after decades of opposition by the village. Some applications have been opposed because the proposals appeared out of keeping with the surroundings. The growing trend for developers to buy up properties in order to increase the size of the original buildings has led to an erosion of the village stock of modest sized houses. The real housing need in the village is for 'low cost' or 'affordable' housing and KCC has made several approaches to our local councillors, to Stirling Council and to Rural Stirling Housing Association to pursue this possibility. It had been hoped that the sale of the Old School, currently the subject of a planning application by a private developer, might have provided a suitable site for a small development.

Other matters dealt with during the past year have included a talk on the

Community Wardens Scheme, the installation of benches by the football park, representation of KCC at the opening of the Woodland Burial Ground in Gartness Road, repair to the carpark wall by the public toilets, removal of the site fencing and a search for a site for recycling bins following the loss of the facility by the sale of the Old School.

The Council has signalled its support for a steering group currently pursuing the refurbishment of and possible extension to the Village Hall. Facilities for young people and our Football Club are urgently required.

An annual grant is made to the *Killearn Courier*, recognising its value in communicating news to the village.

KCC is represented at the Area Community Planning Forum. Pressure from rural areas via this forum has resulted in a significant increase in the budget for rural roads. The provision of health services and the new hospital at Larbert are matters currently on the agenda of the Forum.

All are welcome at Community Council meetings, held on the third Wednesday every month from September to June in the Primary School. Information regarding the Community Council can be found on the noticeboard, in the local press and the website ([www.killearncc.org.uk](http://www.killearncc.org.uk)). We thank residents for their interest in and support of our work.

*Brenda Pell, Chairperson KCC*

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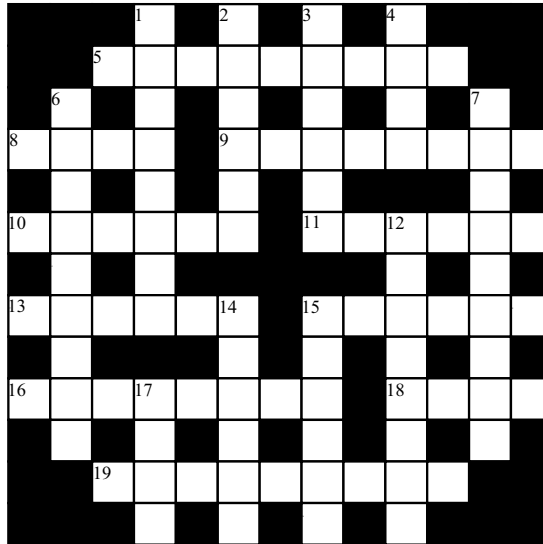


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Set by PeeWit

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ACROSS

- 5. Anchor about to follow vehicle into 8,15a,10,19,9,17 headquarters (9)
8,15a,10,19 A Scotch homeland sold thorns around this beautiful place (4,6,3,3,9)
9. Grand horserace (8)
10. See 8
11. Ship in good health is troubled (6)
13. European trips over sprightliness (5)
15. See 8
16. Big paper found playing around 8,15a,10,19,9,17(8)
18. Primate gets kiss at the top (4)
19. See 8

DOWN

- 1. Provide food around the tube (8)
2. Band in further education provides entertainment in Edinburgh (6)
3. Spirit found in Ascot church (6)
4. Pudding, nothing follows droop (4)
6. Delivery person circles chap (9)
7. One at back becomes late diner (9)
12. A spy myth deserves compassion (9)
14. Secretary held by empty pistol (6)
15. Lieutenant holds in air with looped rope (6)
17. Leave car on quiet vessel (4)

Theatre Royal

- Fiddler on the Roof 18 - 23 Aug
Vagina Monologues 18 - 23 Aug
The Jungle Book 2 - 6 Sept
Absurd Person Singular 8 - 13 Sept
Scottish Ballet 18 - 20 Sept
The Secret Marriage various dates
The Two Widows various dates
La Traviata various dates
My Brilliant Divorce 2 Nov
The Stephen Petronio Co. 4 - 5 Nov
Phoenix Dance Theatre 7 - 8 Nov
West Side Story 11 - 29 Nov
The Sleeping Beauty 6 - 27 Dec

The Kings Theatre

- Disney's High Sch Musical 4 - 16 Aug
Flashdance 18 - 23 Aug
Milkshake! Live Concert 28 - 30 Aug
Evita 1 - 13 Sept
Sunset Song 16 - 20 Sept
Noises Off 22 - 27 Sept
Calendar Girls 30 Sept - 4 Oct
The Tiger who came to Tea 9 - 11 Oct
Can't Smile Without You 13 - 18 Oct
Oklahoma! 21 - 25 Oct
Romeo and Juliet 28 Oct - 1Nov
All the Fun of the Fair 3 - 8 Nov
Slava's Snowshow 11 - 15 Nov
Boogie Nights 18 - 22 Nov
Cinderella from 28 Nov

Name .....

Address .....

Phone No. ....

Solution to the last Crossword Across 5 translating; 7 watt; 8 recycled; 9 scarlet; 11 banns; 13 tempo; 14 writing; 16 windfarm; 17 cars; 18 meteorology. Down 1 fast; 2 usurper; 3 March; 4 aircraft; 5 Thatcherism; 6 green energy; 10 rapidity; 12 crimson; 15 canon; 17 cook.

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Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword : Catriona Thomson, Killearn

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Name ..... Age .....

Address ..... Phone No. ....

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Kate Cottle

Closing Date for both competitions - 5 September 2008. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

## Forget-Me-Not

This is my last contribution to the *Courier*. By the time you read it I shall have taken up residence in suburban Milngavie, so a treatise on memory-enhancing plants seemed appropriate. Who can forget Ophelia's mad scene – 'There's rosemary, that's for remembrance', but how did that come about? Rosemary, like many of our aromatic



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plants, originated in the Mediterranean, and its oil is used in Eau de Cologne and other toiletries, and in the past as a cure for headaches. It does not seem to be known when or why rosemary became associated with memory, but it has had this reputation since ancient times. Its Latin name, *Rosmarinus* ('dew of the sea'), may have been bestowed by Pliny himself. It has been used at weddings (maybe the 'something blue'?) and as an emblem of fidelity. Anne of Cleves wore it in a wreath at her wedding to Henry VIII – alas for her! One old proverb says, 'Where rosemary flourishes, the woman rules.' There is a belief that as it would *not* grow where the husband is the dominant partner – so it was forbidden in some gardens!

However should you wish to grow it regardless, to flavour your lamb, scent your bath or provide a feast for bees and butterflies, choose a sunny dry spot, with perhaps a little lime, in poorish soil. And it seems the smell of a box made of rosemary will preserve your youth, and therefore, of course, your memory.



As for forget-me-not, 'it has a strong affinity for the respiratory organs, especially the left lower lung' so nothing much about memory there.

However, it, too, has been used as a symbol of love, and the advice to a young swain in 1419 was 'any conversation with a winsome lass should be about nice clothes and forget-me-not flowers'. Just to complete the picture, the plant has been used to treat ulcers, abscesses and 'general debility'. Fortunately it seems to grow anywhere and everywhere – so, you have no excuse to forget the writer of this column!

Fay Pascoe

## It's Show Time!



The Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society Annual Show is on Saturday, 30 August, and we are hoping for a good turn out both from growers and viewers. The good weather early in the season will ensure a plentiful crop of horticultural exhibits. We hope that the artists, photographers, craftspeople and bakers will have been busy, too. We will also have a huge display of pictures from the young artists of the village. Bring along your exhibits on Friday evening 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm or the morning of the Show between 7.30 am and 10.00 am. The halls open at 2.00 pm and our piper will be at the door to greet you. The mega marrow weigh in will be at 2.15 pm. The official opening and presentation of prizes will be at 2.30 pm, and the Show closes at 4.40 pm. Teas and cakes will be served in the Church Hall from 2.30 pm.

Glenda Asquith



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Chips and Garden Peas*
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