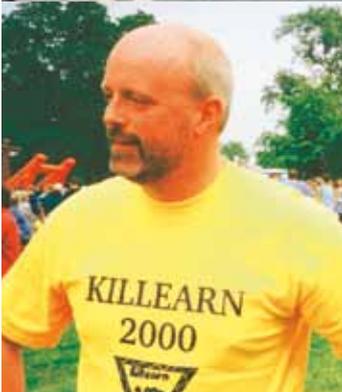


Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 14

SUMMER 2009

£1



Photos from Killearn Gala Days in 1995, 2000 & 2003
The Killearn Hoolie will take place at the Glebe on 12 June 2010 (see page 9)

Going Bananas for Fairtrade



Killearn Primary is working hard to become a Fairtrade school. We have set up a steering group consisting of six pupils, one teacher, one parent and Mr Wilson the Manager of the Co-op who is supporting us.

The process of becoming a Fairtrade school was officially launched by the Fairtrade Steering Group at a special assembly. We explained to the school what our group was trying to achieve and to illustrate what Fairtrade does, we did a short role-play with shoppers and Fairtrade and non-Fairtrade growers.

The Group drew up a Fairtrade policy for the school which commits us to using, promoting and learning about Fairtrade. We wrote letters to the PTA, the staff and Stirling Council to encourage them to use as many Fairtrade products as possible in school. We also visited shops and businesses in Killearn to ask them to stock and use more Fairtrade products.

On Friday 6 March we held a 'Go Bananas' afternoon as part of Fairtrade fortnight. Fairtrade was

trying to set the record for the most Fairtrade bananas eaten in a 24-hour period so lots of schools and other organisations were also taking part. Two hundred and one pupils, 14 staff and one parent all gathered in the hall which had been decorated with Fairtrade posters, bunting and a big blow-up banana. Fairtrade bananas for all were donated by the Co-op.

After we had deposited our banana skins in the brown bins we went back to our classrooms to have a banana/Fairtrade Golden Time with a different activity for each class ranging from a banana treasure hunt, banana jokes, Fairtrade collages and banana games in the gym hall. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learned a lot about Fairtrade in the process.

We still have some more to do before we will be eligible for Fairtrade status, but we hope to be there by next year. If anyone in the village has any ideas to help us, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Email: killearnps@stirling.gov.uk or telephone: 01360 550430.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Sam Henry – the Drymen Poet

Dear Sir

Drymen and District Local History Society have in their possession a collection of poems by Sam Henry (1854-1909) who lived much of his life in Drymen. These were originally compiled by the late Mary Bruce of Drymen and Jenny Riddle of Croftamie. It is hoped to publish these as an anthology in the near future.

As well as writing poems, Mr Henry was an amateur artist and was said to have paid some of his bills with paintings. The Society would be interested to hear of the whereabouts of any of his paintings, with a view to including small black and white reproductions in the anthology. We believe some of his work may remain in Killearn.

The Society also understands that some of his poems were set to music and the songs were very popular in his lifetime. However, attempts to obtain copies of these songs have been unsuccessful. The Society would like to hear from anyone who has any printed copies of this music.

If you can help in any way, please contact either Peter Smith (550726) or Alison Brown (660737) or email: drymen.history@virgin.net

Peter & Gill Smith

The Parish of Killearn

Dear Editor,

I recently received a copy of the *Killearn Courier* and the book *The Parish of Killearn*.

Having lived in Killearn for about 25 years and played football, tennis, badminton it really was a very nice stroll down memory lane. There were a lot of names mentioned in the book of people that I have known. The biggest surprise for me was seeing a photograph of my father, the football team coach in 1946; I was absolutely stunned. Just to keep the records straight, his surname is LYON not Lyons.

Thanks to all the people involved in the publishing of the book and *Killearn Courier*, great stuff.

Ken Lyon
Lakes Entrance, Australia

Killearn Courier
published by:



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COMMUNITY FUTURES COMPANY

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Christmas edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 14 November 2009.

Advertisements and artwork should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 2 October. Contact *Gwen Stewart* on 550856 or *Sara Hudson* on 550806.

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 2 October. Send them to: 2 Elder Road, Killearn or email to courier@kefc.co.uk

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Editorial

Welcome to your Summer 2009 issue of the *Courier*. You may notice that this issue runs to 32 pages, a situation which usually occurs only in our Christmas issues. Well, the reason for this increase in size is easily explained. During the production process of each issue, the *Courier* team spend a lot of time and effort to ensure that we produce a community newspaper that is presentable, readable and relevant to our readers. Every effort is made to include all the articles we receive and, to achieve that on this occasion, we had to go to 32 pages so once again, many thanks for your contributions and to businesses for their adverts.

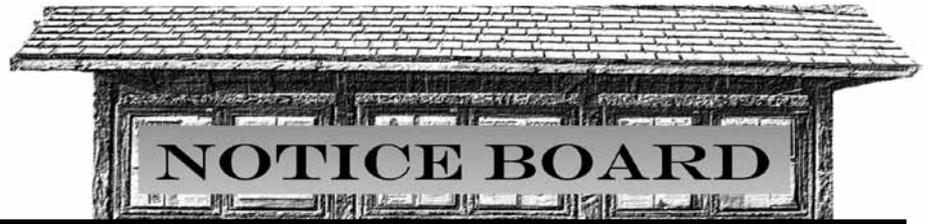
As you know by now, all the people on the *Courier* are volunteers who give freely of their time. Most of us have been together for five years, with only a couple of changes so I guess we've been pretty lucky in that regard, especially when you realise what is happening to other groups and organisations in the village. For example, all our youth organisations need people to help them; Colourful Killearn, the PTA, the Old Folk's Committee and the Thursday Club are all in need of assistance; the Community Council is looking for villagers interested our community.

There are a lot of people in the village who are teetering on the brink of helping out some way or another in the community. The first step is so simple and so easy; all you have to do is pick up the phone!

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor

Congratulations to those who entered our 'spot the deliberate mistake' competition (which we were not really running), and who correctly noticed that the photograph on page 22 of the last edition – Views to the school before Beech Drive estate was built – was back to front! Ed.



- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 18 August | Panik Gallery: Local Artists' Exhibition (until 13 September). |
| 18 August | Killearn Primary School & Balfron High School: new session begins. |
| 25 August | Old Folks outing to Perth, 1pm. Contact Teresa Prescott (550050). |
| 29 August | Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society Show, Village Hall. Entries can be staged on Friday evening, 7.30-9pm or Saturday morning, 7.30-10am. Doors open 2-4.30pm, prizes will be announced at 2.30pm. For a schedule, contact Glenda Asquith (550142). |
| 1 September | Get Reel: Registration. Come & try. Balfron Campus, 4-6pm. Contact Sara Bell, (550770). |
| 3 September | Thursday Club: First meeting of the season. Church Hall, 2pm. Contact Betty Smith, (550486). |
| 5 September | Wee Green Market: Village Hall. |
| 7 September | Strathendrick Singers: First Rehearsal, Kirk Session House, 7.45pm. New members welcome. Contact C Heron (551174). |
| 9 September | Inner Wheel: First meeting, Black Bull, 6.45pm. |
| 18 September | Strathendrick Film Society: AGM, 6.30pm, followed by Mystery Film. |
| 20 September | Panik Gallery: Autumn Exhibition (until 1 November). |
| 24 September | Drymen Local History Society: <i>Coaching against the railway: a tale of stagecoaches and trains</i> by David Brown, Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. |
| 2 October | Strathendrick Film Society: <i>The Duchess</i> . Balfron Campus 7.30pm. |
| 3 October | Wee Green Market, Village Hall. |
| 4 October | Harvest Thanksgiving, Killearn Kirk, 10.30am. |
| 5 October | Monday Club: Bridge and Badminton start. Village Hall, 1.30pm. |
| 6 October | The Guild — Harvest Evening and Bring & Buy sale, Church Hall, 7.30pm. |
| 8 October | Friends of CINI: Lunch & Bridge, Millennium Hall, Gartocharn, 12 for 12.30pm. Contact M Kennedy 550474. |
| 16 October | Strathendrick Film Society: <i>The Reader</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. |
| 22 October | Drymen & District Local History Society: <i>The Good the Bad & the Ugly: Local Registrars of Births, Deaths & Marriages in mid 19th-century Scotland</i> by Dr Anne Cameron. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. |
| 24 October | RNL: Coffee Morning & Christmas Card Sale, Village Hall, 10am- noon. |
| 24 October | West Stirlingshire Friends of Strathcarron: Autumn Fair, McLintock Hall Balfron, 10am-4pm. |
| 26 October | Monday Club: First Social Monday, Village Hall, 2pm. |
| 27 October | Strathendrick Rotary: Charity Bridge, Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm. |
| 29 October | Killearn Community Futures Company: AGM, Village Hall, 7pm. |
| 30 October | Killearn PTA: Hallowe'en Disco, Village Hall, 6.30-9pm. |
| 4 November | Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society: talk by Paddy Scott, Director of Scotland's Garden Scheme. Village Hall 7.30pm. |
| 6 November | Panik Gallery: Christmas Exhibition (until 24 December). |
| 6 November | Strathendrick Film Society: <i>Vicky Christina Barcelona</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. |
| 7 November | Wee Green Market: Village Hall. |
| 7 November | Fireworks at The Glebe. |
| 20 November | Strathendrick Film Society: <i>Star Trek</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. |
| 20 November | Strathendrick Country Dance Club: Annual Charity Dance, Village Hall, 7-11.30pm. |
| 26 November | Drymen Local History Society: <i>Story about Victorian philanthropist William Quarrier</i> by Anna Magnusson. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. |
| 28 November | The Guild Sale of Work, Church Hall, 2pm.
PTA: Christmas Fayre, Village Hall. |

If you have any dates for the November 2009 issue of the Diary (mid November to mid March), please contact Pat Ryall (550713).

Janie Jarvie 1921 - 2009



Janie Jarvie, for 30 years a keen participant in village life, died in April. She was born Jane McCrae in Airdrie where her father was a blacksmith. On leaving school she worked as a comptometer operator with Stewart & Lloyds and in 1945 married Jimmie Jarvie, a draughtsman. They had one daughter, Elizabeth and in the 1950s the family moved to Aberdeen, where, in 1971 Elizabeth married Philip Walker. After 31 years of happy married life, Jimmie Jarvie died in 1976 and Janie moved to Killearn to be near her daughter. Here she became a loyal member of various village organisations and clubs and took delight in her two granddaughters, Wendy and Lisa, with whom she developed a close bond, providing for them daily lunch and after school care in their childhood years. Elizabeth's death 2001 was a great blow for the family but Janie's fortitude helped her to come through the dark times of her loss. The mutual affection between Janie and her granddaughters enabled them to support each other and with Philip's help, visits were organised to and from Wendy and Lisa, little holidays and trips away, which brightened Janie's later years. In her final weeks the care given her by her granddaughters was a testament to their mutual devotion. Janie will be remembered by her many friends for the pleasure of her company, her ready wit, her cheery and positive attitude and her gratitude for little kindnesses others were pleased to give. Mention of her name will bring a smile to the faces of all who knew her.

David (Dai) Smith 1923 - 2009

After a period of ill health, Dai Smith passed away in late May, aged 85. Dai, moved north from England for work reasons and settled with his wife Betty and family, in Killearn in 1967. After some time with P E Management Consultants, he started his own business, Smith & East Management Consultants, specialising as a consultant to industry advising in energy conservation.

Born in Deganwy, N.Wales he was educated at John Bright's school, Llandudno and, on leaving, served an apprenticeship at BTH Rugby. From there he went to Imperial College, London where war interrupted his university studies. He served as an Engineer Officer in the Fleet Air Arm and completed his degree after the war. His work took him to many places in the world, in particular to Turkey where he was involved in the reconstruction of dams and to India where he was responsible for supervising large construction sites which were being funded by the World Bank to whom he reported.

He was a lifelong promoter of the Welsh culture, organising singing festivals for the Welsh Society in Scotland, studying the Welsh language for many years and was appointed President of the Glasgow Welsh Society.

An enthusiastic singer, he was also an accomplished amateur actor, a lover of Shakespeare and a good



comic. He was a keen rugby follower and in his younger days played for the second team of the London Welsh. Later he was a steward at matches at Murrayfield.

In the village, he was a member of Killearn Kirk and served as Property Convenor to the Kirk Session for some time. He was a member of Probus and the Neighbourhood Watch and was a founder member of the Strathendrick Singers and appeared in all their productions. Classical music was his great love and listening to choral music, in particular Bach's B minor mass, brought him solace in his final years.

With his spectacles habitually pushed up on to his forehead, Dai was for many years a stalwart of village life. He could be relied upon to bring to any task the benefit of his intellect and meticulous attention to detail. He was regarded as the patriarch by his large family. The Courier offers sincere sympathy to his widow Betty, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. *BP*

Mary Stevenson

Crosshead Road lost a good friend and neighbour with the passing of Mrs Mary Stevenson on 11 April. It was a great shock to all when she was suddenly taken ill and sadly died two weeks later. She was a most hard-working, strong and admirable lady, always ready to help others. A wonderful mother and home-maker, firm

but wise in her attitudes, she was renowned for her cooking and her skill with a needle. Her great pride was in her family and she was fondly loved by her sons, daughters and grandchildren. Her passing leaves a gap in their lives and in the lives of those who were privileged to be her friend and neighbour.

Ian Sinclair



Get Reel have had a very successful year. Classes continued after school on a Tuesday at Balfron Campus with children coming along learning fiddle or guitar and in the evenings, adults very enthusiastically learning tune sets and new chords. We also had two public concerts – one as part of the Rural Blend run by the Tolbooth in Stirling when our group played as support to Bruce MacGregor (Blazin Fiddles) and friends, and also as ‘support to the support’ of Capercaille at the recent Fintry Music Festival.



We have continued to forge links with other like-minded groups, in particular Riverside Music Project, Stirling, Blackford Fiddle Group and Falkirk Fiddle Workshop. Like Get Reel these groups are all very keen to see their work develop, to strengthen these links and share resources and expertise. We have all been pleased to have been part of a pilot training project initiated by Jo Miller of Riverside and funded by The Scottish Arts Council which aimed to help informal community music groups develop music leader skills among their own members to help sustain and develop their activities. This offered a creative approach to the ongoing challenges of such groups finding funds, and personnel, to lead their music making, and to ways of making the most of the experience of existing music leaders. At present there is little opportunity for groups such as ours to access this kind of input.

A short programme of mentoring/training took place with the same format for each group to develop trainee music

leaders’ skills. Our trainees Kath Muldowney (Killearn) and Abigail Lightbody (Fintry) were trained by Ruaridh Campbell and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. As a consortium the project was a huge success and it is hoped to secure funding to develop the scheme further with more local trainees. As a result Get Reel will now start groupwork and whistle as part of their class programme in September as well as our usual intake of new beginners. It’s never too late! For more information please contact Sara Bell (550770) or email get-reel@live.com

Get Reel is supported by the  Scottish Arts Council

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Charles Russell Bruce 1918 - 2009

Russell Bruce, who died aged 90, was best known as a fast and elusive rugby centre three-quarter and stand-off for Glasgow Academicals and Scotland in the immediate post-war period. His best year was 1946 when he played in the home and away Service Internationals, Scotland, beating New Zealand, Wales (twice), Ireland and England. The following season he was captain of Scotland for the English game. During the war he captained the Army several times and in 1949 he captained the Barbarians.



Russell was commissioned into the Royal Artillery prior to the war, rising to the rank of Major in the Searchlight Regiment. He was mentioned in dispatches for his part in the ingenious 'artificial moonlight' which his regiment provided at the Rhine crossing.

On completion of his war service, he joined his father in Redpath Bruce & Millar, the respected firm of Glasgow house factors and valuers. At this time he became a JP, served as a governor of Glasgow Academy and was a

member of the council of the Property Owners and Factors Association.

Russell was also a golfer of some ability, playing in the Scottish Amateur Championship and serving later on the general committee of the R&A. He was a member of Douglas Park, Glasgow Golf Club, Buchanan Castle Golf Club and the R&A, President of the Rugby International Golfing Society and the British Rugby Club of Paris Scottish Section, captain of the 32 Club and a member of the Seniors.

In 1950 Russell married Ena and in the same year moved to Killearn. Sadly they were not blessed with a family but their generosity to others of all ages and generations knew no bounds. They loved nothing better than entertaining their friends and were the most generous hosts and convivial company. Russell was also in demand as a humorous and entertaining after-dinner speaker. He is survived by his wife Ena.

Brian Simmers



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Duntreath Castle Garden Open

The garden at Duntreath Castle was open on Sunday 31 May as part of the Scottish Open Garden Scheme (SGS). The day raised over £5,000 for SGS charities (including Maggies Centres), Riding for the Disabled and St. Mary's Church Aberfoyle. Cream teas were served in the bridal marquee from the previous day's wedding and visitors enjoyed the Strathendrick Pipe Band and a falconry display, as well as various stalls.

Get ahead with Christmas shopping

“Autumn seems to come round quicker each year!” says Julie Edmonstone as she prepares for the 18th Annual Christmas Fair at **Duntreath Castle** in aid of *Camphill Village Trust*. The day has become a number one diary date for everyone in need of inspiration for their Christmas list. Julie takes great care choosing over 50 completely different stall holders from all over the UK, adding new stalls each year and making sure that her permanent top

exhibitors continually add new products to entice the Christmas-weary shopper!

The Fair is held on the ground floor of the Castle and in a giant marquee to ensure enough space to move around freely. The Camphill Village Trust provides a delicious selection of rolls and home baking in the kitchen and in the great hall of the keep.

This year's Fair at Duntreath Castle will take place on Saturday 3 November from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Entrance is £5 donated to the charity.

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Alan's Angels

Many people will know Alan Geekie and his late wife Margaret for their generous hospitality every Hallowe'en when they opened their doors to all the children of Killearn and their parents. They would often queue down the driveway and into the street, eagerly awaiting the goodies in store for them. Alan remembers recording on one particular night, as many as 120 children coming through the door. Although these days have gone, Alan today enjoys a steady flow of visitors, from neighbours, friends, carers and a new generation of children, all keen to help out with household and gardening duties but above all, to sit and listen while he takes you back in time, reiterating wonderful childhood stories about tenement life in Glasgow during the 1920s or hair-raising experiences as an RAF pilot during the Second World War.

On Friday 10 July, Alan celebrated his 90th birthday and thanks to his good friends Elizabeth, Miriam and Alison for organising a wonderful party, people were once again crowding into the house to share his special day with him.



This amazing, unassuming man is much loved by the people around him and it is because of Alan that so many new friendships have been formed. For all of us, it was a pleasure and privilege to share his special birthday with him.

Congratulations on your 90th birthday, Alan.

Shelagh Riley

Dr Hector Campbell, MBE



The death of Dr Hector Campbell in April, at the age of 93, marked the loss of one of the great stalwarts of the village. For almost 40 years Dr Campbell was the local GP, bringing his understanding, attentiveness and diagnostic skills to the service of his community.

Born and brought up in Glasgow's West End, he was educated at Jordanhill School where his academic and sporting abilities became evident. He played rugby for the 1st XV both at school and at Glasgow University where he went on to study medicine and later was appointed the first official team doctor to the West of Scotland Rugby Club.

After graduating MB ChB in 1939 he served as house surgeon at the Royal Infirmary before volunteering for the RAMC. His war service was distinguished. He served in the south of England during the blitz and then in Abyssinia, Kenya, Ceylon, Burma and India. In Burma, in appalling jungle conditions, his operating

theatre was a ditch immediately behind the front line. He received the military MBE for gallant and distinguished conduct in the field. When hostilities ended he served as the medical officer on a ship bringing Dutch women and children back to Europe from Japanese PoW camps.

The war over, he married Jean, his sweetheart from school days, and, in 1946, came with her to Killearn, where he joined his friend and colleague, Dr Barclay in a long and renowned medical partnership. He was instrumental in getting the new Health Centre set up and was Chairman of the Royal Masonic Homes in Dunblane and of Crossroads.

Outside his professional life Hector was particularly active in Freemasonry, being a member of Lodge Buchanan 1419 of which he was made Master in 1958. He

was Provincial Grand Master of Stirlingshire 1971-5 and rose to be Depute Grand Master of Scotland. He was also a founder member of Strathendrick Speakers' Club, a member of Probus and Buchanan Castle Golf Club. A regular worshipper in Killearn Kirk, he was supportive of the Boys Brigade to whom he taught First Aid, the subject which had first fired his desire to become a doctor.

The memory of Hector Campbell will long remain with all who knew him. He engaged with all with the utmost courtesy. Relaxed in manner, he generated a feeling of confidence, sympathy and understanding. His infectious laugh was a hallmark of his warm and caring personality.

To his son Alasdair and daughter Deirdre and his granddaughter and her family, the *Courier* extends sincere sympathy.

Jamie Pearson

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Strathendrick Classic Car Club



The car chosen for this publication is the 1958 MGA Coupe owned by our member Donald Brown.

MGAs were first introduced in September 1955 and helped to enhance the reputation that MG had built for sturdy cars with excellent handling. The advertising slogan "safety fast" used by the company at that time was well deserved.

The MGA was the first full-bodied car to be produced by MG, hence the reason for the A nomenclature. Until then the letter T had been used: TA before the war, then TC, TD & TF post-war – the TF being the last of the open style with running boards and separate chassis. Although the TF is probably the prettiest of the MGs it was criticised at the time as being too old-fashioned and was soon replaced by the MGA which retained the same 1500cc engine but was otherwise in line with modern design. The engine was replaced in January 1959 with the 1600cc version and again in

January 1960 by a 1622cc model. There was also briefly a powerful 1600cc twin overhead cam engine but it proved temperamental and was soon dropped and now is a sought-after classic.

Donald's MG is a 1500 version which was first registered in 1958. It was owned by a Glasgow lady until it was completely restored in 1997 and bought by the present owner in 2005. Having the coupe body makes it suitable for winter and poor weather rallies where the driver and navigator can remain snug and warm. As you can see from the photograph this particular car has the optional wire wheels and is also fitted with the additional luggage rack that was available at the time. This is the fourth MG the owner has had over the years and he remains an enthusiast of the mark because of the strength of the build and the reliability he has always experienced.

DB

Return of the Killearn Gala!

When the village had a Gala Day in 2000/2003 I really enjoyed the sense of community that it brought. I often thought when driving through other local villages, with their bunting up, that it would be nice to do the same in Killearn.

So I decided to stop thinking about it, and begin to make it possible. We now have a committee in place who are dedicated to creating a traditional gala with a modern twist!

The day itself will be held on **12 June 2010** at **the Glebe** and will be known as **The Killearn Hoolie**. Our overall aim is to have fun for all ages and to come together as a community and celebrate our village.

So if you would like to get involved please contact us, or just keep your eyes peeled!

Jennifer Brown

Chair: *Jennifer Brown (550681)*

Secretary: *Gabi Heron (551027)*

Treasurer: *Nick Hawkins (550576)*

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Colourful Killearn

Colourful Killearn was formed in 1992 with a healthy band of willing volunteers planting, weeding and generally making the village more colourful. Over the years the group has lost many of the original volunteers for a variety of reasons and we now need to recruit some new willing hands if we are to be able to continue.



We undertake a range of tasks, some more physically taxing than others. We planted and care for the beds opposite the Co-op; this is a 'low maintenance' garden (is there such a thing?), which just requires weeding and pruning. At the moment we rely on only three people to care for this area, over and above working on their own gardens, of course. We also tend most of the tubs along Main Street, some in Station Road and the ones at Drumtitan Road. Some Killearn residents, unconnected with our group also have tubs outside their homes which are so pleasing to see and it's a joy to know that others in the village feel as we do.

Financing our activities is also an issue. In addition to plants and peat-free compost, there are always added costs, sometimes unexpected. We feel in the group that we are reaching crisis point. Volunteers are not coming forward and money is short. Can anyone assist in any capacity? We need more willing hands and would welcome donations or people with ideas on how we could fundraise.

Though it is heartening to see residents brightening up their own gardens, it would be such a pity if the group had to fold – no more colourful displays along Main Street and no more Christmas tree outside the church. It may be necessary to dig up the beds opposite the Co-op altogether, and lay down grass, as in the past. Stirling Council would cut the grass but it would



hardly be the same without the shrubbery adding its colours.

If anyone feels that they could help in any way please contact:

*Robin Veitch (550372)
or Priscilla Douglas
(550898).*

Community Action Day in 'The Kingdom'

The Woodland Group, one of the project groups of the Killearn Community Futures Company, held a Community Action Day in July. Under the guidance of Stirling Council Ranger, Douglas Flynn, volunteers carried out a variety of maintenance tasks such as repairing fencing and cutting back vegetation. Redundant wooden edging was removed, and additional chippings added and compacted to improve the quality of the much-used path. If areas such as The Kingdom are to be kept as community resources they require regular maintenance.

We need your help, so please look out for notices of future action days on the noticeboard.

New Stile in the Glen

On Saturday 4 July, experienced 'wallers' from the West of Scotland Branch of the Dry Stone Walling Association (DSWA) rebuilt a section of the boundary wall of the Glen and constructed a new 'pinch stile'. The repair and stile are close to the section of wall rebuilt by volunteers on 5 April. The stile gives access to the field between the Glen and Drumbeg Loan and complements the wooden stile in the south-east corner of the Glen. Thanks to local DSWA member, Alice Bell and her fellow wallers for this new feature.



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Killearn Primary School News Roundup

Young Gardeners in Primary 1

This past term, as part of our 'Growing Things' topic, we planned and planted out a garden for the school. During the last week of term we harvested our first crops, lettuce and tomatoes. We used some to make sandwiches and had a picnic in the park. Then we had our own 'Very Wee Green Market' in the playground. The money we raised will go towards garden tools and more plants. Primary 1 would like to thank all the parents and friends who gave us seeds and plants to get us started. A big thank you to Mr Hector MacDonald, our janitor, for his help in building our garden and his expert gardening advice!



Young Film Makers!

Killearn Primary Nursery Class have explored their interest in language through story-making with the use of technology. The nursery children created a story containing rhyme and humour and this was extended over a period of time by the use of plasticine models and animation software which enabled them to produce an animated story. Their success and thinking was shared through a story-telling event presented to the school, family and friends. Nursery staff much appreciate the help of parents and families throughout this year.

Polmaise Visit

In May, the Eco Committee visited Stirling Council's recycling centre at Polmaise to find out what happens to the contents of our grey and brown bins. They definitely came away with the message to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Read accounts of the visit by two P7 pupils:

*When we arrived a big lorry came to dump its rubbish from the grey bins into the landfill area. In the rubbish we could see loads of things that could have been recycled, especially glass and plastic. Glass takes **one million years** to rot and the plastic takes over **one hundred years**. Next we discovered that lying right under the ground below us was over two million tonnes of our rubbish. It looked just like normal land but can't be used for years and years. After that we took a walk down all the rows of compost and learned about each of the different stages it went through before becoming proper compost.*

Ross Stevenson



We went to see big containers that had mattresses, electrical goods, car and bike tyres, old bikes and toys. All these will be recycled or reused. Next we went to see all the clothes; a man was putting all of them into plastic bags so that they could be sorted to be reused if they were good quality.

After that we went to see the process that the garden waste from brown bins goes through to become compost. We found out that during this lengthy process the compost gives off heat, which was interesting. Some of this compost is taken to Balfon and you can collect this for FREE to use in your garden and containers. P1 used this in their school garden.

Luisa Heron



P6 Lacrosse Team

Robin Whyte & Kirstie Robertson wrote about the P6 lacrosse team's exciting year:

We went to play in the Stirlingshire lacrosse tournament and won most games but drew one, which meant gaining a gold medal each and going through to Edinburgh! Our feelings were out of this world when we got the news that we were one of the teams going to Edinburgh.

When we got to Edinburgh we were all really excited to play our first game. Our team played all of the game fantastically well, making it to the semi-finals, then the final! "Second is not an option!" said the team coach. The final was a draw which meant a sudden death decider. We got knocked out at the last goal and we were devastated.

Three weeks before the championships in London our Headteacher told us that the team that beat us (Donnybristle) had pulled out of the lacrosse championships, which meant we were the next team on the list to go to London. We were all astonished when we got the news. We thought that would have been the last time we would have played in a lacrosse tournament, but we were wrong. For three weeks we practiced every day after school, we soon realised how important it was because we were representing Scotland! The day of the lacrosse championship came. We were all there and ready to play. We didn't win but we played as well as we could. Thank you to our team coach Miss Mackie for giving us the experience of being in the lacrosse team, we have all really enjoyed it!

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Dumgoyne Rural

The Rural has enjoyed a successful year. We now have some new, younger members, one of whom, Marie-Claire Parker, gave a talk on vaccinations and how they will be administered in the future!

We had fun at a patchwork class and we are looking at having other craft classes – we find a glass of wine helps things along! Our speakers have been excellent and we've enjoyed meeting up with other local Rurals as well as a trip to Dunblane on a sunny evening to have a tour of the Cathedral. This was followed by refreshments at the home of Anne Christmas, a former Dumgoyne member.

We meet on the third Monday of the month in the meeting room at the Village Hall. It's only £12 to join – so why not come along. You'll be made very welcome.

Contact *Sara Hudson* (550806) or *Irene Davison* (550866) for more information.

Catherine Russell 1915 - 2009

Catherine (or Catriona) Russell's parents, the McIvers, formed part of the diaspora that left Lewis in the Hebrides for the mainland, Cathy being born in Scotstoun in 1915. She was brought up to speak and love Gaelic, singing in a Glasgow Gaelic choir and speaking it whenever she could. She met John, her husband-to-be, when they were both in the same class in Scotstoun Primary, and they were married in 1941. Cathy learned secretarial skills, which stood her in good stead when after the war, John started his own business making wrought iron artefacts in Croftamie. In 1969 the business transferred to Main Street, and Killearn benefited from the many beautiful, as well as functional, wrought iron objects he made; while Cathy not only did the office chores and book-keeping, but also complemented John's work, for example making lampshades for his wrought iron lamp standards.

Cathy was an outstanding gardener, winning many prizes at the Horticultural Show and providing her friends with lots of fruit and vegetables. Her advice and generosity with plants started many



novice gardeners off to great things. The Show depended not only on her showing vegetable and flowers, but also prize-winning baking and craft, although she never boasted of her prowess.

When John fell ill with Parkinson's Disease, she cared for him until it became impractical. After his death, she continued to be a good neighbour to all, giving freely of her time and talents, until her health too began to fail. For the last few years, looked after by her sister Isabel and carers from Stirling Council, the many friends she had made gave her comfort.

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Blane Valley Round Table

Blane Valley Round Table (BVRT) has been running for more than 20 years and during this time it has raised many thousands of pounds through local fundraising events. In the past five years, it has given £7,400 to good causes, mainly children's charities. However, due to the dwindling number of members, it is now in the process of disbanding. The funds which remain to be distributed will be allocated over the next few months.

A group of 'ex-Tablers' will still run events in the village. The first of these will be the annual fireworks display, which now comes under the auspices of the Killearn Community Futures Company and is led by ex-Tabler Stuart Simmers. In 2008, for the first time, this event made a loss of around £1,000. This was due to the rising costs of fireworks and insurance, coupled with lower donations from the audience. In order for this important village event to continue, two things need to happen: more people need to volunteer to shake buckets on the night and the donations need to be more in line with what you would pay at a commercial event. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Stuart at www.kcfc.co.uk

The ex-Tablers also run an annual charity Burns Supper which this year raised £400 for CHAS. Most recently BVRT supported the Primary 6 lacrosse team when they travelled to Hatfield to compete in the National Finals (*see page 11*).

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to these events over the years, in particular past-Tablers.

Flt Lt Kenneth A L Thompson, BSc, RAF

1981 - 2009

Kenneth Thompson died in a tragic accident on 2 July, doing what he loved most – flying. Kenneth attended Killearn Primary from the age of six and was an enthusiastic member of the football team. He was also a keen Beaver, Cub and Scout. He achieved excellent academic results at The High School of Glasgow, where he also played rugby, hockey and discovered a talent for cross-country running, such that it led to him later competing at inter-university level. Following a gap year, he studied Economics at Warwick University, gaining a First Class Honours degree. Work placements led Kenneth to decide that a career in the money markets was not for him. He chose instead to follow his passion for flying which he had discovered as a member of the University Air Squadron (UAS) and joined the RAF, thereby

also continuing his family's military tradition. His top performance at Initial Officer training and the high standard of flying he had demonstrated at the UAS led to selection for Fast Jet training. He was presented with his pilot wings in November 2003 and subsequent training stages took him to bases throughout the UK, as well as Canada and The Falklands, making large numbers of friends as he went. In March this year he was awarded Combat Ready Status flying the Tornado F3. His last posting to Leuchars was ideal – golf courses on the doorstep, a place to keep his own small aircraft and not too far from home. It also gave him the chance to continue his involvement with the Air Cadets and students of the East of Scotland UAS.



Kenneth's colleagues and friends travelled from home and abroad to attend his military funeral in Leuchars and this, along with the tributes paid to him, was a truly fitting testimony to a popular, admired young man who will be sorely missed.

Kenneth was passionate about his RAF career; he loved flying, loved life and made the most of every opportunity. A great number of

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Killearn to Balfron Path Complete

Until recently anyone walking from Killearn to Balfron along the A875 had to do battle with the traffic on the stretch from Blackhill Cross to Boquhan. This was the only section, other than the Field Bridge, which had no pathway. Thanks to Balfron Community Futures Development Trust Pathways Group, Stirling Council and Sir David Wilson this gap was officially bridged on 15 November 2008.

The Balfron Pathways Group obtained permission from Sir David to route a path over his land and raised the necessary funding. Douglas Flynn, of Stirling Council, organised the construction of the path which was completed in August 2008, following a number of complications which caused delays.

On 15 November, residents of Boquhan, Balfron and Killearn gathered to see Peter Craig, Chairman of Balfron Community Council, cut the ribbon to officially open the new link. A toast was drunk to the future of the path and thanks were given in particular to Douglas Flynn, without whom the path would never have been completed.

Now that there is a complete path from Balfron to Killearn, with the exception of the Field Bridge over the Endrick, there is no excuse for not walking between the villages on occasions!

Peter Smith

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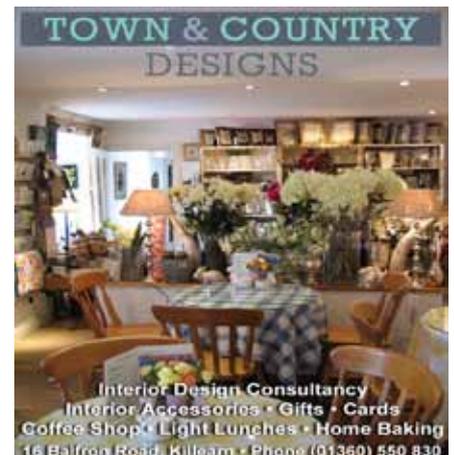
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Peter Craig cutting the ribbon



Wallace – Duncan



© Trevor Graham, Photography

Janet and Donald Duncan with their daughter Sarah and Liam Wallace at their wedding on 6 July in Killearn Kirk. The reception was held at Culcreuch Castle.

Brown – Maxwell



Panik Gallery's Paul Brown and Lucy Maxwell with piper Ian Sinclair at their wedding on 6 June at Blairvockie Farm, Rowardennan.

Gingles – McKenzie



© Jenniflower Weddings

Back row (l-r): Ian McKenzie, Stephen Kwiatkowski, Martin Gingles, Jennifer Gingles, Barry McKay (Best Man), Kenneth McNab
Front row (l-r) Sean Nicholson, Linsey Speirs, Amy Nicholson, Denise Gingles

Martin Gingles and Jennifer McKenzie were married on Friday 29 May at Cameron House Hotel, Loch Lomond.

The Courier sends congratulations to Douglas and Joan Davies on the occasion of their diamond wedding.

Public Notices

The Bank of Scotland (Killearn Branch) opening hours are Thursdays only, 9.30am to 4.30pm. Closed for lunch 1.30pm to 2.30pm.

The cash machine outside the *Co-op* is to be removed on 3 September. The nearest free ATM is in the *Post Office*.

Renovations to the War Memorial are planned and are expected to be carried out in time for the Remembrance Day Service.

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WALK the WALK

In starting this article I could have made reference to Killearn's 'ladies of the night' or 'streetwalkers' but then thought better of it. However, that's exactly what several groups of Killearn 'girls' did for a very good cause on Saturday 20 into Sunday 21 June.

The Moonwalk is a night time marathon walk in aid of Breast Cancer. 10,000 walkers started from Inverleith Park and took to the streets of Edinburgh at around midnight, their aim being to complete the full 26.2 mile course or the half marathon distance (a half moon!) while raising a phenomenal amount for breast cancer. Last year, Walk the Walk nationally raised over £9 million. It's more than a feat of physical endurance, the camaraderie between walkers and the bond that forms within the groups both during the event and in the training walks makes this a powerful life enhancing and emotional experience for many. One local walker said she "couldn't help but smile and it lasted all week". Many participants have a personal reason for being there and have been touched in some way by breast cancer, making it all the more poignant an achievement. And it's not just women – men take part too and decorate and wear the bras that are issued to all entrants. A lot of thought and fun goes into the decorating of the bras.

Edinburgh hosted the event very well with prominent buildings along the route floodlit in distinctive pink. The disco bus at the halfway point put a spring in the step. But it's not just the organisers or the city officials who supported the event well; the residents came out in their nighties to offer their support and reviving cups of coffee. A tenement block in Portobello hung bras in the windows. Ann Somerville and Uta Boeger-Brown walked not only the



l to r: Mairi McGeachy (Killearn), Morag McAllister (Gargunnock), Trish Roberts (Aberfoyle), Katy Freeman (Aberfoyle), Cassie (London), Jacquie Edwards (Killearn), Sandra Corcoran (Killearn).

Edinburgh event but previously completed the London Moonwalk. While they enjoyed walking past London's famous landmarks they appreciated Edinburgh more for its general ambience and fun.

However, it's not all fun, there's aching

joints, blisters and sleep deprivation. By 3am your body is telling you that you should be asleep and the nearing pavement kerb might as well be a mountain. Four months of training leading up to the event is essential and builds up the miles on your feet, culminating in a 20 to 23 mile walk two weeks before the big event. Our local competitors generally took around eight hours but Sandra and Laura Burt with Mary Fraser finished in 7 hours 20 minutes while still stopping for photo opportunities all the way.



l to r: Moyra Boland, Shelagh Riley, Flick Duff (Buchlyvie), Sheona McLaughlin.

It was a great turnout from the ladies of Killearn and several thousand pounds have been, and continue to be raised. Most have said they'd do it again and would recommend it. If you are interested, have a look at :

www.walkthewalk.org

Gwen Stewart

Strathcarron Hospice benefited from the Stirling Moonwalk on 2 May. Pamela Maxwell, Elaine Henderson, Wendy Denton, Susan Thompson, Shirley Bell and a team from Beech Drive Nursery completed the walk raising money for the Hospice and would like to thank those in Killearn for their support.
See lowest photograph on next page.



Ann Somerville



Uta Boeger-Brown

Top Tips for surviving the Moonwalk

- Follow the training regime
- Vary your walking pace
- Do stretches throughout the walk
- Use good trainers at least a size bigger than normal
- Drink plenty water
- Be in good company
- Champagne breakfast at the end is a must!

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West Stirlingshire Friends of Strathcarron Hospice

The West Stirlingshire Friends are very grateful for the generosity of local supporters, despite the credit crunch. The sell-out Fashion Show held at Balfron High School on 18 March was a great success. M & Co gave a wide-ranging display of clothing for all the family and Peaches of Killlearn displayed wedding dresses and lingerie. There was also an item by Helensburgh colourist, Shirley Thornley. Drinks and nibbles, included in the price, were enjoyed in the atrium. A selection of donated prizes, including a round of golf for four at Gleneagles, were won by lucky ticket holders in the Prize Draw. A good time was had by all and the sum raised for the hospice was £4,047.35.

Over the year, the West Stirlingshire Friends featured at the Callander Highland Games last July, where we ran the tea and crafts tents, and at our own Autumn Fair in the McLintock Hall, Balfron. From these events, we were able to send Strathcarron Hospice £10,000 – a fantastic sum which would not have been possible without local support. Thanks to all who helped in any way!

We'll be running the tea and crafts tent at Callander Highland Games again this year in July and we hope to have seen you there by the time you read this. Please also give your support again to the Autumn Fair which will be held on 24 October. If anyone is interested in joining our committee – especially, but by no means necessarily, if they are full of ideas and energy! – please get in touch with our Convener, Rina Cranstoun (440697).

KJVT



I to r: Sandra and Laura Burt, Mary Fraser



I to r: Susan Michie, Shona Barrett, Carol Cumming, Fiona Paterson, Rhona Maitland, Carol White and Judith Forshaw.



I to r: Wendy Denton, Susan Thompson, Shirley Bell, Lynn Johnstone

MUSIC ON A SUMMER EVENING

12 September, 7.30pm, Killlearn Kirk

An evening of music for Organ and Choir, in aid of Strathcarron Hospice

Robert Foreman at the Organ with Strathcarron Hospice Choir

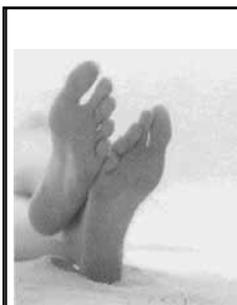
The Programme will appeal to everyone and includes Scottish traditional music for Choir and Organ. This will be an opportunity to hear the versatility and range of our fine new Cathedral Organ at its best coupled with all the ability and enthusiasm of the Hospice Choir.

Entry £5 (includes a glass of wine or soft drink at the interval)

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Philip Malloch — 60 Second Interview

Reverend Philip Malloch has been the Minister at Killearn Kirk since November 1993. At the end of June he retired and moved to Torrance with his wife, June. As he sat amongst his packing boxes we caught up with him for a final interview.

What have you most enjoyed about Killearn?

That would definitely be the people – church members, supporters, everybody in the Village. They have allowed me to share my enthusiasm for the Gospel. Can I also just say that I am retiring as Parish Minister for Killearn, but not as a Christian or a friend. Like the apostle Paul, *“I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace”* (Acts 20 v24).

Tell us about a good memory from your time in Killearn?

One of the best memories would have to be the building of the New Church Hall. The roof of the old Hall was condemned in 1996 and, without fund-raising events, the cash for the new Hall was *given* by many church supporters within the Village. This has resulted in the creation of a wonderful asset which is now used by a huge variety of groups and organisations in Killearn and beyond.

How would you summarise Killearn?

Killearn can be summarised by the kindness, generosity and energy of its people, much of which goes into the work of the church. A lot of what people do flows from their love for God, and for others.

What do you intend to do in retirement?

The plan is to do more of my existing hobbies. I will continue with my music and singing although, sadly, not with Strathendrick Singers, whom I will miss. I intend to link my keyboard to my Apple computer and see what kind of music I can write down. I plan to spend more time on photography and last, but not least, to spend much more time with our grandchildren. There’s a good local church and June and I look forward to worshipping God there as supportive members.

What made you choose Torrance for your retirement?

There is a convention within the Kirk for a Minister to move away from the Parish on his retiral. While this isn’t a strict rule it helps to let the new Minister be the Minister and let the congregation get to



know him or her. June and I have enjoyed village life immensely so we deliberately looked for another village like Killearn and, in Torrance, we’ve found the answer.

You are obviously comfortable with Technology. What has changed in your time within the Kirk?

From early on I’ve considered technology to be a good servant and a bad master. I try always to use it to make things more meaningful rather than for its own sake. For example, during my first Christmas I used a video camera to learn names. As the Congregation were leaving church they were all videoed shaking my hand and providing their names. After replaying the video daily, I could name 180 people in three weeks!

The Church Organ is now digital, replacing the older Pipe Organ that was unsustainable. Killearn now has a fantastic sound & projection system that makes the Bible more meaningful. During Remembrance Sunday the events outside are relayed into the Church, so older members can take part in seated warmth. Sermons are now uploaded to the Kirk website for replay and reference.

What can you tell us about the process of choosing your successor?

First, let me just clarify that the outgoing Minister takes no part in the vacancy process. The congregation has already elected a nominating committee who will consider the names of potential candidates and chose one as ‘sole nominee’. The nominee then comes to conduct worship and preach. After the service, the Interim Moderator chairs a meeting where the congregation vote. If all goes well, the members then ‘sign the call’ promising various kinds of support to the minister. After a few more legal steps, Presbytery ‘inducts’ the minister-elect to the charge of Killearn.

What advice would you give your successor?

Simply this: Love the Lord and his word and seek to serve him — and you will serve the people of Killearn.

In the meantime . . . when something does not have a definite place, it is tempting to think, ‘I’ll just leave it here in the meantime.’ One family had a useful space at the back door supposedly for gardening gloves, wellies and sun loungers. They gave it a name: if you lost something, others would ask, “Have you looked in the ‘Meantime’?”

As June and I prepared to retire and move house, we found a frightening amount of paper. Some of it was organised, and fell into neatly labelled boxes, but too much was random; since we hadn’t time to sort it, it went in boxes ‘in the meantime’.

I wonder how much ‘stuff’ you have that is not quite in its proper place — books, CDs, papers, etc? Actually, if you can’t find something you need, you might as well not have kept it. I used to promise myself to allocate an hour a month to go through the house, garage, garden shed, chucking or filing. Why is it so hard to do? Will it be easier now I’m retired? I doubt it!

And it’s not just things. We all have issues of life and faith that need facing up to, but we keep putting off. In this my last article for you, let me encourage you to make time to answer the deep questions that can be too long on the back burner, like: Why am I here? Where is my life going? Does God exist? If so, how can I know him?

There’s also a good use of ‘meantime’. When a minister leaves a parish, Presbytery appoints an ‘Interim Moderator’. The Rev Alex Macpherson, 01360 870 212, will moderate Killearn Kirk Session meetings in the ‘meantime’, (Latin, interim). The Rev David Munro, 01360 550098, will work two days a week as ‘Locum’, in place of (Latin, in locum) a full-time minister. He will share the preaching with Andrew Weir, and do some visiting.

June and I have greatly enjoyed Killearn, and we had a wonderful final Sunday in June. May we, via the Courier, thank everyone who made our 15-year stay so pleasurable and our retiral so memorable.

Well, now I am no longer your Parish minister. I am happy to remain friends, but when you need a minister, please consult the two above, or the new minister when appointed.

May God bless you all in Killearn Parish.

Philip Malloch

Finally, what do you think (truthfully) of the Killearn Courier?

The Courier is a super village magazine. It is well produced, well edited and contains a wide variety of material. Moreover, the team involved obviously has a huge amount of enthusiasm for their product.

Thanks Phil – Enjoy your retirement!

DB

What's On for Young People in Killearn?

We may live in a beautiful part of the world – with magnificent scenery and city amenities a short drive away – but what actually goes on in Killearn for youngsters of school age?

One hundred years after their foundation, Scouting and Guiding are still the mainstay of youth activities in our village, which also hosts a Boys Brigade Company and Church Youth Club. Dancing classes in the Village Hall and a busy programme of tennis coaching sessions provide opportunities for sport and exercise. There are of course facilities for golf, rugby, football, swimming, etc in the vicinity but they are all a car drive or bus ride away.

Girls are catered for by two Rainbow units, two Brownies packs and a Guide unit. Natalie Kemsley and Claire Whyte lead one of Killearn's Brownie packs and run their programme around themes such as *agility* and *healthy living* with sessions involving fitness, dance, movement, diet, cooking, care of the environment and first aid; as well as a fun karaoke session and an end of year 'sausage sizzler'! For boys, Beavers and Cubs meet regularly on a Wednesday evening. Both are fully subscribed with 24 members each. Fiona MacVicar and fellow leaders

try to keep the 'out' in Scouting with an emphasis on sport, adventure and the great outdoors – weather permitting! The Scouts, on the other hand, only meet once a month as they don't have their own home and there is a serious shortage of leaders.

In addition to the 150+ girls and boys engaged with Guides and Scouts another 23 are part of the 1st Killearn Boys Brigade with Anchor Boys (aged 4-5), Junior (aged 6-8) and Company members (<17). The 'BBs' work around four themes: community, physical activity, crafts and – like the

younger Scouts and Guides – the ever popular badge-work (and camps of course!).

The Kirk Youth Group, run by Tom Millar, is lucky enough to have a part-time Student Youth Worker, Tim Burnham, who helps run activities: the monthly Friday night socials (with up to 30 secondary school-age members attending) and the weekly Sunday morning teaching group. The Group plans to increase social evenings to weekly from the autumn but to do so more adult help is needed.

Killearn Tennis Club is a hive of activity with 60 youngsters enjoying the summer camp from June through to August with coaching from Chris Jewell and team. On Saturday 22 August the club will be running their Junior Tournament (from 11am), then regular Friday evening sessions continue into the autumn for 4 to 12 year-olds and Sunday sessions for the U12, U14s and U16s. Dunblane produced Andy Murray so why shouldn't Killearn produce a future sporting hero?



Cub Scouts enjoying a sausage sizzle at Drumtlan Ford

VOLUNTEERING

So Killearn offers a healthy provision of activities for young people of primary and secondary school age... or does it? Beavers, Cubs, Rainbows and Brownies are all fully-subscribed, capacity being limited by a shortage of leaders. Guides, Scouts and BBs all need adults to help support their programmes. In fact, many of these apparently vibrant structures are quite fragile. Volunteering – or lack of it – is a real issue. Killearn is a richer place for these activities but their existence cannot be taken for granted.

COULD YOU HELP?

Why do people get involved and what does it take? Well, Natalie Kemsley, for example, put her hand up as her daughter, Ellie, was really enjoying Brownies and Natalie felt she wanted to "put something back". With a touch of apprehension about her ability to marshal two dozen 8 to 10 year-olds, she received valuable support and advice from other youth leaders, the Guide organisation, parents and people in the community who were happy to run specialist sessions. Many people get involved while their children are participating, but some remarkable folk such as Sue Beck (Guides), Iain Somerville (Mini Rugby) and Alastair Smith (27 years on and off with the BBs!) continue well after their own offspring have passed through the ranks. Although frequently rewarding, running a regular group demands commitment, time and energy, but Tom Millar points out that helpers don't have to be parents of members – older people may have the time and enthusiasm to contribute to village life in this way, and would almost certainly find it a stimulating experience.

If you would like to find out more about any of the above organisations please contact:

- Guides: *Sue Beck (550485)*
- Scouts: *Fiona McVicar (550667)*
- Boys Brigade: *Alastair Smith (550935)*
- Kirk Youth Club: *Tom Millar (550340)*
- Tennis Club: *Janey Mackay (550464)*

Police Host Barbecue for Killearn Youngsters

A very successful outdoor youth event hosted by local police and Council Youth services was held at the Killearn Multicourt on 24 July.

The evening was very popular, with about 45 local young people attending and participating in the various activities on offer. This was an opportunity for the youngsters and Community Police Officer David McNally to get to know one another.

Thanks to *Balfraon Community Children's Partnership* for assistance with funding and it is hoped a similar event can be staged later in the year.

Rotary Roundup

WATER AID DINNER

On 12 March Strathendrick Rotary, together with joint sponsors Glengoyne Distillery, held a fundraising dinner in aid of Water Aid. Stuart Hendry and his team hosted the evening which was enjoyed by all the guests. Over £1,200 was raised on the night which was sufficient to provide a new well for needy people in a deprived location. John Anderson, President of Strathendrick Rotary thanked Stuart and his colleagues for so generously sponsoring the evening.



Joe Norman the event organiser with Robin and Helen Morris of Fintry with their two sons Edward and George. Behind are the 1925 Chrysler Four and Lotus Exige they were competing in.

NFU STRATHENDRICK ROTARY CLASSIC CAR TOUR

On 26 April 80 cars and their crews toured the beautiful countryside of Stirlingshire in their classic cars. The event started and finished at Culcreuch Castle in Fintry and competitors came from all ends of the country to take part.

There was a priceless collection of cars competing, the oldest being a 1925 Chrysler owned by Robin and Helen Morris of Fintry. The car completed the 100 mile course without missing a beat.

The event raised over £6,000 and the monies will be going to two charities namely *CLIC Sargent (Caring for Young People with Cancer)* and *The Leonard Cheshire Disability School 4 All*.

NEW TRICYCLES FOR KILLEARN PRIMARY NURSERY SCHOOL

On 28 April President John Anderson presented new tricycles to the school and the club received a beautiful book which the young pupils had compiled thanking Rotary for their donation.

ANNUAL ROTARY DUCK RACE

The Great Strathendrick 2009 Duck Race in conjunction with The Fintry Fling took part on Saturday 6 June and raised funds for local Youth Organisations.

THE ROTARY AM-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT

The ever-popular Strathendrick Rotary Am-Am Golf tournament in conjunction with the Balfron Golf Society took place on Saturday 8 August 2009 at the Shian Course, Balfron. This is one of Rotary's most successful events which has raised over £65,000 for charity over the years.



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Scout Group AGM

23rd (Killearn) Forth Valley Scout Group recently held their AGM in the Village Hall. The meeting was probably the best attended in recent memory and this reflects the continuing popularity of Scouting at all levels in Killearn – not just since Bear Grylls became Chief Scout! We currently have 24 Beavers (age 6-8), 24 Cubs (age 8-10) and 25 Scouts (age 10-14) active in Killearn, with several Explorer Scouts (age 14-18) helping to run the meetings. The boys take part in a wide range of activities encompassing basic scouting skills, community work, badge work, sporting activities and, for the Cubs and Scouts, the opportunity to take part in an annual camp.

The groups are supported by a core

group of leaders and an executive committee. This year a number of the section leaders and committee are moving on or changing their role. At the AGM we had a number of people who volunteered to become involved or take on different responsibilities. However, at this point we do not have anyone in the role of Scout Leader (ie the coordination and running of the Scout group) or for the role of Group Scout Leader (this is someone to coordinate the three sections, liaise with the district, coordinate Disclosure Scotland applications, etc). There is a lot of help and support for the roles within the group, so if you feel you can contribute in anyway, please contact Fiona on 550667.

Since losing the Scout Hall, one

of our biggest challenges is we are without a regular meeting place. Cubs and Beavers have most of their meetings in the Village Hall on Wednesday evening. However, other bookings sometimes take precedent. Scouts currently have no regular hall booking so their current monthly meeting is usually an external trip or visit.

To ensure the future and development of Scouting in Killearn our ultimate wish would be to identify a piece of ground and raise funds for a new Scout Hall. This would give the group a focal point for meetings, space for outdoor activities such as the classic ‘Sausage Sizzle’ and desperately needed, accessible storage space.

FM

They’re all Quackers

If you had been taking a leisurely stroll along the banks of the River Endrick on 13 June, you may have



been puzzled and bemused by the sight of hundreds of ducks, many kids and (I’m afraid to say) a few adults, splashing their way down the river. This was

actually the PTA’s Duck Race which was followed by the PTA’s annual BBQ at the school. As usual the whole day was great fun, wine was flowing, sausages were sizzling and the BBQs

kept the midges away (well... if you stood very close) and most amazingly the weather was on our side yet again! If you missed this joyous evening then please come along to support us at the next PTA event!

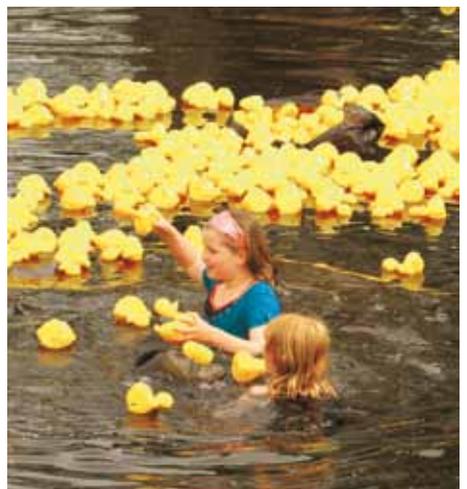
This rounded off another busy and



successful year for the PTA and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout — we couldn’t do it without you.

We are keen to recruit new members to our happy gang for the 2009/10 session and would love to gather fresh ideas for future events. If you feel you can offer any help or ideas then please come along to the AGM on Wednesday 9 September at 7.30pm in the GP room at Killearn Primary School, or contact *Stephanie* (550951) or *Joanna* (550536).

Thanks again and we look forward to seeing you in the new school year!



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Killearn Old Folks' Treat Committee

In summer 2007 the long-standing committee which had run the Killearn Old Folks Treats asked to be relieved of their responsibilities and several local organisations were approached in the hope of finding villagers willing to take on the organising of various events. The Rotary Club of Strathendrick and Killearn Kirk Session proposed four people who volunteered to take over as Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and committee member. The opening balance in the bank account was nearly £3,000.

The annual Whist drive took place on the second Friday in January 2008 and raised £142. Funds were greatly augmented by a donation of £839 from the Graham Trust, which was being wound up, and a contribution of £260 from the retiring collection at the Kirk Watch Night Christmas

service. The 2008 dinner for 51 people was held in the Black Bull Hotel, with entertainment provided by the Couthy Twangers. The summer outing in July was a coach trip to South Queensferry for lunch, then on to Edinburgh for sight-seeing with high tea booked in Linlithgow on the route home. Free places to attend these events can be booked by contacting any of the committee members.

An open meeting was held on 26 June 2009 in the hope of attracting new interest in the committee's work and fundraising ideas in order to continue providing these events for Killearn's older residents. The annual report and accounts were presented. In view of the decreasing funds it was agreed that this year's summer outing would be arranged for the afternoon of Tuesday 25 August, leaving the village at 1pm to go to Perth, where high tea is booked for 5pm. For the first time, donations will be accepted towards the cost of the meal. A bingo evening is planned for Friday 15 January 2010 as an alternative to the whist drive to provide a social evening for a wider age range. Everyone will be very welcome. Further details about both of these events will be available on notice boards and in the Killearn news columns of the local press.

The Committee would like to hear from other villagers about how we can continue with the provision of these occasions. Committee members are: *Robin Veitch (550372), Bob Ballantyne (550310), Peter Rea (550432), Teresa Prescott (550050).*

TP

Thursday Club

All villagers over 60 are welcome to join our club. We meet in the Church Hall each week on Thursday at 2pm, from September to the end of May. Helpers arrange to transport members in their cars to and from their homes and also provide refreshments. Games are available, social events arranged and outings undertaken. Last year, Jenny Wilks arranged a craft meeting, a singalong, a puzzle day and an outing to Jane Diamond's house for tea. We had our Christmas lunch at the Hungry Monk and for our annual outing we went to the Lake of Menteith Hotel. We are grateful to Stirling Council for providing funds to help pay towards our outings.

If you are interested in joining the Club, please contact *Betty Smith (550486)*. Be assured that this is a club where friendships flourish, laughter abounds and we all go home refreshed.

Erskine Jumble Sale

In February a meeting of the Boys Brigade officers and Jim Fallas took place to discuss what we planned to do for Erskine Week in 2009. Suggestion – jumble sale to be held on 6 June from 10am to 2pm. This function duly took place and the sum of £616.19 was raised. However, due to donations and the cans which were in Spar and the Co-op we were able to forward £308 plus £38.42 totalling £346.51, an excellent total.

May we at this time convey our thanks to all who contributed, helped sell and of course the buyers. All the leftovers were recycled by Capability Scotland. AF

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KCC Annual Report 2008-2009

A full version of the report can be found on the village notice board and the website (www.killearncc.org).

Killearn Community Council is now at full strength, with the appointment of Youth Members, Iain Beaton and Cairi Macintosh. Our local Councillors, Alistair Berrill, Graham Lambie and Colin O'Brien, attend our meetings and give unfailing support and, with Pam Campbell, Rural Villages Support Officer, assist greatly in pursuing issues, researching information and speeding up communications between us and Stirling Council and other official bodies.

In October we welcomed newly appointed Community Police Officer, David McNally. David has worked to become familiar with the community and his full reports to our meetings are much appreciated. Crime is minimal in this area and the main complaints are occasional incidents of vandalism, speeding traffic and thoughtless parking, particularly close to the school. The police are seeking solutions to these matters but they cannot be constantly patrolling the village and the public is asked to act with consideration for others. Police And Community Together (PACT) is an initiative through which it is hoped closer cooperation can be developed between the police and the communities they serve.

Monthly meetings of the Community Council have been well attended. Matters discussed include Planning, Roads and Traffic Management and the National Health Service. The Old School Site has appeared frequently in planning consultations during the year and an application to form a new access was heard by a Planning Panel in April at which permission was granted with conditions applying, one of which is that the new road should serve only four houses. The implementation of traffic management plans has recently been evident in the Main Street and the resurfacing of some local roads marks Stirling Council's promise to deliver improvements.

Matters raised by residents have included problems caused by flooding, the condition of the Well Green lane, the need for changing

facilities for the Football Club, the installation of benches in the park, and the provision of additional litter bins. Some of these matters have been dealt with; others are on-going.

Visitors to our meetings have been Cllr Jim Thomson (Local Environment), Neil Ferguson (Housing) and Gary Worrall (Youth Services) who facilitated our February meeting Focus on Youth. This attracted a wide ranging audience, highlighted the voice of the younger generation, a will to work towards achievable goals and the appointment of our two Youth Members, who are now working towards setting up a Youth Community Council in Killearn.

A Spring Clean of the village, by Stirling Council's mobile units and also by groups of young people, has been much appreciated. Certificates were presented by KCC to the Rainbows, the 2nd. Killearn Brownies, P6 pupils of Killearn Primary School and the Cubs to mark their efforts in cleaning up litter dropped by others.

An annual grant is made to the *Courier*, in recognition, for its role in communicating news to the village. Grants were obtained by our treasurer from Stirling Council for the Thursday Club and Colourful Killearn and for the refurbishment of the War Memorial.

KCC members attend and report back on other meetings. Heather Wright, our representative on the NHS Forum reports regularly on the progress of the new hospital at Larbert and on issues arising from changes to the delivery of the NHS in this area. Other KCC members participate in the Local Area Community Forum, which represents all communities west of Stirling and discusses matters of common interest.



Are you interested in your village? Would you like to be more involved? Elections will be held in October for the next three-year term of office of your Community Council? If you are interested in standing for this, please keep an eye on the Notice Board or the website for more information.

Last September we congratulated Hugh McArthur, who was awarded a Provost's Award for service to the community. We also congratulated the team who produced the third edition of the *Parish of Killearn* published by Killearn Trust.

Killearn Community Council is a channel of communication between the village and Stirling Council. Meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday, from September to June in the Primary School and all are welcome. Anyone concerned about village matters is invited to contact any member of the Community Council.

In what will be the last annual report from this Community Council before elections next autumn, I should like to pay tribute to the focus and consistency with which everyone on KCC has tackled the issues presented to us in the past three years. Everyone has contributed fully and there has been real teamwork; I thank my fellow council members for their hard work and their invaluable support.

Brenda Pell, June 2009

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Lambs & Things



Much of what made the *Crocodile Dundee* movies amusing was the idea of someone finding themselves in altogether the wrong place – the American city high flier in the unfamiliar territory of the outback, and the wizard of the Australian bush coping with the wild life of New York. Plays and films often incorporate the country bumpkin being sneered at in town, and the city slicker coming to grief in the country. And while there is still a bit of superiority in both camps, there is also often an inherent longing in all of us for what we don't have.

For some people, village life is just too restricted. They feel that they are living in the wrong place, and they crave the liveliness of the city. They want the bustle and the brightness, the convenience of the shops and cinemas and concert halls. They even like the smell of tarmac and petrol fumes. They want to wake up in the city instead of spending time driving there. And who's to say they're wrong?

Likewise, for some city-dwellers, country life exudes a kind of magical charm that makes them leave the town and come to visit us, especially in good weather.

Sunday drivers are a well-known phenomenon in country areas, and in high summer there can be chains of cars packed with people intent on enjoying at least one afternoon of the rural dream. Locals have been known to succumb to irritation, if not road rage, when their normal driving schedules are knocked to pigs and whistles by drivers admiring the landscape at 20 miles per hour or caravans who won't be overtaken. It is small consolation under these circumstances to know that we live somewhere so desirable to others. And they do desire it, even on a temporary basis. There is something in the human psyche that makes people long for proper air, and country cottages, and fields full of farm animals.

I noticed this particularly one peaceful day in the lambing season. That was when I came across two charming Glasgow ladies standing at the field gate on Station Road, watching the lambs bouncing about the glebe. The ladies were deep in conversation with Ian, Killearn's own painter and piper, who was explaining that they were seeing the lambs at their most sprightly time of day. The four of us stood there



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for half an hour, chatting about local history and village life. Apparently these ladies often came out from town for a breath of country air and a look round the area. It was as if something very basic was bringing them back to the land, and the lambs seemed to epitomise that – an enchanting symbol of the country, surrounded by green and lit by a slanting sun.

Having said that, there is a real danger that people, myself included, can become sentimental about country life, especially if we are not involved at the sharp end of actual farming. We are not often the ones who look after the animals or attend the deliveries of lambs and calves, in all weathers. Nor do many of us plough the fields, or wade our way through the morass of European regulations. What we see is the end result of other people's labours, against a backdrop of natural grandeur. So rather than run the risk of becoming complacent about our little bit of heaven, perhaps we should let the farmers know a little oftener how much we appreciate it.

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Ballikinrain School

Most people in Killearn will be aware of the existence of Ballikinrain School on the Fintry Road. It was set up 40 years ago as a residential school under the auspices of the Church of Scotland. It is now run by Crossreach, the social care agency of the Church, on an independent, non-denominational basis.

Like most institutions it has changed greatly over the years as the nature of child care and education has changed. It has boys of 8 to 14 years of age, who are experiencing social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and are not in mainstream schools. It aims to provide a therapeutic community for these children, who usually come via the Children's Hearing system or council social work departments. There are now two offshoots, one in Gargunnoch for older boys, to prepare them for independent life, and a Crisis Care House locally for just what the name implies!

The school provides its services to the boys under the Include Me In programme, which aims to develop a policy of inclusiveness, with flexible child-centred learning and supportive staff team. It follows a broad curriculum, not just classroom subjects. Two recent exciting environmental initiatives have been the establishment of a 'Forest School' in the grounds and a very impressive eco campaign involving many aspects of recycling, litter patrols, energy monitoring, etc. This has been so successful that Ballikinrain has just become the first residential school in Scotland to gain the prestigious Green Flag award for

eco-school activities, which now proudly flies from the building. The Forest School has been a very effective venture, increasing environmental awareness and building team skills. For boys who might be under pressure in an indoor classroom it can noticeably reduce tensions. Sport also plays



a large part in the life of the school, with excellent indoor and outdoor facilities.

Links to the local community are valued, food is sourced locally, there is a stall in the Wee Green Market, a Friend's Group which meets regularly and Befrienders, people who regularly support a few of the boys by visits and outings.

The work that Ballikinrain does has recently been recognised by a very good report from HM Inspectorate of Schools and the Care Commission.

It is not all work either, there are lots of fun things going on, and everything can be turned into a learning experience.

These boys, often from very dysfunctional home situations, are being given a chance by very dedicated staff and excellent facilities.

Long may it continue.

JW



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Killearn Tennis Club

The Tennis Club has undergone several changes this year with Christopher Jewell, a former junior at the club, being brought in as coach. There have been two Open-Day events, both of which were successful at encouraging new participants, as well as American tournaments (where players partner different people in each round).

The main changes were in a coaching structure that started indoors in both the Village Hall and the Church Hall during February, running through until the start of the Spring season linking up with junior squads. The indoor coaching involved three, one-hour classes for age groups 4-6, 7-9 and 9-11; each class was fully booked with 10 children. This was followed by squads sessions on Friday evenings and on Sunday afternoons. The classes on a Friday became so busy that extra coaches were needed in order to offer additional classes for the younger age groups. Local players from the ladies and mens first team were encouraged to do their Level One LTA coaching certificate to be able to play a full role in the coaching. Janey Mckay and Cameron Nicol both completed the awards and are now part of the coaching team. Without the extra coaches the Club would not have been able to expand the classes. This would have limited participation, as has been a problem in previous years. Robbie Singer, another local junior, has also been encouraged by the Club to pursue coaching awards by being part of the coaching set up.

The Club summer camps were also very successful with five of the seven weeks of the school holidays occupied with classes for all ages on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Club is grateful to both the first team captains, Ian and Solly Georgson, for their tireless organisation of the mens and ladies teams. A mens second team is now in place due to interest from several new as well as existing members. Overall the Club is in a healthy position with growing participation, opportunities and activities. For membership details please contact:

Anne Delargy (550253) or Patsy Hutchison (550270).

Local Pony Club Celebrates Diamond Anniversary

Strathblane & District Branch of the Pony Club is our local club for younger riders. It was founded in 1949, with ten members and five ponies meeting on moorland behind Strathblane. Avril Meighan, founder member, recalls riding over from Bowling to attend. Rallies in Killearn soon followed, with Helen Loudon among those early riders. Current membership, spread across west Stirlingshire, is about 50, aged 6 to 16. Children forge lifelong friendships at Pony Club so it is no surprise that many members reappear as parents, instructors or helpers! Pony Club offers numerous activities. There is varied teaching throughout the year and the Branch runs three annual competitions, plus various social activities. The Cross Country Day in April marked 50 years of the Pony Club at Boquhan House, by kind invitation of the North family. Gartocharn Show followed in June, with a one-day event at Mid Balfunning in August. Camp is the highlight of the Pony Club year. In 2009 Seniors spent a

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Killearn Football Club

At the time of the *Courier* going to press the local football season was in full flow but none of the competitions were yet resolved. A full report on Killearn Football Club's season will be included in our next edition.



week on the shores of Loch Ard, while younger members commuted daily to Duncryne, Gartocharn.

The Branch plans to celebrate the anniversary with a barn dance for current members and a reunion for past members, parents and helpers. Further information and contact details are on www.pcuk.org/strathblane



Balfon Barracudas Swimming Club was founded in 2007 as a recreational club based at Balfon High School. There are currently 64 children swimming on Mondays and/or Saturdays, coached by former Balfon High School pupil, Hatty Floyd, and three assistants. On Sunday 31 May some of the club swimmers entered their first Graded Meet swimming gala, held by the Trojan Club at Whitburn, swimming against 13 other clubs. The day was a great experience for swimmers, their families and supporters, and coaches. The club came away with a handful of medals: Patrick



Lynch with a gold in 50m backstroke and fifth place in freestyle, Shona Michie with a gold in 50m breast stroke, a fourth in freestyle and a sixth in butterfly, a silver medal for Rachel Morris in 50m freestyle; and several swimmers received other awards. In the final race of the day, the relay team came fifth out of 12 teams, which was a fantastic result for the club's first swimming gala.

For further details please contact the club via email at: info@balfonbarracudas.org.uk or visit the club website (www.balfonbarracudas.org.uk).



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Rugby

Strathendrick Rugby Club is gearing up for the new season with a new club coach, ambitions for promotion, plus activities and events for all ages!

The seniors are well into pre-season training (Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Fintry) and are now playing practice games (Saturdays) before the leagues kick-off at the beginning of September. With a talented pool of players under new Head Coach, Arthur Caldwell, the 1st XV aim to win promotion to the National Leagues. New recruits are most welcome.

The Mini and Midi rugby season starts with an Open Day on Sunday 30 August at Fintry Sports Club. The day will include introductory sessions and a family BBQ. Players (new and old) from P3 to P7, S1 and S2 are encouraged



to come along and give it a go – why not bring a friend? The Minis run teams at each age group and have a regular programme of coaching and fixtures lined up.

The Midis cater for boys from S1 to S4 with coaching led by the Club's new SVQ student, Drew MacDonald, and senior players, assisted by parents. Fixtures are being organised for S1/2, U15 and U16 teams.

And a rugby club wouldn't be complete without the odd social and some good craik . . .

For more information on the Minis please contact:

Iain Somerville (550842).

For Midis, Seniors and Social events please contact:

Nick Hawkins (550576).



FROM THE ARCHIVE

How many names can you put to the faces of these fine fellows pitting their strength against the opposition at a Killearn jamboree in the past. Can you recognise where in the village this tug-of-war was taking place and what year it was?

Email: nick.hawkins@bbc.co.uk with your recollections.

STRATHENDRICK RUGBY CLUB

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Curling Sweep Up

Strathendrick Curling Club's AGM and prize presentation, held at Glengoyne Distillery, brought the curling season to a close.

The main mixed club matches were played on Tuesdays at Stirling Ice Rink. Two Leagues were operated during the season. The Autumn League was won at the final session by Stephen Holden with Diana Jackson, George

Harris, Matt Gingles and Jim Meikle, with one point more than Norman Robertson's team. The Spring League was won by Marshall Falconer's team of Diana Jackson, Rita Harris and Ron Low, defeating Maurice Rennie's team, which had led until the last session, by two points.

The pairs competition was won by Donnie McDonald and Iain Bowie. In the Points Competition (compulsory disciplines) which was played at Braehead Curling Rink with our neighbouring clubs in the Forth & Endrick Province, John Phillips was the overall individual winner and he and Mike Jackson won the team competition. Marshall Falconer was Curler of the Year.

The Ladies Section also played Autumn and Spring Leagues. The winner of the Autumn League was Margaret Falconer's team of Rita Mearns/Margaret Brown, Gill Smith and Pauline Holden. The winner of the Spring League was Fiona Glass/Helen Watson's team of Rita Mearns, Gill Smith and Marion Richardson. The Ladies had their own Pairs competition, which was won by Margaret Falconer and Rita Harris. Sybil Munro was Curler of the Year.

The Club had a reasonable season in the Forth and Endrick Province. They came third in the Robert Paterson Shield league competition at Stirling against eight other clubs and came joint second in the Forest Hills League at Braehead against six other clubs. They also came joint second in the Gordon Mitchell Rosebowl bonspiel against nine other clubs. We did have one local success in winning the Ballikinrain Cup for the first time in a number of years. This is an old outside ice trophy which the club



Members of Strathendrick CC playing in the Balyarrow Trophy at Perth

competes for annually (now indoors!) against Balfron and Fintry Curling Clubs.

One of the highlights of the year was the triennial Balyarrow Trophy competition at Perth Ice Rink. This is a match against the four other clubs (Bridge of Weir, Falkland, Haddington and St Andrews), which share Strathendrick's founding date of 1846. This has been played for

since our 150th anniversary in 1996 and Strathendrick are the only club not yet to have won the trophy. Despite a valiant effort we were just pipped at the post by Haddington.

The club also had a National success this year. John Phillips with three curlers from Kippen Curling Club won the inaugural Grand Masters Bonspiel in February. This is for players over a certain age – no prizes for guessing!

The club also had its usual social events including a barbeque, a golf outing and quiz, a dinner dance and the New Year Meander round Killearn.

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 (550800) or Mike Jackson (550314)
or visit our website www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk

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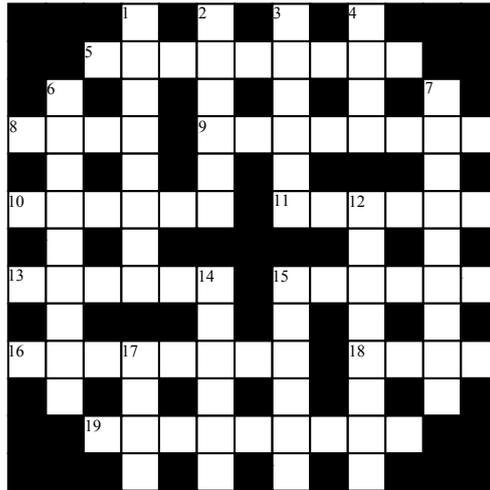
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Solution to the last Crossword: Across - 1, grand slam; 8 rabid; 9 Solomon; 10 freehand; 11 mess; 13 tittle; 14 Banjul; 16 ruin; 17 Boadicea; 19 luddite; 20 ideal; 21 sidetrack. Down - 1 godchild; 2 absent; 3 dull; 4 lumber jacket; 5 monosyllable; 6 profiteroles 7 absent-minded; 12 hand-pick; 15 bodega; 18 kilt.

All across clues are of a kind and undefined.

ACROSS

- 5. Enable cub to mix (9)
- 8. Sounds like good man follows you and I (4)
- 9. Punctuation mark perhaps (8)
- 10. Cloth if Scottish river follows this (6)
- 11. A rod, no the reverse (6)
- 13. Get in car AA says to me (6)
- 15. Extreme troll inhabits fear (6)
- 16. Confined sea eagle makes donkey noise (8)
- 18. Musicians Union goes 50-50 (4)
- 19. FO lies about a month (4,2,3)

DOWN

- 1. Depress sure characters they're false (8)
- 2. A bachelor half swears at calculator (6)
- 3. They weigh mixed class E (6)
- 4. Tart enthusiast contains a novice (4)
- 6. Six vehicles take a long time at homes (9)
- 7. Detailed Welshman scoffs at old ship sterns (9)
- 12. Seasonal, gold stomach is taken from nails (8)
- 14. Told stories, editor followed the thread (6)
- 15. Go away — the insect is bad! (3,3)
- 17. Monster on this headland? (4)

Name Phone No.

Address

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword : *E. Goold, Killearn*

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Name Age

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: James Findlay, aged 12.

Closing Date for both competitions – 12 September 2009. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

Nature Notes

I don't think it is a case of "fings ain't what they used to be" to say that there are far fewer butterflies these days than previously. However, in the spring there was news that there had been a positive explosion of Painted Lady butterflies hatched in their North African habitat, presumably due to exceptionally favourable conditions there. It was confidently expected that there would be an influx of millions into Britain as they migrated northwards. A likely story! However having just returned from the Outer Hebrides, I can confirm that there has indeed been an invasion, as we saw many on all the islands.



Bird migration is incredible enough, but to think that these fragile insects have evolved with such a fantastic life-cycle is beyond belief. Each year, they spread northwards from the desert fringes of North Africa, the Middle East, and central Asia, recolonising mainland Europe and reaching Britain and Ireland. Their favourite food plant in Britain is the thistle, although nettles and other plants are recorded as larval food plants here. A locally-bred generation is on the wing in August, but they cannot survive our winter. Most die, some return to Africa and the cycle starts again. It will be interesting to see if climate change alters these migration patterns.

Although the Painted Lady is not endangered and can be common in suitable circumstances, this is not true of many of our butterflies. Many are on the endangered list, and this has been a bad year for many once-common butterflies such as the Orange Tip and Small Tortoiseshell. Wetter spring weather and changing farm practice, leading to loss of habitat are taking their toll. If you are concerned about this and want to do something positive to help, plant butterfly-friendly plants and please don't be too tidy in the garden – leave some patches of wild plants like nettles and thistles for them to feed on. Finally, think of doing something positive by joining Butterfly Conservation, at: www.butterfly-conservation.org. JW

Recycling Statistics

Stirling Council is leading the way with the announcement that it has exceeded the 40% target for recycling. Figures released by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency show that Scotland's annual recycling and composting rate rose to 33.5% for the year January to December 2008. In the Stirling Council area, year-end figures confirm that 41.5% of waste was recycled or composted between April 2008 and March 2009, one of the highest recycling rates in the UK. This result is an improvement of 2.7% on last year. By comparison, in 2003, Stirling Council's recycling rate was only 9%!



Do you have any clothing, furniture, bric-a-brac or foodstuffs you can donate to charity? The Blythswood truck is in **Drymen Mountain Rescue car park** on **21 August, 24 September, 23 October and 20 November** from **11.00 to 11.30am** to collect it. **Ring 0141 882 0585 for information.**

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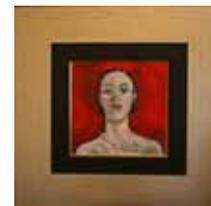
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