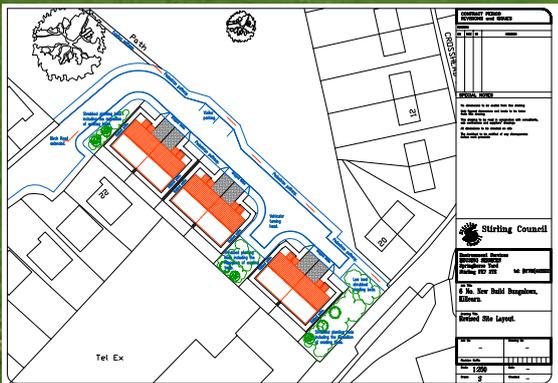
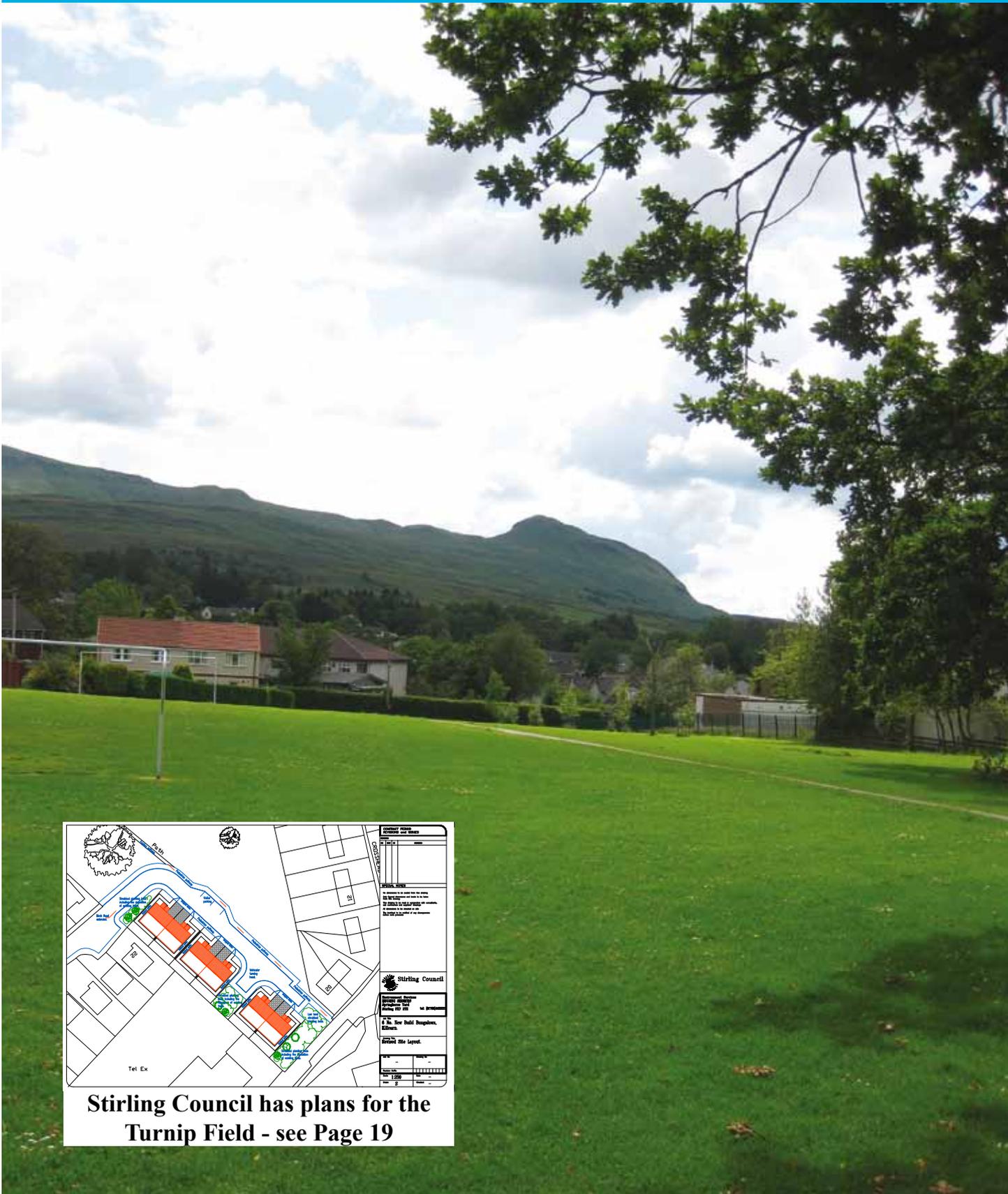


ISSUE 20

SUMMER 2011

£1



Stirling Council has plans for the Turnip Field - see Page 19

Changes at the Courier

We mentioned in the last issue that Anne (Lennie) Lindsay had resigned from the group. To our further regret, Pat Ryall has also found it necessary to resign due to increasing commitments. Pat has been with us since we began, and Lennie joined us a couple of years ago. Both have provided valued contributions and our thanks go to them.

However, the good news is that Nancy Bailey has come back as our sub-editor. Christine Bowie, an original member of the group has also returned to the *Courier* fold and will render assistance in sub-editing as required.

Heather McArthur has stepped in to take over the Notice Board from Pat Ryall, and any notices should be sent to her at heather.mcarthur@virgin.net or 550137.

Ian Dickie
Editor

CHARITY BRIDGE EVENING

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Editor

It was a beautiful, warm Saturday afternoon when we set off from the Branziert to walk along the recently upgraded path to join Ibert Road to the village. The path had become pretty overgrown, but was still manageable on my Power Trike. I take enormous joy and pleasure in being able to take walks on my Trike. However, that joy was soon dissipated when my husband stopped as he was confronted by several dog faeces on the path and suggested we had better turn back and go into Killearn by the main road -- a pleasant route but not as peaceful or safe. On retracing our steps, I realized that I had already picked up this filth which was deeply embedded in all three of my tyres. So with the nauseating smell filling my nostrils, we returned home where my husband had to thoroughly hose down the tyres.

It seems to me that some dog owners have no thought or consideration for others. This path (and all paths) are for all to use -- small children, pushchairs, wheelchairs, walkers. Dog dirt is noxious and VERY unpleasant to remove and definitely spoils a lovely walk -- it certainly did for me!

Please dog owners, clean up after your faithful friends -- we will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Yours, etc.,
Sheila McNab

Not only is dog dirt noxious and unpleasant, it is also dangerous. It can be the cause of toxocariasis and, in untreated cases, can lead to blindness. Being a dog owner brings with it certain responsibilities, not the least being taking steps to ensure that your pet does not impinge on the quality of life of others.

How difficult is it to take a plastic bag with

you when you take your dog out? How hard is it to 'scoop the poop'? You never know, you could save a life.

Ed.

Dear Sir

I refer to the article in the last issue, (The Eagle has Landed) and thought your readers may be interested to learn that the sea eagle, or one very like it, complete with yellow wing-tag, was seen in the Crianlarich area during the first week in January at Loch Dochart. If it was indeed the same one, it certainly got about a bit before flying off to the Isle of Bute.

Keep up the good work with your paper, it is a great read!

C. Taylor
Portnellan Highland Lodges,
Crianlarich

Dear Sir

Thank you very much for the tickets to see the Moscow State Circus at the King's Theatre. We took our grandchildren and we all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Pauline Holden

I know that many more readers complete the cryptic crossword than place the finished puzzle into the box in Spar. Maybe you don't want to despoil the Courier -- a photocopy will do! You stand the chance of an evening at the theatre, so hand it in.

Peewit

Killearn Courier published by:



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Christmas edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 12 November 2011.

Advertisements and artwork should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 30 September. 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, 30 September. Send them to:

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(This list is not exhaustive, if you do not see your job listed just phone.)

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Editorial

By the time this issue reaches you and you've settled back to read it, I hope you are doing so sitting outside in brilliant sunshine with a glass of something or other close by.

When I read the proofs, it seemed to me that there is a theme of updating running through this edition of the *Courier*. For example, the Village Hall article brings you abreast of the current situation; there is a list of the village groups receiving proceeds from the Hoolie, thanks to your support; the Dumgoyne Telephone Box is up and running and ready to go and, last but not least, there have been changes in the *Courier* group with some members leaving and others joining. In fact, there are lots more articles in this edition which will keep you informed about what's going on in your village. The big story is, of course, the Turnip Field. Much of the detail is already known via KCC minutes and meetings. Hopefully, this article will help put an end to the numerous rumours flying about the village regarding a number of issues.

There are many groups within the village which all make a vital contribution to life in our community. Members of these groups are all volunteers, giving of their time to make Killearn a better place to live. The sad thing about this is that each group usually comprises permutations of members from other groups. In other words, it is *always the same people* involved. All the groups would value fresh faces and new ideas.

Have you got a wee bit of time you could give? Is there a group that appeals to you? Why not take a deep breath and give it a go? After all, it is your village and who knows, you might enjoy it. All you have to do is contact your chosen group – dead easy. I dare you.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy this latest issue of the *Courier*. It again runs to 36 pages thanks to the number of contributions received from our readers. We continue to be well supported by our advertisers, for which we are very grateful, especially in the current financial climate, and we should support them in turn.

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor



- | | |
|---------|---|
| 14 Aug | Strathendrick Cycle Club meet at Discovery Point, Dundee and thereafter fortnightly. Contact Morag Jervis (660437). |
| 16 Aug | Killearn Primary & Balfron High new term begins. |
| 17 Aug | Killearn Toddlers new term begins. Village Hall, 9.30am. |
| 17 Aug | Killearn Community Council Special Meeting, Killearn Primary School, 8.00pm, to discuss development of bungalows on the Turnip Field. |
| 20 Aug | Killearn Horticultural Soc. Show. Village Hall. Entries staged Friday 7.30-9pm or Saturday 7.30-10am. Doors open 2-4.30pm, prizes announced 2.30pm. For schedule contact Glenda Asquith (550142). <i>Note this is a week earlier than usual.</i> |
| 21 Aug | Kirk Kids. Kirk Hall, 10.30am. Meets every Sunday during term time. |
| 22 Aug | Killearn Guides, Brownies and Rainbows registration night. Kirk Hall, 6.30-7.30pm. |
| 24 Aug | Rotary Club meeting, Black Bull Hotel, 6.30pm for 7pm, thereafter every Monday. Contact Steve Holden (550764). |
| 30 Aug | Get Reel classes start. Balfron Campus. Classes for adults and children in fiddle, guitar and whistle. Mandolin for adults. Contact Sara (550770 or website: http://getreel-uk.blogspot.com) |
| 1 Sept | Thursday Club first meeting. Kirk Hall, 2pm. Contact Betty Smith (550486). |
| 3 Sept | Wee Green Market. Village Hall. Contact Fiona Chautard (550468). |
| 5 Sept | Strathendrick Singers first rehearsal. Balfron Church, 7.30pm. New members welcome. Contact Pat Ashworth (550074 or website: strathendricksingers.org.uk) |
| 10 Sept | Killearn Golden Years Club Musical Evening. Kirk Hall, 7pm. |
| 14 Sept | Inner Wheel first meeting. Black Bull, 6.45pm. All welcome. |
| 19 Sept | Dumgoyne Rural. Village Hall, 7.30pm. <i>Please note the venue is not the school as previously advertised.</i> |
| 21 Sept | Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm. |
| 22 Sept | Drymen & District Local History Society An illustrated talk by Malcolm McVittie, Chairman, 1st Marquis of Montrose Society, 'Montrose: a Candidate for Immortality (John Buchan)'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Website: drymen-history.org.uk |
| 25 Sept | New Christian Course, 'What do Christians Believe?' Kirk Hall, 6.30pm. All welcome. Website: killearnkirk.org.uk |
| 26 Sept | Monday Club first meeting. McLintock Hall, Balfron, every Monday thereafter. Bridge and badminton, with a speaker the last Monday of the month. |
| 1 Oct | Wee Green Market. Village Hall. |
| 2 Oct | Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Killearn Kirk. |
| 4 Oct | Guild 75th Anniversary lunch. Gartmore House 12.30 for 1pm. Contact Ena McNab (550385). |
| 7 Oct | Strathendrick Film Society 'The King's Speech'. Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. Website: film-society.org |
| 17 Oct | Dumgoyne Rural. Village Hall, 7.30pm. |
| 18 Oct | Guild first meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. |
| 19 Oct | Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm. |
| 27 Oct | Drymen & District Local History Society An illustrated talk by John Hood, 'The Clydebank Blitz'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Website: drymen-history.org.uk |
| 28 Oct | Killearn Primary PTA Halloween Disco. Village Hall, 6.30-9pm. |
| 4 Nov | Strathendrick Film Society 'Laughter in Paradise'. Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. |
| 5 Nov | Wee Green Market. Village Hall. |
| 13 Nov | Remembrance Service. War Memorial, 10.45 am. |
| 16 Nov | Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm. |
| 18 Nov | Strathendrick Film Society 'Made in Dagenham'. Balfron Campus, 7.30pm. |
| 19 Nov | Guild Sale of Work. Kirk Hall, 10.30am-12.30pm. |
| 21 Nov | Dumgoyne Rural. Village Hall, 7.30pm. |
| 24 Nov | Drymen & District Local History Society. An illustrated talk by Peter McNiven. 'History and Place-names in Mediaeval Menteith and Stirling'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Website: drymen-history.org.uk |
| 26 Nov | Get Reel St Andrew's Family Concert & Ceilidh. Village Hall. Killearn Primary PTA Christmas Fair. Village Hall, 10.30am-1pm. |

If you have any dates for the Christmas issue of the Diary (mid November to mid March), please contact Heather McArthur (550137), heather.mcarthur@virgin.net

A Pat on the Back

Dr L.D. George Angus, a trauma surgeon based New York, is currently conducting research into the lives of world famous physician pioneers and in pursuance of his information gathering, found himself, with his wife and three children, in Killearn in April. His inquiries had led him to the Old Burial Ground to search for the grave of one of his subjects, James Hogarth Pringle.

Failing to find what he was looking for, he and his family went to the Coffee Shop at the top of Station Road. While there, they engaged in conversation with various people, but particularly with Catherine who had served them. On hearing their tale, she told them that Hugh McArthur, who, at 86 years of age and having lived in the village most of his life, was the person most likely to be able to help. This was an inspired choice. What Catherine did not know was that Hugh's father went to work for Dr Pringle in 1939, and Hugh knew of him. Catherine contacted Hugh and arranged for them to meet. Hugh very willingly took the matter in hand.

A visit to the Registrar's Office resulted in Lynn pulling out all the stops and not only producing a record of Mr Pringle's death, but also the exact location of his grave. Dr Angus and his family, with Hugh's guidance, found the grave which was covered in grass but was later cleaned up by Mrs Angus. Hugh himself was able to point out the house, *White Court*, where Mr Pringle had stayed.



The final results were that Dr Angus was able to leave Killearn having learned much about his subject. However, what impressed him most was the reception he and his family received from everyone.

The *Courier* has been contacted by Dr Angus who is desirous that the community learn of the impressions made on him and his family, as visitors to Killearn, during their week-long stay. His first contact was with Killearn Community Council of whom he says 'are doing a wonderful job'. Hugh McArthur is 'a village treasure' and 'the people are the friendliest I've seen'. He received particular help from the two ladies mentioned of whom he says that their helpfulness 'could be an example for the world' and 'by the way, the coffee shop gets five stars for its food – shortbread, soup and cake were phenomenal'. He would like to 'congratulate the people of Killearn for who they are', and uses the words 'wonderful people' frequently.

Well, we are, aren't we!

TID

From Australia to Killearn

Dr Lambros D. Angus is currently in the throes of producing a book on surgical pioneers who have their names associated with an eponym. His reason for doing so stemmed from his realization that many young surgeons know the names of these surgical pioneers but that's all – nothing about the person, where they were born, lived or died. Dr Angus's book proposes to fill these gaps, and he has been researching it for a number of years.

One such surgical pioneer is James Hogarth Pringle, internationally famous for a surgical manoeuvre known as the Pringle Manoeuvre, which is used in abdominal operations. He was born in Parramatta, Australia, in 1863 and went on to become a brilliantly unique surgeon in a number of fields. In the world of medicos, he is much revered. He was ahead of his time in many ways. He was the first to use rubber gloves in the operating room at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and he championed the rights of women to enter the male dominated profession.

He lived in Killearn at White Court, then known as 75 Whiteflat, with his wife Ethel. They had no children. He died aged 78 in April 1941, and lies buried in the Old Burial Ground in the village.

Thus it was that Dr Angus found himself and his family in Killearn in April this year when he was put in touch with Hugh McArthur. Mr Pringle will feature prominently in Dr Angus's book and, therefore, so will Killearn as being the place where such a world famous surgeon stayed for most of his life.

TID

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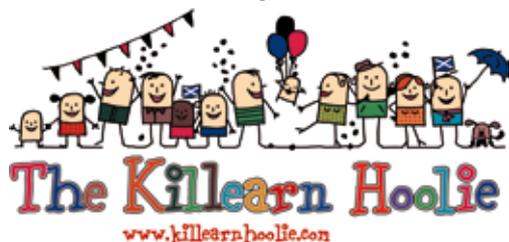
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Hoolie helps Killearn Community Activities



The success of the 2010 Killearn Hoolie has meant that it has been able to assist other community activities in the village.

Donations have been made to:

- ★ Monday Bridge Club for bidding boxes
- ★ Killearn Toddlers Group for art materials
- ★ Killearn Primary School for a visiting professional drama performance
- ★ Killearn Brownies for transport costs to camp
- ★ Get Reel for the purchase of instruments
- ★ Killearn Football Club for new portable goal posts
- ★ All Killearn Archive for the telephone box project
- ★ Killearn Golden Years Club for their activities and annual dinner

Well done, Killearn – you have made all this possible! One of the aims of Hoolie was to promote community collaboration and you have helped make this happen.

THE 2012 KILLEARN HOOLIE IS NOW LESS THAN A YEAR AWAY

The event is planned to happen every other summer – so preparations are now underway. If you would like to get involved – either as an individual or with your organization please contact:

Jennifer Brown, Chair of the Killearn Hoolie (550681)

Dumgoyne Telephone Box



The disused telephone kiosk at Dumgoyne post office was bought by Killearn Community Council last year and handed over to the Killearn All Archives Group for refurbishment to preserve it for the community.

The work has now been completed to convert the telephone box into the Killearn Information Kiosk. This has been made possible by generous donations from Stirling Council Community Pride Fund and Killearn Hoolie Group.

The kiosk is ready to advertise the various activities and resources of Killearn district. This will be a free service. To place your advertisement contact:

Doreen Snadden (550834) or Jim Fallas (550618).

Marple Territory

While admitting that I don't really understand why all our tellies needed to go digital, I am aware of the increased number of channels I can now watch. The mysteries of CSI are at last revealed. However, it is still quite often the case that when one sits down of an evening, there is nothing appealing on the box. When that happens in our house, we have recourse to our collections of DVDs, of which the complete Miss Marple is a favourite. To our eyes, Joan Hickson is the definitive Marple. There is no one to touch her. But one does wonder if St Mary Mead is quite the safest place to live, though it is does have a lower body count than Midsomer.

As anyone who watches as much telly as we do will know, crime drama usually has either a grimy city setting or a cosy country one. There doesn't seem to be much in between. Naturally, our village would come into the second category, and does have many of the requisite ingredients for the backdrop to a fictional murder mystery. We have the country pub, the historic hotel, and three vicarages – two ancient and one modern. There are several large and graceful houses that might qualify as the local manor, and although we might be short of cook/housekeepers, we do have lots of blunt instruments and deep freezers. There is no golf course with bunkers in which to bury people. Nor is 'The Body in the Mobile Library' ever going to be a catchy title. But we do have summer houses, bus shelters and secluded woodland, all excellent corpse-finding locations.

Of course, the area has been used before in dramatic productions. Remember the comedy serial *Private Schulz*, set in wartime Germany, starring the late lamented Michael Elphick? The production team used the facilities of the old hospital site for some of the scenes. It was summer time, and they filmed very early in the morning, but if one was up betimes, one was quite likely to be asked to wait till the jeep full of soldiers in German helmets passed by, so that there was no intrusion on screen from a 1970s Saab.

And then there's *Taggart*. That same hospital site has appeared in at least one episode, involving a chase through the wards, knocking over all sorts of noisy metal equipment in an exciting fashion. One of the great attractions of *Taggart* is spotting where it is being filmed, which made the unexpected night-time scene in the old Killearn graveyard so delightful. And was there not also a gripping *Taggart* finale filmed in the Devil's Pulpit, with lots of rocks to fall from and ropes to hang oneself with? Maybe we're closer to St. Mary Mead than we thought.

Fortunately, real life is more relaxed, though one doesn't like to tempt Providence. The closest we have had to a village mystery in recent times is the container that sat for years in the car park opposite the Co-op. After having a removal warning slapped on it, it seems to have at last disappeared. But the mystery remains. Whose container was it? And what was in it? In the unlikely event that there was indeed a wizened cadaver in there, we unfortunately cannot call on the services of Miss Marple, but we might yet hear those dulcet Glasgow tones pronouncing the immortal words, 'Thurr's been a murdur.'

Joyce Begg

Killearn Malawi Projects Group

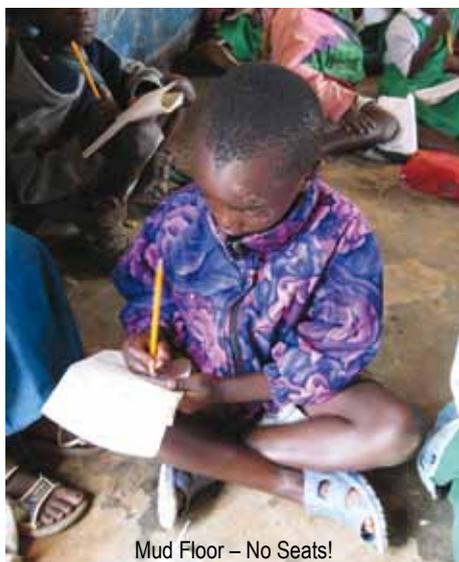
Last year, Sue and Tony Kidd and Shona Kelday visited northern Malawi and saw first hand something of the needs of the people there. They talked to the *Courier* about the Killearn Malawi Projects Group, originally started by Killearn Kirk and which is now encompassing the wider community.

What are the aims of the Killearn Malawi Projects Group?

Sue: To arouse local interest in and awareness of the needs of Malawi and what we can do to help.

What are the needs of Northern Malawi?

Shona: Malawi needs to change from a culture of dependency to one of independence. Southern Malawi has received much support in the past, but Northern Malawi is very rural, and infrastructure and equipment only exist at the most basic levels. We feel education and health are priorities to target. Education was taking place in a bare room of a school building with no furniture – the children were sitting on the mud floor, and the only classroom resources were some bottle tops that were lying around on the floor. Health care was being given in a virtually derelict building. This ‘medical centre’ had no regular doctor in attendance, although there were trained nurses working in this crumbling structure.



Mud Floor – No Seats!

What can the Killearn Malawi Projects Group do?

Sue: Help is needed in fundraising. We hold an annual Jumble Sale in February. This year’s sale was magnificently supported by the community with large numbers of people giving up their time to help collect, sort, display and sell the donated items. The result was £2,000 raised. The Ladies’ Night raised £600, and sales of Ian Sinclair’s painting have brought in £500.



Sue and Shona at the Jumbo Project

These sums go a long way in Malawi. For example, a plough costing £250 has been given to a village which owned oxen. Previously, the fields were hoed by hand by children. Now the oxen pull the plough. More land can be cultivated and perhaps the children can go to school. When people see the results of the money they’ve given, it’s inspiring.

Shona: Help in kind. It’s possible that people in Killearn have resources in their own homes or offices – things that may be deemed redundant here but which could still have a valued use in Malawi – pieces of office equipment, training videos, health education materials, school resources – and clothing, especially children’s clothing but ideally, this should be basic items that would last a growing baby or child a year. There is a knitting pattern available for a simple jumper, if anyone wants to keep their hands busy!

Sue: Funds to pay for transport. The Malawi Projects Group works under the ‘umbrella’ of The Raven Trust. This is a wonderful voluntary organization which serves Malawi as well as other places in need throughout the world. The Raven Trust can organize the transport of goods donated here to communities in Malawi. Of course, it costs to take goods around the world. So funds are needed for this. Visit theraventrust.org.uk for further details of the work of this inspiring organisation.

So what would you like to achieve?

Sue and Shona: We would like some more people to join us. In addition, we would like to tap into some new ideas

for fundraising activities, we would like to enlist some more manpower and woman power, and we would like to see involvement in the Malawi Projects Group spread further through the community.

The Malawi Projects Group is an ad hoc group with minimal structural organisation. We’re inviting anyone who thinks they can offer something, be it skills, time, enthusiasm, goods or money donations to come and join us. This is a generous village, inhabited by people with energy and imagination. Your help can be offered at whatever level suits you – from knitting in your own spare time, to helping with the jumble sale, or by dreaming up some splendid fund-raising event we can help you with.

An email group is being set up to link those who would like to become a ‘*Friend of Malawi*’. If you would like to become part of this group then email *June Thomas*: jnethomas@aol.com. This will enable us to keep you in touch with any event we are planning, or to let you know of the progress of our projects.

Working for Malawi brings rewards when you can see someone else making use of something you have given. If you were to visit the country you would find a people who are poor in material possessions, but rich in happiness and generous in hospitality. We need you!

If you would like to help, contact:

Sue Kidd (550748) skiddkillearn@gmail.com or Shona Kelday (550135) shonakelday@yahoo.co.uk.

Horti Success at Gardening Scotland Show



Killearn Cottagers Horticultural Society entered the Pallet Garden competition at the Gardening Scotland Show at Ingliston in June for the first time this year. The challenge was to create an exhibit in a space of just one metre square. We chose to use the 'Cottagers' bit of our name as a theme, and built a garden around a miniature Killearn cottage. We were awarded a silver medal.

We hope to recreate the exhibit at the flower show on 20 August.

Glenda Asquith

Third Killearn Trust

The Third Killearn Trust was set up in 1943 for the purpose of providing funds for the reconstruction and modernization of a Killearn Parish Hall and also for the maintenance of such a hall.

Since then it has provided funds for various repairs and redecoration of the hall, and in the past has provided an annual maintenance grant. In recent years, it has not been asked to provide any maintenance grants.

In the past few years, with the decrease in the levels of investment income and cost inflation, the annual net income became too small to be of any meaningful assistance. At the same time, the charity legislative requirements became increasingly onerous.

The Trustees decided, in light of the proposed major renovation of the Village Hall, that the Third Trust should be wound up and its assets realized to provide a substantial donation to the Appeal.

A donation of some £22,755 has now been made to the Appeal, and the Trust has been formally removed from the Scottish Charity Register.

This does not affect the operations of the Second Killearn Trust, which continues with its normal activities.

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Blowing in the Wind

Last issue, we published an article by Joyce Begg (*Trees and Us*) in which she set out a case for preserving and enjoying our forests, a sentiment shared by us all. Trees are very much a part of Killearn with scarcely a garden being without at least one. They are there to be enjoyed and appreciated. For example, picture the scene of sitting on a garden bench, in the shade of a weeping birch, with a glass of wine and a good book – heaven!



However, Mother Nature reminds us from time to time that she is in charge, and unleashed almost hurricane-strength winds in May. The unseasonable gale caused a fair bit of havoc across the country and Killearn suffered its share. Trees came down all over the place with damage to walls, pavements and outbuildings. Fortunately no one was injured here, but there are still some trees left in positions which could see them come crashing down more readily, and those responsible for them need to take steps to render them safe. While there will be those whose gardens were in permanent shade due to a neighbour's

trees who will now be quite delighted to enjoy a sunny garden once more, many in the community will mourn the disappearance of their trees.

One way or another, trees are an integral part of our lives so we should look after them properly. Having trees brings with it certain responsibilities; we have to ensure that they are not a danger to others and we should be aware that their presence can encroach on the lives of others. We should control their growth and spread thereby lessening the chance of them being blown down. This, in turn, would increase the light to our own gardens and that of our neighbours and allow those around us to have a clearer view of the beautiful countryside around our village. *TID*

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If that doesn't make your mouth water what about an Award winning Killearn Hoolie burger (6oz) made with my own Aberdeen Angus rump steak? Go on, spoil yourself!

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Mazda MX-5

Although the Mazda MX-5 appeared only 22 years ago, it is already regarded as a classic. Mazda identified a gap in the market in the late '70s when the mid priced sports cars in the UK were being phased out in favour of hot hatches, but it was not until 1981 that work began in earnest, with the design being finally approved in 1986. The shape was penned by designers in California and many design cues were taken from the original Lotus Elan. Mazda decided on a conventional layout with an in-line engine being placed at the front driving the rear wheels. Mazda's idea was to produce a sports car that returned to basics with a reasonable price tag and with handling that put a smile on your face. The car eventually appeared in 1989 with original models featuring pop up headlamps. The car was built in Hiroshima in Japan. The MX-5 was very well received – by the time it became available there was nothing on the British market to directly compete with it as both MG and Triumph no longer offered two-seater sports cars.



The model illustrated is a 2003 model Mark II NB introduced in 1998. It is distinguishable from the Mark I by its fixed headlamps and heated glass rear window. It has a four-cylinder 1600cc high revving twin cam engine, 5-speed gearbox, rack and pinion steering, and independent double wishbone suspension. The MX-5 has a 50/50 weight distribution, helped by the fitting of an aluminium bonnet and boot lid to give the ideal balance.

This produces handling characteristics that are simply outstanding.

There are currently two MX-5s within the Strathendrick Classic Car Club.

The Mazda MX-5 has outsold all other sports cars in history, and continues to sell well in Mark III form. Mazda obviously did their market research very well and produced what clients really wanted.

Mike Menzies

Strathendrick Classic Car Club

Once again the Strathendrick Club was well represented at the Strathendrick Rotary Classic Car Run held on 'Drive it Day' 17 April, a UK national day for classic cars. This event is always over subscribed and on this occasion took place on the roads of Argyll (notably superior to Stirlingshire regarding potholes!).

We then had a very pleasant sunny evening run (remember them?) to Cashel before our AGM on Wednesday, 27 April. The AGM introduced a new Chairman and the prospect of a new Runs Organiser. Robert Livingstone had chaired the club successfully for five years, for which we are very grateful.

Donald Brown has been producing routes from the straightforward to the outrageously complex in association with Mike Gastell for years without number, but has now requested a well earned holiday.

This year our second overnight run was held on Saturday, 21 May to Cairnbaan on the Crinan Canal. The day started grey and damp, and did not improve! The route via Strathyre to Dalmally through Glen Orchy was spectacular. We then went to the Taycreggan Hotel for lunch, which was rudely settled

down by a run down the north side of Loch Awe (what did I say about Stirling's potholes? All is forgiven – almost).

Twenty-eight members and wives assembled for drinks in the Clinton USA President Suite prior to dinner. Two dozen of us had taken over the hotel.

The rain persisted and some escaped home on Sunday morning. Ten stayed till Monday – one the Chairman, to repair a puncture, the second in one year. When did you last have a puncture?

Monday saw the highest winds for decades with landslip warnings at the Rest and be Thankful. Fortunately, all made it home safely, although later in the day the extreme winds caused widespread chaos.

Our annual Club Championship Run has been postponed from mid June till later in the year.

Our winter programme has yet to be organised.

New members are always welcome, anyone wishing to join should contact Phillip Pain, Hon. Secretary (550752).

Douglas Arthur (Chairman)

The Strathendrick Singers

The Strathendrick Singers had another successful season finishing with their Spring concert in April of this year. The choir sang Poulenc's *Gloria*, Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass* and Rutter's *Feel the Spirit*. The orchestra was made up of musicians from the Scottish Conservatoire and they added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening.

The choir has around 56 members, mostly from the villages in the valley of the River Endrick, although some members come from Milngavie, Bearsden and Dunblane. The choir is conducted by Mark Evans who is also Head of Music at Douglas Academy in Milngavie, where amongst many other activities he directs a 100-strong senior choir and a chamber choir. Some Douglas Academy pupils have sung with the Strathendrick Singers in the past and they have made a valuable contribution to the overall sound. We hope to have more of them in the future. Rehearsals are in Balfron Church on a Monday evening at 7.30pm.

We have a new website which was launched last October. This was supported by a Making Music Scotland Development Grant. Visit our website strathendricksingers.org.uk. Check it out to find out the dates of our concerts in the coming season.

We have an invitation to sing in the Cancer Research's UK Christmas Concert in Glasgow Cathedral on 8 December, and will be performing Christmas concerts in Killearn and Drymen. The programme includes Chilcott's Twelve Days of Christmas, Britten's Ceremony of Carols and some Venezuelan carols.

We would welcome new members. If you are an alto, soprano, tenor or bass then don't hesitate to contact us. You can do this through the website or by email to the secretary Pat Ashworth at Drashworth@aol.com.

If you can't sing then don't despair. You can become a 'Friend of Strathendrick Singers' instead. Alison Brown is your contact at alison.brown10@virgin.net.

We look forward to seeing you all at our concerts in the coming season.

June Thomas
President, Strathendrick Singers

Arts Across Stirling

Arts Across Stirling is hosting a free networking and workshop evening on Thursday, 1 September, 6.30–10.00pm at Stirling Tolbooth, Jail Wynd, Stirling.

The evening is open to all arts organizations in the area – orchestras, choirs, film societies, music makers, drama groups, craft and art classes – anyone who currently run arts events, or who would like to set up arts events in the area. This will be an opportunity to meet and network and to discuss what is happening in the Stirling area.

The evening will be hosted by Stirling Council with representatives from both the arts and communities team. Also present will be members of the Stirling and District Arts Forum and Voluntary Arts Scotland's local arts ambassador.

The evening will include a presentation by Voluntary Arts Scotland with advice to either help you attract new and diverse people to participate in your activities or to set up a group specializing in the art or craft you love. Also VAS will give information on their small grants scheme, run in conjunction with the Scottish Community Foundation. The aim of the funding is to encourage new activity to help even more people discover how good it feels to take part in arts and crafts activity.

For more information, contact Carolyn Paterson, Arts Development Officer at patersonc3@stirling.gov.uk

Tuneful times in Kippen

Leading musicians in Scottish traditional music will be gathering in Kippen on Saturday, 27 August, for a day of music, dancing and fun for all the family. The afternoon will be filled with warm and welcoming acoustic sessions in the local pubs, and the day will be rounded off with a lively supper ceilidh dance in the village hall, all to raise fund for the local hospices.

Tune for CHAS

Fiddles, accordions, banjos, pipes and guitars will have everyone toe-tapping in the Cross Keys and Inn at Kippen as many well-travelled and award-winning artists share their talents with anyone that would like to join in. The gastropubs will be serving their usual delicious fayre to complement the music. Entry to the daytime sessions are free. Sessions start at 1pm. There will be collections for CHAS

'Jig for Jane'

The Neil MacEachern Ceilidh Band and David Oswald Scottish Dance Band, both regularly featured on the BBC's *Take the Floor*, will provide the music for a 'Jig for Jane' – a celebration of Jane Singleton, a well-known and much-admired Kippen resident, who loved a ceilidh. A two-course buffet will be served, and there will be a grand raffle for Stathcarron Hospice as part of the evening's entertainment. Come along and dance like you've never danced before in what promises to be a swinging hoolie. The evening starts at 7pm until midnight. Tickets are £10. BYOB. Proceeds to Strathcarron and CHAS. All welcome.

If you are interested in joining in the acoustic sessions or would like more information about coming to the day-long music festival, contact Angela MacEachern (01786 870803) or Shiona Mackay (01786 870131) or email angela.maceachern@live.co.uk.

New Season of Gartmore Gigs



We are delighted that the new season of the popular Gartmore Gigs will open on Saturday, 17 September at 7.30pm in Gartmore Village Hall with a performance from the highly acclaimed Edinburgh Renaissance Band, fresh from their 39th appearance in St Cecilia's Hall at the Festival Fringe 2011, 'a highlight of the Fringe' (edinburghguide.com). Formed in 1973, the band offers a programme of acknowledged early masterpieces and fascinating, but relatively unknown pieces of mediaeval and renaissance music, song and dance played on period instruments: sackbut, cornett, hurdy-gurdy, schawm, rauchspfeife, gemshorn, rackets, viols, percussion... and more. Tickets – £8 for adults and £1.50 for school-age children – are available at Gartmore Village Shop (01877 382214) and on the website wegottickets.com (booking fee applies). Listen to the band on YouTube, then come along to enjoy an evening of colourful, lively music and song.

On Saturday, 1 October, at 7.30pm in Gartmore Village Hall there will be something very different. Two popular Scottish folk groups, Gaberlunzie and Haggerdash, will be performing. Tickets £10 from Gartmore Village Shop or at wegottickets.com. Look and listen to the groups on their websites!

Killearn Student Embroiders Royal Wedding Dress

The thrill of the first sight of the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding dress was as nothing to the thrill of finding out that someone from Killearn had been involved in its creation.

Eilidh Young was in her second, final, year of a Foundation Degree in Hand Embroidery at the Royal School of Needlework in Hampton Court Palace when she received a phone call asking her if she would be willing to put aside her work for her degree and concentrate on a special project for the RSN instead.



They wouldn't say what the project was, but Eilidh agreed because she thought it would be something interesting.

Eilidh was interested in clothes and costume from an early age. While at Balfron High School, she made a decorated kimono for her Art and Design Advanced Higher and reached the final of the first Kimono Macintosh competition, the only young person to do so. While still at school, she also worked at Peaches Bridalwear in Killearn.

Behind locked doors and covered windows, Eilidh joined the skilled embroiderers working on the intricate

lace used on The Dress. It was hard not to tell friends and family what she was working on, and even harder to keep the secret from the other students in the RSN. In fact, a cover story was used about costumes for a film and the codes were changed on the studio where they worked to make sure nobody found out.

Selected teams of RSN-trained embroiderers worked on all parts of the dress, veil and shoes, washing their hands so often many of their hands bled. No blood got on the dress, of course.

The work was painstaking. The RSN prides itself on its technical standards, and you cannot tell where the embroidery of one person stops and another person starts. The lace is attached with tiny, tiny stitches which are almost invisible, even to the close observer. The emblems of all the nations of Great Britain were included, but Eilidh was the only Scot to work on the dress.

Her previous experience making bridalwear was very useful, but Eilidh had never been involved in such a big production with such a large team. She enjoyed that the most, she thinks – being part of something so important

and exciting. The downside was that she then had a mere two weeks to complete her final degree project, which had to be curtailed, but she did finish it in time. And how will she ever top that!

Laird–Howell



Matthew Howell of Elder Road, Killearn, married Sarah Laird of Kippen on Saturday, 2 July, in Doune. The reception was held at Stirling University. The couple, who met whilst pupils at Balfron High School, will be living in Liverpool while Matthew completes his medical training. Sarah is a recent graduate of Glasgow Caledonian University.



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Killearn Community Council Annual Report 2010–2011

The membership of KCC has changed slightly over the past year. Resignations were received from Aileen and Jenni May; the vacancies were filled by Margery Burdon and Margaret Harrison. In thanking Aileen and Jenni for their contributions, we welcome Margery and Margaret to the team, comprising: Brenda Pell (*Chair*); Peter Wilks (*Vice-Chair, Minutes Sec., Webmaster*); Heather Wright (*Sec.*); Betty Smith (*Treasurer*); Peter Rea (*Planning Correspondent*); Janet Duncan; Nigel Kelly; Derek Stuart with Iain Beaton and Cairi Macintosh (*Youth Members*).

We have been ably supported by our three elected Councillors and by Pam Campbell, Stirling Council Rural Villages Development Officer and our Community Police Officer, David McNally who attend our meetings, provide information and accelerate response to your concerns. Our thanks go to them for their advice and continued championing of our village interests.

The Eco Fair, held in September demonstrated our concern with encouraging the adoption of a 'greener lifestyle'. This event was very well supported and we were proud to have given a showcase

to numbers of voluntary and local commercial groups as well as to the work of Killearn Primary School and Ballikinrain School in educating the rising generation in the values of sustainability. Balfron High School lent their minibus fuelled by recycled cooking oil from their kitchen to ferry visitors to view a local 'eco house'. For young people Glasgow Science Centre Outreach provided a hilarious educational presentation and human energy was used to make smoothies with pedal power.

From this event has developed Killearn's newest organisation: Sustainable Killearn.

Heather Wright is leading this to explore ways in which our village can become 'greener'. KCC fully supports this venture and commends your involvement.

Learning of the need for additional social housing in rural areas, KCC was prepared to support Stirling Council in providing some new council build accommodation in our area. There has been full consultation with the community at KCC meetings, with officers from the housing department in attendance and a housing sub-group set up, as proposals to build six old peoples' bungalows on a section of the 'turnip field' have been presented and discussed for the past year. Inevitably there are concerns about the loss of 'recreational land' to building but it has sometimes been overlooked that this area of land has been designated for housing by Stirling Council for over 35 years and on occasions there have been attempts to develop the entire field. A decision to part with some of the land for social housing in return for a promise to ensure the remainder is retained in perpetuity for leisure and recreation seemed an acceptable compromise. The alternative might well

be to see the entire field developed in a few years as pressures for smaller housing units increase. Work on this project is beginning now.

Shortly to be discussed is a project by Killearn Football Club to build a changing facility on a part of this land. These plans will be presented at our June meeting.

The current economic climate coupled with the severe weather of the past year has impacted on Killearn and made demands on Stirling Council's services to communities and whilst we do not want to see standards decline we may need to exercise patience before everything we would like can be delivered. Stirling Council is in process of redeveloping its Winter Maintenance Policy with some local representation. Their helpline number is 0845 277 7000 if you need to contact them.

Recently a number of youth groups took part in the National Spring Clean Campaign. KCC awarded certificates to 1st Killearn Rainbows, 2nd Killearn Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and pupils of Killearn Primary School and Ballikinrain School for their efforts. If we could all help to maintain the appearance of our village, that would be a positive move.

At the end of another year, I thank all the members of KCC for their unstinting support and energy in working for the interests of Killearn. I would pay special tribute to our two Youth members who have been exemplary in their attendance and in their mature contribution to the work of KCC.

Your Community Council will continue to work for your interests. If you care about the village, do keep in touch with us.

Our meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of the month Sep-Jun. and are advertised on the noticeboard, on our website killearncc.org.uk and in the local press. Finally, we need one more member to complete our team. Would you be interested in joining us?

Brenda Pell, Chair

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Killearn Paths Group Update

The Paths Group has been very active in the first half of the year. We now have a core of volunteers, co-ordinated by Mike Gray, who will periodically inspect our local paths to identify maintenance needs and help carry out the work needed. A first informal meeting, to get to know each other



Cutting down fallen branches from path



Pastry Faces, one of the CAD Games

constituted and Killearn Paths Group became a founder member. SWSPG evolved from the perceived need for co-operation between paths groups in adjoining areas, Stirling Council officers with responsibilities for paths, and other bodies such as Paths for All and Sustrans. It is thought to be the first such group in Scotland and it is hoped that it will facilitate co-operation in areas such as new path construction, volunteer training and path maintenance.

The first outing for some of the new tools was on Saturday, 16 April, when a Community Action Day (CAD) was held in Killearn Glen. While volunteers from Killearn, Balfon, Buchlyvie and beyond carried out path repairs and drainage work, the younger members of the community were entertained by games devised by Alice Bell and Sarah Melville.

Andy Mackay from Ballikinrain helped with den construction and cooking over an open fire. The group's two wheelbarrows were in great demand ferrying materials from Beech Drive to the bottom of the glen powered by local muscle!

On Wednesday, 8 June, members of the Paths Group and other volunteers met up with Stirling Council Rangers Douglas and Claire at the glen intending to have a 'Bracken Bash'. Parts of the glen have extensive bracken cover which is shading out other plants. The aim is to reduce the bracken cover over time, by cutting it regularly, allowing the natural flora to develop. However, the bluebells were still in bloom and the 'Big Blow' had brought down a number of trees blocking many of the paths. The bracken had a short reprieve and the day was spent removing the blockages from the paths with hand saws and muscle power.

The bracken's reprieve was short lived and the volunteers met up with Ranger Douglas again on 29 June to attack with sickles, billhooks and 'slashers'. In places where bracken had been reduced in earlier years the vegetation has started to recover. Here removing the remaining fronds had to be carried out carefully to avoid 'collateral damage', but by the end of the day the target area had been cleared. A second area, which had not previously received attention, could be attacked more vigorously with the result that a substantial new area was cleared. Unfortunately bracken is tough and it will take repeated cutting before it is eliminated. At least one 'Bracken Bash' will take place next summer and all help will be welcomed then.

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Installing drain to path



Stirling Young Carers

Young Carers are children and young people aged 7 to 18 who care for a parent, sibling or other relative who can't manage without their help. The family member may have a long-term or terminal illness, physical or sensory impairment, mental ill health, an addiction to alcohol or drugs or a learning disability

Young Carers provide emotional support, intimate caring, additional child care, general caring and domestic chores. These incredible children assume a level of responsibility usually expected of an adult.

The Government cannot provide all the support services that we might need, and sometimes children and young people naturally assume these caring roles out of their love for the family member. Taking on these responsibilities often means that Young Carers miss out on the educational, vocational and leisure opportunities their peers take for granted. Stirling Young Carers is a registered charity which has been established to try to minimize the impact of the caring role on children and young people, help them with any problems they might have and introduce them to others in the same position.

We can help by offering Young Carers:

- free short breaks and days out
- groups – a place to chill out and have fun
- individual support if its needed
- advice and advocacy
- workforce training

Is this you or someone you know?

Want to know more?

Contact us:

Stirling Carers Centre
65-69 Barnton Street,
Stirling FK8 1HH
01786 447003
youngcarers@stirlingcarers.co.uk



Stirling Enterprise (STEP) will be holding a Business Roadshow event at the Black Bull Hotel on Wednesday, 5 October, from 10am to 4pm.

The event is aimed at those looking to start a business or set up as self employed, or those looking to expand their current business.

On the day there will be a local accountancy firm as well as several other important partners attending.

For more information, contact James Buchanan (01786 463416).



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Sustainable Tourism Grant Scheme Tops the Leader Board

Sustainable tourism projects in rural Stirling District are set to benefit from a share of a £150,000 cash boost thanks to an innovative grant scheme designed by Stirling Enterprise. The award is one of the largest made by Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER, reflecting the potential for the scheme to deliver LEADER aims.

The 1-year pilot initiative aimed at new and expanding sustainable tourism projects and with grant giving powers won the approval of the Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER programme in its April 2011 funding round.

Stirling Enterprise (STEP), who developed the innovative new rural grant scheme, will be responsible for assisting businesses and social enterprises through the application stage. Businesses with sustainable tourism ambitions can apply for a grant of up to £10,000 (or 50% of costs, whichever is bigger) for projects that show community benefit and support.

There will be four funding panels held in the scheme's 12-month duration, with the LEADER Local Action

Group (LAG) having the final say on whether short-listed projects receive grant support.

Sandy Slater, STEP Rural Business Adviser, welcomed the news and commented: 'STEP is delighted to have secured the approval of Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER and the funds to introduce, what we feel, will be a very worthwhile scheme. We recognised early on that it would not be an easy decision for the LAG to take. Our rural businesses are not traditionally thought to be drivers of community or environmental benefit. The motivating factor was to challenge that belief and to explore the capacity for our rural tourism businesses to embrace set social and environmental outcomes in tandem with economic objectives. Our view is that our small tourism businesses are an integral and essential part of the fabric of community life.'

When devising the grant scheme, STEP was conscious of the need to keep the application steps as user-friendly and straightforward as possible. Sandy

continued 'We want to bring to the fore adviser input and timely decision making to provide support specifically for small businesses in the tourism sector. Our message to local tourism businesses with potential projects in the pipeline is to come forward and speak to us at the earliest opportunity, discuss your plans with us and let us guide you as to whether the project is a good fit with this scheme.'

Anne Michelle Ketteridge, Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER Programme Manager commented: 'Current thinking on sustainability acknowledges that a thriving community is an integral part of a good quality tourist destination. We believe that the combination of these LEADER funds, STEP's enterprise expertise and local business enthusiasm, will combine to make a step change in the sustainable character of the tourism product across rural Clacks, rural Stirling, rural Falkirk and the part of West Dunbartonshire within the National Park.'

A quick guide to how the new grant scheme will work:

NEW Tourism Business Grant Scheme



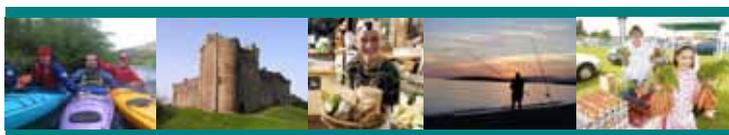
Is this you?

- ✓ **Start up or existing tourism business operating in Forth Valley?**
- ✓ **Need a development grant of up to £10,000?**
- ✓ **Able to deliver community benefit through your project?**

For more information and to discuss your idea, please contact Sandy Slater, Rural Business Adviser at Stirling Enterprise (STEP) on:

Email: sslater@stirling-enterprise.co.uk or Tel: 01786 463 416

Full details will also be available on the Stirling Enterprise website www.stirling-enterprise.co.uk



This project is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Forth Valley & Lomond Leader 2007 - 2013 programme



Application:

Paper-based application form. Advisor support to complete if necessary.

4 funding panels in the year. A Business Plan will also be required.

Key requirement:

A project must be able to demonstrate and achieve social and / or environmental benefits to fulfil grant scheme's sustainability objective. The project must be able to demonstrate community support.

Eligibility:

Open to small rural tourism businesses in the Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER area (includes part of Dunbartonshire). Must have 10 employees or less.

What can be funded:

Funds start-up and expanding sustainable tourism projects. Eligible items include feasibility studies, capital expenditure, machinery, equipment, etc.

What's not supported:

Any expenditure already committed prior to a decision being made by the Leader LAG.

Accommodation and self-catering projects are ineligible. The scheme cannot support staffing costs.

How grant is paid out:

Subject to grant award letter. After completion of the project and on submission of proof of expenditure.

How do I find out more?

Contact Sandy Slater, Rural Business Adviser, on: 01786 463416 or email: sslater@stirling-enterprise.co.uk

Killearn Health Centre News

Staff training

Killearn Health Centre would like to advise all patients that they will be closed from 12.30pm on the following days for staff training:

Wednesday, 14 September

Thursday, 20 October

Tuesday, 22 November

If you require medical assistance on these days please contact NHS 24 on 0845 4242424.

Keep up-to-date with our website: killearnhealthcentre.com

Change in doctors

Dr Alan Thomson has finished his training and will be leaving the surgery on 2 August 2011 to pursue his career as a GP.

Dr Adam Hay will be leaving us at the same time, but returning in August 2012 to complete his three-year training programme.

We will be joined on 3 August by GP trainees Dr Catherine Cairns and Dr Anna Pickering, to whom we extend a warm welcome.

Has the Christian faith had its day?

I guess this might seem a strange question for a minister to ask, yet for a long time the church nationally has been declining rapidly in terms of numbers of folks attending on a Sunday. Does this church in Killearn have a future if the congregation on a Sunday declines any further? Are we living in spiritual recessionary times, when soon the doors of this kirk will close like its ruined predecessor?

I would argue that, although the church has fallen on difficult days with many people questioning its relevance, it still, I believe, has an important role to play. How? Well, I think the starting place is not with the physical structure of the church, nor is it about the style of worship. I would argue that the church can only continue if God once again begins to work and touch, even dare I say it, intervene in our lives to such an extent that we cannot ignore or deny the active presence of God.

Now, this may appear to be a wrong answer for the scientific/secular/atheistic society in which we live. It certainly goes in the opposite direction to where most people are heading on a Sunday! What you find in the Bible is not just a quaint collection of stories that have no relevance to this modern society, but a common theme throughout, and that is of God who acts, intervenes and responds in such a way that people are changed and given a new perspective.

Therefore, despite the evidence, the lack of commitment and the general apathy that many hold towards Christianity, I believe that God is still very much at work! Okay, I might be biased, but what I have seen, experienced and come slowly to appreciate is the God, whom I call Father, is able to do so much more than I could ever imagine. Consequently, I believe that Sunday worship can be and is exciting, and more importantly, this Faith which I hold to is not dependent on my feelings, prejudices or upbringing, but rather works because God, the Father is the one who actively seeks to be known.

In such a way, the Christian act of worship is a response to the One who calls, beckons, loves and desires our participation in worship, because in so doing, the worshipper is lifted, as it were, out of their seat into a different dimension of joy, and in such a way, God is glorified. Psalm 8, expresses this sense of awe by asking: 'When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars... what is man that you are mindful of him?'

Lee Messeder, Minister, Killearn Kirk



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The Bake Box

The idea for the bake box came from experiences we had enjoyed.

When living in London we used to order a weekly veg box. We enjoyed the surprise of discovering which seasonal vegetables had arrived each week.

Moving to Scotland, the content changed and my husband started bringing home a mixed box of cakes on Fridays. Negotiation skills were sharpened as everyone eyed up what they wanted and bartered for shares of each cake.

Living in the countryside, my Mum gave me a subscription to *Country Living*. This continually promotes using your talents to start a small business under the title of 'kitchen table talents'. My husband suggested that I should try to set up some form of baking business. We mulled this over, considering what might work best in Killearn where so many people already bake.

The idea we came up with was The Bake Box. Each Friday I deliver a box of six different cakes. Some families use this as afternoon tea at the end of school or to provide pudding for a relaxed meal to start the weekend. A number of people work from home and The Bake Box becomes the Friday office cake run. For those with fewer folk in their house, The Bake Box provides variety for weekend treats.

This works brilliantly for me. I spend Thursdays listening to Radio 4 while I bake and have everything in tins and the kitchen cleaned up before the kids come home from school. Deliveries are finished by 3pm on Friday and so I'm there for my family.

In preparation to set this up I did the food hygiene course prepared by REHIS. The environmental health department at Stirling have been really helpful in assessing my kitchen and explaining how to comply with legislation. Business Gateway did a road show in Drymen which was useful in helping to consider the financial aspects of The Bake Box. The Country Market has been really supportive and provides a way to let people know what we are and taste some samples. And, thanks now to the *Courier*, you know all about the Bake Box.

Morag Miller



Caroline Leung Hand Made Tiles

Caroline Leung set up Original Hand Made Tiles when she moved to Cruachan in Gartocharn in 2008. She finds her inspiration for her tile designs in the countryside surrounding Loch Lomond, especially its trees and hedgerows, as well as in her own larder amongst the chillis and garlic bulbs. One favourite subject is her cockerel, Roger, but sheep, dragonflies, moths and beetles all make interesting subjects for her hand-drawn and painted designs complimented by the unusual Raku firing process, which produces a crackled and smoky finish.



Caroline studied at the Epsom School of Art and Design as well as the Glasgow School of Art. But it was during her extensive travels in Asia that she became intrigued by Japanese functional ceramics, and especially by the Raku technique. 'Raku' means 'enjoyment' in Japanese, and the process is an unusual and complicated one, which includes using a special kind of kiln, and even fire and smoke to create its unusual finish. Each tile is unique.



The tiles are primarily designed for use in kitchens, especially behind solid-fuel stoves, as well as backdrops to wood-burning stoves in living

areas and even in bathrooms. Caroline has exhibited at the Scottish interior Show in 2010 and the Ideal Homes exhibition at the SECC this year. She is hoping to exhibit her tiles locally in the near future.

Contact Original Hand Made Tiles: mobile: 07977476149
or via the website: originalhandmadetiles.com



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Wind Turbines in West Stirlingshire

A proposal has been made by Banks Renewables for twenty 100-metre high (maximum) wind turbines adjacent the National Park, just off the Old Drymen Road. The company intends to submit an application for an anemometer, a scoping report and, later, an application for the development.

The name given by Banks to the proposed site is 'Ard Ghaoth', a combination of the Scottish 'ard', a height or promontory and the Irish 'ghaath', wind. This does not appear to be a local name for the area.

The turbines would be the same height as those on the Braes of Doune and the area visually impacted upon will, by virtue of location, be extensive. Some existing forestry would slightly diminish the full visual effect from villages such as Gartmore, although the trees are due to be felled at some point. There is, however, no forestry on the site which impacts upon Killlearn.

In addition to this proposal, a raft of applications has recently been submitted for both single and multiple turbines, mostly 76m high (250ft), along the Carse and environs, and further applications are believed to be in process.

At the request initially of residents who would find themselves only 1km away from turbines, EVAG (Endrick Valley Action Group) is working closely with individuals and groups across West Stirlingshire so that expertise, liaison and energy is optimized.

Should you wish to obtain further information, please email evaguk@gmail.com or phone 441068. A map of the area, photo montages, and location of the proposed turbines can be seen on the website banksgroup.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Ard-Ghaoth-Newsletter-June-20112.pdf.

Mary Young



Proposed turbine site; view to Gartmore and Port of Menteith



The Old Drymen Road; National Park to the left – proposed turbine site to the right and extending to the right

A Plague of Locusts Next?



Main Street



Well Green

In some ways, 2011 so far has been an 'interesting' year weather wise. First we had a massive fall of snow which saw Killlearn all but cut off, cars stranded on main roads with side roads and driveways mostly blocked by the sheer depth of the snow.

Next we had a 'bit of a blow' which saw trees being blown down, roofs damaged and damage being done to various properties. We can still see some of the results around the village.

Then, on Sunday, 17 July, we experienced what can only be described as a monsoon and what a downpour it was. Within a few minutes, Spar was all but marooned, many gardens lost plants and soil which was washed away by the fast running waters and some of our roads were later found with stones and gravel on the surface, again having been washed there from adjoining gardens.

It makes you wonder what's next – a plague of locusts perhaps?

TID

The Turnip Field – An Update

One thing the village of Killearn is very good at is the circulation of rumours which grow arms and legs at every telling. Many such rumours are flying about regarding the future of the Turnip Field and the Playpark. This article is an attempt to put an end to these rumours and set out the latest facts for the information of the community, albeit they are already in the public domain.

The Turnip Field has a long history, and 40 or more years ago it was exactly as the name suggests. Later on, Stirling Council acquired the land along with the land to the south and west where the 'Trees' estate was eventually built. There have been several attempts over the years, both by the Council and private developers to build on the Turnip Field, all of which were fiercely opposed by the community. The Council, although holding this land in its housing stock, has maintained it as additional park space. It is also part of the *Safe Routes to School* initiative.

The story of the Turnip Field vis-à-vis Stirling Council's current housing proposal to build on it began with a presentation of homelessness in rural areas, much of which is 'hidden'. Although they may not be sleeping in doorways, families are living with older relatives, and young people are 'couch surfing' with friends but have no real home. Killearn Community Council has been informed of this and has shared the knowledge with the community at large through its website, regular meetings and the village noticeboard. In an attempt to meet rural housing needs Stirling Council identified the Turnip Field as suitable site for a small development. Everyone involved recognized local unwillingness to give up even a small part of the park. However, given the past attempts to develop this land *in its entirety*, as against the proposed six small bungalows, coupled with the risk of full development in the future, led to a compromise with the Council. It was agreed that the rest of the Turnip Field would be turned over to the community for leisure and recreational purposes in perpetuity.

The Community Council meeting in March 2011 was attended by around 60 people, and there was almost unanimous



agreement for this compromise. Killearn Community Council was reassured from the response at this and previous meetings that the community in general was supportive of the proposal.

There has recently been a change in the original plans, which will 'flip' the original plans, so that the proposed six bungalows will now back on to the land



surrounding the Telephone Exchange and the road servicing the new bungalows will extend from Birch Road curving around the new houses and providing a pedestrian pathway that links with the footpath across the Turnip Field. The new layout will preserve more of the open playing area.

Killearn Community Council has convened a special meeting to discuss the new situation and this will take place at 8pm in the Primary School on Wednesday, 17 August 2011.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

This is a project to mark the Queen's Jubilee by creating a network of permanently protected outdoor spaces for sport, play and recreation across the UK. Killearn Park has been placed on Stirling Council's shortlist of ten possible venues for this challenge. If successful, the remainder of the Turnip Field, along with the Playpark will be retained in perpetuity as a protected open space. Learn more about this scheme and sign up for the newsletter by visiting the website qe2fields.com. Nominations will close in September 2011 and public voting will take place via the website thereafter.

Both these events will allow residents who are interested in what is happening in their community the opportunity to become involved at the beginning without waiting until the eleventh hour before expressing their views. The best time to voice an opinion is at the start, not near the end so, if you are interested in the community, get involved.

TID



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Killearn Primary School Notes

The Green Flag



Killearn Primary was awarded *Eco-School Green Flag Status* on 29 September 2010.

On Monday, 30 May, the green flag was formally raised by Mrs Wilks, who has assisted with some eco initiatives in the school.

With help from Jamie North (a former pupil of Killearn Primary School), Hector successfully hoisted the flag. It was a huge success. The Eco Committee and the school were all so proud of themselves.

Sophie Howie (P7)

KPS Raises the Bar on Charity Stakes

Throughout the year, Killearn Primary School has held lots of successful charity events including:

- Dotty Day raising £423.79 (the day Hector dressed up as a Dalmatian)
- Red Nose Day raising £558.47
- Welly Day (pictured right) raising £709.37
- Poppy Day raising £74.68
- CHAS collection raised £259.15
- £50 was raised for East Plean Primary School to help replace the items lost in their fire
- £144.82 for Hamade (our sponsored child in Malawi)
- P5 raised £62.77 for Water Aid
- Ross Faichnie and Sarah Gibb raised £131.80 to adopt an elephant for the school by selling cakes in the playground. (All of these totals included all the extras pupils have done outside of school.)
- As well as the money there's also been the Shoe Box Appeal and Harvest Donations which are very helpful and good fun as well.
- In total, Killearn Primary School has raised £2,414.85, which is a fantastic effort from everyone involved. As well as being great fun, they have raised lots of money for different charities and good causes.



A group of pupils from every class was interviewed on Dotty Day to find out how they were enjoying it. P1 were asked, 'Why do you think we are dressed in spots today?' They replied, 'Because it is Spotty Day and to raise money.' Katie from P7 was asked how much she thinks the school will raise, and she guessed £300.

The best dressed teacher was unanimously voted as Mrs McDonough who wore a really colourful outfit.

All in all, Killearn Primary School should be very proud of its successes in 2010–2011 in fund-raising and charity events.

Jemma Whyte (P6)



Out and About

Over the last year Killearn Primary has got up to lots of adventurous trips. Most of trips are linked to the topics being studied in class. Here's a quick description of where they went.

Primary 1 and 2

These classes travelled to the Scottish Wool Centre. They held chicks, and saw lots of animals. They said they would recommend it!

Primary 3

The children in this class went a walk to the glen in Killearn. Their topic was wildlife and 'there is lots of it in the glen,' said Andrew Methven. Mr Begbie led the trip and taught them lots about wildlife. Lots of the children said that they would recommend this adventure.

Primary 4

Inchcailloch was the place to go to study Stirlingshire geography. This trip was funded by the PTA.

Primary 5

Primary 5 experienced an Imax Adventure at the Science Centre in Glasgow. They chose this place as it was linked to their context learning on Space. It was quite expensive at £6 per person, but worth the visit as they saw the 'Hubble Telescope 3D' and the Planetarium.

Primary 5/6 and Primary 7

These classes were taken back in time at Scotland Street School. They experienced either a Victorian or World War II classroom and took part in a lesson. Some children found it rather frightening. They played with old-fashioned playground toys. Lewis Stewart said, 'There were lots of stations where you could learn about different topics like the Victorians or World War II.'

Primary 6/7

To learn about the rainforest, this group went to Amazonia (Scotland's indoor tropical rainforest at Strathclyde Country Park). They got to look and hold some of the animals. They would highly recommend this trip.

Primary 7

To learn about the witch trials and to link in with the schools performance of 'Over the Rainbow', P7 attended a play called *Witches of Salem*. They watched, took part and, talked about the characters in an interactive play.



Rachael Methven

Catriona Mackenzie – A fond farewell

At the end of the school year colleagues, pupils and parents said farewell to Catriona Mackenzie who retired after 37 years teaching, spent in Fintry and Killearn primary schools. She was a truly dedicated and inspired teacher with an imagination that far exceeded the bounds of the classroom and she developed in her pupils that desire to discover what the world is all about whilst building their confidence so that they could all experience the joys of achievement.

Catriona was brought up just outside Killearn at Gartness and attended Killearn Primary School and Balfron High School and went on to gain her B.Ed. at Glasgow University. She and I started our teaching careers together, and worked side by side for 15 years. She was the most loyal, supportive colleague one could wish to have and from our earliest acquaintance, I recognised in her a high principled inner core that directed all her actions. She always put her pupils first and spared no efforts to ensure that the programme she devised was the best for every child. As was said at one of her retiral celebrations, Catriona has been delivering the Curriculum for Excellence for her entire career.

Creative writing was always an important feature of her classroom and her own writing abilities attracted attention; she was asked to write support material for the



Catriona, with some of her P2 pupils, receiving a bouquet at a farewell visit to Abbeyfield

BBC's education service and to contribute to books which provided teachers with ideas for developing children's writing. Her success in teaching led to a co-operation with Jordanhill Campus through which Catriona's classroom became a resource for teachers in training, and the work generated by her pupils was used as exemplars of good practice. The experience she provided for trainee teachers was regarded as inspirational by her university colleagues.

A quiet sense of purpose was key to Catriona's teaching. Detailed planning underlay the many diverse activities that her pupils engaged in. Her classroom, be

it for a term transformed into Cinderella's kitchen or the cockpit of an airliner, was the welcoming environment of busy enquiry and activity by her pupils. She was the most quietly spoken teacher I have ever encountered and as a result her classroom was quiet too, with her children engaged on their tasks and interacting with each other sociably and positively. The high quality of the work produced was a testimony to the happy and productive ethos she created.

She will be greatly missed, but her contribution she has made to her pupils over these many years will last for their lifetimes.

B. Pell

Killearn Primary School Notes (continued)

Awards and Achievements

Primary 5/6 won the club golf challenge.

The Killearn lacrosse teams amazingly won 2nd in the whole of Scotland.

All the children who were chosen to enter the Scottish Mathematical Challenge did extremely well as we won one Top Gold, one Gold, five Silvers and four Bronze.

Athletics went very well as we broke the record for fastest 80-metre time! For the girls relay race we received 1st! For the boys relay race we received 2nd! And for the girls 80 metre, we received a 3rd.

Drymen Show

This year was very successful for Killearn Primary School as we received many awards.

PTA

To Teachers, Support Staff, Mums, Dads and carers: the PTA provides lots of money to help the school with all sorts of things. Thank you to everyone who lent a hand to help.

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Local girl becomes local businesswoman

Hopefully, many readers will already have noticed the recent arrival of a new business 11 Milngavie Road, Strathblane – once the Blane Valley Construction office. Established in February this year by Kate Baxter, Baxter Accounting & Tax Services is a new accounting practice set up to serve businesses and individuals in the local area.

Kate was born and brought up in Killearn by her parents, Walter and Rosalind MacGowan, who still live in the family home on Station Road. She was educated at Killearn Primary, Balfour High School and then at the University of Edinburgh law school. Unable to stay away from the West for long, she set up home with her husband, Robert, in Glasgow, and started a 10-year career at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Glasgow. There she trained as a Chartered Tax Adviser and progressed swiftly through the ranks to become senior manager. In 2002, she and her husband moved to Strathblane, where they still live, now with their three young children.



Despite her success at PwC, Kate fulfilled a burning ambition to be her own boss when she got the keys to her new office and started her own accounting practice. The decision to leave a secure job for the vagaries of self employment was not made lightly, but there have been no regrets. When she saved her very first client over £1,000 by spotting something a previous accountant had missed, it was far more satisfying than the multi-million pound transactions she had advised upon in the past. And from a personal perspective, being able to drop the children at school on the way to the office and be home in time

to help with homework is worth its weight in gold. Although office based only two or three days a week at the moment, the intention is that this will adapt over time as both the business and the family mature.

Kate is already delighted with the response she has received and the number of clients she has already met. The Strathendrick area is full of enterprising individuals, and Kate's passion for the locale and for being a trusted adviser should prove to be a complimentary addition to the local community.

If you or your business need any help with any accounting or tax matters, please don't hesitate to call or drop by.



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News from the Rotary Club of Strathendrick

The Rotary Club has had a varied and busy year and the photographs show just some of the club's activities. In the last year Rotary has made donations both to local and national charities exceeding £20,000.

The Primary School Quiz held at Balfroun High School was a great success. Congratulations to winners Drymen Primary School.

The Bridge Night, a joint venture between The Inner Wheel Club of Strathendrick and The Rotary Club, raised money for Teenage Cancer Trust.

The Rotary Classic Car Tour, which included a lunchtime stop at Inveraray, raised money for Strathcarron Hospice and Mary's Meals. The Great Duck Race at the Fintry Fling raised money for local youth charities.

On the community side, the club continues to have close links with Balfroun High School and Abbeyfield, and in March organized the Annual Community Concert in the Village Hall.

Our next big event is scheduled for 13 August (while the Courier is being delivered), the date of our Annual Am-Am Golf Tournament, which takes place at the Balfroun Golf Society's Shian Course. The main sponsor is Brewin Dolphin Ltd, Corporate Advisory and Broking. One of the two main beneficiaries of the event is Bobath Scotland who specialize in the treatment of cerebral palsy in both children and adults.



Picture shows the winning team from Drymen Primary School with President Ian Dickie and Quizmaster Allan Watson



Rotary Bridge night



Rotarians launching the ducks into the River Endrick

The Club meet at the Black Bull in Killearn every Monday at 6:30pm for 7:00pm, and visitors are more than welcome to join our meetings. We are actively looking for younger members to join us in order to be able to help us continue our 'work'.

Mike Menzies



The classic cars are pictured at the lunchtime stop at Inveraray Castle

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Curling Sweeps Up



The winners of the National Masters trophy.
From left: Mary Paterson of Fintry, Annette MacDonald of Balfron, Fiona Glass and Irene Hird of Stirling.
(Copyright Gordon McIntyre)

The 2010–11 curling season came to an end for Strathendrick Curling Club with the Annual General Meeting and prize presentation held at Glengoyne Distillery in April.

The main mixed club matches were played on Tuesdays at The Peak in Stirling. The Spring League was decisively won by Ian Bowie's team of Steve Holden, George Harris and Elean Bonner who only lost one match. Donnie Macdonald's team of Diana Jackson, David Hale and Ron Low were second.

Unfortunately both the main club and the Ladies Section pairs competitions and the Ladies v Gents Bonspiel were victims of the bad weather in December.

The Ladies Section played Leagues at Stirling on Thursday mornings. The winner of the Rowan Salver Spring League was Ann Roy's team of Jenny Knox, Pat Montgomery and Pauline Holden. The Peat Trophy Autumn League was eventually finished in February with the winners being Rita Barth's team of Pat Montgomery, Rita Mearns and Rita Hallam.

George Harris was the main club Curler of the Year and Betty Meikle was the Ladies Section Curler of the Year.

The Ladies Section finished their season with a bonspiel. This was played at The Peak and followed by an excellent lunch at the Riverhouse. The competition was won by Ann Roy, Rita Harris, Elspeth Murdoch and Sheilagh Cooper.

The club was not as successful in the Forth & Endrick Province competitions as last year, coming third in both the Robert Paterson Shield at The Peak and the Forest Hills League at Braehead.

The Club has had some indirect success this year. Many of readers will remember the Barrowman family from Kirkhouse Road. Daughter Fiona, now Hawker, still

manages to curl, despite living in Cheltenham, and she is the current English Ladies Curling champion. She is due to skip her team in the B Division of the European Championships in Moscow in December.

Our own Fiona Glass has been playing with Annette MacDonald from Balfron in various competitions and they have considerable success this year. In the Scottish Seniors, they qualified from the round robin but were narrowly beaten in the quarterfinals, playing their third game of the day. Their next major outing was in the British Ladies Open at The Peak, which they won. Later that same week they won the National Masters at Greenacres. This is a Royal Caledonian Curling Club competition for players over a certain age.

For those of you with an interest in history, there is an item on curlinghistory.blogspot.com about the laying of the foundation stone for the Wallace Monument on 24 June 1861. Representatives of 17 curling clubs represented 'Scotland at Play' including Strathendrick, our neighbours at Port of Menteith and the Partick Club for which some Killearn residents play.

The club has a good mix of competitive and less competitive curling and thus caters for all ranges of abilities. In addition it also has a range of social events including a golf outing, summer barbeque, Dinner or Dinner Dance and New Year Meander.

If you want an interest and some exercise to keep you occupied during the winter months and would like to have a go at curling contact:

*Fiona Glass (550646) or
George Harris (550456)
or look at our website at
strathendrickcurling.org.uk.*



Committee members at the 165th AGM at Glengoyne distillery.
From left: Fiona Glass (New secretary), Gill Smith (Treasurer), George Harris (New president), Mike Jackson (President), Stan Moore (Secretary) and Pauline Holden (Ladies President).
(Copyright Iain Moreland)



Fiona Glass (left) and Irene Hird sweeping Annette Macdonald's stone at the National Masters.
(Copyright Gordon McIntyre)

Sadly, Marshall Falconer, a long standing member and former President of the Club died on 1 July after a short illness. He was an excellent player both at Club and Province level and will be sorely missed. The Club extends its sympathies to Margaret and family.

Killearn Tennis Club

Undeterred by the weather we have had a fruitful and exciting tennis season, and it's not over yet!

Our newly refurbished clubhouse marked the start of activities with two successful junior tournaments in June. Friday night coaching continues under the banner of 'Tennis Tigers' run by Chris Jewell and Janey MacKay. After school clubs and summer camps all featured this season and the new block of coaching starts this month – look out for details.

Senior tennis is thriving with teams competing in Central, Autumn and Winter Leagues. Our club championships will be in full swing as this goes to press. A ladies beginners class ran this summer.

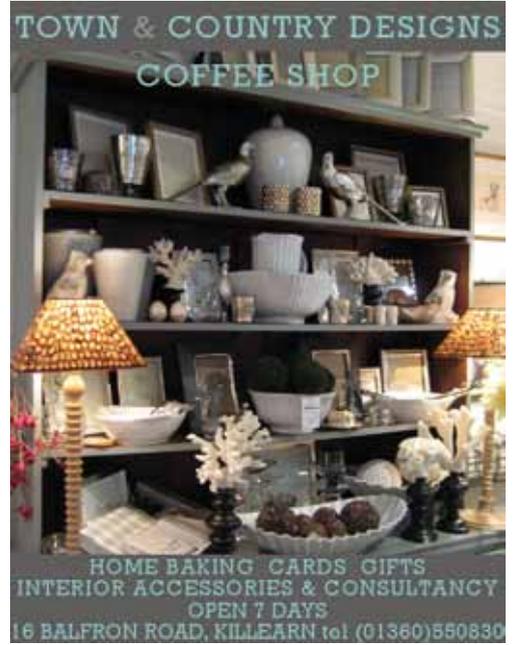


Winner, Euan Woodley (right) and Runner-up, Thomas Potter of the Under-16 Central League Tournament.

We are also encouraging new members to come along on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm – which will be an social evening with emphasis on beginners and new members.

The club is a great facility – as always, we welcome new members.

Try tennis – you'll love it!



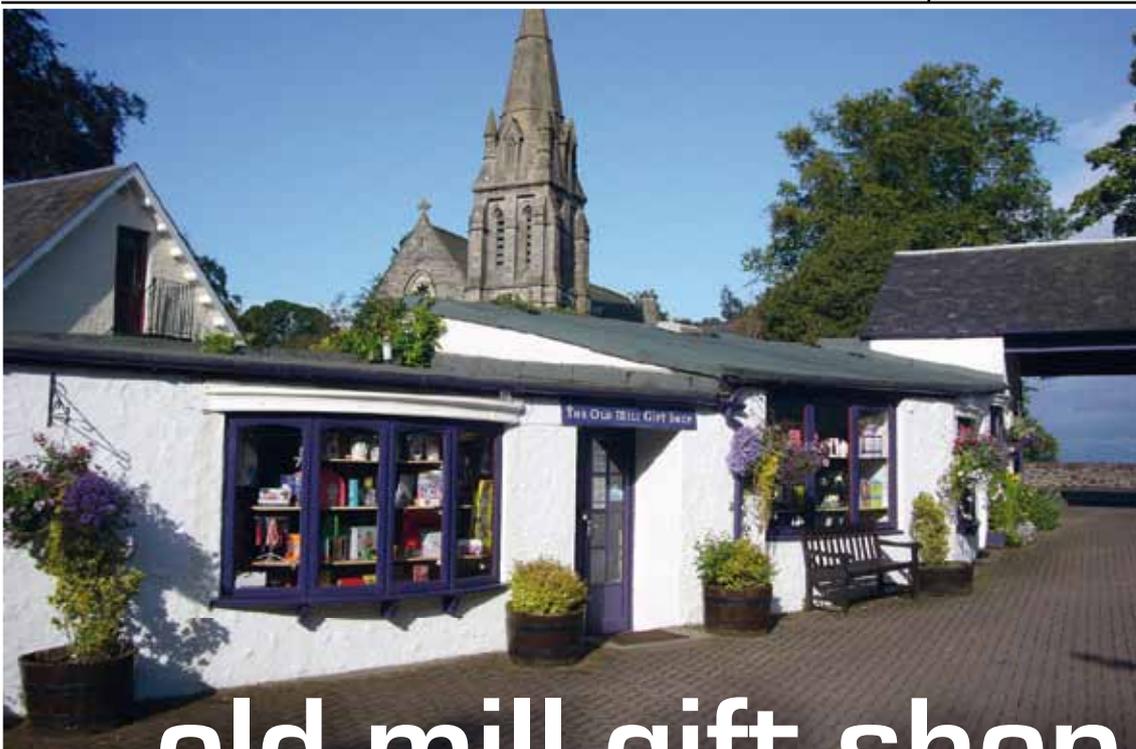
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Rugby Round Up

CHAMPIONS! What a Season! What a Year!



Strathendrick Rugby Club had a truly memorable season in 2010–11: the 1st XV winning all but two of their competitive games and the Minis passing a remarkable milestone.

At the beginning of the season the Club took on Dave Cook, a professional fitness instructor from Clan Crossfit in Glasgow, as Club Coach. Dave maintained that by achieving superior fitness levels throughout the squad the Fintry side could win the League and Cup double. There was a strong side this year with a blend of youth and experience – players like skipper James Cuthbertson and Player of the Year, Stuart Forsyth, having come through the junior ranks; the Ruairidhs Clark and McLaughlan from Balforn High and mature talent that had played at a higher level such as Sandy Cuthbertson, Dougie Spence, Ewen McKay and former Scotland player, Rory Kerr.

Fitness did indeed play a part in tight games as the team regularly clocked up Bonus Points as well as wins. The first stumble came at home in

November when arch rivals Lenzie beat Strathendrick by a single score. But that was to prove to be the only loss of the season in the League as 'Endrick won 3-0 in the return fixture at Lenzie and went on to win all their remaining games and secure the Scottish Rugby West Division 1 title.

In the Cup competition, after some easy wins in early rounds and a walkover against Uddingston, Strathendrick

had tight fixtures against Hillfoots and Ross Sutherland (both at Fintry) battling through to the final of the Regional Bowl at Murrayfield in April.

The final was a fantastic day for everyone associated with the Club as hundreds of supporters turned out: for most players running out at the National stadium was a highlight of their career. In the event the opposition, Duns, proved the stronger side and ran out worthy winners. But that didn't stop there being one **** of a party back at Fintry Sports Club that night!

And the Club is delighted to announce the appointment of Dave Barrett and Kerr McMillan as coaches for 2011–12. Dave, a former Scotland B player, led the Club to successive promotions and a famous Cup run ten years ago and is very highly rated for his tactical knowledge and skills.



For further information on Strathendrick Rugby Club contact Nick Hawkins on 01360 550576

Rugby Round Up (continued...)



James Cuthbertson turns to triumphant team mates with Trophy



Strathendrick supporters at Murrayfield

Mini Rugby



Strathendrick Minis at Fintry

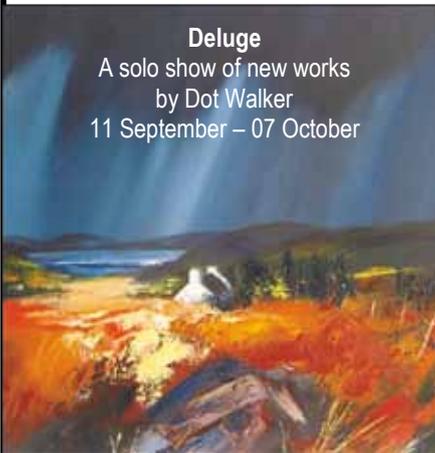
Meanwhile the Strathendrick juniors enjoyed their season despite the bitter winter weather limiting games: the P4s won the GHK tournament and both P4s and P5s won at Waysiders. Gregor Duncan was a mascot for the Scotland Ireland game – and Morgan Sansom will be mascot at the Italy game in August. The Minis – led by the indefatigable Iain Somerville – ran another fantastic Minis' Charity Tournament at Fintry at the end of April and have now raised over £20,000 for local hospices in recent years: an incredible achievement!

Cheques from the Charity event will be presented at The Minis Open Day and Family BBQ at Fintry on Sunday 28 August at 10.30. All are welcome.

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Village Hall Update



Readers will be aware that there has been a great deal of activity continuing around the Village Hall redevelopment. The good news is that we have reached our funding target thanks to the incredible generosity of the community and a number of charitable trusts plus the substantial financial assistance from Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) which was approved in November 2010. At the same time, we are well advanced with our plans for the physical layout of the building with all the technical challenges that entails!

The major issue which has been occupying us for the last few months is a legal complexity which has arisen regarding the original ownership structure of the village hall and its subsequent management by the various trust bodies and committees over the last 60 years since the hall was transferred from Killearn Kirk Session to Stirling Council. This complexity has caused difficulties with SRDP, who are unable to provide funding unless they are satisfied that the applicants either have outright ownership or have a lease for at least the next five years. Our current lease with Stirling Council expires in 2014.

In order to satisfy their conditions, our options are either to agree to a new lease or accept transfer of ownership from Stirling Council. The new lease being offered is full repairing and insuring (all the liabilities and no asset) compared with the current internal repairing lease, and the project

team has therefore decided to follow the ownership route. Although this carries the risk of maintenance costs, we are confident that the substantial renovation we are carrying out will eliminate most possible costs for the short to medium term and we will have the added comfort of ownership of the hall and site in the event of a crisis. It is proposed that ownership of the village hall should be transferred to Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC) with management remaining with Killearn Village Hall Management Committee (KVHMC). KCFC has limited liability protection which allows this charitable company, owned by the community, to be responsible for the development and completion of the project.

The process to achieve this will take a few more months, involving meetings of Stirling Council and acceptance of the proposals by OSCR, the Scottish Charities Regulator. Thereafter we expect to be in a position to proceed with the project and the architect's revised Project Programme indicates a 'start on site' in early 2012.

We are well aware of the disruption this has been causing various community organisations with uncertainty over when the hall will eventually close for the start of the project, and KVHMC will continue to work closely with them.

Meanwhile we will continue to keep the community informed of developments through the *Courier*.

VHDG

Our Village Hall multimedia project update



THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT – Layer 2 of Killearn's multimedia venture – will kick-off this autumn.

Bill McLeod, a producer who works for the BBC, will lead the project in Killearn Primary School. Pupils will learn how to research contacts and stories, interviewing older people with interesting tales, capturing golden moments of the past and their experiences of the Village Hall. The students will learn how to use video-cams and MP3 recorders and then edit the material into a presentation for the Our Village Hall Website.



Jaqui McAlpine will lead a parallel project with Ballikinrain School, developing media skills and involving young people recording older peoples' precious memories.



Layer 1 – THE OUR VILLAGE HALL WEBSITE and Layer 3 – THE DOCUMENTARY of the restoration of the Village Hall will both launch shortly. If you would like to be involved with either of these intriguing endeavours, please contact Jaqui McAlpine at jaquimcalpine@hotmail.com or Nick Hawkins (550576).

Sustainable Killearn

Sustainable Killearn had its first major event on Saturday, 21 May. The Environment Event was focused on the green environment within and around our village, and was held in partnership with the Horticultural Society's spring Gardener's Market.

We had a great range of exhibitors. Colourful Killearn displaying their great work on the tubs and beds of the village. Killearn Growers' computer presentation on their activities was inspiring, and they also were on hand with their vegetable seedlings plus lots of advice on food growing and eating seasonal produce. Forth Valley Waste Aware had a stand with everything you could ever want to know about producing your own compost and their 'stop the drop' and 'love food, hate waste' campaign leaflets. Our own local Paths Group had maps and information on healthy walks in the area that maximize our appreciation of our rural setting, and how it can be maintained.

Craigievern Poultry wowed everyone with their live chicks – the hens and eggs taking a back seat to all that cute fluffiness. The serious message

about local sourced produce and how to rear your own poultry was slightly pushed onto the back burner most of the morning.

The children weren't missed out. There was seed planting and draw your own 'beastie', a wildlife table with quizzes and how to build habitats in your garden. The Royal Highland Education Trust had great activities to help the children understand where their food comes from including a corn grinder and some fab Tonka sized tractors. And the Bumble Bee Trust had lots of information and pictures on how we can protect these precious pollinators.

Killearn Primary School sent a very colourful display of the great work they are doing, including – in pride of place – their Green Flag certificate. Ballikinrain School manned their stall with information on the great environment projects they are doing at the school as well as some of their other projects like the calendars of lovely local beauty spots and the sweet smelling handmade candles.

The enthusiasm of all the stall holders for their causes was evident, and the

'think green: think local' ethos was well demonstrated.

Sustainable Killearn had a stand to promote the work of this new group. We grew out of the Eco Fair in September 2010 with the aim of 'working towards realizing sustainable economic, social and ecological development of Killearn, through disseminating information and linking or developing initiatives for sustainability'.

We had a suggestions board divided into our three main headings of Energy, Community and enviroNment, a sign up list for volunteers, and a contacts list if you want to receive regular information on these topics. We are linked to the Killearn Community Futures website kcfc.co.uk and hope to be posting relevant information on our page. We already have some ideas for projects and links within the village, but are always keen to have more suggestions.

If you couldn't make it on the day or want more information on the work of Sustainable Killearn, please look us up on the website or contact us.

Heather Wright



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John Yates 1960 – 2011



was a schoolboy racer. It wasn't all about competition though, the bike for him was a means of transport, freedom to travel out of the city and explore new territory.

The boys, too, found an interest in cycling, but it was the unobtrusive and unstinting support from a knowledgeable cyclist and father, with a lifelong passion for the sport, that allowed these talented boys to reach their potential.

A devoted father, John provided the conditions for them to thrive and grow as only a fully committed parent can. Our children also benefitted from John's expertise and encouragement and for two years we worked together providing transport and support, as our boys represented Scotland and Great Britain on the Youth Talent Team.

John was born in Glasgow on 23 September 1960. He was the second oldest of four children, having two brothers and one sister. He lived in Mosspark, and attended Mosspark Primary School and later Bellahouston Academy.

At the age of 16 he gained an apprenticeship with Barr & Stroud as a trainee mechanical engineer, and studied for an HNC at Stow College. He continued to work at Barr & Stroud, now called Thales and was recently promoted to Operations Planning Manager.

In 1987 he married the love of his life, Sally, and set up home in Shawlands. They moved to Oak Place in Killearn that same year, where their boys, Ross and Kyle, were born, later moving to Allan Road and recently Lampson Road. John loved the countryside and delighted at being able to live in this beautiful village setting, within commuting distance of work.

John had great drive and enthusiasm in everything he did, was very organized and always found the time to help others, especially in this village. When Ross and Kyle were in the Scouts, he organized cycle maintenance classes and offered his expertise. He was a trusted safe pair of hands.

John started cycling as a young lad, and like many of my generation, he

was a schoolboy racer. It wasn't all about competition though, the bike for him was a means of transport, freedom to travel out of the city and explore new territory.

I met John in the early '90s soon after moving to Killearn. The Sunday runs on our bikes became a regular fixture – sometimes with our kids, sometimes with a larger bunch and sometimes alone. Through these runs, I got to know John very well and we became close friends. I shared his love of cycling, the countryside and all things mechanical. Though never quite matching his organizational skills I prided myself on being able to give him the occasional doin' on the bike. We would venture out from Killearn in all kinds of weather, neither of us wanting to be the one who couldn't hack it. Often I would 'crack' with only a mile or so to go, and John would dutifully tow me home as I followed his wheel, sheltered from the elements.

Nothing was allowed to become

too serious either. Slogging up a hill in a bunch in freezing wet conditions, it was usually John's quick witted remark that would have us all gasping with laughter, while he attacked off the front and breasted the summit.

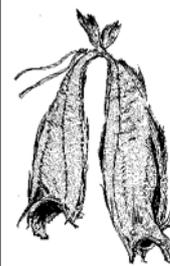
John died suddenly while cycling along a quiet road on a beautiful Sunday morning in April. He was surrounded by experienced cyclists who shared his passion, many of whom he had known for years. We miss you, John.

John Matthews

On behalf of Ross and Kyle, I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts following the sudden death of my husband, John. We have been overwhelmed by all the cards, messages and flowers received from friends and neighbours. Knowing that we are in so many people's thoughts has helped us over the past few weeks.

Thank you.
Sally Yates

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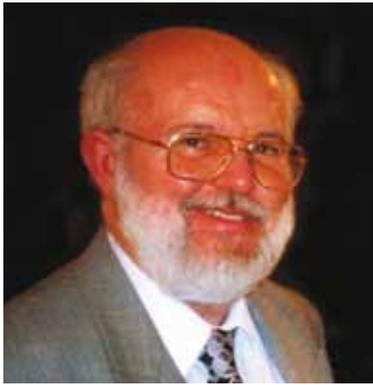
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Dr. Robert C. McGregor 1946 – 2011



Bob McGregor, a Yorkshire man with a Scottish ancestry, was educated at Middlesbrough High School where his academic and sporting abilities were soon evident.

He went on to Leeds University where he gained his B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. in mathematics and where he met Hilary, whom he married in 1970. In the last year of his doctorate and subsequently, he

was employed by the Canadian Ministry of Defence.

In 1974, he was appointed lecturer in hydrodynamics, oceanography and mathematics at Glasgow University, and was made Deputy Superintendent of the Hydrodynamics Laboratory. His expertise led to his inclusion as one of the youngest consultants on the Hull Committee of the UK's Ministry of Defence and he was elected Fellow of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects. He became a Senior Lecturer and, in 1984, Reader. His wide-ranging innovative research, including his ecological concerns practised way ahead of his time, was universally renowned, receiving TV, radio and both national and international newspaper coverage, his work taking him around the world.

As a teacher and mentor he was known for his sympathetic and supportive approach to his students and his insistence on the maintenance of high standards. A great lover of sport – he played tennis, golf, cricket, hockey, rugby – he brought to his games the same keenness, energy and a desire to enthuse others that characterised all he did.

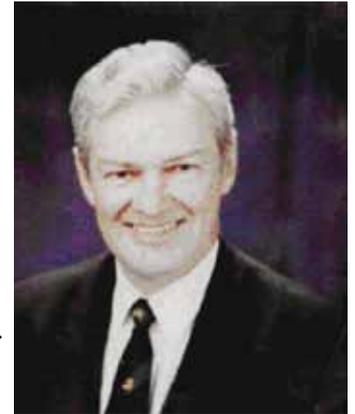
Bob and Hilary moved to Killearn in 1975; here Andrew and Helen were born. Theirs was a devoted family where Bob's enthusiasms and his quirky sense of humour were relished.

Bob was a willing recruit to village life, giving his time and energy as a member of the Horticultural Society committee and later as an elder of Killearn Kirk. A gentle and caring man, who always had time for others, whether family, colleagues, friends or students, it was by a cruel blow of fate that he was struck down by Parkinson's disease which brought his professional life to a premature end some eight years ago. The fortitude with which he bore his increasing physical incapacity was a mark of his character. He is greatly mourned by family, friends and colleagues around the world and in his own village. The *Courier* extends sincere sympathy to Hilary, Andrew and Helen, and to Bob's mother, Edna, in Abbeyfield. BP

Bill Grant

The *Courier* extends its sincere sympathy to the family of Bill Grant, and to Jay Houghton and all the posties of Dumgoyne Post Office following the death of Bill Grant who worked in Dumgoyne for ten years. He had earned a place in the community for his cheerful personality and his unfailing courtesy and helpful manner. He will be sadly missed.

Marshall Wilson Falconer 1943 – 2011



Marshall was born on 6 October 1943 in Glasgow to the Rev. Dr Ronald and Mrs Elizabeth Falconer. He spent the first two years of his life at Trinity Parish manse, Coatdyke and then moved to Newlands, on the south side of Glasgow. A son of the Manse, he was very involved in church

life and in particular the Youth Circle at Newlands South Church, where he met his wife-to-be, Margaret in 1966. They married two years later. In 1972 Margaret was born and then Andrew in 1974.

In 1979 the family moved to New Endrick Road, Killearn, and rapidly settled in to village life. Marshall became a member of Strathendrick Curling Club and over the years, he proved to be a valued player winning competitions at Club and Province levels. His prowess extended to Buchanan Castle Golf Club where he also won many competitions. He was an active member in committees at the Club and was a Past Captain. He loved his life in Killearn and could often be seen walking Daisy the dog in and around the village and the glen. He cherished the time he spent with his family.

Marshall was in the shoe trade all his working life and was just starting to settle into retirement when his cancer was diagnosed in April this year. He died at the age of 67.

His active lifestyle and endearing nature made him many friends and he was held in high regard by all of them. Testament to this regard was evidenced by the large number of mourners who attended his service at Clydebank Crematorium.

He is survived by his wife Margaret, his children Margaret and Andrew, and his grandchildren Eilidh, Duncan, Hamish, Magnus and Finlay.

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Theft from the Kirk!

Between lunchtime on Tuesday, 12 July and Thursday, 14 July, thieves got on to the roof of the Kirk Hall and removed approximately 30 square metres of lead. They also damaged other areas of the roof. The police have been informed.

The theft of metal is on the rise. The price of scrap lead has risen 400% on 2002 prices. Churches throughout the country have suffered similar thefts. The chances are that these thieves will return and finish the job!

Doesn't this make you mad? How dare these people come to our village and violate our church!

If you walked, drove passed or were anywhere near the church between these dates, please think back – did you see anything that you thought odd or out of place? The thieves had to have transport of some description. Did you notice any suspicious looking vehicles? If you can recall anything, please contact the police at Balfron or Sue Beck (550485).



Tempting fate. Police Report

Without wishing to tempt fate, from a policing perspective things have been quite quiet in Killearn over the summer months thus far. That said, it always pays to be on your guard. Given the current financial climate, commodity thefts are becoming a problem nationally.

Whether it relates to heating oil stored in a tank in your back garden, diesel stored at a farm or even scrap metal in the form of a broken washing machine at your back door, everything has a value. Following the storm in June, there have even been reports of fallen trees being cut up on private land and stolen for firewood.

Between 12–15 July, approximately 30 square metres of lead was stripped and stolen from the roof at the church hall. During the same week three males were arrested after being found attempting to steal scrap from the site of the old Killearn Hospital.

Consider what valuable items you have on your property, be it a farm or a small backyard. Having done so, make sure that anything you want to keep is secured. Consider secondary measures also – a locked shed can offer a certain level of protection, but if the garden tools or bicycles within the shed are all chained together, it makes things so much harder to steal.

Having taken care of your own property, keep an eye out for everyone else. If you see anyone you think is suspicious, contact the police. Think twice about anyone who appears to be carrying out work legitimately. Open Reach (British Telecom) and Scottish and Southern Energy have noticed a significant spike in cable thefts over the past year. Often the thieves will spend days removing cabling from busy streets giving the appearance of legitimately maintaining a site.

Finally, be reassured. West Stirlingshire is a very safe place to work and live, and as I mentioned at the start, crime has been relatively low in Killearn for some months now. As long as we all remain vigilant, we can keep it that way.

David McNally, Balfron Community Policing

Stirling Local Development Plan

Stirling Council is preparing a new Local Development Plan for the Stirling area. This will replace the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Structure Plan and Stirling Council Local Plan that currently exist. The plan excludes the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority.

The Development Plan Scheme 3 sets out the timescale for producing the recently published Local Development Plan. This includes a 'Participation Statement' setting out when, how and with whom consultation will take place. The statement has been produced to comply with Scottish Government Circular 1/2009, which requires the Council to publish a Development Plan Scheme at least annually. The Development Plan Scheme 3 explains how the Council will progress from the publication of the Main Issues Report (approved by the Council on 22 April 2010). The Main Issues Report outlines the main influences that will help to inform the proposed plan, and deals with many subjects of concern to Killearn residents, such as housing needs,

environmental assessments (including a non-technical report), retail business capacity and green belt strategies.

The proposed Local Development Plan will be published in October of this year, and is under consideration now by the Council.

The Local Development Plan has been published at this time to enable residents to learn about the plan, and how to get involved. It is also intended to focus everyone on what is involved in getting an up-to-date plan in place as quickly as possible. The Development Plan Scheme 3 will be reviewed in 2012 to provide an up-to-date picture of how the process of preparing the local plan is progressing.

If you have any questions about the Local Development Plan process, there are several people you can contact, including the Principal Planning Officer, Claire Milne. All their names and contact numbers are available on the website at www.stirling.gov.uk/localdevplan.

Freewheelin by Steve

The Rob Roy Killearn connection...

Leaving the car at the car park in Aberfoyle, Roo and I head off on the bikes in the direction of Inversnaid (B829). It's a lovely early summer day and the dry warm road feels fast beneath our sleek road-bike tyres. Passing quickly the lovely Altskeith house (once the Altskeith Hotel) reminds me of many wonderful real ale festivals held there annually until just a few years back. Some miles on, past the hamlet of Kinlochard, we freewheel downhill to the next point of interest, the refurbished house 'Teapot' by Teapot Bridge over the Allt Tairbh Burn as it gushes brackish into Loch Ard.

Once this area was awash with illegal whisky stills that produced (allegedly) the finest dram in Scotland. Victorian lady and gent tourists when visiting the tea room at the bridge could ask for a 'pot of tea' thus receiving a pleasant pot of tea to go with their scones and jam. However, those in the know would ask for a 'teapot' and would receive a teapot full of illegal whisky. They could sup the cold tea-coloured liquid with nobody any the wiser.

A steep and long climb up to Fairyknowe where the view suddenly opens up to us: Ben and Loch Lomond, Loch Arklet and panorama that is the Arrochar Alps just beyond Ben Vane and Beinn Ime, one of my favourite view points in Scotland, whatever the weather. A very fast descent takes us down into Stronachlachar (easy for you to say!) and here we arrive at the Victorian built pier by Loch Katrine and its wonderful waiting and restrooms now converted into a tearoom well worth visiting. I did ask for a 'teapot' and guess what? I got a pot of tea! Never mind.

Talking earlier of tourists, reminds me that it was here tourism as we know it today was invented. Honest! Sir Walter Scott visited Loch Katrine and was so taken by its

beauty and mystery that he set his bestseller here. *The Lady of the Lake* was first published in 1809 and is still in print. The descriptive detail in the novel inspired people to travel here to see for themselves, and so tourism was born. A few novels later and Scott would pen his bestselling romantic tale, *Rob Roy*, again based on this area especially round the loch end at Glen Gyle where Rob was born. You can still visit Glen Gyle house where Rob was born if you cycle on a few more miles where a sign post points the way (see inscription below). Looking out from the pier at Stronachlachar there is a small wooded island known as 'Factors island'. The island is so named because this is where Rob Roy imprisoned the evil factor of the Duke of Montrose, 'Graham of Killearn'. So now you know.

See you next time and cycle safe.

Teapot anyone?

Steve & Roo

Inscription at Glen Gyle house

*To the Memory
of Gregor M'Gregor of Glengyle,
who died 21st August, 1777, aged 88.
Not with vain flatt'ry to insult thee dead
We place this stone above thy honour'd head
But that, while wand'ring here, the Good and Brave
May sighing pause to mark thy silent grave
And awful o'er thine ashes as they bend,
Think on their Chief their Father or their Friend
Speak of thy Steady Soul, and martial flame
That burnt for Truth and Virtue more than fame,
And tell their sons to hold thy Mem'ry dear
Thy footsteps follow and thy name revere.*

Walk in the Park

Mugdock Country Park ~ Sunday 11 September 2011

Craigallion Road, Nr Milngavie G62 8EL

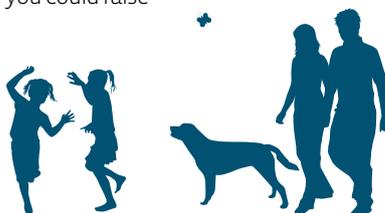
SAVE
THE
DATE!

Come and join us for a day out at Mugdock Park on Sunday 11 September. Not only will you have a great day, you'll also be helping to raise funds for a very worthwhile cause – the Meningitis Trust.

You can take part in a walk with family and friends – either 1 mile or 5 miles – and then have a burger at the BBQ. Or just come along for the bouncy castle, face painting and treasure hunt.

All we ask is that you register to come along (£20 for a family or £8 per adult/£4 per child). Kids will receive a t-shirt and everyone can help themselves at the BBQ. If you can, it would be great if you could raise some sponsor money too but this is not essential – every little helps.

To register, please email Jo Stevenson at
joannas@meningitis-trust.org
or call 0845 120 4885



The Meningitis Trust celebrates a milestone in 2011 – its 25th anniversary – a quarter of a century of supporting people as they face life after meningitis.

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The Meningitis Trust provides support for life.

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

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

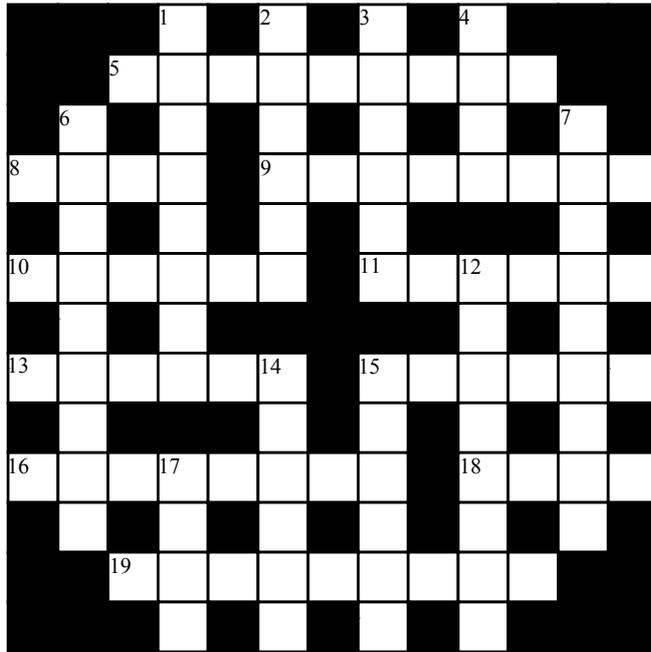
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Solution to the last Crossword Across: 7 lotion; 8 wailed; 10 departure; 11 pot; 12 excitable; 14 rod; 15 gel; 16 parcelled; 18 act; 20 specimens; 21 equine; 22 cheese. Down: 1 pledge; 2 atypical; 3 doorstep; 4 hare; 5 flop; 6 edited; 9 sunburned; 13 eyesight; 14 relieved; 15 grazed; 17 dashed; 19 tout; 20 send.

ACROSS

- 5, 12d, 15d, 6d. Bad,furtive English setter, former rep, gives a capital show (9,8,6,9)
- 8. Animal doctor loves to say no (4)
- 9. 5, 12d, 15d, 6d has the balls for this (8)
- 10. Not on stage is out of line (6)
- 11. Purify metal that's about right (6)
- 13. Cyan or another colour pencil (6)
- 15. Half sister joining family gets the bird (6)
- 16. Military engineer doctor hesitates to recall (8)
- 18. A notion found in side aisle (4)
- 19. 5, 12d, 15d, 6d unicycle lacks this (9)

DOWN

- 1. I sold you characters unpleasantly (8)
- 2. Printer part drawing fluid over aircraft (6)
- 3. Monarch executed for lack of food (6)
- 6. See 5 across (9)
- 4. Who Glenn Miller got in Kalamazoo (1,3)
- 7. Not asked for, yet international body was there (9)
- 12. See 5 across (8)
- 14. Without a corpse there is no one (6)
- 15. See 5 across (6)
- 17. Test old partner before morning (4)

Name Phone No.

Address

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword: *K Lindsay, Killearn*

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Find 10 differences in the picture on the right and ring them. Write your name, address and age below, cut out the pictures and place in the box in Spar to win a £10 voucher. To enter the competition you must be 12 years or under.



Name Age

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: *John Paterson, aged 11*

Closing Date for both competitions – 10 September 2011. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

The Moth Trap Game

It's 5.30 am. Cursing the alarm clock, I rise and head downstairs. I stumble out the back door and shuffle bleary-eyed towards a large domed plastic bucket cradling the brightest of lights. On reaching it and switching off its power supply, I open this treasure chest and stare in wonder at the jewels within...

It's my moth trap. A simple yet highly effective device with a moon-simulating mercury vapour bulb. It lures and captures nocturnal moths, giving them a bed for the night in the form of a cardboard egg tray. For me, this ritual is a thrice weekly event in the summer (weather permitting, of course) and early mornings are spent poring over the catch, and counting and identifying them all. The moths are released later in the day in a suitable spot out of harm's way.



Emperor Moth

Moths are, in fact, the most attractive of insects – sometimes in a subtle way, sometimes in a gaudy way; they come in such an array of sizes, shapes and colours. Different moths are associated with different habitats and different times of year. Together with butterflies, they form the order Lepidoptera, butterflies being the subdivision where the insects have clubbed antennae. Moths are further divided rather artificially into macro-moths and micro-moths, and it is the generally larger macro-moths that tend to be the beginner's most rewarding quarry.

Whilst moth-trapping is not for everyone, we can all check outside lights or lit windows for those species attracted to them. In fact, this is where most people encounter night-flying moths as they rest by day on house walls and fences.



Mother Shipton

Some will fly off on approach but the larger ones are likely to let you get a very close look and some will even play dead when moved. Look out also for the many day-flying species such as Speckled Yellow and Mother Shipton (named after its wing pattern resembling a witch's face).

The moths of Central Scotland are constantly being recorded, and the Killearn area is producing some interesting finds, most recently including Stirlingshire's first ever Marsh Pug. However, some of the commoner species are the most pleasing to the eye, such as Emperor Moth, Poplar Hawk-moth and Ruby Tiger.



Pale Prominent

If nothing takes your fancy, then public moth-trapping events (such as those run at Mugdock Country Park) are a great way to get started and appreciate the range of species on the wing at night.

Martin Culshaw



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