



Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 21

WINTER 2011

£1



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 Sir

Can someone tell me why we as a village have lost the parking near the distillery? Visitors have parked near and climbed Dumgoyne for years, but are now very limited on where they can leave their cars. We should as a village hope we don't get too big an influx of cars parking here! Is it a deal with the Council so that the distillery could get a new car park (not before time, one might add)? It seems that the unfinished parking area for about four cars is totally inadequate and I'm sure a problem will be created with people trying to park along the road in order to climb Dumgoyne. Any suggestions for other parking would be welcome.

*Yours sincerely
Mrs Angry
Killearn*

Dear Editor

Thank you so much for including a mention of the Killearn Charity Bridge Evening held on Tuesday, 6 September 2011, in your last edition.

I would like to thank all those who participated, and especially those who worked so hard to make the evening the success it turned out to be.

As a result of everyone's efforts we raised a total of £1,611 for Planets, a newly formed cancer charity.

Thank again for your assistance.

*Regards
Anne Burch*

Dear Sir

Has the world gone mad?!? *Meals on Wheels* has existed in Killearn for years – for many people it's a chance to visit with possibly the only people they will see during the day. Now those at WRVS and Stirling Council have decided it's more cost effective to outsource to a private company which will deliver a 'microwaveable ready meal'. Equivalent it may be nutritionally, but at a human cost.

Meals on Wheels volunteers in Killearn don't expect expenses and the Killearn Primary School prepares the meals during term time for the 'ladies and gentlemen' (meals have come from St Modans High School for Killearn and the surrounding villages during the holidays). It surely must be more cost effective to use the school kitchens and maintain the human contact, which is often more important than the actual food. If it's not broken, why are they trying to mend it?

*Yours sincerely
A Cross Volunteer*

Village Hall Update

At Stirling Council's August meeting it was agreed that ownership of the village hall should be transferred to Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC).

This allowed the Stirling Council solicitor to send a detailed proposal to OSCR, the Scottish Charity Regulator, and it is hoped that this will be approved by OSCR in early 2012.

Meanwhile, the architect's design team and the project team, in consultation with KCFC and Killearn Village Hall Management Committee (KVHMC), are working towards final plans to send out for tender before the end of the year.

The architect's revised Project Programme indicates a 'start on site' in April 2012, and the development is planned to be completed in nine months or early 2013.

Brian Simmers

The Killearn Village Hall Media Project

The village's Media Project – supported by the *Courier* and Killearn Community Futures Company – has been rescheduled due to the delays in the village hall renovation reported elsewhere. The documentary element following the progress of the development will be phased in line with the building work on the hall. The build of the website will be planned to go live as the hall re-opens in 2013.

However the two elements of the oral history project are now underway. Bill Macleod is working with pupils from Killearn Primary School and Jaqui McAlpine is working with students from Ballikinrain School to gather the memories of older folk living in the village. This work will weave together stories of our community's past – as well as teaching young people how to interview, video and record storytelling, and then edit for public presentation.



Killearn Courier
published by:



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Spring edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 10 March 2012.

Advertisements and artwork should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 27 January 2012. 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, 27 January 2012. Send them to:

36 New Endrick Road, G63 9QT or email to: courier@kcfc.co.uk

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Cover Photo : A View to Dumgoyne

Jenny Wilks

Editorial

You've probably noticed something different about this issue of the Courier and you'd be right. Instead of the 36 pages of previous editions, this edition has 40 pages! We like to think that this necessary expansion in page numbers is due to the increasing popularity of your community newspaper which sees us receiving more and more contributions. For example, look at the number of letters we have received. This issue also contains features from the usual suspects and joining them for the third time is 'Freewheelin by Steve' who will, we hope, become a regular contributor.

In this Christmas issue, we have, once again, grouped together holiday and gift ideas from our advertisers to inspire you. However, this year, we've gone to four pages in the middle to make it easier for you to find what you're looking for. Bearing in mind the rising costs of fuel, heating bills and the weekly shopping, plus the all hassle associated with big city shopping, dare I suggest that you'll probably find most of what you're looking for locally, so support your local businesses.

Mention of the word 'support' reminds me that we should make every endeavour to support our Community Council whose job it is to make our views and opinions known regarding matters affecting our community to the various appropriate organizations. How they do this is explained on page 29. They can't just clatter off and tell such organizations what they like, they are a neutral body who have to put forward the findings of the community – in other words, us!

So, thanks again to our advertisers for their support over the year, to our contributors who ensure we can produce an edition which you can enjoy, and to all those background people associated with the production and delivery of your Courier. So from all of us

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Ian Dickie, Editor

NOTICE BOARD	
13 Nov	Killearn Kirk Remembrance Service. War Memorial, 10.45 a.m. Strathendrick Cycle Club meets at Drymen Square, 11 a.m. and thereafter monthly.
14 Nov	Monday Club meeting in Killearn Village Hall and every Monday thereafter. Rotary Club meeting. Black Bull Hotel, 6.30 for 7 p.m., thereafter every Monday. Contact Steve Holden (550764).
16 Nov	Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8 p.m. Killearn Toddlers meets Village Hall, 9.30 a.m., thereafter every Wednesday.
18 Nov	Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>Made In Dagenham</i> . Balfour Campus, 7.30 p.m.
19 Nov	Guild Sale of Work. Kirk Hall, 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
21 Nov	Dumgoyne Rural. Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.
24 Nov	Drymen & District Local History Society Talk by Peter McNiven, 'History and Place-names in Mediaeval Menteith and Stirling'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 p.m.
24–29 Nov	FADs traditional pantomime <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> . Menzies Hall, Fintry, 7.30 p.m. and Sat. matinee, 2 p.m. For tickets and information call 860078.
26 Nov	Get Reel St Andrew's Family Concert & Ceilidh. Village Hall. Contact Sara (550770). Killearn Primary PTA Christmas Fair. Village Hall, 10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
1–4 Dec	FADs traditional pantomime <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> . Menzies Hall, Fintry, 7.30 p.m. and Sat matinee 2 p.m.
2 Dec	Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>As Good As It Gets</i> . Balfour Campus, 7.30 p.m.
3 Dec	Killearn Christmas Market Village Hall. Contact Fiona Chautard (550468). Killearn Crafters Christmas workshop at the Country Market. Materials provided.
4 Dec	Killearn Kirk Holy Communion, 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
14 Dec	Inner Wheel meeting. Black Bull, 6.45 p.m., then the second Wednesday of each month. Contact Fiona Glass (550646).
16 Dec	Strathendrick Singers Christmas Concert. Killearn Kirk, 7.30 p.m.
18 Dec	Killearn Kirk Carol Service, 7.30 p.m.
21 Dec	Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8 p.m.
24 Dec	Killearn Kirk Watch Night Service, 11.30 p.m.
25 Dec	Killearn Kirk Christmas Morning Service, 10.30 a.m.
10 Jan	Get Reel classes restart. Contact Sara (550770).
11 Jan	Killearn Crafters Craft and Chat meeting. Killearn Village Hall, 7 – 9.30 p.m.
18 Jan	Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8 p.m.
25 Jan	Killearn Crafters Craft and Chat meeting, Killearn Village Hall, 7 – 9.30 p.m.
26 Jan	Drymen & District Local History Society Members' Night. An evening of short talks by our members. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 p.m.
28 Jan	Killearn Charity Burns Ceilidh Village Hall, 7.30 for 8 p.m. Contact Heather McArthur (550137) for tickets.
3 Feb	Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>The Man Who Loved Women</i> . Balfour Campus, 7.30 p.m.
4 Feb	Killearn Primary PTA Burns Coffee Morning. Church Hall, 10 a.m. – 12 noon.
8 Feb	Killearn Horticultural Society AGM. Village Hall, 7.30 p.m. All welcome.
11 Feb	Strathendrick Singers Musical Coffee Morning. Killearn Village Hall, 10 a.m. – 12 noon. For more information, see www.strathendicksingers.org.uk
22 Feb	Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8 p.m.
23 Feb	Drymen & District Local History Society Talk by Bob Sparkes, 'The Scottish Drovers'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 p.m.
25 Feb	Friends of Malawi Jumble Sale, Killearn Village Hall, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
2 Mar	Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>Casablanca</i> . Balfour Campus, 7.30 p.m.
3 Mar	Killearn Country Market. Village Hall. Contact Fiona Chautard (550468).
7 Mar	Rotary/Inner Wheel Charity Bridge Night. Village Hall, 7 for 7.30 p.m.
9 Mar	Killearn Horticultural Society Whist Drive. Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.
16 Mar	Killearn Primary PTA 'Killearn's Got Talent'. Killearn Primary School, 7 – 9 p.m. Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy</i> . Balfour Campus, 7.30 p.m. Killearn Golden Years Club Annual Dinner. Black Bull, 6.30 for 7 p.m.
21 Mar	Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8 p.m.
22 Mar	Drymen & District Local History Society Talk by Douglas Jackson, 'The Last Fort – Doune's Roman Fort'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 p.m.
24 Mar	Friends of Guiding Spring Fair. Village Hall, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
<i>If you have any dates for the Spring 2012 issue of the Diary (mid March to the end of August), please contact Heather McArthur (550137), heather.mcARTHUR@virgin.net</i>	

Killearn Primary School



P2/1 bought Spring bulbs from Dobbies and are going to plant them. P3/2 made dragon stories and learned about senses. P4/3 made a wild life flower bed round by the car park just by the gym hall. Christiaan's mum and Kieren's mum helped to dig up the turf, Ben's dad gave us some sand, and 'On the Verge' sent us some seeds. We planted them and we hope the flowers will attract honeybees.



P4/5 have made African masks (own design) and P5s entered an Athletics Competition against four other schools and came in third place. P6/5 went to Amazonia indoor tropical rainforest. P6 did buddy training. In P7 the netball team are about to play Strathblane and some P7s are entering a competition about cyber bullying. The P7s have entered a maths challenge.

The nursery has been exploring a circle which has led on to bubbles, finding out about colours and light. Children have been developing co-operation skills and friendships through group models, creations, story sessions and role play opportunities.

James McArthur and Sarah Gibb



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Let's Make a Date



The Killearn Hoolie

www.killearnhoolie.com

Saturday 16 June 2012

The Killearn Hoolie 2012 will be on Saturday, 16 June – so put the date in your diary now!

Events will kick off on Sunday, 10 June, with a Fun Run and 10k – and rumour has it that a Beer Festival is on the cards – a first for Killearn! Community events through the week, including a Treasure Hunt, Street Football and a Family Fun Day, will culminate on the Saturday with a Gala in the daytime on the Glebe and a dance in the evening.

Lots more detail will be announced in due course, but for now put 16 June 2012 on your calendar as Killearn Hoolie Day – and if you or your group would like to get involved, please contact:

Jennifer Brown (550861).

Fintry Film Premier

Fintry Development Trust has released a short documentary that shows how communities can benefit from investing in renewable energy. Fintry, with its 300 households, became the first community in the UK to enter a joint-venture agreement with a wind-farm developer. Instead of opposing the plans for a nearby 14-turbine development, they convinced the renewable energy developer that was proposing the wind farm to add an additional turbine for the village. Fintry now receives on average approximately between £30,000 and £50,000 a year in revenue from the wind turbine and invests the money to the benefit of the entire community.

Wind of Change, a 15-minute short film that premiered at the UK Green Film Festival earlier this year, follows the Fintry community as it carries out a number of new ambitious projects such as installing micro-renewable heating systems, planting a community orchard and opening a woodland area for the local primary school.

For more information, contact:

kelly@fintrydt.org.uk or mob: 07769 204560.

You can watch this film online now on: http://youtu.be/lS_1p8ad2mc

Kelly McIntyre

FDT Enterprise Project Manager www.fintrydt.org.uk



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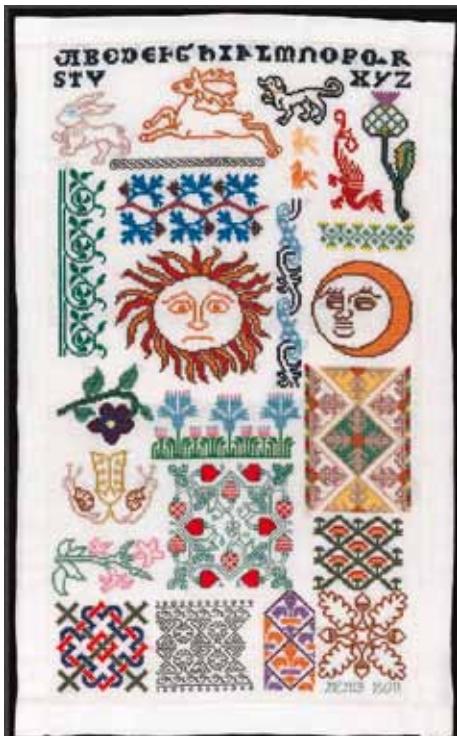
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'Stitching the Reformation' Workshop



Killearn Church Hall will be the venue for a unique event – an embroidery workshop exploring two aspects of 15th- and 16-century needlework.

The programme will include a tutorial taken by Professor Jane Dawson of Edinburgh University. She led the research team which brought together

the eight remaining copies of the 1595 Wode Psalter partbooks in the capital for an exhibition called 'Singing the Reformation', one of the many events in the last year to mark the 400th anniversary of the Reformation in Scotland. The exhibition focused on the importance of music to the religious revolution which took place 400 years ago. Posters from the exhibition and the embroidery done especially for it by Nancy Bailey will be on show at the workshop.

The full-day workshop will be held in Killearn Church Hall on Tuesday, 10 January, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Two techniques – Blackwork and Assisi work – will be explored using two new designs created exclusively for the workshop. These are based on contemporary artwork, including portraits and motifs from the Wode Psalters.

Tea, coffee, lunch and all the materials are free thanks to the generosity of the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council grant to the Wode project.

Places at the workshop are limited to 20 on a 'first come first served' basis.

You don't need to be an expert stitcher to enjoy the workshop, although some experience would be useful.

Stitching the Reformation should be a great way to banish the post-Christmas blues.

Contact Nancy for an application form by 30 November 2011. Phone 550226 or email nancy@edensidecs.co.uk

Killearn Crafters Craft and Chat Christmas Workshop

The crafters and chatters are holding a Christmas workshop at the December Country Market.

Come along any time between 10 a.m. and 12 noon and make a little Christmas treasure to give as a present or keep for yourself. We will have a choice of Christmassy items for you to make and take away on the day no matter what your level of skill. All materials will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Our next regular meetings will be on the second and fourth Wednesdays in January.

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Avoiding the Curse of Frozen Pipes

If you have every known the misery of frozen and burst pipes in the bleak midwinter, like myself you may have vowed never to be caught out again. While we can grit and plough the roads at the first hint of a cold snap, it's a bit trickier to bubble wrap your home and prohibitively expensive to hire a live-in plumber.

Although plummeting temperatures will put any household at risk of frozen pipes, according to plumber Steven Scott, there are some steps you can take to try to avoid the worst happening.

'Sometimes it is unavoidable due to the location of underground or inaccessible pipes, however, with many of the emergency call-outs I receive, the burst pipe might have been prevented with a little bit of cold weather preparation.'

Here are Steven Scott's top tips to help keep your pipes intact through the worst of the weather:

Prevention

- Get to know where your pipework lives. Some familiarity with the position of pipes, water tanks and stop valves will make for a fast and efficient response if you are unlucky enough to have an emergency. The loft is a good place to start.
- Know where the stopcock is (usually at the property boundary, and likely shared with your neighbours).
- Invest in some basic loft insulation, and wrap it around all accessible cold water pipes and the water tank. Likewise, the pipework underneath the bath – when access is possible – would benefit from a woolly wrap, too.
- Give the loft a chance to have a bit of a winter warm-up

by opening the hatch from time to time, and allowing the warm air within the house to rise and circulate.

- Keep rooms that have a water supply heated.
- If you do have toilets, tanks or pipes in exposed places or outbuildings, where it is impossible to insulate or heat, these are best drained and left unused until the temperature rises.

Frozen Pipes

- If the cold water tap doesn't flow, don't panic! The water in the pipe may be frozen, but it doesn't have to mean a burst pipe.
- Find the stop valve and turn off the water. Then open all the cold-water taps to drain the system.
- Do NOT turn on the hot taps – this could do irreversible damage to your hot water tank.
- Do NOT turn on the central heating boiler or immersion to try to thaw the pipes.
- Do apply GENTLE HEAT perhaps with a hair dryer set on 'low' or by wrapping with a warm cloth.

Burst Pipes

- **Don't panic!**
- Turn off the stop valve.
- Drain both the hot and cold water systems.
- Switch off the heating system.
- Switch off the electricity supply if electrics are likely to be in contact with the water.
- Be able to access your stop cock, and let your neighbours know the situation.

Elizabeth McQuillan

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MG TF 1500 – 1955

The *Courier* series of members' cars from the Strathendrick Classic Car Club has produced a great variety, ancient and modern. The most recent was the modern Mazda MX-5; the oldest was the MG M Type from 1929.

During the Thirties, MG was as synonymous with 'sports car' as Kodak was for 'camera'.

The T series started with the TA in 1936, developed through the TB in early 1939, until production ceased in September 1939 to produce armoured vehicles during the war. After the war, materials were scarce so export became the main aim. MG could export particularly to the United States because so many American servicemen had met MG for the first time while stationed in the UK. The TC was followed by the TD; 30,000 were made, 28,000 of which were exported. MG had a new car in design, but was prevented from production by BMC who favoured the Austin Healy.

The TF (TE was missed out being too like 'tee-hee') was a stop-gap produced from 1953 to 1955 until the MGA appeared. Again, the majority were exported. The home market disapproved of the TF as old fashioned, and even in the U.S. sales were poor. The TF started with a 1250cc engine producing 57.5hp. To make it more interesting for prospective buyers, a 1466cc engine was made giving 63hp with more torque to give it better acceleration: 0–60 in 16.3 seconds!

All the T Midgets had a chassis like Irn Bru – 'made from girders'! The body was an ash frame covered in steel panels.

Many say that the TF is the prettiest of the Midgets with the sloping bonnet and fuel tank and enclosed headlamps (because Lucas decided to stop production of separate headlamps). Only 244 TF 1500 cars were made for the home market. Production stopped on 4 April 1955. Prices today, 56 years on, reflect this desirability and scarcity.

This car, a TF 1500 was finished on 31 January 1955, and was first registered in Stirling (OGA 28) The first owner lived in Buchanan Castle Estate. It later travelled from Glasgow to Aberdeen, then to the Midlands, followed by Bournemouth and London before returning to Strathendrick.

Duncan Laing

The *Courier* is sad to announce the death of Duncan Laing of Croftamie. Duncan has been a contributor to the *Courier*, writing about vintage cars, a subject which was his passion. He was well known in Killearn as an active member of Strathendrick Car Club and also of Probus.

The present owner has had the car for four years. The main modification being a reduced rear axle ratio (5.1 to 4.3) to improve motorway cruising as there were no motorways in 1955. The car covers around 2,500 miles annually.

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Kinne – Wright



Grace Kinne and Gordon Wright were married on Saturday, 10 September 2011, in St. Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow. The reception was held in Linlithgow Burgh Halls. The groom grew up in Killearn and attended Balfron High School before going on to university. Grace is from Durham, North Carolina in the United States. The couple met whilst both students at the University of Edinburgh and plan to make their home in that fair city.

Everett – Maclean



The wedding of Catherine Everett, formerly of Allan Road, and Fraser Maclean of Lockerbie took place on 16 July 2011 at Culcreuch Castle, Fintry.

Catherine, who attended Killearn Primary School and Balfron High School, is a graduate of Glasgow and City University London. She is Assistant Features Editor of *Look* magazine, having formerly held the same post on *Good Housekeeping*. Fraser works for HSBC. The couple live in London

Challis – Murphy



Diane Challis from Killearn married Garry Murphy from County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland on 23 September in Drymen Parish Church. He works as a Senior Project Manager and Diane is a Newspaper Sales Executive. The newly-weds have set up home in Clydebank.

Sidney Parrott Scores His Second Century



Sidney, a resident of Abbeyfield House in Killearn, celebrated his 100th birthday on Monday, 29 August 2011.

Celebrations started off on Sunday at the home of his daughter, where Sidney was joined by family and friends for drinks and nibbles at lunchtime, an event which stretched well into the afternoon. On his actual

birthday, a small family lunch was held in her house and included Sidney's son and daughter-in-law, three of his four grandchildren with their respective wives, and two of his six great grandchildren. He also has a great-great-grandchild. A further celebration was held at the Abbeyfield House on Friday, 2 September when Sidney was joined by all the other residents, Abbeyfield staff past and present, Friends of Abbeyfield and also Councillor Lambie, representing Stirling Council, who presented Sidney with a bottle of Deanston Malt Whisky and a card from the Council. Amongst the many, many received were cards from the Queen, the Mayor of the City of Bristol, the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, the Masons, and a telegram from Ian Duncan Smith.

Sidney was born in Bristol in 1911. He was educated at North Bristol Central School where he met his future wife, Vera, whom he married in 1936. On leaving school at the age of 16, he joined a Bristol Corn Merchant and then progressed into insurance with the Legal Insurance Company Ltd. In 1935, he joined the National Farmers Union. In 1939, Sidney and Vera set up home in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, still with the NFU, where he continued

to pursue his love of sports and became very much involved in the community. He joined the Vale Masonic Lodge, eventually becoming Master. During the war he was a corporal in the RAF, servicing aircraft stationed at various bases in Buckinghamshire. Sidney successfully completed the Chartered Insurance Institute exams in 1947, and in 1952 purchased an insurance business which he and Vera ran for 21 years until they retired in 1973.

At that time, Sidney and Vera moved to Rock in Cornwall where they spent 28 happy years. They celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in 1996 and were married for 64 years. Sadly, Vera died in 2001. After the loss of his wife, he moved to Sherborne, Dorset, to be nearer his son and family before finally moving to Killearn.

Sidney Parrott has been a resident of Abbeyfield for nearly ten years, having moved to be nearer to his daughter. Always a keen sportsman, he was captain of rugby and cricket at school, he continued to play cricket until the age of 50 (he once scored a century) when he decided to take up golf (he had 2 holes-in-one). He still has a keen interest in all sports and can also play a good hand of bridge. He is an honorary member of Drymen Bridge Club. Sidney attributes his longevity to having played golf until his 91st year and to his daily tot of whisky!



One door closes... and other one opens



I have made the very difficult decision to retire as a voluntary search dog handler after a career spanning 24 years working with 3 superb dogs. How quickly time passes.

My current search dog, Buidhe, retired at the age of 11 last year, and I have now decided to retire from the Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) Scotland, too. I would like to thank staff and customers at Spar, Killearn, for their donations to SARDA Scotland – the super amount of just under £1,000 has been raised.

I have been a member of Lomond Mountain Rescue Team (MRT) for the same amount of time and, having

been elected as one of the team's deputy leaders recently, I am now involved in working alongside other planning areas training team members to search, locate and evacuate casualties. Staying in the dry and warm team vehicle instead of being out in the wild, wet weather will take quite a while to get used to, but I'm sure I will!

The collecting can in Spar is now for Lomond MRT as we are raising funds to buy a new team vehicle. I do hope you will continue to support our work and if you wish more information on the voluntary work of our Team, please go online to www.lomondmrt.org.uk.

While I'm on the subject of asking for help – is there an accountant out there who would be willing to independently examine our team accounts for OSCR? It would take about three hours of your time a year. If you can help, please call me.

Jan Millar (550476)



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

Call 01360 551100
or 07748754583

Looking for a new home



Tango and Pongo are stunning Golden Retriever x Whippets. They are five-year-old brothers and are in The Blue Cross Foster Scheme in Callander. Tango and Pongo are very friendly, they can be excitable and give lovely welcomes, but also calm down quickly. They love to play with toys, but the thing they love most of all is each other which is why we are looking for a home where they can remain together. Tango is a fun-loving boy, he is fantastic with people and would be fine to be homed with children – although due to his enthusiasm, he would be better homed with older children whom he could not accidentally knock over.

Pongo absolutely loves a cuddle on your knee at night and there is nothing he loves more than his brother, Tango. Tango and Pongo are not a lot of work in the house, and while they can pull somewhat on walks they do quickly calm down. The way they play together is lovely to watch and it would be a real shame to split these brothers up. Both dogs enjoy the thrill of the chase so would be best homed without cats.

Could you offer a loving home to Tango and Pongo? Contact:

Pet Fostering Service Scotland
natalie.hogg@bluecross.org.uk

Natalie Hogg



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The Killearn Malawi Group

The Killearn Malawi Group received a visit from the Reverend Levi Nyondo and his wife, Ruth, who live and work near Mzuzu in Malawi. It was good to see our friends from Malawi and to hear all their news. They met with some of the Friends of Malawi in the Church Hall on Thursday, 16 September and told of their joy at the completion of the Women's Centre at Hilltop. The centre is now a place for women

to come together to learn how to knit, sew and crochet. They can then earn a living to support themselves and their families. Sue Kidd had brought some slides of the unfinished Women's Centre which she had visited last year and of the clinic at Mlowe. It was useful for those who had not been to Malawi to see what had been done.

Ruth now hopes to build a hostel to provide accommodation for 15 women from more remote areas to attend craft classes and to learn computing skills. This will provide a small income to keep the centre going. Water is rationed on a daily basis, so there is also need for a water tank to supply the centre when the water is cut off.

The Killearn Malawi Group raises money through its annual jumble sale. This year we received a very generous bequest from the estate of Helen Jamieson which has enabled us to finish Hilltop Women's Centre. Throughout the year the group collects goods which are then transported in containers by the Raven Trust (www.theraventrust.org.uk). The containers are sent every two to three months to Malawi, and Rev. Levi distributes the content of his parcels to those most in need.

The next container will house, amongst many other things, sports equipment and clothing generously donated by one of Killearn's 'Friends of Malawi', and jumpers knitted by



Levi and Ruth with Betty Smith

various members of the community. There is a constant need for these, and also for baby blankets. So if there are any knitters looking for a project then get your needles out and get started. There is a pattern available for the jumper.

The most recent appeal was linked to the Harvest Festival and was for all kinds of tools: gardening, painting, plastering and joinery. The aim was to give Malawi a bumper 'harvest'

of goods from Killearn. Ruth appealed for materials for the craft centre to allow the teaching of craft skills to begin. She particularly needs knitting needles, wool, crochet hooks, sewing needles, thread, fabric and scissors. If you have any knitting or sewing machines in good working order that you no longer need, these would also be extremely useful. There is a particular need for copies of the *Good News Bible*. Ruth teaches Bible Studies in a local primary and secondary school. There are 40–50 pupils in each class, but only one copy of the Bible.

Levi and Ruth expressed their thanks by singing a hymn in their native language to the tune of Amazing Grace. It was a very moving moment.

Levi and Ruth work tirelessly for the people of Malawi despite grave difficulties. Levi spoke of being imprisoned for three days for speaking out against the government. It made the work of the Malawi Group seem all the more important. It was a vital reminder that despite our economic difficulties, we in Killearn can still make a difference to our friends in Malawi by our fundraising and donation of goods. Any help we can get with these will be gratefully received. For further information, contact:

Sue Kidd (550478) or Jenifer Barrett (550508),
or email June Thomas (jnethomas@aol.com)
for the Friends of Malawi newsletter.

Christmas Message from Killearn Kirk

To see without any impediment, without any distraction and without any limitation on time means that a person has 'all the time in the world' to just soak up what is being contemplated. Christmas is not normally associated with time to just sit and ponder; rather it is so often a time of preparation and rush, so much to do and so little time to do it in.

In Matthew 13, Jesus says to the disciples, 'Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.' This small group of followers had seen through all the hype, all the noise and excitement of the crowds and all the miracles, and had encountered something that would change their world. They saw God's presence. To see perfectly, to have 20:20 vision, may indicate perfect vision, but what use is such vision if we are unable to understand what we see?

This was the trouble that Jesus encountered with the

religious right-wing party and the nationalistic aspirations of the common Jew. All they saw was either a disturber of the traditions or a charismatic leader who would throw back the occupying Roman power.

Clear vision was to see and hear the presence of God walking, talking and showing the true way to God.

A blessing written by Sister Ruth Fox, OSB, begins:

'May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers.
and ends with:

'And may God bless you with enough foolishness
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done
To bring justice and kindness to all our children
and the poor'.

A very happy Christmas

Lee Messeder 11

A bike's not just for Christmas

A long, long time ago, the incumbent Mrs Freewheelin arrived on these far shores with all her Worldlies and a brand spanking new classic Raleigh Sun Solo bicycle. A parting gift from mother. The Solo was used as a daily means of transport to and from work in the dark days before cars were affordable to youngsters. For a decade or two since then it had lain undisturbed in the Freewheeler's garage (or 'The Manglery' as its known), a very sorry sight indeed. However, over the past summer months (dodging the rain) and with enthusiastic help from the in-house apprentice, the Solo has been stripped down to the last nut and bolt and then lovingly rebuilt and restored to somewhere near her formal glory. New brakes, levers and cables, freshly taped handlebars, comfy new sprung saddle and, best of all, the classic white walled tyres all go to make the Grand Old Lady that is the 'Solo' a thing of real beauty. The formal unveiling, re-launch and handover to Mrs Freewheelin was conducted by the apprentice in rare sunshine with not a dry eye in the house!

So, if I may, the Seasonal moral of this story is... if you are lucky enough to get a shiny brand new bike from Santa,



or just happen to have some unwanted bikes in *your* Manglery, please, please don't dump them – donate them instead to the fine people at Recyke-A-Bike, a community-based initiative located in Stirling, giving jobs and life skills to local youngsters. Your old bikes will either be stripped down for spare parts or professionally restored to be sold to the public in their lovely showroom. (They will even collect, free of charge.) It's also a great place to pick up a professionally restored bargain bicycle. Oh no! What's this I see through the frosty window coming up the garden path? Carol singers! Helmet on... Click! Cycling shoes on... Check! Gloves... bike and slinking out the back door of The Manglery unseen... and away, solo, into the chill moonlit night.

Humbug anyone?

Keep biking and stay safe.

Steve



The Rotary Club of Strathendrick

in conjunction with

joler rider & Recyke-a-Bike

Require Bikes 4 Africa

Do you have a bike that is surplus to requirements?

If so we would like to hear from you!

Ideally the bikes should be suitable for 10 year olds and over.

These bikes will be refurbished and sent to Africa.

They will provide much needed basic transport for schoolchildren who normally have to walk enormous distances to school.

PLEASE GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO THIS VERY WORTHWHILE CAUSE BY CONTACTING

Jim Bisset Balfron 440488

Ian Dickie Killearn 550639

Allan Watson Fintry 860326

www.strathendrickrotary.org.uk www.recycle-a-bike.co.uk www.jolerider.org

Please donate your old bikes to:

Recyke-A-Bike

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Telephone: 01786 447559

admin@recyke-a-bike.co.uk
www.Recycle-a-bike.co.uk



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From little acorns...

The boys and girls who started out in Primary 1 at Killearn Primary School in 1999 have now reached the top of the tree in their schools – Sixth Year. Most are hardly recognizable from the cute and slightly apprehensive children who gathered in the playground on that day in August proudly sporting their new school uniforms. For many of them, Sixth Year has brought acknowledgement of their accomplishments, skills and responsibility with the accolade of being Prefects.

Stella Boland, Ewan Michie and Catherine Stewart are House Captains at Balfron High School. Another three from the same class have gone a stage further with the role of captains of their schools.

For a village primary school, we punch above our weight!



Cameron



Jenny



Callum

Cameron Jones is Head Boy of Glasgow Academy

Jenny Stewart is Head Girl of Kelvinside Academy.

Callum Barrett is Vice Head Boy of Balfron High School

Christmas Recipe Snickerdoodles

These moist, slightly soft biscuits are a doddle to make, quick and easy even for small hands. Just the thing for the holidays!



Ingredients:

300g	caster sugar
115g	butter or margarine, softened
1 tsp	vanilla
2	eggs
345g	plain flour
½ tsp	cream of tartar
½ tsp	bicarb of soda
½ tsp	sugar

For rolling:

25g	sugar
1 tsp	ground cinnamon

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C/190°C for fan ovens.
2. In a small bowl or ramekin, combine the extra sugar and cinnamon. Set aside.
3. Combine remaining sugar, butter, vanilla and eggs. Mix well. Mixture will not be absolutely smooth.
4. Stir in dry ingredients and blend well.
5. Take scant dessertspoons of dough at a time and roll into balls, about an inch in diameter. Roll the balls in the cinnamon sugar mixture.
6. Place balls on ungreased sheets. Bake for 8–10 minutes until set. Remove immediately to cooling racks.

Yields around 3½ dozen.

The Drymen Pottery



Come join us in our perfect winter escape.

The Drymen Pottery offers a range of meals that will suit everyone's taste, from a light lunch, tea or coffee and a cake to a homemade, hearty meal. Come sample our very popular highland beef steak pie by the warmth of the fire.

If you are just passing we have a carry-out menu available.

Christmas menu available on request for Christmas work nights out or a festive get together with friends and family.

Contact The Drymen Pottery for bookings.

E: bannermantrading@gmail.com T: 01360 660458

Colourful Killearn A Year of Sub-Aquatic Gardening



Even in bad summers, plants don't stop growing! While one may sulk in the cold and wet, another will take off enthusiastically to fill the gap. So it is with the planting in the beds situated opposite the Co-op. The harsh winter had wrought considerable damage on many of the shrubs, and a Colourful Killearn spring work party hacked out plenty of dead wood, carting away the fatally afflicted for decent cremation. All was set for a summer of sunshine, warmth and spectacular flowering.

Didn't happen, of course. Begonias were half-hearted and azaleas mildewed. However, lobelia loved it, berberis rocketed away and the crop of moss was the best ever! Five months on, in October, we were back to put the beds to rights for the winter. The huge pile of clippings, thinnings and prunings we took away paid testament to nature's resilience. And so, as the year moves on, we have the daffodil bulbs to pop into our 40 tubs for the spring display, and on Saturday, 3 December, we will be putting up the village Christmas tree at the Kirk. Join us if you can, support us if you can't! Contact *Iain Bowie (550349)* to help or donate towards a Colourful Killearn.

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Winter is Icumen In

It's amazing, isn't it, how odd the weather forecasts are getting. Ever since the Great English Hurricane of hallowed memory, forecasters seem determined not to



underplay the prospect of extreme conditions, so that instead of a mention of light to variable breezes, we now get wind speeds. So when we are told that we are in for a prolonged and severe winter, should we be worried? Bearing in mind that we were also promised a 'barbecue summer', should we start taking precautions now, or forget the whole thing? Mind you, if the forecasters are right, we will be thigh deep in the white stuff by the time you read this.

That will be after the 'double autumn', of course. Apparently, because of the wild weather in May, we were entitled to two autumns, the first one for the leaves that got broken and dried up early on, and the second one for the leaves that made it and were ready to drop at the proper time. I may have got the science wrong, but that is my understanding. The other thing about the stormy weather in May was that it damaged a significant number of whole trees, rather than just their leaves. We do know about the trees and branches

that are actually down – they are all over the place, particularly noticeable at various points on Station Road. What we do not know is the number that are shoogly.

We were wakened recently by an odd noise in the night, like a slow slithering of something sizeable across the patio. The light of day revealed it to be something fortunately a bit further off. An enormous and ancient oak in the next garden had shed one of its branches, itself the size of a very respectable tree. The slithering we had heard was the creaking as it slowly broke. Technically speaking, it was still attached, but it was down, and lay across two gardens. Now, was this the result of being weakened by summer storms, or just old age? Either explanation would be perfectly reasonable. But it will be interesting to see how many other specimens come down this winter, especially if loaded with snow. In a strange reversal of the norm, it looks as though the trees may have been weakened by summer. Weren't we all?

Thinking positively, there is surely no lovelier symbol of winter than snow laden trees, which is why they feature on so many Christmas cards. And talking of seasonal symbols,



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Scottish Water

With last year's harsh winter conditions in mind, Scottish Water is reminding customers that it's more important than ever that they play it safe.

Peter Farrer, Scottish Water's Customer Service Delivery Director, is advising members of the public to be careful during the next cold snap. He is asking everyone to act responsibly around watercourses. Reservoirs are man-made features and, because of their purpose, they have a number of unique hidden dangers. These relate mainly to structures such as dams, spillways and water intakes, but also include deep water, underwater plant life and steep banks. The majority of reservoirs are remote and so there is a lack of immediate assistance.

Peter Cornall, RoSPA's Head of Leisure Safety, said: 'At RoSPA, we are committed to the philosophy that life should be as safe as necessary, not as safe as possible, and we encourage people – particularly children – to get out and about to enjoy the wintry weather. We encourage parents to talk to their children about the hazards of frozen water and what to do if they see someone fall through the ice.' Each year, there are more accidental drownings in inland waters than in any other type of water – even strong swimmers could be fooled by water which can be colder than it looks.

During the Festive break people will have more time on their hands and are more likely to seek exercise, both for themselves and their family pet. Scottish SPCA Chief Superintendent Mike Flynn said: 'We strongly advise all dog owners to keep their dogs on leads when walking near frozen water this winter. If your dog does run out onto ice, never go out after it as the ice may be able to hold the weight of the dog, but is unlikely to hold the weight of a human. If your pet does fall through ice, remain on the land and call the emergency services or the Scottish SPCA animal helpline on 03000 999999.'

For more information, contact:

Customer Helpline: on 0845 6018855
or www.scottishwater.co.uk/takecare.

Killearn Health Centre News

Flu vaccinations now available

We encourage all patients who are entitled to a flu vaccine to contact the surgery on 550339 to arrange a suitable appointment.

You are eligible for a Flu vaccination if you are aged 65 or over, or you suffer from diabetes, chronic respiratory, heart, kidney or neurological disease, including stroke or TIA, or immunosuppression due to disease or treatment. You are also eligible for a flu vaccine if you are a carer or are pregnant.

Online prescription ordering

Don't forget you can order your prescriptions 24/7 at

www.killearnhealthcentre.com.

Staff training

Please note we will be closed from 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 22 November for staff training.

If you require medical assistance please contact:

NHS 24 on 08454 242424.

Congratulations to Frances Devoy and Hector MacDonald!

Frances and Hector were both nominated as Customer Service Stars and recently were presented with their awards at a presentation at Stirling Council, Old Viewforth. The awards recognize their excellent service provided to customers and colleagues.

Both Frances and Hector are part of the staff of Killearn Primary School. All those who visit the school will fully endorse how appropriate this award is.

Well done, our local stars!



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Donald and Douglas wish everyone best wishes for Christmas and the New Year



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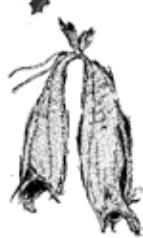
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WEDNESDAY – Balfron (am), Killearn (pm)

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food with passion

Craigievern/Ard Ghaoth Wind Turbine Update

Banks Renewables have submitted a draft scoping report to Stirling Council in respect of their proposal for 20 wind turbines at Craigievern/Ard Ghaoth.



particularly sensitive to development because of its prominent location at a key gateway to the national park.'

SNH 'have significant concerns regarding the landscape and visual impacts of a major development in this location...'

The undisturbed and tranquil beauty of arguably the most well known loch in the world – Loch Lomond – would be compromised. The livelihoods of villages surrounding the location, which depend to a large extent on tourism, would therefore also be under threat. It is EVAG's view that it is vital for local communities to come together to preserve the integrity of the area.

Council planners have stated that Banks Renewables must justify why they have proposed wind turbines at 100 metres when the area of search is limited to turbines of 50 metres or less. The National Park has stated, 'the prospect of a windfarm at this location is of significant concern. Specifically the site is considered to be

visual impacts of a major development in this location...'

We recommend that everyone who is concerned about the impacts of this proposal check the EVAG website (www.evag.co.uk) for updates, contact the group at support@evag.co.uk to receive updates by email (all sent out blind copied), or telephone 441068 for further information.

Endrick Valley Action Group (EVAG)

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New Art Studio Opens

A brand new art studio has opened its doors at Ballochruin Alpaca Farm between Killearn and Balfron. Established by Glasgow School of Art graduate Ewen Duncan, *art4you Scotland* will offer day and evening art classes from new premises in a spacious converted byre at Ballochruin. Ewen is encouraging anyone with an interest in learning how to paint or artists who'd like to refine their techniques to come along to any of his classes.

Ewen, a former television set designer who now lectures in art, said, 'Our new studio is in a fantastic setting, allowing us to use the Campsie Fells, the River Endrick, or even the alpacas that have made Ballochruin Farm such a popular stop for local walkers, as the backdrop for our art classes.' Ewen started *art4you Scotland* last year, running a very successful first season of classes at Balfron High School. He and his wife Claudia (*pictured*) have now teamed up with



the owners of Ballochruin Farm to offer a truly rural artistic experience to both local people and holidaymakers.

The classes focus on different techniques and mediums including drawing, water colour as a sketching medium and oil painting. Ewen adds, 'Coming along to one of our art classes is not just about learning to paint. It's a really rewarding experience.'

Ewen's students agree. Jim Cameron from Killearn says: 'Ewen's attitude is "let's have fun". He's good at creating an encouraging atmosphere.' While Rhona McColl adds, 'Ewen directs rather than tells you. He's someone with a professional mind who can encourage you. I am doing things now that I never thought I could.'

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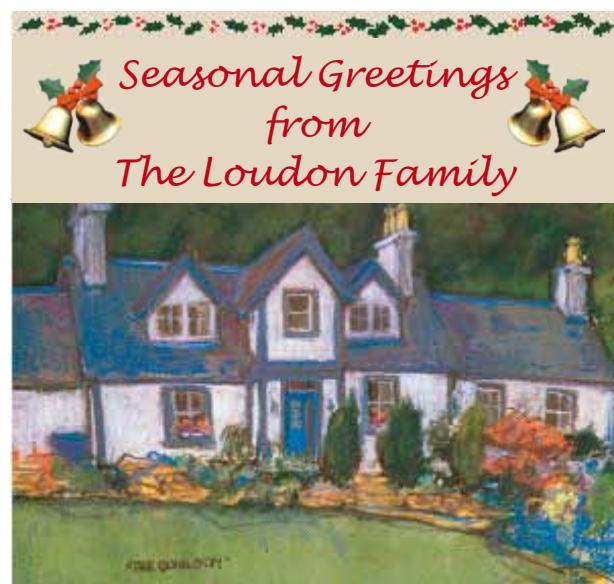
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To Make a Christmas Box



To make the box take a square of paper 20cm x 20cm. You can use a sheet of A4 paper which is 21cm wide, plain if you are going to paint it, coloured, or to be really fancy, good quality Christmas wrapping paper. **Make sure the paper is square.** Draw the diagonals on the paper to find the middle and then fold the corners into the middle to make a smaller square (Fig 1).

Then fold opposite sides of the smaller square to the middle, making parallel folds to the sides of the square (Figs 2a and 2b). Unfold them and repeat the folds on the opposite sides.

Unfold the paper completely and cut along innermost fold lines until you reach the corners of the smallest square (shown dotted in Fig 3). Then using the fold lines (shown dashed in Fig 3), fold the two larger sides to make two opposite sides of the box, the “tails” forming part of the other sides. Then fold in the two smaller sides over the tails. The four points should meet in the centre of the square.

Repeat the process with a square of paper 21cm x 21cm to make the lid.

Decorate your box, put a small gift inside and tie with ribbon. It's perfect to hang on the tree.

If you are really keen, make 25 boxes, put small toys, sweets, etc. inside, number them, and you have made Advent boxes!

For smaller or larger boxes scale the dimensions.

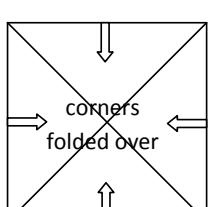


Fig 1

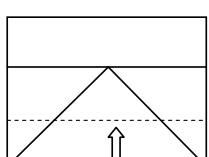


Fig 2a

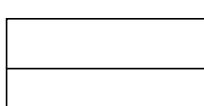


Fig 2b

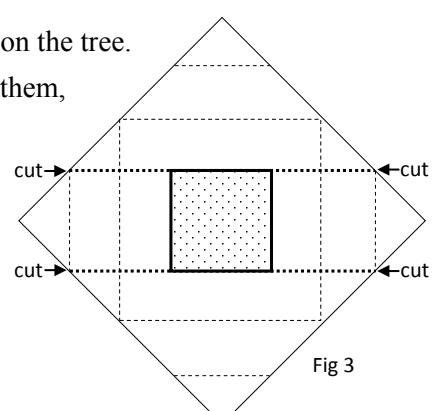


Fig 3



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Heron House Early Years,
959 Crookston Rd, Glasgow, G53 7DT
t: 0141 810 5777
e:crookston@heronhousenurseries.co.uk

Local Christmas Shopping

There's lots on offer in and around Killearn to make your Christmas shopping easy and sociable. Whether it's gifts for friends and family, decorations, Christmas trees and baubles or food goodies for both the traditional Christmas dinner and throughout the Festive holiday: it's all here in Killearn...reassuring, should we have the same snowy weather as last winter. As an alternative to a Christmas Gift, why not make a donation to a local charity such as Strathcarron Hopice, Strathendrick Welfare Society or Crossroads. Here are some ideas for your Local Christmas.



Christmas Country Market

Christmas themed *Killearn Country Market* with original local crafts, plants, gifts. Local farm produce and Edenmill trees, all made and sold by local businesses and organizations. Saturday 3rd December 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Homemade Cakes

Give family and guests a delicious Christmas treat with *The Bake Box* homemade cake selection delivered to your door on a Friday. Hide the box and they'll think you're a wonderful baker. Call Morag on 07871 183910.



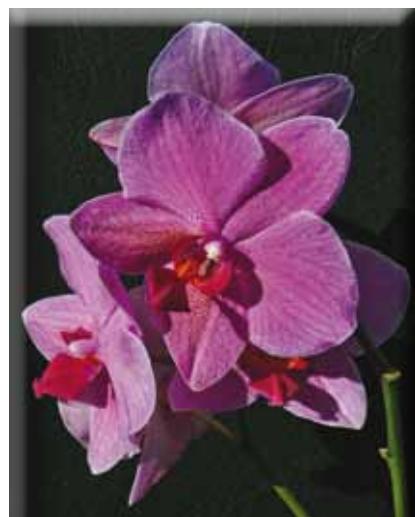
Gift Cards

Save wandering round town for that awkward present with the wide range of major retailer's Gift Cards from *SPAR*.



Luxury Table Centre

Endrick Blooms' luxury floral table centre to make your Christmas table that bit more special, or have it delivered as a gift. Tel 550404.



Indoor Plants

They're not just for Christmas! –good range of beautiful indoor plants from orchid specialist, *Ben View Nursery*, Ward Toll (on the Aberfoyle Road). When we can't get out into the garden over winter, bring a bit of greenery into your home, or give as a welcome gift.

Local Christmas



Sale of Work

The Guild Sale of Work – an annual village tradition with proceeds going to national and international charities. An opportunity to buy crafts, gifts and produce, homemade in Killearn. Saturday, 19 November, 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. in the Church Hall.

Furry animal slippers

Cosy and fun. A selection of furry animal slippers for kids and big kids from Aroma Home. Available in the *Old Mill Gift Shop*.



Christmas Sparkle

Town and Country's new Christmas accessories from Flamant. A selection of festive tealights, decorations and tableware to give your home a bit of Christmas sparkle.



Steak Pies....

Steak pies from *Edenmill* made with their own Aberdeen Angus beef. Alternative fillings and different sizes available. Visit the Farm's butcher shop or place your order at the Country Market.

Healthier Lifestyle

Give the gift of a healthier lifestyle with vouchers from *Killearn Health and Fitness* (551166). Or burn off the Christmas excesses at *Aizle Active Fitness Centre*, vouchers available.



Snow Tyres

For the unromantic but practical present, snow tyres from *Killearn Garage*. Make winter travel easier and safer. Tel. 550696.

mas Shopping

Hand Made Tiles

Original Hand Made Tiles, a pretty and special addition to your home, whether it's a heart to hang on the wall, seasonal hanging decorations or wall tiles with your own personal design, visit

www.originalhandmadetiles.com

Also at the Country Market.



Fragrant Gift

You can't go wrong with the ever popular gift of fragrance. Try the Berkley Square range available from **Killearn Pharmacy**.

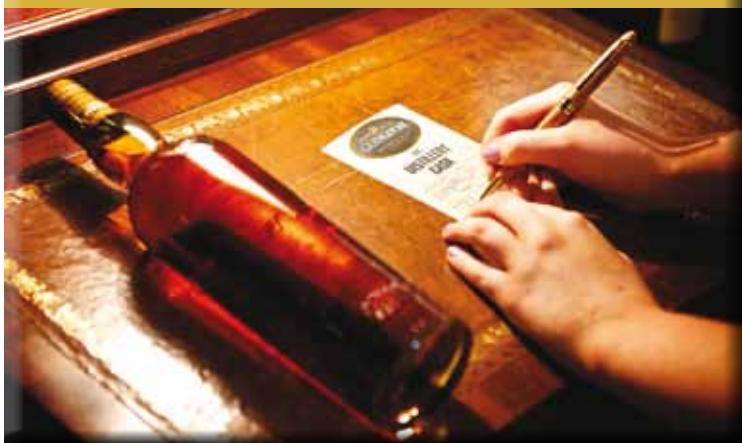


Plum Puddings

Gourmet Festive Goodies – traditional Christmas cakes and plum puddings from **Country Kitchen at Herons Court**. Place your order early at the shop or phone 550122.

'Fill your own Bottle'

Glengoyne's 'Fill your own bottle'. Once you bottle it, you then cork, crimp and complete your own label. The whisky is the closest you can get to drinking straight from the cask! Visit the Distillery shop for this personalized whisky experience.



Choc Fest

Chocoholics can enjoy a Choc Fest this Christmas with the great range of chocolates at **The Co-op**, from stocking fillers, to family-sized tins and gifts to give to friends.

Local Christmas Shopping

Gifts, Decorations and Flowers

A treasure trove of Christmas gifts, decorations and flowers with free local delivery from *Khoris Flowers at Oakwood Garden Centre*. Tel 551016.



Limited Edition Print

Limited edition mounted Giclee prints of Huw Williams' *Mallory*. A stunning example of why Huw is one of the most sought after equine artists of his time. This print is one of only 49 and is available exclusively from *The Ealaing Gallery* in Drymen. Visit www.ealaingallery.co.uk or tel. 660996.

Turkey & Trimings

Pheasant, goose, capon and, of course, turkey plus all the trimmings for a yummy Christmas dinner. Place your order at *MacDonald Butchers*.



Nail Treat

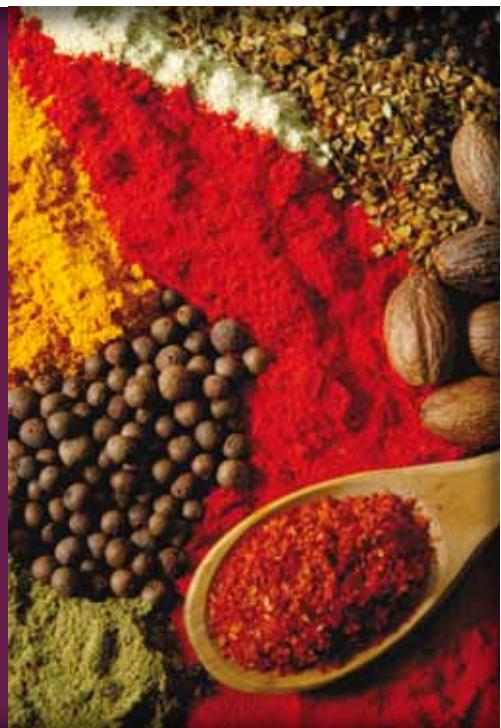
For a special occasion or simply to revive hands after all the Christmas dishwashing, give hands a treat with a luxurious manicure, including exfoliation, heated mitts with hand mask and massage, topped off with fabulous colour polish. Vouchers available from *The Beauty Box* at *LMH Hair and Beauty*, tel 551160.



Cookery School Vouchers

The perfect gift for those who love curry, cooking or are simply difficult to buy for. Learn how to cook authentic Punjabi food with *Scotia Spice* cookery school. Vouchers available.

Tel. 449399
or visit www.scotiaspice.co.uk



News from Glengoyne

Readers will have seen lots of activity at Dumgoyne Distillery over the past few months and no doubt have been curious as to what was going on, so we went and asked them.

Shiny New Warehouses

Glengoyne has now added to its traditional Dunnage warehouses by building four modern ones. Around 50,000 casks can now be housed on site, a tenfold increase. Distillery Manager Robbie Hughes believes that the new warehouses will 'make things easier and more efficient for the company and will represent a significant saving on transport and third party warehouse rent. This will secure current job expenditure and has created three full-time posts. The warehouses have given the Glengoyne site a real boost of activity. Do you realize that 50,000 casks equate to half a billion drams?'

Refurbished Slainte Mhath Shop



This year saw the refurbishment of Glengoyne's whisky shop, sprucing up the shop's interior and creating some new features, including a 'fill your own bottle' from the distillery cask.

The distillery cask is an American oak first-fill sherry cask, and has no chill-filtration or dilution. Once bottled, visitors can then cork, crimp and complete their own labels. This whisky

The New Glengoyne Nine-year-old Teapot Dram

Until the late 1970s or early '80s, Glengoyne's men used to get three large drams a day of cask-strength Glengoyne – breakfast, lunch and afternoon break. Once a week the brewer, Ron Low, and the excise men would select the best first-fill sherry cask they could find to become that week's dram. However, on occasion it might happen that one of the younger men didn't want one of their drams. So, he would pour it into the teapot that sat in the restroom. The more 'seasoned' drinkers would then help themselves to the teapot – everyone was happy!

The nine-year-old 'teapot dram' was created to celebrate those days and consists of five first-fill sherry casks between the ages of nine and eleven years old. It is exclusive to the distillery and is not available anywhere else in the world.

is the closest you can get to drinking straight from the cask! The distillery cask is a Glengoyne exclusive.

New Wetland Area



This year, Glengoyne invested £170,000 into the creation of a wetland area and became the exclusive whisky partner of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT).

The wetland area works by receiving waste from the spirit stills, called spent lees, which serves to purify the marshes and make the area a haven for wildlife – wetlands are among the world's most productive environments.

Robbie Hughes explained the thinking behind the wetland area initiative: 'We are always looking at options for improving our waste management, and wetlands seemed like the perfect solution. It allows us to reduce waste, cut down on waste transportation, be more environmentally friendly, and will attract a huge range of wildlife to the area, which is already renowned for its geese.'

GS



Glengoyne Distillery, near Killearn, has recently gone through some exciting changes, one of which includes the refurbishment of our superb Whisky Shop.

This Christmas why not choose an inspirational gift from some of our popular and exclusive products, including:

- The exclusive Glengoyne "teapot dram" - a bottle of Glengoyne Single Highland Malt whisky which has been inspired by the late 1980s distillery drumming sessions
- Bottle your own single cask whisky and produce your own label, exclusive to Glengoyne Distillery
- Personalise your bottle of 10, 17 or 21 year old Glengoyne Single Highland Malt whisky, designed to your own specifications
- Surprise someone with gift vouchers for Glengoyne's famous master blender tour - create and take home your very own whisky!
- £5.00 OFF a 70cl bottle of Glengoyne Whisky – weekends 26 & 27 Nov and 3 & 4 Dec

Open all year for Tours: Mar-Oct 10:00-17:00, (last tour 16:00) and Nov-Feb 10:00-16:00, (last tour 15:00)

For further details please contact Glengoyne on 01360 550254 or email reception@glen-goyne.com
www.glen-goyne.com





Police Report

Given the difficulties the economy has faced in the past few years and the ever increasing price of commodities such as gold, copper, lead and fuel, now is the time to consider the safety and security of your homes, garages and outbuildings.

When the darker nights arrive, we see an upsurge in travelling criminality in west Stirlingshire. The roads network around Killearn greatly benefits those intent on committing crime as they can get in and out of the villages very quickly, often undetected. The properties targeted tend to be those which are most vulnerable – those you will see with garage doors lying open, or properties which are in complete darkness whilst the occupiers are at work. Vehicles with valuables on

display are always at risk, as are fuel tanks in farmyards or oil tanks in gardens.

Central Scotland Police have been successful in detecting a number of persons responsible for breaking into local properties, and those responsible invariably come from communities outside west Stirlingshire. Prevention is always better than cure. If you make every effort to secure your property, you will greatly reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime. Keep valuable items such as jewellery and car keys well out of sight. Consider the valuable items you have stored in garages and outbuildings such as power tools and cycles – keep these items secure at all times.

As the nights get darker, ensure your home is illuminated, so as to give the impression someone is at home – use timer switches if necessary. Also, as the temperature gets colder, *never* leave your car running unattended outside your home or a shop.

Another issue which is becoming problematic on a national scale, is the various types of fraud being perpetrated against more vulnerable members of the community. More and more often we hear of people being coerced into revealing personal bank details or being defrauded in ever more elaborate schemes. Most recently it has been brought to my

attention that a number of persons in Killearn have been telephoned by an organization naming itself ‘Windows Technical Department’ (suggesting a link with Microsoft). The caller advises the victim that their computer has been infected by a virus and that ‘Windows Technical Department’ can rectify the fault following purchase of a suitable antivirus product. *The whole thing is a scam* designed to entice you into handing over your bank or credit card details.

Similar frauds – ‘Boiler Room Frauds’ – have occurred locally involving the purchase of stocks and shares. There have also been instances where individuals have been contacted by telephone by criminals claiming to be from the victim’s bank. The victim is informed that their bank card has become invalid and that an individual will attend at their home to collect the ‘invalid’ card and deliver a new one. Perpetrators of this type of crime can be very plausible. The best method of dealing with this issue is never to give up banking or credit card details to an unknown contact. If an individual cold calls offering a service – *give nothing away*.

Finally, I want to reassure you that Killearn remains a very safe place to live and work. There has been relatively little crime over the past summer. This is mainly due to the fact that you, the residents, report anything you are suspicious of, and the fact that you always look out for one another. Keep it up and together we can keep the village safe.

David McNally

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Beware! Computer and Related Scams

If you get an unsolicited phone call from ‘the Technical Department of the Internet’ then take care. They will ask for your credit card details and a payment of £60 for their support service. The software they load is available free, and once they have control of your computer it is also possible to upload private data without your knowledge. You also do not know what else they might do with your credit card information.

Another problem that seems to be growing is a window that appears and tells you that your computer has become infected with a large number of problems – and that huge number is the first clue that this is a con. The program asks you to register, and give them your credit card details to get the full version of the program. Don’t bite! The only infection you have is this ‘Scareware’ which lurks under a number of different names – System Tool, Security Tool, Smart Security, Antispyware – and can normally be removed fairly easily.

Another one is an email that appears to come from a friend who has ‘lost his wallet on vacation and needs some cash to get home.’ They often ask for cash in US dollars, which should give you a clue something is wrong. It should also alert you that your friend, or someone who emails them, has a computer virus. The con is trying to get hold of your personal information or account passwords.

If you have received an email from Paypal asking about an alleged order on Amazon, red lights should be flashing. The scammers ask you to click on the ‘Cancel Order’ button, if you hadn’t placed an order. They are ‘phishing’ for your Paypal information – don’t reply and delete the email. And you probably haven’t been a winner of a free ‘draw’ from Coca-Cola either!

Beware of phone messages telling you that a package is waiting for you and to phone to rearrange delivery. Unless you really are expecting a package, the phone number is likely to be an off-shore premium-rate number

getting you to listen to a pre-recorded message for a couple of minutes at £10 a minute.

Many of us now book train tickets online and collect them at the station. Watch out, because fraudsters have been targeting these machines in the same way as cash machines, trying to gather your card details and the PIN number.

All this sounds a bit scary, but reduce your risk by taking precautions with cold-callers and emails out of the blue. And take advantage of the internet security package available through your service provider (e.g. BT, TalkTalk – others are available) or invest in an alternative security package.

For more information and tips, go to www.getsafeonline.org which is sponsored by the Government, HSBC, Microsoft, Citizens’ Advice Bureaux and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) along with many other interested groups.

Doug Ashworth

Aizle Active, Ballat Crossroads
Balfron Station, Glasgow G63 0SE



class timetable

Sunday	- Kids (6-15yr) Gracie Jiu-Jitsu 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Monday	- Adults Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Rolling Classes 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tuesday	- Keiser Pulse (30min Spin + 15min Abs) 9:15 am - 10:00 am
	- Spinning (indoor cycling) 7:00 pm - 7:45 pm
	- Boxercise 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Tuesday	- Boxercise (during term time) 9:30 am - 10:30 am
	- Circuits 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
	- Legs bums & tums 7:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesday	- Sculptercise 9:15 am - 10:00 am
	- Zumba 10:15 am - 11:15 am
	- Combat Conditioning 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
	- Adult Gracie Jiu-Jitsu 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Thursday	- Spinning (indoor cycling) & Kettlebells 9:15 am - 10.00 am
	- Spinning (indoor cycling) 7:00 pm - 7:45 pm
	- Kickboxing 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
	- Boxercise 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Friday	- Flexibility & Stretching 9:00 am - 9:30 am
	- Boxercise (during term time) 09:30 am - 10:30 am
	- Gym Rats Fit Club (during term time) 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Classes are open to everyone and are free to certain memberships. Non members classes £4:00 Jiu-Jitsu - Kids £3:50 - Adults £5:00

For more info on classes, membership and our Weight Loss Challenge call Kerr on 07766 355378

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jelly belly, lardy a**e?**

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This program deals with extreme weight loss and should only be attempted if you’ve tried everything else, are sick of lugging around excess flab and have consulted your doctor.

Winter-Proof Your Skin

It has come to that time of year again when the temperatures drop, the wind blows and the central heating is on. This leaves the skin on hands, bodies and face feeling dry, tight, itchy and uncomfortable.

The skin's natural barrier contains lipids (fats) which help stick the skin cells together and prevent water loss. Natural moisture in the skin is stripped by wind and central heating; even those who do not have dry skin can feel the effects of the winter on their skin. When the natural barrier is lost, the cells dry out and flake off. This can cause the dry skin to itch or cause inflammation – people with a tendency towards eczema can itch a lot, especially in the lower legs. Here are a few tips to help your skin through the winter.

Avoid harsh external factors

Soaps, harsh chemicals, hot water and detergents can all irritate dry skin. Wear gloves when washing up, as soaps and detergents can remove oil from the skin's protective barrier. Even excessive showering and hot baths can dry out skin. The British Skin Foundation suggests that you should wrap up in hat, scarf and gloves to protect from the outside elements.

What to do? Reduce the heat of your shower or bath; substitute harsh soaps with soap-free cleansers; avoid alcohol-based cleansers and facial wipes.

Moisturise

Sounds obvious but we all still forget to do this after a bath or shower! Finding

a good moisturiser is important, you need one that will relieve the tightness and itching. I would recommend moisturisers with natural ingredients as the skin will be more receptive and work with the ingredients for soft, silky, hydrated skin.

What to do? Products with chamomile, aloe and rose all help to soothe inflammation and itching; re-apply hand cream after washing hands; use a face moisturiser with a sun block – even the winter sun can dry out skin.

Exfoliation

Exfoliating your skin in the winter is important to remove the dry dead skin from the protective layer, allowing the moisturiser to penetrate the skin and the protective layer to work more effectively. Using a soft exfoliator is advisable as dry itchy skin can be sensitive.

What to do? Use an exfoliator with small smooth particles such as sugar (for body only) or jojoba spheres; exfoliate two to three times a week.

Humidify

Low humidity caused by harsh winds and overheated homes and workplaces can contribute massively to winter skin dryness. These situations can be hard to avoid so protecting your skin can help keep it hydrated and protected. You can buy a portable humidifier which could help at home.

What to do? Leave a bowl of water next to the radiator instead of buying a humidifier (you can add a few drops of essential oil for a lovely scent); a visit to a warm tropical climate could help if

you can afford it – it's certainly a one way to beat the winter blues!

Food

Eating foods rich in minerals and vitamins – like leafy green vegetables, tomatoes, broccoli and fruit – can give your general health a boost as well as keeping your skin healthy. Foods rich in essential fatty acids such as fish can help strengthen the skin's natural barrier, helping to keep the elements out. If you feel your diet may not be providing enough vitamins and minerals, supplements are an idea especially in the winter months.

DIY face mask

Here are two recipes from ingredients in your fridge for dry or sensitive skin.

Avocado and Honey Mask for Dry Skin

Mash a ripe avocado to a smooth pulp and then add a teaspoon of honey, apply to cleansed face, sit back and relax 10–15 minutes, then remove using warm water. Pat face dry with a towel and put on your moisturiser. Your skin will feel hydrated and smooth.

Butter and Oats Mask for Sensitive Skin

Take one tablespoon of softened unsalted butter and add a handful of rolled porridge oats and a tablespoon of natural yoghurt, apply to face and again sit back relax. Remove with warm water, pat your skin dry and apply moisturiser. Your skin will feel smoother and calmer.

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Local Surgeon is Team Leader in Twin Separation



Internationally acclaimed surgeon David Dunaway, team leader for the separation of the Sudanese conjoined twins, is a resident in Killearn. He and his family have lived in the village for 14 years.

David initially worked in the

plastic surgery unit at Canniesburn Hospital when he came to Scotland, but the opportunity arose in 2000 to join the craniofacial team at Great Ormond Street in London. Despite the commute, it was a chance not to be missed.

The twins' £400,000 treatment was funded by the charity Facing the World. Once surgery in the UK was decided upon, the first obstacle was getting the girls and their parents to Britain. They were unable to fly on a commercial airliner, and so a private flight was paid for by Mohamed Al Fayed, a patron of the charity. When the twins and parents arrived in April, one of the girls, Ritag, was already seriously ill – her heart was failing.

Facing the World was founded in 2002 by Martin Kelly, an eminent plastic surgeon. Its mission is to offer life-changing treatment to children with severe facial disfigurements, and

sometimes this means bringing them from the developing world for treatment in Britain when local treatment is unavailable. Mr Kelly tragically died in 2008 at the early age of 43, and his widow, actress Natascha McElhone, has continued as a patron of the charity, which has the volunteer services of a group of highly trained and distinguished physicians and surgeons.

David explained that the separation of conjoined twins is extremely complex, but the best outcome is achieved by separating them in stages. The little girls would not have survived a single major operation; in all, four operations were conducted. David went on to say, 'All the operations were planned to the last detail. No single part of it is extremely difficult, but getting them from beginning to end safely is the big challenge. It has, without doubt, been one of the biggest operations of my surgical career.'

The twins, Rital and Ritag, have recently celebrated their first birthday with their parents and the dedicated team of doctors and nurses and members of Facing the World who have contributed to this happy outcome. Although they are still in hospital, the family hope to return to Sudan in the very near future.

David, along with his wife Sue, a nurse, is also a voluntary worker for the Facing Africa Noma charity, which sends groups of surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses to West Africa to help repair the facial ravages of a terrible disease which is a direct result of extreme poverty and malnutrition in children.

If you would like to make a donation to either charity or for more information go to:

www.facingtheworld.net and www.facingafrica.org.

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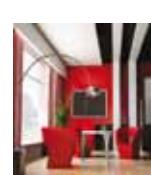
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The Future of Killearn

The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 requires Stirling Council to produce a Development Plan for the area. The Stirling Council Local Draft Development Plan has now been published. As a Draft Plan you will have the chance to comment on its proposals before the final plan is produced. Once adopted, it will be reviewed at 5-yearly intervals to ensure that an up-to-date plan is in place that can guide the future development of the area.

The Plan sets out the detailed policies and proposals to guide and promote development in the area. It will replace the existing Stirling Local Plan (1999) and the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Structure Plan (2002) when it is adopted at the end of 2012. Details of the timescale for the process of preparing the Plan are contained within the Draft Policies Document. This document sets out the general development policies to be followed. For example, there are policies on housing, business, industry, storage and distribution, waste management, protection of the countryside, tourism, forestry and farming, renewable energy and wind farms, flood protection, etc. You are encouraged to read the full document as it affects the future of the community. From these policies specific planning guidelines are produced for each community.

The link, <http://killearncc.org.uk/notice.html/localplan.pdf> allows you to access both the policy document and the specific plan for Killearn .

In the plan for Killearn, our settlement is classed as a Rural Village and therefore has potential for modest amounts of new development. Three areas have been identified, part of the 'Turnip Field' (H100), an area north of Station Road (H101) and Blairessan, between Gartness Road and Drumtian Road (H102). The 'Turnip Field' development refers to the 6 bungalows presently the subject of a planning application, and the Station Road development proposes to extend the built-up area down Station Road with 20 houses. There has been some concern generated by the Blairessan proposal for 30 houses, and an article by concerned residents is included on this page. Each of these developments would be required to provide 50 per cent affordable houses. The developments would have to be phased as there is limited capacity currently at Killearn Primary School and Balfron High School. The old hospital site has been identified

as a possible location for businesses, but will require a Development Brief because of its countryside location, landscape value and range of potential uses. The map shows the location of the proposed housing development sites.

A series of 17 drop-in sessions will be held in communities across the Stirling Council area between 1 November and 16 December to give local people the opportunity to comment further on the Draft Proposed Local Development Plan.

'Our Local Development Plan will be the blueprint for the development of the Stirling area over the next twenty years,' said Cllr Jim Thomson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability. 'We want local people to be as involved as possible at each stage of the process.'

'For the past 18 months the Council's planning team has been consulting with local people, community groups, developers and others to set out a shared vision for our area. We now need to consult further with people in their communities and gather comments on the Draft, whether objections or expressions of support.'

A local drop-in event is arranged at Killearn Village Hall on Friday, 2 December 2011, 3 – 9 p.m.

At the drop-in sessions local people will be able to find out more about what the Draft Plan proposes for their community. Planning Officers will be on hand to explain more and answer any queries. Comments should be made in writing or by email to ldp@stirling.gov.uk. For more information please visit www.stirling.gov.uk/localdevplan.

Comments received on the Draft Plan will be reported to the Council in the New Year, and a Proposed Plan will then be prepared and published. There will be further opportunity at that point to comment on the Proposed Plan, and these will go forward to the Scottish Government Reporter.

Blairessan Field



In 2009, Stirling Planning Department asked interested landowners to put forward any site which they wished to develop with a view to inclusion in the Local Development Plan. One of the sites in Killearn was the 15-acre field in front of Blairessan House, owned by Mr Stuart Clumpas. He commissioned a report from consultants to show how access could be achieved from Station Road using a mini roundabout on the sharp bend. The report also showed a draft layout for 50 houses. The report and plans can be viewed at www.stirling.gov.uk/117_stuart_clumpas.pdf.

A group of concerned residents has organized a leaflet drop round the village. They request that your views on this proposal are returned to Killearn Community Council so that they can form part of the Council's consultation.

Killearn Community Council Update

Old Peoples' Bungalows

The application by Stirling Council's Housing Department to build six bungalows specifically for elderly people on a part of the "Turnip Field" has come before the Community Council who gave its support to the project. Work is expected to start in the spring.

The 'Turnip Field'

This land that remains is being moved from the Housing revenue account to the General account. This means that Stirling Council will continue to maintain it as parkland but that it should be safe from any future development.

Queen Elizabeth Fields Challenge

Killearn Park, the recreation ground which includes the football field and the play area, has been nominated for inclusion in the Queen Elizabeth II Field Challenge. If successful, it will secure the future of the park as a place of leisure and recreation in perpetuity and give the Council a chance to bid for funds to improve the park. The success of this depends on the number of votes Killearn Park receives *and that depends on the people of Killearn voting for Killearn Park in an on-line ballot*. Please see the box below for details.

Severe Weather Policy

Stirling Council has been busy for the past six months preparing to combat the worst effects of a winter like last year in the event that severe weather strikes us again. A working group, which included representatives from Strathblane to speak for the residents of rural areas, has been drawing up contingency plans which include ensuring adequate supplies of salt, purchasing additional snowploughs, mobilizing farmers to use their equipment to help to clear heavy snowfalls and encouraging local participation. Members have attended two conferences on this subject and will shortly be giving their reports. Should severe snowfall occur *please recall the problems caused by inconsiderate parking last year and leave the main roads clear for public vehicles!*

The Local Plan

The new Local Development Plan, in draft form, has just been published. It is introduced on the opposite page, and tells you how you can see the plan and respond to the consultation. The plan will be discussed at the next Community Council meeting on 16 November and you can come to that meeting and tell us what concerns you and what gets your approval. We encourage you to make every effort to read the relevant sections of this document and attend any public consultations and your Community Council meetings. As a general rule people do not take kindly to the prospect of change, but if there is understanding of why some changes are necessary, it makes it easier to adapt to the prospect.

The proposal to develop the field at Blairessan is a speculative proposal and the fact that it is in the draft local plan does not necessarily mean that it will be given planning permission, as it would still have to go through the full planning process. Certain details within the proposals suggest that the

potential developers have no knowledge of our village, of the amenities we possess, or of plans currently being carried out under Killearn Community Futures Company.

The Role of the Council

It is important to understand the role of the Council. It has no statutory powers but has to be consulted by government bodies and utilities to determine the view of the community. The Community Council is required to consult among the local population to fulfil this role. It does this by monthly open meetings, feedback via its members and through its website. It disseminates information through the website and its noticeboard outside Spar. After discussion, and occasionally a vote among the members, a decision is reached which it communicates to Stirling Council or other statutory body. Its decisions and the reasons for them are published in its minutes, displayed on the website and noticeboard. If you wish your views to be represented, then tell us, or best of all, come to our meetings.

Open Space Strategy

The Council recently responded to Stirling Council's Open Space Strategy and endeavoured to name every portion of green land within and on the edges of our village in an attempt to have these registered as valued spaces, trusting that this designation will protect against future development.

Stirling Council's Procedures for the Sale of Small Parcels of Land

The sale of a piece of land in Beech Drive without any consultation aroused consternation that there might be other areas of the village at risk of being summarily taken out of the public domain. We pursued the matter with Stirling Council who have now proposed revisions in their own guidelines. The Community Council has requested that further modifications be made in these guidelines to ensure that Community Councils will be consulted before Stirling Council enters into any contract of sale of open land.

Vacancies

We are looking for interested people to fill two vacancies on the Community Council – one for an adult and one for a youth member. If you could be that interested person, please contact any member of the Council or use our form on the Community Council website (www.killearncc.org).

B. Pell, P. Wilks



**SUPPORT KILLEARN
VOTE FOR
KILLEARN FIELD**

It is important that every person in the village votes for Killearn Field.

If we get enough votes, the recreation ground becomes a Queen Elizabeth II Field.

This will protect it as open space in perpetuity and allow the village to access grants to improve the area.

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put in your postcode and follow the instructions.**

Killearn Health and Fitness

Heading round the corner at Panik Gallery, up the lane to the studio behind, I'm anticipating meeting Killearn's new personal trainer; would I gain an advert or an article for the *Courier* or yet another unused gym membership? It was an unexpected outcome. Killearn Health and Fitness wasn't quite what I had anticipated. Yes, the workshop has been transformed into a light and airy exercise studio, but Robert Miller isn't just a personal trainer.

Robert Miller is Killearn Health and Fitness, a holistic lifestyle coach. 'What is that?' I hear you ask. He aims to coach his clients to achieve high levels of well-being and life satisfaction – 'choose to be the best version of yourself' is his motto. His philosophy is to treat the body as a whole through corrective exercise, massage, holistic health and nutrition. Coaching others on a one-to-one basis to achieve this is what he loves most. Robert is one of only three Paul Chek-trained, level two coaches in Scotland. His approach aims to tackle issues such as stress management, exercise education, recovery from injury, weight loss or confidence building. His clients benefit from better sleep, healthier immune and digestive systems and reduced blood pressure, to name but a few pluses.

Local testimonials support Robert's aims: Derek Rae, Killearn's Outdoor Circuit Trainer says, 'Working with Robert has given me a feeling of calmness and confidence I never knew I had, I feel stronger, fitter and happier.' Michael



Luck, Managing Director of Slater Hogg and Howison, agrees: 'Working with Robert has made me look and feel at least ten years younger. I feel better after just a few months than I have for years.'

So why establish this business in Killearn? Partly through circumstance. The studio became available and Robert believes in synchronicity. Partly because people in this area are already switched on to leading a healthier lifestyle and therefore more

likely to want to continue this lifestyle journey if coaching were on hand. The Killearn studio is as close as possible to Robert's vision of the ideal workspace.

Robert has been on his own lifestyle journey, from a self confessed misspent youth to qualifying as a personal trainer then continuing to study with Paul Chek to expand his understanding of wellbeing. He's now a spiritual family man who eagerly anticipates continuing his journey here in Killearn.

Coaching is not just on a one-to-one basis, group training, boot camp and running clubs are among other options. For a full range of the services and prices visit www.killearnhealthandfitness.co.uk. Also read the press articles written by Robert. The one on Correct Breathing got me thinking...and breathing.

GS

Killearn Health and Fitness is at:

13A Main Street, Killearn (551166 or 07787 241240)

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Rugby Round-Up

The 2012–13 season is well underway at Strathendrick. The Minis launched their year with an Open Day at the end of August when charity cheques were presented to three local hospices from the group's highly successful annual fundraising tournament in April. The numbers of players and coaches are building, and the P4/5s and P6/7s both won their age categories at the Waysiders Drumpelier Tournament in September. Festivals, tournaments and training have followed – with some promising young talent showing through.

Strathendrick Midis have been relaunched in a new collaboration with Balfron High School. The High School has players but insufficient fixtures – and the Club has great facilities at Fintry. So regular Saturday morning fixtures are in place for a joint Balfron 'Endrick S1/2 team. A successful start was made with an honourable draw against The High School of Glasgow B team – and more games are being played before Christmas. Run by David Brown, John Brown (no relation) and Nick Hawkins from the Club with Chris Jewell from the High School, everyone has high hopes of this new partnership.

Headed by the new coaching team of Dave Barrett and Kerr McMillan, the Seniors have made a steady start to the new season, securing regular League points and winning through early rounds of the West Bowl. Both the league and cup competitions have new formats this season – with Helensburgh and Cambuslang new competitors in Strathendrick's division.

For more information on any aspect of Strathendrick RFC, please contact:

*Nick Hawkins (550576) or
www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc/*



Strathendrick Minis P4/5s at the Waysiders Drumpelier Tournament



Strathendrick Minis P6/7s at the Waysiders Drumpelier Tournament

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Curling – First Stones



The new curling season for Strathendrick Curling Club started in October for both the main club and the Ladies Section.

The main club started the season with the traditional President v Vice President Bonspiel. This year there was a win for our President, George Harris. The bonspiel was followed by a buffet at John and Jean Anderson's house.

We have sufficient members to play a seven-team league on Tuesdays, both before and after Christmas, but could always do with more reserves.

The Ladies Section held a practice session before the season started for everyone to get used to being on the ice again. Some of our ladies, who are not as agile as they used to be, took the opportunity to try throwing the stones with a delivery stick. This is a pole with a special joint for fastening on to the stone handle which was developed

about ten years ago to enable players to deliver stones from a wheelchair. It has also been adopted as a way for many older players to keep playing when they are, perhaps, struggling with a normal sliding delivery.

The Ladies Section played their opening bonspiel at The Peak. It was narrowly won by Rita Barth's team of Rita Harris, Gill Smith and Norma Thornton, who won five ends and scored twelve shots. This was just one shot more than the runners-up team of Muriel Holroyd, Helen Watson, Norma Mitchell and Marion Richardson. The ladies are playing a five-team league on Thursday mornings up to Christmas, and a four-team double round-robin after Christmas. Again, they would welcome more reserves.

In July, Norman and Fiona Robertson hosted a barbecue at their house on the Stockiemuir Road. We were lucky with the weather and were able to sit out in their attractive garden.

In September we had our annual Texas Scramble and general knowledge quiz at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. Unfortunately, we ran out of luck with the weather for the golf this year. However, it was an enjoyable evening, once everyone was

dried off! The club will be involved in the usual Province games against other local clubs. On 30 October, we had four teams playing at Murrayfield in the triennial bonspiel for the Balyarrow Trophy. This is against the other clubs which share our foundation date of 1846, namely Bridge of Weir, Falkland, Haddington and St Andrews.

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, *please contact:*

Fiona Glass (550646) or
George Harris (550456),
or our website
www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.

GS



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Killearn Football Club

Season 2011 was not only a big disappointment for the players and supporters of Killearn FC, but a very frustrating one as well. From positioning themselves as contenders for four of the Association's major trophies, the team lost their winning ways of past years and ended up with no silverware to show for their efforts.



The season started well enough and by halfway the Club was sitting top of the league and had reached the first cup final, the Margaret White, but lost a closely fought encounter after extra time 1–0 to Gartocharn. The Telfer Cup semi-final was another near miss, going down to Deanston in a penalty shoot-out, after the game ended 2–2.

The Leslie League was decided in the last game of the season, played at Killearn, where the largest crowd seen in the Forth and Endrick for many years witnessed a cracker of a game between Killearn and Gartocharn. With two minutes of the match remaining, Killearn were in a league-winning position but the visitors scored to win the match 4–3 and gain the title on goal difference! Killearn's league record: won 19, drew 1, lost 2.

29. Despite having the best defence in the league, the loss of the five games cost the Club greatly in failing to secure trophies for everyone's efforts.

Off the pitch, the Club was involved in trying to develop changing facilities at the park and just when the plans were going well with both the Killearn Community Council and KCFC, it became apparent that the site selected was unsuitable due to ground conditions. Further discussions are now underway and hopefully the word *concrete* will soon be used in a building sense!

The Club would like to thank everyone who has supported the team and players throughout the season – and the many who give their time and financial assistance to Killearn Football Club.

Tennis Club

Winter is upon us and tennis is on the back burner for a while. Time to batten down the hatches and reflect on the year.

The new clubhouse has been a joy to use – it is fresh, light and really boosts the club in every way.

Senior and junior tennis are thriving at the club, but as always we welcome

new members and ideas. If you think you would like to get back on court or try tennis for the first time, come along and see what we have to offer. It's fun and great exercise, and we have a programme that suits all abilities.

The club's AGM will take place on Saturday 17 March 2012 at 11 a.m. in the Clubhouse.



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Janet Small 1952 – 2011



Janet Small passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at Ballochruin Farm. Janet and Freddie arrived at Ballochruin in November 2003, after a busy life running an upmarket B&B in a large country house on the

outskirts of Edinburgh alongside their work as CAs. When most would consider slowing down, they began yet another adventure in their amazing life together. It is difficult to write about Janet without including Freddie in every line because their lives and activities were so intertwined.

Janet and Freddie transformed Ballochruin Farmhouse and steading into a successful multifaceted small farm business, creating employment and welcoming tourists to share in the Alpaca experience. Time was always found to contribute to causes, whether the saving of the tennis club or building sustainability into the Alpaca Society, and to this end she was the driving force behind the Alpaca Show at the Drymen Show which has expanded year after year. This year, due to the weather and less than three months before her death, Janet hosted the Drymen Alpaca Show on her farm and was thrilled to be awarded Supreme Champion for one of her Scottish bred alpacas. At no point in her life did Janet stop dreaming or making plans for new enterprises. Even in her last few days she was out there welcoming folk to the latest venture, a new enterprise supporting a local art project. Art, craft and colour were dear to Janet who loved creating, using the fleeces from her beloved alpacas.

Those of us privileged to enjoy Janet's friendship could not help but be inspired by her enthusiasm, warmth and zest for life. Nothing stood in her way or slowed down her ambitions, least of all the illness that had challenged for over 25 years.

The perfect hostess, her door was always open and welcoming. Whether it was a simple cup of coffee, a tasty impromptu meal conjured up within ten minutes, or helping to pull a stuck lamb, Janet was one of life's very special people. She never allowed life to get her down – the perfect friend and neighbour. She will be sorely missed and long remembered.

DT

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Jean Beaton 1947 – 2011



Jean Beaton, a Killearn girl all her life, was born and brought up at Croy Cunningham Farm, the middle daughter of five girls. She was educated at Killearn Primary School and then at Balfron High School where she excelled in all sports and also in fine arts. Before going to

up to the high school, her father was tragically killed in a road incident, and the family moved to Graham Road in the village. On leaving school she took a secretarial training course at Riverside in Stirling. Her studies and her artistic talent lead to a secretarial post with a prestigious firm of architects in Glasgow.

She met Donnie, then working at Lettre Farm, at the local youth club at the age of 15½: romance blossomed and they were married in Killearn Kirk in 1971 and moved into the shepherd's cottage at the top of the Branziert where Jean took a very active part in being a shepherd's wife and support: helping Donnie with the rearing of the sheep, feeding dogs and lambs – as well as the workers – alongside raising their two sons, James and Ross. Jean enjoyed the socializing that was part and parcel of the big events, like shearing.

When her sons were old enough, Jean went to work at the Co-op, where she managed the fruit and vegetable section, and later went into partnership in 'Fresh & Frozen' in Balfron. In both places, with her warm personality, she made many friends amongst colleagues and customers.

After several changes of house associated with Donnie's work, the pair moved back to what had been Jean's family home in Graham Road.

She participated in many village activities, such as the Rural and badminton; she loved reading and doing crosswords, and was a surprising authority on motor racing! But her greatest passion was art. She was a member of Killearn Art Club and regularly attended the Summer School of Glasgow School of Art where she excelled in all media. A talented painter, her work was often exhibited and sold locally.

As Donnie's other half she gave to him immense support in all his footballing activities, acting as his personal secretary, taking calls from players, clubs and referees, and even making decisions on his behalf if he could not be contacted. Apparently Jean would ask three vital questions after each Killearn match: Did they win? Did the boys play? Did they manage not to be sent off? She played her own special part for 50 years in the life of Killearn Football Club. As a mark of respect, the final of the Cameron Cup was cancelled on the day of her funeral, which also marked what would have been her 64th birthday.

Jean will be sorely missed in this village and throughout the locality.

BP

John A. Russell 1947 – 2011



John was born on 5 January 1947, the eldest child of William and Dorothy Russell, builders and contractors of Bearsden. John developed a great interest in business and ponies from his father who tragically died when John was only nine.

At sixteen John persuaded his mother to let him buy a cross Welshie from the gypsies. He kept the receipt – £12.50 for

pony, trap and harness (signed with a cross!). This little part-bred mare started John on the road to becoming a breeder of champions.

John trained as a company secretary becoming a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries in 1967 and establishing John A Russell Joinery Ltd in the same year. Over the years John built up his business which was involved in projects at venues such as the Burrell Collection, the Piping Centre, McLellan Galleries and Edinburgh Sheriff Court before shifting into manufacturing innovative, energy efficient and environmentally friendly door sets.

In 1971, John met Elizabeth – marrying in 1972, with son John and daughter Louise completing the family in 1977 and 1979 respectively.

The family moved to Carston Farm in Killearn in 1985 allowing John the space to expand his now renowned Gartconnel Stud. The little cross Welsh had been traded up for a registered mare when John was just 17. He joined the Welsh Pony and Cob Society and within a year had three ponies. He was then advised by Lord Kenyon (the Society's Chairman) to 'sell your three ponies and buy one good one.' In 1967, he did just that and bid for a little mare at the Gredington sale. When it didn't make its reserve price John made an offer to Lord Kenyon to buy the mare on Hire Purchase! The deal was sealed with a handshake – no interest and a payment every June for three years.

Unfortunately, in 1999 the factory plant was engulfed by fire, testing John's strength and tenacity to the full but, together with his son, John, he overcame this difficult period moving the business into their current factory. It was also in this year that John was diagnosed with cancer. He fought the disease with his own brand of humour. Undergoing exhausting treatment, he kept his focus on the business – and was always available to give practical and wise counsel.

At this time he entrusted Gartconnel Shooting Star, his Welsh Section A stallion, to his friend Colin to take on the showing circuit. Together they succeeded magnificently, with the pony winning championships up and down the country, qualifying three times for the Horse of the Year Show and, in December 2010, the stallion won Best of Breed and Top Conformation at Olympia, making John very proud indeed.

In 2005 John found a new role as a grandfather when he was thrilled to meet his first grandchild, Charlotte, followed by Sophie in 2008.

In May of this year he was confronted with a choice of limited palliative treatment or surgery that would leave him with no voice – he chose surgery. Prior to his operation he had a busy July, firstly he had the honour of being asked to judge at the Royal Welsh Show but secondly, and more importantly, he had the pleasure of giving his daughter Louise in marriage at Carston Farm – the place he most loved to be. John's operation was on 8 August. After laughing and joking with the doctors and nurses and his family (despite no voice) – he died peacefully on August 25. He will be much missed by family and friends.

Jess Stuart 1933 – 2011



Jess was born in Aberdeenshire, one of 14 children born to John and Georgina Stuart. After leaving school she moved south with other members of her family and found work in Glasgow

where she was employed as a nanny to a dentist's family for eight years. She then moved to Killearn and worked in Killearn Hospital until its closure in 1972, and then in the Black Bull. She gave up her work in order to care for her ailing father and her brother, Charlie.

She enjoyed village life and loved participating in the various local activities such as the Thursday Club and the Old Peoples' Group and taking part in Whist Drives and Bingo Nights. Her friendly and outgoing manner made her a popular companion and she cared greatly for the well being of her family and friends.

Although latterly she suffered some health problems, her death was sudden and unexpected. She will be much missed in the village. Sympathies are extended to her wide circle of family and friends and, in particular, to her brother Derek, with whom she kept close contact.

BP

George Wybar

It was with sadness that the Courier learned of the death of George Wybar of Balfour who died peacefully at Strathcarron Hospice on 4 October after a bravely borne illness.

George was known to many householders in his capacity as a heating engineer and for many years looked after their central heating systems without tying himself to a 9-to-5 working day. George would turn out, and frequently did, for emergencies and always did his level best to get the heating and hot water back on. If the need arose, he would even turn out on Christmas or New Years Day.

George provided an excellent service always accompanied by a smile and cheery banter. He will be sorely missed.

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Anne Sim 1916 – 2011



Anne was born and brought up in the Motherwell area, her father being the warden in charge of the David Livingstone Memorial at Blantyre. She attended Dalziell High School where, in addition to being a bright student, she took part in many Gilbert and Sullivan operas. On leaving school, she helped her father in his work, and in her spare time attended the Miss Shanks School of Dancing. It was there

that she met her husband Jim, another dance aficionado, and they married in 1940. Throughout the war years, they lived in Falkirk, where Jim was emergency electrician for the electricity board. Anne enjoyed family life, looking after their two boys, Jim and Robin, as they moved from Falkirk to Edinburgh in 1949, then to Crookston in 1952, and to Killearn in the early 1970s.

Once established in New Endrick Road, Anne and Jim set about building their garden from scratch. They turned their patch of mud and rubble into a garden that consistently won prizes at the Killearn Horticultural Show. After Jim died in 1999, Anne took great consolation from her garden, and could be found either in her greenhouse or planting out seedlings or wrestling with overgrown bushes right up until extreme old age caught up with her. She also enjoyed her ever-growing family, her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, taking great pride in remembering everyone's birthday!

Anne was a member of the Monday Club, where she mixed with other village ladies, and also of the Thursday Club, where she was known as no mean Scrabble player. She was a recognizable figure in the village, slim and spry, with a ready smile for everyone. She was always good company, and had a lively sense of fun. She enjoyed her last few weeks in Canniesburn Home, appreciative of the kindness and care she experienced there. She died in her sleep on 23 October, aged 95, a fitting end for a lovely lady.
JB

William Dixon Craig 1928 – 2011

William Dixon Craig, or Dick as he was known to family and friends, was born on the south side of Glasgow and educated at the local primary school and Queen's Park Secondary School. After completing his National Service, mainly in Egypt, he went to work in the Glasgow office of Stewarts & Lloyds Steel Company, moving to British Steel in Corby for two years. He then went to work with John Fraser, a firm which specialized in the making of steel tubes, from 1974–99, ending his career as a director of the company.

Through work he met Margaret Howard whom he married in 1980. They settled first in Strathblane and later moved to Rowan Crescent in Killearn. When ill health necessitated Margaret's move to Whitefield Lodge, Dick visited her daily until her death in 2007.

He will be remembered by all who knew him as courteous and kindly man.

BP

16 Days of Action



The *16 Days of Action Against Gender Violence* is an international campaign which takes place every year between

25 November – International Day Against Violence Against Women – and 10 December – International Human Rights Day. These dates not only symbolically link violence against women with human rights, but also emphasise that such violence is a violation of human rights.

We know that a woman will often be assaulted by her partner or ex-partner around 35 times before she seeks help from agencies or reports the incident to the police. We also know that across the Forth Valley area between April 2010 and March 2011, 3,719 incidents of domestic abuse were reported to the police – that's an average of 71 a week. We know this is the tip of the iceberg because few incidents are actually reported.

The 16 Days Campaign has been used by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels;
- establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women;
- creating tools to pressure governments to implement policies made to eliminate violence against women;
- strengthening local work around violence against women.

Our planning group here in Forth Valley is made up of representatives from Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Councils, Central Scotland Police, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue, Forth Valley NHS and a number of local voluntary organizations which work with families affected by domestic abuse.

We organize a range of activities during the 16 Days, and this year these include an exhibition which will be displayed at various local venues, training sessions, workshops in schools, a special film screening and a fundraising ceilidh with White Ribbon Scotland.

Only by working together can we change attitudes towards domestic abuse.

For further information on the campaign or any of the Stirling activities, please contact:

Anne Meikle, meiklea@stirling.gov.uk.

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Woodland Cemetery Update

In Issue 19 of the *Courier*, I put forward a plan to build a circular stone enclosure in the Woodland Cemetery in Gartness Road which would incorporate a base for memorial plaques. In most ‘green’ graveyards, the only marker for a grave is a tree which does not include a name or memorial inscription. In Killearn, the only identification is a lettered post in the centre of each circle of lairs.



Stirling Council has agreed the plan, which will place the stone wall around the central reservation of the turning circle. The enclosure will have a central standing stone or stones to carry the plaques and seating around the inside edge. Each plaque will carry a memorial inscription to the deceased and the identifier.

Design of the project, fund raising and supervision of the work is supported by a volunteer group of Killearn Community Futures Company. The West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Association has agreed to put the project into its programme of work for next year, and has also agreed to help source the stone for the standing stone and the wall.

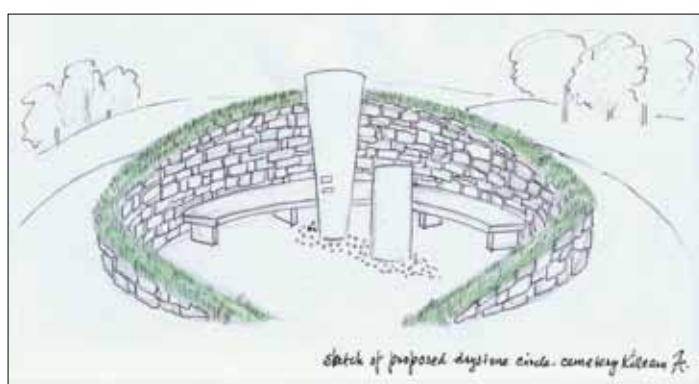
If you have visited the cemetery, you will know that it is rather bleak at the moment as it has not had time to

establish, and is desperately in need of drainage. We would like to undertake general improvement of this very wet site by planting willow and wild flowers that will tolerate the conditions. The nature of the ground, means that the wild flower planting would have to be by means of plugs, which is of course more expensive than seed. We would hope to involve Killearn Primary School in this as part of their eco-project work. I am certain that the central feature and the establishment of wild flowers will make the cemetery a more pleasant place to visit and somewhere where one would like to find a last resting place. Woodland burial is kinder to the environment than traditional burial or cremation, and is becoming a more popular option. We are lucky to have this facility right here in Killearn.

We have started fund raising, and will raise a portion of the money locally but also by appealing to trusts and other funding bodies. We have already raised £3500 by donations from generous local residents and a gift from the Paul Trust. If you would like to contribute please let me know by emailing [feedback @kcfc.co.uk](mailto:feedback@kcfc.co.uk) or telephone 550269.

Artist's Impression by Alice Bell

PW



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CHRISTMAS POST



This year the Killearn Guides and Boys Brigade will again take up the challenge of operating a Christmas Post delivery **within the Village speed boundaries**. Last year you donated almost £800 to send to Children's Hospice Association Scotland. Please help us to send another donation this Christmas by supporting the Christmas Post.

The collecting boxes and donation boxes will be available from **Monday, 5 December at the Killearn Pharmacy and Killearn Butchers**. Collections will be made daily. Deliveries will be made during the weeks commencing 10 and 17 December. There will also be a box in the Church on Sunday mornings.

Contact: Sue Beck or Neil Evans
Phone: 550485 or email: 1stkillearnguides@gmail.com

Killearn Scout Group needs you !



We desperately need more uniformed leaders/helpers to run Beavers, Cubs and Scouts if we are to continue operating into next year! Please consider what time you can offer. No previous Scouting experience is needed. If you are aged 18-80 and have the energy and enthusiasm to help out once a week, once a month or once a term please contact Suzanne Hendry on 551686 or Sara Hudson on 550806.

'I wasn't involved in Scouting until someone asked me and I jumped at the chance. Adventure isn't just for young people or those of us already wearing neckerchiefs; it's for everyone. Just ask - that's all it takes.' Bear Grylls, Chief Scout

sponsors of the PRIZE COURIER CROSSWORD Set by PeeWit

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

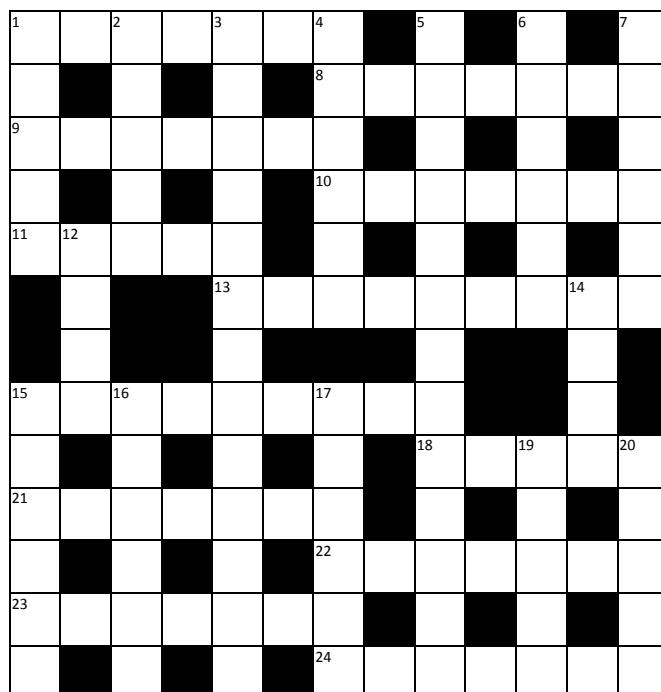
The first correct entry to the crossword drawn out of the box after the closing date will win a Family Ticket to Theatre Royal or The King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days.

Closing Date: 10 December 2011

Welcome to King's Theatre and Theatre Royal, Glasgow

The King's Theatre and the Theatre Royal are Scotland's leading live entertainment venues, showcasing the best West End and touring productions in the UK each and every year.

For programme information and to book online, visit:
ambassadortickets.com/glasgow
or
telephone: 0844 871 7627.



Solution to the last Crossword Across: 5,12d,15d, 6d Edinburgh Festival street performer; 8 veto; 9 juggler; 10 offset; 11 refine; 13 crayon; 15 siskin; 16 remember; 18 idea; 19 handlebar;
Down: 1 odiously; 2 inkjet; 3 hunger; 4 a gal; 7 uninvited; 14 nobody; 17 exam.

Name

Phone No.

Address

ACROSS

1. Government piece of furniture (7)
8. Notices mineral looks awful (7)
9. Complaint after bad French song (7)
10. Man in smart disease is long term (7)
11. Fish steak mixed (5)
13. Agent not told truth but answered (7,2)
15. Whisper on about possession (9)
18. Group haven in the desert(5)
21. Enticed – shy indeed! (7)
22. Increase in pub caused problem nail (7)
23. In that matter the bridle strap (7)
24. Agree nerd inside more colourful (7)

DOWN (3 clues refer to one of 3 down)

1. Rascal head to tail under canvas (5)
2. A slab of light wood (5)
3. Merry shy nurse tells children's verse (7,6)
4. I'm a little . . . (6)
5. Caused the girls to cry . . . (7,6)
6. Died underwater, not right forced under (6)
7. Novel crowd fixer (6)
12. Understand first king present (4)
14. Thank team in cab (4)
15. Do tidy – that's peculiar (6)
16. Chipped when stolen (6)
17. Concealing a punishment (6)
19. Dish ran away with the . . . (5)
20. Older man lost one Spanish address (5)

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword: G. Gilfillan, Killearn

CHILDREN'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE sponsored by



The first correct entry pulled out of the box will win a £10 voucher which may be spent on anything in your local SPAR.

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: Jack MacLaren aged 8
Closing Date for both competitions – 10 December 2011. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

A Winter's Tail



As autumn struggles to pin back winter any longer, we begin to enter a different mindset. We focus on survival, becoming even more obsessed about the weather than usual. This is understandable. The cold, ice and snow that gripped the nation over the last two winters caused many of us significant difficulties. But such weather is not just hardship for us; it's also a matter of life or death for our local wildlife.

We notice our birds more because they visit our gardens to seek food in winter, becoming much tamer and more daring in the process. But whilst we may hang up densely-stocked nut and seed feeders for our feathered friends, we should spare a thought for the many small mammal species that carve out an existence in and around Killearn.

Our bat species and the hedgehog may hibernate to escape the slog of surviving the cold, but all other species are left to get to grips with the low temperatures. One of these is the humble wood mouse, one of the commonest mammals in Britain. They are fans of nuts, seeds, fruit and invertebrates, foraging for these during the night. Along with the bank vole (another very common rodent in these parts), they are favoured prey of the tawny owl and run the risk of being predated as they search for food to fight off the winter chill.

Wood mice nest in underground tunnels where family groups huddle together in winter to conserve heat. If they can find enough food, they will even breed during winter months.

And those bird feeders can be helpful for them, too! Wood mice often come to them at night, scaling posts and poles to reach the dispensers. They also take scraps from underneath the feeders, and it can be worthwhile looking for them from the kitchen window before bedtime. However, the mouse pictured here was one of two youngsters who popped up in the garden in the middle of the day and fearlessly snacked on seeds in front of us!

Martin Culshaw

Killearn & Blanefield Walking Group



Part of the Active Stirling network of walks, this group is going from strength to strength, with our members enjoying the benefits of gentle weekly afternoon walks in various locations around this part of Stirlingshire. The walks last for about 45 minutes after which we adjourn for (optional) refreshments, the social aspect being as important as the fresh air! Walking in company instils confidence, with group members being supportive of one another, encouraged and led by trained volunteer leaders. We are always pleased to welcome new members, so why not give it a try and discover for yourself the positive results of exercise.

Programme:

17 Nov	Drymen (<i>car park beside Spar</i>)	local walk
24 Nov	Oakwood (<i>Garden Centre</i>)	WHW
1 Dec	Killearn (<i>Black Bull car park</i>)	village walk
*8 Dec	Aberfoyle (<i>Tourist Info car park</i>)	local walk and Xmas lunch
19 Jan	Kippen (<i>opposite Cross Keys</i>)	local walk
26 Jan	Beech Tree Inn	WHW
2 Feb	Drymen (<i>Garadhan Forest</i>)	WHW
9 Feb	Killearn (<i>Health Centre</i>)	village walk
16 Feb	Mugdock Park (<i>East Car Park</i>)	park walk
23 Feb	Balfron (<i>car park beside Co-op</i>)	village walk
1 Mar	Gartmore (<i>Black Bull</i>)	local walk
8 Mar	Strathblane (<i>War Memorial</i>)	pipe track
15 Mar	Balmaha (<i>Visitor Centre</i>)	local walk

The walks start at 2pm prompt each Thursday. *This walk will, however, start at 11 am. Please wear sturdy shoes and waterproof jacket for all walks. For information contact:

Ann (07746 453840) or Shelagh (550836 or 07762 146054)

For information about the Stirling Walking Network contact:

Tricia Cumming (0300 028 0101)
Email: cummingp@activestirling.org.uk

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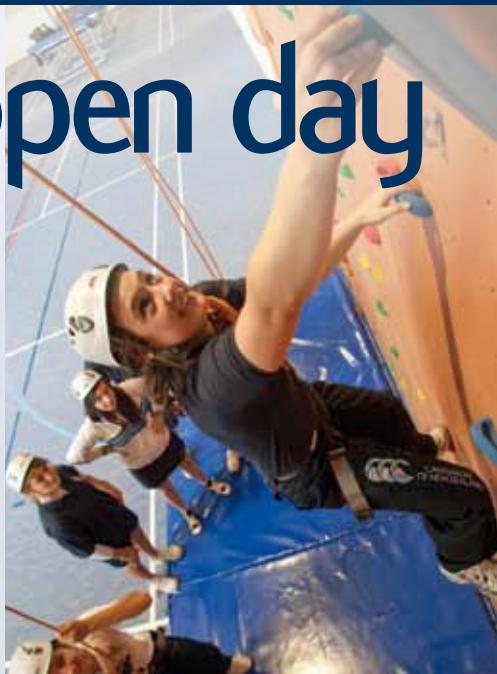


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Lomond
School

Every day is an open day



New Lomond School bus service

serving Killearn, Drymen and Gartocharn Please contact the school for details.

Lomond School offers an academic education that will stretch and extend your child to their full potential with a strong extra curricular programme of sport, music, drama and outdoor activity.

We warmly welcome families to see round the school, meet staff and pupils and find out more about the unique opportunities that our pupils from Killearn and surrounding areas are enjoying. Just make an appointment to visit any time.

Financial assistance is available with fee reduction up to 100%.

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