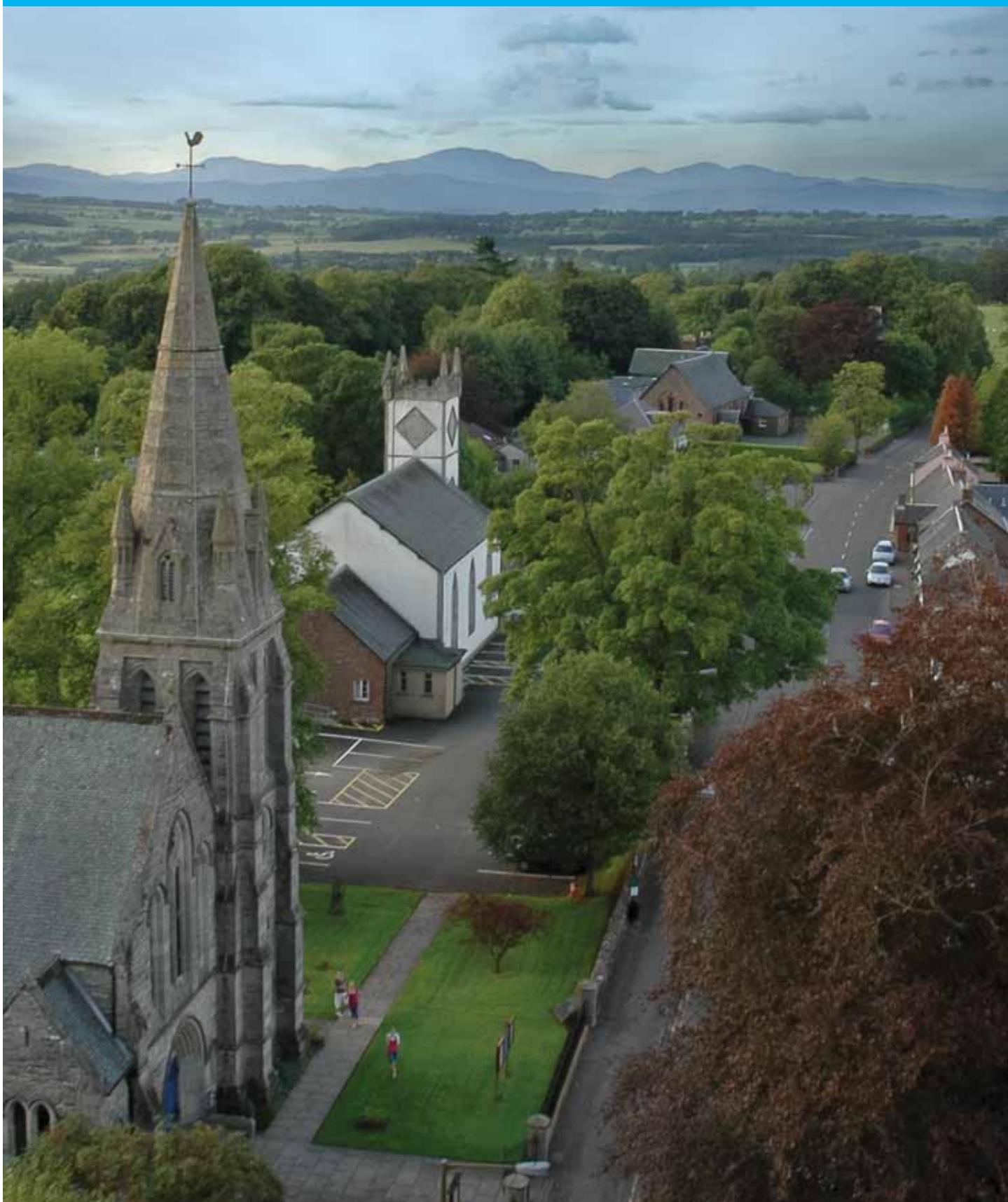


Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 23

SUMMER 2012

£1



Bucking the Trend

Although there are other factors, the decline in church and Sunday School attendance is a major contributory factor in the decline in standards in business, the media and general levels of respect.

The Killearn Kirk, however, is bucking the trend through the ministry, the youth worker and the family worker, although there are still a few spare seats on a Sunday!

Still too many people see the congregation as an exclusive club, but this is far from the truth. Although there are a few saints, the bulk of the congregation are sinners just trying to learn how to be better.

The church, and religion in general, is taking a bashing these days, but *true* religion is all about a personal relationship with God, and the Kirk can help you find and develop that relationship.

The Kirk is much more than the Sunday service. There are many jobs to be done, and if you have time or have left school, university or college and are trying hard for that first job, the Kirk could use your skills and talent, even if you can only manage an odd Sunday to begin with.

Where else can you get a free hour of peace and quiet, sing to the rafters, and perhaps find a relationship that could change your life? Come along while there is still room!

Cover Photograph:

'Killearn from the air' - Andy Summers

Killearn Courier
published by:



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

Advertisements and artwork should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 6 October 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, 6 October 2012. Send them to:

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Editor

Thank you very much for the tickets for the King's Theatre.

We took two friends to see *42nd Street*. It was a super show – very energetic. We came away exhausted from just watching the tap dancing dames!

Theatre tickets are a brilliant prize – it is really worth entering the crossword puzzle competition, everyone should try it.

Pauline Holden

Dear Editor

Killearn F.C. is very concerned about the increase in dog mess that now has to be removed from the playing area at the Park before matches commence. This is not only a hazard for the football players, but to the many youngsters who use the park for recreation.

Please Killearn – don't let your dog foul the public park – use the bins.

See article page 13 – Ed

Have you thought what Killearn would be like without KCFC?

The Village Hall, Playpark, Woodland Cemetery, Fireworks, Country Market, Archives Group, Sustainable Killearn, Colourful Killearn, looking after paths and the Hoolie are all KCFC projects.

KCFC publishes the *Courier*, footpath maps, and look out for local postcards.

To achieve all this, and more, we need the support of members, it only costs £1.

email: membership@kcfc.co.uk,
telephone: 550310 or 550226.
visit our website www.kcfc.co.uk

The proposed Local Development Plan is to be considered by Stirling Council on 26 September. If approved, it will be published in the week of 15 October. Killearn Community Council will have consideration of the Local Plan on the agenda of their November meeting.

**For more information on this subject, please consult:
the notice board or the website
www.killearncc.org.uk**

KCC's Annual Report is on page 26.

Hill-Walkers Car Park

Killearn resident Steve Fraser has been in correspondence with Jim McGregor at Stirling Council regards the lack of parking for hill walkers following the lay-by changes at the distillery.

Safety issues, including cars parked on the verges on this increasingly busy stretch of road, have led to a decision to improve the road and put pavements in. Bollards have also been placed along the road verge to minimise parking opportunities to safe areas only. Commuters will have noticed some further delay caused by the need to replace a BT box, but that work has now been completed.

In his reply, Mr McGregor wrote that the distillery had recently been granted planning consent to upgrade the access arrangement and improve parking for the distillery visitors. As part of this application it was agreed that the distillery would 'formalise the unmanaged parking situation by creation of a new lay-by'. He further elaborated that, in recognition that only limited parking opportunity is available for hill walkers, the distillery is now looking to possibly create an informal car park within their own grounds that would accommodate demand.

Discussions are currently ongoing regarding this issue and no commitment has been made. While there is no obligation on the distillery's part to undertake this work, it would be considered a goodwill gesture.

It is hoped that this new parking area for hill walkers will be available in the near future.

Editorial

Well, here we are in the middle of summer (cue laughter) and as I write, we are in the middle of an amber alert, which is the second highest level, for flooding in Central Scotland!

Never mind, perhaps by the time you read this, the weather will have improved and you'll be sitting outside, relaxing in your garden chair, reading your Courier. On the other hand, you might not! You might instead be cowering inside sheltering from the weather. No matter; wherever you're reading this edition, you will enjoy it.

Take a look at the front cover. What a view. We got it from Andy Summers, the official Hoolie photographer, and we obviously have a write-up of that wonderful week in the centre pages. In fact, there was so much that went on, we had to carry it over to the next page. There's an update on the Village Hall giving us a flavour of a couple of minor changes and a view of things to come as well as an invitation to register your interest in helping to run the finished Hall.

Did you know about the 'Place of Killearn'? Neither did I, but you can read about it on page 6. When you read Joyce Begg's article on page 9, I suspect many of you will nod your heads and mutter, 'How true'.

There's a wee bit about history being made on page 16 with the appointment of Pamela Maxwell as the first ever Lady President of the Strathendrick Rotary Club. You can, once more, enjoy the contributions of the usual suspects which are always interesting and informative – Steve freewheelin' about the countryside and Martin giving us an insight to the goings on in nature, to mention just a couple.

There's lots more inside, as well as plenty of adverts from our local businesses. In fact, when you put all this together, you realise that Killearn is not some sleepy wee village – it's buzzing!

Enjoy the rest of the summer, whatever the weather.

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor

NOTICE BOARD	
13 Aug	<i>Strathendrick Rotary Club</i> meeting. Black Bull, 6.30 for 7 p.m. Every Monday thereafter except bank holidays and the last Monday of a five Monday month.
25 Aug	<i>Killearn Cottagers Horticultural Society Show</i> . Killearn Kirk and Kirk Hall. Entries can be staged Fri 7.30 – 9 p.m. or Sat 7.30 – 10 a.m. Doors open 2 – 4.30 p.m., prizes announced 2.30 p.m. For schedule contact Glenda Asquith (550142).
27 Aug	<i>Monday Music Autumn term</i> starts. Kirk Hall. Contact Clare Cushing (550166). <i>Killearn Guides Registration night</i> . Kirk Hall, 6.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.
1 Sept	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Kirk Hall, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Contact Daye Tucker (551060).
6 Sept	<i>Thursday Club</i> first meeting. Kirk Hall, 2 p.m. and every Thursday thereafter. Contact Betty Smith (550486).
10 Sept	<i>Strathendrick Singers</i> rehearsals resume. Balfron Church, 7.30 p.m. New members welcome. Contact Pat (550074). www.strathendicksingers.org.uk
14 Sept	<i>Killearn Golden Years Club</i> musical evening featuring Gargunnock Songsters. Kirk Hall, 7.30 p.m. All welcome.
17 Sept	<i>SWRI</i> meeting. Lindale, Lampson Road, 7.30 p.m.
19 Sept	<i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8 p.m.
24 Sept	<i>Monday Club</i> first meeting, Masonic Hall, Balfron, then first Monday every month.
27 Sept	<i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> . Talk by Dr David Walker, 'Uncovering the past: Archaeology and oral history from the M74 dig'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 p.m. www.drymen-history.org.uk
28 Sept	<i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Best Exotic Marigold Hotel</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30 p.m. www.film-society.org
1 Oct	<i>Monday Club</i> bridge and badminton start. McLintock Hall, Balfron.
2 Oct	<i>Guild</i> afternoon outing to Luss Parish Church. Contact Sheila McNab (550441).
3 Oct	<i>Killearn Health Centre</i> closed for staff training from 12.30 p.m.
6 Oct	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Kirk Hall, 10 a.m. – 1p.m. Contact Daye Tucker (551060).
7 Oct	<i>Killearn Kirk Harvest Thanksgiving</i> , followed by a soup lunch in the Kirk Hall.
16 Oct	<i>Guild</i> first meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30 p.m. Jenny Wilks, 'With Great Pleasure'.
24 Oct	<i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8 p.m.
25 Oct	<i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> . Talk by Alistair Scott, 'Eccentric wealth: The myths, scandals and secret world of the Bulloughs of Rum'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 p.m. www.drymen-history.org.uk
2 Nov	<i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30 p.m. www.film-society.org
3 Nov	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Kirk Hall, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Contact Daye Tucker (551060).
6 Nov	<i>Guild</i> open evening with Jamie Stuart, author of <i>A Glasgow Bible</i> . Kirk Hall, 7.30 p.m.
11 Nov	<i>Killearn Kirk Remembrance Service</i> . War Memorial, 10.45 a.m.
16 Nov	<i>Strathendrick Film Society</i> showing <i>The Help</i> . Balfron Campus, 7.30 p.m. www.film-society.org
17 Nov	<i>Guild Sale of Work</i> . Kirk Hall, 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
20 Nov	<i>Guild</i> meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30 p.m. Talk by Doreen Sneddon, 'Fifty years of Nursing'.
21 Nov	<i>Killearn Community Council</i> meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8 p.m.
22 Nov	<i>Drymen & District Local History Society</i> . Talk by Sue Furness and Fiona Jackson, 'Stories from the Ruins: Community archaeology at High Morlaggan'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 p.m. www.drymen-history.org.uk
22–24 Nov	<i>FADs</i> 'A Christmas Carol'. Menzies Hall, Fintry, Thurs. and Fri. 7.30 p.m. and Sat. 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets & information from Liz Brown (860078). (Not suitable for children of pre-school age.)
29 Nov	<i>FADs</i> 'A Christmas Carol'. Menzies Hall, Fintry, Thurs. and Fri. 7.30 p.m. and Sat. 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets & information from Liz Brown (860078). (Not suitable for children of pre-school age.)

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

Schack – Dickie



Former Killearn resident Alan Dickie, a business consultant, married Susanne Schack, a Patents Officer, in Allerod, Denmark, on Saturday, 2 June 2012.

McGregor – Leeman



Helen McGregor and Matthew Leeman were married in Killearn Kirk on 12 May 2012. The reception was held at The Roman Camp Hotel in Callander. Helen grew up in Killearn, attending Killearn Primary and then Balfron High School. She and Matthew, who grew up in Strichen in Aberdeenshire, met in Inverness when Helen was a medical student and Matthew was a junior doctor. They will live in Edinburgh until they go to work in New Zealand for a year in January 2013.

Maxwell – Campbell



April Maxwell from Killearn married Tristan Campbell from Romford, Essex at Sion in Switzerland on 5 July 2012. April is a florist at Endrick Blooms in Killearn and Tristan is a chef at the Nick Nairn Cook School, Lake of Monteith. They plan to make their home in Balfron.

Ashworth – Milton



© Kingdom Photos of Kippen

Margaret Ashworth from Killearn married Kenny Milton from Clarkston on 9 June in Killearn Kirk. Margaret works as a publishing editor in Oxford and Kenny is an electronics engineer in High Wycombe. The couple live in Thame, Oxfordshire.

Simpson – McKellar



Emma Simpson and Gregor McKellar were married at Culcreuch Castle on Saturday, 14 April 2012 and the sun shone at the right moments! We had a wonderful happy day with family and friends. They met at school (first at Killearn playgroup) and romance blossomed at Balfron High School, and they have been together for almost nine years. They had a fantastic honeymoon in the Maldives and Dubai, and are back down to earth now in their flat in Partick. The Simpson and the McKellar families are delighted to be united!

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Jardine – Gallagher



Kim Jardine from King's Mile, Killearn married Paul Gallagher from Glasgow at Ballathie House Hotel, Perthshire on 7 April 2012. Kim is an enviroment manager with the Standard Chartered Bank and Paul is a software engineer with Bank of America. They both met while working in London, where they have now set up home.

KCFC Paths Group Update



The Paths Group has continued to be active throughout the first half of the year. At the time of writing, two 'Action Days' to maintain local paths have been held. By the time you read this, two more work days will have taken place on 8 and 11 July. In addition, funding has been obtained to determine the practicality and probable cost of a proposed new path from Drumtian Road to Boquhan. A contract for this work has been let and, when the report has been received, fundraising will begin to open this new off-road route. Members of the Group had a meeting with Stirling Council's Woodlands Officer to investigate possible funding to upgrade paths in the Glen. Members also met with Ron McCraw, the SNH Project Leader for the proposed John Muir Way from Dunbar to Helensburgh. At present the proposed route is expected to bypass Killearn, but potential routes through the village were examined.

Members of the committee and volunteers carried out repairs to the West Highland Way between the A811 and Gartness Road on

Sunday, 13 May. This was our second independent work day without the direct participation of the Stirling Council Rangers. The Ranger Service had earlier provided a trailer load of hard core to fill some of the worst problem areas, but this had been deposited just off the A811 requiring much ferrying by wheelbarrows

along the WHW. The main problems in this section are due to flooding but the day started quite dry with no standing water to be seen. However, as the team gathered so did the rain clouds which delivered copious amounts of water from the skies. Within a few minutes it was quite easy to spot the worst areas and the rain continued through the day. The Group's newly purchased pointed spades, obtained after earlier action days indicated the short-comings of our straight spades, were put to good use digging out some of the drainage ditches along the route which had

become silted up and overgrown. The hard core, and some suitable materials removed from the drainage ditches, was used to raise the levels where the heavy use of the WHW had resulted in hollows which collected water. Short drainage channels were also excavated to allow some of the worst wet areas to drain away. A very wet team trudged home in the afternoon pleased with the day's work, but aware that keeping the paths in good condition will be a continuous task.

On Saturday, June 30, a Community Action Day led by Dougie Flynn, Stirling Council Ranger, tackled some of the paths in the Glen. Paths Group volunteers made up the work force and were faced with Dougie's list of 26 identified tasks – not all of which were completed. Fortified by Alice's famous scones, much of the work was concentrated close to the Glen entrances from Beech Drive and Cedar Road. Flood water damage at the Beech drive entrance was repaired with rock and hard core, a broken bridge handrail was replaced, and repairs were carried out to the steps up from the burn. At the Cedar Road entrance vegetation was cut back and the steps cleared of debris. Mud was scraped from the notorious wet patch just inside the Glen, geo-textile membrane was put down, and hard core added to improve the surface. Drainage ditches were cleared out and extended to try to prevent water running across the path. Another section of path was improved using the large amount of wood chippings resulting from the recent tree maintenance work in the area. Time, and more rain,

will tell how successful this work was. Further work included removing fallen trees from some of the paths, clearing overhanging branches, and removing some non-native species from parts of the Glen.

These action days are hard work but enjoyable.

More hands are always needed, so why not come along and help out for an hour or two? If you are interested in joining us, email: paths@kcfc.co.uk



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Discovering the ‘Place of Killearn’



Murray Cook, the Stirling Council archaeologist, organised a dig in Killearn over the weekend from 8 to 10 June. The main aim was to establish the position of the ‘Place of Killearn’, the predecessor of Killearn House. The Roy Map of about 1750 indicated that this was located in the ‘sledging field’ behind Abbeyfield and adjacent to Killearn Glen. Initial appraisal visits by Murray indicated that, in addition to the house site itself, there was a lost designed landscape in the Glen and surrounding area. A second aim of the weekend was to examine the area carefully to gain an insight into the lost landscape to indicate what further investigations could be usefully carried out, preferably led by the Killearn community.

Friday dawned cloudy but dry, although the weather forecast was not promising. About 10 people, a few from Killearn but others from across Stirling, gathered at the Glen at 10 a.m. Murray outlined what he hoped to achieve over the weekend and we walked over the site to look at the potential points of interest. The party then divided, some to excavate test pits on the suspected site of the house, some to explore the ground around the ‘Ladies Linn’, and some to carry out

a GPS survey of major trees (and tree stumps) in the ‘sledging field’. Two groups of Killearn Primary school pupils joined the digging teams, one in the morning and the second after lunch. The test pits were encouraging, with broken roof tiles, pieces of pottery, remains of clay pipes and fragments of window glass found. At the end of the day one test pit appeared to show a robber trench, possibly the foundations of a wall of the house.

Saturday was a better day for weather with warm sunshine. In typical *Time Team* fashion, the robber trench soon proved to be a natural feature. However the team, now complemented by Stirling Young Archaeologists, a metal detectorist and a substantial number of Killearn residents soon found the internal floor of the house and established the route from the house site to the Ladies Linn. Efforts to find the walls of the house, to establish just where it stood, were not successful, but these were targets for exploration on Sunday.

Sunday started dry with heavy cloud. As the team arrived to start the final day, so did the rain. Lots of rain! After an hour or so standing under trees watching the test pits fill up with water, Murray decided no further work was

possible. The pits were backfilled and the turf placed back on top then a very wet team ferried the tools back to the vehicles in Beech Drive. The weekend had established the site of the ‘Place of Killearn’ though not the exact position or layout of the buildings. A bigger dig will be needed to explore the house site more fully, and it will be up to Killearn residents to try to organise this. The walk-over survey of the wider area established a lost, planned landscape within and adjacent to Killearn Glen. Further detailed survey work and research into archives and historic maps will be needed to piece together the story of the ‘Place of Killearn’ and its surrounding parkland and pleasure areas.

Murray Cook has provided a range of ideas for future work. To take this forward it will be necessary to recruit a group of interested people to raise funding and to help in practical ways. The All Killearn Archive, one of the KCFC groups, is considering how to proceed. If you would be interested in helping to progress future work, please contact:

Peter or Gill Smith (550726)
or any other member of the
Archive Group.

Peter Smith



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Central Scotland Police

Police Report – *Bobby on the Beat*

Everyone in the village is aware of the building and improvements work which are currently under way at the Village Hall. Unfortunately the work is also known to many who may have an interest in stealing the materials which are being used in the building work. The same applies to the machinery used in the construction.

Despite its prominent position in Killearn, it is remarkable how few residential properties actually overlook the Village Hall. A lot can happen within the grounds of the building site without many people actually seeing what's going on. With this in mind, it is important over the course of the

next ten months or so that we all keep an eye on the construction site. Even if you don't reside near it you can still do your bit. At Balfron Police Office, we would encourage you to report any instances where people are seen loitering in the grounds of the hall or the church or acting suspiciously. If we trace these people and it turns out they are conducting their business lawfully no harm is done – we don't seek to inconvenience anyone unnecessarily.

Remember though, people who commit thefts at building sites often do so very subtly. They very often give the outward appearance of working legitimately on site. This is mostly

the case where machinery or metals are stolen. If it is the case therefore that you see anyone 'working' on site in the evenings or weekends over the next few months please consider if the police should be notified. Remember, if the work is being carried out legitimately there won't be a problem.

With luck and by keeping a close eye on things there shouldn't be any problems. We are all fortunate that crime is very low in Killearn and so long as everyone continues to look out for the village and its residents, I am sure this will continue to be the case.

David McNally

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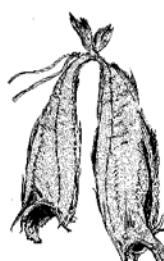
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Strathendrick Classic Car Club



Killearn Hoolie Parade

I write this note on the last day of the Killearn Hoolie, where a goodly gathering of Classic Cars met to parade behind the Pipe Band. Seventeen cars made the trip from Beech Drive to the Church Hall. It is nearly the longest day. The weather could only be described as bad for November. The cars, organised by Mike Pell, included the elderly and perhaps modest Austin Sevens which followed behind Princess Grace of Monaco's wedding car now owned by Sir Arnold Clark of Killearn. The Hoolie was well attended in spite of the weather and much credit is due to Jennifer Brown and the Hoolie team who pulled it off despite the weather.

Weather plays a great part when driving classic cars with no heaters or demisters and wipers of extremely dodgy provenance to say the least. Last year saw the Classic Car Club returning from a wet weekend by the Crinan Canal in one of the worst gales of the year. The Rest and be Thankful was threatened with closure from landslides.

On 26 May this year eleven cars left the Co-op car park in Balfour headed for Ballater. We were later joined by a twelfth crew at Ballater. The route took us to Perth via the Huntingtower Hotel for coffee. We then passed through Perthshire without encroaching on major roads such as the A9 or A90 except for the briefest distances. Following a lunch stop at Finavon we passed over The Cairn O' Mount to the South Deeside Road and thence to the Glen Lui Hotel, Ballater, where we were well catered for over the two days.

Remember sunshine and blue skies? We had them both wall to wall for three days nonstop!

Hoods were down the whole time; some even got sunburnt! Several of us stayed over two nights. A few played golf in scorching heat, others took a trip to the Grampian Motor Museum at Alford.

Not only did the weather benefit the crews, we had no significant breakdowns at all, so the cars also appreciated sunshine. The majority of the cars returned home via Glen Shee and Blairgowrie

The routes were prepared by Mike Gastall who also presented drivers with a quirky quiz for which Mike Menzies presented a very generous prize. This was won by the Chairman, without cheating!

We hope that the lovely weather we enjoyed is not the last of our sunshine for this year.

We look forward to our Club challenge on 25 August, followed by a return visit to Mhor Fish, Callander, on 12 September. Our last run will be a member organised run on 3 October.

The winter session will start with a presentation by the Scottish Film Archive on motoring in Scotland on 14 November at Buchanan Castle Golf Club.

*Douglas Arthur
Chairman*



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A Two-Way Thing

In the last issue of the *Courier*, we had a thought-provoking article from Moira about being an incomer, and it was gratifying to read that she had found Killearn a welcoming village. There is, of course, a high percentage of incomers already here, who would naturally extend a welcome to people like themselves. But there is also a core of long established village families, and it is these residents who hold the key to a truly integrated society.

There is a theory in most rural villages that people are not really accepted as locals until there are three generations in the graveyard. It's a kind of standard joke. But it doesn't always work like that. I was reminded of an incident with a very new incomer, decades ago, who thought to enter into village activities by taking along an exhibit to the annual Flower Show. On her way to the Village Hall with said exhibit, she was stopped by an elderly lady who asked in a peremptory fashion if she was proposing to put something into the Show. The new girl said she was, and was then asked to show her offering. Unwrapping the tissue paper, the newcomer nervously revealed a coat she had sewn for her daughter. The older lady inspected it, then looked her straight in the eye and said, 'This village needs new blood like you. Your little girl's coat is beautiful, and I hope you win.' Great surprise all round, followed by a happy glow of acceptance.

It is obviously up to the incomer to take the trouble to join in with local activities, be it the Flower Show, the Church, or any of the clubs. The trick is not to be pushy, or to evince the slightest hint of taking over. One doesn't need a mega-brain to see that this will make one unpopular. But a gentle approach will always be met with courtesy by established villagers. And there are events where the new families can make a substantial contribution without treading on anyone's toes at all. If I understand the history of the Hoolie correctly, it has been generated mainly by incomers, and has proved itself to be a great mixer. By contrast, the Flower Show has been going for millions of years, but it also welcomes and encourages contributions from absolutely everyone, incomer and old villager alike. Although war has never actually been declared over the *Basket of Plenty* or the *Best*

Knitted Article in Show, a friendly rivalry does exist. The desire to win has made many a matron get up at dawn to perfect four identical pancakes. No names, no pack drill. But everyone loves the Show, and it's always refreshing to see new names on the entry labels. If your name hasn't been seen before, maybe this is your year.

It is almost four decades since our family moved to Killearn, and though that is a mere blink of an eye to some, it is well over half my lifetime. Where else would I feel at home if not Killearn? I do not pretend to know everyone, but if I decide to walk the half mile to the Co-op for *The Herald* and the milk, it can take me an hour and a half to complete the round trip. I meet a mixture of people, from all over the village. We are all part of the same unit. And I can tell you the exact moment when I felt properly accepted into it. It was the day Peter the postie called me by my first name. Talk about a warm glow!

Joyce Begg

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5.30pm



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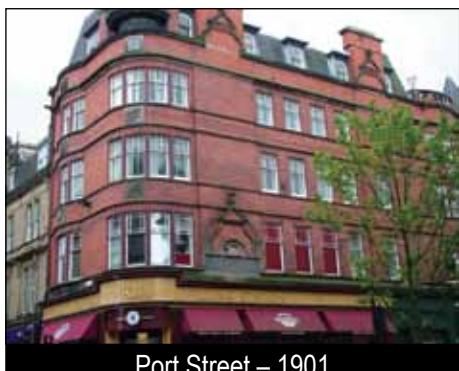


Freewheelin' by Steve



The Wallace... The Bruce... Rob Roy... and John Allan?

Heroes to be found in and around Stirling? *Sit up at the back...* Yes, you, boy... Wallace, Bruce, Roy are reflected in many street and pub names all around the town of Stirling and its parish. I once recall pointing out



Port Street – 1901

to young Master Freewheelin that we were indeed standing in Wallace Street outside the Rob Roy bar, when at that precise moment a man approached, stage left, and asked, ‘Do you guys know where Bruce Street is?’ We didn’t, but no matter: synchronicity! For the rural cyclist it is refreshing just now and again to go out on an urban safari. This is best enjoyed on a fine summer’s day, pick a large town or city, and just follow your instincts. You can have an amazing, fun time exploring nooks and crannies, discovering the hidden wonders you never knew existed. Stirling is a particular favourite of mine for this and it never ceases to amaze. Spinning around the new and old towns, meandering up the cobbled hill-bound avenues leading ever upwards toward the Castle and its great golden hall. Precipitous avenues... the 3 Bs (as I call them for obvious reasons): Baker, Broad and Bow

streets, crammed with history at every turn... Lord Darnley’s house... what’s left of the incredible residence of the Earl of Mar... the Scottish pyramid (honestly)... the Observatory funded by that great Scot Henry Campbell Bannerman who, as Prime Minister (1905–8), was the first person to have official use of that title!

Those keen of eye will notice standing out amongst these fine ancient piles some incongruous examples of architecture that would be well at home in any English market town. Raised as they are of bright red brick, adorned with dark wooden panelling and decorated with strange carvings and intriguing mottos. These are the works of another Stirling, and a sterling hero of mine, one John Allan, born at Gowkhill, Carnock, Fife in 1847.

He was an architect with an unusual and, indeed, quirky style. One of the finest examples of his works built in 1890 perches precariously as No 55 Baker Street – nothing at all to do with Mr. Rafferty (or Sherlock for that matter). It’s quite amazing to find it here, as if fallen from the sky. Allan’s predilection for strange adornments



55 Baker Street – 1890



Friars Gait – 1902

can be witnessed at its best on the side of his Nos 55–57 Port Street creation dated 1887. It stands on the site of the old town’s medieval port, a past portal between the wall’s inner sanctuary and the fearsome, dangerous unknown of the outside. This carving of a wolf and inscription speak of a time when wolves were considered a real and present danger to the inhabitants of the town. John Allan, Scotland’s most



neglected architect; surely Scotland’s answer to Antonio Gaudí, the legendary surreal architect of Barcelona? Upon viewing these fine examples why not spend some fun summer days or evenings cycling around the town seeking out his other works, ye canny miss ’em! More information can be found at www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=100083.

Let Freewheelin know how you get on – email: freewheelin@kcfc.co.uk.

See you next time, cycle safe... Oh, and dinna jump the red lights in toon... ye’ll git nicked!

Steve

Colourful Killearn

Summer? Try telling that to the plants nestling in the tubs around the village. At the time of writing they seem to be holding their breath, waiting for the next touch of sunshine to burst into frantic growth and fully display the vibrant, rich red and gold Jubilee livery. Or maybe they are just sulking because they (like the rest of us) have wet feet? Either way, with a slow start, we hope the bidens and begonias last well into a flaming late autumn.

Weren't the daffodils pretty? Well, most of them, anyway (spot the difference in the photos). Recovering from the trampling trauma last year, the containers outside the Co-op have suffered again. This time it was a ritual beheading. Does someone out there hold a grudge against daffs in general, or this tub in particular? Whatever, leave ours alone and grow your own captive bunch for decapitation.

Thanks go to Dobbies Garden Centres for donating some of the plants for this year's display, to Laighparks Plant Centre for filling the gaps at short notice and to the volunteers for planting and tending. To join us in making Killearn more Colourful, please contact *Iain Bowie (550349).*

Mike Gray



The Flower Show – Saturday, 25 August 2012

Just a reminder to everyone that the Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show is going ahead as usual. Our venue this year is the Kirk, and we are expecting the usual increase in entries. We are looking forward to the challenge of fitting everything in!

The Kirk and Church Hall will be open from 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. on Friday, 24 August and from 7.30 to 10.00 a.m. on the day of the Show for you to bring along your exhibits.

The Show opens at 2.00 p.m. with the presentation of prizes at 2.30 p.m. Teas and delicious cakes will be served in the Church Hall from 2.30 p.m.

Glenda Asquith



What's Our Abbeyfield All About?



Many people in Killearn will be familiar with Abbeyfield House situated in Beech Drive, but are maybe not aware of what Abbeyfield is and what it does.

Abbeyfield is a registered charitable organisation providing sheltered and retirement housing for older people. There are over 60 houses in Scotland, all comparatively small with friendly housekeeping staff and all the amenities that residents require to continue to live in a secure and safe environment whilst maintaining their independence.

When first set up, Abbeyfield Houses were administered as autonomous limited companies operating within the parent organisation of The Abbeyfield Society. With the ever-changing

and demanding legislation for care of the elderly, this management function was taken over in 2007 by Abbeyfield Scotland Ltd and is now run by professionals based in Edinburgh.

The ethos of Abbeyfield has always been based around volunteers, and the Killearn committee members have continued to flourish, reforming themselves as The Friends of Abbeyfield. The Friends work alongside Abbeyfield Scotland in providing companionship, support and entertainment for residents.

Links have been formed by The Friends of Abbeyfield with local schools, nurseries, volunteers, young Duke of Edinburgh Award participants and other organisations to provide a varied selection of events to entertain the residents and help them play a role in the community. Recent activities have included outside visits, tea parties, musical entertainment, one-to-one reading, monthly film shows, discussion groups and a canal boat trip. Volunteers also often help with hospital visiting, outpatient appointments and other local journeys.

Abbeyfield Killearn was purpose built in the late 1980s and extended in the early '90s. It is all on one level with a spacious living/dining area providing wonderful views of the glen from its panoramic windows. There are eight rooms in the house, all en suite. Each resident has a private room where they can have their own furniture, TV, telephone and personal possessions. A secure door entry system permits callers to be admitted from the resident's room, while a community alarm system is installed which provides a link for every resident to a helpline to cover any out-of-hours emergency. Should any personal or medical specialised care be required, residents may be able to access these care services at the Abbeyfield.

Abbeyfield Killearn has a welcoming and friendly atmosphere where residents can have family and friends to visit at any time. All-inclusive costs are very reasonable and cover rent, food, heating, lighting and the services from the housekeeping and domestic staff and is an attractive alternative to maintaining one's own home.

Potential residents or their families are always welcome to come to the house to view the facilities and meet with the residents and staff. Anyone wishing to find out more about accommodation and costs should contact Abbeyfield Scotland (0131 225 7801) or email info@abbeyfield-scotland.com.

Anyone who would like to become a volunteer will be welcomed, either by Michael Pell (Chairman of the Friends; 550328) or by any member of the committee.

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Alan, Alan & Charlie...

I would like to thank a group of my friends, members of the Killearn Growers. They were led admirably by the inimitable Dez and the person power they invested resulted in the transformation of my back garden.

The back garden was a boggy mess, the lowest bit of the land in the area where all the rainfall gathered. In addition it



Before ...

did not drain well due to the clay soil and had become an unmanageable stagnant pool. I was advised by various experts that short of making a pond feature out of it (which was potentially a fishing fiesta for the cats) it would take over 25 tonnes of stuff to raise it above the water table.

In return for unlimited juice and biscuits the group of friends barrowed said tons of ballast and stones from where I had arranged for it to be deposited through to the back garden. Within 8 hours, with much sweat, laughter and social interaction, the friends / growers worked the most amazing changes as you can see from the photographs.



... Eight weeks later

Jan Biggart

Where Can A Poor Dog Go?

As mentioned in the KCC report, it would seem that dogs can't 'go' anywhere they like without the result being lifted and bagged.

It probably comes as a bit of a surprise to many of our readers that the dog fouling legislation covers more than just pavements. Indeed, the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 covers all land open to the public with very few exceptions. A public place is defined as 'any place which is open to the open air and to which the public has access on payment or otherwise'. As an example, the entire glen is covered by the Act. Agricultural land is exempt.

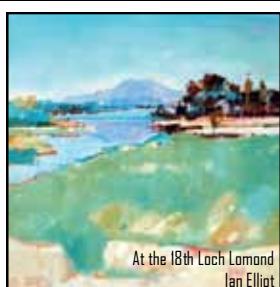
In short, this means that dog walkers need to bag the poo everywhere – or face a fixed penalty of £40.

There have been reports already of the presence of an enforcement officer in the village taking action against pet owners falling 'foul' of the law.

TID

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Follow us on (www.facebook.com/EalainGallery) and (<http://twitter.com/ealaingallery>)

Killearn Health Centre News

Staff Update

Dr Catherine Cairns finishes her training with us in July 2012. We send Dr Cairns our very best wishes for a long and successful career.

Dr Adam Hay, who was with us for training in 2010/11, will rejoin us in August to complete his final year of training.

Dr Rachel Boyce will start her training with us at the same time.

We extend a warm welcome to both Dr Hay and Dr Boyce.

Carers

Stirling Carers have appointed Katy White as the Rural Unpaid Carers Support Officer. Katy offers free and confidential advice to unpaid carers within the rural communities of Stirling. If you are an unpaid carer and wish to access this local service, Katy can be contacted on 01786 477003.

Online Prescription Ordering

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

www.killearnhealthcentre.com.

Childhood Immunisations

Please note all childhood immunisations are now done by Christine, our Practice Nurse, rather than the health visiting team.

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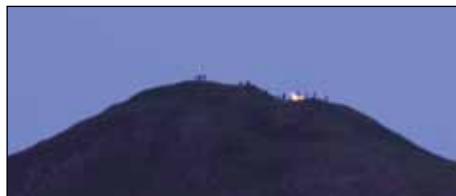
- Gutter cleaning & repair
- Garden tidying
- Painting
- Fencing
- Sheds
- Decking
- Pressure washing

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

Call 01360 551100
or 07748754583

Jubilee Celebrations

On 4 June, as part of the Jubilee celebrations, several local villages decided to light beacons. While we in Killearn did not have our own beacon, a number of residents from Allan Road and Napier Road congregated at the top of Lampson Road to watch the beacon being lit on Dumgoyne by Strathblane villagers. Binoculars, and telephoto lenses showed around 30 people on the top of Dumgoyne with the beacon set just below the summit. While providing fresh food for the midges, the gathering also saw a very smoky beacon light up in Croftamie and a third on Duncryne.



ED: If you want to see the Dumgoyne

beacon, go to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nl1keK0Zq_U.

Can you spot a few locals?

Some time earlier the energetic ladies from Allan Road who regularly run around Killearn decided that there should be a party on the 5th to celebrate. Invitations were put through Allan Road letter boxes and a number of friends from more remote corners of Killearn invited. Participants were asked to arrive about 2 p.m., and to bring goodies to eat and a flask of hot water to make up drinks. The day dawned rather grey, but the forecast suggested a window of weather in the afternoon. Sure enough at about ten to two the sun came out and remained for the next couple of hours. Copious amounts of food materialised, far too much to eat, and a good crowd enjoyed a convivial afternoon.

A Wee Bit of a Wash Out

The Hudson family travelled to London for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend in June. There was a lot of bunting and hundreds of Union Jacks on display, giving everywhere a festive feel. London was buzzing on Saturday when we went with our 10-year-old to the children's festival in Hyde Park – not free and unfortunately full of product placements. The highlight for Harry was winning a prize for kicking a football against a speed-recording wall; he'd only queued for over two hours for his two seconds of fame! We enjoyed the Disney stage show – the only time Disney characters have performed outside Disneyland – with cast members singing all the best songs, including our favourites from *The Lion King*.

The skies were grey and it was very chilly; hardly a typical day in flaming June. We got to Blackfriars Bridge three hours before the flotilla. It was disappointing that half of the bridges were given over to corporations. The Wool Council of Great Britain – one

of Prince Charles' charities – enjoyed a grandstand view for their 100 members on the other half of Blackfriars. Needless to say, we couldn't see, as there was already a crowd ten deep on 'our' half. The Embankment was declared a 'no-go area', so we stood against the railing where we could see a big screen.

Despite the weather there was a good atmosphere. Lots of people were spontaneously singing *God Save the Queen* and other patriotic songs. And we did manage to see the boats in the distance by standing on the railings, although they disappeared from view pretty sharply to our right. People had climbed up lamp posts and thousands were on the bridges all along the route.

The excellent atmosphere continued after the flotilla had passed, and was evident even walking back in the pouring rain. We certainly had fellow feeling for the opera singers on the boats – singing to the last!

Sara Hudson

Killearn Kirk Flower Festival

Following the Horticultural Show being held in Killearn Kirk this year, the Flower Festival and Historical Stroll around old Killearn will take place on Sunday, 26 August, between 1.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.

Together with the decorative flowers and some other classes donated from the Flower Show, we are asking anyone who enjoys flowers and arranging them to come and help us augment the existing arrangements. Please contact either Hazel Veitch (550372) or Helen Loudon (770225).

We hope to have a real community afternoon, as we are involving other groups from within the village. Colourful Killearn and the Killearn Trust are taking part, and All Killearn Archives will be providing historical interest with photos of 'Old Killearn'

projected onto the screen in the Kirk. Whilst a small donation to cover costs would be very welcome, it is by no means obligatory.

Very excitingly, Sandy and Trish Dalziel are opening The Old Manse garden for viewing on the day.

When you finish wending your way around old Killearn and viewing all the flower displays in the Kirk, don't forget that all the local hosteries offer excellent refreshments. Once refreshed everyone is cordially welcome back to the Kirk for a 'Songs of Praise' at 5.00 p.m. amidst all the lovely flowers.

Naturally, everyone is hoping for a sunny summer's Sunday afternoon, but no matter the weather, do come along and enjoy what promises to be a very flower-packed weekend.

End of the Line?



After 86 years, the demise of Dumgoyne Rural is imminent.

At the AGM of the Dumgoyne SWRI it was suggested that - as a new committee couldn't be formed - the Rural close. Even although the Institute had 23 members, the majority felt they had served their time on the committee.

The younger element (not entirely grey-haired and wine-loving) are willing to keep the Rural going, but there are not enough to form a viable committee. The Rural needs an intake of fresh blood, women who would help to run it and take it forward into the future for the benefit of the community.

It isn't all jam, cakes and flowers. Through the monthly speakers, the members gain a different insight into a wider world - be it charitable, informative or practical. It is a valuable opportunity to cross the generational divide.

Times have changed. The village has changed. More women work outside the home, and everyone seems to work longer hours and spend more time ferrying children to activities, with less time available for traditional social gatherings. Perhaps the Rural has run its course in Killearn?

However, in these uncertain times, perhaps the Rural is more important than ever. It would be wonderful to give it another chance to move into the future - a new name would help, for a start!

Don't just read this and say, 'oh, what a shame'. Be proactive! Any 'gals' interested in exploring what the SWRI means for Killearn and what we would like to plan for next year, phone Sara (550806), and come along to Lindale, Lampson Road on 17 September.

Killearn Kirk
Flower Festival
&
Old Manse Garden Opening & Classic cars
&
Stroll Around Historical Killearn

Sunday 26 August
1.30-4.30 p.m.
Followed by
Songs of Praise

A stylized illustration of three people in period clothing, possibly from the 18th century, waving their hands in greeting.

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Rotary's First Lady President



History was made as the Rotary Club of Strathendrick appointed Pamela Maxwell as its first Lady President at the inauguration meeting on 25 June 2012.

Pamela is a 'well kent' village personality, both as a local resident and as a business woman with her florist business, Endrick Blooms. It's now a family business with both daughters, April and Heather, working with her, which is something that Pamela enjoys, fully appreciating how special it is to have such a close relationship with her 'girls'. After a career in nursing as an A & E theatre sister in the Western Infirmary, Pamela tapped into her artistic and creative side by starting Endrick Blooms 23 years ago from her house. The business moved into the current premises in Headrigg Square in 1995. Over the years she has shared her talent with many groups, giving flower arranging demonstrations in the village and surrounding area. The business is now well established and the geographic spread of her business isn't just limited to the local area but extends throughout the country.

The Rotary Club welcomed Pamela to its ranks four years ago and she is currently the only female member. She holds the international organisation in the highest esteem for the amount of worthwhile charitable work it does –

from helping to eradicate polio worldwide with the Rotary funded immunisation programme to more local projects, like assisting sports teams with team strips. Rotary has moved with the times and no longer expects members to be exclusively men. Members are hard working and committed to charitable work while taking pleasure out of what they achieve and having a bit of fun along the way.

As President for the forthcoming year, Pamela aims to establish a service which transports radiotherapy patients to hospital for treatment. These treatment sessions are over an intensive short period of time and can place an impractical burden on the patient and family in making the daily trips to hospital. A Rotary organised and funded service would be invaluable to people during this stressful time. Pamela would also like to see new members, including women, become

Strathendrick Rotarians during her period in office. Being a Rotarian also opens doors worldwide, with members being welcomed at Rotary meetings throughout the world. Pamela has attended meetings in Dubai and Switzerland, and was delighted and proud at the level of interest expressed in the Strathendrick Rotary's Buchanan tartan banner which is presented to a host Club.



Pamela with her Family

Bridge Evening Raises Money

A Bridge Evening on 7 March in Killearn Village Hall organised by the Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs of Strathendrick resulted in donations of £500 each being raised for charity.

The beneficiaries will be Strathcarron Hospice and C.H.A.S., the Children's Hospice Association Scotland.

The two clubs would like to thank all the participants and numerous generous donors of raffle prizes.

The winner of the Bridge Prize was Mrs Laura Kennedy of Balfron.

If you would like more information on the work that Rotary does for the community or if you are thinking of getting involved with Rotary, contact:

Allan Watson (860326) or a.n.watson@btinternet.com.



Malawi Projects' Ladies Night



On 8 June, around 50 ladies made their way to Sue Dunaway's house, Kerrix. Their objective was to raise money for the on-going Malawi Projects.

There were many tempting offers to encourage them to part with their money. Two manicurists were kept busy all evening painting fingernails and toenails in the latest colours of blue, purple and coral. Upstairs the more stressed were indulging in a massage with essential oils. In the conservatory many others took the opportunity to find out what colours suited them best. Also on sale were scarves, jewellery, home baking, cards, books, toiletries and craft goods. No fundraising evening would be complete without a raffle and the prizes won by the happy few.

Glasses of wine, cupcakes and canapés added to the party atmosphere. Over £500 were raised. Many thanks are due to Sue Dunaway, Shona Kelday and Elizabeth Simpson for organising the event.

The Ladies' Night was the latest successful fundraiser. The group is now working towards achieving charitable status, having been the delighted recipients of a Jamieson Bequest. The staggering amount – nearly £100,000 – allowed them to finish the Women's Work Centre.

Following the AGM, Jenifer Barrett is Chairperson, Sue Beck has taken over duties as Treasurer and June Thomas is now Secretary. If anyone is interested in receiving the Malawi Projects' newsletter, contact:

June Thomas (jnethomas@aol.com).

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Saturday Night Fever



The Golden Girls, led by Rena Smith and seen here on the stage of the Village Hall, held another fundraising event in aid of the Paul O'Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre at the Beatson Hospital – only this time they came up with something different.

They organised a Michael Bublé night which took place in the Village Hall in March. The tickets were sold to ladies only and were restricted to a total of 100. The only men allowed in the hall – apart from the artiste, Alan Parker – were the waiters (a.k.a. the husbands of the Golden Girls).

The evening started off with a glass of bubbly and at the interval a finger buffet supper was served. There was also a wonderful raffle. That they all enjoyed the performance was evident by the number of ladies dancing in the aisles and refusing to allow Alan Parker to finish his performance.

Once all expenses had been paid, Rena was able to present a cheque for £3,000 to the Research Centre, bringing the total raised so far by this and previous fundraising events to £6,450, for which the Research Centre are very grateful.

The Golden Girls wish to thank all those who worked so hard to make the evening such a success, those who donated wonderful raffle prizes, and all the ladies for coming along and supporting this event.

Rena Smith

WHAT A HOOLIE!

Killearn enjoyed a wonderful week of community events and enterprise from 9–16 June despite the mixed weather in this distinctly soggy 2012 summer! The village responded enthusiastically to every item in this year's programme – helping to make the whole venture a resounding success.

Saturday and the Beer Festival

The Hoolie weekend kicked off on the Saturday with the Ballikinrain forest schools open day and the Tennis Club Tournament which were both much enjoyed. By then the car park of The Old Mill had been transformed with barrels, bales and a beautiful wooden bar into an attractive setting for the first-ever Killearn Beer Festival. As the doors opened, enthusiasts flooded in and any fears of a lack of interest were instantly dispelled! Ten different casks of real ale were on sale from The Orkney Brewery and Stewart Brewing. On a beautiful sunny evening, 350 people from Killearn and the surrounds (the furthest from Belgium!) sampled Copper Cascade, Edinburgh Gold, Zymic, Red McGregor and Dragonhead Stout. They enjoyed music from Chris Bell and friends, and had a wonderful, relaxed social. The real ales ran out early – encouraging organisers and sponsor Northwood UK to start thinking about making it an annual event – but the chat and impromptu ceilidh continued long into the evening resulting in one of the busiest evenings our local hosteries have ever enjoyed!

Sunday and The Hoolie Run

The next morning, however, the clouds were looking threatening for the Hoolie 10k, Fun Run and Children's Races! Guest starter, David Grevemberg, CEO of Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, launched the event in Killearn Park with the under-5s racing to finish the Wee Hoolie. It was a spectacular sight as they dashed the length of the football pitch with their Hoolie T-shirts almost down

to their knees, proud parents and spectators cheering them on. And they were the lucky ones, for the heavens then opened! The rain continued, but so did the races, and fantastic performances were achieved by some seriously talented young athletes. Nothing could dampen the spirit of the day and over 100 children participated. All winners were presented with medals by sponsor, Heron House Early Years' Director, Gabi Heron.

The 10k and 5k entrants sheltered in The Black Bull as the rain continued to pour. Whilst the safety of proceeding with the races was considered it was clear that the route had been carefully assessed and the runners were well prepared, too. Robert Miller, of Killearn Health & Fitness, raised spirits with a welcome warm-up after which the Strathendrick Pipe Band led out the 10k runners to the start by the War Memorial. Fifteen minutes later, the 5k runners were off their marks. This beautiful route is not one for the fainthearted and the conditions added to the challenge, but with pipers at every kilometre marker and stalwart marshals guiding them, the resilient runners were soon racing through to the finish line in Killearn Park. A new course record was achieved for the women's 5k, as Amanda Forbes smashed 2 mins 24 secs off the 2010 time, raising the challenge for the next Killearn Hoolie in 2014.

Race winners (female and male) were: Wee Hoolie: Zoe Loughrey and James Pope; Race 1: Evie Penderis and Cameron Holt; Race 2: Molly Cornes and Callum Byrne; Race 3: Kerry Gallagher and Ross Stewart. Fun Run 5k: Amanda Forbes and Patrick Feeney; Hoolie 10k: Morven Southam and Jo Armstrong.

A huge hats-off to the hardy marshals, volunteers, medics and pipers who

Killearn Hoolie

killearnhoolie.com

A LOT OF FUN!

held it together in those desperate conditions out on the trail, and to all the runners and everyone involved.

For full Race results, the Hoolie photo gallery, or to see the complete programme, please visit:

www.killearnhoolie.com.

In the afternoon, 25 teams participated in the Strathendrick Rugby Club Treasure Hunt – solving cryptic clues around the village. In a closely-run contest, the Summers-McGuffie clan narrowly won the challenge!

The Week

From Monday through to Friday local organisations ran associated Hoolie events: Mothers and Toddlers Teddy Bears Picnic; Heron House hat-making; a bridge drive; Mulberry Bush Montessori graduation; Brownies and Cubs games in the park; charity clearance sale; kids' tennis; the Killearn Primary School concert; a tea party; a walking group; and the highlight for many – the Street Football Challenge. With a dozen teams, hearty support and healthy sporting competition the event was a great success!

Saturday and The Gala Day

The bunting was out, the marquee erected; the big day had arrived – and the marathon rowers were out on The Glebe from 6 a.m.! The weather was dreich and the forecast was not encouraging, so the Hoolie Team adapted to the conditions and brought as much indoors or under cover as possible.

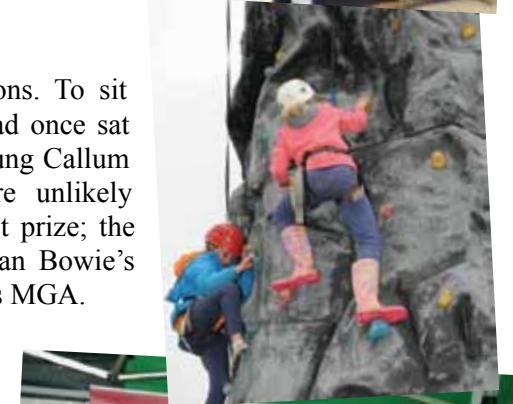
In true royal style the Gala King and Queen chose the 'Princess Grace' Bentley to transport them up the Main Street as they headed the Classic Cars and the Strathendrick Pipe Band in the Opening Procession up to the Glebe. The car, built to Grace Kelly's specification and now belonging to Sir Arnold Clark, was a sensible choice

in such miserable weather conditions. To sit where a real prince and princess had once sat was a huge honour and one that young Callum Adolphus and Iona Sanderson are unlikely to forget! Sir Arnold's car won first prize; the second and third awards went to Ian Bowie's beautiful Rover and Donald Brown's MGA.

Despite the inclement conditions the Gala went full-steam ahead, and the village came out in force to support it! The Church Hall foyer was taken over by the nail bar; the tuck shop and the meerkat tombola; book-bug readings for the little ones took place in the church itself whilst the Jubilee Tea Room, run by the ladies of the kirk, did fantastically well all afternoon and was very much appreciated. Three Jubilee cakes and 96 Jubilee cup cakes were funded by a grant from Stirling Council's Community Grants Scheme/Community Pride Fund.

In the marquee the Hoolie Market and the bar both did great business. The Little Faun Puppet Theatre was quaint, and outside the ever-popular coconut shy – run by the Rotary Club, Soak the Parent (as if they weren't already wet!) and Beat the Goalie persevered and did well. The Climbing Wall was popular all afternoon despite the conditions and the Quack Commandos – ducks 'herded' by collie dogs – were in their element. The Arbroath Smokies, strawberries and cream, Katy Rogers ice cream and Edenmill burgers were delicious.

Tributes and appreciation of the event were immediately forthcoming. 'It gives you a warm feeling deep down to see the village out in force like that, especially against the elements!', said Pauline Dunlop, 'A real "Dunkirk spirit" in not being overcome!'



continued on page 20

[More photos on www.killearnhoolie.com](http://www.killearnhoolie.com)

continued from page 19

The Final Fling

A quick turnaround, and the marquee was transformed by Events Decor into the venue for the best community dance of the year. Cocktails from sponsors Glengoyne and canapés from The Old Mill welcomed partygoers – many in glad rags and wellies! The silent auction got underway as Willow Moon and then Jill Jackson entertained the 300 guests. The social buzz was palpable as old and new friends exchanged greetings and had a thoroughly good time! Haggis suppers were served and MC Alan Cuthbert raised funds through the auction before



Skerryvore took to the stage, lifting the party to new heights. For two hours the talented young musicians performed their classy brand of nu-folk-celestial-rock delighting the gathered throng.

And so the curtain came down on another hugely

enjoyable Hoolie. Lots

of fun was had, many friends were made, much work went in, loads of help, support and collaboration was forthcoming: ‘A marvellously uplifting and unifying village event which has long-lasting benefits for us all. Such things are good for the social “glue” of the community!’ said Brenda Pell.

Killearn Hoolie operates under the auspices of the Killearn Community Futures Company, a registered charity, and is grateful to all the sponsors and supporters that make this enterprise possible:

*Arnold Clark, Glengoyne Distillery, Heron House Early Years,
Ian and Sandra Fraser, Clydesdale Bank, Northwood Glasgow
North, Endrick Property, MacEwen Falconer & Co. Ltd, Scimitar
Engineering, Sterling Cold Storage Ltd., Apex Generators, Events
Decor, D S McG Ltd., Breeze Creative Design Consultants, The Old
Mill Inn, Park Life, Energy Efficient Cooling, Hartman Media Ltd,
The Black Bull and Oakwood Garden Centre.*

See the short film of the Gala Day (using the Village’s media kit) on www.killearnhoolie.com.

Are you involved in a community organisation in Killearn? Does your group need additional funding? The Killearn Hoolie 2012 has made a surplus and plans to use some of this to support activities in the village.

For further details please contact Jennifer Brown (550681).

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Killearn's Standing Stone

On a very wet July day, a new feature was added to the Woodland Cemetery in Gartness Road. As part of Killearn Community Futures scheme for a memorial seating area, a standing stone from a quarry in Kilsyth was delivered and erected. There could not have been a worse day for such a project as the ground was soft and waterlogged, not an ideal surface to place and tip an 8-ton rock. The

placing of the stone was managed by volunteers from the West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Association, who will be back in the last weekend of July to build the stone wall around the circle. We hope to have an article on the building of the wall in the next edition of the *Courier*.

As can be seen from the photographs, the erection was not a simple job, as the stone would not tip into an upright



position because of the wet ground. The day was saved by local company, *MacColl Landscaping*; Scott came with a forklift truck and by using the forklift to push, while the crane pulled from the opposite side, the stone finally settled into position, with a nudge and a tweak from Scott to finally place the stone in the middle. The skill of the crane operator was remarkable.

The sigh of relief from the wet and cold volunteers when the stone finally settled into its

new home was palpable. KCFC is indebted to the West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Association for the help and time so freely given by Norman Muir, their Chairman and Alan Patrick, who selected the stone, negotiated with the quarry owners and arranged transport. Thanks are also due to Scott MacColl who did the original ground preparation and came to our rescue on the day.

Peter Wilks



WSDSWA Volunteers Supervising



Scott to the Rescue



A Joint Effort

What's going on here?



Is it because grass cuttings encourage huge rats? Or is it because of Japanese knotweed? No one really knows except Mr W. Gordon, who has drastically cleared land at the bottom of Lampson Road.

The land was neglected, having had nothing done to it for 20 years until suddenly trees and two huge beech hedges have been chopped rather drastically. If Japanese knotweed has been discovered – aren't chemicals more effective, and isn't it mandatory to notify the authorities about finding this invasive weed? And since when does the protocol for eradicating the stuff necessitate the wholesale removal of trees and bushes?

Undoubtedly the view from Lampson Road onto Station Road is clearer than before – it is now possible to see oncoming traffic much more easily. Too bad the unsightly debris has just been left to lie (*at the time of publication*). It is possible that Gordon intends to speculatively build on the site, which they have owned since the 1960s, but no planning application has yet been lodged with Stirling Council.



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Duntreath Garden Show

It was a wonderfully busy weekend locally in mid June. As well as the Hoolie, Duntreath Castle's Garden Show was also taking place. This was a new venture this year: not only was the garden being opened to the public but also a major charity garden event was held, which included gardening talks from BBC gardening presenter Steve Brookes, cookery and flower arranging demonstrations, trade stands and competitions.

Lady Julie Edmonstone explains further:

The Scottish Association of Flower Arrangement Societies ladies came from all over Scotland to create some breath-taking floral displays, and Lenzie Primary School won the children's flower competition which was kindly judged by Julia Donaldson, the Children's Poet Laureate who lives in Bearsden. Canine Partners' beautiful dogs gave several displays of their ability to help their disabled owners. The tea ladies from the Strathblane committee and Scotland's Gardens were worked off their feet, and a magnificent plant stall was organised by Carol Seymour of Artlink Scotland. The Rotary Club organised a very impressive Silent Auction and my husband successfully bid for a case of fine claret to celebrate such a wonderful weekend which even the rain couldn't spoil!



The band of the Royal Marines gave a superbly professional and moving display on Friday night and several bands played over the weekend, particularly the Strathendrick Pipe Band.

The whole atmosphere of the weekend was marked by the generosity of spirit shown by all who took part – visitors, and helpers alike. Despite horrendous weather we hope to have raised over £30,000 for the seven charities. Both Archie and I were overwhelmed by the heart-warming support, time and unstinting help of all our volunteers and the members of the charity committees.



Killearn Village Hall – the Second Phase



In the last issue of the *Courier*, Brian Simmers who is driving the redevelopment of the Hall, outlined the next moves in the whole process. Perhaps unfortunately, signs of physical progress have seemed to be few and far between.

This, of course, does not mean that nothing has been happening. OSCR, the Scottish Charity Regulator, gave agreement in February to the modification to the original Trust Deed, and the transfer of the ownership of the Hall from Stirling Council to KCFC took place on 18 April 2012. At virtually the same time the application for a government grant was accepted, and the first application for payment of a grant was placed with SDRP.

Around the same time, the cash flow programme for the refurbishment/rebuilding period had to be revised and a substantial working capital figure has been negotiated with Clydesdale Bank to cover the estimated three-month delays between progress grants being applied for to government and receipt of the funds.

So, while to the outside observer it would appear that nothing was happening, in reality the situation was rather like the famous swan, where furious paddling was going on under the water!

Towards the end of April, the three tenders offering the lowest prices were re-evaluated and the contract to part-demolish, rebuild and refurbish the Hall was awarded to Hadden Construction Ltd of Aberuthven during May. They arrived on site week beginning 4 June, and the first evidence of things actually happening was the large blue container into which the tables, chairs, pictures and piano from the Hall have been stored for eventual re-use in the new Hall around March 2013.

The photograph (*above*) was taken on 8 July 2012, and is the nearest to showing the Hall as it was before the ‘Coronation’ buildings were put up 60 years ago, and as how it had looked for the previous 130 years before that.

The architect’s drawings which also appear are taken from the latest (final?) plans and show the outside views. You will note that the entrance area has been moved slightly away from the tower so that it can be more clearly seen from the gates while the roofline to the entrance and reception area is clearly pitched and altogether is a more handsome structure

Killearn Village Hall Operations Committee are looking for expressions of interest from companies or individuals interested in the following positions:

- Operating a coffee lounge in the reception area of the Hall
- Carrying out the cleaning of the halls on a regular basis
- Acting as caretakers/managers of the halls

Expressions of interest should be sent to David Rodger at:
davrod@lineone.net or telephone 550521.

All correspondence will be acknowledged and we hope to discuss with potential applicants in September/October 2012 with a view to commencing activities in March 2013.

Youth Club Manager – we are also looking for expressions of interest in the running of the village hall youth club. Management time needs to respond to demand but may be 2 to 3 evenings a week and will be remunerated. Expressions of interest should be sent to Brian Simmers at:

brian@simmers.org.uk or telephone 551055.



than the previous flat-roofed one. These impressions also show the glassed windows to the reception area with its magnificent views over the Glebe towards Loch Lomond.

KCFC has now appointed an Operational Committee to run the halls when they re-open. This committee has been in touch with Stirling Council and with several other community halls in the area to prepare for starting its marketing and booking programme in September – six months before the anticipated opening. The halls themselves will be bigger, brighter and more complex than before with five letting spaces. In the box above, you will find an appeal for expressions of interest from people who might be interested in operating the Coffee Lounge in the Reception Area, or in becoming the Cleaning Contractor for the building; or as caretakers/managers of the hall – or indeed in all four!

David Rodger



Local Young Actors Win National Title



Seventeen local young actors became Scottish drama champions in June at the Scottish Community Drama Association youth finals in Stranraer's Ryan Theatre. The Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society cast, eight of whom are former pupils of Killearn Primary School, took the top prize after seeing off stiff competition from Greenock, Portree and Stonehaven. The youngsters rehearsed for six months and had won through local and regional competitions en route to the final. Their winning performance of *Beware the Jabberwock* was enthusiastically received by an audience that included Ron Nicol, the play's author, who congratulated the youngsters personally.

FADS director Sheila Fraser, barely holding back tears at the end, paid tribute to the team saying, 'This was an extremely difficult production, technically very demanding, and I cannot praise enough the efforts of our talented youngsters.' But achieving such glory is not just about putting on make-up and strutting on stage.

The youngsters had to get involved in a fund-raising drive to pay for the cost of taking the team and a coach load of supporters to Stranraer. As if that wasn't enough, former Killearn pupils Nick North and Jessica Carey, along with Rebecca Mackenzie from Drymen, were supposed to be travelling to the Balfron School water sports trip in the South of France on the day of the finals. So everyone put in a superhuman effort to raise enough money to cover the costs of transporting them from Stranraer immediately after the winning performance to Gatwick and then to fly to Bordeaux to join their school pals next morning.

Congratulations to all in FADS and we look forward to seeing more winning productions in the future!

Lights, Camera, Action

The Killearn Village Hall Media Project is a community venture, supported by the *Courier*, encouraging the development of multimedia skills, capturing memories of our village through oral history and documenting the refurbishment of Killearn Village Hall.

Work started on the refurbishment of the Village Hall in earnest on 27 June, when the bulldozer moved in and started to demolish the non-original extension on the Station Road side of the building. A time-lapse camera has been mounted on a telegraph pole on Station Road. This static position will take a snapshot at 30 minute intervals over the coming months, which will then be incorporated into a short film that charts the progress of the building work towards completion. Additional content will be shot and edited using new dedicated equipment purchased especially for the project.

The social history account and archive is also now underway and there have been a couple of visits to Killearn Primary with the recently acquired audio-visual equipment. The children have been filmed conducting interviews with long-standing residents of the village. This is ongoing and great fun.

So there is plenty to do over the next few months. To ensure that nothing exciting is missed as the hall refurbishment progresses, we are appealing for volunteers to form a small team who will get their hands on the kit, learn to shoot and edit, and contribute content for the documentary. Please contact John Matthews (550075) if you are interested.

The Village now owns a MacBook Pro with numerous software packages like Pages for designing newsletters, Keynotes for presentations, Final Cut Pro X for video editing and i Can Animate for animation, plus a Zoom H2N audio-recorder and a Panasonic HD camcorder. If your village group would like to borrow or learn how to use these resources, please get in touch with Jacqueline McAlpine (551659) or email jaquimcalpine@hotmail.com.



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Boys Go Barmy for Bear

On a beautiful spring day, Killearn Cubs and Beavers boarded a 5-star VIP bus and went to join 2,000 other Scottish Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at the Bearwood Bonanza near Denny.

We sat down next to a little stream to have lunch, noticing the helipad where Bear Grylls would soon be landing. We were all very excited and raring to go.

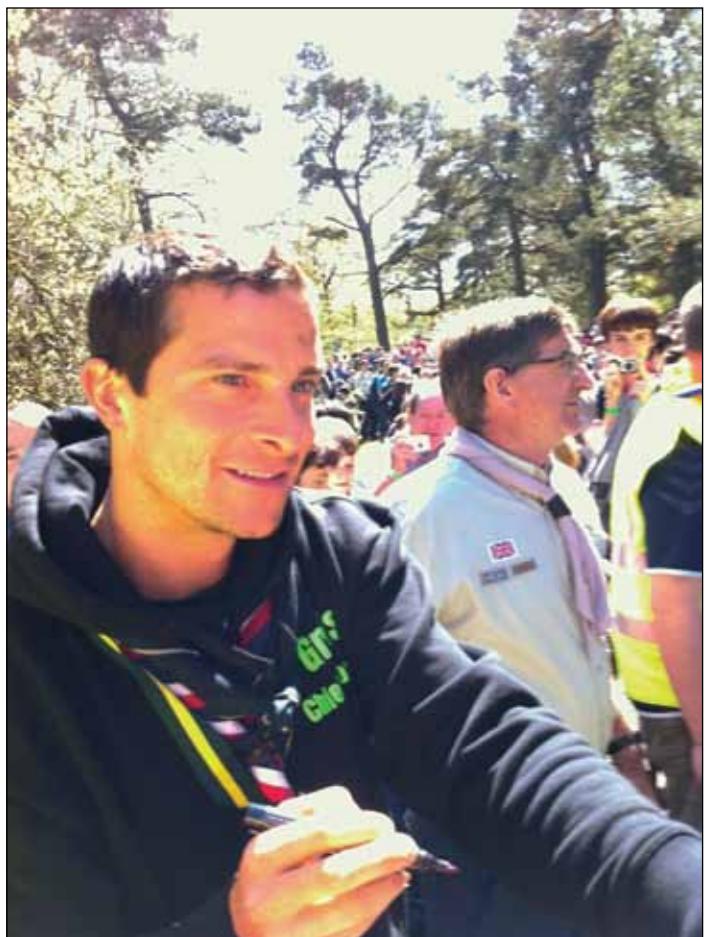
We waited patiently for Bear's big speech. On the stage were our mascots, the teddy bear 'Bobby Grylls' and his friend 'Wenlock', and we clapped and cheered as the real Bear Grylls appeared. After the speech, we all raced to a good spot on the path to see Bear as he walked past. Bear walked very close to us, and he signed my book.

After Bear left, we were all allowed to run off and enjoy the activities, such as pillow fighting on a slippery log, archery and water bombs, and a Paralympic obstacle course, where we had to work as a team to succeed. We all enjoyed spending our £2 at the tuck shop which quickly sold out of sweets.

Angus, Neil, Kerr and I explored the Barrwood Camp and found our own little den on a fallen tree in a corner.

Everyone enjoyed the day and wanted to stay longer. I hope there is another one next year!

Finlay Penderis (aged 9)



Annual Report 2011 – 2012

The membership of KCC over the past year has been: Brenda Pell (*Chair*); Peter Wilks (*Vice-Chair, Minutes Sec., Webmaster*); Margery Burdon (*Secretary*) Janet Duncan (*Treasurer*); Margaret Harrison; Peter Rea (*Planning Correspondent*); Nigel Kelly; David Scott; Derek Stuart; Heather Wright plus our two Youth Members, Cairi Mackintosh and Hannah McLaren. We have been most ably supported by our elected Councillors, Alistair Berrill, Graham Lambie and Colin O'Brien, who retired at the May elections and has been replaced by Ian Muirhead, and also by our Community Police Officer, David McNally. All have attended KCC meetings throughout the year, providing reports and information and giving advice on issues raised by residents. We are grateful to them all for their dedication in supporting the interests of our village.

The agendas and minutes of our meetings are put on the village notice board and on our website www.killearnc.org.uk and there is a news update in the *Courier*. Increasing numbers attending our meetings indicate the agenda contains matters that interest you, our public, and we welcome your involvement in our discussions.

Planning matters invariably attract a good audience. This year we have had two presentations from Banks Renewables regarding their proposed wind farm at Ard Ghaoth, near Ballat, with opportunities for audience questions at both meetings. Recent correspondence suggests a delay to the project and no application has yet been submitted to Stirling Planning Department.

That Department produced its Draft Local Plan last autumn. This presents Stirling Council's vision for the future and its plan to expand and to attract more people into both the city and the surrounding countryside. New building is proposed for all communities. In Killearn three potential sites are earmarked: part of the Turnip Field for six old peoples' bungalows, Station Road (20 houses); part of the Blairessan field (30 houses). A brief reference to the Killearn Hospital site is for possible business development. Numbers of residents expressed their views both at KCC meetings and directly to Stirling Council. KCC members created a Community Council response which was sent to the Planning Department and also sent an opinion on the Open Space Strategy. Further consultation is expected in the autumn before the final Local Plan is formulated.

Roads is another subject that excites comment. Whilst the budget for rural roads has been increased, and there has been some patching, the complaints about the roads and pavements continue. Major road alterations have been greeted with mixed opinions, although the warning signage at the 'black spot' at the Devil's Pulpit (Stockiemuir Road) has been welcomed. Further implementation of the Traffic Management Plan has been postponed until the renovations to the Village Hall have been completed.

In partnership with Stirling Council's Winter Maintenance Policy an Emergency Group of volunteers has been set up. A 'telephone cascade' will alert the group to respond if an emergency situation arises as a result of severe weather.

Recently youth groups have taken part in the Village Spring Clean. KCC awards certificates to all youth groups help to keep our village tidy and is grateful to all the young people and their adult leaders who have taken part in this.

Dog fouling is another issue which has arisen. We learn that allowing one's dog to foul *anywhere but on one's own land* is against the law and is punishable by a fixed penalty. It surprises us to learn that this legislation applies even in wild areas. KCC has made a plea to Stirling Council that a period of public education would have been preferable before a fixed penalty was enforced. PC McNally has produced posters and now Stirling Council is installing signage in public areas.

Stirling Council has assured us that, after the building of the Old Peoples' bungalows, the remaining Turnip Field will be passed to the village for leisure purposes. The park was nominated by Stirling Council as a Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Field – one of the 'Fields in Trust' which commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. There has been no public announcement of this but we understand the nomination has been successful and thank the community for the votes given in favour of our park. Confirmation will ensure that this land will remain secure for leisure and recreation in perpetuity.

Discussions on Killearn's preferences to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee led to choices selected being the church bells rung, special jubilee cake served at the Hoolie tea and the wrought iron gates of the Village Hall to be restored with a commemorative plaque affixed in time for the opening of the newly restored Village Hall. As the gates were erected to commemorate the Queen's Coronation, it seemed fitting to refurbish them to mark the Diamond Jubilee. Killearn was also invited to join with Strathblane at their Jubilee Bonfire Party and to enjoy the Dumgoyne beacon. We are grateful to Stirling Council for providing the funding for the Jubilee celebrations.

Invited speakers to KCC meetings during the past year have been David Hopper, Stirling Council's Waste Services Manager, Colin Anderson and Gordon Thompson of Banks Renewables, staff of the Old Meal Mill Community Learning House, a residential educational unit for autistic young people housed at Branshogle and Stirling Council Tree Officer, Ingrid Withington. Several members have attended conferences/workshops on Severe Weather Policy, Zero Waste & Planning, Learning in the Community, and the future role of Community Councils. Members also regularly attend the meetings of the Local Area Forum and Forth Valley Health Board. Matters discussed at these meetings are reported to KCC and are published in our minutes.

At the end of another year, I thank all the members of KCC for their time and energy spent voluntarily to enabling us to link the residents of our village and our governing authority, Stirling Council. Your Community Council will continue to work for your interests. If you care about the village, do keep in touch with us. Finally, we need one more member to complete our team. Would you be interested in joining us?

Brenda Pell, June 2012

Giving the Olympians a helping hand ...

At the time of writing this the London 2012 Olympic Games are still an exciting prospect – the only time the world's premier sporting event will take place in our country in this generation. But by the time you read this you may well be 'Olympic'ed-out' having had your fill of thrills and spills, excitement and disappointment. However, you may still be looking forward to the Paralympics which are about to get underway.

How involved in the Olympics were you? Well, a few people from the village decided that since they could never be there as competitors they would offer their services as volunteers, known as 'Games Makers'.



Photograph: 'Games Makers' from Killearn exhibit their Olympics Volunteers' uniforms and accessories. Jackie Hawkins was in the Transport Team at Park Lane Hotels, Sarah Whitley drove VIPs in a LOCOG BMW and Nick Hawkins worked at Horse Guards Parade.



New Community Choir Coming to the Trossachs

If you love singing, be it in public or in the shower, then the Trossachs Community Choir wants you! Choir director, Katie Harris who studied music at Birmingham Conservatoire, is launching our very own Trossachs Community Choir, having spent 15 years directing youth and community choirs across the UK.

Katie hopes to dispel the myth that singing is just for a select minority, saying 'music is for everyone, music is for enjoyment, music is for community and music is good for the soul! I am appealing to anyone aged 16 and over who loves to sing. You are welcome to join us whether you have lots of musical experience or none at all. You will not be auditioned and you do not need to be able to read music so come and join us!'



We'll offer you a little more insight into life behind the scenes in the *Courier* Christmas edition but in the meantime here are a few things you may not have known about the London 2012 Olympics:

- The games had a workforce of 200,000 people including 70,000 volunteers, 6,000 staff and 100,000 contractors.
- There were 240,000 Games Maker applications of which approximately a quarter were recruited.
- Games Maker volunteers cover a whole range of roles including stewarding events; venue management; ticketing; language services; athlete support; opening, closing and victory ceremonies; torch relay; greeting visitors at transport hubs; communications; staffing the media office; hosting guests, sponsors and athletes at venues and at residences.
- The Games were held at 34 venues, involved over 10,000 athletes and offered 9,000,000 tickets.
- Volunteers had 1,000,000 hours of training and provided 8,000,000 hours of service.

Games Makers received their rather smart purple and red uniform and an Oyster ticket for London travel – but had to arrange and pay for their own travel to the capital and their accommodation once there. Volunteers, officials and staff uniforms required:

- 765 miles of fabric,
- 360 miles of thread,
- 730,000 buttons,
- over 1,000, 000 zips:

Now that is a record you haven't heard!

Were you a Games Maker – or do you have a favourite moment from the London 2012 Olympic or Paralympic Games? If you would like to contribute to our next edition, please contact Nick Hawkins (550576) or email your story to courier@kcf.co.uk.

NH

Katie will be holding choirs at two venues. The first on Monday nights at Gartmore House between 7.45 p.m. and 9.15 p.m. beginning on Monday, 27 August and the second at Kinlochard Village Hall on Thursday nights at the same times beginning on 30 August. All the choir sessions will be charged at £4 a session, payable on a half termly basis.

For those under 16, Katie plans to organise the Trossachs Youth Choir from the start of the October half term. If you are interested in either the Trossachs Community Choirs or the up-and-coming Trossachs Youth Choir, please contact:

Katie by phone on 01877 389058
or by email at: pure_music@btinternet.com.

Killearn Football Club

We are already midway through season 2012 in the Forth and Endrick League programme and Killearn F.C. have had to adopt a 'rebuilding for the future' policy, due to the loss of so many first-team regulars from the successful side of recent years. Nine members of last year's team are no longer playing, due to long-term injuries or because they have moved further afield for employment reasons. This has led to the introduction of a lot of younger players sooner than expected. Despite all the changes and the fact that the team has had a shortage of numbers at times, the side has had some good results and sit in the top half of the league table.

Members of the Club took part in the Hoolie by organising a successful Street Football Challenge with 12 teams from the village taking part. New Endrick Road defeated Lampson Road on penalty kicks in the final. During the Gala Day the Club ran Target Golf and Beat the Goalie, the latter being very popular with the under-12 age group in particular. The goalkeepers on the day – Colin Banks and James Beaton – had a torrid time all afternoon trying to stop the ball hitting the back of the net! It is pleasing for the Club to see so many promising players for the future in the village.

Donnie Beaton

Strathendrick Under-16s football team are very fortunate to have received new football strips sponsored by Killearn businessman Scott MacColl of MacColl Landscaping. Coach/Manager Hugh Russell said, 'I spoke to Scott about the possibility of new strips as the boys had outgrown their old ones. He was happy to sponsor our team and is keen to encourage football development in the area.' Strathendrick play in the Forth Valley Development Association and are presently sitting mid-table.

Unfortunately there are no longer changing rooms in Killearn as previous changing facilities in the former nursery building were bought by a local developer, so visiting teams and referees need to come ready changed which is not ideal.

Hugh also wishes to thank assistant coaches Colin Banks and David MacDonald, and also Fiona, his wife, who is a very welcome sight on cold winter mornings with flasks of tea and coffee for parents – and sometimes referees – in need of a winter warmer. Also, thanks to parents for their huge commitment in transporting boys to games and supporting the team.

If there are any boys born in 1996/97 interested in joining Strathendrick Under-16s, please contact Hugh Russell (07843 232350) for further information.



This book about the story of the village was published three years ago. It details the development of the village from an isolated rural settlement to a commuter village and also tells the story of many of the institutions in the village and of some of the properties.

Our records indicate that half the households in the village have not yet purchased a copy of this fascinating book and are unaware of our story from Roman times to the present day.

If you would like to remedy this oversight or send a copy to friends or former residents who know the village, copies are available for sale at the Co-op, Old Mill, Oakwood Garden Centre and local libraries.

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More Murrays, Please!

What a fabulous year for British tennis with Andy Murray making the final at Wimbledon and the Olympics! And what a busy season it has been for the Tennis Club too. We have had family days, fun days, Hoolie events, championships, team matches and coaching programmes, and there are more events planned over the summer months.

The official start of our season was the Open Day on 22 April. We had a great turnout of members and non-members, adults and children, all keen to enjoy the fine (well, not wet) weather. The older juniors joined in with the seniors in a fun tournament and the younger children played together, too, all with great enthusiasm! We had hoped this would set a precedent for the remainder of the season and were delighted to be proved right when, at the family day in May, we had another good turnout of adults and juniors alike and great weather into the bargain!

The adult Hoolie event in June – ‘A taste of Wimbledon’ – was a great success at which both members and non-members enjoyed strawberries and Pimm’s in the sunshine as well as playing a Pro-Am tennis tournament.

The kids’ junior Hoolie event the following weekend was also very successful. We planned a barbecue so, naturally, it rained, but we served burgers with juice to the competitors and wine to the parents spectating in our refurbished clubhouse. The worthy junior Hoolie winners in each of two categories were:

8 years and under: Alexander Gibb,
runner-up Sarah Gibb;

8 years and over: Euan Docherty,
runner-up Angus Boreman.

Each Wednesday we have been running adult social nights. A committee member is always on hand so you can be certain of getting a game. Players of all abilities are very welcome. The emphasis on these evenings – and indeed on the fun-day and other events – is on having an enjoyable game, meeting and making friends. These social events are a great introduction to



the club and a good way to meet other players.

On a more competitive note, we entered a Ladies team, two Gents teams, and Junior Under-12 and Under-14 teams into the Central League as well as a Ladies Over-45 team. All team members have played with great enthusiasm and there have been many hard-fought matches. Despite winning several of their matches, the ladies are likely to be relegated to the third division. The Gents teams have been unlucky and have had to reschedule many matches due to the rain. There are still Gents matches to be played and the teams are still hopeful of staying in their respective leagues.

We are always on the lookout for new players, so don’t be shy. Please let us know if you are keen to join the teams.

The junior teams have done very well with all players showing great promise. We can expect great things from the junior players as they continue to



Euan Docherty

gain valuable experience from their matches. Some of the older juniors are now playing for the Gents teams and making their mark in the adult league. We had no Under-16 team this year, but our coach, Chris Jewell, was able

to include some of the juniors in the Under-16 team at Kippen where Chris also coaches, and again results were good.

The Junior Section continues to thrive. Chris Jewell runs a coaching programme for the children every Friday in term time. Chris and his assistants

provide excellent group tuition in a fun environment. Junior coaching starts again on Friday, 24 August, after our pre-coaching tournament and barbeque.

As we write, the club championships are underway. In order to include as many people as wish to play, the doubles partners are ‘drawn from a hat’ so that the ‘usual suspects’ are not always playing together. Let’s just hope the weather improves so the matches are played ready for our finals weekend on the 1 and 2 September. (If only we had a roof over our centre court too!) Come and support the finalists if you can and enjoy refreshments while you watch!

The Tennis Club is a fantastic local facility – first established in Killearn in 1921 – and we hope to continue to provide this amenity not just to our many local resident members, but to the surrounding villages too. However, in order to meet the increasing costs of rent maintenance and numerous other demands, we rely heavily on membership fees. So if you enjoy playing tennis or simply just appreciate the convenience of this local facility, we would ask that you join us and pay the modest fees so that the Tennis Club can survive and thrive up to and beyond its centenary year in 2021! We offer lots of fun, new friendships and, of course, tennis for everyone from beginners to the seasoned players. And who knows? Maybe we’ll help discover the next generation of Andy Murrays!

Our committee members are happy to provide further information. Please contact either:

Anne Delargy (550253), Shirley Bell (550453) or Morag Gibb (550233).

CURLING SWEEP UP

The 2011/12 curling season came to an end for Strathendrick Curling Club with the Annual General Meeting and prize presentation held at Glengoyne Distillery in April.

The main mixed club matches were played on Tuesdays at The Peak in Stirling. The Spring League was decisively won by Sheila Sturrock's team of Archie Banks, Sandy Park and Tony Flisch who only lost one match. Norman Robertson's team of Maurice Rennie, Gill Smith and Stan Moore was second. This result gives Sheila the 'double', with wins in both Autumn and Spring Leagues.

The Pairs competition was won narrowly by Fiona Glass and Sandy Park from Stephen Holden and Gillian Kingslake. The winners of this competition are presented with one of our oldest and nicest trophies – a pair of silver curling-stone handles.

For the first time, the main club held a fun Closing Bonspiel. Playing the two ends in complete silence was a novel experience for curlers and the two ends when everyone played with delivery sticks produced some rather unusual shots! The result was a win for Stan Moore, Walter Macgowan, Kenny Boyter and Gail Pain. The bonspiel was followed by the inevitable party!

The Ladies Section played Leagues at Stirling on Thursday mornings. The winner of the Rowan Salver Spring League was Marie Elder's team of Rita Harris, Rita Mearns and Elspeth Murdoch.

The Ladies Section finished their season with a bonspiel. This was played at The Dewar's Centre in Perth. The competition was won by Muriel Holroyd, Gill Smith, Elspeth Murdoch and Norma Thornton. Gill Smith played in the winning team in all three bonspiels – the first time this hat-trick

has been achieved.

Sheila Sturrock was the main club Curler of the Year and Elspeth Murdoch was the Ladies Section Curler of the Year.

The club had a good win in the Ballikinrain Trophy. This trophy was presented in 1895 for outside ice matches but since 1967 has been competed for indoors between Strathendrick, Fintry and Kippen. The main club also won their RCCC District Medal against Heart of the Highlands.



The Ladies played friendly matches against the Old Fellows at The Peak, which they won, and against Club 90 at Greenacres, which they did not win, although the trip to Greenacres was thoroughly enjoyed by all the players.

The club has had more successes in the Forth & Endrick Province competitions since our last report. Although we struggled in the Robert Paterson Shield at The Peak, we won the Forest Hills League, which was also played at The Peak this year. In the Points competition played at Braehead, Mike Jackson was joint individual winner, but Strathendrick won the overall competition for the best two players by combining Mike's score with that of either Donnie MacDonald or Allan Watson.

Our major triumph in Province competitions was victory in the Gordon Mitchell Rosebowl Bonspiel for the first time in 22 years. As this

was presented in memory of a former Minister of Killearn, we feel that the trophy has 'come home'!

Our own Fiona Glass has been playing with Annette MacDonald from Balfron in various competitions, although they have not been as successful as last year. However, they made it through to the final at the National Masters at Greenacres where they lost by 6 shots to 8. This is a Royal Caledonian Curling Club competition for players over a certain age. Fiona Hawker, formerly Barrowman, who was brought up in Kirkhouse Road still manages to curl, despite living in Cheltenham, and has again triumphed in the English Ladies Curling championship. She is due to skip her team in the B Division of the European Championships in Sweden in December.

Our neighbours in Balfron can boast an even greater success. Lauren Gray was in the World Junior

Women's championship winning team in March returning from Sweden with a gold medal.

The Club again held a dinner at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. As it was early February, there was a slight St Valentine's Day theme to the entertainment.

The club has a good mix of competitive and less competitive curling and thus caters for all ranges of ability. In addition, it has a variety of social events including a golf outing, summer barbecue, dinner or dinner dance, and the New Year Meander.

If you want an interest and some exercise to keep you occupied during the winter months and would like to have a go at curling, contact Fiona Glass (550646) or George Harris (550456) or look at our website at www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.

Gill Smith

Rugby Round Up

The Strathendrick Mini Rugby players finished last season in fine style, raising over £3,000 for local hospices in April at their 6th Annual Charity Tournament, and then the P6/7s won the tag tournament on the big stage at the Glasgow Emirates 7s at Scotstoun in May. The enthusiasm is palpable and is sure to carry through to next season.

The Minis Open Day is on Sunday, 26 August, at Fintry Sports Club and all primary-school-aged youngsters are welcome, whether established players or novices, girls or boys.

Strathendrick Midis and Balfron High School continue their collaboration with U14 (S1/2) and U16 (S3/4) teams being planned for the 2012–13 season. Coaching will be led by the Club's Modern Apprentice, Jack Carswell, with games being played on Saturday mornings against other schools and clubs.

The senior teams at Fintry will again be led by coach David Barrett and 1st XV skipper Duncan McEwen with Dave Beaumont stepping up to take charge of the 2nd XV. The 1st XV will be playing in new competitive territory as Scottish Rugby have again reorganised the leagues, so a mix of National League and West Regional teams will contest this season's fixtures. Training is at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Fintry. New and returning players, young, not so young and players in their prime are all welcome. Please contact Nick Hawkins (550576) for further information.

NH



Photographs: Annual Strathendrick Minis Charity Tournament.



Three Peaks Challenge

Meanwhile on the Hoolie Final Fling weekend, three Killearn folk braved the elements to tackle the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales in a 24-hour period. Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon were successfully conquered between 6 p.m. on Saturday and 6 p.m. on Sunday in the 'Three-Peaks Challenge' by a group of eleven from Kelvinside Academy including Killearn's Jacqui Scott (parent) and Jenny and Gordon Stewart (S6 and S4 pupils).

Over £12,000 was raised for charity.

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Jean Paul 1923 – 2012



A true native of Killearn, Jean was born at Ibert House and, on the death of her father when she was aged three, she and her mother moved to Graham Cottage, her grandparents' house, which was ultimately to become her home for many years.

After education in both Killearn and Balfron, she left school to undertake training as a hairdresser and, once qualified, set up her own business in the home of her greatly loved aunt and uncle at Machar House, Dunmore Street, Balfron.

With the advent of World War II, she was called up and elected to serve in the Land Army. It must be mentioned that in recent years she was delighted, along with all former Land Army girls, to receive her medal in belated recognition of her service.

The end of hostilities marked her return to hairdressing in Balfron, and she eventually resumed residence in Graham Cottage. For a short time prior to retirement she worked at Murray's store where she made a memorable impression. Indeed, it can be said that Jean, always a forthright person, did not hesitate to voice her thoughts.

Jean was tremendous character, a generous and good friend to many and, of particular note, she had a marvellous rapport with the young. Whilst her life was lived within the boundaries of the rural villages, she loved to travel, visiting a wide variety of places from the Faeroes in the north to the warmer climes of South Africa, with the Amalfi coast and other countries in between.

JMcD

Jack Brown 1933 – 2012

Jack was born at Spittal Cottage, Station Road, Killearn. He attended Killearn Primary and Balfron High Schools, and then the Agricultural College. On leaving college he worked at Laigh Parks Farm, Killearn, leaving only to do his National Service with the 11th Hussars.

After his time in National Service, he returned to work at Laigh Parks. He was a member of Strathendrick Young Farmers' Club, serving for a time as treasurer and then club leader.

He was a member of Killearn Church and also a teacher in the Sunday School, continuing his family's service to the church where his mother served in the Women's Guild for many years.

He married Margaret in March 1964, after which he started to work at Millburn Farm, Alexandria. Following a spell at Millburn, he drove heavy goods vehicles at Carron Transport, Dumbarton and, before retiring, he was an HGV mechanic at Gray Brothers, Dumbarton.

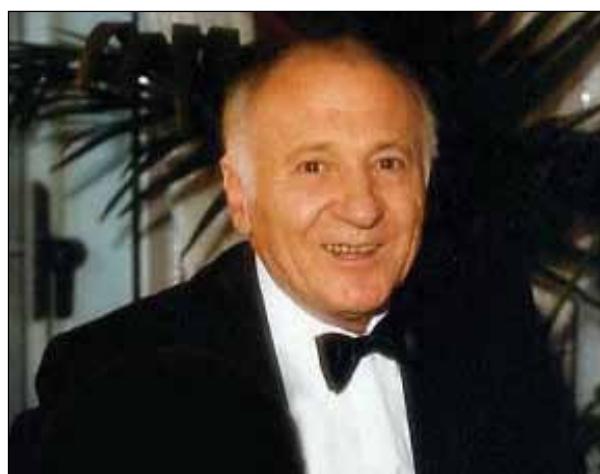


Margaret and Jack lived at Ashfield Cottages, Gartocharn, until they moved to Helensburgh in December 2010.

He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and enjoyed nothing better than family, home and garden. He enjoyed good holidays and social nights with his many friends. Everyone who knew him will miss him very much.

HMcA

Vittorio Cornacchia 1926 – 2012



Vittorio Cornacchia, known as Victor, moved to Auchinibert with his wife Rene in 1982. Born in Glasgow, brought up in Italy, he returned to Scotland aged 19, alone, unable to speak English and with £5 in his pocket. Prior to this, in the war years, he had been rounded up by German soldiers and ordered to dig his own grave, his life saved by a priest who pleaded for his release.

Victor worked in a number of Italian owned businesses, including Crollas.

Here he learned to make ice cream and drive a van. Buying his own van and making his own ice cream was the next step; he worked hard and his business grew until he employed 17 people and had 50 vans operated by self-employed drivers. Whilst he worked long hours, his wife, Rene ran the home and raised their two sons, Ricky and Piero.

When he retired from his business, gardening became his great delight and his hard work in the acres surrounding his house led to the creation of an imaginative and beautiful garden and woodland which brought joy to many. This was a solace to him as declining health limited his activities. A gentle and softly spoken man, he will be much missed by his family and friends.

BP

Jimmy Gladstone 1926 – 2012



Jimmy was born at New Field Farm in Galston, Ayrshire. He was the only child of James and Elizabeth. When he was 17 the family moved from New Field Farm to Gartachoil Farm, between Ballat Crossroads and the Ward Toll, just past the building that once was the Duchlack School. Gartachoil was a dairy farm but latterly became involved with beef cattle.

When he married Jean in 1951, they lived at Indiansdorp at Balfron Station. They had two sons, Brian and Allan. Jean died in 1974.

Jimmy was well known in the area. He was always willing to help out and often took friends to Glasgow to see his favourite football team, Partick Thistle, or to the Speedway. He was also a keen supporter of Killearn Football Club, playing for them in his youth and eventually becoming honorary president. His name will be remembered for many years to come in the Jimmy Gladstone Cup which he presented to the club, and is awarded annually to the most promising young player.

He was also very involved with the Old Folks' Committee for many years and was appointed chairman in 1990.

Jimmy married Dorothy in 1975 and they lived in the village. He retired from farming and took up gardening.

A quiet man, never had a cross word, he would do anything for anybody. He lived for his family. Jimmy was very well liked within the community and will be much missed by everyone.

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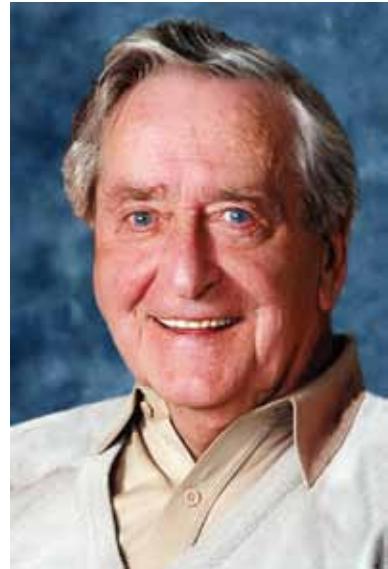
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Eric Goold 1923 – 2012

Eric Goold came to Killearn, with his wife, Jean, and son, David, in 1981 and lived in Branxier Road North.

He was an accountant by profession and worked for many years in a senior role in the finance department at Glasgow Airport. However, his abiding interest was the theatre.

A talented pianist and wordsmith, he wrote lyrics and music for a number of theatrical groups, among them the Unity Theatre, the Rutherglen Repertory Theatre and the Citizens Theatre throughout the 1940s and 1950s, and also produced material for rising future stars of stage and TV.



In 1967 he founded the Glasgow Airport Drama Club which later became known as the Runway Theatre Company. Following its initial success with an airport pantomime, the company moved to the Eastwood Theatre in 1966. Eric immersed himself in producing theatrical entertainments by the company, writing words and music, playing the piano, directing the shows and selling the tickets. To his followers he became known as 'Mr. Pantomime'. His work caught the attention of TV producers and his songs were featured on Cilla Black's *Surprise, Surprise* show in the 1990s and in the King's Theatre pantomime of 2005.

He was a genial personality who always had a positive outlook on life. His long and happy marriage was mirrored in his partnership with Jean as they passed on their skills and enthusiasm in a lifetime of work together with youth clubs and in the theatre company.

BP

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Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Neil Donaldson age 9

Closing Date for both competitions – 8 September 2012. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.

Damsels and Dragons

Summer is prime time to see dragonflies and damselflies in the countryside and the Killearn area is no exception. Pick a warm sunny day and take yourself to a pond, loch or slow moving river where these beautiful and fascinating insects are sure to entertain.

Dragonflies and damselflies are sub-groups of the order Odonta (meaning ‘toothed jaws’). Damselflies are small, slender and dainty insects which swarm over suitable habitat throughout the summer and, depending on the species, well into the autumn. They dazzle with an array of colours:

metallic emerald greens, blood reds and azure blues. They differ from dragonflies mainly in that, when at rest, damselflies hold their wings close in to the body, running parallel to the abdomen. Dragonflies, on the other hand, hold their wings open at 90 degrees to the body and are also generally larger and bulkier brutes.

The life cycles of these creatures are incredible. By a process called oviposition, eggs are laid either directly into the water or within surrounding plants. Thus the larvae (or ‘nymphs’) begin life under water where they eventually



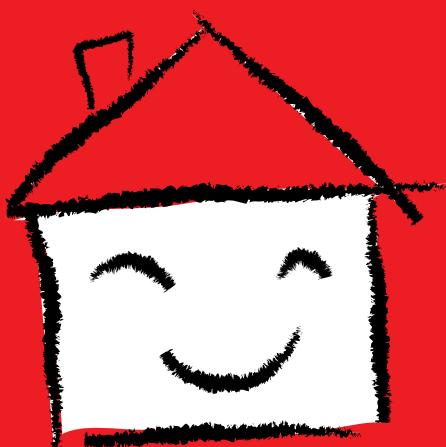
grow into voracious aquatic predators. Emergence occurs after a year or more. Mating characteristically involves male and female locking together to form a ‘wheel’ shape (or, if you are romantically-inclined, a ‘heart’).

Whilst their breeding habits may tie them to water, they are to be found in many different habitats when the sun is shining. The presence of garden and field ponds ensure that we do not need to travel far to encounter the commoner species, although others will only be found in specific habitats such as acidic bog

pools and moorland. Particularly good places to try include the Loch Lomond area, Flanders Moss and Loch Ardning.

Damselfly species to look out for in our area include Emerald, Large Red, Common Blue, Azure Blue and Blue-tailed. As for the dragonflies, keep your eyes peeled for Common and Black Darters, Common Hawker, the huge Golden-ringed Dragonfly and, my favourite, the common and highly territorial Four-spotted Chaser.

Martin Culshaw



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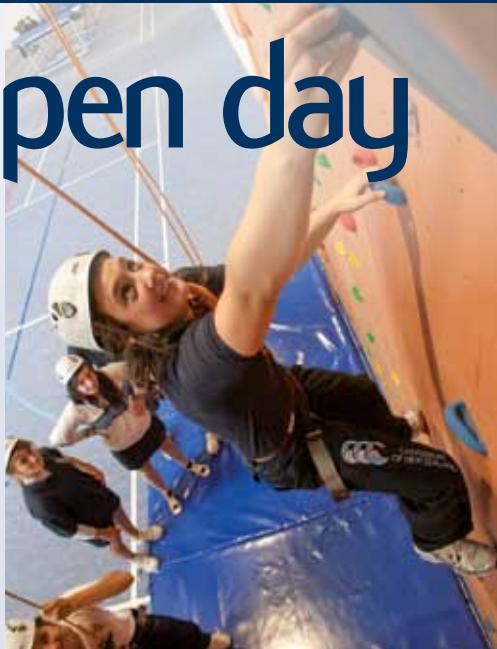
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