

# Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 29

SUMMER 2014

£1



## Changes at the *Courier*

Nothing ever stays the same, and it is with some sorrow I report that the *Courier* Group is to lose two of its members.



Heather Banks, (pictured left) whose first piece was in our Winter 2012 edition, is off to St. Andrews University in September. Her forte was face-to-face interviews, and with her leaving

we have lost someone who represented our young people. If you would like to join us as a Cub reporter, please contact the *Courier*.

Sara Hudson (pictured right) is not just leaving us, but the village as well. She has been with the *Courier* since



we started nearly ten years ago and has been one of the two members responsible for dealing with our advertisers. Without their hard work generating this support, we would not be able to produce the *Courier* free to every household. Our grateful thanks and best wishes go to Sara – she will be a hard act to follow.

I am sure our readers would join us in thanking Heather and Sara for playing such an important part in the team, and that we wish them well in the future.

If you have a yearning to add 'Advertising Executive' to your CV, please contact the *Courier* or if you want more information about what the role entails, contact Gwen Stewart (550856). Ed.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Sir

Many people in the village will have noticed that we seem to have a lot more young mums going about pushing prams, sometimes with a toddler in tow. Their presence is great news for the village as it means that young people choose to come and live here. All this bodes well for the future.

However, the village has to give something back to these residents because living in a community like ours has to be a two-way thing. So wouldn't it be nice if the trail (if you can call it that) which runs between Old Endrick Road and the playpark and down to the school could be made in to something other than an obstacle course? Pedestrians of all ages, never mind mums pushing prams, risk tripping, slipping and going over on their ankles due to the uneven surfaces. How we manage to push our prams without causing our children to get concussion is beyond me sometimes.

There are a lot of mums and toddlers who use this path on their way to the shops, nursery or playpark. We have a lovely playpark – it's just a pity we have to negotiate this hazardous path to get there.

Is this something that the Paths Group could help with?

Yours sincerely,  
Young Mum

Sara writes:

It is with regret that I must resign as part of the *Courier* advertising team. The time is right, for family and work reasons, to move south after 18 years in the village.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone (they know who they are) for all their help and kindness over the years. We really have enjoyed our time here and it will be hard to move on.

May I also wish the Killearn *Courier* continued success; it's a great publication. We need help with advertising – any offers?!!

Thank you, everyone.  
Sara Hudson + family

### Front Cover

The photo montage shows some of the photographs taken by spectators as the baton passed through the village on a wonderful sunny 6 July. It looked like the whole village had turned out. Our thanks go to Margaret Falconer, Alasdair Brown, Hugh Cameron and Jenny Wilks for sending them to us. Ed.

## Please, Please, Please!

Help us out by sending your contributions and articles for the *Courier* in by the deadline dates. The date for a forthcoming issue is always printed in the 'box' at the bottom of page 2. We always try to place everything we get from you in the *Courier*, but sometimes we have to edit items because of the lack of space and this obviously takes a bit of time. Late submissions add to this time and impact on the layout process which, due to late submissions, has to be re-jigged. It may seem to you when you read what the deadline date

for a forthcoming issue, you think to yourself that it seems an awfully long time. Well, it isn't. We have to edit, proofread, check all sorts of things and get the layout done within the allocated time so that we can get the proofs to our printer who obviously needs time to print.

We always welcome your contributions to the *Courier* and we like to think that the community enjoy reading them.

So, please keep them coming in – but on time! Ed.

## Killearn Courier published by:



Anyone wishing to contribute to the November edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 15 November 2014.

**Advertisements and artwork** should be sent to us by Friday, 3 October 2014. Contact Gwen Stewart on 550856.

**Contributions and letters** to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 3 October 2014. Send them to:

36 New Endrick Road, G63 9QT or email to: [courier@kcfc.co.uk](mailto:courier@kcfc.co.uk)

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# Editorial

Hello and welcome to our 2014 summer issue. Hasn't this been a glorious spell of weather? We've seen sprinklers on lawns and gardens being watered which is a bit of a change from previous summers. We've got an article on the weather in this issue and hopefully this will become a regular feature.

Speaking of changes, there have been some since our last issue – except, of course, the houses in the Turnip Field. One of the biggest changes which touches all of us is that affecting our local post offices. For many, many years, we have been well served by our post offices at Dumgoyne and Killearn, but we became aware a while ago that changes were in the offing. In a previous issue, the *Courier* reported that it was likely that the post office at Dumgoyne would move to Oakwood, and this has now happened.

However, not only has the main Post Office at Dumgoyne moved but so has the sub-office in Spar. These services have now become part of the duties of the shop counter staff, who have been specially trained.

The plus side of these moves is that both counters have longer hours.

The down side is that neither post office will provide all of the services we formerly enjoyed. Residents seeking some services they previously appreciated are directed to Balfron or Milngavie, which of course results in transport costs generated by having to travel to either by bus or car. The *Courier* has been told that the services no longer provided are mainly those which can be done online, like renewing your TV licence, taxing your car, dealing with Premium Bonds and such like which means you will have to get online or get on the bus.

The future does not bode well either. The *Courier* understands that the post office at Balfron may be next on the hit list to be incorporated into the shop. What then for our Post Office services?

While you consider that, we've got some great articles in this issue including some about what our young people having been getting up to. It's quite amazing stuff.

Many thanks for all your contributions and once again to our advertisers for their continuing support. Let's support them in return.

Enjoy this issue.



18 Aug	<i>Strathendrick Rotary Club</i> meeting. Black Bull, 6.30 for 7pm. Every Monday thereafter except bank holidays and the last Monday of a five Monday month.
25 Aug	<i>Monday Music</i> Autumn term starts for children between 6 weeks and 5 years. Kirk Hall. Contact Clare Cushing (550166) or go to Monday Music Facebook page to download a booking form.
30 Aug	<i>Killearn Horticultural Society</i> Annual Show. Killearn Village Hall and Kirk Hall. Entries can be staged Friday, 7.30 – 9pm. or Saturday, 7.30 – 10am. Doors open 2pm – 4.30pm, prizes announced 2.30pm. For schedule, contact Glenda Asquith (550142).
1 Sept	<i>Strathendrick Singers</i> Rehearsals resume. Balfron Church, 7.30pm. New members welcome. Contact Ken Allen (550415).
4 Sept	<i>Thursday Club</i> The club meets in the Kirk Hall, 2 – 4pm and thereafter every Thursday. For all pensioners over 60. Contact Peggy Gardner (550558).
6 Sept	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Kirk Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Gwenda Watt ( <a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a> ).
18 Sept	<i>Killearn Community Council</i> Monthly Meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
25 Sept	<i>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</i> . Talk on John Napier by Cairns Mason, marking the 400th anniversary of his discovery of logarithms while living at Gartness Castle. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. <a href="http://www.drymen-history.org.uk">www.drymen-history.org.uk</a> .
29 Sept	<i>Killearn Health Centre</i> Open as normal.
3 Oct	Gala dinner and auction in aid of Robin House and Killearn Kirk, 7pm, Village Hall.
4 Oct	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Gwenda Watt ( <a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a> ).
7 Oct	<i>Killearn Guild</i> Cabaret – our own entertainment. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
15 Oct	<i>Killearn Community Council</i> Monthly meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
21 Oct	<i>Killearn Guild</i> This year's project – 'Mary's Meals'. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
23 Oct	<i>Killearn Community Futures Company</i> AGM. Village Hall, 8pm. The meeting is open to all members and interested villagers. Refreshments will be served.
23 Oct	<i>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</i> . Illustrated talk by Tom Dowds on The Tobacco Barons. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. <a href="http://www.drymen-history.org.uk">www.drymen-history.org.uk</a> .
1 Nov	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Gwenda Watt ( <a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a> ).
4 Nov	<i>Killearn Guild</i> First World War Memories. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
9 Nov	<i>Killearn Kirk</i> Remembrance Service. War Memorial, 10.45am followed by a service in the church.
18 Nov	<i>Killearn Guild</i> Gargunnoch Singers. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.
19 Nov	<i>Killearn Community Council</i> Monthly Meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
29 Nov	<i>Killearn Guild</i> Guild Sale. Kirk Hall, 10.30 am.
4 Dec	<i>Killearn Guild</i> Joint Meeting with Thursday Club, John and Peter entertain. Kirk Hall, 2.00pm.
6 Dec	<i>Killearn Country Market</i> . Killearn Village Hall, 10am – 1pm. Contact Gwenda Watt ( <a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a> ).
7 Dec	<i>Strathendrick Singers</i> . Gartmore Village Hall, 7pm.

If you have any dates for the November issue of the Noticeboard (mid November until mid March), please contact Heather McArthur (550137), [heather.mcarthur@virgin.net](mailto:heather.mcarthur@virgin.net)

## Killearn Kirk Fundraising

Killearn Kirk is planning some fundraising events in aid of Killearn Kirk and a local charity.

On Friday, 3 October at 7.00pm the fun begins with a Gala Dinner in the Village Hall, complete with an auction. The local charity is CHAS's Robin House.

Everyone is welcome, so do put this date in your diary!

Information, including how to buy tickets, is available on :  
[www.killearnkirk.org.uk](http://www.killearnkirk.org.uk).

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor

## Wylie – MacColl



Photography by Jim Maller of Whyler Photos

On a beautiful day on 18 July 2014, Scott Alexander MacColl, a landscape gardener, and Lauren Philippa Wylie, a primary school teacher, both from Killearn tied the knot at Killearn Kirk. Their reception was celebrated at Airth Castle Hotel surround by family and close friends.

## Roberts – Welch



The sun shone on 10 May for the marriage of Barbara Roberts and David Welch. Barbara is the popular housekeeper at Abbeyfield House and David is a chartered management accountant working at Euro Central. The residents of Abbeyfield were able to be present at the humanist ceremony in the garden of the couple's home at 35 Main Street and later at the reception in the Village Hall.

## Clark – Young



The marriage of Felicity-Jayne Louise Murray Clark, daughter of Roddy and Marjorie Clark, Killearn, to Mr Thomas Lovell Stanton Young took place at The Auchrannie House Hotel, Isle of Arran on 22 February 2014. The couple met while studying at St Andrews University. They now live and run their restaurant business on the beautiful Isle of Arran

## All Kinds of Communal Effort

From the moment the programme for the Hoolie came into our letter box, we were open mouthed at both the quality of the publication itself, and the scope and variety of the events. One got the feeling that the Hoolie committee can't possibly have had time to sleep for about a year. They certainly deserve the plaudits that doubtless abound elsewhere in the *Courier*. The weather was mixed, but nothing stopped the enjoyment. The true Brit spirit carried a good number of supporters through the tipping rain of the beer festival, and speaking as a driver, I can recommend the strawberry cider, although you'd have to like your drink sweet.

The Strathendrick Singers' Singalong was another success, and it was great to get the chance to learn the kind of music from the shows that is not often in the Singers' repertoire. The audience for the evening 'concert' was small but appreciative, and entered into the spirit of the occasion. Likewise, those who took part in the Beetle Drive on the Tuesday had an evening of unmitigated merriment as the fall of the dice made fools of us all. I admit to having a momentary spasm of envy as Peter won a packet of wooden spoons for his score – it looked like a pretty

good prize and one I could personally have used. One couldn't go to all the Hoolie events, of course, but there did seem to be a high level of success in the ambitious programme, culminating in the Gala. Even the weather obliged. Only one small shower which didn't last long enough to dampen anything.

The Hoolie is a fine example of a community working together, and it's surely not too big a leap of the imagination to think at the same time of the enormous joint effort involved in producing that marvellous work of art, the Great Tapestry of Scotland. If you haven't seen it yet, do go and look at it if you get the chance. Even those who have never held a needle in anger can appreciate the skill and workmanship. It is breathtaking, and actually quite moving. Scotland's history is displayed in 160 panels, and includes absolutely everything, from Scotland rising from the seas, to the present day, by way of aspects you might not have thought of, like the mediaeval wool trade, the drovers, the herring girls, Elsie Inglis and tenement life. Everyone's in there, and there doesn't seem to be anything left out. There are bad bits as well as good. No one wants to celebrate what happened to the witches, but they're as

much part of Scotland's history as the camaraderie of the steamie. The whole thing is simply brilliant. And it is also the result of a mammoth communal effort.

Each of the 160 panels lists the stitchers and the places where the work was done. The last panel is one of acknowledgement, naming the sponsors and thanking everyone involved. The second last panel refers back to the seas and rocks at the very beginning of Scotland. It is sewn by the Strathendrick Stitchers, members of the Strathendrick branch of the Embroiderers' Guild. On the index beside the panel, the names of the stitchers are listed, and the very last word on the page is Killearn. I was overcome with pride.

Joyce Begg

# Electoral Register

Where will you be on  
18 September 2014?

If you are on holiday or away from home due to work or educational course, etc, you should apply NOW for a postal vote for the Scottish Independence Referendum.

Existing postal voters and new applicants who apply before 8 August will be posted their ballot papers by 28 August, anyone who applies after this date will not be issued ballot papers until 5-6 September

You need to be registered to vote at a Scottish address by 2 September to vote in the referendum, and if you have moved address or will move address before then, apply to register as soon as possible.

Application forms to vote by post or to register to vote are available to collect in local libraries and can be downloaded from [www.saa.gov.uk/central](http://www.saa.gov.uk/central). Young voter registration forms for 15-year-olds who will be 16 by 18 September 2014 are available from the website below.

Completed, signed forms can be returned by scanned email attachment, fax or by post.

More information on eligibility and voting options is available by contacting:

The Electoral Registration Office  
phone: 01786-892289,  
fax: 01786 892255.  
email: [registration@centralscotland-vjb.gov.uk](mailto:registration@centralscotland-vjb.gov.uk).

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## First Responders

A First Responder is a member of the public who volunteers to help their community by responding to medical emergencies while the ambulance is on its way.

Community First Responders are trained in a wide range of emergency skills and use specialised equipment, such as automatic external defibrillators and oxygen therapy. They are then able to provide an early intervention in situations such as a heart or asthma attack before the professional ambulance crew arrives. This improves patient survival and recovery.

Trossachs Search and Rescue have three new Killearn residents on their team: Keith Kemsley joined in April, followed by Stephen Crawford and Stephanie Crawford in June. All are now members of the voluntary rescue team. Within the umbrella of the team activities are Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) using specialist dog teams and first responder duties with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

As members of the team they can be called out at any time to assist with special rescues: e.g. the teams were actively involved with searches at the Clutha Vaults and Stockline tragedies. As First Responders the members book on duty with the ambulance service and when a 999 call is received the team are dispatched to provide urgent first aid and reassurance whilst the ambulance is on route. With ambulance crews often 30 minutes or more away, teams like this provide vital lifesaving work across Scotland. Other key activities include fundraising for, training in the use of, and maintenance of defibrillators (you will see many appearing around public places in the wider community of the Trossachs and Loch Lomond area) as well as providing many sporting and village events with first aid cover. This is a charitable organisation with vehicles, equipment and medical kit funded by donation. Killearn was fortunate to have the money for its first defibrillator anonymously donated by a local resident. However, the crew need support funding to maintain a vehicle and buy essential kit. If you would like to know more about joining or wish to make a donation please email [trossachs.sar@btinternet.com](mailto:trossachs.sar@btinternet.com).



# Active Stirling in Killearn

Get out and about around Killearn this summer and autumn with Stirling Walking Network. As part of Active Stirling's Health and Wellbeing programme there are a number of opportunities on offer within your local area to keep you active and healthy.

Walking is a great way to meet new friends, enjoy the local scenery, get some fresh air all whilst improving your fitness levels. There are currently three different ways to enjoy walking with Active Stirling in the Killearn area:

Killearn and Blane field health walk takes place every Thursday afternoon from 2:00pm – 2.45pm with a variety of different meeting points. A health walk is a short 45-minute gentle led walk. Walk leaders are on hand to ensure you do not have to walk at a pace faster than you can comfortably manage. These walks are free of charge.

If you are ready for a slightly longer walk then perhaps our Rural Community Walks are for you? These walks run each Thursday morning in different villages across west Stirling. They last approximately one hour, at a gentle pace and each walk costs £1.25.

We also recently launched our Nordic Walking programme in the west Stirling villages and this pilot project seems to have been a hit with the participants. Nordic Walking uses specially designed poles to enhance your natural walking experience. With a technique that is similar to the upper body action of classic cross-country skiing, Nordic Walking



A mixed group in Aberfoyle

becomes a genuinely whole body exercise that can be enjoyed at many levels. In comparisons made with regular walking without poles, it has been shown to burn up to a whopping 46 per cent more calories. These walks cost £3 a session and they depart from different locations each week. To take part in these walks you must first attend a training session that will focus on technique to allow you to get the most

out of your Nordic Walking experience.

To find out more about meetings points for the walks and any other questions relating to our walking opportunities in and around Killearn, please contact Tricia Cumming on [cummingp@activestirling.org.uk](mailto:cummingp@activestirling.org.uk) or 07557 439111.

The Otago class in Killearn is going from strength to strength with more and more people realising the benefit of taking part in a weekly class that focuses on strength and balance. Otago is a gentle, fun, easy to follow class, designed specifically for older adults to improve their balance and strength so as to prevent falls in later life. We get great feedback on the positive differences it makes to participants in their day-to-day lives, so why not give it a try to see what all the fuss is about.

Classes in Killearn are on a Tuesday morning (except the last Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 – 10:30 at Killearn Church Hall. Classes costs £2 a session and all are welcome. Please feel free to simply turn up at the class, or if you would like more information in advance, then contact Tricia.

## Please help Killearn keep walking

The Killearn Path Group tries hard to safeguard the enjoyment for residents and visitors who like to walk the many beautiful paths in and around the village. It is really a battle against erosion, invasive vegetation, litter and a diminishing Council budget. We cannot achieve miracles, so each time you step in a muddy puddle, lose a shoe in a sappy hole or trip over a rambling bramble, don't curse; fight back!

### **Become a Path Group Member or Volunteer.**

*There is a bonus, too: it is fun and rewarding.*

Contact:

Mike Gray, Volunteer Co-ordinator (550962),  
Norman McNab (550441),  
or email [paths@kfc.co.uk](mailto:paths@kfc.co.uk)

Volunteering does not commit you to spending lots of time. You are free to choose what you do and when to help. We provide equipment.

The picture shows a member assisting Stirling Council with a 'Bracken Bash' in Killearn Glen on 9 July. A real battle and great for dissipating any aggressive urges!





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# Dad's Stag!

Although my four-year journey with the Stag began with the immortal words from my son in 2009, 'Dad, why don't we do up an old car?', in reality, my love affair with the car goes right back to 1977, when I first found the car on Ritchies Fiat forecourt in Shields Road, Glasgow, where it sat one Saturday morning as an unwanted present from the owner to his wife. Aged 22 at the time, I rushed home to Dad to let him know I had found the new car he was looking for. To my total surprise, he decided to come and have a look, and that was that, as they say.



– a colander had fewer holes. Undaunted, we sent it to Fraser Paton in Gartmore, who spent months undertaking the meticulous measuring and welding necessary to achieve a safe and strong shell for rebuilding. My estimate is that there was around 50 per cent new metal in the eventual result, and the bodyshell was returned to SPL for

The Stag was Dad's first non-company car after leaving a corporate career, and followed a Wolseley 6/110, an Austin Princess Vanden Plas 4 Litre R (longest car name in history and a complete disaster), a Jaguar 420 Saloon, a Ford Zephyr Saloon (long bonnet, short boot – remember ?) and a lovely but ghastly coloured Triumph 2000. Dad had owned an AC Tourer in his youth, and still yearned for open top cars, a passion he sustained until the end of his driving days. The registration number for the AC was from his father, who had been Assistant Chief Constable of the Special Constabulary in Dunbartonshire. A friend who was Chief Constable had purchased ASN 999 for fun – a good Dunbarton number, and apparently Grandpa thought he would follow him and bought BSN 222! The registration passed down through a number of my mother's family cars, and was ultimately inherited by me and appropriately returned to the Stag.

I remember illicit runs in the Stag in the 1970s, and the roar of the exhaust with the roof down was never to be forgotten. Dad only did one thing wrong: he fit a towbar to tow a sailing dinghy on those days! Towbars and Stags don't go – they're bad enough on wet corners without a trailer behind you!

The car was eventually sold to my cousin, who ran it for number of years, and made running repairs to both body and mechanics, but enthusiasm and cash gradually ran out, and the car was driven into a barn at his parents' farm steading in Ayrshire many years ago – I suspect around 1997.

Following the brilliant suggestion from my son, I tracked it down and went round to have a look. There was the car, looking very sad, with its wheels off, and only just up off the ground on wooden blocks. With the help of my good friend Ian Walker (Austin Healey nut), we hauled it bodily out of the barn with my Range Rover at the time, and inspected the damage. We had a seized engine, filthy interior, and two seized wheels. The rest looked deceptively good. Only later was the truth to be revealed!

Nonetheless, I paid my cousin for the wreck, and we trailered it home. With no previous experience, I set about dismantling the entire car, having immediately (and naively) decided that only a complete rebuild would make me feel safe and happy.

After hours of rust showers under the car, I eventually arrived at a bare shell, which then went off to SPL in Dudley for an acid bath. The return of the now bare steel shell was a sight to behold

phosphoretic coating. The experts still say I should have scrapped it!

Thereafter, the car was painted in its original Tahiti Blue by a secret friend who has a long-standing and top quality paint shop – the result was stunning.

Next stop was another several months stay with Tom Gray and Scott Brennan at Brayon Classic Car Engineering in Balloch. Tom was the meticulous builder of the suspension, brakes and fuel system, while Scott built one of his masterpieces in the form of a brand new original Triumph 3-litre V8.

The car was then finally returned to me and another year or so followed when I myself completed the plumbing, wiring, body trimming, cockpit, controls and dashboard reassembly. To this day, I enjoy the fact that although I cannot weld, paint or build engines, I did contribute a major percentage to the overall project myself.

After a pretty frustrating year of teething troubles, including dumping a boot full of oily petrol on a well-known garden centre's car park and being rescued late one Friday night by the RAC from Longforgan, near Dundee, I now finally have a lovely car, which drives very 'sportily', has already done the Rest and be Thankful hill climb, and is a real pleasure to drive.

Would I own another classic? Maybe one day...

Would I do another complete rebuild? Never again!

*Richard Hunter*



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# Strathendrick Rotary Classic Car Tour

Every year the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs sets a 'Drive it Day' when owners of classic cars are encouraged to take their cars out.

The Rotary Club of Strathendrick has organised a charity run for classic cars on this day for eight years and the 2014 tour comprised an eclectic collection of 85 cars – from a 1947 MG to a relatively new 2008 Bentley Continental. All assembled at the Beech Tree Inn for the start of the tour and following a chilly start, those that could soon took down their hoods to take off into the sunshine.

The route went through the villages of Killearn, Balfon, Drymen and Balloch to the military road through Glen Fruin to Garelochhead; along the side of Loch Long to Arrochar and through Glen Croe to the Rest and be Thankful. A highlight of the tour was a run up the newly resurfaced hill climb 'old road' courtesy of the landowners and the Forestry Commission, who gave access.

Event organiser and Fintry resident, Rotarian Joe Norman, who drove his 1983 Porsche 911 Turbo comments, 'The climb up on the new road surface across the new bridge and round the hairpin was exhilarating, made all the more so by the occasional loss of traction due to the recent presence of cattle on the road!'

Following a lunch stop at Ardgartan Hotel, with its spectacular views down Loch Long, the drivers took the road to Tarbet, Loch Lomond then up the loch to Crianlarich, then back through the stunning Trossachs countryside to finish at Culcreuch Castle, where Strathendrick Rotary President David Frod welcomed everyone.

Charities benefiting from this year's tour are Mercy Ships and Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. SMS Tyres of Stirling were the event sponsor, also providing many good raffle prizes. All of the entrants raised money for the two charities by seeking sponsorship from friends, family and work colleagues contributing to an overall £8,000 – a record for the event.

The coveted prize of Sir Stirling Moss's personally signed

Scrapbook was presented by Stirling Council to the winner of the Concours d'Elegance. This year it went to Chas Batchelor for his immaculate 1958 MG Magnette.

The club's president thanked all participants and confirmed next year's Strathendrick Rotary Classic Car Tour on 'Drive it Day', 26 April 2015.

*Joe Norman*

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## Strathendrick Classic Car Club

The Club held its AGM in April. We had a short run in cars newly dusted down from winter storage, we then adjourned to Buchanan Castle Golf Club for a meal and our meeting.

At this meeting, our secretary Phillip Pain retired. Phillip had been secretary for what seemed like aeons. He had contributed greatly to the Club in his calm unfussed manner, to the enjoyment of all the members. Jim Bisset our treasurer also retired, leaving the Club with a reduced subscription and yet in good financial order. Both Phillip and Jim were founder members, and the Club owes them both a huge debt of gratitude.

Hugh McCaig the present owner of the title to Ecurie Ecosse spoke of the heritage of Ecurie Ecosse in the shape of Le Mans winning cars and their transporter, which had been sadly auctioned off to America for many millions of pounds. Hugh also covered much of Scotland's contribution to motor sport.

The Rotary Club's Charity Run was the next event on many

of our calendars.

The Club's annual away event travelled to Powfoot on the Solway Firth via a route organised by Mike Gastall, as usual, with a visually challenging quiz. Twelve cars arrived for two nights at Powfoot with many spending the Sunday going to various sites of personal interest around the Solway. The journey home on Monday was wet – very wet for some!

Members turned out to the Killearn Hoolie and Drymen Gala Day, which unfortunately clashed, and also will attend the Balfon Bash! 2014.

Our annual Club Run also takes place in August. In September we continue our theme of lunch runs with a visit to Inveraray.

Our new secretary is Robin Johnson (E Type Jaguar V12) [robin.johnston1517@virgin.net](mailto:robin.johnston1517@virgin.net) and our new treasurer is Nigel Kelly (Land Rover and Jaguar XK8).

*Douglas Arthur, Chairman SCCC*



Royal Voluntary Service is currently active throughout the Stirlingshire area. We are an age-positive charity, and we give practical support and help to older people based on what they choose or request.

**Volunteers**

We are very keen to recruit volunteers – drivers for transport tasks and non-drivers who can take service users out on foot/wheelchair/public transport, or spend time with them in their home. If you have a few hours to spare now and again and would like to get involved, please contact us. The time you choose to donate is entirely flexible and you will be fully supported throughout your time with the Royal Voluntary Service.

Our volunteers report that they gain experience, confidence and a great deal of satisfaction from carrying out tasks for people. In particular, they are happy with our working arrangements, where volunteers are under no obligation to perform set tasks or hours, and can choose whether or not to accept each task.

**Service Users**

Royal Voluntary Service can offer support to older people in a variety of ways. Volunteers provide transport to medical and social appointments, offer a befriending/good neighbours service, and can help with shopping trips and bringing in shopping. We also have a ‘Home from Hospital’ service, which supports older people for six weeks following a hospital stay, helping them to regain independence and quality of life.

If you know someone who could benefit from the Royal Voluntary Service’s activities, or would like some help yourself, please contact our Stirling office (01786 450718). If you are calling on behalf of someone else, please be sure to let them know first that you are referring them to us.

Please contact us for a chat and we can talk about how you can help the Royal Voluntary Service or how the Royal Voluntary Service can help you.

**Cancer Research UK**

Strathendrick Local Committee is holding a Fashion Show and Lunch at Culcreuch Castle on Sunday, 21 September.

Clothes are by Fiona Wilson, Frox of Falkirk, and the cost will be £25 including a glass of wine.

Tickets will be available from Janet Rutherford (449214) or any committee member.

The Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who collected on behalf of CRUK during the Annual House to House Collection this year and all who gave so generously towards the work of the charity.

The amounts raised in each area are shown below:

Strathendrick Local Committee Annual House to House Collection 2014	
Balfron	£2852.22
Buchanan	£178.38
Buchlyvie	£1064.00
Croftamie	£223.80
Drymen	£971.31
Fintry	£965.09
Gartmore	£152.77
Killearn	£2338.09
Strathblane & Blanefield	£1101.96

**Total Raised £9847.62**

Grateful thanks to all who collected  
and to those who gave so generously



**Crossroads Caring Scotland – West Stirlingshire**

Crossroads Caring Scotland is a national charity with over 30 years experience of providing support for vulnerable people and their carers.

We are seeking essential people who are willing to share in promoting and supporting the work of Crossroads on a voluntary basis. This would primarily be done by promoting the work we do and thus encouraging others to contribute to funding our vital service. Organised, committed and caring people, who feel they would like to help facilitate the survival of this worthwhile charity, may wish to contact us.

We would love to hear from you if you can spare a few hours a month.

The anticipated start of the project:  
1 October 2014.

Please contact Crossroads at:  
14 Buchanan Street, Balfron,  
Glasgow G63 0TT  
[weststirlingshire@crossroads-scotland.co.uk](mailto:weststirlingshire@crossroads-scotland.co.uk)

or phone us on 01360 449400



# Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Show

It's the pinnacle of the grower's year! The opening of the 148th annual show on 30 August, of course. We look forward to admiring gorgeous blooms and juicy vegetables.

But it's not just the green fingered who are represented. The floral arts, baking and preserves show other talents, and the arts and crafts are always looking for both entries and praise.

So get your trowels twitching, your cameras clicking and your creative juices flowing. And with the school holidays to fill, don't forget the youth entries.

Schedules will be on sale round the doors, or look up our website for contacts as well as ideas from the photo page:

[www.killearn.org.uk/kchs/](http://www.killearn.org.uk/kchs/).

Your entries should be taken to the hall either on Friday evening 29 August between 7.30pm and 9.00pm or the following Saturday morning between 7.30am and 10am. No exhibitor will be allowed in the hall after this time.

See you all on the last Saturday in August. *HW*



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# Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for the Friends of Abbeyfield Killearn



Rear: Ray Davidson-Carr, Mike Menzies, John Anderson, Michael Pell  
Front: Valerie Dron, Kirsty Smith, Pat Rodger, Molly Parsons

Early in June the Friends of Abbeyfield – the committee of local folk who give friendship and social support to the residents of the Killearn Abbeyfield – learned they had been selected to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is recognised as the MBE for volunteer groups and is a great accolade for the group, for Killearn and for Abbeyfield.

The small group, comprising John Anderson, Valerie Dron, Pat Rodger, Molly Parsons, Michael Pell, Mike Menzies, Kirsty Smith, Ray Davidson-Carr, Felicity Jackson (*not pictured*), and the late George Harris, provides regular and frequent social contact with the elderly residents. They hold informal coffee mornings, celebrate birthdays and special events, organise entertainment (often inviting young people in), arrange outings with transport and befriend the residents according to

individual need, sometimes taking residents to appointments or visiting them when in hospital. As much as possible they encourage the residents to share in the life of the village and help to avoid a sense of isolation.

Abbeyfield throughout the UK have volunteer groups as an integral part of their functioning, and this award comes as a boost to their nationwide organisation.

The award covers all forms of voluntary work. The Friends of Abbeyfield Killearn group was nominated by other individuals and organisations in the wider community. Their success is measured by the fact that only 111 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service were awarded across the whole of the UK, of which only eight were awarded in Scotland.

Well done to the Friends of Abbeyfield Killearn!

## Police Community Officer Moves On

Constable David McNally who has served the village well for a number of years as our Community Officer is moving on. He has been promoted to Sergeant, and will now be working out of Dunblane Police Office.

Four officers stationed at Balfron have been designated community/response police for Killearn, Strathblane and Fintry and they are PC048 Lorna Deans, PC821 Alan McCallum, PC131 Paul Roose and PC660 Steven Graham. The sergeants at Balfron are PS580 Donald Konkol and PS393 David Hannah. To contact them, or any other Balfron officer, you can dial them on 101 (or 999 in an emergency).

In the case of general queries or requests for police assistance, such as requests from schools, church group talks, invites to meeting and so forth, consider making use of the Police Scotland website where you can navigate to the contact us page. There you can enter details of your inquiry and you will be contacted within a few days at most.

We at the *Courier* wish David every success in his new role along with our thanks, and those of the village, for serving us so well in the past.

## Eva's Challenge

Eva Mailer (12) of Birch Road decided as part of her Girl Guide Baden Powell Challenge to organise and run a jumble sale in the village. With the help of the ladies from Killearn Parish Church and family and friends, a very successful sale took place in the Church Hall on 18 May. A magnificent sum of over £700 was raised. Eva decided to give £500 to projects in Malawi, £80 to the Girl Guide movement and over £140 to the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Well done, Eva.

*S. Macdonald,  
Hearing Dogs for Deaf People*

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## Poetry, Please

Are you interested in being part of a small poetry group? Mostly reading and listening, but also writing, with themed evenings over the dark winter months.

If so please contact Celia Livingstone (550465).

# Killearn Malawi Group

Looking back over this year the Killearn Malawi Group has worked successfully to fulfil its objectives of the prevention and/or relief of poverty, and the advancement of health and education.



Jamieson House (shown in the photo above) is now complete and furnished by many of our donations. It is used by visitors and work parties such as opticians, dentists and engineers. The house enables volunteers to relax and have their own space after sometimes quite hectic days! A Memorandum of Understanding has now been exchanged between the Rev. Levi Nyondo (General Secretary of the Livingstonia Synod) and the Group so that we no longer have any responsibilities for the maintenance and every day costs for the property. One recent occupant was Ben Greenock, Jenifer Barrett's grandson, who spent time in Malawi visiting Mzuzu and Ekwendeni while helping John Challis of the Raven Trust to survey a new bridge and map the GPS location of wells.



Ben helping to map the wells

The Group continues to send donations of women's and men's clothing suitable for the theological students coming out of university and taking up professional positions – they are most grateful for suits, trousers, dresses and jackets. We

also continue to send sewing machines, haberdashery, wool, etc., for the women's income generating project that we support. Primary school books and theological texts, pens and pencils are among other asked-for items. Not forgetting knitted jumpers! Over the past year, Levi has thanked us for over 80 boxes. We continue to support Chrissie Nyrongo in running her widows project.

The 2013 Ladies Wine Tasting evening enabled our group to fund the refurbishment of the children's ward at Livingstonia Mission Hospital. This successful and enjoyable event was organised by Shona Kelday and Elizabeth Simpson. Look out for the 2014 Ladies night event in the autumn!



Ben distributing knitware provided by the group

Our annual Jumble Sale in February will enable the group to support the repair and replacement of ten shallow wells in the Ekwendeni area during the coming year. This is a project that we will support for the next five years. We are also funding a project which enables villagers to farm more of their land using bullocks pulling ploughs. We hope to source small ploughs from our local farming community to send out. If anyone out there has a plough that might be suitable, then please get in touch. We are also funding the construction of a walkway linking villages that are cut off for several months.

Eva Mailer, a S1 pupil, donated £500 from her successful jumble sale to our Malawi Group. It's great to know our group is supported by younger teenagers.

As well as our ongoing projects, Levi wishes to set up a model nursery school with around 150 pupils. This is a worthwhile project for the Group, and we ask you to help us in our efforts to equip this school. Levi asks for donations of the following: baby mattresses and small blankets; fabrics to be used by pupils; small plastic tables and chairs; teachers' aprons; children's books for the library; floor mats; toys, such as small bicycles, balls, outdoor toys, etc.; paper, pens, pencils, crayons and glue.

If you can help us with any of these, then please contact with Jenifer Barrett (550508) or June Thomas (550164).

# 25 Years Dispensing



Killlearn Pharmacy opened its doors 25 years ago in 1989. Balforn's pharmacist, Russell Kirk, was keen to open a branch in Killlearn and went through an unusual recruitment process to find a pharmacist for this new venture. Russell played the trumpet in a big band and the trumpet player sitting next to him just happened to be young pharmacist, Kenny More – and the rest is history.

Kenny, with his colleague Marie Crombie, opened for business on 31 July in the Main Street shop (now LMH). Their first customer that day was well-kent Hugh McArthur. The picture below shows Hugh with Kenny cutting the tenth anniversary cake. Kenny took on the sole running of the business in 1997, when Russell decided to sell. The increasing role of pharmacies and the greater range of services being provided meant that larger premises were needed to accommodate a private consulting room. This coincided with the availability of the converted Lumsdaine Halls, conveniently next door to the Health Centre. After five years the therapy rooms were added to compliment the locally available healthcare services.

Kenny has been a strong supporter of the local community and is most appreciative of the support he has received over the years from his customers, professional colleagues and loyal staff.



Marie dealing with a client



Lumsdaine Halls before the pharmacy fit-out

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# Killlearn Health Centre News

We are delighted to announce that Dr Anna Pickering, who has been training with us over the last three years and achieved her MRCGP recently, will be joining us as replacement partner for Dr Elms. Dr Pickering will join us officially on 1 October 2014. We wish Dr Pickering a long, happy and successful career at Killlearn Health Centre.

### Staff News

Patricia Orr, our long-time serving Medical Secretary retires on 29 July 2014. We thank Pat for all she has given to the surgery over the years, and wish her a long and very happy retirement.

Dr Rachel Affleck will be back with us in August to complete her final year of GP training.

### Travel Vaccinations

We offer a full travel vaccination service at the surgery. Please contact Christine Montgomery, our Practice Nurse, with any questions you may have regarding travel.

### Managed Repeat Prescription Service

Killlearn Pharmacy is running a Managed Repeat Prescription Service meaning you no longer have to contact the surgery to order your prescriptions. Patients who require repeat prescriptions and are interested in this service should contact Killlearn Pharmacy for details.

### Text Reminders

We offer a text service which sends a reminder text to your mobile phone the day before your appointment – a handy service in today’s busy world. If we don’t have it already, please provide us with your mobile phone number. You can contact us via [www.killlearnhealthcentre.com](http://www.killlearnhealthcentre.com) or fill in a slip at reception.

### Shingles Vaccination


If you were aged 70 OR 79 on 1 September 2013 (born between 2/9/33 and 1/9/34 or born between 2/9/42 and 1/9/43) you are entitled to the shingles vaccination. Please contact the surgery.

### Bowel Screening

Bowel Cancer is Scotland’s third most common cancer. If you are aged 50–74 you will receive a bowel screening kit. We encourage all patients to undertake the test. Early detection makes the cancer much more treatable.

Details of all the above at

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



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# The Weather Channel



This new column for the *Courier* intends to keep Killlearn residents informed about local weather. It makes use of a sophisticated Davis Weather Centre (pictured left) that records air temperature, atmospheric pressure, wind speed and direction, and rainfall. Electronic sensors in the weather centre are able to accurately measure weather conditions, sending the information to a computer which stores the data. Identical Davis Weather Centres at Buchanan Primary

School and in Drymen do the same task, and offer the opportunity to compare weather patterns and variability over just a few miles.

The following table summarises our weather over the last five months:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May
<b>Highest Temp (°C)</b>	9.6	10.3	14.0	20.7	27.5
<b>Lowest Temp (°C)</b>	0.1	0.4	-2.7	0.1	4.3
<b>Mean Temp (centigrade)</b>	4.7	5.0	6.7	9.7	11.9
<b>No of days &lt; 0</b>	0	0	3	0	0
<b>Highest Wind Gust (mph)</b>	33.7	98.2	26.6	22.8	15.9
<b>Monthly Rain (mm)</b>	136	153	112	69	76
<b>Most Rain in 24hrs (mm)</b>	12.6	16.9	16.5	13.5	12.3
<b>Days with no Rain</b>	1	0	8	9	11
<b>Monthly Rain (mm)</b>	136	153	112	69	76
<b>Annual Rain so far (mm)</b>	136	289	301	370	446

The Weather Centre has recorded 594mm of rain from October to March which, as residents have no doubt observed, is a wet winter and spring.

November has traditionally been the wettest month of the year in England and Wales, but in western Scotland, it is usually December.

This preponderance of rain over the winter months can perhaps be explained by the fact that the land masses of Asia and North America are rapidly cooling down at this time, while the oceans cool more slowly. This contrast fuels Atlantic depressions that bring our rain.

It is not just in Britain where November and December are the wettest months. The same is true of a large part of Europe, particularly the Mediterranean, where the comparatively warm waters of that sea create a good deal of air moisture.

Our seasonal rainfall does have one major advantage. The water industry’s year – as far as gathering rainwater is concerned – is from October to March, because in a normal year rainfall exceeds evaporation and allows water to accumulate in the ground and in our reservoirs.

After the last winter and spring, our reservoirs should be pretty full and able to cope with very dry or drought conditions later in the year. We shall see!

Tom Renfrew

# Get into Girlguiding in Killearn



Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK, giving girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills, and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for the future. We give them space to have fun. It is enabled by 100,000 volunteers.

In Killearn we are fortunate to have a units for each section: Rainbows (girls aged 5–7); Brownies (girls aged 7–10); Guides (girls aged 10–14+); Senior Section (girls aged 14–26). Each section has a dedicated programme that offers girls the opportunity to develop self-confidence, building friendships, learning new things and having fun. Yes, they do get their hands dirty with arts and crafts or find out how to look after themselves whilst away at camp. There are opportunities to attend camps or events abroad for the Guides and Senior Section girls. All the units take part in the community activities and events. All the units are led by active volunteers who have gained or are working towards their leadership qualification, and are supported by keen helpers and Young Leaders who are members aged 14–17 and can follow their own programme while helping in a unit.

Want to know more? Go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) and look at the pages for the girls to find out what else they do.

Interested in joining a unit or helping with a unit then please contact via the web: <http://tinyurl.com/killearnguides>.



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## Don't get the BBQ Blues!



Stirling Council's Food Safety Team is urging everyone to avoid getting the BBQ blues this summer by following their simple food safety tips.

Following some simple steps can make the difference between a brilliant barbecue and an upset stomach.

### How to have a Safe Barbecue:

- ◆ Wash hands before preparing or handling any food and after handling the raw meat
- ◆ Defrost frozen foods in the fridge prior to barbecuing
- ◆ Keep raw meat and poultry away from rolls, salad, and other cooked food
- ◆ Before you start cooking, the charcoals must glow red with a film of grey ash on them
- ◆ Cook the meat thoroughly. The juices should run clear and there should be no pink bits. It's a good idea to pre-cook poultry in the oven just before barbecuing.
- ◆ Use different utensils for handling the raw meat and don't use fingers for handling food, then you won't contaminate your hands or other food.
- ◆ Keep all the food in the fridge or coolbox until just before you barbecue.
- ◆ Keep your salads in the fridge or coolbox until the barbecued food is ready to serve.

For more information, please contact:  
Deborah Kilpatrick, (01786 233-6036)  
or [kilpatrickd@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:kilpatrickd@stirling.gov.uk)

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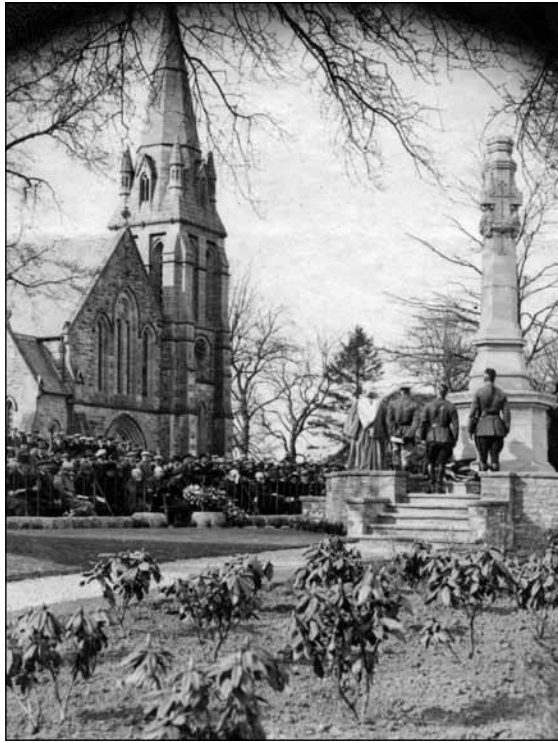
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# A Moment in Time

All Killearn Archive (AKA) has accumulated many photographs over the years with very few of them being able to be accurately dated. The photograph shown here can be timed to the minute – 3.16 p.m. on Sunday, 6 April 1924, and was taken during the service of dedication and unveiling of the War Memorial. This was the culmination of four years hard work by the War Memorial Committee which saw the monument and garden being designed, land being donated and the iron work being put up. The total cost of the memorial was met by public subscription which raised £800, a fair sum in those days, £200 of which was used to set up a fund for its perpetual maintenance.



This photograph came from an album belonging to Mary Rich (née Allin) who visited Killearn in 2008. Mary, whose grandfather lived in the village, had holidayed in Killearn before World War II, and in 1940, she with her mother and sister returned to stay with her uncle, Robert Campbell, to escape the bombing in Dover. The album contained various photographs taken in Killearn over the years and amongst them was the ceremony mentioned. The quality of the original picture is remarkable. Not only was the clock

clearly shown, but at the base of the column we can see the flag which was used in the unveiling ceremony. The dedication of the memorial was conducted by the Rev. Dr Gordon Mitchell, who is also pictured. The large crowd in attendance completely closed Balfroon Road.

Further research by AKA discovered a wealth of information regarding the monument, including accounts of the meetings of the War Memorial Committee, who sat on that committee, and who were contracted to build the monument, fabricate the iron fencing and design the gardens. An extensive account of the dedication service, including verbatim reports of the speeches, is also extant. There is an account of a time capsule being placed in the foundations

which contains a list of the fallen (from WWI), names of the various people involved, as well as a copy of 'Elegy to the Fallen' which was written by the Rev. Mitchell, the last verse of which is engraved on the back of the monument.

If you want to know more about the Killearn War Memorial, or have any information about it, AKA would love to hear from you.

*Peter Smith*

---

## Meanwhile back on the Home Front 1914

Initial panic buying, emptying of bank accounts and even cancelling holidays in August had, by November, resolved itself into a slightly more realistic appraisal of the situation three months into this new European conflict. Indeed one chauffeur, Richard Duff, was sufficiently relaxed to be caught driving up the Blane Road in Killearn in a motor car at the excessive speed of 31mph. He pled guilty at the Stirling Sheriff Court on 14 November and was fined 10s – the alternative being ten days' imprisonment. No mention of Mr Duff's employer (and presumably the owner of the car), of course. The speedy chauffeur obviously hadn't joined up to fight for King and Country in those heady first days of the war, although it's unlikely that his position would be considered a reserved occupation once conscription came into law in 1916. The car might also have found its way to the front.

Social gatherings went on as well, if not perhaps quite as previously. Those attending the 26th Killearn Total Abstinence Society and Band of Hope Annual Soiree held in Killearn's Public Hall on 6 November enjoyed a mixed programme of song, poetry, selections for the piano, and a dance performance as well as a 'stirring address' by a Miss Edwards of the Stirling Temperance League at the interval. The evening was a success, the tea excellent, and even the chairman's 'short and racy speech' to open proceedings was noted with approval by the reporter in the Country Edition of the *Stirling Observer*.

In an editorial, published on 10 October in the *Stirling Observer* the same points were made. After less than two months of war, it would seem that regular life had taken a ragged step to the side, but it hadn't ended. Indeed, compared to northern France and 'ravaged Belgium', Britain was 'almost normal', anticipating an excellent harvest at home and no 'acute distress'. The growing casualty lists were to be expected, and in any case, the editor was certain that the British Navy could keep the sea lanes open, and with them the flow of both commerce and food.

From our present situation a century later, and with hindsight being what it is, we can only marvel at the stoical optimism that is redolent in his final paragraph of the piece:

*We can therefore contemplate the situation with satisfaction and gratitude, feeling that even out of such a fiendish thing as war some good has come. Two months ago we were threatened with civil war in Ireland, and there was also the imminent peril of a large conflict between Capital and Labour. But the war has healed old sores, cemented all causes, and aroused the nation out of the craze for pleasure on the one hand, and the deadly indifference on the other, both of which tendencies were menacing our national welfare. People are now taking life more seriously. There is a keen realisation of the fact that if we are to preserve the heritage bequeathed to us, we must make sacrifices, and not allow the call of pleasure to undermine the sense of duty. War is a stern teacher, but its lessons are useful.* NB

# The Memorial Men

The Killearn Archive Group has been researching the backgrounds and what happened to the men named on the village War Memorial. Seventeen of the men were born within or near the Killearn parish boundary, ten were born elsewhere in Scotland and there was even a single Londoner. All but one of the men's stories have been tied to the village before they went to war: most of them had family ties or had moved here to work in the area. They ranged from school boys, office clerks and estate workers to stone masons and postmen. One of the men even returned from South America to enlist. And while some enlisted in the early months of the war, others were drafted later.

The Army records, archived in London after 1918, were themselves caught up in another war: due to the Luftwaffe dropping bombs on the capital in 1940, about 60 per cent of the ordinary ranks' records were lost. Those that did survive were partly damaged or incomplete. Thankfully the records of 19 men out of the 28 listed survived. Two Canadian records were retrieved from the Canadian Archive website. As well as going to London and copying the five officers' records, a further twelve of the Ordinary British Ranks records were traced online. Most of these had corners missing or were not complete.

The Army records are really interesting. They cover a man's entire soldiering record – when the men had enlisted and when they left Britain for the front as well other information. Three of the men received minor wounds, which got them set back to Britain for a few months. One was sent home before being put in another battalion. Two of the officers were commissioned from the ranks during training and switched regiments. With the dates on when they were sent to the front lines it was possible to track their movements from the battalion regimental War Diaries.

The information a War Diaries includes is the day's weather, what the battalion did on that day, their movements, where and how they got there, plus battalion numbers. The diaries also include information on the officers –when they joined the battalion as well as when they went courses or on leave. The ordinary ranks were shown by numbers killed, wounded, missing or sick. The odd time ordinary soldiers may have been mentioned was if they were awarded a medal and what it was for. Some of the Adjutants who wrote the diaries would fill out a few pages of information for days that they were fighting. Others just gave basic information.

Seven men on our Memorial died of wounds. To get any

chance of finding anything from the diaries, it was necessary to rely on how close their graves were to the front line at the time of their deaths. Sadly, two of the men are buried miles from the front lines: one in Rouen, and the other in the French coastal town of Le Treport (19 miles up the coast from Dieppe). This made it harder to find what on what day they might have been wounded. The fates of the 19 men who were killed or missing in action were easier to discover from the war diaries. Most of the men were killed by shells in their dugouts or caught in 'no-mans land'. Others were killed by machine guns or rifle fire. Of the remaining two, one died in the middle of October 1918 from malaria, while the other died here in Killearn.

The Archive group is also compiling a list of soldiers that survived the war. At present we have a list of 42 men. Luckily, half of their records have survived, and the study of these is part of this ongoing project. Curiously, 5 of the 42 men died, but aren't on our War Memorial, so we are checking into their links to Killearn.

Hopefully we will be able to find more pictures of the men. At present we have managed to find eight pictures, with a possible two more of the Canadian soldiers from a contact in Belgium. From the second wave of troops being sent over, the Canadians started taking pictures of men in groups and putting names to them. We will be adding stories of some of the surviving soldiers that we find, like that of Norman Orr-Ewing who was wounded twice in 1915, and of the two brothers who were taken prisoner in 1918, months before the end of the War, and were repatriated in time for Christmas.

Of the 28 men listed on the memorial, there are still 6 families living in or near Killearn. Speaking to one of the families, I was able to fill in the gaps in their knowledge of their ancestor's war. I showed them the report and, as they read it, the look of anger on their face was soon replaced by a smile at pride in the bravery of their great-uncle's deeds. AKA is always happy to hear from any other villagers, especially if they can tell us some of the stories passed down about their ancestors.

All the information is being compiled and will be put into a booklet about Killearn between 1914 and 1918. As well as the information on the men who fought, we intend to put stories of what was going on in the village during that period. We are searching in the parish records as well as the archives of the Glasgow and Stirling newspapers.

*Robert Hunter*

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## Killearn Prisoner of War Camp

In the winter of 1941–2, a camp was built at the top of Drumbeg Loan to house Italian prisoners of war.

As a young lad, it was entertaining to see them working on farms with the yellow patch on their uniforms. They had a choir which was very good, and they entertained at one or two functions within the village. Fr. Dorati of St Kessog's Catholic Church in Blanefield was their chaplain. (He was of Italian descent.) In 1945 they disappeared as German prisoners came in their place. This continued until 1947. These German POWs were given a choice: did they want to stay here to go back home? Some who stayed included Hans Billman, Eddie Beck, Karl Fisher and A. Marionfelt.

In 1947, along came the European Displaced Persons: Yugoslavs, Hungarians, Austrians, Czechs, Slovenians and Germans. The character I particularly remember was Yusof, a Yugoslavian who worked on Lettre Farm. He also ran a football syndicate on Penny Points. He chose the numbers and any member of the public could take part, staking anything from 1 penny to 20 pence. He did win money, although how much was never recorded!.

During the 'Italian period', it was rumoured that on dark evenings when there was no moon, ladies visited the camp, quoted by one old worthy to another.

# Jim Jardine's War

Jim was born in Glasgow in 1913. He was orphaned at the age of ten and moved to Boquhan to live with his grandparents. He attended Balfour High School where he met Minnie Sanderson. They married in 1936, built Kingsview and, except for the war years, he lived there until his death in 2004.

Jim began his career with the Royal Navy in December 1939 at the minesweeper training port of Port Edgar on the Firth of Forth. He furthered his experience at the anti-submarine training base at Scapa Flow and also at the anti-submarine establishment at Dunoon. Jim was an ASDIC operator specialising in sonar submarine/torpedo detection.

Jim served on HMS *Hamlet* from 2 April 1941–10 October 1941. *Hamlet* is described as an anti-submarine trawler which shared similar duties to a minesweeper. The first convoy to Russia, named Dervish, sailed from Liverpool on 12 August 1941 arriving in Archangel on 31 August. The convoy left Archangel on 28 September and arrived back in the Orkney Islands on 10 October. *Hamlet* was present in the convoy from 12–31 August and again from 28 September to 5 October. There were six merchant ships, three minesweepers, three destroyers and three trawlers on that journey.

During 1942 and 1943 Jim saw service with the Atlantic Convoys. He spent some of that time based in West Africa, sailing from there to escort merchant ships bringing vital supplies back to Britain. One of the ships he sailed on



during this time was HMS *Turcoman*. Like *Hamlet*, *Turcoman* was used to detect the presence of dangerous enemy submarines.

In the final years of the war Jim travelled to Australia to an anti-submarine training unit near Sydney, HMS *Golden Hind*. From there he helped train Australian sailors in sonar detection. Jim returned from Australia aboard HMS *Devonshire* and was released to shore in February 1946.

From August 1941 until May 1945 there were 78 Arctic Convoys. The convoys consisted of merchant ships carrying tanks, fighter planes, fuel, ammunition and food escorted by ships from the Royal Navy and the US and the Royal Canadian navies. Sir Winston Churchill described it as 'the worst journey in the world'. As well

as facing enemy air, submarine and surface attack, the men had to endure extreme cold, storms, fog and ice. Many vessels were lost and thousands of seamen died. There is a memorial to these men at Loch Ewe on the northwest coast of Scotland.

In 2012, following a medal review carried out by the Ministry of Defence, the Government decided to acknowledge the brave contribution made by the men of the Merchant Convoys and their naval escorts with the creation of the Arctic Star Medal (*Illustrated*).

During the war, Jim earned the WW II 1939–45 Star, the War Medal 1939–45 and the Atlantic Star Medal. David, Mary and Jamie are very proud to add the Arctic Star Medal to that collection.



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# What's in a name?

Welcome to Killearn proclaim the timber signs which greet visitors and residents alike upon entering this historic Stirlingshire village. However, what those visitors and residents might fail to spot is a curious word occupying the small space beneath this salutation. Sharp-eyed individuals who observe the word *Kill-ear-rhin* might be forgiven for assuming that this is the original Gaelic form of Killearn. However, evidence exists in the historical record to suggest all may not be as it appears.



Stirlingshire, as with much of west-central Scotland, straddles a linguistic crossroads where evidence of Old Gaelic, Early Scots (Inglis), Old Welsh (Cumbric) and even Old Norse influences can be seen in the place names. Killearn is one example of the Old Gaelic heritage of the area, but what do we know of its origins?

To return to our welcome sign, the rendering of Killearn as *Kill-ear-rhin* can be traced to *A Topographical Dictionary of Scotland*, first published in 1864 by Samuel Lewis. Lewis states, ‘The name of this place is supposed to have been derived from the compound Celtic term *Kill-ear-rhin* signifying the church of west point which is descriptive of the situation of the church near the western extremity of a mountainous ridge twenty miles in length extending from Killearn to Kilsyth and called Campsie Fells.’

Although absent from the Gaelic alphabet, the letter ‘K’ commonly appears in Early Scots renderings of Gaelic names to distinguish a hard sounding ‘C’, (e.g. Celtic Connections), from its soft cousin, (e.g. Celtic FC). However, the construct of *Kill-ear-rhin*, described by Lewis as meaning ‘church of the west point’, is open to question. Furthermore, earlier records point to an altogether different origin of the name.

James B Johnston’s *The Place Names of Stirlingshire*, the second edition of which was published in 1904, provides evidence which indicates that during the thirteenth century, Killearn was first recorded as ‘Kinern’. Johnston states, ‘Killearn is one of the names which have changed. Originally, and until the fifteenth century, it was *Kinern*, i.e., “head of the district” – c. 1250 *Kynerine*, *Kynhern*, 1275 *Kyllarn*, c. 1430 *Killern*. At first “head or height”, Gaelic *cinn* or *ceann*, but now “church”, Gaelic *cill*, “of the division or district”, *earrann*.’ What Johnston neglected to offer was an explanation as to why *Cinn/Ceann* (‘Kin’), in use during the thirteenth century, was altered to *Cill* (*Kil*). More recent publications on this subject, including *Place-names of Scotland* by Iain Taylor (Birlinn, 2011), also draw similar conclusions to those of Johnston as to the origin of Killearn.

Other recent translations of Killearn have stressed the *cill* (‘church’) element of the name, suggesting that this infers an ecclesiastical connection, specifically with Saint Ernan, a relative and follower of St Columba. Indeed, some online Gaelic vocabulary databases show Killearn as *Cill Earnain* (Stòr-dàta Briathrachais) and *Cill-earna* (Briathrachan Beag), with a Scottish Parliament document also asserting that Killearn translates as ‘Ernan’s Church’. However, such sources overlook the original Gaelic and its early Scots renditions of

*Kynerine*, *Kynherine*, *Kynhern*, etc.

In attempting to make some sense of it all, expert assistance for this article was obtained from the University of Glasgow’s Scottish Toponymy in Transition (STIT) project’s chief researcher, Dr Simon Taylor. Dr Taylor states that ‘from the early forms the first element would seem to be *ceann* “head, end”, only later becoming *Kil-*. Regarding the second element, there are several possibilities, and without further research we cannot be certain about any of them. One possibility is that it is Gaelic *earrann* – share, portion, division of land (Old Gaelic *airrann*), the element found more certainly in names such as *Arnprior* and *Arnvicar*. It could also possibly be Gaelic *fearann* – land, domain, territory (Old Gaelic *ferann*). The “f” would disappear through a process known as lenition. So “end of (the) land, end of (the) territory”’.

With regard to the ‘church of the west point’ (*Kill-ear-rhin*), Dr Taylor states, ‘we can rule out *cill-*, but I think we can rule out the rest of this as well. Old Gaelic for “head or end of the west point” would be something like *cenn ind renda tìar*. I just don’t think this could have developed into Killearn’.

In considering all the available evidence, the most likely origin of Killearn rests with *Ceann Earrainn/Ceann Fhearainn*, translating as ‘end of (the) land’ or ‘end of the portion of land’. Quite what ‘land’ this refers to, and how this place name eventually became Killearn, we can but speculate. However, this writer would venture to suggest that the ‘land’ in question refers to the Campsie Fells, and the church itself may have been responsible for the ‘*Cill*’ element in order to advertise to those passing through the district the presence of a house of worship within the village. What we can be certain of is that sufficient evidence exists post-Lewis which indicates that *Kill-ear-rhin* is not what Lewis, or indeed our timber welcome signs, suggests.

R. Knight

# Killearn Primary School

## The Launch of KPS Kids

Killearn Primary's *Pressgang* are delighted to have published the first edition of their magazine KPS Kids. It has been a great success and hopefully the start of many more editions! Katie (P5) came up with the idea of a magazine 'for the children by the children' and has worked with the *Pressgang* to bring her ideas to life.

Money from sales of the magazine covered production costs, and also raised a total of £27.50 for Yorkhill Children's Hospital and a donation of £11.00 to school funds.

*Katie (P5) and Sarah (P6)*

It looks as though the *Courier* has a rival on the block - *Ed*.

## Killearn Nursery Leavers' Party

There was not a dry eye in the hall on Tuesday, 24 June when the Nursery had their leavers' celebrations.

The party started with fun pop tunes, followed by very competitive musical statues and bumps! Then it was the time for the delicious food: a feast of crisps, sandwiches, juice, rice crispy cake and fruit.

There was a slide show of photos presenting their year in Killearn Nursery. After that, the children were presented with wonderful certificates and well-deserved gifts.

The children all enjoyed the day and looked very smart. The parents looked very proud! We are all looking forward to welcoming them into Primary 1 in August.

*Ross and Ben*

## P7 Leavers' Assembly 2014

On Wednesday, 25 June 2014 it was the Primary 7 leavers' assembly. It was a memorable assembly because Mrs Riddle was also retiring.

First, awards were presented. The senior Citizenship Award was won by Lochlann and, since competition for the junior award was so tight, there were two winners: Audrey and Matthew S. Next was the Outstanding Achiever Award, which was won by Cameron. The House Cup and the House Sports Cup were presented next. The House Cup was won by Rowan House and the Sports Cup was won by Beech House. The award for Best Team was presented to Primary 7's Rota Peeps, which helps eradicate Polio.

Since Primary 7 are leaving, the school had to allocate new house captains. Beech's new house captains are Rosie and Fraser, Rowan's are Kieran and Emma, Oak's are Ben and Scott, Willow's are Ross and William and Maple's are Finlay and Callum H.

Mrs Craigie read a poem about moving on, dedicated to the P7s and Mrs Riddle. P7 then showed some photos from P1 to P7. The Primary 7s ended the assembly with a song from their class band.

*Pressgang*



Children from Killearn Primary School recently took part in Benview Garden Centre's competition to create a mini garden. Over the past week, children have worked together with their families to design and bring their ideas to life. There were a fabulous range of entries, from fairy gardens, to dinosaur parks and tidy cottage gardens. Creativity was also seen in the variety of containers used – featuring old buckets, wheelbarrows, vegetable crates, even a tricycle and a giant tea cup!

Judging and prizes were presented to children at the garden centre on Saturday, 8 June, after which the gardens were on show and much admired by visitors. Killearn Primary pupils were delighted to receive a number of Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards, which came with lovely gardening packs, as well as many Highly Commended Certificates. Two of the winners are shown below.

Elizabeth Stewart P5 (*pictured above*) was over the moon to be awarded the overall Best in Show award – winning a fabulous gardening kit for herself and a £100 gift voucher for the school.

Benview Garden Centre organised the garden design competition to encourage young people to get interested in gardening. The competition was open to all nursery and primary school aged children from around Aberfoyle, Port of Menteith, Gartmore and Killearn, and attracted over 100 entries. Graham Scott of Benview was surprised and pleased with the range of designs and the imagination, effort and thought that went into each garden. The competition will take place again next year; information will be available on their website ([www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk)).



Finlay Millar P6 - Silver



Chantel MacLellan P5 - Bronze

# Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society



Martin Turner receiving the cup from Colin Dolley

It might have been Stirling's big weekend, but the weekend of the 27 June also turned out to be the biggest couple of days in the history of Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society, as its actors were crowned the champions of Britain.

FADS' production of Seamus O'Rourke's *Victor's Dung*, a play about the life of a foul-mouthed Irish farmer, beat the best plays from England, Northern Ireland

and Wales to take first place in the British Final of the Community Drama Association's one-act play competition at the MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling, on Friday and Saturday.

'Naturally, we're absolutely ecstatic,' said Martin Turner who sourced and produced the multi-award-winning Fintry production. 'Over 500 plays from all over the United Kingdom set out in February to try to win this title, the one title in the whole of community drama that everyone wants to secure, and for a small club like Fintry to take the top award, for the first time in its history, is hard to believe.'

'FADS was formed in 1977 and we've had a great many "highs" over the years, but there's no doubt that this is the proudest moment in the club's history', explained FADS' chairman Tony Flisch. 'Martin and the three fine actors in *Victor's Dung*, Iain Howie, Andy Barr and Jack Doyle, together with a small, dedicated and focussed support team, have put in a huge amount of time and work to bring the club this fantastic success.'

The Fintry production has now competed in five festivals, winning them all and collecting 15 trophies along the way. That particular performance was due to be the last but, such is the demand from groups around the country to see *Victor's Dung*, the club accepted an invitation from Birsay Drama Club to perform the play on Orkney. The team will travel to the island at the end of the July.



FADS very much welcomes and encourages new members regardless of experience. Whether you are a beginner or already have experience, you will be made welcome. We have a need for people to direct, act, design sets, manage, alter and make costumes, manage the lighting, deal with sound, help front of house, with ticketing, run the bar, provide teas, etc. You most certainly do not need to be an actor to join us – we have a real need for people to help with all aspects of our productions.

You can follow Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society on Facebook <http://preview.tinyurl.com/fadsfb> or visit our website at <http://fintrydrama.org.uk/>.

For more info email [secretary@fintrydrama.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fintrydrama.org.uk).

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## Killearn Golden Years Club



Thanks to the generosity of the Killearn Trust and Foundation Scotland, 30 members enjoyed a wonderful annual outing, this year to Ayr where they had a lovely meal in the Mercure Hotel, strolled round some shops and took in the sea breezes, all in perfect weather.

For information about the club, contact:

Bob Ballantyne (550310).

In accordance with normal electoral procedures for community councils, Killearn Community Council (KCC) was formally disbanded in October 2013. Several experienced members stood down after many years service to the community – Brenda Pell, our very able Chairman, whose wise counsel guided many a difficult discussion; Peter Wilks, Vice Chair and Minutes Secretary, who had served on successive Community Councils for almost 30 years; Nigel Kelly, Roads Correspondent, whose professional knowledge proved invaluable in this role, and Peter Rea, who had a thorough knowledge of the planning process as Planning Correspondent. The loss of their expertise and collective memory of the Community Council will be keenly felt.

The Community Council was reconstituted in November 2013 for a four-year period, with Margaret Harrison as Chairman; Margery Burdon, Secretary; David Scott, Vice Chairman and Treasurer; Jim Allan, Roads Correspondent; Andrew Donaldson, Webmaster; Heather Wright, Health and Waste Management Correspondent; Janet Duncan; and from February 2014 David Morley. Christine Bauwens has been recruited as Minutes Secretary. Killearn is one of the few community councils to have youth representation, and we were fortunate to have Ellie Cairns and Eilidh Robertson as our Youth Members. Their advice on matters of interest to the young people of Killearn is very much welcomed.

In addition to our normal business of dealing with correspondence, responding to public consultations and scrutinising planning applications, some important issues were discussed during the year:

- ◆ *Priority Based Budgeting (PBB)*. With an annual budget of £200 million, Stirling Council (SC) requires to make savings of £29 million over the next five years. Feedback was requested on a range of options, considered under three budget categories: transformation options, efficiency options, and stop/reduce. Public meetings organised by SC were helpful, but the short timescale and lack of guidance on the nature of the response were a difficulty. KCC, along with other community councils, objected to proposed reductions in respite care, educational opportunities, grants to voluntary bodies and waste management. The agreed SC budget for 2014–15 took account of community views, and similar budget discussions will take place in future years.
- ◆ *Local development Plan (LDP)*. Stirling Council's Proposed LDP, together with a summary of the unresolved issues and the full text of comments and objections from members of the public, were considered by the Reporter to the Scottish Government during 2013–14. The Reporter's decision was announced in March 2014: the 50 houses proposed for the site on Station Road were deleted from the LDP, and the 30 houses originally suggested for the field below Blaressan House were restored to the LDP. KCC and the wider community in Killearn will have the opportunity to comment at every stage – when the development brief for this site is published, public consultations held and planning applications submitted.

- ◆ *Killearn Hospital site* was approved in the LDP for mixed housing and business use. However, the Reporter considered that development was unlikely in the near future because of the costs of clearing the site. This is unacceptable to the people of Killearn. The hospital closed in 1973, the buildings are derelict and in a state of collapse and the site is an eyesore in a major tourist area on the approach to the Loch Lomond National Park. KCC made strong representations to SC that the hospital site requires to be cleared as soon as possible. Activity was observed on the site in June 2014 and hopes were raised that clearance work might be under way, but the work proved to be unconnected with the clearing of the site.

- ◆ *The Bungalows on the Turnip Field*. This project, involving SC using its own workforce to build six semi-detached bungalows for the elderly or for people with varying needs, was begun in August 2012. The houses were due for completion in March 2013, but are still not completed at June 2014. SC states that the houses are completed internally, but no water supply has yet been connected. KCC has made repeated complaints to SC about the lack of progress, and Stirling Observer published a feature on the project. At the time of writing, work has commenced on site to replace supply pipes taking water from the mains to the houses.

- ◆ *Post Office provision*. KCC supported the proposal to move Dumgoyne Post Office to new accommodation within the Oakwood Garden Centre from April 2014 onwards. The new facility will be open seven days a week, and the Village Post Office will also be open seven days a week from June 2014. KCC paid tribute to the excellent service provided by local postal workers, particularly our Postmistresses, Jay Houghton and Janet Duncan, who both recently retired.

- ◆ *Broadband*. We were represented at a meeting organised by SC with Digital Scotland, the organisation appointed by the Scottish Government to ensure that superfast broadband is delivered throughout Scotland. Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) infrastructure will be required for most areas to allow download rates of around 80 Mbps, compared to about 8 Mbps currently available in the village. Killearn is due to be upgraded in the second half of 2016, and it will be important to ensure that the surrounding rural areas are upgraded and not only the village of Killearn.

Other business included responding to a Community Empowerment consultation, now published as the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill 2014. This will extend the community right to buy land and building, and involve communities to a greater extent in agreeing priorities for action by public bodies. KCC supported a Community Petition by the people of Boquhan and Killearn for improvements to the safety of the footpath between the



## KCC Annual Report (continued)

two villages. We hosted speakers from SC Trading Standards Department on doorstep crime, which targets the elderly and vulnerable in particular, and from First Bus Group, Balfron Garage. We welcomed the inclusion of Killearn in the Commonwealth Baton Relay, which took place on Station Road and Balfron Road on Sunday, 6 July. Fields in Trust status was confirmed with the erection of a cairn and commemorative plaque on the football field.

Finally, I should like to thank all members of KCC for their hard work during the year, especially Andrew Donaldson for redesigning our website, and Christine Bauwens for her excellent minutes. Thanks also to our local councillors, Alistair Berrill, Graham Lambie and Ian Muirhead for their support. Congratulations are due to our Community Police Officer, David McNally on his promotion to Sergeant. We are losing both of our Youth Members, Ellie and Eilidh, and we wish them well as they move on to new challenges. Emily Gardner will join us as a Youth Member and we require another Youth Member.

We have three vacancies for Community Councillors. We are particularly keen to recruit a Planning Correspondent, so if you have an interest in, or professional knowledge of this area we would be delighted to hear from you. As you see from the above report, the work is varied and interesting, so please consider joining KCC.

*Margaret Harrison,  
Chairman KCC*



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## Village Action Plan

In the last *Courier*, we announced a new action plan to replace the one published in 2003. The steering group has been busy following the steps necessary to create something that will reflect the range of opinions of villagers, yet be a plan for future action that is generally accepted.

The first stage was a great success. Over 100 came to our evening 'get together' in May and in discussion groups thrashed out what they liked about the village, things they didn't like and what they would like to see happen in the future. It was particularly pleasing to see many youngsters present, who had their own discussion group. Everything that was said was collated and grouped into 11 categories with the invaluable help of Pam Campbell and her team from Stirling Council.

The next stage is a questionnaire, based on these categories, which will be delivered to every household. It will also be on the internet, so you will have the choice of filling in and returning the survey or filling it in online. We are confident that this will allow everyone to take part in determining the future direction of the community. The questions are still being debated, but it is hoped that it will be delivered to you early autumn.

It is very important that you fill in the questionnaire so that the final plan truly reflects the opinion of the village. KCFC has a special page on its website [kcfc.co.uk/cap.html](http://kcfc.co.uk/cap.html) where you can keep up with what is happening.

## Park awarded 'Fields in Trust' Status



To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, a scheme to protect open spaces in perpetuity was established. Communities were invited to propose and vote for any outdoor space in their community to become a Queen Elizabeth Field. The area comprising the football field, children's play area and all the open space

between Endrick Road and Crosshead Road was proposed. It received such an overwhelming number of votes from the community, it was one of the small number in the Stirling area chosen. This means that this area is protected as open space for future generations.

For more information go to <http://tinyurl.com/killearn-fit>.



## Inner Wheel

The Inner Wheel Club of Strathendrick raised £355 to cover the cost of two evacuation chairs and one sled for use in the newly refurbished Village Hall.

These items are a meaningful addition to the running of the Village Hall Complex, and the Management Committee were very appreciative of this donation.

The photograph shows President Pat Rodger and Past President Betty Meikle with the chairs and the sled in the background.



*S. Menzies.*

# Killearn Tennis Club

The tennis season began with three well attended Open Days. The highlight was possibly the Hoolie Tennis Event – the sun shone brightly for most of the afternoon whilst a lively tournament took place. When the heavens eventually opened as the tournament drew to an end, the players were rewarded with strawberries and cream and juice or Pimms in the clubhouse. The tennis and the refreshments were enjoyed by all.



The teams have experienced much success this season. The ladies' team had many close matches. The final one being at Dunblane which concluded with a champagne toast and a surprise appearance by 'Andy', which Sara Hudson particularly enjoyed. The Under-12 and Under-14 teams also enjoyed some great matches in the Dunlop Central League. The Junior Leagues consist of six or eight teams and the matches are played at home and away. It is a great experience for the boys playing the away matches in particular, because they have the opportunity to play on different court surfaces. They played teams from Stirling, Bridge of Allan, Dunblane, Kippen, Crieff and Falkirk. The Under-12s finished third overall in the league and the Under-14s, who have some matches still to play at time of going to press, are positioned mid-table.

The Under-12s team consisted of Harry Hudson, Jack McLaren, Sean Curtis, Keiran Curtis, Christian Lamb, Gregory van Wyk, Ross Faichnie and Scott Forbes. While the Under-14s comprised Matthew Cornes, Lewis Forbes, James Girvan, Harris Cartwright and Jack Rice. The boys

have benefited hugely from the coaching sessions offered by Hannah Pickford (Head Coach) and her team. The Tennis Club Committee would like to thank Amanda Forbes and Elaine Cornes for their hard work and commitment to organising the junior teams.

The Tennis Club plans to hold several charity events during the season. A sponsored 'Tennisathon' will be held on Sunday, 7 September in aid of Pancreatic Cancer UK and the British Heart Foundation. The proceeds from October's Country Market Tearoom will be donated to McMillan Nurses.

Look out for posters on village noticeboards detailing forthcoming tennis events and do come along and see what we have on offer. For membership information please contact Elaine Henderson: [elaine\\_hen11@hotmail.com](mailto:elaine_hen11@hotmail.com), phone 551120, or visit [www.killearntennisclub.org.uk](http://www.killearntennisclub.org.uk).



L to R Kieren Curtis, Scott Forbes, Sean Curtis, Christian Lamb, Greg van Wyk

*Dates for your diary:*

Autumn Coaching starts:	Monday, 25 August 2014
Sponsored Tennisathon	Sunday, 7 September 2014
Country Market (supporting McMillan Nurses)	Saturday, 4 October 2014

*S. Bell*

## Kayaking for Boys!

In April this year, Ben from Killearn and his school friend, Morgan, completed the Devizes to Westminster kayak race, known as the hardest kayak endurance race in the world.

The race begins at Devizes on the Avon and Kennet Canal with over 300 boats competing, and continues until the Thames is reached, passing places such as Newbury, Hampstead, Henley, before the finish at Westminster.

The race goes through 77 locks. To negotiate these, the competitors have to lift their boats out of the water and run with them for up to a mile before setting off again on the next leg. The tricky bit – as if this doesn't sound tough

enough – is that competitors never stop for food... they eat on the go, fed as they run by the willing parents who make up the support teams. Ben and Morgan began their training in September 2013 with their coach Michael Yeomans. Each weekend on cold dark mornings the boys would rack up the miles on Loch Lomond, at times using head torches to see!

The boys completed the challenge in just under 24 hours over 4 days, exhausted but jubilant, and were presented with their medals by the Mayor of Devizes.

The next challenge is a similar race in South Africa, the Dusi. Watch this space!

SC

# Olympic Inspiration

One of the ambitions of the London 2012 Olympics was to stimulate a legacy of greater interest and participation in sport – particularly among young people. This legacy has been realised in no small measure through two local girls who go to Kelvinside Academy, Monica Sloan and Ellie Kemsley.



The school organised a trip to the Olympics and some of Ellie and Monica's year group watched the British handball team – a relatively unknown sport that gained quite a following at London 2012. After their experience – and with a little persuasion – their teacher (who wasn't even a PE teacher) trained as a handball coach and started a team at the school. Enthusiasm was kindled and soon afterwards boys, girls and mixed teams were entered into the school and national league. The girls and mixed teams enjoyed success, winning the school and national league, followed by an impressive seven girls being selected to their country.

There were some proud parents in the village in April as two local girls gained their first international caps for Scotland. Monica Sloan and Ellie Kemsley (both 13) had only been playing handball for a year, when they were chosen to play for the U-14 team against Denmark U-16s. While they lost in an exciting game in the match held at Inverclyde in Largs, it was a fine example of the legacy of such a sporting event like the Olympics and how it can bring out the best in our youngsters.

So what other successes are there amongst the young of Killearn? Proud parents let us know! And did Glasgow 2014 inspire you – or someone you know – to develop your sporting prowess?

## Rugby Round Up

Strathendrick Rugby Club was proud to see its former player, Colin 'Budgie' Gregor, lead the Scotland Rugby 7s team in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games – and delighted to see him welcomed to Killearn as Guest of Honour at the Hoolie.

Looking forward to the 2014–15 season, the Junior sections of the Club plan to go from strength to strength. The Midis had a great tour to Harrogate to complete last season and will run S1/2 and Under 16 teams this year – in close collaboration with Balfron High School. The Minis enjoyed their tour to Berwick and launch their season at their Open Day on 24 August: new players are most welcome.

The Club boasts fantastic training, playing and social facilities at its home at Fintry Sports Club, and plans to use that to help to attract new talent to the senior teams as the squad develops under the expert guidance of coach Dave Barrett and the leadership of skipper Ritchie Bruce, from Killearn. Training is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7pm at Fintry. New recruits are always welcome.

For more information on Strathendrick visit [tinyurl.com/q7hm7ja](http://tinyurl.com/q7hm7ja)



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## Tuesday Badminton

We are looking for new members to join our group that plays badminton on Tuesday mornings, 9.15 – 10.15am in the Village Hall. We all play at different standards, but are keen to have fun and exercise whilst playing. It is also an opportunity to catch up in between games. After the game, when time permits, we move from the hall to the coffee shop. We are able to operate a crèche to enable mums, dads or carers to join in. It costs £3 a week to play (generally only during school term time). Interested to find out more?

Contact Sue (550485) or [sbeck89@live.co.uk](mailto:sbeck89@live.co.uk).

# Curling Sweep Up

The season ended with the AGM and prize-giving at Buchanan Castle Golf Club.

Donnie MacDonald was elected as Vice President and also Secretary. As a tribute to Past Presidents George Harris and Marshall Falconer, the Club agreed to acquire a new cup for the closing bonspiel which will be called the Harris Falconer Trophy.

In the mixed club matches, the Spring League was won by Stephen Holden's team of Bob Glass, Di Jackson, Rita Harris and John Roy, who lost only one match. Mike Jackson's team of Archie Banks, Tony Flisch, Anne Lang and Ronnie Miles were second.

There was no closing bonspiel this year as fixtures were re-arranged to allow members to attend George Harris Memorial Service.

In the Ladies Section, the winner of the Rowan Salver Spring League was Marie Elder's team of Gill Smith, Elspeth Murdoch and new member Maureen Royston. Pat Rodger's team of Rita Barth, Norma Mitchell and Marion Richardson were second. The Ladies finished their season with a closing bonspiel which resulted in each of the 4 teams ending with 4 ends each; something unheard of! Betty Meikle's team of Rita Harris, Marion Richardson and Norma Thornton were declared the winners by virtue of being +3 shots.

Gill Smith was Club Curler of the Year, while Alison Robertson was the Ladies Section Curler of the Year.

The Club continued its disappointing year in the Province competitions finishing in the middle of both the Robert Paterson Shield league and the Gordon Mitchell Rosebowl bonspiel and losing in the semi-final of the Jim Carswell knock-out. We did, however, win the Forest Hills League. We also won the Ballikinrain Cup against Balfron and Fintry. Some members played in the Beattie Open Points at the Peak, where our most successful

player was Fiona Glass, who won the Senior Ladies Section and beat all the Senior Men as well.

The Peak has been selected to become the National Centre for Curling and there are plans to build a further four sheets. Also, The Royal Caledonian Curling Club is proposing to move to the new extension and open a curling museum.

Lauren Gray from Balfron was the fifth player in the Ladies Team at the Winter Olympics and, at the Province AGM, some of us were privileged to see and hold her bronze medal, which is surprisingly thick and heavy and includes a large piece of carved glass.

For more information about our curling activities, please visit:  
[www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk](http://www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk).

We are a very friendly club and enjoy a variety of social events. Our curling standards cater for all ranges of abilities so if you are interested and want some exercise in a friendly atmosphere, contact Donnie MacDonald (01389 830442) or Gill Smith (550726) or visit our website. GS



Forest Hills League players with trophy

## Killearn Football Club News

With half of the 2014 Forth and Endrick Season played, the team are having their best season for many years and at present lie third in the Leslie League, since losing the last fixture 2-1 away to Gargunnoch. The side are unbeaten in the rest of the league games played, winning six and drawing four. The team have also done well in the first two cup competitions. They reached the semi-final of the McGregor-Fergusson, before losing the game 2-1 to a strong Aberfoyle team. Then, after topping their Margaret White Section with good wins over Deanston and Blanefield, the team lost out at the semi-final stage to league leaders Drymen, 4-3. The next report will reveal if the team's form continues to the end of the season.

Hoolie 10k Run, and all did very well to complete the course, despite some facing the Pain Barrier before the run started (Banksy and Jazzi, not to name names). Simon Sweeney was the first KFC member back, finishing in the Top 10. Ewan Woodley was the winner of the 'under 20' runners. The Club would like to thank the Hoolie Committee for the donation of a Cup which will be presented at the Player's Night later in the season to the runner with the most improved time from the previous year.

All the runners collected sponsorship which will be put towards the Pavilion Fund. At present the Club is waiting on the result of two applications made to grant awarding trusts which will complete the funding required to get the project started, hopefully at the end of this playing season. DB

Off the field, 19 members of the Club took part in the

# BHS footballers in Spain



In May, a group of pupils from Balfron High School went to Valencia in Spain, for a football trip. The Spanish are reigning World and European champions and a lot of this is due to their youth development programmes. Valencia's youth training has produced many world-class players such as Roberto Soldado, Juan Mata and David Villa.

When we arrived and got off the plane, the first thing we noticed was the heat. We were going to struggle playing football in this weather. We got to our hotel and went straight to the widely renowned facilities for our first training sessions with the coaches. They put us through the same training as their youth and professional teams. Later on in the week, we had a stadium tour of Valencia's 'La Mestalla', which holds 55,000 fans. My personal experiences with small, boisterous football stadiums in Scotland was quite different!

We also got to go and watch the local derby between Valencia CF and Levante. It was a great experience, despite Valencia's loss.

Our trip to Valencia was a fantastic experience, and I would love to go back in the future.

*John Paterson*

# Independence Referendum Open Meeting

There will be an open, non-partisan meeting to ask questions about the about the Independence Referendum.

A team of academics who will be speaking at this meeting have been studying the arguments on the economy, governance, the European Union, foreign relations, the currency... and much more. The speakers are:

- Prof. Michael Keating (Aberdeen University) – political scientist
- Prof. David Bell (Stirling University) – economist
- Prof. Nicola McEwen (Edinburgh University) – political scientist

The session will be chaired by Prof. Andrew Thompson (Edinburgh University) – political scientist (and local resident).

Find out what lies behind the arguments being made for or against Scottish independence, rather than just being told how to vote. This is your opportunity to hear what the team has found, and to ask questions that might help you to make up your mind which way to vote. They are not here to argue for or against independence.

Anyone living in the West Stirlingshire area and of voting age (over 16 in mid-September) is very welcome to attend.

**Where? Killearn Village Hall**

**When? Monday, 25 August, 7 – 9pm.**

The event is free, and the coffee shop will be open for drinks and snacks.

If you wish to submit a question in advance, please send it with your name to [andrew.thompson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.thompson@ed.ac.uk). We cannot guarantee that you will have the opportunity to ask your question at the meeting, but we will try to ensure there is a good range of questions for the panel to answer.

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# Hoolie 2014 celebrates success

The Killern Hoolie 2014 started with a bang as the starter's pistol sounded on Saturday, 7 June for the inaugural Hoolie Mile, a race around the village for all ages, closely followed by the slightly more taxing, but immensely popular, Killern 10K. This was a fantastic way to start the week's events and enjoy the great weather which seemed to last most of the week. Unfortunately it didn't quite hold out all day, but the village's beer enthusiasts were undeterred by the rain. The Beer Festival was well attended and provided a jovial atmosphere and grown-up entertainment.



Sunday saw another energetic new addition to Hoolie Week as local band Glamaig provided the music for the Wee Fling – a family ceilidh – with food by Edenmill. More vocal musical delights were enjoyed by the audience at the Church Hall, who were entertained by tunes from popular musicals sung by The Hoolie Choir, comprising budding singers from the village under the expert guidance of Strathendrick Singers.

Throughout the week, those with a competitive edge were challenged by events such as the Treasure Hunt, Hoolie Hide and Seek and Bridge for Ladies. The really energetic battled for victory in the Tennis and Street Football Tournaments,

but the most serious competition was reserved for The Great Hoolie Bake-Off, where Whitleys' provided judging and prizes in a variety of categories for some 'never before tasted' creations.

So, to the flagship Gala Day. The Strathendrick Pipe Band led the fancy dress and classic car procession to the Glebe where the day was officially opened by special guest Colin Gregor, Captain of Scotland's Rugby 7s Squad. The entertainment in the ring featured falconry, cheerleading by the Brownies and a 'Horrible Histories' style re-enactment of the Battle of Bannockburn. Shoppers were kept engaged with the delights of the Hoolie market, while the sporty types could test their

pro prowess at 'beat the goalie', 'chip in challenge' and 'wellie throwing', with the tug-of-war proving a competitive climax to events.

The Final Fling was a fitting finale to Hoolie 2014, with drinks being enjoyed outside to the stunning backdrop of Loch Lomond framed in glorious evening sunshine. Roadhouse provided the perfect party soundtrack either side of a charity auction and delicious food came from Edenmill and Whitleys'.

Sunday morning hangovers didn't quash community spirit as volunteers mucked in to restore the Glebe to its natural state. Thoughts turned to 2016, where volunteers new and old will try to match the stunning success of this

year's Hoolie. Thanks to all that made Killern Hoolie 2014 such as success: organisers, sponsors, supporters, Church Hall, Village Hall and – of course – you!

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# Show Racism the Red Card – Lomond Winners

Show Racism the Red Card runs an Anti-Racism/Anti-Sectarianism Competition throughout Scotland every year which encourages young people to challenge racism and sectarianism in a creative way. In Religious Moral Education (RME), S1 students were learning about the history of sectarianism in Scotland and its impact today, as well as discussing the racist issues that affect many people living here. The competition was the conclusion to this topic. Students had the opportunity to tackle the competition in any way they wanted, such as artwork, poetry, music or drama.

S1 students Hannah Leach and Hannah White used iMovie to create a film with a collage of powerful images and words set to soaring background music that really brought the message home that racism and sectarianism are not welcome in Scotland. They deservedly won the overall prize for S1–S3 and were awarded £200 for the school and a signed football and football shirt.

Miriam El-Djazairy and Rosie Green wrote, composed, performed and filmed their own song about anti-racism. It's



L to R: Rosie Green, Miriam El-Djazairy, Mrs Lynne Jack (RME & Art Teacher), Hannah White and Hannah Leach.

a beautiful song with a strong message of tolerance towards different races in society. The girls were delighted to be named as runners up in the S1–S3 category.

Simon Mills, Headmaster, Lomond School said, 'We are very proud that they have done so well in the competition and the skills they applied to putting together these films are a great testament to their creativity and maturity.'

## Dave and the Turtles' Big Break?

Three pupils from Balfour High School – Evelyn Martin, Killearn girl Lucy Howie, and I – got together and formed a group, calling ourselves Dave and the Turtles... Dave being my ukulele. We entered a national competition for schools to submit a song in relation to the Commonwealth Games and won! And on 27 July, we will be performing 'Life's a Game' in the Big Big Sing Event in Glasgow Green. This is our story.



It all started about two years ago as we were all in the same music class, but I was friends with both Evelyn and Lucy separately. We all became better friends and just started singing covers of songs, with Lucy playing the guitar. It was Lucy that got me into teaching myself guitar, since she had done the same, and so we both began playing the guitar together with me and Evelyn singing the melodies, and Lucy singing the harmonies.

The next year I got Dave (my ukulele) and we started to have a bit more range, adding in third harmonies and most of all just really enjoying singing together. We sang at school assemblies and concerts, and we later set up our own Facebook page where we have uploaded a couple of songs. We performed at the Fintry Burns Supper where we were heard by some more

locals in charge of the FDT awards night in Fintry where we played the backing music.

Mr Watson, who is a P.E. teacher at the high school, had asked us to write a song for his sports award ceremony based on sport and achievement, and then he suggested – a day before the

closing date! – that we enter it into the Big Big Sing competition for schools all around Scotland to write a sport-themed song for the Commonwealth Games. So Lucy and I quickly recorded a version of the song (Evelyn was sitting her physics exam). A couple of weeks later, I received a phone call to tell us that we had won! We were all really excited, but thinking, 'oh my goodness, what have we actually just won?!' We

had only skim read the competition details, it having been such a rushed thing, and so we couldn't quite believe it!

And so we have the 27th of July to look forward to in an anxious wait, but we are all so excited!

*Shannon McLean*



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# One Year On

On 1 July 2013 we received our Practical Completion certificate for the new village hall. Since then our Village Hall Development Group – Bruce Montgomery-Smith, Michael Pell, Jim Wright and Brian Simmers – has been meeting fortnightly with Hadden Construction to remedy and monitor all of the works on the “snagging list” on which the main items of concern are the ground source heating system and lift operation.



The hall laid out for a wedding ceremony

There have been some changes in the membership of Killearn Village Hall Operations Committee (KVHOC) since last year. David Rodger resigned as Chairman in April, and during the last 12 months Karen Lindsay, Caroline Critchley, Ian Dickie and John Matthews also stepped down. KVHOC now consists of Brian Simmers (Chairman & Marketing), Kirstine Simpson (Treasurer), Michael Pell (Booking/Enquiries), Jim Wright (Property/User Management), Peter Wilks (IT) and Daye Tucker. We work closely with KCFC, the owners of the hall.

We are expanding our sub-committees under each of these specific areas. As part of that expansion we wish to thank Maggi Allan, Ros Gibson, Doug Ashworth, Malcolm Beith, Ian Sinclair, Sarah Whitley, Ray Davidson-Carr and Alan Cairns who have all contributed considerably to a wide range of operational activities. Most ‘volunteers’ are recruited during Michael’s dog walking, so you have been warned!

Our first target was to attract back all past users of the previous village hall and in most cases this has been achieved. Our thanks to all groups for their support and to the new groups who are now using the hall on a regular basis.

All Killearn Archives (AKA) now has a home for their many wonderful village artefacts which make for enjoyable displays in six well-lit display cabinets.

Simon and Sarah Whitley have done a great job in establishing ‘Whitleys’ in the Village’ as an attractive coffee shop. Simon has set high standards. His catering for weddings has been successful and Killearn Village Hall is now well recognised as a quality and flexible wedding venue. Our thanks also to Lee Messeder for being as flexible in officiating different types of wedding ceremonies. However, we are sad to report that Simon has decided to move on at the end of September.

We wish him every success in his career path which we know will be an impressive one. We are now in the process of appointing a suitable successor.

We are hoping to expand our youth activities. Amanda McCall is running well-supported sessions for youngsters on Friday evenings, and Stirling Council introduced a successful Youth Rural Music Project on Thursdays for eight weeks. We also ran a session of street dancing by *YDance* and drama by Scottish Youth Theatre, and although neither were well attended – those who did attend thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We will try again – during term time and with better promotion. Jennifer Spinks, Stirling Council youth worker, is also helping to develop youth activities with us and will soon be holding a session in the hall for applicants for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We have taken on a marketing company, Branding Boutique, to spread our ‘product’ to a wider audience which we hope will introduce new users to the hall. Their development of our website has been well received and we hope you will follow our What’s On page. We are hoping to produce a winter programme of musical events, concerts and other entertainments which started successfully with the renowned *Astrid String Quartet* concert on 1 August. We hope that this programme will include an evening of wildlife films with behind the scenes stories by Jackie Savery and Nigel Pope whose wildlife documentary on the Hebrides on BBC 1 Scotland – *Hebrides on the Edge* narrated by Ewan McGregor – was a fantastic production. We would also love to feature a drama group if there is anyone out there with the necessary enthusiasm! We are always conscious that we are operating a community hall and we try hard to balance this with a more commercial approach on events and weddings in order to cover our higher than estimated running costs.

During the year we received generous donations of an electric digital piano from Phillip and Gail Pain and a *Papercuts* print from Brenda Pell. Some of our tradesmen have also generously contributed their time. Our sincere thanks to them and to all volunteers who have supported Killearn Village Hall during our first year of operation.

BS



Ros McGowan at the piano with Philip Pain

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## Margaret Aitken 1926 – 2014



Margaret Aitken was born in Tain, but came with her family to Killearn, at the age of four, when her father was appointed head gamekeeper for the Wilson family at Carbeth estate. She vividly remembered arriving by train at Killearn Station and walking up Station Road and then back down Drumtian Road to the family's new home – a journey that seemed never-ending to a small girl. One of a family of six, she was close to her brother,

Bill, and together the two children would daily walk across the fields for a mile and a half to collect milk. She was educated at Killearn Primary and Balfron High schools.

The family moved to the Main Street when her father retired, first to Rose Cottage and then to number 57, where three generations of the family put pressure on the limited accommodation. On leaving school, Margaret worked in the dining room of Killearn Hospital and here she met Frank, who was recovering from being a Japanese POW. They married when Margaret was twenty and had two daughters, Jane and Frances. Sadly, Margaret was widowed early when Frank, who had returned to the Navy, died of an illness contracted in the Far East just six days before Frances was born. Some years later, Margaret married David Aitken and a third daughter, Alexis, was born.

Margaret continued to work at the hospital and her children, with Bill's daughter, Kay, were looked after for much of the time by their granny in the small community of houses

across from the road from the Co-op. When Killearn Hospital closed in 1972, Margaret went for a short time to Dalnair and then to the Beech Tree where she worked for 20 years. On her retirement, a great party was thrown for her, but after one week of being at home she returned to the Beech Tree for another five years!

When she did finally give up work, Margaret enjoyed going to the Thursday Club and the Coffee Club. After 47 years of happy married life, David died in 2009 and soon afterwards Margaret moved from her home in Main Street to be next door to Frances in Buchanan Road. Among her interests on television was motor racing: she watched every Grand Prix and could name all the racing drivers. She also enjoyed *Question Time* and would add her opinion to those of the panel!

Always a hard worker, Margaret was a popular and much respected lady in the village throughout her life. She was a kindly and gentle person with a quiet dignity who leaves her family with many happy memories. *BP/CY*

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## George Harris 1942 – 2014

George Harris of Branziert Road North died unexpectedly following surgery in February. His death came as a shock to his family and the community.

George, the youngest of three sons born to John and Jean Harris, was brought up in Paisley where family life centred around Wallneuk Parish Church, where his father was Session Clerk and his mother sang in the choir. This early contact with the church was a formative influence on George's life and his faith was deeply rooted.

On leaving school, George continued his education at evening classes and gained an HND in mechanical engineering. He furthered his experience by an apprenticeship at the Lobnitz shipyard and later moved to Babcock and Wilcox and then to John Brown Engineering, where he remained until his retirement in 2002. Work often took him overseas and he experienced working life in most continents.

George met Rita at the Plaza Ballroom and courted her long distance from Abu Dhabi. On his return they were married in 1976. They moved to Killearn in 1978 and here, with their family, Stuart and Vicki, George and Rita became deeply involved in the life of the community.



George was a past President of Strathendrick Curling Club, a member of Balfron Golf Club and an active member of Strathendrick Rotary. He joined the Friends of Abbeyfield committee and gave freely of his time to assisting the running of the house. As Security Officer he would check the fire alarm and the locks weekly, and was active in all the social events. He would frequently drop in for a chat with the residents and his easy and relaxed manner made him popular with all. He was essentially a social being, unhurried, and often to be seen strolling through the village or the Ibert woods with his dog, puffing on his pipe and always ready to stop for a chat.

In retirement, with Rita and a group of friends, he travelled extensively in Eastern Europe and enjoyed visiting churches in places that were once behind the Iron Curtain. He was the staunchest and most reliable of friends, quietly demonstrating his loyalty by his continuing support of any in need and often going the extra mile. He was devoted to his family and was a kind and considerate neighbour. His gentle and relaxed nature made him popular with all; he will be greatly missed in the village and beyond.

## Jean Rowley Clark 1931 – 2014



Jean Clark, née McDonald, of Drumore Farm, was born and brought up in the Cheshire countryside where she enjoyed an idyllic childhood with her sisters and brother. Outgoing, lively and extremely sociable, she made friends with everyone and her irrepressible sense of humour endeared her to all around her.

Her parents bought a small farm around the time her schooldays ended and she became involved for a while with the rearing of hens, geese, ducks and several breeding sows. Soon, though, the wider world beckoned, and Jean left home, first to run a coffee bar with her cousin in Norwich, and then to study floristry in London. After this she ran a flower shop and it was when buying flowers in Covent Garden Market early one morning, that she first encountered David Clark – he playfully tapped her behind with a rolled newspaper and she retaliated with a slap across his cheek! Before long David became her husband. It was a marriage of great mutual support and affection lasting 49 years, until David's death two years ago. With their family – a daughter and two sons – Jean and David moved to Scotland and together created the garden centre business of Findlay Clark, first in Milngavie and

then expanding into Aberdeen, Kinross and Paisley. In this, Jean was very much a hands-on active partner. Her love of flowers and her creative artistry combined with her natural talent in human relationships made her an ideal business woman in this field. Findlay Clark flourished and enjoyed a high reputation locally for the quality of their plants and their staff.

In 1990 Jean and David moved into Drumore Farm, where they put their mark on the house and outbuildings, creating a home and garden of great charm and beauty. A warm welcome was enjoyed by all their guests and any who just dropped by. Both entered with enthusiasm into the life of Killearn and the surrounding area. Jean sang with the Strathendrick Singers and hosted the painting group, which met weekly in the byre and enjoyed holidays together.

Both singly and as a couple, Jean and David were generous benefactors on many levels. They went the extra mile and beyond in their care for those for whom they took on a responsibility and provided much appreciated support to Killearn Community Futures Company and to the project to develop the Village Hall. They supported many national organisations, among them The National Youth Orchestra of Scotland for which Jean sponsored a chair of a trumpeter.

Jean's sudden death, coming all too soon after David's passing, is mourned by their families, many friends and contacts. Her bright personality and her numerous talents, her firm low voice, always with a hint of the underlying humour that was so much a part of her character, and her thoughtful, caring friendship will be missed in the village and in the wider world. For her family – Robin and her husband, John, Alexander and his wife Wendy and their two daughters, and Duncan, the loss is even greater. *BP*

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## Robert Kirby West 1923 – 2014

Robert was born in Ahmednagar, India, where his father was stationed whilst serving with the Durham Light Infantry as Company Sargent Major. The family returned to live in Newcastle-upon-Tyne when Robert was three years old.

During the World War II, he joined the Royal Air Force and was sent to Canada to train as a navigator on Lancaster bombers. He reached the rank of Flight Lieutenant, and as the war progressed his squadron was deployed in numerous sorties over Germany.

After the war, Robert qualified as a Chartered Accountant and in 1962 his work brought him to Scotland, where he worked in Glasgow with the Board of Trade, rising to position of Chief Accountant.

It was then that Robert and Doreen came to live in Killearn, where their two children, Morag and Phil, were brought up.



On retirement in 1987, he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal which he received from the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Although no longer employed in government service, Robert continued to keep himself occupied, taking on a consultancy role with Eurofi Ltd, a position which involved overseeing development grants for British companies wishing to establish business deals in Europe.

Robert was a keen gardener spending many hours tending plants in his garden and greenhouse. The garden was always full of colour, especially in the spring. He also enjoyed fly fishing, finding it a great way to relax, and would often be seen trying his hand by the River Endrick in the hope of catching an unsuspecting trout or salmon. He and Doreen enjoyed cruise holidays in both Europe and North America. They also visited their daughter and family in Africa.

In later life Robert was keenly involved in keeping records for Killearn Kirk and other village organisations. He and Doreen also became regular visitors to many of the local garden centres and they were always greeted with a warm welcome.

A gentle man with a sense of humour who will be sadly missed, Robert died in Annfield Care Home in Stirling on 1 April 2014, aged 90.

*LD*

## Andrew Wilson 1933 – 2014

Andrew was born in London, but spent much of his life in Killearn. He was evacuated to the United States during World War II, and returned to be educated in England, after which he joined the Royal Navy for some years. He then joined the advertising firm of J. Walter Thompson, where he was in line to become MD when he took the decision in 1973 to return to Scotland with his wife, Mia and young family. He joined Harrison Clyde as MD of Western Ferries, then was appointed director and later became non-executive director of Martin Currie, where he remained until he retired.

Living first in Carbeth House, which he shared with his parents, and then in the newly built Little Carbeth, Andrew made a valuable contribution to the life of the village. From 1980–98 he was chairman of Killearn Trust, of which his uncle, Sir George Wilson, had been a founding member. Andrew wrote much of the second edition of the book, *The Parish of Killearn*, published in 1988, of which he was the editor. He undertook a great deal of research and added considerably to the knowledge of the history of the village.

Andrew was a great family man and delighted in playing with his children,



Tina and James, sharing with them his love of Shakespeare, acting out different roles from the plays together, and later enjoying golf with his son. Very much an outdoor man, he loved walking and shooting, managing the Carbeth estate and, at home, was fond of gardening. In his retirement he and Mia enjoyed travelling and went on many holidays that mixed walking with wine tasting and golf.

Whether at work or in a social situation, Andrew had a wonderful manner with people. His integrity was absolute, his judgement totally sound and he

combined great leadership qualities with modesty. He was renowned for his ability to stay calm in an emergency and could successfully diffuse a tense situation at work with the subtle use of humour. With his twinkling blue eyes and engaging smile, Andrew made everyone feel at ease and welcome. He and Mia moved to Buchlyvie a few years ago but he maintained his links with Killearn where he will be remembered with affection.

*Sir David and Lady Margareta Wilson*

The *Courier* has learned that a few months prior to Andrew's passing, the death occurred of Sir David Wilson, the eldest of the three sons of Sir John and Lady Wilson of Carbeth, not long after the death of his wife, Lady Margareta, who was the elder sister of Mia Wilson. The death of Andrew, some years after that of his elder brother Johnny, of Heron's Court, thus marks the end of that generation of the Wilson family. The family name is continued by the next generation descended from the three brothers, and their children, with the inherited title passing to Sir David's elder son, Sir Thomas Wilson. The Wilson family has played an important part in the history of Killearn. *BP*

## Helen Passway 1924 – 2014



Helen was born in Glasgow and was educated in Knightswood and at Woodside Senior Secondary School. She left school during World War II and got her first job in Glasgow Corporation Education Dept. She married Robert in 1947, and they lived in Jordanhill and Broomhill before making their home in Gartness Road, Killearn, in 1969 with their family.

In 1961 Helen returned to studying, which led her into a career in social work, specialising in child care, fostering and adoption. Following posts in Renfrew, Clydebank, Dumbarton and Glasgow, she

returned to Renfrew as Assistant Director of Social Work. In retirement she delivered Meals on Wheels and coordinated the collection and delivery of donations to the St Rollox project for asylum seekers in Sighthill Glasgow.

Helen was an active member of Killearn Kirk Guild and served on the committee. She was also involved in the Monday Club. Her garden was a great love, but sadly as a result of ill health experienced by both Helen and Robert, they moved to Westerton Care Home in 2012. Robert passed away later that year. *LB*

## Phyllis Atkinson 1933 – 2014



Phyllis Atkinson was born in Glasgow, the youngest of a family of three. She was educated at Westerton Primary School and Laurelbank Secondary School. Her family lived first in Bearsden but later moved to Carsten Farm, where Phyllis loved the outdoors and readily took to farming life, helping

with the management of dairy cows and caring for her beloved horses. She was a regular attendee at and a supporter of agricultural shows. She met Bert at the Pots of Gartness, at that time a favourite meeting place of young people. Their courtship progressed, sometimes at a distance when Bert was doing his National Service with REME. On his return home plans were made to build a home by the A81 road and to set up a garage business. This required clearing a sizeable patch of ground in the woodland bordering the road. This was a challenging and time-consuming task in which Phyllis played her part, until finally she was rewarded by seeing her new home take shape. In 1956 Phyllis and Bert were married in Killearn Kirk by the Rev. Hector MacLennan MacLeod with their reception taking place in the Black Bull. A few years later the garage and workshop were completed and here Bert and Phyllis, in a happy partnership, successfully ran the business and petrol station.

Just a few steps away, Phyllis ran the family home where their three children, Brian, Carol and Shirley, and later their five grandchildren, Lorraine, Jacqueline, Kimberley, Jennifer and James, learned from her the skills of home-making, cooking and baking and her great love of gardening, particularly of vegetable growing. Working in her garden and her polytunnel was her passion and she successfully showed her produce at the various local agricultural shows, whilst Bert displayed his classic Ferguson tractor.

Phyllis's life was one of hard work and devotion to her husband and family – children, grandchildren and her two great-grandchildren, Jay and Ben, who gave her great joy and who feel her loss sorely.

The sum of £459.36 has been donated to Pulmonary Fibrosis in memory of Phyllis. *BP*

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## Moyra Bogie 1943 – 2014



Moyra, the eldest of a family of four was born in Glasgow to May and David Brown. Theirs was a close and united family and Moyra, as the eldest, was always looked to by her siblings for support and guidance.

When she reached school leaving age, Moyra first found employment with Timothy White & Taylor, but her ambition was in hairdressing and she was fortunate in being offered an indenture, and worked her way through the training to become fully qualified. She met Murray in her early teens and gradually their friendship grew into a romance, leading to their wedding in 1966.

Moyra and Murray moved, with their young daughter, Alison, into Allan Road in 1971 where, with her outgoing and friendly personality, she quickly made a large circle of friends. Her door was always open and friends were welcome to drop in at any time for tea and a chat. After a few years, a son, Richard, completed the Bogie family. Although her activities were somewhat restricted by severe arthritis, Moyra was not a complainer and her sunny personality was always uppermost, masking her pain and the challenges of daily life from those who came into contact with her.

She was a great supporter of Crossroads and helped with Meals on Wheels for many years, though the instructions to 'deliver and leave' were hard for Moyra to comply with; her bubbling personality ensured that the recipient of the meals had their day brightened by Moyra's lively chat! She was a regular attendee at church and sang in the choir and the Praise Group. She was also a great supporter of the Guild and when the time came for her to take on the role of Chairwoman, despite protesting that she was no public speaker, she presided with grace and led the meetings fluently and efficiently.

Her home and family were the centre of Moyra's life. She was always full of ideas for home improvements, enjoyed holidays spent at their caravan in the East Neuk, and treasured the times spent with her granddaughter, Rebecca; it is to the family's great regret that she did not live to meet her expected second grandchild. A party arranged by her daughter to celebrate her 70th birthday was not only the intended surprise but an afternoon of great fellowship and affection and provided Moyra with happy memories to reflect upon during the difficult year that was to follow. Her great resilience and fortitude were put to the test during her final illness, but she faced all with her characteristically positive attitude. For all who knew her, she leaves memories of a bright and busy lady, always immaculately turned out, whose friendship and opinions made no distinctions or differences between people, whose thoughts were modestly expressed, who would say nothing that would hurt and would always participate in any task with enthusiasm.

At a service of celebration of Moyra's life and the Tea Party which followed, the sum of £1,300 was donated and this has been sent to the Marie Curie Hospice, Glasgow. The family wish to express their thanks to all for their generosity.

## Len Southam 1931 – 2014

Len Southam was born in Northampton, the second of four brothers, and then spent his childhood in Surbiton, Surrey.

As soon as he was eligible at 17½ years old, Len joined the Royal Air Force in communications and was posted to Iraq. He loved the desert and also travelled by bus to Beirut, and this was the start of a lifelong passion for travel, new places, new experiences and meeting local people. After five years in the RAF, he joined GCHQ in 1956 and then decided to go to New Zealand to join one of his brothers who was in the RNZAF. Len worked as a communicator in civil aviation, where he met his wife Vilma, who was also working in communications for Civil Air. They were married in 1958 and then moved to Melbourne for three years, where they continued to work in communications before returning to the UK in 1961.

Len worked for a while at Bletchley Park, and one day whilst waiting at Gatwick Airport he noticed an advertisement in *The Scotsman* for a vacancy as Technical Assistant for STV. He successfully applied for the job, and this was the start of a long career that suited him to perfection. He became a film sound recordist, travelling all over the world covering a variety of events and often extending his travels so that he



could see more of the country. He was at the 1978 World Cup in Argentina, went to Houston, Texas, and met Burt Lancaster, was involved with a programme on the making of *Local Hero* and tramped the hills with Tom Weir.

On their return to Scotland, Len and Vilma initially lived in Bearsden and in 1969 came to Killearn with their baby daughter, Moira, who very sadly died in a road accident in 1972. David was born in 1973 and Morven in 1975. David now works in Aberdeen for British Telecom and is married to Joanne, and their son, Euan, who was born in 2011, was a great source of delight to his grandfather. Morven trained as a musician, but

currently works as assistant researcher at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre.

Len retired in 1991 after 30 years with STV, and very much missed the rich variety and excitement of his work. To counteract this he travelled widely – most frequently to see his family in New Zealand – but also Russia, Samoa, Thailand and Europe. China and the Silk Road held a particular fascination for him.

Len died in Stirling Community Hospital on 14 March 2014, and Vilma was very grateful for the excellent care he received there from the staff in Ward 2. LD

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## Derek Stuart 1939 – 2014



Derek Stuart was born in Alford, the youngest of a family of twelve. With members of his family he moved to Killearn in 1957. He was married to Liz in Killearn Kirk in 1976 and with their two sons, John and Jamie, enjoyed a contented family life. For a number of years Liz and Derek shared a part-time job as care-takers of the Village Hall. Sadly, Liz developed many health problems, and Derek devoted the later years of their marriage to her care and the running of the home.

Derek was known to most people in the village, originally through his work for Stirling Council and previous local authorities on the bin lorries. He served for 13 years on the Community Council, only standing down last autumn. Here he proved to be a good listener and when he spoke, it was to make a succinct and valid point. Although a quiet man who kept his own counsel, he was nonetheless a valued source of information and advice about local matters.

After Liz's death four years ago, followed by the death of his sister, Jess, a year later, the days could have been long and lonely for Derek, but he became a regular member of the Thursday Club where he enjoyed the social chat and afternoon tea and greatly enjoyed the outings organised by the Killearn Old Folks' Committee, now known as the Golden Years Club.

He was undoubtedly a recognisable character in the village, neatly dressed, often wearing one of his eye-catching range of hats, frequently walking around the village with his dog, often taking a break on a seat and savouring the view if the weather was fine and always ready to pass the day with any he encountered. He was a part of our village landscape and will be much missed, not least by John and his partner, and by Jamie, as well as by his surviving three sisters, numbers of nephews and nieces and his many friends.

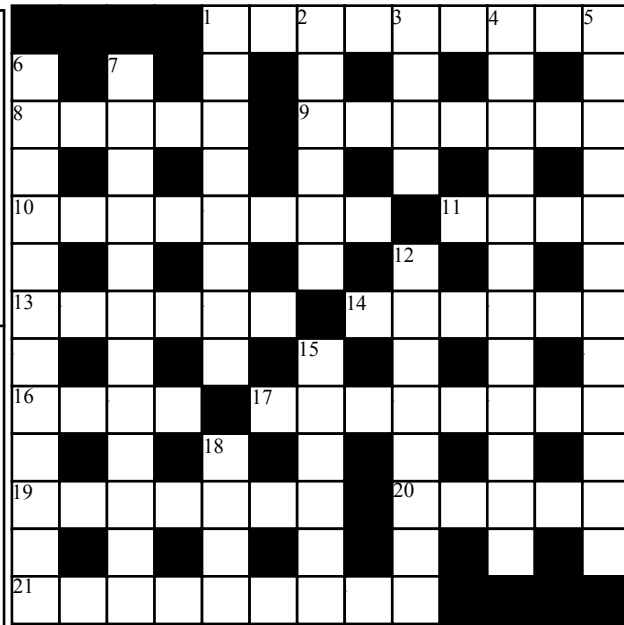
Solve the crossword, fill in your name and address, and place it in the box in Spar.

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**ACROSS**

- 1. Employees of the army? (9)
- 8. Broadcasting – feeling good. (2,3)
- 9. Roof fell off American car (4-3)
- 10. They don't perform at 6, 20. No bull! (8)
- 11. Indian dress hides a riot. (4)
- 13. Cloud game transport. (6)
- 14. I hear a bard on a heath having breakfast. (6)
- 16. A jug in fewer words. (4)
- 17. Reduce to rubble a red town. (4,4)
- 19. Pull fruit from holiday bags. (7)
- 20. See 6 down. (6)
- 21. Desirable aircraft starts to e.g. Venus. (3,6)

**DOWN**

- 1. See 3.
- 2. They could be on bikes at 6,20. (6)
- 3,18,1. A bowlful with cold port could mix with this 2014 sporting event.(8,5,3)
- 3. Waste mix, we agree around start of spring (8)
- 4. Transformers change again. (12)
- 5. Clearly defined pencils exist. (12)
- 6,20. Normal affluence matches this 2014 sporting event. (12,5)
- 7. Boxer at 6,20 could be chicken. (12)
- 12. Entire when absent but OK. (8)
- 15. Belittle me in churchman. (6)
- 18. See 1 down.

**Solution to the last crossword**

Across: 7 Easter; 8 legato; 10 butternut; 11 bad; 12 dungarees; 14 jay; 15 tic; 16 extolling; 18 day; 20 doodlebug; 21 useable; 22 Astral.  
Down: 1 webbed; 2 isotonic; 3 venerate; 4 feet; 5 jamb; 6 Monday; 9 intention; 13 selfless; 14 jailbird; 15 tedium; 17 giggle; 19 year; 20 dill.

Name .....

Address .....

..... Phone .....

**Congratulations to the winner of our last crossword: Alice Russell, Killearn**

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

**Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: There was no winner this time**  
**Closing Date for both competitions – 6 September 2014. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.**

## Eyrie Sensation

When I was growing up in the 1970s and '80s, seeing an Osprey in Scotland involved a choice between two nature reserves – Loch Garten in Speyside and Loch of the Lowes near Dunkeld. I still remember the day my parents took me to the latter and I was treated to incredible views of a nesting pair with four thriving chicks. These iconic 'Scottish' birds (in fact they are distributed throughout the globe and are only with us for the summer months before migrating back to West Africa) had celebrity status, not only because of their beauty and spectacular method of catching fish, but also because of their rarity. Their nests, or 'eyries', had to be heavily guarded round the clock to protect against egg collectors and other disturbance.



you now have a better chance of seeing one than ever before.

In fact anywhere away from our urban areas can produce an Osprey and the Killearn area is no exception. Around here Ospreys flap, soar and hover in the sky. They fish in our rivers and nest in our trees. While ninety-nine times out of a hundred that large raptor overhead will be a Common Buzzard, keep checking because sooner or later you'll be rewarded with an Osprey instead.

Over the years this massive conservation effort has paid off, and nowadays Ospreys are ten a penny. Well, not quite. However, latest estimates suggest 250–300 breeding pairs in the UK (compared with 14 pairs in the mid 1970s). Scotland remains the stronghold, but they have also spread south of the border as a result of both natural re-colonisation and successful reintroduction programmes. And this means that

The distinctive whistling call helps with identification, but another tip is that their wings look longer and more angled than buzzards in flight, more like a large gull.

The photo on this page was taken near Killearn at about a half-mile range through my telescope ('digiscoping' as it's called), hence the grainy appearance. But I like it because the Osprey, which had just caught a trout, was holding its prey at such an angle whilst perched that the bird looked as though it had a fish's tail! An Osprey mermaid perhaps...

*Martin Culshaw*



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### Competitions

We hope you will enter our competitions and try for our magnificent prizes! The box to enter is behind the counter in Spar, just ask the counter assistant to put your entry in the *Courier* box. If you don't want to cut into your *Courier*, you will find a downloadable version which you can print off and use at: [www.tinyurl.com/courier-comp](http://www.tinyurl.com/courier-comp) and the pictures are bigger!

# The Old Mill

## Bar and Restaurant

6 Balfroon Rd, Killearn, G63 9NJ



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## It really is Something...



### “Something Tasty”

We now sell Crofters Pale Ale, a lightly-flavoured, golden ale with a hoppy flavour and somewhat dry finish. It comes from the Micro-Brewery called An Teallach Ale Company

This Brewery was opened in 2002 by David and Wilma Orr on their croft in the Highlands. The brewery operates a 5 BBL brewing plant and packages in casks as well as bottles. We sell it at £3 a pint and the regulars are loving it!

Make sure you visit our annual beer festival in the garden on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June, a great day out for the family!

### KIDS' CLUB MENU



### “Something for the Kids”

As well as our play area within the beer garden, we will soon be launching an Old Mill Kids Club Menu, designed with kids and healthy eating in mind.

### “Something Social”

Check our new Facebook page, The Old Mill Killearn for updates, please like and share it. You can also follow us on Twitter on @OldMillKillearn



### “Something New”

We have a new house menu featuring a range of new dishes, such as scallops and black pudding, our smoked venison, or try our fresh mussels in a cider cream broth.



### “Something Fresh”

The public bar is currently being refurbished but will be kept in a style befitting that of a country pub.. warm, cosy and welcoming.

**FREE Wi-Fi**

### “Something Free”

We are now delighted to have free Wi-Fi in the bar and restaurant, despite the massively thick 18<sup>th</sup> century walls.



### “Something Entertaining”

We have live bands performing in the public bar once a month including Loud Mouth and Acoustic Station.

We also have our very popular and entertaining Banksy's Pub Quiz join us on Sunday 16 March then every second Sunday night at 7pm.

### “Something Special”

Make sure you visit us at the weekend and enjoy our Saturday and Sunday Specials Menu.

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