

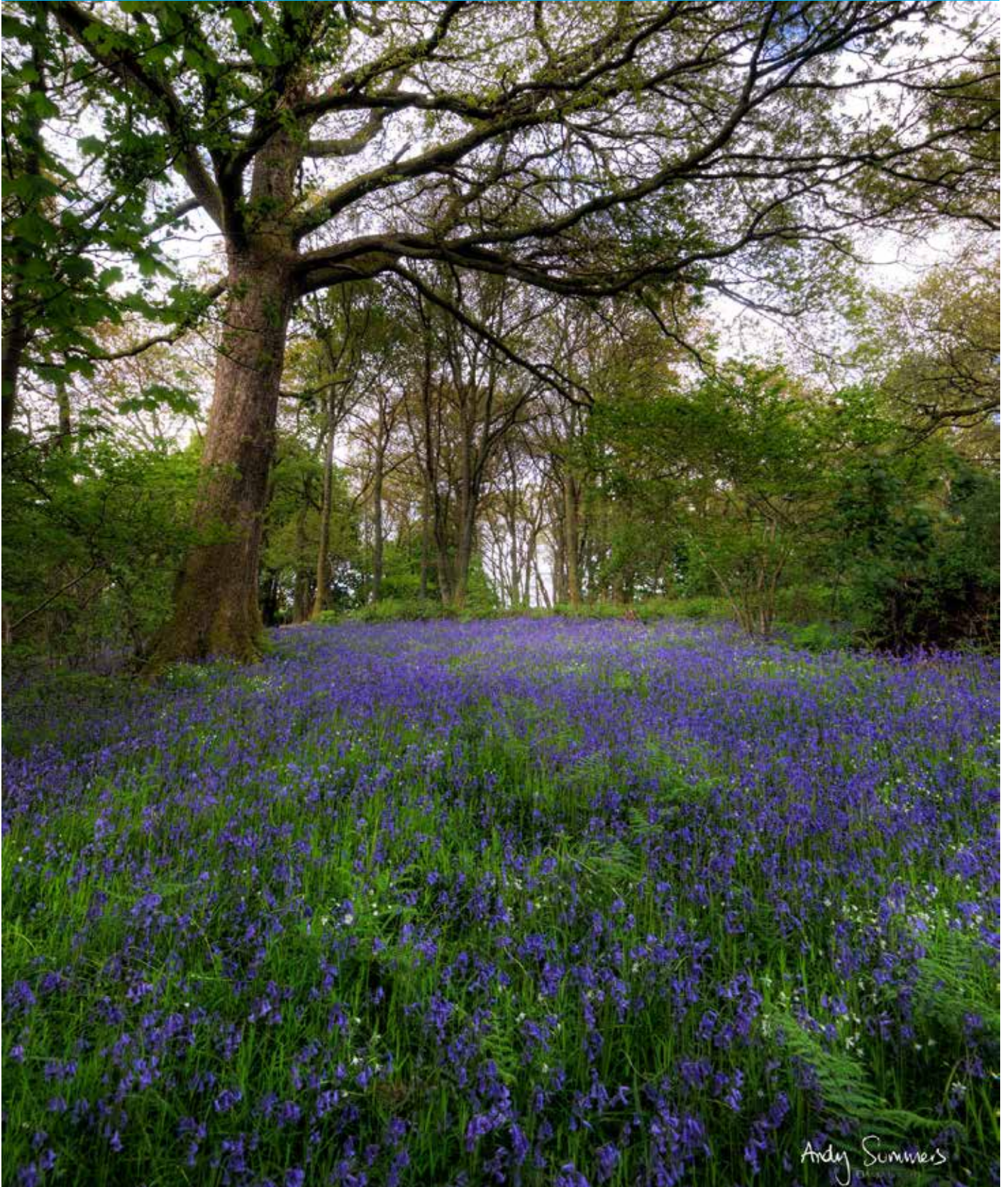
The logo for 'Killearn Courier' is set against a blue gradient background. The word 'Killearn.' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, and 'Courier' is in a much larger, white, serif font with a 3D effect and a drop shadow.

Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 34

SPRING 2016

£1



Cannon – Riches



Sam Riches married Sarah Cannon at St Oswald's Church, Durham on Sunday, 9 August 2015. Sam grew up in Killearn and Sarah is from Matlock, Derbyshire. The pair met while studying natural sciences at Durham University and have made their home in London where Sam is a pharmaceutical journalist and Sarah is an accountant.

They were joined on the day by Sam's brothers James (with his wife Kate and daughter Electra, who live in Berkeley, California) and Nick (with his wife Jenny and children Noah and Elsie Rose, who live in Manchester) and many friends from Killearn.

Santa Dash Success



Strathendrick Rotary Club's Rotapeeps want to say a big thank you to everyone who supported them in their Santa Dash.

Lots of children and family members dressed in Santa suits made their way round the route. Fortunately, the weather was dry. They finished at Killearn Primary School where hot chocolate and mince pies proved most welcome.

The event raised around £200 which will be split between their chosen charities: Rotary's 'End Polio Now' campaign (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation trebled any money the children raised) and also a charity which helps children of refugees.

TID

Editorial

Well, here we are in the third month of 2016 – the snowdrops have been out for ages, the primroses are pushing their way through the soil and the daffodils are fairly sprouting; the future looks good and we are looking forward to the remainder of the year, with perhaps a little trepidation?

The village seems to be losing quite a lot of its facilities of late with the latest warning of another closure coming from our Bank of Scotland along with its ATM. We've had an article sent in about this which I think expresses the thoughts of many people who use it. There is also an article on the closure of Spar which gives a personal view of its place in the life of one villager.

This issue has articles from our usual contributors plus a few new ones, including brief details about our three (yes, three!) new recruits. Jenny has joined the advertising team, while Kim and Kirsty have joined Rosalie as Cub Reporters. All three have an input in this issue and to say that we are delighted that these young people have joined us is an understatement.

In fact, there's so much in this issue, we've had to run to 44 pages which is a first for us. I hope you enjoy it and take time to read. After all, it is your community newspaper and it contains lots of information about what's going on with, I think, something for everyone. I've taken the opportunity to highlight once again the desperate need for volunteers to help with our various organisations, such as Cubs (see page 10) and KCFC (see page 22). Just one hour a week of your time would make a huge difference, not just to the organisations, but to you as well; believe me, you will enjoy it and make new friends in the process. Killearn is after all your community and you will only get out of it what you put in.

On behalf of everyone at the *Courier*, I want to thank all our advertisers for staying with us; please support them. Thanks, too, to all our volunteer deliverers who post the *Courier* through your door. Finally, thanks to all who contribute to the *Courier*, your contributions make it what it is.

Read and enjoy.

Ian

Our thanks go to Andy Summers for providing the stunning picture of the Glen for this month's cover. ©

Noticeboard

12 Mar	Killearn Kirk Guild Spring Coffee Morning. Kirk Hall, 10am–12noon.	8 Apr	Golden Years Club Annual Dinner. Kirk Hall, 7pm.
14 Mar	Strathendrick Rotary Club meeting. The Killearn Hotel, 6.30pm for 7pm, thereafter the first and third Monday of every month. Contact David Rodger (d.rodger@btinternet.com).	18 Apr	Monday Music summer term starts. Kirk Hall. For children 0 to 5 years-old. Contact Clare Cushing (550166 or cecushing@btinternet.com).
15 Mar	Killearn Health Centre closed from 12.30pm for staff training. Please call 111 if you need assistance. Killearn Kirk Guild AGM and lunch. Kirk Hall, 12.30pm.	20 Apr	Killearn Community Council meeting. Primary School, 8pm.
16 Mar	Killearn Community Council meeting. Primary School, 8pm.	28 Apr	Drymen & District Local History Society members' night and AGM, preceded by cheese and wine. Drymen Village Hall, from 7.15pm. Please contact the secretary if you would be willing to contribute. www.drymen-history.org.uk
17 Mar	Thursday Club meets in the Kirk Hall, 2pm–4pm, and thereafter every Thursday. For all over 60s. Contact Peggy Gardner (550558). Local Training Session. Defibrillator and Resuscitation Training. Village Hall, 7pm–9pm, details on page 27	29 Apr	Killearn Horticultural Society Talk by Susanna Bradshaw, 'Understanding the Needlework of Mary, Queen of Scots'. Kirk Hall, 2pm, £5 to include tea and cakes. Enquiries to Glenda Asquith (550142).
17, 18 & 19 Mar	FADs presents <i>Cagebirds</i> by David Campton and <i>Tuesdays and Sundays</i> by Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn, accompanied by a series of sketches performed by FADS members. Menzies Hall, Fintry. For tickets phone 551076 or visit fintrydrama.org.uk for details.	1 May	Killearn Country Market in Killearn Village Hall, 1–4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
18 Mar	Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>Guys and Dolls</i> . Balfon High School Theatre, 7.30pm, £4 entry.	2 May	Killearn Health Centre closed. Please call 111 if you need assistance.
20 Mar	Strathendrick Singers Spring Concert: <i>The Armed Man: a Mass for Peace</i> by Karl Jenkins; <i>I Landed with Seven Men: Jacobite Songs</i> by Ken Johnston. Killearn Kirk, 7pm. Tickets £10 available from choir members, at the door or email secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk	11 May	Killearn Health Centre closed from 12.30pm for staff training.
22 Mar	Local Training Session. Child Protection Workshop. Village Hall, 6.30pm–8.30pm, details on page 27.	18 May	Killearn Community Council meeting. Primary School, 8pm.
23 Mar	Strathendrick Rotary & Inner Wheel Bridge Night, Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm.	21 May	Killearn Horticultural Society and Friends of Guiding plant sale and coffee morning. Village Hall, 10am–12 noon. Coffee and cakes, £3.
24 Mar	Strathblane Church Maundy Thursday Service, 7.30pm. Drymen & District Local History Society Illustrated talk by Geoffrey Stell, 'Defending the Clyde, 1914–45'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Non-members welcome, £2 admission. www.drymen-history.org.uk	28 May	Killearn Kirk concert. 'Bangers and Brass' with Callander Brass, 7pm. Ticket entry £10, including hot sausages.
25 Mar	Killearn Health Centre closed. Online prescription ordering service available throughout the holiday period at www.killearnhealthcentre.com . Killearn Kirk Good Friday Service, 7.30pm.	4 June	The Killearn 10K. Details on page 14
27 Mar	Killearn Kirk Easter Sunday Service, 10.30am.	5 June	Killearn Country Market in Killearn Village Hall, 1pm–4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
28 Mar	Killearn Health Centre closed. Please call 111 if you need assistance.	11 June	Killearn Golden Years Club annual outing to Aberfeldy.
29 Mar	Local Training Session. Defibrillator and Resuscitation Training. Village Hall, 7pm–9pm, details on page 27.	15 June	Killearn Community Council meeting. Primary School, 8pm.
1 Apr	Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> . Balfon High School Theatre, 7.30pm, £4 entry.	23 June	Killearn Health Centre closed from 12.30pm for staff training. Please call 111 if you need assistance.
3 Apr	Killearn Country Market in Killearn Village Hall, 1pm–4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).	3 July	Killearn Country Market in Killearn Village Hall, 1pm–4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
		30 July	Killearn Horticultural Society workshop for adults and children: Make a full-size scarecrow. Village Hall, 10am–12.30pm. Free entry. Enquiries to Glenda Asquith (550142).
		7 Aug	Killearn Country Market in Killearn Village Hall, 1pm–4pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
		27 Aug	Killearn Horticultural Society 150th Annual Show. Village Hall, Kirk and Kirk Hall, 1pm–4.30pm. Teas from 2.45pm. Entries to be staged Friday, 7.30pm–9pm, or Saturday, 7.30am–10am. For schedule and enquiries contact Glenda Asquith (550142).

If you have any dates for the Summer 2016 issue of the Noticeboard (end of August until mid November), please contact Heather McArthur (550137; heather.mcarthur@virgin.net).

Letters to the Editor

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

Dear Editor

Why no Hoolie? Over the past six years the Killearn Hoolie has become established as a successful community event that the village looks forward to. The three Hoolies to date (it runs on alternate years) have been greatly enjoyed by the public, well supported by local businesses and have generated healthy surpluses which are used to support other community activities.

Apart from the centrepieces of the Gala and The Final Fling, the Hoolie facilitates a week of activities organised by other groups – and has spawned the Killearn 10k and the Killearn Beer Festival.

Sadly, there will be no Killearn Hoolie in 2016.– neither because new people had not come forward to be organiser nor because there weren't great ideas for the event; these things were in place. But when the Hoolie representatives approached the Killearn Trust

for permission to use the Glebe, they were told that the Killearn Horticultural Society will be holding an event in the field in August 2016 and that it could not sustain two uses in one summer.

Despite cordial negotiations and the fact that the Hoolie is a well-established biennial event, the representatives of the Trust could not be persuaded.

I hope the Horticultural Society's 150th anniversary celebrations are a great success, but along with many others, I am disappointed that there will be no Hoolie in June 2016. Especially since one of the Trust's objectives is to 'promote... the social... welfare' of the village, I find their decision difficult to understand.

Let's hope the Hoolie will return next year or in 2018.

Yours faithfully
Nick Hawkins

Dear Sir

I should have written this letter months ago, but hope it is just as relevant in spring as in winter.

With the wild and windy weather, I wonder if people could be more careful of their recycling boxes? I appreciate that we can't all be in when the collections are made, but boxes and lids are blown all over the roads and pavements. We live on the corner and boxes are regularly blown up the road and down our, and our neighbours', driveway(s) – and they are seldom, if ever, sought by householders.

I confess to piling them up in the driveway next door to my neighbour, so if they are reading this you know where your extra (or lost?) boxes came from.

We have extra recycling boxes and bags for newspapers – we do make use of them, too, but we don't need any more.

P. Douglas

Dear Sir

At our annual Remembrance Service in November, something was lacking. Since there was no Boys Brigade, few Guides and only Cub Scouts, we had no flags on parade.

We must do something to enhance this ceremony with a flag. I have obtained a flag mast to this end, but now we require a flag – a Union Jack, 5ft by 2ft 6 inches.

Surely there must be a Jack carefully stored away in a drawer or chest or wardrobe or trunk somewhere in the village. If one is available, I would be grateful to receive it on behalf of Killearn Kirk.

Thank you in advance.

James A. Fallas

Oops!

Our article on Killearn Curling Pond in the last issue stated that the pond was located on Drumore Road. It is, of course, in Gartness Road. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. ED

Killearn Health Centre

Staff News

Dr Andy Lennox left us in February to continue his training. He will return in August 2017 to complete his training schedule. We are pleased to welcome back Dr Rachel.

Travel Vaccinations

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

Easter Holidays

Please note we will be closed on Friday, 25 March and Monday, 28 March. If you require assistance during this time please call 111. Please ensure you order prescriptions to cover the holiday period. Prescriptions can be ordered any time at www.killearnhealthcentre.com

Out-of-Hours Access

If you require access to medical services when we're closed the NHS24 contact number has changed to 111.

Online Appointments

You can now book appointments online at www.killearnhealthcentre.com. When you register for appointment booking you will automatically have access to our new prescription ordering system. We will continue to run our original online prescription service in tandem with the new service. We would encourage you to register for these new service(s).

We want to apologise to those who submitted an article after our copy deadline. A lot of articles arrived in good time and we had to make some difficult editorial decisions, although we included as many late items as possible. We intend to include the remaining late pieces in the next edition. The best way to ensure that your article is published is to send it in before the deadline (see page 43 for the deadline for the next issue). Please keep articles to a maximum of 500 words. By doing so, we will be able to publish more contributions. Many thanks. ED

Commitment to the Community Recognised



We are delighted to report that Three Sisters Bake won the Commitment to the Community award at *The Herald's* Scottish Family Business Awards in association with Business Gateway in December last year. The award recognised their ongoing work recruiting and training young people along with their involvement as ambassadors for the Beatson Cancer Charity.

Gillian, one of the sisters and company owners, said 'We were absolutely delighted at winning the award, it is a real honour to have our efforts as employers recognised.

After struggling to recruit experienced staff due to our semi-rural locations in Killearn and Quarriers Village (Inverclyde), we decided to focus instead on recruiting and training young people from the local area.

'We now employ nearly 50 people across both our cafés and events business, making us one of the largest employers of young, previously unskilled, workers in both areas. We are proud to have created this number of jobs in areas of Stirlingshire and Inverclyde with limited employment opportunities.

'We hope to continue to contribute to local economic growth in Killearn and the surrounding villages by creating more jobs, continuing to build our local supplier network and also by investing back in local projects and charities over the years to come, as we continue to establish our business.'

Following quickly on the heels of this award, we were equally delighted to see that Killearn Village Hall was listed in the country's 11 top foodie venues in *Tie the Knot* wedding magazine. This magazine may not be everybody's regular reading, but as the list of top venues also included Cameron House, Prestonfield House, Edinburgh, and Balbirnie House, Fife, we believe that Killearn should be really pleased that our village hall qualifies for this level of recommendation.

It is encouraging to see Three Sisters Bake being regularly recognised in the business and catering world as it reflects favourably on our village and community, as well as being of benefit to our local businesses.

Jo McColl: Advertising Feature



Jo McColl Artist

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Find me on Facebook and Etsy 'Jo McColl Artist'

I am a local artist who specialises in drawing pencil portraits of people and pets. I enjoy the world of painting, but I have a passion for portraiture. There is something so special and engaging about trying to capture the essence of someone's personality on paper. I particularly enjoy drawing unusual poses and expressions that capture personality and character. I love to see a blank piece of paper transforming with a few lines here and there, suddenly coming alive in front of me.

I loved art and design at school, but I ended up pursuing a very different career and then having my three children. Now that the kids are growing up, I have more time so I recently returned to drawing and painting. I started doing sketches of my boys and I was amazed to receive lots of positive comments and encouragement from family and friends. The Facebook page 'Jo McColl Artist' was born in September 2015 offering commissioned portraits and since then my new art business has been very busy. I am thoroughly enjoying my new creative outlet as it is personally very mindful and relaxing, but also rewarding – creating something truly personal and bespoke that people can enjoy for years.

I'm always available to chat about my artwork or if you'd like to commission a unique drawing or painting. visit jomccollartist.co.uk to see my gallery of artwork. I plan to display some of my artwork at the Killearn Country Market soon so keep a look out for me there.

Bonnie



Bonnie first appeared on the cover of the Christmas 2009 edition walking up a very snowy Ibert Road. Somehow she became adopted as the mascot of the *Courier* as she appeared in a photograph in nearly every edition from Summer 2010 onwards. Sometimes she was there to give scale to something that was needed to illustrate an article, sometimes she appeared in the children's Spot the Difference, but often she just wandered into frame when I was taking a picture to illustrate an article.

Sadly, she succumbed to cancer at the relatively early age of 11, and therefore this picture is her last appearance in the *Courier*.

She will be missed by all the *Courier* team, wondering where she would pop up in the edition being put together. And I will no longer enjoy pointing to a golden dog in the corner of one of the pictures when the editor asks why Bonnie is not in this edition. PW

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Killearn Wildlife Hospital

I found my first underweight hedgehog on a snowy day in October 2010, started to volunteer at Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue for a year, and it became my wee hobby to occasionally look after a hedgehog or take a duckling or crow to Hessilhead.

This wee hobby has grown a bit over the years and I feel it's time to give it a name and make it more public: I proudly announce the birth of the 'Killearn Wildlife Hospital'.

Over the last 12 months, I have been given or picked up 25 animals and spent more than £800 on food, bedding, heat pads, veterinary costs, basic medication and syringes, a new aviary and fuel costs. Currently, there are eight hedgehogs, two wood pigeons and a crow to be looked after, and I spend about 20 hours a week on cleaning, treating, vet visits, trips to the rubbish tip, etc. Exactly how much time depends on the animals.

Initially, the few animals I looked after stayed in our house, but at some point I had to set up in our garage, which unfortunately now needs rewiring. So for the moment, the 'hospital area' is our front entrance area, which means everything (except the front door) is only an arm's length away, which is far from ideal. By the time you are reading this, I hope to have an ideal setup in the brand new, warm, well-ventilated, clean garage room.

My aim is to release the animals if at all possible, and I am glad to say that I have several wildlife-savvy vets helping with decision-making and low-cost treatment. I will also take animals to Hessilhead when this is in their best interest.

I am very grateful for donations, such as cages, suitable animal food/bedding, or any donations towards costs (thank you, Malcolm and Wendy).

For any questions or if you find wildlife in need of help, please phone 01360 550165 or 07925 846618.

RL

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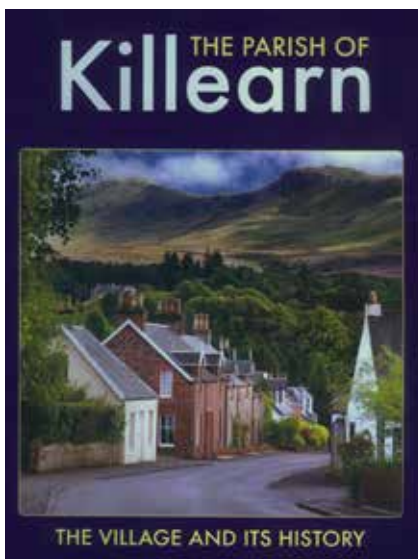
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Email Cameron@BallochruinEngineers.co.uk

Books Can Be Dangerous!

In our house, we have a bookcase given over to 30 volumes of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, purchased in the 1970s, with a view to providing a constant source of information for our children. I'm not sure how often they actually consulted it, although I do find myself looking things up surprisingly frequently. Nowadays, of course, for most people these books are redundant. Why flick through the gilt-leaved pages of a massive tome when you can find out anything by tapping on a smart phone?

The risk with the *Encyclopaedia* is that you look up one thing and find yourself getting diverted by something else. You look up Shakespeare's dates, and find yourself boning up on Ernest Shackleton, and then your eye catches a 'shallow-focus earthquake'. What on earth is that? An hour and a half later, your cup of tea is stone cold and you've missed the radio programme you've been waiting all day for. There doesn't seem to be the same level of risk with a smart phone.

Atlases are almost as bad. How often have you looked up a road map to check your route to Dumfries, and found yourself in deepest Ayrshire, lured by place names from your distant past? You can't afford to look up anything without making sure you have an hour at your disposal. And that's before you start on the international scene. Do not risk asking yourself the exact location of somewhere like Tashkent. You'll be there for days.



Just the other day, I had occasion to look up the splendid *Parish of Killearn* book, the most recent version edited in 2009, and exactly the same thing happened. I got diverted in no time at all. Before you even get to the text, there's a map of the area drawn in 1654. Killearn is there because of its kirk, but it was obviously too small to rate any other mention. But the Endrick is there, together with a

staggering number of tributaries. That was when I realised that in my mind I've had the River Blane flowing in the wrong direction for years.

Then there's the actual history of the parish, from the Stone Age, through the blood-soaked Middle Ages to the more decorous Victorian times. It makes fascinating reading, even if you've read it before. The story comes fresh off the page, and you wonder anew how people lived in such a small community so long ago. What we would now regard as desperate deprivation was normal life for pretty well everyone. There must be a lesson in all this.

But it's the photographs that are most arresting. Many ancient buildings have either disappeared or been converted, though lots remain unchanged on the outside. Fields that held only livestock are now under housing, so that the appearance of the village has changed dramatically, several times. But what are even more

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fascinating are the images of people, especially in the school photographs. It is astonishing how many children from past decades are still in the village and contributing to village life. There's Jim and Walter and Catherine and Elizabeth, and that's just at a glance. And the same family names keep recurring. Throughout the book, there's a feeling of continuity. Killearn is steeped in history, but it's still a vibrant modern community. And the great joy is that we are all part of it. It's ours. And we treasure it.

JOYCE BEGG

Kitchen Table Business

We continue our look at rural enterprise, featuring people in and around Killearn who have put their talent, entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen to the test and started a home-based business. In this issue, we write about Gwenda Watt of Needleworx and the Woolly Cushion Company.



Gwenda will be best known to many as the lady from the Killearn Market. When she moved to Killearn nine years ago, she was working for RBS Insurance, a demanding job that often took her away from home and family. The dilemma of trying to juggle long working hours with family and a social life is familiar to many parents. The opportunity of redundancy and the demands of home life meant the time was right to hang up the business suit.

Gwenda's strong creative streak dates back to being a high achiever in art at Balforn High. This, coupled with a love of sewing, directed the next stage in her life. An embroidery machine was purchased with her redundancy money and Needleworx went into business, doing commercial embroidery contracts. Gwenda also started making curtains for clients, and with the remnants crafted the iconic Woolly Cushion Co. cushions, with their distinctive Scottish animals and thistles with tartan ends. Gwenda started selling her cushions at craft fairs, including the Killearn Market, and won an award for her stall at the Country Living Fair exhibition in November 2014. Her aim for the future is to tap into the trade market, selling her products to select, quality retailers. To keep standards high, Gwenda prefers to do the work herself, ensuring the quality of product, but limiting further growth. However, the Needleworx embroidery

business can run simultaneously with cushion making, and this is where Gwenda envisages most growth in her business in the future.

As with all small single-person businesses, you have to be able to turn your hand to all sorts: strategic planning, marketing, manufacture, handling enquiries, dealing with suppliers, orders, invoicing, web design. Couple this with running an active family home which includes pets and poultry, and Gwenda is probably busier now than she was in her previous financial services role, but at least it is in situ and she now has the flexibility that parenthood often demands.

As if that wasn't enough, Gwenda is now a director of KCFC with responsibility for the Killearn Market, which has seen the popular monthly institution go from strength to strength with a move to Sunday afternoons and a good range of quality stall holders. Preference is given to local producers and in order to attract and maintain the high level of quality traders, Gwenda asks that we support the market on the first Sunday of every month from March at the Village Hall from 1pm to 4pm.

She is also involved in the newly-formed KCFC Implementation group for the Community Action Plan which will assess the viability of projects identified in the public consultation last year. Her community spirit sees her actively encouraging us to support local – her latest mission is to create a promotional folder of appropriate local businesses available for everyone to consult in the Village Hall as part of the wedding services available in conjunction with Three Sisters Bake.

Visit www.thewoollycushioncompany.com or follow www.facebook.com/thewoollycushionco and www.facebook.com/needleworx.co.uk for embroidery or phone 07876 028764.

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Golden Gala Night



The Golden Girls held their third concert night in the Village Hall on Friday, 5 February, which was attended by more than 100 ladies – no men allowed except for pressed-ganged family members to serve as waiters.

The ladies were entertained by Jim McMail, whose clients list includes the Scottish Parliament, BBC Radio, HRH The Prince of Wales, and The Variety Club of Great Britain. He soon had the ladies up on their feet dancing the night away.

Finger bites were prepared and provided by the Golden Girls, and there was a superb raffle which included an evening for four at a choice of five events at the Hydro donated by Colin Banks and a 25-year-old Glengoyne whisky valued at £260 donated by Dumgoyne Distillery.

The event raised £4,500 for the Paul O’Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre at the Beatson bringing the total amount raised by the Girls since they started to £18,000.

The Golden Girls would like to thank all those who have supported their fundraising over the years.

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Balfron Bowling Club

The refurbishment of the clubhouse is almost completed – a new kitchen, changing rooms, toilets and disabled access offer improved facilities to members and visitors, given that the former amenities were 100 years old. The official opening of the new clubhouse will take place at 10am on Saturday, 19 March, followed by a coffee morning.

The Club has around 50 members and is active in various leagues in Stirlingshire as well as being members of the Scottish Bowling Association. We are keen to attract new members and, in particular, would like to resume the former Junior League. Through Active Stirling, the Club organises bowling sessions for pupils from Primary 7 and Balfron High School, and the local Girl Guides and Scouts also visit the Club each year. Hopefully, some of these young people will go on to take up bowling.

The Club is an integral part of the village and provides community activities such as bingo and social nights in the winter months, monthly coffee mornings and charity events involving other clubs. They plan to start a drop-in community café on Tuesday afternoons in the near future. The clubhouse can also be rented out for social events.

Bowls available for anyone who would like to try out their bowling skills and free tuition is offered.

For more information about the Club, please visit www.balfronbowlingclub.co.uk or contact the Secretary, Robert Cranstoun (01360 440697).

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Come along, visit us and discover more of what we provide for 'our' little people who are happy, loved and thriving. Our beautiful nursery sits adjacent to Killlearn Glen with ample private parking. The large secure garden has a mud kitchen, children's allotment and a hard surface for bikes and trikes.

Fiona or Gabi are happy to chat to you. We look forward to your visit.

Killlearn Cubs Update



Killlearn Cubs had a busy end of 2015, including earning their International Badge, representing the Scout Association at the Remembrance Day Service and enjoying a riotous Christmas party.

The boys got off to a busy start in 2016, working towards their Local Knowledge and Scientist badges, as well as all the usual activities, crafts and games (who knew there were so many variations on Tig? – the boys seem to come up with a new version each week).

We sadly said goodbye to some of our older Cubs at Christmas, and welcomed lots of new boys in January. Unfortunately, the boys who are now too old for Cubs have nowhere to move up to, as we are still without any Scout leaders. Likewise, the younger boys joining us have not been able to come up through Beavers, again due to a lack of leaders. If you were able to offer an hour a week to take either Beavers (aged 6–8 years) or Scouts (aged 10–14), please get in touch. It is good fun, and the boys get so much out of it.

If you would like to put your child's name down for Cubs, or find out more about volunteering with Scouts or Beavers, please contact Gill Sims (0754 068 6758; gillsims28@hotmail.co.uk). GS

Killearn's heaviest *boletus* mushroom

It was in October 2010 – mushrooms everywhere, including on the Well Green. To have a closer look, I parked behind Spar, and unexpectedly stared a ‘penny bun’ mushroom in the face. Literally, because it was up on the bank where I had parked and it was huge. I checked that I hadn’t shrunk nor had found myself in Wonderland, then took some photos.



I took it home, measured and weighed it, and checked online, then contacted the *Guinness Book of World Records* proposing cheekily that we had ‘the world’s heaviest boletus mushroom, weighing a whopping 1.5kg’ only to hear back: ‘... We are sorry to inform you that we already have a world record for the category. The world’s heaviest edible fungus was an example of the edible ‘chicken of the woods’ mushroom (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) which weighed 45.35kg (100lb) and was found in Hampshire, UK, October 1990.’

I think a wood chicken and a penny bun (don’t you like the common names?) are two different things, but I can’t argue that 45kg dwarfs 1.5kg just a bit. So our freezer does not contain an officially world record-breaking mushroom but does anyone have a suitable recipe?

ROSE LEDERER

Bridge by Zorro

Competitive deals are probably one of the hardest ones to cope with. Am I over-reaching my hand? Does my partner have strengths to cover weaknesses in my hand? Will I push the opposition pair into game, when otherwise they would settle for a part-score? Should I continue and make a sacrifice bid to try to keep losses to a minimum?

This hand proved not only to be competitive between pairs, but also within a partnership! What would you have done? Try sitting East/West as well as North/South.

Dealer: West		Game All	
<u>North</u>			
♠ A 6			
♥ 9 6 5 4 3 2			
♦ A Q J 5 2			
♣ -			
	♠ Q 3 2		♠ K J 10 8 7 4
<u>West</u>	♥ A K 10		♥ Q J 8 7 <u>East</u>
	♦ 9 8 6		♦ K 10
	♣ K J 7 6		♣ 10
<u>South</u>			
♠ 9 5			
♥ -			
♦ 7 4 3			
♣ A Q 9 8 5 4 3 2			

See page 41 for what happened when I was dealt it.

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Action in Mind

Janet is a woman from the local rural Stirling area. She struggled looking after her husband's mental health problems, and decided to give the Time and Space peer-mentoring service a try. This is her story (names have been changed):

When did you decide the health and wellbeing of your cared-for person was more important than your own?

'I looked at the advert again. Time and Space: for carers by carers – that's what grabbed my attention. I never thought of myself as a 'carer' – it sounded too formal, too distant. All I did was look after Paul when he needed me. I knew he experienced mental health problems when we married, but back then it didn't seem to affect him really. Things were different now; he needed me more than ever, especially when he was made redundant after 20 years with the same company. It's enough to make anyone depressed, but it hit him hard. Paul was a proud person, liked to look after his family. Now he'd no job, no money and was unable to get out of the depression that gripped him.

'The advert said get support for yourself from someone who understands. I knew I needed support; things were starting to get really on top of me. I was anxious about money, the roof over our heads, and trying to keep some semblance of normality for our kids. Paul's admission to Larbert Hospital was the final straw and the next morning I called Time and Space and arranged to meet them. I was nervous but I'm glad I did it, as it opened a new chapter in our lives.

'Within a couple of weeks I met Sarah, my peer mentor. I was worried we wouldn't get along but as it turned out we have a lot in common – both of us have kids of similar age and support husbands with mental health problems. Sarah has been a massive help. I could talk frankly to her about my life and the feelings of guilt and resentment I was having. She didn't judge me. Instead Sarah encouraged me to think "what do I want for my own life?" and what areas of it I wanted to improve on. It was quite difficult because it made me

realise how much I had let slip, especially my friendship with my oldest friend. However, this gave me a fresh start and some personal goals to work towards. They wouldn't sound like much to other people, but they were really important to me.

'As Sarah works with Action in Mind, they are also able to offer support to Paul on his discharge from hospital. I now volunteer on the project's steering group and really enjoy it. I'm surprised how much value others in the meetings place on my views as a mental health carer. I think our society as a whole needs to realise just how

valuable lived experience is.

'Life is improving. Paul is getting the support he needs now, but a large part of the change is within myself. Having someone to talk things over and who is interested in me rather than Paul or my kids, was comforting. Through the service I got to meet new and interesting people who have similar stories to share. I even got back in touch with my old friend – something I would never have thought possible a year before. Things aren't perfect, whose life is? My life is getting better and the black clouds are lifting.'

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A New Bridge in Killlearn Glen

The bridge in the Glen that takes the footpath over the Kirkhouse Burn was deemed hazardous by Stirling Council Rangers, but the public insisted on continuing to use it despite several barriers and signs being put in place. It was decided to remove the old bridge and replace it as quickly as possible with the minimum disruption.

Jennifer Davidson, Countryside Ranger, attended a site meeting before beginning any work to inform the many community groups that have an interest in Killlearn Glen what was proposed and to consult them for their input. Killlearn Glen is very difficult to access with materials for the work due to the unsuitability of the existing access points. In discussion with Paul Allan, head of the maintenance team, it was decided that the best method was to fell trees in the Glen close to the site of the bridge and cut the timber into the components of a new bridge where they lay.

Larch trees with minor defects were identified that could be used. Larch was ideal as it had sufficient length, was straight and would last a very long time.

Paul directed his team in the felling and planking of the trees using an Alaskan sawmill before carrying out construction. An Alaskan sawmill is basically a chainsaw with a guide operated by two men as shown in the



picture. He also ensured that the minimum time elapsed between the old bridge being removed and the new one installed in order to minimise inconvenience to users.

Walkers in the wood were amazed to watch the trees being cut into planks by the small team. It was almost unbelievable that they could manhandle the two large beams down to the burn and position them in place. Once the two beams were fastened, the bridge was completed in a remarkably short time. If you look at the bridge from the burn, you will see the initials of the team that completed the work with such consummate skill.

Stirling Council is to be congratulated in replacing the bridge in such an environmentally friendly way. I wonder if a bench or two could be constructed using the remaining timber? PW



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Killearn 10k's *Uisge Beatha*

The Killearn 10k is now an important part of our community calendar and in 2016 the start is set for 11am on Saturday, 4 June when 250 runners will enjoy the exhilarating trail route. The race starts on Main Street, heading out along the pipe track past Dumgoyne, before turning back to Killearn via Ibert Road. The views are spectacular, and the race is always a friendly event, enticing participants from near and far.

The people of Killearn have made the 10k a community event by participating in their own way: running, cheering from the sidelines and volunteering as marshals. Perhaps because the 10k runners pass their back door, Glengoyne Distillery has also supported the event each year, providing prizes for some of the category winners. However, in 2015 it wasn't just the runners who were the lucky beneficiaries of Glengoyne's hospitality. As a 'thank you', the distillery invited all the marshals to a whisky and chocolate tour.

In contrast to the woeful weather of 10k day, the sun was splitting the sky on Sunday, 23 August as many of the marshals walked along the 10k route to the distillery. The tour began with a taste of local Glengoyne 12-year-old, sipped in front of the breathtaking views of the waterfall and hidden glen. From there, the marshals were guided around the distillery to learn about the whisky-making process, and enjoying the sounds and smells of a very local product. Then it was on to the main event – sampling a range of Glengoyne's finest *uisge beatha* matched to handmade chocolates.



The tour was a great hit with the volunteers. The Killearn 10k Committee are delighted that Glengoyne Distillery was able to help us show how much we value our community supporters.



In 2016, the main sponsor of the 10k will be the Mulberry Bush Montessori. The event will be preceded by the Killearn Mile fun run, and the Killearn Primary Fundraising Group will be hosting a family fun day.

You can find out more about the various events taking place on Saturday, 4 June at www.killearn10k.com and watch out for our local advertising.

So, come on Killearn – whether you run it or support it, grab yourself a place for 2016 before the inevitable sell-out.

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The Weather Channel

Many readers of the *Courier* have left the village in one set of conditions, travelled very few miles to Drymen or Milngavie for example, and discovered their destination has quite different weather conditions.

This can be attributed to microclimates – local variations within the normal climate of a region. These differences can be caused by topography, vegetation, and the proximity to water or urban areas. Gardeners are aware that south-facing slopes receive more sun and less moisture than north-facing slopes. Trees planted around a house can create a microclimate by moderating temperature and blocking wind and sunlight. Climate can also vary at the same location, changing at different elevations.

Taking advantage of having a weather centre at both Buchanan Castle Estate and Killearn, it is clear examining

Figure 2 that for the two locations, which are less than six miles apart, variations in temperature and rainfall occur. Temperature difference is slight. Killearn having a mean difference of 0.2°C. But the rainfall difference is 29.1mm over the year.

Apart from a warmer than usual April and a very dry September, we experienced a rather wet and quite warm 2015 with few extended periods of high pressure and accompanying sunshine. Forecasters suggested that we were going to have the worst winter in decades. By the time you read this, you'll know if they were correct. I will do the Killearn/Drymen comparison again next year. From Figure 2 it looks as if different microclimates have ensured that Killearn was a touch warmer and less wet than Drymen in 2015.

TOM RENFREW

Figure 1 – Yearly Summary for Killearn (2015)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Highest Temp	11.9	5.9	20	26.7	23.5	28.7	28.5	27.9	25.4	19.1	17.0	13.1
Lowest Temp	-4.1	-2.1	-2.1	-1.6	-4.4	4.4	5.2	7.4	5.1	5.6	1.2	-3.1
Mean Temp	3.6	4.6	5.7	8.6	9.8	13.6	14.6	14.9	12.2	9.8	7.7	5.8
Days Below Freezing	8	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Highest Wind Gust	34.9	21.3	37.4	20.6	49.4	18.3	19.0	21.3	17.4	17.0	15.2	29.5
Monthly Rain	139.8	74.4	110.1	40.8	107.1	69	129.6	90.3	29.1	71.8	218.0	252.6
Most Rain in 24 hrs	34.5	11.7	17.1	13.2	19.2	22.5	20.4	15.3	6.6	19.6	23.9	26.1
Days without Rain	5	4	11	15	10	7	4	10	18	16	3	3
Cumulative Rainfall	139.8	214.2	324.3	365.1	472.2	541.2	670.8	761.1	790.2	862.0	1080	1332.6

Figure 2 – Temperature and rainfall comparisons for Killearn and Drymen (2015)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
Killearn Temp	3.6	4.6	5.7	8.6	9.8	13.6	14.6	14.9	12.2	9.8	7.7	5.8	9.2
Drymen Temp	3.6	3.9	5.6	8.1	9.7	12.8	13.7	14.4	11.9	9.8	7.1	6.7	8.9
Killearn Rainfall	139.8	74.4	110.1	40.8	107.1	69.0	129.6	90.3	29.1	71.8	218.0	252.6	1110.0
Drymen Rainfall	165.0	84.6	129.6	50.7	107.1	80.1	176.1	106.5	0.6	51.0	228.9	221.7	1401.9

Figure 1 & 2: Temperature in °C, rainfall recorded in mm

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The Spar in Killearn closed for the last time on Wednesday, 6 January. It is a shop which, under several managements and names, has been at the core of Killearn for my entire life.

It was a shop I entered as a child holding my Mum's hand and I recall watching people go about their business. I would make a beeline, for the toy section. 'You can look, but don't touch' was often the phrase or, when I asked if we could buy something, it changed to 'not today'.

It was a shop I sneaked into after piano lessons to buy a Freddo, or Wham bar – anything edible costing 5p or 10p. (I did find joy in the music, too); a shop I pedalled to at speed to purchase a pick 'n' mix sweetie with my share of the car-washing money.

I proudly wore its uniform for the best part of seven years, and becoming connected in a new and special way to the village which I called home, gave me confidence. The shop floor was paced thousands of times, and I celebrated by wanting to hug every customer who entered during one of my long 10-hour shifts.



A shop where I had the opportunity to work alongside wonderful and great characters, and serve some interesting and hilarious customers, such as Robbie Coltrane and David Tennant's uncle, who spared little detail on stories of his nephew.

A shop which provided me with income enough for food, clothes, many fantastic travelling experiences – even sufficient to buy my first car and numerous mountain bike repairs. A shop which generously supported my 2009 charity fundraising towards one of my house-building projects in Romania (amazing just how quickly

the unwanted coppers added up).

A shop full of kind customers; a shop which helped me realise there were hurting people in my midst, those who really cherished a few minutes' chat. For some of them, it was the only conversation in their week. Dear old Betty Smith would compliment my 'beautiful' name whenever she saw me, telling me of a much-missed sister who shared the same. A shop where I shared hugs of support and comfort, or hugs of friendship leaning over the counter. Only the wonderful Stuart McCann could actually reach! A shop where I regularly saw the faces of people who, like me, were making a living serving others.

What a shop. How many other villagers worked there? Did you? Whether it was a paper round or post office duties, sharing smiles while stacking shelves, promoting goodies or flogging treats people never really wanted – the Spar played a huge role in our lives. Spar Killearn, you've served us all in some way and how grateful I am for the way you have served me!

Let's remember the great times, and as we pass the window, smile as I do, remembering the funny and special moments.

Did you know that there's even a song about the Spar? Moishe's Bagel, a Yiddish-style folk band who played at Celtic Connections a few years ago composed 'The Spar Shuffle'!

So long, farewell! I shall miss SparLive radio the most.

YVONNE BAUWENS



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Introducing Killearn Kirk's Youth, Children and Family Worker



Many will know me as I have grown up in the village attending Killearn Primary and Balfron High. Studying early education and childcare, and managing and supporting learning needs, I have also been blessed with wonderful opportunities. I've travelled to Romania, where I joined a team of volunteers building houses for desperately poor people, to the south of India where I taught in a Christian school, to Serbia where I worked for a media team writing review articles for a European Christian event, to Estonia, a land I consider my second home, as well as to other fascinating destinations for both work and play. The result? Life-changing adventures, special memories created, close friendships formed and the spark of joy in serving others ignited.

It may seem an anticlimax to return to rainy Scotland, but this little quote sums it up: 'You can travel the world over in search of what you need and return home to find it.' Killearn is home! Warmly welcomed into my new role as the Youth, Children and Family Worker at Killearn Kirk, and with kind friends, family and spectacular views on the doorstep, this is where I will spend the next chapter of my life.

My new job has a diverse remit incorporating different roles. Although my career began in early education and childcare, my interests lie in music, photography, cycling (particularly mountain biking), creative writing, and arts and crafts. Some of these have been sources of income, while others remain purely for fun and to share. I hope through my job, I will have many opportunities to share these talents with you.

Being brought up in a Christian home, my faith is set in deep roots. I was encouraged to play an active role in church life from a young age and I have been heavily involved with youth and children's ministry. I have experienced many adventures – some more challenging than others. Through sharing in different people's experiences and on my own journey, I have come to see how only God can turn a mess into a message; God offers a clean start in our lives. Will you accept it?

I consider it a privilege to serve the community of Killearn in my role, and I hope, through the various and exciting planned activities scribbled in my diary, we may come to meet and share company.

So, what activities are in store for 2016? If you are aged 0 to 5 years, Messy Play might interest you. Also for children, every Sunday morning from 10.30am – 11.30am, ages 4 to 12 years meet in the church hall for Kirk Kids. The Squash, for ages 12 to 18 years, is held on Sundays from 6.30pm – 8.30pm in the church vestry and involves a lively discussion about God, issues that affect young people and how God may fit in with their lives. How many can we squash on the awesomely comfy red couch? Snacks and nibbles provided.

On Monday afternoons (ask for dates) from 1.15pm – 3pm, a group of young women meet in each other's

homes for a Bible study discussion and chin wag with cakes, coffee and tea. New friends always welcome.

In the summer, we hope to have a Holiday Bible Club suitable for primary school children. Dates and plans are still to be confirmed, so keep an eye open for information coming soon.

For more info and updates regarding the youth, children and family-related activities, please visit our website killearnkirk.org.uk, or our Killearn Kirk Youth and Family Facebook page, or contact me by email (yvonnekillearnkirk@gmail.com).

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Classic Car: Jaguar XK8 Convertible



I was more than delighted when the Jaguar XK8 was launched in 1996 and thought that it was the most elegant Jaguar to be produced since the E-Type. The XK8 was one of the first all-new Jaguar creations under the Ford Motor Company's ownership, replacing the XJS which had enjoyed an unprecedented 21-year production run. The XK name was

revived with this completely new design incorporating the state-of-the-art all alloy double overhead camshaft AJ-V8 4.0 litre engine developed by Jaguar and built at Ford's engine plant at Bridgend in Wales. The underpinnings of the XK were evolved from the XJS platform, which also formed the basis of the Aston Martin DB7. (Aston Martin Company was also owned by Ford).

The XK featured a smoother body style reminiscent of the E-Type with a new luxury interior finish. After admiring this model for many years, two years ago I had the opportunity of buying a 1999 XK8 convertible. My car is finished in Meteor Silver with a black hood, mahogany dashboard, cream leather upholstery and a five-speed automatic transmission.

Since acquiring my XK, it has taken part in runs organised by the Glasgow branch of the Jaguar Enthusiasts (JEC), the Argyllshire and Sports Car Club, the Rotary Club of Strathendrick Classic Car Tour, and events with the Strathendrick Classic Car Club, including two of their two-day Spring Runs.

Last summer, we ventured to the Continent, crossing from Portsmouth to St Malo taking a week to reach our gîte, just inland from Bordeaux. The gîte had been advertised in the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club and owned by a JEC member who had a varied collection of French classic cars. The car behaved faultlessly throughout and another Continental tour is planned again this summer with the XK.

The XK has been a joy to own. With the hood down and the wind deflector in place, it is the epitome of Continental cruising. My XK model was replaced by the all-aluminium model designed in 2007 by Ian Callum, one of the last models conceived under the Ford Motor Company's ownership. In 2008 Ford consolidated its brands so that it could concentrate on its loss-making US arm and Jaguar, along with Land Rover, was sold to the Indian conglomerate TATA.

The second generation XK continued to be manufactured until 2014 when this model was also discontinued. Jaguar now produces the smaller sportier F-Type, leaving a gap in their range for a grand touring convertible and coupé. Maybe Jaguar has plans to revive this great model – let's hope so!

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Classic cars have a tendency to withdraw from public view once winter sets in and sometimes even during the summer when it is as cold and wet as it was in the west of Scotland during June and July.

The New Year heralded grumbling sounds from many garages as we look forward to the new season. The winter hibernation is broken up by indoor activities at Buchanan Castle Golf Club to which all are welcome.

So far this winter we have had Roger Whittaker, not of whistling fame, but of Rally Scrutineering fame, who talked to us about the Rally of Mull. Bob and Norma Gillespie of Drymen kept us on our toes with the Ladies' Night Quiz before Christmas.

Doug Ashworth ushered in 2016, showing an excellent film on the life of Jim Clark. February was the turn of the Chairman to reminisce, and in March we will hear from another member, Wallis Weir.

Our AGM on 20 April will be preceded by a short run. On Sunday, 24 April will see the 10th Strathendrick Rotary 'Drive it Day' Charity Run. The main charities to be supported this year are Mary's Meals and the Children's Hospice Association Robin House in Balloch. Please apply soon if you are interested in taking part.

The price of petrol will encourage more of the ancient gas guzzlers on to the roads, so please give them the respect that their age and brakes deserve. DOUGLAS ARTHUR

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History of the Bryce Buchanan and Kerr Families

The inspiration for this article is the acquisition of three photographs showing the Bryce Buchanan family outside Boquhan House and the discovery of the deaths of two Kerr brothers in the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. Thomas Bryce (1808–58), later Bryce Buchanan after he inherited Boquhan from Miss Elizabeth Buchanan, was married twice and had at least 10 children, of whom two daughters and three sons from his second marriage to Agnes McLaren (1819–85) from Bridge of Allan definitely survived into adulthood.

The eldest surviving son, David McLaren Bryce Buchanan (1849–1919) took over the Boquhan Estate and lived there with his unmarried sister, Helen Alston Bryce Buchanan (1851–1918), until the estate was sold in February 1915 to Sir Charles Cayzer, the owner of Ballikinrain. They then moved to Seggieholm, which probably means a meadow by the river. If anyone knows which house this is, please contact the Archive Group.

In a tribute to David, Rev Dr Mitchell mentioned his gentle and sympathetic nature, his efficient chairmanship of the School Board and his loyal attendance at the church. He also mentioned the blow suffered by the sudden loss of his sister, Helen, who had been his companion for so many years.

The youngest brother, William Forbes Bryce Buchanan (1857–1919) moved to Glasgow and became a draper. He married and had three children. His son died young, but his daughters, Muriel (b. 1890) and Agnes (b. 1896), are probably the young ladies in the photograph.

The middle brother, Thomas Bryce Buchanan (b. 1853) was living at Boquhan in 1881 and is described as a farmer. By 1901 he was farming in Loudon, Ayrshire, with his wife Jane Yuill (b. 1863 in Fintry) and two sons Thomas (b. 1891) and John Yuill (b. 1894) in East Kilbride. In 1881, Jane was a servant at Little Drumquharn. She was the daughter of an agricultural labourer. Did they meet and court along the banks of the Endrick River? Thomas Jnr's place of birth is transcribed as 'Saul Laonarch', Perthshire. Again, please contact the Archive Group if you can identify this.

The other daughter, Margaret Bryce Buchanan (1846–1915) became the second wife of Robert Kerr (1832–1912), the factor for the Ballikinrain Estate. He had two daughters and a son from his first marriage and six sons and three daughters from his second marriage. Their memorial is in the Old Churchyard just outside the western entrance to the Kirk and close to the Bryce Buchanan monument inside the Kirk.

The son from the first marriage, Robert Parker Kerr (1861–89) was a civil engineer and in 1881, he was sharing a bachelor flat with William Bryce Buchanan. He died in St Thomas in the West Indies. This is the capital of what is now the US Virgin Islands, but then was a Danish colony.

By the 1901 census, Robert Kerr had retired and the entire family was living in St Vincent Street in Glasgow.



The Bryce Buchanans outside Boquhan House.
From left: David, Helen, William
and his two daughters, Muriel and Agnes

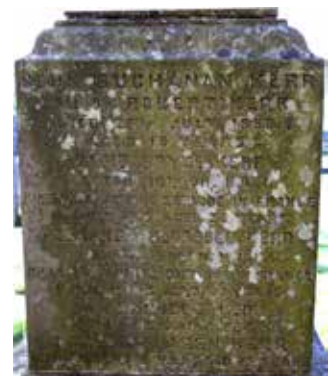
The eldest son, Thomas Bryce Kerr (b. 1873), was a seedsman; the second son, Alexander Leopold Kerr (b. 1876), was an architect; the third son, David Bryce Kerr (b. 1878), was a draper's assistant, so probably working for his Uncle William; the fifth son, Norman (b. 1883), was a chartered accountant, despite only being 18; and the youngest son, William Forbes Kerr (1885–1944) was a banker. The fourth son, John Buchanan Kerr, died aged 19 in 1899. In the 1891 census he was a 'visitor' at Boquhan. Was this a piece of fun for a 10-year-old child?

David Kerr served in the Scottish Rifles rising to the rank of Colour Sergeant. He retired in 1913 and joined brother Thomas in his seed merchant business. On the outbreak of war, he re-joined the Scottish Rifles as a Private and was promoted to Company Sergeant Major before going to France in November 1914. In March 1915, he returned home and joined the Highland Light Infantry. In July 1915 he was promoted to Captain and went to France again in November 1915. He was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916.

Alexander Kerr joined the Highland Light Infantry aged around 40 in April 1916. He was sent to France in May and was killed on 3 July, the third day of the Battle of the Somme.

Rev Dr Mitchell paid tribute to both brothers and mentioned meeting David at his mother's funeral in 1915, and also that the two brothers had met by chance on 28 June 1916 and had spent some time together.

The brothers are listed on the Thiepval Memorial and also on the Kerr Memorial in the Old Churchyard. Why are they not on our War Memorial? Probably because the deaths of their uncle and aunt before the memorial was erected meant there were no Killearn relations to put their names forward.



David and Alexander Kerr's names
on the Kerr Monument in the Old
Churchyard

Malawi Group News

The Killearn Malawi Group have been working hard over the last year, continuing our work in Malawi through our contacts, Rev. Levi a Nyondo and his wife, Ruth. We have been funding work in Mzuzu, including a nursery school which is attached to the women’s group centre, Hilltop, where the women have the chance to develop their craft skills enabling them to earn income for their families.

Another project for the nursery school followed Rev. Levi and Ruth’s visit last year when they asked if we would help knit the nursery school jumpers. As a result, many people within the village, and beyond, are knitting for us.



The group is working alongside the Raven Trust to build a walkway/bridge over a riverbed which provides access for the villagers to continue their daily lives when it rains/floods. The walkway is due to be completed at the end of the year.

We are currently working on a project in Chitomeni, Nsanje District in the far south of Malawi, which was badly hit by the floods of 2015. The project helps families affected by the floods by giving 20 families two goats each. Kondwani and Victor Chidziwisano, who have been overseeing the project, keep us up to date with progress, and we are pleased with the results.

The projects we support are funded by a legacy and also by fundraising events – our annual jumble sale, John Muir Way sponsored cycle and a ladies night were last year’s events. We also regularly send books, colouring pens/pencils, and materials for the women at Hilltop in containers organised by the Raven Trust.



You can donate to the Killearn Malawi Group at any time by visiting www.virginmoneygiving.com and searching for Killearn Malawi group under charities. EVA MAILER

Wilkie and Hall

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Killearn Pharmacy - Tuesday 9am - 1pm
Old Surgery, Buchlyvie - Tuesday 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Strathblane Pharmacy - Alternative Mondays
Torrence - Thursday 9am - 4pm

It’s Good to Talk

How many of you can remember the BT advert of several years ago when a well-known actor said, ‘It’s good to talk’? Well, he was right enough; it is good to talk, and I think sometimes we’ve become so preoccupied with ourselves, we’ve forgotten how to talk with other people.

It’s not just about talking, it’s listening too; it’s being interested in what other people have to say and being aware that even if it is not interesting to you, it is to them, otherwise they wouldn’t be talking about it.

I think we’re in danger of losing these basic skills; just look at a crowd of teenagers sitting together; they are all on their mobile phones, not talking to each other. Indeed, on some occasions, adults are just as guilty.

Talking and listening and having a real face-to-face conversation always makes everyone feel better. Try it for yourself.

SOCRATES

Killearn Community Futures G



KILLEARN
COMMUNITY FUTURES COMPANY

The role of Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC) is associated projects which go a long way to make Killearn a wonderful place to live. By joining KCFC for the princely sum of £1 a year, you can help fund projects which will be important in the future. No one will coerce you (we are all very welcome) and no one will force you to take a seat on the Board.

OUR GROUPS

Killearn Country Market – showcasing local businesses producing food and crafts. Taking bookings for 2016 markets on the first Sunday of the month. We are looking for volunteers to help put up/take down the roadside banners and to help with tables on market day.

Killearn Paths Group – if you enjoy wandering our wonderful local paths and byways, please lend a hand with improving and maintaining them. We regularly pick up litter and cut back brambles and bracken, occasionally repair storm damage and sometimes even create an entirely new path. Join us for one of our regular work parties (next up on 13 & 23 March and 16 April), or take part in our Community Action Days planned for 21 May and 9 July. Contact Mike Gray (branziertroad@gmail.com; 550962).

Fireworks and Bonfire – the annual event will be held on Friday, 4 November 2016. We organise the entire event – from completing and submitting all the licence and insurance applications, putting together the programme and delivering it to every home, building the bonfire and putting up fencing, and liaising with the police, to shaking buckets on the night and, of course, hiring the fantastic 21CC to run the display. Did we mention clearing up afterwards? ... we do that, too. If you'd like to help, get in touch with Neil McArthur (neil.mcarthur@virgin.net).

Village Hall – a focal point in Killearn with stunning views across the Glebe to Loch Lomond and surrounding hills. We offer facilities to suit anything from a committee meeting, to a film night in the Club Room or a full-scale drama production in the Main Hall. We have recently recruited a marketing team working to introduce a range of events and activities which we hope will be attractive to our community. If you have any ideas you would like the team to consider, please contact one of our operations committee. www.kcfc.co.uk/vh.html

Killearn Courier – we thank you for your support over the last decade – for the letters, articles and wonderful photos you send. Special thanks go to all the folk who deliver a copy to every home in the parish three times a year, rain or shine (mostly rain). If you have any suggestions, don't hesitate to contact us. www.kcfc.co.uk/courier.html

Colourful Killearn – ever wondered where the flowers in the tubs, towers, verges and beds in Killearn's public spaces come from?... we do them all. Daffodils and pansies in spring, bright bedding in summer and shrubs all year round – and the Christmas tree at the Kirk, that's us, too. All done by volunteers freely giving their time and energy, all paid for by generous donations from local people and businesses. Come along to our spring meeting (22 March, 8pm in the Village Hall Committee Room) and help us do more, or make an investment of £20 to sponsor a tub for 2016. Contact Mike Gray (550962; branziertroad@gmail.com).

Groups and Projects Family Tree

to act as an umbrella for all the various groups and wonderful place to live. None of this can be done without your will be supporting all of these groups and underpinning the force you to become a volunteer (although you'd certainly be (although that would be great if you'd like to get involved).

www.kcfc.co.uk

OUR PROJECTS

All Killearn Archive Group is interested in anything to do with the history of Killearn Parish. Any old photographs, newspaper cuttings and memorabilia may be of more significance than you realise. We will photograph or scan items that you wish to keep. In addition to our on-going work on World War I and the story of Killearn Hospital, we would like to survey both the Old and New Graveyards and try to get information on the local estates of Killearn, Carbeth and Ballikinrain. We hope to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 2016 by laying a wreath at the monument in the Old Graveyard for two of our 'missing soldiers, David and Alexander Kerr who were killed on 1 and 3 July. More details will be available nearer the time. Please get in touch if you are interested in helping with our research or to share any research projects of your own. www.kcfc.co.uk/aka.html

Implementation Group – the goal of this new group is to take the aspirations you expressed in the Community Action Plan and turn these ideas into reality by supporting new projects. A meeting for all interested in potential projects will be held on 28 April in the Village Hall.

Woodland Group – set up to progress environmental projects in Killearn, particularly the provision of public woodland areas. Its present project is The Kingdom, an area of woodland that lies between The Oaks, Chestnut Avenue and Lampson Road. It has a path which is used as a short-cut and it is used by local children as an adventure play area.

KCFC and Killearn Football Club have joined forces to build a new pavilion with changing and shower facilities close to the football pitch. The facilities will also be available during the day for playpark users. Having successfully attracted grants and with the aid of the club's 21 Goal Sweep, work is scheduled to start this spring. The construction will mean that some of the playpark equipment will need to be re-sited, but nothing will be lost. www.kcfc.co.uk/pavilion.html

The **Playpark** obtained finance to extensively refurbish the play area with new play items and landscaping. The renovated playpark is hugely popular and the group retains a watching brief to ensure that the park is properly maintained by Stirling Council and to provide future upgrading as required.

The **Woodland Cemetery** was a joint project with Stirling Council to provide a green burial site. The site will develop into a peaceful wooded area, a haven for wildlife.

Sustainable Killearn obtained funding for equipment (e.g. a laminator), which is available for use by the community, and also acquired the new noticeboard at the Village Hall.

Killearn Cottagers Horticultural Society: The Big Show

On Saturday, 27 August 2016 the Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society (KCHS) will hold its 150th celebratory Show in the Village and Church halls and on the Glebe.

A Brief History of the Society

The Horticultural Society was founded in 1850 for the Parish of Killearn, at a time when many such societies were being formed in Scotland. Mr Dron, schoolmaster at the Free Kirk School at the top of Drumtian Road, is credited with founding the Society to encourage horticultural activity among the Killearn Cottagers. Traditionally, Stirlingshire was an agricultural community and the cottagers (or cottars) were farm labourers or tenants who occupied cottages and sometimes a small holding of land in return for labour.

In 1854 an agricultural society, the Killearn Agricultural Society (also known as the Farmers Society) was founded in the parishes of Killearn, Strathblane, Drymen, Balfron and Fintry. The parish territory was extended in 1904 to include Port of Menteith and Aberfoyle, and in 1930 to include the parishes of Gargunnoch and Baldernock. From 1854, the Farmers held their annual show in conjunction with the Cottagers, initially on the last Friday in July. The cattle were shown in Blaressan Field, property of John Buchanan Kincaid Esq. of Carbeth. In 1862, John Buchanan donated ground for the construction of a hall at the site of Blaressan School on Drumtian Road for the Cottagers Annual Flower Show. Buchanan stipulated that the hall should be held by the Flower Show Committee with the primary purpose of encouraging improvement of the dwellings and gardens in the Parish.

The joint Horticultural and Agricultural shows continued into the 20th century. Reports of the annual shows since the 1850s can be found in local newspapers such as the *Daily Herald* and *Stirling Observer*. Some of the minutes of the meetings of the societies have survived. These paint a detailed picture of the committee members, the personalities, the conflicts, as well as the good relations between the two societies.



Killearn Trust has in its care three bound volumes of the minutes of the Farmers Society for the shows held in years 1903–15 and 1919–24. The Horticultural Society minutes survive for the years 1870–83. They report the election of professional gardeners from the large houses in the district as judges for the Flower Show, and the decision in 1874 to invite the professional gardeners of the district to hold an annual exhibition at the Show. Sadly, the Horticultural Show minutes for the first half of the 20th century are lost. The Blaressan School site on Drumtian Road was to become the location of King's Garage, and now the newly-built Drumtian House.

In the 166 years since the Horticultural Society was founded, there have been just 16 years when no Show was held. The 1915 joint Show went ahead in spite of the

outbreak of war in Europe, but the shows were cancelled in the years 1916 to 1918, and subsequently for the duration of the Second World War. The 1952 joint Show was cancelled due to continued outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, and the 1969 Show was abandoned due to brucellosis.

Killearn Agricultural (Farmers) Society was formally wound up in 1988. The Horticultural Society continued after the demise of their agricultural partner. A significant change was the shift in the date for the annual show from the last Friday in July to the last Saturday in August. Women were first admitted to the committee either during or soon after the war years.

The range of classes in flowers, vegetables and fruits, baking and preserves has changed and expanded over the years with the substantial addition of classes in art, craftwork and photography.



KCHS 150th Anniversary Celebrations

The Horti's 150th birthday celebrations are about more than the Show itself.

The celebratory plans for this special anniversary will include The Dunbartonshire Concert Band conducted by Robert Baxter, and displays by local societies including Colourful Killearn, Killearn Growers and the All Killearn Archive group. There will be displays by the Scottish Rock Garden Club, the Scottish Chrysanthemum and Scottish Dahlia societies, plus other national societies.

The RSPB are coming, as well as a bee keeper, complete with bees. We will also have lots of fun things for the children. These are only a few of the things you will find in our marquees, the Village and Church halls, the Kirk, and on the Glebe.

The 2016 Show aims to celebrate the way that former generations of Killearn residents enjoyed flower gardens, vegetable gardening and crafts with an emphasis and reflection on Victorian life, and will look forward to how things will continue to change in the future.

During the run up to the Show we have organised several events. Susanna Blackshaw will give a talk on 'Understanding the Needlework of Mary, Queen of Scots'. There is our annual plant sale and coffee morning and – so that everyone can make and enter a scarecrow – we are holding a scarecrow-making workshop. You will find dates and times of all of the events in the *Courier* Noticeboard on page 3.

In conjunction with the Show, Killearn Kirk will be holding a flower festival on Sunday, 28 August, which will include flowers and arrangements from the Show.

As always, the most important part of the Show will be the wonderful exhibits of flowers, vegetables, plants, home crafts, photography, art and children's pictures. The schedule will include some special classes to reflect the last 150 years and also some novice classes.

To make this Show extra special we would like to encourage everyone in the village to take part – there's no need to be an expert, and it's fun. The schedule will be on sale in March, so check it out – there is bound to be a class you can enter. Nearer the time we will be delivering a programme for the day to your door.



RECIPES WANTED

Please send us your favourite family recipes for a cookbook to celebrate Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society 150th anniversary. All contributions welcome. For more info or to send recipes email KCHScookbook@hotmail.com



wee SKELF's Easter Holiday Club

If your kids are **aged between 5 and 12**, are adventurous and enjoy getting their hands dirty, then we, **Green Aspirations Scotland**, have the **Easter week adventure** for them! Ages 5 to 8 will have fun with **mud, sticks, leaves and art** while ages 9 to 12 learn to **whittle wands and battle invasive plants**. Both age groups will **explore the woods, learn about the animals and plants** that live there, by **building bug hotels** or trying to find traces of animals' presence, and go home with their very own collection of **unique items hand made by them**. At the end of the week all kids will create their very own **imaginative Eco-flag** and will have made new friends, gained **new nature knowledge** and will leave with lots and lots of **super stories** to tell at school!

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To Book email hello@greenaspirationsScotland.co.uk
www.greenaspirationsScotland.co.uk

Abbeyfield News



The residents of Abbeyfield have been having a busy time lately. Before Christmas, they went to see *Dick McWhittington*, the pantomime in Fintry which they enjoyed immensely. A minibus was hired for the occasion and there was plenty of singing on the way home.

On Friday, 11 December, the Friends of Abbeyfield organised the annual Christmas lunch. This year, Truffles Events provided the catering; the food was prepared in Abbeyfield's kitchen by head chef and owner Tristan Campbell and served by Chloe; the ladies of the Friends

of Abbeyfield committee supplied the puddings. Everyone agreed that the meal was superb. After lunch, we were visited by Killearn Primary School who sang Christmas carols to the delight of everyone. The event ended with everyone, including the residents, singing 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'.

On 22 January, Abbeyfield celebrated Burns with a special lunch organised by the Friends of Abbeyfield Killearn with the traditional bill o' fare prepared by Barbara, the housekeeper. Dennis Pattenden recited 'Address to a Haggis' and following the meal, entertainment was provided by Ian Sinclair playing the pipes, Pat Rodger singing accompanied by Helen Barclay on the piano, George Bone singing unaccompanied, John Anderson extolling the merits of Irish haggis, and Molly Parsons organising the community singing, finishing off with 'Auld Lang Syne'.

The programme arranged by the Friends of Abbeyfield for the first quarter of the year is complete and will include regulars such as film shows, news reviews, Rotary discussion groups, tea parties, music appreciation evenings and outside visits.



Fireworks Go With a Bang



© Paul Barr Photography www.facebook.com/PaulBarrPhotography

On Saturday, 7 November, around 3,000 people gathered to watch the Killearn Charity Fireworks. The annual event on the Glebe featured a bonfire and a spectacular display from 21CC Fireworks. It was a characteristically muddy underfoot, but this didn't dampen anyone's spirits.

Spectator numbers had considerably increased since the previous year and included people from as far afield as Bearsden, Lennoxton, Stirling and Balloch. The local organising team would like to thank all of the local businesses for their ongoing support, including the event sponsors, Glengoyne Distillery. The display is entirely funded by donations on the night and programme advertisers. Funds were raised for local Girlguiding and Scouting groups. Tim Brown and Neil McArthur would like to acknowledge the many people who help set up the event and shook buckets on the night for donations.

The event involves a significant amount of administration: completing applications for licences from the council for public entertainment and environmental health, liaison with the local police, ambulance and fire brigade, and organising insurance. A number of new volunteers have joined the team to assist with this and all the other tasks for 2016. They would be delighted if even more people came along to shake a bucket on the night. If anyone is available, please contact Neil McArthur through KCFC (www.kcfc.co.uk/fireworks.html). This year's event will be held on Friday, 4 November, and everyone will be looking forward to another fantastic fireworks display.

KIRSTY MCARTHUR

Fibre Broadband Update

By the time you read this, fibre-enabled broadband should be available to several parts of the village. Premises within 1.2km of Blane Smithy, and in Station, Gartness, Drumore, Allan and Old Endrick roads (and possibly some low-numbered premises along Balfron and Napier roads) should be able to get the fibre-based service and fast speeds. Check how you are connected to the exchange at www.scotlandsuperfast.com or www.superfast-openreach.co.uk and this will also show you whether you can get Superfast Broadband.

Since our last bulletin there have been two meetings with Digital Broadband Scotland, supported by our MSP Bruce Crawford, where our concerns were set out. Killearn Community Council will continue to monitor the situation. You can keep up to date with the latest news at www.killearncc.org.uk

DOUG ASHWORTH, CHAIR, KILLEARN BROADBAND GROUP

Strathendrick Singers News



The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace by Karl Jenkins is the major work which the Strathendrick Singers is preparing for its Spring Concert on 20 March in Killearn Kirk. It uses an old French song, texts from the Christian liturgy, from poets like Tennyson and Kipling, and also from Japanese and Arabic sources to comment on the futility of war, and to end with the hope for a new millennium of peace. It has struck a chord the world over since it was written for the Millennium. We are also rehearsing stirring new settings of Jacobite songs by Ken Johnston, *I Landed with Seven Men*, which is an account of the '45 Rebellion, and Bonnie Prince Charlie, with well-known songs linked by a short narration. This is a concert which I'm sure you'll agree will be unmissable!

The most exciting prospect for the Strathendrick Singers is taking this programme to Yorkshire in May. Following the successful visit by the KVV Singers from Yorkshire to Killearn last year, the Strathendricks are

visiting the area of Keighley, Ilkley and Skipton and presenting two concerts. This is our first venture 'abroad', and it will be a wonderful experience for us all. This is the culmination of a season which has already seen a very successful Christmas concert in Killearn Kirk in December. The welcoming refreshments at the interval were this year enhanced by the raffle of a generous hamper and other prizes, which helped raise funds towards our Yorkshire trip.

We held our annual Musical Coffee Morning on 20 February in Killearn Kirk Hall, with musical contributions from choir members, again brilliantly accompanied by Helen Barclay.

We are very grateful to our new accompanist, Penny Watson, a student at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, whom many of you will have heard accompanying us at the Christmas Market. The Singers are going from strength to strength, as our audience members tell us. This is only possible due to the wonderful training and patience of our Music Director, Mark Evans, who constantly finds us interesting music to perform, and challenges us to raise our standards.

We are always happy to welcome new members. If you are interested in joining us please contact any member of the choir, our secretary, Ken Allen (550415; secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk) or Colin Cameron (media@strathendricksingers.org.uk). If you would like to become a 'Friend of the Strathendrick Singer', please contact either of the above. Visit www.strathendricksingers.org.uk and our Facebook page.

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TOP 10 AWARD 2015
Larghulston no.1

Local Training Sessions

KCFC has arranged the following free training sessions to be held in the Clubroom, Killearn Village Hall:

Thursday, 17 March or Tuesday, 29 March 7–9pm

Use of the Defibrillator and Basic Resuscitation – by Loch Lomond and Trossachs Search and Rescue Helping you to be confident to cope with emergency situations. Response to heart attack, stroke and choking are covered, for adults and children Booking essential, please contact Heather Wright (heatherwrightuk@aol.com).

Tuesday, 22 March, 6.30–8.30pm

Child Protection (under the auspices of Forth Valley Child Protection)

This workshop is open to any person or group in regular contact with children and young people and adults who are parents or carers. It is not suitable for individuals or groups who provide a formal caring role. It is also a back-up to the KCFC Children and Vulnerable Persons Protection Policy. To book a place, please contact Pam Campbell:

(01786 23314; campbellp@stirling.gov.uk) or contact the Community Engagement Team (01786 233076; communityengagement@stirling.gov.uk).

Joining the *Courier*

Jenny, Kim and Kirsty have joined the *Courier* team to get first-hand experience of journalism. Jenny is working with the advertising team, designing adverts for our clients. There are two of her original designs in this edition. Kim and Kirsty are contributing articles for us, and you will find their copy throughout this issue.



Jenny McGibbon

I've lived in the area my whole life and went to Balforn High School. I'm now in my final year of an international fashion branding course at Glasgow Caledonian University. Having suffered from ME for years I was keen to

branch out and try new things once I was feeling up to it. I've always loved being creative, and wanted to put my business knowledge to good use, so I'm really happy to now be part of the *Courier* advertising team!

Kim Denton

I am 14 and in S3 at Balforn High School. I have been living in Killearn for nearly 10 years, so I am really looking forward to writing something for the young people of the village. I love sports – I'm part of the Balforn Barracudas and play rugby at the school and West of Scotland – music and writing

(obviously!). I am hoping to write articles that relate to young people or get them interested in things they usually wouldn't consider. I look forward to the experience and hopefully you will be stuck with me for years to come.



Kirsty McArthur

Hello everyone! I have lived in Killearn all my life and am currently studying for my Highers at Balforn High School, hoping to get into law in a couple of years' time. My interests range from dancing, volunteering locally with Abbeyfield for my gold Duke of Edinburgh award and acting with FADS. You might not recognise me out of my Queen Rat makeup

from this year's panto! I feel the village community is a big aspect of my life and I am excited about being able to contribute to the *Courier*.

App of the Issue

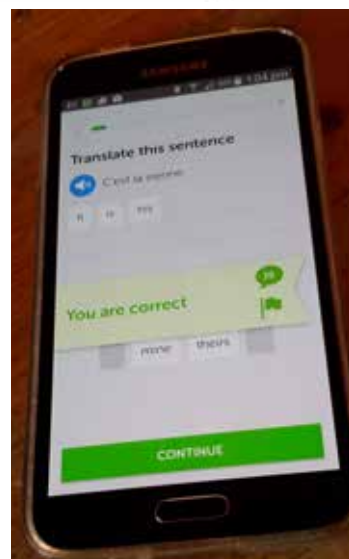


duolingo

Ever wondered where the years of school French lessons went? Do you rely on a guidebook to stutter out the most basic phrases abroad? All you need is a spare 10 minutes a day and you could learn a language on your own phone.

With more than 25 million users, Duolingo (<https://en.duolingo.com>) promises an easy and quick way to improve your language skills, or even start from scratch.

You can choose from a range of languages from French to Norwegian to Turkish, and make learning your chosen language fun and accessible using bite-sized games and challenges. It is completely free to download and use, and as an added bonus has no annoying adverts or sneaky in-app purchases. I downloaded it as a way to supplement my French revision, and found it



instantly addictive. The different levels and challenges mimic a video game, with points to be gained if you answer a question correctly.

So if you want to maintain your language skills, or swot up in preparation for your next holiday in a way that doesn't feel like a chore, Duolingo might just be the way to do it.

KIRSTY MCARTHUR

New Telephone Scam Alert

There has been a recent spate of scam telephone calls again about internet faults. The caller claims to be working for the 'BT Technical Department', is insistent that they work for BT, and is even willing to give you a telephone number. Unfortunately, these calls have coincided with disruptions to the network caused by work being done by BT Openreach as part of their work to upgrade the exchange related to fibre-broadband. The call may, therefore, be more likely

to seem genuine.

Again, they want you to look at your computer, or even ask to take control of it, and potentially make changes that they may either charge you to return it back to its normal condition, give them personal or financial details or, worse still, compromise the information on the computer.

Neither BT, nor your ISP, will cold call you in this way. Just ignore it, and then report it to BT.

DA

Everything you've ever wanted to know about exams...

Third-, fourth- and fifth-year students in Scotland have some crucial decisions to make in the next few months: what subjects to choose for their National 4 and 5 qualifications or Highers. As an S3 student, I know that everyone is feeling the pressure of this choice, including myself, but do we and our bewildered families really understand what we are choosing? Here is a little helping hand to all those confused onlookers and slightly stressed students from a current student and teacher at Balfron High School.

But first, a translation for those not au fait with the current system:

- National 4 and 5 is the equivalent of O Grades
- National 4 is the equivalent of Standard Grade (General Level) or Intermediate 1
- National 5 is the equivalent of Standard Grade (Credit Level) or Intermediate 2

Grace Currie, S5

How do you manage with the stress of exams?

Make sure to get the balance right between working hard and having fun. Make sure you study well in advance of your exams so you feel prepared and able to tackle exams to the best of your ability. When studying make sure it's in a suitable environment, one with not too many distractions, so you can properly concentrate and get the most out of your studying. Taking regular breaks and exercising is a good way to reduce stress and refresh your mind.

Do you need to know what you want to do when you pick your Nat 5s?

It helps, although you don't have to. Look into university courses that interest you and find out which subjects they look for course applicants to have qualifications in. That should act as a guide for what subjects to pick. However if you truly have no idea what you want to study at university or what you want to do in the future, pick subjects that you enjoy and are good at.

What is the best thing parents can do to help?

Encouragement to do well and provide a suitable study space. However, studying is up to the individual, and parents should not have to be too heavily involved. The effort you put into studying will reflect how well you do in your exams thus should act as motivation to work hard.

Is there a big step between 3rd year and 4th year?

Yes, it's a step up as you are working towards a national qualification in S4 instead of broad general education like you experience in S3. Despite this, ensuring you work hard throughout the year, the jump is very manageable.

Mr Blair, English Teacher

What support do pupils get?

Different pupils need different support. We have 'developing the young workforce' seminars, where feedback is given so it improves each year. There are many opportunities for pupils, we have speakers and work experience which help them choose their subjects. Having form-class leaders is really good. Each teacher knows around 20 pupils very well so can accurately advise them on which subjects would be good for them to choose.

Can students change their mind once they have chosen or even started studying the subject?

We obviously don't force pupils to keep doing a subject. If it is early enough on in the course, yes, they can change as long as it doesn't disturb their learning.

Any advice?

Choose things you are going to enjoy, as it will be hard work and you don't want a bad year. You should pick what you're good at and set yourself reasonable targets. Choose subjects you have done well in and if you don't have a career in mind, keep a broad spectrum of subjects going. Speak to your teachers! They want to help you and give you advice

So whether you are making that important, yet tough choice, are that baffled parent or are just interested, I hope this has given you a helping hand and quenched your curiosity. This link. <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> tells you about loads of different careers and has really good information like hours, salary, and qualifications you would need whether you go on to higher qualifications or not.

KIM DENTON

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Bank Closure



News has been made public that the Killearn branch of the Bank of Scotland is going to close.

I don't think I ever went into the bank on a Thursday without other people being there too, so I know it will be missed, particularly by those who don't have a car. And what about small businesses in the

village? This is as good an example of the law of diminishing returns as I can think – cut down the hours so fewer folk can use it, and then close it for lack of business. Brilliant.

It's even more galling that BoS say we can do some banking services at our local post office in Killearn! It shows a crass lack of local knowledge to put out this cut-and-paste form letter in February when the SPAR – and our Post Office counter – closed at the beginning of January. Their letter demonstrates a lack of interest (excuse pun) in the health and wellbeing of our community.

Hopefully, by June alternative arrangements will be in place for a Post Office, at least. It is a shame, however, that despite the amount of commercial property available in the village, all services seem to be concentrating and squeezing into the one place left – the Co-op. Is this a bad thing or an opportunity for change? The jury is most definitely out.

GES

Co-op Bag Levy and Community Pioneer Programme

In Scotland, the money raised from the charge for carrier bags has been accumulating since October 2014 and we decided to use this opportunity to invest in our local communities. The Killearn store was given £1,000 to donate to groups within the community, and after the votes from both the staff at the shop and the local community were counted, two local causes were chosen: Colourful Killearn and the Friends of Abbeyfield.

Colourful Killearn had the most votes and were awarded £600 to continue to keep our village bright and beautiful. Friends of Abbeyfield were awarded £400 to help keep the residents of Abbeyfield young at heart with fun-filled outings.

The Co-op Local Fund is not the only new initiative. We are trying to get back to our roots and become more involved locally. This is why each new Gen 2 store like Killearn has a Community Pioneer. I am the Pioneer for Killearn, and so far I have volunteered with Colourful Killearn and helped the PTA raise money for the Primary School.

If any other groups in Killearn would like some of our time for local causes, feel free to contact Killearn Co-op and speak to the manager, Peter Reilly, or myself. We will try and help in any way we can.

LYNSEY HALL

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Police Report

On 23 November 2015, Raymond Murphy and I became the dedicated 'ward officers' for Forth and Endrick Ward. This is a new term for what was previously known as 'community officer'. We both have many years' experience of policing in this area, and we are aware of the local issues. Our Sergeant is Alasdair Matheson who is based at Dunblane Police Office.

Speeding regularly features among complaints from local residents. Static speed checks have been carried out by local officers within the area, with numerous motorists warned regarding speeding. Conditional Offer of Fixed Penalties have also been issued.

Regular patrols have been carried out around Killearn Primary School in response to concerns about inconsiderate parking and congestion. Several motorists have been given suitable advice, and one motorist has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for failing to comply with the restrictions imposed by the zig-zag lines on Graham Road. This is an area that we will continue to monitor as we receive regular complaints about parking.

We always encourage people to report any concerns, information or suspicious activity. The assistance of the community in relation to police enquiries, intelligence gathering and pro-active policing cannot be overstated. No matter how minor or insignificant a piece of information may seem to a member of the community, it could be absolutely vital to police in identifying a suspect of a crime, or for contributing towards pro-active policing.

In addition, we like to remind the local community to take simple, preventative measures if their house is unoccupied for any length of time. Consider the use of timers for lamps, keep all jewellery and high-value items locked away or well hidden, have a trusted friend or neighbour open/close blinds and curtains and, if applicable, consider allowing a neighbour the use of your driveway while you are away. If anyone would like further crime prevention advice, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

We also encourage road safety and like to remind drivers of the importance of ensuring their vehicles are in good, roadworthy condition. This includes ensuring lights are in good working order and tyres are in good condition.

We are based at Balfour Police Office and can be contacted at the Police office on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. We both have access to this email mailbox and we recommend that this email address is used to contact us about any local community issues.

We regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice.

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Doubling up is a success for local lads

When the three founders of the 'Double' dating app appeared in their eye-catching suits and matching ties in the current series of *Dragon's Den*, they were on their uppers, with pennies in the bank and a four-figure debt. To their delight, Alaskan Loren Gould and Killlearn boys Ben Greenock and Gary MacDonough were successful in their pitch.

Double aims to take the stress out of that all-important first date. Rather than face the online dating world alone, the app allows two friends to 'double up' on a date with another double of friends from the site, making the experience more comfortable, possibly more fun and undoubtedly safer.

When the earliest version of Double launched in February 2015 it received a lot of press attention in the UK and online. The lads quit their day jobs to go full-time on their new business, but development costs were high, despite the increasing numbers using their app.

This is where *Dragon's Den* came in. Why loud red suits with white hearts and matching ties on national television? They hoped that their memorable attire would gain their idea positive media exposure and perhaps an investment offer. They worked hard to hone their presentational skills, going through their pitch around 200 times, according to Loren Gould. In fact, their television



appearance accomplished both things: publicity and a £75,000 investment (*The Double Double? Ed*). Double now has offices in London and Edinburgh, the user base has expanded further, and Moonpig founder and 'Dragon' Nick Jenkins is still involved with the company.

Double is available free from the iOS App Store, is accessible from Facebook, and has a presence on other social media



platforms such as Twitter and Instagram. They are currently working on an Android version.

Presumably they've heard all the jokes about wearing their hearts on their sleeves. NB

Poetry Corner

We may not have the iconic beasts that through the jungle roam,
But we have many sights and sounds to delight us here at home.
To walk upon a heather moor or through a bluebell wood,
To catch a glimpse of roe deer or a blue tit with her brood.
Yes, wonder at a waterfall that's fifty metres high,
But do not spurn the streamlet that busily runs by.
Yes, go and see exotic birds with vivid beak and wing,
But go into your garden and hear the blackbirds sing.
There is a place for all things that we can count as treasure,
But realise it's not just the rare that can give us equal pleasure.

JW



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Words Matter



The *Oxford Dictionary* definition of feminism ‘advocacy of women’s rights on the grounds of the equality of the sexes’ is sadly not what comes into the minds of most people when they hear the word ‘feminism’. However, the recent controversy over their sample sentence defining the word ‘rabid’, suggests that compilers of the *Oxford Dictionary* may need to practice what they preach, given that they chose to illustrate the meaning of rabid by use of the phrase ‘rabid feminist’ (as well as pairing ‘nagging’ with ‘wife’ and ‘shrill’ with ‘women’s voices’). The publishers of the dictionary eventually apologised and said that they would review their policy, but only after an initial reaction which treated the online social media outcry as a joke.

But far from being a joke, the refusal by women to accept the use of gendered language is one of the stands against misogyny that leads to the misconception that feminists are a group of men-loathing women who want to achieve world domination at the expense of men. This could not be further from reality, which remains the aim of equality for all, regardless of their gender, race or religious beliefs. The harsh reality is that despite all the campaigning, and all the mischaracterisation of feminism, women still don’t have equality with men.

I recently had the opportunity to visit HMP Cornton Vale, which is an all-women’s prison, where the inmates were participating in a series of workshops and discussions about women’s rights, marking a 16-day period of action against violence against women. It was shocking to learn that as result of having a history filled with domestic violence and abusive relationships, many of the inmates did not feel that they deserved to identify as feminist. They did not even have the self-confidence to consider that they were entitled to ask for equality, let alone believe that they would ever actually achieve it.

Inspired by these women, I went along to the Reclaim the Night march in Glasgow, organised by Rape Crisis,

whose Glasgow branch receives nearly 4,000 calls a year from women, with the number of calls rising by over 50 per cent over two years. The comedian Susan Calman and writer Denise Mina shared their reasons for abhorring violence against women, and it’s fair to say there wasn’t a dry eye in the house. It was an emotional and thought-provoking experience, and I would strongly recommend anyone who can, to attend when it comes along again later this year.

However, something did strike me as odd as I looked around the crowds of people marching with their banners and chanting fervent support: if a local event on a freezing cold November night can attract hundreds of supporters, why are women still facing violence, prejudice and inequality? The only answer I can find is that there are a million small reasons why this is still the case, and gendered language, like that thoughtlessly used by the *Oxford Dictionary*, is just one element of the damaging stereotypes and labels that are holding women and girls back from achieving equality across the board.

Ours is a society where Ed Sheeran’s songs about his exes are seen as poetic, but Taylor Swift is portrayed as a man-obsessed serial dater by the media. A society where girls are scolded for wearing vest tops in PE as they are deemed as too provocative, but boys are allowed to rip their shirts off on the football field. A society where the concept of feminism is casually denigrated as ‘rabid’. Well, I have news for the people who are prepared to accept those lazy old stereotypes: it’s the 21st century and there is nothing ‘rabid’ about wanting equality.

RW

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Killearn's Young Sporting Prowess

With Rio hosting the 2016 Olympic Games we have a summer of sport to look forward to. With hopefuls such as Andy Murray, Jessica Ennis Hill and Ross Murdoch flying the flag for Team GB, we should be receiving some shiny medals. Yet what about budding young athletes a little closer to home? Here we shine some light on our own golden girls and boys. Rio? Maybe not, but perhaps we'll see you in Tokyo!



Sailing: Calum Bell, Harris Cartwright, Isla and Rory Harper, and Scott Forbes

Calum Bell (pictured above) has been sailing since he was five years old when his dad began to take him to Loch Lomond to sail his boat every week. He is a member of Loch Lomond Sailing Club and Helensburgh Sailing Club and competes for both clubs. He has represented Lomond High School at some events, and at several regattas, Calum has represented Scotland. In his current boat, a Topper which he has been sailing since he was 11, he has competed in events across Scotland and at the UK National Championships in North Wales and Weymouth. He says that Weymouth is his favourite location to sail, as the 2012 Olympic Sailing took place there, meaning he often sees Olympic sailors. He won the Scottish Traveller Series last year and finished the 2015 season with third place at the National Series event. His results were good enough to secure him a second year in the Scottish Development Team and a place in the UK National Squad. He also had the honour to win the RYA Scotland Class Academy Sailor of the year 2015. This year the UK National Championships are to be held at North Berwick, which will be good as it is closer to home. He also hopes to compete in the Topper World Championships this July in Ballyhome in Northern Ireland. Over the next few years he will continue to compete in the youth classes, with an eye to sailing in the adult categories in the future.

Harris Cartwright was second at the Scottish Topper winter championships at Largs. He enjoys competing in his Topper, but wants to move to a Laser 4.7, a heavier, larger boat. Harris was offered a place in the GBR Optimist National Squad for the second year, but declined so he could move up to a bigger boat and accepted a place in the Scottish Topper Development Team.

Isla Harper and Rory Harper both take part in sailing competitions. Isla is sailing a 420 as part of the Scottish Development squad, and Rory is competing in a double handed 29er throughout the UK.

Scott Forbes is leading the Scottish Optimist squad and is part of the GBR Intermediate Optimist squad, often travelling down south for training sessions.

Triathlon: Callum Byrne

Callum (pictured right) started taking part in aquathons (swim followed by run) three and a half years ago when he and his dad saw one advertised at a sports centre. As Callum enjoyed both running and swimming, he thought he would give it a go. He now represents Fusion

Triathlon Club, competing in three or four triathlons a year. He also does eight to 10 aquathons a year, and takes part in cross country in the winter. He came third at a competition in Strathclyde Park last year, and he is second in Scotland in his age group (11–12). Callum was chosen to represent Scotland in the Inter Regional Championships in September. He hopes to become an elite athlete, and we are likely see more of him in the future.



Rugby



Rugby continues to thrive in Killearn with many boys playing for the high school teams and Strathendrick Rugby Club. Many people are surprised to hear how popular girls rugby is. Balfron's Under-15's and Under-18 teams have high participation with many Killearn girls taking part.

The team is pictured left in the black strip. The Under-15's most recent game against Falkirk was a close draw at 18 all, which sadly wasn't enough to take them through to the next round of the tournament – better luck next time.

Cycling: Abby and Lewis Stewart

The Stewart family are wizards on two wheels. Abby (pictured below in blue) started cycling at the tender age of three. As she got older she started to really enjoy it and took it up competitively. She has been with Glasgow Riderz for six years and is now representing them. She has competed in Scottish Youth track and road competitions, time trial championships and national road races. Her achievements include ninth in the British Omnium championships, third in the Scottish track championships, second in the Scottish road championships, and being part of the winning girls team for the Youth Tour of Scotland. Abby is a rising young star and a name to look out for in the cycling world.



Lewis, like his sister, got into his sport because his dad was a keen cyclist. A friend is coach at a youth cycling club in Glasgow and that started his passion. Also a rider in the Glasgow Riderz stable, Lewis became the HOY Future Stars Boys Champion for 2015/16, winning the leader's jersey in the Glasgow leg of the Revolution Series and going on to retain it in the final round in Manchester in January. This is a very prestigious award and many previous winners have become household names. As he has exams this year, balancing his school work, training and social life has been a little tricky, but it certainly hasn't effected Lewis' performance in competitions. His motivation is the sport itself – the more he trains, the better he gets and the more he enjoys it. An Olympic medal is his dream, 'the pinnacle of sporting success' in his own words. Some of his aims would be to achieve top three at events at the British Track Championships and top five at the British Omnium Championships. He hopes to get into the Olympic Development Programme and compete at the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games.

Hockey: Ellie Kemsley

Ellie is the youngest player in her school team at Kelvinside Academy to win this season's West District Hockey Trophy for the first time in the school's history. She was the captain of the West District Under-14 team in May, leading them to victory, and was once again selected to play for the Under-16 team in the Scottish Inter-District tournament at the Glasgow National Hockey Centre, held over two days in October. As well as playing as a defender for her club GHK, she was selected for the Scottish training squad with whom she trains each week.

Golf: John Paterson

John (pictured right) has been playing golf since he could walk. His family enjoys golf which is how he first got into the sport. He represents the New Golf Club at St Andrews, Fife, at County level and Scotland at Junior International level, and he has been competing for the past four years throughout the UK.



The sport is extremely competitive, and he has won competitions at County level and has represented Scotland on many occasions. A few of these competitions include Scotland v France, Scotland v Sussex, and at the biggest European Under-16's event, 'English Under 16s', when he competed for Scotland. In the future John would like to win competitions at a national and European level, which would help secure him a scholarship for an American university should he decide to take that route.

Equestrian Vaulting: Katie Henderson

Katie was featured in our last issue and is still busy competing. For anyone not familiar with equestrian vaulting, the simplest way to describe it is gymnastics on horseback. She has her first international competition as an individual child level 1* at the Belgium CVI in Moorsele, and closer to home the Scottish Championships in September and three other competitions in March, May and June. She also hopes to be a competitor in the British Championships in October.



Football

There is once again a very high participation level for football in Killearn, with many Killearn players in Strathendrick football teams and in Balfron High School teams. It's always great to see local lads play for Killearn Football Club, or aspire to trials for Scottish teams.

Swimming

The local swimming club, the Balfron Barracudas, has rising participation levels. Although it is a non-competitive club, there are some excellent swimmers.

These are only a handful of the talented young people from around Killearn. Congratulations to all of our sports girls and boys. We wish them well for the future and hope to watch their continued success.

KIM DENTON (WITH GES)

Strathendrick Balfron Mini and Junior Rugby Update

Junior Rugby (S1–S6)

The growing player numbers in the Junior Section (S1–S6) during the first half of the 2015/16 season has resulted in a strong team and success on the field. We now have around 90 boys who play and enjoy rugby with Strathendrick Balfron Juniors, and for the first time we can look ahead to next season when we can start to field a full team per year group, initially in the lower year groups but progressively across all years.

The increase in teams will mean, over the next few years, that Strathendrick Balfron can join the main Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) league structure and play against the top teams in the country. The SRU has recognised the potential of our teams, coaches and facility, and has provided significant funding to buy equipment and to generally help grow the club.

This is a great opportunity, and is a result of a great deal of work and commitment by the school, Ciera Campbell, our Modern Apprentice, and all the coaches, most of whom are UKCC qualified, both in the Junior Section as well as the Mini section, which feeds into Junior Rugby.

Our results – especially in S1/2 and U16 – have been a credit to the boys. They have won the majority of their fixtures, often against far larger and more established clubs. A number of the U16s will be put forward to the SRU as boys of exceptional talent or ability for the advanced Pathway Training and Development Programme, which is part of Scottish Rugby’s strategy to develop talented players in the Caledonia Region. This is an intensive training programme for boys who show the potential to be future top professional players.

During the remainder of the season we have a number of cup and tournaments fixtures including some Sevens fixtures in April 2016. These are games where the players will be able to compete against the best in Scotland.



Mini Rugby (P1–P7)

As with the Juniors, player numbers have never been so good. P1 and P2 take part in training and practice games, and each year group from P3 upwards fields a full-strength team. We now have coaches and assistant coaches for every year group and are progressively being recognised as one of the strongest Clubs in the Mini circuit across all age groups. Numbers are around 70 boys and growing, and there is a great vibe and momentum. More tournaments for younger players are being organised in conjunction with the local primary schools and it is hoped that we can continue to grow.



Rugby Tours

As has become tradition, a number of rugby tours are planned. P5/6 are visiting Alnwick in April and P7/S1 and S2 are off to Ireland in May. As well as being great fun for the kids, these tours help them understand teamwork and allow them to see a rugby family and culture outside their local area. Minor game rule changes are taken in their stride; such is their enthusiasm, I don’t know of any player we have had away returning from a tour who would not immediately sign up for the following year.

As we continue these tours, we establish more contacts which makes it easier for the subsequent year to follow. We are also now getting clubs who want to make return visits, which adds to our playing experience and the general momentum of the club.

If any young people of school are interested in joining us or to find out more about what we do, please contact Ed Sansom (ed.sansom@ewm.co.uk).



Strathendrick Modern Apprentice provides an insight into her role within the club

I am the rugby modern apprentice for the Balfon Cluster. I represent the Scottish Rugby Union, Strathendrick RFC and Balfon High School. I aim to improve the number of participants in school rugby as well as promoting rugby within the local primary schools.

To do this, I have been out to the local primary schools – Fintry, Kippen, Buchlivie, Killearn, Strathblane, Balfon, Drymen and Buchanan – to deliver rugby sessions to the P4 classes. The school sessions aimed to introduce rugby to those who had not tried it before and promote Strathendrick as their nearest club.

These introductory sessions started by concentrating on carrying the ball in two hands and learning the best way to maintain control of the ball. We then looked at different ways to stop an attacker from running by practicing a touch tackle – a two-handed touch on the opponent’s waist.– encouraging the children to understand the importance in rugby to tackle low. We also introduced the law of ‘offside’ and those who had played the game before were happy to help their classmates follow the law even if they didn’t yet quite understand it.

The primary sessions were great. I noticed that all of the children were keen to get involved and were helping each other throughout the sessions. What started off as an individual effort in the first week was soon a team effort as they progressed.

We held a touch rugby festival at Strathendrick Sports Club on Tuesday, 27 October. There were 12 different teams representing all of the primary schools involved. The sports leaders from Balfon High School played a key role in ensuring the day was a success. They each took charge of one of the playing fields where the matches were taking place. They refereed the matches and provided support and coaching during the games to ensure the children were getting the most out of the festival.

The festival was planned with the help of the Active Schools Sports Coordinator, club coaches and the primary schools. School support was key in helping make the day possible, by allowing us to go into the schools and introduce the children to rugby in a way which made it fun and enjoyable for everyone.

CIERA CAMPBELL

Killearn Football Club News

The Club brought the 2015 season to a close in November with a Player’s Night in the Killearn Hotel, which turned out to be a very eventful evening. An hour before intended kick-off, the Club were informed that due to unseen circumstances in the hotel kitchen, no food could be provided. The quick thinking of Club Secretary, Ian Cameron, resulted in players, committee and honorary guests sitting down to fish suppers courtesy of the Saffron in Balfon.

Despite the menu change, the rest of the night went well, with the Chairman giving a satisfactory report on the past season, and thanking the players and committee for all their efforts towards the Club.

The evening ended with Honorary President Hugh McArthur presenting the Club trophies. David Cameron won both Cub Player and Players’ Player of the Year; Alan More, Top Goal Scorer; Alistair Moore, Young Player of the Season; Zander Russell, Golf Outing Cup; and Colin Banks, Hoolie 10k Cup (for most improved time).

With Season 2016 fast approaching, pre-season training has started and any new players will be made very welcome.

The Club would like to thank greatly the many organisations, businesses and individuals who have contributed financially to the cost of the Community Sports Pavilion. Your support is greatly appreciated by all at Killearn Football Club.

DONALD BEATON

Community Sports Pavilion Update



As the first step in the site preparation, Stirling Council removed four trees with their roots and the hedge nearest to the playpark (the trees will be re-sited on completion of the project), however, there was a delay in the start to construction.

The delay was caused by the planners asking KCFC to meet the Council’s Roads Department regarding access via the Birch Rd spur to ensure they were happy with the plan. A site hut and skip will be placed there, and boards will be hired and placed alongside the football pitch to protect the park as materials are transported to the site compound.

This site access plan had to be incorporated in the legal agreement between KCFC and the Council, and caused a delay. The contractors also had to reschedule the project.

Stirling Council’s lawyers are processing the agreement at the time of going to press. When the legal agreement has been signed, the Council will re-site the play equipment as the next step.

A21 Construction Ltd plan to have started construction on 7 March with completion planned by 13 June 2016.

BOB BALLANTYNE

Curling – Second Stones

The first half of the 2015/16 season for Strathendrick Curling Club has now been completed. The Main Club Autumn League was easily won by Norman Robertson's team of Gillian Kingslake, Luisella Mosley and various reserves, by 13 points to the 8 won by the second team of Mike Jackson, Rita Harris, David Hale and various reserves. The latter team won a close battle for second place.



The Annual Ladies v Gents trophy was defended successfully by the Gents. The result was closer than last year, the final result being 14 ends to 10. The bonspiel was followed by a supper at the Jacksons' house where we were joined by partners and members of the club who had not played earlier.

The Ladies' Section played a double round robin Peat Trophy league up to Christmas. The winners were Gill Smith's team of Isabel Robertson, Elspeth Murdoch and Gail Pain. They were one point behind going into the final match, but managed to beat Pat Rodger's leading team of Anne Lang, Heather Burns and Norma Thornton, in a closely contested match, to go one point ahead.

The Ladies' Section Christmas Bonspiel was won by Rosemary Miller's team of Luisella Mosley and Angela Higginson. This was followed by an excellent lunch at The Gallery in Stirling, where we were joined by some non-playing members.

Both the Main Club and the Ladies' Section held their pairs competitions during the autumn. The former was won by Allan Watson and Jean Verrall and the latter by Muriel Holroyd and Heather Burns.

The Ladies' Section played their annual friendly against the Old Fellows Curling Club. Unfortunately, both teams lost, although one match was only decided with the last stone of the eighth end.

In the Forth and Endrick Province leagues, Strathendrick are in the middle of the table in the Robert Paterson Shield and in second place in the Forest Hills League.

In the Jim Carswell knockout competition, Strathendrick beat Kippen in the final for only our second victory in the 19-year history of the competition.

In the Province Medal bonspiel, Strathendrick finished in third place behind Balforn and Drymen.

In the away day at Kinross, Strathendrick finished in second place behind the Buccaneers.

The Club also won the Ballikinrain Cup, which is a three-sided match against Balforn and Fintry. The teams were Jane McLaren, Sheila Sturrock, Stan Moore and Sandy Park, and Bob Glass, Mary MacDonald, Keith Hyam and Walter MacGowan.

One of the highlights of the autumn was the chance for two teams to take part in the fourth Indoor Grand Match. This was held at 17 ice rinks across Scotland with 2,376 players from 388 clubs. Our teams were Donnie MacDonald, Sheila Sturrock, Stan Moore and Sandy Park who played at Stirling, and Gill Smith, Keith Hyam and Gillian and Richard Kingslake who made the



long journey to Elgin. Unfortunately, neither team was successful, although we all enjoyed the hospitality and the experience.

Jane McLaren of Strathendrick went to Canada in November with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club Ladies Tour. The tour takes place every 10 years and on this occasion it was to Quebec and Ontario. There is a blog on the tour on the website (<http://canadatour2015.weebly.com>).

On the social front, we had our usual successful meander on 2 January. Amazingly, the weather stayed dry all day, although the walking was rather muddy.

We are always looking for new members, so if you want an activity to keep you busy during the winter months and have always fancied curling, please contact Donnie MacDonald (01389 860442) or Gill Smith (550726) or visit www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.

Killearn Tennis Club – New Members Welcome

The new tennis season is about to begin and Killearn Tennis Club would like to welcome new members. Our first Open Day is on Saturday, 23 April, which is a great time to come and meet the committee and fellow members and venture on to the courts.

The Club caters for players of all ages and abilities. For beginners and those who are keen to improve their technique, coaching is available from Head Tennis Coach Hannah Pickford and her assistants, Tricia and Louise. The coaching programme is offered throughout the year and the team is gearing up for the camp for Juniors during the Easter holiday. The next coaching block of 10 weeks will begin after the Easter break and weekly coaching will take place as follows:

Wednesday Nights

- Pre-school: 3.30–4pm
- 6–9 years: 4–5pm
- 9–11 years: 5–6pm
- Team Training: 6–7pm

Thursday Nights

- Girls under 10: 4–5pm

Friday Nights

- P1 and 2: 4–5pm
- P3 and 4: 5–6pm
- P5 and 6: 6–7pm
- P7 and secondary: 7–8pm

Please contact Hannah for information about adult coaching.

Competitive members have the opportunity to join teams which are entered into the Central District leagues. The ladies' team will play matches on Tuesdays with a

7pm start. Gents practice night is Thursday. For Juniors, there will be U14 and U16 boys' teams and an U14 girls' team. In addition, Hannah has entered 10 to 14 year-olds into the exciting new 'Road to Wimbledon Competition'.

Ladies and Gents social tennis nights will be starting soon on Wednesday nights. We plan to organise taster nights on Wednesday nights when for prospective members can come along, meet members and have a few light-hearted games. Open Days and family tournaments with barbeques will also be run throughout the season. Watch out for posters about club activities around the village and on our website.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank all members who braved the elements in December to volunteer with the Woodland Experience, raising funds for the club in the process.

Dates for your diary:

- Club AGM: Saturday, 12 March, 11.00am in the Clubhouse. All senior members welcome.
- Open Day: Saturday, 23 April
- Easter Camp: Monday–Friday, 11–15 April
- Family Day: Saturday, 28 May
- Strawberries and Cream Day: Sunday, 19 June

For adult coaching please contact Hannah Pickford (hannahpickford@hotmail.com) for details.

For junior coaching please contact Elaine Henderson (elaine_hen11@hotmail.com) or Patsy Hutchison (patsyhutchison@googlemail.com).

For membership information please contact Elaine Henderson or visit www.killearntennisclub.org.uk We can also be found on Facebook and Twitter.

SB



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Ian Dunkinson 1938 – 2015



Ian Dunkinson was born in Portsmouth. An only child, during the World War II he was taken by his mother to Edinburgh where they lived with his grandparents, as this was considered a safer location. His father died at the end of the war, and he and his mother continued to live in Edinburgh.

He received his education at the

Royal High School, but professed to be more enthused by rugby and cricket than by academic studies. He left school and undertook training as a manufacturing stationer with Andrew Whyte & Co. He was still there when he and Dorothy were married in 1963. Two sons, Barclay and Craig, arrived to complete the family, and they moved first to Newbattle and then to Broughton, where they renovated an old farmhouse, which provided an ideal family home.

Keen to further his career, Ian had sought several employment opportunities before taking up a position with Bowater Packaging. Promotion necessitated a move to the west and the family bought Dunkyan and moved to Killlearn in 1976. In 1981, Ian started up his own company, DW Cases, manufacturing corrugated packaging. He put great effort into his business and slowly the company grew and flourished. Today it is run by his two sons.

Outside of work Ian had many interests. His love of sport, and of rugby and cricket in particular, lasted

all his life. He was also assiduous in his care of his garden – in particular the grass which he tended with an almost obsessive regularity with ‘Big Bertha’, his trusted lawnmower. The lawn also became his Wembley, Twickenham and Lords as he played for hours with his sons and grandsons. The family had memorable holidays wild camping, touring Scotland in an old ambulance which occasionally earned them preferential treatment on the roads

He and Dorothy had a great love of mountain walking, and travelled the world to walk in high places. Ian was also fond of music, film and writing, and had written numerous dramas, many intended for TV, but which, so far, remain unpublished.

In retirement, Ian was a familiar figure in the village, always immaculately dressed in traditional tweeds or formal attire according to the occasion. Upright and courteous, he was a true gentleman in both appearance and nature; his sense of honour and loyalty were appreciated by all who knew him and most of all by his beloved family. BP

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Helen Morton Phillips 1928 – 2016



Helen was the third child of a family of six born to the Taylor family of Shieldhill Farm, near to Falkirk. It was a lively, hard-working family, full of chatter and banter, with everyone expected to do their bit in the running of the farm.

Helen met John Phillips at a Young Farmers dance at Bridge of Allan; they were married in 1961 and made their first home in Dunira, where their son Robert was born, before they moved to their first farm, Kindrochit, near Comrie. Here they established a welcoming home where members of Helen's extended family would visit regularly and the growing generation of youngsters, now including Helen and John's daughter, Jane, would run free, playing around the farm. John and Helen moved several times to take on different farms, ending up at Gartartan, but no matter where they were, it was their home that was the meeting ground of the wider family, who visited every summer for a week's holiday and a grand family reunion.

Helen was an indomitable character whose feisty spirit and strong voice were apparent throughout her life. As a young girl, returning from skating at the Falkirk Ice Rink with her sister, the two girls, having just alighted from the bus, were knocked off their feet by a passing car. Luckily, apart from a bump, they were unhurt. They got to their feet, dusted themselves down and continued up the lane home and went to bed without telling anyone of

the mishap. This was Helen's way of dealing with life's adversities; when any blows came her way, she would dust herself down and just get on with life.

Helen was an accomplished knitter and a keen member of the WRI, being Past President of both the St. Fillans and Gartmore branches. She was also a regular member of the church. Keen on sport since her early days, she kept up her interest throughout her life. She enjoyed curling and was a member of the Phillips family team who twice won the Family Bonspiel at Stirling. When she could no longer play through the loss of her sight, she could still manage to follow the football with enthusiasm from the TV commentary. She could also give her own children and grandchildren her constant and robust encouragement in their sporting activities and achievements.

She lost much of her sight in her early sixties, but when she came to live in Killearn in 1990 she found good friends in her neighbours, who readily offered help if it were needed. Most days one or other would call and take her out for a walk. Coming from a lifetime on a farm, she loved to get into the fresh air and feel the breeze on her face. The Thursday Club was also a favourite outing and there she enjoyed the cards and the chat. Even when, in later months, health problems began to take their toll, Helen's spirit remained strong.

The family, Robert and Lyn and Nina, and Jane and Jim McLaren and Kim and Fraser, were always at the centre of Helen's life. She was the rock of family life, providing love and support to her husband, children and grandchildren, of whom she was so proud. The playing of the pipes, by her grand-daughter, at the close of her funeral service sounded a fitting farewell from her many friends, neighbours and family members who filled the Kirk.

BP

Bridge by Zorro – What Happened

In a team situation, this hand was played 4 times, 2 pairs in our team sitting North/South and 2 sitting East/West. The positive and negative scores of course should cancel out – but they don't!

Both our opposing pairs ended up in a spade contract by East at the 4 level, making 10 or 11 tricks. Our pairs however ended up in 5 clubs or 5 Diamonds, doubled in both cases, 2 down in each case, but for a score of "only -500". But when compared with the opponents' score of 620 or 650, we actually did all right!

At the spade-contract tables, East bid 3 Spades, effectively shutting our pairs out, but at my table East only bid 2 Spades that allowed me to show my strong Club suit. Understandably my partner, with a void in Clubs, reverted to his Diamond suit. The opposition, with a clear Spade fit, carried on to 4 Spades giving us a problem. I decided on bidding to 5 Clubs and was understandably doubled. It was now "trust your partner" time so there was no 5 Diamonds re-bid from my partner.

Unfortunately, our other pairs didn't find a defence to defeat the 4 Spades contract as a bonus. Can you find it?

(Hint: can you ensure 3 tricks from trumps?)

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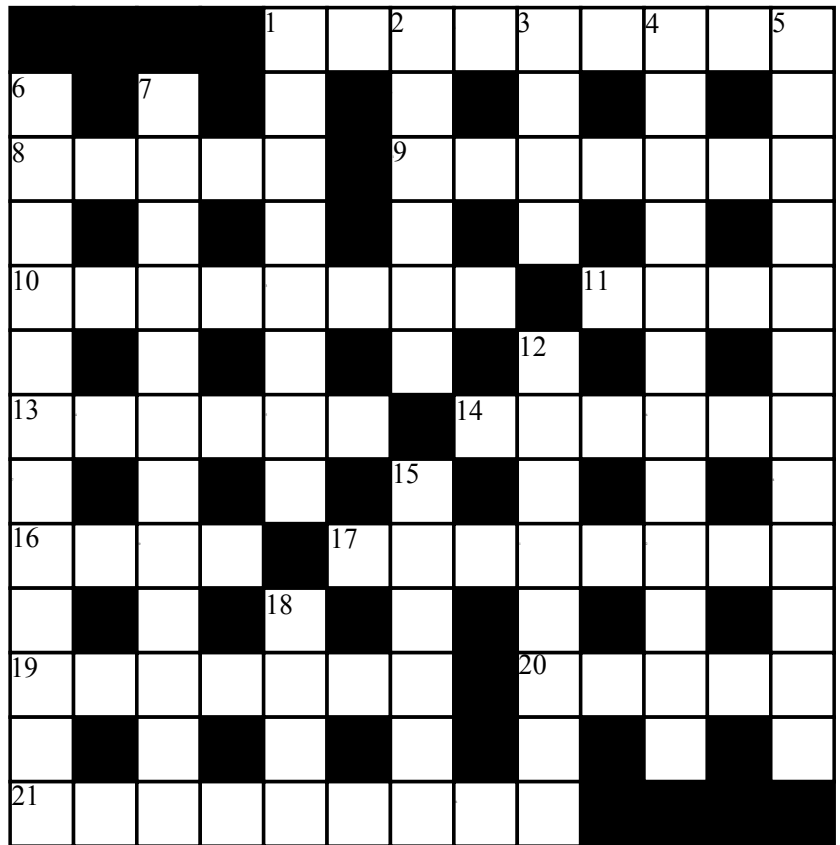
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Our prize for the Prize Crossword is a Family Ticket to the Theatre Royal or the King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days. This has been donated by Scotland's leading live entertainment venues. Telephone: 0844 871 7627.

Our prize for the Children's Prize Codeword is a £10 voucher from the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 years old or under.

Complete the crossword and place it in the box in the Co-op or in the postbox outside the Village Hall, with your name, address and a contact number before **Sunday, 26 March 2016.**

PRIZE CROSSWORD *Set by PeeWit*



ACROSS

- 1 Type of missile when one goes crazy with anger (9)
- 8 Walker is a lazy chap who loses head, right? (5)
- 9 Aversion to all grey mixture (5)
- 10 Head louse assesses chemicals (8)
- 11 Mountain starts to be curved (4)
- 13 Measure the corpse when inside something (6)
- 14 Red top identification goes before bobtail (6)
- 16 Beam for a shop no more in Killearn (4)
- 17 Short laugh before end surrounded by American spies in Spanish estate (8)
- 19 Told what to do to get organised (7)
- 20 Hear this, our planet is inside (5)
- 21 Killers return dead racehorse and hesitate before its end (9)

DOWN

- 1 Stop women working in pub (8)
- 2 Lots of money for charged weapon (6)
- 3 Man perhaps is left inside (4)
- 4 Anniversary about a recent entry (12)
- 5 Weep and turn over chart unknown to reveal code method (12)
- 6 Mr Hurt stoned in the downpour (12)
- 7 Rider is a fish in rented accommodation (12)
- 12 Afternoon shows have drugs in service (8)
- 15 Light able to be led around (6)
- 18 Wedding partner loses old penny for food (4)

Solution to the last crossword

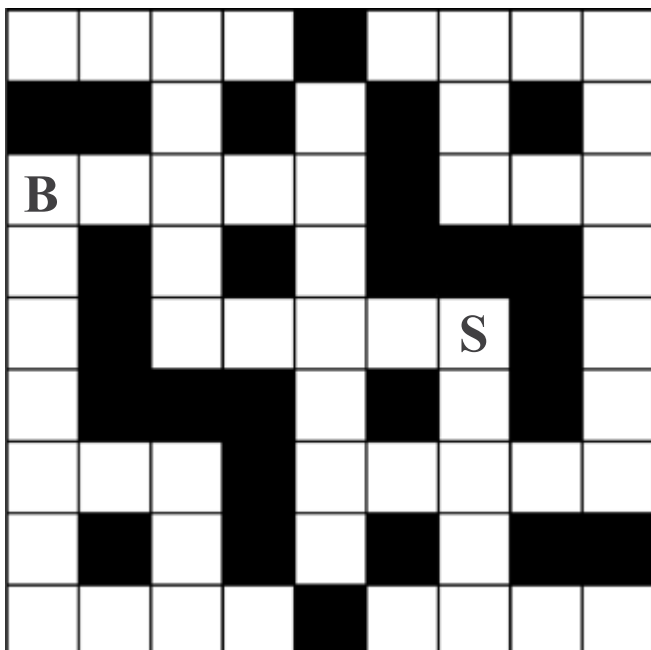
Across: 5 Christmas; 8 deco; 9 pedigree; 10 ration; 11 occult; 11 noble; 13 stasis; 15 rating; 16 crackers; 18 card; 19 pantomime; Down: 1 theories; 2 tiepin; 3 studio; 4 bang; 6 departure; 7 jetliners; 12 catacomb; 14 siesta; 15 resume; 17 char.

Winner of the last crossword: Mary Young, Killearn

Name Phone

Address

CHILDREN'S PRIZE CODEWORD *Set by PeeWit*



Can you fit all the words correctly into the grid?
Two letters have already been entered.

3 letter words

BUS
NAP
PIN
WEB

4 letter words

CLAW
SONG
SWIM
WOOD

5 letter words

BREAK
NOISE
NOTES
OCEAN
SKILL

7 letter words

BANANAS
MISTAKE
SKATING

Name

Phone Age

Address

Last competition winner: Ben Lennox, Age 12

Take Me to the River



Last year I purchased a fascinating book called *Rivers* by Nigel Holmes and Paul Raven. It describes the history and characteristics of British rivers and in doing so provides detailed case studies of three of them: the Meon in Hampshire, the Dee in Cheshire, and our very own Endrick Water.

We encounter the Endrick casually at various points as it snakes around Killearn and neighbouring villages en route to Loch Lomond from its origin in the Gargunnock Hills. It's also a thing to visit, to make a point of going to see or sit beside, to witness how different it can look depending on the weather or time of year, and to marvel at the wildlife which the river supports along its 49 kms.

One famous spectacle is, of course, to be found at the Pots of Gartness, where in autumn Atlantic salmon and sea trout leap up waterfalls with blinkered determination to reach their spawning grounds. In recent years I have had incredible views of huge fish propelling themselves out of the water just a few feet from the bank, sometimes one every 10 seconds or so when conditions are right (a period of heavy rain after several dry days in October predicts a productive visit).

Further downstream, and after being joined by the Blane Water, the lower Endrick's meandering course to Balmaha is characterised by sandy riverbanks, home to breeding sand

martins and kingfishers in summer as well as some rarer species. The river also hosts nationally important populations of two species of lamprey (primitive fish) and the Scottish dock, a plant occurring nowhere else in Britain.

Where it enters Loch Lomond, the surrounding fields and marshes support several species of geese in winter, including the scarce Greenland white-fronted goose, whilst ospreys fish the Endrick mouth in summer.

In recommending this fascinating book, I also hope to inspire you to spend some time down by the riverside over coming months. It's very good for the soul.

MARTIN CULSHAW



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Anyone wishing to contribute to the *Courier* summer edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 13 August 2016.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 1 July. Contact:

Gwen Stewart (01360 550856) or
Gillian Sims (07540 686758).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 1 July. Please send them to:

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