

# Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 35

SUMMER 2016

£1



## McGregor – Dunaway



Matthew Dunaway married Megan McGregor at the Cruin, Loch Lomond on Sunday, 6 March 2016. Matt grew up in Killearn and Megan in Balfron. They met at Balfron High School. They were joined by family and friends on the banks of Loch Lomond on a beautiful day for an outside ceremony. Matt's brother, James, was his best man and Megan's sister, Eilidh, was maid of honour, with bridesmaids Ngara, Megan's friend from Australia, and Hannah, Matt's sister, making up the bridal party. The couple are living in Rickmansworth near London, and both work in management for an American healthcare company.

## Top Prize for the *Courier*

For many years, Stirling Council Community Newspapers Forum has held an annual award ceremony to recognise the achievements of the community newspapers in Stirlingshire. The Forum held its final ceremony earlier this year in Stirling, and it has now been formally disbanded. The *Courier* took first prize in the category 'Best Photograph Supported by an Article' for *Getting Butterflies* by Martin Culshaw, our nature writer. The judges' comments included 'colourful, sharp and well-composed photograph'.

As if this was not enough, the *Courier* went on to win the top prize of 'Community Newspaper of the Year'. The comments from the judges included 'a wonderful mix of good local information and engaging features. Reflective of the community and visually excellent'.

Well done to the *Courier* Group – a great way to celebrate our 10th anniversary.

ED



## Editorial

If there has been one good thing about being involved in the *Courier* since it started more than ten years ago, it has got to be seeing it grow from a mere 16 pages to what it is now – a whacking 48 pages! Yep, this issue is huge, the largest we've ever published.

I like to think one of the reasons for this stems from the fact that we have always followed our primary objective: to be in touch with the community and, as far as possible, report on matters relevant to our readers. The knock-on effect of this has been, I think, that our readers are aware that the *Courier* provides an excellent source of information. Indeed, we have received comments from readers who are more or less house-bound, delighted that the *Courier* keeps them up to date with what is going on in the village. We are receiving more and more contributions and information, and we do try to include everything that is sent. So, a big thank you to all who support the *Courier* and please keep sending your articles and notices to us – preferably before the deadline date! Space fills up fast.

In our 35th edition you will find articles from our regular contributors who seem to be very much appreciated by the community. The centre pages celebrate the Horti's 150 anniversary, and there is an exciting preview of ideas emerging from the Community Action Plan which will affect the whole of Killearn for the next decade. This edition ranges from birthday honours, autos and enterprise to the Hoolie, sport and volunteering via giant hogweed, so there's much to entertain you just in case it rains this summer...

In spite of many of the village facilities disappearing, there is a lot going on in Killearn. Our advertisers are still with us; long may this continue. Our thanks go to them. In return, it is only right that we give them our support; after all, we don't want to see any of them go the way of Spar, the post office or the bank.

Given the size of this edition, spare a thought for members of the *Courier* Group and for our volunteer deliverers who have gamely carried copies to your door which are three times the weight of that first issue!

Enjoy.

Ian

*Pictures for the cover were generously supplied by Hugh Cameron, Andy Summers, Mark White, Jenny Wilks and Heather Wright.*

# Noticeboard

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>21 Aug <b>St Mary's 'Third Sunday at Three' series</b> Concert by Pure Brass. St Mary's Church, Aberfoyle, 3pm, £10. Contact 01786 870710 or <a href="mailto:concerts310@yahoo.co.uk">concerts310@yahoo.co.uk</a></p> <p>22 Aug <b>Strathendrick Rotary Club</b> meeting. 6.30pm prompt, Club Room, Killearn Village Hall, thereafter second and fourth Monday of every month. Contact Ali McLean (550826; <a href="mailto:alimclean@hotmail.co.uk">alimclean@hotmail.co.uk</a>).</p> <p>25 Aug <b>Messy Play</b> for children aged 0–5 years. Kirk Halls, 9.30am–11.30am, thereafter the second and fourth Thursday of every month. Check Killearn Kirk Messy Play Facebook page for information.</p> <p>27 Aug <b>Killearn Horticultural Society</b> 150th Annual Show. Village Hall, Kirk, Kirk Hall and Glebe. Entries can be staged Friday 7.30pm–9pm or Saturday 7.30am–10am. Outside areas open at 11.30am and halls 1pm–4.30pm; prizes announced 2pm. Teas from 2pm. For schedule and enquiries, contact Glenda Asquith (550142).</p> <p>28 Aug <b>Abbeyfield Service</b> 2pm, Abbeyfield House, thereafter the last Sunday of every month. Members of the community welcome to attend.</p> <p>29 Aug <b>Monday Music</b> Autumn term starts for children between six weeks and five years. Kirk Hall. Contact Clare Cushing (550166 or 07727 941407).</p> | <p>4 Sept <b>Killearn Country Market</b> Killearn Village Hall, times as per roadside banners. Contact Gwenda Watt (<a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a>).</p> <p>5 Sept <b>Strathendrick Singers</b> Rehearsals resume. Balfron Church, 7.30pm. New members, especially tenors, welcome. Contact Colin Cameron (440622). <a href="http://www.strathendricksingers.org.uk">www.strathendricksingers.org.uk</a></p> <p>8 Sept <b>Thursday Club</b> meets in the Kirk Hall, 2pm–4pm,   and thereafter every Thursday. For all 60s. Contact Peggy Gardner (550558).</p> <p><b>Community Action Plan</b> 'Chat meeting' Club Room of the Village Hall, 8pm. All interested are most welcome.</p> <p>13 Sept <b>Killearn Health Centre</b> closed from 12.30pm for staff training.</p> <p>18 Sept <b>St Mary's 'Third Sunday at Three' series</b> Concert of music for Trumpet, Soprano and Organ. For full details see 21 August.</p> <p>21 Sept <b>Killearn Community Council</b> Monthly meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.</p> <p>22 Sept <b>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</b> illustrated talk by Bob Bain, 'The Glasgow Empire and its Stars'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Non-members welcome, £2 admission. <a href="http://www.drymen-history.org.uk">www.drymen-history.org.uk</a></p> <p>27 Sept – 1 Oct <b>FADs Dance Derby</b>. Menzies Hall, Fintry, 7.30pm. Tickets and information from Killearn Pharmacy, Balfron Library, Fintry Sports Club or Liz Brown (860078 <a href="mailto:tickets@FintryDrama.org.uk">tickets@FintryDrama.org.uk</a>).</p> <p>1 Oct <b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b>, Harvest Coffee Morning, Killearn Kirk Hall, 10am–12noon.</p> | <p>2 Oct <b>Killearn Kirk</b> Harvest Thanksgiving service, 10.30am.</p> <p>2 Oct <b>Killearn Country Market</b> Killearn Village Hall, times as per roadside banners. Contact Gwenda Watt (<a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a>).</p> <p>4 Oct <b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b>, Light Supper and Entertainment, Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.</p> <p>6 Oct <b>Killearn Golden Years' Club</b> Bingo Night. Kirk Hall, 7pm.</p> <p>7 Oct <b>Strathendrick Film Society</b> showing <i>Bridge of Spies</i>. Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.</p> <p>16 Oct <b>St Mary's 'Third Sunday at Three' series</b> Illustrated talk by Elizabeth Roads on Ecclesiastical Heraldry. For full details see 21 August.</p> <p>18 Oct <b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b>, Entertainment, Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.</p> <p>19 Oct <b>Killearn Community Council</b> Monthly meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.</p> <p>20 Oct <b>Killearn Community Futures Company</b> AGM, Killearn Village Hall, 7.30 for 8pm. All welcome.</p> <p>26 Oct <b>Killearn Health Centre</b> Closed from 12.30pm for staff training.</p> <p>27 Oct <b>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</b> illustrated talk by John Mitchell, 'Drymen and District's Early Post Service'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Non-members welcome, £2 admission. <a href="http://www.drymen-history.org.uk">www.drymen-history.org.uk</a></p> <p>1 Nov <b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b>, Entertainment, Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.</p> <p>4 Nov <b>KCFC Bonfire and Fireworks Display</b> The Glebe, 7.15pm. Please note this is being held on a Friday.</p> <p><b>Strathendrick Film Society</b> showing <i>On the Waterfront</i>. Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.</p> <p>6 Nov <b>Killearn Country Market</b> Killearn Village Hall, times as per roadside banners. Contact Gwenda Watt (<a href="mailto:gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk">gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk</a>).</p> <p>13 Nov <b>Killearn Kirk</b> Remembrance Service War Memorial, 10.45am, followed by a service in the church.</p> <p>15 Nov <b>Killearn Kirk Guild</b>, Entertainment, Kirk Hall, 7.30pm.</p> <p>16 Nov <b>Killearn Community Council</b> Monthly meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.</p> <p>18 Nov <b>Strathendrick Film Society</b> showing <i>Il Postino</i>. Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.</p> <p>20 Nov <b>St Mary's 'Third Sunday at Three' series</b> Concert of music by The Kentigern Quartet. For full details see 21 August.</p> <p>24 Nov <b>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</b> illustrated talk by David Smith, Education Officer at Stirling's Smith Museum, 'Waterloo – a Stirlingshire mystery'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Non-members welcome, £2 admission. <a href="http://www.drymen-history.org.uk">www.drymen-history.org.uk</a></p> <p>2 Dec <b>Strathendrick Film Society</b> showing <i>What We Did on Our Holiday</i>. Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.</p> |
|---|--|--|

If you have any dates for the Winter 2016 issue of the Noticeboard mid November until mid March), please contact Heather McArthur (550137; [heather.mcarthur@virgin.net](mailto: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 Ed

This is just a little note from the Hudson clan down in Shropshire to say how much we enjoy reading our copy of the Killearn *Courier*; it's good to see it keeps going from strength to strength.

We have settled well down south; it's good to be nearer family. The weather is kinder, though we have swapped rabbits for badgers, who are busy digging up our garden!

We bought an old vicarage which needs some renovation and we chose an architect from Ellesmere who, on coming to the house, spotted my papercut picture of Killearn which was bought at a village auction and told me that his mother had connections with Killearn House. I gave him some old copies of the *Courier* and when he returned, he showed me a scrapbook his mother had made many years ago – it's a small world isn't it? Pity I couldn't get it for the Killearn Archive, though I'm sure some of the photographs are in AKA already.

The *Courier* is spreading far and wide, and we look forward to reading the summer issue.

Regards

Sara Hudson and family

Dear Sir

Please, could something be done to facilitate the opening of the iron gate at the top end of Ibert Road? For years the gate was easy to open and close, but recently it seems to have dropped on its hinges and become so hard to use. Although I enjoy walking to the village from Branziert Road North via the wood, I have now reached the age when I am no longer physically capable of lifting the gate from the latch, nor of climbing over it.

In anticipation of walks which do not end with pulled muscles.

Yours faithfully

(Mrs) Susan Miller  
36 Branziert Road North

Dear Sir

Wherever they come from or wherever they go to, one thing's certain: if I never see another Thomson lorry careering through the village, either singly or in convoy with three others, it will still be too soon.

Maisie from Main Street

Dear Editor

A polite request to those who burn rubbish: please, consider your neighbours. The smoke pollutes the fresh air and prevents those who would like to be outside enjoying their gardens from doing so. Perhaps you could bin it rather than burn it? Alternatively, take the rubbish to the dump at Balfroon.

Yours sincerely

A Fresh Air Fan

Dear Sir

At the conclusion of the Paul O'Gorman Charity Night in the Village Hall on Friday, 5 February, we found a long Jack Murphy coat which had been left behind. One lady went home without her own identical Jack Murphy coat, as she realised that hers had been taken by mistake, although it was a different size and had gloves in a pocket. In spite of my best efforts to sort out this situation, I still have the coat concerned and wonder if the ladies who attended the evening could check their wardrobes in case they took the wrong coat home.

If anyone can help, or wants more information, please contact me.

Sheila Gingles (01360 550651)



## Stevenson – McCann



Stuart McCann and Jennifer Stevenson were married on 4 June 2016 at Culcreuch Castle in Fintry. Stuart grew up in Killearn and attended Balfroon High School; he met Jennifer, from Bannockburn, 10 years ago. They have set up home in Longcroft near Kilsyth, where Stuart works for Scottish and Southern Energy and Jennifer is a paediatric nurse at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Also in the picture is their son, Daniel, who stole the show at the wedding.

## Abbeyfield Killearn 'At Home'



Abbeyfield Scotland Ltd and the Friends of Abbeyfield Killearn jointly hosted an 'At Home' at the House in Killearn on 23 March. The purpose of the afternoon was to thank the organisations within the village that have supported the Friends of Abbeyfield Killearn either financially or in other ways. It also gave representatives of these organisations an opportunity to view the Killearn facilities, meet the residents, Friends and staff from Abbeyfield Scotland Ltd, and to learn about of the work of Abbeyfield.

The organisations represented on the day included the Killearn

Trust, Killearn Community Council, Killearn Golden Years Club, Contact the Elderly, the Rotary Club of Strathendrick, the Inner Wheel Club of Strathendrick, Killearn Community Futures Company, Killearn Womens' Guild, Killearn Kirk, and the Local Councillor for Forth and Endrick, Graham Lambie. The Killearn Hoolie and Killearn Co-op were also involved, but unfortunately couldn't be represented on the day.

Following a brief introduction by Mike Menzies, Chairman of the Friends of Abbeyfield Killearn, Karen Barr, ASL Head of Housing



Operations, and Garry Smith, ASL Area Manager for North and Forth Valley gave a short presentation outlining the history of Abbeyfield, where they are now and their exciting plans for the future. There was then an opportunity for the audience to ask questions, with interesting discussion taking place.

The formal part of the afternoon was rounded off by Mike Menzies who gave a brief resumé of the activities of the Friends. The Friends are an entirely voluntary group of 10 members who supplement the excellent service that Abbeyfield Scotland provides with the 'icing on the cake' such as trips, discussion groups, musical entertainment and companionship which hopefully adds a little sparkle to the lives of our residents.

A delicious tea prepared by Barbara, the Killearn Housekeeper, with mouth-watering home baking by the lady members of the Friends gave everyone a chance to meet the other guests. There is no doubt that everyone left knowing just a little bit more about Abbeyfield Killearn.

MM

## Appreciation for Friends of Abbeyfield

To commemorate the end of National Volunteer Week, Gordon McCredie, Relief Housekeeper at Abbeyfield Killearn, presented a certificate to the Friends of Abbeyfield Killearn on behalf of the residents in appreciation of the work that they do.

Dorothy Gladstone, one of the residents, thanked the Friends, saying how much they enjoyed the events and outings which the Friends had organised for them.

The Friends were delighted to receive the presentation and looked forward to continuing their work with Abbeyfield Killearn.



Pictured above are Gordon and Dorothy with the certificate.

**Ashworth Computing Services**  
01360 - 550074

- Personal Support and Training
- Internet & Anti-Virus solutions
- Windows, Mac and iPad
- Service improvement and IT consultancy for business

Email: [info@ashworthcomputingservices.co.uk](mailto:info@ashworthcomputingservices.co.uk)

**Foot Health Clinic**  
Jacqueline Morton  
Foot Health Practitioner

MAFHP MCFHP

01360 550 374  
077033 799 112

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



## STRATHENDRICK CLASSIC CAR CLUB



Strathendrick Classic Car Club was established some 13 years ago and currently has a membership of more than 40 members owning a wide range of cars dating from the early '30s to current models. The Club was formed with the intention of bringing together fellow enthusiasts to enjoy events, meetings and each other's company, exchanging ideas and technical information. Any type of classic car or interesting model can join the runs and events, and no previous experience is necessary.

All events are primarily for fun and are non-competitive. They vary from a pub run and lunch or easy-to-follow map-reading events to the annual two-day Spring Run. All the runs offer a great opportunity to explore the countryside and experience roads that you never knew existed. Also the Club has been well represented on the Strathendrick Rotary's Classic Car Tour which takes place in April on 'Drive It Day'.

This year, the Annual Spring Run was held in the west of Scotland with a two-night stay in Kentallen at the Holly Tree Hotel. This was a most enjoyable midweek event, and Kentallen provided the ideal base for driving in the most picturesque scenery with fabulous roads.

In the winter months, evening meetings begin with a meal followed by an interesting speaker on a motoring theme or a film covering rallying, racing, or historic marques. At these meetings the Club also holds a motoring magazine exchange, which has proved to be very successful.

The Club publishes a twice-yearly e-magazine, *Overdrive* to which all members can contribute. This can

cover members' adventures outwith the Club, advice for a spares source, problem-solving or the recommendation of a paint or body repair shop. Other articles feature classics from the past and their development history, together with current topics.

Laurence Grainger of Mid Bulfunning is our current chairman, having taken over from Douglas Arthur who held the post for more than five years. Laurence and his committee are currently working on an interesting forward programme to keep members entertained.

Membership costs £10 and you do not need an old car to join – just an interest in cars and motoring.

For details of how to join or about our upcoming events, please contact Club Secretary Robin Johnston ([robertjohnston432@btinternet.com](mailto:robertjohnston432@btinternet.com)).

MM

## Ballochruin Engineers

Ballochruin, Balfron Station,  
Balfron, G63 0LE

Repairs of garden, agricultural  
and marine equipment

**Welding**

Phone Cameron McFarlane 07469 177058

Email [Cameron@BallochruinEngineers.co.uk](mailto:Cameron@BallochruinEngineers.co.uk)

### Donald Glass: Advertising Feature

I learned to play the bagpipes in the 214th Glasgow company of the Boys Brigade. Our instructors were top class, and the '214' were regular championship winners in pipe band competitions.

My next piping experience was the Clan MacRae Society Pipe Band, a first-grade pipe band. I then joined the Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities' Officer Training Corps Pipes and Drums and was appointed Pipe Major. My first bagpipe music composition was written for Brig Donald Hardie CVO, TD, KStJ, one time Commanding Officer of the GSUOTC, who retired as the Lord Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire in 2007. While Pipe Major of the OTC,

### Scottish Bagpipe Music composed especially for you

Unique and exclusive, as individual as you are

I will compose a bagpipe tune for you, record it onto a CD and frame the original signed manuscript.

World Championship Winner  
Pipe Major Donald M R H Glass

The Scottish  
Bagpipe  
Compositions  
Company

Original bagpipe music composed especially for you

Phone - 0044(0)7879 477168 Website - [www.bagpipemusiccomposer.com](http://www.bagpipemusiccomposer.com)  
Facebook - "Scottish Bagpipe Compositions Company"

I led the Pipes and Drums to win the World Pipe Band Championships in their grade. I have composed and recorded bagpipe music for Boyd Tunnock CBE of Tunnocks Teacakes, the Scottish Rugby Union, Ms Katherine Dow Blyton (actress in *Emmerdale*), the Incorporation of Maltmen of Glasgow, as well as for

family and friends.

Over the years my composing and playing has helped to raise money for charities including Marie Curie Quarriers' Homes, Christchurch New Zealand Earthquake Relief, MacMillan Cancer and The Benevolent Society of the Licensed Trade of Scotland.

## Travels with Juice

Hello! My nickname is Juice, and I am told by my owner that was the nickname of a famous American footballer, OJ Simpson, but I can't see the link. Can you?

Rather than bore you with a list of all my technical details, even though there aren't many, I will just say that my rolling chassis was assembled in 1932 in the Austin works in Longbridge before being sold to specialist coach builders, Arrow Coachworks in Hanwell, London, for the addition of their pretty little body. Ask anyone in Killearn which is the most well known and easily recognised car in the village, and you will probably get the answer, 'Oh the little green one, of course' and that's me!

Now for a story of a recent journey. My driver told me that over Easter we were going on a club weekend to Portpatrick in Dumfries and Galloway along with about 12 of my relations. I was very much looking forward to this, since I had been stuck in the garage all winter. From previous experience, I recalled that the journey was unlikely to face me with steep hills and it was not too far for my ancient components (and driver!) to go in a day. To my delight, my driver chose the old A77, which runs parallel to the motorway for most of the run to Prestwick.

The crew decided to stop in Kirkoswald for lunch. I was left in a very steep carpark where my handbrake got very wobbly because, knowing the engine compression was low, using first gear to assist might not be sufficient to hold me back. Placing a brick under the front wheel relieved my fears and (I suspect) also those of my owner.

After lunch the remainder of the run to Portpatrick was in bright sunshine, but directly into a gale. This slowed me down and made my steering somewhat like sailing a racing dinghy, but we eventually arrived at the Fernhill Hotel where the rest of the family were already lined up in the car park, providing real interest for all the other hotel guests.

As usual, my owner checked all fluid levels before leaving me out in the open during the very stormy night which followed. He appeared somewhat unhappy when he realised that the dipstick only just reached the oil in the sump and he was unable to borrow a longer one from anyone else. He then calculated that I had used a litre of oil during the journey. This was unusual, but would account for the strange loose feeling in my cylinders and somewhat incontinent joints. Duly topped up from the spare can of oil, we set off in the wet the next morning and enjoyed an interesting run around the coast. But on the return, I felt worse in my innermost parts, and my driver was not surprised to find that a lot more oil had been consumed during the day. A further top up was necessary.

After leaving the hotel the next day, we stopped in Wigtown for coffee, and every driver who had followed me in the convoy told my Driver that my engine was smoking very badly. This seemed to confirm the piston ring diagnosis, so I agreed to continue the journey even though my innards felt very puffed up and my enthusiasm was low. About 10 miles later my run ended with a clatter and a



Photograph courtesy of Norman HeHub ©

severe headache in my number 4 cylinder.

My driver pulled into a very convenient lay-by outside the only house for a mile in either direction. I was so pleased that my old roommate JO, belonging now to a very lovely and supportive owner called Joan, had witnessed my distress and stopped to offer help. Charlie, our leader, having realised that something had gone wrong, returned to assist, too, and they all agreed that my journey had ended. I would have to continue, thanks to my insurance policy, with the help of a 'get you home' service.

A phone call to the breakdown service line resulted in a lorry arriving in less than an hour, and I prepared for a comfortable lift back home. I had a moment of doubt when the lorry driver pulled out the ramps and I noticed that my front wheels fitted neatly between them. At that moment the owner of the house came out and, seeing the problem, went back in re-emerging with several sturdy wooden planks which he laid alongside the ramps. Hey presto! I was able to roll up gracefully onto the flat back. As I was thinking that travelling on Easter Sunday must bring extra special good fortune, I heard this kind gentleman say to the lorry driver, 'Johnny, you will need those at the other end so bring them back to me tomorrow.' Eggsactly, I giggled to myself.

My navigator decided that since the food in the hotel was so good, and she had to go back to collect our belongings anyway, she accepted a lift in JO to the end of the run and did not return with me. I finally arrived home safely, and am now in my garage awaiting the rebuild of my engine.

JUICE (AKA OJ3844)

www.MacColl  
Landscaping.com  
Rooted in Quality  
Tel: 01360 550997  
Mob: 07727 045939  
For further information please look at our new website



# PROPERTY SERVICES

## Electrical

- Re-wires & upgrades
- Landlord certificates
- Garden lighting & power
- LED lighting upgrades
- Inspection & testing
- Mains smoke/heat/  
Carbon monoxide  
detection

## Roof Line

- Roof cleans & moss  
removal
- Gutter cleaning
- Replacement guttering
- UPVC fascia and soffit  
upgrades

## Internal

- Kitchen upgrades
- Bathroom upgrades
- Plaster skimming
- Flooring
- Painting & decorating
- Plumbing upgrades

## Grounds

- Decking & Patios
- Slabbing & Pathways
- Fencing
- General maintenance

Tel:            Andy    07748 754 583  
                  Billy    07795 824 709

Email:        [info@360propertyservices.co.uk](mailto:info@360propertyservices.co.uk)

Trade references available for all aspects of work.

## Are We A Ghost Town?

We have always thought, with good cause, that we live in a very pretty village, and most of the time this is true. But just at the minute, it is not looking its best, is it? Lots of discussion has taken place about all these vacant buildings, but very little seems to be happening. The empty gift shop has turned into an enticing deli, which is brilliant, but that's about it. Plans could be hatching that we know nothing about, of course. The risk is that we will get accustomed to the deterioration and fail to realise how bad the place looks to outsiders.

At the time of writing, the Spar is an eyesore. While Jim the ex-postie and I waited at the bus stop a couple of months ago, he said he thought the building was strongly reminiscent of some of the worst bits of the Maryhill Road. In Killearn! The place looks truly shabby, redeemed only by Marjorie's pretty window boxes. And although we as a nation love our old telephone boxes, the one outside Spar looks particularly forlorn. It's not that it is squint – that is actually quite an endearing feature. If it is still working as a phone box, then it should be re-glazed and painted, like the pillar boxes. If our mobiles have made it redundant, it would be good if it could take on a new life performing some other function in the community.

Just yesterday, I happened to be passing the Killearn Hotel, or the Bull as we all go on calling it, when I met a charming gentleman from Canberra. Apparently one of his antecedents had been a maid in the Black Bull Hotel in the mid 19th century, and he had hoped to have lunch in the very place where she had worked. He was astonished and deeply disappointed to be met with a neglected relic of what was once a bustling wee hotel. It is just so sad, especially as there doesn't seem to be a viable solution. I would love to be proved wrong on that.

## App of the Issue: Sugar Smart

With a quarter of boys and a third of girls aged between 2 and 19 being classed as obese, the UK is facing a health epidemic. Levels are not only worrying in children – overweight/obese adults account for 64 per cent of the population, and more than 3.5 million people are living with Type II diabetes. Change4Life's partnership with the Government has created the revolutionary 'Sugar Smart' app which allows healthy choices to be made without even a click of a button. The 4.5-star app helps you find out how much sugar is in a product by simply scanning the barcode. It's free and easy to use, and its quick responses are ideal when you're shopping. You simply choose your suspect, open the interrogator, click to go to the scanning screen, hold the red line over bar code, and discover the shocking (or hopefully pleasant) news.

KD



Is it hoping for too much to have a proper hotel again, somewhere the Flower Show judges could be entertained as they were in the past? Somewhere friends and tourists could stay, or guests could be accommodated while attending weddings in the church and village hall? Is that too unrealistic?

Next to the Bull, the bank looks dead. There was a nostalgic twang when the words British Linen Bank were revealed carved in stone, but otherwise that building, too, looks forlorn. And it all adds to the ghost town feel the village has these days. You have to ask if there might be another use for some of these buildings and spaces.

Killearn is a great place to live, but it is not perfect. For a start, we have stacks of large family houses, and very few small units. Bungalows would be useful though there is no denying they take up a lot of space. But how about flats? Do we or do we not need flats? Balfron seems to have done a great job with the space that used to belong to the Hydro Board. Couldn't we do something like that here? If we had some attractively designed and well-built flats, wouldn't they sell like hot pies? Someone will surely have thought of that already, so let's all await the outcome with hope and expectation. Perhaps by the time you read this, everything will be sorted, and we'll be a ghost town no more.

JOYCE BEGG

## Generous residents set new record for CRUK

With a grand total of £11,971.46 in May's house-to-house collection for Cancer Research UK, Strathendrick residents have broken their previous record, set in 2015, by almost £300. Strathendrick Local Committee members are delighted with the result, and would like to thank everyone who contributed. They also extend their thanks to the many volunteer collectors for their time and effort. The village totals are:



Balfron	£3,166.14	Buchlyvie	£1,192.82
Buchanan	£192.45	Croftamie	£211.79
Drymen	£1,159.60	Fintry	£1,268.72
Gartmore	£286.22	Killearn	£2,832.04
Strathblane/Blanefield	£1,661.68		

## Kitchen Table Business

*Continuing our look at rural enterprise and 'kitchen table talent' featuring people in and around Killearn who have put their talent, entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen to the test and started their home-based business, in this issue we feature Luci Anderson of eventsdecor.*



If you have an annual frustrating struggle with the Christmas tree lights, you'll appreciate the skill and patience involved in coping with half a kilometre of string lights. That's what's stored at eventsdecor in Balfron, along with (among other things) a cornucopia of lanterns, vases, ribbons, ladders and chaircovers. Dressing venues – transforming a venue to create the ambience appropriate for a client's party, corporate event or wedding – has become a growing business in the UK. Luci Anderson entered this business by chance when she offered to help a fellow mother in her Strathblane toddler group to decorate a hall for her wedding. She's never looked back.

Luci studied interior design in Edinburgh and became a freelance set designer doing studio work and dramas based in Glasgow, such as *Taggart*. She moved on to teaching art to adults with learning and mental health difficulties, and this is what she was doing when she discovered her skill and interest in dressing venues. It continued as a sideline until she moved to Balfron around 10 years ago and the business took off. The combination of travelling to teach art, family life and decorating events was too much, and the brave decision was taken to leave her job and run

her own business. Business Gateway helped with some general advice. After a couple of years based at Westerton workshops in Killearn, Luci moved the business to Balfron, and with a showroom/store two minutes from home and her office in the house, she could maximise business time and family time.

Centred around her creative talent and understanding of what clients want, eventsdecor is personal to Luci. She has a part-time assistant, Lynne, and a squad of great helpers, including some very good ladder climbers. The business is growing, but will always be finite in terms of expansion as she is determined to keep it a personal service. The unique selling point of eventsdecor is they do it all – lighting, venue flowers, ribbons, chair covers, table flowers and liaising with the wedding florist in order to create coordinating bouquets and buttonholes. Unwanted wall coverings or drapes are disguised or the eye distracted. Current trends in decorating themes are vintage, greys and muted neutral colours. The same venue will not only be transformed, but will look different each time as they are personally designed for each client. We often see the eventsdecor van outside the Village Hall, but other popular venues are Duchray Castle in Aberfoyle and Boturich Castle on Loch Lomond. Luci is grateful to these venue managers and the Three Sisters in Killearn for promoting her local business. Word of mouth has been a very successful means of getting new business, demonstrating that a good job was done.

Luci says that what makes it all worthwhile is not only the reviews and thanks, but seeing the look on the faces of a bride and guests when they first walk into the venue and see it transformed.

Most unusual venue? A hut in the middle of the woods near Aberfoyle with a Scottish theme for a car launch.

Top tips: table centres at events or dinner parties must either be below eye level or tall and thin to allow your guests to see past. Think about surrounding colours at a venue, for example the existing colour of walls and carpet; embrace them or cover them up.

[www.eventsdecor.co.uk](http://www.eventsdecor.co.uk)

### Free Housing Advice

If you are a private tenant in the Stirling Council area, Shelter Scotland can offer free, confidential, independent help and advice on a range of housing issues including rent queries, rent arrears, eviction, tenancy rights, unlawful fees, deposits, repairs and shared accommodation.

If you need to know your rights, need help to resolve a housing issue, or you just need some information, you can speak to our dedicated adviser on 0344 515 2483 or email us at:

[stirlingprproject@shelter.org.uk](mailto:stirlingprproject@shelter.org.uk)  
quoting the name of this publication.

For further information see [www.shelterscotland.org](http://www.shelterscotland.org).

# The Weather Channel

On the first day of June last year, the temperature in Killearn was 9.4°C; this year, it was 22.2°C. The difference? This year we were experiencing a very fine spell of Mediterranean-like weather. No rain fell from 22 May until 10 June, and a high of 26.9°C was recorded on 6 June. The table below is a summary of the first six months of 2016 and shows the great variability in our weather patterns.

Half-Yearly Summary for Killearn (2016)						
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Highest Temp	12.6	9.8	14.1	15.8	23.8	26.9
Lowest Temp	-1.3	-4.0	-3.2	-1.2	-0.1	5.9
Mean Temp	4.0	3.1	5.6	6.5	11.8	14.7
Days Below Freezing	9	16	5	5	1	0
Highest Wind Gust	39	25	19	30	23	18
Monthly Rain	206.1	174.4	83.3	85.2	80	47.8
Most Rain in 24 hrs	35.2	29.2	43.2	27.0	18.4	12.0
Days without Rain	4	5	15	13	19	14
Cumulative Rainfall	206.1	380.5	463.8	549.0	629.0	676.8

We had a relatively mild – but very wet – start to the year, with rainfall in January and in February being more than double the average for this location. March, April, May and June were much drier, with high pressure dominant, and most people enjoyed the May/June heat wave with its long hours of sunshine.

April – a transition month caught between winter and summer – is an interesting one for weather watchers. It is characterised by frequent showers. Shakespeare summed it up in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* when he remarked on the ‘uncertain glory of an April day’.

However April, in spite of its showers, is one of our driest months of the year. The showers occur because the ground is heating up, making bubbles of warm air ascend and cool as they get higher in the sky. The air then condenses, forming fluffy white cumulus clouds which can provide the April showers, but not usually substantial amounts of rain.

TOM RENFREW

**JOHN CURRIE**  
BRICK AND STONEMWORK

**STONEMWORK AND PAVING SPECIALIST**

STONE WALLING & TRADITIONAL BRICKWORK  
NATURAL INDIAN & YORK STONE PAVING SPECIALIST  
BARN & PROPERTY RENOVATION  
BESPOKE FEATURES  
DRY STONE WALLING  
LIME MORTAR WORK & REPOINTING  
STEPS & PATHS  
PATIOS & SLABBING  
FIREPLACES  
GENERAL BUILDING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

---

**CALL TODAY FOR FREE  
ADVICE & QUOTATION**

TEL: 01360 440893  
MOBILE: 07966 864811  
EMAIL: johncurrie@hotmail.com

 **BAXTER**  
Accounting & Tax Services 

*For all the accounting and tax needs of  
you and your business*

Please note we are now located at  
**12 Southview Road, Blanefield**

*Feel free to call, email or pop in to see  
if we can help*

**01360 770320**  
**www.baxtertax.co.uk**  
**enquiries@baxtertax.co.uk**

**Strathendrick  
Decorating &  
Plastering**

John Gault m: 07748 283947  
Allan Denton m: 07984 549933  
Email: strathdp@hotmail.com



Interior, Exterior Paint Work.  
Ames Taping. Coving and all  
types of Plasterwork.

**Killearn Wants You!**

All Killearn Archive has created a film documenting the support Killearn gave Britain during the Great War – from the men who served to the work that their families did. The first part covers August 1914 to the end of June 1916. The evening will include a sing-along of some of the old war songs as well as refreshments. The second part covering July 1916 until the Armistice, will be shown in November 2018. Part I will be shown in the Village Hall on 21 October, 7pm for 7.30pm, and is free. Donations towards the work of the Archive group will be welcome.

## David Dunaway CBE



Congratulations to David Dunaway who was awarded the CBE for services to facial surgery in the UK and Africa in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours.

David Dunaway has done a considerable amount of charitable work in Africa as a cranio-facial surgeon. From 1997–2008 he worked in Accra, Ghana, where he helped to set up a reconstructive plastic surgery and burns unit for a charity founded by an eminent Scottish plastic surgeon, Jack Mustarde, which was continued following his death by Martyn Webster. This charity built the unit and trained the doctors and nurses who worked there. David, with staff drawn mainly from the UK, formed a team who visited regularly, providing ongoing medical treatment and clinical support until the unit was fully self-sufficient.

Since 2012, David has been a trustee of the British charity Facing Africa which provides surgical care for children with noma. Noma is an infection which causes a gangrenous attack on the face and afflicts malnourished children living in dire poverty. Without treatment it causes extreme pain, horrific facial deformities and eventually, after much suffering, leads to death. The victims are often shunned or hidden away in their society; treatment by witch doctors in their culture can often make the situation much worse.

David and his wife, Sue, visit Addis Ababa yearly as part of a mission to treat such children. Sue, a former nurse, plays a major role in the charity by coordinating two visiting missions annually. The team for each mission, largely drawn from the UK, is likely to comprise four surgeons, 10 nurses, four anaesthetists, two junior doctors, and three organisational staff, with local doctors and nurses being involved as much as possible. David and Sue usually stay for two weeks but a follow-up team then takes over for another month. It takes fully three months to organise a visit and involves a complex system of supporting organisation and personnel. About 40 to 50 patients are treated, some of them being very complex



Team photo during a Facing Africa mission

cases. The delight at their 'new' faces, and the gratitude of the patients and their families, make the work of this charity so worthwhile.

In 2012, the missions were the subject of a BBC documentary presented by Ben Fogle. It is available to view on the charity's website: [www.facingafrica.org/about-facing-africa/bbc-documentary/](http://www.facingafrica.org/about-facing-africa/bbc-documentary/) where you can also learn more about the amazing work of Facing Africa.

David qualified as a doctor in Manchester in 1989. He came to Scotland as consultant plastic surgeon at Canniesburn Hospital in 1997 with Sue and their children Matthew, James and Hannah. and settled in Killlearn. In 2000, he moved to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children where he leads the cranio-facial unit. His main clinical interest is in congenital head and facial deformities, and in 2008 and 2012, he played a major role in the separation of twins joined at the head. David is also professor of cranio-facial surgery at the Institute of Child Health in London.

His research work, which now takes up half his working time, has been carried out at a time of great change in his field, and includes 3-D statistical facial modelling on which he has worked in partnership with the London Science Museum, assembling the largest collection of 3-D facial pictures in the world. Using state-of-the-art technology, he has also refined medical devices to assist facial deformity.

David is well used to the weekly commute to London, but relishes being resident in Killlearn where he relaxes at weekends whenever possible. A keen sportsman, he enjoys walking, skiing and sailing, and is a member of Loch Lomond Sailing Club. His family share his interests with him and all are keen travellers.

BP



British Red Cross now provides the following independent living services in the Forth Valley area:

- Support at home
- Mobility aids
- Transport support

For more information, contact Angela 01786 442031; to volunteer phone 0131 338 5700 or visit [redcross.org.uk](http://redcross.org.uk)

## Changes at Strathendrick Rotary

Strathendrick Rotary Club, which takes in the villages of Strathblane, Blane, Killearn, Balfron, Fintry, Buchlyvie, Drymen, Balmaha and Rowardennan, has made some changes to its traditional way of operating.

In the past, members got together every Monday evening, to have a meal, conduct any business and listen to a speaker. Instead, members can now come along to the Club Room of Killearn Village Hall at 6.30pm on the second and/or fourth Monday of the month, when any business matters, charitable projects or fundraising events will be discussed. On occasions, there will also be a speaker. For those who would like to have a meal following the meeting, an arrangement has been made with The Old Mill for a two-course set dinner with tea or coffee for £12.

These changes will make it easier for anyone to come along without the commitment to attend a two-hour meeting every Monday. Members and potential members

will have more flexibility to fit in meetings to suit their lifestyles. For example, anyone who wishes simply to attend the business part will find it takes not much more than 30–45 minutes. You don't have to be asked. Come along if you feel like it; you will be made very welcome.

Some other traditions have also been tackled. Members do not need to come along in a collar and tie; dress is much more informal than it was in the 'old days'; attendance is no longer mandatory; come along when you feel like it. All we ask is your help to continue our support of various international, national and local charities as well as the numerous organisations, schools, communities and individuals we support within Strathendrick.

If you are interested in learning more about Rotary, please contact Ian Dickie (550639) or Ali McLean (550826), or visit our website (currently under construction at [www.strathendrickrotary.org.uk](http://www.strathendrickrotary.org.uk)).

TID

## Killearn Trust

The original Killearn Trust was formed in 1932 with the purpose of looking after the welfare of the inhabitants of the Parish of Killearn by whatever means were appropriate. This included purchasing the Well Green after the abolition of the parish council.

In 1935, another Trust was formed which became involved in purchasing old houses to prevent them being demolished. In 1946, the Trust purchased the Glebe from the Church of Scotland Trustees to prevent it being developed in any way.

The Trust has amalgamated its activities into a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation called The Killearn Trust, in order to streamline its operations for the future.

The Killearn Trust has been involved in many village activities over the years. It owns nine cottages, six in Main Street and three in The Square, which are available at affordable rents. Priority on letting is given to people with local connections. The condition of the houses is under constant review and substantial improvements have been made over the years, although this can be difficult with older buildings.

The Killearn Trust also owns the northern part of the Well Green,

the Glebe and the triangle of grass opposite The Square. A lease has just been completed between the Trust and Killearn Community Futures Company for the triangle of the Glebe directly behind the Village Hall, allowing this small section to be used at all times for village events, without having to worry about bio-security issues with grazing animals.

The Trust has donated considerable sums over the years to many causes and activities such as the Village Hall refurbishments, including the Coronation gates, repairs to the war memorial, the sports pavilion appeal, the publication of the second and third editions of *The Parish of Killearn*, the maintenance of the Buchanan Monument grounds and the installation of the stained glass windows in the Kirk Session House. Grants have also been made to Killearn Primary School, Balfron High School and various activities involving local residents.

The Trust would welcome more applications for grants for suitable projects and activities. More information on the Trust, including its constitution and recent accounts can be found at [www.killearn.org.uk/killearntrust.html](http://www.killearn.org.uk/killearntrust.html).

**TOWN & COUNTRY DESIGNS**  
ACCESSORIES • CARDS • COFFEE SHOP  
16 BALFRON RD, KILLEARN G63 9NJ • T: 01360 550830



LIGHT LUNCHES & FABULOUS BAKING  
ALL HOMEMADE • OPEN 7 DAYS 

**TOWN & COUNTRY DESIGNS**  
FABRICS • WALLPAPER • LIGHTING • FURNITURE  
16 BALFRON RD, KILLEARN G63 9NJ • T: 01360 550830

**INTERIOR DESIGN SALE**  
FABRIC WALLPAPER LAMPS  
CHANDELIERS MIRRORS RUGS  
FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES  
A GREAT RANGE OF FABRIC REMNANTS & LARGE PIECES  
IDEAL FOR CUSHION COVERS, BLINDS & COVERING CHAIRS.  
OPENING TIMES: WEEKENDS ONLY 12-4pm  
AT PANIK GALLERY, 13 MAIN STREET, KILLEARN  
Tel: 01360 550830

## From the Archives: the surprising connection between Killearn and the Banff Springs Hotel

Andrew Malcolm was born in Killearn in 1840. He was the son of James and Marion Malcolm, who farmed at Little Drumquharn, and was educated at Killearn school. At the age of 22, he left Scotland for the West Indies, spending about three years in Jamaica as a bookkeeper. After working as a railway clerk in the American Midwest, he moved to Western Ontario in Canada in 1867, where he managed a general store.

In 1874, he became a partner in the furniture business of John Watson in Kincardine, probably because of his management and financial expertise. This partnership lasted for some 20 years and only ended when Mr Watson died in 1895. Together they transformed the business, shifting production from low-grade elm to medium- and premium-grade walnut and oak, and expanding to occupy a new lake-front factory with a workforce of more than 100.

In 1910, he took over the bankrupt Listowel Furniture Company factory and modernised it. Two years later, the Andrew Malcolm Furniture Company secured the contract to furnish the bedrooms of the hotel chain of the Canadian Pacific Railway, beginning with the Banff

Springs Hotel. This contract elevated the company to the premier place in the industry. Other prestigious contracts followed, including the manufacture of gramophone cabinets for the Columbia Phonograph Company. The company spent the World War II manufacturing Mosquito bomber parts. It finally closed in 1973, due to difficulties in finding skilled workers.

Aside from business, Andrew Malcolm took a deep interest in the welfare of the town of Kincardine and served for many years as Councillor, Reeve and Mayor. He was president of the North Bruce Liberal Association for many years, and in the General Election of 1898, he was returned as a Liberal to the Ontario Legislature for a term. He was also a member of Knox Presbyterian Church as well as one of the board managers. On entering his 75th year, the citizens of Kincardine held a public banquet for him and presented him with an illuminated address expressing the high esteem in which he was held.

Andrew Malcolm's reputation was as a man who was never afraid to express his opinion, and it was this rugged honesty and a

nature free from harbouring ill-will or resentment that was greatly appreciated. His policy of operating his factories full-time, whether business was good or bad, became part of the folklore of the industry. One year, the company filled every empty warehouse in Kincardine with furniture and ran close to insolvency in order to keep his craftsmen employed.

In December 1876, he married Annie Robertson, and three of their six children survived to adulthood. Their son James became head of the Kincardine factory and Andrew Jr took over the Listowel factory. Their daughter, whose married name was Clarke, qualified as a doctor and was in France – presumably serving with the Canadian Military medical services – at the time of her father's death in 1915.

Christina Malcolm (b. 1843), Andrew's sister, married John McGowan of Killearn Mill, and is an ancestor of the late John McGowan.

Sources: *Stirling Journal & Advertiser* (available at Stirling Archives) and *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (available online).

## Monday Club Anniversary

The 60th Anniversary Lunch of the Monday Club was held at Buchanan Castle Golf Club on 21 March, attended by 70 ladies.

The Club is based in Killearn and has a membership of 100 ladies. It was founded in 1956 by Mrs Betty Cormack (later Garland), Miss McCreadie and Mrs Jervis as a badminton and social club, adding a bridge section later.

We enjoyed a very convivial get-together, toasting the Club and celebrating the cutting of a special cake by Vi Boyd, our longest-serving member. Mementoes of the event were provided to all those present, and we now look forward to the next 60 years.



KP

## Bangers & Brass Raise the Roof



The 35-strong Callander Brass tested the strength of Killearn Kirk roof with a stirring performance on Saturday, 28 May. More than 130 paying customers loved the show, as did the many children and young people who enjoyed free entry and an endless supply of hot bangers kindly donated by Edenmill Farm Shop. This fun community event raised £1,200 for Church funds.

# Killlearn Community Council Annual Report

The regular business of Killlearn Community Council (KCC) involved commenting on planning applications, reporting road problems and contributing to Stirling Council's Priority-Based Budget process. As in other villages in West Stirlingshire, closure of local shops and businesses was a real concern. Several vacant units have found other uses, the village Post Office will re-open in the Co-op in due course, the bank building will be sold and Punch Taverns are advertising for a new tenant for the Killlearn Hotel. We have written to the owners of the Spar to enquire about their intentions for that building.

The arrival of Next Generation Broadband in Killlearn and proposed new housing developments were major items of business. The merging of health and social care will have an impact on local services, and road repairs and improvements took up a great deal of our attention.

Killlearn Broadband Group was formed in June 2015 under the chairmanship of Doug Ashworth, with members Euan Shaw of iLomond, and Andrew Donaldson, Margery Burdon and Margaret Harrison from KCC; we are grateful for the expertise and advice of this group. KCC organised a Broadband Open Day in October 2015, which was attended by more than 200 people; Doug and Andrew manned a technical helpdesk to give advice to residents and local businesses. Broadband updates are published monthly on our website. Doug will represent all the community councils in the rural south-west area on Stirling Council's Broadband Delivery Group. Further broadband cabinets are proposed over the next three years, to improve coverage in Killlearn.

Mactaggart and Mickel were appointed builders for Blaressan site and arranged a public consultation on their plans in March. Detailed comments from members of the public were passed to the builder, Stirling Council planners and elected Councillors. The comments are available on our website. Access via a roundabout from Station Road was a major concern for many people, and also the 'Designing Streets' concept in which roads within the estate are shared by pedestrians and vehicles. This design has been used locally

Strathblane and Kippen, and appears to be favoured by the Scottish Government and by planners. Mactaggart and Mickel are now in discussion with Stirling Council planners and the roads department to devise a site development plan and road layout, and further consultation will follow.

A public consultation on plans for the former Killlearn Hospital site took place in May. The plans comprise: 58 house plots, plus 38 affordable houses in the form of two-bedroomed cottage flats, plus seven live/work units for those working from home. In addition to the houses, small commercial units are envisaged. Detailed comments on the proposals have been sent to the developer, Stirling Council planners and Councillors, and may be viewed on the KCC website.

A Community Pilot Project with Balfron and Strathblane will focus on Strathendrick Care Home and the need for respite care and rehabilitation in the rural south-west area. The Home may be developed as a local Care Hub in the new merged environment of health and social care.

Road safety – a no-waiting area at the top of Station Road has been agreed with Stirling Council, a 40-mph buffer zone has been created on Station Road between Napier and Lampson Roads and a 20-mph speed limit imposed on all roads in

the 'trees' estate. Motorists driving at excessive speed through the village remains a serious problem and police speed checks are regularly carried out.

Road repairs in Killlearn are included in Stirling Council's projects for 2016–17 – passing places on Ballochruin Road, and repairs to pavements on Balfroon Road from the Kirk to the Buchanan Monument. Drainage was installed on the turnip field to eliminate flooding of the pavement and road at the new section of Birch Road. It remains to be seen whether this has solved the problem.

I must express my thanks to all KCC members for their hard work throughout the year, and thanks also to our excellent Minutes Secretary, Christine Bauwens. Jim Allan, our very effective Roads Correspondent, has resigned from the Council owing to other commitments. We are fortunate in our elected Councillors, Alistair Berrill, Graham Lambie and Ian Muirhead, who all work tirelessly on our behalf. We have several vacancies for Council members; if you are interested in contributing to our work for the duration of the present Community Council until October 2017, please get in touch via our website [killlearncc.org.uk](http://killlearncc.org.uk) or speak to one of our members.

MARGARET HARRISON, CHAIR, KCC



**Philibrium**  
**Bi Aura / Bio Energy**  
Well Being  
[www.philibrium.org](http://www.philibrium.org)  
Tel - 01360 770 180 / 07905 502 992  
An Ancient Ayurvedic Healing Technique.

## Fibre Broadband Update

This update is at three levels, given the degree of uncertainty following the Brexit vote.

Locally, cabinet E3 on Station Road is now live. Check how you are connected to the exchange and whether you can get Superfast Broadband at [www.digitalscotland.org/whereandwhen](http://www.digitalscotland.org/whereandwhen) or [www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when](http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when). If it is available, contact your ISP to discuss the actual speed possible, additional services now enabled, and any additional costs. You should ask for a definitive indication of what speeds to expect. Everyone else by now should be on the ADSL2+ service, giving you twice the speed you were getting a year ago. The Crosshead Road cabinet has not yet been installed (for EO lines) and residents should expect disruption as work takes place.

In May, the Scottish Government issued a consultation paper about the 'not-spots' that are likely to remain without a fast connection at the end of the Digital Scotland programme (see below). You can view a map produced by Killearn Broadband Group ((KBG) at [killearncc.org.uk/kgb-killearn.html#whiteareas](http://killearncc.org.uk/kgb-killearn.html#whiteareas).

Some postcodes shown are near the exchange, which was unexpected, but many on the edge of Killearn were not included, the inference being that these would get a full fibre service.

Regionally, the Broadband Advisory Group has been reconvened as the Broadband Delivery Group (BDG), and is attempting to take a more proactive role to achieve the best outcome for the whole of Stirlingshire. Stirling

Council has agreed to commit £300,000 annually for the next five years to assist with the project. A report is expected in July from Digital Scotland and, together with the Consultation paper, is hoped to provide clarification from Openreach regarding actual roll-out and resultant fibre coverage. Some specific questions have been collated for Openreach from the BDG, but we have yet to see any response. The Area Community Council Forum agreed that the KBG Chair, Doug Ashworth, would represent Strathendrick community councils at future BDG meetings.

An event in Kippen provided an opportunity for suppliers of alternative solutions to advertise what they could do for rural areas, as well as for communities. More on this can be found on Stirling Council's broadband website, and KBG's webpage ([www.killearncc.org.uk](http://www.killearncc.org.uk)).

Nationally the Scottish Government consultation paper ([www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/05/3201](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/05/3201)) to decide how to utilise the 'gainshare' from higher than forecast levels of take-up of fibre connections, identified 'white NGA areas' that are not expected to get at least 30Mbps over the next three years. KBG sent a response to this indicating the ambiguity around the 'infill' between these premises peripheral to the village and those served from cabinets E1 and E3. In the Queen's Speech we again heard of the desire to achieve a USO of 10Mbps, and in Scotland, the First Minister set out priorities for achievement of fast broadband to all premises across Scotland by 2021.

DOUG ASHWORTH, CHAIR, KILLEARN BROADBAND GROUP



 **Over 60 years' experience**

Supplier of Bulk Fuels including  
*Kerosene, Diesel, Gas Oil and LPG.*

We are an authorised Shell Lubricants and Grease distributor.

- Competitive pricing
- Quick, reliable deliveries
- Excellent customer service tailored to the needs of our customers

For your free, no obligation quotation call  
**01383 513 968**

[www.gleaner.co.uk](http://www.gleaner.co.uk)  /gleaneroils

 Shell Lubricants  
Authorised Distributor

# Killlearn Community Futures Company Annual General Meeting and Membership

Now is the time for renewal of your membership of Killlearn Community Futures Company for the coming year. For £1 you become an active part of village life as you help to support the various groups that operate under the umbrella of KCFC.

The Company has had a busy and productive year with the existing Working Groups all reporting progress in their various interests and objectives. From the Village Hall to the sports pavilion, and Colourful Killlearn to refurbished paths and the exciting Glen project, the groups working under the KCFC umbrella add greatly to the life and well being of our village.

The Company is approaching a time of change. This has been partly as a result of the cuts to local authority

## KCFC Treasurer Vacancy

Succession planning is good management. Bob Ballantyne, the current KCFC treasurer, is looking for someone with some bookkeeping experience, not necessarily an accountant, to come on board and gradually take over, becoming a director, but with limited liability.

The role is not onerous. Day-to-day work comprises the odd cheque payment or lodgement at our Balfroun Bank of Scotland branch.

KCFC has three board meetings each year and an AGM. Most of our working groups have their own treasurer, and they feed details of income and expenditure to the KCFC treasurer to prepare a simple summary for each group for presentation at board meetings.

Accounts for Companies House and for the Office of

funding which will impact on communities in the way local services are delivered. We are also being encouraged to take on more active roles in deciding and managing our futures, and our own Community Action Plan points the way to potential future projects to improve life in Killlearn. Your continued support has never been so important, and we always welcome new members.

Current members should have received their membership forms already. New members can download a form from our website at [www.kcfc.co.uk/about.html](http://www.kcfc.co.uk/about.html).

If you have a question or need a paper form, just get in touch with Nancy Bailey (550226).

Everyone is welcome to the AGM on 20 October at 8pm in the Village Hall.

the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) are prepared for each year to 31 July, and Bell Barr & Co in Milngavie independently examine them. They are very helpful in keeping us right. There is obviously a bit more work involved at the year-end, but the working group treasurers supply the information and it is just a question of pulling it all together. The accounts are presented to members at the AGM in October.

It is a worthwhile role and important in keeping financial control of KCFC. There would be any handover period necessary.

If you think this position might interest you, please contact Bob Ballantyne (550310) for an informal chat, or Nancy Bailey (50226) for information about how KCFC operates.

In April this year, KCFC received correspondence from License Compliance Services Ltd, a company acting on behalf of Minden Pictures, that we had used one of their images without having a valid licence, including details of when the infraction had occurred and a demand for a settlement fee of £650.

We investigated this allegation and discovered that we had inadvertently used the image as part of the Children's Crossword in our 2015 Summer edition (No. 32). We immediately deleted the image from all our files, including those on our website.

We then apologised to Minden Pictures and offered £100 as a full and final settlement, explaining that the *Courier* is a non-profit community service. The actions we took and the payment we offered were accepted, for which we thank the company concerned. We apologise unreservedly to Minden Pictures for our copyright infringement.

## BATHROOM SPECIALIST

Plan, design, install

PLUMBING, CERAMIC TILING

**STEPHEN MacMILLAN**

FREE ESTIMATES



Established 1991

2 Lomond Terrace, Balfroun, Glasgow, G63 0PQ

 (01360) 440534

Mobile: 07887 567 051

An advertisement for Oldhall Self-Catering Holiday Cottages. The background is a black and white photograph of a stone building. Overlaid on the image is a dark grey box with white text. The text reads: 'OLDHALL SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY COTTAGES', 'Too many weekend guests? Planning a wedding or a party?', 'WE CAN ACCOMODATE YOU!', 'info@oldhallcottages.net', '01360 440 136', and 'www.oldhallcottages.net'.

**OLDHALL**  
SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY  
COTTAGES

Too many weekend guests?  
Planning a wedding or a party?

**WE CAN ACCOMODATE YOU!**

info@oldhallcottages.net  
01360 440 136  
www.oldhallcottages.net

# Community Action Plan

Over the last few years, the village of Killearn, under the direction of Killearn Community Futures Company, has achieved notable improvements to the environment in which we live.

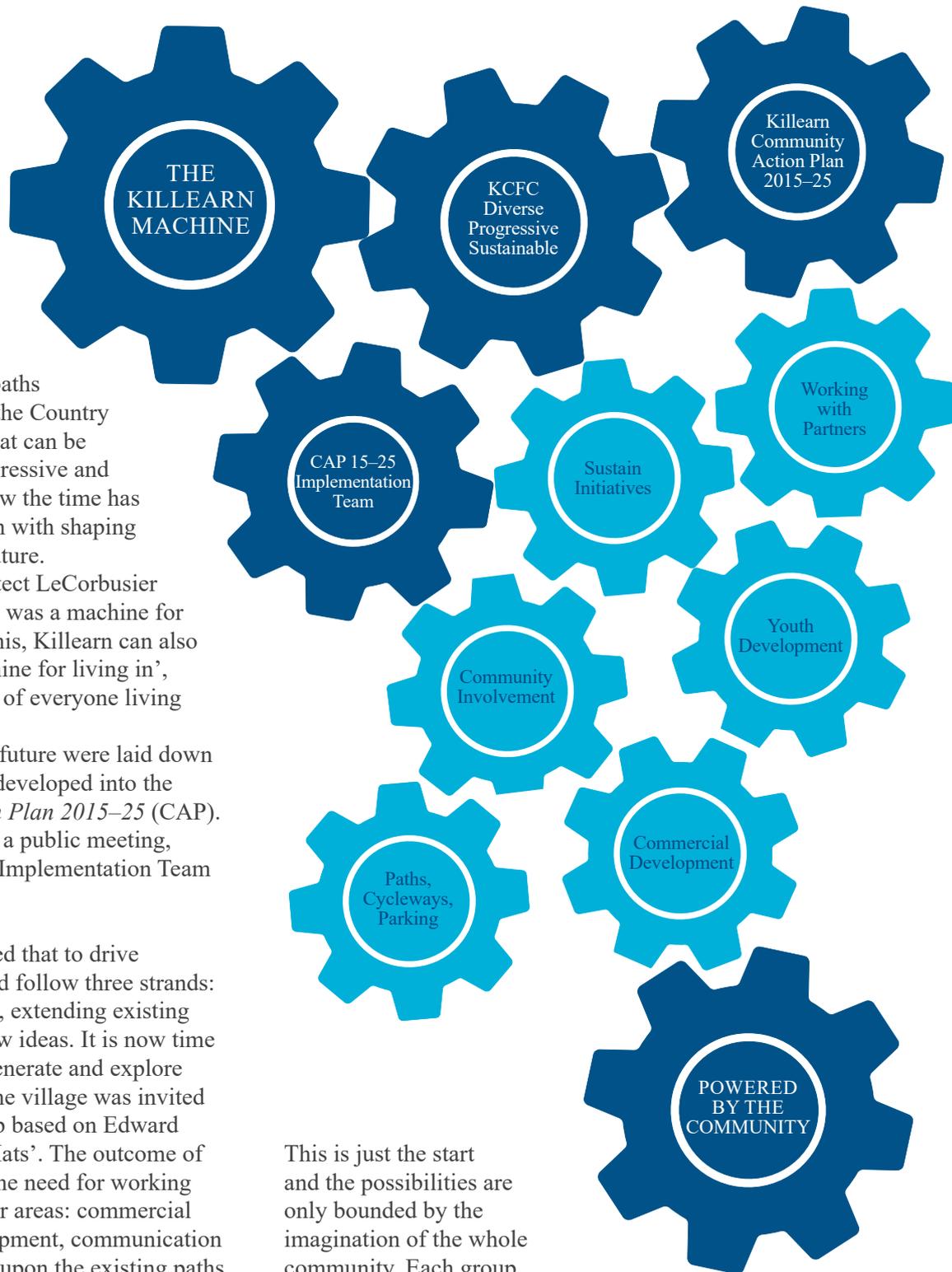
The Village Hall, the Hoolie, the fireworks, the paths network, the playpark and the Country Market are examples of what can be achieved by a diverse, progressive and sustainable community. Now the time has come to push forward again with shaping our environment into the future.

The Swiss-French architect LeCorbusier famously said that a 'house was a machine for living in' and in line with this, Killearn can also aspire to be a village 'machine for living in', one that supports the needs of everyone living in our community.

The foundations for the future were laid down in 2014 with a survey that developed into the *Killearn Community Action Plan 2015–25 (CAP)*. In January 2016, following a public meeting, KCFC welcomed the CAP Implementation Team as a working group of the Company.

The team quickly realised that to drive forward the plan they would follow three strands: sustaining existing projects, extending existing projects and developing new ideas. It is now time to develop key groups to generate and explore new ideas. In April 2016, the village was invited to attend an ideas workshop based on Edward De Bono's 'Six Thinking Hats'. The outcome of the workshop highlighted the need for working groups in the following four areas: commercial development, youth development, communication development, and building upon the existing paths and tracks development.

Once again, it is time to return to the wider community, to progress these four areas for development. KCFC welcomes support from villagers of all ages who want to shape the environment in which we all live – from helping determine the future of empty commercial properties, to laying down a cycle track to Strathblane and beyond, to supporting our children from play to employment, to upgrading to superfast broadband.



This is just the start and the possibilities are only bounded by the imagination of the whole community. Each group will comprise a small number of villagers at its core with a larger number who are willing to provide occasional help (maybe as little as one or two hours a year) on an ad-hoc basis. Guidance and support will be provided by KCFC and the CAP Implementation Team.

If you are willing to play your part and contribute to developing and maintaining the 'machine' in which we live, please contact Brenda Pell (01360 550328), use the comment form at [www.kcfc.co.uk/form.html](http://www.kcfc.co.uk/form.html) or visit the KCFC Facebook page.

# for Killearn 2015–2025

## Recent Initiatives

### Ongoing

- Fibre Broadband (KCC)
- Archaeological Survey project in the Glen (KCFC)
- Football pavilion (KCFC)
- Communication methods
- Enhanced recycling and reuse

### Completed

- Repair of bridge in Glen by Stirling Council
- KCC achievements:
  - 20mph zones around Primary School and 40mph zone and warning sign on Station Road
  - comments on Blaissen and hospital proposals coordinated
- Killearn PA improved path approaching school

## Working with Partners

- Close co-operation with Killearn Community Council, Stirling Council, Police Scotland, NHS Forth Valley, Killearn Kirk, Killearn Primary School, Balfron High School and other local organisations

## For Future Review

- Improve transport
- Encourage tourism
- Develop sporting and leisure facilities
- Improved access within the Glen

## Youth Development

- Focus on young people's interests and ideas
- Sports facilities
- Music club
- Cycle club
- Cycle paths
- Youth volunteer opportunities
- Training for youth volunteers
- Work experience opportunities
- Youth section of Killearn website
- Make information on youth activities more available

## Paths, Cycleways, Parking

- Support network of cycling and walking paths
- Maintain/raise profile of existing group
- More information about catchment area/Killearn walking booklet
- Introduce exercise points
- Investigate cycle hire
- Route signs and local information

### Potential Projects

- All-user link between West Highland Way and Killearn, including signage
- Strathblane to Killearn cycle track
- All-user link between Killearn and Balfron

### Parking

- Cooperate with partners to investigate scale of problem, areas of village affected and seek solutions

## Community Involvement

- Inform and involve more people in community activities and projects
- Promote more effective communication
- Encourage wider Community use of Village Hall and other amenities
- Recognise and harness local talents and skills to encourage volunteering
- Recycling /reuse page in the *Courier*
- Register of groups and clubs
- Youth inclusion
- Information exchange using social media
- Help promote community events

## Commercial Development

- Cooperative support for commercial and business development
- Explore potential opportunities
- Local apprenticeships
- Market research
- Encourage Community support for local businesses
- Explore potential of vacant premises
- Business Blether
- Explore need for business hub units
- Coordinate information about local businesses, talents and skills
- Social enterprise
- Raise profile of Killearn

Visit [www.kcfc.co.uk](http://www.kcfc.co.uk) for full details of the Killearn Community Action Plan

## Colourful Killearn



Thanks to the Co-op's Community Fund contribution to Colourful Killearn, we have reached new heights – on Main Street at least! The three tubs outside the shop have been moved together and a fourth balanced on top to make a more prominent feature. With the winter pansies replaced by begonias and brachyscome, we are looking forward to a flamboyant summer display, weather and thieves permitting. While we can't do much but keep our fingers crossed for the former, stealing or vandalising plants from public displays is deplorable, given that they are funded largely by villager donations and cared for by volunteers. We would appreciate vigilance by the community, and any further losses will be reported to the police. Please contact Iain Bowie (550349) or Mike Gray (550962).

## Killearn Health Centre Update

### Staff News

Dr Greg Cunningham finished his training with us at the beginning of June. It has been a pleasure working with him and we all wish him well in his future career as a GP. We are pleased to welcome back Dr Katy Woods. Dr Woods was with us in 2015, and many of you may have met her during her initial training period.

### Travel Vaccinations

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

### Public Holidays

Due to the way Forth Valley public holidays fall, we will be open as usual on Monday, 26 September, which is the September weekend holiday Monday.

### Out-of-Hours Access

If you require access to medical services when we are closed, the NHS 24 contact number has changed to 111.

### Online Appointments

We would encourage you to register for our online appointment booking and prescription ordering system at [www.killearnhealthcentre.com](http://www.killearnhealthcentre.com). Registering for appointment booking also gives access to prescription ordering. We will continue to run our original online prescription service in tandem with the new service.

**Need it Done Right?**

# DUNRITE PLUMBING

*Pride in Workmanship*

**Minor repairs to  
complete installation**

**Complete Bathrooms and Kitchens**

4x4 Van for all weather conditions

**Fully Insured**      **FREE Estimates**

**No call out charge**

**T: 01360 550799      M: 07772944521**  
**Dunrite.plumbing33@yahoo.co.uk**

**Home Instead SENIOR CARE**  
*to us, it's personal.*

**The trusted source  
of care in your home**

**Companionship and Home Help**    **Overnight and 24hr Care**  
**Personal Care**    **Specialist Dementia and Alzheimer's Care**

**CAREGivers required in**  
Killearn, Drymen, Balfron, Blanefield and surrounding villages  
*Call now for more details*

**Call 0141 249 0574**  
[www.homeinstead.co.uk/glasgownorth](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/glasgownorth)  
70 Drymen Rd, Bearsden G61 2RH

**TOP 10 AWARD 2015**  
homecare.co.uk

**Langkillearn**  
**no.1**

## Killlearn Cubs



The Cubs have had a very busy few months recently, and have worked very hard to earn three new badges: Scientist, Local Knowledge and Naturalist.

For the Scientist badge, we did lots of experiments, including making potato batteries and ice cube tray batteries (scientists are researching the possibility of using potato batteries to provide electricity in developing countries, so the Cubs are pretty cutting-edge) and various slimy, exploding and oozing experiments – apologies to Killlearn Primary School again for the ectoplasm in the car park – it really was just soap and water, and we had a very good reason for it!

The Local Knowledge badge was one of the most interesting yet, for both the boys and the leaders. The boys researched local landmarks and buildings, and found out lots about the history of the village. The finale of the Local Knowledge badge was the trip to the Killlearn Archives in the Village Hall, where Peter and Gill Smith kindly gave up their evening to talk the boys through the archives, and also gave them a chance to see some of the fascinating things in the archive collection that aren't in the hall cases, such as the WWI uniform and sword given by the Wilson family. The sword, needless to say, was the biggest hit with the boys. If anyone is wondering anything about the history of the village, ask a Cub!

Our final badge of the year was the Naturalist badge. This involved lots of time outside, including learning to identify trees and plants and their uses. The high point of

the badge was the Cubs being lucky enough to be taken on a Wildlife Walk in Kirkhouse Woods with Jackie Savery and Nigel Pope, the team behind the recent *Highlands – Scotland Wild Heart* documentary for the BBC. This was a really unique and informative session.

The Cubs also helped at the Killlearn 10k, giving out goodie bags. No runner was allowed to pass without accepting one, and a great day was had by all. The 10K organisers didn't need to worry about left over fruit this year either, as the Cubs demolished all the bananas and oranges they could get their hands on.

Some of the boys are now leaving Cubs, due to age, including our fantastic Sixers, Alexander and Callum, who took their responsibilities very seriously and were a huge support to Isabell and me. Unfortunately, there is no Scout Troop (age 10–14) for the boys to move up to, and we are still looking for volunteers to take this on. If you have an hour or two a week to spare, please consider it. It's great fun and very rewarding. Don't worry if you don't have any experience, the Scout Association provides lots of support and training.

We have some spaces for new boys to start after the summer, so if you are interested in your child starting Cubs or if you would like to find out more about taking over Scouts, please contact:

Gillian Sims ([gillsims28@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gillsims28@hotmail.co.uk)).

## Dumgoyne Phone Box

When the telephone box at Dumgoyne Post Office became redundant it was purchased by Killlearn Community Council for a nominal £1 as a community asset. It has since been maintained by All Killlearn Archive (AKA). The Community Council recently passed ownership of the kiosk to AKA, who will continue to maintain the facility. The former Post Office building has now changed hands, but the new owner is, at present, happy to allow the kiosk to remain.

The kiosk is intended to act as an information point for Killlearn and is available to display notices relating to the community. If you wish to display a notice, please contact Jim Fallas (550618) or Peter Smith (550726). PS



### BODY CONTROL PILATES® CLASSES

Body Control Pilates® transforms the way you use your body, using slow, controlled movement to improve posture, tone and general wellbeing.

*Small class sizes allow for individual tuition, making Body Control Pilates® a benchmark for safe and effective teaching of the world-famous Method.*

For details of daytime and evening classes in Gartocharn and Blanefield, call Jane Meek on 01360 771742/07759182236 or e-mail [janemfr@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janemfr@tiscali.co.uk)

Body Control Pilates and the Body Control Pilates logo are registered Trade Marks used under licence.

### Krebbel Ltd.

Architecture and Design



t: 07517 605 524  
e: [krebbel.architecture@gmail.com](mailto:krebbel.architecture@gmail.com)  
w: [www.facebook.com/krebbel](http://www.facebook.com/krebbel)

## Benview Garden Competition

The annual Benview Garden Centre miniature garden competition was a great success, with seven of the local schools entering, and a total of 72 entries this year.

The award classes are divided into Nursery, P1/2, P3/4/5 and P6/7. The competition promotes an interest in plants and gardening. Each entry received a prize of a pumpkin plant, with the first-, second- and third-place winners getting an extra prize.

The entries showed a great deal of imagination in the theme of the garden, the choice of container, and the materials used.

The 'Best in Show' was Karl Thomson from Buchlyvie Primary School. The school receives a £100 voucher to buy what they need for their school garden. This is the second year that Buchlyvie Primary School has been the overall winner.



P6/7 First Place



Nursery First Place



P1/2 Joint First Place



P3/4/5 First Place and Best in Show



Coffee shop now under new management

David MacMillan

Home baking & light lunches - Breakfast served 7 days  
Coffee Shop opening hours are the same as the Garden Centre

Everything you need to keep your garden looking great!

Flower & Vegetable Seeds • Fruit Trees and Bushes  
Shrubs • Trees • Garden Furniture • Greenhouses on display

Farm shop stocking vegetables, cheeses, preserves, biscuits, cakes and more.  
Our own vegetables are for sale, or why not pick your own! Why not visit the gift shop selling a range gardening-themed gifts, plus houseplants.

At The Ward Toll, Balfour Station G63 0QZ - 4 miles south of Aberfoyle on the A81

Opening hours: Mon - Sat: 9am - 5pm, Sun: 10am - 5pm



Follow us on Facebook

E: [info@benviewgardencentre.co.uk](mailto:info@benviewgardencentre.co.uk) | T: 01360 850525 | [www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk)

## What's in a House Name?

Some house names, like those of racehorses, are 'run of the mill', others may be curious, mysterious or even amusing. Where do they originate and who decides a house name?

Some houses change their names over time. 'Windyknowe', off Main Street in Killearn, means 'Windy Hill', but it was not always known by that name. It was clearly marked as 'Weatherlee' on the 1896 Ordnance Survey map (the maiden name of the owner Mrs McHarg was Weatherley so that might be the source), but it changed to 'Windyknowe' some time before 1936. The current occupants, the Bowies, have lived in the house for almost 40 years and over that time have received post addressed to 'Windyedge', 'Windyknoll', 'Windyavenue' and even, from one eccentric uncle, 'Windyelephant'!

Many names derive from local landmarks or features of the landscape: 'kirk' meaning church, for example, or 'Blairessan' meaning 'field of the waterfall'. *The Parish of Killearn* tells us that 'Heron's Court' is named after the heronry that once existed in the grounds. Many names derive from Gaelic or Scots: 'beg' meaning 'little' as in 'Blairbeg House' in Drumtitan Road ('drum' itself

probably meaning 'ridge'); 'Lettre' means 'land on the slope' and 'Branziert' probably derives from the Gaelic for 'black height'.

So, who decides a house name? The owner can propose a name, but it needs approval from the Post Office so that it conforms to appropriate standards, but also so that it may be clearly identified and located by the emergency services. The Edwardian house at the top of Drumbeg Loan was once called 'Torridon' (an area in Wester Ross), but when new houses were built in its grounds the name was moved to one of them. The new owners of the old house wanted to call it 'Drumbeg Cottage/ House', a title that had been used in earlier years, but now there was a house called 'Drumbeg' further down the same road, so it would have been confusing. Eventually the name 'Kilchoan' was settled on and approved – this is the name of a village in Ardnamurchan that the homeowners are fond of.

By the way, do you know how a street is numbered? The lowest numbers start in the direction of the nearest main post office.

Do you have a favourite house in Killearn? Can you tell a tale of village house names? What about 'Kerrix' in Station Road or 'Camelot' in Main Street? Please share your examples with us at [courier@kcfc.co.uk](mailto:courier@kcfc.co.uk). NH

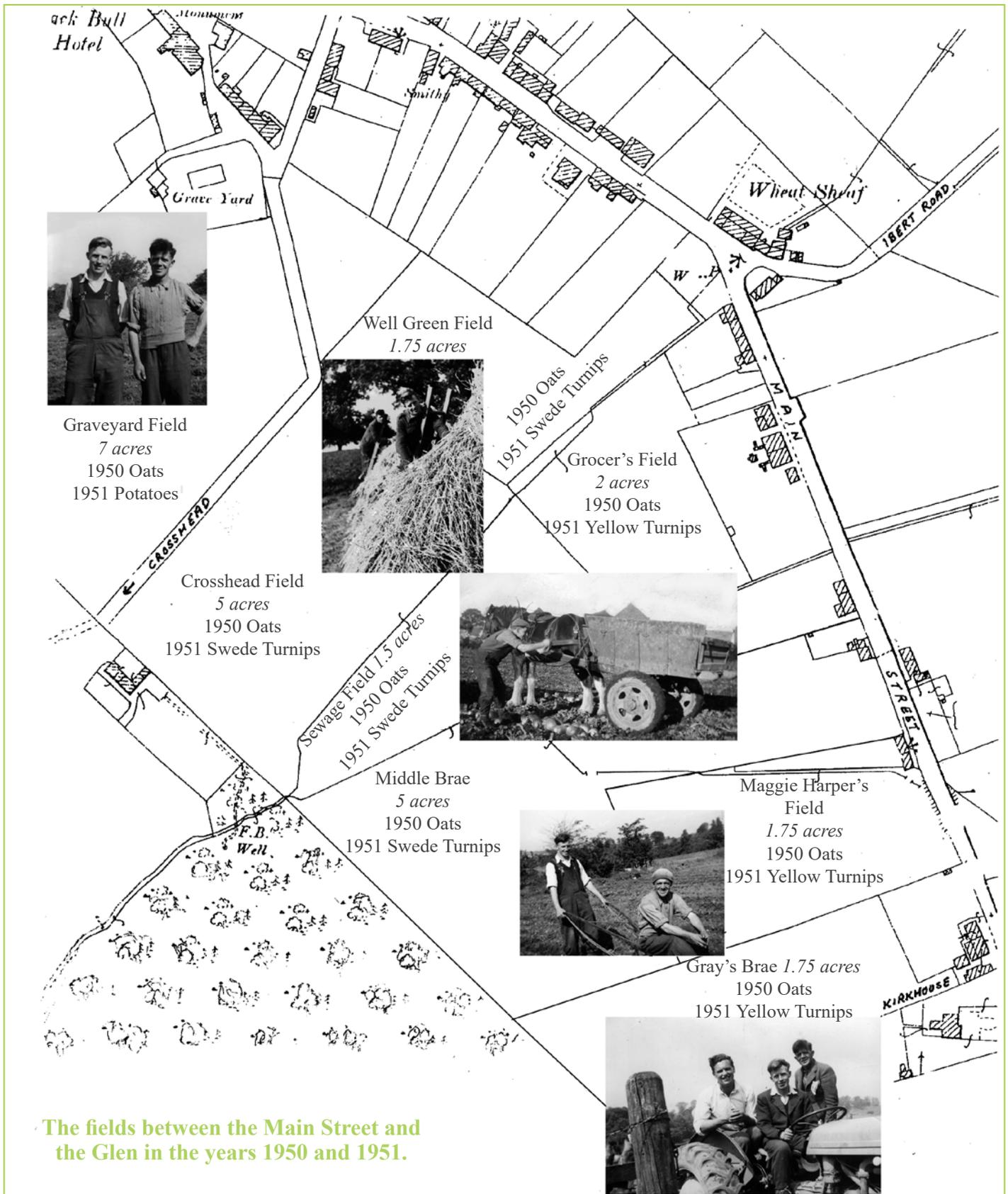
## Hugh McArthur remembers farming in the Fifties

In 1950, the oats were cut in late August and early September, using a binder drawn by a tractor. There were 27 stacks of oats. The grain and straw were for the dairy cows and younger animals at Laihparcs Farm, who rented the fields from the Killearn Estates.

In 1951, the potatoes were harvested in October. They went either to Killearn Hospital or to the Ministry of

Food. The turnips were shawed (topped and tailed) and carted in October and November, where they were used to feed the animals at the farm.

The centre photograph shows Hugh with his horse-drawn cart, while in the others he's working with Willie Rennie. In the bottom photograph, the third person on the left of the tractor was a trainee at Laihparcs Farm.



The fields between the Main Street and the Glen in the years 1950 and 1951.

# Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society 150th Anniversary Show

Saturday, 27 August, 11.30am – 4.30pm

Official Opening 2pm

Killearn Kirk, Village and Church Halls and the Glebe



By the time you read this, we will be only days away from our biggest Show ever – one to remember for everyone.

Over the years there have been many interesting characters and stories of the shows. Here are a few of our favourites.

A legendary figure from the '30s was Bob (Pansy) Paul of Drumbeg Farm. Bob was famous in particular for his sweet peas and pansies. In pre-war days he had won prizes at the Chelsea Flower Show.

## On the Occasion of the One Hundred and Fifty Years of the Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society Show

A hundred years and fifty more have passed in old Killearn  
Since gardeners got together and decided they could learn  
And pick up from each other clever ruses and inventions  
That could raise their fruit and veges to celestial dimensions.  
Since then, the Horticultural Society extended  
Beyond what the originals envisaged or intended.  
In addition to a programme full of talks and exhibitions,  
There are plant sales, open gardens, and ferocious competitions.

The Horti's big extravaganza is the Flower Show,  
Where people bring the biggest leeks and carrots they can grow,  
Where autumn fruits, and marigolds, and baskets packed with veges  
Jostle for space on bench and tray, and spill along the ledges.  
You might well see 'Arrangement in Unusual Container' –  
Which means a tin or teapot, or perhaps a Nike trainer.  
Throughout the hall the scent of flowers permeates the air,  
And people smile with happiness, delighted to be there.

The competition's keen, of course, as bakers will agree.  
The pancakes, tarts and breads inspire a cut-throat rivalry.  
The knitting and the craftwork are a wonder to behold.  
The children's paintings fill the walls with colours bright and bold.  
And through it all, in every hall, the feeling is the same.  
The spirit of community is one we all can claim.  
The Flower Show epitomises village life and fun.  
So Happy Birthday, Horti! Lots of love from everyone.

JOYCE BEGG



The last 150 years have seen many changes in the Show. In the 1960s and '70s children could only enter only wild flowers, miniature gardens and pictures. Now we have at least 30 ways to show off their skills. The Show has more than 250 classes so there is something everyone can enter. Check out the schedule to find a class to suit you.



Some villagers recall the rivalry that existed on Show days. Helen McLean remembers her kitchen was taken over by her husband, with up to 50 onions lifted from the garden to choose the four best to enter in the Show. Helen and Walter McGowan recalled how serious their mothers were about entering the baking classes – getting up at 4am on Show Day to make pancakes to enter in the Show.



In the late '60s, a chef in the Black Bull Hotel was found to have entered onions and potatoes that he had picked out from the Friday delivery of vegetables to the Hotel. His very high-quality entries were traced back to the Western Fruit Company's produce. He was disqualified!



In the days before everyone had a car, there are stories of people bringing their produce on cattle floats and even floating their entries into the village using the Loch Katrine water pipe. Bishop Loudon remembers his mother hiring a taxi to transport her baking entries.



From the '50s to the '70s, five or six of the the eight households in the Letterburn cottages made entries to the Show (notably Jimmy McIntosh, Willie Rennie, Tommy Somerville, Duncan Sinclair). The entries of the 'Letterburn heroes' (as they were known) made up about half the vegetable entries.



We very much hope to see you at the Show. Please get in touch if you haven't received this year's schedule and we will deliver it to your door. Cost is £2 for your entries and admission for all your family. Contact Glenda (01360 550142). See the flyer in this *Courier* for the day's programme of events. Visit our website [www.killlearn.org.uk/kchs](http://www.killlearn.org.uk/kchs) for tips and ideas and find us on Facebook .

## Village Dogs – a community asset

All too often we focus on the negative aspects of dog ownership, such as unwanted deposits on the pavements around Killearn. However dogs have a really important role in our community and shouldn't take the blame for their irresponsible owners. Pet dogs bring a proven benefit both to their families and to the community as a whole.

For dog owners, a dog is part of the family and may take the place of children. The ability of dogs to listen is really important for anyone going through challenging emotional times. A recent study by the Dogs Trust showed that 44 per cent of dog owners believe that their dog is their child's best friend and for many adults a dog can provide much needed companionship in an era of increasing levels of loneliness.

Dog ownership is associated with better health through increased exercise and the stress relieving effect of stroking a pet. Research has shown that communities with pet dogs also have a lower incidence of teenage drug and alcohol problems and a reduction in gang culture. Dog walking provides a wonderful social interaction within the village; the dogs enjoying each other's company makes starting a conversation much easier. Following a family bereavement, your dog can give you the will to carry on, and to get outside and start meeting people again.

Of course some people are scared of dogs and the majority of news items about dogs relate to their ability to inflict injury. Very few dogs are intrinsically dangerous, but children must be taught how to approach a dog safely. The Dogs Trust has excellent leaflets on this issue – it's important that all children gain confidence so that they can be comfortable in the company of this very common pet. Fortunately in Killearn this is a rare phenomenon and dogs at the school gate are greeted with smiles as the children come out.



Getting a dog is one way to ensure your child is not afraid. The expanding numbers of dog-sitting and dog-walking companies mean there are now more options for working families. Owning a dog could be a step towards a healthier lifestyle for our children, by reducing screen time and increasing exercise. The responsibility that comes with pet ownership is a useful life skill for our children and there are always experienced owners willing to help or give advice to a new dog owners.

Of course, however many years of wonderful companionship a dog gives you, one day it will be time to say goodbye to your much loved pet. Older owners are often concerned that if they get another dog it will outlive them. This always makes me very sad to hear. In fact, there are so many dogs of all ages looking for homes and the Dogs Trust runs the Canine Care Card scheme that will ensure that your dog is cared for after your death.

So next time you see a dog being walked in the village or playing in the green spaces, remember these members of our community give so much back to us and help make Killearn the special place we all love.

CLARE HENDERSON

# School of Dance

**Ballet, Tap, Jazz and Modern Stage**

Taught to children from 2 1/2 years

**Enrolment for Strathblane classes:**

Tues 23rd August 3-5pm, Edmonstone Hall, Blanefield

**Enrolment for Killearn classes:**

Wed 24th August 3-5pm, Killearn Village Hall



Tel: 01360 770 390

E: [lyndaturnerdancing@hotmail.com](mailto:lyndaturnerdancing@hotmail.com)



## Thought for the Issue – The Porter’s Rest

Her rucksack no heavier than 10kg, each item for my cousin’s three-month trek has been carefully chosen for a specific purpose and is light enough not to be a burden as she walks to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Although impressive, visiting the cathedral is not the purpose of Jen’s journey.

As an anthropology student, she hopes to meet and better understand why so many people from all over the world dedicate time in their lives to trek El Camino de Santiago, a gruelling 800km pilgrimage from the Pyrenees, along the French border, finishing in Spain’s historic city in Galicia. These encounters will serve as research material for Jen’s dissertation.

DPD, Yodel and Parcelforce now offer services which, a hundred years ago, would have been the livelihood of men and boys carrying goods on their backs. Sometimes these journeys were lengthy and the carrier, or porter as he was called, would need to rest. If he were to lay his burden on the ground, imagine the struggle to lift it back on his shoulders again, and so the porter was always on the look-out for a low wall or windowsill on which to place his parcel at shoulder height.

Around London, resting places were erected consisting of two metal legs and a wooden bar. Called a porter’s rest, one was built in 1861 by the Vestry of Hanover Square, and can still be found today. A brass plaque reminds people of its purpose. A century and a half on and with such advanced technology and delivery systems, the porter’s rest seemingly stands redundant.

Hallelujah, it is summer! Whether you will be jetting off for a week in the sun or escaping to different scenery, even just a change in your routine can be refreshing. Four years ago, my rucksack took me to India and it is there that many a *soomai tangi*, literally ‘a burden bearer’ can be found.

When a new altar was placed in the Chapel of St. Christopher’s College in Madras, the altar was made to represent a *soomai tangi*, reminding all who worshipped

## The Bakers&More

35 Buchanan Street, Balfron Bakery, Café & Takeaway

01360 440424

Mon-Sat 7.30am-5.30pm



**We invite you to join us upstairs  
in our Hayloft Café  
for a complimentary coffee or tea.**

**Please present this advert on arrival  
to enjoy your free beverage.  
Valid until December 2016**

there that worship should be a time of refreshment when we can come to God and rest our burdens on Him awhile.

Dear friends, life can give us a heavy burden to carry, and Jesus understands that. Just like the porter’s rest, Matthew 11:28–30 reminds us of His invitation: ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.’

Whatever journey you may be walking, here is an open invitation for a spiritual rest as much needed as your well-earned summer holiday.

YVONNE BAUWENS



**BLANEVALLEY**  
CONSTRUCTION

Building • Landscaping  
Kitchens • Bathrooms

01360 770983

# Hewitt & Aker

FINE FOOD AND WINE

Located in the Old Mill car park,  
we are offering a wide variety of . . .

- Cheeses
- Charcuterie
- Teas
- Coffees
- Skinner's of Kippen
- Take away Coffee
- Jams and cooking sauces
- Fresh Olives
- Chocolates
- Gift bowls & Greeting Cards



After many years spent travelling to Glasgow and Edinburgh and all places in between searching for good quality food and drink to indulge their own passions, Paul and Sirin Wood finally decided to take the plunge and bring their love of fine food to the local area. The site of the former Old Mill Gift shop was the perfect venue.

Extensive renovations have created a very appealing, authentic shopping environment. Lots of research has gone into sourcing the best possible produce for each category, and has hopefully resulted in a wide and varied choice of produce.

Their aim, right from the beginning, is to be a shop to service local people first and foremost. The business is already beginning to build a dedicated returning customer base among lovers of great cheese and charcuterie (from both the UK and abroad) as well as an eclectic wine offering. Scottish ice cream is also proving to be a hit – when the weather allows.

Hewitt & Aker are also bringing fresh butcher's produce to Killearn by stocking the much-in-demand Skinner's range of pies, sausages and bacon. In the coming weeks, they also plan to make available fresh meat products from this locally renowned butcher.

Sandwiches, freshly made on the premises using ingredients stocked in the shop, are also available for taking away, along with takeaway coffees and specialty teas.

## Bridge by Zorro

In previous articles, we've looked at bidding. This time we're going to look at Declarer Play. Having won the contract, how do you give your side the best chance of making it? Sometimes, what seemed like a good contract during the bidding can look a bit harder when the cards go down! But could the opposition help you? Have you heard of 'End-play'?

As usual, we'll take a specific example. The bidding went fairly conventionally: 2NT from North, 4S from South in reply, and 6NT from North. West leads King of Hearts.

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

An initial look indicates several losers: 1 Spade, 2 losing Hearts, and depending on whether or not you can find the Queen, 1 losing Club. How do you plan the play to avoid all these losers? See page 40 for the solution.

## Volunteering is the New Black

Volunteering can be one of those things – something hovering at the back of your mind that you will get round to at some point, but somehow never quite manage to make the time for. We know it's an important thing to do, but with the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives it can be put on the back burner. The *Courier* Cubs decided to work together on this article to give people some inspiration to volunteer, no matter what their age or whatever else they've got going on in their lives.

What better way to show the benefits of volunteering than hearing from the horse's mouth? We asked the *Courier*'s own Peter Wilks why he first got into volunteering, and what keeps him involved.

***Courier Cubs: What volunteering opportunities have you been a part of and taken up over the years?***

**Peter Wilks:** That's a difficult one as when you are as ancient as me you tend to forget what you have done, or even worse, imagine you have done things you haven't! When I first moved to Killearn, the easiest way to meet people was to join either one of the local clubs or the church. I suppose my first main act of voluntary work was to become a Sunday School teacher. I then joined up with a number of others helping with a youth club – the Fourteen-up Club – which ran successfully for a number of years. When the community councils started, I was asked to stand for election and to my amazement was elected on the only occasion that there has been an election for Killearn Community Council. I felt that it was something worth giving up time for as it gave a voice to local concerns and got me more involved with village life. This brings me to something that has made a real difference, Killearn Community Futures Company. KCFC can be proud of a number of achievements – who can fail to notice the refurbished Village Hall, the playpark, the Hoolie and, of course, the magazine in which you are reading this, the *Killearn Courier*. All of these are kept running by lots of willing volunteers who give freely of their time and expertise. This last aspect of volunteering is almost as vital as having time to spare. I took on the task of laying out the *Courier* because I taught desktop publishing and was willing to give the time to doing it. Now a second volunteer has joined us, Anne Lindsay.

***CC: What first encouraged you to take up volunteering and what motivated you to continue?***

**PW:** Well, you have to enjoy volunteering and also be a bit of a busybody! I certainly enjoy it. There is also the inability to say 'no' when asked to help with some project. When asked to join a group or committee, or to help with some project, don't immediately think of the hundred reasons why you don't have the time or the million things that you would rather be doing, just think 'why not me?'

***CC: Why would you recommend volunteering as something for others to get involved in?***

**PW:** I really do believe that it is enjoyable, it gets you

out meeting people, and there is nothing quite like knowing something you have been involved with has been appreciated. The brickbats might make you want to give up, but somehow it just motivates you to try to do better, as volunteers on the Village Hall Committee find. I am not even sure I took up volunteering as a conscious decision. All I can say is that I am happy doing it, so why not try it for yourself? There is plenty of opportunity within the village to join one of the groups crying out for help or noticing something that needs doing and forming your own group to do it.

Volunteering can start at any age, and there are many opportunities for younger generations to get experience, and even provide material for the dreaded CV. One such example is the Duke of Edinburgh award. Our newest *Courier* Cub, talks about completing hers:

**Kim Denton:** To complete a Duke of Edinburgh award you must spend a certain time volunteering, among other things. I decided to volunteer at my local library in Strathblane. In all honesty, volunteering is probably not something I would have done if I hadn't been completing the award, but it was a very valuable experience. I personally benefited from it as I learned skills, such how to use new computer programs, and I improved my people skills though interacting with library users ranging from toddlers to the more mature clientele. Another benefit is that it felt good to give something back to the community, especially the library, a place I enjoyed spending time in as a youngster.

Volunteering looks fantastic if you are applying for a job or for leadership roles and curricular opportunities in school. It shows a commitment to something and if you leave a good impression, you have an excellent reference for the future. I would definitely suggest getting involved in some kind of volunteering. It is very rewarding and you might even discover something you hadn't considered before.

Some people might ask why would you work to get nothing in return? I think that, although you are not getting a monetary return, you definitely get a reward in the form of the good feeling you get from helping the community. Without volunteers, we would lose many of the amazing assets our area has to offer, including this fine paper itself! Volunteering is not about personal gain, it's about supporting something that creates the wonderful area we are lucky enough to live in.

Lastly, on a personal note, I have now experienced the stress of books being mis-shelved. So a plea from all librarians – please, put the book back in the right place!

We all have a hundred and one things to do, as we rush from one thing to another, but volunteering is a fantastic opportunity to benefit your local community, as well as enriching your own life and experience. Everyone benefits, and that is why the *Courier* Cubs are urging you to give it a go – who knows, you might even enjoy it.

RW, KM, KD

# Killearn Beer Festival

The Killearn Beer Festival, now in its fifth year, ran its biggest, hottest and most successful event to date on 4 June – one of the most glorious days of the year. After last year’s deluge, which was still well attended, the festival was bathed in sunlight from start to finish, attracting some 550 guests, many from outwith the village. Twenty-two craft ale beers as well as some ciders were on offer. Although happy to receive so many visitors, the festival still managed to retain a family-oriented feel which has always been one of the objectives.



As always, the event was held at The Old Mill, and was accompanied initially by local singers, with other bands playing later and great food provided by The Mill.

A number of favourite brews from Fallen (who have

been present in all five festivals) were on offer, and as the festival prides itself on sourcing new, innovative and interesting ales, this year the focus was the Glasgow area with beers from Upfront, Alchemy, Tempest, Floodline, Five Kingdoms and another local, the Fintry Brewing Company, being particularly appreciated.

As with all events so far, the majority of money earned will be targeted toward various local clubs, schools and charities which have already been the recipients of more than £3,000 in donations.

Finally, the team would like to express our appreciation to The Old Mill for hosting the event as well as the wider village for its great cooperation, support and attendance, without which the festival would not exist. So thanks again, and we are looking forward to seeing you on the first Saturday in June next year.

## Hire or Buy Locally at...

- ✓ Extensive Range ✓ Friendly Team
- ✓ Expert Advice ✓ Training Provided
- ✓ Service & Support



Fraser C Robb  
will donate  
**£5**

to Trossachs Search & Rescue  
for each Moutfield Lawnmower  
that they sell in 2016.



Stirling Road, Drymen, Glasgow G63 0AA  
T: 01360 660 688  
E: admin@frasercobb.com  
www.frasercobb.co.uk



## Police Report

There have been a few thefts since the last issue, mostly of a minor nature; however, a high-value bike was stolen and there have been three housebreakings in the Killearn area, all within a couple of weeks of each other. If you have any information, please phone Police Scotland (101) or CrimeStoppers (0800 555 111). We encourage you to report any suspicious activity, no matter how insignificant it may seem. For crime prevention advice, please contact PC Murphy or PC Graham (101).

A national speeding operation was in place earlier in the year and static speed checks were carried out by local officers. Conditional offers of fixed penalties have been issued to drivers and will continue to be the case.

Complaints have been received about parking at Killearn Primary School, including blocking driveways and on the zigzags. This will be monitored and dealt with appropriately.

The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 comes fully into effect on 31 December 2016. The new law will require any person who possesses, purchases, uses or acquires an air weapon to have a certificate to hold them legally. From 31 December 2016, it will be an offence not to have a certificate for these purposes, unless you are exempt. From 1 July you have been able to apply to Police Scotland for a certificate. Police Scotland ran an Air Weapon Surrender Scheme between 23 May and 12 June. Although this campaign is now finished, air weapons can still be handed in at a Police Office. Further information can be found at [www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/airweapons/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/airweapons/).

The Police Scotland Public Consultation Survey was launched on 7 April. In previous years, the survey was paper-based with community officers delivering and collating the surveys from members of the local community. This year, the survey has been conducted online. It allows communities to provide feedback to Police Scotland about a variety of topics, including the views of local people and what they feel local policing priorities should be in their communities. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete, and everyone is encouraged to participate. The survey and further information can be found at [www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts](http://www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts).

PCs Ray Murphy and Steven Graham are the Ward Officers from the area and are based at Balfron Police Office. They can be contacted at the police office (by phone on 101) or by email at [ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk). Both officers have access to this email mailbox, and it is recommended that this email address is used by the local community.

We regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at:

[www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision](http://www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision)  
[www.facebook.com/policescotland](http://www.facebook.com/policescotland)  
[www.twitter.com/policescotland](http://www.twitter.com/policescotland)  
[www.twitter.com/stirlingpol](http://www.twitter.com/stirlingpol)

## David MacDonald

*Quality Family Butcher*

The Square, Drymen, G63 0BL

MacDonald Butchers have relocated to our Drymen branch and offer the same range of products and service.

**We deliver to Killearn daily**

*For more information please call:*  
01360 660512 07849 883401

Top quality Beef, Lamb, Pork,  
Poultry, Fish and Game

Homemade Award-Winning Steak Pies,  
Sausages and Burgers

Fruit and Vegetables

Wide Selection of Cheeses and Pâtés



## Firewood for Sale

Forthvale Contractors  
tel: 01360 440294  
mobile: 07890 331702  
[drew@forthvale.co.uk](mailto:drew@forthvale.co.uk)



## Introducing the Hoolie Dhu



Good news from the Killlearn Hoolie. We are delighted to announce the Hoolie Dhu – a new, exciting winter event.

From 7.30pm on Saturday, 19 November, join the kilted lads and bonnie lassies in Killlearn Village Hall to kick off the night with a glass of fizz and live music from Yvonne Bauwens and Jen McLean.

The Old Mill are providing a stand-up supper and full bar, and the Hoolie is delighted to welcome back our popular headline act, Roadhouse – an outstanding party band who will play classic covers and everyone’s fave raves till the clock strikes midnight.

Tickets (over 18s only) cost £25, and include a welcome drink and hot supper. Tickets are limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Please complete and return the application form.

To keep up with the latest news about the Hoolie Dhu, please follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/KilllearnHoolie2012/](http://www.facebook.com/KilllearnHoolie2012/).

I would like to purchase ..... tickets (max four per application) @ £25 each (over 18s only)

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Contact Phone No .....

Email .....

Please return form to K. Simpson, 1 Napier Road, Killlearn, G63 9PA.

Tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please indicate how many vegetarian meals you require.

Payment Methods

Please ensure you provide an email address. Your email will be used to confirm your booking and provide you with payment details if you wish to pay by bank transfer. Alternatively, please enclose a cheque made payable to ‘Killlearn Hoolie’.

## Balfron High: Resilience and Community Spirit

As many of you may well be aware, Balfron High School has had to deal with some unforeseen circumstances in the past few months. Structural issues were discovered at Easter, and since then sections of the school have been closed to allow further inspection and repairs. After meetings with Stirling Council and head teachers from around the area, alternative arrangements were found for the 450 pupils at school, as half were on study leave for exams. For Ms Bannatyne, the Head Teacher, the solution was to split the S1–S3 by house: ‘The head teachers of Wallace, Stirling and St Modan’s all were more than happy to help. The best way to make sure the young people of Balfron received the best care with people who know them best, but also had access to all areas of the curriculum was to do it by house. We had the head of house, pupil support and form-class leaders with the pupils.’ All 450 pupils spent three weeks at these neighbouring schools.

The other priority for Balfron High was the welfare of pupils sitting SQA exams. The theatre and games hall were out of use, but alternative arrangements were met with classrooms being used instead. ‘We had to link with the chief invigilators to make sure everything was perfect for the pupils sitting exams,’ said Ms Bannatyne, ‘It was actually a blessing that it was exam time because we only had to deal with half the school and the other schools had space. That was a real stroke of luck to be honest.’ All of the exams went smoothly in the classroom environments. Building work was paused during school hours to let pupils sit exams in proper conditions. Study days were also run for subjects to allow pupils to have work marked and receive advice from teachers.

Staying in touch with parents/carers and the pupils on exam leave was done through regular emails. Ms Bannatyne’s updates kept everyone aware of the current situation: ‘Not only did they need the information, but they needed to know what we were doing about it. We spent much of our time working through the issues and coming up with the solutions, so that we could give solutions out rather than just the problem.’

The majority of the school is now in full working order, with an outside Learning Village replacing several classrooms at the end of term. It is expected that everything will be back to normal after the summer holidays.

Despite the disruption caused by the events, there were many positives taken away from them. On a closing note from Ms Bannatyne, ‘This experience has taught me that I have a really excellent team of people around me, that Stirling Council has been completely supportive and done everything possible for the school and the community. It has taught me that we are all very much more resilient than we would have thought, and that when we pull together that we can solve just about anything.’

KIRSTY MCARTHUR

## Killearn Glen Project

### Rediscovering the Community's Lost Landscape

When Murray Cook, the Stirling Council archaeologist, first visited Killearn Glen he was convinced that there was a lost 'designed landscape' hidden within the Glen and the adjacent area up onto Crow Hill. A few small investigations had previously been undertaken but no systematic study. Earlier this year KCFC, in cooperation with Green Aspirations Scotland and Stirling Council, obtained a grant of £9,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out a 'walk over' archaeological examination of the Glen and an initial arboricultural survey to try to gain a better understanding of the features present.

Green Aspirations Scotland organised a launch day on Easter Monday, 28 March, with activities for children, tree identification and an archaeological walk led by Murray. On 10 April, archaeologists from Northlight Heritage instructed a group of volunteers in techniques for reading and recording archaeological features in the Glen, many of which were invisible to the untrained eye. A fortnight later the volunteers spent two full days identifying features and recording them by drawings, written descriptions, photography and GPS positioning, guided by the Northlight Heritage archaeologists. Dr Coralie Mills of Dendrochronical ([http:// dendrochronical.co.uk](http://dendrochronical.co.uk)) and more volunteers also examined the trees within the Glen and identified specimens for later dendrochronological study. On the final field day, 8 May, Coralie gave a morning talk on how dendrochronology works for dating trees and timber structures. This was followed in the afternoon by a practical session in the Glen with dating cores taken from three trees previously identified as indicator specimens.

At the time of going to press, the final reports of the findings were not available. However, initial findings were presented at a public meeting in the primary school on 11 June. Murray Cook gave a short introduction before Peta Glew, of Northlight Heritage, presented both her archaeological findings and a brief description of the results of the dendrochronological studies. Green Aspirations Scotland outlined the events they intended to organise during the summer (see below).

The archaeological findings in the Glen have been very exciting. They indicate that there have been several phases



of development, with evidence of ancient 'hollow ways', use of the area for timber production (shown by coppicing and a possible saw pit), substantial water management (probably to power Killearn Mill), the possible site of a pre-1688 laird's house, and probable use as a pleasure garden. One unexpected discovery was to find that, in general, the trees were not as old as once thought, most not exceeding about 100 years. However, one dated pine was around 250 years old and the re-growth on a coppiced oak was 100+ years old, indicating a much older parent tree.

This study was intended to discover whether there was scope for further work in the Glen, and has been very successful. It has clearly highlighted targets for future activities, in particular excavations to confirm some of the features identified during the 'walk over'. Taken with the new Woodland Management Plan for Killearn Glen recently completed for Stirling Council, it suggests exciting potential for community involvement in the development of the Glen.

PETER SMITH (AKA)

### Green Aspirations in the Glen

At the public meeting in June, Green Aspirations outlined the ways they hoped to attract more wildlife and people to the Glen. Throughout July they held a series of free events to showcase why the Glen is such a beautiful woodland habitat. After a mid-week barbecue, over two weekends in July, Green Aspirations volunteers and villagers enjoyed green woodworking sessions and learned more about

identifying trees using bark, growth habits, budding – in fact, almost anything but leaves. Using these skills plus wood from the Glen, they spent a day preparing oak timbers to build a replica medieval loom. A second July weekend was devoted to a spoon-making jamboree, which attracted spoon carvers from across Scotland to the Glen.

NB

## Heron House: Advertising Feature



**HERON  
HOUSE**  
EARLY YEARS

- New baby garden
- Baby places available
- Daily walks for babies
- CHIME, Gym and Music Classes
- Regular Trips and outings
- Outdoor" Bark Kitchen"& planting & growing
- Local Authority Funding (3-5) available Aug 16
- Out of School Care for HHK attendees only
- Holiday cover for 5-12 year olds
- Qualified passionate team

**OSC PLACES FOR HHK PREVIOUS ATTENDEES ONLY**

Beech Drive, Killearn G63 9SD  
t: 01360 550 162  
e: heronhousekillearn@gmail.com

959 Crookston Road, Glasgow G53 7DT  
t: 0141 810 5777  
e: heronhousecrookston@gmail.com

With a nurturing and learning environment, we provide 'our' children with positive learning experiences and opportunities from the very minute they arrive. Our fees are competitive, and our staff are loving and experienced. We drop off and collect pre-school children from Killearn Nursery Class. Our nursery has an out-of-school facility for attendees only, as places are at a premium.

Some other info: The Family Fun Day BBQ raised £630.01p for the Beatson Cancer Charity; we

have a brand new Baby Garden; our children aged 3-5 chose their own summer trip to the Safari Park, and it was a roaring success! From August 2016, funded LA places available for 3-5 year olds: apply now; Graduation Day was celebrated with a picnic at Mugdock Country Park.

Come along, visit us and discover more of what we do for and with our little people, who are happy, loved and thriving. Our beautiful nursery sits adjacent to Killearn Glen, with ample private parking. The large secure garden has a Bark Kitchen,



children's allotment, and a hard surface for trikes and bikes.

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

*Chris MacColl  
Doug Walker*

Hour and 2 hour walks covering the G63 area

**Please contact:**

**07480861396**



### JK JOINERY

We are a family run business based in Milngavie, with over 30 years experience in all types of Joinery



Extensions, Conversions, Kitchens, Flooring, Doors, Decking, Fencing, and more

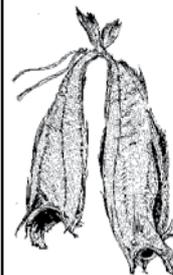
Find us on Facebook @ JK Joinery  
Telephone - 07742014468

### **STUARTS FRESH FISH** *delivered to your door*

**EVERY  
WEDNESDAY**

**Balfron – a.m.  
Killearn – p.m.**

**Orders taken/  
phone for service  
01241 876254**



Visit our website for smokies by post  
[www.arbroathsmokiesdirect.co.uk](http://www.arbroathsmokiesdirect.co.uk)

# Killearn 10K 2016



When the route was marked out the previous evening, hopes were high for a sunny Saturday for the fourth Killearn 10k, and we were not disappointed. The day began with registration for the 10k and the Killearn Mile in Killearn Primary School. With the marshals dispatched to their various points along both routes, Mile registrants kicked the day off with their run, jog or walk from the Park around the streets of Killearn. As they re-entered the Park and crossed the finish everyone received a medal. Run in association with Alison Grey of Active Stirling, the 124 Killearn Mile participants were all ages and abilities, and everyone crossed the line with a smile on their face.

Just before 11am, the 182 10k runners were piped from the school to the start line between the Buchanan and War monuments. Following Main Street out of the village, runners were guided around the roadworks by the team of

friendly marshals; up on to the pipe track, runners focused on navigating the challenging terrain. The Scouts were well positioned at the foot of Dumgoyne with much-needed water. At the turning point, competitors were roused by the sound of the bagpipes, the magnificent highland cows, and the stunning views of Ben Lomond, the Arrochar Alps and the Cobbler. Entering the trees the midges were a reminder of the joys of Scottish summer. As the runners reached the top of Ibert Road, Bob Ballantyne's cold water sprinkler helped wash off the little pests and gave a boost for the final kilometre to the finish line in the Park.

Del Young was first to cross the finish line for the second consecutive year, with a new course record of 34 minutes and 49 seconds. Close behind was the first G63 male, Grant MacDonald, who finished in 38 minutes and 57 seconds. The first woman home was Louise Tyler at 43 minutes and 38 seconds; Elsie Downham (45 min 21 seconds) was the female G63 winner.

While the runners enjoyed the challenging trail of the race, supporters, family and friends were treated to activities by Killearn Primary School Fundraising Group. There was tea, coffee, cake, and a BBQ; Glendrick Roost provided pony rides and Scottish Fire and Rescue came with one of their fire engines.

The 2016 10k was another early sell out and Killearn is rightly proud of its place as a key event in the Scottish 10k race calendar. Runners travelled from across the country to participate and were rewarded with a bespoke medal, a technical running top and a host of other post-race goodies. The category winners were presented with individual prizes, generously provided by our sponsors.

The Killearn 10k committee and runners extend huge thanks to the local businesses and organisations who supported the event: Mulberry Bush Montessori, Glengoyne Distillery, The Co-operative, RUN4IT, Barrs, Three Sisters Bake, Art4you, Lumsdaine Halls Therapy Rooms, Tunnocks, The Killearn Trust, Killearn Hoolie, Active Stirling, The Burnbrae, Bearsden, The Yoga Place, The Old Mill, Killearn, 23rd Forth Valley Scout Group, 1st Killearn Brownies and 1st Killearn Senior Section Guides.

Finally, a big thank you to the local volunteers who gave their time to ensure the day ran smoothly. The cheery support provided by our marshals was appreciated by every runner and ensures that the Killearn 10k is known as a well-organised, safe and enjoyable event.

*Photographs courtesy of Andy Summers*

# Steven Skinner

Joinery, Glazing & Property Maintenance

## Glazing Repairs

Misted/cracked double glazing units replaced

ALL TYPES OF JOINERY  
WORK UNDERTAKEN

Upvc/timber windows and doors,  
Upvc roofline cladding  
and Kitchens all supplied and fitted

CALL NOW FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

11 Strathview Terrace  
Balfron G63 0PS

**Telephone:** 01360 449 080  
**Mobile:** 07713 805 086  
**Email:** [stevenskinnerjoinery@gmail.com](mailto:stevenskinnerjoinery@gmail.com)



FEDERATION OF  
SMALL BUSINESSES  
MEMBER

## Loch Ard Sailing Club News

The Club has had busy season. In addition to racing series, the Club took part in the Royal Yachting Association's 'Push the Boat Out' event, helping 51 people to have a taster sail, as well as the Open Day at Kinlochard, as part of the Kinlochard Gathering, when free sailing and also trips in steam launches were on offer. The Club was delighted to welcome all those who came to enjoy the sailing on, and the entertainment off, the water.

In June, two groups of P7 pupils from Drymen Primary enjoyed their own 'taster' sailing sessions in our

new training dinghy. We look forward to hosting more of these events in future.

We hope to organise a mini-Olympic event on 21 August to celebrate the end of the sailing series in Rio. Double Olympics Gold medallist (2000, 2004), Shirley Robertson, was a member of the Club. We haven't quite achieved her skills level yet, but there is always hope! We have welcomed several new families to the Club, and are keen to encourage more people to enjoy the quiet pleasures of Loch Ard. For more information visit our website: ([www.lochardsc.org.uk](http://www.lochardsc.org.uk)) or [www.facebook.com/LochArdSC](https://www.facebook.com/LochArdSC)

IW

## More Messing About in Boats



Three Killearn boys continue to lead the Optimist and Topper dinghy fleets in Scotland and across the UK. Scott Forbes in his Optimist dinghy recently won the Scottish Champion title at Loch Lomond and the Scottish Traveller title at Royal Tay Yacht Club, and is due to represent GBR at events in Italy and France this summer as well as the Optimist National Championships in Largs. Calum Bell in his Topper dinghy has also won both Scottish Champion and Scottish Traveller Series titles, as well as winning a National Series event in Plymouth at the end of June. Harris Cartwright in his Topper dinghy won at the prestigious RYA Eric Twiname regatta at Rutland Sailing Club in May, and has achieved two seconds at National Series events this year.

Both Calum and Harris will be competing at the Topper World Championships in Ballyholme, Northern Ireland and the Topper National Championships in North Berwick this summer.

DB

*three sisters bake*  
KILLEARN VILLAGE HALL  
Sat 22nd OCTOBER  
from 7pm!

*Dinner, dancing  
and music!*

Southern-inspired soul food  
Live entertainment

Full details at [threesistersbake.co.uk](http://threesistersbake.co.uk) or call 0333 344 7344

## Tennis Club

The 2016 season got off to a busy start with an Open Day, match play, social evenings and action-packed coaching sessions.

The Ladies Team have had a particularly successful time in the Dunlop Central Summer League. Before the matches started, Club Secretary Jan Biggart organised team tops, and Head Coach Hannah Pickford worked hard with the pool of 12 ladies.

Consequently, the team went on court feeling confident, fitter and more decisive at the net.

After an enjoyable series of matches, the team is delighted to announce that it has achieved second place and will be promoted to Division 2 next season.

The plan is to continue coaching during the autumn in order to be prepared for the greater demands of the higher division. Any ladies in the village who would like to join the pool will be made most welcome.

Three summer camps were organised for Juniors and spaces filled up fast. The date of the remaining Children's Summer Camp is 15–19 August. The Autumn Coaching



Block will commence after the schools return. Hannah is planning to organise the Club Championships in September, and the recently-postponed Strawberries and Cream Day will take place at the end of August.

Look out for posters on village noticeboards for forthcoming tennis events. Please come along and see what we have on offer. For membership and coaching information, please contact:

Elaine Henderson ([elaine\\_hen11@hotmail.com](mailto:elaine_hen11@hotmail.com); 551120) or visit our website [killeartennisclub.org.uk](http://killeartennisclub.org.uk).

S BELL

## Lewis Stewart Update – Team GB Selection



Lewis Stewart has had yet more success with his track cycling in recent months. On 13 July, he won a Bronze medal as part of Team GB at the Junior European Track Championship in Monti Chiari, Italy. He was crowned the male winner of 2015/16 Chris Hoy Future Stars Champions in Manchester on 23 January, shortly after returning from his first international competition in British Cycling's Olympic Junior Academy International Contest in Alkmaar. Lewis will also be competing in the track sprint at the UCI Junior Track World Championship in Aigle, Switzerland.

Keep a lookout in future issues for more of Lewis' progress.

KIRSTY MCARTHUR

**Breathing Space**

Animal behaviour and care

- Dog Walking (solo or small group walks: 30 min, 1 and 2 hours)
- Pet Sitting and Home Boarding (including exotics, overnight, short- and longer-term)
- Doggie Day Care (half and full day) and Pet Transport
- Pet Dog Training (Reward-based, 1-on-1, small group)
- Puppy Classes
- Pet Behavioural Advice and Behaviour Modification by a Qualified Veterinarian and Companion Animal Behaviourist
- Fully Insured, Competent in Canine First Aid
- Flexible and Affordable

**Rose Lederer**  
MRCVS, Member of BVBA and ESVCE  
BVSc., Dr. med. vet., PhD, MVM, MSc (Clinical Animal Behaviour)  
Certificate IV Canine Behavioural Training (Delta Society Australia)

Tel: 01360 550 165      Mobile: 07925 846 618  
[rose@breathingspace.vet](mailto:rose@breathingspace.vet)      [www.breathingspace.vet](http://www.breathingspace.vet)

## Curling Sweep Up

The 2015/16 season ended with the AGM and prize-giving at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. The Club awarded honorary membership to Stephen Holden, a past President of both the Club and Forth & Endrick Province. The only change to the main Club committee was Gill Smith became President of the Ladies Section.

In the mixed club matches, the Spring League was won by John Phillip's team of Stan Moore, Maurice Rennie and Richard Kingslake. Walter MacGowan's team of Keith Hyam, Gillian Kingslake and Jean Verrall was second.

The Knockout competition, begun last season, has not been so successful due to problems in getting teams. The competition was won by the team skipped by Bob Glass in the first round and John Phillips in the final with Gill Smith, Sandy Park and Maureen Royston which defeated Tony Flisch's team of Gillian and Richard Kingslake and Barbara Boyter in the final.

Five members took part in the Province Points competition. Fiona Glass won the Club's Points Trophy for the highest score. In the Beattie Points competition for all players at The Peak, Jane McLaren won the Ladies section with Fiona in third place. The club was successful in the Ballikinrain Cup – an annual three-sided match against Balfron and Fintry.

The closing bonspiel for the Harris Falconer Trophy was won by Bob Glass's team of Mary MacDonald, Gillian Kingslake and Douglas Arthur.

In the Ladies Section, the winner of the Rowan Salver Spring League was Muriel Holroyd's team of Roz Gibson and Maureen Royston with reserves filling the vacant position. Rita Barth's team of Isabel Robertson, Luisella Mosley and Marion Richardson were second. The Ladies finished their season with a closing bonspiel at Kinross which was won by Rita Barth's team of Gill Smith, Maureen Royston and Rita Hallam who defeated Muriel Holroyd's team of Anne Lang, Elspeth Murdoch and Norma Thornton by scoring five in the final end.

Tony Flisch was Club Curler of the Year while Rita Harris was the Ladies Section Curler of the Year.

The Club had reasonable success in the Forth & Endrick Province competitions. We achieved third place in the Robert Paterson Shield, won the Forest Hills League and were delighted with our second win



Bob Glass, Mary and Donnie MacDonald and Douglas Arthur with the Harris Falconer Trophy

in the Jim Carswell Cup knockout competition. We also provided six players for the Waldie Griffith inter-province competition, in which the Province came second out of fourteen.

We are a friendly club and enjoy a variety of social events. Our curling standards cater for all abilities. If you are interested in joining, please contact Sandy Park (440922) or Gill Smith (550726) or visit our website [www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk](http://www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk).

GS

## Football Club

With almost two thirds of the 2016 season completed, the team have been performing reasonably well on the field of play, and at present are lying second in the Leslie League, having played 14 matches; winning 10, drawing 2 and losing 2 (to Balfron and Blanefield).

With good results over Aberfoyle and Gartocharn, the Club qualified for the semi-final of the Margaret White Trophy and faced Drymen at Balfron. Due to holidays and injuries, a very understrength side lost the tie 4-1. Off the field of play, 16 members of the Club took part in the Killearn 10K run to raise sponsorship towards Club funds. The Cup for the Most Improved Time from the previous year was won by Simon Sweeney, with young Tom Carey runner up. Both were in the top 3 of the G63 runners. The Cup will be officially presented by the Club's president, Hugh McArthur, at the prize-giving in November.

The Community Sports Pavilion is almost complete, and the Club, along with KCFC, are making plans for the opening day. A report on this and the season round-up will be in the November *Courier*.

DB

### Bushcraft Birthday Parties

Bows & arrows, den building, fire lighting, treasure hunts, magic wands whittling & more!

**Green Aspirations**  
Scotland CIC

[www.greenaspirationscotland.co.uk](http://www.greenaspirationscotland.co.uk)  
Balfron Station, Glasgow G63 0NF  
email us...hello@greenaspirationsscotland.co.uk

### Wee Skelfs holiday club!

Unleash the Adventure...

Make the adventure last...  
spend the summer in the woods

Call us...01360 449220



## Rugby Roundup

Season 2015/16 was a mixed one for Strathendrick Rugby Club – with the junior sections going from strength to strength, and the seniors being relegated – but things are looking bright for 2016/17.

Along with training and fixtures the Minis and Midis have added end-of-season tours to their programme of activities: these have proved to be a huge success, encouraging collective commitment to the squad fundraising, bonding and skills development. In April this year, the P7s, S1s and S2s enjoyed a successful trip to Dublin, whilst the P6s had great fun in Peebles and Alnwick. Even more ambitious tours are planned for 2017.

Meanwhile the phenomenally successful Minis Charity Tournament in April raised a remarkable £3,700 for local hospices. This annual event is one of the best supported and certainly the best organised on the circuit.



Unfortunately the 1st XV, with a relatively inexperienced squad, had a less successful season, eventually being relegated to West Division 3 for the first time in the Club's history. However this is seen as something of an opportunity to regroup, play a year at a slightly lower level securing wins, building confidence and, hopefully, winning promotion at the first attempt. The Midi and Youth sections – who work in close collaboration with Balfroun High School – will be running four teams in the coming season: S1, S2, U16 and U18, with talented squads at every age group.

New recruits are welcome in all sections. For general information visit the Club website [www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc). The Minis Open Day is Sunday, 28 August at Fintry Sports Club; for further information on the Minis contact [iain.somerville@lomondlodge.net](mailto:iain.somerville@lomondlodge.net); for the Midis contact [jeremy@talentstrengths.com](mailto:jeremy@talentstrengths.com) and for the seniors contact [nick.hawkins01@btinternet.com](mailto:nick.hawkins01@btinternet.com). Finally, Killearn rugby player, Ewan Brown (Balfroun HS, Strathendrick, and West of Scotland), has won a place in the SRU U18 Academy in Developing Sport Performance. Congratulations, Spud!

NH

## Community Sports Pavilion



At the time of writing, you will see from the photograph that the pavilion is well under way and in the process of being fitted out. One problem has been the water supply connection. Originally the connection point was on the pavement next to the junction box at the house at the left-hand top of Birch Road, and that is the point to which we prepared the trench containing the water supply pipe to the pavilion, ready for connection.

However, as a result of building the bungalows the connection point had been moved to the pavement on the other side of Birch Road, some 20 metres nearer the bungalows. This means having to extend the trench along the grass and across Birch Road, another inconvenience, I'm afraid, for the Birch Road tenants.

We have had good co-operation from residents, including one resident allowing us access to a temporary water supply and another offering to do the same. We have been able to supply wood bark from the old swings area to a neighbour, and we could have surplus top soil for a couple of neighbours who have expressed interest.

We have had one break-in with limited damage and bottles left, but the police are watching the pavilion.

Hopefully by the time you read this we will be just about finished.

BOB BALLANTYNE

## Triathlon Success



Amy Byrne came third in the Tristar 1 (ages 9–10) in the Scottish National Triathlon championships held at Bellahouston in June. Congratulations, Amy!



## Know Your Wines

A little while ago I held a dinner party for some friends. I knew that one of the people coming had suffered in the past from drinking white wine. Not the result of quaffing too much over dinner; rather, it was caused by two glasses of the wrong stuff – too much sulphur dioxide. Lots of people suffer when faced with wine that has too much sulphur dioxide in it, so I thought I would pass on some information which might let folks enjoy their glass of wine without feeling ill.

All wines contain sulphur dioxide. It is produced naturally in wine making, so cannot be avoided and unless you have a full-on allergic reaction, probably there's no need to. As it has been linked to health concerns and hangovers, it can be helpful to understand why some wines need to use it more than others, and what winemakers can do to reduce the amount introduced.

A few rules of thumb when selecting wines can really help avoid that horrid 'day after' feeling caused by the chemicals rather than the alcohol:

- ◆ The younger the wine, the more simple and fruity (and cheaper), the more sulphur dioxide will be used to keep it stable.
- ◆ Red wine uses the least sulphur dioxide of all, and time in oak reduces the need further. This makes wines like Rioja Reserva a really good choice, or some of the other old-school wines like Chianti Classico or Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

- ◆ White wine uses less if it has time in oak barrels (not likely in less expensive whites with oak character) or time on lees (grape skins), like Muscadet Sevre et Maine.
- ◆ Rosé wine uses less sulphur dioxide the drier it is.
- ◆ Sparkling wines will use much less if they are aged. For wines that are all about bright fresh fruit, like a lot of prosecco, there needs to be a lot of sulphur dioxide used, but for more complex or mature examples the amount comes down.
- ◆ Organic and biodynamic winemakers use much less by choice and design in their wineries.

The Co-op and our lovely new deli, Hewitt & Aker, both offer wines made with lower levels of sulphur dioxide, and while both have wines at all levels in their price ranges, I picked two that really stood out for me.

From Hewitt & Aker, I recommend the Crémant de Bourgogne as a wonderful alternative to a prosecco or champagne. A really lovely dry sparkling wine that would be perfect with some strawberries in the sunshine.

From the Co-op, I found it hard to see past the wonderful producer Cono Sur, an organic farm in Chile, and their pinot noir. The reason it has a bike on the label? It's how they travel around the vineyard in order to reduce their impact on the environment, and that ethos is reflected in everything they do.

ELAINE TAYLOR

## ***Endrick Blooms***



***'Fabulous flowers for every occasion'***

***\* Bespoke Wedding Flowers***

***\* Vase and Bay Tree Hire***

***We can help with all events in the fab  
Killearn Hall! Call the shop for inspiration.***

**01360 550404**

**Visit us on [Facebook](#)** 

## Bridge by Zorro – What Happened . . .

*Continued from page 28*

The initial look shows: 2 losing Hearts can be thrown on the King and Queen of Diamonds; 1 Spade cannot be avoided, but is there a way to ensure you don't also lose to the Queen of Clubs? A finesse is obviously involved, but which way should you take it – towards the Ace or towards the King? If you're right you make the contract; if you're wrong then the contract goes 1 down.

If the Clubs were led by the opposition, then you wouldn't have to guess! Can this be contrived?

The opposition will make the King (or Queen) of Spades at some point. If, at that moment, their choice of lead was constrained to Clubs then we should be home and dry! So...

Initially take trick 1 with North's Ace. Take 3 rounds of Diamonds and discard South's 2 losing Hearts. Play the Ace of Spades. This is the situation you have tried to create.

Given the lead at this point, it doesn't actually matter whether East or West now wins your Spade lead. What choices does the opposition have? If they lead a Heart or Diamond, you get a 'ruff and discard' (of the losing Club). The only other choice is to lead a Club into either North's King/10 holding as the cards lie, or South's Ace/Jack if West happened to win the second Spade trick.

So play the second round of Spades, losing to the opponent's honour, and Great! your opponents are end-played and the contract made.

## Somme Commemoration

On Friday, 1 July 2016, 30 people gathered at the Kerr Family grave in Killearn Old Churchyard to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme. Two brothers, David Bryce Kerr and Alexander Leopold Kerr, who died on the first and third days of the offensive, are commemorated on the grave. The brothers were born and brought up in Killearn, but their names are not present on our war memorial.

The short ceremony commenced with a rendering of Highland Laddie on the pipes by Ian Sinclair. Rev. David Munro read extracts from Rev. Dr Gordon Mitchell's remarks from the pulpit on each of the deaths, and Gill Smith gave some biographical details of each brother. Robert Hunter read extracts from the war diaries of the two days illustrating the circumstances of the brothers' deaths. After a minute's silence, and a Lament from the pipes, Jim Fallas laid a wreath on the grave on behalf of the All Killearn Archive. Rev. David Munro then offered an appropriate prayer and benediction before Jim Fallas



closed the proceedings by reading an extract from *For Valour*, a poem written by Rev. Gordon Mitchell, who was the minister of Killearn Kirk throughout World War I and now lies close to the Kerr grave in the Old Churchyard. PETER SMITH

## Betty Meikle 1941–2016

Betty was born in the Townhead area of Glasgow, the first of three children to Isa and Hugh Jeffrey. She attended St. David's primary school and then City Public Senior Secondary.

With a keen interest in fashion from a young age, Betty left school to work in the fashion industry and was employed by a variety of agents, manufacturers and retailers. With her love of clothes and couture, Betty was always dressed immaculately.

It was whilst working in the old SCWS, Morrison Street, Glasgow, that Betty met Jim, who was then a buyer for the company. Romance soon blossomed for the young couple. However, things were complicated, as Betty, although separated, was still married to her first husband, the father of Linda and Lorraine. Choosing what was then a controversial lifestyle, they chose to live together, first in Hillhead, before buying their first house and moving to Hardgate in 1970. Two years later Garry was born.

With the family now complete, they moved to Killearn where they bought a house in Elder Road. Betty concentrated on bringing up her young family while Jim's career developed in the area of computers and information technology. In 1976, in partnership with his friend Mike Garey, they formed Clydeforth, which was successfully sold in 2004.

As the business grew, Betty agreed to work for Jim. This did not last forever, as, during an earlier recession, Jim asked Betty to work part time rather than full time.



When things picked up and Jim asked her to revert to full time, Betty was more than reluctant, as she was by this time enjoying her new lifestyle in Killearn. The upshot was that Betty, although remaining a director, gave up the daily grind to concentrate on her other activities.

Betty was active in the local community and over the years was a member of a number of organisations: the Young Wives, the Monday Club, Strathendrick

Curling Club (an ex-president of the Ladies Section), Balfon Golf Club and the Inner Wheel (an ex-president).

Not only was Betty a proud mother, but she was a proud grandmother to Kirsten and Max, both of whom she adored. She was also delighted to be an aunt to five nephews and one niece.

Betty was a stoic lady; she never once complained about her diagnosis of lung cancer last August, accepting that, as a smoker since her school days, it was always a likely outcome. When she realised that her health was deteriorating further, she was quite insistent that she should spend her last hours in her own home surrounded by her family; and that's exactly what she did. Peacefully in the early hours of 17 June 2016, Betty's life drew to a close.

She will be remembered as someone who was generally cheerful, as someone who was assertive without being blunt, who judged those whom she met by their character and not by their status. But mostly she will be remembered by many as a good and loyal friend. JM

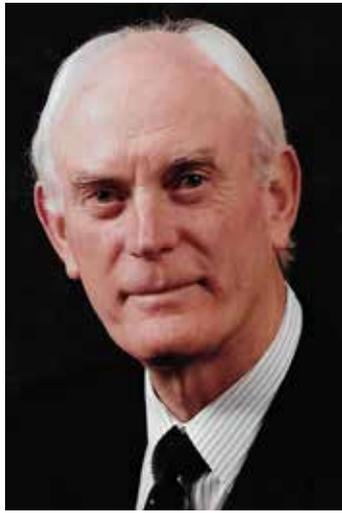
## John Holt 1933–2016

John Holt was born in Coalsnaughton, Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire in January 1933. He was educated at Alloa Academy where he excelled academically and at sport, particularly at rugby and athletics.

In 1955 he graduated from Glasgow University with a first-class honours degree in civil engineering.

He met Marion, who was to become his future wife, in 1954 at a dance at the Men's Union and the romance that began that night became a 60-year marriage, 40 of which were spent living in or near Killearn.

John and Marion were married in Glasgow in August 1955, and despite never having been outside Scotland, within three months they were living in Hong Kong. John was employed by Scott, Wilson, Kirkpatrick and Partners, and worked initially on the construction of Kai Tak airport. He spent a year of postgraduate study at the University of Illinois and was awarded a first-class Masters degree in soil mechanics in 1960, after which he and Marion toured the United States for three months with all their possessions in a VW Beetle!



They returned to Hong Kong and their sons Stephen and David were born in 1963 and 1966 respectively. After nine years in the Far East, John brought his family back to the UK settling near Cobham in Surrey. He travelled extensively, working on dams, ports and coastal defences in places like Kenya, Libya, Jordan and Iran. He became a partner with Parsons Brown and Newton in 1973, and moved to Glasgow in 1975 to open their new office. He moved from consulting to management, working for Britoil from 1980 and then as a self-employed consulting engineer from 1986 until his retirement in 1993.

John and Marion always enjoyed the social side of life in the village. John was a member of the Speakers Club and Probus, a bridge player and for many years a keen curler. But it was golf that he loved most, an infatuation that his family all shared. He joined Buchanan Castle in 1979 and became Captain in 2000.

John died suddenly at home on 2 April, after a life well lived. A gentle man, and a gentleman, John will be sorely missed by Marion, his two sons and four grandchildren, and by his many friends around the village and at Buchanan Castle.

## John Warburton 1932–2016



John Warburton was born near Bury, where he was educated at the grammar school and later at Manchester University, initially studying architecture. However, his experience doing National Service made him realise his practical aptitude was better suited to a different career and he returned to Manchester to read civil engineering. His working career was devoted chiefly to the design and construction of bridges

and motorways, notably working on the M2, M4, M6 and M74. He also worked abroad in Persia (as it was then), Libya and Hong Kong and, for brief spells, in Shetland.

He met Muriel when on a Holiday Fellowship week in Ballachulish. They married in 1961, when John was working in London, and made their first home in Windsor, where their elder daughter, Catherine, was born. Moving house frequently was a part of the demands of a civil engineer's career, and after a few years in the southeast they moved north to Kendal, where their second daughter, Helen, was born. At this time John moved from site supervision, working with contractors, to consultancy work, in particular planning and supervising work on the M6 around Tebay. Another few years saw the family returning again to the southeast, this time to Oakley, near Bedford, from where John travelled to work in London and to several overseas contracts. Finally work called him to Glasgow, thereby fulfilling his dream of living in Scotland; he and Muriel

settled in a house on the outskirts of Gartocharn, where they were joined by Muriel's parents. In 2007 they moved to Killearn, where he and Muriel enjoyed life in the village.

In later life, without the long commute, John had more time to pursue earlier hobbies of photography, hill walking and country dancing. His interests in golf, skiing and cycling were followed in retirement by painting, leisurely walking and by joining Probus. He was also a keen gardener and was enthusiastic about brewing beer and winemaking, using the grapes produced in two of his gardens.

A serious man, necessarily away from home a good deal during his working life, retirement gave John the chance to relax in his home, to pursue a wide range of interests and to enjoy the Scottish landscape. It also gave him the opportunity to enjoy the company of his two daughters, their partners and three grandsons, all of whom he was immensely proud. He will be greatly missed by his family.  
MW/BP

## Andrew Sloan 1936–2016

Andrew Sloan was born in Broomhill, and was educated at Kelvinside Academy. During the war he was evacuated to a family farm in Ayrshire, where his enjoyment of country life may have influenced his future working life. On leaving school he studied accountancy, and then started his career in the family business, founded by his grandfather, working upwards through the dairy to become chairman and then managing director of Sloan's Dairies, at that time the largest private dairy company in Scotland. When the dairy was sold in 1972, he continued to run Sloan's Stores until his retirement. Feeling somewhat at a loose end, he then started up his 'flavoured water run'. This venture, using spring water from the Borders, enabled him to drive around every nook and cranny in Scotland, meeting shopkeepers and small business owners and selling his product. It was a job with reminders of his early years working as a milk float delivery man that gave him great satisfaction. Only when his van gave out did he also give up this work.

He met Irene at Woodend Tennis Club and they married in 1961, settling in Bearsden for several years. The needs of a growing family – two daughters and a son – and a desire to move out to the country brought the Sloans to Killlearn where they took up residence in Calibae in the



Main Street. Here Andrew settled happily, enjoying family life, working in his garden and producing huge crops of tomatoes, and taking pride in giving away his excess vegetables to all and sundry.

His other hobbies – working on and driving his classic cars, an interest in old firearms, swords and clocks, fishing and playing the accordion – filled his life outside working hours.

Andrew loved Scotland with a passion. He had a veritable library of Scottish history books, and

could have been regarded as an archetypal Scot: he could be something of a rebel, a non-conformist, direct and sometimes obstinate, but he was an honest, caring and considerate man, and was respected socially and in business. He was also possessed of a great sense of humour and his distinctive laugh was easily recognisable in a crowd.

He took great pride in his family – his children Carolyn, Gillian and Andrew, and grandchildren Kerry and Victoria – and found it hard, at first, to understand why two of them would want to live on the other side of the world but, when his illness was diagnosed, the family ties proved strong and all gathered back in the family home for the last chapter of his life. He is greatly missed by all who were close to him.

BP

## Joyce Day 1929–2016



Joyce Day was born in Portsmouth where her father was an electrical fitter in the naval dockyard. His transfer to Glasgow brought the family, Joyce and her brother, to Scotland and they settled in Hillingdon. Joyce was educated at Bellahouston Academy, where she was dux, and went on to Glasgow University, gaining an MA in modern studies. She began her career in

personnel management with ICI Explosives in Polmont for 12 years. She then trained as a teacher at Jordanhill College of Education and taught at Knightswood Secondary School before moving to her old school, Bellahouston Academy, where she was Principle Teacher (Guidance) and teacher of modern studies.

She retired early and moved to Killlearn in 1993. She joined the WRVS and gained a medal for giving 15 years of service to Meals on Wheels. She spent much time in her garden which she tended with great enjoyment, and she often helped with the maintenance of the church garden.

Joyce, all her life, had a great interest in and love for animals. As a young child, she travelled from Portsmouth to Glasgow with her pet tortoise in a box at her feet. She progressed over the years to larger pets – dogs, in particular.

She was usually to be seen with an accompanying band of black Scotties, and devoted much of her life to the welfare of animals.

She was a lady of great intellect, strong opinions and what often seemed an unshakable determination to do things her way! She maintained a keen interest in politics all her life and was a champion of the rights of the individual. She clung tenaciously to her beliefs and was fiercely independent, finding it hard when increasing years and growing loss of mobility restricted her lifestyle.

But she was also most caring of others and was much loved by those who knew her. Although she had no children of her own, she was close to her brother David, and his wife Catherine and their children – her three nephews, seven great nephews and nieces and three great-great nieces.

BP

## John Robin Hunter 1941–2016



Robin Hunter was born in Knightswood, one of three sons, to Robert and Alice Hunter. He was educated at Victoria Drive Secondary School. He left school aged 15 with no clear ideas for his future, but it was suggested he might follow his father into a small family plumbing business. Thus he served his apprenticeship with a five-year technical education at Stow College. He was 21 when he joined the family firm at a time when the contracts were increasing. As the work grew, the company

expanded into roofing and property management, then to painting and decorating and central heating. By the time Robin retired in 2001, he had served twice as president of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Plumbing Employers, had worked with the union on wages, pensions and conditions, and the small family company had grown to one of the largest maintenance firms in the west of Scotland. The tradition of family involvement continued into the next two generations, with Robin's son and eldest grandson following in his footsteps.

Robin met Felicity when they were both in their teens. They enjoyed 52 years of happy marriage and, with the arrival of a son, David, and daughters, Alison and Nicola, a devoted family life. They moved from their first home in Shawlands to Bearsden, then to Drymen and then Gartocharn where, when he retired from work, he was passionate about creating a new garden and growing vegetables. It was here that he enjoyed

happy times playing with his growing grandchildren and walking his dogs. Four years ago Robin and Felicity moved to Killearn where they settled quickly, and Robin played an active role in Rotary.

Robin had a great love of the outdoors all his life and was a keen golfer, being a member of Glasgow, Hilton Park and Buchanan golf clubs.

A genial and outgoing character, Robin made friends wherever he went. These were friendships that lasted a lifetime, and with many friends they enjoyed holidays around the world, creating lasting memories. His was a warm and selfless nature, ready to help anyone. In his business, he gave the benevolent and wise leadership that all admired, and in his family he was the much loved and admired patriarch whose example was seen as an inspiration. He approached his illness with courage and a characteristic compassion for those around him. His loss is keenly felt by his family and his many friends.

BP



### Andrew Anderson & Sons

Funeral Directors

Est. 1969

**We are proud to offer a 24 hour caring and professional service to the local community**

**We are pleased to offer Golden Charter Pre-Paid Funeral Plans**



*“Creating peace of mind for you and your family”*

**A wide range of memorial stones are available.**

**We can also clean and add further inscription to existing family memorials.**

**For all enquiries**

**Callander Tel: 01877 330398 • Balfron Tel: 01360 441023**

*“Stand sure we will look after you & your family”*

**Funeral Home, Glenartney Road, Callander, FK17 8EB**

**& 64 Buchanan Street, Balfron G63 0TW**

**Email: [info@anderson-funerals.co.uk](mailto:info@anderson-funerals.co.uk) • [www.anderson-funerals.co.uk](http://www.anderson-funerals.co.uk)**



## Jessie Bryce Moir 1934–2016



Jessie was the eldest of three children born to Hugh and Catherine Connachan of Maryhill. She left school aged 14 and worked in the Match Works, then the Roxy Picture House and then as a bus conductress, and it was at the bus garage that she met Jimmy who worked there as an engineer. Later she worked as an auxiliary nurse in Killearn and Gartnavel hospitals and then at Ballikinrain School and finally with Crossroads, providing overnight respite care.

After a two-year courtship, Jessie and Jimmy married in 1953 and lived at first with Jimmy's mother until they got their own home in Maryhill. When the chance of a house in Killearn occurred they seized the opportunity to make their life in the village, and here they settled happily to enjoy a marriage lasting almost 63 years.

A son, Hugh, was born to them and Jessie was a devoted and caring mother and, with Jimmy, provided a warm welcome to their wider family, who would enjoy visits to the countryside to see Auntie Jessie. As the younger generation grew up, grandchildren Craig and Shaunice were welcomed into the family and more recently, great grandchildren, Cameron, Gregor and Adam. They all brought great joy to Jessie, and all were very much at home in her house.

Jessie had a happy and caring personality, and she enjoyed life. She loved travel and she loved being at home; she loved the countryside and she loved shopping in town; she loved her garden where she spent many happy hours; she kept active for as long as possible and went several times a week to keep-fit classes in her 70s; she loved reading, crosswords and scrabble, and enjoyed her regular afternoons at the Thursday Club. There was an air of gentleness about her and a smile always on her face.

She will be missed by her many friends in the village.

BP

## Joan Pamela Bullock 1922–2016



Joan Pamela Bullock was born in Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, on the 1 April 1922. She was the eldest of two children. She had a younger brother who was the foreign correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph* and died in 2010.

Joan's father was a Master Mariner and she accompanied him on trips around the world during her school holidays. Her father was killed by insurgents in Barcelona towards the end of the Spanish Civil War.

Joan left school, and at the outbreak of war she joined the Army. As a fluent French speaker, she spent most of the war in France and later in Belgium. Any enquiries as to what Joan was doing during this period were always met with a wry smile!

Joan was a librarian by profession and worked in several colleges of further education as a chief librarian.

Joan moved to Killearn ten years ago with Eileen Scott, her good friend who had been widowed.

Joan joined all the local organisations where she enjoyed the outings and companionship. Joan was a character, very quick witted, well read, with a great sense of humour. She was great company, with lots of interesting stories and anecdotes. Joan was also a very keen gardener, accomplished in cooking and baking, and very practical in so many ways, including dog grooming or preparing her cats for championship shows.

Joan died on 2 April at Stirling Community Hospital the day after her 94th birthday.

MM

**Jamie Pearson**  
Independent Funeral Directors  
Fintry Manse, Kippen Road, Fintry  
01360 860 345  
also at 2 Service Street, Lennoxtown & 54 Cowgate, Kirkintilloch

 Woodland Burial  Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans

# PRIZE CROSSWORD *Set by PeeWit*

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.

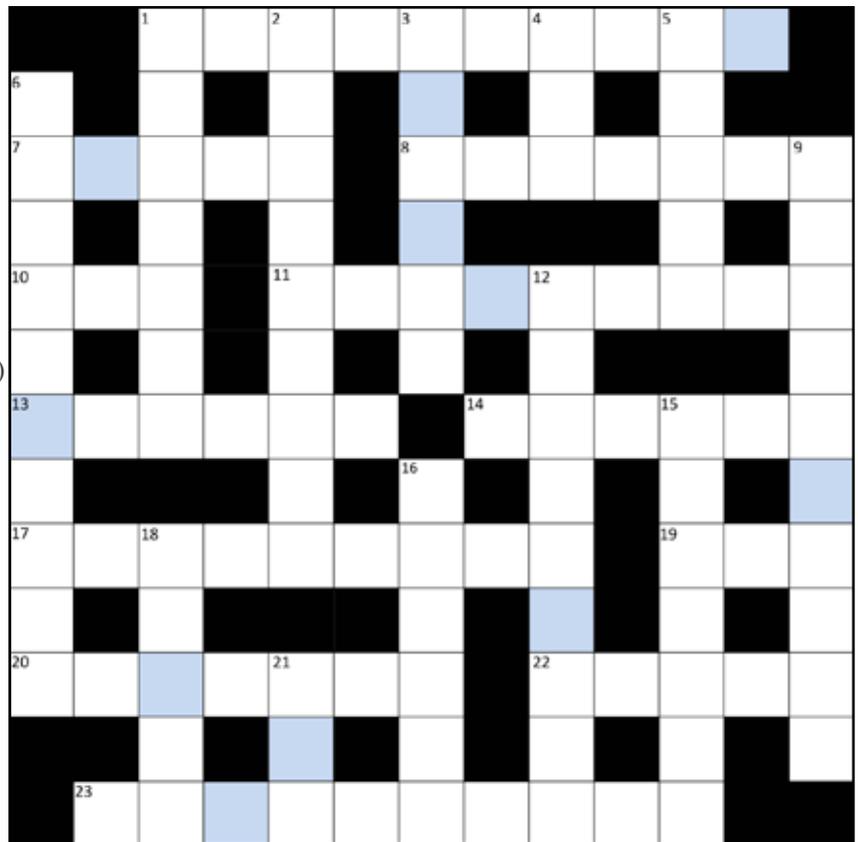
Place your solution(s) in the box in the Co-op or in the postbox outside the Village Hall, with your name, address and a contact number before **Sunday, 4 September 2016**. See instructions below on how to enter.

## ACROSS

- 1 Wrapped up and wanted here say (10)
- 7 No beginning or end to liberty in the road (5)
- 8 I mailed a ticket back to fortress (7)
- 10 One politician could be a naughty person (3)
- 11 Mercy, it's the start of my making a match (9)
- 13 Small weight about half a laugh in the road (6)
- 14 Large weight in a small man lacks harmony (6)
- 17 A thousand shoots in a sultanate for official helper with complaints(9)
- 19 Get a hotel meal in this road (3)
- 20 King Charles hid in one of these in the road (3,4)
- 22 Man conceals learner in this road (5)
- 23 Smart rodent has last word on headland (10)

## DOWN

- 1 Example about examples (7)
- 2 Firmly oppose accompanied by support (9)
- 3 Settle in French site (6)
- 4 Nothing in alcohol free small measure (3)
- 5 This road sounds older than another (5)
- 6 Big tin hook for walking (6,4)
- 9 Bonny banks surround this (4,6)
- 12 Mitigate what sounds like old tea with chopped tuna (9)
- 15 These are inessential without end but sharp (7)
- 16 Mad Sue thinks it funny (6)
- 18 This road sounds like it's at the seaside (5)
- 21 Headless man has beer (3)



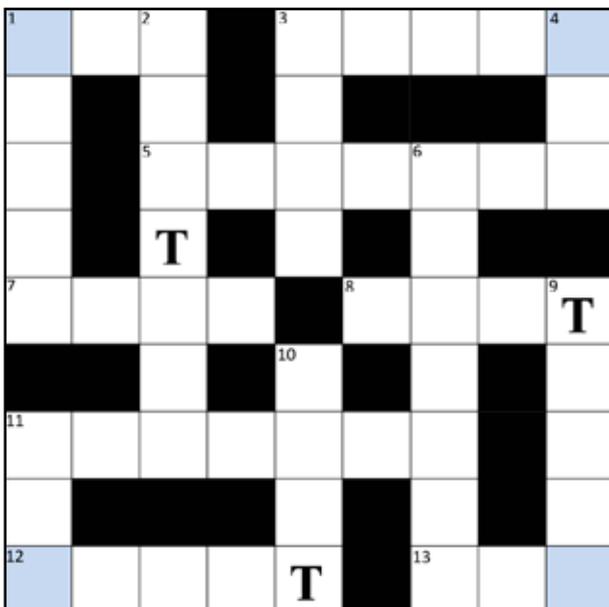
Solution to the last crossword: Across: 1 ballistic; 8 hiker; 9 allergy; 10 nitrates; 11 bent; 13 embody; 14 ragtag; 16 spar; 17 hacienda; 19 ordered; 20 earth; 21 murderess Down: 1 barmaids; 2 loaded; 3 isle; 4 tercentenary; 5 cryptography; 6 thunderstorm; 7 skateboarder; 12 matinees; 15 candle; 18 brie.

Winner of the last crossword: Muriel Warburton, Killearn

The roads referred to in the crossword are all in Killearn.

The letters in the blue squares are an anagram of another Killearn Road (6,4). Write the name of this road on a piece of paper with your name, address and either a phone number or email address and post it in the box in the Co-op or the letter box outside the Village Hall for a chance to win the prize of two theatre tickets.

## CHILDREN'S PRIZE CODEWORD



Can you fit all the words correctly into the grid?

The letter "T" has already been entered.

### 3 letter words

BOW  
DUD  
INK  
OAR

### 4 letter words

CASH  
COAT  
OMIT  
ROAD

### 5 letter words

BOXER  
CORGI  
DEBIT  
TAPIR

### 7 letter words

AVOCADO  
DILEMMA  
GOSHAWK  
WAGTAIL

The letters in the blue squares clockwise from top left spell out a word. Write the word, and any words in the codeword relating to it, on a piece of paper with your age, name, address and either a phone number or email address and post it in the box in the Co-op or the letter box outside the Village Hall for a chance to win the £10 Co-op voucher.

Last competition winner: Sarah Gibb, age 12

## Giant Hogweed



Any 'prog rocker' worth his or her salt will be familiar with the Genesis classic 'The Return of the Giant Hogweed' from their 1971 album *Nursery Cryme*. This over-the-top musical tale dramatically describes the introduction of the 'regal' giant hogweed – *Heracleum mantegazzianum* – into Britain from Asia in the 19th century, its subsequent sinister spread from ornamental gardens into the wider countryside, and the apparent threat to the human race that is to follow...

An imposing, thick-stemmed and incredibly tall plant (it can grow to over 18 feet in height), giant hogweed is unquestionably an eye-catching botanical monster. It is unlikely to be confused with our native common hogweed which is a dwarf by comparison. Riverbanks are the giant's preferred spot, and by using rivers for seed dispersal and aggressively displacing our natural riparian flora it has become particularly successful as an invasive species. It is therefore frequently a target of the 'herbicide battery' alluded to in the Genesis song, although eradication is far from straightforward.

There are plenty of these tenacious triffids on view in the Stirlingshire countryside from June each year. But beware – their phototoxic sap will cause severe blistering and scarring when affected skin is exposed to sunlight, and even blindness if the sap comes in contact with the eyes.

The giant hogweed is not the only naturalised species in our area. While generally far less problematic, many of the familiar plants and animals inhabiting our countryside are in fact non-native and have been introduced from further afield. For example, our rabbits and brown hares were both introduced by the Romans, and our pheasants and probably most of our mute swans were originally of Asian stock. In fields around Killearn I have seen several red-legged partridges, a bird more commonly associated with farmland south of the border, and originally introduced into Britain from France in the 18th century (populations in Scotland are, however, of Mediterranean origin). While these are always nice to see, they serve as a sad reminder that our more native partridge species, the grey partridge, is in serious decline due to changes in agricultural practice. Perhaps it's time for someone to write a song about it...

MARTIN CULSHAW



**JOE SKINNER  
PAINTER & DECORATOR**

**55 Dunkeld Court  
Balfour, G63 0TL**

**Phone: 01360 440327 Mobile: 07789 004787**

**josephskinner@fsmail.net**

*Killearn Courier*  
is published by  
**Killearn Community  
Futures Company**



**KILLEARN**  
COMMUNITY FUTURES COMPANY

Anyone wishing to contribute to the *Courier* winter edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 12 November 2016.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 30 September. 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, 30 September. Please send them to:  
36 New Endrick Road, G63 9QT or  
email: [courier@kcfco.uk](mailto:courier@kcfco.uk)

The *Courier* is not responsible for the content of advertisements. Please support our advertisers who make the *Courier* possible.



# Transitions

Woodland Light Experience

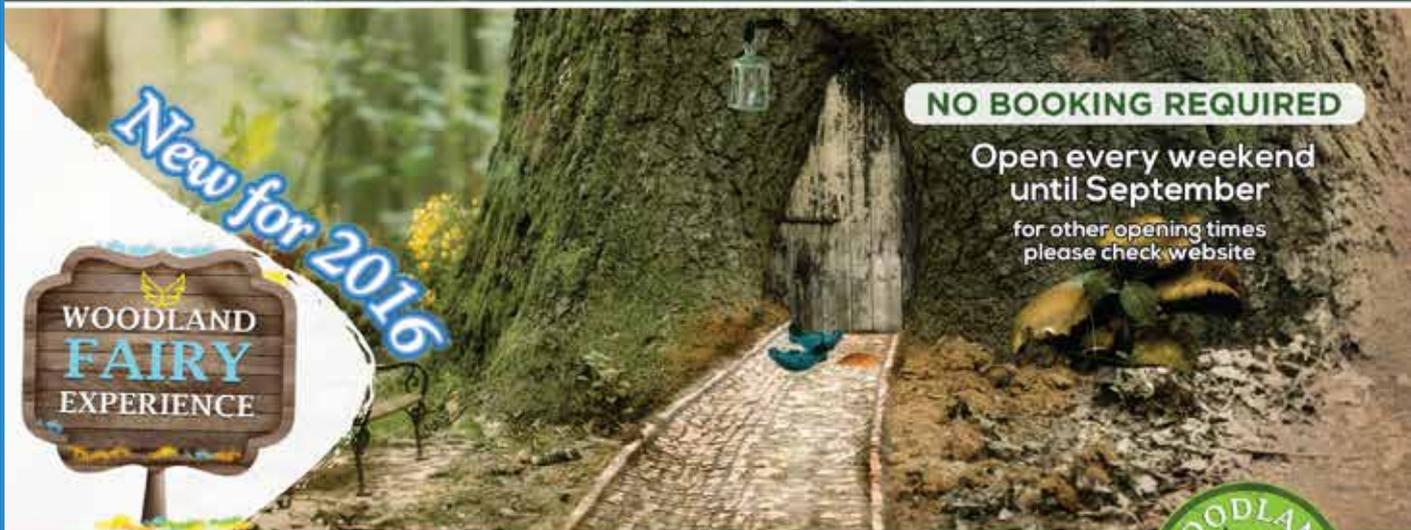


**Book Now!**

**4th – 20th November 2016**

Entry between 4.30pm – 8.30pm

[www.woodlandexperiences.co.uk](http://www.woodlandexperiences.co.uk)



*New for 2016*



**NO BOOKING REQUIRED**

Open every weekend  
until September  
for other opening times  
please check website



**Exciting Woodland Experiences**  
only 30 minutes from Glasgow & Stirling (nr Balfon)



**Book Now!**

Opening 26th  
November 2016

Tel:  
**01360 752052**

