

ISSUE 36

WINTER 2016

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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 Please include your full address (not for publication).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 Sir or Madam

As a bridge player, I was interested in the bridge problem (*Courier* Issue 35) but a glaring mistake came to light when reading the explanation of how to play the hand.

On page 28 it states the final contract is 6NT, which I did wonder about, but then on page 40 the play indicates the contract should be 6S, therefore the line of play suggested by Zorro would lead to a massive minus in no trump. Assuming 6NT was an error, I would also question the bidding, but I suppose that could be put down to personal preference as to how the spade contract is reached and by which player.

Best wishes
Jess Mason

Zorro replied:

Many thanks to all our eagle-eyed readers who spotted the error in the last issue of the *Courier*. The illustrated contract was indeed intended to be 6 spades, as was pointed out by our readers. 6NT would certainly have been a disaster! As bridge players we all know how easy it is to make an unintended bid or play, but to do it in print really is bad. My apologies and thanks for bringing the error to our attention. I will try to pay more attention myself to the article in this edition.

Dear Sirs

I came across your article by chance (edition 34, spring, 2016).

My grandfather was Norman Kerr who was the accountant referred to in your article, and his mother was Margaret Bryce Buchanan of Boquhan Estate. His father was the factor of Balikinrain estate.

I was interested in the photo and wondered where you had got it from as I don't have it. I would also be interested in getting any further information available or any contacts from relatives in the area.

I noted previously that my mother's uncles, Leopold and Robert, were not on the war memorial and had wondered why.

I believe that other Bryce Buchanans moved to the USA, and Boquhan estate was sold to the Salvesen family after World War I.

My mother is 92, and we now live in Milngavie.

Elizabeth Crombie

ED: We've put your request into the capable hands of our Archive group, and I'm sure you'll be hearing from them.

Editorial

WELCOME.

Hello and welcome once again to another 48 page edition of the *Courier* which, although it is titled Winter, it is really our Christmas issue so inside you'll find lots of articles, adverts and ideas which will hopefully give you that Christmassy feeling as well as some pointers as to what and where to buy those festive season essentials.

It's almost inconceivable to think that by the time you read this, Christmas is only six weeks away although, when you look back at some of the shops you visited a couple of months or so ago, you'd be forgiven for thinking that Christmas had come early, was just round the corner and fast approaching!

Indeed, where has the year gone? Time flashes by these days and we all seem to get caught up rushing about here and there with little opportunity to slow down and relax for a bit. Well, never fear, help is at hand with this issue! Sit down in a comfy seat somewhere nice and cosy with your preferred drink to hand, and a choccy biccy or two if you fancy and relax then pick up the latest issue of the *Courier* and lose yourself in its pages. Inside, you'll find our regular features pretty much in their usual places as well as lots of other articles and contributions on a variety of different subjects guaranteed to attract your interest.

Have a good look at our centre pages; they look great and will give you lots of ideas for Christmas festivities. The beauty of these pages is that they feature local suppliers as do most of the adverts elsewhere in the *Courier*. This is a good time to once again thank all our advertisers for their support over the years. We should make as much use of them as we can because, as they say we need to "use it or lose it" an old adage that we would do well to remember when you think of Spar and one or two other former village businesses.

This is also a good time to record our thanks to our volunteer deliverers many of whom have been with us since we started; they do a grand job in all weathers and don't complain when the weight of the copies increases!

The *Courier* team, in spite of changes brought about by members leaving and new members joining, continued to produce issues of a high standard and this was recognised by the Community Newspaper Forum when we won the Community Newspaper of the Year Award.

Many thanks to the team, past and present.. Let's not forget our 'Cubs'; we lost some to Universities but found others to take their places and all of them produced some really well written, informative and interesting articles.

With all these thanks going about, what about the most important people of all – you, our readers; your comments, articles and contributions make this your newspaper so keep them coming and thank you.

All of us at the *Courier* wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2017.

Ian

Henderson –Vaughn



Carrie Henderson from Killearn married Kenny Vaughn from Birr in Ireland on 17 June at Killearn Kirk. Both are residents of New Zealand and work in hospitality.

Help the Hoolie



**Have you enjoyed the Hoolie?
Are you going to the Hoolie Dhu?
Have you got ideas for Hoolie 2017?**

Previous Killearn Hoolies have been a great success, but past organisers have now moved on. If there is to be Hoolie next year, new people are needed now!

Could you help with the Gala Day?
How about the Final Fling?

Please help to make the Hoolie happen:
email hoolie@kcfc.co.uk

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Changes at the *Courier*

We've had some changes in our Group since the last issue.

Gill Sims, who did a wonderful job dealing with our advertisers, has had to step down due to more pressing commitments. Jo Edwards, who stays in Killearn, has stepped up to the mark and will take over from Gill. We wish good luck to Rosalie, one of our Cubs, who is off to university. She produced some really well-written and thoughtful articles and will be sorely missed. However, we have a replacement Cub in Kay Mackenzie who has completed her first assignment: App of the Issue (dreamed up by a previous Cub, Morven Paterson, who also left us for bigger and better things; do we detect a pattern?).

To all of them, past and present, we offer our thanks and wish you every success in the future. ED

Hi! I'm Kay Mackenzie and I've lived in Killearn all 16 years of my life and I went to the primary school here. I am now studying at Glasgow Academy for my Highers and hope to move on to university in the next few years. I enjoy playing the cello, horse riding and, now, writing for the *Courier*! I also play hockey for my school which can be very entertaining. I am really looking forward to being a *Courier* Cub for the next few years and hope to write articles that you will all enjoy!



Hi. I'm Jo! I moved to this lovely village in August, after circling surrounding villages for a few years, and feel settled and welcome already. I'm originally from over the Border, but have been in Scotland for over a decade and have a beautiful and very

Scottish daughter. I'm lucky enough to work for myself, and love the challenge of having two fledging businesses that allow me to indulge two of my biggest passions – writing and photography. Before that, I spent far too long at university, studying and working. On days off, you might find me out walking, drinking coffee or messing about in the woods.

Noticeboard

12 Nov	Killearn Kirk Jumble Sale. Kirk Hall, 10am–5pm. Entry £1. Donations can be brought to the halls on 11 Nov from 5.30pm–9pm	16 Dec	Strathendrick Singers Christmas Concert, Killearn Kirk, 7.30pm. Tickets at the door or from choir members. Refreshments provided. Contact Judith Neil (secretary@strathendricksingers.org.uk).
14 Nov	Strathendrick Rotary Club meeting. 6.30pm prompt, Club Room, Killearn Village Hall, thereafter second and fourth Monday of every month. Contact Ali McLean (550826; alimclean@hotmail.co.uk).	24 Dec	Killearn Kirk Christmas Eve service, 11.30pm. Carol singing followed by watchnight service.
15 Nov	Killearn Kirk Guild Meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Barnabas Fund – Project Evening.	25 Dec	Killearn Kirk Family Christmas Day service, 10am. Children are invited to bring one of their presents to show the minister.
16 Nov	Strathendrick Classic Car Club Meeting. Buchanan Castle Golf Club, 6.45pm for 7pm, Killearn Community Council Meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm,	26–27 Dec	Killearn Health Centre – closed.
23 Nov	Killearn Health Centre – closed from 12.30pm for staff training,	2–3 Jan	Killearn Health Centre – closed.
24 Nov	Drymen & District Local History Society – illustrated talk by David Smith, ‘Waterloo – a Stirlingshire mystery!’. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2; annual membership £7 payable at the door. www.drymen-history.org.uk	9 Jan	Monday Music – spring term for children 2–5 years starts. Kirk Hall. Classes for younger children in Balfron, Strathblane and Fintry. Contact Clare Cushing (550166; claremondaymusic@gmail.com).
1–3 Dec	FADs Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. Menzies Hall, Fintry, Thurs – Sat, 7.30pm and matinee Sat, 2pm. Adults £7.50, children £5, two adults for £10 on Thursday. Tickets and information from Killearn Pharmacy, Balfron Library, Fintry Sports Club or Liz Brown (860078). (tickets@FintryDrama.org.uk)	17 Jan	Killearn Kirk Guild Meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Joyce Begg entertains.
2 Dec	Strathendrick Film Society – <i>What We Did on Our Holiday.</i> Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.	18 Jan	Killearn Community Council Meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
3 Dec	Killearn Christmas Country Market. Killearn Village Hall, 10am–1.30pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk). Killearn Kirk ‘A Celebration of Robert Burns’, talk by Burns enthusiast, Stuart Cochrane, 7.30pm–9.30pm. Entry £15 including a glass of wine and a taste of haggis. Contact Richard (440544), Anne (550605), Helen (550831), Katie (449358) or Lynn (440507).	26 Jan	Drymen & District Local History Society – talk by Mark Nixon, ‘The 1884 Franchise Agitation in Stirlingshire’. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2 (non-members). www.drymen-history.org.uk
6 Dec	Killearn Kirk Guild Meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Talk on ‘Antarctica’ by Kevin Clarke. Bring & Buy and Open Evening.	3 Feb	Strathendrick Film Society – <i>The Lady in the Van.</i> Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.
8–10 Dec	FADs Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. Menzies Hall, Fintry, Thurs – Sat, 7.30pm and matinee Sat, 2pm. Adults £7.50, children £5, two adults for £10 on Thursday. Tickets and information from Killearn Pharmacy, Balfron Library, Fintry Sports Club or Liz Brown (860078). (tickets@FintryDrama.org.uk)	9 Feb	Killearn Kirk Guild Joint meeting with Thursday Club. Killearn Kirk Hall, 2pm.
10 Dec	Killearn Kirk Guild Christmas Coffee Morning. Kirk Hall, 10am–12 noon. Baking stall and sales table.	15 Feb	Killearn Community Council Meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
11 Dec	Killearn Kirk – Nativity family service, 10.30am.	17 Feb	Strathendrick Film Society – <i>Spotlight.</i> Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.
14 Dec	Killearn Community Council Meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.	23 Feb	Drymen & District Local History Society – talk by David Smith, ‘How Scottish is Scottish Country Dancing?’ Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2 (non-members). www.drymen-history.org.uk
15 Dec	Killearn Kirk Guild Christmas Lunch with Thursday Club. Kirk Hall, 1pm.	25 Feb	Strathendrick Singers Musical Coffee Morning. Killearn Kirk Hall, 10am–12 noon. Home baking, musical entertainment and much more.
		3 Mar	Killearn Horticultural Society Whist Drive. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Entry £2 including refreshments. Raffle.
			Strathendrick Film Society – <i>Roman Holiday.</i> Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.
		4 Mar	Killearn Country Market. Killearn Village Hall, 10am–1.30pm. Contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk).
		7 Mar	Killearn Kirk Guild Meeting. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm. Lynn Phillips, ‘Tales of a Registrar’. Bring & Buy and Open Evening.
		15 Mar	Killearn Community Council Meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
		17 Mar	Strathendrick Film Society – <i>The Butler.</i> Balfron High School Theatre, 7.30pm. £4 entry.
		18 Mar	Killearn Kirk Guild Spring Coffee Morning. Killearn Kirk Hall, 10am–12 noon.

If you have any dates for the Spring 2017 issue of the Noticeboard mid March until end of August), please contact Heather McArthur (550137; heather.mcarthur@virgin.net).

An Anniversary to Remember



Saturday, 27 August, dawned cloudy and unpromising, but ended sunny and very happy for all concerned. The band created a great celebratory atmosphere. Thanks to all who participated by bringing along their skills and goods to entertain the crowds with their stands. A phenomenal number of visitors came from far and wide.

A massive thank you from the Horti to the people of Killearn and surrounding areas who really made the day by putting such an effort into exhibiting – all our old friends and supporters, but also an amazing number

of locals making a huge effort because it was the 150th show. We had nearly 500 extra entries! We hope that the founders of 150 years ago would have been proud of the organisation in 2016. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Visit www.killearn.org.uk to see more photos. Do send us one or two if you have some good ones.

Finally, many apologies to Hugh McArthur for missing his name from the list of Lettreburn Heroes in our last article.



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Killearn Glen

Rediscovering the Community's Lost Landscape: An Update

Killearn Glen Heritage Project, the final report of the summer of activities described in Peter Smith's article in the summer *Courier* and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), has now been published. It has been produced by Northlight Heritage in co-operation with DendroChronicle.

The report contains a wealth of information on human activities in the Glen from late mediaeval, through the 18th-century gardens associated with the Place of Killearn, to the 19th and 20th centuries. It makes fascinating reading and is supported with interesting maps, tables and appendices.

The following is a brief summary of the findings:

- Fifteen distinct sites of archaeological interest are identified. These range from post-glacial geomorphology, evidence of medieval habitation and land working (rig and furrow), later canalisation and architectural features associated with the 18th-century designed landscape, and extensive drainage and water management systems most likely associated with the Killearn Mill.
- The evidence gathered indicates that the woodland features in the Glen are the result of designed plantings and that much of the subsequent spread and proliferation of trees is relatively recent. The oldest identified, a Scots pine, was planted in the 1780s and coppicing appears to have ceased in the 1920s.
- Many of the most interesting archaeology features are seriously threatened by natural and human impact and require urgent management intervention to protect what is still present. A surprising amount has been discovered about the history of the Glen but there is a lot of scope for further research. For example, core sampling was limited to a handful of trees.

All who read this report and regularly visit the Glen will have their eyes opened to the remarkable range of archaeological and historical features of interest here. It is also hoped that the report will stimulate wider

interest and encourage villagers who have never ventured into the Glen to do so.

Stirling Council, owners of the Glen and partners in the project, commissioned their own Woodland Management Report (WMP) coincidentally. The WMP is largely complementary in its recommendations and is also a recommended read. There are some conflicts, for example contrary to the WMP, the Glen report recommends the retention of certain beech trees as established constituents of the planted wood, but these differences will almost certainly be resolved because Stirling Council is an enthusiastic partner in the overall project.

Both reports may be accessed and read or downloaded on the KCFC website www.kcfc.co.uk/glen.html.

A clear conclusion is that the future of the Glen's fascinating heritage lies with our community. Community support and funding is required to improve access (paths and bridges), to manage the woodland asset along with Stirling Council, and to protect and provide interpretative information for visitors. The report also suggests introducing traditional woodland management practices and providing educational and recreational demonstrations in the art of coppicing, felling and preparing timber along with traditional woodworking skills. During the summer, aspects of this were successfully provided by Green Aspirations. As project partners they were successful in engaging and enthusing young and old alongside the activities organised by Northlight Heritage and DendroChronicle.

It is important to emphasise that volunteers made a very important contribution to the success of the project. All three partners (KCFC, Stirling Council and Green Aspirations) acknowledge their participation with gratitude. It is also important to recognise that evidence of community support and engagement is essential if Killearn decides to apply for funding to develop, protect and promote the Glen.

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Up the Creek...

It is a late August afternoon in Killearn, the streets are quiet – but something unusual stirs. Mysterious scarecrows and unusual signs appear around the village. ‘Unit Base’, ‘Location’, ‘Film Unit’; facilities vehicles appear in The Killearn Hotel car park and staff with walkie-talkies and clapper boards stroll the streets. Yes, a television crew is in town, but what are they filming and why have they chosen Killearn?

Jonathan Creek is returning to BBC One this Christmas. The cast is led by TV favourites, Alan Davies and Sarah Alexander, with Warwick Davis, among others, making a guest appearance. The story involves the dastardly deeds of a 19th-century sorcerer at his former home, ‘Daemons’ Roost’, and the torments of its modern occupants. But we won’t spoil your enjoyment of the twists and turns of what Alan Davies calls ‘the spookiest episode ever!’

Jonathan Creek is written by David Renwick, but this episode is directed by Sandy Johnson, who originally hails from Drymen, but that is coincidental, as location manager Karen McConnell reports that Killearn was chosen as an attractive, accessible, non-site-specific location with interesting spaces and a variety of properties nearby. The weather was kind, the local people were friendly and the four-day shoot was a happy one. Local people, including Sandra Smith, appear as extras.

Scenes shot in The Square and at Dunkyan House (Jonathan Creek has moved from his windmill) will appear on your screens soon, so be sure to tune in to enjoy our village as setting for this seasonal TV treat.

Producer Rosemary McGowan says, ‘We had a lovely time in Killearn, what a gorgeous place to film and to live in.’ Yup – we agree Rosemary – thank you.



Dorothy Dunkinson, owner of Dunkyan House with Sarah Alexander and Alan Davies, (below) and Warwick Davis (above)

NH



Bridge by Zorro

First, I must offer an apology for a significant error in the last edition of the *Courier*. The (not-so) eagle-eyed among you will have spotted that the final contract should have been stated as 6S. Hopefully this was obvious from the play described, and didn't spoil your enjoyment too much. Thanks to those who told us about it.

On the face of it, the bidding on this hand could be clear-cut, but maybe alternatives exist. It depends how competitive a partnership wants to be and how well the players assess any individual hand. What do you think might be the final contract, and by whom? See page 47 for what happened at our table.

Dealer: North East/West Vulnerable

North			
♠ K J		♠ A 7 6 3	
♥ K J 8 6 5		♥ Q 10 9 7	East
♦ K 9 7 6 3		♦ A	
♣ 7		♣ A K J 3	
South			
	♠ 5 4		
	♥ 2		
	♦ Q J 8 5 4		
	♣ Q 10 6 5 2		

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- Trifle
- Berry Pavlova
- Chocolate Mousse pots
- Sticky Toffee Pudding
- Chocolate Orange cake
- Carrot Cake

From the Archive – The Stories Behind the Kirk Windows

The most prominent feature of Killearn Kirk must be the splendid rose window at the west end. The young girl in the centre is Ella Constance Lindsay Orr Ewing, in whose memory the church was built. She was the younger daughter of Sir Archibald Orr Ewing of Ballikinrain, the first baronet, and she died, aged 15, in 1878.

The left hand of the two pairs of windows on the south wall (*right*) is dedicated to the memory of Andrew Blackburn. A plaque in the Old Kirk reveals that he died at sea in 1887, aged 37. He was the fourth son of Peter Blackburn Sr (d. 1870) and his wife Jean Wedderburn. In the 1881 census, Andrew is described as an Australian sheep farmer, so he may have been travelling to or from Australia when he died. The saints depicted in the window are appropriately Andrew and Peter.

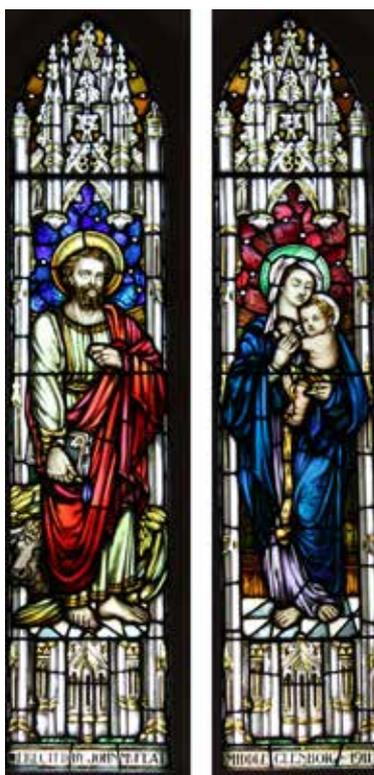
John MacFeat of Middle Glenboig donated the right hand of the two pairs of windows on the north wall in 1911 (*right*). A chance discovery in the *Stirling Journal* revealed that the window was erected in memory of his son, Dr Joseph MacFeat, and his daughter, Isabella Wishart, who died in childbirth. Appropriately, the windows depict Joseph and Mary with the baby Jesus.

John MacFeat was a plumber and gas-fitter who owned the Middle Glenboig Estate on the Fintry Road, although he mainly lived in Govan. Two of his sons became

doctors. Joseph (b. 1871) worked as a GP in Pollokshaws but died before 1911, whereas George (b. 1872) worked in Douglas and lived until 1960. Jim Fallas remembers him as his mother's doctor. The fourth son, Peter (b. 1888 from a second marriage), became a distinguished soldier in the Royal Engineers. He was an expert in railway construction, received the Military Cross and retired with the rank of colonel, dying in 1982, aged 94.

Isabella MacFeat was acting as her father's housekeeper in 1881 at the age of 14, but by 1891 she was married to George Wishart, a commercial grain traveller, and living in New Kilpatrick. She died in 1895 at the birth of her only surviving child, George MacFeat Wishart. By 1901, young George was living with his widowed father and his father's two sisters and brother-in-law in Bothwell. He went on to become Professor of Applied Physiology at Glasgow University, dying in 1958, aged 61. His uncles, George and Peter, made a gift towards the installation of the east windows at the university chapel in his memory.

The left hand of the two pairs of windows on the north wall (*pictured below*) were installed by the Downie family in memory of Tom Downie. He was a distinguished accountant in Glasgow and an elder of Killearn Kirk who lived in Drumore Road. The windows depict St Columba and St Kentigerna, the mother of St Fillan. She is buried on Inchcailloch in Loch Lomond. These four were the first church windows made by the stained glass designer Tom Denny who has gone on to design windows in Hereford, Durham and Gloucester cathedrals among many other buildings.



The Weather Channel

Nine-Month Summary for Killearn (2016)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Highest Temp	12.6	9.8	14.1	15.8	23.8	26.9	26.9	24.9	22.9
Lowest Temp	-1.3	-4.0	-3.2	-1.2	-0.1	5.9	7.7	9.2	7.1
Mean Temp	4.0	3.1	5.6	6.5	11.8	14.7	15.2	14.4	14.4
Days Below Freezing	9	16	5	5	1	0	0	0	0
Highest Wind Gust	39	25	19	30	23	18	22	43	38
Monthly Rain	206.1	174.4	83.3	85.2	80	47.8	59	75	67.4
Most Rain in 24 hrs	35.2	29.2	43.2	27.0	18.4	12.0	14.4	26.4	12.2
Days without Rain	4	5	15	13	19	14	14	11	8
Cumulative Rainfall	206.1	380.5	463.8	549.0	629.0	676.8	736.4	811.4	878.8

Temperature in 0°C, rainfall in mm, and wind speed in miles per hour.

It doesn't require a weather centre to conclude that we have had a rather indifferent summer, with a poor spell of weather in July and August with heavy cloud and a lack of sunshine. However, in 2016 we have had some extreme recordings.

Looking at the half-yearly summary, it is clear that we had two extremely wet months in January and February, and well above average temperatures (for short spells) each month from May to September.

My weather centre recorded a temperature of 26.9°C in June and again in July. We also had the strongest wind gust of the year – 43mph – recorded in August, a month not known for high winds.

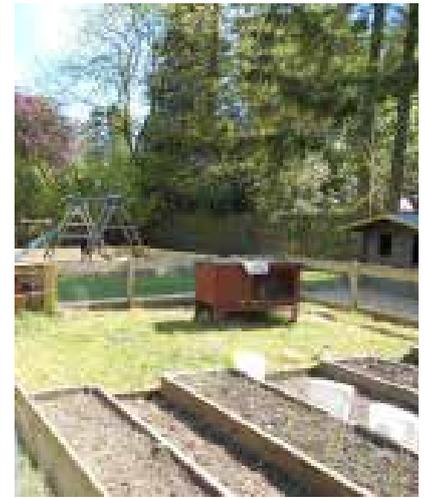
The temperature in Gravesend reached 34.9°C degrees, the warmest September day for more than 100 years. This was followed by flash floods and traffic disruption in the south and east of the UK.

Global warming is a frequent news item often around the time of extreme weather. It is a term used to describe a gradual increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and its oceans, an increase that many scientists feel is changing our climate.

June 2016 was the planet's warmest since record keeping began in 1880. It marked the 14th consecutive month that the global monthly temperature record was broken. Global land and water temperatures have been above average each year since 1975, rising in 2016 to a near 2 per cent rise. Arctic sea ice extent receded in June 2016 to its lowest in the 38 years since satellite records were kept.

It is suggested that global warmth is due to a build up of heat trapping greenhouse gases due to human activities. As the earth's population continues to increase, will abnormal weather continue? We shall have to wait and see. **TOM RENFREW**

Mulberry Bush Montessori judged 'outstanding'



Mairi Clark and Shona Watters of Mulberry Bush Montessori have announced that the Killearn nursery has retained its 'Montessori Accreditation' status following an inspection earlier this year by the Montessori Evaluation and Accreditation Board.

Mulberry Bush was awarded 'Outstanding' grades in every category assessed – the highest grade possible and a very rare occurrence throughout the UK.

The glowing report praised the nursery's overall philosophy of care towards the children as well as the staffs' shared ethos within a 'united team'. It went on to praise the way children are 'encouraged to work towards their full potential before they move on to primary school' and that the nursery provides for 'all relevant areas of the Scottish Pre-birth to Three guidance and the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence for children aged 3 years and over' as well as the Montessori curriculum. 'Very positive links' with parents round out a fulsome evaluation.

The 'Outstanding' status ensures that Mulberry Bush remains one of only two accredited Montessori nurseries in Scotland – the other being their sister nursery in Yorkhill.



Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society is performing a hilarious pantomime for all the family – an old familiar story with an extra Fintry twist.

**Enjoy Jack and the Beanstalk by Alan McHugh
in the Menzies Hall, Fintry,
1–3 and 8–10 December at 7.30pm,
plus Saturday matinees at 2pm**

Tickets: adults, £7.50 (£10 for two on Thursdays); children, £5
Tickets from tickets@fintrydrama.co.uk or
Liz Brown (01360 860078)

A Blank Canvas for the New Season



Drymen Art Club members are excited at the prospect of creating some new work in the season

ahead. They are looking forward to meeting as friends at the end of the long summer break. Some will have attended a summer school to improve their skills. Members don't stand still.

There is no preferred paint medium or style. At any one time there will be oil, acrylic, watercolour, pastel, ink, charcoal, pencil and other methods being used. The art work will be of still life, landscape, animal, portrait, boats or abstract. The choice is limitless. Unlike the photograph, the artist will capture the atmosphere to make the painting come alive and capture the spectator's imagination. Artists paint on a range of materials; generally paper or canvas. However to introduce texture and depth the base paper or canvas can be treated to bring in deep textures that can be

further enhanced with brush strokes as the picture develops.

Our continuing development is supported by the Art Club's extensive library of books and DVDs. These can be used for reference or borrowed for reading and viewing at home. There is a DVD player for use at the club. Members are willing to give advice, and a demonstration by a visiting artist will be arranged during the year.

Our exhibition in April at the end of the Club year attracts more than 200 visitors over two days. People come back year after year just to admire the member's achievements. More than 30 per cent of the paintings will be sold.

The season started on Wednesday, 21 September. If you would like to join, contact the secretary Mike Gastall (8 Montrose Way, Drymen G63 0DR; 01360 660238).

If you are interested in drawing or painting why not come along to Drymen Village Hall on a Wednesday afternoon between 1pm and 4pm to see the members at work.



The Friends of Abbeyfield are a small group of local people who arrange activities for the residents of the house helping them to meet other people and to feel they are a part of our community. These include weekly gatherings for coffee, DVD film shows, organising visits from the schools and nurseries, taking part in discussion groups, enjoying musical events in-house, short excursions and other entertainments.

The Friends would really like some additional volunteers to join them to assist with this very happy and satisfying role. It does not take up a lot of time and is not tied to a rigid timetable; the Friends help when it is convenient to them.

Abbeyfield has operated in our village for 30 years and is a valued part of our community. We are keen to maintain the well being of all living in the house and associated with it.

For more information or to join please contact Mike Menzies on 550984 or ms.menzies@btinternet.com.

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Abbeyfield's Mystery Tour and Fond Farewells

On Wednesday, 27 July, the residents of Abbeyfield Killearn went on a 'Magical Mystery Tour' to a surprise destination for afternoon tea. The surprise venue was Fruin Farm Restaurant near Helensburgh. The restaurant is situated in beautiful surroundings with different breeds of sheep together with alpacas, lamas, goats and ducks grazing in neighbouring fields, so there is plenty to see. There was an extensive selection of cakes, all baked in-house and served with an choice of special teas and coffees.

The restaurant was 'discovered' by a member of the local classic car club who joined us for the afternoon in his 1979 Volvo 244 De Luxe. Those who travelled in the car enjoyed the experience and were intrigued with some of its features, such as wind-up windows!

Although there had been quite a build-up to the mystery tour, the destination was revealed to the residents with the ceremonial opening of a golden envelope two days before the outing – just like the Oscars ceremony.

At the end of August we said goodbye to two of our long-serving relief housekeepers, Diana McCall and Mhari Bell. To mark their retirement a special coffee morning was held at the House. Abbeyfield Scotland Ltd was represented by board members, Irene Christie and John Leggat. Both Mr Leggat and Michael Pell said a few words, thanking both ladies for their enormous contribution to Abbeyfield Killearn, and presentations were made on behalf of ASL by John Leggat. Pat Rodger and Valerie Dron made presentations on behalf of the

residents, the Friends of Abbeyfield Killearn and the permanent Killearn staff. With glasses charged, a toast to both Diana and Mhari was proposed wishing them both a very happy and well earned retirement.

Plans are now being finalised for the future programme which will include a musical extravaganza in October, a Christmas lunch in December, a Burns lunch in January, plus all the regular events, such as drop-in coffee mornings, news reviews, musical requests and film shows.

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Season of Mists and Magic

There are traditions attached to all the seasons, aren't there, but autumn seems to have more than its share. And there are various ideas as to when autumn actually begins. Some folk think it starts the minute the bales of hay appear in the fields, while others think it's closer to the equinox. Whether the Flower Show is a late summer tradition or an early autumn one, it is always a success, and this year it was absolutely stunning. The committee who organised the event should be extremely proud of themselves. The 150th birthday was well and truly celebrated by pretty much everyone. Personally, I didn't even mind coming nowhere with my fruit loaf in the baking competition when there were 16 other entries. I was just delighted so many people were having a go!

The Flower Show is one tradition, followed immediately by harvest, which this year looked particularly lush. I'm no expert on the conditions required for perfect crops, but there seemed to be a reasonable mixture of warmth and rain to swell the grain, and no evidence of crops being washed away. Not everyone attends the Harvest Thanksgiving service in church, though lots of people do, but it doesn't do any harm to be grateful for our food, does it.

After harvest, there's the bramble picking – as the lovely 'Bake Off' would tell us, a handful of brambles can make all the difference to an apple pie. After that, the regular events begin to accelerate. Next we have the magic of Hallowe'en,



where children demonstrate an ever increasing inventiveness in the costume department, and are prepared to perform in song and verse. Not for us the American import of Trick-or-Treat. Tradition demands that Scottish children earn their apples and sweets, and possibly a little loose change. Long may it continue.

Bonfire Night, strictly speaking, is originally an English celebration, but one we have taken to with enthusiasm, and which is very much part of the autumn scene. Well do I remember my children and their friends enjoying mugs of hot soup round the neighbours' bonfire on a freezing night, and ridiculing the adults for preferring tubs of yoghurt. Little did they realise that the said despised tubs each held two fingers of whisky.

Remembrance Sunday is one regular event that makes us stop and think, rather than romp through it. And this year, with so many Somme memorials taking place, we are being reminded regularly of just how ghastly and unnecessary the whole thing was. We all know about the stupidity of war, but there was something spectacularly horrific

about the Somme, wasn't there. Maybe Remembrance Day is one tradition we can't afford to let slide.

Some of us, particularly Nancy and Peter (Bailey), do celebrate American Thanksgiving, but for the rest of us, it is now a straight run to Christmas, arguably the biggest tradition in the western world. The mince pies have been in the Co-op since September, and Oakwood has been sporting seasonal decorations since harvest, but it is now time to concentrate on the real thing. Although the Old Mill gift shop – source of many a fine present – has disappeared, the new delicatessen will surely be a source of exotic festive fare instead. The mouth waters at the prospect. Then there's Town and Country, and the pharmacy, and the flower shop, all offering seasonal gifts of one kind or another, before one even leaves the village environs.

Whatever your own personal traditions, have a great Christmas, everyone.

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Village Hall News

We are delighted to announce that Nigel Pope and Jackie Savery will be presenting 'The Making of Highlands' on Sunday, 4 December, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets: Adult £10; Child £5, including coffee, tea and/or a glass of wine at the interval.

Nigel and Jackie's previous presentation of 'Hebrides – Islands on the Edge' was sold out, so we suggest you purchase your tickets early. These are available from the Village Hall café or on the night. For more details see below.

Other exciting news is the start of Killearn Youth Club from Sunday, 8 January 2017, 3pm–4pm. Archie Wilson is heading up the club, which is aimed at primary-school children from age 7 with, initially, table tennis and 5-a-side football.

Contact details on the right.

Killearn Youth Club

Where?

Killearn Village Hall
Every Sunday from
8 January 2017,
from 3pm–4pm

What?

Table tennis. 5-a-side
football (Suggestions for other
activities and other helpers
most welcome)

Why?

Children's fitness
It's dark in the winter
Village Hall use
for youngsters
Table tennis and football are
inclusive and international

How Much?

Cost £2
per child
for
juice and prizes
All equipment has
been sponsored

Who?

All primary
children
from 7 years old

Contact?

Archie Wilson
07786 913573
archie@treesurgery.com

The Making of *Highlands* – Scotland's Wild Heart Sunday, 4 December at 7.30pm, Killearn Village Hall



An evening with local film-makers Nigel Pope and Jackie Savery, producers of the hit BBC Scotland series narrated by Ewan McGregor.

Killearn residents Nigel and Jackie worked on *Highlands* for nearly three years before the series was broadcast to strong ratings and excellent reviews on BBC1 Scotland and BBC2 nationwide this year. The filming took the team to some of the most beautiful, remote and wildlife rich areas of the Highlands with some clips | even being filmed in Killearn!

In an entertaining evening of stories illustrated with wonderful clips from the series, Nigel and Jackie will reveal what it really takes to film a diving osprey, frolicking otter cubs and lekking capercaillies.

There will also be the chance to see some sneak previews of their new forthcoming programmes.

Admission £10 (includes coffee, tea or wine at the interval), children under 12 free

Tickets are available from Three Sisters Bake, Hewitt and Aker, or on the night.

The evening is being organised as a local community event and any surplus from the evening will go to local charities Strathcarron Hospice and new RSPB wildlife reserve centre at Loch Lomond.

There will also be the chance to purchase the series book and DVD on the night.



Creative Thinking Outside the Bottle

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way... what will be coming on Santa's sleigh for your friends and family this year? I always think that if you buy something you like, then at least if it is returned you will be pleased. I think almost everyone I know has that really difficult person to buy for – the one who pretty much has everything they need and is all stocked up on the stuff required for their hobbies. So I thought I would look at three of the best (Christmas) presents for that someone who leaves you scratching your head, but likes wine, too!

The top three wine gifts (in my opinion) would be:

- A good waiter's friend. While not expensive, I have given these to friends over the years, and decades later they are still working and used, unlike the novelty fish or just plain frustrating two-armed corkscrews have been thrown out long since. These can be a real thing of beauty and if I was choosing, I would opt for HiCoup or, for a little more fun, the parrot one from Alessi, which is joyful.
- Wine glasses that really make your wine sing. Riedel have been making wine glasses for 260 years, and it should be noted they can also make your eyes water just by looking at the price of some of them! But the company have caught on to this and now offer some pretty reasonable gift boxes. They can spend years perfecting one single glass shape to make sure it is exactly right for one specific style of wine. So if you have that relative that just loves Rioja or must drink Prosecco, Riedel have the perfect glass especially for it. This is indulgence and decadence, and if I could, I would use these for my wine every day.
- If you can open your wine perfectly and drink it with joy in the ideal glass, what's left? For me the idea of a wine stocking present obviously appeals and I recently discovered that a mini wine aerator, called a travel aerator is sold by Vinalito. Actually, it makes me smile just writing this – and these are less than £10. You know, it's for when you are traveling with your fine Burgundy and just don't have time to decant...



Have a wonderful season when it comes, whatever you are drinking.

ELAINE

Paul Harris Fellowship Award



Pamela Maxwell with her award, along with members of her family and Rotary President, Ian Dickie

Local businesswoman, Pamela Maxwell has been honoured by her fellow Rotarians with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award. This special award is only conferred on Rotarians who have acted above and beyond the objectives of Rotary, particularly as regards involvement in the community.

Pamela has been a member of Strathendrick Rotary Club for several years. She was the first woman to be President of the Club and, apart from being an ambassador for Rotary, is a very active fund raiser for various charities.

However, her creation of RotaRun surpassed all her other activities. RotaRun provides transport, free of charge, to any person within the Strathendrick area who requires radiotherapy treatment at the Beatson and who cannot attend due to the lack of transport. The drivers are all Rotarians, and patients are referred to the club by the various health centres or even by direct contact by patients themselves. All information is treated in the strictest confidence.

To date, RotaRun has provided transport to patients from Killearn, Drymen, Fintry and Strathblane.

TID

Changes at the Pharmacy

Killearn Pharmacy is now owned by Corrys Chemists, who also own the pharmacy in Balfroon. Kenny More, our local pharmacist for many years, will remain a locum for the new owners in both shops. Day-to-day management will be overseen by Gillian Russell, who is a well-known face.

The change was finalised at the end of June. Many village residents will remember when the chemist shops in both villages were a single business, so it is back to the future once again.

Christmas Market Not To Be Missed

Our Killearn Country Market elves have been busy making arrangements for our fabulous Christmas Market this year.

We invite you to come along to the Village Hall on Saturday, 3 December between 10am and 1.30pm where our magical event will happen.

We have an amazing selection of artisan craft and food stalls lined up, including Christmas food hampers, cakes, pasta, rare-breed pork products, not to mention jams through to jewellery, Harris tweed gifts, ceramics, glasswork, local art and lots more.

There is always a great Christmas atmosphere at the market and decorations galore, plus Strathendrick Singers will be donning their tinsel and Santa hats again this year to provide some fabulous festive

entertainment. We are very grateful to them for their continued support.

Speaking of support, the lovely ladies from the Tennis Club will be pulling out all the stops again to produce an impressive spread of home baking for their pop-up café.

Other planned activities include a Letter to Santa stall, workshops and a Christmas raffle. You won't want to miss this fabulous community event. Keep up to date on our Facebook page.

The Market will be taking a break in January and February, but will start back again on Saturday, 4 March 2017. We are actively recruiting new food stalls, so if you are interested or can recommend any local producers in the area, please contact Gwenda Watt (gwendawatt@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07876 028764).

We Keep the Flag Flying

In a previous issue of the *Courier*, I wrote a small article on how drab our Remembrance Service was without flags and made a request for that Union Jack you had tucked away in a cupboard, so that it could be put to good use. To my delight, I received three flags: one anonymously, one from Fiona and Norman Thomson, and one for the Boys' Brigade.

I was able to obtain a mast, made a Kirk motif and a holdall. I gave the completed anonymous flag to Killearn Kirk Session to be used for ceremonial purposes. Mr and Mrs Thompson's flag was gifted to All Killearn Archive to use with their displays as was the Boys' Brigade flag, which the Archive group will use for the displays which they carry out from time to time.

These flags will be treasured and used for all time. On behalf of the receivers, I publicly and sincerely thank the donors for their generosity and trust. You will see the flags displayed in many future functions in Killearn.

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Jacqueline Morton
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Strathblane Pharmacy - Alternative Mondays
Torrence - Thursday 9am - 4pm



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Colourful Killearn: Fill YOUR Boots



Recent ramblings through the picturesque Fife fishing villages reminded me of the residents' creative use of old bikes and boats as flower planters. I wondered what could be turned to an appropriate theme for Killearn? Inspiration struck like a cloud burst – wellies, of course! Old boots, tatty trainers – just imagine them stuffed full of bright colours brightening up gateways, gardens and roadsides around the village and setting off the village signs. A bit of quirkiness in unexpected places to raise a smile.

So don't throw them out, plant them up. Pop in a pot, or fill with compost and your favourite flowers and give them a new life. Display your worn and leaky wellies with pride!

By the time you read this, the outstanding summer display of begonias and brachyscome will be over, the tubs will have been cleared and planting of the spring bulbs underway. In addition to repairing and replacing disintegrating barrels, we are intending to site two more new containers at the bottom of Branziert to liven up the southern approach to the village. The autumn tidy-up work party will have come and gone, and we will be back at the Country Market each month. Drop by for a chat!

For events, information and photos find us at www.facebook.com/colourfulkillearn. Extra help and donations towards our work are always welcome contact Ian Bowie (550349) or Mike Gray (550962). MG



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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 own home-based businesses. In this issue we see how Iona Buchanan went from botanical artist to online homewares businesswoman a year ago.

Iona never thought she would be university material, but a Foundation year at Gray’s School of Art followed by an MA Hons in History of Art at Aberdeen University put paid to that. Then followed a number of jobs in London, including archiving for Tate London, before she returned north to Edinburgh. It was while working in the Malcolm Innes Gallery that an exhibiting artist introduced her to botanical painting by persuading her boss to give her the day off to go to an art course. She painted a purple iris and ‘just loved it’. A further art course in the botanical gardens was spent painting colour charts and studying plant taxonomy; both memorable and a worthwhile investment of time as these became the cornerstone of Iona’s painting technique. Iona’s kind of art is methodical, needing time and concentration; three solitary hours can easily be lost when she gets into a painting. Meanwhile, the rest of her life, she says, is ‘informal’.

Iona, her husband, Mark Hordern, and children, Charlie and Becca, moved to Killearn where the children attended the primary school before moving near Balforn. Iona was a parent helper at the primary school and the backdrop to the nativity was an original Buchanan! She taught painting classes at Gartmore House and in Helensburgh. They were fun classes where she enjoyed seeing people progress in their artistic ability, but the need to concentrate more on her own art work meant that she had to leave.

The business idea of putting her watercolour paintings on to homewares originated 20 years ago in Edinburgh. Of course, this was before the advent of digital printing when you almost needed to re-mortgage a house to fund a costly large-scale production. The digital revolution now makes it possible to produce a product, set up a website and test the market with smaller runs, making it much easier to start up a business. Her beautifully observed and detailed watercolours of flowers and vegetables were extended to include birds, sea life and cartoons and, with encouragement from friends, family and clients, Iona looked for opportunities to make her illustrations and images more widely available.



The catalyst for selling her own products was a commission from County Fabrics for bird fabric and cushions. The business was a natural progression of her artistic talent, but it was a steep learning curve. The website launched in October 2015 to resounding success with great Christmas trading, and it took five years to get to this stage. Iona says with a touch of dry humour that she likes to make changes in life at the same pace as she paints – glacially! She ‘had been doing the same things for years now [and] had to take on board marketing, business planning, funding and working with manufacturers. Seeing the boxes of completed products after months of designing and decision-making was fantastic.’

Iona is aware of the dangers of being complacent. She knows you need to be brave enough to try something new, and if it doesn’t work you stop and try something else. Sometimes what you personally like may not have as much commercial appeal. Conversing with people at fairs – including the Scottish Trade Fair – is an ideal way of getting more immediate and personal feedback. ‘It is a wonderful and satisfying feeling to have affirmation of your artistic talent and business endeavour by having people buy your products and give positive feedback.’ Iona says she couldn’t have done it without Mark, who has a marketing background, and the support of her extended family, who have been guinea pigs testing the products (lucky family I say).

Iona Buchanan Homewares has now dipped its toe into retail with products available at the Woodhouse in Kippen and the Green Gallery in Dollar. Brimming with ideas, Iona is working on extending her range with new products and designs for Christmas. Meanwhile her hilarious and witty cartoon Christmas cards, borne out of a family affection for appalling puns, will be on sale at the Killearn Christmas Market on 3 December with 50p from each pack going to Strathcarron Hospice.

For Iona’s contact details see left.

GS



Killearn Health Centre News

Staff News

We welcome Dr Katy Woods. She re-joined us in August to finish her final year of training. Dr Greg Cunningham left us in August and Dr Rachel Affleck in October, both as fully qualified GPs. We wish both of them well in their future careers.

Vaccination Programme

We are still offering flu vaccinations to patients in an 'at risk group':

- If you are aged 65 or over, you are entitled to a one-off pneumococcal vaccination. Please contact the surgery for information if you have not had a flu vaccination this year or if you are aged 65 or over and have never had a pneumococcal vaccination.
- Children aged 2–5 on 1 September 2016 and not attending school will be offered the nasal vaccination at the Health Centre.
- If you are pregnant, you are entitled to the flu vaccination at any stage in your pregnancy and the whooping cough vaccination from Week 16.

Staff Training

We will be closed from 12.30pm on 23 November for staff training.

Medicines to stop taking in the short term if you are sick

If you are unwell with vomiting or diarrhoea (unless only minor) or fevers, sweats and shaking then STOP taking the medications below. Restart when you are well (i.e. after 24 to 48 hours of eating and drinking normally).

- ACE Inhibitors – names ending in '-pril' (e.g. perindopril, ramipril, lisinopril)
- ARBs – names ending in '-sartan' (e.g. losartan, valsartan, candesartan)
- NSAIDs – anti-inflammatory pain killers (e.g. ibuprofen, diclofenac, naproxen)
- Diuretics – sometimes called 'water pills' (e.g. Furosemide, spironolactone)
- Metformin – a medicine for diabetes

If in doubt contact your pharmacist, GP or nurse.

Christmas and New Year

We will be closed 26–27 December; reopening on Wednesday, 28 December. We will be closed 2–3 January; reopening Wednesday, 4 January. We wish you all best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

We now offer a new online prescription system and appointment booking facility on our website:

www.killearnhealthcentre.com.

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What's in a House Name?

Continuing the *Courier* occasional series, we are delighted to have stories about two more houses in Killearn.

Spango, Gartness Road

Moira Peffer writes: We are often asked why our house name in Gartness Road is 'Spango'. It was named by former original owner, Miss McCreadie, who named it after Spango Valley west of Gourrock in Inverclyde where she was born. The area is also known because IBM was based there for many years.

Achadhu, Main Street (pictured right)

We thought we were just buying 27 Main Street, but when the documentation arrived, we discovered the house was called 'Achadhu' ('black field'), and we soon realised that the house, one of the oldest in the village, has quite a history. The plot of land (around half an acre) was recorded as being occupied by a William McIndoe of Westertoun of Letter from Martinmas (11 November) 1764. He had built a house and planted a 'quick-set hedge' for enclosing the property. Part of that original building may be buried within the existing house, whose basic structure probably dates from around 1820 – the windows at the back of the house still contain small panes of glass that were typical of that time. Later in the 19th century, it was owned by Alexander Buchanan, who, with his brother John, ran a wholesale confectionery business in Glasgow. In the late 1870s, he modernised the house, adding dormer windows at the front, an elegant staircase at the back and fine woodwork made just up the road by the Simpsons in their workshop. 'Sweetie' Buchanan, as he was known, was also a great benefactor, paying for a safe water supply to the village in 1881 (his monument, in the old graveyard, has recently been restored, as noted in the Spring 2015 *Courier*). Around the start of the 20th century, the house was bought by a Glasgow lawyer, Robert Bremner, as a country retreat. He also wrote a number of books on the Norse influence on Scotland, on religion, notably *The Modern Pilgrimage from Theology to Religion*, and was a social campaigner, writing *The Case Against Juvenile Street-Trading* for the Glasgow Council for Women's Trades. After his death in 1918, his wife and younger daughter, Ailsa, settled permanently in Killearn. Ailsa, an accomplished pianist, lived in the house until 1980. In 1923, Rona, her elder sister, married Dr Osborne Mavor, better known as James Bridie, the prominent playwright and co-founder of the Citizens Theatre. Rona's two children frequently stayed at the house (their heights are recorded on the back of a cupboard door). In a memoir of his father, Ronald Mavor fondly remembered Achadhu 'in the bein village of Killearn' as home to him and his brother in their childhood, 'a house with a large garden, with hens and dogs and cats'. 'Killearn did not get the electric light until I was old enough to remember, as the happiest symbol of



my childhood, Mrs Bremner going around the house in the dusk, the fires flickering in the grates, collecting the tall lamps, cleaning their funnels and charging the bowls with methylated spirits, whistling tunelessly under her breath, and then carrying the new, bright glowing flames about the house.' In the 1980s, horses were again kept in the stable building next to the main house, with the garden becoming a paddock, and occasionally one would escape into Main Street, or even spend a cold night in the house. Since 1989, Achadhu has been our family home and for the last few years the place where books have been written and edited, from *The History of The Beano* to the *Oxford Guide to Countries of the World*.

I like to think that Robert Bremner and James Bridie would approve of the written word still flowing out of the house.

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Helping Others to Help Yourself

Why do we help other people? Why don't we just look after Number One?

The question of why humans show altruistic behaviours has puzzled social scientists for centuries. Psychologists have carried out a number of social experiments to examine the circumstances under which people are likely to help others. The results show we are more likely to help people we call family (sibling, parents, cousins, etc.), people we know well (friends and neighbours) and people who share similar characteristics to us (share the same language, have similar sporting interests).

It comes as little surprise then that we are more likely to show altruistic behaviours in our local community. This is especially true of villages like Killearn where families live only streets apart, neighbours know each other and villagers share similar aspirations for the environment they live in.

Volunteering is one example of altruistic behaviour and there are plenty of ways to volunteer here in Killearn. Local sports clubs such as the tennis club and football club are organised and managed by volunteers. Young people enjoy the benefits of groups such as Brownies and Cubs thanks to people giving their time to organise and run the weekly meetings. Local issues are considered

by volunteers on the Community Council and Killearn Community Futures, and local fun is delivered by volunteers who organise the Hoolie, the annual fireworks display and the Horticultural Show. On top of this, many villagers give up their time to undertake charity work such as volunteering for Trossachs Search and Rescue.

When you ask people why they volunteer, the answers are typically based around helping others, meeting new people or providing a much-needed service. However, research shows that volunteering can bring as much benefit to the volunteer as it does to the recipients – volunteers report better psychological wellbeing and lower levels of social isolation. Some studies also show that people who volunteer rate their physical health as better.

The benefits of volunteering are greater for older adults, and this is particularly true of the retired population. It is thought that volunteering provides a way of redefining oneself when a professional identity is lost. During an earlier life phase, it can help young people to learn about themselves, and volunteering has become an important part of the young person's CV for life.

So, with lots of opportunities in the local area the only question left is this: what will you volunteer to do in 2017?

KERRI MCPHERSON



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CHRISTMAS FO

Food and drink has always been a major part of the festive season. It brings us
around the table together throughout the year. Weeks beforehand we are
cookbooks or watching Nigella on TV conjure up incredible delicacies from
menus, ingredients, cakes, confectionary, a column for goodies to be given
down with our favourite tipples. Shopping for Christmas food can be a struggle
but there will always be items that you want to personally choose. This Christmas
retailers deserve our support, and here are a few ideas of food to buy.

This is also a time of year to catch up with friends, either for a meal out at a restaurant
Similarly, fit in a quick catch up coffee before the festivities begin.

Wines for Christmas

If you wish to just enjoy bubbles from the start of the feast to the finish, I
I recommend going for the best Blanc de Noirs sparkling wine or champagne
that would fit the bill here, as well as a few reds.

For white wines, a well-oaken Chardonnay is a good fit for both a fishy starter and
lots of oak, but that it is done with skill and care. I know that the 'anything goes'
this variety for the sins of heavy-handed wine makers. 'Tis the season, and
the Co-op: the Dreamweaver Chardonnay and the Co-op: the Dreamweaver Chardonnay are

If you would prefer a red to keep you company for your meal, then a light
flavour to match the wide range of flavours, it's without any of the
usually found wrapped around some of the more expensive ones.

I popped in to Hewitt & Aker and found two glorious options. When you get to Christmas pudding though, reach for the tawny port.



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When flavour matters, try
KellyBronze turkeys – slow growing,
free range and with the promise of richly
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this with a range of stuffings, all from
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Bring in the New Year or leave Santa a
warming dram of Glengoyne 15 Year Old.
Enjoy the complex depths and bright
tropical notes – with a spicy oak finish.

FOOD AND DRINK



ings together families who would otherwise not get the chance to sit down
e ripping recipes out of magazines, pouring over the old tried-and-tested
om ingredients she just happened to have in the larder. Lists are compiled:
ven as gifts and another one for some sheer indulgence. All to be washed
stressful and hazardous endeavour. Online shopping makes it a lot easier,
can be done locally in a friendly, sociable and leisurely manner. Our local
od and drink to tickle your taste buds and wet your whistle.

t the Old Mill Inn, the Beech Tree or the eateries in the adjoining villages.
e end of the year at our many fantastic local cafés.

Christmas dinner

sh, then you will want it to match, and it will cost that little bit more.
agne you can afford. There are some wonderful English sparkling wines
as the more classic French options.

arter and a big Turkey dinner. And when I say 'well-oaked' I do not mean
g but Chardonnay' club is still going strong, but maybe it is time to forgive
fter all... Two lovely options that won't break the bank can be found in
and the McGuigan The Borders Chardonnay.

nter Pinot Noir comes into its own. With the right balance of acidity and
harsh tannins to fight with the saltiness in the form of bacon
sausages and over turkey breasts.

tions: The Esk Valley Pinot Noir and Nielson Pinot Noir.
ny port, which also works pretty well with a good stilton, too!

PT



Visit Killearn's special Christmas market for Christmas hampers, cakes, pasta, rare breed pork and jams. Usual food producers as well as extra foodie stalls for Christmas. Saturday, 3 Dec 10am-1.30pm in the Village Hall.



Take the stress out of your festive party and Christmas day desserts and cakes! Order online and collect from Three Sisters Bake, Killearn. Brownie box, fruit crumble, trifle, berry pavlova, chocolate mousse pots, sticky toffee pudding, carrot cake, chocolate orange cake and more!

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A Week at Dear Green – My S4 Work Experience

Hectic is word I would use to describe my short time at Dear Green Flower Farm. I would find myself running from place to place with barely a break, but never did I feel tired. I remained excited to meet all the people Jane Tomlinson, my supervisor, came in contact with throughout the week. Everyone involved seemed to have such great passion for the project and it felt almost inspiring to hear them talk so ardently about Jane's cause.

For those wondering exactly what that is, Dear Green Flower Farm is a registered charity that was started by Jane last year to try and help reintroduce the growing of native wild flowers as well as to help asylum seekers, many of whom were fleeing from war, integrate with the local community. It has sites all across the west end of Glasgow, and its flowers are displayed in shops and cafés up and down Great Western Road.

Jane's vision was explained to me on my first day. Throughout the week, I was all over the west end of Glasgow quickly diving from shop to café and even to Glasgow University for two days to try and get volunteers at the Freshers' Fayre. All of the running around was great, but I think the most interesting thing was going to one of the flower farm's English lessons. These are normally run by qualified teachers (also volunteers), but the teacher was sick so Jane was leading the lesson. The classes focus on a different topic every week, helping the asylum seekers with spelling and pronunciation as well as teaching them new words and phrases. I realised at this point that gardening was only a small part of the project. The true aim was to create a community hub run by volunteers from many



different backgrounds and places, where everyone could forget their troubles and just talk to people, while enjoying the therapeutic activity of gardening.

I found my epiphany very useful the next day when I was trying to drum up volunteers at the Freshers' Fayre. University students from all across the world seemed to connect with the idea of a community garden run by anyone from anywhere. They seemed to appreciate the depth of Jane's idea and wanted to help with all aspects of the project. I met a Korean student who wanted to help teach English and a Scottish student who was just interested in gardening.

Some of the Flower Farm's most enthusiastic volunteers are first years from the local high school who come for an hour or so every week to do some gardening science. Dear Green Flower Farm struck me as an incredibly diverse and exciting community project and I would recommend to anyone they get involved. If you are interested in volunteering you can find them online at Instagram, www.deargreenflowerfarm.com, and www.facebook.com/deargreenflowerfarm.

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Primary 1 and 2 : Tuesdays : Blanefield 5.00pm - 5.45pm

Wednesdays : Killearn 4.00pm - 4.45pm



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I Get More Than I Give...

Volunteering is a recurring and current theme in the *Courier*, with a feature on Peter Wilks in the summer edition and a follow-up article in this one. Working, but not being paid for it, is an interesting concept as it means that the motivation must be related to interest and satisfaction. There were a series of studies on the Gamesmakers at the London Olympics as a workforce whose engagement was exemplary and the service provided outstanding.

In the past year, I have been involved in teaching English as a Foreign Language to refugees in two entirely different sets of circumstances – and it is one of the most interesting things I have ever experienced.

As described in the Summer 2015 *Courier*, Jackie and I travelled to India and worked with a charity helping Tibetan refugees where I tutored two young Buddhist monks. Becoming friends with these people, learning about their way of life and their view of the world was fascinating. Buddhist priorities in terms of philosophy, politics and materialism are rather different to our own.

After working with Lha Tibet Fair Trade, I have started importing handicraft goods from the charity to try to raise funds, help artisans earn a living and raise awareness of the Tibetan cause – please see the advert opposite.

On our return to the UK, I got involved with a charity called Maryhill Integration Network that – along with other activities – runs English classes for refugees. Every Wednesday, I help teach migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from a variety of countries – Syria, Iran, Iraq, Eritrea, Nigeria and Sudan – but also southern and eastern Europe.

Many of these people are well educated and able, and nearly all of them have heart-rending back stories to their arrival in the UK. Some are ‘enemies of the state’, many have escaped from war zones, others are professional people who want to earn a better living for their families. All of them are really keen to improve their English as a means of bettering themselves through employment, study and making a life in Scotland. Again, I get such interesting insights into their lives and their view of the world that I feel I get more than I give.



Jackie and Nick receive khatas (ceremonial scarves) from staff at Tibetan charity, LHA



Nick, centre, with the English students at the charity in Maryhill

Here’s a bit of food for thought. Asylum seekers are not permitted to work in the UK until their case is decided – which can take a long time. Meanwhile, they are provided with basic housing and receive an allowance of just £37 a week to cover all other expenses (for comparison, the Job Seekers Allowance is £58 for under 25s and £73 for over 25s a week). I shall try to remember that when I sit down to my Christmas dinner.

NICK HAWKINS



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The Probus Club of Strathendrick – 31 and still going strong

‘That was a very good talk we had at Probus yesterday.’ ‘That’s interesting – show me the syllabus for the rest of this year’s talks... Can I join?’

First a little bit about Probus Clubs in general. They are unique, their members being experienced and educated in a vast range of careers. Retirement comes too early for some who want to remain involved with others, rather than adding themselves to a heap of jaded ‘has-beens’.

As for their history, Probus clubs arose as a spin-off from Rotary clubs. In the beginning, Rotary encouraged their senior citizens to form a separate organisation, which then became autonomous. The first was formed in 1920 in Canada, and the first in the UK was sponsored in 1966 by the Rotary Club of Caterham. Although the greatest concentration of clubs is in the UK (more than 1,700), there are clubs now scattered across the globe. The name derives from an acronym – PRO(fessional) and BUS(iness), and each club is different and independent within a framework.

The Probus Club of Strathendrick is based in Killearn with around 90 members. While all are interested to hear the speakers invited each year, most also appreciate the educational outings, and others particularly enjoy the pre-meeting get together for coffee or tea and biscuits.

Currently, the Club meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from September to May in the Kirk Hall at 10.15am for 10.30am. Since January there has been the audience for a very wide range of expert speakers from far and near. Topics covered have included Fleet Street photography, farming – old and new, beekeeping, motoring through Sicily in a Lotus, invasive wildlife, Barr and Stroud and HMS Hood, sailing the Norse Gaelic seaways, the birth of fighter aircraft, and the Barnwell brothers – Scotland’s forgotten aviators. Still to come this session we look forward to learning about U-boat warfare on the Clyde, Rudolf Hess, the Roman army in Scotland, the infinite to the infinitesimal, and filming Scottish wildlife.



Outing to Inchmurrin



What do you want me to do with this tusk, asks Matthew the dentist?

Recent educational excursions have been to The Resource Centre of Glasgow Museums at Nitshill, the Denny Test Tank Maritime Museum, the Industrial Museum at Summerlee and to Inchmurrin Island on Loch Lomond. Importantly, wives and significant others have always been welcomed on these outings.

We celebrated our 25th anniversary in 2010 and six years on we are still going strong.

We now have our own newspaper – The Bulletin – to keep members in touch with the activities of the Club as well as providing humorous contributions from various members.

If you are interested, the question is how to join?

The answer? Simply contact our Secretary David Hale (david.w.hale@btinternet.com or 550880).

We look forward to meeting you.

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60 Classic Jaguars meet at Buchanan Castle

The Jaguar Drivers Club held its Diamond Jubilee celebration on 28 August 2016 with a special run from the Bannockburn Heritage Site in Stirling and ending at Buchanan Castle Golf Club at Drymen. Celebrating 60 years since JDC was formed, 60 Jaguars



– covering models from the earliest, a 1934 SS1 Tourer to the latest, a Jaguar F Pace Diesel – took part and were flagged off in Stirling by the Lord Provost. On arrival at Buchanan Castle all the cars were displayed in an area adjacent to the first tee with the newest and oldest cars parked together. The event was sponsored by Taggarts the Jaguar Dealers.

The SS1 Tourer, owned by Colin Stewart of Blairgowrie, was immaculately presented, with a comprehensive tool kit and information boards showing its complete history. When Colin bought the car in 1990, it was shipped back to the UK from Waco, Texas, in a derelict condition. Colin then spent 25 years restoring it, about 30,000 hours work, of which he has completed 60 per cent himself. This car still had the original SS brass kick plates on the door sills, hexagonal instrument surrounds and art deco sunburst design interior door trims. The engines for this model were either a standard six-cylinder side valve unit of 2054cc or the slightly more powerful 2552cc version coupled to a three speed

gearbox. The original would have sold for £325–£335 when new, depending on which engine power was specified.

The SS1 Tourer was the only UK winner at Pebble Beach in 2015, reflecting the superb presentation of this flawless car. It is one of only 26 open

tourers of this type still in existence today worldwide! It was originally registered by SS Cars with a Coventry registered plate KV 9740 and sold to Rossleigh the Jaguar dealer in Edinburgh at the time.

The newest Jaguar was the F Pace Diesel finished in Italian Racing Red and looking very imposing and sleek, despite its size. This car belongs to Lord Steel of Aikwood, who has long been a Jaguar enthusiast. He has only had it a short time, but says that he is enjoying his new car which is returning an overall fuel consumption of over 50mpg. At least he will have no problems parking in London – his House of Lords parking permit was sitting on the dash!

Mike McCormick, Secretary of the Jaguar Drivers Club, did a magnificent job in collating this very comprehensive collection of cars and bringing them together at Buchanan Castle Golf Club, which was the ideal backdrop to display them all.

MIKE MENZIES



**STRATHENDRICK
CLASSIC CAR CLUB**



The Club has enjoyed a busy summer with members and their cars appearing at many events. In early June, there was a superb turnout of immaculately prepared cars for the Drymen Gala. The weather just about stayed dry, and Bill McCreath's beautifully presented 1936 Riley 9 Merlin with Briggs four-door saloon bodywork won first prize.

Also in June, there was an impromptu social run to Fruin Farm Restaurant near Helensburgh where members enjoyed an excellent lunch combined with a pleasant drive with roofs down.

At the beginning of July, Chairman Lawrence Granger and his wife, June hosted at Car-BQ at their home at Mid Balfunning. This was again well attended with a wonderful collection of classics with various tests to challenge the drivers. One of Lawrence's fields had been marked out with traffic cones with drivers weaving in and out of the slalom. Much fun was had by all and concluded

with an excellent barbecue. Members made a donation for the day with all proceeds going to Strathcarron Hospice. The summer annual run took place at the beginning of August with a record number of cars taking part, dodging broken branches and even a fallen tree after an extremely windy night. Most managed the course, although a few did get 'slightly lost', but all made it for lunch at the Sheriffmuir Inn. The run took in Dunblane, Braco, Crieff and surrounding areas.

Other events which have taken place are the Balfron Bash in August where members' cars were exhibited. Unfortunately it rained for most of the day, but this did not dampen spirits. September saw a trip to Summerlee – the Museum of Scottish Industrial Life, and in October there was a run with lunch to the Argyll area.

The first of the Club's evening meetings takes place on Wednesday, 16 November, 6.45pm for 7pm at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. New members are always welcome and you do not need to own a classic car – just have an interest in cars and motoring. For more details about our upcoming events, please contact our Club Secretary Robin Johnston (robertjohnston432@btinternet.com).

10k Volunteers ‘Meat’ Up at the Mill



Mark Silverwood and Lorna Sinclair

Killearn is a social village with many clubs and events that are organised and managed by local volunteers. The annual Killearn 10k is no different – it’s not a commercial venture, it’s an event run by villagers without whom the race would not happen. We have estimated that, in addition to the committee and local sponsors, it takes about 50 volunteers to ensure that 250 runners line up on Main Street and safely cross the finish line.

Led by Race Director Lorna Sinclair, the Killearn 10k Committee is made up of 10 local people who meet regularly to plan the event from start to finish. This involves, among other things, advertising the event and managing registrations, obtaining the necessary permissions from Police Scotland and local landowners, arranging the race goodie bags and organising the sponsorship. While the committee ensures every box in the secretary’s ‘to do’ spreadsheet is marked ‘completed’ by the first Saturday in June, much of the actual work is undertaken by the Killearn 10k volunteers.

The volunteers carry out the annual risk assessment, they notify houses along the route and, the evening before, they mark out the race course. On the day, the volunteers are up early to set up the park with gazebos and the finish



line gantry. Over at registration, they ensure runners are allocated the correct race number and timing chip. They transport the piper around, ensure the first aiders are briefed, provide emergency transport on the pipe track and take the all-important race photographs.

Then, before starter’s orders, more than 30 volunteers are deployed around the village as course marshals. The marshals manage the traffic, ensure the runners stay on route, provide water on the pipe track, and deal with any necessary first aid. But most importantly, they cheer and encourage every runner as they pound their own 10k.

This year, the Killearn 10k Committee were delighted to be able to thank our volunteers with the generous support of The Old Mill. Owners Mark and Alice Silverwood have been overwhelmed by Killearn’s community spirit and, in recognition of this, they held a BBQ for the 10k volunteers in the pub garden on the afternoon of Sunday, 28 August. This was no bangers and burgers affair, the volunteers were treated to barbecued joints of beef, pork and venison, vegetable and tofu kebabs and, to paraphrase Nigella, salads bejewelled with flowers. The wonderful food was washed down with drinks courtesy of the 10k Committee. Psychological research has shown that volunteering is good for your wellbeing and anyone who attended The Old Mill’s BBQ will attest to this.

Once again the Killearn 10k Committee extends a huge thank you to everyone who continues to support our fantastic village trail race. If you would like to be added to our volunteer list, please contact our volunteer coordinator Jill French (info@killearn10k.com).



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Fibre Broadband Update

With no visible changes in Killlearn to report, the main news is the announcement from the Scottish Government of the R100 programme as an extension to the current broadband programme. The aim of this latest initiative is to 'Reach 100%' – bring superfast speeds to 100% of the Scottish population – by the end of the current parliament in 2021. Further, the minimum download speed has been set at the EU definition of superfast (30Mbps), and to be assessed at premises, not postcode, level.

How this will be delivered is unclear due to three broad factors:

- it is unclear where and what speed the current programme (ending in March 2018) will actually deliver
- there is a GainShare financial recovery to the programme due to a higher than anticipated take-up of the superfast service that will allow further premises to be upgraded
- all contracts offered by Digital Scotland have to be technology-neutral (allow the successful contractor to deliver the service in the way they wish).

Clarification of the R100 programme is expected early in 2017 when the first contracts are hoped to be put out to tender.

Over the summer, the Scottish Rural Action group, part of the Rural Parliament, produced a report about the state of the broadband upgrade programme and submitted it to the Scottish Government. The aim was to inform MSPs about the actual situation experienced by those at the receiving end and to alert them to the need to review ways the new contracts can be better handled.

Meanwhile, we are told that the mobile operators are upgrading their current coverage to provide 3G and 4G services over the autumn. This will provide an immediate route to faster speeds for some premises, albeit at a cost. As an alternative, Stirling Council is supporting a mast being built on Ben Gullipen near Callander, and this may be able to provide a fixed-wireless service into our area. However, this is unlikely to be available until spring 2017.

To encourage local businesses and residents to explore these alternatives, Stirling Council have

arranged another supplier event at Balfroon High School on Wednesday, 7 December at 6pm to allow people to explore the alternatives and register their interest. This will allow us to establish which collaborative projects have a big enough customer base to be viable.

For those with a very poor connection it will be worth exploring the Digital Scotland Better Broadband Scheme that will provide a subsidy to establish a satellite or fixed-wireless connection.

To explore where your premises stand in the fibre-upgrade process, Digital Scotland WhereandWhen have added a delivery timeline to match that shown by the BT Openreach WhereandWhen site.

Monthly update reports continue to be provided to Killlearn Community Council and these are available at the meeting and from the website, along with links to the items highlighted above.

DOUG ASHWORTH
CHAIR
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Stirling Council Communities & People



Building Stronger Communities

Home Energy Scotland

Fancy being an Energy Ambassador?

Stirling Council and Home Energy Scotland are working together this autumn to run a series of workshops that will provide community councils, community groups, development trusts and tenant groups the opportunity to find out more about how energy related issues affect your community and what you can do about it.

Balfron High School is hosting a free workshop on Tuesday, 29 November, 7.30pm – 9.30pm, where you can find out what free and impartial advice is available, how to access it, and – most importantly – how to pass it on.

Places are limited and it's essential to book.

If you are interested, phone 01786 233076 or email communityengagement@stirling.gov.uk.



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Trade references available for all aspects of work.

Village Christmas Post Dates

We are delighted to announce that Killearn Senior Section is again going to run the Christmas Post this year. Finding some of the addresses last year was certainly a challenge, but we delivered 2,554 cards and raised £802.74, which was split between the unit and CHAS. Part of the money contributed towards taking our four oldest girls on a cultural trip to Paris. This year we will again be splitting the proceeds between ourselves and CHAS.



Our membership has not increased from the six of last year, so we are hugely grateful to those outwith the unit who gave their time to help us with sorting and deliveries. Please note that the delivery area is within the village boundaries only, as defined by the Killearn signs on each approach. Lampson Road will fall within this area.

We never realised that detective work was such a large part of a postman's job! All envelopes must be clearly addressed with recipient, house name/number and street.

The Collection and Donation boxes will be put out on Thursday, 1 December, in Killearn Pharmacy and the Co-Op. Collections will be made daily. A box will also be available in the Kirk on Sunday mornings.

The last day for posting is Saturday, 17 December, and deliveries will be made throughout the month until 20 December.

We hope you will continue to support local charities through this fantastic service.

For further information contact Unit Leaders:

Mairi Hillman (551024; hillmanclan@hotmail.co.uk)

or Sarah Whitley (551511; whitley_sarah@hotmail.com).

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A Celebration of Robert Burns

Stuart Cochrane, a Burns expert, will be talking about the poet from his experience as curator of Ellisland Farm built by Burns as his family home in 1788. The programme will also include songs and music with several verse and prose readings.

Saturday, 3 December
7.30pm–9.30pm, Killearn Kirk
Tickets: £15 including hot and cold drinks, a glass of wine and canapés
Funds are in aid of Killearn Kirk

During his short time at Ellisland (where Stuart Cochrane now lives) Burns was not only farmer, exciseman and parent but found the time to produce over one third of all his works, letters and some of his best-loved poetry such as Auld Lang Syne, Tam O' Shanter and Tae A Moose.

Stuart has spent much of his adult life researching Burns and does not portray the traditional perception of the poet. Burns enthusiasts are in for a lively evening.

Affordable Homes for Killearn

Rural Stirling Housing Association has built over 600 affordable homes in the rural Stirling area in the last 25 years. You can find out more at www.rsha.org.uk.



The proposed development at Blairessan would allow us to deliver 12 new affordable homes for rent in the village, in partnership with developer Mactaggart and Mickel. Plans for these homes are still being finalised. They will include a mixture of bungalows, cottage flats and houses of one, two and three bedrooms. They will be designed to meet high standards of energy efficiency and physical accessibility.

A planning application will soon be submitted for the overall development and we hope to be able to start work on site sometime next year.

The rents charged would range from around £310 to £380 per month, depending on the size and type of home. All the homes would be let on a Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST), giving the tenant a range of rights that don't usually apply in the private rented sector. Tenants will have an indefinite right to stay in the property on condition that the rent is paid and other tenancy responsibilities met. There will be no right to buy.

Who can apply?

Anyone who is 16 years or older can apply. If you have a need for an affordable home, then please contact our office for an application form, details opposite. More information can be seen on the 'Apply for a house' page of our website.

Who will get the houses?

We already know that demand for the new homes will outstrip the numbers available. We have our own

Housing Allocations Policy which sets out the criteria we generally apply when assessing and prioritising housing applications. We would operate a Local Lettings Initiative for these lets, aimed at giving added priority to households who have a housing need and live in the local area or need to move here for employment or support reasons. Lets will be made to RSHA housing applicants and nominations from Stirling Council, and we strongly encourage anyone interested to apply to both RSHA and Stirling Council to maximise their chances of being housed.

What do you mean by housing need?

We house folk in various housing situations including:

- Tenants of private landlords
- Those living 'care of' family and friends.
- Existing Council or housing association tenants whose needs have changed
- Owners facing a need to move home

All applications are assessed using our points system which reflects housing need factors such as insecurity of tenure, rent unaffordability, poor-quality accommodation; overcrowding, sharing facilities with another household, or having a medical need to move home.

More questions or comments?

If you would like any further information or have any comments to make then please contact our director:

Tony Teasdale,

Rural Stirling Housing Association,

Stirling Road,

Doune, FK16 6AA

Tel: 01786 841101

E-mail: enquiries@rsha.org.uk

RSHA is a Scottish Charity No. SCO37849

Get On Your Bike, Kids

Killearn Primary School has earned the Cycle Friendly School status from Cycling Scotland in recognition of their admirable efforts to support and encourage cycling to school.

Pupils of Killearn primary have been very busy developing a school travel plan and encouraging pupils to cycle to school. Last year's Primary 7s even managed to complete training in Bikeability Levels 1 and 2. Pupils said they had enjoyed learning how to ride safely on the roads and felt more confident about road awareness.

The award has been developed by Cycling Scotland with the aim of promoting cycling to school as a pleasant, healthy and economical travel choice. Cycling Scotland offers guidance on travel planning and providing cycling facilities and helps to create a culture of cycling within the school community.

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The current seasonal changes and inclement weather have not deterred us from outdoor play and learning. We picked brambles, made jam, collected leaves, twigs, sticks and conkers, for sensory games and craft projects. We dressed ourselves in our new fleece lined waterproofs and wellies too! Puddle jumping was exciting. In the Glen we threw sticks into the stream and inside our own playrooms we made our very own "Outside In" areas. Our many discussions about changes, weather and seasons are ongoing. The **maths and language learned**

through all of this **play has been fun** ("Let's do more" said Charlotte).

CHRISTMAS SHOW Together with the children we are planning our annual Christmas Show, *Whoops a Daisy Angel* which will be held in Killearn Village Hall the week before Christmas. Our children are actively involved in all aspects of our show, from prop design, scenery making to advertising and selecting cast and band members. The Heron House Christmas Show is fun and has always been a huge success for the children. This gives them a sense of achievement after their performance which is something they can look back on with pride. Teas/coffees and mince pies will be on offer as normal and **DONATIONS FOR THE BEATSON CANCER CHARITY** please.

Note that our baby places are limited as the demand is so high. We have some Partnership Funded Places *still available* for 3-5yr olds. OSC Places have a waiting list. HHK attendees have priority for both.

Contact Gabi or Fiona to chat about what we do and for enrolment information. We look forward to seeing you all.

*Merry Christmas to our families, friends and future friends.
We wish you all a happy and peaceful 2017.*

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

App of the Issue: Shazam

Do you know that feeling of sadness, desperation, and longing that comes from a lost love? That hole left in your heart when you realise that short-lived paradise is gone forever? When you realise that the radio presenter neglected to mention the name and artist of such a captivating song, now lost? The arrogance with which he assumed its name would already be known to all who listened only adds to your frustration, I'm sure. I've been there, too – we all have. But the questions now is this: does it always have to be this way?

The answer, you'll be glad to hear, is no. There is an app which can save you from this loss. Its name: Shazam. With a tap of your finger you can identify any song that's playing. Not only does it give you the name and artist, but also the lyrics, music videos, where it can be listened to/bought, as well as other songs recommended just for you. Every song you shazam is saved so there's no need to worry about forgetting it once it's been identified. You can see upcoming music festivals and even find out what your friends are 'shazaming' when you connect with Facebook. It's also compatible with Apple's iWatch, making for even greater accessibility. And to top it all off? It's completely free.



With Shazam, you never again need fear a breathtaking song passing you by – you can now identify it within seconds and listen to it again and again whenever you please.

Really, what more could you ask for? Well, maybe the web address: www.shazam.com

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Katie Burr – Athletics Legacy in Action



Young athletes, like Katie Burr from Killearn, gain inspiration from role models like Jessica Ennis-Hill and Laura Muir in the period of unprecedented success running from the 2012 London Olympics through the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games to the 2016 Rio Olympics. Katie is still only 12 years old, but she started her athletics career four years ago, showing great commitment at an early age. Developing to become an elite athlete is a marathon and not a sprint – and the impatience of youth is only countered by Katie’s determination to do well!

To make the challenge even more difficult, Katie has decided to tackle multi-events in the form of the pentathlon. The pentathlon takes place over one long day that includes the 70m hurdles, long jump, shot put, high jump and finishing with the 800m.

Katie has enjoyed an outstanding season this year, coming fifth in the U14 Scottish Schools Pentathlon Championships, where she will compete in the same age group next year. She was also part of the Balforn High School 4x100m relay team that won the U14 Scottish Schools Championship with a record breaking time of 52.4 seconds. Relay success continued as part of the U13 Central 4x100m team that won the Scottish Athletics National Relay Championships, and in the pentathlon, Katie won the Livingston U13 Open Championship with 2,313 points.

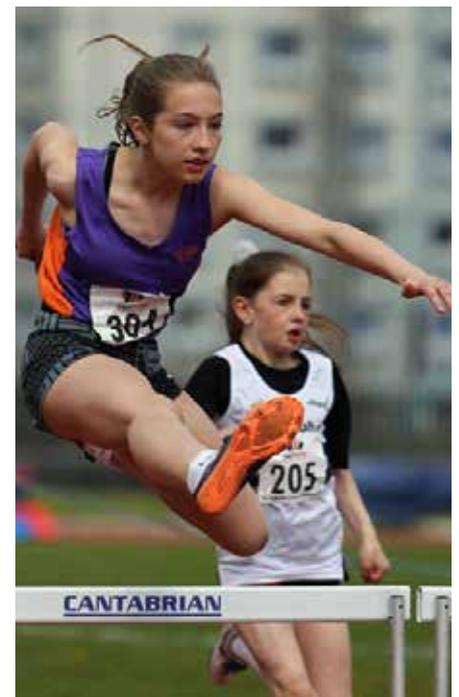
Katie recently returned from the North East of England County Pentathlon Championships where she achieved a personal best of 2,390 points. On this occasion the high jump was the highlight of her competition as she jumped a new PB of 1.46m, making her joint second in the Scottish rankings for the event. Katie now leads the Scottish rankings for the pentathlon by a fair margin of 85 points.

With one eye to the future, Katie picked up a javelin (the heptathlon includes the javelin and the 200m)

for the first time in late July this year. Katie’s second event was the Scottish Athletics National U13 Championships in August where she won the competition with a throw of 26.84m, which broke a club record that had lasted 26 years.

Katie will move up and compete in the U15 age group in the coming year, and this will prove a stern test for a 13 year-old, but her determination and competitive spirit will still shine through. The coming winter months will include a sustained spell of training before the indoor season starts early next year.

Here’s to continued success in the coming years for Katie and all our other local athletes.



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Kicking Up a Storm

The good foundation work put in by numerous people over several seasons at Strathendrick Rugby Club and Balfroun High School is now really beginning to pay dividends – and Fintry feels like a lively and ambitious sports hub this year.

The Minis have teams playing every week at every level from P3 to P7, with coaching, training, games and visits to the autumn internationals at Murrayfield.

The Midis are running separate teams at S1, S2 and Under 16, with a club game most weekends, a school game some weeks, plus training.

The commitment of the players is tremendous, but remarkably Strathendrick now has 2 or 3 coaches with SRU qualifications for every age group – the first time this has ever been achieved. Plus there is a development coach, Ceira Campbell, doing a tremendous job liaising with the players, school and club.

Playing standards are steadily improving year-on-year, although match results for the Midis don't necessarily



reflect this as they are playing a stiffer level of opposition than in past years. The only area of disappointment is that the objective of also playing an Under 18 team has not yet been achieved.

Having suffered a couple of difficult years, the Seniors are also enjoying a spectacular revival. After relegation last season, they have regrouped, and under the

hugely committed and enthusiastic tutelage of coach Neil 'Nelly' Callander, the 1st XV are playing attractive and effective rugby and winning (at the time of going to press) all their league games to date. A 2nd XV has also played a successful friendly – another important element in the revival – and there is even talk of starting a Women's Team! To top the lot, the recent Casino Night was rated as 'the best social event at Fintry for some years'.

Contacts: Minis iain.somerville@lomondlodge.net

Midis: jeremy@talentstrengths.com

Seniors: nick.hawkins01@btinternet.com

For general information, visit our website:

www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc



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Curling – First Stones



The 2016/17 season for Strathendrick Curling Club started at the very end of September for both the main club and the Ladies Section. This year we are playing a six-team league up to November and a five-team double round-robin league from December. All matches will take place on Tuesday afternoons at 3pm at The Peak, Stirling.

The main club started their season with the annual President v Vice President bonspiel. The result was a win for Vice President Sandy Park, over President Donnie MacDonald by 15 ends to 8.

Seven members of the Ladies Section had a very successful training/practice session with a coach before the season started properly. We now have no excuses not to play well! Several of the ladies also took part in the Ladies Training Day organised by Stirling Ladies Branch. The Ladies are playing a three-team triple round robin up to the start of January and a three-team double round robin from January to March. All matches take place on Thursday mornings at 10am at The Peak.

The Ladies Section played their opening bonspiel at The Peak with four teams. The result was an easy win for Rita Harris' team of Sally Macfarlane and Lorna Craigie, who won 6 ends over Muriel Holroyd's team of Gail Pain, Angela Higginson and Roz Gibson with 4 ends.

The club will be involved in the usual Province games, and in October we have a team playing a District Medal match against Newport at Forfar. This may be a completely new rink for the club.

We had our usual bowling afternoon with Balfron Curling Club at Balfron Bowling Club in July. Unfortunately, the deluge started after two ends! However, this gave more time for the refreshments in the much-admired renovated clubhouse.

Tony and Lorna Flisch hosted a barbecue at their house in August and 25 members and partners attended. The event was enjoyed by all, despite having to retreat into the house as the rain arrived at the same time as the food.

At the beginning of September, we had our annual Texas Scramble and general knowledge quiz at Buchanan Castle Golf Club. The weather was good and we managed five teams of three for the golf. The winners were Fiona Glass, Donnie MacDonald and Lizzie McLeod. We had a few extra people for the supper and quiz which was won by Rita Harris, Roz Macgowan, Anne Lang, and John and Jean Anderson.

Some of the Ladies Section played at the West Stirlingshire Ladies Curling Club outing to Crieff Golf Club. The weather was

lovely and the course was beautiful. Isabel Robertson was the winner over 18 holes and Elspeth Murdoch won the 9-hole competition.

We are keen to recruit new members to this very friendly and sociable club. It's also much better exercise than you expect and certainly makes the winter pass quickly.

If you would like to have a go at curling, contact:

Sandy Park (440922) or Gill Smith (550726), or look at our website at:

www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk



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Single-Handed Champion of Champions



Local sailor, Calum Bell (15), has had a great season sailing his Topper around the country and has achieved top results in the UK National Series, the UK National Championships and the World Championships. At the recent RYA

Scotland Champion of Champions regatta held at Largs, Calum came second overall and was the first single-handed dinghy at the event. The event is invitational and brings together the class Champions from across Scotland to race against each other using a handicap system. In September, he was presented with the Argyll & Bute Sporting Endeavour Award following a nomination by Helensburgh Sailing Club.

Calum is also in the final 10 in a global competition for sponsorship by clothing company Musto. The winner becomes a Musto Ambassador for a year and receives training from the World's best sailors.

You can help him win by following this link and giving him your vote at www.musto.com/sailorsearch (voting active until the end of November).

Calum is a pupil at Lomond School and a member of both Helensburgh and Loch Lomond Sailing Clubs. DB



Tennis with the Stars

A Killearn Primary pupil has been mixing with the stars at a recent tennis event. P6 Alexander Gibb took part in a warm-up session at Andy Murray's recent Presentation Match in Glasgow's SSE Hydro. Players and celebrities in attendance included Judy Murray, Leon Smith and Kris Soutar. Alexander is a member of Kippen Tennis Club. He said, 'It was really interesting and exciting to meet these people because it was a big opportunity to take part in such a big event.'



Killearn Football Club News

After a fairly successful season in the Forth and Endrick League programme, when the team finished runners up to a very good Balfour Rovers side, the club had high hopes of doing well in the Cameron Cup, the Association's major cup competition. With several key players missing on the day, the team produced their poorest performance of the season, losing the tie 1-5 to Gargunnoch. In total, the team played 21 times in Season 2016: winning 13, drawing 3 and losing 5 (including 2 Cup ties). A total of 69 goals were scored in games, and 35 conceded.

With the season finishing earlier than expected due to the Cup defeat, 28 members changed sports and took

part in the annual golf outing, this year held at Aberfoyle. After 18 holes and a 4-man team Texas Scramble, goalkeeper Stuart Ashworth emerged as winner of the Colin Murray Cup with Neil Smith and Simon Sweeney joint runners up. Joe McLaren again had the best scratch score. Unfortunately, no one informed young Tom Carey that it was the lowest score that won in golf, which led to him collecting the booby prize. The club would like to thank all at Aberfoyle Golf Club for their contribution to the very enjoyable day.

KFC will be holding a Players Night for presentation of annual trophies in the near future.

Jenna Clark Steps Up



Jenna signing for Rangers

Jenna Clark (14), Strathendrick FC 2001's team captain, who has been with the boys football team for seven years, recently was asked to sign for Glasgow Rangers Ladies Development team.

Jenna, whose passion for the game is well known, signed for Rangers in August and has been training at Murray Park in Milngavie with her new teammates. She recently helped the Under 17s reach the Scottish Cup Final in a 2-1 win over their arch rivals, Celtic!

Despite playing against women much older than herself, she has been going from strength to strength, and currently can be seen turning out for both the U17s and the older development team, while still playing for Strathendrick.

Recently, Jenna spent three days at Heriot Watt University where she competed for a place in the Scotland squad. And no surprise – she made it!

Jenna travelled to Finland in September with the Scotland WU16 squad where she made her international debut in two games against the hosts. Two slim defeats against the Finns by 2-1 and 4-2 didn't stop her from enjoying the whole experience, and left her determined to work even harder to succeed and play for her country again.

Jenna was supported by her proud parents, Liz and James, who took the opportunity to follow her out to Finland and cheer her on from the stands.

Killlearn has another young rising sports star to watch with interest in the coming years.

Sports pavilion is almost there



At the time of writing, the community sports pavilion is almost complete, although we are not proposing to finish the landscaping, including the re-instatement of the original path (and the Flying Fox), until the spring when we will have an official opening.

The project has taken much longer than anticipated, through no fault of the builders A21 Construction Ltd of Mugdock, but due to delays in getting Scottish Water approval.

We would like to thank the following who have given us grants and donations towards the cost:

Killlearn Football Club	£15,000
The Paul Trust	£15,000
The Arnold Clark Organisation	£15,000
The Killlearn Trust	£8,000
Clacks & Stirling Environment Trust	£6,000
The Caram Trust	£4,000
The Endrick Trust	£3,000
Stirling Council	£2,000
Tube Developments Ltd	£2,000
The Hoolie	£1,000
Land and Property Holdings	£1,000
Rotary Club of Strathendrick	£250
Individuals who have donated	£6,000
Total	£78,250

In addition, we have had services in kind from Farrans Construction, who connected the water from the mains; the KCFC Paths Group who, with the help of McColl Landscaping and members of the football team, constructed the temporary path; and the Dulux Decorating Centre who donated paint, rollers and brushes for the changing rooms via Endrick Decorators.

We have had good cooperation from neighbours to the rear of the pavilion, and to Fraser Brown and Rolf Winkler who allowed us to use a temporary water supply. Stirling Council, who own the park, have also cooperated well with us and we acknowledge the services of Gavin Bruce who obtained planning approval and building warrant some three years ago.

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Henry Drummond 1917–2016

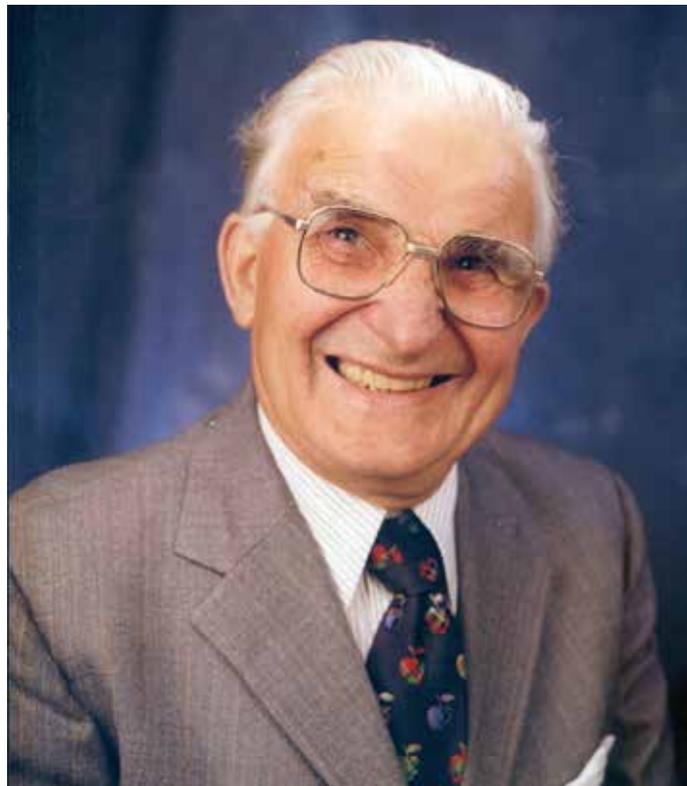
Henry was born on 7 January 1917, the only child of a coal miner. He never knew his father as he was killed in action in France a few weeks before the end of World War I. His mother later remarried and had a further three children who are all now deceased. His stepfather was a farm worker, and when Henry was growing up the family lived at several different farms in the Stirling area. He often recounted the family moving from one farm to another, usually after the Stirling Fair when farm workers were hired for the new season. As a result Henry attended several schools before leaving school at age 13 to help support the family after his stepfather's unexpected death.

Henry became a farm worker himself and had a variety of positions, including a driver's assistant on a steam traction engine which pulled a threshing mill to the farms around the Carse of Stirling. During World War II, he served in the local Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders Home Guard.

While working at Glenhead Farm near Dunblane during World War II he met his wife-to-be, Margaret Mailer. They were married in June 1945 and remained together for 69 years until Margaret passed away on 25 August 2014, aged 93; her loss was greatly felt by Henry.

Henry had a very practical mind and usually had a solution for most of the problems that arose on the farm. He had a love of animals and started out in farming when everything was done by real horse power, but he kept abreast of developments as farms were progressively mechanised. He was an avid reader of *The Scottish Farmer* which was read from cover to cover every week. He was an honest worker and would do his duty to the best of his ability – no matter the time of day or the state of the weather.

During his days with the threshing mill contractor and the tractor service he developed an encyclopaedic knowledge of the farms and farmers from Drymen to



Strathyre and Crieff to Kilsyth. Henry's last position, before retiring in 1985, was as farm manager at the Clachanry Farm at Balfron Station, which was home for nearly 30 years, before he and Margaret moved to Rowantree Cottage on Station Road.

Since retiring, his agricultural activities were restricted to Rowantree Cottage's garden where he took pride in his greenhouse vegetables and floral borders. He was a keen bee keeper for many years and kept a couple of hives until recently when they were wiped out by the varroa virus.

He was a caring husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. A quiet thoughtful man, with a dry sense of humour, he was an inspiration to all who knew him. Henry died on 20 May at Stirling Community Hospital in his 100th year. His loss is deeply felt by his family and friends.

THE DRUMMOND FAMILY

Notices

It is with great regret that the *Courier* has learned of the deaths of former residents of the village whose names will be well known to many and who will be remembered with affection in the village.

Dr Angus McWilliam died on 17 August 2016. He and his wife Kitty moved to Avoch from Branziert Road on his retirement from Strathclyde University. He was a man of many talents and interests and had a deep love of the outdoors. He had an easy and friendly personality and possessed great energy which, in his retirement years, he put to the benefit of his community in the Black Isle. He was the son of former minister in Killearn, Stuart McWilliam.

Patricia Douglas MBE died on 29 August 2016. She and Tom lived for many years in Drumbeg Loan and continued to think of it as home even after she had to leave as the result of a stroke. She was deeply involved in the arts scene in Scotland and she became renowned for her interest in the life and work of Charles Rennie Macintosh, in particular the role she played in the saving and restoration of Queen's Cross church, Glasgow, and other Mackintosh buildings. She and Tom were active members of the community in Killearn, keen tennis players and always interested in local matters. She also worked tirelessly for the Conservative Association. Patricia's formidable energy and drive characterised much of what she achieved which was considerable.

Hilda Margaret Macdonald 1933–2016



Hilda was born in Essex, the third of six children. When she was only five, her mother died and, as her father was serving in the armed services, the family was brought to Scotland and split up to stay with two sets of relatives, one on Edinburgh and one in Killearn. Here Hilda was brought up by her Aunt Sarah and her Uncle Andrew. When she left school, she went to work in Killearn Hospital.

She met Angus at a dance in the village hall when she was 19 and they married two years later. Three children, James, Ann and Fiona, completed their family. Hilda was happy at the centre of family life, organising the household and taking great pride in their growing circle as her children grew up and married and the family was increased by their spouses and by seven grandchildren. She enjoyed having them all around her and delighted in their doings.

She and Angus were greatly involved with the life of the church and she gave him much valued support when he became Church Officer. She was an active Church Elder, a collector for Christian Aid, a member of the Guild and served on the last Vacancy Committee.

Over a period of 40 years she worked for three generations of the Pollock family, becoming a faithful and treasured friend to them all. She had a wide circle of friends and was a good neighbour to many in the village. She took part in village activities, liked playing whist and the occasional game of bingo and, with Angus, enjoyed some happy holidays, particularly in Majorca.

She and Angus were devoted to each other; so much of what they did, they did together, and they were blessed with 60 years of happy marriage. When Angus passed away three years ago, some of Hilda's spirit left her. In her last years she fought her own battle with ill health.

She will be remembered affectionately by her friends in the village and, most of all, by her grieving family. BP



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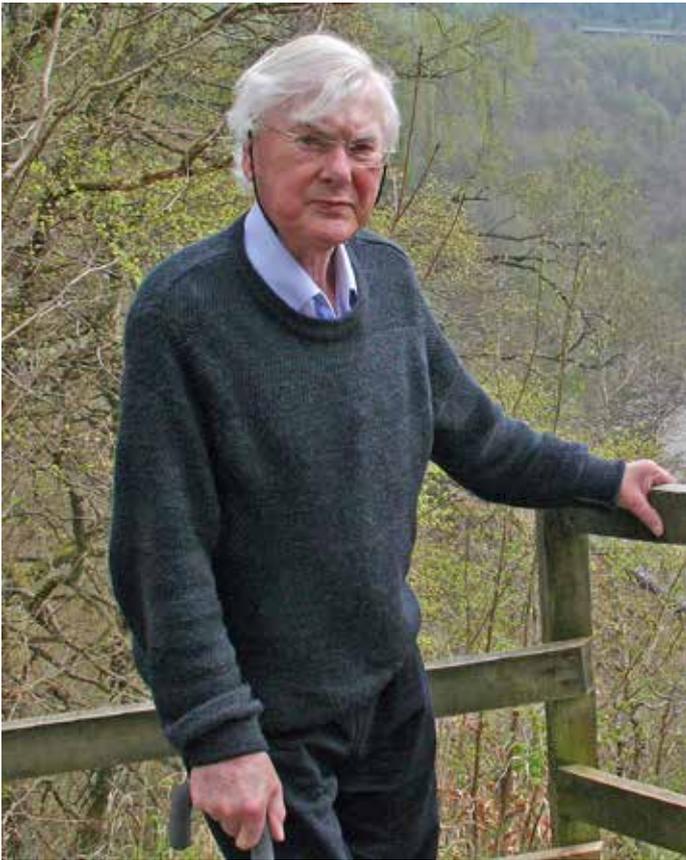
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Vivian WM Chambers 1923–2016



Vivian Chambers was brought up in Edinburgh. He was an active, outdoor lad and, after Leith Academy, went off to Aberdeenshire as a trainee forestry officer, but not for long. One of his school friends joined the RAF, the glamorous ‘Boys in Blue’, and flying was just the type of activity to attract Vivian. Among his old books, his wife Anne found a copy of Pitman’s *Flying Simply Explained* which must have inspired many a young lad, including Vivian.

After initial training, Viv got his pilot’s wings then qualified as a Flight Engineer and, in an eventful three years, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal. In 1945 when European hostilities ended, Viv and other skilled flight engineers were transferred to the Fleet Air Arm to assist in the mopping up operations in the Japanese-held islands of the Pacific and repatriation from Japanese prisoner-of-war camps.

Then came the enjoyment of Christmas in Australia before he joined HMS Indefatigable for the long goodwill tour homewards, the source of many of his stories.

Although jobs were hard to find in post-war Britain, Vivian got a hospital laboratory job in Edinburgh then, on the advent of the NHS, went with a research physiologist to Dundee, becoming chief technician in that department of University College. He moved to the new medical division of Honeywell Engineering: these years included accompanying heart-lung by-pass machines to India and training the recipients, but the division proved uneconomic and closed down, at which point he started his own business selling electronic instrumentation.

When Vivian and Anne met in Dundee, his very positive, ‘can-do’ attitude to life immediately attracted her. Romantic dates often included checking the sparking plug gap on her Lambretta scooter or stripping its carburettor to unblock the jet – that sort of competence goes straight to a girl’s heart! With him everything was possible; nothing too difficult to achieve.

They camped and climbed and photographed all over the Highlands and Islands, and, to be nearer the hills, planned a new house and garden in Killearn into which they moved in 1968. Himalayan plants became a passion, especially species that would thrive in Killearn’s high rainfall, and in 1977 they arranged their first trip to Nepal.

Vivian did all the heavy work in the garden, took good care of the lawns, fruit and vegetables, and had his basement workshop. He never gave in to old age or failing ability. The Elgol ‘incident’ in 2009 was typical: when they arrived for an all-day cruise on a high-speed RIB around nearby islands, the booking personnel panicked at the sight of this frail, elderly man and told Anne they’d be happy to refund if she was concerned about his safety. He was predictably furious. You tell them I’ve been through a typhoon!!

Vivian’s placement in Erskine Mains as a consequence of Anne’s health problems was a very difficult time for him. Thanks to the staff’s wonderful efforts, he became more involved in activities, outings, and especially in improving their courtyard garden, probably more than bargained for. They enabled him to come home for his 93rd birthday lunch, for which Anne will always be grateful.

Their marriage was truly a partnership of like minds and interests. In his years of retirement both could be seen regularly walking together through the village or working in their garden, which often featured in Killearn’s Best Spring Gardens awards.

AC

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Cover Photo

The *Courier* would like to thank Paul Barr, a keen photographer who lives in Balfron, for permission to use the stunning photograph of the KCFC 2015 Fireworks Display taken from Dumgoyne. Many of Paul’s photographs are available to view on Flickr! (www.flickr.com/photos/the3barrs) and Pinterest (<https://uk.pinterest.com/pin/519251032013467890/>) You can follow Paul on his Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/PaulBarrPhotography)

CHRISTMAS 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.

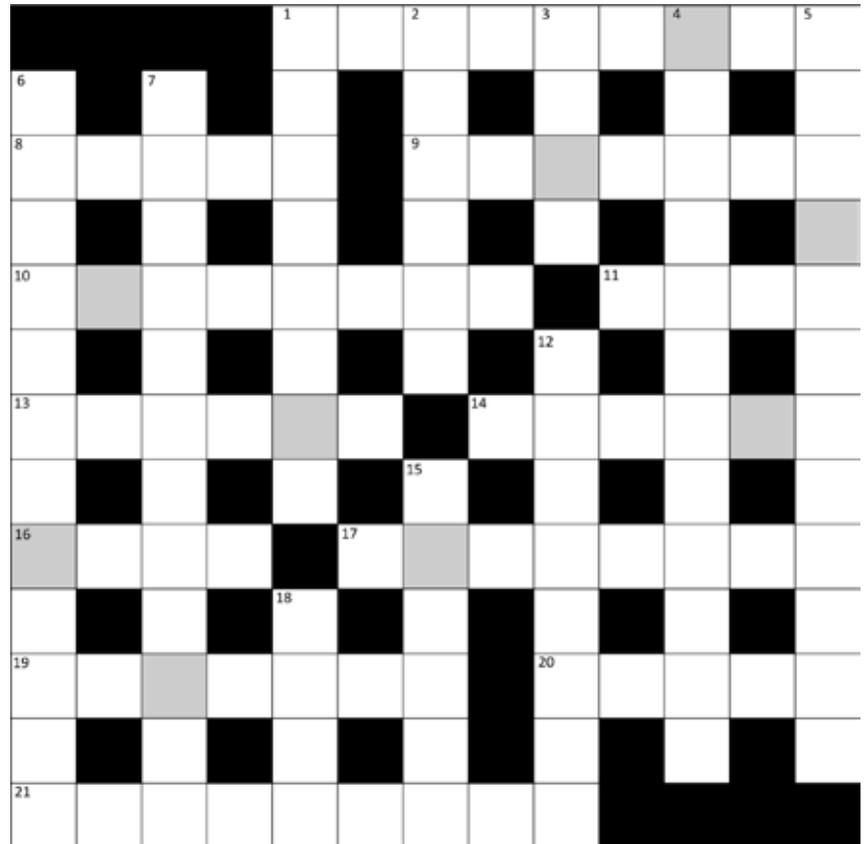
Place your solution(s) in the box in the Co-op, in the postbox outside the Village Hall, or email to competition@kfc.co.uk with your name, address and a contact phone number before **Sunday, 11 December 2016**.

ACROSS

- 1 Give pet a stimulant when unable to move (9)
- 8 Custom found in bogus agendas (5)
- 9 Star POW out at this time (7)
- 10 Proposals on line cause strong feelings (8)
- 11 Cat and dog step back (4)
- 13 Messy time around a set of principles (6)
- 14 Crumpled flag inside empty room, make it neat again (6)
- 16 Old Irish currency could sink! (4)
- 17 Tumblers cost arab maybe (8)
- 19 Bird inside mixed drink is forever (7)
- 20 Sacred place to visit for a construction toy – no no! (5)
- 21 Was uncertain when headset was around it (9)

DOWN

- 1 Cracks began about evils (8)
- 2 Excellent nurse around short operation (3,3)
- 3 Model question for assignment (4)
- 4 Have a ball a week after 5 (3,4,5)
- 5 Cards this May maybe but not this time (9,3)
- 6 Heard on 5 (6,6)
- 7 Crier's slogan – we sing on 5 (5,7)
- 12 Shape indeed, it's out of shape (8)
- 15 Wild cat, coo let it out (6)
- 18 Bird gets tied up by this (4)



Solution to the last crossword: Across: 1 enwreathed; 7 lbert; 8 citadel; 10 imp; 11 symmetric; 13 Graham; 14 atonal; 17 ombudsman; 19 elm; 20 The Oaks; 22 Allan; 23 Shrewdness Down: 1 exempla; 2 withstand; 3 encamp; 4 tot; 5 Elder; 6 hiking boot; 9 Loch Lomond; 12 extenate; 15 needless; 16 amused; 18 Beech; 21 ale.

Winner of the last crossword: Maureen MacColl, Buchlyvie

The letters in the grey squares make up an anagram of something to enjoy at Christmas (5,4). Solve the crossword, find the answer to the anagram. This is the solution to send or email to the *Courier*. Instructions for sending it are given above.

CHILDREN'S PRIZE WORD SEARCH

S O R I H E V P B R S
 O N X U L U J H E E A
 A V O V D S O E C G N
 S P E I U O D H H E T
 R S Z I T N L W I E A
 E V F F I A T P Q R J
 K L W E R D R F H T L
 C Y R R E M E O I Z V
 A W U U T N U F C G L
 R N A T I V I T Y E T
 C T W I V G E B X Q D

You should find 10 words associated with Christmas in the word search grid. Words can be found across, down or on a diagonal, they may be forward or backwards. They are always in a straight line.

Nine of the words are *crackers, decorations, elves, gift, merry, nativity, reindeer, santa* and *tree*.

Find the tenth word, write it down and post it or email it to the *Courier* for a chance to win a £10 voucher which you can spend at the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 or under.

Please give your name, your age and a contact address or telephone number. Instructions for sending it are given above.

The *Courier* would like to thank both the Ambassador Theatre Group and Co-operative Food for their generosity in providing the prizes for our competitions.

We urge everyone who tries our competitions to send in an entry. Winners are selected at random from those received, so everyone has a chance to win!

Winter Magic

Winter is the perfect time to appreciate the union of nature, landscape and light. Although leafless trees, longer nights and frosty mornings can leave us feeling depressed and fatigued, embracing the change of season brings its own rewards.

There is, of course, no dearth of wildlife in winter. For example, avian visitors such as fieldfares and redwings from Scandinavia and Iceland join our resident thrush species (whose own numbers are often bolstered by continental blackbirds) to feast on high-energy bounty in our berry trees and bushes. These winter visitors frequently occur together in mixed flocks, the fieldfare's distinctive chattering 'schack-schack-schack' call often being the first indication that they are nearby.

Other wildlife is generally more approachable in colder temperatures, trading proximity with humans for feeding opportunities in the daylight hours. Roe deer, red squirrels and barn owls are more showy than shy, and several times I have had stunning views of peregrine falcons hunting over fields by the Endrick in freezing weather.

Winter dawn and dusk can be spectacular and snowfall will, of course, add something special to

Its Size is Worse Than Its (Non) Bite

Look what was interested in my wood pile and ended up in my kitchen. This is a picture of the male – the female is even bigger and more yellow. I have found six or seven of these scary looking 40–50mm-long flying beasties in my garden recently after I had felled 11 of the dreaded monster 50-year-old leylandii trees. I was initially convinced that the beastie must be some kind of hornet and had narrowed it down to the



European hornet, which does not normally get as far north as Scotland. The European hornet would have been quite a dangerous bug to have had flying around the village, with nests of more than 700, being quite aggressive and flying at night hunting insects. They normally only get as far north as the English Midlands.

I am pleased to report that this is in fact a Giant Wood Wasp or the Greater Horntail *Urocerus gigas*.

our already beautiful countryside. But more than that, like shapes coming to life in the flickering of a log fire, the winter light and landscape can create magical misperceptions. I will never forget coming across this decaying tree stump (pictured right) on a desolate bog not far from here. If I had approached it from another angle then it might have been different. But by chance, it was instantly as if I was staring at a mythical being, timelessly at one with its surroundings. Very little imagination was necessary for this pointy-hatted, long-bearded figure to be the Wizard of the Bog in my eyes. A moment to savour, a haunting reminder that, even in these times of climate change, the passing of the seasons still carries us from one thrill to the next.

MARTIN CULSHAW



They leave single eggs in wood and up to five years later between May and October a white adult wasp will emerge from a small hole in the wood. The spike on the tail is not a sting; it is an egg laying auger called an ovipositor. This ovipositor is driven through the phloem and bark tissue to the xylem tissue wood below and a single egg is laid. The larva then eats the wood, makes a cocoon and emerges as this large beastie.

Like other wood parasites, they are sometimes brought inside a home in fire wood, so it's always recommended that we don't store firewood inside the house until it's needed. If you wanted to feed one, the adults drink nectar and water.

The Giant Wood Wasp is often mistaken for a hornet and has quite a distinctively loud and clattery sound when flying which can be alarming given their scary size, but they do not sting or bite. They also fly at night and are attracted to light. I know because one flew at our sitting-room window in the dark with quite a bang. This one was lucky, and we let it out of the window.

Martin Culshaw adds: These are truly impressive insects, and I would love to see one. They are not actually 'wasps' as such but are instead closely related to sawflies. As Gordon points out, they are completely harmless, but have evolved to resemble wasps to ward off potential predators. Another example of this is the Lunar Hornet Moth *Sesia bembeciformis* which probably also occurs in our area, but is rarely seen.

Thought for the Issue: ‘Useless’ Little Things

Life can be hectic with limited spare time for anything – especially trivial activities. My brain retains and thrives on learning information often deemed useless. As a child I was never satisfied with vague answers to silence those endless questions of ‘why?’.

In my pursuit of discovering ‘useless’ facts, I have found that these little nuggets of information can be quite useful! For example, did you know why one of the pieces of Perspex contains a tiny hole? It allows air to move between the cabin and the space between the two panes, equalising the pressure between the plane’s cabin and the outside. It saves your life.

Given the turnout at local 10k races, all you keen runners probably own a good pair of running shoes. Have you noticed the extra eyelets at the top of your trainers? They’re designed with you in mind! Using this extra hole will prevent your ankles from rubbing while partaking in sports like running.

When you purchase a new garment, the spare button is obvious, but have you ever pondered the purpose of that little piece of material? Pretty useless as a patch; it’s actually meant to be washed separately and before the whole garment goes in the machine so that you can see how it reacts to your washing powder. No more accidentally shrinking your favourite jumper!

In summer 2010, Tallinn welcomed me for the first time. Keen not to miss a trick, my eyes were as wide open as those of a baby at 2am. In a shop window there sat a ‘Jar of Positiveness’. Carefully opening and reading a handful of these little gems, my smile beamed brighter with each. What a marvellous idea, and quickly became one I adopted. Every day, I seek to find at least one thing to be grateful for. On some days, that can be a real struggle, but even if it is ‘a warm bed to sleep in’, this little and simple daily exercise reminds me to stay positive, and with it, I have come to see that in every day, there is always something good to be found!

In the midst of our busy lives, it can be easy to fall out of practise spending time with God. Grumble to Him about the things which cause fights, sore heads or empty wallets; whisper the little things that worry you; praise Him for the things which make you smile and always thank Him for at least one thing every day. We are approaching the last few days of 2016 and this year’s ‘Jar of Positiveness’ is almost full. Ensuring I spend more time with God will be my No.1 goal for 2017. It might just be a little thing to do, but I know it’s a pretty important habit to adopt!

Goodnight, 2016. Thanks for the memories! Let’s see what 2017’s jar will be filled with. YVONNE

Bridge by Zorro – solution

In general, the advice is always to try to get into the bidding so North will open 1H. A variety of bids are available to East to show their strong hand. Possibly a take-out double will suffice.

This is where there may be some continuing disruption from a competitive South. The hand doesn’t have much in the way of values, but does hold shape with a 2-suited hand and maybe North could support one of them. Also, South is expecting West to respond to East’s double, thereby preventing the likelihood of any serious trouble ensuing. A 2D bid, as the higher of the touching suits, will allow the lower ranking Clubs to be bid later if it proves necessary to offer a choice between the two.

West will now bid Spades and be supported strongly by East to reach 4S. North will consider the options and may decide to do some serious interference and be prepared to make a sacrifice bid of 5D.

This is what happened at our table and, only going down by one trick, this proved to be a good decision, losing only 100 points (as we were doubled) instead of 620. A great reward for getting in the way of an otherwise simple game contract for East–West!

Z

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Anyone wishing to contribute to the *Courier* spring edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 12 March 2017.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 27 January 2017.

Contact: Gwen Stewart (01360 550856) or
Jo Edwards (07717 708108)

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 27 January 2017. Please send to:

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