



Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 40

SPRING 2018

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Noticeboard

17 Mar	Killearn Kirk Guild Spring Coffee Morning. Kirk Hall, 10am–12noon.	6 April	Strathendrick Film Society showing <i>Paper Moon</i> , Balforn High School, 7.30pm, £4 entry.
20 Mar	Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch Workshop. Kirk Hall, 10.30am–3.30pm; talk at 2pm by Maggie Murray. Killearn Kirk Guild AGM dinner, with Ros McGowan. Kirk Hall, 7.30pm	16 April	Monday Music spring term starts. 9.15am, small Menzies Hall, Fintry, 11am, Killearn Kirk Hall. For details regarding age groups and availability, contact Clare Cushing (550166; claremondaymusic@gmail.com).
21 Mar	Killearn Community Council meeting, Killearn Primary School, 8pm.	17 April	Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch Workshop. Kirk Hall, 10.30am–3.30pm. Kirk Hall; talk at 2pm by Wendy Sandiford on 'Coco Chanel'.
22 Mar	Drymen & District Local History Society Illustrated talk by Burns Shearer, 'The Comet, the Clyde and the Commerce'. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45pm. Admission £2; annual membership £7, payable at the door. www.drymen-history.org.uk Killearn Kirk messy play for ages 0–5 years. Kirk Halls, 9.30am–11.15am; thereafter second and fourth Thursday of the month. Thursday Club Kirk Hall, 2pm–4pm; thereafter every Thursday except Maundy Thursday (29 March). For all over 60s. Contact Peggy Gardner (550558).	18 April	Killearn Community Council meeting. Primary School, 8pm.
22 Mar–10 April	Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch Annual exhibition. Drymen Library.	19 April	The Arts Society Stirling Lecture by Sandy Burnett on 'The Age of Jazz'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. Tickets £7. All welcome. www.theartsocietystirling.org.uk
24 Mar	Embroiderers' Guild Strathendrick Branch Fabric Fun Day. Strathblane Library, 10.15am–11.45am; thereafter fourth Saturday of the month. For ages 9–12 years. Please book at the library.	26 April	Drymen & District Local History Society Members' Night and AGM, featuring short talks by members preceded by cheese and wine from 7.15pm–7.45pm and followed by the AGM. Admission £2; annual membership £7, payable at the door. www.drymen-history.org.uk
25 Mar	Strathendrick Singers Easter Concert – Fauré's <i>Requiem</i> , Racine's <i>Cantique</i> and Rutter's <i>Magnificat</i> . Killearn Kirk, 7pm. Tickets (£10 for adults, under-16s free) available at the door or from choir members.	27 April	Killearn Kirk Fundraising Committee Antiques Valuation Day with Anita Manning, Great Western Auctions. Killearn Kirk, 10am–2pm. Entry £10 including valuation of up to three items. Detailed photographs of large items will be assessed.
26 Mar	Strathendrick Rotary Club meeting. Garden Room, Killearn Village Hall, 6.30pm; thereafter second and fourth Monday of the month. Contact Ian Dickie (550639; patogian@hotmail.com).	29 April	Glasgow Phoenix Choir Concert in aid of the Carers Trust. Killearn Kirk, 3pm. Tickets £10, available from Killearn Pharmacy, Three Sisters Bake or contact 550994.
28 Mar	Strathendrick Rotary Club Charity Bridge Night run by Rotary and the Inner Wheel in aid of Strathcarron Hospice. Kirk Hall, 7 for 7.30pm. Tables from Pamela Maxwell (551122) or Rita Harris (550456).	7 May	Killearn Health Centre closed.
29 Mar	Strathblane Church Maundy Thursday service, 7.30pm, including sacrament of Holy Communion.	16 May	Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
30 Mar	Killearn Health Centre closed. Online prescription ordering service at www.killearnhealthcentre.com . Killearn Kirk Good Friday service, 7.30pm.	16–20 May	Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society performance of <i>Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders</i> by Derek Webb. Menzies Hall, Fintry, 7.30pm. Tickets £8 or two for £12 on the Wednesday evening.
31 Mar	Green Aspirations Open Day. Tir na nOg, Balfunning, Balforn Station, all day from 10am.	17 May	The Arts Society Stirling Lecture by Linda Smith on 'Great Tarts in Art'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. Tickets £7. All welcome. www.theartsocietystirling.org.uk
1 April	Killearn Kirk Easter service, 10.30pm.	2 June	Killearn Beer Festival hosted by the Old Mill, from 2pm. Entry £5.50, includes a KBF glass and tasting notes.
2 April	Killearn Health Centre closed.	9 June	Killearn Golden Years Club annual outing to Largs, leaving Killearn at 11am.
3 April	Friendship Group meeting, to provide advice and support to people dealing with dementia; GP referral required. Garden Room, Killearn Village Hall, 2pm–4pm; thereafter first Tuesday of the month. Contact Liz at Townbreak (01786 476797).	20 June	Killearn Community Council meeting. Killearn Primary School, 8pm.
		21 June	The Arts Society Stirling Lecture by Jane Tapley on 'Jane Austen'. Albert Halls, Stirling, 11am. Tickets £7.
		25 Aug	Killearn Horticultural Society Annual Show. Village Hall and Kirk Hall, 2pm–4.30pm. Teas from 2.45pm. Entries to be staged Friday, 7.30pm–9pm or Saturday, 7.30am–10am. For schedule and enquiries contact Glenda Asquith (550142).

Please contact Heather McArthur (heather.mcarthur@virgin.net; 550137) with event dates for inclusion in the summer issue of the Noticeboard (end August to mid-March).

Crawford – Johnston



Erik Johnston and Mhairi Crawford were married at High Wards, Gartocharn, in September. Their daughter Ellis stole the show as Flower Baby and devoted dog Sam was Ring Bearer. Having lived for a few years in Aberdeen, the happy couple are now settled near to friends and family in Milngavie, and close to the West Highland Way which Sam is very pleased about. Erik works as an offshore drilling engineer in Brunei and Mhairi is a part-time orthotist at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

Wheeler-Ozanne – Carmichael



Scott Carmichael from Boquhan married Clowance (Clowie) Wheeler-Ozanne from Bearsden on 30 December 2017 at a truly white wedding in Killlearn Kirk. Clowie's parents have retired to her father's home town of Dallas and many Texans came and enjoyed a mix of ceilidh and hoedown at the reception in the Village Hall. Clowie is completing her PhD in Human Rights Law and Scott works as an IT Project Manager.

Editorial

Welcome to our spring issue of 2018.

Are you a wee bit down in the dumps with this cold weather, looking forward to spring and need cheering up a bit? Well, there is plenty of good news around which will cheer you up and not just in this issue of the *Courier*.

For example, snowdrops are well up with some wonderful displays throughout the village, there are colourful showings of crocuses and primroses, and the daffodils are already advertising their presence with a promise of lots to come. We are really lucky in this village to have such dedicated people as those in Colourful Killlearn, their displays fairly brighten up the area.

Killlearn Scouts have been resurrected thanks to local resident Sophia Quilter, a highly qualified lady who will be an asset to the organisation. You can read all about her on pages 16 and 17; the latter page also gives you an opportunity to give a very little of your time to such a worthy enterprise. Let's hope this lasts; being a former Cub and Scout (many years ago), I can tell you it certainly gives young people skills they may not get elsewhere.

The *Courier* is delighted to welcome a new member to our team, Christine Howe, and you can read about Christine on page 5.

2018 sees us entering our 14th year of production and many of our original team members are still with us, our advertisers continue supporting us and our volunteer deliverers, most of whom have been with us since we started, continue to post each issue through your door in all weathers.

We have articles from our regular contributors, and you will notice that some of them have changed their usual formats to good effect. Have a look at the centre pages and read about some of our talented youngsters, many of them compete at national and international levels.

Our front cover depicts 'Waiting for Spring', and I hope that by the time you've finished reading this issue, your spring will have well and truly arrived.

Ian

Cullinane – Robertson



Laura Cullinane and Jeremy Robertson were married at Fulham Palace in London on Saturday, 16 December 2017. Jeremy is from Killearn and was a pupil at Balfron High School. He studied law at Durham University, and worked as a desk officer for Project Trust, based in Coll, before professional training in law. Laura is from Northamptonshire and read classics at Downing College, Cambridge University. They now live in London, where they both qualified, and work as solicitors.

The More Things Change...

‘Owing to the increasing amount of motor traffic the question of road maintenance is becoming more and more onerous for county authorities. Of the roads in the district, the Dumbarton Road bears very distinct traces of the disintegrating action of the motor tyres. The recent wet weather has aggravated the state of matters and on many parts of the road between Stirling and Kippen the metal has been displaced, the result being the formation of a series of saucer shaped pits from two to three inches deep, with an area of one or two square feet. Observation has shown that the suction of rubber wheels draws the metal out of its bed and though the holes be filled up, the stones are in no time being scattered again. It is rather hard that local rates should bear the burden of so much through traffic and the only satisfactory solution would be for the State to provide a grant sufficient to meet the extra expenditure.’

Stirling Journal and Advertiser, 29 August 1912

Post Office Put-down

Half a century ago, Killearn had no health centre, no butcher and no pharmacy. The GPs, Dr Barclay and Dr Campbell, worked in what is now the veterinary surgery. There was no appointment system and in the waiting room one of the most important pieces of furnishing was a massive overflowing ashtray. During flu epidemics the queues, coughing and sneezing, would stretch down the Main Street almost as far as the Village Hall.

However we did have a Post Office! It was situated in the building which is now the Trilogy Hairdresser and we had a ‘proper’ postmistress.

Towards the end of the 1960s, the government introduced a credit payment called the Family Allowance which was paid weekly after the birth of a second child. It wasn’t a huge amount and certainly no incentive to increase the size of our families, but perhaps it brightened up our Tuesday mornings.

However, it always seemed to pour with rain on a Tuesday and the prams we had in those days all seemed to be the size of a small bungalow on wheels. The babies slept in them in complete luxury, while the mothers, bent horizontal against the wind and rain, puffed and panted along the village street. In my case, as well as the snug baby, I was pushing a toddler seated at the handle end of the pram and coaxing along a soggy golden retriever.

I arrived at the post office, tied the dog and the pram to a convenient hook, and searched in my anorak pocket for my damp – but carefully folded – Family Allowance book. Toddler and I entered the Post Office and joined the queue. No one spoke. A pendulum wall clock ticked loudly and from time to time there was a great thud as the Postmistress stamped a payment book. We shuffled forward. She was enthroned behind the counter on a high stool enabling her to look down on the queue through spectacles perched on the end of her nose. A wire screen separated her from her customers and when I finally reached the front of the queue, I placed my folded Family Allowance book on the counter and slid it beneath the wire screen. For a moment, it lay untouched. Then a thumb and forefinger lifted it and held it aloft. The face of the Postmistress registered extreme distaste.

‘What is this?’ she demanded. I was puzzled. ‘It’s my Family Allowance book.’ I said. Someone in the queue behind me coughed. An atmosphere of tension seemed to be building, but I had no idea why.

‘No,’ she said icily, ‘This is not your book. Indeed not. This book belongs to the Post Office, not to you. And I shall tell you what you can do with this miserable book.’ There was a dramatic pause before she spat out her final sentence.

‘Take it home and iron it!’

No one laughed. Feet shuffled. I forgot to ask for my Family Allowance payment. I picked up the book and took it home. And I ironed it. On the lowest setting.

For delicates...

CHRISTINE BOWIE

Introducing Christine Howe

Christine has recently joined the *Courier* editorial team. She has lived in Killearn for over 17 years. She is married to Willie Robertson and is the mother of Miriam and Jeremy. Jeremy's recent wedding is featured on the opposite page. Christine is a long-standing member of the local bridge and tennis clubs.



For many years, Christine worked at the University of Strathclyde, where she was Professor of Psychology. However, 11 years ago she accepted a professorial appointment at the University of Cambridge where she worked until her retirement last October. Many Monday mornings would see Christine leave Killearn for the four-hour trip (via Glasgow and Stansted airports) to her second home in Cambridge, where she would often stay until Friday.

During her working life, Christine gained extensive editorial experience – with academic articles, professional journals and student dissertations. The *Courier* is a new challenge and she has greatly enjoyed working on this edition. She's looking forward to long involvement in the future.



Killearn Beer Festival 2018

Saturday 2nd June 2pm



The Killearn Beer Festival is happy to announce our **7th annual event**, taking place at the **Old Mill**, Balfour Road, Killearn on Saturday, 2 June from 2pm. Once again this is a community and family focused event with a relaxed atmosphere where you can enjoy great beers, ciders, food and music. As with previous festivals, beer selections will range from local favourites such as Fallen and Loch Lomond to sampling interesting new beers from other regions across Scotland.

An entry fee of £5.50 will get you a KBF glass and tasting notes. A full list of the beers and tasting notes will be posted on the Killearn Beer Fest website and Facebook pages.

As with all events so far, the majority of money earned will be targeted toward various local clubs, schools and charities which have already been the recipients of over £4,000 of such donations Looking forward to seeing you on the day.



£5.50 Entry



www.killearnbeerfest.org





three sisters bake

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Easter Afternoon Tea & Kids Crafternoon Tea - Easter Saturday & Sunday

Highlights include crème egg brownies, bite sized hot crossed buns, mini egg carrot cakes alongside a selection of our favourite savoury Easter treats and sandwiches. For families we also offer our Easter "Crafternoon" Tea - Easter Egg decorating; card making and Easter biscuit decorating!

Easter Bunny Story Trail - Tuesday 3rd April & Wednesday 11th April

Enjoy a brunch or coffee and cake while undertaking some Easter crafts and baking then explore the village as you take part in our Easter themed family trail!

Full details of our Easter events can be found at
www.threesistersbake.co.uk/offers/easter/

threesistersbake.co.uk 0333 344 7344



A Guid New Year for Strathcarron



**STRATHENDRICK
CLASSIC CAR CLUB**



It was a good start to the year for Strathcarron Hospice, with £750 being raised at the Hogmanay Bash in the Village Hall.

The event was generously organised by Craig Michie and Robert McLaughlin, guitarists with local band, Platform C. The band entertained friends and families who had gathered in the Hall to bring in the new year. A great night was had by all and those in attendance showed their appreciation with donations to Strathcarron.

Platform C will be familiar as one of the bands which played at last year's Killearn Beer Festival. They are mostly from the village with guitarists Craig, Robert, Geoff Ford, vocalist Kirsty McLaughlin and drummer Johnny d'Aguilar making up the group.

Contact the band at robert.mclaughlin@optomany.com.



Looking back, 2017 was a good year with excellent participation in all our events, and 2018 looks to be just as exhilarating, with a number of interesting events planned.

The first outing of the season will be on Sunday, 22 April when members' cars will emerge from their hibernation and have their first real run of the season. The date coincides with 'Drive-It Day', a national day when owners are encouraged to take their cars out to promote the classic car movement.

Our Spring Run is scheduled for the end of May. The Club will be heading to the Scottish Borders in Roxburghshire and accommodation will be in the Ednam House Hotel in Kelso, situated on the banks of the River Tweed and surrounded by tranquil parkland. Sir Walter Scott described Kelso as the most beautiful town in Scotland. Many members have signed up to go, so we hope that the weather will be reasonably kind – particularly for these brave souls driving their vintage classics.

At the beginning of June, the Festival of Performance will be held at Inveraray Castle. This is a first for Scotland and will feature a vast array of interesting single-seaters, sports racing cars and others represented by McLaren, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati, Porsche and Audi. If this isn't enough, there will be demonstration runs, a Concours d'Elegance, 4x4s and even an auction of cars. This promises to be a significant event in the most delightful surroundings, courtesy of the Duke of Argyll.

In late summer, a visit is planned to the Dundee Museum of Transport which has a comprehensive display of cars, trucks, buses, bikes and even a replica of an early 20th-century aeroplane flown by local Dundee resident, Preston Watson.

The Club has a busy time ahead. Regular items include the successful CarBQ, Drymen Gala and the Balfour Bash.

The Club has settled in to its new venue. Ross Priory lends itself well to meetings – the staff are most helpful and the food has been voted as excellent. These, together with the ambience, have attracted high attendances. At the first meeting in our new location, Laurence Grainger presented a film about the 1988 24-hour Le Mans race where he was a spectator witnessing Jaguar's first win since 1957. Other notable speakers are lined up for the remainder of the winter programme.

New members are always welcome and you do not need a classic car to join – just an interest in cars and motoring.

For more details about membership, our up-and-coming programme or if you would like a current copy of the Club's e-magazine, please contact Club Secretary Robin Johnston (SCCC.info001@gmail.com). LG

ANTIQUES VALUATION DAY With ANITA MANNING Of Great Western Auctions



Killearn Kirk

In aid of Killearn Kirk (Charity Number SC012140)

Friday 27th April 2018 10am–2pm

Entry £10

Including valuation of up to 3 items and tea/coffee

Detailed Photographs of large items permitted

If you need further information, please contact:

Lynn Boutcher (paulynnebj@yahoo.ca)

or Anne O'Neill (aoneillis@aol.co.uk).

Pollution in Paradise?

Does anyone remember the man who used to patrol the village roads picking up litter and consigning it to his wheeled container, leaving the village tidy and lovely to look at? I imagine his job would be the first to go even before the recent cuts started biting, but he was invaluable. It has to be said, however, that the Council had a point. Why should they pay for something we could easily do for ourselves? Is it not up to us not to drop litter?

Surely we have all noticed the difference the five pence charge has made to the general look of the place. Remember the drift of poly bags that used to decorate the hedgerows? There're nothing like as many now, are there? And in our own defence, there is some rubbish we actually have no control over. More than once the storms in January bowled the bins over and left tokens in our gardens that were not ours originally. On one occasion, our driveway sported a tin that had once held very cheap beans, not a brand I have ever patronised. It makes you wonder where your own stuff might end up, which is one reason for only buying superior goods.

We are getting better at recycling, are we not, although I personally can never remember which rubbish goes in which bin. I have to stand there, council leaflet in hand, so that I don't put the bottles in the food waste or vice versa. I can't remember from one week to the next what goes where. I think I must be a slow learner. I have a recipe for fruit loaf I have been baking for 45 years and I still have to consult it every time. It's the same with the bins. I know the

instructions are written on the lids, but I can't read them in the dark without a torch, and sometimes I forget the torch, and the security light above the bins doesn't work, and the whole thing is getting on top of me.

So, we are all trying to do our best to control waste and pollution, and being a rural community, there are some problems we don't actually have to face. Not for us the worry of several tons of abandoned coffee cups, cardboard with plastic skins, that London appears to be contending with. How did they ever get to the stage of not being able to travel a hundred yards without a shot of caffeine? Our parents would have laughed them to scorn. Likewise the public dependence on water bottles. Where did that come from? How did it happen that we all have to have our own emergency supplies? If there is one thing we're not short of it is water. We could absorb it through our skin.

Then there is the question of light pollution. It is perhaps not as bad as the problem of plastics, but it is there, and some of us are perhaps overdoing the security light bit. Burglars are a pain in the neck, but we don't have to threaten the planet to discourage them. We have in our area – and I don't know the householders, so this isn't personal – a security light that goes on at the merest hint of a summer zephyr, and in a high wind gets extremely excitable. It is also eye-wateringly brilliant. It can probably be seen from the International Space Station. Tim Peake might well mention it in his memoirs. Personally, I would just like one that lights up the driveway, and the bins.

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The Weather Channel

The past year will best be remembered by the young at heart for the white Christmas we had here in Killlearn. Snow began falling late in the day, but early enough to be recorded as a white Christmas, one of seven in this district in the past 20 years.

Air and ground temperatures, rainfall and the frequency of frosts and snow have changed quite considerably of late and are beginning to effect the way we lead our lives.

Eight of the 10 warmest years in the UK have occurred since 2002. Last winter was the warmest since 1910 and locally my weather centre has recorded a mean rise in temperature of 0.1°C in each of the last 10 years.

Rainfall patterns vary by region and can be localised, but June 2017 was the sixth wettest throughout the UK since 1910. Generally, Britain is becoming wetter, with seven of

the 10 wettest years since 1910 occurring between 1998 and 2017.

The Met Office has suggested that the north of the UK can expect rainfall to increase by 10 per cent, while the south could become five per cent drier. In all regions, rainfall may become more severe in winter, leading to an increase in flooding.

Air and ground frosts as well as snow have all been decreasing, most markedly in Scotland. The first year on record not to have had a snowfall of over 20cm anywhere in the UK was 2016.

Those of us with gardens may have to make changes to our growing season and to grow plants that can deal with the changes taking place in our climate.

TOM RENFREW

Yearly Summary for Killlearn (2017)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Highest Temp	11.3	10.1	18.5	15.7	27.1	26.5	25.3	20.3	18.2	17.7	15.6	12.6
Lowest Temp	-6	-2.7	-2.4	-2.1	1.5	7.5	6.1	5.9	3.3	-1.4	-2.9	-8.9
Mean Temp	4.8	5.3	6.8	7.8	11.9	13	13.8	13.4	11.7	10.2	4.9	4.2
Days Below Freezing	13	3	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	12	16
Highest Wind Gust	33	29	27	25	20	17	16	16	15	35	25	32
Monthly Rain	37	131.6	84.6	15.8	61.6	149.8	137.4	170	102.8	144.6	70.6	85.6
Most Rain in 24 hrs	7.8	17	14.6	6.4	12.8	22.6	15.2	15.2	18.4	23.2	12.2	15.5
Days without Rain	13	5	6	19	19	12	7	7	11	3	6	11
Cumulative Rainfall	37	158.6	223.2	269	330.6	480.4	617.8	787.8	890.6	1035.2	1105.8	1190.6

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

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A timely production for Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society

Jonny North has lived with his family at Boquhan House all his life. Despite being a very busy businessman, he still makes time to devote to participation in the Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society (FADS).

He is very much 'hands-on' and has a great collection of 'everything' in the way of props and antiques. He could even be accused of holding on to the past and has always wanted to direct *Journey's End* by R.C. Sherriff, a play set in the trenches during World War I.

As this year is the centenary of the end of the Great War, it is fitting that the production should take place now.

We asked Jonny, 'Why this play?' and he answered, 'I saw this play while I was at school and it left a deep impression with me. This will be my first step into the shoes of the director of a play. It's been my ambition for some time and I always had this play in mind when I thought

of my grandfather who was killed around the same time and whose grave I visited only last year. I feel there will be many in our community who lost family in this dark period in our history and who will want to reflect on this, the centenary as a mark of respect for what they endured.'

When we asked what it's about and where can we see it, he said, 'The play is set in Northern France during World War I over the course of four days leading up to the battle of St. Quentin, a massive German attack on the British trenches, in March 1918. *Journey's End* charts the tension and claustrophobia as the new recruit to the company, Lieutenant Raleigh, discovers that Captain Stanhope, his former childhood friend and hero has changed almost beyond recognition.'

R.C. Sherriff served as an officer in the war and wrote *Journey's End* 10 years after it ended. You get the

impression his writing was greatly influenced by his experiences. His other works include *Goodbye Mr Chips*, *The Four Feathers*, *The Invisible Man* and *The Dam Busters*.

FADS's production will take place from 26 to 29 September, at The Playground, a converted barn on Alan Cuthbert's farm (a mile along the Fintry road heading from Killearn). Tickets will be available from the usual contacts and outlets. Look out for posters with information in your area.

We are planning an exhibition that will be held to accompany the production of *Journey's End*. We would like to invite local people with stories, memories or memorabilia that could be used in the exhibition to contact Jean Woodburn (440745; woodbuje@btinternet.com). It is important to remember those who fought and fell 100 years ago.

KEVIN BOLAND



Jonny visited his grandfather's grave near Ypres



Captain Arthur Jewell North M.C.
Northumberland Fusiliers 1893-1918

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An advertisement for Minerva Lettings. It features a collage of images: a large brick house, a modern kitchen with white cabinetry and a central island, and a close-up of a window. The Minerva Lettings logo is in the bottom left, and contact information is at the bottom.

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Spring by Colourful Killearn



As you read this our tubs around the village should be looking something more like the photo – the harsh snows of this last winter gradually fading in memory, supplanted by the exuberance of spring!

If we needed any further portents of climate change, the unpredictable and extreme patterns of weather we have experienced over the past few months amply provide them. In our own small way, members of Colourful Killearn are trying to help the environment. Not only do we cheer folk up with daffodils and brighten the village with flowers, we have been looking at ways to 'Reduce, Re-use and Recycle'.

Most of our tubs are half-barrels passed on from the whisky industry. Not only do they look good, but they smell good, too. For some years we have successfully dried, stored and then replanted our Tête à tête daffodil bulbs, rather than buying new each year. As they keep multiplying, we have a few extra each time to plant in other places around the village. In the last couple of years, we have also over-wintered the large begonia corms and are trying the same this year with the pelargoniums. All greenery cleared from the tubs and beds is composted and pots and trays are re-used or recycled. Hopefully this helps the planet, and certainly helps our funds go further.

We are always looking for new ways to enhance our fantastic village, so if you have any suggestions, please contact Iain Bowie (550349) or Mike Gray (550962).

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Spring at Last

The first signs of spring are beginning to appear – the snowdrops are out and daffodils are not far behind. This time of year is full of excitement – not only the prospect of spring, but also the current moment in the garden.

This is a great time to take stock of the garden. It is easy to be overwhelmed with the number of jobs to be done in the coming growing season, especially if, like me, you have left some jobs that should have been done in the autumn. But with the promise of spring, I become energised and tackle these.

How to get rid of that slippery algae on your paths? Pick a dry day, wrap up warm, and give any paths or driveways a good clean, either using a pressure washer or scrubbing with a stiff brush. Something like Jeyes Fluid makes the job easier, but I prefer to use a vinegar solution in a garden sprayer (30ml vinegar to 70ml water per litre). It is less damaging to the environment, and there is no need to rinse it away. Use the same vinegar solution in greenhouses, on glass or any other surface (remove any plants first, of course). There are vinegar-based cleaning products available, if you prefer.

This is good time to dig out the lawnmower, get it serviced and the blade sharpened. An oil change and cleaned air filter plus a new spark plug will prolong the life of the machine. The same goes for any other petrol-powered tools. Secateurs, loppers, etc., should also get a little TLC to keep them sharp and clean, so as not to spread diseases to any plants you prune or trim.

Trim deciduous hedges now before the birds start to nest. If you want to establish a new hedge, now is the time to order bare-rooted plants which is the most cost effective way to buy plants. Whether it is beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) or hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) or any other species, make sure you get them planted as soon as possible after purchasing to prevent the roots from drying out. The weather dictates this – planting in frozen ground is not good for the soil or the person digging. Just make sure the roots are kept moist if you have to wait.

If you haven't already done it, prune apple and pear trees. Remove dead, diseased and damaged branches and either prune any overcrowded spurs (on spur-bearing varieties) or cut back a few of the leaders leaving all laterals alone (tip-bearing varieties).

Ceanothus, lavatera, buddleias and hardy fuchsias can be cut back quite hard in March. Shrubs such as mophead and lace-cap hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) should also be pruned in March. Remove two or three of the oldest or thickest branches completely and to tidy up the old flower heads. The pruning cut to remove the old flower head should be made just above a pair of healthy buds.

Roses, dogwoods (*Cornus* spp.) and willows (*Salix* spp.) are others which should be pruned in March, with dogwoods and willows pruned hard to promote lots of new growth for a better display next winter.

There are plenty of indoor jobs to get on with, particularly seed sowing if you have a greenhouse or spare windowsill. Tomatoes, chillies, aubergines, cucumbers, nasturtiums and marigolds are just a few of the plants that can be sown now.

Despite the snow-covered hills as I write this, our gardens will be ready for the growing season.

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Fibre Broadband Update

BT Openreach has made some additional connections into the fibre cabinets. Two further cabinets are still a possibility, but the live date has slipped to July/September and the locations remain unknown. The status of individual premises not yet shown as Accepting Orders has changed recently, perhaps due to the initial steps of the R100 programme. Unfortunately, many seem to have slipped backwards within the 'Fibre Journey'. However, several premises shown as Accepting Orders are now recognised as being on lines that are too long to gain any benefit from a fibre connection. Additionally, some premises not currently connected may be done with FTTP infill that should ensure fast speeds.

The R100 programme contracts to supply everyone with 30Mbps download speed have gone out and responses are now being assessed, although actual work won't start until early 2019. Meanwhile Gainshare will run until March 2019, allowing some further communities or premises to be connected, although it may, or may not, include Killearn.

Little work has been possible on the Killearn Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) system over the winter due to the weather, and investigation to supply a similar service in Fintry remains dormant until the Fintry cabinet has been installed. There is no new information about mobile mast upgrades.

A response from KCC/KBG has been sent in reply to a request from local MP Stephen Kerr for comments to questions raised by Westminster's Scottish Affairs Committee regarding the belief that poor broadband connectivity and mobile phone coverage are holding back Stirling's business and residential development.

Check the status of your line through the WhereandWhen pages of the BT Openreach or Digital Scotland websites. Digital Scotland 'Better Broadband Scheme' provides a subsidy to establish a better connection via satellite or wireless for those currently getting download speeds of less than 2Mbps.

See the KCC website (www.killearncc.org.uk) for specific links. It appears that the Business Voucher scheme may be revived in the next few months.

DOUG ASHWORTH, CHAIR, KILLEARN BROADBAND GROUP

CRUK Donations



Local committee members and volunteers will be collecting donations house to house for Cancer Research between 16 and 22 April. Last year's collection realised more than £11,000 which makes a tremendous contribution to the organisation's vital work.

CRUK receives no government funding and relies totally on the public's generosity, so all donations, however small, are greatly appreciated.

More volunteers are always needed, so if you would like to help, please call Janet Rutherford (01360 449214).

The Committee hopes that area residents will give as generously this year as they have in the past.

Friends of the Playpark



Like all local councils, Stirling Council is strapped for cash and is unable to deliver the amount of care that they would like to provide. In particular, the two willow structures now require pruning, reshaping and some replanting. This work will be undertaken by Land Services.

The original playpark scheme was planned by Killearn Community Futures Company Playpark Group in partnership with Stirling Council; KCFC raised the funding for it to happen.

The developers of Blairessen are making a substantial contribution to enhance the play area in the park. If agreement can be reached with Stirling Council and Killearn Community Council, KCFC will be seeking a group of volunteers to reconstitute the Playpark Group. This group, in partnership with the councils, could plan the enhancement of the play area, as well as forming a 'friends' group to help Stirling Council keep on top of the upkeep of the park.

If you are interested in the future of the park, we would love to hear from you. Email info@kcfc.co.uk or drop a note in the Village Hall postbox, addressed to Secretary, KCFC, Killearn Village Hall, G63 9NJ.

Beware Telephone Scam

There are recent reports of people getting a cold call saying they are from BT Openreach to apologise for disruptions in the internet service due in part to their ongoing improvements. They advise you that it is possible to make some improvements by using your computer to check things. After lots of instructions (and time) they offer to pay you compensation, using your bank or credit cards or, if necessary, setting up a PayPal account.

Don't – this is a scam, the only payment they are setting up is to themselves.

Hang up and contact Action Fraud (0300 123 2040; www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud). You can also contact Stirling Council Trading Standards (01796 443322; tradingstandards@stirling.gov.uk).

DOUG ASHWORTH

Something for Everyone at Killearn Village Hall

You would be forgiven for not knowing what is happening inside the walls at Killearn Village Hall on these cold days and dark evenings, but be assured the menu is growing, and our class and activity organisers are always happy to see new faces.

We have been delighted with the increase in our regular weekly bookings with a wide range of activities, as you will see from the chart, and on a less regular basis local workshops for photography and sewing.

Keep a track of 'What's On' via our Facebook page or our website www.killearnvillagehall.co.uk/what-s-on, the list of weekly activities is updated regularly.

We've also had requests recently from members of the community interested in running an after-school club, in starting Latin/ballroom dancing classes and in building up a Tai Chi class and group – is there something else you would like to see happening? Email us on killearnvillagehall@gmail.com.

Archie Wilson's Youth Club each Sunday afternoon includes 5-a-side football, table tennis and various table games, when numbers allow, is now looking at



introducing a film-making session with Jaqui McAlpine in the spring. Archie has entered three boys and one girl in the Under-10 group of the Stirling schools table tennis championship. 'The most important thing is not to win but to take part', in the words of Olympic Games founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Suggestions for new activities and interests are always welcome from the youngsters, so keep in touch on archie@treesurgery.com or through any of above contacts.

Weekly Classes in Killearn Village Hall 2017/18

Day	Event	Time	Venue
Monday	Monday Club	1pm–4.30pm	Hall/Garden Room
	Strathendrick Rotary Club	6.30pm–7.30pm (fortnightly)	Garden Room
	Yin Yoga Class	6.30pm–8pm	Hall
	Killearn Badminton Club	7.30pm–10pm	Hall
Tuesday	Ladies Badminton	9.15am–10.15am	Hall
	Dance Sing Class	10.30am–Noon	Hall
	Yoga Class	10.30am–11.40am	Garden Room
	Children's Dance Class	2pm–2.45pm	Hall
	Circuit Training	6.15pm–7.15pm	Main Hall
	Dancercise	7.30pm–8.30pm	Main Hall
Wednesday	Yoga Class	9.30am–10.30am	Garden Room
	Children's Dance Class	4pm–6pm	Hall
	Tae Kwon Do	6pm–9pm	Hall
Thursday	Ladies Badminton	9.30am–10.30am	Hall
	Children's Dance Class	3.45pm–7pm	Hall
	Children's Music Classes	3.35pm–5.05pm	Garden Room
	Yoga Class	7pm–8.10pm	Garden Room
Friday	Bridge Club	2pm–5pm	Garden Room
Sunday	Killearn Youth Club	3pm–4pm	Hall/Games Room/ Garden Room

The many activities organised by the Friends of Abbeyfield continue to be enjoyed by residents and Friends alike.

The regular news reviews are well attended, and topical subjects are discussed and opinions aired. The fortnightly visits by Killearn nursery school have continued, as has the monthly church service.

October was a busy month for activities. Firstly, some Friends joined the residents for a delicious high tea with home baking provided by the Friends. Then five residents enjoyed an outing for lunch to the House of Darroch, Gartocharn. Lunch was greatly enjoyed as was the opportunity to do a little 'window' shopping among the many and varied articles on display. A sing-along with Margie and Fiona McDonald was arranged one Sunday afternoon during October and this was hugely enjoyed by all. John Anderson, one of the Friends, gave a talk for the monthly Rotary discussion group on the Human Rights Museum, Winnipeg, Canada which he had recently visited.

In December, four residents enjoyed a visit to the Fintry pantomime, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Also in early December a small group from the Strathendrick Singers, accompanied by Heather Smith on the piano, visited Abbeyfield to sing carols. Joyce Begg recited a poem and read one of her wee stories. The visit ended with tea, mince pies and shortbread.



The highlight of December was the annual Christmas lunch. This year Phillip Pain and Ray Davidson-Carr volunteered to be the chefs, and as they did such an excellent job I suspect they will be called upon again. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by the residents, Barbara the housekeeper and many of the Friends – a lovely festive occasion.

On 20 December a group of children and their teachers from Heron House Nursery visited and entertained the residents singing carols. The wee ones sang enthusiastically and were delightful.

Residents and Friends enjoyed their Burns lunch in January and other activities planned for the forthcoming months include a talk by Lindsay Pell on an Orkney wedding, and an Easter tea in early April. The Friends of Abbeyfield hope that all the various activities and visits add to the well-being and enjoyment of the residents.



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Police Report



November to January have seen relatively few crimes committed in the Killearn area. While this is encouraging, of the 10 or so crimes that have been reported in this period, five have been relatively serious in nature. These include thefts of motor vehicles and housebreakings.

Over the past few months my colleagues and I at Balfron Police Office have been dealing with a developing trend where vehicles, particularly vans and 4x4 crew cab vehicles are being stolen during the day, mainly in the midweek period. Typically the vehicles being stolen belong to and are being used by landscaping companies or tradesmen and the thieves are looking for vehicles where the keys have been left in the ignition. Unfortunately (fortunately for the thieves), many people using these vehicles are in the habit of leaving keys in the ignition while they work around the car or van. In each theft we have encountered, the thief has simply entered the vehicle and driven it away. Thefts have occurred on the A81 near Dumgoyne and Station Road, Killearn.

This problem is not confined to Stirlingshire – it also appears to be an ongoing issue in East and West Dunbartonshire. At the time of writing, we are pursuing definite lines of enquiry into these thefts, but it's good to bear in mind that prevention is better than a cure. If you use vans or 4x4s in line with your work, it's good advice to

look after your keys. If you employ staff who drive vehicles, make sure they are also aware of this issue.

December and January saw reports of a small number of housebreakings in Killearn.

Four of the wooden lock-ups adjacent to the primary school on Crosshead Road were broken into on 10 December, but it appears that only an electric drill was stolen from one.

While there appears to be no connection to this incident, a week later someone forced entry to one of the retail premises on Balfron Road, Killearn. This break-in was abandoned with nothing being stolen after the premises' intruder alarm was activated. Finally, over the weekend 27–29 January, a housebreaking occurred at a vacant house in Lampson Road, although nothing was stolen from the property.

I am always mindful that reports of crimes, particularly against people's property, can be unsettling to a community. Please be assured that the chances of becoming a victim of crime, especially of this type, are very low if you take some simple precautions. Killearn (and west Stirlingshire) continues to be a safe place to live and work.

SERGEANT DAVID McNALLY

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Meet Sophia – our new Scout Leader

I was asked to write a piece about myself as I am new to the village and am the new Scout leader, so here we go. Many people ask, ‘But why Killearn?’ The reason I am in Killearn is because James, my husband, was offered a job as a pilot at the airport bases of Belfast, Aberdeen and Glasgow. After one look at a potential abode in Glasgow, we decided we wanted to live in the countryside and Killearn was one of the few villages that had places to rent. We went to the village, sat in the local pub (loved the pub, so that was a good start), used their Wi-Fi and researched a way to find somewhere to live. Stepping outside we liked the pretty church, quiet road, interesting large monument and mountains everywhere. We felt we did not need to know much more, and signed on the dotted line for the flat where we now live.

My sole trading income comes from running ski and mountain trips for adults: ‘Travel Like Soph’. (Strapline? ‘Be Free Just Don’t Be Stupid’.) This type of work is great as I can extend my experience working with adults and forever be reminded that no matter what age we are, we are all still people and find that we actually all react in a pretty similar way in situations regardless of our age.

I am a fully qualified teacher in England with some seven years’ experience. But registering in Scotland is a time-consuming process, so I have expanded my self-employment into new services, namely nannying and babysitting. I have also been working in a local nursery (thanks to a local Killearn Facebook page someone responded to the million questions I asked when I sat in a hotel lounge in Farnham, England, before we moved). It has been a great experience and an ideal way to get to know local parents and children.

I hold a mountain leader award qualification to be an overseas expedition leader for the UK’s leading children’s expedition company. Since moving here, I have found there is a real demand for mountain leaders to supervise and assess Silver, Gold, and Bronze expeditions for the Duke of Edinburgh (DOE) Award. I have been supervising DOE expeditions, which is fantastic as I am getting paid to do what I love, looking after people in an environment which is challenging and ultimately beautiful.

As Christmas approached, a job teaching business studies in the local secondary school became available, and I am now teaching while still able to work on my other self-employed commitments. I have only been at the school for a short time, but with the mixture of the snow days and the friendly and amusing students I am enjoying my time there enormously.

I am afraid I am not a true philanthropist, as I enjoy both earning and the benefits from volunteering. I also find it interesting how one can be treated so differently when on different activities, but teaching economics as well as business helps me understand why. In summary, a pound is a pound from any trade, and I am certainly not a snob about that. One of the characters



in Oscar Wilde’s play *Lady Windermere’s Fan* says, ‘Do you think she will ever get into this damned thing called Society?’. One of my answers to this is to volunteer. You basically work, which in itself is really rewarding, but it’s even more rewarding because you never get told off and always get thanked a huge number of times.

I have now volunteered with the Scouts Association. Previously I was an Assistant Explorer Scout Leader in the South of England and helped preparing their schedules and for their camps. I wanted to be involved in Killearn only to find not only that there was no Explorers Section, but that what was really needed was a Scout Leader to start a new Scout troop. I volunteered and, along with other leaders, we have been able to restart the Scout troop in the village. It has been lovely; the Scouts are really friendly, incredibly enthusiastic and a pleasure to be with every Wednesday. The leadership team is working well together, and we are combining our skills to make the sessions as good as possible. Parents have been very supportive and welcoming.

So far we have had our first camp and we attended the Remembrance Sunday ceremony. It was the Scouts’ first official event – with only five minutes to prepare because they came straight from camp to attend and we were mightily impressed with their professionalism. In our sessions, we have been working to achieve the badges for hillwalking, nights away, survival and first aid, where either the leaders or guests have been facilitating. We are excited about the coming year as we have made links with Balfron and Drymen Scouts.

People tell me they are surprised I have enough time and say it is very good of me to volunteer, which may be the case; however, I really feel it benefits me. I can practise my skills and learn new ones – and meet people I wouldn’t usually work with, such as fire fighters, doctors, engineers, judges, presenters and, of course, the Scouts and their parents. I feel I am making a contribution to the village, which gives me a wonderful sense of belonging.

Everyone’s life is different, but if I were to encourage anyone to do anything to improve their sense of well-being, I would suggest joining our team in the Scouts, even just

an hour and a half session where you could cover any subject that interests you that you think would interest the Scouts... literally anything. The badges Scouts endeavour to gain reflect life, so that means you can do anything. If this is for you, then please email me (sophia.quilter@btinternet.com).

As if Scouts isn't enough, I have also volunteered for KCFC's Firework Group. I am thrilled to be part of this – Bonfire Night is my favourite night of the year. Again, something people possibly see as extra work, I see as extra fun!

Killearn Scouts



Do you have a skill? Of course you do. We have recently started Killearn Scouts with an enthusiastic troop of boys and girls, and would love to hear from you if you have a key skill you would like to impart or if you would like to help out in any way.

Are you a forester or a farmer? Do you have First Aid or craft skills? Are you an outdoor enthusiast? Do you know lots about local history? Or indeed any skill!

We are keen to hear from anyone locally who would like to run a session. You will have full support of our Scout Leaders – its just your skill and enthusiasm we are after. Please get in touch to discuss – we look forward to hearing from you. Contact Sophia Quilter (sophia.quilter@btinternet.com).

In our time off, James and I have loved feeding the birds from our window, especially our robin friend, our walks down the Glen to see the deer, 6k runs along the West Highland Way splashing in the puddles, our teas and coffees in the local café, drinks in the pub, hikes up the mountains and our 'fly aways' to the Shetland Islands. The people in Killearn have been incredibly friendly and everyone is so courteous and ready to give you any advice you need. What a wonderful decision coming to live in Killearn has been, not only now but undoubtedly on into the future.

SOPHIA



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Thai Fishcake Recipe from Turnip The Beet

These are great as a starter or for lunch, served with salad and sweet chilli sauce.

Ingredients (Serves 4)

400g fish fillet (cod, whiting or pollock or salmon)
400g mashed potato (leftovers are perfect)
1 red onion
1 red chilli
2 cloves of garlic
5x5cm fresh ginger, peeled
a handful fresh coriander
zest and juice of 2 limes
1 egg, beaten
2 tsp coriander powder
large pinch of salt
100g Panko breadcrumbs
15ml rapeseed or other vegetable oil
Line a baking tray with tinfoil and preheat oven to 210°C.

Method

Roughly chop the red onion and chilli, and put in a food processor with ginger, garlic, fresh coriander and the juice and zest of the limes. Pulse until roughly chopped and mixed together. Add the fish fillet at the end and pulse until roughly chopped and mixed together.

Empty mixture into a large mixing bowl. Beat an egg and add it to the mixture with mashed potato, coriander powder and salt. Combine well, using your hands to knead like a dough for even distribution.

Keep kneading while slowly adding breadcrumbs handful by handful until the mixture holds itself well and isn't too damp. You might not need to use all of the breadcrumbs.

Divide mixture into eight balls and shape into round patties about 5–6cm high.

Heat the oil in a frying pan or griddle. When oil is hot, add fishcakes and lightly brown on each side, then place on to the lined baking tray and pop in the oven for 18 minutes.

Fishcakes are ready when slightly risen, golden brown and heated through.

You can find out more about Turnip the Beet on the back cover.



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Callander	Gartmore	Strathblane	
Deanston	Killin	Strathyre	

We may be able to build in other communities in the future – please let us know if you want to live in a village that is not listed above. Information on local housing need and demand helps us plan for the future.

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Bridge by Zorro

We've all found ourselves on occasion as declarer in a difficult contract. In this hand, Lord Smith of Marlow, the world-famous surgeon was declarer, partnered by Karel Stepanek, the actor, in a 6♠ contract. As you can see he was missing both Ace and King of trumps when the cards went down to West's lead of the ♣9.

He decided to win the trick with the Ace in dummy. But what happened next?

Defending is probably one of the hardest aspects of bridge, for while declarer can see all their side's cards, the defenders have to guess their partner's holding and so need all the help they can get from each other. So what card should East play? Will the odds against declarer ease at little?

The bidding went:

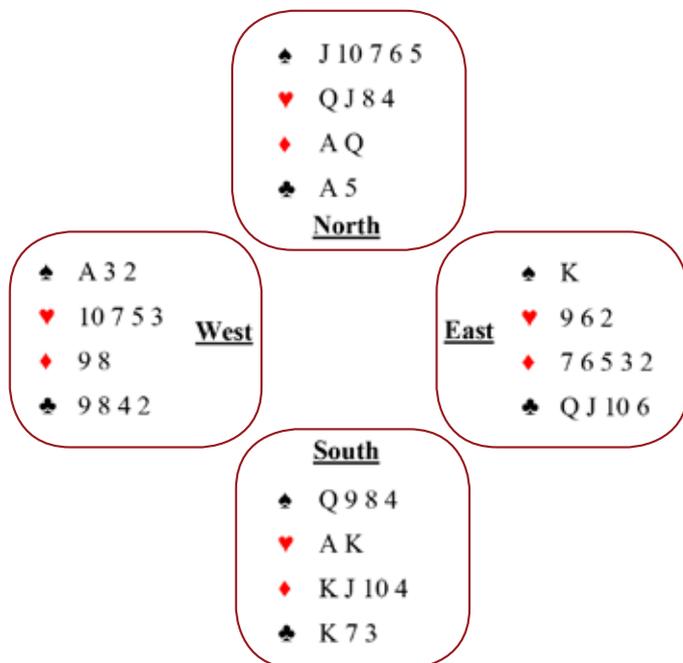
South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♦ ²	Pass
4♥ ³	Pass	6♠	All Pass

¹ Stayman

² cue bid agreeing ♠ as trump

³ further cue bid

Dealer: South Game All



The solution is on page 34.

Killearn Bridge Club has had a good response to their offer of taster sessions and our newcomers say they look forward to our weekly classes. They are happy to welcome anyone else interested in learning to play. To join in, please contact Roger Sparkes (440448) or visit their website www.bridgewebs.com/killearn.

RISING SPORTS STARS – ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

Over the last couple of years, the *Courier* has reported on young people from the area who are excelling at their chosen sport. In this issue, we catch up on their progress.

CRESTING THE WAVES TO SUCCESS

Harris Cartwright (17), Rory Harper (17), Scott Forbes (14) and Calum Bell (16) competed at the RYA Scotland Winter Sailing Championships in December. In the Laser Radial fleet, Harris (pictured below) and Rory achieved first and second place respectively and in the Laser 4.7 class, Scott was third. In the double handed 420 class, Calum and his crew Josh Hale (pictured top) came first. All the boys have been supported by RYA Scotland through squad training and are all past or current members of Team GBR Youth and Junior squads. Following success in his Optimist, Scott has progressed to the Laser 4.7. His aim this year is to be selected for the 4.7 Worlds in Poland in July. Calum and Josh were 2017 UK Junior Champions and hope to attend the 420 World Championships in Rhode Island, USA this summer. Based on last year's performances, Calum has been shortlisted for RYA Scotland Youth Sailor of the Year 2017. Rory, who describes himself as retired, attended the Laser Radial Youth Worlds in Holland in August last year, a fitting end to his competitive career in youth sailing. Rory's older sister, Isla Harper is now in the Edinburgh University sailing team and competing in national team sailing events. She's hugely enjoyed the different format of team sailing which requires a whole new approach to tactics. Andrew Crocket, ex Topper and 420 sailor, is now based in Palma, working on the 40-metre superyacht *Cyrano de Bergerac*.



Photo courtesy of Neil Ross



Photo courtesy of Simon McIlwain

PENTATHLON CHAMPION

Katie Burr won her first international vest representing Scotland in the Schools Indoor Pentathlon. She helped the team to win the Silver medal, finishing sixth overall in the U16 age group, with a points total putting her second in the Scottish All Time list for the U15 girls Indoor Pentathlon. In the Scottish Schools Pentathlon Championship, Katie won the Gold medal in the U14 age group with personal best performances in four out of the five events. Her record-breaking points total was acknowledged by the Murdoch Award from Balfron High School. With two gold and four silver championship medals, Katie is looking forward to next season with the help of Scottish-based girl's technical sportswear company, Everactiv.



EQUESTRIAN VAULTING

Katie and Sally Henderson continued to vault as part of the Scottish Equestrian Vaulting team in 2017 and travelled to competitions in France, Belgium and England as well as competing nationally. In the Child (U14) 2-star category, Katie came third at CVI Belgium, second at CVI Rugby and second at the Scottish Championships. She also obtained her qualification score, allowing her to move directly into Junior 2-star competitions this year. Sally was Scottish Champion in the Child (U14) 1-star category. Next year, Sally plans to compete at Child 1-star internationally. Katie will move into the Junior category and has been put forward for Team GBR selection for the European Vaulting Championships in Hungary in both Junior 2-star pas de deux and individual categories. Both girls will also continue to vault as part of the squad, developing experience in preparation for the Junior World Vaulting championships in 2019.



CYCLING

Lewis Stewart (18) from Killearn raced at the British Junior Track Champs last year. He became British Junior Champion



in the Keirin and also won a silver medal in the Sprint competition. He raced in the Junior European Track Champs in Portugal and was placed fifth in the Keirin. In the team sprint they broke the GB National Junior record, finishing fourth. He also raced in the World Junior Track championships in Italy where they broke their own GB National record again. He has now been selected to be part of the GB Senior Sprint Academy, and has moved to Manchester to train and race full-time. Lewis has been shortlisted for Glasgow Young Sportsman Award in the Glasgow Sports Awards.

HONING RUGBY SKILLS DOWN UNDER

Euan 'Spud' Brown was awarded a place on Crusaders International High Performance Unit in New Zealand last summer, with the opportunity to train and play with some of the best players and coaches in the game. Euan was attached to the Marist Albion Club and played and trained with them for the duration of his stay. Days were spent with the Crusaders Academy. Euan is now back training and playing with Glasgow Hawks and Hillhead Jordanhill and is involved with the SRU Academy at Broadwood at U20s level. Matthew Pettigrew is also enjoying life in New Zealand – travelling, working and pre-season training before playing with a local rugby club.

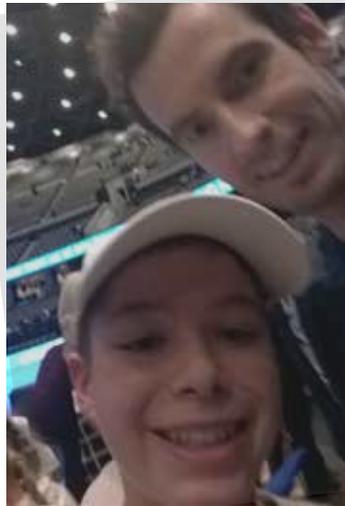
CURLING

Local girl, Lauren Gray, was part of the Eve Muirhead Curling rink representing Team GB at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. The team made it to the semi-finals, but in a closely fought play off for the bronze medal, they lost out in the final end to Japan. Lauren has been full-time with the Eve Muirhead squad since 2016, which is supported by the National Lottery, Sports Scotland and British Curling. Team Muirhead won Gold in the European Championships in November 2017.



TENNIS

Alexander Gibb (11) plays in Stirling with the Central District squad and West of Scotland County squad at Scotstoun every week. He is one of two players representing Central District in the Scottish Inter-Districts in April in his age group. His sister Sarah (13) played for her age group last year at Scottish Inter-District. Alexander has enjoyed some great opportunities over last couple of years including ball boy duties at Gleneagles oldies tournament to the likes of Tim Henman and Pat Cash, playing in 2016 at Andy Murray Live as one of the eight youngsters doing warm-up with Judy Murray and Leon Smith, and in November 2017, he was one of the ball boys at Andy Murray Live when Andy played Roger Federer. Alexander also loved the opportunity to train last October for a week at the Kim Clijsters academy in Belgium with eight other boys from all over Scotland.



GOLF

In the opening event of 2017, John Paterson, formerly of Killearn, battled through four rounds of the Scottish Boys Strokeplay Championship to win by two strokes. This got him a World Amateur Golf Ranking of 5,040. Going on to achieve eight top-10 finishes, he was selected to represent Scotland at the European Team Championships and at the Home Internationals. From a field of 256 in the British Boys event in August, John made it to the last 32. John received offers of golf scholarships from eight American universities, before deciding on the University of Colorado, Boulder. His decision to use his gap year testing his mettle as a full-time amateur golfer has paid dividends. Now training with the Scotland men's team, he was picked to go to South Africa this spring. Due to his performances since his win in April last year, John's world amateur golf ranking has improved from outside the world's top 5,000 to inside the top 1,000, enabling him to compete in all of Europe's premier championships in 2018.

FOOTBALL

Jenna Clark from Killearn continues to develop as one of the most promising young footballers in the country. Still only 16 years of age, Jenna is now established in the Rangers Women's 1st XI starting line-up, and is Vice-Captain of the Scotland U17s. Jenna played in Latvia and Slovenia in 2017 with the national squad, and is looking forward to visiting Iceland and France in early 2018. Jenna trains four nights a week and plays a match almost every week with Rangers.



HOCKEY

Ellie Kemsley (17) from Killearn plays hockey at school, club and district level. She was selected for the West District U18 squad for the inter-district tournament in October, meaning she has now represented the District at each age group. Ellie was made the captain of Kelvinside Academy 1st XI last year, and she continues to play and train with her club, GHK. As if that isn't enough, Ellie is also working towards gaining her umpire qualification.



TRIATHLON

Callum Byrne (14) from Killearn represented Scotland in triathlon, at the Inter Regional Championships in August, coming 10th in Britain. Since then he has qualified to be selected for the Triathlon Scotland Academy, and came first in the Triathlon Scotland Legends Series last year. Amy, Callum's younger sister, qualified to represent Scotland in the Inter Regional Relay Championships in July. She also came third overall in the Triathlon Scotland Legends Series, which is run over the year.



Recovery from stroke or ‘brain attack’

What is a stroke?

A stroke is a ‘brain attack’ – a life-threatening condition that occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is cut off. Most strokes are caused by a blockage. However some can be caused by bleeding in or around the brain. The severity of the symptoms depends on the size of the area of the brain affected and how long the circulation has been interrupted. A stroke can affect the way your body works as well as how you think, feel and communicate. It commonly affects one side of the body, leaving a weak or numb arm and leg.

According to the Stroke Association, it’s vital to know how to spot the warning signs of a stroke. Using the FAST test is the best way to do this.

- Face: can the person smile? Has their face fallen on one side?
- Arms: can the person raise both arms and keep them there?
- Speech: can the person speak clearly and understand what you say? Is their speech slurred?
- Time: if you see any of these three signs, it’s time to call 999.

Can you recover from a stroke?

People who survive a stroke are often left with long-term problems caused by injury to their brain. Some need a long period of rehabilitation to recover their former independence, while many never fully recover and need support adjusting to living with the effects of their stroke. Recovery can occur in two main ways. In the first few weeks or months after stroke, spontaneous recovery can occur as swelling reduces and the body’s normal healing processes continue. Thereafter, further improvement can be explained by neuroplasticity. This is the brain’s ability to adapt and compensate for damage by establishing new pathways that can help restore function.

Neurological physiotherapy or ‘neuro physio’

A specialist neurological physiotherapist or ‘neuro physio’ is an expert in helping people recover normal movement and function after neurological injury or disease. They will understand the common problems and the impact that these can have on the life of the patient and their family. Treatment is focused on maximising the return of movement and encouraging as much independence as possible.

A neuro physio will use the principles of neuroplasticity to guide treatment. Research tells us how we should structure exercise-based therapy in terms of intensity, frequency and type of exercise. Therapy will also often involve ‘hands-on’ treatment to provide support, tactile guidance and confidence to move more effectively.



Rehabilitation technologies

New technologies are constantly developing that assist in different parts of the rehabilitation process, from body-weight supported treadmills, to functional electrical stimulation devices that use electrical signals to pull the toes up when learning to walk again, and dynamic orthoses that help a weak or tight hand pick things up. A neuro physio can give guidance about suitable technologies.



So remember:

- If you suspect a stroke, act FAST and seek immediate medical attention.
- New technologies can help push the traditional boundaries of rehabilitation.
- If you or someone you know needs help with physical rehabilitation after a stroke, a neuro physio can provide high-quality evidenced-based treatment; Jill French is the neuro physio in Killearn.

More information is available from the following:

info@neurophysioscotland.co.uk

www.nhs.uk/conditions/stroke

www.chss.org.uk

www.stroke.org.uk

www.differentstrokes.co.uk

www.killermontparishchurch.co.uk – The Way Ahead Group (Bearsden)

KENNY THOMS

A graphic advertisement for NeuroPhysio Scotland. It features a photograph of a physiotherapist assisting a patient with a blue exercise ball. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with a blue and white color scheme.

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Killlearn Health Centre Update

Staff News

Dr Shin Gooi has finished the first part of her training and left us in February to continue her training. She will be joining us again for her final year in August 2019.

Travel Vaccinations

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

Public Holidays

The health centre will be closed for Easter on Friday, 30 March and Monday, 2 April. We will also be closed for the public holiday on Monday, 7 May. Please make sure you order prescriptions to cover this period. Prescriptions can be ordered 24/7 at www.killlearnhealthcentre.com. For assistance when we are closed please call 111.

Extended Hours

We continue to offer GP and nurse clinics in our extended hours sessions. We now offer GP and Practice Nurse appointments on a Monday evening, and GP appointments on a Wednesday evening and a Thursday morning.

Self Help

The NHS Inform website (www.nhsinform.scot) has been updated to include detailed information and advice on a wide range of medical conditions from acne to whooping cough and all conditions in between. This can be a useful resource for help and advice on what to do.

Stress Control

Do you suffer from stress? NHS Forth Valley run various classes to teach people how to control stress more effectively. Visit <https://bookwhen.com/imhs> for details.

Online Appointments

You can now book appointments on our website at www.killlearnhealthcentre.com.

Test Results

Please call between 11am and 4pm for results of blood tests, x-rays or similar investigations.



Opening hours

9am - 1pm and 2.15 - 6pm Monday to Friday
9am - 1pm and 2.15 - 5pm on Saturdays

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www.killlearnpharmacy.co.uk



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Foot Health Clinic

Jacqueline Morton

Foot Health Practitioner



MAFHP MCFHP

01360 550 374

07703 799 112

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Killlearn Pharmacy – Tuesday, 9.30am – 1.30pm
Strathblane Pharmacy – Wednesday, 9.30am – 1.30pm
Torrance – Thursday and Friday, 9.30am – 2.00pm

Happy 2018 to our families and friends!



Children's lives are directly impacted by their environment, their experiences and the adults around them.

Our beautiful nursery nestles adjacent to Killearn Glen and offers a variety of indoor and outdoor learning. This is a safe, loving environment where babies and young children are valued, welcomed and respected. Heron House educators are an experienced, knowledgeable and qualified team. We are committed to, and passionate about, children's learning. Our environment has a breadth and balance of planned and spontaneous learning intentions

and experiences. Our current priorities are maths & numeracy, language & literacy, and health & well-being. We promote our children's curiosity, encourage investigation & exploration, and we facilitate the extension of this.

Heron House Early Years is in partnership with Stirling Council as a recognised educational setting. We currently offer 15 hours of assisted early learning and childcare a week for children aged 3-5 years. Application forms available.

NEWS... August 2020 we will offer 30 hours of FREE early learning and childcare for children aged 3-5 years.

Our beautiful, bespoke baby department, with its separate sleep, sensory and change rooms, has a limited number of places which are in high demand.

Heron babies are happy to be outside daily in their baby garden or for an adventure walk, whatever the weather.

We advise early viewing and enrolment. So, come along, visit with us, meet our team and find out more of what we do.

Call Fiona James on **01360 550162** or email heronhousekillearn@gmail.com.



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e: heronhousekillearn@gmail.com

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

Applying to University: UCAS

When you enter your final year of school, suddenly it's not just school work you have to contend with – a new challenge arises to take up your time: UCAS.

UCAS is the UK agency which deals with the whole application process. UCAS allows you to apply to five UK universities in total, though there is no obligation to fill all these spaces. If you are applying to become a doctor, dentist or vet, you must have one choice in another subject as a back-up option. If you are also applying to universities abroad, the only constraints on how many universities you apply for are the restrictions which are relevant to that country; this is done outwith UCAS, but you can still use your five UCAS options should you wish.

The UCAS website will ask you for information such as name, address, school, nationality, etc; finance details; subjects and grades. And, of course, the personal statement.

Although generally the subject of much grumbling, the personal statement is only supposed to be 4,000 characters long (including spaces) – which amounts to about a page and a half – and so, though most people find it cringeworthy to write, it probably should not take up much of your time. Just be sure to include any achievements, co-curriculars and reasons for applying for the subject you've chosen (your subject grades are not required as they are elsewhere in the UCAS system). This is your chance to show the universities what else you do. Once all this is

completed, all that's left to do is to submit your choices – all for the bargain price of £24 (or £13 for a single choice).

Once you press the send button, your choices aren't immediately sent off to the universities of your choice, but instead take a detour to your 'referee', generally a teacher in your school responsible for all your class's applications. The referee will add your school reference to the application before sending it off. After applying you have 14 days during which you may change any of your choices, and if you haven't used all five choices, you can add more right up until the deadline.

The deadline itself, for most subjects, is the beginning of January. But beware – if you are a medic, dentist, vet or Oxbridge applicant, the deadline is the middle of October – so be careful!

After your completed application is in, all that's left to do is wait. Universities can respond at any time. Some, such as Glasgow, are renowned for replying quickly, others are quite the opposite, for example St Andrews – but all are required to give a decision (either accepting or rejecting your application) by the end of March. Remember that universities don't send out all their replies at the same time, so some people end up waiting (sometimes months) longer than others.

Finally, once all those offers are in, you must pick your top choice by the beginning of May. Then, once you've met all your conditions (fingers crossed), you're into university! Congratulations! You have successfully navigated UCAS.

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Killearn PTA News

Killearn Primary School PTA's latest fundraiser was our Burns Coffee Morning, which raised over £500 for school funds. The fabulous School Ceilidh band, fresh from playing at the School Burns Assembly, took to the stage alongside children of all ages who recited Scots poetry and songs, presented with dramatic performances and wonderful expression. Mick MacNeil was MC and entertained us throughout with traditional Scottish music. Four of the Junior class pupils entertained the gathering with their talented accordion playing of some familiar Scottish tunes.

Our next event is a Spring Shindig Auction Night on 24 March in Killearn Village Hall. With food from Naughty Italian food van and music from the Nutcrackers featuring local girl Suzie Falconer, we hope to dance, dine and donate to raise funds for the school. For further information or tickets, please contact us by email (kpn.fundraisinggroup@gmail.com).

The Scholastic Book Fair this year is being taken over by the pupils. Arriving on 9 May, we await more details on what they have in store, but look out for some exciting twists and a fundraiser with a difference.

If you would like to help with any of the PTA events, as a company or individual, we are always delighted to welcome new faces and promote local business. Please email us or visit our Facebook page.

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Tennis Club

It wasn't the greatest of winters for tennis in Killearn, but it takes more than a wee bit of snow to keep our intrepid members off the courts. Three hardy figures were game for a set in the worst of the January weather, much to the admiration of villagers battling through the blizzards in six layers of clothes. But sadly, there's been no sign of the daring trio in recent weeks. They seem to have simply melted away!

We can't rely on snowmen and women to keep our playing strength up when spring finally arrives, so we're always on the lookout for new members of the more traditional, flesh-and-blood variety. All ages are welcome and we offer professional coaching sessions for adults and kids.

Visit killearntennisclub.org.uk to find out more, or search for Killearn Tennis Club on Facebook. Couldn't be freezier!



Curling – Second Stones

The first half of the new season saw two major events – the first being the 90th birthday of our oldest active player, Elspeth Murdoch of Buchlyvie, which we celebrated with a birthday lunch and gifts at Fintry Sports Club. The second was the Club's first win of the Balyarrow Trophy after eight attempts – and more than two decades! Being allowed to borrow a few players from local clubs was a great help.

The Main Club Autumn League was won by Mike Jackson's team which beat Norman Robertson and his team, while the Ladies v Gents Trophy was won by the Ladies for the first time since 2013.

The Ladies Section played a triple round-robin Peat Trophy league and, although the last match was abandoned due to the weather, Gill Smith's team were effectively uncatchable by Pat Rodger's team. However, Pat had her own triumph when her team won the Ladies Christmas Bonspiel, beating Fiona Glass's team.

Both the Main Club and the Ladies Section have held their pairs competitions for this season. The former was just won by Bob Glass and John O'Neill from Mike and Di Jackson and the latter by Gill Smith and Luisella Mosley.

Strathendrick have played in a number of outside competitions. The highlights were winning the Province Medal Bonspiel, making it to the final of the Forth Valley Area Knockout before losing to Bathgate, and beating Bonnybridge in the Royal Caledonian Curling Club District Medal.



Elspeth Murdoch
with Anne Lang at her
90th celebration lunch

You can find details of team members, scores and our programme of events on our website.

We are always looking for new members, so if you are looking for an activity to keep you busy during the winter months and have always fancied curling please contact Di Jackson (550314) or Gill Smith (550726) or visit our website. www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk.



The Balyarrow team (four members missing): Back row – Keith Hyam, John Phillips, Kim McLaren, Jane McLaren, Grant Farquharson (Balfon), John Steel (Drymen), Sandy Park
Front row – Eileen McNulty (Balfon), Gill Smith, Fiona Glass, Mary MacDonald, Bob Glass

Killearn 10k: steps to inclusion



What a great year 2017 was for the Killearn 10k. We sold out – again! We saw another course record set and had even more local people out marshalling the course than in previous years.

So, as we look forward to the start line of the 2018 10k on Saturday, 2 June, we could rest on our laurels and assume that runners and supporters will flock to us but, after little debate, we're not going to.

As a committee, we continue to ensure that the Killearn 10k is an event that encourages participation in sport and exercise among the widest range of people. That participation might be running, it might be supporting or it might be helping. How people participate doesn't matter, what we want is that people feel welcome to join in.

Most of us will be aware of the evidence showing that getting involved in sport and exercise, even as a helper, brings health and well-being benefits. But we also know that the benefits of sport and exercise are withheld from individuals who perceive there are barriers preventing them taking part. These barriers might include unwelcoming environments or the use of language in promotional material that gives the message 'this isn't for the likes of you'.

On the flip side, there is research showing that if we can overcome initial barriers and get people involved, sport and exercise can be a useful arena to break down discrimination and exclusion. When people are part of a team, the 'in group' status of team members may relegate other factors, such as disability, race/ethnicity or sexuality, to the side lines.

Although the 10k is not a team event, being out on the beautiful course promotes a real feeling of camaraderie. Every runner knows what the others are thinking, what they are striving for, the smiles the marshals bring to your face, and they know what it feels like to cross the finish line. The runners are in it together. Quite simply, the sex, gender, race/ethnicity or ability of other runners doesn't matter.



As we do every year, the committee have reviewed the way we promote the Killearn 10k to see if we can make the event more inclusive. That is why in 2018 we are offering a non-binary entry category in addition to the male and female categories. We hope this removes barriers for people who might want to participate, but who don't identify as male or female.

In addition to promoting diversity and inclusion through the explicit acknowledgment of different gender identities, we continue to promote inclusive participation in sport and exercise through the Killearn Mile.

We know that not everyone can or wants to participate in a

10k trail race. Especially one known for its extreme June weather conditions. It either pours with rain or we have blistering sunshine – never in-between.

The Killearn Mile offers a distance that is manageable for more people, irrespective of age and ability. The Mile can be walked, pushed, jogged or even danced if you want to. Indeed, we have specifically mapped a route that is as accessible as Killearn's pavements will allow.

So, whether you choose to run the 10k, do the Mile, be a marshal, or shout your support along the course, get involved in the Killearn 10k – it's an event for everyone.

KERRI MCPHERSON

Killearn Football Club News



The 2017 season was not as successful as we hoped for, but there were encouraging signs along the way. We finished fourth in the league, with a strong Balfron side winning the trophy again. We reached the semi-final of the Cameron Cup, only to frustratingly lose to Drymen after leading 2-0.

The team was at its best as more players became available during the season and we were able to call on a larger squad than in previous years. In particular, we added to our midfield and forward line with four new recruits.

In November we had our awards night in The Old Mill, great supporters of the club, and the following players won this year's gongs:

- David Cameron: Annual Golf Outing Award
- Scott Cameron: Young Player of the Year
- Stuart Ashworth: Club Player of the Year
- Ian Crawford: Players' Player of the Year

Killearn FC players and supporters again took part

Community Sports Pavilion

We now have a plaque to be fixed to the pavilion in memory of Donald Beaton who served Killearn Football Club as player, manager and chairman for over 55 years.

Killearn FC will be the main beneficiaries of the pavilion, having contributed substantially to the cost, but if there are any sports group interested in hiring the pavilion on a regular basis in the coming months, please contact Bob Ballantyne (550310). Income from hire will go towards the ongoing maintenance of the pavilion. BB

in the Killearn 10k where Scott Cameron proved that being young helps when he came home first out of the club's runners.

The 10k is an important part of the team's fundraising as we look to raise money to maintain the community changing rooms. Another key source of income is our successful '59 club' that gives all participants a number and prizes are linked to whoever matches with the lottery bonus ball. We have a few numbers left and anyone who is interested in supporting us can get in touch with James Beaton. Your support would be appreciated.

We look forward with optimism to the 2018 season, making use of our new changing rooms. Hopefully, with more young talent from the village knocking on our door wanting to be part of the team, we can make a real challenge for silverware this year.

If anyone is interested in playing, helping or simply watching our local team, please contact James Beaton (07733 405386), Colin Banks (07500 912256) or Ian Cameron (07785 242445) for more details.

KILLEARN FC COMMITTEE

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Rugby Round-Up

Sadly, in recent months, the club rugby calendar has largely been dominated by the Scottish weather. There is a pause in league fixtures during the Autumn Internationals, but since then flooded, frozen or snow-bound pitches have been the order of the day.

However, teams at all levels in Strathendrick Rugby Club are doing well and continue to train at Fintry or use the indoor and all-weather facilities at Balfour High School. The 1st XV are again challenging for promotion, with a great squad of young players; and a 2nd XV also turns out on a reasonably regular basis. The Midis (S1, S2, S3, U16 and U18) have completed their Barbarian Conference League games and are now playing 'friendlies' against other schools and clubs from the area. The Minis (P1-P7) have a busy programme of tournaments and festivals culminating in the fantastic Strathendrick Minis Charity Festival at Fintry on Sunday, 29 April.

Most age groups are also touring, with the Seniors going to Islay in March and



Severe flooding in Fintry.
Photo courtesy of Rhona McLeod

Colonsay in July. The S2s and S3s are busy fundraising for their tour to Italy, and the Minis will tour within the UK. The U16s and U18s went on tour in the autumn.

There are two social events planned for Saturday, 24 March: the S2/3 Barn Dance at Knochraich and the Club Dinner Dance at Fintry.

And, of course, by the time you read this, Scotland's challenge in the Six Nations will have reached its climax – will expectations have been met?

For more information on your local rugby club, visit: www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc or contact Nick Hawkins (nick.hawkins01@btinternet.com).

There's never been a better time to join us at Buchanan Castle.

We are entering our second year as a member operated Club and have ambitious plans to grow our membership and invest in our course and facilities.

So, if you have an interest in golf, come and give us a try!

£500 for New Members with further discounts for Family, Youth (18-24) and Juniors. Adult members can introduce one Junior FOC

Corporate and Off Peak packages.

Beautiful flat parkland course

Active seniors section for 55+

On line booking

It's
BUCHANAN *time.*



Buchanan Castle Golf Club

From the Archive: The Missing Men

During our research into the First World War, the Archive Group have come across 10 men with Killearn connections who were killed during World War I and two in World War II, who are not listed on the War Memorial.

The Kerr brothers were featured in *Courier* (Spring 2016.) Their great-niece has joined us for the last two Remembrance Sundays.

Andrew McAllister was featured in the Summer 2017 edition of the *Courier*.

The McEwan brothers are remembered on the family memorial in the cemetery and on the Kilmarnock War Memorial. Their father moved around the Killearn/Drymen area before settling at Pirnie Hall, Croftamie, as a gardener. George and William were born in Killearn (in 1892 and 1895 respectively) and both emigrated to Australia. George left in 1910 and worked in Broken Hill as a labourer, while William departed in 1912 and worked on coastal steamers. Both enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces. George was reported missing in action on 25 April 1915 at Gallipoli. William was wounded twice at Gallipoli and was then sent to the Western Front. On 30 July 1916, he received severe shell wounds and died the next day.

Robert John Moffat was the son of an English missionary and a Glaswegian mother. He was born in Killearn in 1891, but his younger brothers were born in Spain and England, and the family were in Edinburgh by 1901. He served in the Cameron Highlanders from 1910 to 1913, but was living with his family in Manitoba and working as a monotype operator, when he enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in April 1916. He was married before he embarked at Halifax that October. He was killed on 10 April 1917.

James McKinnon was born in 1888 at Carbeth, Killearn, although by 1901 the family was living in Renfrew, where his father worked in the shipyards. James was serving with the army in India in 1911. He was killed on 4 June 1915 in the Dardanelles while serving with the King's Own Scottish Borderers.

John McNee was born in Killearn in 1894 to a father from Aberfoyle and a mother from Saltcoats. By 1901, he was living in Beith with his widowed mother. John was wounded fighting in the Dardanelles with the Royal Scots Fusiliers. He died on 16 August 1915 and is buried in Malta.

Robert Stewart was born in Killearn in 1892, where his father was employed as a coachman. He initially enlisted in Scottish Horse, but was transferred to 6th Dragoon Guards. He was killed in France on 26 March 1918.

Thomas Sinclair is recorded as being resident in Killearn at his death on 22 March 1918. He was born in Whifflet in 1893 and lived in Bonhill in 1901. He served with the Cameron Highlanders.

Robert Hunter Roxburgh served with the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve during World War II. He died on 7 December 1942 and is remembered on the family memorial in the cemetery

Hugh Wylie Rennie was a Major with the Highland Light Infantry who died on 8 February 1946, aged 55. He is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave in Killearn Cemetery. He was a career soldier who served in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in World War I and returned to serve in World War II. He is remembered on the Drymen War Memorial, and his wife came from Killearn.

We feel that these men should be remembered and are considering erecting a plaque in the grounds of the War Memorial or in the church.

We would be grateful for any comments on our proposals. Please contact any member of the Archive Group.



Alexander Leopold Kerr



David Bryce Kerr

Killearn's Contribution to The Great War 1914–18 Part 4: 1917

There was a sad start to 1917 with the papers carrying news of the death, on 28 December 1916, of 19-year-old Lieutenant David Wilson of Carbeth. Reference was made in the United Reform Church service and a letter of condolences was sent from the minister and congregation.

In this fourth year of war, many of the volunteer support mechanisms were well established. A War Work Party met every third Wednesday in the hall to make clothing for the Red Cross. They completed 331 garments in February, 637 in March, 395 in April, 261 in May, and 107 in both June and July. In August, in response to a special appeal from the Red Cross, 100 pairs of pyjama trousers and 40 pyjama jackets were made on two extra work days, while the normal days produced 199 articles. September produced a further 309. In October, there was a further appeal for supplies, and extra afternoon and evening work sessions were established in the Old Session House each Wednesday to try to encourage more helpers. Supplies such as cloth and wool as well as instructions were made available from Auchnagowan for people to make up at home if they could not attend the work sessions. In November, 256 garments were made. The end of year report in December indicated that a total of 3,253 garments had been produced for the Red Cross, together with 403 garments for 'desolated allied countries'.

Materials for use by the War Work Party were purchased with funds raised in the community. A bi-monthly parish collection had been established in 1915 and this raised £77 1s 8d, equivalent to about £6,200 today, in the year to November. Since August 1916, waste paper had been collected to raise more funds. This was of quite low value, but by March, £1 16s 9d had been raised and in June, 3cwt of paper brought in a further 16s. July raised £1 11s 6d with a further £1 0s 10d in September.

In early April, a fundraising sale was held in the school. The children made various articles for the sale including pin cushions, a variety of bags, trays, mats, kettle holders, boxes, baskets, flower pots, stands, letter cases and photograph frames. Some parents provided extra homemade items, and the girls made Serbian dresses, which they wore during the sale and then sent to Serbian children. The sale raised £22 10s 6d.

On 14 July, a particularly lucrative garden fête was held at Auchnagowan. A large crowd enjoyed an opening bicycle parade after which the children acted out Cinderella. There followed a wide variety of competitions, donkey rides and character readings by examining handwriting. There was a stall for scones; cakes and 'American Tea' (tea with cream) was served. As food was scarce, everyone was asked to bring their own bread! The band of a Maryhill Scout troop camping at Croy Cunningham provided additional entertainment. The fête raised £163 10s 6d, around £14,000 today. Later the Scouts held a concert at their camp during which a collection raised a further £4 2s 6d. The total raised in Killearn and surroundings during 1917 amounted to £458 13s 8d, the equivalent of about £37,000 today.

As well as Work Parties, there were other, less regular ways of supporting the war effort. In February, some of the schoolchildren carried out a collection for the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, raising £7 15s which was sent to the secretary in Glasgow. A 'Limbless Flag Day' was held on 19 May to raise money for the Princess Louise Hospital at Erskine. Several of the schoolchildren went around the parish selling flags and raised a total of £21 14s, which included one donation of £10.

A local War Savings Association had been set up in 1916. By January 1917, £222 had been invested by members, rising to £497 by March. With 42 active members, the total increased to £510 4s by April. In August the sum had risen to £563 19s, but there were still only 45 members, with few of the less affluent contributing, so efforts were made to widen the appeal. By November the sum invested had crept up to £626 (around £51,000) and it was noted that 25 certificates for 15s 6d had been purchased by schoolchildren since August.

\\ KILLEARN VILLAGE HALL \\

// SATURDAY 24TH MARCH '18 7.30 PM TICKETS £20 //

Auction Night

★ **SPRING SHINDIG** ★

Food from the 'Naughty Italian' food van

And music from "Nutcrackers" with local singer **Suzie Falconer**

Dance // Drinks // Dine // Donate

Tickets From **Hewitt & Aker** or kpn.fundraisinggroup@gmail.com
Organised by Killearn Primary Fundraising Group

In 1916, a campaign to provide vegetables for the Navy had been started. The school garden acted as the collection centre and contributions were received from most of the large houses in the area. This was restarted in August, with bags and boxes packed each Tuesday evening for dispatch via the railway. A second campaign was started in August to collect any eggs that could be spared for sending to the Strathaven Naval Hospital.

In March, the District Agricultural Committee urged an increase in production of vegetables and potatoes, and the rearing of pigs and poultry. In response, an Emergency Gardening Association was set up in the village with the aim of extending garden cultivation to increase food production by putting gardens, or parts of gardens, which had been out of cultivation back into use and to break new ground where possible. At the first meeting it was agreed to devote two or three hours each Sunday afternoon to the work. The men would dig new ground, while the women would work on previously cultivated land. It was hoped to get help with ploughing, and later in the year to shift the work to mornings and evenings midweek so avoiding Sabbath work.

The Women's Guild supported the war effort, but was also aware of the need to provide funds to their usual charities. To this end, they held a sale of work in August raising £47 16s 10d which was considered satisfactory bearing in mind other demands.

In previous years, sphagnum moss had been collected from the local hills and made into dressings. However it was not possible to use the hall for this purpose in 1917. Nevertheless, three large bags of prepared moss were sent to Glasgow for use there.

There was good news from the front in June when Corporal Thomas Hall was awarded the DCM, becoming the first local man to gain war honours. He rescued two men caught in a poison gas cloud caused by an enemy shell hitting a gas cylinder. Though a native of Dunoon, Thomas attended Killearn school and served his apprenticeship with the Sinclair joinery business in the village. Sadly, shortly afterwards news was received that Lance-Corporal Thomas Ponton, the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Blackburn's gamekeeper, had been wounded in his left arm which had to be amputated.

From the outbreak of war, annual Christmas parcels had been sent to enlisted Killearn men, with 93 parcels sent out for Christmas 1916. In September the schoolmaster, Mr Shearer, put out an appeal for the names and addresses of all locals serving in the forces to ensure they would all receive Christmas parcels.

In the second half of the year, Killearn suffered a number of losses. On 30 July, Private William Jenkinson, a signaller in the Grenadier Guards, was killed in action in France. He was the son of Mrs Munro of Kirkhouse and had worked as a telegraph operator and booking clerk on the railway before enlisting. On 23 August, David Marshall, son of Mrs Campbell formerly of Dunkyan Lodge, was killed. In civilian life he had worked in Killearn as a gardener. On 23 September, Private Walter Aitken, son of Mrs Smith of Townfoot, died of wounds in

France. He had worked as a postman in Killearn before volunteering. Less than a month later, on 20 October, Lance-Corporal Walter Fairlie, son of Mrs Fairlie of Blaressan, was killed in action, again in France. He had been educated in Killearn school and Glasgow High School and was a Sunday school teacher at the Kirk before joining up. Only three days later, Lance-Corporal Hugh McCallum, son of Mr McCallum of Drumtian Cottage, was also killed in action. His brother, Peter, was also serving and, at that time, was still in hospital having been seriously wounded.

On 23 November, Sapper George Battison of Boquhan was killed in action only a week after he had been wounded but had returned to the lines. The final casualty of the year was Private Andrew Marshall of Easterton who was killed on 2 December. Before enlisting he was employed in the Ballikinrain sawmill.

In 1917 Killearn again provided substantial aid to the war effort, but suffered the loss of eight more men at the Front.

ALL KILLEARN ARCHIVE

War Graves Commission Plaque



Few people are aware that the old cemetery in Killearn contains four officially recognised graves. These are the graves of Sergeant Frederick Barclay (died 16/09/1941), Lieutenant James Fraser (died 18/04/1943), Captain John Bromilow (died 28/01/1944) and Major Hugh Rennie (died 08/02/1946).

In 2015, the Archive Group contacted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to see if they could supply a plaque to place in the cemetery, indicating the presence of these graves. The Commission replied that they themselves would put up a plaque, but needed the permission of Stirling Council.

Approval was a long time coming but, on Friday, 26 January, the team arrived to erect the plaque. It is now clearly visible to anyone approaching the main gate of the cemetery and alerts people to the presence of the graves within.

In addition to the four officially recognised graves, a number of Killearn men who died in the two World Wars are commemorated on family memorials within the cemetery.

PS

Doreen West 1922 – 2017

Doreen West was born in Guisborough, North Yorkshire, but spent much of her early life in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. On leaving school, she worked for a short time in an office where she met Robert, her future husband. She trained as a nurse at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary and then drove ambulances during World War II.

She and Robert married in 1945, settling in Newcastle where they brought up their two children, Morag and Philip. In 1962, the family moved to Scotland and made their home in Killearn.

Here Doreen was soon very much a member of the community, becoming involved in a number of village organisations and establishing many friendships. As a volunteer member of the Red Cross, Doreen and her colleagues would visit the women's ward

at Killearn Hospital, where the patients had undergone neuro-surgical procedures. Here they would give facial massage and apply light make-up donated by the Red Cross. This would boost the morale of the patients and help to speed their recovery.

Doreen was a member of the Monday Club and was also very active in the Embroiderers' Guild in which she was involved in making replacement kneeling stools and a new drop for the pulpit in the Kirk. She was a most talented needlewoman and later held the Chair of the Embroiderers' Guild of Scotland, during which time she used her experience to help to create the tapestry commissioned to commemorate Glasgow's Year as the City of Culture. It was while holding the position of Chair that Doreen travelled to various



institutions throughout the UK – including Hampton Court and Leeds Castle – where she gave lectures on different aspects of embroidery.

Doreen was a very kind, gentle and unassuming lady and was also possessed of a mischievous sense of humour. She was well known and greatly respected by all who knew her in Killearn and the surrounding villages.

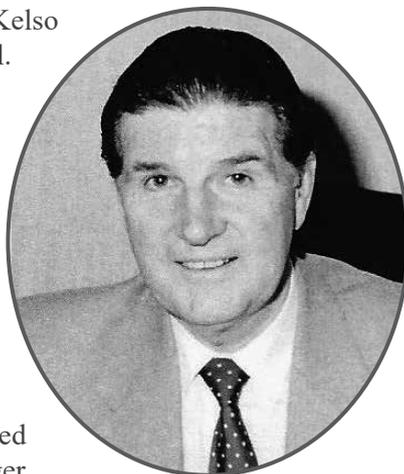
She was also a much-loved mother of her two children and granny of her grandchildren, by whom she will be greatly missed. MB

Thomas Maconochie 1928 – 2018

Thomas Maconochie was born in Kelso and educated at Kelso High School. Following that he became an apprentice to DM Wallace and Sons Ltd, learning mechanical engineering, millwrighting and draughtsmanship. After a spell with a firm in Arbroath, he returned to Selkirk to become manager of Caledonian Tractors, an international company specialising in construction machinery. Promotion soon followed as General Parts and Service Manger with international travel, including residing in Nigeria, where he became Sales Director for Stewart Plant.

He returned to UK, and he and Margaret, his wife, settled in Killearn in around 1970. Tom was an extremely generous donor to many charities and locally donated to Strathendrick Rotary Club's Annual AM – AM Golf Competition held for some 20 years at Balfon Golf Society.

Tom led a quiet life in Killearn, caring for Margaret as long as his own health would permit. After Margaret went into a care home in Bearsden, he lived on his own with the help of kind and caring neighbours until his passing on 23 January this year. He is survived by Margaret. RSS



Bridge by Zorro

Solution to the problem on page 19

At the table, East played the ♣10 as an encouraging card, but it would have clarified matters for his unfortunate partner if he had played the ♣Q, thereby denying that he held the King.

South immediately identified a neat deceptive approach and played the ♦A then ♦Q, overtaking with the King, and led the ♦J with the air of a man who was attempting to discard dummy's losing Club.

West ruffed low, and declarer over-ruffed in dummy, crossed back to hand with a Heart and repeated the process by leading the ♦10.

West once again obliged by ruffing low, and declarer over-ruffed again followed by leading a round of trumps, when the Ace and King fell together.

'Well played, partner', beamed Stepanek, 'I knew you would make it!'

With acknowledgement to Rixi Markus for her selection of hand and notes. Z

Iain Harrison CBE 1929 – 2017

Iain Vittorio Robinson Harrison was born in Helensburgh, the first child of Ion and Marie Louise Harrison. Through his mother he inherited the Italian and Russian blood which perhaps accounted for the blend of spontaneous charm and an instinct for daring which marked his personality.

He was educated at Charterhouse and followed this with military service in the Glasgow Yeomanry. Having completed this, as the elder son, he was expected to join the family shipping business and went first to Clarksons in London and then to Norway. In both placements he made friendships which lasted a lifetime and gathered a range of shipping experience which enabled him to return to Glasgow where he set up as a shipping manager.

The firm Harrison Gow & Co. founded by his grandfather had been wound up in 1951, but in 1956 Iain launched his own company, Harrison's (Clyde) Ltd. The immediate post-war period had not been propitious for the shipping industry, but Iain recognised the changes in the world and turned them to the advantage of his business with his new company. Beginning by managing cargo ships for their owners, the company built up a fleet of bulk carriers which transported Japanese-produced cars and later, once again adapting to changing conditions, provided shipping for supplies to North Sea offshore installations and ferries to serve Scottish islands. Friendship, good relations and loyalty were hallmarks of the work ethic of the company. It was evident that this emanated from the top, confirmation being found in the many members of the workforce, especially the seafarers, who spent their entire careers with the company. Iain was awarded a CBE for services to shipping in 1996.

While attending his brother's wedding in Brazil in 1957, Iain met Fabienne Laurentie, a French student studying English at the British Institute. Two years later they married in France and established a happy family home on the Stockiemuir Road, their family increasing over the years to five children: a daughter and four sons.

Iain was very much a family man with a huge sense of fun and boundless energy for jokes and adventure. He was a lover of snow sports, a keen skier who even did the Cresta run – legend has it that he did it to celebrate his 70th birthday; he loved speed! He was greatly interested in and was a generous supporter of the arts – the fine arts and music in particular – and, though never a performer, he had a wide knowledge of music. He chaired and served for many years on the board of the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland. He enjoyed travel and would plan new journeys with enthusiasm.

His life and work brought him into contact with a range of people and a breadth of experiences; he was profoundly interested in everyone and everything. He possessed that gift, when with you, of making you feel you were the focus of his attention, the twinkle in his eye and the expression of interest on his face revealing the ideal listener. Neat and tidy in his movements and in



appearance, gentle and unassuming in manner, generous – with his giving and with his time – to organisations and individuals, but always self-effacing, Iain will be remembered with great affection by his family and by the many people whose lives he touched as the ultimate gentle man. BP

Vic Harding 1932 – 2017

Vic Harding, husband of Caryl, died in November. The Harding family lived in Killlearn before moving south in 2005 to be closer to their family and growing grandchildren. Vic had been a bright boy at school, was a Cambridge graduate and was capped six times for England at rugby. His career brought him to Scotland to set up the Solid Fuel Advisory Service, and it was in Killlearn that the Harding family spent 33 years as their sons grew up. One son, David, was tragically killed in a traffic accident, aged 18, and Vic and Caryl had to deal with their loss with their characteristic fortitude.

In his retirement years, Vic gave readily of his energies and wisdom to the village, serving for a number of years on the Community Council and instituting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. With his big frame and imposing voice, Vic could sometimes seem an intimidating figure, but there was often a twinkle in his eye and a humorous chuckle in his throat which belied the rugged exterior.

He cared hugely for his family; his ashes will be returned to Killlearn to lie, with David, at peace. BP

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Eric Drew 1926 – 2017

Eric Drew was born in Yorkshire, but aged three year, moved with his parents to Dumfries so his mother could return to her homeland for health reasons.

He loved the countryside, and as a teenager built up a successful business trapping rabbits to supply a local butcher, and on occasion managed to be excused from school to help with harvest. Although he would have enjoyed a career on the land, his academic achievements at Dumfries Academy gained him a place to read mechanical engineering at Edinburgh University, where he joined the ATC. There were no university vacations during the war so within two years Eric graduated aged 19 and became an apprentice at John Brown's shipyard. He later moved to YARD (Yarrow Admiralty Research Department) where he joined a successful team solving performance problems on navy ships.

In 1961, Eric, now married to Bunty and with two sons and a daughter, moved to England initially to take up the post of Boiler Plant Engineer at ICI Billingham. Again, problem-solving was his strength, and through design modifications he substantially improved productivity.

Following a short period in Wales, Eric and Bunty returned to their

beloved Scotland in the late 1970s, settling happily in Killearn. Eric enjoyed a successful career with Turners of Glasgow, and for many years volunteered with Abbeyfield House as Treasurer and became an active member of many local societies including Probus and the Drymen History Society.

Eric and Bunty travelled the world together, but were always happy to return to the beautiful garden Eric created just a stone's throw from Dumgoyne. With retirement providing more time to pursue his interests, Eric was frequently on the hills, a keen and knowledgeable walker who truly studied the landscape and amassed a great knowledge of the Scottish peaks, both from books and hillwalking. He became a Munroist and completed the 276 summits plus the 516 subsidiary tops, but he was more than a 'bagger'. His knowledge and appreciation of the great outdoors encompassed the geology and the flora and fauna, as well as the history of the landscape, which he was happy to share, both as a contributor to *The Scots Magazine*, and in his slide presentations on Scottish mountains and the Falkland Islands, which were in great demand by clubs and societies.



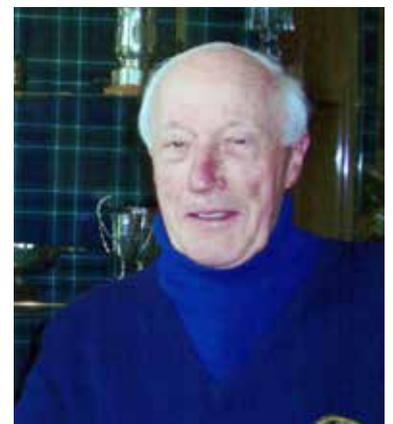
Eric was a dedicated student all his life. He questioned the how and why of the world and what he did not know, he read up – in detail – loving to discuss new subjects with any experts or others who shared similar interests. He became interested in Scottish history, again reading widely, and devoted his later years to researching the family history, leaving generations that follow him a valued record and the memory of a kind and a highly able man. He is greatly missed by his family and friends. DREW FAMILY/BP

William Graham Sutherland Hinchcliffe 1926 – 2017

Bill Hinchcliffe was born and brought up in Yorkshire and started work in his parents' cloth manufacturing business, Broadhead & Graves. He and his first wife, Pat, adopted a son and a year later a second son was born to them. The marriage came to an end, and he later met Gay and, in 1962, they married. Together they settled in Mill Cottage, Drumbeg Loan.

Bill was a great sportsman and a very able horseman, who loved hunting in his younger years. He was also a keen sailor, keeping a boat at Scarborough, and an avid driver – he competed in amateur car

races and loved his Porsche. Later his enthusiasm turned to golf. Mill Cottage was ideally suited for this with its proximity to the 9-hole golf course in the next field. Bill and Gay also played golf at North Berwick where they had a flat. But it was Buchanan Castle Golf Club which was almost their second home and very much the centre of their social life. He was made captain in 1991 and contributed greatly to the well-being of the club. Later in life, Bill and Gay took up art classes and both proved to be sufficiently talented for their work to sell.



Bill was always impeccably dressed and impeccably mannered – very much the true gentleman. He and Gay enjoyed a very happy life, sharing their interests and doing so much together for 55 years. BP

Clementina (Nina) Brown 1933 – 2017

Clementina, known as Nina, Brown was born in Blanefield, where her father worked, first as butler and later as driver, to the Edmonstone family of Duntreath Castle.

The eldest of a family of three, from early years Nina was known as a tomboy, often involved in scrapes with her friend, Mamie. The Brown family lived at the head of the Cuilt Brae, a steep road with some notorious bends, down which Nina would regularly hurtle at top speed on her bike, feet off the pedals, en route to school for which she had no great enthusiasm, preferring to be out of doors.

Her family later moved into Killearn, first to the Balfroon Road to what is now the Town & Country tea room and later to Buchanan Road. Nina moved on to Balfroon High School, but still remained unenthusiastic about the demands of school. However, she was no shirker, and on leaving school began her

working life at the Children's Home in Strathblane, to which she travelled to and fro on a moped. Despite never passing a driving test, she would offer a lift to anyone who had missed the bus. Later she secured a job in the kitchens of Killearn Hospital and worked there until the hospital closed. After that she had several cleaning jobs – the doctor's surgery, then the vet's surgery, and at the newly built Health Centre.

She gave up working to care for her ailing mother and later for her sister, with whom she shared a home on Well Green. All her family predeceased her some decades ago.

Nina was well known and highly regarded in the community. A regular attender at the church and valued member of the Guild, she gave unstintingly of her time and support to both. Her energies in the kitchen were evident at every coffee morning and event when refreshments were to be served. She was also a great



encourager of others to join the Guild, and a source of knowledge and advice to the Golden Years Committee.

She was a good friend and a kind and caring neighbour to those around her. Her devotion to others was, in her time of need, repaid by her many friends who stood by her and helped in every way, for which she was profoundly grateful. She will be much missed in our community. CY



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PRIZE COURIER CROSSWORD

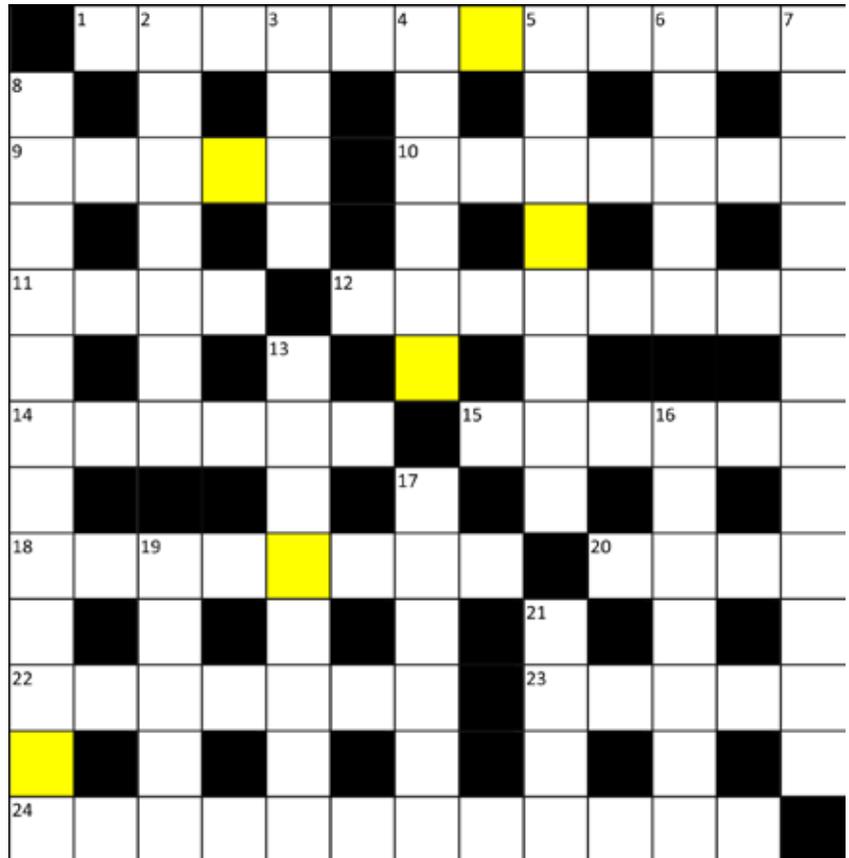
Our prize for the Crossword is a Family Ticket to the Theatre Royal or the King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days. Our prize for the Children's Codeword is a £10 voucher from the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 years old or under. The *Courier* would like to thank both the Ambassador Theatre Group and Co-operative Food for generously providing the prizes for our competitions.

ACROSS

- 1 City where Brahms has a Big Mac without hesitation (12)
- 9 Famous but cannot be journalist (5)
- 10 Skin problem when star is on stream (7)
- 11 Sharp pain when vessel ends boiling (4)
- 12 Swiss who sang or yelled around (8)
- 14 Girl that is a sheepdog (6)
- 15 Where dolphins congregate to learn? (6)
- 18 Scottish region where an older lady hosts a politician with number one (8)
- 20 Extremely backward vicar ends unknown (4)
- 22 Sauce sounds like its goodbye to Europe (7)
- 23 Big looter inside Inuit home (5)
- 24 Parlour game could have serious results (12)

DOWN

- 2 Eighth parts for workers after short month (7)
- 3 First class American lawyer at the opera (4)
- 4 Doesn't turn up when play is cancelled (2,4)
- 5 Punishment for a collection of words (8)
- 6 My normal drink – typical! (5)
- 7 Angels yonder at religious assembly (7,5)
- 8 No regrets with Foreign Legion cap out (12)
- 13 Lose short girl in situ (8)
- 16 Cover beyond an untruth (7)
- 17 Cake gives entrance to the French (6)
- 19 Island rearranging interior (5)
- 21 Cross held aloft by Scotsman in China (4)



Winner of our Christmas crossword: Sue Beck, Killearn

The letters in the yellow squares make up an anagram of a bird. Solve the crossword and find the anagram.

The name of the bird is the solution; email it or write the answer on a piece of paper and send it to the *Courier* (see below).

Solution to the last crossword: Across: 1 Aga; 3,8 Three Sisters; 4 ESP; 11,7 Christmas Greetings; 14 setter; 15 letter; 16, 28 sit by the TV; 18 stuff; 24, 25, 12 Town and Country Designs; 27 bugle Down: 1 athlete; 2 Adelphi; 5 crash hat; 6 ages past; 9 skiers; 10 extols; 13 perfume; 17 Bach; 19 toys; 20 pot; 21 eunuchs; 22 utility; 23 Old Mill

CHILDREN'S PRIZE WORD SEARCH

p m v l c g j g t s a
o z u t o g l u c i z
r l q i o b l q n m d
d v p b n i e o n a d
w i t l p a g l f n p
o o r u i e r f i p g
n l l e b d o e j a w
s e e b j d l r g b h
i t c e i m d s l m j
e v o l g x o f o n g
z c z l c o w s l i p

You should find the names of **10** flowers in the word search grid. They can be forward or backwards – across, up or diagonal.

Five of the flowers are: *begonia*, *cowslip*, *foxglove*, *snowdrop*, *tulip*. See if you can find them and the other five.

When you have discovered the missing five, write them down and post or email your answer to the *Courier* (see below) for a chance to win a £10 voucher which you can spend at the Co-op. Entrants must be 12 or under, so please include your age.

The winner of the £10 voucher is Alastair Gingles, Killearn.

We had very few entries: if you do the puzzle, please send your answer. It's easy!

We urge everyone who tries our competitions to send in an entry. Winners are selected at random from those received, so everyone has an equal chance. Email or write the answer on a piece of paper with your name, address and a contact phone number. You can place your solution(s) in the postbox outside the Village Hall, in the box in the Co-op or email to competition@kcfco.co.uk
 Entries must be received before **7 April 2018**.

Pheasant Company Accepted

The Common Pheasant is one of the larger and more charismatic birds of our countryside.

Introduced to Britain by the Romans around 2,000 years ago, pheasants originate from Asia and are widespread across that continent. They probably only reached Scotland in the 16th century before becoming a naturalised species here.

However, most pheasant populations in this country are not self-sustaining, but instead are augmented each

year by releases for shooting purposes – approximately 4.5 million pheasants are shot in Scotland each year. This makes it difficult to ascertain the true naturalised population size.

Pheasants are, of course, a familiar sight in rural areas and are frequently seen in roadside fields and verges around our village. They also seem to have a strong affinity for passing traffic, their poorly timed and indecisive bolts along and across our roads leading to many a feathered casualty (keeping the crows, buzzards and other carrion specialists happy). Outwith the hazards of the highway, and when they are not being shot, pheasants are preyed upon by foxes, stoats and the like, with females being particularly vulnerable during the nesting season. In winter, released birds generally require supplementary food to be provided.

We have had several pheasants in and around our garden that have become tamer over time and sought out seed below our bird feeders. In poor weather they have also taken shelter next to the house, nosily peering through the window as if asking to come in for a warm up. We have even witnessed their impressive courtship displays and territorial disputes in the garden, including two cock pheasants uncompromisingly fighting for control of the patio. Who needs television?

MARTIN CULSHAW



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Anyone wishing to contribute to the *Courier* summer edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 18 August 2018.

Advertisements and artwork should be sent to us by Friday, 29 June. Contact:
Gwen Stewart (01360 550856).

Contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 29 June. Please send them to:

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

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At Turnip the Beet we live and breathe (and eat) food! From the endless changes in modern day food trends, seasonal changes in ingredients and flavours, variety of cuisine across the world, the differences in personal taste and preference from person to person, we embrace and apply all of it at Turnip The Beet.

Whether your preferred style be casual family dining, stand-up buffet style, or delicately and artistically plated food, we can cater for your every desire.

It's what we've always done, and it's what we do best!

Turnip the Beet is proud to introduce our new Friday Night Take Home Meals.

We have always dreamed of providing weekend take-out food with a difference. Home-cooked, fresh, delicious, vibrant and varied menus that are creative and that incorporate all our favourite worldwide cuisines.

The good news is the product of our relentless wondering and dreaming is here! Each week we launch a new menu that can be pre-ordered via our website until Thursday midnight, to be picked up or delivered the following Friday.

We are also excited and very happy to say that all of our meals come in eco-friendly and fully compostable Vegware boxes and will stay fresh in



your fridge for up to 2 days, so the weekend is covered too! We are even more excited to say that it costs only £7 per meal with free delivery throughout Killearn and Balforn.



April Menu

Friday 6th April

Beef Massaman Curry with Coconut Thai Rice
Green Vegetable Curry with Coconut Thai Rice (VG)
Mediterranean Roast Chicken Thigh on Caponata

Friday 13th April

Chicken Katsu Curry with Sticky Sushi Rice
Japanese Teriyaki Tofu Poke Bowl (VG)
Braised Ox Cheek Cottage Pie

Friday 20th April

Lemon Chicken with Egg Fried Rice
Char Sui Pork & Seasonal Veg with Egg Fried Rice
Sticky Plum & Hoisin Vegetable Noodles (VG)

Friday 27th April

Malai Kofta Curry & Bombay Potatoes (V)
Chicken Chasni & Bombay Potatoes
Beef Madras & Bombay Potatoes

Special Offer for April - order via our website and quote "Brownie" with your surname in special requests to receive a free brownie with your meal.

www.turnipthebeet.co.uk/fridaytakehome | enquiry@turnipthebeet.co.uk | 07572095132