



ISSUE 5

SUMMER – AUGUST 2006

THE SAGA CONTINUES...

With rumours running rife throughout the village and lack of information giving way to speculation, controversy over the future of the Tennis Club has deepened.

The whole saga started when the landowner, the *Wilson Trust*, intimated that it wished to sell the land occupied by the tennis courts and clubhouse and would be willing to sell to the Club for £300,000.

Support from the community for such a move was tested, and the results clearly indicated a strong

desire to buy the land for the village. This led to *Killearn Community Land Company* being set up to take advantage of a 'right to buy' given under the *Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003*. To qualify under the Act, it has to be proved that buying the site would be in the community's interest and that it would benefit the village. Under a 'right to buy', the land could only be sold to the Land Company, although the owner does not have to sell. The Club's President, David Fulton, is optimistic that money from lottery funding, as well as other sources, will raise the amount to buy the site if their application to the Executive is successful.

However, the future of the Tennis Club is still in limbo. The Club is willing to pay an annual rent of £5,000 until such time an answer is received from the Executive. However, Andrew Wilson, on behalf of the *Trust*, indicated that as the initial offer to buy had not been taken up, it was assumed to have lapsed. An agreement has since been entered into with an unnamed developer to buy the land. The Executive is still considering the Club's application. Part of the delay is due to the *Trust's* lawyers failing to provide the Executive with a copy of the option agreement between their client and the developer. Lawyers for the *Trust* claim that the Club's application under the Act should be refused on the grounds that the land has already been offered to



the mystery developer. Meanwhile, the *Trust* has refused the Club an option to renew their lease, unless they withdraw the 'right to buy' application. The Executive has suggested a meeting between all the parties in an attempt to broker a compromise, but this has been declined.

Stirling Council has indicated that permission to build on the site is unlikely if it means the land can no longer be used for recreation. There has also been a suggestion that the area will be zoned for recreation when the new village plan is published in five years' time.

In a recent development, it has been suggested that neither the *Trust* nor the developer wish to see tennis lost to the village, and have raised the possibility of an alternative site beside *King's Mile*. It is not known whether the current landowners have been approached, and members of the Club have pointed out that no infrastructure exists on the fields. It is unclear how far the developer's responsibility would extend. Would they be required to replace the courts or simply make the land available to the Club for them to develop?

The state of deadlock between the two parties will remain until the Executive rules on the Club's application. It is unknown when the Tennis Club might expect an answer from Edinburgh.

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Killearn Community Futures Company.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Christmas edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 18 November.

Advertisements and Artwork.

All adverts should be in the handed to one of our Advertising Executives by **Friday 6 October**. *Gwen Stewart* can be contacted on 01360 550865 and *Sara Hudson* on 01360 550806.

Contributions

All contributions and letters to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by **Friday 6 October**. Send them to:

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FIRST LADY JOINS STRATHENDRICK ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Strathendrick, which meets every Monday at 6.30pm in the Black Bull Hotel, was chartered in 1977. Its founder and first President was Gordon Davidson, so it was fitting that he should be present to see his daughter, Rosie Macdonald, being inducted into the Club by President Robert Cranstoun. Rosie, seen here, is the first lady to become a member of the Club.

include hugely popular events like Bridge Nights, the AM-AM Golf Tournament and the Great Strathendrick Duck Race.



This year, the winning duck was 'bought' by Daniel Stewart of the Black Bull Hotel seen here with his wife Gill (and the winning duck) accepting the first prize of £100.

The Club draws its membership mainly from the Strathendrick area although there are members from Glasgow and Doune. Currently, there are just over 30 members and new members are always welcome.

If you would like to be part of the worthwhile organization, or learn more about it, please contact Robert Cranstoun (440697) Allan Watson (860326) or any Rotarian.

Rotary in the Strathendrick area provides all sorts of services to the Community ranging from Car Runs for Senior Citizens to conducting mock interviews for senior pupils at Balfron High School. Many charities, both at local and international level, benefit from the Club's monetary support, as do private individuals. Recipients have been Macmillan Nurses, Strathcarron Hospice, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and students involved in charity work abroad. The money raising activities of the Club

SNAKES ALIVE



What's a snake doing in the Courier?
 Turn to page 8 for the answer.

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EDITORIAL



Hello again and welcome to our summer edition – for the second time! Who would have thought we'd still be going? Well, we are and it's thanks to our readers and our advertisers for their support, but the *Courier* team deserve the credit as well – they've done a wonderful job over the last 18 months.

As I write, Wimbeldon has come and gone. Tennis ruled the television for two weeks. Every year, mealtimes go by the board; every year, hungry families are left to fend for themselves as the lady of the house is engrossed; every year, children who have never played tennis, play tennis; every year, tennis courts see increased use; every year, for two weeks, it is game, set and match to Wimbledon.

However, what will happen in Killearn next year? Well, you'll still be able to watch Wimbledon, to have your mealtimes disrupted, to have a knock-about in the garden but – you may not be able to wander up to the tennis courts, put your money in the honesty box, and play tennis.

By this time next year, the Tennis Club could be lost to the community. The village is rife with rumours regarding the state of affairs and it seems to be very difficult to learn what is actually happening. In this edition our front page should help to put to rest the rumours.

Obviously, there are people in the village who are working to save the tennis courts, but they need our support. It doesn't really matter whether or not you play tennis. The point is that we could lose our tennis courts, which for years have been part of our village, open to members and non-members alike. Do we want to see yet another amenity taken from the village? As you know, one of the consequences of the failure of the Old School project is the loss of our Scout Hut. Do we want to lose the tennis courts? Do we want to become just a collection of houses without any amenities, a dormitory of Glasgow? Do we want what could become 'Tennis Court Lane' leading to a housing estate in the fields behind? Next year, will it be game, set and match to the developers? Enjoy this edition.

Ian

Ian Dickie, Editor.

- 26 August *Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society*, Show. Village Hall. Entries staged on Friday evening, 7.30–9pm or Saturday morning, 7.30–10am. Doors open 2–4.30, prizes announced at 2.30pm. For a schedule, contact Glenda (550142).
- 27 August *Strathendrick Cycling Club*, Meet at Dunalastair Hotel car park, Kinloch Rannoch, 11 am. For information phone Morag Jervis (660437).
- 7 September *Thursday Club*, first meeting of new session. Church Hall, 2 pm.
- 10 September *Strathendrick Cycling Club*. Meet at the public car park in Dunkeld, 11 am. For information phone Morag Jervis (660437).
- 11 September *Strathendrick Singers*, rehearsals start. Kirk Session House, 7.45 pm.
- 13 September *Rotary*, Bridge Drive. Village Hall, 7 pm.
- 15 September *Killearn Primary School PTA AGM*. Primary School, 8 pm.
- Strathendrick Film Society – The Constant Gardener*. Balfroon Campus, 7.30 pm.
- 15–17 Sept *Buchanan 500* events see page 11.
- 18 September *W.R.I.* talk by Stirling Council Provost Colin O'Brien. Village Hall, 7.30 pm.
- 24 September *Strathendrick Cycling Club*, Run to be confirmed. For information phone 660437.
- 26–30 Sept *Stirling Book Festival "Off the Page"*. For further information, see website: www.stirling.gov.uk/offthepage.
- 28 September *Drymen Historical Society*. Talk on the Development of School Education in the Area by Dr Tom Begg. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
- 30 September *Playgroup*. Jumble Sale. Village Hall, 10 am.
- 2 October *Monday Club*, first meeting. Bridge and Badminton. Village Hall, 1.30 pm.
- 3 October *The Guild*, first meeting and Harvest Supper. Church Hall, 7.30 pm.
- 4 October *Killearn Community Futures Company AGM*, 7.30 pm, Village Hall.
- 12 October *Friends of the C.I.N.I.*, Charity Lunch and Bridge. Gartocharn Millennium Hall, 12 for 12.30 pm. For information, contact M. Kennedy (550474).
- 14 October Charity Art Show. Village Hall, 10 am.
- 25 October *Core Paths Plan Consultation*. Village Hall, 2–5 pm and 6–9 pm. *All Welcome*.
- 26 October *Drymen Historical Society*. Talk on 'The Antonine Wall' by Dr D. Breeze. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
- 27 October *Killearn PTA*, Halloween Children's Disco, Village Hall.
- 28 October *RNLI*, Coffee Morning and Sale of Christmas Cards. Village Hall, 10 am. Charity Dance. Village Hall 7 pm.
- 30 October *Monday Club*, First Social Monday. Village Hall, 2 pm.
- 1 November *Horticultural Society*, talk by Paul Mathews of Glasgow Botanic Gardens, 'Around the World in 80 Plants'. Village Hall, 7.30pm.
- 17 November *WRI*, Whist Drive. Village Hall, 7 for 7.30 pm..
- 23 November *Drymen Historical Society*. Talk on 'The Stirling Heads' by J. Donaldson. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
- 24 November *Strathendrick Country Dance Club*. Village Hall, 7 pm.
- 25 November *The Guild*, Sale of Work. Church Hall, 2 pm.

If you have any dates for the November 2006 issue of the Diary, please contact Pat Ryall (550713).

GOODBYE AND HELLO

We would all like to welcome Megan Ripley to the *Courier* team. Megan is in S3 at Balfroon High, and will be our new youth representative. If you have any comments or suggestions for the paper – topics you think we should cover, or articles or stories you would like to see in print from a high-school perspective, contact Megan at school or on megan@kcfc.co.uk. Megan is taking over from Siobhan Wilson, who has left Balfroon to teach in a special needs school before university. (How about a *Courier* article about your new job!?) Good luck and many thanks, Siobhan.

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DREW – REYNOLDS



The marriage between Katie Drew and Shaun Reynolds from Sussex took place at Killearn Kirk on Saturday, 15 July with the Rev Phil Malloch taking the service and the Rev Alex Fleming, formerly minister at Strathblane, giving the address. Chris Hampson from St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, played the new digital organ which is currently on trial.

The reception was held at Redyett, the bride's home off the Fintry road, on a gloriously sunny day. Many of the community were involved. Peaches of Killearn provided the bride's dress which complemented the lace of Katie's grandmother's wedding veil. Karen Heron arranged the church flowers, Carol Seymour from Arnprior was responsible for the marquee flowers, Jane Wilson of Country Kitchen managed the catering whilst Sarah and Chris Mills from Killearn played rousing Scottish dance music. RD

MARY RHIND



Killearn lost one of its characters with the death in early July of Mary Rhind. Her diminutive stature belied the enormous spirit and energy with which she tackled all the tasks that life put in her way. Widowed early in her married life, she worked in Dalnair house, Killearn Hospital and Gartnavel hospital, cycling from her home in Gartness to catch the early bus into Glasgow. She told the story of how on one occasion, preparing to leave home, she discovered her bicycle had gone from beside her house. She was forced then to run up the road to catch her bus. Later, travelling on the bus towards Glasgow, she spotted a man cycling along the road. 'That's my bike!' she cried. The bus driver stopped the bus, the cyclist was accosted and taken into custody, and Mary got her bike back! BP

ROB SYMINGTON



Our much loved former minister Robert Symington died on June 29th. A fine funeral service, attended by many from all over the country, including a good number of Killearn folk, took place in Dunblane Cathedral on July 5th.

Rob served in Killearn from 1981 until 1992, having previously held charges in Cork, Hongkong, Perthshire and Portobello.

After he left us he went to the interesting charge of Lorne and Mull when he visited all the islands of the inner Hebrides in all weathers. He then retired but was invited for nine months to look after the Church of Scotland in Budapest.

He had been brought up in Northern Ireland. His father, who was in the Royal Air Force, was killed in action when Rob was fourteen.

Rob was a linguist and a scholar. His huge library lined every wall of every room in the manse, and his sermons were often erudite, full of poetic quotations but none the less hard-hitting and giving much food for thought.

But it is as a thoroughly nice, good-humoured and deeply sympathetic man that Rob is remembered. With his wife Margaret, he earned a real place in our affections. Margaret, to whom our sympathy goes, survives him, together with their daughters Clare, Kate and Nicola. RR

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GREEN LIGHT FOR KCFC's PLAYPARK PROJECT

The rejuvenation of the Playpark looks set to go ahead this autumn. Over two thirds of the necessary funding has been achieved and the group are hopeful that a number of applications currently in the pipeline will bring in the remaining funds before the end of the year.

Architect Mike Hyett has designed an attractive play area, with the underlying aim being to create a space that is accessible, stimulating and relaxing. In addition to the equipment, trees and shrubs and smaller plants will be introduced with the aim of increasing the bio-diversity of the area as well as providing stimulating areas for imaginative play.

Active involvement across the generations is planned, with the Horticultural Society and Colourful Killlearn joining with Stirling



Council's Ranger Service in leading 'Community Planting Days'. The Primary School and the Nurseries anticipate using the area as an educational resource. The GPs at the Health Centre have also given their support, because it benefits the whole community and encourages physical activity early in life.

During the past eighteen months, the Playpark Group has applied to a wide range of trusts and funding bodies. A business plan was produced and mailed to over 60 potential funders. Some major funders required the completion of lengthy sets of forms and a series of follow-up enquiries requesting additional evidence. It is a time-consuming process and a extremely competitive exercise. We are tremendously grateful to all who have contributed towards the refurbished playpark, and we shall make public all the organisations and trusts which have made grants to us.

We should now like to appeal to our readers to help us in our final push towards the target sum of £75,000. We need another £20,000. We are hopeful that applications pending will bring us close to this figure, but we should be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to make a donation to a project which we hope will be completed by next summer. If you can help, please phone one of these numbers: 550328 (B. Pell) 550754 (A&A Cairns) 550536 (J. Donaldson).

Assuming the Playpark Project continues according to schedule, the present Play Area of the park will be out of use from the end of September until the completion of the project. Formal notices will be posted.

Brenda Pell



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ANNUAL REPORT

2005 - 2006

The Community Council achieved nine members, of a possible eleven, with the co-option of Peter Rea during this year. Regretfully we have had no Youth Members this year. Our constitution allows for two young people of sixteen years or over to represent the youth of the area. Inevitably this age group finds itself with heavy school timetables.

We meet monthly through the year from September to June and have a small but regular attendance of the public whom we thank for their continued support. For those unable to attend the meetings, Minutes and other relevant material are displayed on the village notice board and on our website: www.killlearncc.org.uk.

We have been pleased to welcome PC Fiona Park, Community Police Officer for this area whose input at our meetings has been most valuable.

Road Safety has been the dominant subject during the past year. The fatal road accident at the Branziert junction last October focused attention on a section of road which has long been held to be dangerous. It is regretted that it took a death to achieve some action to improve the safety of our village roads for which the Community Council has been lobbying for some years. Representatives of SC Roads Department attended the November meeting and promised a series of remedial measures, some of which were quickly introduced. KCC undertook to have Road Safety as a regular item on the agenda and monthly contact has been maintained with the Roads Department to continue to press for improved safety on our roads. The chief concern is speed. Many vehicles passing through the village exceed the statutory limits. All drivers should monitor their speed. Parking in the approaches to the Primary school is another potential hazard. We continue to urge for the re-painting of yellow lines. Incidents of anti-social behaviour have reduced greatly during the past year. Possibly the ban on the consumption of alcohol in public places has accounted for a more peaceful village. The police report little crime in this area, but advise residents to beware bogus workmen and to ensure that outbuildings are kept secure to avoid possible thefts.

Visiting speakers bring their specific areas of expertise to our meetings. In January, Mr. Mick Stewart, Stirling Council's Head of Planning, spoke and answered questions on the planning process, and in April, Iain Pascoe spoke about the work of the KCFC Footpaths Group in mapping the paths in this area and how this information will be fed into the Stirling Council Core Path Plan.

KCC has played its part in the newly formed Area Community Planning Forum – a 'Cluster' of the communities to the west of Stirling. Four meetings have been held, issues of common interest have emerged and sub-groups have been formed in order to examine these issues and to produce a draft policy document which will be presented to Stirling Council. The expectation of this Area Community Planning Forum is that local communities may be able to influence policies and budgets of the major service providers. The first matter considered has been Roads; the next is to be Policing/Crime/Community wardens. These meetings, supported by officers of Stirling Council and by the police, have been well attended and have allowed a full exchange of views.

In common with all other CCs we have received a grant of £1,000 from Stirling Council. The purchase and installation of a bench was the most popular suggestion for the use of this grant. A further grant of £29,800 was given for the benefit of communities within the Area Community Planning Forum; KCC voted to spend this on illuminated speed signs.

As the current Community Council nears the end of its term of office, I pay tribute to the diligence and consistency with which everyone has tackled the issues that have come before us in the past three years. We have, I feel, worked as a team in which everyone has contributed fully, and I thank my fellow council members for their invaluable support. I also thank Doug Ashworth, our webmaster, and the Stirling Council officers, in particular Pam Campbell, Rural Villages Development Officer, and Alistair Berrill, our councillor, who have given us so much support.

Brenda Pell

COLOURFUL KILLEARN

Did you enjoy the daffodils and tulips in the tubs around the village during spring? Did you think they brightened up the village and made it an even better place to live?

Did you wonder how they ever got there and who was looking after them? Did you think it was the council? Or did you notice some volunteers tending the tubs?

Every year a few dedicated villagers plant up the tubs in autumn and spring to add a little colour to the village which most people appreciate, but they are getting older – and fewer, and some are finding it harder each year to look after their tubs.

Some finance is secured through the Community Council but we cannot afford to have them planted and tended.

The new planter outside the Spar shop has been much admired since it was set up in the spring but it too will need much attention throughout the summer if it is to look it's best.



If you think you could help – even a little, why not contact *Robin Veitch (550372)*, *Priscilla Douglas (550898)* or *Catherine Davies (550990)* and feel you are doing something to make the village more beautiful and colourful.

P.S. If the person who so liked daffodils that he took the pots out of the tubs, would like to contact me next year, I'll supply him with bulbs to save ruining the tubs!
Robin Veitch



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LIFE AFTER KILLEARN

“Whereabouts in France are you?” we are asked. “In Savoie,” we reply. Having expected the usual reply of Dordogne or Provence, a glazed look washes over their faces.

After five months of searching, we arrived on a wet, misty and freezing cold day at a shuttered up old barn, the 46th house we had looked at. Pulling on woolly hats and gloves, we reluctantly trudged after the young estate agent who by now was brandishing a large torch. “Desolée,” she said, “but there isn’t any electricity.” Great!

A faint spark of interest stirred as we saw the old door creaking open to reveal a room with stone walls, tiled floor and the old feeding troughs still *in situ*. This,



we were told, was the byre where the cows were kept in winter. The torchlight led us up a wooden stair into a dark room. We could see nothing. Then we opened the shutters, and we were thrilled by what we saw. A spacious room with wonderful wooden beams and a huge stone fireplace at one end. With beating hearts, we looked around the rest of the house as best we could with only one torch, but we just knew that this, at last, was our new home. On a second visit the clouds had lifted, and to our utter amazement there was a view of mountains every bit as spectacular as the one we had left behind of The Ben and Conic.

The barn, built in the 19th century and converted into a dwelling in 1976, had lain empty for over a year and was in disrepair – but not to the extent that Channel 4 would have been interested in filming us restoring it! The house consists of four floors

and had to be painted from top to bottom. The second and third coat (and, in parts, the seventh coat) were really tedious, but it was a good opportunity to practise pilates, and to try and recall the intricacies of Acol bidding. For us it was a huge challenge, having always relied heavily on Bert Mearns, John Muir and John Phillips. Robin discovered hitherto dormant skills and saved us thousands of euros with his DIY. We were staying in Annecy and we journeyed to Albertville daily to complete the painting – the furniture was expected soon from a depot in London.

Great excitement as the day dawned when we would actually sleep in our new home in our own bed. The nice Cockney lads were unpacking a box marked ‘mugs and tea’ when I said, “Those aren’t our mugs.” We then discovered that half of the load wasn’t ours at all, but should have gone to a client in Fulham, not France. Ever cheerful, the gaffer said, “Oh well, Guv. It begins with ‘F’ dunnit?” We had half a bed, two chairs, no crockery, cutlery or glasses, and sundry odds and ends of no use at all. So we camped during our first week in Le Verger, happy just to be here in front of the roaring log fire. But despite it, we have never been so cold. The house was perishing; even at night we wore four layers of clothing. It could only get better.

There are many places in Scotland where ‘new folk’ are looked at behind veiled glances and mutterings and, of course, this must happen in France, too. But once again we have been so very lucky. Our neighbours, none of whom speak a word of English, have welcomed us into their homes and helped us in so many little ways to settle into their community. Baskets of cherries or a box of tomatoes

or a bunch of lavender are commonplace treasures left on our doorstep. Robin repays these kindnesses by inviting them to join us in a glass of Glengoyne! We have been charmed by everyday courtesies, not just here in our little village, but wherever we have travelled in France.



The orchard yielded a huge variety of fruit that first year. HELP! Thanks to Constance Spry’s *Back to Basics*, I was able to bottle, make jams and chutneys. (I could be so much more supportive now of Jenny Wilks’ stall at The Guild sale!) Our daughter burst into peals of laughter when she first saw me festooned in earplugs, safety visor and harness, brandishing a motor strimmer. Another first was creating a vegetable garden and, while not quite *The Good Life*, it gives us enormous pleasure and satisfaction. A particular high point was our first melon. Okay, so there was only one, but from small beginnings...

We are now into our third year of living in this magical spot at the crossroads of the Alps, running our B&B. It is hard work, but we have met so many interesting people. On the downside, we do miss our friends, but many of them have come out to visit and – thanks to modern communications – we are kept well in touch. Do come and see us – we offer very favourable rates for our fellow Killearnites!

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Killlearn Pupils Put Their Best Foot Forward



Throughout 'Walk to School Week' (22–26 May) pupils across Stirling put their best foot forward to take part in the national event led by Active Stirling's Active Schools Team.

Walk to School Week is an exciting campaign asking parents, pupils and teachers to incorporate regular physical activity into their daily lives by walking to and from school if possible.

Schools across the district took part in lunchtime walks, filling out walking diaries, poster competitions and some schools piloted a 'Park and Stride' initiative.

Killlearn Primary school supported the 'Park and Stride' initiative, where parents parked their cars a short distance from the school and walked the remainder of the way. Two reasons for doing this were, firstly, for parents and children to benefit from the regular physical activity and, secondly, to reduce the congestion problem at the front of the school, which would provide a far safer environment for children making their way to school.

For more information, contact *Fiona Fulton* (01786 443361)

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BUSH PIGS – AN

6 February

6 a.m. The alarm goes off. It is still dark outside – but at least it is dry after yesterday's amazing thunderstorm. People imagine South Africa is always dusty, sandy and hot – but not at this time of year; it is autumn south of the equator. I shower, dress and cross the farmyard for breakfast, being greeted by Cameo, the farm's tame eland, on the way.

After breakfast it is time for the weekly team brief: setting out plans for the group of 150 eight- to eleven-year-olds coming in from Botswana for the week.

Where will I be posted this week? It could be one of four different Bush Pigs sites: 'Crocodile': the main camp centre with dormitories, kitchens, bunkhouses and lots of activities including the Mudstacle. 'Hedgehog': more basic with no electricity where the children sleep in tents and learn about survival in the bush. Or will I be at 'Baboon' which is really isolated, the base for the Ravine Trail learning about the natural world and water conservation? I hope I might be posted to 'Gemsbok' on a reserve where we take children on game drives looking out for boks such as impala, kudu or nyala; or we might spot giraffe, zebra, wildebeest or even a white rhino!

14 February: late afternoon.

Having been away from camp overnight, I wearily return to my room, hoping for a rest and a shower before supper. I absent-mindedly pick up the damp towel on the floor in my room and shake it – only to be showered with hundreds of crawling, wriggling termites! I scream as the centimetre-long insects run all over my clothes and scuttle across the floor. They don't bite me but they are absolutely minging! I grab the infested towel and dump everything outside in the yard; I try to regain my composure and find the insect spray in order to reclaim my room!

I don't think I'll be leaving damp clothes or towels on the floor again in a hurry! In this warm atmosphere, it takes no time at all for these scary bugs to lay and hatch their eggs in extraordinary numbers.

Bertha, one of the camp educators, explains how careful you have to be. For example, if you leave food or crumbs in your room mice will find it in no time... before you know it, their scent will attract the attention of a snake. Some roommate!

16 February

Gareth, an educator, was out in the bush with a group of kids when he heard a hissing... expecting to find a puff adder or a spitting cobra he searched around his vehicle to find a 3-metre-long rock python! Gareth drove back to camp – steering with the other hand – and, after scaring the living daylight out of the assembled children, he used the opportunity to explain how the serpent eats, sleeps, breeds and survives as part of a beautifully balanced eco-system.

3 March

A weekend off and camp director Kim has offered to take us to Pilansburg Game Reserve. Trucking through the savannah grasslands in a 'bucky' (a covered van), we set up camp and build a 'braii' (the ubiquitous South African barbeque). Tonight it's antelope steak and boerewors (spicy sausage) for dinner.

Settled into my sleeping bag that night I'm awoken by a strange, eerie cry. "What's that?" I whisper to Nicole – who used to be

AFRICAN ADVENTURE



a Ranger on a reserve – as the plaintive cry again pierces the pitch-black night. “It’s a lioness who has lost her pride, but don’t worry she won’t bother us... go back to sleep” !!!!

Up at 5.30 a.m. the next day for a pre-dawn game drive. Wonderful birdlife inhabits the trees: yellow-billed hornbills, exotic African hoopoe, lilac-breasted rollers and many more. Out in the bush we find elephants and giraffe; later we track down baboons and vervet monkeys and the rare white rhino. Seeing all these incredible creatures... and learning from my colleagues just how precarious their existence is makes me begin to think ecology and conservation could be my

calling. And the highlight of the trip? Seeing a lioness with her cubs – they just look so sweet.

1 April

My time at Bush Pigs is coming to an end... but before I leave there is one more surprise in store.

The highlight of the week for the kids visiting Bush Pigs is the Mudstacle. I had avoided this yucky, slimy, clammy ordeal for most of my time at the camp, but I was not going to be allowed to escape this time – my last week. I set out jumping the hurdles, hanging on to the tarzan swing, crossing the see-saw and negotiating the rope walkway. Next I managed the wobbly platform and the half-tyres before reaching the notorious rope bridge across the mud pool. Part-way across my mates shake the rope spilling me into the oozing, soggy, brown puddle below. Up to my knees in gunge, I then face the final test: crawling backwards on my stomach through half submerged tyres. The mud gets everywhere! My shorts, shirt and hair are covered; it oozes into ears, eyes and

mouth – helped by a ducking from my camp colleagues! I complete the course – slipping, sliding and coated head to foot in gunk! Finally it’s down the slide for a rinse in the pool behind the dam before heading for the showers.

Excerpts from the diary of Katy Hawkins, aged 17, from Killearn.



Bush Pigs is a not-for-profit, education and conservation centre, situated 200km northwest of Johannesburg, South Africa. Katy worked as a volunteer at Bush Pigs for seven weeks from January, before travelling to see more of the country. For more information on Bush Pigs visit: www.bushpigsedu.co.za.

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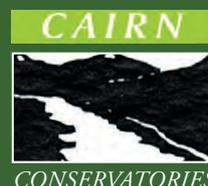


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CURIOUS ABOUT GEORGE?



Picture by Rev P Malloch

How many times have you passed the huge obelisk that dominates the top of Killearn and wondered what it was there for? Well, over the weekend of the 15–17 September you will be able to find out because the village will be celebrating the legacy left by the man it commemorates. And what a man George Buchanan was.

Born five hundred years ago at The Moss, Dumgoyne, just outside Killearn, George Buchanan rose from humble beginnings to become one of the foremost academic figures of 16th-century Europe. No boring old teacher was he, though. An outstanding linguist and classical scholar, he was tutor to both Mary, Queen of Scots, and James VI but went on to become an outspoken critic of the Catholic church, having to flee for his life before being incarcerated during the Inquisition.

Interested in history, the man himself, or just plain curious, the weekend-long quincentennial should have something for everyone, allowing you to walk in his footsteps and re-live the life and times of a man whose name reverberates around the village all these years later. “It is going to be a great weekend of events that we hope everyone will come and support, but most importantly enjoy,” says honorary treasurer John Moreland.

You will probably know something about it already if you are one of the 1,200 households which have received a ‘*Friends of George*’ leaflet telling you how to get involved and what will be happening. Already your donations have been extremely generous and the ‘*Friends of George*’ supporters club is growing daily. As a result of the financial support already shown by local residents many of the events will be free. “*The success of Buchanan 500 depends on your support,*” insists chairman Helen Loudon. “*We hope it will bring the whole of the village together.*”

If you want to know more and have access to the web you should visit the official website www.buchanan500.org.uk. Tickets available from the *Panik Gallery*, telephone: 01360 551166 or email: info@panikgallery.com.

ANYONE FOR TEA?



If you would like to re-live a bit of village history then you should visit *The Moss* for tea and cakes on the Sunday of the **Buchanan 500** weekend. This picture was taken 100 years ago, as dignitaries from Glasgow travelled out to *The Moss* to mark the 400th anniversary of George Buchanan’s birth. What a contrast a photograph of everyone attending the 500th celebrations would make with this one. A newspaper article from the time describes how ‘a distinguished party of about a hundred and twenty alighted from the train at the little hillside station of Dumgoyne and walked over to *The Moss*.’ The tea party then was hosted by Sir Archibald Campbell Lawrie, a

distinguished lawyer and a descendant of a brother of George Buchanan. One hundred years later and the host will be the current owner, Jamie Parker.

“*There was huge interest in Scottish academia at the turn of the last century and the great and good of Glasgow felt it was important to pay their respects to Buchanan,*” says Jamie. “*Our tea party will be nothing like as formal, but people will be very welcome to come and walk around the grounds where George Buchanan’s family once lived and find out a little more about a man who really was a great scholar of his time.*”

Unfortunately there is no parking at *The Moss* but transport will be provided from Killearn.

GEORGE BUCHANAN 1506–1582

So who was George Buchanan and why should we remember him? He was the great Scottish scholar at a time of huge religious and political upheaval.

Several local people have been researching his life and times. Catherine Organ has published a paperback book in time for the celebrations. Catherine says she has uncovered new evidence about Buchanan's early life in Stirlingshire.

Meanwhile having lived across the road from the obelisk for years, Neil Fraser decided it was about time he found out who George Buchanan was. Neil writes: "George Buchanan was recognised by contemporaries as a leading classical scholar and poet. His outstanding academic abilities qualified him as a tutor to both Queen Mary and James VI. A contemporary of both John Calvin and John Knox, George Buchanan was also a prominent lay Protestant reformer and member of the Church of Scotland. It was inevitable that he also be involved in politics at the highest levels both in Scotland and London. It is therefore fitting that he be remembered by a prominent monument in the village of his birth."

The following is a short history of George Buchanan. If it spurs you on to find out more, why not go and listen to Dr Jane Dawson's fascinating lecture about Buchanan's times on Saturday, 16 September?

Born in 1506 at The Moss, Dumgoyne, Buchanan was one of eight children brought up in poverty by their widowed mother, Agnes. An uncle paid for him to study in Paris, where he quickly



©Museum Collections University of St Andrews.

became a respected figure in the cultural milieu of France and was sought after for his experience in teaching and organising education. He taught in Paris at a time of great debate about reform of the Catholic Church. Back in Scotland in 1537, he published several critiques of Catholic lifestyles and was forced to flee. In the late 1540s, he was

imprisoned by the Inquisition in Portugal during which time he began his Psalm paraphrases – elegant Latin poems, later set to beautiful music – which were to be influential in Scotland for centuries. He returned to Scotland in 1561 where he was appointed as tutor to Mary, Queen of Scots. His position as a leading Protestant and as tutor to the Catholic Mary must have been a difficult one. He finally turned against her after the murder of her second husband, Lord Darnley, blaming Mary for being involved in the plot. In 1567, he became the first lay Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and then became tutor to the young James VI. His accusations against Mary were published as *De Maria Scotorum Regina* translated as *Ane Detectioun of the Duings of Mary Quene*.

In the last ten years of his life, Buchanan played an active role in politics, becoming Lord Privy Seal. He wrote two further important works: *De Jure Regni apud Scotos*, in which he argued that the source of all political power lies in the people, including the right of kings to rule over them. He argued that the people had the right to resist and depose tyrants. And *Rerum Scotticarum Historia*, a history of Scotland, published in the year of his death 1582. He is buried in Greyfriars' Churchyard in Edinburgh.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Friday 15th September

7–9pm WELCOME IN THE VILLAGE HALL Pop along to the **Village Hall** for a dram from Dumgoyne Distillery and book your tickets. Tickets also from Panik Gallery before the weekend.

Saturday 16th September

9.25am WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS A walk towards George Buchanan's birthplace via Dumgoyne Distillery and the West Highland Way. Transport will be available.

1.30pm KILLEARN PAST AND PRESENT A short guided walk of the older part of Killearn starting from the Church Hall. **FREE**. Transport for senior citizens if needed.

3pm BUCHANAN AND HIS TIMES Learn about the man and his times from Dr Jane Dawson of Edinburgh University. A riveting illustrated historical lecture from an authority on the Scottish Reformation. **FREE**. Killearn Kirk.

7pm SUPPER AND CEILIDH Put on your dancing shoes for a fabulous ceilidh in the Village Hall preceded by supper in the Church Hall. **Tickets: ceilidh only, £5; buffet supper and ceilidh, £20**.

Sunday 17th September

10.30am SERVICE IN KILLEARN KIRK Church service to honour George Buchanan including the Strathendrick Singers who will be singing several psalms which Buchanan translated into Latin verse during his incarceration by the Inquisition in Lisbon. Plus a parade to the Obelisk.

3pm AFTERNOON TEA AT THE MOSS A wonderful opportunity to visit George Buchanan's birthplace and enjoy tea and cakes courtesy of the Parkers. **FREE**. (Transport will be provided for those who can't walk.)

7.30pm CONCERT BY THE DUNEDIN CONSORT Lose yourself to these wonderful world-class voices as the Dunedins deliver haunting renditions of Buchanan's religious poetry. Killearn Kirk. **Tickets are £10**. See the article on Page 12.

9.30pm PROVOST'S RECEPTION AND FINALE Provost of Stirling's reception. **Invitation only**. Village Hall.

The Panik Gallery and Village Hall will be exhibiting artwork by local artists and schoolchildren throughout the weekend.

A Photographic Competition will be held during the weekend, £60 in prizes - for details visit www.buchanan500.org.uk.



PanikGalleryKillearn

Local Artists Exhibition
13th - 27th September

To coincide with the George Buchanan 500 events being held in the village in September Panik Gallery is hosting an exhibition of work from the incredibly talented local artists that the area boasts both amateur and professional

Please come along and show your support with drinks on Wednesday 13th from 5 - 8pm

Panik Gallery - 13 Main Street, Killearn G63 9RJ
(01360) 551166 • www.panikgallery.com

DUNEDIN CONSORT



Lose yourself in the words and music of George Buchanan's times on Sunday, 17 September as the Dunedin Consort, Scotland's premier vocal ensemble, brings the sixteenth century alive. The ensemble of professional singers has performed all over the world and in this, its tenth anniversary year, it has chosen the poetry of George Buchanan as a showcase. Killearn Kirk will echo to the sound of Buchanan's famous Psalm Paraphrases. Another highlight will be their performance of William Sweeney's 21st-century portrayal of some of Buchanan's most provocative comments on world affairs, *Pro Patria*, which was premiered at last year's Edinburgh Festival. This is an event not to be missed, so book your tickets early.

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email: aroshimaureen@btinternet.com

COMMEMORATING ARTHUR CLARKE 1924–2005



Heather Wright beside the Memorial Tree

On Tuesday, 13 June, a small ceremony took place next to the Village Hall, where a 'Golden Hornet' crab apple tree has been planted. This tree is a memorial to Arthur Clarke; in the spring and autumn it will be a glorious reminder of his life and interests.

Thanks to the help of Jim Henderson of Lighparks – who knew Arthur well – a beautifully-worked post made of green heartwood, fitted with a memorial plaque has been installed, as a lasting reminder of some of Arthur's contributions to village life. Heather Wright, his daughter, attended as well as a number of villagers, who had come to pay their own tributes.

After a few words from Fay Pascoe, Vice-Chair of Colourful Killearn, those present spoke of their particular memories of Arthur. The common theme was the pleasure he had given by his cheery willingness to chat and give help to all and sundry, and to share his expertise in every way.

No one living in Killearn can be unaware of this contribution, even if they never had the good fortune to meet him. His was the inspiration behind the formation of Colourful Killearn. He chaired the

group and organised its work for a number of years. He also contributed his expertise, and a prize, to the Killearn Show.

The colourful shrub beds at the Co-op car park were started by Arthur. He also single-handedly approached Glengoyne Distillery for old whisky barrels for the flower tubs, and he then oversaw their transformation into flower tubs. This legacy has been continued by Colourful Killearn.

Arthur's woodworking skills produced the village notice board which is such a valuable asset to the community. And his was also the talent that produced the sturdy fixing for the village Christmas tree – it is hard to know how it could be put up so safely without that wooden stand. Each time you admire the sparkling lights that cheer the dark season – remember Arthur, as well as all the helpers he inspired.



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Killlearn Community Futures Company Footpaths Group

You may have been aware of various serious looking people wandering around the village, accosting passers-by, scrutinising maps, scribbling in notebooks, looking carefully at gates and stiles – and even using trundle wheels. Don't worry, this is just the members of the Footpath Group at work.

We have set ourselves the aim of producing an informative map or booklet, showing the best known and easiest to find ways around the countryside within our Community Council area. This publication will be aimed not only at residents but also at visitors, and will indicate gradients, types of surfaces and points of interest along the various paths. It will also look at the possibilities for disabled users.

There are a number of other projects afoot (no pun intended!), which have a significance for Killlearn. These are:

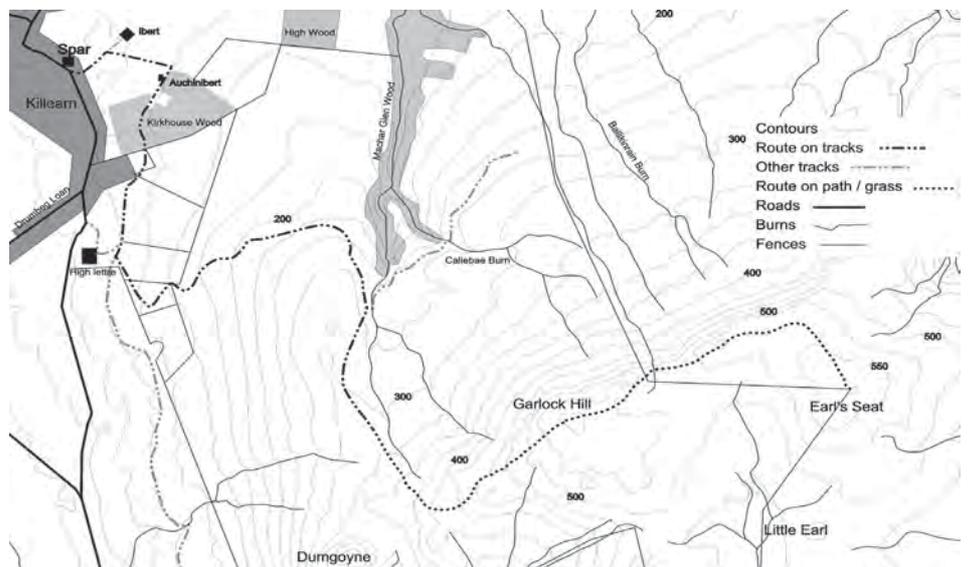
Stirling Council's Core Paths Plan. This is a mandatory project, necessary as a result of the recent changes in *Access to the Countryside* legislation. The Core Paths plan is now available for consultation and comment at libraries, on line, or through members of the Footpaths group. There will be a public consultation meeting with *Stirling Council* on 25th October, in the Village Hall from 2–5pm and again from 6–9pm. *All welcome.*

Upper Endrick Valley Nature Trail This is an ambitious venture, headed up by keen walkers from Balfroun, involving the employment of consultants and with the eventual aim of having recognised ways from Kippen to Killlearn and possibly Gartness.

Balfroun Footpaths Action Group This group has been in existence much longer than its Killlearn counterpart and, among other things, has been working on linking the two villages through Boquhan, by safe walking ways. We have established good links with Balfroun group, and are now working in cooperation with them.

What Happens Next? At the KCFC AGM on 4 October this year, there will be a display about the work of the footpaths group, and an opportunity to talk with its members. We aim to produce the completed booklet/leaflet by October 2007. If you would like further information, or have special skills which may be useful, please contact *Fay or Ian Pascoe* on 550022 or fay@kcfc.co.uk.

The Ascent of Earl's Seat – A Walk



This walk guides you to Earl's Seat, the highest point in the parish. While the summit is only 580 metres, the weather may be much wilder than in the village and the ground wet, so be prepared.

Starting from the Spar take Ibert Road to Ibert Lodge then past Auchenibert and through Kilkhouse Wood to the gate giving access to the fields. A few yards on a good grassy track leads to a second gate and the first view of the shapely outcrop of Dumgoyne. Follow the green track, often called the "Pipe Track Road" through 3 further gates pass the top of the road from High Lettre. Bear left leaving the track using the obvious crossing point over the drainage ditch and follow the vague line of ATV tracks diagonally up the hill over the short grass to a gate in the wall. Through the gate a good track climbs steadily turning sharp left then right through a final gate out onto the open fells.

Follow the track climbing steadily with views over Killlearn and later Balfroun. The steep northern edge of the Campsies appears ahead then the track drops slightly before taking a sharp left turn. Just at the bend take the good track to the right which climbs quite steeply for a short distance before the gradient eases and it climbs steadily above the small burn. About 0.5km from the junction look out for a millstone, a relic of earlier quarrying, partly cut from the rock (NS 54098 83795). Soon after, the rocky track ends, but a clear ATV track can be followed up hill on the same line. Further up the track swings left away from Dumgoyne on an obvious line, always

climbing, until a short level stretch is reached with the remains of an old building on the right. Here the view extends from Ailsa Craig to Ben Vorlich. Continue on the track, which varies in quality, up another steep section with a good outcrop of columnar basalt on the right. Where the ATV line swings right leave it and follow the narrow but obvious grassy path straight up the hill to the cairn on Garloch Hill. Here we have the first view of Earl's Seat and a 270° panorama from Glasgow to Thornhill.

Follow the clear line across the hill dropping down to a low point where there is a narrow path heading straight for Earl's Seat. Don't be tempted to take it! It can be very wet, is not at all clear on the ground, and misses the spectacular views obtained by following the edge of the Campsies. Swing right around the next rise (Bell Craig) to reach a gate in the fence. Follow the obvious grassy track over the next two small tops and down to the little hollow (NS 566 842) from where the summit is visible to the right. Take the narrow path, which become clearer after a few yards, heading towards the trig point. Follow this line direct for the trig point, stepping over the wire fence at a low point just below the summit which is reached after 8.5km (5.5 miles) and about 2½ hours from the village. The reward is a 360° view.

There is no real alternative but to retrace your steps from here. However, to compensate, excellent views spread out ahead of you including the view down onto Dumgoyne on the descent from Garloch Hill. *Peter Smith*

View of the village from Earl's Seat



Footballing for the Air Force



When I am asked the question, “What did you enjoy most about the Air Force?” I answer with absolute truth and conviction, “Football.” It is not only true in itself, but also in a very large measure responsible for me becoming a pilot at all.

I was in a so-called ‘reserved occupation’. As a tool and jig draughtsman, I was employed on essential war work designing equipment for the mass production of vital war components such as the wing spar ends (the part that fixed the wings to the body of Hurricane fighters) or the recoil ram pistons of the very successful 25-pounder gun, the fuse setting machine for the shells of anti-aircraft batteries, and a host of other such items. I was in the middle of a tug of war between the Air Force and the company for my services.

When the Air Force eventually won, I was placed in a unit which, unknown to us at the time, was designated for training as Navigators W.T. (Wireless Telegraphy) on the first squadrons of Mosquitos. When we were well advanced on our ground work training and had reached the ability to receive and send 14 words a minute (at that stage one no longer heard dots and dashes, but words and phrases), we were four hours a day on Morse only to reach higher still reception. It was very boring indeed for me, because I am very left-handed (and footed) and the Morse keys were all placed to suit right-hand-side operation. I had to use my left hand across my body, which was both very awkward and tiring on my left wrist. So when word came round that there was a “hiccup” at Cranwell (due, I believe, to the delayed delivery on the Mosquitos) and they said we could use the gap interval to have us tested for suitability for pilot training, I put my hand up.

Thus I found myself arriving on a November Friday at Theale, a small village near Reading. The RAF station there had a grass airfield with Tiger Moth training planes. We were lined up by a Flight Sergeant who asked us in a broad Glasgow accent this very important question: “Do any of you play football?” Five of us raised our hands and when he reached me and I told him ‘outside left’ – in these days we had 5-man forward lines – he told me, “Go to the stores and draw your kit – you are playing tomorrow.” Then we could carry on with the war!

I soon discovered the next day why the station team was unbeatable on their home ground. The football field had obviously been part of farming land, and the ground – although fairly level – had regular undulations at approximately right angles across the surface. This contouring I assume was a result of ancient farming husbandry, and was a formidable feature very difficult for opposing teams to overcome. The team we played were from Woolwich Arsenal – the factory, not the football team! – and obviously not nearly as fit as we were. ‘Our’ team consisted of nine ex-professional or semi-professional footballers, another amateur, and me. It was no wonder that we won the game 6–0. I had a ‘dream start’ and had scored two goals. This game was the first of three memorable ones from my early RAF training period.

In the remainder of the six weeks I spent at Theale, the twelfth and final match was the second memorable game. We had won all eleven matches played up to that time, and the opposition team had won ten of theirs. The one they had lost was against us on our home ground. What made it memorable was the result, and the opportunity it gave me to talk to the Station Commanding Officer.

The game itself was a dour, hard struggle, as they were easily the best team we had encountered. Late in the game at nil each I received a perfect pass from my inside left. (He was an Irish international with West Ham in civilian life.) The pass gave me a free run for a ‘one-on-one’ with the goal keeper, and as he advanced to meet me, I was able to flick the ball past him using the outside of my right foot. The ball went into the goal to give us a 1–0 victory. The C.O. was absolutely delighted on the way back, and chatted freely to me on the return journey. It gave me the chance to tell him of my disappointment of not being given the chance to make a solo flight. He gave me some hope by saying that, although a solo flight would have been helpful, the assessment was based on the pupil’s progress and the judgement of the instructors.

When I reported next to Heaton Park, Manchester, and was informed I had been passed for further pilot training, I could hardly believe it. I was convinced that my football contribution, and my talk with the CO, had made a very big difference to my successful selection.

SHOW TIME!

It’s Killearn Show time again. Enter your flowers, fruit and vegetables, baking, preserves, arts, crafts and photos, and help to make it the best-ever Show. Or you can just come along to admire the exhibits, and have tea and cakes. The Show is open at 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm on Saturday, 26 August, in Killearn Village Hall. The prize giving will be at 2.30 pm. The Hall will be open between 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm on Friday evening and again between 7.30 am–10.00 am on the morning of the Show for you to bring along your exhibits. All classes are open, and entries are welcome from the whole Strathendrick area.

For a schedule, please call 550142.

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(This list is not exhaustive, if you do not see your job listed just phone.)

**Call 01360 551100
or 07748754583**

Strathendrick Rugby Club

Minis: meet at Fintry Sports Club on Sundays from the first weekend in September. Teams are run for P3 – P7 age groups with a programme of training, matches, tournaments, visits to internationals and social events. For further details, contact Iain Somerville (550842). All players, new and experienced, and parents are welcome.

Midis: Strathendrick will be running an S1/2 team and an Under 16s for S3–S4 boys this season. Training is on Wednesday evenings at Fintry, with training or matches on Sundays. The Club collaborates closely with Balfroun High School, co-ordinating coaching, player development, competitions and touring. For further information, contact Andy Summers (550147).

Seniors: the 1st XV and 2nd XV play in their respective National Leagues. Training is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7pm, at the superb facilities at Fintry (pitches, changing rooms, bar and gym). Fixtures are on Saturdays, with the new season about to commence: new players are always welcome, as are supporters and social members. For further information contact *Nick Hawkins* (550576).

JAZZ UP THE TROSSACHS

The Callander 2006 Jazz and Blues Festival – Friday 29th September through Sunday, 1st October.

This is Callander's first major music festival and a superb programme of popular, traditional and swing jazz compatible to any of the current jazz events in Scotland is on offer. This, supported by an equally impressive contribution from the blues fraternity, allows for no less than 52 live gigs over the weekend. Wall-to-wall music is the order of each and every day, 26 bands performing in some 20 venues throughout the town commencing 6pm Friday, 29th September right through to midnight on Sunday.

Visit the festival website for full information covering bands, venues, locations, etc., and any changes to the published programme. There is also a rundown, most importantly, on types of tickets on offer and how to purchase them. www.callanderjazz.com. Alternatively contact the festival office at the Ancaster Business Centre, Cross Street, Callander FK17 8EA, Tel: 01877–339399. Tickets are on sale now from The Rob Roy Tourist Information Centre, Ancaster Square, Callander, telephone: 01877–330342.

Also online at www.ticketweb.co.uk or www.visitscotland.com and by e-mail: info@callander.visitscotland.com (credit/debit cards accepted).

Graham Oliphant
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KILLEARN BRIDGE CLUB

Report on the year 2005–2006: The club has had a good year, meeting in the pleasant atmosphere of the Strathblane Country House Hotel. Normal evening bridge sessions were well attended with five or six tables in action on most Tuesdays. The club championship is played once a month throughout the bridge year (September to April) and this year it provided the most exciting finish in a long while when the previous leaders were overtaken on the last possible evening. We also have competitions for an individual trophy, for the Doris Kerr trophy, and for monthly prizes of pens.



The club hosts the annual competition between the four local bridge clubs for the Lorimer Shield, and won it for the second consecutive time. Our team won the 5th Division of the Western District Bridge League, and will play in Division 4 next year. Well done to everyone who played in the teams!

Despite all this talk of competitions, the main aim of the bridge club is to help members who enjoy playing bridge and to wish to improve their game. We use boards and bidding boxes – but don't let

that stop you giving us a try. You will soon get used to using them. We are always looking for new members, and you can come along for up to three meetings without committing yourself to join the club. Most of our members are from Killearn or Balfroun, but some come from much further afield such as Milngavie and Gartmore. If you would like more information contact Ian Pascoe on 550022.

Ian Pascoe (Secretary)

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STRATHENDRICK CHILDREN'S FOOTBALL CLUB

The local children's football club, Strathendrick F.C., has now been up and running for just over a year. The club was established when Stirling Council and the SFA Development Department encouraged those interested, parents of keen footballers in the main, to form a committee and constitute a club with the object of providing coaching and competitive games for children in the West Stirlingshire area.

The club currently has 12 coaches and caters for boys and girls from the age of 5 to 12. Training is centred on the facilities at Balfon High School and participation is sought from all the local villages – from Kippen in the East to Drymen and Strathblane in the West. Over the year 90 children have taken part in the weekly one hour training sessions. In addition, those aged 8 to 12 have had the chance to take part in competitive games against other clubs on Saturday mornings in the Stirling area. Funds were raised from sports grant bodies, donations, fundraising events and parent contributions but a shirt sponsor is still being sought.

Coaches in charge of training and teams have gone through the Disclosure Scotland police checking procedure and a programme of SFA childrens coaching certificates has been undertaken. However, the club is looking for new people to train as coaches, to act as coach assistants and for parent helpers. New player recruits are also welcomed - especially those born in 1994 as at this age the teams start to play at full 11-a-side format.

Training for the new season starts again in August 2006 at Balfon High School. Those born in 1999, 2000 or 2001 will have training sessions on Saturday mornings between 10 – 11 a.m. Children must have reached their 5th birthday and must be capable in the eyes of the coaches to take part. Those born in the years 1994 to 1998 will have midweek training sessions.

Anyone interested in any of the above aspects of the club should contact George Edwards (441055) or Ian MacKenzie (440993) for further information.

Church Hall Conversion Complete



The conversion of the Old Church Hall on Balfon Road was completed this spring. This former Church, which was built in the 1870s, was sold by the Church of Scotland to a property developer in 2003. The company, Scotus Investments, is owned by the Dinardo family who live in the village.

The changes proposed by the company to this Killearn landmark were controversial. The developer proposed to create shops and flats and met the community at a special meeting of the Community Council in July of that year. Mark Dinardo, secretary of Scotia Investments, pointed out the many considerations that were necessary in order to complete the refurbishment. For example, the remains and marker of Rev. Lumsden were to be moved to the cemetery on Gartness Road and the former church land needed to be deconsecrated.

There are now 2 flats (a third is to be built inside the pitched roof above the flat section at the back) and space for 3 small shops (or 2 larger ones) available for rent. At the time of writing, no leases have been signed. However, Scotus expects the shops to be let from the late summer onwards.

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KILLEARN FOOTBALL CLUB

At the time of going to press the village football team are enjoying another remarkably successful season.

Killlearn won through to the final of the first of this season's trophies, but lost 3-2 against close rivals Thornhill in the Margaret White Cup. A combination of a hot night and an on-form opposition saw a 2-goal lead evaporate, allowing Thornhill to claw back 3 goals and win the cup.

At just over the halfway point in the Forth and Endrick League season, Killlearn are still leading the league – with Blanefield in second spot.

Keep up with the team's progress with reports in the local press. For further information contact Donald Beaton (550679).

Strathendrick & District Cycling Club

The Strathendrick and District Cycling Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday during the months of April to September and on the 2nd Sunday during the months of October to March. Our cycle runs are varied and interesting on quiet B roads or cycle paths and are usually within a 90-minute drive from Killlearn, taking us on some very scenic routes with spectacular views. There is something for everyone regardless of age or ability, and newcomers are always welcome. If you enjoy gentle exercise, fresh air and wonderful scenery or would like to meet new friends, then call Morag (660437) or Willie on (550378).

August and September cycle runs are detailed in the Village Diary.

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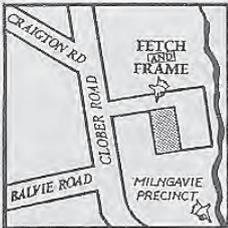
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Killlearn Village Hall News

The installation of the new central heating system was completed during July. We have high hopes that the Hall will be much warmer during the winter months ahead.

A new lock has been fitted to the freshly-painted main doors. If keyholders haven't already collected their new key, please contact Michael Pell as soon as possible.

Stirling Council Environmental Health Dept have visited the Hall and are satisfied that the kitchen is suitable for use, but have reminded the committee that the General Food Hygiene Regulations 1995 must be followed by those who prepare food, either at home or in the Hall, for consumption on the premises. This impacts on many activities for which the Hall is used, and all organisers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Regulations. The Hall Management Committee do not accept responsibility beyond keeping the facilities in a suitable condition. A notice summarising some of the regulations has been put up in the kitchen, and a copy of *A Guide to the General Food Hygiene Regulations* is also available (*please don't take it away*).

Michael Pell

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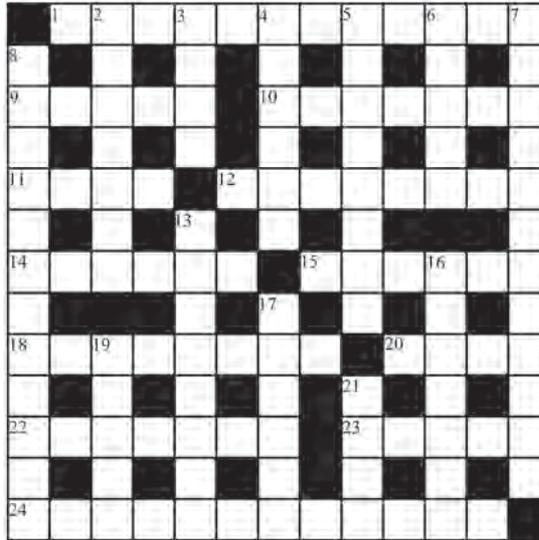
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Solve the cryptic crossword, fill in your name and address, and place it in the box in Spar.

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Closing date – 10th September 2006



ACROSS

- 1. This street should be 500 years old (8,4)
- 9. Wave sounds all fixed up (5)
- 10. Savings for a bird? (4,3)
- 11. A line in a tax issue (4)
- 12. Trout initially in cutter becomes another fish (8)
- 14. Stop talking about leg in a group (6)
- 15. Not so pretty - ugh, sounds as if it's not true (6)
- 18. Previously soft, allowable gives rise to plain speaking (8)
- 20. Lose weight when tide is out (4)
- 22. Lo bikes are around the monument (7)
- 23. He plays discs at the pub with spirit (5)
- 24. Unpleasant to contradict can (12)

DOWN

- 2. Ruin - gin about after release (7)
- 3. Stop time follows talking computer (4)
- 4. Could fishermen without these play these musical pieces (6)
- 5. Crude hankies used if you snag rose (4-4)
- 6. Fat award on points (5)
- 7. Danger - gene it is deteriorating (12)

- 8. Wrestler uses this when left in odd cargo store (12)
- 13. Washing out by cutting a portion containing uranium (8)
- 16. When I'm in it I always start (7)
- 17. Our editor, sounds as if he should wear this black tie (7)
- 19. Push the fourth estate (5)
- 21. I deal in thought (4)

Name

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword Competition: Wendy Denton

Solution to the Prize Crossword Across 1 dog-races; 5 task; 9 plant; 10 cathode; 11 house-trained; 13 airway; 14 doodle; 17 giftwrapping; 20 triplet; 21 Ellen; 22 rant; 23 Somerset Down 1 dope; 2 glamour; 3 artesian well 4 excite; 6 adorn; 7 knee deep; 8 stratosphere 12 daughter; 15 dangles; 16 tattoo; 18 feign; 19 unit

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

This wordsearch is designed to test your knowledge of Killearn. Solve the clues to the 12 questions and circle your answers in the wordsearch grid. Enter your name, address and age, and place your completed word grid in the box in Spar for a chance to win the £10 prize.

- 1. The month the schools go back? _____
- 2. Rearrange OUR LARCH U TILT for our show. _____
- 3. What is the postmistress' first name? _____
- 4. Name the King whom Buchanan taught. _____ VI
- 5. TIZER BARN is a road in Killearn. _____
- 6. Who provides the plant tubs? _____ KILLEARN
- 7. Name the field behind the Village Hall. THE _____
- 8. A tree with red berries and a road in Killearn. _____
- 9. Name the wood off Beech Drive. THE _____
- 10. What team sport is played in the Park? _____
- 11. Name the art gallery next to the pharmacy. _____
- 12. How many hundred years since Buchanan was born? _____

The first correct entry pulled out of the box after the closing date of 10th September 2006 will win a £10 Spar voucher.

Name Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last Wordsearch: Angus McVicar

(BREAD AND) BUTTERFLIES

Do you remember the 'bread and butterfly' in *Alice Through the Looking Glass*?

"Its wings are thin slices of bread-and-butter, its body is a crust, and its head is a lump of sugar...[it lives on] weak tea with cream in it."

The *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* has no explanation for the origin of 'butterfly', apart from giving the Old English word from which it came. I like the idea of Alice's insect having a lump of sugar for its head – after all, our butterflies feed entirely on nectar, from which honey is made. Lewis Carroll knew a thing or two, and not just about how to write wonderful stories. Then, what about 'flutterbys' – surely much more descriptive of them. Maybe the Reverend Spooner had a hand in their naming?

Like so much of our wildlife, many species of butterfly have been in sad decline for many years, though for some a turning point may have now been reached. For example, probably one of the best known (apart from the Cabbage and Small Whites, whose demise may well be welcomed by gardeners!), the Peacock, is expanding its range northwards and westwards in Scotland, perhaps due to the effects of climate change. And it has been found that a significant proportion of Scotland's Chequered Skipper and Pearl-bordered Fritillary colonies now survive under power lines, benefiting

from the clearance of scrub which allows flower-rich feeding and breeding areas to develop. The Scotch Argus? Not confined to Scotland, despite its name, but also found in two isolated areas in northern England.



Small Tortoiseshell

But back to the garden – the butterflies we are most likely to see are Small Tortoiseshell (the ones that hibernate behind the spare room curtains), spectacular Peacock and the

dreaded 'whites'. Most common in the early spring is the Green Veined White with which the cabbage variety may be easily confused but, of course, there are no cabbages about at that time for their caterpillars to prey on. The female Orange Tip may also cause confusion, because it looks very like a Small White, but the male – for which the species is named – is yet another butterfly which seems at last to be holding its own. Almost unbelievably those wonderful Red Admirals that cluster on the buddleia (no wonder it is sometimes called 'butterfly bush') in late summer are migrants, flying to us from the Mediterranean while we are flying off in the other direction! I wonder why they bother?

For more information on butterflies and moths, contact Butterfly Conservation, Scotland, Balallan House, Stirling or www.butterfly-conservation.org.
Fay Pascoe



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