



ISSUE 7

SPRING - MARCH 2007



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

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Summer edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 19th August 2007.

### Advertisements and Artwork

All adverts should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by **Friday, 6th July 2007**. *Gwen Stewart* can be contacted on 01360 550856 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, 6th July 2007**. Send them to:

20 Station Road, Killearn  
 or email to [courier@kcfc.co.uk](mailto:courier@kcfc.co.uk).

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## WASTE NOT . . .

Anyone witnessing the bin lorry on fire or hearing the explosions as the tyres blew out must have thought that terrorists had come to Killearn, or even that Stirling Council had mobile incinerators for our rubbish! Nothing so exciting; just an accidental fire.

If you want to start an argument in Killearn just mention waste collection or recycling. Stirling Council seems to be unable to satisfy anyone, from those who want to bin everything regardless to the green lobby. To that end the Community Council invited officers from Stirling to explain their policy and answer questions. The most controversial policy seems to be the two-weekly collection cycle. Legislation makes it necessary to minimise waste going to landfill. There are few suitable sites, they cause unacceptable pollution and generate greenhouse gases. There are a limited number of options open to a council to reduce landfill; incineration (but not in the bin lorries!) or recycling as much as possible, composting almost everything else and then burying the small residue.

What happens to “brown bin” waste? It is taken to Polmaise, shredded and laid in long heaps called *windrows* and regularly turned. Bacterial action transforms it into good compost. The big problem is contamination. Any material that will not rot, particularly plastic bags, has

Contamination of the waste from the brown



to be removed by hand. So if you put in the brown bin anything other than cardboard or garden waste, the only

*continued on page 4*

## Tennis Club Update

At the Tennis Club’s AGM on 24 February 2007 it was learned that negotiations are still ongoing with the Wilson Trust to secure a lease of the Club’s grounds.

Ongoing negotiations centre broadly on two conditions: the period of notice and reinstatement of the grounds. The lease’s short notice period would entitle the landowner to terminate the lease at any point. The Club needs a lease of sufficient length in order to plan for the future. The Club also regards the requirement to reinstate the ground by removing the clubhouse, fences and surfaces on termination of the lease as onerous. Rent will have to be paid which is also the subject of further negotiation.

Frustration was evident at the AGM that the community buy-out application for the grounds had been quashed at the eleventh hour by the Wilson Trust’s production of an ‘option to buy’ from an undisclosed third party. Stirling Council’s planners reportedly would not be minded to grant planning consent for development and would wish to see recreational use continue. A new national planning policy will also see the protection currently given to football grounds extended to tennis courts. Under these changes, Sport Scotland would be entitled to object to development on or demolition of village tennis facilities. However, the ‘option to buy’ has raised the question of possible development in the land behind the Club, effectively widening the issue to include the community at large.

Mr Andrew Wilson, representing the Trust, has previously stated that he wishes to see tennis continue to be played in Killearn. It is hoped that the question of the Club’s longer term future can be resolved.

GS

# A GAP YEAR IN GHANA



William Hudson and James Dunaway, students on their Gap Year, travelled to Accra, the capital of Ghana, in January and February to participate in a sports education programme teaching football to school age children. The programme, organised by Gap Sports, is part of a larger project enabling young people from the Western world to help African children experience organised sport. They tried hard not to mention that Ghana's progress in the last World Cup somewhat exceeded our national achievement! Both lads appreciated the opportunity to experience another culture and the

difficulties of living in the developing world. Primitive sanitation and a meagre diet of chicken and rice has not dampened their enthusiasm for the project. Keep taking the malaria tablets!

Sue and David Dunaway also travelled to Ghana in January to continue their work with the Ghana Reconstructive Plastic

decade. This year, the Dunaways will be concentrating on developing care for children within the unit.

William and James are keen to remain in contact with 'their' team in Ghana – and are on the lookout for donations of outgrown kit or football boots. Sue and David would like to source medical supplies for the school and orphanage they fund. If you can help or would like to find out more, contact the Hudsons (550806) or Dunaways (550294) – it's always easier to talk to someone involved and the commitment of the young men is to be encouraged.

Surgery Project. The project is principally funded by Scottish charitable donations and has built a reconstructive surgery unit in Korle Bu Hospital in Accra to treat burns, birth defects and deformity caused by accidents. Local surgeons operate with the support of UK specialists. David, who lives in Kilmarnock, is a plastic and craniofacial surgeon and has been actively involved with the project for the last



## COMMUNITY WARDENS COME TO KILLEARN



Provost O'Brien meets Senior Community Warden Willie Dunn and Community Warden Marion Prescott

An additional team of two wardens has been added to the community-based scheme introduced in February 2004. Their task will be to observe, monitor and report any evidence of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) which could include litter, fly tipping, graffiti, dog fouling, abandoned cars, drinking in public and general disorder.

The new team, which covers the whole rural area of Stirling, will be capable of responding flexibly to concerns raised by the police and community outwith the boundaries of the existing teams. The Community Wardens can be contacted by telephone on 0845 277 7000 or by e-mail to [warden@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:warden@stirling.gov.uk).

## The Old Mill Bar & Restaurant

*Have you been to the Old Mill lately?*



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# EDITORIAL

Well, here we are with the first edition of 2007. We have survived the huge rainfalls and high winds and now look forward to spring and summer when once more we can get out and about and enjoy the better weather.

What could be nicer than sitting out in a sunny garden, with a drink of your choice, reading the *Courier*, a paper, I might suggest, that gets things moving!

You may remember in the last edition we printed a letter from one of our readers regarding fit and healthy drivers parking in disabled bays. No doubt you noticed that, a couple of days after you first read about it in the *Courier*, there was word of an MSP from Dumbarton intent on pushing a Bill through Holyrood, making such parking an offence in all designated disabled parking bays.

Shortly after that, we were bombarded by the national press who took great delight in showing us photographs of such 'parkers' having their vehicles carted off and even some drivers getting a ticket! Now, in this edition, we have a letter from one of our readers who lives in France, on the same subject.

It's great to learn of such interest but, I'm sure, like me, you still see cars being parked in these bays by people who should not be using them. Ah well, we'll just need to keep on trying to educate the offenders.

Better weather means we will be able to get in to the garden, play more golf, enjoy country walks, play tennis – or will we?

Since the last edition, we asked various people in the community, as well as our elected representatives, what it would

mean to them if our tennis courts were to no longer exist.

The replies we received are scattered about throughout this issue.

As I've hinted before, Killearn is a really nice place to live. The village still has a 'heart' in it and that's because a lot of residents care about their community. Loss of the tennis courts themselves might not be such a big issue but it would take a chunk out the village 'heart'. Do we want to lose them? Do we want a dormitory village? Have you never noticed that the 'carers' are always the same people? Are there people living in Killearn who come home every night, pull up the drawbridge, lower the portcullis, repel all involvement and only come out to go to work?

What about the many wealthy residents we have in our village who, were they to donate their 'small change' to a worthy cause such as this, would never miss it?

Surely we can all do something to maintain Killearn as a really good place to live? None of us want to see it slide down the route of being a collection of houses, an area with no 'heart' or community pride where litter abounds, youngsters run wild and vandalism is rife? (Did I hear someone say we're nearly there?)

I make no apologies for the above remarks. The only apology I make is for the length of this editorial.

Please enjoy the rest of the paper.

Ian

Ian Dickie  
Editor



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### Italian Evenings

We are pleased to announce that our popular Italian evenings are returning to the Tearoom on a more regular basis. We will have these evenings **EVERY FRIDAY** throughout the year commencing at 6pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007. Booking Recommended.

The Tearoom is a 50 Seat Licensed Restaurant and great Venue for Birthdays or special parties. Coach Parties welcome with prior arrangement.

## LETTERS

We welcome letters from readers. Please include a full name and address (not necessarily for publication). Contact addresses on the front page. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Dear Ed.,

I read Sheila McNab's letter about disabled parking with heartfelt sympathy. It is the height of laziness and thoughtlessness when able bodied people park in bays reserved for disabled drivers.

The practice is less prevalent here in Savoie, France, perhaps because each disabled bay has a sign above it saying *Vous prenez ma place, prenez aussi mon handicap* which is "If you take my parking place, you can also take my handicap."

A simple sign but it works well; even on the busiest shopping days, the disabled parking bays are only occupied by their rightful users. Maybe Scotland should try something like this?

Robin Ogg  
Savoie

Many thanks for your letter and interest in this problem which exists even in a village the size of Killearn. Your suggested sign might well help assuming the offenders can read in the first place. The fact that they park there anyway suggests that they may be a bit challenged in that area. Ed.

Dear Sir,



Anyone who goes walking in the Glen can surely be expected to negotiate safely a fallen tree without the help of such a garish pointless sign — at least it is temporary.

Yours sincerely,  
John Moreland

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank you and the *Courier* for providing me with a most enjoyable evening at the ballet. We were at Coppelia and despite the atrocious weather had a lovely evening.

Best wishes to you and all at the *Courier*.

Regards  
E.W. Goold

## **Stirling Council and Scottish Elections**

The Register of Electors was republished on 1 February to take account of the new multi-member wards which will come into effect for Stirling Council elections on 3 May. The electoral wards will be reduced from twenty-two to seven. Killearn is in Ward 2 and will elect three councillors. The Scottish Parliament elections being held on the same day.

Information on the new STV (single transferable vote) system being used in the elections and the changes to the ballot paper for Scottish Parliament elections are available on [www.votescotland.com](http://www.votescotland.com).

It is important that you are registered to vote in these elections. Anyone who can't remember completing a Voter Registration form last autumn or who has since changed either address or name should contact the Electoral Registration Officer, Hillside House, Laurelhill, Stirling FK7 9JQ; tel: 01786 892281 to 892287.

## **Stirling Council Mental Health Service**

The dark short days following the festive season can be a difficult time for some people. Quite often those living in the rural areas of Stirling District can feel isolated and alone. However, there is a service which may be of benefit.

Stirling and District Association for Mental Health rural access service provides practical, emotional and social support for people aged 18–65, who are experiencing mental ill-health. If you or someone you know are interested in this service, please contact SDAMH on 01786 451203, or e-mail us on:

[info@stirlingmentalhealth.org.uk](mailto:info@stirlingmentalhealth.org.uk).

As a relative newcomer to the village, I am very aware how important any communal facility is to the life of the village. All sports facilities must be retained for that purpose and we should rely on the planning authorities to remove any question of development.



Robin Veitch,  
President, Rotary Club of Strathendrick

## **All Killearn Archive Group**

“Buchanan 500” was a hugely successful project for the village of Killearn, the organisers, and all those who took part. Over the course of the weekend, the group's chairperson, Helen Loudon, met many people who recalled their memories of Killearn: “This made me realise these memories should be recorded before it is too late.”

Building on the success of “Buchanan 500”, the enthusiasm to research and record the past is to be given an exciting new platform. Helen Loudon and other like-minded individuals have come together under the umbrella of Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC) to form the All Killearn Archive Group. The first project will be to help preserve the store of memories about Killearn for future generations by recording stories and memories. *There is a Drop In Day at Killearn Village Hall, Saturday, 14 April, 10 am–12 pm and 2–4 pm. Tea and coffee will be provided.* You are invited to come and talk to the group and tell your tales.

Following that, the group plan to look at the work of Killearn Hospital, and various houses and buildings in and around the village. Artefacts will make up another important element of the on-going collection. The Archive group hopes to find a building or a hall to store and possibly display memorabilia. All suggestions will be taken onboard and discussed.

The group are looking to the community and beyond for support and involvement to share in this new project. If you know of anyone with connections to and memories of Killearn, or have interesting old photographs, posters or artefacts, or would like to join the group, do contact Helen (01360 770225).

Helen Loudon and Daye Tucker

## **WASTE (continued from page 1)**



A window

option is to refuse to take the contents of your brown bin, as it will contaminate the complete truckload. Incidentally, so-called biodegradable bags don't rot down; they just disintegrate. *Don't put them in your bin.*

The resulting compost is used to regenerate the disused land fill site at Polmaise. It may become available for sale to the public in the future.

The rubbish from the grey bins is compacted at Polmaise and then the Council pays to have it transported to a private landfill site at Avondale. So the less your grey bin contains, the less you have to pay through your Council Tax.

Why a two-week cycle? Would you be willing to pay for the cost of two separate collections (the grey and brown bins) every week and what incentive would there be to cut waste if you had double the space available in your grey bin?

Recycle and compost all you can and send the grey bin back nearly empty each fortnight. It is good for the environment and equally good for your pocket. PW



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# KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The previous Community Council came to the end of its term of office last October and a new Council was inaugurated in November. We bade farewell to Christine Bowie who has given valued service over many years, being a former Chairman and Secretary, and to Jill MacDougall who was a hard-working Minutes Secretary and Planning Correspondent in the last Council. We welcomed Iain Moreland and a previous 'old stager' Peter Wilks, who takes on the roles of Minutes Secretary and Webmaster. In addition to them the Community Council is composed of Brenda Pell (Chair), Kay Pollock (Vice-Chair and Secretary), Betty Smith (Treasurer), Peter Rea (Planning Correspondent), Janet Duncan (Notice Board), Heather Wright and Derek Stuart.

With nine members, we are still below strength and there are two vacancies to be filled. Stirling Council is organising another election but if this fails to fill the spaces KCC will be able to co-opt members. If you are a resident, interested in local affairs and have time to attend a monthly meeting, why not put yourself forward to serve on your Community Council? Just contact any of the people mentioned above.

We also have vacancies for two Youth Members. Having Youth Members means that your CC can be more truly representative of the whole community. Young people who are preparing for the next stage of their education might find it a useful experience to include on their CV. Think about it! We would welcome having you.

Any of you that use the internet to find out about KCC will have noticed that we have a brand new website up and running (*see picture on right*). The old one was showing its age, was particularly difficult to keep updated and had an indigestible amount of

information. We hope that the new site is better looking, easier to use and gives you the information you require. You will find minutes of our past meetings, what is happening at our next meeting and when and where it is taking place. You will also find important public notices, local planning applications, links to other sites and most important of all, how to contact us. If you haven't tried it yet, give it a try, just type in [killearncc.org.uk](http://killearncc.org.uk) and tell us what you think. We value your feedback.

## Notice Board

The screenshot shows a website layout for 'KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL'. At the top, there are three small images of buildings. Below them is a navigation bar with links: 'Home', 'About Us', 'Links', and 'Contact Us'. To the left, there's a sidebar with a logo for 'KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL' and a 'Meetings' section containing a link to the 'Agenda'. The main content area is titled 'Meetings' and contains text about the meeting schedule (third Wednesday of each month, except July and August) and venue (Killearn Primary School Hall at 8.00 pm). It also mentions that meetings are open to all local residents and members of the public, and that anyone present can question the Council on any topic relevant to the work of the Council during the agenda item 'Question Time'. A 'Next Meeting' section indicates the date as 'Wednesday, 21st March 2007'. At the bottom, there's a link to the 'Agenda 21/03/2007'.

Any notices for display on the Village Notice board should be given to Janet Duncan at the Post Office counter. Because of space limitations, notices should be confined to public information and local events. No advertising or commercial material please, as there is not enough space. BP

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## KILLEARN HEALTH CENTRE TRAINING DAYS

Killearn Health Centre will be closed for staff training from **12.30 pm onwards** on the following days:

**22 March,  
15 May,  
6 June,  
28 August,  
24 October,  
27 November.**

If you require medical attention or advice, please phone 550339 and your call will be diverted to the *Out of Hours Service*.

Once again, we would like to thank our patients for their participation in the annual General Practice Assessment Questionnaire (GPAQ) Survey. The results were analysed and we were pleased to note that the Patient Satisfaction scores were higher than the national benchmark.

*Marta Emmerson-Gray  
Practice Manager*

## NOEL BLOCKEY 1921 — 2007



That morning the heather was still wet after the night's rain and I noticed a figure approaching me. Wearing wellingtons, I judged that he was neither a tourist or a local hill gangrel and hailed him although he seemed to be in hurry. He replied in a friendly and cultured voice. I guessed he was from England. No, he said he was

from Lancashire! I knew then I had met a character to whom I could perhaps relate, as I watched him make off.

Later he appeared as a volunteer worker for our Abbeyfield House here, and, attracted I suppose by our mutual little eccentricities, we struck up a friendship which flourished over the succeeding twelve years or so.

With an ever-friendly and polite approach, he revealed a sharp intellect and an insatiable curiosity in his immediate surroundings wherever he was. On a cruise off the Norwegian coast he steered his entire way to the North Cape, leaving a trail of bemused crewmen and locals alike in his wake.

Golf, gardening, reading, history (an authority on the Boer War), motoring, walking – sometimes on the hills – he took in his stride. Even after a hip operation his indomitable spirit yielded no quarter to such a setback, and with a slight limp he became a kenspeckled figure around the village with his Harry Lauder walking stick (really an old branch of a tree he fancied – no poles or shepherd's crooks for him).

He was ever game to tackle jobs and problems that could deter many a lesser man – they were simply a welcome challenge that had to be overcome, from makeshift joinery to reciting poetry from Burns – all done on the run of course!

Once, on a hospital visit with him, I soon realised that he was regressing to his real element as he plunged into wards and staff willy nilly with a joyful gleam in his eye – that was the true breath of life for him.

And what about his earlier life anyway? Graduating from Manchester University in 1945 with an MB ChB, he first trained at Liverpool and then at Manchester Royal. Climbing the ladder of distinction he then gained his MCh(Orthopaedics), followed by the coveted FRCS. In 1956, and now married to Joyce, he took an appointment at the Orthopaedic Hospital for Children at Yorkhill as consultant surgeon. He held the Barclay Lectureship in his subject at Glasgow University, and acted as consultant in his specialty at the Western Infirmary.

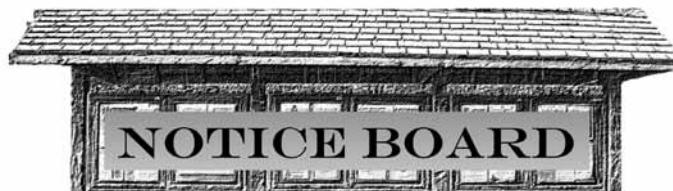
In retrospect he was a pioneer in his work and demonstrated inspirational practicality and leadership in his entire approach, culminating with six months in Kenya on behalf of the University in 1966.

He then retired but went again twice to Africa for further orthopaedic work there. He had by then also published a couple of textbooks on his subject and I notice one of them is listed in Amazon at over \$90.

His retirement was pursued with equal vigour right up to the time he left us, and he is sadly missed. And oh! – I almost forgot – his Latin was pretty good too!

Now I see that the heather must be wet on the hill again....

Eric Drew



22 Mar	Drymen & District Local History Society, talk by N. Willis and R. Weddle, "The Glasgow Necropolis". Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
23 Mar	Killearn Primary PTA Family Music Night. Village Hall, 7–10 pm.
23 Mar	Strathendrick Film Society showing Spring Summer Autumn Winter. Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
26 Mar	Rotary Club of Strathendrick Open Night. Black Bull Hotel, 7 pm. Finger buffet and refreshments will be served.
27 Mar	Get Reel Term ends.
27 Mar	The Guild A.G.M. Speaker: Anna Magnusson, Black Bull, 7.30 pm.
28 Mar	Rotary Charity Bridge Drive. Village Hall, 7 pm for 7.30 pm.
31 Mar	Charity Art Show. Village Hall, 10 am.
6 Apr	Strathendrick Film Society showing Inside I'm Dancing. Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
14 Apr	All Killearn Archives Drop in Day. Village Hall, 10 am –12 pm and 2–4 pm. Tea and coffee will be served.
18 Apr	Inner Wheel of Strathendrick Fashion Show by Frasers of Glasgow in aid of Crossroads. Balfron Campus, 7 pm for 7.30 pm.
20 Apr	Community Planting Day. Playpark, 9.30 am - 2.30 pm
22 Apr	Balfron Co-op 10K Race. Balfron Campus, 11 am start.
24 Apr	Get Reel Summer Term starts.
26 Apr	Drymen & District Local History Society, talk by Tom and Josette Merchant, documentary film Glasgow – Cinema City. Drymen Village Hall, 7.15 pm for cheese and wine. A short AGM will follow the film.
27 Apr	Strathendrick Film Society: Geordie. Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
29 Apr	Rotary Classic Car Run.
19 May	Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society and Friends of Guiding Coffee Morning and Gardeners' Market. Village Hall, 10 am.
19 May	Killearn Primary P.T.A. Summer Fete. Primary School, 11 am–1 pm.
20 May	Playpark Opening Celebration. Playpark, 2.00 pm
20 May	Killearn Kirk Songs of Praise, with the Dumbarton Wind Ensemble. The Glebe, 6.30–7.30 pm. Tea and coffee will be served.
5 Jun	Get Reel term ends.
9 Jun	Charity Art Show. Village Hall, 10 am.
16 Jun	Killearn Primary School P.T.A. Duck Race on Endrick Water. 11 am.
16 Jun	Killearn Primary School P.T.A. BBQ. Primary School, 5–8 pm.
24 Jun	Scribblers' Picnic Stirling County Rugby Club grounds.
1 Aug	Scotland's Garden Scheme and Crossroads. Garden opening: Bumbrae, Kirkhouse Road, 2–6 pm.
8 Aug	Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society Beginner's Night: How best to exhibit items for the Show. Village Hall, 7–9 pm.
25 Aug	Killearn Horticultural Society Annual Show. Village Hall, 2 p.m.



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## TOP KILLEARN INVESTMENTS

The artist Marion Drummond has lived in Killearn for many years and from her top floor studio has views to Ben Lomond and the Argyll hills which are a great inspiration to her. She is a real enthusiast, loves the smell of paint and can't wait to get started on her next picture.

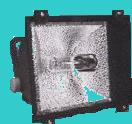
She was encouraged by teachers Ann Johnston and Drummond Mayo to develop her own style and is very physical in her approach, using mainly her fingers and perhaps rags or palette knife in preference to brushes for her still life work, life painting and portraiture. She is becoming increasingly recognised and in a recent article in *The Herald* she was featured as one of the top 50 Scottish Artists. Invest while you can!

Marion recently exhibited in the Morningside Gallery in Edinburgh, and from March will have pictures in Thompsons (Marylebone), London. Her work is also to be found in the Jerdan Gallery, Crail, in the East Neuk of Fife, and, of course, The Green Gallery in Buchlyvie. Later this year, she will be exhibiting in the Manor House Gallery, Chipping Norton.

Each year, she donates a picture to the Macmillan Cancer Relief Art Show. If you would like to see examples of her most recent work, visit her website at [www.mariondrummond.co.uk](http://www.mariondrummond.co.uk). PR



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## Playpark Nears Completion



Despite working through what must be one of the wettest winters on record, at the time of writing, the transformation of the Playpark is nearing completion. The former rather bleak rectangular strip of land containing dwindling pieces of play equipment has been transformed into a more exciting landscape. The surface has humped into new contours, rounded rocks of different sizes have brought interest to the stretches of damp bark. The fence remains because it is needed to keep small children in and dogs out but now it is screened by the red twigs of dogwood and the clumps of bamboo and willow. The path serpentine between newly-planted trees past beds of lavender bushes.

and a Community Planting Day is planned for 20 April when an invitation to participate is extended to all, so that all generations may have an input into the creation of this new feature. With the coming of spring we can anticipate a ceremonial opening and much enjoyment in the future from this new facility. Many organisations and individuals have contributed to the funding of the new Playpark. Their names will be publicised unless anonymity has been requested, but KCFC and the Playpark Working Group take this opportunity of thanking all who have enabled a dream of three years ago to turn into the reality of today.

B. Pell

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## Educational Opportunities for Rural Schools and their Communities

Balfron High School witnessed a new initiative which could aid the recovery of rural communities in line with the Scottish Rural Development Plan. The educational establishment in Scotland has been offered a mechanism by the Executive to create sustainability within the rural economy in the "Skills for Work" programme.

Dianne Smith from Fintry, encouraged by local employers, has been the driving force behind the Balfron High School programme. Oatridge College, Lantra, the Scottish Further Education Unit in Stirling, the SQA, and the school's training partners have developed the course to suit the Balfron community catchment area. The course is one of a possible ten available at present through a two-year pilot study. The courses are designed to balance the present skills based curriculum with a practical skills base, able to meet the needs of individuals and their communities. The schools can work in training partnerships with Further Education Colleges, not always practical or viable for rural schools, or with local employers who more fully understand the needs of the community.

Through living and working in the community Diane had already developed a network of contacts willing to become involved and thus hopefully keep any possible future funding within the community. Amongst the school's partners are the Forestry Commission, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Cashel Farm, Carbeth Home Farm, and John Coyle Signs of Scotland.

In January the rural skills group hosted an evening to demonstrate their achievements so far, and to show the value of this well-structured course. The group's PR, IT and communication skills were evident as they manned their display stands and gave PowerPoint presentations illustrating their practical achievements.

David Cameron, Stirling Council's Director of Education, hailed the pilot for setting a standard of excellence which was at the cutting edge of Scottish education. It became clear that he had a refreshingly in-depth knowledge and understanding of the needs of farming, the countryside, the rural economy and

the future role that education should play in Scotland. He recognised and praised the young people for their work, presentation and enthusiasm, and said that he could have listened and enjoyed learning from them for much longer than time allowed.

The strong links between school and community were recognised and acknowledged as being vital to the success of the project both by him and Steve Barron, Professor of Education at Strathclyde University. Steve stressed again that Diane and her young people were at the forefront of change in the Scottish education system as it tried to balance the text and practical bases of the curriculum. He added that the course met a wide variety of needs; it was real work and learning in real meaningful situations valued by both young people and their community.

The challenge would be how to sustain it financially and through the curriculum.

*Daye Tucker*

*Chairman, Balfron and Port of Menteith Branch, NFU*

*Training Partner Balfron "Skills for Work"*

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# The Buchanans of Crowhill

John Cairney Buchanan commissioned an architect to build Crowhill (now called Crowhill House) in the 1930s, after he retired from India where he had set up Norwich Union in India and Burma at the turn of the nineteenth century. He studied art at Glasgow School of Art as a full-time mature student in the late 1940s and painted landscapes, accompanying the artist Morris Henderson on painting expeditions in the Highlands.

The house had teak and other Indian woods included in the materials inside, but the garden was never completed according to the original plans due to the threat of World War II. John Cairney Buchanan and his wife, Inez, moved into the house in 1939 with their four children, although two had already left home. Maureen, the eldest, trained as a nurse in Edinburgh and was in the QAs in the war in North Africa and Italy, following her husband, Roy Waddell, whom she had met and married in Killearn in January 1943, when war rationing made even having a wedding dress and



Duncan and Olwen

reception difficult. She returned to Glasgow after the war with Roy and lived at Hughenden until July 2006. Her daughters, Sheila and Heather, were both christened at Killearn Kirk and went to Sunday school there for five years. Maureen loved returning to Killearn's Town and Country café for lunch, with Heather and her niece, Karen. She died in July 2006, three months after her last visit to Killearn.

Fiona, the second daughter, graduated from Glasgow School of Art and then trained as an occupational therapist. She worked for many years in Killearn Hospital before being promoted to Senior Occupational therapist at Stobhill Hospital. She died in 2004.

Olwen, the third daughter, eloped from Crowhill, letting her suitcase out of her bedroom window on a rope, and slipping quietly down the back stairs and out of the back door in the dark, to marry Duncan McCuaig, an RAF Reconnaissance Pilot whose mother lived on Station Road.



The building of Crowhill, designed by John Cairney Buchanan in 1937



Youngest daughter, Brenda Buchanan, lays the foundation stone.



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Sadly, he was shot down and killed over Bremen in September 1944. Their daughter, Karen (Macdonald), still visits Killearn. In 1947, Olwen married Douglas Drysdale and had another five children: Duncan, Andrew, Malcolm, Lorna and David. She and Douglas were leading members of the SNP in the 1960s and 1970s. Olwen died of cancer in 1994.

Brenda, the youngest, born in 1931, grew up at Crowhill and went to school locally. She studied at Glasgow School of Art, graduating in silversmithing and jewellery. She married a second cousin, Bill Martin. After settling in Kilmacolm for a number of years they lived in America in upstate New York and Maine before returning to retire in Fortrose on the Black Isle. They have three daughters: Erica, Corinne and Carola who all live in Scotland.

Crowhill was sold by the Buchanans in 1954, and is now owned by the Arnold Clark family.

Karen McCuaig Macdonald, the daughter of the romantic young couple at Crowhill, has written a gentle and thought-provoking volume of original poems and prose entitled *Mothmilk and Moondust*. It includes pieces which have been published in the *Herald*. Sales will benefit Strathcarron Hospice.

(Covenanter Press, 2004, ISBN 1-905022-04-2)

# Killearn and The Great Clydesdale Migration



Those who listen to *Out of Doors* at 7.00 am on a Saturday will have heard of Annie Rose and her heavy horses. Annie started her business on Raasay as "Raasay Heavy Horses" in 1996. The business migrated from Raasay to Skye, first to Portree and finally to Armadale. Her stable grew to ten Clydesdales and one Shire (Prince) together with a number of smaller horses and ponies. The heavy horses were sometimes used for carriage and dray work but their main use was for riding, making the business, by now renamed "West Highland Heavy Horses", almost unique.

For a variety of reasons, the business had to move. A new site was found at Chappels Farm in Cumbria and plans were made to move south.

There was the question of how to move the horses from Skye to Cumbria. The easy way was by horse box, but Annie decided that it would be more fun to ride the heavy horses down. The trip could be used to raise money for charity as, with luck, people would pay to do the ride. So started the Great Clydesdale Migration. After much research and planning a route was established using quiet roads, paths, old railway lines and some cross country sections. The trip was arranged to take five weeks, split into sections of three or four days, and riders were able to complete one section, multiple sections, or the whole five week trek. The group was due to arrive in Drymen on Sunday, 8 October, have a rest day there, then set off on Tuesday, 10 October to Kirkintilloch through the Parish of Killearn. This unique and historic event was too good to miss so several good vantage points were chosen to see the migration.

The route from Drymen followed the Gartness Road almost to Gartness



Junction. The horses then followed the track down to Barnford where they crossed the Endrick into Killearn. The original ford has become impassable over the last few years so the route diverted about 100m downstream to a point where the crossing was possible. After a good gallop around the field on our side of the river – which resulted in one rider being unseated – the route continued east along the West Highland Way, passing under

Station Road, where the riders had to take care to avoid the underside of the bridge, and past the Beach Tree Inn to the path leading off to Glengoyne Distillery. After a gallop across to the field, horses and riders stopped at the distillery for lunch. They then climbed up to the "Water Road" which they

followed towards Strathblane. The migration continued south and arrived at their new home at Chappels Farm, Cumbria, on 31 October. To fit the new location, a new name – "Cumbrian Heavy Horses" – has been chosen. Annie hopes to be open for business in March.

For more about the horses, see [www.thegreatclydesdalemigration.com](http://www.thegreatclydesdalemigration.com), [www.cumbrianheavyhorses.com](http://www.cumbrianheavyhorses.com).

Peter Smith

## Access For All —

### Even Horses!

Most of you will be aware by now that we all have a right of responsible access thanks to the Land Reform Act.

As well as cyclists and walkers, this right extends to horse riders, and now affords greater access to riders than previously. You may have noticed an increase in the presence of horses and their riders on the pathways and roads between the houses around the village.

There is now, therefore, potential for conflict amongst different groups of users. This is when the right of *responsible* access comes into play. To clarify and educate their own group, the British Horse Society has published a leaflet to give guidance and illustrate good practice to riders and other users.



As a horse rider and a member of the Killearn Paths group, using my new rights, I set about exploring and researching all the little paths and short cuts around the village. It has been very pleasant riding on virtually traffic-free roads. Even on the main roads around Killearn I have been impressed at the care and courtesy of drivers who slow down to approach and pass the horses.

The British Horse Society leaflet asks us always to respect the needs of other users, and not to damage ground by riding on it when it is too wet and soft. Riders are also encouraged to dismount and kick to one side any droppings deposited on a public pathway. DT

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# LET'S DANCE . . . .

Have you noticed – everywhere you look at present – dance seems to feature? As entertainment, in popular culture, as a leisure pursuit and as an art form.

Dance plays an important role in most cultures – ancient and modern, western and otherwise – but over the last couple of years it has enjoyed a real “high”.

Ballet – along with opera, theatre and classical music – is a cornerstone of western performance art. Many girls, in particular, attend ballet classes as youngsters.

Various forms of folk dance form the centrepiece of social events or celebrations.

As a form of entertainment – from the Broadway musical to cabaret – dance has always been centre-stage.

Discos are, and always have been, the focus of most cities' night-life. But there is something else happening as well.

The number of adults participating in one dance form or another has never been greater: line dancing and salsa have lead the way and now dance is back on our television screens, attracting huge peak-time Saturday evening audiences with *Strictly Come Dancing* and the like. So what is going on and just what is the appeal?

Dance may be defined as **human movement** used as a form of **expression**, **social interaction** or presented in a **spiritual** or **performance** setting. It can be directly **participatory**, **social** or **performed** for an **audience**; it can be **ceremonial**, **competitive** or **erotic**!

## Folk

Dance and music are at the core of many societies expression o f their cultural identity. Folk and traditional dance are integral to customs, traditions, ceremonies and celebrations of cultures from the bhangra of Punjab, flamenco in Andalusia, the leaping Maasai of East Africa and the belly dancing from the Middle East to the morris dancing of

the English village green. Nearer home, Scottish country dancing lives on through classes at school and the ever-popular ceilidh. From serious competition and displays at highland shows to “Stripping the Willow” in the Village Hall, it has a historic and proud place in our way of life.

## Classical

For the serious artist and choreographer, classical ballet or modern dance demand creativity, imagination, discipline and technique. Movement, shapes, rhythm and physical proficiency all contribute to an aesthetic experience that challenges the performer and thrills audiences.

Traditionally many young girls take dance classes – usually in ballet but often in modern, tap or jazz, too. Many, many Killearn youngsters have been taught, encouraged and tutored through the Linda Turner School of Dance (see *Shall We Dance*, opposite).

## Entertainment

On stage and screen dance has long been at the heart of popular entertainment. Broadway musicals – from *South Pacific* and *Showboat* to *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* and *A Chorus Line* – and West End shows such as *Cats*, *Me and My Girl* and now *Dirty Dancing* have enthralled audiences of millions and made stars of the top performers. Cabaret performances from the likes of the Tiller Girls at the Folies Bergères in Paris that combine beautiful girls, glamourous costumes and classy choreography have been popular since the 1890s but are less viable today except in places like Cuba's Club Tropicana. Dancing girls retain their appeal – in a variety of forms of entertainment constantly reinvented according current trends and moral constraints!

However, it is through its mass appeal on television that dance has enjoyed a remarkable resurgence in recent years. Two BBC executives had the idea of reviving the somewhat staid ballroom competition format *Come Dancing* to feature celebrities. And so *Strictly Come Dancing* was born – now one of the most popular shows on British TV – and the format is sold as *Dance With The Stars*

to 29 other countries, enjoying success across the globe. *Strictly Come Dancing* has spawned a rash of spin-offs such as *Dance Fever* and ITV's *Dancing on Ice*.

## Leisure and Social

Dance has always played an important role in our social lives: how many of our parents did their “courting” at the dance hall? How many liaisons have been secured at the village dance or the school disco? “Clubbing” is as popular as ever with young – and some not-so-young – people socialising and mixing to the latest sub-genre of dance music. **Aesthetic** expression, rhythm, synchronised movement, adrenalin, intimacy: it's not difficult to understand why dance can – at its best – be an exciting and stimulating pass-time!

As we become a more health conscious society, dance offers an enjoyable but

progressive form of “work out”. Tea dances mix socialising and exercise for mature folk and, probably thanks to *Strictly Come Dancing*, ballroom is once again in vogue. However, various types of formation dancing and Latin styles have exploded in popularity

in recent years. Line dancing was originally associated with country and western music, but has since developed and mixed with other styles. Circle dancing is another formation dance performed without a partner; its origins lie in European and Middle Eastern folk roots.

Interest in

travel and music stars such as Ricky Martin and Enrique Iglesias have helped fuel the interest in Latin dance styles: salsa and merengue classes are thriving in Glasgow and Stirling. These then morph with other rock-and-roll and jazz influences to result in a wide range of sub-genres from samba, rumba and jive, to hybrids such as lero and ceroc. NH



“inspirational”

# SHALL WE DANCE?

## Dance classes and groups accessible from Killearn:

**Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern Stage:** for children and teenagers aged 3 – 17 years. Wednesday and Thursday in Killearn Village Hall. Annual show now in the Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow.  
*Contact:* Lynda Turner 01360 770390



A Ceilidh in Killearn

**Ballet and Musical Theatre:** children aged 4 – 9 years.

Tuesday in Killearn Village Hall.

*Contact:* Desda Laiolo 0141 942 1998

### GLOSSARY

**Ballroom and Latin American:** waltz, foxtrot, quickstep, jive, cha-cha, salsa and samba. Adults. Sunday and Wednesday.

**Modern** – usually refers to 20th-century concert dance.

**Tap** – originated in the United States during the 19th century, possibly a fusion of Irish and African shuffle, the name coming from metal plates on the heel and toe of the dance shoe.

**Jazz** – comes from African American Dance from the jazz era; popular forms were Cakewalk, Black Bottom, Charleston, Jitterbug, Boogie Woogie and Lindy Hop (a.k.a. Swing).

**Line Dancing** – a formation dance usually performed to country and western style music.

**Circle Dancing** – a style of traditional, formation dance usually done in a circle without partners to musical accompaniment.

**Foxtrot** – a slower version of the two-step ballroom dance to a quick, quick, slow, slow rhythm.

**Cha Cha Cha** – Cuban dance style originally known as the "mambo-rumba".

**Waltz** – a ballroom polka dance in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time, first made popular in Vienna.

**Charleston** – originating in the United States in the 1920s now an important part of Lindy Hop culture.

**Polka** – originating in 19th-century Bohemia, a partner dance turning around the floor.

**Quickstep** – a quicker version of the Foxtrot ballroom dance in 2/4 or 4/4 time.

**Tango** – a social ballroom dance form originating in Argentina; essentially stylised walking with a partner in time to the music.

**Mambo** – a Latin dance of Cuban origin that corresponds to mambo music. It is rhythmically similar to the bolero, but faster!

**Jive** – is a term for a dance that evolved out of diverse related forerunners of African-American origin. Amongst them are the Lindy Hop from the '30s, Blues Swing, Boogie-Woogie from the '40s, the Jitterbug followed by Rock'n'Roll in the fifties.

**Salsa** – a partner dance to music fusing traditional African and Cuban and other Latin-American rhythms.

**Samba** – an Afro-Brazilian folk dance and a ballroom dance.

**Rumba** – A Latin ballroom style social dance based on Cuban rumba and song.

**Modern Jive** – sometimes called French Jive, is a dance style that originated in the 1980s. It derives from Swing, Lindy Hop and Rock'n'Roll and others, the main innovation being to simplify the footwork.

**Ceroc** – a fusion of salsa and jive (trademarked).

**Leroc** – a form of Jive that may include elements of Salsa and Tango.

evenings in Maryhill Community Centre. *Contact:*

Andrew Cowan School of Dance [www.cowandance.co.uk](http://www.cowandance.co.uk)

"great fun"

**Circle Dancing:** a community form of dance. It creates a sense of well being and coming together, inviting a sense of wholeness into our lives through dance. Circle dancing is for any one of any age or ability. Dancing in a circle is one of the most well known ways in which people celebrate being together as part of a group.

Monday evenings in Strathblane Village Club. *Contact:*

Jenny Oswald 01360 770497 [www.jennyocircledancing.com](http://www.jennyocircledancing.com)

"great fun"

**Modern Jive** "Funky Dance Fusion": a partner dance that can be danced to just about any popular music: pop, modern, swing, R&B, Latin, Motown, chart etc. No need to bring a partner.

Monday evenings in Buchlyvie Village Hall. *Contact:* Kate and Alan 01360 850229 or Kate 07921 438858

**Salsa:** for beginners and improvers; Cuban Salsa, Merengue, Salsacise

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: Stirling. *Contact:*

Denise and David 07803 043263. [www.stirlingsalsa.co.uk](http://www.stirlingsalsa.co.uk)

**Bellydance:** for beginners and improvers



Monday: Dunblane. Thursday: Stirling. 07810 678558

**Line Dancing** – Strathblane – Thursday evenings

**Ceilidh** – Sunday evenings – The Winnock Hotel, Drymen

**Ceroc** – Tuesday, Thursday – Jumping Jacks, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow

**Leroc** – Monday – Normandy Hotel, Renfrew

**Salsa** – Favel, Glasgow and Tiger, Tiger. [www.academiacadesalsa.co.uk](http://www.academiacadesalsa.co.uk)

**Street Dance** – Balfour Campus – Monday (Secondary school age)

**Street Dance** – Balfour Campus – Friday (Junior school age)

**Ballet** classes also available in Balfour (Alison Saunders); Kippen (Footprint); Drymen (Stewart School) and Milngavie

**Dance Show** – Balfour High School early May – see press for details

Do you know of other regular classes or dance groups or of any **Tea Dances** in the area? If so please contact Nick Hawkins (01360 550576) and we'll carry it in our next edition.



# Trees and the Like

In spite of how it feels, there are several upsides to living in a generally wet place. One is that it will be some time before there are standpipes in Well Green, and another is that the land looks green rather than beige. Also, there are lots of trees, since trees need stacks of water, as anyone who has ever tried to grow raspberry canes in the vicinity of an oak will tell you.

Our village gardens abound with trees, some of which add real architecture to the scene. But there are others which should never have been planted in the first place. How many times has a house been sold on the strength of a view, only to find that five years later the view has vanished and a forest has taken its place? And how often does John P. have to come along with his power saw and put everything right again?

Then there are the domestic hedges, some of which are magnificent. Beech abounds, witness Mrs. Russell's lovely hedge next to the Spar, and the high proud protectors of privacy in Drumbeg Loan. There's been a lot of discussion on the merits of evergreen as opposed to deciduous hedges, but you'll not see a finer evergreen specimen than the Holden one at the corner



of Lampson and Station Roads. And although the hedge that runs down the side of the path from the old church to the football pitch does now obscure what was once a view of the hills, you can in season hear lots of nestlings tweeting away in it, above the level of the normal feline predator.

But apart from the hedges, there are the trees that are

accompaniments to village life, like the lilacs and rhododendrons on Well Green, the line of sentinels along the grass verge across from the butcher's, and the splendid copper beech beside the war memorial. And how about the air of mystery that hovers over the tunnel of trees on the way up to Windyknowe, and the gothic stand of conifers at the bottom of the Branziert? So though it might be tempting now and then to think of trees as giant weeds whose only function is to cut out light, we are, in fact, surrounded by lovely specimens. Look at the ones dotted casually around the park, where they've got room to take on their rightful shape. It is also worth reflecting that there can't be many children who get to walk to school along a path beneath an oak that's probably been there since Rob Roy strutted his stuff.

Joyce Begg



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chose this mushroom!

*Villager, Simon Whitley Executive Chef, Cameron House. Winner of the Scottish Hotels of the Year, Hotel Executive Chef of the Year 2006.*

#### Ingredients

200g asparagus (5 spears per portion)  
25g unsalted butter  
100ml double cream  
2 egg yolks  
2g chervil  
2g garlic  
100g shitake mushrooms

#### Tennis Dress Code!

Way back in the 1970s, after an energetic Saturday afternoon's three or four sets, many players would go straight to the Black Bull before going home. On this particular Saturday, four of the gents were left to finish the set while the others went across to the Black Bull as usual. In due course the four gents, immaculate in their white shirts and shorts, arrived in the cocktail lounge to join the others. Imagine their surprise to be approached by the proprietor (not our Gill and Daniel) to be told that they were not suitably dressed and asked to leave. Despite protests that they always came dressed as they were in shorts and tennis shoes, the proprietor was adamant that they leave.

However, the gents of Killearn Tennis Club, renowned for their sartorial elegance, were not going to leave the ladies unaccompanied so went home, changed and returned to the Black Bull arriving at the bar unnoticed by the proprietor. This time they were dressed in immaculate black ties and dinner jackets, white shorts and welly boots!

There have been other occasions when the Club's dress code has been allowed to slip – like the occasion when one of the gents (who shall remain nameless) stood at the net between games to remove his track suit trousers, not noticing that he'd forgotten to put on his shorts first, and went back to serve dressed in shirt and underpants! Oops. JL

## Recipe: Asparagus & Shitake Cannelloni

20g parmesan, grated  
12 pasta sheets (3 per portion)  
5g black peppercorns, freshly ground  
1g cooking salt  
5g shallots, chopped fine  
1 plum tomato (remove skin, de-seed, cut into 1cm cakes)

#### Method

1. Prepare the filling for the cannelloni by peeling the asparagus, retaining the peeling and trimmings for stock, then slicing the asparagus but keeping the tops for the sauce.
2. Sweat half of the shallots and garlic then add the sliced asparagus and 2/3 shitake mushrooms, sweat for 1 minute, then add 50 ml of the cream, and cook until the cream has reduced by 2/3rds. Season and chill.
3. Cook the pasta sheets, refresh by plunging into cold water, then dry them, fill and roll 3 per portion.
4. Make a glaze by heating the remaining cream then add the egg yolk and Parmesan and whisk through. Cook until it coats the back of a metal spoon.
5. Spoon the glaze over the cannelloni and bake for 10 minutes at 180° C/350° F.
6. Prepare the sauce by sweating the remaining shallots and garlic with the rest of the mushrooms then add the stock (see below) and reduce by half.
7. Finish the sauce by adding the tomato and asparagus tips, cooked in boiling water for 3 minutes, then chilled. Whisk in the butter, then season and add chervil.
8. Glaze the cannelloni under a hot grill, place on a plate and spoon the sauce around.

To make asparagus stock, place all the asparagus trimmings into a pan, gently heat without colouring for 10 minutes, then add 1/4 pint water, bring to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes. Pass through a strainer, and use as stock – or even easier, buy some



The annual music and fun day will again be held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at Stirling County Rugby Club grounds.

Local community groups and charities are invited along free to raise funds for themselves.

Have a look at our website [www.scribblerspicnic.com](http://www.scribblerspicnic.com) for full details. You can download application forms from the website or you can request them by email from [lottery\\_russell@hotmail.com](mailto:lottery_russell@hotmail.com).

Also wanted are organisations and individuals willing to provide entertainment on the day.

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Email: [cuthberts@ecosse.net](mailto:cuthberts@ecosse.net)



# 100 Years of Scouting

2007 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scouting and we are celebrating its past, present and its future locally as well as nationally.

A number of events will showcase Scouting throughout the year, with the main focus being a Centenary Camp from 25–27 May at Barrwood (between Denny and Stirling off the A872).

Former Scouts and Leaders throughout the area are welcome to join us on the afternoon of Saturday, 26th May, when we will be providing a full entertainment programme.

Anyone who wishes to attend should write as soon as possible and post it to Russell Taylor, 6 Haughs Way, Denny FK6 6HQ, giving the information shown below:

Name      Address Contact Telephone Number(s)  
 Email Address      Scout Group Connection  
 Dates of involvement (as best remembered)

Anyone who wants information on scouting can obtain details of local contacts at: [www.forthvalleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.forthvalleyscouts.org.uk).



The Rotary Club of Strathendrick invites you to an open night on Monday, 26 March in the Black Bull Hotel, Killearn. The event will allow those men and women who come along to find out more about Rotary and what it does. A finger buffet and refreshments will be available. The evening starts at 7.00 pm, so why not come along and find out

One thing that is common in all villages is '*rumour*'. '*Rumour*' sweeps through communities gathering momentum at every telling. '*Rumour*' is savoured by all who listen to it. Its fires are stoked when there is no response from 'the other side' thus allowing '*rumour*' to flare up unabated. Killearn is no different.

Take the object of our current '*rumour*' – the tennis courts. The book *The Parish of Killearn*, first published in 1988, refers to the tennis club being formed in 1921 and the court being at High Lettre Farm. The chapter goes on to say, "Three years later, new courts were built on land **given** by the Wilsons of Carbeth." The italics are mine, but it does seem the club was **given** the land, as it has never paid any rent.

Then, about 25 years ago, the courts needed to be upgraded and, says '*rumour*', for the club to get a grant, they had to produce some sort of lease showing ownership. '*Rumour*' has it that for reasons best known to themselves, the Club obtained a document from the Wilson Trust indicating ownership of the land and got its grant.

That's just some of the information that '*rumour*' is putting about, and it may be that all concerned should sit round the same table and hold an open discussion whereby '*rumour*' is kicked into touch and the community learns what is really going on.

*Ian Dickie, Editor, Killearn Courier*



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Inner Wheel is a large association of clubs in the UK and abroad. Originally the membership was confined to wives of Rotarians, but now it is recruited on a broader basis. The aims of Inner Wheel are friendship, personal service and international understanding in the course of service to our community, and in fundraising for both local charities and overseas.

Our club was formed in 1978, and draws members from a wide local area. We hold a business meeting once a month followed by dinner and a speaker. We are always pleased to see guests of members and we welcome enquiries from anyone interested. Contact K. Lockhart (550585)

## Charity Fashion Show

The ladies of Inner Wheel Club of Strathendrick have arranged a Fashion Show in aid of the charity Crossroads, generously to be staged by House of Fraser of Glasgow. The venue is Balfron Campus Theatre, at 7.00 for 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 18 April.

Tickets are £10 and include shortbread and glass of wine. There will be a splendid raffle.

Tickets available from McFarlane (ironmongers), Balfron (440583) and the Old Mill Gift Shop, Killearn (550666) or telephone Carolyn (550675), Gay (550231) or Anne (550605).

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# Strathendrick Singers

In March 2007 Strathendrick Singers reach a milestone in their history, with the celebration of 30 years of singing. This also marks the retirement of the choir's director, Rosalind MacGowan, and rehearsal accompanist, Helen Barclay. The choir is based in Killearn, and takes



Ros MacGowan

opportunity to express their appreciation to all their friends in the audience.

Although known principally for their classical repertoire, the Singers have performed various kinds of music, including three Gilbert and Sullivan operas, produced by Killearn's very own Ken Barrett. So successful was their *Pirates of Penzance* (or *Loch Lomond*, in this case), that its virtues were extolled by the Rev. Stuart McWilliam in the following Sunday morning service. The choir also sings lighter music at their annual coffee morning, and at various charity concerts for different causes.

The 30 years of carol concerts at Christmas have built up a wonderful repertoire, from beautiful traditional English carols, to extracts from *Messiah*, not forgetting items like the cheerful Jingle Bells, which seems to exert a strange allure for regular fans. The air of happiness and enjoyment at the carol concerts, aided and abetted by mulled wine and mince pies, has long been a welcome feature of the village festive season.

But it is upon the Spring concerts that the reputation of Strathendrick Singers chiefly rests. They have performed major works by Vivaldi, Handel, Haydn, Beethoven, Faure, and many others. The most exacting work they have tackled, with great success, is Bach's *B minor Mass*, and they have given several performances of Mozart's *Requiem*. They have also commissioned and performed a work by well-known local composer, Sally Beamish. Although the choir usually employs the services of an orchestra in the final performance, the real hard work is done in the months before, with solo

piano accompaniment. That the Singers have reached the standard they have is due to the inspiration and effort of Rosalind MacGowan and Helen Barclay. These two ladies have been indispensable to the success of the choir. The Singers



would like to thank them, and to wish them great happiness in their retirement.

Strathendrick Singers have been fortunate to recruit the services of a new young conductor, Mark Evans, who will take over the choir in the new season. The choir is very much looking forward to working with him. In the meantime, there is still a chance to hear the choir under Rosalind's leadership. The Singers will be performing on 18 March, at 8 pm, in Killearn Kirk (tickets: £8 adult; £4 children). The programme will include pieces by Mozart, Bach and Parry, and the major work will be Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*. This concert should be a splendid finale to a wonderful partnership between Ros and Helen, and Strathendrick Singers.  
JB



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As a youth of Killearn, the tennis courts will be a great loss – there is already a lack of activities in Killearn for young people! The tennis courts brought people of all ages together at the same time for keeping fit and healthy! I remember when we used to go up every Friday night for fun and Saturday morning for lessons. I say keep them and use them again!

Siobhan Wilson, student

# KILLEARN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Hopefully you have all got over the festive activities and the January blues and are starting to think about the Spring, gardening, and also the Flower show – no?

The KCHS committee have been working tirelessly – aye, right – producing this year's Show schedule, introducing a few changes (i.e. classes for big onions, bigger onions and even the biggest onions) along with some new classes which we hope will tempt you to come along.

The show convenor (*better at organising the Show than writing articles – Ed*) and the treasurer – Neil Metcalf – are busy collecting the adverts for the schedule. Perhaps your company would like to place an advert or even sponsor a section within our show? For more details, contact Neil (550241).

A question we often get is “I don’t know what to do with my exhibit!” Fear not! Help is at hand, the ‘Horti’ are having a Beginner’s Night on the 8 August in the Village Hall where you can come along to ask an ‘expert’ how to display your exhibits. The Hall will be open from 7 pm to 9 pm.

The committee look forward to seeing you all at our Gardeners'



Market and Coffee Morning, which this year is being run in conjunction with Friends of the Guides. So when you are having your Spring clean anything to do with gardening that's surplus can go to the bric 'a' brac stall. Speak to KCHS secretary Glenda for details (550142).

So enjoy your garden, crafts, etc., and *remember the photograph.*

GWF



Would we prefer the tubs in Main St. and around the Village Hall and Health Centre car park to be empty or would we prefer the colourful displays which have been enjoyed for the past few years? Unless additional volunteers can be found, there is a real danger that we may lose this benefit to the wellbeing of our village.

Not too much work is involved. After the planting of the tubs someone has to weed when necessary, and in dry weather ensure that the tubs have sufficient water



to sustain the plants.

If you could afford a very little time to help in this way either Priscilla Douglas (550898) or Robin Veitch (550372) would like to hear from you.

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## The Co-op Balfron 10K Run

Balfron is set to host its very first 10K run on Sunday 22nd April 2007.

The 10K road race will start from Balfron Campus at 11am and follow a scenic route heading out towards Fintry. Runners of all abilities, aged 15 and over, are welcome to take part in what will be a memorable day out. All funds raised will go directly to Balfron Primary School.

The Scottish Co-op is the main sponsor of the event, with supporting local sponsors including the Mulberry Bush Montessori Ltd, Speedy LCH Generators, Careth Landscaping, Forth Valley NHS, Balfron Campus, Jewson, GMC and many smaller, local businesses.

A 10K training programme specifically aimed at new runners who wish to run the Balfron 10K, has been drawn up by the Leisure Team at Balfron Campus. Call 440940 for further details.

Entry forms and further details of the Co-op Balfron 10K are available at [www.balfron10k.org.uk](http://www.balfron10k.org.uk) or contact Colin Mendham (440175).

*Lois Gerrard*

## KCFC FOOTPATHS GROUP

The group has continued to meet regularly, and the descriptions and maps of the proposed walks, tested by several people from the village, have been finalised. Most of the walks will be familiar to many villagers, but it is hoped that the leaflet will encourage more people to get out into the countryside.

The eight walks for the leaflet are:

1. Kirkhouse Wood
2. The Distillery and West Highland Way
3. Killearn to Strathblane (and back)
4. Killearn Glen
5. Gartness
6. Endrick Water and Drumtian Bank Wood
7. Along the Endrick Water
8. The Ascent of Earl's Seat

All walks start at the Spar except 6 and 7, which begin at the Health Centre. They are designed to include short strolls, eg Kirkhouse Wood, and longer more challenging walks like Earl's Seat. Unfortunately, none of the walks are suitable, at the moment, for disabled access or baby buggies along their full length. Later it is hoped that the group will progress to providing improvements and signposting, but this is a much more long-term project and will require substantial funding.

We are now considering what information to provide on 'the other side' of the leaflet. This will include a short piece about the village and the amenities it offers, as well as information about buses and accommodation. At present the project is on schedule to have the leaflet available by the end of the year.

### COMPETITION

We need photographs of the village to make our leaflet look attractive. This competition means that we can include *your* contribution. These are the views we would like to consider:

- Main Street looking south
- The Old Kirk and Dumgoyme in the background
- The whole village with Loch Lomond in the background – this will need to be taken from a high viewpoint
- The Buchanan monument
- A woodland path

The competition is open to all, BUT ENTRIES MUST BE IN BY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL. Photographs should be in colour, but can be in any format and any size. They do not need to be taken especially for this purpose. Slides are also acceptable.

Please send your entries, with your name and contact details to: Ian Pascoe, Carbeth Lodge, or email to [ifpascoe9@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ifpascoe9@tiscali.co.uk)

Any entry chosen for inclusion in the Walks Leaflet will receive an appropriate prize!

The group has also put in a submission to Stirling Council as part of the Core Paths Consultation. Those of you who were at the consultation meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> (which happened to be on the same day as KCFC AGM) may well have done so individually. If you would like to be reminded about the process, or would like suggestions about what form your response should take, please contact Ian Pascoe (as above, or phone 550022). *Fay Pascoe*

## YOU CAN BANK ON IT

Once or twice around the Christmas period the bank was not open when people expected. This gave rise to some grumbles and also to the expression of concern lest the Bank of Scotland might be planning to close the Killearn branch. *The Courier* made some enquiries and learned that the unforeseen closures had been made only because of lack of staff due to illness. A local flu epidemic hit a number of bank staff, not only in Killearn, but also throughout a wider area making it impossible for the bank to find staff at short notice to man all the branches.

## Killearn Community Futures Company

What is KCFC? It stands for *Killearn Community Futures Company*. It is a company with charitable status and was set up four years ago to promote the social and economic well-being of the community. Under the umbrella of this company working groups can be created to implement a variety of projects. This is what is happening in Killearn:

A group led by *Brenda Pell* has created a new play area, addressing the needs of the younger members and is nearing completion. The article on page 8 tells you more of this project.

The *Footpaths* group led by *Fay Pascoe* is working on a leaflet illustrating walks around the village, encouraging us towards a healthy lifestyle whilst enjoying our beautiful countryside. On page 19 there are details of a competition to help illustrate this leaflet. The group members will also be recording the valuable "link" paths which form shortcuts between houses and provide safe routes to school.

The *Woodland* group is a project to manage, with community involvement, an area known locally as "The Kingdom". This group is led by *Clive Emmanuel*.

The *Courier* has become such a successful institution that I hesitate to call it a project.

The youngest project is the *All Killearn Archive* group led by *Helen Loudon*. Its aim is to record and store information about Killearn, the area and its residents past and present for future generations. Helen actively needs your assistance in this project, so turn to page 4 to find out how you can help.

Not all projects are long term. "*Buchanan 500*" is a fine example of what can be achieved by an enthusiastic group. Again led by *Helen Loudon*, this group managed to mark an occasion,

create social enjoyment, and develop income streams from their activities which are now being redistributed to other community projects.

Today's communities face many challenges, lack of facilities, lack of time, lack of cohesion, but KCFC could be the platform from which to launch the answers to these challenges.

Our challenge is how to make you aware of the opportunities open to you. KCFC will welcome, encourage and guide any proposals you have.

**Communication is the first step to effective solutions, bringing us together, tackling shared needs with one strong community voice. Equally important is a large membership from the village.** When KCFC approaches funding bodies, almost the first question they ask is: "how many members do you have?", because this demonstrates in a practical way the strength of commitment from the community. In the next edition of the *Courier* you will find an invitation to join the company, which will be your chance to sign up to Killearn's future.

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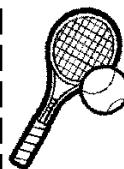
## Strathendrick and District Cycling Club

The festive party season is well and truly over and now it is time to fulfill that New Year's resolution to get fit and active. Join us on one of our varied cycle runs to shake off those excess pounds and at the same time have fun, meet new people and enjoy some of the best scenery in Scotland. Everyone is welcome irrespective of age or ability, although children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

We meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month during the winter months (October to March) and on the 2nd and 4th Sunday during the summer months (April to September).

If you would like further information, then please call:

*Morag (660437) or Willie (550378)*.



The loss of the Tennis Club would be a major loss of amenity to Killearn. It provides one of the few sports facilities within the village, is used by players of all ages and has a commendable record in encouraging young people to participate in sport.

If the Tennis Club disappears there is a risk that the land, which lies in the conservation area and which has, for several generations, been used as a recreational facility, will be lost for ever for this purpose.

To retain the village character of Killearn it is vital that we safeguard our existing valued heritage of which the Tennis Club is a part.

*Brenda Pell, Chair, Killearn Community Council*

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# A Guide to Golf around Killearn

Although Killearn has no course of its own, there used to be – a house in Drumbeg Loan had a six-hole course in its garden. There are many golf courses within half an hour of Killearn, the most famous being the championship course at Loch Lomond. Luckily, there are other, slightly less challenging perhaps, but excellent courses nearby with a variety of characteristics. The following is a summary of the courses that Killearn residents may consider playing. All these courses welcome visitors, although it may be wise to phone in advance.

*Buchanan Castle ([www.buchanancastlegolfclub.com](http://www.buchanancastlegolfclub.com))*  
Buchanan Castle Golf club lies within a forested estate on a flat plain, sliced through by the oxbows of the Endrick Water. To the east and northwest, beyond the banks of Loch Lomond are the beginnings of the Highlands and the magical mountains of Arthur, Vane, Vorlich, Lui and Ben Lomond itself.

The course, designed by James Braid, features many fairways which are framed by two tall trees at around 200 yards, or where the Braid Doglegs start to turn. Holes are simple but insidious, requiring consistent accuracy off the tee.

Braid's "signature" was perhaps the dog-leg hole and the original Buchanan Castle had twelve of them, running to 6,800 yards with eight par 5s. The course was opened in May 1936 by the Duke of Montrose. It proved too challenging for the ordinary member and the length was progressively reduced to its present comfortable medal length of 6,052 yards, with little troublesome rough.

This enjoyable course is sometimes challenging for the serious golfer; however, it is especially suited to beginners and older golfers as it is wide and flat. There are no hills and visitors appreciate the fact you can see the flag with all approaches to the greens.

*Balfron ([www.balfrongolfsociety.org.uk](http://www.balfrongolfsociety.org.uk))*  
The game of golf is not a new tradition in Balfron. There was a nine-hole course at the top of the village for many years until, in 1939, Balfron Golf Club was dissolved and the land given up for agricultural use during World War II. A couple of attempts to reform the club in the 1940s were unsuccessful, but in 1991 Balfron Golf Society was formed by a small group of individuals, most of whom lived or had been born in the

village. Trophies were rescued from the vault of the local bank and the inaugural outing to Callander Golf Club arranged in the summer of 1991.

The course was opened in grand style on Saturday, 4 July 1994 – a great celebration in the form of a stableford competition with family BBQ.

In 1997 the Society was given an opportunity to purchase adjoining land, which meant that the course could be extended to eighteen holes. With funding in place, the extension was designed by Robin Hiseman, the course architect, and planning permission was approved for ten new holes – the existing 2nd hole was replaced.



Buchanan Castle

The 360° panoramic views from the high points of the course are spectacular. Residents of Killearn will appreciate the views of the Campsie Fells from this different vantage point.

*Aberfoyle ([www.aberfoylegolf.com](http://www.aberfoylegolf.com))*

This is a very different type of course. Although quite short, it requires imagination and a wide variety of shot-making. The recently refurbished clubhouse offers a friendly and informal welcome to all.

Sitting at the foot of the Menteith Hills, on the southern border of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, Aberfoyle's course is one of Scotland's most scenic. From Ben Lomond in the west, down the upper valley of the River

Forth to the bulwark of Stirling Castle in the east, the views from the course are breathtaking.

*Strathendrick ([www.strathendrickgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.strathendrickgolfclub.co.uk))*  
This nine-hole course looks down on the River Endrick. It was established in 1901 and designed by Willie Fernie.

This is an undulating parkland course with four par 3 holes, four par 4 holes and one par 5. Visitors will find the greens to be quite small but well maintained.

*Hilton Park ([www.hiltonpark.co.uk](http://www.hiltonpark.co.uk))*  
You will pass the two Hilton Park courses when travelling to Killearn from Glasgow on the Stockiemuir Road about two miles north of Bearsden.

The Hilton is 6,054 yards and has a par and C.S.S. of 70. The signature hole on the Hilton is the 17th, par 3, 184 yards, "Muckle Drap". You play from an elevated tee to a well bunkered green with a burn around the front edge of the green, some 200 feet below. The tee shot can vary from a 9 iron to a driver depending on the wind.

The Allander is 5,487 yards and has a par of 69, C.S.S. of 67. The signature hole on the Allander is the 5th, par 4, 372 yards, "Burncrooks". The hole is a slight dog-leg right, played to a sunken two-tiered green, with the "Allander" burn on three sides, all out of bounds.

Will the good people of Killearn ever follow Balfron's example and build their own course? There is not much sign of that happening just now, but who knows what will happen in the future.

Gavin Hunter

## ABERFOYLE GOLF CLUB

Aberfoyle Golf Club is opening its doors to everyone on

**Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007.**

We are hosting an Open Day where all can enjoy the facilities free of charge.

Why not come along and play a round of golf on one of the most scenic courses in Scotland.

After playing, have a drink in the comfortable, spacious clubhouse. Perhaps take lunch in the restaurant. You will be made to feel very welcome.

If your children are interested, bring them along too.

The club will be open from 9.00am till 5.00pm

To reserve your time, call Duncan on either 01877 382493 or 01877 382463.

We look forward to seeing you on the 25<sup>th</sup> March.

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

The first correct entry to the crossword drawn out of the box after the closing date will win a **Family Ticket to The King's Theatre or Theatre Royal, Glasgow**, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days.

*Closing date – 21st April 2007*

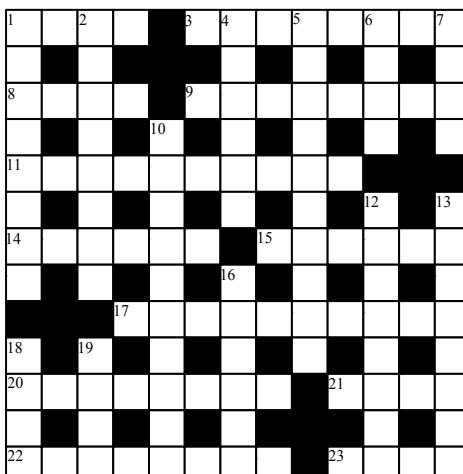


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### DOWN

1. Could you store money here in the kitchen? (8)
2. Steal nothing over the shakes in the design of automation (8)
4. The critic was acid (6)
5. Groups of triplets? (10)
6. A nothing, yet it's indigo (4)
7. Magistrate, he ends on a deity rising (4)

Name .....

Address ..... Phone No. ....

**Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword : Mrs Joan Reece of Drymen.**

**Solution to the Christmas Crossword** Across 1 christmas card; 8 pud; 9 elaborate; 10 noontime; 11 opal; 13 trains; 14 damned; 16 mall; 17 takeaway; 20 epitaxial; 21 ear; 22 choir of girls Down 1 capon; 2 ride on a sleigh; 3 sweetens; 4 miasma; 5 shoe; 6 a happy new year; 7 duelled; 12 waterlog; 13 tempera; 18 yards; 19 magi.

## CHILDRENS' SPOT THE DIFFERENCE sponsored by



The first correct entry pulled out of the box will win a £10 voucher which may be spent on anything in your local SPAR.

Find ten differences in the picture on the right and ring them. Write your name, address and age below, cut out the pictures and place in the box in Spar to win the £10 voucher. To enter the competition you must be 12 years old or under.



Name .....

Age .....

Address .....

Phone No. ....

**Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last Wordsearch: Jennifer Findlay (aged 12)**

**Closing Date for both competitions – 21st April 2007. Place your entries in the box in Spar.**



*Set by Peewit*

### ACROSS

1. Scottish poet cut short flower (4)
3. Degas' cot landed in the north (8)
8. Recedes in direction of boys' organisation(9)
9. Bird is the pin-up on the heather (8)
11. Police detest vice (10)
14. Reverse greeting is what you earn (6)
15. Compound after smoking marijuana (6)
17. Require the French job for a dressmaker (10)
20. Instrument heard in 3 (8)
21. Cereal husks are all this breakfast food (4)
22. Cancel the jumbled boat gear (8)

10. Playfully running while in good voice under canvas (10)
12. The party journalist worked (8)
13. Our royal sponsers (3,5)
16. The odd set really are the weirdest (6)
18. Sailor gets degree in Swedish pop group (4)
19. Thickening around a rag (4)

# NATURE NOTES

Spring is a time for new beginnings, but as I write this in the winter gales and survey the havoc in my garden, what I see looks more like endings.

But there are no endings in the circles of the natural world. Several trees are down, including one magnificent birch which was, in any case, nearing the end of its life. The immediate reaction is to get out the chainsaw, and tidy up the mess and bonfire it. In the past this is certainly what happened in managed woodlands, but nowadays we know better than to destroy all this good stuff. Dead wood is the place for so much life and activity. Yes, the elm was killed by the fungus carried by the bark beetle, but the great spotted woodpecker enjoyed the beetle grubs. Now the elm has fallen, it is a home and refuge for scurrying creatures from the soil, millipedes and the like, and its fallen trunk will give shelter to short-tailed voles, helping to hide them from their many predators. Other fungi growing on the elm, the chestnuts and the birch

– brackets, Jew's ear and the bootlaces of the dreaded honey fungus among them – are helping to bring about decay and decomposition, enriching the soil for all the new life there. Creatures are eating the fungi and though we may not approve of slugs, squirrels and voles in our gardens, we are all concerned with biodiversity these days.

So, yes, the chainsaw will come out. The small branches will be heaped in an out-of-the-way corner to provide

shelter for birds and hedgehogs, and the birch and chestnut logs will be stored for later burning on our fire (saving our fossil fuel). Meantime, blackbirds and wrens will nest cosily in the crevices of the piles of seasoning wood. Elm does not burn well – but we will find a good use for it and not mourn its loss too much. And think of the opportunity – spaces to plant more trees! *Fay Pascoe*

## Slip, Sliding, Away.....

Strathendrick Rugby Club was having a good season: the 1<sup>st</sup> XV being fourth in West Division 1 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV topping their league; two Midi teams and healthy numbers at Mini level were enjoying their sport – and then the downpour came! Rugby clubs expect to lose one or two fixtures to frozen pitches in



Photos: Courtesy of Whyler Photos  
with thanks to the Stirling Observer

With a Sevens Tournament scheduled for 21 April, a Mini Rugby Charity Festival on 29 April, and the President's game on 5 May, everyone at Fintry hopes for a better latter half of the season.



January and February, but this year the extraordinarily wet weather has meant waterlogged pitches in November and December and a huge backlog of fixtures. However, the National Cup game against Premier Division Heriot's – sponsored by Brodies Solicitors – went ahead despite "challenging" conditions – as our picture illustrates!



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## SPORTS REPORT

KILLEARN FOOTBALL CLUB is looking forward to another successful season. Competitive fixtures begin in April but training is now underway: please contact Donald Beaton on 01360 550679 for details.



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# ARE YOU PLANNING AN EVENT

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE  
SPORTMAN'S BAR IS AVAILABLE  
FOR PRIVATE FUNCTIONS?

Its an ideal venue for Birthday Parties, School Reunions, Anniversary Celebrations, Staff Parties, Wedding Receptions, Club Events or just a good get together.

SEE DANIEL OR GILLIAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

(All bookings must include catering for a minimum of 75 persons)



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