



Daily Prophet

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Killearn Courier published by:



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Christmas edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 17th November.

Advertisements and Artwork

All adverts should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by **Friday, 5th October**. *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, 5th October**. Send them to:

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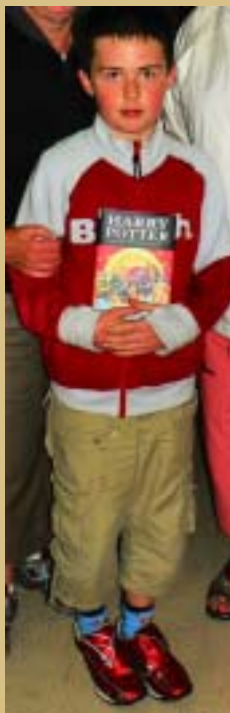
Pottermania Hits Downtown Killearn!

An excited crowd of young (and some not so young) Muggles awaiting the sale of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* was held at bay until the witching hour by two members of the temporary Co-op branch of Flourish and Blotts. The newest outpost of the well-known Diagon Alley emporium opened for business at precisely 12.01, when hordes of eager fans rushed through the specially constructed tunnel to buy the seventh, and final, instalment of the successful series. Not since Gilderoy Lockhart's personal appearance in 1998 has a publishing event generated such excitement. Books flew off the shelves, as if by magic.



Well, it is magic isn't it?

TID



Tennis Club Latest

The tennis courts are still very much in play and, indeed, have seen a rise in the number of youngsters joining the Club. The popularity of the tennis courts has not waned, and many players have been using the facilities in recent months, all of which bodes well for the future of tennis in Killearn.

As regards the future, it would seem that the Tennis Club is close to a mutually satisfactory agreement with the Wilson Trust which could well secure the playing of tennis in Killearn for years to come. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club is to be held in the near future to discuss this issue.

TID

Summer Term at Killearn Primary

Sports Scene

Throughout the summer term P5 visited Balfroon High School weekly for swimming lessons. The children really enjoyed this, especially when they got to wear their pyjamas in the water for life saving lessons! We had basketball tasters for P4 during the day. We also had many after-school clubs such as 'Top Sport' for P1, 'Club Golf' for P5, netball for P6-P7, and tennis for P7. Our school lacrosse team was very successful this year: P7 came third place in the Scottish National Lacrosse finals on 29 April. This was following a win in the regional lacrosse final!



We had a glorious day for our Sports Day on 1 June. The children had lots of races to compete in such as Egg and Spoon, Sack Race and an Obstacle Race. There was also a Football Shoot and Netball Shoot. We even managed to persuade

the parents to join in for a race – and teachers, too!

This day was then followed up with an Inter-House Sports Day. The day was very successful, and again the sun shone!

Out and About

On 12 June, P1 set off to Aberfoyle Sheep and Wool Centre. They then returned to school for a beach party – complete with paddling pool! This a fun way to finish off their topic on the 'Seaside'.

P5 had a fun day out at Bannockburn Heritage Centre on 18 May.

P6 spent an exciting week away at Ardentenny Outdoor Centre from 14–18 May. They had the opportunity to take part in many exciting activities such as gorge walking and abseiling. It was a fantastic week, enjoyed by children and accompanying staff.

To celebrate the end of P7, the class went on a special trip to the Time Capsule on 26 June. They went ice skating, swimming and played on the flumes. They had a great day!

PTA Events

The PTA successfully organised a Summer Fayre for us on Saturday, 19 May. Even though the rain poured down, we still managed to have a super time! We had a whole variety of events, ranging from Beat the Goalie to Lucky Dip. The P7 class also took on the responsibility for face painting.

The PTA had two very successful events on Saturday, 16 June – a BBQ and a Duck Race. Both raised money for the school.

Moving On

Primary 1 Induction was held on 6 June with a workshop for parents of our new pupils. This allowed the parents to meet the Primary 1 teacher. Then on 11 June, the new entrants also had a chance to visit the school and to meet with their new teacher.

Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Frances Devoy who has been awarded the 'Employee of the Year Award' by Stirling Council.

On 11 June, P7 set off for a Sports Day at Balfroon High School. Then on Tuesday they had their first experience of 'high school life'. They visited classes at the High School and met with their teachers.

Friendship Bench

The P3/4 class took responsibility for researching, organising and painting a 'Friendship Bench' for the playground. The purpose of the bench is to provide a place for children to sit if they are feeling lonely in the playground. Other children then see this and go over to the child and offer to play with them. The bench has been very successful. A 'cake and candy' was held to pay for the bench.

Playground Boat

The official 'launch' of HMS Stig, took place on 29 June. Water replaced champagne but Douglas Millen (Sports Stirling), Brenda Pell and Elsie Bouffler helped Miss MacKenzie and the children christen our new playground boat.



Drama Workshop

On 19 April, P7 visited the University of Glasgow to attend a drama workshop on recycling and energy conservation. They then spent the afternoon being very cultured with a tour round Kelvingrove Art Gallery!

Peter Pan

We finished off the summer term with two performances of our school show *Peter Pan*. This involved the P7 and P3 classes. Mrs MacCowan led the rehearsals, Mrs Hornbuckle helped with choreography and Mrs Riddell helped with the singing. The children had great fun in rehearsals and were stars on the days of the performances. Thanks go to the parents for getting involved with costume making and putting up the stage.

Staff News

Sadly, Mr Thomson spent his last term at Killearn. He has taken up a post in a brand new school in Bathgate.

Mrs Hornbuckle is making a huge jump from teaching P1 to P7. Miss MacKenzie is going to be the new P1 teacher. Mrs Campbell from the nursery was appointed Senior Early Childhood Educator. Due to the restructuring of the Nursery Teacher's role, Mrs Lanigan has left the nursery and moved to a peripatetic role at Balfroon, Strathblane and Cornton nurseries.

Linsey Rees, KPS

EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to our Summer issue – although if the weather doesn't pick up, we can hardly call it summer!

In the last issue, I banged on a bit about people seemingly not caring about our community. I had a bit of a swipe both at our youngsters and also the lack of support for the tennis club.

Well, I've had my comeuppance!

Inside you'll find a very enlightening article from a local teenager, Hannah Matthews. It gave me something to think about. A couple of months ago, not long after our last issue, I bumped in to a local businesswoman, Pamela Maxwell, who is a keen tennis player. She wanted to show her support for our tennis club so got together with Peaches and Granville Fox and held a fashion shoot at the tennis courts. The theme was a wedding, most appropriate for this edition given the 'wedding' notices appearing within these pages.

We've scattered some of Pamela's photographs inside (with appropriate headings!) which we hope will give you something to smile about.

We are getting more articles and contributions from the community (hence the reason that this issue has, once again, more pages). Apologies to those of you who have written in and whose contribution does not appear in this issue. We will keep them for the future.

Thanks for your support of the Courier. Enjoy this issue.

Ian Dickie
Editor

Ian

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 Sir,

The article on "Waste" in Spring Edition of *The Courier* provided some interesting information on the disposal of waste but PW lets himself down by allowing his personal bias to influence his writing.

He states that "It seems the biggest issue is the fortnightly collection." There is no 'seems' about it. Over the past year this issue has been raised on numerous occasions – both locally (Stirlingshire and East Dunbartonshire) and nationally in the press and TV. There surely can't be anyone who does not appreciate this to be the case and would know full well this is *the* major issue for many householders with children.

The closing paragraphs could have been written by the Council waste disposal representatives. "Would you pay more money for weekly disposal of grey bins?" The writer is missing a key point here. The residents in Killearn receive so little in way of council services from our significant contributions. Is it so unreasonable that we should request a better waste disposal service? It is not

Dear Sir

I would like your readers to be appraised of the following:

Due to the increasing visitor attraction around the Village Hall, Health Centre and surrounding commerce, the spaces for parking are, at times, at a premium. I have personally experienced lots of patients driving into the Centre and then having to drive straight back out due to lack space.

The increasingly busy situation is needing consideration.

I have, by inspection, looked at opening up the space around the Village Hall to make it more easily accessible, and to allow the flow and use to the parking near the new Church Hall at the rear of the Kirk.

In addition, I have indicated the expansion to use up the available space at the Health Centre around the Public Toilets. The latter can be relocated to improve the space numbers and provide an open landscaped piazza.

The conversion of the former Church Hall is almost complete and the car spaces there will be attractive to the shops and visitors alike.

Perhaps the time has come when we have to recognise that the Station Road-Balfron Road junction has become, due to the space available and apparent safety, the focal centre of the village. That being the case, we should prepare an appropriate "plan" to cope with ever-increasing activity, thereby including provision for cyclists, drop-off points for nursery children, and for visitors, rambles, etc.

Yours, etc.,

Carlo Dinardo, "Cleveden"

This junction certainly seems to be a lot busier with traffic passing along the Balfron Road in greater numbers. A good point that might be worth pursuing. What do our readers think?

Ed.



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The Old School

The Old School has been put up for sale by Stirling Council. Killearn Community Council has been lobbying for the site to be used for affordable housing. Recent correspondence reveals that Stirling Council and Stirling Rural Housing Association recognise this need but the Planning Department has stated that, due to problematic site access, they would restrict development to no more than two units. This would make it unsuitable for the provision of affordable housing.

It will be interesting to see whether some way might yet be found to utilise this site so that a specific housing need can be met.

Killearn Kirk Guild

The Guild's Winter programme ended on a high note with a talk at our AGM from Anna Magnusson, Senior Producer of Religious Broadcasting at BBC Scotland. She gave us an entertaining insight into her most interesting work.

The Guild Rally in June was held in Stirling in a packed Viewfield Church.

Next season's programme begins in October when new members are most welcome to join our very friendly group

Alison Robinson

Thursday Club

The Thursday Club is open to all villagers over 60 years of age. The Club begins a new session on 6 September 2007. We meet every Thursday in the Church Hall at 2 pm. Members are picked up by our helpers using their own cars. Afternoon tea is served.

We have Scrabble and Whist going on at the moment, but the choice of games is up to the members. Once a month, Jenny Wilks arranges a little entertainment or surprise. Arrangements have already been made to have a Christmas lunch at the Beechtree Inn on 13 December 2007. Our annual outing takes place in May.

Come and join our merry club! You will be made very welcome. For more information or if you would like to join, please ring Betty Smith (550486)

Joan Shand

Joan Shand was one of three generations of the Shand family to live in Killearn.



Firstly educated in Killearn and then in Bridge of Allan, she joined the WRNS on leaving

school and served during the war at the decoding centre at Bletchley Park. Following the war she trained at the Norland Nursery Training College and after qualifying held a number of posts in families with new babies, often establishing life-long friendships. Later she returned to Killearn to support her ageing parents.

Upright and extremely slim, her personality belied her somewhat austere appearance. She had an old-world courtesy and a very real interest in people and her community to which she was a generous, but anonymous, benefactor. She talked little about herself, but was a good listener and her range of commitments in charitable works was both wide and profound. As one of the first two women called to be Elders of Killearn Kirk, her appointment recognised her strong sense of commitment to the church.

Modest and self-effacing but possessed of great good sense and discretion, she will be remembered with affection by all who came into contact with her.

BP

Alex Ferrier 1928-2007



It was a sad day when Alex Ferrier passed away on 6 May 2007. He was well known throughout the Strathendrick area and beyond. His outgoing personality was infectious and refreshing whenever you met him. His enthusiastic manner for living was a testimony to a jolly outlook on life.

He was born on 30 June 1928 at the Dualt on the Stockiemuir Road, attended Killearn and Balfron schools, leaving at 14 to work on Carston Farm. At the age of 17, he obtained a driving licence and progressed to driving lorries for Stewart Cameron in Drymen. He then elected to become a postman at Dumgoyne, a position he diligently carried out for 25 years until his hip gave out and he had to give up. However, this in no way kept him from his social life – bingo, concerts, dancing, fiddle and accordion nights. Alex went, took others and they all enjoyed themselves. His contribution to Drymen and Killearn Old Folks Committee will long be remembered.

The attendance at his funeral on 12 May was testimony to his status among the community. They came from far and near to pay their respects.

To Linda, Ronnie, Richard, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren we express our deepest sympathy, as well as to his pal, Walter Hutchison. All in the community will miss his cheery smile and wave.

JF



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Killlearn Community Council Annual Report 2006–2007

Killlearn Community Council, at the September meeting, was proud to announce that Jim Fallas had been chosen to receive the Provost's Award 2006, for services to the community.

The previous Community Council ended its term in November 2006. Christine Bowie and Jill McDougall retired. Both had given valuable service as Secretary and Planning Correspondent respectively. Following elections, a new Community Council comprising Janet Duncan, Iain Moreland, Brenda Pell, Kay Pollock, Peter Rea, Betty Smith, Derek Stuart, Peter Wilks and Heather Wright was inaugurated. In April it was agreed that Aileen May be co-opted, leaving one spare place to be filled. There are also spaces for two youth members, presently unfilled.

Office bearers are:

Chair: Brenda Pell

Vice-Chair/Secretary: Kay Pollock

Treasurer: Betty Smith

Planning Correspondent: Peter Rea

Minutes Secretary/Webmaster: Peter Wilks

Our Community Police Officer, Fiona Park, is expected to be away for at least a year on maternity leave. Her post has been filled on a temporary basis by PC Joe McLeod who attends our meetings. We are fortunate that there is little crime in our area; however, youth disorder can still cause concern.

Pam Campbell, SC Rural Villages Development Officer, is a valued supporter of KCC. In January she highlighted a 'No Cold Calling' initiative which alerted the community to the tricks played by bogus sales/workmen preying on unsuspecting householders. Killlearn is now part of a pilot scheme to create 'No Cold Calling' areas. Notices are now displayed to attempt to deter bogus workmen and itinerant sales people.

Road safety continues to be one of the chief subjects of concern. As part of a series of measures to improve road safety within the village, two roundabouts have been installed at the junctions of Branziert Road and Drumbeg Loan with the Main Street. Complaints are expressed about thoughtless parking, particularly in the roads close to the school. This causes inconvenience to residents and is a potential danger to other road users, children in particular. Traffic speeding through the village is another complaint. Police monitoring exercises indicate that culprits are often Killlearn residents! The 30mph limit has been extended on the Balfron Road and a 40mph limit has been introduced at Dumgoyne. A new speed slow sign, shared with Kippen, is installed on the Main Street, and will function on a rotational basis in an attempt to warn and educate drivers.

Community Councils are able to express their opinions on planning applications, although the decision-making lies with Stirling Council Planning Department. Every application that comes before us is treated on its merits. KCC has again opposed the most recent application to construct three very large houses on the woodland adjoining Garteneaglais. Objections to this, presented by KCC, were upheld by the Planning Panel.

Guest speakers during the past year have been Fiona Ross and Grant Farquharson (Stirling Council) – Recycling, Refuse and Rubbish; David Payne (Forth Environment Link) – Community Composting; Ian Pascoe (KCFC Paths Group) – Response to Stirling Council's Draft Core Paths Plan. The recommendations of this group were adopted by KCC and submitted as our formal response to Stirling Council. This was an excellent example of the partnership between KCC and KCFC.

The major part of a grant of £1,000 made to all SC Community Councils was spent on the installation of a seat at the entry to Beech Drive. The remaining monies will be spent to the benefit of the village.

KCC makes an annual grant to the *Courier*, recognising the value of this publication in communicating news to the village.

The Area Community Planning Forum, comprising representatives from all the CCs of West Stirlingshire and supported by officers of Stirling Council, meets quarterly to examine issues of common interest. The first of these was Roads. Through the lobbying of this Forum, an additional £500,000 was secured for the lamentably small Roads budget. Policing and Crime have also been discussed; two peripatetic Community Wardens are now appointed to West Stirlingshire. The Forum is now looking at the subject of local facilities.

KCC meetings (*3rd Wednesday in the month, except for July and August*) are open to all. The minutes and agenda are displayed on the noticeboard and on the website (www.killlearncc.org.uk) where links can be found to other relevant organisations.

We are grateful to our regular supporters and assure all residents that we do our best to be a conduit between Stirling Council and the villagers of Killlearn

The full report can be found on the noticeboard and KCC website

Brenda Pell, Chair, KCC

Old Folks' Committee

An Old Folks' Committee has been on the go since 1949, and has been running a summer outing and a dinner each year for our older people – free events which we know are much appreciated.

The present committee of Hugh McArthur, Alicia Phillips, Margaret Gibb, Jimmy Gladstone, Jim Brown and Walter Hutchison deserve great credit as they prepare to step down after many years of service. They are very keen, as I am sure we all are, to see the organisation continue.

We hope to form a new committee to keep things going, starting with this year's summer outing. We already have some people willing to help and if we can get a few more, then the work involved will not be onerous but, I am sure, very rewarding.

If you would like to help, call: **Bob Ballantyne (550310)**.

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NOTICE BOARD

- 19 Aug *Panik Gallery* Local Artists' Exhibition (until 16 Sep).
 20 Aug *Killearn Primary* and *Balfron High Schools*, new sessions begin.
 20 Aug *Playgroup*, new session begins. Mon., Wed., Fri., Church Hall, 9.30–12.00 noon.
 25 Aug *Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society* Show. Village Hall. Entries can be staged on Friday evening, 7.30–9 pm or Saturday morning, 7.30–10 am. Doors open 2–4.30 pm, prizes will be announced at 2.30 pm. For a schedule, contact Glenda Asquith (550142).
 26 Aug *Strathendrick Cycling Club* Family cycling outing around Millport (contact Morag Jervis 660437).
 27 Aug *Dog Training*, Weekly until 8 Oct, Village Hall, 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm

- 3 Sep Road Safety Meeting. Primary School, 8 pm.
Strathendrick Singers First Rehearsal, Kirk Session House, 7.45 pm. New members welcome (contact C. Heron 551174).
 4 Sep *Get Reel* Registration. Come & try. Balfron Campus, Maths Dept., 4–6 pm.
 6 Sep *Probus Club of Strathendrick* First meeting of the season. Church Hall, Killearn, 10 am.
Thursday Club First meeting of the season. Church Hall, 2 pm (contact Betty Smith, 550486).
 9 Sep *Strathendrick Cycling Club* Cycle up Glen Fyne.
 11 Sep *Get Reel* Term starts. Information from Sara Bell (550770).
 13 Sep *Killearn PTA* AGM, Killearn Primary School, 8 pm.
 14 Sep *Strathendrick Film Society* showing *Amazing Grace* (rated PG). Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
 23 Sep *Panik Gallery* Autumn Exhibition (until 4 Nov).
 27 Sep *Drymen & District Local History Society* An illustrated talk by Dr Alastair Durie, "Scotland for the Holidays". Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
 28 Sep *Strathendrick Film Society* showing *The Queen* (rated PG–13). Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
 29 Sep *Friends of Guiding* Ceilidh. Village Hall, 8 pm.
 30 Sep Harvest Thanksgiving. Killearn Kirk, 10.30 am.
Strathendrick Cycling Club Cycle from Bishopriggs to the Falkirk Wheel.

- 1 Oct *Monday Club* Bridge and Badminton start. Village Hall, 1.00 pm
 2 Oct *The Guild* First Meeting. Church Hall, 7.30 pm.
 12 Oct *Strathendrick Film Society* showing *Little Miss Sunshine* (rated UK 15). Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
 14 Oct *Strathendrick Cycling Club* Cycle from Dobbies (Stirling) to Thornhill.
 23 Oct *Stirling Council Countryside Service* Core Paths 2nd round drop in. Village Hall, 1–10 pm.
 24 Oct *Killearn Community Futures Company* AGM, Village Hall, 7 pm.
 25 Oct *Drymen & District Local History Society* An illustrated talk by David Harvie, "Deadly Sunshine: the fatal legacy of radium". Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
 26 Oct *Killearn PTA* Hallowe'en Disco. Village Hall, 7–10 pm.
 27 Oct *RNLI* Coffee Morning & Sale of Christmas Cards. Village Hall, 10–12 noon.
 28 Oct *Strathendrick Cycling Club* Cycle from Argaty to Doune, partly along new cycle track.
 29 Oct *Monday Club* First Social Monday. Village Hall, 2 pm.

- 2 Nov *Strathendrick Film Society* showing *Volver* (rated UK 15). Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
 3 Nov *Round Table* Fireworks and Bonfire. The Glebe, 7 pm; fire lit, 7.30 pm.
 7 Nov *Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society*, talk by James Williams of the National Vegetable Society, "Growing and Showing Vegetables", Village Hall, 7.30 pm
 9 Nov *Panik Gallery*, Christmas Exhibition (until 24 December).
Strathendrick Country Dance Club, Annual Charity Dance. Village Hall, 7–11.30 pm.
 22 Nov *Drymen & District Local History Society* An illustrated talk by Prof. Jane Dawson, "The Campbells are Coming!: a sixteenth-century perspective". Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
 23 Nov *Strathendrick Film Society* showing *The Train* (rated PG). Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
WRI Whist Drive, Village Hall, 7 pm.
 24 Nov *The Guild* Sale of Work, Church Hall, 2 pm.

If you have any dates for the Nov 2007 issue (mid Nov to mid March) of the Diary, please contact Pat Ryall (550713).

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Afternoon Tea



Morven Hastie and her brother Callum from the Wishingwell Coffee Shop were, for the second year running, invited to present cookery demonstrations at the Royal Highland Show at Ingleston in June.

The programme's other guests included Lady Claire Macdonald of Kinloch Lodge, Skye, Jo Macsween from Macsweens Haggis, Geoffrey Smeddle from the Peat Inn in Fife, amongst many other chefs and cookery writers.

Morven and Callum made a contemporary Afternoon Tea, using Scottish produce. They also used wild venison from Callum's farm "Gartfarran" at Gartmore, which was just lovely!

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PEARCE — WILSON



Photograph by Robin Ogg

Archie Wilson of Herons Court, Killearn married Lou Pearce of Stirling (originally Peterborough) on 26 May. The ceremony took place at St Kessogs, Blanefield, followed by the reception at Duntreath Castle.

HOWELL — BELL



Catherine Howell from Killearn and Christopher Bell from Hillsborough, Northern Ireland, were married on Saturday, 23 June, at Glasgow University Memorial Chapel with a reception in the Hunter Halls, Glasgow University. They met at university in Edinburgh where Catherine is currently in her final year studying medicine. Chris is now working for HSBC, having graduated last year.

JONES — RICHES



Jennifer Jones and Nicholas Riches were married on Sunday, 29 July, in Drymen Parish Church with a reception following in the atrium of Balfron High School. They are both former Balfron students and currently medical students at Manchester University.



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The 1930s come to Killearn

Two little Austin Sevens made in 1932 are well known in the village as they are driven around on domestic duties, but last month we were treated to a convoy of eighteen of these little cars, dating from 1927 onwards, visiting us. This was the occasion of the Scottish Austin Seven Club annual Loch Lomond run.

The Austin Seven is one of the most successful cars ever built by the British motor industry, and it is so easy to maintain, being designed on basic engineering

principles. It was often advertised as the £100 car, and found a huge market amongst lady drivers who liked its small size and convenience compared with other vehicles available at that time. About 300,000 of these cars were built at Longbridge, Birmingham, between 1923 and 1939. It is still very popular amongst motoring enthusiasts as a usable collectors' piece. That there are over 10,000 on the National Club register today gives you an idea of their longevity and popularity. In Scotland alone, we have at least 200 and there are A7 clubs all over the world.

Older readers may remember that when the Mini was first launched in the 1960s it was called 'Austin 7'. It is interesting to note that it signalled a revival in the fortunes of British Leyland just as the original model in 1923 found a niche in the market for The Austin Motor Co to exploit and distance the company from the intense competition for bigger cars after World War I. Eventually this name was dropped in favour of the more modern 'Mini' which we still see

on the roads today. It is, of course, now made by BMW which, by a twist of fortune, takes us back to the 1930s again when the first BMWs ever built were Austin Sevens made under licence from Longbridge. The French also saw promise in this new model and agreed to manufacture a car to their own



specification and marketed as the 'Rosengart'. The design was also picked up by the Americans who tried to market a similar small vehicle as the 'American Austin', but this was unsuccessful. It did, however, develop into the 'Bantam' which formed the basis of the first Jeep and allegedly was also used for the first Land Rovers. Another little known fact about the debt modern design owes to the Austin Seven is that Colin Chapman, Britain's most famous racing-car designer who set up the Lotus Car Company, used the A7 engine and modified chassis for his first specials. What a pedigree! And how good to be able to report on a successful British product which not only caught the eyes of the world but today still brings happy smiles and waves from bystanders and other motorists (except those, perhaps, held up by its occasional poor performance).

A few technical details for those interested. The car is called a 'Seven' because in the 1920s, road tax was based on the length of the stroke – the up and down movement of the piston – and not the total engine capacity. The seven was the resultant 'RAC Horsepower' and bore no direct relation to the power being developed by the engine. The actual output from the 750cc engine when first designed was 10 brake horsepower and this was slowly improved over the years

to 17HP on standard cars and 23HP on sports models. Some successful racing cars were developed which were capable of speeds in excess of 100mph around Brooklands, and whereas these bore as little relationship to the road cars as today's Grand Prix vehicles, they still brought good publicity to the manufacturer. The suspension is colloquially called 'cart springing' – which adequately describes how it feels over the roads in our area. The gearbox initially had three speeds, but in 1933 moved to four and introduced synchromesh to save the difficulties of

double declutching.

Even today these little cars are capable of displaying their reliability and powers of endurance. The centenary of the Pekin (sic) to Paris rally was celebrated in June and July with a group of 150 or so cars repeating this epic journey, driving across China, the Gobi desert and Mongolia before reaching Europe, mainly on unmade or non-existent roads, often using GPS devices for navigation. At the same time, two 1927/8 Austin Seven Chummy models and a separate expedition of three 1932/3 Austin Seven Box Saloons tackled the same 8,000 mile route on their own without any support other than assistance from locals along the way. Now there's an experience that makes the mind boggle when reading about it and – enthusiastic as I am about my little cars – I don't think that I'm ready to tackle that when my cars are both 75 years old, let alone the age of the driver!

In the village we have other 'petrolheads' who are equally proud of their cars which include various MGs, Morgans, Bentleys, Lotus and others. Perhaps the friendly rivalry which exists between the various marques will produce another article of this nature. Come on guys, let's hear you.

Michael Pell

Tolerance for Teenagers

Killearn is an excellent place to grow up... up to a point! Younger children in our community are well served in terms of facilities and organisations dedicated to their entertainment and activity.

It is when the children of Killearn grow up into adolescents that they find themselves with a problem. There are very few facilities for teenagers. On the rare occasion that an event is organised, for example a charity fund-raising disco in the Village Hall, complaints are invariably made. The discos organised are used to raise money and awareness for a worthwhile global cause, which many teenagers from the surrounding area are eager to support.

The majority of the people who attend these discos generally have a great time, and thoroughly enjoy themselves. Inevitably, there are a few who take the rare opportunity to let off steam too far, and make the night less enjoyable for others. It is these few people who cause those who live near the Hall to complain.

However, some of us feel that there are many reported incidents which don't warrant a formal complaint. For example, a group of people standing at a bus stop have been asked to move along, simply because they were there waiting for the last bus. Unused to groups of young people walking round the village noisily enjoying themselves and having fun, residents feel threatened and overreact.

It is in these instances that we, as teenagers, get frustrated. We don't feel that the few causing a disturbance should, in a tolerant society, instantly cause people to believe that every teenager coming out of the Hall is a threat. Treating us as if we are all guilty is divisive and causes hostility and ultimately isolation. 99% of us condemn violence and vandalism and support the legitimate complaints of that nature.

We, young and inexperienced as we are, ask for your tolerance and patience, born of maturity. Please don't alienate us by overreacting. *Hannah L. Matthews*

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KILLEARN 

Killearn Primary won many prizes for entries in the Drymen Show Schools Competition this year. These ranged from World War II planes to 'River Nile' pictures, to nature collages. We were very proud! However, one of the biggest achievements was when Sandy McLaughlin won the Strathendrick Schools Shield for his entry 'Vikings' in the Young Writers' Competition.

Other results were:

Section 1 Young Artist

P1/2: 2nd place, Rona McDaid; 3rd place, Callum Anderson

P3/4: 1st place, Lewis Stewart

Section 2 Young Writer

P1/2: 2nd place Kim Denton and Elizabeth Thomson; 3rd place Harris Cartwright and James Given

P3/4: 1st place, Sandy McLaughlan; 2nd place, Carys Nuttal; Merit, Andrew Main

P5/6: 2nd place, Emma Roxby; Merit, Shona Michie

P7: 2nd place, Robert Cowden; 3rd place Kirsten Tempest

Section 3 Young Poets

P3/4: 2nd place, Helen Barret; Merit, Kirsty Maitland

P5/6: 2nd place, Lucy Howie

Section 4 Young Craftsperson

P1/2: 2nd place, Jemma White; 3rd place, Rory Harper

P3/4: 2nd place, Laura McColl; Merit, Euan Conway

P5/6: Merit, Robin Brown

P7: 1st place, Danny Corcoran

Section 5: Exploring the Environment

Nursery: 1st place

P1/2: 1st place

P3/4: 1st place; 2nd place

P5/6: 1st place; 2nd place

Lindsey Rees, KPS

Probus Club of Strathendrick

The Probus Club of Strathendrick, one of the many clubs in the United Kingdom which comprises retired PROfessional and BUSiness people, has been active since 1985. Members come from a wide area including Milngavie, Bearsden, Aberfoyle, Killearn, Fintry, Strathblane, Kippen, Balfron and Gartmore.

Currently having some 80 members, the Club meets in the new Church Hall in Killearn at 10 am on two Thursdays a month from September to May. The meetings involve speakers from a wide spectrum of society and usually finish about 11.45 am. Probus also participates in outings to various interesting attractions as well as holding several golf competitions.

The 'new' session starts on Thursday, 6 September. Anyone interested in finding out more about the Club should contact the Secretary, Russell Kirk (550260).

TID

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Looking Upwards by Joyce Begg

Ever since a friend drew my attention to the glories of the rooflines of Argyle Street, I have tried to make a point of looking upwards every so often, wherever I happen to be. I have to be careful, of course, in that my natural clumsiness can make this a hazardous pursuit. But my friend did me a favour, giving me a whole new way of looking at and appreciating my immediate surroundings.



quixotic appeal to the building, but somehow one doubts it.

Even now, some extensions work and some take a little more adjustment. What many of us remember as Mrs. Kelly's house, atop that magnificent sweep of garden down to Main Street, now sports an annex with tower on the north-west end. One hesitates to use a word like minaret, but somehow that's what springs to mind. Perhaps turret would be closer. Anyway, it has altered the skyline, and thankfully manages to look quite pretty. And while on the subject of extensions, one does wonder what the final look will be to what used to be Miss Shand's house at the top corner of Old Endrick Road. At the time of writing, the handsome red tiles have gone, and a large high appendix has appeared. One can only hope that the Roman fortress look will eventually meld with the traditional Scottish bungalow, and give us a house where mixed styles really do work.

Looking to some of the more individual houses in the village, we encounter the Scottish baronial in Kirkhouse Road, and Windyknowe's corbie step gable, all very easy on the eye. There are some complicated rooflines in Ibert Road, and in Drumbeg Loan we have everything from steep thatch to wedding cake frivolity, not to mention the tall timber

One tends to think that a roof is a roof, and of course, that's true. But even a casual look at the top end of Killearn's Main Street shows a motley selection of heights and angles. Since the road is on a slope, the roofs are never going to be level with each other, of course, but the variation is surprising. They differ both in height and pitch, and in design. Who would have expected four little pinnacles on a straightforward terrace? The buildings of three centuries stand cheek by jowl, all the way down to the classic of modern architecture that is the Spar, and they're all different. Anyone trying to paint them would have their work cut out keeping the perspective in order.

Much of this, presumably, is the result of houses being built on an ad hoc basis, before the days of building regulations on street frontage, or planning permission for even the most modest extension. Folk just built, and eventually everything fitted in. It would be nice to think that a garage conversion on a modern house would eventually add a



wedge, all of which lend interest and appeal. One does worry a little about the flat roofs at the Co-op and the Branziert, surely more suited to the Holy Land than somewhere quite so prone to downpour as Killearn, but they do seem to be

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watertight, which is probably more important than an aesthetic outline.

And then there's the churches. There can't be many villages the size of Killearn that can boast four ecclesiastical superstructures. Nor are there many who can simultaneously offer a socking big monument to one man, which completely dwarfs the rather more dignified and touching memorial to a

great many more. At the same time, the Buchanan monument is a landmark that one looks for from a distance. It's an indication that you're nearly home. It also points one to the sky, and the great natural roofline of the hills.

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Killearn Show 2007



You still have time to gather together the fruits of the past year's labours – be it horticulturally-related or in the realms of baking, craft or art. We have lots of new classes for you this year, reflecting changing lifestyles and giving everyone an opportunity to enter. Tea and cakes will be served in the Church Hall to make the afternoon into a happy social occasion.

We look forward to seeing you on August 25th, and in the meantime you may wish to look at our new web pages on www.killearn.org.uk/kchs.

Glenda Asquith

New Mobile Libraries



on the Road!

If you are a user of Stirling Council's Mobile Library Service you will soon have a treat in store, while non-users could well be tempted to join by the sparkling new vehicles that are now on the road! The new mobiles with their eye-catching livery, have two entrances, one of which has a lift for wheelchair users.

Details of the time of mobile library stops in the local community are regularly featured in the newspaper. Alternatively, you can get a copy of the timetable from the website: www.stirling.gov.uk/libraries. Follow the link "We come to you" on the left hand side of the page.

For further information, please call (01786) 432383.



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Local Artists' Exhibition Now Open!

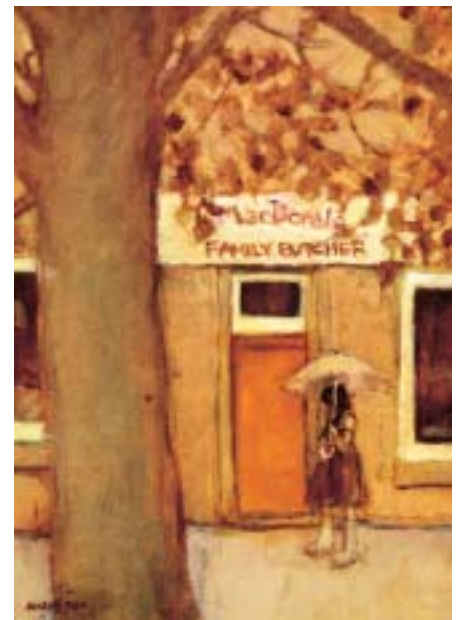
Due to the success of last year's show, Panik Gallery is delighted to host the 2nd Local Artists' Exhibition! The Opening is on Sunday, 19 August, between 1-5 pm. The gallery hopes to establish this as an annual event in Killearn.

Annika and Paul, gallery owners, have had an excellent response from dozens of local artists, both amateur and professional, who were enthusiastic to put their names forward for inclusion in the exhibition.

The exhibition will run for four weeks and has been brought forward slightly to coincide with the Horticultural Society Show which is being held on 25 August in the Village Hall and Church Hall.

Well-respected local artist Anne Anderson has captured the epitome of village-life in a lovely study of the MacDonald Family Butcher shop on Main Street which the gallery is using to illustrate the exhibition on the invitations and posters.

The exhibition will run until 16 September. Please show your support for our very talented local artists.



The Ark

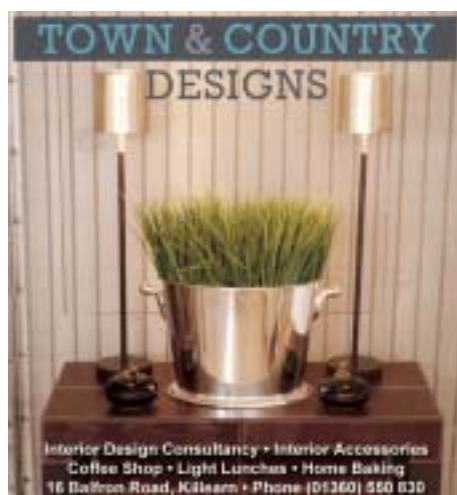
It's fantastic to be able to share some news from the boys, girls and team in 'The Ark'. No time for us to be bored! We've all been given a purpose and hope. We've had lots of exciting challenges and events in the past few months. Everyone loves to feel good and share what they have with others. We had super fun collecting pencils, notepads, playballs and making friendship bracelets for Jenifer Barrett to take to 200 orphan children in Malawi. On Jenifer's return we had a special Malawi Morning. We dressed up Malawi-style and it was terrific but extremely humbling to see a DVD showing the orphan children receiving and wearing our friendship bracelets. We've been furiously collecting used stamps for the



held a 'DVD Breakfast' when we chilled out on some amazing cushions, had lots of things to eat and enjoyed a Moses Movie on the super-king-size

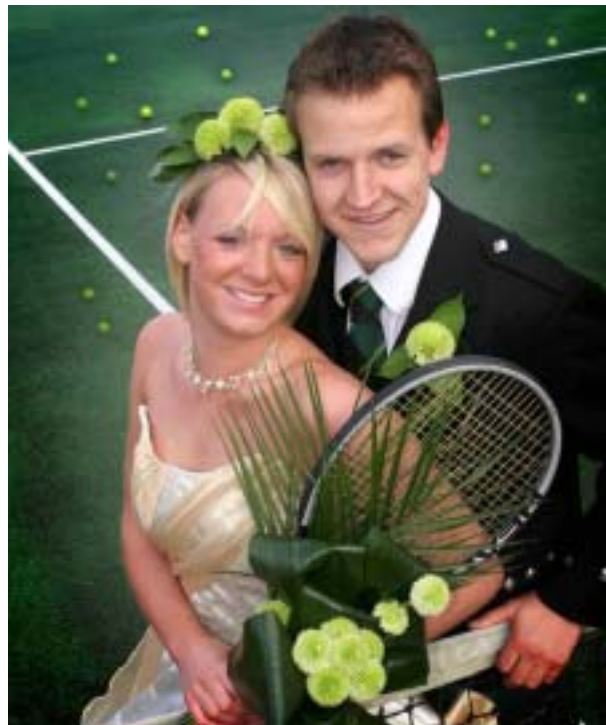
screen now in place in the Hall. Our 'Spot the Talent' morning confirmed there is, in fact, no end to our talents! Musical instruments, cartwheeling, tap dancing, joke telling, hula-hooping! We approached 'dry dock' for our summer re-fit with our 'Round-the-world Challenge' and 'Taste the Difference Picnic'. Parents, families and friends joined us for fashion, fun, French boules, crazy golf, tennis, line dancing and a conga. Our Gondola Race had to be seen to be believed! Watch out for posters confirming our start date – team-building for all boys and girls, puppeteering, storytelling, face/hand painting, dramas, chill-out movie mornings, craft attack, fund-raising events and super challenges – what a cool way to spend an hour on a Sunday morning. It's free and it's fun!

Olive Graham, Team Leader



Postie Shot at Tennis Club !

Local business woman, Pamela Maxwell, who has played tennis at Killearn for many years, wanted to do something to show support for the Club during its current tribulations. She thought that by looking at a familiar village setting in a different way, it might encourage support from others.



She thought that by looking at a familiar village setting in a different way, it might encourage support from others. Pamela got together with another 'local' business, Peaches, and came up with the idea of holding a fashion shoot on the courts – not just a run-of-the-mill fashion shoot, but one which would grab attention. You can see the results! (Does the 'groom' look familiar?) *TID*

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Playgroup

Do you remember the days of playdough and making chocolate Krispie cakes? Or maybe you are still at the tiny baby stage and all this still seems ages away? Well, if you want somewhere fun, safe and friendly for your pre-school child think about Killearn Playgroup.



We meet in the Church Hall every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 9.30 am till 12 noon each day and employ a full-time qualified playleader. We are run by a voluntary committee of parents which is a great way of making lasting

friendships. You also never get the same chance again to have so much influence on what your child is doing before they go to school. We have places for up to 20 children between the ages of 2½ and 5 years.

For the past eight years we have been in partnership with Stirling Council which meant that we received funding for children the term after they turned three years old. However, the Council have now withdrawn from partnership – we do not meet their newly-introduced criterion that more than half the children in Playgroup are Council funded over the course of a year.

Therefore, fundraising will be even more important for us to keep going. We have just run a very successful race night and are planning another major event next term. Our annual jumble sale has brought in much less in the past couple of years, so we have been thinking of different ways to raise funds which will be much more lucrative but also good fun. So please support us when you see one of our events advertised – even if your children are well past the stage of playgroup, remember how important it was!

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Good Green Fun

If you are a parent, or help run a children's group in the Stirling locality, then you really should acquaint yourself with Helen Sturrock. While many of us are only too pleased to escape the chaos associated with childhood for work, for Helen, this *is* work. Most days, she can be found in a sea of prams, baby equipment, kids clothing, toys and books.



Helen is Managing Director of a new Stirling-based community enterprise called Good Green Fun. She runs the not-for-profit company with the assistance of co-director, Dr Eric Walker, a semi-retired GP from Balfron. Start-up funding was received from the Scottish Executive INCREASE Programme, SEPA and Business Gateway, and profits will be donated to children's charities.

The ethos of the organisation is simple. Don't throw old toys and equipment into the loft or garage – or worse still – into landfill. If it's still in good working order, then donate it via Good Green Fun for re-sale to someone else who can still use it!

Helen commented, "Today we are living in a disposable/throw away culture – buy the latest model or style of pram or the latest 'must have' toy." She is keen to get the local primary schools interested in the business. "We see this as beneficial on two fronts. In the first place it is getting the recycling message through to children on a level that they can understand, and the work that we are doing can be incorporated into initiatives such as the Eco Schools programme and young enterprise."

Good Green Fun is based at Unit 31, Stirling Enterprise Park, Stirling. Contact Good Green Fun on (01786) 849216 or you can get more information from: www.goodgreenfun.co.uk.

Bi-Weekly Collection

Collecting the landfill waste on alternate weeks is a major issue, as our correspondent affirms on page 3. All councils are faced with both escalating cost of landfill and EU directives on green waste in landfill. After much discussion, Stirling Council felt that there were only two practical solutions, either incineration or the one finally adopted. A consultation on these options came down overwhelmingly against incineration.

There are two major reasons why weekly collections are difficult without incineration. First, it would be impossible to separate the green waste, which cannot go to landfill; second, the amount of waste would increase, with significant cost implications. Incineration solves both these problems, but people don't like living near incinerators. Also, incinerators do have environmental consequences.

Bi-weekly collection does not work in all areas, for example crowded inner city or multiple-occupation buildings. But in a rural area like Killearn, problems can be overcome with goodwill.

Anyone who is concerned can ask an advisor from Stirling Council to come and give advice. PW



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Did you know that almost half of all the CO₂ emissions in the UK come from energy we use to travel and every day around our homes? There are lots of ways to save energy, some more straight forward than others. On the cheap end of the spectrum, simply turning down

the central heating by 1°C could cut your heating bills by a whopping 10%, according to the Energy Saving Trust. They also suggest simple things like using energy-efficient light bulbs (and turning them off when you leave the room!), fixing leaking hot-water taps and setting the thermostat on your hot water cylinder no higher than 60°C. For a slightly larger outlay, you could make sure your home insulation was up to scratch.

At the other end of the spectrum, there are ways to generate your own energy. Solar panels and microwind turbines are probably the most common, and hydro-powered systems which use water to turn a turbine are very reliable if you happen have your own private burn. The cost is, of course, something else again. A roof-mounted wind turbine with a working life of about 20 years could set you back around £1,500. Mast turbines and hydro-power have comparable costs: around

£25,000 for a typical 5kW domestic set up. Ouch!

As usual there is a middle ground. Like turbines and hydro-power, heat pumps are another a long-term investment.

These use heat energy that is left behind by the sun, stored in the ground, water or in the air. For 1 unit of electricity required to run it, the heat pump can deliver up to 5 (but more typically 3-4) units of heat to the heating system, so is impressively efficient. In Sweden, heat pumps came into their own as a response to the energy crisis in the 1970s, and are now a mainstream household product.

For most, the cost is still fairly eye-watering. A domestic system producing about 6kW will cost between £6,500 and £11,500 to buy and install, and that doesn't include the costs of radiators or underfloor distribution systems. The payback is faster if it's replacing electricity, LPG or oil rather than natural gas, but it is estimated that a heat pump system could save between £650-£750 annually. Given the outlay, it's just as well that, once installed, maintenance and running costs are low.

Whether you will rely on simple solutions and economies of scale to cut your energy use, or decide to declare UDI, generate your own energy and hope to sell excess power to the national grid – or some combination of the two – will depend on a wide range of factors. Householders worry about getting to grips with the technologies themselves, never mind the complexity of planning and getting consent, particularly in a conservation area. However, the availability of grants is particularly vexing. The good news here is that several pots of

cash have been refilled recently, although it's unlikely the money will hang around for long.

Grants are currently available through the Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative (SCHRI) provided by the Scottish Executive. This scheme provides advice and assistance towards the installation of renewable technologies of all sorts. The grant is for 30% of the total cost up to £4,000, and applications end 31 March 2008. Contact SCHRI on 0800 138 8858 for more information.

The DTI is also sponsoring a Low Carbon Buildings Programme which is open to householders and covers a wide array of technologies. For information visit:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk.

Local businessman Keith Kemsley is the director of Ecoliving, a company which specialises in ground source heat pumps; contact www.ecoliving.info.

The Energy Saving Trust website at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk is a 'soup to nuts' site, and packed full of detailed and useful information.

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Your Local Rescue Team

If you come a cropper while up a local Munro or Corbett or when out and about hillwalking in our area, it's reassuring to know that the dedicated professionals of the Lomond Mountain Rescue Team are part of the 999 emergency services. Operating from their headquarters in Drymen, LMRT is amongst one of the busiest in Scotland.

The team covers an area of over 1,000 sq. miles with some of the busiest mountain areas of Scotland, including much of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, the

southern section of the West Highland Way, as well as the Campsie Fells, the Kilpatrick Hills and even into the northern suburbs of Glasgow. Annually there are 2 million visitors to the National Park, as well as 50,000 West Highland Way walkers – Ben Lomond itself has over 30,000 walkers and climbers every year. This unfortunately leads to accidents, with LMRT being called out several times a month.

LMRT was formed in 1967 and is one of 23 civilian mountain rescue teams in Scotland. All 35 team members are volunteers operating at professional standards and are on call 24/7. The team has rescued many hundreds of people since its formation and works very closely with the police, ambulance and coastguard services, as well as neighbouring mountain rescue teams and the Loch Lomond rescue boat service.

The Lomond Mountain Rescue Team is a registered charity and needs £12,500 every year to continue running. In 2005 LMRT's purpose-built base at Drymen was completed. This is home to two specialist MR Landrovers, a mobile Search Control Unit and a wide array of technical rescue, first aid and search equipment. All of this is purchased and maintained using funds from donations and sponsorship.

If you would like to know more, then please contact Simon Jones on 07920 468556.

Summer Recipe

Home-made Hamburgers



Honestly, there is no comparison between a home-made hamburger and a shop bought one, so here is a recipe I've used for years and years because everyone adores them – and children love making them, too, which keeps them quiet on a Saturday morning! The recipe is basically the same as for steak tartare and is ideal for barbecuing as well as frying.

Allow a generous ¼ lb. *ordinary* mince per person (preferably from a butcher shop – it really does taste better). Place in a large bowl and add a good dollop of olive oil, one egg yolk per pound of meat, plenty of Lea and Perrins, some salt, some chopped parsley (scissored up in a mug) and some crushed garlic.

Plunge your clean hands into this unedifying mess, mix and knead it thoroughly, scoop out a handful and roll it round and round to form a gently squashed disc – if you know what I mean. Continue until all the mixture has been used, placing finished hamburgers on a flat plate or tray, and then allow them to absorb the flavours for a bit (or overnight).

Barbecue or fry over a high heat so that the outside is dark brownish and the inside still pink. Be careful with the cooking time – it is very easy to overcook them and lose that delicious moist tenderness – once removed they still go on cooking without telling you. Place in a warm buttered roll and top with ketchup and rings of raw onion – absolutely wonderful!

Julie Edmonstone

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An Historic June Wedding

A most unusual and historic wedding took place in Killearn in June this year. In 1780 Alexander Dunn, a hand-loom weaver and farmer built the cottage known as Lilybank, having acquired the land on a 999-year lease from the Laird of Killearn, an enlightened landowner who sensed the need to retain useful and hard-working tenants. The house was passed down through his descendants until 1971 when Catherine Dunn Lyon (Rena) died.



The family history of Alexander Dunn shows that his only son raised twelve children in Lilybank whose descendants have been traced to Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. It was one of them, Dr Elizabeth Spreng, daughter of Dr Francis Patterson who lives in Valdostar, Colorado, USA, who was

married in Lilybank Cottage. The current owner of Lilybank gave Elizabeth permission to marry her fiancée, Jens Klingenberg, in the home of her ancestors 228 years to the day Alexander Dunn took his bride there. The photograph shows the couple in the Old Kirk where Alexander Dunn and his family would have worshipped.



Thanks are due to Helen Loudon, chair of KCFC All Killearn Archive Group, who helped co-ordinate and carry out the wishes of Francis Patterson for her daughter's wedding. It was also fortuitous that the gathering of people for the Buchanan 500 celebrations included Mr and Mrs Robert Dunn from Ontario who provided much of the family information on the Duns for this article.

Several Scottish relatives of the Dunn line met up at the reception in the Buchanan Arms, some

for the very first time. The bride wore a Campbell of Argyll tartan sash to commemorate her kinship with Robert Burn's Highland Mary Campbell, being a direct descendant of Mary Campbell's sister, Ann. The groom wore a kilt in the Spirit of Scotland tartan to embrace his new national connection.

Both Francis Patterson (frap428@aol.com) and Robert Dunn (dunn.r@rogers.com) would welcome any information connected with the Dunn family, Rena Lyon, or her cousin, Catherine Houston of Glasgow or her sons, John and Allan whose whereabouts are currently unknown. The All Killearn Archive Group would also welcome any information (aka@kcfc.co.uk), which you could pass to Helen Loudon or any member of the group.

The picture of Lilybank was painted in 1973 by local artist John Taylor, who lived with his family in the house from 1972 until 1990. The house has since been split into two separate residences.

Rosemary Taylor

Get ahead with Christmas shopping

"Autumn seems to come round quicker each year!" says Julie Edmonstone as she prepares for the 18th annual Christmas Fair at **Duntreath Castle** in aid of **Camphill Village Trust**. This day has become a number one diary date for everyone in need of inspiration for their Christmas list.

Julie takes great care choosing over 50 completely different stall holders from all over the UK, adding new stalls each year and making sure that her permanent top exhibitors continually add new products to entice the Xmas-weary shopper!

The Fair is held on the ground floor of the Castle and in a giant marquee to ensure enough space to move around freely. The Camphill Village Trust provides a delicious selection of rolls and home baking in the kitchen and in the great hall of the keep.

This year's Fair at Duntreath Castle is on: Saturday, November 3rd from 10 am to 5 pm (Entrance is £5 donated to the charity).

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Killearn Football Club

The village football team are again enjoying a successful season in the Forth and Endrick League having just won the Leslie League title for the third year in a row. With three league games remaining the team cannot be overtaken having played 19; winning 18, drawing 1, scoring 88 goals and conceding only 11.

The association's first Cup, the Margaret White, has also come to Killearn with a hard fought 1-0 victory over Gartocharn in the final, the only goal being a wonder strike from David Cameron.



Off the park, the players and committee had a fundraising day on 30th June with a Car Boot Sale in the morning and a Race Night in the Black Bull in the evening. The Club would like to thank all who donated in one way or another to the events, which raised almost £1,200 for Club funds.

Strathendrick Mini's Rugby Charity Tournament

Teams from throughout the area enjoyed the day at this inaugural event and helped raise over £4,000 for local charities : The Strathcarron Hospice, CHAS and The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice.



Support your Village Football Team

Killearn Football Club have already won the Forth & Endrick League this season : IF they also secure the Cameron Cup, they will be the first team in the 100 year history of the League to secure the Cup and League double three years in a row.

Go Killearn !



Rugby Club Looks Forward to a Successful Season

Strathendrick Rugby Club will again be running teams and activities for players of all ages in this World Cup year. Training for the 2007-08 season for the seniors is already underway. The juniors season begins shortly.

The Club's 1st XV will be playing in the Scottish Hydro Electric West League Division 1 and the 2nd XV in Division 5 West. With ambitions for promotion, Head Coach Matt McGrandles has agreed to continue for another year, leading training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Fintry Sports Club. A full programme of social activities is planned and a spring tour to Wales is on the cards. For further



information contact Nick Hawkins (550576).

The vibrant junior section runs coaching sessions (P1s upwards), visits to internationals, social events and a

Charity Festival. The Minis will run teams for P3s through to P7s (boys and girls) with training on Sunday mornings from 2 September; matches are generally on Sunday afternoons. Contact Iain Somerville (550842) or Stuart Simmers (550769) for further details.

Midi and Youth teams will be run at S1/S2, Under-16 and Under-17 level, with league fixtures for the older boys.

Training is from Wednesday, 22 August, and matches are on Sundays. Further information from John Boyle (771027).

New members and supporters are most welcome in all sections of the Club.

Tennis Clubs Take Initiative

With coaching uncertainties behind them, Killearn Tennis Club took advantage of a fabulous April to get their season off to a cracking start. Post-Wimbledon and despite the inclement weather, tennis fever has gripped the village, and the kids have been caught up in the excitement. Four local rural tennis clubs aim to produce the next generation of tennis stars with the help of Stirling Council's Active Stirling programme.

In June 2006, Killearn, Strathblane, Strathendrick and Kippen tennis clubs came together to form the Balfro-

Tennis Forum. The aims of the Forum are to develop junior tennis throughout the area, co-ordinate activities for the benefit of all involved and for each club to develop into the best it can be.

To achieve these aims the Forum, supported by Active Stirling, Stirling Sports Council and Tennis Scotland, programmed and delivered three weeks of tennis sessions into every primary school which sends pupils to Balfro High. This was followed up with free coaching sessions at the High School, taking advantage of these local facilities. Around 50 children attended each of the follow-on sessions and had a great time developing their skills.

As a direct result every club saw an increase in the uptake for their Easter coaching sessions and the summer months were busy ones, despite the weather. The Forum is sustained by a

small committed group of volunteers from each tennis club and the new tennis opportunities now offered to children in the area is a direct result of all of their hard work.

Active Stirling Sports Development Officer Ben O'Connell said, "Plans are now in the pipeline to introduce inter-club fixtures at a number of age levels and for each club to host a social event for the

local community. These recent developments show that tennis is certainly on the up in the Balfro Cluster and hopefully the next Andrew Murray will be given the opportunity to shine, thanks to the Balfro Tennis Forum."

Janey Mackay (550064) is the junior coordinator at Killearn Tennis Club. For more information on tennis opportunities with Active Stirling, please contact Ben O'Connell on (01786) 432323.



Killearn Badminton Club

In early September the Killearn Badminton Club will be starting up again for its 54th year.

The club plays every Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the Village Hall from 7.30pm.

Our small membership, of varying standards of play, is always looking for new players who are at least 16 years old.

With very low subscriptions – last year £35 from September to March – this must be the cheapest exercise in town. So why not join us?

For more information contact Alastair Douglas (550409).

Bridge Players of Killearn, Unite!



Although you are reading this in August, the nights are drawing in, and soon more wintry pastimes will take over from gardening. I know that there are many keen Bridge players in Killearn – don't shun the Bridge Club! Rumour has it that we are much too high-powered for the 'social' Bridge player who enjoys a regular game with friends, but this is really not so – why not come along, preferably with a partner, and give it a try? If you find it is not for you – no harm done, but you may well have a pleasant surprise. And it is not just Killearn residents who are welcome;

there are already several members from Drymen, Strathblane, Balfro and Milngavie.

The 20 or so members of the Club meet every Tuesday evening in the bright surroundings of the newly-refurbished Strathblane Country House Hotel. Some folk come in from 7pm, have a friendly drink and chat at the bar, or maybe even drop in earlier for a bite to eat. After that, of course, it's the best card game in the world for the rest of the evening, usually finishing around 10.30 pm. We do have several competitions within the Club and some members play friendly matches against other local clubs or form part of the pool of players who play in league matches. However, most players just come to enjoy playing Bridge and improve their game.

Neither age nor cost need put you off, we have many people who are 'just approaching middle age', but our oldest player admits to being in his nineties! The annual sub is £15, and table money is £3 per person. So, no problem there then, come on give it a try!



Ian Pascoe

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Membership Drive for the Company

In the previous edition of *The Courier*, I outlined the benefits, and opportunities afforded to the community through KCFC. Evidence of community backing through membership is an important factor in securing funding for projects. Raising the profile of KCFC has therefore been identified as a priority by the Board. Processes have already begun. We have been present at a variety of community activities in order to inform and recruit. It has been evident that few in the community are aware of KCFC and many people are confused about our role and that of the Community Council. Clearly KCFC has an enormous "PR mountain" to climb. To this end we are working on a publicity/membership leaflet. A new logo inspired by the Buchanan Monument will be used to

identify our support and involvement with projects, such as the successful new Playpark. The Extraordinary General Meeting on Wednesday, 1 August 2007, passed the single resolution: 'The KCFC subscription should revert to £1 per individual member. All members over 18 have full voting rights.'

We are hoping that almost all residents will be prepared to pay £1 a year in order to support KCFC in the work of improving amenities in our village.

Provision of sustainable facilities within the village is still on the agenda. A priority, however, is our very successful football club which depends at present on the Village Hall for its changing facilities since losing its premises at the Old School. Past, present and future generations of parents and players have



enjoyed the highs and lows of competitive games. The umbrella of KCFC can help achieve a solution.

To find out how to support your community, telephone: Daye Tucker on 551060. Leave your number and I'll get back to you. You may also email me: dayetucker@kcfc.co.uk

Daye Tucker, Convenor, KCFC

Spongebob Squarepants opens Playpark

The Playpark was officially declared open on 20 May 2007. Spongebob Squarepants did the honours by cutting the ribbons across the gate and the



shone brilliantly all afternoon and evening, and families continued to pour into the park to enjoy the activities.

This project, which has been implemented by the Playpark Group, working under the auspices of KCFC and in partnership with Stirling Council, is now virtually completed.

The contractor, Landcare Solutions, will maintain the facility for a year, after which Stirling Council will become responsible for maintenance. A couple of trees have failed to thrive and will be replaced and

crowds were invited to enter and play. A goodly throng of all ages regaled themselves on the climbing frame, the giant seesaw, the mini slide and in the sandpit. Around, the trees were in blossom and the plants beginning to push out their buds. Elsewhere in the park the Play Leaders from Stirling Council Play Van and young coaches from Sport Stirling provided a variety of fun and games for children of all ages. Just before the opening, the rain clouds, which had hung over Killearn for two days, were split by the sun which

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some further seating will be installed within the play area. Enough funds have been raised to meet all bills and it is evident from the numbers using the Playpark that this new facility is much appreciated.

Brenda Pell

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Paths Group News

At last the deliberations are over and the map leaflet material has gone to Harvey's the printers in Doune; we are now waiting for the draft to come for proofreading. Dai Davies was the prizewinner for the photographic competition, with a very atmospheric picture of the Drumtian Bridge over the Endrick taken in autumn.

There may well be a few changes to the routes as a result of further liaison with land managers, who have been most co-operative. In one case at least, we hope that this will lead to a much improved route, cutting out a considerable amount of road walking.

The community has expressed a fervent wish for a direct route from the village to the West Highland Way. This is being actively pursued, but at the moment there is no progress to report.

The Group's next tasks are to put up small (discreet but obvious) waymarks, and to improve some of the paths where there are obstacles. This necessitates more land-manager liaison, costings, and then fundraising, all of which takes time, so do not expect miraculous improvements overnight!

We hope that the leaflet will be ready for the autumn, and a launch is planned to mark the occasion – this will involve taking part in one of the shorter walk and will include some 'family fun'.

The group is indebted to the Heritage Lottery Fund *Awards for All* for a substantial grant towards the production and printing of the map leaflet.

Fay Pascoe, Footpaths Convenor

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All Killearn Archive

On a beautiful sunny spring Saturday morning, we held the first public meeting of the All Killearn Archive. This took the form of a 'Drop-in Day' when many residents, both old and young, came and shared their memories of the village in years gone by with us.

The Village Hall was decorated with spring flowers and the new stage curtains were on view for the first time. These were purchased with a large donation from funds raised by the Buchanan 500 celebrations. Other organisations were recipients of donations also. The large framed picture of 'Afternoon Tea at The Moss' with many residents in it, was also on show for the first time.

The doors opened at 10 am and Rev. Phillip Malloch, the local minister, was first to wish us well with our new organisation, and also to inspect the exhibition. A few minutes later we had Hector Campbell, our retired GP, as well



as Peter Davidson, a retired farmer, living in Helensburgh. Both these gentlemen are well into their 80s and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. One was there until mid-day at least, and only went home because he was exhausted with talking. Many others – elderly residents as well as young newcomers to the village – followed during the remainder of the day. We hope everyone signed our visitors' book!

There were many things to see and do. Hugh McArthur's collection of postcards of Killearn and the surrounding area was on display, along with many old committee minute books and photograph albums. A map of the Main Street was provided and people helped us to remember who had once lived in these houses.

On the stage we had a selection of old household artefacts displayed – not now in use, thanks to all the modern-day electrical equipment. There was also some dozen old glass bottles from a collection, and the visitors were invited



to guess what they had once contained. That caused quite a discussion!

Several of the more technologically-able committee members brought along their up-to-date equipment for scanning photographs, which will really make it all happen for the future by safeguarding these treasures. We also recorded interviews with people and these stories will be transcribed and saved electronically for future generations. The All Killearn Archive group received much helpful advice and assistance about this aspect of the project from Stirling Council Library and Archive groups.

Of course, no gathering is complete without cups of tea and coffee to chat over, while memories are shared and old friendships are renewed.

Altogether, we felt our 'Drop-in Day' had been a very successful first event for our All Killearn Archive, and plans are afoot for another.

Helen Loudon

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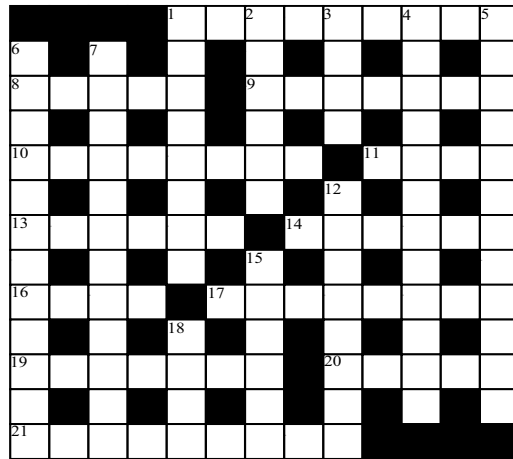
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Closing date – 10th September 2007



* Starred clues have a common connection with Killearn and have no definition.

ACROSS

- 1. Is without cash kilts awry (5,4)
- 8, 11. Dark centre (4,5) *
- 9. All return after tea at start of Hebrew bread (7)
- 10. Sang out about "do ye put a computer in" (8)
- 11. See 8
- 13. The Queen inside a railway support (6)
- 14. The letters I erase make it simpler (6)
- 16. Company operations in short (4) *
- 17. Army chap about (8) *
- 19. Ancient grinder (3,4) *
- 20. Nothing starts in the area which houses the show (5)
- 21. If one quits euros you get a gemstone (9)

DOWN

- 1. Water and earth make up a district in NW England (8)
- 2. Forms of transport go round continuously (6)
- 3. Beam *
- 4. Aunt with acid in hell saw strange visions (12)
- 5. A clever chap has cash normally around (9,3)
- 6. An order in 1940: 'put that light out' (4,8)
- 7. Don't put a Roman one in this! (12)
- 12. Vehicle in which first-class bishop returns in cage (8)
- 15. This food sounds cold, quite the reverse! (6)
- 18. An archaic place in which I lie under (4)

Name

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword : Catherine Frew of Killearn.

Solution to the last Crossword Across 1 burn; 3 Scotland; 8 ebbs; 9 starling; 11 detectives; 14 income; 15 potash; 17 needlework; 20 bagpipes; 21 bran; 22 abrogate; 23 adds Down 1 bread tin; 2 robotics; 4 citric; 5 threesomes; 6 anil; 7 doge; 10 scampering; 12 laboured; 13 The Kings; 16 oddest 18 Abba; 19 agar.



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Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Stuart MacDonald (10)

Closing Date for both competitions – 10 September 2007. Place your entries in the box in Spar.

Nature Notes



Never mind Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail – who were good little rabbits; we have a plethora of Peter Rabbits, and Ian gets more like Mr McGregor every day. It's not so much the carrots that our rabbits like, more the sweet young Brassica tops, and the most choice and expensive plants in the flower beds. We surround everything with nets, we block up the holes – the beasts jump over the netting and

squirm through the smallest hole. So, some get humanely trapped and taken elsewhere, and some get shot and stewed nicely with thyme, onions, bay leaves and just a touch of wine. Yet there are always more – they must be breeding like... rabbits.

It's not as if they were *native* for goodness sake, they have no *right* to be here, they were introduced by the Normans into special warrens, often on islands, to be available as fresh meat in the winter. Believe it or not, they were protected from predators and given additional food! Pity that the buzzards that sometimes circle our garden are not hungrier, they should be, because our local pair have been known to rear up to four youngsters. Rabbits breed from January to August, producing a litter of three to seven young every thirty days, each doe being pregnant again 24 hours after giving birth, and the new ones can breed at three months old – somebody else work out the maths! Apparently population increase is slowed down when the density reaches a critical level and, of course, they do have many predators, so maybe we should just relax and let them get on with it.

The trouble is, what with *Watership Down* and the early morning sight of a dear little bunny feeding on the grass in the sunshine, it really is a love-hate relationship. Incidentally, there is a book called *Gardening with the Enemy* which lists plants that rabbits eat or don't – but with this proviso: our sweet little coneys don't all have the same tastes.

It's a no-win situation – for the humans!

Fay Pascoe

Rotary Club of Strathendrick



Readers may recall that in the last issue, the Rotary Club of Strathendrick had published an open invitation to anyone interested in Rotary to come along to the Black Bull Hotel. As a result of this membership drive by the Club, they now have seven new members. These new Rotarians come from Balfron, Strathblane, Killearn, Gartocharn and Dumgoyne.

The photograph above shows six of the new members with their sponsors as well as retired President Robin Veitch and new President Peter Rea. If you want to find out more about the Club and Rotary, contact Peter Rea (550432), Robert Cranstoun (440697) or Ian Dickie (550639).

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