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Killearn Courier published by:



Anyone wishing to contribute to the Spring edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 15th March 2008.

Advertisements and Artwork

All adverts should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by **Friday, 1st February**. 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, 1st February**. Send them to:

20 Station Road, Killearn
or email to courier@kcfc.co.uk.

Our advertisers make the Courier possible, so please support them.

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Killearn Are Kings!



This autumn Killearn Football Club completed a feat never before achieved in the near 100 year history of the Forth and Endrick F.A.: for the **third year in succession** they won the **League and Cup double!**

When Killearn F.C. beat Gartocharn at Drymen in this season's Cameron Cup final they not only became holders of that trophy for the tenth time, but they also established a number of records. They became the first club in the 97-year history of the Association to achieve a League and Cameron Cup double in three successive seasons. Their winning margin in the league – 17 points ahead of runners-up Blanefield – is unmatched. The number of league goals conceded – 12 in 21 games played – has only once been bettered, and that was in 1913 when long-defunct Vale of Endrick lost only nine goals. But back then, Vale played only 11 games to complete their league programme.

Killearn also won the Leslie Cup (league champions) for the ninth time, the Margaret White Trophy for the fifth time and the Telfer Cup for the fourth time. The Billy Gordon Trophy for the Man of the Match in the final went to Killearn's Richard McColl.

The team has enjoyed regular success in recent seasons, building a consistent pool of talent offering a blend of flair and reliability, youth and experience, with a squad that has changed little in the past year or two. Killearn's forwards – including Ian Crawford, Alan More and Richard McColl – frequently grab the headlines, but Club Captain James Beaton gives great



Tom Yuill presents the Cameron Cup to skipper James Beaton

credit to the stalwarts in defence that make the team so difficult to beat (young Stuart Ashworth between the sticks is no mean player either).

Well done, lads – you do yourselves and your village great credit.

For more about the village football scene see the article on the centre pages.

We've Done It Again!

The Community Newspaper of the Year Awards 2007 took place in the Albert Halls in Stirling on Friday, 7 September.

This annual event is proving more and more popular with representatives of the 28 Community Newspapers operating in Stirlingshire with the result that the venue was packed.

Your *Courier* was nominated in every category!

We WON the Special Judges Award, an award decided and given by the judges only, with no input from the organizers.

This award is given by the judges to the newspaper which, in their opinion, produced the most interesting article in the last twelve months, including, *inter alia*, the best lay-out, use of photographs and involvement of the community.

It was sponsored by the Department of Film and Media Studies, University of Stirling whose Director, Jenny McKay, (left) presented the award to Courier Editor, Ian Dickie.



As many of you will have heard, Andrew Douglas, a fourth year pupil at Balforn High School, was knocked down whilst riding his bike in Balforn on 2 September. However we are happy to report that Andrew is now at home, and well on the road to recovery. Our best wishes go to Andrew and his family.



The Ark

Get Connected ~ Go Ark! So far we're having an awesome voyage on our new-style Ark. Our Welcome Team and the

Media Team are in place, and many of the children lead in our amazing activities. We have an Ark News Team who keep everyone up to date.

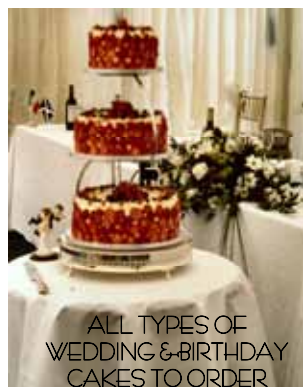
We're collecting leaves to make compost and will have a Super Soil Competition in March 2008 – we like to look after our world! Super Sock Puppet Storytellers (we make the puppets) will take us to the Wild West to hear about a "lost sheep". Sounds cool – ask some of your friends in The Ark to tell you about it.

Our November–December diary is hectic. We're supporting CHAS, "Rachel and Robin's Big Read In" to help raise vital funds for both of the hospices. You may know someone in The Ark and could sponsor them – that would be great. We begin rehearsals for our Musical Nativity Play on 18 November. If you can think of any children who would enjoy taking part, especially singing, please encourage them to come along – we love to welcome new friends. While rehearsing we still find time to go along to the Carols at Christmastime. Last year we had great fun asking everyone to join in our Christmas Keep-fit – we're always full of surprises. Watch out this year!

For many years we have given gifts to the refugee boys and girls at St Rollox in Glasgow. It's good to let others know we care. It's thanks to the support and generosity of the children's parents that we can make a difference in someone's life.

Don't forget our Nativity on 16 December. The songs and the story will be exciting. Get Connected – Go Ark on that morning 10.30 am in Church; even better Go Ark every Sunday morning!

Wishing everyone a fantastic Christmas, and then we're looking forward to 4 January – it's our New Year Party!
Olive Graham, the Team, and everyone in The Ark



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- FINDING A LARGE BUFFET?**
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- A CELEBRATION?**



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EDITORIAL

Hello again. It is a little alarming to realise that, as you read this edition, Christmas is only about five weeks away! It seems like only last week when I wrote the editorial for last Christmas!

A lot has gone on during the year; your *Courier* seems to be well received by the community and certainly we are well supported by all those involved with us. All the members of the *Courier* Group continue to beaver away to ensure that we produce your newspaper three times a year, our advertisers continue to support us by taking out adverts in each issue, and the Community Council still gives us a grant every year thus enabling us to continue to deliver a “free” *Courier*.

A fair number of copies are delivered by group members but we are also supported by a lot of “unsung heroes”. They take it upon themselves to deliver the *Courier* in their own areas, be it nearby streets or rural farms. They make these deliveries in some pretty atrocious weather, as I’m sure you’ve noticed. Without their support, we would struggle to get the *Courier* to you.

For that reason, I want to publicly record our thanks to all of the people I’ve referred to for their efforts and support during 2007. I like to think that such selfless actions indicate an involvement by members of the community in the community which bodes well for the future of Killlearn.

On behalf of all of us at the *Courier*, I wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Ian

Ian Dickie
Editor

Thought for the Day

Living snugly as we do in a modern, well-insulated house, we have always been grateful for the energy saved – because the heating costs us less! We’ve long since bought low-energy, long-life bulbs, especially for the awkward-to-reach ones in the stairwell and outdoors, so we don’t have to change them so often. Under the sink I’ve fitted a wee bin that I line with plastic supermarket bags, for uncooked fruit and veg waste to go in our compost bin, along with some grass cuttings; later, I dig out fresh soil, absolutely free. We share one car for unavoidable journeys, and try in the village to walk as much as possible, gaining in health from exercise even more than saving fuel costs and pollution. We love to pass on old but useable clothes to St Rollox Church in Glasgow, who make them available to asylum seekers in their parish, and to recycle the rest in Stirling Council’s superb blue boxes.

So you can understand I was delighted that Stirling Council had established a cemetery where, one day, trees will purify the air. It was a privilege to take part with others in its dedication today, and to pray God’s comfort for all who mourn, enjoying the beauty of nature, and perhaps seeing beyond that beauty, to God, who, I believe, invented it.

Given that recycling *can* be done from self-interest, it is also an offshoot of one facet of faith, in all religions that believe in a Creator God.

The Psalmist put it like this: “The earth belongs to God, for he made it.” We are not at liberty to treat it as solely ours. While we benefit by its oil, gas, water, land and atmosphere, Christians are meant to remember that we are stewards of it. We are to preserve its energy resources, not merely for our grandchildren (extended self-interest) or from a legitimate concern for nature, but for his glory, and because we believe we will one day answer for the way we have used, or abused it.

Whether people try to save energy through religion, altruism or self-interest, I hope we include sustainability in all our lifestyle decisions.

Rev Philip Malloch

Beech Drive Traffic

Stirling Council Roads Department are introducing a series of measures to improve road safety in the village in response to requests which have been ongoing for some time. The first of these concerns Beech Drive. The proposals have been put before the community, and the September meeting of KCC gave an opportunity for a lively exchange of views. Original plans have been modified to accommodate views expressed and the final plan for Beech Drive was unveiled at the KCC meeting in October. These will primarily introduce a number of “pinch points” along the length of Beech Drive. As a consequence, traffic will be slowed by the need to give way to oncoming vehicles at the narrow sections of the roadway. Additional pathways and signage will be installed in order to give greater security for pedestrians. Considering this

road provides access to two entries to the school, a Nursery and Abbeyfield House for the elderly, these are important features. The work will be undertaken in phases beginning this year.

Stirling Council officers have noted concerns over safety in various parts of the main thoroughfare of the village from the entry on the Balfroon Road and the length of the Main Street to the exit at the junction with Branziert Road. Proposals for traffic management will be presented to KCC in December, finalised by January, and will be submitted for inclusion in the 2008 – 2009 budget. Implementation will proceed as funds allow.

Brenda Pell, Chair KCC



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Indulge yourself with some of our new cakes and slices introduced into our range of real home-baking. Enjoy fine food, calm relaxed surroundings and great service from our friendly staff

Italian Evenings

Do you love Italian food? If you do, come and sample our popular Italian Evenings every Friday night throughout the year. Try our selection of homemade Pizza, Pasta and other authentic Italian Dishes.

Open every Friday night 6-9pm **Booking Recommended.**

We are now taking bookings for Christmas 2007

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



NOTICE BOARD

- 20 Nov *AGM of Killearn Parish Hall*. Committee Room 8 pm.
 21 Nov *Festive Shopping Evening*. Killearn Pharmacy. 7–10 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 *WRI Whist Drive*. Village Hall, 7 pm.
Strathendrick Film Society showing The Train (rated PG). Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
 24 Nov *The Guild Sale of Work*. Church Hall, 2 pm.
Mothers & Toddlers Christmas Fair/Fun Day. Village Hall, 10am – 4 pm
 30 Nov *Killearn PTA Bag2School*. Primary School, 8.50–9.15 am.
- 1 Dec *Killearn PTA Christmas Fayre*. Village Hall, 10.30 am – 1.00 pm.
Get Reel St Andrews Ceilidh. in collaboration with the Stirling Tolbooth.
- 4–8 Dec *Get Reel End of term*.
F.A.D.S. Christmas Show Snow White & The Gnomes. Fintry Village Hall, 7.30 pm and 2 pm.
 Saturday matinee. For tickets & information, contact 860326.
- 6 Dec *Carols at Christmastime*. Village Hall, 7.30 pm.
 7 Dec *Annual Festive Whist Drive*. Village Hall, 7 for 7.30 pm.
 8 Dec *Friends of Guiding Santa & Craft Fair*. Church Hall, 10 am – 1 pm. Tickets £4 from Old Mill Gift Shop.
 14 Dec *Strathendrick Singers Christmas Concert*. Village Hall, 7.30 pm.
 15 Dec *Wee Green Market*. Village Hall, 10.30–2 pm. For more information contact Jaqui (551659).
 21 Dec *Strathendrick Film Society Children’s Matinee, Spirited Away*. Balfron Campus, 2 pm (*accompanied children*).
- 11 Jan *Strathendrick Film Society showing History Boys*. Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
 15 Jan *Get Reel New Year term begins*.
 24 Jan *Drymen & District Local History Society Members’ Night*. Short talks by Society members. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
- 2 Feb *Killearn PTA Burns Coffee Morning*. Village Hall, 10.00 am – 12 noon.
 6 Feb *Killearn Horticultural Society “Berried Treasure”*, a talk by Stanley Hunter, Arboricultural Officer, East Ayrshire Council. AGM to follow talk. All members are welcome. Village Hall, 7.30 pm.
 8 Feb *Strathendrick Film Society showing Mountain Patrol*. Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
 16 Feb *Strathendrick Singers Musical Coffee Morning*. Village Hall, opens 10 am.
 28 Feb *Drymen & District Local History Society* An illustrated talk by Lorna Main, “Stirling: the archaeology”. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
 29 Feb *Strathendrick Film Society showing Black Gold and Others*. Balfron Campus, 7.30 pm.
- 7 Mar *Friends of Guiding Coffee Morning*. Village Hall, 10 am – 12 noon.
Killearn Horticultural Society Whist Drive. Village Hall, 7.30 pm.
 14 Mar *Killearn PTA Family Games Night*. Village Hall, 7–9 pm.
 20 Mar *Strathendrick Rotary Club Charity Bridge*. Village Hall, 7 for 7.30 pm.
 21 Mar *P.T.A. Family Music Night*. Village Hall, 7–10 pm.
 27 Mar *Drymen & District Local History Society* An illustrated talk by Gordon Urquhart, “Glasgow’s Lost Country Houses”. Drymen Village Hall, 7.45 pm.
 29 Mar *KCFC Paths Group Map Launch*. Village Hall, 10 am.
 30 Mar *Strathendrick Singers Spring Concert*. Killearn Kirk, 7 pm.
- If you have any dates for the March 2008 issue (mid March to mid Aug) of the Diary, please contact Pat Ryall (550713).**

Colin O’Brien Letter

I am pleased to have been elected for the third time to serve as a local councillor on Stirling Council. This time, the new ward includes Killearn and all of West Stirlingshire. It’s a great honour and a privilege to continue to represent my home area on Stirling Council. Many thanks to all who voted for me. I am most grateful. My job for the next four years, working with my colleagues, is to work for the good of the community and for all who live, and work, here. Living locally, in Drymen, I am easy to contact and will be glad to assist constituents when required.

I am pleased also to contribute to this worthy journal, as I am able, and intend to continue as before, without political comment or argument. There’s a time and place for that! Having completed my four-year term as Provost, my responsibilities as part of the new Council’s administration will keep me equally busy, as I look after our Resources and Budget, the Economy and Corporate Services! I don’t think I should be short of challenges – or advice! One piece of encouraging news for me comes in some recent national statistics which record that for the fifth year running as Council tax payers we are the best in mainland Scotland, with 97% of dues paid on time, with money still coming in. We have also the highest percentage of household paying by direct debit, which is a great help. All this when we recognise that bills have become so high! I will also represent the Council on a number of bodies including Mugdock Country Park, the local enterprise company, the Stirling Smith Museum and Art Gallery, STEP and, of course, the National Park.

Councillors’ surgeries are being held at present prior to scheduled meeting of Community Councils, and posters are around advertising these. Anyone wishing to contact me direct can do so anytime, either via Viewforth (01786 442660) or at home (660616).

KCFC Paths Report

I am happy to report that because of much hard work by the group over the last 18 months, the map and descriptions of *Paths Around Killearn* is now at the printers in its final form, and we expect to receive 3,000 copies very soon. You will recall that in the last *Courier*, we said we were planning to distribute a copy to each household with the Autumn edition and also to have a community launch. It was pointed out that for a variety of reasons Spring would be a better time for this, so

expect your copy with that edition of the *Courier*; the Launch Day to be at the end of March. Extra copies of the map will be sold at various outlets in the village and further afield, and will cost £1. Some of the money received will then be used for other path related projects – there is much to be done in the way of improvements and maintenance and, indeed, the planning and establishment of new routes.

It is pleasing to note that, although one path had to be abandoned, the

development of another was an excellent example of co-operation between Stirling Council, the land owner, and the KCFC Paths group. Two gates were provided and erected by the Council, resulting not only in a much-improved route – removing most of a dangerous stretch along the A81 – but also better access for the landowner’s machinery. Would that such examples of co-operation were commonplace!

Fay Pascoe

Cooking for Christmas with ease!

It's all in the planning. Write out your menus, cook early, using your freezer for all other meals, both before and after the big day.

All your vegetables for the 25th can be prepared as early as the 23rd. Keep in sealed bags in the fridge.

None of us want to make gravy on the Big Day. The secret is simmer giblets from the turkey to make a stock on Christmas Eve. Use a roux (equal quantities of butter and flour) to make a thick gravy base with this stock. All you need to do on the day is add your turkey juices and vegetable water until it reaches the right consistency.



Brussel sprouts. Half the family love them; half loathe them. I blanche mine the day before (gives you the veg water early for the gravy). On the

day plunge them into boiling water and back to the boil so they are ready extra quick. Or sauté them with lardons of bacon.

To round off all your preparations, stuff the turkey (if you have room to keep it



in the fridge and cold), make the bread sauce, and you can even lightly roast your potatoes – no oil when you reheat.

My other hot tip: when making mince pies, bought pastry and mincemeat (Robertson's is my favourite) work well, add some grated apple and lemon rind to the mincemeat for that homemade taste.

If it's all too much for you, either let another family member do it all and offer to wash up. Or leave the country!

Cathy North

Killearn Horticultural

Writing this, listening to the rain reminds me of the summer just past, but all was not doom and gloom.

Killearn's annual Horticultural Show took place on the last Saturday in August, a super day enjoyed by all those who attended.

Although the weather was mixed leading up to the Show, it was well-supported by exhibitors, both locally and from other villages and towns in the area. To you, all our thanks.

Thanks also go to our growing band of helpers. Without their assistance the Show would not be possible – if you



can spare time and would like to help in some way, contact any of the Committee.

Look out for the yellow posters in the village advertising our events taking place throughout the winter, remembering to put the Show date in your new 2008 diary: Saturday, 30 August.

Our website at www.killearn.org.uk/kchs – you have looked at it, haven't you? – will have results and more photos of the day as soon as possible.

So feet up, warm fire, read the seed and gardening catalogues! Perhaps even measure the garden for that wee poly tunnel.

GWF



The Old Mill Bar & Restaurant



The Old Mill in Killearn extends a warm seasonal invitation to you over the Christmas period. Come along with this ad and order your meal and we will be delighted to give you a complimentary glass of mulled wine, along with our standard offering of an open fire, warm smile and quality local produce... to help get you into the festive spirit.... hope you can make it!

Christmas Menu 2007

- Chef's home made soup of the day
- Smooth chicken liver paté, placed with oateakes
- Smoked salmon and prawn parcel, served with crisp garden leaves
- Dovetail of seasonal melon, drizzled with a pool of fruit coulis
- *****
- Traditional roast turkey, stuffed with chestnut stuffing and laced with a rich pan gravy
- Supreme of chicken, laced with a red onion and leek cream sauce
- Pan fried salmon, placed onto a bed of sultana cous cous and laced with a Drambuie chive cream
- Stir-fry vegetables, bound in a tomato sauce, wrapped in a crepe and topped with cheese
- *****
- Traditional X-mas pudding, laced with brandy sauce
- Chocolate truffle served with vanilla cream
- A duo of cheese and biscuits with home-made relish
- Wild berry mousse, drizzled with a raspberry coulis

2 courses with coffee and mince meat pie... £14.95
3 courses with coffee and mince meat pie... £19.95

(All bookings over 6 people will require a £5 per head,

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"Weaving seasonal food and service into one!"

(Please note this offer is valid during the month of Dec 2007 only)

Spar is Fabulous at 50!



On 6 September, Spar reached the grand old age of 50. This was celebrated with a birthday party in the store.

There were party games, a birthday cake, and a fantastic Hamper which all the members of staff donated gifts for.

The Hamper was won by Liz Stewart, and there were lots of game winners throughout the day – from pass the parcel to a lucky dip.

In the afternoon, local children sang *Happy Birthday* and blew the candles on the cake out.

All the efforts made throughout the day raised £250 for Children 1st charity which is Spar's chosen charity. To date we at Spar Killearn have raised close to £400.

We would like to thank everyone who donated to this good cause.
Lorraine Bruce, Store Manager

A Home-Grown Tale of Seed to Sail

We moved house all the way from Napier Road to New Endrick Road. It was 1975. We set about the garden with a will, uprooting anything not in favour, and planting our own. Some of our tenderly nurtured seeds were to grow into majestic trees – well, almost majestic. The sequoia had to be culled before it reached maturity and 300 feet. That might upset the neighbours. The Scots pines caused upset closer to home. When they started blocking the sun, they had to go. The larch, however, were to stay. They had been planted so that I could build my own boat in retirement. The boat had long been forecast but was being stalled to let the trees reach at least one score years and ten. However, dark murmurings about neighbours and views became more and more strident; they had to go a little early, but were planked and stored under cover.

Two years went by and people started asking awkward questions about launch dates. Time for action. Plans were purchased from the Isle of Skye, to fit the garage and the planks. Growing time had been cut short thus the boat would also be cut short. The timber was now brought in from the cold and damp for a further year. 'Building ships for Dummies' was purchased. Fancy equipment was acquired with the retiral gift which I suspect had been intended for a one-way ticket to anywhere, anywhere but work.

I found a man who's dad lived in Balforn who made kits for the boat, but in plywood. The kit was purchased to use as patterns for the larch planking.

A friend and neighbour presented me with a superb Victorian mahogany bed-head, notches included; I jest, they were sanded out. Another friend and neighbour lent a steam box he had used to make six quite spectacular Windsor chairs.

Pressure continued to build.

Early 2006, a frame and moulds were assembled on which to build the boat. I cut the first planks, the keel was laid, and the bed-head became the stern (the blunt end).

Ladies began to ask when they should buy the hats for the launch. Too, too much pressure. The man who made the kit came to check on progress. "I thought you'd be finished," he said, and left.

Spring 2007. The hull came off the moulds and frame, and

was turned for the first time. Frames, thwarts (seats to the uninitiated) and floorboards were fitted. Having no suitable timber left, a mast and spars were made professionally with a pair of superb oars from Oxford. The sail was made in Benderloch.

Seven coats of varnish, and she was finished. Family and friends were not unexpectedly surprised it had happened, but no-one as much as I.

Although I say it myself, she is small but beautifully formed. She was named *Meg* after Meg Merrilees from Walter Scott's *Guy Mannering* and John Keats' poem "Her Brothers were the craggy hills, Her Sisters larchen trees".

One quiet Sunday, *Meg* went off to Mary, Queen of Scots' birthplace. There she met the waters of Linlithgow Loch. No fuss, no spectators bar the swans and grandchildren; all this to avoid the embarrassment of a *Mary Rose* or *Vasa*. She floated. She didn't leak, not a drop, and the kids were dry and safe

Douglas Arthur



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Letters and emails

We welcome letters and emails. Please include your full address (not necessarily for publication). Contact addresses on page 1. We reserve the right to edit correspondence.

Dear Sir

I have just read your relatively new newspaper, which is most interesting and informative.

May I, through your columns, point your readers and their families to the very much underused sports facility in Balfron – the bowling green. I'm told on good authority that some time ago a group from Killearn thought of upgrading an existing bowling green at Killearn Hospital. After consideration it was agreed that since Killearn had a tennis club and Balfron a bowling green, each could support the other. Even though the villages are so close presently there are just three Killearn members, one of whom is ladies champion for the second year running.

The Bowling Club has been in touch with Active Scotland in the hope of forming a junior section. When the demand is there, taster sessions will be set up. There is no doubt that it is a sport that spans the years, but the ones who achieve best results are those who start young.

So give it a thought. The outdoor version brings three important aspects together – fresh air, exercise and given the chance – cohesion between generations.

So parents and grandparents, watch the local press. Plan to come and take part and encourage youngsters to find out for themselves how much fun it can be.

*Yours sincerely,
Anne Fleming*

Dear Editor,

I read with interest and understanding the article entitled, "Tolerance for Teenagers", written by Hannah Matthews concerning the attitudes of the older generation towards the young people of the village which was published in the last edition of the *Courier*. The Village Hall committee have followed a policy for a long time of allowing bookings to be made for parties, discos, ceilidhs and charitable fundraising events for good causes, often arranged by school pupils and/or their parents. We believe that the Hall is a venue which can be used by young people to enjoy themselves and should be encouraged – contrary to the attitude we hear of in neighbouring villages where, following problems with behaviour, such events have been banned.

We want to continue with our policy but have to ask the community and organisers to assist in ensuring that the small numbers of trouble-makers who can spoil the event for the majority are controlled. We suspect that some of them may not even be directly involved with the function. Over the past three years, we have had to spend over £1,000 in repairing damage to the Hall fittings and decoration brought about by the thoughtless behaviour of a few who seem to take pleasure in deliberate vandalism of this facility. This is unfair to other Hall users since it is reflected in

the hire charges and causes a great deal of frustration to the committee who give up a lot of their time to managing the Hall. Under our Standard Conditions of Hire we have always reserved the right to backcharge such damage to the hirers, but have not pursued this policy since we know that they are invariably not directly responsible for the problem. We are warning all hirers for the incoming year that we will have to hold them responsible and they must ensure that sufficient adults are present to prevent gatecrashers, rowdy and antisocial behaviour, and other activities which lead to problems and damage. This should not interfere with the enjoyment the majority of the young people get from their entertainment but does require responsible persons to keep an eye on what is happening, particularly away from the centres of activity, such as the corridors and toilets, so that any misbehaviour can be dealt with promptly. Parents and other organising adults who are reading this, we appeal to you for your support so that this valuable facility for the whole community can be looked after responsibly and we can maintain the right of the younger generation to enjoy themselves to the full.

*Michael Pell
Chairman,
Killearn Village Hall Committee*

Dear Sir,

I enjoyed Michael Pell's article about The Austin Sevens Loch Lomond Run immensely, and am glad that they still flourish in such plentiful numbers, which is testament to their sound engineering. They did indeed boost the profitability of The Austin Motor Company, which prior to the introduction of the Austin 7, was in severe financial troubles and on the verge of bankruptcy soon after the First World War.

It's namesake the Austin Se7en and the Morris Mini Minor, introduced in 1959 and later consolidated under the brand name of Mini, never enjoyed the same success.

There is no doubt that the Alex Issigonis'

design was an engineering *tour de force* with almost all rival small car manufacturers copying it's transverse engine layout giving maximum space with minimal exterior dimensions. However, because the then British Motor Corporation had not carried out an accurate cost analysis on the true production cost of the Mini, it was consequently sold at too low a price.

In fact, Ford, which had just launched their new Anglia in 1959, selling for a slightly higher price and mechanically much simpler to produce, was so concerned that the company obtained a Mini, stripped it down, costed every component, calculated the cost of manufacture and found that BMC must have been selling every car at a loss! This,

coupled with the high warranty costs, meant that it is doubtful whether the Mini, which was sold in great numbers, ever made it's creators any money at all.

Although the Mini was a landmark in engineering terms it *never* signalled a revival in the fortunes of BMC. It was, in fact, one of many components which in the long term contributed to the downfall of BMC, latterly the MG Rover Group.

It was left to BMW with it's reincarnation of the Mini, a far cry from the original concept of basic motoring, to revive the brand and make a healthy profit.

*Yours faithfully
Michael Menzies, Killearn.*

KCFC Annual Report



It hardly seems any time since I first wrote as the newly-appointed Convenor, to our award-winning *Courier*. Believe it or not, a year has passed; a year which has seen KCFC put in place a strong, focused Board which will easily realise its potential to act as an umbrella for projects driven by individuals and/or groups within the parish boundaries.

In other words, if you have a project out there, something you really believe in, but need support and help finding funding, get in touch; after all, that's why your KCFC exists.

Look at the things we've done so far – the Playpark project has been very successful and the end result is enjoyed by anyone with children (and even some adults!).

The *Courier* is probably our most enduring yet evolving success, whilst our website, kfc.co.uk, is another. The website is an important medium for communication, and you should use it whenever you can.

The Paths Group is vital to those who want to enjoy walking in our countryside whilst the Woodlands Group are making The Kingdom an area that can be enjoyed within the village, by everyone.

We've started the All Killearn Archives so that we can record what was going on in Killearn in the past and this project is proving to be very popular.

The Annual Reports of these projects are scattered about this edition of the *Courier*.

2006–2007 was a period of consolidation of the KCFC Board. We now have in place a strong broad-based Board, focused on working to enhance the quality of life within our Community.

Many people give up their time to move our Community forward. The commitment of such people is displayed in many ways. An example of that is the generosity of an anonymous benefactor from within our Parish who funded the membership leaflet which you will

find in this edition. I ask all of you to recognise this act of selflessness by filling in the leaflet and joining KCFC. After all, it is only £1. £1 – that's a bag of crisps from the Co-op!! All you have to do is get a pen and fill in the form. That simple act alone empowers those working on your behalf in the eyes of funding organisations.

On the other hand, many of us take for granted our stunning surroundings as we rush past each other on our way to and from work. What about the unique view out over the Glebe to Ben Lomond? What about Dumgoyne, the landmark of our village which you can see for miles? "Breathes there a heart with soul so dead...?" What about time for a friendly chat, a wee pause in our hectic lives? Whilst this is freely available to us, our parish will only be what we make it. You have the power through KCFC membership to make a difference, use it! Your views are important. Let us know what you would like to happen in your community.

Your KCFC Board for the forthcoming year is Joanna Donaldson, *Company Secretary*; Bob Ballantyne, *Treasurer*; Fay Pascoe, *Paths Group*; Brenda Pell, *Community Council*; Stuart Simmers, *Killearn Trust*; Ian Dickie, *Courier*; Peter Wilks, *website*; Helen Loudon, *All Killearn Archive Group*; Clive Emmanuel, *Woodlands Group*; Richard Hunter and David Clark. Contact any one of them, or me, at any time and let's make our community an even better place to live.

KCFC All Killearn Archive (AKA)

We have now been together for a year. In that time, we have got to know one another, and discovered our various talents, which I may add are many and varied.

Last spring, we held an Open Day, which we felt was very well attended, and enjoyed by all who came.

In the summer we were asked by Dr Frances Paterson from the USA if we could manage to obtain permission for her daughter to be married in Lilybank Cottage as her ancestors had lived there for many years. This we managed to arrange and Dr Paterson sent us a very welcome donation for our funds.

Ongoing, our group have various projects in hand, mainly interviewing residents within the village and recording their stories of life in Killearn in earlier years. This is when our members with computer skills come into their own.

We are also trying to discover the occupants of the houses in Killearn over the years and make a record of these. Any information you might have would be gratefully received.

These are only a few of the tasks which occupy AKA.

We were in evidence at the AGM of the Community Futures Company, as we volunteered to provide and supply the tea after the meeting, since we work under their umbrella.

Future events include another Open Day in April, so watch this space.

Helen Loudon



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O'NEILL — ANGUS



Jennifer O'Neill from Killearn and Keith Angus from Aberdeen were married on Saturday, 4 August 2007 in Killearn Kirk, with a reception in the Great Hall, Stirling Castle. They met at university in Aberdeen, and are currently living in Aberdeen where Jennifer is an occupational therapist and Keith is a corporate lawyer.

MCGILL — O'NEILL



Vicki McGill from Linlithgow and Iain O'Neill from Killearn were married on Saturday, 13th October 2007 in St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow followed by a reception in the Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh. They met at Strathclyde University and are currently living in Greenwich, London, where Iain works for Barclay Capital in Canary Wharf and Vicki is a chartered accountant.

DINARDO — CUNNINGHAM



Karen Dinardo of Killearn married Blair Cunningham, originally of Dallas, Forres, on Friday, 3 August 2007.

The ceremony took place at Glasgow University Chapel, followed by reception at the bride's home in Killearn.

The couple met whilst both living in Glasgow city centre. Blair works in logistics, and Karen works with her family, and is a structural design engineer.

CLARK — FRIEL



On 27 July, the marriage took place between Stephanie Clark, daughter of Sir Arnold and Lady Clark, and Philip Friel. The ceremony was celebrated in Glasgow University Chapel, followed by a reception at Crowhill, Killearn. Stephanie and Philip met whilst studying dentistry at the university. Stephanie now specialises in paediatric dentistry at Yorkhill and Glasgow Dental Hospital, and Philip specialises in implants, practicing in Hyndland and Edinburgh.

BARUSH — RICHES



Kate Barush and James Riches were married on Friday, 31 August, in Essex Junction, Vermont, USA. James is working as an accountant in London, and Kate is studying for a DPhil at Oxford University. They will be living in Oxford.

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Mini Music Makers

If you are passing the Church Hall any Tuesday morning in term time you perhaps may not have been aware that some of the youngest local residents are busy building their musicianship skills in the company of their special adults. There are currently three groups running. They are designed for children aged 0 – 2, 2 – 3 and 3 – 5. Each class lasts for 40 minutes and, whilst the primary aim of all the classes is that they should provide fun for all the participants (including the accompanying mums, dads and grandparents), the fun is underpinned by sound educational principals. Many of the principals on which the classes are based are those of Zoltan Kodaly, the Hungarian composer, linguist and musical pedagogue. Kodaly strongly believed that young children should be introduced to good quality music as early as possible. In our Mini Music Maker groups this is done through traditional rhymes and songs as well as singing games for the slightly older children. The activities within the



sessions are varied, lively activities, accommodating the need of young children to move around, interspersed with activities that harness the natural curiosity of the children. These are used to develop their listening skills.

I am a retired (still in my forties!) professional musician, having played in the Royal Scottish National Orchestra for over twenty years. My family is still young, so working now as I do in schools with nursery and primary-aged children is better suited to the needs of my own children. I do, however, regularly perform wee snippets for the children in my classes on a variety of woodwind instruments. The children too get their own chance for a “hands on”. My large gathering drum is ideal for

this, providing an opportunity for even the most reticent children to get stuck in. Over the years I have acquired a large collection of hand-held percussion instruments. My parachute, lycra, rainbow elastic and puppets all help me to build and sustain interest, but it is the adults in the class who are my vital partners in the job of sharing music and language with young children. It is these special people who take the activities home and share them again and again as they become favourites. Music is a fabulous social and shared activity and when we consider how much time some of our children spend in the company of their virtual friends, the PCs, DSs or MP3s, I think it is all the more precious.



If you would like further information about the classes, please contact Clare Cushing on:

cecushing@btinternet.com
or 01360 550166.

You could also get more information from www.nycos.co.uk

Clare Cushing

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Selection of quotes about the classes from parents:

“Mini Music Maker’s is fun!”
“A very child-led class with great props and games used skillfully to draw the children in.”
“we really enjoy the classes...”
“...gives parents confidence to try things.”
“A nice blend of old and new”

Balfron High School is blowing the wind of change with the official launch of their own wind turbines.

It is the first school in the Stirling Council area to generate its own wind power to provide energy for school lighting and to raise awareness of renewable energy amongst students. The two free-standing 6kW Proven wind turbines will generate 22,000 kWh a year to make an annual saving of approximately £1,500–2,000. This equates to 11.44 tonnes of CO₂ every year.

The new turbines form part of the Sustainable Energy Initiatives set up by students and staff from the school's Eco-schools group. The students wanted a way of getting a source of renewable energy whilst also looking at options to make the school more energy-efficient. As well as the turbines, the school is installing energy-saving devices and reducing the amount of electricity used as much as possible by switching off computers, lights and projectors when not in use, and installing light timers and timer switches for water heaters over the year.

Students and staff are able to monitor the amount of energy being produced, the total output and the total carbon savings with a visual display monitor in the school's central atrium.

Blowing in the wind.



Balfron already has excellent environmental credentials with the school being awarded the *Green Flag Award* this year – the highest award of the Eco schools initiative. The Eco Schools programme is an international initiative designed to encourage whole-school action for the environment. It is a recognised award scheme that accredits schools who make a commitment to continuously improving their environmental performance. This is a particularly impressive achievement in a secondary school, and is due to the dedication and hard work of staff and pupils over the last four years. In Scotland, the scheme is run by, “Keep Scotland Beautiful” and funded by the Scottish Government.

Balfron's Headteacher Val Corry said, “We are delighted that we are leading the way with the installation of these wind turbines in our school.”

The cost of the turbines and installation has been funded by the Scottish Executive-funded Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative (£12,677); Stirling Council (£15,080);

European Community Lomond and Rural LEADER+ 2000–2006 programme (£14,815); SUST. (The Lighthouse on Sustainability)(£7,000); and nPower (£2,000).



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Teenagers and Global Warming

Balfron High School recently became the recipient of the *Green Flag Award*. This means it is now recognised as an eco-friendly school. And whilst this is obviously a positive thing, it got me thinking. It's all very well the pupils of Balfron High attending an eco-school, but what about at home? Are they eco-friendly there? After all, it is the teenagers and children of today who will be left with the devastating consequences of global warming.

I asked several of my friends if they did anything at home to help the planet. Some said they used energy-efficient light bulbs in their house. Others said things as simple as cutting down on the amount of time they had the heating switched on or not running the tap whilst cleaning their teeth. Others stated that they recycled anything that is recyclable. One of the most common ideas was switching off the lights after

leaving a room. But is that enough?

Whilst it is extremely encouraging that so many people are making the effort to become greener, just how many of the energy-saving ideas were thought of by children of the house? When I asked my friends this question, they all told me the same thing: it was a parent's idea. It was their mum telling them to put that in the recycling bin or to make sure the lights were off upstairs. For many teenagers if it wasn't for their parents they wouldn't give global warming a second thought. It would just be something politicians when on about changing and people moaned about. But these teenagers need to stop relying on the adults to make the decisions. What about the people whose parents do nothing to help the planet? In the years to come, they will be in for a shock. The more everyone does now the sooner things will start to improve. And the truth is I'm no

different. I would have also happily left lights blazing or the heating on all day and not given it a second thought. However, I know better now and realise the awful consequences global warming will have for my generation and that of my children.

I'm not saying adults should lie back and do nothing. They should still be encouraging their children and doing all they can. But the children should also be encouraging the adults. At some point in the future they might be the parents, the owners of a house and a car. They need to think of new ways to help reduce global warming. Every family can probably think of other things they can do to reduce their carbon footprint. Sell their second car? Buy a compost bin? The list of possibilities is endless. It's now up to the next generation to not make the same mistakes again. *MR*

Wind Farm at Ballindalloch Muir

Npower-renewables is proposing to build nine 406ft wind turbines at Ballindalloch Muir, less than a mile from homes and 1.2 miles from the nursery, primary and high schools in Balfroun. Npower has stated its intention to submit an application to Stirling Council in November.

These massive structures, more than 100 feet higher than the turbines at the Braes of Doune, will be seen for miles from a 360° radius; they will be built with huge concrete foundations, both deep into and above the ground, and will need miles of roads, substation and pits. Npower has stated that the grid connection will be via Kepculloch to Killlearn.

The visual impact would be devastating and irrevocable, and would have far-reaching consequences in terms of amenity, conservation and tourism. The damage caused at the Braes of Doune must not be repeated in the Endrick Valley.

Npower's own mapping shows the school campus in the audible noise zone. Scientific and medical opinion suggests that low frequency noise from turbines can cause ill-health, some of the symptoms being headaches, nausea, tinnitus and lack of concentration.



Cefn Croes Tower Sections

Balfroun, Drymen and Fintry Community Councils will support EVAG in opposing the application.

A public meeting, with presentations, will be held on Wednesday, 28 November at 7.30 pm in the lecture theatre of Balfroun High School. We invite all Killlearn residents to come and hear why objections should be made. If you wish to know more, log on to the EVAG website, www.evag.co.uk or phone (441068).

Stop Press: A separate proposal, by Wind Hydrogen Ltd., has recently been made for three 300ft turbines at Loaninghead. *Lindsay Falconer*

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Getting it Reel

Just in case you don't know about us or you thought we no longer existed Get Reel are alive and well, and still running traditional music classes every Tuesday during term at Balfroun Campus.

We are a Scottish charity based in Killlearn formed in 2003 and run by an voluntary committee to promote the learning, teaching and participation in Scottish traditional music, drama and storytelling, and its contemporary development.

We have three levels (absolute beginner/beginner/improver) for fiddle and guitar for children, and two levels of adult classes in fiddle and guitar (abs beg/imp). An adult whistle group meets regularly and joins in with our events. Our drama and storytelling classes will resume in January 2008.

St Andrew's Day Celebration

Get Reel are celebrating St Andrew's Day by holding an public event in

collaboration with The Tolbooth, Stirling, on Saturday, 1 December. Although final details are still to be made, there will be ceilidh dancing and other workshops in the afternoon, followed by an informal early evening session for anyone to come along and join in (whatever instrument you play do come along and have a go) and then a ceilidh with "Ceilidh Minogue" featuring Gavin Marwick on fiddle.

Get Reel already had a successful collaboration with the Tolbooth in an event called the Rural Blend in March 2007. Our children and adults supported Karine Polwart at a concert in the McLintock Halls which was a wonderful experience for those involved.

If you are interested in coming along to our classes, St Andrew's Celebration or sessions, or would like more information, please call:

Sara Bell (550770).

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If you should have an emergency and need to call the fire brigade to an incident in Killearn you will be routed in seconds to an operator in Falkirk, who will take details and immediately page the Balfroon crew of the Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service. Of course they tackle fires – chimney, house and grass fires and fires in commercial premises – but also road traffic collisions (RTCs), flooding, incidents requiring specialist lifting and cutting gear, and a whole range of other emergencies.


The ten members of the Balfroon team are not whole-time firemen: they all have day jobs – mostly in the Balfroon area so that they can respond to a “shout”. Their jobs range from landscape gardeners to a guitar teacher! Crews have to respond to a call at any time of day or night at a moment’s notice. They could be enjoying Christmas dinner with their family when their pager goes. Watch Manager Sandy Buchanan, with almost 20

years’ service, recalls a summer dry-spell that resulted in 18 shouts over just three days – mostly for grass fires. On one occasion, the crew had to stay out all-night keeping watch as forest and grass fires threatened the village of Brig ’o Turk.



Balfroon Station’s area is immense, bounded by Balloch, Mugdock, Lennoxton and Arnprior. In this area of rural Stirlingshire, house fires may be less common than in the past, but RTCs are distressingly common, frequently serious and occasionally with fatalities. Perhaps surprisingly Guy Fawkes Night is not usually unduly busy, but Hogmanay frequently is... Since April this year the Balfroon crew has had over 100 “turn-outs”.


More unusual shouts include the horse stuck a ditch; the cow that fell into a disused mineshaft (*left*); the Killearn man who got his fingers stuck in the garage door; the Blanefield man who got his arm stuck under the dishwasher. Not to mention BBC Newsreader David Robertson’s self-combusting car (*below*)... The crew may not know what they will face until they arrive at the scene of the incident. Their top tip is if you call the






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emergency services, it’s vital to stay calm, give the operator as much information as possible, and always get someone to wait at your road end. It is guaranteed that the fire service will attend.

The role of the Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service is constantly evolving: Home Fire Safety checks and Thursday-evening Cadets are part of their educational and fire prevention work. Training in use of defibrillators is also imminent, because it’s now recognised that the speed of response within the “golden hour” is critical to a casualty’s chance of survival and recovery.

Retained firemen are paid for their duties, but why do they give so wholeheartedly to such demanding and sometimes distressing and dangerous work? Comradeship. Service to the community. Personal development. Exciting and sometimes unexpected challenges.

The chance to *really* make a difference. They take pride in their training, professionalism and camaraderie.

Next time you see the emergency services at work just think – they could be helping someone you know. Indeed the firefighter may very well *be* someone you know. NH



Balfroon Firefighters at the scene of an incident at the Buchanan Arms, Drymen

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A Glorious History in the Forth and Endrick Football Association

When Killearn achieved their historic “triple double” of the League and Cameron Cup – along with the Margaret White Trophy and the Telfer Cup – they completed a remarkable run of 27 wins – with just one draw – out of 28 competitive matches in 2007; scoring 108 goals and conceding just 19 in all competitions.

But the Club and the Association enjoy a long and distinguished history. The Forth & Endrick F.A. was formed in 1910 with eight founding clubs: Aberfoyle Rob Roy, Ballikinrain, Buchlyvie United, Drymen United, Gartmore, Killearn, Kippen and Vale of Endrick (Balfroun). Ballikinrain lasted only one season before giving way to Fintry. Gartmore and Vale of Endrick are currently in abeyance, and Balfroun Rovers, Blanefield Thistle, Deanston, Gargunnoch, Gartocharn and Thornhill bring to twelve the present membership.

Six other clubs have participated for varying terms: Aberfoyle United, Balfroun HSFPs, Blair Drummond, Duntreath, Lochard United and Port United (Port of Menteith). The highest number of clubs in active membership was thirteen in the years 1955 to 1963.

In the first season, 1910, the only competition was a straight knock-out for the Cameron Cup, and the first winners were Buchlyvie United. Next year it was again knock-out but each tie was played on a “home and away” basis with aggregate scores determining the winner. There was no question of “away goals counting double” – a play-off was required and Killearn were the first victims, losing 2–1 to Gartmore after a 2–1 home win and a 1–0 away defeat.



Left to right: Cameron Cup; Telfer Cup; League Trophy; Margaret White Trophy.

In the next two years the Cameron Cup was awarded to the winner of a league competition, but in 1914 F&EFA reverted to a two-leg knock-out competition. As now, this was a summer competition and the cup final was played on 11 July. The outbreak of the Great War led to the suspension of all football competitions for the duration. Local football resumed on 1 May 1920, and that season saw seven teams taking part in a full league programme.

The following year, for the first time, the Cameron Cup was played for as a knock-out tournament after the league competition had been completed. That has been the set-up ever since, with the exception only of the years 1940 to 1945 when the Second World put an end to local football. Although curtailed competitions were staged in 1940, these were later deemed to be unofficial and no awards were made. Additional competitions have been introduced since.

The Competitions

The Cameron Cup was donated to local clubs in 1910 by D.E. Cameron, Esq., merchant of Maryhill. The competition is now played on a knock-out basis, the first team drawn in each tie having home advantage except in the case of semi-final and final ties which are played on neutral grounds. Killearn has won the Cameron Cup ten times: 1923, 1924, 1926, 1936, 1953, 1954, 2001, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The Leslie Trophy was donated to the Association in 1928 by the Rev. George N. Leslie, minister of Kincardine in Menteith Church, and is awarded annually to the league champions. In the league competition each competing club plays each other team home and away, with three points for a win and one point for a draw. In the event of teams having the same number of points at the end of the league competition, goal difference decides their relative positions. Killearn have been league champions ten times: 1924, 1927 (both times before the Leslie Trophy was presented), 1928, 1971, 1975, 2000, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The MacGregor–Ferguson Cup was donated to the Association in 1972 by Dr Duncan MacGregor and Dr Duncan Ferguson who had both been distinguished players in the Association and elsewhere. This competition is open to all clubs except the four semi-finalists in the Cameron Cup competition. The competition is played on a knock-out basis, the first team drawn in each tie having home advantage. Killearn have been winners six times: in 1973, 1984, 1987, 1998, 1999 and 2003.

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The Margaret White Trophy was donated to the Association in 1982 by Colin White from Glasgow, who refereed for many years and was regularly accompanied to matches by his wife. When Margaret was tragically killed in a car accident, Colin gave a trophy to the F&EFA in her memory. This is played on a league/knock-out basis of four qualifying sections. At the conclusion of the qualifying stages the top team in each section goes forward to the knock-out stages. Killearn have won five times: 1988, 2000, 2001, 2005 and 2007.

The Telfer Cup was donated to the Association in 1979 by Iain Telfer of Aberfoyle who had been a referee for 25 years. It is contested between clubs representing two sections, the Forth section and the Endrick section. At the conclusion of the league programme, the league results of each team against each other team in the same district are collated and the two teams with the highest number of points will be the qualifying teams in that district.

The semi-finals are contested by the winners of one section playing the runners-up of the other section. Killearn have been winners four times: in 2000, 2001, 2005 and 2007.



Killearn Football Club skipper James Beaton proudly displays this season's silverware.

The Salmon Leap Inn Trophy, given to the Association in 1974 by Mr & Mrs Eric John of Drymen is awarded to the team scoring the highest number of league goals in the season. Killearn have been winners three times: 1975, 2005 and 2006.

The Garvie Cup, given to the Association in 1976 by Mr Charles Garvie of Milngavie is awarded to the club which incurs the lowest number of penalty points for field offences in a season as reported by referees. Killearn were winners in 1983.

The Stirling Observer Shield has been awarded since 1986 to the Association's Player of the Year as voted for by member clubs. The shield has been won three times by Killearn players: Greig Denton, 1991; Ian Crawford, 2005; and Richard McColl, 2006.

The William Gordon Memorial Shield has been awarded since 1998 to the Man of the Match in the Cameron Cup Final. The shield

has been won four times by Killearn players: Ian Crawford in 2001, James Beaton in 2005, Andy McColl in 2006 and Richard McColl in 2007.

Tom Yuill (50 appearances for Killearn F.C. from 1949)

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PARKING AT THE DOOR

Balfron High School Malawi Exchange Trip

Thanks to all who supported us during our fund raising, we were able to go to Malawi from 10 June to 1 July to visit our partner school, Robert Laws. Our fundraising target was £15,000, but we actually managed to raise £23,000! The £8,000 excess is going towards next year's return visit by teachers and pupils from Robert Laws.

The expression "a once in a lifetime experience" is often thrown around casually, becoming one that has all but lost its literalness of meaning. It was for us, however, much more meaningful, joining "It was the best three weeks of my life!" as one of the phrases repeatedly employed when attempting to explain the inexplicable – the Malawi trip. These sentiments might seem hyperbolic or clichéd, but to us they were very much true!

From the moment we arrived at Robert Laws Secondary School (ROLASS) we felt welcome. The thing that strikes you most about Malawi, that makes you fall in love with the place, is that the people are so open and friendly. It is not called the warm heart of Africa for nothing!

For the first two weeks, we spent most mornings in classes alongside the Malawian pupils, attending subjects as diverse as Agriculture, Bible Knowledge and Chichewa (which is the



national language of Malawi, along with English). We quickly made friends, and from them learnt a lot about life and culture in Malawi and shared our own culture and

experiences with them. They were surprised to hear that secondary school in Scotland is free, since in Malawi it is expensive and only around a third of the population are able to attend – and of these, just 1% go on to university. We were quite exhausted by lunchtime since school started with an assembly at 7 am. So, in the afternoons we usually visited other places, for example, the local primary and deaf schools, the hospital and the community AIDs centre. This allowed us to appreciate the wider community and understand issues affecting the entire country.

The highlights for us included the ceilidhs we put on, sports day, discos and teaching ultimate Frisbee, but the best memories were often of when we were just able to relax with our new friends and chat. The fact of this being a partnership of equals first and foremost liberated us from the unease that might surround a trip based solely on aid and allowed us to simply become a part of the school. The aims of the partnership were to foster global citizenship, dispelling any misconceptions we had about Malawians and they about us, and in bringing together two cultures and discovering our shared humanity, the trip was a huge success.

Our third week was spent travelling – first to Mzuzu,



one of the large towns of northern Malawi, then down the lakeshore road to Liwonde National Park. Although it was interesting to see hippos, elephants, monkeys and other animals in the wild, we all missed ROLASS terribly.

The three weeks we spent in Malawi were some of the, if not *the*, best weeks of our lives and it is impossible to express in just a few hundred words how much they meant to us. Although we miss ROLASS and all our friends there, we are looking forward to the future of this blossoming partnership. Next year, pupils and teachers from Robert Laws will be coming to Balfron, something we are incredibly excited about. Until then there will be more fund raising, and we also hope that we can help ROLASS to get an internet connection. Thank you once again to all those who made this trip possible – it was, I believe, the first chapter in a long book both for us personally and for Balfron High School.

If anyone is interested in hearing more about the trip and the ongoing partnership, I or another member of the group would be delighted to come and talk to them. Contact calum.sw@hotmail.co.uk.

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The Guild

The Guild started its programme with our usual Harvest Supper – a lively evening with “home-grown” entertainment and splendid contributions from Joyce Begg. Since then we have had a talk on Oberammergau by Rev. Elizabeth Sutherland, and look forward to hearing about our project for this year – “Touching the Untouchables” in India; and then an evening with Norah Summers, a former National Convener of the Guild.

Meanwhile much preparation is being done for our Christmas Fair (Sale of Work) on Saturday, Nov 24th at 2pm in the Church Halls to be opened by Richard Drew. All contributions for any of the stalls will be most welcome, and we hope for the usual good turnout on the day. Cream teas will be served! The Guild offers a warm welcome to all, and you will be assured of a good evening and good company.

Anne Mackay

Is there anyone interested in forming a group to play table tennis one evening or during the day in the Village Hall? There is a table just itching to be used! Phone 550269 or email macharho@gmail.com for more information. Mixed doubles anyone?

New Music Director

A promising new era opens for Strathendrick Singers with the appointment of Mark Evans as Music Director following the retirement of respected and much-loved founding director, Ros McGowan.

Mark studied music at Glasgow University, where he was a choral scholar in the University Chapel Choir and leader of the University Orchestra, as well as joint conductor of the University Chamber Singers.

After completing his PGCE at Strathclyde University, he spent 18 months in Lithuania where, as well as teaching English in Secondary schools, he sang in a professional choir and studied conducting at the Lithuanian Music Academy.

In 2001 Mark was joint winner of the first RSNO Sir Alexander Gibson Conducting Fellowship, working with the RSNO Chorus and conductors such as Alexander Lazarev and Walter Weller. He also acted as assistant chorus master on the Chorus' very successful 2002 Copenhagen tour.

In 2003 Mark was chorus master to the Aberdeen International Youth Festival, working with choirs from the Philippines, Canada, Norway and Belarus, and continues to work as the Music Manager for the Festival. Mark was appointed Director of the National Youth Choir of Scotland's Edinburgh Area Choir in 2005 having worked with the organisation before, most notably as Assistant Conductor with the National Youth Choir of Scotland on their 2004 Chicago tour.

He is also the choral trainer for Artistic Concert Experiences, and Musical Director of Voice Factory, a primary schools choir, as part of the Glasgow City Halls Education Project. Mark also works regularly with the Kelvin Ensemble, a Glasgow University student orchestra.

Mark currently teaches music at Douglas Academy in Milngavie, where he conducts the 90-strong Senior Choir. The choir frequently takes part in festivals and other competitions, including the BBC Choir of the Year. In June this year the Choir made a very successful tour of Lithuania. They have also visited the Czech Republic.

Mark says, “I am very excited to be working with the Strathendrick Singers. They are energetic and very enthusiastic and have been extremely welcoming. I hope to bring my varied experience to the choir and look forward to choosing repertoire for the choir's development – and enjoyment of course. I would like to expand the choir's numbers and am looking to attract some younger members of the community.”

Strathendrick Singers are a friendly group of choral enthusiasts. If you are interested in joining, contact our Secretary:

Karen Heron (551174).

John Moreland



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Teenage Kicks Right Through the Night

Is your young teenager prepared this festive season? Your average teenager has, let's face it, a different agenda to you come the festive season. While we can expect to tussle with a turkey, they will likely be anticipating their first parties, planning to meet some potential partners, and generally be hell-bent on having some fun without you being around to cramp their style. Every parent dreads the transition from little darling to hormonally-charged teen, but talking to your adolescent about the nitty-gritty of what they might encounter at your average teen bash might help them avoid the pitfalls you are so worried about. According to the UK charity Parentline Plus, talking could actually help delay a teen's sexual activity, reduce unintended teenage pregnancies and make them aware of, and equipped to avoid, sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The combination of festive high spirits and the culture of underage alcohol consumption is a potent combination when added to a melting pot of surging hormones, and the facts and figures available mirror this. When asked why they had sex for the first time, 20 per cent of men and 13 per cent of women aged 15–19 said alcohol was the main reason. Research also shows that 40 per cent of sexually active 13–14-year-olds were drunk or stoned when they first had sex, and consequently much more likely to regret it. With drugs and alcohol comes a loss of inhibition, and the chance that condoms and contraceptive pills will be forgotten, as well as new relationships ending as quickly as they are formed over a Smirnoff and a snog. Understandably, many parents may be reluctant to initiate a conversation with surly teenagers on such matters. With eyes rolling skywards, your average teen reckons it unlikely you know anything of matters relating to sex, drugs or alcohol. Rather than launching into a toe-curling lecture on the DOs and DON'Ts, consider a more relaxed approach:

- Open the lines of communications at an early age so that discussion of matters relating to our feelings and our body is normal.
- Initiate discussion while doing everyday activities, rather than having a sit-down chat.
- Teenagers need to understand the importance of their feelings, and their relationship with a sexual partner, so expand beyond the biology lesson.
- Know your facts. Be up to date on the most popular recreational drugs – and their effects.
- Use the media – soaps, adverts, magazines – to initiate a discussion on a topic. It's easier to talk about something that isn't too close to home.
- Talk about responsibility and choice. Let them know you understand that drinking, drugs or sex can be part of teenage life but that, if they choose to experiment, they must be responsible to avoid undue risks.
- Explain the risks of pregnancy and catching an STI, and that a sexual partner might try to suggest

that it is “safe” to have sex without a condom when it is not. Keep on about using condoms!

- Discuss what to do if your teen is involved in an accident, a fight or unwanted sex while under the influence. The choices they make will help to keep them safe and well.
- Help teenagers resist pressure by explaining that friends may be showing off and not really doing what they say that they are doing. Help them to see they have minds of their own.

Parents cannot expect to keep their teenagers isolated from the temptations and risks associated with youth, and frankly, they shouldn't attempt to, given it is all part of the process of growing up. However, by ensuring they are equipped to deal with the situations that can potentially arise as a result of the heady mixture of hormones, sex and alcohol, they are more likely to stay safe. By keeping your teenager informed, being ready to listen, and giving them the tools to make the right choices, hopefully you can help them navigate their way safely through the festive season without incident.

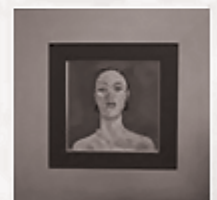
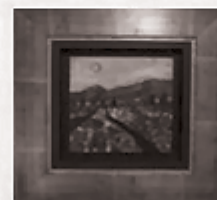
Parentline Scotland has a helpline and leaflets to deal with an array of teen problems – phone 0808 800 2222, or check their website: www.children1st.org.uk.

Elizabeth McQuillan

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A New Dawn for Killearn Pharmacy



On 21 May 2007, Killearn Pharmacy moved into its new premises at Killearn Halls on Balfroon Road.

The original pharmacy opened back in 1989 – until that time, prescriptions from Killearn were placed in a box at the butchers and taken (by volunteer) to either Balfroon, Lennoxton or Milngavie for dispensing, and returned to the butchers for collection.

After a slow start, custom gradually increased to current levels, resulting in a decision having to be made about the future direction of the pharmacy. “We were extremely short of space, both within the dispensary and the shop area,” said pharmacist Kenneth More. “The New Pharmacy Contract’ currently being introduced within Scotland meant we needed to provide improved and additional services within the pharmacy, and we realised that our premises at 11 Main Street would either need to be refitted or we would have to move. Unfortunately, 11 Main Street did not afford us the necessary space required to provide all the services which we wished to deliver.”

In May, the pharmacy opened its doors at its new site on Balfroon Road. The pharmacy now has its own consultation room (where customers can have a quiet word with the pharmacist) and a multipurpose treatment room which is currently used by holistic therapists providing reflexology, massage and aromatherapy. There is a seated waiting area,

full disabled access and a hearing loop system.

New services being provided under the New Pharmacy Contract are the “Minor Ailments Scheme” and the “Public Health Service” which allows the pharmacist to prescribe medicines for certain minor conditions and offering ready access to information on many health related issues. In addition, the pharmacy has started to introduce diagnostic testing services, beginning with a free Blood Pressure Testing Service soon to be followed with Cholesterol and Diabetes Screening.

“Over the next few years there will be many more changes within the pharmacy as we attempt to meet all the challenges within the new contract.” said Kenneth. “I am grateful for the tremendous support and encouragement we have received from within the village and beyond.”



Anne Gibson MIGHT

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Dancing Displays

After 20 years in Milngavie Town Hall, the annual dancing display of the *Linda Turner School* was held this year in the Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow.

The change of venue proved to be a great success. The girls had the opportunity to dance on a full-sized stage with professional lighting and sound system, while parents and friends had the benefits of a comfortable seat and a "tea bar" which offered a glass of wine (for those who were not driving, of course).

From my point of view, the facilities offered by the theatre made life a lot easier. An intercom system from the stage to

the dressing rooms meant that dancers arrived in time for their particular dance without having to be "rounded up". (Those of you who have helped backstage on previous occasions will know exactly what I mean!)

A new session is underway, and the most frequently asked question is "What are we doing at next year's display?" It is obviously the highlight of our dancing calendar!

LT



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Tennis Club Final Serve?

It would seem that the long-running saga involving our Tennis Club has now come to an end.

At an EGM of the Club held on the morning of Saturday, 29 September, members agreed to accept the terms of the lease between the Club and the Wilson Trust, thus securing the future of tennis in Killearn for the foreseeable future.

The Club wishes to thank all those who supported their cause. *TID*

Strathendrick Curling Club

As usual, the Curling Club had their pre-season golf outing to Buchanan Castle Golf Club where a Texas Scramble took place, followed by Dinner and a Quiz. This was very well attended, and much enjoyed by all.

The first match played this year was in the Robert Paterson Shield (A League) and Strathendrick C.C. beat Thornhill C.C. convincingly. The Opening Bonsel President vs. Vice-President's Match took place on 28 September at Stirling Ice Rink: after some exciting moments the President's teams won.

Club league matches are generally held on Tuesday afternoons, but occasionally early or mid-evening to allow for members with other commitments. Forth and Endrick Province matches are usually on Thursday evenings at Stirling Ice Rink.

The Ladies section meets at Stirling on Thursday mornings for 10 a.m. games.

On the social side, the Annual Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday, 24 November at the Winnock Hotel, Drymen.

For further information on Strathendrick Curling Club, or if anyone would like to try the "Roarin' Game", please go to www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk or contact Fiona Glass (550646). S.C.C. has qualified coaches within the club and is always pleased to help anyone interested. *FG*

On the Court...

Killearn Tennis Club has enjoyed some good – and some not-quite-so-good – results on the playing side during the 2007 season.

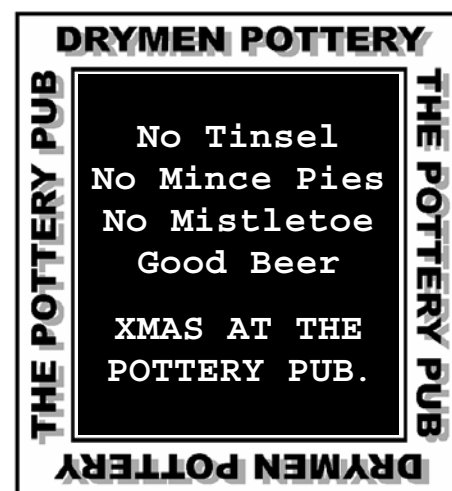
The Gent's team did exceptionally well, retaining their place in the Central and District first division. This reflected an excellent achievement, capitalising on the very good work from 2006 when the team gained promotion. Hopefully they have finally put an end to the promotion/relegation yoyo scenario which has dogged them in the past and this now marks a more prolonged stay in the district's top flight. The team has benefited from a strong pool of players with real competition for places, and the club would now hope that in 2008 it can again target the running of a Gent's 2nd team, essential for providing the opportunity to bring on some of the stronger juniors.

Unfortunately, on the down side, both the Ladies' teams were relegated from their respective divisions. This has been due to the unavailability of a number of key players and the consequential knock on effect this has had throughout the Ladies teams. However, enthusiasm remains good and playing numbers amongst the Ladies remains healthy, and possibly players will now take more enjoyment out of the new league placings after a number of seasons of fairly stern opposition.

The mixed autumn league fixtures are now up and running and the club continues to hold its place in the top division.

On the junior side, the new coaching set up is proving very popular. The move away from the midweek coaching, when so much else is on, to Friday nights has seen an encouraging increase in numbers. Efforts will be made to make Friday nights more structured following a recognised coaching programme leading to the achievement of awards. Ideally, for the youngsters to fulfil their potential, they need to be given opportunities to complement the coaching by taking part in competitive tennis either within the club or further afield. This is the tried and tested way to bring on skills and the tennis club will be looking to focus on this area next season. Willing parent helpers will be essential to get this off the ground.

James Chalmers continues to represent the club, competing very successfully in a number of top-ranked singles events. With James moving around the country with his training as a doctor he has built up affiliation to a number of tennis clubs. However, it is to his credit that he continues to turn out for the Killearn teams whenever he can and also enters singles competitions under the club's name. It is good to know that Killearn Tennis Club is making headlines in tennis terms rather than anything else! Well done, James. *JF*



Endrick Update

There is currently a great spirit at Strathendrick Rugby Club: enthusiasm has been fired by the recent World Cup, playing conditions are good, skills and performances are improving at all levels because of regular training and practice.

After a slow start, complicated by injuries, the 1st and 2nd XV senior teams are now stringing together good results in their respective leagues and in the Scottish Hydro Electric National Cup.

The Midis are operating teams at Under 16 and S1/2 with training on Wednesdays and matches, practice or festivals on Sundays. Like the National Team they are young and enthusiastic and are learning fast! The Minis have teams at all ages from P4–P7 with a full programme of taster sessions, practices, festivals and tournaments – all on Sundays.

Players, social members and supporters are welcome at all levels.

For further information on Mini rugby contact *Iain Somerville (550842)*; for further information on Seniors and Youth activities contact *Nick Hawkins (550576)*.

All in Good Time

Although it feels like a recent phenomenon, Christmas has been coming earlier for quite some time. In the days before Debenham's, when Lewis's store still reigned supreme in Argyle Street, members of staff would come home from their late summer holiday to find that their first task on returning to work was to push all the birthday cards to one side to make room for the Christmas ones. Debenham's has been there for a fair while, so the practice is not that recent. Just the same, it always jars to find festive wrapping paper and selection boxes on sale in September. It gets all the other seasonal activities out of kilter.

Not only that – it makes one nostalgic. You don't have to be a senior citizen to hark back the good old days. Even people in their thirties can remember when there was a proper progression of autumnal events, from bramble picking onwards. Hallowe'en, Guy Fawkes Night and Remembrance Sunday were properly observed in their turn, without the constant overlay of tinsel and Rudolf at the same time. It just turns autumn into a kind of soup.

One of the interesting things about nostalgia is that it tends to make one think on a small scale. Village activities shine in the memory. Old family traditions take on a kind of glow. In these days of fibre optic Christmas trees and illuminated Disneyworld gardens, it seems ludicrous to think of the coloured paper chains that used to satisfy us, assembled by small children with a great deal of effort and a messy jar of paste. Perhaps we don't have to go back

quite that far. But we can and do still think on a domestic and a local scale.

There is something infinitely appealing about a village focus on a world-wide celebration. The pre-Christmas Guild Sale of Work at the end of November is a case in point. There the traditional blends with the modern in a wonderful display of talent and inventiveness. Needlework skills one had feared extinct are shown to be alive and well, and it is almost impossible to turn away from the seductive power of the jam and chutney stall. And everything is so elegantly decorated. It is not yet Christmas, but there is a legitimate air of expectation. You could certainly pick up a few presents.

On the subject of presents, lots of people do think local before tackling the city. If you're looking for expensive electronic gadgetry or a large item of furniture, you might well have to go further afield, but we are in the fortunate position of being surrounded by good small shops, either in our own village or one of the others. There is something very satisfying about finding just the right present only yards away, and one which does not sport a chain store label.

Even if Christmas does seem to be stretching, there is still a proper village heart to it, at the right time. There are still parties and dances and nativity plays. There are dinners and concerts and services. There's shopping and cooking and decorating. Nostalgic memories are great, but you don't need nostalgia to have fun and laughter and happiness. Happy Christmas – when it comes.

Joyce Begg

BEADED DECORATIONS

These are lovely to hang around the house or on your Christmas tree.

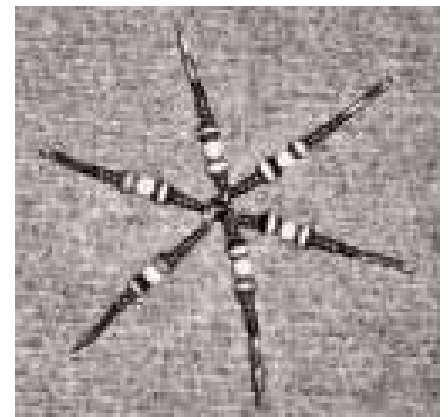
You will need:

- *beading wire:* 0.8 silver plated wire is best (available from John Lewis haberdashery or any art or craft shop)
- *assorted beads:* almost any bugle or seed beads; try shiny crystals and rainbow beads
- *wire cutters, old scissors, glue*

Icicles

Cut a piece of wire about 30 cm (10 in) long. Make a loop at one end. Thread the beads onto the wire alternating the colours, and starting with the smallest, until the beaded wire measures about 7cm (3in).

Bead for another 7cm (3in), but reversing the sizes and colours of the first set of beads. Make a twist and small loop in the wire to secure the wire, and cut off any excess.



Stars

Make three icicles, following the instructions above, but only make one with a large loop for hanging. Resist the temptation to thread too many beads on, or the wire might break when you twist the three icicles together to make a star. Stick a large bead or crystal into the centre of the star, and leave to dry.

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CHERNOBYL STORY

This summer, Killearn played host to two “Chernobyl Children” as Carol and Martin Gibb welcomed Andrei and Tanya from Belarus (*pictured below*) to live with them for a month.

When the Chernobyl reactor failed in April 1986, a cloud of deadly radioactive smoke and dust poured out of the stricken reactor for ten days. Although Chernobyl lies in the north of Ukraine, 70% of the radioactivity landed in neighbouring Belarus. Now the people of Belarus live with radiation all around them.

The *Chernobyl Children’s Life Line* charity (CCLL) organises respite breaks to the UK for children from the affected areas of Belarus. Doctors in Belarus



estimate that a visit to the UK for a month during the summer can extend the life expectancy of these children by up to two years.

The *Glasgow Link Group of CCLL* brought a group of ten children (*pictured right*) and a translator from Belarus to live with several families around the city. All the children were ten years old and had never travelled out of Belarus before. When they arrived at Glasgow Airport on Sunday, 24 June they brought little more than a change of clothes. However, each child had still managed to bring a small gift from Belarus for the host families.

Although very far from home and unable to speak any English, Andrei and Tanya settled quickly into life in Killearn. Carol and Martin have four children of their own, so life was very busy in the Gibb household – no time to worry about not being able to speak to anyone! Children being children, the international language of football seemed to be all that was required.

During their stay, all the children enjoyed a wonderful programme of visits and trips. Day trips included



Loudoun Castle, Glasgow Science Centre, Deep Sea World, Largs and Blair Drummond Safari Park. There was also a civic reception in the Glasgow City Chambers hosted by the Lord Provost and a barbecue party at Carol and Martin’s house in Killearn for all the host and support families in the group. In between all these exciting events, Andrei and Tanya explored the surroundings of Killearn.

On Saturday, 7 July, local writer Julia Donaldson, author of the popular children’s book *The Gruffalo*, presented a charity book reading and children’s show at Balfron Campus in aid of the CCLL charity. The show was very popular and raised hundreds of pounds towards the cost of bringing more of these children to the UK.

With so much going on, the month-long visit seemed to flash past and it was soon time to take Andrei and Tanya back to the airport for their flight home. Through the generosity of other families in Killearn and friends of the Glasgow Link, all the children went home with new school shoes, a warm winter coat, and a suitcase bulging with donated clothes and other small gifts.

There were a few tears at the airport, but like all children everywhere, they were excited at the prospect of going home to their families. The children went home with photo albums of all their visits and the families they stayed with. It’s unlikely that Andrei, Tanya or any of the other eight children will ever have a trip like this again in their lifetime. We all hope that they will have happy memories of their month in Killearn.

To learn out more about the *Chernobyl Children’s Life Line* charity and the work of the *Glasgow Link Group*, go to www.ccll.org.uk/glasgow.

Martin Gibb



This Christmas Glengoyne Distillery, near Killearn, is offering inspiration for presents for whisky lovers with personalised bottles & gift vouchers which can be redeemed against one of the many in depth distillery visits. The Master Blender & Masterclass tours are perfect for those who wish to expand their whisky knowledge & create their very own blended whisky to take home with them, along with a certificate.

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Consecration of Killearn Woodland Cemetery



A ground-breaking event took place on a misty October morning when Councillor Graham Reed planted an oak tree to mark the consecration of Stirling Council's woodland cemetery, the first in the Central Belt. After an introduction outlining the history of the development from Brian Devlin, Director of Environmental Services, the ceremony continued with a moving address and poem from Bob Scott representing the National Secular Society. There then followed readings and prayers from the Rev. Philip

Malloch (Church of Scotland), Fr William Hattie (Roman Catholic), Rev. Richard Grosse (Scottish Episcopal) and Marie Cameron (Baptist Church).

The cemetery is a beautiful site next to the New Cemetery in Gartness Road, and has space for 700 lairs, each of which will

cost £500. Each plot will accept only one burial in a bio-degradable coffin, or up to 4 bio-degradable urns containing cremated remains. Plots are laid out in a pattern of circular zones, forming an overall attractive and peaceful place. After interment, the family can plant a tree selected from a proscribed list, or woodland bulbs

(snowdrops or bluebells). In time the whole cemetery will become a haven for wildlife, a place of quiet and reflection for the whole community.

If you wish further information or wish to reserve a plot, write to Barbara Docherty, Cemeteries Officer, Stirling Council, Viewforth, FK8 2ET or email dochertyb@stirling.gov.uk. PW



Killearn Tennis Club - Junior Coaching

Juniors at the Club had a very successful week of tennis coaching in August. Two groups, the under 10s and the over 11s were coached by Sean Tulloch:



Under 10s:

Back row left to right:

Fiona Millar, Rachael Methven, Connar Rowan, Tom Carey, Sean Tulloch (Coach), Kyle Jackson, Alex Mullen.

Front row left to right:

Daniel Mullen, Mathew Jackson, Calum Bell.



Over 11s: Back row left to right:

Stella Boland, Sean Tulloch (Coach), Robert Cowden.

Front row left to right:

Angus North, Fraser Boland, Alasdair Moore.



CORRECTION

In our last edition, in the article on page 17, *An Historic June Wedding*, we incorrectly reported that the reception was held in the Buchanan Arms Hotel. In fact, it was held in the **Black Bull Hotel**, where the proprietors took decisive action to ensure that day went well for everyone. Our apologies.



Reids of Milngavie



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Natural Burial

According to *Wikipedia* a green burial ground is a cemetery where the body is returned to the earth to decompose and recycle naturally. It is an environmentally-sustainable alternative to existing funeral practices. Since the first was opened in Carlisle by the City Council in May 1993, more and more people have been choosing to be buried in this way, and there are now around 200 green burial sites open or planned.

What does a green burial entail? Firstly, the coffin must be biodegradable. The most popular options are cardboard and recycled or sustainable pine. Other are woven willow, bamboo or even banana leaf. Burial takes place in the normal way, but there is no headstone, instead the cemetery area is managed as woodland.

Cremation puts 5kg of carbon into the atmosphere, whereas the trees in a natural cemetery actually soak up carbon from the atmosphere and create an environment which enhances the landscape and provides wildlife habitat. It has been shown that such a funeral allows greater choice and participation for family and friends. This has been proved to help those involved come to terms with the grieving process.

More information can be obtained from:
www.anbg.co.uk or
www.naturaldeath.org.uk

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

Call 01360 551100
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Killearn Old Folk's Committee 1949–2007

The Old Folk's Committee has had a long and proud history since its inception on 8 September 1949. Set up "for the purpose of raising funds to give the Old Folks a treat and/or an outing", the first committee consisted of Bob Young, George Muir, Alec Crombie, Archie Gilfillan and Roy Bryden, but it wasn't long before Peter Johnston and Jimmy Gray were on board, too. Saturday night dances raised funds, and attracted bands including D. Honeyman's Albert Dance Band, George Burt and his Bunkhouse Boys, and the Legionnaires Accordion Band. The Govan Choral Union was a pre-Christmas treat, and in June 1950, the first outing to Dunfermline was organised.

The Committee went from strength to strength throughout the 1950s and '60s. Imagine hearing Jimmy Shand and his band for 6/-. Or visiting the theatre in Glasgow followed by a 2-course high tea at the Glasgow Atheneum restaurant for 5/-. Outings to Biggar, Crieff (where everyone was given 10/- pocket money!), North Berwick and Aberfeldy followed over the years. The first of the annual Whist Drives was held in October 1956. Meanwhile other notables had joined the committee: Willie Mitchell, Jimmy Moir, Mary Brewster, Jimmy McIntosh, Hugh McArthur and Willie Crombie.

In 1964, the Committee began an association with Stirling Welfare Services, agreeing to cooperate with WRVS in the Meals-on-Wheels service, a role that was to continue until 1997. Also during the late 1960s, the Committee got involved with the Village Gardens' Scheme and various members could be found cutting the grass!

Fund-raising during the 1970s and '80s, included raffles, concerts and coffee mornings. The very first Christmas Prize Draw was on 24 December 1976. The first of many successful jumble sales coincided with the arrival of Jimmy Gladstone on the committee, and in 1981, Alicia Phillips also joined. She was the district Nurse, and she took care that we survived our various outings.

The committee was pleased to be able to make donations to the Jubilee Fund in 1977 and to the Village Hall Restoration Fund in 1992. In fact, for a number of years the Committee had received a

General Grant from Stirling, part of which was passed back to the Kirk to help with heating and lighting for the Thursday Club. Participation in village events included organising the Target Golf at the Killearn Gala in 1984.

Was it coincidence that Walter Hutchison came on the Committee in 1990 and two months later the 21st annual dinner and entertainment was held? Alex Ferrier, Jim Brown and Margaret Gibb were all involved with the Old Folk's Committee in the 1990s. The decade culminated in a dance to mark their golden anniversary.

The Old Folk's Committee is still organizing the Christmas Prize Draw and Annual Dinner and receives a grant from Stirling Council through our own Community Council. Just as well: the bus hire for the first Aberfeldy outing cost £17.10.0; in 2005, it was £350!

Throughout the last 56 years, we have been given very generous support from many kind friends, businesses and clubs, within the village and beyond, in the form of gifts of goods or money, and also in practical assistance at our regular events. At the annual dinners we have enjoyed great entertainment given by very talented people. Whilst it is impossible to name the many friends who have helped the Committee over the years, we thought we could name most of the village businesses and clubs which have given their support. These include the Bible Class, Boys' Brigade, Black Bull Hotel, Bridge Club, British Legion, Burn's Club, Community Council, Co-op, Country cut, Glengoyne Distillery, Hospital Bowling Club, Lodge Buchanan, MacDonald's butchers, Millennium Committee, Murray's shops, Old Mill Inn, Primary School, both Post Offices, Recreation club, Rifle Club, Spar, Sunday School, Westerton Farm Shop and the Woodside Garage. Apologies if we have missed any.

To each and every person, to all of the businesses and clubs, we extend our most sincere thanks.

To be continued . . . *Hugh McArthur*

In this edition you will find a flyer to join *KCFC*. Please don't bin it! For just £1 your membership will make all the difference.

Not already a member? Then send it in . . . TODAY!

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.

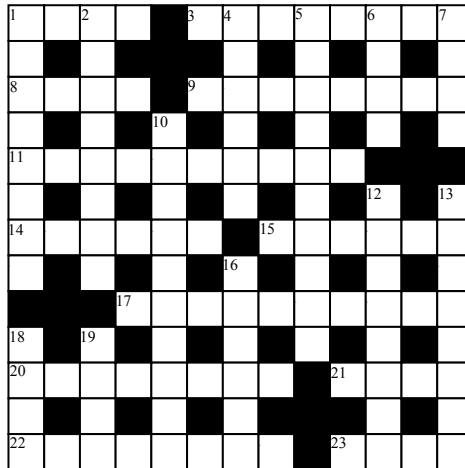
WHAT'S ON:

Godspell	19 Nov - 24 Nov
Romantic Comedy	26 Nov - 1 Dec
The Sleeping Beauty	11 Dec - 29 Dec
The Elvis Years	11 Jan
Sing-a-long-a Joseph	12 Jan (2.30 pm)
and Sound Of Music	12 Jan (7.00 pm)
Henry Rollins 'Provoked'	3 Feb
Operatic Scenes	8 Feb
Barbara Dickson	24 Feb
Scottish Dance Theatre	28 Feb - 29 Feb
The 39 Steps	3 Mar - 8 Mar

For more information:
<http://www.theambassadors.com/theatroyalglasgow/>

The Piano Men	19 Nov - 24 Nov
Sleeping Beauty	from 30 Nov
Chinese State Circus	16 Jan - 20 Jan
Cinderella	18 Jan - 19 Feb
Swan Lake	20 Jan - 21 Feb
The Nutcracker	22 Jan - 23 Feb

For more information:
<http://www.theambassadors.com/kings/>



ACROSS

- About one fifty this season (4)
- Packing in fun gifts (8)
- Rig European bird (4)
- Grind up pastry for a Christmas sweet (8)
- Medal hung at Christmas in the plural (10)
- Glengoyne ghost (6)
- Exciting experience cut short this season (6)
- Basic actor about to perform gymnastic feats (10)
- Mad to pull these (8)
- Fruits whose leaves prevent you being 1 down (4)
- Seats at the circus round the edge (8)
- Sounds if he is sung in church (4)

DOWN

- His neat desk left him most exposed (8)
- Alloy mixture sounds like posh strategem (8)
- Number is dry without start of summer (6)
- Bravely confront with front or pact (4,6)
- Wicked wee chap I found in South Africa (4)
- Scottish valley found using long lens (4)
- Fat sucker I consumed too many of these from the bakery (5,5)
- Lie in about in the pig's home causes me to go gaga (8)
- Cry from the maternity ward (2,2,1,3)
- Sultry mountain eliminated (6)
- Southern vehicle bears a mark (4)
- Murderer - I am in prison (4)

Name

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of our last crossword : Sue Beck of Killearn.

Solution to the last Crossword Across 1 lacks this; 8 black; 9 challah; 10 yodelled; 11 bull; 13 lierne; 14 easier; 16 Co-op; 17 Pharmacy; 19 Old Mill; 20 arena; 21 turquoise. Down 1 Lakeland; 2 cycles; 3 Spar; 4 hallucinated; 6 obey blackout; 7 candle holder; 12 carriage; 15 chilli; 18 lieu.

CHILDREN'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE sponsored by **SPAR**

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 a £10 voucher. To enter the competition you must be 12 years or under.



Name Age

Address Phone No.

Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Lois Millar (8)

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

Rantin', Rovin', Robin

I thought this might be an apt title for our pre-Christmas piece, but unlike our own dear Rabbie, the garden robin neither rants nor roves. The song is a sweet warble and in the winter both sexes sing, maintaining their own territories against all comers and indeed throughout their lives. Neither do robins rove; although pairs split up after the breeding season, it



seems likely that they meet up again to mate next year, though this might be because they fancy the same area rather than the same spouse! Everyone, even the youngest child, can recognise a robin – that red breast is so distinctive, and is identical in both sexes – only robins can tell which is which! The red colouring is both a defence and a challenge. Except in periods of extreme cold or food shortage the warning colour sparks off aggression and you will rarely see two robins peaceably close together. Experiments have shown, and I can verify this from experience, that a robin will attack a bundle of inanimate red feathers, or red material – and they have been known to challenge their own reflections and even post boxes! Fortunately juvenile robins are brown and speckly all over – this prevents the adults from attacking them while they are still needing food provided by the parents.

There are several legends about how the robin got its redbreast – one was that it dashed itself against Christ's crown of thorns, till it drew blood. A more pagan legend states that it was a robin that first brought fire to the earth and got a scorching for its pains.



But what about that association with Christmas? Everywhere you look there are images of them on cards, wrapping paper, cake decorations and crackers. It seems that when early Christmas cards were produced in the mid-18th century, they were delivered by postmen wearing bright red coats. These postmen became known as "robins" or "redbreasts", and so the bird on the Christmas card represented the postman who delivered it. If you want

to know more about this little bird, so friendly in Britain and so shy in Europe, you cannot do better than read *The Life of the Robin* by David Lack.
Fay Pascoe

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Christmas Post



The Killearn Guides and Boys Brigade will again take up the challenge of operating a Christmas Post **within the Village speed boundaries.**

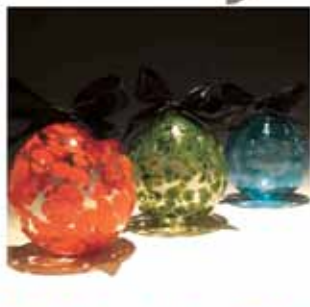
Last year you donated just under £900 to send to Children's Hospice Association Scotland. Please help us to send another donation this Christmas by supporting the Christmas Post.

The Collecting boxes and Donation boxes will go out on Monday, 3 December at the Killearn Pharmacy and Killearn Butchers. Collections will be made daily. Deliveries will be made on Sundays, 9 and 16 December during the afternoon or as soon thereafter as possible. There will also be a box sited in the Church on Sunday mornings.

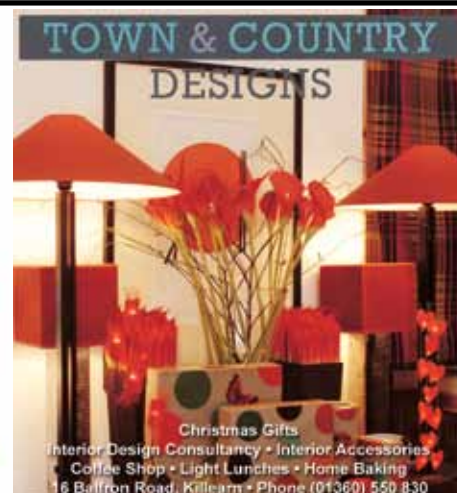
Sue Beck (550485)

Alistair Smith (550935)

PanikGalleryKillearn



Christmas Exhibition runs until 24th December feat. Christine McArthur & Georgie Young
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