



# Killearn. Courier

ISSUE 17

SUMMER 2010

£1

## Killearn Hoolie is a soaring success



# 1st Killearn Brownies



## Brownies

The 1st Killearn Brownies took full advantage of the recent great weather to enjoy lots of fun, outdoor activities. The Spring/Summer term included working on our Wildlife Explorer badge and a visit by the Pottery Bus. We also continued working towards our Adventure 100 badge.

During the Killearn Hoolie week we all enjoyed taking part in "It's a Hoolie Knockout" at the park with the Scouts and Beavers and also had a fantastic climb to the top of the 'Dumpling' where the views that evening were amazing!

The annual sausage sizzle was, as always, a firm favourite. The highlight at the end of the summer term, however, was our first overnight trip to The Brownie House at Catterburn, where the theme was Hawaii. The Brownies enjoyed various events based around the theme like games, fruit juice cocktails, a piñata and even a keep fit class on the Saturday morning at 7.30am!

Registration night for next year will be on *Wednesday 1 September* in the Church Hall.

Please contact the Unit Leaders, *Natalie Kemsley (550192)* or *Claire Whyte (440768)* for more information. Email: [1stkillearnbrownies@live.com](mailto:1stkillearnbrownies@live.com)

# Grandparents

Grandparents – aren't they fantastic? They played with us as tots, bought us sweets and let us get away with all the things mum and dad said no to. Lots of people regard them as ideal role models, people to look up to, but most importantly, people who are extremely dear to them.

Sadly as time goes on and we grow up, the memories we've made and time we've spent with our grandparents can become fragile, and their latter years can be especially difficult as we often have to watch our loved ones struggle against diseases and medical conditions which rob us of the precious time we have left with them.

So, we decided that we wanted to do something to help – do something positive to combat these diseases. Over the coming months, we will be raising money for three organisations that have treated and supported our grandparents, namely Parkinson's UK, Alzheimer Scotland and Macmillan Cancer Support.

In order to raise money, we will be organising coffee mornings, undertaking a sponsored hiking expedition (not something we would normally be found doing!) and other fundraising events. These activities will be taking place later this year, so look out for us and please come and support these worthwhile causes.

*Gwyneth Evans,*

*Keira Greer*

*& Bekah Anderson*

**Killearn Courier**  
*published by:*



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Anyone wishing to contribute to the Christmas edition is reminded that it will be distributed on 13 November 2010.

**Advertisements and artwork** should be handed to one of our Advertising Executives by Friday, 1 October. Contact Gwen Stewart on 550856 or Sara Hudson on 550806.

**Contributions and letters** to the editor should be in the hands of the editorial team by Friday, 1 October. Send them to: 2 Elder Road, Killearn

or email to [courier@kefc.co.uk](mailto:courier@kefc.co.uk)

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# Editorial

Well, here we are in the middle of summer and, at the time of writing – the end of July – the weather forecaster has just announced that this month is heading for the wettest July on record! Traditionally, Glasgow Fair fortnight accounts for two weeks of rain but even this period excelled itself with the rainfall. It has been pretty wet this year so far BUT on the one day that mattered, the Gods smiled on Killearn and the Hoolie.

The amount of work that must have gone in to organising this event is mind-boggling. It was a truly fantastic experience and was clearly enjoyed thoroughly by the villagers as well as lots of others from elsewhere. You can find a summary of the Hoolie in our centre pages along with a selection of photographs from the Hoolie website, where you can find lots more. The entire event undoubtedly brought the community together and gave everyone a sense of involvement and belonging while having great fun as well.

This issue has contributions from the usual suspects and also gives advance notice of events happening soon – in particular the ECO Fair in September is definitely a date to note in your diary (see page 8).

We feature an update on the Village Hall Project, the plans for which have been approved by Stirling Planners. The community is being asked to help raise some funding and you will find an insert with this issue which gives you the opportunity of supporting this very worthwhile venture. If we all display the same sense of community involvement and caring as we did at the Hoolie, we should easily reach the target. We are, after all, only a whisker away from having a wonderful Village Hall.

Enjoy this issue and the rest of the summer.

*Ian*

Ian Dickie, Editor



- |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 Aug  | Panik Gallery Summer Exhibition, until 5 Sept.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 17 Aug  | Killearn Primary & Balfron High new session begins.                                                                                                                                                               |
| 22 Aug  | Kirk Kids, 10.30am, Church Hall.<br>Youth group 10.30am Session House.<br>Both groups meet every Sunday during term time.                                                                                         |
| 28 Aug  | Killearn Horticultural Society Show, Village Hall. Entries can be staged Friday 7.30- 9pm or Saturday 7.30-10am.<br>Doors open 2-4.30pm, prizes announced 2.30pm. For a schedule contact Glenda Asquith (550142). |
| 29 Aug  | Gartmore House Praise Evening.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 31 Aug  | Get Reel start of term. Fiddle, Guitar & Whistle classes as usual.<br>New Mandolin Classes. Contact Sara (550770).                                                                                                |
| 1 Sept  | 1st meeting Inner Wheel, Black Bull.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2 Sept  | 1st meeting Thursday Club, Killearn Kirk Hall.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 4 Sept  | Wee Green Market, Village Hall.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 6 Sept  | Strathendrick Singers 1st Rehearsal. 7.45pm, Killearn Kirk Session House. New members welcome. Auditions 7.15pm. Contact Alison (660737).                                                                         |
| 12 Sept | Panik Gallery Autumn Exhibition, until 31 Oct.<br>Youth Alpha Course. Contact Tim (youthworker@killearnkirk.org.uk).                                                                                              |
| 15 Sept | Primary School PTA AGM. Primary School, 7.30pm.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 17 Sept | Strathendrick Film Society AGM, 6.30pm, followed by film at 7.30pm, "Julie & Julia". Balfron Campus.                                                                                                              |
| 18 Sept | Killearn Community Council Eco Fair. Village Hall 10am – 4pm. All Welcome.                                                                                                                                        |
| 27 Sept | Monday Club 1st Social Monday. Village Hall, 2pm.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 30 Sept | FADS "Blithe Spirit", Fintry Village Hall, 7.30pm.<br>Also 1 & 2 October. Tickets from Liz Brown (860078).                                                                                                        |
| 1 Oct   | Strathendrick Film Society, "Hobson's Choice". Balfron Campus 7.30pm.                                                                                                                                             |
| 2 Oct   | Wee Green Market, Village Hall.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3 Oct   | Harvest Thanksgiving Service, Killearn Kirk.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4 Oct   | Monday Club Bridge & Badminton start. Village Hall. 1.30pm.                                                                                                                                                       |
| 5 Oct   | 1st Guild Meeting. Church Hall, 7.30pm.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 15 Oct  | Strathendrick Film Society, "Mic Macs". Balfron Campus, 7.30pm.                                                                                                                                                   |
| 21 Oct  | Friends of CINI Lunch & Bridge, Millenium Hall, Gartocharn<br>12 for 12.30pm. Contact Madge Kennedy (550474).                                                                                                     |
| 23 Oct  | RNLI Coffee Morning & Sale of Christmas Cards. Village Hall 10am – 12noon.                                                                                                                                        |
| 27 Oct  | Strathendrick Rotary Charity Bridge. Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm.                                                                                                                                                  |
| 28 Oct  | KCFC AGM. Village Hall.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 29 Oct  | PTA Halloween Disco. Village Hall, 6.30pm.                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5 Nov   | Balfron Film Society, "Bright Star". Balfron Campus, 7.30pm.<br>Panik Gallery Christmas Exhibition, until 24 Dec.                                                                                                 |
| 6 Nov   | Wee Green Market, Village Hall.<br>Fireworks, The Glebe.                                                                                                                                                          |
| 12 Nov  | PTA Swish & Shopping Evening. Village Hall, 8pm.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13 Nov  | Friends of Guiding Coffee Morning. Village Hall, 10am.<br>Killearn FC Centenary Dance, Village Hall.                                                                                                              |
| 14 Nov  | Remembrance Service, War Memorial, 10.45am.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 19 Nov  | Strathendrick Film Society, "The Last Station". Balfron Campus, 7.30pm                                                                                                                                            |
| 19 Nov  | Strathendrick Country Dance Society. Annual Charity Dance, Village Hall.                                                                                                                                          |
| 27 Nov  | Guild Sale. Church Hall, 10.30am - 12noon.<br>PTA Christmas Fayre. Village Hall, 10.30am.<br>Get Reel St Andrew's Day Concert & Ceilidh. Village Hall.                                                            |

*If you have any notices for the Christmas issue of the Diary (mid-November to mid-March) please contact Pat Ryall (550713).*

## Jean Long 1930 – 2010



Jean was born in Norfolk and qualified as a registered nurse just as the NHS was born. Married in 1953 she travelled with her husband Ian throughout Europe and lived for a time in Cyprus, all in a caravan. On returning from Cyprus and after a short spell in Chelmsford, and with a son and daughter, they moved to Aberdeen before their move to the Branziert estate in Killearn in 1966.

Jean had an interesting nursing career working at Canniesburn Plastic Surgery Hospital as theatre sister and latterly in the Homeopathic Hospital in Glasgow.

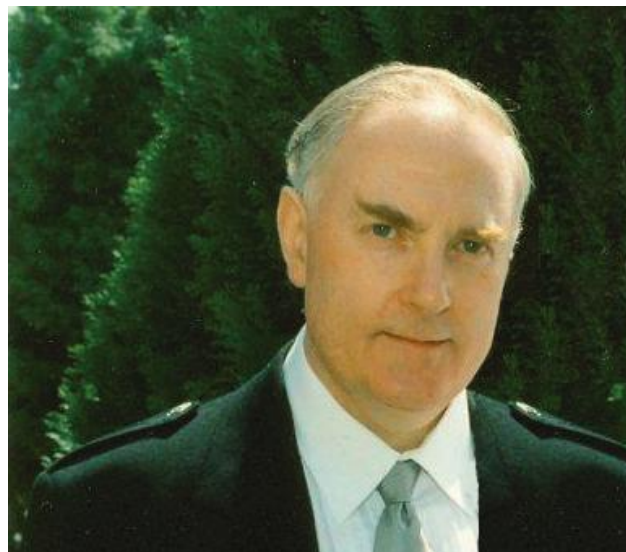
She and Ian were lifelong caravaners, travelling extensively with the international caravanning club and had many an interesting tale to tell of their adventures. Jean's 50-year membership of the caravan club was recognised by an invitation to a Buckingham Palace garden party.

Diagnosed with cancer in 2005 she courageously tackled her treatments head-on and lived life to the full, enjoying her family and grandchildren of whom she was very proud. She continued her interest in the arts and crafts and her lovely garden and managed to continue her travels around Scotland, and enjoyed the Outer Hebrides – cruising rather than caravanning!

After her husband's death in 2007 Jean indulged her love of arts and crafts and joined the local art group meeting many friends whose company she greatly enjoyed, contributing her great sense of humour and infectious laugh. Her great art skills won her prizes at the village fetes. She enjoyed many a day at Strathcarron Hospice passing on her craft skills and making new friends. Jean loved life and she loved her home of 44 years in Killearn.

*Susan Toomer (Jean's daughter)*

## Stuart Doherty 1943 – 2010



Stuart Doherty was born in Shawlands and educated at Allen Glen's School. He served a five-year engineering apprenticeship with Weirs, later moving to Babcock & Wilcox, the Electricity Board and finally to Scottish Nuclear where he remained until he took early retirement.

In 1965 he married Mary and became a devoted father to his three daughters. The family moved to Killearn some 35 years ago and here, in his deer-stalker hat, Stuart became a familiar figure strolling with his dog. He was a skilled water colourist and also demonstrated a talent for playing the piano by ear.

A committed Christian from his earliest days, Stuart soon became a pillar of Killearn Kirk. He was an elder and a founder member of the Meeting Point study and prayer group and of the Praise group. His deeply rooted faith was the motivating force of his life, lived with an evangelical zeal. His sense of humour, generosity and his care and concern for others were central to his personality. He will be much missed by his friends and family to whom the *Courier* offers sympathy.

*BP*

Stuart, *on the fish van*, thanks you all for your kindness and cards received on the sad and sudden loss of Wilma. Rest in Peace Wilma. Sorely missed, . . . especially on Wednesdays!

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## Veronica North 1919 - 2010



Veronica was born in 1919 at Starston Place, Norfolk, the eldest of three children. She was initially educated by a governess at home, then at West Runton, a school with the reputation of being the coldest school in England. Having completed her austere education at Runton she went to a secretarial school in Cambridge and returned to Norfolk to work for a local solicitor. In 1940 she volunteered to join the Field Auxiliary

Nursing Yeomanry. In 1945 she was posted to Brussels working at a reception centre for repatriating prisoners of war including survivors of the Concentration Camps, still wearing their striped uniforms

Veronica met Richard (Benjie) North in 1946 and they married the following year. They first lived in Blackheath, but work soon took them to Glasgow. They had three children, William, Sara and Jonny. The family finally moved to Boquhan in 1958, the perfect family house with a large garden, plenty of space for ponies, tennis, and room for Benjie's trains. Benjie died far too young, leaving Veronica with her family to bring up.

Gardening and nature were a great love; especially her chickens, ducks, geese and peafowl, not forgetting her beloved dogs. Veronica was a proficient pianist. She could also sketch and produce water colours to a high standard and very much enjoyed being part the local art group. Ponies, the Pony Club and Riding for the Disabled played a very large part in Veronica's life. She was instrumental in starting the St Mungo's Riding for the Disabled group in Milngavie which in 1967 was the founding group in Scotland. It was a huge honour for all at the RDA that Veronica was presented to Princess Anne in 1973 as Regional Chairman, a role in which she continued until 1983.

*PGW*

## William Gilfillan 1933 - 2010



Willie Gilfillan was born and grew up in Boquhan, receiving his education at Balfron primary and secondary schools. He was a member of the Boys Brigade in Balfron, later becoming a leader, and was a keen footballer,

playing as goalkeeper for Balfron in the Forth and Endrick League. He served his apprenticeship with the Glasgow firm of Charles Gray & Son and spent much of that time building the houses in old Endrick Road. National Service, spent in Devon, followed and then Willie returned to his home area.

At village hall dances he met Catherine and they married in 1960. Their happy marriage lasted for fifty years and was blessed by three children, Gordon, Anne and James and, in the fullness of time, by three grand-daughters.

Willie worked for Simpsons & Sons, the local joiners for some years; he then moved to a Lennoxtown firm and finally set up his own business in Killearn, serving the village and surrounding area for some 25 years. His work was widely known and he earned much respect for the quality of his service.

Willie was a quiet man who found contentment in his family life, his home and his garden.

*BP*

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# Bracken Bash

KCFC Paths Group and Stirling Ranger Service organised a Countryside Action Day in Killearn Glen in April. The main business of the day was repair and maintenance of paths in the Glen but, to encourage participation, various other activities were arranged. Much of the planning and preparation was enthusiastically undertaken by Sara Melville and Alice Bell. The Stirling Council Rangers provided tools, expertise and guidance, in addition to muscle power. They also brought along a substantial amount of hard core, which had to be transported to the work sites by wheelbarrow, resulting in a few aching muscles by the end of the day!

Games, quizzes and other outdoor activities were available to entertain the youngsters while the elders helped with the practical

tasks. In practice many of the younger folk joined in the manual work while some adults were seen trying the games and quizzes in the gazebos! The worst of the paths were repaired by improving drainage and adding hard core. The boys of Ballikinrain brought a new bridge they had made and replaced an existing bridge that had almost completely disintegrated. A contingent of lads from Ranaich House provided much needed muscle power. The Guides helped rebuild the stepping stones over the burn at the bottom of

the Glen making it passable without wearing waders! It was a successful, productive and enjoyable day well supported by Killearn residents young and old.

Bracken over large areas in the Glen has become a problem, shading out other plants such as bluebells, wood anemones and even seedling trees so a 'Bracken Bash' was organised by the Paths Group in June. Once again our local Ranger, Dougie Flynn, provided tools, training, expertise and even refreshments.

The boys of Ballikinrain turned out again to help a few stalwart Killearn residents cut down the bracken, which was shoulder high in some areas. Fuelled by Alice Bell's famous scones the workers had cleared all the target areas



Photograph by Douglas Flynn, Stirling Council Ranger

by lunchtime. This allowed additional sections to be cut down in the afternoon session leaving some large areas temporarily bracken free.

The Paths Group intend to have more work days in the future to continue the paths maintenance and bracken cutting to ensure the biodiversity of the Glen is protected for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

*Peter Smith, KCFC Paths Group*

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**Peggy Gardner**

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# Renovation of Killearn Village Hall

Since our last report seven presentations of the proposed plans for the renovated and extended village hall have been made to a variety of groups and individuals, including two to the Killearn community. These have been well received and we would like to thank all those who attended for their interest, constructive observations and, especially, for their support.

Immediately following the last presentation to the community, formal planning application was lodged. Historic Scotland has insisted that the original church building and tower must be seen from every angle and so the plans have had to be amended with the new-build extension moved further north towards Station Road and additional glazing introduced. The illustration shows the amended proposal which has a cost implication. The internal facilities remain the same as before. We are hopeful that the community is pleased with the changes which have now been approved by Stirling Planners.

As explained in the Spring edition of the *Courier* we have asked Stirling Council, owners of the village hall, for an extended lease of 50 years, in view of the considerable sum being spent on the renovation and extension of their property, and this is being considered.

The amended Project Cost Plan has been produced by our Quantity Surveyors and, including preliminaries, contingencies, VAT, furnishings, fittings & equipment, interior design, fees and inflation for construction in 2011/12, now totals £1,744,660.

The Proposal to Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) –



Scottish Government funding from Europe – has been submitted and the outcome of that application for a grant of £1,414,660 will be known in September 2010.

The balance of £330,000 will be raised from the Killearn community and Trusts/ Foundations, to whom applications have already been made. The exceptional generosity of the community has already produced pledges totalling £196,400 and we wish to thank, very sincerely, those who have sent us their confirmation of donations. We have also received generous support from four trusts, including Killearn Trust, of £87,000. At this stage we have a shortfall of £46,600 and we are hopeful that this will be covered by trusts, which have still to respond, and the remainder of the community who we have yet to reach.

Our initial approach to the community over the past few months was only able to cover one fifth of the households and we now wish to approach the other four-fifths or 700 households in Killearn. This is the start of 'THE BIG PUSH'!

There is an insert in this *Courier* which repeats much of what has been said in this article but which also gives every household, who has not yet confirmed a donation, the opportunity of doing so by completing the donation and gift aid

sections and sending it to the address at the foot of the form.

We are very close to achieving our target so if you can help to reduce our shortfall, at whatever level of donation you feel is appropriate, we shall be enormously grateful.

If we are successful with this project the community will have preserved an historic and iconic building and created a quality community hub for Killearn and surrounding villages for present and future generations of all ages. Thank you in anticipation!

*Brian Simmers*

## ENDRICK BLOOMS

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# Killlearn Community Council Hosts An Eco Fair



In the Eco Fair we guarantee there will be something of interest for all ages, including performances of 'Blood, Bile and Body Parts', demonstrating in an entertaining way for youngsters the value of a healthy body, by an outreach team from the Glasgow Science Centre.

There is no single recipe for everyone to follow but we can all do something to green up our lifestyle.  
What can YOU do?

We are all faced with an uncertain future in which there will be huge demands on the world's resources to the point that our present comfortable way of life cannot be assured. Water, Food and Energy will all become scarce commodities unless we make moves now to alter our lifestyles and plan for the future.

Going green can save you money, because it means saving energy, so you pay less. *But how?*

More insulation? Should I change my boiler; would a heat pump be better? What about solar – and what is the difference between thermal and photovoltaic? What is a feed-in tariff?!

Don't know? Come and find out – we have the answers!

***Put the date – 18 September – on your calendar and come along to the Village Hall to sample the attractions of the ECO FAIR!***

**Killlearn Primary School:**

- Eco schools programme
- Visits to the school garden

**Visit an Eco House**

**A wee bit of The Wee Green Market**

**Stirling Council – Waste & Recycling**

**Killlearn Growers**

**Forth Environment Link :**

- Community Support Agriculture
- Composting
- Real nappy network
- Activities for children

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Carbon footprints, eco living, recycling, sustainability, a green lifestyle, are all part of a vocabulary that we need to employ actively in our everyday lives.

In our village there are already some initiatives underway that are harnessing individual and communal enthusiasm and skills. The schools are following the Eco Schools' programme in their curriculum and ensuring the younger generation is aware of the challenges ahead. A few of our residents have 'eco houses', numbers of us have improved our house insulation and our heating systems; some have forsworn the private car for public transport – or even for walking!

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## Dickie – Taylor



Photograph by Leslie Black

Elaine Dickie, daughter of Pat and Ian (*our very own Editor*) married Cameron Taylor, son of Trevor and Elaine at Fortingall on 17 April.

## Gazalyan – Redman



Eddie and Ilene Redman with their son Alistair, who married Stella Gazalyan on 21 May 2010 at Cameron House, Loch Lomond.

## Hunter – McWilliam



Diane Hunter, daughter of Gavin and Jane, Lampson Road, Killearn, married Alan McWilliam from Alford, near Aberdeen, on Saturday 3 July 2010 at Pittodrie House Hotel in Inverurie

# KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Annual Report 2009-2010

Nominated by the *Courier*, Killearn Community Council (KCC) won the Most Outstanding Local Group Prize in the Stirling Local Newspapers Awards. This was passed to Kay Pollock to mark her retirement after over 36 years service on the Community Council. In November a new council was installed, comprising: Brenda Pell (Chair); Peter Wilks (Vice-Chair, Minutes Secretary, Webmaster); Heather Wright (Secretary); Betty Smith (Treasurer); Peter Rea (Planning Correspondent); Janet Duncan; Nigel Kelly; Aileen May; Jenni May; Derek Stuart; and Iain Beaton and Cairi Macintosh (Youth Members). One vacancy remains. Any resident interested in serving on KCC would be welcome to complete the team.

Meetings, held on the third Wednesday of the month are attended by one of our Councillors, our Community Police Officer, David McNally as well as by a number of residents. Concerns raised by residents are dealt with together with the regular business of roads and traffic management, planning matters and local projects. Guest speakers enable us to keep the community informed of new developments. This year Tony Cain, Tony Teasdale and Sarah Winstone have addressed us on housing and youth matters. Our members also attend the Local Area Planning Forum, the NHS Forth Valley Forum and other meetings, to keep informed of issues that affect or will soon affect our community. Reports are communicated at our meetings and in the Minutes.

Aileen May produced a useful reference manual for KCC members as did Stirling Council. These, combined with excellent support from Pam Campbell, Rural Villages Development Officer, and our

three elected Councillors, have resulted in an improved communication system between us and Stirling Council and enabled us to transmit your concerns efficiently.

The first stage of the traffic management plan was completed with the re-positioning of the bus stop and alterations to parking at Spar. The narrow entry to the car park is challenging when vehicles are parked in the entry but the dangerous practice of reversing on to the main road has been eliminated and made this area safer. The road marking and new signage at the bank corner should improve the safety of this bend and illuminated warning signs remind drivers to reduce speed through the village.

Flooding around the Well Green has hopefully been eliminated by remedial works to the culvert in that area. The severe winter caused further degradation to the roads but Stirling Council is gradually addressing these problems, although improvement is needed to our pedestrian pathways.

The Village Officer's retirement has meant that Killearn is now cleaned daily by the Mobile Squad. The National Spring Clean Campaign was again supported by several youth groups to whom certificates were given as a mark of our appreciation.

Projects, such as the renovation of the War Memorial, the adoption of the telephone kiosk at Dumgoyne and the improvement to footpaths are either ongoing or nearing completion. Major village projects come under the 'umbrella' of KCFC but are supported by KCC, who signified their approval of the proposed renovation of the Village Hall by hosting a special meeting to present the plans to the village. Our Youth Members have given

admirable leadership in pursuing ideas for expanding facilities for the young in our community and a refurbished Village Hall will be a welcome amenity.

In the near future, proposals are expected for affordable housing in the village. The 'turnip field', owned by Stirling Council, may again be suggested for development. The Football Club is seeking a site for new changing rooms. In what could be a series of contentious issues it is hoped that a compromise solution may be found that will satisfy all parties. The new Local Development Plan, being produced by Stirling Council, emphasises that change must come everywhere; housing in the rural areas is a must. Changes in planning laws have relaxed some of the restrictions on building in the countryside but balancing this is the Open Spaces Strategy which values open spaces.

Finally, turning to broader issues, KCC held a Special Eco meeting in May. It was an awareness raising preliminary to an Eco Fair planned for 18 September. In Killearn there are a number of 'green' initiatives. We aim to spotlight these ventures and to encourage all to develop a more thoughtful and cooperative approach towards our use of scarce resources. We hope you will support your Community Council in pursuing this ideal.

*Brenda Pell, June 2010*

*A full version of this report and the KCC minutes may be found on the village notice board and on the KCC website:  
[www.killearncc.org.uk](http://www.killearncc.org.uk)*

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## Killearn Community Futures

The very successful Killearn Hoolie involving so many community groups, demonstrated the increasing growth in community driven actions. Anyone passing through Killearn on Hoolie day, blessed as it was with brilliant weather, and a venue that money couldn't buy, might marvel at what we have.

Killearn Community Futures Company (KCFC), in particular, knows just how much hard work by individuals goes into making our community paradise. We are undeniably blessed with our idyllic location but it is people who make successful communities.

The Glebe boasts one of the most spectacular views in Scotland. Without the foresight of Killearn Trust to purchase and secure the area for the enjoyment of future generations, the Glebe would now be covered with houses. The floral displays in front of Spar and throughout the village are created, managed and maintained, not by the Stirling Council but by Colourful Killearn, a group of residents who care about Killearn's environment and visual image. We daily enjoy, and probably take for granted, the benefit of their work. These are just two less high profile groups who's work goes largely unrecognised by the wider community.

By any standard we can be judged as an energetic healthy, happy community working together. We are led by an efficient, effective Community Council which can springboard and bounce residents ideas towards KCFC which supports ideas into actions. So far there appears to be no shortage of people wanting to make a positive difference to our community. In these times of economic uncertainty we need all the community resilience we can muster, but if any community can, Killearn can!

## VSO's Walk for Tabita



In March, 29 adults, 30 children and several dogs set out on a 10k sponsored walk along the water track to Blane Field. The walk was part of international development charity VSO's Walk for Tabita, a series of UK walks designed to raise over £50,000 for women's health care in developing countries.

As you can see from the picture, we had glorious weather and everyone agreed it was a super day out. There was a group of wee boys who must have run twice the 10km distance as they played hide and seek in the trees on the way, and certainly there were a few tired doggies that night. All in all we raised some £900 for VSO.

## Walking to Good Health

Would you benefit from some gentle exercise in the fresh air with a group of like-minded people? If so, why not come along and try this programme of short walks led by trained walk leaders. The walks are aimed at people who would like to become a bit more active but perhaps do not feel confident enough to walk on their own. Each walk lasts about 30-45 minutes and does not involve any steep hills. You can walk at your own pace so there is no need to feel that you might get left behind or be holding other walkers back. The important thing is to come along and give it a go. It is amazing how much people seem to benefit from these walks, particularly if they have not done any exercise for quite a while. Not only are you out in the fresh air but you can also meet new people and have a good blether as you walk along. So come on, get those sensible shoes on, bring a waterproof jacket and let's get going!

Contact Tricia for more information on 01786 432323  
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## Parking on local pavements

One of the issues which has recently been brought to my attention by residents in Killearn concerns vehicles parked on local pavements. While in many parts of the village this is not an issue, in others there is clearly a habit which has developed whereby vehicles are routinely left on pavements.

On speaking with them, many drivers explain that they park on pavements so as not to block traffic on the road. This is particularly evident in streets such as Allan Road, Station Road, Lampson Road and Branziert Road. The effect of parking on pavements though is to force pedestrians on to the road to pass dangerously parked cars. The risks that this presents for pedestrians, particularly children, are obvious.

In tackling this issue, in the first instance I have left a number of polite notices on vehicles parked on pavements around the village. I had felt that this would be the quickest and least time-consuming way to deal with the problem. Generally, these notices have been well received and vehicle owners have taken heed of what has been asked of them. Unfortunately a number of residents have also expressed displeasure at being asked not to park on the pavement.

I think it is important to remember that pedestrians are safest when walking on the pavements. Even a car with its wheels simply mounting the kerb can cause problems for people pushing prams, people in wheelchairs or kids on bicycles. Consider how you would feel if you parked on a pavement and a child was knocked down as a direct consequence.

Consider also, if you park your car fully on the road with the effect of slowing passing traffic. Is this necessarily a bad thing? I'm sure everyone in the village would be happier if traffic on Station Road or Main Street was slowed to some extent. Furthermore, there are no parking restrictions on the majority of residential streets around Killearn. There is, therefore, no reason to park on the pavement.

While I am always mindful of not using a sledge hammer to crack a nut, please be aware that it is an offence to park a vehicle on the pavement. Fixed penalties can be issued. Indeed, in exceptional cases, dangerously parked vehicles in surrounding villages have been removed by police incurring considerable expense by the owner to have the vehicle returned.

In the meantime, I will continue to deal with this issue as congenially as possible. I would therefore appreciate your cooperation in keeping the cars on the road in order that we can keep the pedestrians safe on the pavements.

*David McNally, Community Police Officer*

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## Keep Killearn Colourful

'Tis a widely propagated myth that elves come out at night to plant and tend the tubs of flowers that grace the streets of our village. In truth these elves are volunteers who belong to Colourful Killearn, a group that is passionate about keeping the village in bloom. We want to make an already stunning environment even better.



As well as forty-odd flower tubs, we plant, prune and preen many other horticultural highlights – for instance the large planter outside Spar, the four large beds opposite the Co-op and the shrubbery under the notice board. Daffodils appearing magically in verges did not get there by accident. The Christmas tree does not mysteriously sprout 10 metres overnight and festoon itself with lights (unfortunately). It's all done by the aforementioned elves!

We sadly miss the guiding hand of Robin Veitch, who led our efforts for more than five years but, after the recent election of Jim Henderson as chairman, we are ready to take on new areas of weed and scrub. But without volunteers and donations, Killearn will be a much duller place! If you can help with either time or money, please contact Iain Bowie (550349).

*Thanks go to our recent supporters:*

- The many that wield the trowels
- Killearn Kirk for a generous donation to pay for the Christmas tree, and Eden Farm for sponsoring it
- Stirling Greenforce for funding plants and compost
- Generous individual donations from a number of village residents.

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# Branziert Road North – Ibert Road Link Path

On 19 May the upgraded path was formally opened. This was a project of the *KCFC Paths Group*.

The well-used path, which joins Branziert Road North and Ibert Road provides a quiet and safe connection to and from the village centre as well as access to the popular high-level walk to Blane field along the 'water track' and the beautiful open scenery of the North Campsies.

The work involved improving and re-grading an existing unsurfaced footpath to make it suitable for wheelchair and cycle users. Before alteration, the path had a very steep gradient where it connected to Ibert Road at the start of the water track. This slope and an awkwardly placed latch gate made it very difficult and dangerous for older residents, young children and people with



prams or bicycles, and impossible for persons with mobility problems. The work also included re-locating the gate further down the path, away from the steep slope, and removing substantial tree limbs to maintain clearance as a result of the raised height of the path. The work was made possible by a generous grant from *Sons of the Rock*,

a charitable trust that supports individuals and organisations within the Stirling and Falkirk areas, and grants from Stirling Council and 'Community Pride'. The picture shows *Norman McNab, Paths Group Chairman*, receiving the grant cheque from *Nick Cooke of Sons of the Rock*, together with Paths Group Committee members and Sheila McNab, who is now able to negotiate the path.

The work was carried out by JM Dewar, Contractors, Crieff.

The improvement was undertaken in agreement with the residents on Ibert Road and, in particular, the landowners and residents of Shepherds Lodge, over whose land the path is routed. Their encouragement and support is gratefully acknowledged.

*Norman McNab*



## The CEDAR Project

The Forth Valley CEDAR (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery) Project runs a 12-week group-work programme to help children, aged between 4 and 16, talk about hurting and fighting in their families. A mothers' group also helps women learn how to support their children to overcome some of the difficulties they have had. Coming to the groups helps both women and children and to gain confidence and self-esteem. Referrals come from agencies working with children and families and also self-referrals from mothers.

If you think that CEDAR can help you and your children, or if you want more information, please contact:

Joyce on 07717 544 537 or  
Susan on 07717 544 502.

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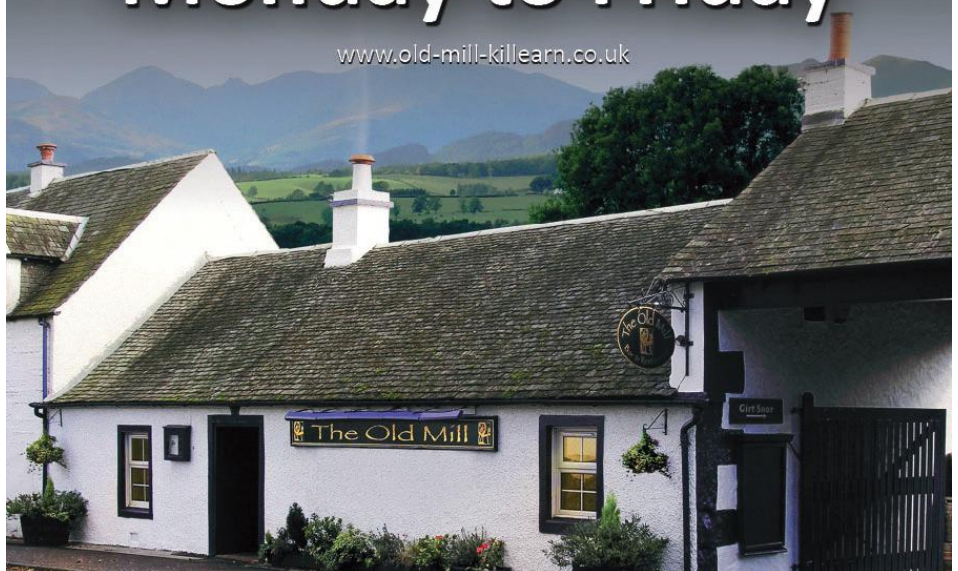
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# 1970 Morgan 4/4



Pictured above is a 1970 Morgan 4/4: the 4/4 indicates four wheels and four cylinders originally assigned to distinguish this model from all Morgan's previous three-wheelers. It also is a four-seater version though that does not relate to either of the 4s! Although superficially very similar to the first 4/4 created in 1935, this is actually the sixth update, known from its Ford cross-flow, Kent, engine as the 4/4-1600. There have been later 4/4s usually fitted with Ford engines, though for a while the Fiat 2-litre engine from the Fiat 131 was fitted. When Ford introduced their fwd-CVH engine, they wouldn't supply engines with a revised bell housing until a customer, who was a Ford executive, was presented with the Fiat-engined version! At this point collaboration with Power Torque was established and Ford engines returned to the 4/4.

Those in the know will be aware that last year Morgan celebrated 100 years of production, the company now the oldest still in the hands of the original family by a long way. A big celebration was held at Cheltenham racecourse last summer with over 3,500 Morgans present on the Sunday alone!

The most obvious update to the 4/4 over the years has been the change from an external radiator, flat-rad model, to the more modern (?) lines of the cowled version. This happened in 1953 when separate radiators and lights were no longer available as production items. Sometimes people think of the Morgan as having a wooden chassis. This is a misconception as the construction is the same as many cars of the period with a steel Z-shaped chassis, fitted in this case below the rear axle for a lower centre of gravity, to which is added a wooden body frame panelled in either steel or aluminium in a similar way to an MG TC, for example. The really unique feature of the Morgan is its sliding pillar suspension (more correctly sliding axle), which HFS Morgan fitted to the original car in 1909 and is still going today! This was very novel in its day, providing independent front suspension and replicated in another innovative car, the Lancia Lambda of 1922.

Other Morgan models you may have seen are the +4, with a 2-litre Triumph TR engine built until 1968, the +8 with the Rover 3.5 litre V8 which replaced it, and most recently the Aero 8s with a revised art-deco style high-line bodywork powered by 4.4 BMW V8 engines and also available in GT3 Le Mans format as well as road-going trim! Or if you are particularly concerned

about the environment even the fuel-cell LifeCar prototype that is being converted into a hybrid for full-production, or a three-wheel pedal car now available for your kids!

The 4/4 is still available today as the Four Four Sport, powered by the 1.6-litre Ford Sigma engine but still looking very similar to this one!

We have owned this particular car for 34 years! I completely rebuilt it between 1979 and 1987 following a 1,500-mile trip to Switzerland, the Italian Lakes and Rome. Mainly it's been our second car, but for two nine-month stints it's been an everyday car and this has contributed to it recently clocking up the 100,000-

mile mark. You may ask why the rebuild took so long but perhaps also having three kids and making two house moves had some effect! The first house move was done with the car completely in cardboard boxes! For a while another couple and ourselves used it to commute to and from work – a half-hour drive – which was actually more practical than you might think as long as both the (small) wives went in the back, as it provides more than just 2+2 seating suitable for small children!

As you can see it's now ready for another partial rebuild (or maybe completing the first!). Mechanically it is almost totally original – perhaps too much so – however, the body frame has had to be totally renewed apart from the dashboard along with the body panels and wings apart from the bonnet and cowl.

The St Andrews flag was added when Jock Mog hosted the 1989 National event to distinguish a local car from all its southern brethren, as I am proud of both my English and Scots roots!

DRA

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# Strathendrick Classic Car Club

April saw a number of the Club's members taking part in the Strathendrick Rotary Rally. The event, which is a classic car run rather than a competition, took about 60 cars on mostly minor roads to Killin, the south shore of Loch Tay, and back via the Sma' Glen. One car suffered brake failure, fortunately after completing the steep descents and hairpin bends of the Kenmore to Loch Freuchie road, but was able to get home under its own steam. Also in April we had a short evening run, followed by the AGM.

Our May run took us for an overnight stay in Boat of Garten by way of Braemar and the infamous Cock Bridge to Tomintoul road. The weather was superb and these roads are what most of the cars were designed for, and although this was longer than our usual outings all, even the oldest, coped admirably, though with much use of low gears. Members took their own routes onward from there. My wife and I drove back by way of Lochs Tummel and Tay, on blessedly quiet picturesque roads.

Some of our cars took part in the parades at the Killearn Hoolie and Drymen Gala. These slow parades, especially in the hot weather, really test the cars cooling systems. I had to run my car's heater at full blast to keep the temperature of the engine at a reasonable level – if not that of the occupants!

June saw us on our annual competition run, through a maze of small roads, ending up at Portavadie Marina for a late lunch. The run tested not only navigation, but also the ability to spot clues, and on one stage the ability to average 20mph – harder than it sounds. Two cars had mechanical problems, but the rest made it to the lunch destination, though not all by the intended route!

A full programme of events resumes in September, starting with a run in company to the Farming of Yesteryear event at Scone, and an evening run followed by a meal in October.

Anyone interested in joining us should contact our secretary, Phillip Pain, at 550752.

*RJL (Chairman)*



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## Recyke-a-bike

Recyke-a-bike is a not-for-profit organisation and charity with the aim of removing bikes from the waste stream and encouraging the use of bikes across the Stirling area. We sell reconditioned bikes and our team of trained mechanics repairs bikes all year round. *Contact:*

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You can also take your old bikes to the *Balfron Recycling Centre* where they are collected and used for parts or refurbished and recycled.

## Killearn Boys Brigade

The annual prize giving ceremony in June marked the end of another successful session for the 1st Killearn Boys Brigade. Four boys were promoted from the Anchor Boys to the Junior Section and four were promoted from the Junior to the Company Section. Prizes were presented to boys from all sections, as well as awards based on the boys' achievements over the year. We had a great session in 2009-10 with the boys taking part in lots of activities and events, including taekwondo, laserquest, theatre trips, messing about with pizza dough, bicycle maintenance, consideration of image, perception and prejudice, learning about and supporting rescued animals and much more.

We are always looking for new recruits so if your son will be starting primary school this autumn, or is already at primary or high school, and would like to join or come along for a few nights to see what it's all about, please get in touch.

1st Killearn Boys Brigade is run by a very small band of staff, some much appreciated helpers and young people who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards and Queens badges. However, we are looking out for new staff. So if you feel that you could help out on Thursday evenings, even if it's not every week and in so doing support our local boys, please contact:

Neil Evans (550715).

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## WHAT A WEEK!

Killearn enjoyed a fantastic week of community activities and events in the week 6 -12 June with all the ambitions of the organisers being fulfilled. The first *Killearn Hoolie* was a rip-roaring success!

The week's events kicked off with the Fun Runs starting from the Black Bull. In the under-12s 2K Callum Clark and Kerry Gallacher led the runners home but most just enjoyed being part of the occasion! David Ward won the men's 10K in a time of 38minutes 40seconds; Fiona Greer won the women's race and in the 5K, Kevin Cornes won the men's event and Heather Banks the women's. All the results can be found on the Hoolie website at [www.killearnhoolie.com](http://www.killearnhoolie.com)

### Quotes on the Hoolie Fun Run:

John and Kaye Keenan, Glasgow: "an extremely pleasant and well organised running event .... my wife's first 10K was certainly a memorable experience ... hopefully next time

she will not get over-excited and sprint for the first 400m only to be shattered for the rest of the race ... oh, and the pipers were superb!"

Luisa Heron: "The best day of my life!"

Jacques Penderis: "the race atmosphere was fantastic, with a pre-race warm up aerobics session and pipers at various points along the route. Running on the track, but with the start and finish in the main village, was also a bonus, with the changing terrain and views fantastic. The most enjoyable and friendly 10k I have ever run - hopefully they will repeat it again next year"

Thunderstorms arrived in the early afternoon but failed to dampen the enthusiasm of problem-solvers tackling the Strathendrick RFC Treasure Hunt. 27 teams entered the event following the trail of cryptic clues out towards Fintry

and through Balfron before heading home for refreshments and prizegiving in The Old Mill: the Tedeschi / Gibson team achieved the maximum score!.

Every Hoolie-associated event in the following week worked out well ranging from the Bridge Club charity event and the Primary School children's Art Show in Panik Gallery to the Cubs and Brownies enjoying "It's a Knock-Out" run by Active Stirling. Killearn Football Club organised a Street Football Challenge – 12 teams represented their road and each had to include two 35-year-olds and two under-15s in their squad. Half the village turned out to support the event: Lampson Road beating Buchanan Road in a closely fought final. If one of the objectives of the Hoolie was to encourage community spirit and sociability – this event delivered in boot-fuls!

For Saturday 12 June the fine weather held and well made plans came to fruition for the KILLEARN GALA DAY. The Strathendrick Pipe Band led a procession through the village featuring the Strathendrick Classic Car club, the Gala King and Queen (Andrew Main and Emma Banks) and youngsters in fancy dress. Deputy Provost Graham Lambie opened events and up to 2,000 people enjoyed an idyllic afternoon. The marquee housed the Wee Green Market; celebrity chef Tom Lewis giving cooking demonstrations; bar and sponsors Glengoyne Distillery. The main arena – sponsored by Arnold Clark – featured the Pipe Band, a dance display, the traditional Tug of War (Strathendrick RFC narrowly edging out Killearn FC in the final), a sponsored hair-cut and a falconry display – even if the prize



## WHAT A HOOLIE!

bird of prey decided to go fly-about for two hours, only returning shortly before the show closed! A whole range of traditional fete attractions were on offer with the bouncy castle and the Edenmill burger stall rivalling the nail bar, the off-road bike display and the bottle stall for popularity.

### Hoolie Gala Day quotes:

Lewis Forbes, aged 9: "it was really fantastic. I thought the mountain bikes were great."

Amanda Forbes: "one of my favourite moments was the Yummy Mummy team in the tug of war – beating those burly men!!"

And so attention turned to the closing event, the *FINAL FLING*: Luci Anderson transformed the décor of the marquee in its beautiful setting looking out towards Loch Lomond, for a grand dance and 'social'. Canapés and whisky cocktails were served to 350 guests arriving in casual kilts and party frocks. Catherine O'Halloran performed her melodic songs before the Glebetrotters ceilidh band took the stage. Fish and chips and hog roast sandwich suppers were consumed hungrily and a silent auction raised handsome funds. Prize draw winner Shona Docherty won a family break in the historic Washbourne Court Hotel in the Cotswolds and Allison Tedeschi won a stay in a luxurious Mackie Lodge on Loch Lomond. Finally celtic rockers Hell for Leather kicked up a storm and partygoers danced the night away.

And so the lights went down on a hugely enjoyed, highly successful Hoolie. Community spirit has been revitalised and so there is inevitably talk of a return in years to come.

*Hoolie Chairperson,  
Jennifer Brown, says:*

"I can't quite believe that *The Killlearn Hoolie 2010* is over . . . It took a committee of 17 just under a year to organise and what took place was even better than we could have imagined! You can organise everything except the weather, however, we needn't have worried as the sun shone on all the events, making the gala day just fantastic! From the Fun Run to the Street Football to the Gala itself, the sense of community spirit it brought made all the sleepless nights worthwhile. When the pipes started to play as the parade marched up the main street I could not hold back the tears!

From the start the committee was adamant that the *Killlearn Hoolie* was to be about 'fun' for all ages and a time to celebrate the lovely village we live in. Having spoken to many people during and after the events what became apparent was that friendships had been made and a lot of laughs were had along the way; just exactly what we had wanted.

To cap it all, the Final Fling went without a hitch and was the most superb way to end the week of events. I certainly enjoyed myself and judging by the amount of chat and dancing going on during the evening so did everyone else!

The photographs on the website say it all, so go and have a look and remind yourself of the fun had by everyone and 'yes' we will do it all over again at the next *Killlearn Hoolie* in 2012!

Thank you everyone for all your support."

*Jennifer Brown  
Chairperson*



# Hoolie – Italian Style

At the beginning of June we went to San Severino Marche, a small city in the Marche region of Italy about 50km inland from Ancona on the Adriatic coast. The Italians are famous for their Palios (horse race) and Festas (feast day), some bigger than others and most towns, cities and villages have a festa most years. Our house is 15 minutes from San Severino so as most Palio events start at 9.30pm to allow for siesta and meal times and heat it made sense with an eight-year old to visit our own.

The Palio (though we saw no horses) runs over two weeks and various events, religious, culinary, sporting – especially archery – and historical are held. The city is divided into four areas represented by a king and queen in medieval dress along with their entourage. All the participants wear tights, pointed shoes, cloaks, etc so it's quite a spectacle. In San Severino the majority of events are held in the Piazza del Popolo or main square. We watched a tug-of-war between four teams. They seemed quite small and had to wear special shoes to grip the Piazza's paved surface but otherwise, just like a tug-of-war here – brain power over brute strength on the day.



Music plays a part at Palios. Unlike our pipe bands, drums and bugles are the order of the day to introduce each event and we watched two bands try to outdo each other in volume. This was accompanied by an impressive flag throwing display, fantastic to watch in the evening glow.

We also watched a re-enactment of a medieval love story connected with the town which involved lots of sword fighting, 'dead' bodies and love-struck lovers – all accompanied by music – and with burning oil lamps around the square. No health and safety restrictions there!

The Italians are very family orientated so whole families come out to celebrate. At 10.30pm children were riding bikes and scooters, babies were in prams and grannies had brought their stools out to sit on. The local bar was doing a roaring trade and there was a fantastic atmosphere. We met other families who live in our village and even although we don't speak fluent Italian and English is rarely heard, we were able to communicate our pleasure at the surroundings and sharing in their festa. Just like the Killearn Hoolie it was a great family event, well supported and much enjoyed.

*Sara Hudson*



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# The Marie Curie Whole Hog Challenge

Pain and punishment seem to go hand-in-hand with charity fundraising these days and the Marie Curie Whole Hog Challenge is no exception.

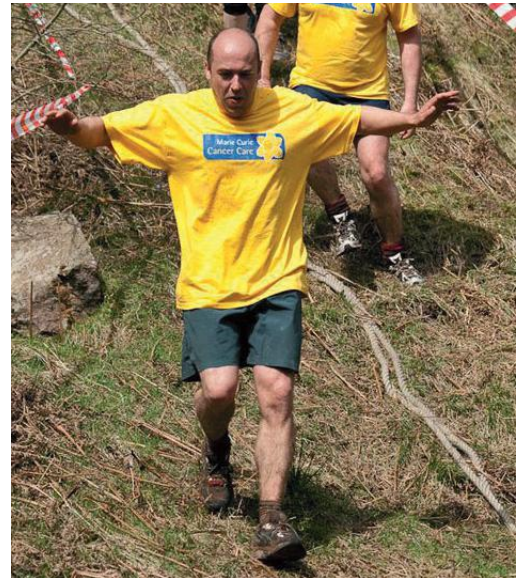
At first glance, the event looks like a 10K hill run – challenging but little more than a tough afternoon's run along the hills above Alan Cuthbert's Glenside Farm off the Fintry Road. The reality, however, was a 12km slog up Dumgoyne and back – peppered with obstacles to make sure your rhythm and stamina were tested every couple of kilometres.

In May, 170 keen (maybe foolish) runners set off in teams of three with many locals taking part. There was no time to find your pace, as just a short way from the start, teams were faced with 500 metres of energy-sapping, ankle-breaking running along the bottom of a field drainage ditch; then it was into the woods with some clambering through a rope maze and crawling under a cargo net through a mud-filled trench. Once out of the woods, there were a few kilometres of clear running along the side of the hill above Branziert Road – clear that is except for the burned heather stalks ripping into your ankles. Then the long, lung-bursting climb to the top of Dumgoyne began. As if that was not hard enough, the organisers threw in a climb up a waterfall on the way for good measure. A quick water stop at the 5km mark and it was on to the hill proper. Few took the option of cutting out the steep climb to the top and on the way down it seemed as though it would be a gentle jog back home. Wrong! The burn cutting down the glen was a constant feature for the next 6km, with ravine climbs, running through the river, mud banks and at the end a jump into an 8ft plunge pool of ice-cold water.

After a short run back towards Glenside there was just a wade through waste-deep muddy water under a net before it was back to the barn for the best bit of the day – a delicious pork roll from the hog roast.

Despite the description, the Whole Hog Challenge is great fun and this year's event is on course to raise around £30,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care which provides free nursing care to cancer patients and those with other terminal illnesses in their own homes.

The Whole Hog Challenge is an unforgettable experience – once you have forgotten about the pain. For more information visit [www.mariecurie.org.uk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk)



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Tim Brown



Richard Neville

# A Debt to the Future

As a general rule, Father's Day tends to get forgotten in our house, but this year was different. Our younger son did come up with the goods, mainly because he was home from London and happened to be on the spot at the time. His father got an amusing card and a slim book of photographs of Drymen and the Blane and Endrick Villages, to go along with the one we already have of Killearn, Balfron and Fintry. Many happy hours were then spent trying to identify what buildings had disappeared or undergone alteration, or were indeed exactly the same.

One of the big changes between the past and now is the disappearance of the railways. We have lots of Station Roads, but no stations. They were all there in these two books, though not always close to the villages they were servicing. There must have been a roaring trade in horses and carts transporting goods to the shops, or travellers to the centres of habitation. It must also have been pretty inconvenient, particularly in inclement weather. There is always a danger that, in getting nostalgic

about the vanished world of the trains, we forget its discomforts. It's perhaps better to think that if the trains hadn't disappeared, we wouldn't have the West Highland Way.

Fortunately, we in Killearn have an archive of articles and photographs, and the splendid Parish of Killearn book, but we have no small souvenirs for people to buy to remind them of their visit. The sending of postcards, especially in summer, is still very much in vogue, but of course they have to be available in the first place. There appear to be no recent postcards of Killearn, and visitors have to make do with going to another village and buying general views of the Trossachs, or Loch Lomond from the left bank. Or a cheery wee Highland cow. The towns do rather better in this respect. For example, there is a spectacular postcard view of Stirling that makes it look like Heidelberg. Are we missing a trick here?

Mr Colin Murray of Murray's Store – where Spar is now – saw a gap

in the market many years ago and took several photographs of the area, which he had converted into postcards. We could maybe do with a bit of this kind of entrepreneurial spirit again. Don't wait for the renovations to the village hall to be in place before you take a picture of it – take it now. And then take another one later.

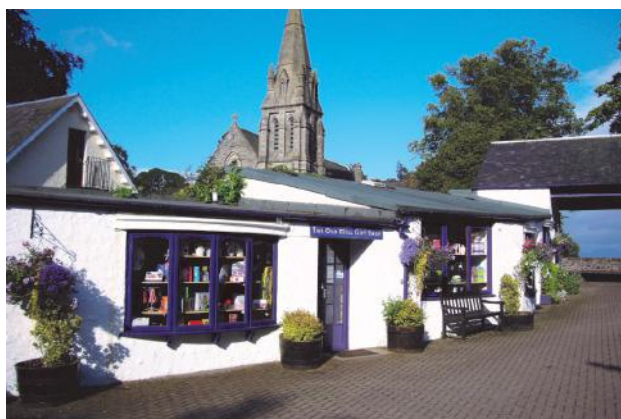
It is so much easier to take photographs these days than it was in days of yore, and it is also much easier to get them converted into postcards without having to order several hundred of every picture. In this digital age, there are various small printing companies or individuals prepared to do a small print run of, say, four photographs. There might not be much profit in it, but a selection of postcards would draw customers into our shops, and visitors would certainly appreciate being able to buy a souvenir of our lovely village. And we would have a record to hand on to the next generation, a Father's Day present, from us to them.

*Joyce Begg*



## Back To School

Hard to believe that it is that time already but hope we can help make it a happy time with some of the fun essentials like our smelly pens in lots of 'flavours', the kit-bags, lunch boxes juice bottles and lots more



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# Reach for the Top

Killearn has a rising star in its midst in the form of 14 year-old Christie Macleod who, after only three years in the sport, is scaling the heights in the Youth Climbing Series.

Christie first tried indoor climbing on an outing to Glasgow Climbing Centre. With her lithe physique and excellent strength-weight ratio, she found she was rather good at it and a leisure interest rapidly grew into a serious sport. In Youth Climbing Series competitions climbers tackle three progressively more difficult routes up the wall. The higher they climb on each route, the more points they score. The third route is extreme and the athlete who climbs highest – stretching to touch the highest holds they can reach with just their fingertips, and so gain extra points – before falling off, wins. (Safety is paramount so proper training and a secure belay ensure the fall is controlled!)

Christie goes to Balfron High and earlier this year the School made a clean sweep of the girls' category of the Scottish Schools Climbing Competition, with Christie only losing out in the tie-breaker fourth route to team mate, Eleanor Hopkins. Since then Christie finished second in the Scotland South Youth Climbing Series and was fifth in the Scottish Finals. This qualified her for the British Finals where she was 18<sup>th</sup> – quite an achievement for her first serious national competition. Christie thoroughly enjoyed the experience but felt she could have done better – so roll on next year!

Does Christie do specialist training? No, just practices regularly, ferried around the country by mum, Alison, or dad, John, who – since he spends so much of his leisure time at climbing centres – has taken up the sport too! Does Christie have specific ambitions in this demanding sport – for which she clearly has a natural talent? No, she just enjoys it and would like to climb the ranks as far as she can in Scottish and UK competitions. How refreshing. Climbing isn't yet an Olympic Sport so neither London 2012 nor Glasgow 2014 are currently on the calendar.

So next time you are a spectator at one of those daunting climbing walls – with the scary overhang and foot and handholds spaced impossibly far apart – look out for the figure near the top, it might just be Killearn's own Christie Macleod!



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# Killearn's got talent

In 1985 a star was born in Sutton Coldfield when Helen Thompson came into this world. She moved to Killearn when she was three years old. She attended Killearn PS and went on to Balforn HS to complete her education. As soon as she was on her feet she showed great enthusiasm for anything remotely sporting especially outdoors and excelled at the Primary school in team sports and athletics. She came to the attention of the author of this article in 1996 when she joined the P7 cricket team showing an immediate affinity for batting, bowling and fielding and won her place in the team through ability and not because the *Quick Cricket* rules insisted on at least two girls being selected in each team for local competitions. She was invited by the Stirling Council Sports advisor to join the cricket coaching course at Bridge of Allan during the Easter holidays along with others, all boys, from schools all over the County. At Balforn HS she featured in the girls football and rugby teams and her obvious potential led her to be selected to go to National athletics coaching at Scotstoun.

Helen wasn't limited to the outdoor life but also was enthusiastic and talented in music, design and art courses, so when she left school she was faced with the career choice of sport or something artistic. She worked in Glasgow Visual Arts Studio for a year.

At the age of eight Helen had been captivated when seeing wind surfers on Loch Lomond and persuaded her parents to get her the kit and enrol her for lessons. It has to be said that she took to this like a duck to water and progressed through body boarding (lying on the board), surfing (standing on it) to kitesurfing where she stands on the board and gets pulled along by a kite. This last activity has to be seen to be believed because the surfer has to balance him or herself on the board while shooting over the waves at high speed, performing tricks in the air and controlling a powerful kite at the same time. Helen felt certain that this had to be the sport for her but could not enter the ranks of competitors until she reached the age of 17 and had grown to the minimum height limit which was enforced because it requires strength as well as agility and a fantastic sense of balance. It is also a dangerous activity and injuries often result when control is lost.

The Isle of Tiree is one of the best locations in UK for kitesurfing and with a training school already existing there, coupled with the fact that her family are involved with two hotels on the island, gave Helen ample opportunity to learn the technique and to gain experience relatively quickly. By the time she was 20 it was clear that Helen was very talented and she was encouraged to enter competitions all over the British Isles. The British Kite Surfing Association organise competitions at suitable coastal



resorts ranging from Aberdeen, Barrow-in-Furness, and Redcar to various locations along the south coast of England and Helen was soon driving her little car all over the country in order to take part. This may sound glamorous but it is a very expensive pastime and without commercial sponsorship and support from her family it would not have been possible. Even with that she had to stay in inexpensive B&B's, friends' houses, campites and on occasions sleep in the back of her car in order to make ends meet.

She has now been kitesurfing for four years during which time she has competed in the UK, Spain, Portugal, France, Greece, Germany and South Africa and has never finished lower than fifth in any competition for women. She was quoted as the number one British female kitesurfer having been Champion in 2008 and in that same year she was number five in the world ratings. Although unable to compete in all competitions in 2009 due to injuries, she managed to achieve success in the speed event and won the British Wave Tour Championship.

*continued on page 23*

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*Killearn's got talent (contd)*

She has also added cable wakeboarding, which is a bit like water skiing but using a board instead of skis, to her repertoire. A mechanical cable pulls the boarder around a course with four or five corners working a bit like a ski tow but at a much higher speed. Scoring is done on the number of tricks carried out between the corners and the technical difficulty of the performance. The cable was initially a means of training for kitesurfing when there was no wind but it has now become a secondary competitive sport in which Helen won the South African National Championship in 2009.

Readers who saw the "Coast" programme on BBC TV last winter when it visited Tiree will have been able to see Helen in action and enjoy her interview.

Now that Helen has arrived at the ripe old age of 24 and feeling that she has achieved what she set out to do, she is considering the future. She has spotted that there is an opening in Tiree to develop the kitesurfing training school since she is already a qualified instructor and could also continue with freelance work running courses for existing clients in Egypt, South Africa and within the UK. The idea of hosting an international kitesurfing event in Tiree is tempting and with her contacts, experience and reputation coupled with the family hotels there would appear to be a great opportunity to benefit from her life so far. Alternatively Helen still has a serious interest in fashion design for clothing, materials and furnishings so should she choose to come inside for a bit she will find new challenges which she is sure to tackle in the same wholehearted way and will in all probability achieve great success.

Those in Killearn who know Helen and her parents Fiona and Norman will recall the tragic loss of her brother Kenneth in the RAF aircraft crash on the Rest and be Thankful in 2009. Helen was very close to Kenneth and they shared a love of Tiree and this bond is maintained as she continues to spend a lot of time on the island practising her kitesurfing and focusing on her future plans to develop a kite school.

It has been a pleasure to write these few words which it is hoped will bring to the attention of *Courier* readers the successes of one of our own and we all wish her and her parents the very best in the years ahead.

MP

## Killearn Football Club Report

As we approach the latter part of the Forth & Endrick season, Killearn FC is still in the hunt for honours in our centenary year. At the time of writing the team are in the top three for the Leslie League title, with only two defeats from games played, one of which was at home to Balfron Rovers and cost the Club a place in the last four of the Margaret White Trophy.

The players and committee have been busy off the park raising funds for the new changing facilities. A considerable amount was raised from the Race Night in April and the marathon march

in May when 15 players walked up and down Ben Lomond and then followed the West Highland Way back to Killearn. Every pound they raised was well earned. The Club also had a very active part in the Killearn Hoolie, organising the successful Street Football event, along with stalls at the Gala.

The next big event for the Club after July's golf outing will be the Centenary Dinner Dance in the Village Hall on 13 November (get your tickets ordered now) when, if all goes to plan, some silverware might be on show. DB

## Action Stations for Strathendrick Rugby Club

Having enjoyed a successful end to the last season – with the 1<sup>st</sup> XV finishing second in their league and the Minis attracting hundreds of young players to Fintry and raising thousands of pounds for local hospices at their Charity Tournament – *Strathendrick Rugby Club* are now gearing up for the new season.

The seniors are now well into pre-season training (Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings at 7pm) under the guidance of new Club Coach *Dave Cook* – a professional fitness instructor! With the hugely talented *James Cuthbertson* leading the charge as 1st XV skipper, Endrick have every intention of winning promotion to the National Leagues this year. *Drew MacDonald* – the

Club's popular SVQ junior's coach – has agreed to take on the captaincy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV so the seniors look well set.

**The juniors' season will launch with an Open Day on Sunday 29 August at 10.30am at Fintry.**

Old and new Minis (P4 to P7) and Midis (S1 to S4) are most welcome. Introductions, games and skills coaching will be followed by a family BBQ so everyone interested please come along – and bring a friend.

Having enjoyed a busy close season: marshalling the Drymen Show and enjoying a fantastically successful Clay Pigeon Shoot at Edenmill Farm, things look fair for the season ahead.

**For contacts and information on all Strathendrick Rugby Club activities please visit the club website: [www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/strathendrickrfc)**

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# Loch Ard Sailing Club



We recently celebrated the Club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the current sailing season is in full swing. There is an interesting fleet of members' own boats, with Flying Fifteens being particularly popular. We again hosted 37 vessels in the BIFFA Scottish championships in May, a qualifying fixture for the world championships to be held at Hayling Island next year. We are also hosting the final race of the Solo Travellers series in October. Needless to say, both of the above classes are well represented within the club fleet, so local sailors compete at both events.

Aside from the active racing programme, the Club is family-friendly with a relatively shallow and generally sheltered foreshore where children can play. There are a number of club-owned sailing dinghies and canoes available to club members with which we are able to offer basic training to novice sailors.

The Club is open to all dinghy classes and we will be pleased to meet prospective members any Sunday afternoon during the season or our website: [www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~kjt/sailing/lasc](http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~kjt/sailing/lasc)

*Nigel Kelly (550820)*

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## Balfron Barracudas



The Balfron Barracudas have had an exciting past few months. In November we became ClubSport Stirling's Club of the Year for 2009/10. Head Coach, Harriet Floyd and two members of the team took part in the awards ceremony at Stirling Castle, receiving the trophy from double Olympic gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes. February saw us co-host, in conjunction with Active Stirling, a UKCC Level 1 coaching course at the Balfron campus. As a result, the Club now has an additional five coaches to join the established team. Finally, we have since held two time trial club nights when our swimmers, coaches, committee and parents contributed to well organised and highly enjoyable evenings.

*For further information on the club, visit: [www.balfronbarracudas.org.uk](http://www.balfronbarracudas.org.uk)*

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# Killearn Tennis Club

Killearn Tennis Club continues to go from strength to strength. We held a very successful charity tournament in June which raised £360 for OCHRE, The Teenage Cancer Trust and the Maggie's Centres. The weather helped as Wimbledon came to Killearn and our under-12 age group had a fabulous tournament, with target serving and speed serving as entertainment!

Our team tennis is very healthy, with two Gents teams and one Ladies team competing in the Central Leagues. Our Gents first team have stayed in the first division which is a fantastic result. Our second Gents team have held position in their division, also a great effort; and our Ladies team have had a strong season with a probable promotion. Our Junior teams, under-12s and under-16s, also competed in the Central Leagues this year. Our boys showed great enthusiasm and commitment and the experience of playing matches and competing against other teams is invaluable for the juniors which we hope to build on for next year. A big thank you to all those involved in the teams this year – it really makes a difference.

Our Friday-night junior programme included classes for all levels. We also have specific match practice classes to complement the coaching programme and fun monthly tournaments for adults, team tennis and social games.

*For information on any of the above,  
please contact Patsy (550270).*



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### **Whisky Club Returns**

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Our whisky club is the last Thursday of the month (September to April only).

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# Curling Sweep Up



*Robert Paterson Shield players:*

*Front row:* Mike Jackson, Diana Jackson, John Phillips, Fiona Glass, Marshall Falconer

*Back row:* Maurice Rennie, Archie Banks, Iain Bowie, Bob Glass, Walter Macgowan, Norman Robertson

The curling season came to an end for Strathendrick Curling Club with the Annual General Meeting and prize presentation held at Glengoyne Distillery in April.

The main mixed club matches were played on Tuesdays at The Peak in Stirling. The Spring League was won by Ian Bowie's team of Mike Jackson, Iain Moreland, Elean Bonner and John O'Neill defeating Sheila Sturrock's team of Donnie Macdonald, Eddie Redman, Richard Kingslake and John Roy by one point.

The pairs competition was won by Bob Glass and John Phillips with Steve and Pauline Holden as runners-up. In the Points Competition (compulsory disciplines) which was played at Braehead Curling Rink with our neighbouring clubs in the Forth & Endrick Province, Donnie MacDonald was our best placed player at third and he and Maurice Rennie

came third in the team competition. Norman Robertson was Curler of the Year.

The Ladies Section played Leagues at Stirling on Thursday mornings. The winner of the Spring League was Fiona Glass/Helen Watson's team of Gill Smith, Fay Pascoe and Angela Higginson. The Ladies had their own Pairs competition which was won by Fiona Glass and Rita Hallam. Rita Barth was Curler of the Year.

Both the main club and the Ladies section finished their season with bonspiels. The Ladies had a coffee/lunch/shopping trip to Kinross with curling as well! The competition was won by Fiona Glass, Jenny Knox, Norma Mitchell and Norma Thornton. The main club finished with the most important competition of the season, Ladies versus Gents. The Gents won by 13 ends to 11 – much to the chagrin of the Ladies who scored more shots!

The Club achieved a League Double in the Forth and Endrick Province. They came first in the Robert Paterson

Shield league competition at Stirling against eight other clubs and first in the Forest Hills League at Braehead against five other clubs. Winning both the RPS and FH Leagues is a particularly good achievement – the double was last done by Drymen Curling Club in 1996. This continues the good success that the Club has had in recent years in competitions against other clubs. The Club also won a Royal Caledonian Curling Club District Medal by beating Falkirk Curling Club.

The Club caters for all ranges of abilities, with a good mix of competitive and less competitive curling. In addition it also has a range of social events including a golf outing, summer barbeque, Dinner Dance and New Year Meander.

If you want an interest and some exercise to keep you occupied during the winter months and would like to have a go at curling contact *Stan Moore* or *Mike Jackson* or visit our website at [www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk](http://www.strathendrickcurling.org.uk)

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*Curling Club barbecue*

## Crossroads – West Stirlingshire

supporting family members in their carer role by providing short breaks

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The service aims to provide regular visits, from our trained care attendants, to enable the family Carer to have 'time off' to catch up with essential tasks like shopping, to have time for themselves to attend appointments, continue with interests, maintain social contacts or just to rest and catch up on lost sleep.

Some comments from the service satisfaction survey carried out in March 2010 include:

*We are extremely happy with the service and very grateful to all of you*

*They all give a very high standard of care tailored to the individual, fitting nicely into the family – they are fab!*

*Everyone involved with Crossroads is friendly, helpful and reliable.*

*I simply could not cope without the service.*

*To say that it is a lifeline would be a massive understatement!*

Since the beginning of this year we have experienced a significant rise in requests for help as people recognise themselves as Carers and hear of the support available through Crossroads. The level of service currently

being delivered requires us to have a very successful collection week and at least match, if not exceed, the Killearn village total from 2009 of £1,990.

***Our annual door to door collection will take place from 30 August to 5 September throughout the area shown on the map. Please respond to our volunteer collectors as generously as possible.***

Further information can be obtained from:

*Teresa Prescott at 14 Buchanan Street, Balforn G63 0TT, telephone 01360 449400.*

*Email: crossroadsws@tiscali.co.uk*



## Village Hall Management Committee

You will have read on page 7 of the plans for development of the village hall to meet the requirements of our village in 21st century. We are currently seeking someone to take over the job of Secretary to the committee from Jane Hunter who has completed over 12 years in this post and would now like to hand over her responsibilities. Assuming that the development of the hall will get the go ahead this is a chance to be part of an exciting new community venture.

Anyone interested is requested to contact, without obligation, either *Jane* (tel 550322) or *Michael Pell* (tel 550328) for more details of what the job entails.

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# Killearn Primary School

## Health and Wellbeing Week

*During this week children and staff had the opportunity to try out a variety of sports and physical activities:*

### Sports Day

The sun shone for our annual Sports Day on Monday 31 May, which also marked the start of our Health and Wellbeing Week. This year, in addition to the class races in the afternoon, Primary 1-4 children competed in middle distance and sprint events. Heats took place the previous week and the finals on the morning of Sports Day were very exciting with a few very close finishes.



*The House Captains' Challenge on Sports Day*

### Eco Fair

Health and Wellbeing Week concluded with a School Eco Fair when the children had the chance to tell family and friends from the community about the Eco work they have been involved in over the session.

### Parachute Games – reported by Molly Cornes and Katie Henderson (P1)

Linsey from Active Stirling played some parachute games with us. We played Sharks and Lifeguards when you had to put your legs underneath the parachute and there were two 'sharks' under the parachute. They had to pull us in. You had to shout for help. Then the Lifeguards would come and try and save you by pulling you back. It was really fun and a wee bit scary too! We wish we could play it again and again and again.

### Circus Skills – reported by Kim Denton and Hannah Gibson (P4)

One of the most exciting events of Health and Wellbeing Week was getting the chance to learn some circus skills with Lindsey from Active Stirling. She gave us a demonstration and then it was our turn to have a go. Some of the activities were juggling, spinning plates, Diablo, which was very hard, and baton twirling. Learning all these skills was very tricky but fun. We would love to do them all again and we are sure our class would too.

### Tae Kwan Do – reported by Jamie Cushing and Harris Cartwright (P4)

At the start of this lesson with the Tae Kwan Do instructors we did lots of different races and exercises like star jumps to warm up. Then the fun started! We had a go at the punch and duck; that means two punches at the cushion the instructor was holding and then a quick manoeuvre to get out of the way. We also did kick and step which was quite tiring as you kicked at the cushion while moving forward. It was a very exciting lesson and you got puffed out too! Some children enjoyed it so much that they have now joined a Tae Kwan Do class in Balfron.



*Christiaan (P2) having a go at punch and kick!*

## Eco Committee Visit to Oakwood Reported by Daniel Taylor (P5/6)



*Visit to Oakwood Garden Centre*

In June our school Eco Committee visited Oakwood Garden Centre to find out how their plants are grown and get some advice about composting.

While we were there the owner, Mr James Henderson, took time out from a busy day to show us around. We saw the different stages of plant growth and the kind of conditions they need to grow best. We also saw some of their more unusual plants including some from New Zealand. Mr Henderson also explained the best way to build a new composting bin for our school.

It was a very interesting visit and we learned a lot that will be useful to us in our Eco work at school. Before leaving we each got a euonymus plant to take back with us and a little treat from the restaurant!

...and finally, the staff and children would like to thank the Killearn community for all the support they have given us over the last session.

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## Killearn Primary's Big Swap

The theme for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight was the 'Big Swap', which involved trying to persuade people to swap at least one thing they use regularly, such as tea or coffee, for a Fairtrade product.

Killearn Primary held its own Big Swap. Children were asked to bring things, such as games, toys, books or CDs that they would be happy to swap with one of their classmates. At an assembly run by the Fairtrade Steering Group everyone was asked to consider what products they currently use that they could swap for a Fairtrade one. The Steering Group went round the classrooms with Fairtrade products for children to taste and every family was given two teabags for those at home to try, in the hope that many people will agree to swap to Fairtrade tea in the future.

The Steering Group also hosted 'Tea at Three' in the school, when parents were invited to come and try a cup of Fairtrade tea and some Fairtrade baking.

During Fairtrade Fortnight, the Fairtrade Steering Group had planned to go around the village with flasks of Fairtrade tea, trying to persuade local businesses to swap to it. However there was so much snow and ice that we had to postpone it! We finally managed to do it at the end of March.

We hope that our efforts will result in many more people in Killearn using Fairtrade products.



## Killearn Kirk

### Calling All Children – and Parents

Come along to Kirk Kids (3 to 11-year-olds) or to the Youth Group (for Secondary School children) starting on Sunday 22 August at 10.30am in the Church Hall. Have fun with music, games and singing. Kirk Kids and the Youth Group are open to all children in Killearn Parish. TFNT (The Friday Night Thing), led by Tim Burnham, starts on Friday 27 August from 8 to 9.30pm. There is lots of fun to be had at this club with quiz nights, barbeques, table tennis, making music, playing the Wii or just meeting and talking to friends.

Harvest Thanksgiving is on Sunday 3 October, and the Church is always grateful for the many gifts given at both the School service and the Church service. The tinned goods go to the Glasgow City Mission and perishable gifts and flowers are distributed to the sick and elderly around the parish. The Guild starts on 5 October at 7.30pm in the Church Hall and continues on every first and third Tuesday of the month. All are welcome at these meetings. The Church also has a full Christmas programme starting at the beginning of December, with Carols at Christmas time on Thursday 16 December.

During the vacancy we are fortunate to have the services of the *Rev David Munro* (550098).

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## KCFC All Killearn Archive

In March 2010 we held a joint meeting with Primary 7 within Killearn Primary School. They were doing a project on World War II, so we added to it with memorabilia (eg gas masks, army uniforms, ration books, wedding photographs) and many more articles from that era.

Two of our group have been doing research into the names on the War Memorial of people who served in World War II and this was available for people to read, along with a model of the War memorial made by Jim Fallas, and a model of a Vesper Motor Topedo Boat made by Brian Valentine. Hugh McArthur brought along his gramophone (HMV, no less), as well as his collection of model tractors, his photograph albums and collection of postcards. A CD of photos ran continuously during the afternoon thanks again to Peter Smith.

Ken Barrett had all the children's attention as he told them about his experiences as an evacuee during the war. They were spellbound, and Ken was 'in his element'.

One gentleman in his eighties from Strathblane, came complete with all his bits and pieces expecting to give a talk to the whole room about his experiences during the war. Another lady, mother of a Killearn resident, came from Polmont to say she had been a nurse in Killearn Hospital all during World War II. We introduced her to two other ladies, and did they talk! They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We wish to thank Killearn Primary and, in particular, P7 for allowing us to share their afternoon with them.

*Helen Loudon*

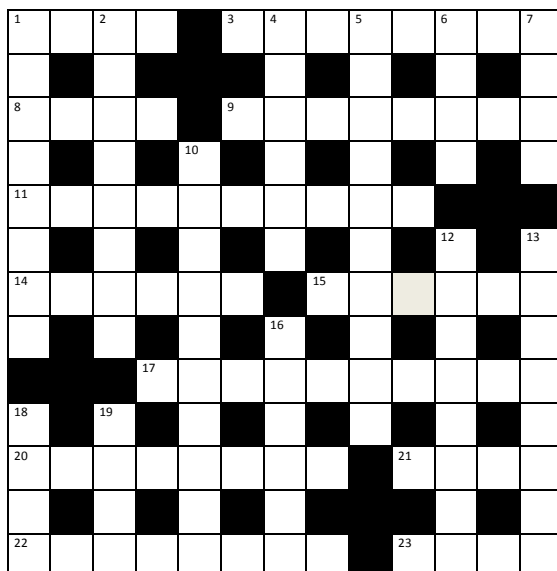
Solve the crossword, fill in your name and address, and place it in the box in Spar. The first correct entry to the crossword drawn out of the box after the closing date will win a Family Ticket to Theatre Royal or The King's Theatre, Glasgow, subject to availability and restrictions on certain days.

Closing Date: 11 September 2010

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**Solution to the last Crossword** Across: 1 astound; 8 riviera; 9 roundly; 10 mercury; 11 abhor; 13 constrain; 15 economist; 18 eagle; 21 retched; 22 evening; 23 advance; 24 detests. Down: 1 aorta; 2 touch; 3 underclothing; 4 Drymen; 5 overstatement; 6 Medusa; 7 canyon; 12 bloc; 14 idol; 15 earwax; 16 octave; 17 indeed; 19 gains; 20 edges.

### ACROSS

1. Reversible sound on the horn (4)
3. Hot little plant (8)
8. Bird in larger nest (4)
9. . . . if you can walk! (5,3)
11. Citrus fruit illuminated the Victorian stage (10)
14. Nonsense! Bed perhaps (6)
15. Get out - oil the hoe, it's fun! (8)
17. A peer spits at nibbles before the meal (10)
- 20,21. Erase untruth about event in 15 (8,4)
22. A fine café mixes it in coffee (8)
23. Low sounding fish (4)

### DOWN

1. Where 15 ended up. (3,5)
2. Summons, miss the beginning - its balm (8)
4. From 7,6 it's green (6)
5. Type of engineering, small particle in charge (10)
- 7,6. Find warm generator (4,4)
10. Years ago loafers put up wallpaper with this! (5,5)
12. A word of praise (6)
13. Spiders look for such places on the net (8)
16. Sounds like new man - that's a nerve! (6)
18. Advert topped and tailed relates to the ear (4)
19. A meadow begins from a plant growth (4)

Name . . . . . Phone No. . . . .

Address . . . . .

Congratulations to the winner of our last Crossword: *Pat Ashworth, Killearn*

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Name . . . . . Age. . . . .

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

**Congratulations to the winner of the £10 Spar voucher in our last competition: Kim Denton, aged 8**

**Closing Date for both competitions – 11 September 2010. Please place your entries in the box in Spar.**

# Lizard Conditions

If you're out and about in the countryside in warm, sunny weather and you hear a rustle in the undergrowth, it may be worth while taking a closer look. You may just have come across one of Britain's most frequently



encountered reptiles, the Common Lizard. Even if the creature has darted into cover out of sight, it is likely to come back to the same spot to continue basking in the sun. So walk away, but if you return carefully about 10 minutes later, you could be in for a treat.

Common Lizards are found throughout mainland Scotland and seem to be doing well here. Unfortunately, south of the border, their numbers are

decreasing, perhaps through loss of suitable habitat. This species favours a variety of places that are open enough to allow good exposure to the sun, such as heath lands, moors and bogs. They are less keen on intensively farmed areas. They hibernate from October deep beneath the undergrowth and emerge in February to begin breeding.

I have seen them at local sites such as Drumclog Muir and Loch Ardingning,

but they are sure to be in any suitable habitat in the region. Flanders Moss National Nature Reserve is a particularly good spot as they seem to have taken to absorbing retained heat from the new boardwalk there on sunny days.

The Common Lizard is one of six species of reptile native to Britain. Of the other five, only two are likely to be seen in central Scotland – the Slow Worm (a legless lizard) and the Adder. Keep your eyes and ears open for all three and note that the National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme is always looking for volunteers to survey these fascinating creatures.

*Martin Culshaw*

## The Kirk at the Hoolie

After a very enjoyable Saturday afternoon at the *Hoolie* where Killearn Kirk had a variety of games and also a story tent for young children, we finished things off with a Songs of Praise on Sunday evening. The weather was fine – at least, only a couple of showers. Afternoon tea was served in the Church Hall followed by the Songs of Praise in the marquee. All of the hymns had been chosen by the congregation a few weeks before



and some members explained why the particular hymn chosen was their favourite. Around 50 people attended and all said how much they had enjoyed the evening. Our thanks go to all those who helped make the evening a success and also to the *Hoolie* organisers for the use of the marquee and chairs. This was much appreciated by all who would have had to move all the chairs out and back into the Church Hall!

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