

LADIES' NIGHT IN KILLEARN

It sounds very demure, a Ladies' Night in Killearn. But it was anything but! The ladies of Killearn were out to party on Friday night, 18th November 2022, and party they did. The village hall rocked with the music provided by the talented singer, Alan Parker, well known to many people in the village, and he kept the sell-out hall dancing the night away. Apparently some ladies were still partying well into the morning!

It was wonderful to see the full age range in the village represented and up on their feet dancing. There were a few lucky guys privileged to be at the party, but they were there to work, dressed in amusing aprons, to serve drinks and pakora to the dancers. They were kept very busy, but - almost a disaster - they ran out of Prosecco!

As well as the entertainment, there were raffles with many prizes donated by individuals and businesses in and around Killearn, and further afield. We are very grateful to the many generous donors; the raffles raised an amazing £1313.

The night was organised by the Killearn Malawi Group (SC043555) to publicise and help finance their latest project, the building of a girls' hostel at Nkhande secondary school in the far south of Malawi. It is actually the local community itself which is asking us to help it to build this facility. Many girls who win places at the school live so far away that they have to find accommodation for themselves nearby. But there's nobody to look after these young girls and they are very vulnerable, with the result that most of them drop out and don't complete their secondary education. We know from elsewhere in Malawi that a girls' hostel is a gamechanger for girls' secondary education, and can enable more girls to go on to access further education as well.

The event raised the final sum of £3221.24, which is just phenomenal. Thanks are due to many people who worked hard to make it work; principally to Shona Kelday and others on the Killearn Malawi Group, to Alan Parker, to the village hall committee, to the waiters and to many friends, particularly Lesley and Craig Moir.

It is now 30 years since the Killearn Malawi Group started, firstly in the Kirk by supporting a missionary partner in the north of Malawi, then as a registered charity (SC043555) with partners and other groups working in the north. Now it is working with communities in a very poor area in the far south of the country. We are very lucky with our Malawian partners who help to facilitate our work in both areas, and who have visited and stayed in Killearn. Some of our group have also visited Malawi, and experienced the friendly people in the 'Warm Heart of Africa'.

We welcome your interest, and it costs nothing to become a Friend and receive occasional news about our activities. Just contact Ken Allen at 'chair@killearnmalawigroup.org' or Sue Beck at 'treasurer@killearnmalawigroup.org'. Donations are always very gratefully received, by contacting Sue Beck as above.

The Killearn Malawi Group is a small charity, but it makes a big impact in the communities with which it works.