

# Ben Ledi View

CALLANDER COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

## 2+2=?

*The Chief Executive  
Stirling Council  
Stirling*

*Dear Mr Yates*

First of all – congratulations! – the announcement heard on Central FM radio on Tuesday, 8th April, that Stirling had been given a 'cleanest town' award by Beautiful Scotland must have pleased you. No doubt the council and the scenes effort to ensure that Stirling was kept in pristine condition is very much appreciated by residents and visitors alike. Coming as it did, just about a week after the litter disaster weekend in Callander, the announcement was not greeted with as much enthusiasm as otherwise might have been the case – **but** – we take great heart that standards have been set and look forward to have similar status as the administrative capital. In fact it really would be very nice to win an award of our very own. By the way, did you know that on Wednesday, 9th April, Callander was without a street sweeper? – apparently he was required to fill a staff shortage on refuse collection.

### June deadlines

All contributions for our **June 1997** issue, to be published on **Saturday 7th June**, must be in the Library by **7.00pm** on **Tuesday 20th May** or Emailed to **blview@aol.com** by **Friday 23rd May**; all adverts must be with the Advertising Coordinator by **20th May**. *The inclusion of any material received after these dates cannot be guaranteed.*

The Production/Layout meeting, preceded by our AGM, will be held at **7.30pm** on **Monday 26th May** in the **Burgh Chambers, South Church Street**.



*By-pass?  
No – Sid's back!*

The minutes produced by our councillors for last month's paper made very good reading – the best for some considerable time. It is good to see expressions like 'resisting' and 'fighting for' and of course the information on the budget. It is about the budget we would like to ask the man at the top a few questions, for the differing viewpoints and answers just do not seem to add up. Without going into too much detail in this issue, can you please tell us, in simple language, why we have a 14.5% increase in the tax and an 8 million pound reduction on saving? Is the total budget for 1997 greater than the budget for 1996? If so, can you tell us the areas of increased expenditure and give the two sets of figures for comparison. There has to be an inflation factor, but this is only running at 3%. The Scottish Office say in real terms you are no worse off than 1996 and have covered inflation and an element of salary and wage increases in the amount allocated to the council – but maybe you would like to challenge this? Is it possible to work with real figures and not percentages, it makes adding up

and understanding a lot easier. Obviously there are items in the 1997 budget that will show an increase over 1996, but possibly to oversimplify the figures, if 60% of the budget is Scottish Office controlled, and this percentage is the same for 1996 and 1997 then the 40% controlled by the council in 1996 now equals 40%, plus 14.5% of 40%, minus 8 million pounds – with

**continued on page 2**

### Contents page

230 years ago .....	15
Articles .....	9, 11 & 16
Church news .....	22
Club round up .....	17 – 21
Comment .....	6
Community council .....	2
Cook's corner .....	10
Councillors' notebook .....	3
Highland games .....	8
Letters to the editor .....	6
McLaren High School news .....	14
Off the beat .....	4
Pedlar's pack .....	7
Profile: Anne Ballantyne .....	12 – 13
Young drivers' road safety .....	5

# Callander Community Council

## Drop-In Centre

Some 24 Craigard Road residents attended to voice their opposition to the proposed change of use of the Snooker Club in Craigard Road to Youth Drop-In Centre. In summing up, the Chairman said that the Council noted the objections and the strength of feeling expressed by so many residents and that when it came to any decision the Council could not, and would not, ignore this. There was to be a public meeting for all views on this issue on Wednesday, 23rd April, when as many Community Councillors as possible would attend. It was agreed by the Council to remain neutral until after this meeting, then take a decision.

It was of general agreement that no one objected to a Youth Drop-In Centre, simply in this instance of the proposed venue.

## 2+2=?

continued from page 1

only the last figure having any real meaning. If you could supply a few figures to the above percentages and expense and income categories, maybe the degree of understanding of the difficulties faced by the council would be more clearly understood by the tax payers and perhaps reduce the unpopularity factor!

By the way, a short word on Christmas. Is there any chance Callander could get a share of the festive decorations? I know - we get a barricaded tree and a few lights in the Square about ten days before Christmas, surely we warrant a bit more festive spirit than that!

We hope you will find time to reply and allow us to digest the information.

*Yours sincerely  
Callander*

## Request for roller blading area

Two teenagers, Greg Deans and Michael Johnson, attended to present a petition of some 500 signatures requesting Council support for such a facility to be constructed on a suitable site.

They had already contacted the Round Table and Gordon Griffiths, a Stirling Council Community Youth Worker.

Various sites were being regarded.

The Council was happy to give its full support to this request and congratulated the boys on their initiative.

## Toilets

The Council welcomed the re-opening of the South Church Street facility, but regretted the immediate vandalism occurring.

However, maintenance funding was still a problem and this would be under consideration in various ways.

## Closed circuit TV

This is now in place and operative.

## Floral Competition 1997

This would take the same format as last year: -

1. Best Kept Garden
2. Best Floral Display on Town Tourist Route.

## Planning applications

**S/97/0209/DET** - Erection of conservatory and repositioning boundary fence at 5 Murdie Avenue for Mr W Gent, per C R Smith.

**S/97/0239/DET** - Change of use from retail premises to restaurant, including new front and rear extension, at 83 Main Street for B J Investments Scotland Ltd., per B J Investments Scotland Ltd., Edinburgh.

**S/97/0244/DET** - Demolition of existing building and replacement with 1 1/2 storey structure comprising 4 shop units and upper floor flat at 4 Main Street for J Gibson, per T McCourt, Callander.

**S/97/0293/DET** - Installation of externally mounted air conditioning units at the Callander Woollen Mill, 12-18 Main Street, for Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Langholm.

**S/97/0309/LBC** - Replacement of windows at 17B Main Street, for Stuart Richardson, 17B Main Street.

## Recommendations

**S/97/0044/DET** - Alterations and 2 storey extension to rear at 139 Main Street. Approved.

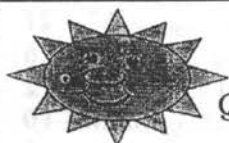
**S/97/0059/HAE** - Installation of 6 replacement windows at 7 Victoria Court. Approved.

**R/97/0175/HAE** - Erection of porch at 10 Lagrannoch Way, Callander. Approved.

**S/97/0086/DET** - Renewal of planning consent to form beer garden at Riverside Inn. Approved.

**R/97/0123/ADV** - Installation of signs at 79-81 Main Street. Approved.

**R/97/0124/DET** - Installation of shop front at 79-81 Main Street. Approved.



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# Councillors' notebook

BY THE TIME you read this, the General Election will be over, the last leaflet delivered, the last vote counted, and all the posters should be down. Life will have returned to a degree of normality and those of us active in party politics will be able to carry on with our lives as usual. Whatever the outcome, we hope that the result will herald in a positive and vibrant future as the Millennium approaches.

And now to more mundane – if more immediately relevant – issues.

## The South Church Street Toilets

We promised to resist the closure of the South Church Street toilets and we have kept that promise. The toilets were closed on 1st April at the start of the present financial year and the services were cut off. We surveyed local traders to see the effect this was having on their businesses and discovered that in the first week of closure, businesses were being harassed by visitors seeking to use their facilities in the want of the South Church Street toilets.

At the Environmental Quality Committee on 10th April Ken Campbell used the information that we had gathered and argued an unanswerable case distinguishing these toilets as a special case different from the other 13 that were scheduled for closure. After a tough fight at Committee, he was successful in persuading the Administration to agree to re-open the toilets to enable consultation with the community over the future financing of the facilities. The

toilets were then restored to a suitable standard and subsequently re-opened. We are currently exploring ways of ensuring that the facilities remain open permanently.

## Callander Youth Project

Most people in Callander support the development of the Callander Youth Project and the Council and other sources made funding available to the project. However the difficulty is in finding suitable premises which are acceptable to both the immediate community and the community at large. The project had hoped that they had found a suitable solution in using the Snooker Lounge in Craigard Road.

However, at an Emergency Surgery held by Ken Campbell at the request of Craigard Road residents, it became clear that local residents were very opposed to the location of the centre at the Snooker Club. Ken Campbell had invited Rev Iain Goring and Roger Hunter, the Project's Youth Worker, to be present to argue the case for the development and we take this

opportunity of expressing our gratitude to them for all their assistance that evening. Since that date, the Council has received a petition from a substantial number of Callander residents opposing the Craigard Road location. We are writing this before the meeting of the Community Council re-considers the situation and before the public meeting on 23rd April, but we are very aware that the proposed location does not have the support of the community in that neighbourhood.

We are quite clear that there is a very serious need in Callander for a drop-in centre of the type proposed, but it is equally clear that the levels of local resistance which the centre appears to face will make the finding of a suitable site extremely difficult. Without the support of the community we consider that the centre cannot proceed. We understand and, we hope, respond to local concerns, but unless an acceptable location is soon found the project is in danger.

We will try to help to find a suitable site and we urge the people of Callander to help us and the Project Steering Group to achieve this truly worthwhile aim.

## Surgeries

Our next Callander surgeries are in the old Burgh Chambers, from 6-7pm on Monday, 19th May. You don't need to make an appointment to see us, and if these times don't suit you and you want to contact either of us, please telephone:

Ken Campbell                      Ian Lambie  
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# Off The Beat ... with Callander Police

## Crimes of note

BETWEEN 7.00pm on 14th and 4.15pm on 15th March 1997, a motor car parked in Leny Feus, Callander, was entered and a quantity of stereo equipment stolen.

Between 10.00pm on 14th and 10.00am on 16th March an Apollo Laser pedal cycle was stolen from Pearl Street, Callander.

Between 11.30pm on 16th and 7.30am on 17th March a Hotel in Main Street, Callander was broken into and property stolen.

Between 10.15am and 2.30pm on 21st March a tourist's vehicle which was parked in the West Achray car park was broken into and property stolen.

Between 1.50pm and 4.20pm on 31st March a dwellinghouse in Main Street, Callander, was broken into and property stolen.

Between 27th March and 1st April, a motor car parked at the rear of Main Street was entered and property stolen.

Between 10.00pm on 2nd and 7.00pm on 3rd April, four pedal cycles were stolen from a local holiday park.

Between 5th and 12th April, a burgundy coloured trailer, measuring 8' x 6', was stolen from the Keltie Bridge area.

About 4.20pm on 12th April, a sum of money was stolen from a hotel in Main Street. The person responsible is described as 20-25 years, 5' 10", average build and had brown cropped hair.

About 2.30am on Sunday 13th April, a window at a local supermarket was smashed and a quantity of alcohol stolen.

Between 12 noon on 12th and 10.30am on 13th April, two lorries parked at the Lagrannoch Industrial Estate were entered and property stolen.

If you can help us with any of these crimes, please telephone Callander Police Office as soon as possible (330222)

A female has been charged with theft from a number of shops in Callander.

Three persons have been traced and charged with forcing open telephone coin boxes both in Callander and the surrounding area.

A male has been charged with theft, another with assault and a third with assault and resisting arrest.

## Seasonal Traffic Warden

The seasonal Traffic Warden, Mr Fraser, will soon be re-commencing his duties. Last year a large number of illegally parked motorists were

issued with £20 parking fines. Despite repeated pleas by us, there are still a large number of motorists who flaunt the parking restrictions in the town centre, most noticeably on Main Street at Bridgend and outside the East End Post Office. Parking in these areas makes it very difficult for motorists at the junction to see oncoming traffic.

## Drunk drivers

Since the beginning of 1997, there have been a considerable number of persons charged with drunk driving in the Callander area. During the next month the local police and members of the Traffic Department will be carrying out road checks at various points in Callander and the surrounding areas. Remember at the very minimum you will lose your driving licence for a year and it could well be longer than that, depending on the circumstances.

## Sneak-in thefts

At this time of the year, there is a tendency to leave items such as lawnmowers and gardening equipment out at night. Last year there were a number of thefts reported to this office. If you are using such items please remember to lock them away at night, as they will most certainly not be there the following day.

G. GRIEVE



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# Callander young drivers initiative

BY NO MEANS a new concept as regards Driver Training, such courses have been run by Central Scotland Police, at Police Headquarters, Stirling, over a number of years. These were open to members of the public of all ages, though with a very limited number of places available on each course.

The Police at Callander however recognised a need for training to be perhaps extended to their rural area, with particular regard being paid to drivers – initially in the age range 17 years to 25 years – who are frequently identified as being in the 'at risk' group of any driving community. Consequently the Force Accident Prevention Unit were invited to run a course in conjunction with local Police as a local initiative.

The Introductory Meeting of the initiative was held within the Council Chambers, South Church Street, Callander on Wednesday 5th March 1997 to which some 19 young men from Callander and surrounding areas attended. The evening was designed to be an insight into the 'hazards' of driving and was addressed by Constable Jim Chalmers of Central Scotland Police Accident Prevention Unit. The evening included discussions, video and 'overhead' presentations, in addition to which a questionnaire was

circulated. The questionnaire sought to establish if those attending would be further interested in tuition in Basic Life saving skills (First Aid), vehicle maintenance and manoeuvrability competitions.

Due to the enthusiasm shown, further dates were arranged at which time, instruction would be given in 'Road Craft' and the other items shown on the questionnaire.

At the end of the evening the course members were invited to take part in a brake reaction-time test. Despite Constable Chalmers and Sergeant McKenzie claiming that due to their age difference, their reactions may be somewhat slower, this proved to be less than true. Suffice to say there was only fractions of a second between fastest and slowest.

On 18th and 20th March there were further 'class room' lectures, discussions and presentations on 'Road Craft' at which time each participant received a sponsored 'Drivers Pack'.

The Group would wish to record their thanks to Callander and District Round Table for the sponsorship and their support. It is very much appreciated.

Sunday 13th April saw the members being taken on a Demonstration Drive by members of Central Scotland Police Traffic

Department. The purpose behind the drive was to show how the precepts of 'Road Craft' and 'System of Car Control' should be applied while driving on public roads.

Already some members of the Group have indicated their intention to further their driving skills, by way of application for membership to the local Forth Valley Group of the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

Basic Life Saving Skills Classes have already commenced, with the assistance of Paramedic Jim McSherry and Ambulanceman Les Hair from the Callander Ambulance depot.

Further information can be obtained about this (and hopefully future courses) from Sergeant McKenzie, Callander on (01877) 330222.

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# LETTERS to the EDITOR



Dear Sir,

Referring to the article printed in the Ben Ledi View Community Newspaper, "An Acceptable Face", re litter etc. I have lived in Callander nearly 50 years and since the railway closed, have noted more and more cars and touring buses which means more and more people. People seem to bring picnics with them instead of eating in Cafes and Hotels, encouraged by the picnic areas set up by Stirling Council in Callander. A lot of people cannot be bothered to take their rubbish home, but dump it where they feel like it. Birds also scavenge the litter bins.

What I feel is worse than 'Rubbish blowing about' is 'Dogs Dirt' on pavements, especially tramped on in front of shop windows, also across at the Primary School Playing Fields. One can't always blame the local owners of dogs as I have seen tourists, some with two dogs, walking up and down the Main Street and also taking no notice of the "sign" at the Primary School when they take their dogs there.

Despite all the 'Hassle of Litter etc', I still feel Callander is a good place to live and children are safer living here.

Yours faithfully  
Dorothy M. Mahoney

Dear Sir/Madam,

I thought it would interest your readers to know that following a successful Heather Ball which was attended by 120 people in the Dreadnought Hotel in February, the sum of £655 was raised and passed to the Charity, Children First, which is as you know a very worthy cause.

Yours truly  
George N. Duffy



## we hear



A new shoe shop for the Main Street, that will make a welcome addition to the town's facilities.



A petition has been sent to the Council opposing the opening of a new restaurant in the town, but to quote from *The Rough Guide to Scotland*, page 218, "Despite its popularity, there are few restaurants worth recommending in Callander".

Is there a missing ingredient somewhere?



The Church Street toilets are open, sorry, shut or maybe open, anyway rumour has it the police station is not the place to ask! Sorry, Council, this would appear to be one saving that cannot be made. It is not yet the high season and they need cleaning up.



Chas. Whillans would appear to be re-opening - another gap filled.



Neil and Fiona MacArthur have taken over what was the veterinary premises in Cross Street to use as a sales and distribution point for their range of fine foods. They also hope to have space for a retail outlet for local customers.



The Tartan Box will open in the old Thingummyjig shop and are looking for full and part-time staff.

## Sitting pretty!

Taking a breather in Callander is going to be a bit easier from now on thanks to some joinery trainees.

Stirling Council has started delivering 17 new benches to the town in response to requests from the local community council.

The benches, ten new and seven refurbished, are the work of a group of adult trainees based at Prospects Training Centre Ltd joinery workshop.

They were working towards their Craft Joinery qualification with the project funded through the Trossachs Trail Programme.

The trainees spent three months working on the benches which have been placed in popular tourist spots around the town, including Ancaster Square.

David Warnock, the council's Tourist Development Officer said "Callander Community Council approached us at the end of last year, asking if we could do anything about the existing benches.

"It seemed an ideal project for the trainees who have gained some valuable new skills and experience. I'm sure visitors and residents alike will appreciate the new benches."

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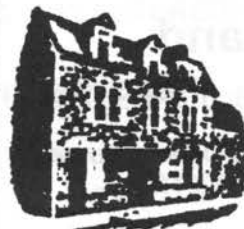
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# Pedlar's Pack – the East End

by Harvey MacNaughton

CONTINUING on last month's theme, I thought we might look at a small section at the East End.

At the corner of Leighton Place, from about 1920 to 1970, the late Johnny Drummond (Postman) and later his brother, the late Alec Drummond, ran the Cycle Agents and Repair Shop. They also hired out cycles and had facilities for charging batteries and accumulators for the old radio sets. They sold out to Johnny Roy (The Barber) who in turn made way for Mr Osborne, a Polish Gentleman, who ran Rapid Electrics and also sold fancy goods.

It was affectionately known as 'The Fancy Shop'.

I recall that Mr Osborne kept a considerable stock of all kinds of glass radio valves and was very helpful. About 1980 he sold up and I believe returned to Poland. The premises were then taken over by the Campbell Brothers, a DIY and Wallpaper Shop.

Leighton House in its present form was built in 1983.

Mrs May Drummond tells me that in 1938 she started the first East End Sub Post Office at The Cycle Shop. It turned out to be quite busy because of the influx of homeless and evacuee families during the War.

Moving up a short distance, the



Hairdressers was opened in 1960 by Nance Rennie.

In The Forties it was a Fish and Chip Shop, run by Mrs Finch. In The Fifties Mr and Mrs Ronnie Sanday opened an Electrical Shop and also took over the Sub Post Office from Mrs Drummond. For a spell it was also an outlet for handknitted woollens and knitting wools, run by the late Mrs Kate Drummond and her daughter, Isobel.

On the opposite side, The Post Office at its present site was opened in 1955 by Mr & Mrs Ronnie Sanday. When they emigrated to Rhodesia in 1957 it was taken over by the late Willie MacDonald and his

wife, Margaret, who ran it until her retirement in 1985.

Willie died some years ago but will always be remembered as a singer of some note who won medals at The Gaelic Mods and for his singing at many local ceilidhs.

Tom and Georgie Rhymer then took over and retired only last year. The present owners, Lee and Norma Boggi, recently took over what is a much needed East End facility.

Thanks to all who assisted me with information on this piece. The photograph I think is early Sixties, but perhaps any motor buffs among you can date it more accurately from the makes of the vehicles shown.

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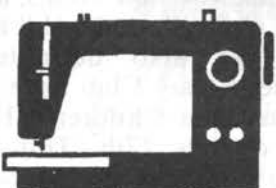
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# World Highland Games

**Saturday 26th July**

**Sunday 27th July**

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**Traditional Highland Games**

**World Musclepower Championship**

**Pipe Bands : Hill Race**

**Highland Dancing**

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**Callander and District  
Round Table**

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of Callander and District Round Table was held on Wednesday 16th and was well attended by both current and former Tablers.

Garry Fingland takes over from John Davis steps as Chairman, with Andy Beattie taking over as Vice-Chairman. Gordon McRae and David Spooner were appointed as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. David King takes over from David Carrick as Honorary President. Stewart Gray was awarded the Tabler of the Year award for an excellent contribution during the year.

The review of 1996 highlighted a number of successful fundraising events including the Barn Dance at Claish Farm, the Highland Games, Santa's Sleigh and the Toddle. Over £10,000 was raised directly from these events and is being distributed to local charities and community projects, with a small amount to national charities such as Childline.

Membership is steady at a dozen Tablers but we are keen to attract new members during 1997. Any young men between the ages of 21 and 40 are eligible to join and would be made most welcome at any of our meetings; please call either Garry Fingland (01877 330423) or John Stirling (01877 330841) if you want to find out more.

### **1997 Highland Games**

Planning for the Highland Games is well underway and Callander will once again host the World Highland Games and World Musclepower Championship on 26th/27th July. In addition, we aim to increase local participation this year and are introducing two new events; a 'Local Heroes' challenge and a Hill Race.

We are also delighted that Callander Rotary Club have offered to organise a Children's Highland Games on July 27th. This will be open to pupils at any of our local Primary schools and Rotarians will be visiting these schools over the next month to brief Headteachers.

Please support this event.



# Journalists on the write track of Rob Roy



THE Trossachs and Breadalbane are set to enjoy a publicity boost as a group of seven travel journalists have spent three days sampling what the area has to offer in terms of attractions and activities.

The group of writers, all from leading English regional newspapers with a combined circulation of over 600,000, were hosted by Argyll, the Isles, Loch Lomond, Stirling & Trossachs Tourist Board, with support from the European Regional Development Fund.

The journalists visited several of the area's main visitor attractions

during their stay in Breadalbane, including the Falls of Dochart, the Breadalbane Folklore Centre, Rob Roy's Grave at Balquhidder

They also sampled a number of activities at the Ardeonaig Outdoor Centre.

Whilst in the Trossachs, they visited the Rob Roy & Trossachs Visitor Centre in Callander, Doune Castle, Inchmahome Priory on the Lake of Menteith and the Scottish Wool Centre in Aberfoyle, as well as walking in the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park and cycling by Loch Katrine.

The group stayed at the Dall Lodge Country House Hotel in Killin and the Lake Hotel at Port of Menteith.

Local Tourist Board Director, Danny McKirgan, who joined the group, said:

"The journalists all enjoyed their stay tremendously and were extremely impressed with the wonderful environment and range of attractions we have to offer.

"I am sure that this visit will help raise the profile of the Trossachs and Breadalbane and lead to more English visitors in the forthcoming season."

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**Senior Citizens Tuesday  
 & Wednesday mornings**

## Caledonian House

The residents are off to a great start this year in having fun.

We went to the Jimmy Logan show at The Kirk, it was a brilliant night.

There was an Easter Bonnet parade with Phyllis in a really up to date Hale-Bop hat. The winner was Mrs Moffat in a lovely self-crocheted hat. We had the Al Jolson show in the house, it was a lovely celebration on one of our lady's 90th birthday. The staff excelled themselves here dressing up as the black and white minstrels and the relatives and friends who joined in thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We started off our Mystery Tours with a dull rainy day round the Ochil Hills and the Yetts of Muckart. Our second outing was in beautiful sunshine to Loch Earn, stopping for tea by the roadside at St Fillans and carrying on to Crieff for a second stop at the paper weight factory, luckily for Ms Penny and her daughter Harriet, who found themselves stranded when their car broke down and we were able to give them a lift home to Callander.

We have had two nice afternoon drives out in the Trossachs, stopping for tea and scones at the Brig o' Turk Tea Room. We have lots of plans for the summer, so hopefully the sun will shine for us all.

## Fun & Games

There was no chance of youngsters getting bored in Callander thanks to the playscheme set up by Stirling Council. Callander was one of many rural areas visited by the authority's Children's Services department during the two week school break.

Shield and banner making was just one of the many activities in Callander Kirk Hall and the children certainly enjoyed themselves.

## Situations Vacant

### CALEDONIAN HOUSE

We are looking for a hardworking, honest, reliable and responsible person to fill the full-time posts of Night-duty Care Assistant and Day-duty Care Assistant. Experience preferred but not necessary as training will be given.

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Contact: B. Crawford,  
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# Cooks Corner

## Whim Wham

Serves: 4

### Ingredients:

425 ml (3/4 pint) double cream  
45g (1 1/2 oz) caster sugar  
finely grated rind 1 lemon  
150 ml (1/4 pint) medium-sweet white wine or sherry  
16-20 sponge fingers  
225g (1/2 lb) redcurrant jelly

Candied citron, orange peel and toasted, blanched whole almonds to decorate

### Method:

Whisk the cream with the sugar, lemon rind and half the wine or sherry until it will hold soft peaks.

Break each sponge finger into three pieces.

Divide a third of the cream, followed by half the sponge fingers, half the remaining wine or sherry and half the redcurrant jelly into 4 glasses or bowls.

Top with half the remaining cream and the remaining sponge fingers and drizzle with the last of the wine, then spoon over the remaining jelly.

Swirl the remaining cream on to and decorate with the candied peel and almonds.

Serve immediately, or chill for no longer than 30 minutes.

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# McLaren High School Orchestral Tour to Canada 1997

AT LUNCHTIME on Wednesday, 25th June, 61 pupils and 6 staff from McLaren High School will fly from Glasgow Airport to London, Heathrow, and on to Toronto in the Province of Ontario, Canada.

The party will include the Orchestra, a Choral Group, Pipers and Highland Dancers.

Concerts and performances will be presented in Fergus, 30km west of Toronto, then in Edmonton, Calgary and Banff in the Province of Alberta, close to the Canadian Rockies.

The youngsters have been preparing for this trip for 18 months during that time many fund-raising events have taken place.

There are several planned between now and June and your support at some or all of these would be appreciated!

If you are unable to get to any of these but would like to contribute, please get in touch with Ian Milligan at the School, telephone 330156.

## Friday, 2nd May 7.30pm-10.30pm

Family Ceilidh (all ages) - High School. Tickets £3 and £1 for children.

## Sunday, 18th May 7.30pm

Concert in Aberfoyle Parish Church, Chamber Group including school pupils and professional musicians. Tickets £6 and £3 concession (including wine).

## Saturday, 24th May 10.00am-4.00pm

Bottle Stall, Ancaster Square.

## Sunday, 8th June 8.00pm

Concert in Callander Kirk.

## Thursday, 19th June 7.30pm

Pre-Tour Concert, High School.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

# Variety Show Musical Extravaganza 2

Last year Callander Kirk Junior Choir thrilled audiences with a delightful Variety Show that set the feet tapping, the hands clapping and sent everyone home with a spring in their step and a song in their heart.

Little can be more uplifting than the guileless smile of a child, the joyful sound of young voices and the pure *joie de vivre* of dancing feet.

All of this can be found in this year's show which promises to be yet another show stopper.

We have been delighted to welcome back as producer **Anne Ballantyne** and under her expert tuition the young people have a show that guarantees an evening of sheer delight.

With songs from shows such as *Kiss Me Kate*, *Chorus Line*, *Oliver*, *Mary Poppins*, *Me & My Gal*, *South Pacific*, *West Side Story*, *Annie*, *Gigi*, to name but a few!

"Where can we hear them?"  
"Why, at McLaren High School, of course."

"When can we see them?"  
"Monday 12th and Wednesday 14th May at 7pm."

"Where can we get tickets?"  
"Liz Cameron is the lady - tel 331057."

Book early - you've been warned.

"Who's warning us?"  
"42 highly motivated young Callander kids."

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# Profile

# Anne Ballantyne on 'Entertainment'

by our staff reporter

ANNE was born in Bannockburn but spent her childhood in Stirling, attending Riverside School, now relocated and known as Wallace High.

Anne's father sang and played the violin. She had Great Aunts who sang in Opera and with sing songs round the piano it is not surprising she was caught under the spell of Gilbert & Sullivan.

Two music teachers remain high in her estimation, James Phillips who taught at Stirling High School and Winifred Busfield in charge of the Music Department at Glasgow Academy. They were instrumental in guiding this 11 year old as she started her vocal training.

The 1939-45 war years brought many opportunities for people to 'ayre' their talents. There were 'Street and Back-court Concerts', 'Music in the Parks', 'Cheer-up Get Togethers', 'Sing & Sew' - all sorts of entertainment to buoy up, comfort or console while the men and women fought for us. Anne remembers performing as a soloist at a celebration concert at Doune

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Mercat Cross after the War was over.

Although working as a secretary, Anne was a semi-professional with a very understanding boss who allowed her to work odd hours. (Flexi-hours as they are known to-day). She was able to act, sing and dance and pleased to do so when invited.

Cupid had his bow and arrow at the ready when 'The Mikado' was in rehearsal and Bill Ballantyne came into view; the die was cast and he was soon in the starring role as Bridegroom with Anne, the Bride; a well matched couple whom we are pleased to know.

*Anne, tell me, why did you choose 'Production' within the theatre?*

"I was invited to produce not one but two operas in the same year - HMS Pinafore and Bizet's Carmen."

This was in 1966 and she found the challenge rewarding, going on to produce at The Kings in Glasgow and Edinburgh, Worcester, Malvern Theatre, Dundee, Kirkcaldy, Sunderland Empire and in Ireland.

"Musicals and opera are the biggest things in my life. I have been a Tutor for 21 years and I am actively involved with, and on the panel of, NODA (National Operatic & Dramatic Association) Directors. Through the years I have directed 200 productions including 20 Grand Operas."

*What is the secret of your success as a Producer, do you bully, or cajole!*

"I do not bully but I am a strict disciplinarian. I discipline myself and prepare for all productions, know what I want and explain to the cast, so everyone is on the same

wavelength. Every production is distinct as every actor portrays each part differently. It is fascinating to discover personal interpretations."

*The Producer/Director is the apex of a staging, how much of yourself do you put into a production; are you physically, mentally and/or emotionally drained; do you revel in the challenge and gain strength from success?*

"I put 'my all' into a production, many many hours of work bring tiredness but when the show is on I can relax and rest. I have done my homework and given the best guidance I can. I gain strength from a challenge.

"In Callander and district there is a horde of talent, some of the choral singing here is better than in big cities, so with such a strong foundation it is only right that we hope to succeed. I was really surprised to find so much flair within this rural community, a resource to be nurtured, encouraged and be proud of."

*During your association with the local operatic group you have enjoyed a series of 'Hits', what prompts your choice of show?*

"Choosing what the people want and the Box Office returns is paramount. I would like to try experimental theatre here but would we be supported??? There is no compromise, you flourish or fall; if you fail you are Out!"

*How do first nights affect you, do they bring fears, do you have 'butterflies in your tummy'; do you sigh with relief or elation when the final curtain falls; do you feel a celebrity, a STAR?*

**continued on next page**

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## Anne Ballantyne on 'Entertainment'

continued from previous page

"Butterflies, yes, at the outset. At the end of a run I am both sad and happy but by no stretch of my imagination do I feel a celebrity and certainly not a STAR."

The accolades will still be pouring in following the fabulous presentation of 'Brigadoon' but, after the final curtain falls, reality steps in, in the form of the money man. Accounts have to be paid. Each costume costs £20.00 per week, scenery is made to order with transport charges another on-cost, orchestra, hire of hall for rehearsals and show nights, props and technical lighting and sound equipment all add up, so profits are not high.

Callander have a prosperous operatic company and although the group title is CAOS (Callander Amateur Operatic Society), they are very organised. You would be welcome to become a Patron and from the annual subscription you are guaranteed two free tickets for the production.

As the May edition of The Ben Ledi View is issued we are looking forward to the Kirk Junior Choir's presentation of 'Extravaganza' when 50 children will be called on to entertain us. Every success is wished to them for this production.

Anne, our thanks to you for allowing us to step behind the footlights and learn a little, not enough to usurp you, but grateful to have you within our sphere, and to widen our theatrical entertainment.



"ORDER!", "ORDER!": Whaur are ye noo, Betty Boothroyd?



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## Bibleworld

PUPILS in the first and second years have been given a new and exciting insight into the world of the Bible, in the National Bible Society's large exhibition van.

A state-of-the-art multi-media show, Timescope, has projected them back to the Creation and the main themes of the Bible story, with computer and practical activities.

## Examinations in School

A DETAILED timetable, adapted for local circumstances, has been issued to senior pupils. Between now and the exams a revision programme should be planned which ties school revision to individual practice, allowing for breaks and rest periods.

## Staffing changes

WE ARE pleased to announce the appointment of Miss K Paton to the post of Assistant Rector in McLaren High School with effect from 14th April. Miss Paton was Principal Teacher of English at Balfron High School and brings a wealth of good experience from her wide and varied

# McLAREN HIGH SCHOOL



## NEWS

previous career involving work within schools and in various national initiatives and committees. She will be a great asset to the management team of the school.

Our sincere thanks go to Mr J D Johnstone who has acted as Assistant Rector over the past session with exemplary professionalism. He has been a great support to colleagues and pupils of the school. Mr Johnstone will resume his post as Principal teacher of History.

We are grateful also to Miss Cleland and Mrs Falconer who have acted as P.T. History and Senior Teacher respectively during this session. The school is fortunate to have such committed and professional staff.

## Tennis coaching

ANY PUPILS interested in tennis coaching should contact Mrs Falconer.

It is hoped to begin a block of lessons, at a reduced cost, on Thursday evenings at the Trossachs Centre.

## Ski course 1998

ANY PUPIL in S1-S3 who is interested in finding out about next year's ski course to the Italian Alps should contact Mr P Martin.

## Dates for this term

### May

1st	SCE exams begin
5th	holiday
15th	S1 reports issued
19th	S1 Parents evening
21-23rd	Work experience (S4/S5/S6)
26th	Activities Week
26-29th	Work experience (S4/S5/S6)

### June

New Intake Meeting  
date to be announced

2nd	New timetable
4th	SCE exams end
5th	S3 reports issued
10th	Induction Day
11th	Induction Day
18th	Sports Day
23rd	Awards Ceremony

### August

19th Start of New Term

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# Two hundred and thirty years ago

concluding last month's article

"The farms in this parish are not yet divided." The opening sentence of the report on Callander made by Archibald Menzies, General Inspector for the Forfeited Estates Commission, is definite. Ten years of management by this eighteenth century body, composed mainly of lairds, well known for reorganising their own estates, had failed to change the medieval structure they had inherited in 1755. Far from being forceful in those matters, the factor, John Campbell, a gentleman from Argyll, appeared unwilling to alter the traditional way of life based on many tenants cultivating in common.

The tenants were beginning to enclose their cultivated area. They were improving the production of this land by the application of lime. They were grasping the essential measures required to move forward. However, individual initiative was stifled overall. The greater the number of tenants, the greater the difficulties.

The best land round the farm settlement was well manured, well cultivated, and rotated on two crops of oats and one of barley. This was the so-called infield. Poorer patchy land beyond, the outfield, was a bonus. Four crops of oats were taken, five years fallow were allowed for recovery. Some of those communal farm settlements were changing. Thanks to the initiative of John Buchanan of Auchlessie who had organised a more efficient exploiting of the lime on Leny, the outfield was bearing more than the infield, progress indeed.

The General Inspector saw some signs of progress. Mains of Callander

was probably the best part of the Barony. It had two tenants who were enterprising and almost separate.

They had the land south of the bridge out to the present McLaren High School and around Callandrade. John Buchanan was building a new house over there and raising dykes. Robert Menzies, nearer the bridge complained of loss of land because of

progressing, however slowly. Greenock to their south had a major problem. Overall infertile, they lived beside a major local resource which was a mixed blessing. The General Inspector was sympathetic to them and brought their problems before the Board.

"The moss from which this barony is supplied with peats is from this farm. It has been very injudiciously wrought, as nobody has care of it.

"If a proper person is not appointed for that purpose it will soon be exhausted. The tenants complain much of their grass and corn's being eaten up and destroyed by the peat horses. They cannot enclose (which would prevent that) until their grounds are divided one with another (being runrigged) and with Tory on the east. Tory even pretends a right to part of the moss."

Despite those external and internal constraints, the poor people of Greenock were trying. Division was decreed by the General Inspector. Separate steadings, dividing dykes, would produce for each his own lot of land to labour on as he pleased.

Other farms had other problems. All were telling the same story. The Factor's extensive and beneficent management was providing little progress.

It was time to call in an outside consultant. Private estates progressed by employing experienced land surveyors who were able to give an objective overview and produce plans. Following this report, one of the greatest was to practise at Callander.

---

## The General Inspector's Report

by  
**Archie Smith**

---

the selfmaking road running through his best arable. He expected a reduction in rent. The Bridgend feus lay in the future.

South was the Clash with a boundary dyke being built between it and the Mains. Like neighbouring Balvicklauchlane it was a place of great potential. Some parts of these loamy lands were so destitute of stones, that the Inspector felt hedges planted would be required in lieu of stone dykes.

If Mains, Clash, and Balvicklauchlane appeared to be

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# Stirling Council Communications Unit

## Youth Congress puts Stirling in poll position

STIRLING Council is launching Scotland's first directly elected Youth Congress.

Councillor Gillie Thomson, Chair of the Community Services Committee said "The Congress will provide a radical new platform for young people in our community. By listening to their views and ideas we can form a solid partnership between the Council and young people. We will then be able to move forward and improve council services which affect them most".

All candidates and their campaign teams will be trained to prepare their manifesto and their campaign plan in May.

Young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years can vote at the Youth Congress elections to be held on June 19th 1997 in schools, community centres and halls across the Stirling area, the largest youth elections of its kind in Scotland.

And Stirling Council wants to hear from anyone who lives or works in the Stirling area, is aged between 16 and 25 years and would like to stand as a candidate for election to the Youth Congress representing young people in their own area.

Scottish Television celebrities Mari Stevens and Ewan McLeod from 'The Great Escape' and previously 'Chart Bite' are lending their support to the Youth Congress. "We think the Youth Congress is a great idea," said Mari, in Stirling for the Congress launch. "Young people need a platform to air their views and knowing that what they say will be listened to by the Council is really important."

The Congress will work with Councillors and Council staff on issues which influence or affect the lives of young people under the age of 25, like safety on the streets, having somewhere to hang out with friends, housing, training for work, or the range of leisure facilities available.

The Congress will be able to make recommendations to the Council, make requests to interview Council staff and Councillors, comment on decisions and promote the needs of young people.

Elections will be held every two years with elected candidates standing on their own policies, not for political parties, but for the interest and benefit of young people.

There will be 22 elected seats in the Congress mirroring present council wards. The Congress will meet four to six times a year and will be supported by Youth Policy and other council staff to help discussion and to record proceedings.

If you would like further information on the Congress or would like to become a candidate please contact: Alastair Delaney, Stirling Council, Youth Services on (01786) 432062 for further information or pick up a nomination form at your local library, community centre or school.

## A Reminder

The Annual General Meeting of The Callander Community Newspaper Association (The Ben Ledi View) will be held in the Burgh Chambers, South Church Street on Monday 26th May at 7.30pm.

Any interested member of the Community is most welcome to attend.

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## McLaren Fp Rugby Football Club Mini Section - Borders Tour 1997



AT 3.00pm on 28th March 1997 an enthusiastic group of 24 players and coaches boarded Angus Buchanan's bus for their first rugby tour which was hosted by Melrose Rugby Football Club, present Scottish Champions. After breakfast and a short training session on the 29th the group moved from Melrose Youth Hostel to Greenyards, home of Melrose R.F.C., where a game of football had been arranged with a local team followed later by a rugby match against the Melrose Minis. In both matches McLaren Minis performed well.

Following lunch in the Melrose Clubhouse, surrounded by photographs and memorabilia of famous rugby players, past and present, the group moved to Detherdale, home of Gala Rugby Football Club to watch the Gala Senior Sevens. Late afternoon and evening were taken up with visits to Gala Swimming Baths and the Cinema to watch 'Star Wars'.

On 30th March after a visit to

the local Swimming Baths the group travelled to Penicuik where excellent games were played against Penicuik R.F.C. Minis. It was a tired but happy group who arrived back at McLaren High School at 4pm.

The 'Player of the Tour', was chosen by the coaches. The name will be announced and a special presentation made at the McLaren Minis Annual Dinner to be held in the Bridgend Hotel on 16th May 1997.

*David Shearer,  
Mini Section Secretary*

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## **The Royal British Legion Scotland Callander & District Branch**

The above Branch would like to thank all those who gave so generously of their time and effort to our Coffee Morning on Saturday 29 March.

We raised the sum of £598, which will be used for the betterment of ex-service men and women.

Our grateful thanks to all who supported us in this event.

*Joan Allison,  
Chair*

## **Callander & District Horticultural Society**

The popular Plant Sale and Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 31 May from 10.00am till noon, in Callander Kirk Hall.

Any pot plants or bedding plants donated to the sale will be most welcome.

Schedules for the Annual Show on 30 August are available from MacRae's, East End Post Office and the Library.

Entry forms for the Best Kept Garden, to be judged in July, are also available from the Library. (Early reminders!)

*Helen Murray*

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# Callander & District Christian Aid Committee Week

THIS year our Christian Aid Week is being held from 10th May to 17th May, during which the following activities will take place:

## Saturday, 10th May

Coffee Morning from 10am-12noon in Callander Kirk Hall with Bric-a-Brac and Cake & Candy Stall. Tickets 50p, including tea/coffee etc.

## Sunday, 11th May

Our joint evening service at 6.30pm is in St. Joseph's Church when we will be joined by the New Kilpatrick Choir. Please come and celebrate the start of Christian Aid Week.

## Wednesday, 14th May

Traditionally this is concert night and tonight the concert takes the form of a Variety Show presented by Callander Kirk Junior Choir in McLaren High School Hall at 7.00pm. The profit from tonight's show will be donated to Christian Aid.

## Friday, 16th May

This was the night we normally held our Sponsored Walk, but unfortunately we are unable to have one this year. Our good and worthy friend Ken Dunn feels he would like a break after at least 30 years of organising this huge task with his helpers -and it was no mean task! Maybe someone would like to take it on next year? - we really hope so.

## Saturday, 17th May

Junior Disco in Callander Kirk Hall.

6.00 - 7.00pm for Primary 1 - 3,  
cost £1.

7.00 - 9.00pm for Primary 4 - 7,  
cost £1.50.

We look forward to seeing you all. Do come and support us as we try to help our neighbours overseas.

*Jean M Harrison*

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## The Craigard Club

ONCE AGAIN the members of the Craigard Club are indebted to Mr & Mrs Keppie of Poppies' Restaurant for inviting us to lunch during our Easter break.

They provided us with a lovely meal. The menu was chosen to suit us, the food was attractively presented and the service was so pleasant that all agreed they had thoroughly enjoyed our outing. Thank you very much Mr & Mrs Keppie for inviting us. We did appreciate it very much.

## The Thursday Club

THOSE members who are going to Oban on Thursday 22 May are reminded that the bus leaves Ancaster Square at 1.00 pm.

There will be one pick up point at Marshall Crescent at 12.55 pm.

The Committee and Members wish to thank all those who helped the Club in any way during the past session.

We specially wish to thank all those who provided the sandwiches and cakes which made our afternoon teas a feature of our meetings.

We are grateful for your generosity and, although not many of us see you, we think about you.

Thank you all.

*Alena Watt  
Club Treasurer*

## The Craigard Club Silver Jubilee

IN JUNE this year the Craigard Club will celebrate 25 years of meeting for lunch.

It is our intention to recognise this Jubilee with a special lunch to which we would invite all those, who, at any time during these 25 years, have had anything to do with the Club.

If you were a member, a helper or in any way had anything to do with the Club, and would like to attend the anniversary lunch on Friday 6 June, at 12 Noon, please let me know by Friday 23 May. I regret not being able to write to each of you personally. Please accept this notice as your invitation.

*Alena Watt  
Club Secretary (Tel: 330236)*

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# Callander Bridge Club

# Bridge

CALLANDER Bridge Club ended its official playing season on the first Tuesday in April at Gart House with a prizegiving, followed by an excellent evening of bridge. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Frerichs.

The prize winners were as follows: *Howell Shield* – 1st: Mrs E Tait & N Frerichs; 2nd: J Lochans & D Isaacs.

*Bridgend Bells* – Winner: D Isaacs; Runners-up Mrs E Johnson & Mrs C Frerichs.

*Founder's Salver* – Mrs I Cummins & Mrs I McManus.

*President's Cup* – Mrs E Johnson & Mrs C Frerichs.

*St Valentine's Handicap* – Mrs E Tait & N Frerichs.

The local heats for both the Autumn and Easter Pairs was won by J Lochans & D Isaacs.

The summer bridge meetings of Callander Bridge Club until mid-September are informal with duplicate non-competitive bridge being played. The venue is St. Andrews Church Hall every Tuesday at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome, and the nightly charge is 70p. For further information please contact either Inga Cummins (330146) or David Isaacs (330872).

David Isaacs (Secretary)

There are moves being made to encourage young people to show an interest in this wonderful game of Bridge.

Most folk have the preconceived idea you have to be elderly, bald or with a blue rinse to play it.

They are wrong.

Many High School pupils and University students are taking it up and developing so well they are representing their seats of learning and their country too.

Granted it is a game of the mind, requiring logic and reason but it's competitive fun at a very reasonable cost.

Like all knowledge, it has to be used to be retained, so if you have ever learned anything about the game, why not join in locally and play it?

Sure the adrenalin will pump, that's a sure sign you have the right juices to enjoy the game.

Many mistakes made at the bridge table are needless and, in retrospect, the correct sequence of play is often the simplest.

Mind you we are all guilty at times.

NORTH  
S 10 8  
H A J 10 6 2  
D 7 4 2

WEST  
S J 9 4 3 2  
H K 7  
D 10 5 3  
C K Q 6

EAST  
S Q 6 5  
H 9 8 5 3  
D Q J 9 8  
C 10 3

SOUTH  
S A K 7  
H Q 4  
D A K 6  
C A J 9 7 2

Now we all know that as soon as Dummy goes down, you take time to merge the hand with your own, count your sure tricks, see where a possible extra trick may come from, check to see if a finesse is necessary and which way to take it for it to work.

Of course the best laid plans of mice and men ...

South dealt and bid 1C, North 1H, and South, holding an attractive 19 point hand made a game bid of 3NT. It looks like 9 off the top, 2Ss, 4 Hs, 2 Ds and ACs plus an extra club?

West led the three of spades to East's Queen and declarer won with the King.

The hand seemed reasonably straightforward and South led the Queen of hearts, covered by West's King and dummy's Ace.

The Jack and ten of hearts were now played only to find that the suit split 4-2 and East's nine was now a master.

Clubs were attacked to no avail. East/West were able to set up tricks in spades and so defeat the contract.

As so often is the case in bridge, the winning play is simple, ie allow West's King of hearts to win at trick 2, thereby conceding a trick but setting up four heart tricks which can be reached later through the carefully preserved four of hearts in declarer's hand.

The percentage play of a 4-2 split in hearts is more likely than 3-3. Declarer's play here had nothing to gain by taking an unnecessary risk.

I went one off!

Elizabeth Johnson

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# Callander Rambling Club



HOW lucky can we get? The Ramblers had a superb day on Wednesday 19th March to explore Cambusmore River Walks.

We were clad in winter weight clothing so the music for 'The Stripper' would not have been out of place, as there was evidence to match the title, as we progressed, discarding a layer or two.

Our path lead us from The Square to Ancaster Road and by the side of the 17th-18th fairway of the Golf Course where we paused to view the 'Soldiers Settlements'. There is still evidence of the lazy beds although it is 250 years or so since the land was in arable use. Our second stop was to survey the vista of Ben Ledi presented to us as we joined the tarmac surfaced cycle/walkway at Balgibbon.

We were on our way to Cambusmore and entered the woodland by the road running alongside what was a woodyard. There have been some archaeology finds within this estate, some pre-Roman, which reflect the forts at

Torrie and Tarnduin, and some discovered which are unique but they have been left at rest. There is also a ridge in the wood which could be related to the 'esker' behind Camp Place.

As we meandered along a forest road we came upon a disused quarry area which has been landscaped. Fishers were actively enjoying the sport and a flock of Oyster Catchers preened themselves on a gravel slope with Clash Farm and Ben Ledi creating a picture pleasing to the eye. There were anglers on the River Teith at Torrie Cottage and also on the north bank where we were and although we saw fish jump there were no catches by the sportsmen.

The lunch stop was at the junction of the Keltie Water and the Teith, where we revelled in the sunshine and the display of snowdrop and crocus with evidence of a future display of bluebell and iris. Auldknowe Fort was across the river on Mid Torrie land. This is an iron age remnant, hopefully well preserved under its deep cover of soil

and grass. Our walk of discovery was not yet over, we were on the lookout for St.Mary's Well, we found it! Not a shattering experience but undoubtedly it will be spruced up later as it is reputed to be a holy place.

Cambusmore is quite famous, having been mentioned by Sir Walter Scott and one of the party gave us a rendering from the start of "The Lady of the Lake". The estate is welcoming people to the Teith and Keltie Walks and waymarkers and picnic tables are in place. If you take a walk, keep to the paths and take your litter home.

The week-end section followed the same trail on Saturday 22nd. Twelve attended, with everyone enjoying the outing and managed to complete the walk before heavy rain descended.

*Olive Walker*

## Rambling Club Diary

**Wednesday 14th  
and Saturday 24th May**

Loch Turret to Comrie  
(contact 01786 824559)

**Wednesday 4th June**

Loch Ordie, Kindallachan  
(contact 01796 482277)

**Saturday 7th June**

Ballimore to Brig O'Turk  
(contact 01877 376273)

Rambles start from Ancaster Square, Callander at 10.00am.

Although the better days are here, remember to come prepared with stout footwear, wet weather clothing and a picnic snack. Take some extra food with you to Comrie and Kindallachan as we do not expect to return to Callander before 5.00pm.

When out and about take care, close gates behind you, have dogs on a lead and do not start any fires.

Happy rambling!

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# Arthritis Care

COULD I please begin with an apology for my error in last month's article. For the summer outing to Fort William, please read 10.00am, Ancaster Square, Monday 9th June 1997.

On 15th April, the monthly meeting took place in the Kirk Hall, and was extremely well supported with 38 members and guests making it one of the largest audiences we have ever had. It commenced in the usual way with a welcome extended by the Chairman, who then went on to confirm details of the Forth Road Bridge walk from 10.00am on Sunday 27th April. At the end of the meeting Mrs R Bell took note of those wishing to go on the outing to Fort William. £3.00 for subscribing members, £5.00 for non-members. Any enquiries to 330230.

Mrs Hilary Gunkel, Guest Speaker, opened her talk on The Gardens of Madeira, aided by a large map of the island, a place of 300 or so square miles with a population of roughly three hundred thousand, just off the coast of West Africa. She went on to discuss the various ideas of how this island came into being. One highly popular theory is that it is the highest point of a once huge Mid-Atlantic continent submerged by the ocean, millenniums ago. They say this is supported by the discovery of similar fossils on the islands in the

Caribbean, the Canaries and Iceland. Madeira has such a very fertile soil and equable climate that flowers of every variety bloom all year round so producing such anomalies as daffodils and roses blooming side by side. The island sometimes bears the nickname, The Floating Garden. Mrs.Gunkel went on to show a series of slides of the Island and its wonderful flower gardens, illustrating her points by a running commentary.

The talk was very well received by an appreciative audience and a vote of thanks to the speaker was given by Mrs. V. McCracken. There followed the usual light refreshments and a larger raffle than normal.

The next monthly meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th May in the Kirk Hall, and will be followed by a talk on Osteoporosis by Dr. Brzeski, S.R.I. Consultant Rheumatologist and our President.

We are holding a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale in the Kirk Hall from 10.00 to 13.00 hours on Saturday 17th May. There will be a small charge for admission but light refreshments are included.

Tickets for the Bridal Gown show are now available from Committee Members. Date: Friday 27th June, Cost £3.00 for adults and £1.50 for children.

*Denis Hancock.*

# Callander & Trossachs Curling Club

IN APRIL 1996, the members of Callander Curling Club and Trossachs Curling Club decided to amalgamate. The first AGM of the new Callander & Trossachs Curling Club was held recently at Forest Hills Hotel, with a very encouraging turnout of members. It was felt that the merger of the two Clubs had worked very successfully, producing a much strengthened group. Sandra Black announced her retiral from the post of Secretary, having served in that capacity for more years than most of those present could remember!

The following were elected for 1997-98: President - Donald Davidson; Secretary - Liz Youngson; Treasurer - Rey Malcolm; Match Secretary - Fergus Gray; Committee - Archie Galloway, Alan Reid, Neil Campbell, Sandy MacKenzie and Margaret Black.

The season finished with a very enjoyable dance held in the Bracklinn Falls Restaurant. Thanks must go to the staff there for an excellent buffet supper and to Tom Duncan for providing the music and keeping the whole evening going with a swing. The trophies for the year were presented by Mrs Susan Gray, wife of the match secretary. There was a new competition at the start of the season - a bonspiel for the Union Quaich - which was won by Neil Campbell, Margaret Black, David Lindsay and Fiona McDougall. Winners of the other trophies were: McEwan Kettle - Neil Campbell, Alan Frame, Ian Campbell and Martin Steedman; Menzies Trophy - Neil Campbell, Margaret Black, David Lindsay and John Forrest; Challenge Trophy - Rey Malcolm, Marjory Brown, Alan Frame and Maurice Patterson; Pairs - Rey Malcolm and Fiona McDougall; Points - Fergus Gray.

The Club is always interested in welcoming new members - no previous experience is necessary. If you would like to find out more about the Club, please contact Liz Youngson on 01786 478405 or Neil Campbell on 01877 330019.



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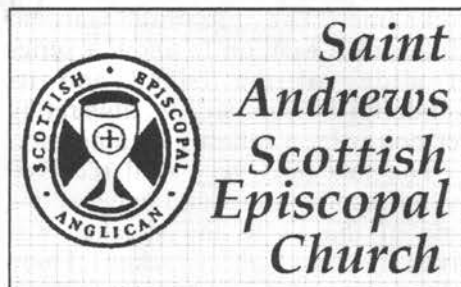
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# Callander Council of Churches

The Callander Council of Churches welcomes you to the services of its member Churches as we seek 'in the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth' (Eph 1:10)



## Sunday 4th May

- 11.00am Morning Service, including Sacrament of Baptism
- 3.00pm Trossachs Monthly Service
- 7.30pm Evening Praise when we will be joined by Stafford & Sharon Simmonds, our missionary prayer partners in Egypt

## Sunday 11th May

- 11.00am Morning Service
- 6.30pm Christian Aid Service in St. Joseph's; no Evening Praise

## Sunday 18th May

- 11.00am Morning Service followed by Informal Communion
- 7.30pm Evening Praise

## Sunday 25th May

- 11.00am Morning Service followed by Traidcraft Lunch; at this service we welcome a group of pupils from a school in the Netherlands on holiday in Scotland
- 7.30pm Evening Praise

## Sunday 1st June

- 11.00am Morning Service
- 3.00pm Trossachs Monthly Service
- 7.30pm Evening Praise

Rev Iain Goring, Minister  
(tel 330097)

The Scottish Episcopal Church is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion and in full communion with the Church of England.

Details of forthcoming services may be found on the Church Noticeboard.

There is also a weekday service of Holy Communion every Wednesday at 10.00am, at which all are very welcome.

*The Rev Adrian Bunnell, Rector,  
The Rectory, Aberfoyle  
(tel 01877 382887)*

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Monday	10.00am
Tuesday	6.30pm
Wednesday	10.00am
	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
Thursday	10.00am
Friday	10.00am
	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
Saturday	10.00am

*Father Jim McCruden, Priest  
(tel 330702)*

## A Reminder

The Annual General Meeting of The Callander Community Newspaper Association (The Ben Ledi View) will be held in the Burgh Chambers, South Church Street on Monday 26th May at 7.30pm.

Any interested member of the Community is most welcome to attend.

## Ben Ledi View

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The Ben Ledi View is a free community newspaper produced and distributed every month by volunteers for households and businesses in the Callander area. The aim of those involved is to produce an informative, accurate and entertaining journal for those who live, work and visit in this area. The fact of publication of letters or articles does not necessarily reflect the beliefs or opinions of the Editorial Committee, who also reserve the right to shorten, modify or not publish any particular letter or article. Contributions will only be published if accompanied by contact name & address; these will be withheld at the author's request. Should you wish to make a donation or have any suggestions on how to improve the View, please feel free to get in touch.

The Ben Ledi View is published by The Callander Community Newspaper Association and printed by Harley & Cox Ltd, Shaftesbury Road, Dundee on Environmentally Friendly Paper.

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COLLECTION

## ACTION RECYCLE

Collection dates are

9th/23rd May & 6th June

All dates are Fridays