

BEN LEDI VIEW

May 2007

CALLANDER COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Issue 204

Planning the future



Representatives of Callander Primary School, McLaren High School, the Youth Project, Crusaders, and the Ben Ledi View, together with our Area Constable, discussing the topic 'Young and Active in Callander' at the Community Action Plan Workshop on 28th April in Callander Kirk Hall.



Ken Dunn was among those who visited the National Park Planning Workshop on 3rd April. Report on page 6-7 of this issue.

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BEN LEDI VIEW

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Community Council

*Report of the meeting held on Monday
16th April 2007.*

Welcome

Callander Community Council welcomed Mrs Pat Millen as a newly co-opted member of the Council.

Condolences

Callander Community Council expressed their condolences to Mrs Caroline Gray and family on the death of her husband, Alan, formerly a Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Police Report

Callander Community Council welcomed Inspector Brian Sharkey to the meeting, and to Callander, on his recent appointment to this area.

Callander Community Council then noted the following complaints from residents:

- youngsters lighting fires and noise disturbance at the river bank behind the BP Hall, Buchanan Place
- vandalism to the shelter at the cemetery (Lagrannoch) plus mess created by drinks cans and graffiti.
- noise nuisance in Ancaster Square caused by some youngsters kicking footballs against the doors of the Rob Roy & Trossachs Visitor Centre.

The Community Council discussed the use of fixed penalty notices to counteract litter problems etc.

Some Callander Community Council members recently enjoyed a very interesting and informative visit to the Police Command Control Unit at Randolphfield Headquarters which was arranged by PC Stewart Kerr.

Toilets

Callander Community Council extremely dissatisfied with the present situation over the lack of Stirling Council staffing which cannot provide any cover for sickness absence of the usual toilet attendant. This situa-

tion meant that the toilets were closed on Saturday 14th April. Over the Easter weekend the toilets were closed at 4.00pm instead of at 9.00pm as there was no back shift cover for the late opening period.

This is a ridiculous situation and a very bad advert for a tourist town.

Street Cleaner

Stirling Council has still not provided a permanent replacement street cleaner for Callander since the retirement of Tex, sadly missed.

Finglas Gardens

Callander Community Council noted the residents' thanks to M. Luti for taking in hand the repair of the dyke there.

Stirling Councillors

Callander Community Council thanked both Councillor A Beaton and Councillor T Finch for their support and attendance at meetings, Community Council and others, while in office and wished Councillor A Beaton well on his retirement. Councillor T Finch is standing again in the forthcoming Election.

Planning Recommendations

LI/2006/0452/DET/S – Erection of 48 houses and 22 flats, together with formation of new access and inner circulation road, at ex-Tannochbrae Chalet Park, Lagrannoch – Refused.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Callander Community Council is on Monday 21st May at the earlier time of 7.00pm in the Burgh Chambers, South Church Street. This is to allow time for a short Annual General Meeting afterwards.



The Rotary Club of Callander and West Perthshire
Ben Ledi Sponsored Ascent, Saturday 9th June 2007
Supported by Caledonian Country Wear

The key feature of this sponsored walk is that all participants can choose any good cause that they wish to support. For example it could be:-

- * a local charity such as CHAS, Strathcarron, Braendam Family House,
- * any national charity,
- * local good cause such as the Baden Powell Hall restoration,
- * young person who is taking part in a specific approved project,
- * a school PTA for school funds or a charity a school supports,
- * a youth group, sports club, old folks club or church activity.

If you would like to support a cause of your choice then the Ben Ledi walk, organised by Rotary, is an ideal vehicle to enable you and your family/ friends/colleagues to find sponsors and raise funds, 80% of which goes via Rotary to your cause and 20% to charities chosen by Rotary. This year Rotary is supporting Strathcarron Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Support and Killin Mountain Rescue. Continued support from Callander based Caledonian Country Wear and Morrison Construction will enable all our costs to be covered and make no entry fee necessary. All money raised goes to charity. In 2006 150 entrants raised £10,000 for 30 good causes.

Ben Ledi, at 879 metres not far short of a Munro, is a challenging but not too demanding climb. In our previous events, there have been participants from every decade, from under 10 to over 70, all of whom completed the course. Regular hill walkers find it an easy climb. Some, who take little strenuous exercise, find it quite tough.

Volunteers from the Killin Mountain Rescue team are at check-points and in radio contact with each other and the Start/Finish base. Walkers have to be properly shod and clad, keep to the marked route, reporting at all check-points and at the finish. Those under 16 may only walk as members of family or other adult led groups.

There is an Entry Form in this Ben Ledi View or you can pick them up at CCW, 79 Main St. Callander or go to our website at

- <http://www.rotary-rjbi.org/clubs-homepage.asp?ClubID=19> and print them. On receipt of your Entry Form we shall send you or your group leader a sponsorship form, a map and written details of the route including Start Times (8.30 am) and parking arrangements.

We look forward to seeing you on Ben Ledi on Saturday 9th June.

Any queries please email bill@juliacot.demon.co.uk



The Rotary Club of Callander and West Perthshire
Ben Ledi Sponsored Ascent, Saturday, 9th June 2007
 (Supported by Caledonian Country Wear)

Entry Form

Name and age (+names and ages of any family/group members):	
Address:	
Telephone no: email address:	
Name and full postal address of your chosen charity or good cause (local committee if there is one). This information is important to ensure that money raised reaches the right destination.	

Under 16s may walk only as members of adult led groups

80% of what you raise will go to the charity/good cause of your choice, the remainder to charities chosen by the Rotary Club which this year are Strathcarron Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Support and Killin Mountain Rescue.

Please send this signed and completed Entry Form as soon as possible to:
 Sheila Dickson 43, Venmacher Avenue, Callander FK17 8JQ

If you have a query or need more Entry or Sponsorship Forms, email bill@juliacot.demon.co.uk and they will be sent to you as attachments; or pick them up at CCW, 79 Main Street Callander or visit <http://www.rotary-club.org/clubs/homepage.asp?ClubID=19> and print them. On receipt of your completed Entry Form we will send you a Sponsorship Form, Registration Number, map, route description and details of all arrangements for June 9th.

DECLARATION

I certify that I am medically fit to enter this event at my own risk and that the event organisers will not be held responsible for any injury or illness, nor loss or damage of property incurred as a result of my participation in this event. I take full responsibility for any member of my group under 16 years of age and will ensure that both the marked route and guidance from marshals are followed		
Name	Signature	Date

Callander is our 'local'

THREE NEW businesses have opened in the past month which is good news for Callander. They contribute to the variety of our shops, a variety which was commented upon in the responses to the recent Community Views Survey, people appreciating the individuality of our specialist shops whilst making suggestions about gaps in provision which have still to be filled.

Congratulations to the business group, Callander Enterprise, who have produced their first leaflet *What's On in Callander*, a quick guide for visitors to places to shop, stay, visit and enjoy entertainment. They are working hard at promoting Callander, at the same time as putting in long hours running their own businesses.

This issue of the *Ben Ledi View* carries summaries of the recent Callander Local Plan Open Day and of the even more recent Community Action Plan workshop. Thanks to personnel from the National Park for running the former, and to volunteers from Callander Community Development Trust who joined them to ensure that the workshop discus-

sions clearly focused on burning issues for Callander. There will be fuller reports in forthcoming *BLVs*. Last month we promised a report of the Green Team's public meeting about climate change (based on a showing of the film *An Inconvenient Truth*). Thanks to Margaret and David Warnock for producing a most comprehensive report, and the promise of a follow-on information meeting in September, so that we have no excuse for not understanding that our environment is our responsibility, right here in Callander.

Be very aware that Callander is for us, the residents, as well as for our welcome visitors. Support local shops, local events and local organisations, all of which make their unique contribution to our Callander way of life. If you think there is nothing to do in this town, just look around at what needs doing, check the pages of the *Ben Ledi View*, and join in, start doing and make YOUR contribution.

Anne D.

AGMs

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of Callander 2000 and Beyond Community Development Trust will be held on Wednesday 30th May in the Rob Roy Centre theatre at 7.00pm.

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of Callander Community Newspaper Association will be held on Tuesday 22nd May in the Burgh Chambers at 7.00pm.

Police report

New fixed penalty fines

From the start of April, Central Scotland Police have the means to issue fixed penalty notices for certain Antisocial Behaviour offences under certain conditions. These fixed penalties carry a £40 fine and can be issued on the street at the time of the offence or later if an arrest is made.

They deal with such offences as riotous behaviour whilst drunk in licensed premises; refusing to leave licensed premises; urinating or defecating in circumstances causing annoyance to others; vandalism; Breach of the Peace, and several other statutory and common law offences.

A number of these have been issued in Callander already, resulting in an expensive night out for those involved.

Street litter

Last month I brought to your attention the litter problem in Callander around lunchtime. Since the schools have gone back after the Easter break I have noticed some improvement but we are still not quite there yet! The bins have been used, but there are still some areas where certain people will not make the effort to use them. Let's keep improving on this as we're coming into the main tourist season and we do not want the town's image brought down by the few who can't be bothered.

Car damage

Between the end of March and mid-April a number of cars were damaged in the area around North Church Street, Craigard Road and Bracklinn Road. These incidents occurred during the evenings or overnight and it is likely that someone saw who is responsible or knows who is responsible. Anyone with information should contact Callander Police or email information using the link on the web page: www.centuralscotland.police.uk

Stewart Kerr
Area Constable

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Local Plan open day results



The large-scale map of Callander with flags, and the posters in the background.

THIS IS a summary of the main outcomes of the Callander Local Plan Open Day held in the Kirk Hall on 3rd April, which was intended to give members of the community opportunity for input into the initial stages of the preparation of the National Park Local Plan, which will contain detailed policies and site specific proposals for the development and use of land.

The day was split into two drop-in sessions during the afternoon and evening. Around 55 people attended and took part by responding to questions on posters around the room and placing flags in a large scale map to show where certain types of development should or should not take place. 36 people entered comments on the posters around the room, which covered a range of topics designed to gauge the community's response to planning issues in the area. 88% of respondents lived in the town.

A more detailed feedback report will be produced at a later stage and this will provide further analysis of the day, particularly the results from the flags on the map.

Overview of main planning issues

- It was acknowledged that there is a

need for further housing and business development in Callander, but a wide range of views were expressed regarding appropriate sites for this development.

- Several sites had conflicting views expressed on them (ie development/no development here)
- Many people identified a need for affordable housing in Callander.
- There had been difficulty in finding a site for an extension to the cemetery.
- There was much support for protecting valued open spaces and improving the built environment.

Development and your community

- There was support for more development in Callander to meet community needs, and respondents felt that this should be located within Callander rather than in the countryside.
- It was felt that all new development should be in keeping with the character of Callander.

Further analysis of the flags in maps is still to be carried out and those results will be included in a more detailed feedback report.

Housing

- Around two thirds of all people said there should be more housing in Callander. Most people felt that this should be located in the town (rather than on the town edges or in the countryside).
- Young people and families were the two main types of households that people felt there should be more housing for. Nobody felt that there should be more second homes.
- Affordable housing to buy was considered to be the main type of housing required.
- The majority of people said that small (1-2 bedrooms) sized houses were required. Only a small number of people thought that either medium or large sized houses were required.

Local economy and tourism

- Most people said there is a need for more business space in Callander.
- There was overwhelming support for small-scale business development.
- Workshops for crafts and local produce were most popular, followed by start-up business space and a training/skills facility
- Most people would like more tourism in Callander, and for visitors to stay longer.
- A need for more visitor facilities was identified and a variety of suggestions put forward including a heritage centre.

Transport: roads, pavements, infrastructure and traffic

- Just about everyone had an issue with the network – the state of the roads and pavements, high speed traffic, and regular flooding on roads were mentioned by many.
- Eleven people completed the transport survey, with all respondents identifying that there are problems with transport services in the community. Suggested improvements included the need for more infor-

mation including timetables, and better services and connections to surrounding villages as well as Stirling and Glasgow.

Community facilities

- Everyone who responded felt there was a need for improved or new services and facilities.

Open space and recreation

- There was wide support for key recreational spaces which were identified as:
Callander Meadows;
Woodland walkways; and
The Primary School field.
- Walking and cycling were the most popular activities mentioned.
- Several people commented that it was important to ensure that access to these open spaces – including the meadows, woods, crags and riverside – was protected for the future benefit of the community.

Built environment

- There was large support for new buildings to be energy efficient and designed to be in keeping with the existing built environment.
- People identified a number of heritage features they valued including the Rob Roy Centre, Callander Meadows and Little Leny Burial Ground.
- Key projects suggested to help conserve and enhance the cultural heritage of the area included:
- Specific promotional and/or educational events; and
- Informative heritage trail which

promotes wildlife and environmental features.

Natural heritage and biodiversity and landscape

- Red squirrels, salmon, native woodland and meadows are species and habitats that were identified as requiring protection from new development.
- Callander Moraine, Crags and the River Teith are priority areas that people thought should be protected from development.
- 18 people agreed that new developments should also provide space for wild animals, plants and habitats. Only one person disagreed.
- It was suggested that new developments should provide for a number of species and habitats, including red squirrels, birds and riverbank habitats.
- It was suggested that a flower reserve at Little Leny and native plantings at Samson's Stone would help conserve and enhance natural heritage and biodiversity in the local community.
- A number of trees were considered to make particularly important contributions to the local area including the lime trees at Lade Inn and the scots pines below the crags summit.

Renewable energy

- There was a lot of support for small scale renewable energy in the Callander community area. A small scale hydro scheme received the most support followed equally by solar panels, woodfuel energy scheme and biofuel production.
- No one disagreed with the idea of using renewable energy technologies.
- Many people agreed that better energy conservation was required in the community.
- There was a variety of ways in which people thought better energy conservation measures could be achieved in the community. The

two most supported suggestions were waiving planning fees for suitable projects or other financial incentives.

Landscape

- There were a number of views around the area that people identified as being their favourite, including views from the woodland walk, views of the hills from the top of the Crags, and various views looking towards Ben Ledi.
- All landscape features in the area were valued, particularly the unique geology of the area.
- People felt that the river, hills, lochs, crags and woodlands all contributed to the character of the local area.

What happens next ...

Information gained from all the Local Plan Open Days will be collated into a 'Main Issues Report'. Other strands of work will also feed into this report, including background research reports on a range of topics and information gathered from the Community Futures Profiles, Stakeholder Group Interviews and Household Interviews. The 'Main Issues Report' will be published for consultation in late 2007/early 2008. This will in turn be used to inform the drafting of the proposed National Park Local Plan which will be available for consultation in mid-2008.

Margaret Parker
Planning Policy Officer
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs
National Park Authority

TAXIS!!
JIM MORGAN
Phone
01877 330496



Taste of Italy



Ciro Cirillo behind the bar in *Ciro's*

A NEW Italian restaurant has opened at 114 Main Street. Its proprietors are *Ciro* and *Nikki Cirillo*, and the restaurant is called, not surprisingly, *Ciro's*. Our reporter with a fondness for Italian food went along to talk to *Ciro*. **What made you decide to come to Callander?**

We were looking for a place to bring up our family, and somewhere differ-

ent to Edinburgh, where we had been living. Also it had to be a big enough place to support an Italian restaurant. There are lots of Italian restaurants in Edinburgh, but we discovered that there was none in Callander. Two places became available here, and so we decided to go for it, choose one, and buy into a new lifestyle. It's a big change, but I'm sure it will work out

for us. We opened in March and we've been so busy that we haven't had time to socialise, but soon I hope we'll have time to meet new people.

Are you doing lunches and dinners?

Yes - we're open for lunch Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and for dinner from 5.00pm to 10.00pm every night except Wednesday. We can seat 44 - 45 people.

Does the menu reflect any particular region of Italy?

I'm from near Sorrento/Pompeii so I tend to cook the things I like to eat: fish, shellfish - mussels, sea bream. Pasta, obviously. The menu reflects Scottish tastes, because we want to please our customers, so we have pasta, chicken and so on, but with good ingredients and a simple way of cooking we hope everyone will enjoy - and Italian flair, of course!

Telephone to book and to check opening times: they may change as things settle down.

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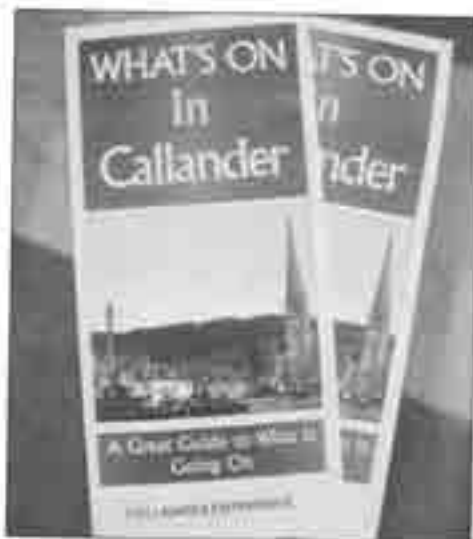
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An enterprising *What's on*



CALLANDER ENTERPRISE has produced our first *What's On* for April, May & June. 10,000 copies have been distributed to the Rob Roy Centre, hotels, shops, pubs, restaurants, guest houses, B&Bs, etc. The *What's On* includes a map of Callander and surrounding area, list of events and venues, ten top things to do, Callander Enterprise business listing, and paid adverts for the businesses, which financed the production cost.

Our next *What's On*, for July, August & September, is already in the plan-

ning phase. We have had excellent feedback and, combined with our experience producing the first publication, we will make a number of improvements to the next version. To have your events included your business must be a member of Callander Enterprise. There are a limited number of slots for businesses to advertise, so, obviously, priority is given to existing advertisers and then on a first-come basis to new advertisers. It is not too late to get involved, join Callander Enterprise and book your events and advert in our next *What's On* - call Frank Park on 01877 330152.

Pilot project seeks mentors

The Trossachs Enterprise Rural Mentoring Scheme (TERMS), sponsored by Stirling Council, the National Park Authority, Scottish Enterprise and Leader+ is a pilot project being trialled through Callander Enterprise in the Trossachs area to deliver support to rural businesses via a network of local mentors. The project has gained momentum and a website

including communication hub has been commissioned. The website will have two main sections: firstly for Callander Enterprise to promote our member businesses and secondly for the TERMS project to develop the Rural Mentoring Project. The website will act as a Communication Hub for mentors and mentees, allowing them to securely exchange and share information and documents.

A recruitment drive is underway to find mentors; already there have been a number of volunteers and Mentor Recruitment Events have been held at Aberfoyle, Callander and Doune. By using people living and working in the Trossachs for mentoring support, we aim not only to provide the expert knowledge in their field but also the important understanding of exactly what it is like to operate a business in a rural area. Another part of the project's objectives is to inspire our young people to think about staying and working in this area by introducing them to businesses and places of work they might not have thought about previously.

The next phase of the project is to train mentors and to pair them with the business they are best suited to assist. If your business could benefit from free assistance in marketing, accounting, IT, staff issues, insurance claims, plus many other topics, then call Alison Wilde to discuss.

Come to TERMS with your business issues.

The TERMS project manager Alison Wilde is based in the new National Park Office in Callander and can be contacted on her mobile 07912 853396.

The next Callander Enterprise meeting is at the Dreadnought Hotel on Monday 14th May at 7.30pm. Be there, join us and help to drive Callander business forward.

Frank Park
The Lade Inn



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Callander Farmers' Market

THE FARMERS' Market project was set up in response to a number of priorities outlined by the local community in their Community Action Plan of 2003 and since July 2006 there have been four successful farmers' markets. A further year's licence has been granted and there will be four markets over the next 12 months.

The market operations are run by Stirling Farmers' Market on behalf of Callander 2000 & Beyond Community Development Trust. The Trust is responsible for effective marketing, publicity and promotion of the event and also has a presence at the market to raise awareness of its activities in the area.

As well as giving local people the choice to buy local and Scotland-wide fresh produce different to the choice offered elsewhere, this type of market helps generate sustainable employment by providing a venue for growers and producers to sell their goods directly to the public.

The next Farmers' Market is being held on Sunday 24th June from 11.00am to 4.00pm at Station Road car park, so come along and enjoy the

fruits of summer and choose from a tempting range of succulent Highland beef, venison, game, pork and bacon. For those keen on seafood there will be plenty of fish, shellfish and smoked varieties. Added to the list are cheese, free range eggs, speciality bread, Mediterranean olives and deli items, chutneys, jams, preserves and artisan beverages. To complete the picture there will be colourful plants and a selection of unique hand-crafted objects on sale.

Local food growers and producers who would like to find out more about the market, are invited to telephone 01877 330151 or email kilmahog@aol.com

Callander Farmers' Market was set up as a community initiative primarily for the residents of the area. To help sustain and maintain its success please support this local event and make it a thriving success for shopper and trader. Better still, please offer to help the Trust implement its increasing responsibilities for the community by becoming a member, or consider serving on the board of directors.

A spin-off



LOMOND ORGANICS, whose colourful vegetable stall has featured at all the Callander Farmers' Markets so far, have opened a permanent base in 35 Main Street. The *BLV* spoke to owner Jane Ireland to find out why.

'Actually most of our business is up around this way so we thought it would be better to be here, and also we do a box scheme here as well – about 120 boxes – so we have a customer base in this area and we wanted to develop that.

'Just now we're offering fruit and vegetables as they come into season, and we're also doing organic dairy items as well – milk, yoghurt, cream and so on. We're going to have organic meat, and hopefully fish as well. And we're applying for a drinks licence so we'll be able to sell organic wine.

'We're open from 9.00 to 5.30 Monday to Saturday and 11.00 to 4.00 on Sunday. We opened for the first time on Friday 6th April – Good Friday – and business was so good that we closed on the Monday, Easter Monday, because we'd sold out! And we've had a very good reception from the local people.'

For more information call 07916 193 992.

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National Park news from Mike Luti, NPA Board Member

IT WAS heartening that so many of you attended the Local Plan Open Day held at the Kirk Hall recently. Some of the main issues coming from the day included a need for further housing and business development in Callander and support for protecting open spaces such as Callander Meadows, Callander Moraine and the Craggs.

The information gained from all the Local Plan Open Days will feed into a Main Issues Report which will be published for consultation late 2007/early 2008.

The Park Authority has recently appointed two new Sustainable Development Officers – Marion McCahon who will work with the Breadalbane communities and Dot Taylor who will work in the Callander/Trossachs area. Both posts are seconded until October and will be based in Balloch although Dot will hot-desk from the new Callander office. The telephone numbers are:- Marion McCahon 01389 722003
Dot Taylor 01389 722009

At the April meeting of the Planning Committee, the detailed planning application for Bellway Homes at the Tannochbrae Chalet Park location was refused by the members on the grounds that they did not consider that the proposals were of a high enough design standard for such an important site within the town and the National Park. It was felt that high quality building designs should be developed for this site that respond to the magnificent opportunities presented in terms of location, views etc. The principle of housing within this site is not in question.

Coming up this summer, we'll be asking for your views about the Park's proposed core paths. The Park Authority has a legal duty to develop a Core Path Plan by February 2008 as part of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

Core paths are the essential paths which people need to get about their area. They include waterways as well



Room to put your views at the Local Plan Open Day on 3rd April.

as paths. The Park Authority is assessing all the information gathered over the last few years in consultations and will prepare a list and map of the proposed core paths. During the summer months, we will be looking for comments and views on the proposals. There will be a series of talks, displays and opportunities to view maps of the local area. I'll let you know dates for Callander nearer the time.

The National Park Authority has funded an initial survey to replace Bracklin Bridge carried out by Mr

Geoff Freedman, the Forestry Commission FCS Engineer and his report will be available shortly.

And finally, the new *Out & About* guide 2007 is now available. The events guide has something for everyone including guided walks, craft workshops, bat nights and bike rides. It's available at all National Park Visitor Centres, Tourist Information Centres and local libraries.

To download a copy visit www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/media/publications.asp

Chillies II RESTAURANT 25 Main Street, Callander

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Community Action Plan review



Cath McNair in charge of the table discussing 'Services in Callander' at the Community Action Plan workshop. The boards displaying the summary of the Community Questionnaire are on the stage in the background, together with Callander Youth Project's presentation of their Heritage Project.



A general view of the discussion groups in the Kirk Hall.

THE COMMUNITY Action Plan Review workshop held in Callander Kirk Hall on 28th April was hosted by Callander Community Development Trust and run by Alan Tuffs and Nigel Brooks representing the National Park. The results of the Community Survey, the Community Profile and the strategies discussed at the workshop will be published and distributed to all households in Callander shortly.



People arriving at the Kirk Hall for the Action Plan review workshop were welcomed with a cup of tea.

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Display boards on the stage in the Kirk Hall carried posters summarizing the results of the National Park Planning Workshop on 3rd April as well as the Community Action Plan review findings.

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Susan O'Boyle, Treasurer of Callander Community Development Trust, writing up the points from a discussion on 'Sustainable Callander'. Nigel Brooks of the National Park is looking on.

In the background are the various groups' visions of 'The future for Callander: ideal or nightmare' which was discussed earlier in the workshop.

Other topics included 'Young and Active in Callander', 'Moving around Callander', 'Community Facilities' and 'Promoting Callander's Image', in addition to those already mentioned.

Callander Community Development Trust would like to thank the organisers of the Christian Aid coffee morning, which preceded our event, for their kindness and co-operation in our preparations.



Nessa Findlay, our Community Profiler, in discussion with pupils from Callander Primary School.

Nessa's profile of Callander as it is today, based on interviews with community groups and individuals and a great deal of research, forms the foundation of this Action Plan review, together with the Community Questionnaire which was distributed to every household in Callander.

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When the boat comes in



A pint of mussels for Mr Lutz – the previous owner is the first customer at the new fish counter, receiving his order from chef Brian John. Yes, you really can buy cockles and mussels at the *Ben Ledi Café* – not to mention oysters, scallops and a wide variety of other sea creatures. You can even choose your fish and have it cooked for you there and then.

Baa baa black sheep

HAVE YOU any wool? Yes, sir, we do. *Kipp Crafts* in Main Street stock hand-spun wool from Shetland sheep, Angora goats and Angora rabbits, as well as luxury Alpaca wool and pure wool from other sources. Needles, threads, ribbon and fibre for felting are also available. If your skills are pretty basic, you can admire and purchase quality garments and bags already made by the owner, Linda Anderson, and her talented suppliers.

Linda concentrates on Scottish crafts, local wherever possible. On display is evidence of a wide variety of skills: paintings, jewellery from Strathyre, wood design from Kippen,

metal design from Callander, pens from Livingston and tableware from Fort William.

Organisations planning their year's syllabus will be interested to know that *Kipp Crafts* demonstrations and workshops can be arranged. Linda is also interested in hearing from suppliers of crafts and art so that she can extend the range already on offer. The shop is open six days a week, closed Wednesday.

After she leaves the shop, Linda goes home to feed her sheep, goats and rabbits who are the source of the wool you can watch being spun in the shop.



Buttons, bows, ribbons and yarn alongside paintings and other designs in *Kipp Crafts*.

It's official

THE NATIONAL Park's Callander office should be open by the time you read this. We have taken over the extended former bookshop at 52-54 Main Street and converted it into office space and meeting rooms. Countryside Ranger Scott Ashworth will be based here and others, such as Kenny Auld, the area's access officer, and Dot Taylor who is supporting Trossachs tourist destination work, will spend several days a week at the office. You will also be able to meet local planning officer Vivian Emery by appointment and request to view copies of local planning applications.

We will have a formal opening and open day later in May once we're settled, but please drop in to see us before then. To begin with, we will be open from 9.30am till 3.30pm Monday to Friday, and are currently recruiting reception staff locally.

Sheila Winstone
Communications and PR Officer



Callander Main Street on a sunny evening, reflected in the windows of the new National Park office. There's more about the new office in Mike Lutz's article on page 11 of this issue.

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Jazz and Blues return

MAKE A note of the dates: 28th/29th/30th September is the weekend of the Callander 2007 Jazz and Blues Festival.

Plans for the second festival are well under way. The initial programme for this year's major musical event is now complete, with a host of performers from the local, national and international jazz and blues scene appearing on the programme.

There are even more local venues participating in the 2007 Festival, and tickets are now available and can be

purchased online from www.ticketweb.co.uk.

They are also on sale from VisitScotland at the Rob Roy Centre, Ancaster Square, Callander. Tel 01877 330342.

Full information about performers, venues, times, ticket types and prices, plus accommodation etc. currently feature on the Festival website: www.callanderjazz.com.

Festival office contact numbers are 01877 339399 and 01877 339455.

Graham Oliphant

Oh yes there was ...a Junior Choir show!

PANTO-PANDEMONIUM indeed – the Wicked Witch and her two attendants had taken the magic out of all the pantomimes! Aladdin had no magic lamp; the Goose was unable to lay her golden eggs; no-one had feet that fitted the slipper so Prince Charming had no bride; the pantomime cow, Moo, had been separated from his Tail and neither half could find the other!

Four schoolgirls on the way to see a pantomime were captured by the Wicked Witch who intended to use them to cause even more mayhem. However they realised something was wrong and, together with help from the Good Fairy, the Seven Dwarfs, Cinderella and her sisters the slipper, the lamp and the goose were all found and restored to their rightful pantomime – and Moo and Tail were reunited happily.

How to manage such a production? Well, there was magic there as well: the cast of 33 young people – average age 10 years – were full of energy, and danced and sang their way through the evening with great gusto. The costumes were a delight, the interaction of all the young people, especially in the cameo scenes was extremely good and great confidence was displayed by all the participants. A thoroughly enjoyable show which had the entire audience happily taking part, booing

and hissing when required.

All connected with the show are to be congratulated. A production such as this does not just happen and all involved, from the young people themselves to the costume makers, the music providers and those who 'just helped a little' continue to give the community confidence that our young people are growing up in the right direction.

Chris Gillespie

Senior choirs

Stirling University Choir Concert
Saturday 12th May at 7.45pm in
Dunblane Cathedral

Dvorak: *Mass in D*

Stanford: *Te Deum* & other works

Wesley: *The Wilderness*

Tickets: Full £9; concessions
£7; students £5, including pro-
gramme, available at the door.

Stirling City Choir, together with the
Rosenethe Singers and St. Modans
School Choir, present Giuseppe Verdi's
Requiem

Conductor Eric Dunlea, with mem-
bers of the BBC Scottish Symphony
Orchestra, on Sunday 20th May at
7.30pm in the Albert Halls, Stirling.

Tickets, £10, £8 concession, will be
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Environment

Callander and climate change



The panel and audience in Callander Kirk-Hall taking part in the discussion on climate change.
Photo: Alex Walker

OVER A hundred people from many different sectors of the community came to the open meeting held on 19th March, organised by the Callander Kirk Green Team. The evening began with a showing of the film *An Inconvenient Truth* in the Kirk Hall. The film sets out the scientific facts of climate change and gives graphic illustrations of the effects this phenomenon is having and will have on our world. Al Gore, who made the film, urges us not to 'move from denial to despair'. We have hope because we have the tools to solve this problem - if everyone takes action and takes action NOW.

Many believe that working together at community level is the most effective way individuals can take action to

combat climate change. Hence, following on from the film, we invited the audience to discuss with a panel what we, here in Callander, could do. The panel was made up of local politicians, representatives of the community, business interests, local schools and experts.

The discussion was augmented by suggestions for action, written on post-it notes and displayed around the hall. There was such a wide range of topics and ideas covered that it has been difficult to bring together in one report. However, the concern shown over the issue of climate change and its affects at the meeting was palpable. We have therefore attempted to summarise the discussion and written contributions under three headings as

follows:

1. What individuals can do

With the mass of information now available through the media and government agencies, it's hard to know where our individual actions can make the most difference.

The panel agreed that there was an urgent need to make cuts in our carbon emissions, although the politicians did not agree on the scale and speed of reductions needed.

Suggestions from the meeting for individuals included action on:

Energy Efficiency

The point was made that people should think about energy saving such as insulation and draught proofing before looking at the much more expensive domestic renewable energy options of wind turbines, solar panels or heat pumps.

Transport

Action on a number of fronts was suggested including, as we have we managed up until now with out so much air travel, why not lobby your MPs and MSPs not to extend Edinburgh Airport? As an alternative, get on your bike or use trains and buses and when we have to use the car for journeys to work, try to car share. If we car share on just one day a week this would make a 20% difference to the amount of carbon we contribute in our journeys to work.

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Sunday: closed

Food

Over 10% of our individual contribution to carbon emissions comes from transporting and processing our food. By living a little more simply, growing and eating local foods in season we can make a difference.

Get involved

We were encouraged by the politicians and representatives of the National Park to raise this issue at all levels – with the council, at local plan meetings and National Park consultations. However, there was also a reminder that if we want to reduce our contribution to climate change there are implications. Are you prepared to see renewable energy installations in your local area? Are they appropriate for listed buildings – your local representatives need to know what you think.

2. What the community can do

There are communities up and down the country responding to the need for action on climate change. The Going Carbon Neutral Stirling project described in last month's *Ben Ledi View* is one example. The following ideas were suggested for Callander:

Community Heating/ Use of Biofuels

Both the Community Council and Callander Development Trust have been involved in initiatives to combat climate change such as the local siting of a plant producing a wood pellet biofuel and a community composting scheme. Both have hit red tape and are not currently proceeding. However, community biofuel systems are common in other countries such as Finland and have been used in buildings as close as Breadalbane Academy in Aberfeldy.

It was suggested by a number of people that, with the wealth of suitable timber that exists locally, there are plenty of opportunities for developing biofuel systems for sites such as the High School, Leisure Centre and the housing development at the old

Tannochbrae Chalet Park site.

Support our Eco Schools

The youngest in our community are showing the way! Callander Nursery has already achieved the Eco Schools top award and is currently working towards a second Green Flag. Callander Primary School are a registered Eco School and are following in their footsteps, and having gained a Silver Award they too are aiming for Green Flag. The young people representing McLaren High School were anxious that the school become an active Eco School but they need the support of both teachers and parents.

Provide advice

There seemed to be a great willingness for people to make changes but many wanted more information to enable them to make the best choices. Perhaps Callander should have a volunteer team of Energy Efficiency Advisors and experts could be invited (e.g. on cavity wall insulation and solar panels) who could visit several houses or be available for advice to reduce cost.

3. What others can do

The discussion also highlighted that although we can all do our bit, the effect of our actions will be wiped out unless others in public bodies and industry also take action.

Make recycling more effective

The opinion was expressed that a significant rise in recycling levels is required but the current system is too prescriptive, inefficient and small scale. Suggestions were also made that it should be possible to recycle Tetra Pak packaging in the Stirling Council area and all types of plastic – although buying products in glass bottles, which can be recycled, might be an alternative.

Reduce energy consumption

Switching off lights in shop and office buildings at night when most build-

ings are not being used or even street lighting in small hours was proposed. In Switzerland they have escalators which work only when people approach them. On a smaller scale, why aren't energy efficient light bulbs made small enough to fit lamps?

Use of renewable energy

This was suggested for both new and old buildings and even extensions. The use of biomass heating was particularly advocated for new housing development.

For transport the use of renewable motor fuels such as biodiesel and ethanol could be encouraged by increasing the availability of blending pumps and biofuel burning upgrades for vehicles. Further incentives for the use of biofuels could be given through the use of tax advantages and interest free loans.

Transport initiatives

There is a need for reliable, affordable public transport from rural areas, which is cheap and connects to other transport links

Better planning and regulation

Some felt this was required, for example in the form of planning laws which could require all groups of houses to have district heating system.

Manufacturing industry should also be compelled to fully endorse auditable systems and increase fine levels for non compliance so that they hurt the company purse. It was also suggested that all environmental costs should be measured, including production, and it was questioned whether wind turbines are really efficient when they use so much energy to produce. It was thought that public bodies should monitor their carbon footprint: the example was given of the pedestrianisation of Stirling's city centre which used stone imported from Poland and China!

One further comment from the

continued on page 18

continued from page 17

panel was that although there is much that needs doing at institutional, local and national and international levels it is easy for us to use the 'they' language and leave this problem up to others to solve. However, climate change affects 'our' world and 'our' children.

We would like to thank everyone who came to the film and so willingly took part in the discussion. However, we have been so encouraged by the response to this issue that we feel we cannot leave it there! Please note *Callander and Climate Change 2* is planned for Saturday 22nd September

Flooding Numbers

Callander Community Council emergency team will help with warnings of imminent flooding, moving of sandbags for those who cannot manage this themselves, rescue co-ordination and any other relevant assistance.

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Brian Luti

01877 330655 or 331099 (work)

Mike Luti

01877 330596

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This functions as an emergency number from 5.00pm until 9.00am and over weekends.

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SEPA emergency: 0800 807060

SEPA website: www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/index.htm

Floodline: 0845 9881188

Select option 1 followed by:

06213 121 (the Teith at Callander)

or 06213 123 (tributaries upstream)

Scottish Water emergency information re flooding from mains or sewers:

0845 6008855

www.benlediview.com/floodlink.htm

2007, in Callander Kirk Hall. We hope to make this an information day for the whole community to come in and get advice and information on how they can make a difference. More details will follow in future editions of the *Ben Lediview*.

*Margaret and David Warnock
Callander Kirk Green Team*

An effect?

STIRLING TECHNICAL Services have arranged for lockable gates to be installed at both ends of the South Church Street footbridge.

Although the bridge itself is reported to be in good condition, it will be closed off during periods of high flood water in the interests of public safety.

The *BLV* also understands that a single-span bridge is to be built to replace the existing footbridge at some time in the near future.



One effect of climate change? Gates being installed at each end of the footbridge in mid April, to be locked in the event of flooding.



The Teith flooding under the footbridge, January 2005.

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Gardens and gardeners

CAMBUSMORE AND nine other interesting Callander gardens will be open to the public on Sunday 24th June 2007 from 1.00pm to 5.00pm under Scotland's Garden Scheme, with 40% of the takings going to the Callander Youth Project. There will be plant stalls at Cambusmore and Orchardlea.

Teas and home baking will be on sale at St. Andrew's Church Hall in aid of the Church Fabric Fund (bell repair). Tickets and maps will be available a couple of weeks in advance from King's Bookshop.

We are going to run at least one free shuttle bus to link up the gardens, starting from the bus stop beside the main Post Office. A further minibus will be available if we can find a volunteer driver with a current MIDAS certificate, so if you would like to help please contact Hilary Gunkel on 330798

or gunkel@gardentour.co.uk.



Photo supplied by CYP.

YOUNG PEOPLE from the Callander Youth Project Compass programme have been lending a hand with some local gardening in the run up to the Open Gardens event on Sunday 24th June. At the request of local organisers and residents, CYP young people and staff have spent some time helping with weeding, cutting, and planting, and had a great time doing it!

We will be continuing to offer our gardening services in the run up to 24th June, and are happy to take up the green-finger challenge again in the new Autumn school term after the summer holidays, should it be required.

Good green fun

GOOD GREEN Fun is a new not-for-profit community enterprise run by young businesswoman Helen Sturrock and co-director Dr Eric Walker.

The ethos of the organisation, which is based at Stirling Enterprise Park, is simple: Instead of throwing old toys and equipment into the loft or garage – or, worse still, into landfill (an estimated 17,860 toys go to landfill in the Stirling Council area every year) – if they are in good condition, why not donate them (via *Good Green Fun*) for re-sale to someone else who can use them?

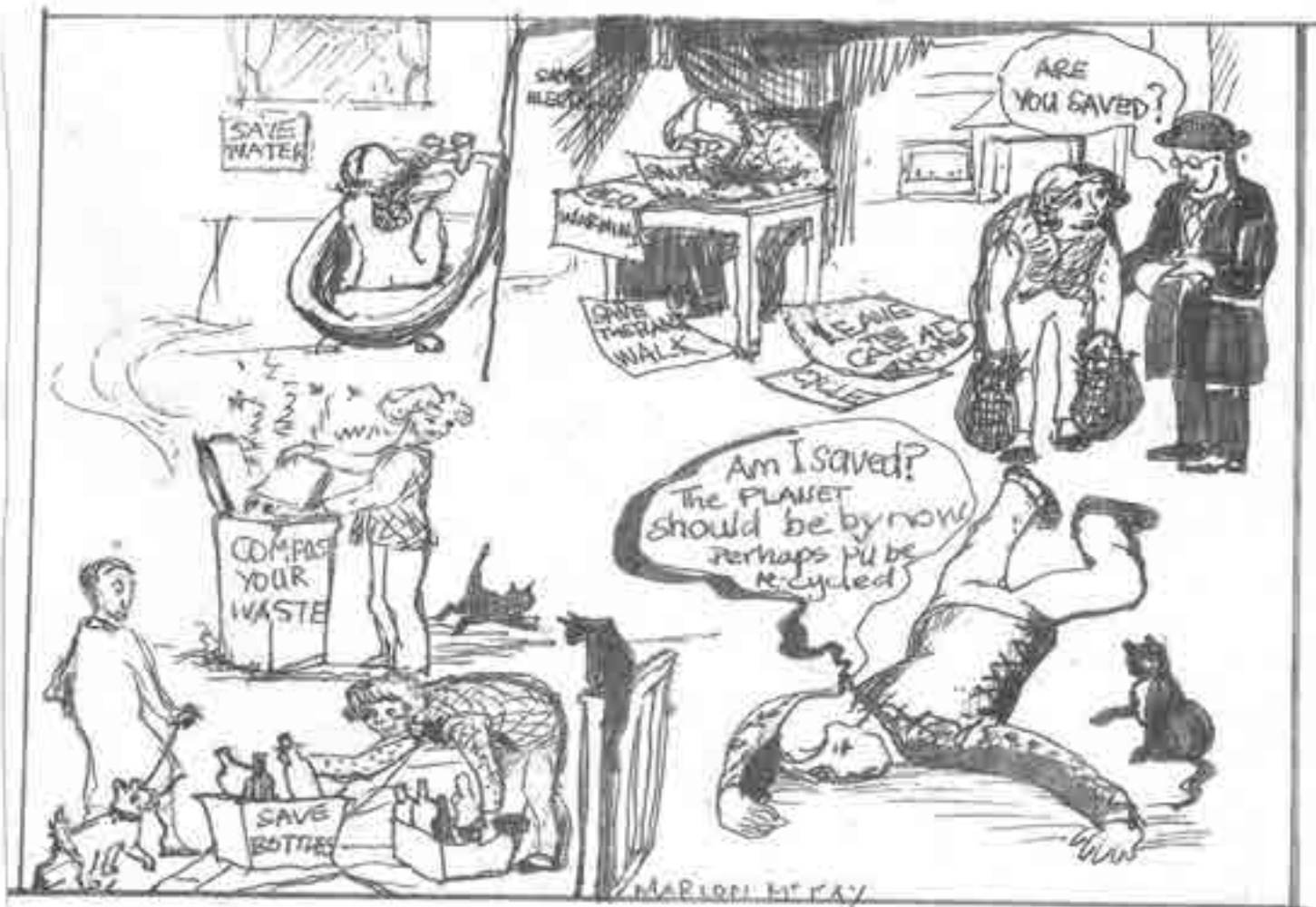
Good Green Fun is based at Unit 31, Stirling Enterprise Park, John Player Building, Stirling FK7 7RP.

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or e-mail: helen@goodgreenfun.co.uk

Website: www.goodgreenfun.co.uk

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Health & Wellbeing

Feeling gloomy

NOT YOUR usual cheery self today?

It is very rare to find someone who is happy all the time, and each of us has our own perception of our internal feelings and what is going on around us. Some people thrive on stress and need the pressure of a deadline in order to perform, others become overwhelmed and feel unable to cope, especially if a new obstacle is presented on top of an already stressful situation for example, bereavement, relationship difficulties, moving house, starting a new job or being made redundant.

It isn't always obvious to an outsider (or even the sufferer) that a problem exists and acknowledging it can be the first step on the road to recovery. Some people will present a happy smiling face to the world, and keep their doubts and worries inside for fear of releasing them and embarrassing themselves. Even though one in four of us will suffer from depression at some time in our lives, there still

seems to be a stigma attached to admitting to a disorder with our mental health.

If someone has a low mood and/or loss of interest or pleasure in almost all activities that causes distress or difficulty in going about normal daily activities, then they may be depressed and could benefit from some help in the form of psychotherapy and/or medicines.

Depression can be a symptom of an underlying physical condition such as thyroid disease, so a visit to the doctor could help to eliminate or treat such causes. Your doctor could refer you to a psychotherapist who could assist in uncovering the cause(s) of distress and work with you to restore mental well-being, and/or discuss with you the risks and benefits of drug therapy.

At the simplest level, psychotherapy could be looking at problems objectively and maybe having a chat with a friend, neighbour or family member to explore the difficulty and look at it

from a different perspective.

Antidepressant drugs can be helpful to lift the mood, but four to six weeks of appropriate treatment may be needed before people will feel better and they can cause unwelcome side effects. The side effects usually diminish over time, so it is worth persevering. It is advisable to continue treatment for at least six months to gain the full benefit and to reduce the risk of relapse. When you feel ready, the dose needs to be reduced gradually to prevent 'discontinuation syndrome' – your doctor or pharmacist will be able to offer advice.

Exercise increases the body's own 'happy hormones', so a walk in the park is likely to help with your mood as well as being physically beneficial, and as your body grows stronger, the mind is likely to follow.

The following extract comes from an email sent by a good friend:

'If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this World.'

Further information is available from your pharmacy, doctor's surgery or on-line at www.moodjuice.scot.nhs.uk.

Take care, and if you catch your friend looking gloomy, go give them a big hug.

Jean Yearley

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Heart to Heart

HEART TO HEART have spent the last few months expanding their services, continuing the monthly support meeting held in Dunblane in addition to the 6-week support course, and working with a new group in Bo'ness. This group recognised the benefits that *Heart to Heart* can bring to individuals affected by divorce and/or separation and are looking to run their own support courses in the future.

Due to an article which appeared in a national publication last summer interest has been shown by other communities as to how they can set up and organise their own local *Heart to Heart* support service. Much work has gone into developing the materials required to enable them to do this, along with the continuous support offered from the Callander office. The Bo'ness group kindly agreed to pilot this development. With all the extra work that this has generated in addition to the increase in the ongoing local service, Lloyds TSB recognised that a part-time Development Coordinator couldn't achieve this on her own, and have provided additional funding to enable *Heart to Heart* to

recruit an Office Administrator for 10 hours per week to assist with the administration and publicity side of the support service. If you know of anyone who would be interested in this position please contact the number below and speak to Lynne.

Support continues to be given locally by Callander Kirk and this year *Heart to Heart* also benefited with grants from Lloyds TSB (standard and capacity building), the Scottish Community Foundation, Callander Round Table and the Co-op Community Fund. Local volunteers also contribute much time and energy in a variety of ways, without which we would not be able to provide this level of support service.

The 6-week support course – Recovering from Divorce or Separation – continues on a regular basis. It deals with:

- The effects of the past
- Communication and resolving conflict
- Forgiveness
- Moral and legal issues
- Relationship boundaries
- Moving on

If you require further information about the course or other areas of support provided by *Heart to Heart* please contact us at the address below. Leaflets are available at the three Churches as well as the Health Centre, Library and Room 3, Kirk Hall. Please help yourself and pass on to anyone you feel would benefit from this support.

Contact details:

Heart to Heart,
Room 3,
Callander Kirk Hall,
South Church Street,
Callander FK17 8BN.

Opening hours will be 9.00am – 12.30pm most weekdays.
Tel/fax: 01877 339966,
mobile 07790437713
or email info@hearttoheart.org.uk
www.hearttoheart.org.uk.

Training dates

Drs Strang & Scott
Drs Mathewson & Gibson
Community Nurses

The surgeries and community nurses are taking part in a training programme. This is to meet the educational and training needs of all members of the practice and nursing team.

The next training afternoons will be on:

Tuesday 15th May 2007
Wednesday 6th June 2007
Tuesday 28th August 2007

Both practices and community nurse clinic will close at 12 noon. Emergency cover will be provided by NHS24 for nursing and GPs.

In the event of an emergency, please telephone 08454 242424.

On that afternoon, please do not contact the surgeries for repeat prescriptions or for appointments.

Walk & ease

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www.walkease.co.uk

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&
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01786 471771

Tues/Weds 11am-1pm; Thurs
7pm-9pm; Sunday 1pm-3pm

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Geisher Road, Callander FK17 8LX

Tel/Fax: 01877 330016

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SAMARITANS

Phone us on 08457 90 90 90 or email jo@samaritans.org

If you would like to find out about volunteering for Samaritans, please phone 01324 67064 and leave your name, address and a contact telephone number on the answer machine. Someone from Samaritans will contact you.

SAMARITANS: 19 ORCHARD STREET, FALKIRK FK1 1RF. Registered Charity Number: SC006695.

ASSISTANCE SERVICE

Would you like a helping hand on a regular or occasional basis?

Would you like to have someone friendly and reliable to call on when your friends or family are unavailable?

SMILE is a small, private assistance service that can be phoned and booked as and when required. Staff are pleasant, capable and discreet.

The types of assistance that SMILE can provide includes:

- Company & conversation
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- Meal preparation
- Daily TLC phone calls
- Organising appointments
- Arranging repairs
- Outings & excursions
- Housework, linen & laundry
- Light gardening
- General pet care
- Assistance with accessing services
- General administrative tasks

If you would like to find out more, please contact Sally Shaw, as follows:

Tel: 01786 825998
 Mob: 07739 581059
 Email: info@caringsmile.co.uk
 Address: 29 Anchorscross, Dunblane,
 Perthshire FK15 9JP



NOTE: ALL INSURANCE AND REFERENCE CHECKS ARE IN PLACE

www.nhs24.com

NHS 24 is a telephone health advice service. Whatever the problem, you can talk confidentially to our qualified nurses day or night who will help you get the right care from the right people at the right time.

Not Sure?



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24 hour health advice for textphone users ☎ 1002100404 24 24 24



Cook's Corner

with Audrey Corrieri

White chocolate pudding with warm compote

Serves 8

Ingredients

300ml (1/2 pint) double cream
 250g carton ricotta cheese
 100g (4oz) caster sugar
 225g (8oz) white chocolate
 350g (12oz) mixed fruits, strawberries, cherries, blueberries, raspberries and brambles
 1 tablespoon Cointreau

Method

Whip cream until softly peaking. Fold in ricotta cheese and half the sugar. Melt chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water. Leave to cool, then stir into the ricotta mixture until combined. Spoon into 8 dariole moulds and level the surface by lightly banging the mould on a table top. Freeze for 4 hours.

Gently heat fruit and remaining sugar in a pan, stirring occasionally until the sugar dissolves and juices run. Add the Cointreau.

To serve, dip the moulds in hot water for 30 seconds and invert on to plates. Spoon over the fruit compote.



In the library

A REMINDER: the Library will be closed on Saturday 5th and Monday 7th May, and Saturday 26th and Monday 28th May.

Suggested read Adult fiction

A Deadly Deception by Margaret Thomson Davis

Mabel Smith has had a hard life. Having looked after her elderly parents until their death, she now lives alone in her run-down 25th floor flat with little money and nothing to look forward to except her weekly pension. But when Mabel finds an advert for adult chat lines in a magazine, it seems like a lifeline and a great way to make some much-needed extra cash. No one will ever find out who she is, what age she is or what she looks like. What could possibly go wrong?

When 39-year-old John starts to call and wants to know what she looks like, Mabel gives him a description of her young and beautiful blonde neighbour. But when John's calls become more and more persistent and he suggests that they meet, Mabel does everything she can to put him off. Using snippets from their hours of

conversation he sets out to find her, spending weeks searching the streets. And when he finally manages to find the tower block where Mabel lives and decides to take revenge for the way she has teased and tormented him, a tragic series of events begins to unfold.

Set in Glasgow, *A Deadly Deception* is a vivid and exciting thriller from Margaret Thomson Davis that captures the author's favourite city in a new and unexpected light, while retaining the strong Glasgow characters so familiar to her readers.

Author profile

Margaret Thomson Davis left school at the age of sixteen, working as a children's nurse and having a variety of other jobs before achieving her ambition of becoming a writer. She has had more than twenty novels published, many of which have been best-sellers. Two of her novels have been adapted for the stage.

Over two hundred of her short stories

have appeared in newspapers and magazines in Britain and overseas, and she has written an autobiography. Active in a wide range of literary and other societies, she is in great demand as an entertaining and informative speaker.

Margaret Thomson Davis lives in Glasgow.

New books at Callander Library

Non-fiction

Bryson, Bill: *Mother Tongue*
Driscoll, Stephen: *Alba*
Llewellyn, Marc: *Australia*

Fiction

Barnard, Frank: *Band of Eagles*
Bennett, R.A.: *Reason to Murder*
Chan, Cassandra: *Village Affairs*
Fforde, Katie: *Going Dutch*
Flynn, Katie: *Beyond the Blue Hills*
Howard, Audrey: *Rose Alley*
Kaine, Margaret: *Roses for Rebecca*

CALLANDER LIBRARY

Opening Hours

MONDAY	10AM - 1PM	2 - 5PM
TUESDAY	10AM - 1PM	2 - 7PM
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED	2 - 5PM
THURSDAY	10AM - 1PM	CLOSED
FRIDAY	10AM - 1PM	2 - 7PM
SATURDAY	10AM - 12 NOON	CLOSED

MAY HOLIDAYS: THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY 7TH AND MONDAY 28TH MAY

Telephone/Fax 351544

THE WAVERLEY HOTEL

Live Music

5th May - Man from Delmonte
12th May - Little Head
19th May - Seventy Seven
26th May - Paul Smith

Charity Quiz Night

Monday 21st May 9pm

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What's on in May

Saturday 5th

- Ancaster Square 9.00am Hillwalk

Sunday 6th

- The Meadows 2.30pm PTA Duck Race

Monday 7th

- LIBRARY CLOSED
- Kirk Hall 10.45am Salsacise
- 2 Castle Grove 2.00pm Scrabble

Tuesday 8th

- Kirk Hall 10.00am Craigard Club
- Kirk Hall 7.30pm Callander SWRF AGM
- BLV ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Wednesday 9th

- Ancaster Square 9.30am Stroll
- Thornhill Market 10.00am - 1.00pm
- St Joseph's car park 1.00pm car boot sale (weather permitting)
- Kirk Hall 2.00pm OPALS 50+ exercise class

Thursday 10th

Friday 11th

- Kirk Hall 10.30am Craigard Club

Saturday 12th May

- Kirk Hall 10.00am Rotary coffee morning
- Port of Menteth Hall 10.00am Charity plant sale
- Dunblane Cathedral 7.45pm Stirling University Choir concert

Sunday 13th

Monday 14th

- Kirk Hall 10.45am Salsacise
- Dreadnought Hotel 7.30pm Callander Enterprise

Tuesday 15th

- Kirk Hall 10.00am Craigard Club
- SURGERIES CLOSE 12 noon
- BLV EDITORIAL DEADLINE

Wednesday 16th

- Thornhill Market 10.00am - 1.00pm
- St Joseph's car park 1.00pm car boot

sale (weather permitting)

- Kirk Hall 2.00pm OPALS 50+ exercise class
- Brig o' Turk Hall 7.30pm Christian Aid concert with Callander Chorale

Thursday 17th

Friday 18th

- Kirk Hall 10.30am Craigard Club
- 24 Bridgend 7.30pm German-speaking group

Saturday 19th

- Ancaster Square 9.00am Long distance path Rob Roy Way 4

Sunday 20th

- Albert Halls, Stirling 7.30pm Stirling City Choir concert

Monday 21st

- Kirk Hall 10.45am Salsacise
- Station Rd Car Park 12.30pm Blythswood collection
- 2 Castle Grove 2.00pm Scrabble
- Burgh Chambers 7.00pm Community Council - AGM

Tuesday 22nd

- Kirk Hall 10.00am Craigard Club
- Burgh Chambers 7.00pm CCNA AGM
- Rob Roy Theatre 7.00pm Film Society AGM

Wednesday 23rd

- Thornhill Market 10.00am - 1.00pm
- St Joseph's car park 1.00pm car boot sale (weather permitting)
- Kirk Hall 2.00pm OPALS 50+ exercise class

Thursday 24th

Friday 25th

- Kirk Hall 10.30am Craigard Club

Saturday 26th

- Kirk Hall 10.00am CHS plant sale and coffee morning

Sunday 27th

Monday 28th

- LIBRARY CLOSED
- Kirk Hall 10.45am Salsacise

Tuesday 29th

- Kirk Hall 10.00am Craigard Club

Wednesday 30th

- Ancaster Square 9.30am Ramble
- Thornhill Market 10.00am - 1.00pm
- St Joseph's car park 1.00pm car boot sale (weather permitting)
- Kirk Hall 2.00pm OPALS 50+ exercise class (last of session)
- Rob Roy Theatre 7.00pm Callander Community Development Trust AGM

June

Friday 1st

- Kirk Hall 10.30am Craigard Club

Saturday 2nd

- Ancaster Square 9.00am Hillwalk

Sunday 3rd

Monday 4th

- Kirk Hall 10.45am Salsacise

Tuesday 5th

- Kirk Hall 10.00am Craigard Club

Free publicity for your group's events is available in What's On: just leave a letter for the BLV at Callander Library, or email us at: editor@benlediview.com

The deadline for contributions to the June issue is Tuesday 15th May (Tuesday 8th May for advertisements). If you miss the deadlines we'll have to hold your item until the July/August double issue.

Dear Editor

I WOULD like to congratulate the Callander Kirk Green Team for giving Callander residents and others the chance to see Al Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth* at the Kirk Hall on 19th March. It was unfortunate that the dialogue on the DVD could not be adequately accessed, but the gist of the message was absolutely clear to me in that global warming and climate change are coming upon us at a rapid pace.

For the last ten or more years messages have been dribbling through that we need to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that we produce. This means that energy from fossil fuels, that we all take for granted, has to be drastically reduced in the next few years. Some action is already taking place in the form of wind farms, that are springing up in various locations across the country. In recent months the LL&T National Park have held seminars to promote the use of Micro Renewable Energy sources.

However, during discussions with the panel following the film it was very evident that little is being done at local government level to promote the use of renewable energy. I found it very disappointing that the current refurbishment of the McLaren High School does not have any form of renewable energy included in the project.

In comparison it is very commendable - see Loch Katrine Community Trust and Rural Stirling Housing Association working together to fit renewable energy heating systems in refurbished homes at Stronachlachar.

It is my opinion that all new buildings and any refurbishment projects must have a large portion of their energy needs from renewable sources built into their design. This can only happen if there is adequate will in central and local government. Legislation may be needed and if so the LL&T National Park as our planning authority should be given sufficient power to ensure the installation of renewable energy systems in such

buildings.

The use of Micro Renewable Energy is a way forward to help slow down global warming and is ideal for use in small and medium buildings. We must embrace these technologies along with other means of reducing the use of fossil fuels before it is too late.

John R Snodin
Gullipen View
Callander

From Cullen to Callander

MAY I through your newspaper express my sincere thanks to all my friends and customers of the Tuesday fish van who have given me cards, gifts and expressions of thanks on my retirement.

After driving approximately 180 miles (sometimes through hail, ice and snow) it was great to see the sign of Callander. It was worth it all, to have met such wonderful people. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time in your area, and will hold a special place in my heart for you all.

I hope Willie will serve you as well as I have tried to do. Thank you once again.

God bless you all.

George and Sheila (Jappy)
173 Seatown
Cullen
Moray AB56 4SL

Bus stop

I WOULD like to comment on a letter from AC, printed in the April edition of the *Ben Ledi View*. It mentioned the poor response from residents in the Mollands area regarding their views on the possible reduction in the local bus service. Only 48 out of 109 households responded to the questionnaire. I, for one, would have willingly completed and returned the form. However, we did not receive the initial or the follow-up letters sent by Stirling Council.

Could it be that the questionnaire

was sent to, say, 50% of the households?

I only heard about the imminent cutbacks from the driver of the bus taking me to Stirling (yes, from the Mollands area). However, by then, it was a *fait accompli*. He was making it his business to inform his passengers that 'as from next week you'll not get this bus'. Our views, alone, would probably not have changed the outcome but I think AC was a bit quick to condemn the interested parties for not bothering to reply.

But, as they say, every cloud has a silver lining ... so, perhaps Stirling Council will now forget to send us the letters demanding payment of the Council Tax. What do you think?

Moirra T. Rice
Lubnaig Drive
Callander

Gruesome death traps

IT MUST be quite a few years ago that I made some suggestions to clear away litter privately. I suspect that none of the *BLV* readers carry a plastic bag with them to remove litter left by others!

Reducing litter depends on the parental example for the juniors. The litter problem is in my opinion an educational one of discipline. And as long as there is no clear parental example, that problem will remain!

A small aperture allows to drink from most cans. These feather light cans are often thrown away after use, instead of being trampled flat and disposed of in a litter bin. Small animals like tiny mice, are attracted by the residual smell, and able to enter the can through the aperture. As the inside of the can is extremely smooth, they can't get out anymore, and they are therefore condemned to a gruesome death.

Please consider your fellow creatures!

Henk Yserman,
Balgibbon Drive
Callander



Are you there? Primary 6/7 at Callander Public Primary school in 1957. Photo supplied by Nancy Crook.

McLaren High School Reunion

I AM in the process of organising a reunion for pupils of the years 1959 - 1965. This will take place on Friday 16th May 2008 and I would appreciate your help in contacting pupils who were at school at that time.

I have been able to contact a small number of former pupils and would appreciate if you could print the enclosed photographs.

One photo was taken in November

1957 of the Primary 6/7 class of Callander Public Primary School. The other was taken in 1962 of one of the 3rd Year classes at McLaren High and is a mix of pupils from Callander and the surrounding area.

Any interested former pupils could contact me at the following address and phone number.

Nancy Crook (nee Moffat)
11 Barbour Grove
Dunfermline KY12 9YB
01383 738219



A third-year class at McLaren High School in 1962 - can you see yourself here? Photo supplied by Nancy Crook

Action Medical Research

JUST A wee note to thank everyone who sponsored me for the Macchu Picchu Trek for my 50th birthday in February. I celebrated it at Callander Golf Club with family and friends, and banked £1025.00 - a great boost for the charity and a great night.

Mig and I have stepped up our fitness schedule. What a difference the lighter nights make.

Thanks to everyone who has sponsored us so far.

Karen MacMillan
Lagrannoch Crescent
Callander

Apologies to Karen - her letter should have been published in the last issue of the BLV but was overlooked.

Thank you

I WOULD like to thank all my family and friends for all the nice gifts I received at my birthday party at the Masonic Lodge on 31st March.

Thanks to Mum and Dad for the disco it was cool.

Alana Gordon
Finglas Gardens
Callander

Laura's website

AFTER MANY months of designing my own website and sorting through many photographs, it is finally complete. So whether you are looking for a photographer to take some wedding photographs or portraits or if you just want to see some images of the local area, then please take a look.

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SPORTS & Leisure

Callander Rambling Club

Sponsored by Caledonian Countrywear

Wednesday 21st March - Kirkton Glen, 6 mile Ramble.

A group of fourteen, including our driver John, left for Balquhider on a bright but cold morning. By the time we parked the mini-bus and commenced the walk it started to snow slightly as we made our way past Balquhider Church to negotiate the path through the shelter of the trees before reaching open ground. Traces of snow were still on the hills around us as we progressed, and looking ahead to Glen Dochart we were glad we were not walking over the pass to reach the A85 at Ledcharrie Farm, Laib. Our lunch stop was at the curve on the path where the track continues over the Kirkton Pass, and we made our return journey on the high part of the forestry track.

Before returning to our transport we diverted to Creag-an-Tuirc (The Crag of the Boar) and the MacLarens' rallying place, which provides a panoramic view of Balquhider Glen, where yesteryear the Ferguson, Stewart, MacGregor, Buchanan and MacLaren clans were predominant. This viewpoint also gives an excellent view of Lochs Voil and Doine to the west and the Glen Buckie and Stronslaney areas.

It was just nice to be able to undertake this walk on a mid-March day and those present expressed the view it had been a worthwhile experience.

Thanks to Bob Palmer for leading and for the text.

Saturday 24th March - The Rob Roy Way: Stage 2, Aberfoyle to Callander, 10 miles.

Stage 2 of the Rob Roy Way was blessed with perfect weather for walking: a blue, almost cloudless sky, but with a refreshing spring chill still in the air.

Seventeen ramblers and two dogs

Ramblers' Diary

Saturday 5th May - 9.00am Ben Vuirich, Pitlochry, Hillwalk.

Contact 01877 330032

Wednesday 9th May - Stroll back in time: Dunmore - Airth. 4 miles.

Contact 01877 330558

Saturday 19th May - 9.00am RRW4 - Strathyre to Glen Ogle. 10 miles.

Contact 01877 376200

Wednesday 30th May - Spring flowers ramble, Abertoye. 9 miles.

Contact 01877 330775

Saturday 2nd June - 9.00am Beinn a' Bheilthir, Ballachulish. Hillwalk.

Contact 01877 331067

Walks start at 9.30am and Hillwalks start at 9.00am from Ancaster Square, unless otherwise stated. Come prepared with wet weather clothing, stout footwear and a picnic lunch.

assembled at 9.00am in Ancaster Square with most transported to the start of the walk at Aberfoyle in the Kirk minibus, others being met at the start. Our thanks to Moira Thomson who, although unable to join the walk due to another commitment, took time out of her busy day to drive the minibus.

Leaving Aberfoyle we took the minor road passing Dounans Outdoor Centre and then turned right on to the forest track running above the local golf course. On the south facing slopes early wild flowers were beginning to bloom: primrose,

lesser celandine and saxifrage all on show. The route then passed just north of Braeval car park and started to gain height, with the hills to our left becoming rugged. Having crossed a couple of stiles and the odd stream, we emerged from the forest on to the open moor land. This is a glorious stretch of the walk, and the old tale was related of the farmer and his two sons, going home to Gartmore from Cock Hill Fair and being 'set upon and done to death', on the old drove road, known as the 'Cheepurst' over the Menteith Hills.

The path twisted as it descended to a



Crossing the Menteith Hills on stage 2 of the Rob Roy Way. Photo supplied by Keith Niven.



Thirteen ramblers and one of the three dogs on the Craggs Stroll. Photo by the fourteenth rambler (and leader): Grace Findlay

lovely lochan, rich in vegetation and attractive to waterfowl, with swans and little grebes to be seen enjoying the tranquil waters. The lochan, known locally as 'Cheepers Lochan' is recorded on the OS map as *Allt a'Chip Dhuibh* which may be derived from a local well, *Tiobart na Reil*.

Not far off we met a forestry road and an elevated viewpoint where a picnic table invited us to sit, eat and view the scene. A perfect choice with the panorama including hills to the north of Loch Venachar, with Ben Ledi and Kilmahog visible at its eastern end.

Refreshed, the ramblers set off with renewed vigour in their step and gradually descended through the forest, which consists mainly of conifer with a sprinkling of golden larch, passing many small waterfalls before emerging on the Invertrossachs Road on the north shore of Loch Venachar at East Lodge car park.

We were not alone on the trek - we met four or five groups, kitted for overnight camping, making their way from Callander to Aberfoyle as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme - but for our group 2.5 miles remained from East Lodge to Callander to complete section two of this journey, with all agreeing it had been a perfect day.

Thanks to Lesley and Keith Niven

for taking on the task of leading this long distance footpath in easy stages and for penning the foregoing.

Wednesday 11th April - Callander Craggs Stroll - 4miles.

After a headcount of fourteen and three dogs, we set off on the 'Craggs Stroll' led by Grace Findlay. The title might have been a little misleading but we did end up there!

First of all we headed along Main Street and down the path beside the

Roman Camp Hotel. From there we were rewarded with a view of the old walled garden before heading along the river Teith to the Esker, a long winding elevated mound, thought at one time to have been created by the Romans. It is, however, purely a natural phenomenon formed by the melt waters flowing under glacial ice during the last ice age.

From there we went through the industrial estate, crossing the A84 to the old railway track, and headed east to Auchenlaich Farm. Just next to the caravan park we saw the remains of the Chambered Cairn (the longest in Scotland), and then started a gradual ascent towards the Craggs.

Following a short stop for coffee we resumed our walk to Bracklinn Falls and gazed down to where the Bracklinn Bridge once stood before it was washed away by flood water. Nearby we had lunch, then down Bracklinn Road and along the lower Craggs woodland walk and back to town.

It was a lovely stroll and great to have Tony Beaman fit enough to be with us after his long absence.

Olive Walker

Dreadnought Garage

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NOT TO



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Callander Golf Club



31st March – a sunny start to the 2007 season. Photo: Ken Roberts.

Opening Day

IN THE beautiful sunshine over one hundred members, relatives and guests gathered at lunch time on Saturday 31st March to launch the 2007 golfing season at Callander. Glasses were raised to celebrate the raising of the flag for 2007 and the

Captains (Ladies, Gents, Veterans and Juniors) struck the first drives up the first fairway. In the match for the Captains Putter, the Captains' Team beat the Vice-Captains' by a narrow margin – but the real victors were those shown in our photograph who enjoyed an excellent afternoon out.

The celebrations did not end there

as eighty revellers gathered in the Clubhouse for an Opening Day Dance.

Evelyn MacDonald
Administrative Assistant
01877 330090

Cheese and wine supper

LADIES' CAPTAIN Mrs Pauline Dingley and the Ladies' Committee would like to say a big thank-you to everyone who supported the cheese and wine buffet supper which was held in the clubhouse on Saturday 24th March.

The evening was a great success: 92 tickets were sold. With the bottle stall, quizzes, putting and darts competitions there was plenty to keep everyone busy on the night – not forgetting the wonderful buffet. Many thanks to all who donated bottles for the bottle stall and food for the buffet.

Well done to all the bonus ball winners who each won £25 on the night.

Audrey Corrieri



CALLANDER GOLF CLUB

AVELAND ROAD, CALLANDER FK17 8EN,
TELEPHONE 01877 330090

Spring is here.

The New Season is upon us.

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Easter football



Coaches and children taking part in the Easter football course at Forthbank. Photo supplied by Active Stirling.

ACTIVE STIRLING, in conjunction with the SFA, have been running football coaching courses for children between the ages of 5 and 16 years during the Easter holidays.

SFA certified coaches provided structured sessions at Forthbank stadium, with the main emphasis on fun and participation.

Scott Kinross, SFA Football Development Officer, said: 'With approximately 140 children attending over the two weeks, the coaches followed a timetable which included

practice on moving with the ball, passing and shooting drills as well as small-sided games. The main emphasis was on fun and taking part, and it was great to see so many children enjoying themselves while playing football.'

Anyone interested in the weekly Soccer Centres or the forthcoming Summer Holiday Courses should please contact Active Stirling on 01786 432323 for further information.

Gary Nimmo

Summer plans

CALLANDER YOUTH Project will soon be advertising their summer programme for 2007. If you are between the ages of 11 and 25, and have some spare time during the summer holidays, why not get involved with one or all of our activities on offer. The full summer programme will be listed as part of the Stirling Council *Sizzling Summer Youth Programme* which will be advertised to every young person in McLaren High School. In addition, a list of events and prices will be posted in the next BLV, and will be available on the CYP website at www.cyp.org.uk in the coming weeks.

For more information, please contact Vicky or Rachel at the CYP office on 330141.

Highland Games

THE ROB Roy Highland Games, kindly sponsored by Forest Hills Hotel, are to take place on the loch field adjacent to Kinlochard Village Hall on Sunday, 15th July.

For further information, contact Fergus Wood, tel: 01877 387219.

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McLaren Indoor Bowling Club

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the McLaren Indoor Bowling Club was held on Tuesday 20th March 2007 in the McLaren Leisure Centre.

President Tom Monteith welcomed the attending members and reported that membership numbers had remained at around the mid-sixties for the 2006/2007 season. Coaching classes had been run at the Club during the season and around twenty members had benefited from the advice of the Scottish Indoor Bowling Association Area Coach, Dick Boyle. One member, Moira Thomson, had also attained her S.I.B.A coaching certificate.

In pursuit of attempting to introduce younger people to the sport of indoor bowling the Club were in communication with both the Primary and Secondary schools in Callander, and with Stirling Sports Council, with a view to introducing a one-hour coaching session per week to the school curriculum for certain pupils. Discussions on this will continue during the months ahead.

Committee elections for the 2007/2008 season resulted in the fol-

lowing:

President: Tom Monteith

Vice-President: Marion Allan

Treasurer: Jim Thomson

Committee members: Elma Macdonald, Bill Boyd, Gavin Renton, Christine Watson and David Buchanan.

On Wednesday 11th April the Club played the return Senior friendly match with West Lothian I.B.C. at Callander, and again, as at Livingston earlier in the season, came away with a comprehensive victory. A great day was enjoyed by all.

The winners for the 2006/2007 season were as follows:

Summer Pairs – Tom Monteith and Gavin Renton

Summer Progressive – Gavin Renton

Saturday Inter-Club League – McLaren Team sponsored by Jim Thomson

Monday Ladies Triples League – Norma Maconachie, Marion Allan and Christine Watson

Tuesday Gents Triples League – Jim Allan, Tom Monteith and Mike Crowe

Thursday/Friday Mixed Triples League – Ina McLaren, Margaret

Monteith, Gavin Renton and Tom Monteith

Ladies Pairs Championship – Effie Campbell and Margaret Monteith

Gents Pairs Championship – John Macdonald and Jim Thomson

Mixed Pairs Championship – Eleanor Crowe and Mike Crowe

Ladies Singles Championship – Marion Allan

Gents Singles Championship – Vic Waugh

The George Spence Trophies – winner: Mike Crowe and runner-up: Willie Blain

The Club would like to extend a welcome to anyone interested in trying out the sport of indoor bowling. We now have a trained coach within the Club who would be delighted to offer her help to any newcomer. Please come along and have a go.

Tom Monteith
President

Bowling Club

CALLANDER BOWLING Green opened on 15th April with a good attendance of members and visitors. The first jack and bowl was thrown by the president, Peter McCartney.

We now look forward to a good season ahead with any new members who would like to join us. So please come along.

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Celebrating 50 years of Christian Aid

ON THE first dry Sunday afternoon in May there will be dancing in Ancaster Square by Liz Campbell's Highland Dancers.

This year Christian Aid is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and is commemorating this event by the planting of a tree in each of the four church gardens as follows:

Sunday 6th May

Callander Kirk – after the 11.00am Service

Trossachs Church – after the Afternoon Service

Sunday 13th May

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church – prior to the 9.30 Morning Service

St. Joseph's Catholic Church – after the Morning Mass

Christian Aid Service

This will be held in St. Andrew's

Episcopal Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 13th May and the guest speaker will be John Gibson.

Concert

Mr Ian Milligan and *Callander Chorale* will be giving a concert in Brig o' Turk Hall on Wednesday 16th May at 7.30pm.

Christian Aid Week

This year's Christian Aid Week is from 13th to 19th May. At the beginning of the week, a volunteer will drop an envelope through your door. Please put some money in it as soon as possible and keep it handy for when the volunteer returns towards the end of the week to collect it.

Last year, nearly half of the envelopes were 'lost' before the volunteer returned and we would be grateful if the efficiency of the system was improved this year.

Another great help would be that if you are a taxpayer you complete the details on the envelope. This allows the national office to reclaim an additional 28 pence for every pound given. Last year, an impressive £1674 was raised with the house-to-house collection. A further £472 would have been raised if all of the envelopes had been eligible for Gift Aid. This would have helped a considerable number of people.

If your envelope is not collected or you do not get one, please collect an envelope at any Church or bank and return it to the same venue.

Thank you for your help. I hope in the June edition of the *Ben Ledi View* to be able to report on bumper giving. Thanks in anticipation to all the volunteers.

Moirra Thomson

INTRODUCING YOU TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

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How many people you can expect to meet through **Introductions** depends on a combination of factors. The amount of choice you have is affected by how many restrictions you place on the height, age, appearance and location of your perfect partner. For example, while it's more challenging to match ladies in the 50+ age group because of a major population imbalance (although most do eventually meet their match), gents in the same age group find themselves in great demand. So if you are eligible and fall into that category, don't waste any more time because there are lots of gorgeous ladies just waiting for you to join!

Probably the single most important factor in the matchmaking process is intuition. *Initial Approach* staff, with many years of experience behind them, often have someone in mind for you as soon as they meet you and on countless occasions their instincts have proved to be spot on.

By the end of this year *Initial Approach* will have celebrated around 110 weddings. Call them now and our intuition tells us that you could very well find yourself added to their ever-growing list of successes!

Phone 01786 825777 for your free information pack!

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Charities & Clubs



'Wish I could shimmy ...' refry footwork at the Tea Dance. Photo: Chris Gillespie

Tea dances

The spring season of tea dances has spun through at great tempo. As well as the standard waltzes, quicksteps and foxtrots, some of us have learned new dances such as the Party Samba, the Lomond Waltz and the Square Tango! Others have given old favourites such as the Alicat, Britannia Twostep and the Virginia Reel new life and variations.

There is no doubt that everybody enjoyed these afternoons – people have travelled many miles to attend, with regulars now making a day of it, coming from Glasgow, Falkirk, Alloa, Dunblane and Stirling.

Many thanks to our small band of organisers, those who provide the home baking and of course our musician, Bobby Thomson.

If you think you would like to dance please take note of the autumn series and come along and join in the fun!

The autumn dates are: 15th September, 6th October and 8th December.

Moira Thomson

PS. Callander folk, you are in luck – you don't have to travel! A small number of you come faithfully and it would be great to see many more of you coming along to support this local attraction. A great way to spend a autumn afternoon – social exercise and home baking, what more could you want!

Callander Friends of CHAS

We are delighted to report that our Easter coffee morning raised £508. Thanks to all who helped, especially the Guides.

We hope to restart our weekly car boot sales at St Joseph's car park on Wednesday 9th May from 1.00pm to 4.00pm, depending on the weather. There will be plants, bric-a-brac, and books.

If anyone requires the use of a stall and canopy we have one available to borrow, in return for a small donation to CHAS.

Telephone Fiona House: 01877 330103.

Callander SWRI

Our April meeting was a craft evening. Mrs Marjorie Brown introduced us to the art of decoupage, helped by Mary Montgomery and Jessie Gibson. By the end of the evening we had each made a gift tag to take home with us. The evening closed with a sing-a-long.

Competitions:

Hand-made greeting card

1. M. Brown
2. M. Drummond
3. R. Bell

4 peppermint creams

1. H. Murray
2. C. McPherson
3. M. McLaren

The Anne Sutherland Trophy was won by C. McPherson.

The May meeting of Callander SWRI will be held in Callander Kirk Hall on May 8th at 7.30pm. This is our AGM. Please remember your voting papers. This is a quiz night.

Competitions:

Corsage of spring flowers

Piece of old embroidery.

Margaret Cato

Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club

The annual Rotary Foundation Coffee Morning will be held at the Callander Kirk Hall on Saturday 12th May at 10.00am. Come along and enjoy morning coffee or tea, home baking and the usual stalls.

Elsewhere in this issue there is information and an entry form for the annual Sponsored Ben Ledi Ascent which will take place on the 9th of June. There are already many entries and we would like to see lots more local people of all ages walking for their favourite causes. Come along and enjoy it.

Derek House

The Craigard Club

Do you think you would enjoy having a coffee, some lunch, playing carpet bowls and chit-chat with friends?

Then the Craigard Club might be just what you need on Tuesday and Friday mornings!

The Craigard Club activities have



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started again after the Easter break and our coffees, lunches and social activities are now in full swing. We meet in Callander Kirk Hall on Tuesday mornings from 10.00am until 1.00pm and on Fridays from 10.30am until 2.00pm. Coffee is available until 11.30am and lunch starts at 12noon. Come and catch up with your friends and find out all the latest *on-dits!*

We are always glad to welcome new members – just come along and join us. If you would like to find out more about the Club, please phone Jean on 330867 or Alena on 330236 for further information.

Alena Watt

Callander Friends of Strathcarron

The committee would like to thank everyone who helped to raise £350 for Hospice funds. This was the result of a car boot sale on Saturday 31st March in St Joseph's car park.

Horticultural Society

The next event in the Society's calendar is the plant sale and coffee morning on Saturday 26th May in Callander Kirk Hall from 10.00am to 12 noon.

Gifts of any spare plants will be most welcome.

H. Murray

German-speaking group

Das siebente Treffen dieser Gruppe wird am Freitag den 18. Mai um 19.30 Uhr in 'Ardess', 24 Bridgend, Callander stattfinden. Für diesen Abend haben wir das Thema 'Wenn ich ein Politiker wäre, würde ich ...' ausgewählt.

Vielleicht werden wir uns auch mit einigen Wortspielen wie am Karfreitagsabend beschäftigen. Alle sind herzlich eingeladen, ihre eigene Ideen mitzubringen!

Bitte beachten Sie, dass es leider notwendig ist, das Datum des folgenden Treffens zu verändern. Das vorgeschlagene Datum ist Freitag den 29. Juni um 19.30. Danach werden wir während Juli und August Sommerpause haben. Wir werden uns

am Freitag den 7. September wieder treffen.

Alle sind herzlich willkommen, die sich für die Gelegenheit interessieren, ab und zu mit andern Deutsch zu sprechen. Falls Sie Fragen dazu stellen wollen, rufen Sie bitte Jen Shearer 01877-330446 oder 07710-232908(Handy) an. Email: jen@ardess.net.

Wir freuen uns darauf, Sie bei uns begrüßen zu dürfen.

OPALS 50+

Exercise to music classes for the over 50s resume after the Easter break on Wednesday 25th April in Callander Kirk Hall and continue throughout May, with the last session on 30th May. The cost per lesson is £4.00.

The Autumn classes will start on Wednesday 19th September.

All enquiries to Margaret Brett on 01786 841327.

Blythswood Care

Blythswood Care requires regular donations of goods from the public. If you have any goods you would like to give – clothes, blankets, bric-a-brac, dry food or tinned goods, the van will be in the Station Road Car Park

behind the Dreadnought Hotel on Monday 21st May between 12.30pm and 2.00pm.

For further information on Blythswood Care, please call the Glasgow Depot on 0141 882 0585.

Got some spare time? Would you consider becoming a volunteer? Then call into the Blythswood shop on Main Street for more information.

Heritage Society

Where can you find 'Ram Shackles', 'The Sea Dog', Charlie Duff, 'Big Kate', the Cricket Club, Snow Fights, the Cockhill Fair and many, many more? – in *Character Sketches of Old Callander*, of course.

Copies are available, priced £11.00, from the Rob Roy Centre, King's Book Shop, Callander Library and the Honey Shop, or by post from:

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See April BLV for an order form.

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Obituary

ISABEL STEVENSON EWING died in Forfar on 15th February 2007, aged 78.

Isabel came with her family to Callander in 1942 and they stayed in Julia Cottages, Bridgend in the 1940s and 1950s. She attended McLaren High School and was Head Girl 1946/47. On leaving she took an MA in Modern Languages at Glasgow University and then a Dip. Ed at Jordanhill College. She was thereafter employed by Glasgow University as their Student Housing Officer.

She had been in poor health for several years. Her younger sister Jeannette had pre-deceased her and Isabel is survived by her family.

Sandy Cram

On-line help

A NEW website which featured in *The Times* recently might be of interest to locals wanting to report potholes and other Stirling-controlled infrastructure problems directly to the Council: <http://www.neighbourhoodfixit.com/>

All you need to do is enter the post-code for the area where the problem has occurred. A map is displayed on-screen on which you can pin-point the exact location and give additional information.

It has been set up by the mysociety.org team. More information is available at:

<http://www.neighbourhoodfixit.com/faq>

and at:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article1685508.ece>

Lights help

CALLANDER. COMMUNITY Development Trust would like to thank Ally Baird and his brother Graham for removing the remaining Christmas lights from the trees in south Ancaster Square. We would also like to thank Stirling Council for sending a platform vehicle and operator to remove the lights in the north Square.

Now that all the lights are down, we can send them to Blachere UK for refurbishment ready for re-use at Christmas.

Designs for Christmas 2007 are currently being finalised and, funds permitting, we hope to have an even better display in the Square and along Main Street. Fund-raising is about to begin, so any ideas would be gratefully received!

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Interesting!!!

Motorists in the UK could save more than £100 million a year if they switch to independent garages for servicing, new Government figures show. But the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) says 86% per cent of business still goes to franchised dealers, despite new rules letting owners get work done outside the network without invalidating the warranty.

A new OFT report says the average bill is 40 per cent cheaper at an independent garage — but only 14 per cent of owners took advantage of this. Those who left the dealer network in the two years after the warranty servicing rules were changed in 2003 collectively saved £30 million. But if every driver had followed suit, this could have been £214 million — or £107 million a year.

We are pleased to announce that we now offer a full mechanical Service and Repair facility.

If your vehicle is still within the manufacturer's warranty we can service it within the manufacturer's schedule using their parts whilst still continuing their warranties for the full period. Of course we will offer this service at considerably less cost than the main dealer. We also offer an uplift and courtesy car service.

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2006 Saab 93 Vector, 23,000 miles. Metallic black with grey leather, Climate control, cruise control. Beautiful car. £15,250.00

04/54 Honda CRV 2 litre SE Sport, dark metallic green, half leather, immaculate condition. £9,950.00

Landrover Freelander 1.8 GS 5 Dr, (02/02) 1 owner. 43,000 miles, £5,250.00

01/Y Saab 9-3 Convertible, silver with black leather, done 70,000 miles, with FSH. £7,950.00

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Keni or Sheena.

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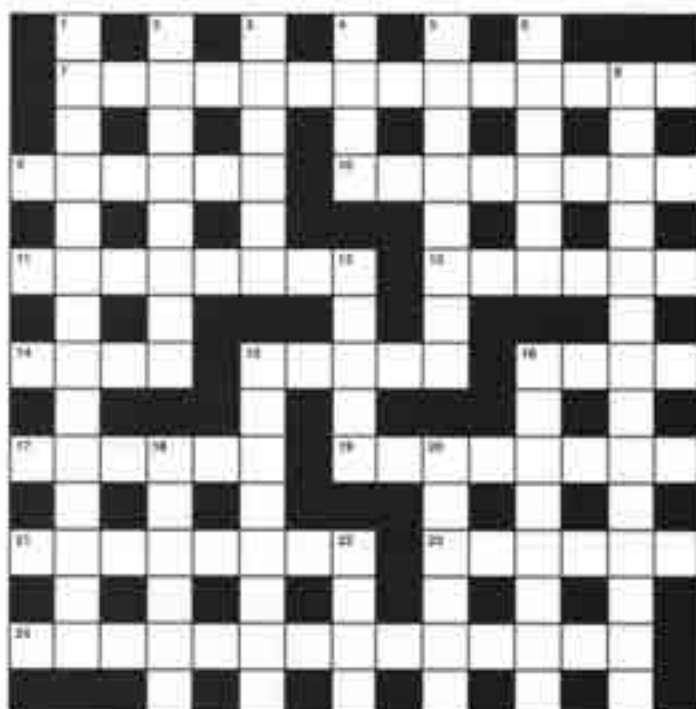
ACROSS

- 7 Milton's EC champ, that shows talent (14)
- 9 Better than a rut to be in (6)
- 10 Left in, increasing, making threatening noises (8)
- 11 Given rope inside, one died (8)
- 13 What you're looking for right after a set of directions (6)
- 14 Throw drunkards into a state of confusion (4)
- 15 Sell the dummy and pass out, say (5)
- 16 Partly collapsed piece of church architecture (4)
- 17 Diffuse large way of working bordering Kent (6)
- 19 Displayed on a whatnot? (8)
- 21 Pleads for nothing to leave mineral (8)
- 23 Ostentatious hurry to arrest the French (6)
- 24 When prize as reported is on time, scientist makes an appearance (14)

DOWN

- 1 Rip causes coins to appear with a lack of predictability (14)
- 2 Like a discharge? I refrain, having nothing coming in (8)
- 3 I'm close and threaten (6)
- 4 Hundred section bloodsucker (4)
- 5 Roughly similar, like boy and relative, say (8)
- 6 Where to go shopping on board ship for underwear (6)
- 8 Trendy clergy? No, but canon is in style showing foolishness (14)
- 12 Condescend to soldier climbing into lair (5)
- 15 Put shag under your bonnet? (8)
- 16 Unconvinced by rising aria in a twitch (8)
- 18 Nightsoil - rude or what? (6)
- 20 Bone young animal I'd prepared with no stuffing (6)
- 22 In a British summer they'll audibly give you a lift (4)

© SJ McConnell



The BLV Prize Crossword No. 50

Set by Stan McConnell

Return completed entries to: BLV Crossword No. 50, Somerled, Kilmahog, Callander, FK17 8HD by Tuesday 22nd May. The first correct entry opened that evening will win £5.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Solution to
BLV Crossword No. 49



The first correct solution opened for BLV Crossword No. 49 was from Angus Buchanan, Callander. £5 prize is on its way.

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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).



Callander Kirk

The Church of Scotland
South Church Street, Callander

May Services.

Sunday 6th

11.00am Morning Service followed by a tree planting ceremony to mark the 50th Anniversary of Christian Aid.
3.00pm Trossachs Monthly Service followed by a tree planting ceremony.

Sunday 13th

11.00am Morning Service
Today there will be tree planting ceremonies at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church prior to their 9.30am Service and at St. Joseph's Catholic Church following the morning Mass. You will be made most welcome at these events.

Sunday 20th

11.00am Morning Service followed by Informal Communion
5.45pm All-Age Supper Service in the Kirk Hall.

Sunday 27th

11.00am Morning Service
Traidcraft lunch and stall will be available after this Service, together with the Eco-desk.
6.30pm Service of Prayer and Blessing
A time to seek God's healing touch for all that troubles us.

June

Sunday 4th

11.00am Communion Service
1.15pm Communion Service
3.00pm Trossachs Communion Service.
<http://www.callanderkirk.org.uk>
Rev Stanley Brook, telephone 330097



Saint Andrew's

Scottish Episcopal Church
Lenny Road, Callander

Sundays and Wednesdays

10.00am Holy Communion
Everyone is welcome at these services.

For any information on baptisms, weddings or funerals, please contact:
Rev Richard Grosse, telephone 382887

St Joseph's

Catholic Church
Glenartney Road, Callander

Weekly Masses

Monday	Mass, 10.00am, Callander
Tuesday	Mass, 10.00am, Doune
Wednesday	Eucharist Service, 10.00am, Callander
Thursday	Mass, 10.00am, Callander
Friday	Mass, 10.00am, Doune Eucharist Service, 10.00am, Callander
Saturday	Mass, 10.00am, Callander
Sunday	11.30am, Callander

Father Jim McCruden
Priest, telephone 330702

Dunblane

Free Church
Beech Road, Dunblane
Rev Alasdair MacDonald MA
telephone 01786 824907

Deadlines for June 2007

THE NEXT edition of the *Ben Ledi View* will be published on Saturday 2nd June 2007.

Advertisements copy and artwork

All advertisement copy must reach our Advertising Co-ordinator Julia Stewardson on advertising@benlediview.com by Tuesday 8th May. Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at www.benlediview.com/adinfo.htm.

Advertising material must be produced in accordance with our specifications or it cannot be accepted. Please also note that all advertising must be paid for in advance.

Editorial copy

All editorial contributions for the June 2007 edition must be in Callander Library or emailed to editor@benlediview.com by 7.00pm on Tuesday 15th May.

Items received after the deadlines will have to be held over to the July/August 2007 edition.

Why not send a copy of the *Ben Ledi View* to a friend or relative?

The cost for a full year (10 issues) is only £10.00 for UK and £20.00 for overseas.

Please send the completed form to: The *Ben Ledi View*, Somerled, Kilmabog, Callander, FK17 8HD with a cheque to 'Callander Community Newspaper Association'.

Please send copies of the *Ben Ledi View*

Starting issue: _____ (month)

TO: _____

Post code: _____

Sender's name and address if different

FROM: _____

Post code: _____

Signature: _____

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