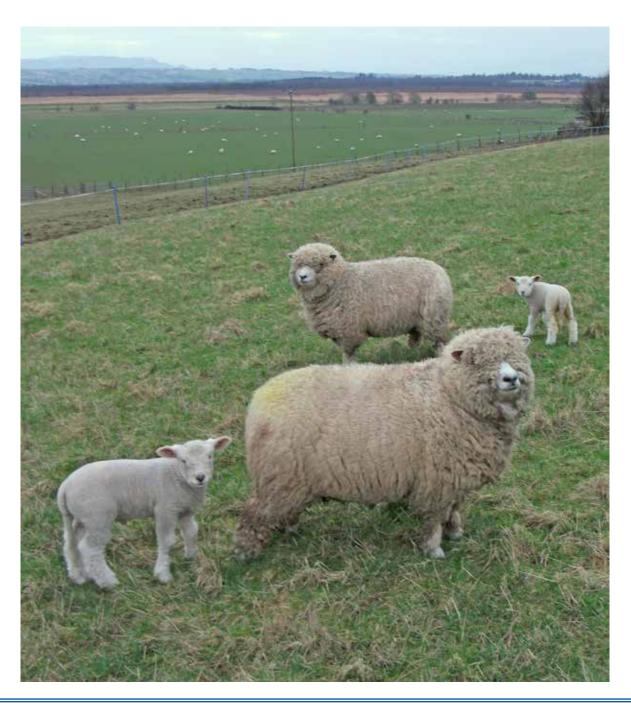




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Ben Ledi View



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Ben Ledi View

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The Ben Ledi View is a community newspaper produced and distributed bi-monthly by volunteers free of charge to approx. 2,000 households and businesses in the Callander area. Letters and articles published in the newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views, beliefs or opinions of the Editorial Committee, who also reserve the right to shorten, edit or not publish any particular letter or article. Contributions will only be published if accompanied by a contact name and address; these will be withheld at the author's request. Articles and advertisements are accepted and printed in good faith.

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Front cover photograph: Early Ryedale lambs, photographed by Charlie Donald on 14th March, by kind permission of Janice Milne, Thornhill.

Hello Readers

rstly, it is with considerable pleasure, that we inform our readers that at the Stirling Community Newspaper Forum, held on 13th March in the spectacular Killearn Village Hall, the Ben Ledi View won the Award for 'Best community newspaper with a circulation of over 500'. In addition, Sarah Clark received an award for her outstanding work over many years, in collecting all the advertising for the magazine. Other contributors won five runner-up awards: Keith Wilson for his well researched articles on the Winter Sky, Northern Lights, and Callander's Last Witch; Mike Hawkins for his spectacular photo of the Aurora Borealis; Callander Primary 6 for their contributions from under 14s and Liam Burnett for his engaging contribution from over 14s.

Our AGM will be held in the Burgh Chambers at 7.00pm on 29th April. Everyone who would like to join our award winning team is invited. As always we welcome new volunteers.

This issue has several opportunities for members of the community to participate. Go and see the Hydro scheme on 17th May! You will see the invitation from the Community Council to attend a public meeting on May 11th. The Scottish Government

website explains of Community Councils - 'Their primary purpose is to ascertain and express the views of the community to the local authority and other public bodies.'

It follows that the community must express its views, if it wishes the Community Council to convey these views authoritatively and convincingly, so it makes sense for a good turnout to attend the meeting.

You will also see the request for support for the proposed Railway Anniversary event. It will not happen if the community commitment is lacking.

The Leisure Centre has won a Carbon Challenge Fund award. Apart from the improvements to the Leisure Centre itself, a Project Officer is being appointed to arrange and monitor carbon saving measures within the community. All these measures are intended to benefit the individual participants, and when all the good results are added together, benefit us all. Make sure you benefit both ways!

As this is being written, Spring seems to have arrived at last, but with one unexpected snowfall recently, who knows what's coming next?

Your editorial team



Sue, Alex, Sarah and Keith accept awards on behalf of everyone who helps with the Ben Ledi View at the annual Community Newspaper Forum event. Photo John McPake.

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Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park consultations



t's nice to have thoughts of Spring with longer (hopefully warmer and sunnier) evenings.

The National Park Authority have been busy over the winter gathering information on priority issues. We have also been monitoring some of our most important wildlife and preparing for the summer influx of visitors. The following gives a little more detail on two particularly important items:

Your Park – Transforming Your Lochshores

The consultation is now closed. The team will analyse and consider each of the responses on an individual basis, weighing up the quality and validity of each of the points made within the contributions. There were 336 responses on the byelaw proposals and 386 on the camping development issues. Next tasks will be to compile:

- A report giving a factual summary of who responded, from where and the key themes that arise
- A recommendation paper for the National Park Authority Board to consider at their meeting on 27th April 2015.

For more information, please visit www.thisisyourpark.org.uk

Live Park - Local Development Plan

The consultation on the additional sites for possible development has also closed.

55 representations from 43 individuals/bodies received were and these are on our Website. 28 representations concerned Balgibbon Drive site in Callander. Planning Officers' are currently analysing comments made and these will help inform the Proposed Local Development Plan (the Proposed Plan) along with previous comments provided to the Main Issues Report (April to July 2014). Thanks to the *BLV*, Community Council and others for helping to spread the word about possible development sites

Following the National Park Board's consideration of officers' recommendations on 27th April, there will be a further consultation on a Proposed Plan for a 6 week period later this year – currently planned for during May and June, but this is to be confirmed. Please visit www.ourlivepark.com for details or phone 01389 722 600 and ask to speak to someone in the Forward Planning Team.

General

Please also remember there is more general information and detail about particular projects elsewhere in this edition of the *BLV* and on our website **www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.** If you think I can help with anything, then please get in touch by phoning 01877 330 159 or email: warnocks@tinyworld.co.uk



Do you need an affordable home ?

Rural Stirling Housing Association aims to support local communities by providing quality homes at affordable rents for families, couples and single people in housing need.

We currently have over 550 rented houses and flats. Around 50 of these become available for rent each year. We hope to have new properties in Strathblane and Balmaha soon and currently have properties in the following communities

Aberfoyle | Balfron | Buchlyvie | Callander | Callande

Deanston Doune Drymen Gargunnock Gartmore Killin Kinlochard Kippen

Locheamhead Strathyre Stronachlachar Tyndrum

We may be able to build in other communities in the future – please let us know to if you want to live in a village that is not listed above. Information on local housing need and demand helps us plan for the future.

If you are interested in renting one of our properties when they become available please contact us:

> Rural Stirling Housing Association Stirling Road, Doune FK16 6AA Telephone: 01786 841101 Email: enquiries@rsha.org.uk www.rsha.org.uk

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Railway Anniversary 1965 – 2015

Proposed Festival Friday 25th – Sunday 27th September 2015

September 2015 will be the 50th anniversary of the landslide in Glen Ogle that effectively closed the railway line known as the Callander to Oban Railway.

The railway was crucial to the growth of Callander as a tourist centre. There is also still great interest in the line as demonstrated during exhibitions in St. Kessog's as part of SummerFest last year.

Several community groups have expressed support for some sort of event to mark this important anniversary as a celebration of the legacy of the railway. I've been asked to start co-ordinating this on behalf of the Callander Partnership. It's still early days and there is a lot of work to do in order to ensure we don't end up with a 'damp squib' and/or be financially 'out of pocket'. We will need a big commitment from many individuals, businesses, community groups, agencies and others to make this proposed event a success.

I am aiming for the weekend of Friday 25th, Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September 2015 as this will cover the exact date of the rockfall and premature closure of the line in 1965.

I've already been in touch with several local groups, along with railway groups and societies who have given informal, 'in-principle' support. However, a final decision on whether the event will go ahead or not will need to be made soon in order to make suitable arrangements. I can come and talk with your group to get ideas and to be able to gauge support for the event. Please get in touch by Thursday 30th April if your group can help.

Further details and updates will follow during 2015. Thanks in advance for your support.

David Warnock
On behalf of The Callander Partnership
Tel: 01877 330 159
Email: warnocks@tinyworld.co.uk

Callander Community Council

Anumber of issues have been brought to our attention:

- Dog fouling this has become a serious problem on the Primary School Playing Field. Please control your dogs in this area and report any dog owners who allow this to happen.
- Car charging point after consultation with Stirling Council and the National Park, the electric car charging point which was installed in South Church Street will be moved to Station Road Car Park. This is an EU initiative to provide these facilities with a main aim being to attract more tourists.
- Budget the budget for Stirling Council in 2015-2016 is agreed and we were pleased to hear that the education budget for music, art and PE will not be cut.
- Wooden benches from Ancaster Square - these have been donated to Callander Bowling Club. All of the plaques will be secured to the wall around the War Memorial.

Public Meeting

To gather the thoughts of the community, we will be holding a public meeting in May to discuss the following:

- Ancaster Square we are proposing to erect a permanent canopy over the north Square so that open air performances can still take place even in wet weather. We are producing images of what the Square would look like and these will be discussed at the meeting.
- Parking numerous proposals have been put forward in past years to improve parking. We need to provide parking for residents, people using the local shops as well as delivery and other service vehicles. Should we leave it as it is, restrict parking in certain areas, provide residents' parking permits, provide locals parking permits or something else?
- Signage there is a serious clutter of signs which needs sorting out, including the huge sign on the edge of South Ancaster Square. What would the community like to see?

- Pavements these are cluttered with signs, bins, and railings. Is there an opportunity to widen the pavements in certain places, remove some of the signs etc. Do we have enough pedestrian crossing points (or too many), are they in the right places and do they work?
- Greening is there more that could be done? Are there any locations for tree planting?
- Maintenance most of the time the Council workers win the battle to keep the streets clear of litter, but can we do more? How can we achieve co-ordination of service providers in digging up the roads and pavements.

Please come to the Public Meeting on Monday 11th May at Callander Youth Project, Bridgend. There is a finger buffet from 7.00pm, meeting starts 7.30pm.

This will be followed by Callander Community Council AGM at 9.30pm, 11th May at CYP, Bridgend

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Callander Hydro Community Event 17th May

Operational issues

We have experienced some snagging issues over the past couple of months and as



a result we lost eight days of generation revenue, when the turbine failed due to snow melt causing flooding into the turbine house. Remedial action has been taken to make the turbine house water tight; this includes an extra drain and snow boards on the roof to stop snow sliding off the roof in front of the door.

We have converted our bank loan from a construction loan to operating loans, which we repay over the next 15 years. Our priority going forward is to ensure we have our cash flow under control. We need to build a cash reserve. Building a history of the CCHL business during 2015 will enable us to assess our reserve requirements and we will then be able to review how much revenue we can gift to CCDT for Community Projects.

Community Open Day 17th May

We are pleased to extend a general invitation to the Callander community to visit the site, find out how hydro works and in particular more about our very own scheme. On Sunday 17th May, we will be running a short rolling presentation from noon onwards at the Callander Youth Hub. Then if you wish to see the turbine house, we will bus you up there to see it in operation. You can then walk up to the intake if you wish (bit of a steep walk) and finally catch the bus back to Callander from the turbine house again. As we will be constrained by availability of bus seats. booking for the site visit is essential.

To book - please contact Sheila Winstone our Town Coordinator by email coordinator@callandercdt.org. uk or by telephone on 07852 106605.

We hope you can come along and have an interesting afternoon.

Frank Park

Police Scotland

ur local Police team are currently working as part of 'Operation Quarterlight,' a national initiative to address criminals targeting vehicles. We have been carrying out static road checks to identify and deter travelling criminals, but would also ask our local residents to help in a number of ways.

- Lock your vehicle we have had vehicles targeted, particularly in rural areas, which have been left unlocked overnight, sometimes with the keys left in them.
- Put your keys in a drawer, not by the door - thieves can 'hook' keys through your letterbox.
- Lock your house at night, even when you are in - why make it easy?
- Don't leave valuables visible in the car.
- Phone 101 to report any suspicious vehicles or people.

We are preparing for the annual increase in visitors to the area and Operation Ironworks will be running from the Easter Weekend through to the end of September. This has now become a well established part of our Policing Plan for the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and we are looking forward to working with Park staff, the Forestry Commission and others, keeping the area a safe place for local residents and visitors alike.

Your Community Team are: Constables Gemma Kane. Neil McLaren, Graham Rattray and Tracy Diamond. The Community Policing Sergeant is Adrian Robertson. who covers Forth and Endrick and Trossachs and Teith Community Wards and is based at Callander. They can be contacted via the email address TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.pnn. police.uk or by phoning 101

War, Work and Disability







David Walker, who works with

It's difficult to make out the text under the old photos, but the chap on the left has had legs both amputated and the one on the right his *left* hand.

to help with a new project being run by the Scottish Oral History Centre (SOHC), based at the University of Strathclyde. The SOHC want to hear from people who were disabled or became disabled during the period 1939-1950 or from their advocates, family and co-workers. During the war huge demands were made on the working population of Scotland to meet production targets for munitions and other goods. With the departure of many workers to the armed forces, employers began recruiting disabled people to help fill the gaps in the essential services at home. By 1941, a wartime employment service for disabled people (aged 16 or over)was set up which also provided help to those who had been wounded in battle

this subject but the personal stories of those directly involved are scarce. Indeed, it is almost impossible to access the Scottish experience. However, by creating an oral history archive for Scotland the gap in knowledge will begin to be filled, providing an important and valuable resource that can be used as a platform to stimulate research and disseminate and improve knowledge.

Become part of Scottish history

You might be interested in, and able and were undergoing rehabilitation.

Some research has been done on

the SOHC, would love to hear from anyone who thinks they could help with this project. So, were you, or do you know anyone who was disabled and who worked during the war years? Did you or do you know anyone who helped the disabled in the workplace during the Second World War period? This includes all those who worked for disability organizations. It doesn't matter where you are based as David is able to visit you and capture your memories using a digital audio recorder. So, if you, or anyone you know, fit the bill and want to become a part of Scottish history then why not contact David in the first instance on 0141 444 8367 and leave a message. Or, you can email him at david. walker@strath.ac.uk

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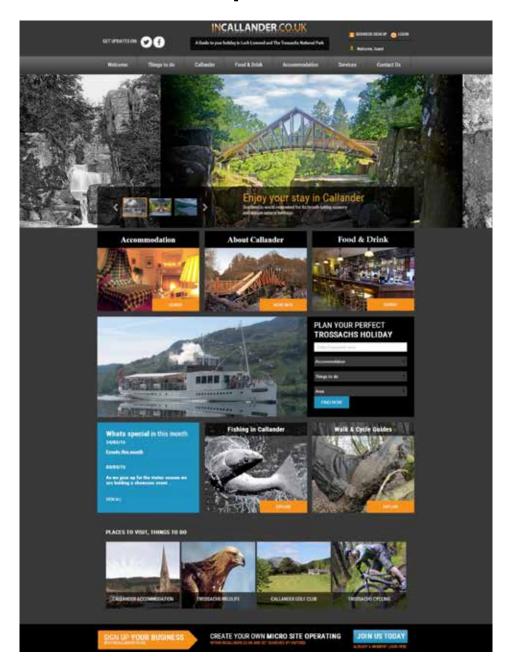
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Callander Enterprise launch www.incallander.co.uk



There was a steady stream of people through the door of St Kessog's on Tuesday 3rd March, despite the heavy fall of snow that day. They had come to check out their business microsite on the brand new Incallander website. A special thank you must go to those who braved the roads and snow to come all the way in from Balquhidder, Lochearnhead and Loch Katrine! For it is not just the Callander businesses who benefit from this website – check it out and see for yourselves.

The site was set up originally to help visitors find places to stay and visit while in Callander and the Trossachs and held a wealth of information, not always easy to navigate through.

Now the new website offers direct links to restaurants, cafes, shops, B&B's, guest houses, hotels, hostels, self-catering cottages, cycle hire, and leisure activities indoors and out, walks. local services and so much more. Freetobook Together, a professional online booking solution ideal for all independent accommodation (which does not take a high commission rate for using their booking diary) is set up on the Accommodation menu. This link will allow people to book direct with those businesses that have joined Freetobook in Callander. Callander Enterprise is supporting the set up for this booking facility on incallander to help establish a booking system that will

not take money away from the area.

Already it is clear that there is huge potential for the website to be more than just a way for visitors to find the best places to stay, eat, and explore here. In fact, the list of services could easily include local tradespeople too. We have the electrician, plenty of scope for painters, builders, roofers, plumbers to join up and that could make it a very useful facility for all the community, not just for visitors. If you have one of these businesses click on the site and see how easy it is to join; pay £55 by PayPal and that is you out there for a year. And the same goes for anyone else with a business wanting to promote his or her sales or service through this dynamic website.

Modern technology is helping the next generation of visitors to find what a brilliant place Callander and the Trossachs is to spend time in, with a new Facebook page. Find it on www.incallander.co.uk and see the fantastic photographs put up there to display what a 1000 words could not say. A diary of events can also be There is even a Twitter accessed. account with over 2000 followers already! Surely, this new portal for the town will persuade people to stop longer than a day for there is so much more to explore, as we who are lucky enough to live here know already.

Lucy Fraser-Gunn Chairperson Callander Enterprise E-mail: cal-ent@incallander.co.uk Telephone: 07711 404848



Gone fishing.....on the Teith

BC Countryfile presenter Adam Henson visited Callander in early February to join scores of anglers, locals and Clanranald fighters to celebrate the opening of the salmon fishing season on the River Teith.

The Countryfile presenter was piped to the river by pipers of Tulliallan Pipe Band accompanied by Stirling's Provost Mike Robbins, anglers and local schoolchildren. He then threw the traditional quaich of single malt whisky into the river to toast the new season.

Henson was impressed with the conservation work being undertaken on the river by Stirling Council saying: We have been fishing these rivers for thousands of years and we want to keep fishing them for thousands of more years. Conservation behind the fishing is absolutely essential and the work Stirling Council is doing on the river is trailblazing.'

Henson met Callander Countryside representative John Snodin, who presented him with copies of the excellent Stories in the Landscape and Callander Paths pamphlets. The photo below shows the Countryfile presenter reading all about the Callander Geodiversity Trail.







Photos by Keith Wilson & Hilary Gunkel



Yes, we're planning another Summerfest at St Kessog's! Callander Community Development Trust and Creative in Callander are working with the new owners of the building, the Clanranald Trust, to bring you another celebration of local talent.

We will be open every day between Saturday 11th July to Sunday

26th July, with exhibitions, heritage displays, music, films, workshops and a craft fair. We will also organise several more evening gigs and events through August.

We're still planning the programme but it will be available for the next BLV in June. Our Facebook (Callander Summerfest) and Twitter (@stkessogs) will start up again soon with details as they're firmed up. And look out for our colourful brochures and posters.

If you are interested in getting involved, whether as an artist, performer or volunteer, or have ideas for the programme, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Sheila Winstone, Town Co-ordinator 07852 106605 coordinator@callandercdt.org.uk.

Film Society

Callander Film Society will hold its AGM on Saturday 9th May, 7pm at McLaren Leisure Centre.

Following a short meeting, the free film will be Woody Alllen's *Blue Jasmine*, in which Cate Blanchett won an Oscar for her performance as a former New York socialite who returns utterly ruined to her estranged sister in San Francisco. All members welcome! Further information from Eammon 01877 339323.

Scottish Fiddle Journey

oncert
by Alastair
Savage and
Friends at
St Mary's
Episcopal
Church,
Aberfoyle on 24th
April at 7.30pm.

Tickets £10. To book call Mark Seymour 01786 870710 or email concerts0310@yahoo.co.uk

Rusty Strings needs

Do you play an orchestral string instrument? If so, Rusty Strings needs you. Rusty Strings is the collective name for a group of people who either used to play a string instrument or have only recently started playing. We meet together to make music and eat cake!

new players

Our main purpose is to enjoy making music and our occasional concerts are always in aid of charity. We meet on Tuesday afternoons and we are a little short of VIOLINISTS at the moment, so, if you are interested, please phone Jean or Ron on 01877 331759

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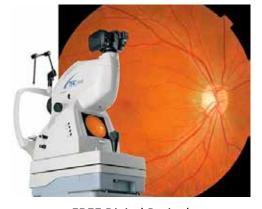
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Grand concert

ne very important date for your diary is Friday 22nd May at 7.30pm in Callander Kirk, when Class Brass, the Tuesday band and Callander Brass, plus soloists, will take part in our Grand Concert. We plan an entertaining evening as a thank-you to everyone who supported us in our fundraising efforts to travel to Cheltenham last year, to compete in the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain. All are welcome, and tickets will be available nearer the date from band members and at the door.

We ended 2014 as Scottish 4th Section Band of the Year - now we move up to the third section at the Fife Brass Band Festival in Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline, on Saturday 25th April. Each band chooses its own programme, and Callander Brass have been commended on our choices in the past, so we hope to repeat that success as we make our debut in the third section contests.

Alma Cadzow

What's happening at Callander library?

This is my first article for the BLV since starting at Callander Library and I would like to thank everyone who has made me feel so welcome in my new job. It's a lovely place to work.

Public Holidays

The library will close for Easter weekend at 7.00pm Thursday 2nd April and will re-open on Tuesday 7th April at 10.00am.

Bookbug

Bookbug sessions run every 2nd Thursday morning 10.45am – 11.15am, for all children aged 0 – 4 yrs. Come and have fun with songs, nursery rhymes and stories. Dates for the coming months: April 23rd, May 7th and May 21st. All welcome.

Chatterbooks

Our reading group for primary school children meets from 3.30pm – 4.30pm on the last Thursday of every month. Suitable for both keen readers and those who need a little encouragement, we use books as a theme for craft activities, puzzles, games etc.....and there are always biscuits! Please come

and ask for details.

Stirling Libraries Book Festival

This year our Book Festival will be in May, with events happening in libraries throughout the Stirling Council area. I'm delighted to announce that Scottish author, Lucy Ribchester will be coming to Callander Library on Tuesday 19th May at 7.30pm to talk about her debut novel 'The Hourglass Factory'. Set in 1912, it's a fast-paced historical whodunit set against the background of the suffragette movement. Please contact the library for further information, tickets etc.

CALLANDER LIBRARY

Opening Hours

9 9 9 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1								
Monday	10am – 1pm	2-5pm						
Tuesday	10am – 1pm	2-7pm						
Wednesday	Closed							
Thursday	10am – 1pm	2-7pm						
Friday	10am – 1pm	2-5pm						
Saturday	10am – 12 noon							
Telephone/Fax 331544								

National Park Development Plan reaches final stages in preparation

As many of the Callander community are probably aware, over the past 18 months the planning team here at the National Park have been through a number of stages of consultation about planning for the future of the Park and its communities - including identifying where land is needed for new homes, businesses and tourism developments.

National Park planners have considered all the views expressed during these consultations and have now set out

K

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the Park's settled view on what development is needed in a document called a 'Proposed Local Development Plan'. This plan shows the proposed development for the next 10 years and will be published for a final six week consultation from Monday 18 May – Sunday 28 June 2015. This will be the last chance for individuals or the community to comment before the Plan is adopted.

More detail of what is included in the Plan for the Callander area will follow in the next edition of the Ben Ledi View, but for all the latest updates in the meantime please keep in touch with us online at www.ourlivepark.com, email: hello@ourlivepark.com or call us on 01389 722600.



FINAL CONSULTATION - MONDAY 18 MAY - SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2015

McLaren High School

Burns Lunch

Traditional haggis, neeps and tatties was served in the cafeteria on Monday 26th January, as a tribute to Robert Burns. Lunch proved popular as ever, haggis was even included as a panini filling too! It may make a more frequent appearance - watch this space!



Junior Ski Course 2015—Italy

Following on from previous year's, McLaren High School once again organised a Junior Ski Course for 31 pupils and 3 members of staff. The group headed to Bormio, located in the Northern Italian Alps. The week was a great success with plenty of snow and sun for Alpine skiing.

The pupils were split into 4 groups

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depending on their ski ability and received first class instruction from the local Italian Ski School.

The beginners group consisted of 12 pupils who had never skied before and it was great to see their progress as the week went on, becoming more confident, developing their ski skills and gradually making their way to the top of the mountain.

The rest of the group had a wide range of skiing experience from some pupils who were beginners on the 2014 Ski Course to some who are members of a local Ski Club. These pupils decided to try the annual challenge, set in Bormio, of skiing from Peak to Creek. The challenge of the event is to ski from the peak at 3012m to the bottom of the slopes without stopping. No records were broken, but the pupils managed it in a very respectable time of 13 minutes.

I'd like to thank the office staff, Mr Robertson, Miss McKell and all of the pupils for their contributions to the success of the week and look forward to the 2016 Junior Ski Course.

Mr Carrol (Ski Course Organiser)

Under-16 Central Schools Cup Semi Final

On 17th February McLaren High travelled to Balfron High to play for a place in the Central Schools Final. A cold and windy night didn't stop both teams from attempting to play expansive rugby. The experienced McLaren team exerted early pressure, and Logan Trotter ran in his first of four tries which he successfully converted to give McLaren a 7-0 lead. McLaren extended their lead when Luke Maher charged down a kick, collected the loose ball and sprinted over the line. This was again successfully converted by Logan. An unconverted Duncan Hendry score gave McLaren a 19-0 lead. Balfron replied with a converted score of their own just before half time and the teams swapped ends with the score line 19-7 in the away team's favour.

McLaren continued to put pressure on the Balfron defensive line, and some excellent passing and strong running provided them with the platform to extend their lead in the start of the second half. Luke and Logan both scored their second tries of the match, with Logan converting both tries, extending the lead to 33-7. Three more unanswered scores by Logan (x2) and Duncan gave McLaren a 48-7 lead. Balfron rallied towards the end of the game and scored a penalty try which was successfully converted. The final score was 48-14 to McLaren, and the game was a good, physical encounter which was a great advert for school rugby in the local area. McLaren will now move on to the Central Schools Final.

Squad – Connor Clark, Jack McGuire, James Wray, Cameron Cairns, Daniel Longworth, Callum Cameron, Duncan Hendry, Stuart Lang, Gregor Nixon, Jamie Nixon, Connor Ramsay Clapham, Calum Maxwell, Luke Maher, Logan Trotter.

Central Schools U18 Final



The Central Schools U18 Final was contested between Wallace, Balfron and McLaren High Schools on a wintery night at Ochilview, Stenhousemuir. In the first match Wallace beat Balfron 19-0, and moved to the next match knowing a victory against McLaren would see them become champions. The inexperienced McLaren team worked hard and gave the match 100% but Wallace ran out well deserved winners to secure first place. Congratulations Wallace!

McLaren and Balfron were left to play for second place. In a closely matched contest, Balfron scored first to move into a 7-0 lead. However, at the start of the second half McLaren fought back. Luke Maher made an excellent break to score under the posts and he stepped up and converted his own score to make it 7-7. Andrew Nixon then made an excellent break, passed inside to Kieran Rennie who sprinted clear

to make the score 12-7 to McLaren. McLaren seemed to have sealed the victory but with moments to go Balfron had an attacking lineout on McLaren's 5m line. Balfron threw the ball to the back of the lineout where their number 8 caught the ball and burst over the line to make the score 12-12. It was down to the conversion and the last kick of the game. The Balfron stand-off kept his cool and successfully kicked the conversion securing a 14-12 win for Balfron.

Although McLaren lost both matches, the boys still had an enjoyable night with a number of inexperienced players stepping in and not looking out of place. Well done to all involved.

14 man squad - James Wray, Sam Frost, Connor Clark, Grant Pringle, Cameron Cairns. Andrew Innes. Andrew Nixon, Michael O'Connell, Lewis McCaffrey, Luke Maher, Kieran Rennie, Alastair Craig, Scott Dineley and Louis Stewart.

Basketball



McLaren High Senior Boys Basketball team followed up their recent win over Stirling High by beating St Modan's 83-33. After an even first quarter McLaren blew the opposition away with some outstanding offensive play. Most Valuable Player (MVP) goes to Andrew Innes who controlled the tempo of the game.

After a tricky start to the season MHS have gelled as a team and have started to produce some excellent results against very competent opposition. The team have hit form at the right time with fixtures against Bannockburn and Wallace just around the corner.

> Article and images provided by Yvonne King

Callander Youth Project

he Callander Youth Project Trust, was shortlisted for the National Youth Worker of the Year Awards 2015 in the 'Innovative Practice - Team of the Year' category.

Not only did CYP win the 'Innovative Practice - Team of the Year' at the Youthlink Scotland 2015 Awards but also won the Overall Winner on the night. The Awards, run by YouthLink Scotland, recognise and celebrate outstanding achievement with young people by managers, practitioners, peer educators, teams and individuals who work within Scotland's youth work sector.

The Callander Youth Project Trust (CYPT) works with young people, aged 11-25, across one of the biggest rural catchment areas in Scotland. They offer the SQA Steps to Work programme, Modern Apprenticeships, Activity Agreements and Community Jobs Scotland positions within the organisation. Their internal social enterprise wing supports young people by offering opportunities to develop practical skills in catering, hospitality, and the tourism sector. The local labour market in Callander is focussed on hospitality and tourism; CYPT support young people into these jobs.



CYPT has taken hugely entrepreneurial and innovative approach in raising money to become self-financing, in order to create opportunities for young people. With many of the vegetables and herbs used grown in their own garden, the Bridgend Café opened in 2013. Their deep fried haggis isn't bad! Then on June 12th 2014, CYPT launched the 5 star Callander Hostel and have had 2,000+ guests since the doors opened. They turned an old, unused building into a key part of the community.

The nomination for the Innovative Practice - Team of the Year Award was supported by Chairman Dan McKirgan: 'I have encountered so many young people who came to us with low confidence, unable to make eye contact. These young people have been empowered to leave us as independent young people and it is thanks to the team that these young people are supported through their progression and even afterwards. It is wonderful to see young people thriving in other jobs within the town and beyond.'

Fiona McLeod, Acting Minister for Children and Young People, said:

'The National Youth Worker of the Year Awards are a great platform for celebrating the fantastic and often unseen work done by young people in our communities. I congratulate all 27 of the selected finalists and wish all of them well ahead of the big night.

Whether or not they win an award, all of them should be hugely proud of what they have achieved. I look forward to meeting them and hearing more about the broad range of work they have done, which - as a former youth worker myself - I know is of great value.'

Commenting, Jim Sweeney, Chief Executive of YouthLink Scotland, said:

'These awards are a true celebration of our unstinting belief in our young people. Right across the country in clubs and organisations, on the streets and in the great outdoors, youth workers give their time to help young people achieve their potential and be all they can be. Youth work is a wholly positive experience that changes lives and adds to the commonwealth of Chris Martin Scottish society.'



Callander Medical Centre

Both Practices

Training

The surgeries and community nurses take part in various training programmes throughout the year. 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:

Wednesday 24th June

Both practices and community nurse clinic will close at 12.30pm. Emergency cover will be provided by NHS24 for nursing and GPs.

In the event of an emergency, please telephone 111. On that afternoon, please do not contact the surgeries for repeat prescriptions or for appointments.

Bracklinn Practice 01877 331001 Leny Practice 01877 331000

Bracklinn Practice Appointments

The practice is aware of an increased pressure on our appointments. An audit undertaken last year showed that overall, we have enough routine and too many urgent appointments available. The results also showed that we were unable to accommodate people

wanting to be seen within the next few days. We have therefore created some semi-urgent appointments within each clinic for this purpose.

All our GP appointments are 10 minutes, and we do advise that if you want to discuss more than 1 thing it is better to make a 20 minute appointment. However, you may need to give more notice for these appointments. Clinic times vary to accommodate as many patients as possible; however, we appreciate the times are not always suitable. Please do not, however, request an urgent appointment around your work schedule as these appointments are available for patients who have become acutely unwell. If the receptionist asks questions regarding symptoms etc it is to accommodate your request as efficiently as possible.

The practice would also like patients to be aware that an empty waiting room does not mean the doctors are not busy. A 10 minute face-to-face consultation can equate to at least 30 minutes of the GP's time. The doctors see on average 20 patients per day. They also deal with over 100 prescription requests daily, some of these requests can take

up to 30 minutes to action. The doctors also have approximately 10 requests each day for telephone calls which can take as long as a consultation. The practice cannot guarantee when a doctor will ring patients due to other circumstances, and unfortunately phone calls can be made in the evening. It is important that if you think you need to be seen by a doctor that you request an appointment from the receptionist and not a telephone call. Requests for house visits are always accommodated; however, it is advisable to give the practice as much notice as possible for the doctor to assess the urgency and work it into his/her day. As the doctors perform other duties for the Health Service, they are not in the practice every day. You may experience that you cannot see a specific doctor on certain days and unfortunately this is unavoidable.

Finally, we appreciate all our patients who are understanding when the clinics do not run to time, or the doctor is called away in an emergency. We would also like to thank all our patients for being courteous, kind and accommodating to the staff.

Margaret A Davis



Telephone Helpline 01786 471771

Tues/Weds 11am-1pm; Thurs 7pm-9pm; Sunday 1pm-3pm Member of the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists

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Leny Practice

Practice Closed

In line with NHS Forth Valley public holidays, Leny Practice will be closed on Monday 4th May. If you require emergency medical assistance out with these hours please contact NHS24 on 111.

Well Woman Clinic

Our Well Woman Clinic is held weekly, on a Tuesday morning with appointment resource planned specifically to cater for these appointments which can require 15-30 minute slots.

Over the last few months some patients have not attended their appointment without any notice to the Practice and others have cancelled at the last minute. We would ask that you contact us as soon as possible if you cannot make your planned appointment so that we can offer appointments to other patients. Your co operation is, as always, very much appreciated.

Access, Capacity and Demand Update

We are now actively seeking patients to join the 'Patient Access' system which allows you to book appointments and order repeat medications on-line. The system is available 24hrs a day,

7 days a week and saves you having to wait until we are open and our phone line is free. It is hoped many of you will register for this service which is easy to use, although we are on hand to support any queries you may have when using this system. If required. Yvonne is happy to go over the registration with you in the Practice and show you how to use the system.

Travel Advice / Vaccinations

If you require advice and/or vaccinations please plan your appointment with our Practice Nurse several weeks in advance of your travel date as we may need to order the vaccinations. Alternatively you can contact the Gecko Travel Clinic on 01786 845542 (website www.geckotravelclinic.co.uk) who provide a vaccination service in Dunblane and Stirling.

Ear Syringing

This should be requested with the community District Nurses rather than the Practice Nurse. The District Nurses can be contacted on 01877 330150.

Handing in samples

We would like to ask you to ensure your name and date of birth is written on any samples handed in to the Practice and that you advise reception what date and time the sample was taken so we can record the information.

Yvonne McDonald

New bowel cancer test in Scotland

owel Cancer UK welcomes the introduction of a new bowel cancer test in Scotland which simplifies the sample collection process in a bid to increase participation in Scotland's national bowel screening programme and save even more lives.

The new FIT home screening test (faecal immunochemical test), that will see participants returning just one bowel motion sample instead of the three samples required for the current test, will be introduced over the next two years to help boost uptake in the Scottish Bowel Screening Programme from its current level of 56.1 percent.

The existing test has proved hugely valuable in detecting cancer early and remains the most effective way of detecting bowel cancer in its earliest stages. It is therefore essential that Scots aged 50-74 continue to complete and return the test they receive through their door during the transition period.





Support for those affected by Divorce or Separation

Are you, or someone you know, going through or suffering from the effects of a broken relationship?

Feeling overwhelmed, lonely, depressed, hurt, lacking confidence and self-esteem, bitter and angry?

Or wanting to help a friend or relation going through a difficult time?

We provide a range of support services

- telephone support,
- 1-1 support
- 6 week support courses,
- signposting to websites
- support evenings,
- useful reading

For more information contact:

01877 339966 or07790 437713

Email: info@hearttoheart.org.uk

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

Walk in the park



Walk in the Park - A Walking Pathway to Better Health

No matter how limited your activity level is, Walk in the Park would like to help you to regain mobility, strength and confidence and get you walking again. Step by step we try to provide a walking pathway from your armchair to a 30minute walk and beyond. Do you spend a lot of time sitting indoors and wishing you could get outside for some fresh air, exercise and social time? Then Walk in the Park can help. If you are elderly, or have been inactive due to a illness, or it may be that you have had a bad winter where you have lost your confidence to go out again? Perhaps you have just retired and are looking for new friends and a gentle way of exercising? Then consider if any of the following steps would help you. You can join in at any step you feel is right for you. All our walks and sessions are free of charge.

Step 1. Strength and Balance Exercise — Tuesday 2-9pm Fire Station

This session is aimed at older adults although anyone will feel the benefit of them. These exercises are very gentle and are done from a seated position or standing behind a chair. They include knee bends and leg raises and are based on the Otago falls prevention programme. You might like to check with your G.P or Physiotherapist if you have a medical condition that might prevent you from taking part. As progression is made with these exercises you will find that your strength and balance has improved enough to take the next step.

Step 2. Step in the Right Direction - 3pm from the Fire Station or Medical Centre

This is a very short walk – up to 10 minutes in length when a trained walk leader will walk with you at a pace and distance that is right for you, building up to being able to walk for 10 minutes. Once you are confident here you move to the next step.

Step 3. Main Walk - Tuesday 10.20am or Wednesday 7pm

Here there is an opportunity to start off slow and build up. A variety of walks are on offer: Bronze 10 -15 minutes, Silver 15-30min, Gold 45minutes – 1 hour. You can join this walk at any level and be sure that you can go at a pace and distance that suits you on the day. All our group walks are on good walking surfaces, are risk assessed and are led by trained walk leaders. Please see the walk schedule in the What's On (page 18 and 19) for details. We go for a cup of tea after the walk for a social time together (optional).

Step 4. Nordie Walking

For those who would like to go on a bit further we will soon be introducing Nordic Walking into our main walks. Walking with specially designed walking poles this activity can provide a full body workout with fitness building that is not present in normal walking. More information will be given about this activity at a later date.

Spring Fling Event — Short walk/tea and coffee in the Dreadnought Hotel / Scottish Country Dancing / Strength and Balance exercises / Tal Chi

Tuesday 12th May – meet at the Meadows Car Park for the Walk at 10.20am or the Dreadnought Hotel from 11.15am for the other activities. Come for all of the activities or just some. The walk and activities are free – only pay for your tea and coffee. This is an open event when we welcome anyone who would like to hear more about the Walk in the Park project. So come along and meet the group and join in the fun. If you have any questions about joining in any of our walks or exercise sessions please contact the Walk in the Park Coordinator - Cathy Scott 01877 330055 or 07852 334272 or send an email to: cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Cook's Corner

with Audrey Corrieri April

CHILLI CHICKEN and PRAWNS
with NOOPLES

Ingredients:

A little oil

- 1 large, skinless chicken breast cut into thin strips
- 1 small carrot, sliced lengthwise and cut into thin strips
- 1 green pepper, deseeded and sliced
- 4 spring onions, sliced
- 1/2 tsp finely chopped red chilli
- 60g cooked prawns
- 1X150g pack straight to wok noodles
- 2 level tsp of each: sugar, light soy sauce, tomato ketchup;
- 2 tbsp light malt vinegar; black pepper; 100ml water;
- 2 tsp cornflour mixed with 2tsp water.

Method:

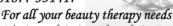
Put a little oil in a wok and heat. Add the chicken strips and stir-fry for 2 minutes. Add the vegetables and chilli. Stir-fry for 3 minutes and remove from the heat.

Place the sauce ingredients in a small pan. Bring to the boil, stirring continuously. Mix the cornflour to a paste with the 2tsp water. Stir into the pan and stir until the sauce has thickened.

Return the chicken and vegetables to the wok, add the prawns and noodles, and stir-fry until heated. Pour over the sauce and mix through. Serve.

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Crags clearance work begins

Coimisean Forestry
na Coilltearachd Commission

Callander Crags woodland was badly affected by the storms of December 2013 with significant areas of fallen trees within the woodland and the nearby forest block at Trean. Some initial

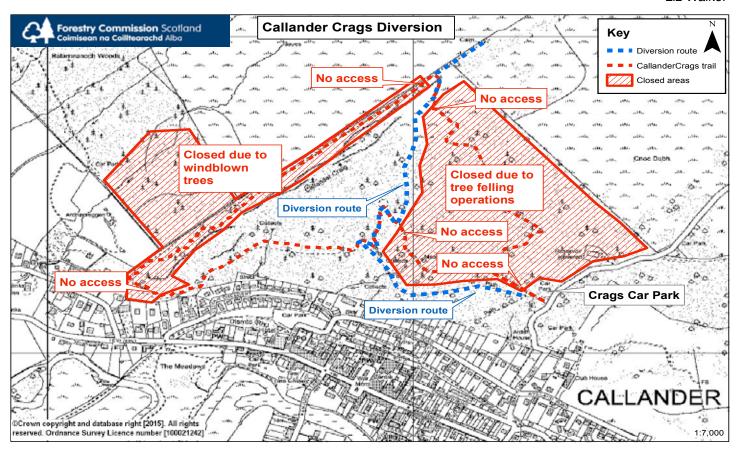
clearance was carried out so that an alternative access could be maintained to the Crags but it has not been possible to reopen the full loop due to the complexity of the clearance work, which requires the use of specialist timber harvesting machines.

Progress, however, has been made during February/March starting with the upgrade of some of the access roads and the construction of new extraction tracks which are required for the machinery to start timber extraction. The first phase of work will initially focus on the central section of Callander Crags Forest and is expected to last until the end of June

It is intended to maintain a diversion route to the top of the Crags throughout the works, although the line of this route could vary depending on where the work is happening at any given time. There will be clear signage and barriers for the duration of the works to prevent members of the public from entering the worksite. To ensure the safety of visitors and that of the machine operators, please do not attempt to enter the site during the works.

Should you have any questions, comments or wish to report any issues regarding these works please contact Forestry Commission Scotland at Aberfoyle on 01877 382383 E-mail: cowaltrossachs@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Liz Walker



Super plant sale and tombola

t has become an annual event — come rain (2014) or shine (2013) — the volunteers of Greener Callander promise a fine variety of garden plants for sale in Ancaster Square on Saturday 16th May 2015 from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Just the thing for you to fill those empty spaces in your garden after the winter! We shall

have bedding plants, vegetables, herbs, perennials and shrubs for sale, together with a well-stocked tombola stall. Contributions always welcome, so please contact Hilary Gunkel on 01877 330798 at the beginning of May if you have plants to spare and share. The proceeds of our sale will go towards the hanging baskets and

their watering. This summer we shall have extra floral displays in the Square funded by Stirling Community Pride scheme.

Photo: Iris and fern courtesy of Greener Callander



Animal crime

ark Rafferty, Head of the Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Special Investigations Unit, gave a sobering talk the Scottish Wildlife Trust in February on their role in prevention of crimes against domestic and wild animals.

SSPCA handles around 200 cases per year, the sixty inspectors having the same statutory powers as police to go onto land and seize evidence.

Offences are wide-ranging. Old racehorses with false passports may be sold into the food-chain. Unscrupulous trade in exotics often includes inhumane shipment. Fashionable small cross-breeds of dogs are often imported from puppy farms. While there are none in Scotland, if buying a puppy, make sure you see its parents and owner, especially with breeds like labradoodle!

Most people are aware of persecution of protected birds of prey. Less well publicised is the potential extinction of mountain hares by culling to prevent spread of virus-carrying tics to grouse. Some traps and snares are legal but, if not used properly, may be cruel and indiscriminate.

However, the intimate involvement of the perpetrators of hare coursing or badger baiting takes cruelty to a different level. A major attraction of baiting badgers is their fighting spirit, frequently leading to serious injuries to the dogs used to flush them out.



If you see anything suspicious, try to record evidence like a vehicle registration or take photos; then report asap to SSPCA or to Mark at mark.rafferty@scottishsspca.org telephone 07825 310633.

Butterfly conservation

cott Donaldson described the work of Butterfly Conservation to members of Callander's Scottish Wildlife Trust branch in March.

He described some of the less frequently seen of the thirty five species of Butterflies of Scotland. Butterfly Conservation is a charity that aims to halt the decline of butterflies and moths and their habitats. It is heavily dependent on volunteers to carry out surveys and record sightings of butterflies, the results giving both current distributions and trends with time that can steer conservation actions. Butterfly Conservation's website and leaflets provide excellent



identification guides and Apps are now available for iPhones from iTunes and for Android devices from the Google store.

The Pearl Bordered Fritillary is a woodland butterfly which gets its name from the series of 'pearls' that run along the outside edge of the underside of the hindwing. Males are often seen flying swiftly, low across the breeding site in search of a mate and are extremely difficult to follow, the colouring of the wings providing excellent camouflage against the dead bracken that is often found at these sites.

Did you know that butterflies feed on nectar for energy but do not grow as adults? Habitat management often targets increasing food for caterpillars that can be very picky, while butterflies nectar on a wide range of flowers; eg small pearl-bordered fritillary caterpillars eat only marsh violets while the green hairstreak feed on blaeberries. Caterpillar growth is determined by both

feeding and temperature. Gardeners can supplement flowers for bees and butterflies with a patch of nettles in a sunny corner for caterpillars of tortoiseshell, peacocks and red admirals.

You can find a huge amount information at www.butterflyconservation.org/scotland including excellent regional identification guides, events and how to get involved.

Butterflies in your garden? Why not take part in the big 2015 Butterfly Count which will take place between 17 July & 9 August this year.

Lesley Hawkins

Subscriptions

If you would like to join the BLV mailing list or send a copy to friends or family, please send your details to us (see inside front cover).

Annual cost UK £15: Outside UK £40 Please make cheques to Ben Ledi View Community Newspaper SCIO. Or you can ask to join our email list and we will send you out a copy by email each month free of charge. E-mail: editor@benlediview.co.uk.

Get set to be dazzled!

What's that very bright 'star' visible in the evening western sky above Callander this April and May?

If you have been reading this column for a while you will probably have guessed that it's not a star at all but the bright planet Venus, our nearest planetary neighbour.

Venus is much brighter than any other planet viewed in Earth's sky; in fact it is the third-brightest object in the sky, after our sun and moon.

So why is Venus so bright? As the planet next-sunward from Earth in orbit around the sun, Venus is fairly close but it's nearness isn't the only reason it is so bright.

Astronomers use the term albedo to describe how bright a planet is. When sunlight strikes a planet, some of the light is absorbed by the planet's surface or atmosphere – and some is reflected back into space.

Albedo is a comparison between how much light strikes an object – and how much is reflected.

Venus has the highest albedo of any planet in our solar system. It reflects about 70% of the sunlight striking it.

When the moon is close to full in Earth's sky, it can look a lot brighter than Venus, but the moon actually only reflects about 10% of the light that hits it. That's because the Moon is made of dark volcanic rock. It appears bright to us only because of its nearness to Earth.

Venus is so bright because it's blanketed by highly reflective clouds which unlike Earth cover the whole planet all the time. The clouds in the atmosphere of Venus contain droplets of sulphuric acid as well as acidic crystals suspended in a mixture of gases. Light bounces easily off the smooth surfaces of these droplets and crystals resulting in lots of reflected sunlight.

Venus may be the most reflective planet in our solar system but it's not the most reflective object. That honour goes to Enceladus, a moon of Saturn which reflects 90% of the sunlight striking it due to its icy surface.



Dazzling Venus in our western sky with the Pleiades above. Photo: Fred Espenak

Thanks to its brightness, Venus will be clearly visible in the west throughout April and May, so go out and be dazzled by our neighbouring planet, named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty.

Keith Wilson

Out and About

Readers have been out and about with their cameras spotting Callander birdlife.

Charlie Donald spotted a nuthatch on his garden bird feeder. Normally found in mature woods and established parkland in central and southern England and Wales it is only occasionally sighted in Scotland.



It is a plump bird about the size of a great tit that resembles a small woodpecker. It is blue-grey above and whitish below, with chestnut on its sides and under its tail. It has a black stripe on its head, a long black pointed bill, and short legs.

Fiona McAdam braved the flooded Meadows carpark to get this photo of our resident swans courting. I wonder if the photo was taken on Valentine's Day?



Buzz....buzz....buzz....



Are You Interested in Keeping Bees? Dunblane & Stirling Beekeepers' Association is running a course for novice beekeepers entitled "The Basics of Beekeeping".

The course starts in the classroom on Tuesday 25th August and novices are encouraged to come along to the apiary to see the over-wintering preparations for colonies of bees.

Next year, fortnightly classes in the apiary will be held to introduce beekeepers to the skills of handling bees, when the weather improves.

If anyone is interested in learning about Nature's most interesting insects, or if you just simply love honey, please contact secretary@dunblanebeekeepers.com for further information and booking details.



What's on in April and May

REGULAR MEETINGS

Mondays

- Yoga (adults) 9.30-11.00am Kirk Hall
- Scrabble 2.00pm Teith Dreadnought Hotel (1st and 3rd Mon)
- Highland Dancing 4.00pm Kirk Hall (not 6th,13th April or 4th May)
- Zumba fitness class 7.00pm Kirk Hall
- Guides 7.15pm Callander Primary School
- Stretch out & relax yoga 7.00pm The Waverlev Hotel
- Poker 7.30pm Crags Hotel

Tuesdays

- Craigard Club 10.00am Kirk Hall
- Walk in the Park 10.20 am (check meeting place in detailed listing. All walks are G,S & B)
- Strength & balancing 2.00pm Fire Station
- Family Yoga 5.00-6.00pm Kirk Hall
- ESOL classes Beginners English and Writing Skills (separate groups) 6.00pm McLaren High School
- Army Cadet Force training 7.00pm Kirk Hall
- Callander Brass practice 7.00pm Fire Station
- Badminton Club 7.30pm Leisure Centre
- Dominoes 7.30pm Crags Hotel

Wednesdays

- Callander Kids 9.30am Kirk Hall
- Teapot café 10.30am Kirk Hall
- Bridge Club 7.00pm Dreadnought Hotel
- Town Circular Walk 7.00pm Ancaster Square
- Dog training 7.00pm Bridgend Youth Hub
- Song Squad 7.15-9.15pm Fire Station
- Darts 7.30pm Crags Hotel

Thursdays:

- Scottish Country Dancing 7.00pm Masonic Hall
- Texas Hold 'Em Poker 7.30pm Waverley Hotel
- Yoga (adults) 8.00-9.30pm Andrew's Church Hall

Fridays:

- · Craigard Club 10.30am Kirk Hall
- · Quiz night 7.30pm Crags Hotel

Saturdays:

· Trossachs Tigers Training 9.15-10.00am McLaren Leisure Centre **APRIL**

Friday 3rd Good Friday

- Ben Ledi View published
- · Medical practices and Library closed.

Saturday 4th

- · Callander & W Perthshire Rotary Bottle Stall from 10.00am Ancaster Square
- · Royal British Legion coffee morning 11.00am Dreadnought Hotel
- · Clanranald Trust Story of Easter 12noon to 4.00pm St Kessog's
- · Film Society 'The Railway Man' 7.00pm McLaren Leisure Centre

Sunday 5th Easter Sunday

· Clanranald Trust Story of Easter 12noon to 4.00pm St Kessog's

Monday 6th

Medical practices and Library closed.

Tuesday 7th

· Walk in the Park Loch Venachar or Meadows meet 10.20 am Meadows car park (car share)

Wednesday 8th

· Photo Club 7.30pm Venue tba

Thursday 9th

· Heritage Society Andrew Crummy on The Great Tapestry of Scotland 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Saturday 11th

- · Ramblers Hill: Ben Venue 8.30am (contact 01877 382924)
- · The Great Tartan Skidaddle
- · Bowling Club opens

Monday 13th

 Community Council meeting 7.30pm **Burgh Chambers**

Tuesday 14th

- · Walk in the Park Brig O'Turk Ruskin Site meet Meadows car park 10.20am (car & minibus share)
- SWT AGM and short presentations 7.30pm Kirk Hall NB change of venue

Wednesday 15th

· Ramblers Ramble: Kilmahog to Loch Katrine 9.30am (contact 01877 376340)

Thursday 16th

· Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Friday 17th

- · German-speaking group 7.00pm 'Ardess' 24 Bridgend
- Forth Valley U3A Quiz Night 2.00pm Mavfield Centre

Saturday 18th

· Skidaddle Loop o' the Loch

Tuesday 21st

- · Walk in the Park Golf Club Walk meet 10.20 am Ancaster Square
- Youth Photo Club 5.50pm CYP
- Mountain Bike Trails drop in session 6pm till close McLaren Leisure Centre.
- Arthritis Club AGM 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Wednesday 22nd

- Ramblers Ramble: The Loch Leven Trail 9.30am (contact 01577 862799)
- · Mountain Bike Trails drop in session 6pm till close McLaren Leisure Centre.

Thursday 23rd

10.45am Bookbug session 11.15am Callander Library

Friday 24th

· Concert by Alastair Savage & friends 7.30pm St Mary's Church Aberfoyle

Saturday 25th

· British Heart Foundation Birthday Party / Open Day at shop in Main St.

Sunday 26th

· Scotland's Gardens: Pass House Kilmahog 2pm

Tuesday 28th

· Walk in the Park Flanders Moss and picnic meet 10.20 am Meadows car park (car share)

Wednesday 29th

- Ramblers Stroll: Yellowcraig Wood 9.30am (contact 01786 833384)
- BLV AGM 7.00pm Burgh Chambers

Thursday 30th

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall
- 3.30pm-4.30pm Chatterbooks Callander Library

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What's on is sponsored by your VisitScotland Information Centre, 52-54 Main Street, Callander, FK17 8BF





What's on in April and May (contd.)

MAY

Saturday 2nd

 Callander and W Perthshire Rotary Club Foundation Coffee Morning 10.00am Kirk Hall

Monday 4th Bank Holiday

 Medical practices closed from 12.30pm. Library closed.

Tuesday 5th

- Walk in the Park Keltie Bridge meet 10.20 am Medical Centre
- Youth Photo Club 5.50pm CYP

Wednesday 6th

 Ramblers Stroll: Lochan Allt a' Chip Dhuibh 9.30am (contact 01877 339323)

Thursday 7th

- Bookbug session 10.45am to 11.15am Callander Library
- EASY golf teeing off between 5.00pm and 7.00pm Callander Golf Club

Saturday 9th

- Ramblers LDP CT(1): Blairgowrie to Bridge of Cally 8.30am (contact 01877 330032)
- Skidaddle Callander 10K Spring
- CHAS Bluebell Cream Tea 2.00-4.00pm Kirk Hall
- Film Society AGM and free film Blue Jasmine 7.00pm McLaren Leisure Centre

Monday 11th

- Community Council Public Meeting 7.00pm CYP
- Community Council AGM 9.30pm CYP

Tuesday 12th

- Walk in the Park Spring Fling Event meet 10.20am Meadows car park or 11.15 am Dreadnought Hotel
- Ben Ledi View copy and advertising deadline

Wednesday 13th

- Ramblers Ramble: Glen Kendrum & Glen Ogle 9.30am (contact 01877 339080)
- Photo Club 7.30pm Venue Camphill tbc

Thursday 14th

- · Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall
- EASY golf teeing off between 5.00pm and 7.00pm Callander Golf Club
- Heritage Society Susan Mackay talk on further discoveries 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Saturday 16th

 Greener Callander Plant Sale and Bottle Stall 10.00am-4.00pm Ancaster Square

Sunday 17th

 Community Hydro Open Day. Meet at CYP. Noon onwards. To book seat on the bus phone 07852 106605

Monday 18th

 C&WP U3A Musical evening. Details tba

Tuesday 19th

- Walk in the Park Moss Wood or Meadows meet 10.20am Meadows car park (car share)
- · Youth Photo Club 5.50pm CYP
- Stirling Book Festival Lucy Ribchester talk 7.30pm Callander Library
- Arthritis Club Talk by George Grieg jnr on Clippens School 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Wednesday 20th

 Ramblers Hill: Ben Vrackie 9.30am (contact 01877 330955)

Thursday 21st

- Bookbug session 10.45am to 11.15am Callander Library
- EASY golf teeing off between

- 5.00pm and 7.00pm Callander Golf Club
- CCDT AGM 7.30pm St Kessogs

Friday 22nd

- Forth Valley U3A AGM 2.00pm Mayfield Centre
- Callander Brass Grand Concert 7.30pm Callander Kirk
- German-speaking group 7.00pm 'Ardess' 24 Bridgend

Saturday 23rd

· Chloe McIntyre Charity Golf Day

Tuesday 26th

 Walk in the Park Bracklinn Falls or Meadows meet 10.20 am Meadows car park (car share)

Thursday 28th

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall
- Chatterbooks 3.30pm-4.30pm
 Callander Library
- EASY golf teeing off between 5.00pm and 7.00pm Callander Golf Club

Saturday 30th

- Ramblers LDP CT(2): Bridge of Cally to Kirkmichael 8.30am (contact 01877 330032)
- Horticultural Society coffee morning 10.00am Kirk Hall.

JUNE

Tuesday 2nd

Youth Photo Club 5.50pm CYP

Thursday 4th

 EASY golf teeing off between 5.00pm and 7.00pm Callander Golf Club

Friday 5th

Ben Ledi View published

Saturday 6th

 Rotary Club and Skidaddle Ben Ledi Hill Ascent

Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergency Services: 999

Callander Police: 01877 330222 Callander Fire Brigade: 01877 339095

Local Council Office & Registrar:

01877 330044

Social Work: 01786 471177

Post Office: 01877 330267

Doctor's Surgeries

Drs Scott & Strang: 01877 331001 Drs Mathewson & Gibson: 01877 331000 Health Clinic: 01877 330150

Health Clinic. 01677 330150

Vets

Callander:01877 381213 Doune: 01786 841304 Dunblane: 01786 824400

Vets

Callander:01877 381213 Doune: 01786 841304 Dunblane: 01786 824400

Schools

McLaren High: 01877 330156 Callander Primary: 01877 331576

Travel

Rail Enquiries: 0845 7484950 Bus Station (Stirling): 01786 446474 Travel Line Scotland: 0870 6082608

Recreation

Leisure Centre: 01877 330000 Library: 01877 331544

Visit Scotland Information Centre: 01877

330342

Floods & Environment 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

Callander Community Flood Action Group helpline: 07580 601142

Stirling Council Main number 08452 777000

Functions as emergency number from 5.00pm to 9.00am and over weekends. Also us for non collection of wheelie bins

Sandbags and grit (Lagrannoch depot): 01877 330492

A Hard Day's Night - The Beatles in Callander

ust imagine the furore if the members of the current hit boyband. One Direction turned up for a night in Callander. How might the youth of Callander react to their music heroes being in their town?

Fifty one years ago, another group, The Beatles, were rising stars and were attracting a massive following all around the world and for just one day Callander became part of what was to become known as Beatlemania.



The Beatles in Edinburgh April 29 1964, the night they stayed at the Roman Camp Hotel. Photo: meetthebeatlesforreal.com

The Beatles - John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr - had an immense influence on pop and rock music, fashion and lifestyle as part of the popular culture of the 1960s. They were responsible for the shift from the American dominance of rock and roll to British acts and also from soloists to groups and professional songwriters to self-penned songs.

The mass hysteria and highpitched screaming that characterised Beatlemania spread worldwide during the early 1960s and the Beatles became the most popular group in the history of popular music.

You would have been hard-pressed to find a country who hadn't heard The

Beatles in the 60s. Their popularity was down to their talent as musicians and songwriters, their public image with their trademark 'mop-top' hairstyles, effective management and of course playing hundreds of concerts.

In the early 1960s they spent most of their time touring in the UK and abroad. Scotland of course was on the tour trail and they played concerts in Scotland several times during the early 1960's including one in 1963 in Bridge of Allan.

On Wednesday April 29th 1964 The Beatles played the ABC Cinema, on Lothian Road in Edinburgh. They played two concerts that evening, one at 6.30pm and the second at 8.50pm. Both were sellouts and Beatlemania was in full flow.



The Beatles signed the reverse of a Roman Camp Hotel postcard.

Photo: Roman Camp Hotel/KW

Following their final Edinburgh concert, the group, accompanied by their entourage, drove to Callander to the private and secluded Roman Camp Hotel where they hoped to rest up in secrecy and avoid the glare of publicity before two concerts on the

evening of Thursday April 30th at the Odeon Theatre in Glasgow.



Fans mob Paul McCartney outside the Roman Camp Hotel. Doris Utterson is just above and to the left of McCartney Photo: Doris Clark

On arrival at The Roman Camp Hotel some of the group were still in the party mood and one of the hotel staff, George Carruth, who was the hotel's chef, arranged a party in a nearby house where the music played well into the early hours. A Paul McCartney inscribed 'With The Beatles' album was given to Carruth as a thank you. It read: "To George, sincerest thanks for the fantastic food etc....also for the eccentric interior decoration. To the Roman Camp himself!"

The Beatles were nightbirds so rarely appeared the following day until early afternoon. However, news of their stay at the Roman Camp Hotel didn't stay secret for long and on the morning of April 30 1964 the buzz among the pupils at the local McLaren High School was all about John, Paul, George and Ringo. How could this opportunity to see the 'fab four' right on their doorstep be ignored by the pupils?

When the school lunch break came, the school emptied and many of the pupils, rushed over to the Roman Camp Hotel where they massed in front of the hotel's guest wing where the Beatles were staying, hoping to



catch a glimpse of their musical heroes. Beatlemania had come to Callander!

As more pupils arrived and the noise of the chanting youngsters got louder, the upstairs bedroom windows opened and there were the Beatles - Paul and John at one window waving to the crowd of youngsters below and George and Ringo looking rather bleary-eyed at a second window. There was uproar! Hotel staff had to struggle to keep control of the situation as they were besieged at the hotel entrance.

who lived in Edinburgh in the 1960s recollects that whilst at The Roman Camp Hotel, the Beatle was introduced to a little boy also named John Lennon and that they were photographed holding hands in the garden area behind the part of the hotel where the group were staying. The boy later emigrated to Canada and went to see Lennon playing at a concert in North America at a later point in his career. They chatted about their first meeting in Callander and remained in touch over the years.



Then and now.
Beatle John
Lennon met his
namesake in the
garden behind
the hotel's guest
house wing.
Photos:
Mersey
Memories
& KW



McCartney later went to sign autographs where the fans had gathered - one of those fans, 18 year old local girl Doris Utterson, had the previous year joined the Wrens and while home on leave found herself in the middle of a crowd of screaming fans next to Beatle Paul McCartney!

The Beatles had taken some time to appear that afternoon and as the pupils got carried away with the situation the school bell for afternoon classes had already rung!

The teachers at McLaren High were very aware that the presence of the Beatles in Callander had caused a stir among their pupils that morning but nevertheless got a shock when they returned to their classes after lunch to find so many of their pupils missing.

Action was called for and several teachers were sent off to the hotel by Rector Hugh Cowan to bring the pupils back to school and the punishment which awaited them - to write a page for every minute they were late on the topic of - 'The Beatles'.

John Lennon's cousin, Stan Parkes,

As the pupils returned to school late, the treadmill that the Beatles were on at this stage of their career continued. Evelyn Elliot interviewed them at the Roman Camp Hotel for BBC TV's 'Six Ten' news programme which aired that evening. Then it was off to Glasgow for further interviews and two evening concerts at the Odeon Theatre on what was dubbed B-Day.



Lennon's invitation to his cousin Stan Parkes to visit the group at the Roman Camp Hotel. Photo: Roman Camp Hotel/ KW

Visitors to the Roman Camp Hotel today can stay in the rooms, used by the Beatles and can also view copies of Beatles memorabilia related to the 'fab four', including a copy of an invitation sent to Stan Parkes to visit the Beatles at the Roman Camp Hotel.

The invitation took the form of a caricature of each Beatle with directions for Parkes to visit them at the hotel. It is likely that this was drawn by Lennon who enjoyed sketching.

In October 1964 the Beatles returned to Perthshire to stay between concerts in Edinburgh, Dundee and Glasgow. This time they chose the Four Seasons Hotel at St. Fillans on Loch Earn... but that's another story.

The group eventually stopped touring and concentrated on working in the studio. They broke up in 1970 and went their own ways. Lennon was tragically murdered in New York in 1980, Harrison died of cancer in 2001 but McCartney and Starr are still touring around the world in different bands and still singing Beatles songs over fifty years on from their visit to the Roman Camp Hotel in Callander.



Were you one of the locals who saw the Beatles at the Roman Camp Hotel in April 1964? If so, why not write and tell us about your experience that day and if you have photos we would love to share them with our readers.

Special thanks to: Alex McDonald, Callander's expert on the history of the Beatles; Eric Brown - Director of the Roman Camp Hotel and Doris Clark (née Utterson) - one of many locals who were present at the Roman Camp Hotel on the day the Beatles came to Callander. Keith Wilson

Help for PDSA pets

The Callander PDSA branch is urgently appealing for animal lovers to donate their unwanted items or time to help sick and injured pets in the local area.

The store on Main Street is desperate for good quality donations including CDs, DVDs, books and toys, as well as clothes, shoes and accessories. The Callander store is also looking for volunteers to offer their time to help look after the day-to-day running of the store.

Store Manager, David Mathieson said 'We need enthusiastic volunteers who are passionate about pets and who can lend a hand at Callander PDSA store.

No previous retail experience is required to come and work with us and for many of our volunteers, they find the experience that they pick up with us enhances their CV and builds confidence. Volunteering with us also gives people a fantastic opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. So if you are passionate about animals and fancy a new challenge, why not get in touch and see if you could help.'

For more details, please call the National Volunteering Centre on freephone 0800 854194 or visit www. pdsa.org.uk/volunteering. Donations can be taken to the store (72 Main St) from Monday to Saturday, between 9am and 5pm and Sunday between 11am and 4pm. David Mathieson

Forth Valley U3A Quiz Friday 17th April 2pm

Are you a future Mastermind candidate or can you answer the Brain of Britain questions or do you enjoy being with others? If the answer to any of these questions is YES then come and join us at the Forth Valley U3A's quiz in the Mayfield Centre, St Ninian's, Stirling.

You are warmly invited to come along, contribute an answer or two and discover more about U3A whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and chatting with some of the members. For further information please contact the Membership Secretary on 01786 822062 or the Interest Groups' Co-ordinator on 01786 814681 or visit www.forthvalleyu3a.org.uk.

AGM Friday 22nd May 2pm.

The annual general meeting of the Forth Valley U3A is to be held on 22nd May in the Mayfield Centre. You are warmly invited to come along and discover more about the FVU3A whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee with delicious home baking and chatting with some of the members. There will be some in-house musical entertainment and table displays of some of the interest groups which keep us learning and active!

Margaret Blue

Lodge Ben Ledi

Lodge Ben Ledi held its annual Senior Citizens dinner on Monday 5th January. More than 60 attended and were treated to a 4 course dinner, free raffle and were then entertained by singer Brian Lavell who provided a humorous and talented musical show. Lodge Ben Ledi would like to thank the many volunteers who supported the event and made it a great success.

Sandy Campbell

Royal British Legion

The members of Lodge Ben Ledi and the Royal Scottish British Legion Orchestra conducted two fund raising days at the Gyle Shopping Centre in Edinburgh, during the Christmas season. The Orchestra played a range of Christmas music for and were very well received by the Edinburgh public. On 29th January a quiz night was held in the Masonic Lodge to support the fund raising and the combined events resulted in a cheque for £1600 being presented to George Greig, President of the Callander Branch of the RBLS.

Sandy Campbell

CHAS

Our next event will be the Bluebell Cream Tea in the Kirk hall on Saturday 9th May from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Entry will be £2.00. By then we hope to have started our Wednesday afternoon car boot sales but given the weather at present who knows.

Fiona House 330103

The Heritage Society

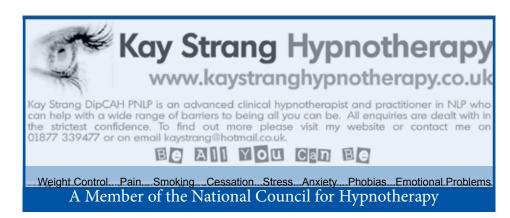
Did you go to see the Great Tapestry of Scotland when it was on show recently in Stirling Castle? At our next meeting on Thursday 9th April our speaker is Andrew Crummy, the artist behind the designs for the panels (160 in all) of the tapestry. The stitchers came from all over Scotland, including Dunblane and Killearn. The panels are not only about dates and battles but all aspects of living in Scotland from farming(yes, Callander's heritage from the first farmers fits in to panel 7) to inventors, sport, Hillman Imps, pop music ... How do you design for all that? It should be a fascinating evening so come and join us - members and visitors, all are welcome.

Our final meeting this session is on Thursday 14th May when our enthusiastic local researcher, Susan Mackay, will share with us some of her latest discoveries, including Callander's Hydropathic Hotel.

Sheila Cleland

Callander & West Perthshire U3A Music by the Loch for C&WP members

Picture, if you will, an early evening in May looking out on the waters of Loch Venachar with afternoon tea before you and music for your pleasure! Musical groups from Perth, Forth Valley and our own U3A will come together to entertain you at this beautiful venue on 18th May. Further details will be published in our next members' newsletter.



Safer driving.

The Third Age Trust has secured an arrangement with the Institute of Advanced Motoring (IAM) to offer free driving assessments to U3A members. Our local IAM, based in Stirling, has been contacted with a view to holding a meeting in the summer when a representative will give a talk followed by free half-hour driving assessments to members who have pre-booked. Further details can be obtained from the C&WP Secretary.

We welcome new members at any time; the membership fee for the remaining six months of the year (March to August inc) is only £6.00, so if you are interested to find out more about us please have a look at our website. Just Google 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A'.

Marguerite Kobs

Stirling Members' Centre NTS

The National Trust for Scotland has a Stirling Members' Centre which provides talks for members and their friends in the region during the winter and outings to places of interest in the summer. This summer the trips we have planned are:-

- · National Mining Museum of Scotland on 22nd April
- · Glamis Castle on 14th May
- · Dunstaffnage Castle on 17th June
- · Mellerstain House on 8th July
- · North Berwick and Dirleton Castle on 12th August
- · McManus Art Gallery and RMS Discovery, Dundee on 17th September If you are interested in becoming a member (year of joining till 1st October free), and in any of the above trips, please contact either Neil Pollock -Tel: 01786 841778, Sandy & Margaret Moreland - Tel: 01259 761700, or

see website www.spanglefish.com/ ntsstirling for further information.

Horticultural Society

After a very successful A.G.M., we now look ahead to our annual coffee morning at 10.00am on Saturday 30th May in the Kirk Hall. This provides essential income to allow the Flower Show to proceed on Saturday 29th August. There is a new cup for children growing plants in a pot. Schedules from East End News, Mr Campbell the butcher, kokosnoot and the library.

Robert Vanhegan

German Speaking Group

Das nächste Treffen der Gruppe wird am FREITAG 17. APRIL um 19.00 Uhr in 'Ardess', 24 Bridgend, Callander stattfinden.

Das vorgeschlagene Thema für unsere Diskussion an jenem Abend ist: Was ist Dir heutzutage wichtiger. Freiheit oder Sicherheit? Sei bitte fertig, Deine Antwort zu begründen!

Wir werden uns auch wahrscheinlich, wie gewöhnlich, mit einigen Wortspielen beschäftigen. Alle Vorschläge für zukünftige Diskussionsthemen wären auch gerne empfangen.

Alle sind herzlich willkommen, die sich für die Gelegenheit interessieren, mit unserer Gruppe auf deutsch zu unterhalten. Die Teilnehmer sind sowohl Schotten (und Engländer) als auch Muttersprachler, die hier in Schottland wohnen.

Falls Ihr Fragen dazu stellen wollt, ruft bitte Jen Shearer, 01877-330446 oder 07710-232908(Handy) / oder Peter Mehta 01786-473768 oder 07950-046913 (Handy) an. Email: jenshearer@ gmail.com. Wir freuen uns darauf, Euch alle am 17. April wieder bei uns begrüßen NB Alle Teilnehmer sind zu dürfen.

gebeten, sich im Voraus bis Dienstag 14. April bei Jen anzumelden, damit es genügend Kuchen gibt!

PS Zu Eurer Kenntnisnahme: Das übernächste Treffen findet am Freitag 22. Mai 2015 statt. NB Bitte sag Jen für jenes Treffen bis Dienstag 19. Mai Bescheid, wenn Du mitmachen wirst. Dafür wird das Diskussionsthema im Voraus in einer Email angemeldet werden.

Jen Shearer

British Heart Foundation

The British Heart Foundation shop on Main Street in Callander has just passed its sixth birthday and as a thank you to our customers we are holding an Open Day on Saturday 25th April. A warm welcome is extended to all, when you will be able to find out a bit more of how your donations go towards fighting heart disease, share some cake and find some bargains.

At the moment we urgently require your support in order to continue raising funds to finance pioneering research, invest in heart services and fund educational programmes in Scotland.

If you have unwanted items then we would be delighted to receive them. If necessary we can arrange a free collection from your home. We are especially in need of shoes at the moment. Even one pair of shoes donated today can have a positive impact on the funding of our services.

Help us fight for every Heartbeat. Donate today tel. 01877 330836.

Bob

Attention Artists

The 2015 Kirk Art Exhibition will be held in Callander Kirk Hall during week commencing Monday 13th July.

The Art Exhibition always proves to



Coffee Shop and Restaurant

120 Main Street Callander Specialising in home baking and cooking Morning coffee, lunches and high teas Tel 01877 331090



be a popular event with the community, visitors and artists. Artists get ready for 2015 ART EXHIBITION where you can exhibit your paintings, be you beginner or experienced.

Entry forms will soon be distributed by email. To be invited to exhibit or for more information about the exhibition - email: artexhibition@callanderkirkorg.uk

Peter Tarrant

Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club

Our next event is a bottle stall in Sauare. Callander Ancaster Easter Saturday, 4th of April. All the money raised will be used to support local causes and organisations. On Saturday 2nd May we will be holding our annual Coffee Morning in the Kirk Hall, Callander, with the proceeds going to Rotary's own charity, Rotary Foundation, which supports causes around the world including the Polioplus project, dedicated to eradicating polio. Doors will be open at 10a.m. and there will be lots of home baking for sale, and raffle prizes to be won.

This year the Sponsored Ben Ledi Ascent will take place on Saturday 6th June. Once again this event will be held in conjunction with the Ben Ledi Hill Race, run by Callander sport and adventure promoters, Skidaddle. There

will be a small entry fee for the walk, £5 if paid in advance or £8 on the day. The entry fee will go towards local causes and participants will be free to raise funds for their own chosen cause.

Entry forms and full details will be available on the Skidaddle website, www.skidaddle.org, from Caledonian Country Wear in Callander Main Street or from Richard Cooper at richard.a.cooper@btinternet.com

Finally, Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club is always looking for new members. If you would like to find out more about Rotary please email enquiries@callanderandwp.org, and arrange to come along to one of our Tuesday evening meetings.

Derek House

Arthritis Club

We will be holding our AGM on Tuesday 21st April in the Kirk Hall at 7.30pm. There will be a few changes to the Committee so a good turn out would be great, and don't forget we have cheese and wine on that night.

Our meeting in May, Tuesday 19th, will be a talk by George Greig (junior) who works at Clippens School, Linwood, a school for children with special needs. The talk is entitled 'A specialised approach to education'. Visitors are always welcome at our

meetings where there is refreshment and a raffle.

Fiona Snow, Secretary.

Callander Youth Photo Club

Callander Photo Club, with the support of the Callander Youth Project, would like to invite students from P6 through S6 to join us for a special photo club. Members will learn to use their cameras to take photos and to compose and process photos. There will be field trip opportunities, too.

Meeting Dates: Tuesdays, 5:50pm – 7:00pm at Bridgend Youth Hub **21st April** Photographing Things That

Move. Bring your camera and a torch **5th May** Processing Your Photos: Working with Lightroom

19th May Presentations and Choosing Best Photos

2nd June Pizza and Open House

For more information contact callanderphotoclub@gmail.com or Mrs. O'Boyle at 01877 339 323. Look for Callander Photo Club on facebook

Callander Photo Club

Spring is trying hard to break through the remnants of our Scottish winter. It's a good time to take cameras out into the garden.

Our April meeting is a Lightroom workshop and will be held on 8th April,







- Original Paintings
- Handcrafted Jewellery
- Local Craftwork

www.gallerialuti.co.uk

16 Ancaster Square, Callander, FK17 8BL 01877 339577 info@gallerialuti.co.uk 7:30 pm, at a location to be announced. Bring along three unprocessed photos and work on them in Lightroom with the assistance of others.

On 13th May, we are hoping to meet at Camphill House in Blairdrummond with an opportunity to tour and take photos. More information will be available prior to the meeting.

forward look We to seeing our members. Guests are also welcome. For more information, call Susan at 01877 339 323 or e-mail callanderphotoclub@gmail.com.

Royal British Legion Scotland Callander Branch

On February 11th our president, John



Forrest, arrived at the grand age of 90 years the and committee felt that this milestone should not pass unmarked. A

dinner was arranged for the evening of his birthday at Poppies restaurant with a splendid birthday cake too. Many thanks John for all the years of help and support you have given to the Legion.

At our last committee meeting on January 21st it was decided to donate £600 to each of the following ex-service benevolent fund. charities. Armv Seafarers U.K., R.A.F. benevolent fund, B.L.E.S.M.A., Scottish War Blinded, Combat Stress. Gurkha welfare. S.S.A.F.A., and Ex-service community support fund, charities which we have supported for many years

Now at Achray Nature's Corner Farm 2a Cross Street Shop ~ Local Food ~ Health Food ~ ~ Vitamins & supplements~

~Fresh fruit & veg ~ ~ Local delivery available ~

Tel: 01877 339067



Our annual fund raising Coffee Morning is to be on Easter Saturday 4th April in the Dreadnought Hotel from 11 o'clock until 12.30pm. There will be many stalls including Cake and Candy, Tombola, Bric a brac and raffles. Coffee and home baking will be served. Please come and support us.

Scotland's Gardens

here are 25 gardens open to the public within Scotland's Gardens (Stirlingshire) which may be of interest to our greenfingered readers.

One local garden with beautiful displays of camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas is The Pass House at Kilmahog which is open on Sunday 26th April from 2-5pm.

For further information please contact: Gillie Drapper for Scotland's Gardens Stirlingshire.Tel: 01360 860 243. Email: drapper@kilewnan.org.uk

Ladies Circle

As our annual AGM approaches we use this time to reflect on all the fun, friendship and fundraising we have had this year. Every year our chairman chooses a charity and this year Gael chose Strathcarron Hospice. for which our two events: our annual comedy night and a race night raised between them an amazing £2,0 Callander Golf Club is 125 years old a 00. In addition we held other events including a busy quiz night in The Waverley raising £544.45 for the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner and a fun Tribute Night with the raffle raising £259.94.

Of course it's not all hard work! We have had lots of fun with Ladies Circle this year too attending many events and enjoying the friendship being part of such a lovely group of ladies brings! Arlene Watson

Pretty Little Flowers And **Pretty Little Pet Supplies**

> **4 Cross Street** Callander 01877 330643

Around the world with the Ben Ledi View

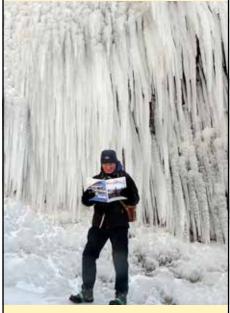
his issue, the

Ben Ledi View has headed north west towards the Arctic Circle to the frozen wastes of Iceland thanks to reader and contributor Mike Hawkins.

Iceland is an amazing county with beautiful scenery, including volcanoes, glaciers, hot springs, geysers, mountains and stunning waterfalls.

If you are going somewhere nteresting at home or abroad please ake the BLV with you and have your photo taken reading your favourite community newspaper.

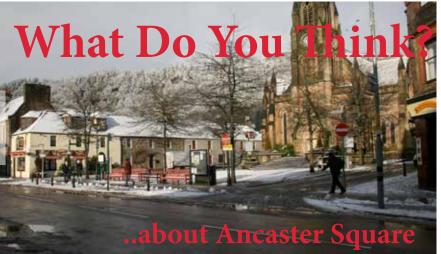
We look forward to publishing your photos. Contact details can be found bn page 2.



Mike Hawkins enjoying a good read in the frozen wastelands of Iceland. Lesley Hawkins









Above are a few comments that we received in reply to our request for opinions on the changes made to the St Kessog's side of Ancaster Square during last summer.

What! you can't see any? This is because the flood of replies just didn't come. We had in fact 6 (yes, six) replies, an extremely disappointing outcome, certainly not enough to make a poll - never mind a representative poll. However, for your information, out of the 6 replies 5 thought the work done was a retrograde step, and a poor use of our money, especially concerning the removal of the layby for the buses which has caused traffic queues and extra pollution. The one that thought

it had improved the square, only mentioned the new seating around the memorial, on the opposite side of the street. Others did agree that the memorial side is much improved but this wasn't the question.

Why was it that we had so few replies? Did we pick the wrong topic? Is asking views on any topic a waste of newspaper space?

Please send us your thoughts: this can be done in a couple of ways. You can email it to us at editor@benlediview.co.uk. or you can put it in a card or a letter and send or deliver it to -The Ben Ledi View, c/o McLaren Community Leisure Centre, Mollands Road, Callander. FK17 8JP or hand it

in for the Ben Ledi View at the Library. However you do it, let us know.

The Ben Ledi View is a community newspaper which gives its reason to exist in the title - View. As well as being in existence to give the readers of Callander a view of what is happening in the Callander area, it is there to give an opportunity for the people of Callander to express their views on what is happening. It was to encourage this that we started Soapbox Corner. Were we wrong? Are we wasting newsprint?

Please get any comments to us, by whatever means, by the 12th May.

John Nelson

Ruaridh Leishman - rising rugby star

Ruaridh Leishman is a talented young Rugby Union forward who is a regular player in Stirling County 1st XV.

Ruaridh started playing Rugby Union aged 8 at Maclaren Mini rugby. He attended Strathyre Primary School and was part of a group of youngsters who wanted to play rugby and went along to Maclaren Mini rugby where he developed his appetite for the game. Ruaridh then attended Maclaren High School and represented the School team but also decided aged 13 to join Stirling County midi section. He progressed through the age groups being selected for Caledonia at age U16, U17 and U18 levels and then selected for the Senior Stirling County XV.

He was recognised as a talented player and selected 8 times for Scotland Under 20 National Team playing in 4 Six Nations and 4 Junior World Cup matches.

At present Ruaridh is studying Business Management at Edinburgh University and commutes to Stirling for training every Tuesday and Thursday evenings. His commitment to his fitness has led to him scoring some good tries and one of Stirling's most consistent players. Over the years Ruaridh has received lots of help from various coaches and is very grateful for their input and would encourage any youngster to come along and try the game.

We wish Ruaridh well in the future and will take interest in his Rugby career as at 22 years of age there will surely be other honours to follow.



Article and photograph Charlie Donald.

McLaren Rugby



McLaren's away form continues to flourish

Waysiders-Drumpellier RFC 19 – McLaren RFC 28 (24 January 2015)

CLaren remained unbeaten in 2015 as they notched up another impressive victory away from home at Waysiders. They also gained the additional reward of a bonus point by scoring four tries in a game which underlined the progress the squad has made in executing a pragmatic and sober gameplan.

McLaren enjoy comfortable win over Cumbernauld

McLaren RFC 18 – Cumbernauld RFC 0 (14 February 2015)

McLaren recorded their third successive win this year with a Valentine's Day win over Cumbernauld at Callander on Saturday. The home team's enforced two week lay-off due to adverse weather hadn't induced any ring rustiness as they disposed of their opponents with a workmanlike performance.

Cambuslang show their ugly side against McLaren

McLaren RFC 7 – Cambuslang RFC 17 (7 March 2015)

McLaren hosted league pacemakers Cambuslang at Wallace High School as a March monsoon put paid to any hope of playing at Callander. The match was a tense, closely fought encounter. Unfortunately, the game's principal talking point was an ugly incident in which McLaren full back Peter McDougall was felled by a blindside blow from one of the visitors, rendering him unconscious.

Rob Jones

Bike Callander

In 2014 Callander Mountain Bike Trails - as part of the Callander Community Development Trust - began exploring the possibility of creating purpose-built mountain bike trails in and around Callander. Having been awarded Lottery funding, via Awards For All Scotland, a full study was commissioned to explore the proposals.

We are delighted to announce that the feasibility study is now complete and can be read in full on our website: bikecallander.com

The study has looked at a widerange of factors including the potential for improved tourism, best suited locations, and the benefits to the schools and local clubs.

The study recommends that the most suitable location for family-friendly mountain bike trails is in Coilhallan Wood. The macro design is a mountain bike trail of up to 6km in length, a skills development area and a shared-use sensory trail – for use with adaptive bikes.

Callander Mountain Bike Trails will hold public drop-in sessions at the McLaren Leisure Centre, on the evenings of the 21st and 22nd of April (6pm till close) to present the proposal.

We invite everyone to come along and find out more information - and to provide your comments and feedback to the planning team.

If you can't make it along on those evenings but would like to get in touch please send us an email to info@bikecallander.com

To keep in touch with the project as it develops, please follow our facebook page: facebook.com/bikecallander

Scott Denny

Skidaddle events programme



The Great Tartan Skidaddle

This event is the first of its kind and will be challenging for both organisers and participants!

'The Great Tartan Skidaddle', to be held on Saturday 11th April. It marks the opening of the new Great Trossachs Path from Loch Lomond (Inversnaid) to Callander. This epic journey will consist of two separate events, a 31 mile ultra-marathon, and a 30 mile run – bike – run duathlon.

Skidaddle has been very pleased to work with Great Trossachs Forest in setting up this challenging event.

Other events and dates for your diary include:

- · Loop o' the Loch 18th April
- · Callander 10k Spring 9th May
- · Ben Ledi Hill Race 6th June
- Glen Finglas Mountainbike race 5th September
- Callander River Festival 30th August
- · Ben Ledi Triathlon to be advised
- · Callander 10k autumn 10th October
- · Santa Skidaddle to be advised

All details for these events, as well as on-line entry forms, can be found on www.skidaddle.org

For all enquiries, contact can be made at info@skidaddle.org

Or telephone on 01877 331 495 We hope to see you in the outdoors soon.

> Alasdair Wyllie Marketing Coordinator, Skidaddle



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Callander Thistle

Callander started 2015 with a last 64 Scottish Cup tie away to Eaglesham on Saturday January 24th. Callander took the lead through Callum Smith but then found themselves 2-1 down. With ten minutes remaining Callander levelled to make it 2-2 again through Callum Smith. Unfortunately the home side scored two late goals to make the final score 4-2.

Callander's next game wasn't until February 7th in the last 16 of the East of Scotland Cup. Braehead were Callander's opponents and it was Braehead who took the lead. Within minutes Callander levelled through Captain Gavin Loch. Callander again found themselves trailing in the 91st minute after a lack of concentration. With a few minutes of injury time remaining, Callander conceded another to lose 3-1.

Callander had to bounce back when the returned to Premier Division action on 14th February. Callander travelled to Twechar to face league leaders Barhill. Callander took the lead and managed to hold out for a superb three points.

A home tie on Saturday 21st February in the Premier Division saw Callander struggle against Zetland who were third in the table. Callander never turned up and despite Zetland having a man sent off it finished 1-1.

Saturday 28th February saw Callander travel a short distance to Causewayhead to face Forth Thistle in the last 16 of the Mathieson Trophy. It didn't take Callander long to take the lead and it was 5-0 at half-time. The second half began with Forth Thistle scoring couple of goals but Callandr scored again to make it 6-2 at full-time.

George Ward



Callander Golf Club - 125 years old



allander Golf Club had a fantastic 2014 season, during which the club invested in new grass-cutting equipment, set out plans to update course furniture and signage for 2015, and signed up a complete new list of tee sponsors. Following this success, our members are looking forward to this special 2015 season celebrating our 125th birthday, and we are very keen to attract new members of all ages to our club so that more of the community can benefit from the beautiful course we have on our doorstep. Our vision is to become a more family-oriented and beginner-friendly club so this year we are adding two new initiatives to our list of programmes including 'Get Into Golf' for beginners and those who are looking to 'get back into golf' and also EASY-Golf on a Thursday evening with tee-offs between 5pm and 7pm when new members and non-members will be able to socialise and play with existing members.

Get into Golf is a brand new Scottish Golf Union coaching initiative designed to help introduce new players to the game. Get into Golf also targets adults who may have played at some time in the past and would like to get back into the game. We are launching this programme in April and the cost of a whole 10 weeks of group lessons will be £50 per person. Participants in this programme will also be eligible for discounted membership.

EASY-Golf on Thursday nights will start from 7th May and this social evening is open to members and non-members seeking to play with existing members that they may not have had the opportunity to meet. This will also be a great way for non-members to play the course a few times before taking out a membership.

The idea is just to come up between 5pm and 7pm and partner up with other golfers and make the most of our lovely summer nights. You can play as few or as many holes as you like.

ClubGolf is an existing programme for juniors and following its success in 2014, this programme will be running again this year.

Details of all of the above programmes can be found on our web site www.callandergolfclub.co.uk or by enquiring at the club by email callandergolf@btconnect.com or calling the clubhouse on 01877 330 090. We look forward to seeing you and your family members soon!

Barclay Milne

The Committee of the Ladies Section of Callander Golf Club would like to thank all those who attended the Buffet Lunch which was held at the clubhouse on 28th February. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and a total of £1130 was raised. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Jan Reid, Ladies Secretary.



McLaren Community Leisure Centre

Easter Kids Camp

fortnight. Last year the camp was extremely busy, so we advise you book in advance to avoid disappointment. This fortnight, we have some brand new themes for you all, ranging from our world explorer day to our very special Easter Hunt day! For more information on the camp please check out our website, Facebook page or twitter page. To book, please call us on 01877 330000 or drop by in person. We also have a hot and cold lunch menu available for Kids Camp, which you can select at your time of booking.

Obliterator Pool Inflatable

Back due to popular demand starting Friday 24th April 7.30-9pm for ages 8-16 years, £3.10 - for more information please contact reception.

New Fitness Membership Structure

Earlier this year we opened our new Strength and Conditioning Suite, which is included in all Fitness Suite Memberships at no extra cost. All Direct Debit or Annual Fitness Suite Memberships will now receive a free personalised programme with one of our Gym Instructors, which should help you see results and achieve your goals in no time. Your free programme can be booked via our receptionists on 01877 330000.

Also, Fitness Suite Memberships now include free access to our 20 minute Blast Classes.

Ab Blast:

Monday: 13:10-13:30Saturday: 11:40-12:00

Total Blast:

• Wednesday: 13:10-13:30 & 17:40-

• Saturday: 11:20-11:40

Kettlebell Class Times

Due to demand we have made a slight amendment to the times of our Thursday Kettlbell classes. The new class times are:

- Tuesday: 18:30-19:15 & 19:15-20:00
- Thursday: 19:15-20:00 & 20:00-20:45

New – McLaren Running Group

We are starting a jog Scotland running group for Adult beginner and intermediate levels at McLaren Leisure Centre in mid-April. To sign up to the group, you need to sign up to jog Scotland first. Look out for information on our facebook, twitter or our website or if you would like e-mailed information on group please e-mail Calum Murdoch: calum@mclarenleisure.co.uk.

Pitch Anniversary

Saturday 4rd April marks the first year anniversary or the McLaren Community 3G Pitch opening.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all of the funders; Sportscotland, Cashback for Communities, Kilmadock Windfarm Trust and Forth Valley and Lomand LEADER. As well as a special thank you to the MUSP working Group who led the funding application. Without their commitment it would not have been possible to secure such a valuable asset for the community.

Climate Challenge Fund

Following our successful grant

application, we will be embarking on a number of carbon saving projects. Externally the insulation cladding to the roofs of the swimming pool and games hall, will have the biggest visual impact, and contribute substantially to reducing heat loss and carbon usage. This will involve scaffolding and we ask that you bear with us. Internally a new computerised climate control system, and replacement lighting will be installed with less disruption. We will be organising a number of community projects. These will be publicised over the coming months.

Alastair Thorburn Tel: 01877 330 000

Callander Bowling Club

he President of the club this year is A. Miller with S. Aitchison Vice President. C. Watson is the secretary with M. Allan our treasurer. Our hon. President is P McCartney . The remaining committee members consist of W. Blain, B. Hindle, A. Bowie, D. Grieve and S. Stewart. The green opens on Saturday 11th April in what we hope will be another successful season for the club. Bowls is a great sport for anyone of any age so why not come along and give it a try. Monday nights are our rink nights which gives an opportunity for newcomers to try out their skills or if anyone requires a bit privacy contact any of the committee members who will be only too willing to assist. Bowls are one of the few sports where complete families can participate and enjoy the occasion We look forward to welcoming you all to Callander Bowling Club.

W. Blain





If you wish to put a personal message in the BLV, please note we need your name, address and phone number (we will only print your name) with your message. There is a small charge (£5) which must be paid in advance, so please leave a cheque with your message at the library or McLaren Community Centre (cheque payable to the Ben Ledi View Community Newspaper SCIO). Thank you. We welcome letters to the BLV, for which there is no charge.

New Regional Pastor for Callander



The link between Callander Christian Fellowship and Stirling Baptist Church has taken a significant step forward with the appointment of Brian Gooding as Regional Pastor for Callander.

The aim of this appointment is to provide pastoral support, not only for people

who travel from Callander to Stirling Baptist but also to the whole Christian community in the area. There are no plans at present to start a church or hold church services but, by establishing a presence in the town, Brian hopes to contribute by bringing encouragement, healing and unity among the Christians of Callander as they focus on worshipping and serving Jesus Christ together.

For the last 13 years Brian has been the Pastor of Seagate Church, Troon. He and his wife Iris are in the process of moving house to live in Callander and look forward to being part of the Christian community here.

Brian is already available to provide Christian Pastoral Care to anyone in the Callander area and you can contact him by email at brian.gooding@stirlingbaptist.co.uk or by phone 07885 465339.

Mystery photo competition



ast edition's mystery photo was an easy one - it was of course, the Bowling Club Pavilion.

The winner was N.McGinley who wins a tin of Campbells shortbread, which we will deliver.

This month's photograph is another easy one just identify the building.

If you know the answer please either email

e d i t o r @ benlediview. co.uk, or drop the answer, with your name and address, into either the Library or the McLaren



Leisure Centre by **Tuesday 12th May 2015.** Thanks to Mike Hawkins for the puzzle.

Announcements

Thank you

Douglas and family of the late Drusilla (Cilla) wish to thank friends and neighbours for the many lovely cards. Our heartfelt thanks to Rev. Jim Brown and George Currid. We would also like to thank you all for your support in donating to Bandeath Dog Shelter. An amazing £277.05 was collected.

Douglas Ross and Family

Letters

Allan Martin

I read with interest your article in this months Ben Ledi View on the fantastic achievements of the former Callander Golf Club professional, Allan Martin. I am sure that many more of the current and former Callander Golf Club members who have benefited from his coaching in the past, would like to join me in offering our heartfelt congratulations in reading about his European Golf Presidents Award (Individual) for 2014, which was surely well deserved?

What a pity however, as you rightly pointed out in your article, that Allan is no longer involved in coaching at the Club and now appears to be based out of Buchanan Golf Club, although I believe that he is actually working as a freelance coach. I am sure that Callander's big loss is their large gain and hopefully one day Allan might well come back to the Club he has been involved with since he was five years old and once again be considered to coach Callander Golf Club Juniors and Club members?

Mark Everett



Gnasher gets microchipped at last

Trust has partnered with the iconic British comic. The Beano, for the first time in the comic's 76 year history to microchip Dennis the Menace's furry friend Gnasher. After years of the infamous dog giving

Beanotown residents the run-around, will this mark a change in his naughty ways? It's unlikely!

Dogs Trust is working with The Beano to encourage all dog owners in the UK to microchip their dogs ahead of legislation coming into force in England and Wales, which will make microchipping compulsory. The







Scottish Government has yet to decide, but Dogs Trust hopes that they will follow suit soon and legislate for this important component of dog welfare. Modern technologies like microchipping have contributed to a reduction in the number of stray and abandoned dogs. accounting for over 10,000 dogs being reunited with their owners this year - a figure which is growing annually.

In this strip, the duo's escapades culminate in a visit to the newly opened Dogs Trust Beanotown rehoming centre, and it soon becomes apparent that Gnasher, despite his mischievous nature, has never been microchipped himself.

For information about free microchipping events see www.chipmydog.org.uk .

They're here!! It's well and truly tick season!

hese little creatures are external parasites living in the grasses and vegetation. They survive by sucking blood from mammals (dogs, cats, sheep, deer......AND HUMANS!). They cause a reaction at the site they attach to and are also responsible for transmitting a number of diseases - mainly Lyme disease.

Don't rush to pull the tick off your pet, as you may leave the mouth part embedded in the skin. There is an art to it! Ask your vet or vet nurse to provide you with a specially designed tick removal tool that removes the mouthparts as well as you twist it free, and ask them to show you how to use it. Better still come and get some advice about the range of products that can be used to kill and/or repel ticks. We have a range of products including spot-on, tablets and a collar which repels ticks for up to eight months. Find out how and when to apply, and which one is best for your pet - BEFORE it happens. Most importantly remember if you, your dog or your cat feel unwell after walking in an area with ticks, please seek advice from your doctor or your vet. Marslaidh Smith BVM&S MRCVS

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Vet - Marslaidh Smith BVM&S MRCVS

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

Good Friday 3rd April

7.30pm Holy Week Services , Kirk Sunday 5th April Easter Day

11.15am All-Age Morning Service, Kirk 3.00pm Trossachs Service

8.00pm Time for Silence, Kirk

Sunday 12th April

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall 11.15am Morning Service, Kirk 8.00pm *Time for Silence, Kirk*

Sunday 19th April

10:00am Early Service, Kirk Hall 11.15am Morning Service, followed by Informal Communion, Kirk 8.00pm *Time for Silence, Kirk*

Sunday 26th April

11.15am All age Morning Service, Kirk. 8.00pm *Time for Silence*, Kirk

Sunday 3rd May

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall 11.15am Morning Service, Kirk 3.00pm Trossachs Service 8.00pm *Time for Silence,* Kirk **Sunday 10th May**

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall 11.15am Morning Service, Kirk 8:00pm Time for Silence, Kirk Sunday 17th May

10.00am Morning Service , Kirk Hall 11.15am Morning Service followed by Informal Communion, Kirk 8:00pm Time for silence, Kirk

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall 11.15am Morning Service, Kirk 8:00pm Time for Silence, Kirk Sunday 31st May

Sunday 24th May

11.15am All-Age Morning Service, Kirk 8.00pm *Time for Silence,* Kirk Sunday 7thJune

10:00am Early Service, Kirk Hall 11.15am Communion Service, Kirk 3.00pm Trossachs Communion

Saint Andrew's



Scottish Episcopal Church, Leny Road, Callander

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

Sunday

10.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion

Everyone is welcome at these services. For any information on baptisms, weddings or funerals, please contact: **Rev Richard Grosse** tel 382887

St Joseph's

Catholic Church Glen Artney 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 tel 330702

Dunblane

Free Church, Beech Road, Dunblane

Sunday Services:11.30am and 6.30pm. Sunday School: 11.45am. Prayer/Bible Study Meeting on Thursdays at 7.30pm.

Rev Alasdair MacDonald MA

Deadlines

The next issue of the *Ben Ledi View* will be published on Friday 5th June.

Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the June/July issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Sarah Clark at advertising@benlediview. co.uk by Tuesday 12th May. Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at

www.benlediview.co.uk/adinfo.html. Please call or email for advice if in doubt.

We request full payment before we can accept advertising material for publication.

Editorial copy

All editorial contributions for the April/May issue should be emailed to **editor@benlediview.co.uk** or handed in to the Callander Library by **Tuesday 12th May** at 7.00pm.

Items received after the deadline may be held over to the August/ September issue.

NOTE: Advertising and editorial deadlines are now on the same date.

Callander Community Church

Every Sunday night at 6.30pm in the Community Room of the Fire Station. A Healing Service will be held on the last Sunday of the month. Tel 01877 330055 email ccc777@btinternet.com. All welcome.

Callander Christian Fellowship -

a regional expression of Stirling Baptist Church. Regional Pastor for Callander, Brian Gooding is available to provide Christian pastoral care and support to anyone in the Callander area. Email brian.gooding@stirlingbaptist.co.uk. or tel 07885 465339.

Quakers: Sundays 10.30am, The Braeport Centre, Dunblane, FK 15 0AT. Email dunblanequakers@googlemail.com

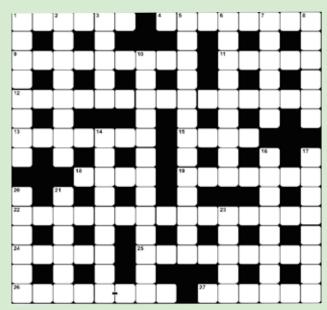
Jews: Shabbat Service 10.00am, Garnethill Synagogue, 127 Hill Street, Glasgow, G3. 0141-322 4151.

Buddhists: Glasgow Buddhist Centre, 329 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2. 0141-333 0524.

Muslims: Central Scotland Islamic Centre, Burghmuir Road, Stirling FK7. 01786-474 324.

Hindus: Hindu Mandir, 1 La Belle Place, Glasgow G3. 0141-332 0482.

Sikhs: Central Sikh Singh Sabha, Berkley Street, Glasgow G3. 0141-221 6689.



ACROSS

- 1 Enthusiastic male team heading off (6)
- 4 A British opera, length unusual (8)
- 9 Derby winner in USA, possibly blazing a trail (9)
- 11 Good hospital entering appropriate contest (5)
- 12 Fairy tale, a legend, enthrals when broadcast (6,3,6)
- 13 A grant secured by the gymnast, perhaps (7)
- 15 One dubious name for a gaseous element (4)
- 18 Touch brass instrument in retreat (4)
- 19 Erratic heir, way out (7)
- 22 Unpredictable type, any one of the last three characters? (7,8)
- 24 "Chose" past tense shown in dictionary (5)
- 25 Make drunk supply a beer in it (9)
- 26 Like a minor in short dungarees, playing (5-3)
- 27 Vegetable in season, one pound (6)

The BLV Prize Crossword No. 120

Return completed entries to: BLV Crossword No 120, The Library, South Church Street, Callander, FK17 8BN by no later than **Tuesday 12th May 2015**.

The first correct entry opened will win £5. Don't forget to supply your name and address.

Name:	 	

DOWN

- 1 I agree to try and try (4,4)
- 2 Seaman's popular article is good for a drink (8)
- 3 Brusque, in sister's estimation (5)
- 5 Getting on? Put up pension (8,5)
- 6 Collection made by Conservative supporting bid (9)
- 7 Large number blowing top after start of match (6)
- 8 Agree to take off and attack (3,3)
- 10 Outstrip lad with vast engine, surprisingly (5,8)
- 14 Elaborate stitch (9)
- 16 Watchful living at resort (8)
- 17 Enjoying great health? Yes (4,4)
- 20 Kudos involved first to unravel puzzle (6)
- 21 Fish dead? Moved on ice (6)
- 23 Square up holding end of lager bottle (5)

Crossword 119 solution Winner: Lesley Edmunds

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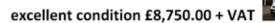
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