



Community Newspaper
of the Year 2015



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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 by Keith Wilson. Peacock butterfly resting on a Buddleia flower and not a rain drop in sight!

Hello Readers

When I wrote this column two months ago, I expressed a hope that Summer would be arriving shortly. In common with most of Northern Europe, we have not had much of a Summer at all so far this year, and time is running out.

However, we still have much to look forward to: the Railway Festival at the end of September and the Jazz Festival at the beginning of October.

We have learned from the Forestry Commission, that the work associated with the removal of the wind fall trees on the Craggs is not finished at the time of writing. By the time you are reading this the path from the car park on Bracklinn Road will have a foot-friendly surface, the mini-quarry just off that path will be landscaped and the two main access paths to the top will be back in use.

We have been urging readers to express their views not only in the *Ben Ledi View* but to the various branches of Government and the National Park. This edition has information on both Stirling Council's local plan, and an initiative from the Scottish Affairs Committee in Westminster, asking for views on their range of topics and the approach they should take. If we don't

answer these initiatives, we can hardly complain about the outcomes.

The Climate Justice Baton is coming to Callander from 30th August to 5th September. The baton was launched at the Eco-Congregation Scotland annual gathering in Falkirk on April 25th by Aileen McLeod MSP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform. It has since been touring parishes, schools and community groups up and down the country, from Shetland to Dumfries.

Margaret Warnock of Callander Kirk's Green Team explains, 'At the beginning of December in Paris, over 190 countries will meet to attempt to negotiate a deal on climate change to limit emissions from developed countries and help developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change and develop low carbon economies.'

Finally, we invite anyone aged 18 and under to send in an article and if we publish it you will receive a voucher for £25. The article can be a music review, reporting on an event, a short story - anything that our readers will enjoy. Please see the article on page 14 from our first winner Rhianna McClure

Your editorial team

Lift Share

The car-share scheme for Trossachs 'n' Teith is up and running.

Individuals can now access the scheme from home or from work and register the details of any journeys they wish to share. The system will then search for others who are going the same way, leaving it to them to make contact and arrange to travel together.

The software behind Trossachs 'n' Teith's system has been provided by the UK's largest car-sharing network, liftshare, which has established more than 1,200 schemes for communities across the UK. Over 400,000 members have registered on liftshare's central database. This means that each user can choose whether to look for car-sharers within their own community, or from the whole liftshare database, thereby increasing the likelihood that they'll find a journey match.

Trish Thompson, Centre Manager, is particularly pleased with the new scheme: 'The Trossachs 'n' Teith Liftshare scheme is a great addition to public transport for the Trossachs Ward area and beyond, giving people a great opportunity to save money and have more flexibility in their travel plans whilst helping reduce the carbon footprint on the environment. All the staff and board members are really pleased that McLaren Community Leisure Centre can bring such a scheme to the local community and would encourage individuals to get involved in the Trossachs 'n' Teith lift share scheme.'

Registration is easy. Simply visit: www.trossachsandteith.liftshare.com For more information about the new car-share scheme, contact Andy Cartwright on 07572203877 and andy@mclarenleisure.co.uk.

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. Thanks to the Greener Callander Group for their contribution of a train planter that is 'steaming' and being much admired outside the toilets in Station Road Car Park.

However, there is still a lot of work to do to obtain the relevant permissions from Stirling Council and to get final confirmation of attendance from some railway groups.

The event will be in three venues.

- **St. Andrew's Church** – Theme of 'Down the Line' which will tell the history of the entire line from Dunblane to Oban. This is where the historical railway societies and model railways will be based. We will also have a speaker to give a talk about the history of the line. The campaign group 'Railfuture Scotland' will also be there to give guidance on how to get the railway back to Callander. Let's look to the future as well as the past!
- **St. Kessog's** – Theme of 'Life on the Railway' which will imagine what it was like to work and travel on the railway, particularly as a Victorian child. This will be a series of fun activities. We are also hoping for a quality, Victorian style market for the Square.
- **Station Road Car Park** – Theme of

'Exploring Our Railway Heritage' which will encourage people to walk and cycle along the old railway line. The National Park mobile information centre will be there. There will be a 1960s bike ride. There will also be vintage vehicles on display such as a 1965 fire engine alongside a modern 2015 equivalent. A 5" gauge mini-railway will offer 'sit-on' rides. We will also have a Black Five locomotive whistle to help re-create the sound of trains as they went through Callander, using the last timetable of the line.

The Film Society are also organising a railway-themed Film Festival featuring unique local archive footage of the railway and a special screening of Buster Keaton's silent classic 'The General', accompanied by pianist Mike Nolan.

The above outline is subject to change. Further details will follow via 'InCallander' website, Stirling Observer and other information outlets. Watch out for a souvenir festival programme which will be available in September and events branded with the Railway Festival logo.

Please get in touch if you would like to help with stewarding or if your business can put on a railway themed shop window display or have any other ideas or offers of help. I am also happy to come and talk with you and/or your group to get further ideas and hopefully support for the event. Tel 01877 330 159 or 07811 779 926 or email warnocks@tinyworld.co.uk

David Warnock on behalf of CCDT

Greener Callander

Greener Callander would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their help towards our fund-raising and floral displays this summer:

Mrs Chrissie Mackay, Mrs Agnes Gibson, Mrs Fiona House, Mrs Alison Sly, Mr and Mrs Jim Maclean, Mr Gordon Steele, Liz and Toby Kliskey, Liz Geddes of CCW, Frank Park of the Lade Inn, Atholl Macmillan of Macmillan Wine, Campbell's Shortbread, Waverley Hotel, Guyana (Aberfoyle) and B & Q for raffle prizes etc.

Congratulations to our prize-winners in the gardening quiz who are Anne Thompson, Bridgend (First Prize £20 Guyana voucher), Shirley Walker, Menteith Crescent (Second Prize £15 B & Q voucher) and Sheila Winstone, North Church Street (Third Prize wicker trug and hand tools).

Our Plant Sale in the Square on 16th May raised £835 and the Open Garden at Orchardlea on 14th June raised £271. Quite a lot of this will be going towards the watering so assiduously done by Liam of Shiny Time. Many thanks to all our hard-working Greener helpers and to all those folk from Callander and beyond who supported both events.

Despite being alternately parched and drenched, the extra floral features introduced into Callander this summer seem to be bearing up well and we hope they are giving pleasure to both locals and visitors. *Hilary Gunkel*



*Hilary in her amazing garden.
Photo courtesy of Fiona McAdam.*

BLV recruitment drive

In our last issue we asked you to help the BLV by volunteering with us and we have been amazed at your response. In fact, a bit overwhelmed, so it's taking us a bit of time to sort out who is best for the various roles.

Charlie is delighted that several of you volunteered to help with the delivery, so at last we have a full delivery list

and holiday cover. We also have new recruits to help with advertising and putting the newspaper together and at last, we have some new writers, so we are hoping they have lots of fresh ideas for articles and columns.

To everyone who responded to our advert a very big **THANK YOU**.

Callander Community Council

The National Park consultation on the Draft Local Plan was recently concluded and we had numerous meetings with the planners to discuss this. Overall, the Community Council was very satisfied with the Plan and understand that any plans are long term and individual site developments would still need to go through the planning process.

We had numerous comments about the proposal for Station Road car park, everyone commenting that Callander needs this to be a car park with provision for coaches and lorry parking and the public toilets. Improvements to the quality of the car park would be preferable, including better information and signs. The site at Balgibbon also brought a lot of comment from the community with the main objections being the poor access to the site, potential flood risk and damage to the glacial moraine. Our response to the National Park reflected these comments from the community.

We have been alerted to the

deterioration of the old Eagle Hotel, the building on the corner of Main Street and Bridge Street. While we have no details about the extent of the problem, it is unsightly in a central part of the town. We are very supportive of local residents who have contacted Stirling Council and the National Park to see if the owners can improve the building.

Residents in Leny Feus and Ardnacreggan Road are concerned about the planned extraction of timber from the Trean Woods. The initial plan from the Forestry Commission was to use small lorries down Ardnacreggan Road, taking the timber to Kilmahog where it would be transferred to larger logging lorries. We agreed that the road is not suitable for this and the Forestry Commission are now looking at alternatives.

The planned cycle route through Coilhallan Woods has been discussed with us and the route has now been modified to stay well away from the houses next to the woods.

The footbridge over the River Teith

from the library to the primary school is an important link in the town but there are now questions about whether we should start planning to replace it. A better quality bridge would be a great benefit to Callander; however, there is a lot of planning needed and the design and construction costs would be large. We are therefore looking at a long term plan for its replacement possibly in 5 or 10 years time.

Richard Johnson

Email: rcjohnson9@aol.com



Samson's stone

In response to the photo on the front cover of the last issue John Cummins writes, 'Samson's Stone? It looks more like the head of a Tyrannosaurus Rex to me!' I see what he means.



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Stirling Council

The Stirling Local Development Plan was adopted in September 2014 and covers the period to 2024 – but work has already begun on a new plan that will replace it.

The plan, which covers the Stirling Council area excluding those parts in the National Park, guides the future use of land and the appearance of towns, villages and rural areas, indicating where new development should happen and where it should not. It also includes policies and guidance used to assess planning applications and ensure high standards of architectural and environmental design.

The Council is required to review and update the plan every five years. To comply with latest Scottish Government advice there is, however, a need to identify more sites for housing which means the normal review timescale has been brought forward. The opportunity is also being taken to review and update, where necessary, other parts of the plan.

The Main Issues Report sets out options relating to housing land, proposing land for a further 488 to 788 homes over 18 proposed new sites; wind energy, specifically a 'spatial framework' for wind energy developments which will guide the location of new wind farms; and other issues which are mainly minor changes to existing policies to reflect updated Scottish Government Guidance.

The Council will be welcoming views and comments on the Main Issues Report over the 10 week consultation between 3rd August to 9th October 2015. The Main Issues Report and related documents are already available to view on the Local Development Plan webpage: www.stirling.gov.uk/localdevplan

If you have any queries, you can get in touch with the Planning & Policy team, Richard Callender, Alistair Gemmell and Michael Mulgrew, by telephone: (01786) 233660 or email: ldp@stirling.gov.uk.

The Scottish Affairs Committee

The Scottish Affairs Committee is seeking views on its programme of work. What should we do and how should we do it?

The Scottish Affairs Committee wishes to involve the people of Scotland in its work, from Scottish Parliamentarians to the business, academic and voluntary sectors and members of the Scottish public, we want to hear from you. We want to know what issues you think we should be examining during this Parliament and the best ways for us to go about that work.

Chair's comments

Pete Wishart MP, Chairman of the Scottish Affairs Committee said: 'I am delighted to have been elected chair of the Scottish Affairs Committee. Under my chairmanship I want the Committee to engage directly and regularly with the people of Scotland. I want to hear what issues you think the Committee should be looking at, as well as suggestions for how the Committee can best tap into the incredible upsurge in political engagement that we are witnessing across Scotland.'

Our call for evidence is not restricted to those based in Scotland. Whether it be the effect of Government policies on areas either side of the border or the devolution settlement in general, the Scottish Affairs Committee is interested in hearing from people and organisations based across the United Kingdom on what issues we should be covering.'

Here are some suggested areas we are keen to hear views on but you do not have to restrict your comments to these.

Ways of working

What are the best ways for the Committee to engage with organisations in Scotland and the Scottish public?

How should the committee engage with organisations across the United Kingdom and on what issues?

Where should the Committee meet and what type of meetings (e.g. formal evidence sessions, informal discussion

panels, etc) would be useful?

How can the Committee make sure it engages effectively with the work of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Parliament Committees?

Issues

What issues should the Committee be examining during this Parliament and why?

These be can narrow issues suitable to a single day's examination as well as larger issues such as aspects of welfare policy or devolution – please note that the Committee does not look into individual cases. Issues can be immediate or longer term.

What aspects of UK Government policy are not working, or could be made to work better, in and for Scotland?

Should the Committee consider the impact of the devolution of powers.

What are your views on the effectiveness of the Scotland Office? What could it do better?

We would be grateful to receive your comments, suggestions, views or evidence by the 31st August 2015.

How to contact the Committee

Email the Committee - scotaffcom@parliament.uk, tweet us at @CommonsScotAffs Hashtag your thoughts #scottishaffairs or post a comment on our Facebook page.

Submit written evidence via our inquiry page at www.parliament.uk

Who we are

The Scottish Affairs Committee is one of a number of select committees in the House of Commons. In our case, we are a committee of eleven Members of Parliament, responsible for examining the work of the Scotland Office, this includes its relations with the Scottish Parliament. and administration and expenditure of the offices of the Advocate General for Scotland and other matters that are reserved (for example, aspects of welfare policy that haven't been devolved to the Scottish Government). and wider constitutional issues.



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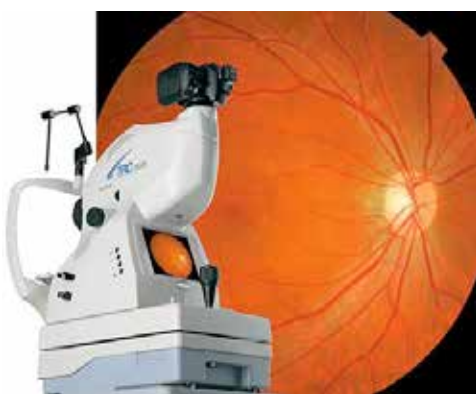
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New beginning for CAOS



Razvan Luculescu. Photo supplied by Bob Johnson

Callander Amateur Operatic Society (CAOS) has a new musical director! Following Ian Milligan's retirement from the society as musical director after thirty five years, CAOS have pleasure in announcing that our new musical director is Razvan Luculescu.

Rumanian born Razvan has lived in Scotland for a number of years. He has broad experience in directing musical societies, theatre groups and orchestras in the Glasgow area and he

grew up in the Rumanian theatre world

CAOS is keen to encourage existing, new and younger members to join the society for the season 2015/2016. If you enjoy singing and like the idea of performing in front of an audience, and would like the opportunity of being involved with a long established and successful team of like minded enthusiasts, then please come along to rehearsals at Callander Youth Project (formerly the Bridgend Hotel). Our first rehearsal meeting will take place on Monday 7th September at 7.30pm.

This is a new era for the society under new musical leadership but, as ever, we look forward to not only enjoying ourselves during rehearsals but entertaining the public. No particular skills are required. You don't have to be able to read music, although some singing ability would definitely be useful.

Bells, Bows, Blow and Blast

You are invited to come along to St Kessog's on Friday evening, 18th September if you are a onetime player of a string, woodwind or brass instrument and would like to take up playing again. You'll meet some of us who have done just that. We're particularly interested in recruiting some more players for Rusty Strings.

Come along as well if you would like to try something new, such as handbell ringing, or playing an instrument you haven't played before, maybe a flute or even a trombone. There are many opportunities in Callander for learning in friendly groups where encouragement, great camaraderie and fun, often with cake included, are ready to welcome you.

Never think you're too old for this. Making music is the best way of keeping all parts of the brain in working order. We've all done it...come along and meet us on Friday 18th September at 7.30 pm in St Kessog's.

Blow and Blast, Callander Chimes, Callander Brass Training Band, Rusty Strings

Playing in the rain

At the time of writing Callander Brass are looking forward to the second of our summer series of concerts in Ancaster Square: the first, on July 2nd, was rained off after we'd managed to play four numbers amid much hilarity at the choice of sitting out in the rain or sheltering under the trees with the midges. We're grateful to our loyal supporters for staying as long as we did. Thursday July 16th and Sunday July 26th are our next dates, and on Saturday August 1st we travel to Loch Katrine for our first concert there.

Still to come in August are Saturday 8th at 3.00pm at Loch Lomond Shores, then on Thursday 13th at 7.30pm we'll be back in Ancaster Square, with the last of the Summer Series on Saturday August 22nd at 3.00pm.

Weekly practices begin on Thursday 27th August at 7.30pm in Callander Primary School - players old and new are most welcome to join us. For those wishing to gain a little more experience before joining the main band, Callander Brass Tuesday Brass begins the autumn session in Callander Fire Station meeting room at 7.00pm - on Tuesday 25th August. *Alma Cadzow*

No previous experience of either acting or performing is an entry requirement, those skills can be developed through experience over time.

What we do know is that when you come along you'll be in the company of many others who didn't know what to expect when they decided to 'give it a go'. You might have thought about it for years, well, now is your chance!

Bob Johnson (President CAOS)

Big Band dance

Saturday 29th August, in McLaren High School at 7.30pm

In aid of the Callander churches - St Andrew's, St Joseph's and Callander Kirk - this spectacular big band evening features the Sound of Seventeen Big Band. They will play a selection of music from the Glen Miller, Count Basie and Duke Ellington era, plus some Nelson Riddle arrangements to back their guest vocalists. There will be an exhibition of jive and swing dancing and feel free to whisk your partner onto the dance floor. Come along in Guys and Dolls or Gangsters and Molls period dress. Instant spot prizes will be awarded for dancers or listeners with style.

For further information, or to pre-book, contact Tom Jones at the Highland Guest House, Church Street, Callander. Email: dennisjones192@hotmail.com, or telephone: 07721 423 374.

Dennis Jones, Principal Organiser



Festival Decade

Callander 2015 Jazz and Blues Festival

2nd - 4th October

'Time flies when you're having fun.' It's hard to believe that we have reached our tenth annual Jazz and Blues Festival.

Once again, a great weekend of live jazz and blues music is on offer, with

can participate in our now famous Sunday Jazz Street Parade, with a big emphasis on fancy dress and prizes for the under 12s. There are also jazz and blues Open Mic and Jam Sessions, and both Music and Dance Workshops and, for this year's event, both a jazz and



Jazz Connection: photo supplied by Graham Oliphant

some Soul, Funk, Boogie and a little bit of old-fashioned Rock n' Roll thrown in for good measure.

The international festival cast is headlined by Jazz Connection (Holland), Nuf Said (New York, USA), the Swing Commanders and the Revolutionaires R & B Big Band (North of England), Jackson Sloan and the Rhythmtones (London), and Scotland's very own Gypsy Swing stars Rose Room.

In addition, the programme is completed by over 30 local, regional and UK bands, with well over 300 musicians providing a weekend-long musical feast.

Remember, we also feature, as part of the programme, events where everyone

blues cruise on Loch Katrine on board the SS Sir Walter Scott.

We would like to thank the Crown Hotel for being our first ever main sponsor for the 2015 festival. Their sponsorship support has very much kick-started our finances this year and is very much appreciated. Also, financial support has already been donated from Westerton B&B and Gordon's Barbers.

At a time when funding a festival of this size is extremely difficult, help of this kind of support from Callander businesses is very much appreciated. We would also like to acknowledge the continuing support of all the festival venues around the town, and thank all

the owners, managers and staff for the hard work they all put in to make each year's festival event such a success.

Finally, the festival organisers rely on a great team of volunteers to help out during the event weekend. Without this help, it would be impossible to ensure the smooth-running of the event, with so many areas of operation to cover. We always need help so, if you would like to join the happy festival team, please email graham@callanderjazz.com or telephone: 01877 339 399

Festival Rover tickets are now on sale over the counter from Visit Scotland Information Centre, Main Street, Callander, telephone: 01877 330 342. Or, if you wish to purchase by Debit/Credit Card, telephone: 01877 330 329, or online www.ticketweb.co.uk.

Tickets are priced at Weekend Rover Ticket £55pp (£50 if purchased before 31/07/15), Friday Rover £10pp, Saturday Rover £30pp, Sunday Rover £20pp. Rover tickets gain entry to all performances.

On door admission prices are £10pp for headline performances, and £5pp for all other performances.

Promotional flyers containing key information are now being distributed throughout the area and beyond, and the full printed Festival Programme will be available shortly.

Please visit the festival website, www.callanderjazz.com, for further information and a direct link to ticketweb to purchase tickets.

Contact the festival office on 01877 339 399, or email: info@callanderjazz.com should you have any queries or require further information.

*Graham Oliphant
Callander Jazz and Blues Festival*

Second annual Film Festival

Building on the success of the 2014 Film Festival, the second annual Callander Film Festival will run from 25th to 27th September at St Kessog's. This year it will have a railway theme to tie in with the railway festival on the same weekend.

On Sunday 27th September at 2.30pm we're screening the 1926 Buster Keaton silent classic *The General* with live piano accompaniment

from expert silent film improviser Mike Nolan. The rest of the programme is being developed and will also feature short films, archive material on the Callander and Oban Railway and feature films. The Festival has been made possible with funding support from Callander Enterprise, Stirling Council and Regional Screen Scotland.

Look out for posters and leaflets in August!
Sheila Winstone



*Buster Keaton : photo supplied by
Sheila Winstone.*

Film Society returns to St Kessog's

The Film Society is excited to return to St Kessog's (Clanranald Trust HQ) for the new contemporary season programme, with a great selection of movies. We kick off on 10th October with award-winning *The Theory of Everything*, the extraordinary story of astrophysicist Stephen Hawking. Another BAFTA and Oscar winner follows on 24th October; filmed over 12 years with the same cast, *Boyhood* is a story of a boy who literally grows up on screen before our eyes.

Selma chronicles the epic march by Martin Luther King from Selma to Montgomery that culminated in President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In comedy sequel *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, Sonny prepares to expand his Indian hotel for the elderly and beautiful. The thriller *Gone Girl* is about a man who reports his wife has gone missing, then comes under suspicion as his portrait of a blissful union begins to crumble. *Testament of Youth* is a powerful coming-of-age story based on WWI memoir by Vera Brittain, classic testimony of the war from a

woman's point of view. *Far From The Madding Crowd* is the Thomas Hardy story about the independent and headstrong Bathsheba Everdene who attracts three very different suitors.

The first of four foreign movies is *Kumiko The Treasure Hunter* in which a Japanese woman goes in search of a satchel of money buried and lost in the film *Fargo* that she believes is real. In *Ida* a young Polish woman sets off with a relative in 1962 to learn out about their Jewish roots and tragic family story. The French Canadian film *Mommy* is about a passionate widow and her unpredictable 15-year-old ADHD son. *Wild Tales* from Argentina is a collection of short stories about distressed people, some explosive.

Our classic programme screens at The Waverley Hotel on Friday nights at 7.30pm and all include a cartoon or short before the main film. We start in November with a WWI adventure *The African Queen* (1951). A hard drinking river trader (Humphrey Bogart) and a prim missionary (Katharine Hepburn) are forced to take a hazardous river journey together. *Monsieur Hulot's*

Holiday (1953) is a hilarious comedy, accidents and misunderstandings follow him wherever he goes.

The 1953 *Titanic* tells the story of a couple trapped in a doomed marriage and the events of the fateful voyage. In *Footlight Parade* (1933) James Cagney playing a stage director who tries to outdo himself with spectacular musical numbers. The last film is *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1939) with Charles Laughton as the mis-shapen bell-ringer Quasimodo.

Membership fees remain at £22 for the contemporary programme, £10 for the classic or you can join both for £25.

Thanks to McLaren Community Leisure Centre for their support during 2014-2015. We thank the Regional Screen Scotland, British Film Institute, Cinema For All, Stirling & District Arts Forum, Callander Enterprise, Clanranald Trust for Scotland as well as Gordon and Jan at The Waverley Hotel for their ongoing support.

For details see www.incallander.co.uk/cfs and we also post details and news on Facebook and Twitter. Or please call Eammon O'Boyle 01877 339323 for details.

CONTEMPORARY PROGRAMME

St Kessog's 7.30pm

- October 10 *The Theory of Everything*
- October 24 *Boyhood*
- November 7 *Kumiko the Treasure Hunter**
Japan/USA
- November 21 *Selma*
- December 12 *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*
- January 9 *Gone Girl*
- January 23 *Ida** Poland
- February 6 *Testament of Youth*
- February 20 *Mommy** French Canadian
- March 5 *Far From the Madding Crowd*
- March 19 *Wild Tales** Argentina
- May 2016 **AGM Date & film tbc**

* Foreign movie with subtitles

CLASSIC PROGRAMME

The Waverley Hotel 7.30pm:

- November 13 *The African Queen* (1951)
- December 18 *Monsieur Hulot's Holiday* (1953)
- January 15 *Titanic* (1953)
- February 13 *Footlight Parade* (1933)
- March 11 *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1942)

CALLANDER FILM SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 2015/16

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Post code:.....Telephone:.....

E-mail:.....

Signature:.....

Contemporary: £22 Classic: £10
Both Programmes: £27 (Please circle)
(Members must be over 18)

Cheques payable to Callander Film Society
Please return completed form & membership fee to: Aileen Dimmer, 7 Castle Grove, Callander FK17 8AZ

Membership forms are also available at
Callander Library

What's on in August and September

REGULAR MEETINGS

Mondays

- Yoga (adults) 9.30-11.00am Kirk Hall
- Scrabble 2.00pm Teith Room, Dreadnought Hotel (1st and 3rd Mon)
- Highland Dancing 4.00pm Kirk Hall (from 24th August)
- Zumba fitness class 7.00pm Kirk Hall
- Stretch out & relax yoga 7.00pm Waverley Hotel
- Poker 7.30pm Craggs Hotel

Tuesdays

- Craigard Club 10.00am Kirk Hall (from 18th August)
- 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 (from 25th August)
- Badminton Club 7.30pm Leisure Centre
- Dominoes 7.30pm Craggs Hotel

Wednesdays

- Callander Kids 9.30am Kirk Hall
- Teapot café 10.30am Kirk Hall
- Bridge Club 6.50pm Waverley Hotel
- Guides 7.00pm St Andrew's Church Hall
- 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 Craggs Hotel

Thursdays:

- Scottish Country Dancing 7.00pm Masonic Hall
- Texas Hold 'Em Poker 7.30pm Waverley Hotel
- Callander Brass practice 7.30pm Primary School (from 27th August)
- Yoga (adults) 8.00-9.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Fridays:

- Craigard Club 10.30am Kirk Hall (from 21st August)
- Quiz night 7.30pm Craggs Hotel

Saturdays:

- Trossachs Tigers Training 9.15-10.00am McLaren Leisure Centre

AUGUST

Saturday 8th

- Bowling Club Bottle Stall Ancaster Square
- Ramblers Hill :Beinn Dubhcraig 8.30am Contact 01877 330059

Sunday 9th

- Jazz Club Gig 3.00pm-6.00pm Dreadnought Hotel

Monday 10th

- Community Council meeting 7.30pm Burgh Chambers

Tuesday 11th

- Walk in the Park Strathyre Forest Cabins 10.20 am (carshare) Meadows carpark

Thursday 13th

- Callander Brass play from 7.30pm in Ancaster Square

Friday 14th

- Kids end of season Party McLaren Leisure Centre

Saturday 15th

- Ramblers LDP: CT(4) Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glenisla 8.30am Contact 01877 330032

Sunday 16th

- SWT Balsam Bash 10.00am-12.30am meet Medical Centre Geisher Rd

Tuesday 18th

- Walk in the Park Golf Club walk 10.20am Ancaster Square

Thursday 20th

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall
- Ladies Circle 8.00pm Waverley Hotel

Saturday 22nd

- Ramblers Hill: Ben More (Crianlarich) 8.30 am Contact 01877 339080
- Trossachs Coffee Morning 10.00am Brig O'Turk Community Hall
- Callander Brass play from 3.00pm in Ancaster Square

Sunday 23rd

- Songs of Praise with Salvation Army Band 2.00pm Ancaster Square

Tuesday 25th

- Walk in the Park Tulipan and Meadows walk 10.20am Ancaster Square

Thursday 27th

- Callander and W. Perth's U3A AGM 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Saturday 29th

- Ramblers Stroll: Shirgaton and Boquhan Bridge 8.30am Contact 01786 825682
- Horticultural Society Show from 1.30pm Kirk Hall
- Big Band Night 7.30pm McLaren High School

Sunday 30th

- Trossachs Pilgrimage and Picnic leave from Callander Kirk after Family service
- Skidaddle Callander River Festival contact 01877 331495

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1st

- Walk in the Park Keltie Bridge 10.20am meet Medical Centre

Thursday 3rd

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Saturday 5th

- Ramblers LDP: CT(5) Kirkton of Glenisla to Alyth Contact 01877 330032
- McLaren High School 50th Anniversary from 10.00am including a Ceilidh at 7.00pm
- Skidaddle Glen Finglas Mountain Bike Race www.skidaddle.org

Sunday 6th

- Primary School Biketastic Day
- Callander Jazz Club Gig 3.00pm-6.00pm Dreadnought Hotel

Monday 7th

- Ladies Circle 8.00pm Waverley Hotel
- CAOS first rehearsal 7.30pm Callander Hostel

Tuesday 8th

- *Ben Ledi View copy deadline 7.00pm*
- Walk in the Park Kilmahog to Leny Falls 10.20am (car share) Meadows car park
- SWT talk 'Birds of Central Scotland: 40 years of change' 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Wednesday 9th

- Photo Club 7.30pm Waverley Hotel

Thursday 10th

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall

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

We'll point you in the right direction.
Accommodation • Tickets • Gifts & Souvenirs



Information Centres
visitscotland.com/wheretofindus



What's on in August and September (contd.)

- Heritage Society John Snodin on 'Inchmahome – priory and ferry' 7.30pm Callander Kirk Library

Friday 11th

- Forth Valley U3A enrolment - see p24
- German-speaking group meeting 7.00pm 'Ardess', 24 Bridgend

Monday 14th

- Community Council meeting 7.30pm Burgh Chambers

Tuesday 15th

- Walk in the Park Moss Wood or Meadows 10.20am (car share) Meadows car park
- Arthritis Club talk 'Canine Partners' with Ian Mitchell and Kelty 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Wednesday 16th

- Ramblers Stroll: Stronachlachar to Inversnaid 9.30am Contact 01877

376340

Thursday 17th

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Friday 18th

- Bells, Bows, Blow and Blast introduction session 7.30pm St Kessog's

Saturday 19th

- Ramblers Hill: Beinn Narnain 8.30am Contact 01877 331067

Tuesday 22nd

- Walk in the Park NCR7 to Kilmahog 10.20am Meadows car park

Thursday 24th

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Friday 25th

- Railway Festival begins various venues

Saturday 26th

- Ramblers LDP: CT(6) Alyth to Bridge of Cally 8.30am contact 01877 330032
- Thursday Club Annual Coffee

Morning 10.00am Kirk Hall

Sunday 27th

- Film Festival Buster Keaton's *The General* 2.30pm St Kessog's

Tuesday 29th

- Walk in the Park Ballachallan Forest walk 10.20 (car share) Meadows car park

OCTOBER

Friday 2nd

- Ben Ledi View published**
- Flu Vaccine clinic 9.00am-5.30pm both Practices
- Jazz and Blues Festival starts several venues

Saturday 3rd

- Ramblers Hill: Ben Ledi via the Ridge 8.30am Contact 01877 376212
- Trossachs Swimming Gala McLaren Leisure Centre

Callander Library

Taste IT

Never touched a computer? Scared you'll press the wrong button? Totally confused when you hear people talking about emails and surfing online? You can learn the basics of emailing and the internet free of charge at the library, which offers Taste IT courses for complete beginners.

Bookbug (rhymes and songs for children aged 0-4yrs). Sessions start on Thursday 27th August, 10.45am – 11.15am and fortnightly thereafter.

Chatterbooks (book group for primary school aged children) Starts on Thursday 24th September, 3.30pm – 4.40pm and continues on the last Thursday of every month.

Storytime (picturebook stories for younger children). Starts on Saturday 29th August at 11am, then weekly thereafter.

If you're interested in any of the above activities, please pop in or phone me for further information.

Fiona Frize, Community Library Officer

CALLANDER LIBRARY

Opening Hours

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

BLV book club

We are starting a book club column. Fiona at the Library has kindly agreed to recommend the books and Maggie, one of our new volunteers, is going to review them.

We begin with *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt, the story of a boy who loses a mother and gains a painting. If you have time to read this before the next BLV, please write and tell us your thoughts on the book.



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

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

McLaren High School

Sponsored Walk 2015

Friday 1st May saw the annual sponsored walk take place. A little bit earlier this year, the walk followed the well trodden route from the school through Coilhallan Wood toward the fish farm, returning along the Invertrossachs Road. In advance of the walkers, Mr Younger and Mr Wood chaperoned a group of runners to complete a couple of laps of the course. Classes set off at five minute intervals allowing a fairly even spread of participants along the way, avoiding crowding.

There was an air of energy and enthusiasm amongst pupils as they enjoyed an afternoon away from their normal routine before the holiday weekend. Walking with friends, chatting, taking in the scenery, passing time with the teachers who were walking or stewarding the route, and even getting some exercise, all contributed to a fun afternoon.

Most classes completed the 5km route in just over an hour and the next important stage of collecting the money is now in full swing. Any parents, friends or relatives who sponsored someone should pass money on as soon as possible. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated. All funds raised go towards supporting the many clubs and activities that are available to our pupils - the total so far is £2,760.

Monachyle Mhor Work Experience

On the 27th - 29th May four McLaren High school pupils went to Monachyle Mhor, Balquhidder for three days of work experience. There were four areas that we had the chance to work in, all of which are needed for a hotel to run smoothly. They were: kitchen, front of house, housekeeping and reception.

Rhys Wykes chose front of house, Megan Pease and Rebecca Bryce both chose various areas to work in. I chose to work in the kitchen and learnt new techniques and also how a professional kitchen works. At the end of each day I would have at least one dish to show what I had learnt. On the first day I picked my own salad leaves and flowers, and nettles from the garden and then used

them to make a nettle and pumpkin seed pesto which I served with deep fried crispy oysters and carrot puree. On the final day I made homemade crusty bread in the morning and a cornflake panna cotta with a mixed berry sorbet, chocolate custard and fresh summer berries in the afternoon.

I had a great time and all the food was delicious! It was also really interesting to see how dishes can be made using local ingredients like the nettles and salad in the garden or the eggs that their own chickens laid. I would definitely recommend the experience to anyone whether they are interested in taking catering up as a career or not.

Laura King S4

Sports Day



McLaren High School's annual Sports Day was held on Tuesday 23rd June in almost perfect weather conditions—dry and not too hot! Pupils from each house fought it out on the field to try and gain every possible point for their particular house. Events ranged from 200 metres to the obstacle race!

At the end of the day Dochart were crowned winners of Sports Day and Gregor Nixon, new House Captain for Dochart, was delighted to accept the trophy from Dr Pritchard. Bracklinn were named as overall Interhouse Champions for session 2014/15 with Samantha Ogilvie, new Vice Captain Charities, accepting the cup on behalf of Bracklinn. Well done to all the pupils who took part and huge thanks to all the staff who helped out on the field in a variety of ways.



Sports Day Fun

Back to the 80s

Audiences were in for a treat during the 3 performances of Back to the 80s on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th June. Back to the 80s is hard to describe, it is a bit like Grease but with great music from the 80s: some fantastic melodies, strong rhythms and catchy bass grooves. And loads of dancing! Senior pupils must be thanked for their efforts in doing most of the choreography themselves, but particular thanks go to Poppy Smith and Craig Russell whose contribution to the production was outstanding.



Back to the 80s

The performances themselves were amazing with the audience joining in, clapping and cheering, and even a standing ovation on the Wednesday night! The cast and chorus did a fantastic job, and this would not have been possible without the brilliant production team and band.

Special thanks to the stage crew, art department and their pupil assistants, sound and lighting teams, make-up team, kitchen staff, janitorial staff, the McLaren PTA and all teachers and staff at McLaren High who helped out in numerous ways.

It certainly was a show to remember!

Alex Harvey Memorial Award

Alex Harvey was a pupil at McLaren High School during the mid 1970s. A year or so after Alex left school he was sadly killed in a motor bike accident near Lochearnhead. He had been in school shows and was at that time working at what was then The Ancaster Arms Hotel in Callander.

His then employer Neil McArthur, and the Ancaster Hotel staff, decided that to commemorate his life an award be made to the cast member who had contributed the most to the success of the show either in terms of performance quality or direct on-stage assistance in any other way. This award was to be made by secret ballot at the interval

among the cast and back stage team. It has now been handed over thirty seven times in front of the last night audience since 1978 when it was first awarded.

The 2015 winner of the Alex Harvey Memorial Award was Poppy Smith who had assisted by choreographing several of the dance routines for Back to the 80s as well as being a principal character, Miss Brannigan, in the show! This award has continued to maintain its high status among the members of McLaren High School pupils as being a huge mark of respect for the winner by their peers and is long cherished by the recipient. After the performance has ended and votes of thanks are delivered, the climax of the final evening is The Alex Harvey Memorial Award.

Liz Youngson Memorial Award

Liz Youngson was a teacher at McLaren High School for nearly four decades before she retired. Sadly her intended life of leisure was short lived as she passed away in the November of that same year.

. During her time at McLaren she devoted herself not only to her subject, Business Studies, but to many other activities. One if these was as props person and general administrator for many school shows, too numerous to list. She had left instructions in her will that an award be made in her name,

So the school decided that her award be directed to the person who made the greatest contribution 'behind the scenes'. This might include lighting, sound, stage crew, makeup, props or could even be a cast member who had a dual role both on and off stage.

This year the first recipient of this new award was Kirsty Crawford who, not content with being an important character on stage, Kirk (one half of the comedy double act Kirk and Alfie), but she also led the makeup team too. The award was also made by secret ballot among all cast and back stage team members at the interval.

Both award ballots were supervised and counted by two front of house adults and verified by the incoming head girl, Grace Malloch.

Article and photos from Yvonne King

50th Anniversary

Callander's McLaren High School is getting set to celebrate a very special anniversary.

This August it will be 50 years since the school moved from its previous location at what is now Callander Primary School to its new site on Mollands Road. It officially opened in September 1965.

A programme of events has now been organised for Saturday 5th September to mark the occasion, including sports matches between former and current pupils, school tours, an exhibition and a ceilidh.

Headteacher Marc Fleming said: 'There was no way we could let an anniversary like this go unmarked and I hope as many people as possible turn out for what should be a great fun day.

There have been a lot of changes at McLaren High School over the years – not least the major refurbishment that took place between 2006 and 2008 and saw the school interior completely transformed – but it has always been important throughout that the school remains a central part of community life, which is why we're inviting everybody in to celebrate this milestone with us.'

A former versus current pupils rugby match will be held at the Callander Primary School pitch from 10am, with football and hockey games on the pitches at McLaren Leisure Centre from noon.

Tours of the current school and the exhibition of McLaren through the years can be enjoyed from noon-3pm and then the ceilidh takes place in the school from 7-11pm with tickets priced £5 each or £15 for a family (two adults and two children). To take part in the sports matches or to purchase ceilidh tickets email mclarenhighfp@stirling.gov.uk or call 01877 330156.. Tickets can also be bought at the school reception.

Callander Youth Project



Callander Youth Project Trust (CYPT) becomes accredited Living Wage Employer

CYPT has joined a growing number of third sector organisations and businesses across Scotland in becoming a 'Living Wage' employer.

Callander's award-winning Youth Work charity joins over 200 organisations who have achieved Living Wage accreditation which means all employees and subcontractors are paid at least the Living Wage of £7.85 an hour.

The Living Wage is calculated according to the basic cost of living in the UK, which is set independently and updated yearly. It's estimated 18% of the Scottish workforce earn less than the living wage. Recent research has shown the benefits of implementing the Living Wage could include a better working environment, greater staff engagement and a reduced level of absence.

Chris Martin, Managing Director of CYPT, said: 'We are proud to be one of the first youth work projects in the UK to become a Living Wage employer and see this as an opportunity to be a positive influence in our sector. As an employer of young people in the local area, we know that this is the right thing to do. Not only does it benefit our employees but also the communities they live in.'

In Scotland, the Living Wage Foundation works with the Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Initiative which is operated by the Poverty Alliance. There are currently over 1,400 Living wage employers in the UK.

Chris Martin

Want to win a £25 voucher?

The BLV invites anyone aged 18 and under to send in an article and if we publish it, you will receive a voucher for £25. The article can be a music review, reporting on an event, a short story - anything that our readers will enjoy. Rhianna sent in the article on the next page and wins a £25 voucher.

My Rwanda experience



A kitchen garden

ten weeks we worked with one of Tearfund's partner organisations, RDIS (Rural Development Inter-diocesan Service), working on various projects.

A lot of our time was spent in Nyagisozi, a village just outside Muhanga set right in the hills, with houses constructed from mud bricks scattered along the village's steep, winding paths. One project we worked

old boy called Peter from Nyagisozi village. This was impressive for many reasons. Firstly, Peter has a serious heart condition that resulted in him having to travel all the way to India to receive treatment. It also meant that he had to leave school at a young age. In addition, Nyagisozi village - where Peter lives - is quite a long distance from the school where the lessons were held. This is the boy who told us, 'When I become rich, I'm going to buy myself a bed.'

(Peter's current bed is constructed from mats made from woven grasses supported by mud bricks). Despite the problems Peter faces, his determination to learn English is inspirational.

One day, we asked the village leader about what the main problems are in the village. She told us



Peter (on the left) with his new energy-efficient stove

Over six thousand miles away, in central-east Africa, there is a country called Rwanda. Like Scotland, there are many hills, lush greenery and at certain times of the year, a lot of rain. However, your experience walking along a street in Rwanda would be very different from walking along Callander Main Street. Rather than seeing people carry their shopping bags in their hands, you would see them balancing things on their head. Rather than seeing prams, you would see women carrying their babies on their backs with carefully wrapped, vibrant materials. You wouldn't walk for five minutes without being met by awkward stares and hearing murmurs – or even shouts - of 'Muzungu' (term used for a white person). It takes something to get used to being in such a different country, though after recently spending ten weeks in Rwanda, its culture and ways of life have become second nature to me.

I was volunteering with Tearfund, a charity that works through local churches and communities to eradicate poverty. Tearfund is one of many charities that work with ICS (International Citizen Service), a government-funded organisation that brings together young people aged between 18 and 25 to fight poverty in overseas and UK communities.

I was part of a team, consisting of 8 volunteers, four of whom were from the UK and four (including our team leader) were from Rwanda. We stayed in a district called Muhanga, which is about a 45-minute bus journey from the country's capital, Kigali. Over the

on involved the construction of energy-efficient stoves for different families in the village. This was a massive improvement on the original stoves they used, which were simply open fires. The stoves we built require less wood; meaning less time

was needed to search for wood. They also produce far less smoke, which is both better for the environment and for the health of those using the stove. The other project we worked on in this village involved the construction of kitchen gardens. These are important because they allow people to grow a wider variety of crops all year round, providing the ingredients for a more balanced diet.

The rest of the work we did was teaching. I taught the beginner class with another volunteer called Aline who was fluent in the local language, Kinyarwanda. One memory that stands out was when Aline and I received a new class member – a 17-year-



Carrying bricks for making stoves

that one of the main problems is the lack of rain due to climate change, affecting the crop yields. It made me realise just how unfair it is that people in a country that is one of the most eco-friendly in the world suffer from the results of the polluting activities of other nations. I feel even more determined to minimise my own carbon footprint and encourage others to do the same.

To have been part of the worthwhile work of RDIS, work that really makes a difference to people's lives, has been a real privilege. Somebody put it well when they said, 'If you think something small can't make a difference, try going to sleep with a mosquito in your room.'

Rhianna McClure

Callander Medical Centre

Both Practices

Leny Practice

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:

- Tuesday 20th October 2015
- Wednesday 25th November 2015

Both practices and community nurse clinic will close at 12.30pm.

Public holiday

- Monday 12th October

Bracklinn Practice will be open in the morning as usual, Leny Practice will be closed in the morning. Both Practices will be closed in the afternoon.

If you require emergency assistance out with these hours please contact NHS24 on 111

Bracklinn Practice

Unattended Appointments

Bracklinn Practice are appealing to our patients to cancel appointments if unable to attend. Between the 8th May to 7th June all non-attended appointments were recorded, and during this period the practice had 50 patients not arrive for their appointment. This meant that 50 other patients could not be given appointments.

We appreciate that from time to time patients simply forget they had an appointment, but ask that if you feel it is no longer convenient or required, to please telephone us and cancel it. By not attending an appointment or failing to cancel it, you have denied someone else the opportunity of seeing a doctor or practice nurse.

You will never be asked any awkward questions as to why you wish to cancel an appointment, but you may be asked if you want to make another appointment at a more convenient time.

In view of this, we ask that you please ring us and cancel any unwanted appointments in the future to avoid these statistics getting any higher.

Practice Staff update

The practice bid a fond farewell to Yvonne MacDonald who left the practice at the end of June. Yvonne was with the practice in her role as Practice Manager for over 5 years.

We are very grateful for her contribution to the practice team and wish her well in her new venture.

We are delighted to welcome our new Practice Manager, Karen Brown, to Leny Practice. Karen has worked in various roles within the NHS, including General Practice, for over 25 years.

Patient Access

Just a reminder that we offer a '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. We would like to encourage as many as possible to 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, the practice staff are happy to go over the registration with you in the Practice and show you how to use the system.

Sunburn Advice

As summer is now upon us please remember that protecting your skin using sunscreen is better than treating it. Try to always use a sunscreen with a High UVA & UVB protection. This should be clearly stated on the label. Should you suffer from sunburn the advice is to cool the skin with a cold flannel or by bathing. Drinking fluids is essential but avoid alcohol as this will dehydrate you further. Aftersun cream and calamine lotion can relieve any itching or soreness. Paracetamol can be used to help any pain and control fever and Ibuprofen can reduce inflammation and lower a high temperature.

Holiday Medication

Please ensure you order your repeat medication the week before your holiday. We still receive requests marked urgent due to going on holiday the following day and this puts increased pressure on the staff, the doctors and the pharmacies to turn around the request in such short time scales.

Facebook

We continue to update and monitor our Facebook page and would encourage you all to go online and have a look. You can view our site on www.facebook.com/lenypractice and feel free to leave comments on health related topics you would like information on.

Flu Vaccine Clinic

Save The Date

Friday 2nd October

Both Leny and Bracklinn Practices will be available for vaccines between 9am – 5.30pm.

Come along at any time during the day.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible please contact your surgery beforehand.

Due to the staff concentrating on the vaccines on the 2nd October, there will be emergency clinics only and no repeat prescriptions printed.

TALK TO US

If things are getting to you.

Talk to us any time you like, in your own way, and off the record – about whatever's getting to you.

08457 90 90 90* (UK) ←
01324 622066* (Local)

jo@samaritans.org

www.samaritans.org

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www.hearttoheart.org.uk



If you can't wait until your GP surgery reopens

NHS 24
www.nhs24.com

Walk in the park



Photograph of many of our walkers at Bracklinn Bridge from Cathy Scott

Summer Walks

Our programme of summer health walks is well underway: on a Tuesday morning meeting at 10.20am and Wednesday evening at 7.00pm until the end of September (please see the schedule in the 'What's On' Section). We always like to welcome new members or visitors to the town, so if you are here on holiday or just bored because all the usual community groups have ended for the summer then why not join us for a gentle stroll. All our walks are free, on good walking surfaces and last between 10 min and an hour. We are a friendly bunch so it's a good way to make new friends while getting some exercise in this glorious countryside.

The walk ends with an optional cup of tea or coffee and a scone in a local cafe. We welcome children on the walks but ask they would be accompanied by an adult.

Strength and Balance

On a Tuesday afternoon we continue our exercise with Strength and Balance in the community Room of the Fire station from 2.00-3.00pm. Using very gentle exercises based on the Otago falls prevention programme we take part in 10 exercises designed to help us to walk more confidently. However, if you have a health condition that you think may prevent you from taking part please speak to your GP or physiotherapist before coming along.

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](tel:01877330055) or send an email to: cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Prize Preserves

Congratulations to Perthshire Preserves from Main Street in Callander which scooped a Gold, 2 Silver and 3 Bronze awards in the 10th World's Original Marmalade Awards. Perthshire Preserves won the Gold Medal of the marmalade world's most prestigious accolades for its Orange Marmalade with Deanston 12yr old Malt Whisky which scored high marks for its appearance, colour, consistency, aroma and flavour. Iain Mackenzie and Kate

Cook's Corner

by Audrey Corrieri

August/September

GOOEY LEMON CAKE

Ingredients:

4 eggs
150ml sunflower oil
150ml soured cream
1tbsp lemon juice
Zest of 1 lemon
200g SR flour
50g raisins
200g caster sugar

Icing:

4tbsp icing sugar
3tbsp lemon juice

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180c, 160c fan, gas no. 4. In one bowl, whisk the 4 eggs, beat in the 150ml sunflower oil, 150ml soured cream, 1tbsp lemon juice and lemon zest. In another bowl, mix the 200g SR flour, 50g raisins, 200g caster sugar.

Gradually add the egg mixture to the flour mixture, folding in until even.

Bake in a prepared 20cm loaf tin until golden brown.

Icing: Heat the icing sugar and the lemon juice together until simmering.

While the cake is still hot, prick the top with a fork and pour the icing over. Turn out when cool, serve in slices.



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 29th September 2015
The meeting will be held St Andrews Church Leny Road Callander commencing 7.30pm.

Thornhill are toasting business success thanks to winning prestigious food awards at this year's 10th Anniversary Marmalade Awards Celebrations at Dalemain. They really are world champions marmalade makers and are now able proudly to carry the award winning roundel on their jars.



Nuthatches, otters and much, much more with the SWT!

If you are interested in our wildlife then the Callander Scottish Wildlife Trust programme of talks should definitely be added to your diary.

On 8th September David Bryant will be speaking on 'Birds of Central Scotland: Forty years of change'. Even over eight years in Callander we have noticed changes in bird populations, one positive one being the northerly migration of nuthatches into local woods - a pair even nested in one of our SWT nest boxes.



They usually plaster mud around natural nest holes to tailor the entrance but it was interesting to see that, although the hole in the box was not altered, they had sealed the lid of the nest box with mud. In June the six chicks were ringed, and we'll put up more boxes for next year in the hope of getting some returnees.



Four other boxes had blue tit and great tit nests, but in two solitary wasps had built nests underneath the lids; one brood had already fledged but

the second box had a very sad nest of abandoned chicks.



While not a welcome tenant, the wasp's nest is quite beautiful, made of paper-like chewed vegetation and housing a few cells for the larvae. These Eumenine wasps are also known as potter wasps due to the shape of their nest – they could be called lampshade wasps!



In October the speaker on 'Otter Ecology and Conservation: the Work of the International Otter Survival Fund' is Dr Paul Yoxon, from Skye.

Note that the date has been changed to Thursday 22nd October 7.30pm. This is a charity set up to protect and help 13 species of otter worldwide; it supports projects to protect otters, ensuring they have a healthy environment and works closely with organisations concerned with wildlife crime. You can help by reporting sightings, dead or alive, at this website: http://www.otter.org/Public/AboutOtters_OtterWatch.aspx.

Many of us rarely see otters although they are now present in all the UK's major river systems. They travel overland between water courses and,

like other wildlife that is active between dawn and dusk, road traffic injuries are a real concern. So please keep an eye out for animals crossing local roads and keep to a speed that allows you to avoid them. While hedgehogs, rabbits and red squirrels may squash quite easily, a big otter, badger or a roe deer could have more serious consequences for vehicles and drivers too.



In spring a large dog otter was killed on 'the long straight' of the A81. It was retrieved then stored in a freezer until taken to Edinburgh University Vet School for examination by students. Its death was not entirely in vain but a healthy, mature male would have been infinitely better!

The talk on 10th November is 'RSPB's All Nature Programme: Not Just Birds' by James Silvey (RSPB), known to some from his involvement in the Trossachs water vole re-introduction programme. On 8th December will be 'John Muir Trust: Giving Wild Land a Voice' on the work of the conservation organisation.

Before then, on 16th August 10.00-12.30am, we would welcome help to remove invasive Himalayan Balsam along the Teith in Callander. The last three years' work is definitely paying off, with much less as far as the Turning Pool. This second session will give a chance to get the last few before they disperse thousands of seeds.

If interested contact Lesley Hawkins mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk. It's a great stress-reliever!

Lesley Hawkins

(photographs supplied by Lesley)

The rift in the sky



Look for the three Summer Triangle stars of Deneb, Vega and Altair and you will easily locate the 'Great Rift'.

Photo: earthsky.org

You have probably heard of the Great Rift Valley in East Africa but did you know that another Great Rift exists which is visible from Callander?

Outside on a dark late summer night take a look at the band of stars crossing over the night sky - the Milky Way. You are looking edgewise into our galaxy's disk. Look closely and you'll notice a long, dark lane dividing the bright starry band of the Milky Way. This is known as the Great Rift.

The Great Rift in the Milky Way is easy to see provided you have dark skies. Remember you aren't looking for a bright object in the sky, you are looking for the dark lanes running the length of the Milky Way.

The Great Rift begins just above the constellation Sagittarius in the south and if you follow the Milky Way up you will see a dark area in the middle just before you get to the constellation Cygnus, the constellation in the shape of a cross.

The Great Rift and the Milky Way pass through the Summer Triangle of bright stars (Vega, Deneb, Altair) but

you will know when you see the Great Rift because it looks as if the stars have been erased from this part of the sky.

Binoculars are perfect to scan the Milky Way and the Dark Rift. You will be able to view many interesting star forming regions, star clusters and millions of stars that will capture your attention.

But what is the Great Rift? It is caused by the star forming regions in that part of our galaxy. The newly forming stars in this area are spewing out lots of dust and gas into space that doesn't allow light to shine through.

The dust and gas is blocking our view, much like closing the curtains at home blocks your view of the garden. As the dust and gas disappear over time the stars will light up the area and the Great Rift will cease to be.

However, for the next few million years it will remain a dark patch in our night sky, so why not take a look at the rift in our night sky?

Keith Wilson

A greener train for Callander

Anticipating the Railway Festival in September, a wee train has appeared in Station Road carpark outside the toilet block and looks like being a permanent fixture.

The initiative, restoration work and planting up came from the Greener Callander team who would like to thank Messrs David Haldane Junior and Senior for the gift of the locomotive and carriages, now repainted in the correct livery.

Hilary Gunkel



Fountains in the square

Greener Callander have been brightening up South Ancaster Square with a couple of floral fountains, bought with a Stirling Council Community Pride award and (together with the new barrier baskets on Main Street) planted up by council workers.

As you can see from the photos (left), the fountains are already being enjoyed by Callander locals and we hope that sometime soon we shall get some nice sunshine to bring out their full range of colours!

We hope you will enjoy this addition to all the colourful events taking place in the Square this summer.

Hilary Gunkel

Photos courtesy of Lesley Hawkins

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Callander	Gargunnoch	Kippen	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.

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Around the world with the Ben Ledi View



Below: Alice enjoying a good read while cruising Cape Town harbour in South Africa. Table Mountain is in the background



Left: Marion sitting on the Equator Line in the South American country of Ecuador with her copy of the BLV at latitude 00 00 00°



Below: Janette and David took their copy of the BLV to the Great Wall of China

Right: Charlie with a copy of the BLV at the Bridge of Sighs in Venice, Italy. I'll bet the gondolier wishes he could get hold of this award winning newspaper!



Below: Keith along with his holiday reading material in the Andes Mountains in Peru. In the background is the Incan citadel of Machu Picchu.



Above: May working her way up the volcanic slopes of Mount Etna on the island of Sicily with her copy of the BLV.



If you are off on holiday soon, pack a copy of the BLV and when you find some sunshine please take a photo and send it in to us at editor@benlediview.co.uk. Happy holidays!



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What Do You Think?

In this issue I would like to talk about a topic raised by a letter in the last issue of the Ben Ledi View. This letter, for those that can't remember what was in the last issue's letter page, and there can't be many who don't, I will recap. It was the letter from a visitor who had arrived in the Meadows car park about 10.00am on a Monday morning to find the rubbish 'bins overflowing, rubbish piled up against bins and walls, as well as the car-park area and surrounding grass areas covered in rubbish' and having found this, they decided not to stop in Callander and moved on. Since then I have wandered down to the Meadows on a couple of occasions and found no real problem. However, none of these occasions were a Monday morning and, with the weather we have had recently, none were after a weekend of sunshine, heat, and back to back visitors' cars coming into the town.

Do we have a problem? Callander depends on visitors. It is only the town it is because of visitors and whether you like it or not Main Street would be verging on a ghost town if it wasn't for the visitors who frequent the variety of shops we have. If one visitor has been put off stopping for an hour or so in Callander because of litter, then how many others have – and one is one too many.

I understand that Colin, our magnificent road sweeper (or whatever the pc description is nowadays – cleansing operative possibly?), was upset by this letter, and may be fuming at the start of this article, but if there is a problem it cannot be laid at his door; can he be there 7 days a week from dawn til dusk? No one expects that.

Do we have a problem? Or was this a single over the top reaction to an



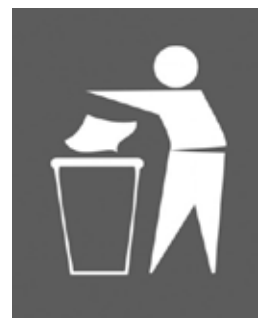
isolated incident? I personally think that if we have scared off one visitor it is possible that we do have a problem and we should look at it. For the vast majority of the time the litter situation is in my opinion handled extremely well by Colin and the rest of the team.

Living on the main street I often find sweet papers and wrappers in my hedge, especially just after the schools have come out and the pupils have made their merry way home via the sweet shop, and regular Saturday and Sunday morning exercise for us is to retrieve the odd beer can from the same hedge, however this is not a great problem. Britain has for many years had a reputation of being the dirty man of Europe because of our litter, but this has improved dramatically over the years, and although the problem is not solved it is much improved. Yes, we still see people dropping litter and throwing litter from car windows, but not as often, and the cleansing team do a good job cleaning this up. However I do not think this is the main issue. The problem, if there is one, would appear to be that if we have really good weather (remember what that was like) the visitors flock into Callander, the car parks are mobbed, and the infrastructure cannot cope with the amount of rubbish they want

to dispose of – and the vast majority would probably like to dispose of it responsibly.

The first question is do we have a problem? If the answer is yes, how do we solve it? I do not have an answer – with the cutbacks in local government spending it is unlikely that an increase in emptying the bins, especially at weekends, would be on the cards. Would more bins help? At the moment there are a lot in the Meadows and we don't want it to look like a home for litter bins. One suggestion put to me was that the fast food shops, as they appear to supply most of the wrappings discarded as rubbish in the town, pay a levy to pay for the bins to be emptied more often during the season – is this feasible? I don't know – and that's where you come in.

Let me know – Do we have a problem with litter or have I just written this article about nothing (newspapers can be quite good at publishing non-stories)? If we have a problem what are the possible solutions?



Please send in your thoughts on this by any of the usual methods. This could be by email to editor@benlediview.co.uk (no paper – less litter), or hand your thoughts in to the Library addressed to the *Ben Ledi View*.
John Nelson

..Litter in Callander?

Forth Valley U3A

Would you like to make some new friends and become involved in a new hobby or interest at the same time to brighten the winter days? That's what U3A is all about! There are more than 50 groups which are very varied and include Current Affairs, Mandarin, Mahjong, Bridge, Lunch club, Spanish, Line Dancing, Scrabble and Poetry.

We are holding our enrolment meetings on Friday 11th September 10– 11.30am in the Parish Church Halls, Bridge of Allan and 2– 3.30pm in the Mayfield Centre, St Ninian's, Stirling. You are warmly invited to come along to either session and discover more about what we do 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 07803 419144 or visit www.forthvalleyu3a.org.uk

Margaret Blue

Woolshed 31

Perthshire Open Studios: 5th to 13th September. At 31 Bridgend we welcome anyone interested in textiles. There will be on going demonstrations in the 'making' process from fibre to fabric. Try hand-spinning, learn about traditional dyes, see how to knit something unique. Classes are available from September.

Natural Dyeing is the application of colour to yarn or cloth using plants and other things from garden or countryside. When you can use flowers to achieve real colour on your yarn, dead-heading becomes a harvest and bracken or ragwort become a resource. At last, a use for weeds. Yellows are easy to make, and so are lovely mossy greens. See www.woolshed31.co.uk

Anne Artis

Callander Guides

Callander Guides re-opened in May. We enjoyed various activities, including building a shelter, cooking cake and bread on a campfire and making our own compasses. Our plans for the next term, including a weekend (indoor) 'Christmas camp' at end of November.

Guides are for girls aged 10-14 years. We meet in St Andrew's church

hall on Wednesdays from 7-8.30pm. To join, contact Sarah on scmiller@doctors.org.uk or 07805064008 for more details.

Callander & District Arthritis Club

We held our Bottle Stall in Ancaster Square on 11th July and made £576.30. We do appreciate the donations from the local businesses.

Our next meeting is 15th September in the Kirk Hall at 7.30pm. The subject is Canine Partners.

Fiona Snow, Secretary

Trossachs Church

This year's **Picnic and Pilgrimage** is on Sunday 30th August, leaving from Callander Kirk following the All Age Service. Join the pilgrimage to the Trossachs Church, where there will be a short service - and a picnic!

You can walk, cycle, or drive. The day ends around 5.30pm. We need volunteers to provide home baking and offer lifts back to Callander. Sign-up sheets are available after each service and, if you can do some baking, speak to Dorothy Mitchell, Elaine Vanhegan, Ray Sly or Margaret Warnock.

You are invited to our **Coffee Morning** in the Brig o'Turk Village Hall, from 10.00am until 12 noon on Saturday 22nd August.

Callander Photo Club

Our new season begins on 9th September at 7.30 pm at the Waverley Hotel with a workshop on photographing 'little things' with some work on staging and lighting. Bring your camera, tripod and an LED torch. Our September photo topic word is 'URBANITY' and photos should be sent to callanderphotoclub@gmail.com by Monday 7th September.

Annual membership is £12 plus £1 per meeting attended. There is a £3 fee per meeting for guests. For more information, call Susan at 01877 339 323 or e-mail callanderphotoclub@gmail.com.

Salvation Army Band

Our annual Salvation Army Band 'Songs of Praise' run by Callander Council of Churches, is on 23rd August between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. Further

information from Chris on 01877 331703.

The Craigard Club

We meet on Tuesdays and Fridays in Callander Kirk Hall, from 10.00am till 1.00pm, with morning coffee / tea available until 11.30am.

The first meeting of the 2015/2016 session is Tuesday 18th August when we look forward to seeing present and new members. We serve lunch followed by table games, chat, carpet bowls, etc. The Club is available to all senior citizens.

If you need transport, or would like further information, ring me on 330236, Jean on 330867. *Alena Watt, Secretary.*

The Thursday Club

We meet in Callander Kirk Hall on alternate Thursdays from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. The 2015/2016 session starts on 10th September. Our meetings are divided into three parts: table games, afternoon tea and some entertainment.

New members are most welcome. Come along or phone me on 330236 or Jean on 330867 for more information. Our annual Coffee Morning is Saturday 26th September from 10.00am until 12noon. Please come and support this, our only fund raising event.

Alena Watt, Secretary

CHAS

On a cold May Sunday the dancers from Liz Campbell's School of Highland Dancing took to the boards in the square and raised £208.50 for CHAS. Thanks to them and the pipers - Gillian Campbell and Ross Walker. Thanks also to Ben Ledi Lodge of the Masons who shared the Square and held a bottle stall. From the money raised they generously gave CHAS £250.

Fiona House, 330103.

Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club

Since the Nepal earthquake, our Club has been raising money to help survivors. So far, our online Just Giving appeal has raised over £3000. This achievement is due to the generous people in Callander, Stirling and beyond.

On 21st June, we joined in a UK-wide Rotary initiative to raise awareness of

Prostate Cancer. As the theme was 'get on your bike' we set up two static bikes for a 'Spinathon' in Callander Square where Rotary Members and some primary school children kept the bikes spinning non-stop for 4 hours.



Ken and Ray cycling away.

The 2014/15 Rotary year ended in June when the outgoing President John Isgrove passed the chain of office to Mark Wallace. Mark will be supported by Senior Vice President Brian McKay.

New members are welcome. View www.callander.rotary1010.org or email: enquiries@callanderandwprotary.org; or come along on a Tuesday evening, when we meet in the bar area of the Waverley Hotel, at around 6pm, before dinner and a speaker at 6.30pm.

Derek House

British Heart Foundation

Last year, the BHF Callander shop, with the support of its customers, staff and volunteers raised almost £25,000 to help fund heart disease research.

We need your unwanted things. If you could fill a bag and continue to give us your lovely things, we can continue to fight for every heartbeat in Scotland. For a free household collection, call 01877330836.

Almost half our work is funded from legacies in Wills. for more details . download our Gifts in Wills guide at bhf.org.uk/think

Dionne Jones, Area Manager

German Speaking Group in Callander.

Das nächste Treffen der Gruppe wird am FREITAG 11. SEPTEMBER um 19.00 Uhr in 'Ardess', 24 Bridgend, Callander stattfinden.

Das vorgeschlagene Thema für unsere Diskussion an jenem Abend ist : Wenn Du jemanden Deiner Wahl wieder zum Leben erwecken könntest, wer wäre das, und warum? Sei bitte

fertig, Deine Antwort zu begründen! Wir werden uns auch wahrscheinlich, wiegewöhnlich, miteinander 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) an. Email: jenshearer@gmail.com. Wir freuen uns darauf, Euch alle am 11. September wieder bei uns begrüßen zu dürfen. NB Alle Teilnehmer sind gebeten, sich im Voraus bis Dienstag 8. September bei Jen anzumelden, damit es genügend Kuchen gibt!

PS Zu Eurer Kenntnisnahme: Das übernächste Treffen findet am Freitag 16. Oktober statt. NB Bitte sag Jen für jenes Treffen bis Dienstag 13. Oktober Bescheid, wenn Du mitmachen wirst. Dafür wird das Diskussionsthema im Voraus in einer Email angemeldet werden.

Callander Heritage Society

The speaker at our first meeting, John Snodin, will speak on 'Inchmahome - the priory and the ferry, Lake of Menteith' on Thursday 10th September at 7.30 pm in the Kirk Hall Library. Visitors welcome. *Sheila Cleland*

Horticultural Society

We thank everyone who supported our coffee morning, the income from which allows the Flower Show to proceed on 29th August. The Kirk Hall is open for exhibitors on Friday 28th August from 7.00pm until 10.00pm, and from 8.00am until 9.30am on Saturday. The Show is open to all from 1.30pm. Schedules are available from East End News, Mr Campbell the butcher, Kokosnoot, Pretty Little Flowers and the Library. We look forward to your entries. For further information, contact Robert Vanhegan on 01877 330372.

Callander Ladies Circle

Huge thanks to everyone who has

continued to support us, and our events, in order to raise money and awareness for local Charities and Projects in our area. Please like our Facebook page 'Ladies Circle Callander' to keep posted on events including celebrating our 5th Charter and we look forward to seeing you all soon.



Callander Ladies Circle hand over a large cheque. Photo from Sharon Burkey

PDSA

Animal-loving kids are encouraged to capture photos of favourite pets and British wildlife in PDSA's 2015 photo competition. Youngsters should submit their own photos to one of three age categories: under 10s, 10-13 or 14-16-year-olds.

The competition is free to enter. Email each child's best photo to petprotectors@pdsa.org.uk, with 'Pet Photo Competition 2015' in the subject, along with their full name and date of birth. The closing date is 11th September. For full details see www.petprotectors.org.uk/win/photo-competition

The winner of each age category receives an action Video Camera with underwater case and the 2016 calendar. The overall winner also receives a tour of a PDSA Pet Hospital and a professional photo shoot with their pet.

Callander and West Perthshire U3A

In May C&WP joined with the U3As from Forth Valley and Perth for a musical afternoon where we were entertained by Callander Chimes, the hand bell group from Forth Valley U3A, the Ukulele Band from Perth U3A, and our own Singing for Pleasure group.

In June, members of the Current Affairs group were invited to the new Forth Valley College Campus to meet young students, be shown around and eat lunch cooked by trainee chefs.

Fourteen members were assessed by the Institute of Advanced Driving. Assessors came to Callander, took each member for a drive and gave a private assessment of their capabilities.

The Wine Tasting Group ended their year by tasting 5 wines in an afternoon followed by a splendid dinner.

The Current Affairs Group invited Bruce Crawford, our local MSP, to join them and stay on to enjoy the end-of-term 'Bring and Share' lunch.

The Scottish History Group meets in St. Andrew's Hall, Callander on the 2nd Friday of the month from 10.00 to 11.30am. The subject of the first meeting on September 11th is John Buchan. There will be a charge of £1.00 per

meeting to cover the Hall rental. Future meetings include John Muir, Scotland's Lighthouses and St Kilda.

We are coming to the end of another year and most courses have finished, although French speakers meet every Wednesday morning for coffee at the Old Bank Café in

Callander. Members who wish to keep in touch in English can meet there on Friday mornings.

The AGM and Enrolment for the new session is Thursday 27th August in



*Gardening Group members visit Duntreath Castle.
Photo by Ann Tweedie.*

Callander Kirk Hall starting at 2.00pm. Membership forms and details will be sent to members in early August.

Marguerite Kobs

Secret Callander - Spitfire crash



It could have been worse!

Was it a bird, was it a plane or was it Superman?

Yes, it was a plane and possibly a superman to crash in Callander with no loss of civilian life.

On the 4th September 1941 Sergeant David Colbourn Johnston was flying over the west of Callander in a Spitfire, a common sight during the war. Sgt. Johnston was part of No. 58 Operational Training Unit RAF which was formed in December 1940 at RAF Grangemouth to train day fighter pilots using Spitfires and Masters.

Eyewitnesses, children aged 9 years, standing near the junction of Cross Street and Main Street, were watching an army band play in the early evening. They watched the plane flying low and then crashing into the ground opposite the school. There was fire and intense heat - a passing lady,

Miss Dot Ferguson, reputedly had her hair and eyebrows singed. People were saying 'Nobody could live in that'. Unfortunately this was true as D. C. Johnston died at the scene.

Another eyewitness, William Macfarlane aged 5 years, was playing in the field behind the school with his elder brother, 7 year old Norman. From the wall they saw the plane coming down and just missing their home in Bridgend. William 'thought it had maybe crashed into a building but it had come down in the space between'. 'The only damage that was done was a crack in the gable. It was a fluke.' In an interview with a Callander Primary School pupil he recalls his brother falling off the wall into a bunch of nettles and his running to the corner of the school where a teacher had picked up a piece of metal from the plane, consequently burning his hand.

The official accident report states

Sergeant D. C. Johnston from Birmingham incorrectly performed a right hand roll and crashed into the ground in Callander close to the River Teith. He was buried at Grangemouth Grandsable Cemetery.

What was remarkable and arguably an heroic act was how the plane could crash into such a small space behind a high wooden gate between Bridgend Hostel and the nearest house. Was it good luck or expert flying which enabled the doomed pilot to keep the Spitfire between these buildings and stop short of the gate, thus avoiding the road. Perhaps the gate saved Miss Ferguson's life? Why not take a look from the primary school grounds, look at the narrow space where the Hostel is and decide for yourself - luck or Superman?

In another plane related incident on 3rd June 1943, pilot Sergeant Thomas Hetherington was flying his MK1 Spitfire from RAF Grangemouth on a low flying exercise close to Lake of Menteith. It was rumoured that he was showing off to land girls working in the fields on the north side of the lake when his wing touched the water and sent the Spitfire crashing into the lake.

Hetherington escaped unhurt and was later reprimanded by Group Captain Cyril Wallace. It is thought that the valuable Merlin engine was rescued from the wreck but the plane itself remains undiscovered in the lake.

Article and photograph : Marion Wilson

Callander Thistle



Callander Thistle AFC Select game

Callander have just started back Pre Season after only a four week break due to a long successful season in 2014/15. Callander's main aim in the season was to survive their first season in the Premier Division which they achieved by finishing ninth out of twelve.

In the League Cup they missed out on the final by one point after a tough group stage which saw group winners Stenhousemuir go on to win the competition. A last 64 cup run in the Scottish Cup saw Callander beat Kinross, St Mungos and Forth Community before losing 4-2 to Eaglesham.

It was Braehead who defeated Callander in the last 16 of the East of Scotland Cup. In previous rounds Callander defeated Bathgate Thistle and Links United. Callander never progressed past the first round of the McKinnon Cup after losing 2-1 in the first round at a busy time of the season. The club however played in their first final in the JF Colley Cup. In previous rounds they beat Maddiston, Barhill, Campsie and Sunnyside Thistle before losing 2-0 to Stenhousemuir in the final.

A different story in the Mathieson Cup where Callander beat Glenvale, Linlithgow Rose, Forth Thistle, Kincardine and Barhill to reach the final. On the night Callander defeated Sunnyside Thistle 2-1 after superb goals from Alisdair Smith and Alistair

McPherson saw Callander lift the trophy.

At the Player of the Year Awards Callum Smith won the Top Goal Scorer Award after scoring 34 goals. Gavin Loch picked up the Referees Man of the Match Award. Richard Neumann won the Ewen MacGregor Memorial Award. Alisdair Smith won the Goal of the Season Award after a superb strike against Kincardine. Gavin Loch and Andrew McLaren were awarded for reaching 100 appearances for the club. The biggest two awards on the night saw Callum Smith pick up Player of the Year and Chris Halladay pick up Players Player of the Year.

This year's annual select game saw the select team take Callander Thistle all the way by only losing 5-4 in a highly entertaining match.

We would also like to congratulate Scott McIntosh and his Callander Thistle 2002s after beating Milton 3-1 in the Richard Taylor Cup.

Finally the club would like to say: thank you to the community and the supporters throughout the season and at both cup finals; to McLaren Leisure Centre for being our match ball sponsor again; and to our other sponsors who help out throughout the season but prefer to be anonymous. The biggest Thank You of our season has to go to our official sponsor The Waverley Hotel.

Callander Bowling Club

The season is well and truly underway now, with the club experiencing mixed fortunes in their competitions. Unfortunately the Peter Easton invitation pairs had to be abandoned because of bad weather. A huge thank-you to Marion Allan for sponsoring this event. The club would also like to express their thanks to Ross Anderson for his sponsorship of the Anderson singles. The winner was A. Miller with J. Campbell runner up. Bad weather also caused the postponement of the bottle stall in the Square. This will now be held on Saturday the 8th of August. Members should check the notice boards for news of forthcoming events.

W.Blain

Skiddadle



Saturday 8th August - Carron Chaos (MTB Mayhem)

The main event will be a 26km mountainbike race on an entirely new course, and there will be other, less ambitious, events for novices and youngsters. The Clan Ranald Trust are also running a family event at their mediaeval village in the Carron Valley that day, so this is the chance to enjoy a superb, varied family day out.

Sunday 30th August – Callander River Festival

There will be a raft race in three categories. Also there will be swimming events in the River Teith, a scarecrow competition, an 'Aquathlon' (swim and run race) and of course a Duck Race.

Saturday 5th September – Glen Finglas Mountainbike race

Saturday 10th October – Breathing Space Callander 10k

Part of the Trossachs 10K series, with a 5k race for beginners and youngsters and a 1k fun run.

For information www.skiddadle.org

Contact 01877 331 495

Alasdair Wylie

McLaren Community Leisure Centre



End of summer

We have entered the last weeks of our packed summer schedule at McLaren Leisure Centre and what a fantastic summer it has been so far. We have again enjoyed another hugely successful and well attended kids camp. This will be celebrated in style at the Kids End of Season Party on the 14th of August, so if your child has attended Kids Camp at any point this summer, make sure they don't miss out and book them in for their free space!

As the summer draws to a close, we now look forward to welcoming back our regular classes and activities for the kids including Soccer School, Climbing club, Multi-sports and Athletics.

We also have plenty on for the adults with the likes of Aqua Therapy, Indoor cycling classes, and for those that enjoy high intensity work outs, there are our Total Blast, Ab Blast and Insanity classes! We would like to welcome our new Insanity instructor Leslie. Leslie's class has been enthusiastically received, in numbers and feedback. This is definitely our class of the moment to try, so why not come along and 'find out what you're made of'.

Soft Play

The ever popular soft play area has now been redecorated with a new underwater theme for the kids and is great value at just £2.10 per child. Why not come along for a nice cake and coffee from the café while your child burns off some energy, perfect entertainment for under-eights, for when the weather isn't great.

Save the Date: Sat 3rd October

Do you have kids in Swimming Lessons at MCLC? We are organising a fantastic relaunch of our new look 'Trossachs Swimming' – swim school, starting with a fun packed Swimming Gala on Saturday 3rd October. This will include everyone from our mini swimmers in the Baby & Toddler classes all the way up to our advanced swimmers! It will be a fantastic day for all the family to enjoy and help us celebrate swimming in style! For more info please contact Emma Stewart: emma@mclarenleisure.co.uk.

Trossachs Summer Festival 1st August 2015

Our inaugural Trossachs Summer Festival was held on the 1st of August and while this article is being written before the event, the support and involvement from local organisations and businesses has been fantastic. With the support of groups such as The Round Table, The Rotary, Ladies Circle and Trossachs Tigers, Callander Thistle and Loch Venachar Sailing Club. We put together a really exciting programme of activities including the Junior Highland Games, a Tug of War tournament, a fantastic farm theme Parade and Fancy dress competition kindly Sponsored by Briarlands Farm. The entertainment line up included dance displays by both Liz Campbell's Highland Dancers and Dance Connection with Cheerleading and a fun flash mob. It is great to have the support of so many local businesses providing stalls and of course delicious food. We'd like to say a special thank you to Briarlands Farm, Deanston Highland Single Malt and

Blair Drummond Safari Park for their support in sponsoring the event.

We would now like to turn our attention to future years by inviting local organisations and businesses who are interested in working with us to join our event committee. This committee will meet on a regular basis to help with planning and delivering certain parts of the event from the show ring programme to helping to find sponsorship and funding.

New car-share scheme for Trossachs 'n' Teith

MCLC is reducing its carbon footprint and helping its customers and residents of the Trossachs and Teith area save money, by setting up a car-sharing scheme.

The free-to-use online system, which is designed to cut travel costs as well as local congestion and pollution, enables its members to share lifts to any destination.

Register at www.trossachsandteith.liftshare.com For more information about the new car-share scheme, or any of the Carbon Challenge Fund projects running from the Leisure Centre contact Andy Cartwright: 07572203877 and andy@mclarenleisure.co.uk.

David Gordon-McWhirter
Marketing Manager
davidg@mclarenleisure.co.uk
www.mclarenleisure.co.uk

Callander Golf Club

Thanks to all the Clubgolfers who attended our Clubgolf Camp and I hope you enjoyed the week as much as the Coaches and Helpers.

We had 27 Clubgolfers with visitors from as far afield as Bridge of Allan, Bearsden and Loch Awe. Four members reduced their handicaps and one girl played well enough to gain her first handicap.

The Clubgolf lessons will start on the week beginning 24th August on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 6.00 pm -7.30 pm for six weeks and the cost will be £20.00.

Liz Morgan

McLaren Community Leisure Centre

McLaren Community Leisure Centre,
Mollands Road,
Callander,
FK17 8JP
Tel: 01877 330000

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- Climbing Wall
- Fitness Suite
- Indoor Courts
- Full Size 3G Pitch
- Café
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- Soft Play Zone
- Fitness Classes
- Summer Camps
- Meeting Facilities
- Laser Tag
- SQA Accredited Courses

www.mclarenleisure.com

Callander Ramblings



Ben Vrackie walk, courtesy of Rob.

Details of Callander Ramblers walks can be found in the What's On pages of the *BLV* or on their facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/290728097778810/



Loch Katrine-side, courtesy of Rob.

One of Rob's photos from the Kelpies walk



Fintry to Killearn, Pierrette's picture.

Callander Cricket Club



Call this cricket? Photo supplied by Barry.

The months of June and July have turned out to be long ones with not a lot of cricket being played due to this wonderful Scottish Summer washing out the majority of our fixtures. The league has been worst hit with us only managing to play 3 of 8 fixtures so far. Despite there being very few fixtures completed, we have still managed as a senior side to improve on last season and as this goes to press can proudly say we are not, and have not been, bottom of the league.

The junior section continues to go from strength to strength and has maintained its winning ways in its recent trip to Brechin. The biggest success of

the last two months, however, has been the Cricket4Chloe festival. Despite the horrendous weather preventing us from holding the main events outside, we still put on a condensed event inside, thanks to the help and generosity of the McLaren Community Leisure Centre resulting in us raising £366 for the Baby Chloe McIntyre Memorial Fund. The Club would like to say a big thank to all those in the community who helped make it a brilliant day.

We are always on the lookout for new players/members so if you are interested in playing or finding out more about Callander Cricket Club then do get in touch via our Facebook page/ Website www.callandercricketclub.jimdo.com or pop along and see us during our training sessions.

Barry McGeachy



Aug/Sept Fixtures

- Aug 9th Dollar (Home)
- Aug 16th Breadalbane (Away)
- Aug 23rd St Modans (Home)
- Aug 30th Glendelvine (Away)
- Sept 6th Trossachs Trophy (Callander/Kippen/Doune/ Gargunnock tournament at the Grazings in Doune)

Club Training Sessions

- Every Tuesday – 6.00-8.00pm Senior team training held at Meiklewood
- Every Thursday – 5.00-6.00pm Kwik Cricket (4-11yrs) 6.00-7.00pm Interball (11+)

30 Announcements and Letters

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.

Thank you

Thank you very much for the lovely sympathy cards and flowers you sent me. It was a sad time when my brother Tom passed away. Thank you all.

Jean McDonald, Callander

ROY and MOIRA PYWELL would like to say a very big thank you to family, neighbours and friends for all their beautiful cards, gifts and flowers, which we received on our Golden Wedding anniversary. They were very much appreciated.

MRS CATHERINE McNAB thanks all her well-wishers for their cards and messages sent via Billy before, during and after her stay in Forth Valley Royal Hospital. She and Billy very much appreciate their kind thoughts and good wishes.

Even after 30 plus years in this town - Callander, you never cease to surprise me, with the numerous strands of talent that abounds here. On behalf of the Malcolm/Christie family, I wish to express our sincere thanks to the following people, for the extraordinary

care, devotion and dedication that Eleanor received during her stay in Strathcarron Hospice and which enabled her to spend her last 10 days at home.

Similarly during her brief, but happy stay at home, from our doctors, Rob Scott and Graham Strang, and their superb support team of Majella and Evelyn, plus their Killin counterparts. From the team of chirpy, chatty carers who were in 4 times a day and 7 days a week. From the Marie Curie nurses, who magically turned up on Eleanor's last two nights at home. To Ross Anderson, for showing real empathy and professionalism, in his dealings with us. To Rev. June Cloggie for two memorable services. To our relations, friends and acquaintances, for their beautiful flowers and cards, and for your moral and spiritual support during a very difficult time for us. The Retiring Collection raised a fantastic £900 for Strathcarron Hospice.

To each and every one, very many thanks for your generosity.

Rey Malcolm

Acknowledgement

BOBBY and WENDY would like to

express their deepest gratitude to everyone who offered sympathy, kindness and support on the sudden passing of NAN WAUGH (née Lorimer).

They would like to thank all their kind neighbours and friends who came to their assistance, bringing food and refreshments to the house.

They would also like to send a special word of thanks to the staff at Briarlands Farm and the police and paramedics on the scene, as well as to the unknown member of mountain rescue.

Also deserving of their thanks are Ross Anderson, Rev. Moira MacCormick, Callander Golf Club and the staff at Falkirk Crematorium.

Donations to Strathcarron Hospice in lieu of flowers amounted to £600.00.

Letters

I just read in the previous issue of the BLV the Thank-you note from Isbie Dow. I just want to add my congratulations to her and also to ask why her Father, ex Provost Dow, has not been recognized yet in Callander. Many of the other ex Provosts have had streets, parks etc. named after them, but not Provost Dow. Can anyone explain why this is so?

A.J.Duncan (Canada)

Messy Callander

I can empathise with the views expressed in the letter 'Messy Callander' in the June/July issue.

Earlier this year my wife and I decided to go for a drive down to Balmaha to enjoy the scenery – the joys of being retired! Alas it was the very opposite to what we expected. The road from Drymen to Balmaha was in places dreadful with large potholes and in general a very poor surface.

The shores of the loch at Balmaha were festooned with litter. Why? There was a litter bin – topless – overflowing with the result that the wind had distributed the litter hither and thither.

The road side gullies were blocked and instead of taking the surface water away one of the gullies was spewing out water which the poured over the



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footpath which was in poor condition.

It would appear that those responsible for the roads have not grasped the basic principle that water flows downhill and that to expedite the flow of water under the road the pipes must be kept clear otherwise the water will just bubble up and flow across the surface of the road.

I observed a roadside notice declaring that I was entering an 'Alcohol Free Zone'. My reaction was that it meant what it said and if I wanted to have wine

with my meal or a dram after I would need to go elsewhere. How will tourists interpret this sign? I do not know who is responsible but I know that whoever they are, in American parlance, they do not give a crap!

National Park – a national disgrace!

Thomas L Inglis MBE, Fintry

Callander and Oban Railway

Can any of our readers help Alfred Gruschka, who is looking for pictures

of the old station at Strathyre because he would like to build a model of the village and station. His email is a.gruschka@virginmedia.com.

Photo Quiz

On holiday here in your lovely town, so dog friendly and people too! Saw the quiz in the BLV and started looking around - what a great way to make people notice things. Thank you.

J Pinkerton, Lauder

Rory is a very active two year old working Cocker Spaniel but because of his small size most people who see him think he is just a puppy, so he gets lots of attention! His nickname is 'The Ginger Ninja' as he loves racing and leaping through long grass and woodland usually carrying a thick long stick in his mouth. When he comes up from behind we get whacked across the back of the legs and have the bruises to prove it! Here he is on the top of Stuc Odhar with Ben Ledi in the background. *Keith & Marion Wilson*

Dental Care

In the month of July the nurses at Riverside Veterinary Clinic have been seeing lots of dog and cats for free dental checks and giving advice. Dental disease is so common in our pet dogs and cats (reports have found that 80% of dogs over 2 years of age and 70% of cats over 3 years have some form of dental disease). It is not just the cosmetic appearance of their teeth or the smell of their breath that should concern us but also their comfort and the fact that the bacterium involved in the dental disease is a source of infection for the rest of our pet's body. These bacteria can get into the gums and the bone and cause inflammation

and pain, then into the blood stream and round the body, settling down and causing problems in the heart, kidneys and liver for example. Here at Riverside Veterinary Clinic we are believers in preventing disease and keeping our pets happy and healthy for as long as

possible There are now many ways of reducing dental disease in our cats and dogs. It's not too late to do something. Come and see the nurses at their free clinics and learn how to keep your pet healthy too.

Marslaigh Smith BVM&S MRCVS

Pet of the month



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Riverside Veterinary Clinic

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Callander Council of Churches

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

Callander Kirk



*The Church of Scotland,
South Church Street,
Callander*

Sunday 2nd August

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall
11.15am Morning Service, Kirk
3.00pm Trossachs Monthly Service
8.00pm *Songs of Praise*, Kirk Hall

Sunday 9th August

10:00am Early Service, Kirk Hall
11.15am Morning Service, Kirk
8.00pm *Songs of Praise*, Kirk Hall

Sunday 16th August

10.00am Early Service in Kirk Hall
11.15am Morning Service, Kirk
followed by Informal Communion.
8.00pm *Songs of Praise*, Kirk Hall

Sunday 23rd August

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall
11.15am Morning Service, Kirk
8.00pm *Songs of Praise*, Kirk Hall

Sunday 30th August

11.15am All Age Morning Service, Kirk
followed by Pilgrimage to Trossachs
8:00pm *Songs of Praise*, Kirk Hall

Sunday 6th September

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall
11.15am Morning Service, Kirk
3.00pm Trossachs Monthly Service
8:00pm Time for silence, Kirk

Sunday 13th September

10.00am Early Service, Kirk
11.15am Morning Service, Kirk
8:00pm Time for Silence, Kirk

Sunday 20th September

10:00am Early Service, Kirk Hall
11.15am Morning Service followed by
informal communion Kirk
8:00pm Time for silence, Kirk

Sunday 27th September

11.15am All Age Morning Service, Kirk
8:00pm Time for Silence, Kirk

Sunday 4th October

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall
11.15am Morning Service, Kirk
3.00pm Trossachs Monthly Service
8:00pm Time for silence, Kirk

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

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.

Deadlines

The next issue of the *Ben Ledi View* will be published on **Friday 2nd October**.

Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the October/November issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Sarah Clark at advertising@benlediview.co.uk by **Tuesday 8th September**. Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at www.benlediview.co.uk under the **Advertise** tab. 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 October/November issue should be emailed to editor@benlediview.co.uk or handed in to the Callander Library by **Tuesday 8th September** at 7.00pm.

Items received after the deadline may be held over to the December/January issue.

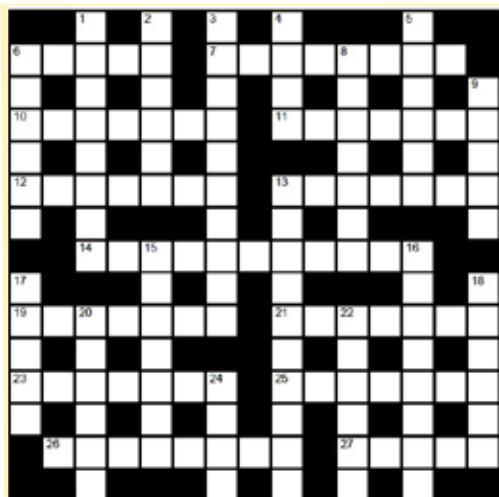
NOTE: Advertising and editorial deadlines are now on the same date.

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.



Solution for crossword 121

Winner - Jen Shearer



Across

- 6 Lad about to return for prize (5)
- 7 Not well recorded intervention that could be out of order (3,5)
- 10 Could this be the place for a cutting edge performance? (7)
- 11 Deception led by office worker in hiding (7)
- 12 People from the far north unexpectedly kiss me when love is present (7)
- 13 Colour canvas at first working around borders (7)
- 14 Kiss and kiss again - there's no separating them! (4,3,4)
- 19 Show of intense anger after Dave loses his head is not exceptional (7)
- 21 Extra man increased range (7)
- 23 Faithfully work to cover debts (7)
- 25 Almost all in one versatile oil (7)
- 26 Old singing style of leading contralto in notable reinterpretation (3,5)
- 27 They can be found in South Asia when one is taken back (5)

Down

- 1 Hide support for undercover agent? (8)
- 2 Set procedure's unusually sloppy over a short time (6)
- 3 Burn copy holding key for safe exit (4,6)
- 4 Constant cheek may result in this! (4)
- 5 About models' opportunities to have another go to make the grade (6)
- 6 Difficulty's the result of sibling losing rag to begin with (6)
- 8 Encourage new way of seeing springtime - forget GMT! (7)
- 9 Having time to bid at table can be a factor (5)
- 13 Fish's strike's a tall tale! (10)
- 15 Form I check first for Derby for example (7)
- 16 Larking foolishly over last role in play (4,4)
- 17 Makes a fuss about really pathetic socialist leaders (5)
- 18 Handsome lad found in pad on island (6)
- 20 Concerning pole reversal for one running (6)
- 22 Desperately need to make intention clear (6)
- 24 Ramble on about North Dakotan possibly (4)

BLV Prize Crossword No. 122

This issue I am pleased to say we are back with our normal crossword setter and the puzzle is little more challenging for our crossword enthusiasts.

Please return completed entries to BLV Crossword 122, The Library, South Church Street, Callander, FK17 8BN by no later than **TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2015.**

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

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ADDRESS

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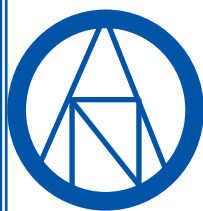
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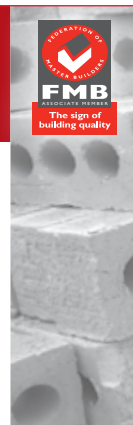


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