Community Newspaper of the Year 2015



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CALLANDER COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SCIO www.benlediview.co.uk

Ben Ledi View



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2 Editorial

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: Samson's stone and bluebells, taken last year by Dan and Mirian Hanks.

Hello Readers

An intermittent Spring is with us, as I write this. Hopefully Summer will be arriving when you read it.

You will see information about the Planning Process on the opposite page. Please follow up the links and information on the detail. This plan will last for 10 years, so it is very important that everyone understands and agrees with it.

We have been informed that the Edinburgh Oban CityLink bus service will no longer operate. It used to pass through Callander. Anyone wishing to take a public service bus trip from Callander to Oban will now have to take a bus to Stirling, then another to Glasgow, and finally one to Oban. This detour would add hours to the journey. Whilst only a few people made the whole journey, the intermediate villages are now badly served. Sadly, yet another example of a reduction in public transport.

However, the Leisure Centre's Carbon Challenge Fund award will include setting up a liftshare website. This will be launched in mid June and allow people to log on and either offer a lift or request one. It is hoped that all the communities in the Teith and Trossachs Ward will participate. If everyone uses the system properly, passengers can be picked up and



dropped off at intermediate stages in the journey. This is an opportunity to offset the poor provision of public service transport. Potential drivers should note that ordinary car insurance is adequate, if they seek only to cover their costs and not try to make a profit from charges to passengers.

It will obviously take time for all interested parties to make contact and gain the benefits. It follows that patience is required. Full details will be made available as soon as possible.

We are pleased to note that the Community Council Public Meeting was well attended, and local opinion voiced. We look forward to a strengthening of local democracy as promised by the Scottish Government.

The LL& T NPA have approved the Lochshore Camping Bye Laws and these are now awaiting Scottish Government approval which, if granted, will result in the law being active by the time you are reading this. Lochside Camping will be restricted to designated areas in the National Park.

We hope that all our readers enjoy the various community events planned for this summer

On BLV matters, you will see from the front wrapper that we are asking for more volunteers to come and join the team, so please give this some consideration. All new volunteers will of course be invited to our summer BBQ, where we say thank you to all those who bring the BLV to your doorstep.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Sheila Drummond and Boyd Scott Brown, as they have reluctantly retired from BLV delivery duties after many, many years of good service. Also best wishes to Megan Hughes, who has broken her arm and has also given up her duties. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her back when she has recuperated. If you can deliver the BLV, please call Charlie (331232).

Win a £25 voucher - 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.

Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park consultations



The board of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority has approved a six-week consultation on the area's Proposed Local Development Plan, outlining new developments in housing, tourism and supporting infrastructure over the next ten years.

The National Park has undertaken extensive and innovative engagement. This involved reaching out to young people, businesses and partners, using a variety of techniques from 'charrette' style workshops, using drawings to bring ideas to life, to community events and social media.

As a result, Park planning officers were able to get a much earlier and better impression of what communities really need and have produced something that everyone – whether homeowners, landowners, developers, local authorities, or partners - can work towards.

Stuart Mearns, Head of Planning and Rural Development at the Authority said: 'The Proposed Plan really reflects the hopes and aspirations of our communities and brings to life an overarching vision for development in the National Park

Building on the success of our current Local Plan means we are in a strong position to help grow the local economy. There's a momentum building around existing, successful developments in the Park including in tourism and renewable energy and this looks set to continue. This year, we have already seen a 35% rise in planning applications. '

Wide ranging consultations and community workshops were held between 2011 and 2014 to inform a 'Main Issues Report', which was promoted last summer in an extensive consultation called 'LIVE Park'. Feedback from this consultation was used to produce the Proposed Local Development Plan.

Consultation on the Proposed Plan between 18th May and 29th June provides local communities with a final opportunity to review changes made as a result of earlier comments before they are adopted in the Local Plan and provided to the Scottish Government for ratification.

The main differences in the Proposed Local Development Plan from the current Local Plan are:

- Housing developments of up to three homes in areas including Callander now need to be affordable houses or the developer will need to make a financial payment to the provision of affordable housing elsewhere in the local area.
- The affordable housing quota for developments of four or more homes in towns and villages has been changed. It will be 50% in the Loch Lomondside villages; 33% in the Stirling area towns and villages including Callander, and 25% everywhere else.
- New sites for development are identified in places including Callander.
- The new housing policies have been developed in conjunction with the National Park's housing partners to ensure a better range of housing types for everyone, including young people and working families.

You can view the Proposed Local Development Plan from 18th May on www.ourlivepark.com, as well as in local libraries and National Park offices in Balloch and Callander. Questions & comments can be directed to hello@ ourlivepark.com, or follow www. facebook.com/ourLIVEpark or twitter. com/lomondtrossachs for updates.

In the interim, the following papers from the National Park Board meeting at which the consultation was approved may be helpful:

Proposed Local Development Plan Part 1

Proposed Local Development Plan Part II

Railway Anniversary 1965 – 2015

Friday 25th – Sunday 27th September 2015

September 2015 will be the 50th anniversary of the closure of the Callander to Oban Railway. The railway was crucial to the growth of Callander as a tourist centre. This proposed event aims to celebrate our railway heritage and its Legacy.

The Development Trust have agreed to lead on the project. We have also been spreading the word amongst community groups and have had a very positive response. Several individuals have also been in touch offering to loan old photos and other memorabilia and also share their memories of the railway. A draft plan is as follows:

Venue 1 – Indoor Space – Theme of 'Down the Line' which will tell the history of the entire line from Dunblane to Oban. We are hoping to have historical railway societies and perhaps a model railway or two?

Venue 2 – St Kessog's – Theme of 'Life on the Railway' which will look at work and travel on the railway. This will be a series of fun activities. We are also hoping for a quality Victorian-style market for the square.

Venue 3 – Outdoor Space – Theme of 'Exploring Our Railway Heritage' which will encourage people to walk and cycle along the old railway line. Also encourage people to find out more about railway-related buildings and structures. We are also hoping to have some vintage buses and other vehicles around the town.

The Film Society are also organising a railway-themed Film Festival.The above is subject to change but please keep the weekend of Friday 25th to Sunday 27th September 2015 free.

Further details and updates about the Railway Festival weekend will follow via BLV and other information outlets. I am happy to talk with your group to get further ideas and, hopefully, support for the event. David Warnock Tel: 01877 330 159 Mob: 07811 779 926 Email: warnocks@tinyworld.co.uk



Callander Summerfest is back! This year we'll be open every day from 11th to 26th July, based in St Kessog's, the former church in Ancaster Square that is now the HQ for the Clanranald Trust.

We have a packed programme with free exhibitions every day with a focus on wildlife and a mix of workshops, music and films. And featuring on our opening weekend the acclaimed Stirling-based nature writer and musician Jim Crumley in two separate sessions.

The full brochure will be available from the middle of June – look out for the bright pink booklet! From early June it will also be posted on www. callandercdt.org.uk and Facebook (CallanderSummerfest) and we'll be tweeting (@stkessogs) about what's coming up too. Tickets will be on sale in Creative in Callander, 28 Main Street, Callander from 15th June; then in St Kessog's, Ancaster Square from 11th July. You can also reserve tickets by texting or calling 07852 106605 or emailing stkessogs@hotmail.com.

Callander Summerfest 2015 is organised by Callander Community Development Trust (www.callandercdt. org.uk) and Creative in Callander (www.creativeincallander.co.uk), with funding support from Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs and from Stirling Council.

Like to help with Summerfest?

We're looking for people to help with distributing brochures and posters from mid June, and to help out on reception from 11 to 26 July. Please contact Anne Docherty if you're interested - 330996 or mail@ annedocherty.co.uk.

Exhibitions

Open daily from 12noon to 5pm, except on Sunday 26 July when the craft fair will take over the exhibition space. Admission is free of charge and many of the exhibits will be for sale.

Colours of Scotland

Seven-foot felted Celtic warriors are among many unique pieces by some of the foremost felters of Scotland

The Coast Meets the Lochs

A mixed media celebration of artists from the east coast to the heart of the Trossachs: willow/boats by Georgia Crook; paintings, tiles and watercolours by Esther Cohen; paintings and textiles by Marianna Lines; paintings and prints by Gail Robertson; photographs by John Kerr; leaf sculptures by Gwynne Hetherington; copper and wood sculptures by Lynne & Jim Schroder.

Callander's Heritage

Display by Callander Heritage Society on the town's links with the railway and a large postcard collection.

Callander Photo Club

Exhibition of photos submitted on a different theme each month, including: harvest, yellow, water, Christmas, shadows, monochrome and wild.

The main program can be found on page 19 on the What's On page.

Open Garden in aid of Greener Callander



c o m e have a and walk around our garden at Orchardlea House at the east end of Main Street (beside the Roman Camp Hotel exit drive) on Sunday 14th June from 2 pm to 5 pm? There will be plants and gardening

/hy

not

books for sale and a cup of tea served on the terrace (if fine!)

Entrance fee £3 in aid of Greener Callander, the community group dedicated to looking after Callander's public green spaces and floral planters.

We are always keen for new people to join our little group, so if you are interested please come along, phone me on 330798 or email me on mail@hilarygunkel. co.uk to find out more.

Hilary Gunkel

Wild Flowers

As some of you will have seen, Stirling Council have been preparing two sites in town for sowing of wild flower seeds. The site along the old railway footpath near the Bowling Club was unsuccessful two years ago but will be better prepared this time and will extend the full length of that verge. Both there and between North Church Street and Ancaster Road, the grass will be mowed by the footpaths so that it looks deliberately planted and well-maintained. The concept has been agreed within Callander's Countryside, Scottish Wildlife Trust and communicated to Callander Community Council, although the original suggestion was to sow the central area running up to Ancaster Road rather than the final site by the garden wall. Hopefully, we will see a swathe of wildflowers that will brighten up the town, help our local bees and butterflies and be enjoyed by

all those who pass by this summer!

Police Scotland

ur summer Policing Plan is now in full swing and Operation Ironworks is running as in previous years to focus on the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. We have been patrolling with National Park Rangers and officers from the Tayside Division, and officers from the Roads Policing teams in cars and motorcycles have been involved in promoting road safety on the main A84/85 trunk roads. Local officers have been carrying out speed checks in Callander. It is always disappointing when we catch speeding drivers and more disappointing when some of the offending drivers are local! We have also managed to secure some visits from a Traffic Warden who will be in town a couple of days a week.

Operation 'Quarterlight' has been running nationwide to tackle criminals who target vehicles to break into or steal. We would urge vehicle owners to take care to lock vehicles, even in your driveway, and not leave valuables on show in the car. If you see a vehicle or person that you think is suspicious, please phone at the time by calling 101. This allows your local officers to speak to the people you have seen and find out who they are and why they are visiting Callander

Your Community Team at Callander are Sergeant Adrian Robertson and Constables Gemma Kane; Neil MacLaren; Graham Rattray and Tracy Diamond. We can be contacted by phoning 101 or by email TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.



Pine Marten

This photo was taken at the end of January in a garden adjoining Coilhallan Wood. These endangered animals don't stop and pose for photos!

Police report on anti-crime kit

Special crimefighting kit delivered to hundreds of local homes may have helped prevent housebreakings in the area. At the end of September last year police delivered 236 SmartWater kits to homes in the Killearn area.

Produced by SmartWater Technology Ltd each kit contains a solution that is brushed onto a homeowner's possessions. Almost impossible to remove but only detectable under UV light it then retains DNA evidence from anyone who touches it, providing a definite link between a criminal and a crime scene in the event of a burglary.

At the end of January an evaluation of the system in Killearn showed no housebreakings in any of the areas where the system had been delivered or offered. Two housebreakings had taken place in nearby streets.

A previous study of convicted criminals saw 74% of them claim that the presence of technology would deter them committing a crime.

The evaluation of the Killearn scheme was presented to the Council's Public Safety Committee yesterday (Tuesday 12th May) and Convenor, Councillor Martin Earl, said: 'A housebreaking is one of the most upsetting crimes any of us can suffer and anything that deters such activities has to be welcomed. I'm pleased that this trial seems to have been a success and hope that it continues into the future.'

The SmartWater kits were provided to homes free of charge, having been bought by Police Scotland at a reduced rate through a Home Office approved supply scheme. Assistant Chief Constable Wayne Mawson said: 'Following a successful pilot of SmartWater Technology Ltd in Edinburgh back in February 2014, where the test area observed more than a 50% decrease in housebreaking, Police Scotland commenced a roll-out of the campaign across other areas of the country, including Killearn. The region was selected following detailed engagement with the local community who had identified housebreaking as a policing priority. Police Scotland is committed to tackling housebreaking and acquisitive crime and will utilise all resources at our disposal to keep the public safe and bring offenders to justice.'

Trust Housing Association is holding an Open Day at Callander.



North Church Street between 10am and 6pm.

On the day we have a fully furnished flat on show, designed with the over 60s in mind. So why not come along, see our properties and speak to our tenants and staff? Tea and coffee will be provided and a free raffle to win Marks & Spencer's vouchers.

Please contact us by email info@tustha.ord.uk or by phone on 0131 444 1200.

6 Soapbox corner/ Arts and entertainment







Right to Reply

RJohnson is concerned about the discussion article published in the February edition of the Ben Ledi View regarding Ancaster Square. The article appears very negative about the work carried out and seeks opinions from the community. It would be better if the BLV had helped with the consultation several months ago.

The paragraph above was taken from the minutes of the February meeting of the Callander Community Council in which we are criticised for the 'failed' survey we attempted to carry out on the work done on the St.Kessog's side of Ancaster Square. The Editors did not and still do not think our article was negative. It was a genuine and legitimate means of trying to get some discussion going in the paper. We did in the following month publish the result of the survey, which was so small that it did not indicate anything. The result was negative to the work done, and a few subsequent letters since received were also negative. This we reported, but this was not **our** view but the view of the few Callander readers who responded.

What do you think?

The Ben Ledi View is a volunteerrun paper which, as you will notice from our advert on the front page, is extremely short staffed; we do not have reporters or photographers rooting out the important matters of Callander life (although we would like to), and therefore we have to rely on word coming to us. If we had been approached about publishing details of the consultation I know we would have tried to help. John Nelson

Note: At the most recent Callander Community Council meeting, attended by about 40 residents, only two people were against the improvements in Ancaster Square. Most favoured proceeding with getting planning consent to cover the square, but the bus stop arrangement was not popular, with people objecting to the tailbacks caused by the buses and the seats not being near enough the bus stop. Questions were also raised as to why the bus stops were opposite each other.

If you have anything you think would be of interest to the people of Callander then let us know.



Allegro Handbell Ensemble concert

Callander Chimes are delighted to host the Allegro Handbell Ensemble from Chicago who are touring Scotland and Ireland this summer. They will give a concert in Callander Kirk on Friday 12th June at 7.30pm and this is a concert not to be missed. Allegro members are all young, talented musicians whose dexterity with handbells has to be seen to be believed. The concert is free, but a donation toward their local expenses would be appreciated. CITO'S Italian Restaurant: call 01877-331070 for a reservation Arts and entertainment 7

Brass success

Callander Brass is celebrating a successful debut in the third section at the Fife Brass Band Festival in Dunfermline's Carnegie Hall on Saturday 25th April. Not only were we awarded second place in our section, but our flugel horn player, Tanya Currie, received the medal for best instrumentalist for her beautiful solo playing in 'Dimitri' by Rodney Newton.

Earlier that month a cheque for £300 was presented to Callander Friends of CHAS as a charity donation. The money was raised at our carols and coffee morning in December. Fiona House came to a Thursday evening rehearsal in Callander Primary School and accepted the cheque on behalf of Callander Friends of CHAS.



Jennifer Monaghan presents a donation to Fiona House on behalf of Callander Friends of CHAS. Photo by Helen Millar.

At the time of writing we are preparing for our concert on Friday 22nd May, of which more in the next BLV, and we are also looking forward to our summer concerts in Ancaster Square. Dates have yet to be finalised, but look out for us on some Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons during the summer months – we'll put the signs out beforehand.

Alma Cadzow

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				

Kirk Art Exhibition Thursday 16th – Saturday 18th July in the Kirk Hall

The Annual Art Exhibition always proves to be a popular event with the community, visitors and artists.

Artists - Please send an email so that we can put you on the mailing list. Your email is becoming more important as our aim is to reduce paper and postage costs whenever possible. Whether you are a beginner or experienced, please register your email with artexhibition@ callanderkirk.org.uk to be sure of getting your invitation to exhibit.

Volunteers - There are all sorts of ways you may be able to help from today through to the exhibition week. Please email artexhibition@ callanderkirk.org.uk We would be pleased to hear from you.

Viewing: Paintings in the exhibition are sold daily, so remember to make sure you come to the opening day of the 2015 ART EXHIBITION Thursday 16th July 2015. Please get in touch artexhibition@callanderkirk.org. uk if you would like Preview Tickets for Wednesday Evening 15th July. And remember there is also the ever popular café for coffee, teas and home baking. Bring your friends along and make it a social occasion.

Chris Gillespie

Callander Library

Stirling Libraries have a good selection of dvds for both adults and children, including all the latest releases, and the good news is that the cost of hiring a film has been reduced. All dvds now have a hire period of 1 week and range from $\pounds 1.50 - \pounds 2.50$. You can borrow and return dvds to and from any library branch and also order in dvds from other branches.

Have a look at our catalogue online at http://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/ libraries-and-archives/librariescatalogue-reservations-and-loans, or ask in the branch if there's a specific film you'd like to borrow.

Storytimes

Storytime sessions now run every Saturday morning at 11am for pre-school children. These are aimed at pre-school children but children of

Use of acrylics



Dark Rock Red Acrylic painiting by Peter Luti

A crylic paint is a fast-drying paint containing pigment suspension in acrylic polymer emulsion. As watersoluble paint, acrylics can be diluted by the artist to be a free-flowing medium similar to watercolours, or can be modified and bulked out with gels or pastes to give the artist a work and finish comparable to oils. They can also have their very own unique characteristics, quite unlike any other paint.

When dry, the paint hardens to a water-resistant finish and professional grade paint retains the vibrancy and depth of the original colour even when exposed to the harshest of lighting conditions (the enemy of paintings the world over..... direct sunlight).

Everyone should be encouraged to discover their inner artistic abilities..... and acrylics is a brilliant way to start.

any age who wish to listen to stories for approx. 30 mins are welcome.

Summer Reading Challenge

Stirling Libraries will again be participating in the Reading Agency's summer reading scheme aimed to keep children reading over the school holidays. This year's theme is 'Record Breakers' and is in collaboration with Guinness World Records. Collecting stickers as they go, young readers will discover weird, wonderful and wacky records from around the world in six different categories: Cool Tech, Way to Go!, The Big Stuff, Animal Magic, People Power and Action! Adventure! There'll also be various crafts and activities available throughout the summer, so come and join in the fun by registering for the challenge at the library. Fiona Frize



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Local history 9

Secret Callander's - nuclear bunker

t doesn't look much, just concrete block and metal structures with green flaking paint, but a short distance past the Bracklinn Falls car park is Callander's Nuclear Monitoring Post, manned between 1963 and 1991.



Concealed underground is a reinforced concrete bunker some 6m by 2.5m. Through a metal hatch a ladder leads 4.5m down to two rooms. One contained a chemical toilet and the larger monitoring room was furnished with table, chairs, shelf, cupboard and bunk beds to sleep two people. The table, shelf, cupboard and bed frame are still in the somewhat waterlogged bunker along with some communication equipment.





Since the early 1950s there was a real threat of nuclear war from within the Soviet Union so after a successful trial of a prototype in 1956, the UK government ordered 1,563 underground bunkers to be built across the UK,and these to be manned by the Royal Observer Corps (ROC). The ROC was the volunteer organisation that watched the skies during the Second World War, reporting and tracking enemy aircraft. In the event of war, lives could be saved away from impact zones, given enough warning. The ROC with their existing communication system were to report details of nuclear bursts and fallout and relay back through larger Group and Sector control bunkers. This information would then be used to decide how best to protect civilian life.

Callander's post is one of 275 built across Scotland, each between 7 and 10 miles apart mostly in rural areas.



Many bunkers were built alongside existing aircraft observation posts built above ground and already manned by the ROC. Callander's is one of the few remaining still visible. These aircraft posts were built in two sections, the entrance door led to a small roofed section for shelter and storage with a sliding door into the open section which housed the post instrument and chart on top of a wooden mounting.



Nuclear bunkers built were underground due to the minimal protection from nuclear fallout in the existing overground monitoring posts. They were of standard design, a few were built in reverse due to local contractors misreading the plans! There was no mains water, electricity, gas or heating. Lighting was powered by a 12 volt battery with a petrol generator on the surface for backup. Ventilation was unsophisticated, the air coming down from outside was unfiltered. The only communication was by way of a simple Tele-talk system to nearby posts and

the local headquarters. Each post contained several monitoring devices to detect radiation and a sensor on the surface to measure the force of nuclear blasts. Conditions inside would have been uncomfortable, cold, cramped and damp. The 3 personnel, mainly unpaid volunteers, may have had to remain inside the relative safety of the bunker for many weeks after fallout due to the harmful effects of radiation. During peacetime the post-crew would meet weekly for training, maintenance and to test the equipment.



Even into the 1980s the UK government were encouraging the utility companies to build concrete bunkers to house engineers and ensure a level of services in the event of war. One such concrete room was incorporated alongside underground cabling in the Post Office Telephones building alongside Callander's present Post Office. With the break up of the Communist Bloc the ROC was disbanded and the nuclear monitoring posts closed in 1991. The Home Office offered the bunkers back to landowners and many were put up for sale. They initially cost around £5,000 to build and have since been sold for up to £25,000. The Glasgow-based selling agents expected them to be used as anything from bothies to storage areas. There has even been interest expressed in turning some into bat roosts.

So when you see the insignificant metal structures in the concrete up the Braeleny Road, remember those people who manned those cramped, cold, damp bunkers and whose training might have meant the difference between life and death for many of us. *Marion Wilson*

(Photographs supplied by Marion.)

McLaren High School

Dance Competition

Well done to McLaren High School Dancers who were absolutely fantastic at the Forth Valley Dance Competition. Congratulations to our S4 trio of Emme Knowles, Amy Simpson and India Newton who won the small group category. All groups should be extremely proud of their efforts- you have all been a credit to McLaren High School.

Strasbourg – Euroscola

On 2nd March we had the amazing opportunity to travel to Strasbourg thanks to the Callander Rotary Club. The main event was to participate in the Euroscola Day in the European Parliament on Thursday 5th March.

We arrived at the airport at 5am on Monday morning, where we met the 25 other Scots with whom we would be spending the week.

Tuesday was undoubtedly one of the best days. After a morning workshop starting preparation for the Euroscola day, we got the opportunity to put our French skills into practice during a survey on Scotland and Europe in the streets of Strasbourg.

On Wednesday we took part in the 'famous' Strasbourg Challenge, in which we were put into groups and left to our own devices to find out from the locals about a particular theme: gastronomic; historic; tourism; European. We spent Wednesday evening preparing questions and points of discussion for the Euroscola Day.

After rising early on Thursday morning, we arrived at the European Parliament dressed in kilts and tartan, one boy even boasting bagpipes. We entered the debating chamber to join 500 other young Europeans from 23 EU countries. Each group had a pair of representatives to introduce their country to the Parliament. I (Sophie) had the honour of presenting the United Kingdom in a speech in French and Spanish, in which we discussed how we had been selected for the trip, and the fact that despite the belief nowadays that the UK wants to leave the EU, we are proud to be Scottish, British and European.

We spent Thursday evening teaching the French group how to Ceilidh dance and showed them some of our traditional music. I (Ava) sang Wild Mountain Thyme, while others played fiddle, bagpiped and highland danced. We then had a final debrief from our fantastic group leader, Mark, which ended with us all in tears!

Saying goodbye to everyone at the airport was very difficult, but we know these are people who we will meet throughout our lives repeatedly, whether at University or working in France, and they will be friends for life. The experience was truly inspiring and one we will never forget.

Sophie Parsons and Ava Dinwoodie S6

CBBC Visited McLaren

McLaren High School were very lucky to be chosen as one of the schools to take part in the new CBBC Official Chart Show programme and filming took place in school on 19th and 20th March. Former Pupil Mhairi Lloyd was part of the production team and was delighted to return to her old school in her BBC role. A number of pupils were selected to be 'Lip Dub' stars with others being the 'audience/extras'. Filming took place in various locations throughout the school culminating in a lip dub performance in the assembly hall by Kim Russell S3. The programme will be shown on the CBBC Channel sometime between 10th May and the end of July (date still to be confirmed) - so keep your eyes peeled for our pupils on national TV!

Hockey Tournament



Since December last year, McLaren pupils have been taking part in the Stirling/Clackmannan High Schools Field Hockey Tournament which was organised by parent volunteers and teachers to help promote inclusion and participation in mixed hockey by both junior and senior pupils. We travelled to Wallace High in December and Stirling High in February and played hosts to Alva Academy and Dunblane High on 18th and 19th March. McLaren have won the majority of their matches so far, a great result for such new players, and are looking forward to matches in Balfron and Dunblane before the end of year tournament in June. The pupils would like to thank Jim Frail (coach) and Susan Gibson (assistant coach/ organiser) for all their efforts in helping to get the McLaren Hockey Team off the ground.

Music Festival and Concert

On 31st March and 1st April McLaren High School held its annual Music Festival Competition. Pupils in all years were invited to enter and competition was fierce in all 3 categories. We were delighted to welcome world famous pianist Angela Brownridge as adjudicator for this year's festival. As well as choosing the top three in each category of the competition Ms Brownridge found time to hold a piano masterclass and pupils were delighted to be in attendance at this unique event.

By the end of Wednesday the winners had been decided as follows:

Junior Section -

1st - Charlotte Scott S2 (voice and ukulele)

2nd – Cameron McLay S2 (bagpipes) 3rd – Mhairi Stewart S2 (saxophone) Intermediate Section –

Intermediate Section –

1st – Callum Hall S4 (bagpipes) 2nd – Finn Manders S4 (fiddle) 3rd – Ailish Duthie S3 (voice)

Senior Section –

1st – Craig Russell S6 (voice)

2nd – Ava Dinwoodie S6 (voice)

3rd – Callum Bain S6 (cornet)

On the Wednesday evening family and friends were welcomed to the Music Festival Concert to enjoy performances by each of the winners, pieces from the orchestra and various ensembles, and an amazing piano recital from Ms Brownridge.

A wonderful evening was had by all and thanks must go to Ms Brownridge for attending both days and helping to make the concert one to remember. Congratulations again to all the prize winners.

Central Schools Under - 16 Cup Final

On the last day of March, when we witnessed all four seasons in one day, the boys made their way to the sports pitches at Stirling University to take part in the Central Schools U16 Final against Larbert HS.

The match started in difficult conditions, with the rain, wind and hail proving to be detrimental to expansive rugby. Despite the weather McLaren ran out 55-10 winners.

The winning squad was James Wray, Connor Clark, Jack McGuire, Cameron Cairns, Stuart Lang, Blair Hail Brown, Duncan Hendry, Daniel Longworth, Max Menzies, Paul Mcnab, Connor Ramsay Clapham, Gregor Nixon, Callum Maxwell, Luke Maher, Charlie Allardyce, Rory Abernethy, Aarron Hibbert and Logan Trotter.

Duke of Edinburgh Report

Over the past few weeks all bronze DofE participants have been attending their training weekends. The weekends involved two days of training which will help when pupils embark on their practice and final expeditions which will take place in May/June.

On the first day the groups went out navigating, despite the awful weather! The catch up weekend faired better. Pupils learnt basic navigating skills and put them into practice out and about around Coilhallan Woods. The second day involved learning about what equipment we should and should not use on our expeditions. This entailed finding out about the most suitable clothing and footwear and the best foods to eat. We even got to make hot drinks on the stoves outside and after enjoying a cuppa we learnt how to put up our tents.

The weekend was really enjoyable and will help us all in our actual expeditions. Thanks to all the adult volunteers who helped out.

Laura King S3

Thanks to Yvonne King for sending in the reports and photographs.

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.

Callander Youth Project

C(CYPT) is up for a second prestigious national award in as many months. CYPT is in the running for the 2015 Scottish Charity of the Year Awards. Organised by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), the awards celebrate the work of charities, community groups and people across Scotland 'who dedicate themselves to making Scotland a better place to live'.

The nomination, put forward by Bruce Crawford MSP, comes just over a month after the Trust scooped the 'Innovative Practice – Team of the Year' and 'Overall Youth Project of the Year Award' at YouthLink Scotland's eighth National Youth Worker of the Year Awards.

Chris Martin, Managing Director of the Trust, said 'We are completely overwhelmed and excited to be shortlisted for the 2015 Scottish Charity Awards so quickly after being named as Scotland's top youth work project. We have an amazing, dedicated staff team and it is their commitment to improving the well-being and life chances of our young people that has put us in a position to win this award.' Callander Youth Project Trust was established in 1996 and



delivers a wide range of activities for young people in the local area including Tuesday night youth clubs, Cook with CYP as well as a Job Club and dedicated employability programme for young people who have left school. CYPT established a hostel and café to raise their own funds and create training and employment opportunities for young people. In 2014 they were awarded with their 5 star Visit Scotland rating for their accommodation, Silver Green Business Tourism Award and an Investors in Young People Award. CYPT also signed up to the Living Wage charter earlier this year.

Martin Sime, Chief Executive of SCVO, said 'All the finalists have shown that they go the extra mile to help others. So much of that work goes unseen and unheard, but the Scottish Charity Awards shines a light on it so we can all say a big thank you.'

Winners will be announced at a black tie awards ceremony in Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms on the 4th June.

> Chris Martin Managing Director, CYPT



Team CYP with their latest award. Photo provided by Chris Martin.



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Callander Medical Centre Both Practices holiday the following

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:

- Thursday 24th September
- Tuesday 20th October

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

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

Bracklinn Practice 01877 331001 Leny Practice 01877 331000

Leny Practice

Carrying medication in hand luggage

If your travel company requires a GP letter to cover medication being carried in hand luggage, please ensure you provide at least 2 weeks notice to the Practice so that we can organise your request.

Unfortunately these requests are non-NHS services and will have a nominal fee attached. Outwith consultations our GPs are extremely busy with house visits, daily review of patients' results and secondary care letters, prescriptions, requests for medical information for e.g. insurance companies / solicitors and, not least, administration required as part of our contract with Forth Valley Health Board. Hopefully this will explain why our doctors cannot do requests such as 'letter of fact' for airlines there and then - we do need a little notice. As always, we are grateful for your co-operation.

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 a short time scale.

Did you know your local pharmacy can deal with many health problems.......

Insect Stings Advice - basic treatment covers washing the affected area with soap and water; put a cold flannel on the area; raise the part of the body that has been stung to prevent swelling and avoid scratching the area. If the sting is painful or swollen you can also wrap an ice pack in a towel and place on the swelling; take painkillers, such as paracetamol or ibuprofen or visit your local pharmacy for cream to prevent itching and antihistamine tablets to help reduce swelling. If the redness and itching gets worse or does not clear up after a few days, consult your doctor.

Sunburn Advice - as summer approaches, the reminder is that protecting your skin from the sun using sunscreen is better than treating it. However, should you suffer from sunburn the advice is to cool the skin with a cold flannel or by having a cool shower or bath. Drink plenty of fluids, avoiding alcohol as this will dehydrate you further, and apply an aftersun cream (available from your pharmacy). 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.

Yvonne MacDonald



The next Scotblood visit to Callander is the 27th July 4pm-7.30pm. Callander Kirk Hall. Please come along and give blood for this vital part of the NHS.

Work and Strokes

At least a quarter of strokes happen to younger people, yet according to the findings of a Stroke Association poll, not enough of those who can and want to work are getting jobs. This is due to a lack of understanding of the impact of stroke.

To mark Action on Stroke Month 2015, the charity surveyed people in the UK who were in employment and had a stroke. The results showed that:

- A third of people (31%) who left their job following a stroke felt unable to remain as their employer did not understand the impact of their stroke.
- Over half (53%) said their employer didn't understand the impact of their stroke.
- Over a third of stroke survivors (36%) said that their employer did not try to make the changes they needed to return to work.

The charity also surveyed small and medium sized businesses in the UK regarding their attitudes to the impact of stroke on their staff. It found that:just one in 20 (7%) employers recognised thinking difficulties as a symptom of stroke.

When asked why businesses might be reluctant to employ a stroke survivor, two fifths (42%) said that they would have concerns about the impact of a stroke on an employee's ability to carry out their role. Half (50%) had not heard of the Government's Access to Work Scheme.

Over a third of stroke survivors (36%) said that their employer did not try to make the changes they needed to return to work

If you are a small business or just want more information on the effects of a stroke and would like advice and practical support to help stroke survivors return to employment then The Stroke Association's guide for employers helps prepare employers for a survivor's return to work.

For more information, visit www.stroke.org.uk or call 0303 303 3100.

Walk in the park



Scottish Country Dancing at the Spring Fling. Photo supplied by Cathy Scott.

he walking group have been enjoying our programme of spring walks over the last 8 weeks.

Although we have battled with some wet, windy and at times snowy conditions, most of the walks have been in lovely sunshine with everincreasing glorious technicolour as spring blossoms into summer. Some of our regular Tuesday morning walks have been in and around the town while others have been a bit further afield.

The group took part in the Great Trossachs Forest Walk at Brig O' Turk organised by The Woodland Trust in April. They walked up Glen Finglas Road to the Ruskin site and back down to the Brig O'Turk Tea Room for lunch

and snacks. In May they held an event in the Dreadnought Hotel when, after a short walk along the Cvcle to back, they took part in a Strength and Balance session. Country Dancing and Tai Chi at the Spring Fling event. If all this

makes you feel tired, then take a look at our new schedule for June and July - there's more!



The evening walks continue on a Wednesday meeting at 7pm at Square throughout the Ancaster





Open Day Saturday 13th June 11am-4pm

Drop in for a guided tour of the retreat centre, enjoy the beauty of the glen and our grounds, meet the resident community, try meditation or just have a chat about our retreats...

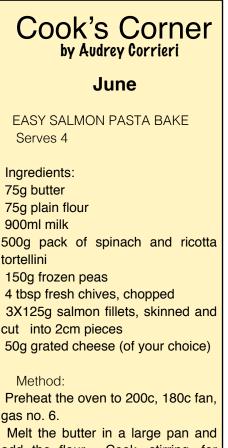
- Free and delicious refreshments available all day
- Situated 2 miles past Balguidder by Loch Voil
- Everybody welcome, no need to book

Contact

Track Kilmahog and exercise Scottish

summer months. So if you are not able to come along on a Tuesday morning then perhaps the evening walk is for you?

If you have any questions about joining in any of our walks or exercise sessions please contact the Walk in the Park Coordinator - Cathy Scott 01877 330055 or 07852 334272 or send an email to: cathy.scott@lochlomondtrossachs.org



add the flour. Cook, stirring, for 30 seconds, take off the heat and gradually stir in the milk. Return the pan to the heat and cook, stirring, until thickened.

Add the tortellini and simmer for a minute. Take the pan off the heat and fold through the peas, most of the chives, the salmon and plenty of seasoning.

Pour the mixture into a prepared ovenproof dish and scatter over the cheese and remaining chives.

Cook in the oven for 20 minutes, or until bubbling and golden brown. Serve.

Dhanakosa Buddhist Retreat Centre, Balguhidder, Lochearnhead, FK19 8PQ, Scotland Tel: 01877 384213 Email: info@dhanakosa.com Web: www.dhankosa.com



ciro's Italian Restaurant: call 01877-331070 for a reservation



A day in the life of a volunteer at Glen Finglas



A typical day at the Woodland Trust's sparkling new Visitor Gateway at Glen Finglas Estate (near Brig o'Turk), starts by checking that it is presentable for the day ahead – the touchy/feely boxes and leaflets are filled, the crayons and paper for rubbings on wet days are out, the water bowl for dogs is filled and of course everything is working – including the toilet! Then a quick run round the Lendrick and Little Drum car parks checking they are clean and they also have leaflets a-plenty - now ready for the onslaught of visitors!

Although we have great pictorial displays and leaflets I find our new electronic wide touch screen invaluable to show the end-to-end

30 miles of The Great Trossachs Path that we cover. This east-to-west path links the main north arteries of the West Highland Way at Loch Lomond to the Rob Roy Way at Callander (cycle route 7). The screen is designed to be used by anyone and offers the ability to zoom down into individual routes that people may wish to walk or cycle. We have a special interactive walk with touchy/feely boxes (in summer) for children, easy / hard / long / short / historical walking / cycling routes all complete with beautiful scenery to match! We have even added to each route the distance, whether it is hard / easy and of course a 'guesstimate' of the time it will take.

There is a dry board for observations – today it was 'beware of the cows with their calves' on one section, the other day it was 'deer spotted'. Now I'm just waiting to hear of a glimpse of our black grouse!

Being part of the community, I try to answer visitor questions – today's were: 'Where can I get a good bacon buttie and a coffee?' and 'can I take my bike on the boat to Stronachlacher?' Both questions are easily answered: 'in Brig o' Turk', and 'yes you can, but book early!'

We also have to deal with 'things that aren't quite right' – today it was the mess left after a loch side party that seemed to go wrong. As I cleared up I found a burnt out tent, melted torch and half-drunk bottles of booze - indicating a hasty retreat! There was also a small tree down across one of the paths, which was soon cleared up.

Such is a typical day at our sparkling new Gateway centre – what else would you rather do? That's easy – go on one of our many walks or cycles!

John W Russell Woodland Trust Volunteer If you would like to get involved and have a bit of spare time to help out the Woodland Trust at our visitor gateway Glen Finglas you can find out more by searching for volunteer opportunities at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Moths, Hares, Squirrels and Owls at the SWT AGM!

The Scottish Wildlife Trust AGM in April was followed by four short presentations.

In 'Moths of the Trossachs' Arthur Jones' photographs clearly showed that moths are not all small, brown, jumper-eaters but can be as attractive as butterflies. While Scotland has only 35 species of butterfly, moths are far more numerous, notionally categorised as macro >20mm wingspan (800) and micro moths <20mm (1500).



Between March and September a wide range of species emerges, mostly seen at night but some are day-flying. Monthly highlights included; red-green carpet, emperor (day), hooktips, beautiful carpet, northern eggar (day), poplar hawk, garden tiger, beautiful snout – check them out!

Paul McDonald, Project Officer with SWT's Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels, gave a project update. N American grey squirrels easily out-compete our smaller native reds for food and territory. They also carry squirrel pox virus (SPV) to which they are resistant but infected reds die within 2 weeks. Worryingly, it has now been found in Glasgow and Plean Country Park.

Control of grey squirrels is controversial but effective, although soon undone once stopped. While a vaccine for reds is feasible, it is

unaffordable and difficult to deliver. The majority of the UK's red squirrels are in Scotland, mainly north of the Highland Boundarv Fault. making Callander an important frontier. Everyone can help by reporting grey and red squirrel sightings on the new website, posting squirrel-related articles on Paul's blog, or by offering practical help like making

wooden feeder boxes. Would anyone be interested in setting up a local red squirrel group to co-ordinate such activities? Report sightings on http:// scottishsquirrels.org.uk/squirrelsightings and/or contact Paul on pmcdonald@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk.

Barn owls are one of the most easily recognised and popular British birds but, unfortunately, prone to large variations in population due to weather and fluctuating populations of field voles, their principle food source. Mike Steward has been putting up nest boxes and monitoring barn owl populations in Central Scotland since 1990, starting with just 4 breeding pairs and reaching a peak of 74 pairs in 2010.

The winter of 2009/10 was the coldest for 20 years but with little snow so owls could continue to feed, plus a peak in voles, allowed good broods to be raised. In contrast, 2010/11's winter was not as cold but had prolonged periods of deep snow that protected what voles remained after numbers had crashed. This was disastrous with a huge number of owls starving to death, leaving only 24 breeding pairs in Mike's boxes and none in FCS's 35-40 boxes. Since then there has been a slow recovery; from 24 to 33 breeding pairs between 2012 & '13, to 58 in 2014 plus over 168 chicks due to high vole numbers. Mike is predicting owl numbers will dip in 2015 as voles crash but both will increase again in 2016 to a record high in 2017, IF we don't get severe winters with long-lying snow!

Kevin Duffy's talk on his recent Mountain Hare surveys coincided with a press announcement that 10 conservation organisations had issued a joint petition for a 3-year ban on culling of mountain hares. This would stop



local extinctions and allow a scientific assessment of the impact of tics, known to affect grouse chicks but with unknown impact on final grouse bags. These tics are known to be carried by hares but also by co-located sheep and deer.

This was a rare opportunity to see how hares are caught in applebaited cage traps spread over a wide moorland area. 100 traps spread over 4 grids of 25 meant an 8 mile route over difficult terrain to check them once every 24 hours. If conditions like heavy snow would be detrimental to trapped animals, the traps are locked open. Caught hares are weighed, measured, sex determined and a small, numbered metal tag fitted on the ear. At the start in October the hares were largely brown but became whiter as days got shorter and temperatures fell. By recording the number of tagged hares returning to traps, a statistical method is used to assess the size of the local hare population and future surveys will provide trends.

> *Lesley Hawkins* (photographs supplied by Lesley)



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

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

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

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

Ghosts of the night



Photo crdited to Edwin van Schijndel

or skywatchers in Scotland, summer nights remain bathed in bright twilight which prevents observing anything in detail other than the Moon and planets. However, all is not lost as summer nights bring with them a different kind of phenomena ghostly 'night-shining' clouds

Noctilucent (Latin for night-shining) clouds are very different from normal weather clouds and can only be seen during the summer months when the sun is below the horizon. If there are noctilucent clouds around, you will see wisps of golden, white or 'electric blue' clouds bright against the darkening northern sky.

Noctilucent clouds are found high in our atmosphere hovering near the edge of space, 80-85 km high (50-53 miles). They are comprised of extremely small ice crystals that form on fine dust particles including dust from meteors. They always appear in the northern hemisphere between late May and early August and can sometimes be seen above the western, northern and eastern horizons about an hour after sunset until around 1 a.m. in the summer. They will quickly reach a peak brightness, then fade slowly until the sun has passed its lowest point below the horizon. Then they will brighten again in the pre-sunrise sky. Morning displays can often be more dramatic than evening ones.

Weather clouds occur much lower in the atmosphere than noctilucent clouds (ten times lower) and don't catch the sunlight and so always appear silhouetted against the evening twilight.

You will know you are looking at a noctilucent cloud due to its structure and form. They often have largescale billows or waves, which are uncommon in weather clouds. Also, if you observe the sky for a few minutes and note which way the clouds are drifting, noctilucent clouds will almost always move from east to west and for a time they will get brighter. From Callander, typical wind patterns will take weather clouds from west to east - the opposite of noctilucent clouds.

If you see them this summer you are likely to be mesmerized by the beautiful structure and colours these clouds can produce.

Keith Wilson

Subscriptions

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Annual cost UK £15: Outside UK £40

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

Ben A'an update

he programme to undertake essential The programme to conserve the landscape for everyone got underway in Autumn 2014 and is on course to be completed by December this year.

Forestry Commission Scotland has successfully completed the first phase

of the conservation project which has seen the removal of trees from around a power line and public road on the lower section of the hillside. The next steps will be:

- · Tree felling further up the hillside in Spring and Summer which will require the popular Ben A'an hill path to be closed until the end of December. Access will be maintained using a temporary dedicated hill-path diversion that leads to the Ben A'an summit from the Ben Venue car park.
- The path will be reinstated once the work is completed in December and timber removed from the site

The felling at Ben A'an is being undertaken as part of a wider Land Management Plan which aims to reshape the forest and reintroduce a greater range of native trees to the Ben A'an area such as oak, birch, aspen, rowan and hazel. This is part of The Great Trossachs Forest Project, launched in 2009, which aims to restore 16.500ha of Scotland's native woodland.

Further information on the improvements will be made available in due course. However, if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the Forestry Commission Scottish C&TFD office on 01877 382383 or on e-mail forestrycomissionscotland@grayling.com

A welcome visitor



Thanks to Irene Sneddon for sending us this delightful photo of one of her many aarden vistors.

What's on in June and hily

	3 on in ourie a		
REGULAR MEETINGS	Fridays:		
Mondays	Craigard Club 10.30am Kirk Ha		
Yoga (adults) 9.30-11.00am Kirk Hall	(last meeting 26th June until 21st August		
• Scrabble 2.00pm Teith Room,	Quiz night 7.30pm Crags Hotel		
Dreadnought Hotel (1st and 3rd Mon)	Saturdays:		
č			
• Highland Dancing 4.00pm Kirk Hall	Trossachs Tigers Training 9.15		
(not from 29th June thru July)	10.00am McLaren Leisure Centre		
Zumba fitness class 7.00pm Kirk Hall	JUNE		
• Guides 7.15pm Callander Primary	Saturday 6th		
School	 Rotary Club and Skidaddle Ben Led 		
Stretch out & relax yoga 7.00pm	Hill Ascent & Race		
Waverley Hotel	Sunday 7th		
Poker 7.30pm Crags Hotel	Jazz Club Gig 3.00pm-6.00pm		
Tuesdays	Dreadnought Hotel		
Craigard Club 10.00am Kirk Hall	Tuesday 9th		
(until 23rd June then from 18th August)	Walk in the Park:Strathyre Fores		
• Walk in the Park 10.20 am (check	Cabins meet Meadows car park (ca		
meeting place in detailed listing. All	share)		
walks are G,S & B)	Thursday 11th		
• Strength & balancing 2.00pm Fire	-		
Station	3.00pm-8.00pm St Kessog's		
• Family Yoga 5.00-6.00pm Kirk Hall	Friday 12th		
· ESOL classes Beginners English	Concert by Allegro Handbe		
and Writing Skills (separate groups)	Ensemble 7.30pm Callander Kirk		
6.00pm McLaren High School	Saturday 13th		
Army Cadet Force training 7.00pm	Ramblers Ramble: Killearn to Fintry		
Kirk Hall	via the Campsies 8.30am (contac		
Callander Brass practice 7.00pm Fire	01877 382803)		
Station	Sunday 14th		
• Badminton Club 7.30pm Leisure	Open Garden in aid of Green		
Centre	Callander 2.00-5.00pm Orchardle		
 Dominoes 7.30pm Crags Hotel 	House, Main Street		
Wednesdays	Monday 15th		
Callander Kids 9.30am Kirk Hall	Arthritis Club outing to St Andrew		
 Teapot café 10.30am Kirk Hall 	10.30am from Dreadnought		
Bridge Club 6.50pm Waverley Hotel	Community Council meeting 7.30pm		
Town Circular Walk 7.00pm Ancaster	Burgh Chambers		
Square	Tuesday 16th		
Dog training 7.00pm Bridgend Youth	Walk in the Park: Golk Club Wa		
Hub	meet Ancaster Square		
Song Squad 7.15-9.15pm Fire Station	Thursday 18th		
Darts 7.30pm Crags Hotel	Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall		
Thursdays:	Ladies Circle 8.00pm Waverle		
Scottish Country Dancing 7.00pm	Hotel		
Masonic Hall	Saturday 20th		
• Texas Hold 'Em Poker 7.30pm	Ramblers Hill: Ben Dubhcra		
Waverley Hotel	8.30am (Contact 01877 330059)		
Callander Brass practice 7.30pm	Sunday 21st		
Primary School	Rob Roy challenge – various location		
• Yoga (adults) 8.00-9.30pm St	Tuesday 23rd		
Andrew's Church Hall	 Walk in the Park: Flanders Mo 		

d July
and picnic (weather dependant)
meet Meadows car park.
Thursday 25th
The Filling Station 6.30pm DeliEcosse
Saturday 27th
Ramblers LDP: CT(2)Bridge of Cally
to Kirkmichael 8.30am (Contact
01877 330032)
Tuesday 30th
Walk in the Park: Keltie Bridge meet
Medical Centre
JULY
Wednesday 1st
Ramblers Stroll: Leannoch Loop
9.30am (Contact 01877 376236)
Thursday 2nd
Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall
Friday 3rd
German-speaking group BBQ 6.30
pm 'Ardess' 24 Bridgend
Saturday 4th
Skidaddle Loch Venachar Triathlon
Callander Cricket Club Cricket 4
Chloe festival
Sunday 5th
SWT Balsam Bash 10.00am-1pm
meet Geisher Rd Surgery car park
• Jazz Club Gig 3.00pm-6.00pm
Dreadnought Hotel
Monday 6th
Ladies Circle 8.00pm Waverley Hotel
Tuesday 7th
Walk in the Park: Kilmahog to Leny
Falls meet 10.20 Meadows Car park
Saturday 11th
Ramblers Ramble: Loch Katrine pier
to Stronachlachar 8.30am (Contact
01786 825198)
Arthritis Club Bottle Stall Ancaster
Square 10.00am
Monday 13th
Community Council meeting 7.30pm
Burgh Chambers
Tuesday 14th
Walk in the Park: Moss Wood or
Meadows meet Meadows car park
• Ben Ledi View copy deadline
7.00pm Wedpesday 15th
Wednesday 15th
 Ramblers Stroll: The Kelpies 9.30am

(Contact 01877 330446)



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

your VisitScotland Information Centre, 52-54 Main Street, Callander, FK17 8BF

What's on in June and July (contd.)

ursday 16th irk Art Exhibition starts 10.30am to 00pm Kirk Hall adies Circle 8.00pm Waverley Hotel day 17th	Tuesday 21st	or Maadowe, Maat Maadowe oor park
00pm Kirk Hall adies Circle 8.00pm Waverley Hotel	Malle in the David MODZ to 121mg	or Meadows. Meet Meadows car park
adies Circle 8.00pm Waverley Hotel	Walk in the Park NCR7 to Kilmahog	Thursday 30th
	meet Meadows car park.	Rotary Am-Am competition tee-o
	Saturday 25th	10.00am Golf Club
-	Ramblers LDP: CT(3) Kirkmichael	AUGUST
rt Exhibition 10.30am to 5.00pm	to Spittal of Glenshee 8.30am	Saturday 1st
irk Hall	(Contact 01877 330032)	Ramblers Ramble: Water of Leith
turday 18th	SWT Bottle and Plant Stall	Balerno to Leith 8.30am (Contac
amblers Hill: Stob Gabhar 8.30am	10.00am-4.00pm Ancaster Square	01786 825198)
Contact 01877 331067)	Sunday 26th	Monday 3rd
oyal British Legion Bottle Stall	Craft Fair 12.00-5.00pm St Kessog's	 Ladies Circle 8.00pm Waverley Hote
ncaster Square from 10.00am	Callander Brass concert 3.00pm	Wednesday 5th
rt Exhibition 10.30am-3.30pm Kirk Hall	Ancaster Square	Ramblers Stroll: Banknock to the
en Ledi View B B Q for volunteers	Monday 27th	Wheel 9.30am (Contact 0178
00pm Callander Hostel	Callander Blood Donation session	825249)
nday 20th	4.00-7.30pm Kirk Hall	Friday 7th
ighland Dancing in Ancaster	Tuesday 28th	 Ben Ledi View published
quare all week	Walk in the Park Ballachallan Forest	
1-26 JULY	Friday 17th JulyFelt a Fleece Workshop 2.00pm St	 Feis Fhoirt Ceilidh Trail 8.00pm S Kessog's
a determined and a determined of the second s	Kessog's	Thursday 23rd July
turday 11th July	Jenne McClure Jazz Band 8.00pm	Jewellery Making with Kokosnoo
	St Kessog's	Art & Design 1.00pm St Kessog's
ummerfest 2015 opening 12noon	Saturday 18th July	Friday 24th July
t Kessog's	Photography Walk & Workshop	Felting for Little Fingers 2.00pm S
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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

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Callander & District Arthritis Club The club's outing to St Andrews on June 15th leaves the Dreadnought car park at 10.30 a.m. There are still spaces. To join us, contact R. Bell 01877 330230. The price is £16 for members and £21 for non-members.

We are holding another Bottle Stall in Ancaster Square on July 11th. Help from members will be welcome.

Fiona Snow.

Callander Heritage Society

We look forward to being part of the Summerfest in St Kessogs and the Railway Weekend. Members of the Norwegian Brigade visit Scotland in June. Some Callander residents who met their forebears hope to spend time with them to share memories of their time here in WW2.

Great Tapestry of Scotland

Andrew Crummy talked to the Society about the Great Tapestry of Scotland. It squeezes 12,000 years of Scottish history into one tapestry of 164 panels.

Alistair Moffat, an historian, edited sections of Scottish history whilst Andrew drew the detailed panels. More than 1,000 stitchers participated using their skills to translate Andrew's artwork into a colourful and textural depiction of Scotland's history.

Once the panels had been stitched and returned they were re-stretched, hemmed and backed ready for exhibition. Donations paid for the £250,000 costs. The exhibition was launched on 4th September 2013 at the Scottish Parliament and exceeded all expectations with over 5,000 daily visitors. It will be exhibited in Kirkcaldy from June 20th to September 20th. *Marion Wilson*

Rotary Club of Callander & West Perthshire



We are always delighted by the generosity of people in Callander and area. Our appeal, a Just Giving page

online, for funds for aid to the Nepal earthquake victims www.justgiving. com/CWP-Rotary has raised over £2200 to help send Shelterboxes, delivering tents, water purification and other life necessities.

As we approach Rotary year end and our current President, John Isgrove, prepares to hand over to his successor, Mark Wallace, we want to say thanks to our local community. Since July 2014 more than £9000 has been donated to a wide range of good causes.

Our recent Coffee Morning raised a further £400 and we will shortly be distributing this year's final donations. **Forthcoming Events**

Our annual Ben Ledi Ascent on 6th June provides a good opportunity for groups to raise sponsorship funds for their own chosen causes.

On Thursday 30th July we hold our Golf Am-Am Competition at Callander Golf Course, teeing off with a 'shotgun start' at 10am. The £140 cost for a team of 4 players includes coffee and bacon rolls on arrival and a 2-course lunch. For an entry form, email: derek@blinn. freeserve.co.uk; or phone: 01877-330103. Jen Shearer

German-speaking Group

Wegen Urlaubspläne findet im Juni leider kein Treffen statt. Und im August haben wir Sommerpause.



Aber im Juli haben wir vor, um 6.30pm am Freitag 3en mit einer Grillparty den Anfang der Sommerferien zu feiern. Sowohl alle

Mitglieder der Gruppe als auch andere, die gerne mit uns deutsch reden möchten, sind herzlich eingeladen, jenem Abend mitzumachen. an Hoffentlich wird das "Sommerfest" draußen im Garten stattfinden können, aber falls das Wetter unfreundlich ist, können wir trotzdem in der Küche grillen und im Hause essen. Teilnehmer sind gebeten, irgendeinen Beitrag mitzubringen. Bitte sagt Jen im Voraus Bescheid, ob Ihr mitmachen werdet oder nicht und wenn ja, was Ihr vorhabt, beizutragen, z.B, Salat, etwas zum Grillen, Brot, Nachspeise, Getränke usw. Für die Vorplanung wäre es besonders hilfreich, diese Informationen spätestens bis Montag 29. Juni zu bekommen.

Wir werden uns auch wahrscheinlich, wie gewöhnlich, mit einigen Wortspielen beschäftigen. Euere Vorschläge für unsere Unterhaltung wären auch gerne empfangen!

Falls Ihr Fragen dazu stellen wollt, ruft bitte nach 24. Juni Jen Shearer, 01877-330446 oder 07710-232908(Handy) / oder Peter Mehta 01786-473768 oder 07950-046913 (Handy) an.

Adresse: ,Ardess' Bridgend, Callander, FK17 8AG; Email: jenshearer@gmail. com. Wir freuen uns darauf, Euch alle am 3. Juli wieder bei uns begrüßen zu dürfen. NB: uAwg. Jen Shearer

The Craigard Club

The Club meets on Tuesdays and Fridays in the Kirk Hall from10.00am until 1.00pm. Our last meeting of the present session is Friday 26th June.

The 2015/2016 first meeting is on Tuesday 18th August. We look forward to a good turnout of members and new members. You can join if you are a senior citizen. We serve lunch - saves you cooking twice a week! If you need transport please ring me on 330236, or Jean on 330867.

Alena Watt, Secretary

Barnardo's Scotland

College and University students throughout Stirling are encouraged to donate books to their local Barnardo's Scotland bookshop at term end. The books will find new homes while raising funds for the services we provide for vulnerable children and young people. We have 78 shops across Scotland, google www.barnardos.org.uk/shops. The Rob Roy Challenge



Barnardo's Scotland invites volunteers to help at the Rob Roy Challenge on 20 and 21 June. The Challenge, which has

raised £2.7 million for charities, is a 55 mile walk or run and cycle. Starting in Drymen, the race ends in Kenmore where the event is topped off with a night of food, dancing and celebration. With around 500 adventurers taking part, volunteers will help ensure all participants cross that finish line.



Munchy's

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

MIMMO's PIZZA PARLOUR Traditional Italian Food Pizzas, Pastas, Donner Kebabs, Salads, Teas & Coffees Sit in or Take away Why not telephone your order & avoid waiting 65a Main Street Callander Tel: 01877 330223

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Pressure Washing Services. Contact Liam Burnett:

T: 01877 381 211 M: 07880807136 W: shinytime.biz

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mobile 07768221661 strathyrecleaning@btinternet.com

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JUNEGreyweek beginning 1st,15th,29thBrownweek beginning 8th, 22ndJULYGreyGreyweek beginning 13th, 27thBrownweek beginning 6th, 20thAUGUSTBrownBrownweek beginning 3rd

Blue and brown boxes: every week www.stirling.gov.uk/waste





Do you need an affordable home Y

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Suppose a strength program for particular



Lagrannoch WRC

Opening times Monday - Friday: 5.00pm to 8.00pm Saturday: 10.00am to 2.00pm Sunday: closed There are a range of times and roles for volunteers in Drymen, Aberfoyle, Callander, Balquhidder, Killin and Kenmore. Volunteers will be allocated a shift no longer than four hours and they are invited to the post-race party for a meal and to enjoy a fireworks display and the live band.

For volunteer registration or more information contact Kara Gillies on 0131 446 7019 or kara.gillies@ barnardos.org.uk.

Callander Kids

Recent activities included a toddler yoga session held the first Wednesday of every month. We thank Julia Osfield for leading the class which encourages toddlers to listen and develop their coordination through fun animal poses. Our Spring fundraiser, a Tombola held on 25th April, raised £157 and we thank all who donated and also the Co-op for hosting us.

Forthcoming events include a "Baby boogie" dance taster on Wednesday 20th May, 09.30-10.15 run by The Dance Connection encouraging development of children's coordination and confidence. After our 12th May AGM, we hope to have plans in place for our summer trip- to Blair Drummond safari park.

We require volunteers for the committee. Without a new chair, vice chair and secretary, the group will cease to run. We hope some of the membership will find the small amount of time needed to help keep us operating. Victoria Lee

Callander Filling Station



Callander Filling Station meets in the Deli Ecosse on the fourth Thursday of the month. This informal Christian meeting brings people together from different churches

Using meetings in non-church venues, Filling Stations have seen Christian communities grow. We offer quality speakers and teachers, worship and accessible prayer ministry and networking opportunities.

Come along to Deli Ecosse on Thursday 25th June from 6.30 - 8.30pm. Refreshments are on offer. The evening is free and a donation basket is available. This month Bert McKaig, a motivational and encouraging speaker, is our speaker.

There is no meeting in July and we will resume in August. For more information: www.thefillingstation.org.uk or call 01877 330055.

Horticultural Society

The annual Flower Show is in the Kirk Hall on Saturday 29th August. There is a new cup for children growing nasturtiums or a broad bean in a pot. Details available from East End News, Mr Campbell the butcher, Kokosnoot and the library. New times for access for exhibitors are 7pm - 10pm on the Friday, and 8am - 9am on the Saturday. *Robert Vanhegan*

Callander & West Perthshire U3A

Guardian writer Andrew Brown included the U3A in his newspaper column, comparing U3A with other universities, recognising that Third Agers come together for the delight of learning alongside similar people. He noted U3A neither gives nor recognises qualifications. The social side of U3A is as important as learning, with new friendships forged quickly when shared interests are pursued.

Our instrumental group 'Imperfect Pitch' is well established and the 'Mahjong' group has found a leader.



A very successful visit to Pompeii and Herculaneum took place recently, arranged by Peter Ireland as the climax to his Classical History course.

We are looking forward to our musical event at Venachar Lochside. Members will be entertained by Callander Chimes from Forth Valley U3A, the Ukulele Band from Perth U3A and our own Singing for Pleasure group.

The U3A year ends in July with our

AGM in August prior to courses starting in September. Google 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A' for more information. *Marguerite Kobs*

Royal British Legion Scotland Callander Branch

We held our annual Coffee morning on 4th April in the Dreadnought Hotel. £404 was raised for funds. Many thanks to all who helped or gave raffle prizes and donations, to everyone at the Dreadnought Hotel and to Campbells for the shortbread.

On 13th May some members visited Erskine Hospital, a charity we support. We were impressed by this delightful retirement and care facility.

Our committee sent a further £500 donation to the Gurkha Welfare Trust towards their work in Nepal.All of the Gurkha soldiers are Nepalese and many will have lost family and property. We wish them all well.

Again we give a hearty vote of thanks to the Greener Callander team for their work around the War Memorial. Gravel and membrane were generously supplied by members of Lodge Ben Ledi - it's looking good.

Our next fund raiser is the bottle stall in Ancaster Square on Sat. July 18th. We will be grateful for bottle donations which any committee member would be delighted to receive.

And finally, our Senior Citizens outing will be in August, provisionally Wed. 12th. Details will be published in July in the East End News shop.

Sheila Morrison

Chas

We want to thank Callander Brass Band for their donation of £300. We understand how much work goes into earning this amount. Thanks to everyone who supported our Bluebell Tea where we raised £502.25.

Fiona House, 330103.

Callander Bridge Club

Members of Callander Bridge Club celebrated another successful year. The prize winners for 2014-2015 are: Dorothy Petrie Quaich – Eric & Wilma Clark, Bridgend Bells – Evelyn Nicolson & Margaret O'Keefe, St Valentine's Trophy – Eric & Wilma Clark, Howell Shield – Evelyn Nicolson



Local Craftwork

WWW.gallerialuti.co.uk 16 Ancaster Square, Calander, FK17 8BL 01877 339577 info@gallerialuti.co.uk

A LA CARTE also available 6 - 9pm

be taken outside in the Garden

weather permitting.

For reservations call 01877 330329 or email info@poppieshotel.com

& Margaret O'Keefe, Founder's Salver builds confidence. For more details, call - Linda Sutherland & David Hunter, President's Cup – Evelyn Nicolson & Margaret O'Keefe

The Club meets on Wednesday evening at the Waverley Hotel at the PDSA store raises funds to provide 6.50pm. Guests and new members funded veterinary treatment locally. welcome. For further information, contact the Secretary, David Hunter on 01877 330016 (daytime).

RNLI Trossachs Branch

We are grateful to our volunteers and this community for their support of our House to House, Ancaster Square and Mayday collections which raised almost £2000 for the Lifeboats. We regret having had to cancel this year's Savoury Supper and intend to hold it again next year.

Dudley Robertson Hon Sec

PDSA

The Callander and Stirling PDSA stores are appealing for good quality donations. The stores also need volunteers to help with day to day tasks. No previous experience required. Many of our volunteers find the experience enhances their CV and

the National Volunteering Centre on freephone 0800 854194 or visit www. pdsa.org.uk/volunteering.

Located at 72 Main Street, Callander, Donations to the store (Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm and Sunday 11am-4pm). For more information about PDSA, visit www.pdsa.org.uk

British Heart Foundation

We would like to thank everyone for supporting our Open Day/Birthday and welcome our new volunteers that this generated. Hearty was delighted to meet everyone and says he'll be out

and about again soon. If you wish to join our team then please pop into the shop in Main St and speak to Bob.



Around the world with the Ben Ledi View

e are reliably informed that the Ben Ledi View is on **V** its way to South Africa and other far away places, so hopefully we will be able to bring you the evidence in the next issue. If you are off on holiday soon, please remember to pack a

copy and take a photograph - the Ben Ledi View loves to get out and about and is happy to go anywhere. Happy holidays!





National Park reveals plan for future development of Callander

Our new Proposed Local Development Plan is all about how development can make the National Park a great place to Live, Invest, Visit and Experience. It is referred to as a 'Proposed' Plan as we are inviting comment before we 'adopt' it.

This Plan, which guides new development and sets out the planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications, covers the period 2017 until 2027. Once adopted, this Plan will replace our existing local plan and will be updated regularly (every five years) so it is kept up to date.

We have considered a wide range of information in preparing this Plan. This includes our own research and work with partner organisations such as Stirling Council. There has been extensive engagement with the community and its businesses and landowners; going back as far as the Callander 'Charrette' in 2011.

We also gathered a lot of feedback last year from our consultations on the Main Issues Report and the subsequent Additional Sites Report. This has all shaped this Plan.

What else do I need to know?

A number of documents accompany this Plan providing additional and more detailed guidance – this includes the **Draft Callander South Masterplan Framework.** Comments are also invited on this draft. You can see all the documents on **www.ourlivepark.com**, in the library or the Visit Scotland/National Park office in Callander.

You can also come and talk to us if you need further information or have any questions on **Thursday 11 June at St. Kessogs from 3pm- 8pm.**



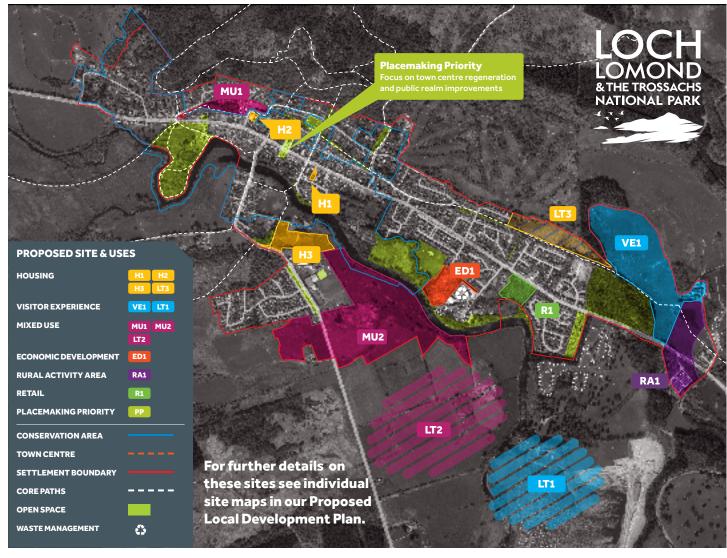
View the Proposed Local Development Plan at your local library or on our website www.ourlivepark.com



Comments are invited between

18 MAY-29 JUNE 2015

Overview of proposed development sites



This consultation requires very clear and formal comments to be submitted. This is because they will be considered by a Scottish Government appointed 'Reporter' at an examination. The following is our guide to submitting your comments:

- You can access our online system at ourlivepark.com and complete your response. This is the preferred way for you to submit your comments – it saves us time and public money!
- Comments should be concise and fully explain the issues to be considered at an Examination. The changes to the Plan or Draft Guidance that you are seeking, and reasons why, should be very clear. The Examination will only consider comments on the Plan, we will consider comment on the Guidance and take them into account before Adopting them.
- Comments should be no more than 2000 words and limited supporting documents may be submitted if required.
- Copies of Response Forms can be provided on request or are available from our offices.
- Don't forget, this is the last opportunity to make your comments. There is no automatic opportunity to expand your comments later in the process, so it is important that you provide your full case and evidence.

Come along and talk to us if you need further information or have any questions on **Thursday 11 June at St. Kessogs from 3pm- 8pm.**



If you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to contact us via one of the methods listed opposite or contact us on 01389 722600 and ask for Hugh, Susan, Thom or Kirsty or send us an email - hello@ourlivepark.com

- kwww.ourlivepark.com
- hello@ourlivepark.com
- twitter.com/ourlivepark
- f facebook.com/ourlivepark

28 Sports and leisure

Skidaddle

or those who may be uncertain as to who or what Skidaddle is, the following may help. We are a not-forprofit social enterprise that organises a wide range of outdoor events. We are based in Callander. Almost all of our events are open to people of all fitness levels and abilities, and we are delighted to welcome youngsters, 'first timers' and people with no athletic background, as well of course as the keen competitors whose aim is always to come first or to improve on their own personal timings. Some of our events are non-competitive fun events. We are always very pleased to see parents with children come along as participants.

We have a team of volunteers to help with the planning stages of events and to help as marshals, timekeepers etc on the event days. If you would like to join our team of volunteers, do please contact us now and come along to one of our events.

Skidaddle was honoured to be nominated in the 'One to Watch' category of the 2014 Social Enterprise Scotland awards, a great reflection of the time and energy put in by the team.

Another recent feather in Skidaddle's cap is that Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Council has recently approved funding for the 'Trossachs 10k Series', which Skidaddle has instigated and arranged among other organisers of 10k events within the Park.

Two recent events that we held were the ultra marathon from Inversnaid to Callander on 11th April, and the 'Loop o' the Loch' cycle or run on the 15-mile circuit of Loch Venacher. Both events used part of the new Great Trossachs Path, and were arranged in partnership with Great Trossachs Forest (which in turn is a partnership of the Forestry Commission, the Woodland Trust and the RSPB) In both cases the feedback from our participants was superb, and these events will be part of our programme in future years. For the Loop o' the Loch on 18th April, we had the pleasure of having celebrity chef Nick Nairn come along to open the event, and to spend some time with competitors and volunteers.

We had nearly 200 entries for the Callander 10K which took runners through the streets of Callander as well as on local paths and forest roads. It was rewarding to see so many local entries, in all categories. A big thanks to the Waverley Hotel who gave their support to the event and who served an everlasting chain of burgers and drinks.

Forthcoming events and dates for your diary are:-

6th June - Ben Ledi ascent

• 4th July - Loch Venachar Triathlon

- 30th Aug Callander River Festival
- 5th Sept Glen Finglas MTB race
- 10th Oct Callander 10K autumn.
- Ben Ledi Triathlon TBA
- Santa Skidaddle TBA

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

For all enquiries, contact can be made at:- info@skidaddle.org or by telephone on 01877 331 495

Alasdair Wylie

Callander Target Sports Club

As the smoke cleared in the Perthshire County ranges after the final rounds of competition, Callander came out better than expected!

Callander Target Sports club are pleased to confirm that our A team have retained the Perthshire Division 1 title by 4 points over nearest rivals Leven A.

Our B team finished 4th behind Arbroath, Kinross and Perth C&C, while our C team could only manage 5th as a result of being handicapped by members not shooting their league cards!

In the individual leagues: Gordon Motion was top shot, winning Division 1, while Cliff Ogle won Division 2, Hamish Rae won Division 9 and John Russell won Division 22.

Furthest placed shooter in the Knockout competitions was John Russell, who managed to reach the semi-finals of the Brough Cup only to lose by 1 shot!

This year's Perth Triple Competition was won by Mike Baillie Hamilton with the top score of 299 out of 300!

In the End of Seasonal postal shoot John Gardiner came 3rd in competition 1 and 2nd in both competition 2 and 3 - well done John!

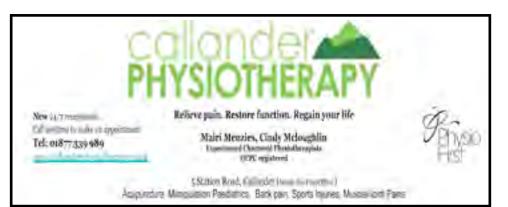
Callander was represented in the Perthshire Association team this year by 4 shooters: Mike Baillie-Hamilton, Jimmie Innes, Fiona Reid and Raymond Reid. This year the team finished 3 points off the pace in 3rd behind Fife & Kinross and Durham & Cleveland.

Our club champion this year is Mike Baillie-Hamilton, who beat Gordon Motion by the narrowest of margins. Congratulations, Mike.

To increase the number of disciplines we offer, we have put a number of members through coaching courses, so that this summer we can offer the shooter: Outdoor 50 meter competition in the West Kent league. Shoulder-to-Shoulder matches against Strathearn – all at our Outdoor range. Plus Gallery rifle and also 10meter air pistol and air rifle at our Indoor range.

If you would like to learn these various disciplines of target shooting, please contact me.

John W Russell MBCS CITP Telephone: 01877-330458 John_W_Russell@tiscali.co.uk



Sports and leisure 29

McLaren Rugby Club

McLaren Rugby Football Club's return to Callander has witnessed one of its most successful seasons, reports Rob Jones. The club's first fifteen secured third place in BT West Division 2, winning eleven games and, in particular, enjoying a satisfying end to the campaign by winning four of their last five games and securing a winning bonus point by scoring four tries in each of three games. The season was prolonged into late April due to inclement weather and the fragility of the newly opened pitch at Callander, which saw some games postponed.

Uddingston were put to the sword at their ground in late March, McLaren running out winners 58-17. To the delight of the home support, Strathendrick were dispatched in the local derby at Callander 37-7, giving McLaren the satisfaction of the double against their fiercest rivals and earning the bragging rights for the first time in many years. The long trip to Stewartry resulted in a 24-12 defeat but the team were back to winning ways at Cumbernauld, comfortably winning the contest 21-12. Clydebank arrived in late April with high hopes of denting local pride but a muscular performance by the home side enabled them to prevail by 29 points to 19. Disappointingly, Uddingston failed to fulfil what would have been the final game in Callander in early May.

Speaking on behalf of the team, Captain Andrew Drummond summed up the season: 'This has been a hugely successful season for the team, and particularly pleasing in what is the club's 25th anniversary. The team has gone from strength to strength and benefited from stable selection and consistent performances by the whole squad. Much of the credit goes to our coach, Matt Pittam, who has made a big impact on the team by dictating a playing style and structure which encourages open rugby and capitalises on our speed and strength'. He added, 'The challenge is to build on this secure platform for next season and strive for greater things. The future is bright; the future is black and yellow !!!

Callander Cricket Club

It has been a busy winter for the club with a few notable changes. A big thank you has to be expressed to Gargunnock Cricket Club who have agreed to us sharing their ground for 1st team home games and Outdoor Nets this year are being held at Meiklewood Cricket Ground every Tuesday evening 6-8pm.

Our Pre-season got under way on April 19th away to Vale of Leven and in a tight game narrowly lost by 1 run before taking on Gargunnock on April 26th were the lads struggled to get going with the bat eventually succumbing to a 7 wicket loss.



Callander U14s after defeating Kinross U14s

Callander U15s took on Helensburgh U15s in the Natwest Cup on May 4th but came up against a much stronger team, losing by 10 wickets. They soon opened their winning account on May 8th when they travelled to take on a Kinross U14s side winning by 46 runs.

Since the season started 5 games have been abandoned on the bounce for the senior side due to rain and water logged pitches. The months of June and July should hopefully bring better weather.

June & July Fixtures

- Jun 5th Falkland U13s (Home)
- Jun 7th Alloa XI (Away)
- Jun 12th Kinross U14s (Home)
- Jun 14th Vale of Leven (Home)
- Jun 20th Brechin U13s (Away)
- Jun 21st St Modans (Away)

The club's senior team has greatly benefitted from sterling work by the back room boys, in particular fixtures secretary, the evergreen Russell Drummond, and club secretary, Drew Leslie, who has kept the club's boisterous committee firmly in hand!

Meantime, the club's mini and junior sections continue to prosper and

- Jun 28th Glenrothes XI (Home)
- Jul 5th Doune (Away)
- Jul 12th Glendelvine (Home)
- Jul 19th Rossie Priory (Away)
- Jul 23rd Galloway U15s (Away
- Jul 26th Alloa XI (Home)

You can follow the progress of both the Junior and Senior sides on Facebook.

During the months of Jun and July we are holding a couple of events, the main one being on July 4th at the McLaren Leisure Centre where we will be holding our inaugural local charity fundraiser. This year it's Cricket 4 Chloe raising funds for the Baby Chloe McIntyre Memorial Fund. This is a Kwik Cricket Festival (kids aged 4 -11) with teams coming from as far away as Brechin to take part with plenty of activities to partake in on the side. So please do come along, cheer on the Callander Kids as they compete ,and help us raise some money in the process.

We are always on the look-out for new players/members so if you are interested in playing or finding out more about Callander Cricket Club then then do get in touch via our Facebook page or www.callandercricketclub.jimdo.com

Barry McGeachy



1st team away at Alexandria. Photos supplied by Barry McGeachy.

now benefit from training and playing tournaments on the Callander pitch. The club owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to minis section secretary, Mark Saunders, who has stepped down after many years of dedication and hard work and we wish him all the best in the future. *Rob Jones*

McLaren Community Leisure Centre

Summer Activities

We are now taking bookings for our Summer Holiday Activities! Our ever popular Kids Camp will be running for the duration of the holiday. We also have three weeks of our Little Explorers class for those of pre-school age and a week of Soccer School, suitable for all of Primary School age.

Little Explorers will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11.00am-12.00 noon from:

06/07/15 - 10/07/15 20/07/15 - 27/07/15 03/08/15 - 07/08/15

Soccer School runs from 09.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday from: 27/07/15 – 31/07/15

Full brochures giving more information can be found on our website, Facebook page and from out reception. To make bookings for any of our activities, please contact our receptionists on 01877 330000, or drop by in person. Bookings are taken on a first come, first served basis, with our February and Easter Camps selling out, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

With any full day booking of Kids Camp this summer, you can take the opportunity to book into our final Friday, 14th of August, for free!

Please make sure to book your space as we have had up to 70 Kids in previous years.

Climate Challenge Fund

We would like to take the opportunity to introduce Andy Cartwright, who has been appointed to coordinate and manage the environmental project to the Trossachs community.

We announced in the last Ben Ledi View that we have been successful in applying for funding to get the Trossachs and Teith area 'Fit for the Future'; by reducing its carbon footprint. This project is supported by the Climate Challenge Fund, and will enable the community to take steps to improve energy efficiency across the area, through reducing carbon emissions of McLaren Leisure and through helping local people reduce their fossil fuel consumption.

The project is in its infancy at the moment, but over the coming months you will see various campaigns and activities promoting energy efficiency and a lift share scheme, amongst many other initiatives.

As part of the 'Fit for the Future' project MCLC has acquired 120 free fuel efficient driving courses. The course takes 50 minutes to complete and you will be accompanied by a qualified instructor and a specially calibrated car is provided for you to use also. To kick start the fuel efficient driving course campaign, 8 places have been booked in for Saturday 13th June and will start and finish at the MCLC. If you are interested in learning eco driving skills to save you money please contact Andy Cartwright via e-mail at: andy@mclarenleisure.co.uk for further details.

Our website and Facebook page explain what's on and when. Andy would like to extend an invitation to you all to take part in the campaigns to make the 'Fit for the Future' project a resounding success.



Living It Up

On Thursday 23rd April, Janet MacDonald from Living it Up came to visit our Active Life and Aqua Therapy classes. Living it Up is an online selfmanagement hub, funded by the Scottish Government Technology Strategy Board, which aims to empower people to improve their health and wellbeing.

Living it Up is useful for those with long term health conditions, care givers and anyone who wants to improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life. Through the use of familiar technology, users of Living it Up are able to access information services and products which will enable you to feel better and connected within the community and more in control of your own health.

To sign up to the scheme please visit: https://portal.livingitup.org.uk

Alastair Thorburn Tel: 01877 330 000 alastair@mclarenleisure.co.uk www.mclarenleisure.co.uk Join us on Facebook!

Callander Bowling Club



Opening Day. Photo supplied by W. Blain.

The opening of the club took place on Saturday 11th April. There was a good turnout of members and visitors to witness the event. President A. Miller welcomed everyone and on behalf of the club thanked the visitors for coming along to lend their support. Mrs C. Watson then threw the first jack of the season to open the green. The usual President v Vice President match took place with the Vice President's team running out winners. The club wishes to thank everyone who donated raffle prizes. *William Blain*



CITO'S Italian Restaurant: call 01877-331070 for a reservation Announcements and Letters 31

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.

Heartfelt thanks

Tina, Martin, Kristin, Roan and Eva and the rest of the Loots family not resident in Callander would like to thank the community of Callander for the warm welcome my elderly parents have received in Callander since their move here just under two years ago. Mum (Moyra) has been welcomed to walking groups, U3A and supported by neighbours. Dad had become very frail and wheelchair-bound but was always looked after and greeted by friendly and helpful staff in his favourite cafes especially Kilmahog Woollen Mill, Venacher cafe and the Old Bank. We would also like to thank Ashwood nursing home staff who were very caring and concerned for Dad's welfare when he staved there for respite. Thanks go to the doctors and nurses at Leny practice who attended Dad and finally Ross Anderson for his kindness, patience and humour in providing undertaker services. Sadly Dad David Loots passed away on 2nd March in FVRH. Family and friends will miss Dave, Dad, Oupa greatly but have been comforted by the many cards and best wishes they have received. Loots family

Thank you

I'm afraid this event happened in the now distant past, but ISBIE DOW wishes to thank all her good friends for the really beautiful cards, flowers and gifts she received on her 96th birthday; and also for the lovely music and singing which cheered our spirits, and as a guest commented:'Great buffet!' Thank you all. It was a very happy time.

George & Pat Currid would like to say a very big thank you to family and friends for all the lovely cards, gifts and flowers they received on their Golden Wedding anniversary. We have been overwhelmed by your kindness.

Letters Messy Callander

I have just spent many weeks in a small tourist-based town in Southern Europe and was pleased to see that early every morning people were out getting the public areas ready for the days' visitors. This included council workers as well as shop and other business owners who ensured their 'area' was spotless.

Two days after I returned I visited



Callander. It was about 10.00am on Easter Monday that I went into the Meadows car-park area to see bins over-flowing, rubbish piled up against bins and walls, as well as the car-park area and surrounding grass areas covered in rubbish. Visitors were already arriving and being confronted by expensive car-parking fees and a complete mess. Why should they stay? Why would they visit again? I did not bother to venture into town as I had seen enough. If other towns in poorer countries understand the basics of tourism, why not Callander which has so much to offer?

Name and address supplied

Hard day's night

I read with interest the article about the Beatles visit to Callander. I was one of the screaming crowd (well I don't think I did scream but I was there). My sister was also there with her 3 year old son in a pushchair. Of course our Mother had to come as well. Unfortunately she got hurt in the crush. Thankfully nothing serious and nothing to the humiliation when it was reported on the STV news that night and she was described as an elderly woman. She was 63 at the time and not amused. Thought your readers might like to know about this as there are not so many Callander residents now who would remember.

Margaret Ogilvie, née Osborne, Killin

Railway memorabilia

This coming September marks the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of Callander Railway Station. The line was one of the many victims of Dr Beeching's plans for rationalising British Railways. At the time, Government policy was based upon the premise that roads would suffice for all transportation.

The line opened in 1858 with five trains per day in the summer and two in the winter terminating at Callander. In 1870 a new company, the Callander and Oban Railway extended the line as far as Glenoglehead and eventually reached Oban in 1880. The station building dated from 1870 and its site is *continued on next page*

32 Letter/ Pets and Vets

now the Dreadnought Car Park. The site of the original terminus was in use as a goods and coal depot until 1965 and is now covered by Murdiston Avenue

St Andrew's plans to hold an open weekend over the 13th and 14th September with the theme of the station closure in mind. If there is anyone who could loan railway memorabilia or indeed other artefacts from the 1960s, the Rector Richard Grosse would be very interested to hear from them, please. Tel 382887, email richard grosse@hotmail.com

Hydro Open Day

Having just attended the Callander Community Hydro Open Day, my family and I wanted to express our sincere thanks to all involved. We are enormously impressed at what has been achieved by the team for the benefit of the community, and would like to express our appreciation for their hard work and commitment. Having read about the project from its beginnings, it was great to see it up and running, and to learn more about it today. After a presentation at the

Callander Youth Project summarising the journey and giving us the facts and figures, we then had the opportunity to view the turbine house, where we learned more about how it all works. Perhaps most impressive of all, now that the system is up and running, it could be providing benefits to our community for the next hundred years! Paul Wardropper



Happy, well socialised pets

Pet of the month

Any of you will already know Hamish, the Golden Retriever, who can easily be spotted in Callander - he's a very big, friendly dog. He has many friends and knows exactly who to go to for biscuits (that will be Colin) and slices of ham. He is pictured here on his holidays with his favourite toy, Lambie!

t makes me so happy to see happy, confident, well socialised pet coming into my surgery. It makes for a less stressful visit all round, for your pet, for you and for us. It is worth investing the time and effort when they are young before fear develops. Socialisation should start with the breeder then continue with you at home. To help with this important stage of your pet's life we offer free socialisation visits where you and your pet can come into the surgery for a chat and a treat, to ensure there are plenty of positive associations with a visit to the vet or the groomer. Don't worry if you have acquired an older pet that has already developed fears. If you are prepared to invest the time and effort to help them change their opinions, so are we. Just ask us. Here's to happy and healthy four legged friends.

Marslaidh Smith BVM&S MRCVS.



Callander Council of Churches

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

Callander Kirk

The Church of Scotland, South Church Street, Callander

Sunday 7th June

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall

11.15am Communion Service, Kirk 3.00pm Trossachs Communion Service 8.00pm *Time for Silence,* Kirk

Sunday 14th June

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

Sunday 21st June

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

Sunday 28th June

11.15am All age Morning Service, Kirk. 8.00pm *Time for Silence,* Kirk Sunday 5th July

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

Sunday 12th July

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

Sunday 19th July

10.00am Early Service , Kirk Hall11.15am Morning Service followed byInformal Communion, Kirk8:00pm Time for silence, Kirk

Sunday 26th July

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

Sunday 2nd August

10:00am Early Service, Kirk Hall 11.15am Communion Service, Kirk 3.00pm Trossachs Communion 8:00pm Time for silence, Kirk

Sunday 9th August

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall 11.15am Morning Service, Kirk 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, 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* Church notices 33

Deadlines

The next issue of the *Ben Ledi View* will be published on Friday 7th August.

Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the August/September issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Sarah Clark at **advertising@benlediview. co.uk** by **Tuesday 14th July.** 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 April/May issue should be emailed to **editor@benlediview.co.uk** or handed in to the Callander Library by **Tuesday 14th July** at 7.00pm.

Items received after the deadline may be held over to the October/ November issue.

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

Callander Community Church

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

Callander Christian Fellowship -

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

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

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

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

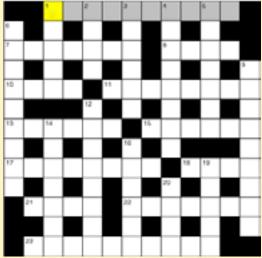
Muslims: Central Scotland Islamic Centre, Burghmuir Road, Stirling FK7. 01786-474 324.

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

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



34 Competitions



Solution for crossword 120 Winner Steve Murphy



Across 1. Evaluation (10) 7. Milan opera house (2,5) 8. Group of 3 performers (4) 10. As well (4) 11. All people (8) 13. Iterate (6) 15. Gambling establishment (6) 17. Roomy (8) 18. Possesses (4) 21 Stalk (4) 22 First letter (7) 23. Thrifty (10) Down 1. Donkeys (5) 2. Remain (4) 3. Die of hunger (6) 4. Motherly (8) 5. Capital of Kenya (7) 6. Large sea bird (9) 9. Edible flatfish (5,4) 12. Charm (8) 14 Malleable (7) 16.Style of art associated with Picasso (6) 19. Turn rapidly (5) 20 Blueish-white metal (4)

BLV Prize Crossword No. 121 Return completed entries to: BLV Crossword No 121, The Library, South Church Street, Callander, FK17 8BN by no later than Tuesday 14th July 2015. The first correct entry opened will win £5. Don't forget to supaddress. ply vour name and Name: Address:

Photo Quiz

Leasy one -St Kessog's - and was won again by N.McGinley (prize on its way). This is the last photo quiz - we get so few responses now, that we are closing it. Our

thanks to Mike Hawkins for setting the puzzles and C a m p b e I I's shortbread for the prizes.





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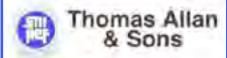
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