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of the Year 2015

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Ben Ledi View



Every drop counts

**Callander Community Hydro Fund
is open for applications**



See article inside or www.callandercdt.org.uk

CALLANDER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Ben Ledi View

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Front cover: thank you to John Kerr for his beautiful photograph of Autumn colours.

Hello Readers

As I write this, autumn is already beginning to change leaves. We seem to have had a much poorer summer than in England, farm production being a sure indicator. However, we have had a good summer for community events including Summerfest and the Trossachs Summer Festival at the Leisure Centre.

The Railway Festival will have taken place by the time you read this, but the Jazz Festival will be happening as this edition is being distributed.

We have had the view expressed that local papers should not be voicing their own opinions. However, the *Ben Ledi View* was founded as a vehicle for airing views and news.

We do not yet have a decision on the Heritage Lottery Fund grant application for the Landscape scheme, but some of our visitor amenities continue to decline in accessibility or standard.

The major part of the Meadows has now been surrendered to nature, and has lost its one time status as a public park. This has had the consequence of encouraging visitors to keep to the now overcrowded car park area and concreted river front. The Lower Woods behind the town continue to have little if any attention.

The Forestry Commission have closed Coilhallan woods till the end of October and the ridge of the Craggs till next Spring. The path to Bracklinn Falls is to be closed from the end of October. Whilst improvements are to be welcomed, sadly the appearance of areas after forestry work is reminiscent of industrial brownfield rather than attractive parkland. Work frequently over-runs and seems to be entirely

Subscriptions

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out of keeping with the approach taken in other Forestry Commission woods. Comparisons are invidious but consider the woodland at the Lodge on the Duke's Pass, or the Town Wood at Dalbeattie. Callander seems to be in a different priority category. The paths that visitors and locals would find suitable for short and less strenuous walks are either not available or not attractive.

We look forward to our readers' responses.

Finally, we would like to wish one of our delivery team, Margaret Kemp and her broken arm, a speedy recovery. We welcome new volunteers to our team. So far Milan is managing the subscriptions, Maggie is writing for us and running our book club, Emily is also writing and going to help with compiling sections, and Gill and Mary are going to help with the whole set-up. And there are others who are yet to get started. THANK YOU.

At the same time we say goodbye and thank you to Olive Walker who worked on the BLV in its earlier days.

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Community Hydro Fund



Callander's hydro scheme in Stank Glen near Loch Lubnaig, the first community developed hydro scheme in Scotland, is now a year old and is successfully generating electricity into the National Grid. In fact, given how wet the weather has been, generation during the summer has exceeded forecasts with July producing four times its predicted output.

The 425 kilowatt scheme was developed and is now operated and maintained by a group of local volunteers. It is a run-of-river scheme which means that water is diverted from a river, piped down to the generating turbine then returned to the river.

An information leaflet has been produced giving more detail about the generating scheme. It is available at the VisitScotland Information centre or the Library or online at www.callandercdt.org.uk.

Community funding

The scheme cost £1.6m to build and, even with repayment of bank loans, it is expected to earn £3m for the local community over the next 20 years. It will still be generating electricity after this but the Government subsidy (feed-in tariff or FIT) will end and income will be reduced.

Callander Community Development Trust (CCDT), who own the scheme, will receive profits and allocate them to projects and activities that will benefit the people and community of Callander. The first round of Callander Community Hydro Fund is now open for applications with a closing date of 31st December 2015. A panel of Trust Directors will decide which will be successful and the funds will be available from April 2016.

Applicants can be individuals, groups or businesses and the project activity must take place in the Callander Community Council area (see area map). The important thing is that the planned activities should benefit Callander. There is no set limit to the proportion of funding but well thought out projects that can attract match funding from other sources will be especially welcomed.

How to apply

An application form and guidance notes are available on CCDT's website at www.callandercdt.org.uk and should be returned to secretary@callandercdt.org.uk. If you have any questions, please contact Town Co-ordinator Sheila Winstone on 07852 106605 or coordinator@callandercdt.org.uk.

Olive Walker - an appreciation



Olive at the opening of the Friendship Garden two years ago.

Olive Walker, who died on 2nd September, was a well-known personality in the Callander scene during the past 30 years. She was an enthusiast and a

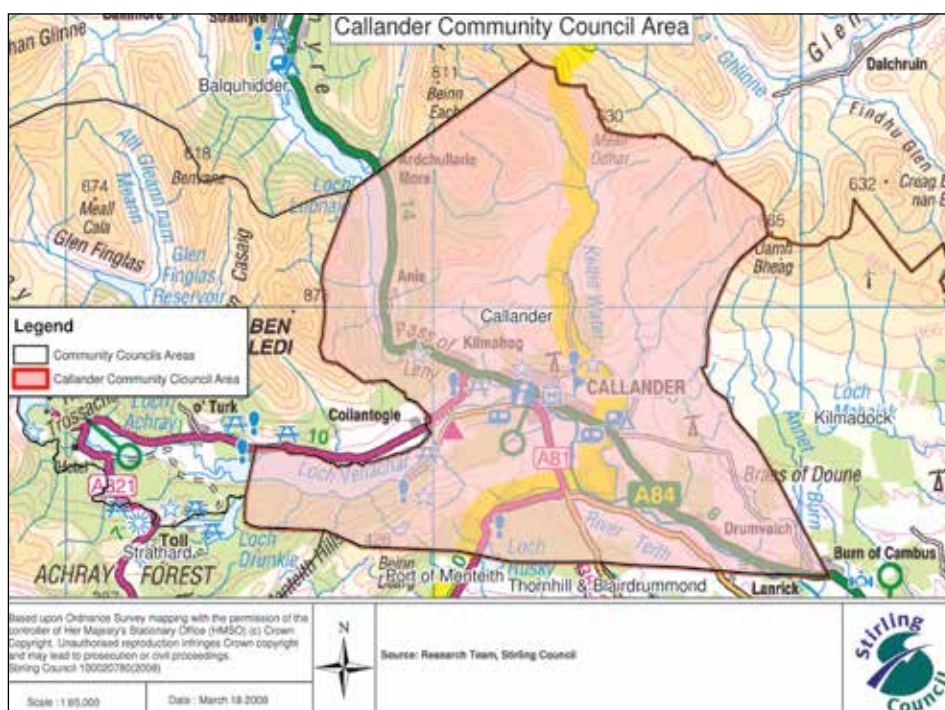
hard worker in the service of Callander, its people and environment, and she was able to adapt as its priorities changed over the years.

It all began in the late 1980s when Olive and her husband George settled in Tulipan Crescent after a life time of work and family life on Clydeside. I well remember their first appearance in Ancaster Square for a local 'Ramble'. Kitted out and keen to go and learn from natives such as the Rev. Dr Bob Macdonald and others, they were soon part of the leading lights, organising trips locally and farther afield, and playing a part in the annual Christian Aid walks raising money for the Third World. Olive did the admin for many special trips and George did the hands-on minibus driving to places such as Arran, Iona and the Borders, where comfortable hotels had been organised by Olive for these four or five day visits. Most of these ventures were reported in the Ben Ledi View, another of the community activities to which Olive gave considerable time over many years.

Olive was a kind, considerate and patient person; she will be remembered especially by a number of the residents of Ashlea Nursing Home whom she helped over the years at Callander Kirk services.

Latterly, both Olive and George played an active part in setting up and maintaining the Friendship Garden in South Church Street and helping with the flower displays at St Kessog's steps. Always busy and interested, dear Olive will be missed so much. Our deepest sympathy goes to George and the family.

Ken Dunn, on behalf of the Callander community.



National Park's Ambitious Development Plan – One Step Closer

A plan outlining proposals for the development of housing, recreation, tourism and supporting infrastructure in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park over the next 10 years has passed another milestone following a final consultation which ended in June.

'LIVE Park' is all about planning for the future development of the National Park and this vision was set out in the Park Authority's Proposed Local Development Plan published in May for consideration by interested parties.

The response, according to the Park Authority's Head of Planning and

Rural Development, has been very encouraging.

Stuart Mearns said: 'We would like to thank everyone in our local communities who took the trouble to consider these proposals and respond, whether online, in National Park offices, or by attending local events.'

The consultation closed at the end of June and we are really pleased with the level of responses. Our aim with LIVE Park was to develop a Plan that meets the aspirations of our communities and helps the Park to flourish.

Having invested a lot of time in working with our communities, businesses

and partner organisations we are delighted that we have got the big issues right. This includes identifying key locations for future development, how to balance development needs with safeguarding the natural heritage of the Park and how we support business and community development with reasonable and flexible planning policies.

The relatively low number of objections we received is testament to the approach we took with issues being addressed early on in the process. We received 140 responses in total, with the majority of these relating to proposed development in a small number of towns and villages, particularly Callander and Drymen.'

Your local Youth Project needs YOU!

Many people have told me that they would like to help out at CYP yet are unsure how their skills could be utilised. I want to highlight a number of volunteering opportunities currently available.

Governance

We have 7 trustees who have a sufficiently diverse skillset to ensure high levels of governance. We have experience in Construction, Hospitality and Tourism, Community Learning Development, Education, Charity Law, Medicine, Finance and Accountancy. Our Memorandum and Articles of Association allow us to have 9 directors (6 elected and 3 co-opted) therefore we could accept another one or two volunteers at Board level. In Nicola Sturgeon's Programme for Scotland she recommends Charity directors try to achieve a gender balance by the year 2020 therefore we are particularly keen to invite local women to apply for our Board positions, in particular anyone from an HR background.

CYP Gardens

Callander Youth Project Trust are looking for local volunteers who are passionate about gardening. If you are skilled in the garden then this would

be a perfect opportunity to share your skills with others and help care for our green space. Last year we had support from SSE volunteers who planted the produce we are now enjoying in the café. You can help maintain this beautiful space for the locals and wildlife alike. A love of nature and some gardening skills are all that's required to volunteer here. In return, you will make new friends, improve your health and well-being and learn new things. All this whilst contributing to the local community and wildlife.

Youth Clubs

CYP runs two weekly community youth clubs on a Tuesday evening for primary 6 – secondary 2 age groups. The weekly programme is organised by our Youth Forum and activities can range from sports, arts or cookery sessions to offsite mountain bike trail rides and even a night where the young people were taught how to make rockets! CYP has 3 youthwork staff and a team of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions please contact Megan on 01877 330141 or megan@cyp.org.uk. Alternatively please pop in for a coffee and a chat.

Chris Martin



Schools

During the process, the National Park worked with pupils from nearby secondary schools, Hermitage Academy, Helensburgh, Balfour High and McLaren High in Callander. Stuart explained:

'A particular highlight for the team was following up last year's work with pupils to show how their aspirations had been reflected in our new plan. It was great to see pupils really taking an interest in planning matters using an interactive game to suggest where new developments should go and then comparing their proposals with our own. We definitely spotted a couple of planners in the making!'

The Proposed Plan was developed following an intensive four-year process and the latest draft incorporating final representation from members of the public will be taken to a meeting of the National Park Authority's board before being submitted to the Scottish Government who will undertake independent assessment of the representations.

For regular progress on the Proposed Plan, follow the LIVE Park blog www.ourlivepark.com/blog

Callander Winterfest

Following the success of Callander Summerfest, the Callander Community Development Trust would like to invite you all to join us for a two-day Winterfest event. Winterfest is planned over the weekend of 28th and 29th November and will include the following:

- A Christmas Market in Ancaster Square from 11.00am to 6.00pm on Saturday 28th November will give residents and guests an opportunity to begin holiday shopping with local vendors.
- Our annual Fancy Dress Parade will leave the Myrtle Inn at 3.30pm on Saturday 28th November and join residents and guests in Ancaster Square to light the Christmas tree. Santa and our Callander Citizen of the Year, local nurse Connie Smith, will judge the costumes and award prizes.
- Callander Chimes will perform inside St. Kessog's at 2.00pm and Callander Brass will provide live music in Ancaster Square from 3.30pm.
- Minced pies and mulled wine will be on offer to support the costs of the Christmas lights in Callander.
- Our third annual Community Christmas Breakfast at the Callander Youth Hostel on Sunday, 29th November from 8.30am to 1.30pm will give everyone a hearty start to their day and an opportunity to visit with family, friends and neighbours. The breakfast will be visited by several surprise guests and will

include a raffle every 45 minutes throughout the morning.

- Full Breakfast £6.00
- Half Breakfast £3.00
- Roll and Bacon £3.00
- Toast and Jam £2.00
- All breakfasts will include coffee, tea or juice (refills 50p)
- Tickets are available at the entrance to the Youth Hostel from 8.30am.
- Callander Film Society will show a family holiday film at 2.00pm on Sunday 29th November at the theatre in St. Kessog's. Tickets are £4.00/adult, £3.00/child with family tickets for 4 persons at £12.00.

Thank you

Winterfest is the result of the efforts of many local volunteers. Callander Community Development Trust wishes to thank Callander Round Table for organizing the Fancy Dress Parade, Clanranald Trust for organizing the market stalls, 'special guests' and children's activities in St. Kessog's, Callander Brass and Callander Chimes for giving their time to perform, Callander Youth Project for organizing and hosting the Community Breakfast, Callander Film Society for providing and showing the film, Julie at Deli Ecosse for providing hot mulled wine, Gus MacDonald for sorting the lights and electrics and Callander Community Council and Cambusmore Estates for providing the tree.

Please contact www.callandercdt.org.uk for additional information.

Police Report

Operation Ironworks has been running all summer and has seen Police recovering 'personal' quantities of drugs as well as detecting 2 individuals for drug supply. One driver was charged after taking his car onto one of the beach areas at Loch Venachar and another with pulling up and burning campsite marker posts and a tree.

Some of our local school-leavers will have left for Colleges and Universities and should have seen various personal safety messages from Police Scotland, their Universities and other organisations aimed at encouraging students to protect themselves. If they have missed this, they can catch up on the Police Scotland website or on social media using #studentlife.

As the old saying goes, the nights are fair drawing in! This brings a timely reminder to check your vehicles ahead of worst weather and (gulp!) snow. Please check your tyres have more than the legal minimum of 1.6mm tread. If you don't feel confident, pay a visit to a garage who will advise you. Also check your lights and windscreen washers/wipers. Darker nights also sometimes attract unwanted visitors. Don't make your house an attractive target. Leave a light on if you are out; Lock your car, even outside your house and put the keys somewhere safe.

We can be contacted by phone on 999 in an emergency and 101 for all other enquiries. Your local office can be emailed at TrossachTeithCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk and for those that use twitter, we tweet using @StirlingPol regularly.



Greener Callander

Our group has this year been working together with Stirling Council's Land Services, not just in the planting up of the new floral fountains in the Square but also in the creation of this wildflower verge which leads up from the top of North Church Street to Ancaster Road. There is also a smaller version along the old railway track behind the car park. This particular project has been masterminded by Lesley Hawkins, a key Greener Callander member with



Greener Callander wildflower border

a special interest in wildlife.

The whole team will greatly miss Olive Walker, who sadly passed away at the beginning of September. Together with her husband George, she made Callander not only greener but brighter.

Hilary Gunkel

Climate Justice Relay comes through Callander



Callander Primary School Eco Committee and the Climate Justice Baton



Young Emma Spiers passes the Climate Justice Baton on at Callander Kirk and below the baton leaves Callander Kirk for the Pilgrimage to Trossachs Church. (Photos supplied by Margaret Warnock.)



We have become familiar with batons being passed around the country to raise awareness of upcoming important events. These events are usually sporting ones, such as the Commonwealth Games last year and the Olympic Games in 2012. The Scottish churches' environment programme, Eco-Congregation Scotland, has this year launched the 'Climate Justice Relay' and the baton (made from part of a recycled pew!) passed through Callander earlier in the autumn.

The baton was first received by St Andrew's, before being passed on to Callander Kirk. It was then carried on a walking and cycling pilgrimage to Trossachs Church, before coming back to an enthusiastic reception from Callander Primary School.

At the beginning of December in Paris, over 190 countries will meet to attempt to negotiate a deal on climate change to limit emissions from developed countries and help developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change and develop low carbon economies.

The burden of climate change often falls most heavily on the poorest in the world, those who have done least to cause it. The Climate Justice Baton will go to Paris and carries a message to the world's leaders: 'Time for climate justice. Churches in Scotland demand a deal in Paris 2015'.

Margaret Warnock

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. Please send it to editor@benlediview.co.uk.

Increasing visitor numbers

Callander Enterprise have a project to increase visitor numbers for Callander and its businesses. The website www.incallander.co.uk shows visitor attractions and accommodation and is the first website anyone sees if they 'google' Callander on the internet. Please help yourselves and the community by contributing to the list of attractions and activities. Please use Callander Enterprise via the membership online portal or contact us at callander.enterprise@gmail.com to see how you can play a part.

We are actively looking for bloggers. Interesting and varied contributions are being sought:- Cycling, Water sports, Wildlife, Bird-watching, Gardening and Local Sport to name a few topics.

Callander Primary School



Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre

On Tuesday 16th June we went to Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre for our school trip.

We are very grateful to the Callander Branch of the Scottish Wildlife Trust who made this possible by donating £200 to us.

We did pond dipping, match the dung, match the paw print, match the skulls animal identification games. We had to find insects and put them in a tub and we talked about the insects. We showed each other our insects in the tubs and discussed what they were.

The whole class had their snacks and their packed lunches at the centre headquarters. We had a fantastic day.

Truli and Aimee, P4

McLaren High School



McLaren High School Awards Ceremony 2015

Thursday 3rd September saw the whole school join in a celebration of pupils' successes. This year the event moved to Callander Kirk as extra room was needed to accommodate the community of celebrants and their families and friends.

The platform party were piped into the church by Callum Hall and Connor Ramsay Clapham, with further musical pieces by Ailish Duthie (voice) and Morag Beaton (flute). Before the keynote speech, which was delivered by the Reverend Stuart MacQuarrie, the audience were treated to a video clip of 'McLaren High's Tribute to Taylor Swift' - a lip dub screened on national television before the summer break. The BBC were quoted as saying they were astonished at the quality of the final footage - McLaren pupils are now officially TV 'stars'!

The Reverend's address was based on his own life story - being born in Easterhouse (Glasgow) he is now the Chaplin at Glasgow University and was Commonwealth Chaplain last year. He spoke movingly of how self belief comes from facing and overcoming your personal fears..

McLaren has a long history of musical, sporting and academic achievement. In addition to hearing of the remarkable successes of Dux Ludorum recipients Tara Leishman and Luke Maher, a total of seven pupils represent Scotland in international competitions: Catie Warburton (sailing); James Wray (bowls); Conner Clark

(rugby); Skye Campbell (water polo); Dan Hesp (triathlon); Emily Field (mountain biking) and Jenny Holl (cycling). Jenny was unable to attend the ceremony as she was competing in a three day event at Manchester. In addition to representing Scotland Jenny recently won the British National Youth Championship which has led to her selection onto the Olympic Development Programme and a possible place in team GB at the Rio Olympics 2016!

There was quiet contemplation as Kirsty Crawford was called forward for the inaugural presentation of the 'Liz Youngson Memorial Trophy'. Liz had been a teacher at McLaren High since August 1972 and was well known to all present. She met an untimely death just weeks into what should have been a long and happy retirement. Her life partner Mr Bill McColl presented Kirsty with the cup for her work, back of stage, pulling the school show together.

There followed an uplifting photo-montage made by the pupils who have recently returned from Ghana where, in addition to trekking and a little teaching, they helped build a classroom.

The climax of the evening came with the announcement of this year's Proxime Accessit Sophie Conroy and Dux Alasdair Murphy.

Just before the closing of the official ceremony the new Head and Deputy Head boys and girls

were installed. This year however there was a twist. The newly elected Heads and Deputies pinned the new McLaren High FP lapel badge on last year's team officially marking them as part of the growing band of former pupils.

McLaren High School - 50 Years at Mollands Road

Events were held on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th September to celebrate the 50th anniversary of McLaren High School moving from its previous location at what is now Callander Primary School to Mollands Road.

On Friday 4th September former pupils joined McLaren's new S1 pupils and Student Leadership Team to re-enact the procession from the school's original location in Bridgend to the current school building. The procession was led by the school's newly formed pipe band.

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

Headteacher Marc Fleming said: 'There was no way we could let an anniversary like this go unmarked. There have been a lot of changes at McLaren High School over the years – not least the major refurbishment that took place between 2006 and 2008 and saw the school interior completely transformed – but it has always been important throughout that the school remains a central part of community life.'

For more information about McLaren's Former Pupil Group, please contact Moyra McLaren at mclarenhighfp@stirling.gov.uk or call the school on 01877 330156. Information is also available on our Facebook page.



Procession from the old to the current McLaren High.

the Lade inn

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Secret Callander



Gartchonzie's secret plaque

You have probably crossed over the humped back Gartchonzie Bridge near the Invertrossachs Road but did you spot its 'secret' plaque?

Gartchonzie Bridge was built over Eas Gobhain in 1777 by the Crieff mason Peter McInnes after the 1745 Jacobite uprising. Although following

instructions from the Commissioners of Forfeited Estates as part of the improvements to Gartchonzie Farm, McInnes decided to add his own twist to the bridge. It is reputed that the builder had Jacobite sympathies and decided to erect a plaque hidden from view. The plaque

faces the river to make reading of the inscription difficult but it is still there on the upstream side of the bridge and can be read without too much effort.

The plaque is in English and Latin and reads:-

This building erected AD 1777

His Majesty

Gave in aid to it out of the annexed

Estates £10 str.

Viator

Tuto transeas

Sis memor

Regii beneficii

The Latin loosely translates as 'Travellers can safely pass on the benefit to remember the troops.'

The bridge achieved renown in more recent times in the 1959 version of 'The 39 Steps' starring Kenneth More as Richard Hannay and Taina Elg as Fisher.

Next time you are passing by see if you can spot Gartchonzie's 'secret' plaque.

Marion Wilson



Secret Bunker incident

I read, with interest, the article by Marion Wilson about the bunker up the Braeleny Road. My late father, Tom Mahoney, had been in the army during WW2. After the war, he joined the Royal Observer Corps as a volunteer and spent time on duty in the bunker. Other members I recall included Dodie Brown (postman) and Dokie (Duncan) Walker (mechanic).

I thought your readers might like to read about an incident one night in 1940. The observers were scanning

the skies for enemy aircraft. The night was quiet and still, then, in the distance, could be heard the drone of an engine. Quickly the telephonist contacted the plotter at HQ. 'Charlie One - heard 140 north west'. Gradually the drone grew louder and louder and the telephonist maintained his reports. At HQ the plotter moved the marker on the plotting table indicating the track of the unknown aircraft. Suddenly, the engine revs increased. Was the plane about to dive? The question was soon answered. A light flickered

on top of the hill opposite and a bus hove into view having completed the long climb up the Cock Hill and started the downward road towards the town. How could he report a raid by the last bus to town? The plot was faded out quietly, very, very quietly!

I hope this story may raise a smile, but I agree with Marion that we should remember all those who manned the bunker and watched over our skies.

Mrs Celia McAteer (nee Mahoney formerly of Callander), Hunstanton

Callander Heritage Society

At the end of October a decision should be made by the Heritage Lottery Fund about the National Park's application for the Landscape Heritage Project 'Callander's Pass- Mind the Gap.'

'So?? What is that? What's it all about? I don't know anything about it.' All the more reason for you to come to our meeting on Thursday 8th October at 7.30 pm in the Kirk Hall to hear Neil Cameron tell us what has been proposed, what it could result in and how it can make a difference to Callander and its community, knowing and understanding more about its landscape, archaeology, farming, railway ... and learning how to enjoy,

protect and share it.

In November our meeting on 12th, following a suggestion that in the winter months we should have 2 afternoon meetings, will be at 2 pm in the Kirk Hall. Our speaker will be Malin Heen-Allen who will speak to us about Clan Ranald and all the changes in St Kessog's. It has been good to see it back in use, in and for the community, after so long with the For Sale notices!

Can you help?

Recently the Heritage Society received an email from the president of a not-for-profit organisation in Australia called Fallen Diggers. It researches missing

WW1 men and recently discovered the burial location of a Donald Anderson who was originally from Callander. He enlisted in the Australian army and was killed on 2nd April 1918 and the organisation is trying to get in contact with his family so that they can get in touch with the Office of Australian War Graves.

His parents owned Kilmahog Woollen Mill at the time of his death. The last Anderson associated with the Mill died in Callander in 1960s.

If anyone knows of any relative we would be grateful for information. Please contact sheila@mgri.fsnet.co.uk. Thanks to Ranald MacFarlane for his help.

BLV Book Club

Welcome to the first Ben Ledi View book club column. For those who missed the announcement in the last issue, Fiona Frize, our fabulous Callander Community Library Officer will be selecting a book for BLV contributor, Maggie, to review. Each book will be announced in the preceding issue

The Goldfinch, Donna Tartt (Little, Brown, 2013)



Fiona's first choice for the BLV book club was *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. I must confess to gulping slightly when I collected the book. This was mainly due to its doorstep

qualities – a hefty tome of over 700 pages (hardback), it didn't slip too easily into the handbag. I won't lie that I had some misgivings about reading such an epic in a house with two young children where the attention spans of adults and minors is somewhat limited. However, what followed was a blissful two weeks of no television huddled in quiet corners to read the next chapters. And a hint to the tone of this review, this really was no chore.

The Goldfinch starts chaotically in an Amsterdam hotel room where our narrator Theo Decker has locked himself for over a week in fear of his life. This introduction to his current situation is brief and we quickly move to a retrospective of Theo's life starting from when he was a 13-year old boy on the day his mother died. The detail of this day is exhaustive - conversations are recounted, facial expressions remembered, clothing, furniture, weather, and traffic, every aspect recollected to give a full picture of the horror. The reader already knows the terrible outcome, but how it shapes the next 10 years of Theo's life is also determined in the midst of post-explosion confusion. A number of artworks go missing by opportunistic thieves. And whilst comforting a dying man, Theo is encouraged to keep safe

a small painting, *The Goldfinch*, as the building is burning down around them.

Tartt's prose is stunning. Her story telling is adept and has extraordinary detail. Her descriptions of character and place are so sharp they almost have a 3-dimensional quality to them. Beside his parents (despite Theo's mother's early death, she has a strong posthumous presence throughout the book), there are two key male characters that weave in and out of Theo's young life. Hobie is the calm gentle giant, a furniture restorer in the Village who wafts 'like some great sea mammal in his own mild atmosphere'. In stark opposition is Boris 'gloomy, reckless, hot-tempered, appallingly thoughtless' who the messed-up teenage Theo cannot resist. A high society New York family, the Barbours, also figure throughout. They take the young Theo in immediately after his mother's death, protecting him from the onslaught of social workers, teachers, child psychologists, the police, the press and more. All characters are flawed and, some might argue, not particularly likeable, but Tartt succeeds in giving them the odd brief glimmer of humility, if not quite the warmth that Theo is yearning.

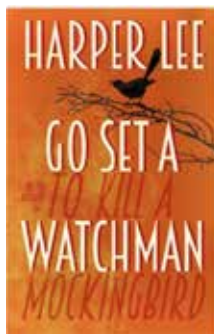
Beside the depth of characterisation, another strength of *The Goldfinch* is its sense of place. The novel is set mainly in New York and we walk with Theo through the twisted streets of the Village. We join Theo for drinks in the city's bars uptown and downtown. We laze in the seedier corners of its many parks. And we see Theo's ghosts on every corner. Theo also lives in Las Vegas for a chaotic two years where he meets Boris. Theo later reflects on that period and the exuberant drug use that he claims damaged 'his brain, his nervous system and his soul'.

Criticisms? Some might argue that Theo is too self-absorbed. Some periods of our narrator's life are not an easy read, particularly as we begin to care for Theo more and more. I found myself sometimes squirming and breathless at the decisions Theo made, and incredulous at his stupidity and/or bravery. I was on occasions also desperate for some respite from

Tartt's harsh depictions of modern-day America. *The Goldfinch* demands your attention, it sometimes shouts and screams with the pain of grief not dealt with and the inevitable self-destruction and shame that ensues. And while the ending isn't the strongest, Tartt gives us such a fantastic ride to get there; it didn't seem like too much of an anti-climax.

So to conclude, folk are always telling me they have no time to read and then profess an addiction to Gogglebox and Strictly (or was that me speaking..?). *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt is a book definitely worth turning the telly off for.

Go Set a Watchman



The book to be reviewed for the next issue is *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee. Join us in the book club read and send us your views.

Maggie Magor

Callander Library

Reading Group

As well as the regular book recommendation for BLV readers, I've started a bookgroup in the library on the 2nd last Tuesday of every month at 1.30pm. It's a very informal group, so if you like to read and fancy a chat and a cuppa, please come along, all are welcome.

Bookweek Scotland

Nov 23rd-29th is Bookweek Scotland. Please pop in sometime during the week to support your community library. As well as the scheduled groups we will be offering a free story and craft session (with a Scottish theme) on Sat 28th Nov at 11am, for ages 3-7 yrs.

Everyone is always welcome in the library. We provide everything from DVD hire, public computers and local history resources to ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, free pc lessons, advice on how to use your device and of course, books!

See you at the Movies!

Callander Film Society's new season kicks off on Saturday 16th October, so there is still plenty of time to sign up for one of the best bargains in town: 11 contemporary films for £22 and 5 classics for £10. Or join both for only £27. The form was in the last issue of the *Ben Ledi View*, or pick up a leaflet at the Library. Or contact Eammon on 01877 339323 or callanderfilmsociety@yahoo.co.uk.

Our opening film, the acclaimed 'The Theory of Everything', is based on the book by astrophysicist Stephen Hawking's wife and tells the story of their life together. On October 24th we're screening 'Boyhood' which uniquely follows the same cast over 12 years as the main character, a child called Mason, grows up.

'Kumiko' on November 7th is the story of a Japanese woman who goes in search of the satchel of money buried in the film ' Fargo' and on November 21st 'Selma' chronicles three months in 1965 with Martin Luther King on the equal rights march from Selma to Montgomery.

The November classic on Friday 13th November, is 'The African Queen', one of the best loved adventure movies starring Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn thrown together on a river journey in WWI.

We're delighted to be back in the former St Kessog's in Ancaster Square for the contemporary programme on Saturday evenings, thanks to the Clanranald Trust. Classics are once again in The Waverley Hotel on Fridays. All screenings start at 7.30 and visitors are always welcome for £4 at the door.

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

Playing in the rain

'Concert cancelled' looked as if it would become the theme for our 2015 summer series. Wind rather than rain was the problem on 16th July, and it threatened to disrupt the Summerfest concert on Sunday 26th. Thanks to Lynne Schroder we had a pair of gazebos to keep off the rain which was forecast, but we had to tether them to trees, benches and heavy weights in the Square. The concert went ahead with our music firmly pegged to the music stands, and we had a good, if windswept, audience.

Rain stopped play on Saturday 1st August when we were due to visit Loch Katrine, but the following Saturday was bright and dry for our concert at Loch Lomond Shores. And on Thursday 13th August we had a lovely evening in Ancaster Square, with quite a few visitors from other bands coming along to join us. The final concert of the summer series was on Saturday 22nd August with an excellent audience enjoying a pleasant afternoon, and was followed by a barbecue at our President's house.



Callander Brass playing on Saturday 22nd August, taken by Kath Millar.

Now we're back to regular Thursday evening practices. The Christmas Carol books will soon be coming out for our annual date at Dobbies in October, and on November 7th we hope to compete in the Borders Brass Festival contest at Langholm. We'll also be taking part in the Remembrance Sunday parade on 8th November. And we'll be playing at the switch-on of the Christmas lights at the end of the month.

Looking further ahead, our Coffee and Carols morning is on Saturday 12th December in the Kirk Hall: a date for your diary.

Alma Cadzow

Rusty Strings Concert

21st November 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Rusty Strings is delighted to announce that our guest speaker/entertainer this year will be Callander's own Ian Milligan. This is a concert not to be missed, as Ian has had a varied and fruitful life as a musician, wearing a number of different hats. It will be extremely interesting to hear Ian's stories and his playing too (no doubt with a little help from Margaret)



Ian and Margaret

Our charity this year is *Kidney Kids - Scotland*. This charity was formed in 2000 to help children and their families cope with living with serious kidney problems, including dialysis and transplants. *Kidney Kids* also raise money to fund much-needed equipment, and has been instrumental in developing the Paediatric Renal Network in Scotland. Once again, this is a charity close to Director Jean Thewlis's heart, as her eldest son, Andrew, has had kidney problems from birth. Although this has been the case, Andrew is now very fit and will be singing at the concert!

This year we are planning to try playing on stage in order to make our visibility to the audience a bit more prominent. This may work - it may not! Come along anyway and hear the very varied programme of light classics with a smattering of Scottish music, and a dose of your own Ian Milligan. And of course, the interval will be liberally endowed with home baking from members, friends and the Amy Morrison/Eilidh Dillon Catering Team. Tickets will be available from members in the near future and posters with concert details will be flooding Callander a few weeks before the concert. For enquiries about tickets or the concert or Rusty Strings-tel. Ron or Jean on 01877 331759.

Jean Thewlis

What's on in October and November

REGULAR MEETINGS

Mondays

- Yoga (adults) 9.30-11.00am Kirk Hall
- Scrabble 2.00pm Teith Room, Dreadnought Hotel (1st and 3rd Mon)
- Highland Dancing 4.00pm Kirk Hall (not 12th October)
- Zumba fitness class 7.00pm Kirk Hall
- Stretch out & relax yoga 7.00pm Waverley Hotel
- Poker 7.30pm Crags Hotel

Tuesdays

- Craigard Club 10.00am Kirk Hall (not 13th October)
- Walk in the Park 10.20 am (check meeting place in detailed listing. All walks are G,S & B)
- Strength & balancing 2.00pm Fire Station
- Family Yoga 5.00-6.00pm Kirk Hall
- ESOL classes Beginners English and Writing Skills (separate groups) 6.00pm McLaren High School
- Army Cadet Force training 7.00pm Kirk Hall
- Badminton Club 7.30pm Leisure Centre
- Dominoes 7.30pm Crags Hotel

Wednesdays

- Callander Kids 9.30am Kirk Hall
- Teapot café 10.30am Kirk Hall
- Bridge Club 6.50pm Waverley Hotel
- Guides 7.00pm St Andrew's Church Hall (not 14th October)
- Dog training 7.00pm Bridgend Youth Hub
- Song Squad 7.15-9.15pm Fire Station
- Darts 7.30pm Crags Hotel

Thursdays:

- Scottish Country Dancing 7.00pm Masonic Hall
- Texas Hold 'Em Poker 7.30pm Waverley Hotel
- Callander Brass practice 7.30pm Primary School
- Yoga (adults) 7.30.00-9.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Fridays:

- Craigard Club 10.30am Kirk Hall (not 16th October)
- Quiz night 7.30pm Crags Hotel

Saturdays:

- Trossachs Tigers Training 9.15-10.00am McLaren Leisure Centre

OCTOBER

Friday 2nd

- Callander Medical Centre Flu Vaccine Clinic 8.30am-5.30pm both practices
- Jazz & Blues Festival 2nd-4th www.callanderjazz.com

Saturday 3rd

- Ramblers Hill: Ben A'an circuit 8.30am Ancaster Square (contact 01877 376212)
- Rotary Club Bottle Stall from 10.00am Ancaster Square
- Swimming Gala McLaren Leisure Centre

Sunday 4th

- All-Age Jazz service 11.15am Callander Kirk followed by Jazz Street Parade

Tuesday 6th

- Walk in the Park Active Ageing Day 10.20am walk Meadows Car Park 11.00am CYP Bridgend

Wednesday 7th

- Ramblers Ramble: Cochno and Loch Humphrey 9.30am (contact 01786 841240)

Thursday 8th

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall
- Heritage Society talk by Neil Cameron on Callander's Landscape Heritage Project 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Friday 9th

- Forth Valley U3A talk on Mercy Ships 2.00pm Mayfield Centre Stirling

Saturday 10th

- Skidaddle Autumn 10K race
- Film Society 'The Theory of Everything' 7.30pm St Kessog's

Monday 12th

- Leny Practice closed all day
- Community Council meet 7.30pm Burgh Chambers

Tuesday 13th

- Walk in the Park to Strathyre Forest Cabins 10.20am Meadows Car Park (car share)

Wednesday 14th

- Ramblers Stroll: Mystery Stroll 9.30am Ancaster Square (contact

01786 841240)

- Photo Club meet 7.30pm Waverley Hotel

Thursday 15th

- Kirk Guild 2.00pm Kirk Hall
- Ladies Circle 8.00pm Waverley Hotel

Friday 16th

- German-speaking group meet 7.00pm 'Ardess' 24 Bridgend

Tuesday 20th

- Medical Centre Training Day both practices closed
- Walk in the Park to Keltie Bridge meet 10.20am at Medical Centre
- Arthritis Club talk by Dr Isabel Gibson 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Thursday 22nd

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall
- SWT talk on 'Otter Ecology & Conservation' 7.30pm Kirk Hall
- CCC and CCDT joint public meeting 7.00pm CYP Bridgend

Saturday 24th

- Film Society 'Boyhood' 7.30pm St Kessog's

Tuesday 27th

- Walk in the Park Bracklinn Falls or Meadows 10.20am Meadows car park (car share)
- Arthritis Club Quiz Night 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Thursday 29th

- Kirk Guild 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Saturday 31st

- Ramblers Hill: Ben Venue 8.30 am Ancaster Square (contact 01877 382924)
- Royal British Legion Poppy Saturday Ancaster Square.

NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd

- CYP AGM time tba

Tuesday 3rd

- Walk in the Park NCR towards Kilmahog Health walk + Nordic walk (10.00am) Meadows car park

Wednesday 4th

- Kirk Guild coffee morning 10.30am in Kirk Hall Library
- Ramblers Ramble: Doune to Callander 9.30am Ancaster Square

What's on is sponsored by
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Information Centres
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What's on in October and November (contd.)

(contact 01877 330105)

Thursday 5th

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Saturday 7th

- CHAS coffee morning 10.30am to 12.30pm Kirk Hall
- Film Society 'Kumiko the Treasure Hunter' 7.30pm St Kessog's

Sunday 8th

- Remembrance Day service and parade from 10.45am Callander Kirk
- Callander Jazz Club Gig 3.00pm-6.00pm Dreadnought Hotel

Monday 9th

- Community Council meet 7.30pm Burgh Chambers

Tuesday 10th

- Walk in the Park Kilmahog to Leny Falls 10.20am Meadows car park (car share)
- **Ben Ledi View copy deadline 7.00pm**
- SWT talk on 'RSPB's All Nature Programme: not just birds' 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Wednesday 11th

- Ramblers Hill/Ramble: Wether Hill & West Craigs 9.30am (contact 01786 825877)
- Photo Club meet 7.30pm Waverley Hotel

Thursday 12th

- Kirk Guild 2.00pm Kirk Hall
- Heritage Society talk by Malin Heen-Allan on Clan Ranald 2.00pm Kirk Hall Library

Friday 13th

- German-speaking group meet 7.00pm 'Ardess' 24 Bridgend
- Film Society (Classic series) 'The African Queen' 7.30pm Waverley Hotel

Saturday 14th

- Christmas Fayre 12 noon Golf Club

Tuesday 17th

- Walk in the Park Loch Venachar or Meadows 10.20am Meadows car park (car share)
- Arthritis Club talk by Carole Anderson of Age Scotland 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Thursday 19th

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Saturday 21st

- St Andrew's Church Christmas Fayre 10.00am-2.00pm Kirk Hall
- Ramblers Stroll: Blair Drummond circuit 9.30am (contact 01786 384227)
- Film Society 'Selma' 7.30pm St Kessog's
- Rusty Strings Concert 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Monday 23rd

- Blood Donating Session 4.00-

7.30pm Kirk Hall

Tuesday 24th

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

Wednesday 25th

- Medical Centre Training Day both practices closed

Thursday 26th

- Kirk Guild 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Saturday 28th

- Bookweek story session (3-7yrs) 11.00am Library
- Winterfest market, parade and Christmas lights from 11.00am Ancaster Square

Sunday 29th

- Community Christmas Breakfast 8.30am- 1.30pm CYP Bridgend

DECEMBER

Tuesday 1st

- Walk in the Park

Wednesday 2nd

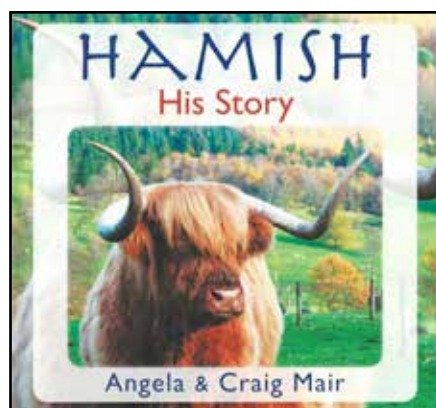
- Ramblers Ramble: Strathyre Forest Loop 9.30am (contact 01877 384227) Ancaster Square

Thursday 3rd

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Friday 4th

- **Ben Ledi View published**



This book is an account of Hamish, the world-famous Highland bullock who lived at the Trossachs Woollen Mill, Kilmahog. The book recounts Hamish's entire life, from birth on Mull to his death last November at Kilmahog, and includes over 100 photos and intimate stories, mostly obtained from people in and around Callander who knew Hamish well.

Hamish first came to public notice in 1996 when used by the Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Stirling, to promote an exhibition of paintings of Highland cattle by Victorian artist

Joseph Denovan Adam, and where he became a public sensation.

During this time the BSE crisis of July 1996 occurred and Hamish was designated to be slaughtered. The book's author Angela Stewart led a successful national campaign to save Hamish. The bullock thus became a national celebrity and went on to take part in many public events - everything from being Chieftain of the Callander World Highland Games to appearing in the TV show Taggart, pulling Santa's sleigh at Stirling, visiting a pub at Gartmore, and many more.

When put out to graze in retirement at Kilmahog in 2003, he turned instead into a world-wide phenomenon when more and more tourist buses began to stop at the woollen mill. Soon he was an obligatory stop for every tour and backpacker bus company, and quickly gained over 5000 followers from many foreign countries on his Facebook page. He was unquestionably one of Scotland's greatest icons until his death in November 2014. *Craig Mair*



Callander Medical Centre

Both Practices

Training

The surgeries and community nurses take part in various training programmes throughout the year. This is to meet the educational and training needs of all members of the practice and nursing team.

The next training afternoons will be on:

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

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

Public holiday

- Monday 12th October

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

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

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

Leny Practice

Shingles Vaccination reminder

If you are 70, 78 or 79 years old as at 1 September 2015, you are entitled to the shingles vaccination as part of the Scottish Governments catch-up immunisation programme (with the aim everyone in their 70s will eventually be vaccinated). The effectiveness of the vaccine declines with age and so it is not recommended for people aged 80 years or older.

Meningitis Vaccination

The new Meningitis ACWY programme has started which involves the immunisation of school leavers against meningitis. We would encourage anybody in this category who wishes to receive the vaccine to contact the surgery to make an appointment.

Unused medication

We are almost ready to send off yet another box of unused medicines to Africa as part of our sign up with the

UK charity InterCare. We cannot return medication that did not have an expiry date within the next 15 months or incomplete packs. We thank you for your continued support.

Shingles Awareness

As you will all be aware, it is that time of year for our local flu vaccination campaign. All those patients who are eligible for the flu vaccine are invited to attend the Open Day at Leny Practice on Friday 2nd October. However, many of you may not be aware of the vaccination campaign for shingles. It is often not appreciated that shingles is such a common disease with anything from one in four to one in three people in the UK developing shingles in their lifetime. Many people have suffered from shingles, including Roseanne Barr the comedian, who described the shingles pain as being worse than childbirth, President Nixon and the late Robin Williams. The point is that an outbreak of shingles can affect anybody, from film star to president to you and I. However, the vaccine does give protection and helps to reduce the incidence of post-herpetic neuralgia by increasing resistance to the shingles virus and this vaccine can be administered at the same time as your flu vaccine.

Many of us will have had chickenpox as a child, which is the same virus that causes shingles later on in life. This virus lurks in our bodies in the background, but as we get older it can re-emerge as a painful, blistering rash which can affect any part of the body. Though shingles can be very painful and uncomfortable, it is often the pain after the initial rash has healed that causes the biggest problems. This pain is called post-herpetic neuralgia and can take months to years to settle down, and is often the bane of many people's lives. For this reason we have a shingles vaccination campaign and this year we are inviting people aged 70 and 78, who are eligible for the vaccine. I would encourage you to get your shingles vaccine at the same time as your flu vaccine if you are eligible and just as the old adage says; there

is no gain without pain. For a small amount of pain, there may be an enormous gain and certainly a lot less pain! So if you are not sure whether you are eligible for the shingles vaccine, please contact the practice. Come along for your flu vaccine and shingles vaccine on Friday 2nd October from 8.30am till 5.30pm.

Meningitis

The recent good news about new vaccines for meningitis for babies and students. At the charity Meningitis Now we welcome this news but we also want to issue a warning as the new school year starts against complacency towards the disease. These new vaccines do not mean meningitis is beaten and we would urge parents, students and teachers to be vigilant to the signs and symptoms and download our free mobile app or request a symptoms card.

Meningitis is a disease that can kill within hours, so knowledge of the symptoms, vigilance and quick action are vital. The meningitis risk increases during the colder months as people spend more time indoors, closer to others; meaning germs are spread more easily. Fighting common infections like colds and flu weakens immune systems, leaving them more vulnerable to the disease. It can be a difficult disease to spot as many of its early symptoms can be similar to those of flu.

Symptoms can include fever with cold hands and feet, vomiting, headache, stiff neck, dislike of bright light, joint or muscle pain, pale blotchy skin, drowsiness and confusion, and in babies, a dislike of being handled, an unusual cry, rapid breathing and bulging fontanelle. Adults and children may also have a rash that does not fade under pressure. Symptoms can appear in any order and some may not appear at all. Our advice is not to wait for a rash, the symptom most commonly associated with meningitis. This doesn't always appear and can appear late. If concerned, seek urgent medical attention.

Walk in the park



training on technique before taking a Nordic Walk along the cycle track and back. The walk ends with a short session of cool down and stretching exercises. All our walks are free of charge and walking poles will be provided. It is not necessary to book for this but if you would like to contact the Project Coordinator with your name and height we can make sure we have the correct size of poles for you.

The group have enjoyed their summer walk programme, although the weather has been very wet. The photo shows some of the group on one of the sunnier days, admiring the beautiful wild flowers on the path from Ancaster Road to North Church Street. The summer evening walks on a Wednesday have been well attended and although they have finished for the winter, they will return again in the spring. Tuesday morning walks continue through the autumn when we hope to enjoy the stunning autumn colours of the countryside in this National Park that we are so fortunate to live in. The Strength and Balance sessions continue in the Fire Station at 2.00pm on Tuesdays. Designed for older adults these simple exercises are helping participants to walk more confidently by keeping joints and muscles in good working order. One person said that they can now reach up into a high cupboard which they had difficulty doing before. Just a simple ankle flex exercise has made all the difference. For more active members we are now introducing Nordic Walking into our main Tuesday morning walks once a month. The walk will take place on Tuesday 3rd of November meeting at the Meadows Car Park at 10.00am. Walking with specially designed poles these walks give you a full body workout whilst taking the pressure of hips and knees. Trained by British Nordic Walking, our Lomond Coordinator Stella will be pleased to welcome any new walkers who would like to join the group. Whether you have experienced a Nordic Walk before or you would just like to give it a go, this session will start with warm up exercises and some

Active Ageing Day

Tuesday 6th October 10.20am – 1.00pm

This event is a **Focus on Falls Prevention** in conjunction with Active Ageing Events throughout Forth Valley as part of Older Peoples Week. Walk in the Park and ReACH team will be supporting this event together.

Meeting at the Meadows Car Park at 10.20am we will have a Health Walk along the cycle track towards Kilmahog and back. Walk Leaders will walk with you at a pace and distance that is right for you on the day.

From 11.15am at the Callander Youth Project there will be refreshments and activities on offer throughout the morning. Come for as many or as little as you want to. This event is free although tea coffee and tray bakes are £2.50 a head.

Activities on offer:

- Strength and Balance (Otago exercise), a chance to chat with a physiotherapist,
- Scottish Country Dancing,
- Tai Chi,
- Slipper Exchange – bring your old baffies and get a new pair of free.
- Living it Up stall for news of more activities in your area.

If you have experienced a fall or have a fear of falling this event is for you. However there will be something for everyone. Hope to see you there.

If you have any questions about joining in any of our walks or exercise sessions please contact the Walk in the Park Coordinator - Cathy Scott [01877 330055](tel:01877 330055) or send an email to: cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Cook's Corner

by Audrey Corrieri

October/November

CORNERED BEEF HASH (serves 4)

Ingredients:

700g floury potatoes cut into 2.5cm cubes
2tbsp olive oil
2 red onions, sliced
340g tin corned beef, roughly chopped
1½tbsp Worcestershire sauce
1tbsp wholegrain mustard
1 handful parsley, roughly chopped
4 eggs

Method:

In a pan of water, boil potatoes until just tender. Do not over-cook. Drain well and set aside.

Heat most of the oil in a large, non-stick frying pan over a medium heat, and fry the onions until they begin to caramelise. Push the onions to one side of the pan and, in the other side, add the cooked potatoes and fry until golden brown, turning carefully. Add the corned beef and continue cooking, turning all the ingredients together. Add the Worcestershire sauce, mustard, parsley and plenty of seasoning and fold through.

Heat remaining oil in a separate frying pan and fry the eggs sunny side up.

Divide the corned beef hash on to 4 serving plates and serve with a fried egg on top of each.

(Great idea for brunch.)



GIVE BLOOD

The next Scotblood visit to Callander is Monday 23rd November 4.00pm-7.30pm at Callander Kirk Hall
Please come along and give blood for this vital part of the NHS.

TALK TO US

If things are getting to you.

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

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01324 622066* (Local)

jo@samaritans.org

www.samaritans.org

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What Do You Think?

In this issue I would like to start by following up on the subject I brought up last time - Litter. I have had some letters on this from you which in general are saying that there can be a litter problem in Callander. There is a like mindedness, in that the problem is most severe after a busy day, and that in those circumstances the bins, on the Meadows especially, are not sufficient or not large enough. It does appear therefore that a large part of the problem could be reduced by installing larger or more bins. This does not come across, however, as the whole problem, as it is also thought that any bins installed have to be bird proof. The local crows etc. have become quite adept at raiding the litter bins for left over food which results in papers and polystyrene containers strewn all over the ground around the bins. A general feeling is also that polystyrene containers should be banned from use as they are not biodegradable, take up a lot of room in the bins. and are easily spread around by crows or wind. Not being a great fan of these containers myself I tend to agree, but do not know whether there is legislation on the books at the moment which would allow them to be banned, Oh for the days when they were wrapped in a Sunday Post, especially if it was the Broons or Oor Wullie pages - something to read as you ate, but I digress - back to the subject. It has also been suggested that 'Keep Callander Tidy' or 'Litter Free Zone' signs be erected at strategic places in the town. Would they work? My own feeling is that they would not solve the problem but could help reduce it.

So where do we go from here? The council, Stirling and Community, should get together and look at more or larger bins, especially round the Meadows, They should be bird resistant and a few litter signs would not go amiss either. The fast food outlets should get together and agree to phasing out polystyrene containers in favour of



biodegradable ones that don't fill the bins as much (Sunday Post - other newspapers are available) and we, the people who live in Callander should not leave litter.

Will these things happen? - I am not holding my breath whilst waiting. The one thing all were agreed on was that Colin and his fellow workers do a very good job in looking after the streets of Callander in difficult and sometimes impossible situations.

So apart from the follow up on litter what else has got on my goat recently? Well some of you may have noticed a month or so back that I spent a considerable amount of time on a scaffold tower on the front of my house removing the old paint from the walls. and as I worked there I was struck by the considerable side wind that hit me, the tower and especially the tarpaulin whenever any large truck went by. This coupled with the fact that it is impossible to keep windows, paintwork or outside walls clean because of the dust that gets deposited by every passing vehicle, made me wonder what sort of damage could be getting done to the buildings that are right on the pavement on Main Street and Bridgend.

I had heard that as the trucks have been getting larger and heavier there has been more and more damage to the infrastructure, i.e. sewers, water supplies etc. I don't know how accurate these anecdotal statements are - does anyone know? But after being buffeted by these winds I find it hard to believe there is not some damage being caused. What is the solution?

Take the trucks out of Callander - This is the only full solution and the only way to achieve that would be to build a bypass and in the present economic climate that is not going to happen. So my compromise/ semi-solution would be to slow them down. There should be a 20mph speed limit the length of Main Street and Bridgend. My only question is, would that cause other problems - extra air pollution maybe? What do you think? Trucks have steadily been getting larger and heavier over the years with a standard articulated lorry now up to 16.5 metres and weighing up to 44 tons, more if it has a trailer. And this moving at 30mph has a lot of inertia and must cause problems. Slowing them down to 20mph must have benefits, but does it bring problems?

Let me know – Is a 20mph speed limit a solution, or would it cause other problems? Are there other solutions that I have not thought of and which would give better results?

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

John Nelson



...Heavy Trucks in Callander?

Catch a shooting star this autumn!

Look up at the Callander night sky this October and November and you will have the chance of seeing no less than three meteor showers. A meteor shower is seen when some of the tiny dust-sized pieces of comet particles enter the earth's atmosphere and burn up due to friction with our atmosphere creating a 'shooting star' trail across the night sky

You won't see 'fireworks' in the sky or a hundred meteors per hour raining down from space, but you might see a meteor every few minutes with often long periods with nothing happening. Meteor watching requires patience!

First up this autumn is the Orionid meteor shower which will be at its peak on 20th-21st October. It is a medium intensity meteor shower and it is sometimes possible to see about 25 meteors per hour. The Orionids occur when Earth passes through a stream of debris which has been left behind by Halley's Comet. The meteors of the Orionid shower appear to fall from above the star Betelgeuse, the bright orange star marking the shoulder of the constellation Orion. The best viewing times are usually from midnight to 2.00 am.

The Taurid meteors are sometimes called the 'Hallowe'en fireballs', and show up each year between mid-October and mid-November. These meteors will peak on November 12th and this year it is likely that bright fireballs will be seen as the Earth will pass through larger particles of debris.

The Leonid meteor shower is the most famous meteor shower of the year and can be seen on 17th-18th November. This meteor shower is visible towards the constellation Leo. During the Leonid meteor shower, Earth will pass through a stream of debris left behind by comet Tempel-Tuttle. Usually, you can see 10-15 meteors per hour. In the past, the Leonid meteor shower produced some of the greatest meteor storms in written history. In 1966, the Leonid meteor shower rate was as high as a few thousands of meteors per hour and meteors were indeed falling like



rain but presently it is showing a much weaker rate.

Keith Wilson

Wildflowers return

This spring, Stirling Council sowed over 7,000 square metres of wildflowers. The Council's previous headquarters at New Viewforth in the city centre were demolished last year and have been replaced by a carpet of wildflowers. A meadow by Stirling Bridge, planted around an arboretum of native trees, continues the green 'corridor' of Gowan Hill and has been a feature for the last two years.



Stirling Council works closely in partnership with *On the Verge*, a Stirling-based project encouraging the sowing of wildflower seeds and the planting of nectar rich plants in and around the city.

On the Verge founder Leigh Biagi said: 'Stirling Council has supported the project from the beginning by undertaking sowing of their own, amounting to thousands of square metres throughout Stirlingshire.'

Deborah Kilpatrick

Out and about in Callander

New Kid On The Block?

John Kerr photographed this lovely mandarin duck on the River Teith in August. Did you know that Mandarins are one of the few duck species which are not hunted for food as apparently they taste really bad?



Wildlife woodland carving

This beautiful woodland carving took up residence outside the Police Station recently.



Sculpted by skilled chainsaw carvers, it has made use of felled wood giving it a second life. The carving is based on Callander's rich countryside heritage and features the River Teith and its abundant wildlife including a salmon swimming upstream. The work was completed by Stirling Council to add something extra to the outdoors experience.



Why not take a look at this fantastic new feature and see how many wild animals you can find carved on its surface?

Keith Wilson

Horticultural Show winners

It was great to see new names in the list of prize winners this year, alongside the faithful few who regularly support Callander and District Horticultural Show. The Kirk Hall held beautiful displays of flowers, pot plants, vegetables, fruits, crafts, baking and photographs for all to enjoy.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

Confined Flowers - Janet Greenfield,

Confined Vegetables – Fiona Murphy

Floral Art – Janet Greenfield

Industrial – Allyson Coakes

Open Flowers - Alena Watt

Open Vegetables – Norman McBean

Marshall Rose Bowl - Most Meritorious Exhibit: Alena Watt

Callander Cottage Cup - Most points in Confined section: Fiona Murphy

Society's Challenge Shield - Most points Confined Flowers: Janet Greenfield

Tom Beith Cup - Most points in Confined Vegetables: Sarah Hatton

Roman Camp Challenge - Most points in cut flowers in Open section:

Jim Allan

Esher Cup - Most points in Open Vegetables: Iain Berry

Cambusmore Rose Bowl - Vase of 5 roses: Robert Vanhegan

Abertay Cup - Most points in Floral Art: Jacquie Fingland

Paterson Cup - Most meritorious in the Industrial section: Allyson Coakes

Stainton Cup - Most points in Industrial section - Annette Cooper

Campbell's Shortbread Cup: Alena Watt

Teith Cup - (biggest onion by weight): Iain Berry

Jean Adie Quaich - Most points in Open Sweet Peas: Jim Allan

Bob Pywell Quaich - Most meritorious exhibit in Confined section:

Janet Greenfield

Bob McDougall Cup - Best tomato entry in show: Fiona Murphy

Inga Cummins Salver - Best rose in confined section: Alena Watt

Children's Cup - Most points in Children's section: Eve Hatton

Roslin Cottage Cup - Best plant entry: Skye Hatton



Photo: Anne Docherty presents Jim Allan with his awards. A well deserved winner, Jim has been a Stalwart of the Show for many years.

Callander Primary School children, with help from parents and staff, have supported the show over many years providing wonderful and imaginative entries. This year they took a railway theme sewing wall hangings depicting the wonderful scenery passengers would have enjoyed on their train trips.

The winner of the Callander Community Cup for the Best Kept Garden was Mrs G. Rhymer, South Church Street. Second place went to Mrs Shirley Walker, Menteith Crescent and third to Mrs Jennifer Morris, Lubnaig Drive.

The small committee who put on the show could not do so without the many friends and volunteers who give their help each year, the judges for their sharing their expertise and, most of all, those who support the show with their entries.

Lucy Fraser-Gunn

Changing birds

This time of year sees many obvious changes in flowering plants and trees as we head into autumn. Also, over the last couple of months migrating birds have left us for warmer climes, very noticeably the local ospreys and swifts. However, the speaker at the first of this season's SWT talks, David Bryant, has been observing the changes in birds seen in central Scotland over a much longer period - the last 40 years.

David first informed the group of some of the notable changes in bird populations from the 1970s to the present. When he first arrived, capercaillie still existed on Flanders Moss and corncrake could be heard at Carse of Lecropt (both species now missing from our area). In contrast, ospreys were absent and other raptors extremely scarce.



David told the group that gauging the change in bird

populations was only possible through a long tradition of recording birds. This includes long term studies on single species and habitats. The national bird atlases produced every 20 years also provide a valuable record of the changes in bird population trends.

In the last century several species of bird have arrived in central Scotland such as the collared dove, Canada goose and nuthatch. Other species have declined, such as the grey partridge, or disappeared, such as the corn bunting.

So what drives changes in bird populations? There are many factors which include changes in agriculture, persecution, habitat management, reintroductions and now climate change.

Professor Bryant outlined some possible outcomes for the future. Species such as the little egret, reed warbler and bearded tit could become established in our wetlands perhaps, encouraged by climate change.

Kevin Duffy

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The National Trust for Scotland - Stirling Members' Centre

The programme of events for the Winter/Spring Season 2015-2016 begins on Thursday October 22nd at 7.30p.m. in the Mayfield Centre, Stirling. There will be a short AGM followed by an illustrated talk by Dr. David Caldwell on 'The Real Robinson Crusoe: the strange adventures of a man from Fife'.

There will be a further 5 meetings at roughly monthly intervals. These will take place in the afternoons, mid-week, at 2.30pm in St. Ninian's Church Hall, Stirling. Subjects of talks range from 'Stickmaking' (an account of the art of crook making) to 'Scots - a Silent Tongue' (a plea for more interest in the richness of Lallans). Also included is a programme by the Stirling & District Camera Club and, in the New Year, another given by Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers.

Full details of the Members Centre, its programmes, membership, and recent events are all in our web page www.spanglefish.com/ntsstirling.

Royal British Legion Scotland - Callander Branch

Our annual bottle stall was held in Ancaster Square on Saturday 18th July and raised £430 for funds. The senior citizens outing to North Berwick which was scheduled for 12th August unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. This was most probably due to the poor weather this year, not encouraging folk to go on day trips. Hope next year's better.

REMEMBRANCE will soon be upon us and poppies will be on sale later in October. Poppy Saturday in Ancaster Square this year is the 31st October. Remembrance Sunday is the 8th of November and the annual united service will be in Callander Kirk followed by the parade to Ancaster Square for the laying of wreaths. Legion members will be in the Square at 11am on Wednesday 11th November for a short ceremony. We hope to see as many people as possible on both days.

FINALLY AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE - the local branch is

struggling through lack of support and there is a real possibility that we may have to give up. Membership has fallen and we have only 9 dedicated committee members, all ranging in age from late 70s to 90+, upon whose shoulders the entire task of organising fund raising events falls. Even so, we have each year for several years, raised and donated £3,000 to charity. We have often appealed for more, and hopefully younger, folk to come forward and join us but so far to no avail. At the A.G.M. in December 4 committee members, including the president and treasurer, will be standing down. If these posts are not filled we are in serious trouble. Do you want the branch to continue?

Our **A.G.M.** is on Wednesday 16th December at 2pm in the Masonic Hall when tea, coffee and Christmas pies will be served. Please come and join us so that we can continue with our work for our armed forces and their dependants.

Kenny Morrison

Callander & District Arthritis Club

Callander and District Arthritis Club will meet on 20th October at Callander Kirk Hall at 7.30pm to listen to a talk with pictures about the trip to India that Dr. Isabel Gibson made two years or so ago. Then the following week, on 27th October, we will have our Quiz Night, same time and same place. A donation from the proceeds will go to Yorkhill Hospital for Children with Arthritis. On the November meeting, Tuesday 17th, we have Caroline Anderson from Age Scotland coming to tell all about it. This meeting will also be in the Kirk Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors are always most welcome.

Fiona Snow, Secretary

British Heart Foundation

Senga in the British Heart Foundation shop on Main Street in Callander desperately needs your unwanted things. We can provide a free collection from your home or work, by simply calling the shop and speaking to one of our wonderful team.

Out of every pound spent, the BHF invests 81p pence to help fight heart disease through research, prevention and care. Here are some examples of how your donation, however big or small, can help:

•£10 will pay for all the test-tubes, glassware, pipette tips and gloves a busy team of scientists will use in a day.

•£30 pays for a Heart start schools training pack which provides teachers with a specialised Emergency Life Support skills package to teach children what to do in a life-threatening emergency.

•One dress could raise £10 in the Callander shop to help fight for every heartbeat.

RNLI Trossachs Branch

We are pleased to advise our supporters that we will be holding our Savoury Supper on Friday 26th February 2016 at the CYPT Bridgend Callander. Full details will be in the next edition of *BLV*. RNLI Christmas cards and calendars are available from Fiona Gibson (tel. 331508) and Callander Library.

Dudley Robertson Hon Sec

Callander Photo Club

Please join us as we begin our third full season as Callander Photo Club. Our goal is to assist anyone who is interested in photography as they learn to use their cameras and to process and appreciate their photos. We are friendly and non-techy and welcome anyone with any type of camera and equipment. Our meetings include presentations, workshops and field trips.

Membership for the year is £12.00 with £1.00 dues per meeting. Guests are welcome at £3.00 per meeting.

Callander Photo Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm at the Waverley Hotel on Callander Main Street.

On 14th October - bring along 3 untouched photos to process in Lightroom, topic word - 'REFLECTION'.

11th November - plans TBA, topic word - 'TWO'.

9th December - plans TBA, topic word - 'FESTIVE'.

Eammon O'Boyle

Forth Valley U3A

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Buchlyvie	Drymen	Kinlochard	Stronachlachar
Callander	Gargunnoch	Kippen	Tyndrum

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

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You are warmly invited to come along to hear about the charity called Mercy Ships on Friday 9th October at 2.00pm, in the Mayfield Centre, St Ninians, Stirling. The ship has a team of nurses, doctors, surgeons, and other crew members from all over the world, donating their time and skills on board the world's largest non-governmental floating hospital.

'Excuse me, what was that you said?' How many times do you say that? Forth Valley U3A are holding an open meeting for anyone who would like to know more about hearing loss. There will be two talks, *Hearing Loss and You* followed by *All Ears*. The meeting is on Friday November 6th, 2.00pm in the Mayfield Centre, St Ninians, Stirling.

After the talks there will be coffee, tea and delicious home baking plus the opportunity to talk with FVU3A members. You'll be made most welcome. *Margaret Blue*



Volunteers needed for Strathcarron Hospice Shop, Callander

We are looking for people of any age to work in the shop a few hours a week with other friendly local volunteers to raise money for the hospice. No experience of shop work required.

Please call into the shop for a chat or call 01877 331549

CHAS

Our bottle stall held on a wet Saturday raised £474. The Christmas coffee morning will be held in the Kirk Hall on Saturday 7th November from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Entry will be £2.00.

Fiona House 330103

St Andrew's Christmas Fayre Saturday 21st November

10.00am - 2.00pm at Callander Kirk Hall.

Come for morning coffee, lunch or both! Home baking, tea/coffee, soup, toasties.

Tombola, craft stalls, gift stall, raffle, cake and candy stall. 50p entry (or donation) at door. Music provided by Callander Chimes 11.00am - 1.00pm.

This is St Andrew's Church's main fundraising event of the year, so please come and support our beautiful local church. *Ros Grant*

German Speaking Group

Das nächste Treffen der Gruppe wird am FREITAG 16. OKTOBER um 19.00 Uhr in 'Ardest', 24 Bridgend, Callander stattfinden.

Das vorgeschlagene Thema für unsere Diskussion an jenem Abend ist : Vor welchen Dingen hast Du Angst, auch wenn Du genau weißt, dass es eigentlich gar keinen Grund zum Fürchten gibt? Sei bitte fertig, die Frage ehrlich zu beantworten!

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

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

Falls Ihr Fragen dazu stellen wollt, ruft bitte Jen Shearer, 01877-330446 oder 07710-232908 (Handy) / oder Peter Mehta 01786-473768 oder 07950-046913 (Handy) an. Email: jenshearer@gmail.com. Wir freuen uns darauf Euch alle am 16. Oktober wieder bei uns begrüßen zu dürfen. NB Alle Teilnehmer sind gebeten, sich im Voraus bis Dienstag 13. Oktober bei Jen anzumelden, damit es genügend

Kuchen gibt!

PS Zu Eurer Kenntnisnahme: Das übernächste Treffen findet am Freitag 13. November 2015 statt. NB Bitte sag Jen für jenes Treffen bis Dienstag 10. November Bescheid, wenn Du mitmachen wirst. Dafür wird das Diskussionsthema im Voraus in einer Email angemeldet werden.

Jen Shearer

Callander and West Perthshire U3A

Our 3rd AGM and Enrolment Day took place at the end of August, attended by over 100 people, most returning members but also some 20 who were new to U3A. We are now at the start of our 4th year and are no longer the newest U3A in Scotland; 3 more have started up since we began and all are going strong. Our membership ranges far and wide from our base in Callander, encompassing villages to the south and west, from Kippen through Buchlyvie, Gartmore, Port of Menteith, Aberfoyle and Brig o'Turk; east to Doune, Deanston and Dunblane; north to Strathyre, Balquhidder, Lochearnhead and Killin. 25 different interest groups are on offer, details of which can be found on our website 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A' or you can ring the Secretary on 01360 850722. We welcome new members at any time.

Marguerite Kobs

Camphill Blair Drummond

Autumn Bazaar - The bazaar features over 30 different exhibitors, selling a wide range of unique and high quality gifts and presents which you won't see in the shops. It will be held over two days on the evening of 28th October from 4.00pm-7.30pm and on the 29th October from 10.00am-3.30pm. There is a £5 donation for entrance and canapés, and there will be teas, coffees and light lunches available to buy from the Camphill Bakery on the 29th October.

Advent Sale - Saturday 5th December 1.00pm - 4.00pm We are hosting our annual Advent Sale in the magnificent surroundings of Blair Drummond House. The sale features handmade gifts, wreaths and more, created jointly by the residents, day students, co-workers,



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Callander Golf Club

We are holding a Christmas Fayre at Callander Golf Club on the 14th November at 12.00 noon when The 125th Anniversary Prize Draw will be drawn. Raffle tickets are still available.

There will be Christmas Stalls including Glassware, Cards, Clothes, Jewellery, Knitting, Cosmetics, Home Baking and lots more.

Prizes are £500 cash, HD ready TV with free-view, Picnic Butler for four, International Rugby Tickets, Mini golf, Family Day Ticket Sailing on Loch Katrine, Golf and Fishing days, Meals out, and much, much more.

Tickets, which include a glass of Bubbly and nibbles cost £4.00. They are available from Callander Golf Club, The Daisy Chain and Scissor Sister. They are also available from committee members.

Ashley Rose, Ladies Captain

Co-Op launch local fund

Good causes across Scotland are set to 'bag' a funding boost of more than £750,000 as The Co-operative launches its Local Fund to share the money raised through carrier bag charges and sales in its food stores.

The community retailer is calling on local causes or community groups in Scotland interested in 'carrying' away a share of the Co-op Local Fund to apply online by Wednesday, 7th October.

It is envisaged that approaching 1,000 organisations and groups across Scotland will receive grants of between £200 and £2,500 from The Co-op Local Fund to make a difference in their community.

Then, between 16th November and 11th December, the Co-op will give its one million members in Scotland a chance to vote and have a say, from a shortlist of organisations, on how the fund will benefit local communities.

Barnardo's Scotland

Are you the unofficial events organiser of your friends? Why not put those planning skills to the test and host your very own event in aid of Barnardo's Scotland? Choose from a range of ready-made events such as Barnardo's Big Brunch, a Toddle or Ceilidh to celebrate Universal Children's Day. Or come up with your own unique idea. Whatever you choose, the charity will support you in your efforts – and if you don't fancy doing it alone, team up with some friends or Barnardo's Scotland can help you establish a fundraising group in your area. We will help you every step of the way,

Whatever option is right for you, visit www.barnardos.org.uk/get_involved to find it and you could contribute to the vital services Barnardo's Scotland provide in Stirling.

Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club

Summer is over and despite the weather the Rotary Club has had a busy and successful couple of months.

From 20th to 24th July Liz Campbell and her school of tremendous dancers did a great job putting on a display of Highland Dancing in Ancaster Square. Due to the weather we only managed a couple of full days and two part days. Despite that, thanks to the generosity of Callander residents and the few visitors who were about, we managed to raise just over £250 for good causes. We'd like to express our gratitude to Liz and her young charges and the piper for once again giving us their time.

July 30th was the Annual Charity Golf Day, the main sponsor this year being Woodside Pharmacy in Doune. Traditionally the weather remains good and this year was no exception. Fourteen teams entered this year, playing in the 'Shotgun' format, the first time we've adopted this approach.

The winners were:

- Men's Competition - The Ladebackers
- Ladies' Competition - Callander Golf Club Ladies
- Nearest the Hole at the 11th - Billy McNab
- Nearest the Hole at the 15th – Graham Logan

- Nearest the Hole at the 18th - Billy Stevenson
- Longest Drive at the 17th (Men) - Chris Halladay
- Longest Drive at the 17th (Ladies) – Penny Evans

Thanks to everyone who supported this event we're pleased to say we raised a total of just over £2,500 to distribute to Alzheimer Scotland and local charities and causes.

The following Saturday the inaugural Trossachs Summer Festival was held in weather that was anything but summery. Despite that, however, the event was well attended by local families and visitors. Our Rotary Club had an information stall, featuring a display of a Shelter Box and we had a number of people visiting us and asking for more information about Rotary.

We also ran a Junior Games for Primary School children consisting of four events - 'Chuckin' the Chicken', Quoits, an Obstacle Race and Throwing Beanbags in a Bucket. A goodly number of children took part throughout the day and the winner in each Primary School year received an Amazon Voucher as a prize. No sooner had the Junior Games finished than the 'heavens opened'. Nevertheless, the day seemed to be a great success thanks to the organisation of McLaren Community Leisure Centre.

Finally on 30th August we held the first Callander Rotary Football Challenge. In the first game the President Mark Wallace's Select played the Rotary Eleven, with the Rotary victorious by 7 to 4. The President's son, also Mark, captained the winning side and was presented with a new trophy, specially designed and made for the event by Callander Rotarian Michael Kay. It is hoped that the competition will become an annual event in the Callander calendar, being incorporated into the Callander Leisure Centre Summerfest.

Our next event is the Bottle Stall on the 3rd October to raise funds for local causes. We hope to see you there.

Derek House

(For photograph of the rugby winners, please see page 28.)

McLaren Community Leisure Centre



Autumn Activities October Kid's Camp

Monday 12th - Friday 16th October

This October Holidays we welcome back our fun filled Kids Camp. After an action packed summer it is now time to make sure that your child has a place secured for our Autumn Camp. Our Kids Camp is suitable for all primary school children, and includes a host of great activities.

Some of these activities include Swimming, Climbing, Sports, Team Games and much more. Our Kids Camps are hugely popular, meaning that spaces are limited so book now to make sure you don't miss out.

Aside from the holiday week, we will also be running our usual jam-packed schedule of kid's activities. These activities include Soccer School, Indoor Athletics, Climbing club, Swimming Lessons as well as our Obliterator sessions on a Friday evening.

Jog Scotland

At MCLC we also now run our very own Jog Scotland session for adults. This is an exhilarating yet social way to keep you in shape. Our instructor will take the group to different local jogging hotspots around Callander.

Trossachs Swim Academy

We are very excited to tell you about the launch of the new 'Trossachs Swim Academy'! This academy will incorporate the all new International Learn to Swim Programme created by the STA. It will offer a more detailed range of certificates to work towards and there are brilliant additional challenges too, including Synchro Swimming plus Lifeguarding for the

older swimmers, and mini challenges for younger swimmers. Each child will receive a progress booklet, and we will have regular swimming events throughout the year, as well as an annual swimming gala. We are all very excited for this new programme to start next term.

Emma Stewart

emma@mclarenleisure.co.uk

Fit for the Future Project Fuel Efficient Driving Course

Two fuel efficient driving courses will be taking place on Saturday 3rd October and Sunday 4th October. The course is approximately 50 minutes long and will start at McLaren Leisure Centre car park. There will be a car provided for you. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Home Energy Visits

With winter fast approaching why not get prepared with a FREE, impartial and in depth energy audit from Andy Cartwright, the Fit for the Future Project Officer, to advise on reducing gas and electricity consumption. This could help you save money and, where possible, insulate properties through Home Energy Scotland's insulation schemes. Also, for people interested, a 4 week loan of an energy monitor will be available.

For any further information please contact Andy on 07572203877 or andy@mclarenleisure.co.uk

Car-share scheme

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

Register at www.trossachsandteith.liftshare.com

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

Trossachs Summer Festival

This year's inaugural Trossachs Summer Festival was a great success, the Entertainment on the day was first class and we would like to thank Briarlands Farm for sponsoring the fantastic parade.

We would also like to thank all those who performed in the 'show ring', The 7 Stanes Mountain Bike Display Team for their excellent performances, Campbell's School of Highland Dancing and the Callander Pipe Band for their stunning displays, Harry, 'The Ginger Juggler' from Walking on Water for his awesome juggling skills, Carla and the Girls from Dance Connection, whose performances were so good it made everyone watching want to join in too!

There were brilliant prizes provided for our competitions too, including: A Season Pass for Briarlands Farm, Deanston Single Malt Whisky and Distillery Tours, a Family Pass for Blair Drummond Safari Park plus vouchers from Waverley Hotel and Riverside.

We also had invaluable help by volunteers on the day from the Callander and District Round Table, Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club, Callander Development Trust and other willing friends and family without whom the event would not have happened and we are truly grateful.

This year's event had funding support from The Big Lottery Awards For All programme, MCLC, Callander Development Trust and parade sponsorship from Briarlands Farm, without which the event would not be possible.

We would finally like to say a huge thank you to everyone who had a stall or marquee at the event and, of course, to everyone who attended the event.

David Gordon-McWhirter
Marketing Manager

davidg@mclarenleisure.co.uk

McLaren Community Leisure Centre

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

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Callander River Festival



Kayakers at river festival courtesy of Emily Anderson.

On Sunday 30th August Callander hosted the festival sponsored by Skiddadle. The day started off rather wet but the crowds slowly trickled down to the river side.

The Stirling and Falkirk canoe club were moored up, bringing a very colourful collection of kayaks, canoes and paddle boards. A smiley and helpful team demonstrated their canoeing and kayaking skills. The club provided excellent tuition and everyone enjoyed paddling up and down the glorious river.

Later on, the spectators cheered the river swimming race, where the brave contestants had to swim a length of the Teith's cold waters. In the Aquathon the diehard river lovers swim, run and then dive back into the waters to swim back to the finishing line.

Peter, his sister Alice Linkstead, and other members of the club demonstrated their skills including many slalom manoeuvres. Alice spent most of the day on her paddle board which she made look easy, but when other contestants tried they immediately plopped straight into the deep water.

The scarecrow outside W.D. Harley won the Business scarecrow, and The Coxes constructed a diver which won the Public scarecrow competition.

The raft race was fun, even though there were only two rafts. 'Up' which won was a small house attached to an

array of colourful balloons. 'Up' glided comfortably to the finish line followed by 'The Floaters' who came proud second. Great efforts by both teams, both very different styles but great sports.

For the non-water babes there was a selection of fun activities, including a bouncy castle, which was enjoyed by the kids. There was a rowing machine where all sizes and shapes took part. Peter Linkstead, the Under 15 year old Scottish Champion, achieved the fastest overall time of the day.

The sun shone for the duck race of more than 1000 ducks swimming frantically to the finish. Daisy the massive inflatable duck guided her ducklings down the river to the sound of the bagpipes. No 288 won and the winner, Iain Nimmo, won £100! Other fabulous prizes were kindly donated by local businesses.

Watch out for this event next year and now you've got the jist, you could enter the swimming race or start building your own raft.

Emily Anderson

Swimming Competition

1. Una Brookes
2. Richard Gallacher
3. Pete Smith

Aquathon

1. Leslie Burns
2. Emma Myles
3. Archie Fergusson

Skiddadle



The Ben Ledi Hill Race and the Challenge Walk took place, finally, on July 25th, after being postponed from the fixture on June 6th due to atrocious weather.

This time the weather was kind to us, there was a great turnout, and an impressive win by Callander resident Prasad Prasad in an amazing time of 51.44 minutes.

Many hundreds of people came from far and wide to enjoy the River Festival. The Stirling and Falkirk Canoe Club were kept really busy, particularly with their taster sessions, and it was pleasing to see so many young people take part in the open water swimming events. The event started with a canoe and kayak demonstration followed by the Raft Race, which was hugely entertaining for both the participants and the audience; after many river-based events throughout the day the grand finale was the duck race, with a Callander-owned duck being cheered to first position by a tumultuous crowd! Skiddadle is very grateful to all the local businesses and individuals who supported this popular event so generously, including Stirling and Falkirk Canoe Club, Scottish Kayaks and Paddles, Loch Katrine Experience, The Waverley Hotel, Poppies Hotel, Tiso, Lomo, Callander Mini Golf, McMillan Wine, The Riverside Inn, Callander Meadows Restaurant, Screw It, Campbells Shortbread, Hash Tag, The Dreadnought Hotel, McLaren Leisure Centre, Daisy Chain, Galleria Luti, Waltons sweet shop, Callander Post Office, Spice Delight, The Crown, Callander Tourist Office, WD Harley and Deli Ecosse.

The next event is the Autumn 10k race, to be held on October 10th. This event is to be sponsored by the NHS project Breathing Space. Once again the event will include a 5k race and a 1k fun run, so novices and youngsters will be well catered for.

Alasdair Wyllie



At the River Festival, Archie Ferguson 3rd Aquathon, Peter Linkstead Under 15 Scottish Champion and UP Winners of Raft race. Photographs by Emily Anderson



The Rotary Eleven - Winners of the Charity Football Challenge



Callander Ramblers tackle Beinn Dubheriag. Photo courtesy of Keith.

Around the world with the Ben Ledi View



G'day from 'down under'!

Pictured here is George Utterson from Queensland, Australia with the *Ben Ledi View* at Circular Quay Sydney featuring the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge.

George is a Callander boy who has been in Australia for over 50 years. He was recently back in Callander for a family gathering.

The photos were sent in by Garry Utterson, George's son.

If you are off visiting around the UK or abroad, pack a copy of the BLV and take a photo and send it to us at editor@benlediview.co.uk If you are too shy to appear in the photo then just include the BLV with the place of interest in the background.

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

Thank you

Janette and Doris would like to express their thanks to all those who joined them at the Golf Club for a mutual birthday party. Thank you, too, for all the lovely gifts and cards.

Mrs Margaret Best, on the passing of her husband Robert, would like to extend her thanks and appreciation to Doctors Scott and Strang, and also to the nurses and carers who looked after Robert in his last days. Her thanks, too, to the friends and family who turned out to Robert's funeral. A collection was taken in the church, and a cheque for £250 has been donated to Strathcarron Hospice.

James Hogg

I would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their letters, cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy I received when Dougie died. It has been a great comfort to me to know so many people valued his work skills and friendship over the years, and he will be sadly missed by many.

Thank you to Grant (John Coubrough & Son) for all his help and kindness. Rev. Lynne Mack for her comforting service. To all at Leny Practice, and special thanks to the District Nurses, Majella, Michelle and Evelyn for their care and support during these past difficult months. Thanks also to Audrey and Linda, Crossroads, for their help and support. To everyone who attended the funeral at Perth. The family send their heartfelt thanks to you all.

Sheila Drummond

Many people will be saddened to hear of the death of little Dudley John Wilson, aged 2 years, 3 months. Dudley suffered from 'Leigh's Disease' a mitochondrial condition.

Dudley, who lived in Devon with his parents, Ailie and Jamie, was the Grandson of Jean and Ron Thewlis. He featured in, and appeared at, the concert given by Rusty Strings last November. A considerable sum of money was raised at this concert for the Lily Foundation, a charity to further research into mitochondrial diseases. And, thanks to money also raised for the 'Donate to Dudley' campaign, his little life, although short, was packed with adventures, fun, visits, and, most of all, bucket loads of love. Jean and Ron, Ailie and Jamie Wilson, and Anna and Ally Morrison (Dudley's Aunt and Uncle) wish to thank everyone who has sent kind thoughts and wishes to all of us.

Roy and Moira Pywell

Letters

I am replying to the letter from Mr Duncan (Canada) in the August-September edition of the BLV about former Provost Victor Dow.

Thank you so much Mr Duncan for your kind wishes, and I am very touched and grateful that you are still concerned that my father's name has not been recognised somewhere in the town as a former Provost. Luckily, his name is on the chain of office!

Being cheeky!! DOW would have been the cheapest name to pay for - only 3 letters! (Unless the Victor was put in front of it!)

Isabell Anna Dow -born 31.3.1919 - oldest NATIVE citizen of Callander

Thank you Callander

Sometimes it is often the quiet, modest assistance that is the most effective. Your kindness and generosity has been second to none.

We would like to acknowledge the people in the community of Callander who donated to the raffle and who attended the coffee morning at Trust Housing, North Church Street, on the 1st August. The amount we raised was £390.70p, and this money will go towards buying new garden furniture for the development.

We would also like to thank the Lodge Ben Ledi for their donation of a beautiful garden bench and 10 free tickets to the Big Band music and dance show.

The tenants and staff at Trust Sheltered Housing would like to say the BIGGEST THANK YOU to each and every one of you!



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Snippet from an invader

I had been in Callander for nearly two weeks. The table abandoned by the removal men had only needed glue to repair one break. The all male television cable had been 'sourced' in *Screw It*, not only did I get the cable but pristine one pound notes in the change. Stupidly I traded them in for toilet rolls. The friends who helped me move had gone; their only regret, the failure to find a deep fried Mars bar.

Callander's monsoon season started the day after the last one left. Perfect weather for that essential redecoration.

As an invader, I had to find out a bit about the natives. Outside the church in the square I saw banners for the Callander fest. What was it? Could anyone go? I grabbed a programme. Then 'Screwing my courage to the sticking point' I went into the church as far as the desk. to find out if there were any tickets left for the first jazz concert in two days time. 'They did!'. That was a surprise.

Fifteen minutes before 'kick off' I crept to the church intending to sit in an out of the way corner. The foyer was silent. Had I got the wrong day? Apparently not, there were people in the hall and anyway I was told, 'Callander people always arrive at the last minute.'

There were not many people there, not many more arrived, finally we were 17 arranged to make the audience look as big as possible. The music was great

Unexpected encounters are what make life interesting. This time the unexpected was a Buddhist lady who had sold everything she had and was travelling Scotland with her tent trying to find a suitable Buddhist community. We worried about her tent being washed away in the torrent outside!

The next concert had 10 of us trying to make the place look full for this wonderful 'smoky' music. This time the chat was with the double base player in the interval, the same man as the first

concert, no wonder he had a special slim line easy transport instrument, he played all sorts of music in all sorts of places.

The final concert of my series was young people playing traditional music. I didn't even book this time just rushed out after vacuuming the carpet. That carpet was full of a yellowish dust with a not unpleasant smell. I deduced shake and vac but am pretty sure there had been no vac as I emptied the machine 4 times for a very small carpet. The audience was much bigger this time.

The lady beside me knew a lot about Callander and gardens. As the evening went on I became more aware of a smell. I sniffed me, it was me, the shake and vac had travelled. What could I do but apologise. For any invader, this was the the encounter made in heaven, the lady was Hilary who promised leads for a future in Callander.

Mary

The older pet

At Riverside Veterinary Clinic we feel it is important to have more regular checks of our older pets to keep them happy and healthy for longer. Generally we encourage you to have your pet's health checked every 6 months but as your pet becomes 8 years of age or older it is important to do more thorough checks for signs of anything going wrong. This includes simple urine tests and blood tests which flag up any internal problems which may not be apparent on a clinical examination. Subtle changes can happen in the kidneys, liver or heart without being apparent in day to day life. Early detection of diseases is always helpful in treating or managing a condition successfully. You can also help us determine if there may be something happening with your older pet by looking out for changes in drinking, eating, weight, movement, appearance and general behaviour. Anything that seems abnormal should be mentioned to your vet or vet nurse. Older animals can enjoy many senior years. However

we can help them greatly by detecting problems early and helping them with some of the physical problems that older bodies can manifest. Regular

tests and check ups are very important therefore in making sure older pets get the maximum out of their life.

Marslaigh Smith BVM&S MRCVS



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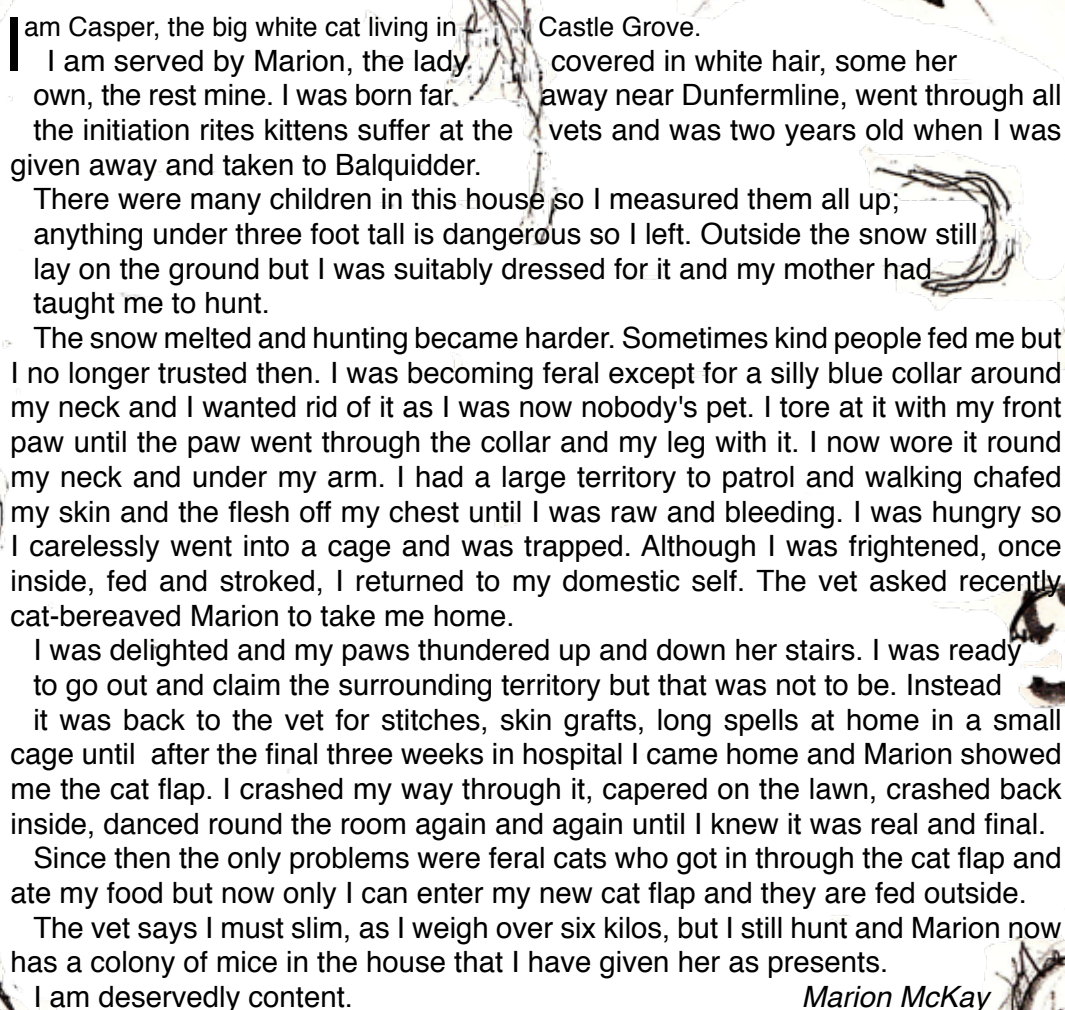
Tel: 01877 381213

enquiries@riversidevetsstirling.co.uk
www.riversidevetsstirling.co.uk

Riverside Veterinary Clinic

1 Lagrannoch Industrial Estate
Geisher Road Callander FK1 8LX

Star Pets - Casper and Koko



I am Casper, the big white cat living in Castle Grove. I am served by Marion, the lady own, the rest mine. I was born far away near Dunfermline, went through all the initiation rites kittens suffer at the vets and was two years old when I was given away and taken to Balquidder. There were many children in this house so I measured them all up; anything under three foot tall is dangerous so I left. Outside the snow still lay on the ground but I was suitably dressed for it and my mother had taught me to hunt. The snow melted and hunting became harder. Sometimes kind people fed me but I no longer trusted then. I was becoming feral except for a silly blue collar around my neck and I wanted rid of it as I was now nobody's pet. I tore at it with my front paw until the paw went through the collar and my leg with it. I now wore it round my neck and under my arm. I had a large territory to patrol and walking chafed my skin and the flesh off my chest until I was raw and bleeding. I was hungry so I carelessly went into a cage and was trapped. Although I was frightened, once inside, fed and stroked, I returned to my domestic self. The vet asked recently cat-bereaved Marion to take me home. I was delighted and my paws thundered up and down her stairs. I was ready to go out and claim the surrounding territory but that was not to be. Instead it was back to the vet for stitches, skin grafts, long spells at home in a small cage until after the final three weeks in hospital I came home and Marion showed me the cat flap. I crashed my way through it, capered on the lawn, crashed back inside, danced round the room again and again until I knew it was real and final. Since then the only problems were feral cats who got in through the cat flap and ate my food but now only I can enter my new cat flap and they are fed outside. The vet says I must slim, as I weigh over six kilos, but I still hunt and Marion now has a colony of mice in the house that I have given her as presents. I am deservedly content.

Marion McKay

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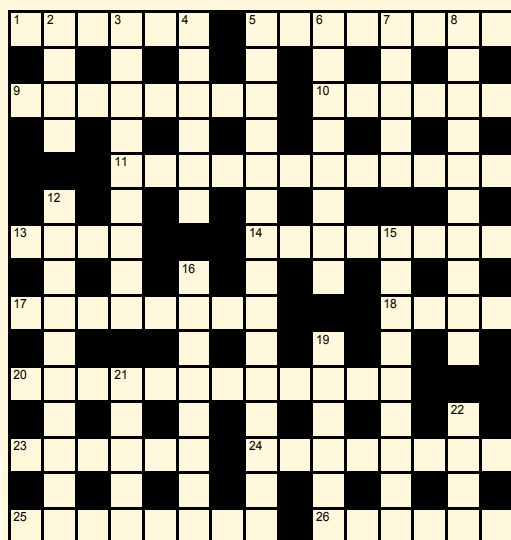
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07943333145



Why you should have gone to Strathyre Music Festival? Because it was so kool that Koko with his musical appreciation hat on looks like he was thoroughly enjoying it.

Thanks to Fiona McAdam for sending this in.

32 Crossword



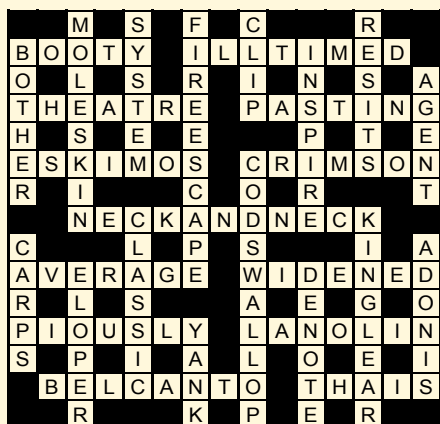
Across

- 1 SF writer's novel aims to introduce older volume's leading characters (6)
- 5 Very loud in EU, starts to speak in voice everyone finds extravagantly emotional (8)
- 9 Little time puzzling after trick works (8)
- 10 The most deceitful hide prevarication under cloak of a good man! (6)
- 11 Might need to do this in emergency when let down over not quite first rate follow up of initial investigation! (12)
- 13 As is the same. (4)
- 14 Allows back in when in desperately hard times if drug free (8)
- 17 In east end of Rostov a wealthy Russian pal resides (8)

- 18 Mess made by returning MP's (4)
- 20 Understand conversion is into a format for 21? (12)
- 23 Returning mates running for cover in a hurry (4,2)
- 24 Rob is agitated after trade union black revolutionary engine (8)
- 25 The answer to this question determines whether one eats in or out! (2,2,2,2)
- 26 Difficult to spot intelligence in one so very slow (6)

Down

- 2 Give away hops for brewing (4)
- 3 Country's top teacher in plan to return (9)
- 4 Ascertain truth about promoted minister if unknown (6)
- 5 Capital display that leaves lasting impression? (9,6)
- 6 Move fast! Live performances for all to enjoy (8)
- 7 Not in motion as yet (5)



- 8 Permitted arrangement to see picture about old French film maker (10)
- 12 The French support enduring historical books (10)
- 15 Give wrong facts to home class led by teacher falling short (9)
- 16 Salad plant that is found among variety of mint in river setting (8)
- 19 Row over excess spending? This could prevent separation! (3,3)
- 21 Contribution from eccentric president (5)
- 22 Shop where half of luxury food not available (4)

Solution for crossword 122

Winner - Sorry, no correct entries for this one.

BLV Prize Crossword No. 123

Please return completed entries to BLV Crossword 123, The Library, South Church Street, Callander, FK17 8BN by no later than **TUESDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2015**.

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

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ADDRESS

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Callander Fire Brigade: 01877 339095

Local Council Office & Registrar:

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Social Work: 01786 471177

Post Office: 01877 330267

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Drs Scott & Strang: 01877 331001
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Callander: 01877 381213
Doune: 01786 841304
Dunblane: 01786 824400

Schools

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Bus Station (Stirling): 01786 446474
Travel Line Scotland: 0870 6082608

Recreation

Leisure Centre: 01877 330000
Library: 01877 331544
Visit Scotland Information Centre: 01877 330342

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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
Sandbags and grit (Lagrannoch depot): 01877 330492

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 4th October

11.15am All-Age Jazz Service, Kirk
3.00pm Trossachs Monthly Service
8.00pm *Time for Silence*

Sunday 11th October

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

Sunday 18th October

10.00am Early Service in Kirk Hall
11.15am Morning Service, Kirk followed by Informal Communion.
8.00pm *Time for Silence*

Sunday 25th October

11.15am Elders Service, Kirk
8.00pm *Time for Silence*

Sunday 1st November

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall
11.15am Communion Service, Kirk
3.00pm Trossachs Communion Service
8:00pm *Time for Silence*

Sunday 8th November

10.45am All-Age Service, Kirk followed by laying of wreaths at the war memorial in Ancaster Square
8:00pm *Time for silence*, Kirk

Sunday 15th November

10.00am Early Service, Kirk
11.15am Morning Service, Kirk followed by Informal Communion
8:00pm *Time for Silence*, Kirk

Sunday 22nd November

10:00am Early Service, Kirk Hall
11.15am Morning Service, Kirk
8:00pm *Time for silence*, Kirk

Sunday 29th November

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

Sunday 6th December

10.00am Early Service, Kirk Hall
11.15am Morning Service, Kirk
3.00pm Trossachs Monthly Service
6.00pm Youth Carol Service + Gifts
8:00pm *Time for silence*, Kirk

Saint Andrew's



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

Sunday

10.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion

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

St Joseph's

*Catholic Church
Glen Artney Road, Callander*

Weekly Masses

Monday Mass, 10.00am, Callander
Tuesday Mass, 10.00am, Doune
Wednesday Eucharist Service, 10.00am, Callander
Thursday Mass, 10.00am, Callander
Friday Mass, 10.00am, Doune
Eucharist Service, 10.00am, Callander
Saturday Mass, 10.00am, Callander
Sunday 11.30am, Callander
Father Jim McCruden tel 330702

Dunblane

Free Church, Beech Road, Dunblane

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

Rev Alasdair MacDonald MA

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

The next issue of the *Ben Ledi View* will be published on **Friday 4th December**.

Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the December/January issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Sarah Clark at advertising@benlediview.co.uk by **Tuesday 10th November**. 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 December/January issue should be emailed to editor@benlediview.co.uk or handed in to the Callander Library by **Tuesday 10th November** at 7.00pm.

Items received after the deadline may be held over to the February/March 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 is held on the last Sunday of the month. Tel 01877 330055 email ccc777@btinternet.com. All welcome.

Callander Christian Fellowship

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For details of the regular small groups for Prayer and Bible Study in Callander or for pastoral care please contact
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brian.gooding@stirlingbaptist.co.uk

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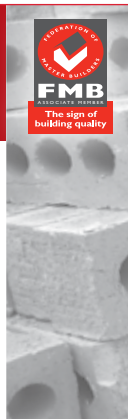
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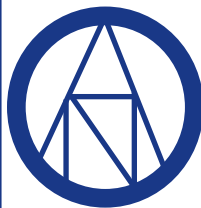


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