

# Ben Ledi View

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Issue 303

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# Ben Ledi View

**Convenor:** Hilary Gunkel

*blvconvenor@gmail.com*

**Editorial Team:**

John Nelson, Mary Buckland,

*blveditor@gmail.com*

**Editors & Compilation:**

Alan Derrick (Specialist)

Mary Buckland (Callander Past)

Chris Cunningham, Jean Thewlis

(Arts & Entertainment)

Rosalind Sannachan (Charities & Clubs)

Steve Routledge (Community)

Ivan Condon (Information, Crossword),

Sports & Leisure

Carol McGowan, Lesley Hawkins

(Environment)

Susmita Skelsey (Health & Wellbeing)

Hilary Gunkel

(What's On and Proof Reading)

Olga Watkins (Proof Reading)

Catherine Nelson (Young People)

Neil Michael (Letters & announcements,

Pets)

Grateful thanks to everyone who has

provided us with articles and pictures

**Advertising:**

Isla Routledge (339388)

*advertising@benlediview.co.uk*

**Advert Preparation:** Ros Grant

**Distribution:** Alan Davidson (330680)

**Secretary:** Johnny Gold (330671)

**Subscriptions & Media** Milan Cech

*benledionline@gmail.com*

**Technical Assistance** Caroline Kenny

**Contact:**

The Ben Ledi View,

c/o McLaren Community

Leisure Centre,

Mollands Rd,

Callander FK17 8JP

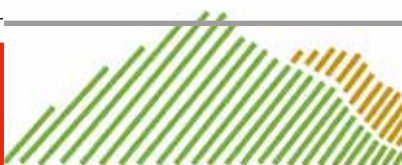
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## Hello Readers

In this issue, spanning the last month of the Old Year and the first of the New, we look back over past events and try to anticipate what lies ahead. That is sometimes easier said than done. Who foresaw the arrival of the Beast from the East, or that it would be followed by the best couple of months of summer weather that we have had in many years? These are 'interesting times' both nationally and internationally, with all the uncertainty that the expression implies. All the more reason, therefore, for us to concentrate on what is going on in our own small 'neck of the woods', where we have a better chance of influencing outcomes and seeking a local solution to any problems faced by our community.

An encouraging sign that Callander is moving along this path is the existence of an active Resilience Group (formerly the Flood group) in the town, set up to respond promptly to adverse weather conditions and their consequences. Likewise, a new Cleaner Callander group of volunteers has formed to address the problem of litter on a regular basis, rather than just leaving it to our splendid Citizen of the Year Colin to do all the work. Another important and significant development is the fact that more people have put their names forward to serve on the Community Council this time around, thereby triggering

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an election. This contrasts with the situation in other parts of Stirling District where several of these local democratic forums are in abeyance. The Community Council is a very important institution which represents us all and the hard work it does should be better appreciated and supported.

I do hope that many of you will have found time to take part in the public meeting 'A Small Town with BIG Ambitions' held on 29th November (arranged too late for our 'What's On' listing in the last issue). Lots of interesting projects and proposals were put on the table, including a Community Woodland at Coilhallan, a new bridge and pathway at the Leny Falls, the ownership of our carparks and several other local concerns, some of which are being funded by the Lottery money won by the Callander Landscape Partnership and others through the Scottish Government's Asset Transfer scheme. Groups of volunteers are already involved in planning how these exciting new initiatives can be taken forward and I know they would be only too delighted if you, our readers, would join them on the journey! Since our last issue we have received the encouraging news that the Dreadnought Hotel has been bought by a hotel consortium, which hopes to open it for business in May next year. It is cheering to see lights on in the building and signs of activity again after too many months of darkness. Elsewhere in Callander two residential building projects on derelict land are nearing completion -- another positive sign for the town--although it is worrying that work on the restoration of Victoria Court seems to have ground to a halt.

By the time you read this, *Winterfest* will have been and gone but the season of carolling and Christmas parties is only just beginning! Callander is proud of its tradition of being a friendly and welcoming place, so I'm sure I don't need to remind you to look out for your neighbours, especially the older ones, as the days get shorter and the pavements more slippery.

At this season of goodwill, may I wish you all a very Merry and Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year

**Convenor**

## National Park Volunteers Shortlisted For Prestigious Awards

This year two dedicated volunteers from Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, (LLTNPA), have made the shortlist for the National Park UK Volunteering Awards that celebrate the hard work of volunteers deemed to have gone above and beyond the usual expectations of volunteer service.



Cardross based Emma White has been a Volunteer Ranger with the National Park since 2013 and has contributed over 100 days of her time. Emma has been shortlisted for the individual award.



Struan Burch lived first in Dunblane but now in Callander, and cycled to Balloch, which is around a 68 mile round trip, to volunteer in the National Park. He has been shortlisted for the young person award (25 years or younger) and joined the volunteer programme because he wanted to make use of his gap year.



Craig Walker, Volunteer Advisor from LLTNPA, nominated both volunteers and said: "Emma applied to join the National Park as a Volunteer Ranger when she was unable to work due to depression. Since those brave first steps Emma has helped with a huge variety of projects and is a fantastic ambassador for the Park at local events. We are always confident that she can do any task she sets her mind to and trust her with guiding and mentoring our new volunteers to find their feet and take those tentative first steps she took five years ago.

"Struan's love for wildlife motivated him to seek out opportunities to engage with nature and since volunteering with the National Park he has developed a true passion for surveying and recording wildlife. Each of the projects Struan is involved with relies heavily on volunteers to make the difference. His enthusiasm for helping to survey and monitor elusive species, sometimes in very remote and inaccessible locations, has really helped to give a clearer picture of the critical population dynamics and fluctuations in the National Park.

"We appreciate all of our volunteers as they help to make the National Park a better place for people to live, work and visit and we wish Emma and Struan the best luck of luck with these awards."

## Update On Empty

### Buildings

The bad news on the Old Eagle Hotel is that the planning applications mentioned in the last issue, and which seemed to be our first glimmer of hope for having this building renovated, have been withdrawn – no reason was given. So, it is back to the beginning again.

On the plus side, the Dreadnought hotel has been sold and purchased by McMillan Leisure in a joint venture with a foreign tour company who plan to have it open as a hotel for May of 2019. Mc Millan Leisure are a family business who run a hotel in Strathpeffer and a joint venture hotel in Kingussie. After years of neglect, a considerable amount of work is needed to the exterior of the building (including the fire-damaged part at the back) as well as areas of dry rot in the interior caused by damp from leaking guttering and downpipes. These all have to be rectified before the opening. The plan is to spruce up all the interior of the hotel, replace carpets (McNab Tartan) and make it presentable for the opening in May. The first year's trade will determine future developments. Their target market will be the coach trade (with the joint venture company) Currently most of these customers come from the Far East. They will still be operating as a normal hotel for other trade.

With this building now off the market it will at least allow the Community Council and other local organisations to concentrate on the future of St Kessogs'.

### Callander Community Woodland

Coilhallan is a mixed woodland to the south west of Callander, close to the High School, Primary School and Leisure Centre. It is already well-used by the people of the town and has a network of paths and a car park off Invertrossachs Road at its western edge. Callander Community Development Trust is developing a project to take on the management of this woodland with the aim of making it a more attractive and enjoyable place for both residents and visitors, while protecting and enhancing its wildlife. As with other community woodlands around Scotland, we believe this can be done more effectively through a community enterprise, with the support of volunteers, than is possible under the current management by Forest Enterprise. A feasibility study, completed in 2017, supports this view and shows how the wood could be acquired, funded and managed to the benefit of Callander.

A Community Woodland Group, made up of local people with a wide range of interests and skills, has been set up to look at the project in more detail and progress it. They are looking at the proposals in the study and will decide which should go forward to be part of a funding application to the Scottish Land Fund next spring.

A community meeting is planned for early next year to present and discuss the detail of what the Woodland Group is working on. Look out for details in the next **BLV**.

To find out more, or if you are interested in joining the group, you will find details and a link to the feasibility study at [www.incallander.co.uk/ccdt\\_coilhallanwoods](http://www.incallander.co.uk/ccdt_coilhallanwoods) or contact Mark Griffiths at [mark@markgriffithsmanagement.co.uk](mailto:mark@markgriffithsmanagement.co.uk).

Shelia Winstone

### Callander Calling – Building Inclusive Tourism In Callander and The Trossachs Area

Tourism businesses across Callander & The Trossachs area are being encouraged to become more inclusive with an event to highlight the benefits of being open to all. It took place on Thursday 1st November at McLaren Community Leisure Centre.



The Accessible Callander & Trossachs Group hosted a workshop on the relatively untapped Inclusive Tourism market - which is worth a staggering £2.6 billion to the economy.

We learned that in the UK, one in five people are disabled, only 8 per cent of whom are wheelchair users, while 70 per cent have invisible disabilities. The session was open to all tourism businesses across Callander & The Trossachs. From accommodation providers to retail and visitor attractions, the event provided a valuable opportunity to share industry experiences and best practice.

One of the main objectives of the meeting was to allow businesses to identify opportunities for the promotion of their own accessible facilities and to think about the widest range of needs that people have. To help local businesses do this, and to train their staff in accessibility there is a guide from VisitScotland at <https://www.visitscotland.org/supporting-your-business/marketing-toolkits/accessible-inclusive-tourism>.

Marilyn Moore, Callander Enterprise

### Callander Flood Relief Scheme

It has been some time since we heard that money had been allocated to a Callander flood relief scheme and it has been very quiet since, so we contacted Stirling Council to see where we stood on this. Their reply was that 'the Callander scheme is progressing more slowly than we'd originally hoped. The feasibility analysis is still on-going; there are a few critical things, namely the piped underground burn running down Station Road and through the Meadows car park, that we will hopefully have answers to before the turn of the year. Once that's completed, we'll be in a position to hold a community event.' They also have a new officer on their team who is taking on the management of the project and who will keep us informed. So, it's wait and see. Hopefully there will be news of a community event to let us know what is happening.



## Community Council Meeting on Region Deal

On Thursday 11th October about 50 people met in the Callander Youth Project to discuss the latest situation on the Stirling & Clackmannanshire Region Deal. There was nothing firm or positive to come from this meeting as it seemed to be aimed at what support the Callander Community Council, (CCC), would have for a number of options. The first item to be discussed was the proposed new road bridge across the river. Here the impression was given that a bridge is very much on the cards, but the CCC were gauging opinions as to the preferred route for such a bridge, as this would determine where the feasibility study would be carried out – and a feasibility study has been committed to, with an infrastructure budget of £2.5M.

The three proposed options were:

1 Crossing the river from the bottom of Geisher Road

2 A road to run down the back of the Health Centre (in the vacant field) crossing the river just downstream of the Geisher road proposal.

3 A road to run from about where the entrance to the Callander Woods Holiday Park (formally Gart) down to the river and across it further downstream from the other two options

Option 1 would mean widening Geisher Road and, although seen as the best proposal for pedestrians, there was a feeling that it was not a good road for heavy traffic, with the Health Centre, Fire Station and private housing around it. It would also mean substantial change to the small industrial area at the bottom, although if a new modernised industrial area were to come out of it this could be a good thing.

Option 2 seemed to be agreed as a feasible option

Option 3 was agreed to be a good option as far as road traffic was concerned, keeping the traffic out of the town altogether. However, it was also agreed that it was of little use for pedestrian traffic, being too far out. Building an additional pedestrian bridge at the bottom of Geisher road was also suggested, and this should be given some thought, but I have no idea how it would fit into the budget.

The second item to be discussed was the proposed Digital Hub

Richard Johnson introduced this part of the discussion asking who had thought that Callander needed, or wanted a digital hub? – a question that has crossed our minds – but quickly moved on to say that, with the departure of ClanRanald from the town, it is being proposed that the Digital Hub be based in St Kessogs and that it could incorporate, as well as the digital hub for helping small businesses to start up, a Tourist Information area, a Cinema, an area for functions and events (weddings possibly), a heritage centre, possibly the relocation of the library, with perhaps an outside Café Area. There was great enthusiasm for these ideas, as a civic centre area like this would be of great value to the town. There was however thought that all of this would possibly be too much to fit into St Kessogs and that it would be better to locate the digital hub elsewhere and to develop St Kessogs as a Civic Centre. There is much merit in this, but I do not know what effect this would have on the budget.

I am sure the Community Council would be delighted to receive any views you may have on either of these two proposals.

We asked Richard Johnson for his views on how the meeting had gone and he replied ‘The Community Council was encouraged by the number of people attending the meeting and the amount of discussion. We felt it was important to tell the community what progress was being made with the City Region Deal. The option to route an access road between the Fire Station and the Scottish Water facility seemed like a good suggestion and if this means developing a new industrial estate, then that must be a step forward. The vision for the future of the St Kessogs building was well received so we felt there was support for us to develop the idea of a civic centre. Overall, we have to represent the community so consultation at meeting such as this is essential.’

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## Road Safety

On Saturday 13th October on the A84 at Kilmahog a road collision occurred resulting in the road being closed to allow recovery of the vehicle involved. There was no injury as a result of the collision.

Speed detection duties have been carried out on Stirling Road, Mollands Road and Bridgend, Callander by Callander Community Officers. 8 drivers were given warnings regarding their speed.

PC Deans and McKerracher carried out road checks in Callander. One driver was issued a Conditional Offer of Fixed Penalty for No Insurance.

## Antisocial Behaviour

On Wednesday 31st October in South Church Street, Callander a group of youths were stopped and searched by Police under the Misuse of Drugs Act. One youth was found to be in possession of a controlled drug.

## Online Fraud

Despite last month's feature on fraud and scams, another online Fraud was reported in Callander during October whereby a person has engaged and sent money through Facebook to a fictitious company to purchase doors which were not delivered.

Take Five is a national campaign led by UK Finance which offers impartial and straight-forward advice to help everyone protect themselves from preventable financial fraud: [www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk](http://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)

Our Community Sergeant Robert Russell has now retired from the Police Service of Scotland. Sergeant Grant MacDonald has taken over the role of Community Sergeant for the Trossachs and Teith area. He will work out of Dunblane Police Office.

If anyone has any concerns they wish to raise or information regarding criminal activity in the area please contact PC Deans or PC McKerracher at Callander Police Office on 101 or [TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

## Callander Post Office

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What Next?

## Sewage Problem In Venacher Avenue and Lubnaig Drive.

It has been brought to our notice by Mr & Mrs Oliphant of a situation encountered recently following a night of very heavy rain. Shortly after 09.00am they looked out of their lounge window to see something resembling a river running around the front of the house. The exit tank which disposes of sewage from their house, and is in their front garden, was overflowing with rain water and raw sewage.

After contacting Scottish Water, their operative arrived and investigated the cause which was a blocked main sewer caused by wet wipes and sanitary products.

They would like to thank the intervention of the lads from Smart Utilities, who are currently working in the estate, for providing them with a generator pipe, which enabled them to pump some of the mass of water away from the house, avoiding any internal damage.

The same situation happened seven years ago, resulting in internal flooding and damage to the ground floor of the house, again caused by a blockage of the main sewer further down the road.

The fact is that the whole sewage system is inadequate for the size of the estate and requires to be serviced regularly, which is the responsibility of Scottish Water. It appears that this essential maintenance has not been occurring on a regular basis.

We understand there is a widespread problem of wet wipes blocking sewers. Martin Earl has been in touch with Scottish Water and we await to see the outcome from this.



## Our new columnist

**H**i readers, my name is **Bethan** and I'm a new columnist for the Ben Ledi View. I will be writing an article each issue and the topic for this article will range from events I have been involved in, to short stories and poems I have written and sections about my springer spaniel Tia. I hope you all enjoy these articles I am going to write! This month's article is going to be about **RYLA Camp 2018**, a week-long camp in July that focused on becoming better leaders and stepping outside your comfort zone. This was based at Nethybridge Outdoor Centre, near Aviemore. Being the first girl getting on the bus was quite nerve-wracking and I met the other girl who was getting on the bus with me, Maddy. We instantly hit it off and spent the next four hours talking, as well as talking to many of the other girls on the bus. I was also lucky enough to have brilliant roommates for the week, Nic and Grace. We became firm friends.



During the week, I participated in many amazing activities and during the week, each member of our group had to lead an activity, and, in my team, I led the climbing and had to organise my group and motivate them throughout the activity. The activities included a hill walk in the Cairngorms, raft building on Loch Morlich (we all had a lot of fun, despite the fact that the raft fell apart within minutes and I ended up being the only person left on the raft and the others had to swim), mountain biking, gorge walking, climbing

by the sea and abseiling down a cave (which was my personal favourite) and coasteering in Cullen

Every morning, we had an inspirational talk from someone different- this included a doctor, a marine biologist, a tour guide and the owner of the Mountain Café in Aviemore - and in the evening, we all participated in different activities, these included "The Greatest Showman" Movie Night, playing nukenball, doing Zumba, having a quiz, and doing improvisation.



Overall, this week was an incredible experience that I am so grateful that I got the opportunity to go on. I made lots of new friends, with whom I am still in contact now and planning on meeting up with. I learnt more about working as a team, I stepped out of my comfort zone (during pretty much the whole week) and got so much more out of my week! I am so grateful to the Rotary Club for sponsoring me to go on this week and I look forward to giving a presentation to them soon about my trip, in which I will go into more depth about my week!

### Cameron another talented pupil of Mc Laren High

My name is Cameron McLay and I am Deputy Head Boy at McLaren High School and Pipe Major of the McLaren High School Pipe Band. As you can imagine, these two roles carry a lot of responsibility so to relieve that stress of organising and being in charge of multiple people, I like to go out on the streets and busk with my bagpipes. I've been busking for six years now and even after all this time it's still one of my favourite

things to do.

Busking is so enjoyable for many reasons.

I get to meet different people from all over the world every time I go out. I have extraordinary conversations with amazing people and they also love to take photos with me! I sometimes think about the thousands of tourists who have stood by my side, held my pipes, made funny poses etc and realise that I have become part of their magical trip to Scotland. I hope that you have enjoyed my piece and I will maybe see you when I'm next out performing for the lucky tourists who picked the right day to come to visit Callander!

## The McLaren High School Pipe Band

**H**as been busy since the new term started. On 10th September they were invited to play for a delegation of over 40 Taiwanese delegates at Callander Youth Project. The band played for over half an hour, including solos from James Douglas, Catriona Norman and Eion Brennen, to the delight of the delegates who really enjoyed the Scottish entertainment. Then on Saturday 15th September the Band, along with pupils from the Balforn High School Pipe Band,



were invited to join the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow, where they played a number of tunes along with the SFO in front of an audience in excess of 1,000 people. The pupils were a credit both to themselves and the School, who were very proud of their brilliant performances. What an amazing experi-



ence for our young people!  
Congratulations to Catriona Norman who had her debut as the official SFO Piper on the evening and opened the concert and the second half playing solo! The band were also tasked with taking part in a 'buskathon' around the McLaren area over 2 weekends to raise much needed funds. Well done to Eion and Catriona who travelled to Loch Katrine, Andrew and Jamie who busked at Kilmahog and Cameron who travelled to Stirling—all raising funds for the Band.

The band have to raise all their own funds as they are not funded by the school/council and if anyone would be interested in sponsoring McLaren High School Pipe Band in any way please contact Ms Webster at the school.

### Catriona Norman S3 Success at the Royal National Mod

On the 13th October I competed at the Royal National Mod in Dunoon. in the under 15 solo piping competition playing a March Strathspey and Reel. There were competitors from Campbeltown Grammar School, Lochaber High School, Dollar Academy, Lochgilphead Schools, Oban High School, the Glasgow Gaelic School, Sgoil Lionacleit and many more. I was very pleased to win 2nd place and with another year in the under 15 age category I hope to compete again next year aiming for 1st. Due to weather conditions my tutor could not make it to Dunoon, however I was lucky enough to have Jonathon Greenlees help with the final tuning before I competed. Jonathon plays with Field Marshal and Montgomery Pipe Band in Grade 1 and was competing



Catriona Norman

in the adult solo piping events. After competing I listened to the adult solo piping events, of which many of the competitors are world champion pipers. I enjoy competing and will definitely continue to compete in solo competitions across the country in future years.

### Chilli's Community Café Official Opening

We were delighted to welcome Deirdre Wood and her son Stewart to officially open Chilli's Community Café on Friday 26 October. Molly Craig S5, the café manager, welcomed the guests and thanked everyone for coming along



and for their continued support of the café. Special thanks were given to the Steamship Sir Walter Scott at Loch Katrine who sponsored the café uniform. Guests enjoyed an hour of delicious home baking and hot drinks before a pop-up café was held in the staff room over the interval.



### Scottish Swimmer Ross Murdoch visits McLaren High



Ross with  
Emma Walker  
Probationer  
PE Teacher

Huge thank you to Ross Murdoch for taking time out of his busy schedule to talk to our S4 pupils on Monday (29th October) about his career, growth mindset and the benefits of taking part in sport while studying at school. Ross started swimming in Alexandria in West Dumbartonshire when he was six years old and is currently the British record holder for the 200m Breaststroke. He stormed to stardom by winning two medals at his home Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014, with Gold and Bronze. Ross is pictured with PE probationer teacher Emma Walker and talking to S4 pupils.

### The Guides

The Guides had the opportunity to go to London to the Blg Gig at the Wembley Arena in October. Our favourite part of London was the Big Gig (particularly HRVY and The Vamps) and the Science Museum.



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## Environment Awards for Callander

We are delighted to announce that two environmental awards came to Callander at the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Community Partnership's annual event on 27th October.

Scooping first place for the Celia Burn Community Environmentalists of the Year Award was the Scottish Wildlife Trust Callander Group. They were nominated by Callander Community Development Trust in recognition of their inspirational monthly public talks, fundraising activities and awareness events, local wildlife recording, toad patrols (including frogs and newts), orchid surveys and regular reports for this



Martin Earl presenting the award to Callander SWT chairman Kevin Duffy.

paper. Membership has grown within the community and the group also welcomes visitors.

Joint first place award for the Liz Evans Young Environmentalist of the Year went to Aidan Cronin, in recognition of his inspirational contribution to environmental

conservation. Aidan Cronin from Callander recently completed his junior ranger's certificate and sits upon the National Park Youth Forum. Nominated by the Callander Youth Project Trust his enthusiasm and voluntary commitment to protecting and enhancing the natural environment of the National Park is infectious. Writing regular wildlife and gardening articles for this paper, he has also created a wonderful nature corner in the CYP youth space and encourages other young people to be more environmentally aware through the wildlife events that he organises. Congratulations to the winners and how lucky are we that they stay in our community!

*Marilyn Moore*

## Scottish Wildcat Conservation

This iconic species was the fascinating topic at the Scottish Wildlife Trust Callander September meeting. Speaker David Barclay is the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's Cat Conservation Officer, based at the Highland Wildlife Park near Kingussie.

Scottish Wildcat Action is a 5-year National Conservation programme involving 23 organisations across zoos, private collections, conservation groups (including SWT) and sporting estates. Definition of a pure wildcat is a combination of its coat markings, behaviour and genetics. However, hybridisation with feral and domestic cats, plus poor photographs from wildlife camera traps, makes identification difficult. RZSS's genetics lab provides vital DNA analysis from which individual cats' genetics can be assessed. 75% 'purity' (relative to museum samples) has been agreed for selection of individuals into the conservation breeding programme in order to get sufficient numbers. Two large 100mx30m enclosures away from the public allow cats to 're-wild' prior to release.

Nine areas were scoped and the best 5 chosen in which to establish a viable breeding population: Strathbogie,

Angus Glens, Northern Strathspey, Morven and Strathpeffer. To avoid inbreeding and thereby local extinctions, each site needs 50 cats along with a sustaining habitat and connectivity. However, surveys to date suggest that the total population may only be 50 scattered in small numbers. It is estimated that 20 cats per year need to be reintroduced to achieve viability and this could include introduction of individuals of the same species from Europe to bring in new blood. Currently the captive population is 94 cats, 31 at the HWP, 89% of which are suitable for breeding. To increase that gene pool males may be captured and semen collected in the field to impregnate captive females – apparently they aren't over-cooperative!

A study which gives confidence that this is achievable is the



reintroduction of the Iberian lynx in Spain and Portugal; described as the greatest reintroduction success story. Due to loss of habitat and food plus persecution, numbers fell from 1200 in 1960 to 92 in 2002 in two distinct populations. With government backing, and despite public opposition, 30 lynx were taken from the wild and bred in four specially built centres costing £6M each and £6-700k per year to run. Ten years later there were over 450 in the wild, now possibly more than 550.

The Scottish Wildcat programme is in a better starting position as they have been studied for 40 years but it is currently only funded to the end of 2020. A dedicated breeding centre is necessary to achieve the scale for release along with measures to prevent later hybridisation, to restore habitat and to educate potential persecutors.

The website

<http://www.scottishwildcataction.org/about-us/#overview>

includes identification pictures, how to report potential sightings and how you can support this highly endangered species.

*Lesley Hawkins*



## Cleaner Callander -Making a difference

Cleaner Callander organised a community litter pick which took place on November 10th. Eleven volunteers spent a couple of hours cleaning up the roadsides and paths around our community. The team visited the Scout Pool, Bracklinn Falls, the Craggs, the Cycle Path towards Auchanlaich, Lower Bracklinn Road and Beech Woods and Station Road Car Park. Unfortunately we had to give The Meadows a miss this time due to flooding. Eight bin bags were filled with litter which was more than we



photo Keith Wilson

expected for this time of the year. The group recently received a grant of £160 for equipment from Callander Community Council for which we are very grateful. Thanks

are also due to Stirling Council for supporting the group. 'Cleaner Callander' will be undertaking regular litter picks next year from Easter to October. If you would like to join our growing team and make a difference in our community please contact Keith at [kw02uk@gmail.com](mailto:kw02uk@gmail.com) or Lesley at [mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk)

Keith Wilson

## A Christmas comet?

This last month of the year promises an opportunity to observe Comet Wirtanen, which was discovered in 1958 at Lick Observatory in the USA and has travelled through the inner solar system multiple times. This December will mark its closest and brightest approach to Earth and it might just be visible to the naked eye but using binoculars will give you a better view. You can locate the



comet just to the left of the Pleiades (seven sisters) cluster between 16-18th December. By 23rd December it will be very

close to the bright star Capella in the constellation Auriga. Comets are very unpredictable so what will happen with Comet Wirtanen is anyone's guess!

Comets have been likened to dirty snowballs. They're loosely bound masses of ice, dust and rock. The small core of a comet or nucleus consists mostly of water ice and frozen carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane and ammonia. As a comet approaches the Sun it begins to warm and release gases which produce a coma around the comet. Sometimes the effects of the solar wind from the Sun on the comet's gases produce a tail. The word comet comes from the Greek meaning 'long haired star'. Let's hope Comet Wirtanen has a good head of hair. Happy Christmas to you!

Keith Wilson

## Scottish Wildlife Trust's 50 for the Future

At the October meeting of the Callander SWT Group, Director of Conservation Susan Davies, expanded on the Trust's '50 for the Future'. This lists 50 things that should happen in the next 50 years to protect and restore Scotland's natural environment. Number 50 is to Champion nature so effectively that the Scottish Wildlife Trust is no longer needed! For more details see <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/search/50+for+the+future/> Upland habitats are often managed moorlands, treeless due to over-grazing, impacted by burning and killing of predators. With over a million wild deer in Scotland, habitat regeneration is impacted and SWT is supporting calls for a review of voluntary deer management systems. SWT is also campaigning for a licensing system for driven shooting and opposing the culling of mountain hares on the grounds that their numbers have not been accurately measured and the evidence of them passing ticks to young game birds is not conclusive. SWT is also campaigning to end illegal persecution of birds of prey and to strengthen enforcement of existing laws. 41 of 131 satellite tags on golden eagles stopped transmitting over grouse moors. In

lowland areas, meandering rivers and wetlands can be improved by beavers as demonstrated in the Knapdale introduction trials. The 'unofficial' Tay population has already spread into our local lochs and rivers but there is still work to be done to manage them in agricultural areas. Conservation of red squirrels and black grouse are among our local species identified in the strategy. Urban habitats are where most work is needed to reconnect people with nature. SWT projects involve people in developing connected green spaces such as Jupiter Wildlife Centre in Grangemouth, Cumbernauld Living Landscape and Edinburgh Living Landscape. SWT is also involved in setting up marine protected areas. Scotland's diversity of coastal marine life can be seen from new snorkel trails at sites around Ullapool and on Harris. We were proud to give Susan a cheque for £1000 from our fund-raising efforts. We requested that £250 be given to Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels and the Save our Meadows campaign, leaving £500 for where it will gain the most benefit.

Lesley Hawkins

## Callander Medical Centre

### Drs Strang & Scott and Drs Mathewson & Gibson Community nurses

### Personal Independence Payments

We are experiencing increased numbers of patients asking us for supportive documents to support their Personal Independence Payment claim or Benefits Claim. GP practices are not required to do this as part of the NHS, and the work involved can put a strain on our services. We are asking you not to put our Doctors under more pressure by asking for this work to be done, especially at short notice. If the Department of Work & Pension or the Benefits Agency require more information, they will write to your GP Surgery directly.

### HGV Medicals

We appreciate that it is a legal requirement by the DVLA to have an up to date HGV Licence if you drive a lorry, campervan (over a certain age) or bus etc. These medicals take at least 30 minutes, and cannot be accommodated within normal surgery times. After speaking to the DVLA, it is our understanding that when your licence is due for renewal you are sent the necessary paperwork two months beforehand, and you need to allow three weeks after you have returned the paperwork for your licence to come through. Could we ask you to contact the surgery as soon as you get the reminder, and not wait until the last minute. Unfortunately, we have been unable to accommodate some medicals recently due to not being given enough notice.

### Flu clinic

Both Leny and Bracklinn Practices had a record number of people through the doors at the flu clinic where Bracklinn gave 456 vaccines and Leny gave 413 vaccines on the day.

We would also like to thank you for all the money raised on the day. Trossachs Search & Rescue were given £20.00

Bracklinn raised £280.75 for the Thursday Club

Leny raised £173.72 for Town Break  
If you were unable to come along to the flu clinic, there is still plenty of time to get your flu vaccination.

### Christmas & New Year Closure

Both Leny and Bracklinn Practice will close as follows:

- Monday 24th December from lunchtime. A doctor from each practice will answer the telephones until 6pm.
- Tuesday 25th December. Closed all day.
- Wednesday 26th December. Closed all day.
- Monday 31st December from lunchtime. A doctor from each practice will answer the telephones until 6pm.
- Tuesday 1st January. Closed all day.
- Wednesday 2nd January. Closed all day.

If you require urgent medical attention when the surgeries are closed, contact NHS24 on [111](tel:111). Make sure you have enough medication to last you over the holiday period, especially if you are going away to visit family or friends. Both Leny and Bracklinn Practice would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the year, and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

## Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

The nights are "fair drawing in" which is inevitable as we are now into autumn and winter is just around the bend.

However, have you recently noticed a change in the weather where a lot of the days look similar to night time?! The skies have been quite grey and it can all feel a bit oppressive. Or is that just me? Looking at some statistics from a mental health website, it is not just me. It seems one in 15 of us suffers from seasonal affective disorder (SAD). For many of us, symptoms include low mood, feeling less active, eating more and sleeping more. Not good!

Unfortunately this type of weather can be expected for some months yet and living under the shadow of Ben Ledi there is no getting away from such dreich days. For me, the solution (when it is not raining) is to enjoy a cycle along many of the great cycle paths that exist around Callander. Or a trip to the gym for some exercise or a swim.

However, the lack of sunlight in Scotland in the winter months is the main problem. NHS advises the use of a light box which can be put on a desk or wall mounted and is supposed to help. The bright light helps with the production of hormones (serotonin and melatonin) which affect our sleep and appetite. This is called Light therapy. It is worth a search and read on the NHS website - [www.nhs.uk/conditions/seasonal-affective-disorder-sad](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/seasonal-affective-disorder-sad)

As always, seek advice from your GP if you think you have any of these symptoms. Just think - by the time New Year is here, it is only 12 weeks until spring. Hurrah!

*Susmita Skelsey*



# 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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This number is FREE to call

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## If you can't wait until your GP surgery reopens



**NHS 24**

[www.nhs24.scot](http://www.nhs24.scot)

## HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED BY SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

For support and information please call Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline

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Email:  
[support@rapecrisisScotland.org.uk](mailto:support@rapecrisisScotland.org.uk)

For more information:  
[www.rapecrisisScotland.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisisScotland.org.uk)

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**Season's Greetings**

**To all our readers**

**From the Ben Ledi View**



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Jennie Hemphill MSc, BSc (Hons), MCSP, HCPC and PVG registered

## Callander Bike Meander Group- End of season ride

Callander's Bike Meander group held their end-of-season ride on 31st October 2018. The group headed over to Millport for the day for a taste of cycle-touring. There were devils and witches in the Meadows carpark early on the morning of the 31st October, as a small group of cyclists got into the spirit of Halloween with some ghoully bike gear. Bikes were firmly secured to car roofs. Then less than two hours later the group was grabbing coffees at Nardini's in Largs, watching the ferries arrive and depart for the Isle of Cumbrae.

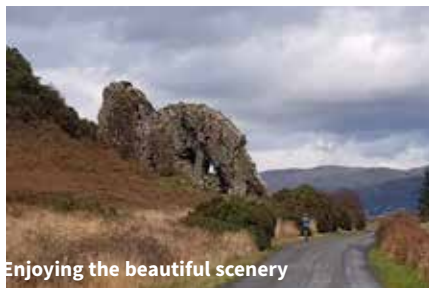


Bike Meander group in Cumbrae

The Largs to Great Cumbrae ferry is only a short hop. We rolled our bikes on, climbed the steps to the top of the ferry to maximise the fantastic views and very quickly were rolling our bikes back off. The one road around the island is a 10.5 mile loop, flat, with fabulous views to Arran and we immediately spotted herons, cormorants and shags on the shoreline. The sun had come out for us and we made quick progress around the island to Millport, a popular day-trip destination for many Glaswegians.

But I've never seen the town so quiet and we were starting to worry, as all the coffee shops were shut. Ah, the town has half-day closing on Wednesdays! However, our luck was in, as Garrison House, which houses Millport's museum, had a fabulous café. We had a lovely lunch and then a wander around the exhibitions and craft shops. It was time to head back

to the ferry, just another few miles around the island to complete the full loop. What a great day, with good company and food and fabulous cycling. A great end-of-season event.



Enjoying the beautiful scenery

Callander Bike Meander Group will resume their regular Tuesday morning rides early in 2019. Check Ben Ledi View for details or contact Colin Walsh ([07963 736044](tel:07963736044)) or Maggie Magor ([339074](tel:339074))

*Maggie Magor*

## Digital technology tackling mental health

Young people in Stirling are taking the lead in developing new digital solutions for the mental health issues facing their generation. Mental health champions across secondary schools in the area and members of the Stirling Youth Forum spent three months researching and developing a challenge on how technology can help young people start conversations about mental health. Stirling Council are supporting the initiative as co-sponsors, along with NHS National Services Scotland and Health Care Improvement Scotland. They had identified mental health as an important issue for them at last year's inaugural Youth Gathering - part of Stirling's 'Our Place, Our Space' initiative, which gives young people a voice in influencing services.

After assessing proposals, the young people selected Voxsio, an Edinburgh-based technology company, to provide a solution to

their challenge in the 'accelerator phase'. During the four-month accelerator phase Voxsio, the young people and co-sponsors will work together to develop a prototype solution using conversational Artificial Intelligence technology.

The aim of the solution is to not only help young people start the conversation about mental health but also to provide personalised advice on where to access additional services and ongoing support. Emily Horgan and Michael McTernan from Voxsio said: "It is a pleasure to work with the Youth Leaders and match their enthusiasm in improving mental health discussions. "Our priority is to start conversations around mental health and we believe it is crucial that conversations around mental health are personalised. Voxsio are using conversational artificial intelligence to help support young people in dealing with mental health issues."

*Mark Henderson, Senior Media Officer, Stirling Council*

## My trip to Callander

I enjoyed staying in Callander Youth Hostel, visiting Callander's Community Hydro, listening to harp music on the steamboat, biking beside beautiful and peaceful Lake Katrine, meeting SE partners in the recreation centre and going on a tour to Doune Castle. People in Callander are friendly and hospitable and I think they work well to create a wonderful ecosystem of social enterprise.

*Jennie Yen*





## Walk in the Park

The group will have their annual Christmas Lunch in the Old Bank on Tuesday 11th of December from Noon onwards. Everyone is welcome to join us, so if you haven't been able to walk with us or attend an exercise session for some time we would love to invite you along. Booking is essential so please contact the coordinator to choose your meal from a delicious menu. After 11th December both the Health Walks and the Strength and Balance sessions will have a break for the winter, returning on Tuesday 15th of January, weather permitting. Look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Lunch.



Callander Walk in the Park walks and session times for the winter are: Tuesday Morning Walk, 10.20am meeting at Ancaster Square. Walk in the Park provides a variety of short walks in and around Callander. Led by Trained Volunteer Walk Leaders they are a fun, safe and easy way to get fit, enjoy the wonderful countryside and make new friends. Walk at your own pace and distance to suit you.

Strength and Balance sessions, Tuesday afternoon from 2-3pm in the Fire Station. Using very gentle exercises based on the Otago falls prevention programme we take part in exercises designed to help us to walk more confidently.

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 [07852 334272](tel:07852334272) or send an email to: [cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

*Cathy Scott*

## Drumbeat

Depression, anxiety, self harming and conduct disorder, have always been a problem in the young and not so young. There is almost a constant stream of studies, producing data suggesting it is almost an epidemic. For example, between 2008 and 2014, the number of children and young adults with a mental health condition rose by 75% in Scotland. There are more studies to show the NHS is not coping with demand. There are of course complaints from patients.

Then during the Social Enterprise Forum in September, a helpful idea came from Australia especially for those who find communication a bit difficult. They call it DRUMBEAT.

Imagine you are stressed, anxious, angry, perhaps finding it difficult to communicate and wanting to hit out at the world. You are given a drum to hit with your hands. A good noise! Normally the drumming is not a solitary occupation but is done in a circle with a leader and gradually perhaps a rhythm builds up. No musical skills needed, nothing to learn, people relax; this is fun not work, it does not matter. Eventually people are able to talk about what is making life difficult. It seems the drums help communication.



Schools, community service groups, hospitals, prisons, aged care and special needs providers, occupational therapists, mental health services, veterans and youth workers have all reported success using the programme reporting

## COOK'S CORNER

by Audrey Corrieri

FILO MINCE PIES (Makes 12)

Ingredients:

2 tbsp unsalted butter, melted  
4 sheets filo pastry  
300g mincemeat  
1 egg, beaten  
2 tbsp flaked almonds

Method:

Preheat the oven to Gas no. 4, 180c or 160c fan. Brush a 12-hole cupcake tin with butter. Lay out the sheets of filo pastry and cut into squares so you end up with 4 squares per hole in the tin. Add a square of pastry at a time to each hole, pressing them in and brushing with butter as you go, until each hole has 4 layers of buttered filo pastry.

Spoon the mincemeat into each pastry case. Sprinkle over the almonds and bake for 8-10 minutes. The filo pastry burns easily, so keep an eye on the pies, covering loosely with foil if necessary.

Remove from the oven and cool on a wire rack. Serve warm or cold.

clients have: Better self-esteem, sense of belonging, emotional stability & ability to cooperate. Decreased behavioural incidents, stress and anxiety; Improved attendance, academic performance, relationships and interaction with others. In this country drumming has been used to help people overcome addiction problems, including cell phone addiction, and help with conditions like Parkinson's Disease.

**A**n opening for a social Entrepreneur?

Not just to help the community but perhaps to set up drumming parties as social events. Might you like to go to a drumming party?

## Royal British Legion Scotland -Callander Branch

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.



At 11am on Sunday 11th November, exactly 100 years to the minute since the guns were silenced at the end of World War 1, office bearers and members of Callander Legion led the people of Callander in tribute to the fallen of that terrible war and of all conflicts since. The very moving united service was conducted by Rev. Jeff McCormack and by Canon Richard Grosse of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

The lessons were read by the head boy and head girl from McLaren High School, a bugler played the last post and a piper a lament. At the end of the service a collection was taken for Erskine Veterans Home which raised a grand total of £900. This was sent directly to Erskine.

Following the service, the annual parade to the War Memorial was led by the High School pipe band, followed by the Legion and National standards and members. The parade also included parties from military cadets, community and district councils, Scouts, Guides and Callander brass band. In the Square prayers were said and a silence was again observed. Wreaths were laid, during which time the brass band played solemn music.

After the parade dismissed, many folks repaired to the Waverley Hotel for

soup and sandwiches.

### BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

Over the past year the Callander Branch has been very active and can be proud of a number of achievements. These include:

- Fund raising - all of our usual military charities have benefitted to the tune of £2000 and we have further been involved in joint fund raising, a cooperation of different charities under the umbrella of (and with the knowledge and blessing of) the Royal British Legion Scotland headquarters. We have thereby also helped some local charities. A number of successful tombola events in the Square and race nights have also swelled the coffers.
- Home visits - our Chair and some members have carried out support visits to mostly older veterans to ascertain any cases of need.
- Telephone helpline - we are also involved in a scheme manned by ex-service personnel for veterans who are finding difficulty in readjusting to civilian life or are suffering from post-traumatic stress. This has been a great success.
- Great Ben Ledi walk – the year began with this well-supported event. It was a huge fundraiser and a popular community event.
- Bus outing to Oban – on Wednesday June 20th, 50 Callander locals and OAPs enjoyed a wonderful trip to Oban taking in a visit to St. Conan's Kirk by Loch Awe en route.
- Poppy Sales - our Poppy Secretary, Lynne Schroder, has had a very busy month with the sale of poppies and related items for Poppy Scotland, the charity closely related to the RBLs. We hope to bring news of the result of Lynne's efforts in the next issue of this magazine.

We in the Legion, as well as being conscious of those who have served and are now needing help to readjust to daily living, are also always conscious of those who made the supreme sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedom we do today. Whatever our aims and achievements, our motto will always be 'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'.



## Callander and District Arthritis Club

The Quiz Night was very successful, raising over £200 which will go to a local charity. Thanks to all who took part, to Deli Écosse for the cakes and for helping out where needed and also to our own members who did the work behind the scenes.

We are off to our Pantomime on 13th December, and then on 15th January, 2019, Paul Prescott will be delivering a PowerPoint presentation on "History through DNA" which should be very interesting. This will take place at 7.30pm in the Kirk Hall and visitors are welcome. There will be refreshments and a raffle.

*Fiona Shaw, Secretary*



## Lodge Ben Ledi



On 4th November we held our Sportsman's Dinner in the

Masonic Hall and raised over £2000 for Strathcarron Hospice. We would like to thank all the local businesses who donated auction prizes and those who donated raffle prizes and sold raffle tickets on the day. Thank you to Sandy Campbell who organised the speakers and to those who helped set up and then cleared up afterwards. We could not have been so successful if not for Ishbel and Leo from the Crown Hotel, who prepared the meal, Peter and Kirsty in the Lodge Kitchen and also the members of the Ladies Circle who served during the meal. A big thank you to everyone.

On the 11th November, we were involved in the wreath laying ceremony to pay tribute to all those who gave up their lives in World War 1 and all the wars since.

## CHAS

Abelated thanks to Father Jim and the congregation of St Joseph's Church for allowing us to use their car park for our Wednesday car boot sale. Thanks also to Campbells Shortbread for rearranging their flour delivery to help us. We raised £1579.

Thanks also to all the people who have bought plants at my garden gate this summer. That has raised a further £1139 for the charity

*Fiona House*

### HOME START STIRLING

Have you some free time and thought of volunteering? Home Start Stirling is a locally based charity that provides support and friendship to families with children under school age where the family is having difficulty coping.

We are currently recruiting Trustees on the Board and in particular, a person with experience in finance or perhaps you have skills in Human Resources or the Caring Professions. If so, get in touch with Rachel Keenan Manager [rachel@homestartstirling.org.uk](mailto:rachel@homestartstirling.org.uk) 01786498466 for a chat. The Board meets 8 times a year.

## Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club



Rotary

Regular readers will remember that last autumn pupils from McLaren Primary and McLaren High planted a Commemorative Grove of native trees on the path up Ben Ledi in memory of the men of Callander who fell in World War 1. On the 11th November 2018, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the war, a few Rotarians and friends braved the elements and gathered on the lower slopes of Ben Ledi to view the new information board designed by Vice President Mike Kay and produced and set in place by the Forestry Commission. President Peter Ireland introduced Past President Brian McKay who read 'For the Fallen' by war poet Laurence



Binyon, and Mike Cantlay who unveiled the board which has on it photographs of all the men listed on the Callander war memorial. We hope that readers will make the short walk up to the Commemorative Grove to see the information board. There is more information on the club's website at [www.callander.rotary1010.org](http://www.callander.rotary1010.org).

[rotary1010.org](http://rotary1010.org)

Our thanks go to the Hydro Project and the Community Council for financial support, Sue McKay of Callander Heritage for help with information and of course the Forestry Commission for letting us use the land and assisting with providing and erecting the board.

- If you would like to find out more about Rotary please look at our website, [www.callander.rotary1010.org](http://www.callander.rotary1010.org) or on Facebook. If you would like to come along to a meeting, any Tuesday evening at Callander Golf Club or find out more about membership please contact Derek House on 01877 330103.

*Derek House*

## Callander Bridge Club

Have you played Bridge in the past? Would you like the opportunity to return to Bridge after a break for other interests, playing Duplicate Bridge in a friendly social environment?

Callander Bridge Club was originally formed some 40 years ago and has met in several Callander locations over the years, it now meets every Wednesday evening at the Old Bank commencing at 7.00pm.

The Club would welcome new members who have played Bridge in the past and, if required, can arrange partners.

Anyone interested in learning the game, or improving/refreshing their existing skills can do so by joining the Callander and West Perthshire U3A as a stepping stone to playing Bridge with the Callander Bridge Club.

This group meets every Monday at the Old Bank restaurant (left hand door) commencing at 2.00pm.

We would love to welcome you to our group and you can join us by contacting David at 01877-330016 or email [cpndread@sky.com](mailto:cpndread@sky.com) or call Geoff on 07980346841.

## Heritage Society

In September Dr Kenny Brophy talked about Cup and Ring Marks with particular reference to Faifley's Cochno Stone (West Dumbartonshire). Dating from the 3rd millennium BC, the meaning of the marks is unknown. The Cochno Stone was first recorded in the 1880s and has over 100 marks. However not all these are prehistoric. In 1937, archaeologist Ludovic Mann painted the marks and added patterns of his own. Later visitors added their names and messages. In 1965 the stone was buried to stop more damage. In 2016, Kenny uncovered the stone, photographed it, carried out a laser survey and then reburied it for protection while its future is discussed.

At October's meeting Gary Lawrie gave a talk entitled 'A Call of Two Duties – Stirlingshire Constabulary in the Great War'. On his retirement from policing, Gary was inspired by the War Memorial in Randolphfield, Stirling to research policing during World War 1. He told us that in 1914 Forth Valley had 111 police officers. Policemen who wanted to join up had to get the Chief Constable's permission. If granted, their job would be there when the war was over and their pensions secure. By October 1915, 36 men had already joined up, 37 were seeking permission to join and there were 29 police vacancies. New recruits to fill the gaps were easy to find at first, but as more men went to fight, it became difficult. This was when Special Constables began to be appointed. Fortunately, crime levels dropped due to criminals being called up and a sense of national duty and pride also kept crime figures down. Sadly, one in three of the Stirling policemen who served, died. After the Armistice 27 officers returned to policing.

*K. Millar*

## Start Up Stirling

Start Up Stirling has launched its Christmas Appeal to raise £45,000 in donations to help local homeless people and those in hardship.

Around 300 people receive goods from our foodbank every week around Stirlingshire and this continues to grow, particularly in the rural areas. We also provide assistance to individuals and families commencing new tenancies after homelessness.

Do you really need another deodorant pack you don't like? Or scented candles cluttering up your home? Instead why not use this Christmas to make a real difference to someone's life! Start Up Stirling has been supporting local people in need since 1994 and we'd like to make this our most successful Christmas to date!

Rather than give Christmas cards to your friends and family or instead of a Secret Santa in work – why not support local people in need and instead donate those funds to our Start Up Stirling Christmas Appeal? You could also hold a Christmas Jumper day in your workplace with donations going to Start Up Stirling.

Hundreds of people in Stirlingshire cannot afford to eat and in winter this becomes more challenging where they have to make a choice between eating and heating.

Donations can be made online at [www.startupstirling.org.uk/donate](http://www.startupstirling.org.uk/donate) or directly to our unit at 16B Whitehouse Road, Stirling.



## Thursday Club

Committee and members express sincere thanks to the staff and patients of Bracklinn Practice for their generous gift of £281.75 donated at the recent Flu Clinic. This is a great boost to our funds and is much appreciated.

We continue to enjoy our fortnightly Club meetings with a mix of activities and table games which vary according to members' choices. This year the activities have included a visit from the Willetts with Guide Dog puppy, Porthos, and also from Irene Sneddon with exercises to music, a quiz and members sharing their family involvement in World War 1. We have celebrated the 90th birthdays of Helen Galloway and Jimmy Mills.

The 2019 session begins on 16th January at 2.00pm in the Kirk Hall library and fortnightly thereafter. We welcome visitors and hope you will enjoy what we offer in company and friendship.

*Marion Doherty*

## Callander & West Perthshire U3A



In the run-up to Christmas our busy groups will be arranging lunches and outings over the festive season

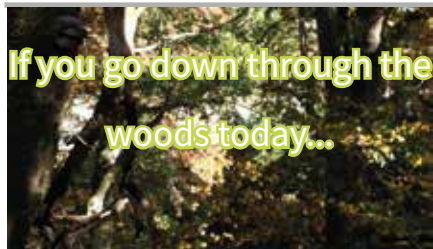
and we hope our 47 new members enjoy all the activities. At the time of writing many members are looking forward to a trip to Edinburgh to see the lights and visit the Christmas market.

We only have a short break over New Year and anyone not in U3A and wondering what it is all about is welcome to join us then. You can come to two different groups on a trial visit before deciding to join and the membership subscription after New Year is reduced to £5. All the information about our groups and where they meet is on our website, just Google 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A'.

A Merry Christmas and a Guid New Year from us all.

*Marguerite Kobs*





So set off East along the South side of the river Teith from the rugby pitch and keep walking past Claish Farm and Balvalachan; alternatively you might decide to walk down the nice road to the river beside the new cemetery. Head East into the woods alongside the river along the small footpath and enjoy the burbling of the water and the wildlife, being careful not to fall over tree roots. Suddenly you will come across what is lurking in a muddy clearing by the river it is certainly to say at least a surprise.

We have been hearing about hypothetical bridges across the river for years and here it is. It was not there in August but it most certainly was there in October. Beautiful sides to protect from the wind and

rain, good stout ironwork top and bottom, hand rails but obviously not designed for people, as down the middle is what might become a conveyor.



So why is it here? There are two clues. Firstly behind the trees on the opposite bank of the river is what looks like something from 'The Lord of the Rings' and behind the wood on this bank the field has a new track and is obviously being dug. The answer, as you will have guessed is there is going to be a new gravel pit on the South side of the river.

Those of you who read the

magazine in its earlier days will remember the outrage in the community when it was proposed. But it is going ahead and the company must send the gravel to the North side of the river to be 'processed' and put into lorries to be sent along the A 84.

So far email enquiries have produced no information from either the land owner or Cemex who run the pit/quarry. So we fall back on scant knowledge linked to open cast coal mines. The gravel will probably have to be extracted in a set period of time. Then, usually there are rules about the restoration of the site so the land becomes usable again. There have been problems where an apparently big company goes into liquidation before the land restoration is complete

There are sure to be readers with far more knowledge than we have, so obviously if the information is incorrect we would be delighted to be corrected and to know more.



As you will now be aware, work has finally started on the building in Main Street, which is **Ciro's Italian Restaurant** with a series of flats above it.

The devastating fire broke out at Victoria Court, where **Ciro's Italian Restaurant** and the flats above were severely damaged when the fire took hold on Thursday, May 25th 2017. The roof collapsed on the top floor flat and the restaurant suffered smoke and water damage.

Families living in the properties were forced out of their homes and several lost all of their possessions. The community rallied, and hundreds of items were donated

with a fundraiser raising a good amount of money for those affected.

The work to make the structure of the building safe has now been completed, however work has now halted until the money for the next stage is available, which is to re-roof the structure. Work on the roof will not take place until next year.

Nikki and **Ciro** of "**Ciro's Italian**" Restaurant have had a rollercoaster couple of years but are now happy with their new location and are in their second season on-site at Loch Tay Highland Lodges, which is a thriving family holiday park 3 miles from Killin.

We caught up with Nikki Crillo who said "First of all many thanks to all of our loyal customers from near and far for their immense support over the past 16 months since the fire." Nikki and **Ciro** took over the Bistro at Loch Tay Highland Lodges in June last year and after a short break took up residence in late August 2017.

Nikki says "We decamped up to Loch Tay just outside Killin and have been there ever since. All of the locals, staff and guests have made us feel so welcome, for which we are eternally grateful and if **Ciro** is honest with himself, his view from his new kitchen is also pretty good!"

Now in their second year and close to completing a full season in 2018, both Nikki and **Ciro** are thankful that they have been able to keep **Ciro's** name going from strength to strength and maintain working on their reputation, which took them 10 years to grow and nurture in Callander.

Whilst we all hope they eventually return to Callander, they are still not sure of the future. For the time being they are looking forward to doing another season in 2019 at Loch Tay Highland Lodges. A very warm welcome awaits you at **Ciro's @ Loch Tay**. For reservations:

01567 820853 or  
[bistro@lochtay-vacations.co.uk](mailto:bistro@lochtay-vacations.co.uk)

# What's on in December and January

## REGULAR MEETINGS

### Mondays:

- Yoga (adults) 9.30-11.00am Callander Golf Club
- Weekly drop in WORK I.T. 10.00-11.00am Callander Library
- Chair Yoga 11.15am -12.15pm Callander Golf Club
- Gentle Yoga 3.00-4.00pm Callander Golf Club
- Scrabble 2.00pm Waverley Hotel (1st and 3rd Mon)
- Highland Dancing 4.00pm Kirk Hall (not 24th & 31st Dec nor 7th & 14th Jan)
- Cubs 6.15pm Primary School
- Guides 7.00pm St Andrew's Church Hall
- Zumba fitness class 7.00pm Kirk Hall
- Callander Pipe Band practice/teaching 7.00pm Masonic Hall
- Yoga 7.00-8.30pm Callander Golf Club
- CAOS rehearsals 7.30pm McLaren High School (10th Dec and then from 7th Jan all month)

### Tuesdays:

- Craigard Club 10.30am to 1.00pm Kirk Hall (last meeting 18th Dec -restarts 8th Jan)
- Walk in the Park 10.20 am (see schedule by date below)
- Callander Cycle Meander meet 10.00am Ancaster Square (contact 01877 339074)
- Strength and Balance exercise sessions 2.00pm Fire Station
- Army Cadet Force training 7.00pm Kirk Hall
- Badminton Club 7.30pm McLaren Leisure Centre

### Wednesdays:

- Callander Kids 9.30am Kirk Hall
- Citizens Advice Bureau 10.00am-12.30pm Callander Library
- Teapot Café 10.30am Kirk Hall Library
- Yoga 11.00-12.30pm Callander Golf Club
- ESOL classes (beginners) 3.00pm Burgh Chambers
- YES beginners 6.00pm intermediate/advanced 7.30pm McLaren Leisure Centre
- Bridge Club 6.50pm Old Bank
- Song Squad 7.15-9.15pm Fire Station

### Thursdays:

- Weekly drop in I.T. & ME 2.00-4.00pm Callander Library
- Scottish Country Dancing 7.00pm Masonic Hall
- Texas Hold 'Em Poker 7.30pm Waverley Hotel
- Kwik Cricket and Hardball 5.30-7.00pm McLaren Rugby pitch
- Callander Brass practice Training band 6.30pm, main band 7.30pm Primary School
- Family Yoga for age 8+ 4.30-5.30pm Callander Golf Club
- Family Yoga for age 5+ 5.30-6.30pm Callander Golf Club
- Yoga (adults) 8.00-9.30pm Callander Golf Club

### Fridays:

- Craigard Club 10.30am to 1.00pm Kirk Hall (last meeting 21st Dec -restarts 11th Jan)

### Saturdays :

- Trossachs Tigers Training 9.15-10.00am McLaren Leisure Centre

### Sundays :

- Sundays @ Six Stirling Baptists in Callander 6.00pm St Andrew's Church Hall

## DECEMBER

### • Friday 7th

### • Ben Ledi View published

### • Saturday 8th

- Ramblers Ramble: Bar Hill, Croy Hill and Antonine Wall (6.5 miles) 8.30 am Contact 01786 825877
- Callander Brass Carols and Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12.30pm Kirk Hall

### • Sunday 9th

- Film Society 'The Death of Stalin' 7.30pm Callander Hostel

### • Tuesday 11th

- Walk in the Park Keltie Bridge meet 10.20am Medical Centre, followed by Christmas lunch at The Old Bank. Please book on 01877 330055
- SWT talk by Neil Cameron on 'Drumardoch Estate' Kirk Hall 7.30pm

### • Wednesday 12th

- Old Folks Christmas Dinner 6.00pm Callander Hostel

### • Thursday 13th

- Callander Brass Carol Service 7.30pm Strathyre

### • Sunday 16th

- Town Festival of Lessons and Carols 6.30pm St Andrew's Church

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

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



Information Centres  
visitscotland.com/wheretofindus





# What's on in December and January (contd.)

- **Wednesday 19th**
- Ramblers Stroll : Dunblane Daunder (4 miles) 9.30am Contact 01786 825249
- **Sunday 23rd**
- Film Society 'The Man Who Invented Christmas' 7.30pm Callander Hostel
- **Monday 24th**
- Medical Centre closed from lunchtime until 27th December (both practices)
- Children's Watchnight Service 4.30pm Ancaster Square
- Trossachs Watchnight Service 6.30pm Trossachs Kirk
- Watchnight Service 11.30pm Callander Kirk
- **Tuesday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY**
- **Wednesday 26th BOXING DAY**
- **Sunday 30th**
- Callander Target Sports Club Clay Pigeon Shoot 10.00am Callander (contact Bob Farquharson 07721-744229 to book)
- **Monday 31st HOGMANAY**
- Medical Centre closed from lunchtime until 3rd January

## JANUARY

- **Tuesday 1st NEW YEAR'S DAY**
- **Wednesday 2nd**
- Ramblers New Year Town Walk (4 miles) 11.00am Contact 01877 330444
- **Friday 4th**
- **Ben Ledi View copy deadline**
- **Saturday 5th**
- Lodge Ben Ledi New Year Dance 7.00pm Masonic Hall
- **Tuesday 8th**
- SWT talk 'Trossachs Water Vole Project update' (speaker tba) 7.30pm Kirk Hall
- **Thursday 10th**
- Callander Kirk Guild 2.00pm Kirk Hall Library
- **Saturday 12th**
- Ramblers AGM 6.00pm Callander Golf Club

- **Sunday 13th**
- Film Society 'Darkest Hour' 7.30pm Callander Hostel
- **Monday 14th**
- Community Council meeting 7.30pm Callander Hostel
- **Tuesday 15th**
- Walk in the Park Bridgend and Meadows meet 10.20am Ancaster Square
- Arthritis Club Paul Prescott illustrated talk on DNA 7.30pm Kirk Hall
- **Wednesday 16th**
- Ramblers Ramble: Tillicoultry and Dollar (7 miles) 9.30am Contact 07950 046913
- **Thursday 17th**
- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall Library
- **Tuesday 22nd**
- Walk in the Park NCR7 towards Leny Falls meet 10.20am Ancaster Square
- **Thursday 24th**
- Callander Kirk Guild 2.00pm Kirk Hall Library
- **Saturday 26th**
- Ramblers Hill: Conic Hill (361m) 8.30am Contact 01877 330059
- **Sunday 27th**
- Callander Target Sports Club Clay Pigeon Shoot 10.00am Callander (contact Bob Farquhar 07721-744229 to book)
- Film Society 'The Shape of Water' 7.30pm Callander Hostel
- **Tuesday 29th**
- Walk in the Park Golf Club Walk meet 10.20am Ancaster Square
- **Thursday 31st**
- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall Library

## • FEBRUARY

- **Friday 1st**
- **Ben Ledi View published**

## Overnight Parking

In the last issue a letter highlighted the issue of overnight parking in the Meadows. We commented on the pay and display sign having no mention of overnight parking. John Kennedy has kindly brought to our attention this sign by the river. It appears that parking regulations are being contravened. Hopefully there will be some enforcement next summer?



## SCREW IT HARDWARE

MULTI-FUEL & LOG BURNING STOVES  
GRATES AND ASHPANS  
WICKERBASKETS & COMPANION SETS  
PEAT / VERDO / LOGS / KINDLING  
HOUSE COAL & MUCH MORE  
BIRD SEEDS AND NUTS

89 Main Street, Callander, FK17 8BQ

Tel: 01877 331281

## Callander Library

**H**oliday DVD Offer - borrow DVDs from the library anytime from 18th December onwards and keep them until 3rd January, but pay only one week's hire charge per DVD.

Christmas Opening Hours - The library will close at approx. 4pm on Monday 24th December. It will re-open after the holiday period, on Thursday 3 January, with a return to normal hours.

Merry Christmas to all

*Fiona Frize*

### 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

## CAOS and Callander Kirk Junior Choir

**I**t's been a busy couple of months and nerves were in evidence at the beginning of November when we held auditions for Annie. There was some stiff competition and well done to everybody who took part for giving the judges such a difficult job. Congratulations to Lucy Underwood, who will play Annie, and to Grant Webb (Oliver Warbucks), Angela Dickinson (Miss Hannigan), Brian McKay (Rooster) and Naomi Scott (Grace Farrell). There are some great supporting roles too, and all the cast will now be working hard rehearsing for what is looking like another fantastic show. You may have enjoyed some of the numbers at our concert at the end of November.

However, just because the show has been cast, don't think it's too late to get involved. We are always happy to welcome new members and there is still room on stage for more! We'd also be happy to hear from anybody who can get involved in other ways - backstage, front of house or publicity, for example. Ask

a committee member, contact us via our web page, or simply come along to rehearsals at McLaren High School on Mondays at 7.30pm.

In the past we have had generous backing from the Hydro Fund and Airtricity. We also value the wonderful support given by our patrons and local businesses who advertise in our programme. Once again, to help us in either of these ways, talk to a committee member or see the web page.

Don't miss the coffee morning on Saturday 2nd February 2019 when tickets will go on sale for the show. Doors open at 10.30 and, as always, we will be singing some of the well-known numbers from the show - see you there.

*Steve Murphy for the CAOS committee*

## Book Club Review

*Your Second Life Begins When You Realize You Only Have One*

by Raphaëlle Giordano (Bantam Press: 2018).

The title for this month's BLV Book Club review is a bit of a mouthful and will from herein be referred to as *Your Second Life... Not perhaps the catchiest title but certainly an enigmatic one.* Add in a Paris-location, glamorous Parisian author (this book is translated from the French best-seller) and a front page claiming that this was 'The Novel That Made 2 million People Happier!' What's not to like?

Camille is our main character, who at the age of 38, with a husband, child and steady job, is feeling very dissatisfied and disenchanted with her life. She

constantly bickers with her angry husband, gets frustrated with her 9-year old son and is bored by her mundane job. In short, she is unhappy and feels she has lost her way in life.

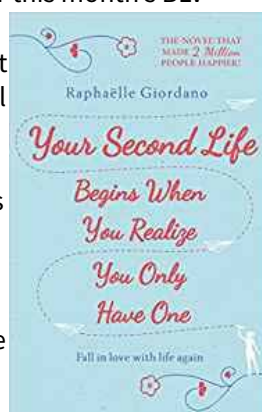
By chance, she meets a man called Claude who calls himself a routinologist and diagnoses Camille with 'acute routinitis' which left untreated can cause 'epidemics of pessimism, tsunamis of discontent [and] catastrophic storms of bad mood'. Claude vows that he can cure Camille if she works with him on his routinology programme over the following months. So Camille jumps in feet-first on a personal journey that, through Claude's exercises and learning tasks, will hopefully see her re-engage with her life and family.

Your enjoyment of the book probably depends where you are yourself in life. So if you're a bit inclined towards more-than-mild grumpiness or feel you are overwhelmingly unhappy and having a mid-life crisis, *Your Second Life...* may strike a chord and could even be useful! The back of the book contains a Pocket Dictionary of Routinology Words and Phrases, which re-caps on all the exercises and learning tasks that Camille did during her time with Claude. These range from simply keeping a Positive Thoughts Notebook to the more ambitious Mission Spring-clean (getting rid of everything negative and toxic in your life).

*Your Second Life...* is a quick read and semi-entertaining. Is it really a novel though? I'm not so sure. I think it edges more towards the self-help shelf of the library. So, if you feel you've lost your mojo of late and are wondering what this life is all about, this book could assist your self-rediscovery and eternal happiness (note, no refunds if reader not entirely satisfied).

The next BLV book club review will be *The President is Missing: A Novel* by Bill Clinton and James Patterson (Century: 2018)

*Maggie Magor*





## Callander Brass



Christmas is approaching, the carol books have been handed out, and Callander Brass has a busy diary for the festive season. By the time you read this we will have played at the opening of **Winterfest**, and at Deanston Distillery's Christmas Fayre - a well-attended engagement, for some reason!

The date for our popular Carols and Coffee Morning is Saturday 8th December, 10.30am - 12.30pm in the Kirk Hall. For a small entrance fee, you can have tea or coffee and shortbread, a chance to buy some home baking, and try your luck at the Grand Raffle. Not forgetting everyone can sing along with the Band playing carols. Come along - it's great fun.

Some of the Band are going off afterwards to the Balquhiddy Christmas Tree Festival in the afternoon - another very enjoyable annual event for us.

On Thursday 13th December we travel to Strathgryre to play at the Carol Concert there, which starts at 7.30 pm. On Sunday 16th December Callander Brass take part in the Festival of Carols and Lessons in St Andrew's Church, Leny Road, at 6.30 pm. Weather permitting, we will be playing in Ancaster Square on Christmas Eve.

After that, time to draw breath and enjoy Christmas and New Year, before we get together in January to start practising for the Scottish Brass Band Championships in Perth, on Sunday 10th March 2019.

All the best from Callander Brass  
*Alma Cadzow*

## Christmas, St Helena Style

About 25 years ago we were seconded to the Island of St Helena, last home of Napoleon. Right out in the middle of the Atlantic 10 miles by 5 in size, rising steeply out of a lonely sea. But tropical. Our first Christmas there was so different from our traditional Scottish ones, where hygge (fun) was paramount, even if we weren't aware of the word then.

Picture it. Out on the veranda with a view of the blue sea 1000 ft below us and aloes rising like green wands to shelter the local birds. The children didn't mind the tropical nature of the day, and were unfazed by the lack of a chimney. Presents and paper scattered across the lawn. Adults sought a semblance of sophistication amongst the debris with glasses of cheap fizz, specially imported for the festive season. The children were joined by others, and the garden filled with the sound of childish laughter. Dogs raced around and the adults exchanged gossip.

Then around the corner came "mummers". Young men dressed in feathers and rags. Their faces were painted or masked in a hellish semblance of demons. They held sticks in their hands, the tops crowned with feathers, bells and balloons. The apparitions brandished them in a threatening way, holding them like batons or spears.

Our conversation stopped. The children shrieked and fled to hide behind chairs. The mummers swung round us, acrobatic and frightening. Slowly they approached the veranda screaming and chanting. The masks made it impossible to gauge their hostility. They shook their sticks at us the bells jangling loudly. Our laughter was slightly hysterical. It was hard to understand the words of their song as St Helena dialect is a mixture of 18th Century English with Chinese and African words. Into this threatening mix a bucket appeared. "Money! Money!" yelled one of them. New to St Helena we weren't sure what was happening. We had been told there was no crime on the island.

Then one of the children ran out and embraced the most hostile figure. "Mr Leo! Mr Leo!" he shouted. The tension collapsed as we recognised one of the primary school teachers. Our purses were out and the mummers collected well. Relief makes one generous. We invited them to join us in a drink, but they had other expats to scare into generosity. I found out later that they were collecting for the diabetic clinic, an island tradition. I'm afraid some of the "Saints" were sceptical about the final destination of the funds, but we were fine about it. It was a memorable day. Nothing like an adrenaline rush before lunch to make Christmas hyper fun.

*Elaine Martay*

### *Hogmanay for a Curmudgeon*

New Year - what is new? Just the date

Same old country in the same old state.

Same old weather dark and drear,  
What's so special about any New Year?

Same old politics and same old Brexit

Same old politicians and no-one to fix it.

Same old rain on the window pane,  
Same old rut in the same old lane.

So we'll drink a toast in the same old whisky

And hope to goodness SOMEONE gets frisky.

That someone's not me, I'm far too grumpy  
Far too old and far too frumpy.

So I'll take myself off to my lonely bed  
At least for me there'll be no sore head.

Maybe tomorrow I'll get into gear  
And wish you all a Happy New Year!

*Fiona Martin*

## Callander's Landscape

**C**allander's Landscape is an exciting project that focuses on the dramatic landscapes that surround Callander, improving natural and cultural heritage and ensuring that more people can access this awe-inspiring place.

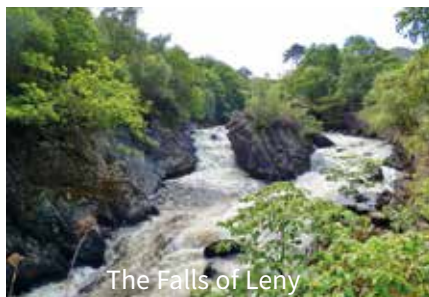
Its vision is to better connect its people and its visitors, unlocking the secrets of our beautiful rivers, woodlands, mountains, heritage and history for all to enjoy.

Following a phenomenal amount of support from the community and our fifteen partners, we are happy to announce that Callander's Landscape is now live, having secured the funding which will help transform Callander into the 'Outdoor Capital of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.' Thanks to National Lottery players, the project was awarded £1.43 million funding earlier this year. Partners, volunteers and other grant funders are all contributing to this landscape-scale project, which has an overall value of around £2.2 million.

Over the next three years the project will deliver 19 projects in and around Callander, some of which are already underway.

**Dark Skies** is an exciting volunteer-led initiative that seeks to explore and celebrate the Callander night sky. Over the winter and into next spring we will be providing local people with fun and informal opportunities to better understand the area's landscape. The project began last month with an evening of astronomy. Next, we will be looking for local volunteers to identify the best places for stargazing in and around Callander.

**The Modern Apprenticeships** programme is led by Callander Youth Project Trust and two Modern Apprentices have already embarked on a unique training experience that combines adventure tourism and hospitality. They will be joined by



The Falls of Leny

four more apprentices next year with the new Cultural Heritage Modern Apprenticeship set to be delivered. Completing the package is a Rural Skills Modern Apprenticeship. These programmes offer young people paid employment combined with hands on training, plus the benefit of experience working with national agencies, local businesses and the community.

In September we kicked off an ambitious **community archaeology project** with a series of Archaeology training sessions. Training sessions were provided by Callander Heritage Society, with support from Northlight Heritage and involved finding out about desk-based assessments to help identify potential archaeological sites, before our hardy group of volunteers ventured out into the countryside to make a host of new discoveries. By the end of the training, all of our volunteers came away with new skills and the confidence to begin their own research.

**Callander Craggs** are so important to local people and visitors alike and are an important part of the town's identity. An extensive program of woodland restoration work will begin this winter, much of which will be carried out by volunteers. A series of habitat boxes will be made and installed and local families will be invited to help with this essential work. Meanwhile, Stirling Council have secured funding to upgrade one of the existing paths through the lower woods, which will enable much easier access from the town

centre. Work on the paths should begin in the New Year with a view to being completed by the end of February.

Although popular during the Victorian era, over time the historic Victorian walkway and path network at the **Falls of Leny** have since fallen into a state of disrepair. Our flagship project will aim to reinstate the Falls as a visitor destination in its own right, through the installation of a new bridge, pathway improvements, expansion of the existing car park, interpretation and restoration of the Victorian walkway. The Heritage Lottery Fund, Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund, Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER, Callander Community Development Trust and our partners are all contributing to the project's significant package of funding and we are currently working through the consents necessary to deliver these exciting changes to help regenerate the site.

While Callander's Landscape projects will be delivered by our 15 partners, more volunteering opportunities will be available for all and there will also be a programme of local events and activities to enjoy too.

Stay up to date with the latest news, events and volunteering opportunities, and find out more about our generous partners and funders by visiting:

[www.callanderslandscape.org](http://www.callanderslandscape.org).

A partnership project funded by:



The Falls of Leny Visitor Destination project is being part financed by Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER through the Scottish Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Europe investing in rural areas.





### Festive Party Menu

£35.00 per person  
For Lunch or Dinner a  
wonderful 3 course  
meal with Coffee Mince  
pies & Christmas  
Crackers.

For two, a family of  
four, a party of eight  
and even more than  
twenty eight 1st - 23rd  
December



### Christmas Day Lunch

£120.00 for our Six  
Course spectacular  
Menu with Mulled  
Wine on arrival



**ROMAN CAMP**

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Off Main Street, Callander FK17 8BG

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Steak ~ Chicken  
Lamb ~ Cheeses Plate  
Puddings





## Blue November

Well here we are again! I think I'm still on probation as a soapboxiteer, possibly on a shoogly peg. Not sure if soapboxiteer is a word that will pass the Editor's eagle eye, but we'll leave it in and see what happens. Do Censors really have Blue pencils?

Anyway, Blue is the subject this time. Blue has become a thorny local issue. I have heard of Blue Sky thinking, reminding me of time wasted in dreadful corporate seminars that were anything but creative. Currently, in Callander, there's a lot of Blue Sea thinking – or rather Sea Blue thinking. What seems to have given some local people the Blues is concern about the paint on the projecting front façade of the new flats in Station Road. People express dismay at the presentation of the vibrant Light Blue and ask who can have let that happen – well I guess the answer has to be everyone who failed to follow up on the chance to comment

on the planning application. Perhaps some people like the colour – but I've not heard that yet.

The drawing of that façade, as approved by the National Park Planners, states that the material is larch boarding painted 'Sea Blue' on the jetting out section on the Station Road façade. Who chose it and why? Now personally I wouldn't get on my soapbox about that, for it will probably fade and peel and flake off in a few years and revert to natural larch – nature always wins in the end.

But there is a point about us all becoming more engaged in our local community, especially in areas where we have a voice.

Now I have seen the sea in many colours from dark slate blue to icy green and all sorts of glorious blues in between. Is there a universal standard 'Sea Blue'? Perhaps it is #006994 in RGB colour systems (see, I do know how to surf the web) – as in this sample.

Now I wonder is this the colour of 'Sea Blue' that the building designers envisaged? Is it what the building owner expected to see? Is it what the planners expected to see? It would be good if any of these parties could give us a hint or two about their thinking.

I'm not calling for it to be repainted, unless of course, the painters got it wrong. As I've said nature will have her way in the end.

While on the subject of the Blues (good festival again this year), in one of the watering holes I heard a couple of musicians chatting about how population movement enabled traditional music from around the world to meld, fuse and evolve into new forms.

Was there a possible link from Scots emigrés to North America and the new music evolving? It is known that Archie Macnab fled to Canada to avoid his debts and acquired several square miles of good land establishing a Scottish community there. He was clearly financially irresponsible and, if he had some of his father's characteristics, could have fathered many children by many women. There is no record of him visiting the USA, but there are quite a number of McNabbs presently living in Memphis, Tennessee.

Now this is the spooky bit; the musician W C Handy, arguably the Father of the Blues, lived in Memphis most of his life and as a young man had been a coke shoveller in McNabb's foundry. So, did his hard work sweating and straining in near slave conditions lead him inexorably into the Blues? Maybe there's a musical journey to be unravelled 'From the Dreadnought to Memphis'.

Ahhh – but I'm only dreaming.....

*The Old Grey Whistle Protester*

## Christmas at the Kirk

### Christmas Eve - Monday 24th December

4.30 pm Children's Watchnight Service in Ancaster Square

6.30pm Trossachs Watchnight Service

11.30pm Callander Kirk Watchnight Service

### Christmas Day - Tuesday 25th December

10.30am Christmas All-Age Service to which children are invited to bring one of their Christmas Gifts to show the Congregation





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Callander	Gargunnoch	Kippen	Stronachlachar
			Tyndrum

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**-Broader Horizons**

From a very young age I had the urge to explore; by the age of two the flat was too small. I had tired of my usual games, of hiding from Mum in cupboards or drawers, then sneaking back to hide under the kitchen table, where I claimed to have been all the time.

I had worn mum down with incessant questions, and pleas for freedom. The back yard became a whole new world to explore. All within sight of the kitchen window! One morning painters arrived to do maintenance on the Waverley. That morning I learned some new and unfamiliar words, these I tried out on Mum at lunch time, and was promptly introduced to the taste of carbolic. After lunch I was ordered to wait in the close out of earshot, while mum tore strips of said painters, thereby ending my chances of joining the decorators guild.

One year on and after many protestations, I was allowed loose on Main Street. This was an area I knew well from daily close-tethered shopping trips, this was the big wide world. My limits were the



Square to Church Street and Mum had to be able to see me from her front window. On occasions I popped into shops for a chat, hoping to score some free sweets; if Mum came looking for me, my liberty was curtailed for the next few days.

When I discovered there were kids my own age, with a big yard behind their house at the corner of Main Street and South Church Street, I did have the sense to ask Mum's permission to play. This was grudgingly granted with the warning, 'When you get thrown out come straight home.' The lady of the house Mrs Corrieri also issued dire warnings. We played fine for a while, then something would set things off. That is when I would be quickly removed from the equation.

My stretch of Main Street was a race track for me on my three wheeler, putting the fear of death in to old ladies and learning new words I did not use at home.

All the shopkeepers on the block, knew me. The Café Rex was a favourite port of call, with its dark wood shop fittings, sparkling mirrors and highly polished lino,

evocative of an ocean liner in its 'Art Deco' styling. All I wanted to do was drool over the expensive hand made chocolates. The staff would give me a penny cone just to get rid of me.

In the company of my older sister, I was allowed to venture to the bottom of Church Street where there was a small swing park; with warnings not to go near the river. Next to the footbridge was a toilet block and shelter, where Jock and Jeannie the tinks would spend time. One afternoon Jeannie got hold of me and gave me a kiss, much to the amusement of my sister, who blackmailed me for months threatening to tell the world.

As we got older Callander became one big adventure playground. Watching steam trains passing North Church Street picking up speed after leaving the station. Putting a penny on the line, when it was flattened by the train. Only once, as the penny was then worthless. We could leap from a fence close to the railway bridge on to a pile of coke at the gasworks. Taking it in turns until we were chased away. Yes growing up in Callander was a lot of fun, I would not have traded it for the World. But I eventually did.

**Fun Facts –****Iceland's 13 Yule Lads**

Traditions that people here might not be familiar with. I could have chosen some of the German traditions that I've grown up with, but found something exciting, interesting and fun to write about from a country I have long held a fascination for: Iceland.

It may be the case that Iceland has darker Decembers than we do (and by connection lighter Junes) but there is one fascinating aspect about Christmas there. While we have Santa Claus or Father Christmas to bring our presents, Iceland has 13 mischievous Yule Lads (Jolasveinar in Icelandic), who arrive on every day one by one from 12th December to Christmas Eve, and leave, in the

same fashion, every day from Christmas Day until 6th January.

The story starts with Gryla, an ogress (part-troll, part-animal) who is said to live in the mountains with her third husband, a black cat and is the mother of the Yule Lads – she is said to have a dreadful character. The mischievous Yule Lads each have a specific name in accordance with the prank or personality that is each one's speciality. They are Stekkjastaur (Sheepfold Stick), Giljagaur (Gilly Oaf), Stufur (Shorty), Thvorusleikir (Spoon-licker), Pottasleikir (Pot-licker), Askasleikir (Bowl-licker), Hurdaskellir (Door-slammer), Skyrgamur (Skyr-glutton), Bjugnakraekir (Sausage-pilferer), Gluggagaegir (Peeper), Gattathetur (Sniffer), Ketkrokur (Meat-hook) and Kertasnikir (Candle-beggar).

They are traditionally depicted

wearing traditional rags similar to those common in the 18th century, but due to outside influences are nowadays often shown wearing red.

Every year, starting from 12th December, Icelandic children would leave their shoes on the window sill, and the Yule Lads would come to deliver a small gift each night. There is a catch to it all as well – kids that haven't received new clothes in the run-up to the Yuletide are said to be punished (and eaten) by a black cat. For all you readers out there, I don't know necessarily if your little ones would sleep easily with that kind of potential threat, though they might even take joy in these mischievous figures popping round in the festive season.

To all of you, I wish a "Gledileg Jol!" (Merry Christmas!)

*Mario Creveceour*



## Be Prepared! EU Pet Travel After Brexit

On the 29th March 2019 decisions will be made on how the United Kingdom will leave the European Union. These could have implications for UK pet owners who hold pet passports and intend to travel with their pets to countries within the EU next year. In light of this, we at Riverside Veterinary Clinic are encouraging our clients to be prepared for any of the potential outcomes.

Should the UK leave the EU in March 2019 with no deal, it would become a third country for the purposes of the EU Pet Travel Scheme.

Pets would continue to be able to travel from the UK to the EU, but the requirements for documents and health checks would differ depending on what category of third country the UK becomes on the day we leave the EU. Within the Pet Travel Scheme, there are three categories of third country, linked to a country's animal health status: Listed: Part 1, Listed: Part 2, or Unlisted.

At this point we do not know what the UK will be listed as, so it is important that we prepare for the most restricted option.



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**LISTED: PART 1-** Minor changes needed to documentation for travel between the UK and EU and no change for pet owners from what they currently need to do in terms of health preparations.

**LISTED: PART 2-** Visit to Official Veterinarian (OV) at least **21 days** in advance. Microchip and Rabies Vaccination are required. A Health Certificate (not pet passport) will be supplied. It will be valid for ten days after the date of issue for entry into the EU, and for four months of onward travel within the EU. Health certificates would have to be issued for each trip to the EU. On arrival to the EU pet owners travelling with their pet would be required to report to a Travellers' Point of Entry. **UNLISTED-** Visit Official Veterinarian (OV) at least **four months** in advance of the date they wish to travel. Microchip and Rabies Vaccination required.

### Rabies Titre testing:

Even if your pet is up to date with rabies vaccination it will require a blood titre test at least 30 days after a rabies vaccination. Even if this test shows sufficient antibody development, there is a compulsory 3 month wait from blood sample until the pet can travel.

A Health Certificate will be supplied. It will be valid for ten days after the date of issue for entry into the EU, and for four months of onward travel within the EU. Health certificates would have to be issued for each trip to the EU. On arrival to the EU pet owners travelling with their pet would be required to report to a Travellers' Point of Entry.

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The advice the government is currently giving is if you are planning to travel to the EU with your pet on or after 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 please book an appointment to discuss a plan with your vet. You can find further information for pet owners at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit>

*From all the team at Riverside Veterinary Clinic.*

**Callander Target Sports Club**

We have now finally completed our work in totally replacing our club roof with new metal sheeting and re-felted the flat roofed part of the building – both are now wind and waterproof. We have also managed to replace the roof guttering and repair the internal damaged ceilings, as well as replacing the roof lighting in our air range with new LED lights which has greatly improved our shooting facilities. We offer our sincere thanks to those who sponsored our work with both monetary and material help. Without your help we could not have survived another wet winter. We also wish to thank those club members who gratefully donated their time and effort in assisting with the labouring duties.

On a separate issue we wish to congratulate our club President Mr Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan who competed and won the Hopton Challenge Cup and the Hopton Gold Cup at Bisley. This shoot comprises of shooting at 1,000 yards in the open air at specific targets and is regarded as being one of the very top competitions in Britain with shooters from all over taking part. As an aside I would point out that this is the 5th time Mike has won this competition. Very good shooting at a very high level.

We will be continuing to hold our monthly clay pigeon shoot at Cambusbeg Quarry even although we have suffered quite a bit of deliberate sabotaging of our equipment. The local Police have been made aware of this and enquiries are continuing to trace the culprit(s).

**Results - As promised in the last edition of the BLV: .**

Whilst driving up to our outdoor range at Drumlean on a Sunday morning, our shooters look eagerly at the Loch surface to see if it is flat calm. Unfortunately, if it is, that excuse for bad shots has gone.

Nevertheless, Callander won 4 medals in the Cumbria Summer Season outdoor leagues.

John Gardiner won Top Gun, was 1st in 100m prone Div 1 and 2nd in 50m Benchrest Div 10.

Also in 50m Benchrest: John Johnston - 2nd in Div 11, John Russell - 2nd in Div 13.

**Cumbria Short Range Benchrest:**

A total of 8 club members shot in the summer league.

Willie Jenkins - 3rd in division 7; Bob Farquhar - 2nd in Div 10; Colin Tawse - 1st in Div 11 and John Johnston - 3rd in Div 11. The Winter season has now started with a total of 11 Club members shooting.

**Perthshire Prone:**

In Perthshire Div 4, unfortunately not everyone managed to shoot their cards and one of our team left Callander, therefore our summer team didn't do too well, coming only 4th with 9 points.

In Individual Leagues: Colin Tawse was narrowly beaten by 1 point into 2nd place in Div 14.

The Winter season has now started with a total of 15 Club members shooting.

This year's Kandahar cup had 32 members of the public attending our annual mixed shoot. When the smoke in the ranges cleared, the winning team was "Cambusmore" with a score of 454; they were Stevie Dunion, Donald MacLure, Andrew Burnett and Charles Stewart. Second were the "FB Musketeers" with 444 and third were the "Badminton Bums" with 419.

For further club details, contact our secretary Bob Farquhar [07721-744229](tel:07721-744229).

**Fund Raising Events****Trossachs Night Trail Series**

Though the Trossachs Night Trail Series has already started there is still an opportunity to participate in the event. Each event covers approximately 5 to 6 miles and starts at 7.15pm

Last two races are:-

Wednesday 12th December from the Riverside Inn  
Callander

Wednesday 6th February from the Forth Inn Aberfoyle  
Entry on the day or pre-book.

Contact Angela on [07765570503](tel:07765570503) or

Facebook [trossachstrailrunning](https://www.facebook.com/trossachstrailrunning)

[www.carnethy.com](http://www.carnethy.com)

All profits are donated to Strathcarron Hospice.

Angela Mudge

**Callander Golf Club - Annual Christmas Fayre**

Callander Golf Club Junior Section held their Annual Christmas Fayre & Grand Prize Draw on Saturday 3rd November and raised £1,000 for The Ripple Retreat and £1,000 for the Junior Section. A big "Thank You" to all who attended, supported and contributed to the day.

And special thanks to Callander Kirk Junior Choir, who provided top class entertainment enjoyed by all

Johnny Gold

## McLaren Leisure Centre

### New workshops for 2019

We will be bringing you some new monthly workshops for 2019, starting with an introduction to Vinyasa Flow on Saturday 19th January followed by Winter Warning Yoga on 23rd February. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more information

### Health and Fitness

Lets do it  
This Christmas and New Year we are here to help your health and fitness resolutions. For more details follow us on Facebook or visit our website.

### Soft Play

Our Woodland Kingdom is as popular as ever and we are always looking to improve this service. Thanks to our Golf Day and other fundraising we have been able to purchase a sensory corner. With your help through easyfundraising we will be able to add more to this facility.

### Birthday Parties

From running and playing to swimming and climbing we have a wide range of exiting bithday parties on offer at McLaren Leisure to make your child's birthday as great as it can be. Our coached parties offer minimal stress for parents, offering you time to enjoy the party too!

As well as a range of coached parties we offer space for hire for your own party. Continue to make your life easier by booking your party food with us.



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### Easy Fundraising

Not long to go until Christmas. Remember to use easyfundraising when you are buying your Christmas Gifts online. We want to raise as much as possible this year and it couldn't be easier through easyfundraising  
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mclarenic/>

### Christmas and New Year opening hours

Friday 21st December	07:30 - 21:00
Saturday 22nd December	08:00 - 17:00
Sunday 23rd December	08:00 - 17:00
Monday 24th December	09:00 - 15:00
Tuesday 25th December	Closed
Wednesday 26th December	Closed
Thursday 27th December	09:00 - 17:00
Friday 28th December	09:00 - 17:00
Saturday 29th December	09:00 - 17:00
Sunday 30th December	09:00 - 17:00
Monday 31st December	09:00 - 15:00
Tuesday 1st January	Closed
Wednesday 2nd January	Closed
Thursday 3rd January	Closed
Friday 4th January	07:30 - 21:00

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year from all at McLaren Leisure.

### The 2018 Fishing Season

The Salmon season began on the 1st February and finished on 31st October. The honour of getting the season going and toasting the water was given to Mike Luti.

Over the past few years the number of anglers on the Teith has fallen, so for this season Stirling Council brought in a new pricing structure to encourage more people to fish. Basically they have reduced the cost of permits on both the Forth and the Teith especially for those under 21. There are also day and 3 month permits. As fish stocks are not what they were in the past, catch and release is an option for some licences designed to boost fish numbers. Figures from Forth Fisheries show catches were similar to 2017 when catches were highest during the Spring and Autumn. As it was such a hot, dry Summer and water levels were low there were not many fish caught then. Some anglers have been very successful this year; they have reported landing good catches, but others have not seen many fish, never mind the ones that got away.

Trout fishing was free on the River Teith this year; but only if a size 14 fly and a 4lb or less leader was used. As there will be a price freeze for 2019 more anglers should be able to afford the sport than in the past. This year, the first week's salmon fishing was free and we believe Stirling Council will keep that for next season to encourage people to be fishing in February.

*Roger Drapper*



### Callander Golf Club - Juniors Awards

The Junior Section of Callander Golf Club celebrated the end of another successful season with their prize-giving. Well done to all of the Juniors. Blair, Alistair, Jack, Liam, Jamie and Aiden represented Callander Golf Club in the Stirlingshire's Ellis Shield and just missed getting to the final. Blair and Liam were narrowly beaten in the final of the County 4-ball Championship. Alistair was selected for Stirling County under 16 team.

We ran several coaching sessions over the year including: introductory sessions for Callander Primary School's P5's; Clubgolf evening sessions running for a 6-week period during May/June; the Junior summer camp held during the first week of the school holidays. All very successful ...and great fun!

If you fancy a go, just call Evelyn on 330090 and she'll let you know when the next learning sessions are. And remember, you don't need lots of fancy equipment ... we can lend you clubs and balls to get you started. Come on, you'll love it



*Johnny Gold*

### Up the Mighty...

Do your kids love sport, getting covered in mud and having a great time? Of course they do and the answer is to come along to the Mighty McLaren Mini Rugby Club on Saturday mornings.

The club is open to girls and boys of primary school age and our key focus is to provide a safe fun-filled outdoor experience for kids as they learn about rugby. The club is Scottish Rugby Union-affiliated with 60 playing members and has been going since 1990.

This season McLaren Mini Rugby Club has been enjoying one of its most successful seasons ever. It's a great way to build confidence in kids and to make friends from other local schools

If you go past the playing field behind Callander Primary School on a Saturday morning at 9am during the school



term, you'll see kids in their black and yellow training tops having fun and getting muddy. Sometimes it's most fun in the rain. Every member gets their own 'team name' and most have this proudly printed on the back of their training kit. It's a special moment (or a difficult one, depending on your point of view) for parents to see their little darling transformed into 'Crusher', 'The Missile' or 'The Hawk', and it all adds to the fun and team spirit!

The coaching staff are a dedicated bunch of rugby 'legends', both past and present, who are committed to the club and the kids. For the Primary 1s and 2s, it's all about running and having fun.

From Primary 3, the teams play touch rugby games and tournaments that are competitive but focussed on participation for all

The club has played in four tournaments this season so far at Stirling County, Tillicoultry (Hillfoots RFC), Dundee & Fintry (Strathendrick RFC). We've enjoyed great success - the P4s and P5s have won all four tournaments and focusing on the kids enjoying themselves is certainly paying off, with some great performances from all involved.

The P4s have just started to tackle this season and love getting stuck in. Their defensive strength coupled with some amazing running and free flowing try scoring have hit the spot to beat teams from Crieff to Mackie (Stonehaven) and from Glasgow to Currie in the Borders. The P5s are getting to grips (literally) with the more physical side of the game and their commitment, skills and great passing moves have seen them unbeaten this season.

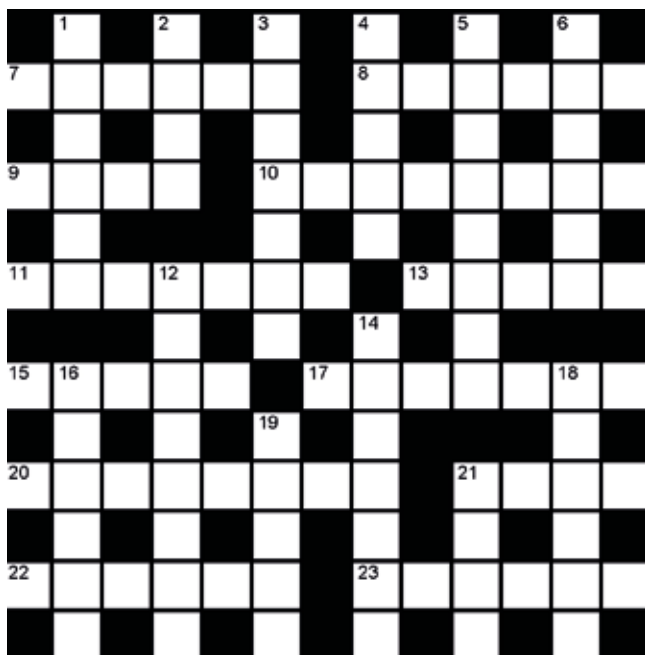
These great performances have meant that the club is one of seven clubs to be selected by the SRU to take part in a Festival of Rugby at the Oriam Facility in Edinburgh. This festival will be filmed throughout and used as part of the SRU's development programme internationally.

We hope to keep you up to date with regular reports, so this article is to introduce you and your kids to the Mighty McLaren Mini Rugby Club if you don't already know who we are.

Feel free to come along to see what it's all about or contact Head Coach, Richard Underwood on [07824 885218](tel:07824885218) for more information.

*Richard Underwood*





### Across

- 7 Back DNA, in part, to identify criminal (6)  
8 Expressed old hunger to wed finally (6)  
9 Revising Euclid's missing papers provides evidence to help catch 7 perhaps (4)  
10 Cheeky chappies new to Yale perhaps (8)  
11 Vessel that may be found in a kitchen (7)  
13 Free toilets, Elgin's first! (5)  
15 Poetry's ever so moving when nothing is left out (5)  
17 Leading brigadier commands marches (7)  
20 Type of 7, one carrying weapon (3-5)  
21 Sound indication of computing connectivity (4)  
22 Means of propulsion for some ships with men aboard (6)  
23 Can serious transgressions facing family be understood? (4,2)

### Down

- 1 Vote to reverse top classes' tax rise? (6)  
2 Work for such hands can be a devilish problem! (4)  
3 Way I escaped suppressed (7)  
4 Deals with police when carrying recreational drug (5)  
5 Will this way get me to Scotland ahead of you by air? (4,4)  
6 Legendary golfer, lover of birdies, losing lead, makes cut (6)  
12 Properly cooked sausages satisfies (8)  
14 Almost fine plate of food is moderately enjoyable (7)  
16 She can be seen in Europe's foremost posh French resort (6)  
18 Gone off, escaped police (6)  
19 A young lady's not quite right (5)  
21 Whiff of old game is sometimes associated with 21 (4)

**Solution to  
Crossword 139  
Winner  
Jenny Down**



**BLV CROSSWORD No.140 Please return completed entries to The Library, South Church Street, Callander by no later than FRIDAY 4TH JANUARY 2019. The first correct entry opened will win £5. Don't forget to supply your name and address below.**

**NAME:** .....

**ADDRESS:** .....

## Announcements

**W**ishing you all the best at  
Christmas and throughout  
2019

*Doris & Lindsay Clark*

**M**ERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY  
NEW YEAR 2019

to all family, friends and neighbours  
*Joan MacFarlane, Lochsloy,  
Bridgend, Callander.*

### ROBERT FERGUSON

**I**rene, Colin and Graham, family of the late Robert Ferguson, would like to say a very warm thank you to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many cards and lovely flowers received, and to everyone who attended Robert's funeral on 31st August.

Special thanks also to Doctors Scott and Strang, nurses and staff at Bracklinn Practice for their kind and caring support, and to Rev. J. McCormick for his comforting graveside service.

We thank you all.

*Irene Ferguson*

# Local Information

**Emergency Services: 999**  
**Callander Police: 101**  
**Callander Fire Brigade: 999**

**Local Council Office & Registrar:**  
**01877 33004**  
**Social Work: 01786 471177**  
**Post Office: 01877 330267**  
**Stirling Council: 01786 404040**

## Doctors' Surgeries

- Drs Scott & Strang: 01877 331001
- Drs Mathewson & Gibson: 01877 331000
- Health Clinic: 01877 330150
- NHS 24 111 or [www.nhs24.scot](http://www.nhs24.scot)
- Health Information You Can Trust
- [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot)

## Vets

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

## Schools

- McLaren High: 01877 330156
- Callander Primary: 01877 331576

## Travel

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

## Bin Collections

### DECEMBER

**Grey/Blue bins** Sat. 1st, 15th, 29th  
**Brown bin/Blue box** Sat. 8th  
**Brown/ Green bins** Sat. 22nd

### JANUARY

**Grey/Blue bins** Sat. 12th, 26th  
**Brown bin/Blue box** Sat. 5th  
**Brown/Green bins** Sat. 19th

### FEBRUARY

**Grey/Blue bins** Sat. 9th, 23rd  
**Brown bin/Blue box** Sat. 2nd  
**Brown/ Green bins** Sat. 16th  
[www.stirling.gov.uk/waste](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/waste)

## Lagrannoch WRC Opening times

- Monday - Friday 5.00pm to 8.00pm
- Saturday 10.00am-2.00pm
- Sunday closed
- Lagrannoch depot 01877 330492
- Also for sandbags and grit
- Stirling Council Main number 08452 777000 (Functions as emergency number from 5.00pm to 9.00am and over weekends. Also use for non collection of wheelie bins.)

## Recreation

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

## Floods & Environment

- SEPA emergency: 0800 807060
- SEPA website: [www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/index.htm](http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/index.htm)
- Floodline: 0845 9881188 Select option 1 followed by: 06213 121 (the Teith at Callander)
- Scottish Water emergency information re flooding from mains or sewers: 0800 0778778
- Callander Community Flood Action Group helpline: 07580 601142

## Location of defibrillators

- Dreadnought Garage
- Callander Golf Club
- McLaren Leisure Centre
- The Post Office
- Ancaster Square
- Mobile unit based in Callander with Scottish Ambulance Service



## Callander Kirk

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

## Sunday services

**All December, January 6th and 27th**

11.15am All-Age Service in Kirk

### 2nd December

6.00pm Youth Carol Service in Kirk.

8.00pm Time for Silence in Kirk.

### January 13th, 20th February 3rd

10.00am Early Service

11.15am Morning Service

### Third Sunday in January

11.15 Informal Communion follows Morning Service

### First Sunday in every month

Trossachs monthly service

Details at [www.callanderkirk.org.uk](http://www.callanderkirk.org.uk)



## Saint Andrew's

*Scottish Episcopal Church,  
 Leny Road, Callander*

**Sunday:** 10.00am Holy Communion

**Wednesday:** 10.00am Holy Communion

For any information please contact:

**Rev Richard Grosse** tel 382887

[www.standrewschurchcallander.org.uk](http://www.standrewschurchcallander.org.uk)



**Weekly Services:**

**Sundays@Six** 6.00pm in St Andrew's Church hall

**Prayer Time** Monday 8.00pm

**Callander Home Group** Wednesday 7.30pm

**Doune Home Group** Tuesday 8.00pm

Everyone is welcome to these services

For venue details for our weekday services please contact

**Pastor Brian Gooding** tel 331845

[brian.gooding@stirlingbaptist.co.uk](mailto:brian.gooding@stirlingbaptist.co.uk)

[www.stirlingbaptist.org/callander](http://www.stirlingbaptist.org/callander)

**Facebook:** [#stirlingbaptistatcallander](https://www.facebook.com/stirlingbaptistatcallander)



## St Joseph's

*Catholic Church  
 Glen Artney Road, Callander*

## Weekly Masses

Monday, Thursday, Saturday Mass,  
 10.00am Callander

Tuesday, Friday Mass, 10.00am  
 Doune

Wednesday Eucharist Service

10.00am Callander

Sunday 11.30am Callander

**Father Jim McCruden** tel 330702

[www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk](http://www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk)

## BLV Deadlines

The next issue of the *Ben Ledi View* will be published on **Friday 1st February 2019.**

### Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the February/March issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Isla Routledge at [advertising@benlediview.co.uk](mailto:advertising@benlediview.co.uk) by **Friday 4th January 2019.**

Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at [www.benlediview.co.uk](http://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 February/March issue should be emailed to [editor@benlediview.co.uk](mailto:editor@benlediview.co.uk) or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday 4th January 2019.**

Items received after the deadline may be held over to the April/May 2019 edition



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). There is no charge for letters. Thank you.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**D**oris Clark's letter in your October/November issue contains a number of factual errors and casts the Callander Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBLs) in a poor light.

It is quite fair to say that from about 2000 branch membership declined steadily owing to ageing of existing members and reduction in our armed forces, resulting in an ever smaller pool of new ex service personnel. This was mitigated to a degree by widening the original qualification to join. Nevertheless by 2016 active membership was reduced to a committee who all felt they had served long enough, together with a few members without portfolio. With regret it was therefore decided to close the Callander Branch. At this point all the monies in the branch account was shared, as always, between 10 service charities. There was left a small balance of £500 which was, as RBLs rules dictate, forwarded to headquarters in the hope that the branch would one day be resurrected.

For a number of reasons there was then a hiatus until Tom Jones was available to re-open the Callander Branch with the approval of RBLs Head Office. When that was the case a few months later, that money, £500, was given back to the branch to enable them to restart. A number of former committee and members were delighted to join Tom and the new branch, but some of the old members used the change to bow out.

This fresh start has injected energy into us all, although it is fair to say that membership has not increased. New members have joined, in particular, these involved many more younger Callander citizens and the increased funds raised were directed to local good causes as well

as the military charities. All of these have received the same level of support as they had under the previous management. Doris Clark did take up this issue with the Legion HQ, who investigated her complaint and replied to her, and to the Branch, saying that it was perfectly in order for the Branch to support local causes provided it was made plain at each event for whom the money was intended.

There has never been any question of Erskine being deprived of any money from the Remembrance service in the church even although there might have been a slight confusion about the collection at last year's service. Callander Kirk have also replied to Mrs. Clark's letter which explains their situation, and a short article about this years' Remembrance Day can be found on the organisations page in this BLV.

*Tobin Duke*

**D**ear Sirs  
Royal British Legion Scotland

In the last issue of the BLV there was a letter regarding the above inferring that no money was sent to the RBLs, Erskine, from Callander Kirk as was the usual practice on Remembrance Sunday. Up until last year the money received in the 'open plate' during the service was sent to Erskine. However last year it was decided to have a retiring offering instead and this was intimated in the order of service. Taking into consideration that some folk may not have read the intimation, the total received in the retiring offering was made up to £750 which was sent to Erskine by our Treasurer through a member of the RBLs committee.

I trust that this will put the record straight.

*Yours faithfully*

*C M Gillespie*

*Member of Kirk Finance Team*

## MORE On Dog Fouling

I was driving home around 5.30pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018, turned into Livingstone Avenue, and saw two young boys, looked like brothers (maybe 5 and 8?) As I passed them, this is what I noticed:

They were on a grassy bank with a black dog, the younger boy had a "poo" bag in his hand and was in the process of picking up after the dog, and his older brother, who was holding the leash, was pointing to another part of the grass where there was probably some more. Congratulations to both boys and their parents for instilling in them the responsibilities of owning a dog and cleaning up after them. What impressed me was that neither boy seemed embarrassed- their actions looked so natural - their parents should be very proud of them and what a shame some dog owners are less responsible.

*Susan Trzebiatowski*

## Praise for Callander

**I** recently invited friends from Germany to visit Callander with me for a few days and just wanted to share their impressions of the lovely town. My friends were very taken with the incredible beauty of Callander. The stunning Mountain views, the winding river, the care taken over the town's floral decorations and the general cleanliness of the streets.

But what impressed them and remains their best memory, was the noticeable friendliness and politeness of shopkeepers and local businesses. At every turn, they were greeted with a welcoming smile, and by people's willingness to go out of their way to be helpful. People were happy to have 'a wee chat,' show interest in where our visitors had come from and generally make them feel very welcome. Despite the rainy weather, the visit to Callander was made so special by the people there. You should be very proud of your community!

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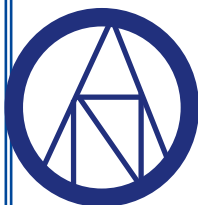
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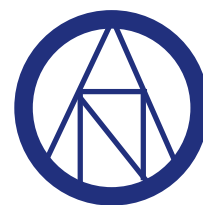
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