

Ben Ledi View

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CEMEX are consulting on proposals to extend Cambusmore Quarry.

If you would like further information or wish to comment on the proposal, please contact Donald Wilkins at PlanningGB@cemex.com or on 01698 811118.



Proposed extension (outlined in red)

Ben Ledi View

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Cover photograph - opening of station road flats



Hello Readers

First of all, I should like to extend a warm welcome to our new readers, especially those who have just moved into the newly completed flats in Station Road. We hope you will enjoy our community magazine, created entirely by volunteers, that has landed through your letterbox and that you will find it a great source of information about what goes on in the town. We have expanded our 'What's on' pages to include more regular fixtures, but rely on all our readers to keep us posted about 'one-off' and upcoming events. The adverts alone will provide you with a useful trade directory, easy to refer to for that vital telephone number. We hope you will be very happy in our wee town and maybe feel moved to contribute to the publication yourselves in due course.

We have been enjoying a number of articles recalling what life used to be like here in the 1950s and 60s and are keen to have more along the same lines or perhaps even earlier (and you can of course remain anonymous if you prefer!). There have certainly been lots of changes over the years, many of them recorded photographically in the archive of Callander Heritage Society, which organises some fascinating talks on local history as well as opportunities in archaeology and

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conservation for all the family.

A significant change, almost 40 years ago, was the splitting of the doctors' surgery, formerly housed where the dental surgery now is, into two separate practices (Bracklinn and Leny) which subsequently moved out to the splendid new Medical Centre in Geisher Road. In the current magazine we read that the two practices, now working increasingly closely together, plan to merge again later this year in order to offer a wider and enhanced GP and healthcare service to all patients. It sounds a very positive development.

Still on the subject of changes, we are sorry to be saying goodbye to Keith and Pippa Wilson who are moving to Gigha after several years of involvement in many aspects of Callander life, particularly on the *Ben Ledi View* both as contributors and, in Keith's case, also on the editorial side, including editing our 30th Anniversary edition in 2017. Keith's final 'Sky at Night' article appears in this issue: we thank him warmly for all he has done and wish them both well in their new home.

Finally, we should like to congratulate Lesley Hawkins for having been voted the new Citizen of the Year. This busy lady wears a number of hats, being actively involved in the Callander branch of SWT, Greener Callander, Callander's Countryside, the Woodland Group, Callander Ramblers and editing the Environment section of the BLV. Do you spot the common theme? Together with Keith Wilson she set up Cleaner Callander to tackle the problem of litter in the town and there are a couple of dates of litter picks for your diary in April and May listed in the 'What's on'. Please turn out to lend a hand if you possibly can.

Convenor

Callander Citizen of the Year

Our congratulations to Lesley Hawkins who was chosen as Callander's Citizen of the Year.

She is one of our Section Editors and regular contributor to the Environmental Section, and was given this accolade for her huge involvement in the environment of Callander. Some of her many interests are listed in our Convenor's message on page 2. Lesley was very instrumental in getting The Beechgrove Garden television programme to come to Callander. This award was richly deserved and again, 'Well done Lesley'!



Old Eagle Hotel

Plans to refurbish the Old Eagle Hotel Building have been resubmitted by the same developer who submitted and withdrew the application last year. The application is very much like the previous application with some changes, including an office now proposed in one area of the first floor. The retention of the front as a retail space housing another florist is still in the proposal.

If you are interested, the full application can be found on the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Planning website under reference 2018/0380/LBC.

New Station Road Flats

On the cold and wet morning of 8th March, Bruce Crawford MSP, supported by Margaret Vass, Chair of Stirling Rural Housing, officially opened the new flats on Station Road. The 23 flats, which are now all occupied by people who were already living in the Trossachs area, bring the total number of properties owned by Rural Housing in Callander to 155. These, along with their other properties, are built to provide affordable housing for people living in the Trossachs area.

Here are thoughts from someone living in the new Station Road flats:

"Many of us applied to become tenants in this new block of flats 2 years ago. We had to explain why we wanted to live there. Most of us, it now seems, either already lived or worked in Callander.

In October we received letters to say the flats were ready to view but it was not until late November or early December that we were able to go and look at our new homes. There was talk of us moving in before Christmas 2018 but eventually we got letters to say we could take possession on 22nd January. But then the date had to be moved back to the 31st January.

We were given the keys to our flats on Thursday 31st January but were not allowed to actually move in until Friday 1st February. Everything had been prepared by us for months, so it was carpet down in the morning and we were totally installed by the end of the day.

This is a good place to live, right in the centre of Callander. Apart from our front door being so low that it damages the carpet, everything is perfect. Good boiler, plenty of light and the modern systems mean neither the kitchen nor bathroom gets too steamy. There have only been 2 problems the first, overflowing bins in the car park and people leaving stuff by them in bin bags. Some of us actually took things to the recycling centre to help with the problem. The second is communicating with the Rural Housing Association; the problem there is getting in contact with the right person. We feel lucky to live in a good place with nice neighbours."



New booking system for Demand Responsive Transport

This flexible rural public transport operates in the Trossachs area 7 days a week from 6.30am to 10pm. It uses taxis at roughly the same price as it would cost in a bus, if one were available.

Details of the area covered, frequently asked questions and how to book the transport can be obtained at

www.stirling.gov.uk/drt or on 01786 404040 Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

Coilhallan Wood

A big 'thank you' to the almost 100 people who attended the Coilhallan Community Woodland Consultation events on 31st January. We got lots of useful questions and feedback about our proposal. It should be stressed that this project is not a 'done deal' but is evolving to take into account all the views being expressed, so make sure that we know your opinion by filling out the survey at

www.incallander.co.uk/woods or fill in a form at the library. If you would like to see the full list of comments, go to the website or visit the library where a copy is available. Over 80% of respondents are in favour of the proposal and we encourage everyone to fill out the survey.

Below is a summary of the feedback received to date.

Should CCWG (Callander Community Woodland Group) acquire the wood through CCDT?

24 positive, 14 concerns

Many suggest that the community should work in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland, (FCS), to develop the wood. FCS works with communities in many ways but improvements for users must be balanced against scarce resources. The original proposal for Coilhallan and restoration of paths in Leny Woods have not been considered suitable joint projects, leading to the current initiative.

Planning, management and finance. 9 concerns

Could acquiring the wood become a financial burden on the community? It is expected that there will be no capital cost to the community. Funding will be sought from the Scottish Land Fund – a grant that is specifically for this type of project. Ongoing funding will be sought from other grant sources.

There is a 25-year cashflow as part of the Asset Transfer Request which demonstrates that the project is feasible.

There are suggestions that resources would be better used for other very valid projects within Callander. The grant that is being sought is only available for projects that meet very specific criteria and could not be transferred to other projects.

Potential uses for the wood. 24 positive, 13 concerns

There are lots of ideas about different activities that could be developed in the wood including family nature trails with hides, circular walking routes, mountain bike trails, bridle paths, an orienteering course, and outdoor skills training. The impact that some of these activities may have on the wildlife and neighbours needs to be considered. Avoidance of adverse impact on neighbours is of prime importance and CCWG proposes to develop plans that balance, as far as possible, the competing factors to benefit the entire community. Ongoing communications and consultations will help set priorities.

Communication with the community. 4 concerns

This was also raised by FCS when we submitted our initial Asset Transfer Request. A great deal of work has taken place including the community consultation event, a number of articles in the *Ben Ledi View* along with a well-publicised community survey. A list of these activities is currently being pulled together and will be submitted to FCS during March.

Skills and volunteer resources available. 4 concerns

The lack of forestry experience of the original woodland group was raised by FCS when we submitted our initial Asset Transfer Request. In response, the CCWG now includes 2 experienced foresters as well as other experts with practical skills. There is also concern at the long-term commitment of volunteers available to carry out voluntary work. We currently have a list of 60 volunteers for practical help in maintaining the woodland.

Parking, access and increased use. 6 concerns

Local residents, understandably, have some concerns that the increasing use of the woods may impact the level of traffic and parked cars in the area, and that the level of littering in the wood may increase. CCWG intends to use signage to promote positive behaviour by all woodland users, including responsible parking and use of bins or a 'take your litter home' policy. Volunteer litter clearing events may also be held as currently happens for other visitor areas.

Wildlife. 9 concerns

Management of invasive plants is one of the areas that CCWG believes our community is in a strong position to tackle with volunteers. Within CCWG, we have a group who are responsible for ensuring that the interests of wildlife are considered as part of other potential developments.

Woodland management. 3 positive, 7 concerns

CCWG is working to refine the draft Woodland Management Plan that forms part of the Asset Transfer Request. This plan will replace FCS's 2015-2025 Callander Land Management Plan with respect to Coilhallan and will be based as much as possible around the principle of Continuous Cover Forest Management, though it will include some clear-felling of non-native species.

Some people expressed a preference for no changes and no tree felling. However, woods are continually changing and need management to remain healthy. If the wood stays in FCS ownership, their plan includes clear-felling of 9 hectares of the wood over the next 5 years.

Water management to avoid flooding is an integral part of forest management and CCWG will seek advice from qualified hydrologists about any planned paths or developments that may affect watercourses.

National Park

There have been ongoing discussions and meetings with National Park and Stirling Council officers regarding the need to identify appropriate, serviced locations for motorhomes in and around the town. This work complements the Park-wide 'Camping Development Framework' that is underway and will involve input from the communities, landowners and other interested organisations such as Stirling Council. There is a focus on camping by tent and the use of motorhomes. As part of this project, the National Park has launched a survey of motorhome users to obtain their views on provision. We all know that some currently popular locations being used are not ones that should be promoted, while there are opportunities to provide sites elsewhere. The work around this will continue and tie in with a planned consultation from Stirling Council on parking in the town. I am delighted that Callander Community Council has appointed a member to work on this issue specifically. Locations outside the town itself, such as the south shore of Loch Venachar, Kilmahog and the Bracklinn Falls car parks should also be included.

Other projects that are currently being recognised as high priority are the development and implementation of a comprehensive litter prevention strategy, the ongoing work of the Callander Landscape Partnerships projects and the Camping Management Strategy. At the Board meeting taking place on the 18th March the Annual Operating Plan will be approved for 2019-2020. The Board will also be asked to approve the draft Trees and Woodland strategy for consultation. Other items on the agenda include an annual update on the Climate Change Action Plan and 'Wild Park 2020', the Biodiversity Action Programme.

Martin Earl

National Park Board Member



Callander Community Police Report

Antisocial Behaviour

On the evening of 21st February at Callander Primary School damage was caused to a wooden gate at the Nursery play area. This type of mindless vandalism shows no respect for our community. We are keen to hear from anyone who has information regarding this crime in order to help identify the culprit.

On 22nd February within the grounds of the Callander Primary School Police a male was stopped and searched under terms of the Misuse of Drugs Act. He was found to be in possession of a small amount of controlled drugs. He has been issued with a Recorded Police Warning.

On 2nd March in the Callander Craggs woods reports were received regarding a large group of youths making noise and being suspected of drinking. Police attended and traced youths in the area. There was no evidence of alcohol. They were monitored and dispersed from the area.

Theft

On 27th February in North Church Street, Callander an insecure motor car was entered and items stolen from within.

Community Engagement and Reassurance

On 26th February PC Deans and PC Mckerracher attended Callander Primary School as part of the Vulnerable Road Users Campaign. We gave a talk to the school Road Safety Group and then spent some time with the children carrying out Speed Checks outside the school. Several drivers were stopped and warned regarding their speed, with the kids quizzing the drivers about the speed they were doing. We also made use of our new Pop Up Bairsns signs outside the school.

Rural Crime - keeping our rural communities safe

The rural communities of Scotland are safe places in which to live and work. However, the nature of the environment and way of life means there are some crime prevention tips particularly relevant to rural life worth bearing in mind. Much of the crime prevention advice outlined in other areas of the Police Scotland Website 'Keep Safe' section is equally relevant to urban or rural areas, but there are issues unique to rural communities such as:

- **Protecting livestock.**
- **Securing farm machinery.**
- **Theft from fuel tanks.**
- **Securing tools and horse tack.**

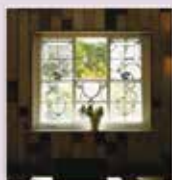
Find out how to keep your property safe in the countryside by looking through our rural safety guides online, on the Police Scotland Website, Keep Safe – Home and Personal Property section.

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

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Estate Agency

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Powers of Attorney

For many people, Powers of Attorney are seen as only being necessary for older people who have diminished mental ability through illness or simply becoming elderly. Very few people see the need for Powers of Attorney whilst they are young but unfortunately accidents can happen and being prepared for the unexpected can save a family unnecessary upset. We would be happy to assist in the preparation of the required documents and guide you through the process.

Conveyancing

Whether you are buying or selling your home, farm, business etc, we can help take the stress out of the process. We are experienced conveyancers and act for a wide variety of private, commercial and agricultural clients. We would be happy to assist and take you through the conveyancing process, whether you decide to buy, sell or lease property.

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Callander Enterprise was formed in August 2005, as a rebirth of the former Callander Business Association which had been going strong for several years. We are a member association run by business volunteers with the purpose of making Callander an attractive destination for visitors, but also to welcome new businesses. We are a not-for-profit organisation.

In the past we have sponsored the Christmas lights, *Summerfest*, *Winterfest*, Callander Jazz and Blues Festival and other smaller events. We also provided a start-up loan to Creative in Callander.

We are currently an active member of the Accessible Callander and the Trossachs (ACT) group, which will be promoting Accessible Tourism in the area. (see right).

We plan to engage with the development of the proposed Callander Digital Business hub and in the future provide more for our members through a permanent business facility.

A core part of our current service is a website, www.incallander.co.uk.

It has around 400 active pages – a mix of visitor information, walks and cycle routes, local communications, town events and business page adverts. Our website continually ranks on the first page on Google search – whether it's for places to stay, places to eat or things to do.

We also have an active Facebook page with over 1400 followers both locally and from around the world.

As a voluntary organisation, we are guided by the needs of the local business owners and would appreciate your feedback by taking this short survey:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HR6VHLY

We welcome all local business owners to our meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 6.00pm in Deli Ecosse. We aim to provide helpful information to you during these meetings and we are working on a great programme for 2019/20. Please come along if you are interested in becoming a member and having your business listed on our website.

We offer 3 levels of membership with full annual membership starting at £55, which includes a business listing and promotion on Facebook, as well as membership of the communication group and an option to become an office bearer. If you would like to be part of Callander Enterprise, or would like to come along and talk to the group about a service you provide, please get in touch via our contact form on www.incallander.co.uk/contact-callander-enterprise

Lorraine Isgrove Vice-Chair on behalf of Callander Enterprise

Balvalachan Cemetery

Local Cllr Martin Earl enquired about the status of the new cemetery and attendant drainage issues. He received the following response:

"The new cemetery ground to serve the community of Callander and surrounding villages is nearing completion. There are a few snagging works that are required, i.e. replacing trees and consolidating path works. The Cemeteries Service has started test digs in the areas identified for burials to determine ground conditions and inform the allocation of lairs for burial, cremated remains and woodland. A plan of these areas will then be commissioned. We hope to install strip foundations in the very near future. Once these works are complete, the consecration and official opening will take place. It is anticipated that the grounds will be available by the Spring.

Accessible Tourism

Accessible Callander and the Trossachs (ACT) – is a joint venture with Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, VisitScotland and Stirling Council to identify and promote the tourist experience for those with accessibility needs, both physical and neural. The aim is eventually to apply for a World Tourism Organisation accreditation for accessibility covering Callander and the Trossachs. This initiative is being partnered locally by Callander Enterprise, which is applying for funding and are actively involved in the newly formed infrastructure group of ACT, looking at pavements, roads and signage within the Callander area. We are encouraging all Callander Enterprise Members to participate. We are currently at the information collecting stage and would encourage all businesses involved with tourism to carry out the VisitScotland accessibility assessment which is all about what facilities you already have at

www.visitscotland.org/supporting-your-business/marketing-toolkits/accessible-inclusive-tourism

Only about 8% of those with accessibility needs are wheelchair users, the other 92% have a wide range of needs, and your business needs to identify what you can offer, which the guide can help you with. Eventually we would like to see those facilities added to your own website and all business pages on the InCallander website. This is a project which is of benefit to many people, not just those with accessibility needs and their families, but also to you as the business owner and to Callander as a whole.

To find out more about the project, follow us on

www.facebook.com/accessiblecallanderandthetrossachs/

Marilyn Moore on behalf of Accessible Callander and the Trossachs

8 Young People

News from The Guides

In October 2018 I joined the Girlguiding Scotland International Community Experience trip to Oslo. When we arrived we went to the hostel where we were staying for 4 nights. We went to a number of museums over the following days. The Kon tiki Museum contained the raft that Thor Heyerdahl used to cross the Pacific Ocean to prove that the first people in the Pacific Islands may have been from South America. The Folk Museum had buildings from different times that had been moved onto one site. My favourite was the Fram Museum which was about Norwegian Polar explorers, because you got to look around inside a reconstructed boat. We also went on a boat trip on the Oslo Fjord. It was very cold but the boat had blankets to keep us warm, and the houses on the island were very colourful.



Ciara Dillon

1st Callander Guides meet on a Monday evening in St Andrew's Church Hall. The girls are aged 10-14 and enjoy crafts, games, outdoor activities and how to develop good oral skills to express their views on important world issues. Girls aged 9-13 can find out more from Sarah at scmiller@doctors.org.uk. Or come to a taster night on Monday 27th May 7-9.30pm

News from The Scouts

Callander urgently needs volunteers to help run the Scouts. At the moment Alasdair Garbett, District Commissioner for Stirling & Trossachs, has to come to Callander from Dunblane to help keep the Scouts running. We have up to 25 scouts who attend weekly and it's vital to get help from the Callander community to keep it running.



The only things missing from our team in Callander is **you** to keep the Scouts open. Volunteering is easier than you think

Call us on [077930973240](tel:077930973240) or email stirlingdc@frscouts.org.uk

Community Youth Project

Arriving in Callander as an outsider, one of the most striking initial



impressions has been the willingness of local organisations to collaborate and work together. This was demonstrated at the SCVO's recent event 'The Gathering 2019' - hosted at the SEC in Glasgow - where multiple local enterprises combined resources to advertise Callander as Scotland's first social enterprise town.

Callander Youth Project was delighted to be involved in that event. However, it represents just one of numerous local partnerships from which we are fortunate enough to benefit. Whether it be McLaren High School, offering free use of bikes to participants in our recent mountain biking sessions, or young environmentalists from Callander Primary who plan to help us create a 'Bee-friendly' garden, it is extremely rewarding to see groups within Callander setting self-interest aside to assist on a variety of projects. At CYP, young people are at the centre of our focus - it is therefore most encouraging to see that this reciprocity is also demonstrated at these age groups. The young people who represent CYP's Fundraising Committee are currently hard at work to deliver an 'Easter Egg-stravaganza' event, which will take place on Easter Saturday. Rather than pitching this event to raise funds solely for the development of their own youth space, they propose to split the profits with the Craigard group, in recognition of the great work that the Craigard does for elderly people in the local area.

Of course - just to continue the theme - TLC Events are offering their support to ensure that the day is a success.

Alasdair MacDonald

Language in Parliament Event



Hi reader it's Bethan. This month's article is all about a recent trip I made, along with the other members of my Advanced Higher English class, to the Scottish Parliament in order to take part in their annual "Language in Parliament" Event. I experienced three different workshops, learnt more about Parliament and went on a tour around the building. It was an extremely fascinating day and I am so grateful that I got the opportunity to go. Hope you enjoy the article! It was an extremely blustery day and our teacher quickly took a picture of us all outside the building, before we headed inside. There were several other groups of pupils from other schools taking part in this event and we all sat down to enjoy some amazing cakes and a cup of tea, before we headed off for a tour of some of the rooms in Parliament. First of all, we visited the Debate Chamber, where all the key issues are talked and debated about. We got to see where all the MSPs sit in their groups (apart from one individual, who doesn't belong to a party and sits by himself). We also saw the three "booths" at the front of the room and they are used by the clerks to scribe and take notes about what is happening; their work is so intensive that they have to do ten minute shifts during a debate. We also discovered that there is a huge amount of symbolism in Parliament and being English students, this was incredibly significant. The MSPs sit behind desks and on each one there are three silver lines and these represent Scotland's three biggest rivers and the silver lights on the ceiling are used to represent each member of parliament.

We also went down the corridor that all the MSPs use, on their way to the Debate Chamber and how the windows allow for transparency or concealment. The wooden slats on the windows allow the public to be able to see the MSPs, but they can also remain invisible, because of the angle of them. After visiting several more places, we finally headed to one of the Committee Rooms, which is where a smaller group of MSPs will discuss matters further; there are normally between 6 and 15 MSPs in this room. We learned that the lighter coloured pieces of wood at each place at the table are there partly to separate each seating place, but also partly to disguise the MSPs double chins, as the light that bounces up makes them look smaller: this in the official rules and regulations of Parliament!

We then headed to our first workshop-speechwriting, in which two members



of the Official Reporting Team from the Scottish Parliament talked to us about what they were looking for in a piece of official report writing and how they went about writing their reports. We also went through several reports in pairs and corrected them and wrote our own short report. Our second workshop was about bills and legislation and we looked at real examples of bills and legislation that had been passed and explored the language and punctuation used, in order to make it an effective piece of writing. After a delicious lunch, during which I tried one of the best chicken tikka sandwiches I have ever eaten, we headed to our final workshop which was about the Official Report. We looked at speeches and short extracts of writing and how the use or lack of punctuation can impact on the writing enormously. We looked at videos of written speech and evaluated effective techniques used to help make a good speech. Unfortunately, on the day that we visited, all

the MSPs were either on a day off or at one of their "surgeries", so we didn't have the opportunity to meet any of them, but it was still a brilliant day. All the tips and information on writing effective pieces of work will be most helpful in the future. However, more than anything, it was amazing to visit one of the most well-known buildings in Scotland and get an insider's view of what goes on there.

Bethan

Callander Primary School

Two Primary Seven teams took part in the recent Primary Rotary Quiz. Eleven teams were competing this year. There were ten rounds of questions and the scores were tight within the top three. Well done to Gartmore PS who were the winners. A great atmosphere and lots of team work on show.



Our Glee Choir performed at the Albert Halls at the beginning of March in the Primary Glee Challenge. The choir had to perform two songs on stage in front of the other competing schools and around 400 parents. The choir sang and danced brilliantly to 'The Greatest' by Sia and 'A Thousand Years', by Cristina Perri.



Primary 5 has been involved in the 'Fish in the Class' Project run by Forth Rivers Trust. They have been watching the fish eggs hatch and grow over the last six weeks. The fish have now been released into the River Teith.



World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day all children were asked to bring in their favourite book. They shared these with their teachers and classmates and then with some of the other classes during the day. We also made bunting by drawing our favourite characters or book covers. They are now brightening up our dining hall.



Our Eco Group has been leading the fight against plastic pollution and encouraging all classes to try and go plastic free with our snacks. Instead of the plastic wrapping, children were encouraged to bring their snacks in tubs or paper bags. Primary 3/4 were outstanding at getting rid of the plastic and were the best class in the school. The Eco group is also busy planning a 'Dog Poo' campaign reminding dog owners to pick up their dog poo around the school and playing field.

McLaren High

Mock interviews for all of our S5 pupils took place on Wednesday 20th February. Pupils were officially invited to attend interviews at the McLaren Leisure Centre and had to arrive at their allotted time. Thank you to our team of volunteer interviewers, made up of parents and members of the McLaren community, who then interviewed the pupils for either a place at further education or a job. Pupils found the event very beneficial and hope it will help them in any forthcoming interviews. The volunteers commented on how well prepared the pupils were and how well they came across during interviews. A very well received event!



10 Young People

Music Festival

In a rescheduled music festival, we welcomed back our dear friend Mrs Jan Green as adjudicator. Jan was formally the upper strings tutor at McLaren for nearly twenty years. Jan was treated to some sparkling performances in all categories. For all the right reasons she found it difficult to pick winners. She was thrilled by what she heard, everything from Rachmaninov to Bohemian Rhapsody. Well done to all performers. You should all be very proud of yourselves.

Results of the Music Festival competitions are as follows:

Chamber Music/Ensemble Competition prize winners:



1st Guitar Ensemble
2nd Bohemian Rhapsody
3rd Flying Free

Junior Competition prize winners:



1st Catriona Manders
2nd Ellie Cluett
3rd Ciara Dillon

Highly Commended – Sophie Gibbons and Findlay Spriggs

Intermediate Competition prize winners:



1st = Callum Bell and Liam Rennie
2nd Kayleigh McAlpine
3rd Niels Imrie

Highly Commended – Harriet Holden, Robin Turnbull, Aleks Whyte and James Douglas.

Senior Competition prize winners



1st Natalie Klaes
2nd Megan Milligan
3rd Charlotte Scott

In an unprecedented move all senior competitors received highly commended awards from Mrs Green

Well done to all performers, you did yourselves proud. Mrs Green had a very difficult job reaching a decision. The standard of performance was very high with incredibly strong playing throughout. Congratulations everyone!

Ski Course 2019

The bus set off on Saturday 5th January, with 41 pupils in high spirits, en-route to Manchester airport. When we arrived in Munich we had another bus journey to Kuchl where we met our lovely hosts for the week. They had prepared snacks for us to enjoy before bedtime at 9pm.

On the first day we got all our ski boots and helmets fitted at the hotel during breakfast. We got the bus to Alpendorf which took about half an hour, then we collected our skis and poles and used the chair lift to get up the mountain. We were put into our groups, which varied from people who had never skied before to experienced skiers, before we met our instructors who were all really nice and we set off for our first morning of skiing. For lunch every group went to the same restaurant and a lot of us tried Ski Wasser, Wiener Schnitzel and other Austrian meals for the first time.



Next morning we were all in a better mood because all the lifts were open again so we could ski more than one slope for the whole day. After the break we went for lunch at a new restaurant. Once back at the hotel later, after a well-needed shower, we had another cracking meal. Then we finished off the night with a couple of very competitive and aggressive games of Irish snap



On the fourth day we had the now routine breakfast at Elsa and Franz's hotel of classic cereal and juice. When the bus arrived at the bottom of the chairlift, it was closed. So we decided to surprise attack our instructors and teachers with a barrage of snowballs until the chairlift reopened. From this point onwards it was a normal day of skiing for the groups.

On the last day of skiing the visibility wasn't very good but we had a good day nonetheless. We had lunch at the Doughnut Hut and were given our awards. After our afternoon of skiing we gave back our skis and returned to our hotel for a nice meal and some time to relax. It was a great day to end a great week. The next morning we set off at 9am and the journey to the airport was 'interesting' with the bad weather causing delays. We made it to the airport with time to do some shopping before we got on the plane back to Manchester. We got home to Callander at 2am

Thanks to Mrs Dunn and her team

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Buchlyvie	Gargunnock	Kippen	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Locheamhead	
Dearston	Killearn	Strathblane	

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

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

Rural Stirling Housing Association
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01786 841101
enquiries@rsha.org.uk
www.rsha.org.uk

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Carolyn Dunion from McKendry Dunion Financial provides a personal service to those looking to get on the property ladder or review their mortgage arrangements.

Carolyn says, 'it is amazing that our mortgage is usually the biggest expense we will have in our lives and yet often we forget to review our arrangements and that can cost us thousands of pounds unnecessarily.

Similarly, many would be first time buyers can be scared off by the overwhelming amount of information surrounding mortgages'.

McKendry Dunion look to help clients get the best solution for their circumstances. They aim to be approachable and as they offer evening appointments, they can help at a time that suits you.

Based in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs area they can offer help to clients throughout Scotland.

McKENDRY: DUNION FINANCIAL

To have an informal no obligation chat to see if they can help you contact Carolyn on 07957252223 or carolyn@mckendrydunion.co.uk

Red Kites in Scotland

Duncan Orr-Ewing, RSPB's Scotland's Head of Species and Land Management, has been involved throughout the successful 30-year reintroduction of red kites into



Scotland so was well-qualified to speak at our Callander SWT February meeting. If you have never seen these beautiful birds with their chestnut and white plumage and distinctive forked tail, I would recommend a visit to Argaty. The red kite was once abundant and widely distributed across the UK, providing an important street-cleaning service by scavenging in towns; our version of the vulture. However, records show they were virtually extinct by 1875-1900 due to human persecution, the taxidermy trade and egg collecting. The last documented breeding attempts in the Scottish Highlands were in the 1870-1880s.

Between 1989 and 2009 a joint RSPB Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage project reintroduced red kites to Scotland in phases; 93 from Sweden to the Black Isle, 103 from East Germany to Doune, 104 from N Scotland & the Chilterns to Dumfries & Galloway and 101 from the Chilterns & Central

Scotland to the outskirts of Aberdeen. The first pair bred in Perth & Kinross in 2001 and new areas are recolonized every year.

Red kites are only found in Europe, ~30,000 pairs in total with ~6000 pairs in the UK; 5000 in England, 1000 in Wales and 350 in Scotland, where they routinely raise 2 young, the top end of the European average.

The methods used in this project are 'best practice' with quarantined chicks moved at 4-5 weeks old and raised in an outdoor aviary, avoiding human contact. Wing tags and VHF radio trackers provide useful information. The Central Scotland Raptor Study Group now monitors 40-50 nests in the Stirling & Trossachs area, with the wider SRSG checking for new colonisation as birds spread between original release sites.

Red kites are relatively light weight at 1-1.2kg (buzzards 1.3-1.5kg) and do not have strong talons, so eat carrion or small animals up to the size of young rabbits. They nest in mature trees, preferring open deciduous woodland to dense conifer plantations. They line their large nests with lambs' wool but, as Shakespeare warned in *The Winter's Tale*, "when the kite builds, look to your lesser linen" in reference to

them stealing washing hung out to dry! They stay all year, may travel up to 20 miles to winter roosts and move to feed in response to snow.

Although red kites pose no threat to land use interests, their major threat remains persecution. Eating carrion makes them vulnerable to accidental or targeted poisoning; 70-90% of dead birds have been found to contain rodenticides and 39% had lead poisoning from ingested shot. Illegal persecution of kites and other raptors is increasingly associated with practices such as driven grouse shooting in upland areas. Although there is evidence that illegal poisoning is declining, there is also evidence that criminals use thermal imaging cameras to aid night-time shooting of roosting birds. Voluntary self-regulation is not always working and prosecutions are rare, so the Scottish government is considering regulatory options. If you see anything suspicious or find a dead raptor, please notify the police.

Katy Anderson, Habitats Manager with FES in Aberfoyle spoke of the Trossachs water vole project at our January SWT. I was disappointed to miss the talk, but you can find out more at <https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/news/water-voles-thriving-in-the-trossachs> and linked blogs

Lesley Hawkins

Scottish pine martens repopulating Welsh mountains

Forest Enterprise Scotland staff are celebrating the success of a pine marten reintroduction programme in Wales, after helping to source and capture specimens from across Scotland.



photo Edward Delaney

The Pine Marten Recovery Project has been led by the Vincent Wildlife Trust under licence from SNH and in full compliance with the Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations. Between autumn 2015 and 2017, 51 pine martens were translocated from FES woodlands to the forests of the Cambrian Mountains in mid-Wales. Kenny Kortland, Species Ecologist with

FES, said:

"Pine martens are fairly abundant in many forests of the national forest estate, so we could easily spare some for this fantastic project. However, the Trust was very careful to assess the robustness of the donor population first.

"The majority of the animals that were released in Wales very quickly claimed home ranges for themselves. Kits have been born every year since the first release so it looks like the pine martens' return to Wales has been an unqualified success!"

The programme has been well supported by the local community, and people are encouraged to visit the pine marten information centre and viewing hide.

Dr Jenny Macpherson for the Vincent Wildlife Trust, said;

"We're very happy that pine marten are doing so well in the Welsh mountains and are weaving themselves back into the fabric of our natural environment. Land management changes over the last 150 years had slowly caused martens to retreat to the uplands of Britain, and although they've found a stronghold in Scotland, they've been struggling to hold on in Wales"

For the next phase, the VWT team will be in touch with FES staff in Central Region to discuss potential translocation of the next batch of martens from the Trossachs forests.

Paul Munro

Footpath Maintenance

Spade in hand, spade over the shoulder and shuffling in huge wellies, it was off to work on the footpath. This time the ranger and his small team of volunteers did not have too far to walk to the worksite; sometimes it can be miles. It would of course be clearing and repairing ditches.

In an ideal world footpaths are surveyed every year and colour coded for things like, the state of the path and for wildlife. Green for minor issues: for this we would cut back vegetation from the path and remove some debris from a water route. Amber shows the need for repair; in many cases this means that the ditch has probably not been cleared for sometime, or perhaps a tree is now blocking it and water is going on to the path. Quite a lot of work has to be done to put things right to prevent further damage as people abandon the path to keep their shoes clean. Red for a total rebuild - for example the Ben A'an path had spread due to feet, animals and bicycles and the environment was being damaged. We came across sections on the West



photo Gerry Speirs

Highland Way where the path had disappeared under the mud and even the ditch had been crushed by the passing feet. The expert ranger dug the whole area down to a firm base, whilst his minions scabbled to find stones for the rebuild. Some gravel would have been good to finish the job but this was a minimal cost job, transport to get there and one skilled worker.

How well a path stands up to abuse by human feet depends on how well it was planned and built originally. Over easy ground one skilled person working with a team of volunteers can make a path for around £35,000 per

kilometre. When the situation is more complex and only professionals have the necessary skills, it can rise to closer to £200,000 per kilometre. Moving materials by helicopter is expensive, as is building bridges. There are grants to help build and maintain footpaths but one source said 2018 was the year of a flood of grant applications, little left for 2019. Sustrans appears to be most skillful at writing applications to meet government objectives. .

Why do people help with footpaths? You just need to look at somewhere like Conic Hill to see how hordes of people damage first the path then the landscape. If you enjoy the beauty of the country it is only right to want to do what you can to help preserve it. Besides - the slurp of the mud as you open a blocked drain and then the whoosh of the water as it speeds down it is satisfying. Reduce those 'bingo wings', achieve something useful and get that feeling of smug satisfaction.

Thanks to Gilbert and Tommy

Dig into Callander's History

An exciting range of archaeology workshops and training opportunities are taking place over the next three months in Leny Woods, helping to uncover the area's historic past and unlock the cultural heritage of Callander.

Leny Woods is situated at the Highland Boundary Fault and holds archaeological sites from the prehistoric, Roman occupation, medieval, and beyond.

The workshops are being run as part of Callander's Landscape, a three year project that focuses on improving the natural and cultural heritage of the area. The 'Research' strand of Callander's Landscape covers all projects with an archaeological, historical or heritage theme, with the aim of recording, revealing and managing Callander's cultural and built heritage to help better understand and interpret the



Photo from LL&TNP

area's past.

The project began last month with indoor sessions that had volunteers designing their own archaeology projects and undertaking research into the Leny Woods area. These were followed by outdoor sessions in Leny Woods itself, including walkover and measured surveys, and a woodland walk where volunteers heard more about the findings of a historic wood-

land assessment. Further events are planned for April, May and June including charcoal making, the building of a traditional kiln, and excavations. The project will culminate with a week-long experimental archaeology event from the 11th - 18th June that will include building a traditional charcoal kiln, woodland skills demonstrations and information about conservation.

The Leny Woods Community Archaeology project is funded by Forestry Commission Scotland and is being run by Northlight Heritage. The sessions are completely free to attend and volunteers can sign up for as many sessions as they like with no previous experience necessary. To find out more about the archaeology workshops and training opportunities and to sign up to up to take part, visit <https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/callanders-landscape/volunteer/leny-woods-archaeology/>

14 Environment

Dancers in the Dark

Callander is well placed to see the aurora (Northern Lights) shining just above the hills to the north. They will appear perhaps two or three times a year but to see them you need to get away from the lights of the town and get as high up as possible with a clear view to the north.

The lights appear above the magnetic poles of the northern and southern hemispheres. In the north they are known as 'Aurora borealis' and in the south 'Aurora australis'.

The Northern Lights are actually the result of collisions between gaseous particles in the Earth's atmosphere with charged particles released from the Sun's atmosphere. Blown towards the Earth by the solar wind, the charged particles are largely deflected by the Earth's magnetic field. However, the magnetic field is weaker at the polar regions and therefore some particles enter the atmosphere and collide with gas particles. These collisions emit light and the variations in colour are due to the type of gas particles that are colliding. The most common auroral colour, a pale yellowish-green, is produced by oxygen molecules located about 60 miles above our

planet.

Although the aurora can be seen from Callander, it is the higher latitudes where the best displays occur. In Europe this includes Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. October - March is the best time to go and it is best to visit when the Moon is not visible in the night sky. You won't see the lights if it is cloudy and even if it is clear there is no guarantee these celestial dancers will show up. However, if they do appear you will be stunned with the light show.

This is my final BLV 'night sky' report as I am moving out of the area. I hope these reports have en-



Northern Lights from Tromsø, Norway, March 2019, photos Keith Wilson

couraged you to go outside at night and marvel at the beauty of our night sky. Callander Landscape has placed astronomy at the core of their work and hopefully we will see the creation of a Dark Sky Discovery place situated in Callander in the very near future from which locals and visitors can access night sky views and information. Best wishes and clear skies!

Keith Wilson

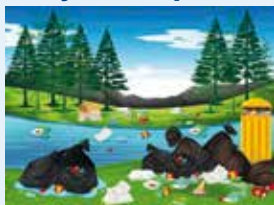
All the very best for your move, Keith, and many thanks for thrilling us with your astronomy articles and fantastic photographs for the BLV - we hope we can persuade you to send us your news in the future.

Callander Spring Clean – Community Litter Pick

There will be two community litter picks to take away the rubbish accumulated over winter before Easter and to clear up after the Spring Bank Holiday.

Jointly organised by Cleaner Callander and the Callander Landscape Partnership.

10-12am, Saturday 13th April & Tuesday 28 May



Meet in Ancaster Square in front of St Kessog's

We will supply litter pickers, bags and vests. Stirling Council will take away the bags. Just turn up on the day or get in touch if you want to join our merry band of regular litter pickers.

NOTE: My litter buddy Keith is moving away from Callander so I am looking for a new helper. Not a big time commitment but would you be willing to help decide what is needed, to co-ordinate events and possibly work with the schools?

Get in touch on mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk PLEASE.

Reintroduction of Lynx?

I know there was a drop-in session in Aberfoyle in March, to learn more about the proposal to reintroduce lynx, but there will need to be a lot more than that organised, and in various locations to provide as many people as possible the opportunity to find out more.

By coincidence, I have had, briefly, an experience of looking after lynx. When Sheila & I bought our first house, many years ago, the seller was part of a captive breeding programme and had large pens in the rear garden (it was a big garden!) where they kept a pair of european lynx. When we bought the house they were to be moved to a wildlife park but that was delayed. So, we helped look after them with the previous owner for a few months. Beautiful animals they were but I won't forget the experience of clearing them out, very smelly.....

Martin Earl

the Old Bank

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A warm welcome always awaits you at the old bank. Open seven days serving breakfast, lunch and dinner or just some coffee and cake. Come and join us for some great food by our open log fire.

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served from 6pm using the very best of local produce combined with our chefs flair and imagination to produce some exciting new dishes and flavour combinations to accompany our old favorites.

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Callander Medical Centre

Both Practices

For some time now both practices have been working closer together providing medical services to Callander and the surrounding area.

The Partners of Bracklinn & Leny met recently with representatives from Forth Valley Health Board to discuss this and how we sustain a quality service in the future given the well publicised issues surrounding GP recruitment and sustainability of rural GP practices under the new GP contract.

We are going to continue to work more closely together, providing support and cover for each other while streamlining our processes and procedures with a view to becoming one practice later this year.

Ourselves and the Board see this as a very positive step to ensure ongoing medical services in Callander. This will give greater choice to our patients with them being able to access a wide range of health care professionals in addition to more appointment availability. We are hoping that more patients will become involved in the Patient Participation Group and play a part in the future of Callander Medical Practice – see below for details.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

In light of the above, we are trying to encourage patients of both practices to become involved in our Patient Participation Group. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16th April at 1pm in the Medical Centre.

We are looking for ideas on services, feedback on the positive and negative aspects of the practices and services provided. It is our intention to keep the group involved in new developments. We feel it is important that our patients have input into their health care and we can only learn and develop with integration. Open and honest discussion is key to this. We are looking for representatives to attend these as well as appointing a Chair and Secretary. The aim is for this to be group led/

organised, and that the practices would attend and be involved in any discussion/ideas and also feedback updates from the two practices.

If you are interested in being part of the group or indeed if you are already a member of a local group and would be interested in the Practice Managers coming along to speak to your members about the possibility of being involved, please contact either practice [01877 331001](tel:01877331001) (Bracklinn) or [01877 331000](tel:01877331000) (Leny) and ask for either Margaret or Karen.

PRACTICE CLOSED

In line with NHS Forth Valley public holidays, Leny Practice will be closed on Friday 19th April and Monday 22nd April 2019 for Easter and also Monday 6th May 2019 – please note Bracklinn Practice will be open on Good Friday morning and closed Easter Monday.

In addition the practices are also closed for Forth Valley Training from 12.30pm on Thursday 23rd of May 2019.

If you require emergency medical assistance when the surgeries are closed please contact NHS24 on [111](tel:111).



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

MEDICINE SHORTAGES

As most of you know, pharmacy is having greater difficulty in obtaining supplies of medication (not always because of Brexit!) This is due to suppliers withholding or restricting drug supply, or simply, the drugs being discontinued without warning. This means that it may take longer to prepare your prescriptions. Do not be surprised if your brand becomes unobtainable. Although the Callander pharmacies will try their best to meet their patients' needs, it is becoming more difficult to obtain stock.

Hay Fever or a Seasonal Cold?

At this time it is difficult to imagine that hay fever season is upon us.

People tend to think that hay fever occurs in the summer but for some sufferers hay fever starts as early as January and lasts through to the autumn. Hay fever is a very common condition and is estimated to affect 1 in 4 people. Grass pollen is the main cause of hay fever – about 95% of sufferers are allergic to it. Tree pollen is another cause, affecting about 25%, with mould spores and weed pollen also triggering symptoms.

At this time of year hay fever can often be mistaken for a cold presenting similar symptoms, the most common of which are frequent sneezing, runny or blocked nose, itchy or red watery eyes also an itchy throat, mouth, nose and ears. These symptoms vary in severity and may be worse some years than others. Hay fever symptoms are worse when the pollen count is high. There are two pollen peaks each day, typically early morning and early evening. Hay fever may be worse at these times – this can be one way of telling someone has hay fever rather than a summer cold. Effective over-the-counter treatments are available and include a variety of products ranging from symptom preventers (nasal barrier sprays) to drowsy and non-drowsy antihistamines and eye drops. Other preventative actions that can be taken include keeping windows closed in peak pollen times and wearing 'wrap around' sunglasses to help protect the eyes from pollen. For more advice, speak to your pharmacist or a trained member of the pharmacy team.

Vanessa, Accredited Checking Technician, Trossachs Pharmacy

Callander Cycle Group Meanders

The Callander Cycle Group Meanders take place every Tuesday morning. We meet at 10am in The Square for our weekly ride, which as the name suggests is a leisurely meander, usually between 8-12 miles. We do local routes and also occasional ride-outs further afield (van and roof rack space available). Please come and join us. The meanders are led by qualified Cycle Ride Leaders and it's a safe and supportive environment so nobody gets left behind! Over the Easter holidays, we're planning to run two family-meanders out to the Strathgryne cabins.



This is a great ride and an achievable 8 mile challenge for young children (with mid-way snacks and playpark at the cabins). These family rides will take place on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 and Tuesday 9th April 2019 (departing 10am, children must be accompanied by an adult). Contact Colin or Maggie (details below) for more information or to get put on our email/messenger group alert lists. Don't have a bike?! That's no obstacle to us – we can organise one for you, so really.. there is no excuse not to get on yer bike in 2019.

Colin Welsh ([07963 736044](tel:07963736044)) Maggie Magor ([339074](tel:339074))

Walk With Us

The Callander Walk in the Park group would be delighted if you would like to join us for our new spring walking programme.

Walk in the Park facilitates improvements to health and fitness, particularly for those who are not meeting government guidelines which recommend that to be healthy we need to be active for at least 30 minutes a day. Whilst Walk in the Park is a health walk programme, one of our biggest successes has been helping to tackle isolation and loneliness for older people living in rural areas by offering a social time after the walks.

We continue to increase the range of activities we offer, from short 10 minute walks to various levels of health walks, up to 1 hour, progressing to walk extensions or challenges. We are also developing new links with other groups and opportunities to help



people overcome specific barriers such as dementia. Please see the BLV 'What's on' page for more information or pick up a flier from the medical centre or library.

Summer Evening Walks

Our very popular Wednesday Night Summer Town Walks have now begun and will run until the end of September. Meeting at 7pm at Ancaster Square we take a gentle evening stroll followed by refreshments at the Deli Ecosse.

Callander Walk in the Park walks and session times are:

Tuesday Morning Walk, 10.20am meeting at Ancaster Square for a 10.30 start

Strength and Balance sessions, Tuesday afternoon from 2-3pm in the Fire Station

Wednesday Evening Walk, 7pm meeting at Ancaster Square

If you have any questions about joining in any of our walks or exercise ses-

COOK'S CORNER

by Audrey Corrieri

APRICOT TEA BREAD

Ingredients:

175g dried apricots, chopped
250ml water
175g caster sugar
75g lard
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
Pinch of ground cloves
1/2 tsp salt
225g wholemeal flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 medium eggs, beaten

Method:

Put the apricots into a saucepan with the water, sugar, lard, spices and salt. Bring slowly to the boil, stirring, and simmer gently for 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and cool.

Preheat the oven to 180c, 160c fan, gas no. 4.

Sift the flour and soda into a bowl. Add the cooled apricot mixture and the eggs and mix well.

Pour into a greased and bottom-lined 1kg/2lb loaf tin, bake in the preheated oven for about an hour or until firm to touch. Cool on a wire rack.

sions please contact the Walk in the Park Coordinator - Cathy Scott [07852 334272](tel:07852334272) or send an email to: cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org For more information about Walk in the Park and walk schedules for all groups including Killin, Aberfoyle, Drymen and Balloch visit www.trustinthepark.org/walk-in-the-park

Cyber-Safety evening at McLaren High School on 22nd May at 7 p.m.

There can hardly be anything more important to a parent than the safety and security of their child – we teach our children how to cross the road safely, we make sure that they are dressed appropriately for the Scottish winter weather, always wear a helmet when riding their bike, tell them not to speak to strangers, and worry ourselves sick when they develop a fever.

Why is it, then, that so many of us parents in the UK have a bit of a blind spot when it comes to internet safety, social media and violent & sexually explicit media content? The recent heart-wrenching stories of children being groomed, blackmailed, murdered or taking their own life as a consequence of something seemingly benign as on-line gaming or social media, are definitely making a lot of parents concerned. However, surveys still show that most parents in the UK are not taking the necessary steps to protect their children from these 21st-century threats to their safety and wellbeing....Why?

The first of two answers is not new and is about consumer expectation. We have all grown to trust commercialism and are susceptible to 'crowd-thinking'. Nothing new here of course! Nothing 21st-century about that! This is a fact of life in our growing and globalising capitalist society. Anyone who tries to argue that point is 99% certain to be kidding themselves. Every day we put our trust, our health and safety in the hands of countless manufacturers of food, drink, pharmaceuticals, cars, electrical & electronic equipment.... the list is almost endless! And that's it in a nutshell – why can't we just put our trust in household names like Apple, Microsoft, Google and Facebook when it comes to our children's health and safety? Seems reasonable? Why can't a parent just buy an internet-enabled smartphone or gaming console from a seemingly reputable commercial company and just wrap it up in gift paper and give it to their child? Lots of other parents are doing it – right?

Well the day may come when a parent might be able to (safely) do just that, but we're not there yet – not by a very long way! Giving a child an internet-enabled smartphone today, straight out of the box, is actually fraught with risk. Without the implementation of adequate and appropriate security measures, smartphones, tablets, and gaming consoles can expose a child to both the best and worst in society. The second answer is that because internet-related product manufacturers and service providers currently put the profit motive above the safety of their young users, the onus is on parents to put security measures in place for their children – and for most parents, that's not a straightforward task and for some – quite daunting! The tide is however turning. Fuelled by public outrage, government pressure, potential future legislation, and yes, commercial opportunity, in time internet-enabled products, networks, social media, games and content that are appropriately safe for children of all ages will be available! Today you can now buy a phone without Internet (2G), specifically marketed for younger children. In the future we'll begin to see a range of internet-enabled smartphones that are also designed specifically to be safe for kids, and maybe also in future we'll see social media companies take real responsibility for the content that they're servicing. Until that time, we parents need to be fully aware of the risks as well as the benefits of the Internet (that place we now call Cyberspace), and understand what action we can take to protect our children.

But is internet (Cyber) safety really an issue for parents in Callander?

Fact : Online bullying has already reared its ugly head – yes, right here in Callander.

Fact : Some Callander children of early primary school age are playing the highly addictive on-line game 'Fortnite' (age-rating 12). The National Crime Agency is investigating reports of paedophiles using the game for online grooming.

Fact : Some Callander children are using Snapchat & Instagram until the wee hours during the school week – often as late as 3 am.!

Fact : The roll-out of high-speed broadband and 3G & 4G networks to rural locations has all but eliminated geographical location as a factor in the prevalence of on-line threats. Callander kids are just as vulnerable online, as city centre kids anywhere in the world.

Yes, not every new and emerging threat is 'the tip of an iceberg' but we only have to look at the escalation of cybercrime, to see that in cyberspace, every weakness will be exploited by the bad guys! Just as cybercrime is a growing threat to companies and the public at large, cyber criminals, bullies and extortionists are a growing threat to our children online.

Moreover last year the World Health Organisation classified video game addiction as a mental health disorder.

However, we cannot and should not shut out the Internet from our children. The opportunities emerging from the 'Cyber Revolution' are unprecedented and the changes enabled by cyberspace that are sweeping through industry, commerce and education are right now creating jobs and prosperity that our children and the Scottish economy must capitalise upon! In McLaren High School Parent Council and Callander Primary Parent Council, we are learning by speaking to other parents that cyber safety is a very touchy but crucially important subject. Every parent must make their own decisions about what and what not to do about Cyber Safety, but assistance can come from open discussions about the threats and opportunities presented by cyberspace and how to keep this a safer place for children.

To assist here, the parent councils of McLaren High School and Callander Primary School, with the involvement of both schools and Police Scotland, are co-hosting a 'Cyber-Safety' evening at McLaren High School on 22nd May at 7 p.m. The evening coincides with the Primary-to-Secondary Transition Days on 23rd and 24th May, but all parents & carers of children of any age are invited.

Note that McLaren High School will be issuing Chromebook laptops to all S1 children next year and attendance by parents and carers of these children at this event evening will be required before the child is issued with a Chromebook. Note also, please, that the evening is strictly for parents & carers only, due to the nature of the content that will be shared.

Barclay Milne

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111

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Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club



On 28th February we ran a qualifying round of the Rotary District Primary Schools Quiz hosted by Callander Primary School. This year twelve teams from ten local schools took part. As usual the quality of the teams was excellent. The winners of the heat were Gartmore Primary School with a score of 111 out of a possible 120. The team, Eral Maddox, Cordelia Murray-Brown, Calum Gillespie, Michael Smith, Kaelin McPheat and Alexandra Woodrow were presented with dictionaries, certificates and, of course, the Shield. They now go on to the semi-final at the University of Stirling on 27th April.

It has been a quiet start to the year but plans are now afoot for this year's events. Our Easter bottle stall will be held on Saturday 20th April. No doubt the Easter Bunny will be there to hand out sweets. Next is the Spring Coffee, Lunch and Crafts at Callander Kirk Hall on Saturday 4th May from 10.30am to 3.00pm. Money raised will go to Rotary's own Foundation charity which amongst other causes supports the worldwide eradication of polio.

If you would like to find out more about Rotary, please look at our website, www.callander.rotary1010.org or on Facebook. If you would like to come along to a meeting any Tuesday evening at 6.30pm at Callander Golf Club or find out more about membership, please contact Derek House on 01877 330103.

Derek House



Callander & District Horticultural Society

To help pay for renting the Kirk Hall to hold our Annual Show, we invite you to our Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th May (10.00am to noon) in the Kirk Hall. Come and enjoy a tasty bite and perhaps take something home from a generous raffle.

Our annual Produce, Flower & Craft Show is on Saturday 31st August. This year's show schedule includes novice classes in floral art, flowers and vegetables, included to encourage anyone who has never entered anything into the show before. Classes for children (up to age 14) are free to enter and this year include: 'A Painting of a Favourite Place' and 'A Photograph of Something that Makes You Smile', as well as craftwork and growing plants.

Whether it's gardening, growing, crafting, sewing, baking, or hobbying, the schedule tries to cater for all interests and abilities but most important is the enthusiasm to give it a go and enter something this year.

If you do want to make something very special, and help others too, we are asking for crafters to make twiddle muffs. These muffs have been found to be most helpful in the treatment of patients with dementia. Instructions are given in the schedule. Exhibitors can donate these to local causes if they wish.

Please pick up a schedule locally at the library, East End News, Campbells the Butcher, Deli Ecosse, Creative in Callander, Brambles and Rainbow Arts and Crafts.

The Society is most grateful to the many individuals and local businesses for their continued support. This is provided in so many different ways, including transport and giving their precious time. This helps us hold this annual event but without people willing to enter, the show cannot go on.

The schedule is packed with ideas of what to enter and advice on how to exhibit. For further information, please contact Lucy on 07711 404848 or e-mail lfrasergunn@gmail.com

Lucy Fraser-Gunn, Chairperson

Cancer Research

We would like to thank those who participated, in any way, during the World Cancer Day campaign in February. The staff and volunteers dressed up in tutus and multi-coloured wigs and took to the streets to raise money for this great cause. At the time of writing we have raised almost £1300- a fabulous total from a wee rural shop.

Another fantastic total is the extra money we raise in this shop via Gift Aid - currently £7604 for this financial year. Any UK taxpayer can sign up to the scheme and we benefit with an extra 25% on each Gift Aid sale.

Helping Cancer Research is not just about raising money. YOU can help by volunteering an hour or two (or more) a week. It's not all hard work; you can have really good fun and feel that you have made a difference. Volunteering can give 'life experience skills' which could help in the search for a job, or is a great way to alleviate boredom or loneliness at home. Whatever your reason for wanting to help, why not call us or come in for a blether and see how we can help each other?

Mary McDiarmid, Manager



Lodge Ben Ledi

We would like to thank everyone who organised or attended the race night on 23rd February in support of Callum Hunter's trip to the United States to take part in a Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) project. Thanks to all their efforts and all those who donated raffle prizes, £1200 was raised.

Our Burns Night on the 2nd of February was a great success. Again grateful thanks to all those who helped behind the scenes.

German-Speaking Group in Callander

Das nächste Treffen der Gruppe wird am Freitag 12. April um 19.30 in einem neuen Treffpunkt – d.h. bei Peter, 52 Upper Bridge St, Stirling, FK8 1ES - stattfinden. (NB An jenem Abend fangen wir eine halbe Stunde später als gewöhnlich an.)

Das Thema für unsere Diskussion an jenem Abend ist folgendes: Jedes Jahr gibt es unzählige Verkehrsunfälle und Verkehrstoten. Wie können wir das verhindern? Deiner Meinung nach, werden die zukünftigen fahrerlosen Autos gemeingefährlich oder betriebssicherer sein?

Wir werden uns auch wahrscheinlich, wie gewöhnlich, mit einigen Wortspielen beschäftigen. Alle sind herzlich willkommen, die sich für die Gelegenheit interessieren, mit unserer Gruppe auf deutsch zu unterhalten. Die Teilnehmer sind sowohl Schotten (und Engländer) als auch Muttersprachler, die hier in Schottland wohnen.

Falls Ihr Fragen dazu stellen wollt, ruft bitte PETER, 01786-473768 oder 07950-046913 (Handy) an. Email: pwmehtha@googlemail.com. Wir freuen uns darauf, Euch alle am 12. April bei ihm begrüßen zu dürfen. NB Alle Teilnehmer sind gebeten, sich im Voraus bis Dienstag 9. April bei PETER anzumelden, damit es genügenden Kuchen gibt!

NB Für das übernächste am Freitag 24. Mai stattfindende Treffen hoffen wir, wieder in Callander, in Jens neuer Wohnung, zusammenkommen zu können. Sowohl die neue Adresse als auch das Thema dafür wird im Voraus allen Mitgliedern in einer Email mitgeteilt werden.

Jen Shearer



RNLI

Lifeboats

The Trossachs Branch of the RNLI held a successful and enjoyable Savoury Supper at the Callander Youth Project on Friday 1st March. The buffet table was sponsored by Scottish Sea Farms, Scottish Salmon Co., Waitrose, Morrisons, Scotmid, Trossachs Trout and many others.

Rear Admiral Roger Lockwood CB, a Trustee of RNLI Scotland gave an uplifting address supported by a film show. Alexis Rigby who is doing a sponsored walk, pulling her kayak on a trailer over a 38 mile route, to raise funds for the RNLI, gave a presentation on her project. To support Alexis, Google "Alexis Rigby" and you will find her Just Giving page about 4 or 5 down the list.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees and contributors, the function raised some £1433 for the Lifeboats

The Trossachs Branch covers an area from Tyndrum to Cumbernauld. We are keen to hear from volunteers, helpers and possible committee members as age is beginning to overtake some of our members.

John Kennedy, Chairman RNLI Trossachs Branch



John Kennedy Chairman, Roger Lockwood, Trustee RNLI Scotland, Alexis Rigby, Martin Earl Councillor.

Callander Heritage Society

At our February meeting Dr Murray Cook gave a very interesting talk on 'Secrets of the Forth, the river that defines Scotland'. He told us that the Forth has always been a very important river, e.g. over time it has had 8 different names and on one of the earliest maps of Britain the only bridge marked is Stirling Bridge. The Forth was the border between the 'wild' North and the 'more civilised' South and Stirling Bridge was the shortest crossing between the two, so was very important for access and trade. The Bridge was built just below the ford at the highest navigable point of the Forth. In the past the Forth was much wider and drained from the very large, marshy area of Flanders Moss which covered the whole of the Carse of Stirling, making crossing elsewhere very difficult. Stirling Castle guarded the bridge and the town grew from trading in the goods brought in. Throughout history groups have fought for control of the crossing and Romans, Angles, Picts and Vikings, plus numerous feuding Scots and English have besieged the Castle. It is widely accepted that the muddy, marshy banks of the River Forth played a major part in the victories at the battles of Stirling Bridge and Bannockburn when the heavy English cavalry got bogged down in the mud.

Dr Cook's talk showed the River Forth in quite a different light.

K. Millar

Callander & West Perthshire U3A



C&WP U3A receives many ideas about groups which members would be interested to join but the problem is always to find a leader. The perception is that a leader is also required to be a teacher, but this does not necessarily follow. Several of our groups run very successfully by combining the talents and knowledge of their individual members, with the 'leader' being the coordinator and contact person.

Examples are Scottish History, Antiques Appreciation and Poetry, where research on subjects is shared and members are encouraged to participate actively rather than sit passively at a lecture. At a recent meeting of our group leaders we heard the good news that a second wine tasting group is about to start on the same basis. All it requires is the enthusiasm to get together and pool information on a favourite subject and a new group has begun. We look forward to adding more groups. Suggestions have been: Calligraphy, Gaelic and more Science.

Contact us on our website 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A'

Marguerite Kobs



What next for tourist information?

With the closure of Callander Tourist Information Office, BLV asked VisitScotland what the future holds for tourist information in Callander, an essentially tourist town.

Neil Christison, VisitScotland Regional Director, said: "As we announced in October 2017, VisitScotland is making necessary changes to its information provision, switching investment to new initiatives in order to reach more people with personalised information, so they stay longer, spend more and grow the visitor economy. This is in response to significant changes to the way visitors access information.

VisitScotland is working closely with Stirling Council, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Callander Partnership, Callander Community Council and other members of the Callander community to identify opportunities for alternative information provision that will ensure visitors to the Callander area will continue to have access to information whether digitally or face-to-face. This includes our popular VisitScotland Information Partner (VIP) programme which includes 12 members in the Callander area and allows visitors to access local knowledge directly from the people who live and work in the area."

We at the BLV are very sad about the closure of our Tourist Information Office and the departure of the friendly team who seemed to know everything about anything we asked. They were kind enough to stock the magazine on our behalf and even had a group of regular customers, as well as supplying it to curious tourists.

What went on in the Office? Occasionally you would hear them

suggesting how to get to Bracklinn Falls; but advising that as it was raining they would be better to wait for a couple of hours; the rain really would have stopped by then. Of course they would point out that there were excellent tea shops in the town but always suggested at least 3 options. Then there were all those shiny, free magazines for clients to collect. Obviously, there were those covering what to do and where to stay in every corner of the country. Then there were the more specialist publications covering for example fishing or sailing. Finally there were the slimmer numbers produced by individual tourist attractions. Finally, there were items for sale: lots of pottery with thistles on every item, for example. Now everything will only be available on line!

What is happening to the team? These are people who like contact with other members of the human race, so the prospect of going to work in a VisitScotland call centre did not appeal. They are therefore all taking voluntary redundancy. These are all interesting and amusing people. The BLV did think, having kept in contact about the matter for months that they would be able to write a few amusing words to entertain us after 'the shop' had closed. But the Scottish Tourist Board has taken a leaf from Sir Philip Green and Harvey Weinstein and made all the staff sign Non-Disclosure Agreements. If they said anything, however innocent, to us they could end up in court. Why? Do they know of shady goings on of some sort that will shock the world?

Some might say the Scottish Tourist Board were bullying. The BLV could not possibly comment.

Callander's Sewerage Problem - Almost the end?

By the time this goes to print the sewerage problem in The Mollands will have been in the public domain for 4 months.

The story so far: Shirley Oliphant alerted us to the problem and we raised the issue with Scottish Water and got a case number. We had had no response by the time we went to print for the last edition.

We felt the problem should be tackled by several routes: possible repair as necessary and then education, as the blockage was probably contributed to by households further up the hill, doing what happens in a number of places, putting things down the drains that block them.

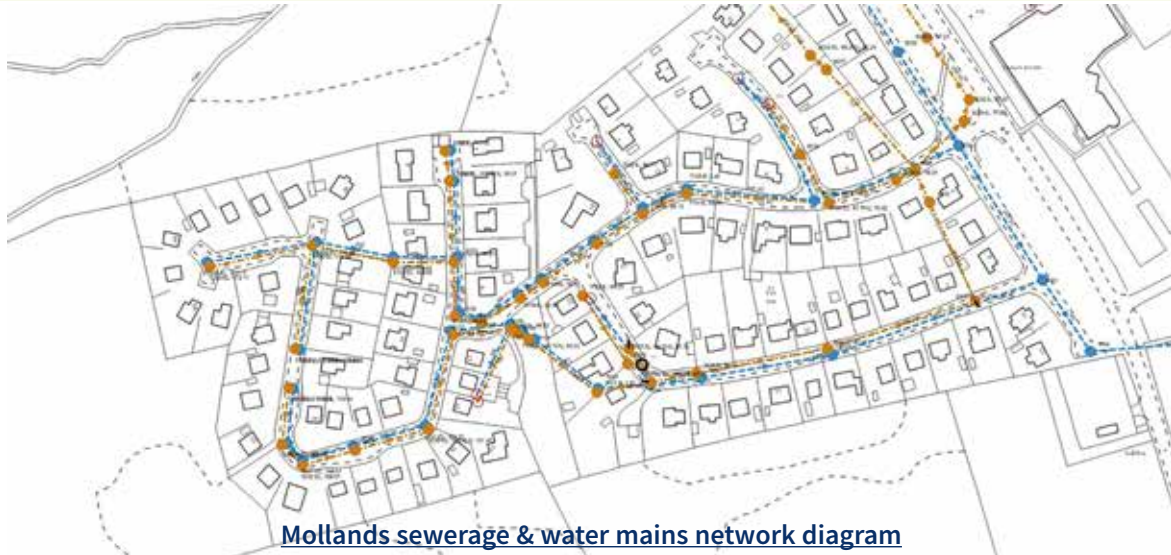
A concerned neighbour with links to Scottish Water raised the problem at a very high level. He heard there was damage to the sewer and it did need repair. He also raised the idea of Scottish Water sending one of their communications team into Callander Primary School to do a fun session about sewerage and what can go down the drain. Children are, of course, excellent at educating parents. At the very last moment the lady he had talked to for weeks felt she could not attend. Jim Frail, a senior engineering manager, stepped into the gap left. He had to rearrange work to make this possible and raid his garage for visual aids. Thank you, Jim.

We were also still trying to get more general information; when we emailed the contact centre again we quoted our case number and were given another case number. When we explained the problem of our deadline date we got helpful contacts.

The flooding at Shirley's property was caused by baby wipes blocking the sewer below her house, so when it rained hard the sewage could not get through. This meant it flowed back up the pipes into her garden. The baby wipes were removed to clear the blockage.

Scottish Water provided the following Information:

"We decided to investigate the state of the sewer using the camera van



shown in the last edition of the magazine. We found other blockages which the clearance lorry dealt with. The sewer system in the lower part of the Mollands estate is complex with pipes running through gardens as well as under the street. We found some damage, mainly from tree roots, a potential cause of flooding. The flood team will therefore repair the system. It will take 2 weeks and will cost £20,000. Work starts on the 18th March, so when you read this it will be complete."

The other education tool we are using is a leaflet drop. As we want this to be a community effort, we have asked the Scouts for help. The Scouts are very eager to help the community to do this. Let's hope someone in the community is willing to help scouting in Callander continue with the task.

Whatever it says on the packet, all wipes will block drains, none of them break down like toilet paper. Especially combined with fat they can block any drain, resulting in backflow into someone's property.

As suggested earlier in this article,



Photo by Rob Spiers



Photo by Rob Spiers

let us leave the final word to our youngsters from Callander Primary School who received an informative presentation from Jim Frail of Scottish Water. Here is the view of Arran McPhail Grieve of P6/7:

On Monday, 4th March, pupils from Callander Primary were visited by Scottish Water, we were told all about how our water gets to our homes. We were told about the water pipes and how they lead to our homes, schools and businesses and the importance of keeping these pipes clear of rubbish and items that could block them such as baby wipes, toys and even sun glasses!

The pupils also learnt about Fatbergs which are caused by people pouring cooking fat down their drains after they have finished cooking. The most important thing we learnt about was how to keep the pipes clear. We learnt that the only things that should go down our toilets are the 3 P's –

Pee, Toilet Paper and Poop.



Stirling Members centre Summer Programme

All Day Trips start from Forthside Car Park near Gabe's Diner (Timings are approximate)

Thursday 16th May 2019
Depart 10.30am Return 5.45pm
Day Trip to Arniston House (Organiser Sandy Wilson)

Wednesday 17th July 2019
Depart 9.00am Return 6.00pm
Day Trip to Monteviot House and Gardens (Organiser Bob McKean)

Wednesday 18th September 2019 -
Depart 10.15am Return 6.30pm
Day Trip to Pitlochry Theatre – "Blythe Spirit" (Organisers Sandy & Margaret Moreland)

For more information contact

Sandy and Margaret Moreland, Joint Secretaries

Tel: **01259 761700**

Email: stirlingnts@gmail.com

What's on in April and May

REGULAR MEETINGS

Mondays:

- Active Life class 9.30am McLaren Leisure
- 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)
- Climbing Club (children) 4.00pm and 5.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Soccer School (5-7 yrs) 5.00pm, (8-11 yrs) 6 pm McLaren Leisure
- Highland Dancing 4.00pm Kirk Hall (not 8th, 15th,,22nd April or 6th May)
- Cubs 6.15pm Primary School
- HIT Circuits 7.00-7.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 7.00pm and 8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Callander Bowling Club Open Night 6.30pm (contact Donald on 07513488453)
- 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

Tuesdays:

- Music Bugs (pre-school) 10.00 and 11.00am McLaren Leisure
- Weekly drop-in I.T. and ME 2.00-4.00pm Callander Library
- Craigard Club 10.30am to 1.00pm Kirk Hall (not 2nd & 9th April)
- 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
- Callander and W. Perthshire Rotary Club meet 6.00pm for 6.30pm Callander Golf Club. Visitors always welcome
- Army Cadet Force training 7.00pm Kirk Hall

- Box FIT 7.00pm-8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Hatha Yoga 7.30-9.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Badminton Club 7.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Taekwondo 7.00-9.00pm McLaren Leisure

Wednesdays:

- Aqua Therapy 9.00am McLaren Leisure
- Callander Kids 9.30am Kirk Hall
- Trossachs Tiny Tots 9.30-11.30am McLaren Leisure
- 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
- Bridge Club 6.50pm Old Bank
- Song Squad 7.15-9.15pm Fire Station
- Body Blitz 7.00-8.00pm McLaren Leisure

Thursdays:

- Active Life 10.00-11.00am McLaren Leisure
- Step FIT 7.00-8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- 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 (not 5th, 12th & 19th April)
- Spike Island: Pool Inflatable Fun 7.30-8.30pm (8 yrs+), 8.30-9.30pm (High School up to 15yrs) McLaren Leisure

Saturdays :

- Kiddy Kicks (2-5yrs) 9.30-10.30am McLaren Leisure
- Taekwondo (children) 12noon-

- 2.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Trossachs Tigers Training 9.15-10.00am McLaren Leisure

Sundays :

- Rugby tots 9.00am-12 noon McLaren Leisure
- Sundays @ Six Stirling Baptists in Callander 6.00pm St Andrew's Church Hall

April

Friday 5th

- [Ben Ledi View published](#)
- Saturday 6th
- Ramblers Hill: Beinn an Fhogharaidh (616m) 8.30am (contact 01877 382682)

Monday 8th

- Community Council meets 7.30pm Callander Hostel
- Tuesday 9th
- Walk in the Park NCN& at Strathyre (car share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square
- SWT 'Gardening with Wildlife' Suzanne Burgess + brief AGM 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Wednesday 10th

- Heritage Society John Hutchison,'Callander and its Football History' 7.00pm for 7.30pm Masonic Hall
- Walk in the Park Evening Walk 7.00pm Ancaster Square

Thursday 11th

- Thursday Club 2.00pm Kirk Hall Library

Friday 12th

- German-speaking group meets 7.30pm chez Peter Mehta 52 Upper Bridge Street Stirling FK8 1ES

Saturday 13th

- Ramblers LDT: FCP (1) Newburgh to Balmerino (11 miles) 8.30am (Contact 01877 330032)
- Callander Spring Clean 10.00am – 12 noon meet in front of St Kessog's
- Archaeology event in Leny Woods (for more information contact Julie on 01389 727723)
- Callander Bowling Club Green opens 1.30pm for 2.00pm Ancaster Road

Sunday 14th

- Archaeology event in Leny Woods as above
- Film Society 'The Guernsey Literary Society' 7.30pm Callander Hostel CYP

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

Tuesday 16th

- Walk in the Park Bridgend and Meadows meet 10.20 am Ancaster Square
- Arthritis Club AGM Cheese and Wine 7.30pm Kirk Hall

Wednesday 17th

- Ramblers Ramble: Waltersmuir Reservoir (5 miles) 9.30am (Contact 01786 823086)
- Walk in the Park Evening Walk 7.00pm Ancaster Square

Thursday 18th

- Friday 19th Good Friday
- Leny Practice closed. Bracklinn practice open in morning only

Saturday 20th

- Rotary Bottle Stall

Sunday 21st

EASTER SUNDAY

Monday 22nd

- Both medical practices closed

Tuesday 23rd

- Walk in the Park Bracklinn Falls (car share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

Wednesday 24th

- Ramblers Stroll: Logie and Sheriffmuir (4 miles) 9.30am (Contact 07737 682426)
- Family volunteer day on Callander Crags 10.00am-12noon meet in Ancaster Square (Contact Julie on 01389 727723)
- Walk in the Park Evening Walk 7.00pm Ancaster Square

Saturday 27th

- Ramblers LDP:FCP (2): Balmerino to Tayport (9 miles) 8.30am (Contact 01877 330032)
- Family Fun Day and BBQ starts 3.30pm Callander Golf Club

Sunday 28th

- Callander Target Sports Club Clay Pigeon Shoot 10.00am Callander 10.00am Callander (contact Bob Farquhar on 07721 744229 to confirm date and book)
- Film Society 'Lady Bird' 7.30pm Callander Hostel

Tuesday 30th

- Walk in the Park Lendrick Hill to Brig O'Turk (car share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

May

Wednesday 1st

- Ramblers Ramble: Pools of Muckhart Circular (8.5 miles) 9.30am (Contact 07737 882426)

- Walk in the Park Evening Walk 7.00pm Ancaster Square

Friday 3rd

- [Ben Ledi View copy deadline](#)

Saturday 4th

- Rotary, Coffee, Lunch & Crafts 10.30 -3pm Kirk Hall

Sunday 5th

- Callander Bowling Club Try Bowls event at the Green, Ancaster Road 1.00-5.00pm (contact Donald 07613488453)
- Rusty Strings Unite Concert 2.00pm Callander Kirk

Monday 6th

- Leny practice closed all day

Tuesday 7th

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

Wednesday 8th

- Ramblers Stroll: Teith Stroll (4 miles) 9.30am (Contact 01786 841240)
- Walk in the Park Evening walk 7.00pm Ancaster Square
- Film Society 'I Tonya' 7.30pm Callander Hostel

Monday 13th

- Community Council meets 7.30pm Callander Hostel

Tuesday 14th

- Walk in the Park Coilhallan Wood (car share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

Wednesday 15th

- Walk in the Park Evening Walk 7.00pm Ancaster Square

Tuesday 21st

- Walk in the Park Loch Venachar (car share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

Wednesday 22nd

- Ramblers Stroll: Gillies Hill (4 miles) 9.30am (Contact 01877 330446)
- Walk in the Park Evening Walk 7.00pm Ancaster Square
- Heritage Society James Kennedy, 'The Spanish Influenza pandemic -

its impact on Scotland and local communities' 7.00pm for 7.30pm Masonic Hall

Thursday 23rd

- Both medical practices closed from 12.30pm for Forth Valley Training

Friday 24th

- German-speaking group meets 7.30pm @ Jen's new Callander address tba by email

Saturday 25th

- Ramblers Hill: Beinn na Lap (incl train) (937m) 8.30am (Contact 01786 825877)
- Horticultural Society Coffee morning 10.00am to 12 noon Kirk Hall
- Greener Callander Plant Sale & tombola 10.00am - 4.00pm Ancaster Square

Sunday 26th

- Film Society 'Molly's Game' 7.30pm Callander Hostel

Tuesday 28th

- Walk in the Park Doune allotments - new route (car share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

Wednesday 29th

- Ramblers Ramble: Uamh Tom a Mhor Fhir (9 miles) 9.30am (Contact 01877 330169)
- Walk in the Park Town Walk 7.00pm Ancaster Square

Friday 31st

- Callander Spring Clean 10.00am-12 noon Meet in front of St Kessog's

June

Saturday 1st

- Ramblers Stroll: along the Airth sea wall (5 miles) 9.30am (Contact 01786 825 682)

Tuesday 4th

- Walk in the Park. Bridgend & Meadows, 10.20am Ancaster Square

Wednesday 5th

- Walk in the Park Town Walk 7.00pm Ancaster Square

Friday 7th

- [Ben Ledi View published](#)



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Book Club Review

Now We Shall Be Entirely Free
by Andrew Miller (Sceptre, 2018)

This month's BLV book club review is of the 8th novel by prize-winning author, Andrew Miller.

Our main character is Captain John Lacroix who has returned from service in the Peninsular War, fought between 1807-1814. This was a military campaign against Napoleon's forces in Spain for control of the Iberian Peninsula. The year is 1809 and Lacroix is delivered unconscious to his family home in England, where their housekeeper nurses him back to health. Physically, he begins to get stronger but his scars cut much deeper and his mental health is poor. Ordered to return to his regiment, Lacroix instead journeys to the Outer Hebrides, hopefully to regain his peace of mind through music and songs pertaining to his late father.

From herein, a parallel storyline begins, as we return to Spain and the investigation of terrible war crimes visited on a small Spanish village during the retreat to Corunna. An English corporal, Calley, and Spanish officer, Medina, are ordered to find the captain in charge of the troops who carried out the atrocities. Thus the pursuit of Lacroix begins, first by sea from Portugal to England, then eventually to the Western Isles.

This was an immensely enjoyable book. Miller's writing is beautiful and poetic but also offers up a readable, dense and involved novel. I really felt I'd learnt something about this historical period, as well as feeling proper suspense and anticipation as the pursuers got closer to Lacroix. It was genuinely gripping to read about the travel between the islands, long before the onset of Calmac ferries, and the tough life, both for the boatmen and the islanders. (Incidentally, Caledonian MacBrayne started life in 1851).

This is my first read by Andrew Miller and this is the only one of his books which has not won an award (although watch this space). This is what reading is all about – great books and

discovering fantastic new authors... just off to the library.

The next BLV book club review will be *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty (Penguin, 2018)

Maggie Magor



Callander Summerfest

Below is advance notice of two Unmissable Concerts:

Friday 19th July—A concert by two superb violinists—Carolyn Sparey and her brother Jonathan. This is an excellent opportunity to hear these wonderful musicians.

Wednesday 24th July—A concert by two groups—'Callander Chorale', a well-known local group conducted by Ian Milligan, and a new group—'Light Fantastik'. This is a new orchestra specialising in the lighter side of the classics, film music and many well-kent tunes. This will be conducted by another local musician—Ron Thewlis, and will be led by Carolyn Sparey. Together, the music presented by these two groups will be delightful.

Also coming up at *Summerfest*, Callander Writers' Group will present a Workshop on 25th July, led by tutor Frances Ainsley. Anyone interested in writing is welcome, so save the date. Full details will be in the next BLV issue.

Lucy Fraser Gunn

Housebound Library Service

If due to age or disability you are unable to get along to your local library, the library service can come to you. We will also deliver to you for a short period following an operation or accident. After an initial visit by a member of the Outreach Team, your books will be delivered by one of our volunteers every fortnight.

We have a large selection of large print and ordinary print books and a wide range of cd and downloadable audiobooks. We will ask you all about your reading preferences and tailor a few books every fortnight to bring to you. You can also request books from us and we'll deliver them to you.

Another service by Outreach Library Services is the Reading Friends project where we can arrange for someone to come out and read books to you once a week or fortnight.

To arrange a book delivery or to take part in the Reading Friends project, please call the Outreach Department on 01786 237549.

Callander Library More than just books!

Hearing Aid User?

Replacement batteries are now available from the Library
(Bring your yellow battery book)

Still tying a green bag to your brown bin hoping for a new roll of bags to be left? - STOP!

The biodegradable food waste bags for your caddy are now only available from the Library.

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

STOP PRESS!- Rusty Strings Unite

Having previously announced that no more Rusty Strings concerts were envisaged for the coming year, a phone-call from Mr. Douglas Butler in Cambridgeshire has changed that. He runs a group in Oundle (Peterborough) called 'Rusty Strings'! So, as a result of that phone-call, this group is coming up to Callander on the first weekend in May. Some of that time will be spent sight-seeing and some rehearsing with Callander's Rusty Strings. The two groups will unite and present a joint concert. In addition, we will be joined by a wonderful solo violinist, Carolyn Sparey. Carolyn was principal viola in the BBC Scottish orchestra for many years and is the link between the two groups. This 'Rusty Strings Unite' concert should be really interesting, so take a note of the date and time - Sunday 5th May at 2.30pm in Callander Kirk - and don't miss it! Refreshments will be served in the hall during the interval.

Jean Thewlis

The photo below is of Rusty Strings of Oundle



I.T. & Me

Would you like toshop around for best value? Stay in touch with friends and family? Learn something new? Have free access to PCs, wi-fi and social media? Why not come along to one of our I.T. & Me sessions which take place in Callander Library every Tuesday, 2.00 - 4.00pm. It is completely free of charge and you can learn at your own pace in a relaxed atmosphere.

Fiona Frize

Annie - CAOS and Callander Kirk Junior Choir



At the time of writing there are two weeks to go before opening night and understandably the excitement – and nerves – are growing. It's quite something seeing everything come together. As props and costumes are introduced, lines and cues that have been known for weeks suddenly slip from the mind but, hopefully, it was alright on the night!

We've had another fabulous year of collaboration between CAOS and Callander Kirk Junior Choir under the able direction of Iain Fraser and Linda Cantlay. Everyone has had fun but also put in a power of work. No doubt CKJC will have stolen the show, perhaps Buddy coming a close second. The pairing of the two groups has worked really well over the last two years and thanks to everyone involved. Next year, however, we will go our separate ways: CAOS will be staging the Sound of Music; the Junior Choir show highlights the great young talent we have in Callander.

Once again, thanks to all our many supporters, without whom it would not be possible to stage a show. And to you, our audience – we hope you have been thoroughly entertained. We would of course be delighted to see some of you join us on stage. It's great fun and as I've said before, there is no such thing as "I can't sing"!

There'll be a full review of Annie in the next issue of the Ben Ledi View.

Steve Murphy for the CAOS committee

Song Squad

Song Squad is an informal harmony singing group in Callander.

If, like the Song Squadders, you enjoy singing (even if you think you can't sing) and you appreciate good convivial company and spontaneous laughter, we meet every week.

So why not come along one Wednesday evening to the Fire Station Community Room between 7.15 and 9.15 pm?

Marsha Luti (piano, violin, clarsach, keyboard, tin whistle, guitar) is the tutor, introducing the group to a varied repertoire of songs which she teaches by ear in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Reading music is not required and there are no auditions to join. If you would like to know more, please contact Heather on 01877 330417 or Evelyn on 01877 339 961.



Callander Shops & Shopkeepers 2

Last time I left off at Station Road. Here are some more recollections.



Alex Cram Bakers & Tearoom (now known as 'Mhor Bread') always a busy shop, little changed over the years. Sadly missed is the big yellow caravan which sold sandwiches and ice lollies in the car park. Mr Cram was a small man with a glass eye and a gruff voice; he had a penchant for fast cars and racing catamarans. Mrs Cram by contrast was very refined; she came across as a very private person.

Johnny Rioch's shop (now 'Taste of Trossachs') where fresh fish, fruit and vegetables were mixed together with fancy goods and souvenirs. Brothers Arthur & Jock Adie worked there for a time, Arthur gaining the nickname 'Kipper' which stuck for life. I do not recall Mr Rioch, but by repute he was a Callander character.

Eddie Rutherford 'The Big Toy Shop' (now 'Callander Woollen Mill'). Everything was neat and tidy and no packaging was to be opened, on pain of being removed from the premises; a strict look but don't touch policy was enforced.

When the National & Commercial Bank merged with RBS, this imposing building became the Sorisdale Hotel run by Jimmy and Mabel Barrie. It then became The Royal Hotel run by Robert & Cathie Russell. (Now 'Old Bank' restaurant).

MacDonalds Clan Tartan Warehouse was not a shop I entered as a child. Taken over by RR Henderson, under popular manager Len Russell. Page & Don shoe shop a family run business, of the old school. The imperious matriarch occupied a high chair by the till, from where she could direct operations on the shop floor. Later it was Adamson's Antiques, I recall nothing of the owners.

The Crown Hotel: known throughout the world for serving the largest number of lunches and High Teas in a single day. This was industrial catering on a grand scale. Visiting the kitchens after the hotel had closed I was amazed at the size of the soup pot, set on a large double ring gas burner on the floor. It was big enough to accommodate 2 missionaries at a time. The heyday for the Crown was the immediate post war years when crowds visited Callander on excursions. It was run by Malcolm Marshall and his family.

The next shop (now Rogersons shoe shop) was as I remember Strang bootmakers and shoe repairs. I remember the counter stacked high with shoes and wondered how he kept track of who they belonged to.

Mr Moffat's tuck shop was at Gordon the Barber's. Mr Moffat was a kindly man always smiling; he just loved meeting people.

Fergie Robertsons paint shop is now Blythswood. The Robertsons were a lovely old couple but seemed to live in a different time zone to the rest of the world.

McEwan's Grocery. An Aladdin's cave of deli items, this was easily the largest store in Callander. As you entered the shop you were met with smells of mature cheddar being cut with cheese wire from large rounds, aromas of fresh ground coffee and, when you reached the rear of the shop hints, of paraffin from the outhouses. When the shop changed to self service, long-serving staff found it hard to adjust and continued to assist customers as they always had done.

Time for a breather. More to follow.

Fun Facts -

Tu Youyou - How Ancient Chinese texts led to a cure for Malaria

It is the 1960s and purges are happening in Mao's China, and the Vietnam War is raging, but many Chinese soldiers are not just dying of battle wounds but of an illness spread by a parasite on a mosquito - Malaria. It



is at this point that, in China, a task force operating in secret named Project

523 is set up. Tu Youyou, a scientist in her thirties, was dispatched to the country's southern island of Hainan to spend half a year clearly analysing the dangers of malaria and how it impacts on people's health. After around 240 thousand substances had already

been experimented with, without success, the decision was then made to look at ancient Chinese texts from around 400 AD. This brought a breakthrough: sweet wormwood had been used at that time. This would now be used to attempt to find a cure. The compound of Artemisinin was isolated from it. It was worked on for one final time, before Tu Youyou volunteered to test it on herself, clinical trials on labourers were also carried out. A cure had now been successfully found.

This achievement wasn't completely without controversy - it has been alleged that two researchers may have already targeted the substances in sweet wormwood before the research project had even been founded, though because of the secretive nature of the research done in China at the

time it is unlikely that we will ever know the truth one way or another. One thing we can say for certain is that Tu Youyou's work was nevertheless still of great importance, and the results of it have saved millions of lives worldwide. Tu has largely shunned the limelight since then, being known both for the passion she had for her work, and for her modesty. At the time of writing she is still alive at the age of 88, residing quietly in Beijing, having won a share of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Medicine for her work, and being included in a BBC programme earlier this year about the 20th century's greatest icons, where Chris Packham introduced her as one of four nominated scientists.

Sources - 6th October 2015, Guardian article and BBC News article from the same day

Mario Crevecoeur

Lazing on a Sunny Afternoon



I have just been sitting basking in the warm sun and enjoying a gentle Mojito, thinking about life and how pleasant it is away from the hurly burly. Guess what, I am not anywhere exotic like the Cape Verde Islands, I'm at home in Callander - IN FEBRUARY!

Just a year ago we had the Beast from the East and this year we had the Heats from the Middle East.

My little bit of pleasure is marred by the thought of the havoc this weather is having on Scotland's winter season tourist trade. Nae snow means a threat to jobs and livelihoods for many people. There are big questions ahead for our country on how we plan to deal with this. Of course, when the weather is so unpredictably changeable it can be difficult to know what on earth we should plan for.

Whether you believe in global warming or not, whether it's really happening or not, really doesn't matter a damn. Right here and now, we live on a comparatively small island group just off the coast of a huge land mass to the East, with a vast ocean to the west of us. Our weather is always going to be very variable from year to year.

We need to make more of our weather diversity. It's always good weather in Callander – you just need to have layers, skin-so soft, or just occasionally sun screen.

The only trouble is lazing about just gets me thinking and speculating.....one of Callander's finest features is the good old Rumour Mill. I just love the variety, sometimes I hear things that I know are true, sometime things that are wrong, some things are mad and would only appeal to a lover of conspiracy theories. Sometimes it's good to just sit quietly in a public place and do a bit of gentle eavesdropping; sometimes exciting, sometimes boring and, occasionally, scandalous.

Recently, I heard speculation that our dear Nanny Stirling was about to spend another small fortune on yet more wheelie bins. I felt very pleased to hear that because it was what I had proposed in this column a few months ago. It seemed empowering to have been listened to for once. I suggested a new generation of wind-up dustbins – a simple ratchet mechanism attached to the lid could power up a small LED light every time it is opened. Then we could all see what we are doing and different colour lights could aid bin identity in the dark. There would, of course have to be some new bin colours in use – I meant brown or grey lights would be pretty useless. But the new colours could greatly enhance our street scene.

Unfortunately, I have been unable to confirm my prescience on bins, as Nanny's website doesn't seem to want me to see the minutes of any of her meetings since last summer. But if it's not a conspiracy it must be the other thing.

However, my trawls through Nanny's record collection has identified some areas of apparent profligacy:

- £400,000 + spend on unplanned overtime for waste management staff
- £400,000 + spend on so called 'gagging order settlements' to departing staff
- £600,000 + to compensate Active Stirling for the closed swimming pool at the Peak

My goodness, how the money drains away. But don't get me started on drains!

The Old Grey Whistle Protester

To See ourselves as others see us

Sometimes it is good to see what other people think of us, sometimes it is not. One of our eagle eyed editors happened to be reading the *Herald* the other week (surely can't be as good as the BLV), when a reader's letter caught her eye.

I note your article regarding the demise of the high street ("Public bodies attacked for deserting the high street", The Herald, January 22). My wife and I were in Aberfoyle and Callander last weekend and both locations are well on the way to being ghost towns. There are numerous "To Let/For Sale" signs, with dilapidated properties, including hotels. notwithstanding that we are in a recession, I have been advised that, whereas it used to be the case that tour coaches could park in the local authority car parks for free, said local authority has now imposed parking charges. In this regard, it is obvious that the coaches and tourists no longer visit the venues. How stupid and short-sighted.

Now it may be true that this is inaccurate as far as the buses are concerned, certainly during the season (I presume it will be the same this year). It must be of great concern to anyone with any feelings for the town that at least some of our visitors see us as well on our way to being a ghost town. There are many impressive plans afoot to rejuvenate the town, but unfortunately they can take a long time to come to fruition and in the meantime some of our visitors see us this way. It is quite likely this visitor will think twice before visiting us again, and when these improvements come along they will be oblivious to the improvements and will still stay away. How long before a majority of visitors do think like this and we have lost them for good?

Easter treats- tasty but toxic for pets!

Easter time brings lots of tasty treats like chocolate Easter eggs and hot cross buns. However, these and many other things can be very harmful to your dog or cat!

Chocolate Easter Eggs

Even small amounts of chocolate can be toxic to dogs, so take care to keep your Easter eggs out of reach of your pets. The toxic component of chocolate is called theobromine. Dark chocolate has the highest amount of theobromine and therefore is the most toxic, but milk and white chocolate can potentially be dangerous too. If your dog eats chocolate it could lead to heart arrhythmias, hyperexcitability or seizures very rapidly. We advise you call the vet straight away, this way we can make them sick to reduce the amount of theobromine absorbed.

Raisins/Sultanas:

Hot cross buns are an Easter favourite, but did you know that dried fruit such as currants, raisins and sultanas are toxic to dogs? Eating these can lead to severe and potentially life threatening kidney failure. The toxic amount can be very variable from dog to dog, so even a small amount could potentially be fatal.

Spring Bulbs:

There are lots of spring flowers that can be toxic to dogs if they ingest them.

Daffodil flowers and bulbs contain toxins called alkaloids. These can cause numerous problems in your dog such as excessive salivation, vomiting and diarrhoea, tremors or seizures.

Eating tulip flowers and bulbs most commonly can cause excessive salivation, vomiting and diarrhoea in dogs. In some cases more serious problems such as heart and breathing problems can occur.

Lilies:

Most types of lilies pose a risk to cats

if they ingest any part of the plant, including drinking water from a vase with lilies cut in it, or licking lily pollen off their fur. Lily toxicity, even after eating only a small amount, can lead to fatal kidney disease in cats.

If you are worried that your pet has eaten something it shouldn't have, please don't hesitate to call the vets and we will be happy to advise you on the best course of action.

We wish all our two and four legged friends a happy and safe Easter period!

From all of us at Riverside Veterinary Clinic Callander

On the way to 'Big School'!

As I write this, we are entering the period that puppy walkers definitely do not want to speak about – the final month before formal training at Forfar begins. Porthos would be due to leave us at the beginning of April, aged 14 months, but as it happens, it is delayed by a month due to some new developments at the Training Centre and he will be with us until May. We are, of course, delighted, but at the same time realise that, from his point of view, he is ready for pastures new.

The big puppies (in Porthos's case, the huge puppy!) will enter a world far removed from the routine of family life here at home. They live in a kennel situation in a block of maybe 25 dogs and are assigned to a trainer in groups of 4 or 5. Their daily routine consists of eating, grooming, playing, working and sleeping - much as we usually do, but the work focus is much more intense and professional. It is all building toward perfect harness work, total obedience and growing that desire in the dog to please his human owner. As we have been through the emotional turmoil several times now, of handing over the product of a year of hard work and lots of love and

laughter, we are able to be a little more objective about the parting; it is never easy and there are guaranteed tears. But we have also seen for ourselves how dedicated the trainers and dog care staff are and how they love and care for the puppies, and this provides some comfort. The Centre itself is quite state of the art too, so the dogs are very well looked after.

Meanwhile, our ever growing, always surprising and, dare I say it, quietly maturing, boy is ticking all the right boxes and getting pretty full marks from our supervisor. She didn't see him in the snow though now that was indeed hilarious!

His swansong with us will be a trip to London at the end of April, when Ros, our daughter here in Stirling, is running in the London Marathon to raise money for Guide Dogs. We plan to have him at the finish line for a photo, though I think Ros will be hoping that he will carry her home! As a family we have been busy fundraising already towards this venture and she now has a justgiving page set up for the Marathon:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RosalynBoydell40

Every little helps to meet the cost of a life changer and we are really hoping that our Porthos will go on to be one of them.

Steve and Marilyn Willett



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The Spring Garden

As I am writing this, I have seen some of this year's first snowdrops! It's always so cool to see the first bit of life after the cold months of winter. Granted, I do enjoy winter over any other season. But it's nice for a splash of colour to hit you when you walk through the garden. I have created my garden calendar using the website I mentioned in the previous issue. It's useful to pin them up, on a corkboard or in a shed. It's important to try and get everything sown during the space of time on the calendar.

It's also important if you are doing the Horticultural show, which this year will be my first year entering as an individual. I was inspired to do it this year after helping Callander Primary School's garden over the summer. They had very good luck last year.

I attended an informal meeting on the 21st February. I must admit I was a little nervous to attend, but I got down there and everyone is very friendly. I have been assured that everyone helps each other on the day, when we are setting up.

If you haven't already, go grab a copy of this year's event schedule! Join in, whether it's a slice of shortbread or a few beans. Get involved!

I am keeping it simple, for my first year. I am sticking to what I know best, peas! I always have success with peas. I am somewhat ok at shortbread and pancakes. I am excited to get started growing this year and I hope you are too.
Happy Gardening!

Aidan Cronin

Start Up Stirling

Has seen referrals to the foodbank rise by over 50% in the last few years and last year distributed over 116,000 meals in the Stirling area.

Their future success is solely reliant in the generosity and support of the Stirlingshire community and they are always looking for donations of food to help those who find themselves, for various reasons, in a situation where they cannot afford to buy the necessary foodstuffs.

Please keep this charity in mind and support them when you can.

Contact them on [01786 561027](tel:01786561027) or by email on mail@startupstirling.org.uk

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Electric Bikes

We were successful with our application for 5 eBikes from Transport Scotland's eBike Grant Fund! So if you want to try one out, they will be available for local residents (aged 14+, living in Trossachs and Teith) to hire at low cost.

5 reasons to try one:

- Build confidence in your fitness and ability – you still need to pedal, but the battery gives you a boost when you need it
- Hills and wind need not be a problem
- Wear what you want while you ride – you don't tend to overheat or sweat as much as on a regular bike, so handy if there are no showers at the other end.
- Travel sustainably – spend less time in your car and lower your impact on the environment.
- Cover longer distances or save time on short local journeys.



Yoga workshops

Do you want to learn how to:

- Loosen tight muscles
- Move and feel better
- Calm your mind?

Craig Buchanan from Inside Yoga will be holding a series of workshops on 31st March, 5th May and 16th June, 10-12.15. More details and how to book are available at: <http://www.insideyoga.net/calander-workshops>.

Kids' Camps

We will be running our popular kids' camps again during the Spring break, suitable for primary aged children.

Week 1: Secret Agents will run from Monday 1st – Friday 5th April.

Week 2: Secret Gardening will run from Monday 8th – Friday 12th April.

Further details are available from reception, booking is advised.



Climbing Wall Relaunch

The opening night for Uamh Bheag, our revamped climbing wall, took place on 15th March.

Inspiring Scottish mountaineer Jamie Andrew, who still climbs despite losing his hands and feet, said a few opening words and the lucky first 30 people to register on the night had the chance to try a free climb.

Thank you to Stirling Council's Your Place, Your Priorities fund; Climb Scotland; Active Stirling; Young Explorers Scotland; Jon Cluett; RTA Builders; and CRA (Alloa) Ltd for their support with the refurbishment.



Our climbing club will start back up from mid-April on a Monday at 4pm for beginners and 5pm for improvers.

We look forward to seeing you at Uamh Bheag soon!

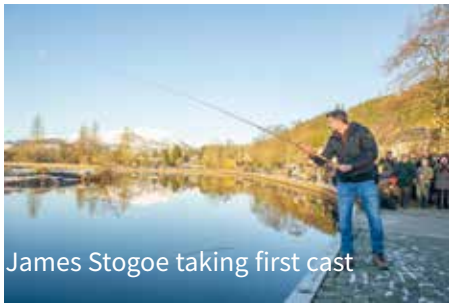
Adult & Kids Classes

There's lots going on for all ages at McLaren Leisure, including fitness classes, Kiddy Kicks, swimming lessons, badminton club, athletics, Spike Island inflatable fun session, cycle fit and lots more. Check out the What's on pages for more details.

If you have an interest in a sport or activity that is not currently on offer, then please drop in to speak to us about setting something up.

Jane McGeary
Marketing & Funding Lead
jane@mclarenleisure.co.uk
www.mclarenleisure.co.uk
Tel: 01877 330000

Opening of the Salmon Season



The 1st of Feb saw a very cold but bright day for the opening of the river Teith and Forth. The Lord Provost of Stirling gave a brief speech and toasted the water before the ever eager anglers got casting. James Stogoe of BBC's Earths Wildest Waters programme toasted the river with the traditional quaiach of whisky and took the first cast. Permit prices for this year have been held at the same rate as last year.

Last year the River Teith produced the Malloch Trophy winner, Scotland's most prestigious award for salmon fishing, given for the largest salmon caught on the fly and safely returned to the water in Scotland each year.

Although no springers have been caught, the tally so far as we know is 4/5 Kelts a baggot and a wee 1lb sea trout, rather unusual at this time of year.

CALLANDER BOWLING CLUB

The green opens for the new season on Saturday 13th April, 1.30pm for a 2pm start.

New members HALF PRICE,
Junior membership FREE.

TRY BOWLS

A Try Bowls event will take place at the green (Ancaster Road) on Sunday 5th May (1pm-5pm).
Come along and give the sport a go.
No equipment required. Spare bowls/refreshments available.

Club news: - The club is continuing with the upgrade to our premises. Having finished the replacement of the roof, we are now in the process of installing a new LED lighting system in order to reduce our carbon footprint. This new system will meet the International standards that are required by outside shooting organisations who now use our club facilities over a period of three days each month - with the competitors staying locally in Callander hotels.

We are also replacing our existing CCTV cameras with a new state of the art system which uses day and night cameras and covers the entire building. This system satisfies the requirements of both the police and our insurance company.

As our membership is rapidly increasing, we have put another six of our members through Range Conducting and Club Instructors courses, thus giving us a selection of eleven fully qualified personnel. All of our instructors are also vetted under the PVG scheme run by Disclosure Scotland in order that they can safely be permitted to work with children.

We are also pleased to announce that three of our club members (Alasdair Buchanan-Winch, Bertie and James Galloway) have been selected to represent Scotland and their respective schools in an International Schools prone rifle competition. This is shooting at a very high level for our three junior members.

Cumbria & Northumbria: - The club has competed competitively in the shooting Leagues throughout the winter. We have 8 shooters in the outdoor 50m Benchrest and although nobody is leading in their Division the aggregate scores are excellent. We have had 3 shooters in the 10m Air Pistol discipline - Bridget Doubleday has the highest Aggregate score in Div 1, James Martin leads Div 4, and Shona Scott, one of our Juniors is doing well in Div 9. Our entries are in for the Summer Leagues and a healthy 14 shooters will contest various disciplines.

The club entered 9 members into the "Rapid Fire Rifle" competition. 4 into Div 2 and 5 into Div 3. After 8 rounds D. Rees is leading Div 2 by 10 clear points over his nearest rival, club member W. Jenkins. If these two can maintain their consistency it is likely that they will scoop both first and second places in the Division.

Div 3 has not been quite so good. After 8 rounds J. Martin is lying in second place only 5 points behind the leader. Hopefully, James can manage to up his game and snatch a gold medal from the points gained in the last two rounds.

Perthshire Short Range Benchrest: - with 2 rounds remaining: A total of 11 members are shooting in this discipline, with Jonathan Morton in first position in Div 5.

Perthshire Prone results: - with 6 rounds remaining:
Division 1: The "A" team are streaking ahead in 1st place, 6 points ahead of 2nd place Hawick.
Division 4: The "B" team continue to lie in a close 2nd place behind Sands.
Division 6: Our Junior team lie in 5th equal place, but are coming on in leaps and bounds.

Individual Leagues: - with 3 rounds remaining: Hamish Rae, Fiona Reid, Jonathan Richards, Colin Tawse and Alasdair Buchanan-Winch all continue to lead their respective leagues.

Knockout Results: - Alasdair Buchanan-Winch has reached the semi-final of the Brough cup.

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



Callander Thistle

2019 has been a great success so far for the Jags. The Team qualified for the quarterfinals of the East of Scotland cup for the first time in the club's history by beating Syngenta 2-1 after Extra Time at McLaren Leisure Centre. Both goals that day came from Andy Orr. The team then went one better and made it to the Semi Finals of the competition by defeating Cambusbarron 3-0 at their home ground. Goals that day came from Andy Orr x 2 and an Own Goal.

The Semi Final took place on Wednesday 6th March at Falkirk Stadium and unfortunately, for the Jags we could not make the final of the tournament. Callander went down 3-2 to Edinburgh South Vics. However, it was a proud day for the Jags who took a huge support to Falkirk with them and although not the result we hoped for, the



experience our young team can take from this cup run will be vital going forward.

The club secured a mid-table finish this season with 2 wins and a draw in their first 3 league games in 2019. First up was local neighbours Doune who we welcomed to Callander. The

result that day was 2-2. Goals for Callander came from Grant Craig and Blair Bowman. Callander then faced title challengers Eaglesham away from home and came away with a fantastic 3-1 victory. Goals that day came from Jack Hill x2 and Blair Bowman. Next test for the Jags was an away match to Weir Recreation in Glasgow. Callander won this game 4-2 with goals from Ally McPherson, Gavin Loch, Blair Bowman and Chris Halliday.

Callander are still involved in two more cup competitions and have two league games before the end of the season. To keep up to date with all the action, please visit our Facebook page.

Youth Section

After some fantastic feedback and support, we are glad to be in a position to start up two brand new youth football teams. These teams will be for players born between 2010-2012. We will be looking to set up more teams in the near future and anyone interested in setting up a team that would like the support of the Callander Thistle club, please contact us.

If anyone is interested in either playing for, coaching or supporting the running of Callander Thistle either within its amateur team or the full club, please get in touch by emailing:

callanderthistleafc@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.



**Trossachs
Tigers**

What a difference a year makes..

After losing most of February 2018 to snow and frost cancellations, the hockey players and coaches at Trossachs Tigers have been profiting from this year's mild weather with busy training sessions and fixtures at all levels.

We returned to training early in January, to much admiration of hockey-related Christmas loot - new club hoodies having arrived just in the nick of time for the gifting season, and assorted new sticks and footwear on display.

For this second half of the season, the Junior section has been focussing on positional play and quick restarts, in preparation for recent tournament fixtures at U8, U10 and U12 levels. All teams put in very respectable performances against strong opposition from across West District. For the Seniors, there was also West District tourney action for the U14s. The players enjoyed the opportunity to run out on a proper hockey surface, with U8 and U12 particularly fortunate to play at the National Hockey centre at Glasgow Green whilst U10 and U14 were within shooting distance of the Tunnocks factory, though sadly no teacakes on offer. (photos attached)

A great achievement by the McLaren High School boys team who have made it through to the final of the Scottish Schools Hockey Plate, to be played at Glasgow National Hockey Centre at 2pm on Friday 15th March. Please come along and support them.

Further fixtures are planned between now and the end of the season in May, and members / parents are encouraged to keep an eye on the team calendar and let us know of availability for selection please.



U8's & U12's
at Glasgow
Green

Friday night Social Hockey continues to attract healthy numbers. This is open to all aged 13+ and is a great option for adults wanting to return to the game, or keen to try a new sport.

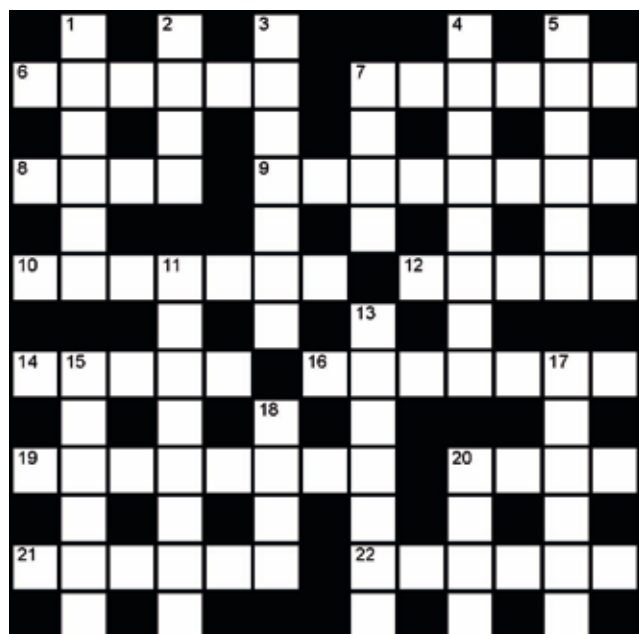
Want to join in? Find us on the astro at McLaren Leisure Centre:

Juniors (P3-P7) / Seniors (S1-S6) runs every Saturday morning during school term from 8.45am to 10.15am. £25 subs for Jan-May block.

Social hockey is on Friday evenings from 7-8.30pm. Pay as you play, £5 a session.

Enjoy your first session for free. Club sticks are available to use.

Find us on Facebook at Trossachs Tigers Hockey Club or contact us via email at trossachstigers@gmail.com



Across

- 6 Work in our lab suffering reversal (6)
- 7 Nothing very much restricting initially reluctant former partner's potential departure (6)
- 8 Puck, say, losing head's ethereal (4)
- 9 Finding highly complex? Could be fortuitous if not involved! (8)
- 10 Casual office worker possibly set out to raise a storm (7)
- 12 Produce investment income (5)
- 14 Detest leading aristocrats brazen hoarding of riches (5)
- 16 Not in after change of direction for those voting possibly (7)
- 19 Coll and Iona in turmoil concerning intrusive settlement (8)
- 20 Peddle drugs in English seaside town (4)
- 21 Bill with Jo at home could not be closer (6)
- 22 Stated personal code held by old press boss (6)

Down

- 1 Superficial account found in reserved document (6)
- 2 Attempt to restrain leader of opposition by one on right (4)
- 3 Join demonstration perhaps in favour of trial (7)
- 4 Foolishly one led us on to hold irrational belief (8)
- 5 Val is up first dancing. What a picture! (6)
- 7 Hide in Lancs town (4)
- 11 Expert to pass rules of engagement (8)
- 13 What in the future could be unfashionable appearance (7)
- 15 Old Ben bedazzled by fair lady (6)
- 17 Not at all inspired initially with Auden composition (6)
- 18 Stranger without a right (4)
- 20 Not well said from speaker's point of view? (4)

BLV CROSSWORD No.141 Please return completed entries to The Library, South Church Street, Callander by no later than FRIDAY 3rd MAY 2019. The first correct entry opened will win £5. Don't forget to supply your name and address below.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Callander Golf Club Family Fun Day and BBQ

Callander Golf Club Junior Section is holding another Family Fun Day & BBQ on Saturday 27th April. All the fun & games start at 3.30pm at the golf club.

Bouncy Castle, throwing wet sponges, Bubble Football, tombola, BBQ, a kids' longest and straightest drive competitions, putting competition and much, much more.

This year there will be an Adult and Child 6 hole golf competition.

On the day, we will also be processing registrations for the Clubgolf sessions. Clubgolf sessions provide an informal opportunity for beginners to have a go at golf for the first time, as well as an opportunity for more experienced juniors to improve their skills. The sessions take place over a six-week period on a Monday or Thursday evening from 6.00pm to 7.30pm and comprise a short lesson plus some time playing golf on the course. The first sessions start on Monday 6th May or Thursday 9th May. Clubs and balls are provided. Please come along and sign up for this; then we can make sure we have the appropriate number of coaches for the sessions.

Hope to see you and your family on Saturday 27th April.



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
- Health Information You Can Trust
- 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



Callander Kirk

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

Sunday services

All April, May and 2nd June

10.00am Early Service except 14th, 21st, 28th April & 26th May

Morning Service at 11.15am

Every Sunday except 14th, 21st, 28th April and 26th May (All-Age Service) and 2nd June (Communion Service).

Informal Communion follows Morning Service on 21st Apr and 19th May

Every Sunday

7.00pm Time for Silence

First Sunday of every month

and 14th April - 3.00pm Trossachs monthly service

Details at www.callanderkirk.org.uk



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
 tel 330702

www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk

Bin Collections

APRIL

Grey/Blue bins Sat. 6th, 20th
Brown bin/Blue box Sat. 27th
Brown/ Green bins Sat. 13th

MAY

Grey/Blue bins Sat. 4th, 18th
Brown bin/Blue box Sat. 25th
Brown/Green bins Sat. 11th

JUNE

Grey/Blue bins Sat. 1st

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.)



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



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

www.stirlingbaptist.org/callander

Facebook: #stirlingbaptistatcallander

Recreation

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

Floods & Environment

- SEPA emergency: 0800 807060
- SEPA website: www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/index.htm
- Floodline: 0845 9881188 Select option 1 followed by: 06213 121 (the Teith at Callander)
- 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

BLV Deadlines

The next issue of the *Ben Ledi View* will be published on **Friday 7th June 2019.**

Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the June-July issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Isla Routledge at advertising@benlediview.co.uk by **Friday 3rd May 2019.**

Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at www.benlediview.co.uk under the **Advertise** tab. Please call or email for advice if in doubt.

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

Editorial copy

All editorial contributions for the June-July issue should be emailed to editor@benlediview.co.uk or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday 3rd May 2019.**

Items received after the deadline may be held over to the Aug-Sept 2019 edition



YOUR STIRLING You Decide

This is your chance to have a say on how money should be spent in your ward area

What is Your Stirling, You Decide?

It is Stirling's version of participatory budgeting, an initiative that gives local people a direct say in how a portion of our budget is spent. This year we have £700,000 to be split between our 7 council wards -

£100k per ward to be spent on
infrastructure and the environment

Participatory Budgeting in Stirling

Tell us how the money should be spent. There are three simple steps -



Give us your ideas - by 14 April 2019

Anyone living or working in the ward can give us an idea through our website; in person at a community event; or by filling in an Idea Form available in all public buildings and Council offices.



Vote on what you think should go ahead - from 27 May - 23 June

Anyone of high school age and above who live in the ward can vote on ward proposals

The voting methods and tools are being developed. Information will be made available to everyone ahead of the Voting Stage.



The proposals with the most votes are taken forward - from July

Council Services will work on the winning ideas in each Ward.

Being Involved

You can also be involved by becoming one of our Budget Delegates who will help staff turn ideas into proposals for voting. To sign up email us at youdecide@stirling.gov.uk

For more information and to find out about events see

www.stirling.gov.uk/youdecide

www.stirling.gov.uk/youdecide



Callander Kirk, Holy Week Services

Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th & Friday 19th April- 7.30pm in Callander Kirk
Thursday 18th April - 7.30pm in St Andrew's Episcopal Church when the congregations of St Andrew's and Callander Kirk join together for a Maundy Thursday Celebration of the Lord's Supper.
Friday 19th April - 10.00am meet in Callander Kirk for Ecumenical Good Friday Walk and Meditation
Sunday 21st April - 9.00am Service beside Tom na Chessaig, Callander Meadows
Sunday 21st April - 3.00pm Trossachs Easter Service



38 Announcements & Letters

If you wish to put a personal message in the BLV, please note we need your name, address and phone number (we will only print your name) with your message. There is no charge for announcements, but if you wish to give a donation to the magazine 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.

Bill Thomson

Bill died peacefully just before Christmas, and Anne and the Family would like to thank all his friends in Callander who were so kind to him in his last years.



And also thanks to The Rev. Jeff McCormick for his support and for taking the funeral service, and to Kevin of Andrew Anderson & Sons for his kindness and understanding.

The closing collection was distributed among Callander Kirk, Callander Rotary Club and The Callander Youth Project.

Anne Thomson

A Big Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you to Linda Rait of Finglas Gardens who has delivered 50 copies of the Ben Ledi View for more than over 10 years. She deserves to get her feet up after such sterling service to the community. Thanks, Linda!



Caroline McAlpine

Caroline McAlpine wishes to thank friends, family and community shops and businesses for all their support and contributions in raising funds to support Spina bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland when she completed the Inca Trail in Peru in November 2018



Brian Heslop

Brian Heslop of 25 Livingstone Avenue, Callander passed away on Sunday 6th January 2019; he will be sadly missed. Jackie Varney would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who visited Brian while in Forth Valley Royal Hospital and at The Bellfield Centre, Stirling.

A special thank you to Doctors and reception staff at Leny Practice and Ross Anderson of Andrew Anderson & Sons.

Jackie Varney

Graham Oliphant

Shirley, Craig and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for all the cards, flowers and support they received following the loss of Graham. Special thanks to Dr Gibson and staff at Leny practice and to Ross Anderson and his team for the funeral arrangements.

Tommy, Dotsy and their son, Thomas Peter Mahoney



In loving memory of Tommy, Dotsy and their son, Thomas Peter Mahoney. Tommy would have been 100 years old on 9th May. Tommy and Dotsy would also have been married 75 years this year. Tommy was born in Victoria buildings in the room that became Ciro's restaurant. He met Dotsy whilst both were in the Army during WW2. After the war they settled in Callander. Tommy became well known in the Post Office and Dotsy was a nanny. In our thoughts in this special year - from their daughter Celia and son-in-law Pete.

Celia McAteer

Memories !!!!

It was with great interest I read your story "Callander Shops and Shopkeepers: in the 50s/60s".

I was born and brought up in Norway, but moved to Callander in 2015.

Back in the 50's we (my brother and I) used to come over to Callander frequently, with our parents of course, to visit my mum's sister Chrisie nee McKiggan. She used to work in the old Coop bakery, beside the shoe-shop, which Jessie was in charge of.

She lived in 110 Main Street, and a couple of doors above her place, there was a sweetie shop, where I could buy sweetie watches. Oh the disappointment the year we came back, and they were no longer selling these watches!

I have many memories of early days, - like playing at the swings where the Police station now is, and going to the old cinema. We used to go out picking wood and cones, which we put on the fire at night. Remember grilling toast in front of the open fire. I fell in love with Bracklinn Falls, and enjoyed our wood walks.

My auntie's friend, Peggy Ferguson, worked at the old post office, when they were in charge of operating the telephones.

She visited us in Norway once, and when she was returning with the ferry to Newcastle, the ship had departed. The fault was a mix up with an hour's time difference. So, they had to hoist her out in a wee boat onto the ship!

When we would phone my auntie from Norway, it usually took a few hours before we were connected.

I also remember the Luti ice-cream van. I always thought they had the best ice cream in the world! Also remember the Rex café. And back then when you got fish and chips wrapped up in newspaper.

So - whoever is writing the story about Callander shops etc - I am very much looking forward to the next edition!

Kind regards,
Catherine Gaasland

Callander Community

Woodland Group

Mr & Mrs Cooper's letter in the last BLV 'Thoughts on Our Woodland' raised very understandable concerns, given their personal experience

All of the issues raised are being taken very seriously and were included in the Frequently Asked Questions, and hopefully answered in the January drop-in sessions.

Public liability insurance will be organised, along with expert contractors to carry out regular tree inspections and work needed, plus to respond to emergencies. FCS's current annual inspection regime and response times will be matched or bettered, with costs included in the financial plans.

Contact details for emergencies and reporting dangerous trees will be given to residents bordering Coilhallan, displayed at entrances to the woods and included in the BLV's 'Local Information' list.

Working jointly with FCS has been suggested by a number of people. Historically, our community has had a good relationship with FCS but it has its own priorities and resource limitations, while a Community Woodland Group has access to other funding sources.

FCS was supportive of the previous proposal for mountain bike trails but was clear that this would not be permitted under their ownership. That prompted the idea of CCDT acquiring the wood on behalf of the community with the aim of managing it for a variety of potential uses.

At the time of writing, 60 new volunteers have come forward. If the project fails due to inability of the community to manage the woodland, then it will revert to FCS ownership.

As for the 'lycra-clad lemmings' (a wonderful image), the original proposal for mountain bike trails is being reviewed in the light of community comments on this and other suggested uses for the wood.

Continuing communication and consultation are key to getting the right balance between the community 'wants' for wildlife, quiet areas and increased recreation.

Discussions are very much work in progress and if the acquisition goes ahead it will not be before 2020. All residents are encouraged to continue to give their views.

Elsewhere in this BLV issue should be a summary of the comments received from the survey and at the drop-in sessions.

Full details are available on the InCallander website www.incallander.co.uk/woods and there is a copy in the library.

Callander Community

Woodland Group

Breaking News

McLaren High winners at The Big Bang Fair

Year S2 pupils Cameron Harvey, Bruce McKechnie, Matthew Murray and Andrew Twigg came out top in the Network Rail Innovation in Collaboration Award at the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham

The annual contest recognises and rewards young people's achievements from across the UK in all areas of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), along with helping them build skills and confidence in project-based work.

The inventive quartet from McLaren High wowed the judges after building a prototype collapsible drone, designed to improve the accuracy of humanitarian aid delivery, which could also be re-purposed to provide shelter.

McLaren High's S1 robotics team also beat off competition from 500 different schools at Big Bang to earn the prize for Best Project Presentation in the Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics category of the competition, while Ellie Ridgewell (S4) won a runner up award for the Intermediate Science Category.. Hopefully we can have more details on this in our next issue



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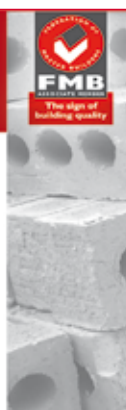
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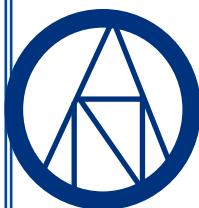
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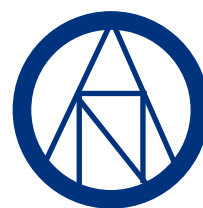
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