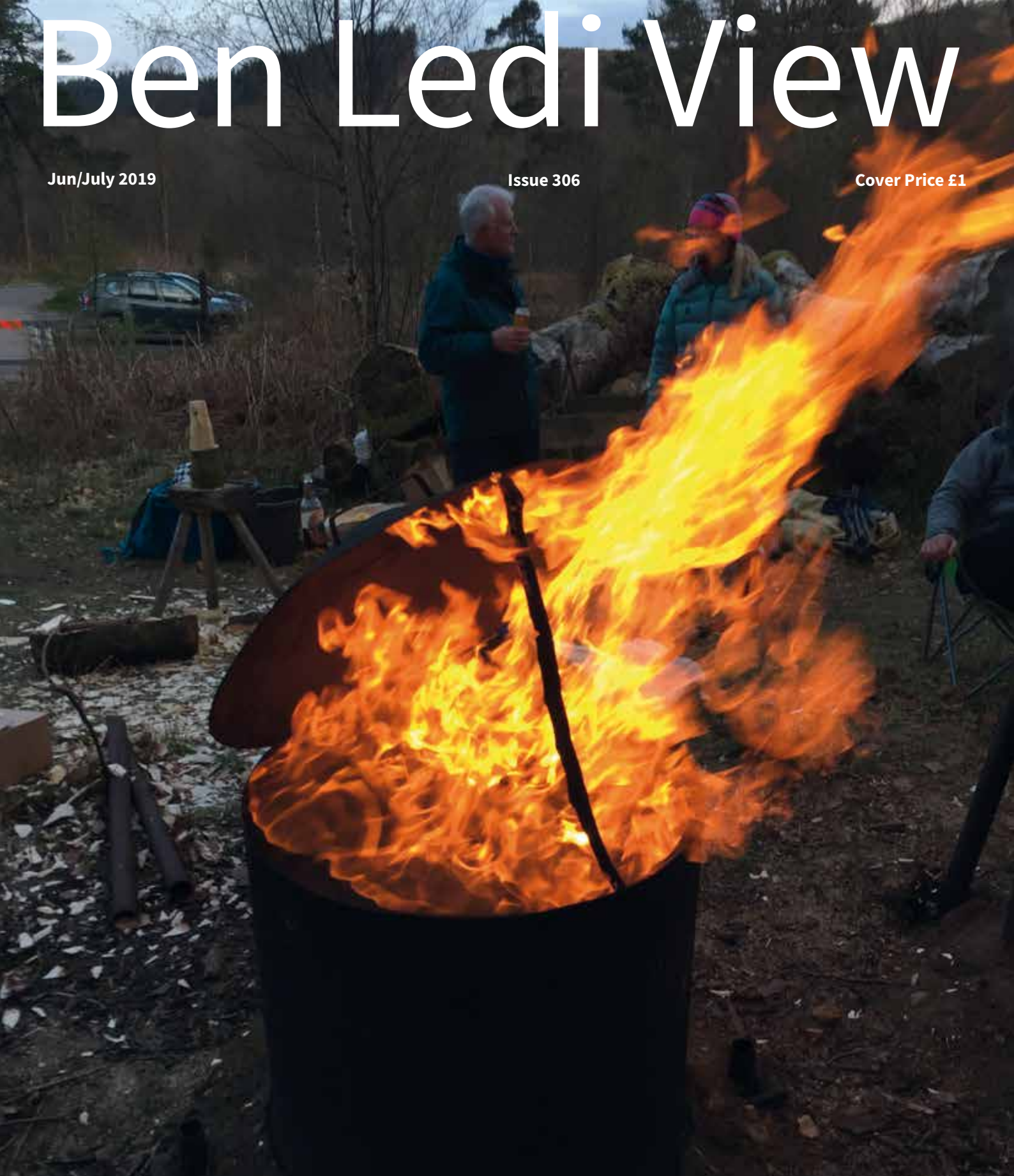


# Ben Ledi View

Jun/July 2019

Issue 306

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# Ben Ledi View

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The *Ben Ledi View* is a community newspaper produced and distributed bi-monthly by volunteers free of charge to approx. 2,000 households and businesses in the Callander area. Letters and articles published in the newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views, beliefs or opinions of the Editorial Committee, who also reserve the right to shorten, edit or not publish any particular letter or article. Contributions will only be published if accompanied by a contact name and address; these will be withheld at the author's request. Articles and advertisements are accepted and printed in good faith.

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Cover photograph - David Sneddon  
see article on page 22



## Hello Readers

In this issue of the magazine we are celebrating the arrival of Summer – often an unknown quantity up here – and looking forward to *Summerfest*, our annual fortnight of entertainment and activities for all ages in mid July. Last year it coincided with that wonderful hot, sunny spell (remember?) and since so many of the events take place out of doors, particularly in Ancaster Square and the Meadows, fingers crossed we get lucky again. This will be the sixth year of the festival and it just keeps on growing. It was started by local volunteers, groups and businesses keen to ensure that the town was a welcoming destination and that visitors lingered a while, rather than just driving on through. It offers plenty for local residents as well: concerts, talks, films, poetry, drama, craft workshops, guided walks and cycle rides, an art exhibition, family fun days and lots more, as you will see from our listings. Callander has long been an essentially tourist town ever since it was given a shot of publicity in the early nineteenth century with the publication of Sir Walter Scott's poem *The Lady of the Lake* (composed while the author was at Cambusmore) which, together with his novel *Rob Roy*, celebrated Loch Katrine and the Romantic Trossachs. The subsequent arrival of the still much-missed

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railway accounts for a number of hotels and letting villas being built then, including the large and imposing Dreadnought Hotel which is due to re-open its doors as I write, having been closed for far too long. The popularity of the town was further increased by the BBC series Doctor Finlay's Casebook in the 1960s, to such an extent that they say tourists were sometimes obliged to sleep in their cars because there were no beds to be had! These days, in addition to the traditional accommodation providers, we have self-catering apartments, a hostel, Airbnb, as well as camping and caravan sites at both ends of the town,

Given the vital importance of the tourist trade to Callander, it seemed inexplicable that VisitScotland should think to close their Visitor Centre on the Main Street, having already 'demoted' it by moving it out of St Kessog's. But close it did, back in February, as reported in this magazine. However, thanks to the initiative and hard work of members of Callander Community Council, Callander Development Trust and the Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust, based at Loch Katrine, it has now been able to open again in order to give a friendly welcome to visitors and let them know about all our local attractions. It will be staffed mainly by volunteers and until more can be recruited (hint, hint!), it will initially only be able to open for restricted hours. On the opening weekend there were nearly 80 visitors from several different countries, ranging from Australia to Norway. Several were probably attracted in by the impressive scale model of SS Sir Walter Scott in the front window!

There's lots going on in our wee town all the year round, but the longer daylight hours of summer give us more time to enjoy it all. Hope you do just that.

**Convenor**



## Visitor Information Centre

**F**ollowing a few months of uncertainty, it is good to be able to report positive progress on the Visitor Information Centre on Main Street.

Three local organisations are collaborating to ensure that this key asset, in a town where tourism is such an important factor, can once again provide information with a human face.

Even in an age of digital communication, most visitors welcome face-to-face interaction. The need for the Centre was highlighted before opening: on the day the shelves were being stocked, 70 visitors came through the door, over 80% from European countries, all looking for local information - where to stay, places to go, where to eat and things to do.

The collaboration involves Callander Community Council, Callander Community Development Trust, (CCDT), and the Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust, operating on Loch Katrine, with initial support from the National Park Authority, VisitScotland and Stirling Council

This community-led initiative means that Callander and the wider hinterland will be promoted and showcased in an effective way to many thousands of visitors in a central location in the heart of the town and, importantly, there will be one fewer vacant building on Main Street.

A range of interests and opportunities are represented, and the organisations are working together to identify both immediate and future possibilities of benefit both to visitors and to different sections of the community.

A company, Callander Community Centre, with directors from the three bodies and owned by the CCDT, has been set up to run and develop the initiative.

The Centre initially opened only at weekends in May and hopefully will gradually build up to opening seven days a week when more staff are available. The Centre relies on volunteers, as well as Ronnie Forbes from the Steamship who worked for many years in the former Callander Information Centre.

Anyone who would like to be involved in this exciting development and can offer their time for one or more half-days a week should contact Chris Corden at [cjcorden@hotmail.com](mailto:cjcorden@hotmail.com)

This is just the beginning: please get involved and ensure the Visitor Information Centre develops in positive and exciting directions. And, of course, do drop in to the Centre and see what it now offers.

*Susan Holden*

## Callander Driving Test Centre Closure

**I**n another slight to Callander by government public bodies, the Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency, (DVSA), have decided to stop the ability to have the driving test carried out in Callander on May 23rd. This would mean that anyone requiring a driving test will have to travel to Stirling. It may not seem too much of an inconvenience for most Callander residents, although it may increase costs, as extra time with driving schools may have to be booked to get to Stirling.

However, for residents living further out this could cause a significant increase in time and costs to get to the test centre. Last December the number of days the test was carried out was reduced from 2 to 1 although 450 tests were still carried out over the year. The reason for the closure has been put down to an increase in the cost to rent an office in the McLaren Leisure Centre – which investigation shows is an increase of £100.00 per year! A sum which local Councillor Martin Earl has said that if the DVSA are really that hard up he would be seriously prepared to pay it himself.

A petition to keep the centre open has been signed by more than 780 people.

Stephen Kerr, our local MP, backed by Martin Earl, is still pursuing this, with Stephen Kerr chasing an urgent meeting to discuss this at the highest level. He has tabled two written questions in parliament on the way DVSA decide on rural centre closures, and what responsibilities they have to balance cost saving with providing a decent level of service. We will have to await the outcome of these talks.

Grant Wallace, a local Driving Instructor, has started a petition to stop the closure of the test centre in Callander by DVSA. Councillor Martin Earl said "I do support Grant in this as closure will make the nearest test centre Stirling. This will leave a potentially long (approximately three hour) round trip for people in the far north of the area to get to Stirling. Learners will need some lessons in Stirling before taking their test in that area. That would mean more cost for longer lessons. There has never been a concern regarding the quality of the test taken in Callander."

If you wish to add your voice to the petition it can be found online at

<https://www.change.org/p/dvsa-keep-callander-driving-test-centre-open>

**The BLV would like to thank Jamie Drummond for his photograph in the last edition of the magazine.**

# Callander Community Police Report



## Antisocial Behaviour

On 31st March at the Crags Hotel, Main Street, Callander a vandalism occurred whereby a windscreen was damaged on a motor car.

On 12th April in Bracklinn Road, Callander a male was found in possession of a small quantity of controlled drugs. Due to the circumstances he was given a Recorded Police Warning.

On 20th April on the A84 near to the Lanrick bends, Callander Police traced a female in a motor car, the car was searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act and a substantial quantity of controlled drugs was recovered. The female has been arrested and charged in connection with this crime.

On 27th April in Main Street, Callander a male was searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act. He was found in possession of a quantity of controlled drugs and he has been charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 30th April in Main Street, Callander reports were received regarding several youths fighting in the street. Enquiry is continuing into this crime to establish those involved.

## Road Safety

A complaint has been received regarding speeding vehicles on Stirling Road, Callander. The area is being monitored by local Police Officers and speed checks will continue to be carried out at this location.

## Theft

On 24th March at the Dreadnought Service Station, Stirling Road, Callander a break-in occurred whereby goods were stolen from within the shop.

Between 28th March and 3rd April at the Cambusmore Quarry, Callander a theft of copper cable occurred.

Between 4th April and 5th April at the Industrial Units of the Old Mushroom Farm, Keltie Bridge, Callander an attempted break in occurred at one of the units.

On 5th April at the Stag Shop, Main Street, Callander a theft of unattended property occurred within the shop.

Overnight between 6th April and 7th April in Murdiston Avenue and Craigard Road, Callander thefts occurred from two motor cars.

Overnight between 8th April and 9th April in Bracklinn Road, Callander a commercial vehicle was broken into and a number of power tools stolen. On the same night in Balgibbon Drive and Robertson Way, Callander two commercial vehicles were damaged in attempts to enter and steal from them.

Between 11th April and 14th April in Stirling Road, Callander a mountain bike was stolen. It is SCOTT brand, grey and white in colour.

On 21st April and 22nd April at Callander CO-OP, two shopliftings occurred. A male has been traced and charged in relation to these thefts.

Overnight between 27th April and 28th April at the Stirling Council Depot, Callander 30 to 40 scrap car batteries were stolen.

## Community Engagement and Reassurance

PC Mckerracher and PC Deans, assisted by other local officers, have carried out increased patrols at Callander Primary School and along the old railway line pathway in response to recent reported antisocial behaviour in these areas. These patrols will continue throughout the coming months in Callander. We would encourage local residents to report any antisocial incidents.

On 17th April and 18th April PC Mckerracher and PC Deans carried out pro-active duties in relation to doorstep crime and bogus workmen. We were in the area providing information on how to avoid being a victim of this type of crime and we were carrying out vehicle stop checks on commercial vehicles travelling through the area. Once again, we would encourage local residents to be aware of any such activity, particularly around vulnerable neighbours.

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

## Bracklinn Road Parking

By the time you read this the work may already have been completed. What work I hear you say? Remember Easter Weekend when Callander was overflowing with tourists? Anyone who walked to Bracklinn Falls would have found that there were cars lining both sides of the road (which is single track) including in the passing places. This made it almost impossible to get up or down the road, as cars could not pass each other and stopped any larger vehicles like tractors or emergency vehicles from getting through at all.

By the end of May, Stirling District Council plan to have signs installed at each of the passing places and at points where the road and a deep ditch are close to each other, to mark the side of the road and to warn drivers of the danger. Hopefully this will alleviate the problem. In the longer term the Council are looking at the possibility of enlarging the Bracklinn Falls car park.

Dan McKirgan will be leaving Callander this year to live and work in Tenerife. Dan has been in Callander for many years, having brought up his family here as well as running tourism related businesses, most notably the Dreadnought Hotel and Myrtle Inn. Dan has been a huge figure in the community having been on every committee apart from the Ladies Circle (he says!). He has been a Community Councillor, Chairman of Callander 2000 and Beyond, Chairman of Callander Youth Project, a member of Callander Round Table and Rotary and probably many more organisations. He was a leading organiser for the Callander Highland Games and, of course, he was Santa raising thousands of pounds for local charities.

In recognition of all Dan did for the town, Callander Community Council presented Dan with a Quaich with the inscription: Presented to Dan McKirgan, a big-hearted person. Many thanks for all you have done for Callander from everyone in the community.

Dan will be back for the Highland Games and hopefully he will be on Santa's sleigh again.



## Callander Flood Alleviation Scheme

Following a progress meeting for the Callander flood alleviation scheme on April 29th, Stirling Council can provide the below information:

- The scheme is currently in the design stage for back drainage (behind the defences).
- Site visits have been made by Stirling Council and WSP to examine the proposed location of the defences and the wider catchment.
- A proposal for additional ground investigation 'trial pits' to determine the location of utilities services has been put forward. This is in anticipation of works to upsize the Station Road culvert to improve drainage.
- A meeting with Scottish Water asset planners to discuss the proposals took place.
- A risk workshop and workshop for the operation of flood gates will take place later this month for stakeholders.
- Stirling Council and WSP are holding monthly progress meetings.

## Callander Craggs Path Works

A statement regarding the footpath works leading from Ancaster Road to the Craggs car park from Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.

"The path works at Callander Craggs is being carried out by Stirling Council as part of Callander's Landscape project, which is helping transform the area into the 'Outdoor Capital of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.'

The project will create a path which improves accessibility between the town centre, through the Craggs, to the Bracklinn Falls, providing local people and visitors with new opportunities to enjoy the area.

We are aware of concerns raised by some residents in the area and have been liaising with them and Callander Community Council to address these concerns. We are also continuing to work in partnership with Stirling Council to ensure the project is completed successfully."

## Costa Coffee comes to Callander

Costa Coffee have been given planning permission to convert the empty shop at 7 Main Street, (between 2 cafes) into a coffee shop. Hopefully the town can cope with another place to drink coffee without affecting the existing businesses adversely.

## Investing in Communities Fund launches.

The fund is open for applications from Tuesday 7th May until Friday 14th June and is delivered as part of the Empowering Communities Programme. The fund is a new streamlined communities fund to tackle disadvantage, poverty and inequality that encourages community-led development and delivery of sustainable local solutions to local issues, across a broad range of community-led activity.

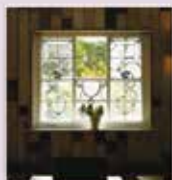
Grants of up to £250,000 are available over three years, providing stability and recognising the need for longer term planning in some projects.

For more information visit the Empowering Communities Programme webpage at <https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/empowering-communities-fund/>

If you have any questions regarding this guidance and/or the application process you can contact the Investing in Communities Fund Team by email at: [InvestingInCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:InvestingInCommunities@gov.scot)



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 51-53 High Street, Dunblane Royal Bank Buildings, Callander

### 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

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You will have noticed that the Dreadnought Hotel has lain empty and very sad-looking for a couple of years and as you have thoroughly read the Ben Ledi View you will have seen the numerous times when we have lamented over its condition and on how it is such a loss to Callander. However, we now have good news for



after languishing in this state of disrepair over the last couple of years, and by the time you read this issue, the Dreadnought Hotel will have reopened for business. The Project Manager for the hotel, Stan McMillan of McMillan Leisure Limited, expects the first tour bus for the refurbished hotel to arrive between the 15th and the 18th of May. Initially the hotel will be open for tour companies only, but it is hoped that by the end of May they would be in a position to be open for bookings from the general public. Once they have settled into a successful period of running the hotel they hope to offer their facilities for weddings and functions.

The refurbishment has been fraught with obstacles to its opening, having suffered from burst pipes causing ceilings to collapse and severe dry rot in certain areas. These, coupled with the damage done to the kitchen area from the fire in the now demolished rear block, meant a lot more work than had been expected.

Once opened, the hotel will be overseen by Lyn McMillan (Stan's wife) with the local hotel manager being

Zhaoliang Liu (Leo to us). As you may guess from the Manager's name, the vast majority of the tour groups staying at the hotel will be Chinese since McMillan Leisure have a tie-in with a tour company specialising in UK tours for Chinese nationals.

In discussions with Stan it appears that the UK is a popular destination with customers from the Far East and especially from China where a growing wealthy middle class are looking to see the world.

An interesting side to this clientele is the karaoke set-up in the main dining room, apparently the Chinese guests love to have karaoke with their breakfast. The hotel will be catering for Chinese tastes in food along with a



Hotel Staff and some of the contractors

choice of more traditional 'Highland Fayre'

With its 62 newly decorated rooms the reopened Dreadnought will be a very welcome addition to the Callander Tourist scene, which has lacked a large hotel of this type for a number of years.

At the time we looked at the hotel much of it was still under renovation, having had a new heating system and kitchen installed, and was being wired up for a new fire alarm system and almost everywhere we looked was being repainted throughout. New carpets in the McNab tartan have been fitted in the public areas. It was good to see that the hotel had used local

# The Dreadnought Re-lives



businesses, where possible with the kitchen coming from Catering Land in Doune, and Murray Fire Alarms fitting the alarm system. Alan Tunstell Landscaping were busy designing the rear of the hotel and laying out a parking area.

The hotel expects initially to employ about 12 local staff with this building up as the business increases. The re-opening of the hotel is very welcome news for



Callander as it can only bring extra visitors into the town, although many will possibly only be overnight stays and it may be that some businesses may have to look at their opening times to capitalise on this trade.





## 8 Young People

### The Big Bang Fair 2019

Outstanding Success for McLaren High



Young people from McLaren High School have secured a prestigious accolade for innovation at a nationwide competition. McLaren High's commitment to STEM education saw them have more finalists at the Big Bang than any other school in the country, with 15 pupils from S1 to S6 involved in eight projects.

These included an investigation into which household products inhibit or stimulate the growth of yeast, a motorised electric skateboard, a micro-wind turbine to generate electricity and a robot programmed to carry out a variety of tasks.



S2 pupils Cameron Harvey, Bruce McKechnie, Matthew Murray and Andrew Twigg came out on top in The Network Rail Innovation in Collaboration Award. 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. Huge congratulations to Cameron, Bruce, Andrew and Matthew whose innovative project stood out for special recognition.

S1 Robotics team (from left) Kyle Gibson, Conor Gillespie, Rachael Archibald, Carmen Dearden and Thomas Cole.



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.



Ellie Ridgewell (S4) won a runner up award for the Intermediate Science Category for her project 'How well does your garden grow?'

The judges have been blown away by the quality of entries from all the finalists – not only for their brilliant new ideas but for how eloquently they spoke about them to the crowds of people at The Big Bang Fair.

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.

McLaren High Headteacher, Marc Fleming, said: "I am really proud that McLaren High School has been taking innovative approaches in developing STEM knowledge and literacy which dovetails with the Scottish Government's bold and ambitious programme to promote science and innovation.

### Success on the Reindeer Trail

A striking reindeer created by a McLaren High School pupil has been voted the most popular design on Stirling's first Reindeer Trail. Nina Harrison's reindeer, which had pride of place in Stirling's Tourist Information Centre during the festive season, won 200 votes from competition entrants asked to choose their favourite reindeer.

Nina was presented with a pack of art supplies by David Black, vice-chair of

Go Forth Stirling, the city's Business Improvement District, which organised the initiative. The 13-year-old said: "I enjoyed taking part in the project and it's really cool to be named the winner



### Young Golfers raising funds for MacMillan Cancer Support



A group of determined young golfers from McLaren High will head to the 1st tee at Callander Golf Club early on the morning of Friday 21st June to start what promises to be a day of sporting endurance raising funds through the Longest Day Challenge on behalf of MacMillan Cancer Support. These seven young men, accompanied by a golf enthusiast teacher, will each aim to play 72 holes, or four rounds, of golf on the day.

Most of the boys are Junior Members of Callander Golf Club, who have supported the challenge by accommodating slightly flexible tee times throughout the course of the day. CGC Junior Convener, Jim Frail, wished the team well: "It's brilliant to see youngsters playing lots of golf, especially playing so much golf for such a great cause!"

The team are hoping to raise lots of money for MacMillan Cancer Support and will be seeking sponsorship around town. Anyone who would like to offer support should contact any of the lads concerned or the school, either via main reception or direct to **Mr Milligan via email (milligank04s@glow.sch.uk)"**



## Comic Relief

S6 Charities Committee organised a Mufti Day and fancy dress parade on Friday 15 March to raise money for Comic Relief. S6 pupils and staff put in a huge effort with their dressing up costumes and the winners were announced as follows:

S6 pupils 1st place—Freddie Mercury (Iona Whitehead)



S6 pupils 2nd place—



7 Snow Whites and a Dwarf (left to right - Angus Parson, Greg McLachlin, Peter Hayes, Cameron McLay, Max Parsons, James Isgrove, missing Harris Fisher who sadly had a PE prelim) and a dwarf (Tyler Livingstone)

S6 pupils 3rd place— McLaren Care Home (left to right - Katie Drummond, Brodie Haldane, Isla Huckerby, Mika Watson, Katie Murdoch and Courtney Strachan, front)



Staff winners were the Science & Technology Faculty with 'Save our Seas'. During the day we raised £622.04 for this good cause. Well done everyone!

## Head Boy & Head Girl



We are pleased to announce that the following pupils have secured positions as part of the Pupil Leadership Team for next session:

Head Boy: Harris Clark

Head Girl: Eva Fisher

Depute Head Boy: Michael Limonci

Depute Head Girl: Emily Black

## Anthony Nolan

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have been working in partnership with 'Anthony Nolan' since 2009, organising events to recruit potential donors to the stem cell register. A further 32 potential life savers were added to the Anthony Nolan register by SFRS volunteers on Tuesday 23 April at McLaren High School.



## S6 Last Day

On Wednesday 24 April we were delighted to provide our S6 pupils with an opportunity to celebrate their time at McLaren High School. Our celebrations started with a leavers' breakfast, followed by a graduation ceremony. The pupils leave with a legacy of excellence in the classroom, on stage, both in music and theatre, on the sports field and of impressive service to the School community. We wish all of our leavers well in their future endeavours – they have been an outstanding group of young people to work with.



## Equali-tea Morning

Thursday 18 May saw the rainbow flag hoisted over Doune Primary as P6 and P7 pupils and S6 Sports Leaders from McLaren High School welcomed parents and guests to their Equali-tea Party to celebrate Diversity. Since August, senior pupils from Doune Primary School have been part of an innovative pilot project 'MIND your health and be YOURSELF', funded by the Lottery Year of The Young Person, where S6 Sports Leaders have planned and delivered high quality stimulating lessons every Friday about Health and Wellbeing and, in particular, Mental Health and Equality.

In March the P6/7 pupils completed a six week programme about Equality focusing on: labels, stereotypes, discrimination and the LGBT Community. The P6/7 pupils showcased what they have learned about each of these areas during the Equali-tea morning, supported by their S6 mentors. Their guests were challenged to reject prejudice and stereotypes through a range of activities which saw the Head Teachers of both schools going head to head on the skittles challenge, surprises (some unpleasant) in the beanboozled challenge and some rethinking required from our guests in the drawing activity.

The winner of our rainbow laces showed she had listened the best during all the activities and we finished off with tea and cakes served by the children. This event supported the work the Scottish Government are currently undertaking, following the review of personal and social education and to implement LGBT inclusive education.



### All About That Vote

**N**ow, I have to confess that it was all my fault. I really got it wrong and made a dreadful mistake.

I should have thought more carefully, read all the small print, thought through all the implications. But I didn't. I voted To Leave!

But please understand - I really thought I was voting to leave the Eurovision Song Contest.

That tired old formula, the rivalries, the political manoeuvring the continuing failures of the UK to make an impact, is anyone ever listening to us? It definitely seemed like time to get out and without a deal. And if we just crashed out it would hardly make a ripple.

What if we left – well the dear old Beeb (yet another Auntie for me to moan about) would save the couple of million pounds it costs them to put out a 3-hour prime time show. She doesn't publish all her costs in putting the show together, but I don't think I'm far out.

There is, of course, one real benefit of leaving Eurovision – it means there is absolutely no chance then that we could ever win it!

It's such a weird competition: any nation has to spend about £250,000 just to enter but, if you win, you then have to host the show next time round. A typical cost of this sort of vanity project seems to be around £40 million and rising.

But, on the other hand, if it were organised like some other pan-European events with each of the separate nations of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England being represented then we would also have an interesting group play off. I'd put my money on Scotland in that event.

By the way, how come that Eurovision now includes, in my view, some distinctly non-European countries like Russia, Israel and Australia?

How on earth did the wizards of Oz manage to get themselves in on our European gig? The only thing Oz has

in common with Europe is that our conquistadors colonised it and pretty well destroyed the indigenous people and their culture. On that basis the whole of North and South America and most of Africa could count as being in Europe.

I don't like most conspiracy theories, except when I am peddling them, but is it just possible that Eurovision is really run by a secret cabal of elderly lizards set on world domination? If you think this is fanciful, then just check back in ten years' time and see how many new, non-European countries have joined.

Back to the elderly lizards, I may have made another mistake and referred to Eurovision when I was thinking of FIFA.

Anyway, as presently constructed, I definitely think that we would all be better off outside of Eurovision. Interestingly enough, we don't even need a referendum to achieve it; all it will take is for Auntie's "hiheidys" to grasp the thistle and put the money into some new music of acoustic quality performed by modestly dressed musicians.

*The Old Grey Whistle Protester*

### An Observation

**E**arly Spring. Early morn, nineish. Nice to see Our Town busying up a bit. Quite a few transient visitors around from the various minibus companies like Rabbies, Hairy Haggis et cetera. They don't, however, seem to stray very far from the car park, mostly milling around our local baker's premises or down to see the ducks or swans by the river. I suppose they don't get too long a stop and the driver probably recommends where they should go. Mind you, what else is open to catch this lucrative trade? Tesco or the CO-OP?

AH! OPEN! That brings me to my observation. Why do so many of our local businesses fail to show their opening times on their doors or in their windows? Don't they want or need the custom? Even a wee Post-It note stuck somewhere on view would be advantageous. I'm afraid the days of an excursion train, full of Paisley Mill workers all desperate to spend their hard earned bawbees and a guaranteed influx of tourist custom, are long gone but some shops seem unaware of this. Dare I say it, some just don't care!

A non-exhaustive random count of premises showed just 14 out of 35 had opening hours on view. Just an observation.

*Homo Vulgaris*

### Searching for memories with

#### Jessica Carmichael

Certain events have featured in the magazine more than once. An example is the crash of the Spitfire during the war in the garden of what is now the Hostel. I was there and saw it as I watched the band of the Argylls beating The Retreat in Station Road. What has disturbed me in the accounts was that Dot Ferguson was given credit for the attempt to save the pilot. She was the local hairdresser whom everyone knew and was working in North Church Street at the time. It was actually her much quieter sister Isa who was the heroine; does anyone know anything more about Isa?

After talking to other people about the plane crash, it seems that years later the owner of what was then Bridgend Hotel managed to get a copy of the records of the plane crash and was planning to put up a memorial to the pilot in the garden. Does anyone have any more information to share?

Finally, Jessica is wondering if anyone can help out with her memories of the Italian family who ran what is now the Crown Hotel and made it an excellent place for dances. Did their daughter become a film star?



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Buchlyvie	Gargunnoch	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:

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## Management of Healthy River Systems

For many the river Teith is an attractive feature of Callander and somewhere to share sandwiches with the ducks. However, it is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), primarily for its population of brook, river & sea lamprey but also recognised as important for Atlantic salmon and trout. The March talk 'Management of healthy river systems' by Jonathan Louis of the Forth Rivers Trust (F.R.T.) covered many interesting aspects that contribute to a thriving river.

The natural processes of erosion, transportation and deposition create river features of runs, riffles ('white water'), slow glides, pools, waterfalls and gravel beds. But these can be affected by neighbouring land management. Slow water behind a fallen tree in the river allows sediments to deposit while the faster flow diverted around it may cause erosion of the opposite bank. Surveys along rivers by FRT are undertaken every 5 years, mapping different flow types to identify where restoration may be needed. FRT also investigates incidents such as spillages. Drones can identify features such as redds, (spawning beds for salmon and trout,) supported by



underwater photography.

Fishing is a major driver for river management, to help support their breeding cycle. Erosion of river beds downstream of weirs may generate steps too big for migrating fish, so good design, removal or inclusion of fish ladders are essential. Dredging to allow rivers to take higher volumes of water actually speeds up flow, leading to upstream erosion. Hard stone river banks can accelerate flows, undermining the walls. 'Green' bank protection is better e.g. using willow brush to cushion banks, slow the water, trap sediments and provide nooks and crannies for smaller animals. Increasingly important, local tree planting provides essential shade.

River wildlife plays an important role in a balanced habitat. Invertebrates such as stonefly, mayfly and caddis fly are at the

bottom of the food-chain and key for fish and river birds such as dippers. Both otters and beavers are protected species; otters are present along the length of the Teith while beavers from the 'unofficial' Tay population have now spread into the Teith and Forth. Another important species in the Teith is the fresh water pearl mussel, now in low numbers and protected but Pearl St in Callander is a reminder of the old industry. They grow slowly, larger ones reaching 100 years and act as water filters but struggle with large amounts of sediment.

FRT is a partner in Callander's Landscape and is involved in tree planting in Little Leny Meadows, bank support and cattle fencing on the Leny Burn (an important spawning site), fishing workshops and volunteer surveys, along with development of the Forth Rivers Centre on Cambusmore estate. This includes training space and a fish hatchery using its own brown trout eggs for sustainable genetics. 'Fish in the Class' provides tanks and eggs for Primary Schools to observe the fish life cycle. More at <http://forthriverstrust.org/projects/> Lesley Hawkins

### The Adventure

A wet Saturday morning but Spring was definitely in the air; it was time for a journey. A boar in my prime, long, dark and sleek I set off up the hill. Did I pass up through Coilhallan woods or managed to by pass them? I am not sure. Now in the pine wood area, I felt good; the ditch I had come up was below me, it was easier to make progress in the open on top of the bank. It was quiet, nothing to disturb my travels. No sound or smell of noisy humans or dogs. Suddenly across the ditch, on the track, a lone human walking towards me. I might be a dream come true for every sow but every otter is taught to keep away from humans, it was into the forest for me. Where did I go? Did I find my sow? That is my secret and I will keep it.



### A Lucky Sighting

I was coming down from Ben Gullipen in the rain one Saturday morning and had only seen 2 people the whole time. Then I saw a large animal moving swiftly up hill through the grass

on the other side of the ditch. This was puzzling; brownish, very dark, grey in colour; it was low to the ground and streamlined with a broad head and a sleek body that tapered into a powerful tail. Moving so quickly, it could be nothing but a male otter. As soon as it saw me it moved quickly to hide in the pine trees, still moving upwards. Was it going to take its chances in Loch Ruskie? This does show how efficiently wildlife can spread around the country.

### Cleaner Callander ...

Many thanks to the 15 people who collected 15 bags of litter from various sites in and around town on 13 April, leaving it clean and tidy for the Easter weekend. The good weather brought in a large number of visitors, unfortunately leaving behind unwelcome detritus. While some show no regard for our lovely town and just drop litter where they sit, others are more responsible and try to put it into bins. However, photos of those in Ancaster Square clearly show the root of the problem. Brownie points to those businesses using bio-degradable packaging, condemnation to those adding to the environmental plastics burden by continuing to use polystyrene. BUT do we really NEED so much



Photo Lesl



## Gardening with Wildlife

As Spring days lengthened and warmed, queen bumblebees and peacock butterflies appeared in our gardens, searching for nest sites and food. Appropriately, our SWT talk in April by Suzanne Burgess of Buglife highlighted the importance of insects and how our gardens can support them.



photo Lesley Hawkins

Buglife is Europe's only organisation concerned with the conservation of all invertebrates, aiming to halt extinctions and achieve sustainable populations in the UK: a tall order with >24,000 invertebrate species even in Scotland! A recent report has identified that over 40% of insects globally are threatened with extinction, the taxa most at risk being bees & wasps plus butterflies & moths. Reasons are depressingly familiar: loss of habitat (98% of UK's species-rich grasslands lost in the last 100 years), climate change (wetter winters & drier summers), pollution and pesticides. Gardens are increasingly important as mini nature reserves.

Invertebrates provide a range of free services: soil management and nutrient recycling, animal waste management, control of pests, pollination and are food for other animals such as birds, amphibians and reptiles. It is assessed that insects pollinate 1 in 3 of every mouthful of food that we eat.

Planting to encourage pollinators is best, with an emphasis on native wildflowers plus a variety of different shapes and colours that flower throughout the year. It is a good idea to have at least two nectar-rich (adult food) or pollen-rich (to feed young) flowers throughout March to September when bees are most active. If your small garden does not have space for a meadow, then consider leaving some wilder bits and have some areas for wildflowers eg leave grass a bit longer for insect habitats and allow flowers to come through while mowing the edges to make it look tidy and intentional. Beneficial insects such as ladybirds, lacewings, hoverflies, ground and soldier beetles will arrive and help to control aphids and slugs – as will frogs and toads in damp areas. Include bug hotels, logs

with different holes drilled in for solitary bees and some water for habitat and drinking.

Getting the right plants needs to be supported by not using pesticide sprays or slug pellets and check that bought plants or seeds have not been treated with pesticides such as neonicotinoids: look for the bee-friendly sign. These chemicals are carried through to pollen and affect the nervous system of bees, disabling their navigation. Importantly, using peat-free compost prevents the loss of vital peat bogs that not only store CO<sub>2</sub>, reducing climate change impact, but also support their own invertebrates. Garden centres will only change if customers demand different products.

Garden plants can provide year-round pollen and nectar but avoid double and multi-petalled versions from which they may not be accessible. Lists of year-round native and garden *flowers and trees for bees and other insects* are given in:

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/plants-for-bees/> <http://www.urbanbees.co.uk/trees/trees.htm>

Happy Gardening!

Lesley Hawkins

## ....(we're trying!)



Lesley Hawkins

packaging to carry food 20 yards down the street? Why boxes instead of trays or paper? Why not make a selling point of wrapping chips in good old newspaper (or a H&S equivalent)? Less packaging must mean lower costs, less time spent collecting litter and less rubbish going to generate destructive methane – yes, all the litter from our street litter bins goes to landfill!

As consumers, you can encourage use of less packaging each time you buy.

Lesley Hawkins

In the next issue, we'll report on how a group of Callander volunteers contributed to Stirling University research to help understanding how to encourage people not to litter..

## Keeping plants hydrated

Summer is in full swing now! If Easter was anything to go by, summer should be sunny and hot! The long hot days are great for a gardener, but pose a difficulty too. Plants need water there's more chance for weeds to grow and the clay Callander soil will bake as hard as concrete!

Vegetables need water all the time, so in a good vegetable garden the soil should be slightly wet all the time. But vegetables don't like their roots sitting in a watery and boggy mess. It's very easy to keep vegetables hydrated through dry spells if you follow a few simple steps.

The first, and most important, step to combat dry soil is to water your plants when there is no sun! If you water when the sun is low, early morning/ late evening, the plants will have a chance to drink the water before it's evaporated. The second

step to combating dry summer spells is to mulch your soil. You might be wondering what on earth is mulch? Mulch is simply a layer of organic material, such as bark, leaves or grass, spread over your soil. Mulch retains moisture in the soil, just like a duvet at night keeps in the heat. Mulch is super beneficial to your garden! Not only does it retain the soil's moisture, it prevents weeds from growing and it adds nutrients to the soil, like a fertiliser.

Summer is a great time to relax and enjoy the garden. Sitting back and watching time flutter past is the right way to spend summer, and maybe a tiny bit of gardening, too.

Happy Gardening

Aidan Cronin

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## Leny Medical Practice

### Dr Isobel Gibson

Dr Gibson will be retiring from General Practice in Callander at the end of the summer. Along with Dr Mathewson, she has provided General Medical Services in the town and surrounding area for over twenty years and now feels the time is right to focus on family and other interests.

Over the years there have been significant changes in General Practice, including the building of a new purpose-built joint medical practice in collaboration with Drs Strang and Scott. Dr Gibson has risen to the challenges and helped drive an excellent standard of care to our patients.

Dr Gibson has been instrumental in the early discussions surrounding the practices merging and feels confident in the future of medical service provision in Callander. We are sorry to see her go and will miss the hard work, commitment and kindness she has shown to patients and colleagues over the years.

Should you wish to write Dr Gibson a message or contribute to a retirement gift there will be a "Best Wishes Book" and collection box at reception. There will be a further update in the next edition of the BLV with exact dates and more detail.

### Callander Medical Practice Practice Merger

We had a productive meeting of the Patient Focus Group but require more input from patients as we move to becoming one practice. If you are interested, please contact Karen on 01877331000 or Margaret on 01877331001.

### Some seasonal problems:

**Hayfever** – as summer approaches we see an increased demand for appointments from patients suffering with hayfever. The local Pharmacies are able to deal with seasonal hayfever under the Pharmacy First Scheme. They should be the first point of contact for advice. Should they feel that you require to see a doctor they will advise you accordingly.

**Sunburn Advice** – as summer is now upon us please remember that

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

**Holiday medication** - please ensure you order your repeat medication the week before your holiday. We still receive requests marked urgent due to going on holiday the following day and this puts increased pressure on the staff, the doctors and the pharmacies to turn around the request in such short time scales. We may not be able to accommodate your request at short notice.

### Training

Both Practices will close on Monday 10th of June 2019 for staff training. This is a Forth Valley recognised public holiday but we are using the opportunity to have protected time for staff training. We will also be closed from 12.30 on Wednesday 28th of August for further training. Should you require urgent medical advice please dial NHS 24 on 111. In the event of a life threatening emergency please dial 999.

### A Walking Pathway to Better Health

No matter how limited your activity level is, Walk in the Park would like to

help you to regain mobility, strength and get you walking again with confidence. Step by step we provide a walking pathway from your armchair to a 30minute walk and beyond.

Do you find yourself spending a lot of

time sitting indoors and wishing you could get outside for some fresh air, exercise and some social time?

If so, Walk in the Park can help you to feel more confident by going for a walk as part of a group, supported and encouraged by trained volunteer walk leaders. Perhaps you have recently retired or moved to the area and are looking for new friends and a gentle way of exercising. You might like to consider if any of the following steps would help you. You can join in at any step you feel is right for you. All our walks and sessions are led by friendly walk leaders and are fun and free of charge.

#### Step 1. Strength and Balance

Exercise – Tuesday 2-3pm, Fire Station

The session is aimed at older adults although anyone will feel the benefit. These exercises are very gentle but effective and are done from a seated position or standing behind a chair. They include knee bends and leg raises and are based on the Otago Exercise Programme. If you have difficulty walking due to pain in your knees or hips, or problems with your balance, then this session is for you.

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



## 16 Health and Wellbeing

*continued from previous page.....*

that your strength and balance has improved enough to allow you to walk more confidently.

**Step 2. Summer Evening Walk – Wednesday 7pm, Ancaster Square**

This is a gentle evening stroll around the town walking, at a pace and distance that is right for you. Walking with a trained volunteer walk leader, you will be able to choose to turn back or take a short-cut if you wish. The idea is to build up slowly – you can choose to time your walk for between 15 – 45 minutes. Refreshments in the Deli Ecosse after the walk allows for some social time (optional).

**Step 3. Main Walk – Tuesday 10.20am**

On the main walk there is an opportunity to start off slow and build up. You can join this walk and be sure that you can go at a pace and distance that suits you on the day. All our group walks are on good walking surfaces,

are risk assessed and are led by trained walk leaders and last between 30min and 1 hour. Some of these morning walks are in the town, others are in the surrounding areas. Some walks involve car share - walkers who have the use of a car offer lifts to those who don't. We go for a cup of tea after the walk for a social time together (optional)

Please see the BLV 'What's On' page for more information or pick up a flier from the Medical Centre or Library.

Booking is not necessary. However, if you have any questions about joining in any of our walks or exercise sessions, please contact the Walk in the Park Coordinator - Cathy Scott [07852 334272](tel:07852334272) or send an email to: [cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

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](http://www.trustinthepark.org/walk-in-the-park)

You might like to check with your G.P or Physiotherapist if you have a medical condition that might prevent you from taking part.



### Callander Bike Meander Group - Loch Katrine ride



Callander's bike meander group has a regular Tuesday morning ride departing from the Square at 10am (all welcome, please come and join us!). But to mix things up a bit, and make the most of the fantastic cycling to be had around the Trossachs, it's sometimes nice to head a bit further afield. So, we have the occasional away-cycle ride and for our most recent excursion at the end of April, we headed not too far up the road to Loch Katrine.

It's always great fun including a ferry on a bike excursion, and whilst it wasn't the brightest of days, Loch Katrine never disappoints. We boarded the Sir Walter Scott (along with our bikes wheeled on by the friendly crew) and enjoyed a 50minute cruise to the other end of the loch to Stronachlachar. Disembarking, we resisted the pull of The Pier café (except for the quick purchase of some takeaway baking) and began our 13mile return journey by pedal-power.

I've seen an eyebrow or two raised when I've described this bike ride as one of the world's best, but I don't think much can beat it. It is a challenge! I will not lie - there is a hill or two to contend with. But cycling up hills on a traffic-free road can give an almost sadistic pleasure, and when there are fabulous waters surrounded by looming mountains, even on a gloomy day, it can make your soul sing.

Our meanderers were totally up for the challenge and took it all in their pedal-stride. One of our riders unfortunately had a mechanical early on the return journey and had to return hitching a lift home with a friendly postie. But apart from that, the cycling went without a hitch. Hills were conquered, views were wow'ed over and everyone returned unscathed to the Trossachs Pier carpark on a high from a fabulous ride. This was a great achievement for the group!

By the time this BLV issue is received, we'll have had an e-bike outing (see the next issue for our report on this) and another away day to enjoy some Falkirk canal-side cycling. Our Tuesday rides will run throughout the year, including advertised rides for the Summerfest programme. We'd love you to join us (departing 10am in the Square). There's no cost, except a bike (although we can organise one for you too, so that's no obstacle either). It's a safe, supportive environment led by Cycle Ride Leaders so no-one gets left behind.

Contact Colin or Maggie (details below) for more information or to get put on our email/messenger group alert lists for weekly details of rides.

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





**CALLANDER & TROSSACHS**

# Summer Fest

**13 - 28 JULY 2019**

**Music / Film / Outdoor Activities / Drama**

**Kids' Activities / Art / Crafts / Heritage**

**Information & bookings**

[www.incallander.co.uk/summerfest](http://www.incallander.co.uk/summerfest)

e: [callandersummerfest@gmail.com](mailto:callandersummerfest@gmail.com)

t: 07856 338212 / 07852 106605

[facebook.com/CallanderSummerfest](https://facebook.com/CallanderSummerfest)

[twitter.com/callanderfest](https://twitter.com/callanderfest)

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## Programme 2019

### **JUNE Saturday 22nd**

Pop-up Scottish Opera 12noon, 2pm & 3.30pm McLaren Leisure Centre

### **JULY Every Day from 13th to 28th July**

Callander's Four Seasons Felt Banners Saturday-Sunday 8am-5pm, Mon- Friday 7.30am-9pm McLaren Leisure Centre  
Art in the Pews 12noon-4.30pm (Sunday 2-4.30) St Andrew's Church (Sponsored by Wood Leisure Holiday Parks)

### **Every Day from 13 to 21 July**

Summerfest Market 11am-4pm Ancaster Square

### **Saturday 13th**

Face and Body Art 11am-4pm Ancaster Square (Sponsored by Lynne Schroder Artist)

Scavenger Hunt 12-2pm Callander Hostel

Loch Lomond Ukulele Orchestra 3pm Ancaster Square

### **Sunday 14th**

Introduction to Landscape Painting 10am-4pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Come & Try Canoeing 10.30am, 12noon & 1.30pm Callander Meadows

Film *Bohemian Rhapsody* (Cert. 12A) 8pm Callander Hostel (Sponsored by Andrew Baird Optometrist)

### **Monday 15th**

Circus Skills Workshop 1-2pm & 2.30-4.30pm Callander Hostel

Hula-hooping Workshop 6-8pm Callander Hostel

Riverside Sessions 8pm Riverside Inn Leny Road

### **Tuesday 16th**

Jewellery Making 9.30am-5pm 4 Bracklinn Rd

Family Bushcraft 10am-12noon & 1-3pm Lower Craggs

Callander Meander cycle ride 10am Ancaster Square

Walk in the Park 10.20am Ancaster Square

### **Wednesday 17th**

Callander Ramble: Ben Gullipan 9.30pm

Felting Workshop 1.30-4.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Town Stroll 6.50pm Ancaster Square

Try Taekwondo 7-8pm McLaren Leisure Centre

### **Thursday 18th**

Creative Crafts for Kids aged 4-8 St Andrew's Church Hall

Guided River Walk 1-3pm Cambusmore

Creative Writing Workshop 2-4pm Callander Hostel

Seasons of the Wild with Jim Crumley 8pm Callander Kirk Hall (Sponsored by private donation)

### **Friday 19th**

Canoe Trip 10am or 1pm Loch Venachar or Loch Lubnaig

Wandering Minstrel: Nico G 12noon & 3pm Ancaster Square

Two Violins 8pm Callander Hostel (Sponsored by Campbell's Shortbread)

### **Saturday 20th**

Felting for Little Fingers 10am-12 St Andrew's Church Hall

Fun and Games in the Square 11am-4pm Ancaster Square

Pirates Ahoy! sailings 11.30am, 2.30pm, 4pm Trossachs Pier, Loch Katrine

Try Taekwondo 12-1pm McLaren Leisure Centre

Rag Rug Workshop 1-4pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Nico G guitarist 6pm Deli Ecosse (Sponsored by Deli Ecosse)

The Dodgy Characters 8pm Callander Hostel

### **Sunday 21st**

Art Class with Greer Ralston 10am-4pm Lenymede

Pirates Ahoy! sailings 11.30am, 2.30pm, 4pm Trossachs Pier, Loch Katrine

Wandering Minstrel: Nico G 12noon & 3pm Ancaster Square

Film *Mary Queen of Scots* (cert 15) 8pm Callander Hostel (Sponsored by Rural Stirling Housing Association)

### **Monday 22nd**

Creative Fun for Kids (age 9+) 11am-12 St Andrew's Church Hall

Photography Walk 1-3pm Callander Hostel

Liz Campbell's Highland Dancers 4-5pm Ancaster Square

Riverside Sessions 8pm Riverside Inn Leny Road

### **Tuesday 23rd**

Callander Meander cycle ride 10am Ancaster Square

Walk in the Park 10.20am Ancaster Square

Interpreting & Enjoying the Gaelic Landscape 1-4pm Callander Hostel

Try Your Hand at Mahjong 2-3.30pm Ancaster Square

Liz Campbell's Highland Dancers 4-5pm Ancaster Square

Film: *Free Solo* (cert 15) 8pm Callander Hostel

### **Wednesday 24th**

Pop-up Pottery 9am-2pm Ancaster Square

Conservation Volunteer Day 10am-1pm Callander Craggs

Try Your Hand at Mahjong 2-3.30pm Ancaster Square

Bright Moments Tile Painting 2-4pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Bike Safari 2-4pm Wheels Cycling Centre, Invertrossachs Road

Introduction to Pottery 2-5pm Ancaster Square

Liz Campbell's Highland Dancers 4-5pm Ancaster Square

Town Stroll 6.50pm Ancaster Square

Try Taekwondo 7-8pm McLaren Leisure Centre

The Light Fantastik Orchestra & Callander Chorale 8pm (doors open 7.30pm) Callander Kirk (Sponsored by Rotary Club of Callander & West Perthshire)

### **Thursday 25th**

Pop-up Pottery 9am-2pm Ancaster Square

Gaelic Bookbugs 10.45-11.15 Callander Library

Get Arty! 11am-1pm Callander Hostel

Try Your Hand at Mahjong 2-3.30pm Ancaster Square

Introduction to Pottery 2-5pm Mounter Pottery Ancaster Square



Thursday Threads 2-4pm St Andrew's Church Hall  
Liz Campbell's Highland Dancers 4-5pm Ancaster Square  
Wild Places with Doug Allan 8pm Callander Kirk (Sponsored by Poppies Hotel)

#### Friday 26th

Pop-up Pottery 9am-2pm Ancaster Square  
Come & Try Yoga 10am & 11.30am St Andrew's Church Hall  
Try Your Hand at Mahjong 2-3.30pm Ancaster Square  
Knitting for Beginners 2-4pm St Andrew's Church Hall  
Pottery Drop-in 2-5pm Ancaster Square  
Liz Campbell's Highland Dancers 4-5pm Ancaster Square  
Doune Bassoon 8pm Callander Hostel (Sponsored by Callander Chimes)

## Fun Facts -

### Bungaree - Unsung circumnavigator of Australia

Exploration - the desire to discover and find previously unfamiliar places. This is of great fascination to me. Indeed this July marks two great milestones in exploration - 50 years since the first Moon landing and the centenary of the late Sir Edmund Hillary. For this article, I would like to introduce you to an unsung hero of exploration.



His name was Bungaree, an Aboriginal Australian of the Kuringgai people who, although many won't have heard of him, was so important in the circumnavigation of Australia that the feat could not have been achieved without him. Details of his early life are not well-known: he was likely born in the mid-1770s in an area to the north of what later became Sydney, a city he relocated to in the 1790s. His first expedition was on the ship "Reliance" in 1798 to Norfolk Island. It was on this journey that Bungaree first met the Englishman Matthew Flinders, who later hired Bungaree to join him on a voyage in 1802 as the only Australian-born person to be on board during this journey. It was here that Bungaree's talents proved to be of great benefit - his communication skills helped to break down barriers between the sailors and the native people in many parts of the continent that were unknown areas even to him. His knowledge of native plant species proved crucial to the survival of all of those on board. By the following year, the expedition completed a circumnavigation of the continent, with Bungaree being the first native Australian to achieve this feat. Bungaree would later also join an expedition to north-western Australia in 1817, and his friendliness and positive character was greatly praised by the explorer Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen as his reputation grew; Bungaree's great intellect was also complemented on. He had several wives, with Cora Gooseberry being the one most well-known. A highly-regarded and popular figure in colonial Sydney, Australia's pioneering circumnavigator died at Garden Island near Sydney in 1830. Today, however, it is Flinders, not Bungaree, who most people both inside and outside Australia remember. While an island off north-western Australia and a town on the country's eastern sand island of Bribie Island were named after him, Bungaree otherwise has no memorials or statues in his honour in modern Australia. Why this is can't be said for certain, but I would consider it likely that the colonists, because they considered Aboriginals to be inferior to them on racial grounds, may have tried to airbrush much of Bungaree's life out of history. Whatever the true reason, I think there certainly now appears to be the desire for this great continent's first native exploration figure to be honoured properly.

Mario Crevecoeur

## Saturday 27th

Come & Try E-bikes 11am-4.15 Ancaster Square  
Try Taekwondo 12noon-1pm McLaren Leisure Centre  
Callander Brass 1pm Ancaster Square  
Scottish Youth Theatre: *Act of Repair* 7.30pm McLaren High School

## Sunday 28th

Callander Highland Games 1-5pm Lagrannoch Park  
Full details of all events and booking at [www.incallander.co.uk/summerfest](http://www.incallander.co.uk/summerfest) or Visitor Information Centre.

## COOK'S CORNER

by Audrey Corrieri

### UPSIDE-DOWN RHUBARB and GINGER CAKE (Serves 8)

#### Ingredients:

50g butter  
250g brown sugar  
350g rhubarb, trimmed and cut into 2cm chunks  
200g plain flour  
1tsp baking powder  
1/2tsp salt  
1/4tsp bicarbonate of soda  
2 medium-sized eggs  
200ml buttermilk  
75ml sunflower oil  
1 heaped tsp grated ginger  
1 28cm oven-proof frying pan

#### Method:

Heat oven to 180c, 160c fan, gas no. 4. Melt the butter in an ovenproof frying pan. Stir in half the sugar and cook over a gentle heat for 5 minutes. Add the rhubarb, don't stir and cook for 2 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat. Sift the flour, baking powder, salt and bicarbonate of soda into a bowl, and in another bowl whisk the eggs, remaining sugar, buttermilk, oil and ginger. Pour into the dry ingredients and mix.

Pour the cake batter over the rhubarb in the frying pan, place in the oven and cook for 30 minutes until the cake feels firm.

Cool for 5 minutes, turn out onto a plate and serve.

## 20 Charities and clubs

### Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club



What a lovely Easter Saturday we had for our bottle stall. The combination of sunshine, heat, crowds and, of course, the presence of the Easter Bunny and the Easter Chicken meant that in all we raised over £600. This will go in to the club's funds for distribution to local charities and causes.

July will be busy for us during Callander Summerfest. There will be Fun and Games for the children in the square on Saturday 20th July from 11am to 4pm. This will be run in conjunction with Callander Ladies Circle. From Monday 22nd to Friday 26th July Liz Campbell's highland dancers will be performing in the square at 4pm. We shall be collecting for local causes. Our Charity Golf Day will be held on Friday 16th August.

As well as local causes, we help feed children in Liberia through Mary's Meals UK. Liberia, on the West Coast of Africa, suffered greatly through civil war and the Ebola outbreak and is still recovering. Children skip school to try to earn money for food. In schools where Mary's Meals are served enrolment increases. We help the Beh-Sao school which has over 300 pupils who receive a vitamin enriched maize porridge with rice and peas. The food is grown locally and cooked and served by the local communities. It costs just under £14 to feed a child for a year, yet without our help these children would be on the streets begging or scavenging among garbage. The money raised by our local community through Rotary is playing a small part in bringing relief to children in desperate circumstances.

If you would like to find out more about any of our events, or about Rotary in general, please look at our website, [www.callander.rotary1010.org](http://www.callander.rotary1010.org) or Facebook or contact the number below. If you would like to come along to a meeting you would be made welcome any Tuesday evening at 6.30pm at Callander Golf Club, or to find out more about membership please contact Derek House on 01877 330103.



### German-Speaking Group in Callander

Das nächste Treffen der Gruppe wird am FREITAG 21 JUNI 2019 um 18.30 Uhr - d.h., eine halbe Stunde früher als gewöhnlich - bei Jen, Ardour Cottage, 3 Grant Court, Bridgend, Callander stattfinden. (NB Ihr seid gebeten, Eure Autos bitte entweder in Bridgend oder im Platz vor der Grundschule zu parken!)

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.

An jenem Abend planen wir, die Sommersonnenwende zu feiern. Alle sind also eingeladen, Sommerkleidung zu tragen und irgendeinen essbaren Beitrag zum teilen mitzubringen. Hoffentlich kann das Fest draußen im Garten stattfinden, aber wenn es dort regnet oder wenn es zu viele Stechmücken gibt, wird unser gemeinsames Abendessen stattdessen im Hause stattfinden. Damit wir wissen, wieviele Personen mitmachen werden, u.A.w.g., das heißt, bitte meldet Euch und sagt Jen bis Dienstag 18. Juni Bescheid, was für Beitrag Ihr vor habt, mitzubringen.

Für diesen Abend besteht die Hausaufgabe einfach darin, dass jedes Mitglied der Gruppe an jenem Abend einen Charakter in einem wohlbekannten Märchen oder Kinderlied darstellt, aber selbstverständlich ohne den Namen bekanntzugeben! Durch Gespräch und Fragen sollten die Anderen die Identitäten der verschiedenen anwesenden Charaktere raten können. Vielleicht werden wir uns auch wie gewöhnlich mit einigen Wortspielen beschäftigen. Alle sind eingeladen, ihre eigene Ideen mitzubringen.

Falls Ihr Fragen dazu stellen wollt, ruft bitte Jen Shearer, 01877-330446 oder 07710-232908 (Handy) an. Email: [jenshearer@gmail.com](mailto:jenshearer@gmail.com). Wir freuen uns darauf, Sie am 21. Juni bei uns begrüßen zu dürfen.

Jen Shearer

### Callander Bridge Club - AGM and Prize Giving

How time flies when you're having fun! After a great season, with a number of new members, it was our AGM. Margaret O'Keefe, Treasurer, reported our funds were healthy and David Hunter, Secretary, reported a successful year. We would like to thank the owner and staff of the The Old Bank Restaurant for their support. The winners this year were:

- Dorothy Petrie Quaich - Chris Corden & Steve McGowan
- Founders Salvers - Geoff Reid & Gillian Johnston
- Howell Shield - Fiona Gibson & Ann Tweedie
- Valentines Trophy - Norma Thornton & Steve McGowan, Chris Corden & Gillian Johnston
- Bridgend Bells - Fiona Gibson & Ann Tweedie
- Presidents Cup - Margaret O'Keefe & Anne Rattray

Congratulations to all our winners and a warm welcome, always, to anyone wishing to become a member.

David Hunter, Secretary,

### Callander and District Arthritis Club

By the time you read this we will have had a day in Oban, and I'm sure things will have gone smoothly.

On July 20th we are having a bottle stall in Ancaster Square, from 10am onwards.

I hope everyone will have a warm summer break.

Fiona Snow, Secretary



## Callander & District Horticultural Society

We are delighted that Callander Community Council are again sponsoring this year's Best Kept Garden Competition. The overall competition winner will be presented with the Callander Community Cup at the Annual Produce, Flower & Craft Show on Saturday 31st August.

This year there will be TWO categories - Small & Large gardens with a winner for each category and the overall winner between the two categories being awarded the Callander Community Cup. Judging will take place in early August.

Entry forms will be available from end of May in the Library (or other locations in town) or by emailing [cadhortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:cadhortsoc@gmail.com) to request a form. Completed entry forms must be returned online or to the Library by 31/7/19. Any queries please contact Mike Luti (CCC) on 01877 330596

Schedules for the Annual Produce, Flower & Craft Show on Saturday 31st August are available in the Library, East End News, Campbells the butchers, Creative in Callander & Rainbow Arts and Crafts. The schedule tries to cater for all interests and abilities but most importantly it is the enthusiasm to give it a go and enter something this year. New Novice classes have been included in floral art, flower and vegetable classes - so why not have a go?

*Jacquie Fingland, Vice Chair & Treasurer*

## Callander Heritage Society

At our March meeting Dr Matthew Knight, curator of Bronze Age artefacts at The National Museum of Scotland spoke on 'New thoughts on Old finds'. Modern technology is being used to re-examine historic finds and evidence shows that, because in the Bronze Age metal objects were expensive to make, they were kept in circulation for a long time, often 300 or 400 years. Many early finds are therefore now being given an earlier dating, including the Garthornzie Hoard found in the early 1800s. Deliberately broken finds might have been for recycling and buried for safe keeping. In April local resident, John Hutchinson, gave a talk on Callander's football history and his book, '1824, The World's First Foot-Ball Club'. Founded in Edinburgh, this was the first club to have written down rules and a pitch with boundary lines. Up until the early 1800s football was played in lots of villages with massed teams. Games were generally played in the street or on the road. The 1835 Act banned playing football on public highways and so stopped the game in many villages. In Callander though, the game was played in a field at what is now Camp Place, so that early form of the game continued to be played up until the 1870s. 'No place in Scotland is more celebrated for the ancient game of football than the village of Callander.' The Stirling Journal: Teams of 80 players or more gathered at The Dreadnought Hotel where whisky was dispensed. Led by a piper and carrying footballs on poles, the teams then paraded up Main Street to The Roman Camp, where more whisky was consumed, then on to the Camp Place field for the game. See 'What's On' for details of our future meetings.

*Kath Millar*

## Callander and West Perthshire U3A



We are coming to the end of our U3A year with groups finishing for the summer break in June and many will have some form of end-of-term celebration. However, the work of promoting the U3A goes on and our new leaflets full of information about C&WP U3A are now in all villages north, south, east and west of Callander, to attract new members to join at our Enrolment and AGM day in Callander Kirk Hall on 29th August. The umbrella organisation, U3A Scotland, held an excellent promotion day in the Scottish Parliament building recently, to inform MSPs about the benefits of later-life learning and the wide variety of interest groups offered in the 54 U3As all around Scotland. They have pledged their support and we hope that before long the phrase "U3A? Never heard of it" will be a thing of the past. Our website has all the information about our group, so please have a look at 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A'.

*Marguerite Kobs*

## Callander Cancer Research



We wanted to give a well-deserved great big 'thank you' to these four girls from Callander primary (Olivia Corrieri, Inez Menzies, Lucy Underwood and Toni Kent) who have been busy crafting and selling friendship bracelets, hair braids and pompoms as well as encouraging family and friends to put change into their 'saving tin'. They raised almost £40 which they kindly donated to Cancer Research, Callander.

Since my last article, we have two potential new volunteers (but still need more) and several of our young volunteers, who are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, have come back to get experience for their Gold Award - a fantastic achievement.

As a follow up on the amount of money we raised via campaigns last year - I thought it might be nice to let you know how this money is spent. Obviously some of the equipment needed for research is incredibly expensive e.g. a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Machine costs approx. £750,000 and a Slide Scanner is about £100,000. These may seem an unobtainable amount of money, but EVERY POUND raised buys something - £5 buys essential chemicals, £6 buys a box of microscope slides, £25 buys a lab coat for a scientist. So please keep donating whatever you can to ensure that we can keep this going.

*Mary McDiarmid, Manager*



Bark stripping oak trees near Callander 1880 (Callander Heritage Archive)

### Meeting the woodland people of Callander's landscape

The landscape around Callander includes many scenic areas of semi-native woodland. As well as providing important habitats for wildlife, if you explore these woods in more detail, you can find traces of previous people who worked in them long ago.

Such traces can be found most readily in Leny Woods. Here there are large numbers of circular platforms, many of which were probably used for charcoal production. Seasoned logs were carefully piled up by specialist workers on the platform. They were then covered in earth and turf to ensure they slowly charred when the kiln was burning over a number of days. Volunteers with Callander's Landscape have been surveying the archaeological remains in Leny Woods over the past few weeks, building on earlier surveys undertaken in 2000 by the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists (ACFA). They have also experienced charcoal production in the woodland using metal kilns.



Example of a charcoal burning platform in Leny Wood (Northlight Heritage)

Documentary research by Morag Cross has revealed further details of how the woodlands were managed from the 18th century to 19th centuries. Not only were trees grown to produce charcoal but oaks in particular were also valued for their bark. The bark was peeled and then sent for use in leather tanning. Other details of people in Leny Woods have also been found through archive research. In early November

1760 it was particularly stormy and the charcoal burners in Leny Woods asked Lady Leny (widow of Francis Buchanan) if they could leave the charcoal burning to spring 1761 when the weather was better.

So we too are now hoping for good weather, as there will be further activities coming up in Leny Wood with excavations taking place between 8th and 21st May, then an experimental charcoal kiln build and firing between 4th to 11th June.

Leny Woods Community Archaeology Project is being delivered by Northlight Heritage on behalf of Forestry and Land Scotland as part of the Callander's Landscape project. It is financially supported by Forestry and Land Scotland and contributes to the wider funding of Callander's Landscape Partnership by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. It has been designed to give opportunities for members of Callander Heritage and other interested individuals to participate and learn.

For further details of how to get involved in the activities, or arrange a visit to the excavations, please contact Julie Wilson, Volunteering and Activities Office, Callanders Landscape: [Julie.Wilson@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:Julie.Wilson@lochlomond-trossachs.org) or visit [www.callanderslandscape.org](http://www.callanderslandscape.org)

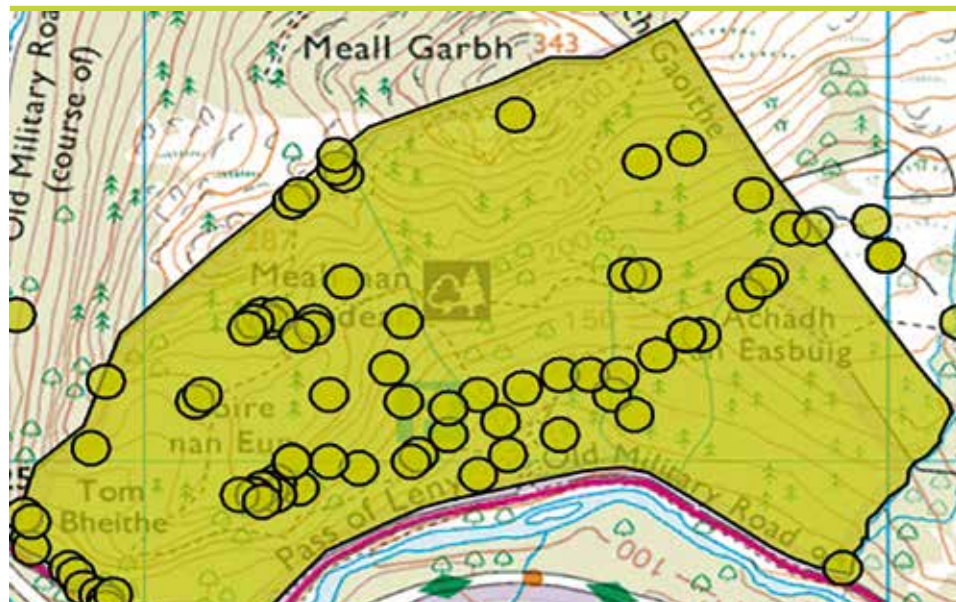


Volunteers undertaking measured survey of a platform site in Leny Woods (Northlight Heritage).

When the BLV learned that work on the current archaeological project in Leny Wood was based on work done by local resident, **Pat Wilson** we decided that we would like to talk to her about her project.

"The presence of a few platforms in Leny Wood, thought to have been used for charcoal production, prompted Forest Enterprise to consider further investigation in advance of harvesting plans. It became apparent that the





Leny Wood survey locations from the 1999/2000 surveys (PastMaps)

planning and construction of harvesting roads, to permit felling and removal of conifers, necessitated the identification of as many archaeological features as physically possible within an allocated timescale. This 61 hectare site had been purchased by the Forestry Commission after the second world war and planted with conifers, replacing most of the ancient and semi-natural native woodland thought to have been planted by the Buchanan family early in the 19th Century.

So in 1999 I was approached by Forest Enterprise to survey and map all the archaeological sites at Leny Wood. This started with an exploration of the woods with foresters who were aware of possible sites and the Stirling Council Archaeologist. The next phase involved a walkover by myself and

associates marking all the features. Background research involved examining local and national records, cartographic sources, talking to locals, as well as numerous archaeologists and experts on woodland history.

The next phase in March 2000 involved 30 volunteers from the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists drawing, mapping, measuring and photographing all the 77 sites of interest, using the taped-offset method and to a small extent by Electronic Distance Measurer. For some areas GPS was used but at this time the accuracy was deliberately degraded for private and commercial purposes and we found working under the dense tree cover interfered with the signal. Not an easy task!

Due to extremely wet ground and difficulties encountered in attempting

to penetrate windblown areas, it was not possible to survey the entire area and I pointed out that more features will be revealed when harvesting was undertaken.

Quite a number of Recessed Platforms were identified and in the report I highlighted that these were variable in structure. Some may have been used as charcoal burning stances; some may have had an earlier function. Where the earlier woodland still remained, signs of coppicing were evident. Coppicing is where trees such as oak are cut down to produce multiple stems, encouraging the proliferation of poles. This is done on a 4 year rotational cycle and the wooden poles grown are used to produce charcoal.

Forest Enterprise wanted the sites marked with numbered poles, so on a snowy day this was duly carried out. I understand from the BLV that my report and numbering system is the basis of the work currently being done.

I was not just investigating recessed platforms for signs of charcoal burning activity but how the use of the land has changed. For instance, remains of a boundary wall enclosing the Achadh an Easbuig (Field of the Bishop) on the eastern perimeter of Leny Wood, indicates where there had been agriculture. Where there are now trees, remains of stone structures and sheilings are likely to have been occupied by people who once lived and worked on this land.

After I finished my project I understand a small excavation took place on one of the platforms where charcoal had been noticed, but am not fully aware of the results. Further uphill was an area of bog and it was suggested a small hollow core sample be taken which would help illuminate the woodland's botanical history. I am not aware of any progress.

Some readers may remember having been on the field trips I led post-survey showing what had been revealed.

If the 'Palace' platform is one for Northlight to investigate further I think it would be worthwhile."

*Pat Wilson*



Work underway during the original survey from 1999/2000 (P. Wilson).

# What's on in June and July

## 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 Monday)
- 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 (3rd, 10th and 17th June only)
- Cubs 6.15 pm Primary School
- HIT Circuits 7.00-7.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 7.00pm and 8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Callander Bowling Club Open Night 7.00pm (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 (until 18th June & then from 27th August)
- 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 (until 21st June & then from 30th August)
- 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

## June

### Friday 7th

## Ben Ledi View published

### • Saturday 8th

- Ramblers Stroll: along the Airth sea wall (5 miles) 9.30am Contact [01786 825682](tel:01786825682))
- Callander Brass Annual Summer Concert 3.00pm Callander Kirk

### • Monday 10th

- Medical Centre: both practices closed all day for staff training.
- Community Council meets 7.30pm Callander Hostel

### • Tuesday 11th

- Walk in the Park Wildlife walk with Steve The Meadows meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

### • Wednesday 12th

- Ramblers Hill: Beinn na Lap +train (937m) 8.30am Contact [01786 825877](tel:01786825877))
- Walk in the Park Evening Walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square
- Callander Heritage Society Talk by Dr Kenneth Brophy 7.00pm for 7.30pm Masonic Hall

### • Thursday 13th

- Practical Conservation Volunteer Day with Callander Landscape Partnership 10.00am to 3.00pm, contact Julie on [01389 727 723](tel:01389727723)

### • Saturday 15th

- Ramblers LDP: FCP (2) – Balmerino to Tayport (9 miles) 8:30am Contact [01877 330032](tel:01877330032)

### • Monday 17th

- CAOS AGM 7.30pm Fire Station

### • Tuesday 18th

- Walk in the Park Golf Club Walk meet 10.20am Ancaster Square
- Writing Group tutored 'Come and Try' session 2.00-4.00pm Callander Hostel

### • Wednesday 19th

- Walk in the Park Evening Walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square

### • Friday 21st

- German-speaking group meets 6.30pm Ardgour Cottage 3 Grant Court, Bridgend (last meeting until September)



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

## • Saturday 22nd

- Ramblers Ramble: Uamh Tom a Mhor Fhir (9 miles) 9.30am Contact [01877 330169](tel:01877330169)
- Garage sale and open garden in aid of Maggie's 10 am to 12 noon Orchardlea House
- Scottish Opera Pop-up Opera (book via Summerfest) 3 short operas 12noon, 2.00pm, 3.30pm McLaren Leisure Centre
- Wizards & Witches Magic Weekend sailings 11.30am, 1.00pm, 2.30pm and 4.00pm Trossachs Pier, Loch Katrine

## • Sunday 23rd

- Wizards and Witches Magic Weekend continues as above,
- **Tuesday 25th**
- Craigard Club summer outing to Livingston, Bo'ness & S Queensferry leaves Callander 10.00am (prebooked)
- Walk in the Park Keltie Bridge meet 10.20am Ancaster Square
- Practical Conservation Volunteer Day with Callander Landscape Partnership 10.00am-3.00pm, Contact Julie on [01389 727723](tel:01389727723)

## • Wednesday 26th

- Ramblers Ramble: Scenic Plean (8 miles) 9.30am Contact [07950 046913](tel:07950046913)
- Walk in the Park Evening Walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square

## • Saturday 29th

- Ramblers Ramble: Craig Fonyvuick and the Linn of Tummel (7 miles) 8.30am. Contact [01796 472461](tel:01796472461)
- Callander Kirk Summer Fair. Strawberry teas and stalls 10.00am to 12 noon Kirk Hall

## • Sunday 30th

- Callander Target Sports Club Clay Pigeon Shoot 10.00am Callander contact Bob Farquhar [07721 744229](tel:07721744229) to confirm times and book

## July

## • Monday 1st

- Kids Camp starts (until 16th August) McLaren Leisure
- Callander Golf Junior Summer Camp 11.00am-3.00pm Mon to Thurs 3.00pm start Fri (contact [01877 330090](tel:01877330090) for information) Golf Club

## • Tuesday 2nd

- Walk in the Park Doune Ponds and Picnic (car share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

## • Wednesday 3rd

- Ramblers Ramble: Glen Tarken (8 miles) 9.30am Contact [07785 703 124](tel:07785703124)
- Walk in the Park Evening Walk 7.00pm Ancaster Square

## • Friday 5th

- **Ben Ledi View copy deadline**

## • Saturday 6th

- Ramblers Ramble: Bo'ness & Linlithgow circular (15 miles) 8.30am Contact [01786 850209](tel:01786850209)

## • Sunday 7th

- Practical Conservation Volunteer Day with Callander Landscape Partnership Contact Julie on [01389 727723](tel:01389727723)

## • Monday 8th

- Community Council meets 7.30pm Callander Hostel

## • Tuesday 9th

- Walk in the Park Loch Katrine (DRT) meet 10.20 am Ancaster Square

## • Wednesday 10th

- Walk in the Park Evening walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square
- Saturday 13th *Summerfest* begins (see main programme & brochure)
- Ramblers LDP: FCP (3)- Tayport to Guardbridge (11 miles) 8.30am Contact [01877 330032](tel:01877330032)
- Callander Brass Free Open Air Music 3.00pm Ancaster Square

- **Tuesday 16th**
- Walk in the Park NCN7 towards Kilmahog meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

## • Wednesday 17th

- Ramblers Ramble: Ben Gullipen (*Summerfest*) 6-9 miles 9.30am Contact [01877 330032](tel:01877330032)
- Walk in the Park Evening Walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square
- **Thursday 18th**
- Jim Crumley talk 'Seasons of the Wild' ( *Summerfest*) 8.00pm Kirk Hall

## • Saturday 20th

- Ramblers Ramble: Brig 'O Turk to Balquhiddy (10 miles) 8.30am Contact [01877 330059](tel:01877330059)

## • Monday 22nd

- Callander Blood Donating Session 4.00-7.30pm Kirk Hall

## • Tuesday 23rd

- Walk in the Park Bridgend and Meadows meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

## • Wednesday 24th

- Practical Conservation Volunteer Day 10.00am-3.00pm Details as for 7th July
- The Light Fantastik Orchestra and Callander Chorale concert 8.00pm Callander Kirk
- Walk in the Park Evening Walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square

## • Thursday 25th

- Doug Allan 'Wild Places' talk (*Summerfest*) 8.00pm Callander Kirk

## • Saturday 27th

- Callander Bowling Club Bottle stall from 10.00am Ancaster Square
- Callander Brass *Summerfest* Concert 1.00pm Ancaster Square
- Scottish Youth Theatre 'An Act of Repair' 8.00pm McLaren High School
- **Sunday 28th**
- Callander Highland Games 1.00-5.00pm Lagrannoch Park
- Callander Target Sports Club Clay Pigeon Shoot 10.00am Callander contact Bob Farquhar [07721 744229](tel:07721744229) to confirm times and book.

## • Tuesday 30th

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

## • Wednesday 31st

- Ramblers Stroll: Lady Mary's Walk & the Hosh, Crieff (5.5 miles) 9.30am Contact [07785 703124](tel:07785703124)
- Walk in the Park Town Walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square

## AUGUST

### Friday 2nd

### Ben Ledi View published



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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

**Book Club Review**

*Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty (Penguin, 2018)

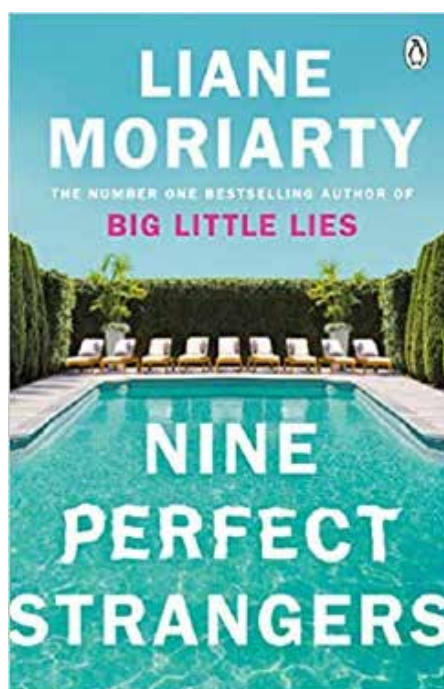
I was introduced to the author of this month's book by an Australian friend a few years ago. Liane Moriarty is a popular Sydney-based author but was little known in the UK. However, her books were propelled into the international limelight when Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon bought the television rights to her novel, 'Big Little Lies'. This has since become a hugely popular HBO American drama series, about to move into its second series and made Moriarty a worldwide popular author.

This is her ninth novel and follows her usual formula of producing a page-turning novel about modern day characters with modern day problems. The story is set at a health and wellness retreat, Tranquillum House, where nine individuals have signed up for a 10-day transformation programme.

Chapter by chapter, we are introduced to the nine participants. There's author, Frances, who is struggling with menopausal symptoms and her spinster-status as she moves into her fifties. Next is lottery-winning couple, Ben and Jessica. Then mother-of-four, Carmel, whose husband has left her for a younger woman. We have the Marconi couple with their 20-year old daughter on what seems an odd choice of family holiday. There is Lars, the serial health retreat user. And finally, Tony, the reluctant, angry, middle-aged man who's had a major health scare. It's an unlikely group of people thrust together. Each has a different background in coming to the

retreat but all have the common aim, to transform, and leave after 10-days as better versions of their current selves.

Moriarty tells a good tale. She's a master at revealing the layers of a story. Each chapter focuses in on a different character, although there's no particular pattern or chronology to this. She puts her prose back together in an unconventional order, so plot and character detail are slowly unpeeled and the reader wants more. It's not hard-hitting literary prose. I suppose if you were to look deeper, 'Nine Perfect Strangers' is tongue-in-cheek with regards to the integrity of the wellness industry. It questions our modern-day obsession with self-improvement, with the need to transform and with the people who are making money out of that. But overall, this is popular fiction at its best



– ticking all the boxes of being a good, entertaining read (and apparently Kidman has already snapped up the TV rights to this book too).

The next BLV book club review will be *The Librarian* by Salley Vickers (Viking, 2018)

*Maggie Magor*

**Art in the Kirk**

We are delighted to announce that Art in the Kirk will once again be running from 20th - 23rd August 2019. The exhibition will start with a ticketed preview evening on 20th August and then be open all day for the next three days (21st – 23rd August). We would like to take this opportunity to thank Venachar Lochside for their continued support with the preview evening and of course to all the artists and volunteers who make the exhibition possible. A terrific sum of money was raised last year and we hope to replicate this again in August with your support. If you would like to exhibit, volunteer in the tearoom, or wish to reserve tickets for the preview evening, please email: [artinthekirk@gmail.com](mailto:artinthekirk@gmail.com) for more details. We hope to see you all in August!

Lachie Finland

**Callander Writing Groups at the Summerfest**

Does your writing need a kick-start or would you like to try your hand at writing? Then come and join Callander Writing Groups for a "Workshop/Come and Try Session" on 18th July in Callander Hostel Bridgend, at 2pm. There are 2 writing groups that have been running for a few years now and, apart from enjoying writing and getting inspiration from one other, have published compilations of work completed throughout the years. This year Frances Ainslie, author and poet from Stirling, will be guiding us and giving invaluable help and tips. So come and join us for a relaxing afternoon writing at Callander Hostel.

Entry is £6 per person. For enquiries please contact --- [angelaandalan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angelaandalan@yahoo.co.uk), [mitalex@gmail.com](mailto:mitalex@gmail.com) or [jeanthewlis@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanthewlis@hotmail.com)



## Before Summerfest

Before Summerfest begins...the two events below are not to be missed. Firstly - Scottish Opera's Pop-opera will arrive in Callander with their travelling opera house for three performances on Saturday 22nd June.

The theatre, in a huge van with access ramp, is a mini version of the real thing, with a stage, opera singers, musicians and a narrator. It will be situated in McLaren Leisure car park.

There will be three 25-minute performances, suitable for all the family, whether you are an opera buff or have never seen an opera before. For young people there is 'Puffy McPuffer' and the 'Crabbit Canals'. Older audiences will enjoy 'A Little Bit of The Magic Flute' or 'A Little Bit of Iolanthe'. Performances sell out quickly so make sure you book early. See Summerfest Listings for details.

Secondly Thornhill Players Production 7th June in Aberfoyle and 8th June in Thornhill.

This summer the players are putting on three plays. One is slightly spooky, another is a light comedy with a twist and the third is a Very Scottish Comedy. This is a chance to see three plays in one evening and watch your friends perform. Both performances begin at 7.30pm, so come along and have a really enjoyable evening. Tickets are £10 and drinks will be served at the interval. Bookings by Telephone: 01786 850288.

## Entries open for photography competition celebrating the National Cycle Network across Scotland

A Scotland-wide photography competition has been launched, encouraging photographers of all ages and experience to share their best images captured along the National Cycle Network.



2018 Angela Hunter



2018 David Prisk

Created by Sustrans Scotland, supported by Scottish Canals, Scottish Wildlife Trust and Young Scot, the 'Adventures on the National Cycle Network' contest will see winning entries exhibited at the Glasgow Canal Festival, and on display throughout the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

The free competition, which runs until 22nd June, seeks to encourage participants to explore the 2,371 miles (3,815 km) of National Cycle Network routes in Scotland, and send in shots of their most memorable experiences. Having attracted more than 300 entries across three categories in its debut year, the contest aims once again to showcase the amazing array of wildlife and breath-taking scenery found along Scotland's vast network of routes.

The 2019 competition introduces a 'Young Scot' category, for ages 11-26 and young people who take part will receive 'Young Scot Rewards' points. There are four categories: Wildlife / Rural / Urban and Young Scot.

With prizes across all four categories, three shortlisted finalists from each category will also have the opportunity to have their photos displayed at both the Glasgow Canal Festival and alongside the Union Canal throughout the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Entries are open from now until 22nd June, with entry via the Sustrans website: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotphotocomp19> for more information. Shortlisted entries will be chosen and entrants notified by 1st July, with a public vote held to determine category winners throughout July. You can visit the free exhibition at Lochrin Basin, EH3 9QD, along the Union Canal in Edinburgh during the month of August.

## Callander's Rusty Strings twinned with Oundle's Rusty Strings

The concert given on 5th May by the two 'Rusty Strings' groups was a happy occasion. The bands joined together seamlessly to give a full and exuberant rendering of many favourites melodies. The solo violinist, Carolyn Sparey, gave the most beautiful and breath-taking performances of 'Meditation' from the opera 'Thais' and 'Schindler's List' from the famous Spielberg film. Both conductors, Douglas Butler and Jean Thewlis, took turns at directing the two groups. Many friendships were formed and our Rusty Strings have been invited to play in Oundle's 'International Festival of the Arts' during the summer of 2020! So, despite a previous announcement, it looks like Rusty Strings will be continuing.

Jean Thewlis



## Callander Chorale and Light Fantastik

Don't miss this opportunity to see Callander Chorale and Light Fantastik in concert at 8.00pm on 24th July in Callander Kirk. It will be presented by two excellent local groups.

'Light Fantastik' is a new orchestra, formed to show-case the lighter side of music. It will be conducted by its founder, talented local musician, Ron Thewlis, perhaps better known for his bass and piano playing. Most of the players are from the Trossachs and Stirling area and it will be led by virtuoso violinist, Carolyn Sparey (see the *Summerfest* brochure for Carolyn's duet concert).

Callander Chorale needs no introduction to



Callander folk. It is a well-known and well-loved ladies choir conducted by the equally well-known and well-loved Ian Milligan. The musical content of these groups is very similar; show and film music plus light classical favourites. It will be a lovely combination of songs and sounds, past and present, stirring memories and introducing new music. Details in the *Summerfest* Brochure. Don't miss it!



## CAOS and Callander Kirk Junior Choir

The performance of *'Annie'* was another huge success, with packed audiences showing their appreciation. Below are comments from Elizabeth Donald, from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association.

"Once again the young members of C.K.J.C. lived up to expectations, singing beautifully and moving in character. In the title role was a confident Lucy Underwood. Her hauntingly sung 'Maybe' set the bar for the show. She gave us some wonderful moments throughout and the orphans gave her great support, with Amelie Morley as Molly delighting with her direct and feisty approach. Angela Dickinson playing Miss Hannigan shows she is as trapped as the orphans and her rendition of 'Little Girls' moved everyone. Drunkenly, she balances pathos with comedy. Her brother Rooster was played wholeheartedly by Brian McKay, egged on by Lily his scheming partner, played by Gemma Ferguson. This trio gave 'Easy Street' their all. There were many good portrayals: Grace, played by Naomi Scott, graceful in song and action; Grant Webb as the impersonal Warbucks, finds his human side through his love for Annie, seen in a heartfelt 'Something was Missing'; Steve Murphy played the long suffering Drake with humour; John Gallacher bringing gravitas to the role of Roosevelt; the wonderful voice of Steven Kent as Bert Healey; and the characterisations of the orphans, the Boylan Sisters, Sophie the Kettle et al. Memorable moments also came with the chorus singing 'Hooverville'. Sets, costumes, lighting and orchestra combined to deliver a very enjoyable performance."

I hope you agree with these comments and thanks to all who have supported us, especially our audience. Our AGM is on 17th June at 7.30pm in the Fire Station and we are already planning next year's show, *'The Sound of Music'*. Our first rehearsal will be Monday 2nd September - new faces are always welcome.

*Steve Murphy for the CAOS committee.*

## Killin Music Festival

The Festival has released the last batch of tickets for their fourth annual festival, which runs from Friday 14th June through to Sunday 16th June and the tickets are expected to go fast.

The festival offers some of the best music in the Scottish Highlands. Although the line-up is impressive, the event is scaled down, so performances are intimate, and the bar areas are sociable (no queues for drinks!). There is something for all tastes – from a relaxed seated concert to bouncing night-time shows. All events are indoors or under cover, so no need to fear the weather. There are also free fringe events during the weekend, including the second festival stage, competitions and a craft fair.

For 2019 the festival welcomes the most exciting traditional bands around, including headliners Trail West, Elephant Sessions and Siobhan Miller. Taking to the stage, are soul-funk phenomenon Tom McGuire and the Brassholes, and fresh indie band The 101. There will again be music in the Portnellan Tent from Headland, Dlù and Greig Taylor. Access to the tent is free and perfect for a family day out. The tent will also be showcasing young talent from around Scotland. The full line-up is on the website.

Hurry now to purchase your tickets at [www.killinmusicfestival.com](http://www.killinmusicfestival.com).





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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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## Hopping Mad For Rabbits!

This month is all about our bob-tailed friends. Rabbit Awareness Week is 1st-9th June and is aimed at informing rabbit owners of good nutrition, husbandry and veterinary care for their little furry friends.

### Nutrition:

Did you know that 85-90% of your rabbit's diet should be made up of feeding hay and grass? This is very important for dental and gastrointestinal health. A handful of suitable fresh greens should be given twice a day. A high-quality rabbit pellet or nugget food is a good source of energy for rabbits. Muesli type diets lead to selective feeding, whereby the rabbits pick and choose what they want from the muesli and do not get all the goodness they need. This can lead to dental problems, gut stasis, obesity and reduced hay intake. Rabbits only need a tablespoon of pellets once a day (or twice a day if it is a large rabbit!). Access to fresh water at all times is a must.

### Husbandry:

Rabbits can be kept indoors or outdoors but it is important to ensure that whichever you choose they have adequate space, shelter and exercise. Rabbits should have a housing area and a run area in which they can exercise freely. The housing should be secure and have soft, dry bedding and have lots of hiding places where they can feel safe. Enrichment is very important to keep your rabbits stimulated and happy, for example tunnels and platforms. If you are keeping your rabbits outdoors, ensure their housing is well sheltered, free from drafts, dry and well ventilated.

It is important to clean your rabbit's house every day, removing uneaten food and changing soiled bedding or hay and checking them over. A full clean of the housing should be done and your rabbit ideally should be weighed once a week, with a 'deep clean' every month using an animal-safe cleaner.

### Common problems:

**Dental Disease:** This is a very

common problem in pet rabbits and is mainly seen when the rabbits are fed an inappropriate diet. By not having enough hay and grass, their teeth can become overgrown causing spurs which cut into their tongue and cheeks.

**Gut Stasis:** This is when the digestive system slows down or stops, causing a build up of gas and toxins which can be very serious and painful for your bunny. If you notice your rabbit is not eating or not passing as many faeces as normal, you should contact your vet.

**Fly Strike:** This is a particularly bad problem in the summer months. Flies lay eggs in soiled fur on rabbits, then the eggs hatch and the maggots chew the rabbit's skin. It is very important to be checking your rabbits daily and keeping them clean to prevent this problem.

**Myxomatosis, RHD V1 and RHD V2:** These are life threatening illnesses that we can help to protect your rabbit against by yearly vaccination. Myxomatosis causes uncomfortable swelling around the eyes and genitals and often leads to death. RHD Virus 1 and 2 cause sudden death in rabbits. Both diseases are highly contagious, so we do advise keeping up to date with your rabbit's vaccinations.

**More information on Rabbit Awareness Week can be found at [www.rabbitawarenessweek.co.uk](http://www.rabbitawarenessweek.co.uk).**

Wishing all our 2 and 4-legged friends a hopping good Summer!

*From Marlaidh, all the team at Riverside Vet Clinic, Callander*



## Porthos in London!

Our lovely boy has proved that he is definitely guide dog material as he has passed the test of the London Marathon with flying colours!

Hundreds of miles of travel on different kinds of transport, four different places to sleep in five days, picnics in most unusual places, including Trafalgar Square, an accidental trip to the largest shopping centre in Europe (that's another tale!) hundreds of thousands of people all shouting and blowing horns, brass bands, pipe bands, drum bands, banners, balloons, not to mention 40,000 folk running in all kinds of costumes, from rhinos to Big Ben, and Porthos took it all in his stride without putting a paw wrong during the whole trip. We are proud puppy parents!

Our daughter Ros was a star, completing the run in 4 hours and 45 minutes and, with donations still coming in, she will have raised nearly £3000 in total, for Guide Dogs. We were all welcomed after the race to a reception from Guide Dogs at a lovely Government building overlooking the Mall, where the runners could take a shower and change, have a massage if they wished and a much needed cup of tea and a sandwich. There were various volunteers from Guide Dogs looking after everyone and to our amazement Porthos met his brother, William! He was with a puppy walker from the south of England and absolutely identical. The two boys greeted each other like long lost friends and considering they hadn't met since they were six weeks old, we



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could only conclude that they really felt the connection.

On the way home, we took the opportunity to visit the Guide Dogs Breeding Centre near Leamington Spa. This was a most interesting insight into the beginning of our puppies' story and helped us understand a little more about the very careful programme that the organisation follows to actually produce these little life changers. In yet another amazing coincidence, we met the brother of Porthos's dad i.e. his uncle, who belongs to a member of staff and goes to work with her. We learnt that within an hour's journey of the Breeding Centre, there are 254 brood bitches and 96 stud dogs – quite a hormonal hotspot!!

Just back from a lovely walk in Coilhallan Woods, we feel so blessed that we don't live in London and although Porthos could well end up in the south of England, he has grown up in this beautiful place. We have now heard that he has even longer to enjoy the woods as he will be with us until July.

*Marilyn and Steve Willett*



## Cats' Protection Campaign

Stephen Kerr, MP for Stirling, met with volunteers from Cats' Protection and staff at the Bruceview vets practice to raise awareness of the campaign being run by the organisation in conjunction with local vets that allows people to get their cats 'snipped and chipped' for £5.

Cats Protection have recently launched a £5 Snip & Chip campaign across Forth Valley for all eligible cat owners. This allows cat owners who are on a low income, benefits, pensioners, or students to get their cats snipped & chipped from only £5. Getting your cat neutered has lots of health and welfare benefits. As well as preventing unplanned litters, it helps protect them from nasty diseases and some cancers. If your cat's chipped this increases the chances of a happy reunion should they go missing.

There are a number of vets across Forth Valley who are supporting the campaign and eligible cat owners simply find their nearest participating vet by going to [www.cats.org.uk/forth-valley](http://www.cats.org.uk/forth-valley) - and make an appointment. Cats Protection are also on the prowl for cat loving volunteers to help them help more cats across Forth Valley. For more information on our volunteer roles please contact Sarah Reid on 0797 6432709

Stephen Kerr said, "This is a really good campaign and a great opportunity for those that may find the costs involved difficult to manage. This helps with your pets health and means that your much loved moggy can easily be identified should it go missing."

You can contact Cats' Protections' Sarah Reid on  
Tel: **07976432709**  
E: [Sarah.Reid@cats.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Reid@cats.org.uk)  
W: [www.cats.org.uk](http://www.cats.org.uk)

Photo below shows Stephen with Lorna Campbell ( Bruceview vets staff) Leigh Johnston and Sarah Reid (Cats Protection)



## Blood Donation sessions

Callander Kirk Hall

Monday 22nd July 2019

16.00-19.30

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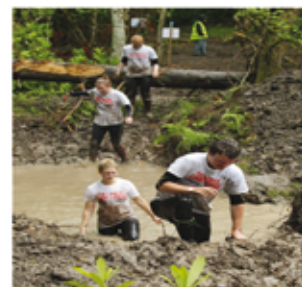
# THE LANRICK CHALLENGE

## EMBRACE IT • SURVIVE IT



The Lanrick Challenge is an "Epic Wilderness Charity Challenge" held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, in the grounds of Lanrick estate just outside Doune. Having raised £80,000 over the past few years the Lanrick Challenge is proud to be going into its 6<sup>th</sup> year.

The Lanrick Challenge is great fun: it pushes people, but is very doable and there is a great sense of achievement at the end. It winds its way through the woodland, ditches, ponds, hillsides and along the banks of the River Teith, with stunning views of Ben Ledi along the way.



Whether as an individual or as part of a team this could be a great challenge for you for 2019!



The 48 obstacle challenge is suitable for all fitness levels. Competitors are encouraged to walk it, jog it or sprint their way around the 6k or 12k course at the same time as helping to support two key charities that benefit everyone in Scotland; The Sandpiper Trust and Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. There is also a mini mud run suitable for the 5-12 age group. This has been a very popular addition over the last couple of years.

The Dickson family, who live at Lanrick and are the Founders of The Sandpiper Trust, set up the Lanrick Challenge in 2014. The family are extremely proud to host this event for a sixth year. Championing The Sandpiper Trust and Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance means connecting with local communities and being part of an on-going commitment to saving lives and delivering emergency medical care by air and overland in Scotland.

As well as competitors, the challenge requires a dedicated team of marshals on the course and other volunteers. In total, 85 people give of their time to keep people safe and encourage them on the course. The Ochil Mountain Rescue are invaluable as are BASICS Scotland (The British Association of Immediate Care) who are a dedicated team of Doctors and Paramedics who give of their time to save lives in medical emergencies throughout remote and rural Scotland. They assist in CPR awareness sessions as part of the warm up for competitors.





**SATURDAY**  
**3RD**  
**AUGUST**  
**2019**



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

Charity No. - SC041645  
[www.scaa.org.uk](http://www.scaa.org.uk)



## Callander Target Sports Club



**Club news:** - We are pleased to announce that our three club members (Alistair Buchanan-Winch, Bertie and James Galloway) all successfully shot for Scotland and their respective schools in an International (5 nations) Schools prone rifle competition. Unfortunately, they came a close second to England. However, this was shooting at a very high level for our three junior members.

**Cumbria & Northumbria:** - The club has competed competitively in the winter shooting Leagues, with the following results:

Bridget Doubleday won the prestigious individual top Div 1 in both 10m Air Pistol and Rapid Fire Air Pistol – well done Bridget.

James Martin won Rapid Fire Rifle Div 3 and 10m Air Pistol Div 4.

David Rees won Rapid Fire Rifle Div 2 and 2nd was Willie Jenkins.

John Gardiner won Long Range Benchrest Div 7 and Colin Tawse came 2nd in Div 6.

**Perthshire Short Range Benchrest:** - A total of 11 members shot this discipline with the following results:

Jonathan Morton won Div 5 by 6 clear points, well done Jonathan.

Willie Jenkins was 2nd in Div 2 and John Johnson was 2nd in Div 3, losing out by a single point!

### Perthshire Prone results:

The “A” team won the top Div 1 by 8 clear points from Hawick, thanks to Gordon Motion, Gordon Winch, John (Mike) Buchanan, Cliff Ogle and Hamish Rae.

The “B” team were unfortunate to come second in Div 4 to Sands, losing out by 1 point, but with a better “shot” score.

Unlucky team was: Alasdair B-Winch, Fiona Reid, Jonathon Richards, John Russell, Colin Tawse and Tam Pate.

Our Junior team, although they finished the season in 5th place, this was a good experience for them, as they are learning all the time and will be better next season.

### Individual League results:

Hamish Rae won Div 11 by 4 points, Jonathan Richards also won Div 19 by 4 points and young Alasdair Buchanan-Winch won Div 21 by 5 points.

Gordon Winch was 2nd in Div 2, Fiona Reid 2nd in Div 13, Colin Tawse 2nd in Div 20 and Sam Petrie 2nd in Div 32.

**Gallery Rifle:** - Our shooters have been competing throughout the winter in an intra-club handicapped challenge competition. In general, most competitions are for cups or medals, but in Callander we like to be different, so rather than compete for a cup, we decided to compete for a Teapot.

With all the qualifying rounds completed, a prize giving ceremony was held, with the winner announced as Colin Tawse, 2nd James Martin and 3rd Willie Jenkins. Following this success, the competition will now become an annual event.

On the 21st of April a team of five travelled down to a club just outside Galashiels in the borders to compete in the JSPC club open. This was the first event that they had been to and although they didn't win any medals they had some serious competition with shooters from Team GB and Team England as well as many local shooters.

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

John Russell

## Summer Activities

The summer holidays are fast approaching, but we have a full programme of activities planned to keep your kids busy!

Our popular Kids' camp for primary age children will run from 1st July to 16th August, with lots of fun activities, including swimming, climbing, team games and much more!

There is also our Motivate Class for children aged 4-5 years - this 2 hour session includes activities such as sports, games, bouncy castle fun and more. Motivate will run Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-12:00 from 15th July for 4 weeks.

Our Monday Swimming classes will run from 8th July – 12th August (excl. 29th July) for pre-schoolers and beginners and our 5 day Swim School intensive will run from Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd August.

Spike Island (inflatables) will also run throughout the holidays every Friday 19:30-20:30 (primary) and 20:30-21:30 (high school). Suitable for 8-15 years, users must be able to swim 20M unaided – great fun for racing with your friends!

Speak to a member of staff or check out further details on our website and social media.

Jane McGeary [01877330000](tel:01877330000)

[jane@mclarenleisure.co.uk](mailto:jane@mclarenleisure.co.uk)



## Callander Bowling Club

President Stuart Aitchison greeted all members and visitors to the opening of the green on Saturday 13th April. He invited one of our junior members, Douglas Scott (pictured), to roll the inaugural jack and two bowls to officially start our season.

A friendly, enjoyable match between the President's and Vice-President's teams followed, with the President taking the spoils.

We are well into our 2 competitive league seasons by now.

Thank you to all who attended our "Try Bowls" event in early May. We have an open light-hearted get together on Monday evenings (7pm start), so if you are interested in trying the game, come along. We have spare bowls available (please wear flat soled shoes).

### BOTTLE STALL

We hold our annual fund raising bottle stall in Ancaster Square on Saturday 27th July, starting at 10am. Donations for the stall are welcome from members and friends.

Contact: Donald on [07513488453](tel:07513488453)



## Callander Thistle AFC Season Review

Well, it's been an eventful 2018/19 Season for Callander Thistle which came to an end on Wednesday 1st May 2019. This season the club has had to deal with a change in Management in September with David Mclean taking over from George Ward. The team ended up finishing 6th in the Caledonian League 1A, reaching the quarter finals of the league cup, but the most impressive aspect of the season was reaching the Semi Final of the East of Scotland Cup Final at Falkirk Stadium. A feat never before achieved by the club and something the current squad should be very proud of. This season has seen the club add some very good players to our already talented squad and with the average age of the team only 25, this group of players will be looking to push on and have a very successful season in 2019/20 and beyond. We would like to thank all our sponsors, Blair Craig, David Gillespie Tilling, Scottish Sea Farms, Donald Paterson Photography and R&R Campbell. We would also like to say a special thanks to our 2 main sponsors, McLaren Leisure Centre for hosting all our training and match days, and the Waverley Hotel for hosting us after each match and we look forward to continuing to work with you all as the club grows.

## Youth Section Update

In 2019 the club started up its youth section, starting with children born between 2010 – 2012. We look forward to these teams joining their first league set up in August 2019. The Club has plans to add more youth teams in the coming years and the long term plan is to set up football teams for boys and girls in every age group and really transform Callander Thistle into a Community Club, something for everyone.

## Callander Thistle Inaugural Golf Day Open

On Friday, 21st June 2019, Callander Thistle will host its first ever Golf Open at Callander Golf Club. This event is open to Men and Women of all ages and ability. All money raised will go to help the running and development of Callander Thistle FC. We are currently looking for Sponsorship for the day and this can be done by sponsoring one of the holes 1-16 at a cost of £50.00. We are also looking for people to come along on the day and play in the Open tournament and for this we are charging £140 per 4 ball (which guarantees you play together) or £35pp and you will be allocated a tee off with other supporters on the day. All players will receive a round of golf and a hot buffet afterwards. We will also have a presentation for the winner and various other challenges. We would welcome the whole of the community to come along and support us on the day and help us to achieve a highly successful event. Anyone interested in either playing or sponsoring the event, please contact the club [callanderthistleafc@gmail.com](mailto:callanderthistleafc@gmail.com)

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](mailto:callanderthistleafc@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook.

*David Mclean*





### Callander Golf Junior Section

**W**ith the great success of previous years we will again be hosting our Junior Golf Summer Camp from Monday 1st July to Thursday 4th July between 11am and 3pm with a competition followed by a prize-giving on Friday the 5th July, starting at 3pm. The summer camp is for children aged 7 to 16. If you are interested in joining us please contact the club on 01877 330090 as soon as possible as there are limited spaces available. Please bring your own packed lunch



For more information, please phone Evelyn on [01877 330090](tel:01877 330090)

### Sea to Sea for Parkinsons UK

**L**ast year I took part in Pedal for Parkinsons (see issue 302 of the BLV) – an organised event of 63 miles starting and finishing in Stirling. This year I wanted to raise more vital money for Parkinsons UK. My mum was diagnosed with Parkinsons in March 2015 so this means a lot to me.

It will also be 10 years this June since I cycled Lands End to John O' Groats (LEJOG) for charity so I wanted to set myself an anniversary challenge. The route had to be achievable in a day as a 3 week challenge wasn't going to be practical this time! Consequently, I decided upon the Sea to Sea route, which goes from Whitehaven on the Irish Sea to Tynemouth on the North Sea, a total of 140 miles: usually takes 3 to 5 days to complete; I intend to do it in a day. This will be no easy challenge. I will be pushing myself out of my cycling comfort zone, never having done 140 miles. There are climbs of 10,000ft in total. That's over 3 Munros!! The national cycle network route has almost 80 miles of good, traffic free riding I will be doing the ride on the same bike I used 10 years ago with my friend, Kirsten, with whom I did LEJOG. She lives in Durham so our only meeting has been for planning. We settled on Saturday 15th June as it was as near as possible to the longest day to make use of daylight hours on the bike.

I have been training every weekend since the end of January trying to build up stamina and strength, gradually building up to 8-hour rides. The one on Easter Saturday I was slogging up the Dukes Pass and around Loch Katrine to complete an 80-mile ride! The following weekend I had a water bottle incident on my ride. Coming down Tak Ma Doon hill I hit a bump in the road and my water bottle fell out of its cage. It got itself lodged under my back wheel causing me to skid. I fell off elegantly into the grass verge! I was ok, slight bruising on my arm and leg, bike fine, water bottle wasn't so lucky though!

There will be 3 main challenges to the ride:

- 1) Mental strength- pushing through the pain barrier, keeping going even when my legs are tired and my bum sore!
- 2) Fuelling – making sure I keep eating enough calories throughout the day. My husband and my mum will be support crew to meet up and replenish our water and flapjack/bananas etc.
- 3) Fatigue – the heat could exacerbate it; on the LEJOG ride I had first-hand experience of this, managing to momentarily fall asleep whilst riding; fortunately having a soft landing in a ditch!

To help my preparation I've also signed up for spinning classes at McLaren Leisure Centre. That's not weaving as one friend asked me! It's a high intensity, instructor led cycle on static bikes.

By the time the BLV is published it'll only be 2 weeks to go until the ride, so all the significant preparations will be complete. We will set off at 5am on Saturday 15 June and hope to finish by 7pm, in time for a much-needed shower and dinner.

If you would like to sponsor me for the ride to help raise vital funds for Parkinsons UK then please go to my Just Giving page -

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/isla-routledge3>





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**Callander Fire Brigade: 999**

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

## Doctors' Surgeries

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

## Vets

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

## Schools

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

## Travel

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



## Callander Kirk

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

## Sunday services

**All June, July, August**

10.00am Early Service

**Morning Service at 11.15am except**  
 Third Sunday in Month Informal Communion

Last Sunday in Month All-Age Service

**Every Sunday**

7.00pm Time for Silence

**Every Sunday in July, August**

8.00pm Songs of Praise

**First Sunday of every month**

3.00pm Trossachs monthly service

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

## Bin Collections

### June

**Grey/Blue bins** Sat. 1st, 15th, 29th

**Brown bin/Blue box** Sat. 22nd

**Brown/ Green bins** Sat. 8th

### JULY

**Grey/Blue bins** Sat. 13th, 27th

**Brown bin/Blue box** Sat. 20th

**Brown/Green bins** Sat. 6th

### AUGUST

**Grey/Blue bins** Sat. 10th, 24th

**Brown bin/Blue box** 17th

**Brown/Green Bins** 3rd, 31st

[www.stirling.gov.uk/waste](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/waste)

## Lagrannoch WRC Opening times

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



## Saint Andrew's

*Scottish Episcopal Church,  
 Leny Road, Callander*

**Sunday:** 10.00am Holy Communion

**Wednesday:** 10.00am Holy Communion

For any information please contact:

**Rev Richard Grosse** tel 382887

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



## Weekly Services:

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

**Prayer Time** Monday 8.00pm

**Callander Home Group** Wednesday 7.30pm

**Doune Home Group** Tuesday 8.00pm

Everyone is welcome to these services

For venue details for our weekday services please contact

**Pastor Brian Gooding** tel 331845

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

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

**Facebook:** #stirlingbaptistatcallander

## Recreation

- Leisure Centre: 01877 330000
- Library: 01877 331544
- Visitor Information Centre:

## Floods & Environment

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

## Location of defibrillators

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

## BLV Deadlines

The next issue of the *Ben Ledi View* will be published on **Friday 2nd August 2019.**

## Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the August-September issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Isla Routledge at [advertising@benlediview.co.uk](mailto:advertising@benlediview.co.uk) by **Friday 5th July 2019.**

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

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

## Editorial copy

All editorial contributions for the August-September issue should be emailed to [editor@benlediview.co.uk](mailto:editor@benlediview.co.uk) or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday 5th July 2019.**

Items received after the deadline may be held over to the October-November 2019 edition



**Dorothy Kinloch in Windsor**

On Thursday 18th April 2019, Dorothy Kinloch received the prestigious award of Maunday Thursday coins. She was invited to attend a service at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, for a day of celebration and to be presented with the award by Her Majesty the Queen. Dorothy's involvement and relentless service to the Church and Presbytery was recognised. A fantastic and very well-deserved achievement. Well done Dorothy!

**A Heartfelt thanks**

May I through your newspaper thank the staff and customers in Mhor Bakery, particularly the lady member of staff who helped me when I passed out in the bakery on Easter Monday. This lady was very kind and reassuring and knelt on the floor beside me for some time till the ambulance crew arrived, talking to me all the time and cooling my face and neck.

The ambulance crew were also very kind and reassuring. They took me to Forth Valley Hospital to be checked out. The crew had just returned from Forth Valley to Callander on a previous callout and were on their way to their lunch break, when they got the call to come to me and then go back to Forth Valley. By the time they got back to their base they must have been tired and hungry, so I very much appreciate their kindness and care.

Fortunately I got the all clear, no heart attack, no stroke, just a faint, probably brought on by the heat,

dehydration and a drop in blood pressure.

Many thanks to all those who helped me and my friend, we appreciate their concern and help. We'll be back to Callander before too long, a very kind friendly town.

*Yours sincerely  
Sandra Goldie*

**Peter Waugh**

Peter's family thank all family, friends and neighbours for the cards, flowers and messages of condolence received at this sad time.

A heartfelt thanks to Drs Mathewson and Gibson, the nurses and the Strathcarron at Home team, and George of Somers and Currid for all their support and services.

*Christine McEwan*

**Father Jim McCruden**

Father Jim McCruden, who lived in Callander, served as a priest of St Fillan's Parish for 26 years. The parish is extensive, covering 1000 sq. miles, and he celebrated mass every Sunday, first in Doune, then St Joseph's in Callander, and finishing up in Killin.

He was born and brought up in St Andrews and was proud to be descended, on his mother's side, from the fishing community in the town. The middle child of three, he spent an idyllic childhood with his head always in a book and singing in the Episcopal church choir.

He was so fond of history and reading that his mother had to chase him out of the house to get some fresh air. Young Jimmy's love of history and old architecture was fostered by an aunt and uncle who were in service. He visited them every Saturday in his teenage years and was fascinated by the history of the family who employed them and the upstairs/downstairs life. He had a strong sense of family and maintained close links with his brother and sister, nephews and nieces and their families.

After attending Madras College as a pupil, Jimmy (as he was known to his family) went on to read Medieval and Modern History at St Andrews University. There he became intrigued by religion, spirituality and the

different denominations of Christianity and joined the Student Christian Movement society.

In 1982 he decided to convert to Catholicism; two years later, answering a call to the priesthood, he went to the Beda College in Rome to study. After completing his studies he served at the Friary in Dundee and at St John's in Perth before being given the parish of St Fillan's.

After University, Jimmy trained as a teacher at Moray House in Edinburgh and returned to Madras College as a History teacher. It was here that he honed the skills of oratory and teaching which served him so well as a parish priest. His sermons were interesting, thought provoking and often peppered with historical references. He didn't shy away from controversy and preached honestly, with great integrity and compassion for all. This extended to his duties as pastor throughout the parish, where he visited the elderly, the sick and the housebound, regardless of their denomination. People in need were his concern, and this attitude endeared him to both his parishioners and the wider community.

Away from the rigours of parish life, Father Jim indulged his love of walking, birdwatching and medieval architecture. His favourite haunts were Montrose Basin, Glen Esk, Berwick and the Dales. His love of medieval architecture led him to choose Careston near Brechin as the place of his burial. However, all these wonderful attributes should not blind the reader to his faults. Father Jim was notoriously absentminded and possibly not the best driver in the world; indeed many of his friends and family members were reluctant to be driven by him. His absentmindedness led him to forget about weddings, baptisms (until prompted at the last minute) and visits by the bishop. He once sent a card in the wrong name to celebrate the wedding of his niece and her husband.

Father Jim was a quiet and humble man, with a wicked sense of humour, whose guidance and care are sorely missed by all, especially his congregation.

## 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.*

### Sheila Allan

21-2-41 to 2-1-19 – 77 Years Young

Sheila, the youngest of four children, was born to Alice and Richard Hartley in Colne, Lancashire on 21-2-1941.

Growing up in Lancashire she worked in the cotton mills. At the tender age of 19 she decided to travel the world with her friend Shirley. They landed in Killin, Scotland. Here she met Dougie, whom she married in 1963. By 1967 Sheila & Dougie had three children Brian, Lesley and Janie. Together with their respective spouses, Michelle, Willie and Mark, they were provided with seven grandchildren, Christie, Ross, Billy, Emily, Struan, Anna and Jessica, all of whom she was immensely proud.

Sheila was a very kind and loving wife, mother, granny and friend to all. She loved to take care of people. Her house or her palace, as her family called it, was always a busy home. Cakes and tea were always available along with lots of fun and laughter. One of Sheila's quotes was "my door is always open to my family and friends." Indeed, many a story can be told whilst Brian, Lesley and Janie were growing up. In their teenage years, at 12 Ballechroisk, it was a hub of activity where Sheila kept a close eye on them all. She used to say to them "I'll know what you are up to before you do" and they thought she did: nothing went past her.

She was a very hard worker and for many years she and Dougie successfully ran the paper shop in Killin. When they moved to Callander, they took on a new venture of Bed and Breakfast and then the fishing tackle shop

Over the years Sheila enjoyed many wonderful holidays at home and abroad with her family and friends. She made many trips to Australia to visit Brian and family, spending quality time with them.

Sheila loved to walk and enjoyed meeting up with one of the local walking groups in Callander. In her earlier years she enjoyed a game of

golf at Killin Golf Club.

She was a very strong and determined lady who endured three hip replacements. In her unique style she rolled up her sleeves and faced the many challenges of life without complaint.

Her family miss her immensely but she will be with them in their thoughts and hearts forever as she has left them with so many wonderful memories to treasure and share with each other.

Dougie, Brian, Lesley, Janie & family are extremely grateful for the outpouring of love and support they have received.

A total of £1210 was collected and donated to the Youth Cancer Trust in Sheila's memory.

*The Allan Family*

### Dear Sir,

Further to your cover article on the Station Road flats, I am writing to add our own joy over the completion of this construction work. The joy is twofold; one of genuine appreciation of homes for people and we are pleased to have them as neighbours – we wish them every happiness in their new abodes! However, the other joy is one of relief, that the work has ended.

Living beside a building site is not going to be a peaceful or meditative environment. We understand that noise, vibration and dirt are part of the deal. Living back to back with the old post office often meant a rude awakening when the mail was delivered very early in the morning and the postmen would be yakking and laughing as they got the post in. The problem comes when rules, which are laid down as to the hours during which that noise is to be permitted, are broken and I am afraid to say that Marshalls, the firm responsible for construction, consistently allowed those rules to be broken – whether it was their own programme of works or their sub-contractors programme, during the course of the project.

The range of contraventions of this nature spanned from early hours to weekends and on a few occasions into the latest evening hours during

the summer months, although work tended generally to start early and finish early afternoon. One of the most ridiculous examples of this was a machine operator arriving at 7am and sitting in the cab of his digger with the engine running until his colleagues arrived closer to 8am, a mere fifteen feet or so from our bedroom window. That went on for months, without fail. At the other end of the day men were working until nearly 10pm on the site. The incessant nature of the work spilled into weekends and holiday times. What I find most regrettable in all this, however, is the utter lack of clout that the National Park was able to bring to bear over this matter, despite discussions I had with the planning dept. I was given the detail of agreed working times but despite pressure by councillors and other political representatives, nothing was done – the reasons being that "planning is not intended to be a punitive system so I can't take action against them for previous breaches when they have stated they will comply with the condition. It would also not be in the public interest to take action when it is so close to completion. Working hours/noise conditions are difficult to enforce and we always try to resolve the issue through contact and agreement with the contractor in the first instance as per our enforcement charter which I have attached".

The contact and agreement meant nothing for the reasons given by the officer. Pretty meaningless and an empty handed gesture if ever there was one. The simple argument is: does the law mean anything in this situation? Do government bodies manipulate situations for their own convenience? Are the needs of local citizens put first?

Your views please

*Gavin Millar.*

### Crossword Winner

Crossword no. 141 winner is:  
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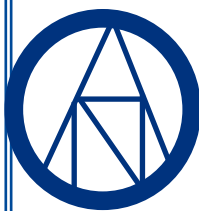
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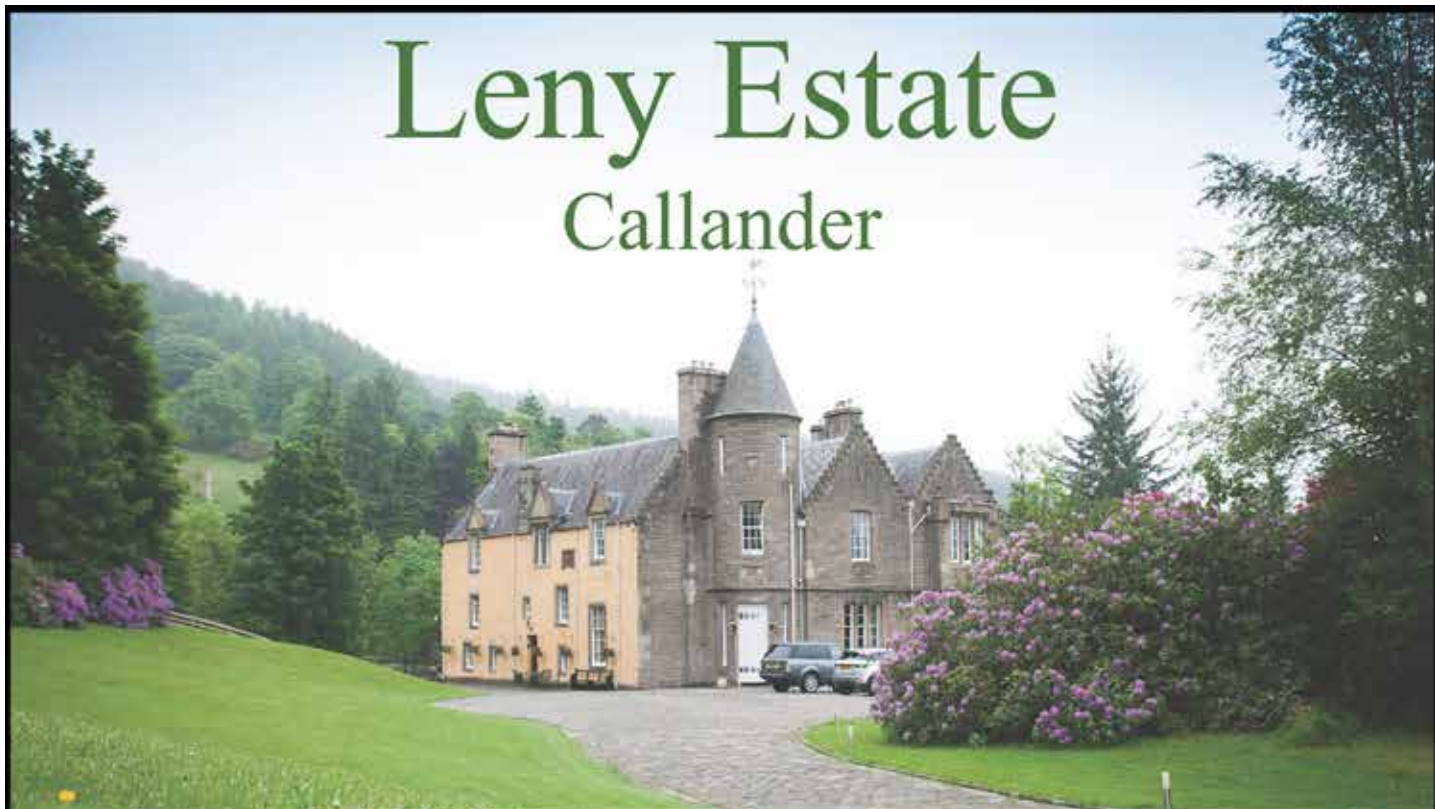
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