

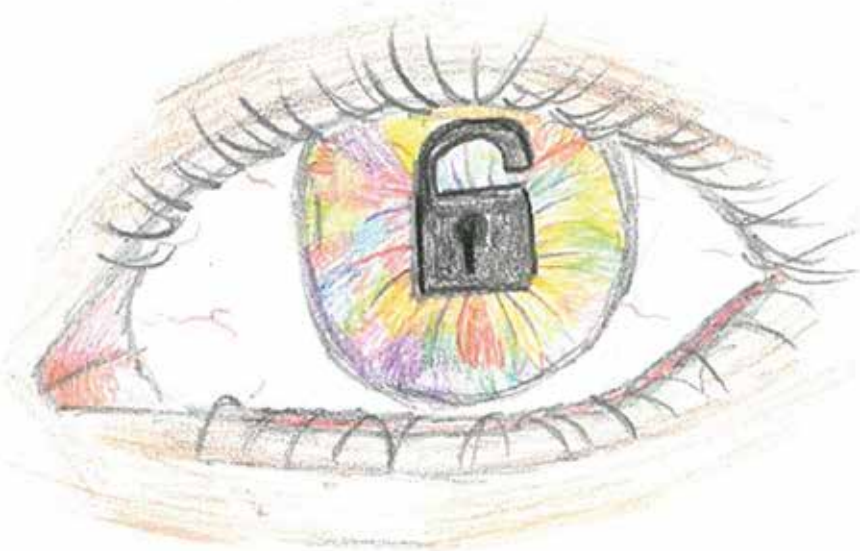
# Ben Ledi View

Apr/May 2020

Issue 311

Cover Price £1

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Callander Enterprise is delighted to sponsor this issue of Ben Ledi View

# Ben Ledi View

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The Ben Ledi View is a community newspaper run by volunteers containing articles, photographs and letters from members of the community. Views expressed are those of the writer. The Editorial Team of the BLV reserves the right to shorten or not publish letters and articles. We assume that photographers have obtained permission from those shown in their picture and can take no responsibility if this is not the case. Contact details are required for articles. For a letter to be published an address is required but will not be published or held on file.

The *Ben Ledi View* is published by  
**Ben Ledi View Community Newspaper**

**Cover photo** by Fraser Cronin (age 14)

**Cover Graphic** by Kathryn Ferry (Primary 7)



Hello Readers

I'm writing this the day after we received the Government's advice around the coronavirus. Given that Callander has a quite a few people over 70 and is dependent on visitors for its economic wellbeing these are going to be challenging times ahead. Callander does have a tremendous community spirit, however, and I'm sure we can all pull together to support each other through this current crisis. For further details of how you can volunteer your time to help please go to the Callander Community Support Facebook page on [fb.me/helpingcallander](https://fb.me/helpingcallander).

Given that the situation around community activities is changing on a daily basis I can only apologise to readers if many of the planned events that we mention in the magazine are postponed or cancelled. We have prioritised getting the magazine out on time in these difficult times so that we can help support the community of Callander. By the time you are reading this we should be only one week to go until Easter and (hopefully) better weather! This has been the wettest winter I've known in Callander, but thankfully we've not had the damaging floods that have occurred in England.

Some good news to report. We are very fortunate in being able to recruit Callander's citizen of the year, Ronnie

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Forbes, to the post of Secretary of the Ben Ledi View and as member of our trustee committee. Welcome to the team Ronnie! We also have been able to successfully recruit someone to take over the role of advertising co-ordinator of the Ben Ledi View. Isla Routledge has been performing this demanding role admirably for nearly four years, but is now handing over the reins to Wendy Munro. Wendy is from the USA and moved to Callander relatively recently. She has a breadth of experience from working all over the world and is a very welcome addition to the team.

I have an interesting request to pass on to you all. Stirling Council have requested any old photos of flooding in Callander, prior to 2000, to supplement their records which are only easily available in digitised form from the beginning of this century. They have limited access to earlier flood data and in order to help them collect information and provide background to support any proposed flood alleviation scheme, we are asking for your help. If you have any old photos together with their dates and if possible, any measurements taken at the time, e.g. of water depth etc, then please can you send them to InCallander Facebook page, or e-mail to [secretary@incallander.co.uk](mailto:secretary@incallander.co.uk).

Once again, I'd like to thank the dozens of volunteers who give up their valuable time to ensure the Ben Ledi View is published on time and, in my humble opinion, is of a consistently high quality. Please contact me at [convenor@benlediview.org](mailto:convenor@benlediview.org) with any suggestions of possible additions or changes to the magazine.

*Convenor.*

## Subscriptions

If you would like to join the BLV mailing list or send a copy to friends or family, please send your details to us  
Email: [benlediviewsubscriptions@gmail.com](mailto:benlediviewsubscriptions@gmail.com)

Annual cost UK £15: Outside UK £40  
Please make cheques to Ben Ledi View  
Community Newspaper SCIO.

Or you can ask to join our email list and we will send you out a copy by email each month free of charge.

## Callander Golf Club

The 130-year-old club applied to build a new base, off Aveland Road, in a bid to safeguard the future of the club and has put the current clubhouse up for sale. It is planned to build the new clubhouse on the plot of an existing practice shed which will be relocated within the site. In their decision, park planners said: "The existing clubhouse is too large for the needs of the club and is costly to heat and maintain. The club intends to sell the existing clubhouse and relocate to a new smaller clubhouse to the north of the existing main car park. The club provides a valued outdoor sports facility for both locals and visitors. The principle of a new clubhouse within the grounds of the course is supported by policies which support the retention of outdoor sports and community facilities. The change of use of the existing clubhouse is not part of this application and would need to be considered on its own merits. It is noted, however, that the existing clubhouse is close to existing residential properties and has its own separate access and parking."

Planners consider the 'modest size' of the new clubhouse – to be constructed in the style of a timber chalet with shallow pitch roof – would have no adverse landscape impact and was further away from residential properties than the existing facility. Parking and access arrangements remain the same.

Callander Golf Club was founded in 1889 and moved to its current location in 1892. The nine-hole course layout was designed by the famous Scottish golfer Old Tom Morris and served the community and visitors well until 1914. In May of that year, Callander Town Council purchased the existing course and adjacent land to create an 18-hole course. Willie Fernie, a Scottish golf course designer from Troon, was engaged to make the required changes.

A spokesperson for the club said recently that the new clubhouse would be a modern, cost effective and energy efficient building, "It will provide both members and visitors with a comfortable lounge area, kitchen and bar, changing facilities, toilets and office. Crucially these essential changes will assist in ensuring that the Callander community and businesses and wider Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park area do not lose the wonderful facility that is Callander Golf Course. The existing building will be developed by the purchaser in accordance with the requirements of and with the approval of the planning department at the National Park."

## Visitor Information Centre

The community-run Visitor Information Centre opens for business again on April 4th. We will be open on weekends (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) during April and May and then 7 days a week throughout the summer season. Last year, we welcomed over 20,000 visitors during the season, and we hope to exceed that figure this year! In our first year of operation the Sir Walter Scott Steamship Company provided our team of volunteers with staffing and administrative support, but sadly they cannot provide this to the same level in 2020. They are still an active partner and continuing to provide some financial support. The Callander Community Development Trust and the Callander Community Council have agreed to provide additional financial support through the Hydro and Airticity funds. This funding allows us to employ a part-time manager to oversee the day-to-day running of the centre and we are delighted to appoint Paula Gardiner to this post. Paula comes to us with a wealth of relevant experience, having worked at the VisitScotland Callander tourist information centre for several years. We are one of only a handful of community-run information centres in Scotland and rely on the generosity of our volunteers: giving their time, knowledge and experience to support local businesses, community organisations and accommodation providers as well as our visitors. We have a wonderful group of volunteers and always welcome new faces to the team. Thinking about getting more involved with your local community, enjoy meeting new people and sharing your passion for the area? please get in touch at [coordinator@callandercdt.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@callandercdt.org.uk)

## Callander Flood Protection Update

A public meeting was held on 2nd March. Many local people saw a presentation followed by a question and answer session. Thereafter they were able to chat with professionals. Stirling Council (SC), were open to the idea that other solutions for flooding were possible but had to fit in with the Scottish Government funding, which has been prioritised specifically for protecting Callander from the river. SC are planning another session in April, (dates tbc), where they will give feedback from questions raised and the questionnaire issued in early March. People will be able to submit information and photographic evidence about flooding in Callander. This is an opportunity to have your voice heard, please come along. SC are now trying to find out what the community needs are regarding flooding. It does raise the question why they firstly came up with the 'solution', (the wall in the car park), and are only now trying to gather information about the needs of the community? SC have been working on this flood scheme for several years, but the community have only been aware of it for a few months.

The Community Council believe more time is required to ascertain, co-ordinate and express the views of the community and to explore other options. It therefore has asked SC to temporarily put the scheme on hold to enable the Community Council to fulfil its statutory purpose.

Flooding, especially from the river, has a direct impact on Callander.

Flooding from thunderstorms can impact almost anywhere and issues about upgrading culverts and the maintenance of gullies are a matter for us all. How the car park area could change to be a landscaped attraction, while also protecting properties from flooding is of concern to all. Details of opportunities to get involved will be posted on the Community Council Facebook page at

[www.facebook.com/ourcallandercommunitycouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/ourcallandercommunitycouncil/)

For more information or to pass on your views, please contact Callander Community Council either by Facebook or by email at [callandercc556@gmail.com](mailto:callandercc556@gmail.com)



## Coffee, Cake, Chatter



The Pottingshed Café bistro, a cosy relaxed refuge in the walled gardens of Roman Camp Hotel; serving coffee, snacks, lunch & dinner.

Roman Camp Hotel, Walled Garden, Callander FK17 8BG  
[www.romancamphotel.co.uk](http://www.romancamphotel.co.uk) [mail@romancamphotel.co.uk](mailto:mail@romancamphotel.co.uk)  
 Bistro 01877 332692 ~ Hotel 01877 330003



## Glen Finglas Events 2020

Join us for a walk, learn a new skill or have a little fun with friends and family at Glen Finglas, Brig o' Turk, Callander, Stirlingshire FK17 8HR.

For more information or to book your place for any of these events:

[woodlandtrust.org.uk/events/](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/events/)  
[centralevents@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:centralevents@woodlandtrust.org.uk)  
 0330 333 3300



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McLean & Stewart are long established Estate Agents in Dunblane and formerly of Callander. We have years of experience in the valuation and marketing of residential and commercial property. We offer a free valuation of your property and will market your property at a competitive rate. We have recently launched our new Property Centre in Dunblane and our Jackie Park would be delighted to welcome you to the new office and discuss the purchase or sale of a property.

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### Powers of Attorney

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

### Conveyancing

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

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## STRATHYRE MUSIC FESTIVAL 2020

(31<sup>st</sup> of July & 1<sup>st</sup> of August)

### CALL FOR STALL HOLDERS & MUSICIANS

The Strathyre Music Festival Market Area is open between 11am till 5pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

We are looking for stalls from local businesses, producers & charities. Also musicians to play on the Buskers Stage.

For a stall or a slot contact Andy Bates  
[agbates49@gmail.com](mailto:agbates49@gmail.com).

## The Handy Cornershop

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### Callander Outreach Service

Wednesday 10am – 4pm

Callander Library

Drop-in, no appointment necessary

(home visits also available)

Tel: 07931 334828

## Street Cleaning Machine

As many of you know, Colin our long-serving street cleaner had the use of a machine until last year. This helped him keep Callander tidy and was a huge help in his considerable efforts that I know are appreciated by residents and visitors alike. This machine broke down and could not be repaired. At that time the Council were not going to replace it. The Community Council and I made the case for why such a machine is needed. Callander is a major visitor attraction and the council needed to replace this machine to help Colin do his job as efficiently as possible. I am delighted to advise that the original decision was reversed, a new machine secured, and it arrived in the Callander depot at the end of January. It will be back on the streets of Callander soon.



*Martin Earl*

## Community Project Funding

Do you have a project that you think will benefit the community in Callander? You could get financial support from the Callander Community Hydro Fund. The money comes from a hydro electric generating scheme in Stank Glen near Loch Lubnaig that is operated by a limited company owned by Callander Community Development Trust. The company gifts a proportion of its profits to the Development Trust who run the Hydro Fund.



The next deadline for applications is 30th June for a decision in early August. Any individual or group can apply. You just need to show how your project will make a difference. There is no minimum or maximum amount you can apply for but in practice the funds are not unlimited. At present a total of about £50,000 goes into the fund gifted in four payments over the year. Larger awards may be offered in instalments, subject to funds being available.

Since May 2019 the following awards were made:

Loch Venachar Sailing Club: purchase of club site £2,000

Stirling Citizens' Advice Bureau: Callander outreach £11,000

Callander Visitor Information Centre 2019: £2,500

Callander Youth Project Trust, John Muir Award Scheme: £1,984

McLaren High School Pipe Band, Tuition: £1,500

Plus Forth Valley, Callander activity sessions for young people: £2,000

Round Table, Highland Games 2019: £1,000

Duke of Edinburgh McLaren HS Group, expedition equipment: £1,000

Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs, Trossachs Trail: £500

Summerfest 2020: £2,850

Callander Visitor Information Centre 2020 £5,000

We have revised our application form so please make sure you have the most recent version when you apply. It can be found with further information and guidelines at [www.incallander.co.uk/ccdt\\_hydrofundgrants](http://www.incallander.co.uk/ccdt_hydrofundgrants), contact the Fund Coordinator, Sheila Winstone, at [hydrofund@callandercdt.org.uk](mailto:hydrofund@callandercdt.org.uk) or on 07539 793806.

## McLaren High School Minibus

In 2015 we managed to secure a new minibus for the High School. This took longer than hoped as the school and I were clear that the new minibus needed to be a specific version that could be driven without a certain driving licence classification. After 1997 licences do not contain them, so more people could not drive a standard minibus without first taking extra, expensive training. After getting the right vehicle the next project was to get the Council to agree that community groups could book it when not needed by the school. This took a long time but the issues surrounding how to book, insurance etc. have now been resolved. It has taken far longer than both the school and I would have liked but there is now a process in place where the bus can be used. There was an initial meeting at the end of February and the availability will continue to be advertised. Should anyone be interested, please contact me at [earlm@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:earlm@stirling.gov.uk) and I will send you the information. There is also a proposal to create a pool of drivers who have the standard training needed to drive a minibus. This is called MIDAS and we are arranging an opportunity for a group to have that training provided by the Council. Should anyone be interested please contact Helen Terry, the Town Coordinator, on 07852 106605.

## Callander 2020 and Beyond

Callander is a community with lots going on. Callander Enterprise set up an open day on 3rd March for organisations to show what they do, and how the community can get involved. The evening was busy with displays and tables showcasing what goes on locally, and so many visitors wandering between them that there was hardly room to move. A great buzz, lots of networking and many groups recruiting new volunteers. The evening drew together initiatives and has helped to ensure that volunteers were recruited to guarantee activity for some time to come.





### Security

After a recent theft by housebreaking in the Callander area we would like to suggest some measures that residents should take to secure their property.

Don't leave keys on the inside of locks, under mats or anywhere else an intruder may easily find them.

Don't leave keys on a table/peg in the hallway as a hooking device can easily be placed through a letterbox/cat flap.

Many thieves are opportunists who do not have to break in at all because a door or window has been left open or unlocked. Always keep your home securely locked (even when you are within the property).

Don't keep house keys and car keys on the same key ring.

Security mark your property with a UV marker pen. You can use this pen to place an invisible imprint of your postcode and house number on your possessions.

Record details of your valuables, such as mobile phone, cameras, laptops and tablets on the national mobile property register at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com).

For further advice about protecting valuables and vehicles, visit [www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe](http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe)

Don't leave valuables in sight of windows.

If you have a wall calendar, avoid mounting it near a window from where appointments can potentially be seen; this may give an indication of when a property will be empty.

### Bogus Workmen

In the last week police have received calls on two separate occasions regarding possible bogus workmen in the Callander area attending properties and looking for work. On both occasions the people were traced and appeared to be genuine. We DO NOT recommend dealing with cold callers for property maintenance. Stirling Council and Local Authority Trading Standards Services have formed the BUY WITH CONFIDENCE SCHEME. The scheme provides consumers with a list of local businesses which have given their commitment to trading fairly. This can be found on the Stirling Council website.

### Contact Number

We have been made aware again that some residents still have old contact telephone numbers for Callander and Stirling Police Office. Please be aware that these numbers are obsolete and have been for some time.

The following contact telephone numbers should be used to contact Police Scotland.

101 for all non-emergency incidents or to speak to an officer.

999 in an emergency.

If anyone has any concerns they wish to raise or information regarding criminal activity in the area, please contact us at Callander Police Office or

[TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

(this email address should not be used to report a crime).

*PC Lorna Deans and PC Donald King*

### National Park Update

The National Park are finalising a report that is required by Ministers on how the initial three years of the camping management zone and new byelaws have been working. It will advise on how the new zones that operate between March and September have worked, how the management of these areas has impacted on the numbers visiting, the quality of that experience as well as on the environment. These measures were controversial with some when they were introduced but were supported by others who were concerned at the pressures on many loch shore locations.

A related issue is how the increased numbers of motorhomes can be managed. A survey has been conducted by volunteers at the Community Council throughout last year that gathered information on the numbers of vehicles using certain sites in Callander. This and other information gathered by Park Officers was presented to the Community Council in January. Management of these areas and the introduction of new facilities depend very heavily on the involvement of Stirling Council who are starting a Community Parking Management Plan consultation. There have already been such plans formulated in Bridge of Allan, Stirling and Doune. This will start in April with the Community Council, National Park and others forming a group to discuss the parking issues in Callander. Management of motorhomes will be an important part of this and must form part of any agreed actions that the Council will put in place.

*Martin Earl*

### Free Town Wi-Fi

Callander Community Council and Callander Community Development Trust are in discussions with Stirling Council to provide a free Wi-Fi service along the Main Street. This will allow mobile phone users to access the internet without using their data allowance. We will keep you posted on progress; it is hoped that this service will be available by the summer.

## Do you want to feel less anxious and stressed?

Here is a new idea I came across recently which is backed up by science: Forest Bathing. Forest bathing is really mindfulness in action. The two active ingredients that make forest bathing effective are phytoncides and your mind. Phytoncides are antimicrobial fragrances that plants have developed to protect themselves. So when you walk through a forest you expose yourself to these scents. Research findings strongly suggest that these fragrances in forests have beneficial effects on the human immune system. Obviously you would want to be conscious of your breathing when you do forest bathing. You breathe slowly and deeply, so that the phytoncides have plenty of opportunity to interact with your body's biochemistry.

When you do forest bathing you do not just go for a walk in the woods. You do it consciously and mindfully. You slow down and become aware of the feel of the environment you are in, like the wind, the sun or the rain. You stop to touch the leaves of plants, observe the living beings surrounding you and listen to the sounds of the forest. You connect with your own body and feel your movements and your breathing. And since you are breathing consciously you are aware of the smells that surround you. Most importantly, try to stay present with these activities and stop thinking. For those ten to fifteen minutes you spend in the forest you stay with your senses. If you find yourself thinking, bring yourself back to your sense experiences.

We are fortunate here in Callander.



We have woods surrounding us. I have done forest bathing for the last five years, without knowing that there is a name for this (we love dressing old things up in new names, don't we?). For me it has been incredibly helpful. I always feel better while I do it and after I have done it. Try it out yourself and see how you find it! If you don't have a forest on your doorstep, or you have limited mobility, try these alternatives:

Go into a quiet, green space near you with trees, like your garden, sit there and use your senses to connect with your environment or if you cannot go out, get yourself some aromatherapy oils derived from trees like cedar wood, pine or juniper. Use them in conjunction with practising mindfulness within your own four walls.

Happy bathing!

*Britta Schuessler*

## Active Travel in the National

Walk in the Park is the flagship project of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Countryside Trust. For the last year, the Countryside Trust have also been working on the Trossachs Rural E-bike Demonstration (TRED) which provides e-bikes on a loan basis to local residents in the Trossachs area. We ran several taster sessions then loaned the bikes out for a week to provide them with the capability and opportunity to make local journeys by bike.



Latest government policies want to see walking, wheeling and cycling at the top of the sustainable transport hierarchy, and to this end we will continue to support and develop Active Travel in the forthcoming year.

We have recently consulted with two local communities, Aberfoyle and Callander, to produce Community Active Travel Action Plans which you can view here <http://trustinthepark.org/tred/>. This will help guide future developments in these areas. We will continue to support communities from Drymen to Killin to further develop their active travel programmes.



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- Manual Therapy

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Tel: 07947 206254

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

If you see us at an event make sure to come and have a chat with us.

Jim Riach, Active Travel Officer, [jim.riach@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:jim.riach@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

Walks and Activities:

Please see the BLV 'What's On' page for Tuesday morning meeting times and routes in the Callander area or pick up a flier from the Medical Centre or Library. All walks are free. Walks are followed by optional refreshments in a local coffee shop. Walkers pay for their own refreshments.

*Cathy Scott*





## Callander Medical Practice

By the time of publication we will have welcomed Dr Iain Webster to the practice. Some of you may remember Dr Webster as he previously worked at Leny Practice during his training as an FY2. The practice team are delighted he is coming back and look forward to working with him again.

### COLDS, COUGHS, SNEEZES AND SNIFFLES

At this time of year there are lots of viruses circulating. Patients who are concerned should consult the NHS inform website where there is lots of information and guidance on how to use NHS24 and your local GP services.

We should all be trying our best not to pass any virus on.

Should you feel unwell with a cough or cold then you are best not to visit the GP practice unless the doctor tells you to. Your local pharmacy may be able to advise you regarding over the counter medication and in some instances even prescribe medication. Should you require medical advice please telephone [01877 331000](tel:01877 331000) or 111 between 6pm and 8 am or at weekends. Also, should you find yourself suffering from a bout of diarrhoea and vomiting you should seek advice from the Pharmacy in the first instance and not immediately visit the GP practice.

**PRACTICE CLOSED** - In line with NHS Forth Valley public holidays, Callander Medical Practice will be closed on Friday 10th of April and Monday 13th of April 2020 for Easter and also Friday 8th of May 2020 – to mark the anniversary of VE Day. In addition the practices are also closed for Forth Valley Training from 12.30pm on Thursday 4th of June 2020.

If you require emergency medical assistance when the surgeries are closed, please contact NHS24 on [111](tel:111). In the event of a life threatening emergency dial [999](tel:999) and request an ambulance.

*Karen Brown*

## Callander Bike Meander Group



There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing! Callander's Bike Meander group certainly took heed of this much-used term, continuing to head out on their bikes all over this year's stormy winter. We had a lovely Christmas lunch at The Old Bank and the group have continued to enjoy rides out - mainly on the old faithful routes - around and about the town, seeking out good coffee to warm the muscles for return journeys.

We also had a lively meeting discussing plans for 2020, including various away-days and routes further afield. We had our first away day at

the beginning of March 2020 with a fantastic ride from Strathyre to Glen Ogle Head. What a great route! It was a cold but sunny day and this traffic free section of NCN7 did not disappoint. We conquered the zigzags at Lochearnhead and waved at the traffic down below as we crossed the Glen Ogle viaduct then post-ride refreshments in The Broch at Strathyre. Why not come and join us? The Callander Bike Meander Group's regular Tuesday morning ride meets at The Square every week at 10am. Rides are approximately 8-10 miles at a very leisurely pace). We can provide transport and even bikes if you don't have one! Contact Colin Walsh ([07963 736044](tel:07963 736044)) or Maggie Magor ([339074](tel:339074)). We've also a lively Messenger group where rides are posted and we're happy to add anyone who's interested in what we do, even if you're just at the point of thinking about getting

## COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

### GOOEY GINGERBREAD

Ingredients:

110g butter  
75g granulated sugar  
225g golden syrup  
2 tbsp marmalade  
225g SR flour  
2 tsp ground ginger  
1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
150ml milk  
2 medium eggs

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180c, 160c fan, gas no. 4. Butter a roasting tin measuring 18 X 28 X 4, approximately, and line with greaseproof paper. Put butter, sugar, syrup and marmalade into a pan and heat, stirring until butter has melted and the sugar has dissolved. Leave to cool slightly. Mix dry ingredients together, then stir into the butter mixture. Beat the milk and eggs together in a jug, then stir into the cake mixture. Pour into the prepared tin, level the surface and bake for about 25 minutes until well risen and golden and the top of the cake springs back when lightly pressed. Leave to cool in the tin. Cut into slices and store in an airtight container.

on your bike.

### Doctor Bike and Come and Try an e-bike day

Come and try an e-bike on Saturday 4th April 2020, Ancaster Square, 1000 to 1500. E-bikes from Loch Lomond & Trossachs Countryside Trust, McLaren Leisure Centre and the Stirling Active Travel Hub will be available to have a go on. Members of the Callander Bike Meander Group, who are regular e-bike users, will be available to provide information and take small groups out on short led-rides. Doctor Bike (Recycle-a-Bike) will also be present, so bring your bike for a check to make sure it's ready for some spring riding. Further information from Colin Welsh on 07963 736044.

*Maggie Magor*



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## Online Safety at Callander Primary School

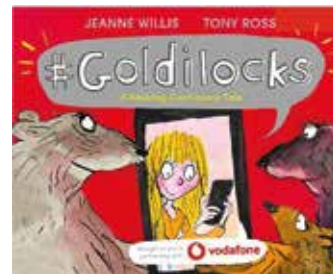
by Digital Leaders

The Digital Leaders Group at Callander Primary School is a group of children who work together to promote digital skills and knowledge as well as developing an understanding of how to keep safe online. Over the last month we have been focusing on online safety, as we have had to support each other sometimes with these issues in school. To help each other the Digital Leaders led an information session in assembly on how to keep ourselves safe when accessing online platforms and different social media sites. To help us share this important message we used a new version of the tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. (The book is available on the Vodafone website if anyone wants to read it.)

The main messages in the story were :

- not to be unkind, as there may be consequences if you are;
- think before you post something;
- don't share passwords;
- don't share personal details;
- check your privacy settings;
- only accept friend requests from people you know and trust and ...
- most importantly think about your digital footprint – once it's posted, it's posted

As part of our online safety focus we also held two workshops for parents and carers about how to keep their children safe. The parents who attended agreed that this message is an important one. We really enjoy accessing online platforms and can see the importance of developing good online safety. We feel that if we all, adults included, follow these simple rules our online experiences will become positive happy ones, rather than sometimes becoming upsetting or unkind. So remember, when online, follow the rules and keep safe!



### Picture Competition

Front Cover by Kathryn Ferry

Runners up:

Ruby Morrison

Aisling Dempster



### Emergency Fish Release.

Primary 4 and 5 have been caring for Trout eggs and fry over several weeks. It was time for them to be released into the Teith. Despite the floods, snow then rain, the young fish were carried from school to the river carefully, put into the launch bucket and then set free some distance from the bank



### Cubs Report



My Name is Campbell Gillan and I am a Young Leader at the Callander Cubs, I am one of two young leaders who help out whenever we can. As a Young Leader, I have run an evening with my fellow Young Leader, we made paper airplanes and ran a competition. The cubs really enjoyed this, it was a mix of competitive spirit and artistic creation.

At Callander Cubs we have done lots of different things. We have visited the Callander Fire Station, the firemen and firewoman were great! They taught us how to put out fires and we learned about the fire triangle. We ended the evening by getting a tour of the fire engines and using the hoses. We cooked a delicious Burns Supper at the CYP, the Cubs cooked the meal for their parents coming to pick them up. We also made Bird Boxes over the course of a few nights; we cut and nailed together the wood and the Cubs learned many skills from this. We painted the bird boxes another night, developing more creative skills.

We have lots of exciting plans coming up, such as watersports like bell boating, land-based activities such as cycling and an exciting camp! I will be reporting on this in the next issue!



## McLaren High School Reports

By Aidan Cronin

### Careers Fair

Gone are the days when careers fairs were boring tables with posters and an even more boring person standing there, not saying a word, as pupils drift past pretending to look semi-interested, while trying to please the on-looking teacher.

They are no longer a waste of a period of class but a valuable time for pupils to explore the world of careers - which can often be a daunting task for many pupils, especially when there are so many options and industries to go into after school. Pupils appreciate the chance to talk to people who had been in the same position as they are in right now. Representatives from businesses were able to give step-by-step information on their journeys and how they found their careers.

Pupils from across the school were encouraged to ask questions and look at jobs that they might not have thought of before- and with 40 stalls there was nearly something for everyone to look at. The 40 stalls included a good range of businesses from the Arts and sports industries, the construction and STEM industries, Catering, Education and the outdoors- just to name a few. Some pupils' highlights included learning about how the sewage in Callander gets sent to treatment works through a network of engineered pipes and meeting someone who was in Still Game!

A big thank you must go to the Staff and Businesses for organising and participating in this year's event



Picture by Fraser Cronin



### Dundee University Sustainable Mission

McLaren High School was called in to help Dundee University with their research and laboratory sustainability project! On the 27th of February some S3, S4 and S5 pupils, went up to the University's School of Life Sciences to have a tour around their facilities. After lunch the group went on a tour around the campus with another school. Matthew Morrison, S3, said it opened his eyes to the scale of how much waste one university can produce alone. He went on to say that "... it's a wonder that we're not drowning in plastic already." He is looking forward to undertaking a project on one

aspect of the University's waste issue. Now the pupils will start their own projects in groups and prepare for a seminar in May this year- they hope to keep the BLV updated on their projects. The group would like to thank their Biology Teacher, Dr Benden, for organising this with the university

### State Of The STEMpire Address

Recently two teams from McLaren were placed second and third in the FIRST LEGO League Scottish finals! The winning teams are now looking at going to global events! The STEMpire also have two teams of pupils attending a Regional Celebration of STEM in Dundee where they will be competing in various competitions.

McLaren High School is currently in its second cycle of STEM Projects. Pupils will be working on these projects over the next 1.5 years, with help from school mentors and external partners. In future issues I will be reporting on what pupils are doing with their projects. Hopefully these updates will entice you to come to our STEM festival.

Matthew Murray, a third-year pupil, is "really looking forward to finding out more on the effects of plastics on the environment, ...". Matthew will be investigating methods of extracting micro-plastics from the sea.

### National Park Youth Committee - Where Young Voices Matter

The Youth Committee began nearly 2 years ago and with the help of the National Park staff, it has been a very engaging and enjoyable experience. Catriona Manders (14), who sits on the committee says, "Being in the National Park Youth Committee has given me the chance to voice my opinions and help change where I live for the better." It's safe to say we would recommend it to anyone interested.

As the committee come into their second year, they want to get more young people involved! At their last meeting ideas were discussed about how to recruit new members. Steven Kent suggested that we make a video about the Youth Committee which we will be producing in the coming months. This video, along with short bios for each member, will be featured on a section of the National Park's website. So look out for that at [www.lochlomond-trossachs.org](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org)

If you are a young person, no matter what your interests in the outdoors or your local area are, joining the Youth Committee is a great experience! If you are interested then we would really like to have you on board. Please email [education@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:education@lochlomond-trossachs.org) for more information. You can also speak to Steven Kent, Catriona Manders or Aidan Cronin at McLaren High School.

## A Different View of Climate Change?

In 2019 there appeared to be an awakening of the whole world to the impact of climate change on our lives. Newspapers and the TV reports blame wildfires, floods and melting icecaps on climate change. Politicians now talk about a climate emergency, industry tries to look as green as possible and the public casually talk about greenhouse gasses and carbon emission. But how much of this should we believe and how much is “fake news”?

There is a relentless move in the media nowadays to link every natural disaster throughout the world to climate change caused by greenhouse gasses. They report on disasters from every continent, they selectively publish extracts from academic reports on the causes of climate change, they report on political statements about preventing a climate disaster and they publish comments from businesses on a carbon zero future. But is there any scientific basis for their reports? They could be more frequent but it could also simply be that a vast number of people all around the world now carry mobile phones and so can take a video of the event and send it to the media. Perhaps there may be possible alternative causes such as arson, artificial drainage of the uplands, increased snowfall causing glaciers to move more quickly and towns which flood because the pumps failed. Current methods for measuring climate change may not be accurate. My personal interest is rivers and flooding. Media reports again seem to show there are more communities in the UK getting flooded now. If you look at most of these reports from the scene of the flooding then the houses are relatively new, not all of them but a large majority. Is it simply that the houses were built in the wrong place and the river has just inundated that land which it has done for centuries. A flood study for a hotel development next to a river and showed that it flooded. The original inn expected to be flooded so it had stone floors on the ground floor and grain stores and living areas on the upper floor. After the flood

the inn keeper threw a few pails of water over the floor, gave it a good brushing and got back to work.

I am not sure what is causing the climate change. Industrialisation and carbon emissions are commonly blamed but if they are the main causes, why did the climate also change more than 8000 years ago? And what can we do? Very little, if it is mainly a natural process, although cutting back on atmospheric pollution has to be a sensible direction.

*Dr Richard Johnson*

## Taiga Bean Geese

The Taiga Bean Goose is not a species with which many of us are familiar, not surprisingly as they are Scotland's rarest goose. However, they are regular winter visitors, migrating from N Scandinavia and Russia in October and staying until March on the Slammanan Plateau near Falkirk. Callander SWT's entertaining speaker in January was Angus McIver, of the Bean Goose Action Group which monitors these geese on behalf of RSPB, including tracking their migration via satellite tags.

They feed mostly by day on grass in farmed fields and rough pasture, which does not endear them to farmers and spending a lot of time sitting in the sun which makes them and their leg rings difficult to spot. However, they are very wary and will go into alert mode with necks up if disturbed and will stay in that pose while people remain visible. Pairs are faithful and spend time in their pairs. Their wintering movements are to fly twice per day at first light and dusk, but in snow have been observed to sit still for several days, using up body fat as they can't feed.

In the early evening they fly to their roost sites, or if the weather is bad they can roost within their preferred feeding fields. Farmers may scare them off but shooting them isn't allowed.

It took 20 years to get SNH permission to fit Satellite tags on collars but these have given amazing information on the migration routes between Slammanan and Sweden's Taiga Forest or the Glomma River system in Norway.

For a detailed description of these geese, and data from Angus' blog go to the excellent site <https://sites.google.com/view/scotlands-bean-geese>.

*Lesley Hawkins*

## Flooding

The river has been high! The Meadows car park has been flooded but the high-water debris is just below the properties with flood protection barriers in place. Thankfully, those at risk appear not to have been inundated by the river. We may not have been underwater but the fields certainly have. The Buchanan graveyard was an island. Thank you, Mr Cameron, for providing an excellent flood plain.

*Editors*



## Pollution of the Teith

We have been reliably informed by the team working to clear the drains, 'Yet again wipes are still the cause of drains being blocked'. Now the new pumps have been blocked with them and this has resulted in the system overflowing into the Teith. Even when the sewer serving just one house has to be cleared people are puzzled: the wipes blocking it have nothing to do with them!



## Gardening in April And May

So you've survived winter! April and May mark the true start of the Gardening Season. I want to break my articles into tips for each month.

**April** is the month of last-minute prep! Getting pots, trays, seeds and tools in order is essential in April, using yogurt, butter and grape packaging as pots will save you purchasing new pots - if last years stock is depleted. Give tools a brush and wash in warm water with a drop of soap, before spraying lightly with WD-40 will prevent rusting. Giving a quick tidy of the garden now will save having to do it later in the year when you could be out soaking up the rain, sorry, I mean the sun!

A key point in **May**, for Callander, is the last **Frost Date which tends to be the second week of May**, this is the time to get potatoes in and any delicate seedlings. Many seeds can now be directly sown into soil but look out for the preceding week's forecast before sowing- heavy rain will wash away seeds, but hot weather will prevent successful germination.

The Horticultural Show's Schedule has been published now, start planning! This will be my second year competing in it - which means I know how it is to be competing for the first time. My number one tip would be read, re-read, re-read and re-read the schedule! If classes or rules still don't make sense or you have a question email the organisers. Happy Gardening!



*Aidan Cronin*

## Callander & District Horticultural Society Events Coming Soon

It's a sign! Spring must be just around the corner, our schedule for the Annual Show is out. This year it is even more packed; it's full of ideas for sowing (and sewing); making and baking. Hints too, if you're not sure how to show off that enormous potato or those fabulous home grown fruits. But the handiest hint of all is that it is the taking part that counts. There can't be a show if you don't. This year, the Society is supporting So Precious Knitting Group. They are based at Forth Valley Hospital, and knit hats for premature babies to wear in the neonatal unit, and to go home in. The patterns are in the schedule; all that's needed is soft double knitting wool, 4mm needles and enthusiasm to give them a go. 2020 being the Year of Coasts and Waters, our Floral Art and Photography Classes are supporting Callander's Summerfest theme too, asking for an arrangement inspired by a visit to the coast, or perhaps, try some Splash Photography? We've also included the children, to see who can create the best seaside landscape, as a

collage or in a biscuit tin lid.

The Novice Class is back; in floral art share your favourite flowers in a basket or show off the best use of a bunch of bought flowers under £5. A major new class for the show is our Member's Choice - choose 3 items (all made or grown by you) from a given list and see what the judges think of your display. To become a member, you can either, pay £2 on show day, and enter as many classes as you want, or come along to our Fundraising Coffee Morning in the Kirk Hall on Saturday 30th May and pay then. There will be Music by Callander Kirk Junior Choir, Children's Activity, Plant sale, Raffle and Tombola to enjoy with friends. Speaking of dates - this year the Annual Show is a week earlier, on Saturday 22 August, as we are hoping to escape the rain that spoiled the garden flowers just before the show last year! Schedules are available locally - in the Library, Campbells the Butcher, Deli Ecosse, Rainbow Arts and Crafts, and Brambles (East End News we miss you and thank you for your support over many years). For further information please contact [cadhortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:cadhortsoc@gmail.com)

*Lucy Fraser-Gunn*



## Mayfly

I have finally just about made it! Just got to inflate the wings a bit more and I am off to mate above the water.

I have just spent the last year under the loch's surface as a nymph feeding off algae and other similar sorts of "stuff," whilst I was myself food for others like fish, brown trout especially and bigger insects like the dragonfly nymphs. I was one of a batch of up to 50 thousand eggs laid by my mother. Well now that I am here I will not eat, you see I have no mouth parts, and I may still become prey to birds or even the bats at dusk. I will only live for a few hours, just long enough to dance with thousands of others of my kind, mate and lay my own eggs. Why you ask was I put on this earth? Well the simple answer to that is to pass on my genes although quite a few fish species would be at a loss without me.

BUT think on this, we have been on this earth for perhaps 100 million years, a few more than yourselves, and judging by the way you lot are going we'll win the duration race.

*David Cooper*



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"MEN'S SHED" is now in the process of establishing itself as a local area community project. Having discussed this idea with members of the local community it was felt that Callander and surrounding district would benefit from having a "Men's Shed" where local men and women can come along and learn new skills or teach your skills to others. Equally important it will be a place to meet new friends, socialize and to contribute to the community at the same time.

**For more information Contact:-**

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## Natural Flood Control

The Forth Rivers Trust have had groups of volunteers working upstream on the Teith and its tributaries to repair river banks which helps mitigate flood problems, a little. This has been an opportunity for anyone with big waders who wants to stand in water, hammer living willow posts into the toe of the river bank then do weaving, between the posts, with long stems of willow to make a living basket,. (The toe is the part of the bank that is usually under water during the winter.) Sorry, you have missed it for this year.

The banks that erode quickly, are generally soft and on the outer edge of a bend where the river flows most quickly. The baskets provide a leaky barrier that slows the water flow so protecting the bank and help reduce flooding downstream. The Willow grows roots and leaves quickly, so the size and effectiveness of the basket increases. Trees can also be planted in the basket.

Bundles of branches, brash, are also used to protect banks. Another team occupation, collecting, piling, tying, carrying to place them in the bank and then putting in the stakes to secure the



bundles. Again a leaky basket is formed, Willow or Alder can be planted to make the repair more permanent.

Groups of trees are planted in a 'bow of a ship shape' facing in the direction the river flows. The tree roots enable the water to penetrate the ground more effectively. When the river overflows, trees slow the flow of water over the land and reduce the risk of flooding downstream. The Meadows used to be more open but now has trees to help protect Callander by holding water in the flood plain.

Bank repair can use larger parts of trees but these require machinery.

SEPA Rules apply to all types of bank repair. The repair must be to the existing bank, land already lost must

not be reclaimed. It must not be a wall of wood or stone against the river bank. This will not reduce the speed of flow and will create more problems downstream.

Preserving riverbanks and preventing flooding are just 2 benefits of the work done this winter. The ecology of the river is improved. Fish, like Salmon, lay their eggs in gravel beds. When river banks are washed away the silt covers these, so there are fewer breeding sites for them, with environmental and economic consequences. If trees are planted there is obviously some carbon dioxide removed from the air and trapped in their wood.

## Secrets of the Celtic Rainforest

Secrets of the Celtic Rainforest is a Plantlife Scotland project which raises awareness of their international importance and is unlocking the secrets of the unique species that dwell within them. The expert speaker at the Callander SWT meeting in February was Alistair Whyte, Head of Plantlife Scotland.

The combination of high rainfall, stable mild temperature and extremely low levels of pollution makes the woodlands very humid, which allows growth of species; lichen, mosses and liverworts, fungi and ferns really make the Celtic Rainforests what they are. They help maintain the humidity in the forest and give them that mysterious and magical feel.

See <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/scotland/our-work-scotland/projects-scotland/celtic-rainforest> Lesley Hawkins

## Global warming - Your tree.

We are all being told to plant trees to offset our Carbon Footprint, but most of us have small gardens, so how can this be possible? What about planting a fruit tree, they can be very small and even grown in a pot? You might say they will not grow in our climate. This is a little bit true. Trees that would grow brilliantly in the South of England will do less well here; but a bit of research will show you that there are a lot of types of tree that have grown and fruited in Scotland for centuries.

There are tree companies where enthusiasts will advise you on the technical side of what, where and how to grow your tree. Most fruit trees are really 2 trees, the root of one plant and the top of another. The type of root will

affect the size the tree becomes. Some are resistant to disease and self fertile. Knowing this fact will save disappointment.

As you know, one action can have many benefits. The tree will not be the most efficient CO<sub>2</sub> remover in the world; but the lovely flowers will be used by bees to make honey. It will bring pleasure seeing any fruit develop and ripen into one of your five-a-day. Finally, it will reduce your environmental impact still further, no packaging nor transport for these fruits. Spare fruit will make friends of your neighbours.



### Bus Stop Grumpiness



I've been trying to do my bit for the environment by catching the bus into Stirling rather than using my wee car.

There were several newspaper headlines last week about the record number of cars on Scotland's roads as the number of journeys made by public transport has fallen dramatically over the last year. If a lot of people are faced with the same miserable experience as waiting for a bus in Callander, then I'm not surprised. I've been standing in wind, rain and snow waiting for a bus to come – there's no bus shelter at our 'terminus' in Station Road. There's now not even a temporary bus stop as it blew over and broke. Unless you know that the concrete lump with a broken metal pole sticking out of it represents the bus stop, you wouldn't know where to wait. So there's no shelter, nowhere to sit, no bus timetable displayed and now not even a bus stop. It's hardly an encouragement to either locals or visitors to use public transport.

We did have a shelter but it got taken down when work started on the flats in Station Road. I had naively assumed that it would be replaced as part of the 'making good' at the end of the works. Indeed a little sleuthing on the National Park's planning portal shows that, if my reading is correct, a condition of the planning consent was that the shelter and the permanent bus stop would be re-sited before any residents moved into the flats in the 'interests of public amenity'. As things stand it's a big public inconvenience. Whose role is it to sort this out for bus users?

*Windswept Wanderer*



### Sex Change and acceptance.

Today so many young people say they are non-binary. But if we lived in a world that simply accepted that people were on a spectrum of sexual identity and gender it would not even have to be stated. A great deal of anxiety could be avoided. And yet, at meetings today we have to say a bit about ourselves and also state what pronoun we answer to – him, her or they.

In the past, archaeological records and historical documents make it clear that people were more relaxed about gender identification. Herodotus wrote about the shamans in the Scythian culture called "Enarees". These were honoured men who dressed as women and were considered to have special knowledge of the spirits and were able to foresee the future. An honoured role in their society. The Hindus have males who dress as females and are attached to certain temples.

Influences from the great monotheistic religions have caused these men to become reviled in certain communities. In Mexico there is a tribe where every woman wishes that at least one of her sons will be gay, or at least feminine in behaviour. They say they are so much fun, and a comfort for the mothers. These sons dress as women and learn feminine skills like cooking and sewing. They join the women's groups and are welcomed.

It is felt by some that the difference between transvestites (people who prefer to dress as the opposite sex) and gay people (who may or may not identify with the opposite sex) and those who transition to the opposite sex should be distinguished. This is felt very strongly by the LGBT community to be extremely important, and in defence, they make it very political, thus dividing society into factions. And the heterosexual community responds.

Sadly, maybe we have to go through this militant phase in order to bring about change, just as Feminism has had to go through a militant phase, and still does if we measure the "MeToo" movement.

To me, acceptance of difference can be pretty fluid. Live and let live. Take the anxiety out of how a person identifies. Why should another gaslight a person and tell them "this is who you are"? After all it does no harm to us how another identifies.

The real harm is when, in protest, a young person is pressured to believe that they need to be irreversibly reassigned into something they are not, genitalia surgically re-formed, hormones given to very young people who cannot know how things will be in the future. That is where harm lies. And such measures would not need to be taken if we all just accepted who and what another person is, just as they are. Let's remove the words "binary" and "non-binary" and just say "a person".

*Not a Bigot*





## THE DISABLED SKIP.

I spotted this skip the other day in the Sports Centre carpark. It is obvious that improvement works are taking place somewhere inside the building and the builders are either disabled or just too darn lazy to walk a few extra feet to their skip which must be why it is plonked down on a disabled parking spot. The contents of said skip interested me somewhat. There were a fair number of strip-light fittings on board. Now I know the latest fad, sorry 'trend', is to replace every source of illumination with those that contain LED's (Light Emitting Diodes) which are more efficient, but is such a waste of seemingly good units really good practice? If these units are old they contain a component called a choke which was used to generate a high voltage pulse to ionise the gas in the fluorescent tubes and hence conduct and so emit light. Now these chokes consist of many many turns of copper wire wound round an iron core. Very, very recycleable is copper. I wonder where this lot ended up?

*Homo Vulgaris*



## Road Signs

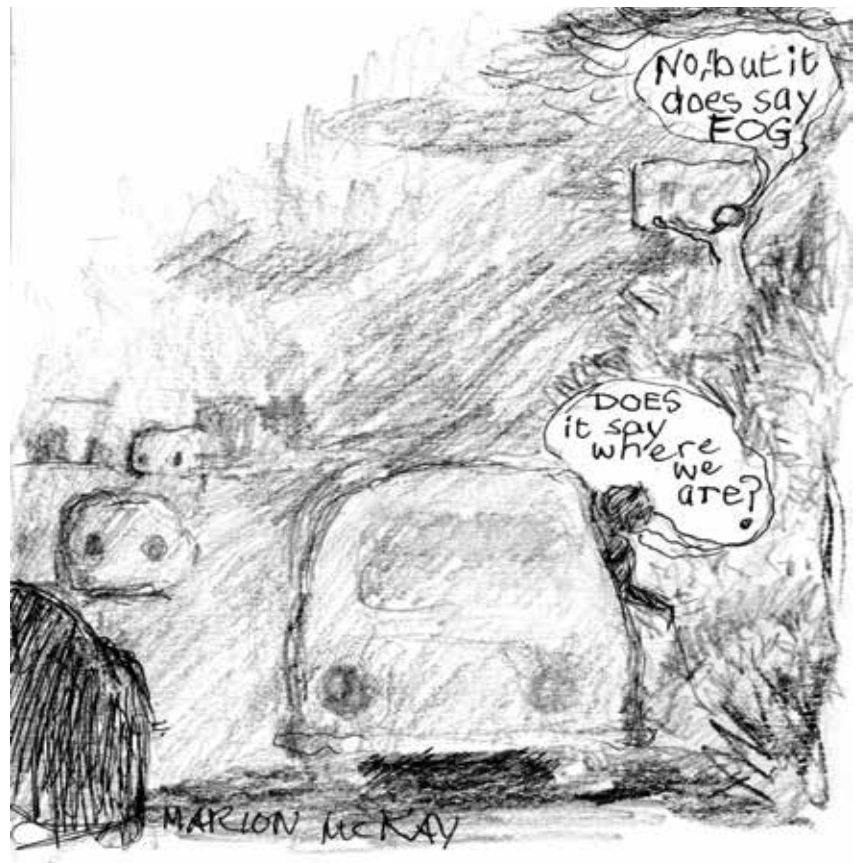
Grrrhumph! The first time one of the useless signs flashed into my view, after the 2 second scare about the problems that might be lurking ahead, all I could think was the world had gone insane. To make someone take their eyes off the traffic to tell them not to 'Adjust your satnav while driving'. On a dual carriageway everything is pretty well labelled except when it says 'Road closed at xx#' and you have no clue where xx# is. Another driving tip is to 'Go to VisitScotland.com'; how useful is that when you are struggling along the Edinburgh bypass?

Then, there are the useful weather hints, 'Prepare for Winter Conditions', when you are driving carefully behind a snowplough, with white all around.. 'Fog' when you have been driving for more than 30 miles seeing this sign regularly and all you have seen is sun. 'High Winds' and not a twig is twitching; even the litter is stationary and that litter, by the way, had obviously not heeded the sign, 'Take your litter home'. In places there is obviously an enormous amount of badly behaved litter that has escaped somehow. That 'Drive with Consideration' only applies to some cars, others move bonnet to boot along the carriageway, or shoot dramatically across 2 lanes of vehicles to make that 'Aus-fahrt' move. Next is the encouragement not to break the law. 'Please wear your seatbelt' or 'Please don't drink and drive'. Why say 'Please? Can you imagine the chaos if even one motorist followed the instruction 'Check your tyre pressure'.

Is there a competition amongst the controllers of these screens to see who can think of the silliest one? What is the prize of the day! We really need to know about the hazard, just ahead. Knowing about the overturned caravan blocking the road would be really useful for avoiding trouble!

Now those brown signs! You are not looking for a campsite, a pub or garden centre but a town or village. One can be so bamboozled by the ranks of brown signs that the small white pointer for the destination is missed and it can be miles before it is possible to turn round.

Finally the yellow diversion signs. A co-driver is needed. Either a special lane is needed to get to the destination, in the rain or the dark is impossible to see and at some junctions it is 20 miles before it is possible to take the next slip road off to correct the mistake and turn around. When one is diverted from the normal road, all goes well for about a mile and then drivers are abandoned either in a strange housing scheme or a field. Which way next?



## Fun Facts - Palau - An Island Country in Miniature



The island nation of Palau fascinates me. It's not just the idea of the tropical climate, but the tiny islands' population and the small dimension of everything there. The country is east of the Philippines and north of New Guinea its islands cover an area similar in size to Andorra in area of ocean larger than most European countries. It has 16 states, each with its own flag, for a population of only around 18,000, less than half that of the city of Stirling. Ngerulmud (pron. Ungerulmud) is east-populated national capital, - situated on the island of Babelthuap (pron. Babel-da-ob), it has less than one-tenth the population of Callander.

Palau was settled between 2,000 and 3,000 years ago from different parts of what are now Indonesia and the Philippines. They developed a system in which women controlled land, money and titles, while the men were fishermen and warriors. It was likely that surviving members of Magellan's expedition sighted Palau's outlying Sonsorol Islands around 1521/22. Palau came under control of Spain in 1885, which sold the islands to Germany in 1899. Japan took control after World War I. During World War 2 fierce fighting between the US and Japan after which they came under UN control, managed by the United States. In 1981 the islands became a republic; with an agreement with the US on defence and currency. Palau became a UN member in 1994.

Of the country's 16 states, only two have populations higher than 1,000 - Airai (one of ten on the island of Babelthuap) and Koror, the name for both the island and former capital as well as the world-famous, green-covered, limestone Rock Islands. Outlying states have populations lower than 100 - the northern Kayangel islands, and far-southern Sonsorol and Hatohobei island states. This makes

Palau the most over-governed country in the world.

Life on these islands is not always easy, these low-lying islands can be hit by tropical storms. In the Sonsorol group, only one island was repopulated after a typhoon in 2012.

There are a large number of tourists so this is the first country in the world to ban sunscreens as they harm coral reefs.

*Mario Corvecour*

## Main Street Wandering



Next door to Thomas Allan's bathroom shop was Rattray's chemist, I do not recall previous owners, can anyone help? John and Hilda ran an efficient friendly business, also an information exchange, it was a place you could pop into to pick up the local gossip.

The I love Scotland shop used to be a shoe shop.

Callander hardware was run by Geordie Allan, a tall man with a pock-marked face, perhaps as a result of childhood acne. He had glasses with very thick lenses, which were constantly obscured by nicotine. The shop was reminiscent of something from The Two Ronnies (Think 4 Candles) no goods on display; a plain counter with storage racks disappearing into the gloom. Geordie would go on a mission to find goods requested, slam them down on the counter, and demand payment. Mother had requested a stiff sweeping broom. On questioning the quality, the bold Geordie came around the counter and attacked the coir matting with said brush. The shop was filled with clouds of dust. His demo worked; sale made.

The RBS and Donald McLaren solicitors' building I never entered until 17 years old. Then I had to be berated by Archie Whitehead over a driving offence. I remember thinking prison might be less stressful.

The final shop in this parade was 'Highland Handcrafts' a delightful shop with beautiful stock of pottery highland cattle and black faced sheep. We children were banned from entering, in case we broke something expensive.

*More to follow*

## Callander Heritage Society

At our February meeting Ian McNeish spoke about 'A Heady Tale of Feud and Hamesucken'

Ian has been researching his family history. The McNeish clan are believed to be descended from the Irish family Naoise who came to Scotland in the 1st century. They prospered with lands in the North-east and South-west until the 1300s when they backed John Comyn's claim to the Scottish throne. Bruce confiscated the McNeish lands and the clan members scattered throughout Scotland.

Ian is descended from The Strathearn McNeishes but according to Oral history that branch of the clan was wiped out in 1612 by the McNabs of Strathtay.

After the McNeishes stole supplies from a group of McNabs, the McNabs swore revenge. They crossed over hills to Loch Earn, rowed out to the McNeish stronghold, broke in and killed everyone (about 12 people). The men were beheaded, their heads put in a sack and taken back to the McNab stronghold, where, with a cry of Dreadnought (the McNab motto), the heads were emptied out in front of the clan chief. From then on a severed head became the clan badge and the McNabs boasted about wiping out a clan.

Ian had the answer. The McNeishes were not wiped out. Two McNeish children had hidden and escaped being killed. They left the area for safety and survived to continue the clan name.

The severed head symbol was used by McNabs to decorate their houses. That is why The Dreadnought Hotel, built by Francis McNab in the 1800s, McNab House in Church Street and other houses in Callander built by McNabs have the severed McNeish head decoration.

\*Hamesucken is when someone breaks in and kills the victim in their own home.

*Kath Millar*



## Trossachs

### Search

### + Rescue



Based at Geisher Road in Callander, we have 40 volunteers and 3 vehicles.

Last year we attended 206 call-outs. The first two months of 2020 saw our members attend 86 requests from a number of agencies.

There were 56 call-outs, where people had fallen at home or needed some other support. Whilst most of these incidents were minor, unfortunately some were serious injuries. We were able to provide first aid until an ambulance arrived. Lately we received calls to Crianlarich and Killin.

We supported the Scottish Ambulance Service 16 times, helping with life threatening conditions including difficulty breathing, strokes, chest pains and unconsciousness.

All the pads on public access defibrillators in Callander, and the battery of one have been replaced. Batteries cost around £200 and pads are £130 per set. 18 Heartstart classes, were delivered in the first 2 months of the year and 450 people trained in CPR and defibrillator use.

When SEPA issue a flood warning, we monitor the levels of water at the Meadows and elsewhere, providing information to Stirling Council to compare with their river level checking devices. We also make flood sacks available.



As part of the Bracklinn Falls Working Group we are developing safety signs and guidance for visitors in the Stirling Council area.

Stuart Ballantyne, was recently appointed as Chair of the Voluntary Sector Functional Group for the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership.

*Stuart Ballantyne*

## Killin Mountain Rescue Team -by Bill Rose

There has been considerable media attention recently about people getting into difficulty in the hills, some incidents resulting in tragedy.

Mountain Rescue Team members use their hill-craft skills for the benefit of other hill-goers and provide a free rescue service, which is also there for trekkers but hopefully they will never have to use. The Teams recognise that going out on the hills is not without risk and do not sit comfortably with criticising someone who gets themselves into difficulty, often just by underestimating the skills required to descend a mountain safely, when the weather deteriorates and visibility is lost.

People must accept responsibility for their own safety. To assist this, Scottish Mountain Rescue works in partnership with other organisations and landowners to provide a partnership approach; advising people how to prepare for their trip, carry the correct equipment, especially in Winter, and how to navigate down a mountain by map and compass when the visibility is lost. The "Think Winter" national safety promotion was held at Holyrood

Recent searches have been for people unable to descend safely from a mountain. The cold, clear winter days providing hard neve (Firm snow) of the past have been replaced by cold, then warm fronts bring high winds and torrential rain to the hills, the weather changing within an hour or two. Temperatures vary greatly between the top and the bottom of a hill. The constructed paths make it relatively easy to ascend a hill to the top. The descent causes difficulty, especially in poor visibility with paths under snow. Mobile phone mapping has insufficient detail for hill navigation. Batteries fail quickly in cold weather: mapping consumes a lot of battery power.

A map and compass is still the safest way to navigate on the hills. Ordnance Survey provides a free app OS locate. This gives a grid reference of your position, helpful in poor visibility and not battery hungry. Maintaining a mobile phone battery for calling help in an emergency is wise. GPS systems with their own batteries will support traditional map and compass

Scottish Mountain Rescue have 23 volunteer teams that work together throughout Scotland providing mutual assistance especially when searches require large numbers of searchers.

On 24th November 2019 a walker found himself unable to navigate down a steep slope on Beinn a Chroin, Glen Falloch with mobile phone mapping. Killin MRT located him with local knowledge and recovered him safely from the hill.

On 22nd December 2019 a walker became separated from a companion on Ben Challum, Tyndrum in blizzard conditions. Killin MRT supported by Oban Mountain Rescue Team searched at night. Without success. It continued the next day with over 40 mountain rescue volunteers and Police supported by SARDA search dogs whose handlers are rescue team members. Poor weather hindered a helicopter search of high ground. The area was extensive, extending into Glen Lochay, Killin. As darkness fell the walker was found about 10 km from Ben Challum making for Killin. Caught out by poor visibility and blizzard conditions on the summit, the walker did the right thing; found shelter until daylight for a safe descent.

On 20th January 2020 a couple reached the snow-covered top of Ben Vorlich, Lochearnhead. A weather front came in very quickly. The couple could not find the safe route down due to mist, and wind. They phoned for assistance. A joint rescue was undertaken by Killin MRT and Tayside Police. An attempt to reach the couple from the West side failed, due to wind gusting 50 MPH and spindrift snow blowing rescue team members off their feet. To avoid being blown over a corniced corrie they had to lie down with an ice axe embedded in snow. The rescue from the East side of the hill using full Winter rescue kit succeeded due to some protection from the severe gusting wind.

Mountain Rescue Volunteers give up their free time to train to national standards and respond to rescue incidents. Funding for equipment comes partly from the government but mainly from public donations.

## Could salmon become extinct?

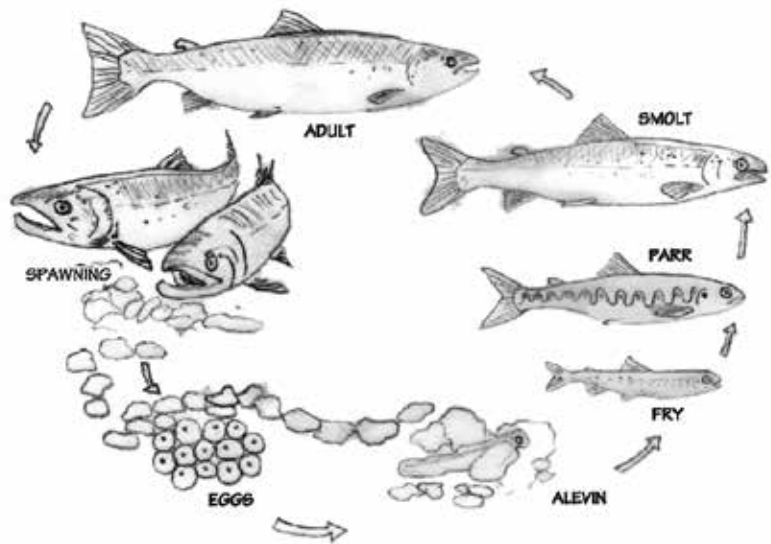
Ask any fisherman and they will tell you the number and size of fish caught on the Teith is lower than it used to be. This is true of every Salmon fishery in the World including Scotland



Rod and line fishery (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/salmon-fishery-statistics-2018-season/>)

Wild salmon are important fish; not only do they provide food and sport, but they also have economic, political and social importance at a local and national level. For this reason there is a great deal of concern and a lot of research is being done to find out why and to try and provide solutions to the problem. One step already taken is that there has been a change in legislation to encourage preservation of salmon returning to rivers by the prohibition of taking salmon using fixed nets in coastal waters.

Salmon start life as eggs laid in gravel during the late autumn and winter in fast moving streams with high oxygen levels, then spend up to 4 years feeding and growing until they are about 15cms long and are swimming downstream. As they travel, they change to enable them to survive in the marine environment (called smolting), the estuary providing a half way house before they head out to sea. Then they use ocean currents and head to the Arctic, around the Faroe Islands and Greenland, where they feed on small animals near the surface of the sea for a year or more, before finding their way back to their original rivers probably using their sense of smell, usually in Autumn or Spring. Then they head up stream to breed. They do not feed but move as efficiently as possible to the breeding site. If they have reserves left after spawning they head down back



Atlantic salmon life cycle

([https://atlanticsalmontrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/atlantic\\_salmon\\_life\\_cycle.pdf](https://atlanticsalmontrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/atlantic_salmon_life_cycle.pdf))

to the sea as Kelts; during this journey they may start feeding again so they are more likely to be caught by anglers. It is this ability to survive after breeding that can result in some very large fish.

Because they travel in these different environments, they are a good indicator of problems in the world at large. They are an indicator apex species because they sit in the middle of the eco-system relying on food and shelter at one end and are the food etc at the other. E.g. they eat invertebrates and mammals such as otters eat juveniles (amongst other things) and we eat (or we would if there was enough) adult salmon. A national icon.

### Are too many fish being caught in the sea?

Ask an angler and they may feel the fall in the numbers of fish in the Teith is due to netting in coastal and estuary

waters. Is this correct now? There are two types of nets and there are strict rules about the nets used. These are regulated by the Scottish Government as Marine Scotland but enforcement is undertaken by the Forth District Salmon Fishery Board and Police Scotland. The right to fish for salmon both within rivers and at sea is a hereditary right, therefore any regulation needs to be balanced with the need to support any loss to the owner.

Fixed Engine Nets must be set outside the river estuary. For the Teith, this means below outward of the Forth Railway Bridge. This method relies on salmon swimming into the net and not being able to escape. (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/geartype/246/en>). Within the estuary, fixed nets are not allowed and the method of netting is by net and coble

Net and Coble has one end of the net temporarily fixed to a licence station



Atlantic salmon



on the bank with one of the fishermen there; the other must be in the Coble which pays out a net as it travels in a circle back to the bank and traps fish in a circle of net. The boat must not stop moving until it lands.

Because salmon populations are under threat, fixed engine netting for salmon is now prohibited and within the Forth Estuary all salmon must be returned by the netmen.

All Scottish river systems and their associated estuary areas are now classified on the sustainability of the salmon population

- Category 1 - this is regarded as a sustainable fishery and fishing using nets is allowed,
- Category 2 - there is a set number of salmon allowed for each licence and the owner is given a set number of tags to mark the fish caught legally, so they can be sold.
- Category 3 - the owner of the netting station is not allowed to retain (kill) salmon, but may still fish for and retain Sea Trout.

The Forth Estuary (which leads to the Teith) is in category 3. The owners and tenants are not finding this commercially viable and some are transferring ownership to the Forth District Salmon Fishery Board. There is no legal netting of salmon in the Forth

### Legislation for fishing on rivers

Some rivers that used to have a salmon fishery now have so few fish that there are regulations in place to prevent salmon being killed (although in Ireland there are some rivers which have been closed completely, this has not occurred in Scotland and it is hoped that this will not become the case). The Teith itself has a sustainable population of salmon currently despite the numbers of salmon declining. However, to enable management of the Teith with the Forth and Allan, it has for 2019 been made category 2 in line with the other parts of the sub-catchment. This is to acknowledge that salmon entering the river system at Stirling may be destined for the Teith, the Forth or the Allan. The recommendation is therefore for only one salmon to be retained by the angler during the



Salmon semi-submerged in an anglers net

season. The aim is for 95% of fish to be returned during the whole season.

There are other rules to protect the fish. Although fishing starts on the 1st February, all salmon must be returned to the river before 1st April by Scottish Government regulation. However the Forth District Salmon Fishery Board asks for all fish caught before 1st July to be returned (this is in many cases a requirement of the fishery owner and required as part of the permission). No female (hen) fish are kept at all and all male fish over 28 inches/10lb are returned to the river.

Salmon may become damaged when they are caught and then they are more susceptible to disease when they are returned to the river. Most fishermen have a special net so fish are kept in the water as they are handled; once fish are taken out of water they become stressed, they can no longer breathe and handling on land is more likely to cause damage to fins and scales than removing the hook in water. Hooks should not have a barb as it is more or less certain to damage the fish's mouth when it is pulled out. So much for sporting anglers, we will talk about poaching next time!

Pollution kills fish, either because the chemicals are toxic or bacteria and



Drone photo of pollution at Blue Banks near the confluence of the Teith & Forth (Forth Rivers Trust)

fungi linked with it remove oxygen from the river. There is little pollution in the river Teith. A report from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) suggests concern about the impact of wild camping and there have been incidents of accidental discharge from sewage works in Doune/Deanston. Obviously the pollution levels in the Forth will be more challenging for the fish as they head out to sea, Grangemouth for example must have an impact.

But sometimes it occurs on the Teith as the aerial photo shows. Other wildlife in and around the river can affect Salmon populations. Salmon feed on small animals, is there enough food for them? Are other animals who eat the same food as Salmon getting commoner? Are more Salmon being eaten by other predators?

### Teith Survey

We think the Teith is changing, more in some places than others, but at the moment the evidence is just hearsay. We would be very pleased if readers could help gather evidence about mammals, birds, fish and small things in and beside the river which might have an impact. Please use the form on the next page to record your observations. As always, please take great care when in the vicinity of the river to ensure your own safety and the safety of others.

*Alison Baker/Jonathan Louis, Forth Rivers Trust*



Please use the form below to record your observations of mammals birds, fish and small things in and beside the river which might have an impact. Your observations could be very useful. If you don't know the name describe it or attach a picture. The place is particularly important. To describe the place of observation accurately, why not try the "What3Words" app which is freely downloadable to your mobile phone (<https://what3words.com/>).

Date Observed	Place of Observation	What seen & how many?	Notes and/or picture

## Stirling's Salmon Fishing Season 2020

The 1st of February was a traditionally "dreich" day, but Callander was busy and bustling as it was the official opening of Stirling's Salmon Fishing Season on the River Teith. A parade of approximately 500 people made up of anglers, the general public and the press made their way down Ancaster Square towards the River Teith, accompanied by rousing tunes from the Doune and Deanston Pipe Band.

The river was officially "opened up" by Team GB Paralympic Snowboarder, Andrew McLeod, who grew up in Stirling. Andrew was overjoyed to have the opportunity to open the event and talked enthusiastically about his life-long love of fishing and gave encouragement to young people to be active and take part in outdoor activities, such as fishing. Andrew then had the opportunity to follow local tradition and threw a dram of single malt whisky into the waters of the Teith, before carrying out the first catch of the season.

There were opportunities to be introduced into the world of fly tying by John Richardson of Frank & Snaelda and for those who were beginner anglers, there was also "Come and Try" Sections. A large marquee in Station Car Park also exhibited a range of stalls from local organisations and businesses such as Trossachs Search & Rescue, Mhor, Lantra Scotland, The Scottish Fly Fair, Forth Rivers Trust, Police Scotland and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs's National Park. As a non-angler myself along with my canine companion Tia, enjoyed watching the numerous anglers casting off and admired the wonderful community atmosphere that Stirling's waters are well-known for.



Provost Christine Simpson also gave a few words at the start of the event and highlighted the fact that Stirling and the Trossachs are continuing to lead the way for fishing and environmental conservation in Scotland. Stirling Council has recently enforced a new "Catch and Release" conservation measure - when a fish is caught, the next fish has to be released and I hope this will continue to set the standards high for fishing in Stirling and the Trossachs.

*Bethan Jones*

## Making Callander Greener



Hopefully many of you will have enjoyed last summer's colourful hanging baskets and planters around town. We had some lovely compliments, especially about the cascading flowers outside St Kessog's. Also let's not forget the heather and conifer beds around the War Memorial, the flower train outside the toilets in Station Road car park, the baskets on railings by the pedestrian crossings, beds between Creative in Callander and Mhor Bread, the Friendship Garden and the Frerichs memorial garden in South Church Street. What do they all have in common? In the absence of gardening fairies, they are all maintained by the Greener Callander team of volunteers.

Weather permitting, whoever is available meet monthly on the second Monday at 1.30pm in the Community Friendship Garden in South Church Street. After a couple of hours doing whatever needs it most we often retire

to Deli Ecosse to debate gardening issues or just put the world to rights. The more people we have, the more we can do.

If you can spare a couple of hours, or have greenhouse space to help us to grow on plants or even donate plants for our sale on 23rd May, then please get in touch with Lesley on [mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk) or Hilary on [mail@hilarygunkel.co.uk](mailto:mail@hilarygunkel.co.uk). You will be made very welcome.

*Lesley Hawkins*



## Disaster for historic Sir Walter Scott Steamship



The 120 year old steamship that sails on Loch Katrine in the Trossachs has been taken out of

service due to extensive cracks in the boilers. They cannot be repaired so it will not be sailing this season.

Manager Director, Gordon Allan said: 'This is a major setback as we were looking forward to a special anniversary year celebrating 120 years of the steamship sailing. This follows a downturn in business linked to major landslides on the lochside last August and we were well on the road to recovery with the prospects of a bumper season ahead.'

He added that their immediate priorities included taking steps to safeguard the 55 direct jobs and many indirect jobs dependent on the Loch Katrine operations. They do have other boats available so are confident that, with the goodwill of the general public and the commitment and enthusiasm of staff, that sailings will carry on while they consider ways to bring the Sir Walter Scott Steamship

back into service as quickly as possible.

Gordon Allan also said 'Once we have more details on future options, likely costs and our funding strategy, which may well include a public funding appeal, we will issue an update but in the meantime we would urge members of the public to support our existing operation by visiting Loch Katrine.'

We are pleased to advise the Ben Ledi View readers, that we have a new addition to the fleet at Loch Katrine. The future Rob Roy III (Ex Sealife Cruises) is currently up in the Boatyard near Oban. She should be arriving at Loch Katrine in early April and should be in service by early May

'We look forward to seeing you then. if not before'

## News from St Andrew's - Retirement of the Rev. Canon Richard Grosse

Richard was appointed Rector of the Linkage of St Andrew's Callander and St Mary's, Aberfoyle in 2004. Originally a solicitor, he forsook the Law to become ordained an Anglican priest. He looked after a number of rural parishes in England before moving to Perthshire with his wife Melanie.

As in England, where his charges contained up to five parishes, Richard's ministry was not confined to Callander and Aberfoyle, but included Balfron, Buchlyvie and Killearn and recently as Interim Pastor at St James the Great, Dollar. He was installed as a Canon of Perth Cathedral on St Ninian's Day 2015 and became Synod Clerk to the Cathedral Chapter.

Richard has been a tireless worker both for his charges and for the communities that he served. Transport is fundamental to his life, and he has frequently been seen behind the wheel of taxis, school buses and the Mobile Library, where he actively engages passengers in conversation. At home his engineering prowess focusses on his collection of vintage motorcycles but he is also very well read and his musical knowledge is encyclopaedic.



In the pulpit, his sermons were measured, well informed and never predictable, frequently accompanied by props. He was always assiduous in putting his message into contemporary context, whether through history, politics, natural phenomena or just characterising the saint of the day. Richard was a notable ecumenist and played an active part in the Callander Council of Churches.

Varied too was his work in the community. He cut the grass, varnished the Hall floor and was often seen up a ladder (such disregard for convention and his own safety often causing alarm among his congregation). But his ministry was much wider than this - he helped the elderly, went to see the sick in hospital and visited people at home, putting pastoral care and need well beyond a Rector's calling

Richard retires on 1st May, and his last Sunday service will be on 26th April at the usual time of 10.00am. St Andrew's Vestry and Congregation warmly invite the Callander community, and particularly those families that he has touched through baptism, marriage or funeral, to join us to wish him well. We are very pleased that former organist David King and his wife Susan will be coming up from Oxford. There will be a collection which Richard has asked to be given to St Andrew's Fabric Fund, but those who would like to mark his retirement personally are welcome to join the Congregation in giving him and Melanie something to enjoy in the coming years. They have made Scotland their home and will not be far away, so I am sure that we shall see (or hear) Richard again in future, even if just on one of his collection of vintage motorbikes!

*Peter Forrester*

If you would like to make a personal gift to Richard please contact a member of the Vestry or the Treasurer (email [pederewski@gmail.com](mailto:pederewski@gmail.com))

# What's on in April and May

## REGULAR MEETINGS

### **Mondays:**

- Active Life class 9.30am McLaren Leisure
- Weekly drop in WORK I.T. 10.00-11.00am Callander Library
- Yoga 9.15-10.30 McLaren Leisure
- Chair Yoga 11.15am -12.15pm McLaren Leisure
- Gentle Yoga 3.00-4.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Scrabble 2.00pm The Old Rectory (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 (except 6th and 13th April & 4th May)
- Golf Coaching Sessions for Juniors 6.00-7.30pm Golf Course
- 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 - Cancelled until further notice
- Zumba fitness class 7.00pm Kirk Hall
- Callander Pipe Band practice/teaching 7.00pm Masonic Hall
- Yoga 7.00-8.30pm McLaren Leisure

### **Tuesdays:**

- Music Bugs (pre-school) 10.00 and 11.00am McLaren Leisure
- Weekly drop-in I.T. and ME 2.00-4.00pm Callander Library
- Craigard Club 10.30am to 1.00pm Kirk Hall (not 14th April)
- Walk in the Park 10.20 am (see schedule by date below)
- Callander Cycle Meander meet 10.00am Ancaster Square (contact 01877 339074)
- Strength and Balance exercise sessions 2.00pm Fire Station
- Callander and W. Perthshire Rotary Club meet 6.00pm for 6.30pm
- The Old Rectory, Leny Road. Visitors always welcome
- Army Cadet Force training 7.00pm Kirk Hall
- Hatha Yoga 7.30-9.00pm McLaren

### Leisure

- Badminton Club 7.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Taekwondo 7.00-9.00pm McLaren Leisure

### **Wednesdays:**

- Trossachs Tiny Tots 9.30-11.30am McLaren Leisure
- Citizens Advice Bureau 10.00am-4.00pm Callander Library
- Teapot Café 10.30am Kirk Hall Library
- Bridge Club 6.50pm Old Bank
- Song Squad 7.15-9.15pm Fire Station
- Body FIT BOOTCAMP 7.00-8.00pm McLaren Leisure

### **Thursdays:**

- Aqua Therapy 9.00am McLaren Leisure
- Yoga 11.15-12.45 McLaren Leisure
- Callander Brownies after school at CYP Callander Hostel
- Golf Coaching Sessions for Juniors 6.00-7.30pm Golf Club
- Scottish Country Dancing 7.00pm Masonic Hall
- Texas Hold 'Em Poker 7.30pm Lade Inn
- Kwik Cricket and Hardball 5.30-7.00pm McLaren Rugby pitch
- Callander Brass practice Training band 6.30pm, main band 7.30pm Primary School
- Kettlebells 7.00 -8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Hatha Yoga (adults) 7.45-9.15 pm McLaren Leisure

### **Fridays:**

- Craigard Club 10.30am to 1.00pm Kirk Hall (not 10th and 17th April)
- Spike Island: Pool Inflatable Fun 7.30-8.30pm (8 yrs+), 8.30-9.30pm (High School up to 15 years) 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 :**

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

## April

### **Friday 3rd**

**Ben Ledi View published**

### **Saturday 4th**

- Ramblers Hill: Beinn an Fhogharaidh (616m) 8.30am Contact 01877 382682

### **Tuesday 7th**

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

### **Wednesday 8th**

- Ramblers Stroll: River Earn, Muthill to Crieff (6 miles) 9.30am Contact 01786 825249
- Landscape Partnership Woodland Conservation 10.00am-3.00pm Callander Crags
- Heritage Society talk by Bruce Keith 'Bridgescape-celebrating Scotland's bridge-building heritage' 7.00 for 7.30pm Masonic Hall.

### **Thursday 9th**

- Thursday Club meets 2.00-4.30pm Kirk Hall Library

### **Friday 10th**

- Ecumenical Good Friday Walk and Meditation 10.00am meet in Kirk Hall

### **Saturday 11th**

- Rotary Bottle Stall, Ancaster Square
- Bowling Green season opens

### **Sunday 12th**

- Easter Day
- Outdoor service 9.00am beside Tomna Chessaig, Callander Meadows
- Film Society post-poned

### **Monday 13th**

- Community Council meets 7.30pm Callander Hostel

### **Tuesday 14th**

- Walk in the Park Keltie Bridge meet 10.20am Medical Centre
- SWT Members'talks and very brief AGM 7.30pm Kirk Hall

### **Friday 17th**

- Woodland Trust Black Grouse Safari 3.45 am booking essential on 0330 333 3300 Lendrick Steading Glen Finglas
- German-speaking group meets 7.00pm Ardour Cottage , 3 Grant Court Bridgend

### **Saturday 18th**

- Ramblers LDP:FCP(7) Elie to Leven(19 miles) 8.30am Contact 01877 330032



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

## Tuesday 21st

- Walk in the Park Bracklinn Falls (car share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square
- Arthritis Society AGM and Cheese and Wine evening 7.30pm Kirk Hall

## Wednesday 22nd

- Ramblers Hill: Ben Cleuch the Easy Way (721m) 9.30am Contact 01786 825877
- Summer Evening town walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square

## Sunday 26th

- Target Sports Club Clay Pigeon Shoot 10.00am Callander Contact Bob Farquhar 07721-744229 to confirm date and book.

## Tuesday 28th

- Walk in the Park Strathyre Forest Cabins (car share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

## Wednesday 29th

- Ramblers Ramble: Great Cumbræ Inner Circle (7.5 miles) 9.30am Contact 07599 0680031
- Summer Evening town walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square

## May

### Saturday 2nd

- Coffee, Lunch and Crafts. 10.30 -2pm Kirk Hall

### Tuesday 5th

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

### Wednesday 6th

- Ramblers Hill: Mid Hill and Beinn Dubh (Luss) (657m) 9.30am Contact 01877 382924
- Landscape Partnership Foraging Walk 10.00am-12 noon starts Meadows carpark Contact julie.wilson@lochlomond-trossachs.org
- Summer Evening town walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square

### Thursday 7th

- Conservation Volunteer Day 10.00am-3.00pm meet Meadows carpark

### Friday 8th

### Ben Ledi View copy deadline

- VE Day
- Medical Practice Closed

### Sunday 10th

- Film Society AGM and 'Wild Rose' (15) 7.00 for 7.30pm Callander

## Hostel

### Monday 11th

- Community Council meets 7.30pm Callander Hostel

### Tuesday 12th

- Walk in the Park Golf Club Walk meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

### Wednesday 13th

- Heritage Society talk by Katie O'Connell of AOC Archaeology 'Callander in the Early Neolithic: Investigations at Keltie Bridge' 7.00 for 7.30pm Masonic Hall
- Summer Evening town walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square

### Friday 15th

- German-speaking group meets 7.00pm Ardgour Cottage 3 Grant Court Bridgend

### Saturday 16th

- Ramblers LDP:FCP (8) Leven to Kirkcaldy (10 miles) 8.30am Contact 01877 330032
- Gaelic Singing Workshop with Linda Macleod (NicLeoid) 2.00-4.00pm Callander Hostel Contact ross.crawford@lochlomond-trossachs.org 01389 727798

### Sunday 17th

- Conservation Volunteer Day 10.00am-3.00pm meet Meadows carpark

### Tuesday 19th

- Walk in the Park Doune Allotments (car share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

### Wednesday 20th

- Ramblers Stroll: Where Coal was King (St Ninians to Loch Fitty) (6 miles) Contact 07785 703124
- Summer Evening town walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square

### Saturday 23rd

- Greener Callander Plant Sale 10.00am -4.00pm Ancaster Square

### Tuesday 26th

- Walk in the Park Moss Wood (car

share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

### Wednesday 27th

- Ramblers Ramble: Cademuir Hill Forts & the Tweed (Peebles) (8 miles) Contact 01877 330169

•

- Summer Evening town walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square

### Saturday 30th

- Horticultural Society Coffee Morning 10.0am -12 noon Kirk Hall

### Sunday 31st

- Target Sports Club Clay Pigeon Shoot 10.00am Callander Contact Bob Farquhar 07721-744229 to confirm date and book

## June

### Tuesday 2nd

- Walk in the Park NCN7 at Strathyre (car share) meet 10.20am Ancaster Square

### Wednesday 3rd

- Summer Evening town walk meet 7.00pm Ancaster Square

### Thursday 4th

- Medical Practice Closed from 12.30pm

### Friday 5th

Ben Ledi View published

## Update

Please check before you attend any of these events. This is currently correct but may change due to the national crisis.



**McLaren Leisure**  
Mollands Road, Callander, FK17 8JP

Swimming pool	Holiday Activities
Fitness classes	Birthday parties
Climbing wall	Kids' Activities
Soft play	Fitness Suite
3G Pitch	Sport hall
Cafe	

www.mclarenleisure.co.uk 01877 330 000

## The Problem With Weight

Weight control is never easy, both in humans and animals: the scales can tip in the wrong direction it seems with little effort and without anyone noticing, not until the changes are marked. Correcting these changes requires determination, perseverance and sometimes an investigation into the cause.

When talking about weight control, most often Obesity springs to mind, however, weight loss can be a sign that something is medically wrong. If weight is reducing without any effort to do so, or change in activity or diet, it would be advisable to pop in for a check up.

Other symptoms to look out for if your pet's weight is reducing would be:

- 1. Excessive hunger
- 2. Vomiting or diarrhoea
- 3. Dental pain
- 4. Drinking more
- 5. Urinating more
- 6. Lethargy

These symptoms paired with weight loss could indicate there is an underlying problem which needs to be investigated.

The weight of your animal is how we as vets calculate the dosage of medications, therefore having an up to date weight on file is important. Weigh ins are free and are a way to accustom your dog to coming to the vet. Our vet nurses and reception staff are generous with treats and enjoy meeting our clients and their pets.

The odd treat from time to time is acceptable however pet obesity is a problem that we often see. If your pet is overweight this can lead to other complications such as increased pressure on joints and exercise intolerance.

Reports suggest that between 25-40% of dogs are overweight. Excess weight is one of the biggest causes of the joint damage that leads to osteoarthritis (ref [www.canineobesity.info](http://www.canineobesity.info))

Throughout different stages of your animal's life their nutritional needs may differ, for example: puppy compared with geriatric or animals with a medical condition such as diabetes or chronic kidney disease. It's important to identify which diet is suitable for your pet, and this can be reassessed as necessary.

At Riverside we are here to help, with any worries or questions you may have about your pet. If any of the information in this article, has sparked any questions you would like answered, or you feel



**Looking after your best friend!**

- Join our Pet Health Plan and budget monthly to reduce your pet care cost.
- Call us to make an appointment for our nurse clinics, or to consult a vet.
- Get your pet food and pet accessories from our in house pet shop.
- Professional grooming and bathing facilities for large and small dogs.

**Tel: 01877 381213**

[enquiries@riversidevetsstirling.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@riversidevetsstirling.co.uk)

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

**Riverside Veterinary Clinic**

1 Lagrannoch Industrial Estate  
Geisher Road Callander FK17 8LX

your animal requires a check up, contact us and we will be happy to help.

Here's to you and your pet being happy, healthy and the perfect weight! Let us know if we can help.  
All the team at

*Riverside Veterinary Clinic, Callander*



### **Carol's Dog Services**

Dog sitting in owner's home  
Individual dog walking  
Dog / Cat feeding  
One to One Training

Fully insured and Disclosure  
For all enquiries call:  
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QUALIFIED DOG TRAINER  
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INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE TRAINING



## CALLANDER CRICKET CLUB



To say it's been a wet winter is probably an understatement, but that hasn't stopped the club from having a busy winter on and off the pitch.

The 1st Team took part in the P&K Indoor Sixes League over the winter for the first time and finished in a respectable mid-table position. There has also been a change in captaincy with club stalwart Barry McGeachy stepping down after 7 years having taken the team from propping up the league tables in its early years to a comfortable mid-table Sunday League team and mid-week T20 Champions. Jack Mould takes over as the Sunday Captain and Kyle Allan has the unenviable task of retaining the T20 title this year as the T20 Skipper.

In the upcoming season the club will continue to play Sunday League in the SPC&U as well as the WSLT20 mid-week competition. After a years absence we have once again entered the 2 Counties Cup and travel to Perth in the 1st round. The club has also entered into the Cricket Scotland Challenge Cup and make the trip to Falkland in round one.

The junior teams have continued to train hard over the last few months and all age groups are looking good for the coming season. With a lot of cricket being scheduled for them, they are raring to get out of the training hall and onto the pitch winning games.



Over the winter the club added a new squad of players and now proudly boasts a female team, The Valkyries. They have been playing in Cricket Scotland's Weebash tournament over the winter and have their own training sessions getting ready for the new season.

Eve McCulloch and Marley Sandy have also been selected for The Caley Highlanders performance squad, the regional squad for central Scotland and the first step towards potentially representing their country – No pressure at all!!

With plenty of playing opportunities for all ages and abilities, it promises to be an exciting year for the Callander Girls.

As well as playing and training over the winter months plenty has also been going on behind the scenes. The club is extremely proud to announce that Eve McCulloch won Cricket Scotlands 'Young Volunteer of the Year' Award in recognition of all she has done in helping establish a female squad, assisting with the junior teams and High School cricket.



In other exciting news, after months of discussions we have bought in a big sponsor to help the club in Kingfisher Beer. Saul and The Crown Hotel have been pivotal in making this happen by becoming our Official Clubhouse and committing to support the club's long-term ambitions. Its great to have Saul's positivity and dedication to support our club and we look forward to a long and fruitful



partnership with The Crown Hotel & Kingfisher Beer. We have additional sponsorship opportunities available. If you would like to support our junior and female teams then get in touch with Katy McGeachy, our Fundraising & Events Co-ordinator by dropping her a message on facebook or emailing [callandercricket.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:callandercricket.secretary@gmail.com)

For up to date information on training and games for all teams visit [www.callandercricketclub.jimdo.net](http://www.callandercricketclub.jimdo.net) or join us on facebook for all the current happenings at the club

*Barry McGeachy*

## Callander Bowling Club

### Season Opening 2020



The green re-opens for the 2020 season on Saturday 11th April.

There will be a bench presentation in memory of Mrs. Norma McConachie (a past player and keen supporter of the club) before play commences. Please arrive at 1.30pm for a 2pm start. New members welcome (1st year, half price).

The open rink nights start on Monday 13th April at 6.30pm. Anyone wishing to try bowls can come along on Monday evenings. We have spare bowls available, just make sure you are wearing flat-soled shoes please.

Any enquiries, contact Donald: 07513488453

*Donald Grieve*



## Callander Thistle FC

### Youth Team



Everyone has been working very hard on the pitch and also behind the scenes at Callander Thistle Youth Club. We are about to join the SYFA and FVFDL very soon and the children will start to play Saturday matches and they are very excited about this.

The children are really enjoying their Wednesday training sessions and we have recently opened up to children born in 2013 and it is great to see new faces at the club.

We now train children born between 2010 & 2013 on Wednesdays 6-7 at McLaren Leisure. New children are welcome to come along and join in.

We are all now very excited to see what the year ahead holds for the children at Callander Thistle Youth Club. Thanks to our generous sponsors Andrew Anderson and Sons and Aberfoyle Satellite Company, the children now have their football strips and training jumpers.



### Golf Day Sat 13th June

After the success of last year, we are pleased to announce that we now have secured a date for this year's golf day. The event will take place at Callander Golf Club on Saturday 13th June.

It will be a shotgun start with teams of 4 competing against each other. After the golf there will be a two course meal served at the Waverley Hotel and a presentation ceremony.

Entry to the competition will cost £140 for a team of 4. However, we are this year doing an Early Bird entry fee of £100 per team of 4, However this will only be available until 16th May.

We are also looking for local businesses to sponsor each of the different tees on the day. For more information on this or to book your team please email [david@mclarenleisure.co.uk](mailto:david@mclarenleisure.co.uk)

### Sponsors

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our kit sponsors for the season including Kings Joiners and Manufacturers, Scottish Sea Farms, Aberfoyle Satellite Company and Andrew Andersons and Sons Funeral Directors.

### Quiz Night

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended and contributed to making our Quiz Night a great evening. A special thank you must be made to the Waverley for hosting and sponsoring the event and also to the staff for their efforts on the evening.

*David Gordon-McWhirter*

## Callander Golf Club – Junior section.

### Spring coaching sessions



Club golf spring coaching sessions start on Monday 11th May and Thursday 14th May. The sessions will be held each Monday and Thursday for 6 weeks, from 6.00 till 7.30pm, providing a friendly, informal opportunity for beginners to have a go at golf for the first time as well as an opportunity for more experienced juniors to improve their skills. Clubs and balls are provided if required.

If you are interested and want to come along please contact Callander Golf Club on [callandergolf@btconnect.com](mailto:callandergolf@btconnect.com) or phone 01877 330090 and choose your day, Monday or Thursday – or both!

If you've not tried it before and wonder if it's any good, register your name using the above contact details and come along and try the first session for free. If you don't fancy it, you don't need to pay.

And remember, if you join the Golf Club as a Junior member, you'll get at least 60% off the cost of the coaching sessions. Look forward to seeing you all on 11th May



*Junior Coaching Team*





## eBikes

It may have been wet and windy for the past few months but we are sure spring is on its way and of course the better weather brings more outdoor activities. We were lucky enough in 2018 to receive funding for five eBikes. These bikes have been incredibly popular with the community since their arrival and we expect them to be just as popular in the future. More about eBikes: Generally speaking, e-bikes are bicycles with a battery-powered "assist" that comes from pedalling. A small motor engages and gives you a boost, so you can zip up hills and cruise over tough terrain without exhausting yourself. Our affordable E-bike hire lets you travel along at a brisk pace, they are great for touring the local area or for reducing car trips. To hire your eBike simply contact us on 01877 330000.



## Climbing Wall



Last year we reopened our climbing wall doors after its big refurbishment and you are still loving it. The bright, modern space has been busy with group climbs, Kids' Camps, birthday parties, youth groups, school hire, climbing clubs and much more. Our auto belays have made this area much more accessible, allowing for solo climbing and more users to climb together. This year brings many more climbing bookings for our wall, a chance for all ages and abilities to test their climbing skills.

## What's to come?

While we continue to address our investment plan to meet priority needs on our big projects we hope to bring you some existing events and activities later this year. Look out for more information in the next BLV on how we will do this!

## Callander Target Shooting Club

### Update on Christmas fire:

The local man that was charged with wilful fire-raising at the club has appeared at Stirling Sheriff Court. The Sheriff agreed to a continuance of matters without plea until 6th March awaiting more information from the accused's GP – full details available in the Stirling Observer. In the meantime, the electrician and joiner have been busy at work making good the fire damage to the external door and lights.



### New energy saving lights:

Thanks to the donation that Stephen O'Keffe left in his will, the club have replaced their ancient fluorescent lights in the club room with up-to-date energy saving LED lights, saving both the club costs and the planet.

### Perthshire Winter Competitions

#### 25 Yard Prone (after 15 rounds):

The "A" team are "nip & tuck" with Balerno & Curry at the top of division 1, with Callander only one point ahead with 5 rounds to go.

Unfortunately, neither the "B" or "C" team are doing particularly well, but hopefully will recover.

#### Individual leagues (after 7 rounds):

With 3 rounds to go; Gordon Motion, Mike Buchanan and Cliff Ogle all lie in second place in their respective divisions.

### Perthshire knockouts:

Mike Buchanan is about to shoot in the semi-final of the Burton cup, which is the premier competition.

The winter competitions are now drawing to a close and the summer competitions have been entered, therefore the final results of the season for the Perthshire and Cumbria leagues / competitions will be published in the next BLV. For further club details, contact our secretary Bob Farquhar 07721-744229.

John Russell

**CALLANDER LIBRARY**

## Opening Hours

Monday	10am – 1pm	2 – 5pm
Tuesday	10am – 1pm	2 – 7pm
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	10am – 1pm	2 – 7pm
Friday	10am – 1pm	2 – 5pm
Saturday	10am – 12 noon	

Telephone/Fax 331544

**Callander Library Outreach Service**

**D**o you love reading but struggle to get to the library? Stirling Council's Library Service operates an Outreach Service which may be able to help you. It doesn't matter what age you are; if you have mobility issues, physical or mental health problems or anything which prevents you from regularly visiting your library, then this service may be for you.

On registering your interest, you will be contacted for an informal chat to discuss what type of books you like, such as crime, romance etc., and whether you prefer standard print, large print or audiobooks. Packages of your style of books will then be made up regularly to be delivered to your home.

We are very fortunate in Callander to have some lovely volunteers who will visit fortnightly, bringing new books and collecting the old ones (they'll even stop for a wee chat if you like!).

If this sounds like something which may be of benefit to you or someone you know, then please contact Callander Library on 01877 331544 for further details.

Fiona Frize

**Book Club Review**

**T**his issue's book review title is *Caging Skies* by Christine Leunens (John Murray, 2019). The book was originally published in 2004, but has re-emerged following its adaptation into the 2019 film, *Jojo Rabbit*, directed by Taika Waititi.

The novel is set in Vienna and is told from the perspective of Johannes Betzler. Johannes was born in the city in 1927 and as a young boy was captivated by Adolf Hitler. He joined the junior section of

Hitler Youth, the Jungvolk (as was compulsory for all youngsters to do at this time) before moving to Hitlerjugend at the age of 13.

This youth movement was created to prepare the next generation for military activity by focusing on sport, athleticism, strength and discipline. Johannes was a model member, embracing the ethos of Hitler Youth and all it stood for. However, the youngster is injured in an air raid and finds himself, newly disabled, an outcast to the idea of a superior race.

With the onset of war, the behaviours of the Betzler family become more and more peculiar, and it's at this point, Johannes discovers his parents are illegally hiding a Jewish girl, Elsa, in a secret cupboard in the house. He is initially horrified, but this horror quickly turns to fascination and then obsession. When his parents go missing, Johannes realises Elsa is now completely reliant on him, as the only person who knows of her existence.



*Caging Skies* is a tale of power and how this comes with great responsibility. On the grand scale there is the onset of world war and the power of Hitler to brainwash an entire generation in his bid to dominate. Then on a smaller scale, Johannes is charged with looking after Elsa and keeping her hidden to potentially save her life.

But then the war ends, Vienna is liberated and taken over by the allies. However, Elsa remains hidden and this is when Johannes faces up to a whole different set of dilemmas.

The relationship between Johannes and Elsa is key. It shifts and changes in complexity as time passes and both characters lose any grip on reality. There is talk of love, but no warmth to this. Johannes' character is bitter, narcissistic and unlikeable. Elsa's character is purposely under-developed and formed completely from the perspective of our narrator - her captor - who is unreliable in his obsession. An implausible story maybe? Yet Leunens writing is adept and believable, making *Caging Skies* a flawed but compulsive read.

The next BLV book club review will be *A Spell of Winter* by Helen Dunmore (Penguin, 1996 and 2019)

**Creative in Callander**

**T**he Creative in Callander Arts and Craft Shop was initiated as a joint project between a small group of Artists and Callander Development Trust to reopen one of the retail units in Callander. Later the initial project, CIC became self governing as a 'not for profit' company with a board consisting of artists. The objective being to provide a starter option for new artists, who are encouraged by the established artists in the group, assisting them with pricing, display and product development etc.

The business model requires the artists to be involved by working in the shop. CIC also has the wider objective to encourage art in the community, through involvement in art projects within Callander and the Trossachs, working alongside CDDT, Callander Enterprise, Greening of Callander, Summerfest and Winterfest. We are working with the Callander Landscape Partnership on a Gaelic trail, creating art in different mediums to enhance their Gaelic Map and comic, mapping and telling Gaelic tales of the local area.



In 2013 we started with our yearly refurbishment program, closing every January to repaint and remodel the shop. Working as a team, we would stand outside closing shops, raid skips, accepting donations from other shops and the community to revamp pre-loved furniture to use in our commercial space. We have rebuilt walls and been up close and personal under the floorboards after flooding. This year we removed 25 years worth of mess from the loft, fitting new flooring and a loft ladder. Electricians and plumbing have also been upgraded. New carpet for the shop space, a new shop sign is being partially made by another social enterprise, which will be enhanced by our artists.

We would like to thank our local



support for keeping us going out of season. For further details please visit [www.creativeincallander.co.uk](http://www.creativeincallander.co.uk). Facebook: Creative in Callander.

*Lynne Schroder*



The CAOS cast would simply like to say a big “thank you” to all our supporters and wish you all a Happy Easter.

Unfortunately *The Sound of Music* has had to be cancelled due to the Covid19 Virus

*Steve Murphy* for CAOS

### Callander Writers

An Invitation to Write from Callander Writers! You may not think there is time to fit any more into your day, except that you might just have a moment – to write. A few of us meet and do just that, write and chat a little.

If you feel like joining us, we would be very happy to welcome you and encourage you to write with us. Sometimes we pay for a tutor to come in to inspire us, sometimes we work on our own pieces, and often we use our biscuit box. Yes, you read it right – our prompts are kept there!

Whilst this invitation is extended locally via our own BLV, we do have people who travel from afar – well, Lochearnhead, so do come along and give it (and us) a try; see what comes out of a couple of hours on a Tuesday morning.

We have just self-published a collection of our stories, articles and poems in our book, *Living Writing*. A copy is available in Callander Library. For more information, contact Lucy on 07711 404848.

Below is a poem from *Living Writing*, written by Fiona Martin

### Winter

Mists swirl, Ben Ledi melts.

A skeleton wind rattles branches.

Snow, cut by muddy rivulets,

Forms a delta in a winter desert.

February emerges and hope

Springs green in snowdrop spikes.

January departs with empty pockets

And Winter opens her frozen fist.

## Callander Siblings win International Humanitarian Award for Work on Thai-Myanmar Border

Callander man, Stuart Cameron, has just been awarded a Humanitarian Award by Burmese Migrant Workers' Education Committee. Stuart is the producer and director of “All You Need is Love,” a documentary co produced with Suzy Amis Cameron and narrated by Sigourney Weaver, filmed on the Thai-Myanmar Border. His sister, Irene Croal, formerly of Callander, also received an award for running “All You Need is Love”, a UK-based Charity inspired by the documentary and founded by another Cameron sibling, Joyce Burnett. Stuart says “The challenges for Burmese families living in Thailand can be overwhelming and, having been a physiotherapist in Scotland for many years, I know what a difference therapy can make. Through All You Need is Love’s project, Stepping Stones, we aim to improve things for children and their families and address the barriers that disability presents head-on, by providing physiotherapy, accessing medical help and connecting with organisations to open up educational, social and training opportunities.” Further Information is available through visiting [www.stepsstonescot](http://www.stepsstonescot).

Stuart filming in Mae Sot



## 32 Charities and clubs

### Callander and West Perthshire U3A



#### Did You Know?

- From its beginnings in 1981, the UK U3A movement grew quickly.
- U3A is a nationwide network of learning groups.
- There are now over 1,000 U3As across the UK.
- It is for retired and semi-retired people.
- It's learning for fun.
- It is run by volunteers.
- People share their knowledge, skills, interests and experiences.
- Callander and West Perthshire U3A is an active and friendly organisation, running more than 35 courses this year.

Learn, Laugh, Live! There is something for everyone.

Please have a look at the C&WP website. <https://u3asites.org.uk/callander-and-wp/home>

*Joy Henderson*

### GARTMORE VILLAGE PLANT SALE

Proceeds to  
Strathcarron Hospice

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
10.00 a.m. to 1.00pm

The Village Hall  
Main Street Gartmore  
FK8 3RP



Admission £4.00 (Children free)  
Includes Tea /coffee and delicious home  
baking

*Please Support Strathcarron Hospice*

### German Speaking Group in Callander

Das nächste Treffen der Gruppe findet am FREITAG 17. APRIL um 19.00 Uhr in Ardour Cottage, 3 Grant Court, Bridgend, Callander, FK17 8AD statt.

Für unsere Diskussion an jenem Abend schlagen wir das folgende Thema vor: „Inwiefern ist die Gefahr des Coronavirus in den Medien und von Regierungen weltweit übertrieben worden? Was für weitere Auswirkungen sind noch zu erwarten?“

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

Falls Ihr Fragen dazu stellen wollt, ruft bitte Jen an. (07710-232908). NB Alle Teilnehmer sind gebeten, sich im Voraus bis Dienstag 14. April bei Jen anzumelden (jenshearer@gmail.com), damit es genügend Kuchen gibt! Für das übernächste am Freitag 15. Mai stattfindende Treffen wird das Thema im Voraus allen Mitgliedern in einer Email mitgeteilt werden. Wir freuen uns darauf, Euch alle am 17. April bei mir wieder begrüßen zu dürfen.

*Jen Shearer*

### Music and Memories

Come along to Callander Kirk Hall for a trip down Memory Lane.



Familiar songs, friendly welcome and a cuppa. Everyone is welcome, including those living with dementia and their carers.

The dates are as follows: Monday 2-3.30 on 11th May, 8th June, 20th July, 10th August.

For more information please contact: Ann Ross [07720887720](tel:07720887720) or Anne McLachlan [07743125966](tel:07743125966)

*Anne McLachlan*

### Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club



Rotary

It has been a quiet start to the year but

plans are now afoot for this year's events.

We started with the Club's qualifying round of the Rotary District Primary Schools Quiz hosted by Callander Primary School. This year eleven teams took part, fielded by nine local schools on 13th of February. As usual the quality of the teams was excellent. The winner this year was Doune Primary School and they will participate in the next round at the Logie Theatre, Stirling University on the 21st of March.

The next event is our Easter bottle stall to be held on Saturday 11th April to raise money for local causes. No doubt the Easter Bunny will be there to hand out sweets.

Then we have the Spring Coffee, Lunch and Crafts at Callander Kirk Hall on Saturday 2nd May from 10.30a.m. to 2p.m. Money raised from the day will go to Rotary's own Foundation charity which supports causes around the world including the worldwide eradication of polio.

If you would like to find out more about Rotary please look at our website, [www.callander.rotary1010.org](http://www.callander.rotary1010.org) or on Facebook. If you would like to come along to a meeting, any Tuesday evening at 6 for 6.30pm at The Old Rectory on Leny Road or find out more about membership please contact Derek House on [01877 330103](tel:01877330103).

*Derek House*

### 'The Year of Coast and

#### Waters' - RiverFest.

On 2nd August - an event for the community - including a duck race, guided walks, taster session for canoeing, stalls and games about rivers.

During July and August there will be other events like an introduction to angling and workshops.

More details to follow.

*Forth Rivers Trust.*



## FABB Scotland

We are moving to the Trossachs Tryst, Callander and will be offering volunteer opportunities and community space to residents and visitors.



FABB Scotland is a national youth and education service which progresses young people and children with disabilities and differing needs into mainstream activities by designing and developing sustainable and inclusive community engagement packages. As a result of this type of provision our target communities develop socially and emotionally, build confidence and self-worth and thus change lives in varied and positive ways.

As part of our continuous growth and development, I am pleased to inform you that, during the next few months, FABB Scotland is moving from its main base in Edinburgh to the Trossachs Tryst, Invertrossachs Road, Callander. We will be introducing a volunteer recruitment and training programme offering opportunities for all ages and abilities within the local community of Callander and surrounding areas.

We'd like to hear from local people who may be interested in becoming part of our:

- Gig in the Garden: green fingered and ready to grow;
- Housekeeper Hosts: meeting 'n' greeting our visitors;
- The Clean Team: decluttering, dusting, cleaning and hoovering;
- Party of Painters: painting and decorating;
- Odd-Jobbers: DIY, repair and replace;
- Nurturing Nurses: we occasionally need qualified nurses to call upon during our FABB-i-Do Themed Activity Days;
- Trekking Tradesmen: we occasionally need qualified tradesmen to repair or replace our plumbing, gas or electrics.

We will be organising open days from May 2020 when you can drop-in at the Trossachs Tryst to find out more about these roles, how to apply and, what tasks are involved.

For more information, please contact me, Jan Brereton, at: [Jan@fabb.org.uk](mailto:Jan@fabb.org.uk) or telephone 07970 003 297, if you would like to be kept informed about this developing project.

*Jan Brereton*



## Scotland's Gardens Scheme

Scotland's Gardens Scheme was originally founded in 1931 to raise money for the Queen's Nursing Institute, Scotland before the creation of the National Health Service. Our charitable support has expanded over the years but our love of gardens has remained constant. Now 60% of the money raised at the openings goes to the garden owner's own chosen charity and the remainder to Scotland's Gardens Beneficiaries.

There are four gardens close to the Callander area which are part of the scheme. Three will be open at some time over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, 23-25 May. These are Kilbryde Castle between Dunblane and Doune; Gargunnoch House Garden, Gargunnoch and Shrubhill, near Dunblane. Properties are also open on other dates. Owners may offer plant sales and/or teas as part of their opening and it's a wonderful opportunity to visit some beautiful gardens and raise money for good causes.

For a full list of dates, times, directions and admission charges, please visit our website <https://scotlandsgardens.org/> where there are also pictures of the gardens.

*Teresa Hil*

(Please check [www.scotlandsgardens.org](http://www.scotlandsgardens.org) for updates on cancellations)

## Callander and District Arthritis Club

On Tuesday, 21st April at 7.30pm in the Kirk Hall, we will hold our Annual General Meeting, with wine and cheese to follow as usual.

Then, on Tuesday 19th May, we will have a demonstration by Wiltshire Farm Foods, which should be interesting. There will be refreshments and a raffle afterwards, and visitors are always welcome.

*Fiona Snow*

## BLV Apology

The Ben Ledi View would like to sincerely apologise to Trossachs, Lomond and Clyde Physiotherapy for publishing their advert with the wrong telephone number in the last issue.

We will try not to make the same mistake with any of our advertisers ever again.





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## Planning Applications submitted to the National Park since the last issue

**Erection of single storey extension** Leny House Callander Stirling FK17 8HA Ref. No: 2019/0356/LBC | Received: Wed 18 Dec 2019 | Validated: Tue 21 Jan 2020 | Status: Current

**Installation of timber baffles within low flow channel at spill weir including masonry works to deepen existing channel** Loch Venachar Dam Invertrossachs Road Callander Stirling Ref. No: 2020/0006/LBC | Received: Mon 13 Jan 2020 | Validated: Mon 27 Jan 2020 | Status: Current

**Change in the use of residential property (Class 9) to holiday let (sui generis)** Dunmor Leny Road Callander FK17 8AL Ref. No: 2020/0034/DET | Received: Fri 31 Jan 2020 | Validated: Mon 17 Feb 2020 | Status: Current

**Works to trees covered by TPO - Removal of dead wood and epicormic growth of 3no Lime trees and felling of 3no Lime trees** Land East Of Leny Lodge Callander Stirling Ref. No: 2020/0053/TRE | Received: Sat 29 Feb 2020 | Validated: Sat 29 Feb 2020 | Status: Current

**Works to trees within a conservation area - 9 Lime trees, 1 Silverbirch - Pollarding** Avonbeith 16 South Church Street Callander FK17 8BN Ref. No: 2020/0054/TRE | Received: Mon 02 Mar 2020 | Validated: Tue 10 Mar 2020 | Status: Current

For further information on any of these applications go to <https://eplanning.lochlomond-trossachs.org/OnlinePlanning/?agree=0>

## Holy Week Services

Monday 6th April - 7.30pm in Callander Kirk

Tuesday 7th April - 7.30pm in Callander Kirk

Wednesday 8th April - 7.30pm in Callander Kirk

Thursday 9th April - 7.30pm in St Andrew's Episcopal Church when the congregations of St Andrew's and Callander Kirk join together for a Maundy Thursday Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Friday 10th April - 10.00am meet in Callander Kirk Hall for Ecumenical Good Friday Walk and Meditation

Sunday 12th 9.00am Service beside Tom na Chessaig, Callander Meadows

11.15am All Age Easter Sunday Service in Kirk

3.00pm Trossachs Easter Service

7.00pm Time for Silence in Kirk

## Answers to BLV CROSSWORD No. 144

Last issue's crossword winner was  
Jenny Down of Callander



## Covid 19

Are you Self Isolating? or in a High risk group and cannot leave home?

Do you need Shopping. Prescription picked up or letter posted?

or do you just need a friendly voice at the end of a phone?

If so contact us on facebook page  
[db.me/helpingcallander](https://www.facebook.com/helpingcallander) or on 07557 774253  
between 9am and 8pm every day.

All Volunteers are local and services are free

*A Group of Callander Residents*

**J MCPHAIL**  
**TAXIS**



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email...jamesmcpmail@talk21.com

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Rural Stirling Housing Association aims to support local communities by providing quality homes at affordable rents for families, couples and single people in housing need.

We currently have over 600 rented houses and flats. Around 40 of these become available for rent each year. We currently have properties in the following communities:

Aberfoyle	Doune	Kiln	Strathrye
Balfour	Drymen	Kinlochard	Stonachlachar
Buchtyvie	Gargunnoch	Kippen	Tyendrum
Callander	Gartmore	Lochearnhead	
Deanston	Killearn	Strathblane	

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

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

**Rural Stirling Housing Association**  
Stirling Road, Doune FK16 6AA  
01786 841101  
enquiries@rsha.org.uk  
www.rsha.org.uk

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**Fake News? .**

We live in a world in desperate need of accurate, real and verifiable news. Sad to say, we do not always find that in Mainstream Media. People may have noticed a huge increase in negative news items towards Scotland recently.

Propaganda is used to affect the mood and views of users on Facebook and Twitter etc. Millions of bots and trolls stalk the internet and strongly distort people's understanding of issues, normalising thoughts and behaviours, in the interests of the organisations that constructed them. Bots are computer programs that can masquerade as humans to post or send messages on social media.

Research suggests that anything from 25% to 50% of comments and posts can be made by bots and trolls. "Think of a bot as a megaphone," Professor Ferrara (research professor

at the University of Southern California). Bots give the impression that there is organic support behind a movement or idea." There are many internet sites that tell you how to recognise a bot or a troll. For Example <https://blog.f-secure.com/how-to-deal-with-trolling-bots-and-fake-accounts/>

To defend ourselves against fake news items, and the posts by bots and trolls, we could not do better than to look to Finland which has ranked first for media literacy and resistance to fake news out of 35 European countries.

Finland uses a scheme to teach digital literacy and critical thinking about misinformation to school children. It is also played out to adults, including seniors. It outlines three areas to be aware of: misinformation (defective information

or mistakes), disinformation, such as hoaxes, and mal-information, stories that intend to damage.

There is no reason why local groups in council or parish constituencies shouldn't do the same. Anyone up for leading such courses in Callander? The challenge is there. Who will pick up the baton?

**HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS**

- CONSIDER THE SOURCE**  
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.
- READ BEYOND**  
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?
- CHECK THE AUTHOR**  
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?
- SUPPORTING SOURCES?**  
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.
- CHECK THE DATE**  
Reporting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.
- IS IT A JOKE?**  
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.
- CHECK YOUR BIASES**  
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.
- ASK THE EXPERTS**  
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.



## Local Information

### Emergency Services: 999

#### Callander Police: 101

Local Council Office & Registrar:  
01877 33004

Social Work: 01786 471177

Post Office: 01877 330267

Stirling Council: 01786 404040

#### National Health

Callander Medical Practice 01877  
331000

Prescriptions 01877 331001  
(10.00am till 3pm)

District Nurse 01877 330150

NHS 24 111 or [www.nhs24.scot](http://www.nhs24.scot)  
[www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot)

Callander Dental Practice 01877  
330703

#### Chemists

Farrens **M-F** 9-6 **S** 9-5 01877 330132

Trossachs **M-F** 9-1 2-6 01877 330016

#### Vets

Callander: 01877 381213

Doune: 01786 841304

#### Schools

McLaren High: 01877 330156

Callander Primary: 01877 331576



### Callander Kirk

The Church of Scotland,

South Church Street, Callander

#### Sunday services

9.00am Service April 12th in Callander  
Meadows.

10.00am Service on April 19th, May  
3rd, 10th, 17th June 7th.

11.15am Morning Service - May 3rd, 10th  
and 17th, June 7th.

11.15 All-Age Worship - April 5th, 12th,  
19th, 26th May 24th and 31st.

Informal Communion follows Morning  
Service on 19th April and 17th May.

#### Every Sunday

7.00pm Time for Silence.

Trossachs service at 3.00 pm on April 5th,  
12th, May 3rd, 24th and June 7th including  
Communion Service on 7th June.

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  
Rev Leszek Wiecek, S.A.C  
01877 330702

### Bin Collections

#### April

**Grey/Blue bins** Sat. 4th, 18th

**Brown bin/Blue box** Sat. 25th

**Brown/ Green bins** Sat. 11th

#### MAY

**Grey/Blue bins** Sat. 2nd, 16th

**Brown bin/Blue box** Sat. 23rd

**Brown/Green bins** Sat. 9th

#### JUNE

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

[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-col-  
lection 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)



### Callander Baptist Fellowship

#### Weekly Services:

Sunday Morning Family Worship at

10.30am in Pastor's home

Sunday@Six 6pm in St. Andrews Church  
Hall

Prayer Time - Monday 8.00pm

Callander Home Group - Wednesday  
7.30pm

Doune Home Group- Tuesday 8.00pm

Everyone is welcome to all our services

For venue details for our weekday services  
please contact

Pastor Brian Gooding tel 01877 331845

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

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

### Recreation

Rail Enquiries: 0845 7484950

Bus Station (Stirling): 01786 446474

Travel Line Scotland: 0870 6082608

Leisure Centre: 01877 330000

Library: 01877 331544

Visitor Information Centre: 01877  
330342

### Floods & Environment

SEPA emergency: 0800 807060

SEPA website:

[www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/index.  
htm](http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/index.htm)

Floodline: 0845 9881188 Select  
option 1 followed by: 06213 121 (the  
Teith at Callander)

Scottish Water emergency  
information re flooding from mains  
or sewers: 0800 0778778

### Location of defibrillators

Dreadnought Garage

Callander Golf Club

McLaren Leisure Centre

The Post Office

Ancaster Square

West Dullater House and Grace

Cottage Invertrossachs

Mobile unit based in Callander with  
Scottish Ambulance Service

## BLV DEADLINES

The next issue of the Ben Ledi View  
will be published on **Friday 5th  
June 2020.**

Advertisements copy & artwork  
Please send all advertisement copy  
for the **June/July** issue to our  
Advertising Co-ordinator Isla  
Routledge at [advertising@benlediview.org](mailto:advertising@benlediview.org)  
by **Friday 8th May 2020**  
Full details of sizes for advertise-  
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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  
**June/July** issue should be emailed  
to [blveditor@benlediview.org](mailto:blveditor@benlediview.org) or  
handed in to the Callander Library  
by **Friday 8th May 2020**

Items received after the deadline  
may be held over to next issue.

## 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.*

### More on Motorhome parking in the Callander Area

I was quite shocked to read the two letters published in the December / January edition of Ben Ledi View. It seems to me that the views expressed in these two letters are biased and ill-informed – this observation is clear by your correspondent describing campervans as a “problem” rather than as a “resource”!

The growth in the use of campervans in Scotland is inevitable, and it reflects the growth that has been seen in most European countries. Throughout Europe, the majority of small towns and even villages have seen it as their duty to the community to open up facilities for campervans, partly in recognition of the economic benefits that come from attracting this form of tourism.

Your correspondent clearly has little idea as to why people choose to use a campervan to tour an area of their choice. One of the essential features of using a campervan is autonomy – you can park in the area of your choice and you may well be self-sufficient in services for three or four days. It is nonsense to equate campers with caravans! Caravans can be unhitched from the towing vehicle, which then has to be used for example to drive into town, whereas one of the key attractions of a camper is that you can park in an out-of-the-way place which is in itself close to the attraction that you wish to visit. Why do you suppose that there are some 40 campervans owned and used by Callander residents, other than the fact that these vehicles can provide an unparalleled experience?

Your correspondent states that there “were 40 campervans parked in the Meadows resulting in the loss to the local caravan parks of over £800”. This is nonsensical thinking! The out-of-town caravan parks made no

loss – they supplied nothing, and no bookings were cancelled. On the other hand, the organisers of the Jazz Festival would have gained by around £4,000 by these campervans in the Meadows (40 vans x 2 people each x £50 rover ticket) because the people in the campers were able to park overnight here in Callander. It is likely that a similar or greater figure would have gone into the pockets of local traders from the campervan users as a result of restaurant and pub spending, in addition to sales of supermarket provisions, clothes and other items.

The facilities that campervans need consist simply of the means to fill up with water, and the means to dispose of black and grey drainage. These facilities could easily be installed in the Station Road Car Park. Is it not time for Callander to wise up to the opportunities presented by the campervan market?

*Local Citizen*

### The danger of trees on Invertrossachs Road.

We are becoming accustomed to stormy weather in this new world of climate emergency. We are also lucky enough to live in a community surrounded by trees. But wind and trees can sometimes be in opposition and this can threaten the safety of people walking in their vicinity.

This is why landowners should be especially vigilant. If their insurance isn't up to scratch it could also embroil them in expensive litigation.

I am particularly alarmed by the state of some of the trees along the Invertrossachs Road. This is a road frequented by walkers, cyclists and cars, and yet, despite the Parks Authority, the Police and the Stirling Council being alerted to at least one tree, nothing has been done.

This particular tree is leaning over the road, its roots displaced, and it is only held up because it is leaning against another tree. Observers have noticed that the tree has recently leaned even further over and is now a cause for some very real alarm.

The owner of the tree seems indifferent. Should the Leny Estate, which allegedly owns this tree, be liable?

*A resident of Invertrossachs Road*

### Mimmo's Pizza Parlour

By the time you read this letter Mimmo's Pizza Parlour will be no more. After 25 years we have decided to retire.

We opened on the Saturday after Easter 1995 when we came back from Italy. It was something of an adventure for us as we didn't know whether a pizza parlour would succeed in Callander but with a little help from my Dad and stepmum we got started. Thanks go to our family for their help, my sister and nieces always willing to give a hand, my brothers help with the dough machine and of course Francesca, who as she grew up has been a great help to us.

Thank you to our many customers from far and wide but especially to the good people of Callander who have supported us with their custom throughout the years. Also our Main St. neighbours, Atholl, Karen and Peter for their friendship.

We are delighted to report that the shop will be carrying on under a new name in much the same way. The new proprietor will be Martin Luti and the new name will be...Lutis' Artisan Food (Pizza, Pasta pronto.) We are thrilled that Martin is taking over. It will be great to have a Luti on the Main Street again and we wish him and his family all the very best for the years to come.



We are looking forward to spending a little more time with Mimmos' family in Palermo in future and soaking up some sunshine.

Once again, thank you all for your custom over the years.

*Flo and Mimmo.*

## Fraser MacKenzie...East End News

There will be many Callander citizens who will wish to say a big "thank you" to Fraser for all the help and kindness he has shown over the years. The number of folks who have said, since he closed, "Oh how we miss Frasers' shop." It was a disappointment when the Post Office part had to close, as that was a Godsend to many older people from the east end of Callander but now he is not there at all, it's almost like a bereavement.

However, everyone understands that the constant very early mornings will have been onerous and will wish Fraser all the very best for the future whatever he decides to do.

Well wishers of Callander

## Ken Dunn

I wonder if you would be kind enough to run a short notice about my Father, Ken Dunn. As you will know, Ken Dunn was an active local figure in Callander, prominent in the Ramblers Club amongst others and at one point was joint editor of the Ben Ledi View when it started.

I imagine there will be a few local people who are unaware of his current status since he has disappeared from the Callander scene.

Dad had a fall at the start of November which broke his hip. He is now in Rosaburn House care home in East Kilbride, close to me and my family.

Could you thank the many people in Callander who showed him kindness over recent years?

Thank you. Michael Dunn.

## Congratulations to Callander's Youngest Centenarian

### Mrs Joyce Lynn

We are delighted to report that Joyce celebrated her 100th Birthday on Sunday 15th March with many of her family and friends at the Roman Camp Hotel.

Joyce was honoured to receive a congratulatory greeting from Her Majesty the Queen and a visit from Alan Simpson, Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk.

All were piped in by Eoin Brennan and treated to much-loved melodies from "the last 100 years" by Ian Milligan with Viv Pope singing favourites from the 50s.

Joyce thoroughly enjoyed the community spirit in Callander and fully immersed herself in Callander life – the Golf Club, the Rambling Club, in fact ..... the "every other" club!

There is a long standing family expression that Joyce is "all about enjoyment". However it is her ability to share her innate joy of life and to inspire all who meet her that so endears her to everyone – truly a very remarkable and wonderful lady, Mum, Granny and Auntie.

With much love and bestest 100th birthday wishes from all the clan !



## 60th Wedding Anniversary



Alex & Shirley Walker celebrated 60 years of marriage on 26th of March. They were married in Dundee where Shirley came from and have lived in Callander ever since.

The above and below photos are both from their Wedding Day 60 years ago.

Wendy Gentles



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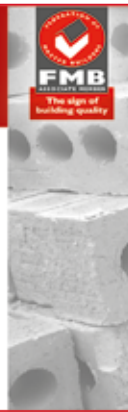
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Carolyn says, 'it is amazing that our mortgage is usually the biggest expense we will have in our lives and yet often we forget to review our arrangements and that can cost us thousands of pounds unnecessarily.

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

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

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

**MD** | McKendry  
Dunion  
Financial

To have an informal no obligation chat to see if they can help you contact

Carolyn on 07957252223 or [carolyn@mckendrydunion.co.uk](mailto:carolyn@mckendrydunion.co.uk)



**Doone Woodyard Ltd**  
Lochill Industrial Estate, Doone,  
FK16 6AD

**01786 841 204**

[sales@dounewoodyard.co.uk](mailto:sales@dounewoodyard.co.uk)

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We are now selling bin stores which can be made to your own required size!

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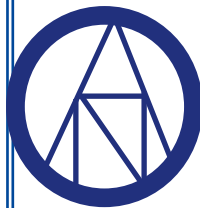
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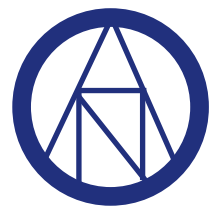
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