

Ben Ledi View

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andrew baird OPTOMETRIST



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

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Cover Photo by Jamie Drummond



Hello Readers

I find the photograph on the front page of this edition fascinating. It depicts, I think, a lovely spring evening on the main street of Callander. Possibly two or three months ago. What's remarkable about it is there isn't a person or vehicle to be seen. Callander looks like a ghost town. It reminds me of a sunny Saturday lunchtime in April this year. I was walking on Bridgend near the Callander Hostel when I met someone that I know, on the other side of the road. We both went onto the road and, keeping two metres apart, chatted for 5/10 minutes. Not a single vehicle disturbed our chat. Oh, how times have now changed. We're coming out of lockdown! Phase 3 I think we're in now. This is a crucial time for the tourism industry of Callander, a vital part of the local economy. I really hope that local businesses can navigate through the extra red tape and hygiene demands that will go along with this. The extra procedures and safety features that are demanded of them must be a nightmare. They have already shown remarkable resilience already during the lockdown. The amount of extra take away food suppliers in the town now has certainly ensured that we've all been well fed in the last few months.

I've been asked by one of our readers to tell more of who we are and how we produce the magazine. Well, we are all

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residents of Callander. Some have lived here all their lives, some have moved here from other parts of Scotland, some have migrated from "down south" and we also have volunteers from other far flung countries. What this means is that we are blessed with a range of people with vastly differing life experiences. However, we are short of one particular type of person on our management committee, young people. So, if you are under 40 and want to contribute to the running of the magazine please let me know. We are all volunteers and get pleasure from working as a team and making a valuable contribution to the lives of the residents of Callander. You can see a breakdown of who does what on page two of the magazine.

One strength of the Ben Ledi View is that it is a magazine that is produced by the community that it serves. I'd like to encourage even more contributions from the people of the town to the magazine. Please contact me if there is anything that you would like added to the magazine, or indeed, anything taken away. Also, while welcoming any praise for what we are trying to do, I also positively welcome any constructive criticism of the magazine so that we may improve in the future. Please contact me at convenor@benlediview.org

Convenor

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Update On St Kessog's

In February we wrote about the discussions we were having with Stirling Council regarding the redevelopment of St Kessog's and thanked those who made some great suggestions at our drop-in day. The working party, set up by Callander Community Council, has prepared an exciting but viable proposal for working collaboratively with Stirling Council to re-open the building for the benefit of us all and our visitors. Your ideas have helped shape this plan. The Community Council has now asked us to invite the rest of the community to comment, which means all the organizations in Callander and most importantly YOU. Read on and then contact us (see below) with your views. It is vital everyone does this so we can demonstrate to Stirling Council that Callander really wants this to happen.

Ownership of St Kessog's

Stirling Council will retain ownership of St Kessog's, refurbish it and re-locate some of their key services in the building: The registrar's office, wedding room, rent office, possibly the library and more much needed public toilets. There will also be a business hub, providing office facilities and support for start-up businesses, encouraging a variety of learning opportunities for people of every age and enabling local people to work locally rather than commuting.

Community Hub

This will fill about half the building and we plan to rent the rest of the space from them and share any space that isn't used full-time. The Visitor Centre may move in and there will be a performance and exhibition space, along with pop-up shops for new retailers. We plan to run an exciting program of events - such as ceilidhs, craft demonstrations, local produce markets, and some special weekends such as a Country and Western celebration. We want to be able to run events that may not contribute financially but are still valuable to the community. It is not our intention to take business away from other centres, shops and cafes but to attract new visitors to the town, helping everyone. We envisage St Kessog's being a community hub that we can all be proud of - where there is something for everyone.

Friends of St Kessog's

We plan to set up a new charitable organisation, called Friends of St Kessog's, whose sole focus will be running the community hub. It will be an independent company with a board of trustees, who will have the necessary skills and time to drive the project into an operational business with a long-term strategy. It will recruit volunteers to help run the business and the events and be ambassadors within the building to welcome our visitors. Lastly, it will run a membership scheme, where we will ask individuals to pay a small subscription towards the upkeep of the community hub.

Finances

Stirling Council will fund the re-development of St Kessog's. The City Region Deal has allocated funds to Stirling and surrounding areas, specifically earmarking funds (around £1million) for Callander, for a digital hub and this is sufficient to carry out most of the work. The council will retain ownership with responsibility for repairs and maintenance and they will also be responsible for running the services they have re-located to the building. We have developed a financial plan that puts the community-run business on a sound, long-term basis without reliance on grants. We will need to employ a couple of people to run it, pay the rent and some other expenses. Our income will come from leasing out space, running events and from donations and subscriptions to Friends of St Kessog's. We aim to have the community business self-sufficient within 5 years - we know it will be hard work but we strongly believe that if we all work together, it can be done.

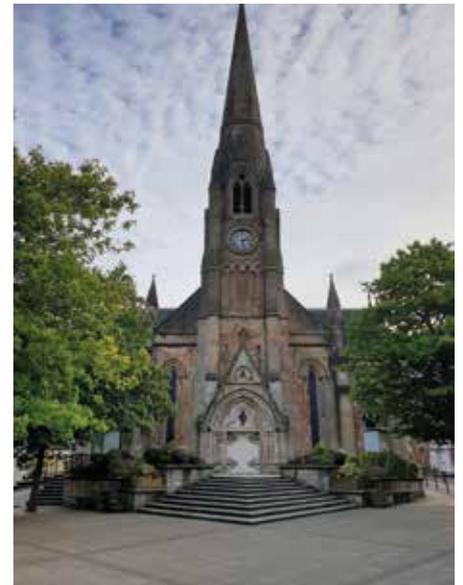
Timescales

The Community Council needs to tell Stirling Council that the community wants this proposal to go ahead and confirm our involvement. They will then draw up detailed plans, with a view to starting work next April and opening a year later in April 2022. That sounds a long time away but there is a mountain of work to do, both for Stirling Council and Callander.

How Can You Help?

We hope by now you see what an exciting prospect this is and what a big impact it can have on our beautiful wee town. We will need lots of volunteers when we open, to run events and welcome visitors, but firstly we will need trustees to work on the re-development with the Council and the operational business planning for when we open. There will be more on this in later BLV issues but if you are interested, please let us know.

But firstly, right now, we need everyone to support this proposal by getting in touch. Normally we would have a public meeting, but we cannot organise that at present so please, please if you think this will be good for Callander, let us know. We have a dedicated phone line for taking messages and texts, [07769688368](tel:07769688368), so please call or text and leave your postcode and name and a short message (just YES will be fine) or you can email via Callander556@gmail.com with the same information. If you have any questions leave them with your contact number and we will try to answer them quickly. We need your responses by the end of August but please just lift that phone now, right now - it is so important to all of us that we show Stirling Council how much we want St Kessog's back. Thank you.



Coffee, Cake, Chatter



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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.

Estate Agency

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 Pask would be delighted to welcome you to the new office and discuss the purchase or sale of a property.

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It was great to see that most of the shops and cafes have reopened after the lockdown. We had great fears that many would not survive. Greggs have gone for good, but as yet we have not heard of any others. Let's support our local businesses to help them get through, after such a difficult time.

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Our Bins

At a recent Stirling District Council, (SDC), meeting on Tuesday 30th June it was decided by a narrow margin to implement changes to the waste collection in the district, starting in Spring 2021. This will affect everyone in Callander and it is important that you look at how it will affect you.

The grey and the brown bin will only be collected once a month.

Glass will no longer be collected once the Scottish Deposit Scheme is introduced, which is planned for 2022.

There will be an additional charge for the collection of garden waste, suggested at £35.00 per annum.

The decrease in the collection of the grey bin will probably suit some families, but not all, and particularly not large families or those with small children. Month-old nappies anyone?

The decrease in the collection of the brown bin will suit no one, apart from the council, as they will only take waste food which at the end of a month is going to smell as ripe as the nappies in the grey bin. If you do purchase a licence for garden waste to be taken in your brown bin, is once a month enough during the spring and summer? For anyone with a reasonable sized garden it would seem unlikely.

Once the Scottish Deposit Scheme starts the reasoning is there will be very little requirement to collect glass as everyone will return the bottles to the store, get the deposit back and all that will be left will be the "occasional" glass jar which can be put in the blue bin, and hopefully recycled later. This may be true and only time will tell.

The blue and green bins will see no change to the existing collection frequency.

In the proposal which was accepted by the council the main reasons given for these changes are:

- full refuse collection vehicle fleet flexibility.
- consistency with national vehicle and bin systems.
- improved route completion and customer satisfaction.
- a reduction in wheeled bin and parts expenditure.

Several years ago, SDC made a poor decision in opting for Diamond bins for grey and brown collections which proved to be unpopular and are now expensive to maintain. It requires different uplift mechanisms or vehicles to collect all types. This exercise appears to be a cost cutting exercise to help pay to get rid of the existing bins and standardising on the one type, which would be cheaper to operate. There is also a belief that by reducing the grey bin collection it will encourage more recycling as grey bins become full. The officials have indicated that they will look at methods of helping larger families and those with nappy disposal problems to overcome these, but with no concrete proposals.

This proposal, now accepted, was brought forward to the council with no consultation with the public or the Community Councils and I am led to believe that even the District Councillors had only a few days' notice of it being brought up for consideration.

For your information, our Ward Councillors voted:

Evelyn Tweed	tweede@stirling.gov.uk	For the changes
Jeremy McDonald	mcdonaldjr@stirling.gov.uk	Against the changes
Martin Earl	earlm@stirling.gov.uk	Against the changes

Look at how this affects you and let them know how you feel.

Callander Community Council Garden Competitions 2020

The 2020 CCC garden competition has 7 classes:

- Best kept large garden
- Best kept small garden
- Best kept garden area - open to children of 12 years and under
- Best kept window box, hanging basket or container
- Best kept wildflower area
- Best evening cocktail patio
- Best family garden

To enter any of the classes please complete the entry form, available online at www.cadhs.co.uk or the paper version from Deli Ecosse and return to Deli Ecosse including a telephone number so that we can advise the date of judging.

Closing date: 15th August 2020.

Richard Johnson CCC

Callander Flood Protection (as of 10th July 2020)

Progress on the Car Park Flood Alleviation Scheme has stalled during the lockdown. It is understood that Stirling Council has been working on progressing issues raised in previous public events.

The Community Council agreed in May to re-start the Flooding sub-group with the aim of re-engaging with Stirling Council, to discuss progress.

The Community Council believes that it is necessary to call a temporary halt on the development of the Meadows Car Park-Flood Alleviation Scheme. This would give time for the community to fully express their views and to explore other options. Alongside the discussions with Stirling Council, the Flooding sub-group will continue with the production of a Flooding Strategy for Callander and a statement on possible flood alleviation solutions for all Callander. We are still drafting these papers which will require community input to ensure all flooding issues are covered. Once drafted the community will also participate in finalising these documents. To develop these papers, we are seeking the following:

- Where are the locations of flooding that directly impact you? This might be from a blocked culvert, surface water, a re-directed burn or from the river.
- At those locations, when it has flooded, what do you think is the cause of that flooding, and what was the impact of it?
- Do you have any ideas as to how the flooding in Callander could be alleviated? Do you have a simple solution for a local problem or an imaginative idea that might work in easing flooding from the river or other small watercourses? We are extremely interested in all your ideas.

Please send your information and ideas to Callander Community Council by Tuesday 1st Sept.

You can contact us via email at callandercc556@gmail.com or rcjohnson8@aol.com, or on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/ourcallandercommunitycouncil/>.

Once all the information is compiled and drafted, community events will be organised in the autumn, culminating in a public meeting in late October/November. The community would have the opportunity to express their final views and to adopt the Flooding Strategy for Callander and the Flood Alleviation Solutions for Callander.

Callander Community Council Flooding Sub-Group

Near Miss: Burning Tree

While residents in the block of flats on Craigard Road were asleep, a tall tree was on fire in the early morning of Tuesday 16th June.

Close enough to the wooden boundary separating the flats from the railway path that it could easily have set alight the fence, the sheds and homes close to it.

Fortunately, a local walking his dog saw and reported the emergency and local fire fighters quickly arrived on the scene. The fire is under investigation by police and we hope a report will be made public as to the cause.

Residents are making strenuous efforts to get the now dead tree taken down by Stirling Council.



Callander Community Council

Chris Corden has resigned from the Community Council and Susan Holden will be Chair until they can have a vote on a replacement. He has given the following statement:

"I have decided to resign from the Community Council and I would like to thank those community councillors who have been supportive during my short tenure and I hope that they will continue to play a part in creating a better Callander. Unfortunately, a small minority of councillors were resistant to change and made progress with key projects difficult."

Cricket Shuts Down

LOCKDOWN!! For every cricketer it couldn't have come at a worse time, after being indoors all winter. Come April every player is itching to get outside training and kick off their season but we didn't even get one outdoor training session as the Pandemic hit and all sports ground to a halt.

We asked ourselves what would our members miss most? It wasn't the training drills or weekly sessions; it was the social side of things from chatting with each other to the on-field banter with the opposition. Realising the solution was simple we started a virtual online season. We arranged games using Cricket 19 and Don Bradman games on the PS4 and showed them 'live' over Facebook & YouTube. This gave our members the chance to watch some cricket while chatting, having a laugh, some banter with their own players and those from the other clubs once a week.

The highlight of our virtual season was most definitely the Charity Exhibition Match against Scotland. Being an exhibition match with national coaches, players, and Cricket Scotland's support behind the game, the club decided to raise money for Beyond Boundaries, a young Scottish charity. They do a lot to provide sporting opportunities for young people in our most deprived areas. The fundraising received great support and we raised £1310 for the charity. On the day of the game Shane Burger, Scotland Coach, and half of the current national squad joined us in the chat room for Q&As with club players from all over Scotland and as far afield as Australia. Although we didn't manage to cause an upset against the Scotland team it turned out to be a brilliant experience for all.

As we write this we have just been allowed back to training in nets, but this is only on a one-to-one basis with everything requiring to be booked online at least 48hrs beforehand and a whole load of new guidelines and rules to follow to carry out training safely. Although we are optimistic of playing matches in August, this will also look very different. We already have fixtures pencilled in and, all being well we can hopefully have some form of season even if it is only a few weeks long.

We also really want to push on with conversations and planning to once again get Callander its own home cricket ground that the whole community can be proud of and access.

Hopefully by the time it comes to the next edition we will have some games to report on from all age group teams.

Barry McGeachy

Open water swimming and SUP

This time of the year and with indoor pools closed we are enjoying outdoor activities. We have amazing lochs around us, and good weather is in our favour. As an open water swimming coach, I see new people enjoying open water which is great for our wellbeing and health. Social media are trending with wild and open water swimming, paddle boards and kayaks. Seeing so many swimmers melts my heart. The Trossachs lochs are buzzing with swimmers from early morning. I listen to stories and answer questions from swimmers or curious indoor swimmers. There is plenty to learn and discover on your own but here are some tips to keep you and other swimmers and SUP users safe.



Check the forecast for weather and wind before the swim. Be aware that the temperature in each loch is different and more importantly the depth will vary. In skins your stay in the water will be truly short. A wetsuit is good protection. Have your towel and dry warm clothes ready in the car or on the beach, always bring a hat. Also take some warm tea with a little bite of cake.

Be aware of the cold-water shock which you will experience once you immerse into cold water. Your body will start with an acclimatization process to adjust itself to the water temperature. Do not panic. Exhale and start to control your breathing. In about 6-8 minutes your body will feel fine. Always control your breathing. Stay in shallow waters until you will feel you are able to swim with relaxed breath. Once you start to feel cold while swimming return to shore asap and get changed into dry warm clothes. Prevent hypothermia by being responsible.

Swim with somebody and always wear the tow float. The float makes you visible to other swimmers, paddleboards, kayaks, and boats. It is not a sign of weakness. It is a piece of protection. And with pockets you can take your keys and phone and food with you.

If you fancy a paddleboard, wear a lifejacket or life belt every time. Ensure you can control the board before you disappear into the distance. And enjoy the scenery.

Monika Hozdekova

Callander Medical Practice

Thank you

We would like to start by thanking all the patients and friends of the practice who have kept us going over the past few months with delicious cakes and home baking. They have been excellent for morale – not so much the waistlines!

We would also like to thank local residents and businesses who have donated masks, hand sanitiser, hand creams, uniform laundry bags etc. They were all much appreciated by the team.

Changes to the way we work

Over the past few months we have had to make dramatic changes to the way we work at the medical practice. As lockdown potentially eases over the next few months we will be looking at what has worked well and will consider retaining certain aspects – including telephone triage/consultations.

We have to continue to limit the footfall to the practice as we continue to provide medical services to the community. We would therefore ask if you have to attend the practice that you wear a face covering and sanitise your hands on arrival. The front door is open to allow you to drop off prescriptions and samples but the internal door is locked and only opened to patients with appointments. Please phone in for appointments or queries and do not attend the practice unnecessarily.

We are trying our best to timetable our essential face to face appointments in such a way that we protect our most vulnerable patients.

As we gradually enter phase 3 of the ease of lockdown we aim to slowly re-introduce some of our chronic disease reviews. We will be changing to annual reviews on or around your birthday month. This will entail an initial appointment for routine bloods followed up by a telephone consultation or face to face consultation where necessary. This is subject to change depending on the relevant and current Government guidelines. The number of appointments for chronic disease review that we are able to offer has dramatically reduced as we have to allow time between each appointment for cleaning of the room.

You will increasingly be asked questions by the reception team when you contact the practice and this is for a number of reasons.

The reception staff are members of the practice team and it has been agreed they should ask patients relevant questions in order to ensure that you receive:

- The most appropriate medical care.
- From the most appropriate health professional.
- At the most appropriate time.

Receptionists are asked to collect brief information from patients:

- To help doctors prioritise house visits and phone calls.
- To ensure that all patients receive the appropriate level of care.
- To direct patients to see the nurse or other health professional more appropriate rather than the doctor.

Reception staff, like all members of the team, are bound by confidentiality rules:

- Any information given by you is treated strictly confidentially.
- The practice would take any breach of confidentiality very seriously and deal with it accordingly.
- You can ask to speak to a member of the reception team away from reception.
- However, if you feel an issue is very private and do not wish to say what this is then this will be respected.

our reception and management teams

Margaret Davis retired as Practice Manager at the end of May. Margaret worked with Bracklinn Practice for over twenty years and then latterly worked hard to manage the successful merging of the two practices. Unfortunately, due to

COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

BUTTERNUT SQUASH VELOUTÉ Serves 4

Ingredients:

50g butter
2 onions, peeled and sliced
2 cloves of garlic, peeled and finely chopped
700g butternut squash, peeled and cubed
600ml vegetable stock
150ml double cream
Freshly grated nutmeg to serve

Method:

Melt the butter in a large pan and add onions and garlic. Cover with a lid and leave to sweat over a low heat for 10 minutes or until softened. Add the squash and stock and bring to the boil. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes or until squash has softened. Pour in half the cream, season to taste and purée with a stick blender. Bring back to the boil, then serve with a swirl of cream, sprinkled with nutmeg, and with crusty bread.

Covid-19 we were unable to give Margaret the send off she deserved but we aim to make up for this in the months to come. Margaret will continue to work with the practice in a different capacity for a period of time to finalise the systems for the new practice.



TALK TO US

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Brownies, Guides and Cubs keep going strong under Lockdown



The last few weeks have been very strange uncertain times for all. Thanks to modern technology we were able to plan and host our first ever online virtual guide camp. Girls from Callander Guides and Callander and Aberfoyle Brownies were invited to take part. We had an overwhelming response and in total had 23 girls sign up (plus siblings!) The camp was aptly named 'Corona camp' Activity packs and consents were posted out and girls were set the task of building their in-door/outdoor shelter prior to the event on Saturday 13th June.

We met at 4pm on Zoom. Once the initial excitement had passed, the girls enjoyed assembling their own corona crowns with natural materials. We had a crown logo quiz, made cards for our neighbours and toasted marshmallows over tea lights (with parental supervision!) We discussed the Corona Borealis and learned a little about the different constellations. We had hoped to spot some but sadly the cloudy night sky did not permit!



The following day the girls were up, breakfasted and eager to start over at 9am on Zoom. They enjoyed some jewellery making, biscuit decorating and finally a 'CORONA' scavenger hunt before ending our camp at lunchtime on the 14th. We had some great feedback. It was most enjoyable (despite the midges!) and made up for not being able to hold our usual weekly sessions.

In addition to the virtual camp we have continued with a virtual Guide programme, enjoying games, mindfulness, baking and more. Over the summer we have sent teddy bears off on the international trips we can't do ourselves- follow them on our blog at 1stcallanderguides.blogspot.com

We hope to see the girls back after summer once things return to normal. For now we would like to wish the girls a lovely summer! For more information about the Guides please contact [Sarah on scmiller@doctors.org.uk](mailto:Sarah@scmiller@doctors.org.uk)



Sarah Miller, Louise Corrieri, Lucy Cameron, Caitlin Scott

The Callander Cubs have also been very busy over lockdown. In total they have earned 44 badges between them! Some of these badges include Home Help, Artist, Animal Carer, Astronomer, Book Reader, Chef, Collector, Disability Awareness, Equestrian, Home Safety and Personal Safety to name a few. The Cubs are also going to adapt to the current situation of having to stay at home instead of coming to a Cubs evening by setting up Zoom meetings, where we will be doing things such as a murder mystery night and a virtual hike. In conclusion, being stuck at home doesn't mean that they can't stop learning new skills and having fun!

Campbell Gillan

Callander Youth Partnership

Like everywhere else, CYP has been adapting to the new challenges posed by Covid-19 and the accompanying lockdown. Our hostel has been closed and our youth provision has – where possible – moved online. Our employability work remains a central focus with the pandemic's impact on the youth employment market; we're also running a remote summer activity programme for our younger age group. The majority of our staff have been furloughed, with several making use of the time to complete training and other personal development opportunities. We're excited to start welcoming staff back in advance of the hostel re-opening at the start of August.

In advance of re-opening, we've been making various changes to help protect the safety of our guests, staff and the local community. We've changed our accommodation from dorms to private rooms, introduced new cleaning protocols and implemented measures to help maintain social distancing. We're also making it a priority to communicate with guests in advance of their stay, not just to let them know about measures in the hostel, but also to make sure they're aware of the national guidance that will be in place around Callander.

Whilst our building has been closed to guests, we've been happy to offer use of the kitchen to Mark Nicols (Scott's Bistro) and the Callander Community Support group. They've been doing a great job preparing and distributing meals within the local community. We'd also like to take the opportunity to thank all of those who donated and took part in our fundraising efforts during lockdown. The support is very much appreciated and has helped CYP to respond to the unexpected challenges that have arisen over the past few months.

Alasdair MacDonald

'The Guardian of the Story'

I became a Holocaust Ambassador two years ago, after I took part in the “Lessons from Auschwitz” Programme (this is a programme I highly recommend to anyone who is in S5 or S6 at McLaren High School). I attended several seminars in Edinburgh and travelled to Poland to visit Auschwitz and Birkenau.

The annual Holocaust Educational Trust’s Ambassador Conference helps Ambassadors to further their knowledge of the Holocaust and learn how to keep the legacy alive. Covid 19 meant a virtual conference this year. This ran over several weeks with a range of talks and seminars available via Zoom with people connected in some way to the Holocaust.

I attended several fascinating events and wish I could talk about all of them, but I will focus on the one story that stuck with me the most - the testimony of Holocaust Survivor Mala Tribich MBE.

In 1930, Mala was born into a Jewish family in a pretty Polish town called Piotrków Trybunalski. Aged eight, her world was turned upside down. It became the first town to have a ghetto and in a space that was meant to hold 15,000 Jews, there were 28,000 instead. Everybody over the age of 11 had to wear a white armband with a blue star and if they defied the rules, they were shot.

After 2 years, Mala’s parents decided it would be safer to send her and her cousin Idzia to live elsewhere and pose as Christians. Life was uncertain and at times extremely difficult and eventually Idzia asked to go and stay with family friends. She was never seen again and no one ever knew what happened to her.

Mala later returned to her family, who were all hiding with different Christian families, apart from her father and brother who both had jobs. When the houses were stormed Mala’s mother urged her to stay in bed (a decision which gave her a chance of life). Many of Mala’s friends and family (including her mother and 8-year-old sister) were marched into a forest and brutally killed. In Mala’s family this left her father and brother. Aged 12 and as the last female member of her family, Mala was left to look after her 5-year-old cousin Ann, whose mother had been taken to a concentration camp.

After working as slave labourers, Mala and Ann were transported to Ravensbrück Concentration Camp in November 1944. Mala describes how they were stripped of their clothes, showered and had their heads shaved - stripped of their identity. After 10 weeks there they were deported to Bergen Belsen. Mala describes the first things she saw as “bodies everywhere and skeletal people who were trudging along, before falling to the ground”. Barracks were meant to hold 80-100 people, but instead held a thousand or more.

Liberation came on the 15th May 1945. Mala was weak with typhus and starving, but described how she saw people running around outside her window, filled with joy at the thought of being rescued from this terrible place.

She and Ann were sent to recover in Sweden and then in March 1947, she travelled to England to stay with her brother Ben (the only other surviving member of her family). She learnt English, went to secretarial college and got an office job. She married in 1950 and whilst her children were growing up, she studied for a degree in Sociology from the University of London. Her brother Ben showed a great talent for sport, representing Great Britain in the Olympics twice and becoming Sir Ben, after being knighted.

During her talk, Mala described how, as she was lying on her bunk in the Children’s Hospital, exhausted and near death, she wondered if anyone knew what was happening to her. People did know and didn’t say anything and this is why I believe it is vital that the experiences of Holocaust survivors are kept alive, generation after generation. As I know, listening to a Holocaust survivor speak about their experiences is a once in a lifetime opportunity, but unfortunately many survivors won’t be around for much longer. This is why Mala described Ambassadors and second and third generation survivors as “guardians of these stories” and in Mala’s words “Without hope, there is no survival”.

Bethan Jones

Sign up for the reading challenge - quick now!

There's not much time left if your youngsters haven't already signed up for this fun reading challenge.

Organised by the Reading Agency and delivered locally by Stirling Council Libraries, the Summer Reading Challenge runs until 15 August and encourages children (aged four to 11) to borrow and read six books during the summer break.

With libraries still only partially reopen due to the COVID-19 crisis, the popular annual programme enjoyed by 700,000 children in the UK each summer is going digital for the first time.

This year’s theme for the challenge is ‘Silly Squad’ – a team of animal friends who love to go on adventures. A wide range of events and activities will be available for participants on the Silly Squad website.

Children can sign up for free online and borrow e-books from Stirling Council Libraries as well as reading books they have at home. Listening to audio books, reading e-books and being read to all count, so no one is excluded.

To join the ‘Silly Squad’ in this year’s summer reading challenge, head here: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

To borrow e-books or audio books from Stirling Council Libraries, or to sign up for e-services, follow this link: <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/libraries-archives/ebooks-audiobooks-emagazines-and-newspapers/>

As in previous years children who complete the challenge will be presented with a certificate and a medal by libraries’ staff once this is safe to do so.

Greener Callander - we need your help



By now you should be seeing the usual summer displays around town but *Greener Callander* has faced extra challenges due to Covid-19.

Many of our team were 'shielding', leaving only 6 people in action. As garden centres and nurseries closed in March, we ordered almost 700 plants on-line, to fill our usual planters but also plants for the War Memorial 'floral fountains' and 12 troughs on the pedestrian crossing railings, that Stirling Council had cancelled. By mid-June (5 weeks after we would normally plant up baskets) our delivery date was still slipping, so we cancelled and ransacked local re-opened garden centres to find enough plants. Although the choice was limited, enough plants were procured, baskets were planted and sent to John's greenhouse for a couple of weeks' TLC. Of course the weather immediately turned scorchingly hot

and dry, before changing again to heavy rain and shredding winds – the joys of gardening in Scotland!

We get many compliments from locals and visitors but few are aware that *Greener Callander* volunteers not only carry out all the town's gardening but also raise the money to pay for plants and other maintenance costs. In May we couldn't hold the usual plant sale and tombola, which cover half the annual running costs. We have managed a few smaller sales of plants and are grateful for generous donations from several individuals. The rest will, hopefully, come from funding applications. We will need to cover the costs of the 2020 summer basket watering, winter bedding and 2021 summer plants before our next stalls in May 2021.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has confirmed the fragility

of *Greener Callander's* ability to maintain so many gardens and planters around town, including the Community Friendship and Frerich Memorial gardens in S Church Street. We may need to adopt Stirling Council's beds at each end of town and in Station Road car park in future.

We are a sociable group of enthusiastic amateur gardeners and desperately need more of the same. Could you join us for 2 hours each month to plant, dead-head plants as you walk through town, donate plants or help grow on seasonal bedding? Could you help with fund-raising, sweep up, occasionally oil/paint benches? If you can offer any help, please get in touch with Lesley Hawkins (mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk or Hilary Gunkel (mail@hilarygunkel.co.uk)) We meet on the second Monday of the month at 1:30pm in the Community garden,
Lesley Hawkins

New neighbours

A few days ago, some new neighbours moved in. The couple made their home in the ash tree beside my house and I first became acquainted with them as they were putting the finishing touches to their nest on a branch level with my kitchen window. I watched the pair of collared doves delicately construct a platform of little twigs at the fork of two branches. Their arrival inspired me to learn a bit more about these elegant birds.



Photo Beth Scott

The collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) is a bird many people will recognise, at least by sound if not by sight. Both male and females are a pale grey-buff colour, with a distinctive narrow, white-edged black collar around their necks. They are common visitors to gardens and their "doo-Dooooo-do" call is often heard around Callander.

Originating in SE Asia, the Collared Dove has recently rapidly spread

through the Middle East into Europe. Despite the first breeding pair appearing in the UK as recently as the 1950s (of their own accord, they were not introduced) the UK is now home to approximately 1 million breeding pairs. Collared doves breed all year

round if food is abundant. The female typically lays two eggs at a time and can raise three to four broods per year. They are monogamous, and share parenting duties,

taking turns to incubate the eggs and feed the chicks. Incubation takes 14 to 18 days, and the young fledge 15 to 19 days after hatching.

It will be fascinating to watch the progress of the pair outside my kitchen window, especially from such a unique vantage point!

Beth Scott

A visitor

When Callander was almost tropical in climate a few weeks back, this little chap came a visiting. I say visiting but it probably lives with us all year round, keeping a low profile. Basking itself in the hot sun on our wall recharging its batteries and on the lookout for any passing spider or insect to gobble, it has quite a turn of speed. Found this out trying to photograph it. A welcome "newbie" to our garden, 4 to 6 inches long, the common lizard lives for 10 years, slightly more if lucky, and is our most northerly-dwelling reptile. I'm not sure why we call creatures like this 'common'. Certainly not common to see. Its main claim to fame being that if attacked by a predator it will "eject" part of its tail which still keeps wriggling and hopefully distracts the enemy. The shortened tail can also regrow. Clever stuff! Welcome little bright-eyed friend and come back soon, bringing the hot weather with you please.
David Cooper



photo David Cooper

The Smiling Assassins of Invertrossachs

One of my all-time favourite little animals in Scotland is the much-maligned (little) pine marten. When you see his happy little face smiling out of a wall or round the side of a tree you cannot suppress the smile that naturally comes to your face. It is only when he or she comes into full view do you see the predator claws and those very impressive hunter's teeth.



Photo W. Anderson

What is, for me, a very special time of year is the first journey out with mother to the bird table. Mother skips along the 2-metre-high wooden fence with consummate ease but not so for the two or three young coming behind. They have neither the coordination nor balance of their mother but are brimming over with youthful enthusiasm for the feats that lie ahead and hopefully as many play fights as possible. This combination of things inevitably leads to one, two or all three falling from the fence onto the ground or the adjacent hedge. Not to be outdone, they scramble back up only to be met by a sibling trying desperately to fight them and knock them back to the ground. These fights will continue for a few minutes until

A froggy tale

My house had a big pond in the back garden when I bought it 19 years ago. I was delighted the next Spring when armies of frogs came round the house and spawned in the pond because I have loved raising tadpoles to froghood since I was seven and I was glad that here they came to me. Five years ago, when frogs were fewer in numbers, I made a much smaller pond in the front garden and now I had to find spawn from elsewhere as there was seldom any in the back garden. I added a much bigger pond three years later very near by.

This year looked like being tadpoleless, no frogs came at all and I was too disabled to look for spawn elsewhere and the season was passing. Imagine my delight when a frog laid a great mass of spawn in my small five

mother has had enough. She will chastise them and put their minds back to the lesson in hand. Alas, they have a very short concentration span at this point in life and the falling and fighting starts all over again. Mother eats her fill and departs, leaving the young to their antics; they play for some time, feed from the table then they too depart, leaving my wife and I in fits of laughter.

They continue to visit the table, mostly without mother. Now resplendent in their adult coats, they still visit from time to time. They no longer play when they come but eat as much as they can in as short a time as possible. While we miss their games, we have a consolation, mother has come back with this year's two young and the games have started all over again.

So, before you condemn the little martens to the gallows, take time to find them, to sit down and study their behaviour and I am sure, if you do this you will go home with a different frame of mind.

Walter Anderson

year old pond! Why not in my new bigger pond? Because she must have hatched in the wee pond five years ago, the time it takes for a frog to mature to breeding size. A week later she was swimming happily in the new pond nearby and I hoped she had come to stay. One sunny day later she was resting her front legs on a lily leaf while her back legs were splayed out in the water beneath. She looked happy but she was too still— she was dead. Two orange spots on her tummy showed possible frog disease. In May I put a tank full of lusty young froglets outside and I know the rest of them will be leaving the pond now: she did not die in vain

Marion McKay

Callander Landscape Update

Like everyone, Callander Landscape has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. It started with the cancellation of our dark skies weekend, *The Sky Above Us*, back in March. Since then all of our public events, conservation activities, Modern Apprenticeships and capital work on the ground has been suspended. Despite this, the staff team have been working from home, trying to keep things moving as much as possible in these strange times.

Over the last few months we had remote meetings with dark skies volunteers, held an online Gaelic singing workshop, provided additional training for our Oral History volunteers in remote interview techniques, created nature factsheets and supported volunteers undertaking Gaelic place name research. At the moment, the team is planning for some activities resuming in the coming months. We are hopeful that from August our conservation volunteering activities will be back and we will be able to host some local events in the autumn including guided walks and family activities.

In the longer term, the team is working with our partners and National Lottery Heritage Fund to seek an extension to the Callander Landscape programme, to allow all activities to be completed. The loss of a spring and summer season is quite significant.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for the dates of our volunteering days and public events. The staff team is looking forward to being out on the ground, welcoming our Modern Apprentices back to work and seeing our fantastic volunteers again. We would also like to thank the wider community, partners and volunteers for their support during this period.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved then please contact Julie on Julie.wilson@lochlomond-trossachs.org

the Old Bank

Restaurant - coffee house - fine wines

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

Our menus have something for everyone. a full breakfast menu served every day until 12:00. A comprehensive lunch menu from light bites & healthy salads to full meals and indulgent desserts. A regularly changing dinner menu

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

World wines, craft beers, malt whiskies and fine gins are among our comprehensive drinks menu available with food pairings.

Carry-outs are available from our Menu



the
Old Bank

Restaurant - coffee house - fine wines

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This is our response to the social media comments that followed a piece on compost bins and a chicken coop in Soapbox in the last issue.

The Soapbox section of the magazine is where we publish submitted opinion articles. Although we have allowed articles to be signed with a pseudonym, editors verify the identity of the author prior to publication. *Homo vulgaris*, (*common man*) who has submitted many Soapbox articles, is a 20+ year resident of Callander, but has no connection to BLV. With that being said, we at BLV are disturbed that several members of our community used the most recent *Homo vulgaris* article as a platform to make unfounded accusations about new members of the community both on social media and via direct "hate mail" messages. This is not a reflection of the Callander community and is unacceptable in any form.

We encourage anyone who disagrees with any Soapbox article to submit a rebuttal directly to the editors for publication. The BLV is a volunteer organization committed to serving the community. We ask you, our faithful readers, to uphold our inclusive community values. We encourage both old residents and new to join the editorial team, volunteer with advertising, help with distribution, or even submit an unpopular Soapbox article.

Compost Bins in Context

Sometimes when things happen that 'upset the apple cart' we are lucky enough to get an opportunity to learn the whole story.

At the start of lockdown the magazine was looking for little pieces from as many people as possible, as it was obvious things were going to come to a halt. During the daily walk on a footpath one correspondent came across the sad sight of an empty chicken coop and then close by some old grey compost bins. As an ardent recycler, he was concerned about



anything that was not being used, "this is waste", so told us about it.

So we needed to know more of the story. Mr Anderson (Deputy Head) was kind enough to do 'the conducted tour'!

The bins are very old and were donated to the school by someone who wanted to recycle them. Perhaps in normal times they would be used more successfully. The little hen house is sweet and very high tech and was also donated with the hens to the school. In this part of the world hens must be shut in overnight. Cats, foxes and pine martens enjoy hens. One morning the students went down to find a disaster. Looking at the situation, it would be a perfect

pine marten playground and we know that local homes have had pine martens as house guests, in the attic. The staff and pupils will decide the future of this project next term

Our correspondent only went along the public footpath going to the stile. In early spring there were only some daffodils around. Now it is clear that it will be a great resource for learning how to investigate ecology or to wander on the mown paths. The tour included the 'working garden', which our correspondent did not see. Wow! The pond must be a haven for so much life, the green house is breathtaking, those raised beds, even in these desolate times, things are doing well. It must be so useful for students to learn how to build picnic tables and make things grow. Volunteer students and staff, led by Louise Rolfe do much of the work on the garden.

This is not our story; but many stories for young people to tell. Perhaps in future magazines they will tell us of their failures and successes. Failures are important, we can all learn, when others tell us how and why things have gone wrong for them. Perhaps readers with suitable skills could volunteer to help? In so many ways there is so much to catch up with now.



John Nelson
Elaine Martay
Mary Buckland

Both Photographs by Frazer Cronin



How about the litter

There could be pages, and possibly a whole book, on how we as local residents feel about all the litter, camping and unsociable behaviour. We know that every other beauty spot feels the same way. There are I am sure ways to prevent it with just a little bit of effort from National Park Authority and police. The laws and rules can be reinforced because they are already there. We just have to try. Anyway, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all swimmers who collect litter at Loch Venachar after the morning swims and to all local residence who are picking litter around the Callander area.

Name and Address Supplied

Polluters should pay

I'm raging. Think Janey Godley, and edit my rage with her in mind! I have to be coy in a community mag. I leave it to your imagination.

Wild swimmers in Loch Venachar now take rubbish bags down as a matter of routine. Toilet paper litters the woods like pagan banners, the stench of faeces on a hot day is enough to make one puke. 4 tents were erected on the shore some days ago. The police were called but the campers were so pis*ed they were told to stay, as they were in no condition to drive away. In the morning they left – leaving their tents behind for others to clear up after them! Cars routinely parked in the passing places just where timber lorries, too big to shift over, politely request legitimate drivers to back up



This is your Soapbox, It is here to allow you to express your point of view as long as it is within the current acceptable standards. This view is yours and may not be those of the editors or the Trustees. Responses to the magazine are welcomed if sent to the editor.

hundreds of metres so that they can get past. I wonder how many people in their expensive cars got scratched because they were badly parked in passing places. The bad part of me hopes lots. A LOT of people are justifiably eager to visit the country after lockdown.

Not only that, but some people fail to bring fuel for their camp fires, but do have the forethought to bring saws and even a chainsaw to cut down ancient woodland trees from the south shore of Loch Venacher. Precious green wood which even fools know won't burn as too wet, but which took decades to grow. Gone in a puff of selfishness.

We as a community have to have a serious discussion about social responsibility and how to instil that in visitors and locals alike.

Is there some way we can make polluters come back and clear up their filth? Until there is a community sense of responsibility people will think they can get away with it. Not fining, not jail, but a plain and simple, "come back and clear up your mess so that others can enjoy the countryside too". And I'm so raging, I feel that is too lenient. *Disgruntled, Callander*

Love it Better than Some Locals.

Relaxing of coronavirus lockdown restrictions has seen severe problems across many National Parks, with visitors desecrating beauty spots. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is about to launch a new campaign with the logo 'Love it Like a Local' and Callander will be heavily involved as a NP gateway town. Posters will feature real Callander residents who are proud to live here and volunteer to keep it a vibrant,

attractive place.

However, visitors are not solely to blame for all of the littering problems which blight our countryside – maybe we need to change it to 'Love it Better than Some Locals'?



Coilhallan Wood has long been a site for end of term 'celebrations' but this year has seen a big increase in teenagers 'carousing' from early evening to late at night. Leaving aside the legality of under-18's obtaining and consuming alcohol and the stupidity of lighting fires inside a wood, the amount of litter (bottles, cans, food packaging, plastic bags plus sundry items of clothing) left behind is disgusting. The photo shows a small part of the litter that has been collected together by a volunteer but why should the people who care be expected to clear up rubbish left by the irresponsible? Why, if you want to enjoy a remote site in the wood, would you spoil it for next time? If full bottles and cans can be carried up into the woods, why can't the empties be taken back down to a roadside litter bin?

While many Callander teenagers have played a vital role in helping the more vulnerable during lockdown, it is a shame that this uncaring minority are the ones who will be remembered!

Name and Address supplied

Just Wondering

As so many people are including litter collecting as part of an everyday walk perhaps it is time to ponder.

Can Callander afford to acquire both the Coilhallan Woods and St Kessog's if they are both available?

If only one can be afforded, which would bring the most benefit to the residents of Callander?

Grumpy

Please can Somebody listen and help?

This is a normal Callander street. We are just ordinary people but in 200 metres there are 5 individuals waiting for operations: 1 hip, 1 gall bladder, 1 eye lid growth, 1 metal from the pelvis lodged in another organ and finally the paralysed young man who needs his cerebrospinal fluid drug system replaced.

Some have actually been seen during the COVID crisis. Things were so bad, they may have been given antibiotics to control and prevent infections caused by the problem that needs to be resolved. Some had the final pre-operation checks and were expecting their surgery in March. One has been told the system to administer the drugs he needs is not provided in Scotland, the drug is given in pill form. For others the free pills are for pain relief, most of these have side effects.

All are anxious and distressed. For all, life is not what it should be and the limitations for daily living and activities are considerably evident.

They all face a brick wall when they try to find out what to do next. In some cases the hospital switchboard pushes them firmly back, like a telephone bill paying service. While some have had a pleasanter reception and others have a pleasanter reception from the consultant's secretary and in 1 case the barrier actually proved to be at consultant level.

No fingers are being pointed at individuals, certainly not at our local practice who will always do what they can. It is probably the system. But it is hard that after months of assessment

after assessment and test after test, which must have cost thousands of pounds, there is no mechanism to let people know that, after all this time, something can be done, or even being told when something can be done. Can there be hope? The mantra from one hospital was a straight, 'No Operations', the other had a softer story.

Is this just the story for current times in one street, or have others got stories to tell?

Name and Address supplied

The new driving centre?

Most of us start driving in an empty car park. Not those from Leeds, (YB) registration, with shiny, black Volvo Cross Country vehicles. Their new "learn to drive" area, the forest tracks below Ben Gulipen. This was in answer to my, 'Why are you here?' as I leapt up the bank to escape them. Forest entrances were supposed to be barred, so they must have found the farm track on their satnav.

Was the 2 person quad hurtling up the footpath, 5 minutes later with blue and red flashing lights, on the way to intercept them, or part of the team on another mission?

Extremely grumpy

Bike etiquette

Manners maketh man (or woman or child). Good manners are just the way to oil social interaction, but also to be sure someone doesn't imagine putting a spoke in your wheel. So here are cycling good manners and no one will hope you tip into the loch.

1. Hand signals are a vital way to communicate with any road user. Other cyclists need to know what you're doing and where you're going, just as much as drivers or pedestrians. Don't just swing left or right. Look,

signal, manoeuvre.

2. A question we often hear from new cyclists is: can I cycle on the



pavement? Unless it's a shared-use path, you're not allowed to cycle on it. You risk a Fixed Penalty Notice – and the ire of all the pedestrians on that pavement. If you are under 12 years old the police tell me it's OK. More people get killed by cars on the pavement, few by cyclists, but it generates a lot of anger. Remember those spokes?

3. If a driver has waited patiently behind you for an appropriate place to pass, give them a friendly wave or thumbs up when they do pass. Do the same when a driver pauses because it's your right of way. You'll make them feel like a virtuous driver – and they are. It's a small step in reinforcing good behaviour. Conversely, don't flip them a hand-signal when they get too close. It may have been a mistake. And they will be thinking "spokes".

4. If you are on a shared-use path, and there are many around here, ding your bell as you come up behind pedestrians, and pass on the right, as you would on the road. If you encounter people or bikes coming in the opposite direction keep left, again as you would on the road.

5. Yield to pedestrians. Too many cyclists think they have precedence. I don't know why. A human on their feet is just as important as a human on a bike. Just as a human on a bike is just as important as a human in a car.

6. Don't sneer at other's cycling gear. It is not the law that you have to wear lycra and sit on a saddle that looks like an impaling instrument. Just chill. These are not laid-down laws. They are courtesy.

Name and Address Supplied

Telegram Boys

The last issue of the BLV carried tributes to Hamish Menzies. One referred to him being a telegram boy just before WW1. We thought it might be interesting to read the memories of one who joined in 1942.

"I joined the Leighton Buzzard Post Office a week before my fourteenth birthday and was known by the Post Office title 'Boy Messenger', but more commonly known by the public as a 'Telegram Boy'.

In due course I was supplied with a uniform - navy blue with red piping around the cuffs of the jacket and around the collar and edging, and down the seam of the trousers.....we wore a pill-box hat, also with red piping and a red button in the centre of the crown. We were also supplied with shoes for summer, and boots and a short cycling overcoat for winter together with a cycling cape and leggings for rainy days.

When we arrived on duty each day, we had to present ourselves to the Inspector for his daily inspection, and if our shoes or brass buckle and leather belt failed to attain the shine he desired, we were sent home to effect an improvement. Our bicycles had to be cleaned weekly, and these were also inspected to see that we had shone them well enough to be

seen on the streets by the general public. I was not always so lucky at this - and was asked several times to try again.

When we were on the late shift, we used to go to the fish and chip shop for all the staff back at the office who were also working late, and get various quantities of three 'pennorths' of chips and load them into our jacket in order to be able to ride our bicycles back, and the leather belt around our waist prevented them from falling through. (It was lovely and warm too!)

As our office was relatively small, and our weekly output of telegrams was about 500, we did not possess a printer for the telegrams but they were sent to us via a private line from Luton Post Office and the messages and envelopes were hand written by the staff on duty at our office.

The procedure for delivery was to hand them to the addressee (not merely push them through the letter box), wait for the message to be read and take any replies that they wished to send, as we carried spare forms for this purpose in our leather pouches."

If you want to read more you can find the full blog at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/72/a6440672.shtml> with lots of anecdotes to add colour to the period.

Elaine Martay



Stories from Old Callander

Since lockdown began in March, Callander's Landscape and the Callander Heritage Society have been exploring ways of safely continuing our Oral History Project. We are happy to report that we can now record interviews "remotely", i.e. over the phone or via online video platforms.

We are looking for volunteer interviewees to share their memories of the town and its surrounding landscape. We are keen to speak to older people but everyone is welcome to get in touch. Speaking about your memories could be a great way to combat this extended period of social isolation and even a short phone-call can unearth countless valuable memories that deserve to be preserved.

Once restrictions ease more, we hope to be interviewing in-person, beginning most likely outdoors. However, remote interviews will be our default method for the foreseeable future, especially for people who are shielding.

Living through this pandemic has been challenging for everyone - it is an unprecedented historic moment and it is important that we record how it has impacted ordinary people. We have therefore started a side-project focused on collecting testimonies of everyday life in lockdown, so all are welcome, young or old, to get in touch if you would like to share your experiences or photographs.

We have collected many vivid reminiscences about the local area, including stories about Gaelic-speaking shepherds in the 1930s, angling on the River Teith, and childhood memories of life and work on a farm. There has also been much talk about The Beatles' famous visit to the Roman Camp Hotel in 1964!

To arrange an interview or find out more about the project, contact Ross at ross.crawford@lochlomond-trossachs.org. We rely on word-of-mouth to find interviewees, so please share the project with anyone who might be interested.

Ross Crawford

Trossachs Search + Rescue

Trossachs Search + Rescue offers advice to people who are thinking of being near or entering water. Have



you considered the following?

Stop and Think. Spot the Dangers

- Scotland's waters can be very cold even in summer which can lead to cold water shock. Visit www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk for more information
- Check for any signage or flags which could warn you of potential dangers
- Alcohol/drugs and coastal or inland waters don't mix - they can reduce coordination and impair judgement and reaction times
- The depth of the water may hide underwater ledges, hidden currents and unseen items
- Be aware of other water activities that may pose a threat to you
- If it is safe to enter the water, ensure you have a safe way out
- If you are at the coast have you considered rip currents, offshore winds and the tide?

Stay Together, Stay Close

- It is better to go near the water with a friend or family member
- Float - If you are in trouble in the water, float until you feel calm...then think what to do next
- If you fall into water, fight your instinct to swim until cold water shock passes
- Lean back, extend your arms and legs
- If you need to, gently move them around to help you float
- Float until you can control your breathing

- Then call for help or swim to safety.

In an Emergency

- If you see someone in trouble, do not enter the water
- Look for a throw line or life ring to help whilst you wait on the emergency services
- Call 999 or 112

Cold Water Shock

- Cold water shock (CWS) is an involuntary response by the body being suddenly or unexpectedly immersed into water which has a temperature of less than 20°C.
- Your body's reaction to CWS will affect your capability to move and may seriously affect your breathing and heart.

What Can You Do?

- If you unintentionally fall into the water, don't try to swim straight away.
- Fight your instinct to swim hard or

thrash about. Try to remain calm, relax, turn onto your back and adopt the float position.

- Once floating, and the initial effects of cold water shock have passed (about 90 seconds) call for help and look around for anything which you can use to float or get out of the water.

If you are Intentionally in the Water for an Activity:

- Check the weather and conditions before entering the water
- Wear a wetsuit or drysuit and a personal floatation device appropriate to the activity you wish to carry out.

For further information about water safety, contact our Water Safety Officer, Brian Devlin, at watersafetyofficer@trossachs-sar.com who has 35 yrs experience as a Watersports Instructor.

Stuart Ballantyne



More Main Street Wandering

Continuing our meander along Main Street from north Ancaster Square, the shop on the corner, now Fat Jack's, was run by Madge Galbraith, a stylish lady with an MGA sports car, which was the envy of all the young boys in town. Her shop stocked quality tartans tweeds and other souvenirs. It was taken over by EWM who branded it as a Pringle outlet.

Campbell's Bakers, a retail shop and tearoom, between the Square and Glen Artney Road, was run by brothers Donald and James Campbell, assisted by James's family members, Joyce, Kathleen and young James, with an able staff guided by Kitty Bain. When young James took the helm, he made the controversial decision to concentrate on shortbread production. The old bakehouse was demolished to make way for the

modern shortbread factory. The biggest private employer in town, Campbells remains a family run business.

Callander Institute was the local public hall used for meetings, concerts and dances on Saturday nights. On other nights it was more peaceful with the library to the left inside the entrance and the British Legion meeting room to the right, which was also used for pipe band practice. The building was sold for redevelopment about the time the new library and council offices were opened in South Church Street.

Next to the Institute was a garage with petrol pumps right on the main road, with a shop and a workshop at the rear. The owner Wingco Smith was by all accounts a colourful character, who liked to be addressed by his wartime RAF rank. This site was converted by Alastair and Margaret Cameron to a hardware store. They were followed by Smith and Coulson. and I am not sure at what point the shop was divided into two units, with Ken Love operating one as a camping and outdoor shop and Mimmo and Flo running the other as a popular pizza parlour for many years.

Jack Johnston's traditional grocer's shop, with the smells of mature cheeses, fresh ground coffee and home cooked hams, was an evocative memory of childhood.

Jack, who always had time for everyone, was ably assisted by John MacMillan, returned from his wartime army service. John and his wife Mary took over the running of the shop after Jack's retirement, with help from son Athol and nephew Sandy.

When the opportunity came to lease the shop to Victoria Wines, Athol cleverly negotiated his way into the manager's job and when the parent company went into liquidation, took the opportunity to reopen under his own name. Although now semi-retired, he is still involved in the day to day running of the shop. With 53 years of continuous service in the same premises, he can rightfully claim to be Main Street's longest serving shopkeeper.

His secret I am sure is his ability to pace himself: the word 'stress' is not in his vocabulary.

The Ben Ledi Café : A Callander Icon

Jose Luti and his wife Mary established the Ben Ledi in the first decade of the 20th century. The Luti family continued to serve Callander and regular visitors from all over the West of Scotland and beyond. Fish teas, takeaway suppers, ice cream made from locally sourced natural ingredients, a large selection of sweets and Sunday papers. Jose's son Mario took over running the business on his return from army service with his wife Leah who ran the business for many years, helped by sons Mike and Mark, who in turn took over until their retirement

Electronic location software was successful in locating both persons, allowing the team and police to guide them down to safety, following Covid protocols.

On two separate occasions in May Police Scotland requested the team's support in a search for 2 persons reported missing from Callander.

The police co-ordinated both incidents and Killin MRT, supported by Lomond MRT, was tasked to search rural locations including Callander Crags and Coilhallow Wood,

SARDA Scotland and SARDA Southern search dogs, who specialise in mountain and rural searches, assisted Mountain Rescue in searching woodland and rough ground around the town. At this time of year these areas are difficult to penetrate, due to vegetation, including brambles, nettles, tick infested bracken and midges.

Police Scotland brought in its own resources, including police dogs, to carry out searches and enquiries within the town's urban area.

Coastguard and police helicopters supported the ground search and the Fire Service searched rivers and lochs. A number of our own team and retained fire crew, being local to the town, are used to working together and provided local knowledge which assisted Police Search Managers, efficiently leading this large multi-agency response.

On both occasions it was a huge relief to all involved when both persons were located safe, given assistance and re-united with their families.

Killin Mountain Rescue Team



Staying safe has been everyone's priority since March. When a call out is received in the current pandemic, the minimum number of members in the area closest to the incident attend. Members are supplied with re-usable masks and maintain social distance as far as practical. Within 2 metres of a casualty, first aiders will don FFP masks, goggles, medical gloves and waterproof shell clothing. This makes rescue more time consuming but is essential for safety.

The majority of regular hillwalkers have heeded Government advice to stay off the hills, reducing the number of call outs.

On 30th May police received a call for help from two walkers stranded 2,000 feet up on Beinn a Chroin, Crianlarich.





I had never heard of Zoom until the Coronavirus pandemic hit Scotland in March this year. Since then it has been a lifesaver to many community groups, including the Walk in the Park project.

Zoom has enabled members to meet for a chat, keep in touch with relevant news and even exercise together.

On Tuesday mornings (the same day and time as we would be walking) walkers who can access Zoom meet to keep in touch. This has been invaluable so that members still feel connected and do not feel so isolated, especially helpful for those who have been shielding.

Other Zoom meetings include a session of strength and balance exercise to keep muscles strong and a Zoom walk.

A Zoom walk is walking in your own home, 20 minutes, 2,000 steps or 1 mile. Walkers can go at their own pace to a program of Scottish country dance music and take a break whenever they need one. This session is very uplifting, good for activity levels and leaves you with a big smile.

All our Zoom activities are open to all so if you want to join in the fun please get in touch with the coordinator who will give you the information you need.

As I write, the current Scottish Government Guidelines say we can walk with up to 15 people from 5 different households. This unfortunately is still too restrictive for Walk in the Park walks to safely re-start, as most of our members are all from different households.

In the meantime, walk leaders are risk assessing suitable walking routes within Callander in small groups so that when Scottish Government Guidelines permit us to walk with more households, we will be ready to start again. Safe working practices are being put in place and walk leaders will be provided with relevant PPE (hand sanitiser, face protection and disposable gloves.) We are doing everything we can to make sure that

when we start the walks again, it will be safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Hopefully it won't be too long before we meet all our regular members (and perhaps some new ones!) on a walk or strength and balance session. We hope to see you then!

Cathy Scott

07852334272 | 01877 330055 |
cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org
<http://trustinthepark.org/walk-in-the-park>

Stirling Council

Held a virtual full council meeting on 30th June before the Summer recess. Meetings will resume again in late August. The main report on the agenda was the controversial changes to bin collections that are being covered in a specific article elsewhere in the paper. For the record, I voted against them for many reasons that I would be very happy to explain should anyone wish to get in touch. Other important reports provided an update on the Council's response to the Covid-19 crisis and the evolving financial impact. In late September or early October there will be a fully revised budget presented for agreement to a Council meeting. This will be significant and is one to watch out for, given the potential impact in a range of areas.

The Education Service is working on a full return to school from August 11th and they are able to offer the full 1140 hours of nursery provision to entitled children. This may not always be the ideal arrangement needed by all parents due to restrictions still in place. As we progress with the easing of these this should improve. It is worth noting that many other councils are not in a position to offer the full complement of hours.

We will all have noticed the number of roadworks that have been taking place. This is likely to become even more evident as Road Authorities attempt to catch up on the backlog created during the past few months. Although having to put up with works that sit abandoned for months on end, such as those at Leny Feus, is not something we should have to do. At a

time when our businesses are desperate to trade we have major works cutting off and slowing down people's ability to get to them although I hope that by the time of publication the situation will have improved.

There were proposals to block off the parking bays on the trunk rd through the town to provide more width to the pavements. This would have been highly disruptive and the efforts of both the Community Council and Callander Enterprise in helping present the case against this resulted in a decision to halt them. Efforts are continuing to get a 20mph speed limit installed through the town centre and to have the various traffic lights properly coordinated to maximise traffic flow.

I do hope we can welcome Colin back onto our streets very soon. His helpfulness, diligence and pride in keeping Callander clean and tidy has been sorely missed. There is some part-time cover being provided by the Council on a temporary basis but let's hope we see Colin back full time as quickly as possible.

Associated with littering in the town is the appalling behaviour exhibited by some that visit our beautiful outdoor locations such as the Bracklinn Falls or the shores of Loch Venachar. These and other areas are coming under huge pressure at the moment not only from the sheer numbers that head to them but the littering and anti social behaviour of those that seem intent on going to a beautiful area and trashing it. Of course these are not new issues but they have been amplified by the circumstances we find ourselves in. This should be a pivotal moment where it is finally accepted that the organisations responsible for them must be properly funded so they can manage them effectively.

The Police especially have been under a great deal of pressure. I know how much people have valued the efforts of all the officers that have been involved in the many, often unpleasant, tasks they have been called upon to perform.

Martin Earl
Councillor, Stirling Council

22 Why have all the salmon gone? - A discussion with Peter Yates

Peter is not just an internationally renowned artist but also 'The Salmon fishing expert on the River Teith'.

There are many possible reasons for the fall in numbers: international research is trying to find the answers



as Peter explained to the BLV.

Possibly the biggest concern is climate change. The oceans are warming. The feeding grounds for the fish in the sea, in cold water, are no longer where they used to be. The fishes' navigation systems may not be taking them to the new areas efficiently. The research in the feeding grounds has shown the type of prey for the growing salmon is less nutritious than it used to be. Undernourished salmon may be more susceptible to disease and some experimentally tagged salmon have been found dead in places where their DNA is not usually found. Large shoals of commercially fished mackerel now feed in the same areas, so salmon may be caught accidentally in the nets. Perhaps swabbing the slime on fishing boats to detect salmon DNA might indicate the scale of this problem?

Peter sees that climate change is causing problems for the fish in rivers. Frequent floods are washing away the gravel beds needed for breeding. He does not know if the warmer water temperature is affecting fish survival here, it certainly is further south.

Dams such as that built in Glen Finglas, without a fish pass, not only destroy breeding grounds but prevent the fish making use of the upstream breeding resources.

Another major problem is predation. The fish spend time in coastal waters as part of their migration pattern. Although the fish on the Teith do not have to cope with the disease problems generated by fish farms, they do have predators to contend with.

There are fish catching marine birds like cormorants for example but, the largest number are most certainly caught by seals even though their numbers are currently fairly low in the Forth.

The Atlantic Salmon Trust recently released information on their "missing smolt" project. 850 smolts were fitted with acoustic tags as they headed downstream to head out across the Moray Firth in spring 2019. More than 50% never made it to the sea. The next phase of the project will try to find out why. Obviously the current situation is affecting the research.

Upstream predation is changing too. One seal almost made it to Callander and another did get into the Lake of Menteith. As well as the fish-eating herons whose numbers are increasing nationally, seabirds like cormorants are now increasingly common. There are now more goosanders/merganser, fish-eating ducks, who eat their body weight of fish each day. When there are groups of 14 hunting, the fish stand no chance. These Teith birds do not die of hunger as they supplement their diet with gifts of bread from the public. Salmon are in a higher



extinction bracket than these birds! The number of mink has declined in recent years; obviously they do catch salmon, but they also help control goosanders by eating their eggs. They may have a bigger impact on the numbers of 'uptail dabbling' mallards who rarely eat fish. Amongst the predators are, of course, salmon and trout feeding on their own fry. American signal crayfish are a problem in the slow flowing down stream parts of the river. They kill young salmon as well as destroying the habitat of salmon and trout by destroying the redds where the fish have laid their eggs as well, as burrowing into and

damaging the river bank.

The predator numbers are increasing, partly because of the decline of the care being taken by water bailiffs employed by the owners of the fishing, they are now few in number partly because fishing is no longer the sport it used to be. A good bailiff would try to keep the river



Photo Sarka Krnavkova on Unsplash

ecosystem balanced.

How is the decline in fish numbers affecting tourism? Certainly the number of fishing permits being sold is decreasing. In the past your chance of getting a 'slot' on one of the premiere fishing rivers in Scotland was little to nil. Now, because there is little chance of much sport, there is little interest in paying the huge sums that used to be required. These wealthy individuals who used to stay in the best hotels and could spend large sums on equipment, or beautiful things locally, are now going to other parts of the world, where there are more fish; Norway and Russia are countries that spring to mind. There the 'hunter gatherer' side of human nature still has some scope. Just a thought! Perhaps, catching and then releasing fish as a sport is cruel?

The joy of fishing has many facets. Every angler wonders about this fish, that travels such huge distances, experiences the way the world is changing and is trying to survive. The marvel of standing in a river and flicking a home-made fly across the water, to so intrigue a fish, that it is caught when at that stage in its life it is not looking for food. Then there is the meditational flow of river itself, as Tennyson said, "Men may come and men may go, but I go on forever"



Photo Pete Haas on Unsplash



The Teith this Summer.

Readers will be aware that a team led by Aidan Cronin is collecting data on wildlife on, around and in the river. They will not be reporting their findings in this edition as they would like as many people to be involved as possible. To remind you it is at callander.riverproject@gmail.com. Work safely, but perhaps things will be easier now restrictions are being eased (refer also to the April/May 2020 issue of BLV for further details).

Many people seem to be concerned about the 2 cygnets and many have been taking regular trips to the Meadows to see them. It was interesting to see how the cob swan, neck extended, wings raised, beak open chased ducks away from the pen and cygnets.

Others have noticed the rowdy squawk mansion in the woods and seen herons flying to and from the river several times a day, one one occasion there were several birds.

Perhaps the information collected will add to Peter's views of the river?

Thanks to Jamie Drummond for this fantastic photo of the swans on the Teith taken in early June..

POLICE REPORT

This month the challenge of policing with ever changing legislation and guidelines which affect our day to day lives has continued.

During the last few weeks, as well as attending routine and emergency calls, we have been carrying out proactive patrols in the area. During these patrols we have dealt with persons for various offences including failing to comply with the Coronavirus regulations, breaching Court curfew bail orders and over 50 persons charged with offences under The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws.

During the implementation of the Stirling Council emergency road closure at Bracklinn Road, Callander, we issued 11 tickets to drivers for failing to obey the road closure. Now the closure has been rescinded, the responsibility for enforcing the new double yellow lines falls to Stirling Council.

A third wilful fire-raising to a motor vehicle occurred in the town and due to the serious nature of this, enquiry is being carried out by the CID. As enquiry is still ongoing, we are unable to say much more at this time although we are working in partnership with Rural Housing, Stirling Council and Scottish Fire and Rescue and the safety of local residents is a priority.

As a result of information received from members of the public we were able to apply for and were granted 2 search warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act for addresses in the area. In both cases controlled drugs were recovered and persons will be the subject of reports to the Procurator Fiscal.

Enquiry is ongoing into the damage and disruption caused at the Trossachs Tryst, Callander by what appears to be the first guests following lockdown. With the relaxation on restrictions surrounding self-catering holiday accommodation and the issues with travelling abroad, these sort of incidents may be on the increase.

Owners of such premises are asked to be mindful of persons booking for a small number of people but then inviting a large number of people for an overnight party. Any subsequent police enquiry would be helped by any identification obtained prior to stay and any registration numbers of vehicles etc.

We are pleased to welcome a new member of staff who has started working at the front office at Callander Police Station in her position as Public Enquiry Support worker. Holidays etc. aside this means that the Station should have someone in it from 0900-1600 Monday to Friday. Closed for lunch from 1230 - 1330.

For on-going incidents residents are asked to contact Police on 101 or 999 for an emergency. Residents can contact the Community Policing Team, Lorna Deans and Donald King at Callander Police Station via 101 or by emailing - trossachsteithcpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk for advice or regarding community issues. Residents can also contact and report crime information anonymously via CrimeStoppers on 0800555111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.



*PC Donald King
Trossachs and Teith Community Constable
Callander Police Station
South Church Street
Callander*



What an unusual summer it has been for us all; our children finished another school year under very unusual circumstances, there have been no holidays or group activities and our doors remained closed longer than we had hoped. However, during this time, we have had great support from our local community who have enjoyed taking part in our fitness challenges and online classes and we have loved supporting your fitness at home. We have taken this time to make changes to our facility that will allow us to re-open safely and welcome you all back as soon as possible.

Your return to McLaren Leisure will look a little different to what you remember. All going well, we anticipate that we will be able to start welcoming you back to McLaren Leisure soon, though not in the same capacity as before. Following government guidance, we will begin by phasing in activities, facilities and services as and when it is safe to do so.

In anticipation of being permitted to re-open our doors, we have been busy making some changes. We have updated the layout of some facilities to allow for social distancing to take place, increased hygiene measures throughout the building and thanks to a new reception area, queues should be reduced at our busier times.

Sessions will be available in prepaid bookable slots, with a maximum capacity set by management, reviewed regularly and updated as safe to do so. Time in between bookable slots will be allotted for staff to perform a thorough clean down. Customers will receive an induction upon their first visit to McLaren and we will also be asking customers to comply with the current social distancing and hand hygiene regulations.

Your Health and Wellbeing

Your health and wellbeing is our top priority and we want to be there for

you every step of the way. We look forward to welcoming you back to your physical hub but we will continue our online support as well. Our online classes with local instructors will soon be supplemented with a further online offering, giving our community more options to keep fit.

We are here to support our local community and have been lucky enough to receive some funding that has allowed us to donate fitness equipment to our local nursing homes – more news on this as our project continues.

McLaren Leisure

Rachel McLean

rachel@mclarenleisure.co.uk

Golf

The early Covid-19 lockdown was a golfer's worst nightmare, particularly here in Callander. We had wonderful sunny weather and our course was looking good, BUT disappointingly golfers were not allowed to play a round of golf, even though it was outside in the open air.



Fortunately as Covid-19 recedes, golf has become an acceptable pastime again and from an early start at the end of May, with just 2 members playing, we are now getting back to normal, with 2, 3 or even 4 ball rounds now acceptable (with appropriate social distancing). From mid July guests and visitors will once again be allowed. Bookings and payments can be made by telephone or via the online booking system.

The weather continues to be on the whole, rather good and the course is still looking splendid, (a tribute to the Greens staff). So Callander's golfers are making up for lost time and enjoying the wonderful facility on our doorstep.

Old Tom Morris

My business today

Not too long ago our lives were fast and efficient. Living life at a rocket pace was the norm. Stress was nothing new. On 20th March everything stopped. Every business in the country put up a 'closed' sign. We had to accept the change.

Running a little business as a sole trader with full diary and unsociable working hours was hard, but it was my world. It took me the first three weeks in lockdown to unwind and find a new normal. I made a big decision to take time out completely. I had worked for seventeen years, six days a week. I took time to focus on me and enjoy the small things in my life. Dinner at 6pm, nice mornings with coffee and newspapers, the luxury of reading a book. No rush...

I completed a performance review of my health and wellbeing business. My business was built on the knowledge and the ability to provide my clients with the latest trends. Like most businesses I am now online. The steep learning curve proved to be fun.

Now I know... My diary will change, with fewer face to face appointments each day. New strict booking policy will be in place and the guidelines from the government will be followed. COVID-19 is a collective responsibility. The business strategy will be simple. I will stay online. My business will survive with loyal customers until new customers feel confident to join me. Prices will stay the same because I can scale back on other items. I will maintain high standards and passion. There will be NO more stress and rocket pace as before COVID-19. I reflected on the past and I want a different future for myself. I will change my working hours. I want a new innovative business. My little private business lost a lot in the past weeks and I have not received any financial support from the government. I am upset and I feel betrayed because I paid taxes for 17 years. I do deserve some help even though I am self-employed. I do not take paid holidays or sick days.

I know I am not alone and there will

be more people struggling in the coming months. I hope every business in the area will get back on track.

Monika



The Prince's Trust can Help



Kate Still

As the employment and skills market continues to take the brunt of the fall-out from Covid-19, the future of young people becomes everyone's responsibility.

The untold impact it could have on young workers and those in education puts children and young adults at a greater risk of becoming a forgotten generation.

Now more than ever, young people need our help.

Fears among those at risk have never been higher, with research conducted during lockdown confirming over a quarter of 16-25-year-olds in Scotland believe their future career prospects have been damaged and 52% say it will be harder than ever to get a job.

At The Prince's Trust, we have been working tirelessly over the last three months to ensure that no one is left behind.

We help young people to build confidence and skills, and support them into jobs, education and training. We work tirelessly, seven days a week

both online and in person, providing crucial support to every young person who gets in touch.

A new national approach to delivery has been an exciting development and our ability to offer exactly the same level of service has been invaluable to young people, regardless of where they are based. No longer is location a barrier, as our new and innovative approach knows no boundaries.

We are excited at how these new ways of working, including digital sessions on employability and creative workshops, will help us to extend and improve our offering more widely, even after we resume our face to face support.

Our volunteers have been delivering courses on a range of topics including wellbeing, as well as Progression Mentoring - helping young people prep for interviews, write applications and CVs - despite the pandemic we are faced with. We have also set up a Jobs Board to match employers with young people who are ready to work now.

Nobody knows what is around the corner. The tough times may be just beginning but we must remain resolute as we work together to preserve a better future for everyone.

Kate Still

Director

Princes Trust Scotland



Challenge

As we talk to people they tell us about the alternative uses for 'rubbish'! Your challenge, to send us pictures or drawings of your ideas for up-cycling a plastic drainpipe - or any other 'rubbish'.

Home at last

In the first week in March we flew off to Sicily for a ten day holiday to see our Italian family. Little did we know that it would be four months before we would see our home, our daughter and our Callander family and friends again. After four cancelled flights, we finally made it on the third of July. What a relief! Imagine our surprise when at 5 o'clock on Saturday morning, this sign greeted us as we entered Callander. This is the first opportunity to say thank you to everyone for the many gifts, cards and good wishes we received on retiring from the Pizza Parlour. We were overwhelmed and very touched, thank you so much.

Flo and Mimmo.



SHOPPING - THE NEW WAY

I have just experienced the new way of shopping. The old way was to go into a small shop to have a look around, trying all the while to avoid getting in the way of other browsers. The new way: make an appointment, have the shop to yourself for half an hour and the undivided attention of the shop-keeper. Retail therapy, stress-free and enjoyable.

Will the shop-keeper lose out only having three or four customers a day? Perhaps three or four people actually buying something will be better than having a crowded shop of browsers, most of whom leave empty-handed (providing they don't shop-lift!)?

Looking back to help us move forward on the right foot

As the nation negotiates the transition from lock down, we need to look back to recognise the changes and learn from our mistakes in order to ensure the best way forward not only for humans but also the animal companions we are responsible for.

As we contemplate children returning to school, adults returning to work, please have a read of last issue's article "The effect of lockdown on our canine friends and what we can do to help our own dogs" to minimise behaviour problems by gradually introducing their original "normal" routine back into their week. For the new puppies we have welcomed into our families it is going to be particularly hard if they have not been left on their own before. So, it's time to give it some thought and put the necessary changes in place if you have not already done so.

Three years ago, I wrote an article on "The Importance of Core Dog and Cat vaccination" which is worth revisiting in light of recent events. The focus on protecting human health over the past few months has meant that some things like getting the dog or cat their booster vaccination has not been a priority for many reasons (you have been shielding, self-isolating or cost...). In that article I mention the concept of "herd immunity" which in simple terms means we need a certain percentage of a population to be vaccinated and immune to stop the outbreak of the diseases being vaccinated against. In a similar fashion we, the human race, are susceptible to this coronavirus, hence the spread through the population due to a lack of immunity. So, as we are getting back to some sort of normality, we need to get our pet population's immunity back up to prevent the likes of a parvovirus outbreak. Your vets are also allowed and able to do more than they could during lockdown, so get in touch if your pet's vaccinations have lapsed.

On a similar note I am hoping that by the time this article goes to print we are successfully transitioning back from lockdown with no setbacks or second waves. Your vet should be able to do some of the routine procedures you have been anxiously waiting for like the dentals, neutering, removing the lump you have been worried about etc so get back in touch with your vet to see if they are able to get these things done now.

Our cats on the other hand will be quietly smiling to themselves as they get their houses back to themselves as their human go back to school and work!

Wishing you and your animal friends good mental and physical health from
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Porthos goes South!

At last we have an update on the continuing story of Porthos, our guide dog puppy in training.

The lovely lad left us to go to the training school in Forfar in August 2019, which was actually four months later than it should have been, because of some logistical issues within the Guide Dog organisation. He went off with a smile and a waggy tail and a great deal of promise for his future. All went really well for him and his trainer, until for some unknown reason he started to show some inconsistencies in his work and this added another couple of months of training while it got sorted out. During this time we went up to visit him and

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IMDT

I watched him work in harness on the street (always such a proud time for a puppy walker!). We were then able to have lots of cuddles and playtime with him, which was wonderful. He had grown even bigger and it was great to see how he had become loyal to his trainer, though still loving to us.

During these months, work was being done to find a match for him- a very detailed and important part of a guide dog's journey. There was someone in the Newcastle area who seemed appropriate and after a visit by the mobility instructors from that centre, he was taken to a boarder down there, where he would stay for the advanced training to take place. We were excited to hear that the match was probably to be a lady with two small children, so Porthos would have a lively family to join.

At the moment, all training has had to be put on hold due to the Coronavirus situation, so sadly there has been yet more time added to his story. He is now well over two years old, but sometimes extra maturity can be an added bonus for a working dog. So, we wait, for the good news that he has qualified with his new owner.

Guide Dogs as a charity has had to make huge changes due to this lockdown period. All its services by definition, are quite tactile and so social distancing just wouldn't work. All the Guide Dog training centres have been closed and the staff have been asked to take dogs home with them. It must have been an enormous job at Forfar, to allocate eighty or so dogs to trainers, instructors, office staff, dog care staff etc for an indefinite home stay. Fortunately, absolutely everyone working there is a dog lover and I would imagine that many children have been delighted to gain not just a parent at home, but one or two doggy visitors as well! Hopefully, provision has been made for the centre cat (an essential member of the training team!) Where possible and within social distancing limitations, the various stages of training are continuing from a home environment. For young puppies, the socialisation part of training is obviously severely restricted, but some quite innovative

ideas have been suggested instead! Sadly the breeding programme has been halted, which has the knock on effect of lengthening the waiting time for a blind or partially sighted person to get a dog.

As with a lot of working environments, much human interaction has gone online, but everyone is well supported in the role they are playing. Even training courses are being delivered by Zoom!

In our household of just one pet dog, it has become obvious that this difficult time has been a total win-win situation for dogs. Ian has our full attention 24/7, he has a daily and wonderfully legal and lengthy walk, often on a newly discovered route in this beautiful place. He never has to endure car journeys or go on public transport, always has his meals on time and is still allowed to 'talk' to his friends, albeit at two leads length apart!

We are well aware that many people are suffering badly at the moment and never cease to count our blessings as we wait for some kind of normality to return. Hopefully for us, that will mean a return to boarding any kind of guide dog stock as and when required. So... Ian, watch this space!

Marilyn and Steve Willett.



Cats and Dogs

Are you a cat person or a dog person? How many times have you heard that question asked, as if you have to be one or the other and couldn't possibly be fond of both. Of course cats and dogs by nature are very different and seem to have a different outlook on life and opposing views on how life should be lived. A dog's life purpose would seem to be to serve their human friends whether simply as a companion and walking partner or in a more important and highly trained career as a guide or assistance dog or police dog. Dogs have always been the animal of choice to fulfil these rolls, indeed their very nature decrees it. On the other hand, and as someone who is also very fond of them, cats, on the surface at least, seem to be interested in pleasing only themselves. Woe betide anyone who displeases, or worse, causes a cat to take umbrage, forgiveness is very hard to gain.

I've often wondered why cats are referred to as 'she' and dogs as 'he' until, that is, proven otherwise. There does seem to be something rather feminine about cats. It's perhaps their sensuous style of walk with their head and tail held high and the soft and gentle paw that can in an instant change and do some devastating damage.

Another contradictory phrase often bandied about is "they fought like cat and dog." It's far more likely that they live in perfect harmony as many homes will testify and often a great friendship and even affection can exist between them. It is certainly easier to introduce a kitten to an adult dog than vice versa, an adult cat will soon put a boisterous pup in its place. Many a nursing bitch has taken care of an orphaned kitten and a mother cat has nursed a tiny pup until it became too big and playful.

Whatever our likes and dislikes there is no doubt of the love and companionship that both animals bring to many a lonely life. In these days of Covid 19 and social isolation, that friendship has proved invaluable to many living alone. So let's raise a glass and celebrate our cats and dogs.

Book Club Review

This issue's book review title is *Things Can Only Get Better* by David M Barnett (Trapeze, 2019).

Things Can Only Get Better is set in England in the early 1990s against the political backdrop of that time. Many of us may remember the song of the same name by the Northern Ireland musical group, D:Ream, that was used as New Labour's theme in their successful 1997 General Election campaign. After several years under a Conservative government, many in society were desperate for change.

The book opens with Arthur Calderbank, an elderly churchwarden living on the edge of a graveyard where his late wife, Molly, is buried. Still grieving, he spends his days tending to Molly's grave, and having conversations with her and the other deceased beneath the ground.

However, Arthur's home and solitude are threatened when the local council put a planning application in for a new asylum seeker hostel. A group of disenfranchised ex-mining men from the local pub, plot to protest on his behalf, although their motivations quickly prove not to be first and foremost about Arthur's wellbeing. Meanwhile, a group of teenage school kids are also threatening the churchwarden's peaceful existence with nightly visits to the graveyard.

Things Can Only Get Better isn't a particularly unique story. The backdrop of a northern English town with a depressed, disenfranchised working-class community is now a well-worn theme of many British books and films (the similarities with *Brassed Off* most particularly come to mind). If I was in a cynical mood, I would argue that the political undertones of the book are watery and diluted, whilst the intergenerational relationship between Arthur and the children is unrealistic.

However, I'm writing this book review a few weeks into the Coronavirus lockdown when society's emotions are heightened. Despite not wanting to be affected by *Things Can Only Get Better*, I did have a wee watery eye by the end (with the epilogue particularly) and found it unexpectedly touching finding out the fate of the characters.



In short, whilst not particularly ground-breaking, this book did provide some light entertainment when it was needed and could be memorable just for that reason.

The next BLV book club review will be *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens (Corsair, 2019)

Maggie Magor

Callander Library Re-opening

Like many of you I imagine, I can't quite believe how long it is since 'normal' stopped. The novelty of working from home while someone shouts "Mum, what's for lunch?" and I listen for the washing machine finishing its cycle, has long since worn off. I'm craving the 20 minutes of peace and beautiful scenery on my drive to work and seeing all the lovely people who visit the library, whom I've missed. However, with current circumstances, we have to wait a bit longer for return to 'normal service'. While this may be disappointing, I hope the measures outlined here reassure you that decisions are being taken with everyone's health and safety in mind and that being able to offer a fuller service is under continuous review.

Select & Collect

At the time of writing, planning is underway for staff (me!) to return to the library on Tuesday 28 July. The library will not be open as normal to the public, but while browsing isn't possible, we will be offering a 'Select & Collect' service.

Staff will be in the library on Tuesdays and Fridays between 10.00am – 2.00pm, for you to contact us about books you would like and arrange a time to collect them. Either telephone (01877 331544) or email the library (callanderlibrary@stirling.gov.uk) to arrange a collection slot and tell us:

- How many books you would like to borrow (maximum of 5)
- Adult or Junior
- Which genre: romance, crime, family saga, non-fiction etc

Unfortunately we are not able to accept requests for specific titles at this stage.

You can return books when you have an appointment to collect new ones. Returned books will be quarantined for 72hrs on return, so may be on your account for longer than usual. Otherwise please do not return books. They have all been renewed and will not accrue fines.

The Council's e-books and other digital lending services are still available, having proved hugely popular in the months of lockdown.

Limited Service

During this phase, the library building will not be open to the public. We are unable to offer any computer access, photocopying, printing, dog waste bags, food waste bags or hearing aid batteries.

Future Changes

The plan outlined above is for all Stirling Council Libraries. We hope to be able to offer access to our libraries when it is safe to do so. Therefore by time of publication, there may already be changes to the service outlined above. Please follow either [@stirlinglibraries on facebook](#) or [@StirlingLibs on twitter](#) for updates on service changes.

Reading Challenge

The theme is 'Silly Squad'. With libraries closed nationally, this reading challenge is being run virtually. Children read but instead of collecting stamps etc from their library, they can register their participation and get access to activities, earn badges etc at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Parents can follow Stirling Libraries on Facebook where daily riddles, jokes, regular craft and silly activity ideas are posted for children to do at home.

Fiona Frize

Rock Art Project

I joined Scotland's Rock Art Project (ScRAP) on a voluntary basis back in 2018 when a training session was held in Callander. After getting up to speed with what was needed, I was soon tramping about some of the Highland backwaters in the local area and beyond to locate and record rock art sites, mostly alone but sometimes with the group. It's interesting and rewarding work, plus a good excuse to get out and about in the countryside. As it's a real hotspot for ancient rock art, there's a huge amount to be done to cover Perthshire alone.

Cloanlawers 6 Stone, North Loch Tay



3D Computer Model of Rock at Leckie Broch near Gargunnock



A Poem by Annette Cooper

Look at me, I am a tall tall tree.

I stand in Coilhallan woods.

I look down from on high to see only faces of busy people going places.

I think to myself why don't they come in to my haven, my oasis?

I shout "Come on in, take a seat if you will.

Time to take the weight off. Don't bring your toys they make too much noise and cause an unwelcome distraction.

From the things you will see if you sit quietly by me and look at nature's attractions."

The thrush sings atop of my crown,

Red squirrels for a lark run round and around, their tails tickling my bark.
The woodpecker drums on my tallest branch and the owl hoots loud in the dark.

It's oh so quiet here on the edge of town.

My home, my stamping ground except when the wind, who from nowhere comes throwing his weight around.

I'm not afraid 'cause my fellow trees gather round.

We have seen his like before.

So if you've enjoyed your visit with me

Please come again soon. I'll be here I hope for a while.

I'm not a poet you will surely agree,

I am just a tree, a very tall tree.

Sensum Communem.

There are about 2,500 rock art sites known in the country and ScRAP has been set to record as many of these as possible within its five year operational span. A number of community-based groups throughout Scotland have been trained to carry out the recording of already known rock art.

Hidden within our landscape and carved on rocks are signs and symbols whose meaning is now lost to us. They occur in many areas of Europe and were as visible and understandable to the people who made them as our own signs are to us today. There are many interpretations of what the carvings meant and why they are in our landscape, but of course nobody actually knows.

If you're interested in finding out more, visit the ScRAP website at rockart.scot where you will find a map and database of all known sites. To see the collections of computer models of the rock art, go to the sketchfab.com site. Search for 'Scotland's Rock Art Project' for the Project Group's 3D images, and you can find my work if you search for '[algarvenick](#)'.

Nick Parish

Blarnaboard 1 Outcrop near Gartmore



30 Charities and clubs



Callander and West Perthshire U3A

Although we have all missed the social side of our U3A, technology has come into its own and members have still been able to learn and to keep in touch. While the more active groups have been unable to meet, other interest groups have continued on-line, for instance (though by no means exhaustive)

The Rock Music Group joined the Zoom generation and has continued to "meet" every fortnight. Topics explored include Plans, Despair, Holiday Destinations, Isolation, with videos used to lighten the mood.

A selection of paintings has been emailed weekly to the Art History Group for members to enjoy and to try to identify.

Lockdown and the fabulous spell of weather producing wonderful clear nights, the Astronomy Group continued into the summer months. Our fanzine 'Chatterbox' featured 'Skylights' enabling other members to share in some of the spectacles.

German, French and Spanish language groups have been practising in different ways, including online work, chatting via Zoom and landlines, as well as completing crosswords and reading at home.

There is no physical Knit and Natter but members have kept in touch by e-mail, sharing patterns, keeping busy with their own knitting as well as knitting cannula gloves for babies in hospital and kitten blankets.

In Current Affairs various online discussion topics were explored but the group has decided to have a summer break and hopes to meet up outdoors for a picnic and chat when guidelines permit.

As life is still less busy and more home based for some people, several groups have opted to carry on throughout the summer months. Until we can meet and share common interests face to face, U3A members will carry on learning, laughing and connecting with each other.

Joy Henderson

German Speaking Group in Callander

Am 14. August werden wir sowohl das folgende Thema diskutieren als auch, wie gewöhnlich, an einigen Wortspielen teilnehmen:

Im Deutschen gibt es, im Gegensatz zum Englischen, unterschiedliche Höflichkeitsformen: Sie und Du. "Sie" ist im Alltag die Standard-Anredeform unter Erwachsenen und entspricht der gesellschaftlich erwarteten Anrede fremder und unvertrauter Personen. Die "Sie"-Anrede drückt zudem auch Höflichkeit aus, kann aber auch gezielt eingesetzt werden, um Distanz und inhaltliche oder persönliche Abkehr zu demonstrieren. Im Gegensatz dazu drückt die "Du"-Form Vertrautheit aus.

Wäre es besser wenn die "Sie"-Form im Deutschen abgeschafft werden würde und von einer einheitlichen Anrede wie das Englische "you" ersetzt würde? Was wären die gesellschaftlichen Auswirkungen und Vor- und Nachteile?

Das übernächste Treffen, noch einmal mit ZOOM, findet am 18. September statt.

Falls Sie entweder im August oder im September mitmachen möchten, schicken Sie mir bitte im Voraus eine Email, um den dazugehörigen ZOOM Link zu kriegen:(jenshearer@gmail.com). Wir freuen uns auf noch ein ,entferntes Wiedersehen'.

Jen Shearer

Thursday Club

Our year had to come to an abrupt end when Lockdown arrived, meaning that we missed two meetings, one of which would have included a tea party for Joyce Lynn's 100th birthday. As many will know Joyce died shortly after reaching the 100 milestone. She was a very loyal member of our club and will be greatly missed. In this period we have also lost another fine member, Douglas Stewart. Both added interest to our group from their past experiences and were happy to participate in all our programmes. Our other sad news is the death in Ashlea of a much loved former member, Jean Howie. Jean was a valued member of the Club for very many years serving on the Committee, including a period as treasurer.

It is good to hear how all our members have been helped and continue to be helped through Lockdown by family, neighbours, friends, community volunteers, the Kirk's Pastoral Care group and various shop people through these difficult months. We extend our deep gratitude to all our wonderful Callander carers.

We had hoped to restart on 10th September but there are no plans for that as I write. It is hard to envisage how we could run the Club until the Social Distancing Rules have been dropped. We will keep looking at the situation and will let everyone know when we are able to restart.

Marion Doherty

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Dates for the diary (events planned and hopefully able to go ahead).

- Sat 15th August plant sales in Ancaster Square 10-14:00.
- Tues 8th Sept 7:30pm Talk: 'Vultures in Nepal' by Dave Anderson, Forestry and Land Scotland Conservation Manager. In Callander Kirk Hall, FK17 8BN.



Lesley Hawkins

Callander & District Horticultural Show

By the time you read this you may already know that there can't be a real show this year but what there will be is a VIRTUAL SHOWCASE 2020 via our website www.cadhs.co.uk which went live early July.



Please check it out, see how you can get involved and keep a show that was set up in 1873 alive for next year, when we hope that the new normal will allow for the return of Callander's Annual Show.

There won't be trophies to win this year but you will have the pleasure you share with others when they see your entries go live on 22nd August. There won't be the Friday night panic and pressure either, to get your entries to the Hall!

You can start today, if you haven't already, by taking photographs of your flowers, vegetables, craftwork and floral art. Upload them as jpegs to our new website, where entries will be kept offline until 15th August, when judging will take place. Only winning entries will be named so make this the year you get involved. Give it a try! We have kept it as easy as possible, with an abbreviated schedule, offering a wide range of classes for you to enter. If you have picked up a paper copy, please hold on to it as it will be the basis for our show in 2021.

This year we are supporting the charity '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. All advice re Covid19 safety guidelines will be followed for any hats you wish to knit and donate to the Show.

Callander Primary School children have been asked to paint a stone as a reminder of this exceptional time when they were unable to be at school as normal. A photo of their stone, with anonymous comments from the child on their thoughts when designing and painting it, can be entered now via the website.

The Callander in Bloom Showcase Gallery is open RIGHT NOW for your photos of favourite flowers, plants, and even your special place or view from your garden; it's non-competitive, just click, show and share. The Gallery will be updated weekly so please pick up your phone or camera and get clicking. Encourage your friends and family to do the same. Let's make our Virtual Show stand out for Callander in 2020. Contact email for further information: cadhsshow@gmail.com

Lucy Fraser-Gunn

Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club



Rotary

Club members continue to keep in contact via Zoom and by phone. The handover to the new president for 2020/21 took place on 30th June by Zoom for the first time. Outgoing president Mike Kay handed over the Chain of Office to Jen Shearer for the next year. She in turn welcomed Peter Ireland as Senior Vice President. To prove that we are in the 21st century the photograph shows members attending the handover meeting.

One of the few donations we have been able to make since lockdown was to Start Up Stirling (startupstirling.org.uk). Thanks to that and the generosity of Campbells Butchers in Callander, Start Up Stirling were able to collect a substantial amount of fresh meat to add to the food packs which they distribute to their clients who would otherwise go hungry. Our thanks go to Campbells for their support and also for the service which they have provided in and around Callander during these difficult times.

We are now looking forward to the autumn and beyond when we hope that we can get back to our regular meetings and events.

Meanwhile if you would like to find out more about Rotary please look at our website, www.callander.rotary1010.org or on Facebook.



Derek House

A Massive Thank You!

The fruit and veg stall began in Vorlich Cres and the Mollands, in response to the increased demand Covid 19 placed on Start-Up Stirling (food bank). We bought some extra produce from McKechnie's fruit market and set up a stall in our driveways, asking people to donate a little above the usual price.

The stalls, alongside some fruit and veg deliveries and generous donations have raised a total of £2702! The charities which have benefited include: Start-Up Stirling; Kondanani orphan village, Malawi; Christians Against Poverty (debt project); the Salvation Army debt project in Stirling and Strathcarron hospice.

Thank you so much to everyone in Callander who has bought from the stall, placed orders for deliveries and even contributed plants for the stall! We really appreciate everyone's kindness.

Jennifer Morris & Elaine Burch

Arthritis Club

I do hope you are all keeping safe and not getting too bored. At the time of writing this, we have no idea whether the Club can return to normal in September - it was to have been a demonstration by Wiltshire Farm Foods. If we can go ahead, we will let everyone know somehow.

Fiona Snow, Secretary

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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
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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

www.nhsinform.scot

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Doune: 01786 841304

Schools

McLaren High: 01877 330156

Callander Primary: 01877 331576



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The Church of Scotland,

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[Sunday services](http://www.callanderkirk.org.uk)

Details at www.callanderkirk.org.uk



St Joseph's

Catholic Church

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Doune

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Sunday 11.30am Callander

Rev Leszek Wiecek, S.A.C

01877 330702

Bin Collections

August

Grey/Blue bins Sat. 8th, 22th

Brown bin/Blue box Sat. 15th

Brown/ Green bins Sat. 1st, 29th

SEPTEMBER

Grey/Blue bins Sat. 5th, 19th

Brown bin/Blue box Sat. 12th

Brown/Green bins Sat. 26th

OCTOBER

Grey/Blue Bins 3rd, 17th, 31st

Brown Bin/Blue Box Sat. 10th

Brown/Green bins Sat. 24th

www.stirling.gov.uk/waste

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- Saturday 10.00am-2.00pm
- Sunday closed
- Lagrannoch depot 01877 330492
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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

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Leny Road, Callander

For any information please contact:

Interim pastor Rev Alison Peden

tel: 01877 330488

alisonpeden1@gmail.com

www.standrewschurchcallander.org.uk



Callander Baptist Fellowship

Weekly Services:

Sunday Morning Family Worship at

10.30am in Pastor's homel

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

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 2nd
October 2020.**

Advertisements copy & artwork
Please send all advertisement copy
for the **October/November** issue to
our Advertising Co-ordinator Isla
Routledge at advertising@benlediview.org
by **Friday 4th September
2020** Full details of sizes for adver-
tisement and artwork specifications
are at www.benlediview.co.uk under
the Advertise tab. Please call or
email for advice if in doubt.

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

All editorial contributions for the
October/November issue should be
emailed to blveditor@benlediview.org
or handed in to the Callander
Library by **Friday 4th September
2020**

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

Planning Applications submitted to the National Park since the last issue

Erection of single storey extensions to front and rear of existing dwellinghouse

42 Stirling Road Callander FK17 8DD

Ref. No: 2020/0115/HAE | Received: Wed 20 May 2020 | Validated: Thu 21 May 2020 | Status: Current

Erection of balcony on side elevation of holiday cottage

Bousd Leny Feus Callander FK17 8AS

Ref. No: 2020/0116/DET | Received: Thu 21 May 2020 | Validated: Fri 22 May 2020 | Status: Current

Alteration to ancillary building and installation of gates

Tyrone Ancaster Road Callander FK17 8EL

Ref. No: 2020/0127/HAE | Received: Tue 09 Jun 2020 | Validated: Mon 06 Jul 2020 | Status: Current

Erection of single storey rear extension

10 Esher Crescent Callander FK17 8DJ

Ref. No: 2020/0147/LBC | Received: Mon 29 Jun 2020 | Validated: Mon 29 Jun 2020 | Status: Current

Erection of single storey rear extension

10 Esher Crescent Callander FK17 8DJ

Ref. No: 2020/0146/HAE | Received: Mon 29 Jun 2020 | Validated: Mon 29 Jun 2020 | Status: Current

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

Callander Kirk Update

Callander Kirk is actively looking at how it can safely open its doors again for private prayer, worship and funerals. A Safety Team, to include cleaners and stewards, has been set up to help with this.

It is important to emphasise that when the Kirk re-opens things will not be the same as they were before. There will be a one-way system in operation with a separate entrance and exit. Everyone attending will need to give their contact details, gel their hands on entering and leaving, wear a face covering and keep a 2 metre distance. Stewards will direct people where to sit and when to enter and leave the building. Toilets will be unavailable except for emergency use. Unfortunately we will be unable to shake hands and sing. Refreshments and water will not be available.

Please note that anyone who is "shielding" or has Covid-19 symptoms

should not attend Kirk buildings. At the time of writing those people who are in the vulnerable category have been advised by the Scottish Government to stay at home as much as possible.

We hope the Kirk will be able to open its doors again sometime in August. Please keep an eye out for notices on-line, in the press and local shops. The services will continue to be recorded onto the Callander Kirk Facebook page or you can request a copy of the service to be emailed to you from jmccormick@churchofscotland.org.uk

Callander Kirk Safety Team



Callander Bowling Club

After winning the West Perthshire League title last year for the first time in 70 years, we were told it was going to be a tough task to retain it. Little did we know back then, that the next competitive season was going to be wiped out by the Coronavirus!

The green was eventually opened on Friday 10th July, to be used solely as a mode of exercise. All regular competitions have been suspended by the sport's governing body, so players can enjoy a stress free, light-hearted game with friends and family. We will get about 2 months play before the season closes in mid September, then keep our fingers crossed for a full season starting next Spring.

Donald Grieve

Regarding the High School Waste Rant by Homo Vulgaris in the June July Edition

Can I just express my total dismay that you allowed this article to be published in the recent Ben Ledi View! This “whinge” is in complete contradiction to all that we are encouraging at the moment, kindness, appreciation of key workers, an understanding of the challenges faced by others at the moment in these times!

To the staff and pupils who have worked hard “voluntarily” on this area over the years this is like a slap in the face. At this time more than any we are supposed to be kind and support key workers who are doing their very best. To have the paper think this ‘dig’ is appropriate and also allow this person's views to be shared is heart-breaking. Pupils and staff work voluntarily (not paid!) in this area of the school garden.

The compost was emptied and USED in autumn. It does have new material in it as well. This area is being planned for development by the school's eco group to create a memorial garden where staff, pupils and indeed members of the community on their daily exercise, can relax and improve their health and wellbeing. People have given up HOURS of their time on the garden area over the years.

In the times we are in at the moment pupils and staff are doing their very best in a challenging situation and are still volunteering their time to keep this area going so that there is something beautiful and educational left there when the pupils get to return (especially when we know the importance of outdoor learning in this situation). Funnily enough this hasn't been a huge whole school priority the last few months (oh and before that it was winter!) The work done on the garden has been done VOLUNTARILY during some people's daily exercise at the same

time as working from home to help and support pupils as well as home schooling their own children. Rather than whinging why doesn't this person ask if they can do anything to help! Tidy it up? Fantastic, add on a few extra hours to each day. Dispose of? Surely disposing of something means we no longer have a use for it. These will be used in the future. But right now it isn't that high on the job list.

Homo Vulgaris and Ben Ledi View newspaper, three words - thanks a lot!

A very upset member of the community, mother, teacher and volunteer.

Regards, Louise Rolfe

Dear Editors

I think it is irresponsible for you to print anonymous Soapbox articles. Whoever submits a negative article about the community should be required to put their name with it. It is cowardly that someone uses a pseudonym so they are not held accountable for what they said.

Somehow through social media insinuations and town gossip, the last article written by Homo Vulgaris was attributed to me and my family, the “incomers” to Callander. I would like the readers to know that if I write something, I will always sign my name and take responsibility for it. Although I'm sure it was not the intention of Homo Vulgaris to offend so many people in the village, it did. And that backlash did not go to them, but to me. I personally received anonymous hate mail on their behalf.

In order for someone else not to be the next target, I strongly encourage the Ben Ledi View magazine to rethink how they publish a “community” magazine. I also encourage all the readers to support each other, even

“incomers” as we've been called. But just for the record, I actually grew up playing in the River Teith (where my mother's ashes are scattered) and petting Donald and Dougal in Kilmahog. I had such fond memories of Callander, that I brought my family back to settle here. I know Callander is full of wonderful people, but it is disappointing that the community magazine prints anonymous rants which further enables anti-social behaviours. Change your policy!

Ross Munro

FETCH

I should like to thank the organisation of Fetch for doing all my shopping since the start of the Lock Down. I was self isolating from the first day and was unable to get a slot in one of the big chain of supermarkets offering deliveries. However, Fetch were well prepared to take my order from the start and every week my shopping was brought to my door by cheerful, smiling young girls and boys which was my only contact with getting food and ingredients.

I wish to express how I have admired the whole enterprise which has kept alive so many vulnerable people in Callander giving a free but very necessary service throughout these difficult three months.

I am now able to shop for myself but will never forget the kindness of Fetch.

Thank you to the whole organisation.

Rosemary Fraser

Litter

I would just like to express my sadness over the lack of respect some folk have for our best asset in this beautiful country we live in: our country side. The litter that is left every day is shocking !

Surely something can be done to stop this. When I was a lad there were adverts on TV about NOT leaving rubbish and take your litter home, maybe they should be reinstated, along with fines that hurt the average pocket say £250.00 each for every body that shares a campsite and leaves it a mess. Use motion activated camouflage cameras ! : (Then fines would pay for the warden's efforts to stop this.)

Sad and Disappointed Citizen

Street Wanderer

In your latest edition of BLV your street wanderer requests help regarding the previous owners of the chemist shop before the Rattrays. It was a chemist called Gonella.

It was my parents, Sheila and Stewart Colquhoun who owned the butcher's shop which traded as J and T McLaren. She was indeed matronly but in the old style 'hospital matron' and you were ill advised to get on her wrong side, although normally she was a kind and generous soul and one of my jobs in the shop at close of business was to wrap up the small ends of cold meats and give them to Jock and Jeannie Stewart (Jock and Jeannie the tinks as they were known pre PC days) who lived out at Lagrannoch.

Also resident at Lagrannoch, for his weeks summer holidays, was John Rannie who was foreman of John Browns shipyard and supervised the building of the Queens and who even on holiday wore a 3 piece worsted wool suit and celluloid collars and a bowler hat ! He would come into the shop dressed like this even on the warmest day.

Ivor Colquhoun

p.s.

Jimmy Robertson came to work in our shop when the co-op butchery closed

Road Problems

I was deeply disturbed to find that on driving my way along the Duke's Pass Road that I could hardly get through due to inconsiderate parking. Subsequently I found the police were forced to close the entire road from Kilmahog to Aberfoyle due to this problem. This inconsiderate behaviour by our visitors cannot be tolerated, no matter how welcome we wish to be and something must be done about it

I understand that 'no parking' signs had been placed at Brig O' Turk and that they were removed and flung into the surrounding woods. This is terrible behaviour.

Very annoyed local

Food Hampers

Ronnie Forbes would like to thank the Members of Lodge Ben Ledi 614 for their donation of items to make up essential food hampers, which have been distributed to 12 local families who were in need during this period of lock down.

CR Watson



NANCY STANNERS IS 90 YEARS OLD



Nancy Stanners recently celebrated her 90th birthday with a small tea party held in her decorated car port! Unfortunately, it was a day of torrential rain and also because of social isolation, Nancy was only able to celebrate with a couple of her friends but hopes to meet up with many more once the distance rules are relaxed.

Nancy lived most of her life in London and she moved to Callander in 1991. She enjoys many of the U3A groups such as the French, Book, Sunday lunch and Theatre as well as the Quilting Group.

Nancy loves her garden birds and has wonderful views from her home across to The Wallace Monument.

From all her friends

Hanging Baskets

I would like to congratulate and thank the members of *Greener Callander* for the magnificent display of hanging baskets along Main Street.

They normally are fantastic, but after the drabness of Lockdown, the only word I have to express my feelings is Magnificent.

John Nelson

Helen Buchanan:

On behalf of the family, we would like to express a sincere thank you to the whole community for the number of cards, messages and



personal condolences following our Mum's death on 27th April.

Having lived in Callander all her life, she touched many lives and we are grateful to friends and family who have recently shared anecdotes of her. These ranged from old school friends and other friendships that she had for all or most of her life, to those who remembered going into 'the shop' many years ago when they were children to buy a 10p mixture. She loved working in the shop and it was a great way for her to keep in touch with friends. In later years her house became the focal point for her socialising, where all were welcomed with a cup of tea and force fed a biscuit or two.

We are deeply touched by the number of people who lined the street on the day of her funeral, in order to give her a final farewell. This meant a lot to us and it would have done to her also. We would also like to extend our thanks to George Currid for his care and attention with the funeral arrangements and Rev Jeff McCormick for his sermon.

John, Gordon and Allan Buchanan

Norah McGinley

The family of Norah McGinley would like to thank everyone for their support and kindness, following her short illness and sudden death. Special thanks to all staff at Forth Valley Royal Hospital, particularly the staff of the Stroke ward, who treated Norah and the family with the greatest care and consideration at this very difficult time.

Many thanks, also, to the Callander community, and especially Norah's very thoughtful neighbours and friends, who rallied round for Norah, following the death of her beloved husband, Bill, last July.

Special thanks, also, to Ross Anderson and the staff of Andrew Anderson & Sons, and to Rev. Jeff McCormick and Callander Kirk, for their kind assistance and support, which was greatly appreciated. A donation of over £350 has been passed to the Chest, Heart and Stroke (Scotland) Charity, from the funeral collection.

Norah and Bill moved to Callander in 1996, and loved the town and the many friends they made. They will be sadly missed by their friends and family alike.

Kenny McGinley



Joyce E. Lynn (Née Taylor) : 15 March 1920 - 4 June 2020

Having recently celebrated her 100th birthday in such fine fettle (BLV April), who would ever have anticipated that we would now be honouring Joyce's memory and celebrating her full and wonderful life ... as most of you will know, Joyce sadly passed away last-month following a profound stroke.

Whilst Joyce was born and grew up in the Wealds of Kent with her two younger brothers, Gordon and John, the greater part of her life was spent in Scotland, having moved north as a bride in the closing years of the War. Following the loss of her beloved Robert, she made the inspired yet hard decision to move from the family home in Burnside leaving her many friends and relatives in Glasgow to settle in Callander in the early 70's where she formed so many more close and deep friendships.

Some of you may recall Joyce initially staying in a caravan at the Gart and cycling along to her summer job at Mr Cantley's Corner Shop; she thoroughly immersed herself in Callander life joining 'every club' and enjoying the many events and shows produced by the remarkable local talent.

There is a longstanding family expression that "Joyce is all about enjoyment" and whilst she did indeed enjoy life to the full, this was a joy very much to be shared with all. Her innate passion and enthusiasm for life was infectious and no-one ever left 'Luib' without feeling uplifted and inspired and looking forward to their next visit.

Truly, Joyce was a very remarkable and wonderful lady, a loving mother to my brother and myself, an adored Granny to Rebecca, Charlotte and Robert, a loving Auntie, and a much loved and cherished friend to so many.

"Joyce was an inspiration to all us oldies, she was so full of life and enjoyment of her many activities. I first got to know her through golf and many were the happy outings we had which were such good fun. We often remarked how she never changed, never seemed to age and always so pretty."

We will miss her so much, a truly lovely lady." (Ann Tweedie)

Peter Lynn, on behalf of Joyce's family

Socially distanced road repairs.

For month driving up the Mollands has been an exercise in knowing where the worst holes were and steering around them. Not any more. Watching others work is interesting.

The road team arrived in 4 separate lorries, 1 with liquid tar to make the bitumen stick in place, 1 with hand tools, 1 with the roller and last came the bitumen to fill the holes. This was not how they usually travelled; there was at least 1 vehicle more than normal, but there had been promises of face masks so 2 could travel in a lorry and save a bit of diesel pollution.

Social distancing was not a problem for this team; the tar filled watering can went ahead, the wheelbarrow filled with bitumen to take it to the holes, the barrow skillfully tipped material into the hole, followed immediately by the raker and finally came the roller to get it as flat as possible.

Very slick but to an observer, the hard hats for this job were more of a danger than a help. No work above their heads but hard hat and bending over!!!!



Callander Target Sports Club



In accordance with the rules of the Coronavirus pandemic, we closed the club with no shooting taking place and all competitions were cancelled.

However, a couple of our members (whilst strictly adhering to the social distancing advice) took the opportunity of an empty club to carry out some redecorating work to both the inside and outside of the club premises.

Once the restrictions were lifted, we also had some ground improvement work carried out around the club, with an area outside of the front of the building being tarred, which will greatly assist our wheelchair handicapped members - no more struggling through a muddy carpark!

Like a number of Sports people, many of our members are desperate to get back to their particular discipline, however until such time as we get the "go ahead" from the government and also our Shooting governing body, then unfortunately our weapons will remain silent.

Lockdown Shooting:

One club member has looked farther afield for their trigger fix during the Covid lockdown and while clubs may all be shut, one of the oldest pub and club sports in the country has set up a postal competition, usually the reserve of air rifle enthusiasts - Lincolnshire Bell Target has agreed to run a league for air pistol which can be shot and scored at home in a garage!

After coming 3rd in the last round, James Martin (Scotland's only known Bell Target competitor), is planning on continuing to compete in this self-scoring postal league.

Over the 3 classes, competitors have been submitting scores from as far afield as Germany and Hungary, with one youngster competing for his Duke of Edinburgh bronze.

For further club details, contact our secretary Bob Farquhar 07721-744229.

Photo by Frazer Cronin

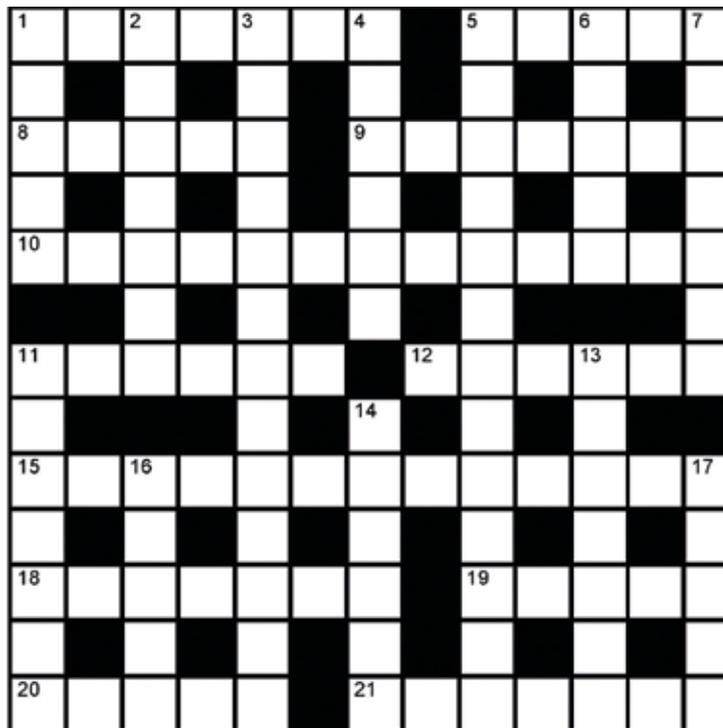
Lightning Drama

Some weeks ago a thunderstorm was forecast which did not happen. Until 6am in the morning. I live along the Invertrossachs Road and was lying in bed listening to the radio. Suddenly the radio went off and I saw that I had lost electricity. It returned almost immediately, followed a few seconds later by the loudest bang I had ever heard. It sounded like thunder, but very much louder. Later that day I was told that a tall tree a couple of miles away, at the gates to the Invertrossachs Estate, had been hit by lightning. The electrostatic discharge it produced blew the internet and electrics of the nearest house, about 20 metres away, and split the tree from top to bottom. To see the jagged split travelling down the full length of the trunk was an awesome sight. The noise, heard so loudly a couple of miles away, and with such force, has given me a new respect for lightning.

The lightning can give an instantaneous release of as much as one gigajoule of energy. That is 1 billion joules. You only need 50 joules to kill a person. Hit by this there would be nothing left! Anyone standing under that tree, or even near it, when the lightning struck would almost certainly have been killed. The moral of the story? Don't ever shelter under a tree in a thunderstorm! The tree has gone now, too dangerous to leave in place.

E Martay





Across

- 1 Stop little rodents running wild throughout the community. (7)
- 5 Put in place when spoken to. "Do this to stop the joint going dry!" (5)
- 8 Consider move back? Not on! (5)
- 9 Worried disorder could get more out of hand (7)
- 10 Might what's done in parliament be action by ginger group to increase its influence? (5,8)
- 11 I decry its adaptation for theatrical effect! (3,3)
- 12 Dan's taking half of August to wander about in the country (6)
- 15 Can't wait for spin away from work. Perhaps to Arran by this type of boat? (4-2,4-3)
- 18 Rhone is one to carry one to a holiday destination (7)
- 19 Finished part of weekend edition (5)
- 20 Were used to settle scores when expected to confront empty lies (5)
- 21 Tester when old saving scheme meets resistance (7)

Down

- 1 Polish off new variety of tea in a good place (3,2)
- 2 Finish off gradually? (3,4)
- 3 Comes to sort or reorder means of transport (5,8)
- 4 Expresses surprise facing teacher in line (6)
- 5 Places for games left in foremost part of ship in old vessels (7,6)
- 6 Literary genre with a future! (5)
- 7 Area is, with first updating and review, geographically vast indeed (7)
- 13 Coward's time for mad dogs (7)
- 14 Despicable person in time makes mistakes (6)
- 16 Banking the French will shelter first lady (5)
- 17 Retired after holding back device for controlling sound levels (5)

No Crossword
in
last issue

BLV CROSSWORD No. 145. Please return completed entries to The Library, South Church Street, Callander by no later than FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2020 The first correct entry opened will win £5. Don't forget to supply your name and address below

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

Covid Spike

As we write this short article there has been a small spike in the number of cases admitted to Forth Valley Hospital.

This was only to be expected with the lowering of the lockdown restrictions, but is just a good example of why we must still follow social distancing.



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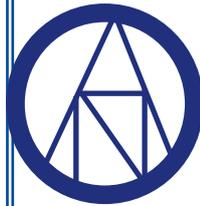
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