



Ben Ledi View

April/May 2021

Issue 316

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H

ello Readers

As I write this Spring at last seems to be with us. Its stopped raining, the sun's out and its pleasantly warm. What will the summer season bring us? Hopefully our hotels, B&Bs, restaurants, cafés and pubs will be able to open and serve the tourists that I think will descend on Callander due to foreign travel restrictions. I'm not looking forward to last year's spate of littering, especially around wild camping on loch shores. I also hope we have fewer noisy motorbikes steaming through the town. One particular tourist issue is the closure of the Bracklinn Falls bridge. If it remains closed for any length of time it will be major hassle to anyone planning to do the classic Circuit in a clockwise manner. Hopefully the National Park will put up adequate signage explaining this.

One potentially exciting development in the town is the planned restoration of BMX/Bike Track in the Camp Place Play Park. The Community Council have organised an online survey to get people's views on these plans. I encourage readers to take part in this. The young people of Callander certainly deserve such a facility after the awful year they have just had.

We often receive comments from readers saying that an article or letter that we have published is biased/

unbalanced/one-sided/political. In almost all of these cases the accusations are correct. Most of our articles and letters are written by one person, in their own capacity, and they do express that particular person's view or interest. In many cases I and the other trustees of the magazine will disagree with the view expressed in these pieces. However, we do respect the right of individual members of the community of Callander to express their opinions in the Ben Ledi View, as long as it's done in a manner that is not abusive or insulting. We would like to encourage anyone who has a disagreement with something that they have read in the Ben Ledi View to send us a rejoinder that we can print so an interesting and healthy debate can develop.

I would like to finish by, on behalf of everyone involved in the production and distribution of the Ben Ledi View, extending our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the administration of the covid jag in Callander. The sessions at the Kirk Hall having been running like clockwork and are a credit to all the people involved in giving the jags and organising the process. I'm looking forward to the time when we've all had the vaccine and we can have Ben Ledi View celebratory event to thank all the volunteers who have helped produce the magazine over the last difficult year.

Convenor

Subscriptions

If you would like to join the BLV mailing list or send a copy to friends or family, please send your details to us
Email: benlediviewsubscription@gmail.com

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Please make cheques to Ben Ledi View Community Newspaper SCIO.

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

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St Kessog's Update

At the latest meeting of the working group, on 24th February, we were shown a couple of draft layouts that the architects have been working up for the redevelopment of St Kessog's. Both have designated areas for the library and the business hub, with a separate space for community use, but with flexibility embedded in the design to make best use of all these spaces within the building.

The architects are keen to work sympathetically with the structure of the building and to retain the visibility of the existing features, whilst making the building as efficient as possible in terms of heating, ventilation, and maintenance.

It seems likely that the library, most of the business hub and public toilets including a changing places facility space will be on the ground floor. Stairs and a refurbished lift will lead to the first floor, where there will probably be another smaller business hub area and a significant community space. As your representatives on this project, we will review these layouts against the suggestions you gave us for how you want St Kessog's to be used and feedback our comments. By the next issue of BLV, we hope to have some 3D images to give you a better idea of how the refurbished building will look, and we should also have more information about timescales.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions please email StKessogs.survey@gmail.com or leave a voice message or text [07591312227](tel:07591312227).

Susan King

(member of the St Kessog's Working Group)



Keep Warm This Spring

Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau, Callander Outreach Service

Spring is on the way, but it's still fairly chilly out there, plus the continued lockdown restrictions mean we're still spending much more time indoors. For most, this has meant more energy usage and higher energy bills. Whilst restrictions look set to ease soon, the ongoing economic uncertainties caused by COVID-19 will be with us for some time.

The consequences of fuel poverty are misery, discomfort, ill-health and debt. At Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau, we now have an Energy Team who can offer advice and assistance to support us in Callander. This support includes:

- vouchers to top up pre-payment meters
- assistance and advocacy in dealing with energy debt
- support to access Priority Service Registers
- advice on energy efficiency measures
- support to access and apply for energy grants
- advice regarding switching energy suppliers to get the best deal
- and in some instances, we can also provide immediate cash-assistance

Please contact Maggie Magor, the Callander Outreach Worker, to access this support.

Whilst the Outreach Service has yet to resume on Wednesdays at the library, Maggie Magor continues to provide support, advice, and assistance on issues around benefits, employment, housing, debt, consumer issues and more, via phone or email.

Please contact Maggie Magor on [07931 334828](tel:07931334828) or email: Maggie.Magor@stirlingcab.casonline.org.uk.

Additionally, you can call the Stirling service on [01786 470239](tel:01786470239).

Coffee, Cake, Chatter



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

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Wills

The preparation of a Will is often a simple and inexpensive process but failure to have a Will in place can pose major difficulties for those left behind. We can ensure your Will clearly expresses your wishes and how your estate should be distributed, ensuring that those individuals that you cherish will benefit.

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

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Callander Library

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Claish Farm New Housing Safety Award

The Claish Farm site near Callander won Silver in the Lovell National Health & Safety Awards for the design and construction of the 50 affordable homes for Rural Stirling Housing Association, (RSHA). Organised to promote good health and safety on Lovell construction sites, Claish Farm was the only Scottish winner, beating off competition from across the UK. In particular, Claish Farm was praised for:

- COVID-19 secure arrangements with automated audible reminders employed.
- Excellent site set-up
- Early installation of roads and sewers allowing one-way traffic
- Efficient delivery routes
- Use of paved routes positioned to rear of buildings to optimise segregation.
- High level of communication between all parties leading to a collaborative culture.
- Site presentation welcomed by neighbouring businesses.
- High standards of internal and external housekeeping maintained on the site, with noticeable workforce buy-in.

Kevin McColgan, Regional Managing Director Scotland for Lovell, said: "Safety is always the number one priority on our sites and even more so during the pandemic. That is why the Lovell National Health & Safety Awards are taken very seriously by all of our sites and this year saw 7 sites vying to win."

"To be awarded Silver is an incredible achievement for Matt, Euan, Henry and Ryan at Claish Farm and a testament to their hard work and dedication."

"Claish Farm is going to deliver 50 much-needed new affordable houses to Callander and I would like to thank RSHA for all of their assistance and support. They have been a tremendous partner and I hope that we can work together with them again in the future."

Mark Griffiths, Chair of RSHA, said: "I am delighted to have been invited to attend the presentation of the Silver Award in the Lovell National Health & Safety Awards for the design and construction of the 50 affordable homes for RSHA and to be able to congratulate Matt and his team in person albeit socially distanced."

"RSHA hopes to handover the keys to the first homes by the end of March 2021 and I'm sure the Lovell's team will keep up the good work and I look forward to seeing you again when we can welcome our first families moving in to this exciting new development"

RSHA currently has an active development programme to build new homes in a number of towns and villages throughout their area of operation.

Callander's Landscape: 2021 and beyond.

At the end of last year, the Callander's Landscape team reviewed the impact of the pandemic across our 20 projects with our partners. It was apparent that it would not be possible to deliver many of the projects within the original timescales. Working alongside our mainfunder National Lottery HeritageFund we have secured a project extension. This means that the core staff team will remain in post until 30th June 2022 and further to this some of our seasonally dependent projects have up until 31st October 2022 to complete. It is likely that there will be many more challenges as we continue to navigate this pandemic but the project extension is some great news. Caroline Clark, Director of Scotland for The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

"As the enormous impact of the coronavirus pandemic became apparent, we had to act quickly to support the heritage sector and do our best to help organisations navigate through this incredibly difficult time. We know that challenges still lie ahead, but we are grateful that, thanks to National Lottery players, we have been able to help many projects like Callander Landscape Partnership. We wish the project well as it looks forward with renewed confidence building on the fantastic work that's been done so far."

2021 will be a busy year for the partnership with lots to do. Some of the projects that we will be focusing on include signage around Callander, installation of interpretation panels, and capital works as part of our Parklands and Little Leny Meadows projects. We are also excited about resuming our volunteer activities and public events when restrictions allow. One of the highlights will be our archaeological excavations, which we hope will take place in the summer/autumn. Callander has an important network of Iron Age hillforts and we aim to investigate two of them: Dunmore and Auchenlaich. When were they constructed, and what exactly were they used for? Were they still occupied by Iron Age peoples when the Romans marched up to Bochart? We hope to find out!

You can keep up to date by visiting the Callander's Landscape website and Facebook page or sign up to our monthly newsletter. For more information contact Julie: julie.wilson@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Julie Wilson, Callander's Landscape

6 Environment

Invertrossachs Animal Friends.

They tell me that we have now entered meteorological Spring, did not feel like it when I went out with the dog this morning but Hay Ho this is Scotland what else can we expect?

Having said that, life is starting to come back to Invertrossachs Road, the good old daffodils are starting to show through the ground, the snowdrops are out, and the birds are starting to sing their spring songs.

Time to clean out all the nest boxes, replace defective ones and repair those that are starting to show their age. Very soon the birds will be looking to raise the next generation of young and the life cycle goes on.

In a few weeks time, on a clear bright afternoon we shall hopefully hear the song of the male osprey, gliding across the skies calling for the return of his mate, then we will know for sure that Spring has arrived at Invertrossachs Road.

Yesterday at 15-00hrs I was, as is my want, sitting in our snug having a cup of coffee and a digestive biscuit when a movement outside the window caught my attention, it was the little straggler of a pine marten, the one I thought would not make it through the Winter due to his diminutive size. I knew he was still alive because we had seen him most nights over the Winter, coming to the bird table to have his evening meal. Seeing him in the daylight he has prospered and grown into a fine specimen of the breed. His winter coat is full and in good condition with a bushy tail that is sure to impress all that see him.

I should make it clear, that while I refer to the marten as male of the species, I cannot confirm his sexual orientation as he has never positioned himself to allow us to make a determination in that department, so we will stick with male of the species until such time as he or she advises otherwise.

We were very lucky as he spent twenty minutes with us eating his fill of peanuts before he came off the feeder box and quietly slipped through the hedge and away.

Five minutes after his departure the red squirrels were back, they cautiously sniffed around the feeder box and the hedge, satisfied themselves that he had departed the scene and got down to some serious feeding, red squirrel style.

If one squirrel comes on his own, he will check out the food, make his nut selection and enjoy his snack, if two arrive they will have a little chase, select a position on the table or box and settle down, if three come there is mayhem. They chase each other in every possible direction, knock nuts out of the feeder box and food off the bird table, settle for a minute then off they go again apparently all thoughts of eating gone but they all look fit and healthy so they must all be getting sufficient to eat. Let us hope so as the arduous task of raising the next generation of red squirrels is upon us.

Walter Anderson



Let's Talk about the Climate Emergency

The UN Conference on Climate Change (known as COP26) is coming to Glasgow in November this year. It will involve over 30,000 people, representing over 200 countries, businesses, Non Government Organisations, faith groups and many more.

In preparation for COP26 Callander Kirk Green Team is hosting a series of Zoom meetings on the theme of "Let's Talk about the Climate Emergency". These meetings aim to get us talking about climate change, care for creation and how we, as Christians, can engage with and support COP26. Sharing stories offers an enormously powerful way to leverage change in behaviours for many people, where being presented with scientific facts may not. Giving voice to the

challenges and successes we face can offer hope and help other people see ways to make changes that will fit into their lives. The scale of the issues we face can seem completely overwhelming but offering each other permission to not understand it all and not get it right all the time is important if we are not to become discouraged. Knowing that it is a journey we are not walking alone gives us strength.

The meetings are being held on the last Tuesday of the month, through to November. We hosted our first meeting at the end of February and discussed the topic "keeping warm and powering our homes". We had around 30 people attend, and we split off into smaller groups within Zoom in order to share ideas and address issues surrounding this topic. Each meeting is themed on

a "stand alone" topic and you are welcome to attend as many or as few as you want! The next 2 sessions are:

Tuesday 27 April – New growth and the web of life – thinking about the interconnectedness of life on this planet.

Tuesday 25 May – Plastic Fantastic. The controversy around plastic.

For more details or to join us then please email margaret.warnock@hotmail.com

We cannot afford to wait. It is an emergency, and we must work together to act now. Please join us!

Callander Kirk Green Team

Callander Youth Project

With it now being more than a year since the start of the first lockdown, it's been an unusual year at CYP. First, we'd like to thank the local community for their support, in particular those who got involved in 'CYP Can Dance' and our other fundraising efforts. We're delighted to have been involved in the meal delivery provision for some of the town's more vulnerable residents – including the special Christmas delivery – and now the support to benefit the Craigard Club.

Our main focus continues to be providing support and services for young people in the local area. We need to thank our young people and their families for the patience shown regarding our youth activities over the past 12 months. When they return we're also looking forward to relaunching after-school provision for pupils in S1-3. We've been continuing to work hard behind the scene. Our newly refurbished Youth Space dedicated Crafts Room will benefit our activities. Our newest project, 'Catering for the Future' will strengthen our support of the high school. We continue our involvement with the Callander Landscape Partnership.

Our social enterprises remain a key part of our support for local young people, particularly with regards to employability and life skills. After the first lockdown, we converted our hostel dorms into private rooms and were able to re-open for a short while. Although our events venue has not yet returned, this reopening did help us to support another two young people to achieve their Modern Apprenticeships in Hospitality, with a third now nearing completion. We'd also like to congratulate Niall, our Rural Skills MA, whom we employ in partnership with Callander's Landscape. Niall recently



received four awards at Lantra Scotland's ALBAS (Awards for Land-based and Aquaculture Skills), including 'Overall Winner' and 'MA of the

Year'.

Perhaps the most exciting new development within our social enterprises is the installation of several luxury glamping pods, which will help to consolidate CYP and permit us to continue supporting young people in the future. As well as the great view of Ben Ledi, the pods also have easy access to our garden (and our award-winning apple trees!). Although they've been in the pipeline for a while, the pods will now offer the added benefit of helping to ensure social distancing for our guests. One of these pods has been specially designed to be highly accessible, with the inclusion of a Y-shaped hoist and a Changing Places style toilet, amongst other facilities.

Alasdair MacDonald

2nd Callander Brownies

Thank You Callander!!!

Unfortunately our unit was faced with a very uncertain future last month. With no fundraising events due to Covid, a great reduction in brownie fees and a large annual subscription bill to pay, we were faced with a great dilemma.

We applied to Callander Community Council for their help and their swift response secured us a £500 Airtricity grant.

Although this money would help greatly towards the subscription bill, we knew we had to generate more funds to keep us steadily afloat and avoid further financial implication.

We organised a sponsored fundraiser with the Brownies during the February holidays. Each child was given a sponsor sheet and raffle tickets to sell. We held remote Zoom sessions throughout the week. Some of the activities included a 'Brownie bake off', '5K Brownie Scavenger hunt' and 'Brownie family quiz'. The initial plan was to end the week with a small raffle and a handful of prizes. This quickly changed after popping a plea on social media. The response was completely overwhelming!!

Not only did people and businesses come forward with kind offers of raffle



donations, others came forward wishing to make monetary contributions to our unit. The prizes quickly mounted up so we decided to open the raffle to a wider community. We sold an incredible 2090 tickets remotely in just over one week!

The raffle was held from my garden broadcast via a live link on Facebook.

We raised an unbelievable £3772,98 in just over one week and thanks to Dawn & David Haldane at Feeds and Stoves, they carried our total to £4,000.

We just wanted to send a personal message of thanks to everyone for their incredible generosity and support. We also wish to thank our Brownies, you are all superstars!



Louise Corrieri & Catlin Scott

Mental Health

For anyone who is concerned about mental health issues www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters might be interesting. Of course 'The Virus' is mentioned, but there are interactive sections and videos about anxiety, low mood, stress and sleep, as well extra help for parents and young people.

It is reassuring as at times we all suffer from these things and there are hints about how to control situations. Many of these things you may be doing anyway but it is a 'dip in and out' website.

Greener Callander summer bedding - help needed.

By the time you read this in April, hopefully, we will have left behind the frosts and cold winds that persisted in February and early March and will be able to think about colourful summer flowers. The Greener Callander team has already ordered hundreds of plants for the hanging baskets and multiple planters around town but we won't have enough space to bring on all of them until they can be planted out.

Will you have any space in your greenhouse, cold frame, conservatory or porch to help us grow on a tray or two of plug plants or seeds? We are happy to plant on the plugs but will need space to keep them warm and watered from mid-April until early May when they can be planted into hanging baskets or until early June when danger of frost has passed and they can go directly into planters. Also we have seeds of nasturtium, lobelia and marigolds that will need to be grown: we could sow them and pass on the container or you could do it all yourself.

If you can help in any way it would be much appreciated. Please contact Lesley Hawkins mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk, Hilary Gunkel mail@hilarygunkel.co.uk or Sue King king.m.susan@gmail.com.

It is impossible to predict so far in advance whether we will be able to hold our fund-raising plant sales this year. However, we have booked Ancaster Square and have the Street Collection license for Saturday 29 May so keep an eye out for advertising.

Callander and West Perthshire u3a

Groups using Zoom are doing very well and include Current Affairs, French Conversation, Rock Music Appreciation, Classic Music Appreciation, Armchair Astronomy, Scottish History, German Conversation Art History and Wine Tasting, with other interest groups in the offing.

Monthly speakers have also proved to be popular. In February we had an excellent, illustrated presentation 'Career, Countries & Criminals' which described the experiences of Alasdair Wylie, who worked on agricultural assignments in the Middle East. The subject of our most recent event was 'China: the last hundred years through the lives of the women of one Beijing family'. Rosalind Holmes who has had an interest in China for many years and has visited many times, delivered a fascinating talk, providing an insight into China, its culture.

We welcome new members throughout the year. Please have a look at the Callander and West Perthshire website for further details.

Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club



Unfortunately Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club is still reduced to our monthly council meetings on Zoom although things are definitely improving. Perhaps by the next edition, we shall be able to tell you about some events for later in the year, but meanwhile we have been busy organising the local round of Rotary's National Young Photographer Competition.

Details of the competition were circulated to the schools early in March and the closing date is the 9 April so there is still time to encourage children and grandchildren to enter. The theme of the competition is "Wild Nature" and there are three age groups for young people aged 7-10, 11-13 and 14-17 as at 31st August 2020. Entrants must live within the McLaren High School catchment area. More information can be found on our Facebook page and you can ask for an entry form and information pack by emailing - youngphotographer@callanderandwprotary.org

We look forward to judging all the lockdown photographs. The winners of the three age groups will go on to the national final and, of course, there are prizes.

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



German Speaking Group in Callander

For a year now, the German Speaking Group in Callander has continued to meet monthly, via ZOOM. The next meeting will be held on Friday 16th April at 7.30pm.

Am 16. April stellen wir Folgendes zur Diskussion (und Spass) vor:

Zum besseren Kennenlernen denken Sie bitten 3 Aussagen zu Ihrem Leben aus, zwei davon sind die Wahrheit, eine ist eine Lüge. Die anderen Teilnehmer/innen sollen dann mit gezielten Fragen die Lüge identifizieren.

Danach werden wir auch, wie gewöhnlich, an einem Wortspiel teilnehmen.

Das übernächste Treffen, noch einmal mit ZOOM, findet am 21. Mai statt.

Falls Sie entweder im April oder im Mai 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!

Callander and District Horticultural Society

Unfortunately it is unclear whether or not we will be able to hold a physical Horticultural Show in August 2021, but whatever comes we will ensure that the "show will go on". We had such a great response to the virtual show in 2020 that we are happy to run another if it is more appropriate. The final format will be decided when government guidelines for the lifting of the current restrictions are clarified. When we have more information, we will update our Facebook page, circulate on Callander Events' pages, put flyers around town and of course write an article for the Ben Ledi View. Members will receive a mail/email shot. If you would like to join our mailing list, please contact cadhortsoc@gmail.com. Callander and District Horticultural Society AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st April 2021, on Zoom. If you wish to attend please contact cadhortsoc@gmail.com.

Callander Medical Practice

Retirement - Anna Drummond

Anna retired in January from the practice after over 20 years of loyal service, initially with Bracklinn and latterly with CMP. We miss her and have welcomed her back to help at covid clinics and we thank her for all her hard work over the years and wish her well in her retirement.

Roll out of COVID Vaccination

We are ploughing through the covid vaccines as quickly as supply will allow. With the odd exception of people declining, unable to be contacted or stuck abroad we have worked through cohorts 1-7 and have now been given the go ahead to do cohorts 8-9 – patients aged 50-60.

We will be phoning patients so please do not phone the surgery. This is blocking lines. Please wait to be contacted and watch the Facebook page for updates.

Obviously, as we are staffing these clinics ourselves to save our patients a journey to Stirling or Falkirk to have their vaccines, this is leaving us short of staff at the practice on vaccination days. We thank you for your understanding.

Maternity Leave

Dr Mackenzie finished on Friday 5th of March to start her maternity leave. She will be returning to the practice in the Autumn. Dr Iain Webster and Dr Isobel Gibson will be stepping in to cover for her during this time.

Prescription Ordering

Please remember when ordering it takes 72 hours before a prescription will be ready for collection. Increasingly patients are running out of medication before contacting us. This is putting substantial strain on the service and pressure on the staff through no fault of their own. Please ensure you order your medication in time to allow 3 days and also remember it is 3 working days so do not include weekends.

GOODBYE AND HELLO ...



If you are aware of the Walk in the Park project, you will have met the lovely Cathy Scott, who has been the Senior Health Walk Project Coordinator for almost 10 years. We said goodbye to Cathy at the end of November 2020 when she started her well-deserved retirement and said hello to Beverley Clarke who, with our other Senior Coordinator Fran Crumley, will continue to develop and promote the Walk in the Park project, supporting the walkers and invaluable volunteers. We sincerely thank Cathy, for all her dedication and commitment to Walk in the Park and promotion of active health.

VIRTUALLY WALKING

As you may know, our regular weekly Health Walks were suspended during the first lockdown, but in the last half of 2020 they were one of the few organised group participation activities that were permitted by Scottish Government to resume and carry on. Although our walks are once again suspended for the current lockdown, it is hoped they will resume, as before, with safety measures. This will allow people to have the much-needed health benefits of walking and social interaction. We have kept our members active through the wonders of Zoom with live weekly Strength and Balance Otago exercises and Walking at Home aerobic sessions. If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about joining our online classes, our Health Walks in Callander, Aberfoyle or Killin, when they resume, or become a Volunteer Walk Leader, you will find all our contact details below.

We have all found ourselves spending more time outdoors in the last year and as a result has been appreciating the wonders and positive effects of nature. We are blessed that we live in an area that we can access or see nature quite easily. At the start of this year, Walk in the Park developed a new project to encourage its members and supporters in sharing their appreciation of nature experiences - In Step With Nature. This has been especially important to keep our walkers across the Park socially connected while our Health Walks are not able to take place. Through a series of simple weekly challenges and prompts, we have been asking our members to notice certain things in nature, maybe in different ways and share their thoughts, photos, and experiences. It has now been running for over a month and we have had some fantastic contributions of videos, photography, poetry, and audio recordings through our dedicated WhatsApp group. If you would like to see what our members have discovered or take part in the any of the challenges,

STRENGTH AND BALANCE COMING SOON TO THE MEADOWS

Hopefully by the time you are reading this you may have seen new structures being installed by river and the Callander Meadows car park. (Unless we have had more flooding by then!) As you will know our usual weekly indoor Strength and Balance sessions at the fire station are suspended, and we have no indication of when they will be able to resume. In response to this problem we have developed the idea to install panels that will allow people to take part in the exercises outdoors. With funding and help from Paths For All, applications made to COVID response grants and support from Stirling Council, these instruction panels will be located near benches, walls or with their own grab handles. They are there to help local people and visitors perform the simple, but important exercises to help improve and maintain their strength and balance for walking and remaining active. It hoped when our walks resume that our members will be able to come along to an outdoor session using the facility as well.

Contact Walk in the Park Coordinator, Beverley Clarke about the Health Walks or joining our online sessions. Call 07709798068/ 01877382929 or email beverley.clarke@lochlomond-trossachs.org, Website www.trustinthepark.org Facebook @trustinthepark -

It is not always easy to tell if your cat is in pain

Pain in cats can be caused by a variety of diseases, conditions, injury or trauma, or following surgery or medical treatment.

It can be very difficult to know if your cat is in pain, where the pain is coming from and what's causing it. Cats are particularly good at masking signs of pain and sometimes the signs are subtle and easy to miss. This is especially true of chronic pain, which is often, mistakenly, put down to old age.

Why do cats not always show us they are in pain?

Cats in the wild who are suffering from an injury or are in pain will try to hide it in an attempt to dupe predators into thinking they're not vulnerable. It is likely domestic cats have adopted similar traits. Just remember different cats respond differently to pain. This often depends on their age, environment, and general health.

Signs that might indicate your cat is in pain include:

- Agitation (unsettled, trembling)
 - Cat crying, growling, hissing
 - Limping or difficulty jumping
 - Avoids being petted or handled
 - Playing less
 - Licking a particular body region
 - More aggressive
 - Change in posture or gait
 - Grumpy, quiet, hiding, lack of grooming
 - Reluctance to walk or move
 - Change in temperament or mood
 - Change in toilet habits
 - Sleeping more than usual
 - Reduced appetite
 - Rapid, shallow breathing
 - Eyes closed or involuntary blinking
 - Tail flicking
 - Avoiding bright areas
 - Less affectionate toward people

What you can do to help your cat in pain?

If your cat is recuperating from an illness or from surgery, try to limit their movement and physical activity until they're fitter. Soft, padded bedding and a quiet comfortable environment will help speed up your cat's recovery. There are a variety of medications your vet can use to provide pain relief to your cat, although underlying conditions will always need to be treated and in some cases, may require surgery (for example a broken bone).

Please do not use popular human drugs such as ibuprofen or paracetamol as these are highly toxic to cats. If you have animal painkillers at home from a previous condition or for a different pet, contact your vet as it may not be appropriate to use these.

We are the detectives and can help get to the root of the problem and offer treatment. But the first stage is you suspecting or noticing there is a change in your cat's behaviour then acting on it by letting us know of your concerns.

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Callander Cricket Club

Spring is here!! That can only mean one thing, it's time for cricket to wake from its winter slumber and with the vaccine roll out in full flow, there is high optimism for a much longer and more competitive season than 2020 gave us. With most of the winter being in lockdown we have not had any of our usual indoor league matches to report on, but we have been busy preparing for what is hopefully a fun-filled and exciting 2021 for the club.

1st XI

After 7 years of playing in a Recreational & Development League, this year sees us step up a level and enter the Strathmore & Perthshire Cricket Union Division 2. After its cancellation last year, we look forward to defending our West Stirlingshire T20 League Title and going for our 4th Championship in row. We also re-enter the 2 Counties Cup with us confident we can progress further than the 1st round this year. We are actively recruiting for new adult players. If you are interested please drop Barry an email callandercricket.secretary@yahoo.com

The Valkyries

Our Women & Girls team, The Valkyries will see their first summer of action with them entering Cricket Scotland's 'Wee bash Summer Edition' in the early months before our ladies will join forces with the likes of Westquarter & Redding CC to enter a combined team into the Inaugural Women's Development League later in the summer.

Congratulations to Eve McCulloch and Marley Sandy who have both completed the Intro to Cricket Coaching course over the winter and we wish them both all the best as they embark on their Foundation 1 coaching course bolstering our coaches' roster and bringing some much welcomed female coaches. The Valkyries are looking for new members of all ages and abilities. If interested please drop Eve a message. callandercricket.womenandgirls@yahoo.com

Junior Cricket



We eagerly await the return to cricket for all our junior age groups. Activity has been somewhat sparse for them the last year but we are hopeful for a full summer of activity from club training, matches, festivals and this year we are looking at running a Summer Camp over the holidays. So do keep your eyes peeled as updates on activity plans will be published on our Social Media in the coming weeks. Is your child interested in giving cricket a go or looking to return to the sport? If so, please drop our Junior Convenor, Sidhant an email sidhantmankar@gmail.com or

send us a message on Facebook.

Disability Cricket

2021 sees us launch our Disability Cricket sessions and we are looking for individuals of any age who would like to be more active and get involved in a team sport to get in touch with us. It is a great way to socialise, meet new friends and learn some new skills. Whether you are interested in playing, coaching, officiating or helping we want to hear from you. Contact Barry via email: callandercricket.secretary@yahoo.com, Facebook Messenger or through our website.

Club Training Unlike previous years where we have travelled far and wide for training, this year all Club Coaching will be on the Astro Pitch here in Callander at McLaren Leisure. As soon as we have confirmed day/times for each group these will be published on our Social Media platforms.



Cricket Club Facilities

The club continues its efforts to 'bring Callander cricket home' with the hope that one day soon to have a ground in Callander, but for this year we continue to hire our facilities. To help us cover hire costs and start building up a fund towards any potential home facilities our Secretary is doing the virtual Lands End to John O'Groats challenge, cycling/hiking 1083 miles in 84 days. If you would like to donate and help him reach his initial target of £1083 you can do so at www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/LotUKChallenge

The Cricket Club is a family run club and we hope to continue growing the game, so please come and join us.

Barry McGeachy
Secretary

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Diamond Wedding

Callander Target Sport Club

Club Update:

Like everyone else, we are all still suffering from the confines of Covid 19 and the lockdown since December, which in reality means that we are currently closed.



Competitions and Leagues:

Perthshire: Unfortunately, we didn't manage any shooting in the indoor Winter leagues. It has just been announced that the summer leagues and shoots have all been cancelled.

Cumbria & Northumbria: We fared slightly better in the outdoor leagues, where we managed to shoot 3 rounds before lockdown and hopefully we can manage the remaining 2 rounds. At the moment we are awaiting news as to whether the summer leagues will go ahead.

Hamish Rae: It was with great sadness in December that we heard of the death of long time member Hamish Rae, who passed away in Arran after a short illness.

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

John Russell



Congratulations to Kate and Brian Rathbone celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on April 1st. Kate also won the Easter Bride competition in the local paper and won a carpet of her choice! From all your family in Scotland, England and New Zealand we all send our love to you both as you celebrate 60 years of marriage together and reach this amazing milestone.

Britta's Thought:

The thought and intention of "Today is the happiest day of my life!" gets completely drowned in the sea of "Oh no it's Monday again!" One thought against a hundred, possibly?! If you want intentionality to work more effectively, you need to give it conscious thought, not just once but over and over again during your day. Check in once an hour with your thoughts. Replace any habitual negative thoughts with repeating the intention you set in the morning and replace them with positive, encouraging and supportive thoughts that feel right to you at the time. We can train our minds to think differently. 'Happier' begins with one conscious, intentional, positive thought at a time.

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Froggies Go A Wooing

Every year, in early March, sometimes later, sometimes earlier, my garden comes alive with the subtle, haunting sound of frogs spawning. The valley is full of a vague rumble that I don't always immediately recognise. It's like a low hum, strangely mechanical, and spread across the side of the hill where I live, so it's hard to detect the direction of the sound. Eventually I see that the large pond is roiling. The first time I saw this I was confused. What could be making such a



Marion MacKay

stromash in the water? Stepping nearer I heard that much of the low hum was coming from the pond, and I realised that this was "frogs a wooing" in my garden. For three days and nights they continued their fevered activity, shoogling the water like boiling soup. But it is the sound I love. If I get too close the sound suddenly stops and I am sorry. Leave it five minutes and they start again.

After 3 days the surface of the pond is a gloopy mess, beloved of owls and herons looking for adult frogs. But the frogs have mysteriously disappeared. Hundreds of them that I rarely see again until the following spring. In the summer I notice one or two tiny frogs making their gallant journeys to who knows where.

Member of the Writers' Group.

Book Club Review

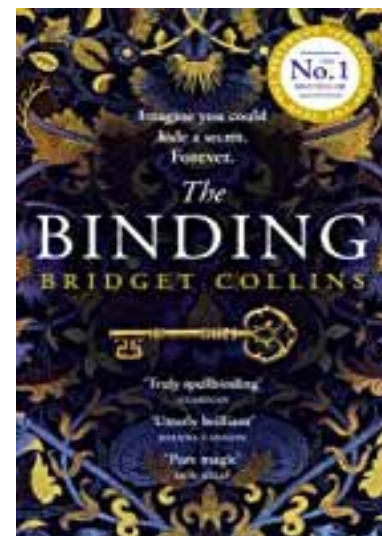
This issue's book review title is *The Binding* by Bridget Collins (Harper Collins, 2019).

The Binding is Bridget Collins first adult book (she's better known for her young adult fiction) and my expectations were high. *The Binding* got some superb reviews, was a Sunday Times bestseller and was announced as the 'breakout sensation of the year'. The blurb compares the book to Sarah Waters (*The Little Stranger*) and Philip Pullman (*His Dark Materials*), so if either of those authors float your boat, this could be for you (personally I'm a big fan of the former, so another tick in the box).

The premise of *The Binding* is straightforward - imagine all the bad memories you hold are extracted from you and held in a book. This book would be personal to you and kept locked away in an inaccessible library. The extraction of your memories could only be done by a skilled person, called a binder. He or she removes the bad memories and turns them into the pages to be bound. The binder is also the keeper of your memories.

However, in Collins' story, there exist good binders and less scrupulous ones - the latter of whom sell on their clients' extracted memories for the titillation and entertainment of others. As becomes clear, the consequences of these bound memories falling into the wrong hands, or worse still being destroyed, can have dangerous implications.

The book is divided into three parts. Part One is told by the main character, Emmett Farmer, and I was so engrossed by Emmett and his story, I really did not want it to move on to Part Two. There were so many unanswered questions and threads left hanging. Here I can give some assurance to any readers who choose this book (and I can't recommend highly enough that you should), that



these threads are dealt with, so do not fear (no spoilers here). In fact, I marvelled at how perfectly woven this book is, as it came to a greatly satisfactory and thrilling conclusion. Fabulous writing and story-telling at its best.

The next BLV book club review will be *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett (Bloomsbury, 2020).

Maggie Magor

Stop Press! Learner spawning in Coilhallan Woods!

Well, one lady frog obviously did not know she should be in the water to spawn and not stand on a convenient rock and hope the water comes up to collect her generous offering. Not for her the splashing around with all the other frogs. Perhaps such was her allure that she felt in danger of drowning, she had so many suitors. Perhaps the thumb pads, of the frog of the moment, were rather too rough and she hoped by climbing up he would take the hint. Luckily, we have a significant rain, at the time of writing, so perhaps her spawn will survive the unorthodox laying.

When you read there may be many wee froglets around. Watch out for them.

You Always.....

“George, I’m worried about us. All we ever seem to do is argue, these days. Do you think it might be the ‘seven-year itch’?”

“Och, Janice, don’t be such a daftie. All couples have their little differences of opinion. I don’t know what you’re going on about.”

Seeing the look on her face, he sighed, put his mobile phone to one side, and settled back in his chair, “OK, so you’d better tell me....”

“George, are there things about me that really annoy you?”

He shrugged, looking bemused...

“Janice, I think what you are really wanting to say is that there are things about ME that really annoy YOU! Let’s have it, then...”

“George, I heard a programme on the radio last week about couples who are having relationship problems, and they were advised to both write a list of the things that really upset them, about their partner. I think we should do that, then we can swap lists and talk about them. George, are you listening?”

George put down the newspaper he’d picked up.

“So it’s ‘relationship problems’ now, is it? Yes, OK, dear, if you want to give me a list of all my faults, I’m man enough to take it!”

“But YOU have to write a list too, George. Will you do that? Where are you going....?”

“Janice, I’m going to the study to start writing my list, leaving you in peace to do the same, OK?!”

Janice picked up a pen and notepad and this is what she wrote:

"Dear George -

You always leave the loo seat up -
Though you know it makes me frown;
You always leave your coffee cup
Wherever you laid it down;
When doing your teeth, you never think
To put the dental floss
In the cupboard underneath the sink -
That really makes me cross!
And when you’re doing DIY
You always leave a mess;
To clear up you don’t even try...
That’s ‘women’s work’, I guess?!
And when I want to use the car,
I find I can’t unlock it
Without first searching near and far....
For the keys.... in your coat pocket.



You mow the lawn, to make it neat -
That’s quite a useful chore -
But you always tramp your grassy feet
On my newly-washed tiled floor.
When we go shopping it seems to me
You wander, in a dream -
I ask you to find the Earl Grey tea
But you bring back double cream!
Dear George, at night, when we’re in bed
-You can’t help this, I suppose....
When I turn over, I find your head
Is lodged against my nose
I cannot breathe, I cannot sleep
I toss and turn - what’s more,
When you are lost in slumber deep
You always, bloody SNORE!
I could go on, but that’s enough
Of things that make me cranky
I hope we can work through this stuff
And discuss the problem frankly.

Janice"

Meanwhile, in his study George smiled indulgently, twirling his pen between his fingers, as he pondered the conversation with his wife. Poor Janice, she was such a worrier – only happy if she had something in her worry bucket. Such a lovely, special person – he was lucky to be sharing his life with her. But she wanted a list, so a list she would get... He started writing quickly:

"Dear Janice –

It’s seven years since we were wed
And I say, without a lie
When I waken next to you in bed
I feel such a lucky guy.
Your sweet smile brightens up each day
My heart beats in a flurry
I’ve nothing negative to say -
Though I know you always worry
About little things, in daily life
Which perhaps, to me, don’t matter...
My dearest, sweetest, darling wife
I love your constant chatter
Even when I’m tired at night
And you’re still full of stories!
Your presence shines a light so bright
Each day my love the more is.
I do not like it when you’re sad
And I want to make that better
So I’m glad about the chance I’ve had
To write this little letter.
So - no more discord now between us
Though we’re different, you and I,
Men are from Mars, women from Venus
But we all co-exist in the sky.
So, my dear Janice, let us sit down
And enjoy an honest wee blether
Tell me what I do that makes you frown
And let’s sort it out together.

Love you - George"

Member of the Callander Writers' Group

Quite a Coincidence

Over the course of last spring and summer anyone walking down Bridgend could not have failed to notice the scaffolding around the Primary School. The building was being re-roofed and, although lockdown delayed completion of works, it was finally finished in August 2020.

Ally Baird Ltd was the lead contractor. Perhaps unsurprisingly since it is a local firm, all the employees working on the project had attended the school. The team, Ally Baird, Graeme Baird, Stuart MacDonald, Mark Devlin and Michael Rose attended the school from the 1970's through to the 2000's. It must have felt quite strange for them to be back and getting a different view of the building. Everything seems much bigger when you are 10 or 11!

Ally said: 'I was delighted to be back working in my old Primary. I have many happy memories of my time there and it is great to be involved carrying out work to ensure the fabric of this beautiful building is maintained for the future.' Also involved in this project, completing the joinery works, were Alan and Andrew Neumann. They also both attended Callander Primary School.

It's very satisfying to know that the skills of all these former pupils have helped preserve the building for many years to come.

Kath Millar

Holocaust Memorial Day - 27th January

Last year I wrote a piece for the magazine in my capacity as an Ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust. This year to honour Memorial Day, I want to tell you about former journalist and Holocaust survivor, Eve Kugler, BEM.

Eve was born in Germany in 1931 and lived with her mum, dad, older sister Ruth, younger sister Lena and paternal grandfather. When life in Germany began to change, Eve remembered seeing signs on the streets with anti-Semitic messages and her father's once successful department store business start to decline. On the night of "Kristallnacht", six men broke into the family's apartment and they watched in horror as her grandfather's prayer scrolls, prayer books and prayer shawls were torn apart. Like many other Jews, the family were evicted from their home and they went to stay with their other grandfather until they could escape from Germany.

Eve and Ruth went to America where they were placed in separate foster homes. The rest of the family went to France. Lena was hidden in a catholic convent and later a farm, whilst their parents briefly lived in the mountains. Unfortunately, they were arrested and taken to a transit camp. They were miraculously saved from Auschwitz when their mother was asked to assist a Red Cross nurse and their father took part in forced labour before joining the Resistance.

The family was reunited in 1946 and although there was now a language barrier between Eve and Ruth and Lena and their parents (Eve and Ruth remembered little German and their parents and Lena knew little English), they were all happy to be together again. Unfortunately, the other members of their family had not survived – both Eve's grandfathers had perished (one of natural causes and the other in Auschwitz along with their mother's disabled sister). Eve and her mother wanted to ensure that their family's story lived on and so wrote a book named "Shattered Crystals" (after 'Kristallnacht') to tell their story. Eve has made it her life's mission to educate others about the events of the Holocaust to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

I hope you all find Eve's story interesting and this encourages you to learn more about the events of the Holocaust.

Bethan Jones

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How lovely to see some spring sunshine and flowers popping up around our town. Spring is here and it is bringing the better weather with it, making it easier to get out and about and keep active in our community.

Even though we have had to close our doors for the start of this year we are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back as government guidance allows. We have our fingers crossed that we will be able to do this very soon! Whilst we have been closed to the public, we are pleased that we have been able to support local schools' physical education provision, carry on with some building refurbishment

and put plans in place for some of our more aspirational projects, including the development of our arena space to allow for a more diverse array of needs when we return.

At the beginning of the year we looked to you, our community, to complete a survey that would provide thoughts and feedback to help us improve your McLaren Leisure experience for a happier and healthier 2021. We received over 100 responses with lots of great ideas. Two main things you asked for was an online booking system and for more activities and services to return. We are looking forward to implementing our new online booking system as we reopen, re-introduce facilities and services and welcome you back to these as government guidance allows. Keep an eye out on our website and social media pages for updates on when we can welcome you back.

Garden for Health

Did you know that gardening is good for both your physical and mental health?

Now is a great time to surround yourself with nature and fresh air! Both gardening and yard work contribute to healthy living. Gardening can help to lower blood pressure and cholesterol or prevent diabetes, heart disease, depression and osteoporosis when practiced on a regular basis.

Exercise in the garden gives all major muscle groups a good workout including your legs, arms, buttocks, stomach and back, whether it comes in the form of digging, planting or carrying water, exercise is taking place. Weeding, pruning, mowing and even walking round your garden can increase your heart rate and tone up the body.

As with any form of exercise, there are risks if you overdo it. Therefore, you should pay attention to your body and exertion level and take breaks. To prevent neck and back strain, avoid bending over for long periods of time. And when lifting always lift from a bent knee position. Don't plan too many garden activities for one session and break down your activities into short intervals. Not only is gardening good for your physical health, but it also has a positive effect on your mental health. Gardening can stimulate all of your senses. It is filled with all sorts of sights, sounds, textures, scents and tastes. These stimulated senses can easily relieve and reduce unwanted stress associated with everyday life, allowing you a well-deserved break from these outside distractions. This healthy hobby can be enjoyed by everyone in the family at any age. Why not grow and eat your own herbs, fruits and vegetables? Nothing quite compares to the fresh, sweet taste of food that has been grown and harvested from your own garden! Now you know more about the benefits of gardening, why not grow your own garden for health today?

Rachel McLean

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

- Lawfulness of demolition of existing garage and erection of building for ancillary use
Cul Na Sithe Leny Feus Callander FK17 8AS
Ref. No: 2021/0064/LAW | Received: Tue 23 Feb 2021 | Validated: Wed 24 Feb 2021 | Status: Current
- Installation of: 2 no. illuminated fascia signs, 1 no. double sided roundel pictorial sign to existing bracket, 1 no. arch sign, 3 no. amenity boards; 1no. lockable poster case; 6 no. lanterns
Riverside Inn 8 Leny Road Callander FK17 8BA
Ref. No: 2021/0041/ADV | Received: Fri 05 Feb 2021 | Validated: Fri 05 Feb 2021 | Status: Current
- Conversion of garage to form bedroom annexe
Benmore Brig O'Turk Callander FK17 8HT Ref. No: 2021/0035/HAE | Received: Wed 03 Feb 2021 | Validated: Fri 05 Feb 2021 | Status: Current
- Erection of single storey extension to dwelling house
14 Bridgend Callander FK17 8AG
Ref. No: 2021/0030/HAE | Received: Tue 26 Jan 2021 | Validated: Tue 26 Jan 2021 | Status: Current
- Conversion of outbuilding to form additional living space
Castle View 25 Pearl Street Callander FK17 8BS
Ref. No: 2020/0309/HAE | Received: Wed 02 Dec 2020 | Validated: Tue 26 Jan 2021 | Status: Current

For further information on any of these applications, go to <https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/planning/>

CALLANDER IN PHOTOS

This is CALLANDER IN PHOTOS' 4th issue and still to this day i am amazed by the beauty of the natural area we all live in. Not only that but the continued generosity of the people who submit to this page. I truly believe photography is the most powerful tool anyone could have to promote and showcase the area they live in. - Fraser Cronin

. If you'd like to be in the next edition email with the subject Callander in Photos: editor@benlediview.org.



Local Information

Emergency Services: 999

Callander Police: 101

Local Council Office & Registrar:
[01877 33004](tel:0187733004)

Social Work: [01786 471177](tel:01786471177)

Post Office: [01877 330267](tel:01877330267)

Stirling Council: [01786 404040](tel:01786404040)

National Health

Callander Medical Practice [01877 331000](tel:01877331000)

Prescriptions [01877 331001](tel:01877331001)
(10.00am till 3pm)

District Nurse [01877 330150](tel:01877330150)

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

Callander Dental Practice [01877 330703](tel:01877330703)

Chemists

Farrens **M-F** 9-6 **S** 9-5 [01877 330132](tel:01877330132)

Trossachs **M-F** 9-1 2-6 [01877 330016](tel:01877330016)

Vets

Callander: [01877 381213](tel:01877381213)

Schools

McLaren High: [01877 330156](tel:01877330156)

Callander Primary: [01877 331576](tel:01877331576)



Callander Kirk

The Church of Scotland,

South Church Street, Callander

Sunday services

Every Sunday 11.15

Scottish Government Guidelines
50 maximum

Masks must be worn

No singing allowed

Details at www.callanderkirk.org.uk

Rev Jeffery McCormick BD

[01877 330474](tel:01877330474)

St Joseph's

Catholic Church

Glen Artney Road, Callander



Weekly Masses

In the COVID-19 pandemic
(Phase 3) St Joseph Church
in Callander Holy Mass on
Thursdays at 10.00am and Sundays
at 11.30am. To register please visit
our web page:

www.stfdac.co.uk or call ([01877 330702](tel:01877330702)).

Rev Leszek Wiececzek, S.A.C

[01877 330702](tel:01877330702)

Bin Collections

April

Grey/Blue Sat 3rd, 17th.
Green/Brown /food Sat 10h
Brown bin/food/Glass Box Sat
24th

May

Grey/Blue Sat 3rd, 15th, 29th
Green/Brown /food Sat 8th
Brown bin/food/Glass Box Sat
22nd

June

Green/Brown /food Sat 5th
Grey/Blue Sat 12th, 26th
Brown bin/food/Glass Box Sat
19th

Be aware of brown bin changes

www.stirling.gov.uk/waste

Lagrannoch WRC Opening times

- Monday - Friday 5.00pm to 8.00pm
- Saturday 10.00am-2.00pm
- Sunday closed
- Lagrannoch depot [01877 330492](tel:01877330492)
Also for sandbags and grit
- Stirling Council Main number [08452 777000](tel:08452777000) (Functions as emergency
number from 5.00pm to 9.00am and
over weekends. Also use for non-col-
lection of wheelie bins.)



Saint Andrew's

Scottish Episcopal Church

Leny Road, Callander

Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion.
Services will remain provisional
while Covid-19 restrictions apply.
For information please contact:
Liz Balding tel: [07825 635428](tel:07825635428)

www.standrewschurchcallander.org.uk

Interim pastor Rev Alison Peden

alisonpeden1@gmail.com



Callander Baptist Fellowship

Weekly Services:

During the Covid restrictions we
have gone Online for our services
and we would love you to join us.
Sundays@Six Online is on our face-
book page and our YouTube Channel
each Sunday from 6pm.
Our Prayer times on Mondays and
Thursdays at 8pm are held on Zoom.
To contact us:

Lesley-Anne.Evans@erisort.com or
[07936 715983](tel:07936715983)

Recreation

Rail Enquiries: [0845 7484950](tel:08457484950)

Bus Station (Stirling): [01786 446474](tel:01786446474)

Travel Line Scotland: [0870 6082608](tel:08706082608)

Leisure Centre: [01877 330000](tel:01877330000)

Library: [01877 331544](tel:01877331544)

Visitor Information Centre: [01877 330342](tel:01877330342)

Floods & Environment

SEPA emergency: [0800 807060](tel:0800807060)

SEPA website:

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

Floodline: [0845 9881188](tel:08459881188) Select
option 1 followed by: 06213 121 (the
Teith at Callander)

Scottish Water emergency
information re flooding from mains
or sewers: [0800 0778778](tel:08000778778)

Location of defibrillators

Dreadnought Garage

Callander Golf Club

McLaren Leisure Centre

The Post Office

Ancaster Square

West Dullater House and Grace's

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 4th
June 2021.**

Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy
for the **June/July** issue to our
Advertising Co-ordinator Wendy
Munro at [advertising@benledi-
view.org](mailto:advertising@benledi-view.org) by **Friday 7th May 2021**

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

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

Editorial copy

All editorial contributions for the
June/July issue should be emailed
to editor@benlediview.org or
handed in to the Callander Library
by **Friday 7th May 2021**

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



COVERD! Nobody can deny that young people have been extremely badly affected. Many will be wondering, what next? One place they can turn for help is The Prince's Trust, a quick visit to the website will start the process. A member of staff will be in contact fairly quickly, but you must be between 16 and 30.

One option they can help with is to consider starting your own business. It starts with an enterprise course about running a business. This is delivered by volunteers who are experts in different areas, such as marketing or finance. It is aimed at helping people think about how to go forward, perhaps. After the course some people decide it is not for them and are helped in other ways. Perhaps training or work experience. Market research may be needed 'Will the business work?' Small grants can be made available to test ideas and from this stage a mentor might be helpful. Many mentors have run their own business, some are business coaches, they know what it is like to want to hide, or throw the computer through the window, when things get tough.

During the first COVID lockdown The Trust used the time to develop extra training modules; so mentors are very aware of protecting data and intellectual property as well the dangers of 'phishing'; new businesses must be kept safe. Mentor and mentee are introduced to one another by a member of staff. They know their mentee's first name but nothing else until the mentee has decided they want to work with that mentor and visa versa. Normally meetings are in public places, now they are on the

phone. The most important things a business mentor can do are listen, ask questions about the business and learn. They will never know a person's full story, so it is not wise to offer advice but may suggest things to think about, based on what they have learned in the past, often from other young people as well as their own experience.

With a business plan almost complete it may be right to decide it will not work. The dog groomer explored every avenue, but lack of suitable premises and with so many other dog grooming businesses, there was little chance of success. She decided what to do and the mentor supported her. There is always plan B. The plan stalling at this stage may lead to better opportunities. The potential holistic hub in a town was too big a scheme for The Prince's Trust and ran into a bureaucratic brick wall. The hub's instigator took a year to think and decided the holistic bus might work better.

Once the business plan is done and the financial help needed is worked out, it is time for the friendly Enterprise Panel. Again a team of expert volunteers. They discuss the plan, they ask questions, they will decide on any grants or steer the young person towards suitable loans. They want to be sure the business stands a very good chance of succeeding. Grants are given for specific and costed purposes but the panel can also signpost to other funding opportunities if relevant. Sometimes the panel may suggest that the young person approaches another organisation for extra money. Sometimes this does not work out. One young man who was going to set up a video game and computer repair business could do with extra money. He wrote 2 business plans for 2 other organisations. They decided that, although they had encouraged him to apply, he was retail and would not give support. It turned out to be a good thing: he got premises he could afford, he made sure it was safe but slightly shabby as suited his customer profile, he bought second hand equipment cheaply, as the business grew. (This

business had such a great community marketing idea, providing cup cakes, with the company logo decoration, during a town parade, the target market was thrilled).

Once the finance is approved it is 'take off time'. Mentors generally meet their 'clients' once a month to start with. A new business is exciting, hiccups happen and the mentor can get phone calls at any time and assist in unusual ways. Example, to help with financial control, the mentor and mentee can use a large plastic bag as they search the business's van to collect all the delivery notes and receipts, sort them at the table in a cafe and laugh as it is all sorted. Logos, websites, and efficient marketing, without paying Facebook and Google a fortune every month; mentors are lucky people to be able to help.



Examples to inspire

Rusty's Piano Bar was truly wonderful to work with, a unique concept. The cooperation of an existing group of businesses and friends was amazing. There was a launch party. This generated a feature on TV, press coverage, lots of blogging, an award and business all over Britain. They really care about making their customers happy. Despite no work during COVID they have bookings for years ahead. This business like most others has the core values of honesty, care about their customers; and pride in what they are doing.

Now, potential new businesses throughout Scotland are listed on-line for all mentors to see. The range is

enormous and can be based anywhere in Scotland. Environmental concerns are now a big driver for many new businesses.

Moonbug's Glow is a lovely example, even the name makes one want to look to see what it is. The business is one that makes goods? Guess! Everything is sourced locally to reduce the environmental impact of transport, and packaging is



recyclable.

Bonnie & G is perhaps easier to guess. Especially if you are told the goods are high quality and locally designed to last for years. This business shows how careful planning can make sure the systems are in place for efficiency and how a good



understanding of the business's market should help.

Do businesses always succeed?

No: but there are always benefits for trying. It never made sense, that a larger than life, extrovert had somehow decided to have a business working alone in a field. When he gave up, we analysed the situation and found 22 positives and 8

negatives. Then for him, the long journey through academia resulted in triumphs and success.

These young people have become used to sorting out life's problems and looking for opportunities; they have developed resilience. Often the businesses fail because of other things happening. Tens of thousands being given by a short term fund to a rival business meant survival was impossible, cost spoke more loudly than loyalty. Then staff and home issues can cause too many problems for a business, at that time! There can be a relaunch in the future, perhaps using knowledge and skills in a different way.

As one girl said, 'Are you cross? I'm not doing what I planned with my business. But I make enough money to live and I am happy'. Flexibility and happiness are excellent

Most of these young people like to help others, they have integrity. They may help on the enterprise training courses; their recent experience is so valuable. Some may provide items or services for charity events in their local area.

Starting a business is not for everyone. But even thinking about it can make a person hope for the future. Trying something is better than sitting hoping for the light at the end of the tunnel. More than one young person has said 'What you survive makes you stronger'.

Mary Buckland

Approved by The Prince's Trust for use in the Ben Ledi View magazine

Callander on Catch-Up

Somewhat like buses, years can pass without a mention of Callander on TV and then, within the space of a few months, there are two new documentaries broadcast which feature the majestic beauty of Callander and surroundings. The first programme which aired on Ch5 in early December was from the series "Walking Britain's Lost Railways", a documentary series which follows presenter Rob Bell as he and camera crew (and obligatory drone for aerial

shots) walk the path of long disused railways, exposing and explaining the history of the railway and its environs as they go. This episode is devoted to the Callander and Oban Railway (with a brief diversion along the branch line into Killin) and touches upon the difficult process of getting the business case off the ground, the MacGregors, dealing with the extremes of weather, the engineering behind the wonderful Glen Ogle viaduct and an ingenious rock fall warning system before arriving at the end of the disused section at Crianlarich. With no abandoned railway to walk, Rob diverts to Ben Cruachan power station for a brief exploration before finally travelling to Oban where he investigates the role of flying boats in the the second World War. The programme skims through a diverse range of topics but with wonderful scenery and archive footage as a backdrop. The programme is available here: <https://www.my5.tv/walking-britain-s-lost-railways/season-3/episode-2>.

Next to air was Paul Murton's latest BBC series of Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs, broadcast in March. Episode 4 covers the lochs of the Trossachs and Bredalbane and starts with Paul heading up the north side of Loch Venachar with its mythical kelpies to Glen Finglas. Paul U-turns back to Callander before heading up past the Leny Falls, just as Rob Bell did, and on to Balquhiddy and more air time for Rob Roy, but this time from the viewpoint of the McLarens. The second half of the programme takes a zig-zag route via Loch Earn to Loch Tay and The Scottish Crannog Centre. Poor weather but wonderful scenery prevails. Catch-up here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000t4bz/grand-tours-of-scotlands-lochs-series-4-4-the-land-of-giants>.

Alan Derrick



MOTs SERVICING TYRES EXHAUSTS EXHAUSTS TYRES SERVICING MOTs

After nearly 22 years at Janefield Ruskie which has been a fantastic place to be, with truly brilliant customers I have taken the decision to sell up and move to the Borders. I am very happy to say that Eric Utterson at Castle Garage in Doune will be taking over the maintenance /workshop side of Direct Vehicle Options and I will continue to supply vehicles as I have done for last 25 Years, with Eric looking after any sales vehicles in the area.

In the regard of customer continuity for the workshop Gil Tobin the brilliant young mechanic from Callander is transferring to Eric's team at Castle Garage, so anyone transitioning across to Castle Garage can still get Gil to uplift /drop of vehicles as before and I am very happy to arrange bookings etc as before. For those of you unaware of Eric, he is originally from Callander and now lives in Dunblane with his young family. He started in business 9 years ago and runs a great family business based at the Murchison Business Park in Doune FK16 6AY, his phone number is 01786842738. They offer a full range of services including MOT s for cars and Commercial vehicles class 4 and 7

I would like to thank everyone for their support and loyalty over the years it has been a privilege looking after your vehicles and I look forwards to continuing to selling you many new vehicles in the future ably supported by Gil, Eric and his team
Thank you once again Keni Wills

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2016/66 VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3CDTI VAN WITH ONLY 33K IN WHITE WITH SIDE LOADING DOOR ,THE VAN HAS INTERNAL RACKING /AIR CON **£5995+ v**

2015/15 FORD FIESTA 1.0 ECOBOOST TITANIUM 5 DOOR WITH ONLY 40K MILES AND A FULL SERVICE HISTORY IN WINNING BLUE. BEING A TITANIUM IT HAS CRUISE CONTROL/HEATED SCREEN/CLIMATE CONTROL/BLUE T OOTH **£5995**

2014/14 FIAT PANDA 4X4 1.3CDTI ANTARTIC IN WHITE,IT HAS COVERED 61K AND HAS A FULL SERVICE HISTORYWITH THE BENEFITS OF CRUISE CONTROL/DRIVER INFORMATION/FANTASTIC EFFICIENT 4X4 **£4650**

2011/61 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4TSI SE 6 SPEED CONVERTIBLE IN BLACK,88K WITH A FSH AND COMES WITH SAT NAV/ HEATED LEATHER SEATS/CRUISE CONTROL/DRIVER INFORMATION **£5200**

2017 CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO 1.6HDI FEEL EDITION 1 OWNER AND HAVING ONLY COVERED 7671 MILES AND IN AS NEW CONDITION. GREY METALLIC AND COMES WITH CITROEN CONNECT NAVIGATION/7" DISPLAY/FULL PANORAMIC ROOF/CLIMATE CONTROL/CRUISE CONTROL **£1175**

2012 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM X ESTATE CAR,THIS RANGE TOPPING CAR COMES WITH HALF LEATHER/HEATED SEATS/CRUISE CONTROL/SAT NAV/CLIMATE CONTROL/LANE DEPARTURE/FULL PARK DISTANCE/REAR LOAD LINER AND HAS COVERED 101221 MILES AND IS IN EXCEPTIONAL CONDITION WITH A FULL SERVICE HISTORY AND HAVING HAD ITS TIMING BELT ETC CHANGED. FANTASTIC CAR AND GREAT VALUE FOR THE TOP OF THE RANGE CAR **£4650**

Call 01786 850500 / directvehicleopt@aol.com

We are open from 8:00 - 18:00 Monday to Saturday



Janefield, Ruskie, Stirling FK8 3LG - All major cards accepted, Vat registered



Jean Wallace

On the 18 January Mrs Jean Wallace, passed away peacefully, Mother and Grandmother to Margaret and Isobel's families and to Toby her wee dog.

We would like to thank Callander Medical Practice, Pharmacy, Paramedics, for all the care and attention they gave to our mother.

We would also like to thank Ross Anderson for his care and support, Irene Gardner, humanist, for her lovely sermon @ Stirling crematorium.

Last but not least: To everyone who sent messages of condolences, cards & flowers too many to mention

Also to all the people, who stopped to chat about our Mother, so many funny stories about the character that she was.

Mum worked most of her days in Callander, was well known and respected

Many Thanks To Everyone
Margaret and Isobel

St Andrew's – new Rector appointed.

The Revd Jonathan (Jon) Connell has been appointed as Rector of St Andrew's Episcopal Church and its sister church, St Mary's in Aberfoyle from July 2021. Canadian born Jon is currently the Priest-in-Charge of the Anglican Parish of Pembroke in Bermuda overseeing four congregations – a post he has held since July 2017.

He comes with a wealth of

experience and energy – originally gaining a degree in Art and Design at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Then in 1998 he came over to the Wycliffe College in Oxford, to study for his degree in Theology.

Before going to Bermuda, Jon spent many years in the Diocese of Edmonton, being appointed to a number of high-profile posts, culminating in appointed Champion for city-wide Alpha Course initiative in Edmonton – and then becoming a Member of the Diocese of Edmonton Executive Council advising the Bishop on matters brought before the Council.

Jon is married to Fiona and the couple have two daughters: Sophie-Charlotte (16) and Arabella (14). He says they are keen to return to their Scottish roots – his ancestors left during the Highland Clearances and Fiona's parents emigrated to Canada in the 1960s. 'All Fiona's family are either in Scotland or northern England,' he says. 'Additionally, Fiona teaches ballet and Highland dance (and is also a Highland judge) and our girls are Highland and ballet dancers. They also enjoy piping and singing. 'We can't wait to settle in with our new extended family in both Callander and Aberfoyle,' he adds.

Jon's hobbies include playing squash, gardening (including listening to The Archers) and design, interior décor, and home renovation projects. 'Fiona and I also enjoy hosting large or small gatherings for brunch, a lazy afternoon meal, or an evening that starts early and goes late.'



Lilly McCrory

Eamon McCrory arrived in Callander from Ireland in the late 50s, initially with the intent of staying a few weeks and earning enough money to fund his further travels north to tour the Highlands. He ended up staying the rest of his life here. On the 5th January 1961, he married Lilly McGirr in Donegal, and after a week's honeymooning in Dublin, he brought his new bride to live at Invernentie, South Church St, where they lived and brought up their family for almost 25 years.

After his death in 1985, Lilly continued to live in Callander until her sad passing on Hogmanay 2020. She moved from Invernentie to Lagrannoch, which was just too quiet for her and she could not settle, being out of the hustle and bustle of the centre of town. She then moved to Airie Cottage in North Church Street, where she lived for the final 30 years of her life, at the the centre of everything and the heart of her life. It shocked us to realise when going through dates, that she actually lived in Airie Cottage longer than any of her other abodes during her lifetime.

Her love of Callander was the people, whether sitting in the garden at Airie Cottage in the summer months and gossiping with anyone that passed, or her "3hr trips" down to the post office or up to the paper shop. She just loved the people and town of Callander.

Callander was her home. She had regular disagreements with family back in Ireland after Eamon's death that maybe she should consider

returning "home". Callander was her home, and so ended the disagreements.

At this time, we as the family wish to extend a special thanks to all the people of Callander who welcomed her, made her feel at home, and that she loved all her life here. And an extra thank you to all the Callander Surgery Staff for the care they attended her, not only in her later life, but throughout her life here, a very grateful thanks.

With the restrictions at this time, we are unable to host everyone as should be. However, as the situation improves, we would like to be able to invite you to a more fitting celebration of her life. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.!

Elizabeth, Sean, Edward, Charlene & Trisha.

Retiral of Brian Gooding as Pastor of Callander Baptist Fellowship



Brian Gooding has retired from the role of Pastor of Callander Baptist Fellowship from 31st January 2021. He and his wife, Iris, have been part of the community of Callander for six years. The role was established as an outreach ministry of Stirling Baptist Church with the subsequent formation of Callander Baptist Fellowship.

Brian comes from a rich Christian heritage, growing up in a Brethren

Assembly in Kilmarnock. His father was a well-known preacher "on the circuit" in Ayrshire and beyond. Before coming to Callander, Brian was the Senior Pastor at Seagate Church in Troon.

Brian and Iris have a wonderful gift of hospitality and their home in Callander was often filled with people. Bible studies, services, youth groups and prayer groups, often with generous servings of food, seemed to fill most days in the Gooding household! Brian's greatest delight was to teach from God's word and those who attend Callander Baptist Fellowship certainly benefitted from this ministry. We were grateful to the congregation at St Andrew's as they allowed us access to the church hall for our weekly gathering of Sundays@Six.

Brian and Iris were not to be thwarted with the coming of COVID and lockdown either – they embraced the technological challenges and we were soon enjoying our weekly services as Sundays@Six online and, indeed, this has impacted many within and outside Callander. Brian and Iris are planning to continue with this weekly on-line event into the future.

Brian's retiral was marked with a Zoom Burns' Supper as the members of Callander Baptist Fellowship shared poems, songs and photographic memories of their time here. The event was entitled "Saying thanks, Not goodbye" as Brian and Iris plan to stay in Callander for the foreseeable future. That is good news as we will continue to benefit from their wisdom and ministry for a wee while longer.

Callander Baptist Fellowship has entered a time for reflection. We will keep everyone abreast of developments. Meantime, please join us in Sundays@Six online each Sunday evening at 6pm (or at another time, if that is more suitable): <https://www.callanderbaptistfellowship.org/online-church>

Further details of the activities of Callander Baptist Fellowship or wish to be in touch, please contact Lesley-Anne Evans (07936 715983 or lesley-anne@erisort.com).

*Transition Group
Callander Baptist Fellowship*

Much Todo About Flooding Can Anyone Explain?

Being nosy when the river was high, I went for a wander to admire the water.

The Meadows was flooded; no shock! The first shock to see how far up the bank the water was downstream from the red bridge. The second shock was walking along the Invertrossachs Road to see the water had sneaked around behind Bridgend. I only hope the bank at the bottom of someone's garden held.

Now can an expert tell me, please- If the walls are built as planned' will the water not be pushed towards Bridgend much more, not just directly but might the sneaking water also have more power?

If the water is flowing straight past a wall, will it not flow faster than before and won't that increase the flooding downstream when the rush is past?

During my nosy meanderings I looked at the flood plain. Was it my imagination or did the trees slow the flow? I know Forth Rivers Trust 'do' tree planting in other places to improve drainage and water flow. Might it be worth investigating the use of water tolerant trees? Could Callander become the willow weaving capital of Scotland if the right willows were planted and harvested?

Name and Address withheld

Response to McCourt's discussion

Further to Ian McCourt's discussion of the proposed flood alleviation scheme for the Meadows, in which he laments a lack of integrated planning, that a wall in isolation is no solution to Callander's (or even the Meadows) river flooding - because it benefits only a few properties but potentially increases the flood risk to others - I'd agree with pretty much all that he says about this scheme and the way it is being prosecuted and communicated. My property is not affected by flooding but I too have been involved in the discussions with Stirling Council and their consultants, WSP, about the proposed wall at the Meadows car park.

Stirling Council are proposing to spend a lot of money (£4 million) to

build a wall across the Meadows car park to protect a few properties from some floods (25-50 year), but not the big ones. In so doing, the wall could push water towards properties in lower Bridgend, further increasing flood risk there. The Council has no plans to protect these houses, say with an embankment, because of a cost of £2 million and a negative Benefit Cost Ratio (Stirling Council), and because to build an embankment at Bridgend could raise flood levels in the Meadows by over 100mm (Mouchel), meaning the proposed wall would need to be built higher to offer the design level of protection - but Stirling Council has already rejected a higher wall because of cost and visual concerns. Also, any flood control measures for the Meadows risk potential increased flows downstream, but no mitigation is planned for the five properties most at risk, all currently affected by 50 year floods.

The wall itself will increase the risk of back-flooding of properties around the car park by obstructing overland flow from the Craggs into the river during flash flooding - a not infrequent occurrence - but my main niggle has always been that to build a wall is the wrong approach to flood alleviation. A wall merely backs-up water and pushes it elsewhere, whereas the first objectives should be to lower flood levels, increase storage capacity and improve the drainage through the Meadows. The textbook solutions are, singly or in combination: dredge, channel straightening, earthen embankments and pond creation - all of which are possible for the Meadows and could be designed (notwithstanding possible objections) to protect all surrounding properties against large floods.

The perceived benefits appear limited and tenuous, but the prospect of a large structure in the car park - the focal point of Callander's visitor trade - has implications for the wider community. Concerns have been

raised about the visual and safety aspects, and a worry that Callander's attractiveness as a visitor destination will be diminished. The Council's photomontage of the new wall can be seductive but in reality the stonework will become dirty and graffiti-prone, and a structure up to 1.85m provides shelter for antisocial behaviour that may alarm and deter visitors and locals from strolling along the waterfront. No independent impact assessments have been presented.

Despite all, Stirling Council and WSP continue to focus only on their wall; other solutions and Ian's and the above concerns are downplayed.

Ergo, I'm thinking that before Callander embarks further on a project that could arguably do more harm than good, it's a reasonable request to ask the CCC to put the pros and cons of the proposed car park wall to all Callander residents, and make a community decision about whether or not it's appropriate or desirable. As it stands, Stirling Council have funds for a wall, or nothing; this is the choice we're faced with.

John Aitkin

Editors' Note Regarding Flooding

Stirling Councils Callander Flood Protection Webpage :- <https://callanderflooding-site-stirling.hub.arcgis.com>

There is also interesting drone footage posted on the Vimeo website on the following link <https://vimeo.com/515203492> this footage is labelled:- "Callander Floods 2021"

COOK'S CORNER

by **Audrey Corrieri**

VEGGIE KORMA (serves 4)

Ingredients:

2 tbsp Korma curry powder
 ½ tsp dried turmeric
 1 tbsp ground cumin
 350g pack chilled Quorn pieces
 Olive oil
 2 onions finely chopped
 1 red and 1 yellow pepper, deseeded and chopped
 100g carrots, chopped
 400ml hot vegetable stock
 100g green beans, trimmed and chopped
 100g courgette, chopped
 100g natural yoghurt, whisked until smooth
 Cooked rice, to serve
 2 tbsp chopped fresh coriander leaves
 Lime wedges, to serve

Method:

Put the curry powder, turmeric and cumin into a large bowl and mix well. Add the Quorn pieces and stir to coat. Leave to stand for 10 minutes. Meanwhile put a little olive oil into a non-stick saucepan and place over a low heat. Stir fry the onions for 5-6 mins until softened, add the peppers and carrots and stir fry for 2-3 mins. Add the Quorn pieces to the pan and stir fry for 5 mins. Gradually stir in the stock and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 25-30 mins, adding the beans and courgettes for the final 10 mins. Remove from heat, season to taste, stir in yogurt. serve with cooked rice and lime wedges. Sprinkle with chopped coriander leaves.



MONDHUI
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STIRLINGSHIRE
FK8 3RD
27th December 2020

To the Editor of the Ben Ledi View,

I am writing to you as a Member of the Faculty of Advocates and as a friend of Mrs Kirsty Brooks to bring to your attention a matter which has caused Mrs Brooks considerable concern and damage to her professional and personal reputation.

In the December 2020/ January 2021 edition of your magazine you published a letter on page 22 entitled "Not Welcome in Callander" which is clearly defamatory of Mrs Brooks. Mrs Brooks is the only female gardener in Callander so it is obvious the letter refers to her. Indeed Mrs Brooks is one of the small local businesses who advertise with you (advert on second last page). The clear imputation of the letter is that Mrs Brooks carries out her gardening business in an unprofessional manner, is disrespectful, discourteous, impolite, rude and does not know how to speak to or treat other people. However the author of the letter (I shall refer to her as "Mrs G") has not truly stated the facts and unfortunately you made no attempt to contact Mrs Brooks to check those facts.

The true facts are as follows:-

Mrs Brooks was employed by a Mrs MacLaren who lives next door to Mrs G on Main Street, Callander, to trim back a privet hedge (not trees) which was completely overgrown and about 15 feet high. The privet hedge was falling over and blocking the access lane to her garden. The hedge was the responsibility of Mrs G who had failed to maintain it. Mrs G's neighbour had contacted Mrs G's landlord to ask her to do something about the hedge but she had received no reply. Mrs MacLaren had also knocked on Mrs G's door to advise her about the hedge trimming but Mrs G did not answer the door. When Mrs Brooks and her daughter arrived to trim the hedge they also knocked on Mrs G's door but she did not open the door. They then commenced work with a hedge cutter which makes a considerable amount of noise. Most of the hedge cuttings had fallen on Mrs MacLaren's garden and Mrs Brooks removed them. However part of the hedge fell back into Mrs G's garden so Mrs Brooks stacked those pieces of hedge by her fence and raked Mrs G's grass to remove leaves and twigs. Only once the work was completed did Mrs G appear from the house. Mrs G shouted at Mrs Brooks demanding to know what she was doing. Mrs Brooks politely explained that she was trimming the hedge for her neighbour as it was blocking access to her garden. Mrs Brooks explained to Mrs G that her neighbour was paying her to do the job and there was no charge to her. Mrs G was very rude and abusive and berated Mrs Brooks for not taking away the cuttings from her garden. However to do so Mrs Brooks would have had to take the cuttings through Mrs G's house as there is no alternative access and given Mrs G's manner towards her she was disinclined to suggest this or indeed to carry out any additional unpaid work for her.

Mrs Brooks has been approached by many local people who have seen the letter in the Ben Ledi View. Mrs Brooks is concerned that publication and circulation of the letter has caused damage to her professional and personal reputation. In the circumstances we would ask you to print an apology and a correction of the factually inaccurate statements (the text of which to be agreed in advance with myself) in the next edition of the Ben Ledi View.

Regards

LAURA WRAY, ADVOCATE
laura.wray@westwateradvocates.com

From the Ben Ledi View.

We would like to apologise for the distress that printing the letter in the soapbox has caused, and the delay in printing this letter. However, no one was named in the soapbox letter and we had no way of knowing whether another company was employed on this occasion. Indeed, there are several garden services offered in the area by other companies from as far afield as Stirling, some of whom employ female staff.

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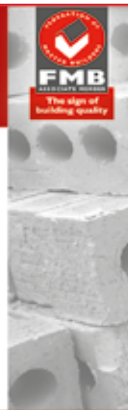
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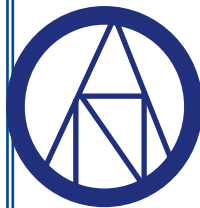
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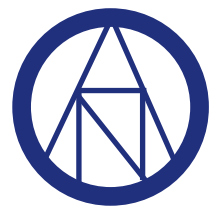
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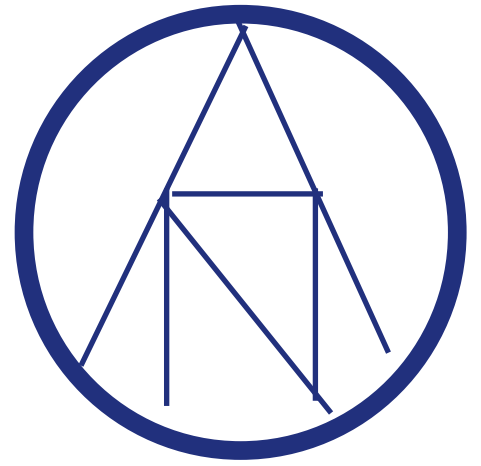


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