

Ben Ledi View

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Ben Ledi View

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Cover Photo by Gary Bray



Hello Readers
I'm writing this piece with the temperature in the high 20s outside. Whoever thought that we would be worried by the heat in Callander! The people selling ice cream in the high street must be making a fortune!

I think there are some very positive stories in this month's edition, but also a couple of not so uplifting ones. One of the most negative issues of the past few months has been the closure of the Bracklinn Falls Bridge. We have now heard that the present one is to be removed and a new one installed "next year." So, one of Callander's most popular tourist attractions is going to be restricted for another six months at least. Not good. Also disappointing is the ongoing dispute surrounding the Callander Community Council. I'm not going even to try to express an opinion on this apart from saying, and I expect most residents of Callander will agree, the town needs these disagreements to end. The Community Council has a vital role in helping Callander develop in a positive way. We need it to be functioning cooperatively.

On a happier note, it appears the plans to redevelop St Kessogs are going well. Thanks to Susan King for her update and thanks to the St Kessogs working party for their hard work on this complex project. Similarly, there is good news from

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Marilyn Moore about the refurbishment of Camp place. The list of the funding that they have obtained is very impressive. It looks like the children of Callander are going to get a facility that they will thoroughly enjoy.

Callander's Local Place Plan is mentioned in this edition. I would strongly encourage all of our readers to keep a close eye out for this, get involved and express your views and wishes. This plan will give everyone in the town the opportunity of saying how you'd like Callander develop. Grab this opportunity with both hands.

Talking about expressing your views we have in this edition our own readers survey. Many thanks to Aiden Cronin for designing and setting this up. All of us volunteers at the Ben Ledi View try very hard to produce a magazine that is both an enjoyable read and also serves as a useful reference for the whole community. However, I'm sure that there are things that we can improve upon. Therefore, please take the time to complete this survey and help us make the Ben Ledi View a magazine that the town can be proud of. With this theme in mind, we are currently exploring ways that we can improve our website. I feel it is looking quite tired at the moment and we would welcome your input into how we could make it more interesting and useful. You can contact me about this on my email convenor@benlediview.org.
Convenor

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

Contents

Community	Pages 3,5,6
Environment	Page 7
Arts & Entertainment	Pages 8,9
Pets	Page 10
Whats On/Planning	Page 13
Health & Wellbeing	Pages 14,15
Callander in Photos	Page 16
Survey	Pages 17-18
Community Council	Pages 20-21
Charities & Clubs	Pages 22,24,25
Local Information	Page 27
Announcements & Letters	Pages 28,29
Animal Family	Page 30
Sports & Leisure	Pages 31

St Kessog's Update

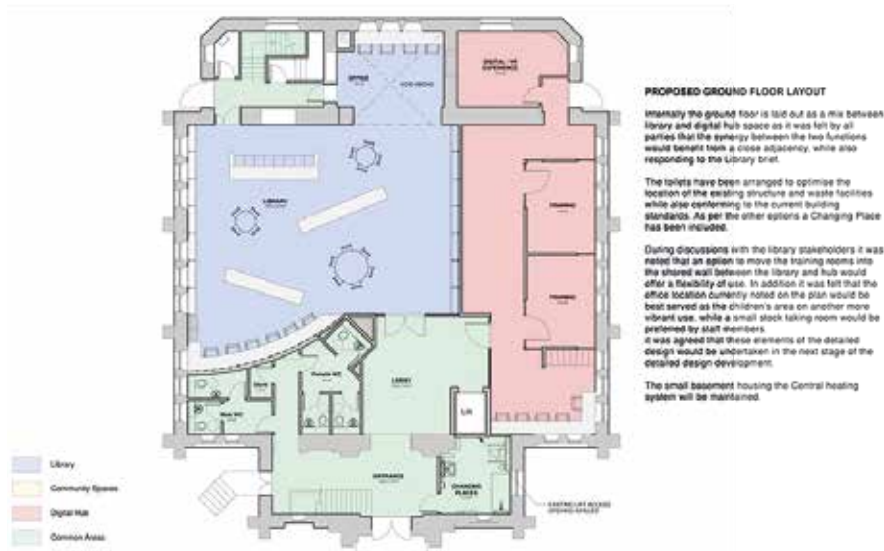
At the last meeting of the working group, Stirling Council representatives gave us a progress report on the work they are doing – most of this is below the radar but necessary for the redevelopment. The layout chosen has the library and most of the business hub on the ground floor and the community space, with some business hub space, upstairs. The floor plans show these areas but there is much still to be finalised for example, the area around the stained-glass window at the rear of the building. A number of surveys have already been completed, including acoustic and asbestos, and the rest should be done by the end of July. The building has been cleared of the remaining rubble and temporary lighting installed. Mechanical and electrical engineers have been appointed and a structural engineer should have been appointed by the time you read this. A 3D model is being developed and should be ready by the end of September. This will then be made available for everyone to view and will give the best idea of how it will all look. Costs have been refined and a contingency amount built in to cover current unknowns such as the structural condition.

Stirling Council is submitting applications as various funding opportunities arise to add to the funds from the City Deal. The next job for us is to work with Stirling Council on the operational model for running St Kessog's, both the structure of the organisation and the income and cost streams.

We hope this gives you confidence that the re-development is making progress and, again, if you have any comments or suggestions, please email

StKessogs.survey@gmail.com

Susan King (Member of the St Kessog's working party)



NORR | Community

Premier Inn for Callander?

According to the Northern Times (reporting the opening of a new Premier Inn in Thurso)

The company is also looking for new locations for Premier Inn across Scotland in Dunblane, Ballater, Callander, the Isle of Skye and Largs as it continues to look for long-term demand for its style of affordable accommodation.

Bracklinn Falls Bridge

Kenny Auld, Head of Visitor Services at Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority, said:

"Following engineering and timber surveys, Bracklinn Bridge in Callander will be removed and replaced. It has been closed in recent months after an inspection identified areas of deterioration requiring further examination. The decision has been taken that replacing the current structure is the safest course of action. The bridge remains closed and will be removed in the coming months. Installing a new bridge is a priority and we expect this to be in place next year. While we recognise there will be disruption to local walkers and visitors over the coming months, the safety of residents and visitors who use the bridge is our first priority. We would ask people not to use the bridge or climb over the temporary barriers currently in place."

Elaine Brewer
Media & Campaigns Manager
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

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Calling all McLaren High School Classes of 1971/72/73

Next summer at this time, it will be 50 years since many of us bade the McLaren High cloisters farewell to make our various ways in the world. To our knowledge, we have never organised any kind of reunion get-together for our group, so this would be an auspicious time to start.

As a guideline, we would imagine anyone who left the school in the period 1971 to 1973 could legitimately claim such an event as a 50th anniversary reunion. Similarly, those who were part of that group but left earlier due to a change of school, for example, please consider yourselves part of this also.

Many of us from that time took part in Ian Milligan's operatic extravaganzas, the school plays, etc. and I attach a couple of photos which many of you will no doubt recognise. Unfortunately we haven't been able to source photos of the various sporting teams from that time; football, hockey, volleyball, cross-Country running, canoeing, orienteering, The Rambling Club and more. There were many great times shared, also in the classrooms of course. If anyone can add to these photos, please do so.

The plan is to have a "long" lunch at the Roman Camp Hotel in Callander on Thursday 16th June 2022, allowing plenty of time to reconnect. This will be followed on the Friday morning by a guided school visit which will include a professional group photo and a commemorative tree planting. We will also try to fit in a golf match on the Callander course on the Friday for those with a hankering. There may also be a chance of securing tickets for the annual pupil show on the Thursday evening, for those interested.

Please register your interest by sending an email to MHSReunion2022@gmail.com stating your name(s) and the number expected to attend the lunch and whether you have any interest in the golf. We will ask for confirmation later in the year. We sincerely hope that by summer 2022 the pandemic will have ceased to be a threat to the event. We have already done some phoning/e-mail around and the response has been extremely good: 35 have expressed an interest so far. Please help us by alerting any of your old friends you are still in touch with and urge them to respond via email.

Anne White (nee Watt), Douglas Connell and David Masson



River Teith Flood Management

For the past 30 years or more we have been reading reports on flood prevention in Callander. Not a lot has happened apart from building a pile of reports, so here is a rethink of the River Teith flood management. Simply put, the river floods when there is an excessive amount of water that can't get through Callander because the ground just upstream of the Red Bridge is not wide enough. The water can't get through the bridge fast enough so backs up, floods the Meadows, the car park and into the back of Bridgend affecting a number of properties. The water which does get through just exceeds the capacity of the channel downstream of the bridge, so spills out and affects several properties.

My rethink is to move the constriction slightly upstream and use it to control the amount of water flowing through the bridge. This would involve two bunds, grass covered earth banks, which extend from the high ground at Invertrossachs Road over to the high ground in the Meadows next to the putting green. A gap will be left between the bunds at the river and the gap will be designed so that it limits the flow of water to a rate which does not flood downstream properties. Flood water is stored on the Meadows floodplain, Bridgend and the properties around the car park are protected, and the river does not flood properties downstream of the bridge.

For more protection, Loch Venachar could be used to control the water flowing down the Eas Gobhain. The loch levels could be kept low in the winter, releasing water during relatively minor flood events and snow melt events. When very heavy rain and/or snow melt, is forecast, the outflow from Loch Venachar is reduced to a minimum and flood water stored in the loch.

In addition, I would construct earth bunds along both rivers which flow into the Meadows. These bunds will ensure the floodplain has no water on it before the flood peak arrives. The rivers are contained within the flood banks until a limit is reached when they overtop and water is stored on the floodplain.

At the time of writing, I have spoken to two of the three landowners and I have discussed these options with Stirling Council. I am now proceeding with a more detailed design which will provide realistic management of the River Teith.

Dr Richard Johnson

6 Community

Camp Place Play Park

Raising funds for Camp Place Play Park refurbishment continues. In July Callander Community Council (CCC) heard that we had been awarded a grant worth £10,000 from the National Lottery for fencing around the proposed toddler-inclusive play area. A previous Town Centre Accessibility grant has been used to create a hard surface pathway across the park for buggies and wheelchairs to access, which has now been built. The Play Park fund stands at over £120,000 at the time of writing. CCC has been working with Stirling Council to obtain a number of separate grants as well as receiving contributions from various local organisations. We hope to achieve another £30,000 to be fully funded.

It has been suggested spending the money as we go, to provide a more immediate improvement, but we know that this is not cost-effective, as there will be no cohesive design and the play park will be out of commission for longer as each piece is separately installed. Stirling Council is organising and managing the installation with its contractor and is working closely with CCC.

Funding has been obtained to date from:

- FCC (Landfill),
- Awards for All (The National Lottery Community Fund),
- Stirling Council Town Centre Fund,
- Stirling Council Community Pride Grant,
- Airtricity Fund from Callander Community Council,
- Hydro Fund from Callander Community Development Trust,
- Callander Enterprise.

If you have any queries about the play park or the proposed BMX/Bike Track at Camp Place, please contact campplaceplaypark@gmail.com for further information.

Marilyn Moore
Callander Community Council

Callander's Local Place Plan

Next year, Callander, along with many other communities across Scotland, will prepare a Local Place Plan (LPP). Callander Community Council, Callander Community Development Trust, the schools, Leisure Centre, Callander Enterprise, CYP and the medical practice are working together to produce our LPP. It will be a plan for how our community wants to see our town developed. It is about the town, the land around it and, most importantly the community that lives here. Unlike the old Community Action Plans, this must be agreed with the statutory authorities and included into their Local Development plans which, in turn, are lodged with the Government.

Callander is governed by 2 statutory authorities. Planning decisions are taken by the National Park; infrastructure decisions are in the power of Stirling Council. The LPP is the way in which we can work with these authorities to build our community wishes into any future developments.

The whole community needs to be consulted, and we want to make it easy for the opinions of all our residents to be heard. Whether they contributed to previous Community Action Plans or not, everyone is encouraged to make their voice heard. If the LPP is to carry proper weight, both Stirling Council and the National Park must agree with our vision. It must be clear, coherent, and more than anything, backed wholeheartedly by the community.

What can we put into the LPP? It can consider all the ways in which our town can be developed. The official overview of LPPs encourages communities to plan for more. However, if the overwhelming response of our community is that, (for example), no more new homes are desirable, we are free to express that choice. This is also true of all existing plans for land use within Callander. We can set out plans to enhance and protect our natural environment, indicate where, and the design principles for, any new development, as well as protecting those landscapes that make Callander a great place to live. We will be launching a website to tell everyone what we are doing, how you can contribute and what we have discovered along the way. We will also let you see what Callander looks like in numbers; our population and households, the types of businesses in town, the changes in the property and tourist markets and the facilities on offer to residents. This is so that everyone can make informed choices and get a clear view of the challenges we all face over the coming years. Within the next 2 months, we will be sending a leaflet to every household in Callander to explain how you can all get involved. To get this right, we need to know what you think would make Callander a better, fairer, friendlier, and healthier place to live. Keep an eye out for the leaflet, it will tell you all about the consultations we'll be running and how you can sign up for groups and newsletters and take part in our town audits.

If you want to know more about Local Place Plans you can find out more here:
<https://www.pas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Local-Place-Plans-Guide-PAS-Approach.pdf>

If you want to see a really excellent example of a Local Place Plan in progress, have a look at Aberfoyle's Life Plan here:
https://usercontent.one/wp/www.ccstrathard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Kinlochard-Community-Life-Plan_Final_19-04-29.pdf

Callander Climate Fringe Week



A new event is coming to town for this year only, Callander Climate Fringe Week! To recognise that Glasgow will be the venue for COP26 World Climate Change conference in November, Scottish communities are celebrating with Fringe events in September when international leaders meet in New York for talks in the run-up to COP26. Callander is planning a week-long programme of events around the theme of climate change, from the 18-26th September.

For more information, please take a look at the InCallander and visitcallander websites or the Callander Climate Fringe Week Facebook page <https://bit.ly/3qWRcgj>

On Saturday 18th, we plan to launch the week with a "Question Time" style event where you can join

an audience to hear questions from young people put to a panel of invited community leaders. In a more relaxed setting, come and join us midweek for coffee and conversations around climate change. During the week there will also be a chance to hear first hand experiences from those of us in Callander who are already driving electric cars and installing low carbon heating solutions. Or why not sign up to a guided walk, cycle-ride, or sessions on forest bathing, make and mend and more?

McLaren High is planning to have a green careers event and to raise funds for environmental projects by holding a sponsored run. For young photographers (12-26), look out for further information on InCallander and our Facebook page about

submitting your best photos on the subject of climate change. If you would like to hear more about any of these, contact Aidan Cronin

04pcroninaidan@glow.sch.uk

But that's just the start of it. We'd like to invite all community groups and businesses in Callander to consider how they can participate in the week. Can you provide a low food miles menu in your café using local produce that week? Or promote a low carbon beer? Does your club already plan to meet that week and could it have a climate change angle to the meeting? We'd love to hear your ideas and suggestions and include them in the programme.

Contact carolbrass93@gmail.com

Dunmore Hillfort Archaeology Dig: Early Results

As part of the Callander's Landscape programme, we had a fantastic long weekend of archaeology at Dunmore Hillfort with Callander Heritage Society and AOC Archaeology between 18th and 21st June. Many of you will be familiar with the iconic Dunmore but it has never been excavated before. Well, the dig didn't disappoint!

On the afternoon of the first day, the excavation team found an intact shale bracelet in the interior of the hillfort, just 10cm under the surface. Shale bracelets are uncommon finds, especially fully intact! They can date from the late Bronze Age, Iron Age, and into the early Medieval period, which lines up with our assumption that Dunmore is an Iron Age hillfort. AOC's finds experts will clean up the bracelet and take high quality photographs, which will hopefully help in picking out some details.

In addition to this exciting find, the team also uncovered a hearth in the interior, from which they recovered charcoal and burnt bone. This material

should allow us to obtain radiocarbon dates and build up a rough timeline of activity relating to this hillfort.

Elsewhere, we were able to answer a research question relating to the entrance of the hillfort. We are now fairly confident that the current south-western route up the hillfort through the ramparts is NOT an ancient entrance. When the team excavated this area, they found the ramparts had collapsed and slumped, which provided a misleading

impression of a path or entrance. We now think the entrance was more likely located at the northern edge of the site, near the annex of the main hillfort.

Overall, this is a fantastic result for just

four days of work and there will be more information to come as the finds are analysed. It was great to welcome school pupils from McLaren High School to the site, who enjoyed a

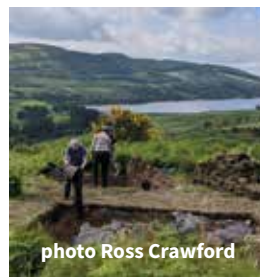


photo Ross Crawford

guided tour on the final day.

We would like to thank the landowners, the Woodland Trust at Glen Finglas, for supporting this project. Thanks also to Historic Environment Scotland for their generous funding which made this

work possible.

Looking ahead, we will be surveying and excavating Auchenlaich Hillfort from 24th to 27th September. Thanks to the landowners at Cambusmore Estate Trust for their support. Hopefully, there will be more exciting finds to come! In addition to volunteering opportunities on-site, we will also be running online talks and workshops in the lead up to this excavation.

If you would like to find out more about this work, please email ross.crawford@lochlomond-trossachs.org and make sure to follow the Callander Heritage Society on Facebook to keep up with all their activities.

Dr Ross Crawford



photo Ross Crawford

Deep Blue Dirt

Jennifer Foster (maiden name Campbell) has always loved sports and the outdoors. Growing up in Callander, her sunrise runs up Ben A'an and her beloved Craggs hill races soon turned into a never ending search for adventure. Jenni continues the story below:

My love for the outdoors, the unknown and meeting new people stemmed from a young age and really grew when I completed the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at McLaren High School in 2006.



For the past four years my husband Chris and I have been working towards a dream. Chris, being heavily into competitive downhill mountain biking in his 20s, and having a need for anything adrenaline based, was a great catch for me. With the ambition to ride our bikes all around the world, creating a new web of trails and communities, we decided to put everything we had into buying an ocean going sailboat and taught ourselves to sail, as we slowly circumnavigated the UK. Loch Venachar Sailing Club ~ you should be proud... I still remember completing my RYA Level 3 in 1998.



Chris re-trained as a boat builder to give us a valuable skill on our travels and I got myself into a position in my Product Development career to be able to work as I travelled. We have now sold everything! Our house, our car, our trusty touring bikes and so much more to fund the expedition. (We have been living out of a VW Caddy for the last five months, as we refurbished our wooden houseboat to sell).

We bought our modest 32ft ocean going sailboat, named "Berzerk", in Portugal and spent three months preparing to get her expedition 'ready' with the first big aim being transatlantic. We enjoyed a successful test sail to Spain, then spent 7 months in the UK, tying up loose ends and saying goodbye to family and friends.

We are now back in Spain at the boat, tackling the solar/wind generator install for off-grid living and we cannot wait to get her back in the water to start our expedition, sailing to uncharted anchorages and exploring remote destinations on the bikes. Turns out the port/starboard game we played at Girl Guides in the old Scout Hall in Buchanan Place has come in handy- who knew?

We want to share the opportunities that can be found off the beaten track and inspire others to adventure, so we have been developing our media skills in order to release short films of our explorations. I would love you to join us as we explore our globe... simply follow us on Instagram ([instagram.com/deep.blue.dirt](https://www.instagram.com/deep.blue.dirt)) and you'll find a link to our YouTube channel ([Deepbluedirt](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)) in our bio. Subscribing would really help us along.

Maybe all those summers of Highland dancing in the Rob Roy square will pay off when I do some busking on our travels... I should have packed my kilt!



Where will we sail to first? East into the Mediterranean or explore North Africa as we build up to the transatlantic?

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That is our story to date and we hope to have you along with us! www.deepbluedirt.com

Jenni and Chris Foster

Book Club Review

This issue's book review title is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020).



I'm not the biggest Facebook user but, in my view, where social media does come into its own, is for groups with a shared interest. It could be cycling, running, football, politics, cooking, and of course, reading. I'm in a few social media 'Book Groups' and would highly recommend them for hearing about a variety of books and getting views from other readers.

I mention this as, in the last year, discussions on *The Midnight Library* came up regularly. Moreover, this appears to be a book that divides opinion. From the gushing 'this book changed my life' crew, to the one-word says it all 'meh' faction.

The main character is Nora Seed, a 30-something woman who is struggling. Nothing is going right in her life: no job, no relationship, no friends or family who care, and now her beloved cat has died. Nora has reached rock bottom to such a degree, she no longer wants to continue living, and plans to take her own life.

As Nora proceeds with this plan, she falls into a world between consciousness and unconsciousness – a world between life and death. In this world, Nora enters a library full of books and is met by Mrs Elm, her ex-school librarian. Mrs Elm explains that each book in this immense library is a version of Nora's life had she made a different choice at a certain time. Some of these decisions are miniscule, but create a whole new reality.

Nora is invited to consider her regrets and to experience those different lives. What would have happened if she hadn't broken up with that boyfriend? Or if she'd continued to swim competitively in her teens? What if she'd pursued her musical ambitions? Or even become a scientist? If Nora finds a good life, she can stay there.

The Midnight Library takes on a tough topic. Mental health has become an even bigger issue on society's agenda over the last year, as people's mental wellbeing has been pushed to the limit (author Matt Haig has discussed his own struggles with depression when interviewed about this book). And whilst the writing isn't fantastic and I thought the concept was somewhat predictable, I can understand how this book has helped many readers through difficult times. Worth a read, and it might just change your life.

The next BLV book club review will be *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stewart (Picador, 2020)

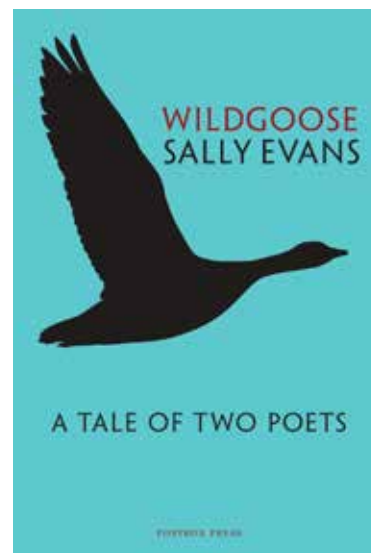
Maggie Magor

Wildgoose: A Tale of Two Poets

Sally Evans, partner of Kings Bookshop in Callander with Ian King, is also a well known poet and poetry editor. She has now written a novel about the poetry world in Scotland and the North of England, which has been published by Postbox Press, an imprint of Scotland's Red Squirrel Press.

Wildgoose: A Tale of Two Poets follows a young poet and her cousin as they learn to write and meet other poets, real and fictional, in locations around Scotland and Northern England. Eric visits Canada as a poet and Maeve writes a long poem, *Wildgoose*, which vanishes from her house. What happens then? No spoilers, but the story becomes exciting as Maeve, her poet friends, her young musician son and others try to survive the ensuing chaos.

Sally wrote this as part of a PhD at Lancaster University which she is still completing. 'I don't think there's been a novel quite like this before,' says Sally, 'with so much fun about the



poetry world, over the last generations and to date.'

Wildgoose: A Tale of Two Poets is receiving great responses from readers and is available from Kings Bookshop or from the publishers, Red Squirrel Press, via the internet



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When animals are abused, people are at risk; when people are abused, animals are at risk.

Mental health problems and domestic abuse have increased during the COVID pandemic. So, I felt it was prudent to bring the above link into the consciousness to help both animals and humans and if it helps just one individual it will have been worth writing.

In many homes where domestic abuse takes place, humans are not the only victims. As family members, pets can also be hurt, terrified and neglected. So, when abuse has been identified in a pet, we and the relevant bodies need to look at the humans in that situation in case they too are suffering abuse. When human abuse takes place, we need to remember to look at the pets so see if they have suffered too. It is our legal responsibility under The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 to look after animals. It provides legislation to punish cruelty to animals and prevent animals from suffering. In addition to a number of other matters, the Act makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal and imposes a 'duty of care' on anyone responsible for an animal to take

reasonable steps to ensure an animal's welfare is protected. Suffering is defined as both physical and mental, and the duty of care is clarified as providing for the animal's five welfare needs, which include the following:

1. its need for a suitable environment; 2. its need for a suitable diet; 3. its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns; 4. any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, and 5. its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

In order to further clarify the basic needs for a particular species or circumstance, the Act provides for the production of Codes of Practice. The main aim of the Code is to give 'practical guidance' on how to provide for an animal's needs. They are essentially a statement of the minimum standard of care required by the law.

The owner of an animal is responsible for their animal at all times, but the person in charge of an animal is responsible for its care, in addition to the owner. Consequently, the veterinary surgeon is responsible for providing for the needs of an animal that has been admitted to a veterinary practice under his or her care.

What are abuse and neglect? These are forms of maltreatment, either by inflicting harm or by failing to prevent harm. Broadly, there are four groups of abuse levied against children or vulnerable adults and are applied to animals:

1. Physical abuse (may also be referred to as non-accidental injury or NAI): hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, suffocation, asphyxiation etc.

2. Emotional abuse: in animals this means persistent threatening behaviour or a failure to provide basic behavioural needs.

3. Sexual abuse

4. Neglect: the persistent failure to provide a person or an animal with the basic necessities of life: food, water and shelter. Failure to protect an animal from physical danger or emotional harm is also abuse, as is a lack of affection/companionship. Failure to provide appropriate medical/veterinary care will be termed neglect i.e. the presence of disease is not a mitigating factor.

If you recognise or suspect neglect or abuse please contact any of the following:

-SSPCA (covering Scotland) www.scottishspca.org Telephone: 03000 999 999

-The Violence Reduction Unit www.actiononviolence.org.uk/about-us

-Crimestoppers www.crimestoppers-uk.org Telephone: 0800 555 111

-ParentLine Scotland www.children1st.org.uk/services/46/parentline-scotland
Telephone: 0800 028 2233

If we help an individual by writing or reading this article, it will have been worth it. Look after each other, be vigilant and ask questions. If you need us, you know where we are.

Marislaidh Smith BVM&S MRCVS and the rest of the team at Riverside Veterinary Clinic.



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What's On for August and September

REGULAR MEETINGS

Mondays:

- Active Life class 9.30am McLaren Leisure
- Climbing Club (children) 4.00pm and 5.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Soccer School (5-7 yrs) 5.00pm, (8-11 yrs) 6 pm McLaren Leisure
- HIT Circuits 7.00-7.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 7.00pm and 8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Guides meet regularly 7.00pm-8.30pm St. Andrews Hall

Tuesdays:

- Callander Cycle Meander meet 10.00am Ancaster Square (contact [01877 339074](tel:01877339074))
- Walk in the Park 10.20am St Kessog's Church
- Chair Yoga 11am-12noon McLaren Leisure
- Yoga & Meditation 12.15pm-1.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Gentle Yoga 2.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Flow Yoga 6.30pm-7.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Mindful Yoga 8.00pm-9.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Badminton Club 7.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Taekwondo 7.00-9.00pm McLaren Leisure

Wednesdays:

- Citizens Advice Bureau 10.00am-12.30pm Callander Library

AUGUST

Friday 6th

- *Ben Ledi View published*

Monday 9th

- Community Council meets on Zoom

Wednesday 11th

- RiverFest with Forth Rivers Trust 10.00am-2.00pm Meadows

Saturday 14th

- Scottish Wildlife Trust fund-raising Plant Sale 10.00am-3.00pm Ancaster Square

Sunday 15th

Neighbourhood Circle Collection drive

Tuesday 17th

- Conservation Volunteer Day 10.00am -3.00pm Lower Woods

Saturday 21st

- Callander Horticultural Society Annual Show 2.00-4.00pm East Torrie Farm (on B8032 -watch for signs and balloons

Sunday 29th

- Callander Target Sports Club Clay Pigeon Shoot 10am Callander Contact Bob Farquhar [07721 744229](tel:07721744229) to book

SEPTEMBER

Friday 10th

- *Ben Ledi View Copy and Advertising deadline*

Monday 13th

- Community Council meets

Thursday 16th

- Thursday Club meet 2.15pm-4.15pm Kirk Hall Library

Friday 17th

- German speaking group meet 7.30pm Ardgour Cottage, 3 Grant Court, Bridgend

Saturday 18th

- Climate Fringe Week launch (until 26th September)

Sunday 26th

- Callander Target Sports Club Clay Pigeon Shoot 10am Callander Contact Bob Farquhar [07721 744229](tel:07721744229) to book

Thursday 30th

- Thursday Club meet 2.15pm-4.15pm Kirk Hall Library

OCTOBER

Saturday 2nd

- Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club Bottle stall 10.00am-12noon Ancaster Square

Friday 8th

- *Ben Ledi View published*

New Current Planning Applications

Erection of rear single storey extension

2 Katrine Crescent Callander FK17 8JS

Ref. No: 2021/0238/HAE | Received: Mon 28 Jun 2021 | Validated: Mon 28 Jun 2021 | Status: Current

Tree works within a conservation area: Fell 11 trees

Callander Meadows Callander

Ref. No: 2021/0232/TRE | Received: Wed 23 Jun 2021 | Validated: Wed 23 Jun 2021 | Status: Current

Change of use from Business (Class 4) to Houses (Class 9);

Demolish existing printing works, erection of 2 no. semi detached dwellinghouses 19 Cross Street Callander Stirling FK17 8EA

Ref. No: 2021/0134/DET | Received: Thu 15 Apr 2021 | Validated: Thu 20 May 2021 | Status: Current

Discovering Our Own Doorstep

Thankfully, the Callander Health Walks have now been going strong through the spring and early summer without further interruptions and good attendance from members new and familiar.

The only spanner in our works, or fly in our ointment, is the fact that due to the restriction on car sharing, we are not able to access and explore walks further afield in the National Park, as we did BC (Before Covid, as one of our Walk Leaders calls it!!)

Favourite walks such as Loch Ruskie, Doune Ponds and Strathyre are off the cards just now. This has meant our walks have been mostly based in and near Callander. We have been a bit more creative and sought out new walks, bearing in mind that we have to keep our walks accessible for all our types of walkers. The foundation of the Health Walks is that they suit all abilities so that no-one feels excluded.

Staying local does also mean though that we have been able to appreciate the green spaces around Callander with a little more detail, noticing things that we may have missed before.

Such as on a recent walk where we were halted in our tracks by the migration of scores of froglets! Every walk we do usually has something that catches our interest and gives a wee bit of wonder....even if it is the lovely gardens and flowers that local folk have.



A new favourite walk has been along the Great Trossachs Path from the refurbished car park at Bochastle. The larger car park and its accessibility to the path has allowed our walkers to enjoy this route and the views to Loch Venachar, with a post walk picnic on the nice new benches. Thank you to Callander Landscape Partnership, FLS and all those involved for this improved and lovely facility.

Having done this walk twice this year, we have noticed how the flora and fauna change between each walk and take time to

appreciate them.

It's not only Olympians who get medals!

As part of our celebration of Walking Month in May and Volunteer Week in the beginning of June, we were delighted to be able to award some of our walkers with their Bronze, Silver and Gold badges. Walk in the Park recognises the achievement of our walkers who complete 50, 100 or 200 walks. We were delighted to be able to award Alison Lambie and Tricia Seabrook with their Silver awards. Gold awards were presented to Jessie Hamilton and Moyra Loots who achieved well over 200 walks each...fantastic!

A special thanks was also sent to our two dedicated Strength and Balance volunteer leaders, Anne Charters and Kath Millar who continue to keep our vital exercise classes going via Zoom, while we find a new venue to get our in-person sessions going again.

We also want to say a big thank you to all our dedicated Walk Leaders without whom our Health Walks would not exist. THANK YOU!!

New Volunteers and Walkers Always Welcome

Are you working or studying from home and want a break from your computer? Do you want to meet different people or make new social connections? Would you like to volunteer to develop new skills for your CV or confidence, but only have an hour or two a week to spare?

This is why Walk in the Park Health Walks are so good. The walks are only about 1 hour long. You get to meet new people from all age groups. You can choose to become a volunteer walk leader once a week, with free training and access to a network of other volunteers and also training in dementia awareness and first aid.



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If you would like to know more about joining our walks in Callander, Aberfoyle or Killin, please contact our coordinator (details below) or just come along on the following days and times:

- Aberfoyle : Mondays – 10.20am – Car Park behind the Scottish Wool Centre
- Callander: Tuesdays – 10.20am – Outside St Kessog's Church, Ancaster Square
- Killin: Wednesdays – 10.20am – McLaren Hall Car Park

Contact Walk in the Park Coordinator, Beverley Clarke about the Health Walks call [07803933046](tel:07803933046) or email beverley.clarke@lochlomond-trossachs.org

For more information about the work of Walk in the Park and the Countryside Trust, please visit our website:

www.trustinthepark.org

Facebook Page: [@trustinthepark](https://www.facebook.com/trustinthepark) - <https://www.facebook.com/trustinthepark>

Aspirin could cut risk of death in cancer patients by 20%, major review of studies suggests

Cardiff University team carried out a review and analysis of research on aspirin and cancer mortality

Patients with a wide range of cancers who take aspirin as part of their treatment could help to reduce their risk of death by 20%, a major review of existing research has suggested.

Academics at Cardiff University carried out a systematic review of 118 published observational studies in patients with 18 different cancers.

They pooled the results and found that in a total of about 250,000 patients with cancer who reported taking aspirin, this was associated with a reduction of about 20% in cancer deaths.

The review said the available body of evidence on its efficacy and safety "justifies its use" as a supplementary treatment in a wide range of cancers – and patients should be informed of this.

Their review is published today in the open access journal *eCancermedicalscience*.

COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

PEACH MELBA EVE'S PUDDING

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

250g fresh peaches, stoned and sliced

150g fresh raspberries

3 level tbsp brown sugar

Zest and juice of 1 unwaxed lemon

3 large eggs

75g plain flour

½ level tsp baking powder

½ level tsp cornflour

Greek yoghurt to serve

METHOD

Preheat oven to 180oC /Fan 160oC/
Gas Mark 4

Scatter the peaches and raspberries over the base of a 1.25 litre baking dish. Sprinkle over 1 level tbsp brown sugar and lemon juice and zest. Bake for 10 mins or until the fruit begins to soften.

Meanwhile, put the remaining sugar, eggs and a pinch of salt into a mixing bowl. Beat for 10mins with an electric whisk until the mixture is thick, has tripled in volume and leaves a trail when the mixer is drawn back over the surface. Sift the flour, baking powder and cornflour over the whisked mixture and gently fold in using a large metal spoon.

Pour mixture over the cooked fruit and bake for 25 mins or until a skewer pushed into the sponge comes out clean. Divide the pudding between 4 bowls and serve with dollops of the yoghurt.



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CALLANDER IN PHOTOS

BIRDS AND SUNSETS - Callander in photos 6th edition! In this edition we are highlighting some of my favourite things to shoot out in Callander. Both the natural wildlife and the stunning mountain sunsets that can be captured in our little town. It is truly amazing what the right timing does for a photo. So to capture some of the best light of the day head out an hour before sunset, and send us what capture to editor@benlediview.org



Firstly thank you for taking part in the Ben Ledi View (BLV) 2021 Readership Survey. The BLV are hoping to get a picture of the communities thoughts, priorities and ideas around the BLV magazine. The BLV encourages open, honest and constructive comments throughout this survey. The survey only takes **5 minutes**.

The Survey is completely anonymous and all questions are optional, however the BLV ask that you be respectful when answering questions, the BLV are a group of community volunteers after all!

The survey can also be taken in three ways;

Online-

At <https://forms.gle/YHKjc1jZbhekCmcx6>, or scanning the QR Code;



Paper- Complete the survey and hand it into the Library or to the McLaren Leisure Centre at The Ben Ledi View Community Newspaper, c/o McLaren Community Leisure Centre, Mollands Road, Callander, Perthshire, FK17 8JP
Please feel free to use extra paper when answering the survey on paper.

Scan- You may complete the survey on paper and scan into your computer and email to the Ben Ledi View at editor@benlediview.org

The deadline for submission of surveys is the **30th September 2021**.



1. What age are you?

2. How would you identify?

Local Resident ☐

Visitor ☐

Other: _____

Ben Ledi View Readership Survey

Agree or Disagree

Please read each question carefully and select how much you agree or disagree. The lower the number you select, the more you say you disagree with the statement. The higher the number you select, the more you say you agree with the statement. Selecting **THREE** means you neither agree nor disagree with a statement.

3. The Ben Ledi View is a part of the community's character.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

4. The Ben Ledi View plays an active role in improving the community.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

5. Investigative reporting on local issues is published in the BLV enough.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

6. The Ben Ledi View sufficiently investigates and reports local issues

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

7. The Ben Ledi View covers a wide range of local news (Examples: Events, local government, schools and clubs.)

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

8. The Ben Ledi View should report on national/global issues from a local view point.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

Please flip over for more questions

>>>>

9. The Ben Ledi View highlights recreation in and around Callander.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

10. The Ben Ledi View does a good job covering issues that are important to me.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

11. The Ben Ledi View remains objective and covers both sides of issues.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

12. The Ben Ledi View has been an important force in solving community problems.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

13. The Ben Ledi View represents the views of the whole community.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

14. The Ben Ledi View is a readable length.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

15. The Ben Ledi View is useful as a local directory.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

16. The Ben Ledi View keeps me informed on local issues.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

17. The Ben Ledi View makes me feel more included in the community.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

18. The Ben Ledi is delivered to my home every issue.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

19. The Ben Ledi View is accessible for all in the community.

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree

20. I enjoy reading the Ben Ledi View

Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 Agree



Yes or No and Comments

21. Have you discovered a new club or activity, which you have/or thought about attending, in the Ben Ledi View?

Yes ☐ **No** ☐ **Maybe** ☐

22. Have you used the Ben Ledi View to find local contractors or businesses?

Yes ☐ **No** ☐ **Maybe** ☐

23. Have you submitted an article to the Ben Ledi View?

Yes ☐ **No** ☐ **Maybe** ☐

24. Do you think there should be a soapbox section in the Ben Ledi View?

Yes ☐ **No** ☐ **Maybe** ☐

25. If the soapbox section remains in the Ben Ledi View, do you think it should be anonymous?

Yes ☐ **No** ☐ **Maybe** ☐

26. Do you have any thoughts on specific areas of the magazine? (Whats one, schools, soapbox etc..)

27. Do you have any comments which could improve the Ben Ledi View?



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

Kenji Wills

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Following recent resignations from Callander Community Council, and the heated discussions on the social media, the BLV sought a statement from, the resignees giving their reasons for resigning. We sought a statement from Callander Community Council on their response to the resignations and the allegations made by the resigning councillors. We sought a statement from Stirling Council on their response to the resignations and the allegations made. The statements are reproduced here.

Reasons Behind Resignations

Five of us recently resigned as community councillors. Here we explain our reasons.

Callander Community Council only has one purpose – to find out what the community thinks and pass that on, unfiltered, to decision-makers. Callander Community Council should be out there, listening to its community. We cannot say this too strongly. The community council isn't to remotely govern as it thinks best; it is to listen and do only what the community asks.

To do this, Callander Community Council needs to be independent of the specific ambitions of other organizations in Callander. We think this has become impossible. Half of the remaining Community Councillors have prior commitments to other organizations/groups with particular goals in the community. Even though these are for the good of Callander, a community councillor with a commitment to any of them isn't going to be neutral. Someone who has already voted in favour of a decision at Callander Community Development Trust can't be a completely open conduit for subsequent community views. It's human nature to stick with a decision you've already made.

We really hope that Callander Community Council will live up to its purpose and engage actively and openly with its community from the start of each initiative, not just as a final step. Callander Community Council is required to have a Community Engagement Strategy agreed with the community and Stirling Council. It does not. We ourselves consulted with the community on St. Kessog's and were criticised by the other members of Callander Community Council for how and when we did that. We began consulting on a new website to improve communication with the community and were required to stop by the other members of Callander Community Council.

At the last election Callander returned a Community Council with a very broad base of background and experience. Good leadership could have made this a strength. It didn't and the remaining Community Council is now too narrow. The Community Council are advertising to co-opt two further people as community councillors. They will choose who, not the community. This would mean that only half of the community councillors for Callander were elected by community, the other half being chosen by the community council. This is not how democracy works.

The inward gaze of the Community Council is frustrating, we had two lengthy discussions about video recordings of meetings and two about the style and production of minutes - were these really what the community cares about? More recently we had prepared a much improved and cheaper website for the Community Council. Instead of going ahead, The Council decided to pause for 3 months to discuss how to administer it. Right now, the town needs a Community Council devoting all its time and energy to listening to the community, not protracted

debates about who holds copyright over website material. These internal issues may matter to some community councillors, but they aren't important for the community.

The Community Council must be 100% transparent. The monthly meetings should be where they discuss community issues – in public. The official Scheme of Establishment does not allow The Community Council to work behind closed doors. We feel strongly that Callander Community Council members and especially the Chair should not belong to organizations that do discuss the future of Callander behind closed doors.

To do its job, Callander Community Council needs to be respectful of everyone in its community. The mere fact that the Chair of the Community Council has spoken out in derogatory terms about us shows a lack of respect for community members. This undermines everything that Callander Community Council should stand for. When a community council becomes publicly hostile to part of the community it serves, then it is surely finished.

Callander now needs to restart its local democracy with new people chosen by the community to bring fresh ideas and free from prior commitments.

*Richard Johnson
Brian Luti
Mike Luti
Roger Watt
Elaine Watterson*

Callander Community Council Response

Looking to the Future Callander- Summer 2021:

What are your concerns? What were they in 2020? 2019? And, importantly, what are they likely to be in summer 2022? We do not know... but you can tell us.

Cross-community engagement

Our task as Callander Community Councillors is to engage, to look forward, and to plan, with Stirling Council and the other organisations, ways of tackling major concerns and to build ahead, reacting to the varied needs of the wider community.

The work being done now to prepare for the Local Place Plan illustrates the importance of cross-community working and consultation. It shows how Callander is changing. The LPP is something the Community Council strongly supports, especially as it will identify the changing needs of our community and present these in a way which ensures the varied voices of the community and its organisations will be heard and acted upon.

Ongoing CCC members

A Community Council is as strong as its members: when the members change, the ability of the Council to deliver what is needed also changes. Different members bring with them different experiences, different skills.

Much has been achieved in the past, but all of us, as residents of Callander, need to look forwards, not backwards. This is what the ongoing community councillors are continuing to do.

Who are we?

Chair Susan Holden
Vice Chair John Watson
Secretary Olga Watkins
Treasurer Marilyn Moore
Planning David Moore
Website and Communication Manager (ongoing) Moe Guertin

Focus areas and action: 2021

We are united in our determination to produce results by working together imaginatively and cohesively. At a recent meeting with Stirling Council, we identified these concerns and priorities:

Moe Guertin: I'm a rugby minis' coach, member of Mountain Rescue, and still help Santa with his sleigh. Having worked with computers all of my days, my aim is to utilise technology to both communicate and to solicit input from the community.

Susan Holden : My hope is to see the different voices, interests and age groups working together openly and creatively – producing practical results.

David Moore: Callander's infrastructure, roads, pavements, drainage, and street lighting, has been deteriorating for many years – now aggravated by the pandemic. The economic re-growth essential for Callander's future can involve new opportunities that require thoughtful consideration and clear local consultation.

Marilyn Moore: My immediate aim is to see the Camp Place Play Park upgrading completed, and the bike track too, with lots of local children enjoying the new facilities. We're getting there with your help!

John Watson : I look forward to working with fellow Community Councillors for the benefit of the Callander community, as we emerge from pandemic restrictions. With a unified team approach and positive support from Stirling Council, much can be achieved for the community going forward.

Olga Watkins: I have an interest in the development of dedicated, safe overnight parking and services for motor-homes in Callander, which will benefit local businesses as well as the community in general.

Looking ahead

Recently, several members of the CC chose to resign, stating their own reasons for doing so. The remaining members recognise their contribution to the community over the years, but regret the way in which their criticisms and personal attacks have interfered with the smooth running of the community council over the past few months.

We welcome debate, discussion and questioning: we hope this will now be done by engaging directly with us through our restored communication channels. We also hope to welcome new members, whether co-opted or as Associate Members, to work together to reach all parts of the community as effectively as possible.

Website (official): https://incallander.co.uk/ccc_home

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ourcallandercommunitycouncil>

email: Callandercc556@gmail.com

Susan Holden, Chair, Callander Community Council. 9 July 2021

Stirling Council Response

A Stirling Council spokesperson said: "The Council has been informed by the Chair of Callander Community Council that five of its members have resigned.

"The Community Council has advised the Council that it will use the co-option route to address the fact it has fallen below the minimum number of members.

"Council Officers will support the Community Council, as an independent voluntary organisation, in this process which is set out in the *Scheme of Establishment."

*Community Councils are independent voluntary organisations set up by a local authority and governed by a Scheme of Establishment, a basic framework for how they can be created and how they operate, which is adopted by each local authority. More information on this and the co-option process is available on the Council website: <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/community-leisure/about-community-councils/community-council-handbook/>

Neighbourhood Circle Food Drive!

Thanks to all who contributed to our first food drives in June. It was lovely to see lots of happy smiley faces! After two successful food drives on the 13th and 20th of June, and an increasing number of delivery requests, nominations and donations, the concept continues to seem greatly beneficial to our community. We would like to say a huge thank you to Fr. Leszek Wiececzek for allowing us to use St. Joseph's Catholic Church car park for our first food drives.



An exciting update in our venture is that we have secured a storage space. A huge thank you goes to Munro Electrical Services for allowing us to use the back rooms of their warehouse. All donations of non-perishable food/drinks and toiletries can now be stored safely in air-tight boxes.

We hope to time the collection food drives to occur on the second Sunday after the Ben Ledi View is issued. We will advertise on Facebook and posters throughout the town. The pick-up food drives will be on the third Sunday. Our next dates shall be Sunday 15th August for a collection drive in the car park of Munro Electrical Services (opposite Tesco's). Please donate whatever non-perishable food and toiletries you can and please remember to check expiry dates. The pick-up drive will be on Sunday the 22nd August. Would you or anyone you know benefit from this? Please come along and grab a bag of items or message Katy McGeachy on 07896326147 or email neighbourhoodcircle21@gmail.com with a nomination or delivery request. Please ensure any nominees are fully aware that they have been nominated.

This is a non-referral hub, and all participants in the exchanges of goods shall have their anonymity respected.

We hope this can continue the amazing support that has already been delivered by many within the community as well as hopefully providing a more permanent support circle.

Your friends, the Neighbourhood Circle Committee

Craigard Club

The Craigard Club would like to thank the volunteers from Callander Support group who delivered a two course meal to their homes every Thursday from January to the end of June this year, as the Club still could not meet for lunch because of Covid restrictions. The meals were prepared by chef Mark Nicols, and were very much appreciated. 'It was something to look forward to... a tasty meal, delivered by friendly local people who took time to chat and make sure we were all right'.

Callander Kirk Thursday Club

With hope of the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions there could be a restart of this Club on 16th September and every fortnight thereafter. The restart will depend on the opening up of the Kirk Hall Library or the Kirk Main Hall and an end to social distancing. To suit the availability of the taxi, the time of the Club will change from previous years and will be from 2.15pm to 4.15pm.

What is the Thursday Club? It is for any Callander Senior Citizen. Its aim is to provide a friendly, interesting and enjoyable afternoon with one part a varied programme of discussion topics, information, reminiscence, entertainment etc. and another part of board games of choice plus a tea/coffee break chat.

There is a £5 membership charge followed by £2 per meeting which we also request from visitors. A warm welcome awaits previous members, visitors and hopefully some new members. For any further information nearer the proposed September date please phone (01877) 330846. *Marion B Doherty, Secretary*

Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club

We still can't hold our usual meetings but we continue to meet on Zoom. At the end of June we even managed to have our handover meeting on Zoom where outgoing president Jen Shearer passed the chain of office over to new president Peter Ireland for his second spell as president. We hope that Peter will soon be able to preside over the club's return to regular meetings and events.



We are planning to return to fund raising events in the autumn with a bottle stall in Ancaster Square on the 2nd of October to coincide with the Jazz Festival.

The club was pleased to receive a note from the McIntyre brothers whom we and Stirling Rotary Club helped to raise funds to purchase their much needed sports wheelchairs. The chairs are now in use and the brothers are enjoying their sport.

Readers may have seen a concrete base appear on the bank of the river at Invertrossachs Road where paths have been cut through the field. By the time you read this we should have fitted a lovely bench in memory of our late, much missed, member Bill Thomson. Our thanks go to Cameron Drummond who helped with the installation. Enjoy it.

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

Derek House

Guides

Callander Guides have enjoyed outdoor meetings over the last few months, including raft building, a low ropes course, orienteering and football. We have worked on lots of challenges and the girls have gained several badges. We will start back again at the beginning of the school term, and would love to welcome more girls age 10-14 to join us. We meet on a Monday evening. For more information please contact Sarah Miller scmiller@doctors.org.uk

HAIR CHAIR

2 Cross Street

Callander

FK17 8EA

01877 339900



We would like to welcome two new salon members, Claire Williams and Heather Gairns to our Callander team. Janet and Mandy have worked in our Callander salon since we opened in 2019, Claire started with us in June this year, and each has over 30 years experience in the industry and all bring a wealth of skills in all aspects of hairdressing and are well known in the area.

Heather is our Graduate Stylist who has been with us since she started her apprenticeship in 2018 where she achieved her level 2 and is now working towards her level 3. She is showing an abundance of creativity and building up a loyal clientele between Callander and our Dunblane salon.

Please show this AD on your first visit and receive 50% off any service by either Claire or Heather.

Please ask in salon about our colour promotion and loyalty scheme.

Openings Hours

Monday – CLOSED

Wednesday 9am – 7:30pm

Friday 9am – 5pm

Tuesday – 9am – 5pm

Thursday 9am – 7:30pm

Saturday 8:30am – 4:30pm



Callander and West Perthshire u3a

We are hoping to return to normal service as soon as possible, in line with Government guidance and u3a national advice of course. The committee has identified more than 20 groups and group leaders for the new u3a year, starting in the autumn. We are reviewing all the venues we use for meetings and considering how we can offer group meetings both in person and on Zoom.

Our AGM will take place by Zoom and email in August, with the Zoom meeting scheduled for 10am on Thursday 19th August.

We also intend to hold safe meetings in villages throughout our area. This will provide an opportunity for new members to find out more about the wide range of groups, educational and social, which will be available. It's all about learning for pleasure and for fun, in line with the u3a motto 'learn, laugh, live'.

Please keep an eye on our website, Callander and West Perthshire u3a, for further information. We always welcome new members.

Greener Callander

By now I hope you will be appreciating the colourful summer flowers around town. This year has been quite challenging and I thought it of interest to share some of the impressive statistics associated with *Greener Callander's* efforts. We have put summer bedding in 43 hanging baskets along Main Street, 8 beds & 2 barrels outside St Kessog's, two 3-tier planters near the War Memorial, 12 baskets on the railings beside the two pedestrian crossings, the bed and train outside the Station Road toilets and 4 of the Council's large wooden planters in the car park. Not to forget the Friendship Community Garden in South Church Street with 4 barrels in addition to its beds of shrubs and perennial flowers. We also maintain the tubs in the Memorial Garden at Esher Crescent. This is managed by about 10 of our regular volunteers but we couldn't have done it all this year without extra help.



At the start of 2021, uncertain of the impact of Covid restrictions on getting summer bedding plants, we decided to grow the majority from plug plants and seeds. A mind-blowing 770 plug plants were ordered including begonia, surfinia, calibrachio, sanivitalia and cineraria, potted on by just 3 socially-distanced folk. In addition, almost 200 plants were grown from seeds, plus ~50 large begonias outside St Kessog's have been kept over at least 6 winters now.



We needed more greenhouse space to bring on plants and want to thank those who responded to a plea in the BLV; Wendy McIntyre looked after lots of cineraria and 8 planted up baskets, Jessica Carmichael offered her greenhouse where George Walker looked after marigolds and nasturtium, Janet Greenwood nurtured several trays of begonias and Dick Reeve looked after ~100 trailing nepeta and lysimachia. That still left hundreds of plants

squatting in Sue's greenhouse. Hilary had looked after the hanging baskets over winter and hosted their planting up by 4 socially distanced people in May. A further 3 weeks of TLC before being put in place in mid-June was achieved by John MacIsaac, yet again nurturing 30 baskets, the rest being split between Wendy, Sally Evans and Sue King. Due to the height of the baskets and the amount of water needed for all of the containers, basket installation and watering has again been sub-contracted to Liam Burnett of Empardio.

We must also give credit to Callander Rotary Club for maintaining the two large rectangular planters by the two Callander entry signs and to Stirling Council for maintaining the planted bed at Tulipan Crescent and sowing wildflower seeds at Lagrannoch.

Of course, summer and winter planting plus ongoing maintenance costs money, £2,500-3,000 per year. Our May 29th plant sale and Bric-a-brac stalls raised just over £1,100: many thanks to all who helped, donated and bought, to Liz Kliskey for the loan of tables and benches and to Julie of Deli Ecosse for her impressive hostas and dahlias which virtually sold out before we officially opened! Thanks also to individuals who have made regular and one-off donations throughout the year and to Callander Community Council for the award of £500 from the Airtricity Fund. Many funding sources will pay for capital equipment but not regular maintenance costs which have also been covered by Callander Community Hydro Fund grants in the past.

We couldn't have done this without the extra help, which has made it a real community effort. We don't know what we'll do next year, but if we ask for help again perhaps even more folk will lend us a shelf in their greenhouse? Or, if you would like to join any of our gardening sessions, please get in touch with Lesley Hawkins mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk or Hilary Gunkel mail@hilarygunkel.co.uk or Sue King susan1554@me.com.

Lesley Hawkins

CALLANDER & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY*****IMPORTANT CHANGES TO ANNUAL SHOW FOR 2021*****

The Callander and District Horticultural Society hopes to hold a physical Annual Show on Saturday 21st August, subject to government guidelines at that time. The Committee considers the safety of all competitors, judges, helpers and visitors of paramount importance and has therefore chosen a more spacious and better ventilated venue for this year's show at East Torrie Farm, Callander, FK17 8JL, on the B8032 - look out for the balloons! We apologise for the extra car journey required and for any inconvenience this may cause but trust you will appreciate our reasoning for the change. Ample parking is available for dropping off/collecting entries and for visiting the show. We ask all entrants and visitors to wear a mask or suitable face covering (unless exempt) and for social distancing to be maintained whilst at the show. Hand sanitiser will be available. The Show will be open to the public from 2pm – 4pm. Admission will be by donation.

Competition Entries

To enter exhibits you must be a member of the Society. Our normal annual membership subscription is £2 per annum which can be paid when you bring along your exhibits. Any 2020 subscriptions will be carried forward to this year. Membership for community organisations and children under 14 years is free. There is no additional charge per exhibit. If you have never entered a horticultural show before, we have a novice section for you to find your feet, but you are welcome to enter any part of the show. Timings for dropping off competition exhibits remain as advertised but entries must be brought to the new venue at East Torrie Farm.

Updated Schedules

An electronic copy of the show schedule can be downloaded from www.cadhs.co.uk/schedule. Printed copies are available at Callander Post Office, Campbell Butchers and Deli Ecosse. If you are already in possession of the schedule showing the Kirk Hall as the venue, the competition classes have not changed but please check other changes to the program via the website, especially regarding the venue and timings on the front cover and page 16. If you had previously collected a paper copy, please collect an updated Front/Back cover showing the revised arrangements.

Prizegiving & Trophies

Unfortunately we will not be able to hold the prize giving in our normal manner this year. Names of prize winners will be displayed in the appropriate sections and cups and prizes can be collected during the show or when convenient. Prizewinning entries will also be displayed on the website. If you still have a trophy from 2019, please hand it to any committee member or email cadhortsoc@gmail.com to arrange collection.

The Callander in Bloom Showcase 2021 is also on our website at <https://www.cadhs.co.uk/gallery-2021/callanderinbloom21>. The Showcase is for people to share photos of their favourite plants or areas of their garden. Entries to our Showcase are open now and will continue until the show. Please upload your photos to the website – the gallery will be updated on a weekly basis. Please limit weekly contributions to three images.

Callander Community Council (CCC) – Garden Competitions

The CCC runs a Best Kept Garden Competition in conjunction with the Society. For the second year in a row CCC has added classes for fun which don't involve entry of the whole garden space. The winners will be displayed at the show on the 21st August and on the website.

Website/Facebook

All up to date details about the show and the schedule can be found at www.cadhs.co.uk. Look out for posters around the town or in this copy of BLV and scan the QR code with your mobile to go straight to the website.

In this ever-changing world, arrangements sometimes need to be modified at fairly short notice so please keep checking our website or Facebook page for the latest updates.

Isla Cruickshank, Club Secretary

GERMAN SPEAKING GROUP IN CALLANDER

Das nächste Treffen der Deutschsprachigen Gruppe in Callander findet, nach der Sommerpause, um 19.30 am Freitag 17. September statt.

Bis jetzt wissen wir nicht, ob es zu diesem Zeitpunkt ganz sicher wäre, in Person noch einmal zusammenzukommen, weil die aktuellen COVID Vorschriften ein Treffen, auch im Freien, immer noch nicht erlauben. Aber hoffentlich werden wir bis September besser wissen, was damals erlaubt wird.

Sobald alles klar ist werden wir im Voraus per E Mail allen Mitgliedern Bescheid sagen können.

Falls Sie bis jetzt an unseren Treffen nicht teilgenommen haben und mitmachen möchten, schicken Sie mir bitte eine E Mail, um die Einladung zum in September stattfindenden Treffen zu erhalten.

Bis dann wünschen wir Ihnen eine entspannende Sommerzeit, mit warmem Sonnenschein, und viel Spaß.

Jen Shearer

Callander & District Horticultural Society

ANNUAL SHOW

Saturday **21st** August 2021
OPEN TO PUBLIC 2-4pm
 at **East Torrie Farm, Callander**
 (FK17 8JL, on B8032 - look out for the balloons)

For further information visit our website
www.cadhs.co.uk
 or Scan the QR Code...

For Paper schedules visit the
 Deli Ecosse, Post Office, Campbell Butchers

THE BOATHOUSE

KITCHEN AND BAR

Try our hearty menu which is inspired by the fantastic range of produce Scotland has to offer or join us in the bar and sample one of our expertly made cocktails, beers, wines, or a dram!

2 course lunch from **£12.95** | Afternoon High Tea **£10.95**
 Balmors menu from **£6.95**

Address: Loch Tay Highland Lodges & Glamping Park, Milton Morenish, Estate, Killin FK21 8TY
 Website: www.lochtay-vacations.co.uk
 To make a reservation call 01567 820 853
 or email: theboathouse@lochtay-vacations.co.uk

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 9 Barnsdale Road
 Stirling FK7 0PS

ThirtyDegreesLaundry.co.uk

Rural Stirling Housing Association

Do you need an affordable home ?

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

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

Aberfoyle	Doune	Kiln	Strathyre
Balfour	Drymen	Kirriochard	Stronachlachar
Buchlyvie	Gargunnock	Kippen	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Locheendhead	
Deanston	Killearn	Strathblane	

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

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

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

Building affordable homes: growing rural communities

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BUILDER

**Painting & Decorating
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Dougie Campbell
 13 Lubnag Drive, Callander

**TEL: 01877 330272
 MOB: 07891265590**

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 Service

Every Sunday 11.15 am (Scottish Government Guidelines apply)

Third Sunday 6.30 pm Communion on-line

We are livestreaming our 11.15 service onto Callander Kirk Facebook page and uploading a video of the service onto our YouTube Channel. If you would prefer the service emailed to you or would like a paper copy contact Jeffery McCormick BD. Details below.

Email : jMcCormick@churchofscotland.org.uk

Phone [01877 330474](tel:01877330474)



St Joseph's

Catholic Church

Glen Artney Road, Callander

Thursday Mass 10.00 am

Saturday Vigil Mass (May - Sept
5.30 pm)

Sunday Holy Mass 11.30 am

Registration is mandatory via
website: www.stfdac.co.uk or call
[01877 330702](tel:01877330702)

Rev Leszek Wiecek S.A.C.

Bin Collections

August

Grey/Blue Bins Sat 7th, 21st
Brown/Blue Box Sat 14th
Brown/Green Bins Sat 28th

September

Grey/Blue bins Sat. 4th, 18th
Brown Bin/Blue Box Sat 11th
Brown/Green bins Sat. 25th

October

Grey/Blue Bins Sat 2nd, 16th, 30th
Brown/Blue Box Sat 9th
Brown/Green Bins Sat 23rd
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-collection of wheelie bins.)

Saint Andrew's

Scottish Episcopal Church

Leny Road, Callander

Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion (please note earlier time). 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 Dr 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 facebook page and our YouTube Channel each Sunday from 6pm. Our Prayer times on Mondays and Thursdays at 8pm are held on Zoom. Contact Us

Lesley-Anne Evans [07936 715983](tel:07936715983) or
lesley-anne@erisort.com
www.callanderbaptistfellowship.org
Facebook: [@callanderbaptistfellowship](https://www.facebook.com/callanderbaptistfellowship)

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

Floodline: [0845 9881188](tel:08459881188) Select option 1 followed by: [06213 121](tel:06213121) (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 8th October 2021.**

Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the **Oct/Nov** issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Wendy Munro at advertising@benlediview.org by **Friday 10th Sept 2021** Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at www.benlediview.co.uk under the Advertise tab. Please call or email for advice if in doubt.

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

Editorial copy

All editorial contributions for the **Oct/Nov** issue should be emailed to editor@benlediview.org or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday 10th Sept 2021.**

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

Mary MacLean

Originally from Bolton, Mary came to live in Callander, where she met and married Ronnie and raised their two children Simon and Alex. Mary loved being out in the fresh air and walking but most importantly loved the people throughout Callander and beyond, that she would meet on these walks and loved nothing more than stopping for a chat. Over the years Mary got to know the majority of the Callander community and when the time came later in life where she may have needed a helping hand or a reassuring hug there was always someone there, so many kind and caring locals.

Ronnie and family would like to



express their sincere thanks to family, friends, neighbours and the Callander community for the love and respect that has always been shown to Mary; all the thoughtful cards and kind words received following the sad loss of Mary continue to show this.

Special thanks to Wallace View Care Home, Dr Mathewson and Dr Gibson at Callander Medical Practice and all the carers from Mears Group.

A great appreciation for Mr Ross Anderson and team for their excellent care and attention taken in arranging Mary's funeral. Also Irene Gardner for her comforting service.

Alexandra MacLean

Janice Shepherd

Janice sadly passed away at her home in Aveland Park Road on Saturday 15th May 2021.

She had achieved so much in her life, including becoming a specialist diabetic nursing sister, climbing every Munro and Corbett in Scotland and even conquering Mont Blanc.

Janice is sorely missed by everyone who knew her but especially her husband Graham, her brother John, sisters Gillian, Sheila, Jean, Aileen and Kathleen, her nieces, nephews and great nephews and also her adorable dog Tougal.

Thank you to all friends, neighbours and colleagues for all the kind messages, cards and flowers and especially the donations to the memorial fund we have set up in Janice's name supporting Pancreatic Cancer UK. Thanks to your generosity, so far we have raised £1060 and we will continue to support this amazing charity. If you wish to donate, Janice's memory page will remain open at: <https://togetherinmemory.pancreaticcancer.org.uk/In-Memory/JaniceShepherd>

Thank you also to the staff at Callander Medical Practice, The Beatson in Glasgow and Kevin and his colleagues at Andrew Anderson & Son for their professionalism and care.

From The Shepherd and Collier families

Michie

Jean and family would like to thank everyone for the many cards and beautiful flowers received on the sad passing of Jimmy.

Special thanks to our local doctors and nurses at Callander Medical Practice, also Rev Jeffery McCormick for his comforting service at Stirling Crematorium. Ross Anderson for his excellent professional help with arrangements. Grateful thanks to the Roman camp Hotel on the afternoon of the funeral, much appreciated is the help from family, friends and neighbours.

In Despair of Motorcyclists

I have been a Callander resident for 25 years and live in a place where I enjoy a wonderful view across the Glen to Ben Ledi and the surrounding hills.

My garden, which backs onto many acres of woodland, is often visited by local wildlife including deer, pine martins, red squirrels, the occasional fox and a myriad of song birds and, during the spring and summer months, I like to sit and relax in my garden where I can listen to the positively delightful bird song and other natural sounds of our beautiful countryside.

Sounds idyllic doesn't it and it is until those natural sounds of the countryside are drowned out by the arrival of a constant stream of weekend motorcyclists riding their often un-necessarily "noisy" machines, as they roar along the A84 through Callander to Kilmahog and beyond.

A comment in the latest edition of the Ben Ledi View, refers to bikers being "decent, friendly, professional people just like the majority of society" and whilst that may be true, it does not alter the fact they bring with them significant noise pollution to the otherwise peace and quiet of the countryside within which the people of Callander reside and holiday visitors come to share and enjoy.

Whilst "Noisy Biking" may be a pleasure for some, it can also mean despair for those of us, non-bikers, who have to endure them. If they stopped to think about that then maybe they would refrain from racing at high speed and ride in a more considerate way.

It is natural for a person to be defensive when something they do is being criticised but to compare the undeniably intrusive noise of motorcycles with that of camper vans, tipper trucks and even HGV's is simply absurd so I think someone else, who is clearly biased, needs to "Get Real!"

A Belated Thank You

The only extreme vehicle engine noise we ever hear from the nearby A84 and A821 comes from motorcycles and that is not personal opinion or bias it is a statement of fact and in addition, Callander is not generally a biker's destination, so very few ever "stop for a wee while and spend a bob or two!"

So, if bikers can't pass through Callander without imposing their dreadful noise on others, then I too would prefer there were fewer of them. Then maybe, we would be able to enjoy listening to the natural sounds of our countryside at weekends too.

I won't be holding my breath

Name and address provided

Luke Smith Visits Gartchonzie

At Easter Gartchonzie we had a surprise visit from a young man called Luke Smith and his father Alec. They were on holiday and wanted to see their old home.

I know many of you will remember Luke or indeed have been involved in the treatment regime that was set up for him in the barn.

Luke is now a lovely, happy 39 year old who lives an independent life with support. He has no speech but could express himself.

He and Alec were pleased to be back even in the rain.

Fiona House.

Thank You

One of our Ben Ledi View deliverers - Linda Sutherland of Ancaster Road - has recently retired after more than 20 years of delivering in all weathers. We would like to thank her very much for her sterling service.

The Ben Ledi View Team

The time has come to thank all those stars who over the years have provided me with articles or helped write, or produce, something interesting.

First I would like to thank the Library: if the librarian does not know she will always find someone to ask and then, with permission share it. Second the Leisure Centre: they know everyone involved in sport in Callander and are so good at encouraging people to contribute, even letting me know when they can be cornered. Finally, the professional Tourist Information Office: I was relief magazine depositor/ money collector for a while. They should not really have held magazines for us, so if there was a stranger behind the desk; it was the equivalent of a 'No Entry' sign and obeyed. It was so sad when the 'Non-Disclosure' edict was put on them and the 'Amusing Events' article we had planned was not possible, redundancy money was at stake.

Some articles and series were the result of 'meeting on a walk.' The lady with the lost dog lead produced a lot of material about Callander Past; an encounter with Porthos, resulted in beautifully written stories about the dog, who obviously had a vocation for 'buddying'. Several of the 'soapboxes' were the result of just saying "Hello". The swimming pool encouraged our 'Main Street Wanderer' to share his memories, and 'Mindfulness' also came from a swimming pool chat. The 'As Told By' stories from those who have a long history in Callander were a privilege to hear over a cuppa.

Sometimes things in the local news prompted an article. A team of National Park Rangers allowed me to go along on a 'Camping Patrol' when the regulations were first brought in. After 'The Fire'; the word on the street was the Fire Brigade did not act for quite some time. A chat and a look at the log put the record straight. Unfortunately, the hoped for series of articles came to an abrupt end when the company putting the magazine together in Edinburgh cut the heads of the team in the photograph and I did not notice. Sorry, a fatal mistake. A walk with The Citizen of the Year in 2019 showed the horror of the dog mess he was cleaning up.

Then there was the world of Social Enterprises. Skidaddle Scotland started this by sharing the horror of 'malware' contributing to the destruction of a business. It had closed by the time of the Social Enterprise Event. Was Callander aware of its Taiwanese visitors? Producing the article on this was a scramble for the editorial team. Those who were reporting the fish and chip presentation ceremony did not deliver; thanks are due to Chris Addison's website for some text and a picture from MacLaren Leisure.

Events prompted interaction with companies. A new bridge across the river, found during a walk, made it possible to learn about the long term plans for the quarry. The sewage saga started with a letter about sewage flowing into property from the road. It became a team approach. After raising several case numbers and no action, Scottish Water were told that 'if there was no contact I would feel free to publish this. Expert locals swung into action and used their influence, the drains were repaired. Children can help! Part of the problem was due to wipes. An employee of Scottish Water gave up his free time to spend a morning in Callander Primary School explaining how drains became blocked. We hoped to follow this up with a leaflet drop done by young people to every home in Callander. The leaflets could not be extracted from Scottish Water until Winter. The Guides did the first area on a freezing December evening. I hope Scottish Water provided the donation to their resources. Winter and COVID prevented us completing the task.

Some of Callander's young people have been so helpful to us. Interesting articles, photographs, sometimes even without nagging, sorry "encouragement".

After the events of Summer of 2020 I stopped soliciting articles from you thoughtful kind people, who I knew, researched all contributions. It had been such fun learning from you. Please do not be offended if I have not mentioned your organisation.

Mary Buckland



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If you are interested in applying, please do not hesitate to submit your CV to mariegreenberry@echouk.net.

Animal Family Update

July is with us in full bloom, promising the bounties that will hopefully follow, provided the weather delivers us the sunshine and warmth we all hope for.

Invertrossachs Road is busy with tourists all trying to grab their share of the countryside and to deposit as much litter as they possibly can. However, for this article we shall ignore the tourists and concentrate of the real stars of the show, the wildlife of Invertrossachs.



Well, what has been happening nature wise since the last edition? Well three young pine martens made their way to our feeding tables one evening last month. It was easy to see it was their first sortie to the table by their comedic actions along the fence and in and around the table. Skilled adult martens navigate the fence with ease but not so young martens, all three of them managed to fall off the fence and drop some two metres plus to the ground. When they were almost at the end of the fence they managed to fall again, this time into the conifer hedge, extricating themselves from this obstacle proved an extremely difficult task for the novice creatures. Success at last, all three made it onto the feeding table. At this juncture I should explain that this table and covered top was designed for birds feeding from it. One pine marten fits reasonably onto the table but three young ones all trying for a mouthful of seed and nuts is a complicated ballet that has to be seen to be appreciated and requires lots of falling off and climbing back up and quite a bit of noise.

The three little soldiers stuck to their task for about fifteen minutes and then departed the scene back along the fence with tentative little steps, all to no avail. They travelled a few feet along it and duly, one after the other fell off into the long grass and were gone for the evening. They still call anytime day and night and have now mastered the skill of running along the top of the fence and climbing up the side of the fence when they approach from the ground. Their manners have not improved much but given time I am sure they will master this too.

If their antics were not enough to keep us entertained, a family of Jays have also started visiting; the young in their juvenile plumage and the adults looking resplendent with their electric blue wing flashes. The adult birds are quite shy around the table, they come in, pick two of three peanuts and are off. The young, not having yet learned the rules of life, tend to fly in and eat as many nuts as their crop can contain in one sitting then head off making as much noise as possible. Hope they do not stay too long, what with the price of peanuts and sunflower hearts rising all the time!

Not to be outdone, the red squirrels and the badgers make up the daily and nightly visits to the tables, with the occasional vixen dropping by to see what the ground around the table has to offer.

We are seriously thinking of selling the TV, as the drama outside our snug window far exceeds what emanates from the haunted fish tank and there are no repeats!

Walter Anderson



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**McLaren
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Covid-19 has changed all of our lives over the last year and it has also meant that you have had limited access to your local sport and leisure facility. While more recently we have been able to open up some facilities and services, we have had the challenge, across all of the protection levels, to still be available for our community as much as possible while balancing safety with community needs. Full closures prompted us to find new ways to support our wider community with their physical and mental health and wellbeing during this time. Including running over 250 zoom fitness classes and delivering fitness equipment to the homes of our patrons.

Over a year later and summer has arrived at McLaren Leisure! We are delighted to be able to run so many activities this year. From swimming to climbing and activities such as our Kids' Camp and Swim Schools, summer '21 has kicked off with days full of fun and games! Our Kids' Camp has been incredibly well received this summer and we are delighted to see so many of the children in our wider community having fun and enjoying playing together at McLaren Leisure. We are so grateful to Stirling Council and the Summer of Fun Fund that has allowed us to offer this service at half price to ensure that all the children in the area have the opportunity to play together and recover from the effects of the last year.

A couple of months back, we shared information on the renovation of our arena space, an area that began its life as an indoor bowling hall some 23 years ago, is now being well used by local groups bringing an array of activities to McLaren Leisure. Yoga, Pilates, Taekwondo, dance and drama are just some of the activities that are available in these new spaces each week. We are hoping to continue enhancing our community spaces through various funding streams so look out for more information on these projects.

Our online booking system has been up and running now for a few months, thanks to funding from the Callander Community Hydro Fund. We hope that you have been able to make use of this service for booking your swimming and fitness suite sessions. As guidance allows we will look to introduce soft play bookings to this service which means you will be able to book your soft play fun at the touch of a button. You can register to book these activities here:

www.mclarenleisurebooking.co.uk

As our children head back to school and our summer activities come to an end we are focused on planning for the new term, welcoming back our swimming lessons and term time activities, carefully increasing numbers along with guidelines and safety measures. Once again we would like to thank you all for your support over the last year. You have helped us to re-open our doors, while keeping our community safe by following the guidance in place. We can't wait to bring you more activities soon.

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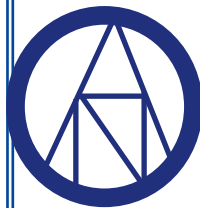
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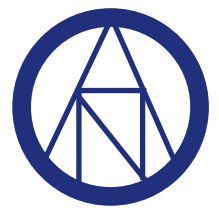
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