

Ben Ledi View

Feb/Mar 2021

Issue 316

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Cover Photo by Ian Brown



Hello Readers
I'm a wee bit excited that the World Climate Change conference is happening in Glasgow in November this year. It should be a great opportunity for Callander to participate, as I've been reliably informed that Glasgow doesn't have the space to accommodate all the prospective visitors and Callander could offer to meet this demand for beds. After the terrible year the town's hoteliers and bed & breakfast owners have had, this would be a welcome bonus. It's also an opportunity for us to consider how we want to play our part in committing to action on reducing climate change. Please send us your ideas of how we could reduce the carbon footprint of our town. One aspect of this that occurs to me is the UK government's commitment to phase out the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2030. Does Callander have enough charging points to meet this change? I've only seen the ones that there are in the Station car park. Also, we have been promised an extension of the S7 cycleway to Doune for some time now. I wish this would be hurried and finished so we would have a cycle path to Dunblane as well as Killin. Visitors to Callander would be able to travel without using their cars, as they would be able to take the train to Dunblane and cycle on to Callander

I'm really pleased that the FETCH

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group from McLaren High School have been awarded Citizen of the Year by the Callander Community Council. Their work over the last year has been magnificent and much needed by many residents of the town. I hope that this award also helps people acknowledge that young people, in my opinion, have been the ones who have lost most during this pandemic. While doing little to spread the virus and putting minimal strain on the NHS, they have had their education and social lives negatively affected in a massive way.

I hope that you are finding the Ben Ledi View both interesting and informative. If so, how would you like to help us with its production? We currently have a vacancy for Secretary. This involves being a member of our management committee with particular duties around organising meetings. If you'd like to know more, please contact me on the email address on page 2 of this edition.

I'd like to sign off by once again thanking all the volunteers that work tremendously hard to ensure this magazine reaches every home in Callander. This time I would like to especially thank our editorial team of John, Mary and Elaine. They have had a difficult time in compiling content for the magazine due, to so many events being closed down due to the pandemic. This has been compounded by personal health issues over the last couple of months. So, a big thank you for delivering another quality edition.

Convenor

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Cameron's Woodland of Contentment – An Update

"We build too many walls and not enough bridges".

Many of you will remember, at this time last year, Callander Kirk's Green Team launched an appeal to enable the planting of trees at the Woodland Trust's Glen Finglas Estate - in memory of Cameron Gibson.

A lot has, of course, happened since then. The original appeal was scheduled to run until Easter 2020 but it was effectively closed on March 23rd, when the first lockdown began. However, we are pleased to report that the wonderful sum of £750.65 was raised before the fund had to be prematurely shut down.

The money raised was banked with and remains in the Callander Kirk account. As you will appreciate, it has been difficult to move things forward over recent months and circumstances have changed, especially with regard to the areas available for woodland dedication at Glen Finglas. The Woodland Trust is entering into a new phase of their management planning and an area suitable for planting will not now become available until 2022.

After discussion with the Gibson family, an alternative use of the funds has been offered for this year. This would take the form of a contribution to the construction of a new timber bridge at Bochastle. There is the possibility of personalising the bridge in memory of Cameron and the Gibson family is liaising with the Woodland Trust on this.

In addition, it is hoped that there will still be the opportunity for family and friends to get involved in some "hands on" tree planting next year, as part of Cameron's legacy.

We hope that the changes in the use of the funds raised are acceptable to all those who contributed. Please get in touch if you have any queries. But rest assured that these changes are fully in accord with the Gibson family's wishes and very much resonate with another of Cameron's favourite quotes: "We build too many walls and not enough bridges".

*Margaret Warnock, Callander Kirk Green Team
01877 330159*

Citizen of the Year and Award for Outstanding Citizenship

The Community Council is delighted to announce two recent awards and invites the town to join us in celebrating this well-deserved and important recognition of members of our community. In addition to the annual Citizen of the Year, CCC determined that it would also recognize individuals who have made long-term contributions to the community with a separate award for Outstanding Citizenship (details of the process are available on the CCC website). The first such award was made at the December meeting of CCC. Formal presentations will be made as soon as the community can meet together.

Outstanding Citizenship: Calum Menzies

Calum Menzies is well-known to most in Callander. He has brought up his family in Callander and both he and his wife work in Callander. Calum has run the Post Office with his father for the past 10 or so years and over that time the Post Office has been a central point for the community. Customers, locals and visitors alike, are always given a cheery welcome and treated with great patience and helpful advice. These are qualities which we need in Callander and which give Callander a good name. Calum is always willing to help anyone in the community, without seeking any credit. He is also a valuable member of the Killin Mountain Rescue Team and is a former Community Councillor.

Citizen of the Year 2021: FETCH: young people from McLaren High School

Last year was an extremely difficult one and Callander has shown that it has a strong community. The award of Citizen of the Year, made during the darkest days of this pandemic, reflects the light and hope brought to all of us by that community spirit. Spoiled for choice, CCC felt that the group of young people who operated FETCH for the more vulnerable members of our community had made a difference that needed to be recognized now. It is with respect to all who have supported the community through this year, that we award Citizen of the Year to these inspirational younger members of our community. In making this award, we wish to show them the appreciation of the whole town, not just those who benefitted by a delivery but all of us whose spirits they uplifted by their acts of kindness.

Roger Watt Callander Community Council

Thank You

Two of our Ben Ledi View deliverers - Alex Graham of Ancaster Road and Lorraine Pritchard of Main Street - have recently retired after several years of helping out. We would like to thank them very much for their sterling service.

All at the BLV

Late News.

A 20mph Speed limit has been approved for Main Street and surrounding roads in Callander. Approval was given by Stirling Council on Thursday 21st January 2021

Coffee, Cake, Chatter



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

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Powers of Attorney

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

Conveyancing

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

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Discussion - STIRLING COUNCIL - CALLANDER MEADOWS FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

We are a group of ten residents, residing in Grant Court, Bridgend and South Church Street. We came together initially as a group due to shared concerns about the flood wall in Meadows Car Park (proposed by Stirling Council under the Callander Meadows Flood Alleviation scheme) and the impact this may have on our individual properties. By way of background, the WSP Flood Risk Update and Option Feasibility Report March 2018, as commissioned by Stirling Council, highlighted 20 properties within Callander at equal risk of flooding in a 1:50 year flood event. Stirling Council are proposing to protect 10 of these properties by a flood wall in the Meadows Car Park at a cost of around £4M. We represent the remaining 10 properties. We have undertaken an extensive amount of investigation into the proposals and the modelling/data behind these proposals. We have also been engaged in ongoing dialogue with Stirling Council since we became aware of this scheme over a year ago. As a result of this dialogue, we have been notified that Stirling Council intend to undertake further public consultations in early 2021 (exact date still to be decided at time of writing). The previous public consultations were not well communicated and we are concerned that there may be limited awareness of this scheme within the community. We felt it was important, therefore, to bring this to the attention of the wider community in advance of the public consultation and to highlight the three main issues we have identified through our investigations:

DOES THE PROPOSED FLOOD WALL PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION?

Through our investigations and ongoing dialogue with Stirling Council, it has become clear that the proposed scheme may not, in fact, provide adequate protection for the 10 properties it is designed to protect. We understand that the proposed wall will be designed to protect against a 1:25 year flood event, with an additional board atop, it will protect against a 1:50 year flood event.

It is important to note that this classification refers to how severe a flood is, not how often it happens. Classification ranges generally from a 1:25 year flood event (less severe flood) up to 1:200 year event (very severe flood). As a practical example, if we look at the three most significant river flood events in Callander's recent history: those of Dec 2006 and Dec 2015, which were classified as a 1:55 year flood event and the flood of February 1990 which was even more severe. Would these floods then not have overtopped the proposed flood wall? With Global warming we are seeing more regular and more impactful flood events that are only likely to be greater than we have experienced in the past. Is it the case, therefore, that the proposed flood wall, at a cost of £4M, would not have provided protection from the 3 most severe floods of recent times and may not protect from any future increase in flood levels?

WHY HAVE STIRLING COUNCIL DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE FLOOD WALL IN ISOLATION?

Flooding issues in Callander are complex and stem from a variety of sources. A report commissioned by Stirling Council in 2013 (The Mouchel Report) made recommendations for flood alleviation schemes, covering the Meadows Car Park, Bridgend and Bridge St to Buchanan Place. Stirling Council have, however, without consultation with the community, decided to disregard all other recommended solutions from the 2013 Mouchel Report. They have advised that these other solutions did not present a robust enough economic argument and that they have decided to proceed with the Meadows Car Park flood wall in isolation. Indeed, they have recently advised that 'No work is currently underway to progress solutions ... which impact 4 other locations affected by 1 in 50 year flooding'

It is important for us to make absolutely clear that we are not opposed to a flood wall in the Meadows Car Park as part of the solution for flooding in Callander. We are keen to see all residents who are at risk of flooding adequately protected and have been lobbying Stirling Council and our elected representatives on this point over the last year. We are opposed, however, to the flood wall being taken forward in isolation and we believe that any flood alleviation scheme for Callander should be a comprehensive and holistic solution, which is designed with the full support and involvement of the community it is meant to protect.

WILL THIS SCHEME, IF TAKEN FORWARD IN ISOLATION, HAVE A DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON OTHER PROPERTIES IN CALLANDER?

There are 2 main concerns here:

1. Would the completion of the proposed scheme, which protects against flooding in the Meadows Car Park to a 1:50 year flood event only, at a cost of £4million, have resulted in the relevant authorities being satisfied that Callander now had adequate flood protection in place? Would this then mean that it would be very unlikely that future funding would be available to progress solutions for the other flood prone areas within Callander?

2. As part of our investigations, we have spent quite a considerable amount of time comparing the extensive local knowledge and anecdotal evidence within the group against the original reports and modelling relied upon by Stirling Council, and have come to the conclusion that some of the modelling and data may, in fact, be flawed. We are concerned, therefore, that Stirling Council's decisions and economic calculations have been based on potentially flawed data and this casts an unacceptable shadow of doubt over their assertions that a proposed flood wall will not push the flood water and thereby increase the flood risk elsewhere - in particular for properties in Teithside and Bridgend and garden areas in South Church Street and Grant Court.....(Continued on the top of the next page)

The information released by Stirling Council has been highly technical and we have been on a very steep learning curve over the last year! We would be happy to share what we have learned with any member of the community who would like more information and answer any questions as best we can. If you require further information or wish to discuss in more detail, please just get in touch with Jennie Brown (jennieamaley@gmail.com) or Ian McCourt (mcian@btinternet.com) and we will help as best we can!

Ian McCourt

Keep Warm This Winter

Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau, Outreach Service

With the cold winter, plus the continued lockdown restrictions, we've been spending much more time indoors, which has meant more energy usage and therefore higher energy bills. This can be a struggle for many and winter 2020/21 is set to be more difficult with the ongoing economic uncertainties caused by COVID-19. The consequences of fuel poverty are misery, discomfort, ill-health and debt.

At Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau, we now have an energy team who can offer advice and assistance to support all Callander residents to keep warm this winter. Support includes:

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

Please contact Maggie Magor, the Callander Outreach Worker, to access this support. Whilst the Outreach Service has yet to resume on Wednesdays at the Library, Maggie Magor continues to provide support, advice and assistance on issues around benefits, employment, housing, debt and more, via phone or email - 07931 334828 or email: Maggie.Magor@stirlingcab.casonline.org.uk. Additionally, you can call the Stirling service on 01786 470239.

Camp Place Play Park - Update

In the last edition of BLV, an article referenced Camp Place Play Park, commenting that there had been a possible loss of funds as a result of Stirling Council no longer installing the new play equipment. That is not correct and needs to be clarified. At no time would Stirling Council have installed the equipment without charging that cost to the play park fund, so no money has been lost nor any opportunity for a contribution from Stirling Council. Progress since 2019 has been rapid and fully engaged with residents and Stirling Council

• Review: audit of existing facilities for suitability, condition and accessibility with remedial action taken by Stirling Council.

• Consultation: users in other areas, community surveys, other groups (football, rugby, Plus Forth

Callander Community Council update as at 12 January 2021: new members

The Treasurer, Brian McKay, resigned from the Community Council just before Christmas. As well as filling this role, he set up and managed our website, and was the official CCC representative to the CCDT Board. I am very grateful to him for his ideas and input.

The Secretary, Alex Mitchell, also resigned and I am very grateful to Alex for his professional input and support. I will miss working with them both.

A new Treasurer, Elaine Watterson, and a new Secretary, Dick Johnson, were voted in and I am looking forward to working with them and the other office bearers, David Shearer (Vice Chair) and David Moore (Planning).

We now have two new co-opted members to fill the earlier gaps left by resignations last year. We are delighted to welcome Moe Guertin and Olga Watkins, voted in respectively at the November and December meetings. They both have a lot to contribute to the Community Council and to the whole community from their personal and professional experiences.

As a result of the latest resignations, we may be announcing vacancies for two new co-opted members. If you are interested in being a member, do get in touch, as vacancies occur from time to time, and we are anxious to extend the membership to reflect and engage with the community as widely as possible. Contact us through Secretary <callanderccc556@gmail.com>

Susan Holden Chair, Callander Community Council

Valley, schools, local parents) all contributing to a short-list of equipment

• Existing funds: Stirling Council have the full planning gain sum of £58,250 (except for the money spent in 2019 on the Junior Gaelic posts) ring fenced for Camp Place Play Park plus an additional £1500 for cleaning and painting equipment

• Extra funding: additionally we have secured a total of up to £18,975 from Hydro fund, CCC Airtricity and Stirling Council / Callander Enterprise to supplement the main grants being sought to the value of £90,000; One grant application was submitted in December and the second one will have been submitted by end January.

Current situation is:

- Equipment: we have an agreed & costed short-list
- Ongoing maintenance: agreed with SC
- Grants: awaiting outcome due March/April 2021

If either or both of the grants are successful, following the Stirling Council procurement exercise to ensure best value for money, a contract will be awarded and the work can be done.

Large strides have been made in taking the project forward and BLV will be kept updated as the plans progress.

Marilyn Moore



BREACH OF CORONAVIRUS REGULATIONS ONLINE REPORTING

Police Scotland have received a large number of calls in the Trossachs and Teith area regarding breaches of the coronavirus regulations. There is now an online reporting form that can be found on the Police Scotland website.

FRAUD / ATTEMPTED FRAUD

There has been an increase again in the number of fraud/attempted fraud incidents being reported to police. Below is some guidance to assist you:-

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment. Stop and think. It could protect you and your money.

Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Police Scotland.

Some criminals are using the pandemic as an opportunity to trick people into parting with their money or information.

In some cases people are urged to "take advantage of the financial downturn", using emails and social media platforms to advertise fake investment opportunities in cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin. Others include criminals offering their assistance with Universal Credit applications, while taking some of the payment as a fee for their "services".

It's important to remember that criminals are experts at impersonation, using official branding and language used by trusted organisations and government departments to convince you their emails are genuine. These may include offering you or your business a government grant or a reduction in your council tax, with links contained leading to fake websites designed to obtain your personal and financial information.

Further information can be found on www.scotland.police.uk

If anyone has any concerns they wish to raise or information regarding criminal activity in the area please contact Trossachs and Teith Community officers PC Deans or PC King at Callander Police Office on [101](tel:101) or TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

St Kessog's Update

Since the last Ben Ledi View issue, the working group has had another meeting where we were introduced to the Architects NORR selected by Stirling Council to oversee the design and redevelopment of St Kessog's. NORR (norr.com) is an international company, which has an office in Glasgow and is experienced in making fantastic new spaces in old/tired buildings including those for community use – we all agreed they seem a very good fit for us. They showed us several of their completed projects and listened to our discussion about the need to make the building really work as a flexible space for as many activities as possible, including of course the library and business hub. They are now working up plans based on these requirements, which includes the list we have collated from all your suggestions sent in via email and phone.

Thank you to those who answered Steve MacDonald's request for another independent community person to join the group. After careful consideration, Wayne Johnson was asked to become a member. He will be warmly welcomed to our next meeting and we are also planning to involve young people from the High School if possible.

If you have any questions or suggestions, then please email StKessogs.survey@gmail.com or leave a voice message or text on [07591312227](tel:07591312227).

Susan King (member of the St Kessog's Working Group)

Invertrossachs' Animal Family

Well, here we are again; Christmas and New Year are a memory, we have all eaten way too much food and hopefully all the birds and other wildlife have had a bit of a bonus with all the Christmas and New Year scraps.

Winter is a difficult time for all of nature. Food is in short supply exactly at a time when small bodies require more and more calories to keep them warm. Since New Year's Eve old Mr Fox has been a regular visitor to our garden, munching up the peanuts left for the badgers, and where possible, stealing the odd fat ball from the bird tables.

The little red squirrels still come each day and still spend most of their time fighting with each other over the available food.

It is very rewarding to take five minutes out of your day to watch these magnificent little creatures' acrobatic skills as they run up and down on the fence and over the roof of the feeders in pursuit of each other. I cannot help thinking if they spent less time fighting and chasing each other and more time eating they would be much better served, but I suppose they are simply following the laws of nature.

The pine martens, now in their full winter coats, visit the feeders at any time of the day or night and appear to be completely oblivious to our presence. The only disturbance to their idyllic lifestyle is the appearance of wee Robbie the Patterdale Terrier. He rushes round the house, jumps up and down at them until they reluctantly vacate the premises. Pine marten chasing complete, he returns to the house and into his bed where he is able to watch all the wildlife at his leisure and in comfort.



About fifteen minutes after the Robbie show, the pine martens return, they have a quick look around to ensure that the mad hound has gone and they are back to their feast. While the male and female still visit from time to time together, they appear to be in the throes of a divorce, as they now tend to visit individually day and night. I always said it wouldn't last!

The badgers, regular as clockwork, turn up each night. The numbers range from one to the whole family of five. The young have grown considerably and are starting to exert their new found authority on their long-suffering parents. They now compete for food with the old boar but

fortunately they normally take a second prize.

All the wildlife, including the birds, appears to be in good health, full of activity and hopefully in a condition that will bring a bumper harvest of new life when the Spring does decide to visit Invertrossachs again.

Walter Anderson

Pond Networks at Callander Meadows

You may have seen some changes afoot in Callander Meadows back at the start of autumn in 2020 as national wildlife charity Froglife began the creation and restoration of freshwater ponds. Froglife's Come Forth for Wildlife project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and a range of co-funders, is a four year project that started in late 2019, running a variety of free activities and events alongside the creation and restoration of habitats for amphibians and reptiles throughout Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire.

Callander Meadows has a fantastic array of habitats including wet grassland, woodland and the nearby River Teith. However, two existing ponds were in need of restoration – with one starting to lose areas of open water and another next to the boardwalk being almost completely overgrown with dominant vegetation. Ponds that hold water in the spring and summer are vital for our native amphibian species – frogs, toads and newts – that need this habitat type to breed in and allow their larvae to develop. However, a range of species benefit from good pond habitats including aquatic invertebrates, dragonflies, damselflies, bats and birds – not to mention all the native species of aquatic and marginal plants that can prosper.

Whilst restoring these ponds would boost biodiversity at Callander Meadows,



plans were also made to create brand new freshwater ponds of different shapes, sizes and depths. A robust network of ponds is ideal for native wildlife – this means that if a pond falls into bad condition then a nearby pond should still be suitable. It's also important to remember that the top 10cm of water depth holds the most biodiversity – making shallow areas of ponds extremely important.



Different plants and animals also favour different sizes of pond, so multiple ponds can attract many more different species than one single large pond. Our native common frog favours shallower waters in which to breed, but ponds with a deeper zone are important for males especially who may use these areas when overwintering in the cold months. Our common toads prefer deeper waters and can prosper in ponds with fish due to a natural toxin they have that makes them distasteful to many predators. Our three species of native newts, the palmate newt, smooth newt and great crested newt, all require ponds with a mixture of open water (for males to display in to females) and areas of native plants in the pond (for females to lay eggs which are secured in the leaves of plants).

In conjunction with Stirling Council, this network of new ponds was decided upon with pond sizes ranging from 4m x 5m to 12m x 15m. It's of the utmost importance that the ponds are of benefit to the local community, visitors and groups who use the area. As such, one of these ponds was a focus for education, being located close to the existing footpath network. This pond included a pond-dipping platform, a small platform at the water's edge that we often install in parks and nature reserves, which allows us the chance to get up close to a freshwater habitat and see what creatures colonise the new habitat as the seasons progress.

This will be a fantastic resource for all – including local groups and families.

This educational pond will also feature a Froglife interpretation board – a colourful display with some ideas of animals that could be found in and around the pond and the efforts that were undertaken to have these new features in place. All ponds are created with gently sloping edges for the safety of people visiting them but also to allow easy access in and out of the ponds for wildlife of all sizes.

If you are visiting Callander Meadows later this year, you can make your sightings of frogs, toads, newts, lizards or snakes count for the work Froglife does! Download our free 'Dragon Finder' App for Android or iPhone devices and easily submit your sightings to help inform Froglife's future work. Knowing where different species are throughout the UK really helps inform our decisions for amphibian and reptile conservation. Perhaps you'd like to create your own pond in your garden or green space? Our new 'Wildlife Pond Visualiser' app is a great starting point for inspirational tips and tricks on creating ponds of any size – free for your Android device! Visit www.froglife.org or search 'Froglife' in your device's store to find these fantastic free features.

Froglife is a UK wildlife charity committed to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles - working with people, enhancing lives together for a healthier planet. The 'Come Forth for Wildlife' project is creating and restoring ponds across Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire but this is just a small part of the project's reach. Our activities engage with local communities across the regions whether it be Wildlife Gardening Workshops teaching wildlife friendly gardening at allotments / community gardens, arts and crafts tapestry sessions (depicting the local heritage of the area on large map tapestry panels), Virtual Reality Exhibitions to raise awareness of the dangers of roads to wildlife or teaching practical conservation skills on sites during our Volunteer Sessions.

You can see more about the Come Forth for Wildlife project at www.froglife.org or email the *Come Forth for Wildlife* Project Manager at james.stead@froglife.org.

If you want to help amphibians and reptiles in your garden, check out Froglife's new Garden Guardian booklet, full of tips, tricks and techniques for wildlife-friendly features. Within the booklet is a series of achievements: complete four of these and you can be a Garden Guardian and receive your free Come Forth for Wildlife plaque to display in your space! Pick up a copy at any of our events or sessions. If you would like to create your own pond, Froglife's 'Wildlife Pond Visualiser' app (free for Android devices) is a great starting point for inspirational tips on creating ponds of any size. Visit www.froglife.org or search 'Froglife' in your device's store to find these fantastic free features.

James Stead, Froglife Come Forth for Wildlife Project Manager

10 Snippets

German Speaking Group in Callander

Since March 2020, the German Speaking Group in Callander has continued to meet monthly, via ZOOM. The next meeting will be held on Friday 12 February at 8pm.

Am 12. Februar werden wir sowohl das folgende Thema diskutieren als auch an unsere gewöhnliche Wortspiele teilnehmen:

Erzähl uns von deinem Sportunterricht in der Schule, und auch von anderen Fächern. Wer waren deine Lieblingslehrer und warum? Wie wurde dann unterrichtet? Glaubst du, dass der Unterricht heutzutage besser oder schlechter ist?

Falls du entweder im Februar oder im März mitmachen möchtest, schick mir bitte im Voraus eine Email, um den dazugehörigen ZOOM Link zu kriegen:

jenshearer@gmail.com.

Wir freuen uns auf noch ein ‚entferntes Wiedersehen‘.

NB Das übernächste Treffen, noch einmal mit ZOOM, findet am 12. März 2021 statt.

Jen Shearer

Callander Medical Centre



Please do not contact the Medical Centre concerning COVID-19 vaccinations. As the magazine was readied for the printers, the practice had not received enough vaccines to cover the 289 over 80s on the practice patients' list. Vaccinating will be well on by the time we are published (as they are expecting further deliveries), but they have no way of saying when anyone will get vaccinated. They will carry out the vaccinations in the priority set out by the Scottish Government and you will be notified by the practice when it is your turn to be vaccinated.

It is important you do not contact the practice about this, as you will be notified when your appointment has been scheduled

Edinburgh Woollen Mills

It seemed like the Edinburgh Woollen Mill Shops in Callander and Kilmahog were doomed to closure. However, there has been a partial buy out of the Edinburgh Woollen Mill brand and the new owners have announced that the shops in Callander and Kilmahog will re-open under the new management.

It is obviously a bit of a guessing game as to when this may happen, as we are in the hands of COVID-19 and the vaccinations. We can only hope it will be sooner rather than later, as this lockdown appears to be more depressing than the last and much more depressing than the first. We have to be positive however and look to a vaccinated future with no fear of Covid-19

COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

CHEESY LEEK FRITTATA

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

2 leeks, cut into 1cm thick slices
Olive oil
150g frozen spinach, defrosted and water squeezed out, in a sieve
8 medium eggs
75g cottage cheese
30g cheddar cheese, grated
2 spring onions, finely sliced
125g frozen peas, defrosted
20g fresh chives, finely chopped
250g asparagus, trimmed and cut into 5cm lengths

METHOD

Preheat oven to 180oC/Fan 160oC/
Gas no 4

Spread the leeks on a 30 x 20cm non-stick roasting tray with a little olive oil. Season and roast for 15 mins until softened, turning half-way. Finely chop the spinach and set aside.

Crack the eggs into a mixing bowl and beat with a fork. Add the cottage cheese, half the cheddar, spring onions, peas, chives and spinach. Mix well and season to taste. Lightly oil the exposed tin and leeks, then add the egg mixture. Top with the asparagus and remaining cheddar.

Bake for 15-20 mins or until the eggs are cooked through. Leave to stand for a couple of minutes, divide into 4 slices and serve.



Callander Shops 50s & 60s



Final Meanderings

Continuing along Main Street, the opposite corner of North Church Street was occupied by the Co-op grocery store. The manager I remember best was Dick Hinchcliffe, a stooped man who always had a cheeky quip, and always had time for everyone. The Co-op was one of five grocery stores at that time and after the closure of D & J McEwans would be the largest. They occupied the site for many years before moving to their present premises.

The adjoining shop was Callander Council offices. They collected rent & rates until relocating to the new Burgh Chambers in South Church Street.

Robert Vanhegan had a small electrical shop midway along the block, now reintegrated into one of the homes. My main memory is that he always had a nativity scene in the window in the lead-up to Christmas, with a loudspeaker in a drain in the road playing carols. It gave this end of the street a special atmosphere, especially in the evening when traffic was sparse.

The Rob Roy Café and the Adie family were on the site of the ill fated Ciro's. It was a sweet shop and café with a juke box, a meeting place with cokes and coffees for the local youth.

Directly opposite was an old fashioned grocers, 'H. Hill' was the name over the door, but it might have been run by Mr Cairns. A dark cavern of a shop which I do not remember ever entering. A source of amusement was an old window blind advertising Whisky 10 shillings a gallon. Pity help any stranger who tried to cash in: he would be sent away with a flea in his ear.

There was a little tuck shop opposite School Lane, run by the Misses Collier in their spare room, and only open to serve primary school children in their breaks.

At the top of the Street was Johnny Spaldings, a grocery store that stocked other essentials, run by Johnny and his wife Neeta assisted by Mrs Bain. It was an original convenience store for residents who had forgotten something.

East End Post Office was a little community hub. Willie and Maggie Macdonald always had a smile and a story for regulars, so much so that sometimes people would forget what they came in for. Maggie continued to run the business after Willie's premature death, before eventually handing over to Georgie and Tom Rhymer. They remained firm friends after Maggie's retirement.

Of 'Burts' there is very little I can tell you, beyond the fact that this small shop was a spare room in Mrs Burts' home, it must have been a lifesaver for some as it was open after all other shops had closed.



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District Nurses

Just 1 year after the first pre-op (with 3 months of asking nicely) my operation happened. You don't hang around in hospital wards these days; it is like a production line, out you go when you can get upstairs with a packet of Paracetamol, several packets of Asprin and a minimal discharge note to your doctor. Verbal instructions were that if the dressing I could not see got damp I was to put another on top.

Within a week things were getting smelly. Two days later, the wound was 'volcanic'. Panic, call for help! District nurses are generally told something about patients leaving hospital; not in this case. The glimpse at the hospital note really said nothing.



The nurse who came out was travelling blind, but she put on her pinny and gloves and got stuck in.

Experienced Community Nurses are wonderful. They are experts in wounds; nothing fazes them. They have a hotline to the local doctors and chemists, for emergency prescriptions. They have a magic cupboard they can raid for improvised situations, and local providers will move heaven and earth to provide additional items to help. When necessary someone will be out every day to help you. One star, when thanked for her care, tolerance and humour, replied, "It is just my job".

Any student nurse who really wants to learn from them is in a wonderful situation. They are shown a task several times with explanations to provide essential knowledge. When they feel confident enough to want to attempt the job; with the patient's permission, the district nurse is there to ensure all goes well. They are encouraged to suggest and remember items that will help in a particular situation so it can be ordered and they can deliver it. Perfect training for what is a competence based profession.

Community nurses are actually allowed to go home to sleep and sometimes get time off at the weekend! Then support is provided by NHS111. NHS111 is a bit unnerving the first time you call. Many will hang up feeling a fraud in the middle of the night and improvise with kitchen roll. When improvisation fails, courage is needed. But a local nurse is on duty even on a Sunday to sort problems out. When one lurches from crisis to crisis, 111 becomes a breeze. The script for the operators is good but sometimes they do not realise the difference between Glasgow and Callander on a Sunday evening. The duty doctor can decide to have sharp words with a department in a hospital, when needed. Hospitals do seem to have a communication problem and even that does not always work.



Many things are sorted by the nurses in a reasonable period of time, others go on for months. Thank God for face masks, that does at least minimise the long term nasal assault from the wound.

Why should their nursing skills be praised so highly? Perhaps because they deserve it.

A Grateful Callander Citizen

Callander and West Perthshire u3a

It's a new year and we continue to do the best we can to keep members in touch while restrictions are still in place. We now have about 10 interest groups meeting regularly and very successfully via Zoom, as well as email or telephone communication for other groups. Monthly speaker events provide an insight into different topics and areas of expertise. Our online fanzine 'Chatterbox', which informs and entertains us, has delivered more than seventy issues and is going strong. If you're no longer in full-time work and want to make the most of life by exploring new ideas, skills and interests while having fun, please have a look at the Callander and West Perthshire u3a website for further information and contact details.

New members are always very welcome.



W Henderson

Call Anthony on 07377 184739



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Callander Seniors Christmas Party

Due to Covid restrictions the 2020 Christmas party could not take place but we combined resources to organise a Christmas meal with presents and home delivery.

Thanks to all who made this possible including:

- Anne Docherty and friends for collating names and addresses
- Mark Nicols for cooking and packing the meals
- Muriel King and the Stirling family for their donation – a tradition started by Jonny and Martha Stirling and pledged to continue in the future
- Jimmy Campbell for 200 boxes of shortbread
- Campbells Butchers for the turkey
- Scottish Book Trust for donation of books
- MNV Consulting
- Volunteers from the community and Trossachs Search and Rescue who delivered to houses.

The whole event was a huge success and was only possible with the volunteers, many of whom have been working for the whole of 2020 to support the vulnerable in Callander. We look forward to a better 2021 including the Christmas party which is already being organised.

Mary and Richard Johnson



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

Covidiot

Not a nice term, but after Christmas we went into tier 4, and there were doubts about whether schools should re-open putting the children's health and education at risk. Covidiot. We have only ourselves to blame. The Government said, again and again. Wash hands, wear masks and keep your distance. Did we do that? Apparently not every one did. Otherwise we would not be in this mess AGAIN. Is it selfishness? Reading tripe written by other selfish people? Selecting science writing by pseudo-scientists that suit our own temperament and our own selfish needs? I've noticed people believe whatever suits them best. Did people research properly? Did they think it more macho not to wear a mask? So many idiotic things make people non-compliant. And I am truly sick of them.

Disgruntled, Callander.



CCDT Callander Comm



What does CCDT do for Callander? Check your knowledge!

CCDT plans and delivers projects that make life better for Callander residents and businesses, based on the Community Action Plan.

Our Projects and Activities include:

- Setting up and managing the Callander Community Support Group
- Providing around 2000 nutritious cooked meals for our most vulnerable residents during the first lockdown
- Coordinating and promoting annual community events **Summerfest** and **Winterfest** (on hold due to Covid)
- Supporting **Greener Callander** to maintain and extend floral displays throughout Callander
- Employing, since 2013, the **Town Coordinator**, a part-time post to support local projects and secure additional funding
- Establishing and managing our community-run **Visitor Information Centre** and providing its new home at 55 Main Street
- Building our iconic **Bracklinn Bridge** with LLTNP
- Working with agency partners to secure funds for the **Landscape Partnership**
- Developing the next **community plan** to reflect community views and wishes
- Providing contributory funding for the refurbishment of the **Camp Place Play Park**

...and much more!

Find out more at www.callandercdt.org.uk

CCDT has obtained funding for these projects from outside sources, and also from the Hydro Awards fund. All the projects are managed by volunteers. For example, 65 volunteers are needed for the 2 weeks of Summerfest.

The **Visitor Information Centre** had 14 volunteers working **4-hour shifts** to deal with over **20,000** visitors in 2019.



Community Development Trust



CCDT: investing in the future

Community Hydro Fund - CCDT owns the Stank Glen Hydro Scheme, built and managed by our Community Hydro Ltd subsidiary.

Since 2016, the fund has donated over £350,000 to local projects, including:

- **£44k** to Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau for a local support worker.
- More than **£42k** for young people through Callander Youth Project, McLaren High School, Primary School Parent Council, Plus Forth Valley, McLaren Pipe Band and McLaren Leisure.
- More than **£40k** for events: Summerfest, Highland Games, CAOS, Jazz & Blues Festival and Winterfest.
- More than **£18k** for older and disabled people through Town Break (Dementia), Craigard Club, Trust Housing, Trossachs Mobility and Arthritis Club.
- **£50k** commitment to Callander Landscape Partnership that helped to secure **£1.43million** from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

There are many more! Check them out. Are you in any group that has benefitted?

CCDT and you

CCDT is a volunteer membership organisation, with board members from other organisations such as Callander Enterprise, Callander Primary School Parent Council, McLaren Leisure Centre, Callander Community Council, Callander Heritage Society, Callander Landscape Partnership, and Callander Youth Project. Other board members serve as individual volunteers drawn from the membership.

Both Summerfest and Winterfest involve local businesses, individuals and groups – all volunteers.

The VIC was run by volunteers in its first year. It will need even more volunteers this year.

How to get involved? Visit the website: www.callandercdt.org.uk



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

While bringing in this New Year was different for all of us, I am sure we are all looking hopefully to 2021 to bring health and happiness to those around us.



Over the past year, although we haven't been able to open our doors to the public very often, we have still been busy finding new ways to engage with you and support your health and fitness at home. During lockdown #1 we ran 206 at home



online fitness classes, offered 40+ Fitness fun activities for families and over 60 at home fitness packages were purchased to aid our senior community. As our local schools and nursery returned we are pleased that we have been available to support their physical education provision, and more recently been able to welcome local clubs, such as Trossachs Tigers, Central Athletics and Callander Thistle, who have all been working hard to ensure safe training and exercise is available for the youth of our community. When we were able to welcome you back, we were excited to be able to offer swimming, fitness suite and swimming lessons to our rural community. Reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic took many changes and lots of hard work from our dedicated team to ensure our facility was as safe as possible for reopening.

Moving in to the New Year we were met with a new lockdown, meaning our doors stayed closed to the public as we continued to help keep our community safe. As we looked to the future, we asked our wider community to give us their thoughts and feedback to help us improve your McLaren Leisure experience for

a happier and healthier 2021. We look forward to analysing your feedback and updating you shortly on the outcomes and the changes we will be implementing.

We are hopeful that we will soon be able to begin looking into some of our more aspirational projects such as the development of our arena space to allow for a more diverse array of needs, the refurbishment of the fitness suites to address accessibility and ensure inclusivity and the upgrade to the sensory area within our soft play, thanks to funding from the CO-OP Local Communities Fund. As we move through the year we hope to continue to support your return to fitness, deliver on your needs and requests and welcome you back to your physical hub soon.

Many of you will be pleased to hear that we have been working hard over the last few months with local designers, Interesting Digital, to design and implement an online booking system! We cannot wait for this system to go live and look forward to bringing you a streamlined way to book your sport and leisure activities. A huge thank you to the Hydro Fund who have supported the start-up of this system.

Look out for more ways we plan to support your health and wellbeing this year.

Stay safe and we hope to see you soon.

Rachel McLean



Callander Thistle Football Club

Youth Section update:

We hope everyone has had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. Despite the current pandemic we are delighted that we were able to return to training with our youth section in the later part of 2020. We finished the year with our Christmas fun session enjoyed by all of our coaches and players. We even had a visit from Santa himself who gave all 70 children a Christmas present, their very own personalised Callander Thistle kit bag and selection box.



In December we were excited to announce the expansion of our youth section to include children aged preschool and primary one. This year, as these age groups become established, we can now provide a football pathway for all children from preschool through to primary 7. We look forward to seeing what this year will bring for our youth teams!

We would like to say a huge thankyou and welcome to our youth club sponsors who have joined us for the upcoming season: Andrew Anderson & sons Funeral Directors, UNIFY Callander, Blair Craig Plumbing & Aberfoyle Satellite Company. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you all this year.

We would also like to thank Poppies Hotel & the CO-OP Callander for their very generous donations to the youth club. Donations such as these allow us to purchase essential equipment that has allowed us to expand our youth pathway as quickly as we have.

As the club continues to grow the need for volunteers only increases. The club is looking for support in Coaching, First Aid and Admin. We are also looking for an experienced volunteer club accountant. If you are interested in any of these roles, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on the email address below.



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Callander Library

At the time of writing, Callander Library is closed. Unfortunately public libraries are unable to operate under the tightened restrictions introduced on 5th January. During this period staff must work from home so there will be no one answering the phone or checking answer machine messages. If you wish to contact the Library, please email callanderlibrary@stirling.gov.uk

As soon as the restrictions ease, we will return to providing a Select + Collect service, where you can telephone the library with requests for books, hearing aid batteries etc and arrange a time to collect orders/return items at the door. In the interim:

Please keep hold of any items currently on loan. All loan periods will be automatically extended and no overdue charges will be issued.

If you require hearing aid batteries, then you can either fill in the online order form to be found here: <https://nhsforthvalley.com/health-services/az-of-services/audiology-services/online-battery-ordering-service/> or post your yellow book to:

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Area 3 Outpatients
Stirling Health & Care Village
Livlands, Stirling, FK8 2AU

Should you run out of biodegradable food waste bags; food waste can be put directly into your bin, wrapped in newspaper or bags can be purchased from retailers.

Stirling Libraries has an extensive E-offer with E-books, downloadable audiobooks, E-magazines and online newspapers all available for free to library members. Details on these and other library information including opening hours and how to join is available at stirling.gov.uk/libraries-archives/

Hope you all keep safe and I look forward to seeing you in the (hopefully) not too distant future.

Fiona Frize
Community Library Officer

BLV Book Club Review,

This issue's book review title is *The Last Adventure of Napoleon Sunshine* by Pascal Ruter and translated by Simon Pare (Abacus, 2020).



The story centres on the life of 85-year-old, Napoleon Sunshine. Napoleon is a force of nature: a rebel and previously a boxer, he has always had a keen fighting spirit and an adamant refusal to compromise. This spirit and stubbornness are not dwindling with age. At 85 years old, Napoleon decides to divorce his wife, Josephine, telling the judge in the court that he wants to start a new life. Stunned and heartbroken, Josephine leaves Paris and the man she has spent her whole life with to return to her birthplace.

Meanwhile, the family are aghast at Napoleon's behaviour and the treatment of his now ex-wife. Their son is torn between the fact his father is an adult, so can surely make his own choices. However, as Napoleon's actions become increasingly erratic, the son feels inclined to control and protect him. Meanwhile, Napoleon thinks his son is trying to get him into a retirement home, which he sees as one step away from his demise - a step he must evade at all costs.

The Last Adventure of Napoleon Sunshine is about a man's last-ditch attempt to have some control over his life, as he can sense his mind failing him and his independence moving away.

The book is told from the perspective of his 10-year-old grandson, Leonard, and the relationship between Napoleon and Leonard is key. As his grandfather's behaviour becomes increasingly irrational, and in some ways very childlike, Leonard becomes his conduit to the world, as well as his partner-in-crime.

Fans of the hugely popular Jonas Jonasson books (*The Hundred-Year-Old Man*) may enjoy this book, as there are many similarities, including that they've both been translated into English from their European language of origin (Swedish and French respectively). In this sense, it can become tricky to establish the fine lines between comedy, irony and poignancy, as all these aspects are apparent, but where they start and end can get lost in translation. The personal experience of the reader might be more of a factor here, as inter-generational relations are central to the book, something we can all relate to.

In short, an enjoyable, albeit sometimes far-fetched, tale of a man who refuses to give up the fight.

The next BLV book club review will be *The Binding* by Bridget Collins (Harper Collins, 2019).

Maggie Magor

Conversations in a Christmas box

The cast: Several gin baubles (empty), Fluffy Fairy/Angel, Smurf, a pair of Snowmen earrings, a Cracker, a fir cone nest box with little bird, a very small Christmas pudding bauble, tiny wooden tree holding a Manger Scene, a red bauble inscribed 'Always in our Thoughts', Santa by the Fireside Card, an embroidered spade, a tiny teapot and china cup.

Fluffy Fairy (FF): Phew! Am I glad to be back in here!

Smurf(S): Me too! I didn't think She was going to bother putting up the Tree this year.

FF: Then what does She do? Buys an artificial one and puts us all up on it - in November!

FF: She needed the brightness. I heard her telling Him. Anyway, I'm glad it wasn't a real tree this year; I'm getting too old for needles in my knickers.

Smurf: Ooh! You're making me blush

blue, you rascal!

Snowman Earing 1 (SE1): Well, I've had the best Christmas yet!

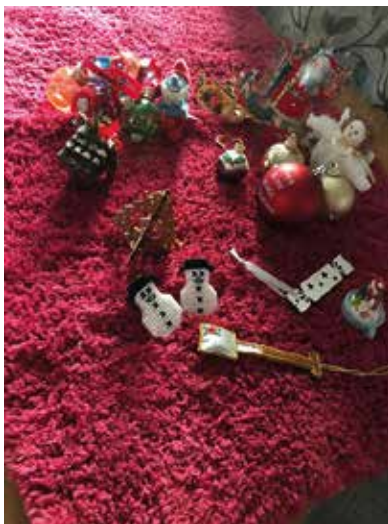
Snowman Earing 2 (SE2): Me too!

SE1: She usually wears us to the parties but of course there were none this year. We thought we would be left in the box and miss Christmas.

SE2: Then She hung us up beside you, Smurf! We saw all the Christmas shows, loved Strictly!

SE1: Me too!

Pink Gin Bauble: I think we helped



her to have a good time too. I was her favourite.

Green Gin Bauble: She shared me with Him.

Orange Gin Bauble: They were smooching after they tasted me!

Little bird in fir cone nest: She was sad for a while looking at you, red bauble.

Red bauble – 'Always in our Thoughts': Yes, so many of their families were not allowed to be with them this year.

Cracker: I made her laugh. Do you want to hear my joke?

Little groans all around.

Smurf says: Go on then.

(Smurf was found in the gutter outside several years ago. She took him inside, washed him and added him to the Christmas decorations box where Cracker told them all jokes when he saw any of them sad. Smurf had a soft spot for Cracker after that.)

Cracker: What did the hedgehog have for Christmas dinner?....Prickled onions!

Loud groans all around!

Fir Tree whispers: He was sad too this year. He lost his mum. She gave me to him as a present when he was a little boy.

Spade: It won't be long before they are both busy in the garden. I saw loads of bulbs starting to grow. She planted them last year. It was good having the Tree looking out to the garden this year.

Teapot and teacup in unison:
Anyone want a cuppa?

Little Christmas Pudding Bauble: I think I have just enough crumbs left to share.

Santa: After the year this has been, a cup of tea and some Christmas pudding is just what we all need. After that we must all have a good rest, to be ready for 2021.

Lucy Fraser Gunn

Some Local Jollity

A Callander girl called Bette

Procured legal highs on the net

They cost her a tenner

But the pills they were Senna

And moved her with the speed of a jet
Fiona Martin

Girls, When It's All Over

Girls, when it's all over how shall we be

With very long hair down to the knee?

Once we get out we shall feel quite game

But without a chiropodist we may be lame.

Poor neglected teeth might need attention

And TV eyes may require intervention.

Maybe we're just lazy without going out

So some of us might feel a little bit stout.

Which poses the question – what shall we wear?

Long hippy dresses to match the hair?

Perhaps just sacking to conceal those rolls

Or maybe a bell tent without its poles?

As for the pallor of our long hidden skin

The result of the telly and too much gin,

We could cover it up with a hint of a tint

But sadly for us we're far too skint.

As for our voices which haven't been used

All the vocal chords seem to have fused

So we'll croak and grunt and peer through our hair

And we'll stumble down the street without a care.

So long isolated we won't give a damn

If we're like mutton dressed up as lamb.

They all may laugh at our silly shuffling gait

But we'll feel like kids on a very first date.

We'll shout with joy as we head into town

Even in slippers and an oversized gown.

Fiona Martin



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	Killin	Strathyre
Balfron	Drymen	Kinlochard	Stronachlachar
Buchlyvie	Gargunnock	Kippen	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Locheenshead	
Dearston	Killearn	Strathblane	

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

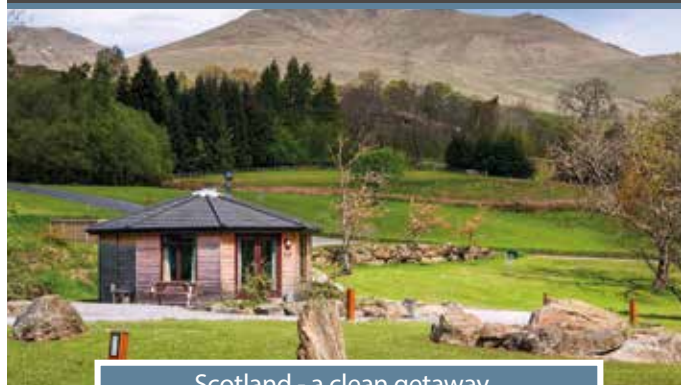
If you are interested in renting one of our properties when they become available please contact us:

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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Planning Applications submitted to the National Park since the last issue

**DO YOU HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM?
DO YOU WANT HELP?
RING ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk



**National Helpline Number:
0800 917 7650**

Proposed Single Storey Extension to Rear of Semi-Detached Dwelling House

50 Stirling Road Callander FK17 8DD

Ref. No: 2020/0292/HAE | Received: Tue 17 Nov 2020 | Validated: Tue 17 Nov 2020 | Status: Current

Removal of suspended ceiling, removal of window to rear extension and addition of door and other internal alterations

Trossachs Primary School Glenfinglas Road Brig O Turk Callander FK17 8HT

Ref. No: 2020/0307/LBC | Received: Tue 01 Dec 2020 | Validated: Tue 01 Dec 2020 | Status: Current

Change of use of school to mixed use community enterprise including cafe; addition of 4no. parking spaces and alterations to access

Trossachs Primary School Glenfinglas Road Brig O Turk Callander FK17 8HT

Ref. No: 2020/0306/DET | Received: Tue 01 Dec 2020 | Validated: Tue 01 Dec 2020 | Status: Current

Erection of single storey extension, replacement garage, installation of flue, retaining wall and steps

Trean Cottage Leny Feus Callander FK17 8AS

Ref. No: 2020/0316/HAE | Received: Tue 08 Dec 2020 | Validated: Tue 08 Dec 2020 | Status: Current

Installation of water bottle refill station

Ancaster Square Main Street Callander Stirling

Ref. No: 2020/0327/DET | Received: Fri 18 Dec 2020 | Validated: Fri 18 Dec 2020 | Status: Current

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

Local Information

Emergency Services: 999

Callander Police: 101

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

Social Work: [01877 471177](tel:01877471177)

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

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

National Health

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

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

District Nurse [01877 330150](tel:01877330150)

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

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

Chemists

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

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

Vets

Callander: [01877 381213](tel:01877381213)

Schools

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

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



Callander Kirk

The Church of Scotland,

South Church Street, Callander

Sunday services

Every Sunday 11.15

Scottish Government Guidelines

50 maximum

Masks must be worn

No singing allowed

Details at www.callanderkirk.org.uk

Rev Jeffery McCormick BD

[01877 330474](tel:01877330474)



St Joseph's

Catholic Church

Glen Artney Road, Callander

Weekly Masses

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

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

Rev Leszek Wiececzek, S.A.C

[01877 330702](tel:01877330702)

Bin Collections

February

Grey/Blue bins Sat. 6th 20th

Brown bin/Blue box Sat. 27th

Brown/ Green bins Sat. 13th

March

Grey/Blue bins Sat.6th, 20th

Brown bin/Blue box Sat. 27th

Brown/Green bins Sat. 13th

April

Grey/Blue bins Sat 3rd

www.stirling.gov.uk/waste

Lagrannoch WRC Opening times

- Monday - Friday 5.00pm to 7.30pm
- Saturday 10.00am-1.30pm
- Sunday closed
- Lagrannoch depot 01877 330492
Also for sandbags and grit
- Stirling Council Main number 08452
777000 (Functions as emergency
number from 5.00pm to 9.00am and
over weekends. Also use for non-col-
lection of wheelie bins.)

Saint Andrew's

Scottish Episcopal Church

Leny Road, Callander

Sunday 9.30am Holy Com-
munion (please note earlier time).
Services will remain provisional
while Covid-19 restrictions apply.
For information please contact:
Liz Balding tel: 07825 635428

www.standrewschurchcallander.org.uk

Interim pastor Rev Alison Peden

alisonpeden1@gmail.com



Callander Baptist Fellowship

Weekly Services:

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have gone online for our services
and we would love you to join us.
Sundays@Six Online is on our face-
book page and our YouTube Channel
each Sunday from 6pm.

Our Prayer times on Mondays and
Thursdays at 8pm are held on Zoom.
To contact us:

Pastor Brian Gooding tel [07885 465399](tel:07885465399)

brian.gooding@stirlingbaptist.co.uk

www.callanderbaptistfellowship.org

Facebook: [@callanderbaptistfellow-
ship](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](http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/index.htm)

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

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

Location of defibrillators

Dreadnought Garage

Callander Golf Club

McLaren Leisure Centre

The Post Office

Ancaster Square

West Dullater House and Grace's

Cottage Invertrossachs

Mobile unit based in Callander with
Scottish Ambulance Service

BLV DEADLINES

The next issue of the Ben Ledi View
will be published on **Friday 4th
April 2021.**

Advertisements copy & artwork
Please send all advertisement copy
for the **Apr/May** issue to our
Advertising Co-ordinator Wendy
Munro at [advertising@benledi-
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can accept advertising material for
publication.

Editorial copy

All editorial contributions for the
Apr/May issue should be emailed to
editor@benlediview.org or handed
in to the Callander Library (if open
by then) by **Friday 5th March 2021**
Items received after the deadline
may be held over to next issue.

Thank You to Lucia Luti (See last Issue)

I feel we, the people of Callander, must thank Lucia Luti and admire her courage for going public in the B.L.V. with her resignation letter and the concerns regarding conflicts of interest and other issues concerning our Callander Community Council. (CCC)

After reading her letter and the accompanying article, I decided to log in to the CCC meeting on 14th December. All was going quite smoothly, albeit a bit slow and long-winded, until a motion was proposed by Mr Richard Johnson who, as we all know, has given and continues to give much of his time and experience to Callander.

This motion read :-

That the CCC should write to the Callander Community Development Trust (CCDT) and request that they should put their proposed purchase of the RBS building on hold until full consultation with the people of Callander has been held.

This appeared to be a perfectly reasonable request, designed to give the Community as a whole a say on a decision to spend the thick end of a quarter of a million pounds on a building which many in the Community feel we neither need nor want.

Mr Johnson pointed out to the chair the neither discussion nor voting could take place as there were persons in the room with an interest in the matter and they had neither declared their interest nor left the meeting and we should not proceed till this omission was rectified. (The Standing Orders pertaining to Interest are explained later).

The Chair seemed not to recognise Mr Johnson's statement requiring those with an interest to declare it and leave the meeting while the motion was under discussion and voting,

What followed gives credence to Lucia's "evidence".

A free for all debate developed

during which all sorts of opinion of what constituted Conflict of Interest including contradictory statement such as "I am a board member of CCDT but I don't have an interest in this matter" were aired. There were blatant examples of contempt, rudeness and people being cut off by the meeting host. Mr Johnson suffered appalling rudeness. It was even moved by one member, also a member of CCDT, that they should move to a vote when it was plainly obvious that the meeting was out of order.

At this point I caught the attention of the host and reminded them that Standing Orders are neither for debate nor opinion. They are very clearly set out in the Community Council Handbook. Having an interest is defined (among other definitions) as being a member of any other organisation which is being discussed in the meeting. This interest must be declared and the members having this interest must declare it and leave the meeting and not take part in any discussion or vote.

The meeting then went to a vote and the motion was passed.

I am deeply concerned that our CCC Chair and Office Bearers either do not know their Standing Orders or choose not to apply them.

Refer to Stirling Council/Community & Leisure/About Community Councils/ Handbook/Governance

John Kennedy

Thank You to the BLV

Thank you, John, for your article in the last BLV issue, *Callander Community Council & Callander Community Development Trust. Where did they come from?*

This was informative, thought-provoking but mostly sad that it had to be written at all. We are a small community, but we have people interested in volunteering and we have

a Hydro Fund to help fund projects. So why does it seem there is conflict at every turn? Is it that certain people have their own ideas of what they think Callander needs and true consultation has gone out the window? Listening is all well and good, but being willing to act on what you hear and change course because of it, seems harder.

But it works both ways, and we, the ones who aren't on the boards of these committees, have a responsibility too - if we want to see things improve, then we need to participate.

Note to self: attend CCC meetings and apply for membership of the CCDT, to be added to the list of eating less and exercising more!

Happy New Year everyone!

Sue King

Conflict of Interest: Response to the Chair of the Callander Community Council

It was with great interest that I read the reply and the looking ahead document of the new Callander Community Council Chair published within the Dec 2020/Jan 2021 issue of the Ben Ledi View, which followed a copy of my resignation letter and opinions on conflict of interest discussions in relation to the current cross-membership between the Callander Community Council and the Callander Community Development Trust. I felt compelled to make a few comments in relation to the Chair's comments on the said conflict of interest discussion, as I felt it was the typical response now seen too often from the Callander Community Council, simply pulling the wool over people's eyes, in my view.

I feel it important to clarify again that as a qualified solicitor working in the public sector I am well versed in the legal area of the conflict of interest. What I have written in my submissions are not just a layman's views.

In her article the Chair asserts that

people have misunderstood the nature and the roles of community councils and community development trusts. She asserts that councillors simultaneously being members of a community council and a local development trust has been a norm for a long time. I don't think that the cross-membership *per se* is a problem, as long as the community council members in question, who may also be the development trust directors, act with honesty, transparency and integrity, with the best outcomes for the community in mind as opposed to any agenda or pushing through projects without properly consulting the community.

In any event, I took the liberty of contacting a few community councils in our geographical vicinity to find out what the situation was in their community council area. It appears to me that the cross-over in membership isn't as wide-spread as the article would like people to believe. From the community councils that I contacted there was either no cross-membership or there was a single representative of the community council on the development trust as a director. One community council had two members also as directors on the development trust board (one of them as a rep of the community council). There also was a community council where three members actually left the community council in order to work with the development trust (as opposed to keeping both roles).

Nothing in the nature, purpose or the roles of community councils and development trusts excludes a possibility of conflict of interest arising, either in relation to a concrete topic of discussion/project/agenda item or in relation to the dual roles of the members in specific circumstances that could give rise to such conflict.

The Chair further states in her article, which statement was further repeated at the community council meeting, that she had asked the Governance department of Stirling Council for a clear ruling.

Firstly, I made an inquiry with the Chair to find out who it was from the Governance department that provided

her with advice and what question was posed to them. I was advised that there was "no text for a question [and] that this was part of a general zoom online meeting with a SC governance officer ...". She further advises that the person who she discussed this with and who supplied the text of the advice was "Lynne McKinley from the SC Governance Department".

A quick internet search reveals that Lynne McKinley's role at Stirling Council is a Team Leader from the Community Engagement Team and not, as suggested, the Governance department. It further appears from the online search and the Stirling Council structure chart that the Community Engagement team does not fall under the Governance department (but I am happy to be corrected on this point).

So the advice, that is being presented as a "clear ruling" was provided following a general zoom call on this and other matters with a (I assume not legally qualified) community engagement officer, without full disclosure of all circumstances and facts of how they relate to each member/director in question and without a consideration by or a referral to the Stirling Council's legal team.

The Chair goes on to state in her article that: "... there is nothing in the Scheme that states that on being elected as a Community Councillor you have to forego/give up your involvement/membership/affiliation with other organisations/bodies in community/civic/ political life, nor indeed any private commercial interests. There is also nothing in the Scheme which states that if elected to an office bearer position on the Community Council, you cannot hold an office bearer role in another organisation."

This was never disputed by myself or any other community councillors or members of our community who have been concerned about a conflict of interest in relation to some individuals. Indeed, the Scheme of Establishment for the Community Councils does not prohibit community councillors' membership of other community organisations. But at the same time,

there is nothing in the Scheme that would suggest that as a result, there can never be a situation where two community roles/office bearers positions find themselves in conflict due to specific circumstances. So the "clear ruling" advice does not clarify matters to the community at all. There has been no consideration of the concrete facts and concerns outlined, separately, as they relate to each individual community council member/development trust director in question, including the difficulties between the two organisations, non-disclosure of information and the observed apparent bias that gives rise to these concerns. These concerns relate to some members/directors more than others. When considering an elected role, such as the role of a community council member, having an apparent conflict can be as significant as having an actual conflict. And all these difficulties and concerns that I wrote about in my previous piece seem to have transpired during the discussions on the purchase by the Callander Community Development Trust of the former Royal Bank building on Main Street without a community consultation or a notification of the full community council. I await with interest the approved minutes of that December meeting outlining the discussion in relation to this and the proposed motion to appeal to the Callander Community Development Trust to suspend the purchase until a full community consultation has been undertaken (which consultation may well demonstrate the benefits to the community and gain the community's support).

My hope for the new year is for the two organisations to be able to resolve matters and move forward in a truly cooperative and transparent manner including an open discussion, full disclosure of all and any relevant information concerning the community and acceptance of well meaning constructive criticism.

Kind Regards

*Lucia Bobkova (Luti), former
Secretary of the Callander Community
Council*

CALLANDER IN PHOTOS

I'm writing this in the past, so I don't know how this will be receiving you and how the country is doing. However, I hope this page helps you stay connected to the world outside. Hopefully this allows you to appreciate the beauty that still exists right on our doorsteps and not to forget that it still is out there to be seen and enjoyed. If you'd like to be in the next edition email with the subject Callander in Photos: editor@benlediview.org.



A Big Thank You To All

This lockdown has been very hard on all of us, but it proved especially so for someone I love. They went missing for 29 hours which was agonising for me and my family.

In those 29 hours I was utterly amazed by how Callander came together to support us.

I don't know if I can ever express how thankful I am to everyone, from those who shared details on social media, to the mountain rescue team, the police, people who searched and for the support offered by friends and neighbours.

To do all that during this very difficult time is really incredible. I am also hugely grateful for the support we've received after they were found safe.

I also wanted to say a massive thank you for the Christmas bundle we got from the Callander Elves!

Callander is a beautiful place and we really feel like part of a special community.

Thank you, thank you, thank you
Forever grateful.
Many thanks,

Rob Flett

A Big Thank you to an Unknown Samaritan.

My wife and I returned from Christmas shopping and found, on our doorstep, two plastic bags. On opening the bags we were delighted to find two complete Christmas dinners. This was absolutely wonderful, to think that as we approach our 70th birthdays that someone in our wee town thought of us in these dark times. To whoever gave us this treat, a big "THANK YOU". We did not just munch the goodies, we set the table in the dining room and had a lovely meal

Jim and Marilyn Nixon ..

Ken Dunn - Due to COVID we were rather late in hearing of his passing and our tribute was pulled together at rather short notice. We will do a more appropriate tribute in the next edition.

Anne Finlay



On the 2nd of November Anne Finlay of Buchanan Place passed away peacefully at FVRH.

Anne was brought up in Callander and Esher Crescent was always very close to her heart. Anne moved away to train and pursue her nursing career. Anne trained as a midwife and did her last shift at the age of 70 at St Richard's Hospital in Chichester, so over 50 years delivering babies: what an amazing legacy to leave. Anne spent her most recent years in Buchanan Place and loved that she was home and near her family and childhood friends. We are absolutely lost without her but the lovely messages, cards and flowers that we received were really appreciated,

*Ranald, Helen, Charlotte, Alastair,
Christina & Daniel*

Tribute to Ken Dunn

James Kennedy Dunn, MBE, known to everyone as Ken, died peacefully in Hairmyres Hospital on 29th November 2020, aged 97.

Ken, his wife Alice and young sons, Michael and Peter, came to Callander in the early 1960s. For Alice this was returning home, as her family owned Richard Hill's grocery shop which is now The Dalgair. Until he retired in 1985, Ken taught Geography at McLaren High School. When the boys were older Alice also taught Geography at McLaren. To generations of scholars they were known as Ma and Pa Dunn.

After they retired from teaching Ken and Alice became more involved in local activities and were instrumental in starting up many Groups which are now a major part of Callander life.

Most important, in our opinion, in 1987 Ken was a member of the group which founded the Ben Ledi View. Ken was Joint Editor. He retired from the post in 1990 but continued to contribute many articles. Originally the Ben Ledi View was a monthly publication and the majority view back then was – "I give it a year!" Ken was very proud that the paper is still in print more than 30 years later.

1987 was a busy year for Ken as he was also a founder member of two other groups, which, like the BLV are still going strong today. Reflecting his interest in the countryside around Callander and local history, he was a founder member of Callander Ramblers, enjoyed their walks in many areas of the country, and also helped establish The Callander Heritage Society.

Callander Community Development Trust was established in 2003 with Ken, representing the Heritage Group, as its Chairman until 2008. He was also involved in the formulation of the first Callander Community Plan.

Ken was an active member of Church. He was Session Clerk of St Bride's and later Joint Session Clerk of Callander Kirk. Ken's interest in local history led to him making contributions about the area in a number of publications. He also wrote and published a history of St Bride's Church. He was a member of the Callander branch of The British Legion and the 7.45 Club. Along with other members of the Ramblers, he helped plan and steward the route for the annual Christian Aid Sponsored Walk.

Ken was a Callander Citizen of the year and in 1998 was awarded an MBE for services to the community of Callander. I'm sure you will agree it was well deserved.

After being hospitalised by a bad fall, Ken moved to Rosaburn House in East Kilbride to be closer to family.

He will be greatly missed not just by Michael, Peter and their families but by all his friends in Callander. Sadly, because of Covid restrictions, the community was not able pay their final respects in the way that he deserved but I hear that there is a Memorial Service planned for when this pandemic is over. Rest in Peace Ken.

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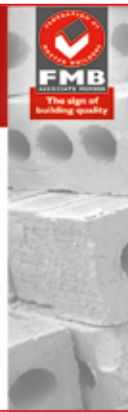
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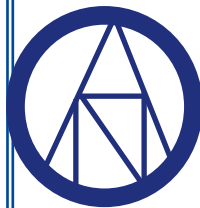
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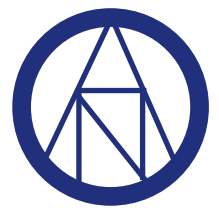
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