

# Ben Ledi View

Jun/July 2021

Issue 318

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# Ben Ledi View

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

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Cover Photo by Jamie Drummond



**H**ello Readers  
As I write this Callander is slowly, but surely coming out of lockdown. We can meet people in each other's houses, even stay overnight. We can now also have a drink in pubs and restaurants, the publican's of Callander will be breathing a long-awaited sigh of relief. Most of our shops have reopened and visitors have started to return, especially at weekends. Callander, gateway to the Trossachs, is at long last starting to reopen, hurrah!

Good news from the Claish farm development. The first ten of fifty new homes have been handed over. I remember when the work was in its early stages in March 2020 and the first severe lockdown came in. I was worried if it would ever get finished. Here we are just over a year later and Callander has some desperately needed new homes. And I've been told by people who have had a look inside them that they are very nice indeed!

Further promising news about the Camp Place Play Park development. It looks like extra funding has been obtained and the list of improvements lengthened. Hopefully the children of Callander will have a play area they can really enjoy, and a good resource for their parents.

One piece in this issue that I'd like to plug is the appeal for volunteers to be involved in Callander's hoped for participation in COP 26 that is

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happening in Glasgow in November. We are only 25 miles, as the crow flies, from the venue of this most important and vital worldwide climate change event. I'm sorry if you think I'm droning on about this, but climate change is the most important issue facing our young people today, not COVID-19, not Indy Ref 2, it's even more important than who is the favourite to win Strictly Come Dancing 2021! Joking aside please have a look at the piece on page 7 and consider giving up a little time in helping Callander play a role in this important event.

On a topic closely connected to improving the environment it's good to see that Cycle Scotland has awarded Callander a Silver award as being a cycle friendly town. It states that a counter placed in the town registered an increase in cycle journeys of 179% from March 2020 to March of this year. What the town really needs, though, is for the extension of the S7 cycle way to be completed to Doune. When this happens cyclists from the all over the Dunblane/Stirling area will be able to access Callander much more easily, and we can cycle into Stirling.

It just leaves me with a chance to thank again the many, many volunteers that help produce and distribute the Ben Ledi View. Without you all Callander wouldn't have a magazine that it can be proud of.

*Convenor*

## Subscriptions

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

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

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

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**POLICE**

### BOGUS WORKERS

There has been an increase once again regarding possible bogus workers in the Trossachs and Teith ward area. We ask that if you require work carried out on your property you obtain quotes from recommended companies. We DO NOT recommend dealing with cold callers for property maintenance and repairs to your home/gardens. Stirling Council and Local Authority Trading Standards Services have formed the BUY WITH CONFIDENCE SCHEME. The scheme provides consumers with a list of local businesses which have given their commitment to trading fairly. This can be found on the Stirling Council website. Further information can also be found online

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/Shut-Out-Scammers>

### TROSSACHS AND TEITH COMMUNITY OFFICERS

If anyone has any concerns they wish to raise, or information regarding criminal activity in the area, please contact PC Donald King or PC Lorna Deans at Callander Police Office on 101 or TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk Please note – this email address should not be used to report an ongoing incident.

## New Life For An Old School



**THE OLD  
TROSSACHS  
SCHOOL**

Just down the road in Brig o' Turk exciting developments are afoot, driven by the Trossachs Community Trust. In the past two years the Trust have managed to bring in high speed internet access for the community which was a real game changer when Covid-19 and lock down struck; this also benefited those of us living in Invertrossachs.

It's fair to say that when the Trossachs Primary School was mothballed in 2017 prior to its closure, it led to a degree of disquiet and anger in the community. However, after a lot of negotiations with many parties, in March this year the Trust acquired the village school building and has set about turning it into a community-led visitor centre. As with all the other activities of the Trust, this will operate on a not-for-profit basis, with any surplus generated being ploughed back into other community projects.

"The Old Trossachs School" will feature a heritage display which will celebrate the diverse history of the village. It has seen hardy cattle drovers, rebels, folk heroes and



Jacobites, as well as ground-breaking artists and innovative engineers, and the visitor centre will celebrate this diverse heritage. The school was a central part of the lives of villagers from its opening in 1875, and the stories and memories of pupils, teachers and parents within the school building will also feature.

With an ever-increasing number of visitors to the Trossachs the facility will also have a small café to provide refreshments, complementing the other outlets in the area, and a shop to sell locally produced arts, crafts and food. It will also substantially increase the toilet facilities for visitors to the village. The project will create sustainable employment within the local community, as well as acting as a space where locals and visitors can meet. The project also ensures that this listed building will be looked after and can be of use to the community in perpetuity.

The Trossachs is renowned for the beauty of its landscape and the Trust is committed to safeguarding this natural heritage, so they are installing environmentally sustainable biomass and solar energy systems and considering an electric car charging point.

Many of our readers will have connections to the old Primary School in Brig o' Turk and the Trossachs and so the Trust is asking for donations to help them raise the funds to complete the school's restoration and repurposing.

If you would like to help, you can learn more about the project and donate at: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-old-trossachs-school>

You can follow the redevelopment of The Old Trossachs School by liking their Facebook page or dipping into the website: [Trossachs.org.uk](https://www.trossachs.org.uk)

*Tim Tindle, Trossachs Community Trust*



## 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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### Callander Outreach Service

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Callander Library

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(home visits also available)

Tel: 07931 334828)

## Callander Community Council

The Community Council has continued to operate through lockdown using on-line meetings and frequent emails. We publish our minutes with accompanying reports on our web site and put out regular notices on Facebook.

We are now working with other community organisations to produce the Local Place Plan (LPP) for Callander. This is the 5 year plan which replaces the Community Action Plan (CAP). As will previous CAPs the LPP will be prepared from extensive consultation with the community. Depending on COVID restrictions we will eventually hope to have public meetings to discuss issues and these will be followed up with information and comment forms on a dedicated web site.

The Callander South Master Plan will be closely linked to the LPP. This has been evolving over the past few years with the Claish Farm housing development being the first project to come out of this process. Some of you will have been to the un-veiling of Hamish Menzies Drive, the new road into the development. We were very pleased to greet Mrs Menzies at the un-veiling and we would like to thank everyone who helped make this happen.

CCC has been concerned about the increasing number of motorhomes parking overnight in the Meadows carpark. While overnight parking is not permitted in the carpark, we are more concerned by a few visitors disposing waste into the river. We are looking for a site for motorhomes which could have electric hook-up points, waste disposal and toilets.

Redevelopment of the Camp Place Play Park has been on our list of projects for a few years but working with Stirling Council we have now secured significant funding to completely upgrade the playpark. In the same area there is the old BMX track which some volunteers cleared a few weeks ago. We plan to restore and modernise the track along with the playpark.

Looking after the flower beds, hanging baskets and planters is a huge task and most of this in Callander is carried out by volunteers from Greener Callander. Stirling Council continues to manage grassed area and some of the flower beds. Similarly litter clearance is a joint effort between Stirling Council and community volunteers. CCC would like to thank everyone involved in keeping the town clean and we look forward to another spectacular flower display this summer.

The CCC Airtricity fund is still open for applications from community organisations. We appreciate many organisations have suffered financially during the lockdown so we have agreed to provide small grants to local organisations which are in financial difficulty.

CCC and other community representatives are working with Stirling Council on the renovation and future uses of the St Kessog's building. Stirling Council have appointed external architects to produce ideas for the internal restoration. Once ideas are better developed the working group will be consulting with the community, again we are not sure how this will be done due to Covid restrictions.

Finally, we are still working with Stirling Council on plans for flood prevention throughout the town. Strong representation from the community to Stirling Council has resulted in a focus on a wider part of the town and we continue to press for a plan which benefits the whole settlement.

*Richard Johnson, CCC Secretary, [Callandercc556@gmail.com](mailto:Callandercc556@gmail.com)*

## Neighbourhood Circle Food Drive!

Based on the success and the identified need within our community at Callander Christmas For All, the idea was formed to continue providing support for the community on a more permanent basis.

Our mission is to mobilise the people of Callander, other community groups and local businesses to support each other and improve the lives of people living in and around the Callander area.

- Who are we – Like-minded people understanding we all need help at times and can help each other out. We can all pay it forward somehow.
- What do we want to achieve - People helping people.
- What do we need from others - Volunteers, donations, help in kind.

Initially we are starting this concept small, please look out for our posters around the town at donation points during the week prior to our food drop off. On Sunday 13th June at the St Joseph's Catholic Parish Car Park from 2-4pm, please come and donate whatever non-perishable food and toiletries you can – please remember to check the expiry dates.

Would you, or would anyone you know benefit from assistance at the moment? If so, come and bring a bag to the food collection at St Joseph's Catholic Parish Car Park on Sunday 20th June from 2-4pm or please email Katy McGeachy at [19katy87@gmail.com](mailto:19katy87@gmail.com) with any nominations or delivery requests.

Please note 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*



## 6 Community

### Shared Use Path - Invertrossachs Rd

The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority, in partnership with Sustrans, is proposing the creation of a new shared use footpath link as part of a new active travel route along the Invertrossachs Road. The objective of the proposal is to create a safe off-road route along the Invertrossachs Road, between the A81 junction and the Callander Holiday Park, for use by pedestrians and cyclists.

A key aspect of the design development is the engagement with the local community to discuss and gain your views and opinions of the scheme. This engagement will provide a final design that has the benefit of the local community's contribution and involvement in its development to ensure the scheme is suitable, accessible and safe for everyone in the local area.

The footpath is proposed at 2.5m wide and approximately 550m long. The proposals will also include two timber bridges required to cross existing burns that run across the fields to the river Eas Gobhain. A new stockproof fence will be installed between the footpath and the fields. A low level retaining wall is proposed to reduce the impact the footpath will have on the adjacent fields.

Project Centre would like to hear from you if you have any views or opinions that you would like to share with us on the scheme proposal. Please send all correspondence to [lochlomond&trossachs@projectcentre.co.uk](mailto:lochlomond&trossachs@projectcentre.co.uk)

*Darren Ryan MSc, FIHE, FCIHT, Associate, Project Centre*

### Camp Place BMX/Bike Track

Work on planning the refurbishment of Camp Place Play Park continues and has now been extended to look at restoration of the BMX track as a result of popular demand. The play park activity in Camp Place has reminded people of the BMX track which was first opened in 1986. Several local people have suggested restoring it but Stirling Council over the last year have not had community service groups available due to the pandemic, so could not clear what was then a completely unrecognisable, overgrown area.

A group of lively youngsters and parents volunteered to try and identify the old track, which was marked by tyres set into the ground. Using only hand tools they cleared the entire track to identify its original layout. It is now being used as it stands, but the humps are few and the challenges small. Also the old track design for BMX racing does not fit in with today's pump track requirements, so a draft pump track design, fitting more or less into the existing space, has been drawn up for Stirling Council to agree.

A local building company, Kings, offered their services to re-sculpt the track so Stirling Council has been approached, as the land owners and they have come back with a range of conditions, including insurance provision, all of which have to be met before permission can be given to remodel the track.

A survey to publicise the track requirements and whether it would be wanted by the Community was sent out via the schools and other social networks resulting in over 130 replies, virtually all favourable with lots of good ideas for track improvements. Alongside the survey, letters were sent to all homes in Camp Place and Willoughby Court asking for comments on the BMX track. Support for the track reinstatement has been strong.

An independent Facebook page, set up by some of the volunteers, is called Callander BMX Track.

For anyone with questions about the Play Park, or the BMX/Bike track, there is an email address for that purpose: [campplaceplaypark@gmail.com](mailto:campplaceplaypark@gmail.com)

*Marilyn Moore*

### Camp Place Play Park Update

Achievements:

To date the planning gain money of £55,000 has been doubled to about £110,000 for the play park fund. This money covers:

- all the play equipment for the junior area, as per survey
- the gym equipment including an exerciser suitable for inclusive use for

### St Kessog's Update

There is little to report this time; we have some dates for the refurbishment of the building, but no images of what it might look like yet. The dates we have been given are that the final design is due by end of December 2021, the refit will take a year and completion will be January 2023. This is clearly later than we had hoped but if it looks as good as the initial plans and it is sustainable, then it will be worth waiting for.

As promised, we have reviewed the architect's draft plans which included several options, and fed back our comments based on your suggestions. They will use this along with feedback from Stirling Council and present back a single plan which will be the basis for the detailed final design due in December 2021.

And lastly, now that the pupils at McLaren High are back at school, they have been asked for any comments or suggestions that they would like included. It's not too late to have your say so please email [StKessogs.survey@gmail.com](mailto:StKessogs.survey@gmail.com)

*Susan King*

*(Member of the St Kessog's Working Group)*

wheelchair users as per survey

- installation of the equipment, play surface for junior area and groundworks
- an access path for buggies and wheelchairs from Camp Place pedestrian entrance to the proposed enclosed toddler/inclusive area
- a couple of picnic tables with wheelchair access
- some equipment in the younger/inclusive area

The play equipment that is being retained in Camp Place and all the equipment in the Meadows is being cleaned and painted to brighten it up.

By the time you read this, a path from the end of the pedestrian access to Camp Place Play Park may have been installed, depending on grant timing requirements!

*Marilyn Moore*

## COP26 Call for volunteers

Only 6 months now until Scotland hosts the most important global climate change event known as COP26. Does anyone think, like me, that Callander should be one of the many communities across Scotland who are signing up to play their part? If so, I should love to hear from you, as there's no time to lose to get going with this. I think there was an active Climate Change group in Callander some 10 years ago and I'm sure many new people have since moved to the area who would like to be involved.

Communities are being encouraged to run their own events in Climate



Fringe Week 18-26 September which is when international leaders meet in New York for talks in the run-up to COP26. This is a time when we still have plenty of tourists visiting Callander so it is a chance to think of events that work for our community and visitors alike. <https://climatefringe.org/climate-fringe-week/>

There is an opportunity to have a stand in the Green Zone of COP26, as part of a shared stand with other Development Trusts. This would be a

fantastic opportunity to let the world know our community cares about climate change and to tell our local stories about absorbing carbon through forestry and peatland management or taking renewable energy from our streams. If you have any particular skills to help put together exhibition material and videos, they would be most welcome.

But these are just some initial ideas and further suggestions are really welcome. Mostly I'm interested in forming a group of like-minded people in this year of all years, so please drop me a line

[carolbrass93@gmail.com](mailto:carolbrass93@gmail.com)

Carol McGowan

## Invertrossachs Animal Family

Summer is getting closer, hopefully. The cuckoos have returned to Invertrossachs Road, I heard my first one of the year on Saturday 17th April and since then have been greeted by their distinctive song each morning. The bird population is particularly busy with their nesting and young rearing duties and are very regular visitors to the numerous bird tables and feeders throughout the garden. The woodpecker is back feeding from the fat and suet feeders: they are very nervous visitors but make an exception when it comes to the suet on offer to them. Once the young arrive both the male and female will come to the garden all day, take a great wedge of suet and fly back to the nest to feed the young, it's a hard life being a young woodpecker at Invertrossachs!



appears to be wearing a mask when he looks directly into the snug window. His white bib is very small and quite distinctive so he is very easy to identify.

Neighbours on Invertrossachs Road have had some problems with pine martens visiting their hen houses. Unfortunately one neighbour has lost chickens to the little devils. While it is very annoying to the owners of the chickens one cannot, in all honesty, blame the pine martens; they are only doing what nature designed them to do and unfortunately they are very good at it. Outdoor free range chickens and a good pine marten population do not go well together.

One neighbour has moved his chickens to his daughter's to ensure they are well clear of the Invertrossachs Road chicken raiders, No more free eggs for me I fear!

The badgers, not wanting to be outdone by all the other visiting animals, have also been particularly busy and active. I check the garden perimeter fence everyday to check for and seal up new badger holes because if I don't Robbie, the dog, eventually finds them and heads off on one of his little adventures, little

rascal! But come eight thirty every night there are the badgers on the front lawn munching peanuts; the mystery is where are they getting in, surely they are not climbing the two metre boundary fence?!

The red squirrels have been visiting as normal but with the high numbers of pine marten around they have become rather more cautious in their activities. They have suspended for the moment running up the road, through the garden and onto the feeders, and are travelling more through the trees and along the top of the 2-metre high boundary fence, talk about taking the high road! Once on the feeders they waste no time in munching their way through the sunflower seeds and peanuts. They are very selective little creatures. If a peanut does not smell right or meet their exacting standards it is discarded over the edge of the feeder to become badger food, as they are rather less selective.

Our osprey has not yet returned from his African travels. He is normally here by this time so I can only assume that he has been delayed by the Covid 19 pandemic. It is a bit of a concern, I hope he and his mate are both fine and that they return to their Scottish home soon. Will keep you posted on their activities.

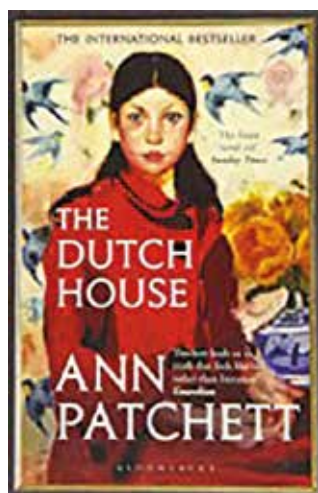
Walter Anderson

## Book Club Review

This issue's book review title is *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020).

*The Dutch House* is American author Ann Patchett's seventh novel and is set in the suburbs of Philadelphia, chronicling the life of the Conroy family over several decades.

The story begins with siblings, Maeve



and her younger brother Daniel, leading (what appears on the surface to be) a blessed life. It's 1950s America, and they live in an extravagant yet quirky house, built by Dutch immigrants in the 1920s. They have a cook, housekeeper and nanny to attend to their needs. Their father, Mr Conroy, is a property developer and had bought the house as a gift to his wife. However, she was horrified by the excessive gift and abandoned her young family to seek a different life, leaving 10-year-old Maeve to become the key maternal influence on her younger brother.

Meanwhile, their father deals with the breakdown of his marriage by working harder to build his property empire and showing little interest in his children and domestic life. His return to single-status has not gone unnoticed however and one day he returns to the house with an unsmiling, smartly dressed woman called Andrea. The couple marry quickly and Andrea moves herself and her two young daughters into the Dutch House. Life for Maeve and Daniel will never be the same.

I'd be really hard-pressed to find one criticism of this book. I found it a compelling and totally satisfying read. The characters were convincing and the story is one we can all relate to, centred on one family and its triumphs and tragedies over a lifetime. The importance of sibling relations and how early childhood experiences shape us are key themes, as well as the significance of place in shaping memory. Despite Maeve and Daniel both leaving home in their teenage years, the Dutch House remains at the forefront of their minds and is the looming presence that keeps all the characters of this great book (both major and minor) connected.

In short, *The Dutch House* is an absorbing and memorable book. I look forward to seeking out more titles from this author.

The next BLV book club review will be *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig (Canongate: 2020)

*Maggie Magor*

## CALLANDER LIBRARY

### Opening Hours

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

Telephone/Fax 331544

## Callander Library is *Almost* Back to Normal!

The library opened its doors to the public last month, for the first time in over a year. You can now come in to browse for books and use a PC or the photocopier, but you must have an appointment.

For those who prefer not to enter the building, the Select & Collect Service will still be available.

Appointments can be made by phone 01877 331544 or by email [callanderlibrary@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:callanderlibrary@stirling.gov.uk)

*Fiona Frize*

## Callander Amateur

## Operatic Society



Normally at this time of year we would

be announcing our show for 2022 and preparing for rehearsals in September. Alas, over a year since we had to cancel *Sound of Music*, there is still little word to encourage aspirations in the world of amateur dramatics. The committee has looked at various options that would allow us to restart performing on stage, but we cannot promise anything at the moment. Indeed the latest information from our governing body, NODA, advises that until the country gets to Levels 0 to 1, we will be unable to stage indoor performances and would still require 2m social distancing. By the time you read this we may be in Level 2 but it may be some time before this is reviewed again.

On a more positive note we retain the rights to perform *Sound of Music* and, if restrictions allow, we may be able to put on a show in 2022 – unless we have outgrown our costumes! The cast remain positive and we are not discounting the possibility of a Christmas Concert. What a great way to celebrate!

We do value your continued support and will keep you updated on progress. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the Society or go to the website [www.c-a-o-s.org.uk](http://www.c-a-o-s.org.uk).

Keep safe and well.

*Steve Murphy for CAOS*



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## Pilates Reformer in Callander

With hundreds of fitness programs and trends on the market, we can forget how important correct alignment and posture is for our day-to-day tasks. Sometimes we let pain be part of our life. Sometimes we opt for short term exercise routines or extreme workouts which don't actually suit us. Pilates is the perfect type of exercise because it helps to improve postural problems, to increase core strength and stability, to prevent injuries and it enhances functional fitness. It promotes body awareness and is low impact on the joints.

Joseph Pilates created the Pilates method with Cadillac, Reformer and Wunda chair apparatus as preparation for matwork routine. Pilates is a physical system designed to develop strength, muscular balance, stability and efficiency of movement with focus on body awareness, precision and control. A system which is based on the body in its most natural state - IN MOTION.

We are mainly familiar with Pilates matwork which is completed in a group setting where individual health issues cannot be addressed fully. But the social aspect of the matwork class helps us with consistent participation. We can see some degree of improvement in the long term. But with a specific Pilates goal in mind, group classes will not allow us to achieve the desired results. Pilates apparatus on the other hand offers specific training for a variety of musculoskeletal issues. Reformer is a bed-like frame with a flat platform which glides forward and back on wheels. It is an apparatus that uses springs for assistance or resistance to achieve muscle activation, length and strength across the whole body.

In a private setting, Pilates Reformer sessions allow the client to receive enhanced experience from limitless exercises. Reformer offers everything from athletic conditioning to rehabilitation program. Reformer orchestrates precision of movement with progression and regression of each exercise. And it's fun. The client is provided with insight into how to move pain free and heal reoccurring injury or pain. And that is what our private studio in Callander offers.

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[hello@livewirepilates.co.uk](mailto:hello@livewirepilates.co.uk).

You can contact us on 0789 636 0085.  
We are looking forward to hearing your story. Allow us to be your fitness partner.

*Monika Michal, Stott Pilates and  
Therapeutic Pilates Coach*



## COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

### Red Pepper Soup with Horseradish

**Serves 4**

#### Ingredients

2 red peppers, deseeded and chopped  
1 red chilli, deseeded and chopped  
1 large onion, chopped  
2 carrots, finely chopped  
Olive oil  
900ml vegetable stock  
1 tbsp tomato puree  
500g passata

For the horseradish sauce:  
6 tablespoons crème fraiche  
2 level tsp creamed horseradish

#### Method

Preheat oven to 200 C/ Fan 180 C/ Gas Mk 6

Place the peppers, chilli, onion and carrots in a large nonstick roasting tin with a little olive oil. Roast for 35 mins or until tender.

Place the roasting tin over a low heat on the hob. Add the stock, tomato puree and passata.

Bring to the boil, scraping up any juices, then allow to cool a little.

Transfer to a food processor, season to taste and blend until smooth.

Mix together the crème fraiche and creamed horseradish.

Divide the soup between 4 bowls and top each with a quarter of the horseradish sauce

Serve

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## The Correct Knowledge is Key

By the time you read this it will be June/July already and we hope this finds you and your pet in a happy healthy place! Hopefully more of us will have had our vaccine, we will have more freedom and a more normal existence without a spike in coronavirus cases. Knowledge is key to making sure you and your pets stay healthy and happy. Getting the information from a reliable source is so important.

Over the past 15 months I have been struck by the number of people that have taken bad advice from Dr Google without knowing who put that information on the internet and if that person is truly knowledgeable in the area they are talking about. At Riverside we have seen pets that have truly suffered because their owner has followed some of Dr Google's advice without question. Please, please make sure the source is reliable. Double check with a vet. Your vet will have 24-hour emergency cover - phone them and you can check you are about to do the right thing. Your vet holds your pet's medical records and can ask the right questions, do the right examination and tests if necessary, to give you the right advice and your pet the right treatment.

So, to make sure we are improving our communication with our pet owners we have created a new website and have a new email address so you can get up to date information and advice from us. (See below for the new website and email). We will be able to edit this website ourselves and are planning to put the articles we write for the Benledi View and other magazines on it so you can refer to an article if you need the information in the future. It will also provide up to date information about the practice.

Please move forward with the right knowledge and stay happy, healthy, and safe. If you need us, we are here.

Marslaidh Smith, BVM&S MRCVS  
Riverside Veterinary Clinic, Callander  
Emails: [info@riversidevetclinics.com](mailto:info@riversidevetclinics.com)  
Web site [www.riversidevetclinics.com](http://www.riversidevetclinics.com)




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## Claish Farm, Callander

After some delay, due to Covid-19, the handover of the first 10 homes at Claish Farm, Callander took place on the 4th May, with the balance scheduled in phases up to the end of November this year.

These are the first of a 50-new home development being constructed by Lovell Homes. With recent good weather the site is really progressing well and looking good



*From left to right: Matthew Collins, Site Manager Lovell Partnerships, tenants Courtney Paterson, Riley and Callum Redhead, and Mark Griffiths, Chair RSHA.*



As a fitting tribute to our late and much respected postmaster, a street on the new Claish Farm Estate has been named after him as a permanent memorial.

## CYP – Update on our Social Enterprises



photo Iain Carrie

We're delighted that the latest addition to our social enterprises is now up and running. Each of our pods has a unique layout, but they all share the same excellent views of Ben Ledi.

The pods represent an important investment into the long-term future and sustainability of CYP.

They also offer additional opportunities for our staff. Our current team also received their induction to the various pieces of equipment installed in our fully-accessible pod, including the use of the hoist and Changing Places style bathroom fittings.

Given the accessibility limitations of the accommodation in our main building, the pods are also a hugely important way to allow us to provide options for a wider range of guests.

Recently, we've also welcomed the first of our 'Catering for the Future' cohort, thanks to funding from The Savoy Trust, Prudential, and The Foyle Foundation. These sessions are delivered by local chef, Mark Nicols (of Scott's Bistro, Tigh Mor) and allow us to deliver SQA-accredited cooking units to local young people. As well as the qualifications, this allows us to help our cohorts to develop important life skills and confidence.

*Alasdair MacDonald*



Rebecca Ramsay-Clapham, Ian Tobin and Jack Wardrope with chef Mark Nicols

## Callander Target Sports Club

### Club Update:

Finally, after what seems to have been an age, we now have authority under the Covid rules to reopen the club for shooting. We opened on Tuesday 4th May and will now revert back to our weekly shoots, although all summer league competitions are cancelled. However, we can get some practice done in preparation for the forthcoming winter league competitions.



### Competition and Leagues

**Clay Pigeon:** We will be restarting our monthly clay pigeon shoots starting on Sunday, 30th May.

### Scottish Target Shooting (STS):

Although our club has been closed, the STS (our governing body) who run our elite squad have dispensation to train and they have been utilising our Covid free and disabled access facilities to train their squad. The good news is that we currently have two people in that squad – Bertie Galloway (junior) and Bronwen Livingstone.

For further information contact our secretary Bob Farquhar on 07721-744229

*John Russell*

## Callander Golf Junior Section

We are delighted to announce that the Junior Golf Summer Camp will go ahead this year. A friendly, informal opportunity for beginners to have a go at golf for the first time as well as an opportunity for more experienced juniors to improve their skills.



The sessions will run from Monday 28th June till Thursday 1st July between 11am and 3pm; with the end-of-week competition on Friday 2nd July, 3pm to 6pm.

The cost for the full week will be £50 per person. If you are interested in joining us please contact the club on 01877 330090 as soon as possible as there are limited spaces available. Please bring your own packed lunch.

For more information, please phone Evelyn on 01877 330090

*Johnny Gold*

Welcome back! We are delighted to have re-opened our doors at the end of April and to welcome back our community to its local leisure centre. We are pleased to see so many of you ready to return to your sport, health and wellbeing activities. So far we have been able to welcome back our local junior sports clubs, lane swimmers, family swimmers, swimming lessons and fitness suite users. Your health and wellbeing is our priority and we are looking forward to the summer months when we hope to be able to reintroduce many more activities, facilities and services, following government guidance, allowing us to welcome more of our community back.

Following our return from lockdown we launched our Learn to Swim programme, welcoming back 290 junior swimmers to their lessons. We are thrilled to see all of our junior swimmers, babies through to club swimming, return full of enthusiasm and ready to learn and find their water confidence again. We kicked off this term with a superhero themed week where all of our swimmers practiced their key techniques with some superhero flare. Also, we were happy to celebrate international Learn to Swim week, helping to spread the important message of #lovewatersafely. We are looking forward to seeing what this term brings for our swimmers.

The last few months have seen some big changes to the arena space on the upper floor of our facility. Following the restructure of our fitness suite, due to Covid restrictions, we found lots of our activities and bookings no longer had a Covid friendly space to run from, so work began on implementing a plan to create a Covid friendly, hygienic and flexible events and studio space. A huge thank you must go out to The Scottish Government's Communities Recovery Fund. The grant awarded from this allowed us to kick start our project by paying for a fabulous new floor in these new areas that will be far more suitable for activities than the previous carpet. We are looking forward to inviting our regular bookings back and filling this space with future events and activities.

Another big thank you goes to the Callander Community Hydro Fund who have funded the start-up of our brand new online booking system. We have been trialling this booking system for the past few weeks and we are excited for it to go live to the local community for their gym and swim bookings, making access to their health and fitness needs much easier.

*Rachel McLean*



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## Callander Golf Course Information

The former Clubhouse has now been sold and the access from Aveland Road, including the car parking area, are now the private property of the new owner. Accordingly, we should not gain access onto the golf course from this area. Instead, we should use the top car park accessed from Bracklinn Road.

It is always good to see people walking and enjoying the stunning countryside we have here in Callander. We would appeal to everyone using the golf course to be respectful of each other.

There has been a big increase in the incidence of dog poo on all areas of the golf course recently. This can be extremely hazardous to health, particularly to children using the course. We respectfully appeal to dog owners to please pick up your dog's excrement (including from the rough areas), bag it and take it home for disposal. Many golfers have a fear of dogs and some have serious allergies, so we request that your dog is kept under close control at all times and on a leash when there are golfers around.

Keep yourself and others safe when walking on the golf course. Keep to the paths and well away from tees, greens, bunkers and fairways. Remember, golfers may not be able to see you from where they are playing their shots. You can check the club's website or Facebook page to see dates when chemical spraying is being undertaken.

The golf course is a great asset for the people of Callander and a valuable attraction for visitors to Callander. Golf Club membership is far lower than we would like and these few members pay to maintain the course in the beautiful condition that we all enjoy, so please use the course respectfully. New members are always welcome. We all want the golf course to be there for future generations to enjoy. Thank You.

General Purposes Committee

01877 330090

## Is Callander a Cycling Friendly Community?

Cycling Scotland has an award system for organisations and communities who aspire to become cycling friendly. The award has 3 levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Callander has achieved a provisional award at Silver Level. To complete the award the registration of existing facilities and future development plans must be lodged with 'Cycling Scotland'.

Callander already has several cycling friendly resources in and around the area. The National Cycle Network Lochs and Glens Way being a significant one of them. In town we have a local route from Molendhu Road and Keltie Bridge area into and through the town. This joins up with the Lochs and Glens way at the crossing at Tulipan Crescent. Although the main roads through the town are not cycle friendly there are more minor roads that are, the Invertrossachs Rd to the south, the Drummorie and Drumloist Rd and Deanston Rd to the east. Some of these roads have been designated as walking and cycling friendly roads by the local authority.

In town, public cycle parking is available at the Meadows, Ancaster Square and at the McLaren Leisure Centre. We are also well served locally with Cycle Shops and hire, 'Wheels' on the Invertrossachs Road. 'Roots' in Doune and 'Aberfoyle' Cycle Shop and Hire.

Many of the local café's and eateries also provide cycling friendly facilities from water bottle filling, chains and locks to borrow to cycle parking racks at their doors and more recently e-bike charging facilities. Accommodation providers in the town are also offering cycling friendly services such as secure overnight bike parking, clothing and equipment drying facilities, local cycling information as well as a warm and friendly welcome.

If you have an interest in Callander as a Cycle Friendly Community, please let us know. For further information you may wish to look at the documents referred to below:

Callander Active Travel Plan at [www.trustinthepark.org](http://www.trustinthepark.org) and Cycling Friendly Communities at [www.cycling.scot](http://www.cycling.scot).

Or myself Colin Welsh at [colintross2@aol.com](mailto:colintross2@aol.com)  
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**COMING SOON**

### CALLANDER MEDICAL PRACTICE

#### Dr Jay Mackenzie

We are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Felicity Kate Mackenzie. Dr Mackenzie gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on Mother's Day. Both mum and baby are doing great and we never tire of getting photo updates of her progress. We can't wait till we are able to get a cuddle.

#### Dr Graham Strang

As a practice we are sad to announce that Dr Strang has decided to take retirement from full-time practice in August of this year. Dr Strang has been involved with the Medical Practice (initially Bracklinn Surgery) since 1988 when he helped his father who was the local GP at the time. He later became a full time member of the practice team in 1991.

Dr Strang is retiring from full time work to allow time for increased family commitments since the birth of his beautiful granddaughter.

Following requests when our last GP retired, we will be putting a box and comments book at Reception in the summer for any patients who wish to write a message to Dr Strang or make a donation.

#### Covid Clinics

We continue to run our covid vaccination clinics at the Kirk Hall. We are well through our list of "at risk" and "over 50s" for their second vaccine. People not at risk and aged under 50 will be offered their vaccine by NHS Forth Valley. The Practice is continuing to support this by making staff available to help at these clinics.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our patients for the kind comments and wonderful gifts handed into the practice and the Kirk Hall during this pandemic.

We would also like to thank Anna Drummond and Margaret Davis, both ex-employees of the practice, who have been lending a hand at the Kirk Hall. A special thanks also to Linda Cantlay who has been amazing and a huge support to the Practice. Every day we are at the Kirk Hall she is there too, making sure everything is ok for us. She has been fantastic and we really can't thank her enough for all her hard work.

#### Work at the Practice

We have been busier than ever during the last year and have struggled to meet patient demand at times. This has been a combination of different ways of working, added to staff having to provide cover at Covid hubs and covid vaccination clinics. This has reduced the availability of appointments for both GPs and nursing staff. We continue to use telephone consultations for patients and the GPs have appointments available to see patients face to face should they feel this would be beneficial following the telephone consultation. This will continue for some time to come and we are going to continue to use telephone triage/consultation in some capacity moving forward.

Our GPs have also asked our reception team to signpost patients to the most appropriate clinician ie mental health nurse, advanced physiotherapist (MSK), pharmacy etc. You will therefore be asked to provide information when requesting a telephone consultation and all information is strictly confidential. This is essential to allow us to direct our patients with as little delay as possible to the appropriate advice/treatment.

Our Nursing team have continued seeing patients for urgent and essential bloods, ECGs, immunisations, smears etc. We will slowly start to re-open our chronic disease review clinics but this will not happen immediately as we need to prioritise. Infection control measures and the PPE the staff have to change between each patient has significantly reduced our appointment capacity.

We are all working hard to try and provide the best care we can. Increased numbers of very ill patients are being treated at home where normally they would be in hospital. These patients remain our priority and we work closely with our wonderful District Nursing Team to ensure these patients get the care and support they need.

We will come through this – ways of working at the practice will never go back to how they were but this is a great opportunity to move forward and embrace the changes we need to make. We are very grateful to do the jobs we do in such a great community.

Please follow us on Facebook for all the up to date information on what is happening at Callander Medical Practice.





## Keep Calm and Carry on ..... Walking

By now the dark depths of a winter lockdown will hopefully be a long distant memory for you and for the members of Walk in the Park, with the chat and exercise sessions on Zoom having also come to an end. A huge thank you to our dedicated Strength and Balance demonstrators, Kath Millar and Ann Charters for their commitment to keeping our online members active.

Our group walks were able to resume in April with groups of up to 15 and then 30 walkers permitted to walk under the Scottish Government Guidelines, due to us being considered as a 'led group physical activity'. Our walks are fully risk-assessed and supported by trained volunteers.

You will have most likely seen us walking as a group round the towns of Callander, Aberfoyle or Killin, with our dedicated volunteer Walk Leaders in their day-glo tabards and jackets. This is Walk in the Park...

### Why is Walking so good?



### It is Free and Easy...

Because almost everyone can do it – no matter their age, income, gender or ability. It is the easiest and most accessible form of physical activity that can become part of your everyday life. It is free, and no special equipment is needed.

### Physical Health Benefits...

A brisk walk can help you manage a healthy weight, strengthen muscles, and reduce your risk of some serious conditions including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and certain cancers.

### Mental Health Benefits...

It is proven that a short walk can really benefit your mental health, particularly if walking in your local park, woodland or greenspace. Regular walking can reduce the risk of depression, stress and anxiety and promote positive mental health by helping you to sleep better, connect to nature and enhance your connection with your local area.

### Social Connection ...

Evidence tells us that walking with others in local walking groups creates social and wellbeing benefits that are just as important as the physical benefits walking brings. Supporting older adults to be active with others reduces isolation and loneliness.

We also have weekly nature challenges and a chance for a tea and chat after the walks. We are also planning themed and evening walks during the summer months.

### 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 continued training in dementia awareness and first aid.

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

- Callander: Tuesdays – 10.20am – Outside St Kessog's Church, Ancaster Square

Contact Walk in the Park Coordinator, Beverley Clarke about the Health Walks call [07803933046](tel:07803933046) or email [beverley.clarke@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto: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](http://www.trustinthepark.org) or our Facebook Page: [@trustinthepark](https://www.facebook.com/trustinthepark) - <https://www.facebook.com/trustinthepark>



## Advertorial



**F**eeds & Stoves saw its five-year anniversary on the high street in May. So we thought we would let you know how things have grown over the years and what services we provide – as we offer more than just feeds and stoves....Since opening the shop in 2016, giving us an official “home” on the high street, we have gone from strength to strength. We provide a number of services within Callander and beyond and focus on high quality products and excellent customer service, which is why we are trusted by so many and continue to see new business through customer referrals.

Initially when we opened the shop, we had a small section for animal feed and accessories. We now order from 2 different feed companies every week and cover a larger range of domestic pet food and wild bird food. Alongside this we keep a small stock of feeding for farm animals covering pigs, sheep, hens and horses. What we don't have in stock we can usually order in and are happy to try to price match products for you. This side has grown considerably over the years and Dawn and her team offer on-site dog grooming for customers in our bespoke dog grooming area – "Wash & Groom".

We have been sweeping chimneys and installing stoves for a number of years but having the shop enabled us to open our stove showroom and supply various parts and spares for the solid fuel stoves and open fires from new grates to companion sets or beautiful log baskets. Our team are fully HETAS registered in installations of stoves or for any questions you may have within the shop. David and Ryan are also both fully qualified chimney sweeps and are members of The National Association of Chimney Sweep (NACS) and The Institute of Chimney Sweeps (ICS)

The firewood business has changed a lot over the last 20 years. In 2015 we purchased a bespoke drying kiln and now produce Scottish kiln-dried softwood and hardwood in a range of log sizes from 6”- 24”. In 2018 we became members of several organisation who now regulate the sale of wet wood for household burning. We gained our Wood Sure, Ready 2 Burn accreditation and are on the Biomass Suppliers List (BSL) and go through rigorous checks every year to remain qualified.

Our desire to remain constantly busy and to help meet the needs of the community, saw a number of new ‘off-shoots’ to Feeds and Stoves this year, making it a true one-stop-shop for country living.

Davie, who is a member of ASHS (Associations of Scottish Hardwoods) found that during lockdown there was a demand for fencing, DIY projects, slab wood and construction and started producing timber on our sawmill. Most of the wood is purchased locally and is either from storm damage, wind blow or is part of a regeneration program for Spruce, Larch, Douglas Fir and Oak. ASHS, meantime, had also identified that architects and engineers were asking for certificated graded timber and without moving forward an important market for Scottish sawn timber would be missed. Together we secured a small grant from Scottish Forestry to help with funding and with the advice from ASHS Davie was then able to complete the Visual Strength Grading Course with CATG in both softwood and hardwood. We hope that, as demand rises, we will see more small based sawmills asking for their timber to be VSG and Davie will be able to travel to carry out grading for them. We have no waste as everything is reused – from the sawdust produced for animal bedding for farmers to the off cuts of wood which fuels our biomass drying kiln.

We love the loyalty of our customers, so during lockdown we have thought of ways we can offer an extended service to minimise the number of trips you need to make. With so many programs on the TV these days about plastics in the environment we took the plunge and launched our eco-friendly shop, The Eco Den. We supply a wide range of dried food products, rice, pasta, nuts, seeds with various organic, gluten free and vegan options. We have refills of Eco-friendly shampoos, conditioners, body washes as well as laundry and cleaning products by Ecover. We have listened to our customers and have created a drop off point for fresh fruit and veg boxes, Vegan pastries and bread (which are delicious even if you are not Vegan), fresh eggs and Grahams Dairies milk – all of these have been thought about to make them refillable in your own containers, jars, bags. You buy what you need rather than what the supplier wants to sell.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who has supported us through the last 5 years and we look forward to the next 5 years. Pop in for a look and a chat next time you're passing – we're not just Feeds & Stoves .....

*Davie, Dawn & the team*





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# CALLANDER IN PHOTOS

This is Callander in Photo's 5th edition! For 5 magazines we have perhaps inspired some to go out and take photos of our immensely beautiful area or given our contributors a sense of accomplishment. Every week we are amazed at the standard of the photo entries. Thanks to everyone contributing, maybe you could be next? - Fraser Cronin





## Ken Dunn

*When I researched an obituary for Ken Dunn (BLV Feb/March) there was a lot of information which could not be included due to lack of time. Here follows some of that missing information.*

Ken's eldest son Michael kindly provided me with some details of Ken's early life.

### Young Ken

In November 2019, Dad broke his hip in a fall and was admitted to FVRH. When he was discharged it became clear that I would need to find specialist care. In late January 2020 a carehome place became available in East Kilbride, a 15 minute walk from my house. For two months as he settled in to his new surroundings, I was able to visit him almost every day. Then came lockdown which prevented meaningful visits until just before he died and from the point of this article made it difficult to find answers to questions about his life that cropped up from "finds" as I cleared the house over the summer. Some phone conversations were possible but those, and the escorted visits, (me, masked and at the other end of a 2 metre table positioned across an open doorway; Dad, struggling to hear against environmental sounds and unable to see my lips), were not conducive to any meaningful communication. Therefore, this brief account of his life before "Callander" is frustratingly incomplete and in places may be inaccurate.

James Kennedy Dunn (Ken) was born on the 9th November, 1923 in Govan. His father was a foreman in the turning department at Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company. His mother had been brought up on Montrave estate near Leven in Fife. After he was born, the family downsized to a two bedroom house in Greengairs Avenue which would not have been possible had he been a girl - money must have been tight! Memories of his early years include the launch at John Brown's of ship number 534 (The Queen Mary), the Japanese invasion of Manchuria and The Empire Exhibition at Bellahouston Park. Despite nearly being killed by a lorry, (which resulted in three weeks in the Victoria Infirmary, playing tig on the way to Cubs), Ken's childhood was happy. He attended Elder Park Public School and was an active child, remembering particularly seeing Laurel & Hardy and Jimmy Durante at the pictures, street games of conkers, bools, "3 and in", hunch-cuddy-hunch (a dangerous sounding game which would fail any modern safety assessment), slides or Leave-ho, depending on the season. He also developed considerable yo-yo skills which he retained into old age as entertainment for his grandchildren! Like most boys of the time, he collected cigarette cards, particularly remembering Ardath bicycle cards, and was allowed 2d a week for sweets.

Secondary Education saw Ken follow his brother, Ian,

north of the river to Hillhead High School. Daily travel involved a bus followed by the subway. He played rugby while at school but maintained the majority of his social connections south of the river. Tennis was his sport of choice but he also cycled regularly; "The Three Lochs" (Long, Lomond and Gare) is still quite an undertaking today!

Before the outbreak of war, Ian had left an apprenticeship at Fairfield and joined the RAF. As a senior HHS pupil Ken was expected to offer service to the community. He was firewatching in Tradeston on one of the nights of the Clydeside bombings when a parachute landmine exploded, killing 110 people. He and his Govan friends - who included Freddie Breingan (who was to be his best man) and a certain Leo Blair - were unhurt. When Ken went back to school to sit his Higher German he found that the school was full of bombed out families from Clydebank; he never did sit that exam.

Leaving school and too young to follow Ian directly into the RAF, Ken joined the Air Ministry and trained as a Meteorological Assistant near Gloucester. This took him all over Scotland - Montrose, 12 Group HQ in Inverness, Wigtown and Stranraer, often on RAF transport - Avro Ansons, Douglas Dakotas, Blackburn Bothas. When he was called up officially, Ken applied for an aircrew role "but I'd been trained as a Met man, and I was to remain so, this time in uniform as an SAC".

Having completed his basic training in Blackpool, short term postings to Northern Ireland followed before his unit returned to Blackpool to prepare for overseas duty. Cold weather kit was issued before boarding a train which headed north. To Ken's astonishment, he arrived at the King George V Dock in Govan, just a few hundred yards from his home. He stayed well away and kept a low profile to avoid worrying his mother, who was in the local WVS - he didn't want her to know what ship he was on - before boarding SS Almanzora, a veteran armed merchant cruiser from WWI which had subsequently served as a luxury passenger liner in the South Atlantic. On what should have been her final voyage, war broke out and she was requisitioned as a troopship. A convoy assembled at the Tail o' the Bank before a further North Atlantic rendezvous led to a turn southwest and the issue of tropical kit! A ruse or cock up? No one knew... As the oldest and slowest ship, and with the convoy commandant aboard, the Almanzora was well protected from the attention of U-boats, but flashes at night and the sound of explosions from the periphery of the convoy indicated their presence.

Around the latitude of Gibraltar the convoy split. The Mediterranean part suffered heavy losses to submarine and air attacks he heard later. They sailed south, via Dakar and Freetown to Cape Town in hot and humid conditions. Then round The Cape of Good Hope to quarantine in Durban! Finally, a few more weeks transit on a more modern Dutch ship - the Christiaan Huygens - to Bombay (Mumbai). On by rail to Calcutta (Kolkata) and thence to Air HQ Bengal at Comilla (Cumilla) in what is now Bangladesh.

From here, Ken was sent to Delhi. He was to collect and be responsible for the transfer of important and probably delicate meteorological equipment to RAF Kumbhirgram, near Silchar in Assam (present day India). This journey, (described by Ken in a 1989 article\* for "Reflection", the annual magazine of the Scottish Bangladesh Association), would have been a huge responsibility for a 20 year old from Glasgow. A 2000 mile round trip, across India in the wake of the Bengal Famine was undertaken successfully and Ken's war was spent providing crucial weather information to RAF sorties into Burma and over the Bay of Bengal. The nature of the fighting in mountainous jungle territory meant that air drops were essential, even during the monsoon season when flying was exceptionally difficult.

The Far Eastern theatre of WW2 is less celebrated than Europe, North Africa or even the Pacific but for land-based troops conditions were absolutely horrific. (You may be aware of Wingate's Chindits and Merrill's Marauders, British and US jungle warfare units which operated behind the lines and films like *Bridge on the River Kwai* and the more recent *The Railway Man* starring Colin Firth.) The Japanese had taken Singapore easily and consequently underestimated further resistance to their ambitions. U-Go was their codename for the invasion of British India. Pushing north through Burma, they finally ground to a halt 50 miles or so west of Kumbhirgram where Indian and British troops, besieged at Kohima, were eventually relieved, inflicting a defeat on Japan which put paid to their Indian ambitions. In 2013 a poll conducted by the British National Army Museum voted the Battles of Kohima, and the intertwined Battle of Imphal as "Britain's Greatest Battle".

Ken didn't talk of it much but he had been very aware of his own good fortune in operating at arms length from the front line in Assam and later Mandalay as the Japanese were driven back beyond Rangoon, where Ken remembered seeing the pitiful state of ex-POWs.

After V-J Day, Ken's journey home, mainly by air, took up the first two weeks of October 1945; Poona, Bombay, Karachi, then by B24 Liberator to RAF Lydda (Lod) in present day Israel which allowed what he described as a wonderful day visit to Jerusalem which played a big part in shaping his Christian faith. The final leg home was continued by Liberator via Benghazi to RAF Merryfield in Somerset. On 15th October he took the 9.30pm train from Euston to Glasgow. Carolyn, his niece, who, with her mum, spent part of the war staying with Grampa and Grandma Dunn recalls "My first memory of Uncle Ken was when I was about three and a half, when he returned from the war in Burma, with his kitbag slung over his shoulder. I must have been primed - he was arriving on the bus and I remember running up the

crescent calling "Uncle Ken, Uncle Ken!" and he, dropping his kitbag and giving me the biggest hug!"

A month's leave in Glasgow saw him binge on Gilbert & Sullivan at the Theatre Royal; Gondoliers, Mikado and Iolanthe in successive weeks! His diary for the end of 1945 shows him completing RAF commitments in London and socialising/ sightseeing while staying with his Aunt Mary. Catching up with three and a half missing years was a priority for him and he seems to have enjoyed life to the full in London and Glasgow.

Sightseeing tour of London - seven day extension of leave - met Fred - Renfrew Baths - football - Betty's - hockey - evening show in town at Lyceum with Fred, Betty & Nan - walking, cycling, golf - bridge with Fred/ Dad /Ivy - football with George (Fulham vs Swansea) etc ...

Ken seems to have stayed in the RAF well into 1946, undertaking officer courses and weather forecasting at fog-free Prestwick. On leaving the RAF he was accepted for



a Geography degree course at Glasgow University. While a student he had a number of holiday jobs; in forestry and as a mortuary porter in the Victoria Infirmary and he played a lot of tennis at Linthouse and in other clubs around Glasgow. However, the most important event in this part of his life occurred on a summer geography field trip to central Europe (led by Professor Alexander Stevens who had been on Shackleton's 1914 Trans-Antarctic Expedition). Here he came across, and fell in love with Alice Hill, a Callander lass. They married in 1951 and lived in James Street, Alva for a time, while Ken taught science and maths in Sauchie Junior Secondary and Alice taught German and Geography in Denny and Stirling High School. Shortly after this he rejoined the RAF

as an Education Officer and was once more at the mercy of RAF postings. Most of this time was spent at RAF Linton-on-Ouse, near York, where Michael was born in 1956. Ken and Alice made many friends at this time. A fellow Education Officer on the station was Don English who went on to a distinguished career in the Methodist Church.

However, this period was not an easy one for Ken particularly, as his mother became ill in Glasgow and his father needed his support. Travel north in their Standard 8 was onerous, and while the RAF may have allowed a certain amount of compassionate leave, it was less accommodating in finding a posting nearer to home. Eventually, to his relief, he was posted to RAF Bishopbriggs. His job remit here seems to have been more peripatetic, supporting young airmen to educational fulfilment across Scotland, including RAF Saxa Vord radar station- as far north as it is possible to be in the UK!

After his mother's death, Ken left the RAF, the family moved from Bishopbriggs to Westerton and Ken returned



to civilian life. He taught geography in Clydebank High School and was heavily involved in Scripture Union in the school. He was also deeply committed to the local church and developed its Sunday School and Youth Fellowship.

Finally, around the time of Peter's birth, and as fate might have decreed, a job was advertised "Principal Teacher of Geography in McLaren High School, Callander". Ken applied, and the rest is history.

**\* A Memorable Journey across "Bangladesh" 46 years ago by a Young Scot from Glasgow; by Ken & Alice Dunn - Callander, Perthshire.**

The final paragraph of that article reflects Ken's beliefs which he applied throughout his life; it reads: "The date was the 25th of December 1943, one of the most important dates in the Christian Calendar, and the end of a journey, never to be forgotten. We, the British, were a people of a different culture from the people of the "greater" India of that time. We were glad to be able to celebrate our own cultural festivals when far from home. Likewise, it is right and proper that the people of Bangladesh should wish to celebrate their culture and religious customs when far from their home country and that they should wish to pass on all that is good and valuable in their own heritage to their children. My wife and I wish the Bangladesh Association Scotland every success in their efforts to do these things and trust that the friendship and understanding between Bangladesh and Scotland will be fostered in both sides and will grow in strength over the years.

## More Memories of Ken Dunn

*Many Callander residents have fond memories of Ken and shared them with me.*

An early member of the Ramblers remembers being part of the small group of walking friends which included Ken and Alice Dunn, Bob MacDonald and Jean Smith. The group met in Ancaster Square at 10am on a Wednesday and enjoyed walks around Callander. This group grew into The Callander Ramblers and the walks went further afield. Walks with Ken always contained information on the history, archaeology, geography, geology, flora or fauna of the area.

'On a walk in the Menteith Hills Ken and I became so involved in studying a flower that we 'lost' the rest of the group. Ken, who always lectured us on always having a whistle for emergencies, had forgotten his. Luckily I had mine and the group were soon reunited.'

Ken took numerous photos which he used to illustrate talks. Many people remember Ken showing his photos and being prompted by Alice when he forgot to mention particular points of interest.

Ken was always interested in the activities of others. He

enjoyed dropping in on friends for coffee and a chat. He loved talking with the children and grandchildren of friends and enjoyed long discussions with them, especially on photography.

Hilary Gunkel remembers how helpful Ken was when Greener Callander were setting up The Friendship garden

George Peden tells me that Ken was largely responsible for the publication of the third edition of James Macdonald's book, Character Sketches of Old Callander in 2006. Ken made the arrangements with the printers, Jamieson and Munro of Stirling; I edited the scanned text and wrote a short preface based largely on what he told me. James Macdonald was Bob Macdonald's father.

Ken loved to drive down to The Meadows, sit on a bench on good days, or in the car when the weather was bad, and read his paper. On a couple of occasions in cold weather the heater in the car caused the car battery to become flat and Ken had to phone for help.

*Jean Fergusson and her brother Robert Vanhagen first met Ken when he came to Callander courting Alice Hill. They kindly sent me the following memories.*

### My memories of Ken by Jean Fergusson.(Vanhagen)

In the late 1940s I first met Ken when he was coming to Callander to see Alice Hill whom he met in the Geography Department of Glasgow University. On 21st March 1951 it was snowing heavily. My father, who owned the electrician's next door to the Hills, had an apprentice constantly shovelling the snow across the pavement to let Alice step into the taxi without spoiling her beautiful, white wedding dress. The wedding in St Bride's Church (now Callander Kirk) was traditional: the Church service followed by a 'Reception' in The Ancaster Hotel. Alice's bridesmaid (I forget her name) wore a long dress in a beautiful purple colour. During Ken's speech he took out his wallet and extracted a £5 note (or maybe in 1951 it was a £1 note)! Ken explained that he and Freddie (the best man) had made a pact that the first one to marry would give the other the note, which was duly handed over.

I can't remember all their movements and dates but I know that Ken was teaching R.A.F. students in York and Shawbury in Shropshire. A very cold place. I remember they lived in Westerton, Bearsden, for a while but it was great pleasure to me when Ken and Alice eventually came back to live in Callander. In the early 60's I taught Michael in P2 in the old Primary School in Craigard Road.

Ken and Alice often popped up to see us at Blaircreich. Many a time they brought their caravan with them. They loved our hills and the big burn. When we moved here to Wester Lennieston they were our most faithful visitors.

Everyone knows that Ken and Alice taught geography for

many years at McLaren High School.

Ken took a lively part in many Callander activities:- School, Church – he was Session Clerk, British Legion, Walking the hills, Chairman of the ‘Callander and District Heritage Society’.

Ken and Alice were prime movers in the 2006 reprint of John MacDonald’s book ‘Characters Sketches of Old Callander.’

Ken produced his own wee book ‘Callander Heritage Trail’. Unfortunately it is not dated.

Several other Callander authors gave their thanks to Ken for his help in their list of acknowledgements’ e.g. The McLaren High School – The First 100 years. Alastair Thompson in his ‘Callander through the Ages.’

Ken was at the heart of many Callander associations. It is small wonder that Ken was Callander’s ‘Citizen of the Year’ and was awarded an M.B.E.

Being a geographer Ken was interested in geology and archaeology. He was at the excavation of the Chambered Cairn at Auchenlaich.

Ken and Alice were interested in wider Church affairs. When Rev. Rebecca lived here, after she retired, I used to meet Ken and Alice there for videos of interest, followed by tea and chat.

Ken knew us so well that, when he visited one Saturday night April 2013 and found no one ‘at home’, he knew he would find me along the road at Rona’s. That night he also met my 4 day old grand-daughter. Again Ken took out his wallet!

I remember Ken and Alice loved choral singing. I remember several concerts of the Stirling Choir when I went to the (Stirling) Albert Hall to hear them.

It was a sad day for all of us when Alice died. Afterwards Ken tried hard to pursue the interests they had shared all their lives.

It was indeed fortunate that Ken and Alice met at G.U. and that so many years were spent greatly to the benefit of Callander.

### **Robert Vanhegen**

We stayed next door to Alice’s parents and I first met Ken when he came to court Alice. We would often travel back to Glasgow on the Sunday night bus. Although he was 9 years older than me, the War meant that we were at University at the same time. Ken graduated from Glasgow University with a B Sc. Honours in Geography.

When I first knew him he was called Jimmy Dunn. By the time he came back to teach in Callander he was Ken Dunn. I don’t know why.

Ken and Alice married in 21st March, 1951. It was a snowy day and we cleared the snow off the pavement so Alice could get to the car without getting her dress wet. Ken and I were very involved in setting up Christian Aid Week in Callander. A collection for Christian Aid had been established by the Reverend McCorquodale. It was later organised by Lady Stainton and then Mary Crichton. I remember at meetings in Ancaster Square Lady Stainton served beer for the men and wine for the ladies. The Biafra War broke out in 1967 and by early 1968 the famine caused by the war was being reported. Bob MacDonald, a great friend of ours, had lived and worked in Biafra for many years and wanted to do something to help the people he had known. We were part of a group set up to organise a week of events to raise money for Biafra. The week was very successful and was the prototype for Christian Aid Week which lasted until the 1990s.



Ken and I were both good mouthorgan players and often provided entertainment at parties and social gatherings. We would play solos and duets and accompanied dancing. Ken and Alice enjoyed entertaining and there were many parties at their home. Sometimes I would be ordered to bring my fiddle as well.

Ken and Alice had a large mobile home and travelled all over, walking and climbing. Ken took lots of photos on their travels and put on many slide shows.

They were also very involved in transporting people to and from hospital appointments in Stirling.

Ken wrote a booklet about walks round The Craggs and the Red Well.

When Hill’s shop was sold Ken took possession of the famous window blind which proclaimed ‘Moss Hag Whisky 3/- a bottle. 18/- a gallon.’ As far as I know it is still in his house.

When St Bride’s and St Kessog’s united in 1985 to form Callander Kirk, Ken and I became Joint Session Clerks.

*Other people in Callander got to know Ken later on in his life. Maryanne Ure, who worked alongside Ken setting up The Ben Ledi View and was very involved with Christian Aid, and David and June Cloggie sent me the following.*

### **A Callander Treasure**

As you will know, Ken Dunn died a few months ago after 97 incredible years. Callander owes him so much



- his books and photos and histories of our wee town, have all been available to tourists and locals alike.

Here are a few memories of the great man, gathered over fifty years in Callander..

The Christian Aid Walk is my favourite memory of Ken. Those of us old enough to remember, mid-May every year will be filled with thoughts of gathering signatures of people willing to financially support the young participants on THE WALK. It was a highlight of the year - and Ken Dunn and Bob McDonald (retired Church of Scotland missionary) were responsible for the routes - yes, routes - there was a shorter route for the very young children and people who could not face the long 'march' - and then there was 'the walk' - different every year - from walks to the Arie Dam to half way up Ben Ledi - it wasn't that high - but it felt like it!! Ken and Bob, who were experienced mountain climbers, spent the winters walking, climbing,, measuring distances,, difficulties etc. They would then appear at the Christian Aid Committee meeting with a huge map, marked out with the walks - from 11 to 14 miles for the long one. At times, some committee members laughed in disbelief - but we all did it!!



The walk and preparations involved brought the town together like nothing else - both the schools, mums with buggies, walkers like me, runners and racers - especially the older primary and high school kids - much of it thanks to two quiet, unassuming middle aged men with a sense of adventure and commitment!

Christian Aid benefited greatly from the determination of the young and not so young of Callander. It was a sad day when it all ended.

As for the BLV, neither Ken nor I ever expected to be editors - we just attended a big meeting, hosted by Stirling Council, to 'help out'. Ken did a lot of footwork and convincing - visiting shops, asking for advertising, phoning plumbers, builders, etc for financial support by way of advertising . He could be a charmer when necessary. And more than 30 years later, the BLV continues to go from strength to strength.

Maryanne Ure

### Memories from David and June Cloggie

We first came to know Ken and Alice when we moved to Callander in 2002, although we had known of them through our daughter's schooldays when they were affectionately referred to as Ma and Pa Dunn. They were supporters of June from the time of her Ordination at Callander Church and Ken particularly with his extensive knowledge of Kirk

affairs. A loving couple in every sense of the word - at Ken's eightieth when he provided the story of his life, and if he missed any detail, Alice would pipe up with the missing information and this would be repeated at other meetings where Ken was doing a presentation, Alice would always be there as back up, and interject as appropriate. I have to say this was always welcomed by Ken. I chauffeured Ken and Alice to the Western Infirmary when Alice got the bad news on her illness - it wasn't a good day but she faced up to it remarkably under these sad circumstances. Soon after the death of Alice Ken would regularly pop in and share our Sunday evening meal regaling us with his experiences, such as when he was fire watching on the rooftop of the Co-op building in Glasgow when a bomb fell nearby and showered him and his fellow firewatcher with debris. A bit closer, he said and we might not have had Tony Blair as prime minister - his fellow fire watcher was Tony Blair's father.

Now there's a thought! After a small dram he was always so knowledgeable on any subject, local history, religion and particularly anything that was of geographical significance. In his mid eighties we attended an art class together, quite typical, he was always wanting to learn something new and when offering an insight on any subject he was always so self deprecating.

The 7-45 Club was one of the many Clubs Ken was part of and as was a hallmark of Ken participating with his customary insight on the wide variety of subjects being discussed, as long as it didn't involve modern technology. His stamina was incredible: a walk around Bracklin Falls with son Michael; followed by a walk down the Lower Craggs and popping in to see us for a lift back were examples in his nineties and an illustration of how he had approached his life generally. The death of Alice was a life changing event for Ken from which he never fully recovered and it blighted his life in his latter years. Ken was respected by all those who knew him in Callander and loved by those who knew him best.

These memories give just a flavour of the person Ken Dunn was, how much Callander owes to him and the love his friends had for him.

*I enjoyed putting this article together and getting to know more about Ken. My thanks to all who contributed.*

Kath Millar



## Callander & District Horticultural Society



Whether you have just started gardening recently, planting a few seeds or vegetables for the first time, or are a more seasoned enthusiast, we would love you to get involved in our Annual Show and related activities. Maybe you enjoy craft, baking or photography? There are competition classes to enter in all these areas and also a dedicated section of competitions just for our younger audience. It's not all about being an expert, it's about sharing a common interest and getting a chance to showcase what you grow, make or bake.

Although the pandemic prevented us from holding our physical Annual Show last year, we held our first ever Virtual Show via our very own dedicated website and were delighted to see new people getting involved and enjoying participation in this event.

We hope to be able to put on a physical Annual Show this year on Saturday 21st August in Callander Kirk Hall but this will be subject to Government guidelines at the time. There will inevitably be some changes to the set up and running of the event in order to keep all competitors, judges, visitors and helpers safe, so we ask you to bear with us as we do this.

Schedules for the show are available from a number of sources :- an electronic copy by email from [cadhortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:cadhortsoc@gmail.com) and printed copies from Callander Post Office, Campbell Butchers, Callander Library and Deli Ecosse.

Our website [www.cadhs.co.uk](http://www.cadhs.co.uk) is live from the end of May and includes details of the schedule and a download facility.

As we cannot be absolutely certain the Show can go ahead, we have also prepared an Abbreviated Schedule. This shorter set of competitions will then be run in a similar way to last year's Virtual Show.

We will also have our own FaceBook page this year which you can find under "Callander and District Horticultural Society".

We are delighted that the Callander Community Council will be sponsoring their Garden Competitions again this year. You can enter your whole garden or choose one of the feature areas. Please watch out for posters/ social media announcements about this. Entries are open from the end of May via the website or by paper entry forms from Deli Ecosse. The Garden Competition Classes for 2021 (Judging in early August) are:

1. Best kept large garden - all ages
2. Best kept small garden - all ages
3. Best kept garden area - Under 12
4. Best kept window box, hanging basket or container
5. Best kept wildflower area
6. Best evening cocktail patio
7. Best family garden

We are a very small committee and would very much welcome help in running the Annual Show later in the year. So if you can spare an hour or so to help with the set up/dismantling, please get in touch by emailing [cadhortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:cadhortsoc@gmail.com).

*The Committee*

## Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club

Rotarians like many other organisations are still not meeting face to face, but through the wonders of Zoom business is still going on. We have even managed to arrange for our new president to take over. At the end of June President Jen Shearer will hand over the reins to Peter Ireland for the 2021/22 year. Peter has served as president before and is hoping that the club will get back to some sort of normality during his year.

In the last edition we publicised the Rotary Young Photographer Competition. The theme was Wild Nature and entries from Eilidh Wilson (on the right) and Alex Duncan (on the left) achieved a Highly Commended. A photograph from each of their portfolios is shown here.



If you would like to find out more about Rotary please look at our website, [www.callander.rotary1010.org](http://www.callander.rotary1010.org) or on Facebook.

*Derek House*



## Callander & West Perthshire u3a

We have had a series of splendid speaker events on Zoom, starting with Ian Gunn, a former prison governor, who delivered a very interesting talk on 'Cyber-Crime.' As many of us have spent an increasing amount of time online during lockdown, Ian's awareness-raising, hints and advice mean we can more readily spot the dangers and keep ourselves safe.

As a group we can now access u3a Online Across Scotland which hosted a presentation by Professor Sir Tom Devine entitled 'New Perspectives on the Clearances'.

Hugh Grant, one of our C&WP members, worked in the field of international development and in his excellent talk he reflected on some of the places he has been, people he met and lessons learned along the way.

We look forward to our AGM in August, details of which will be available nearer the time. Both new and returning members will be very welcome.

We do hope to return to physical meetings as soon as we can. Meanwhile 'Chatterbox' will keep members informed until we can all be back together again.

## German Speaking Group in Callander

Die Einladung zum nächsten Treffen am 25. Juni wird per email an alle Teilnehmer geschickt werden. Falls die (immer wechselnden) COVID Vorschriften ein Treffen, auch im Freien, bis dahin nicht erlauben, wird das Treffen noch einmal auf Zoom stattfinden.

Falls Sie bis jetzt an unseren Treffen nicht teilgenommen haben und mitmachen möchten, schicken Sie mir bitte eine EMail um die Einladung zu unserem Treffen zu erhalten [jensshearer@gmail.com](mailto:jensshearer@gmail.com).

Wir freuen uns auf ein Wiedersehen um 19.30 am Freitag 25.Juni.

NB Im Juli und August hat die Gruppe eine Sommerpause, dann hoffen wir, dass es im September wieder möglich sei, mit den normalen Treffen wieder anzufangen. Mal sehen...



## Callander's Landscape Partnership/Heritage Society

As part of the Callander's Landscape archaeology project, two important Iron Age hillforts will be excavated later in 2021 by AOC Archaeology and the Callander Heritage Society.

Dunmore Hillfort is one of the most well-known archaeological sites in the area and is often seen as the "jewel in the crown" of Iron Age Callander. It sits on the northern edge of Loch Venachar and offers fantastic panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. It is a naturally defensible location, with steep cliff sides on the southern side, which Iron Age peoples reinforced with three

or four ramparts along the flatter western edge of the hilltop.

Given its proximity to the Roman Camp at Bochastle, Dunmore's possible connections to the Roman invasion around 80 CE are tantalising. Did native Iron Age peoples witness the intimidating advance of Agricola's Roman legions marching up through the Pass of Leny? We hope to find dating



evidence at Dunmore to answer this question.

Auchenlaich Hillfort is a lesser-known site, tucked away amidst a conifer plantation in Keltie Glen. It is more difficult to pick out obvious archaeological features at Auchenlaich, with only a single enclosing rampart around the hilltop and an external ditch on the north-west and south-east sides. Compared to Dunmore, which we presume was a high-status settlement with a probable defensive function, Auchenlaich may represent a different type of hillfort, possibly functioning as a proto-urban centre.

We believe there could have been intervisibility between Auchenlaich and Dunmore, but we do not know if they were active at the same time or occupied centuries apart.

Both sites will be investigated through a series of small, hand-excavated trenches at key areas of the sites, e.g. ramparts, entrances, annexes, and interiors. Hopefully we will find dating evidence which will allow us to quickly build up a chronology of occupation and expand our knowledge of Iron Age Callander. These two important sites at Dunmore and Auchenlaich have been researched and selected by Callander Heritage Society, who will coordinate the excavations in partnership with Callander's Landscape and AOC Archaeology. There will be a programme of events, including an online talk in early June which will put the project in its regional and national context. Visit Callander's Landscape website to sign up for the activities at <https://www.callanderslandscape.org/events/> We are aiming for the fieldwork to take place in June and September, with volunteers helping on-site and school visits to both impressive locations.

The Callander Heritage Society said: "We are thrilled to engage with the archaeological fieldwork at these two hillforts. We thank everyone for making this possible."

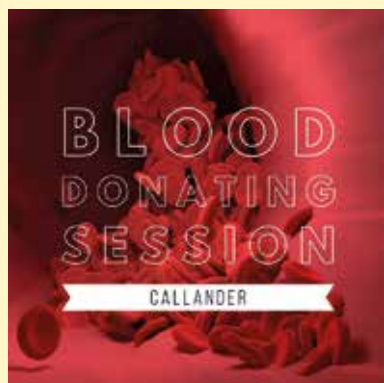
We would like to thank Historic Environment Scotland, National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Forestry and Land Scotland for funding this project, as well as the landowners - the Woodland Trust and Cambusmore Estate Trust - for all their support.

If you would like to keep updated on this project, please sign up to Callander's Landscape mailing list by emailing [clpadmin@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:clpadmin@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

You can also follow the Callander Heritage Society on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/callanderheritage>

Ross Crawford

Jen Shearer



## Blood Donating Session CALLANDER

Monday 19th July 2021  
Callander Kirk Hall  
13:30 - 15:30  
17:00 - 19:00

South Church Street  
Callander  
FK17 8BN

BOOKINGS SHOULD BE MADE BY CALLING 0345 90 90 999  
(MON - FRI 9AM - 5PM) OR  
EMAIL [nss.snbtsequiry@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.snbtsequiry@nhs.scot)

For more information please visit <http://www.scotblood.co.uk/>

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or email [theboathouse@lochtay-vacations.co.uk](mailto:theboathouse@lochtay-vacations.co.uk)

## Town Opening Up at last?

It has been great to see that life is returning to Callander. If you have any activity, club or event that you plan to have blossoming over the next couple of months then please let us know for our next issue (August/September).

Please send details to [editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org)

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Buchlyvie	Gargunnock	Kippen	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Locheehead	
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 5AA  
01786 841101  
[enquiries@rsha.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@rsha.org.uk)  
[www.rsha.org.uk](http://www.rsha.org.uk)

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**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](http://www.nhs24.scot)  
[www.nhsinform.scot](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.stfdac.co.uk) or call  
[01877 330702](tel:01877330702)

Rev Leszek Wiececzek S.A.C.

### Bin Collections

#### June

**Grey/Blue bins** Sat 12th, 26th

**Brown bin/Blue box** Sat. 19th

**Brown/Green bins** Sat. 5th

#### July

**Grey/Blue bins** Sat. 10th, 24th

**Brown Bin/Blue Box** Sat 17th

**Brown/Green bins** Sat. 3rd, 31st

#### August

**Grey/Blue Bins** Sat 7th, 21st

**Brown/Blue Box** Sat 14th

**Brown/Green Bins** Sat 28th

[www.stirling.gov.uk/waste](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/waste)

### Lagrannoch WRC Opening times

- Monday - Friday 5.00pm to 8.00pm
- Saturday 10.00am-2.00pm
- Sunday closed
- Lagrannoch depot [01877 330492](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](http://www.standrewschurchcallander.org.uk)

Interim Pastor Rev Dr Alison Peden

[alisonpeden1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lesley-anne@erisort.com))

[www.callanderbaptistfellowship.org](http://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](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 778778](tel:0800778778)

### 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 6th August 2021.**

### Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the **Aug/Sept** issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Wendy Munro at [advertising@benledi-view.org](mailto:advertising@benledi-view.org) by **Friday 9th July 2021**

Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at [www.benlediview.co.uk](http://www.benlediview.co.uk) under the Advertise tab. Please call or email for advice if in doubt.

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

### Editorial copy

All editorial contributions for the **Aug/Sept** issue should be emailed to [editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org) or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday 9th July 2021.**

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

### Stewart Family Research Project

I am researching my Scottish Stewart ancestors who we believe in Ancient to Medieval times settled in the parish of Callander in an area near the Trossachs of North-central Scotland. My ancestor James Stewart arrived in York, Virginia on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1716 aboard the prisoner ship Elizabeth and Anne as he had taken part in the 1715 uprising. His Family records later appear in Chatham County, North Carolina. Through the use of commercial ancestral DNA testing, I have been able to connect him to his Scottish homeland and verify that we are direct descendants of Robert II, King of Scotland. In May of 2018, I commissioned Dr. Tyrone Bowes who created the Website "Scottish Origenes" [www.scottishorigenes.com](http://www.scottishorigenes.com) to pinpoint my STEWART Scottish Paternal Ancestral Genetic Homeland. We are seeking Stewart males from the parish of Callander, near the Trossachs to participate in a DNA study to confirm the link between the American Stewart genetic homeland and Scottish Stewart genetic homeland. Dr. Tyrone Bowes will help interpret the results of the test and prove a conclusive link.

Many of my relations in the United States have already taken this test and it is highly probable that their DNA will match one of the early Stewart lines in Callander. This is because of the Y- chromosome carried by males which was inherited from their fathers who inherited it from their father who inherited from his father, remaining virtually unchanged in time over hundreds if not thousands of years. When the DNA of two people matches, they are genetically related.

To participate in this project any male Stewart may request one of several free commercial DNA test kits available. The participant should know his ancestry back to his paternal Great Great Grandfather. If unknown, applications will still be considered.

This information will be kept confidential and will only be used for genealogy and family history purposes. DNA tests for genealogy are different from the usual DNA tests as they only test markers that point to ancestral information. The person testing is given a barcoded Kit number and not referred to by name.

More information will be provided if selected for the project. Please send your letter of application to [wordhound48@yahoo.com](mailto:wordhound48@yahoo.com) Please place Callander Scottish Stewart in subject line.

Thank you and best regards,

David Stewart

**Tree works in a Conservation Area** The Kraesult Leny Feus Callander Stirling FK17 8AS  
Ref. No: 2021/0143/TRE | Received: Wed 28 Apr 2021 | Validated: Wed 28 Apr 2021 | Status: Current

**Construction of 510metres of forest road** Invertrossachs Estate Approx 230M East Of Loch Drunkie Dam Callander  
Ref. No: 2021/0142/NOT | Received: Fri 23 Apr 2021 | Validated: Fri 23 Apr 2021 | Status: Current

**Tree works within a conservation area - Felling of mature Laburnum tree**  
Ardtornish 2A Tulipan Crescent Callander FK17 8AR  
Ref. No: 2021/0137/TRE | Received: Fri 16 Apr 2021 | Validated: Tue 20 Apr 2021 | Status: Current

**Retention and operation of existing quarry processing plant and ancillary quarry development and construction of temporary conveyor bridge.** Cambusmore Quarry Doune Callander FK17 8LJ  
Ref. No: 2021/0133/DET | Received: Mon 12 Apr 2021 | Validated: Thu 06 May 2021 | Status: Current

**Change of Use from B & B Guest House (class 7) to a private residential dwellinghouse.**  
Linley 139 Main Street Callander FK17 8BH  
Ref. No: 2021/0131/DET | Received: Fri 09 Apr 2021 | Validated: Tue 13 Apr 2021 | Status: Current

**Change in the use of upper floor office (Class 2) financial services to tourism and leisure (Class 7)**  
Callander Community Development Trust Upper Floor 55 Main Street Callander FK17 8DX  
Ref. No: 2021/0112/DET | Received: Tue 30 Mar 2021 | Validated: Wed 31 Mar 2021 | Status: Current

**Proposed utility extension to dwellinghouse** Eagles Cottage Invertrossachs Road Callander FK17 8HG  
Ref. No: 2021/0105/HAE | Received: Thu 25 Mar 2021 | Validated: Thu 01 Apr 2021 | Status: Current

**Change of use of ancillary building to salon** Corriegowrie Main Street Strathyre Callander FK18 8NA  
Ref. No: 2021/0094/DET | Received: Thu 18 Mar 2021 | Validated: Thu 18 Mar 2021 | Status: Current

**Formation of sports court** Laggan House Laggan Road Strathyre Callander FK18 8NQ  
Ref. No: 2021/0079/DET | Received: Mon 08 Mar 2021 | Validated: Mon 08 Mar 2021 | Status: Current

**Erection of two storey extension to rear elevation** 4 Tomvaine Cottages Brig O' Turk Callander FK17 8HS  
Ref. No: 2021/0070/HAE | Received: Tue 02 Mar 2021 | Validated: Wed 21 Apr 2021 | Status: Current



## In Praise of Motorcyclists

I've been a Callander resident for over thirty years and have always enjoyed a browse of the "Ben Ledi View". Reading the latest issue I was disappointed to see the comment "I also hope we have fewer noisy motorbikes streaming through the town." I have been a keen motorcyclist for an unbroken 44 years and travelled all over Europe and the USA by bike. I've been welcomed everywhere on my "noisy" machines. As a result, I know hundreds of bikers who enjoy a ride out on their bikes and who enjoy stopping and spending their cash in the cafes, bars and businesses along the way.

Does the author intend to convey an image of biker gangs "streaming through the town" as in a scene from a bad movie? Get real! Bikers are decent, friendly professional people just like the majority of society, even if some are in a bike club.

To single out bikes and bikers is discriminatory and biased and based on a personal opinion. What about tipper trucks, HGVs, camper vans?

I hope, for the benefit of all, that we see a lot more people passing through our town, hopefully stopping for a wee while to spend a bob or two and to contribute to the buzz and hustle of a popular tourist town.

Regardless of how they get here!

*Ride on!*  
Rod Johnson

## Stirling Council - For your information

### Local Place Plan (LPP) Regulations consultation

Our colleagues in Planning have asked us to raise awareness of the consultation the Scottish Government is currently running until 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Local Place Plans are community led-plans providing proposals for the development and use of land. Introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 these plans will set out a community's aspirations for its future development. Scottish Government has also published the draft 'How to' Guide which they intend to develop further over the coming months and will publish an online final version when the LPP regulations come into force, planned for the end of the year.

Community Engagement

Community Development | Stirling Council | Old Viewforth | Stirling FK8 2ET

T: 01786 233076 | E: [communityengagement@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@stirling.gov.uk) | W: [stirling.gov.uk](http://stirling.gov.uk)

### What Is it With People and Litter?

I am sure that those watching the news will have seen the aftermath of the 15th May celebrations in Glasgow: all the litter left in George Square for others to pick up, the council in this case.

As has previously been mentioned in these pages, it is unfortunate this attitude, "someone else will pick up their litter", pervades society. Rural areas across the country suffer a similar fate. Locally this is in part due to the lack of waste bins and collection services in lay bys but generally is due to people who, whilst appreciating the beautiful places they have come to visit, unfortunately do not experience the effect of the litter they are leaving behind. No one would want to come and visit a "Midden"!

Maybe there should be a lengthy education campaign to ensure that Littering becomes as socially unacceptable, as Drink Driving or Smoking?

So a big Thank You, to all those who visit and take their rubbish home with them, to the many motivated citizens in

Callander and the surrounding area, who tidy and collect the rubbish of others and also to the Council for their continuous efforts to keep the streets of Callander clean and tidy.

*Neil Michael*

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

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



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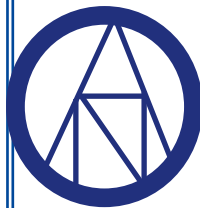
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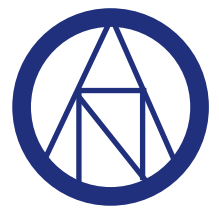
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After nearly 22 years at Janefield Ruskie which has been a fantastic place to be, with truly brilliant customers I have taken the decision to sell up and move to the Borders. I am very happy to say that Eric Utterson at Castle Garage in Doune will 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  
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