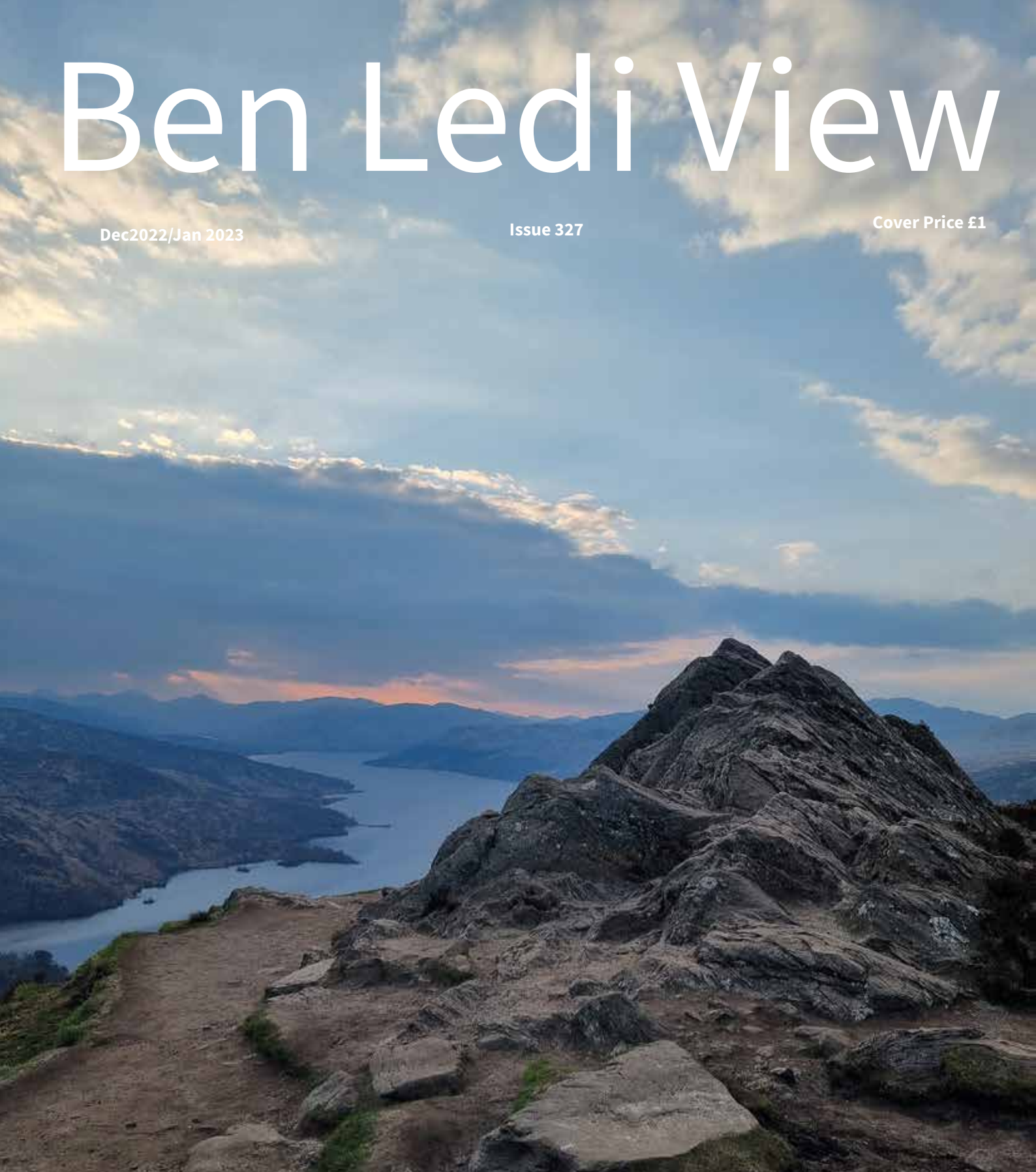


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Dec2022/Jan 2023

Issue 327

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Cover Photo by Jamie Drummond



Convenor's report

It is with sadness and alarm that we have learnt that the residents of Callander will soon not have a local NHS dental service. It looks like they will face the choice of travelling considerable distances for NHS care, or paying to be private patients. One major worry for me and my fellow trustees is that there are many residents of Callander who may not be able to take up either of these alternatives. What are they going to do? I'm pleased that two of our elected representatives, Evelyn Tweed MSP and Cllr Martin Earl, are looking at how NHS dentist provision can be restored in Callander. If you are also worried about this denigration of NHS services in Callander, please contact Evelyn at evelyn.tweed.msp@parliament.scot and Martin at earlm@stirling.gov.uk

It's a year ago that storm Arwen battered Callander and its locality. I can remember enduring a weekend without power, being reliant on candles and being thankful for our gas cooker. Well, given the ever-increasing unpredictability of our weather due to climate change it is timely that the Callander Community Development Trust has proposed a resilience leaflet for the town's residents. The plan is to provide us with information on how to better prepare and deal with weather related incidents and emergencies. You can contribute to this process by following the instructions in the article on page 8.

Subscriptions

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On page 11 we have another article about the Ripple Retreat centre. We are so fortunate that the Good 2 Give charity choose to locate this wonderful facility in our area, on the shore of Loch Venachar. It's great how local businesses have been able to support the charity, and long may they continue to do so. You, as individuals can also help support this worthy cause by following the suggestions in the article.

One interesting piece in this month's edition is on page 15, "20 odd years in the National Park." I never realised that the residents of Callander had a choice about whether they wanted the town to be part of the park or not. It would be interesting to discuss whether we regret the decision that was made then. To join this debate, see contact details in the article

I would like to draw your attention to a piece that I've written that appears on page 24 of the magazine. We desperately need further volunteer help in producing the Ben Ledi View. Without this extra help we may not be able to continue to publish the magazine in its current format. As we publish only once every two months volunteering with us doesn't have to be a big drain on your time and can be incredibly interesting and rewarding. Please get in touch with me at convenor@benlediview.org if you're interested and want to know more.

Have a happy Christmas
and super New Year!

Steven McGowan

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Christmas Events

Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights switch on will take place on Saturday 3rd December. The parade will leave Callander Medical Centre at 4.00pm. Families are welcome to join the parade and children are encouraged to put on fancy dress. At Ancaster Square the lights will be switched on by a local celebrity with prizes for the three best fancy dress costumes. There will be live Christmas music with mulled wine, hot chocolate and cakes served.

Callander Window Wanderland (CWW)

CWW will take place over the weekend of 9th to 11th December. The theme this year are the colours blue and yellow to represent the colours of the Ukraine flag. As happened last year please register to take part at www.callanderwindowwanderland.co.uk and if you give us permission, your location will be included on a map of Callander which will be on the website. The displays can be made from coloured tissue paper and illuminated from behind. Anyone can take part. During the weekend everyone can wander around the town, using the map to see all the displays. We will take photographs of each display and they will be judged at the Callander Seniors Christmas Party. The three best displays will receive a prize. We then encourage everyone to keep their displays so that they add to the Christmas decorations.

Callander Seniors Christmas Party

This year's party will be held at CYP, Bridgend on Wednesday 15th December. It is open to all seniors (over 65ish) in Callander. To book your place either add your details into the book in the Post Office from 15th November, email Mary at marymnv@aol.com or ring Mary on 331020. Transport will be available from 5.00pm and the party will be from 6.00pm to 9.30pm. A full Christmas dinner will be served with wine and juice, a raffle will be held, Santa might make an appearance and entertainment will again be from Squeeze and Teeze. There is no charge for this event as it is generously supported by local organisations and businesses. Merry Christmas to you all.

Richard and Mary Johnson

Callander Community Council (CCC):December update

CCC Meetings

The meeting in October focused on three items of ongoing community concern. The discussions have identified details for follow up, which are being addressed in the November and December meetings.

- Public safety. The presentation gave an overview from the Police Scotland perspective. This provided an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. The general feeling was that it was useful, and should be repeated every few months, subject to police time constraints.
- Flooding. Written answers to the questions submitted to the SC Flooding Officer had been received. One of the questioners discussed the updated timescale, to be included in the November meeting with the Floods Officer present.
- Bracklinn Falls Bridge. Murray McKellar, LLTNP Project Manager, gave an online slide presentation which then led to discussion and requests for further ideas and comments. Again, these are being followed up at the November and December meetings.

We welcome comments and ideas - and your participation in December (see below).

Mulled wine and mince pies, anyone...?

The final 2022 meeting of Callander Community Council will be held on Monday 19th December, in CYP, Bridgend, Callander. We plan to hold a shortened business meeting, followed by a social event with mulled wine and mince pies. This will be a chance for you to meet your community councillors and any member of the public can attend. I would appreciate if you could let me know, for catering purposes, if you are planning to attend the meeting in person. If wishing to join online, please email me at secretarycc556@gmail.com and I will forward the ZOOM meeting link to you, although you'll miss out on the food and chat, so do try to attend in person if you can.

Susan Holden, Chair, Callander Community Council

Coffee, Cake, Chatter



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

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Buchlyvie	Gargunnoch	Kippen	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Locheamhead	
Deansston	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:

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 Stirling Road, Doune FK16 6AA

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enquiries@rsha.org.uk
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St Kessog's Update

There was no update in the last issue of the BLV, as despite trying to find out more several times, there was no new information. This month Stirling Council has sent the following update.

"The St Kessog's Community Working Group are continuing work on the design and costs for the re-development of St Kessog's. There has been a significant increase in the projected costs for the project, mainly because of the external economic conditions and the completion of the External Fabric Condition Survey - which has identified additional works required. As a result, we are working with all partners to look at additional funding and full options appraisal - which will be presented in due course. Steve MacDonald, Stirling Council"

When we get any definite information, we will share it. I can only apologise because I thought we were actually making progress and led you to believe that the re-development of our much-loved St Kessog's (owned by Stirling Council) would start next year. Clearly this is now in doubt.

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

Local Place Plan

By the time you read this, our Place Plan will have been delivered to the Park. If all goes well a full version will be available to read online or download at: <https://callandersfuture.uk/ourplaceplan>

In the past, Community Action Plans were published in print; but escalating costs mean that we must change the way we make information available. Thanks to funding from the Braes of Doune Community Fund we will still produce a small number of printed copies but these will be available only to those without online access from the library, and on a first come, first served, basis.

Our Place Plan sets out our vision of a connected, active, prosperous, resilient, cohesive community, and suggests how these aims can be achieved. Callander's residents have a strong sense of place and believe that the integrity of our natural and built environment should be protected without compromising the economic benefits of living in a setting of outstanding natural beauty.

There is now a structure in place for change over the next 10 years and a delivery plan highlighting our community priorities. As a note of caution, I should add that driving change will need a dedicated Development Officer. However, at the time of writing the funding needed for this post has not been secured or offered.

I have fulfilled my role as the Local Place Plan co-ordinator and will have stepped down by the time you read this. I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in what must have seemed like endless consultations and focus groups. Your support and enthusiasm have produced the most detailed and far-reaching series of proposals since the Charrette.

Helen Terry

National Park

The National Park office in Callander was an active community facility for many years and it also provided office space for staff. It is currently only used for staff office space and its future is being considered. The current office is not the best facility for the future. This is being reviewed and I am pushing hard for a facility which will also serve the needs of the community as well as visitors.

Several strategic reviews are being carried out over the next few months including three which will be important for Callander. The Local Development Plan (LDP) will cover all communities in the National Park and will use previous LDPs as well as community consultations to develop an outline plan for the settlement. The Callander South Master Plan is closely related to the LDP and has been in development since the 2011 Callander Charrette. It is looking at new developments south of the river, what is needed by the community, businesses and visitors, infrastructure and the best locations for all developments.

The National Park will have to "take account" of the Callander Local Place Plan in the preparation of the LDP. Other matters which the National Park is considering include the "Climate Emergency", "Nature Crisis", visitor management post Covid, sustainable travel and rural economic development.

Dr Richard Johnson, Callander Board Member

Community Project Funding

Are you planning a project or activity that will benefit Callander? You could get funding from the Callander Community Hydro Fund. Anyone can apply - you just have to show how you will make a difference. The next deadline for applications is 31st December for a decision in early February. There is no set minimum or maximum amount and, at present, about £50,000 is available each year. Larger awards may be offered in instalments over a longer period, subject to funds being available. Grants offered in the last year included Callander Jazz & Blues Festival, printing Trossachs Trail leaflets, Callander Enterprise for Christmas tree lights, Greener Callander for refurbishing the community friendship garden in South Church Street, Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau to set up a Callander hub, and Callander Visitor Information Centre. Since December 2015, more than £300,000 has been awarded to a wide range of local groups and projects. The full list is posted on our website (link below).

The funds come from a hydro scheme in Stank Glen near Loch Lubnaig, run and maintained by local volunteers. The company gifts profits to the Development Trust who set up the Community Hydro Fund to distribute funds to community projects.

More information and application forms are at https://incallander.co.uk/ccdt_hydrofundgrants or contact the Fund Coordinator, Sheila Winstone, at hydrofund@callandercdt.org.uk or on 07539 793806.



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A Wonderful Time of Year

This is a wonderful time of the year not just for humans but also our four-legged pets. Think of our pets as inquisitive child-like beings, fascinated with all the new things in their environment and eager to investigate. Like young children, they lack the knowledge of what can do them harm but have the desire, ability and power to break and ingest objects during their investigations.

There is a range of potential hazards around outside and in your home at this time of year and you should be aware that tasty foods, food waste, presents, interesting decorations and new plants can be hard for curious animals to resist.

Please make sure you are informed of what is harmful to them. Please keep them out of reach of your pet when not supervised. Please know how to contact a vet especially over the holiday period; that includes when visiting friends, family and outwith working hours.

It is easy to become preoccupied with family and friends during the happy outdoor time or during the celebrations and we don't always keep track of what our furry friends are up to. If you find that your pet has eaten something they shouldn't have, whether you think it is harmful or not, follow these basic steps:

1. Stop your pet from ingesting more.
2. Contact your vet for advice immediately and be ready to provide information on what was ingested, when, where and how it occurred, as well as quantity consumed.

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The staff of Riverside Veterinary Clinic wish you all, whether furry or not, a very happy, but safe winter and festive season.

Marslaidh Smith BVM&S MRCVS



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Resilience Leaflet for Households in Callander

By the time you are reading this article, the Climate Change talks at COP27 will have just finished and we will be 12 months on from the devastation caused by Storm Arwen.

Both of these prompt questions around Callander's resilience to the potential adverse weather impacts and storms that lie ahead, if climate action isn't taken now at a global and local scale.

Callander Community Development Trust currently has a small amount of National Lottery Funding from the "Together for Our Planet Programme", to help reinvigorate the Climate Change Action planning in Callander that was first undertaken in 2012. As an initial step in this project, and in time for any bad winter weather, the project has produced a small resilience leaflet for households in Callander. The leaflet provides some useful summary guidance on how to help yourself in bad weather which we hope will help start wider conversations on resilience and climate change planning in Callander.

There is plenty of existing guidance to



help households develop their own resilience plans. These three websites caught our attention: The Scottish Government - <https://ready.scot/>, Stirling Council - <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/emergencies-and-emergency-planning/> and Red Cross UK - <https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/heatwaves-uk/wildfires>

Our leaflet aims to provide a handy summary of all this guidance together with emergency contact information, in a format that can be easily "stuck on the fridge". It also invites people to think how they could volunteer to support a more resilient Callander. We'd be grateful if you could take a few minutes to fill out a couple of questions by scanning the QR code in

this article, which will take you to the online survey. (Alternatively, you can complete the tear-out slip in the leaflet and drop into the library).

The project is being led by Marilyn Moore, Carol McGowan and Chiara Fingland who would love to hear from you if you would like to join the project. There is currently funding for a self-employed project officer to hold conversations with groups

in Callander about Climate Change and develop the website.

To contact us, either email callanderclimatefringe@gmail.com or return the tear-out slip in the leaflet to the library.



Carol McGowan

Greener Callander needs your votes

We are really pleased to announce that Greener Callander (as Callander Community Development Trust) has been selected as one of three charities able to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund. Our application is to help renovate the Community Garden in South Church Street. Money will be allocated in October 2023 and how much we receive depends on how many Co-op members select us as their preferred cause over the next year.

You can choose our cause on <https://membership.coop.co.uk/>



[causes/73443](https://www.coop.co.uk/coop-causes/73443).

For every £1 you spend and swipe your Co-op Membership card, 2p goes into your own membership account and the Co-op also donates 1p to the Local Community Fund. You can choose our cause online as above, download the App <https://www.coop.co.uk/coop-app>

[app](#)

or phone the Membership Support Centre on 0800 0686727. You earn money at all Co-op stores, not just Callander and Co-op members across the country can vote for any cause, so get your relatives on board too!

We are the only Callander cause in this round so please support us. It won't cost you a penny and we will have a better Community Garden. Thank you.

Lesley Hawkins

Small Bird Migration

The Scottish Wildlife Trust Callander Local Group, which includes villages from Doune to Crianlarich, held its first live meeting for two and a half years on 13th October, filling St Andrew's Church Hall.

Mark Wilson (BTO) gave a fascinating talk on 'Where Do Our Wee Birds Go?' Breeding Bird Surveys over 1995-2012 show wide variations in the success of birds which breed in the UK but winter in Africa; turtle doves show a huge decline while blackcaps have increased. Why? Is it due to their migration route, where they overwinter, climate change or a mixture of many factors?

Six species of small passerines which breed in Scotland were studied; wood warbler, willow warbler, whinchat, garden warbler, tree pipit and spotted flycatcher. Caught in mist nets and/or perch traps, they were fitted with a combination of coloured leg rings for identification of individual birds. Micro-trackers, weighing 0.35 – 0.5g



Spotted Flycatcher



Whinchat male

images RSPB

(3-4% of the birds' body weight) were also fitted to many, like a tiny backpack with leg loops. The active component is a light sensor which gives a reading every minute. These allow calculation of latitude from day length and longitude from solar midday. Its accuracy is + 100km, sufficient to track migration routes over the 13 month battery life. However, they cannot be read remotely so birds still need to be caught to retrieve them.

Initial results show that birds which winter in Africa's humid zone are decreasing faster than those which winter in arid zones. They cannot leave Africa until after the rains so they can

feed up. However, climate change is leading to a mismatch between their arrival and the emergence of their food in the UK. Therefore the later spring in Scotland may be a benefit, now 2 weeks behind the south of England and only an extra day's flight.

There may also be a benefit from the harsher winters in Scotland which take their toll on resident birds while milder southern winters allow better survival of resident birds, leading to more competition for food and nest sites and potentially more predators. Who would have thought Scottish weather would be a good thing!

Data interpretation is complex, so is ongoing. Only a small number of trackers have been retrieved to date, so the emphasis next year will be on retrieval.

Lesley Hawkins

Your woods – your views ..just 5 minutes of your time please

In the last issue of the BLV we asked for your help to complete a short survey to give the Callander Working Group guidance and ideas about what you wanted for our woods as part of the next 10 year Forestry and Land Scotland plan. THANK YOU to everyone who has helped us so far, and if you haven't sent us anything yet, then it's not too late, so PLEASE HELP US.

The questions are:

- 1. Which woods do you go to: Coilhullan, Upper Craggs, Easter Torrie, Wester Torrie?**
- 2. How often do you visit the woods?**
- 3. What do you do there?**
- 4. What do you like about the woods?**
- 5. What improvements would you like to see?**
- 6. Any other comments?**

You can email your answers to us at callanderwoodlandgroup@gmail.com or you can access the survey online, by

using the QR code here, which is also displayed at the entrances to the woods, or you can pick up a form from various places around Callander (Post office, Ben Ledi Café, Medical Centre, McLaren Leisure, CYP etc.) and drop it off at the library.

Please help if you can, we really want to hear your views

THANK YOU.



Our group has made good progress clearing the paths in Coilhullan and if you'd like to join our volunteering sessions please email us. The dates for our next outings (weather permitting) are 10th December, 12th January 28th January.

callanderwoodlandgroup@gmail.com.

Sue King on behalf of the Callander Woodland Group

A Sad Goodbye

Our world sailors have had to curtail their voyage. Chris has badly injured his neck and has been advised not to ride a bike again, therefore the plan to sail/cycle around the world has had to be revised. We will not be getting regular updates from them, but wish them all the best for their future whatever it may be.

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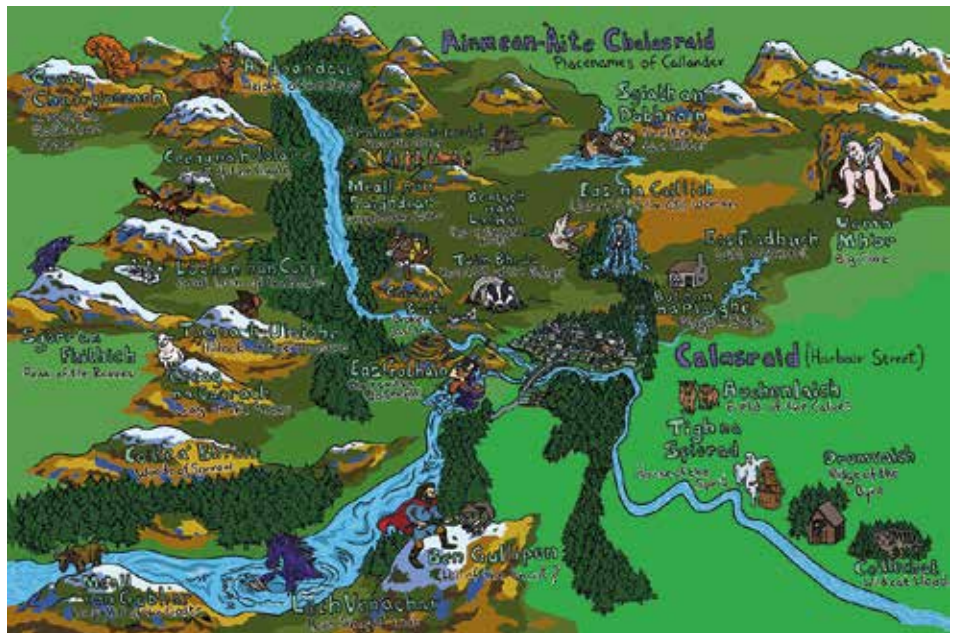
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Bilingual interpretation panels installed to promote Gaelic heritage of Callander



New signage is in place in Callander to help preserve locally important Gaelic words and place names and to promote the use of Gaelic as an active living language.

The new bilingual panels were commissioned by Callander Landscape, following a funding award of £3000 from Bòrd na Gàidhlig through their Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) scheme. They will also provide reference in the Gaelic language for local volunteers, helping them to lead guided walks on place-name trails around Callander. One of the panels is in the Visitor Centre and the second is at Bochastle Car Park

Loss of hotels in National Park a cause for concern

This Charity is worried about the dilution of tourism and drift towards dormitory towns and villages

Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs has expressed concern about the growing number of small and medium size hotels being lost to private residential accommodation and other uses, which is accelerating the trend towards creating more dormitory settlements and reducing local employment opportunities.

There are currently three applications before the Park Authority in Callander, St Fillans and Kilmun for change of use of hotels and this follows on from the loss of a raft of hotels in recent years due to the impact of COVID 19, major increases in running costs, staffing difficulties and owner lifestyle changes with conversion to private residential or self-catering holiday accommodation being more profitable and less demanding.



Ripple Retreat.

It was a wonderful summer at the Ripple Retreat, and one we're thrilled to be invited to reflect on, following a lovely welcome article in the last issue of the Ben Ledi View.

We were delighted to introduce you all to our charity. It's Good 2 Give has been so warmly welcomed by the local community since we established the Ripple Retreat in 2017, and it seems only fair to keep that same supportive community up to date with our support of young cancer patients and their families.

We welcome families from all over Scotland to enjoy a few days of calm and relaxation at the Ripple Retreat, and we're always on the lookout for other local business partners to help make those days even more special. We're hoping to connect with family-friendly restaurants that could offer vouchers or a free meal to guests. If you're able to recommend a venue, or manage a venue yourself, then please do let us know. We are already lucky enough to know the Atrium and Old Bank Hotel, as well as Blair Drummond Smiddy. Perhaps you're even keen to support a family visiting the Retreat by donating a voucher for a meal out? Again, please do get in touch.

So far this year, It's Good 2 Give has welcomed 23 families of young cancer patients to our fantastic Ripple Retreat on the shores of Loch Venachar. They had the chance to spend time together to focus on being a family away from the everyday challenges of gruelling and lengthy procedures. We have also made the retreat available to families who have sadly lost their child to cancer to give them time to reflect together as a family.

Our Welcome Volunteers provide a friendly and welcoming smile for each family as they arrive on a Saturday morning. After a tour of the retreat and explanation of how things work, we leave the family to themselves to enjoy the wonderful surroundings.

Loch Venachar Sailing Club continues to be welcoming neighbours, taking our visitors out on the loch, and showing boundless kindness to our guests. The fantastic folks at Wheels Cycling Centre also kindly provide us with great opportunities for guests to enjoy the area on two wheels. We are extremely grateful to all organisations who enable families to take part in an activity and want to extend our thanks for the kindness they show to families.

We know how welcome these can be to our guests. Most families take advantage of a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park during their stay. It's clearly an adventure for kids of all ages! Families can also enjoy Go Ape and a cruise on Loch Katrine if they wish. We do all we can to make sure that families spend time together just being a family, and that children can just be children, not young cancer patients.

More recently, Debbie and Dene from Loch Venachar Lodges have chosen us as their Charity of the Year. Thanks to their kindness, we receive a donation from each booking at their lodges and recently donated a short break at their award winning 'Coorie' lodge to raise funds for our charity. It's a lovely gesture, and another sign of what a great community we find ourselves in.

As Christmas is just around the corner, we have a range of unique Christmas cards, designed exclusively for It's Good 2 Give. All cards are printed in Scotland on sustainable paper. Packs are £5 for a pack of 10 cards and can be ordered by contacting carla@itsgood2give.co.uk. P&P is a small additional charge, or you can arrange to collect them from the Ripple Retreat free of charge on a Thursday. A great chance to see our wonderful location too! All designs are available to view on our website. www.itsgood2give.co.uk

One of the ways you can raise funds is to sign up for the Callander 10k in March 2023. A great incentive if getting fitter is on your "to do" list! We don't charge families to stay at the Ripple Retreat as we don't want cost to be a barrier, so we'd love your support. Simply sign up to take part and set up a Just Giving page choosing It's Good 2 Give as your chosen charity.

We're grateful to be part of such an amazing community. We look forward to building on those roots in future to continue to deliver on our work to support young cancer patients and their families in Scotland.

Lynne McNicoll, It's Good 2 Give

For further information on how to support us, please email lynne@itsgood2give.co.uk

To find out about our Welcome Volunteer role please email volunteers@itsgood2give.co.uk





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Citizens Advice on Dentist Issues

This service is focussed on assisting individual members of the public with advice queries. We are not able to give out legal advice to third party organizations like yourself.

However, we can state that no dentist is required by law to see NHS patients. They have the option to de-register from providing NHS treatment if they so decide. This has led to issues for people across Scotland who have then had to seek out a new dentist. Clearly, this is even more problematic for people living in rural areas like Callander.

If people need to source a new dentist they should go to the NHS Inform website: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>

They can search for an NHS dentist by going to the Find a Dentist button and then giving their postcode area.

If anyone is not registered with a dentist and requires treatment they can also contact NHS Dental Services (Forth Valley)

<https://nhsforthvalley.com/health-services/az-of-services/dental-services/>

Tel: 01324 614 670

The bureau cannot comment on the political ramifications of an issue like this. We suggest you should pursue such complaints via elected representatives such as the local MP or MSP.

Kind regards,

The Advice Team

Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau

Tel: 01786 470239

See - <https://www.scotsman.com/health/one-in-10-dentists-no-longer-offering-nhs-treatments-foi-finds-3896012>

Dentists say that NHS Dentistry in Scotland has been raised as a concern on many an occasion by the professional bodies the BDA, Scottish Dental Association as well as individual practitioners, to the Scottish Government. With the rising costs of materials, overheads for the practice and staff costs are amongst other challenges that dentists are facing. The package of remuneration set out by the government in the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) no longer covers the cost of providing the service.

COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

Salted Chocolate Cookies

Makes 16

INGREDIENTS

- 375g icing sugar (sifted)
- 100g cocoa powder (sifted)
- 1 tbsp cornflour
- 1 large egg plus 2 large egg whites
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 175g dark chocolate chips
- Sea salt flakes

METHOD

- Preheat oven to 180°C, 160°C Fan, Gas No 4.
- Line 2 baking tins with baking parchment.
- In a large bowl mix icing sugar, cocoa powder, cornflour and 1tsp salt. In a jug combine egg, egg whites and vanilla. Mix egg mixture into dry mixture and fold in the chocolate chips.
- Space heaped tbsps of dough 5 cm apart on the lined baking trays. Sprinkle over a little sea salt.
- Bake for 14-16 mins until puffed up and cracked. Cool on the baking sheets. Remove using a palette knife.
- Store in an airtight container.



MINOR INJURY?

Please call NHS 24 first on 111

- For healthcare advice
- A video or telephone consultation with a local healthcare professional
- A face-to-face appointment with an Emergency Nurse Practitioner, if you require further assessment or treatment

What is a Minor Injury?

- Sprains and strains
- Broken bones
- Minor burns and scalds
- Minor head injuries
- Cuts and grazes
- Insect bites and stings
- Infected wounds
- Minor eye injuries
- Minor ear injuries

For more information visit www.nhsforthvalley.com/miu

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116 123 FREE
This number is FREE to call

07725 90 90 90
Available 24/7

jo@samaritans.org
samaritans.org

SAMARITANS

If you can't wait until your GP surgery reopens

111

NHS 24

www.nhs24.scot

HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED BY SEXUAL VIOLENCE?
For support and information please call Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline

Freephone:
08088 01 03 02

Email:
support@rapecrisisScotland.org.uk
For more information:
www.rapecrisisScotland.org.uk

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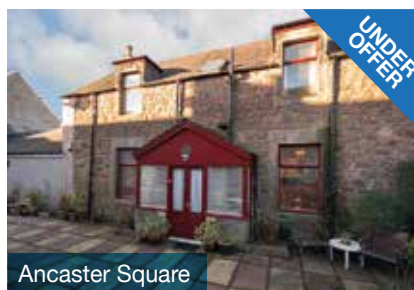
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This is Kathryn and Loucas George. We are from the States, but recently moved permanently to Callander. We absolutely love it and feel very fortunate! We are in a lovely maisonette apartment, but wanted to bring some of the outdoor beauty of Callander into our home. Thanks to the store, Creative In Callander, we were exposed to several amazing artists in the area. We fell in love with Pamela A. Bell's watercolour piece, that is 'literally' our backyard! We have a beautiful view from the back of our residence, of the River Teith and the bridge.

We decided to contact Pamela Bell, and see if she would be willing to do her watercolour piece that depicted 'our' Callander backyard perfectly. Pamela was game, and her final result was spectacular!

The photos of her mural that is in our entryway with Pamela herself are shown. She does watercolour,

mosaics, all kinds of things. Now, she can add 'Muralist' to that list! We feel SO fortunate that she has made our home even more special than it already is.

We just wanted to share her art! And ~ how happy and lucky we feel to be in Callander.

Kathryn & Loucas George

P.s Kathryn is a professional photographer and currently has an exhibition in Edinburgh

Twenty-odd years of the National Park

Twenty years ago the people of Callander were asked whether they wanted to be in or out of the National Park area. This was at the time the National Park was being established. The people of Callander voted to become part of the National Park. This decision over the years has had a considerable effect on Callander and its people. There are pros and cons to most decisions that are made and this was true in this case. Do the pros outweigh the cons? Or is it the other way round? What is your experience?

After 20 years of hindsight, did the people of Callander make the right decision?

Let us know your thoughts on this - to editor@benlediview.org or by letter to the library or the Leisure Centre (addressed to the Ben Ledi View)



Claish Farm wins top Affordable Housing award

A housing development in Stirlingshire that has brought 50 new affordable homes to the local area has won a national Award, with the partners behind the plans believing it could be a blueprint for other parts of Scotland.

Built by Lovell for Rural Stirling Housing Association, Claish Farm, just outside Callander, won the Scottish Chartered Institute for Housing (CIH) award for "Excellence in Development for Affordable Housing" at a ceremony last week. The development consists of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom family and specific need homes with a mixture of bungalows, terraced and semi-detached houses. The now completed development saw its last resident move in to their home in December 2021.

Last year, the development won Silver in the Lovell National Health & Safety Awards and was praised for accessibility and use of paving, as well as its safety procedures during Covid and building good relationships with neighbouring businesses.



What's On for December and January

REGULAR MEETINGS

Mondays:

- Mondays: Body Fit 7.00-7.45 am McLaren Leisure
- Active Life 9.30-10.30 am McLaren Leisure
- Chair Yoga 11.00-12noon McLaren Leisure
- Core Fit Express 1.00-1.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Climbing Club (children) 4.00pm and 5.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Soccer School (5-7 yrs) 5.00pm, (8-11 yrs) 6 pm McLaren Leisure
- Highland Dancing 4.00pm Kirk Hall: last on 5th December, restarts on 17th January
- HIT Circuits 7.00-7.45 McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 6.00-6.45pm and 7.00-7.45pm McLaren Leisure
- CAOS rehearsals McLaren High School 7.30pm until 12th December start back on 9th January
- Indoor Cycling 8.00-9.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Core Fit 8.00-8.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Guides 6.30-8.00pm St Andrew's Church Hall
- Callander Pipe Band practice/teaching 7.00pm Masonic Hall
- Open rink night Bowling Club 7.00pm Visitors/beginners welcome (bowls available) Contact Donald [075134 488453](tel:075134488453)

Tuesdays:

- Callander Cycle Meander meet 10.00am Ancaster Square (contact [01877 339074](tel:01877339074))
- Aqua Therapy 9.30-10.30am McLaren Leisure
- MumFit 11.00-12 noon McLaren Leisure
- Yoga Basics 12.30-1.45 McLaren Leisure
- Gentle Yoga 2.00- 3.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Strength and Balance 3.00 -4.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Body Fit Express 1.00 - 1.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Power Fit 6.00-6.45pm McLaren Leisure

- AquaFit 7.15-8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Badminton Club 7.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Evening Yoga 7.30-9.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Taekwondo 7.00-9.00pm McLaren Leisure

Wednesdays:

- Cycle Fit 7.00-7.45 am McLaren Leisure
- Active Life 9.30-10.30 McLaren Leisure
- Citizens Advice Bureau 10.00am-12.30pm Callander Library
- Teapot Café 10.30am Callander Kirk Hall Library
- Body Fit Express 1.00- 1.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Core Fit Express 5. 30-6.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Bowls 2.00pm (as Monday) Bowling Club
- Yoga 7.00-8.30 Kirk Hall (bring a mat)
- Body Fit 7.00-7.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 8.00-8.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Taekwondo (contact falkirktaekwondo@gmail.com)

Thursdays:

- Aqua Therapy 9.30-10.30am McLaren Leisure
- Town Break 10.30-12.30 St Andrew's Church Hall
- Craigard Club meet for lunch 12.00-2.00pm Callander Hostel
- Power fit 6.00-6.45pm McLaren Leisure
- HIIT 7.00-7.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 7.00-7.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Core Fit 8.00-8.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Redtooth Poker League at Lade Inn 7.30pm all welcome

Fridays:

- Body Fit 7.00-7.45 am McLaren Leisure
- MumFit 11.00- 12noon McLaren Leisure
- Power Fit Express 1.00-1.30pm McLaren Leisure

- Cycle Fit Express 5.30-6.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Spike Island 8.15 -9.15 pm McLaren Leisure

Saturdays :

- Body Fit 9.00-9.45 am McLaren Leisure
- HIIT 9.30-10.00am McLaren Leisure

Sundays

- Redtooth Poker League at Lade Inn 6.00pm all welcome

December

Friday 2nd

- CAOS concert with junior choir

Saturday 3rd

- Christmas Lights Switch on 4.00pm Ancaster Square

Thursday 8th

- Bingo session 2.00-3.00pm. Doors Open 1.45pm. Cost £1.00 Callander Hostel. Enquiries to Jen Shearer

[07710232908](tel:07710232908)

Sunday 11th

- Film Society 'The Duke' 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm) Callander Hostel

Monday 12th

- Music and Memories 2.00-3.30pm Kirk Hall

Thursday 15th

- SWT Group talk 'Raptor Conservation' by Dave Anderson 7.30pm StAndrew's Church Hall

Friday 16th - Sunday 18th

- Sleigh with Santa and elves
- **Saturday 17th**
- Winter Disco McLaren Leisure Centre
- German-speaking group 2.00pm Coilhallan House, Invertrossachs Road (NB New time & venue)
- **Sunday 18th**
- Cookies with Mrs Claus, McLaren Leisure

Thursday 22nd

- Kids Camp Winter Party, McLaren Leisure

Saturday 24th

- Christmas Carols at Trossachs Kirk 6.30pm A family event, all welcome wear your Christmas jumpers. Maybe mince pies on offer.

What's On (cont)**January****Friday 4th****Ben Ledi View deadline****Monday 9th**

Music & memories 2.00-3.00pm Kirk Hall

Thursday 12th

- SWT talk Rosie Walker of Froglife 'Scottish amphibians: why they need our help' 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Sunday 15th

- Film Society 'The Road Dance' 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm) Callander Hostel

Saturday 21st

- German Speaking Group 2.00pm Coilhallan House, Invertrossachs Road

February**Friday 3rd****Ben Ledi View published****Saturday 4th**

- CAOS Coffee Morning 10.30am



Winter is a wonderful time of year at McLaren Leisure. There is a little bit of Christmas magic sprinkled over all of our activities. Children are practising their best snow flake floating and helping Santa to load his sleigh during their swimming lessons, the smells of delicious warming soups fill the corridors and our Christmas events are ones not to be missed. This year we have lots of Christmas fun planned for all ages, from festive themed fitness classes to winter discos and decorating cookies with Mrs Claus in our soft play area. You won't want to miss out on these. Head on over to our website to save your space in one of our sessions or to find out more!

If you're writing your Christmas list, then why not ask for the gift of play, fun, health or fitness this year. We have a wonderful selection of monthly and annual passes available, ideal for the young to the young-at-heart. From running and climbing in soft play, splashing in the pool with family and gaining health and fitness benefits from the gym and classes, we have you covered. Don't forget! - shopping local this Christmas means more than just a gift for a loved one, it's supporting your local community too. Find out more on 01877 330 000 or visit www.mclarenleisure.co.uk

Winter Opening Hours 2022/23

- Saturday 24th December 09:00-15:00
- Sunday 25th & Monday 26th December Closed
- Tuesday 27th – Friday 30th December 09:00-17:00
- Saturday 31st December 09:00-15:00
- Sunday 1st & Monday 2nd January Closed
- Tuesday 3rd January Normal opening hours resume

Check out our online booking system for bookable session times during our winter opening hours.

2023 brings lots of new exciting events and activities to McLaren Leisure. We look forward to the launch of our new year fitness class timetable, new children's activities and events and this year we celebrate 25 years of McLaren Leisure so watch this space for more information on how you can celebrate with us!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from All of the Staff and Board at McLaren Leisure.



9th Callander Scout Group



The past year for the 9th Callander Beavers, Cubs and Scouts has seen a return to our usual outdoor programmes, packed with adventurous outdoor activities, where our members learn new skills, get involved with the community and most importantly, have fun!

Our groups have consistently been operating at maximum capacity thanks to the efforts of our leaders, volunteers and committee members who have been able to make these activities possible for as many people as we can. We have an ever lengthening waiting list to join, however we cannot offer more spaces unless we have enough leaders in the group to support it. If you are interested in helping us to run these activities, enabling more children to take part, please get in touch on the details below.

The Beavers this year have been doing a lot of fun activities, not only within their own group, but with the Beaver groups from Raploch and Doune as well. The Callander Beavers went on a visit to a fire station where not only were they treated to a look at all the components of a fire engine but also got to have a go at using the fire engine's hoses! It's safe to say that the visit went down well with the group. The Beavers got involved with the community when they collected a huge amount of crisp packets to be safely recycled.

After meeting with the Raploch and Doune Beaver groups, a joint trip to Flanders Moss was organised and carried out where they got to explore the Moss and try out some pond dipping, where they were introduced to the wildlife at the Moss.

This past year the Cubs in Callander spent lots of evenings taking part in various outdoor activities and got involved with the community. The Cubs 'adopted' the Callander Community Orchard, where they learned how to prune the trees and give the orchard a good tidy, as well as digging up some old stumps and making some room for more trees to be planted in the future. The Cubs also celebrated Holi, which ended with everyone going home covered in a tremendous amount of colourful powder. The pack also enjoyed a weekend camp at the Barrwood Scout campsite where, despite being tested by the weather, the Cubs had a great time! We made use of the campsite's open space and facilities, where the Cubs were able to try caving and archery, as well as taking a walk around the perimeter of the camp and having a great time outdoors!

The Scouts have been very busy working towards their badges and also joined other Scout groups in the district for a large-scale orienteering challenge. The Scouts welcomed multiple guest speakers to their evenings, to assist with their activities and help with their work towards their badges; such as Sally - the Land and Forestry Scotland Education officer who joined their troop for a night to lead a session learning about the wee beasties that surround us, with help from Bonnie the Tawny Owl. Together, the Scouts went on a minibeast hunt to be awarded their naturalist badge. On top of that, a group of Scouts took part in a tough cycle ride around Aberfoyle's forest (#Gravelfoyle!) in order to earn their cycling badge. Outside of their evenings, the Scouts took part in multiple weekend events, such as the "Scoutopoly" event where the Scouts worked together in teams to take part in an orienteering style event across Stirling, locating bases and answering questions to earn Monopoly money. Before the nights drew in, the Scouts were able to squeeze in two sessions at the Dounans Outdoor Education Centre, where in true Scouts fashion, they were challenged to a 'Crate Climb' and a 'Burn Scramble', testing their teamwork and their endurance as they built up towers with wobbly milk crates and scrambled up slippery rocks in knee deep water, making the most of the outdoors whilst they still had the light.

As much as the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts spend their evenings in their own respective groups, 9th Callander comes together annually for a group bonfire night, as we will this year, where the young people, parents and all of 9th Callander are treated to a BBQ, sparklers and a tremendous fireworks display on the edge of Loch Venachar. Going forward, 9th Callander has plans to be present at other local events; we are once again honoured to be able to take part the Remembrance Parade, as we have done in the past. Our group will be attending the St Andrew's Church Christmas Fair on 26th of November to sell the many different Christmas crafts our group will have made in the coming weeks. Overall, the last year has seen the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts take part in a plethora of fantastic activities and attend many events in the district, giving our young members many opportunities that can only be brought to them through Scouting. Our leaders and members within the group's executive committee have volunteered themselves to bring these opportunities to the table and we hope to welcome more volunteers into the group to assist with our goal of giving these unique opportunities to the many young people waiting to get a place in our group.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a leader with 9th Callander Scout Group please get in touch. Contact Mark Wright, Group Scout Leader on markwright410@hotmail.com.

Campbell Gillan, Youth Leader and PR Coordinator, 9th Callander Scout Group



Rotary in Callander

In November each year Rotary Clubs in the UK fill shoeboxes with children's Christmas gifts and useful household necessities for distribution in Eastern Europe. This year, Rotary in Callander has filled more than thirty boxes to help make Christmas a little better for families in Ukraine.

Last edition, we mentioned the Rotary Club of York Ainsty's programme of collecting and refurbishing spectacles to pass on to locations in Ghana, Kenya and Sri Lanka to improve the lives of many people. We are continuing to collect to the end of December and so if you have any specs that you no longer need, please leave these with Jen Shearer in the garage at 3 Grant Court Callander.

On 1st October, we held our autumn Bottle and Bric a Brac stall which raised £600 for our charity account. Thank you to everyone who supported this successful day. Our big November event was the Christmas Coffee Lunch and Crafts and the report on that will be in the next edition.

It just remains to wish all the readers and everyone who has supported Rotary in Callander over the past year, a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

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



Derek House

BINGO!

Rotary in Callander have set the dates for our next two BINGO sessions: THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2022 and THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY 2023, in Callander Hostel, Bridgend. Doors open at 1.45pm, with Bingo running from 2.00 – 3.00pm. The cost is only £1, with optional tea or coffee available halfway through the session at an additional cost of £1.50 (with free biscuits!). With prizes to be won, and plenty of fun, come and join us! Any enquiries about this should be directed to Jen Shearer, 01877-330446 or 07710-232908. We look forward to welcoming you.

Callander Kirk Harvest Thanksgiving and Lunch

A big thank you to all those who contributed in any way. It was a great occasion and the grand sum of £372.25 was raised for Start Up Stirling.



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with dementia and their carers.

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9th January, 13th February, 13th March 2023
Callander Kirk Hall ~ 2.00pm-3.30pm

For more information please contact:
Ann Ross 07720 887720
or
Anne McLachlan 07743 125966

Wednesday 12.30-2.30 Callander Kirk Hall



Callander

Messy Church will be meeting on Saturday 17th December at 10.30 am in Callander Kirk Hall, South Church Street

Please come and join us for fun, food and family worship. Look forward to seeing you there

If you would like to know more about Messy Church, then please feel free to speak to Lara Rawson on 01877 339324

German-Speaking Group in Callander

Wir haben beschlossen, dass wir im Winter von jetzt an lieber Samstag nachmittags als Freitag abends zusammenkommen werden. Infolge der Anzahl von Mitgliedern, die jetzt mitmachen, haben wir auch einen neuen Tagungsort: d.h. wir treffen uns jetzt bei Peter, Coilhallan House, Invertrossachs Road, Callander, FK17 8HW, wo es mehr Platz gibt!

Am Samstag 17 Dezember um 2.00pm findet unsere Weihnachtsfeier statt und Samstag 21 Januar 2023 um 2.00pm ist das Datum für unser erstes Treffen im neuen Jahr. NB Wenn Sie es vorhaben, mitzumachen, sagen Sie mir bitte erst eine Woche im Voraus Bescheid, damit wir wissen, wie viele Teilnehmer zu erwarten sind. Die Pläne für den 17. Dezember und das Thema für den 21. Januar werden wir allen Mitgliedern im Voraus schicken.

Falls Sie bis jetzt an unseren Treffen nicht teilgenommen haben, aber jetzt mitmachen möchten, schicken Sie mir bitte eine E-Mail, um die Einladungen zu unseren Treffen zu erhalten: jenshearer@gmail.com

Wir freuen uns darauf, Sie alle bei Peter wieder begrüßen zu können.

Jen Shearer

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Callander Kirk

Community Food Larder

A box of food items and toiletries is available at the entrance to the Kirk Hall in South Church Street from which anyone can help themselves at any time.

When available, there will also be garden produce of fruit, vegetables and fresh herbs. If you have any surplus garden produce which you would like to share, please leave it on the table outside the Kirk Hall.

All items are kindly donated by members of the community. Please take only what you need and can use. Thank you.

Warm Space

Callander Kirk is planning to open up a Warm Space over the winter on Wednesdays between 3.30 and 5.30pm.

We will offer areas to chat over tea/coffee, watch TV/DVDs, use wifi, help with homework and play activities.

We are currently seeking volunteers and arranging for their clearance to ensure everyone's safety. This takes time but we hope to open soon.

Look out for further details on social media and in the BLV.

Callander Scottish

Country Dance Club

The Scottish Country Dance Club has restarted. We meet in the Masonic Hall on Thursday evenings at 7pm. We will be delighted to see returning, former members and to welcome new members. No previous dance experience is necessary. Come along and have a go. Classes continue until December 16th, when we break for Christmas, and restart on January, 12th 2023.

Time: 7pm Place: Masonic Hall
December/January Class dates for the diary.

December 1st, December 8th, December 16th.

January 12th, January 19th, January 26th.

2022 Callander Families Conkers Championships

On Saturday 5th November, The Community Friends of The Canmore Trust held the Callander Families Conkers Championships in Callander Primary School Playground.

It had rained most of October, so the expectation was that it would rain on the 5th November too, so through the Callander Chit Chat page, participants were well advised on coming prepared for all weathers!

The gazebos were erected, playground blown of leaves, soup & hot chocolate tables set up.

At 1pm following a "rules brief" the battles commenced and what a competitive bunch across the generations.

over 18s following a "miss hit" by Phil, was Joanne and in the under 13s after 6 direct hits by Lucy and three direct hits by Sam, unfortunately Sam had a "miss hit" declaring Lucy the Category Winner...but it was not over...

The final was then held between Joanne and Lucy, both players had had 100% clean strikes in their category finals, the pressure was on. All participants gathered for the final. The sun had come out and more spectators had arrived.

Joanne and Lucy stood opposite each other, the rules were explained, the final would continue until either:

A conker was Smushed unplayable
Stringies occurred
A miss hit

Or disqualification.

Players raised their arms to touch knuckles and agree the playing distance, the referee tossed a coin declaring Joanne to start.

You could see the pressure on both players faces, the spectators were going wild, Joanne wrapped her conker round her right hand, pulled the string to straighten and



The over 18s soon remembered what was required to ensure a clean smash on their opponent's conkers - they also were quickly reminded of what it felt like when the conker hit their thigh or inner arm if they were a wee bit over exuberant!

Most of the under 18s were learning the game for the first time, but quickly picked up the confidence to strike. (Goggles were worn).

There was a great atmosphere of fun, laughter and a few "oochas!" and a few conkers annihilated in the process.

It took two hours to reach the semi-finals. The over 18s had a three way play off between Joanne, Kevin & Phil with the under 13s between Sam and Lucy.

Following three rounds in both category matches the winner of the

aim at Lucy's conker which hung completely still, Joanne took stance and aimed, let go her conker which arched towards Lucy's with great speed...AND MISSED! It was all over...

Lucy was declared the "Callander Family Conkers Champion 2022" to great applause! The Prizegiving took place and lots of congratulations passed on by all the sporting participants. A great fun afternoon.

Thanks to Liam Burnett, Chris King and Lynne Schroder for supply of gazebos.

Most of all thanks to all who attended (from as far as Hamilton) for your support and donations to The Canmore Trust - Providing Safe Places for lives affected by suicide - all lives matter.

<https://www.thecanmoretrust.co.uk/>



Thornhill Players

After two years of online play readings, rehearsals are now well under way for our first production. We intend to have an evening of one act plays, sketches and music in the Spring of 2023. If you would like to join us, please contact Charlotte on 01786 850288. You can find out more about us, at <https://www.facebook.com/Thornhill-Players-266020370461137>

Watch this space for future announcements!

Rusty Strings

Rusty Strings is up and running again and is the perfect place for anyone who used to play a bowed string instrument and would like to play again. The standard is roughly grade 3-4 upwards. Our rehearsals are every 2nd Tuesday in Deanston Community Hall from 2.30 - 4.00pm, with coffee and cake thrown in. Any occasional concerts we give are always for charity. We are a friendly bunch and new players will be very welcome. If you are interested, please contact Jean: 07968 745165 or Maggie: 01786 842037.

Book club review

This issue's book review title is *One Day I Shall Astonish The World* by Nina Stibbe (Penguin: 2022)

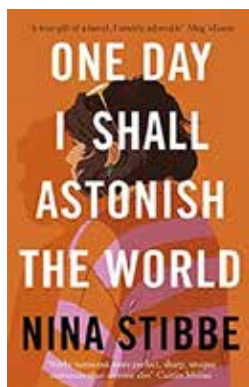
I wasn't familiar with the author but was intrigued by the title of this book and, as Stibbe has won a few prizes, it seemed promising.

One Day I Shall Astonish The World is a story about friendship told from the first-person perspective of main character Susan about her 30-year friendship with Norma.

Susan and Norma met as young adults whilst both working at a haberdashery shop in the early 1990s. Susan is smart and destined for an academic career. Norma is less smart, but devious.

She is from an affluent family who own the shop where the women work. Her background gives her a sense of entitlement and she utilises Susan's brains for her own selfish gains.

When Susan becomes pregnant at a young age and marries Roy, her career hopes are dashed. Meanwhile, Norma continues to move forward and to thrive in the professional world. This competitive relationship comes to a head 30 years later when they both work for the University of Rutland and are vying for the attentions of the Vice Chancellor.



Like all first-person memoirs, Susan's account of her life and her relationships is partial. The reader is given Susan's view of the friendship with Norma, and Norma doesn't always come across particularly well. However, Susan similarly comes across as high maintenance and often quite narcissistic. The friendship is multi-layered and complex.

Stibbe's style is quite unique – amusing, fast-moving, dense, but highly readable. This was an entertaining book where the author manages to capture the essence of the decades well, with cultural references that were nice to recall. The book also charts technological changes, from an era before mobile phones to the current day.

The book is quite intense with the franticness of Stibbe's writing feeling like an assault on the brain. Maybe this was intentional, as a feature of Susan's manic personality. Or maybe it's Stibbe's style. In honesty, I won't be rushing to read another of her books to find out, but maybe one for a beach holiday.

The next BLV book club review will be *Butterfly* by Yusra Mardini (Bluebird: 2022).

Maggie Magor

Callander Community Cinema



Two more great movies are coming to Callander!

The Duke (2020) on 11th December is a hilarious British comedy (certificate 12) starring Jim Broadbent. It tells the uplifting story of Kempton Bunton, a 60 year old taxi driver, who in 1961 steals Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery, then sends ransom notes demanding that the government invest more in care for the elderly. What happened next became the stuff of legends.

The Road Dance (2021) (certificate 15) on 15th January was winner of the Audience Award at the 2021 Edinburgh International Film Festival, set and filmed in the Outer Hebrides on the eve of WW1. Based on John Mackay's best-selling novel in which a young woman from a crofting community experiences terrible tragedy, following a dance to send off the young men to fight in the war.

Callander Cinema is screened by Callander Film Society (CFS) at Callander Hostel, Bridgend. Doors open at 7pm for tea/coffee, showtime 7.30pm. £5 (cash only) at the door, £3 / under 16s, free for CFS members. Full programme and more information at incallander.co.uk/cinema, follow us on Facebook @callanderfilmsociety or join our mailing list by emailing callanderfilmsociety@gmail.com.

Callander Jazz & Blues Festival

This year's 16th Callander Jazz & Blues Festival was a great success. The Festival welcomed over 600 festival goers to an eclectic mixture of 50 performances across 10 venues throughout the town, including jazz, blues, rock, soul, funk, swing and rock'n'roll. The quality of the bands attending this year was very high, many playing in Callander for the first time.

Over 130 musicians from across the UK and abroad performed over the weekend, belonging to 39 musical acts from as far afield as the USA and Spain, as well as the UK. These included the UK's No.1 Jive & Swing band, the Jive Aces, the Gerry Jablonski Band, the Daniel Martinez Flamenco Company, The Revolutionaires, top jazz guitarist Jim Mullen and Fergus McCreadie, nominated for this year's Mercury Prize, winner of the Scottish Album of the Year and also Jazz FM Instrumentalist of the Year. Fergus also



Jive Aces

played as a 14-year-old with the Fife Youth Orchestra at the 6th Callander Jazz & Blues Festival in 2011. What a musical journey he has been on since then, and what a wonderful legacy for the festival.

Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed praised this year's Callander Jazz & Blues Festival, saying "Supporting local events like this benefits everyone in the community, growing the local

economy and bringing vibrancy and fun to our local streets. Callander can be proud of welcoming such an eclectic mix of music to our humble town."

Thanks to all the musicians who played their part in making this year so special, and whose performances received such appreciation from all the audiences.

A huge thank you also to this year's sponsors, venues and the public, who made this event such a memorable one. None of this would be possible without our volunteers who help run the event each year, so a big thank you to our small, but special, festival team.

We hope we can deliver our 17th Callander Jazz & Blues Festival next year, however, it may also be the last one if we cannot structure the festival for the future and secure the support and funding required to put on an event on this scale, benefitting the community at large.

Until Friday 29th September – Sunday 1st October 2023!

John, Duncan and the festival team



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Help Needed (desperately!)

As you probably know the Ben Ledi View is hand delivered to every household in Callander for free. We are only able to do this because all of the many people who produce and distribute the magazine do it as unpaid volunteers. We are currently in need of some additional volunteers and I'm sorry to announce that if we don't get them, we may struggle to publish the magazine in the future.

The people we need are in the following sections: -

Advertising:- Persons to help facilitate local businesses to place ads in the magazine and charging them for this.

Editorial:- Someone, preferably with experience in using Adobe InDesign, although not absolutely necessary, who can assist in putting the submitted articles into the format of the magazine.

Distribution:- People to help deliver the magazine to households in Callander.

Secretary:- This person sets up and organises our team meetings.

If you think that you are able to help with any of the above roles, please contact me on the following [email convenor@benlediview.org](mailto:emailconvenor@benlediview.org)

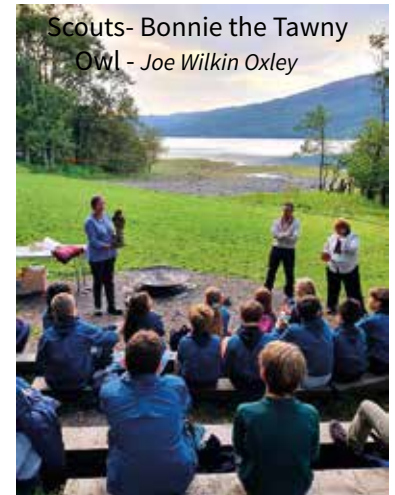
Steven McGowan



Beavers at Fire Station - Colin Campbell



Cubs Holi festival - Richard Nunn



Scouts- Bonnie the Tawny Owl - Joe Wilkin Oxley



From The Past

What is it?
Where is it?
What is there now?

Does anyone else have pictures to puzzle us?
Such as the one Kenny Morrison has here



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Magdelene Forsyth

The family of the late Magdelene Forsyth would like to express their gratitude to those in Callander who provided care, support and companionship over the last few years. Special thanks to her neighbours, her cleaner, hairdresser, doctors and nurses and staff at Callander Medical Centre and also Callander Kirk.

Betty White

The family of Betty White, late of Livingstone Avenue, would like to thank friends and neighbours for their kind words on Betty's death. She passed away peacefully on the 10th August at Randolph Hill Nursing Home, Dunblane.

The Co-op Payout Celebrations

In November the Co-op celebrated the money its members raised for local causes across the UK. For this past round, the Callander store sat with the Doune and Dunblane branches. Whenever our members shop in stores and buy from the Co-op money is given to our local causes. The payout celebrations give us the chance to highlight the huge amount of money raised within our community.

This year the final amounts were;

Callander Youth Project Trust - £3,800.02

Killin Primary School Parent Association - £1,895.71

Killin Drama Club - £1,921.33

Killin Care Trust - £2,262.46

A huge thank you to all our members and colleagues for helping raise these huge totals this year!!

In this new round of funding, October 23rd 2022 to October 21st 2023, Callander is now in with the Killin store. We can also announce our new causes for the next round of funding as Callander Development Trust, Falls of Dochart Retirement Home and Killin Primary School Parent Association. You can now select these new causes on the membership app or online.

This is not all the Co-op has to offer! The Co-op is for supporting communities, it's what we do!!

Please get in touch with me (aidan.cronin@coop.co.uk). Please join others on Callander and Killin Facebook group as well. There you will see updates from our causes, your member pioneer (me) and other local groups and charities. [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/743696676935711/?ref=share>]

Aidan Cronin The Co-op Member Pioneer for Callander and Killin

BLV DEADLINES

The next issue of the Ben Ledi View will be published on **Friday 3rd February 2023**.

Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the **Feb/Mar** issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Nina Taylor at:

advertising@benlediview.org by

Wednesday 4th January 2023 Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at www.benlediview.org 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 **Feb/Mar** issue should be emailed to

editor@benlediview.org or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday**

6th January 2023.

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



New Planning Applications

Tree works within a conservation area - removal of tree

Roman Camp Hotel Bordering Buchanan Place Main Street Callander Stirling FK17 8BG

Ref. No: 2022/0303/TRE | Received: Tue 18 Oct 2022 | Validated: Tue 18 Oct 2022 | Status: Current

Alterations to existing overhead line (new poles)

West Side Of Loch Lubnaig Strathyre Callander

Ref. No: 2022/0289/NST | Received: Mon 03 Oct 2022 | Validated: Thu 13 Oct 2022 | Status: Current

Proposed sub division of existing semi detached dwellings to form 1 larger and 1 smaller dwelling

3 And 4 Drummond Place Callander FK17 8ER

Ref. No: 2022/0278/DET | Received: Tue 27 Sep 2022 | Validated: Fri 07 Oct 2022 | Status: Current

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)

Councillors

Martin Earl - earlm@stirling.gov.uk

Gene Maxwell - Maxwellg@stirling.gov.uk

Elaine Watterson - wattersone@stirling.gov.uk

MSP

Evelyn Tweed - evelyn.tweed.msp@parliament.scot

National Health

Callander Medical Practice [01877 331000](tel:01877331000) (Prescriptions (10.00am till 3pm))

District Nurse [01877 330150](tel:01877330150)

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

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

Please join us every Sunday 11.15am - also livestreamed on facebook and on Youtube channel Trossachs Church 3.00pm on 3rd December and 8th January

Christmas Services

Junior Choir 'Nativity' - Sunday 18th December at 11.15am

Christmas Eve Service - Saturday

24th December - Childrens

Watchnight in Ancaster Square at 4.30pm

Callander Kirk Watchnight at 11.30pm

Christmas Day service - Sunday 25th December at 10.30am

Rev Jeffery McCormick BD

jmccormick@churchofscotland.org.uk [01877 330474](tel:01877330474)

Church Office/Hall Bookings:
callanderkirk@btconnect.com

Bin Collections

Bins are now collected on a Saturday or a Tuesday. The day is in the week following these Sundays

December

Brown/Green Bins Sunday 11th

Grey/Blue Bins Sunday 18th

Brown/Blue Box Sunday 25th

January

Brown/Green Bins Sunday 8th

Grey/Blue Bins Sunday 15th

Brown/Blue Box Sunday 22nd

www.stirling.gov.uk/waste

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Also for sandbags and grit
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For further information please contact:

Revd Jon Connell h: [01877 382887](tel:01877382887)
m: [07983 897 841](tel:07983897841) or

Liz Balding Secretary to St Andrew's Vestry m: [07825 635 428](tel:07825635428)

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FELLOWSHIP

We warmly welcome you to join us in worship on a Sunday afternoon. This takes place in St. Andrew's Church Hall at 4.00pm each week. Our weekly prayer meeting is on a Monday evening at 7.30pm on zoom/in-person. Please contact: admin@callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk for further details. (There will be no service on the 11th or 25th December).

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: [07727 288 585](tel:07727288585)

Floods & Environment

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

SEPA website:

www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/index.htm

Floodline: [0845 9881188](tel:08459881188) Select option 1 followed by: [06213 121](tel:06213121) (the Teith at Callander)

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

Location of defibrillators

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McLaren Leisure Centre

The Post Office

Ancaster Square

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Glen Artnay Road,

Callander

Website: stfdac.co.uk; Phone: [01877 330702](tel:01877330702)

Email: stjosephcallander@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Parish Priest: Rev. Leszek Wieceaszek SAC

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Callander

Tuesday & Thursday Holy Mass at 10.00am

Sunday Holy Mass at 11.30am

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

24th December, Saturday, Christmas Vigil : 5.30pm 25th December,

Sunday, Christmas Day 11.30am

1st January, Sunday, New Year 2023

Mary, Holy Mother of God -

Solemnity 11.30am

8th January, Sunday, The Epiphany 11.30am

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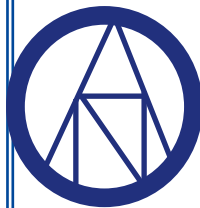
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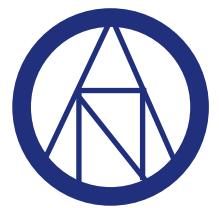
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