

Ben Ledi View

Jun/July 2022

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Ben Ledi View

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Cover Photo by Pauline Deas



Hello Readers, It's good to see in this month's edition how well Callander has done in supporting the oppressed and embattled people of Ukraine. Richard and Mary Johnson have done great work in enabling much needed supplies to reach Ukraine. Mention too for the Rotary event on Easter Saturday and the Bake Sale for Ukraine at the end of March. They managed to raise over £3000 for the Disasters Emergency Committee in Ukraine. And of course, Callander also was able, with the help of Stirling Council, to accommodate 52 Ukrainian orphans who were fleeing the war in their home country. I hope the three weeks they spent staying near Loch Venachar proved to be restful after their recent ordeal.

The tourist season has started and it's good the Visitor Information Centre report that they have people from "all over the world" drop in, a marked contrast to last year: they are very welcome back here. The visitor's centre is still staffed by volunteers so if you've any time to spare drop in and have a chat with them.

Most of us have opinions on how Callander and its environs can be improved. We now have a method of putting our views formally to the National Park, which must, by law, take these into account when planning their Local Development Plans. You have until the end of June to express your view, see the article on page 5 for instructions on how to do so.

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Just before this month's edition is published a notable anniversary occurs, it's five years since the opening of the Ripple Retreat. Beautifully situated on the south shore of Loch Venachar, I have often marvelled at its stunning architecture when I have been walking or cycling along the Invertrossachs road. Last week I had the fortune of being able to attend their fifth anniversary OPEN DAY. Lynne McNicoll, co-founder and Chair, and her team showed us around building. I never seen as many mod cons in one place! The view, north across the loch to Ben Ledi, from the predominately glass main living area is simply stunning. It certainly is a superb facility for young cancer patients and their families to spend a few days relaxing and recuperating. Colleagues on the Ben Ledi View team, Steve and Marilyn Willett also visited the Retreat on the same day. They have put together a great article about their visit with some stunning photos. Look out for it in our next edition. Our new website is now up and running, at last. Please check it out at www.benlediview.org If you have suggestions for improving the site, please contact me at convenor@benlediview.org

Let me finish by thanking all the volunteers that contribute to, and help deliver the Ben Ledi View. It's only with your hard work that Callander can have a free magazine delivered to every resident's door. And if you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please contact me at convenor@benlediview.org

Convenor

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Callander Community Council (CCC): Mid-spring update

There were two Community Council meetings on 11 April: a regular business meeting and the AGM. Both were held in hybrid format, from McLaren Leisure Centre. All but one Community Council member and one elected ward councillor attended 'live', as well as a Stirling Council Officer, who managed the section of the AGM when the office bearers stood down and stood for re-election. In addition, the remaining Community Council member, one ward councillor and a number of members of the public attended online.

Business meeting

In this, the co-opted member, Ray Watkins, who had by then attended three regular meetings, was voted in as a Full Member, bringing his welcome experience to the Community Council, and taking our numbers up to nine.

We will be looking for some more Full Members to further increase our numbers as soon as possible. Meanwhile, anyone who has a special interest and would like to join as an Associate Member should contact the Secretary to discuss the various possibilities. callander556@gmail.com

AGM outcomes

The results of the voting, to run until the 2023 AGM are:

Chair: Susan Holden
Vice Chair: John Watson
Secretary: Olga Watkins
Treasurer: Marilyn Moore
Planning Officer: David Moore

This confirmation now gives us the opportunity to put forward a plan for building on current and forthcoming community needs, continuing building relationships with the relevant outside bodies and identifying the suggestions put forward as part of the Local Place Plan for future cross-community benefit.

Meeting formats

It was, perhaps, over-ambitious to use the hybrid format for the first time for these two meetings on the same evening. Each of the different formats, live, hybrid or online, has its own characteristics, some positive, others negative. All need thinking through from different directions and their various advantages or disadvantages for all potential participants understood and discussed. Here are some thoughts from a purely personal angle:

Live meetings

- Plus points: direct human interaction; clear visual and spoken communication; easiest to manage; everyone involved has made a personal decision to participate.
- Minus points: participants have to travel; subject to acoustics and space features.

Hybrid meetings

- Plus points: The best of both worlds (if everything works).
- Minus points: The worst of both worlds (if something does not work).

Online meetings

- Plus points: everyone is in the same 'space'; nobody has to travel; easy to join and leave.
- Minus points: people tend to speak to the screen, rather than really interact; loss of overall meeting 'shape' and focus; lack of visual communication if cameras turned off; potential technical problems.

Maybe we need to be more flexible, varying the format, times and dates of these business meetings? Perhaps we need fewer formal sessions (the Stirling Council Scheme of Establishment specifies a minimum of 6 such meetings a year, plus the AGM)? Maybe varying these with smaller, more flexible ones focusing on specific topics, of interest to a varied range of community members, would be worth exploring? Perhaps one answer would be to alternate the various formats...it needs thought. What next? What do you think?

We hope to work out something that people will generally feel helps to ensure regular and productive cross-community communication and action and to set this in motion during the summer.

Ongoing issues

The topics mentioned in the last article continue to be discussed with the relevant bodies. In some cases, this is done by a small Community Council focus group or an individual member, who is responsible for reporting progress.

These currently include:

- Bracklinn Bridge with LLTNP
- Flooding proposals with Stirling Council
- Ukraine hosts and guests: updated factual information and support from Stirling Council
- Motorhomes with Stirling Council and LLTNP
- LPP outcomes with Helen Terry and the relevant bodies
- Callander South proposals
- St Kessogs' proposals

Making progress

Two topics have moved on and are described in detail elsewhere in this issue:

- Camp Place Play Park
- Airtricity funding procedures

It is good to see these results of the hard work and time that has been put into them, both by Community Council members and by members of the community, working together.

Susan Holden, Chair, Callander Community Council

Coffee, Cake, Chatter



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

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THANK YOU

Two of our Ben Ledi View deliverers - Alex Mitchell of Katrine Crescent and Chris Gillespie of Tulipan Crescent - have recently retired from their delivery duties after many years delivering our magazines in all weathers. We would like to thank Alex and Chris very much for their sterling service to the BLV.

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Camp Place Play Park Update

Since my last report in the previous BLV, refurbishment of Camp Place Play Park is nearly complete with both the junior area and the toddler/inclusive area play equipment being installed. Now we are just sorting out teething problems and waiting for the grass to grow before the park can be fully opened again. It has been an exciting few weeks, watching the new equipment being installed and seeing the wet pour rubberised surface being laid in the toddler/inclusive area. What a difference that has made, losing all the gritty sand! We want to add some transfers to the rubberised surface to provide a brighter and more interesting play surface to complete the play area.

We still have a few improvements that are planned which include fresh logs to sit on, plus benches and new picnic tables, the latter of which are also wheelchair friendly.

We are hoping to have an official opening in mid-June before the schools break up, so keep a watch for posters and social media advertising the opening event. Bring a picnic and make a celebration of the new Camp Place Play Park.

Marilyn Moore, Callander Community Council



Callander Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

The VIC re-opened on Friday 1 April, aiming for daily hours of 9.30am to 4.30pm, except on Tuesdays when it will open at 1pm. The manager role has increased hours (to between 5 and 6 days a week) and is now shared by Sheila Winstone and Anne Gordon, who has been an enthusiastic volunteer since 2019.

Most of the volunteers from last year have returned and we have five new recruits who are gradually starting to make regular contributions; more than 140 hours of volunteer time have already been recorded. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, so if you know anyone who might be interested, please do encourage them to drop in for a chat.

In general, it felt quieter than expected for Easter, but with some busy days and a total of 1,202 visitors to 30 April. The visitors' book is showing that they are coming from a range of places from around the world, a marked change from last year. We have expanded the range of souvenirs, books and maps on sale.

While there are now no legal COVID measures, we have left out the sign requesting mask wearing and hand sanitising. The majority still do wear face coverings and/or are cautious about distancing.

A new community tourism organisation, SCOTO was launched recently. We are included on their website map. <https://www.scoto.co.uk/b2b/case-studies>

Anne Docherty, Callander CDT

Callander's Place Plan: Our Future, Your Choice

The final public consultation will close on June 30th. Have you voted yet?

- Do YOU want to see a pedestrian bridge over the Teith, at the east end?
- Do YOU want safer, well lit, accessible paths and road crossings?
- Do YOU want joined up plans to cut crime and traffic problems?
- Do YOU want better, cleaner, public transport?
- Do YOU want to see a multi-sports pitch on the Lagrannoch field?
- Do YOU want a complete overhaul of the Meadows?
- Do YOU want more job and training opportunities?
- Do YOU want affordable homes for local people?
- Do YOU want a community hall in Callander?
- Do YOU want a regenerated Main Street?

These are just some of the problems that YOU told us need solving, in our first public consultation, at the start of the year.

We've listened carefully to all your concerns and have come up with 35 proposals that will make life better for Callander residents. All YOU have to do is tell us which of these proposals you agree with. It's that simple.

The survey is a straightforward yes/no/no opinion format. You can complete it online or pick up a paper copy at the library.

To help you decide how to vote, we've written an explanation for each proposal, if one is needed. This tells you why we are asking for a specific change and what benefits that change would make to our lives.

Every vote matters. You might not agree with some of the proposals, and that's fine. We need to understand what really matters to YOU and how we can improve our town over the next 10 years.

Have your say: ONLINE AT <https://callandersfuture.uk/consultation> scan the QR code below, or pick up a paper copy at the library.



Helen Terry, Place Plan Coordinator

6 Community

Callander Community Council (CCC) - Community Fund (Airtricity/Braes of Doune)

Callander Community Council has made significant progress in arrangements with the Braes of Doune Windfarm Fund (previously called Airtricity). The new name will be decided by the funder, and CCC will announce this when finalised. Along with the change of name, there will be a change of process, whereby applications will be received and reviewed quarterly by Callander Community Council who will make recommendations to the Funder or their agent. They will review the applications according to the environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards which the funder requires and, when approved, CCC will pay the allocated award to successful applicants. This will require good advance planning for events in the community so the approval process can be completed in good time for the project needs.

We are pleased that the fund's financial situation is healthy after a period of low activity as a result of the pandemic and so we are looking forward to receiving applications from the Callander community for new projects that will benefit our community.

The initial window will run from May 2022 and will close at the end of July, when the next quarterly window will open. The updated application form is now on the CCC Website. Search for the form under 'Braes of Doune' on https://incallander.co.uk/ccc_home

We look forward to hearing from you.

Marilyn Moore
Treasurer, Callander Community Council

Further Background to the Airtricity Fund

As I have now stepped down from the Community Council and handed over the administration of applications to new Community Council members, I thought this an opportunity to remind people about the fund. The Airtricity Fund is an annual grant provided to the community of Callander from the Doune Wind Farm. The grant is paid to the Callander Community Council who were appointed by the managers of the wind farm to administer the funds. The farm imposed strict conditions on what could be funded and what could not be funded, but the overall condition was that funds were to benefit the whole community. A sub-committee in the Community Council assessed each application and put eligible applications to the next full Community Council meeting where members of the community and applicants could comment.

In 2014 I was stopped by a lady in the Main Street. She asked me if I was the person in charge of the Airtricity Fund. I said I was chair of the Airtricity Group in the Community Council but the decisions were taken by the CCC. She went on to ask what did people like her get out of the fund? She explained that she was not in any club or local organisation and because of this she felt that she like many others did not benefit from the fund.

This encounter gave me cause for thought and I felt she had a valid point of view. I decided to check with Airtricity if it would be possible to save some of our yearly budget to allow us to fund a community project which would benefit the whole community. With agreement from Airtricity, I asked the CCC if they would support saving enough money to fund a project that would benefit the whole community. It was agreed to do this and once we had the funds we would consult with the community on how it should be spent.

The CCC now has £50K ring fenced for this project and it's time to consult the community.

Since the start, Airtricity has funded 91 applications with a total spend of £117,324.38 which has been awarded to the community. I would like to wish the new group all the best in the future and hope they enjoy the role as much as I have.

Brian Luti

St Kessogs' Update

There isn't very much new to report this time, but that doesn't mean nothing is happening. The architects continue to work on the building design and they will provide more detailed costings by mid May and that will then enable the operational costs to be reworked. Meanwhile we have a new group, who are volunteering to take forward the formation of the charitable organisation. More on this next time, but if anyone wants to join this group, please get in touch.

If you have any questions or want more information, please email to: StKessogs.survey@gmail.com or leave a phone or text message on 07591312227. We really do want to hear from you. Thank you.

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





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Vaccinations and booster vaccinations

We have spent the past two years of our lives preoccupied with COVID, keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe, getting our vaccination and our boosters so, that many people have not had their pets vaccinated or boosted - then it slips our mind and time goes on.

Why do I need to give a vaccine to my pet?

- 1. To create or boost our pet's immunity to certain serious, sometime life-threatening diseases. Thereby, reducing suffering for your pet and you the risk of losing your pet or the stress of supporting them through long-term post infection health problems (not to mention the associated cost)
- 2. To prevent pets from passing on a disease such as Leptospirosis, which can be passed from animals to people
- 3. If you're thinking of going away with or without your pet, they will likely need to be vaccinated. Reputable catteries and boarding kennels will usually ask for proof that your pet's vaccinations are up to date. And, if going abroad with your pet, there are legal requirements for Rabies vaccination and sometimes other vaccines or treatment depending on where you are going.

This is one situation where prevention is definitely better than the disease.

I am asked are vaccinations necessary? These diseases are so rare now. In the UK, we've been really good at vaccinating our pets. As a result of this, many of the diseases that we can protect against have become less common. However, research shows that more pets are going unvaccinated, especially when young. Sadly, there has also been a steady increase in reported cases of distemper and parvovirus in the UK. These diseases can be devastating for the dogs that catch them. Vaccination is the only way to keep these diseases from becoming too widespread.

Another question I get is "do I need to vaccinate my older pet?" Just like young pets, our older pets are also at risk of catching diseases. As your pet gets older, they might not be quite as strong, they may be suffering with concurrent illnesses now they are older and find it difficult to get over illnesses. Being older doesn't mean they are more resistant to disease - If anything, they are more at risk. It's important that you continue to get your pet vaccinated regularly to protect them. If you adopt an older pet and you don't know if they've ever had vaccinations, they can start a vaccination programme to suit them, just ask your vet.

Missed a booster vaccination – what should I do? We know that the immunity afforded by vaccination sadly wanes with time and the pet becomes susceptible again. Try to book them in for their booster as soon as possible, especially if it's not that far from when it was due. Speak to your vet as they will be able to give you the best advice. If it has been too long since their booster was due, your vet might advise restarting their first vaccination course again. This is to make sure they're fully protected again. Talk to your vet and follow their advice.

What is the protocol for visiting Riverside Vets now?

Now the rules have been updated by the government, we as a practice are following the Covid Safe Guidelines. This means that we are wearing masks for our face to face consultations and we kindly ask that our clients do the same. The vet or nurse will speak to you outside to get a general history for the appointment before taking you into the consultation room for the examination. You will then be redirected to reception to make further appointments and payment. This allows us to be as safe as possible while Covid is still active in the community, as well as protecting our clients and patients.

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Deep Blue Dirts

The water was still as we lifted the anchor at 4am. The vast lights of Gibraltar sparkled off the ripples with the sky still as dark as night. We were finally leaving the shores of Gibraltar, setting sail into the Mediterranean to explore the beautiful area of Estapona- we'd heard great things about bike trails around there. This trip was well calculated to avoid any feisty waves around Europa Point that the lighthouse (interestingly shipped over from the UK) proudly marks. So we made tracks before the tide turned to ensure we were sailing with the tide. Sailing with wind-over-tide often means short, steep waves; we'd lose our breakfast for sure.



And what an experience it was! Not because of boisterous waves (the skipper planned well...) but because of the crazy number of HUGE ships, tankers etc. littering the mouth of the Straits of Gibraltar. We were dancing with them in the moonlight. So many huge engines burring away and multiple

lights dazzling our night vision. We were on high alert to ensure we didn't get in the way of any of these monsters as our little 32 foot sailboat had no chance. As we were getting close to Europa Point, we were focussing on keeping our distance from the point itself and subsequently mistook a ship's light! We thought it was at anchor.... So we weren't too shy on how close we were, when all of a sudden I jumped out my skin as it blasted its horns at us! It was underway and

we were WAY too close for comfort. I pulled hard to starboard and thrust forward the throttle to get us out of there! Yikes! This was all before 5.30 am!

The rest of the sail went well; a great sunrise, good winds and smooth (ish) sailing. However we did have to beat the whole way there which means tacking (zig-zagging) our way there rather than a straight line. But luckily we had plenty wind to keep the speed up. But boy was it chilly?! Even once the sun had risen it was like a cold, damp walk up the Craggs rather than a sail in the Med!

However, these cooler temps is what we've learnt the Spanish, Costa del Sol mountain bikers love! Cooler weather means longer days riding with less sweat in their eyes! And our bikes survived the first real sail in their new stowage system Chris fabricated in the fore cabin... Mark and Janet Shimidzu from Wheels Cycling Centre would be impressed!

It wasn't long until we had a local rider called Danny pick us up and whisk us up into the mountains behind Estapona- Sierra Bermeja. We were so excited! We were introduced to Danny, a local trail builder, from a rider we met in Gibraltar. They've been racing on the Spanish race scene together for years. It's really inspiring out here, there seem to be so many low key yet well known trail builders spread across the region and everyone knows who built the trails. As we progress along the coast we are introduced to the next one- such an amazing community. The experience was cool! Riding with a the trail builder is so insightful. On the walk up the track, pushing the bikes, we had a full running commentary of the tracks : characteristics, features, warnings, stories from the building days and learning about track maintenance in these dry conditions. This makes for an even more rewarding hoon down the tracks!

Our eyes were also opened to a saddening sight as we explored the landscape. We witnessed the serious aftermath of the recent wildfires behind Estapona. I remember seeing this in the news and on posts from other sailors' Instagram accounts. But as ever, it's not until you are up close and personal that it sinks in. The damage was insane! Just miles and miles of black bush and trees. So sad. In this particular location it was uplifting to see a goat farm still thriving, literally 20m from the damage- the farm road acting as a "fire break"

Jenni & Chris



Rotary in Callander

Rotary in Callander held its first fundraising event of the year on a bright Easter Saturday in April to support the work of the Disasters Emergency Committee in Ukraine. Locals and visitors to the town turned out in force to support our Bottle, Tombola and Bric-a-Brac Stall and, thanks to their willing participation and the generosity of their donations, the sum of £1000 was raised on Saturday afternoon. Rotary in Callander was able to match that with funds from the Club's charity account, with the pleasing result that a cheque for £2000 has now been sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee to provide support in Ukraine. It was particularly pleasing to see our three longest serving members in action, and, as always, we extend our warm thanks to the people of Callander, and to various 'Friends of Rotary' who can always be relied upon to lend us extra support when more hands are needed.

We are already getting geared up for our next event on Saturday 4th June, when we will be holding our ever-popular Coffee and Crafts event in Callander Kirk Hall, running from 10.30am till 2pm. This was always a favourite event, in pre-pandemic times. Put the date in your diary, and we look forward to welcoming lots of bargain hunters with good appetites for coffee and cake on the day.

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

Derek House



Bake off Sale

A big thank you to everyone who donated and supported the Bake Sale for Ukraine, held in The Square, on Saturday 26th March. In keeping with Environmental Health regulations for selling baking to the public on The Square, we are extremely grateful to the following local businesses: Ben Ledi, Debbie from Deli Ecosse, Fat Jacks, Main St Bakery, Mhor Bakery, Puddingstone and Qrk, for their generous contribution of scrumptious scones, loaves, brownies, tarts and cakes! Also a huge thank you to Dennis for setting up the tables, to Dorothy who made the popular Ukrainian badges and to Charlotte who kindly offered her artistic flair by decorating the lamp posts with the Ukrainian national flower, the sunflower. You helped raise £1160.25!!!!

Christian Women Together

Elaine Birch

Ukraine Aid from Callander

Since the start of the conflict in Ukraine, and the resulting impact on communities, we have been organising aid collections in Callander to send out to Ukraine.

We put out an appeal to the Callander community in early March for clothing, bedding, toiletries and food. We were inundated with donations which filled three rooms and our garage; we sorted and boxed everything. In the first five days we had mountains of soft toys, children's shoes, winter jackets, sleeping bags, tins of baked beans and soup, nappies and many other items. Local



businesses gave us boxes and other volunteers helped pack the items.

Transport to Ukraine initially looked possible with trucks leaving Glasgow and Edinburgh but these soon became full so we had to organise our own transport. We linked in with neighbouring villages including Balquhider, Killin, Doune and Aberfoyle who were also collecting items, to try and share the transport problem. We eventually found a Slovakian courier who was willing to transport the aid at a discounted cost. But the news from the Ukraine border showed that they were being inundated with aid and people were arriving with vans full of items with nowhere to offload. We therefore linked in with the Council in Spisska Nova Ves, a Slovakian town close to the border with Ukraine. They were willing to receive our goods and transport them over the border to Tyachiv, a community in Ukraine.

Our first load of one hundred and fifty boxes was dispatched on 8th March and arrived in Ukraine ten days later. The cost of transport was £2300 so we appealed to the Callander community for donations and within 2 days had raised the funds. We then heard back from Slovakia that the aid was well received in Ukraine and they sent us a photograph of a group of children holding some of the toys and pictures we had sent.

The conflict was not going to be a short affair and many more Ukrainian mothers and children were becoming refugees. Many communities throughout Europe were organising aid lorries, some towns in Germany and France were sending aid to the Slovakian border with Ukraine. Our efforts in Callander had to continue, so we could help the refugees. We therefore organised two more appeals for aid to be sent to Spisska Nov a Ves concentrating on items which we were advised were most needed. Once again we appealed for funds and had very generous donations from people in Callander as well as businesses, organisations and people who put out collection tins in shops and organised fund raising events.

At the time of writing (April 15th) we

have sent almost 3000kg of aid and have raised over £7000 to pay for the transport. We were also contacted by Stirling Council to help collect clothing for the teenage refugees who arrived in Callander and we are currently organising a fourth load which will be delivered in May. This has been a fantastic effort by the community in Callander and surrounding area: the generosity has been overwhelming and quite emotional seeing how much everyone wants to help. Thank you to everyone who has donated, helped and supported.

We will continue with future collections for as long as our friends in Slovakia say help is needed. Collections will be advertised on notice boards and Facebook and donations can be made on our crowdfunding site: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/richard-johnson-999

Richard and Mary Johnson

Thoughts from Jonathan Connell

I have been continuing to meditate on the nature of power lately. Much of society seems to be obsessed with talking about it, and I get why. Whether it be the continuing wars around the globe, recent elections, advice from trendy self-help gurus and influencers, interest in what this or that billionaire does or buys, or the latest theory coming out of the academy, power and the discussion of its many facets lies at the heart of much of our contemporary discussion. I'm part of an institution that for too much of its history was obsessed with power, so that gives me pause as well.

Perhaps I should do justice to the founder of my organisation, Jesus of Nazareth, and look to him for advice on power. Here's what he had to say (I'm paraphrasing here):

'Never be obsessed with getting yourself seated at the top table, just be glad to be invited to the meal,' and 'Want to be a leader? Then make yourself the least of all and serve them.' He also said 'No one ever shows greater love than when they give up their life for others.'

Then, people writing about Jesus tell us that 'He didn't come to be served, but to serve, and one of the earliest poems / songs of the church says 'Jesus made himself nothing, took the nature of a servant, humbled himself, and was willing to die for others.' Thankfully that wasn't the end of the story, for Jesus' movement has spread around the world so we can read his advice about power.

What would happen if we were to take Jesus' advice? I expect that our neighbourhoods, countries, and world would run better if, instead of seeking power, we sought to serve. And what if, instead of obsessing about the powerful, we obsessed about those who serve? Instead of giving power to those who seek it, why don't we invest authority in those who show up for others? Instead of spreading titillating stories about the latest celebrity using their power for good (or ill), why don't we skip down the webpage or to the back pages of the newspaper and find the stories of the everyday hero quietly going about making a difference by serving others?

I think we can change our obsession with power by making a simple choice. Will you join me in trying it out?

Apology

In the last issue we had a short court report on sentencing. Mr Kennedy was sentenced to two years not three, as reported and Mr Wilson did not commit his offence during a protest. We had taken this information from what we believed to be a reliable source. We were wrong and apologise for our error





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Callander Youth Project (CYP) Weekends

One of the latest returns to our youth provision has been our weekend activity blocks. Back for the first time since Covid, the first block was Winter Weekends. This comprised of six sessions, including two visits to the PEAK in Stirling, one visit to Fir Park Ski and one visit to the indoor slope at Braehead. A total of 25 young people were involved across the sessions, with 16 total delivery hours. Sessions included an introduction to curling with Stirling Young Curlers, a winter expedition with Mark from Killin Mountain Rescue, tubing on the dry ski slope at Tillicoultry and sledging at Snow Factor.

The organisation and delivery of this block was led by Jack, which helped evidence a couple of his final units for his youth work Modern Apprenticeship. Having arrived at CYP to work in hospitality, Jack quickly transitioned across to supporting our youth work activities and will now be staying on as a full-time qualified youth worker.

Our latest block is Wildlife Weekends, which to date has included visits to Argaty Red Kites, a nature walk at Glen Finglas and a visit to Glendrick Roost. At the time of writing, we've still got three sessions left, with trips to the Alpaca Trekking Centre and Blair Drummond Safari Park, as well as a Mini Zoo visit at



CYP. These blocks, as well as our upcoming Summer Sessions were funded by the People's Postcode Trust. For the winter block, this was supplemented by an additional small grant from the Tesco Bags of Help fund.

Weekend activities are just one strand of CYP's provision for local young people. As a social enterprise, it's important to let our guests know about the services that they help to support by staying in our holiday accommodation or making use of our function venue. We were therefore delighted to recently host the national launch of SCOTO (Scottish Community Tourism), a new network encouraging visitors to make a conscious choice to support organisations that benefit their local community.

COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

Cider-glazed Pork Chops

serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 4 lean boneless loin pork chops, about 100g each

For the sauce:

- 1tbsp cornflour
- 150ml dry cider
- 90ml vegetable stock
- 2 tsp red wine vinegar
- ¼ tsp dried sage
- 2 tbsp redcurrant jelly
- seasoning

Method

Heat the oil in a large frying pan and add the chops. Cook gently for 15 mins, turning once, until the juices run clear when the chops are pierced with a sharp knife. Meanwhile make the sauce. Blend together the cornflour, cider, vegetable stock, vinegar, sage and redcurrant jelly.

Transfer the chops to a warmed plate and keep covered. Add the blended sauce ingredients and seasoning to the pan. Simmer, stirring constantly, until thickened and smooth.

Serve the sauce with the chops, along with potatoes and vegetables of your choice.



Callander Kirk Hall

25th July 2022

13.30-15.30

and

1700.19.00

Appointments are available from six weeks before the session. To book your appointment, use your online donor account, call us on **0345 90 90 999** (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm), or email nss.snbtsequiry@nhs.scot.

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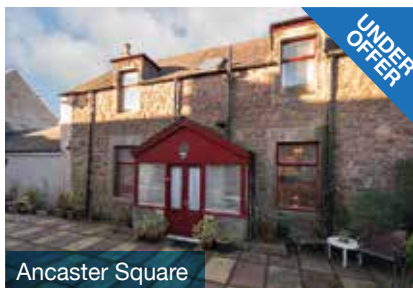
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What's On for June and July

REGULAR MEETINGS

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 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: on 6th,13th,20th and then holidays:
- HIT Circuits 7.00-7.45 McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 7.00 -7.45pm McLaren Leisure
- 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

Tuesdays:

- Callander Cycle Meander meet 10.00am Ancaster Square (contact [01877 339074](tel:01877339074))
- 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
- Power Fit 6.00-6.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Badminton Club 7.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Evening Yoga 7.30-9.00pm
- 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 1.00- 1.30pm McLaren Leisure

- Core Fit 4. 00-4.45pm McLaren Leisure
- 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 12.30-2.30pm Callander Hostel
- HIIT 7.00-7.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 7.00-7.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Core Fit 8.00-8.45pm McLaren Leisure

Fridays:

- Body Fit 7.00-7.45 am McLaren Leisure
- Power Fit 1.00-1.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 4.00-4.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Determinator 7.45-8.00 and 8.15-9.30pm 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

June

Friday 3rd

Ben Ledi View published

Saturday 4th

- Rotary Coffee and Craft Fair 10.30am-2.00pm Kirk Hall

Thursday 9th

- Callander Kirk Guild meeting 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Monday 13th

- Community Council Meets 7.30pm

place and format TBA

Saturday 18th

- Woodland Trust Tree Medicine across the seasons -workshop2 (Summer) 10.00am-3.00pm Glen Finglas. To book contact gwenraes@woodlandtrust.org.uk
- Scottish Chamber Orchestra Concert 7.30pm Callander Kirk Tickets from VIC or www.sco.org.uk/events/sco-strings
- Messy Church 10.30am Kirk Hall

Thursday 23rd

- Concert Callander Brass with guests 7.30pm Callander Kirk

Saturday 25th

- German-speaking Group Barbecue 2.30 Peter's garden

July

Saturday 2nd

- Woodland Trust guided walk Lendrick Hill and Dam

Friday 6th

Ben Ledi View deadline

•

Monday 11th

- Community Council meets - place and format TBA

Monday 25th

- Blood Donar Sessions 1.30 - 3.30pm & 5.00 - 7.00pm Kirk Hall

Saturday 30th

- Summer Festival of Flowers & Art, entrance by donation 10.00am - 4.00pm St Andrews Church

Sunday 31st

- Summer Festival of Flowers & Art, entrance by donation 12.00 noon - 4.00pm St Andrews Church

•

August

Friday 5th

Ben Ledi View published

Callander Bowling Club

The official opening of the green was well attended by club members and invited guests from other local clubs. Some heat could be felt in the early spring sunshine as honorary president Marion Allan played the first bowls on Saturday 9th April.



Ben Ledi was still slightly capped with a snow coating as we began the first full competitive season since 2019. New president Audrey Corrieri welcomed everyone to the green before honorary member Beth Bowes rolled the inaugural jack of 2022. A fun match was played between the president's team and vice president Willie Blain's team, before the players retired to the clubhouse for some welcome refreshments, which were ably supplied by our small team of lady caterers. The next two weeks were spent visiting opening days at other local greens and getting a chance to meet up with fellow bowlers, whose presence had been sorely missed during the two years of the pandemic.

Our first West Perthshire league match took place at Dunblane on Saturday 30th April, where we were victorious. Having spent the first 3 weeks of the season playing in dry conditions, it was rather damp at Dunblane, but our players' concentration and determination earned the desired result. After the match, following refreshments, President Audrey Corrieri presented Dunblane with a gift in recognition of their club's bicentenary year. We are only 160 years old.

The club are still looking for new members to join us. Feel free to come and try the sport. We have spare bowls available for use and can pass on useful playing tips. Monday evenings before 7pm and Wednesday afternoons before 2pm are the best times to come along. Contact Donald: [07513488453](tel:07513488453) for any info.

Donald Grieve



Callander Target Sports Club

National Trophy winners:

Bronwen Livingston, our wheelchair disabled air pistol shooter, has won a gold medal in the 10 metre Isabell Newstead Memorial Trophy held during the Scottish Open Shoot. Adding this achievement to her previous NSRA trophy win means that she is now both the British and Scottish female disabled shooting Champion for 2022. Bronwen also won a Silver award in the Class B competition and aggregate 10 metre shoot when she was competing against both male and female non-disabled competitors.



Bertie Galloway, one of our proficient junior members has won a Silver award at the 10 metre Junior men's rifle Championship. He also won Silver awards in the Men's Open and Confined Championship Competitions.

Our Chairman Jimmie Innes commented "Congratulations to both Bronwen and Bertie. It is great to see both a disabled shooter and a junior member compete and win in these very hard competitions against experienced shooters from across the country. This also vindicates all the time and expense that the club has gone to in making our facilities disabled friendly".

Cumbria leagues:

In the Cumbria winter leagues, the club won five medals: Barry Docherty 3, John Russell 1 and Steven Stockdale 1. We have now started shooting the Summer cards with eleven members taking part.

Perthshire Prone:

Team Results: - Callander A came second to St Andrews A and Callander B came second to Perth C & C B. Individual Results: - Div 1 Gordon Motion, Div 13 Tam Pate, Div 14 Jonathan Richards.

Perthshire Benchrest:

Individual Results: - Jocky Johnston won Div 2 with Jimmie Innes runner up, Bob Farquhar runner-up in Div 3 and Malcolm Scotland runner-up in Div 4.

For further club details, contact our secretary Bob Farquhar [07721-744229](tel:07721-744229).

John Russell

Spring to Summer for Greener Callander

May is probably the busiest month for Greener Callander volunteers. By the time you read this we will have potted up well over a thousand bedding plants, planted out 45 hanging baskets and with any luck they will be up on the lamp posts. We will also have had our annual fund-raiser, the plant sale, so let's hope it went well.

June continues to be pretty full on.

All the other boxes and baskets need planting out and the gardens continue



*Our bedding plants, in the polytunnel at CYP
(thank you CYP) Photo Lesley Hawkins*

to need attention to keep them looking good.

Volunteers do all this and we always need more help, so if you can spare a couple of hours a month then please get in touch.

We are a friendly bunch and you definitely don't need to be a plant expert, so why don't you get in touch and give it a try?

Please contact Lesley Hawkins mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk, Sue King king.m.susan@gmail.com or Hilary Gunkel mail@hilarygunkel.co.uk

Sue King

Callander Woodland Group

In March the Callander Woodland Group Volunteers attacked the beech wood area of Coilhallan that borders the A81 opposite McLaren High School. Storms Arwen and Barra had blown down many trees across footpaths and in the area used as an outdoor classroom by the Nursery and Primary Schools. Since the group is restricted to use of hand tools only, it was dependant on Forest and Land Scotland (FLS) to initially cut up the bigger trees. Seedlings were cut down, brambles removed and the cleared brash used to build a partial wall on the road-side. The schools hope to start using the area again as the weather permits.

There are still more big trees that need to be cleared to reinstate the footpath alongside the Mollands houses, possibly later this year. In the meantime, the Woodland Group will look at whether a footpath lower down to link across to the main spine track can be cleared to give access to Coilhallan from a safer road crossing. In May it is hoped to complete clearance of the small loop path started in February.

We would welcome more volunteers to join the very friendly group for practical sessions.

FLS are going to be working with the local community as they develop the next 10-year Callander Land



cleared outdoor classroom, photo L. Hawkins

Management Plan (LMP) which covers Coilhallan, Upper Craggs and Torrie woods. This is a very welcome opportunity for the community. These different woodlands are quite varied and will lend themselves to development for different uses. We would like to invite anyone in the community who would be interested in working with us to shape community influence over this next LMP plan to get in touch. No expertise is needed in woodland management, just an interest in pursuing the views of Callander residents.

If interested in being involved in either practical or planning aspects of the group, please contact us via callanderwoodlandgroup@gmail.com.

Finally, please be sure to support us in your votes on the Callander Place Plan. The second survey is currently running until 30 June.

Lesley Hawkins & Sue King

Cleaner Callander?

A few years ago, a group of volunteers who were fed up with the amount of litter around Callander's beauty spots came together as Cleaner Callander. Some members prefer solo litter picking on their regular walks, others like more sociable group events at specific sites. In Spring and Autumn there were also advertised Community Litter Picking events to tidy up before and after the tourist season. The last 2two years have been a particular challenge with extra visitors and the National Park rangers have taken an increasing role in clearing beauty spots like the Scout Pool and Bracklinn (Bridge). Stirling Council remains responsible for the town centre but there are many areas outside of their remit where litter is dropped by disrespectful visitors and residents.

One of the founding members has since left Callander, Covid restrictions have prevented the organisation of community events and I have become involved in other time-consuming projects. I would like to hand over to someone else with the drive to at least organise Community litter-picking events and hopefully co-ordinate the Cleaner Callander volunteers.

I can pass on litter pickers, hi-viz vests, bag hoops, stencils, gloves and hand gel along with information on what has been done in the past. If interested please contact me on mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk.

Lesley Hawkins

Callander & District Horticultural Society



Save the Date – Saturday 20th August, 2022 !

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. There is a vast range of competitions to enter in your local community show. 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. Interested ? Please read on to find out where to get your schedule and more about the arrangements.



In 2021 we were able to reinstate our physical Annual Show but at the new venue of East Torrie Farm. With lots of space to display exhibits and easy parking, there was lots of positive feedback on the day, so the Committee has decided to use East Torrie Farm as the venue again this year. Preparations are now well underway for the Annual Show on Saturday 20th August which will be open to the public from 2-4pm. As well as reinstating the usual Prizegiving at 3pm, we will be serving teas and coffees – so why not make an afternoon outing and bring some family and friends to see the colourful display of flowers, produce and craft....and maybe just have a bit of chat!

Schedules for the show are now available from a number of sources :- Our website www.cadhs.co.uk is live again where you can see the schedule and download a copy. An electronic copy can be obtained by emailing cadhortsoc@gmail.com Printed copies of the summarised schedule are also available at the Post Office, Campbell Butchers, the Library and Feeds and Stoves. In addition to the website, the Society has its own FaceBook page which you can find under “Callander and District Horticultural Society”.

We are delighted that the Callander Community Council will be sponsoring their Garden Competitions alongside the CADH Society again this year with a range of classes similar to 2021 (see below). You can enter your whole garden or choose one of the feature areas. Entries can be made now via the website www.cadhs.co.uk or by paper entry forms from Feeds and Stoves. Please watch out for more posters/ social media announcements about this.

Garden Competition Classes 2022 (Judging in late July/early August). Sponsored by Callander Community Council

- 1. Best kept large garden - all ages
- 2. Best kept small garden - all ages
- Sponsored by Callander & District Horticultural Society
- 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.

The Committee



ANMELDUNG VON DER DEUTSCHSPRACHIGEN GRUPPE IN CALLANDER

Endlich.....Ein frohes Wiedersehenstreffen: Am Samstag 25. Juni laden wir Euch alle - und Eure deutschsprachigen Partners / Freunde / Kinder - um 14.30 in Peters Garten zu einer Grillparty ein. Alle sind eingeladen, irgendeinen Beitrag mitzubringen - etwas zum Grillen, oder Salat, Käse, Brot, Bier, Obst, Kuchen, vielleicht. Zwei Wochen im Voraus werden wir weitere Einzelheiten dieser Veranstaltung allen Teilnehmern in einer Email mitteilen. Wenn Sie es also vorhaben, mitzumachen, schicken Sie mir bitte bis 11. Juni eine Email: jensshearer@gmail.com, damit ich weiss, wie viele Teller und Gläser bereitzustellen!

Wir werden uns allen für schönes Wetter für ein frohes, lang erwartetes, geselliges Beisammensein die Daumen drücken. Nach diesem Treffen haben wir im Juli und August unsere Sommerpause.

Jen und Peter

Callander and West Perthshire u3a



No longer working full time? Looking for new interests?

u3a is a UK-wide organisation made up of locally-run groups which provide a range of opportunities for people to come together to learn for fun. u3as have been set up in many areas of Scotland. People enjoy exploring new ideas, skills and activities together.

Callander and West Perthshire u3a offers more than 20 interest groups, Chatterbox (an online magazine for members), speaker events as well as opportunities to share in social activities. Have a look at our website to find out more.

We're looking forward to our AGM in August, details of which will be available nearer the time, and to the celebration of our 10th anniversary. New members are always welcome. Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/callander-and-wp/home>

Make the most of life - 'learn, laugh, live'



We will be meeting again on Saturday 18th June at 10.30 am in Callander Kirk Hall, South Church Street (subject to present Covid restrictions). Please come and join us for fun, food and family worship. If possible, please carry out a lateral flow test before coming.

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](tel:01877339324)

CHAS Plant Sale and Bird Houses

Further to our recent published article, please find attached a photo of the stall,

We opened the stall on the 7th May and we will run it daily until mid Aug and plan to do so each year. The stall is accessed from Craigard Road.

Already, we and CHAS are very grateful for the generosity shown towards this charity, it's so much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Forbes & Rachel Webster



Craft 'n Chat

We are a group of crafters who get together once a month for a few hours to enjoy working on a craft/hobby with like-minded folk

Where: Deanston community hall FK16 6EG (10.30 AM -4.30PM)

When: Last Saturday of the month. £10 per Saturday

Tea, coffee, biscuits and cake provided to keep you refreshed as you craft!

Would you like to join us? We're a friendly group who enjoy a few hours doing something we enjoy in the company of other crafters.

Places must be booked in advance by contacting Isobel

[01786 841564](tel:01786841564) or by email isobel5@binternet.com

People who craft together – Laugh together!

Guides



Callander Guides have enjoyed getting outside as the weather has improved. We had a lovely evening at the Cabin at Loch Lubnaig before Easter when several girls made their promises, and everyone received lots of badges we have been working on, from Confectioners to International Women's Day to World Book Day. This term we are working on our Upcycling badge, and are hoping to build a vertical planter out of a pallet, and a Little Free Library from a dolls' house.

Flood Protection: Is this enough for Callander?

Some in the community may already be aware that Stirling Council have been considering a flood prevention scheme in Callander since 2016. In 2019 they promoted the Callander Meadows Car Park Flood Alleviation Scheme, comprising of a flood wall in the car park at a cost of £4 million which would protect only half of the properties deemed to be at the same level of risk.



Some within the community consider the Callander Meadows Car Park Flood Alleviation Scheme (which is, again, one of the options being put forward by Stirling Council) to be poor value for money, inappropriate and inadequate. Others have concerns that this scheme, if progressed, would effectively prevent any further flood protection from river flooding being made available to the wider community.

Callander Meadows Car Park Flood Alleviation Scheme, was developed between 2016 and 2019 without any meaningful community involvement. On becoming aware of the inadequacies of the this scheme and with mounting concern about inaccuracies in the historic flooding information used by Stirling Council to develop the scheme, a group of residents impacted by flooding in Bridgend, Grant Court and South Church Street got together to open discussions with Stirling Council. This group questioned inaccuracies and assumptions of Stirling Council's proposed scheme and lobbied for community engagement and protection for all properties affected by flooding. This has been an active and ongoing process for over 2.5 years.

As a result, Stirling Council have paused progress of the Callander Meadows Car Park Flood Alleviation Scheme and are now, finally, undertaking proper steps to collect anecdotal, historic flooding information from the community and those, directly impacted by river flooding, and putting a range of options to the community. Stirling Council are now consulting and engaging with the community on the development of a flood protection scheme for Callander. At the time of publishing of this article (June 2022), Stirling Council should have published a confirmed a short-list of preferred options that aim to alleviate river flooding in Callander.

Between June & September 2022, Stirling Council will decide on the preferred option to be taken forward for final development. This engagement will include discussions with impacted properties, with the community, and then a public presentation sometime in September 2022.

Protecting Callander from river flooding is complex. However there are two crucial elements, and we would ask residents in Callander to consider these when deciding upon a preferred option:

1. Are Stirling Council offering sufficient flood protection from river flooding for Callander?

Stirling Council refer to flooding in terms of 1 in 25 year (1:25) to 1 in 200 year (1:200) flood events. This describes the severity of a flood event and not how often a flood event happens. A 1:200 flood is more severe than a 1:25 year flood. For example the flood of Dec 2015 was recorded as a 1:55 year flood, at its peak, reaching along the shop fronts at the entrance to the Meadows car park.

Nationally, many flood protection schemes protect communities up to a 1:200 year flood. For Callander, however, Stirling Council's preferred option, Callander Meadows Car Park Flood Alleviation Scheme, would only protect half the properties at risk from a 1:25 to a 1:50 year flood event.

If we refer to actual floods in Callander over recent years, reports commissioned by Stirling Council from specialist consultants, (the Mouchel 2013, and the WSP 2018) indicate that there have been at least two floods in Callander in recent years, 2006 and 2015 which were greater than a 1:50 year flood and which would therefore, we assume, have over-topped the proposed flood wall in the car park. Local knowledge and photographic evidence also demonstrates that the flood of February 1990, was of a similar magnitude, if not greater.



Given the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's (SEPA) advice that flood protection schemes should take account of future climate change, and the increased frequency of flooding in Callander, we feel that the current proposals from Stirling Council do not offer adequate protection from river flooding either now, or in the longer term.

Other options have been put forward from within the community, one by Richard Johnston (local hydrologist), which could potentially offer higher levels of flood protection on a longer-term basis and be constructed further away from the built environment of the town.

Are all properties at risk of river flooding being offered protection from any of the proposed options?

The Stirling Council report of 2018 indicates that there are approximately twenty properties at risk of 1:50 year flood event: nine commercial premises and one family home around the Meadows car park and ten family homes in Bridgend, Grant Court and South Church Street. There are also other nearby properties impacted by marginally more severe floods.

This is crunch time for Callander with regards to flood protection in the heart of our town. What Stirling Council decide will not just affect the homes and businesses of the twenty most, at risk properties, but will impact on locals and visitors alike. We are concerned that Stirling Council will continue to push through their preferred option which we believe is not best value for money, which will be ineffective and which may impact on the ability to develop future flood protection for Callander.

We believe that all properties at equal level of risk, should be provided with equal level of protection and are therefore appealing to the wider community to get involved, demonstrate support and make your voice heard. Hopefully Stirling Council will listen, and ultimately, confirm that the final choice of scheme offers best level of flood alleviation, and protection for all. For further information and your views to be recorded, please:

- Pop along to the library or see the Stirling Council website at <https://flooding-stirling.hub.arcgis.com/>.
- Come along to the public consultation events and/or get in touch with Stirling Council or Callander Community Council directly to express your views.
- Feel free to contact Ian McCourt or Jennie Brown either directly or via email/social media.

Ian McCourt (ianmccourt56@gmail.com)

Jennie Brown (jennieamailey@gmail.com)

Martin Earl

It is a great privilege to have been re-elected to serve as a Councillor for the area. Thank you to all those that have supported me and been so kind in their messages. I am looking forward to working with my two new fellow councillors for the ward to ensure we provide representation for all the communities within Trossachs & Teith.

There are several pressing matters that we need to address, some that are specific to Callander and others that impact across the whole area. For Callander we will need to ensure that the new Primary school is progressed on schedule and a sensible decision made that benefits the town for the existing school site. A Flood scheme that is effective, proportionate and addresses properties most at risk in all locations is essential, as is having St Kessog's up and running as a community hub.

Across the whole area we need more emphasis on our roads and pavements. There are numerous examples, many in Callander, of poor and dangerous surfaces that need properly repairing and resurfacing. That is going to need a bigger budget allocated each year to properly address the growing issue. Waste collection is a basic service we all rely on, but it is not working well for many. That has to be addressed as does providing an affordable recycling service for businesses and improved opening times for the tip.

I have long argued for a more robust approach to issues such as dog fouling, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour. These will need prioritising within the council and Police, so they get the resources and attention they demand. Our council needs to focus on delivering core services like these before doing anything else.

My email is
earlm@stirling.gov.uk

Your New Stirling Council

Elected Councillors

Gene Maxwell

A former Army Officer, lives in Brig o Turk. A Community Councillor for a number of years Gene say he hopes he has a good understanding of the sort of issues affecting our rural communities, towns and villages.

The underlying principle of what I'm hoping to do is to make the area a better place to live, work and enjoy life. Key to that are affordable housing, good transport links, access to year-round well paid employment, good schools and better communications, Supporting that are the other services that local government provides, from home-help through waste collection, Building Control, Libraries and Consumer Advice.

In most of the Ward we have the added complexity of being part of the National Park, whose Planning Policies affect our lives in so many ways. I intend to be an active and available Ward Councillor, open to hearing your suggestions and helping with issues as they arise.

My email is
maxwellg@stirling.gov.uk
 I look forward to meeting you soon !

Elaine Watterson

I was delighted to have been elected as a Councillor for Trossachs and Teith. Thank you to all who made this possible . Special thanks must go to my colleague Martin Earl whose support and guidance was amazing.

My congratulations to the other new Councillor Gene Maxwell. I am sure that together we shall do our very best for our community and address the problems in our area.

My election pledges were to improve the waste collection, seek additional funding for roads and pavements, tackle all forms of antisocial behaviour, work to bring St Kessog's back into community use and maintain safe spaces for women and girls. I will work hard on behalf of all to fulfil these.

I do appreciate there are other important ongoing issues within the community such as flooding and again I will address these over the months ahead, together with dealing with any personal enquiries from the community.

My email is
wattersonel@stirling.gov.uk

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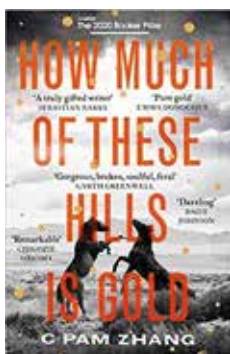
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Book Club Review

This issue's book review title is *How Much of These Hills is Gold*, the first novel by C Pam Zhang (Virago Press: 2021). Described as the 'boldest debut of the year' in 2020, it boasted many awards, including the longlist for the Booker Prize, a Barack Obama book of the year, and a Goop (Gwyneth Paltrow) book club pick.



How Much of These Hills is Gold follows a family in the American West during the Gold Rush (1840s-1850s). Part One sets a harrowing start as children, Lucy and Sam, exit town with a gun and the body of their father (Da) carried on a stolen horse. They must leave quickly, but we're unsure why. However, there is an urgent need to find a suitable burial plot for their father's decaying body. Their mother (Ma) is also absent and the future for these children, not yet in their teens, is uncertain.

Part Two moves the story back to when the family were together. Da regarded himself as a prospector when the Gold Rush started, but this was not necessarily a positive thing. While some gold men became very rich, others struggled to survive in the primitive environment. Da, with Lucy and Sam, worked the mines for little pay, then would disappear at night to explore new areas in the hope of finding nuggets. Land-ownership was increasingly a contentious issue, as the rich gold men laid claim to all land, and laws were subsequently changed in their favour. From thereon, if gold was

found in unexplored areas, the gold men would claim it to be theirs and would recover it from prospectors, often using force.

The Gold Rush is regarded as a dark period in American history for indigenous communities who were attacked and pushed off their land. Immigrants arrived, from Europe, Australia and China (the latter being the birthplace of Ma). Few made their fortune. The darkness and difficulty of this historical period for both incomers and natives are illustrated well through the author's sparse writing and clever story-telling. This is a book full of tension and foreboding from the offset. It's not necessarily a comfortable read, but it was certainly a memorable one.

The next BLV book club review will be *The Pavilion in the Clouds* by Alexander McCall Smith (Polygon: 2022).

Maggie Magor

Callander Brass - back together, tootling again



We played at the Scottish Championships in Perth in early March 2020, then came the pandemic and everything stopped: no band practice, no concerts. Eventually, as lockdown eased in 2021, someone suggested getting together to play in the open air, so last summer Tom Jones kindly offered the use of his garden for rehearsals and even provided chairs - but of course he couldn't provide the dry weather!

For our first public engagement we were honoured to take part in the Remembrance Day ceremony, hosted by the British Legion, in Ancaster Square in November 2021. We also played at the switching-on of the Christmas lights in December, and later that month joined Callander Kirk Junior Choir for a fund-raising concert of Christmas carols on behalf of CHAS.

We are practicing weekly again, in the rehearsal space provided by Cambusmore Estate, for our next concert to be held on Thursday 23rd June at 7.30pm in Callander Kirk. We will be joined by two local guest musicians, Fiona Cantlay and Angela Dickinson.

No tickets are required but donations are welcome to The Canmore Trust, the charity set up by John and Isobel Gibson in memory of their son, Cameron. You may have read John's article in the BLV: from 13th June he will be walking from Land's End to John o' Groats to raise funds and to raise awareness of suicide prevention. So John won't be at our concert, but we hope you will: please come along and support Callander Brass, our guests, and this worthwhile cause.

Alma Cadzow

Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) Concert in Callander

The Strings section of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra will be returning to Callander for a concert on Saturday 18th June at 7.30pm in Callander Kirk.

Callander audiences have really appreciated SCO concerts locally, and this performance will be another to remember. Stephanie Gonley, the accomplished Leader and soloist, will direct the strings in a programme to delight, inspire.. and probably surprise.

Tickets are available from the Visitor Information Centre or from www.sco.org.uk/events/sco-strings

Anne Docherty

Callander Amateur Operatic Society (CAOS)

Well, after two years of weary uncertainty, the show did go on and in March the Callander hills were once again alive with the *'Sound of Music'*. Under the ever watchful eyes of Iain Fraser and Linda Cantlay - what a show the cast produced! And what a fantastic response from our audience – a big thank you to you all.

We have had some brilliant comments from our audiences and below is an extract of the review from Elizabeth Donald, the local NODA representative.

'Two years on from that awful week when the society had to stop the show only three days before the opening night, CAOS was at last able to perform this well loved musical. With some cast changes, but the same (older!) children, the whole cast gave a show to remember.

The nuns' harmonious and unaccompanied singing set the tone for the whole, a calm disciplined abbey but with a free spirited novice in Maria (Naomi Scott). 'The Hills are Alive' did indeed come alive under her singing and each subsequent number was sung with heart. She was totally natural and believable as a young girl engaging the youngsters in her care and falling in love, but being assertive, with the children's father. In his first principal role as Captain von Trapp, Aiden O' Carroll gave a distinguished performance in accompanying the family's singing and sang Edelweiss truly and movingly.

The children, Fiona Cantlay, Stewart Watson, Lucy Underwood, Katherine Lee, Rory Scott, Alixe Anderson and Amelie Morley, all gave polished performances, transforming from the drilled automatons of first acquaintance to personalities of their own. Fiona Cantley as Liesl, a growing teenager, struck all the right notes in her relationship with the young postman Rolf, played by Colin Young. Their duet was charming and the singing and harmonies of all the children in 'So Long, Farewell' and in their other numbers was delightful.

The Sisters Berthe, Margaretta, and Sophia (Heather Cameron, Lorna Stevens and Charlotte McFarlane Wood) sang and bickered wonderfully. However in the role of Mother Abbess, Angela Dickinson came into her own. Her singing of 'Climb Every Mountain' moved us all, powerful and emotional with every note counting, especially that soaring and beautifully held last note. The supporting principals, Brian McKay (Max) and Jenne McClure (Baroness Elsa) also gave us their own excellent interpretation of their roles. The Housekeeper (Mhairi Stewart) and the Butler, Franz (Steve Murphy), were also well characterised.

This was a well produced show. The cast were comfortable in their roles. The stage is smallish but the use of cloths for the abbey and for the Von Trapp home gave a sense of space and of wealth. The stairs gave an added dimension. All gave room for the actors to perform. The singing was beautiful and the musicians melodious and supportive to the singers. Overall this was an extremely enjoyable show which, in our current war torn world, also gave us pause for thought of the cost to individuals and families giving up their homes for freedom. Well done to all involved.'

What a great comment on the talent that abounds in Callander. As always we have to thank, you, our audience and supporters who have stuck with us over the past two years and helped make it all possible.

Already we are looking forward to our next production, which will be confirmed in the next few weeks. If you have been inspired by *Sound of Music* then why not come along to rehearsals which will start in September. Remember – you can sing! But if you want to help in other ways, we are always looking for volunteers for a variety of tasks. Keep an eye on our website for details - www.c-a-o-s.org.uk.

Steve Murphy for CAOS



Callander Library - Outreach Service

As the Library returns to more 'normal' practice, our lovely volunteers are back to bring books to your door if you are unable to get to the library due to age or disability. We can also deliver to you on a temporary basis following an operation or accident where you cannot get to the library. There is no charge for this service.

Following an initial chat with Library Outreach Staff to discuss what type of books you enjoy (e.g. romance, crime, audiobooks, large print etc.), a volunteer will visit your home every 2 weeks bringing you new books and taking away the read ones. They can also provide reading aids (when available) such as magnifying bookmarks and CD players.

If this sounds like something you would benefit from, call 01786 237549 or email libraryoutreach@stirling.gov.uk

Fiona Frize

Installation of 12 no. solar panels on existing house and erection of wood storage shed with 10 no. solar panels

Highlands Leny Feus Callander FK17 8AS

Ref. No: 2022/0123/HAE | Received: Fri 15 Apr 2022 |

Validated: Fri 22 Apr 2022 | Status: Current

•Erection of 2 no. extensions to dwelling house and relocation of oil tank

Mill Cottage Kilmahog Callander FK17 8HD

Ref. No: 2022/0119/HAE | Received: Tue 12 Apr 2022 |

Validated: Tue 12 Apr 2022 | Status: Current

Change of use of vacant site and bin store area to Class 3 hot & drink servery, seating area and take away

8 Main Street Callander FK17 8BB

Ref. No: 2022/0118/DET | Received: Mon 11 Apr 2022 |

Validated: Thu 28 Apr 2022 | Status: Current

Change of use of land to Class 6 (Storage and distribution) comprising installation of 3no. container storage units. Alterations to existing workshop proposed for Class 4 use (Business) and Class 5 use (General Industrial).

Workshop Aros Lane Callander Stirling FK17 8BS

Ref. No: 2022/0111/DET | Received: Thu 07 Apr 2022 |

Validated: Mon 25 Apr 2022 | Status: Current

Proposed change of use from restaurant to 2 no. residential units

Ciros 114 Main Street Callander FK17 8BG

Ref. No: 2022/0098/DET | Received: Thu 31 Mar 2022 |

Validated: Fri 29 Apr 2022 | Status: Current

Change in the use of overgrown land (sui generis) to form archery range with associated ground works and storage shed

Invertrossachs Scout Activity Centre Invertrossachs Estate By Callander FK17 8HG

Ref. No: 2022/0097/DET | Received: Wed 30 Mar 2022 |

Validated: Thu 07 Apr 2022 | Status: Current

Current Planning Applications

Demolition of existing printing works building and erection of 1 no. dwellinghouse; Change of use from Business (Class 4) to House (Class 9)

Store 19 Cross Street Callander FK17 8EA

Ref. No: 2022/0091/DET | Received: Mon 28 Mar 2022 |

Validated: Mon 28 Mar 2022 | Status: Current

Change of use and extension of kennel to form dwellinghouse

Land Adjacent To The Kennels Invertrossachs Road Callander FK17 8HG

Ref. No: 2022/0087/LBC | Received: Fri 25 Mar 2022 |

Validated: Fri 25 Mar 2022 | Status: Current

Change of use and extension of kennel to form dwellinghouse

Land Adjacent To The Kennels Invertrossachs Road Callander FK17 8HG

Ref. No: 2022/0088/DET | Received: Fri 25 Mar 2022 |

Validated: Tue 29 Mar 2022 | Status: Current

Advertisement of the following types : Fascia Sign, Projecting Sign

The Waverley Hotel 88-94 Main Street Callander FK17 8BD

Ref. No: 2022/0072/ADV | Received: Tue 15 Mar 2022 |

Validated: Fri 18 Mar 2022 | Status: Current

Temporary use of hotel garden for crazy golf and as a children's play area

Dreadnought Hotel Leny Road Callander FK17 8AN

Ref. No: 2022/0062/DET | Received: Mon 07 Mar 2022 |

Validated: Fri 25 Mar 2022 | Status: Current

Change of use of domestic garage to self-contained holiday let

West Mains Callander Stirling FK17 8HW

Ref. No: 2022/0050/DET | Received: Tue 22 Feb 2022 |

Validated: Wed 13 Apr 2022 | Status: Current



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| Callander | Gartmore | Locheemhead | |
| Deanston | Killearn | Strathblane | |

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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 (10.00am till 3pm))

District Nurse [01877 330150](tel:01877330150)

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

www.nhsinform.scot

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

Chemists

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

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

Vets

Callander: [01877 381213](tel:01877381213)

Schools

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

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

Callander Kirk



The Church of Scotland,
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Third Sunday 6.30pm Communion
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Rev Jeffery McCormick BD

[01877 330474](tel:01877330474)



Callander Baptist Fellowship

We warmly welcome folks to join us
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Since Covid restrictions have been
eased, on Sundays we have re-
sumed some in-person services. In
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ices and small fellowship gatherings
in homes.

Our weekly prayer meeting remains
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zoom.

Please contact :

callanderbaptistfellowship@gmail.com

for full details of times and venues.

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and 24th July
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Grey/Blue Bins Sunday 17th

August

Brown/Green Bins Sunday 21st
Brown/Blue Box Sunday 7th
Grey/Blue Bins Sunday 14th

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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)

www.standrewschurchcallander.co.uk



St Joseph's Catholic Church

Glen Artney Road, Callander

Thursday Mass 10.00 am

Saturday Vigil Mass (May - Sept 5.30
pm)

Sunday Holy Mass 11.30 am

Registration is mandatory via
website: www.stfdac.co.uk or call
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Rev Leszek Wiececzek S.A.C.

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
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or sewers: [0800 0778778](tel:08000778778)

Location of defibrillators

Dreadnought Garage

Callander Golf Club

McLaren Leisure Centre

The Post Office

Ancaster Square

West Dullater House and Grace's

Cottage Invertrossachs

Mobile unit based in Callander with
Scottish Ambulance Service

BLV DEADLINES

The next issue of the Ben Ledi View
will be published on **Friday 5th
August 2022.**

Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy
for the **Aug/Sept** issue to our
Advertising Co-ordinator Wendy
Munro at:

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Wednesday 6th July 2022 Full
details of sizes for advertisement
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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 or
handed in to the Callander Library
by **Friday 8th July 2022.**

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

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Carolyn Dunion from McKendry Dunion Financial provides a personal service to those looking to get on the property ladder or review their mortgage arrangements.

Carolyn says, 'it is amazing that our mortgage is usually the biggest expense we will have in our lives and yet often we forget to review our arrangements and that can cost us thousands of pounds unnecessarily.

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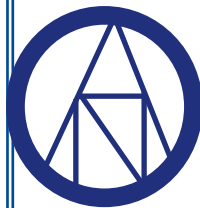
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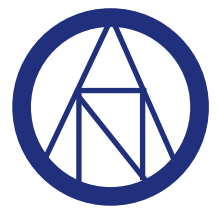
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