

Ben Ledi View

Apr/May 2023

Issue 329



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Cover Photo bt John Keeling



Hello Readers

Ever felt that you'd like a voice in changing things in Callander? Well, now's your chance. The Callander Community Council is stepping down and a new one is to be elected. See page 3 on how you can stand as a community councillor.

There are two pressing problems for the newly elected Community Council to deal with as we report on page 6. Stirling Council appears to have dropped its ambitious plans to renovate St Kessog's as a library, a business hub, public toilets and a community hub. Hopefully, the Community Council can ensure that this iconic building is put to good use sometime soon. In a similar vein Stirling Council's flood prevention plans for Callander are up in the air after they have decided to have further multi agency consultations about what would be the best option for the town. With climate change bringing about increasingly extreme weather patterns the Community Council needs to ensure Stirling Council comes up with a practical and affordable solution soon.

On a more positive note, the new bridge over the Bracklinn Falls is now open. See our front cover if you've not had chance to visit it yet. Some people have criticised it for being austere and weather beaten. I think it's just what

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was needed. It doesn't distract from the natural beauty of the place and it appears to have been built to last, unlike the previous bridge. There's an official opening ceremony next week, 29th March, which I hope to attend and will report back to you in the next edition of the Ben Ledi View.

It is with sadness that the Ben Ledi View says goodbye to one of our lead editors, Mary Buckland. Mary has been one of the stalwarts of the Ben Ledi View team during the last seven years. She has chosen now as a good time hang up her pen/computer mouse. On behalf of all the trustees and volunteers of the Ben Ledi View I would like to say a very big thank-you to Mary for all her hard work in helping produce the magazine. Have a happy retirement, Mary!

The person who has volunteered to replace Mary is John Keeling. A very warm welcome to the team John, you have a hard act to follow! John's interests include graphic design and crosswords, very useful for our magazine. Although it's great to have a new volunteer on the Ben Ledi View team, we still need more help. We particularly need a secretary, a person who sets up and organises our team meetings. If you're interested and want to know more, please contact me at convenor@benlediview.org

Convenor

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Callander Community Council

All change in April !

Not only will we see a change in the weather in April – hopefully - but the Community Council is stepping down and a new Community Council will be elected. There will therefore be no scheduled Community Council business meeting in April. You can apply to become a community councillor, either online or by sending your application to Stirling Council (SC), with the name of a proposer and seconder for your application. All three individuals must be reside in the local area and be named on the Electoral Register for the area. Nominations will open on April 3rd and close on April 17th 2023.

The general purpose of a community council is to act as a voice for the local community. This involves making known the views and concerns of local people in the area on a wide range of issues of public concern and making representations to the local authority, other public sector bodies and private agencies on such matters.

The present Community Council consists of 11 members –

Susan Holden (Chair), John Watson (Vice Chair), Olga Watkins (Secretary), Marilyn Moore (Treasurer), David Moore (Planning Officer), Ray Watkins, Bev. Field, David King, David Shearer, Moe Guertin and Loucas George.

Callander Community Council (CCC) holds meetings 9 times / year, on the third Monday of the month, avoiding school holidays wherever possible, The meetings are usually held in hybrid format, both in person and online, so that as many people as possible have access to the meetings. CCC is one of the few community councils in the area to hold hybrid meetings – we are still learning, so apologies if the meetings don't always go according to plan ! If you have any questions on becoming a community councillor or wish to apply, please contact John Watson on [07899 895767](tel:07899895767), or email ccelections@stirling.gov.uk for further information. You can also contact me at callandercc556@gmail.com or leave a note at Callander Library in the CCC post box and I will get back to you. The work is interesting and not all 'doom and gloom' -- plus you could help make a change for good in our community.

Citizen of the Year

Nominations for this year should be sent either online to callandercc556@gmail.com or posted in the CCC post box at Callander Library. If you would like to nominate someone whom you feel has made a special contribution to the community **over the past year**, please consider doing so. Most people do good deeds without expecting anything in return, except perhaps for a smile or for the knowledge that they have made a difference to someone's life. It is good that their contributions can be acknowledged by the community.

Braes of Doune Wind Farm Community Fund (BoD)

The use of microgrants has now been approved by BoD and Foundation Scotland (FS) and allows individuals or groups from unconstituted organisations to apply for a grant of up to £250 (up to £2000 will be available per year for all applications to this fund). Decisions on whom to award the grants will be taken by CCC, usually within one month of the application being received and will not need to be referred to BoD for financial ratification. Any decisions about larger grants will still need to be ratified by BoD and FS within a quarterly window. Application forms can be found online via CCC website www.incallander.co.uk/ccc_grants . Applications can be emailed to ccbodfund@gmail.com, posted in the CCC post box at Callander Library or sent to the address given on the application form. This is a welcome development for the community and will enable small projects to go ahead with the necessary funding they need.

NHS Dental Services in Callander

The petition has now closed and has been presented to Forth Valley Health Board. In total, over 1370 households throughout the local area signed the petition, which is requesting new NHS Dental Services for Callander and the surrounding villages. The outlying villages dominated in the latter weeks, with signatures from all areas in the Trossachs including Aberfoyle, Thornhill, Doune and Strathyre. Well done to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause, which continues to put pressure on the Health Board to find a solution for rural NHS dental services in the area. The Health Board has recently stated that it is in talks with a group of dentists who are keen to take things forward – the negotiations are at an early stage at the moment, but signs are encouraging.

Olga Watkins – Secretary, 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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Fun Fact!

Did you know that the Mona Lisa, painted by Leonardo da Vinci - has no eyebrows? Plus it is worth about US \$100million?



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

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Buchlyvie	Gargunock	Kippen	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Lochearnhead	
Deanston	Killearn	Strathblane	

Further new build developments are being planned for Killearn, Balmaha, Croftmac, and Drymen. 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 to plan for the future. For a downloadable application pack please visit our website www.rsha.org.uk.

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Callander Outreach Service

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Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

The Visitor Information Centre in Main Street reopened for the season on 1st April, with several new volunteers joining the friendly team that keeps the service running. Thank you to all who joined us over the winter! Our centre is one of a growing number of community-led tourism projects across Scotland and visitors really do appreciate our warm welcome and 'insider' local advice. If you enjoy chatting, or would like to use your language skills (though these are not essential), we would love to meet you.

Visitors come from all over the UK and from around the world and are interested in all that Callander and the surrounding area has to offer. From walking and cycling routes to places to visit or eat out, all the information you need is available in the centre, in leaflets or books and we have tablets for checking online. And you can do as many or as few shifts to suit yourself.

If you are interested, please drop in, call [07539 703806](tel:07539703806) or email callandervic@gmail.com.

Anne & Sheila Callander VIC Managers

The National Park

Is working on a partnership approach to investing in visitor infrastructure with a view to improving parking, paths and other visitor facilities in public and third sector ownership.

We are holding an open public event on Thursday 27th April in Callander Youth Project to introduce the Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Study partnership process underway for Callander and the surrounding area.

Staff will be available to answer questions from 6:30 pm and refreshments will be available. At 7:30pm there will be a presentation followed by an open forum session to 8:15 pm, chaired by National Park Board member Richard Johnson.

Callander Kirk Community Food Larder

A box of food items and toiletries is available at the entrance to the Kirk Halls 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 Halls.

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



Renovations at Callander Youth Project

(CYP)

We wanted to provide an update on the recent renovation work taking place at CYP. The primary aim of this project was to complete necessary upgrades to our toilets, especially to our accessible facility.



Thanks to this work, we now have a larger and better-designed accessible toilet, as well as having individual cubicles for the rest of our toilets (as a youth project, this is also far more suitable for our purposes). These improvements were only possible thanks to the generous support of the Scottish Government's Rural and Islands Communities Ideas into Action Fund and the Callander Community Hydro Fund. We're also extremely grateful to the Braes of Doune Community Fund for helping us to meet the cost of unexpected repairs that were only discovered during the final planning stages of the project.

As the work necessitated the closure of our function business for at least a couple of months, we also took the opportunity to lay a new floor in the function hall itself. The progress on our adjacent youth space is also nearing completion, so we're looking forward to having all of these areas open to the public in the near future (and hopefully prior to the publication of this article). As a final note, we'd like to thank the High School for welcoming our after-school youth clubs, allowing these to keep running during the previous school term.

Callander Community Development Trust and CAB Outreach

CCDT is pleased to continue supporting the outreach work in Callander of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The service provided is free of charge and totally confidential. If you need practical assistance in dealing with problems of daily living, or remote officialdom, you can have a face-to-face helpful consultation with the local outreach adviser on Wednesdays. You can just drop in or make an appointment. (see details in the advert on page 4)

St Kessog's Update

This project began in 2019, with the aim of redeveloping St Kessog's into a building for the relocated library, a business hub, public toilets and a community hub. Basing all this at St Kessog's meant that the old building had a future, rather than it standing empty and deteriorating.

In the December/January BLV issue, I shared with you a note from Stirling Council about the escalating costs and identification of additional external repairs.

We now have a bit more detail: costs to repair, refit and equip the building are now estimated at £5.1m, a rise of £2.5m from previous estimates. At the same time, the Economic Development team at Stirling Council has been unsuccessful in bidding for any additional funding to add to the £790,000 allocated to this project to build a business hub through the City Region Deal. That leaves a funding gap of £4.3M.

The working party has been told that Stirling Council is looking at other options- the most likely contender is refitting the offices above the library for use as a business hub and repairing the library building.

Whilst this gives us a new business hub, there will be no additional public toilets on Main St, no Community Hub and no plans for St Kessog's, still owned by Stirling Council and with a pending £1M repair bill.

Stirling Council has said it will discuss the plan with the Community Council and form a new working party. I hope CCC will fight for a future for St Kessog's and I'm really sorry that our work has come to nothing.

Sue King

Meadows Money Madness

I sat through a Teams meeting last Wednesday (1st March), organised by Stirling Council to announce its future plans for flood alleviation in the Meadows. The Council will now examine a long list of flood control options, alongside its own preferred option of a car park wall.

A car park wall has never been a popular decision. The Callander community has, time and again, raised many objections, mainly that a wall will provide only a pathetic flood protection to a handful of buildings in the Meadows whilst ignoring the plight of other at-risk properties around and downstream of the Meadows. Even now, all Callander's pleas continually fall on deaf ears.

Of course a review, at last, of alternative options is laudable, but it would have been wiser for the Council to have embraced and examined (rather than dismiss) a range of measures right at the start, certainly before deciding unilaterally to press ahead and spend, so far, £800k on designing a wall. Times are hard. The cost of living is stressful for most of us, Council Tax will increase, Council services will be cut. And yet, Stirling Council has shamelessly now squandered £800k, and counting, on their remorseless obsession with a wall that they have been told repeatedly by the Callander community will be inadequate and unacceptable. Why, why do they persist, and why are they not (yet) being held to account for this debacle?

So now, Stirling Council proposes, in effect, to start again and spend yet more money on consulting with statutory bodies, multi-criteria analysis, and modelling of the long list of options, to arrive at, we hope, something that will give decent protection to all properties around the Meadows and that will be acceptable to Callander. For this, though, the Council will have to engage fully and openly with the community and heed its views and objectives. What are the chances of this, I wonder?

John Aitken

An Open Letter of Thanks.....

I had the pleasure of picking up my trombone after a mere 20 years interlude to join Callander Brass when they first met after the initial COVID lockdown. Our rehearsal took place in a beautiful garden that was basking in the evening sun. After being apart for so long, coming together and making music felt extra special and the few who had gathered outside to listen seemed to agree.

However, as winter came and the usual rehearsal space was still restricted, the Band faced the prospect of being unable to rehearse. Fortunately, Mike and Steven from Cambusmore Estate came to the rescue with the offer to use a building hidden in the woods. It had previously been a mushroom farm but provided everything the band needed to strike up.

As we drove into the woods each dark wintry rehearsal night, taking out black instrument cases, the group looked very reminiscent of the famous "Lady Killers" film. However, there were mercifully only shiny instruments to be seen when the cases were open!

The part-time residents of the mushroom farm, LBP Outlander, also kindly allowed us to continue practising even when they were filming, making us feel even more like movie stars.

We are now hopeful to get back to a more normal rehearsal space, but the band would like to extend its most sincere thanks to Cambusmore Estate (and LBP Outlander) for their hospitality and for helping to keep the music going.

On a personal note, I would like to extend a sincere thanks to our esteemed Maestro, Ian Milligan, and the Callander Brass members for helping me rediscover the joy of making music after so long and for giving Callander the gift of their live music.

Carolyn Dunion

Bass Trombonist (recently unretired) On behalf of Callander Brass Band

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WANTED Wooden Train Engineer!

Greener Callander is busy growing on summer plants for the hanging baskets and containers around town, hopefully finding the right ones to withstand wind, rain, hot sunshine and drought!

Sadly, our train planter, sited in Station Road car park, has reached the end of the line. It was renovated in 2015 by George Walker who has continued to plant it for summer and winter, frequently including forget-me-nots in memory of his wife Olive, also an early Greener Callander member. However, the wood has now rotted, so it's beyond mending and we need a replacement.

Is there anyone out there who would like to take on the challenge of finding /renovating/ building a replacement? We can pay for materials and it doesn't have to be exactly the same; there is plenty of scope for artistic flair. Ideally it would be ready for planting with summer bedding in early June. Let Lesley or Sue know if you are up for the



photo Lesley Hawkins

challenge.

Funding is still being sought for renovation of the Community Garden surface but meanwhile we are replacing worn items as we can. Last year we replaced the log-edged bog garden with a self-built octagonal Woodblox kit. By the time you read this we will have replaced the 4 half-barrel planters with smart new ones. We are very grateful to The Crafty Barrel Company which provided them at a highly subsidised price.

An important event for raising funds is our annual plant sale and bottle stall in Ancaster Square. This year we'll be there on Sat 20 May from 10-3 so please come along to support us and get your Callander-grown bargains.

If you haven't already chosen Greener Callander as your Co-op Community Project, there is still time as it runs until October. It costs you nothing but we get 2p for every £1 you spend on Co-op products and swipe your card. Choose us via the App, on-line <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/73443> or call the Membership Support Centre on 0800 0686727.

We really need more volunteers to help maintain the many planters and gardens around Callander. Just for a couple of hours, meeting 1.30pm on the first Monday of the month – contact Lesley Hawkins mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk or Sue King king.m.susan@gmail.com.

Lesley Hawkins

Trossachs Osprey Hide

The fish farm along Invertrossachs Road was built over 30 years ago, at the time to supply trout to the supermarkets.

Originally we had overhead strings to deter birds but when these no longer worked, we netted our ponds to protect the fish from herons, ospreys and other fish eating birds. We have also had to fence the farm to try and prevent otters, mink, pine martens and badgers getting in!

This year we netted the last ponds that we use, leaving two large unnetted ponds at the bottom of the farm.

Over the years we have put a few fish

into these ponds and watched ospreys and otters in particular, taking them out again! We also see Kingfishers, various ducks and other wildlife here. During the time that ospreys are in Scotland (Apr-Sep) we are normally visited at least 6 times a day by these iconic birds.

We have now built a low level hide overlooking the ponds which will allow close up encounters with wildlife and provide a bit of income for the farm.

We have set up a website which will allow online bookings only.

www.trossachsospreyhide.co.uk



Natalie and Oliver Underwood

Royal Zoological Society of Scotland Talks to Callander SWT

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, (RZSS), is a wildlife conservation charity best known for its two visitor sites of Edinburgh Zoo and the Highland Wildlife Park (HWP) near Aviemore. The speaker at our February Callander SWT talk was HWP's Jess Wise who very enthusiastically explained that the role of RZSS is more than just housing and breeding iconic species from around the world.

RZSS's bold vision is 'a world where nature is protected, valued and loved' with a pledge to reverse the decline of at least 50 species by 2030 and to enable more than 100 communities to better protect nature. However, habitat and species conservation is rarely just a local issue eg our summer migrants suffer if they cannot feed and drink en route, so the support of the worldwide community is needed.

A major aspect of RZSS's role is education and making nature more accessible because people protect and value what they love and understand. The income from zoo visitors, members and animal adopters is an important funding source. Whilst many captive animals are in breeding programmes across an international network of zoos, only about 25% are released into the wild. However, whilst iconic species such as polar bears, Amur tigers and giant pandas attract paying visitors, they also reinforce the need to protect animals and their environment which reads across to more local issues.

Edinburgh Zoo has the UK's only zoo-based conservation genetics lab and is involved in 23 projects, mainly providing the scientific lead and training other institutions. A genetics lab has been established in Cambodia

with Flora & Fauna International training staff in the techniques eg to determine whether ivory comes from Asian or African elephants and identifying hybrids between the 'relaxed' Siamese crocodile and the vicious salt water crocodile. In Uganda, the Budongo Conservation Field Station is combining cutting-edge research with practical action to study and protect a community of nearly 700 wild chimpanzees and their habitat. In the Brazilian Pantanal wetlands, RZSS has been supporting the Wild Animal Conservation Institute (ICAS) for 10 years to safeguard endangered armadillos and giant anteaters and their threatened habitat. Decisions on breeding and release programmes are left to individual countries. Lots more information is on <https://www.rzss.org.uk/conservation/>.

Closer to home, the RZSS genetics team is supporting the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project. Analysis of feathers is identifying the ratio of males to females at known lek (mating) sites.

Although UK numbers are extremely low, there are large numbers on the European mainland but should they be translocated while there is a possible predation problem eg by mustelids such as pine martens?

While insects may not be everyone's favourite, they have a vital role in the food chain and in habitat development. Pine weevil larvae feed

on rotting wood in the centre of old trees but there is now not so much wood left on the ground after felling and the weevils have not been seen in the wild for a decade. The unique breeding programme has been very successful and 3000 larvae were released in Autumn 2021 and again in

Spring 2022 into a Cairngorms site. More widely recognised and loved is the Scottish Wildcat.

Although there is a healthy population

of wildcats across European, their UK population has reduced to the point of near-extinction. Persecution and habitat loss have played their part but hybridisation with feral cats has been a major factor. RZSS ran a genetics programme to identify the 'purest' animals captured from the wild which have been used in a very successful breeding programme. From mid-summer '23 it is planned to release the 22 kittens born in 2022 into areas of the Cairngorms National Park where feral cats have been trapped, sterilised and released over several years so that they no longer pose a threat.

Particularly aimed at educating children, the Highland Wildlife Park is building a new Scotland's Discovery Centre, incorporating a learning hub and conservation centre, opening by the end of 2023. In addition there is a lot of free educational material on the RZSS website <https://www.rzss.org.uk/conservation/education/> for families and children of all ages.

Lesley Hawkins



photo LRZSS



photo LRZSS



Scotland's Amphibians – why they need our help

The Callander SWT talk in January was given by Rosie Walker of Froglife and yet again was a tale of reducing numbers.

Amphibians in Scotland include frogs, toads and newts; simply described as cold-blooded, no scales and living partly in water and partly on land. They start life as eggs/spawn in water (clumps for frogs, less obvious strings for toads), develop into tadpoles and then grow four legs to turn into tiny froglets, toadlets or newtlets.

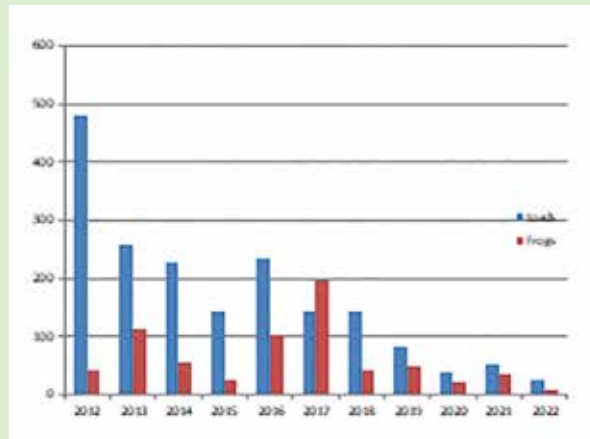
Newts keep their tails while frogs and toads lose theirs. They then live mainly on land, in damp and secluded places but return to water to hunt and breed.

Common frogs have a smooth brown/green/red skin with variable markings and a distinguishing dark patch behind the eye. They move by hopping. Common toads have a warty green/brown skin, no black patch, distinguishing golden eyes, shorter back legs and walk rather than hop.

If you put them in a bucket to transport to safety, toads sit still and squeak while frogs quietly try to climb out! The natterjack toad is rare and found only in 2 sites on the Solway Firth and distinguished by the yellow stripe down its back.

The palmate newt is the most common in Scotland, recognised by its yellow underside, pink chin, no spots and the male has webbed back feet. The smooth newt is more common in England, has a pigmented chin and a small ridge on its back. The Great Crested Newt male has a big crest along its back and tail with a red, spotted underside: as a protected species they can only be handled under license. I

On our local Toad Patrol we find frogs,



toads and a small number of newts (not easy in the dark).

Reptiles are scaled animals that live on land, starting life as eggs or live young. They are secretive and fast moving, preferring quiet and secluded areas when not basking in the sun. In Scotland we have common lizards, slow worms and adders.

The common lizard is small, brown with stripes and spots on its back and can often be seen basking on the boardwalks at Flander's Moss. If predated it can lose its tail which wiggles around to distract its predator but will regrow. The slow worm is actually a legless lizard, can grow up to 50cm long, has a glossy, golden brown skin and its head merges into its body.

Scotland's only snake, the adder, can grow to 150cm. It is readily identified by the dark zig-zag pattern on its back with a V or X on its head. It is venomous but for most people a bite will be similar to a bee-sting. The leatherback turtle is included; though not native to our shores it does visit west coast waters to eat jellyfish – often mistakenly ingesting plastic bags.

Populations of all amphibian and reptile species are in general decline. Toads have declined by 60% over the last 30 years and slow worms, natterjack toads and great crested newts are on the threatened list. Threats are the same for many species:

diseases, predators and habitat degradation/ fragmentation, much of which is due to humans eg intensive farming practices and land development leading to water pollution, filled-in ponds and new roads which cut across habitat and isolate populations. Rising temperatures due to climate change also affect habitat and breeding success.

How can we help? One third of ponds in the UK have been lost over the last 50 years and 80% of the rest are poor/very poor. Gardens can include breeding ponds, shelter, foraging and over-wintering habitats such as log piles. No spawn, tadpoles or adults should be transferred between sites as it can spread viral and bacterial diseases.

Ranavirus mainly affects frogs, leaving them emaciated and lethargic with red, sore skin. Chytridiomycosis is a fungal disease which mainly affects toads, damaging skin tissue which leads to reduced water uptake and respiration.

When the railway tunnel under the road at the end of Tulipan Crescent was blocked, animals migrating from the Craggs to the Meadows were forced to cross the road. Locals tell of the smell of dozens of dead animals along a stretch between Leny Feus and Station Road. Angela and Robin Harvey took on the task of helping them across the road for many years before formally registering with Froglife in 2012; numbers were already



photo RSPB



reducing.

Since 2018 when the Callander SWT group took over the patrol, that decline has continued – see the graph of annual numbers of rescued frogs and toads on page 10.

The discussion on potential causes included the effect of changing sodium to LED street lights in 2017/18 and FLS felling in the Craggs in 2014/15 but no direct correlation is obvious. Climate change is leading to wetter winters and the flooded river can wash predatory fish into ponds or sweep away adults/spawn/tadpoles which would otherwise return to breed in their birth pond. Animals move after dusk when the temperature is above 6C and historically frogs appeared from mid-February with toads 7-10 days later. However, recent winters have included prolonged cold spells; in 2022 most of February was 0 to 8C which may have led to many animals delaying breeding or development. It is likely a combination of factors has led to a depressing decline in local numbers over the last 11 years as shown in the graph.

To end on a positive note, there are very few road kills. Every spring there is frogspawn in Coilhallan Wood and recent observations of more frogs remaining in the Craggs woods. Maybe we should be creating more permanent ponds rather than patrolling?

Lesley Hawkins



photo RSPB

Callander Woodland Group

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey we have been running to collect your views on our local woodlands.

Our group is working with Forestry Land Scotland (FLS) to ensure your views are represented in the 10 year Land Management Plan which is up for renewal this year. It will cover Coilhallan, Upper Craggs and Easter and Wester Torrie woodlands.

There will be a public meeting/ drop-in session once a draft plan is ready - another opportunity to get your views across.

However, we cannot ignore the rapid spread of larch disease. It is highly likely that the disease will reach our

woods in the next couple of years (it's already in many surrounding areas) and then FLS will have a statutory obligation to fell the larch and this will have to take precedence over all other work.

Our group also works practically in the woods. We have a volunteer team who meet up once or twice a month and clear encroaching vegetation from paths and improve drainage. Hopefully, if you walk through Coilhallan, you'll have noticed our work and if you feel inspired to join us (no previous experience required) please email us at Callanderwoodlandgroup@gmail.com.

Sue King

New homes for tawny owls

In collaboration with Katy Anderson (FLS Habitats Manager) and her team, three nest boxes for tawny owls have been put up in Coilhallan Wood.

The trunks of the trees are wrapped in pond liner to prevent pine martens climbing up to the box.

FLS has installed one with the intention of being able to show owl chicks to the school children. The other two have been bought by the Scottish Wildlife Trust Callander Group which also installed seven small bird boxes last year with another 4 in 2023.

Sue King



photo Lesley Hawkins

Dates for Your Diary.....

SWT Meeting (last this season) Thurs 13th April, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church Hall, Leny Road, FK17 8AL 'The Work of the Central Scotland Raptor Study Group' by Kevin Duffy + very brief AGM

Greener Callander Stall 20th May 10am-3pm Plant sales and Bottle Stall in Ancaster Square

Callander Heritage Society

Wednesday, 22nd February, saw the Masonic Hall packed as more than 50 people came to hear our first talk after a break of three years. Our advertised speaker had had to cancel but, at three day's notice, chair Sue Mackay put together a very interesting talk on 'Recent Discoveries of Never Seen Before Images of Callander.' The photos were found when the Society was preparing to digitise its archives.

There were many photos of Callander Main Street in the late 19th/ early 20th century and much discussion took place about the exact location of the buildings and what shops are there now.

Old football photos brought reminders that the first recorded football match in Scotland took place in Callander between Rob Roy and Callander Thistle. Also, William McBeith, one of the founders of Glasgow Rangers, was born in Callander, and the club's first match was against Callander Thistle.

Early maps showed that, until the bridge was built in the late 1700s, there were no houses in Bridgend. Once the bridge was built, it became THE place to reside in Callander. The Robertson family owned many of the houses. These were built using money inherited from a relative who had died in the West Indies and for a time the street was known as Jamaica Street. Given the date, there is the possibility of connections to slavery. Further research is needed. Two of the Robertsons, father and son, were ministers of Callander Parish Church. The family grave is in the cemetery at Bridgend.

Hopefully you will have come along to our March talk on 'Bridgescapes'. You can also join us in the Masonic Hall at 7pm for the following meetings:

- April 26th Dr Murray Cook – 'Discovering a lost Viking fort at Kippen'
- May 17th Dr Peter McNiven – 'History of Callander and Menteith'
- June 21st Peter Mehta – 'Clocks and a link to our heritage'

Kath Millar

Callander and West Perthshire u3a

A series of talks, all by our own members, is underway. The first was an excellent presentation by Peter Rickard, 'Cakes to Computers'. The story of LEO, the world's first business computer, was an extraordinary one. It was designed and manufactured, not by one of the electronic giants, but by J Lyons & Co, better known for their teashops and corner house restaurants. Lyons felt automation was necessary for their business and after just two years' development produced LEO (Lyons Electronic Office) in 1951. It was a trip down memory lane for many of us. We reflected on the technological progress made in the last 70 years and what the future will hold.

In his fascinating, illustrated talk 'Why Iran?', Peter Ireland described a tour of Iran he had enjoyed in 2009. After a brief visit to the north west of the country, he visited Shiraz, Yazd, Isfahan and other places. Of particular interest was Persepolis, a great palace built in the 5th Century BC and destroyed by Alexander the Great. At all times Peter found the Iranians welcoming and pleased to see visitors to their great country. The domes and tiles of Islamic art were of outstanding beauty. Peter has a wealth of knowledge and we were delighted he could share his experiences with us.

In March, 'The Tragedy of Fritz Haber', is the title of Paul Braterman's lecture, a tangled tale of unintended consequences. Haber was a fervent patriot but his Nobel prize-winning invention brought ruin to his country and he died in exile. Sounds intriguing!

Please see our website, candwpu3a.org, for further information on u3a membership and to find out what is on offer at Callander and West Perthshire u3a. We welcome new members throughout the year.

Joy Henderson



Callander Messy Church

Messy Church will be meeting on Saturday 22nd April and Saturday 27th May

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

Wie gewöhnlich haben wir vor, noch am Samstagnachmittag zusammenzukommen. Die Daten für unsere nächste zwei Treffen sind: Samstag 15 April und Samstag 27 Mai, um 14.30 (d.h. eine halbe Stunde später als vorher, bei Peter (Coilhallaan House, Invertrossachs Road, FK17 8HW)

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 Diskussionsthemen für beide Treffen werden wir im Voraus allen Mitgliedern per E-Mail schicken.

Falls jemand bis jetzt an unseren Treffen nicht teilgenommen hat, aber jetzt mitmachen möchte, schick 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

j

Rotary in Callander

New year, new start – NEW YOU?

The height of the recent Covid pandemic was challenging for most and horrendous for some. Yet, during this time a light shone across many communities as a broad range of people, often for the first time, volunteered to help others. Volunteering is about using the skills, experience and abilities we all have in our different walks of life to give something back, helping others and making a difference, however small. Volunteering is also very rewarding for the person volunteering. Not in a monetary sense, but gaining the huge satisfaction, first hand, of seeing how your efforts have made a positive difference to someone else.

For over 50 years Rotary in Callander has been completely run by volunteers who share this same ethos of wanting to give something back. Our volunteers are people from all walks of life, wanting to make a difference to Callander and the wider area. This can mean working as part of a friendly team, because together we can run a variety of fund-raising events, enabling us to support numerous different charitable causes. It can also mean giving up a little of our time to support different local events or perhaps working with all 14 primary schools in our wider area to run the annual Rotary Primary School quiz – if nothing else, the pupils' enthusiasm is a huge tonic for all our volunteers!

Since Rotary is a Global organisation this means we can also initiate or contribute to projects around the world to support people who benefit hugely, e.g. from the provision of simple, but critically important, school meals in Africa, to providing villages with clean running water so that they can reduce illness and become self-sufficient in the management of their crops or cattle. We have also helped to supply essential emergency family shelters for those who have become homeless due to a natural disaster. We also contribute to a huge Rotary global project to rid the world of polio.

Rotary is simply a volunteering "one stop shop" for a huge variety of interesting opportunities, so there is something to interest everyone. We are always interested in exploring something new, if new members find that their interests aren't covered already. It really is the simplest, best use of a very limited amount of your time to make a big difference to other people, locally or globally. Rotary isn't just about fundraising, it's also about camaraderie, and being part of a supportive group that enjoys a relaxing social blether in the evening twice a month for around one and half hours (although we don't expect everyone will attend every meeting).

Volunteering is an amazing experience and being part of the global Rotary family of likeminded volunteers who are over 18, brings extra depth and variety in one place where you can make a difference. We would be delighted to discuss the fantastic rewarding opportunity of how you, too, could become part of Rotary.

Please email me and ideally provide a telephone number. You can be assured of a warm welcome and the opportunity to discuss a new year, new start and a new you - becoming part of Rotary in Callander:

secretary@callanderandwprotary.org

John Isgrove

It has been a busy time for Rotary in Callander. The club continues to run monthly Bingo sessions (generously supported by Stirling Council's 'Let's Get Together' initiative). We have also been collecting used spectacles which will be refurbished for use in Ghana, Kenya and other Third World countries. Rotarian Heather Swaine, working in conjunction with local ophthalmologist, Andrew Baird, is leading this project. A collection box for used spectacles, placed in Callander Library, is having to be emptied frequently, as the community has been responding generously, clearing out used spectacles from cupboards and drawers. All donations are welcome – but NO spectacle cases please!

Rotary in Callander reacted quickly, in response to the tragic aftermath of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria by sending a contribution for the relief effort, via the Disasters Emergency Committee, which will attract matched funding from the UK government.

The local heat of the Rotary Primary School Quiz took place on 23rd February. The winners were Doune Primary School and their team will go on to the next Area round in May and hopefully to the District finals in June. We wish them every success.



We have also been fundraising to provide mobile defibrillators for use by the police in Callander, and are aiming to provide these soon. More of this in a future Ben Ledi View.

On Easter Sunday, 9th April, we will hold our annual Easter Bottle Stall and Bric-a-Brac Sale in Ancaster Square, where the Easter Bunny and Easter Chicken are expected to make an appearance as usual!. On Saturday 13th May there will be another Coffee, Lunch and Crafts Event in Callander Kirk Hall, with many craft stalls already signed up for the day.

The photo shows our two newest members, Ann Gordon and Jim Chesham being welcomed by our President Michael Kay. We would certainly like to welcome more new members (see above). If you would like to find out more about Rotary please look at our website,

www.callander.rotary1010.org, or on Facebook.

Derek House

Callander and District Horticultural Society



Callander and District Horticultural Society is looking forward to an exciting year ahead as 2023 marks 150 years since the Society was established in 1873. We think that with the exception of a few years, such as during WWII, the Society has managed to hold its Annual Show throughout this period. Even in more recent Covid years technology made it possible for us to hold a virtual show, giving people a focus to continue with their gardens, crafting, making and baking- all very essential activities for our continued well-being.

To set the stage for this special anniversary and to try and encourage more people to get involved in gardening and appreciating the living world around us, we have planned a Spring Fayre Skills Share Event between 1pm and 4pm on Sunday 23rd April in Callander Youth Project, Bridgend. Our event will include talks and live demonstrations of activities relating to the show, a solar powered cinema and hands-on gardening activities for all ages. We will also have stalls with representatives of other relevant local groups including the Callander Climate Change Group and Greener Callander.

We will again be joining Greener Callander at their Annual Plant Sale on Saturday 20th May in Ancaster Square where we hope to raise the profile of our Annual Show competitions whilst also running a number of fundraising activities. Please mark the date in your diaries and drop by to see us.

We have already begun planning the Annual Show this year on Saturday 19th August at East Torrie Farm. The schedule for the show is now available to download on our website, at www.cadhs.co.uk. An electronic copy can be obtained by emailing the Society Secretary at cadhortsoc@gmail.com. If you know of anyone who requires a paper copy, please also contact the Secretary.

Our schedule this year has a Victorian theme sprinkled throughout the different sections to mark our 150th anniversary, be it heritage varieties of vegetables or flowers or Victorian inspired recipes and crafts in the industrial & floral art section.

A major change this year is the introduction of the new digital photography competition. Our photography judge, Gordon Scott, had offered to run a digital competition as part of the show. Gordon and his wife have kindly sponsored this competition with the new trophy called the Scotties Tower Star Crystal. We hope to encourage more entries by using social media via Facebook and Instagram. More details about this will appear on our website.

We will be running the annual Garden Competitions again this year with a range of classes similar to 2022. Please watch out for posters/social media announcements about this. Entries can be made via the website or by paper entry forms which will be made available by the end of May.

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in a recent funding application via the Callander Community Council for an award of funding from the Braes of Doune Community Fund in support of our events this year.

Good luck with all the planting, crafting, baking, snapping and making and we look forward to seeing you all at our various events.



Isla Cruickshank, Club Secretary

Callander Scrabble Group

Do you enjoy a game of Scrabble? The Callander Scrabble Group meets at 2 pm on the first and third Monday of the month. It's free and without commitment.

We play at 2 Castle Grove, off Bridgend but to make sure call [01877 331125](tel:01877331125) or [01877 339024](tel:01877339024).

All welcome, any grade of player or complete beginner. Only by having a spread of ability can every player enjoy a game, which is our point of playing.

Come and see.



Marian McKay

Chas



Margaret at Almaridon would like to thank everyone who kindly supported her garage sale in aid of CHAS on the 18th February.

It raised £555.50.

Fiona House



Families caring for young disabled adults at home are being offered help to improve quality of life.

Faced with three times higher costs to bring up disabled children, the continuing cost-of-living crisis is placing families in financial jeopardy. It is therefore even harder to afford the things that improve their disabled young adult's day-to-day living.

National charity Family Fund is now urging families with a disabled 18-24 year-old living at home to apply for wide-ranging grants through its **Your Opportunity** scheme.

Set up four years ago, to help young disabled adults lead more fulfilling lives and realise ambitions – the scheme offers grants to support the transition to adulthood and includes technology, training and leisure activities. Your Opportunity has supported over 1,200 families across the UK in the last 12 months and immediate funds are now available to help many more.

Family Fund is the UK's largest grant-making charity for families living on a low income, raising disabled and seriously ill children and young people. Last year, it provided over 170,919 grants and services worth over £37 million to families across the UK.

Cheryl Ward, Family Fund's Chief Executive Officer, said:

'We continue to see families with disabled or seriously ill children and young people increasingly struggling to afford the most basic household essentials such as food and heating as costs rise and many face mounting debts.

Raising a disabled or seriously ill child is three times more expensive than raising other children and this financial cliff-edge at 18 can be very tough for parents and carers of young adults. With the cost of living continuing to increase, we're urging families to apply to us for grants as soon as possible, through our 'Your Opportunity' scheme.'

'Your Opportunity' grants include:

- computers or tablets to support young people with further education, online hobbies and the overall building of independence;
- transport costs for bus fares for appointments, or to support independent travel to clubs or hobbies;
- help with the cost of membership fees, season tickets, computer games, and music systems to promote recreation and days out;
- help with the cost of buying a provisional driving licence, and other learning materials to support driving ambitions;
- white goods to help with independence, or help make mealtimes easier for carers;
- sports, or lightweight, wheelchairs to enable participation in sport activities, or access to activities that would not be possible with a day-to-day wheelchair.

Families are eligible to apply if the young person lives at home with their parent or main carer. If you would like to make an application, go to www.familyfund.org.uk/grants/schemes/your-opportunity

The 'Your Opportunity' scheme was initially set up in 2019 by Family Fund, with funding from Edward Gostling Foundation, Pears Foundation and funding raised by Family Fund.

For more information on who and how Family Fund helps, please visit www.familyfund.org.uk.

Callander Scottish country dance class

By the time this article is read, classes will have finished until the autumn.

When we restarted in November, after the pandemic, it was not certain if the class would be able to survive. At the first meeting there were 6 people. We decided to have classes until Christmas and if the numbers stayed the same the class would have to fold. Luckily, over the next few weeks our numbers increased. Former members returned and new members joined.

Thursday evenings in the Masonic Hall are filled with music, dancing and a lot of laughter. We try to follow the dance instructions but things don't always go to plan. You've no idea how easy it is to confuse up with down and right with left!

Classes will resume in September. We would be delighted to welcome new members. No previous experience is necessary.



Kath Millar



Dial-a-Journey

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- In receipt of benefits
- Lack of public transport
- Persons experiencing social exclusion or area exclusion.
- Persons who have safety concerns on public transport.
- Carers or persons under 16 accompanying any of the above (travel free when booked at the same time as the member)

For More information go to <http://www.dial-a-journey.org/>

Coronavirus update

Feb 2023

By following Coronavirus advice and guidelines we can help keep ourselves and others safe. This good practice includes simple steps we can all take going into spring and summer when infections can reduce but do not go away.

- All Covid rules and restrictions have been lifted in Scotland, but the virus has not disappeared. Maintain good hygiene, including regular handwashing/sanitising and wiping down shared spaces.
- Keep some distance between you and friends or work colleagues if that is possible / practical.
- If friends and family are visiting make sure rooms and spaces are well-ventilated to help prevent winter colds and flu spreading.

You can find more information and advice here: <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

Cinnamon and Brandy buttered Apples with Whipped Vanilla Cream

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

- 3 medium dessert apples
- 60g salted butter
- 1tsp ground cinnamon
- 100 ml brandy (optional)
- 3tbsp hot water
- 300ml whipping cream
- 3tsp vanilla extract

METHOD

Slice the apples into quarters, leaving the skin on, and remove the core from each apple part. Cut each quarter of apple into 4 slices.

Melt the butter in a nonstick frying pan and when bubbling add the apple slices. Let the apples brown on one side and flip over. Scatter the cinnamon over and pour over the brandy (if using) and the water. Cook for 7-10 minutes until soft.

Meanwhile whip the cream and vanilla extract together until thick in a large bowl. Store in the fridge until needed.

Serve the cooked apples straightaway with dollops of the vanilla cream on the side.



Music and Memories

Come along to Callander Kirk Hall for a trip down Memory Lane, familiar songs, friendly blether and a cuppa. Everyone welcome, including those living with dementia and their carers.

Come along and join us on Mondays from 2.00pm - 3.30pm

2023

No meeting - April 8th May 12th June

No meeting - July 14th August 11th September 9th October 13th November 11th December

For more information please contact:

Ann Ress ☎ 07720 887720 or Anne McLachlan ☎ 07743 125966




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?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprains and strains • Broken bones • Minor burns and scalds • Minor head injuries • Cuts and grazes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insect bites and stings • Infected wounds • Minor eye injuries • Minor ear injuries
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For more information visit www.nhsforthvalley.com/miu

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samaritans.org

SAMARITANS

If you can't wait until your GP surgery reopens



NHS 24

www.nhs24.scot

HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED BY SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

For support and information please call Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline

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

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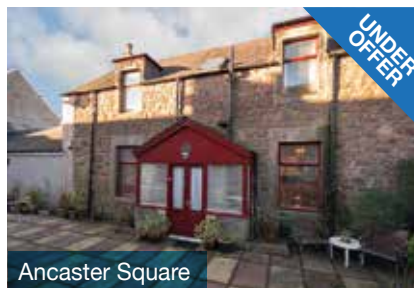


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Mental Health Awareness Week - 13th - 22nd May 2023



Dear community,

We are a newly formed community group called **Callander Mental Health Matters** & we would like to share with you what we are planning for Mental Health Awareness Week which is national event.

We are hoping to raise awareness of mental health during the week by supporting 3 charities that work in the community; **Rookie Rockstars, Canmore Trust & Action in Mind**.

The **Baton of Hope** is also another charity we will be supporting. *Please see separate article on this in the BLV magazine.*

We are planning a few events to take place during the week & weekend involving the charities.

We are overwhelmed by the support from local businesses & organisations who are all very keen to support mental health awareness week & for you our community to enjoy.

For you to donate please look out for charity tins, & QR code with all the information you need which will be available during the week in most of the local businesses & organisations in Callander.

For future up to date information please look for our online posts on our community social media sites from now until the 1st week in May 2023.

So please make a note of the dates for Mental Health Awareness Week as we would love to see you join us in supporting a good cause that is close to so many hearts in our community.

Thank you.

Callander Mental Health Matters



Community Hub

The Community Hub will be open on Wednesdays between 12.30-2.30 in Callander Kirk Hall, South Church Street, Callander, FK17 8BN.

Gail and her volunteers have a warm lunch and an equally warm welcome for all every Wednesday; an opportunity to catch up with friends old and new.

Pop in anytime between 12.30 -2.30

Advisors from Citizen Advice will also be on hand to provide information and advice on benefits, housing and energy costs.

For more information contact Gail on [07951 013470](tel:07951013470) gail@startupstirling.org.uk

Mental Health Support

If you need to talk to someone or you want more information on how to keep yourself and others well and look after your mental health in 2023 the following national organisations have useful resources.

- NHS 24 Mental Health Hub
Call [111](tel:111) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- Childline on [0800 1111](tel:08001111)
- Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH)
- Breathing Space Scotland [0800 83 85 87](tel:0800838587)
- Clear Your Head <https://clearyourhead.scot/support>
- Samaritans Call [116 123](tel:116123) or email 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

Can we borrow a tablet? Yes you can!

Did you know that anyone who is a member of Stirling Libraries can borrow a tablet and MiFi with free, unlimited data for three weeks. This service is available across all 15 branches and the two mobile libraries. It is completely free of charge.

Connecting Scotland have very kindly provided MiFis which allows free, unlimited data on the go or in your own home. To borrow a tablet and MiFi, people can simply pop into their local branch or mobile library and ask a member of staff. Those who are not members of Stirling Libraries, visit any branch with two forms of I.D. (one must have a current address on it). For more information contact Angela Short, Digital Inclusion Officer, email at shortan@stirling.gov.uk or t: [01786 237547](tel:01786237547).



Callander Guides

Callander Guides have had a busy few months, with lots of different activities. We have been working on our “Craftivism” badge, using crafts to communicate a message. Some girls decorated mirrors with body positive messages, while others focussed on environmental issues or food poverty.

Over the last few months the girls have earned several badges, with a number getting their Bronze award, one achieving her Silver, and three girls completing their Gold award.

We celebrated World Thinking Day in February, which this year fell the day after Shrove Tuesday, by making pancakes which Guides in different countries would enjoy. The Finnish baked pancake was a favourite, but Hong Kong crispy chicken pancakes and Ukrainian blinis with smoked salmon were also a hit, along with our own Scottish drop scones.



We are looking forward to getting outside more as the spring and summer come along, but we have managed to fit in tubing at the ski slope at Tillicoultry, and a torchlit walk along the river.

Our “Little Free Library” continues to be stocked with a variety of books for children and adults-please pop along to St Andrew's church and see if there is anything you fancy. Help yourself to a book, and if you happen to have one you no longer want, you can contribute that- but there is no pressure to do so.

Our Guide numbers have grown over the past few months, with girls from Kinlochard, Aberfoyle, Port of Menteith and Doune as well as Callander, but we still have space for a few more girls, aged 10-14years. We meet on a Monday evening. If you would like more information please contact Sarah on scmiller@doctors.org.uk

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McLaren High Duke of Edinburgh Group



The McLaren Duke of Edinburgh group is delighted to have resumed activities over the past couple of years, following a hiatus for the dreaded pandemic, which made all activities a significant challenge. This session we have a group of 36 youngsters from our Third Year signed up to the Bronze Award, building on the success of 30 Bronze participants who attempted the award last year. Many of those youngsters, now in Fourth Year, are tackling the Silver Award currently, however this is now the limit of our entries following the difficulties thrown up by the global shutdown which affected everyone. The one silver lining to the pandemic cloud was that, based on an initiative started and organised by a group of McLaren pupils, we did manage to get 5 youngsters to complete their Gold expedition last summer. One of those pupils, Rachael, who is now in S6, summarised her Duke of Edinburgh experience saying: "Completing the stages of Bronze and

Silver Award without being able to do expeditions was good, but actually getting out and about with tents and rucksacks made our Gold Award even more special. We all found that the expeditions added some real independence to the other experiences we've shared through the programme. Volunteering as well as developing skills and physical challenges have taught me lots about myself and the wider world, but the expedition really rounds the whole experience off!". We really look forward to seeing the current candidates progress towards completing the highest levels of the programme again over the years ahead.



With limited opportunities for youngsters, our kit had been sitting all but unused for a couple of years and when brought out to use for training purposes last summer, was clearly starting to show its age. Using funds including the generous donation of £500 from the Ben Ledi View, we were able to start the process of upgrading expedition gear with some minor repair purchases. This session, Expedition Manager, Mark Richardson, has taken the plunge and ordered a complete restock of expedition kit, which we look forward to taking delivery of over the next few weeks. When we caught up with Mark, he told us: "The Duke of Edinburgh Award is offered to all students at McLaren High School regardless of background. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters in and around the community of Callander, we have managed to secure lots of new equipment which needed replacing for the Expedition section of the award. I am delighted to say that all participants will benefit from the use of this equipment for the next few years." The best of our existing gear was donated to the appeal organised by the My Dessert House in Stirling following the

recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Expedition Season 2023 is now not far away, with training and qualifying trips already in the diary for the Summer Term, so we'd invite anyone reading this article to keep fingers crossed for some good weather and fun travels for the McLaren DofE squad!

As you will understand, maintaining the quality of our expedition kit in particular is an expensive business. As well as rebuilding engagement among our pupils, we are also looking to reinstate our parent fundraising group, and would welcome any offers of assistance with ideas and volunteers to organise and run some events to assist with this important work. Anyone keen to see the opportunities presented by the Duke of Edinburgh Award continue to flourish at McLaren High, should feel free to get in touch with DofE Manager, Ken Milligan via milligank04s@glow.sch.uk or through the school office.

McLaren Leisure Centre

As we set our clocks forward, we welcome the longer nights, warmer days and look forward to all the new activities that Spring brings to Callander and to McLaren Leisure. Spring is a great time to renew your training, so look out for the launch of our Spring fitness timetable. This new timetable brings lots for you to look forward to including RunFIT and outdoor sessions.



www.mclarenleisure.co.uk

01877 330 000



McLaren Leisure
Mollands Road, Callander, FK17 8JP

Swimming pool	Holiday Activities
Fitness classes	Birthday parties
Climbing wall	Kids' Activities
Soft play	Fitness Suite
3G Pitch	Sport hall
Cafe	

At McLaren Leisure we have a range of activities on offer to help you on your way to staying active for 2023. Whether you choose a fitness class, gym session or spending time with family or friends, take part in a new activity for spring.

The change in season brings lots of excitement to McLaren Leisure and we look forward to filling our days with birthday parties, classes, events and spring celebrations. Following a very busy Kids' Camp week during the February break, where our attendees enjoyed a great amount of swimming, climbing, sports, games and inflatables fun, we are excited to bring more fun to the kids of our wider community this April Holiday, with additional spring and Easter activities included.



We are always looking for new activities to bring to our facility, giving our community as many options as we can. We are delighted to welcome Glow Bambinos to our activity providing partners, Glow bambinos is a unique sensory adventure for babies, with wonderful immersive experiences using lighting, sensory toys, theatre techniques, puppets, storytelling and much more to support play and development. Check out our website for more details on these classes and all the activities available to McLaren Leisure.

We have been delighted to be able support Callander Film Society with two screenings in February and March, making great use of our refurbished event space and tiered seating. We hope to be able to welcome them back again soon. The Callander 10k with Tay Fitness, leaving from McLaren Leisure, was huge success again this year. With many participants who all enjoyed the beautiful scenery of our local area while completing the course. We have lots of very exciting events coming to McLaren Leisure this year including our 25th anniversary celebrations! Watch out for more information coming soon.

Callander Bowling Club

Callander Bowling Club will be having its open day on the 8th April to start off the 2023 outdoor bowling season. We would like to invite bowlers of all abilities to join us and if you would like to join the club, this is the perfect opportunity to come and try the sport for yourself. We look forward to seeing you on the day.



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Thornhill Players

Now you have enjoyed Calamity Jane, or maybe even starred in it, does it make you want to have a go on stage or even backstage? Well, here is your opportunity. Thornhill Players (many of whom come from Callander) are a community-based collection of enthusiastic amateur actors, stage directors and backstage helpers, and during COVID, play readers on Zoom!



We would love to expand our membership and range of productions and need your help. We need a range of skills to complement ours including: painting scenery, woodworking, actors or directors, stage managers, front of house, stage crew and props management, sound and lighting support and sewing skills for props and wardrobe.

If you have any interest in developing your skills in any of the above, and maybe even learning some new ones, as well as the pleasure of working with a team to make other people (our audiences!) happy with our performances, please contact Marilyn Moore on 01877 330511 or write to marilynemery@hotmail.com.

Marilyn Moore

Book club review

This issue's book review title is *Case Study* by Graeme Macrae Burnet (Saraband: 2021). The fourth book by the Kilmarnock-born writer, *Case Study* takes place in London in 1965. A young woman's mind is in turmoil following the death by suicide of her older sister, Veronica. She discovers that Veronica was attending appointments with a psychotherapist, Collins Braithwaite. Regarded as dangerous, on account of his unconventional ideas about psychiatry, the sister believes Braithwaite to be complicit in her sibling's death.

Case Study moves between five notebooks written by Veronica's sister, as she takes on the persona of Rebecca Smyth to gain access to Braithwaite (and to hopefully reveal how her sister died). The notebooks are written to provide evidence, should anything happen to her in the course of her 'investigation'.

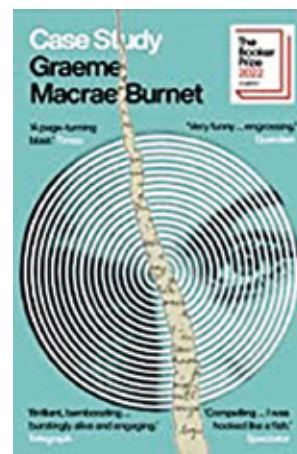
But Macrae Burnet's books are never what they seem. In the preface, GMB details how the notebooks were sent to him by an anonymous reader. GMB outlines that he had an intention to write a biography of Braithwaite's life and to intersect parts of Braithwaite's own controversial tone into this, with client case studies applying the psychotherapist's unconventional methods (one case study of which was Veronica).

For the reader, the line between fact and fiction becomes a little blurred. Who is GMB? Is Braithwaite real? Did an anonymous donor really provide the notebooks? Did this all really happen? I confess to tapping events into Google a few times, such was my belief that the description of incidents in Braithwaite's life did actually take place.

Case Study moves between the five notebooks, to patient

case studies, to GMB's biography of Braithwaite. It's clever. Sometimes a bit too clever for a weary mind when it doesn't want to think too hard (although the critics love this enigmatic narrative turmoil).

But in honesty, the reader doesn't



have to think too hard, as the writing is so brilliant. The notebooks are compelling and balance well next to the droll factuality of GMB's biographic and Braithwaite's eccentric mutterings.

This is only Macrae Burnet's fourth book (the award-winning *His Bloody Project* being his second). He has nonetheless had a huge impact on the literary world. *Case Study* (also on the Booker long-list) was much anticipated. It didn't disappoint.

The next BLV book club review will be *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus (Doubleday: 2022)

Maggie Magor

Evening of Hope with Adam Holmes

Our biggest event of Mental Health Awareness Week will be an Evening of Hope. The concert will take place on Saturday 20th May at 7pm in Callander Kirk, doors open at 6.30pm.

Adam Holmes, a highly acclaimed musician, who has recently released his fifth album *Hope Park*, and has previously played at Celtic Connections, will be performing, with the full line up TBC.

'HOPE in Callander' is sponsoring and organising the event, with all proceeds going to the Baton of Hope. Find out more about this initiative for suicide prevention and awareness at www.batonofhopeuk.org. The Baton of Hope begins its journey in Scotland and will travel through the streets of Glasgow and Edinburgh on 25th and 26th June, arriving in London on 6th July.

Don't miss this wonderful musical evening of traditional and modern Scottish music with stories and songs of HOPE. Sales from refreshments will go to our three chosen charities, Rookie Rockstars, Canmore Trust & Action in Mind.

Ticket sale information can be found on the 'HOPE in Callander' Facebook page.

We thank you in advance for your support for the Baton of Hope and for all the charities involved in Mental Health Awareness Week.

Callander Mental Health Matters



Callander Amateur Operatic Society

Happy Easter and a big "thank you" to all our supporters from the CAOS cast. At the time of writing there are two weeks to go before opening night and, understandably, the excitement – and nerves – are growing. It's quite something seeing everything come together in these final days after weeks of rehearsing. There is more and more to think about as props and costumes are introduced and, suddenly, lines and cues that have been known for weeks slip from the mind. Hopefully it was alright on the night!

We hope you enjoyed our production of *Calamity Jane* as much as we did taking part and, of course, we would be delighted to see some of you join us on stage. It's great fun and, as I keep saying, there is no such thing as "I can't sing"!

There will be a review of *Calamity Jane* in the next issue of the Ben Ledi View.

Steve Murphy for the CAOS committee



From Ledi Birds to Song Squad

At the beginning, there was the cleverly named Ledi Birds, formed on 25th October, 2000. Founded by Mary Dale, the Ledi Birds enjoyed singing, rehearsing and performing eclectic songs for a number of years. Songs were expertly taught by ear, acapella style.

Occasionally, guest tutors were invited by Mary to run singing workshops. Amongst others, Sheena Wellington (Sheena sang at the opening ceremony of the Scottish Parliament in 1999) and the well renowned Mhairi Campbell and Jenny Goodman, ran inspirational sessions in the Callander Kirk Hall library.

Public performances took place in Callander Kirk, Callander Kirk Hall,

Tigh Mor, Ayr, (where the Ledi Birds sang Burns songs), WRI sessions, (amazing teas and home baking),



McLaren High School, and an impromptu singalong on the train from Glasgow after attending, (but not performing at!) a Celtic Connections concert.

During its time, the Ledi Birds produced two CDs, showcasing the wide range of harmony songs. One of the CDs was recorded in St. Andrew's Church. (And re-recorded when traffic on the main road provided an unwelcome background!). These CDs

remain a poignant reminder of the extensive repertoire of the Ledi Birds.

After 7 years, and for a number of valid reasons, the Ledi Birds group was dissolved. Thereafter, a few former Ledi Birds continued singing, right up to today. These were challenging times, with changes in membership, committees, tutors, venues, and the onslaught of Covid (Zoom was well used) right up to the current group, Song Squad.

The Ledi Birds and Song Squad may be very different in how they have operated, however, both are at one in the following aim:- to provide an informal, supportive and enjoyable facility, for members to get together to sing in harmony.

A special mention has to go to Megan, who, throughout over 20 years of transition, agreed to continue as treasurer.

For information about Song Squad, please contact Evelyn on [01877 330961](tel:01877330961) / [07810 224647](tel:07810224647)

Sandie Luti
On behalf of Song Squad

What's On for April and May

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 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: except 3rd & 10th April & possibly 8th May
- HIT Circuits 7.00-7.45 McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 6.00-6.45pm 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
- 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 5.00 - 6.00pm McLaren Leisure
 - Power Fit 6.00-6.45pm McLaren Leisure
 - Beginner Line Dancing 6.30pm - 8.00pm St Andrews church hall
 - AquaFit 7.15-8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Ben Ledi View Issue 329

- 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
- Baby and Me Yoga (for carers and babes up to crawling) 9.30-10.30 Fire Station ,contact Sian Lucas at www.momoyoga.com/seasonalbalance
- Seasonal Yoga 11.00-12noon Fire Station book at www.momoyoga.com/seasonalbalance
- 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
- Bowling club 2.00pm (as Monday) Bowling Club
- 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
- Bingo Session 2.00- 3.00 (doors open 1.45) Callander Hostel Contact Jen Shearer [01877 0446](tel:018770446) or [07710 232908](tel:07710232908) for transport
- 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 9.00-9.45 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

April

Sunday 2nd

- Free walk in Pond Display at Visitor Gateway- Lendrick hill car park A selection of pond life found in Brig o' Turk Mires will be on display. Any mini-beasts can be viewed using magnifying jars. ID sheets will be on hand to aid identification.

Friday 7th

Ben Ledi View published

Sunday 9th

- **EASTER SUNDAY**
- Rotary Bottle and Bric a Brac stalls 10.00 am onwards Ancaster Square

Thursday 13th

- SWT talk Kevin Duffy 'The work of the Central Scotland Raptor Group' plus very brief AGM 7.00 for 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Saturday 15th

- German-speaking group meet 2.30pm Coilhallan House, Invertrossachs Road, Callander FK17 8HW

Tuesday 18th

- 7.30pm till 8.30pm online webinar on "The Pearl-bordered Fritillary in the Trossachs – solving an enigma" Booking on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-pearl-bordered-fritillary-in-the-trossachs-solving-an-enigma-tickets-574518328787>

• **Sunday 23rd**

- Callander and District Horticultural Society 'Sharing Horticultural Skills' 1.00-4.00pm Callander Hostel

Wednesday 26th

- Callander Heritage Society talk Dr Murray Cook 'Discovering a lost Viking fort at Kippen' 7.00pm Masonic Hall S Coffee Morning 10.30am Kirk Hall

Thursday 27th

- National Park Open Forum 6.30-8.15pm Callander Hostel

May

Friday 5th

•

• **Copy deadline for Ben Ledi View**

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Saturday 6th

- Woodland Trust Guided walk in Brig o' Turk and Ruskins's Viewpoint from 10.00am to 12.30pm .Booking essential on <https://woodlandtrust.org.uk/visitig-woods/things-to-do/events/guided-walk-brigoturk-and-ruskin-viewpoint/>

Monday 8th

- Music and Memories 2.00-3.30pm Kirk Hall
- Coronation Celebration Tea Party 2.00-5.00pm at St Andrew's Church, Leny Road. Entry by donation.

Thursday 11th

- 7.30pm till 8.30pm online webinar on "The cascading impacts of grazing: long-term research at Glen Finglas" Booking on Eventbrite

Saturday 13th

- Mental Health Awareness week fundraiser 10.00am-4.00pm Ancaster Square
- Rotary Coffee, Lunch and Crafts Event 10.00am-3.00pm Kirk Hall

Monday 15th

- Community Council meet 7.30pm Callander Hostel

Tuesday 16th

- Family Quiz Night 6.00pm CYP, Callander Hostel

Wednesday 17th

- Callander Heritage Society talk Dr Peter McNiven 'History of Callander and Menteith' 7.00 pm Masonic Hall

Thursday 18th

- Pub Quiz Night 7.00pm Crown Hotel
- Pub Quiz night 7.00pm Waverley Hotel

Saturday 20th

- Greener Callander Plant Sales and Bottle Stall 10.00am to 3.00pm Ancaster Square
- Evening of Hope Concert with Adam Holmes 7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm) Callander Kirk

Saturday 27th

- German-speaking group meets 2.30pm Coillhallan House, Invertrossachs Road, Callander FK17 8HW

June**Friday 2nd****Ben Ledi View published****Saturday 3rd**

- 10am till 3pm Tree Medicine Across the Seasons – Summer with Rowan. £40 (+booking fee): <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/things-to-do/events/tree-medicine-across-the-seasons-summer-with-rowan/>

Mary Buckland

After a good number of years as an Editor of the Ben Ledi View, and also for a period as a Trustee, Mary has decided it is time to leave us. She will be sorely missed by all at the magazine and we at the BLV wish her all the best for the future and give many thanks for the work she put in to the magazine over this time.

MACDONALD

The family of the late Nancy Macdonald would like to thank everyone who paid their last respects at the church and gave so generously the approximate sum of £370 which was shared between the RNLI and Killin Mountain Rescue.

Thank you to all friends and neighbours for their thoughtful cards, flowers and good wishes. Our grateful thanks to the Rev Jeff McCormick for his comforting words to the family both at home and during his lovely service. Special thanks also to Michael and Scott for sharing special memories of their Granny.

Our thanks also to Eric Brown and staff at The Roman Camp Hotel for their warm welcome and lovely meal. Finally, our heartfelt thanks to Ross Anderson and his staff for their very caring and efficient funeral arrangements, especially Pat and Hamish and also to Gillian for the beautiful floral tributes.

Nancy Morrison

Ed: we send our apologies to Nancy as this memoriam should have been in a previous issue of the magazine and was omitted in error.

A Visitor

On Monday 13th February I visited your town for the first time. I thought it a really nice place. I was beguiled by the offer of a gift on a stand in Main Street, donated by whom?, and I was uncertain about taking something for nothing. However I took a fabric heart and plan to gift it on. Thank you so very much for the joy you gave me.

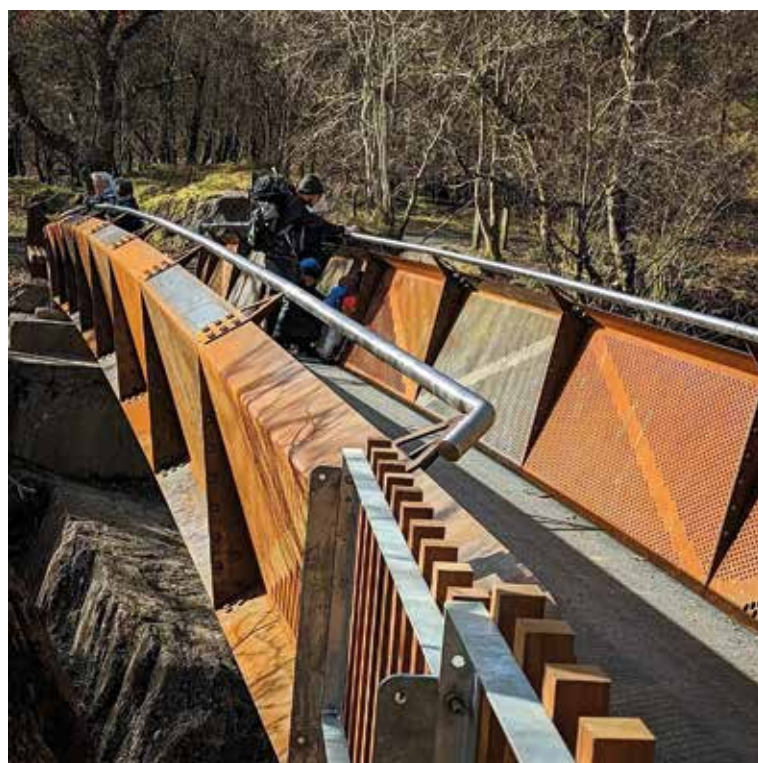
Maureen Thompson

New Bridge at Bracklinn Falls is now Open



The replacement bridge across the Keltie Water at the Bracklinn Falls is now open to all walkers again. The £209,000 metal bridge replaces the wooden structure which was deemed to be unsafe in 2021. This allows the full circuit around the Falls to be completed again.

The bridge that it replaced was wooden and stylish, but unfortunately not up to the Callander weather. It had not been in place for all that many years when it had to be condemned. The replacement is not stylish, and certainly does not have the looks of the old one, but is made from weathering steel, which will look better after a few months and should last for many more years than the previous one did.



The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, which financed the replacement, tells us that over 70,000 people visit the Bracklinn Falls each year, and that the replacement will now allow them to get the full benefits of their visit by opening up the opposite bank and the circular route again.



In addition to the new bridge other improvements have been made. The path to the bridge has been reinstated, and new benches and safety barriers have been installed. By the time the magazine is delivered to your door by our valiant volunteers there also could be new information panels giving the history and culture of the area. Combined with the upgrade to the path which connects the town centre with Callander Crag and the Bracklinn Falls, this will make it much easier to visit these places, so there is no excuse for not going.

Don't leave the Falls to the tourists. Go and visit this beautiful spot on your doorstep.

Killin Mountain Rescue Team Update (MRT)

Last year was one of the busiest on record, and the team attended 44 separate incidents across the area. 2023 is already shaping up to be a busy one, and to date, the team have attended 11 incidents so far!

A break down of the incidents we have attended so far in 2023 are as follows:

- 02/01/23 - Male climber fell on Ben Lui, resulting in a serious injury. Rescue 199 also mobilised, and they located the casualty quickly as the team were deploying and uplifted the male and flew directly to hospital.
- 03/01/23 - Called out to a male walker who had become lost on Ben Ledi. Team members deployed into a number of groups and searched the hill, and eventually located the male and returned him to his vehicle, uninjured.
- 15/01/23 - Two climbers fell on Ben More and luckily were uninjured. They were however cragfast and required a technical rescue to recover them to safety.
- 22/01/23 - Male walker became lost on Beinn Chabhair due to poor visibility. Team deployed and when he was located, he was found to be cragfast so a technical rescue was required.
- 28/01/23 - Team deployed to Ben More after a report that a male had fallen. Sadly, the male was found dead and the team assisted in recovering him.
- 05/02/23 - The team were called to Beinn a' Chroin for a male suffering cramp. Whilst we were deploying, we were updated that the male had met with other walkers and was managing to get off the hill slowly. The team remained at the bottom of the hill until he was off safely.
- 10/02/23 - The team received a request for assistance from a farmer in Balquhiddar after he located a sheep stuck in a deep gorge and he was unable to get to it. The team carried out a technical rescue to recover the sheep back to safety.
- 16/02/23 - Called to Falls of Dochart after a female had fallen on rocks and broken her ankle.
- 16/02/23 - Notified by police of a male requiring assistance on Ben Vorlich. One of our team leaders made contact with the male and it was ascertained that it was the Ben Vorlich in Arrochar MRTs area so call passed to them.
- 26/02/23 - Called to Beinn nan Eachan after reports of a male who'd fallen after slipping on ice. Rescue 199 was also mobilised and as the team were deploying, they located the male and recovered him before flying him to hospital.
- 27/02/23 - Team deployed to Ben Vorlich after a male had become lost in the mist. Quickly located as he provided his location and he was escorted off the hill.

In addition to the callouts, our members have continued with regular training sessions. Each month, our members attend a number of training sessions, which include a monthly first aid night, a full day on the hill, as well as one evening training session.

Our members will also attend national training courses and in February we had a number of team members who attended a Casualty Care course and passed successfully. These members are qualified to provide a higher level of medical care and administer various medications to our casualties when required.

I look forward to providing another update in due course, and in the meantime if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to drop me an email to secretary@killinmountainrescue.sco

NHS Dentist for Callander?

It appears that a group of local dentists are in serious talks with NHS Forth Valley to open an NHS Dental Practice in Callander. This would fill the void left with us when Infinity Blu Dental Care and Implant Clinic decided to stop treating NHS patients over 18 years of age and to focus on their private patients.

This follows work done by the Community Council and specifically councillor Ray Watkins in this area and the result of a community petition which gathered over two thousand signatures.

The work on this is in its early stages, but is looking positive. The Medical Centre has said that it would be prepared to consider allowing part of the centre to be used to set up an NHS Dental Practice.

Hopefully this will be realised fairly soon, on account of the number of Callander people that cannot afford to pay for private dental treatment and are in the situation of having no means of getting to a dentist who is prepared to accept NHS patients. At the time of Infinity Blu making this decision, no dentists in Stirling and the surrounding areas were taking on new NHS patients.



FLYING SCOTSMAN CENTENARY

The Flying Scotsman started out as a 4-6-2 steam locomotive designed by Nigel Gresley and built at Doncaster Works on 24 February 1923, for the London & North Eastern Railway (LNER). It was numbered 1472 and cost £7,944. The train's job was to be a passenger locomotive for the journey from London, Kings Cross to Edinburgh, Waverley.

LNER decided to prepare the train as its exhibit for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. It was during this preparation for this exhibit that it was given its nameplate "Flying Scotsman".

The Flying Scotsman's Achievements:

- 1) It appeared at the Wembley Exhibition between 1924 & 1925.
- 2) It was the first engine to regularly work the London to Edinburgh route non-stop.
- 3) It became the first "star vehicle" in the world of "talkie" feature films.
- 4) It attained the first officially authenticated run of 100 mph under steam power in 1934. It was later bettered by the Blue Mallard (a streamlined version of the Flying Scotsman) with a recorded speed of 126 mph in 1937 (a record that still stands today).
- 5) The Flying Scotsman ended its long British Rail service in 1963.
- 6) In 1969 it went on a promotional tour for British Industry in North America, finishing as a static exhibit in San Francisco at the Fisherman's Wharf.



The Flying Scotman leaving York

The Flying Scotsman then sat quietly due to bankruptcy proceedings, owing to money due to the American IRS. In 1972 Sir William McAlpine (Director of the construction company Sir Robert McAlpine) was approached to finance a plan to rescue The Flying Scotsman back to the UK. On 23 January 1973 the Flying Scotsman set sail for Liverpool, England via the Panama Canal.



Royal Mint's Two Pound Colour Coin

- 7) The Flying Scotsman is the only steam locomotive to have circumnavigated the globe.
- 8) In 1988 The Flying Scotsman travelled via the Cape of Good Hope to Australia, setting another world record, by being the first working steam train to do a non-stop journey of 442 miles.

In 1993 Pete Waterman OBE (English record producer, song writer and keen railway enthusiast) bought 50% of the "Flying Scotsman Enterprises", from Sir William McAlpine.

In 1996 The Flying Scotsman was bought by Dr Tony Marchington (Biotechnology entrepreneur) and underwent the most expensive overhaul yet.

In 2004 it was sold again to work on the "Scarborough Spa Express" and was again overhauled at an even greater expense.

The Flying Scotsman now resides at the National Railway Museum in York, being let out to do excursions and recently a national touring of the United Kingdom.

During The Flying Scotsman's lifetime it had 17 different boilers and 9 different tenders. The name "The Flying Scotsman" conjures the spirit, the excitement and the pushing of limits of both engineering design and speed. This means this well-travelled train, The Flying Scotsman, will always be remembered with fondness and pride.

John Keeling

The Flying Scotman visiting Edinburgh, Waverley 2023



Try Your Hand at Colouring The Flying Scotman - on page 31



Callander Target Sports Club



Having used the festive break for a makeover of the club room and facilities, CTSC reopened its doors with a fresh look for members this year, cutting the ribbon on a new lounge area and an expanded suite of work benches as 2023 got off to a flying start for the club. With plans to use the new layout to host a series of future training sessions and talks, the Spring sunshine finds the club in excellent health, with an established membership buoyed by a steady stream of interest from prospective new members.

The competitive winter leagues are drawing to their thrilling conclusions and, with members having joined together at the end of March to spring clean the clubhouse and progress ongoing plans to upgrade our facilities, we're fully prepared for the new season ahead and looking forward to a lively few months, with club members set to compete in both the Perthshire and Cumbria summer leagues.

Scottish leagues:

The Callander team are finding life rather topsy-turvy in the top division (of six) in the Scottish League. Despite a good score of 7 off from the four firers we have just lost to the previously bottom placed team Balerno & Currie - having earlier drawn with the league leaders Huntly and beaten the second placed team Watsonians. Gordon Motion has finished all ten rounds for the winter with our top average score of exactly 98.0.

Cumbria leagues:

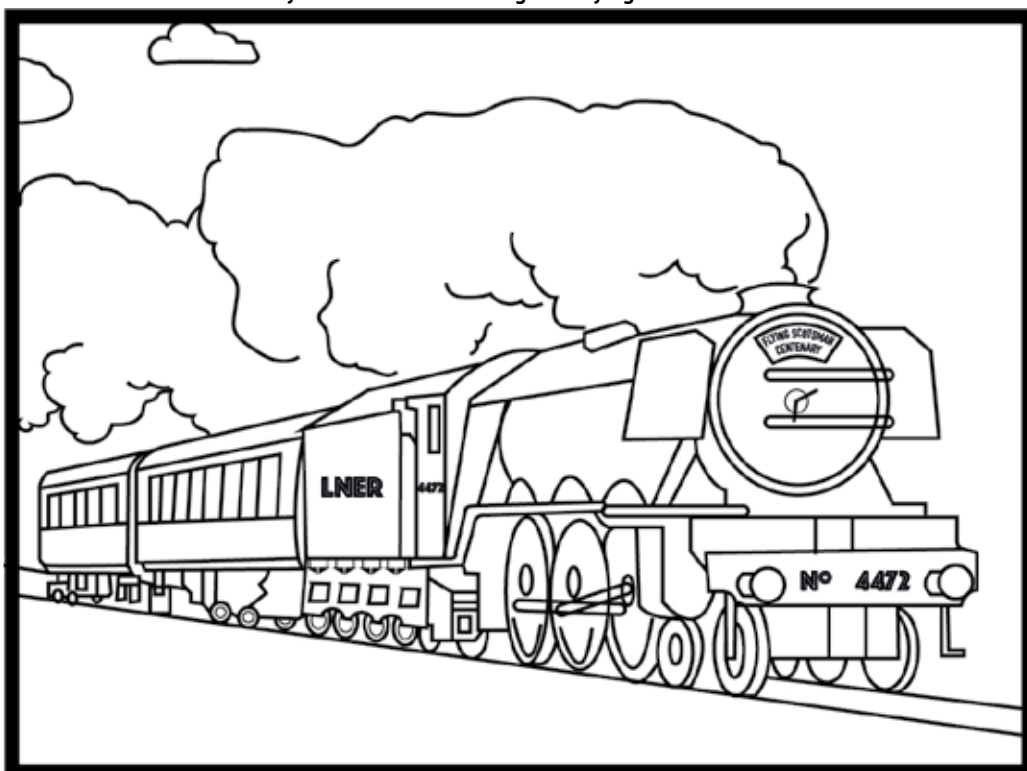
Seventeen members competed in the winter Cumbria & Northumbria leagues. Eight rounds have been completed with varying success for Callander members, with a complete report of the final scores to appear in the next issue of the Ben Ledi View.

Perthshire Prone results after 8 rounds:

Team Results - Callander A is leading Div. 1 by 6 points ahead of St Andrews. Callander B is 2nd in Div. 4, four points behind Lanark ESM. In the individual competition, Mike Buchanan leads Div 1, a single point ahead of P Jess from St

Andrews. Tam Pate is tied on points for Div 18 but leads on gun score from A Williamson from Dulnainbridge, while Cliff Ogle, Allister McLean and Jonathan Richards are all second in their respective leagues.

Try Your Hand at Colouring The Flying Scotman



Perthshire Benchrest results after 7 rounds:

As we approach the final stages of an exciting competition, Callander members are out in front of four of the five leagues, with Bill Thomson, Mark Griffiths, Frank Currie and Iain Bruce leading divisions 2 to 5 respectively.

For further club details, please contact secretary Tony Ashford on [07446 824918](tel:07446824918).

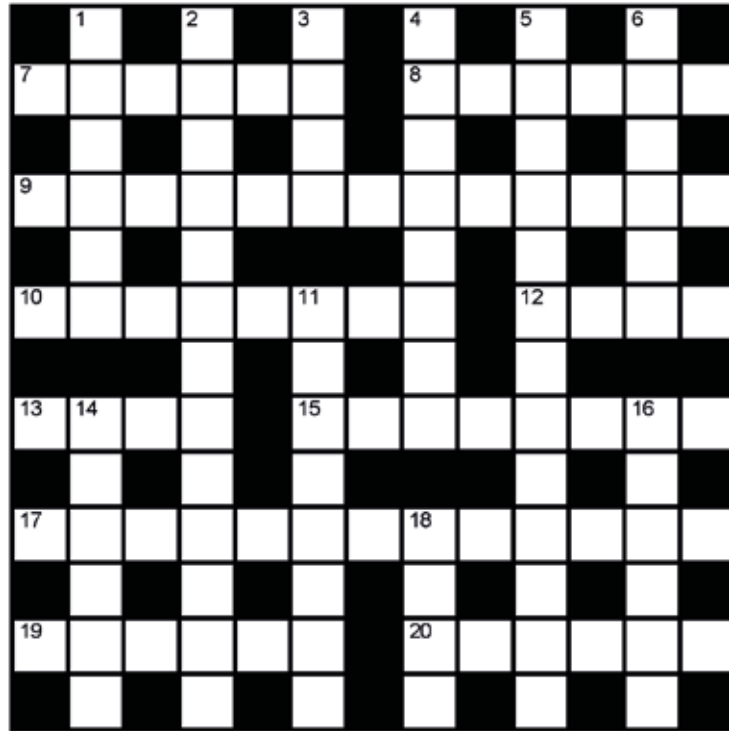
Prize Quick Crossword #147

Across

- 7 EEC HIT (anag.) (6)
- 8 Online Retailer (6)
- 9 Scottish County (13)
- 10 Six shooter (8)
- 12 Simple (4) (like this crossword!)
- 13 Just (4)
- 15 Sir no fog (anag.) (8)
- 17 Aid for crossing a stream (8,5)
- 19 truthful (6)
- 20 Bullseye (6)

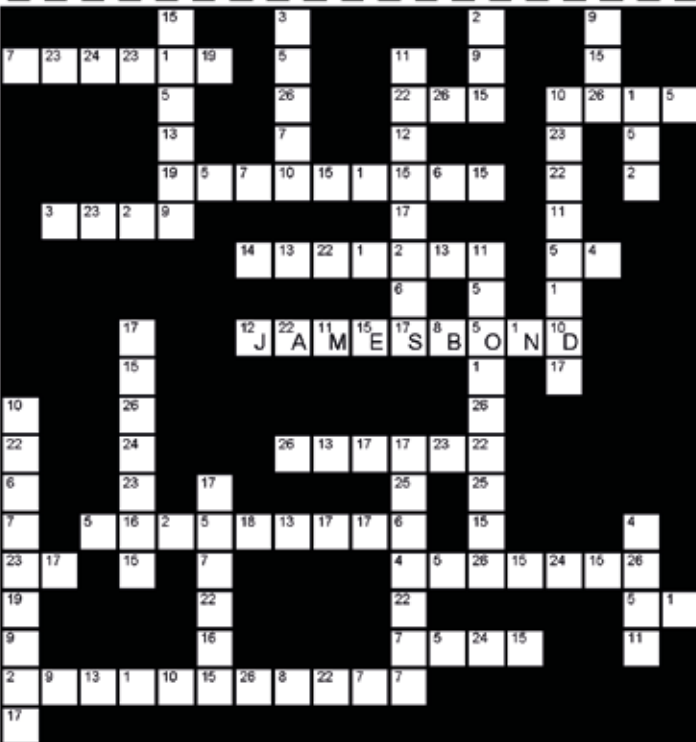
Down

- 1 Neither left or right (6)
- 2 Bob Fosse (13)
- 3 Hello Dolly (4)
- 4 Skippy (8)
- 5 Still used to checkout (4,9)
- 6 _ minor (6)
- 11 Judgements (8)
- 14 Ian Fleming (6)
- 16 Fizzy drinks (6)
- 18 Water_ or Party_ (4)



Because it has been so long since we published a crossword, I am starting you off with an easy quick crossword. I urge everyone to give it a go, as the winner will be selected at random, so everyone has a chance to win the £5 prize.

Good luck everyone John Keeling



Junior MI6 Prize Coded Crossword #146

This is a coded crossword, so each number represents a letter of the alphabet.

The theme for this crossword is **James Bond Films Titles** (I have used half of the films here).

Words used in more than one film title, like "The" are only used once.

I suggest you first populate the given letters throughout the crossword. Then tackle the larger words next.

While everyone can try this crossword, to enter for the £5 prize you must be 12 or under. Good Luck.

Your Contact Info for either prize draw. Closing Date: Fri 5th May 2023

Name: Age:
(for Junior crossword)

Address:

Postcode:

Either E-mail your completed crossword to editor@benlediview.org or return it to: The Library, South Church Street, Callander

1	N	2	3	4	5	O	7	8	B	9	10	11	12	13	
14	E	15	16	17	S	18	19	20	21	22	A	23	24	25	26

A Thanks to the BLV Volunteers

The BLV is produced every two months by a team of unpaid volunteers. Below is a list of all who do this and we would like to thank all of them for putting in their effort, which all adds up to this magazine and the other five that come out during the year

Trustees

Steve McGowan (Convenor), Nina Taylor (Secretary and Advertising), John Nelson (Editorial), Steve Willett (Distribution), Alan Davidson (Distribution), Mark Griffiths, (Treasurer), Milan Chec (Suscriptions and Media), Hilary Gunkel (Proof Reading), Kath Millar, Isla Routledge.

Editors

John Nelson, John Keeling (new to the team), Mary Buckland (recently retired)
Alan Derrick., Carol McGowan, Christine Cunningham, Ivan Condon, Jean Thewlis, Neil Michael, Rosalind Sannachan, Steve Routledge

Proof Reading Olga Watkins, Hilary Gunkel

Distributers

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Callander Kirk Holy week

Palm Sunday, 2nd April 2023, 11.15am

Monday 3rd to Friday 7th April 7.00pm evening worship

Good Friday, 7th April 10.00am, morning walk through Callander

Easter Sunday, 9th April 2023, 11.15am

Further details regarding times and venues will be available from Rev Jeff McCormick or our Facebook page.

St Andrew's Church, Callander Holy Week

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm, 6 April.
Good Friday, Liturgy of the Passion, 12noon, 7 April.
Easter Saturday, Vigil Service, 9pm, 8 April.
Easter Sunday Service, 9.30am, Sunday 9 April.

Coronation weekend

Celebration Tea Party at St Andrew's, 2 – 5pm, Monday 8 May.
Admission free but donations welcome.

Ascension Day

Ascension Day Service, 10.30am, Thursday 18 May.

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When
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Callander Police: 101

Local Council Office & Registrar:
01877 33004

Social Work: 01786 471177

Post Office: 01877 330267

Stirling Council: 01786 404040

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 (Prescriptions (10.00am till 3pm))

District Nurse 01877 330150

NHS 24 111 or www.nhs24.scot
www.nhsinform.scot

Chemists

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Vets

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McLaren High: 01877 330156

Callander Primary: 01877 331576



Callander Kirk

The Church of Scotland,
South Church Street, Callander

Please join us every Sunday 11.15am
- (Communion Service 4th June) also
livestreamed on facebook and on
Youtube channel

Trossachs Church 3.00pm on 9th
April and 7th May
(Communion Service 4th June)

Rev Jeffery McCormick BD
jmccormick@churchofscotland.org.uk
01567 820247

Church Office/Hall Bookings:
callanderkirk@btconnect.com

For Holy Week details please see
page 33

Bin Collections

Bins are now collected on a
Saturday or a Tuesday. The dates

are
April

	Tues	Sat
Grey/Blue	11th	1st/29th
Brown/Green	4th	8th
Brown/Blue Box	18th	22nd

May

Grey/Blue	9th	27th
Brown/Green	2nd/30th	6th
Brown/Blue Box	16th	20th

www.stirling.gov.uk/waste

Lagrannoch WRC Opening times

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



Saint Andrew's Scottish Episcopal Church

Leny Road, Callander

Sunday Worship 9.30 am

Midweek Worship at St Andrew's
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For further information please contact:

Revd Jon Connell Rector of linked
charges of St Andrews Callander and
St Mary's Aberfoyle h: (01877) 382887
m: 07983 897 841 or

Liz Balding Secretary to St Andrew's
Vestry m: 07825 635 428

www.standrewschurchcallander.co.uk

Hall for hire by the hour - contact
07795 244333

For Holy Week details please see
Page 33



Recreation

Rail Enquiries: 0845 7484950

Bus Station (Stirling): 01786 446474

Travel Line Scotland: 0870 6082608

Leisure Centre: 01877 330000

Library: 01877 331544

Visitor Information Centre: 07727
288 585

Floods & Environment

SEPA emergency: 0800 807060

SEPA website:

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

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

Scottish Water emergency
information re flooding from mains
or sewers: 0800 0778778

Location of defibrillators

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Glen Artney Road,

Callander

Website: stfdac.co.uk; Phone: 01877
330702

Email: [stjosephcallander@
dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto: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

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@callanderchristianfellow-
ship.org.uk](mailto:admin@callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk) for further details.

New Planning Applications

Lawfulness of erection of extension

Easter Gartchonzie Callander FK17 8HW

Ref. No: 2023/0067/LAW | Received: Wed 22 Feb 2023 | Validated: Thu 23 Feb 2023 | Status: Current

Alterations to existing house

Waterside House South Church Street Callander Stirling FK17 8BN

Ref. No: 2023/0042/LBC | Received: Mon 06 Feb 2023 | Validated: Thu 09 Feb 2023 | Status: Current

Alterations to existing house

Waterside House South Church Street Callander Stirling FK17 8BN

Ref. No: 2023/0040/HAE | Received: Mon 06 Feb 2023 | Validated: Thu 09 Feb 2023 | Status: Current

Erection of decking and steps to front elevation

Spriggans Ancaster Road Callander FK17 8EL

Ref. No: 2023/0036/HAE | Received: Thu 02 Feb 2023 | Validated: Thu 02 Feb 2023 | Status: Current

Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing) for erection of cabin

The East Lodge Invertrossachs Road Callander FK17 8HG

Ref. No: 2023/0034/LAW | Received: Tue 31 Jan 2023 | Validated: Fri 03 Feb 2023 | Status: Current

Change of use and extension of kennel to form dwellinghouse

The Kennels Invertrossachs Road Callander FK17 8HG

Ref. No: 2023/0032/LBC | Received: Mon 30 Jan 2023 | Validated: Mon 30 Jan 2023 | Status: Current

Change of use and extension of kennel to form dwellinghouse

The Kennels Invertrossachs Road Callander FK17 8HG

Ref. No: 2023/0031/DET | Received: Mon 30 Jan 2023 | Validated: Wed 01 Feb 2023 | Status: Current

Construction of controlled bellmouth, temporary timber transfer area, and culvert

Land At Falls Of Leny Kilmahog Callander

Ref. No: 2023/0027/DET | Received: Fri 27 Jan 2023 | Validated: Fri 24 Feb 2023 | Status: Current

Installation of replacement of like for like timber sash and case windows on front elevation (retrospective); proposed alteration and extension to rear of property

Glenairlie 17 Bridgend Callander FK17 8AG

Ref. No: 2023/0012/HAE | Received: Fri 13 Jan 2023 | Validated: Fri 20 Jan 2023 | Status: Current

Tree Works within a Conservation Area - Reduce Ash tree Cycleway South West And North West Of Callander Meadows South Of Leny Road Callander

Ref. No: 2023/0005/TRE | Received: Wed 11 Jan 2023 | Validated: Wed 11 Jan 2023 | Status: Current

Extension of car park and formation of footpath link to viewpoint

Leny Wood Car Park Land At Falls Of Leny Kilmahog Callander

Ref. No: 2023/0004/DET | Received: Tue 10 Jan 2023 | Validated: Tue 21 Feb 2023 | Status: Current

Erection of extension to dwelling house

Lunabe Balvaig Cabins Road Strathyre Callander FK18 8NQ

Ref. No: 2022/0370/HAE | Received: Fri 16 Dec 2022 | Validated: Wed 18 Jan 2023 | Status: Current

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

- **Editorial** to assist in the editing of the magazine
- **Advertising**:- Persons to help facilitate local businesses to place ads in the magazine and charging them for this.
- **Secretary**: person to set up and organise 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:convenor@benlediview.org)

Steven McGowan

BLV DEADLINES

The next issue of the Ben Ledi View will be published on **Friday 2nd June 2023.**

Advertisements copy & artwork

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

advertising@benlediview.org by

Wednesday 3rd May 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 **Jun/July** issue should be emailed to editor@benlediview.org or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday 5th May 2023.**

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

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