

Ben Ledi View

Dec/Jan 2024

Issue 333



Warning

With the recent resignations at BLV, it is with regret we have to inform you that we are now below the threshold to cover sickness and holiday cover on the editorial team.

The Jun/Jul 2024 issue is at risk of being delayed or cancelled.

Turn to page 23 to see what is involved, you will be surprised how easy it can be. "Here at BLV, help with the technical bits, will always be given to those at BLV!". Age is no barrier, young or old, so if you wish a Jun/Jul issue, send an owl to us at:

editor@BenLediView.org



Ben Ledi View

Convenor: vacant

convenor@benlediview.org

Editorial Team:

John Keeling, John Nelson, Nina Taylor,
editor@benlediview.org

Section Editors & Compilation:

Alan Derrick (Community)

Chris Cunningham, Jean Thewlis
(Arts & Entertainment)

Rosalind Sannachan (Charities & Clubs)

Ivan Condon (Information, Sports & Leisure)

Carol McGowan (Environment)

John Nelson (Announcements, Young People)

Hilary Gunkel (What's On and Proof Reading)

Olga Watkins (Proof Reading)

John Keeling (Puzzles, Planning)

vacant (Young People, Announcements, Health & Wellbeing)

vacant (Pets)

Grateful thanks to everyone who has provided us with articles and pictures

Advertising:

Nina Taylor, Agnes Allen
advertising@benlediview.org

Recipe: Audrey Corrieri

Distribution: Steve Willett
steveuw@benlediview.org

Secretary: Kath Millar

Subscriptions & Media: Milan Cech

Invoicing: advertising dept
advertising@benlediview.org

Contact:

The Ben Ledi View,
c/o McLaren Community
Leisure Centre,
Mollands Rd,
Callander FK17 8JP

www.benlediview.org

The Ben Ledi View is a community newspaper produced and distributed bi-monthly by volunteers free of charge to approx. 2,000 households and businesses in the Callander area. Letters and articles published in the newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views, beliefs or opinions of the Editorial Committee, who also reserve the right to shorten, edit or not publish any particular letter or article. Contributions will only be published if accompanied by a contact name and address; these will be withheld at the author's request. Articles and advertisements are accepted and printed in good faith. The Ben Ledi View is published by **Ben Ledi View Community Newspaper SCIO (Registered Charity SC 043744)**

Cover Photo by: Tim Crone



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR



Hello Readers

As you will see, this is a packed issue with a bumper 44 pages. I hope you join me in thanking all the people who help deliver BLV all over Callander.

It is truly amazing to hear about so many people recommended for various awards, starting with Gordon Addison over the page. It says a lot about the community we all live in.

We too had changes at our last AGM, with Alan Davison and Steve McGowan both resigning after serving BLV for several years, and under whom BLV has continued from strength to strength.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL
SAT 2ND DECEMBER 2023

- 2:30pm Music & dancing at Ancaster Square
- 3:30pm Carols from Callander Brass with mulled wine, hot chocolate and cakes
- 3:30pm Fancy dress parade with Santa's Sleigh led by **two Alpacos** starting at the Medical Centre
- 4:30pm **Lights Switch-on**
By Cath & Billie Mc Nab

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CALLANDER COMMUNITY

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More about them in our next issue when we have more space! Everybody at BLV thanks them for their contributions and wishes them both well in all their future endeavours.

One the other side, there are two new trustees joining BLV. Agnes Allen who is in the process of taking over advertising from Nina Taylor and myself, John Keeling. I too have joined the trustees and formally taken on the reins of editor. This will allow John Nelson to concentrate on his move away from Callander and to look after his family. We all at BLV send our love and hope everything goes smoothly.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and if you wish to see more of something please let me know. Who knows, we might have enough feedback for a "Letters to the Editor" page!

I must mention how heart warming it was for me to see how exhilarated Anne Thomson was at winning the adult crossword. Apparently "she never wins anything" well, she has now and congratulations!

It just leaves me, on behalf of everybody at BLV, to wish you all a **Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

Everybody at BLV

Contents

Community	Pages 3,5,7
Announcements	Pages 8,9,10
Environment	Pages 17,18,28,39
Charities & Clubs	Pages 11-16
Health & Wellbeing	Pages 21,24
Get Involved	Pages 22, 23
Sports & Leisure	Pages 24,29
Young People	Pages 25,27
Puzzle	Pages 30,35
Whats On	Pages 32,33
Arts & Entertainment	Pages 34,39
Local Info	Page 36
Planning	Page 37

Citizen of the Year

At the last Callander Community Council meeting, we were pleased to announce the winner of the Callander Citizen of the Year 2022 award and were delighted that it went to Gordon Addison, a very popular and worthy winner. His proposer wrote:

‘Over the past year, Gordon has given his time tirelessly to the Callander Visitor Centre. Last summer season he committed to several shifts every week, often stepping in at short notice. Since the Centre reopened this year, he is already giving the same level of commitment for the forthcoming season.

Gordon also assists at Cancer Research UK shop in Callander Main St. His commitment involves being responsible for banking the store takings. By doing this, the shop can remain open. As there is only one permanent staff member, the store would have to close to allow for banking time. Without Gordon’s commitment, valuable opening hours for selling goods and receiving donations would be lost. This would ultimately result in a loss of revenue for Cancer Research. Gordon Addison is a very kind person who willingly helps others and expects nothing in return.’

Gordon’s willingness to help is apparent and without people such as Gordon, Callander would be a much poorer place.



Gordon was back in the Visitor Centre when he was given his award by the Chair of CCC, Marilyn Moore, as shown in the photograph to the left.

We are starting our search now for nominees for Callander Citizen of the Year 2023, so that we can present the award promptly next year. To be nominated for CotY, some of the criteria are given below:

Purpose: To award and thank a local citizen for their outstanding contribution to Callander community life particularly during that year.

Criteria: Any resident of Callander can nominate a person or even a group of people for outstanding service. Awards will usually be for volunteer work but may be for paid services.

People making nominations must give the full name of the person they are voting for and the reason for the nomination and, if possible, why the person is outstanding in that year in particular. Nominations would not normally be for someone being good at their job, this is for exceptional service. Nominations should be sent by email to: callandercc556@gmail.com to arrive by no later than 31st January 2024.

Marilyn Moore, Chair, Callander Community Council

National Park - Callander South Master Plan

In the past two months, the Callander South Master Plan has been finalised and approved by the Planning and Access Committee at its meeting in September 2023. The report now provides formal planning guidance which can be used for all future developments in Callander.

The Master Plan has been evolving for several years and will be an ambitious plan for the development of the town to the south of the river. A public consultation was held to seek views on the draft plan and all of the responses were analysed and used to produce the final version.

One of the main features in the plan is a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Teith linking the eastern part of the town with the new and existing facilities south of the river. Technical investigations will now be carried out to find the most suitable point for the bridge including stability of the ground, flood levels and existing buildings and roads.

Vehicle access to the Callander South area will also be created from the Mollands Road where the spur road (Hamish Menzies Drive) already exists. In addition to access over the bridge there will be a network of paths and cycleways developed to create safe access to the schools and links to existing routes.

Within the site there will be areas for housing developments as well as tourist / visitor facilities. Areas will be identified for open spaces, a community growing space and an outdoor sports arena. Areas of environmental value will be conserved and all developments will take flood risk into consideration.

A copy of the Master Plan can be downloaded from the National Park web site.



If you want to discuss any National Park matters contact me on [077 69 688 368](tel:07769688368) or email rcjohnson9@aol.com.

Richard Johnson



	Christmas last posting dates 2023			
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Buchlyvie	Gargunnoch	Kippes	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Lochearnhead	
Deanston	Killean	Strathblane	

Further new build developments are being planned for Killearn, Balnaha, Croftanic, 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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To: editor@BenLediView.org

Subject: Letter to Editor

Send your letters about any issue: what you like, what you would like to see more of in BLV, what is missing? Soap Box issues on town matters.

Send them by **e-mail** (as above) or hand in paper letters to either **the Library** or **McLaren Leisure Centre**.

Flying Scotsman Article

I have just re-read your article on the Centenary of the Flying Scotsman. As a child I travelled on this wonderful train and wish to say thank you to the Ben Ledi View for not only publishing a factual account of the train's life but for bringing back happy memories.

Bee Wyllie

Anybody who missed the article, you can see it in our **Apr/May 2023 issue** on page 30. If you no longer have this issue you can download it on our back issue page on our website.

JK - Editor



www.benediview.org/get_the_blv



Celebrating Community and Creativity: The Autumn Meet & Make Event in Callander



On Saturday 28th October, Ancaster Square and the Visitor Information Centre in Callander were transformed into a bustling hub of creativity and community conversation for the Autumn Meet & Make Event hosted by Callander Community Development Trust and Callander Community Council.

The highlight of the day was the "The Great Pumpkin/Squash Makeover"

competition, where participants showcased their imaginative flair by bringing in their creatively decorated entries to display in Ancaster Square. Thanks to all who took part and well done to all the winners!

What truly made this event special was the opportunity to meet with the various community groups and organisations that play an integral role in shaping Callander. Attendees had the chance to engage with representatives from an array of initiatives, including the following:

- Callander Community Development Trust,
- Callander Community Council,
- Climate Action Callander,
- Callander Flood Group,
- Callander Resilience Group,
- Callander Meander,
- Rotary Club of Callander & West Perthshire,
- Trossachs Search & Rescue,
- Trossachs & Teith Community Sport & Social Hub,
- Poppy Appeal,
- McLaren Leisure,
- Citizens Advice Bureau,
- Callander Horticulture Society,
- Callander Cinema Club,
- Trust in the Park + Many more

This gathering not only fostered connections but also allowed for discussions and learning about the exciting projects driving positive change in the community.

For those seeking a bit of adventure, the event offered the chance to try out an e-bike, and started discussions around a cycle share scheme in Callander. To help us understand what active travel options you would like to see in Callander, please fill in the survey.



Thank you to all the volunteers that helped to pull this event together. It wouldn't have happened without you! For more information or to get involved in future events, enquiries can be directed to:

Ellie & Chiara at: development@callandercdt.org.uk

To stay connected and informed, follow the new Callander Connect Instagram account to stay updated on future events, community news, and ongoing initiatives: www.instagram.com/callanderconnect

Chiara & Ellie,
Development Officers,
Callander Community Development Trust

Your Vote counts:

Issue: - Non replacement of a NHS Dentist in Callander after 1 year.
If you or a family member used to use the NHS Dentist when there was one.....

Q1 - Have you managed to find a new NHS Dentist?

- Yes No

Q2 - Where _____
(or distance from Callander)

Q2 Do you/family member now go privately?

- Yes No

Q3 What is this new additional cost per year? £_____ pa

Q3 How many people no longer go to a dentist regularly? _____ people



QR Code to do Dentist Survey



To: editor@BenLediView.org

Subject: Vote - NHS Dentist

Or hand in paper votes to either **the library** or **McLaren Leisure Centre**



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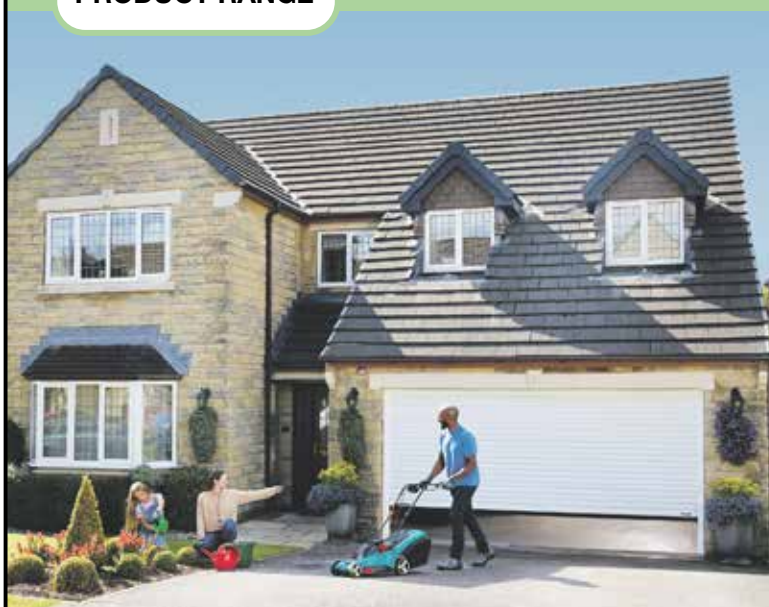
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Successful Callander Street Ceilidh 2023 Celebrates Community and Wellbeing

Our vibrant town witnessed a day of camaraderie, music, and celebration at the highly anticipated Callander Street Ceilidh 2023. The event, organised by The Community Friends of The Canmore Trust, brought together residents, visitors and local groups for a memorable day of events.

Despite a rainy start, the Callander Street Ceilidh on Saturday 19th of August 2023, transformed into a heartwarming event that showcased the town's spirit of togetherness. The day began with the Fundraising Stall & t-shirt collection in Ancaster Square, which experienced some dampening due to the weather. However, the clouds cleared just in time for "The Gathering," a networking event that highlighted local groups and organizations dedicated to promoting wellbeing within the community.

The event featured a captivating performance by Song Squad, whose rendition of "Bring Me a Little Water, Silvie" left the audience mesmerized. Throughout the early evening, local entities such as:

- Callander Golf Club
- Callander Brass
- Roll Outdoors
- CAOS. Callander
- Cycling Meanders
- Callander Walking Group and
- Catriona McKillop

showcased their contributions to the community's wellness.



The Band

The highlight of the day was the 2023 Callander Street Ceilidh which began with a procession led by piper Conor Ramsay-Clapham. The procession, accompanied by drones flown by Chris Coull & Iain Carrie, marched through the streets of Callander before culminating in a spirited performance by the Glasgow Vets Ceilidh Band. Participants, both seasoned dancers and newcomers, enjoyed the traditional Scottish dances, creating an infectious atmosphere of joy and unity. In a heartwarming display of community support, locals guided

tourists through the dance steps, children took part in their first ceilidh, and participants of all ages revelled in the festivities. The energetic evening included various dances, culminating in a 10-minute Orcadian Strip The Willow that drew traditional gaelic applause from bystanders. The event concluded with a rousing rendition of "Auld Lang Syne," capping off a memorable hour of celebration.

The Street Ceilidh paid tribute to the late Cameron Gibson, who loved a ceilidh and the outdoors and whose legacy lives on through The Canmore Trust, founded by his parents John and Isobel Gibson, an organisation that focuses on creating safe spaces for lives impacted by suicide. The event saw an impressive turnout of over 350 attendees, who formed a "Sea of Blue" in memory of all lives lost to suicide.

John Gibson, Cameron's father, took to the stage to express gratitude and share the impact of The Canmore Trust. He emphasized the organisation's role in saving lives through engagement and intervention, offering a supportive space for those affected by loss.

The event was made possible by the generous contributions of Empardio Limited and Kings Group Scotland, as well as the support of Stirling Council, Martin Earl, Callander Rotary, and Killin Mountain Rescue.

Looking ahead, plans for the 2024 Callander Street Ceilidh are already in motion. The organisers invite volunteer marshals, local groups, and interested individuals to join The Community Friends of The Canmore Trust, ensuring the event's continuous growth and success.

Community Friends of The Canmore Trust



Callander Senior Christmas Party

This year's Party will be held on: Thursday 14th December 2023 in the Callander Hostel, Bridgend 6.00pm to 9.30pm

There will be a full Christmas dinner served with wine, juice, tea and coffee. Music and entertainment will again be provided by Squeeze and Teeze with singing, dancing and games. Santa has also been asked to come along.

The Party is funded by local businesses and families so there is no charge and transport (starting 5.00pm) is available on request.

To book a place please:

- * put your name and address, and whether you want transport, in the book which will be in the Post Office from 16th November
- * Alternatively phone 01877 331020 or
- * email MaryMNV@aol.com

We look forward to seeing you all.

Mary and Richard Johnson



In full Swing



Ceilidh Dancing



John Gibson

Alex Mitchell – a man of great humanity

It is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to a remarkable member of our community, Alex Mitchell. His unwavering dedication, extensive knowledge, and steadfast support has left an indelible mark on the various groups he contributed to, including Callander Community Council, Callander Community Development Trust, Callander Enterprise, Citizens Advice Bureau, and McLaren Community Leisure Centre. More recently he helped set up Callander Visitor Centre which has been a great asset to the town. In all these organisations, he took active roles with great success.

As an expert in finance and insolvency, Alex was known for his unmatched expertise, which was a vital resource for those he served. His commitment to enhancing the well-being of our community was evident in the countless hours he spent meticulously managing finances, offering guidance, and actively participating in community initiatives. His was the inspiration which brought Citizens Advice Bureau to Callander and their support is needed more today than ever.

Alex strove to do the right thing and never stood back from the fray. His knowledge and dedication made him a highly respected figure among us, with a unique ability to provide invaluable insights and foster a sense of purpose within the groups he served.

We will carry forward his spirit of support, dedication, and knowledge and are grateful for the time we shared with Alex and will remember his influence on our lives and the rural community he cared for so deeply.

Alex will be sorely missed, but his legacy continues in the work he accomplished and the lives he touched.

Callander Community Development Trust

**In Memoriam
Gone but not Forgotten**

Alex Mitchell

July 1941 - March 2023

A Life well Lived



It seems fitting at the end of the year to mark the passing of this remarkable man.

Alex contributed so much to the Callander Community, without the need for recognition of his many achievements. Suffice to say that without his tireless commitment to make things right, there might be no McLaren Leisure Centre, as he used his accountancy skills to turn a dire financial situation around. He then acted as Chairman for a number of years.

He also put the Ben Ledi View on a firm financial footing and was involved in many roles from research to the editorial team. In later years, despite his mobility issues, he still stalwartly volunteered on the distribution and delivery team.

He was involved in many local initiatives: Callander Community Enterprise and Callander Community Development Trust as well as in the wider Stirling area as Treasurer and Board Member of the Citizens Advice Bureau. Whatever he was involved in, he left stronger for the future. Alex was a great advocate for others and gave a voice to their concerns in a way that effected change. His innate sense of fairness and justice drove him to champion many causes and to support many individuals.

Can I take this opportunity to thank my family, friends and neighbours for their wonderful support at such a difficult time.

Life goes on but his energy and determination are sorely missed by his friends and family.

One of Alex’s talents was photography. Below is his contribution to the 2017 Callander Calendar!



Julia Mitchell

“Alex Mitchell served the community of Stirling as Treasurer of Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau for several years prior to his death. Alex cared deeply about poverty and disadvantage in our community and his professionalism and dedication to CAB was outstanding. He will be sorely missed by the charity and is irreplaceable”.

Craig Anderson, CEO of Stirling CAB

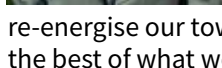


CALLANDER COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

To begin we would like to introduce you to your Community Councillors.



RUTH BARRIE I joined as I now have time to put into giving something back to the Callander community. Callander's surroundings make it unique, and I like being away from the bigger cities. I have an interest in improving transport.



LOUCAS GEORGE I think everyone should be involved in their community and I see so much wasted potential in the town in terms of the number of empty shop fronts in Main Street as well as St Kessog's church, which has sadly been closed for some time. Callander is a beautiful town and as the gateway to the Highlands it is visited by tens of thousands of people each year. My particular interest is to re-energise our town by getting involved in attracting new business opportunities as well as making the best of what we already, so making Callander a more successful and vibrant town.



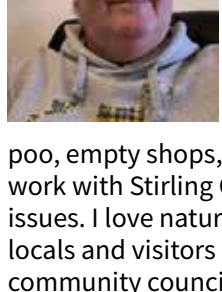
JOHN KENNEDY Specific Interests: · Communication and P.R. · Civil Engineering related topics· Place Plan· Flood Group. I put myself forward for election to CCC because, now I am fully retired, I felt I have some value I could add to the service of the community. I have realised for some time now that communication (both ways) between CCC and the people of Callander has been lacking. My first project is to open up channels of communication and get the CCC and the community working together.



FIONA KERR I'm here for the people of Callander and I joined CCC to give something back to the local community. I would like to get Callander back to what it used to be. I like all the places you can walk around and having access to fields and meadows. I'm interested in getting the elderly out and about and also planning.



DAVID KING I've stayed in Callander for approximately 50 years, and I almost feel like a local. I joined the Community Council in 2021 with the view to see what I could do to help keep Callander a good and safe place to stay.



ROBERT MACLEAN My name is Robert Maclean, I have lived in Callander all my life (58yrs), of which the last 30 have been in a wheelchair. Callander is a wonderful area to live in, however we must deal with problems, such as hazards on Main Street e.g, A-frame advertising boards, poor state of pavements, dog poo, empty shops, maintaining & cleaning cycle paths/walkways, overgrown hedges etc. We must work with Stirling Council & BEAR Scotland & the National Park Authority to help address these issues. I love nature and being outdoors. The environment in and around our town is important to locals and visitors and should be managed appropriately for both residents and visitors alike. The community council should always be there to focus on community views.



MARILYN MOORE I moved to Callander in March 1997 and was made so welcome, it seemed that I had found my real home. Having had a successful career which involved a lot of worldwide travel, on retirement, I wanted to put something back into this community and was elected to Callander Community Council in the elections of 2018. One of the proudest achievements of my life was refurbishing Camp Place Play Park. It was my first community project and kept me busy all through Covid as it was a challenge to raise the money needed to supplement the original planning gain and I learned a lot. My aim as a community councillor is to use this knowledge to help our friendly town thrive and develop, so it succeeds in the coming decades and is well-prepared to meet future challenges.

DAVID MOORE I moved to Callander in 1999 from London and have been delighted with the change from city to rural life. I was an architect for all my working life and on retirement found myself on the Board of McLaren Leisure where my practical knowledge of buildings and, in particular, leisure centres and schools has been of great use. Realising how important good community facilities are, I put my name forward for Callander Community Council at the 2018 elections and have been a councillor ever since, being the Planning Officer for the first 5 years and now as Secretary. My ambition is to see the Callander community working together to grow and thrive so it can meet the challenges ahead.





10 Announcements



DAVID SHEARER On retiral, after spending nearly 40yrs as a maintenance surveyor I moved from Cumbernauld to Callander. On arrival in Callander I noted that the Callander Community Council were seeking people to stand for election to the council. I was elected to the council and appointed to deal with roads, pavements, cycleways, car parks etc, which I still retain to this date.

The environment in and around our town is important to locals and visitors and should be managed appropriately for both residents and visitors alike, the Community Council should always be there to focus on community views.

RAY WATKINS I am a retired NHS Consultant in Dental Public Health. I joined the Community Council in order to serve the community.



OLGA WATKINS

I am a retired NHS GP/ Dermatologist and have lived in Callander for nearly 40 years, being originally from Glasgow. I have always loved living here and joined the Community Council to be a voice for the community, to help make Callander an even better place in which to live.

JOHN WATSON

I first joined Callander Community Council in December 2018 and served as Vice Chair from 2021 to June 2023. I currently hold the position of Treasurer.

I rejoined the Community Council to help take forward projects identified in the Local Place Plan.

I attended McLaren High School and have lived in Callander for 40 years.

I previously worked as a degree qualified Manufacturing Engineer before working as an Energy Consultant.



If you have any queries of Callander Community council, our email contact details are: callandercc556@gmail.com and our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/ourcallandercommunitycouncil>

We are currently awaiting feedback on whether we can visit St Kessogs with Stirling Council and the Ward Councillors, since it was recently discovered that entry to the building is problematic with doors swelling and locks not working. CCC would like to view the state of the building and hopefully have some discussions on likely future uses. As Callander's iconic landmark, it must not be allowed to deteriorate in the same way as the Eagle Hotel has, but this is not the best start, especially with the winter approaching.

CCC are interested in the outcome of the discussions on the future of the C60 bus route and understand that the service is likely to be maintained until March 2024. A new timetable was published at the end of October. This service is the only public service on the east side of the National Park and the only service linking our rural communities up to Killin where the NHS dentist is located for many people who used to attend the Callander dentist before it moved to only private treatment. The bus is a lifeline to students wishing to attend after-school classes and for people wanting to shop for food and other necessities. Whilst we can appreciate the need to reduce costs, it is all too often that rural services are cut in favour of city services. But the rural services are often lifelines and there is no other affordable option. We will need to ensure C60 stays open for 2024 and beyond.

A joint event called Callander Connect was organised at the end of October between Callander Community Council and Callander Community Development Trust to involve a number of other local organisations mainly with a 'civic' hat on, such as Callander Flooding group, Callander Resilience group, Active Travel. The event was to relaunch the Local Place Plan as well as to have a few fun activities for everyone of all ages to enjoy. The successful event was held in both Ancaster Square and Callander Visitor Centre and a separate article will provide more photos of the day. Other similar events will be planned to show-case the work of the Community organisations and how the Local Place Plan is developing.

The next 3-month window of opportunity has just opened for the Braes of Doune Community Fund (BoD Fund). In Callander we are very lucky to have local funding support from two funds. The Braes of Doune Community Fund is managed by Callander Community Council, and still has a few years to run as a result of Callander being located within a certain distance of the Braes of Doune Windfarm.

The other funding support comes from the Callander Hydro Fund, arising from the profits of the Callander Hydro Scheme managed by Callander Community Development Trust. The BoD Fund has a regular income (so far, increasing each year and in 2023 was for £20,000) for us to award to applications from organisations managing events and projects for community benefit. Recent successful applications have been Greener Callander for a contribution to the new robust wheelchair-friendly surface in the Friends Community Garden in South Church Street, and hall hire costs for a group providing a social environment for elderly residents and younger members of the Community Hub. To find out more, please see our website: https://incallander.co.uk/ccc_grants or write to cccbofund@gmail.com

Marilyn Moore, Chair, Callander Community Council



Killin Mountain Rescue - Long Serving Awards

Killin Mountain Rescue Team stalwarts have been honoured for life long commitment to Mountain Rescue in Scotland. Four of the team were awarded the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) at the recent Scottish Mountain Rescue annual general meeting. The award recognises a service and leadership spanning more than four decades. Awarded from the Mountain Rescue Community in Scotland, these were presented to:

- Former team leader Billy 'Willie' Stitt of Killin
- Team Secretary and coordinator, Bill Rose of Callander
- Deputy Leaders Gus Cameron of Lochearnhead and
- Stewart 'Teddy' Inglis of Killin



All four have been members since 1975, fulfilling mountain rescue in the north Stirlingshire area including Killin and Callander. There have been many hundreds of rescues these gentlemen have been involved in and it is to their credit that many individuals have been rescued and returned to their loved ones.

As experienced mountain rescuers, these men have seen and experienced many tragic callouts. None more so than the night of the 1st of February 1987 when during a call out on Ben More looking for a walker, the team Coordinator, Harry Lawrie, was killed as the Wessex helicopter he was in tragically crashed into the mountainside. It is a day that devastated the team and the wider local communities in which they served. The incident also caused life-changing injuries to fellow team member, the late Iain Ramsay. Despite the grief at losing one of their own, it is these aforementioned men and the members of the team at that time, who the next day went out again to search for the missing person who also tragically died. It is that dedication that has ensured Killin Mountain Rescue Team has always been there for the thousands of hill goers in its area.

The foundation of Mountain Rescue has always been a team effort. It is not the individual that makes it work, it's being able to work together towards a common purpose. Bill, Billy, Gus and Teddy are rightly recognised for their long and distinguished commitment to mountain rescue.

*Stephen
Secretary, Killin Mountain Rescue Team*

Callander Flood Group - A Warning Message From Brechin

In the aftermath of Storm Babet and the flooding in Brechin, it is worthwhile considering what we, in Callander, can learn from those frightful flood events.

The Scottish Government has stated that, 'Scotland's weather has become warmer and wetter, and we have seen more extreme rainfall events. These trends are set to continue and intensify'.

The Brechin floods of October 2023 are a good example of this.

The Brechin Flood Prevention Scheme (2016), at a cost of more than £16 million, was designed to safeguard up to a 1:200 year flood event. The walls and embankments were to protect against a 3.8m flood. On 19th October water levels overtopped the flood defence wall, the result of which was the rapid inundation of the immediate properties.

At the opening of the new flood defences in Brechin, the Scottish Environment Secretary stated that this flood protection scheme would shield Brechin "for generations to come" The 'generation' only lasted seven years! If we cannot protect against every eventuality, did the overtopped flood wall in Brechin still offer a delay from the full impact of the flood and provide valuable time to prepare for evacuation?

The Callander Meadows Car Park Flood Alleviation Scheme was published in March 2018. In that report the aim of Stirling Council was to focus on more localised measures around the Meadows Car Park, "**protecting to a lower but more practically achievable standard of protection**".

Through four years of interaction (it never has been engagement) with the community, Stirling Council has not yet indicated any alternative approach, and has continued to press on with that initial aim to build a flood wall in the Meadows Car Park. This proposed flood wall would have been overtopped by the floods of February 1990, December 2006, December 2015, and possibly by floods in 2005 and 1994. The Justice Secretary stated in the Scottish Parliament on the 25th October, that, "**Climate Change is not a far-off distant threat - it is a crisis that is here and now**".

What is proposed by Stirling Council is insufficient and lacking for what has occurred in the past, what is happening at present, and in no way provides any protection against future, climate change impacted floods. Nor does it protect all at-risk properties.

To finish, at time of writing, all thoughts are with those families and businesses that have suffered in the aftermath of Storm Babet. Are we prepared here for such a storm?

If you wish more information on flooding in Callander or wish to engage with Callander Flood Group please contact us at Callanderfloodgroup@gmail.com

Callander Flood Group



Rotary in Callander



Readers may remember we reported previously that we were raising money to provide two defibrillators for Callander Police.

Following considerable support from our community at numerous fundraising events, on 9th Sept 2023 Rotary in Callander were thrilled to be able to hand over two mobile defibrillators to be used by Police Scotland in vehicles based around Callander and the wider Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park. Giving the police access to these defibrillators is expected to save lives, as response times are critical to addressing cardiac arrest. The presentation took place at the Kirk Hall and a good number of members of the public attended.

Rotary in Callander was delighted to partner with Sandra McKandie from Keiran's Legacy (keiranslegacy.co.uk), a Scottish charity focused on ensuring that defibrillators are available in police cars across Scotland. Sandra and her husband, Gordon, set up the charity following the traumatic event of losing their very fit son, who had a heart attack whilst in a remote Scottish location and the police who were first responders did not have the defibrillator equipment that could have saved his life.

Not only did Sandra source the two defibrillators for Rotary in Callander to present, but at the event she also gave a very informative demonstration of how to use a defibrillator and also showed how to manage the recovery position.



In the pictures of the handover of the defibrillators from Police Scotland are Andrew Bushell and Scott Kennedy who are based in Callander, plus National Park Ranger Team Leader, Suzanne Humphris, also based in Callander and finally Rotary in Callander's main coordinator for this fundraising Michael Kay and current President Jen Shearer.

Thank you once again to everyone in our community who supported our fundraising events that enabled us to purchase these two defibrillators.

In September, on the Saturday of the Jazz Festival, we held a very successful Bottle and Bric a Brac event in Ancaster Square including our first Golden Ticket event where the prizes were three very special bottles of malt whisky and gin. Three visitors to the town went home very happy! As a result

of the generosity of visitors and locals we were able to add over £800 to our Charity Account for distribution to good causes.

At the end of October we had a stall in Ancaster Square as part of the Meet and Make event organised by Callander Community Development Trust to promote local groups. We were able to tell our visitors all about Rotary and what we do in the community and further afield. It was a successful day especially for the children who enjoyed Splatting the Rotary Rats.

Our last event for 2023 will be Coffee, Lunch and Crafts at the Kirk Hall on Saturday 2nd December so if you are reading your copy of the Ben Ledi View as soon as it arrives, this is a reminder to come along and see us. Finally the President and members of Rotary in Callander wish all the readers and supporters a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

If you would like to find out more about Rotary or any of the events mentioned above, please look at our website, www.callander.rotary1010.org, contact us by email, enquiries@callanderandwprotary.org, or on Facebook.

Derek House

BINGO!

Rotary in Callander is pleased to announce another series of BINGO afternoons, to be held from 2-3pm in Callander Hostel, on the following dates:

- Thursday 7th December 2023
- Thursday 11th January 2024
- Thursday 8th February 2024
- Thursday 14th March 2024



These sessions are open to all age groups and we ask that you aim to arrive by 1.50pm, to be ready for a 2pm start. The entry fee is just £2, which covers all games, with free sweets while playing, plus tea and biscuits at half-time.

There will be some excellent prizes to be won. Come along and join the fun!

If you need transport or have any queries about these arrangements, please contact phone number [07710-232908](tel:07710-232908).

Rotary in Callander acknowledges the support of the Braes of Doune Windfarm Fund, which has funded the September and October sessions.

Jen Shearer

Callander and West Perthshire u3a

The u3a is a UK wide organisation of over a thousand locally run groups which provide those no longer in full time work with the opportunity to come together and learn for fun.

We offer a monthly talks programme and in October we welcomed Nick Cooke, who gave a very interesting talk on 'Scottish Pilgrim Routes'. Nick is Secretary to the Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum, which he helped to establish in 2012. It is a national network of organisations and people developing pilgrimage walking routes open to all. Nick explained that the past decade has seen an explosion of public interest in off-road pilgrimage travel across Europe. He has worked with volunteer steering groups in setting up 10 routes in Scotland, totalling some 1,000 miles in length. The Kentigern Way is the newest Pilgrim Route leading from Annan to Glasgow.

Our guest speaker for November was Anthony Weld Forester whose subject was 'Lord Kames and the Draining of The Carse'. Apart from being one of the leading figures of the Scottish Enlightenment, Lord Kames was the force behind one of the greatest agricultural experiments of the late C18, which was the draining of a large part of Flanders Moss, creating the Carse of Stirling as we see it today.

Our monthly talks are held at the McLaren Leisure Centre. We look forward to Peter Ireland's presentation 'Travels in Antique Lands' on 31st January. Come along – you are most welcome.

We also have up to 30 interest groups. New for 2023/24 is the 'Our Villages' group, which will visit our villages and learn from locals about the history of the settlements, how populations have changed, what life is like today. By Christmas we hope to have covered Thornhill, Gartmore and Kippen.

Membership of Callander and West Perthshire u3a is only £10/year. For that sum you can attend as many events and interest groups as you wish. Have a look at our website candwpu3a.org to find out more. It's not too late to join.

Joy Henderson

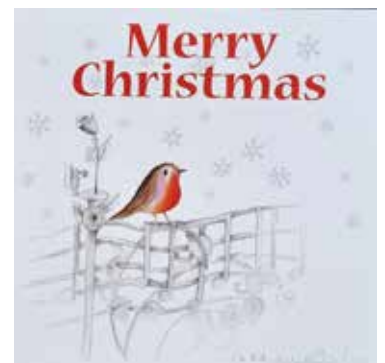


Ripple Retreat News – It's good 2 give

Hi everyone, it's Susan from Ripple Retreat with the last update for 2023!

Now it is surely safe to mention the C word? Straight in with a wee sales pitch - we have a few Christmas cards still available. The card was designed by Illustrator Catherine Rayner. The production of the cards has been fully funded by a generous donor so that 100% of the proceeds will go to It's good 2 give. They are discounted to £3 for a pack of 10. I can deliver locally in Callander or they can be posted (p&p charges apply).

Email carla@itsgood2give.co.uk to place your order or you can contact me directly (my details are at the end of the article!) Once they're gone they're gone!



Looking ahead, the 2024 Callander 10k organised by Tay Fitness Events takes place on Sunday 17th March. Entries are open now with £2 from every entry going to It's good 2 give – fancy joining me in taking part? There is also a 1k Fun Run for younger participants - why not get a team together from your nursery, school or the Mighty McLaren mini's rugby club? We'd love to have a massive turnout; Pete and Iona of Tay Fitness along with their superb team always organise fantastic events which feel fun and inclusive. Every participant is important which is a bonus for me as I expect I'll be last to cross the finish line! We have some free spaces – for more information email carla@itsgood2give.co.uk

Better get my trainers on...

We're ready to welcome the last few families for their stays for 2023. We've had a wonderful year, and I would like to thank a few of the local businesses who offer activities to our families during their stays: Wheels Cycle Hire, Blair Drummond Safari Park, Go Ape and Loch Katrine. Your support is really appreciated. I would also like to thank our own amazing team of volunteers without whom we couldn't provide 5-star hospitality to our guests.

Thank you for reading; remember we are always happy to welcome visitors to the Retreat or if you would be interested in volunteering with us, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you all the very best for the Festive Season.

Susan Milligan, Ripple Retreat Manager

susan@itsgood2give.co.uk

07359 573293



Song Squad Singing Group 2023



This photograph of Song Squad was taken at the Callander Rotary Club Christmas Craft Fayre in November 2022, and we were invited to sing at several local



events this year. To complete 2023 we will be singing at the Liltin' Lassies Joy and Light concert in the Dunblane Victoria Halls in December.

As we come to the end of another year, Song Squad would like to thank our members and everyone who supported our singing group throughout 2023, with a special thank you to our Musical Director, Marsha Luti, whose enthusiasm and talent for music and song is an inspiration to us all.

We were delighted to have several articles included in the Ben Ledi View during the year and we wish the Ben Ledi View staff and readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our numbers have increased over the last 12 months, and new members are always welcome. If you would like to find out more about Song Squad: please contact Evelyn on [01877 330961](tel:01877330961) / [07810 224647](tel:07810224647) or email: evelynmartin@hotmail.co.uk

German-Speaking Group in Callander

Leider haben wir dieses Jahr aufgrund mehrerer Familienbesuche im Dezember kein Treffen geplant. Aber wir haben vor, im neuen Jahr sowohl am Samstag, 6. Januar als auch am Samstag, 3. Februar um 14.30 noch einmal bei Peter (Coilhullan House, Invertrossachs Road, FK17 8HW) zusammenzukommen. Die Diskussionsthemen für beide Treffen werden wir im Voraus allen Mitgliedern per E-Mail schicken.

Wenn Ihr es vorhabt, mitzumachen, sagt mir bitte erst eine Woche im Voraus Bescheid, damit wir wissen, wie viele Teilnehmer zu erwarten sind.

Falls jemand bis jetzt an unseren Treffen nicht teilgenommen hat, aber jetzt mitmachen möchte, schicken Sie mir bitte eine E-Mail, um die Einladungen zu unseren zukünftigen Treffen und die näheren Angaben darüber zu erhalten: jenshearer@gmail.com.

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

Jen Shearer

WANTED



**Ex Service
Volunteers
wanted
For Royal British
Legion
Callander Branch**

We aim to:

- ensure that we all do indeed remember those who gave their lives to enable us to live so peacefully.
- provide a local firm-base for ex-service personnel to feel that whatever their situation they are not alone.

We are looking to replace the following roles: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and the Poppy Liaison Officer,.

To discuss please contact:
07710 107628



Saturday 16th December
and Saturday 27th
January
at
10.30 a.m.
All welcome



Find us on Facebook
Callander Messy
Church
or contact Lara on
07423059885



Callander & District Horticultural Society – Plans for 2024



Inspired by some old photographs of Bulb Shows held back in 1984 and 1985, we have decided to hold a Bulb Show next year on Saturday 6th April, 2024 in the Kirk Hall. This event will also be our main fundraiser and will be the launch of our Annual Show Schedule for later in the year (Saturday 24th August 2024).

You do not have to be a member of the Society nor an expert to participate in the Bulb Show, so please take a look at the schedule below to see how you can get involved. Some classes require advance planning with bulbs being planted in pots, but others can be put together from bulbs and shrubs you already have growing in your garden.

BULB SHOW SCHEDULE

Cut Flowers

1. 3 trumpet daffodils;
2. 3 double daffodils;
3. 3 tulips;
4. Vase of mixed spring flowers and/or flowering shrubs.

Potted Bulbs and Flowers

5. 5 crocuses;
6. A mixed pot of bulbs;
7. 1 pot spring flowers – mixed or single variety (could include, but not limited to pansies, violas, forget-me-knots, primulas, polyanthus, hellebores).

Anyone can exhibit at the show. A child is anyone under 14 years of age.

Some rules to be aware of : Classes 1 to 4 to be displayed in exhibitors' own vases or jars approximately 20cm in height. Classes 5 and 6 to be displayed in a bowl, pan or pot with maximum outside diameter of 20cm / 8 inches. Class 7 to be displayed in a bowl, pan or pot with maximum outside diameter of 30cm / 12 inches. All cut flowers and exhibits must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in their care at least three months prior to the show, with the exception of the Floral Art exhibit. Please refer to website www.cadhs.co.uk for more information and the Final Schedule which will outline further timings for the day.

“CALLANDER IN BLOOM”

It's very exciting to see new life in the garden in the spring and some bulbs or shrubs provide special displays of colour. Or maybe it's a special patch of snow drops that you look out for each year. In the run up to our Bulb Show, we would love you to share photos of these areas in your garden which we can then share on social media and on our website www.cadhs.co.uk. Please watch out for posts on Facebook about how to share your photos with us or log onto the website for more details.

We are just a small Committee, so we are always very appreciative of offers of help or people wishing to become more involved. Or maybe you are inspired to participate in the Show next year and would like to be added to our mailing list to get information on the Schedule when it's released early next year? You can get in touch through our website or by emailing cadhortsoc@gmail.com.

The Committee

Floral Art

8. A spring wreath with flowers and foliage, capable of being hung.

Children

9. 1 pot of spring bulb or bulbs;
10. An Easter bonnet, any medium.



WORRIED THIS WINTER?



Contact: Gary Egan on
Tel: 07498 988 993 or
e-mail: gary.egan@stirlingcab.casonline.org.uk



For more Info

Energy support this winter:

Warm Home Discount | Winter Fuel Payment | Winter Heating Payment | Disabled Child Winter Heating Payment



Callander Heritage Society

September

At our September meeting Dr Neil (Jurassic) Clark, Curator of Palaeontology at the Hunterian Museum talked to us about 'Tracking Dinosaurs in Scotland.'

The west coast of Scotland has a wide variety of rock types ranging from the very old to the new.

The fossils found in Scotland come mainly from the mid-Jurassic period. Not many fossils from this era have been found in the world.

Although many kinds of fossils had been found in Scotland, it was not until 1982 that the first dinosaur fossil was found in Scotland. A dinosaur footprint was found in rocks on Skye. Since then, many more fossils have been found in many places in Scotland but the majority have been in the Western Isles, Scotland's Jurassic Coast.

In one place on Skye, nicknamed the Dinosaurs' Dancefloor, more than 100 dinosaur footprints have been found. At one time this area was a lagoon and the footprints, which vary in size, show evidence of a family of sauropods walking across the mud.

The fossils found on Skye are from around the time that dinosaurs split into vegetarian and meat-eaters.

October

Dr. Murray Cook came to give us a topical talk on 'James VI and his Legacy of Witchcraft Trials.'

From his accession to the throne as a baby, there were always groups plotting against James. Naturally, James became paranoid about people trying to harm him. He was particularly worried about his enemies using witchcraft against him.

Previously, in Scotland, there had been witch trials but very few of the witches had been killed. Usually the witches were women, many of whom had the reputation as healers. When there was bad weather, poor crops or illness it was claimed that witches were responsible.

In 1590 when James sailed to Denmark to marry Anne of Denmark, there were terrible storms. Officials blamed witchcraft. James wrote a book, *Daemonologie* which showed his belief in witches and magic. It detailed examples of witchcraft, how to identify witches and how they should be punished. He fully endorsed witchhunts.

Women accused of witchcraft were arrested. They were deprived of sleep, gagged, tortured, their head and body were shaved and they were 'pricked' to make them confess. Pricking consisted of jabbing a thick needle all over the body to find a place which did not bleed or the victim showed no pain. This was the spot the devil had touched and proved they were a witch.

Most confessions were made under torture. Those found guilty were burned at the stake.

During James's reign hundreds of men and women, mostly women, were killed as witches.

Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth* especially for James VI. The witches match James's idea of witches. They are evil, causing storms and casting spells to harm or kill people.

There are no Society meetings in December and January.

CHAPTERHOUSE THEATRE COMPANY *presents*

A Christmas Carol

UK Winter Tour 2023



STIRLING CASTLE

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER, SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER, SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER & MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 7.00PM

Chapterhouse Theatre Company is proud to bring you *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens' timeless tale of hope and redemption, this Christmas. *A Christmas Carol* follows the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge as he embarks upon a journey through his past, present, and future, learning along the way to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas. With dazzling musical sequences and authentic period costuming, this production promises to be the perfect accompaniment to the festive season. Join family and friends at the most magical time of the year and be swept back in time nearly two centuries to the world of Scrooge's London.

"Wonderfully emotive and an absolute joy. A simply heart-warming Christmassy tale that was beautifully told."

Peterborough Telegraph

"Dickens' tale has lost none of its punch...fusing a contemporary feel with the author's poetic text."

The Stage

Tickets and Information

Adult £19 / Child £15 / Concession £17 /
Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) £58
10% Disc for Historic Scotland Members



Link to purchase

WIN 2 tickets

for the 16th December performance

All you have to do is decipher these letters into one of Charles Dickens' classic books to be entered into the draw.

E I I L O R S T T V W

Answer:

Your Contact Info for Closing Date: theatre prize draw. Tue 8th Dec 2023

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Either
E-mail your completed answer to

editor@benlediview.org

or return it to: The Library, South Church Street, Callander

Prize is x2 Adult Tickets, (travel and all other exp not incl)

Cultivating change: reflections from Scotland's Climate Week Food for Thought event

Climate Action Callander would like to thank all those that attended our "Food for Thought" event in Scotland's Climate Week held at Ben Ledi Coffee. There were many thought-provoking and inspiring conversations exchanged, learning about community action from others around sustainable agriculture and food growing.

The event commenced with a screening of 'Fields of Hope,' a short film capturing the essence of sustainable farming practices in Fife. From there, the gathering transitioned into a live discussion with two inspirational guest speakers, Nicola Hornsby and Brian Williams.

Brian's passionate involvement with the Callander Youth Project and McLaren High School showcased the power of education and involving young minds in engagement with young people in shaping a sustainable future.

Nicola then shared her journey and experiences in regenerative growing

and founding the market garden at Achray Farm. Her insights into learning techniques, stewardship of land and connections with community sparked ideas for what opportunities there might be for Callander on the horizon.

The coming together of ideas and practices between Nicola's growing initiatives and Brian's community-focused projects presented exciting inspiration about what other food-related projects might emerge in the future in Callander.

It was great to have the opportunity to bring together people who are keen to learn more and continue the conversation. From learning how to compost and setting up community gardens to developing educational programs, the possibilities for collaborative action are promising and something Climate Action Callander in partnership with others will continue to pursue.

If you couldn't make it along to the event but are interested in finding out more or getting involved, get in

contact via climateactioncallander@gmail.com or scan the QR code below.

Our next event is The Shared Table on 3rd December. Building on the success of our previous event, we want to offer a space to learn, discover, create and come together to dine on some more fantastic local produce. We will also be announcing the winner of our 'Recycl-a-bauble' competition.

We would be delighted if you can join us on Sunday 3rd December at Callander Youth Project between 12-3:30 for an afternoon of activities and seasonal and locally prepared lunch. Free Entry.



*Chiara Finland
on behalf of Climate Action Callander*

Callander Resilience Group update

Stirling Council launched their Stirling Winter Volunteer Scheme in September this year following a successful pilot in Bridge of Allan and Killin the previous year. The Council will provide training and equipment to assist volunteers with gritting and clearing snow from footpaths outwith the Council's Winter Service Plan. Volunteers will help areas of the community the Council deem less of a priority and help residents do their everyday business. By the time this is published, you may have seen us out and about with shovels clearing snow if we've had a dusting. The resilience group is coordinating the local volunteers so we can work as a team to target different areas of Callander to effectively cover as many areas as possible.

The last time the resilience group was in BLV was as a response to the disruption caused by Storm Arwen nearly 2 years ago. In the meantime, we have surveyed the residents about Callander's current resilience, sought volunteers and asked what resources are available. We now have a list of

individuals offering anything from assisting in the search for a missing person to offering machinery to clear fallen trees from roads. We have also been mapping the town's assets and trying to locate the best place for a temporary community hub as a source of information, hot food and drinks and temporary accommodation should the worst happen. We have been forging links with other community groups, such as the Callander Flood Groups and Trossachs Search and Rescue, to support one another in the community interest.

The recent storms of Babet and Ciaran and the major flood event of early October have again highlighted the need for us all to be more aware of extreme weather events. This further outlines the case for community resilience volunteers to help and look out for community members who are more vulnerable and support their recovery from events.

Personal and home preparation are the first steps to being more resilient. If you can look after yourself and your direct family, why not consider

checking on your neighbours to see if they require help? If we can all look out for one another, we'll be more prepared and able to recover from unexpected events.

We're always on the lookout for volunteers; we can all do a little to collectively make a difference, and any help is always appreciated. If you're interested in joining the Winter Volunteer Scheme or the Callander Resilience Group, please get in touch with us at callanderresilience@gmail.com.

Should you like to consider ways to make you and your household more resilient, seek out our leaflet at the Callander Library, which details valuable resources and important phone numbers, should you need help. A PDF of our leaflet is also available on our website. <https://incallander.co.uk/climateaction>

*Timothy Crone
on behalf of Callander Resilience Group*



The Restored Community Garden

The original Community Garden in South Church Street was built in 2013 on the site of a toilet block, demolished by Stirling Council. Greener Callander's Hilary Gunkel master-minded the project to a design by Jayne Whitehead of Ivy Maud Design. The garden was opened in September 2013 and has been well-used by visitors and locals for 10 years. Consequently, the gravel surface had worn so was loose, tended to migrate on to the pavements and badly scratched the stepping stones with Community group logos. While the hard landscaping features like the sett circles have weathered well, the wooden planters and benches finally surrendered to the Callander climate. It was time for a restoration.

We started in July 2022 with replacement of the rotted bog garden and logs. The new raised bed was built from a Woodblox kit which proved more difficult than expected, like a cross between a giant Jenga and wooden Lego! Funding was from the Callander Hydro Community Fund.

Over winter 2023 the barrel planters finally fell apart and in March were replaced with new ones supplied at cost by The Crafty Barrel Company then painted in the hope of longevity.

In August, with funding from the Common Good Fund, we were able to replace the three rotting wooden benches with new sturdy ones made from recycled plastic.

After a year of funding applications, successful and unsuccessful, we finally managed to raise enough money to start the restoration of the surface. Mowlawn, the selected contractor started work in late September, fencing off the whole area and removing the top of the old surface. The work was initially estimated at up to 2 weeks but Callander's weather had other ideas and a really wet spell caused delays but the fencing was finally removed in mid-October. After another 3 weeks for Greener Callander volunteers to return the barrels and refurbished planters by the sub-station wall and the garden was complete.

We must thank all of our funders: major funders are Callander Community Hydro Fund (64%) and the Braes of Doune Community Fund (25%). Smaller but essential grants

came from the Stirling Council Community Pride Fund, the Co-op Local Cause Fund (thank you to all of you who selected us as your cause) and Greener Callander's own funds.

Of course none of it could happen without Greener Callander volunteers who do the less-obvious jobs of emptying, painting, refilling and replanting of the containers along with regular pruning and weeding and recent sanding and oiling of the curved wooden benches.

Complimentary comments have been received from many passing residents and visitors and it is hoped it will now need little work other than keeping it clean but we need everyone's help to do this. It is extremely disappointing and frustrating that a small number of dog owners allow their pets to use the beds as a toilet, leaving disgusting packages for us to find when weeding. Even while I was completing planting in the garden, High School pupils walking through dropped chewing gum and pizza onto the new surface – unacceptable!

Although we have no plans for more major tasks in the near-future, Greener Callander will still be looking after this and other gardens, along with planters round the two War Memorials, outside St Kessog's and in Station Road, including the new train unveiled in mid-June. Also growing on plants and planting up 45 hanging baskets. We also raise plants to sell at our annual

fundraising stalls in May. It is hard work but rewarding and very sociable. We meet on the first Monday of the month with a few extra sessions at busy times. If you appreciate the benefit that plants bring to the town and can spare a few hours then please think about helping from next March. Just contact me on mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk.

Lesley Hawkins

all photos by Lesley Hawkins



TALK TO US

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 samaritans.org



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Music and Memories

Come along 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 -
11th December 2023
8th January, 12th February 2024
Callander Kirk Hall ~ 2.00pm-3.30pm

For more information please contact:

Ann Ross 07720 887720
or
Anne McLachlan 07743 125966



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SAT 2ND DECEMBER 2023
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3:30pm Santa's Sleigh led by two Alpacas starting at the Medical Centre
4:30pm **Lights Switch-on**
By Cath & Billie Mc Nab



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

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


Pop in anytime between 12.30 -2.30pm


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

If your business would like to help or you would like more information contact Gail on 07951 013470 or gail@startupstirling.org.uk #workingtogether #cuppaandchat

Date	Meeting Place	Walking Route	Car Share	
05 December	Ancaster Square	Callander to Kilmahog		
12 December	Ancaster Square	Railway and Golf Club		
19 December	Ancaster Square	Bridgeend and the Meadows		
	Christmas & NY	Christmas & New Year Break		
09 January	Ancaster Square	Callander to Kilmahog		
16 January	Ancaster Square	Loch Venacher		
23 January	Medical Centre	Keltie Bridge		
30 January	Ancaster Square	Tulipan and the Meadows		

No need to book, just turn up.
Walks are followed by optional refreshments in a local coffee shop/hotel
For more information contact: fiona@trustinthepark.org
Or visit www.trustinthepark/walk-in-the-park/



 Walk in the Park welcomes people living with dementia, and their carers, on our walks. Routes identified with this logo are suitable for most abilities. Please contact us for more details.



Walk in The Park is a flagship project of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust. Registered Scottish Charity No: SC043266 Company Limited by Guarantee: 422457



Community

Callander Community Council

Contact: callandercc556@gmail.com
 Website: incallander.co.uk/ccc_home

Callander Community Development Council

Contact: incallander.co.uk/ccdt_contactus
 Website: incallander.co.uk/ccdt_home

Ben Ledi View

Contact: editor@BenLediView.org
 Website: BenLediView.org

Performing Arts

Callander Brass

Contact: Ian Milligan
 Tel: 01877 330 396
 Website: facebook.com/callanderbrass

Callander Rusty Strings

Contact: Jean Thewlis
jeanthewlis@hotmail.com
 Tel: 07968 745 165
 Website: n/a

Callander Amateur Operatic Society

Contact: Angela Dickinson
angeladickinson.20@hotmail.com
 Website: c-a-o-s.org.uk

Callander Jazz & Blues Festival

Contact: info@callanderjazzandblues.com
 Website: callanderjazzandblues.com

Song Squad

Contact: Evelyn Martin
 Tel: 01877 330 961
 E-mail: unknown
 Website: facebook.com/songsquadcallander

Callander & District Pipe Band

Contact: Robert Bryder
 Tel: 01877 376 781
 E-mail: callanderanddistrictpb@gmail.com

Website: facebook.com/CallanderandDistrictpipeband

Culture & Heritage

Callander Film Society

Contact: callanderfilmsociety@gmail.com
 Website: facebook.com/callanderCinema

Callander and District Heritage Society

Contact: unknown
 Website: facebook.com/callanderheritage

German speaking group

Contact: Jen Shearer
jenshearer@gmail.com
 Website: none

Environment

Greener Callander

Contact: Lesley Hawkins
mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk
 Website: incallander.co.uk/ccdt_greener

Callander Woodlands Group

Contact: Callanderwoodlandgroup@gmail.com
 Website: CallanderWoodlandGroup.org/home-page

Callander Landscape Partnership

Contact: unknown
 Website: facebook.com/CallandersLandscape

Nationwide Organisations

Rotary in Callander

Contact: enquiries@callanderandwprotrary.org
 Website: Callander.rotary1010.org
 Facebook: facebook.com/cwp.rotary

Ben Ledi Masonic Lodge

Contact: unknown
 Website: pglpw.co.uk/lodge-ben-ledi-no-614

Callander & West Perthshire U3A

Contact: Marilyn Moore
u3asites.org.uk/callander-and-wp/contact
 Website: u3asites.org.uk/callander-and-wp/home

Business, Tourism & Social Enterprise

Callander Enterprise

Contact: secretary@incallander.co.uk

Website: incallander.co.uk

Callander Visitor Information Centre

Contact: callandervic@gmail.com
 Website: visitcallander.uk

Active Callander

McLaren Leisure Centre

Contact: reception@mclarenleisure.co.uk

Tel: 01877 330 000

Website: mclarenleisure.co.uk

Callander Badminton Club

Contact Tel: 07917 100 251
 Website: facebook.com/mclarenbadmintonclub

Callander Bowling Club

Contact: Tel: 01877 330 333
 Website: callanderbowlingclub.wixsite.com/callanderbowlers

Callander Golf Club

Contact: secretary@callandergolfclub.co.uk
 Website: callandergolfclub.co.uk

Callander Ramblers

Contact: paulgprescott@googlemail.com
 Website: incallander.co.uk/groups/2023ramblers.pdf

Callander Thistle AFC & Youth AFC

Contact: callanderthistleafc@gmail.com
 Website: facebook.com/callanderthistle
 Youth Web: Facebook.com/CallanderThistleYFC

Callander Taekwondo Club

Contact: Duncan Irvine
 Website: unknown

Callander Youth Project

Contact: info@cyp.org.uk
 Website: cyp.org.uk/youngpeople

Julia Osfield Yoga

Contact: julia.osfield@gmail.com
 Tel: 07866 153 328

Website:

McLaren RFC

Contact: mclarenrfcmini@gmail.com
 Website: mclarenrfc.com

If you are not featured here - Just contact us at editor@benlediview.org with a contact and website/facebook details. Cheers Editor.

Education**Callander Primary School Parents' Council**

Contact: unknown

e-mail: unknown

Website: none

McLaren High School PTA

Contact: Alistair Campbell

e-mail: McLarenHS@stirling.gov.uk

Website: n/a

Health**Walk in the Park**

Contact: Fiona McGregor

e-mail: info@trustinthepark.orgWebsite: trustinthepark.org/walk-in-the-park**Strength and Balance**

Contact: Fiona McGregor

e-mail: info@trustinthepark.orgWebsite: trustinthepark.org/walk-in-the-park**Town Breaks (Dementia Support Services)**Contact: townbreak.org/contactWebsite: www.townbreak.org**Arthritis Club**

Contact: Fiona Snow

f.snow008@btinternet.com

Tel: 07899 924 564

Emergency Services**Trossachs Search and Rescue**

Contact Tel: 07796 240 023 (24hr)

Website: trossachs-sar.com**Killin, Callander & District Search & Rescue**Contact Tel: 101 (Scottish Police)
999 (Emergency)Website: killinmountainrescue.scot**Scottish Fire & Rescue Service - Callander**

Contact: unknown

Website: [Facebook.com/callanderfire](https://www.facebook.com/callanderfire)**For Children and Young People****Callander & District Young Farmers**

Contact: unknown

Website: [facebook.com/callanderyfc](https://www.facebook.com/callanderyfc)**What it's like being in the Editor Team at BLV**

I am new to BLV having moved to Callander two years ago. I had read the BLV that was regularly delivered to my door. That got me interested to find out more of the history and whether there were older issues that might show what Callander was like 5, 10 or more years ago. First stop was www.BenLediView.org and yes there were some pdf copies of issues gone by. It seems the first issue was in May 1987 and has been going ever since, even through Covid. Quite an achievement for a 100% voluntary organisation.

Like Rosalind I too started by using Word documents, I think a lot of us have started there. At school I got interested in printing presses, as the school had two. You had to create lines of type from a font drawer, separating each line with leading. Finally you put the type in the middle of a steel frame rectangle, lastly placing blocks of wood and lock the type within the frame with expanding metal expandable joints.

Nowadays software is used, which makes it so much faster. For many years now, I have created a simple family newsletter at Christmas time, 2 or 4 pages. Just to give news to family and friends over the last year. The first ones were very crude but they improved as I learned different techniques and graphic design principles. As Rosalind said there is some trial and error along the way. But that is how you learn. Now I pass my knowledge forward to others. I'm not perfect and I have a LOT to learn with Photoshop.

So if you are interested in finding out how an issue is put together and want to learn new skills, I'd say give it a go. We'll start you with simple tasks that you will be comfortable with. Gradually introduce new skills at a speed that suits you. There are volunteers happy to help you along the road.

Have a look at the strap lines (the BLV ads at the top of the page) in this issue and if any awakes your interest then contact us.

*John Keeling***What it's like being a Section Editor at BLV**

Bribed by a cup of coffee and a slice of home-made cake some 6 years ago, I volunteered to become a BLV Section Editor along with a small group of other new starts.

Originally we pulled together our sections, editing articles into a Word document which the Editor collated to form the magazine. That was all very straightforward. Then we were 'empowered' to work directly in the design program itself – this was (and remains!) a steep learning curve using one of the least intuitive software packages I have ever worked on. The upside of that is, though, that it has kept things interesting as this old dog continues to learn new tricks. Every issue I see this as a battle of wits between me and the program!

In terms of time commitment – obviously the magazine only goes out once every two months – it varies depending on how many pages we are responsible for. It takes several hours to pull together the articles, work out how they might be placed into the pages each editor has been allocated, editing to fit if required and then deciding how to present them most effectively. This involves a bit of trial and error to get the pages looking right and also working out how to do what you actually want to do given the nature of the software. Although I may shout at the computer and complain when it goes wrong (invariably user error of course), I must enjoy it or I would have walked away by now. It is very satisfying when your section gets sent off and a good feeling to know you are helping people working hard to keep our wee town going and making it a good place to live.

Rosalind Sannachan

If there is a section of the BLV you are interested in and would like to help us present it. Contact:
editor@benlediview.org



Callander Kirk Community Food Larder

Thank you to everyone who donates items, it is very much appreciated.

We are looking for donations of food/toiletries for our Community Larder, located outside the Kirk Hall for members of the community to uplift anything they need.

Please remember to check the best before date on any gifted items.

Food Items

Instant Meals (Pot Noodle, Mug Shot, Pasta in Sauce), Cup a Soup, tinned Soup, Cereal Bars, Cereal, Tinned Pasta (Spaghetti, Ravioli, Mac Cheese), Dried Pasta with a jar/carton of sauce, Rice, Jars of Fish/Meat Paste, Oat Cakes/Crackers, Tea Bags, Coffee, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Meat, Tinned Veg, Tinned Fruit.

Other perishable food items

- baking potatoes, carrots, apples, bananas, oranges...

Toiletry Items

Toilet Roll, Sanitary products (these are always required), Shampoo, Toothpaste, Soap, Shower Gel...

Surplus Garden Produce -

goes in basket on table
Tomatoes, apples...

Emergency Home Kit

“Having an emergency flood survival kit could also help keep you and your family safe and warm should a flood or fire occur.

In your kit, you may want to include:

- first aid equipment,
- bottled water,
- food,
- a torch (in case you lose power),
- an emergency contacts sheet,
- prescribed medication,
- blankets, clothing,
- insurance documents and
- money.

If you have infants or elderly people in your household, you should also pack any special items they may need.”



E-bike share scheme – what is it?

Over the last few years e-bikes have become more popular. They provide assistance at various levels for the user, taking the sting out of the hills, which we have plenty of locally and add the fun back into cycling. No surprise that many report getting the e-bike smile after trying one!

Many members of Callander’s successful social Callander Meanders Cycling Group have converted to e-assist bikes so if you need more information just ask one of them. Cyclists always love talking about their bikes.

So what is a bike share scheme? – quite simply it is any scheme where bikes or e-bikes are available to multiple users.

E-bikes can be quite expensive, they are often heavy and bulky so require easy access and secure storage, and like all bikes require regular maintenance to keep them running smoothly. A bike share scheme can help resolve many of those issues and are now fairly common in our cities.

A community bike share scheme usually works on a membership basis, where people join the scheme and agree to the terms and conditions. The bikes are then available to book, collect and return from an agreed location. This location might be a secure locker with a smart lock and code, thereby helping with the administration of the scheme.

If you would be interested in finding out more about a bike-share scheme for Callander then register your interest here.

www.forms.gle/kmbHFZyio4PuGg1p8



Getting the E-Bike Smile

E-biking is an increasingly popular and fun way to explore further by bike. It only takes about 30 minutes for most people to cycle 10km on an e-bike. E-bikes allow riders of different speeds and fitness to easily ride together. Let the bike do the work and take the sting out of the hills!

Through our Cycle in the Park initiatives, the Countryside Trust has produced a selection of fun and enjoyable routes in The Trossachs which are particularly suited to an e-bike, all starting from NCN 7 which runs through the village centres of Drymen, Aberfoyle, Callander and Strathyre. Many of them take in some great coffee and cafe stops along the way, as well as popular attractions.

Follow these links for more information and some inspiration

<https://trustinthepark.org/tred-active-travel/cycling-routes/e-biking/>

Leaflet

Inspirational leaflet giving 6 routes starting from Callander, Drymen, Aberfoyle, Kinlochard and Strathyre



trustinthepark.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/LoveE-Bike_Leaflet_Aug2020.pdf

Callander Meanders

5 routes starting from Ancaster Square



www.trustinthepark.org/tred-active-travel/cycling-routes/cycling-meanders/callander/

Cycle in the Park

General information + four types of rides:

- Meander Routes
- E-bike routes
- MTB and Gravel routes
- Touring and Road section



www.trustinthepark.org/tred-active-travel/cycling-routes/

McLaren High School Garden

Renovations

The School Garden renovations are underway. Our aims are to increase the number of people using the garden area, to make the area productive, build up important skills, boost development and support wellbeing as well as encouraging biodiversity. Half the rotten beds have been fixed and we look forward to seeing the other half and the edges to the flower beds fixed this Autumn.



Gardening for the Future



The School Garden and Callander Youth Project (CYP) are working on a joint project entitled "Gardening for the future" to help with skills development for groups of our pupils, including pupils from Katrine House and those who access the Learning Development room. Brian from CYP is working with members of our school to develop and maintain our School Garden. This weekly project helps our young people, supported by Support for Learning assistants and youth development, to use the garden as an additional learning resource. So far they have planted radish seeds and harvested strawberry runners. CYP have successfully accessed funding for us for this project from Stagecoach, allowing the purchase of tools, bulbs, and other resources, crucial to the success of this redevelopment and renovation. A huge thank you to them for this. The first delivery of equipment happened this week and it was like an early Christmas unwrapping it all. One of the pupils who attended gave this feedback - "That was awesome, I really enjoyed that". We are all really excited to see where this will take them.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of living organisms within an area. We have been assessing the biodiversity in The School Garden area to enable us to do a comparison for next year after the gardens have developed.



This very large and impressive Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillar was discovered munching on the leaves above the pond.



Royal Horticultural Society Gardening Award



The school has gained Level 1 of the Royal Horticultural Society school gardening awards. We will be working this year to achieve level 2 or higher.

Developing Ownership

The new beds have been named, after consultation with pupils, around native local animals. So we will have Red Deer, Osprey, Golden Eagle, Pine Marten, Fox, Badger, Squirrel, Rabbit, Dormouse, Stoat, Owl and Hare. Some of these have been divided to give individual pupils and groups their own individual areas to grow and look after. Pupils have applied for these beds, detailing what they would like to grow and how they will be responsible for the bed all year round. We can't wait to see what they will plant and how their gardens will develop.

Senior Workgroup

A group of senior pupils have been helping out with the renovations; removing weeds and overgrown plants in the beds. They have worked really hard to help prepare the beds for their new owners. A huge thank you to them all.

We Need You!

Community Involvement. Our next stage in this redevelopment is building up our gardening community within and outside of the school. If anyone is interested in helping out at The School Garden please email the school.

Sylvia Zaparucha



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Home Visits

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A limited number of appointments will be available to book in advance for routine appointments such as **vaccinations** and certain **long term medication checks**/monthly injections.

We are currently offering these in the **Callander** area on **Tuesday afternoons** and in other local areas if there is demand for this.

Pricing:

Non PHC Member:
Appointment Cost + £15

PHC Member: Appointment
Cost + £10

Important Things to Note:

- We will require prepayment of the visit fee in order to secure your appointment
- This service is intended for routine appointments only as we will not carry additional medication stock in the van.
- Please schedule an appointment at the practice itself if likely to need anything non routine checked.

Call reception to book in!

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struthers-scott.co.uk

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£17.99/month
£13.99/month



Callander Youth Project Community Update 2023



Welcome to Callander Youth Project's (CYP) Community Update for 2023. We want to share with the people of Callander what's been going on at CYP, to celebrate some of the achievements of our young people and the organisation and also some of the challenges we have faced.

Each year brings new challenges, and that is certainly the case again in 2023. Some young people suffered disproportionately from the COVID 19 lockdowns in terms of their education and ability to socialise, so I am pleased that CYP have been able - in a small way - to address this. To that end, we have been working with the staff at McLaren High School on a number of projects to support young people. We are currently supporting 19 young people, through a range of projects that include horticultural skills in the garden and Catering for the Future in our professional kitchen. The Youth Clubs have also continued to be very popular with both P6 and P7 clubs at their capacities. During the summer breaks we ran extremely well-received activity programmes, which included a city excursion to Edinburgh and paddleboarding on the Teith. The programme was attended by 66 young people both from Callander and surrounding villages. We have also recently opened our refurbished Youth Space where young people can meet, socialise, play games and interact with our youth workers.

Another area of success has been the continued development of our garden, both as an attractive area for our guests as well as a vehicle for youth work opportunities. The latter is mainly based around our fruit and vegetable garden, comprising raised beds and an accessible polytunnel. The garden serves as an outside classroom and the hard work of the young people and volunteers resulted in a number of class awards at the Horticultural Society show. An added bonus is that we've been able to share our harvest with the community via a fruit and vegetable display in the entrance lobby. We are also working with the High School to re-establish their raised bed garden and, having secured external funding, are pushing forward with this as a way of energising more young people. If you are a Co-op user, you might like to go online and support CYP/McLaren as your local good cause?

You will have gathered already that CYP is very conscious of its role in the wider community; we host the Craigard Club each week providing approximately 30 members with a 2-course meal produced and served by young people under the supervision of our chef. This also provides an excellent opportunity for inter-generational contact and additionally, we have been recognised as a Dementia-friendly venue from Stirling University. This was covered in more detail in the last issue of the BLV. A further example of community engagement is CYP acting as a base for the DVLA Driving Test Centre, which is a real benefit to people in Callander and surrounding communities. What many people don't know, is that CYP provides this facility to the DVLA free of charge!

As most of you will recognise, the Bridgend is an old building and as such, it is quite costly to maintain and run. Despite this, the Trust has been able to secure funds to carry out a number of improvements during 2023. At the start of the year, we carried out an ambitious project to transform our rather tired toilet facilities, and in particular the inadequate disabled toilet, into a modern, warm and accessible facility. We would like to specifically thank CCDT's Hydro Fund and CCC's Braes of Doune fund for their valuable contributions to this project. At the same time, we also replaced the flooring in the rear entrance area and the Function Suite, redecorated the Function Room and put in new lighting and new curtains.

CYP is partially self-funded; the money to provide the facilities at Bridgend and pay for all the work we do, is generated by the Social Enterprise, consisting of the Hostel and Glamping Pods and the Functions business, together with finding and securing grant funding from both private and public sources. As anyone with experience of hospitality knows, the social enterprises take a huge amount of hard work from our staff, and I must once again thank them for all their efforts associated with delivering a first-class service.

Our Board of Trustees is a fantastic team of volunteers with a mix of professional expertise and I thank all of them for their dedication and hard work. Sadly, Mark Everett and Scott McIntyre stepped down during the year for personal reasons and I would like to thank them both for their very valuable service to CYP. We are actively looking for new Trustees and if anyone is interested, please contact myself or Patricia Kent, Manager at CYP!

*Mark Griffiths
Chair, CYP.*

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Macmillan Mighty Hike

The annual mighty hike up Ben Ledi took place on 2nd September this year. Here were some of the early starters at 7:32am !

If any of the volunteer staff are reading this, perhaps they could let us know how they got on with the event?

The Ben Ledi View team would love to hear how the event went and pass feedback to our readers!





Friends Wind Shift

The conservation charity, Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs (FOLLAT), is changing its stance towards large scale renewable energy projects.

In the past it has steadfastly opposed large scale schemes which it felt might damage the special qualities of valued landscapes in the National Park. It may no longer necessarily do so.

The Friends Chairman, John Urquhart said:

“Global warming is creating new imperatives. As a conservation charity, we have a duty to react. I have no doubt we have an important role to play in addressing the issues which are being created at our local level, so “thinking globally and acting locally”. Last month our trustees agreed the following:

1. Tackling the interconnected crises affecting energy, climate and nature defines the current period and influences every facet of the national park.
2. We all have an individual responsibility to help in the process of tackling climate change. In the past the Friends have supported small scale community based renewable projects, such as the hydro-electric projects at Callander, Lochgoilhead and Arrochar. Now we need to reconsider our position in relation to larger schemes.
3. Due to its upland glaciated topography, high rainfall and proximity to Scotland’s major centres of population, the National Park area possesses a unique combination of advantages for renewable energy production, storage and distribution.
4. As it is the cheapest and most rapidly delivered technology, the rapid roll out of land-based wind power and energy storage systems are essential measures in decarbonising the atmosphere and improving the country’s energy security situation.
5. Decarbonising the atmosphere is essential to the resolution of the climate and nature crises which threaten the special qualities of the National Park.
6. FOLLAT believes very large wind turbines and photovoltaic schemes as well as energy storage facilities such as pumped storage schemes and battery installations, sited in appropriate locations on the edge of (and perhaps in certain special circumstances, in carefully selected areas, even within) the National Park need not be unduly detrimental to the Park’s special qualities.
7. Bodies benefitting financially from energy production, distribution and storage and other related installations which may impinge one way or another on the National Park have a duty to contribute towards the preservation of the Park’s special qualities.
8. FOLLAT believes a share of income from such developments can create substantial benefits and opportunities for visitors, communities and nature. One example of this might be support for the rapid introduction of a modern low carbon park wide public transport system.
9. FOLLAT should be adopting a leadership role in recognising the critical importance of renewable energy and storage systems and should therefore be actively encouraging and facilitating their development on appropriate sites within and around the Park.

Without doubt this is a radical departure for the Friends, but the trustees believe the current circumstances give them little option. Nonetheless, for some, it remains a controversial matter, so we have asked our members to make sure we have their backing. To date, only 5% have voiced dissent.

The Friends was set up almost half a century ago to fight plans for a pumped storage hydro-electric installation which was to be built inside Ben Lomond (Much the same as was done around the same time at Ben Cruachan further west on Loch Awe side). Their campaign was successful and the Ben Lomond scheme was never built. Nowadays energy planners would give their eye teeth to have such a facility.

Ironically Scottish and Southern Electricity is proposing to partially convert their Sloy hydro-electric installation to pumped storage. How ironic that today the Friends will be enthusiastically supporting this project!

You can help the Friends with its work by: donating and/or joining online

Donating at: www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk/donate

Joining at: www.lochlomondtrossachs.org.uk/support-us



COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

Mincepie and Cranberry Brownies

Cuts into 16 squares

INGREDIENTS

- 175g unsalted butter, chopped, plus extra to grease
- 175g dark chocolate, chopped
- 250g caster sugar
- 3 medium eggs
- 50g cocoa powder
- 75g plain flour
- 4 mince pies, approx 225g, roughly chopped
- 4 tbsp cranberry sauce

METHOD

Preheat oven to 180°C / 160°C Fan / Gas No 4.

Grease and line a 20.5cm square tin with greaseproof paper.

In a large pan over a low heat, melt the butter and chocolate until combined. Set aside to cool for 10 mins.

Stir in the sugar, followed by the eggs. Sift in cocoa powder and flour and mix to combine.

Stir through most of the chopped mince pies, scrape into prepared tin, smooth, then scatter over remaining mince pies. Using a teaspoon, dollop on the cranberry sauce.

Bake for 35-40 mins until firm to the touch.

Cool completely in the tin.

To serve, transfer to a board and slice in to 16 squares.

A Year to Remember: Reflecting on McLaren Leisure's 2023 Journey

This year marked a significant milestone for McLaren Leisure as we celebrated 25 years of providing sport and leisure facilities to our community. It has been a journey filled with growth, learning, and most importantly, the support of our wonderful customers and members. To everyone who has been a part of this journey, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

It has been an eventful year here at McLaren Leisure as we celebrated our 25 years with 25 wonderful events, from community walks in our local area, battling it out on our pool inflatable and in the gym to finishing off the celebrations with our big Birthday bash, it has been a year of friendship, laughter, camaraderie, and healthy competition.



From invigorating fitness classes to kids holiday camps, soft play, multiball, sports and even an open office. McLaren Leisure offers a range of activities to suit everyone.



Join us today and unlock a world of leisurely delights! Head to our website to view our full range of activities.



On top of these events, we have welcomed fantastic new groups to McLaren Leisure:

- Callander Cinema Club
- celebrated a spooktacular Halloween
- supported our local schools in health
- fitness and work experience
- Hosted yoga workshops
- launched our new Multiball and Open Office
- fitness class offering has grown from 19 to a whopping 35 classes per week

We recently attended the Whole Systems Approach to Physical Activity Conference at Forth Valley Hospital to further our understanding and support as an official Physical Activity partner supporting the NHS in the improvement and prevention of injuries across Forth Valley. Where applicable, members of the local catchment area are being referred to a specific class (by their Advanced Physio Practitioner for example) with us here at McLaren Leisure in order to help catch bone and joint aches/pains before they become a long term issue. We are thrilled to see so many of you dedicated to your fitness journeys, and we are committed to bringing you even more variety in the year ahead.

In a year marked by economic challenges, McLaren Leisure remains dedicated to supporting our community. We understand the strain of rising costs and we aim to make fitness and leisure accessible to all, ensuring that our community can continue to prioritise their mental and physical health and wellbeing without too much financial strain. McLaren Leisure serves as a hub for social interaction, fostering connections and combating rural isolation. One of the most heartening aspects of this year has been the surge in community spirit. We've seen a significant increase in the number of visitors and members, which speaks volumes about the strength and unity of our community.

As we look to the final month of 2023, we look forward to sharing the most magical time of year with you. Children will be practicing their best snowflake floats during Christmas themed swimming lessons. Callander Cinema will be back with Chevalier to finish off the year and back with more wonderful movie options for 2024! We will be sweating it out in your favourite Christmas special fitness classes, including train the trainer, where you have all the power over our fitness instructors.

December is set to be a month filled with festive cheer at McLaren Leisure. We have an array of exciting Christmas events lined up, promising joy, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Keep an eye out for January timetables, which will bring fresh activities for 2024.

From all of us at McLaren Leisure, thank you for being a part of our incredible year. Your support and enthusiasm have made every event, class, and screening a success. We are excited for the journey ahead and cannot wait to create more wonderful memories with you all.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the Staff and Board at McLaren Leisure.

Rachel McLean



FESTIVE OPENING HOURS

Sat 23rd December 2023	09:00-17:00
Sun 24th	09:00-15:00
Mon 25th - Tue 26th	Closed
Wed 27th - Fri 29th	08:00-17:00
Sat 30th	09:00-17:00
Sun 31st	09:00-15:00
Mon 1st January 2024	Closed
Tues 2nd	Closed
Wed 3rd	Normal opening hours resume

View our timetable & bookable slots at www.mclarenleisure.co.uk

we want your feedback!

TAKE THE SURVEY

www.mclarenleisure.co.uk | 01877 330000 |

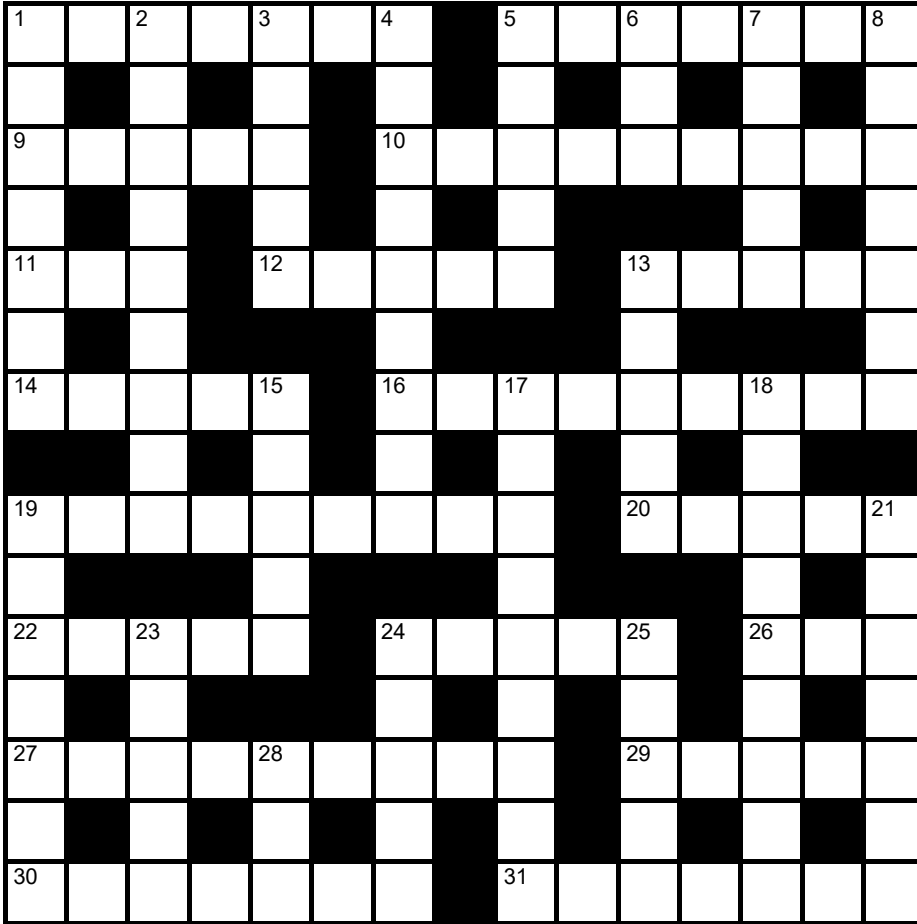
Scan to go to suvey

Enter today for the chance to WIN a free one-month All Inclusive Single Membership. Your input shapes the future of McLaren Leisure!

www.mclarenleisure.co.uk/
Customer%20Survey



BLV #156 Adult Bumper Christmas Crossword



Across

- 1 Poor Imitations (3-4)
- 5 Welcoming Doorman (7)
- 9 More (5)
- 10 A Jedi has this (4,5)
- 11 Three (3)
- 12 All contracts have this (5)
- 13 Flying toy (5)
- 14 Place to go find the Hound of the Baskervilles (5)
- 16 Next in line (9)
- 19 Club featured in The Man with the Golden Gun (7,2)
- 20 Nativity (5)
- 22 Slightly drunk (5)
- 24 The big man (5)
- 26 In the habit! (3)
- 27 The quickest way (9)
- 29 Santa's surname (5)
- 30 Doctor's nemesis (7)
- 31 Bringers of gold, frankincense and myrrh (4,3)

Down

- 1 Atomic number 75 (7)
- 2 Olden day lady's under garment (9)
- 3 The Christmas meal (5)
- 4 Scar tissue (9)
- 5 Presents (5)
- 6 Santa's helper (3)
- 7 Trunk of the human body (5)
- 8 Asian Rudolf (3,4)
- 13 Loser dork (5)
- 15 Once upon a time.... (5)
- 17 A type of intricate woodworking tool (6,3)
- 18 Flex those biceps! (6-3)
- 19 Pleasantly bewildered (7)
- 21 Training there and then (5-2)
- 23 Alex Haley (5)
- 24 Pickled fish (5)
- 25 Spores develop here (5)
- 28 Doe, Ray, Me, Far, Sew, La (3)

So here we are at Christmas, I've done a slightly larger crossword 15x15 for you all. As you mull over your mince pies!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

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

Your Contact Info **Closing Date:**
for BLV #156 prize draw. Fri 5th Jan 2024

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Either

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



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What's On for December 2023 and January 2024

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
- u3a Bridge Group 2.00-4.00pm Beginners welcome upstairs in Callander Library
- Climbing Club (children) 4.00pm and 5.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Soccer School (5-7 yrs) 5.00pm, (8-11 yrs) 6.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Highland Dancing 4.00pm Kirk Hall: no classes in December, restart 8th January, then all Mondays until mid February
- 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 Callander Primary School
- 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)
- CAOS rehearsals 7:30pm at McLaren High School

Tuesdays:

- Callander Cycle Meander meet 10.00am Ancaster Square (contact [01877 339074](tel:01877339074))
- Walk in the Park 10.20am Ancaster Square (except 23rd Jan being from Medical Centre, no walk on 26th Dec & 2nd Jan)
- Aqua Therapy 9.30-10.30am McLaren Leisure
- MumFit 11.00-12 noon McLaren Leisure
- Yoga Basics 12.30-1.45pm 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
- Line-dancing (beginners) 6.30-8.00pm St.Andrew's Church Hall
- AquaFit 7.15-8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Badminton Club 7.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Evening Yoga 7.30-9.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Taekwondo 7.00-9.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Song Squad practice 7.00-9.00pm at Callander Fire Station

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
- Start-up Stirling Community Hub 12.30-2.30pm Kirk hall
- 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 1.45pm) 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
- Bridge Club 7.00-10.00pm upstairs in Callander Library Beginners welcome
- Redtooth Poker League at Lade Inn 7.30pm all welcome

Fridays:

- Body Fit 9.00-9.45am 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 -9.15pm McLaren Leisure

Saturdays:

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

Sundays:

- Redtooth Poker League at Lade Inn 6.00pm all welcome

December

Friday 1st

Ben Ledi View published

- Christmas Concert at 7:30pm with Callander Kirk Junior Choir, Callander Brass and Callander Chorale at McLaren High School

Saturday 2nd

- Ramblers Hill Moncrieffe (223m) 8:30am start contact: mike.andrew7@gmail.com
- Rotary Winter Coffee and Crafts at 10.00am to 2.00pm at Kirk Hall
- **Christmas Lights Festival** 2:30 to 6:30 pm Ancaster Sq (Lights switch on 4:30pm)

Sunday 3rd

- Communion Service - Callander Kirk 11:15am (all welcome)
- Climate Action Callander 12-3:30pm at CYP, Lunch + activities
- Communion Service - Trossachs Church, Brig o' Turk 3:00pm (all welcome)

Wednesday 6th

- Ramblers Ramble Glenoglehead&Killin Junction Loop (16.5 miles)9.30am start contact: davidandjill1950@hotmail.com



Thursday 7th

- Rotary Bingo entry £2 arr 1:50pm for 2pm start at Callander Hostel (Queries or transport needs call [07710 232 908](tel:07710232908))
- Online webinar on Glen Finglas Reservoir at 7:30pm, free but booking required Web www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/things-to-do/events/the-story-of-glen-finglas-reservoir/

Sunday 10th

- Film Society - "Chevalier"(2022) 7.00pm for 7.30pm McLaren Leisure

Monday 11th

- Music and Memories 2:00-3:30pm Kirk Hall
- Callander Scottish Country Dance Class Spring session begins 7-8:30pm each Thursday at Masonic Hall, Craigard Road

Wednesday 13th

- Ramblers Ramble Auchleshie Falls (5.0 miles) 9.30am start contact: grahamfischbacher@gmail.com

Thursday 14th

- Senior Christmas Party 6:00pm at Callander Hostel (see page 7 for more info)
- SWT talk Ian Baird "Woodland Trust: Standing up for trees" 7:30pm St Andrew's Church Hall (suggested donation £3 incl tea/coffee)

Saturday 16th

- Messy Church 10.30am Kirk Hall

Sunday 17th

- Community Carol Service 6:00pm St Andrew's Church, mulled wine and mincepies

Monday 18th

- u3a Bridge Group - "Come and Try" 2.00-4.00pm upstairs in Callander Library

- Callander Community Council meets (hybrid meeting) 7.30-9.30pm Callander Hostel (CYP)

Thursday 21st

- Bridge Club - "Come and Try" 6.30-10.00pm upstairs in Callander Library

Sunday 24th

- Watchnight Service 4:30pm Ancaster Square

January 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Monday 1st

- Ramblers Hill Meikle Bin (570m) 9.30am start

Tuesday 2nd

- Ramblers Ramble New Year Town Walk (4 miles) 11.00am start contact: classicalpete@gmail.com

Thursday 4th

- Kirk Guild Michaela Foster Marsh on "Starchild Uganda" offering for this project 2.00pm in Kirk Hall

Friday 5th

Copy deadline for Ben Ledi View

Saturday 6th

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

Monday 8th

- Music and Memories 2:00-3:30pm Kirk Hall

Tuesday 9th

- Arthritis Club Rosemary Lowe talk "All the world is a stage" 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Thursday 11th

- Rotary Bingo entry £2 arr 1:50pm for 2pm start at Callander Hostel (Queries or transport needs call [07710 232 908](tel:07710232908))
- SWT talk ~Steve Willis BTO "Barn Owls: How is our local population faring?" 7:30pm St Andrew's Church Hall (suggested donation £3 incl tea/coffee)

Sunday 14th

- Film Society - "Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning Part1 "(2023) 7.00pm for 7.30pm McLaren Leisure

Saturday 20th

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

Wednesday 24th

- Ramblers Ramble Loch Venachar and Invertrossachs (7 miles) 9.30am start

Thursday 25th Burns Night

Saturday 27th

- Messy Church 10.30am Kirk Hall

February

Thursday 1st

- Kirk Guild Fun Quiz 2.00pm in Kirk Hall

Friday 2nd

Ben Ledi View published

Thursday 8th

- Rotary Bingo entry £2 arr 1:50pm for 2pm start at Callander Hostel (Queries or transport needs call [07710 232 908](tel:07710232908))

Sunday 11th

- Film Society - "Triangle of Sadness"(2022) 7.00pm for 7.30pm McLaren Leisure

Chapterhouse Theatre Company

Presents

A Christmas Carol 2023

15th-18 December 2023 at Stirling Castle



Link to purchase tickets

Chapterhouse Theatre Company is proud to bring you Charles Dickens' timeless tale of hope and redemption this Christmas. Follow the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge as he embarks upon a journey through his past, present, and future, learning along the way to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas. With dazzling musical sequences and authentic period costuming, this production promises to be the perfect accompaniment to the festive season.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL
SAT 2ND DECEMBER 2023

- 2:30pm Music at Ancaster Sq
- 3:30pm Santa's Sleigh led by **two Alpacs** starting at the Medical Centre
- 4:30pm **Lights Switch-on**
By Cath & Billie Mc Nab



Swing Commanders

Callander Jazz & Blues Festival

This year's 17th Callander Jazz & Blues Festival will go down as one of the best yet! Now run over four days, this year's event was a fantastic long weekend of fun, friendship and music, with big thanks going out to all the performers, volunteers, venues, sponsors and most importantly, the visitors, who come and support the festival year after year. This year we also introduced a roving retail minstrel, playing throughout the town in some of our small independent shop outlets. The feedback from retail owners and

musicians was great, all agreeing it added a more community atmosphere to the festival. So, many thanks to the businesses that were bold enough to take part... Heather McDermott Jewellery, Ancaster Coffee, Callander Drinks Company, Karnak Comics, Mancave Barbers, Puddingstone Place, Stitchcraft, Willow Houseplants and The Grail.

We are committed to go ahead with the 18th Callander Jazz & Blues Festival next year, but it may well be the last one if we don't find new personnel to run and coordinate the event in the future.

If you are interested in helping out at future festivals, please contact John Martin on [01877 330329](tel:01877330329).

Dates for 2024 are Thursday 3rd October - Sunday 6th October and we will leave it to one of this year's amazing bands to sum up the 2023 festival experience perfectly in rhythm and rhyme:

“Well Callander has come and gone
Another year of music and song
Many say the best one yet
One that many won't forget
As festivals go, this is the best
A worthy benchmark for the rest
The Committee should be justly proud

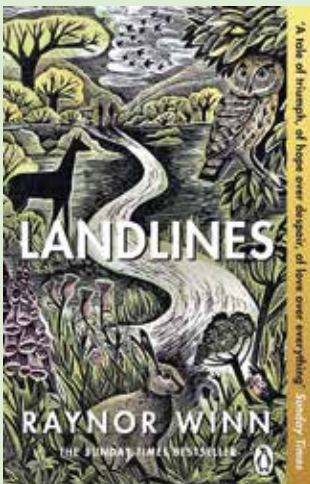
For keeping Callander live and loud
Four days with music in the air
For us, MacNabs but first Dalgair
So many happy smiling faces
A car park with no empty spaces
So let's give credit where it's due
To Duncan and his brilliant crew
The dates are published for next year
So mind and keep that weekend clear”

George Lindsay Band

The Festival Team

Book club review

This issue's book review title is *Landlines* by Raynor Winn (Penguin Books: 2023). *Landlines* is Winn's third book, following her



best-selling memoir *The Salt Path*.

Landlines begins in the middle of 2020 when the UK is emerging from the first lockdown. For many months, Winn and her husband, Moth, like most of us, have had

their lives reduced to a 5-mile radius. They tread the same fields daily and walk in the same parks, whilst ensuring they give everyone they meet a wide berth.

Moth's health is not good. *The Salt Path* had revealed Winn's partner had a degenerative illness and *Landlines* starts with a sense of despair that there is a continuation of his inevitable decline. Winn thinks back to their 600 mile walk on the coastal path of south-west England. Whilst the couple were confronting homelessness and uncertainty, the daily treks over several months had seen a significant improvement in Moth's health. Winn knew they needed to get back on the trails.

As borders within the UK re-open, they head to the tip of north-west Scotland to begin their journey on the Cape Wrath Trail – a 200 mile trek across some of the UK's most remote land. It's fascinating to read and remember the world during the pandemic and immediately after the first lockdown. The NC500 is

jam-packed with camper-vans, cars, cyclists, motorcyclists, yet the walking trails are deserted. Villages are sparse. Provisions are limited. Doors are still closed, as all visitors are treated with suspicion.

Winn recounts these extraordinary times with her own stylistic mix of travel writer, social commentator, and nature lover. She combines a whole host of important topics with wry humour, tenderness and sadness. Her description of land and nature, animals and humankind, is unique and unforgettable.

Winn's writing is beautiful and inspiring. On finishing *Landlines*, I was filled with the urge to put on a pair of boots and walk. She is a gifted observer and notices the intricacies of mankind. And somehow, she gifts this to the reader, as her observations, and the gift of noticing, go with you – long after you've turned the final page.

The next book club review will be *Shrines of Gaiety* by Kate Atkinson.

Maggie Magor

BLV #155 Junior Christmas Spot the Difference



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Mark all the differences on the lower picture.

I urge everyone to give it a go, as the winner will be selected at random from those with the largest number of differences found (and are 12 or under), so everyone (12 and under) has an equal chance to win the £5 prize.

Good luck everyone

John Keeling

Mark the differences on this one



Your Contact Info Closing Date:
for this prize draw. Fri 5th Jan 2024

Name:

Age: Nos of Diff:
(for Junior spot the difference)

Address:

.....

Postcode:

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

Solution to BLV #154
Adult Crossword

L	A	Z	I	L	Y	C	H	E	S	S			
I		D		S		E				C			
Q		A	L	C	A	T	R	A	Z	H			
U	R	G	E		E		L	E	G	O			
I		E		P	A	R	T		U	O			
D	A	N	C	E		I		S	O	L			
I		D		T	U	L	I	P		W			
S	C	A	B	S		I		A		L			
E		A		A	S		N	A	S	A			
R	B	H	C		I	E		T		S			
	A		O		R		A		B	O	N	U	S
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E		W		Y		L				O			
R	I	V	A	L		V	I	O	L	I	N		

Worthy mention for the runners up
Lesley Edmunds,
Jenny Down,
Anne Thomson &
Sophie Forson

Congrats to A Thomson
Winner of Oct/Nov #154 Adult Crossword

Solution to BLV #153
Junior Word Search

Ans: There were 20 highland towns in this puzzle

F	O	R	T	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	Z	M	O	Z
S	S	K	P	T	G	E	D	I	N	B	U	R	G	H
G	T	N	I	E	Q	N	U	X	C	O	C	F		
L	B	I	Q	R	L	H	V	M	J	A	X	N	A	
E	J	P	R	I	L	T	M	E	X	P	L	A	U	L
N	D	R	A	L	N	I	H	R	O	F	L	A	L	
C	U	N	H	E	I	E	N	I	R	A	O	S	I	
O	N	C	D	Z	M	N	G	E	B	D	N	C	T	R
E	B	V	F	K	N	O	G	S	E	U	D	H	A	K
L	L	Q	N	D	X	C	R	S	N	N	E	L	N	B
B	A	L	M	O	R	A	L	E	N	D	R	O	D	S
W	N	M	S	U	I	S	R	I	E	E	C	M	R	G
F	E	K	X	N	P	P	G	T	V	E	E	O	E	P
F	D	K	C	E	U	L	E	M	I	O	Z	N	W	I
L	O	C	H	N	E	S	S	V	S	L	L	D	S	Y

- The Towns were....
- Balmoral
 - Ben Nevis
 - Braemore
 - Callander
 - Doune
 - Dunblane
 - Dundee
 - Edinburgh
 - Elgin

- Falkirk
- Inverness
- Loch Ness
- St Andrews
- Fort William
- Killin
- Nairn
- Stirling
- Glencoe
- Loch Lomond
- Perth

How many did you get?

Congrats to Katie Niven
Winner of Oct/Nov #153 Junior Puzzle

Emergency Services: 999

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

Farrens **M-F** 9-6 **S** 9-5 01877 330132

Trossachs **M-F** 9-1 2-6 01877 330016

Vets

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Schools

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 also livestreamed on facebook and on Youtube channel

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

Church Office/Hall Bookings:
callanderkirk@btconnect.com

Christmas Services 2023

Christmas Eve - Sun 24th December
11.15am Morning Service
4.30pm Childrens Watchnight Service in Ancaster Square
6.30pm Christmas Carols at Trossachs Church (community led Service)

Christmas Day - Mon 25th December
10.30am Service in Callander Kirk

Sunday 7th January 2024
3.00am Trossachs Church Service

Bin Collections

Bins are now collected on a Saturday or a Tuesday.

The dates are
December

	Tues	Sat
Grey/Blue	24th	14th
Brown/Green	17th	21st
Brown/Blue Box	3rd/31st	7th

January

Grey/Blue	21st	11th
Brown/Green	14th	18th
Brown/Blue Box	28th	4th

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 (BCP), Wednesdays, 10.30am.

For further information please contact:
Revd Jon Connell Rector of linked charges of St Andrew's 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



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

Dreadnought Garage

Callander Golf Club

McLaren Leisure Centre

The Post Office

Ancaster Square

West Dullater House and Grace's

Cottage Invertrossachs

Mobile unit based in Callander with Scottish Ambulance Service



St Joseph's Catholic Church

Glen Artney Road,
Callander

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

Email: stjosephcallander@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Parish Priest: Rev. Leszek Wiececzek SAC

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Callander

Tuesday & Thursday Holy Mass at 10.00am

Sunday Holy Mass at 11.30am

Christmas Services 2023

Christmas Eve - Sun 24th December
4th Sunday of Advent
9.45am at Doune
11.30am at Callander
Christmas Vigil Mass
5.00pm at Callander
7.00pm at Doune

Christmas Day - Mon 25th December
Christmas Day Mass
9.45am at Doune
11.30am at Callander

New Planning Applications

Erection of double garage

Moorend Invertrossachs Road Callander FK17 8HG
 Ref. No: 2023/0385/HAE | Received: Mon 16 Oct 2023 | Validated: Tue 17 Oct 2023 | Status: Current

Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for erection of single storey side extension

Strathgartney Cottage Duncraggan Road Brig O Turk Callander FK17 8HT
 Ref. No: 2023/0373/LAW | Received: Mon 09 Oct 2023 | Validated: Mon 09 Oct 2023 | Status: Current

Proposed display of advertisement (ATM vinyl and tablet)

55 Main Street, Callander, FK17 8DX
 Ref. No: 2023/0346/ADV | Received: Tue 19 Sep 2023 | Validated: Tue 19 Sep 2023 | Status: Current

Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of new access

Rose Cottage Main Street Strathyre Callander FK18 8NA
 Ref. No: 2023/0322/PPP | Received: Thu 31 Aug 2023 | Validated: Thu 14 Sep 2023 | Status: Current

Erection of fences and gate (retrospective)

Land Adjacent To Dundarroch Brig O Turk Callander Stirling FK17 8HT
 Ref. No: 2023/0316/DET | Received: Tue 29 Aug 2023 | Validated: Wed 13 Sep 2023 | Status: Current



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Up coming films are:



10th December	<i>Chevalier</i> (2022) Cert 12
14th January 2024	<i>Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning Part 1</i> (2023) Cert 15
26th January	Member's only classic 16mm
11th February	<i>Triangle of Sadness</i> (2022) Cert 15

Message from St Joseph's

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHRISTMAS EVE

Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, it is important to remember that we must observe the Fourth Sunday of Advent before transitioning to the Christmas Eve Vigil Masses and the Masses on Christmas Day.

Callander Library

Books, DVDs, hearing aid batteries.

Monday	10-1 pm	2-5pm
Tuesday	10-1 pm	2-7 pm
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	10-1 pm	2-7 pm
Friday	10-1 pm	2-5pm
Saturday	10-12 pm	

BLV DEADLINES

The next issue of the Ben Ledi View will be published on **Friday 2nd February 2024**.

Advertisements copy & artwork
 Please send all advertisement copy for the **Feb/Mar** issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Nina Taylor at: advertising@benlediview.org by **Wednesday 3rd January 2024** Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at www.benlediview.org under the Advertise tab. Please call or email for advice if in doubt. We request full payment before we can accept advertising material for publication.

Editorial copy
 All editorial contributions for the **Feb/Mar** issue should be emailed to editor@benlediview.org or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday 5th January 2024**. Items received after the deadline may be held over to next issue.



We warmly welcome you to join us in worship on a Sunday afternoon. This takes place in St. Andrew's Church Hall at 4.00pm each week. Our weekly prayer meeting is on a Monday evening at 7.30pm on zoom/ in-person. Please contact: admin@callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk for further details.



Tree-roosting bats

The first talk of the Callander SWT Group’s 2023-24 season was on tree-roosting bats by John Haddow. John has worked with bats and their conservation for over 40 years and is a founder member and current chair of the Central Scotland Bat Group. He has Auritus Wildlife Consultancy which specialises in bat surveys.

Many people associate bat roosts with houses but there are nine bats in Scotland that would naturally roost in trees; common, soprano and Nathusius’s pipistrelles, brown long-eared, noctules and Liesler’s bats along with the myotis (little brown bats), Daubenton’s, Natterers and Whiskered Bat. <https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/what-are-bats/uk-bats>. The most frequently seen small bats are the common and soprano pipistrelles which are hard to differentiate except by their echo-location frequencies at 45 and 55 Hz. These tiny mammals are only 25-35 mm long with a wingspan of 200-235 mm and weigh in at 3-8g. The Noctule bat is the biggest in Scotland at 37- 48mm body length, wingspan 48-58mm and weigh 18-40g, still not huge! Daubenton’s bats are often seen flying over the river, dipping close to the water to catch insects.

Bats use different roosts throughout the year which are all legally protected. From November to March they hibernate but can wake up if disturbed or if the temperature rises, however, this wastes energy and they can die if woken too often before food is available. Clustering in large roosts helps to maintain a stable temperature and humidity. Pipistrelles will roost in small cracks in walls while Brown Long-Eared bats move underground.

By March/April they are starting to emerge and move between roost sites. By May they are fully active and feeding. Females start forming maternity colonies and look for suitable nursery sites while males roost alone or in small groups. In June the females give birth to a single pup, having delayed fertilisation and egg implantation until food is available. By August the 6 week old pups begin catching their own insects so the summer maternity colonies begin to disperse, males start to attract females (some ‘sing’) and may move to mating roosts. September and October are dedicated to feeding up and mating:

Ben Ledi View Issue 333

the females mate with several males, only the sperm from the last one being used. <https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/a-year-in-the-life-of-a-bat>.

All UK bats are insect eaters and even tiny pipistrelles can eat up to 3000 midges per night – what’s not to love? To attract bats to your garden you need to attract their food and flowers that release their scent in the evening are a great way of attracting moths. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-attract-moths-and-bats-your-garden>.

Since 2010 John has been studying Leisler’s bats in the Cree Valley and Glen Trool near Newton Stewart in Dumfries & Galloway. The study involved catching individuals in high mist nets then, if not a juvenile or pregnant female, a tiny radio transmitter with aerial was glued on to a shaved patch between the bat’s shoulder blades. The battery is the size and weight limiter and 0.35 to 0.45 g meets the guideline of <5% of the animal’s body weight. Batteries last ~10 days but may fall off or, during mutual grooming, they could be removed or the aerial chewed! Each transmitter has a different frequency, tracked by hand-held aerials. Each transmitter costs £150 and very few are retrieved, so it is expensive data. The transmitter aerial lies along the back of the bat and the detected signal strength varies with orientation so also gives information on the bat’s activity and flight path.

In addition to identifying where bats were roosting and feeding, it was shown that Leisler’s bats are widespread in SW Scotland and Northern Island but not in the east where they are replaced by noctules. Old trees with suitable holes or slits are preferred which generally means not pines although an old Norway Spruce with a suitable crevice was used in Culzean Country Park. However, if suitable old trees aren’t available then bats can turn to buildings with suitable undisturbed warm locations. Likely places are shown in <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/living-with-bats/where-might-bats-be-roosting-in-my-property>.

If you think you have bats, don’t panic: they are small, don’t bite or get tangled in your hair! For advice,

particularly if planning any building work, then contact the Central Scotland Bat Group on <https://csbats.org.uk/contacts>.

Lesley Hawkins

Liesler’s bat, by Bat Conservation Trust



Phytophthora ramorum update

Felling in Coilhallan to remove infected larch trees has progressed well. The harvesting team has also tackled the regeneration of invasive species and managed to retain the majority of the native and hardwood species. The trails will reopen once timber extraction has finished after December. This coupe is due for restocking in 2025 when it will be replanted with broadleaves. Once the felling work is finished there will be some thinning to open up the canopy in the wood.

An infection at Runacraig, south of Strathyre has been confirmed and a work plan is being developed. The removal of infected trees near the Falls of Leny, adjacent to the A84 is proving challenging as the terrain here is very steep.

We will aim to update our webpages with any works which impact on our trails, car parks and visitor sites and appreciate your understanding during this time.

*Nik Cox on behalf of
Forestry and Land Scotland*



Forestry and
Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

Thornhill Players



After three long years since our last performance, with a Covid interruption, we were nervous before going on stage. Could we attract an audience, would we learn our words, and would we be as glamorous as before? The answer: Yes! And to our delight, we stepped out on stage with two one-Act plays, 'The Book Club of Little Witterington' and 'What's for Pudding?'

Performances were in Callander Kirk Hall and Thornhill Community

The Abbotsford, a Wheels voucher, and a voucher for the Lion and Unicorn. Star prizes indeed!

It took us three years to find our two plays and we had many a laugh with a multitude of new scripts, but we hope you liked the two we chose.

As the group is a long-standing one, with an original member or two, we would love others to join us and share the fun. We also need people to help with sound and light, stage direction, props, costumes



Hall to packed houses. It was great being back on stage, hearing the audience enjoy the performances. Both audiences showed their appreciation with lots of laughter, although the response each night was different.

The run-up to the performances was not without challenges, in particular the weather – with an amber weather warning in place. Then the sound and lighting engineer was rushed into hospital and a stand-in had to be found at the last minute. Then, also last minute, one of the cast was ill, so the prompt stood in gallantly and emerged triumphant.

Local businesses were generous with raffle prizes, meal vouchers for

and make-up. We spend a lot of time reading plays without having to learn a line! So, if you would like to join a friendly group with members in Callander, Thornhill, Kippen, Aberfoyle and beyond please call Charlotte Johnston on **01786 850288**. We meet on Thursday nights, at Thornhill and we would love to welcome new members.

Marilyn Moore

Callander Amateur Operatic Society



The shows are coming to town – keep the third week in March 2024 free and book your ride on the *Carousel!* This is a great show with fabulous songs and music and a



message of hope as relevant today as it was when it was first performed almost 80 years ago. This was Richard Rodger's favourite musical. We cast principal parts in October and the panel had a difficult task, such is the wealth of talent. Congratulations to all who were successful. This year we have some new faces, returning members and several stalwarts of the society taking on bigger roles than previously. Rehearsals are going well but there is still time for any budding thespians to join us on Monday evenings, 4th & 11th December, then in McLaren High School Hall from 8th January. There are also opportunities to help back stage or front of house – talk to a committee member or see the web page (www.c-a-o-s.org.uk).

We had some great fund-raising events and about 80 enthusiasts put on their dancing shoes and had fun dancing to the music of Deoch n' Dorris at our Ceilidh in September. Just over £1,000 was raised for society funds. We hope that the Christmas Concert with Callander Kirk Junior Choir, Callander Chorale and Callander Brass on 1st December whetted your appetite for the show.

Show dates are 20th - 23rd March, and don't miss the coffee morning on Saturday 3rd February 2024. Tickets are available now online, from a Society member, or from Callander Connect Shop, 43 Main Street from 5th January. Seats will be numbered, so book early. In recognition of the valuable support they give us, patrons are given first choice of seating.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Coffee Morning and, of course, at the *Carousel!*

Carousel! is brought to you by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

Steve Murphy for CAOS

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Help Always Needed

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.

If you think that you are able to help please contact the convenor:

email: editor@benlediview.org

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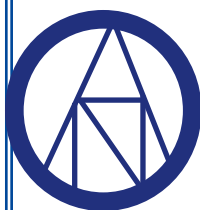
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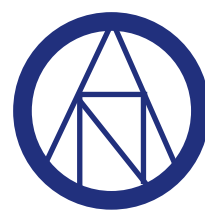
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