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Oct/Nov 2023

Issue 332



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

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Cover Photo by: Lee Skelsey
A Crocosmia in Callander



Hello Readers,

On page 5 of this issue, we give details of the upcoming AGM of the Callander Community Development Trust (CCDT). Many of you may not be fully aware of what the CCDT does and the important role they have in supporting projects that benefit the town and its environs. Well, here's a chance to learn more about it and possibly get involved. See our piece for further contact details.

I read the article on page 7, about the Callander Community Hydro Scheme, with great interest. I didn't know that it was the first and largest fully community developed hydro scheme in Scotland. It's even more impressive when you consider it was proposed and established primarily by local volunteers and its ongoing maintenance is also performed by local volunteers. The list of local projects that it has given financial support to is lengthy. It's also great that it's a renewable source of energy given the climate crisis that we are currently in. So, whenever it rains in Callander, think about how it benefits the Community Hydro Scheme and us!

We have another article on the local environment on page 11. It details the current clearances of forest in the Coilhallan area. The incidence of diseased trees in local forests is disappointingly large. Great swathes of trees have been cut down south of Coilhallan towards Cock Hill. Also, west of Bochastle Hill has seen similar

clearances. Yes, they do open up great views, but I think there is something special about walking through a densely forested area and I miss being able to do so.

If you fancy a local trip out with a difference, then look at our article on page 14 about the Ripple Retreat. They welcome visitors and you can admire their superb facilities on the picturesque south shore of Loch Venachar.

I would like to end this piece with some worries I have for the future of this magazine. The Ben Ledi View was first published 36 years ago. It's delivered, free of charge, to every household, and to most businesses in Callander, once every two months. We can only provide this free, community service by being all unpaid volunteers. One feature of being a team of volunteers is that often more pressing work/family issues come along and an individual has to step down from their volunteer role. This has happened recently with the Ben Ledi View team. It has resulted in vacancies in our ranks, particularly in the editorial and advertising sections. We desperately need new people to join our team in these sections, people with desktop publishing skills would be particularly suited. I don't want to sound alarmist here, but if we don't have sufficient volunteers to produce the magazine, we can't guarantee that we can continue to publish it. So, please seriously consider joining us! I'm very happy to discuss our vacancies with any potential volunteer, either online, over the phone or face to face. Please email me at convenor@benlediview.org for further information.

Steven McGowan
Convenor

Help BLV

Get your photo / drawing on the front of BLV like Lee did! Thanks Lee.

HINT: In the picture ensure the top 25% and bottom 25% are free for our BLV header and sponsor's advert.

Send to:
editor@BenLediView.org

Callander Community Council Update

Over the last couple of months, Callander Community Councillors have been settling into their new roles and starting to build the team. The role of the Community Council is not always known, so over the next few months we hope to update you on the work we do for the community.

As in previous years, David Shearer continues to monitor our community roads and pavements to ensure Stirling Council and Transport Scotland keep them in good order for the residents and visitors. He has now been joined in this by Robert McLean, who has been very useful in identifying accessibility issues. This year, with the weather having been so unpredictable, the hedges have grown massively so many of the issues reported by the community to David or Robert, as well as problems they have noted whilst walking round town, have been to do with overgrown bushes and trees restricting access and visibility. We are hoping this autumn to see some progress on upgrading the Main Street pavements, but we are still awaiting a final date. In the meantime, the drop kerbs are being improved along Stirling Road.

Our Planning sub-group has been busy reviewing local development plans alongside comments from residents. We also have representatives on the Callander Flooding Group and their activities are reported elsewhere in the BLV.

Other activities have included a joint meeting with the Development Trust on the Local Place Plan (LPP), at which we looked at possible solutions to issues identified by the community, such as how to establish a community hub, where local information could be disseminated in a format that was available to everyone. We have been following up options on this and hope to have definite news about it later in the year. In the meantime, we are investigating the use of a shop window to display local information on the progress of local plans, organisations and events, to provide a one-stop shop for 'Current Callander News'.

If you haven't seen the Local Place Plan, you can find an online version here: <https://callandersfuture.uk/ourplaceplan>. If you have any queries or wish to get in touch with any of your community councillors, please email callandercc556@gmail.com or send a private message on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ourcallandercommunitycouncil>

We look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at our regular meetings, usually on the third Monday in the month, 7.30pm at Community Youth Project (CYP). Please note, there is no meeting in October.

Marilyn Moore
Chair, Callander Community Council

National Park

It is just over 12 months since the election for the National Park Board. This is a brief outline of what the Board has been involved in during that time.

After the first few months, where there were numerous briefings and training days, the work has settled down to a steady stream of commitments, including regular Board Meetings, Committee meetings, consultations and reviews. These cover the entire Park area but there are always opportunities to promote the role of Callander in the Park.

For Callander, there was the construction of the new Bracklinn Falls Bridge, funded by the National Park, which received a Gold Award at the Scottish Design Awards 2023. The year has also seen the completion of the Callander Landscape Partnership, with the National Park being the lead public body. The Callander South Masterplan is currently being updated by the National Park following a recent public consultation and this will give a framework for further developments south of the river. There has also been a consultation on the Callander Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development, a study to look at improvements and new developments in the town and surrounding area. The Park has recently published its Partnership Plan for the next five years and within that is a commitment to a local National Park centre in the East of the Park, hopefully back in Callander.

As well as quarterly Board meetings, there are monthly Planning Committee meetings to handle major planning applications. When required, the Local Review Body deals with planning application appeals and the Futures Committee meets to take a strategic long term look at issues in the Park.

On the Board there are five community elected members from the five Wards. We have a good working relationship, and all promote the involvement of communities in all new developments. The community members are crucial in Board decisions, bringing local knowledge about a place and the people who live there. It is still very satisfying to see the role of the community members, as it was during the establishment of the Park, over 20 years ago, that Callander Community Council was instrumental in getting these seats on the Board.

If you want to contact me about a National Park matter:
email rcjohnson9@aol.com or mobile on 077 69 688368.

Richard Johnson

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| Deanston | Killearn | Strathblane | |

Further new build developments are being planned for Killeon, Balmaha, Croftmac, and Drymen. Please let us know if you want to live in a village that is not listed above. Information on local housing need and demand helps us to plan for the future. For a downloadable application pack please visit our website www.rsha.org.uk.

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Callander Youth Project

New Spaces at CYP

CYP's garden has received a lot of work over recent years. As well as bright floral splashes of colour to welcome our guests, our garden is now a regular source of fruit and vegetables. It has also become a space for our volunteers to share some of their knowledge – recently, several of our 1-1 placements for young people from the High School and the local community have been turning their hands to help with the maintenance and development of our garden. We were delighted to see their efforts recognised in the recent Callander & District Horticultural Show, where they won 'Best Commercial Floral Display' and were highly commended in the 'Best Kept Vegetable Garden' category. A massive thanks to Danny, Cameron, Logan, Lachlan, Mario, Lewis, Isla and Brian for all of their efforts.

Moving back inside the CYP building, we were also excited to announce the long-awaited re-opening of our youth space. Young people participating in our summer programme got a sneak peek of the room during a couple of those sessions. As well as providing a quiet area for much of our 1-1 and small group work, the space is being trialled on Mondays after school as an open drop-in for S1-3 pupils. Our thanks to the Robert McAlpine Foundation, Awards for All and the Stafford Trust for funding this renovation.

More Recognition for CYP!

CYP has recently been assessed by the University of Stirling's Dementia Services Development Centre for its provision of an environment suitable for the particular needs of age-related users and / or those living with a disability.

The assessment was carried out on behalf of the Craigard Club who meet weekly in CYP and sing its praises, as do other local groups, and also visitors who book the high quality accommodation in its pods.

The assessment examined six awareness categories. How CYP:

- promotes ability (signs, space, furniture)
- helps clients maintain independence and personal identity (access, navigation, doors)
- provides for carers' requirements (furniture, space, environment)
- becomes familiar for clients (function, orientation, comfort)
- promotes interactions with others (access, training, social)
- accommodates preferences (lighting, acoustics, space)

The building provides a safe venue in the function room, looking out to well-designed and maintained gardens with seating areas. There is easy access from the street and from the car park with blue badge parking space, the doors are wide enough to accommodate wheelchair access, a ramp with rail leads from ground level to the function room, and toilet provision is excellent.

Staff are professional in the services they offer, and adapt to individual requirements with ease. They are quick to react to instances where physical help, emotional support and practical assistance are required.

The Craigard Club is delighted that its assessment submission has been successful. CYP is now a Stirling University accredited Environment for Ageing and Dementia Design.

Anne Docherty, for Craigard Club



Summer Recap

CYP's 2023 Summer Programme saw over 30 activity hours delivered across 8 sessions. The sessions – involving a total of 66 local young people from P6-S3 – included cooking, paddleboarding and trips to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Sky Studios. Thanks to support from the Conundrum Trust, we were able to offer all of these opportunities free of charge.

Notice of Callander Community Development Trust AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Callander Community Development Trust (CCDT) will be held on Tuesday 31st October 2023, at 10.00am at Callander Visitor Information Centre, 55 Main Street, Callander.

All members are welcome and are entitled to exercise their right to vote on any motion put before them for consideration at the meeting.

Membership of the CCDT is open to anyone over the age of 18 living within the Callander Community Council Boundary who supports our projects and activities. Applications are subject to approval by the Board. There is no annual subscription fee; however, all donations are appreciated and the amount given is left to the individual.

For membership enquiries, please email membership@callandercdt.org.uk or complete the form on the website https://incallander.co.uk/ccdt_join.

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Generating Cash for Callander

A conversation in the pub on a rainy day led to a group of locals building a hydro-electricity scheme that now generates cash for projects to benefit Callander.

The 425-kilowatt Callander Community Hydro Scheme, the first and largest fully community developed hydro scheme in Scotland, is in Stank Glen above Loch Lubnaig. It is a run-off-river scheme, in which water is diverted from a river, piped down to the generating turbine then returned to the river. It cost £1.65m to build and is expected to earn £3m over its first 20 years. It will continue to generate electricity after this, but the Government subsidy (feed-in tariff or FIT) will end and income will be reduced.

It has been generating electricity since September 2014 and has consistently performed ahead of forecasts with very few periods of dry weather affecting energy production. In its first summer alone, it produced four times its predicted output for July.

Callander Community Development Trust owns the scheme and allocates the profits to projects and activities that will benefit the people and community of Callander. Recently it set up a hardship fund in partnership with Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau to support some of our most vulnerable residents. Around £50,000 a year also goes to the Callander Community Hydro Fund. Anyone can apply to the fund – the important thing is that projects should benefit Callander.

Since late 2015, more than £350,000 has been drawn down from the Community Hydro Fund to support a wide range of projects, from festivals and youth work to hanging baskets and toilet refurbishments. Many have attracted significant match funding from other sources to benefit Callander.

Here are just a few of the projects that the fund has enabled:

- Camp Place playpark improvements
- Callander's annual Jazz & Blues Festival
- Callander Landscape Partnership
- Callander Covid Response Group support and meals to vulnerable residents
- Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau outreach worker in Callander since 2017
- Indoor soft play in community-run McLaren Leisure Centre
- Christmas lights in Ancaster Square
- Callander Youth Project youth club activities and fully accessible glamping pod
- McLaren High School Pipe Band coaching
- Greener Callander floral displays and community garden
- Craigard Club lunch club for elderly residents
- Primary School playground benches and outdoor gym equipment

Frank Park, Chairman of Callander Community Hydro Ltd and Callander Community Development Trust, said, "It all started back in 2008 with a conversation in the pub about harnessing the rain for the benefit of Callander.

"A small group of volunteers, set up in 2010, spent the next few years measuring river flow, sourcing loans, agreeing contracts with the bank and Forestry & Land Scotland's predecessor (the landowner), completing more than 30 studies, getting planning permission then appointing a project manager, technical specialists and a hydro construction company. In the warm sunny summer of 2014, the scheme was completed within four months.

"We were determined to pay back the loans that would limit the funds available as soon as possible. So, we're very pleased to have paid off more than half of the 15-year loans already."

The hydro scheme is maintained by another team of trained volunteers who regularly go up to the site to check that everything is working as it should. It's thanks to all of these local people that funds are now able to support so many community projects.

More information and application forms for the Hydro Fund are at incallander.co.uk/ccdt_hydrofundgrants.



Christmas Fair

The very popular Christmas Fair at St Andrew's Church will be held on Saturday, 18 November, 10am to 2pm. Admission free.

'As in previous years, this is very much a community event with a number of local groups – including the Guides, Scouts and Cubs, u3a Knitters and Natters – taking stalls and showcasing their impressive craft talents,' said Liz Balding, St Andrew's Vestry Secretary.

'This year, in addition to the popular home-baking, gift and beautiful painted china stalls, there will also be a stall selling beauty products. So we can promise visitors a wonderful selection of inspired present ideas at bargain prices.'

'We are also very grateful to the large number of local businesses who generously support our event by donating all kinds of prizes for the raffle and tombola stalls.'



8 Announcements

Obituary – Susan Holden -

October 1941 to July 2023

After a long illness, borne with dignity and fortitude, Susan Holden, the previous Chair of Callander Community Council passed away on 21st July 2023. Her funeral on 18th August was held at Stirling Crematorium and online, followed by refreshments at Callander Youth Project. Friends and colleagues from all round her world of publishing attended via the Internet link and family, friends and many of her Callander colleagues came in person to say their farewells.

Her professional role as a leading figure in the world of English as a Second Language was significant, as many of her friends and colleagues testified, but few of us in Callander were aware of her eminence in this field as she was a private and modest person.

Whether she was working professionally or as part of a community organisation, she was very focussed and took the same care and consideration in all that she did.

For Callander, she led the Community Council from October 2020 to April 2023 when the previous CC stood down. As Chair, she held the CC together during the time of COVID lockdown, when numbers had dropped below the standard number required for a CC to function.

She was an active director of Callander Community Development Trust from January 2017 until her death and instigated the joint meetings to improve communication between these two key organisations in town, all for the betterment of the local community. She will be much missed.

Marilyn Moore

Chair, Callander Community Council



Susan Holden (1941- 2023) – BUON VIAGGIO!

I only knew Susan Holden for a short time, much to my regret.

I first met her online, when I joined Callander Community Council (CCC) in November 2020, in the midst of COVID lockdown, although didn't meet her in person until eight months later, when I took on the role of CCC Secretary, with Susan as Chair. She had a strong work ethic and never expected anyone to work harder than she did herself. I learned so much from her during that time and appreciated her help and advice.

How can I describe her? She was gracious, highly intelligent, cultured, independent and determined. She was very generous and hospitable, always making her guests feel welcome. In between her frequent trips to Europe and South America in relation to her work, she enjoyed sharing good food and fine wines with the close friends she had in Callander.

She was a very private person and seldom opened up, but when she did, it was a joy to hear about her time as a drama teacher, her tales of living in Venice and her many travels throughout the world in connection with her work as an educational book publisher. It was only after she died that we learned of how influential she had been in her publishing world.

I will miss her wicked sense of humour, delivered with a sparkle in her eye and her ability to always see the funny side of things.

Rest in peace, Susan – you will be sorely missed.

Olga Watkins



Spot Sue in the two group photos above!

Sue King - Away to Pastures New!

Having moved to Callander back in 2007, Sue King lost no time in getting involved with several relatively new community enterprises, notably:

- the newly built Hydro Scheme
- Greener Callander with its Community Garden, as well as the Woodland Group
- helping to edit the Ben Ledi View for quite a number of years

Energetic and enthusiastic, Sue has always been a team player, not afraid to get her hands dirty but modest about her achievements.

We shall all miss her now that she has decided to up sticks and move on again (together with her chickens and her bees), this time to an even smaller community in the Scottish Borders, where she has young grandchildren to help fill her time. What else will she undertake?

Watch this space...!

We at the Ben Ledi View wish her all the very best in her new home.

Hilary Gunkel

Andrew (Andy) Anderson

On behalf of the family, we would like to thank everyone who attended Dad's funeral to pay their respects. We are also very grateful for the many cards, flowers and messages we have received, all of which have been an immense comfort to the family.

Also, thank you to the entire staff in Callander Medical Practice & the Pharmacy for unflinching attention over the years. Special thanks to the District Nurses and Out of Hours Palliative Care Team in the last days of his life. Nothing was too much bother and with their support we were able to care for Dad in his own home, as was his wish.

Thanks also to all Dad's lovely neighbours and friends who took time to visit him in hospital and at home.

Between the collection in Church (£1308.00) and online donations, a grand sum of £2347.75 has been donated to Chest and Stroke Association. Dad would be so proud of this, as is his family. Thank you all so much.

Special thanks to Ross and his colleagues for carrying out his Papa's funeral with such respect and dignity. You done him very proud.

Rhona Anderson



Entertainment by Rusty Strings
at Kirk Hall at 2.00pm

On Tuesday 10th October

Hear about the Red Kites at Argaty

. On Tuesday 14th November

Look forward to seeing you there

*Fiona Snow
Secretary*

Steve & Isla Routledge - Leave BLV

Steve has been a stalwart of the Magazine's editing volunteers for some years now, whilst Isla did advertising and advertising invoicing, but unfortunately they both had to leave our happy band. We at the BLV would like to thank them for all the work they have put in over these years and wish them all the best on their new ventures.

Dear Sir,

I was just at Achray Farms this morning, and we were speaking to Nicola of Achray Farms. She told us they had just started doing 'Veg Boxes', that will NOW be delivered to customers in Callander every Saturday at Deli Ecosse.

This is such great news! We have tried the Achray Farms Veg Boxes, and they are terrific! If you have not had the chance to try their homemade ice creams made from goat's milk, go now! It is worth the short trip!

You can email Achray Farms at: nicola@achrayfarm.co.uk, or get in touch with them through their Facebook or Instagram Pages to make 'Veg Box' orders to be delivered for pick up at Deli Ecosse, Saturdays starting at 9:00AM.

Many thanks,
Kathryn and Loucas George



Veg Box Details @ Achray Farms

Small Veg Box £10.50

Medium Veg Box £14.40

*More info on their Facebook or
Instagram pages.*

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Many congratulations
to Colin and Joyce Edwards



Who Celebrated their 60th Wedding
Anniversary

on 28th September 2023

With lots of love from
Colin, Yvonne, Janice and Ian xx

Defibrillator for the Loch Venacher Sailing Club



Callander 41 Club recently donated
£500 to Loch Venacher Sailing Club to
help with the purchase of a
defibrillator which has been installed
on the back of their Clubhouse



Athol MacMillan & David King (41
Club) handing the cheque over to
Rob McDermott (LVSC)

Callander Community brings a little sparkle to the Primary School Playground

It started as a throwaway comment that it would be nice to brighten up the Primary School playground and ended up as a wonderful community project that has brought endless smiles to the children at the school.

With the new Primary School building firmly on the agenda, it was easy to overlook our existing playground which had become a little tired due to weather and wear. There was a drainage issue that was causing much of the space available to become unusable. It also meant that much of the wooden play equipment had become rotten. Overall, the playground was in need of a bit of an upgrade but with only two years to go until the new school became a reality it was hard to justify a large scale renovation.

Fortunately for our young learners, Emma King had a vision and rallied an extraordinarily supportive Community to bring the much needed 'spruce up' to reality.

Emma works with young people and has lots of experience of making outdoor spaces fun and engaging. She designed a plan that would cater for all ages and make playtimes fun. However, resources were needed, and funds were tight.



A 'Go Fund Me' page was set up and within hours hundreds of pounds had been raised. Parents, teachers, local businesses and even family members who live far from Callander all contributed to a fund which ultimately reached over £2,000.

The gravel and bark to solve the drainage issue was generously donated by Cambusmore Estate. So, we had the vision and the resources now!

The implementation was led by parents Michael King and Steven Dunion, along with the team from Cambusmore Estate and a group of very enthusiastic parents.

If you happened to walk by the playground during the summer holidays you would likely see diggers, tractors, wheelbarrows and a paintbrush or two being put to good use.

It was a joy to watch the new playground emerge. The process brought together families, friends and a few dogs too and many new friendships were formed. Although the extent of the hard work could hardly be quantified, we lost count of how many hours had been spent after we got over 300!

The reward really came on the first day of school when we saw how the children chose to play in their new environment. Emma's ideas have brought out many opportunities for the children and their smiling faces and reluctance to leave the playground at the end of the day speak of the great success it has been.

The children have their own opinions, of course, and we asked some of them to tell us what the playground means to them:

"This playground is amazing.. all of this work done over the holidays and when we came back to school.. just WOW!!!" Primary 7 Learner

"The playground is brilliant, I love the obstacle course and the sand pit is my favourite." P1 learner



THANK YOU, CALLANDER

"This is great, we have built a maze for the balls, to go through the tunnels and down the shoots." P3 learner.

"The climbing wall is my favourite bit, I have reached the top lots of times." P4 learner

"We really wanted somewhere to sit and be quiet at lunchtimes, the shelter is brilliant, I like the cushions and the great umbrella designs." P6 learner

The parents are enormously grateful to the management team at Callander Primary for trusting us to deliver this project. We are also overwhelmed by the support and enthusiasm we have had from the community. On behalf of the Primary School staff, the Parent Council and our children,

Tanya Starkey (Head Teacher, Callander Primary) & Carolyn Dunion (Chair of Callander Primary Parent Council)



Callander Woodland Group update



In the last BLV there was an article from Forestry and Land Scotland about larch trees infected by Phytophthora Ramorum, explaining that once the disease has been confirmed, they have only a short time to fell infected trees and others in the surrounding area. Unfortunately, Coilhallan had infected trees confirmed in July and it is very obvious that felling started early in September. It is expected to continue to the end of the year. While larch felling is underway, non-native trees like Sitka Spruce will also be removed. This amounts to a large proportion of trees from the west end of Coilhallan and access to the

car park and paths will be restricted – see photo map below.

This will have a dramatic visual impact with the loss of so many tall trees but, trying to be positive, it will open up amazing views and the wood will be re-planted with mixed broadleaves and conifers with an emphasis on native species.

In September, thinning to re-space self-seeded trees happened at both west and east ends of the wood as part of general woodland management for healthy trees. It currently looks very messy but the felled wood will provide some wildlife habitat and, as the wood rots down, it will support insects and their predators.

This disruption is limiting where the woodland group can work, but we are hoping to start clearing out the arboretum enclosures so that the trees representing the five continents will become visible and eventually form part of a tree trail. Of course, how much we can do depends on how many volunteers we get. If you are interested and willing to get 'stuck in' then please get in touch on callanderwoodlandgroup@gmail.com.

Lesley Hawkins



COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

Butternut Squash, Ginger and Garlic Soup

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

- 1 butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and diced
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- 1 tbsp crushed garlic (fresh cloves)
- 2 tbsp crushed ginger (fresh root)
- Seasoning
- Cream and sprigs of flat-leaf parsley

METHOD

Put the squash, stock, garlic and ginger into a large saucepan.

Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for about 15 mins until the squash is soft and tender.

Transfer to a food processor and whizz until smooth, or use a hand-held blender.

Return to the pan, reheat. Season with salt and pepper.

Serve in bowls, finished with a swirl of cream and sprig of parsley.

12 Charities and Clubs

Song Squad 2022/23

We had several new members join our Song Squad singing group during 2022/23, and as our Song Squad year came to an end in June, we were fortunate to receive two invitations to sing at local events. Dunblane's singing group, Liltin' Lassies, invited Song Squad to sing at their concert in the Victoria Halls, Dunblane on Friday evening, 23rd June and our second invitation was to sing at the Doune Gala on Saturday afternoon, 24th June.



The Liltin' Lassies fundraising concert for Strathcarron Hospice was a wonderful night of music and song, and the guest singers were Callander's Song Squad, The Dunblane Shanty Crew and Sweet Harmony. Song Squad sang five songs to a full hall and the concert raised an amazing £1,087 for Strathcarron Hospice. The following

afternoon, Saturday 24th June, Song Squad headed to Moray Park in Doune to sing at the Doune Gala. The Gala was well attended on the Saturday and the weather was warm and sunny. We enjoyed a walk around before it was our turn to sing at 3.30pm. The live music on the day also included the Forth Valley Nurses Choir, Francesca Gray and the Doune Pipe Band.

Our new Song Squad year started again in September 2023. We have our weekly practice sessions in the Callander Fire Station on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm. For information on Song Squad, please contact Evelyn on [01877 330961](tel:01877330961) / [07810 224647](tel:07810224647).



Callander Heritage Society

The Society meets in the Masonic Hall, Craigard Road, Callander. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Refreshments are provided. The Annual Membership fee of £10.00 gives admission to all meetings. Guests pay £5.00 per meeting.

After a summer break, the Society meetings restarted on September 13th when Dr Neil Clark talked about 'Tracking Dinosaurs on Scotland's Jurassic Coast'. A report of the talk will be in the next BLV.

At our October meeting Professor Stewart Brown will talk about 'The Disruption; The most significant event in 19th century Scotland'.

Our November talk will be on 'The Blair Drummond Hoard' by Fraser Hunter.

Kath Millar



Callander and West Perthshire u3a

Our August AGM and Enrolment at the McLaren Leisure Centre was well attended and this heralds the start of our new 2023/24 session. Our Group Leaders have been busy re-establishing their groups and we have some new groups too. Have a look at our website candwpu3a.org to find out more. There is something for everyone from Ancient History to Wine Tasting.

Our first social event, a Quiz Evening, took place at Callander Youth Project on 8th September and we hope there will be other social events to follow during the u3a year. We offer a monthly talks programme and are looking forward to welcoming our speakers, who will be covering a range of subjects. Before Christmas we have: Wednesday 27th September on Zoom, Hildegard Berwick - The Scottish Artist Bet Low; Wednesday 18th October, McLaren Leisure Centre, Nick Cooke - Scottish Pilgrim Routes; Wednesday 8th November, McLaren Leisure Centre, Anthony Weld Forester - Lord Kames and the Draining of the Carse. All talks are at 10.30am

Come and join us if you are no longer in full time work and would like to make the most of life. u3a is all about learning for pleasure and for fun and gives you the opportunity to meet new people. Membership of Callander and West Perthshire u3a entitles you to join as many of our interest groups as you want and membership is only £10 for the year. We welcome new members at any time.

Joy Henderson

German-Speaking Group in Callander

Wir haben vor, sowohl am Samstag, 21. Oktober als auch am Samstag, 18. November um 14.30 noch einmal bei Peter (Coilhallaan 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 Oktober bei Peter wieder begrüßen zu können.

Jen Shearer

CHAS



Our annual Coffee Morning will take place in the Callander Kirk Hall on the 11th November. We shall be there from 10 till 12.30. Entry of £3.00 will include tea, coffee and home baking. There will be music and our usual stalls.

I have finished my plant stall on Invertrossachs Road for this year. It raised just under £2000, all of which goes to CHAS. Thank you for your support.

Fiona House

Rotary in Callander



The second half of the summer proved to be a busy time. At the end of July we joined with Start Up Stirling to have some children's games, Splat the Rat, Dotty Potty and others in Ancaster Square. There was information about Start Up Stirling and a collection point for food, and other items. The event raised money for the cause but, equally importantly, it raised awareness of the work that Start Up Stirling does in supporting those

who need help in these difficult times.

The children's games appeared again when the club was invited to take part in the Thornhill Gala on 12th August and a good time was had by all. We are Callander and West Perthshire Rotary Club and it was good to spread the word about Rotary outside of Callander.

The following weekend, the club provided stewards for the Canmore Trust Ceilidh in Ancaster Road. The event was very successful and everybody enjoyed the music and dancing.

These events have allowed club members to be more involved in the community, something that we hope to build on.

The final event in August was the dancing in the Square by Liz Campbell's Highland Dancers. Once again they gave a superb performance and this allowed us to raise money for local causes. Our thanks go to Liz, her dancers, the piper and all those who contributed.

Finally a reminder that our Winter Coffee, Lunch and Crafts will take place on Saturday 2nd December at Callander Kirk Hall.

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, 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 12th October
- Thursday 9th November
- Thursday 7th December



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 sweeties 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 Sept and Oct sessions.

Jen Shearer



Callander

Messy Church will meet on:
Saturday 28th October and
Saturday 25th November

at 10.30 am
in Callander Kirk Hall,
South Church Street

Please come and join us for fun,
food and family worship.

If you would like to know more
about Messy Church, please feel free
to speak to
Lara Rawson on [01877 339324](tel:01877-339324)

Callander Bridge Club

Want to play Bridge or learn how to play Bridge? Bridge is a challenging and rewarding card game. It stimulates the mind and is excellent for the memory. If you have experience of playing Whist, you will find that Bridge is similar and it will be easy for you to pick up.

We have two Bridge clubs locally, both of whom meet upstairs in Callander Library. Callander Bridge Club meets on Thursday nights throughout the year, from 7pm until 10 pm, although it often finishes earlier. It is suitable for people who have some experience of playing Bridge, although the Club is keen to teach beginners as well. There is presently no joining fee for this group.

Callander and West Perthshire u3a Bridge Group meets regularly on Monday afternoons, 2pm until 4 pm. It is suitable for absolute beginners, as well as for more experienced players. You can come and try it for free but if you want to play regularly, you will be required to become a member of Callander and West Perthshire u3a (fee is £10 for the year). This will give you access to over twenty five other groups run by the organisation locally.

Please email raywatkins2000@aol.com for more information.

There will be a drop in, 'come and try' session on Monday afternoon 16 October from 2 -4 pm and Thursday evening 19 October from 6:30 pm - both events will be held upstairs at Callander Library.

Hope to see you there!

Ray Watkins

Ripple Retreat News – It's good 2 give

Hi everyone, it's Susan from Ripple Retreat here with another update on what's been happening!

"It's good 2 give" has been blessed with the support of some truly wonderful people over the years, and we're delighted to add a new name to that list – acclaimed tenor and actor Alfie Boe OBE.

Alfie did us the honour of visiting our wonderful Ripple Retreat as a (very) surprise guest for The One Show in May, celebrating the fantastic work of our inspiring founder, Lynne (who is in these photos with our wonderful supporters). There was a lot of laughter once the shock had subsided, and it was a true privilege to show Alfie around the Retreat.

We're delighted to announce that Alfie was inspired by his visit to offer further support to our wonderful wee charity, and we couldn't be more honoured today than to name him as our newest patron.



You can watch Lynne's One Big Thank You here - www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsVarjQLqD4 (or use this QR code on a smart phone) →



Over the next year Edinburgh Rugby will be one of our charity partners. We were delighted to welcome a group of players to the Ripple Retreat at the end of June. Lynne had been to the club the day before to deliver a lunch and learn session, but nothing beats visiting the Retreat in person to fully understand the ethos. The team left with a clear understanding of what the

Ripple Retreat can offer to young cancer patients and their families. We look forward to working with them in the coming months.

On the same day we were absolutely thrilled to have a long overdue visit from founding Patron Grant Stott. Grant is an incredible supporter of "It's good 2 give" and he was amazed to see how the Retreat has developed since its opening in 2017.

Remember, we are always happy to welcome visitors to the Retreat, or if you would be interested in hearing about the work of the charity, we are happy to offer "lunch and learn" sessions to your business.

(continued on next page)



Lynne and Grant

Is it ever too early to mention the C word? Our 2023 Christmas card is designed by Illustrator Catherine Rayner. Production has been fully funded by a generous donor so that 100% of the proceeds will go to "It's good 2 give".

They are £5 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 (all of my details are at the end of the article). Once they're gone they're gone!

Looking even further ahead than Christmas, the 2024 Callander 10k organised by Tay Fitness Events takes place on Sunday 17 March. Entries are open now with £2 from every entry going to "It's good 2 give" – fancy joining me in taking part? We have some free spaces – for more information email carla@itsgood2give.co.uk

There is also a 1k Fun Run for younger participants. So why not get a team together from your school? Better get my trainers on...

Thank you for reading. If you want to visit us at the Ripple Retreat, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Susan Milligan, Ripple Retreat Manager
It's good 2 give susan@itsgood2give.co.uk



Callander and District Horticultural Society Show 19th August 2023



A Victorian theme was central to our Show this year, with the Society celebrating 150 years since it was established back in 1873. Some old records came to light just before the Show including the original hand scribed Constitution and Minutes of the early meetings. This uncovered some interesting facts, such as the membership fee originally being £1 which in today's money would be £94! This makes membership today of £2 exceptionally good value with free entries to the show competitions – so make sure you join in the fun next year – there's a vast range of classes to suit all. (www.cadhs.co.uk). The Show back in early years was held in a marquee and more recently in the Kirk Hall. In the last few years the show moved to the big shed at East Torrie which has plenty room inside, easy parking and a space to enjoy refreshments on the day. Following several enquiries, we are looking into the possibilities of providing transport to and from the venue for those who don't have access to a car. If this would be of interest to you, please get in contact using the details below.

Apart from a few years during the World Wars, the Show has taken place annually over the last 150 years. Even during the Covid lockdown we managed to continue with a virtual show via our own dedicated website. I think all would agree though, that it's much better to be together to see the exhibits in real life and get a wee catch up at the same time.



The Committee

The Committee was delighted with a fantastic array of produce, flowers and craft adorning the staging and tables this year with a number of new faces competing, and indeed winning trophies, which is always pleasing to see.

After David King from Callander Community Council had handed out the Community Council garden competition prizes, Sheila Winstone kindly continued with the presentation of the Society's own garden competitions. You can read details of all the winners below.

Elaine Vanhegan, daughter of the late Robert Vanhegan, former Honorary President of the Society, then spoke about Robert's own extensive involvement in the Society, being part of or chairing the Committee over many decades, and fondly recounted the joy he got from his garden and particularly his sweet peas. There was a small photographic exhibition on display in tribute to Robert. Elaine then proceeded to present the Show trophies and prizes.

Becky, the granddaughter of our flower judge Bill Nichol, kindly baked a special and delicious celebration cake for our event which we were all then able to enjoy.

(continued on following pages)



The cake!

16 Charities and Clubs



Callander Primary School classes entered some very imaginative and colourful installations for the school garden, all made

from recycled materials. These certainly provided a beautiful display at our special show.

Awards were as follows:

- 1st – P2 (Bees)
- 2nd– P6 (Bird bath skittle)
- 3rd – P3 (Butterflies)



Primary School Entries

The winners for the special awards were as follows :

Most meritorious exhibit in:

Confined Flowers	Janet Greenfield
Confined Vegetables	Mike Luti
Floral Art	Charlotte Wood
Industrial	Isobel Gibson
Open Flowers	Norman McBean
Open Vegetables	Ian Brown



Old Callander - Floral Art

Marshall Rose Bowl - Most Meritorious Exhibit

Janet Greenfield

Callander Cottage Cup - Most points in Confined Section

Ray Watkins

Society's Challenge Shield- Most points Confined Flowers

Charlotte Wood

Tom Beith Cup- Most points in Confined Vegetables

Mike Luti

Roman Camp Challenge- Most points in Cut Flowers Open Section

John Burrows

Esher Cup - Most points in Open Vegetables

William Nichol

Abertay Cup - Most points in Floral Art

Charlotte Wood

Paterson Cup - Most Meritorious in Industrial section

Isobel Gibson

Stainton Cup- Most points in Industrial Section Katarina Cech

Campbell's Shortbread Cup - Winning shortbread entry Isobel Gibson

Teith Cup - (biggest onion by weight) John Burrows

Jean Aidie Quaich - Most points in sweet peas, open or confined Ray Watkins



Best in Show



Children's Class - Monster Veg

Bob Pywell Quaich - Most meritorious exhibit in Confined Section

Janet Greenfield

Bob McDougall Cup - Best Tomato in Show

Norman McBean

Inga Cummins Salver - Best Rose in Confined Section

Janet Greenfield

Society Cup - Most points in Fruit Section

Ray Watkins

Scotties Tower Star Crystal (*new*) -Best photograph in the show

Susan Walker

Children's Cup - BRIDGE CLUB - Most points in Children's Section

Christina /Daniel Wood

Roslin Cottage Cup - Best plant entry in Children's Section-

Iona Kerr



The Callander Community Council (CCC) Best Kept Garden competition was judged by Sheila Winstone.

The tied winners of the small garden competition were Charlotte MacFarlane of Camp Place and Alison Boa of Ritchie Place. The overall winner of the CCC Cup for the Best Kept Garden and winner in the large garden category was awarded to Janet Greenfield of Ancaster Road with Highly Commended being awarded to Ray & Olga Watkins of Tulipan Crescent.

The Callander and District Horticultural Society now sponsors the remaining garden competitions which were judged by Fiona House and Ann Artis.

The winners in each category were as follows:

Best kept window box, hanging basket or container – Irene Ferguson, Camp Place
Highly Commended – Jacquie Fingland, East Torrie Farm
Commended – Charlotte Wood, Camp Place and Agnes Baird, Pearl Street

Best kept vegetable garden– Margaret & David Warnock, Ancaster Road
Highly Commended – Callander Youth Project

Best patio or outdoor sitting area for afternoon tea– Naomi Scott, Auchyle
Highly Commended – Jacquie Fingland, East Torrie Farm

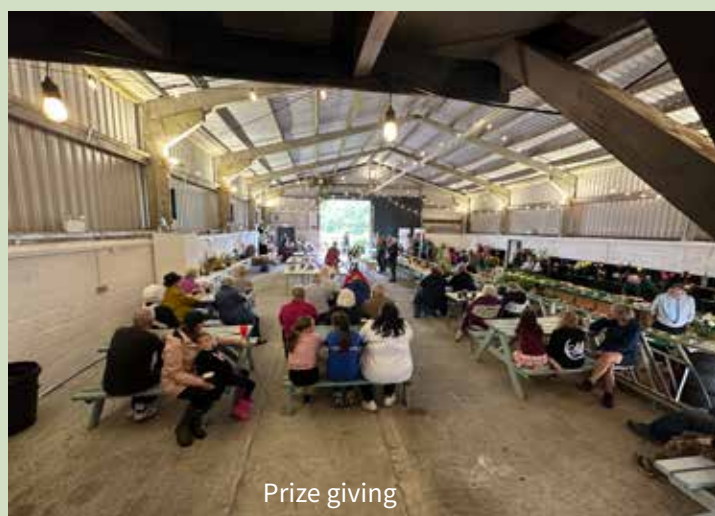
Best commercial/ retail flower display – Callander Youth Project
Highly commended – Highland House

Best kept garden area (group) – Under 12 – Callander Nursery
Highly commended – Masie/Lucie/Archie/Johnny/Elise King, Cross Street



Potted Plants

If you would like to see more photographs of show exhibits or garden competition entries and winners, please sign on to our website www.cadhs.co.uk before 31st October.



Prize giving

The Committee would like to say a big thankyou to their judges who undertook the difficult task of awarding points for the various trophies - Bill Nichol for both Open and Confined Flowers, Nigel Macmillan for both Open and Confined Vegetables, Janine (Willow houseplants, Doune) for Floral Art, Mairi Campbell for the Craft section, Audrey Gibson and Christine for food items in Industrial, Gordon Scott for the Digital Photography and Tricia Johnson/Mairi Campbell for Children's Entries and Callander Primary School entries.

Many thanks to Anne McLachlan, assisted by Olga Watkins, for providing the Victorian costumes that some of the Committee wore on the day - the fabric was purchased with a grant from the Braes of Doune Community Fund.

We would also like to thank Callander Kirk Hall for the use of their tables, Cameron Drummond for their transportation and the other unnamed heroes who play an essential role in assembling and dismantling the staging for the event to take place!

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 www.cadhs.co.uk or by emailing cadhortsoc@gmail.com.

Thanks again to everyone who supported the Show either by volunteering as a helper, judging, competing or visiting the resulting display - a real team effort resulting in a happy and successful community event.

See you all next year!

The Committee

Callander guides

Callander Guides have had a great start to the term with a move to the Primary School as we had outgrown our previous meeting place. We have enjoyed a day camp, with archery, the leap of faith and other activities, followed by dinner cooked on a campfire- a good reminder of our weekend camp in May.

We have a lot planned for this term- a Halloween party, crafts, dancing... and if the leaders can arrange it, a visit from some reptiles.

We continue to look after the little free library at St Andrews Church Hall, which has been well used over the summer months. Please continue to take a book- return it or leave something else in its place if you wish- but there is no need to.

We are keen to be part of the community, so if there is a skill you would like to pass on to the next generation, or think we might be able to do something for your organisation, please get in touch. We will be taking part in the St Andrew's Christmas Fair in November, with lots of crafts for sale, and of course will join in the Remembrance service.

Guides is for girls aged 10-14yr, and we are always happy to see new faces, so do get in touch either via girlguiding.org.uk or by email (scmiller@doctors.org.uk). If you are interested in helping, there are lots of ways to do that, ranging from a weekly commitment to occasional help, with the girls or in the background helping with admin. We would love to hear from you!

Sarah Miller



WANTED

Ex Service Volunteers
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To ensure that we all do indeed remember those who gave their lives to enable us to live so peacefully

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

To discuss contact: **07710 107628**

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The Big Quiz Night 2023

Saturday 4 November

**Hundreds of churches.
Thousands of people.
One big quiz.**

Get together with your friends, family and community for an epic evening of poverty-beating fun.

Up and down the UK, people will be gathering for the ultimate quiz extravaganza – all in the name of ending poverty for good. And you can be part of it!

on
Saturday 4 November 2023
7.30pm
Callander Kirk Hall
South Church Street, Callander, FK17 8BN

Teams can be formed beforehand or put together on the night. Everyone welcome, individuals and groups – we look forward to meeting you.

Every pound raised at the Big Quiz Night will help transform the lives of people living in poverty. Visit justgiving.com/callanderkirk to donate to Tearfund. Visit tearfund.org/quiz to find out more.

tearfund.org/quiz
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www.nhs24.scot

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Violets
 HAIR SALON

Violets is a New chic hair salon in Callander, opened by Claire Williams 5/9/23

I have over 29 years of experience and have worked in the area for many years. I offer the latest hair styles for all.

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Feel free to follow my page on instagram and Facebook to see examples of my work @ Violetscallander

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Walk in the Park Health Walk

Departs at 10.20am, every Tuesday (weekly)

Location: Ancaster Square
(Except 3rd October will depart from the Medical Centre).

Walk in the Park welcomes people living with dementia, and their carers on our walks. Routes identified with the Dementia Friendly Walking logo are suitable for most abilities. No need to book, just turn up.

Walks are followed by optional refreshments in a local coffee shop/hotel

For more details of routes visit the Countryside Trusts website

www.trustinthepark.org or
contact e: fiona@trustinthepark.org



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 and other support organisations will also be on hand to provide information and advice on benefits, housing, energy costs and healthcare.

For more information contact Gail on 07951 013470 or gail@startupstirling.org.uk [#workingtogether](https://www.facebook.com/workingtogether) [#cuppaandchat](https://www.facebook.com/cuppaandchat)



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Relieve your chronic pain with a natural and holistic approach

The way we move tells our life story...

Work, sport, injuries, children, lifestyle - all have an impact on our muscular-skeletal system and often, particularly in later life we bear effects of these impacts - if you are suffering from chronic pain anywhere in your body, at least one of these factors is probably at the bottom of it.

Chronic pain often goes hand in hand with stress, tension, and constant fatigue, which eventually affects our everyday tasks and lives.

The Pilates methods builds strength and tones muscles throughout the whole body using a variety of Pilates apparatus with a therapeutic approach. It engages multiple muscle groups simultaneously, providing precise movement and off-loading joints.

With its low-impact nature and focus on controlled movements, the apparatus provides a safe and effective way to promote proper alignment and reduce the risk of re-injury, while also creating stability and balance.

How does this work?

The movement we have in our bodies affects every aspect of our health, including mental, physical, and social.

If we off-load painful joints, correct our posture, and create muscular balance in the hips, knees, ankles, and back, we promote flow and harmony in the moment. We can combat chronic fatigue caused by constant pain, and we might feel happier and more energetic.

Once we learn how to activate muscles and understand our movement patterns, muscular imbalances, and limitations, we thrive and experience a new purpose in life.



Therapeutic pilates session

We find we can once again enjoy regular exercise or walks with friends and dogs. Daily tasks become easier. The small changes we can now make - like meeting friends or the ability to sit for longer without pain to watch TV with family, contribute to deep health.

No single aspect of our health functions alone. All dimensions of physical, mental and emotional health interact. In this way, Pilates stands out as a truly holistic exercise.

By incorporating the Therapeutic Pilates Program into your fitness routine, you can enhance movement efficiency and experience a profound sense of overall wellness.

As somebody that suffers from an autoimmune disorder, I feel extremely aware of myself, both physically and mentally. I experience fatigue and joint pain.

Pilates has taught me to find the strength and power to take my time through each movement and really make it count.

Monika Hozydekova

Callander LiveWire Pilates is now hosted in the lovely Bridge of Allan at Coneyhill Studio, where we have a amazing opportunity to add the Cadillac apparatus into our 6-week Therapeutic Pilates Programs.



Therapeutic pilates session

Are you ready to join the mindful movement revolution? Join us at LiveWire Pilates for the 6-week Therapeutic Pilates Program and gift yourself a deep health makeover.

Callander Kirk Community

Food Larder

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...



GIVE BLOOD

The next Blood donating session for Callander will be:

Monday 06 Nov 2023

13:30 - 15:30 & 17:00 - 19:00

Callander Kirk Hall
South Church Street
Callander
FK17 8BN

To book your appointment:

call us on **0345 90 90 999** (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm) or
use our online donor account or
email nss.snbt enquiry@nhs.scot.

Appointments are available up to eight weeks in advance of the session. Online booking closes 14hrs before session begins. Appointments made by phone/email must be booked by 5pm the day before the session.



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 -

9th October, 13th November,

11th December 2023

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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email: katrinewheelz@yahoo.co.uk



Andrew (Andy) Anderson 1935 - 2023

Andrew, Andy, Dad or Papa was born on the 8th of April, 1935 in Balniel, near Colinsburgh, Fife. Brought up in Kilbrackmount, he went to the local Primary School. He could recall, at the age of 6, watching the German Luftwaffe bombers flying over in 1941. No doubt en route to bomb Clydebank.

Secondary school was Wade Academy in Arncroach, where Mum also attended.

One week short of his 15th birthday in 1950, Dad left school and initially worked on a farm. He then got an apprenticeship, with Dobbies in Largoward, as a joiner and wheelwright. He loved going to the dancing at weekends where he began to compete for Mum's eye. During this time he decided to cycle around the North of Scotland, some of it with his uncle, staying in hostels or camping as they went. He would send Mum the occasional postcard. The courtship had begun.

Mum moved to Callander from Fife in 1956, Dad coming up to visit. They got engaged at Christmas 1957 and married in St Kessog's Church, Callander, on 29th March, 1958. Mum was 21 and Dad 22. Their marriage was to last 63 years. They started their family in 1963, completing it 4 children later in 1969.

Dad worked with Ingram's Joiners from 1958 to 1969. In 1969, with £12 cash in hand and Mum by his side he started his own business as a Joiner and Glazier. His first workshop was behind Cameron's Hardware, Main Street.

Later he purchased his own workshop on North Ancaster Square. It was there that he started chatting to Johnny Duncanson and when Johnny retired Dad took over the funeral side of his business. Andrew Anderson & Sons expanded. As a Joiner/Glazier dad worked all over, acting as a man contractor for larger jobs. He also trained many lads as apprentice joiners. Many went on to have successful businesses themselves.

As if that wasn't enough, Dad was also a part-time fire officer, gaining his 20 years' service medal on retirement from the service in 1987. You would always know when Dad was driving the fire engine. He was the one with the lit cigar hanging from the side of his mouth!

His first hearse was a second-hand Volvo Estate which he resprayed black and made the wooden platform for inside. This hearse was in a BBC documentary programme 'Voyager' which was shown on a Sunday night. Dad spent all day up at Trossachs Church filming a burial scene. One Sunday night we sat down to watch his claim to fame – it lasted 20 seconds! No Hollywood for Dad.



When he did have spare time Dad enjoyed bowling. As a member of Callander Bowling Club for many years he won the Championship, and was also President of the club on several occasions.

Working side by side with Mum, Dad worked very hard to build up an excellent family service to Callander and the surrounding area. It didn't matter what time of day people called; Dad would be there to help when they needed him most. He took time with them to listen about their loved one's life. Time did not matter.

As young children, and into our teens, family holidays were spent caravanning in Scarborough or Great Yarmouth, where lots of fun was had and great memories made. Their first holiday abroad in 1987 gave Mum and Dad the bug for travelling and they were fortunate to have many holidays all over – visiting 19 States of the USA as part of them. Latterly, Dad was happy going to Dornoch, Thurso, Ullapool and doing the NC500 (with a quick 1-day trip to Orkney). Sitting back in the car telling us stories of the roads he had travelled as a young lad on his bicycle or of the people he had helped when their loved ones had passed.

He learned to bake at the age of 85, Facetimeing my sister Tracy in the USA each week, enabling her to spend quality time with him from afar. He would watch cookery shows and then provide interesting dinners for my two girls when they stayed over each week. We reckon he thought he was one of the Hairy Bikers.

(continued on Page 24)

(continued from page 23)

When Mum and Dad retired at the age of 78 and 79, Dad took on the role of carer. When Mum passed away in 2020 he missed her terribly but put on a brave face, how could he not miss her after 65 years together? During Lockdown my daughter Kirsty stayed with her Papa and the antics and laughter will stay with her forever.

Dad was a very hard working, kind and caring person with many stories that could fill a book. He would always give you his best. He has helped so many families over the years. Many letters, old and new, prove to us what he has done.

They made many friends from all over, touching many hearts with their kindness. In their home of 54 years, many a party was had with friends and family.

Dad's legacy of hard work, respectfulness, honesty and generosity will never be forgotten as he has instilled them into us and his grandchildren. He was extremely proud of Ross carrying on the family business and knew he would continue to do so.

We wish him eternal peace back with his beloved Nancy and as a family we will continue to 'Stand Sure'.

We are very proud to say he was our Dad/Papa. He is our hero and legend and will never be forgotten.

Rhona Anderson

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Embracing the Season: A Festive Journey Ahead at McLaren Leisure

As the leaves change colour and a crisp breeze fills the air, we find ourselves entering the vibrant months of October and November. 2023 has been a remarkable journey so far, and we're thrilled to share the exciting moments and upcoming events that are set to fill our calendar.



Celebrating a Milestone and Embracing Success

Reflecting on our 25th birthday celebrations that took place through the summer, we're still overwhelmed by the warmth and enthusiasm displayed by our community. A heartfelt thank you to all who joined us in marking this significant milestone. Your presence and support were invaluable as we looked back at our journey and ahead to an even brighter future. We also extend hearty congratulations to the participants and winners of our thrilling RigFIT Games, the ultimate fitness competition. Your determination and sportsmanship made the event unforgettable. Each competitor gave their all, and we applaud your dedication to health and fitness. Our birthday bash was also a day to remember, filled with fun, games, sports and so much more. We're thrilled to announce the lucky winners of the birthday prize draw: Congratulations to the McEwan family who secured a one-month, all-inclusive pass to McLaren Leisure: we hope you enjoyed a month of wellness and fun.



Gearing Up for the Season's Delights

First up, get ready for spine-tingling excitement with our Halloween activities, from themed classes to Spooky swimming lessons, we're brewing up a cauldron of fun for everyone.

For the October break, our kids' camp promises a whirlwind of games, sports and friendships. Parents, rest assured your little ones are in for an unforgettable holiday experience right here at McLaren Leisure. Sessions are available to book online today.

Step into the future of work at our new open office! Embrace collaboration and boost productivity in our modern, vibrant environment. Enjoy seamless access to our onsite café, energising fitness classes and fully equipped gym – all during your breaks! Elevate your work experience and wellbeing.

Mark your calendars for our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where we open our doors to the community and our esteemed members. This is a chance to voice your thoughts and actively contribute to the shaping of our community facility. More detail available on our website. Shape McLaren Leisure's Future with Us:

As we celebrate our legacy, we're excited about the next 25 years and are on the lookout for new trustee directors to join us on this journey. If you'd like to learn more about this opportunity, reach out to trish@mclarenleisure.co.uk.

Get ready for a game-changing experience at McLaren Leisure

Introducing our brand NEW MultiBall system - the FIRST of its kind in Scotland and our Exciting 25th Birthday Celebration Addition. Players can easily access their favourite games or training modules with a simple touch of the wall. Multiball offers a great variety of activities, from fun games to professional training routines for many sports. Available to book soon!



A Warm Welcome and a Sneak Peek

We're thrilled to announce the arrival of the Cinema Club at McLaren Leisure! Grab your popcorn and find your favourite seat as they prepare to host a series of captivating films with our cinema-style seating and large screen. Look out for upcoming screening dates that promise to take you on unforgettable journeys from the comfort of your leisure centre.

And don't forget, as the chill of winter descends, we're preparing a series of exciting winter events that will warm your hearts and add a touch of magic to the season. As this year draws to a close, McLaren Leisure remains dedicated to creating cherished memories for our community. We thank you for your unwavering support and enthusiasm. Remember to stay connected through our website and social media channels for the latest updates on events, classes, and more. Let's embrace the seasonal joys and embark on this festive journey together.

Rachel McLean

BLV #153 Junior Word Search

CLUE: Hidden are Highland towns - see how many you find!

I urge everyone to give it a go, as the winner will be selected at random from those with the largest list of towns 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



Remember to list the towns you have found.

Your Contact Info **Closing Date:**
for either prize draw. **Fri 3rd Nov 2023**

Name: Age:
 (for Junior word search)

Address:

Postcode:

Either

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

Hole-in-one for Harris: 6-year-old lands golf's Holy Grail

Many golfers go through their entire lives without ever getting a hole-in-one – but six-year-old Callander Golf Club member Harris Inglis has already achieved the sport's hardest feat.



Harris, a member of the club's Junior section, watched his shot from the blue tees at the third hole drop into the cup for his first-ever ace.

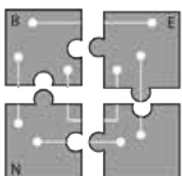
The Balquhider youngster was playing in a round with his proud dad, Webster, and some friends. Harris said: "When I got the hole-in-one it made me super happy. All my friends cheered. "I'm going to keep my lucky ball forever, it's now my favourite. "I love playing golf at Callander."

Webster said: "I'm so proud of Harris. "Harris was literally jumping for joy and beaming with happiness when the ball dropped into the cup; there were high-fives and fist-bumps all around the tee. "He's taken great pleasure in achieving a hole-in-one before his dad – and his granddad Gordie, who didn't achieve one until he was 70!"

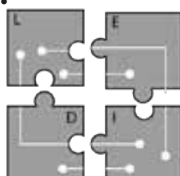
Under the guidance of Allan Martin, former Head Professional at the club and now PGA Coach Education Manager, dozens of local children have honed their skills this year. Allan said: "When the club asked me to deliver junior coaching sessions last year, Harris was at the front of the queue. "Like many of the children he hardly misses a session. "Harris' hole-in-one is a lesson to us all: that in a welcoming environment, with the opportunity to practice, special moments do happen. "I'm very proud of Harris and all the other Juniors, helpers, parents and guardians. Without their support, the club would not have witnessed this achievement from one so young."

Solution to BLV #152
Junior Circuit Breaker

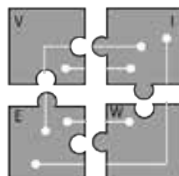
Answer:



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What's On for October and November

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: not 9th and 16th October or 6th November
- 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 (except 16th Oct 2023)

Tuesdays:

- Callander Cycle Meander meet 10.00am Ancaster Square (contact [01877 339074](tel:01877339074))
- Walk in the Park 10.20am Ancaster Square (except 3rd Oct being from Medical Centre)
- 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

Ben Ledi View Issue 332

- 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
- Walk in the Park 7pm (summer) Ancaster Square
- 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

October

Thursday 5th

- Kirk Guild Rev E. Gordon "Me and Islands" 2.00pm in Kirk Hall
- Online webinar on Glen Finglas Reservoir free but booking required Web www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/things-to-do/events/the-story-of-glen-finglas-reservoir/

Saturday 7th

- Ramblers LDP Fide Coastal Path Spare Day 8.30am start

Tuesday 10th

- Arthritis Club Rusty Strings entertain 2.00pm Kirk Hall

Thursday 12th

- Rotary Bingo entry £2 arr 1:50pm for 2pm start at Callander Hostel (Queries or transport needs call 07710 232 908)
- SWT talk by John Haddow on "Bats: tree-roosting bats in the west of Scotland" at 7:30pm at St Andrew's Church Hall. Suggested donation £3 incls tea & biscuits

Saturday 14th

- Charity Ceilidh Event for Young People V Cancer Charity at 7:30 to 11:30am in Cochrane Hall, Alva
- Ramblers LDP Fide Coastal Path Spare Day 8.30am start

Monday 16th

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

Wednesday 18th

- Ramblers Stroll Blair Drummond (5 miles) 9.30am start

Thursday 19th

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

Saturday 21st

- Ramblers Hill Mid Hill and Beinn Dubh (Luss) (657m) 8.30am start
- German-speaking group meet 2.30pm at Coilhallan House, Invertrossachs Road, Callander FK17 8HW

Sunday 22nd

- Film Society - "Mrs Harris Goes to Paris"(2022) 7.00pm for 7.30pm McLaren Leisure

Wednesday 25th

- Heritage Society Prof Stewart Brown "The Disruption: the most significant event in 19th century Scotland" 7.00pm for 7.30pm Masonic Hall

Saturday 28th

- Messy Church 10.30am Kirk Hall
- Autumn coppice & broom making booking required (£60pp) Web www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/things-to-do/events/broom-making-at-glen-finglas

Tuesday 31st

- Callander Community Development Trust AGM 10:00am at Visitor Information Centre

November

Wednesday 1st

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

Thursday 2nd

- Kirk Guild Irene Sneddon Fitmobility to music 2.00pm in Kirk Hall
- Online webinar on "Bringing back the 'wee trees' free but booking required Web www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/things-to-do/events/bringing-back-the-wee-trees-improving-outcomes-in-montane-woodland

Friday 3rd

Copy deadline for Ben Ledi View

Saturday 4th

- Music and Memories -Big Quiz night (for Tearfund)in Kirk Hall 7.30pm

Monday 6th

- Blood Donating Sessions 1.30-3.30-pm and 5.00-7.00pm Kirk Hall Book appointment by 5pm on the day before Phone: 0345 9090 999 or e-mail nss.snbt@nhs.scot

Saturday 11th

- CHAS Coffee Morning in Kirk Hall 11.00am-12.30pm

Sunday 12th Remembrance Sunday

Tuesday 14th

- Arthritis Club Lynn Bowser talk "Argaty Red Kites" 2.00pm Kirk Hall
- SWT talk by Emily Parry of Marine Conservation on "Global Warming and our Oceans" at 7:30pm at St Andrew's Church Hall. Suggested donation £3 incls tea & biscuits

Saturday 18th

- Christmas Fair at St Andrew's Church Hall admission Free 10.00am-2.00pm
- German-speaking group meet 2.30pm Coilhallan House, Invertrossachs Road, Callander FK17 8HW
- Tree Medicine across the Seasons - Winter with Scots pine booking required (£40pp) Web www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/things-to-do/events/tree-medicine-across-the-seasons-winter-with-scots-pine/

Sunday 19th

- Film Society - "Asteroid City"(2023) 7.00pm for 7.30pm McLaren Leisure

Monday 20th

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

Wednesday 22nd

- Ramblers Ramble Loch Venachar and Invertrossachs (7 miles) 9.30am start
- Callander Heritage Society talk. Fraser Hunter - "The Blair Drummond Hoard" 7.00pm for 7.30pm Masonic Hall

Saturday 25th

- Messy Church 10.30am Kirk Hall

December

Friday 1st

Ben Ledi View published

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

Saturday 2nd

- Rotary Winter Coffee and Crafts at 10.00am to 2.00pm at Kirk Hall
- Christmas Lights Festival 1:30 to 6:30 pm Ancaster Sq (Lights switch on 4:30pm)

Rusty Strings

Rusty Strings is re-emerging! We now meet in Deanston Hall for practises, coffee and cake every second Tuesday, 2.30-4.30pm, starting 12th September. Did you play a string instrument at school, or take it up later in life? We are a friendly group who play for fun and give the occasional mini-concert for charity. We play music arranged from the classics, shows, Scottish music, etc. If you can read music, play to grade 3 or above and have a string instrument lounging in the loft, why not dust it off and join us!

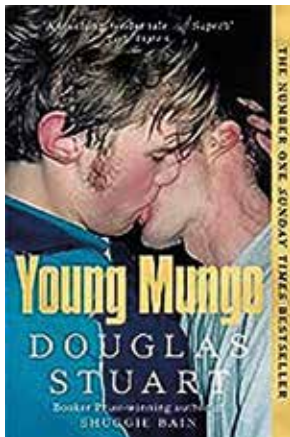
For further information contact:

Jean at jeanthewlis@hotmail.com, Tel. 07968 745165 or

Maggie at thehanna@c.m@btinternet.com, Tel. 01786 842037

Book club review

This issue's book review title is *Young Mungo* by Douglas Stuart (Piccador: 2022)



It seems only yesterday, I wrote a review for *Shuggie Bain*, the 2020 Booker Prize winning title, and debut novel, by Douglas Stuart. It was a great first book. So much so, I felt nervous when I saw his new novel just a couple of years later.

I didn't want to do a comparative

review, although there are so many similarities between Mungo and Shuggie. The location is Glasgow, it's the early 1990s. The children of a dysfunctional family struggle with poverty, an addict mother and an absent father. In society's hierarchy, we're below the lowest of the working class. Stuart, again, has written about what he knows.

Mungo is the youngest of three siblings living in chaotic circumstances with their alcoholic mother (Mo-Maw). His older brother, Hamish, insists that Mungo joins him for gratuitous violence against gangs in surrounding streets, whilst his sister, Jodie, tries to give Mungo love and stability. Particularly when Mo-Maw disappears on another of her three-day benders.

Mungo loves his mother deeply, despite the chaos and her neglect of the family. He is a sensitive boy and as he approaches his mid-teens, his otherness becomes more and more stark. Yet, his surroundings won't

allow him to explore this. Until he meets a boy, James, who Mungo recognises as different. James spends hours in a doocot he built near their housing scheme and is an expert pigeon fancier. The boys fall in love and plan to escape this life once Mungo turns sixteen.

I very much enjoyed *Young Mungo*. Stuart is a great talent and an important writer, bringing to the fore the complexity of working-class communities. His writing can be quite beautiful and is highly readable. Whilst the timeline did get a bit confusing, this is a minor gripe. Mostly there is humour, tenderness and even optimism between the poverty, doom and despair. No spoilers, but expect some dark turns and a shocking finale. I'll leave it there.

The next BLV book club review will be *Landlines* by Raynor Winn (Penguin Books: 2023)

Maggie Magor

Callander Community Cinema

Callander Cinema is returning with a programme of 8 contemporary movies, October -May, with an exclusive 16mm reel-to-reel classic screening for members in January and 2 dates in March and April to be filled by newer releases.

- 22 October *Mrs Harris Goes to Paris* (2022) cert PG - sponsored by Deli Ecosse
- 19 November *Asteroid City* (2023) cert 12A - sponsored by the Lade Inn Poker Players
- 10 December *Chevalier* (2022) cert 12 - sponsored by McKendry Dunion Financial
- 14 January *Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning Part 1* (2023) cert 15 - sponsored by McLaren Leisure Centre
- 26 January Members' only classic 16mm reel-to-reel screening
- 11 February *Triangle of Sadness* (2022) cert 15 - sponsored by Loucas & Kathy George
- 17 March & 14 April Titles to be decided in January
- 12 May *Broker* (2022) cert 12
- 2 June AGM

A huge thank you to all our sponsors!

We open on 22 October with *Mrs Harris Goes to Paris* (2022). This charming tale is based on a 1950s novel by Paul Gallico. A widowed cleaning lady from London, who dreams of owning a couture Dior dress, embarks on an adventure that changes her life and the House of Dior. It won both Oscar and BAFTA awards for costume design and Lesley Manville won a Golden Globe for her leading role performance.

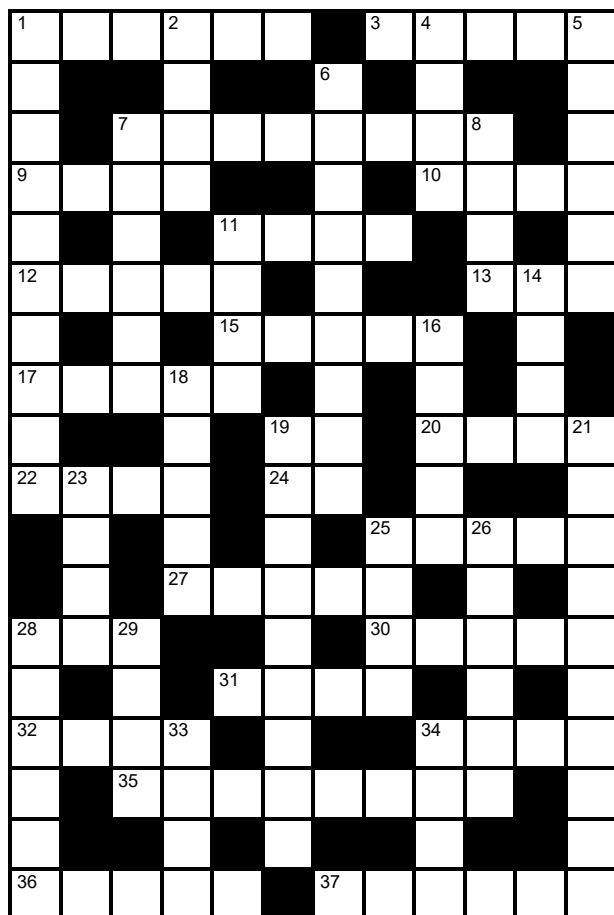
Asteroid City (2023) on 19 November, is an American satire directed by Wes Anderson, starring Scarlett Johansson and Tom Hanks. A grieving father and his family travel to the space-obsessed desert town of Asteroid City to compete in a junior star-gazing event that is disrupted by world-changing events.

Callander Cinema is screened by Callander Film Society, which has been bringing world cinema to Callander since 1976. Doors and café open at McLaren Leisure Centre 7.00pm, showtime 7.30pm. £5 at the door, £3 under 16 (no advance booking - please bring cash) and free for members.

Membership for 2023-24 is £32 for 8 screenings plus an additional classic and a movie for members at the AGM. Members will choose the classic and AGM films. Membership forms are available online at www.incallander.co.uk/cinema, Facebook@Callander Film Society or callanderfilmsociety@gmail.com, with full details of all the films including links to trailers. Or pick up a form from the Visitor Information Centre or McLaren Leisure Centre. See you at the movies!



BLV #154 Adult Crossword



- Across**
- 1 Lethargically (6)
 - 3 Thinkers board game (5)
 - 7 Al Capone's temporary home (8)
 - 9 To persuade someone (4)
 - 10 There are 400 billion of these bricks in the world (4)
 - 11 Not in full (4)
 - 12 Footloose (5)
 - 13 Mexican Beer (3)
 - 15 Flower from Holland (5)
 - 17 Covers cuts (5)
 - 19 Arsenic (2)
 - 20 Space agency (4)
 - 22 Rothesay Barbershop Harmony Club (4)
 - 24 that is (2)
 - 25 For a job well done (5)
 - 27 Never / No chance (5)
 - 28 Bacon lettuce and tomato sandwiche (3)
 - 30 My precious (5)
 - 31 Group of three musicians (4)
 - 32 Meat counter (4)
 - 34 Forced out of a job or position (4)
 - 35 Shy water animal in Highlands (4,4)
 - 36 Competitor (5)
 - 37 Stradivarius (6)
- Down**
- 1 Makes Swift work of soups (10)
 - 2 Avoids work (4)
 - 4 Restore to health (4)
 - 5 Institute of learning (6)
 - 6 First job before an operation (9)
 - 7 List for a meeting (6)
 - 8 User of thunderbolts (4)
 - 11 Dog and cat (4)
 - 14 Two hoots (4)
 - 16 He's behind you (5)
 - 18 Salted or smoked meat (8)
 - 19 Each plane needs to be this (9)
 - 21 Economists use multiple of these in their models (10)
 - 23 Critical part of tennis (4)
 - 25 Stylised artwork of the NEL area (4)
 - 26 Pertaining to the river Nile (6)
 - 28 Nocturnal animal (6)
 - 29 Found on some motorways (4)
 - 33 State next to Nebraska (4)
 - 34 Norway capital (4)

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 either prize draw. Fri 3rd Nov 2023

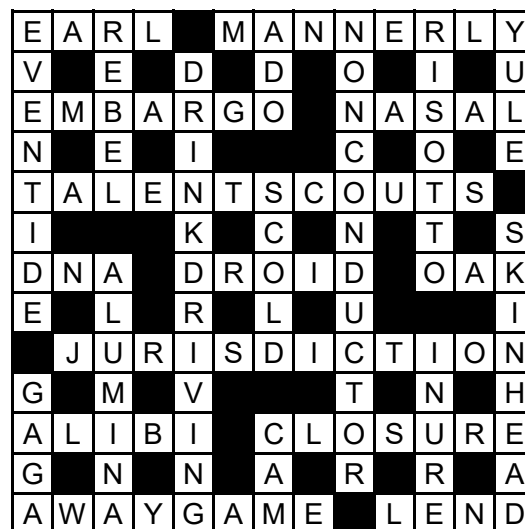
Name: Age:
(for Junior word search)

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 #151
Adult Crossword**



Puzzle Winners Rostrum

Apologies for the delay in publishing winners names, but we had a publishing error. We are happy to recognise the winners now.

Congrats to C Ffinch
Winner of Apr/May #147 Adult Crossword
Worthy mention for runners up
Anne Thomson & Jenny Down

No Junior winner #146 Coded Crossword

No Adult winner Jun/Jul #148 Crossword

Congrats to C Wood
Winner of Jun/Jul #149 Junior Word Search

Congrats to S Woods
Winner of Aug/Sept #151 Adult Crossword

No Junior winner Aug/Sept #152 Puzzle

Thornhill Players



Thornhill Players present - Two Comedies for the price of one! The first play *The Book Club of Little Witterington*, by Joan Greening, is about a women's book club. Watch as a new member is introduced. Follow her progress as she slightly upsets the apple cart! This is a well written, acutely observed comedy, definitely one to see!

The second play, *What's for Pudding*, by David Tristram is a raucous comedy charting the course of a slightly stale marriage. (Ring a bell?) A bored, frustrated housewife and a complacent husband set the scene for this hilarious comedy, which is acted out in front of their neighbours who are gradually drawn into the fray. A bottle of whisky helps them relax and speak their minds.

These plays are brilliantly written and acutely brought to life by Thornhill Players (suitable for adults only!)

Performances at:

Callander Kirk, Friday 20th October at 8.00pm (doors open 7.15pm) or **Thornhill Community Hall**, Saturday 21st October at 8.00pm (doors open 7.15pm)

(Refreshments and a licensed bar are available)



CALLANDER AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY



I was able to announce in the last edition of BLV that our production for 23/24 is **Carousel**. Like Marmite (according to one anonymous source) this is a show you either love or hate! Either way, under the direction of Mhairi Stewart and Linda Cantlay, CAOS have a great opportunity

to put their own interpretation on a show that continues to be showered with accolades, almost 80 years after its first production. Containing great music, this was Richard Rodger's favourite of all his musicals. I don't think we'll be disappointed in March 2024 - put Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd in your diaries.

Rehearsals got underway on 4th September and continue on Monday evenings, at 7.30, in McLaren High School until the second week in December (there will not be a rehearsal on 16th October). Auditions for principal parts will take place in early October and those who are successful will start rehearsing on Thursday evenings shortly after. Even if you have not been coming along during September, don't be shy, there will always be a welcome for new members.

Tickets will be on sale by November or early December and, following last year's trial will be available for purchase online. This will be the easiest way to buy, but from early January, CAOS members will be in the Visitor Information Centre two or three days a week for those who prefer to buy direct. Seats will again be numbered so buying early will secure a good seat. Patrons provide such valuable support that they will continue to get first choice of seating – check our web page (www.c-o-a-s.org), the CAOS Facebook page or ask any member if you are interested in backing us this way.

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www.facebook.com/StirlingCallanderVets

Other important dates for your diary are

- Friday 1st December for the annual Christmas Concert with Callander Kirk Junior Choir and Callander Brass and
- Coffee morning on the first Saturday in February.

Steve Murphy
for CAOS

A Visit to His Majesty's Prison & Young Offender Institution, Stirling the way forward.

From the moment we entered the spacious reception area at the new facility which has replaced HMP & YOI Cornton Vale, there was an atmosphere of hope. It simply did not feel like a prison. Yet this is to be the home of a hundred women with a custodial sentence who present the most challenging and complex needs/ risk to the public. Some may spend a considerable time in residence here.



The strategy of the facility, which has been a decade or more in establishment, is based on rehabilitation, is trauma informed, gender specific and reflects the needs and risks for the vulnerable women held in custody. It works in collaboration with healthcare partners, the criminal justice system, social work and the family help hub to assess needs and change the life opportunities for all the women held in Stirling.

Decorated in calm colours, with an emphasis on the natural world, the building has lots of glass, with natural light, outside views and is built around a central outdoor space with grass and trees and recreational areas. There are no bars on any windows, no gates, and the security system around the perimeter fence and within the buildings is discreet. However, it is a prison, and women are locked in

their rooms overnight and for an hour at the end of the day. Apart from that, there is a full programme of education and activities, where the women may learn and gain useful qualifications to use upon their release and they also socialise in an atmosphere of safety and relative normality.

The individual bedrooms are in different sized blocks, where women live according to their personal progress and incorporate an open communal space for each group of rooms. There are also 'safe' rooms for women at risk of self harm and accessible rooms for disabled residents. The blocks are all named after Scottish flowers, chosen for their meanings by the present residents of the old prison: Thistle, Myrtle, Wintergreen, Begonia, Iris, Heather, Bluebell and Primrose. There is an assessment unit and a mother and baby unit, where a baby may remain with his/her mother for up to a year.

Technology at the prison is state of the art, with facilities for virtual court hearings, parole hearings and case conferences. Reception for incoming prisoners includes a non-invasive scanning system for body searches and secure holding areas for distressed or aggressive women.



A sad fact within the prison system is the lack of visitors for women. Often mothers do not want their children coming to a prison environment, and male partners are less likely to visit. To address this, the new building has a really welcoming visiting area, with comfy seating and a play area for children. It all feels more like a cafe setting, though obviously security is maintained. There are plans to have social events to encourage families to visit in the future. Virtual visits are also available, soon to be available from the privacy of the room.

All in all, this is a very special project and there can be much rejoicing on its completion, albeit somewhat later than planned! It would seem that it offers much potential to turn around damaged lives, prevent re-offending and end dangerous cycles of abuse for the women who find themselves there.

Marilyn Willett

Local Information

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

Callander: 01877 381213

Schools

McLaren High: 01877 330156

Callander Primary: 01877 331576



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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

Bin Collections

Bins are now collected on a Saturday or a Tuesday.

The dates are

October

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

November

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

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The Post Office

Ancaster Square

West Dullater House and Grace's

Cottage Invertrossachs

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St Joseph's



Catholic Church

Glen Artnay 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



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.

New Planning Applications

Installation of 2 no. pods (for holiday use) and ground mounted solar array

Blairgarry Callander FK17 8HP

Ref. No: 2023/0311/DET | Received: Thu 24 Aug 2023 | Validated: Thu 24 Aug 2023 |

Status: Current

Erection of single storey extension to front elevation

Dunmar Ancaster Road Callander FK17 8EL

Ref. No: 2023/0300/HAE | Received: Tue 22 Aug 2023 | Validated: Tue 22 Aug 2023 |

Status: Current

Replacement of 5 no. windows and 1 no. door

Ardess Bridgend Callander FK17 8AG

Ref. No: 2023/0279/HAE | Received: Mon 07 Aug 2023 | Validated: Mon 07 Aug 2023 |

Status: Current

Proposed display of advertisement (ATM vinyl and tablet)

49A Main Street Callander Stirling FK17 8DX

Ref. No: 2023/0277/ADV | Received: Fri 04 Aug 2023 | Validated: Fri 11 Aug 2023 |

Status: Current

Installation of 3 no. replacement windows on rear elevation

Flat D First Floor Right 151 Main Street Callander FK17 8BH

Ref. No: 2023/0273/HAE | Received: Wed 02 Aug 2023 | Validated: Wed 02 Aug

2023 | Status: Current

Extension to existing outbuilding to form annex accommodation

Trossachs Drummond Lodge Aveland Road Callander FK17 8EN

Ref. No: 2023/0271/HAE | Received: Fri 28 Jul 2023 | Validated: Wed 02 Aug 2023 |

Status: Current

Erection of single storey extensions to side elevations

1 Katrine Crescent Callander FK17 8JR

Ref. No: 2023/0266/HAE | Received: Thu 27 Jul 2023 | Validated: Thu 31 Aug 2023 |

Status: Current

Installation of external air handling unit

Telephone Exchange Corner Of Station Road And Ancaster Road Callander

Ref. No: 2023/0257/DET | Received: Wed 19 Jul 2023 | Validated: Wed 19 Jul 2023 |

Status: Current

Change of use of land to form caravan site (for the siting of 4 no. pods, associated facilities and infrastructure)

Bousd Leny Feus Callander FK17 8AS

Ref. No: 2023/0254/DET | Received: Fri 14 Jul 2023 | Validated: Wed 26 Jul 2023 |

Status: Current

Erection of greenhouse and formation of walled garden

Ardchullarie Lodge Strathyre Callander FK17 8HF

Ref. No: 2023/0251/DET | Received: Thu 13 Jul 2023 | Validated: Tue 25 Jul 2023 |

Status: Current

Installation of lanterns and cameras (retrospective)

Ardchullarie Lodge Strathyre Callander FK17 8HF

Ref. No: 2023/0233/LBC | Received: Fri 30 Jun 2023 | Validated: Thu 31 Aug 2023 |

Status: Current



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BLV DEADLINES

The next issue of the Ben Ledi View will be published on **Friday 1st December 2023.**

Advertisements copy & artwork

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

advertising@benlediview.org by **Wednesday 1st November 2023** Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at www.benlediview.org under the Advertise tab.

Please call or email for advice if in doubt. We request full payment before we can accept advertising material for publication.

Editorial copy

All editorial contributions for the **Dec/Jan** issue should be emailed to editor@benlediview.org or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday 3rd November 2023.**

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

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Queen Victoria could not stay at the house, because during a 21 gun salute all the windows were blown in because of the noise!

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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_convenor@benlediview.org

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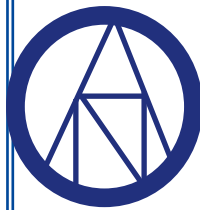
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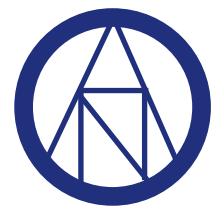
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Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS)

are seeking applicants interested in becoming an

ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER

SFRS is delighted to invite applications for the role of On Call Firefighter within our Callander and Doune Community Fire Stations.

On Call Firefighters are a vital part of the SFRS, providing a professional emergency fire and rescue service in remote and rural communities across Scotland. We recognise and celebrate the vast diversity of the local communities of Scotland that we serve and aspire for this to be reflected within our workforce. We encourage candidates from diverse backgrounds, experience and beliefs, who share "Our Values" of Safety, Teamwork, Respect and Innovation and want to make a difference in the community, to consider working for us.

On Call Firefighters undertake a range of activities that contribute to the protection of people and to making communities safer;

- **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES** – Educate the local community on fire safety and carry out home fire safety visits / deliver fire safety advice and identify potential risks within the home, delivering important water safety and prevention of wildfire advice.
- **OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES** – Attend all types of emergencies, e.g. fires, road traffic collisions, rescue of persons, floods, incidents involving hazardous materials as well as supporting partner agencies when required.
- **NON-OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES** – Develop and maintain skills by attending drill nights, training courses and exercises.

No previous experience is necessary as full training will be provided, but you must meet the following criteria:

- eligible to work in the UK.
- 18 years of age or over (at point of application).
- readily available to attend station within a specified time of an emergency call out.
 - have a good level of physical fitness.
 - meet the required standard of vision and colour t

The role of an On Call Firefighter is not a full-time role and if employed, you must have the express permission of your employer to allow you to be released for On Call Firefighter duties. We can help you talk to your employer to explain the commitment required.

You can expect to receive payment for all operational incidents attended and time spent on training nights, courses and community engagement. Gain new skills and most importantly will make a positive difference supporting the local community. Have access to a wide range of benefits, excellent training and career opportunities and a variety of supportive health and wellbeing provisions.

For further information on how to apply visit

www.firescotland.gov.uk/careers/on-call or email E.SCF.OnCallRecruitment@firescotland.gov.uk

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