

# Ben Ledi View

Feb/Mar 2024

Issue 334



Callander Amateur  
Operatic Society  
presents

# Carousel

by  
Rodgers & Hammerstein

20th to 23rd March 2024  
McLaren High School  
Callander

**Produced by**  
**Mhairi Stewart**  
**Musical Director**  
**Linda Cantlay**

Wednesday to Friday performances start at 7.30 pm  
Saturday performance starts at 2.30 pm  
Ticket Prices - £15, Concessions £12, Children (12 and under) £6  
(Concession and child prices not available for the Friday performance)

## Ben Ledi View

**Convenor:** Mark Griffiths  
[convenor@benlediview.org](mailto:convenor@benlediview.org)

**Editorial Team:** vacant  
[editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org)

**Section Editors & Compilation:**

Alan Derrick (Community)  
 Chris Cunningham, Jean Thewlis  
 (Arts & Entertainment)  
 Rosalind Sannachan (Charities & Clubs)  
 Ivan Condon (Information, Sports &  
 Leisure)  
 vacant (Environment)  
 John Nelson (Environment, Young People)  
 Hilary Gunkel (What's On and Proof  
 Reading)  
 Olga Watkins (Proof Reading)  
 vacant (Young People, Announcements,  
 Health & Wellbeing, Pets)  
 John Keeling (Composer)

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

**Advertising:**

Agnes Allen, Nina Taylor  
[advertising@benlediview.org](mailto:advertising@benlediview.org)

**Recipe:** Audrey Corrieri

**Distribution:** Steve Willett  
[steve@benlediview.org](mailto:steve@benlediview.org)

**Secretary:** Kath Millar

**Subscriptions & Media:** Milan Cech

**Invoicing:** advertising dept  
[advertising@benlediview.org](mailto:advertising@benlediview.org)

**Contact:**

The Ben Ledi View,  
 c/o McLaren Community  
 Leisure Centre,  
 Mollands Rd,  
 Callander FK17 8JP  
[www.benlediview.org](http://www.benlediview.org)

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

The Ben Ledi View is published by  
**Ben Ledi View Community Newspaper  
 SCIO (Registered Charity SC 043744)**

**Cover Photo by:** CAOS



Hello Readers,

Firstly I'd like to start with hoping that  
 you all had an enjoyable Christmas and  
 on behalf of all of us at the Ben Ledi  
 View, to wish everyone a Happy New  
 Year!

This is a time for both reflecting on  
 the year that has passed and this issue  
 features an article and some lovely  
 pictures of the Callander Christmas  
 Lights switch-on. This event took a  
 considerable amount of work to  
 organise and there was a good turnout  
 so a big "Thank You" to all those  
 involved in organising it and  
 particularly to Richard and Mary  
 Johnson.

The start of a new year is also the  
 opportunity to look forward to what  
 that year may bring and again this issue  
 highlights a number of things which will  
 be going on in the early part of the year.  
 The BLV has featured the Local Place  
 Plan on a number of occasions in the  
 last year and one of the things which  
 you, the people of Callander, asked for  
 was better communication. Callander  
 Connect at 43 Main Street has been set  
 up to provide just that and the idea is  
 fully explained in this issue.

Having picked up this issue of the BLV,  
 you can hardly have missed that CAOS  
 are putting on the musical *Carousel*  
 towards the end of March, so one for  
 the diary! For those with green fingers,  
 the Horticultural Society Spring Bulb  
 Show takes place in early April. A New  
 Year can also be an opportunity to do or  
 try something different and if either  
 getting involved in the community,

learning something new or something  
 more sporting interests you then have  
 a look at the articles about Rotary, the  
 U3A, Callander Golf Club and McLaren  
 Leisure.

The previous issue of the BLV  
 announced a number of changes to the  
 Trustees of the paper and sadly this  
 has continued; due to changed  
 personal circumstances, John Keeling  
 has decided that he has to step down  
 from the role of Editor and so this will  
 be his last issue. On behalf of the  
 Trustees and our readers I'd like to  
 thank him for the work and effort he  
 has put in to the paper and particularly  
 this edition.

The December/January issue,  
 featuring that rather striking front  
 cover, contained a warning that more  
 volunteers are required if the paper is  
 to continue to be published and to be  
 sustainable going forward. That  
 remains the case and so I urge anyone  
 with an interest in volunteering to  
 contact me via email to [convenor@benlediview.org](mailto:convenor@benlediview.org)  
 or [editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org). Please take a look at  
 the previous issue which gave an  
 insight into what is involved and get in  
 touch!

Finally, on behalf of the team at the  
 Ben Ledi View, I'd like to offer our  
 heartfelt condolences to Richard and  
 Mary Johnson, their family and friends  
 on the sad loss of their son Keith.

Mark Griffiths  
 Convenor

## Subscriptions

If you would like to join the BLV mailing  
 list or send a copy to friends or family.  
 Please send your details to us

Email: [benlediviewsubscription@  
 gmail.com](mailto:benlediviewsubscription@gmail.com)

Annual cost: UK £15 & Outside UK £40  
 Please make cheques to: Ben Ledi View  
 Community Newspaper SCIO.

Or you can ask to join our email list and  
 we will send you out a copy by email  
 each month free of charge.

## Contents

Community	Pages 3,5
Callander Christmas Lights	Page 8
Pictures sent in	Pages 9, 29
Environment	Pages 19,21,22
Charities & Clubs	Pages 7,10,11,12,14
Health & Wellbeing	Page 17
Sports & Leisure	Pages 13,23
Young People	Page 18
Puzzle solutions	Page 24
Whats On	Pages 26,27
Arts & Entertainment	Pages 28,29
Local Info	Pages 30,31



**CALLANDER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**  
callandercdt.org.uk



Callander Community Council

## Discover Callander Connect at 43 Main Street, Callander

Callander Community Development Trust (CCDT) is delighted to introduce Callander Connect, which it is supporting in conjunction with Callander Community Council (CCC). For those yet to explore this new space, here's an overview of what it offers:

### What is Callander Connect?

Callander Connect is a space to collaborate and connect with people and projects in Callander. Hosted at 43 Main Street, it stands as a dedicated community space for local people to share important information, book meeting space, attend workshops and much more. From time to time, it will also give you a chance to meet members of both CCDT and CCC and to bring any questions you might have on the town.

### Why does Callander needs a new community space?

The need for a dedicated community space was identified in Callander's Local Place Plan under theme 3 'Community Cohesion'. Funding from Forth Valley & Lomond CLLD (Community Led Local Development) was awarded to Callander Community Development Trust to help open a space for local people. This dedicated space will help progress priorities set out in the Local Place Plan and will be a way everyone can keep updated on what's happening. We are keen that this is a space designed for and by the people of Callander. This is a pilot to explore and develop future opportunities and test out a range of ideas – so, if you have a suggestion, please get in touch!

### What is the Local Place Plan?

The Local Place Plan sets out Callander's community's vision for the next ten years. It is broken down into nine themes, each of which outlines solutions to problems that have been identified. A copy is available in Callander Library or online at [callanderconnect.uk/ourplaceplan](http://callanderconnect.uk/ourplaceplan)

### How can you use the space or get involved?

The space can be booked by local groups and organisations for meetings, events, and exhibitions. We aim to have two information open days per week. We are looking for volunteers to run the space for drop-in information days - please get in touch if this interests you. The window of the space can also be available to host a rotating feature display to advertise an upcoming event or information about your organisation/group – just get in touch to find out more.

### When will it be open?

Please keep an eye out in the Callander Connect window for updates of what's on. The space will be open for drop-in information sessions on Mondays & Wednesdays between 10am-4pm (please note: timings may vary, depending on volunteers). The space will be available to book outside these times by arrangement, please contact [development@callandercdt.org.uk](mailto:development@callandercdt.org.uk) or drop into the space. In time an online booking system will be available, and more information can be found by visiting [www.tinyurl.com/Callanderconnect](http://www.tinyurl.com/Callanderconnect).

In the meantime, we are keen to hear from you about what you'd like to see from the space. To get more information, ask a question or find out more about volunteering, email [development@callandercdt.org.uk](mailto:development@callandercdt.org.uk) or follow us on social media [@callanderconnect](https://www.facebook.com/callanderconnect) or pop into the space for a chat. Further information will also be posted on the Callander Community Council web site [https://incallander.co.uk/ccc\\_home](https://incallander.co.uk/ccc_home) and and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/urcallandercommunitycouncil>.



**CALLANDER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**  
callandercdt.org.uk

The Callander Community Development Trust (CCDT) is seeking to appoint a full time, remunerated Operations Manager to work under the strategic direction of the Board of Trustees.

The Operations Manager will be responsible for:

- ensuring the efficient operation of the Trust,
- implementing governance processes,
- maintaining stakeholder relations,
- managing assets and projects,
- overseeing community initiatives, and
- contributing to financial and budgetary management.

Interested applicants from the community should refer to the further details available in the 'Callander Connect' community information space at 43 Main Street and on the InCallander website.

## Callander Community Council Update



Callander Community Council

Callander Community Council (CCC) has had a busy few weeks. We secured a visit to St Kessog's with Stirling Council and found the inside of the building was in a better state than we had thought, in that it was drier than expected but there were a few areas of damp where the gutters and gulleys had not been cleaned and maintained. We have asked for this to be done, as St Kessog's is a listed building. Disappointingly, the inside of the building had been left in a poor state of repair after items damaged in the flooding had been stripped out.

Stirling Council needs to make cuts to their budget because of an expected £13 million shortfall in income. Several of the rural Community Councils, including ourselves, felt that many of the

*(continued on Page 5)*

Ben Ledi View Issue 334

# Coffee, Cake, Chatter



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

Roman Camp Hotel, Walled Garden, Callander FK17 8BG  
[www.romancamphotel.co.uk](http://www.romancamphotel.co.uk) [mail@romancamphotel.co.uk](mailto:mail@romancamphotel.co.uk)  
 Bistro 01877 332692 ~ Hotel 01877 330003

[www.heritagepropertyscotland.co.uk](http://www.heritagepropertyscotland.co.uk)  
 A Small, family run company based in Callander

## Holiday Property Management

We provide a full holiday property management service that includes:

- ✓ Setting up booking platforms
- ✓ Guest contact
- ✓ Changeovers
- ✓ Laundry Service
- ✓ Property Maintenance

Contact  
 Karon or Steve

07835 954553  
[admin@heritagepropertyscotland.co.uk](mailto:admin@heritagepropertyscotland.co.uk)

## Wills & Powers of Attorney

Julia Whytock LLB Dip LP  
 Lawyer & Professional Will Writer

Appointments at times and locations to suit you

07962 117390  
[enquiries@juliawhytock.com](mailto:enquiries@juliawhytock.com)  
[www.juliawhytock.com](http://www.juliawhytock.com)

# BEN LEDI VIEW

Advertise to 2000 households and businesses in Callander and nearby communities

Contact  
[advertising@benlediview.org](mailto:advertising@benlediview.org)

# mclean&stewart

Specialising in legal matters for over 250 years

Agriculture

Commercial

Family

Property

Succession Planning

Ready to start your legal journey?  
 01786 823 217

51/53 High Street, Dunblane, FK15 0EG  
 01786 823 217 | [mail@mcleanandstewart.co.uk](mailto:mail@mcleanandstewart.co.uk) | [www.mcleanandstewart.co.uk](http://www.mcleanandstewart.co.uk)

# J MCPHAIL TAXIS

Tel Callander 01877331240  
 email...[jamesmcp hail@talk21.com](mailto:jamesmcp hail@talk21.com)

DO YOU HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM?  
 DO YOU WANT HELP?  
 RING ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

[www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

National Helpline Number:  
**0800 917 7650**

## Rural Stirling Housing Association

Do you need an affordable home ?

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

We currently have over 670 rented houses and flats. Around 40 of these become available for rent each year. At present we have properties in the following communities:

Aberfoyle	Doone	Kilis	Strathyre
Balfour	Drymen	Kilochard	Stronachlachar
Buchlyvie	Gargunnoch	Kippes	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Lochearnhead	
Deanston	Killean	Strathblane	

Further new build developments are being planned for Killearn, Balnaha, Croftams, 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](http://www.rsha.org.uk).

Rural Stirling Housing Association  
 Stirling Road, Doone FK16 6AA

01786 841101  
[enquiries@rsha.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@rsha.org.uk)  
[www.rsha.org.uk](http://www.rsha.org.uk)

SCAN ME

Building affordable homes: growing rural communities

Registered as a Scottish Charity No SC027808  
 Property Factor No: PFD00000 & Letting Agent Registration Number: LA00000000

**TAXI**

**TAXI**

## JIM MORGAN

4 & 7 seater now available  
**01877 330496**

## Callander Outreach Service

Wednesday 10am – 4pm  
 Callander Library  
 Drop-in, no appointment necessary  
 (home visits also available)  
 Tel: 07931 334828)

(continued from page 3)

reductions proposed affected the rural communities disproportionately, because in many cases there was no alternative if a service was cut. These included public transport (including S60, X10 and DRT services), nursery provision, reduction of educational services, libraries, public toilets, road end collection of bins for unadopted roads, and stopping support for Community Halls. Collectively, we have written to Stirling Council requesting information on how decisions will be made on which services will be reduced or cut. We met with Ward Councillors in January to ask for their support in presenting our concerns to Stirling Council.

Recently there has been a change in the officers at CCC. The Secretary resigned from the post in December due to poor health. Following elections at the last meeting in December, the new Interim Chair is John Kennedy and the new Interim Secretary is Marilyn Moore.

Callander Connect, a joint venture between Callander Community Development Trust (CCDT) and Callander Community Council (CCC), has now leased premises at 43 Main Street for a pilot scheme to improve communications within the town, one of the key projects included in the Local Place Plan. See the article on page three for further details.

We are planning an event (date to be confirmed) to promote the grants available to Callander residents and organisations, in order to encourage more members of the public to apply for these in readiness for the summer season. The Braes of Doune grant managed by CCC has facilities for awarding microgrants to non-constituted organisations (up to £250) as well as larger grants to constituted organisations. At the event, we hope to offer support to people applying for any grants, to help ensure they are successful.

To find out more about Braes of Doune grants, please see our website:

[https://incallander.co.uk/ccg\\_grants](https://incallander.co.uk/ccg_grants) or email to: [cccbofund@gmail.com](mailto:cccbofund@gmail.com)

Finally, CCC wish to acknowledge efforts made in organising the Callander Christmas Lights Switch-On by Richard and Mary Johnson, held on 3rd December. We would like to thank them and their helpers for making it such a success, enjoyed by many local families and the alpacas were a novel addition to the jollities.

Since then, we have read of the sad loss of Richard and Mary's son, Keith. CCC offer our sincere condolences on their loss and our thoughts are with them, their family and friends.

If you have any general queries of Callander Community Council, our email contact details are:

[callandercc556@gmail.com](mailto:callandercc556@gmail.com)

Marilyn Moore

*Interim Secretary, Callander Community Council*

## National Park charity brings Christmas to Ross Priory once again



Ross Priory (credit: Paul Saunders)

Members and guests enjoyed an entertaining afternoon as Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs, the independent conservation and heritage charity for the National Park area, held its Christmas Concert at Ross Priory, Gartocharn.

This year guests were welcomed once again by local piper, Douglas Owler, and were then entertained by the locally-based group Rannoch Trio, who first met whilst working professionally with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. They performed a wonderful and varied selection of their repertoire, playing both classical and seasonal music which was very much enjoyed by the audience of friends, members and guests. Those attending were also able to purchase gifts from the talented wood turner from Rosneath, Maggie Irving, who displayed the beautiful objects she creates from heritage wood. Some of Maggie's work

supports the fund-raising efforts of the volunteers who are restoring Loch Lomond's paddle steamer Maid of the Loch and there was also Maid of the Loch merchandise for sale, along with the Friends' range of books, Christmas cards and other gifts.

Rosemary Wilson, a long-standing member of the Friends for many years, was kind enough to draw the winning tickets at the raffle. There were many prizes to be won including vouchers kindly provided by trustees as well as local businesses and charities, most notably from The Oak Tree Inn, Steamship Sir Walter Scott Ltd, Ross Priory and The Loch Lomond Steamship Company.

Friends Chairman, John Urquhart said: "This has been another very successful Christmas event for the Friends, whose members and guests return to Ross Priory each year knowing that they will enjoy a wonderful afternoon in the delightful 18th century surroundings of Ross Priory. A sincere thanks to our young piper, the Rannoch Trio and the stallholders who came along on the day and sold their wares to help the Friends and also the Maid of the Loch. And a huge thank you to the University of Strathclyde and the Staff at Ross Priory for all their help and assistance in continuing to make this such a memorable event."

Mrs Jennifer Plunkett,

*Project Support Officer, Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs*

**Cooper Cottages**  
self catering accommodation

coopercottages.com  
Tel: 07879 853139

Social Media:  
@coopercottages

Contact us: enquires@coopercottages.com  
About a let or to let your property for you.

**NUVIEW**  
BI-FOLDS • WINDOWS • DOORS



**MODERN WINDOWS & DOORS**

If you're looking for a friendly, reliable & knowledgeable company to help replace your windows & doors, then look no further. NuView Windows & Doors is an established, highly thought of company servicing the central belt.

We supply and install double glazing, uPVC doors, Bi-Fold doors and composite doors. We provide expert advice and professional, 5-star rated installation & service..

**NU-VIEW.CO.UK | 01786 437 209**

**VISIT OUR SHOWROOM**  
Unit 6 Block 4, 20 Munro Road, FK7 7UU

Laundry and Ironing services for Domestic and Commercial Customers

**THE WASHING WELL**  
Launderette

*Elizabeth & Ashley*

07491 118122

Like us on Facebook for special offers

Delivery Service Available

**NEW & IMPROVED PRODUCT RANGE**

# Transform your garage from £995

Garolla electric roller doors, engineered for everyday life.

Garolla's new range is strong, secure and durable. Revitalise the look, feel and function of your home.

- **Unlock 25% more space**
- **Free five-year warranty**
- **100,000+ doors installed**
- **UK's #1 recommended**
- **Fitted by a local Garolla engineer**
- **New SafeGuard Plus pack – more light, detection and deterrence**

**GAROLLA**  
ELECTRIC GARAGE DOORS

We survey, manufacture and fit...  
**01877 450 013**  
CALL TO ARRANGE A **FREE SURVEY**

**Checkatrade**  
Where reputation matters  
9.8 out of 10

**garolla.co.uk**

BESPOKE ELECTRIC DOORS  
**MADE IN THE UK**

**Trustpilot**  
 4.7 out of 5 / 6,000+ reviews

## Callander Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights festival in early December was extremely well supported with an estimated 70-80 people in the parade and 300+ people in the Square. The lights display and the festival were a community effort and a big thank you from us to everyone who donated, helped and supported, including:

- donations from people in the community, visitors, business and organisations in Callander;
- help from the many volunteers to put up the lights, set up the Square, help with the food and drink and clear the Square on a very cold Saturday night;
- the shops and houses who agreed that we could hang lights along their buildings;
- Athol at Macmillan Wine, George at The Fudge Shop, Marsha and Mo and Lucia and Paul who let us plug the lights into their electric sockets;
- Callander & District 41 Club for an amazing Santa's Sleigh with the music for the parade;
- the local Primary Schools who painted the reindeer on the side of the sleigh;
- Colin and Keith for the loan of their tents;
- Callander Primary School PTA for encouraging the fancy dress;
- Police Scotland for supporting the parade;
- Fire and Rescue for supporting the parade and letting kids into the fire engine;
- The volunteers who helped marshall the parade;
- Cambusmore Estate for the Christmas tree;
- Callander Youth Project for the chairs and tables;
- Callander Rotary for the kids' prizes;
- Claire the Hairdresser for doing the girls' hair;
- Main Street Bakers, Mhor Bread and Tesco for the mince pies;
- Callander Brass for the Christmas Carols;
- Drovers Road for the music;
- Santa for his valuable time.;
- Cath and Billy McNab for switching on the lights;
- The young people who dressed up for the parade;
- The Alpaca Trekking Centre;
- Deli Ecosse for the hot chocolate and mulled wine; and finally
- all of the people who came along.



The lights in the Square and along Main Street were purchased by donations from people in the community, visitors, businesses and organisations in Callander.

Thanks again everyone.

*Richard & Mary Johnson*

## German-Speaking Group in Callander

Wir haben vor, am **Samstag, 3. Februar um 14.00** (d.h. eine halbe Stunde früher als gewöhnlich) noch einmal bei Peter (Coilhullan House, Invertrossachs Road, FK17 8HW) zusammenzukommen. Das Diskussionsthema dafür werden wir im Voraus allen Mitgliedern per E-Mail schicken. Leider ist es uns dieses Jahr unmöglich, im März ein Treffen der Gruppe zu veranstalten, aber bitte notieren Sie das Datum **Samstag 20. April** in Ihren Kalendern für das übernächste Treffen.

Wenn Sie es vorhaben, im Februar mitzumachen, sagen Sie 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](mailto:jenshearer@gmail.com).

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

*Jen Shearer*







*from our archives -* Bridgend  
Taken by **Gaz Bray** in November 2022



Frosty Leaf



Hydrangea in Bloom  
in Oct 2023!

### Waxwing Birds



Taken by **Steve Murphy** on 5th January 2024 behind Callander Library/Police Station.



That Swing Sensation, in aid of Jazz & Blues Festival  
Taken by **John Keeling** in December 2024



Frosted Meadows  
Taken by **Kath Riordan** in December 2022



Christmas Carol @ Stirling Castle  
Taken by **John Keeling** in December 2022

## Visitor Information Centre



The Visitor Information Centre at 55 Main Street had another busy season in 2023. Open from 1st April in time for Easter, it ran through until 22nd October and welcomed more than 19,000 visitors through the doors, from at least 43 different countries.

Feedback in our visitor book is consistently positive, with visitors really appreciating the face-to-face contact with people from the local community. Their requests for information are mostly about enjoying our wonderful countryside, places to eat or stay, public transport and, of course, finding the nearest public toilet. Whilst most are staying in or close to Callander and the Trossachs, many are on tour, and we have been struck by how many are on their way further west and north and making Callander their first stop in Scotland.

The centre is a Callander Community Development Trust project, set up in 2019 in a partnership with the Community Council and the Sir Walter Scott Steamship Trust to replace the former VisitScotland centre when it was closed. It relies on a team of friendly and knowledgeable volunteers along with two paid part-time managers. A grand total of 1,378 volunteer hours was contributed in 2023, a significant and essential part of the service. Thank you for every one of them!

Funding in 2023 came from the Callander Community Hydro Fund, the Friends of Loch Lomond & the Trossachs, donations and sales of a wide selection of books, maps and souvenirs.

The centre will open for 2024 on Good Friday, 29th March. If you think you would like to chat with visitors and help them to enjoy their visit, we would love to hear from you. Hours are flexible to suit you, all the information you might need is in the centre and you will receive staff discount on everything in the shop. Email [callandervic@gmail.com](mailto:callandervic@gmail.com) or call 07450 962606 to arrange a chat.

*Sheila Winstone, Anne Gordon  
Callander Visitor Information Centre*

## Callander and West Perthshire u3a

With 2024 now upon us, u3a members are looking forward to the coming year. In our branch at Callander and West Perthshire, we have over 30 groups to choose from, covering a wide range of subjects from Knit and Natter to Country Dancing, History, Painting for Pleasure, Bridge and Ancient History. Information on our range of groups and when they are held can be found here: <https://u3asites.org.uk/callander-and-wp/groups>



All of the groups are run by our members who are kind enough to give their time for free and there are no outside tutors. Some of the groups are located in members' homes, whilst some are held in public meeting places, usually depending on numbers within each group or the type of activities needing greater space. At least one group is held in a pub!

One of our newer groups is Our Villages, which was mentioned in the last edition of Ben Ledi View. We have now heard interesting talks about the history and culture of Thornhill, Gartmore and Kippen, with more to follow this year. The history of some of our villages is fascinating, with so much discovery, adventure and invention coming from the local people. For this group, because of its specific interest to each community, non-members are invited along with members, so if you wish to sample a group of u3a members, come along to a meeting of Our Villages. Advertisements for future Village meetings can be found in the new Callander Connect offices at 43 Main Street in Callander. In any case, you can always try any group of your choice before joining u3a, it is as easy as that.

To become a u3a member, you need to be retired or semi-retired, with an interest in living life and social activities. There is no limit on age, as long as you are no longer in full-time employment. Our membership is kept low at £10 per year and buying a coffee may be sufficient to make your contribution to the meeting room hire. We have currently just under 300 members, which means plenty of people to get to know or you can discover old friends - better than day-time television!

*Marilyn Moore*

**Messy Church**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January  
and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>  
February  
at  
10.30 a.m.  
All welcome

Free

Callander Kirk  
Hall  
South Church  
Street

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

Games, crafts,  
stories, food,  
singing and  
worship for all  
ages

## Rotary in Callander



On Saturday 2nd December the club held its annual Christmas Coffee, Lunch and Crafts event in the Kirk Hall. There were 15 stalls selling everything from home baking to silver jewellery. It was very busy and everyone enjoyed their coffee, tea, soup and cakes. Entertainment was provided by the fantastic Song Squad who added even more to the great atmosphere with their wonderful singing! Altogether a successful event and, as always, our thanks go to the visitors, the stallholders, the members of Tangent and everyone who helped us raise £1200 before expenses. The net amount will be going into the club's charity account to be used to support a variety of causes.



We are already planning for the Spring Coffee, Lunch and Crafts which will be in May 2024 but before that there will be an Easter Bottle Stall and Lucky Dip on 30th March in Ancaster Square supervised, as usual, by the Easter Chicken.

On the membership front, Rotary in Callander were pleased to welcome Mhairi Stewart as its newest member. We're really looking forward to Mhairi contributing her energy and creativity into the variety of Rotary activities supporting our community and beyond.

If you are looking for a way to get involved in your community and make a difference, look no further than your local Rotary Club! Our club supports a wide variety of community activities and groups. We work with schools, youth clubs, organisations for the elderly, and charities both local and national. We are a one stop shop for giving something back to our community & beyond!

To find out how you might be involved send us a message on Facebook or email us at [enquiries@callanderandwprotary.org](mailto:enquiries@callanderandwprotary.org) to learn more and arrange an informal chat. Together, we can make a real difference in our community.

*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 8th February 2024
- Thursday 14th March 2024



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

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

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

*Jen Shearer*

## Callander Kirk Community Food Larder

A huge thank you to all the folk who so generously contributed to the larder in 2023 - it has hopefully made life a little easier for those who use it.

We are looking for donations of food and 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 where appropriate.

- **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.
- **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 e.g. tomatoes, apples.

Thank you!



### Callander Heritage Society.

Our November meeting was a talk by Dr Fraser Hunter, Principal Curator of Iron Age and Roman Antiquities at the National Museum of Scotland, on 'Iron Age Gold – The Blair Drummond torcs and their context'.

On his first attempt at metal detecting, in September 2009, David Booth discovered the hoard which consists of five pieces of 2000 year old gold jewellery. We were joined on the night by David and his family. He brought along a copy of one of the torcs.

Torcs are neck ornaments and these were high status symbols worn by important, powerful people. The ribbon torcs were made by hammering and twisting a single piece of gold into a natural spiral with finials. They do not contain a great weight of gold. This style has been found mainly in Ireland and Scotland and dates from the Middle Iron Age.

The broken torc is a masterpiece of gold working. It is a solid collar made from a single sheet of gold. It has been repaired many times. It has been deliberately broken, indicating that its final owner was probably killed in battle. Similar torcs have been found in France, Italy, Ireland and Croatia, showing that ideas travelled around Europe. It may have been made in Britain by a European smith or is a copy of one seen by a British or Irish smith. It is believed that smiths travelled around Europe working for whoever could pay them.

The third style is unique. No other similar examples have yet been found. It is made from eight gold wires twisted and retwisted into a rope. The disc finials have wire decorations and a chain joining them. It has been well used.

No one knows why the Blair Drummond, and other hoards, were buried. It was thought it might be for safekeeping when tribes were under attack. But as most hoards are found near water or bogs it is now believed that they were buried as part of a ceremony. In the Iron Age, water had great religious/ceremonial importance, giving contact with the gods.

Iron Age gold was gathered from rivers in nugget form. Eventually scientists will be able to work out the area the gold came from. The gold used in Scotland and Ireland has been mixed with silver.

We had no meetings in December and January. **Meetings will restart on 21st February.** The speaker has still to be finalised, but the meeting will be in the Masonic Hall. Door opens 7pm for a 7.30pm start

*Kath Millar*



### Ripple Retreat News – It's good 2 give

I want to start by giving a huge shout-out to everyone who kindly supported the charity last year. It means the world to us whether it was through donations, fundraising, volunteering or spreading the word about It's good 2 give. Without you we wouldn't be able to continue to support young cancer patients and their families. Thank you.

You don't need to climb mountains or run marathons to make a life-changing impact. We're asking you to consider becoming a **Friend of the Ripple Retreat**. A regular donation from you allows us to host families, providing an opportunity for them to relax and enjoy time away from doctors, procedures, and hospitals, in a safe and calming environment.

What Your Money Could Provide at the Ripple Retreat:

- £5 a month could help provide toys and books for young cancer patients and their siblings;
- £10 a month could buy food for the wildlife to ensure the garden and woodland remains a haven for birds and squirrels, bringing smiles and creating lasting memories for all;
- £25 a month could fund a meal or activity voucher for families during their stay away from the hospital;
- £50 a month could help fund non perishable items for the kitchen so that families have everything they need;
- £100 a month could help fund vouchers we gift to families to cover their petrol and food costs during their stay.

To set up your regular donation, head to our website, where we have all the details on becoming a Friend [www.itsgood2give.co.uk/friends-of-the-ripple-retreat](http://www.itsgood2give.co.uk/friends-of-the-ripple-retreat).

Just a little reminder about the Callander 10k on Sunday 17th March, organised by Tay Fitness Events. £2 from every entry is going to It's good 2 give. There is also a 1k Fun Run for younger participants. We have some free spaces for anyone raising funds for us – for more information email [carla@itsgood2give.co.uk](mailto:carla@itsgood2give.co.uk).

If you would be interested in volunteering with us, or would like to visit The Retreat, please don't hesitate to contact me.

*Susan Milligan, Ripple Retreat Manager*  
[susan@itsgood2give.co.uk](mailto:susan@itsgood2give.co.uk)

## Callander Golf Club welcomes 100 new members in 12 months



**CALLANDER  
GOLF CLUB**

Callander Golf Club has reached the milestone of 100 new members in under 12 months as the historic club continues its resurgence.

The Stirlingshire club, which endured a difficult decade due to falling visitor and member numbers, as well as the sale of its previous clubhouse, has welcomed a huge jump in membership over the year since January 2023.

It follows a shift in focus with a view to becoming a community-focused, family-friendly club, and the opening of a new purpose-built clubhouse last May, as well as a dynamic, data-led approach to memberships and a sustained marketing campaign to promote the club in the community and beyond.

Jamie Hall, Club Manager, said: "Over the last year we have seen growing evidence of the enormous appetite for golf in Callander and the surrounding area, and we are delighted to have seen such a huge growth in such a short space of time.

"Our new clubhouse has undoubtedly played an important role in encouraging new members to join our club, as well as attractive, tailored membership options with the flexibility to suit golfers' needs.



"However, as vital is a sense of belonging and community spirit, and showing that we are a welcoming club which is there for everyone, whether they play golf or not.

"We know we need to continue working hard for our existing members, and those who will join us in the future, and we are determined to continue developing our memberships to make joining Callander the best decision a golfer can make."

Callander Golf Club prides itself on being a club open to all, regardless of age, gender or golf ability. With



successful coaching programmes for children and beginners through the Get Into Golf programme.

The club has seen a particular increase in the number of Junior members, which has risen by 200% to 78 since October 2022, with many of them attending coaching sessions led by top PGA professional, Allan Martin.

Visitor numbers have also risen by 26% in the last 12 months, and a further increase is predicted for the coming year.

Off the course, Callander has enjoyed success through opening its clubhouse - named Old Tom's Rest, in honour of Old Tom Morris, who designed the course - to the general public.

Jamie added: "Developing a facility which appeals beyond the traditional demographic of the golf clubhouse user is vital to the continued success of golf clubs, and Callander is no different.

"We are extremely fortunate that we have enjoyed tremendous support from the community, and have built a healthy band of regulars including our

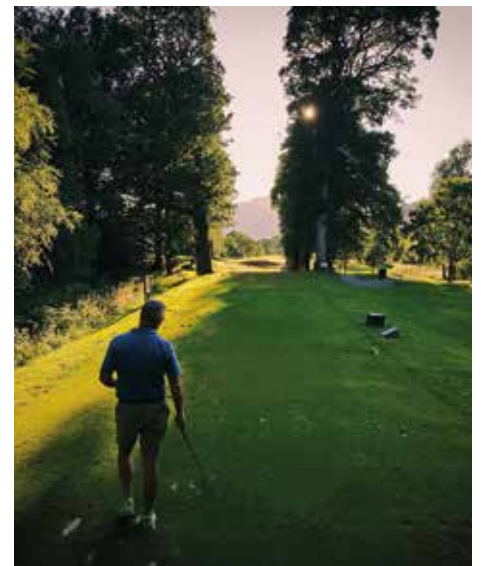
local walking and cycling clubs, who always enjoy stopping by.

"We are always looking at ways to encourage more people to visit. Being located as it is in the beautiful Trossachs, our course is popular with dog walkers, and making our clubhouse dog-friendly has proved very successful.

We're looking forward to welcoming many more visitors to Old Tom's Rest in 2024."

For further information contact:

[Jamie Hall on manager@callandergolfclub.co.uk](mailto:jamie.hall@callandergolfclub.co.uk) or  
01877 330090



## OLD TOM'S REST AT CALLANDER GOLF CLUB

- NON-MEMBERS WELCOME
- HOT FOOD, SNACKS AND FINE COFFEE AVAILABLE
- FULLY LICENSED BAR
- DOG-FRIENDLY



## Callander & District Horticultural Society

At our Annual General Meeting on 29th November, the Society was delighted to present the first of two special donations being made in its 150th anniversary year. We wished to commemorate this special year by making donations to both local schools to help encourage the younger gardeners of the future.

Lachlan Hunter, a dedicated member of the McLaren High School Gardening Club, was delighted to accept the donation cheque on behalf of his gardening team. These funds will be used to buy a new garden bench for beside the garden area and for other general gardening supplies for the Club. The Society very much looks forward to competition entries from the gardening club in this year's Annual Show.



### SPRING BULB SHOW – Saturday 6th April, 10am- 12 noon

A reminder of our forthcoming event at the beginning of April. Here's a summary of the various classes:

#### Cut Flowers

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

#### Potted Bulbs and Flowers

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

#### Floral Art

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

#### Children

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

Anyone can exhibit at the show. PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE [www.cadhs.co.uk](http://www.cadhs.co.uk) for details such as dimensions of entries and timings to drop off exhibits. You do not have to be a member of the Society nor an expert to participate in the Bulb Show, so please take a look at the schedule to see how you can get involved. Some classes require advance planning with bulbs being planted in pots, but others can be put together from bulbs and shrubs you already have growing in your garden.

### Refreshments and Stalls

This will be the Society's main fundraiser of the year. There will be teas, coffees and baking available as well as the competition entries to view. We will be running a raffle and a number of other stalls. So please come along for a cuppa and a chat or even better get involved in one of the competitions. At this event, we will also be launching the Schedule for our Annual Show later in the year on Saturday 24th August. There are many ways to get involved in this without having to be an expert gardener- craft, photography, baking and floral art all feature. Come along to our April event if you want to find out more or get some tips from some of the more experienced participants.

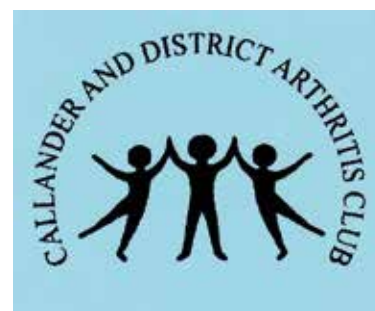
### “CALLANDER IN BLOOM”

In the run up to our Bulb Show, we would love to share photos on social media and on our website [www.cadhs.co.uk](http://www.cadhs.co.uk) of the gardens around Callander area as they “spring” into life after the winter period. Watch out for posts on Facebook about how to share your photos with us or visit our website for more details.

### CAN YOU HELP ????

We are just a small Committee, so we are always very appreciative of offers of help or people wishing to become more involved. We will be needing help in setting up for the Spring Bulb Show and the Annual Show too – so if you can spare even an hour to assist, please get in touch. You can get in contact through our website [www.cadhs.co.uk](http://www.cadhs.co.uk) or by emailing [cadhortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:cadhortsoc@gmail.com).

*The Committee*



### On Tuesday 13th February

Talk by Kath Millar on  
“Strength & Balance”  
at Kirk Hall at 2.00pm

### On Tuesday 12th March

Talk by Peter Herbert on  
“Old Kilmadock”

Look forward to seeing you there

*Fiona Snow  
Secretary*

# TALK TO US

If things are getting to you

Talk to us any time you like, in your own way, and off the record – about whatever's getting to you.

116 123 FREE  
This number is FREE to call

07725 90 90 90  
Emergency 24 hours only

jo@samaritans.org  
 samaritans.org



If you can't wait until your GP surgery reopens



NHS 24

www.nhs24.scot

## HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED BY SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

For support and information please call Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline

Freephone:  
**08088 01 03 02**

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



## callander PHYSIOTHERAPY

Physiotherapy / Chiropody / Massage

### RECOVER WITH US

3 Station Road,  
 Callander FK17 8AS

Visit our website for online booking  
 www.callanderphysiotherapy.co.uk

**Get in touch**  
 Website – **contact form**  
 Telephone – **01877 339989**  
 (leave a message, we will call you back)  
 Email – **callander.physiotherapy@gmail.com**

## JASMINE BEAUTY

For all your beauty therapy needs

Book online:  
 jasmine-beauty.appointedd.com

Waxing, Tinting, Eyelash Extensions,  
 Aromatherapy, Stone Therapy,  
 Facials, Tanning, Manicure, Pedicure,  
 Nail Extensions, Shellac, Wedding  
 Make Up and more.

Gift vouchers Available.

6 Cross Street, Callander  
 Tel: 01877 331417



Member of the Royal College of Podiatry

## Private Chiropody/Podiatry

**Moira Morton**

Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) Registered  
*Professional Footcare in the Comfort of Your Own Home*

**For appointment Tel: 01877 331906**

## BEN LEDI VIEW

Advertise to 2000 households and businesses in Callander and nearby communities

Contact  
 advertising@benlediview.org

**Looking To Hire**



### Bike hire sales staff

with our busy cycle hire operation  
 Temporary: (March to end of October 2024)

Hours worked: 5 days a week (40 hours) Incl most weekends.  
 Location: Katrine Wheelz Bike Hire (Loch Katrine Pier, 8 miles north of Callander)

The primary role is to help with customers hiring bikes from our rental cabin at Loch Katrine. A friendly, approachable, and can-do attitude and great customer service skills are essential. A love of cycling and a passion for bikes, the outdoors and a sense of humour will also be helpful! You will require your own transport.

Salary: Depending on age/experience.  
 Contract: Temporary - seasonal

**Interested? Contact Hamish Bike Hire Manager to discuss email: katrinewheelz@yahoo.co.uk**

## Bespoke garments, alterations and repairs



Do you have something special in mind? As your local dressmaker, I can create bespoke pieces and give new life to beloved garments. See more at mariececilie.co.uk

**Marie Cecilie**  
 07454642092

# Estate agency as it should be



Let Cathedral City Estates make your next move simple and hassle-free.

Our recent properties around Callander include:



Balkerach Strett, Doune



Main Street, Callander



Bridgend, Callander



Moray Park, Doune



Main Street, Callander



Lochay Road, Killin

Cathedral City Estates are your local, independent Estate Agent based in Dunblane and selling properties throughout southern Perthshire, the Trossachs and Stirling.

We've been helping people move home for nearly 20 years and are happy to offer free, friendly advice to help you achieve the best price the market has to offer.

Why not give us a call?  
we'd be delighted to hear from you

**01786 821012**

Some of our friendly team...



Millie  
Sales



Nicola  
Valuer



Morven  
Sales



Sarah  
Lettings



**Cathedral City** Estates

4 & 6 Beech Road, Dunblane  
Perthshire FK15 0AA

[cathedralcityestates.co.uk](http://cathedralcityestates.co.uk)

[info@cathedralcityestates.co.uk](mailto:info@cathedralcityestates.co.uk)

follow us

- [cathedralcityestates](https://www.facebook.com/cathedralcityestates)
- [cathedralcityestates](https://www.instagram.com/cathedralcityestates)
- [CathedralCE](https://twitter.com/CathedralCE)



## Callander, Walking our way into 2024!

What a year 2023 was for our 'Walk in the Park' Callander weekly walking group. Fiona McGregor, Senior Health Walk Coordinator for the Countryside Trust shares some of the highlights to make you want to stick on your walking boots and join in for 2024.



## Awards

We love awards at the Countryside Trust and we saw many of our walkers achieve huge walking milestones: Sheila Drummond achieved 100 walks with the group and Nancy Forrester received her Gold award for 200. In May 2023 our volunteer walk leader, Kath Millar won Community Walking Champion 2023. What a year for awards and we only hope we can top this in 2024!

## Walks

Our walkers enjoyed some of their favourite local walks this year utilising the amazing path network around Callander. On top of regular walks around Callander, the walkers joined away days in other areas of the national park, and themed walks such as the Big Fit Walk in Balloch and our Halloween event at Cashel Forest. We have so much to look forward to in 2024, hopefully including our All-Group Walk coming to Callander this year.

## Training

Our walks wouldn't happen without the support of our volunteers and along with training our new volunteer walk leaders, we offered a range of training opportunities including Safety Outdoor Training, Samaritans' Listening Skills Training and Wild Ways Well Training, a nature and mental health training delivered by The Conservation Volunteers. Our 2024 training schedule will be issued soon and includes new volunteering opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering with us, please get in contact with [fiona@trustinthepark.org](mailto:fiona@trustinthepark.org)

## Interested in getting involved?

Research shows that walking can have huge benefits to our overall well-being, with physical benefits such as increased heart and cardiovascular fitness and keeping your muscles and bones strong. Walking, especially in nature, is shown to reduce stress and anxiety and improve mood. Meeting new people and being part of a community are some of the social benefits to walking in a group.

Our weekly walks are free, volunteered, gentle and can be adapted to suit all abilities. Walks end with optional refreshments at a local café. Walks take place every Tuesday from 10.20am, meeting at Ancaster Square (the start of some walks may change so please check walk schedules).

To find out more, please contact our walk coordinator Fiona on 07843842323 or email: [fiona@trustinthepark.org](mailto:fiona@trustinthepark.org) or visit our website [www.trustinthepark.org](http://www.trustinthepark.org).

# JOIN US FOR A Walk IN CALLANDER ON TUESDAYS

Always 10:20AM

Date	Meeting Place	Walking Route	Car Share	Dementia Friendly Walking
06 February	Ancaster Square	Railway and Golf Club		
13 February	Ancaster Square	NCN7 to Lagrannoch		
20 February	Ancaster Square	Callander to Kilmahog		
27 February	Ancaster Square	Bridgend and the Meadows		
05 March	Ancaster Square	Strathyre		
12 March	Medical Centre	Keltie Bridge		
19 March	Ancaster Square	Bochastle		
26 March	Ancaster Square	Tulipan and the Meadows		

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

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

### 9th Scouting in Callander

#### Cubs Hiking Trip:

Scouting is an opportunity for young people that brings them experiences that they usually could not find anywhere else. 9th Callander Scouts brings these opportunities to the young people in Callander and the surrounding communities including Doune and Thornhill. Now, more than ever, 9th Callander needs volunteers to help maintain our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to make sure we can continue what we do, for as many young people as we can. Within our groups our young people can learn life skills, gain confidence and participate in both indoor and outdoor activities whilst getting involved with the wider community.

*Richard Nunn*



#### St Andrew's Fayre:

Speaking of community, it is very important to us that we are actively involved with not only Callander's community events, but also our neighbouring towns as well. Some of the best examples of our community involvement comes from our contributions to local Christmas fayres, such as the St Andrew's Fayre which we aim to be a part of each year (you've likely seen the wonderful Christmas crafts created by our groups there if you came along).

However last year we were also able to attend "Light Up Thornhill", where we sold even more Christmas crafts and our Scouts were put in charge of running a stall to toast marshmallows, a Scouting staple! They kept everyone warm and happy despite the typical Scottish weather that graced us that day.

*Joe Oxley-Glenister*

#### Scouts Kayaking:

Scouting is known for the experience of being outdoors, whether it be hiking, cooking, camping or lighting fires, these are just some of the many unique experiences that we bring to the young people in our groups. Within 9th Callander we aim to run multiple group camps each year, and in August of 2023 we were even lucky enough to attend a district camp, where our group camped at the Barrwood Scout Campsite with many other groups from surrounding areas, in a weekend packed with incredible activities such as raft building, fire lighting, learning knots and lashings and even tomahawk throwing!

*Colin Cambell*



However, all of these amazing opportunities can only be run if we have enough volunteers to lead and assist in our evenings, and right now we are needing these volunteers more than ever. Even if you can only commit to once or twice a month, enough people doing that would be a really big help to us, allowing us to continue bringing these wonderful experiences to as many young people as we can.

If you are interested in helping out at 9th Callander, please don't hesitate to contact Mark Wright at [markwright410@hotmail.com](mailto:markwright410@hotmail.com) for more information on how to become involved.

*Campbell Gillan*

---

# YOUNG MINDS

fighting for young people's mental health

If you're struggling with your feelings, you're not alone. Young Minds have loads of practical tips and advice from young people just like you, as well as information on getting the support you need.

If you are having a mental health crisis and need urgent help now, find out who to contact on their urgent help page.

They can be found at <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person>

## Red Squirrel Conservation

My name is Ruth Holmes and I monitor the red squirrels in the Buchlyvie area. I was chosen as a Coronation Champion for my work with red squirrels. 500 people from across the UK were chosen as Coronation Champions from 5,000 entrants to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles.

In this article I'll explain what is involved in red squirrel monitoring and I'll give some suggestions on how everyone can get involved in monitoring the red squirrels in Callander.

Red squirrels are our native species, and they are a protected species. They are rare, with only 280,000 in the UK and 75% are in Scotland. There are 2.7 million greys in the UK. Sadly, red squirrels were placed on the UK's Red List for Endangered Species in 2020. I started monitoring the red squirrels in the Auchentroig area in Autumn 2019. At first it was just at weekends but at the start of lockdown I used my daily allowed exercise to monitor the red squirrels. When we were allowed to go out more than once, I split my exercise to going running in the morning and then going to monitor the red squirrels late morning or early afternoon. I occasionally saw a red squirrel and now there's a thriving red squirrel population.



Monitoring the red squirrels involves monitoring the behaviour of the red squirrels, making people aware of where the red squirrels are and talking to landowners. Monitoring the behaviour of the red squirrels involves looking for key red squirrel behaviour throughout the year. In December I saw mating chases.



This is when 2 or 3 males chase a female up, down and around trees. The fastest male who wins the chase gets to mate with the female. February and March is usually when the first litter kits are born. Baby red squirrels are called kittens, kits for short. The red squirrel breeding season is from January to September. The gestation period is 5-6 weeks and red squirrels have two litters of kits during the breeding season.

Kits are born deaf, dumb, blind, no fur, no teeth and their claws are curled in. It takes forty days or so for kits to leave the drey. A good sign that kits have been born is when the mother is carrying moss back to the drey. As kits can't leave the drey to do the toilet, they do the toilet in the drey. It takes the mother six trips to replace the moss. Something to look out for when going for a walk in woodland with red squirrels in it! Kits are chased away by their mother at three months old to find their own territory. Kits can travel up to six miles to find their own territory. The father has nothing to do with the upbringing of the kits.

Monitoring the red squirrel population in the Buchlyvie area also involves raising awareness about the red squirrels. The B835 is a busy B road that passes by Auchentroig Wood. I put signs up to alert drivers that there's red squirrels in the area. I wrote articles, I wrote social media posts and I told anyone that would listen about the red squirrels. A strategy that seems to have worked! Most drivers now pass Auchentroig Wood between 20mph and 30mph.

I've also monitored red squirrels in Gartmore. Between August 2020 and October 2021, I worked with Gartmore Community Council to try and save woodland in the village with red squirrels in it from being felled.

There are a number of ways that the good folk of Callander can get involved in red squirrel conservation. The first is to sit in woodland with red squirrels in it and observe their behaviour. Most of my knowledge about red squirrels has been through observing them in woodland. I keep a journal of their behaviour, their antics, their reactions to predators and their reaction to other wildlife in the area. I also make a note of any new arrivals such as body colour, tail colour, male or female and how it interacts with other reds. Each red squirrel is different in terms of body colour, tail colour and personality. Some are bold and some are shy.



The second is to install feeder boxes in woodland with red squirrels in it. Installing feeder boxes can be done by an individual or a group of people. Feeder boxes help supplement the diet of the red squirrel through winter, spring and early summer. Don't worry if there's little activity at feeder boxes from August through to October as there's plenty of natural food for them such as hazelnuts, acorns, beech mast, brambles, fungi and wild raspberries. Autumn is the busiest time for the red squirrel as they are burying food for the winter. A tip would be to find an area with hazel trees or hazel bushes, as hazelnuts are the wee red's favourite food. A third suggestion is to install signs where red squirrels are known to cross the road or are in woodland close to a road. This will alert drivers to be looking out for red squirrels and encourage drivers to slow down.

If anyone needs more advice, info or has any questions, send me an email at [ruthski45@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthski45@yahoo.com) Happy to help!

Ruth Holmes



**Leah Rendall**  
 Qualified Dog Trainer  
 Dog Walking  
 Dog Park

07913 656650  
[www.callanderk9.com](http://www.callanderk9.com)  
[leah@callanderk9.com](mailto:leah@callanderk9.com)

### Interesting Facts about Red Squirrels

While 75% of all UK population of red squirrels is found in areas of Scotland, they can also be found in Northern Ireland, the Isle of Wight, Brownsea Island, Anglesey, Cumbria, Kielder Forest and Formby. Conservation efforts are in place to manage the population to avoid it becoming extinct.

Red squirrels are Scotland's native squirrel species, instantly recognisable by their distinctive ear tufts, rust coloured fur and bushy tails. The tail is particularly important as it's used for balance, communication and as a cosy blanket.

#### Five interesting facts:

##### Red squirrels don't hibernate

Many people think that red squirrels do hunker down and hibernate when the cold weather starts setting in but really, they are just far less active in winter. This is because they are using a lot of energy just to stay warm. Red squirrels do store and bury food over winter though, to make sure they can sustain themselves until nuts, seeds and berries become more plentiful again in the spring time.

##### Red squirrels like to keep their options open

This is much more innocent than it might sound at first. Red squirrels keep more than one nest (known as a drey) on the go at any one time. They're not hiding secret squirrel families though. The reason they do it is for more of a backup in case the first nest they've made gets stolen by another creature or is blown away in bad weather. Having more than one home base also makes it more difficult for predators to locate them.

##### They like the finer things in food

Red squirrels are quite clever and can even tell if a nut is rotten without opening it. They do this by weighing a potentially tasty morsel in their paws and shaking it; if the nut rattles this tells the squirrel that the kernel inside is likely to be small and shrivelled, so is not really worth eating.

##### They have learned to "be more dog"

By this we mean they use their tufty ears to express how they're feeling, from happy or sad to nervous. It's a bit like dogs use their heads, ears and of course tails to do!

##### They have double-jointed ankles

Squirrels are extremely well adapted to their woodland habitat in Scotland. They're nimble, agile and can jump more than two metres. Reds can even travel headfirst down a tree at a pretty impressive pace, because of their double-jointed ankles. This adaptation allows them to turn their feet around and dig their claws into the tree bark, no matter what direction they're travelling in.



**RIVERSIDE VETERINARY CLINIC**  
BEVERIDGE LANE, STIRLING, KY16 9JG

# WE ARE BACK!

We strive to provide the best quality veterinary care to Stirling, Callander and surrounding areas

**PET NAIL CLIP OR 10% OFF NEXT CONSULT WITH THIS LEAFLET**

**WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR STIRLING PRACTICE HAS NOW RE-OPENED, MUCH TO THE RELIEF OF MANY OF OUR CLIENTS. POP IN FOR A CUPPA!**

**CALL :**  
 Callander - 01877 381213  
 Stirling - 01786 231010

**MORE CONTACT INFO:**  
[www.riversidevetclinics.com](http://www.riversidevetclinics.com)  
[riversidecallanderandstirling](https://www.instagram.com/riversidecallanderandstirling)  
[www.facebook.com/StirlingCallanderVets](https://www.facebook.com/StirlingCallanderVets)



For more info go to:  
[www.scottishsquirrels.org.uk](http://www.scottishsquirrels.org.uk)




**Now Available...**

**Struthers & Scott**  
 Veterinary Practice  
 Established 1956

## Home Visits

We are excited to announce we are able to offer ROUTINE veterinary appointments from the comfort of your own home!

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

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

**Pricing:**

- Non PHC Member:  
Appointment Cost + £15
- PHC Member: Appointment Cost + £10

**Important Things to Note:**

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

**Pet Health Club**

- £19.99/month
- £17.99/month
- £13.99/month

Call reception to book in!

01786 841304  
[struthers-scott.co.uk](http://struthers-scott.co.uk)



## Woodland Trust: Standing up for Trees

The Woodland Trust is Britain's largest woodland conservation charity with a vision of a world where woods and trees thrive for people and nature.



At the December meeting of the Callander Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) group, Ian Baird, a volunteer speaker gave an enthusiastic overview of the role and work of the Woodland Trust (WT). It was founded in Devon in 1972 by Kenneth Watkins from his concerns over the plight of ancient woods and in 1973 Ancient Avon Woods became the WT's first site, saved from clear-felling and replanting with conifers. By 2022, as it turned 50 the Trust was caring for more than 1,000 free public woods, was growing more than 50 million trees and had 500,000 members and supporters. It also works with other organisations for tree growing and research projects and with landowners to help them develop woodlands. In the last two decades 1172 woods have been saved from destruction and 34,000 hectare of ancient woodland have been restored. The target for the next 20 years is to create a further 2000 hectares of new native woods.

The Woodland Trust mission includes Create, Protect and Restore. Create: tree planting uses saplings grown in UK nurseries from local seed. Protect includes scanning of planning applications for woodland impact, submitting objections and campaigning for introduction of tree protection legislation. Restore includes removal of non-natives and opening up ground to increase biodiversity for woodland specialist birds, butterflies, insects, mammals, fungi and plants.

Compared with a European average of 38% tree cover, the UK average is 13% with 18% in Scotland but only 4% of this is native woodland vs commercial plantations. This low level of tree cover partly results from being an island nation with a need to protect our shores. Wooden ship building removed vast areas of woodlands but without sufficient replanting, especially once vessels were made in metal.

Native UK trees colonised the land when the glaciers melted after the last Ice Age and before the UK was disconnected from mainland Europe. Our audience enjoyed the challenge of identifying as many native trees as we could, target 20, have a go then check your answers, you may be surprised how many common trees are naturalised non-natives. <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/native-trees/>.

Threats to woodlands have a common theme with many other ecosystems: climate change, pests & diseases, infrastructure & development and intensive agriculture in addition to heavy predation by high deer numbers. Britain's most unique, oldest and most threatened sites are Scotland's west coast rainforests. Climate change can be linked to many of the 19 various pests & diseases attacking native trees eg Dutch elm disease and ash die-back. It is also reducing the number of flowering bluebell woods as the tree canopy forms earlier and blocks essential sunlight before the flowers have emerged. The impact of all causes over the last 200 years includes the loss of thousands of miles of hedgerows and associated species such as hedgerows plus 788 Ancient Woodland sites with their birds, butterflies and other insects.

We are lucky to have WT's Glen Finglas on our doorstep with its Visitor Centre, accessible trails and many miles of native woodland as part of The Great Trossachs Forest, the UK's largest NNR, stretching from Bochart to Inversnaid <https://thegreattrossachsforest.co.uk>. There are regular free outdoor events and talks <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/glen-finglas>.

Volunteering with the Woodland Trust has many and varied opportunities. For the latest see [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/volunteer-with-us/opportunities](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/volunteer-with-us/opportunities) or for informal volunteering options available which people can do from home, such as our Ancient Tree Inventory and Nature's Calendar .

*Lesley Hawkins*

PS Did you know that if you see a male blackbird with a black beak instead of its characteristic yellow one, it will be a first winter juvenile which will develop a yellow beak next spring?



[www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/local-group/callander](http://www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/local-group/callander)

## Volunteers Make a Difference at Callander Primary School



The sun shone on a cold November day for the latest Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs (FOLLAT) “Make a Difference Day” which took place at Callander Primary School on Thursday 30th November.

FOLLAT Chair, John Urquhart said “Despite a low turnout of volunteers, our Make a Difference event at Callander Primary School was a big success for all concerned. Our three volunteers combined forces with the school’s janitor, Paul James and Vice Chair of the Callander Primary Parent Council, Gordon Kerr, to trim back overgrowing shrubs, clear up autumn leaves and remove some very jaggy briars which had been causing problems for the younger children. It was a very cold day, but the school’s dinner ladies helped to keep us warm with some delicious soup and Deli Ecosse were kind enough to accommodate us at lunchtime”.



Head Teacher, Tanya Starkey commented “It has been absolutely fantastic to be supported by the FOLLAT as part of the “Make a Difference Day” initiative. The work the volunteers undertook really has made a difference to the appearance of our school, as well as making part of the grounds more accessible for the school community to use. The children are delighted to continue to take their learning outdoors and will now be able to access even more of our school grounds as a result of the great work carried out by the volunteers. A huge thank you from Callander Primary School.”



### Environment meaning

Environment can be defined as a sum total of all the living and non-living elements and their effects that influence human life. Whilst all living or biotic elements are animals, plants, forests, fisheries, and birds, non-living or abiotic elements include water, land, sunlight, rocks, and air.

This means us and whatever in the environment is affected by us, will ultimately affect us and not necessarily in a good way

Help the environment

### COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

#### Chicken, bacon and leek casserole

#### INGREDIENTS

- 6 back bacon medallions, chopped into small pieces
- 600g skinless and boneless chicken thighs, chopped into thirds
- 500g leeks, rinsed and sliced into thin rings
- 1 large clove of garlic, crushed
- 500ml chicken stock
- 20g fresh tarragon leaves, picked
- 1 level tbsp cornflour
- 100ml milk
- Juice of half a lemon to taste

#### METHOD

Preheat oven to 200°C / 180°C Fan / Gas No 6.

Spray a large lidded flameproof casserole dish with cooking oil spray and put over a med-high heat. Once hot, fry the bacon for 4-5 mins, stirring often, until cooked. Remove and set aside. Lightly spray the dish again with oil. Fry the chicken on each side for 2 mins until golden. Remove and set aside. Spray the dish with a little more oil and fry the leeks over a medium heat for 5-6 mins, stirring often, until softened and starting to colour. Add the garlic with a splash of water and fry for 1 min. Add the bacon, chicken, stock and two thirds of the tarragon. Bring to a simmer, then cover and cook in the middle of the oven for 40 mins, until the chicken is tender.

While the casserole is cooking, mix together the cornflour and milk to make a smooth paste. Finely chop the remaining tarragon. Once chicken is cooked, transfer the casserole to the hob and put on a medium heat. Uncover, bring to a simmer and stir in the cornflour paste, simmer until thickened. Stir the chopped tarragon through the casserole, season and add the lemon juice to taste.

Serve and enjoy.

## As we move into 2024 .....

As we bid farewell to 2023, we reflect on a year filled with community spirit, milestone celebrations, and fitness endeavours as we celebrated our 25th birthday with a year filled with exciting events and activities. From fostering new community partnerships to exciting competitions and family activities we celebrated in style with our members, who made it a year to remember. Through the year we continued to thrive and expand, welcoming new groups and witnessed a significant increase in the number of visitors and members at McLaren Leisure.

As the winter chill settled in, McLaren Leisure transformed into a hub of festive cheer, hosting a series of events throughout December. December kicked off with a burst of energy as 60 participants took on the challenge of the RigFIT Games: Winter Edition, highlighting their strength, endurance, and teamwork, turning the gym into an arena of friendly competition. A huge shout out to all participants and a special mention to McLaren members Tommy and Tracey. Tommy demonstrated true sportsmanship and dedication when he not only stepped in last minute to support another team, completing the competition twice, but also secured 1st and 2nd place with his teams. Bravo, Tommy! And a special round of applause for Tracey, who has achieved an extraordinary feat by securing 1st place in three categories across both the summer and winter editions of the RigFIT Games. Your dedication makes you true RigFIT royalty.

Later in the month we enjoyed some Christmas movie magic in partnership



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



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

with Callander Primary Parent Council and Callander Film Society. Families gathered in our cosy cinema-style seating to enjoy a heartwarming holiday film after a busy morning in soft play where Mrs. Claus and her elves made a special appearance, spreading holiday cheer with cookie decorating, games, and a sprinkle of magical festive spirit.



As we moved into 2024, we had an invigorating start to the New Year at McLaren Leisure. We were delighted to welcome back old and new members to our McLaren community after the festive break, who have all embraced the beginning of the year with tremendous enthusiasm, diving into fitness routines and exploring new activities. From our Fitness Classes to swimming lessons and a Winter Warmer Yoga Workshop, the community has been on the move, restoring their commitment to health, wellness, and fun.

As February unfolds, get ready for a medley of engaging activities, and join us for heart-pumping fitness classes and a brand-new timetable on its way to keep those New Year resolutions going strong. We look forward to introducing new birthday party options and developing our open office and multiball

opportunities for the year ahead. 2024 will bring more unique events including, but not limited to, the Ultimate fitness class, seasonal events, and school holiday activities. Keep an eye out for more details as we unveil the full calendar of events for the year on our website.



With Easter just around the corner, McLaren Leisure is gearing up for lots of Easter fun. From egg hunts to special fitness classes and much more, there is something for everyone in the family. Keep an eye out for details on our Easter celebrations that promise to be filled with laughter, surprises, and, of course, chocolate!

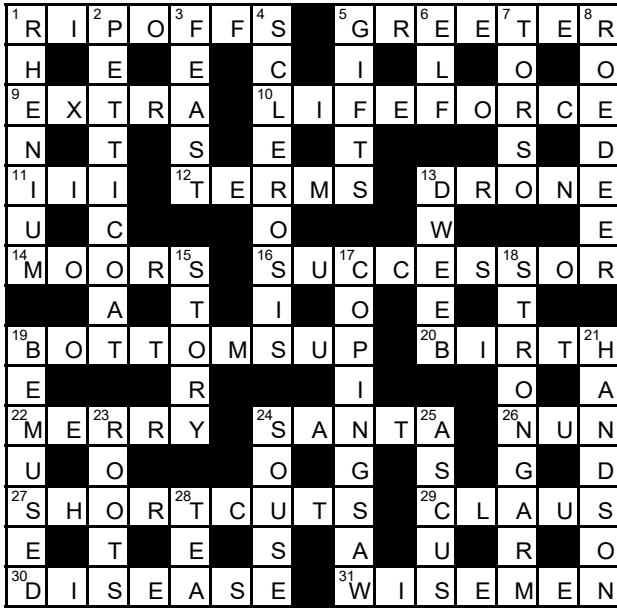
We look forward to seeing what 2024 will bring to our McLaren Community.

Rachel McLean  
McLaren Leisure  
[www.mclarenleisure.co.uk](http://www.mclarenleisure.co.uk)

Solutions to last issue puzzles

Solution to BLV #156

Adult Bumper Christmas Crossword



**Congrats to Peter Rickard**  
**Winner of Dec/Jan #156 Adult Crossword**

Solution to BLV #155

Junior Spot the Difference



11 Differences in all - did you find them?

**Congrats to Eli Fairholm**  
**Winner of Dec/Jan #155 Junior Puzzle**

Worthy mention for the runners up  
 Jen Shearer, Lesley E., & Christy Smith

CHAPTERHOUSE THEATRE COMPANY *presents*

A Christmas Carol

UK Winter Tour 2023



STIRLING CASTLE











**Congrats to Jen Shearer**  
**Winner of two adult theatre tickets**



To View list of all 45 coins use this QR code to go to the Royal Mint's website

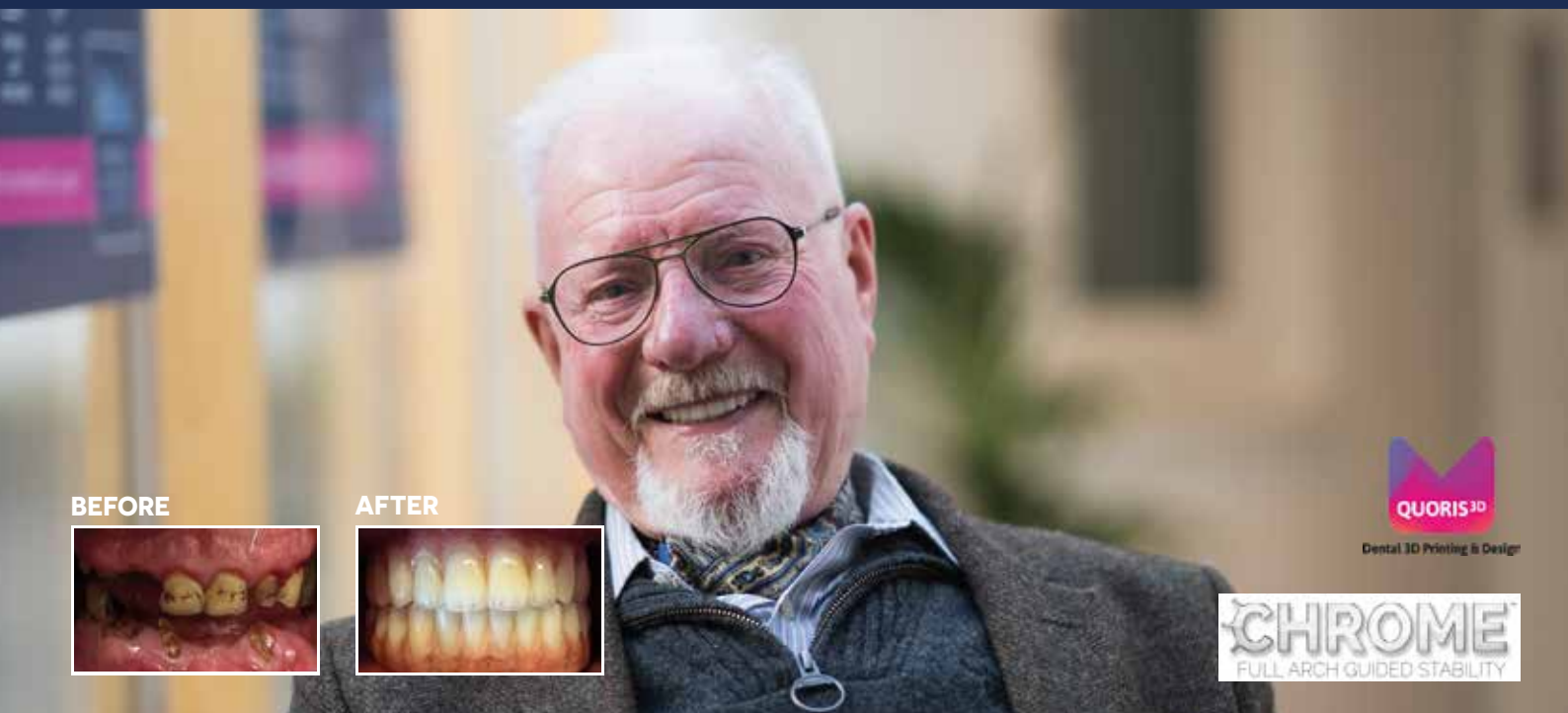
[www.royalmint.com/stories/collect/coin-of-the-year-2023/winner](http://www.royalmint.com/stories/collect/coin-of-the-year-2023/winner)

**Royal Mint has released which coin was  
 Coin of the Year 2023  
 as voted by the public**

Coin	Description	% of Votes	
1. 	Two pound coin celebrating Life and Work of JRR Tolkien	13.48	
2. 	Two pound coin of The Flying Scotsman Centenary	12.31	
3. 	Coronation of King Charles III (Silver Proof Coin)	10.01	
4. 	One pound The Bees coin	9.59	
5. 	Fifty pence Coronation of King Charles III	7.06	
6. 	Colour Fifty pence coin celebrating The Snowman	4.21	
7. 	Two pence Red Squirrel coin	3.27	



# REVOLUTIONARY, FULL MOUTH IN A FEW HOURS.



BEFORE



AFTER



Dental 3D Printing & Design



## LIFE CHANGING AND LONG-LASTING SAME DAY TEETH AND SMILE.

With over 16 years' experience in Dental Implants, we can help you get rid of your denture or replace your teeth all in a Day! Using the new revolutionary implants system CHROME GuidedSMILE, we can provide you with Teeth-In-A-Day in a predictable, precise, and comfortable way.



SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO SELF REFER

## HOW IT WORKS?

- **Digital Planning.** Using 3D imaging & digital scanning, we capture highly detailed images of your mouth to customise the treatment to precisely fit your new teeth. You get to see a simulation of what your new smile will look like once the treatment is complete.
- **Get your new smile.** Using the Chrome surgical guide, we fit temporary fixed natural looking and functioning teeth on the day, so you have your new smile on the day!

Transform your life in **ONE DAY!**

For further information call us on **0333 305 0886**

**PERTHSHIRE | STIRLINGSHIRE | FIFE | SCOTTISH BORDERS**

**iblu**

infinityblu  
dental care &  
implant clinic

## What's On for December 2023 and January 2024

### REGULAR MEETINGS

#### Mondays:

- Body Fit 7.00-7.45 am **MLL**
- Active Life 9.30-10.30 am **MLL**
- Chair Yoga 11.00-12noon **MLL**
- Core Fit Express 1.00-1.30pm **MLL**
- u3a Bridge Group 2.00-4.00pm  
Beginners welcome upstairs in Callander Library
- Climbing Club (children) 4.00pm and 5.00pm **MLL**
- Soccer School (5-7 yrs) 5.00pm, (8-11 yrs) 6.00pm **MLL**
- Highland Dancing 4.00pm Kirk Hall: restarts all Mondays excl 12th Feb, 25th Mar, 1st & 8th Apr
- HIT Circuits 7.00-7.45 **MLL**
- Cycle Fit 6.00-6.45pm **MLL**
- Indoor Cycling 8.00-9.00pm **MLL**
- Core Fit 8.00-8.45pm **MLL**
- 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 [07513 488453](tel:07513488453)
- CAOS rehearsals 7:30pm at McLaren High School (from 5th Feb)

#### Tuesdays:

- Callander Cycle Meander meet 10.00am Ancaster Square (contact [01877 339074](tel:01877339074))
- Walk in the Park 10.20am Ancaster Square (except 10th Mar being from Medical Centre) for more info see Page 15
- Aqua Therapy 9.30-10.30am **MLL**
- MumFit 11.00-12 noon **MLL**
- Yoga Basics 12.30-1.45pm **MLL**
- Gentle Yoga 2.00- 3.00pm **MLL**
- Strength and Balance 3.00-4.00pm **MLL**
- Body Fit Express 5.00 - 6.00pm **MLL**
- Power Fit 6.00-6.45pm **MLL**
- Line-dancing (beginners) 6.30-8.00pm St.Andrew's Church Hall
- AquaFit 7.15-8.00pm **MLL**
- Badminton Club 7.30pm **MLL**
- Evening Yoga 7.30-9.00pm **MLL**
- Taekwondo 7.00-9.00pm **MLL**
- Song Squad practice 7.00-9.00pm at Callander Fire Station

#### Wednesdays:

- Cycle Fit 7.00-7.45 am **MLL**
- Active Life 9.30-10.30 **MLL**
- 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](http://www.momoyoga.com/seasonalbalance)
- Seasonal Yoga 11.00-12noon Fire Station book at [www.momoyoga.com/seasonalbalance](http://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 **MLL**
- Core Fit Express 5.30-6.00pm **MLL**
- Bowling Club 2.00pm (as Monday) Bowling Club
- Body Fit 7.00-7.45pm **MLL**
- Cycle Fit 8.00-8.45pm **MLL**
- Taekwondo (contact: [falkirktaekwondo@gmail.com](mailto:falkirktaekwondo@gmail.com))

#### Thursdays:

- Aqua Therapy 9.30-10.30am **MLL**
- 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 **MLL**
- HIIT 7.00-7.30pm **MLL**
- Cycle Fit 7.00-7.45pm **MLL**
- Core Fit 8.00-8.45pm **MLL**
- Bridge Club 7.00-10.00pm upstairs in Callander Library Beginners welcome
- Redtooth Poker League at Lade Inn 7.30pm all welcome
- Scottish Country Dancing 7.00pm Masonic Hall until end of March

#### Fridays:

- Body Fit 9.00-9.45am **MLL**
- MumFit 11.00- 12noon **MLL**
- Power Fit Express 1.00-1.30pm **MLL**
- Cycle Fit Express 5.30-6.00pm **MLL**
- Spike Island 8.15 -9.15pm **MLL**

#### Saturdays:

- Body Fit 9.00-9.45am **MLL**
- HIIT 9.30-10.00am **MLL**

#### Sundays:

- CAOS rehearsals 2:00pm at McLaren High School (until 10th Mar)
- Redtooth Poker League at Lade Inn 6.00pm all welcome

### February

#### Thursday 1st

- Kirk Guild Fun Team Quiz 2.00pm in Kirk Hall

#### Saturday 3rd

- CAOS Coffee morning 10.30am Callander Kirk Hall
- German Speaking Group meet 2:00pm Coilhallan House, Invertrossachs Road, Callander FK17 8HW

#### Thursday 8th

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

#### Sunday 11th

- Film Society - "Triangle of Sadness"(2022) 7.00pm for 7.30pm start (non members £5) **MLL**

#### Monday 12th

- Music and Memories 2:00-3:30pm Kirk Hall (contact Ann Ross [07720 887720](tel:07720887720) or Anne McLachlan [07743 125966](tel:07743125966))
- Arthritis Club talk by Kath Millar on "Strength and Balance" 2.00pm Callander Kirk Hall

#### Thursday 15th

- SWT talk by Susan Davies CEO Scottish Seabird Centre "Avian influenza: its impact on our seabirds" 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall (suggested donation £3 incl tea/coffee)

#### Monday 19th

- Callander Community Council meeting at 7:00pm in CYP, Callander

#### Wednesday 21st

- Heritage Society speaker tba 7.30pm Masonic Hall (doors open 7.00pm)

### Saturday 24th

- Messy Church 10.30am Kirk Hall

### March

### Friday 1st

- World Day of Prayer at St Andrew's Church at 12 noon (see Page 30 for more details)

### Thursday 7th

- Callander Kirk Guild AGM and Annual Meeting Video at 2.00pm Kirk Hall

### Friday 8th

### Copy deadline for Ben Ledi View

### Monday 11th

- Music and Memories 2:00-3:30pm Kirk Hall (contact Ann Ross 07720 887720 or Anne McLachlan 07743 125966)

### Monday 12th

- Arthritis Club talk by Peter Herbert on "Old Kilmadock rescuing history" 2.00pm Callander Kirk Hall

### Thursday 14th

- Rotary Bingo entry £2 arr 1:50pm for 2pm start at Callander Hostel (Queries or transport needs call 07710 232 908)
- SWT talk by Anthony McClusky (BC) and Nick Cooke (CLEAR) "Butterfly Conservation and the Pearl-bordered Fritillary" 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall (suggested donation £3 incl tea/coffee)

### Sundat 17th

- Callander 10k email [carla@itsgoodtogive.co.uk](mailto:carla@itsgoodtogive.co.uk)

### Monday 18th

- Callander Community Council meeting at 7:00pm in CYP, Callander

### Wed 20th - Fri 22nd

- CAOS musical show "Carousel" at McLaren High School 7.30pm

### Saturday 23rd

- CAOS musical show "Carousel" at McLaren High School 2.30pm

### Saturday 30th

- Rotary Easter Bottle Stall & Lucky Dip from 10:00am Ancaster Square

### Sunday 31st Easter Day

### April

### Friday 5th

### Ben Ledi View published

### Monday 8th

- Music and Memories 2:00-3:30pm Kirk Hall (contact Ann Ross 07720 887720 or Anne McLachlan 07743 125966)

### Thursday 11th

- SWT talk by Felix Sanchez-Bishop (SSRS Conservation & Control Officer) "Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels" 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall (suggested donation £3 incl tea/coffee)



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

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

Pop in anytime between 12.30 -2.30pm

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

Start Up Stirling would like to thank the many businesses in Callander who support our hub, and thanks also go to our volunteers who help make the hub a great place to be every Wednesday.

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

### 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 -

12<sup>th</sup> February,

11<sup>th</sup> March & 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Callander Kirk Hall ~ 2.00pm-3.30pm

For more information please contact:

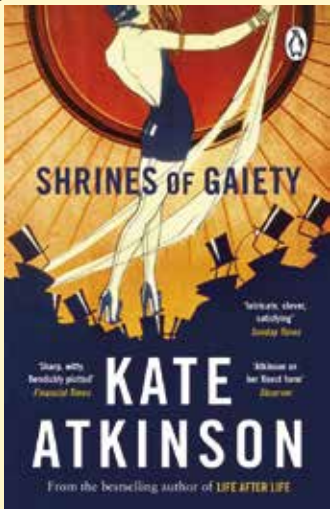
Ann Ross 07720 887720

or

Anne McLachlan 07743 125966

**Book Review**

This issue's book review title is *Shrines of Gaiety* by Kate Atkinson (Penguin: 2023).



*Shrines of Gaiety* is set in London in 1926. It's now eight years since the Great War and the city is still in shock, although the reality of a lost generation of men is beginning to become clear. Enter an era of delirium and hedonistic nightlife played out in London's numerous clubs, as people seek to forget.

The novel is focused on the infamous Coker family who own a number of Soho establishments. Nellie Coker is the matriarch and businesswoman. She runs her nightclubs and her family in a similar hard-nosed fashion. But Nellie is getting older and another recent stint in Holloway prison has taken its toll on her health. Her many enemies and old business associates are on high alert waiting to fill Nellie's formidable boots, whatever it takes.

Those familiar with the author will know that one of Atkinson's key strengths is characterisation and there is an abundance of great characters in this book. The Coker family alone comprises of Nellie and her six offspring (two sons and four daughters) who assist her with running the Soho club-empire with varying degrees of competence. It was interesting to read in the author's notes that Atkinson got inspiration for Nellie Coker from Kate Meyrick who was the real-life 'queen of Soho's clubland' during the 1920s. She was imprisoned several times for breaking

the stringent licensing laws of the era.

These stringent licensing laws had to be enforced and Nellie runs rings around the police with various systems in place to get early warnings of raids (including several corrupt police officers working for her and providing tip-offs). Detective Chief Inspector Frobisher, however, is more preoccupied with the number of young girls going missing. Many of these young girls have run away to London looking for excitement and to seek fame on the stage. Yet many end up working in the seedy clubs of Soho where their fate is less assured.

Kate Atkinson has a huge fan-base (of which I am one). Her novels provide such a sense of epic completeness with quality writing, great narrative, fully rounded characters and satisfying plots. *Shrines of Gaiety* is no exception. It's a great read and shows that this author is still thankfully on top form.

The next BLV book club review will be *Karma* by Boy George (Blink Publishing, 2023)

*Maggie Magor*

**Callander Cinema**



Callander Cinema continues the 2023-24 season at McLaren Leisure Centre with more contemporary films.

The next screening is on Sunday 11th February, sponsored by Loucas and Kathy George. *Triangle of Sadness* (2022) is a wickedly funny satire by Ruben Östlund that won a Cannes Film Festival Palme D'Or. Set on a luxury cruise ship, where the social hierarchy is turned upside down, celebrity models Carl and Yaya are

invited on board alongside a group of out-of-touch super-wealthy people, helmed by an unhinged captain played by Woody Harrelson.

The titles for 17th March and 14th April will be confirmed by early February. Look out for Facebook updates or posters around town or email us at [callanderfilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:callanderfilmsociety@gmail.com) to be added to our mailing list.

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 at 7.00pm, with showtime at 7.30pm.

£5 at the door, £3 under 16 (no advance booking and please bring cash) and free for members.

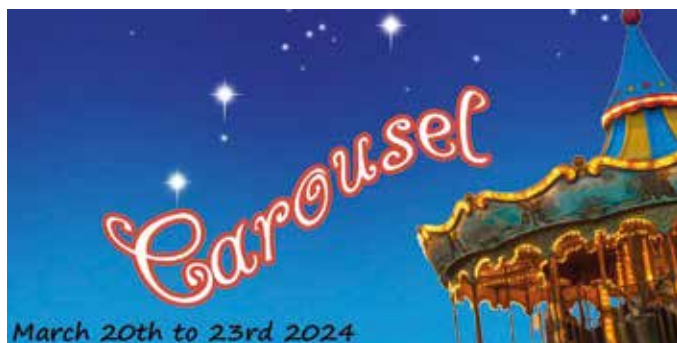
See you at the movies!

*Callander Film Society*



[www.incallander.co.uk/cinema](http://www.incallander.co.uk/cinema)  
[facebook.com/CallanderCinema](https://facebook.com/CallanderCinema)  
[callanderfilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:callanderfilmsociety@gmail.com)

**Callander Amateur Operatic Society presents:**



The venue for the show is McLaren High School and the show dates and times are as follows:

- Wednesday 20th March** - 7.30pm
- Thursday 21st March** - 7.30pm
- Friday 22nd March** at 7.30pm  
(doors open 7.00pm)
- Saturday 23rd March** - 2.30pm  
(doors open 2.00pm)

Though it now seems like a distant memory, 'It was beginning to sound a lot like Christmas' on 1st December when around 150 folks braved the elements to join the CAOS cast for our annual concert. We were entertained, and impressed, by a selection of numbers from *Carousel* and a variety of seasonal songs and carols. This year we were given fantastic support from Callander Brass and Callander Chorale, though once again it was Callander Kirk Junior Choir who stole the show.

We had a break from rehearsals from early December, getting started again on 8th January. Sunday rehearsals will begin on the first Sunday in February and it is exciting to see the show, as a whole, come together. There is still a lot of hard work to be done but you are again assured of a great show.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers to help out and it is not too late to get involved - talk to a committee member or see the web page ([www.c-a-o-s.org.uk](http://www.c-a-o-s.org.uk)).

Tickets for *Carousel* are now on sale and are readily available at:

- Online at [www.c-a-o-s.org.uk/order-tickets](http://www.c-a-o-s.org.uk/order-tickets).
- In person at Callander Connect, 43 Main Street, Callander on:  
Wednesdays 1pm to 3pm  
Thursdays 12 noon to 2pm  
Saturdays 10am to 12 noon
- At the door, before each performance, but seats are numbered so buying early will give you more chance of guaranteeing your favourite place.

Prices for 2024 are:

- Adults - £15
- Seniors and students - £12
- Children up to age 12 yrs - £6

(Please note only full price tickets are available for the Friday performance).

*Carousel* is brought to you by arrangement with Concord Theatricals



Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the show!

\*Don't miss our coffee morning on Saturday 3rd February at 10.30am in the Kirk Hall

*Steve Murphy for CAOS*



Rare Lenticular Clouds  
aka UFO clouds  
on way back to Callander

Taken by **James Mc Laughlin** in December 2023



## 30 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](mailto:earlm@stirling.gov.uk)

Gene Maxwell - [Maxwellg@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:Maxwellg@stirling.gov.uk)

Elaine Watterson-[wattersone@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:wattersone@stirling.gov.uk)

### MSP

Evelyn Tweed - [evelyn.tweed.msp@parliament.scot](mailto: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](http://www.nhs24.scot)

[www.nhsinform.scot](http://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



### Callander Kirk

The Church of Scotland,  
South Church Street, Callander

Please join us every Sunday 11.15am  
also livestreamed on facebook and on  
Youtube channel

Rev Jeffery McCormick BD  
[jmccormick@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jmccormick@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
01567 820247

Church Office/Hall Bookings:  
[callanderkirk@btconnect.com](mailto:callanderkirk@btconnect.com)

### Bin Collections

Bins are now collected on a  
Saturday or a Tuesday.

The dates are  
**February**

	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Sat</b>
Grey/Blue	6th	3rd
Brown/Green	13th	10th
Brown/Blue Box	20th	24th

### March

Grey/Blue	5th	2nd
Brown/Green	12th	9th
Brown/Blue Box	19th	23rd
Grey/Blue	2nd (Apr)	30th

[www.stirling.gov.uk/waste](http://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](http://www.standrewschurchcallander.co.uk)

Hall for hire by the hour - contact  
07795 244333

### Easter Services 2024

**Palm Sunday Eucharist,**  
24 March, 9.30am

**Maundy Thursday,**  
28 March, 7pm

**Good Friday, Liturgy of the Passion,**  
29 March, 12noon

**Easter Saturday, Vigil Service,**  
30 March, 9pm

**Easter Sunday Eucharist,**  
31 March, 9.30am

### 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](http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/index.htm)

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

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

### Location of defibrillators

Dreadnought Garage

Callander Golf Club

McLaren Leisure Centre

The Post Office

Ancaster Square

West Dullater House and Grace's

Cottage Invertrossachs

Mobile unit based in Callander with  
Scottish Ambulance Service



### St Joseph's Catholic Church

Glen Artney Road, Callander  
Website: [stfdac.co.uk](http://stfdac.co.uk);

Phone: 01877 330702

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

### Callander Library

Books, DVDs, hearing aid batteries.

**Monday** 10-1 pm 2-5pm

**Tuesday** 10-1 pm 2-7 pm

**Wednesday** Closed

**Thursday** 10-1 pm 2-7 pm

**Friday** 10-1 pm 2-5pm

**Saturday** 10-12 pm



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, followed by refreshments.

Our weekly prayer meeting is on a Monday evening at 7.30pm. Please contact: [admin@callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk](mailto:admin@callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk) or visit [www.callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk](http://www.callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk) for further details.

### Callander Christian Fellowship welcomes a new Pastor!

On Sunday 10th December 2023, Rev. Nathan Swisher started his ministry here in Callander, as the new Pastor of Callander Christian Fellowship. This is the culmination of several months of preparation and process and we are really delighted that he is joining us.



Nate was born in Idaho Falls in the US and has spent many years training and serving in the Foursquare Church, firstly in that area and latterly as a Pastor in Gettysburg Foursquare Church. He was fully ordained in September 2012. He has had a calling to work in Scotland for nearly thirty years, after coming to YWAM (Youth with a Mission) Scotland to complete Discipleship Training School in 1997, and finally returned here a year or so ago, again based with YWAM in West Kilbride, to determine where he might best fulfil this vocation. We are very blessed that we mutually discovered one another!

During his time of serving in the US, he and his wife, De'Sha, have been involved with youth and children's work, worship leading, discipleship training, mentoring and teaching. In Callander, he will lead CCF in all aspects of church life and hopes very much to forge community and interdenominational links in the town.



At present, he is living in Thornhill with De'Sha and soon also with his adult son Noah, but would eventually wish to be based in Callander itself. On February 4th 2024 at 4.00pm, there will be an induction service for Nate, in St Andrew's Church, with refreshments afterwards. Do come along and meet him!

Callander Christian Fellowship meets each Sunday in St Andrew's Church Hall, Leny Road, at 4.00pm. We are a small, friendly group of folk and would be really pleased to welcome anyone to join us in our service.

Marilyn Willett

### Bon Accord Mortgages Your Local Mortgage Broker



Sit back, relax and arrange your mortgage the easy way with Bon Accord Mortgages

"I am glad I have found this company, they have been amazing from start to finish with my first mortgage application. They seemed to work around the clock. Very professional team of people - thank you so much!"



Looking for expert mortgage advice that is tailored to you?

Bon Accord Mortgages  
Ancaster Business Centre  
Cross Street  
Callander  
FK17 8EA

01786 583601  
[info@bonaccordmortgages.com](mailto:info@bonaccordmortgages.com)  
[www.bonaccordmortgages.com](http://www.bonaccordmortgages.com)

### New Planning Applications

Will resume in the next issue

### BLV DEADLINES

The next issue of the Ben Ledi View will be published on **Friday 5th April 2024.**

**Advertisements copy & artwork**  
Please send all advertisement copy for the **Apr/May** issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Nina Taylor at:

[advertising@benlediview.org](mailto:advertising@benlediview.org) by **Wednesday 6th March 2024** Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at [www.benlediview.org](http://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 **Apr/May** issue should be emailed to [editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org) or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday 8th March 2024.**

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



**Saint Andrew's Scottish Episcopal Church**  
Leny Road, Callander

### World Day of Prayer



It is the turn of St Andrew's church to host this year's World Day of Prayer (WDP) ecumenical service, which will take place on

**Friday 1 March, 12noon** followed by a frugal lunch in the church hall.

The theme for this year's service – prepared by the WDP Committee of Palestine is:

*'I beg you...bear with one another in love.'*

**Everyone warmly welcome.**

# ALLY BAIRD LTD.

Building and Roofing Services



## ROOFING • EXTENSIONS MAINTENANCE • RENOVATIONS

No job too small, free estimates and all work is fully guaranteed

**M** 07833 312346 **T** 01877 330389

**E** ally.baird@btinternet.com **W** www.allybaird.co.uk

Registered Office: 25 Lagrannoch Crescent, Callander FK17 8DS, Scotland

Call for free surveys  
and quotes

All newly replaced roofs  
guaranteed

- slate roofs

- tiled roofs

- flat roofs

- all lead works

- maintenance and repairs

**Marshall Roofing  
Callander**

**Neill Marshall  
Roofing Contractor**  
07583488876

neillmarshall1234@icloud.com



## CALLANDER

### DECORATING SERVICES

Interior & exterior work,  
Taping and filling, flooring etc.

**Time-served Tradesman**

**CONTACT PAUL - 07901685420**

**or: 01877 339737**

**callanderdecorating@gmail.com**

## BEN LEDI VIEW

Advertise to 2000 households  
and businesses in Callander  
and nearby communities

Contact  
advertising@benlediview.org

## ROBERT MACDONALD

### ROOFER

TIME SERVED TRADESMAN

Tel: 01877 238597

Mobile: 07854 034539



**ANGUS YOUNG**  
ROOFING SPECIALISTS

**NFRC**  
LEADING ROOFING EXCELLENCE

When Quality  
& Reliability  
Matters

Phone Angus on:

Mob. 07949 924 356

Tel. 01877 339 750

www.angusyounicroofing.co.uk

# Easi Plumb

## Plumbing & Heating

Gas / Oil & LPG Certified

### Plumbing

Leak & Bursts  
Tap Repair  
Toilet Cisterns  
Overflows  
Shower Repair  
Cylinder Repair

### Heating

Boiler Installation  
Boiler Servicing  
Boiler Breakdown  
Gas Safety Certificates  
Gas Fire Repair  
Gas Fire Servicing

### Drainage

Blocked Toilet  
Blocked Sinks  
Blocked Baths  
Blocked Drains  
Blocked Shower  
HP Water Jetting

**Tel: 07584430019**

**www.easiplumb.co.uk**

**>>> Fast Response >>>**

All Major  
Credit/Debit  
Cards Accepted

No Call Out Charge \*\*  
O.A.P Discount  
All Work Guaranteed



\*\* Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm



**Doune Woodyard Ltd**  
Lochill Industrial Estate, Doune,  
FK16 6AD  
**01786 841 204**  
sales@dounewoodyard.co.uk

### Your local Hardware Shop



We carry a wide range of products from basic decorating items to building products. Cutting services are available and any timber can be delivered for a small charge. Our Prices are competitive and quotes are available on request.

We carry a wide range of Fencing, Decking, Mouldings, Finishings and Sheet Materials. All of our timber and sheet materials can be cut to your own required measurements.

We are now selling bin stores which can be made to your own required size!

You are very welcome to come and visit our premises and have a look around. One of our friendly members of staff will help and advise you on your DIY projects!

Easy to find, parking on site.  
Why not try here first?

www.dounewoodyard.co.uk





**Dreadnought Garage** 

**01877 331099** [Dreadnoughtgarage.co.uk](http://Dreadnoughtgarage.co.uk)

All vehicle makes and models catered for.  
We can service your vehicle without affecting your vehicle's warranty

- Servicing
- Official MOT centre
- Precision wheel alignment
- Tyres
- Brakes
- Exhausts
- Batteries
- Oil
- A/C recharging
- Bulbs
- Wiper blades
- Antifreeze
- Screenwash
- Valeting products
- Valeting
- Diagnostics

Open 8am - 5pm Mon - Fri. Wed evening by appointment

Container storage now available on site.  
20ft containers for short or long term business or private rental.



**PFK Callander LTD**

140 Main Street, Callander, FK17 8BG



**MOTs, Servicing, Repairs  
Diagnostics & ECU Remapping**

Open: Monday – Thursday 08:00 to 17:30.  
Friday – 08:00 to 16:00; Saturday 08:00 to 12:00

**01877 331 569 or 07901 651 361**

 [pfkcallander@btconnect.com](mailto:pfkcallander@btconnect.com)





*Your Ad  
could have  
been here*

*Earning you money*

Contact: [advertising@BenLediView.org](mailto:advertising@BenLediView.org)

**SUPPORTING RURAL  
BUSINESSES FOR  
OVER 30 YEARS**



**CALLANDER BUSINESS SUPPORT**

No one knows your business as you do. But for those times when you need advice, support or just a fresh pair of eyes, turn to your local Business Gateway Business Adviser.

Grab 60 minutes with us and we will work with you to understand your goals and discuss what support is available.

**FREE BUSINESS ADVISER APPOINTMENTS**

**Where**  
Callander Library  
South Church Street  
Callander  
FK17 8BN

**When**  
Appointments are available the first Tuesday of every month.

 STEP delivers Business Gateway services in Striving which is fully funded by the Scottish Government, and free of charge for you and your business.



 **BAIRD  
OPTOMETRISTS**

OPTICIANS & CONTACT LENS PRACTITIONERS



**BOOK  
ONLINE**

**COCOA MINT  
STUDIO**

53a High Street, **DUNBLANE** 01786 821397  
49 Main Street, **CALLANDER** 01877 330084

[www.bairdoptometrists.com](http://www.bairdoptometrists.com)

**HUGH DEVLIN**  
Painter & Decorator

Time Served Tradesman

All aspects of interior & exterior work undertaken.

**Tel: 01877 330610**

**Mob: 07974 786680**

**Gus Macdonald**  
Electrical Contractor

Free Estimates

47 Main Street

Callander

Phone: 01877 330430

Mobile: 07713 586608

SELECT

FSB

**Help Always Needed**

As you probably know the Ben Ledi View is hand delivered to every household in Callander for free.

We are only able to do this because all of the many people who produce and distribute the magazine do it as unpaid volunteers.

We are currently in need of some additional volunteers and I'm sorry to announce that if we don't get them, we may struggle to publish the magazine in the future.

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

email: [editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org)

**Greg Deans, Joiner & Glazier**

UPVC Windows, Doors & Facias | Double Glazing Repairs  
Kitchen Design, Supply & Install | Renovations | Roofs  
Extensions & New Builds | All Joinery Work Undertaken

Call: 07810 865373 | 01877 331042

[info@gregdeansjoiners.co.uk](mailto:info@gregdeansjoiners.co.uk) | [www.gregdeansjoiners.co.uk](http://www.gregdeansjoiners.co.uk)

**Keith Corrieri**  
Joiners Ltd

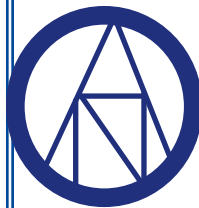
Joiner/Glazier/Tree Surgeon

Fitted Kitchens  
Velux Windows  
Door and Windows  
All Types of Roofing  
Wall and Floor Tiling  
Laminated Flooring  
Fencing and Tree Surgery  
Hedges Trimmed

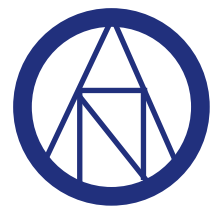
Local Time Served Tradesman

*No job too small –  
give Keith a call*

Phone 07786 050474



**Alan Neumann**  
Joiners & Glaziers



Design & Fit Kitchens/ Made to Measure  
Doors & Windows/ Roofs/ Extensions/  
Loft Conversions/ Renovations/ New Builds

**From Planning to Completion, All Trades Supplied.**

Free Estimates.

**Telephone 01877 331230 or 07721 085874**

**mancave**  
barbers

main street  
callander



telephone  
07568 068223



**J.D DRUMMOND & SON**  
Building Contractors

*For All Your Building Needs  
Estimates & Advice Free*

Contact Cameron

**01877 330732 or  
07811 869212**

**ANDREW ROSS ELECTRICAL**

All types of electrical work undertaken tested & guaranteed,  
LED security lighting, LED downlights, rewires, testing & inspection,  
NIC EIC approved contractor, find me on facebook

07988706814

email: [ange939@gmail.com](mailto:ange939@gmail.com)



**Thomas Allan & Sons**

**Plumbing & Heating Engineers**

Unit 5, Lagrannoch Industrial Estate

S.N.I.P.E.F. Member

Gas Safe Registered

Tel: Callander 330012



**Jon MacIsaac**  
**0791 7391 738**

Gas/Oil/LPG	Boiler Replacement
Central Heating	Boiler Service
New builds/Extensions	Boiler Repairs
Gas Safety Certificates	Renovations

All Types Of Work Undertaken

[jonmacisaac1000@aol.com](mailto:jonmacisaac1000@aol.com)



- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Decorating
- Tiling
- Plumbing
- Fitted Wardrobes
- Smart Home
- CCTV
- Alarms
- Decking
- Gardening

**CALL BILLY NOW**

Tel: **01877 339636**  
 Mobile: **07368 325162**

**FREE Estimates**

## Somers & Currid

*Independent Funeral Directors*

*George Currid Cert. FB, F19DC  
 24 Hour Personal Service*

*Unit 6 Geisher Road, Callander FK17 8LX  
 Tel: 01877 360015*

[www.somersandcurrid.co.uk](http://www.somersandcurrid.co.uk)



## K2 Gardening & Landscaping

Want to get the best out of your garden?



**Kirsty Brooks**  
 (previously of BBC Groundforce) can help

No job too big or small  
 Patio & Wall Repointing

**07753 341988**

## Varney Electrical Ltd

**Contractors & Engineers**



David Varney a local electrical contractor providing installations, maintenance and testing services to domestic, commercial and industrial clients.



- Commercial & domestic electricians
- Electrical inspecting & testing
- Electrical installations
- Emergency lighting installations
- LED lighting installations
- Landlord safety certificates

Mobile: 07976 218370 Office: 01877 331929

[www.varneyelectrical.co.uk](http://www.varneyelectrical.co.uk)  
[admin@varneyelectrical.co.uk](mailto:admin@varneyelectrical.co.uk)

## Andrew Anderson & Sons Funeral Directors

Est.1969

*"Stand Sure we will look after you & your family"*

We are proud to offer a 24 hour caring and professional service to the local community.



**CALLANDER**

Funeral Home, Glenartney Road, Callander, FK17 8EB,  
 Tel: 01877 330398

**BALFRON**

64B Buchanan Street, Balfron, Glasgow, G63 0TW,  
 Tel: 01360 441023

**STIRLING**

90 Drip Road, Stirling FK8 1RN,  
 Tel: 01786 237480

Email: [info@andersonfunerals.co.uk](mailto:info@andersonfunerals.co.uk) • [www.andersonfunerals.co.uk](http://www.andersonfunerals.co.uk)



## WE ARE COMING TO CALLANDER!

West Homes Estate Agents are proud to announce the grand opening of our new office in Callander!

Our Killearn branch's rapid ascent to becoming the area's premier agent has paved the way for this exciting expansion. We eagerly anticipate bringing our proven success to Callander and its neighbouring areas. Our commitment to excellence remains unwavering as we embark on this new chapter.

If you'd like to discuss your home move with us, get in contact for a free, no obligation home valuation or a confidential chat!

86 MAIN STREET, CALLANDER FK17 8BD

01877 728 001

HELLO@WESTHOMES.CO.UK

WESTHOMES.CO.UK

@WESTHOMESUK