

Ben Ledi View

Callander's News & Views since 1987

made in
Dagenham THE MUSICAL

Callander Amateur Operatic Society presents

Contains strong language and adult themes, parental guidance advised

19th to 22nd March 2025
McLaren High School
Callander

Music by David Arnold
Lyrics by Richard Thomas

Wednesday to Friday performances start at 7.30pm
Saturday performance starts at 2.30pm
Ticket Prices - £15, Concessions £12
(Concessions not available for Friday performance)

Tickets are available from the Callander Connect Office, 43 Main Street, Callander and from Society members - and online at c-a-o-s.org.uk

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

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Convenor's Welcome Message

Hello Readers

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, wishing everyone a very Happy 2025!

This is a time for reflecting on the year that has passed and for looking forward to the coming year and this issue features both. In the former category, I think we can all agree that Callander's Christmas lights were a huge improvement over those in recent years. This will have taken a considerable amount of work to organise, so a big "Thank You" to all those involved in the organisation and fund-raising, and particularly to Richard and Mary Johnson. Whilst paying tribute to volunteers, many thanks are also due to the Friends of Trossachs Church for organising the beautiful Carol Concert on Christmas Eve.

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; I include in this category the news that the new Primary School now has approval to commence works and note that concerns regarding the safety of our young people getting to and from school have been raised with the Council.

Having picked up this issue of the BLV, you can hardly have missed that CAOS are putting on *Made in Dagenham* towards the end of March, which is definitely one for the diary! For those with green fingers, the Horticultural Society Spring Bulb Show takes place at the end of March.

12 months ago, I highlighted the fact that more volunteers were required if this paper is to continue to be published and to be sustainable into the future. Despite a number of new, keen and talented volunteers having joined the team, the threat to the future of this paper remains very real and so I urge anyone with an interest in volunteering to contact me via email to convenor@benlediview.org or editor@benlediview.org.

Mark Griffiths

Convenor, Ben Ledi View SCIO

convenor@benlediview.org

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A Warm Welcome to Callander

Callander's Visitor Information Centre had its busiest season yet since replacing VisitScotland's i-centre in 2019. One of a growing number of community tourism providers in Scotland and run by Callander Community Development Trust, its friendly team of volunteers welcomed 21,778 visitors in 2024, almost 3,000 more than in 2023. They came from at least 36 countries, 28 US states and from all over the UK.



All the usual questions were asked – where were the best local walks and cycle routes, places to eat and visit and of course where to find public toilets. But the questions are hugely varied and can cover the whole of Scotland, as Callander is a popular stopping point on the way north and west. You learn something new every day and meet interesting people from around the world.

Volunteers contributed 1,822 hours in 2024, so it really would not be possible without them. The team is taking a well-earned break over the winter, but preparations are already underway for re-opening on 26th March in time for the Easter holidays. If you're interested in joining them, please get in touch by email at callandervic@gmail.com or leave your details at Callander Connect at 43 Main Street.

NEXT ISSUE DATES & DEADLINES

Publish Date: Friday 4th April 2025

Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the **Apr/May** issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Agnes Allen:

by **Friday 28th February 2025**

Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at www.benlediview.org/advertise.

Please email for advice if in doubt.



Editorial copy - Friday 28th February 2025 All editorial contributions for the **Apr/May** issue should be emailed to

editor@benlediview.org or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday 28th February**. We will do our best to accommodate items received after the deadline but these may be held over to next issue.



Notices

I would like to thank friends and neighbours for the lovely flowers and cards of condolence I received when Billy died. They were appreciated and a great comfort to me.

Sheila Cameron

The Late Rev June Cloggie

My family and I attended the memorial service and interment at Aberfoyle Cemetery of June. The lovely service was conducted by the family and the Rev Iain Goring including Rev Jonathan Connell.

June prayed with my late wife Margaret, two days before she sadly died in Forth Valley Royal Hospital. June, you will always be in our thoughts.

Leslie McLaren.

Ian Milligan

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Ian Milligan, the former Principal Teacher of Music at McLaren High School, who died on Wednesday, January 15th, 2025. He was very well-known in the town and was founder of Callander Amateur Operatic Society, Callander Brass and Callander Chorale. The committal service and celebration of his life was held on Friday 31st January 2025. A full obituary will follow in the April/ May edition of the BLV.

The Trustees would like to thank Christine Cunningham and Jean Thewlis for their many years of service editing the Ben Ledi View Arts & Entertainment pages. Their contribution has been greatly appreciated.

Explore Life's Big Questions with Alpha

Join us for engaging sessions that explore the fundamentals of the Christian faith. All perspectives are valued

Each week, enjoy a short video on a question of faith followed by open group discussions in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. You can share your thoughts or just listen.

Alpha

7.00pm
Every Wednesday
At Callander Meadows
Starting 12th February



For more information, contact:
admin@callanderchristianfellowship.co.uk

Callander Community Council



As many of you are aware by now, the new Primary School has been given planning permission, with some conditions. These mainly involve safe routes to school, so include a pedestrian crossing on Mollands Road and a Travel Plan to ensure safe access to school. The proposed pedestrian bridge has no fixed timetable as yet and is still at early stages of feasibility. There is wide public concern that, with the Creep not being safe or even usable in bad weather and always a problem for anyone with a buggy or a wheelchair and the pavement on the A81 not being wide enough for a parent with a toddler and/or a buggy or wheelchair, there is not much option but to use a car for travel to school.

The Community Council reflects the concerns expressed by the reader in the December/January BLV, that the pedestrian bridge by the library is not lit and in spite of requests to Stirling Council, this is not yet in their plans, unless the Travel Plan ensures this becomes a necessity. The bridge is dark and a hazard for anyone unsteady on their feet or with accessibility issues and is used by many children going to and from school. To add to the problems of the darkness, there have been incidents of dog faeces being deposited in the middle of the bridge, which if not seen, cannot be avoided. Another good reason for the bridge to be lit.

We have also been making enquiries as to when anything might be done about the pavements in Callander Main Street, Bridgend and other roads. Both Stirling Council (for local roads and A81) and Transport Scotland – BEAR (for A84) are responsible but money seems to be the overriding issue at the moment. Please report any issues to Callander Community Council (callandercc556@gmail.com) or, for local roads and A81, directly to Stirling Council via this link (<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/roads-transport-and-parking/roads-and-pavements/report-roadside-defects/>). Any issues reported to CCC will be forwarded on to the relevant agency and followed up if necessary.

Callander Community Council had an interesting talk at the meeting in

December 2024 from the new ranger, Hanna Rennie, of The Woodland Trust. She explained about a new project that the Trust was undertaking to create a new path on Venachar Lochside, parallel to Invertrossachs Road, to link up with the existing path network. The Woodland Trust acquired the fields in this area in 2022 as additional grazing land for cattle and sheep, but there are opportunities for recreation and environmental projects, as well as making the area fully accessible for cyclists and walkers. Phase one of the project is to create a path from Gartchonzie Bridge to Coilantogle, where it will join the Great Trossachs Path. This is still in an early design stage but will create an interesting new walk for local people and visitors alike.

Please note we hold Callander Community Council Surgeries in Callander Connect once a month on the Saturday before a Community Council meeting, which are on the third Monday of every month, except for January and July. The surgeries are usually between 11 am and 1 pm in Callander Connect, but times can vary to allow for different availability of residents. Exact times will be available on the OurCallander Facebook page and on other popular local pages. The next surgery is likely to be on 15th February.

If you wish to make contact in between times, please email callandercc556@gmail.com or speak directly to one of the councillors. There is a list with names and photographs of all community councillors in Callander Connect. The more that people are involved with the town, the more that can be done.

**Marilyn Moore, Callander
Community Council**

email us by scanning:



River Teith Footbridge

Councillor Martin Earl posed the following question at the 12th December Stirling Council meeting:

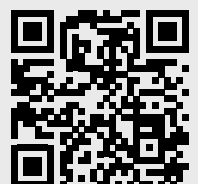
Question: *With the approval of the planning application for the new Callander Primary School, the existing footbridge across the River Teith will become part of a key walking route for primary school age pupils. The bridge now urgently requires a full assessment to determine maintenance required and how appropriate lighting could be installed. Would the convener support this being prioritised?*

Answer recieved from council officers:

“The school will be putting a travel plan in place. The bridge is currently used by children walking to school. Should the bridge have added importance as a key walking route for primary school age pupils, it will be assessed as part of the development of the travel plan. The requirement for upgrading including the provision of lighting was not a material consideration relating to the planning consent. If upgrading work is required, a bid will be made to the capital programme. “

At the time of going to print, further meetings with the Convenor of the Environment Committee and other officers had been scheduled and are expected to have taken place by the publish date of this issue. If we receive further updates we will post on our website - scan the QR code below or visit

benlediview.org/special_news



Callander Community Development Trust



Hydro Funding Applications

The Development Trust always welcomes applications to the Community Hydro Fund. Before Christmas, we were delighted to offer support to worthy local groups including the Adaptive Riders' Collective — a local, award-winning community interest company providing more accessible offroad adaptive cycling opportunities. Best of luck to everyone who applied for our December round. If you need a helping hand with a project or have an idea for the Callander community, apply before the next deadline, which is 31st March!

Local Place Plan Updates

Work continues with Stirling Council to draw down the necessary funds for a new pedestrian bridge at the east end of town, as well as making safer the connecting paths up to the McLaren campus.

Callander Connect celebrated its one-year anniversary in December 2024 — if you have ideas about what the next year might look like, let us know.

Funding has been secured for a fresh coat of paint for any businesses on Main St that would like one — please get in touch if you are interested.

The vision for the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) funded Green Adventure Gateway project has been published and is available to view here: padlet.com/callanderconnect/local-place-plan-project-updates-hiavqfp14zltxkrk This vision has identified projects in the Meadows and Station Rd car park to take forward into 2025 and beyond. Get in touch if you would like to find out more about this project's legacy and ways to get involved in making ideas happen.

Callander Connect

Callander Connect remains open throughout the winter, usually on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10am and 4pm — opening times are advertised weekly on Callander Connect Facebook and Instagram. All welcome for a chat and a cuppa.



Callander Connect Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/callanderconnect/

Callander Connect Instagram:

www.instagram.com/callanderconnect/



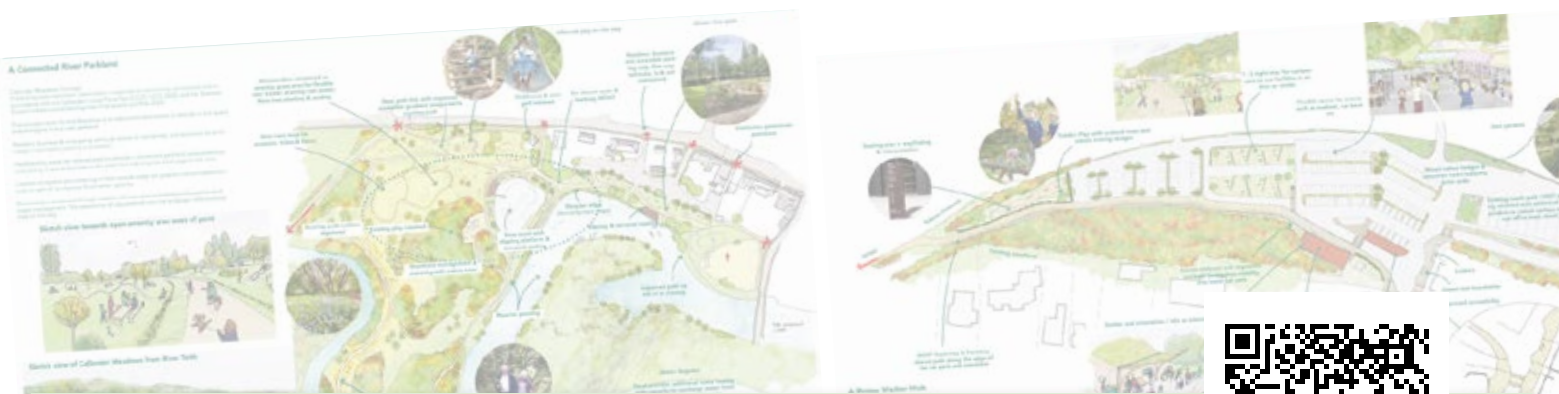
Visitor Information Centre

The Visitor Information Centre is already gearing up for the 2025 season. If you are interested in joining our friendly team, giving local information and welcoming visitors to Callander, please get in touch. Last year, we welcomed a record 22,000 people through our doors!

New Community-owned Phone Box at Camp Place

A reminder about the new community-owned phone box at Camp Place. We would love any ideas of how you would like to use it — book exchange, seed or plant swap, exhibition space or something else. Let us know what you think!

Callander Community Development Trust



Place Plan Updates QR Code

<https://padlet.com/callanderconnect/local-place-plan-project-updates-hiavqfp14zltxkrkourplaceplan>



Callander Christmas Lights

We hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas lights display in Callander this year. We were determined to expand out of Ancaster Square so that more of Callander could be lit up. From the comments we have received, the Square was enjoyed but the light braids on the street lights were even more popular, drawing people into the town as they entered from the west and east. The switch-on event was another success, with more people than ever before enjoying the alpacas, the lantern parade and the entertainment in the Square.

We would like to thank the many people, businesses and organisations who helped with the lights, including:

All the volunteers who helped put up and take down the lights, standing up the Christmas trees, build the new Santa Sleigh and helping with the switch-on event, etc.

Blachere Illuminations, Stirling Council, BEAR Scotland, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue.

Callander Brass, Callander and District 41 Club, Dosh Restaurant and Callander Primary School Parents Council.

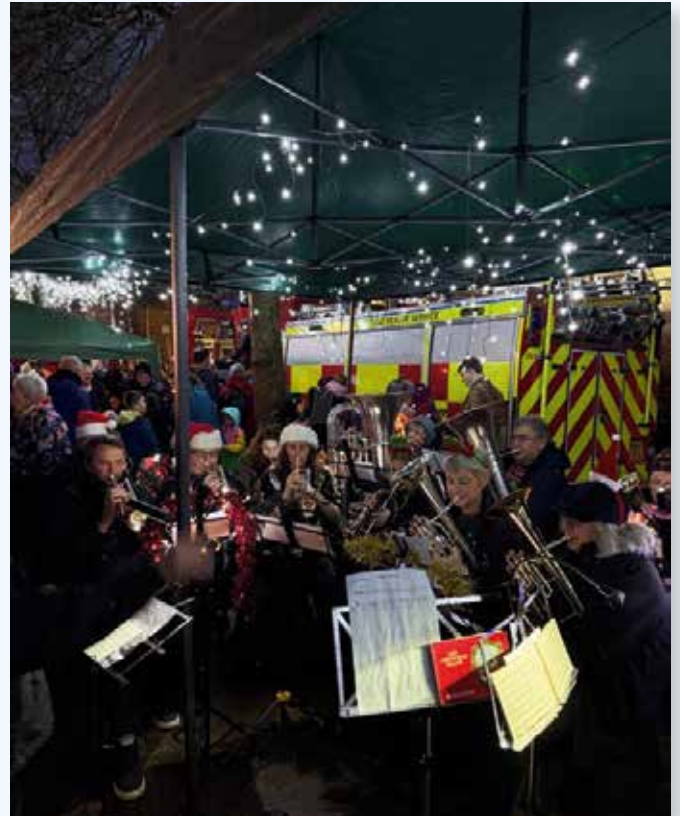
Campbell's Shortbread, Johnson's Fudge Shop, Mhor Bread, Main Street Bakers and Callander Gift Shop.

Callander Community Council, Braes of Doune Community Fund, Callander Community Hydro Fund and Stirling Council Community Pride Fund.

Arnold Clark Community Fund, Destiny Productions, Dreadnought Garage, Dreadnought Filling Station, Ancaster Coffee, Thornhill Alpaca Centre and Poppies Hotel.

Kimber Family, King's Construction, Infinity Blu, Deli Ecosse, McKendry Finance, Perkins Family, Bracklinn Bespoke Scotland and Clark Electronics.

All those who donated money to the bucket collection, crowdfunding and the memorial bauble tree.



Our brief accounts for the Christmas Lights 2024 are:

Expenditure:

- Purchase and installation of lights — £10,963.44
- Upgrade of Main Street lamp posts — £9,999.00
- Insurance — £221.00
- Equipment costs — £1,099.00
- Total expenses — £22,282.44

Income:

- Braes of Doune Community Fund — £10,017.20
- Callander Community Hydro Fund — £5,000.00
- Callander and District 41 Club — £250.00
- Arnold Clark Community Fund — £1,000.00
- Stirling Council Community Pride Fund — £800.00
- Community donations — £5,225.26
- Total income — £22,292.46

Next year we hope to do it all again but with even more add-ons, possibly including the illumination of the spire of St Kessog's and lights in the cherry trees along Stirling Road.

Richard and Mary Johnson

The Big Quiz Night for Tearfund

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event on 16th November.

The Quiz raised £455. The amount raised so far by quizzing churches across the UK is £139,100 and counting. Many thanks to all who contributed and helped on the night. We have already signed up for 2025 - details nearer the time.

Callander Seniors Christmas Party

This year, the party was held at MacNab's in the Dreadnought Hotel. For some, this was like "coming home", as it had previously been held there for many years. What a lovely, light-hearted evening with good food, drink, fun and laughter it was!

Steve and his staff at MacNab's decorated the room and provided a wonderful three-course festive meal. The wine flowed all night and the after-dinner entertainment was provided by the brilliant musical duo "Squeeze & Teeze". Santa arrived in a mischievous mood, carrying a "plant" (we think he is "losing the plot"), dancing with our helpers and giving out bags of chocolates to all the guests.

All this could take place because of the generosity of our community; people and businesses never hesitate to help every year. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the following, in no particular order:

Steve and staff at MacNab's for the function room, the meal and service.

Campbell's Butchers for the tender turkey.

The volunteer drivers/helpers who made sure the guests arrived and returned home safely.

The Callander and District 41 Club for the free-flowing wine.

The Stirling family, who every year donate money tokens for the raffle and generously increased the amount this year.

Callum and his staff at the Post Office, who collated all names and deal with queries.



Campbell's Shortbread for financing the meal and entertainment and providing festive tins of shortbread for everyone.

Squeeze & Teeze, who can read the room so well and play/sing accordingly, for their music and banter.

And the biggest thanks to everybody who attended to make this an enjoyable evening, meeting new and old friends and sharing the company of others.

Thank you all so much.

We wish you all the very best for 2025.

Mary and Richard Johnson

Callander Primary School Planning Approval

The new Callander Primary School has taken a step forward as planners have given permission for the new facility to be built.

The application to begin work on the new primary school was approved by the National Park Planning Authority on Monday 25th November 2024, with work due to begin early in 2025.

The new school will sit adjacent to Callander Nursery, McLaren High School and McLaren Leisure Centre, creating a new Callander Community Campus.

Last year, Stirling Council approved £23 million of funding to deliver a new state-of-the-art primary school as part of its capital investment programme.

Children and Young People Convener, Councillor Danny

Gibson said: "Residents in Callander will be eager to see spades in the ground and work commencing on the community's brand new primary school. The decision of the National Park Planning Authority brings this a step closer.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who took part in the public consultations as part of the process – your input will help ensure we deliver a modern, high-quality school which will meet the needs of families in the area."



Text and Image courtesy of Stirling Council

Trossachs Church

Our 'Carols by Candlelight' event on Christmas Eve was enjoyed by over 100 people – standing room only for the last few arrivals!



As well as singing some traditional carols and hearing the traditional readings telling the Christmas story, the audience was entertained with some beautiful musical performances; Jessica Nellis and Annie MacLaren each performed vocal solos, Keena Wildman played a cello solo and Carolyn Dunion/Marc Fallon performed a vocal/ keyboard duet. Thank you to all our talented local musicians...not forgetting Linda Cantlay for her wonderful keyboard accompaniment to all the singing. It was truly a fantastic sound of Christmas inside the wee church.

Trossachs Church had been decorated both inside and out to look magical for this special event, so thank you to all the Friends who helped make this happen. The audience were then treated to some of Mick's baking delights as they left to continue their Christmas Eve festivities.

Following our report in the last BLV, the team continues to work on plans to acquire and retain Trossachs for our Community. The Church of Scotland have now closed the church as of 31st December 2024.

We now need YOUR help

Our funding applications require us to demonstrate that our community supports our project and you can assist with this in a matter of minutes by signing up as a Supporter. The sign up is free and can easily be done via our website www.trossachschurch.co.uk where you can also read more detail about the project.

Please also get in touch if you are able to volunteer with the project by emailing: friends@trossachschurch.co.uk.

Upcoming Events

Please keep an eye on our website www.trossachschurch.co.uk for details of upcoming events

Friends of Trossachs Church.



Become a supporter



Callander Kirk Community Food Larder

The congregation of Callander Kirk would like to pass on their heartfelt appreciation for the ongoing support from members of the community and the other churches. We are very grateful to all who donate so many items on a regular basis. ♥

We are always looking for gifts of food/toiletries for our Community Larder, located outside the Kirk Hall. **Please remember to check the best before date on the items.**

Food Items

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

Other non-perishable food items - baking potatoes, carrots, apples, bananas, oranges...

Toiletry Items

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

Surplus Garden Produce - goes in basket on table



Callander Heritage Society Report

Kath Millar

At our November meeting, George Peden, former Professor of History at Stirling University, gave a talk on 'The Making of Modern Callander':

In the 18th Century, Callander consisted of small cottages clustered around St. Kessog's Church. The few houses were small, but the population was around 1000 because families were large. People worked mostly on the farms round about. Main Street was wide to allow the passage of cattle coming from the Highlands to market at Falkirk. There was a ford and ferry just off South Ancaster Square. In 1784, the Old Bridge was built over the Teith where the Red Bridge now stands. Many farms had been given over to sheep, resulting in fewer farm workers. They now moved into Callander and the population increased. More houses were built along Main Street. These houses had large gardens for growing vegetables and grazing rights on the Common land.

The 1791 census showed that most adult males were labourers but there were many people working at spinning and weaving in their own homes. There were also a few tailors and shoemakers.

There was a Parish School for children in Callander and the area round about. Church sermons were in originally in Gaelic, but after 1850 the sermons in Gaelic stopped. Gaelic was seen as the language of the lower classes.

The 1790's saw the beginning of tourism. The publication of Walter Scott's 'Lady of the Lake' brought tourists to the area. They flocked to visit the places mentioned in the poem. Many rich people escaped the diseases of the big cities by moving to the country for the summer and taking over houses. Large houses for the 'Summer Folk' were built in Leny Fues. Houses in Bridgend were also built for the summer visitors. Reverend Thomas Robertson used the compensation money he inherited from his brother's estate in the West Indies to build the houses.

The arrival of the railway in 1868 saw an increase in tourism and with the growth in trade came an increase in population, more shops and more and better houses. (Although Queen Victoria described Callander in her diary as 'one long street with very few shops, a few good houses but many poor ones.')

Two men were influential in the development of Callander. Donald MacLaren, a wool broker and trader, started the first bank, helped found St. Bride's Church and gave money and land to help build the High School. The other was Daniel MacEwan, a successful entrepreneur, who successfully pushed for Callander to become a burgh which meant it could make independent decisions to improve life in the town.

By 1900, Callander's population was 1500. Main Street had several shops and hotels. The railway and tourism provided many jobs. Improved road and rail links brought more visitors and a growth in health tourism saw the building of the Hydropathic Hotel.

After World War 1, houses were built at Esher Crescent for disabled veterans and their families and in 1919 the Burgh Council built brick houses at Stirling Road. Cherry trees were planted along the roadside to create a 'good entrance' to Callander.

We had no meetings in December or January. Our meetings restart on February 19th. Speaker to be confirmed.



Callander Railway Station, unknown date



Viscountess Lady Esher lays memorial stone at Esher Crescent



Main Street looking west, early 20th Century

All images reproduced with permission of Callander Heritage Society Facebook page





LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING ALREADY...?

SPRING BULB SHOW – Saturday 29th March 2025 11am- 1 pm, Callander Kirk Hall

Why not have a look at the schedule for the Spring Bulb Show which is being held at the end of March this year – you may have some winning daffodils starting to peep through in a corner of your garden that you could enter as cut flowers, or perhaps you have already planted a pot of spring flowers or bulbs that are sitting on your porch, just waiting to be brought along to brighten up the Kirk Hall. How about encouraging your children or grandchildren to make an Easter card which they can enter in the Children's Section?

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

All entries are FREE of charge!

Here is a summary of the various classes:

Bulb Show Schedule

Cut Flowers

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

Potted Bulbs and Flowers

5. A pot of muscari
6. A mixed pot of bulbs
7. A pot of spring flowers – mixed or single variety, can include foliage plants

Floral Art

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

Children

9. A pot of one spring bulb or bulbs
10. An Easter card – two classes - 7 years and under and 8 – 13 years.

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

PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE WWW.CADHS.CO.UK for more details. Exhibits to be dropped off between 9 – 10 am on the morning of the Show.

Refreshments and Stalls

As well as including some fun and colourful competitions, 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 several other stalls, so please come along for a cuppa & a chat or even better, get involved in one of the competitions.

At this event, we will be launching the Schedule for our Annual Show, which will be held later in the year on Saturday 30th August. There are many ways to get involved in this local community event and competition, without having to be an expert gardener – crafts, photography, baking and floral art all feature in the Annual Show. Come along to our March event if you want to find out more or to 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 of the gardens around Callander area as they “spring” into life after the winter period. Please watch out for posts on Facebook about how to share your photos with us or log onto the website for more details.

SAVE THE DATES....

- Bulb Show – Saturday 29th March 2025 11am – 1 pm, Callander Kirk Hall
- CADHS Annual Show – Saturday 30th August 2025, East Torrie Farm, Callander. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS ONE WEEK LATER THAN LAST YEAR. There will be a free shuttle bus from the Square, to and from the venue, on the afternoon of the Show.

CAN YOU HELP?

We are a very small Committee and are always appreciative of offers of help from people wishing to become more involved. The Society has been running for over 150 years, but without more help, both with more exhibitors and with more helpers to set up the Shows, we may not be able to continue - so if you can spare even a few hours of your time to assist us, please get in touch. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to get information on the Schedule when it is released, please get in touch via our website www.cadhs.co.uk or by emailing cadhortsoc@gmail.com – or even stop us in the street!

The Committee

www.cadhs.co.uk



SCOTLAND'S GARDENS SCHEME STIRLINGSHIRE 2025

After a cold rather bleak winter, the gardens of Stirlingshire will bloom again for us to enjoy. There are many favourite Sunday Open Gardens on the list this year as well as some newer ones. Here are the dates for your diaries:

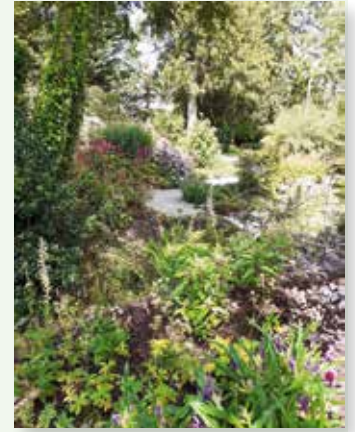
- May 11th. Oakmore near Port of Menteith
- May 18th. Shrubhill, Dunblane
- May 25th. Kilbryde Castle, Dunblane
- June 1st. Thorntree, Arnprior
- June 15th. Gartmore Village
- July 13th. Oakmore, near Port of Menteith
- July 27th. Mollan House, Thornhill
- August 10th. Braehead Community Garden, Stirling
- August 17th. Bannockburn House, Stirling

OPEN BY ARRANGEMENT FOR SNOWDROPS: - KILBRYDE CASTLE, DUNBLANE and GARGUNNOCK HOUSE GARDEN.

Please contact the gardens, at least the day before, to arrange a visit.

Opening by arrangement later in the year are: - Thorntree Arnprior, Arndean by Dollar, Gardener's Cottage Walled Garden Killearn, Bannockburn House as well as Kilbryde Castle and Gargunnoch House.

Full details can be found on the SGS website. Yellow Books and Leaflets will be available soon.



The Stirlingshire SGS Committee thanks all who supported our Open Gardens last year and we hope to see you again in 2025.

Fiona Campbell



Callander & District Horticultural Society

The Spring Bulb Show

Saturday 29th March, 11am- 1pm

Schedule

Drop off exhibits - Saturday 9-10 am

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. A pot of muscari
6. A mixed pot of bulbs
7. A pot of spring flowers - mixed or single variety, could include foliage plants

Floral Art

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

Children

9. A pot of one spring bulb or bulbs
10. An Easter card
 - a) 7 yrs. and under
 - b) 8 - 13 yrs

Entries are FREE of charge.
Anyone can exhibit at the show. A child is anyone under 14 years of age. Further information is noted below.

Further Information

- Classes 1 to 4 to be displayed in exhibition cases or jars
- Classes 5, 6 and 7 to be displayed in a bowl, can or pot
- All cut flowers and exhibits must be grown by the exhibitor & been in their care at least 2 months prior to the show with the exception of the Floral Art exhibit.
- The judges decision is final
- The overall best exhibit in the show will be awarded the Eric Bevan Shield (donated in memory of Robert Washington)

Helpful videos can be found at https://hesociety.org.uk/garden/29_march_2025/

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Balfron	Drymen	Kinlochard	Stronachlachar
Buchlyvie	Gargunnoch	Kippen	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Lochearnhead	
Deanston	Killearn	Strathblane	

Further new build developments are being planned for Killearn, Balmaha, Croftamie, 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 a downloadable application pack please visit our website www.rsha.org.uk.

Rural Stirling Housing Association
Stirling Road, Doune FK16 6AA
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Community Hub

The Community Hub is open on **Wednesdays** **12.30-2.30pm** **Callander Kirk Hall, South Church Street, Callander**

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 #workingtogether #cuppaandchat

Callander and West Perthshire u3a

For all info on our talks and our various groups please visit our website www.candwpu3a.org

No longer in full time work? u3a gives you the opportunity to learn, make friends and develop new interests in your local area. Come and join us! Contact:

secretary@candwpu3a.org



Bingo Sessions



Rotary in Callander is pleased to offer Bingo sessions again in 2025, with thanks to support from the Braes of Doune fund, administered by Callander Community Council. Sessions will be held in Callander Hostel, at 1.30 – 2.30pm (ie after the Craigard Lunch Club) on the following dates:

Thursday 13 February 2025 Thursday 13 March 2025
Thursday 10 April 2025

The entrance charge of £2 covers all games played in the hour-long session, and also tea and biscuits. There will, of course, be prizes to be won, and it's all good fun.

We look forward to welcoming lots of players. If you haven't been before, why not give it a try in the New Year?

Any enquiries about the arrangement should be directed to Jen Shearer, 07710-232908

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Email: support@rapecrisisScotland.org.uk

For more information: www.rapecrisisScotland.org.uk

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www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

National Helpline Number: **0800 917 7650**

McLaren High School - World Challenge Expedition 2024 to Cambodia

Taking part in the World Challenge (WC) trip was the best thing that we have ever signed up for. The World Challenge is a non-profit provider of overseas volunteering opportunities in the Third World. In June 2024, a group of S5/S6 pupils from McLaren High School, two teachers - Miss Rolfe and Ms Allan - and Dave - World Challenge leader- travelled to Cambodia. Our aim was to work in Elephant Conservation.

Before we embarked on the trip, we had to fundraise. Each person had to raise £4,000. Much of this was to be invested in the Elephant Conservation fund. Everyone carried out different activities, such as running a ceilidh, organising tombolas and providing catering at parents' evenings.

Right from the start of the trip, we were assigned tasks each day. Although the teachers, Miss Rolfe and Ms Allan, were in the background, we had to navigate our way through the airport and later we had to organise a place to eat. All quite daunting when you arrive in a new country.

During our travels, we had a short stay in the magnificent Singapore airport which was great to experience. When we arrived in Phnom Penh after a long day of travelling, we were collected from the airport by our Cambodian tour guide who worked for WC and 'Mr Lucky' (our bus driver). The tour guide made us feel very welcome and he told us some local secrets and things we should look out for during our stay in the city and, especially, to watch out when we were spending money. The Cambodians are trying to move away from American Dollars to Cambodian Riel, so the change we received would be a mixture of American dollars and Cambodian Riel, all very confusing. In addition, the money disintegrates when it gets wet, so if there were

any rips or colour runs on the notes, they would not be able to be used. When it rains in Cambodia, it is a 'monsoon', so we had to be careful to keep our money safe.

We settled into our hotel, which was a lot nicer than we had initially expected. Later that day, we had the challenge of finding somewhere to eat. This was quite difficult, as some of us had allergies or other food requirements and no one was able to speak the local language. We ate a lot of rice and noodles and some vegetables. We were not sure about some of the meat on offer and what type of meat it actually was!



The markets were quite amazing. One of the places we found was a spider market, not something that everyone enjoyed. The photo left is of Harris holding a massive tarantula.

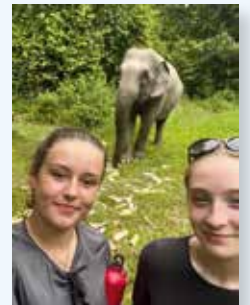
There were many highlights of our trip, but some of the main ones included visiting 'Pol Pot', also known as the 'Killing Fields'. This was a very upsetting day for everyone, as we were taken to the sites where 1.3 million people were wrongfully killed and buried between 1976-1978. Nobody was prepared for how graphic the museum would be. We felt it was good to show what had occurred, as it is important that a situation such as this should never be allowed to happen again. We found it difficult to understand how something so awful could take place without intervention from other countries. It is very interesting to be aware of a country's history and to see how far they have come from that time. We met one of the very few survivors from the Democratic Kampuchea regime, who had written a book based on his personal experiences and he spoke to us about them.



Another highlight was visiting the 'Royal Palace'. The palace was very interesting, as Cambodia is a third world country, but the palace was made of gold and was very luxurious. None of us could believe the size of the Palace. During our stay in Cambodia, we saw many temples and people who worshiped the Buddha. As Cambodia is still very poor, it was very interesting to see everyone giving their money to the Buddhas in the temples.



The main highlight was staying at the Elephant Conservation. When we arrived at the camp, we were greeted by 'Watt', our tour guide for the duration of our 3 day stay. During our stay at the camp, we trekked daily through the jungle with the elephants and their 'mahouts'. We were able to get extremely close to the elephants in their natural habitats, which was just amazing! We worked alongside the locals and helped to prepare the elephant and monkey food. After we did this, we took the food and fed it to the animals. The trekking was quite demanding and the monsoon rain made camping quite challenging. We really appreciated the comforts of the hostel at the end of the trek.



We also visited the local primary school during our stay at the Elephant Conservation. Each of us had time to teach the children some English, some simple maths, how to make a paper aeroplane and how to do some Scottish Dancing.

The children were extremely happy that we were able to teach them some of our childhood games.

On the face of it, things are moving on in Cambodia as they modernise and industrialise. However, the reality of Cambodia is mainly hidden, especially in cities such as Siem Reap. The main road has houses and hotels that are extremely luxurious, but if you go back a few streets, there is extreme poverty. Although there is gender equality, there is a huge difference in how people with different social status are treated. The porters on our trek, who carried the tents and equipment, had to defer to the Cambodian tour guide. We found this very hard, as the porters would have to wait until we had eaten, before they could eat.

Our trip to Cambodia made us realise how fortunate we really are, even for the 'small' things

such as fresh clean water and food. The range of food we have here is incredible. The World Challenge trip had us working in groups with people we didn't know very well to begin with. We quickly bonded and this bonding has continued since we returned home and we have built friendships that will last a lifetime. We were all there for each other whether we were sick in hospital, missing home or simply just not feeling motivated. It has opened our eyes to the possibility of further travel and to feel that the world is not a big scary place. We feel confident about taking on our own adventures in the future.

Olivia Corrieri and Ruby Farquharson



1st Callander Guides and Rangers in 2024

The 1st Callander Guides have had a busy time since the summer. We enjoyed the best weekend of weather all year while we camped near Drymen — building bridges, making croissants on the campfire, developing a movie based on our scarecrows and finishing off with sushi on Sunday — a far cry from the Angel Delight of my days as a Guide!

We began preparation for Christmas craft fairs — out came the tools, from drills to sewing machines, microwaves to glue guns, to upcycle many items into a selection of crafts, which we sold to raise over £400 — enough for a couple of evenings of adventurous activities in the summer.



The year finished with our customary gingerbread house decorating — probably more sweets went on the houses than in the Guides' mouths, but only just!



2025 holds the prospect of trampolining, sleepovers and plenty of other fun activities. We still have some spaces, now that our older ones are heading off for new adventures, so if you are interested, sign up at www.girlguiding.org.uk

Rangers

1st Trossachs Rangers reopened, after many years, in January. Rangers is for girls aged 14–18; as some of our Guides didn't want to leave, the girls are enjoying the next challenge — organising their own programme and taking responsibility for running it, with light-touch support.



We are happy to welcome more girls along — sign up at www.girlguiding.org.uk





I would like to thank all my clients for their continuous support.

Wishing you all the best for 2025



Margaret

Mobile Hair Stylist

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Where are our swifts, swallows and house martins?

....sensibly in Africa and not in Callander on the cold, icy December evening when the local SWT group met to listen to Steve Willis of British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). It is impossible to include all the fascinating information here, so links are included if you want to find out more, such as



BTO Birdfacts: www.bto.org/understanding-birds/welcome-birdfacts

Up to the end of the nineteenth century, it was believed that swallows hibernated in mud at the bottom of ponds or tucked into river banks. Charles Morton even made the startling 'discovery' that swallows went to live on the Moon! Now we know that they migrate to Africa for winter and return in early summer, shorter but still an amazing undertaking. Swifts are extra impressive and may fly continuously for 3 years after fledging until they nest, because, if grounded, their legs are too short to take off again. Unfortunately, all these species are in decline to a greater or lesser extent across the UK with climate trends impacting food supplies and breeding success.

Bird migration information is principally obtained from bird ringing and recovery. Data from the start and end of migration routes provides trends in arrival and departure dates and several data sources are combined to give a full picture.

Bird Track is the BTO app www.bto.org/our-science/projects/birdtrack recommended to report UK bird sightings directly. Data quickly reaches local recorders and feeds into other databases. In 2024, sand martins started arriving in mid-May and more than usual stayed to the end of August. House martins peaked in Jun-Aug. Swallows were slightly down on average and left a bit early. Swifts arrived in May and stayed later than usual with a high peak in Jun-July but that was not reflected in breeding numbers; many birds were seen on the wing but weren't spending time at nests. However, they are long-lived birds and can recover if future summers are better than the cool, wet 2024.

E-Bird is a popular US version of Birdtrack and allows users to identify birds and songs plus keep a personal record.



Swift



Sand Martin



Swallow



House Martin

The EU bird portal eurobirdportal.org/ebp/en/#home/HIRRUS/r52weeks/CUCCAN/r52weeks/ collates wider ringing and recovery data, including the BTO Ringing Scheme.



The Bird Migration Atlas migrationatlas.org/node/1756 collates ringing and recovery data along international flight routes. For swallows it showed UK birds migrating to South Africa, whilst those from Denmark wintered in Spain. House martins are difficult to catch and ring, so their wintering grounds remain a mystery. Swifts have been seen in Spain and as far away as in Mozambique. An interesting article on Swift tracking is on www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u49/BTO_299_16-17Swifts.pdf.



BTO's Breeding Bird Survey has been running since 1995, so provided distribution



and population trends. Sand martins have increased from 1995 to 2023, but house martins have been decreasing since around 2005. Swallows had dropped significantly up to 2010 but are now showing a promising upturn. Unfortunately, swifts have shown a continuous decline by 66% to 2023. Lots of data/trends can be seen on Bird Atlas Mapstore app.bto.org/mapstore/StoreServlet?id=325

Collecting detailed tracking data along migration routes is more



expensive, using a tiny geo-locator tag, temporarily attached on the back of the bird. This records sunrise and sunset times which give location and the time between locations gives information on flights and resting/feeding stopovers. Flying heights can be varied to avoid disruptive weather and swifts can fly very high at night, allowing them to snatch short sleeps, keeping half of the brain active and opening eyes spasmodically. This sleep pattern is common in nature; humans are the only animal that sleeps deeply for prolonged periods.



Since 2019, the Dunblane Wildlife Group has done a lot of work on swifts, putting up and recording nest boxes which swifts readily use dunblanewildlife.com/swifts/

So what can you do to help? Join or donate to BTO, record sightings on Birdtrack, volunteer to monitor a square for the Breeding Bird Survey, put up nest boxes (and encourage developers to do the same) plus garden without chemicals and put out fresh water. www.bto.org/



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Callander Target Sports Club Gains Disability Shooting Hub Status

Callander Target Sports Club has been confirmed as an official British Shooting Disability Hub, joining a nationwide initiative enabling athletes of all abilities to participate in a full range of shooting disciplines.

Disability Shooting Great Britain provides opportunities for people with a disability to practice target shooting and its national hubs provide specialised support, resources and training opportunities tailored to the needs of disabled shooters, ensuring access to high-quality facilities and coaching.

By becoming part of this network, the Callander club will play a key role in promoting accessibility and fostering talent at the grassroots level. British Shooting's Disability Hubs are designed to empower individuals, break down barriers to participation and develop pathways for athletes aspiring to compete at higher levels, including national and international stages.

The club's inclusion in this programme not only highlights its accessible facilities and welcoming atmosphere but also marks a step

forward for the wider community, offering new opportunities for local people to participate in an environment that prioritises support and inclusivity.

Robert Farquhar Crowned Christmas Shoot Champion

The festive spirit was alive and well at the annual Christmas Shoot, where Club Secretary Robert Farquhar clinched top spot in the fun-based, multi-disciplinary competition. He was presented with the Steven O'Keefe Trophy by Chairman John Moffat before a cheering multitude, marking a fantastic end to the club's 2024 calendar.



League Results Roundup

Both the Cumbria and Perthshire leagues are at a very early stage at the time of going to press, but several Callander members are amongst the first flush of emerging runners and riders.

Cumbria League Notables

The Callander Team of D. Heaton, B. Livingstone and S. Stockdale, is a close second in Division 4 of the 10m Air Pistol discipline, whilst J. Gardiner and R. Farquhar occupy the top two slots in Division 1 of the 100m Benchrest category. A. Graham sits first in Division 2 of Rapid-Fire Rifle, J. Shepherd leads Division 3 and R. MacKay is in first place in Division 2 of Long-Barrelled Revolver.

Perthshire League Notables

As most of the benchrest competitors are husbanding their reserves for the critical season run in, all eyes are on Division 9, where Callander shooters occupy the top five positions in a competition overflowing with crunch derby matches. With the club also fielding a strong contingent in the prone competition, most credible bookmakers are tipping Callander for a strong showing across all disciplines for the 24/25 season.

To get involved or find out more about the club, please contact Secretary Robert Farquhar on 07721 744229.



CALLANDER WRITERS' GROUP(S)

Feeling creative? Do you have a story to tell, or perhaps you want to try your hand at writing poetry, a screenplay, or even a novel? Needing inspiration and encouragement to put pen to paper? Why not pop along to the Callander Writers' Group, to meet up with other aspiring writers and see what we get up to?

We are a friendly group of people who meet at 10.30am every Tuesday morning, in the room above Callander Library, to write, share our work and offer each other constructive criticism and support. There is always tea, coffee - and often cake - on offer. There is also another group, whose meetings are held in the evenings. From time to time, we hold tutored sessions, when an experienced writer/author comes along to offer us guidance, support and inspiration. It's all good fun, not at all threatening and can be very fulfilling. If you are interested, do please get in touch - we are always happy to welcome new members.

Contact: Jen Shearer on 07710 232908 for details.

Callander Writers' Group

We are a friendly group of aspiring writers who get together every Tuesday,

10.30 - 12.30,

in the room above the Library, to write, chat & drink coffee.



Newcomers always welcome!

[For more info, phone Jen, on 07710-232908]

McLaren Leisure

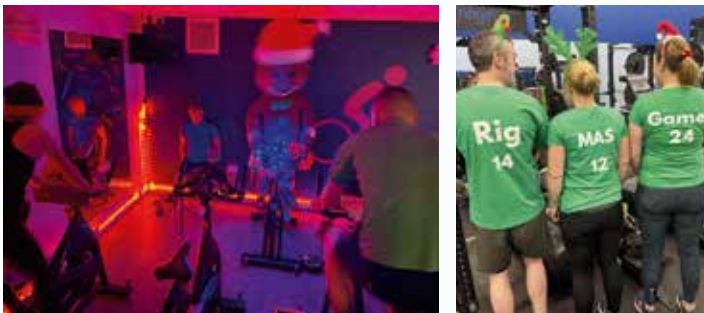


**McLaren
Leisure**

The New Year is in full swing here at McLaren Leisure and we're thrilled to welcome everyone back to our packed schedule of activities, classes and special events. Whether you're looking to continue or kickstart your fitness goals, enjoy quality time with the family, or keep the kids busy, we've got something for everyone.

Looking Back at a Festive 2024

December brought plenty of holiday cheer to McLaren Leisure. Our Christmas RigFIT Games were a fantastic success, with 16 teams of three competitors battling it out for the coveted Christmas title. Congratulations to all who took part! From Christmas parties to special swimming lessons and fitness sessions, participants of all ages enjoyed festive fun and games as we closed out the year. We can't wait to bring even more joy and excitement to 2025!



What's New in 2025

We've made some exciting changes for 2025! Our 7am opening times have been extended to five days a week, Monday to Friday, making it easier for you to squeeze in a workout, swim or sport. Did you know? Not only are we open for swimming and gym sessions before 9am, but you can also book in for an early morning sports hall or climbing session or even get an early start in the open office. To book a session or find out more, give us a call on 01877 330 000. Additionally, don't miss our new Late Night

Sunday Openings, with extended hours until 9pm on select dates over the next few months. Check our website for full details on these changes and other activities.

What's Coming Up

There's so much to look forward to in the months ahead. Here are some highlights:

- **Late Night Sunday Openings:** Enjoy extended hours on select Sundays and make the most of our facilities.
- **Callander Cinema Dates:** Watch your favourite films locally, with regular Sunday night screenings at McLaren Leisure.
- **School Holiday Activities:** Keep the kids entertained during the upcoming February and Easter breaks with our engaging holiday camps and activities.
- **One-Off Fitness Events:** Challenge yourself with exciting sessions such as yoga workshops and our Annual Ultimate Fitness Class, designed to inspire fitness lovers of all levels.
- **Events:** Look out for lots more community events coming to McLaren Leisure for 2025. From family fun workouts to seasonal events and parties, it's a jam-packed line up!

Join Us! From junior programs to adult fitness classes, our full range of offerings is back and better than ever. We can't wait to see you at McLaren Leisure for a fantastic start to 2025!

Stay updated by visiting our website or following us on social media for the latest news and event details.

Let's make this year one to remember.

McLaren Leisure

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.

www.mclarenleisure.co.uk | 01877 330000 | Callander, FK17 8JP

Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube



Rachel McLean

Marketing & Funding

McLaren Leisure
www.mclarenleisure.co.uk
01877 330000



Callander Bowling Club



We would like to thank all our supporters, members and sponsors for their help throughout the 2024 season. Another good season is behind us and we were fortunate enough to retain our Forth & Endrick League title. Unfortunately, we had to settle for second place in the West Perthshire League again, but there's always next year.

We are looking forward to the new season starting in April and if you would like to join us for the 2025 season, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Club Secretary Ewan Waugh at callanderbowlingclub@gmail.com

Well done to our club competition winners - there was some extremely good bowling this year and everyone had to work hard for their wins.

Internal Competition Results

Mixed Handicap

Winner :- Graham Roebuck

Gents Handicap

Winner :- Ewan Waugh

Gents Championship

Winner :- Billy McNab

Triples

Winner :- Stuart Aitchison, Donald Grieve, Audrey Corrieri

Gents Pairs

Winner :- Graham Roebuck, David Runciman

Ladies Championship

Winner :- Audrey Corrieri

Champion of Champions

Winner :- Audrey Corrieri Callander Bowling Club

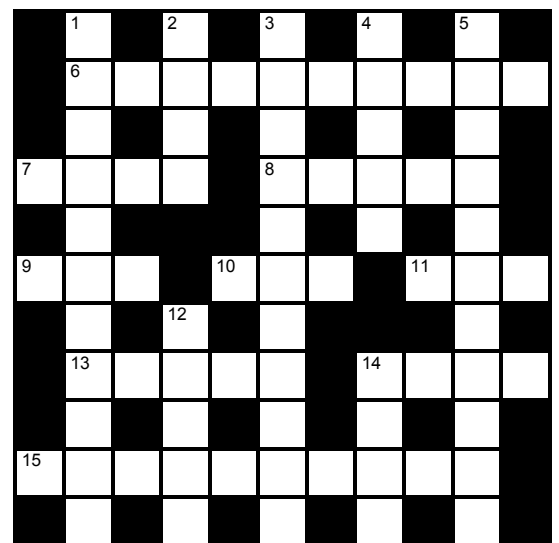
Crossword 340

Across

- 6 Tacit (10)
- 7 European mountains (4)
- 8 Male duck (5)
- 9 Type of watch face or computer screen (1,1,1)
- 10 Star performer (3)
- 11 Exploit (3)
- 13 Socially inept single-minded experts (5)
- 14 Short nail (4)
- 15 Ancient (10)

Down

- 1 Danger to society (6,5)
- 2 Dangerous in March (4)
- 3 The one before (11)
- 4 Meat (5)
- 5 Fragrant hedgerow shrub
- 12 First sign of the zodiac (3)
- 14 Follow (4)



Solution will be printed in the next issue or visit benlediview.org/Issue340_Numberedsolution.pdf



What's On for February & March 2025

February

Friday 7th

- **Ben Ledi View Published**

Saturday 15th

- **German-speaking group** 2.00-4.30pm Coilhallan House Invertrossachs Road FK17 8HW

Monday 10th

- **Music & Memories** 2.00pm-3.30pm Callander Kirk Hall

Thursday 13th

- **Bingo** 1.30pm-2.00pm at Callander Hostel

Monday 17th

- **Community Council Meets** 7.00pm CYP and Zoom
- **CAOS Rehearsals** 7.30pm at McLaren High School

Sunday 23rd

- **Callander Community Cinema** 6.30pm at McLaren Leisure

Monday 24th

- **CAOS Rehearsals** 7.30pm at McLaren High School

Friday 28th

- **Ben Ledi View Copy Deadline for April Issue**

Thursday 13th

- **Bingo** 1.30pm-2.00pm at Callander Hostel

Monday 17th

- **Community Council Meets** 7.00pm CYP and Zoom
- **CAOS Rehearsals** 7.30pm at McLaren High School

Wednesday 19th

- **Heritage Society (speaker tbc)** 7.00pm
- **Made In Dagenham (CAOS)** 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm) at McLaren High School

Thursday 20th

- **Made In Dagenham (CAOS)** 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm) at McLaren High School

Friday 21st

- **Made In Dagenham (CAOS)** 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm) at McLaren High School

Saturday 22nd

- **Made In Dagenham (CAOS)** 2.30pm (doors open 2.00pm) at McLaren High School

Monday 24th

- **Blood Transfusion Service** 1.30pm-3.30pm and 5.00pm-7.00pm Kirk Hall, Callander

Saturday 29th

- **CADHS Spring Bulb Show** 11.00am-1.00pm

April

Thursday 3rd

- **Callander Kirk Guild (Easter Meditation)** 2.00pm Kirk Hall (How Green Are You? - Margaret Warnock). All welcome.

Friday 7th

- **Ben Ledi View Published**

March

Thursday 6th

- **Callander Kirk Guild** 2.00pm Kirk Hall (Annual Gathering video). All welcome.

Monday 10th

- **Music & Memories** 2.00pm-3.00pm Callander Kirk Hall
- **CAOS rehearsals** 7.30pm at McLaren High School

Saturday 15th

- **German-speaking group** 2.00-4.30pm Coilhallan House Invertrossachs Road FK17 8HW



Callander On Tuesdays



Always
10:20AM

Date	Meeting Place	Walking Route	Car Share	Dementia Friendly
11th February 2025	Ancaster Square	Bocastle		
18th February 2025	Ancaster Square	Bridge end and Meadows		
25th February 2025	Ancaster Square	Keltie Bridge		
4th March 2025	Ancaster Square	Strathyre Cabins		
11th March 2025	Ancaster Square	Kilmahog to Leny Falls		
18th March 2025	Ancaster Square	NCN7 Lagrannoch		
25th March 2025	Ancaster Square	Strathyre		



Regular Meets & Classes - Something for Everyone

Mondays

- BodyFit 7.00-7.45 am McLaren Leisure
- Active Life 9.30-10.30 am McLaren Leisure
- Funfit 9.30-10.15am McLaren Leisure
- Chair Yoga 11.00-12noon McLaren Leisure
- Kettle Fit 12.30-1.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Highland Dancing 4.00pm Kirk Hall: (not 3 and 10th Feb or 24th March)
- Teen Fit 4.00-5.00pm McLaren Leisure
- RigFit 5.30-6.15 am McLaren Leisure
- Yoga Fit 6.00- 7.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 6.20-7.05pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit Adv 7.15-8.15pm McLaren Leisure
- Pumpfit 7.15-8.15pm McLaren Leisure
- Core Fit 8.15-9.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Guides 6.30-8.00pm Callander Primary School
- Callander Pipe Band practice/teaching 7.00pm Masonic Hall
- Open fun night Bowling Club 7.00pm Visitors/beginners welcome (bowls available) Contact Donald 075134 488453

Tuesdays

- Callander Cycle Meander meet 10.00am Ancaster Square (contact 07963 736044)
- Cycle Fit 9.15-10.15pm McLaren Leisure
- Walk in the Park 10.20am (See flier, page 12 for start location)
- Writer's Group 10.30am-12.30pm Room above library contact Jen Shearer 07710 232908
- Aquacise 11.00-12.00noon McLaren Leisure
- MumFit 11.00-12 noon McLaren Leisure
- Yoga Basics 12.00-1.00pm McLaren Leisure

- Gentle Yoga 2.00- 3.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Strength and Balance 3.00-4.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Body Fit Express 5.00 - 6.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Power Fit 6.00-6.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Line-dancing 6.00-7.00pm (absolute beginners) 7.00 - 8.30pm (improvers) St.Andrew's Church Hall
- AquaFit 7.15-8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Badminton Club 7.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Evening Yoga 7.30-9.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Taekwondo 7.00-9.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Song Squad practice 7.00-9.00pm at Callander Fire Station

Wednesdays

- Rig Fit 7.00-7.45 am McLaren Leisure
- Active Life 9.30-10.30 McLaren Leisure
- Baby and Me Yoga (for carers and babes up to crawling) 9.30-10.30 Fire Station, contact Sian Lucas at www.momoyoga.com/seasonalbalance
- Seasonal Yoga 11.00-12noon Fire Station book at www.momoyoga.com/seasonalbalance
- Citizens Advice Bureau 10.00am-12.30pm Callander Library
- Teapot Café 10.30am Callander Kirk Hall Library
- Body Fit Express 1.00-1.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Core Fit Express 5.30-6.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Bowling Club 2.00pm (as Monday) Bowling Club
- Body Fit 7.00-7.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 8.00-8.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Taekwondo (contact: falkirktaekwondo@gmail.com)

Thursdays

- Aquacise 9.30-10.30am McLaren Leisure
- Craigard Club meet for lunch 11.30-1.30pm Callander Hostel
- TeenFIT 3.30-4.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 7.30-8.15pm McLaren leisure
- Core Fit 8.00 8.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Bridge Club 2.00 - 4.00pm upstairs in Callander Library
- Redtooth Poker League at Lade Inn 7.30pm all welcome
- Scottish Country Dancing 7.00pm Masonic Hall

Fridays

- Body Fit 9.00-9.45am McLaren Leisure
- MumFit 11.00- 12noon McLaren Leisure
- Power Fit Express 11.00-12.00 noon McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit Express 5.30-6.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Spike Island 8.15 -9.15pm McLaren Leisure



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.

Join us on:

Monday 10th February 2025
Monday 10th March 2025
Monday 14th April 2025

Callander Kirk Hall
2.00pm-3.30pm

For more information please contact:

**Ann Ross 07720 887720 or
Anne McLachlan 07743 125966**



Clubs, Organisations & Activities

We hope the list of activities, organisations and clubs gives you food for thought and maybe even something to “get involved” with, but if the activity you love is not listed, why not consider starting a club of your own?

Don't forget to let us know here at Ben Ledi View so we can publish the details!

COMMUNITY

Callander Community Council

Contact: callandercc556@gmail.com

Website: incallander.co.uk/ccc_home

Callander Community Development Council

Contact: incallander.co.uk/ccdt_join

Website: incallander.co.uk/ccdt_home

Ben Ledi View

Contact: editor@BenLediView.org

Website: BenLediView.org

PERFORMING ARTS

Callander Brass

Website: facebook.com/callanderbrass

Callander Rusty Strings

Contact: Jean Thewlis

jeanthewlis@hotmail.com

Tel: 07968 745 165

Song Squad

Contact: EVELYN MARTIN

01877 330961 / 07810 224647

evelynmartin13@hotmail.co.uk

ukWebsite: facebook.com/songsquadcallander

Callander Amateur Operatic Society

Contact: brianmckay@live.co.uk

Website: c-a-o-s.org.uk

Callander Jazz & Blues Festival

Contact: [info@](mailto:info@callanderjazzandblues.com)

callanderjazzandblues.com

Website: callanderjazzandblues.com

Callander & District Pipe Band

Contact: Robert Bryer

Tel: 01877 376 781

Website: facebook.com/CallanderandDistrictpipeband

CULTURE & HERITAGE

Callander Film Society

Website: facebook.com/callanderheritage

Callander and District Heritage Society

Website: facebook.com/callanderheritage

German-speaking group

Contact: Jen Shearer

jenshearer@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENT

Greener Callander

Contact: mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk

Website: incallander.co.uk/ccdt_greener

Callander Community Woodlands

Contact: Callanderwoodlandgroup@gmail.com
[callandersong.com](https://www.callandersong.com)

Callander Landscape Partnership

Contact: unknown

Website: facebook.com/CallandersLandscape

NATIONWIDE ORGS

Rotary in Callander

Contact: [enquiries@](mailto:enquiries@callanderandwprotary.org)
callanderandwprotary.org

Website: Callander.rotary1010.org

Facebook: facebook.com/cwp.rotary

Ben Ledi Masonic Lodge

Contact: unknown

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

BUSINESS TOURISM & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Callander Enterprise

Contact: secretary@incallander.co.uk

Website: incallander.co.uk

Callander Visitor Information Centre

Contact: callandervic@gmail.com

Website: visitcallander.uk

Callander Youth Project

Contact: info@cyp.org.uk

Website: cyp.org.uk/youngpeople

McLaren Leisure Centre

Contact: reception@mclarenleisure.co.uk

Website: mclarenleisure.co.uk

ACTIVE CALLANDER

Callander Ramblers

Contact: paulgprescott@googlemail.com

Website: incallander.co.uk/groups/2023ramblers.pdf

Callander Bowling Club

Contact: Ewan Waugh

Tel: 07871372097

E-mail: callanderbowlingclub@gmail.com

Callander Golf Club

Contact: secretary@callandergolfclub.co.uk

Website: callandergolfclub.co.uk

McLaren RFC

Contact: mclarenrfcmini@gmail.com

Website: mclarenrfc.com/home

Callander Thistle AFC

Contact: callanderthistleafc@gmail.com

Website: facebook.com/callanderthistle

Callander Badminton Club

Contact: Tel 07917 100 251

Website: facebook.com/mclarenbadmintonclub

Julia Osfield Yoga

Contact: julia.osfield@gmail.com

Website: <https://juliaosfieldyoga.com/>

Dance Connection

Website: www.danceconnectiononline.co.uk

Callander Meanders Cycling Group

Contact: Colin Welsh 07963 736044
email: colintross2@aol.com

Central Athletic Club

Website: <https://www.centralathletics.co.uk/>

Callander Cricket Club

Contact: callandercricket.secretary@yahoo.com

Website: <https://www.callandercricketclub.com/>

HEALTH

Walk in the Park

Contact: fiona@trustinthepark.org
Website: www.trustinthepark/walk-in-the-park/

Playlist for Life

Contact: info@playlistforlife.org.uk
Website: www.playlistforlife.org.uk/

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Trossachs Search and Resue

Contact: secretary@trossachs-sar.com
Website: <https://trossachs-sar.com/>

Killin, Callander & District Search & Rescue

Contact: secretary@killinmountainrescue.scot
Website: <https://www.killinmountainrescue.scot/>

Scottish Fire & Resue Service - Callander

Contact: 01877 339095
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/CallanderFire>

EDUCATION

Callander Primary School Parent's Council

Contact: callanderparentcouncil@gmail.com

McLaren High School PTA

Contact: mclarenhs.pta@gmail.com

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

2nd Callander Brownie Unit

Contact: Louise Corrieri 07718 226210

Scouts

Contact: adambassett@me.com

Callander & District Young Farmers

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/callanderyfc>

CYP Youth Club

Contact: info@cyp.org.uk
Website: callanderyouthproject.co.uk

FOR SENIORS

Craigard Club - senior's lunch club

Contact: Anne Docherty
mail@annedocherty.co.uk

Callander & West Perthshire U3A

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

Website: u3asites.org.uk/callander-and-wp/home

COOK'S CORNER

By Audrey Corrieri

One-pan Penne'n'Cheese



Serves 4

Ingredients

250g penne (or any other pasta)

200ml whole milk

1 head broccoli, cut into florets

150g grated Cheddar cheese

80g finely grated Parmesan cheese

80g mascarpone or cream cheese

½ tsp grated nutmeg

To serve: pancetta slices and chopped chives

Method

Put the pasta, 500ml water, milk and broccoli into a pot and cover with a lid. Cook over a medium heat for 10-12 mins, stirring occasionally until the pasta is ready.

Cook the pancetta slices in a dry frying pan until crispy. Set aside.

Once the pasta is cooked, stir in the Cheddar, Parmesan, mascarpone or cream cheese and nutmeg until all the cheeses have melted and the sauce is smooth.

Serve straightaway, with the crispy pancetta and the chopped chives scattered on top.



Are your group's details missing or incorrect?

Email: editor@benlediview.org

or scan the QR Code

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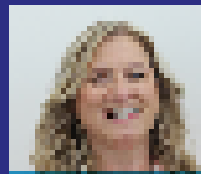


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we'd be delighted to hear from you

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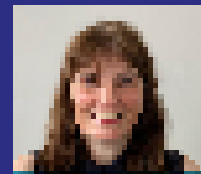
Some of our friendly team...



Millie
Sales



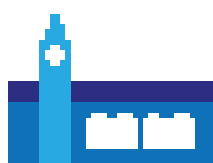
Nicola
Taylor



Norwen
Sales



Martin
Sales & Lettings



Cathedral City Estates

4 845 Lynch Road, Colander
Perthshire PH20 0AA

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CINEMA FOR ALL



Callander Cinema

Enjoy great movies here in Callander with Callander Film Society, which has been bringing world-class cinema to our community since 1976.

The films for 23 February and 16 March are still to be decided so look out for details on posters, Facebook and website – see links below. Or to get all the news direct to your inbox by emailing with your details.

All screenings are on Sunday evenings at McLaren Leisure Centre at 7pm with doors

and café open from 6.30pm. Tickets are £5 at the door, £3 under 16 (please bring cash) and free for members of Callander Film Society. Membership details and the full programme with links to trailers are at incallander.co.uk/cinema.

See you at the movies!



Sheila Winstone
www.incallander.co.uk/cinema
facebook.com/CallanderCinema
callanderfilmsociety@gmail.com

Readers Images

Thanks to Mandy Williams for these great images of the Northern Lights, captured on her dog walk on 1st January 2025.



Steve Murphy managed to take a break from CAOS rehearsals to snap these fantastic shots from the summit of Ben Ledi on 11th December 2024.



Send your images to: editor@bendlediview.org.uk

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Callander Amateur Operatic Society presents:



Made in Dagenham is a change in both style and content for CAOS. A glance at the list of shows we have performed over the past 40 years conjures up names from the heyday of Broadway musicals - Rodgers and Hammerstein, Cole Porter, Gershwin, Berlin etc. Indeed, last year's show, *Carousel*, was premiered on Broadway in 1945 but based on an original play from 1909. *Made in Dagenham* is much more recent. The original film came out in 2010 and the musical followed in 2014. The unlikely setting for the action is the Ford Motor Company factory in Dagenham, Essex in the late 1960s. Rita O'Grady (played by Lorna Stevens), an 'ordinary' housewife and working mother, is reluctantly persuaded to lead the fight for equal pay, supported by her 'unskilled' sewing machinist colleagues but opposed by just about everybody else - the corrupt Ford Management, the Labour Government under Harold Wilson, their own union officials and the 'skilled' working men, including her hapless husband, Eddie (Freddie Bowen-Bate).

This gritty drama covers the whole range of human emotion - it is funny, it is sad, it will make you laugh out loud, it will make you cry (at least if you are like me!) Above all, it is a hugely entertaining show with brilliant music and lyrics - you won't be bored. Will Rita overcome her fear, can the might of Ford America be defeated, will her marriage survive? There is only one way to find out!

Tickets for *Made in Dagenham* are now on sale and are readily available online (www.c-a-o-s.org.uk/order-tickets). If you prefer to buy in person, tickets are on sale at Callander Connect, 43 Main Street Callander, on the following days and times: Wednesdays 1pm to 3pm; Fridays 12 noon to 2pm; Saturdays 10am to 12 noon. Tickets will also be available at the door before each performance, but seats are numbered so buying early will give you more chance of guaranteeing your favourite place. Prices remain the same as last year: adults, £15; seniors and students, £12. (Please note only full price tickets are available for the Friday performance).

As pointed out above, this is a gritty and down-to-earth show, incorporating both the strong language and adult humour of the setting and times into its lyrics and script. Because of this, it is rated as suitable for those over the age of twelve. Parental guidance is advised for all ages.

As usual the venue is McLaren High School and show dates and times are as follows:

Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st March - 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm)

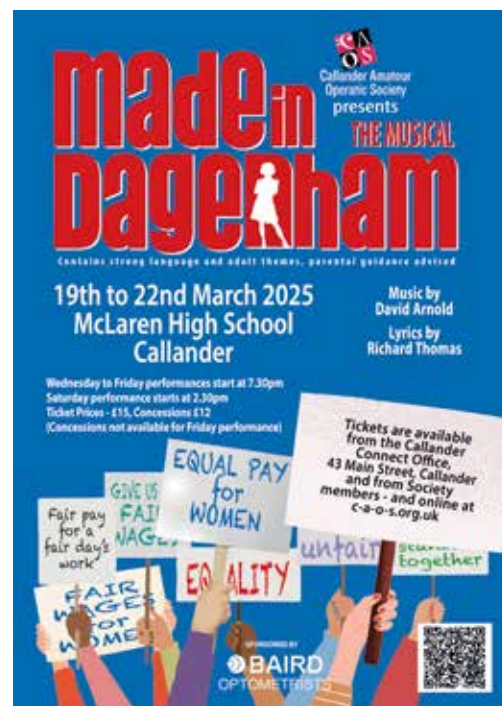
Saturday 22nd March - 2.30pm (doors open 2.00pm)

Finally, another big thank you to all those who braved the weather (yet again) to attend the Christmas Concert way back at the end of November. This was also a little different this year with the Grinch doing her best to put a damper on the whole thing. To no avail! We were whisked around the world as cast members sang their favourite solos and duets from places as far apart as London, Saigon and Buenos Aires. Song Squad opened the second half, singing beautifully under the direction of Marsha Luti and we finished with everybody singing carols by candlelight. Thank you, Carolyn, Nicola and Marc, for all the ideas and hard work in bringing it all together.

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the show!

Steve Murphy

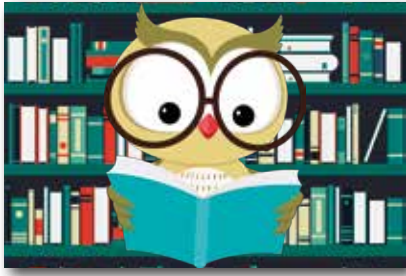
Made in Dagenham is brought to you by arrangement with Music Theatre International Ltd.
CAOS is sponsored by Andrew Baird Optometrist and WD Harley



Book Tickets using the QR Code



Library



Opening Times for Callander Library

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9.30-1 pm 2-5 pm
Wednesday	9.30-1 pm 2-5pm
Thursday	9.30-1 pm 2-7 pm
Friday	9.30-1 pm 2-5pm
Saturday	10-12 pm

Books, DVDs, hearing aid batteries.

Are you, or someone you know a housebound resident of Callander?

The Housebound Library Service currently has space for more subscribers to the service in Callander.

For more information and contact details, please visit the council website:

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/libraries-and-archives/libraries/housebound-library-service/>



Pastoral & Worship



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 at 7.30pm, Monday evening.

Pastor: Rev Nathan Swisher

Contact : Tel: 07851 529481 | email: admin@callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk or visit: www.callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk



Callander Kirk
The Church of Scotland,
South Church Street, Callander

Please join us every Sunday 11.15am also live streamed on Facebook

Services

11.15am every Sunday

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

Church Office/Hall Bookings:
callanderkirk@btconnect.com



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 info please contact:
Revd Jon Connell Rector of linked charges of St Andrew's Callander and St Mary's Aberfoyle h: (01877) 382887
m: 07983 897 841 or
Liz Balding Secretary to St Andrew's Vestry m: 07825 635 428

www.standrewschurchcallander.co.uk
Hall for hire by the hour - contact 07795 244333

Citizens' Advice Callander



Citizens' Advice outreach sessions in Callander:

- Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in Callander Library 10am - 12 noon'
- Every Wednesday Callander Kirk Hall Café 12.30pm-2.30pm



St Joseph's
Catholic Church
Glen Artney Road,
Callander

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Tuesday & Thursday
Holy Mass at 10.00am

Sunday
Holy Mass at 11.30am

Parish Priest: Rev. Leszek Wiececzek SAC

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

Email: stjosephcallander@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Bins & Waste

Check collection day by postcode at: www.stirling.gov.uk

Saturday

February 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Tuesday

February 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March 2025						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

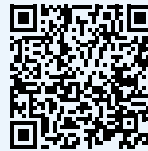
■ Grey bin & blue bin
 ● Green bin & brown bin
 ◆ Brown bin, glass box
 recycle for Stirling stirling.gov.uk/bins

 Festive Collection - check website
 Garden Waste Permit - check website

Waste Recycling Centre Opening times

PREBOOKED ONLY

- Monday - Friday 5.00pm to 7.40pm & Saturday 10.00am-1.30pm
- Sunday closed
- Lagranoch depot [01877 330492](tel:01877330492) Also for sandbags and grit



Stirling Council Main number [08452 777000](tel:08452777000) (Functions as emergency number from 5.00pm to 9.00am and over weekends. Also use for non-collection of wheelie bins.)

J MCPHAIL TAXIS

Tel Callander **01877331240**
email...jamesmcpheil@talk21.com

JIM MORGAN

4 & 7 seater now available
01877 330496

Important Contact Details

Emergency Services: 999

Callander Police: 101

Local Council Office & Registrar:
[01877 33004](tel:0187733004)
Social Work: [01786 471177](tel:01786471177)
Post Office: [01877 330267](tel:01877330267)
Stirling Council: [01786 404040](tel:01786404040)

Councillors

Martin Earl - earlm@stirling.gov.uk
Gene Maxwell - Maxwellg@stirling.gov.uk
Elaine Watterson-wattersone@stirling.gov.uk

MSP

Evelyn Tweed - evelyn.tweed.msp@parliament.scot

National Health

Callander Medical Practice [01877 331000](tel:01877331000) (Prescriptions (10.00am till 3pm)
District Nurse [01877 330150](tel:01877330150)

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

Chemists

Farrens [01877 330132](tel:01877330132)
Mon-Fri 9am-6pm & **Sat** 9am-5pm
Trossachs [01877 330016](tel:01877330016)
Mon-Fri 9am-1pm and 2pm-6pm

Vets

Callander: [01877 381213](tel:01877381213)

Schools

McLaren High: [01877 330156](tel:01877330156)
Callander Primary: [01877 331576](tel:01877331576)

Recreation

Rail Enquiries: [0845 7484950](tel:08457484950)
Bus Station (Stirling): [01786 446474](tel:01786446474)
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SEPA website:
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Floodline: [0845 9881188](tel:08459881188)
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Scottish Water emergency information re flooding from mains or sewers: [0800 0778778](tel:08000778778)

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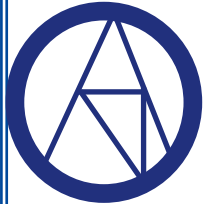
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