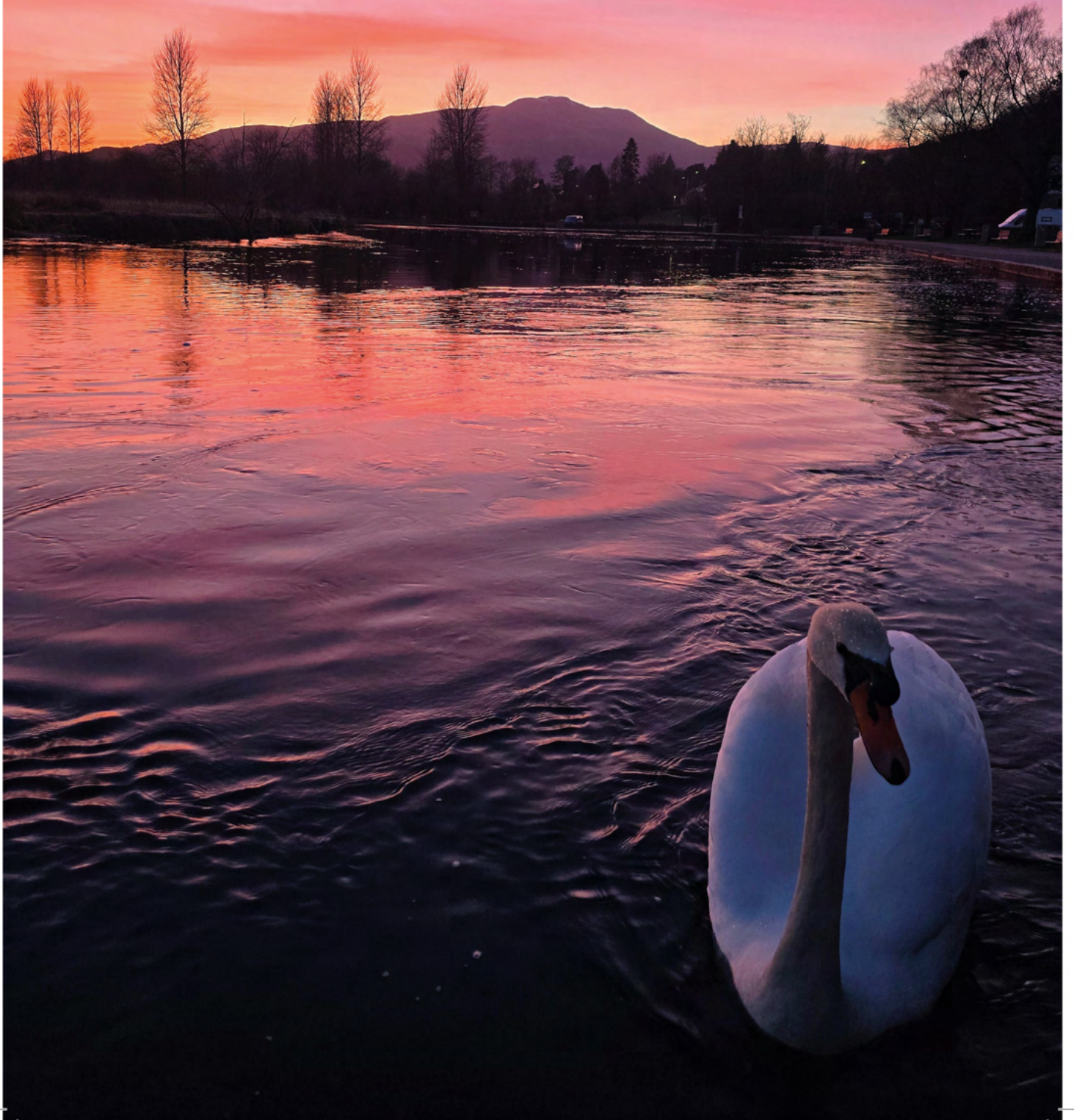


Issue 348

June/July 2026

# Ben Ledi View

Callander's news and views since 1987



### Ben Ledi View

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

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### Convenor's Welcome Message

#### *Hello Readers*

I can't believe that I'm writing the Welcome Message for the June/July edition of the Ben Ledi View; it may be just me, but 2026 seems to be passing very quickly, although this may be a consequence of getting older!

The town does seem to be getting busier, particularly on the May Day holiday, and the extra people, together with the repainted shop fronts and some new signage, all help to make the town seem more vibrant. Another sign of improvement is that, after 25 years of increased dereliction, the old Eagle Hotel is finally getting some much-needed TLC! The extensive renovation is being recorded for posterity on YouTube and anyone who is interested can find the channel via the large QR codes on the scaffolding. The full extent of the works is impressive.

I was also encouraged to note, from the Community Council's article, that it had received a "Concept Design" report from Stirling Council regarding the proposed footbridge over the River Teith, to give children a safer route to the new primary school. This is certainly progress but a bridge will clearly not be in place when the new school opens in August and I wonder what interim arrangements, if any, are proposed.

It was also very good to hear that the Friends of Trossachs have completed the purchase of Trossachs Church and are already making good use of the building. Well done to all concerned for making this happen.

To close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of you, our loyal readers, all the volunteers at the Ben Ledi View, without whom the paper would not be published. In addition, I'd also like to congratulate 1st Callander Guides on their centenary, a fantastic achievement!

**Mark Griffiths**  
 Convenor, Ben Ledi View SCIO  
[convenor@benlediview.org](mailto:convenor@benlediview.org)

**YOUR BLV STILL NEEDS YOU!!!!** The Ben Ledi View is produced, published, administered and distributed by a small, keen and dedicated team of volunteers. To keep publishing the paper we are seeking more team members to cover a variety of roles including: ● Administration/Accounts ● Editing / checking articles ● Proof reading ● Advertising liaison. In most cases this work involves working with Microsoft Office products such as Word and Excel and Outlook. Assistance can be given with these programs as required. The time commitment is dependent on the role and the individual but isn't onerous. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please contact us via email to [markg@benlediview.org](mailto:markg@benlediview.org) or [editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org).

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### Subscribe

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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.

# The Ben Ledi View

YOU DON'T NEED ANY EDITING EXPERIENCE TO JOIN THE FUN!

## BREAKING NEWS



## YOU'RE INVITED TO THE EDIT PARTY!

We have several long-term editors whom we can all agree do an **amazing job** issue after issue! They are keen to pass on their expertise and have created an **editing 'top tips'** worksheet to inspire and excite a new generation of BLV editors and proofreaders!

We will work through the editing **together** so if you are anyone from a young person looking for real-life **writing experience** to an adult who enjoys to read, we hope you can join us for a **fun and welcoming Edit Party!**

### THE DETAILS:

**Who:** Anyone interested in joining!

**What:** An informal, hands-on social event for anyone interested and wanting to learn more about the editing and proofreading process of the Ben Ledi View.

**When:** 7-9pm, Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Where:** Callander Connect, Main Street

**For More Information:** Email [editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org) for any questions!

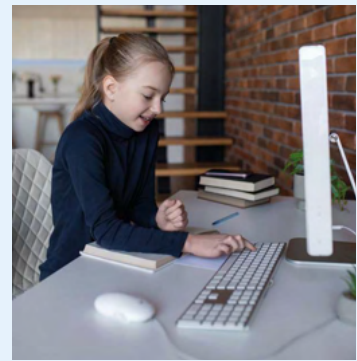
## YOUNG PERSON'S WRITING CHALLENGE!

CALLING all budding young writers from the Callander area!

The Ben Ledi View is running a competition for those aged under 18 with the theme of 'My favourite place in Callander'.

The winning entry (or entries!) will be published in the next edition of the Ben Ledi View in August.

For full details please turn to page 15 and good luck!



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**Publish Date: Friday August 7th**  
**Advertisements copy & artwork**  
Please send all advertisement copy for the **August/September** issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Agnes Allen [advertising@benlediview.org](mailto:advertising@benlediview.org) by **July 10th**.  
Please email for advice if in doubt.

**Editorial copy - July 3rd**  
All editorial contributions for the **August/September** issue should be emailed to [editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org) or handed in to the Callander Library by **Monday July 6th**. We will do our best to accommodate Items received after the deadline but these may be held over to next issue.

## Callander Community Development Trust



### New website

**C**CDT has a new website! You can browse our projects and find out more about us at the same link as before: [www.callandercdt.org.uk](http://www.callandercdt.org.uk). Here is a brief summary of the status of some of our projects.

### Local Place Plan Projects

**A**T the time of writing, we are yet to hear about any developments on the pedestrian bridge and 'Safe Routes to School' Local Place Plan priorities from Stirling Council. We hope that they will have some news for us soon and will liaise with the Community Council on how to consult with the community on these important projects.



James Bayne was one of the shopfronts to benefit from a refresh

Readers may have noticed more frontage painting and erection of refreshed signage on some of the shops along Main Street over recent weeks. We're very pleased to have completed this work with the help of Callander Business Group and Mark Reid Property Maintenance, part-funded by Stirling Council's Premises Improvement Grant. We will soon be discussing what comes next for the Main Street Regeneration project!

Under the Meadows Masterplan LPP priority, we are still open to feedback on the most recent designs for the redevelopment of Station Road car park, funded by the National Park Authority, while we wait for funding to be confirmed post-election. These designs are up in Callander Connect, and on display in the window of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park office on Main Street.

These include a renovated toilet block to include 24-hour access toilets, showers and motorhome waste disposal and a pedestrianised section for bike storage and e-bike charging.

On the other side of the River Teith, we were very grateful to Forth Rivers Trust (FRT), the Woodland Trust and our team of volunteers who helped us plant almost 2,000 trees at the end of March, as well as Forth Climate Forest for providing the funding.

A mixture of different willows, alder and downy birch, these will eventually help with water retention of Callandrade Meadow and help improve the riverside environment for its wildlife. One of our volunteers has written a brief account of our week of riparian planting:

"The Meadows development plan was published and in the public eye, it included riparian tree planting. This has been happening up stream of Callander for some years stabilising riverbanks and reducing channel erosion, controlling sediment and nutrient inputs from the adjacent land, regulating water temperature and helping to slow the flow of water to reduce flood risk further down the Teith. The Forth Rivers Trust (FRT) has done a project near Callander in the past and are experts at planning and delivering projects. They were the ideal experts for this project.

"The landowner of the Callandrade side of the river was prepared to have planting in his land. Plans were produced, costings produced and birch and alder tree plugs ordered. Then it was time to wait for government approval and finance. Nothing happened; the work needed to be done this financial year.

"In the middle of March, the miracle approval happened.

"It was going to be a rush. The National Park had been informed it might happen, but now most of the volunteers were committed to other projects and this was very last minute. The Woodland Trust might be able to help on one day. Would people in Callander help?



The main planting of the trees

"Step 1: Freddy produced a document to put in letterboxes on the Callandrade Meadow side of Bridgend, giving lots of detail about the project. It rained hard that day so soggy gifts were stuffed into letterboxes, before anything else could happen.

"Step 2: Collect willow cuttings. This was planned for and done on 'Flooded Friday'. The cycle track was about the only place dry enough to collect twigs from. Magnus from FRT and 'Jerry the Gem', were the two stars, not just for this

first day of work but also for the rest of the project.

“Step 3: Planting the willow cuttings. The planting area was underwater. Freddy became the third star. Will the cuttings stay where they were put in the ground or will some travel in the torrent to find a new home in the riverbank elsewhere? Or will the beavers have eaten everything before they can grow?”

“Step 4: The main planting of the trees with stakes and biodegradable guards to take the whole week. Day 1 was very wet; two ladies from Bridgend came to help and escaped before they were drowned. One other helper took one look and left; big waders would have been more suitable than wellies.

“There was much falling over, but a good number of trees were planted! By day 3, it was still challenging but not so wet. Extra people came to help. The tussock hazard increased as work came closer to the river. The ‘downward dog’ escape doesn’t work when tussocks/hummocks are so close that they trap prone people. That day, the sun spurred work on and the daily tree ration was finished early. It now looked as though things would be finished in time.

“The rest of the week, the weather was not so good but the Woodland Trust tree experts with Magnus and Jerry got the job done. On top of the willow, the tubes show the 2000 trees are all in the ground. Extra planting days were not needed. Hopefully the designer of the whole Meadows plan was happy when she, with friends, joined the final day’s planting.”



Mary

## CCDT Projects

**E**-bikes - We are pleased that the conversion of the small shipping container in Station Road car park into our community e-bike scheme hub is finally underway, made possible by the FVL CLLD fund. In late April, we displayed all the fantastic designs from the students of Callander Primary for the mural on one side of the container. The

winners were decided and presented with their prizes in school assembly. Congratulations to them; we look forward to their design taking shape!

**V**isitor Information Centre – Well into the season, we are pleased to have welcomed thousands of visitors already from around the world. If you would be interested in volunteering in the Centre to provide welcome and information, we would love to hear from you!

**C**allander Connect – On our regular programme of groups, we continue to have our Scrabble Club at 2pm on the first and third Monday, Create at Connect at 7pm on the first and third Wednesday, and Knit & Knatter at 2pm on the second and fourth Friday. We post, in the Callander Connect Facebook group each Sunday, our opening times for the coming week. We will be here to answer any questions or help local people however we can.

**C**allander Old Primary School – Some of the designs and results of the report and business case for the conversion of the building into a Community, Arts, Education and Training Centre are still up on display in Callander Connect and feedback is welcomed. Our project team is looking at options for Community Asset Transfer and funding options, again subject to what funding is available post-election. We thank Scottish Land Fund for providing funds for the feasibility stage of the project so far.

**C**amp Place Phone Box – We are looking forward to carrying out some internal restoration of the phone box at Camp Place very soon. We are being very generously donated a battery-powered, insulated defibrillator for the outside of the kiosk, by a private donor, and we hope that community groups can use the inside of the box for displays, information, or other positive projects!

## Hydro awards

**O**UR next deadline for Hydro Fund applications is 30th June. Lastly, we congratulate Scott McMurray who is moving from Development Officer to Operations Manager Adoption Cover for the next year. He will be joined by a new part-time Development Officer.

Freddy Bowen-Bate

## Legal firm’s new Callander offering

**A**DUNBLANE legal practice is expanding its presence, bringing its conveyancing services to Callander with a weekly legal advice surgery.

Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie LLP’s clinics will take place on the premises of West Homes, 86 Main Street, Callander, every Tuesday from 9am to 1pm, providing the

local community with access to expert legal advice on residential property transactions.

They will be hosted by Karen Crothers, Legal Director at the firm’s Dunblane office, who wants to make the conveyancing process more accessible and streamlined for buyers and sellers in the local area.

Clients visiting the weekly clinic will be able to discuss a range of conveyancing matters, including buying and selling residential property, remortgaging, transfers of equity, and general property law queries.

For more information contact Karen Crothers on [kac@wjmc.co.uk](mailto:kac@wjmc.co.uk)

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### A new season at the Ripple Retreat

**A**FTER what feels like weeks (months?!) of relentless rain, we are finally being promised a dry spell — and that means only one thing at the Ripple Retreat... Mowgli is back on duty, and this time it's 24/7.

I do feel a little guilty sending him out for such long shifts, but to be fair, he never complains. In fact, he just quietly gets on with it, keeping the grounds looking exactly as they should — ready for the families who arrive needing space, calm and a bit of magic.

And what a space it is!

The grounds at the Ripple Retreat are so much more than just gardens. They are a place where families can relax, breathe, and in many cases, begin to heal. One family recently shared:

“Dealing with childhood cancer can be really isolating but realising how many people and groups contribute to this wonderful place makes you feel cared for and connected to the wider community.”

That sense of community is woven into every corner. This spring and summer alone, it will take over 350 volunteer hours to maintain the outdoor spaces — every weed pulled, each plant chosen and nurtured to full bloom, every path cleared, every blade of grass cut, equipment cleaned, squirrels fed, all contributing to the experience of the families who stay.

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### Adventure, Reflection... and the Unexpected

**T**HE Woodland Walk continues to be a favourite — a place of adventure, intrigue and quiet reflection. Hidden amongst the trees are wooden sculptures, poems, bug hotels and little surprises that encourage both curiosity and calm (see photo).

And then there's the loch.

Thanks to the wonderful volunteers from Callander Sailing Club, some of our families will be collected directly from the Retreat's pier for a sail on Loch Venachar. For many, this is their first time in a boat — and what a first experience it is.

There's something quite special about stepping from the pier into a boat and heading out onto the water, with Ben Ledi and Ben Venue watching over you.

Evidence was picked up along our shoreline in April by volunteer Steve Willetts and our Maintenance Lead, Gavin Ryans of beaver activity (see photo) — maybe we will have photos of the real proof in the next edition.

### Play, Together Again

**I**N April, we welcomed Roy Auld from Proludic to carry out pre-inspection maintenance on our outdoor play equipment ahead of the annual ROSPA inspection — a generous and important contribution that helps keep everything safe and ready. Roy brought his mum, Mita, to





Mita, centre, with Alison and Joyce

meet Alison and Joyce, and although she was about to celebrate a VERY significant birthday later this year, as soon as she came through the door – she asked what she could do to help – what an inspiration! (see photo)

The play area itself is full of life — a zip wire, pirate ship, multi-sensory equipment, puzzles, outdoor table tennis and the ever-popular basket swing.

But what matters most isn't what's there — it's what it allows.

For some families, this is the first time in months — sometimes longer — that siblings have been able to simply go out and play together. When a child is undergoing treatment and is immuno-suppressed, everyday things like a trip to the park just aren't possible. Here, they can run, laugh, and just be children again.

## A Quiet Space to Just Be

**W**HILE the gardens are full of life, there are also spaces designed for stillness.

Zoe's Lookout, lovingly cared for by our housekeeper Jacky Myles (whose eye for detail extends far beyond the indoors), is one such place. Tucked away with its own small balcony overlooking bird feeders, rock gardens and the loch beyond, it offers a quiet, adults-only space — one person at a time (see photos of retreat plus the rock garden/loch view)

Families often tell us how important this space is.

A stay at the Retreat can be overwhelming. For many, it's the first time they've stopped since diagnosis — or loss. Zoe's Lookout offers a moment to reflect... on where life was, where it is now, or where it may be heading.

Sometimes it's a place to read or listen to music.

Sometimes it's a place to laugh.

Sometimes to cry.

And sometimes, just to sit and be.

## Why the Outdoors Matters

**T**HERE is growing evidence that time spent outdoors — particularly in natural environments with views of water, mountains and woodland — can significantly support mental wellbeing, reduce stress, and aid emotional recovery.

At the Ripple Retreat, families are surrounded by it all.

The stillness of Loch Venachar, the ever-changing presence of Ben Ledi and Ben Venue, and the woodland stretching along Invertrossachs Road create a landscape that gently encourages people to slow down. Studies have shown that even short periods in such environments can lower cortisol levels, improve mood and promote a sense



A silent observer

of connection — something that is often lost during periods of illness or isolation.

Here, nature does a lot of the work for us.

As Mowgli, our robotic mower, continues his tireless efforts and the seasons begin to shift, the gardens once again become a place of connection — between families, with nature and with a wider community that quietly supports every stay.

And every moment spent outdoors here... is a moment that truly matters.

If you want to volunteer or know more, email Joyce at [rippleretreat@itsgood2give.co.uk](mailto:rippleretreat@itsgood2give.co.uk)  
Website: <https://www.itsgood2give.co.uk/>

*Joyce Burnett*



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## Callander Community Council

**T**HE first piece of good news is that the Community Council has two new co-opted members – welcome to Brian Luti and Sandra Corrieri – they were approved as new members at the April AGM meeting. Both Brian and Sandra are long-time residents of Callander and very familiar with local needs. They will become full council members after the May meeting.

The Council can have up to 14 members; at present we now have eight. If you are feeling you want to support your community, are interested in its work or feel you can contribute to the ongoing improvement of where you live, please do look at the Callander Community Council website for more information.

### Updates

#### FUNDING BID

**A**N application for monies to the Healing Hands fund was submitted by the Community Council to buy some equipment for the new primary school due to open in August 2026. Unfortunately, this was not successful, but it was worth a try.

#### SHOPLIFTING SPREE

**T**he monthly police report advises that the main issue in Callander at the moment is opportunistic shoplifting from our local businesses. All and any ideas to support our local shop keepers would be welcome.

#### SPEEDING ISSUES

**W**e have been discussing traffic speeding along the A84 through Callander with Transport Scotland and Stirling Council. Transport Scotland has agreed to look at the positions of the illuminated signs at both entrances to the town and also installing a 40mph zone beyond the 30mph zones when leaving Callander. We have suggested more signage along Stirling Road, possibly with “Smiley Faces” to alert drivers if they are speeding and we are grateful to Roger Watt who has carried out a comprehensive analysis of the vehicle speed data from a recent survey.

#### BRIDGE PROPOSAL

**R**egarding the proposed bridge over the River Teith – the Community Council has just received a copy of the “Concept Design” report from Stirling Council regarding a proposed footbridge over the River Teith to give children a safer route to the new primary school. We will continue to engage with Stirling Council to discuss the design of the bridge, its location and the access paths and will push for full community consultation once we have a more detailed set of options.

#### BRAES OF DOUNE FUND

**T**he Community Council continues to manage the Braes of Doune fund – news will follow regarding received applications and if they have been approved.

#### CHURCH SALE

**T**o date we are still awaiting news regarding the sale of St Kessogs.

#### LITTER FAILINGS

**L**itter and street cleaning have been an issue for many years in Callander and it is important to all of us that the litter bins are emptied and the streets swept regularly. We have been discussing this with Stirling Council so that their street cleaning squad has a list of priority bins to be emptied every day. We have highlighted a number of problem bins to Stirling Council - for example, the bin in Bridge Street was regularly overflowing and it is now a priority bin to be emptied every day.

Stirling Council proposed to reduce the number of bins in and around Callander, citing non usage! This has been strongly opposed by the Community Council – all the bins are used; some may need to be moved to where the footfall is at its busiest. The Community Council members are writing to Stirling Council to strongly object to any being removed and to ask for more bins. News will follow.

The Council continues to report maintenance matters to Stirling Council on a regular basis including:

- Repairs to the Callander Cemetery water fountain
- Cleaning moss and grass off the footpaths in the cemetery
- Repairs of the steps between Glen Gardens and the cycle track
- Replacement of the 6 lifebelts in the Meadows as an urgent issue
- Resurfacing of the footpath from Bridge Street next to the Primary School
- Potholes along Camp Place
- Condition of the access track to Camp Place
- We are also working with Trossachs Search and Rescue to upgrade and maintain the network of defibrillators in Callander.



Adobe Stock/Stepanych

### COUNCIL CEO VISIT

**F**INALLY, at May's Community Council meeting, the Chief Executive from Stirling Council, Brian Roberts, was in attendance. We utilised the opportunity to highlight important issues and were interested to hear what Brian had to say about Stirling Council's future plans.

**P**lease do visit the Community Council website and Facebook page – see what is going on; leave your appropriate comments about what you think are the important issues that the Community Council should be addressing. This is your Community Council, with volunteer council members working on maintaining and improving Callander for the benefit of all.

*Heather Ward*

### Royal British Legion Scotland

**W**E are holding an 'Open Day' in Callander Connect on the 27th of June from 10am to 4pm, in which we are hoping to raise the profile of the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBL) and Poppy Scotland.

We are looking for new members to help to support the work of both charities in the town, to support events such as the Remembrance Day parade, selling poppies, maintaining the War Memorials and ensuring that we provide support to both current and ex-service personnel and their families.

Membership of RBL is open to anyone. We would like to invite anyone who is interested in joining RBL or volunteering to sell poppies to come along and have a chat.



The war memorial with the new railings in place

The War Memorial railings.

With the help of other Callander groups and businesses we recently installed railings around the War Memorial in Ancaster Square.

Funding for the railings was received from the Braes of Doune Community Fund and CCC, Iain Clark of Callander fabricated and installed the railings, Bright Steel of Falkirk will supply the 4 'Tommies' that will soon be added to the central uprights of the railings

Lesley Hawkins of Greener Callander and Ian Goodall of RBL Callander Branch planned and coordinated the project.

*Ian Goodall*

### Callander Kirk

**T**he congregation of Callander Kirk would like to pass on their thanks for the continued support from members of the community, the other churches and local businesses. We are very grateful to all who donate, as we are sure are the individuals/families who benefit. Any donation is most welcome.

We are always looking for gifts of food/toiletries for our Community Larder, located outside the Kirk Hall. We are always looking for gifts of food/toiletries for our Community Larder, located outside the Kirk Hall. We never cease to be amazed at the generosity of so many.

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, macaroni cheese), dried pasta with a jar/carton of sauce, rice, jars of fish/meat paste, oatcakes/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...

**Garden Produce:** goes in basket on table





The 18th century cemetery at St Kessogs

## St Kessog's Graveyard

**H**OPEFULLY many of you will have seen the restoration work we have been undertaking in the St Kessog's Graveyard over the past 12 months. When we took over the site in June 2025 it was overgrown, many of the gravestones were covered in ivy and brambles and a number had fallen over. Last summer we cleared the site back to the iron railings in the centre of the site and during this spring, we have cleared the rest, reaching the west wall.

In case anyone is not aware of the history of the graveyard, the following is a description of the site by Historic Environment Scotland:

*"18th century irregularly shaped walled graveyard including a 19th century hexagonal watch house. Sited on what is believed to be the location of Callander's first church founded in 1238. Tom na Cheasaig (the Mound of St Kessog, where the 6th Century saint is supposed to have preached from) is set just outwith to the NW. The graveyard is set picturesquely near the banks of the River Teith with stunning views across to Ben Ledi.*

*"The entrance is set to the east along Bridge Street with*

*the wall being swept to both sides of the simple opening.*

*"The ground undulates to the churchyard being banked quite steeply to the NW. Some lying slabs might be 18th Century, but these are difficult to read due to deterioration. The majority of the gravestones are 19th Century.*

*"Built into the north wall is the watchhouse with three of its sides facing into the churchyard."*

**T**o attack the heavily overgrown site, we have been clearing fierce brambles, cutting back trees which have been pushing over headstones, strimming and mowing the grass, clearing ivy and moss from gravestones and cutting bushes off the perimeter wall. At the end of last summer, we were very pleased with progress and so we planted two hundred daffodil bulbs to mark the achievement. This spring, we cut into the overgrowth at the far end of the site but found the gravestones and perimeter wall totally swamped by brambles and ivy. Clearing the growth away has revealed some amazing headstones, with the oldest being dated 1777, and some headstones set into the perimeter wall.



At the time of writing, Stirling Council has started work on the unstable and fallen headstones. This is specialist work, lifting the delicate stones, cleaning the bases, inserting pins and securing the stones. The work is likely to take most of the summer to secure all of the headstones.

Meanwhile we continue to cut the grass and clean more of the wall, all the time finding more stones which have been buried for decades or more. We hope that once the headstone stabilisation work is completed, we can hold another open day so that everyone can wander around the site enjoying the history as much as we do.

*Richard and Mary Johnson (and Meg)*

# 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.

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This number is FREE to call

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Standard text rates apply

**jo@samaritans.org**

**samaritans.org**

A registered charity

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

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W. [cathedralestates.co.uk](http://cathedralestates.co.uk)



**Cathedral Estates**

## Rotary Club in Callander



**R**OTARY in Callander continues to be busy with fundraising and volunteering activities.

In March, we ran the local heat for the Rotary Primary School Quiz, when teams from all eleven 'feeder schools' for McLaren High School, energetically tackled questions on a wide range of subjects. The winning team, for the second year running, was Aberfoyle Primary. Congratulations to them! They received a trophy for the



Berkley, Joe, Andrew and Michael advanced to the final

school to keep for a year; and book tokens for the team members: Berkley, Joe, Andrew and Michael. They now progress to the area final in May, and we wish them well for that.



A rain-soaked stall

Easter weekend in April saw us back in action, with a Bottle Stall, bric-a-brac and Easter Egg Lucky Dip in Ancaster Square. Despite the sudden deterioration in the weather - which resulted in

us packing up earlier than planned - we raised over £700, a fantastic result, thanks to the generosity of our local supporters and many visitors to the town. The event was certainly a wet baptism for our two newest recruits to the Club - Chiara and Gavin!

The Easter chicken also put in an appearance.

This was the first in a series of events which we are running this year to raise funds



The Easter chicken

to provide new books for the Primary School library, when they make the exciting move to their new premises. We are always grateful for the support which the people of Callander give to our ventures.

In March, it was good to hear about the work of the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance, when a representative came along to receive our donation of £500. We were astonished to learn that SCAA are entirely dependent on charitable funding to support the amazing work that they undertake throughout Scotland, often in the most challenging of circumstances. We are confident that money donated to that organisation is indeed money well spent.

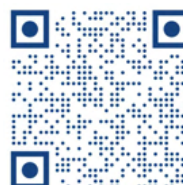
Also in March, it was pleasing to welcome newcomer Chiara Benardi, a local resident and businesswoman, when President Mike Kay inducted her as a full member of Rotary in Callander. Chiara decided to join us to become more involved in our community, to contribute in a meaningful way and connect with others who share a commitment to service and community wellbeing.



Chiara Benardi is welcomed by President Mike Kay

Making a difference in our community is exactly what our small but very friendly group of people focus on as Rotary in Callander. We all care about trying to 'give something back' and we welcome enquiries from anyone else who supports that aim, while also enjoying socialising in our friendly group. Our Club has been giving back to our community and beyond for over fifty-five years, but we actively want to welcome new members to help support us over many more years!

We'd be delighted to meet you, if you fancy coming along to find out a little more about what Rotary does and how your experience and skills can help. Giving back is extremely rewarding and satisfying, knowing you have made a difference. Just message us today via our Facebook site, or by using the QR code below. You can be guaranteed of a warm, friendly response and we're confident you won't regret your decision.



Jen Shearer

## Walk in the Park

**J**OIN us for our range of free movement-inspired weekly wellbeing activities supporting people to be more active, more often, connecting with each other and nature.

This spring, our Walk in the Park group has enjoyed walking some of their favourite routes, utilising the great



Participants on the anniversary walk Image: Trust In the Park

path network in Callander and beyond. The group enjoyed a lovely walk at Bochastle, along a short section of The Great Trossachs Path, taking in views of Loch Venachar and beyond. During April, the group also celebrated their 18th anniversary with a beautiful walk along Invertrossachs Road, working up an appetite to celebrate with cake and share lots of stories and memories of the group past and present. Thank you to everyone who has walked with us over the years and has made the group the success that it is.

You can join us every Tuesday at 10.20am with our weekly Callander 'Walk in the Park', meeting up and departing from Ancaster Square (occasionally Callander



Date	Meeting Place	Walking Route	Car Share	Dementia Friendly
09/06/2026	Ancaster Square	Bridgend & Meadows		
16/06/2026	Ancaster Square	Bracklinn Falls		
23/06/2026	Ancaster Square	NCN Lagrannoch		
30/06/2026	Medical Centre	Keltie Bridge		
07/07/2026	Ancaster Square	Loch Katrine		
14/07/2026	Ancaster Square	Callander to Kilmahog		
21/07/2026	Ancaster Square	Railway & Golf Club		
28/07/2026	Ancaster Square	Moss Road		
04/08/2026	Ancaster Square	Tulipan & Meadows		



Medical Centre – please check our walk schedule for details). Great news too, that all our walks are suitable for all abilities, as well as for those living with dementia and their carers.

Our evening walks have

also been proving very popular this year, taking full advantage of the lighter nights; the walks are a great opportunity to enjoy a leisurely stroll and chat. Our weekly evening walk meets 7pm at Ancaster Square every Wednesday, with optional refreshments at The Meadows.

Research shows that walking can have huge benefits to our overall wellbeing and physical benefits, such as increased heart and cardiovascular fitness and keeping your muscles and bones strong. The good news is that from our 2026 participation survey, our walk participants agree, with 80% advising that they have felt an improvement in their physical wellbeing since joining Walk in the Park.

We were excited to celebrate the anniversary of our Callander Strength and Balance class in April. We heard how the class has grown over the years and even heard about the laughs that were had when this was delivered online!

The popular sessions support people's mobility and confidence, as well as their physical, mental and social wellbeing. From our 2026 Strength and Balance participation survey, 91% stated that they felt an improvement in their physical wellbeing and 6 out of 10 said they were more confident moving around since attending a session.

These gentle exercises are suitable for all abilities and are a great complement to our health walks - or perfect on their own - come along and enjoy moving with others in your community! The classes are always welcoming, fun and a great opportunity to socialise with others. Join us for our free weekly Strength and Balance session every Tuesday from 2pm-3pm, 1st Floor Dance Studio at McLaren Community Leisure.

### Vote for Callander Strength & Balance.

**D**ID you know that Co-op members can support local projects, and that by choosing our cause, you can help us receive a share of £5m to help us continue our weekly Callander Strength & Balance sessions. Not a Co-op member yet? Don't worry - you can join today at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>. If you are a member and live within 15 miles of Callander, Doune, or Killin Coops please select 'Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Countryside Trust'. Voting closes October 2026.

Movement Together activities are supported with funding. With thanks to funding from: The National Lottery, Community Fund Awards for All, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority and Walking Scotland.

Thank you to everyone who supports our activities. Our 2026 participation survey shows that 100% of participants would recommend them. To find out more, we'd love to hear from you—just drop us an email at [fiona@trustinthepark.org](mailto:fiona@trustinthepark.org) or call Fiona on 07843 842323 (Monday to Thursday).

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# Ben Ledi View

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Scan the QR Code or visit <https://benlediview.easyportal.app/media-pack> for more information





*Trossachs Church*

Switch Off Sundays  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2-4pm

Trad Music Performance  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm

Switch Off Sundays  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2-4pm

“Miscast” - Songs from Musical Theatre  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm

## 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](mailto:gail@startupstirling.org.uk) #workingtogether #cuppaandchat






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About a let or to let your property for you.

# BLV Young Person Writing Challenge

**Where is your  
favourite  
place in  
Callander?**

What do you like about it?  
What can you see there?  
What can you see, smell, and  
touch?  
How does it make you feel?  
Can you imagine any stories  
happening there?

Send us your writing  
by Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> to  
be in the next Ben  
Ledi View!\*

\*based on space and number of  
entries\*

Any young person (under 18) who  
reads the Ben Ledi View is eligible!  
Send us your writing of up to 500  
words (with a picture if you'd like!)  
with your first name as you would like  
it to be printed.

Submit to:  
[editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org)

## Callander and West Perthshire u3a

ON March 26, the u3a organised a spring event which was a visit to Pitlochry Theatre. On arrival, we were welcomed with tea/ coffee and then went on to enjoy a talk from David Cunningham. David has produced lighting for theatres throughout the world and had many photos to prove it. We then had a 'Question and Answer' session with the actor Colin McCready (best known for the young face for many years in Taggart).

It was very entertaining and he had a few amusing stories to tell. After a lovely lunch, we had a talk by Ray Leakey about the RRS Sir David Attenborough.



The RSS Sir David Attenborough

Image: Adobe Stock

After that, we heard from the wardrobe department and finally a backstage tour. It was a full day out and enjoyed by all.

Our fortnightly 'Tea and Chat' takes place in Callander at Pips in the Square. It's a great chance for a catch up and to enjoy the scones and cream on offer.

On Friday 24th April, we had 'Travellers Tales', which takes place in the Black Bull, Gartmore on the last Friday of every month. Peter Ireland spoke to us about Albania and had many slides to accompany his talk. It was enjoyed by everyone, followed by tea and home bakes. A perfect Friday afternoon.

There is a possibility of a new Spanish group ... watch this space for confirmation, hopefully in the next issue.

The committee is planning a drop-in session at Callander Connect, 43 Main Street, for those who ask - what is u3a? what happens there?

The proposed dates for the sessions are 28th July between 5-8 pm and the 30th July between 11am-4pm.

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If you are retired, semi- retired or about to retire, please come along, when hopefully all of your questions will be answered, with a cup of tea and some home baking on standby.

Why not visit our website to see what you are missing?  
candwp@u3asite.uk.

## Barbara Legg



ON April 18 Barbara Legg our Honorary President passed away peacefully.

Barbara was largely instrumental in establishing our branch of u3a. Starting it up was not without challenges but Barbara, with her enthusiasm and steadfastness, along with other like-minded people, made it possible.

Very early on, she was responsible for designing the logo that we still use today.

In the first year, there were already 125 members and over the years we have grown to 320 members, with about 30 different groups.

Barbara had remained active over the years, holding various committee posts. She was the group leader for Current Affairs, which is one of the largest groups.

Never dull, always lively and not for the faint hearted, Barbara managed this group with great decorum, respect and diplomacy.

She was also responsible for starting the Villages Group. This is a unique group within the u3a nationwide and was borne out of the fact that our branch covers Callander and 16 outlying villages. Barbara would liaise with various people from the villages, with reference to the historical aspect and then organise a visit to the village. It proved very popular and was always well attended.

Barbara had always been well supported by her husband Alan, who was actually the first membership secretary of our u3a.

Barbara was a very talented, accomplished and inspirational lady. She wrote poetry, painted watercolours, stitched tapestry and was also very musical.

Barbara was a truly amazing and dynamic woman. She was the epitome of a life lived to the full and we at u3a will long remember her with great affection and respect for her infectious enthusiasm for life!

*Dervla Massey*

### Deutschsprachige Gruppe In Callander

Am Samstag, 20. Juni findet unser jährliches Sommerfest um 14.30 bei Peter (Coilhullan House, Invertrossachs Road) statt. NB d.h. wir fangen eine halbe Stunde später als gewöhnlich an.

Hoffentlich werden wir im Garten, mit Sonnenhüten und Sonnenbrillen, sitzen können...aber falls das nicht möglich ist, brauchen wir keine Schirme und Regenmäntel, da wir wie gewöhnlich drinnen zusammenkommen werden!

Das Diskussionsthema werden wir im Voraus allen Teilnehmern per E-Mail versenden. Für Eure Unterhaltung, werden wir wahrscheinlich auch ein paar interessante Spiele vorbereiten!

Dieses Jahr möchten wir Euch noch einmal, anstelle von Beiträgen zum Buffet, bitten, Spenden an Start Up Stirling zu bringen, die Organisation, die Essensausgabe an Bedürftige in dieser Gegend verteilt.

Wir freuen uns über Spenden von haltbaren Lebensmittel, wie Suppendosen, Gemüsekonserven, Fleischkonserven, Fischkonserven, Reis, Pasta usw.). Auch Spenden von Toilettenartikeln, Frühstücksflocken, Säfte, Konfitüre, Kekes und Süßigkeiten sind jederzeit willkommen. Alternativ werden wir auch eine Sammelbox für Geldspenden ausstellen. Wir hoffen, Ihr unterstützt uns noch einmal dabei.

WICHTIG, u.A.w.g

Ihr werdet ernsthaft gebeten, mir bis Mittwoch, 16. Juni bitte mitzuteilen, ob Ihr es vorhabt, mitzumachen, damit wir wissen, wie viel zu erwarten sind. Email:jenshearer@gmail.com

Im Juli und August, haben wir eine Sommerpause vor. Die Termine ab September werden wir Ende August bekanntgeben.

Jen Shearer

### Celebrating the Past and New Beginnings

Trossachs Church Worship Group has recently been set up by members of the former congregation. We were delighted to hold a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 3rd May led by Sarah Gold in Trossachs Church, which marked a new beginning following the change of ownership from Church of Scotland to Friends of Trossachs.

There was a special presentation made to Johnny Miller at the end of the service, to mark over forty years as Beadle and general caretaker of the church building and surrounds over this period and recognising his 'above and beyond' contribution to Trossachs Church.

Trossachs Church Worship Group plans to initially hold quarterly services with the next one planned for Sunday 2nd August at 3pm to which all are welcome.

Trossachs Church Worship Group

### Community Donation Fund: Apply Today!



**Looking for that extra piece of funding to achieve your community project then why not apply?**  
We are keen to promote and support causes within the rural Stirling area.

You could be eligible for funding if your project will benefit:

- The Association's tenants or prospective tenants – either directly or indirectly; or
- Rural Stirling communities more generally.

**Previous donations include contributions towards:**

- Play facilities (Buchlyvie)
- Stirling Carers Centre
- Bench seat (Killin)
- Purchase of a new van: The Food Train

Eligible applications are awarded on a first come first served basis so don't delay, apply today.

Further details visit our website news and events page:  
[www.rsha.org.uk/community-donation-fund/](http://www.rsha.org.uk/community-donation-fund/)



SCAN ME

**Providing affordable homes: sustaining rural communities**

Registered as a Scottish Charity No. SC037849  
Rural Stirling Housing Association is a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 No. 2376 (s)  
Registered with the Scottish Housing Regulator HAL232

### 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 **680** rented houses and flats.  
Around **40** of these become available for rent each year.

**At present we have properties in the following communities:**

Aberfoyle	Balforn	Buchlyvie	Callander	Croftamie
Deanston	Doune	Drymen	Gargunnoch	Gartmore
Killearn	Killin	Kinlochard	Kippen	Lochearnhead
Strathblane	Strathyre	Stronachlachar	Tyndrum	

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

providing affordable homes: sustaining rural communities

Rural Stirling Housing Association,  
Stirling Road, Doune FK16 6AA  
01786 841101 [www.rsha.org.uk](http://www.rsha.org.uk)  
enquiries@rsha.org.uk



SCAN ME

Registered as a Scottish Charity No. SC037849  
Property Factor No. PPO00330 & Letting Agent Registration Number: LARN1907004

## Callander Heritage Society Report



Looking across the peaks of the National Park from the summit of Ben Lomond

Image: Adobe Stock

### MARCH MEETING

For our March meeting, Jack Black gave a talk on 'Wildlife in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park'. Jack's interest in wildlife began when he was about ten years of age. The local Balloch Park became Balloch Country Park and the young Jack spent hours exploring the Park and watching the wildlife.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park was the first National Park in Scotland when it opened in 2002. Within the Park, there is a wide variety of landscapes. There are twenty-two lochs, three sea lochs and one lake. Loch Lubnaig was the first choice for providing Glasgow's water supply, but Loch Katrine was finally chosen because of the better gravitational fall. The Lake of Menteith is the only lake in Scotland, supposedly due to the Dutch pronunciation of the name.

Forty-one of the highest Scottish mountains are within the Park. There are twenty-one Munros - mountains over 3000 feet, and twenty Corbetts - mountains between 2500 and 3000 feet in the Park. The highest Munro in the Park is Ben More, Crianlarich and Ben Lomond is the most southerly. Ben Ledi at 2883 feet is a Corbett.

Some of the most iconic birds live and breed in these mountains. Golden eagles nest on the mountain cliffs. One of the best places to see them is in the Arrochar Alps. They nest in late February, laying up to four eggs. They hunt small mammals such as rabbits. Notoriously shy and high flying, eagles are very difficult to spot. Often when visitors say they have seen an eagle, they have actually seen a buzzard - the "Tourist Eagle".

Ospreys, the fish eagle, come in the spring. They nest in forest areas near water. They lay their eggs in March/April and the young hatch in May/June. The male fishes for the chicks. He eats the head and takes the rest of the fish back to the nest to feed the chicks and the hen bird. In August/September, the ospreys migrate back to West Africa. The parents leave first, leaving the chicks to make their own

way.

Red kites were extinct in the area but have been very successfully re-introduced at Argaty. They eat roadkill and carrion. Sea eagles/white tailed eagles were re-introduced to Mull but are now spreading into the National Park. With a wingspan of 2.5 metres, they are easy to identify.

Anglers come to fish in the lochs and rivers of the Park. They catch Atlantic salmon, wild brown trout, sea trout and rainbow trout. The salmon come to spawn in the autumn. The eggs hatch in the spring. The fry stay in the rivers until they are adult and then set off to the sea.

The lochs and rivers are also home to otters which live in holts on the banks and eat fish and shellfish. Increasingly, the rivers are also home to beavers which have spread from Knapdale, where they were re-introduced. A nocturnal animal, they make their dams on quiet rivers and burns, flooding the area.



Pine martens live among the trees

Image: Adobe Stock

In mature woodland areas, pine martens are found. They were once nearly extinct but are now prospering. They are scavengers, eating berries, small mammals, birds and eggs.

Badger setts are found in the woods. They live in clans in

underground burrow systems which can cover a large area. They live on worms, insects, fruit and small mammals.

There are a few wild cats, the 'Highland tiger', in the area. They live in mixed woodland. They look like large tabby cats with a stumpy tail. They hunt hares, rabbits and small birds. Interbreeding with domestic cats has affected the purity of the breed: in the Cairngorms there is a breeding programme to increase the number of pure-bred wild cats.

Inchconnachan, on Loch Lomond, is the home to a group of wallabies which were introduced there in the 1940s and have settled in and colonised the island.

#### APRIL MEETING

**I**n April, Bethany Simpson from The National Museum of Scotland, came to talk on 'Gods of the Roman Frontier'.

The Roman invasion of Britain began in 43AD under the Emperor Claudius. By 77AD, the whole of southern Britain had been conquered and Agricola set about conquering the north of the island. By the time Agricola defeated the Caledonian army led by Calgacus at Mons Graupius, the Roman legions had built numerous forts and connecting roads in central and southern Scotland. One of them was the fort at Boscawen. The fort at Ardoch has one of the best examples of walls and ditches.

Although the Romans explored all round Scotland, they only really settled in southern Scotland briefly behind the Antonine Wall, before retreating south to behind Hadrian's Wall. The Roman fort at Inveresk, East Lothian, was a large fort with road networks connecting it to the Antonine Wall and Hadrian's Wall. Around the fort were workshops and houses for civilians, including women and children.

The Roman soldiers worshipped many gods and brought their worship with them. The gods were responsible for different areas of life and the soldiers wanted to keep the gods on their side. Every large fort would have a temple with an altar, where they made sacrifices of animals to the appropriate god.

Small or temporary forts and houses had their own altars. There are pictures of priests sacrificing animals – usually sheep or goats. Generally, the sacrifices were to ask for good fortune in enterprises about to be carried out, or to say thanks for a successful outcome. Roman worshippers made a contract with the gods – *Do Ut Des* – I give that you might give. Lots of stones with contracts carved on them have been found.

Sadly, they don't say what the gods were being asked to help with or how successful they were. People also wore amulets and jewellery depicting gods to ward off bad luck.

Statues and altars to many gods have been found all over Britain, some in temples and others in forts, villas and houses. The most popular gods worshipped were:

Jupiter, the King of the Gods. He could be petitioned in any circumstance, since he had power over everything.

Mars, God of War, was most often petitioned by soldiers



Ditch fortification at site of Roman fort on the Antonine Wall Image: Adobe Stock

for help in winning battles. Sacrifices were also made to Mars when a victory was being celebrated.

Farmers prayed to Ceres for a good harvest or to help improve the weather.

Augustus was another god worshipped - Roman emperors became gods when they died.

Roman soldiers were sent to fight in Britain from all over the Empire. Many brought their own gods with them. We know this because statues and altars to these gods have been found at Roman camp sites. Soldiers also adopted local gods. Tablets to Ricaganbeda and Brigantia, Celtic goddesses, have been found. Brigantia was Goddess of War and Healing, very similar to Minerva.

Tablets have also been found to Jupiter Dolichenus, a Syrian god of War and Thunder. Underground temples to Mithras have also been found. Mithras was an Iranian god. He was associated with the sun, justice and contracts and bringing life back (control of the seasons). Rituals to Mithras included the sacrifice of a bull.

The Romans did not impose their gods on the tribes they conquered. Celts continued worshipping their own gods in their own ways. Roman coins and artifacts have been found buried along with Celtic weapons and coins in bogs and marshes.

See the 'What's On' Section for our future meetings.

*Kath Millar*

Ben Ledi View Issue 348



**C**allander Mental Health Awareness  
The Spring Bulb Show was very successful in April this year, with a lovely display of spring flowers in the Kirk Hall to welcome the start of the growing season for many.

The winner of the Endeavour Shield was Lynne Schroder.

In September, Callander & District Horticultural Society (CADHS), in conjunction with Climate Action Callander (CAC), will be holding an Autumn Show, themed "All Things Apple", on Saturday 12th September 2026 in the Callander Youth Project, Bridgend, Callander.

The Show will feature 20 classes for flowers, fruit, vegetables, baking, crafts, photography, floral art and children's entries, with something to suit experienced growers and complete beginners alike.

Floral art classes this year are an "Autumn Arrangement" and the themed "All Things Apple".

Children aged 14 and under are invited to take part in 2 classes - a pot of marigolds and a "Mr Potato Head" with mustard and cress hair.

Entries should be staged between 9.30am and 10.30am, with judging taking place from 11am to 12 noon. The hall will open to the public from 1pm until 4pm, with entry by donation, and prizes will be presented at 3.30pm.

As part of the 'All Things Apple' theme, there will be demonstrations and information on different apple varieties, as well as apple pressing using apples from the community orchard. There will also be some recipes to sample, using local apples.

Schedules for the Show and further information, including instructions for the children's class, are available online at [cadhs.co.uk](http://cadhs.co.uk) or from Callander Connect, 43 Main Street, Callander.

New exhibitors are warmly encouraged to take part.

### **AUTUMN SHOW – 'All Things Apple'**

Venue: Callander Youth Project, Bridgend, Callander

Date: Saturday 12th September 2026

Drop off entries: 9.30am – 10.30am Judging: 11am-12noon (Hall closed)

Public Viewing: 1.00pm – 4.00pm Entry by Donation

Presentation of Awards: 3.30pm

#### **GENERAL RULES**

1. All exhibits must be grown or created by the exhibitor, except where stated.
2. Exhibits must be staged by 10.30am. Late entries may be

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- refused.
3. Exhibitors may enter one exhibit per class.
  4. The judges' decisions are final.
  5. The Society accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to exhibits.
  6. Points awarded: 1st – 3 points, 2nd – 2 points, 3rd – 1 point.
  7. Trophies to be held for one year.

#### **SHOW CLASSES**

##### **SECTION A – FLOWERS**

CLASS 1 – VASE OF MIXED GARDEN FLOWERS

CLASS 2 – THREE SPECIMEN BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY, E.G.

DAHLIAS, ROSES, CHRYSANTHEMUMS

CLASS 3 – SINGLE SPECIMEN ROSE

CLASS 4 – ONE POT HOUSE PLANT

##### **SECTION B – FRUIT**

Class 5 – Three Apples, any variety

Class 6 – A mixed fruit bowl with at least 3 varieties

##### **SECTION C – VEGETABLES & HERBS**

Class 7 – Three Root Vegetables, Any Type

Class 8 – Three Potatoes, One Variety

Class 9 – Five Tomatoes, One Variety

Class 10 – Collection of Culinary Herbs in a Jar or Vase

##### **SECTION D – CRAFTS 4**

Class 11 – Knitted, Crocheted or Stitched Article

Class 12 – A 'New Home' Greetings Card

##### **SECTION E – PHOTOGRAPHY**

Class 13 – Photograph: Subject to be confirmed

##### **SECTION F – BAKING ~**

Class 14 – Four Home-Baked Scones (Plain or Fruit)

Class 15 – One Jar of Jelly, Jam, Marmalade or Chutney, named

Class 16 – One Round of Shortbread

##### **SECTION G – FLORAL ART**

Plant material need not be exhibitor-grown

Class 17 – Floral Art: "Autumn Arrangement" A decorative arrangement using flowers, foliage, berries, seed heads or other appropriate accessories. Max size 45 cm in any direction.

Class 18 – "All Things Apple" – Max. size 45 cm in any direction.

##### **SECTION H – CHILDREN'S CLASS (14 AND UNDER)**

Class 19 One Pot of Marigolds

Class 20 Potato Head with Mustard and Cress Hair (The instructions will be provided at the end of the schedule, online at [cadhs.co.uk](http://cadhs.co.uk) or from Callander Connect, 43 Main Street, Callander.)

## Callander Guides Celebrate Their Centenary Year!

**F**IRST Callander Guides is thriving in this, our centenary year. We now have eighteen Guides and three young leaders, along with eight girls in our Ranger unit. This term is always a busy one, with lots of outdoor activities - we are doing raft building and the tree climb at Dounans, and working with the Callander Woodland Group in Coilhallan wood, helping to build habitat for different woodland creatures. The latter activity was suggested by the girls, who identified reducing biodiversity as one of their big concerns, and wanted to take action on this important topic.

By the time you read this, we will have had a ceilidh to celebrate our centenary and raise money for our trip to London in October, and will be looking forward to a party for everyone who has been involved in Guides in Callander, on 15th June.

One of our leaders is sadly leaving us in October, which will have an impact on our ability to open up to more girls and potentially to keep running. If anyone would be interested in helping, please get in touch and we can chat about what is involved.

Please contact [callanderguides@icloud.com](mailto:callanderguides@icloud.com) if you would like to come along to our party or are interested in joining.

*Sarah Miller*



### Cook's corner with Audrey Corieri

#### Spinach and Cheddar Souffle Serves 6

##### Ingredients:

1Tbsp Olive Oil, plus extra for greasing  
1 Medium Onion, finely chopped  
500ml Milk  
125g Instant Polenta  
100g Baby Spinach  
125g Cheddar Cheese, finely cubed  
Small handful fresh Parsley, roughly chopped  
3 Large Eggs, separated

##### Method:

Preheat oven to 180C/160CFan/Gas No4  
Grease a 1.2Ltr ovenproof serving dish

Heat the oil in a large pan and gently cook the onion for 12-15 mins, until completely softened.

Turn up the heat, add the milk and 200ml water and bring to the boil. Add the polenta and whisk until the mixture is smooth.



Bring mixture to the boil again, then take off the heat and stir in the spinach, most of the cheese, the parsley and plenty of seasoning. Beat the egg yolks into the polenta mixture.

Put the egg whites into a separate bowl and whisk until they hold stiff peaks.

Use a metal spoon to fold the egg whites into the polenta mixture. Empty the mixture into the prepared dish and sprinkle over remaining cheese. Cook in the oven for 25-30mins until slightly puffed and golden on top.

Serve immediately.

Ben Ledi View Issue 348

## A Quiet Changing of the Guard at Callander Target Sports

**B**EHIND every long-running community club there are usually a handful of people who, year after year, quietly do the work that keeps the doors open. At Callander Target Sports Club, three of those people are stepping back this summer and the club is taking a moment to say thank you.

John Moffat is standing down as Chairman, Bob Farquhar as Secretary, and John Russell as Treasurer.

Between them they have given decades of service to a club that has been part of Callander life since 1909. John



Callander has been home to target sports for over 100 years. Image: Adobe Stock

Russell literally helped build the clubhouse beside the river. Bob has run the correspondence, the work parties and the constant background admin. that keeps a small club legal, safe and welcoming. John Moffat has chaired meetings, organised membership and held things together with the calm good humour the role demands.

All three are stepping back to enjoy a retirement from their retirements, though none are leaving the club. To keep things steady, John Russell has agreed to move from the treasurer's desk to the chair, with Bob and John Moffat both on hand to advise the new committee. Members will have a chance to thank all three, and to formally elect a new line-up, at an Extraordinary General Meeting on Monday 29 June.

Over a hundred years of community shooting in Callander has been built on exactly this kind of unsung effort.

### Competition Roundup

The winter season has just closed and the final standings tell a strong story for Callander shooters across all four leagues we contest.

Ben Ledi View Issue 348

### PERTSHIRE PRONE LEAGUE

In the team competition, Callander A took the Division 1 title after a season-long scrap with Dunfermline A. The team of G. Motion, G. Winch, J. Shepherd and F. Buchanan-Winch shot a remarkable 398 in Round 17 and slipped ahead when Stanley pinched a one-point win over Dunfermline the following round. Two confident closing rounds sealed the trophy.

Individually, G. Motion finished 2nd in Division 1, the league's top tier, against the strongest field in Scotland, which also makes him club prone champion for 2025/26. G. Winch was runner-up after leading at halfway. Further down, A. Mclean produced a season to remember in winning Division 11.

### PERTSHIRE BENCHREST LEAGUE

Three Callander divisional champions on the final scorecard. W. Thomson topped Division 7, A. Ashford took Division 12, and D. Heaton was a dominant winner of Division 14 with nine wins from ten. C. Miller pushed to second in Division 11, with further top three finishes for B. Holwell (Division 9) and P. Jamieson (Division 10).

### CUMBRIA & NORTHUMBRIA LEAGUE

A stamina test of a winter, with many of our prone shooters fully booked in the Scottish leagues. J. Shepherd led the way in Short Range Rifle, with W. Jenkins, M. Griffiths and C. Tawse keeping their cards in the post on the benchrest side. Useful match practice with no shortage of winter rust knocked off.

### SCOTTISH TARGET SHOOTING (STS)

The headline of the winter belongs to the prone team in the STS league. Seeded sixth out of six in Division 1 back in November, Callander finished fourth in the topflight, missing third only because Huntly snatched a draw in the very last round. From bottom seeds in the country's top division to a settled mid-table finish in their first winter at that level is, quietly, the kind of result this club tends to produce.

To find out more about Callander Target Sports Club, visit [callandertargetsports.com](http://callandertargetsports.com) or scan the QR code.



## From Easter Fun to Summer Sun at McLaren Leisure

**A**PRIL and May have been packed with activity at McLaren Leisure, with the centre buzzing throughout the Easter holidays and into spring. Our Easter programme was filled with exciting Kids Camp sessions, family swims, inflatables, sports and fitness activities right across the school break. It was fantastic to see the building full of energy, laughter and community spirit throughout the holidays.

May marked an important moment in our community calendar as we proudly supported Mental Health Awareness Week. This year's theme, "Take Action", focused on the positive steps we can all take to support good mental health, for ourselves, for others and for our wider communities. This theme brought new events to McLaren Leisure, with community members taking part in a wellness workshop full of relaxation, gentle movement and breathwork, while our family members worked together to keep active during a special FamilyFIT class.

These sessions, designed to encourage connection and support positive mental wellbeing, were made possible thanks to the continued support and funding from Callander Mental Health Matters, helping us to create welcoming opportunities for people to connect, move and support their wellbeing together.

The week was a brilliant reminder of the importance of movement, connection and taking time to prioritise wellbeing, something that continues to sit at the heart of



what McLaren Leisure aims to provide for the community.

Another major milestone this spring was the official switch-on of the new solar panel installation. This solar project was delivered by McLaren Leisure, Ledi Renewables and SCENE, and made possible with support

from the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES). This project marks an exciting step forward in improving the long-term sustainability of McLaren Leisure. The new system is already generating renewable electricity for the building,

helping reduce both energy costs and carbon emissions.

Early figures show that the panels are performing extremely well, particularly during the brighter spring weather, with strong levels of renewable energy generation already being seen. Visitors to McLaren Leisure can also view live data via the display at reception, showing how much solar power is being produced in real time and how it is helping run the building day-to-day. A great way to see renewable energy in action within your community facility.

Over the last few months, we've also introduced a range of new activities and classes, helping even more people find ways to stay active that fit around their routines and interests. Our new 6:15am fitness classes have been a great addition for those looking to fit in an early morning workout before the day begins, while the launch of Zumba and Zumba Gold sessions, left, has brought plenty of energy, music and fun to the weekly timetable. It's been fantastic to see both new and familiar faces getting involved and enjoying these latest

additions to the programme.

## Staying active round your summer plans.

**T**HE summer holidays often mean changing routines, holidays and busier schedules, but staying active doesn't need to stop. Whether it's an early morning gym session, a swim with the family, a fitness class or joining one of our community activities, McLaren Leisure is here to help you stay moving around your summer plans. You can look forward to plenty of opportunities to enjoy McLaren Leisure over the summer months.

Our ever-popular summer programme is back with Kids Camp, swim schools, family activities and a special six week summer class and social sports timetable to help you fit in staying active around your summer plans. Keep an eye on our website and social media pages as more activities are announced.

As the lighter nights continue and summer approaches, there's plenty happening at McLaren Leisure and we're looking forward to another active and exciting season ahead. Whether you're visiting every day or just dropping in during the holidays, it's always great to see the centre being used and enjoyed by so many across the community. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you through the doors this summer.

*Rachel McLean*  
Marketing, Funding & Events  
McLaren Leisure  
01877 330000

Ben Ledi View Issue 348



The new solar panels

## Trossachs Trundle Challenge Walk Saturday 12 September 2026

**W**ALKERS across the Trossachs and surrounding communities are invited to take part in a new walking event this autumn, as the Heart of Scotland group of the Long-Distance Walkers Association (LDWA) hosts its first challenge walk, the Trossachs Trundle, on Saturday 12 September.

The Trossachs Trundle is a non-competitive challenge event designed for walkers who enjoy exploring Scotland's varied landscapes at their own pace. Participants can expect a well-planned route that starts in Callander, takes in Bracklinn Falls via Keltie Bridge and then over Callander Crags. The route then heads towards Bocharie and loops Loch Venachar through Brig o' Turk and Achray Farm. The walk returns to Callander along the Invertrossachs Road and Coillhallan Wood. The event is open to both LDWA members and non-members, and entry details, including start times and checkpoint information, can be found at <https://ldwa.org.uk/HeartOfScotland/W/10335/trossachs-trundle.html>



### WORKING WITH LOCAL LANDOWNERS

**E**VENTS such as the Trossachs Trundle rely on the goodwill and cooperation of local landowners, and the Heart of Scotland LDWA wishes to express its sincere thanks to those who have granted permission for the event to cross their land. Their support ensures that walkers can enjoy safe, responsible access while protecting the natural environment and respecting working landscapes.

### ABOUT THE LDWA

**T**HE Long-Distance Walkers Association is a UK-wide organisation dedicated to promoting walking as a recreational activity, particularly long-distance routes and challenge events. Founded in 1972, the LDWA now has thousands of members and dozens of local groups, each organising social walks, challenge events, and training opportunities throughout the year.

The LDWA welcomes walkers of all abilities. Some members enjoy multi-day national trails, others prefer shorter local rambles and many take part in challenge events such as the Trossachs Trundle. The association also maintains an extensive online database of long-distance paths, offering inspiration for anyone looking to explore the UK on foot.

The Heart of Scotland LDWA runs monthly social walks and welcomes potential new members to join us on one of our regular social walks, to meet members and find out more about the LDWA. Visit <https://ldwa.org.uk/heartofscotland> for more information.

The Heart of Scotland LDWA looks forward to welcoming participants from across the UK, and closer to home, to this year's Trossachs Trundle. Whether you're a regular walker, someone looking for a new challenge, or simply keen to enjoy the outdoors in good company, the Trossachs Trundle offers a memorable day out.

*Liz and Andy Painter,  
HoS Heart of Scotland LDWA*

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## All About Hedgehogs...

THIS was the title of the final talk of the Callander SWT Group's 2025/26 season in April.

Speaker Megan Boyd is Rural Hedgehog project officer for the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), working with farmers and landowners to improve habitat for this iconic species. Whilst urban populations are stable and showing a slight increase, in rural areas there has been a 30-75% decline nationally since 2000.



Most of mainland Britain is home to the hedgehog

Our Western European hedgehog is one of 19 world-wide species and is the UK's only spiny mammal. They are nocturnal with poor eyesight, so rely on smell and hearing to locate their food, mainly invertebrates although they are omnivorous. The majority are brown, but albino or blond ones do occur. Their skeleton has a general limb and girdle structure, with a short neck and tail, but their skin is very specialised and muscles allow raising and lowering of their spines, a vital part of their defence. They initially 'frown' lowering spines over their eyes before curling into a ball with legs tucked inside – an orbicularis muscle tightens like a pull-string and they are very hard to uncurl.

In winter, they go into true hibernation but need to be more than 450g to have enough body fat to survive. They may remain active into December, especially if being fed, so this can delay hibernation. They can occasionally wake or even move the nest for safety, but if you see them out for prolonged periods then call the Hedgehog Preservation Society for advice. Their hibernacula may be in the base of shrubs, under log piles or sheds, lined with big leaves from broadleaf trees/shrubs.

In spring, they wake around March-April, depending on temperature, with the main mating 'rut' in May-June. Females are very choosy and males attempt to woo them in lengthy encounters that involve much circling and rhythmic snorting and puffing!

Summer, consequently, is the season for giving birth to

litters of four to five blind, pink hoglets, one or two of which will be raised successfully - they may be deserted or eaten if the mother is disturbed. Their spines emerge quite early and they leave the nest at four to five weeks, continuing to accompany the mother to forage for about 5 weeks before dispersing. The mother will relocate the nest if disturbed or if it becomes unsafe e.g. from flooding, carrying hoglets individually in her mouth.

Autumn is the season for gathering winter bedding and putting on fat ready for hibernation.

Threats are common to many other species as well as hedgehogs: habitat loss or fragmentation due to intensive agriculture or development, roadkill and predation. Much UK farmland is considered an 'arable desert' with few invertebrates and no earthworms due to compacted soil and loss of dense hedgerows. Housing and industrial developments remove woodland and field habitat plus solid fences restrict movement and increase roadkill, predominantly of males while travelling around to find females. Badgers may predate hedgehogs, but they have co-evolved so can live together. Foxes, especially where contact is increased by garden feeding, may attack hedgehogs, but they aren't a very big meal! Man-made hazards include tangling in netting or discarded fishing lines, electric fences, bonfires, slug pellets, strimmers and some robot mowers. Ponds need to have integrated escape ramps as hedgehogs will only swim round the pond edge so could go under 'free' ramps.

What is being done to help? Hedgehog Street is a joint project between People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and the Hedgehog Preservation Society (HPS), set up in 2011 in response to hedgehog declines. It is free to register on-line at <http://www.HedgehogStreet.org>. It provides lots of facts about hedgehogs, on how to help them and contact information. It is also the place to record sightings of live and dead animals which feed into the Big Map of distributions. This information feeds into conservation strategies, but the map shows a lack of records in Scotland.

What practical steps can you take? Keep pet dogs indoors at night. Leave a 13cm hole in fences to allow 'hedgehog highways' between gardens. Provide cat or hedgehog food and water (no milk, they are lactose intolerant and no Halloween pumpkins). Create log piles or a dense hedge for hibernation sites, with dry leaves for bedding or build/buy a hedgehog house, the size of two loaves of bread with a 13cm hole. Many have an internal divider with food placed in the inner chamber to keep out cats but be prepared to share the food and bedding straw with small mammals! It is win-win to encourage such slug-munchers into your garden!

*Erratum: The photo inserted into the article on bird nest boxes in the last issue was not of our European barn swallows which nest in cups made of mud under eaves or on beams in barns. The photo showed American tree swallows which may use wooden nest boxes - but not in the UK!*

Lesley Hawkins

Ben Ledi View Issue 348

## A Wild Life



**M**Y story of “wild” begins long before the shop on Cross Street. It starts in Orkney, in a childhood that felt – by today’s standards – fairly feral. I spent much of it between my grandparents’ croft and the rocky shorelines of the Atlantic, roaming freely with packs of cousins and other bairns from my ‘bit o’ the toon’, often from morning until the long northern light finally gave way to night.

Summers were often spent in Rackwick, in a ‘but and ben’ with no electricity and early morning jaunts to collect toads, and late night ‘Old man’ walks in the endless summer sunlight to see the mammoth woolly bear caterpillars. Life was simple and mostly outdoors. Days were filled with burns, Atlantic waves, heather berry hills, eagle spotting, and the quiet thrill of discovering what the land might offer – berries, flowers and the trout we spent endless evenings catching and enjoying on a makeshift barbeque.

I remember clearly the first time I saw a forest. I must have been about eight. Until then, my world had been shaped by sea and sky, by wind and open land. Walking into that dense green felt like stepping into another world entirely. I turned to my mum, quite indignant, and asked why she had never told me there were so many greens. It felt like a secret I should have known. That moment stayed with me. It still does.

Since then, I’ve carried that sense of wonder with me – through years of travel, living overseas, studying architecture, garden design, working in environmental charities and exploring different ways of working with the land. I’ve been drawn to foraging, natural building and the quieter knowledge of plants and healing. All of it, in one way or another, has been about reconnecting – with place,

with materials and with something slower and more grounded.

Eventually, that path led me to Callander. There’s something here that feels familiar: the richness of the landscape, the sense of being held within it. It feels like a kind of mossy haven and I feel fortunate to call it home, yet often yearn for the roar of the ocean and the raw wild wind.

Opening Wild has been a natural extension of that journey – a way to share some of that curiosity and connection with others. It’s not just about objects, but about ideas: how we might live a little closer to the natural world, in ways that are both practical and meaningful.

Over the coming months, I’ll be hosting a few small workshops and gatherings – opportunities to learn, make and spend time exploring these ideas together. There will be a chance to weave your own foraging basket, to learn more about Scotland’s Wild Medicine and some imaginative sessions for children over the summer holidays, including storytelling and drum journeys.

If any of that sparks your interest, you’re always welcome to pop by for a chat.

After all, a “wild” life doesn’t have to mean living off-grid or far away – it can start much closer to home, sometimes just outside the door.

Go to [gathered-wild.square.site](https://gathered-wild.square.site) to book or find out more. On Facebook, look for ‘Gathered Wild’.

*Arleen Sinclair*



Wild will be hosting workshops and gatherings

## Stirling Council Flooding Team - Callander Update

Stirling Council flooding team is continuing to work on two key projects for Callander: The Callander Flood Protection Scheme (which seeks to protect from the River Teith) and the Callander Surface Water Management Plan (mitigation from surface water flooding).



Plans are afoot to protect Callander from flooding  
Image: Adobe Stock

The Callander Flood Protection Scheme project team will be coming to Callander for community engagement. Here, we will showcase and answer any questions you might have on the preferred option(s) identified to be taken forward should future funding become available. Keep an eye on Stirling Council's social media and our dedicated webpage ([flooding.stirling.gov.uk](http://flooding.stirling.gov.uk)) for the dates for our drop-in events.

The Callander Surface Water Management plan has identified a long list of options for surface water flooding hotspots across Callander. These will shortly be tested in our flood model to evaluate performance. They will also be appraised against a range of criteria such as estimated cost, buildability and flood risk reduction, bringing about a shortlist of options.

Discussions with Callander Flood Group on the identified options have provided key local insight to the project, which will prove crucial as we identify the best ways to protect Callander from surface water flooding.

If you have any questions on these works, feel free to get in contact with Stirling Council flooding team direct via email: [flooding@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:flooding@stirling.gov.uk).

*Stirling Council Flooding Team*

The sea of blue returns to a street near you! Save the date...

**The Canmore Trust** Saturday 29th August  
6-7pm | Ancaster Road, Callander

**Street Ceilidh 2026**

Hosted by  
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Our Annual street ceilidh is back for its **FIFTH** year and we hope to make it even bigger and better than before! Join us to *Strip the Willow* down Ancaster Road and raise vital funds for **The Canmore Trust!**

**Saturday 29th August 2026**

Spread the word, dig out your blue T-shirt and bring your friends!

*More information to follow!*

## New Nature Trail Showcases Scotland's Rainforest at Popular Trossachs Visitor Site

VISITORS to Loch Katrine can now discover and enjoy one of the easternmost surviving fragments of Scotland's Temperate Rainforest thanks to the creation of a new nature trail celebrating the internationally important wildlife, landscapes and natural heritage of this famous destination in the heart of the Trossachs.



Visitors enjoy the panoramic views from the Scenic Tower & Lookouts above Loch Katrine

Scotland's Rainforest Nature Trail has been created by the Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust along the path leading to their award-winning Scenic Tower & Lookouts above Trossachs Pier, at the site widely recognised as the Birthplace of Scottish Tourism in the early 1800s.

The new interpretation experience forms part of ongoing efforts by the charitable trust, responsible for the iconic 126-year-old Steamship Sir Walter Scott, to celebrate and protect the special natural and cultural heritage qualities of Loch Katrine while helping raising awareness and understanding of the rare habitats and stunning landscapes amongst the 250,000 visitors attracted to the loch annually.

Located within Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park and the Great Trossachs Forest National Nature Reserve, the woodland just above the busy Trossachs Pier visitor hub, is part of Scotland's Celtic Rainforest, which covers less than 1% of the country. The site is protected through multiple international and national environmental designations including National Scenic Area, Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest status.

The new Trail explains how these ancient woodlands have evolved slowly over thousands of years since the end of the last Ice Age, creating ideal conditions for rare lichens, mosses, liverworts, butterflies, moths and other wildlife to thrive. Along the Trail, visitors can discover stories about the remarkable species found within the rainforest, including lichens, which often pick up memorable nicknames from enthusiasts. One such lichen is the shaggy lichen affectionately nicknamed "Dennis the Menace" because of its resemblance to the wild-haired Beano comic character first created in 1951. The trail

launch also coincides with the 75th anniversary year of Dennis the Menace, and special permission was granted by DC Thomson to feature the beloved mischief maker on one of the information panels.

Experts with interests in lichens, butterflies and moths have undertaken surveys and make regular monitoring visits to the area beside the new Trail, drawn by the richness and diversity of habitats present. Their survey findings have helped shape the new trail, which introduces visitors to this hidden underworld of the woodland through a series of carefully designed birch leaf-shape interpretation panels.

Importantly, the path itself also plays a key conservation role by helping manage visitor movement through sensitive habitats. Visitors are channeled along the enclosed route and boardwalk sections to reduce erosion and disturbance while allowing people to experience the rainforest responsibly.

The nature trail also links directly with the Scenic Tower & Lookouts, opened in 2024 on the rocky headland above Trossachs Pier. The sensitively designed tower and viewing platforms were highly commended recently at the RSPB's Nature of Scotland Annual Awards Ceremony and reconnect visitors with the famous views which inspired Sir Walter Scott's *The Lady of the Lake* and helped establish Loch Katrine as one of Scotland's earliest visitor destinations.

James Fraser, CEO and Lead Trustee of the Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust, said: "As custodians of this special place, with partners such as Scottish Water, we are keen to ensure that people visiting Loch Katrine not only enjoy the scenery but also better understand the nationally and internationally important rich biodiversity and stories associated with the loch and the surrounding catchment area.



"The new Rainforest Nature Trail allows visitors to experience a fragment of Scotland's Rainforest in accessible and engaging ways while helping protect the sensitive woodland canopy.

"We have deliberately kept the interpretation light-touch and imaginative, so people still feel immersed in nature.

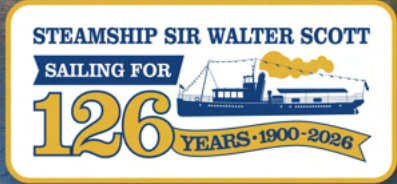
"The response to the Scenic Tower and Lookouts has been fantastic, with over 70,000 visitors since it opened, and the Rainforest Trail adds another dimension to the overall visitor experience at the site."

The trail can be explored by visitors walking the short route from Trossachs Pier to the Scenic Tower & Lookouts, where panoramic views stretch across Loch Katrine and the surrounding hills and mountains.

*Paul Saunders*

# Discover Classic Steamship Cruises on Loch Katrine

*Nature's Wonderland*



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## What's happening at Trossachs Church?

### IT'S OVER THE LINE!

WE'RE delighted to announce the conveyancing process has been completed and we're officially "over the line" – the key to the door is in our hands! Our thanks to everyone for their support in helping us reach this stage. Now ready for the next chapter .....

## What else has been happening at Trossachs Church?

### FIRST AID COURSE

TEN of our volunteers spent the day at the church at the end of March and all successfully completed their 'First Aid at Work' course with an instructor from the First Aid Co-operative. This course was funded by the Callander Community Council micro-grant scheme.

### SPRING FESTIVAL – 3RD -6TH APRIL



Natalia Vynnytska showed the art of petrykivka painting

AS well as being beautifully "dressed" with floral displays inside and outside, our venue was host to a wide range of activities over the Easter weekend.

On Friday, Ukrainian artist Natalia Vynnytska demonstrated the art of petrykivka painting of Easter eggs and visitors were able to have a go themselves.

On Saturday, Mairi Campbell showcased some of her fantastic felt making work and gave taster sessions on wet felting. Meanwhile Chiara Fingland also demonstrated lino printing with the opportunity for visitors to print a seasonal daffodil picture or image of the church.

On Sunday afternoon, the venue hosted fabulous musical performances by Callander Song Squad, Fiona Cantlay (solo violinist), Hair of the Dog (trad music band) and the fabulous Scott brothers, Rory & Finlay, piping both inside & outside the building, despite some rather challenging weather conditions.

The weekend concluded with drop-in sessions on the

Ben Ledi View Issue 348

Monday and 'Tales of the Trossachs' with Rosemary Fraser.

### FRIDAY 1ST MAY, 7PM – WOLF TALES

FRIENDS of Trossachs were delighted to be part of an enchanting evening celebrating community creativity. As part of a wider programme by Culture Night Stirling on the theme of the wolf, the evening started with a community art exhibition of soap carvings and lino prints, the output of two earlier art sessions led by local artists Chiara Fingland and Gavin Black with Create @ Callander Connect, and the Brig O' Turk Youth Group.



Alan MacCorquodale then led us back in time to imagine being in the forests and glens of the local area, when wolves still lived around us. He recounted five different wolf tales on a spectrum from chilling to heartwarming. This set the scene beautifully for the ensuing atmospheric concert by WildWood Cello Duo. Keena and Rebekah explored our connections to wolves through stories and music, against a backdrop of projected creative wolf art. The music ranged through classical, traditional and modern pieces and included some of the performers' own beautiful compositions. As the audience departed at dusk by the lantern lit path, the full moon hid behind the clouds.

### FORWARD PROGRAMME

AT the time of printing, the team were working on the summer programme so please look out for posters or check the website for more details.

### VOLUNTEERING

TROSSACHS Church is run for the community and we'd love a few more friendly hands to help keep this special venue thriving. Whether you can spare an hour now and then, pop in on an ad-hoc basis, or offer a little time when it suits you, it genuinely makes a difference. Every volunteer helps us both create opportunities for our local young people and keep this place welcoming for everyone. If you feel you could lend a hand, even just occasionally, please get in touch — you'd be so appreciated.

(Email: [friends@trossachschurch.co.uk](mailto:friends@trossachschurch.co.uk))

### HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

JOIN us on Instagram @friendsoftrossachs Visit our website [www.trossachschurch.co.uk](http://www.trossachschurch.co.uk) where you can also sign up as supporter to receive monthly email updates.

Hope you can join us sometime soon.

*Friends of Trossachs*

## Wild wolf night At Trossachs Church

**I**T was a full moon on Friday and the night of my first art exhibition. We had met at the Callander Connect Art Group a few days before and made soap carvings and wolf prints.

When we got to the church, the carvings were at the front door and I liked a realistic wolf paw that was carved really smoothly. The church felt nice and mystical but maybe with a few spiders. We all felt welcome and looked at the art work. We found ours and enjoyed seeing everyone else's.

Then we sat and listened to the WildWood cello duo, my mum's cello teacher and her friend. The music was graceful and beautiful. We loved hearing all the wolf stories.

My favourite story was the wolf that turned into the mist without any flesh. But he could listen like the wind.

We are looking forward to hearing more stories and making more art at the church..

Martha, aged 7

## Scottish Chamber Orchestra Returns to Callander

**R**ADIANT melodies, dazzling agility and theatre from first note to last: join us in a joyful celebration of wind virtuosity and symphonic brilliance.

An evening of wit and Mediterranean warmth awaits you, as Lucas Macías conducts a programme that lets our wind soloists truly shine.

Rossini sets the stage with the effervescent Overture to The Silken Ladder, a playful curtain-raiser brimming with comic charm. Weber then puts the clarinet in the spotlight: SCO Principal Clarinet Maximiliano Martín brings virtuoso dash to the lively Concertino, before SCO Principal Bassoon Cerys Ambrose-Evans joins him for Stamitz's elegant Double Concerto, full of conversational interplay and Classical poise.

Weber's Andante & Rondo on gongarese gives the bassoon its own star turn, combining tender song with irresistible flair. The



concert finishes with Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony, bathing the hall in musical sunshine, its dancing finale sure sending you home smiling.

With special thanks to Summer Tour sponsors Eriadne & George Mackintosh and Claire & Anthony Tait.

**Lucas Macías** conductor  
**Maximiliano Martín** clarinet  
**Cerys Ambrose-Evans** bassoon

### PROGRAMME

ROSSINI  
*Overture, The Silken Ladder*  
WEBER  
*Clarinet Concertino op. 26*  
STAMITZ  
*Concerto for clarinet and bassoon in B-flat*  
WEBER  
*Andante & Rondo on gongarese*  
MENDELSSOHN  
*Symphony No.4 'Italian'*

25 June 2026, starting 7:30pm, at Callander Kirk.

All details can be found on this link: <https://www.sco.org.uk/events/summer-classics/>

Will Fisher

## Jazz and Blues Festival Returns this October

**A**S many of you will know, Duncan and John who organised Callander Jazz and Blues Festival for over 20 years have stood down. Callander Community Development Trust has agreed to work with the pubs in Callander to ensure that the Festival is not lost. We are really pleased to advise that the Callander Jazz and Blues Festival will return on 2nd to 4th October 2026.

We are currently looking for sponsorships to ensure that the Festival can be developed. If you are interested in sponsoring or being involved with the Festival in any way, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at [secretary@callandercdt.org.uk](mailto:secretary@callandercdt.org.uk).



Ben Ledi View Issue 348



WEST HOMES



More buyers than ever are looking to make the move to Callander and the surrounding villages. If you've ever wondered what your home might achieve in today's market, feel free to give **Claudine** at our Callander office a call for a relaxed, no-obligation chat.

---

86 Main St, Callander | [callander@westhomes.co.uk](mailto:callander@westhomes.co.uk)  
01877 728 001 | [@westhomesuk](https://www.instagram.com/westhomesuk)

## CALLANDER WRITERS GROUP NEWS

Callander Writers Group offers aspiring writers regular opportunities to get together with other like-minded souls on a Tuesday morning, in the room above Callander Library. We meet at 10.30am till 12.30pm, for chat, coffee and cake, and WRITING!

We have been writing together for almost twenty years now, with many changes in our membership since the group was first founded. We currently have ten regularly attending members, with another ten 'associate members' on the list - i.e. people who pop in from time to time to join in our endeavours. There is also a smaller group, which meets in the evening, fortnightly. Every few years, we collate our collected works and publish an anthology; we also engage in local writing workshops and national competitions.

Exciting news on the competitions front is that two of our members have recently succeeded in having work accepted for publication. (We are all basking in reflected glory!) Congratulations to:

Lucy Fraser-Gunn, formerly a resident of Callander, who has written a lovely piece entitled *Down to the Shore*, which will be included in a work entitled *The Weight of Quiet Things*, published by Arkbound Publishing. This anthology of essays, stories and poems is focused on 'the exploration of Scotland's landscapes (urban and rural),

heritage and environmental preservation'. Lucy's lyrical piece of writing, centred in her native Caithness, fulfils that brief perfectly. Although the first print-run has already sold out, it will shortly be available again from Arkbound Publishing, or from Gardner's Books, (uksales@gardners.com) priced at £12.99.

Allan Kerr, a relative newcomer to the group, who joined us after retiring from full-time work, lives in Thornhill. He submitted a story for one of the regular anthologies published by Sonder Publications, a company established by a couple (Ruth and Tim) who describe themselves as "middle-aged digital nomads, travelling around the coast of Britain". Whilst travelling, they invite writers to contribute to monthly anthologies on a given theme. Allan took up that challenge and his entertaining piece, entitled *Black Gold and Emerald Eyes*, will appear shortly in an anthology entitled 'Avon Brook Hotel', a collection of stories set in the 1970s, each story featuring a fictional guest at the hotel. Allan's writing engagingly reflects the fashions, customs, cars, conversations and political events of that era, featuring, as it does, a delegation from the National Union of Mineworkers, during the miners' strike. The book will shortly be available on Amazon, priced around £10.

For more information on these publications, or if you would like to visit/ join our Group, contact Jen Shearer, jenshearer@gmail.com, for details.

*Jen Shearer*

## WE'RE (almost..) BACK!



AFTER a well-deserved summer break, we are very much looking forward to getting our next show, *Beauty and the Beast*, under way. After another hugely successful year with *Sunshine on Leith*, our cast and crew have

been taking some time off after what was, as usual, a very busy show week. We cannot thank our audiences enough for continuing to support us and show us so much love and support. And of course, a massive thank you to our sponsors Baird Optometrist, Main Street Bakery and WD Harley, who provide invaluable support in putting on shows.

As performers, we thrive on the unique position offered to us by live theatre - live "in the moment" feedback from our audiences. Hearing those laughs, cheers and even the sobs let us know we are doing the show justice and making a real impact. We have also had some really lovely feedback posted on our social media channels! One follower said that we were "better than the professional version" they had seen and another noted the exceptional local talent within our group. Lots of our followers

commented on the quality of the production as a whole, with lots of special mentions of the fantastic singing. All that hard work on harmonies paid off!

We also had a visit from Elizabeth Donald, our local NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) representative, who came to watch the show. She wrote a very complimentary review which can be found here: <https://www.noda.org.uk/show-reports/sunshine-on-leith-1774440411>. Elizabeth spoke very highly of all our principals who worked exceptionally hard to bring their characters to life and of the crew who kept the momentum of the show going with all the slick scene changes. She also commented on the harmonies that came through and the incredible acting of a window-cleaning cleaner! Her report rounds off with a wonderful comment - "a memorable and emotional first night".

Now, we look forward to telling a 'Tale as Old as Time' with our first rehearsal for 'Beauty and the Beast' on Monday 31st August at 7pm in McLaren High School. If you would like to find out more about joining us, either on stage or behind the scenes, come along, 'Be Our Guest' and get involved! You can also keep up to date with what we are up to, on Facebook at Callander Amateur Operatic Society- CAOS, on Instagram at caoscallander, and online on our website [www.caos.scot](http://www.caos.scot).

*CAOS Social Media Team*

Ben Ledi View Issue 348

## What's On for June & July 2026



### 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.

Join Us on Mondays:

**8<sup>th</sup> June**  
\*No July Meeting\* Callander Kirk Hall

**10<sup>th</sup> August** 2.00-3.30pm

For more information please contact Ann Ross: 07720 887720  
Anne McLachlan 07743 125966



### June

#### Saturday 6th

- **Himalayan Balsam Bash along Teith**

10am –1pm. Contact callanderswt@gmail.com for details

- **Candlelight Coldplay Concert**

Callander Kirk  
7-8pm and 9-10pm

#### Monday 8th

- **Music and Memories Callander Kirk Hall** Callander Kirk Hall, 2pm – 3.30pm

#### Wednesday 24th

- **“Callander - Trossachs, Trains, and Tourists” by Alisdair MacDonald**, hosted by the Callander Heritage Society in the Masonic Hall June 7pm for a 7.30 start

#### Thursday 25th

- **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**

Callander Kirk, 7.30pm  
[www.sco.org.uk/events/summer-classics/](http://www.sco.org.uk/events/summer-classics/)

### July

#### Sunday 5th

- **Himalayan Balsam Blitz along Eas Gobhain**. Meet Invertrossachs Road car park 10am contact: cabgilchrist@hotmail.com

#### Saturday 11th

- **Himalayan Balsam Bash** contact callanderswt@gmail.com for details

### August

#### Saturday 6th

- **Himalayan Balsam Bash** contact callanderswt@gmail.com for details

#### Monday 31st

- **First CAOS Rehearsal for ‘Beauty and the Beast’**, McLaren High School, 7pm

### September

#### Saturday 12

- **Trossachs Trundle Challenge** Walk Heart of Scotland LDWA - Trossachs Trundle Event HQ Callander Kirk Hall , 9am

### A'Chruinneag



A short-term let flat on Main Street available at a reduced rate for friends and family of locals.

3 Bedrooms: 1 Double (ensuite), 2 Twin; spacious living room and kitchen/diner; finished to a high standard throughout.

Friends and family of CCDT members receive **20% off** bookings when enquiring direct.



Contact [secretary@callandercdt.org.uk](mailto:secretary@callandercdt.org.uk) for how to become a CCDT member.



Scan here to book direct.

**CALLANDER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**  
[callandercdt.org.uk](http://callandercdt.org.uk)

## SURFACE DETAIL

ART AND HOBBYCRAFT SUPPLIES

22 Ancaster Square  
Callander  
FK17 8BL

[info@surfacedetailarts.co.uk](mailto:info@surfacedetailarts.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/surfacedetailarts](http://www.facebook.com/surfacedetailarts)

# Regular Meets & Classes - Something for Everyone

## Mondays

- Scrabble, Callander Connect, 2-4pm 1st and 3rd Mondays
- Music and Memories, Callander Kirk Hall, 2-3.30pm every 2nd Monday of the month (except July)
- Greener Callander, South Church Street Garden, 1.30pm every 2nd Monday of the month
- Highland Dancing, Kirk Hall, 4-5pm
- Callander Amateur Operatic Society, McLaren High School Rehearsals for the next show resume Monday 31st. August For further information, contact: <https://www.caos.scot/contact-us>
- Guides and Rangers 6.30-8pm, contact [callanderguides@icloud.com](mailto:callanderguides@icloud.com) for details
- Callander Pipe Band, Masonic Hall, 7pm
- Open Fun Night at Bowling Club. 7pm Visitors/Beginners welcome (bowls available). Contact Donald 07513 488453.

## Tuesdays

- Callander Cycle Meander, Ancaster Square, Meet 10am (contact 01877 339074)
- Citizens Advice Bureau, Callander Library, 10-12noon
- Callander Writer's Group, Room above Callander Library, 10.30-12.30pm. Contact Jen Shearer, 07710 232908 if interested
- Walk in the Park, See schedule for meeting location, 10.20am
- Strength and Balance, McLaren Leisure, 2pm – 3pm – contact Fiona 07843842323
- Rotary in Callander, Pips Coffee House, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 6pm for a 6.30 start
- Line Dancing: 6-7pm Beginners 7-8.30pm for Improvers, St Andrew's Church Hall

## Wednesdays

- Teapot Cafe, Callander Kirk Hall Library, 10.30am
- Citizens Advice Bureau, Kirk

- Hall, 12.30-2.30pm
- Knit and Natter, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in Callander Connect, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in Callander Library, 2-4pm
- Open afternoon at Bowling Club, 2pm. Visitors/Beginners welcome (bowls available). Contact Donald 07513 499453
- Evening Walk in the Park, Meeting at Ancaster Square, 7pm

## Thursdays

- Chair Yoga via Zoom (contact Julia Osfield) 11-12noon
- Town Break, St Andrew's Church Hall, 10.30-12.30pm
- Craigard Club, Callander Youth Hostel, 11.30-1.30pm (lunch served at 12noon)
- Citizens Advice Bureau, Killin Pavillon, 12.30-2.30pm
- Lade Inn Redtooth Poker

League from 7.30pm all welcome

- Traditional Scottish Music Session, All musicians welcome, Riverside Inn, 8pm onwards (2nd Thursday of each month)

## Fridays

- Citizens Advice Bureau, Callander Library, 10-12noon
- Back Bar Gigs, Dalgair House Hotel, 9pm June-August, Free entry

## Saturdays

- Back Bar Gigs, Dalgair House Hotel, 9pm June-August, Free entry

## Sundays

- Callander Christian Fellowship Sunday service, Callander Kirk, 11.15am




## ADULT CLASS TIMETABLE



MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY
07:00-07:45 <b>RigFIT</b>	07:00-07:45 <b>RigFIT</b>	09:00-09:45 <b>RigFIT</b>
09:30-10:30 <b>Active Life</b>	09:30-10:30 <b>Active Life</b>	
11:00-12:00 <b>Chair Yoga</b>	12:15-12:45 <b>RigFIT</b>	
12:15-12:45 <b>KettleFIT</b>	17:30-18:00 <b>CoreFIT</b>	
17:30-18:15 <b>RigFIT</b>	18:00-18:30 <b>Aerobics</b>	
18:00-19:00 <b>YogaFIT</b>	18:45-19:30 <b>CycleFIT</b>	
18:20-19:05 <b>CycleFIT</b>	19:00-21:00 <b>Pickleball*</b>	
19:00-20:00 <b>Walking Football*</b>	THURSDAY	
19:15-20:15 <b>CycleFIT sport</b>	10:00-11:00 <b>AquaFIT Lite</b>	
19:15-20:15 <b>PumpFIT</b>	17:30-18:15 <b>RigFIT</b>	
19:30-21:00 <b>Table Tennis*</b>	18:00-18:45 <b>SwimFIT</b>	
20:15-21:00 <b>CoreFIT</b>	18:00-19:00 <b>YogaFIT</b>	
TUESDAY	19:00-20:00 <b>CycleFIT sport</b>	
09:15-10:00 <b>CycleFIT</b>	19:15-20:00 <b>AquaFIT</b>	
10:00-11:00 <b>AquaFIT Lite</b>	19:15-20:15 <b>PumpFIT</b>	
11:00-12:00 <b>MumFIT</b>	20:15-21:00 <b>StretchFIT</b>	
12:00-13:00 <b>Yoga</b>	FRIDAY	
18:00-18:45 <b>PowerFIT</b>	07:00-07:45 <b>RigFIT</b>	
19:00-19:45 <b>RigFIT</b>	09:15-10:00 <b>RigFIT</b>	
19:15-20:00 <b>AquaFIT</b>	10:00-11:00 <b>Active Life</b>	
19:30-21:00 <b>Yoga</b>	11:00-12:00 <b>MumFIT</b>	
	17:30-18:00 <b>CycleFIT</b>	

- ✓ 16+ Years
- ✓ Included in Membership
- ✓ Pay as you go
- ✓ Book Online



**BOOK TODAY**

\*Non instructed - Social Sports

**FULL CLASS?**  
Don't forget to join the waiting list to snap up any cancelled spaces!

# BAIRD OPTOMETRISTS

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53a High Street, DUNBLANE 01786 821397

49 Main Street, CALLANDER 01877 330084

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

## callander PHYSIOTHERAPY

Physiotherapy / Chiropody / Massage  
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3 Station Road,  
Callander FK17 8AS

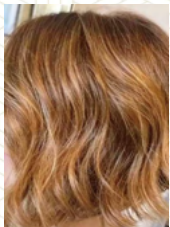
Visit our website for online booking  
[www.callanderphysiotherapy.co.uk](http://www.callanderphysiotherapy.co.uk)

### Get in touch

Website – [contact form](#)  
Telephone – **01877 339989**  
(leave a message, we will call you back)  
Email – [callander.physiotherapy@gmail.com](mailto:callander.physiotherapy@gmail.com)

## Margaret

Mobile Hair Stylist  
07930677413



## 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)

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

## Holiday Property Management

*A small, family run  
company based in  
Callander*



We provide a full holiday management  
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- Setting up booking platforms
- Property Maintenance
  - Laundry Service
- Guest Contact ● Changeovers

**Contact Karon  
or Steve**

**07835 954553**

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



**Leah Rendall**  
Qualified Dog Trainer  
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[www.callanderk9.com](http://www.callanderk9.com)  
[leah@callanderk9.com](mailto:leah@callanderk9.com)

## Spectrum Gardening

Reliable, trustworthy, and  
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Available for hedge cutting,  
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general garden tidying.

**Contact Paul**  
**07853048670**

# WE ARE NOW TAKING ON NEW PATIENTS AT OUR CALLANDER PRACTICE

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



## 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.

**A**re you, or is 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/>

**If you can't wait until your GP surgery reopens**



**NHS**  
24

[www.nhs24.scot](http://www.nhs24.scot)

## Pastoral &amp; Worship



**We warmly welcome you to join us in worship on a Sunday morning.**

This takes place in Callander Kirk Hall at 10.00am 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](mailto:admin@callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk) or visit : [www.callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk](http://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](mailto:jmccormick@churchofscotland.org.uk)

uk 01567 820247

Church Office/Hall Bookings:

[callanderkirk@btconnect.com](mailto: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](http://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, 12.30-2.30pm Kirk Hall



### 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](http://stfdac.co.uk); Phone:

01877 330702

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

## Bins &amp; Waste

Download the collection calendars at: [www.stirling.gov.uk](http://www.stirling.gov.uk)


June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	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	1	2	3	4

July 2026


S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	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	1

 : Glass

 : Plastic, cans and cartons

 : Non-recyclable Waste

 : Paper & Cardboard

 : Food and Garden

**J MCPHAIL TAXIS**



Tel Callander **01877331240**  
email...[jamesmcpmail@talk21.com](mailto:jamesmcpmail@talk21.com)

**YOUR BLV NEEDS YOU!!!!!!**

To keep publishing the paper we are seeking more team members to cover a variety of roles including:

- Administration/Accounts
- Editing / checking articles
- Proof reading
- Advertising liaison.

The time commitment is dependent on the role and the individual but isn't onerous. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please contact us via email to

[markg@benlediview.org](mailto:markg@benlediview.org) or  
[editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org)

**Waste Recycling Centre Opening times**  
**PREBOOKED ONLY**

- Monday - Friday 5.00pm to 7.40pm & Saturday 10.00am-1.30pm
  - Sunday closed
  - Lagrannoch 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.)

**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](mailto:earlm@stirling.gov.uk)

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

Elaine Watterson-wattersone@stirling.gov.uk

**MSP**

Alyn Smith - [Alyn.Smith.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Alyn.Smith.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** or [www.nhs24.scot](http://www.nhs24.scot)  
[www.nhsinform.scot](http://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)

Travel Line Scotland: [0870 6082608](tel:08706082608)

Leisure Centre: [01877 330000](tel:01877330000)

Library: [01877 331544](tel:01877331544)

Visitor Information Centre: [07727 288 585](tel:07727288585)

**Floods & Environment**

SEPA emergency: [0800 807060](tel:0800807060)

SEPA website:

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

Floodline: [0845 9881188](tel:08459881188)

Select option 1 followed by: [06213 121](tel:06213121) (the Teith at Callander)

Scottish Water emergency information re flooding from mains or sewers: [0800 0778778](tel:08000778778)

**Location of defibrillators**

- Dreadnought Garage
- Station Road, on wall to left of post box
- Callander Golf Club
- McLaren Leisure Centre
- Ancaster Square
- West Dullater House and Grace's Cottage Invertrossachs
- Mobile unit based in Callander with Scottish Ambulance Service

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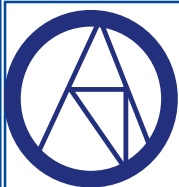


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