

# Ben Ledi View

Callander's News & Views since 1987

## *Springtime in Callander!*

### **Mental Health Week**

Events & Activities

page 17

### **What's On**

April & May

pages 28-29

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# Ben Ledi View

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## Convenors Welcome Message

Hello Readers,

I hope that you have all had an enjoyable Easter break. Although it is still March as I am writing this, the mornings are getting lighter, the daffodils, crocuses and the like have flowered and Spring really does seem to have arrived, although being Callander it is a wee bit damp.

As this issue is being put together, there is quite a lot going on which affects everyone living in Callander. Previous issues have highlighted the importance of the Local Place Plan (LPP), which tells Stirling Council and the National Park Authority (NPA) what the priorities are for the people of Callander. The article from the NPA explains the next steps and we need to ensure the LPP is built into the Local Development Plan. As regards the LPP, articles from the Community Council and Development Trust show that actions are already underway which are addressing your priorities.

There is also a strong representation from the various clubs, societies, support groups and other organisations in Callander. It never ceases to amaze me just how many there are in our town and there really is something for everyone! A few items particular caught my eye - it's fascinating to think that our neolithic ancestors were active at Keltie Bridge 5000 years ago, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been really active and I find Callander Thistle's plans very exciting.

I was listening to an owl calling around bedtime a couple of nights ago, so was interested to read Lesley's piece on barn owls. Sadly, my lack of expertise means I can't tell you what species "my caller" was!

On a more serious topic, I'm sure that we have all heard, read or seen about the increasing prevalence of mental health issues and so I for one will make sure I support some of the activities during Mental Health Week in May.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that if this paper is to continue to be published and to be sustainable going forward, we have an urgent need for more volunteers to join the team. More details are given later in the paper and I urge anyone wishing to find out more to read the article, come and meet us at the Open Morning on 13th April or to contact me at: [convenor@benlediview.org](mailto:convenor@benlediview.org) or [editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org).

Mark Griffiths

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

## Contents

Community	Pages 3,5,7,8
Young People	Pages 9
Charities & Clubs	Pages 10,12,13
Environment / Recepte	Page 14-16
Health & Wellbeing	Pages 17,18
Sports & Leisure	Pages 21-24
Get Involved	Pages 26,27
Whats On	Pages 28,29
Arts & Entertainment	Pages 30
Snippets	Page 32,33
Local Info	Page 34,35

## Callander Community Council News

Callander Community Council continues to be busy and has launched a new initiative by reaching out into the community and having regular fortnightly surgeries at Callander Connect (43 Main Street) on a Saturday. These started on 9th March, so please pop in and see us between 10.00am and 12.00 if you have issues to be discussed or reported. Dates and times tbc.

As reported in the last edition of BLV, we have been involved in submitting questions to Stirling Council about how the budget cuts, described as possible in The Big Conversation, were decided. From meetings that the rural Community Councils had held with Stirling Council, we were not optimistic that our views had been taken to heart, except that they did say that they would bear in mind the impact on tourism which had not been included up to the point of the Big Conversation Survey. Using the numbers of visitors through the Callander Visitor Centre (over 19,000 in 2023) and the number of early morning visitors stopping for a coffee and a break (a CCC survey indicated about 450 per day stopping for the services, who left before 10.30), may have had an impact on the final cuts. And at their meeting on 29th February, the budget that was proposed left the public toilets open, although now with a charge, and the libraries will be kept open too, both of which were very important for Callander. CCC encourages all local people to ensure that the library service is even more used from now on.



An initiative taken by one primary school girl led to her raising a school petition to save our library. Sophie (or Sofe as she prefers to be known) was passionate about keeping it open and gained over 180 signatures from her schoolmates to support her view on the importance of libraries and of ours in particular. She decorated her T-shirt, made banners, and wrote a letter, all of which were delivered to CCC to pass on to Stirling Council. This we did and received a couple of great replies from them, one from the Thriving Communities Engagement Manager, Lyndsay MacNair, and one from Libraries Team Leader, Lindsay McKrell, both of whom thanked Sophie for all her efforts and asked that we should let her know that “Libraries are nothing without the people who use them, and we have a Super User in all senses of the word in

Sophie!” Pleased with her success, and that she had been listened to, Sophie has declared that being an activist is her current future career choice. (CCC report continued on page 5)

### Great News for Callander Library!

After concerted efforts by Callander Community Councillors, 15 neighbouring rural Community Councils, ward councillors and members of the public, to try and prevent our local libraries from closing, we have been given the good news that Callander Library will remain open (see article above). What a relief!

Callander Library plays a central role in the life of our community, as it always has. I remember the joy of rushing home as a child from the library, with my newly borrowed Enid Blyton book, hoping that I had time to read the first few chapters before bed.

Apart from the borrowing of books, there is so much more to which it contributes, such as being a venue for children’s book groups, providing photocopying facilities, giving access to free internet use, aiding book clubs in finding books to read as a group, distributing batteries for hearing aid users etc.

The librarian will help you find that elusive book you have always wanted to read, can order in reference books for studying or can just be there to listen whilst you complain about the weather.

But if we want our library to continue playing a part in our lives, we need to increase the usage. Many of us can now download ebooks and audiobooks to read and listen to. Because of this, the library’s footfall has been declining over the past few years, even before COVID lockdown. Stirling Council has suggested that it will look at how libraries can be used in the future, to see if there can be new ways in which the libraries can play a part - for example, there may be new services that libraries can offer.

But one thing is clear – libraries will continue to be under threat every year when budget decisions need to be made. If we do not support our library, it will eventually close. It’s only when we have lost something, that we realise how much we had actually needed it in the first place.

So come on Callander – let’s support our library and continue to make it a place where we love to visit, even if it’s only for a bit of peace and quiet!

*Olga Watkins, Callander Community Council*

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Deanston	Killean	Strathblane	

Further new build developments are being planned for Killearn, Balnaha, Croftanic, and Drymen. Please let us know if you want to live in a village that is not listed above. Information on local housing need and demand helps us to plan for the future. For a downloadable application pack please visit our website [www.rsha.org.uk](http://www.rsha.org.uk).

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### St Kessogs Update

CCC understands that Stirling Council may be preparing a prospectus on St Kessogs with a view to possibly offering it for sale on the open market. Whatever the outcome, we feel it must be retained as the iconic town centre landmark and intend to ensure that both Stirling Council as the current owner and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, as the Planning Authority, ensure that any new owner maintains St Kessog's as an iconic Callander landmark.

As further information becomes available, CCC will update via its monthly meetings, BLV, to Callander Connect and online.

### CCC News (contd)

CCC and Callander Community Development Trust recently held a joint meeting to look at the Local Place Plan and determine priorities to tackle. We are aware that previous Callander Action Plans and the Charrette were excellent documents outlining aspirations for Callander but without the necessary legal or financial status for infrastructure improvements to be made.

We worked in two groups, each made up of CCC and CCDT members but came up with a remarkably matched set of priorities:

1. The Pedestrian Bridge (from the east end of town up to the education campus)
2. Safe access to schools – the new Primary School development cannot be safely reached by pedestrians from the north side of the river. In bad weather the Creep becomes impassable and the pavement on the A81 is too narrow - not suitable for a buggy or wheelchair.
3. The Meadows – an upgraded landscape is needed for the town's favourite location.
4. Our High Street – respect the Charrette – a revamp is needed for many of our buildings in Main Street, (Transport Scotland is promising to fix the pavements in the near future - actual dates awaited).

Mixed sub-groups, each comprising of at least 3 persons, from CCC, CCDT plus a local resident, are being set-up to find ways of ensuring each project goes ahead. Updates will be posted in BLV, in Callander Connect and online.



Callander Community Council

Marilyn Moore

Callander Community Council

### Lodge Ben Ledi Sportsman's Charity Lunch

Lodge Ben Ledi, Callander held its annual Sportsman's Charity Lunch in aid of Strathcarron Hospice in November 2023. The sum of £2000 was raised and the cheque was presented by The Master of Lodge Ben Ledi, Robert Gray and Lodge Secretary Sandy Campbell on January 11th this year. Over the last 10 years the annual event has been very well supported by the local community and businesses and has raised over £30,000 for the Hospice. This is a great example of the generosity of the people of Callander and surrounding areas.

At the same time, Lodge Ben Ledi made a donation of £100 to the Salvation Army in Stirling to support them in the great work they do to help the homeless and disadvantaged in our local communities.

Sandy Campbell

Secretary, Lodge Ben Ledi, Callander



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Callander Community Council

## Callander Connect Officially Launches

In the last edition Callander Connect, a joint venture supported by Callander Community Development Trust and Callander Community Council was introduced. For anyone that missed the previous article, Callander Connect is a space to collaborate and connect with people and projects in Callander. Hosted at 43 Main Street, it stands as a dedicated community space for local people to share important information, book meeting space, attend workshops and more.

We were delighted to be joined by over 70 people at the launch event on Saturday 20th January. There was a fantastic atmosphere of idea sharing, an opportunity to make new connections and have a go at screen printing your own tote bag.

Since launching, the space has hosted information open days, provided a space for several organisations to meet, been used for workshops and wellbeing sessions and hosted a film night! The variety of activities has been fantastic. We hope this can continue to grow and provide a supportive space for communication and connection for Callander residents.



Screen printing tote bag

We have some exciting new initiatives happening in the space in the coming months and the list below provides a flavour of what can be expected;

- Information Open Days to continue (Mon & Wed 10.00am - 4.00pm)
- Community Council fortnightly surgery sessions
- Introduction of a seed library and Q&A/skill shares area (thanks to Climate Seed Funding from FEL)
- Training workshops (including Canva, (graphic design) website building)
- Makers markets

Plus any ideas you might have, just get in touch or drop in!

Please keep an eye out in the Callander Connect window for updates of what's on. To get more information, ask a question, book the space or find out more about volunteering please drop in for a chat or contact [development@callandercdt.org.uk](mailto:development@callandercdt.org.uk). Follow us on social media [@callanderconnect](https://www.instagram.com/callanderconnect).



Chiara, Development Officer

Callander Community Development Trust

## Callander Kirk Community Food Larder

**A** huge thank you to all the folk who so generously contribute to the larder - it is really appreciated.

We are always looking for donations of food/toiletries for our Community Larder, located outside the Kirk Hall for members of the community to uplift anything they need. Please remember to check the best before date on any gifted items.

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

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

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

**Surplus Garden Produce** - goes in basket on table

### National Park Authority: Local Development Plans - have your say

One of the main roles of the National Park Authority (NPA) is the duty of Planning Authority for the area. This involves managing planning applications for proposed work in the area and long term planning and application of strategic plans for settlements, transport, communities and visitors. The NPA works on these through the National Planning Framework (NPF4), which is “Plan Led”. This means that the NPA develops long term strategic plans for given periods of time which manage the use of land in the long term public interest. The NPA has a duty to consult with communities on such plans and the intention of this article is to outline how community consultation will be carried out for the next Local Development Plan (LDP).



LDPs are intended to create a spatial plan for the area and must take into account NPF4 and Local Place Plans (LPPs). LPPs are developed by communities and are the aspirations for community developments over the following 10 years. LPPs are developed in consultation with the community without the influence of the Planning Authority and must be considered by the Planning Authority in any new plan.

The NPA is required to make decisions on planning applications in line with the LDP unless “material considerations” indicate otherwise. Material Considerations include loss of open space, historic context, economic benefits and numerous other considerations. The LDP will control where developments do and do not take place, so it is important that communities are involved in the development process.

The current LDP for the National Park area was for the period 2017 to 2021 but it has been extended to 2024 to ensure it is aligned with the new planning legislation in NPF4. The new LDP will then cover a 10 year period from 2024, rather than a 5 year period as in previous versions.

To develop the new LDP, the Planning Authority must consult widely while preparing the LDP and engagement must be “early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate”. The NPA is currently preparing a Development Plan Scheme (DPS) which will outline the timescale of preparing the LDP and how they will engage with the community. Communities will have an opportunity at this stage to comment on the proposed DPS.

Following agreement of the DPS the stages for preparation of the LDP are:

1. Evidence and data gathering
2. Draft Plan and consultation with the communities
3. Modification of the LDP
4. Delivery, monitoring and reviews of the LDP.

The LDP is therefore an important document which will control developments in all parts of the National Park, including Callander. It is essential that individuals and community organisations respond to consultations over the next few months. There will be regular newsletters and ebulletins issued during the preparation of the LDP and anyone can sign up to receive these updates.

Please contact me or the National Park if you need any further information.

Richard Johnson

Tel: 07769688368; Email: [rcjohnson9@aol.com](mailto:rcjohnson9@aol.com)

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

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## Callander Scouts



9th Callander Scouts is as busy and active as ever and, as a result of this, is constantly on the lookout for more people to join our team of volunteers, who help to deliver the wonderful programme of activities to our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. If you've seen what our group gets up to, whether it be from previous magazine articles, online or elsewhere, you'll have seen that the activities vary from challenging outdoor excursions (both on land and in the water) careful arts and crafts, and essential life skills (such as tying knots and learning first aid). The young people in our groups get to pick up amazing skills and have a blast doing it! But who said it can't be the same for the adults?



Our Beaver, Cub and Scout sections are each led by a team of volunteers that organise and deliver their programme of activities for the young people to enjoy. For example, our Lead Volunteer in the Beaver section, Colin Campbell, has provided an insight into his experience:

“Since joining 9th Callander from 9th St Alban's almost 4 years ago, I have learned skills which have helped me in running a night at Beavers - skills in negotiation, assessing risk, teaching in a fun and engaging way, Makaton, and how to activate a siren in a police car! With the Beavers I found out that even

though I am not good at it, I really enjoy archery. The Scouts helped by providing a training weekend resulting in getting my GB Archery certification, so I am now able to deliver archery safely and properly in the group.”

Joining into a movement as large as Scouting can, understandably, seem daunting. The idea of training and learning to manage risks can be off-putting. However, Scouts have put together clear, hassle-free methods of acquiring the appropriate skills and certifications necessary. Our recently joined volunteer in our Scout section, Meghan, is in the perfect position to comment on what it's like becoming a member of our team:

“I love seeing the kids grow, learn and most importantly have fun. The process of becoming a volunteer was relatively easy, the online system meant I could do my initial training in my spare time at home. I have really enjoyed being able to get stuck in with the team and kids to be able to help deliver an amazing programme.”

In the long term, Scouting is an invaluable experience for both the young people as they move up through the sections, and the leaders that help them through it, our Lead Volunteer in the Cub section, Richard Nunn, has volunteered in Scouting for ten years! If anyone can comment on the long-term benefits of volunteering with us, he can:

“It has been a great opportunity to share my skills, knowledge and values with young people who are eager to learn and grow, and a real privilege to help shape the future of the community by instilling in our young people the principles of citizenship, character and fitness. As a volunteer I have helped to lead the cubs in a huge variety of activities. One week you could be teaching them how to sew badges on their uniforms, the next lighting fires in the woods, canoeing on Loch Venachar, camping, or even performing on stage. Whatever the cubs do, leaders do too- if you want to! I have also made lasting friendships from amongst the wide network of fellow leaders, parents and volunteers- friends that I would otherwise never have met. In short, it's been awesome, and I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone.”

As stated at the beginning, 9th Callander Scouts are looking for more volunteers to join our wonderful team. As was said in the insights provided, becoming a volunteer with Scouts provides many amazing experiences for both the young people and adults involved in the group! If you are at all interested, please do not hesitate to contact [markwright410@hotmail.com](mailto:markwright410@hotmail.com) for information on becoming a member of our team.

*Campbell Gillan*

### Callander & District Arthritis Club

Would you like to come and join our lively enthusiastic group who meet in Callander Kirk Hall at 2pm on the second Tuesday of every month?

At every meeting we have a different speaker and our subjects are interesting and varied. Our syllabus has already involved a district nurse, Rusty Strings and our local traveller and historian Peter Ireland. We also had an energetic afternoon moving about to strengthen our balance and muscles.

We also always include plenty of time for chat and laughter whilst enjoying tea or coffee and biscuits. To join, we have a small annual fee and then everything is free.

Come and meet new friends and you will receive a warm welcome.

**Dates for your diary:** We will have our Annual General Meeting on 9th April at 2pm in Callander Kirk Hall with cheese and wine after the business.

Then on 14th May we have Joe Gilmour and his friends playing their mandolins to amuse us.

*Rosemary Fraser and Fiona Snow*



Thanks to all the support we have in Callander, the Friends group has been able to send £12,760 to CHAS this year.

Our activities will start again in April with my plant table going out when the weather is warmer. We then hold a sale in the Square with tombola, bric a brac, books etc on Sunday May 26th. Hope to see you there.

*Fiona House*

### Callander Heritage Society

At our first meeting of 2024 on February 28th, Cathy MacIver from AOC Archaeology spoke about 'Dunmore, Auchenaich and the Neolithic Cursus at Keltie Bridge.' This was an update on the research carried out after the excavations undertaken as part of the Callander's Landscape Project.

Keltie Bridge was a limited dig. Early surveys had shown crop marks with a linear arrangement of post holes and pits. GPS indicated a band of stonier material following the alignment of the crop marks. Two test pits were dug over the crop mark location. One pit drew a blank. The second pit had a stony deposit, possibly a post hole, and carbon deposits. Radio carbon dating showed these to be hazel carbon from the third millennium BC. More work is needed but it can be said that Neolithic activity took place here, possibly in association with a linear monument of a line of posts and a possible stone bank.

Auchenaich is a medium sized fort with a single rampart and ditch. It has two entrances, one of which is marked by upright stones. The site had already been researched and recorded but no archaeological activity had taken place. Two pits were dug. There were no features found in the interior pit. The pit dug in the North West entrance however discovered that the earthen bank terminated there and the ditch ended just before that. No secure charcoal was found for dating. Based on the morphology and similarities to other dated samples, Auchenaich is most likely Late Bronze/Early Iron Age.

Dunmore is a hilltop fort. Previous surveys describe it as having four turf covered stone ramparts and an entrance on the North side. The ramparts may have been built at different times. There were signs of possible vitrified material. A drone survey identified three possible hut platforms in the interior. Three trenches were dug. The trench dug at the gap in the ramparts now used as access to the site showed that it was where the ramparts had collapsed and was not in fact an entrance to the fort. The second trench in the North gap proved that it was in fact the entrance. It was constructed differently to the ramparts. They are stone-faced walls with a rubble core. The entrance is an earth bank, topped with turf and has a stone kerb. The third trench was dug on one of the platforms. The trench contained several stone settings and a band of material which is likely a degraded turf wall. One stone setting was part of a hearth and had ash and charcoal deposits. Carbon dating showed hazel charcoal dating between 602-657 CE. Near the wall a small shale bracelet was found. This is from the Bronze-Viking age. This dates activity in the enclosure to the sixth/seventh century CE. This was in the post Roman era when early kingdoms were evolving. From a different era, other historical evidence found on the site was where ammunition, left over from the Norwegian Troops training during World War II, had been detonated.

Our next Meeting is on 17th April when Michael Given will talk on 'The newly discovered Glencoe hoard' and on 1st May Bruce Keith will talk about 'The History of Milestones'.

*Kath Millar*

# STIRLING COMMUNITY LOTTERY

Looking for an easy way to support good causes in your local area?



Sign up to the Stirling Community Lottery today and start supporting good causes that matter to **YOU!**

- Go to [www.stirlingcommunitylottery.scot](http://www.stirlingcommunitylottery.scot) to sign up.
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*Scan me*



Players must be 18 or over and physically located in the Great Britain.  
Always play responsibly, if you need to talk to someone about your gambling please contact Gamble Aware  
Stirling Community Lottery, promoted by SVE, is a Small Society Lottery licensed by Stirling Council  
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BeGambleAware



# STIRLING'S VOLUNTEER PORTAL

Volunteers and Organisations connecting online



Where volunteers find their perfect match!

- Go to <https://stirlingvolunteering.org> to start your volunteering journey.
- Search for opportunities which interest you and start making a **difference** today!
- Log your hours to earn **recognition badges**.
- If you are a local organisation you can advertise your opportunities for **free!**
- Join **quickly** and **easily** by scanning the QR code.

*Scan me*



Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise

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### Rotary in Callander



Since the last report Rotary in Callander has held the local heat of the Rotary Primary School Quiz. On 22nd February all the local primary schools fielded teams and two, Callander and Aberfoyle, each managed to send two teams. After a very close, hard fought contest the winners were Doune Primary School and their team will go on to the area semi final to be held in Blairgowrie on the 11th May and hopefully to the district finals in June. We wish them every success. Killin were a very close second, with Callander Team2 coming third.

Our next event will be the Spring Coffee, Lunch and Crafts day at Callander Kirk Hall on Saturday 4th May from 10.30 to 2pm. There will be all sorts of craft stalls, charity stalls and of course the raffle, so come along and enjoy coffee, tea, home baking and home made soup and bread.

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

*Derek House*

### Callander and West Perthshire u3a



If you're retired or no longer in full time work and would like to:

- Do something different;
- Follow your interests;
- Learn something new;
- Meet new people and have fun.....

Then Callander and West Perthshire u3a may be just what you're looking for. Have a look at our website [www.candwpu3a.org](http://www.candwpu3a.org) where you will find information on the range of interest groups we offer. Membership at this time of the year is only £5!

Our programme of speaker events for u3a members has continued in 2024:

In January, Peter Ireland, an engaging speaker with a wealth of knowledge, told us about his travels in 2017 in 'The Land of Kush: North Sudan'. Peter's journey started in Khartoum, located at the confluence of the White Nile and the Blue Nile. Peter shared photos showing the beauty of the Nubian Desert and we learned of the rich history of the area dating back to ancient times. We were introduced to Taharqa, a pharaoh of Egypt and monarch of the Kingdom of Kush in the 7th century BC.

In February, we invited Luna Faulds Baird to talk about 'Stirling Street Pastors'. Street Pastors, trained volunteers from different Christian churches, engage with vulnerable people on the streets, particularly at weekends. Their motto is 'Listening, Caring, Helping', without judgement. There are over 10,000 active volunteers in the UK, covering most major cities. Luna, a street pastor for nine years, told of her experiences and answered questions. Stirling Street Pastors work in close partnership with the police, Council and ambulance service and they are part of the PubWatch initiative.

In March we welcomed guest speaker, David Wright, talking on the subject of 'Post War Reconstruction in Iraq 2003: A Personal History.'

*Joy Henderson*



### Lodge Ben Ledi

On Monday 4th March, on behalf of Lodge Ben Ledi, Right Worshipful Master Robert Gray and Past Master Mike Greenfield, presented a cheque for £500 to Callander Youth Project.



## Callander & District Horticultural Society (CADHS)



### Celebrating Mother Nature

Earlier this year our local Cub Group (for more information on Callander Scouts - see their article in the 'Young People', page 9) asked if we could assist with a Mothers' Day activity for the pack. After brainstorming some ideas and successfully winning a grant from FEL Scotland, Chiara and Alison from the team set about acquiring the necessary materials.

During the cub meeting on 6th March, 21 small pairs of hands were very busy creating decorated Mothers' Day cards from recycled and foraged materials, wildflower seed bombs using seeds from the native British wildlife range ("wrapped" in a teacup from a local charity shop), planting a herb pot and making a decorative tags from seed paper. All good fun.



As well as creating some wonderful Mothers' Day gifts (and getting quite messy in the process!!!) the boys also learned some climate friendly garden tips to share with their families and hands on experience of reuse and circular economies.



We would like to thank FEL Scotland for their grant support for this very successful collaboration between members of CADHS and the Cubs.

### Spring Bulb Show

Just a wee reminder to come along to our Spring Bulb Show in the Kirk Hall on Saturday 6th April from 10.00am-12.00 noon. As well as some colourful floral displays, there will be teas/coffees/cake and some stalls. This will be our main fundraiser for the year and will be the launch of the Schedule for this year's Annual Show later in August, so please come along to find out more.

### Annual Show : Saturday 24th August, East Torrie Farm, Callander

The Schedule for this year's show can now be downloaded from our website [www.cadhs.co.uk](http://www.cadhs.co.uk). Some paper copies will also be available from the Post Office and Callander Connect (43 Main Street). Please have a look to see which competition classes might interest you or your family and friends.

### Leeks!!!

The Children's Section this year includes a class for growing a potted leek. The leeks are being kindly donated by John Burrows and will be available to be collected from Saturday 25th May during the Greener Callander plant sale in the Square. If you are unable to collect then, please contact our secretary on [cadhortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:cadhortsoc@gmail.com) and we will arrange for an alternative collection from Callander Connect 43 Main Street. A Special Prize (£40 voucher) has been donated by Woodside Hotel, Doune for the best entry.

*The Committee*

### Climate Action Callander - Spring events

Since the last edition of BLV, Climate Action Callander has hosted two successful events.

The first event followed desk-top research by Stirling University and convened various stakeholders, including Stirling Council, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, SEPA, Scottish Water, Callander Flood Group, and others. The meeting explored relationships between satellite data on land-use, river patterns, and weather. We were joined by landscape architect, Sheena Raeburn, and artist Orla Stevens. Discussions with Forestry and Land Scotland highlighted water attenuation projects in the forest above Loch Ard. Information about the river Teith's water sources and management was shared by Scottish Water. The event facilitated networking among organisations and marked the beginning of a holistic approach to future flooding adaptation in Callander.

Our second Spring gathering featured Sheena Raeburn's talk on climate adaptation and landscape architecture. Approximately 40 attendees were engaged in activities on growing, seedbanks, Q&A sessions, and discussions on adaptation. Local artist Orla Stevens hosted a creative activity to express our connection to



our local area and stimulated ideas for a climate friendly future for Callander. Pebbles & Flowers led some outdoor activities for young people and Fodder + Farm provided a tasty vegetarian lunch. This marked the third public involvement with Climate Action Callander, and it is fantastic to see the growing interest.

The final event, under the National Lottery Awards for All grant, involves a training session on pruning fruit trees by Kirsty Brooks. This session, focused on the Community Orchard in the grounds of McLaren Leisure, aims to benefit trainees and recruit volunteers for future years. The orchard, a legacy from a previous Climate Action Plan, has been maintained by McLaren Leisure.

We are always happy to hear from people interested in joining the group. For further information please contact the team at [climateactioncallander@gmail.com](mailto:climateactioncallander@gmail.com).

*Chiara Fingland*



### Friends “branch out” with the Woodland Trust in the National Park

Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Chairman, John Urquhart, donned his waterproofs recently to spend the day participating with other volunteers in the Woodland Trust's tree planting exercise at Glen Finglas estate, part of the Great Trossachs Forest National Nature Reserve. On the day, the second phase of the planting was completed, putting in 200 hazel and 70 oak trees. In an area of 0.33ha, a total of 150 oak trees and 500 hazel trees will be planted on a west facing slope on generally well drained mineral soil, with the area having been stock fenced prior to planting. All planting stock is grown from seed sourced on the estate and aftercare will involve manual bracken/weed control in late May and July/August as required.

The Friends hope to establish links with conservation bodies in the National Park and are looking forward to working with the Woodland Trust again in the future. Indeed, there are

plans afoot to hold a volunteer “Make a Difference Day” to assist with more tree-planting on the estate towards the end of this year.



## Avian Influenza and its impact on Scottish Seabirds

Avian Influenza has had a major impact on Scotland's seabirds over the last 2 years and, at the Callander SWT group's February meeting, the perfect speaker was Susan Davies, CEO of the Scottish Seabird Centre based in North Berwick. Nearby Bass Rock has the world's largest colony of Northern Gannets: <https://www.seabird.org/>

Including its more than 900 islands, Scotland's coastline is over 18,000 km long and plays an important role in the global seabird population. The annual census across 10,000 sites shows that 24 species of seabirds regularly breed around our coast, 5 million birds pre-Avian Influenza, including 60% of northern gannets, 60% of great skuas and 90% of Manx Shearwaters.

However, between 2015 and 2021, 11 of the main 21 species declined, 5 were stable and 5 increased, including gannets, great skuas and roseate terns. Causes are all too familiar: climate change and warming oceans mean some food sources have shifted to cooler waters so inshore species struggle to find enough food; puffins have declined by 24%, extrapolating to their disappearance by 2050! However, gannets can forage over larger distances so numbers have risen. An increasing number of storms have a negative impact on nest sites and ability to fish. Human impacts include unsustainable fishing (e.g. bottom trawling), marine pollution (plastics, entanglement and chemicals), invasive species (rats and stoats eat ground-nesting birds and non-native plants out-compete natives). Increasing numbers of marine developments such as off-shore wind farms and shipping infrastructure need to be carefully sited to avoid negative impacts.

In the winter of 2021/22 a highly pathogenic version (H5N1) of avian influenza virus, originating in China, reached the UK. Barnacle geese from Svalbard arrived in the Solway Firth where 13,200 dead birds were found, representing 38% of the migrating

population. It was also seen in many seabirds, including great skuas on Shetland, Orkney and St Kilda. It was hoped that the virus would die out over winter but the largest outbreak happened in spring 2022. Natural Scotland reported 20,500 dead birds but this is an underestimate as many die out at sea. Infected gannets were seen on Unst, Shetland at the important Noss and Hermaness National Nature Reserves. On Bass Rock gannet nests reduced from 75,000 in September 2020 to 51,500 in 2023, a 31% decrease. Tagged birds showed a greater connectivity between colonies, spreading avian influenza. Other colony-nesting species such as guillemots, razorbills and kittiwakes have also been badly affected with gulls and terns affected to a lesser extent.

During an RSPB study of gannet breeding, it was noticed that some adults showed a change in iris colour

from pale blue to black. Blood tests showed that 78% of those with black irises had antibodies and therefore immunity to avian influenza which could be passed to future generations. The mechanism is not yet known but it could also provide a good monitoring tool.

New techniques are being developed by Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities to support censuses by counting birds in minutes using drone imaging and 'noodle networks' analysis.

Fingers crossed that 2024 will be a better year.

*Lesley Hawkins*



## Barn Owls and our Local Population

The Callander Scottish Wildlife Trust Group's January meeting included an informative, entertaining talk on barn owls from Steve Willis who works for BTO (British Trust for Ornithology), and also volunteers with the Central Scotland Raptor Study Group. Steve has recently taken over monitoring some of the 40 nest boxes installed and monitored over 30 years by Mike Steward. Barn owls preferentially nest in holes in old trees but, as these sites disappear, they successfully use artificial nest boxes. The style of box used here is an A-shape, giving plenty of room for growing chicks.

Barn owls are a Schedule 1 bird so can only be handled and ringed under



a BTO license using procedures shown not to impact the birds' welfare. A ring is put on the right leg at 3 - 7 weeks old and weight, wing length and plumage giving age and sex are recorded against the BTO ring number. Adults may also be ringed but to date none have been fitted with trackers.

Barn owls are found on every continent except Antarctica and are Green-listed as a stable and resilient population. There are 4,000 breeding pairs spread across the UK, except for Scotland's Northern Isles & Outer Hebrides and Ireland, but the latter may change since the accidental introduction of field voles. For distribution maps see <https://www.barnowltrust.org.uk/barn-owl-facts/barn-owl-distribution-uk/>

Their average life cycle is 4 years, with a recorded maximum of 15 years. They can breed in their first year and, although nesting has been recorded in every month, most pairs lay eggs in the spring. Records show a shift in the first egg being laid from 9th May to 17th April since 1990, almost certainly due to global warming.

Compared with other owls of similar size, barn owls lay a lot of small eggs, typically 4-6, with an average of 4 hatching. They begin incubation when the first egg is laid and lay additional eggs over a period of 8-21 days. After 31-32 days incubation, the eggs hatch every 2-3 days, usually in the order they were laid. The chicks then spend 10 weeks sitting on an increasingly smelly pile of pellets and food remnants!

Their preferred habitat is woodland edges, rough grassland and farmland in a range of 1.5 miles around the nest and, in the UK, they hunt for small mammals, mainly field voles, wood mice, and shrews, although sometimes they eat small birds, frogs and even bats. Their high dependence on field voles means that the owl population follows the voles population's 3-4 year cycle of rise and crash - several theories exist but with

no agreed explanation. Access to food is linked to weather: in very wet and windy conditions they cannot hunt and when snow lies for an extended period, the voles feed beneath the snow where owls cannot reach them. The persistent snow and ice in winter 2010/11 resulted in a 60% drop in the local barn owls, from 74 to 25 breeding pairs.

Currently they are on an upward trajectory. In 2023, 18 pairs nested in the Callander area and 17 pairs reared chicks from brood sizes of 1- 5, despite vole numbers falling during the hot, dry weather in June. On FLS land some were successful, some non-breeding and two boxes were predated by pine martens. These boxes have now been protected by wrapping the trees with pond liner which prevents the pine martens from climbing up. Fingers crossed for 2024!

More information from the Barn Owl Trust website: <https://www.barnowltrust.org.uk/barn-owl-facts/>

The BTO Birdwatch site also provides opportunities for the public to get involved: <https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/welcome-birdfacts>

*Lesley Hawkins*



## Mental Health Awareness Week: 11th-19th May 2024

Callander Mental Health Matters (CMHM) was so encouraged by the success of fundraising last year for local charities that support mental health, that we have planned a few events for Mental Health Awareness Week 2024. This year we will be fundraising for: Callander Primary School, McLaren High School, McLaren Leisure Centre and The Canmore Trust.

The launch of our fundraising appeal will be made via social media and through our collecting tins, using a QR code, at the beginning of May. We are so grateful to the businesses in our community that are holding events, donating vouchers for raffles, baking and those that have agreed to take our collecting tins and buckets from the 1st May. Please look out for our collecting tins and buckets. We are grateful for any cash donations and we would also like to encourage you to use the QR code on the tin if you can claim gift aid.

Last year we raised £2,250 which has been equally distributed to The Canmore Trust, Rookie Rockstars and Action in Mind along with £78.51 in Gift Aid which we were able to claim, from the funds raised by you, the community and the businesses. Thank you to Good Hub, the Giving Site (formerly Invest in my Community) and to Callander Community Development Trust for helping us with the banking and distribution of funds and are kindly helping us again this year.

We are delighted that this year McLaren Leisure Centre is supporting Mental Health Awareness Week by offering free fitness classes on Saturday, 18th May. Our thanks to Rachel McLean, the Leisure Centre Media Manager, for organising this and to all the staff for giving up their free time to support the event.

We are also thankful this year to have the team of volunteers from our local Fire Brigade and from Trossachs Search & Rescue who hope to be at McLaren High School car park on Saturday 18th May. We would encourage you to come along to get a chance to learn what our dedicated volunteers from the Fire Brigade and Trossachs Search & Rescue do and perhaps learn some first aid techniques that could help you to save a life one day.

CMHM is a very small group of volunteers from different areas of the community who are thankful for any support that you give to make a difference, no matter how small, to make someone smile and help them to forget their worries even if it is just for a day, to have hope that they will get the support that they need.

Please see our diary of events below which will be on posters around town, and on social media.

Thank you.

Callander Mental Health Matters

**SATURDAY 11TH MAY**  
 Ancaster Square: 9am - 2pm Bottle stall  
 Callander Kirk Hall: 10am - 1pm - Coffee morning - Baking stall  
 Callander Kirk Hall: 7:30pm - 11pm - Family Ceilidh with live band HILLAROOS  
 Tickets (information available on posters around town and on social media)  
 Adults £5 Child £3 Family £15

**THURSDAY 16TH MAY**  
 Crown Hotel and the Waverley Hotel: 7.30pm - 10pm Quiz Night.  
 Both are on the same night as the hotels say this is the best night to avoid a major sporting event on TV!

**SATURDAY 18TH MAY**  
 McLaren Leisure Centre: 10am -12 noon - Free Fitness activities (See details in BLV)  
 Fire Brigade & Trossachs Search & Rescue Volunteers.  
 Come & meet our dedicated volunteers who rescue & save people's lives.  
 McNab's Pub: 9pm - Live music event (Collection for Mental Health Awareness Week)  
 Dalgair House Hotel - The Back Bar: 9pm - Live music event (Collection for Mental Health Awareness Week)

**SUNDAY 19TH MAY**  
 Callander Kirk: 11.15 am - Church Service with Callander Brass Ensemble. All welcome.

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

The doors of the Ripple Retreat are open for 2024! The Retreat is in demand, with every week booked through to November. Amazing; we are delighted. Although it’s not a place where you can just ‘drop in’, we can accommodate visits on Thursdays, by prior arrangement. The house is somewhere that until you walk through the door, you don’t really get the feel of the place. If you want to ‘get the feeling’ and a little understanding of what we’re offering our guests, my contact details are below; I’d be delighted to hear from you.

Our gardeners, R S Gardening Services Ltd (better known to us as Robbie and Cameron) started maintenance of the grounds in March; flower beds tidied, paths cleaned and lots more but particularly noticeable (and appreciated) they worked tirelessly to clear the debris washed ashore at the start of the year. I think the job turned out to be more than they had anticipated, the pictures don’t do it justice. Looking forward to watching the garden grow in the months ahead.

We have a fantastic team of volunteers; without them we couldn’t maintain the high standards offered to our guests. If you would be interested in volunteering with us, there’s always plenty to do both indoors and out. Please don’t hesitate to contact me.

It’s good 2 give [susan@itsgood2give.co.uk](mailto:susan@itsgood2give.co.uk)  
07359 573293

Susan Milligan, Ripple Retreat Manager

Shoreline Before:



Shoreline After:



### COOK'S CORNER by Audrey Corrieri

#### Lemon Posset

*Ye olde dessert dating back to the 16th century – and no, I wasn’t around then!*

#### Ingredients

500g double cream

150g caster sugar

2-3 unwaxed lemons, zested and juiced

To serve 4x150g glasses or bowls

#### Method

In a pan, gently bring the cream and sugar to the boil over a low heat, stirring until the sugar has dissolved.

Boil the mixture for 3 mins or until it has thickened, then remove from the heat, and stir in the lemon juice and most of the zest, leaving some for a garnish.

Divide the mixture between the glasses or bowls and transfer to the fridge to set overnight. When serving, decorate with the remaining lemon zest.



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- A video or telephone consultation with a local healthcare professional
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#### What is a Minor Injury?

- Sprains and strains
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For more information visit [www.nhsforthvalley.com/miu](http://www.nhsforthvalley.com/miu)

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This number is FREE to call

**07725 90 90 90**  
Available 24 hours a day

[jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)  
[samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org)



If you can't wait until your GP surgery reopens



**NHS 24**

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Email:  
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For more information:  
[www.rapecrisisScotland.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisisScotland.org.uk)



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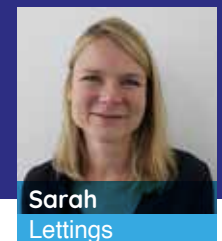
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## Callander Target Sports Club



As spring tightens its grip on The Trossachs, Callander Target Sports Club remains a hive of activity, with a growing membership actively contributing to a busy period that has seen the club's ongoing improvements take on fresh momentum.

The 25m range has been refurbished, with essential maintenance works complemented by an extensive smartening up, while in the 10m range, an advanced electronic target system has been acquired to help sharpen the skills of experienced competitors and provide some cutting edge digital tools to help beginners and younger members.

Meanwhile, as the winter season competitions approach their thrilling conclusions, members from across the club are performing well in the face of fierce competition.

### Scottish Leagues

In the Scottish Target Shooting Teams league, Callander TSC remains in the thick of the competition during a topsy-turvy season that has seen the team swing from nearly beating both the top two teams to standing in danger of losing to the worst. As they compete at the top level of the six division competition. Gordon Motion, Cliff Ogle, Mike Buchanan and Gordon Winch all stand within the top 40 of 140 shooters.

### Cumbria & Northumbria Leagues

Callander's 10m Air Pistol team is currently showing how it's done, with Bronwen Livingstone, James Martin and S. Stockdale Esq combining to produce a run of results that has seen them rise to second place in Division 1, while Darren Heaton currently leads Division 2 in the 10m Air Rifle category. Club Chairman John Moffat sits in second place in Division 2 of the Muzzle Loading Revolver competition, while Treasurer John Russell is currently second in Division 7 of the 50m Benchrest discipline.

### Perthshire Prone Results

With perennial contender Gordon Motion currently joint top in Division 1, Allister McLean is leading Division 6, K.Woolley lies second in Division 12, and J. Bowden-Bate sits at the crest of Division 20. In the team competition meanwhile, both Callander A and B teams are competing strongly as they look to build on the successes of 2023.

### Perthshire Benchrest Results

In the Perthshire Benchrest leagues, our members continued to showcase their shooting prowess, with Willie Jenkins challenging for a strong placing in Division 2, Chris Miller and William Thomson occupying first and second place in Division 3, and Club Secretary Robert Farquar tussling it out for the lead in Division 4 as this article goes to press. Malcolm Scotland and Frank Currie occupy first and second place respectively in Division 5, while several other members have modestly chosen not to distinguish themselves.

For further club details, please contact secretary Robert Farquar on 07721 744229.

*Ian S Bruce*

## Callander Bowling Club



Callander Bowling Club will be having its open day on the 13th April to start off the 2024 outdoor bowling season. We would like to invite bowlers of all abilities to join us and if you would like to join the club, this is the perfect opportunity to come and try the sport for yourself. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

*Ewan Waugh*

### Callander Thistle Youth Football: A Story of Growth and Community

Saturday 2nd March marked an exciting milestone for Callander Thistle Football Club as another youth season kicked off across Central Scotland. Our teams took to the field in a blend of 5-a-side, 7-a-side, and 9-a-side matches, showcasing their skills and love of the game. It was a day filled with goals, fun and excitement as we witnessed the beginning of another thrilling season for our youth teams.

One of the standout highlights of the weekend was the introduction of our Team of the Week initiative. This exciting new program aims to recognise and celebrate outstanding performance and sportsmanship among our players. Congratulations to all the players who earned a spot in the inaugural TOTW. Your hard work and dedication set a shining example for the entire club, and we look forward to many more deserving recipients in the weeks to come.

As we look forward to the excitement of the new season, we are thrilled to welcome our newest group of players to the club. The addition of the 2018's group marks another step forward in our mission to nurture young talent and provide opportunities for growth and development. With over 130 players now spanning across 9 age groups from Primary 1 to S2, in addition to our adult team, Callander Thistle continues to expand its reach and impact within the community.

The completion of our Primary School pathway is a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved with the club. However, our journey towards excellence is far from over. We remain committed to adding new teams, players, coaches, and volunteers to our ranks, ensuring that Callander Thistle remains a vibrant and inclusive hub for football enthusiasts of all ages.



their support and provision of pitches and facilities, which are essential to our continued progression and achievements.

Last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to all the parents, players, coaches, and volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to the club. Your commitment and hard work are the driving force behind our success, and we are deeply grateful for your contributions. Here's to a memorable 2024 filled with great memories, personal growth, and victories on and off the field. On behalf of everyone at Callander Thistle Football Club, thank you for being part of our incredible journey.

In line with our vision for the future, Callander Thistle is actively pursuing funding opportunities to acquire land in our home town. This significant investment will enable us to create additional pitches, providing much-needed space to accommodate the growing demand from our club and teams. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting development as we continue to make strides towards our goals.

We extend our thanks to all the sponsors who have generously supported our club. Your contributions, whether in the form of strips for our teams or new coaches' jackets for our dedicated volunteers, are invaluable to our success and growth. We also express our gratitude and appreciation to McLaren Leisure for

*Rachel McLean*

## A Hub of Activity and Wellness for the Community



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



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

### McLaren Leisure News

As we continue through the new year we have enjoyed many new exciting activities and events at McLaren Leisure, designed to invigorate both body and mind. February marked the launch of our revamped fitness timetable, tailored to meet the diverse needs and interests of our members. Whether you're a fitness enthusiast or a newcomer looking to kickstart your wellness journey, there's something for everyone. From high-intensity workouts to relaxing yoga sessions, McLaren Leisure is committed to helping you achieve your fitness goals.

In recent months, McLaren Leisure has played host to a range of events and workshops aimed at fostering community spirit and well-being. Highlights include the soothing and stretching yoga workshop, which provided participants with a much-needed respite from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Families also came together for days of fun and laughter. And who could forget the enchanting Wonka family movie screening, in collaboration with Callander Primary Parent Council and Callander Film Society, complete with a special visit from the Easter Bunny, spreading joy and excitement throughout the community.



As of the 1st April, McLaren Leisure will be implementing a modest price increase to membership and pay as you go prices. Following a two-year period of frozen membership pricing, careful consideration and review of various factors including operational costs, budget cuts from our Service Level Agreement with Stirling Council for usage of the centre for School pupils, maintenance expenses, and the need for further investments in facilities and services, we have found it necessary to adjust our prices. This will enable us to maintain the high standards of facilities and programming that you have come to expect. Despite this adjustment, we remain dedicated to offering affordable access to a wide range of fitness activities, events, and workshops that promote physical and mental well-being for all members of our community. We appreciate your continued support as we strive to enhance the McLaren Leisure experience for everyone.



Looking ahead, McLaren Leisure is thrilled to announce another Easter break filled with an abundance of activities for the whole family to enjoy. From fun-filled swimming sessions, kids' camps and bookable sports activities to a community walk taking in the sights of our local area, there's no shortage of ways to keep boredom at bay during the school holidays. The excitement doesn't end there. May brings with it a brand-new event in partnership with Callander Mental Health Matters, the eagerly anticipated Move for Mind event on 18th May aims to promote mental health awareness through the power of physical activity, offering free fitness and sports activities for all members of the community. It's a chance to come together, break a sweat, and show our support for mental wellness in a fun and inclusive environment. Full details of these events can be found on our website.

McLaren Leisure continues to stand as a beacon of community engagement and well-being. We are immensely grateful for the support and enthusiasm shown by our members and the wider community. Your participation in our activities and events fuels our passion to deliver exceptional experiences for all. With the upcoming Easter break brimming with exciting opportunities for fun and wellness there's never been a better time to be a part of the McLaren Leisure family. We invite you to join us in embracing the spirit of health, happiness, and community as we embark on this journey together. Your well-being awaits at McLaren Leisure.

*Rachel McLean*



McLaren  
Leisure



# MOVE FOR MIND

Strengthening Mental Health Through Fitness

in Partnership with Callander Mental Health Matters

Join us for the "Move for Mind" event, a special initiative in honour of Mental Health Awareness Week! Let's come together to promote mental well-being through movement and mindfulness. Engage in various activities designed to uplift your spirits, from fitness sessions to calming mindfulness practices. Let's foster a supportive community and prioritise mental health together.

## SATURDAY 18TH MAY

## 10:00-12:00

FREE SPORT AND FITNESS SESSIONS

10:00 - 12:00 **Multi Sports Drop In** ALL AGES

10:00 - 10:30 **Beginner Yoga\*** 16+

10:30 - 11:00 **Family Yoga\*** ALL AGES

11:00 - 11:30 **Family FIT\*** ALL AGES

11:30 - 12:00 **Bootcamp\*** 14+

\*Sessions available to book today

01877

330000



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

[www.mclarenleisure.co.uk](http://www.mclarenleisure.co.uk) | 01877 330000 |





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





### Community

#### Callander Community Council

Contact: [callandercc556@gmail.com](mailto:callandercc556@gmail.com)  
 Website: [incallander.co.uk/ccc\\_home](http://incallander.co.uk/ccc_home)

#### Callander Community Development Council

Contact: [incallander.co.uk/ccdt\\_join](http://incallander.co.uk/ccdt_join)  
 Website: [incallander.co.uk/ccdt\\_home](http://incallander.co.uk/ccdt_home)

#### Neighbourhood Circle

Contact:  
 Website:

#### Ben Ledi View

Contact: [editor@BenLediView.org](mailto:editor@BenLediView.org)  
 Website: [BenLediView.org](http://BenLediView.org)

### Performing Arts

#### Callander Brass

Contact: Ian Milligan  
 Tel: 01877 330 396  
 Website: [facebook.com/callanderbrass](https://facebook.com/callanderbrass)

#### Callander Rusty Strings

Contact: Jean Thewlis  
[jeanthewlis@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanthewlis@hotmail.com)  
 Tel: 07968 745 165  
 Website: n/a

#### Callander Amateur Operatic Society

Contact: [brianmckay@live.co.uk](mailto:brianmckay@live.co.uk)  
 Website: [c-a-o-s.org.uk](http://c-a-o-s.org.uk)

#### Callander Jazz & Blues Festival

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

#### Song Squad

Contact: Marsha Guertin or  
 Sandie Luti  
 Website: [facebook.com/songsquadcallander](https://facebook.com/songsquadcallander)

#### Callander Chimes

Contact:  
 Website:

#### Callander & District Pipe Band

Contact: Robert Bryer  
 Tel: 01877 376 781  
 Website: [facebook.com/CallanderandDistrictpipeband](https://facebook.com/CallanderandDistrictpipeband)

### Culture & Heritage

#### Callander Film Society

Contact:  
 Website: [facebook.com/callanderheritage](https://facebook.com/callanderheritage)

#### Callander and District Heritage Society

Contact:  
 Website: [facebook.com/callanderheritage](https://facebook.com/callanderheritage)

#### German speaking group

Contact: Jen Shearer  
[jenshearer@gmail.com](mailto:jenshearer@gmail.com)  
 Website: n/a

### Environment

#### Greener Callander

Contact: [mlhawkinsl@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mlhawkinsl@tiscali.co.uk)  
 Website: [incallander.co.uk/ccdt\\_greener](http://incallander.co.uk/ccdt_greener)

#### Callander Community Woodlands

Contact: [Callanderwoodlandgroup@gmail.com](mailto:Callanderwoodlandgroup@gmail.com)  
[callander\\_squid@gmail.com](mailto:callander_squid@gmail.com)  
 Website: none

#### Callander Landscape Partnership

Contact: unknown  
 Website: [facebook.com/CallandersLandscape](https://facebook.com/CallandersLandscape)

#### Callander Countryside

Contact:  
 Website:

### Nationwide Organisations

#### Rotary in Callander

Contact: [enquiries@callanderandwprotary.org](mailto:enquiries@callanderandwprotary.org)  
 Website: [Callander.rotary1010.org](http://Callander.rotary1010.org)  
 Facebook: [facebook.com/cwp.rotary](https://facebook.com/cwp.rotary)

#### Ben Ledi Masonic Lodge

Contact: unknown  
 Website: [pglpw.co.uk/lodge-ben-ledi-no-614](http://pglpw.co.uk/lodge-ben-ledi-no-614)

#### Callander & West Perthshire U3A

Contact: Marilyn Moore  
[u3asites.org.uk/callander-and-wp/contact](http://u3asites.org.uk/callander-and-wp/contact)  
 Website: [u3asites.org.uk/callander-and-wp/home](http://u3asites.org.uk/callander-and-wp/home)

### Business, Tourism & Social Enterprise

#### Callander Enterprise

Contact: [secretary@incallander.co.uk](mailto:secretary@incallander.co.uk)  
 Website: [incallander.co.uk](http://incallander.co.uk)

#### Callander Visitor Information Centre

Contact: [callandervic@gmail.com](mailto:callandervic@gmail.com)  
 Website: [visitcallander.uk](http://visitcallander.uk)

#### Callander Youth Project

Contact: [info@cyp.org.uk](mailto:info@cyp.org.uk)  
 Website: [cyp.org.uk/youngpeople](http://cyp.org.uk/youngpeople)

#### McLaren Leisure Centre

Contact: [reception@mclarenleisure.co.uk](mailto:reception@mclarenleisure.co.uk)  
 Website: [mclarenleisure.co.uk](http://mclarenleisure.co.uk)

### Active Callander

#### Callander Ramblers

Contact: [paulgprescott@googlemail.com](mailto:paulgprescott@googlemail.com)  
 Website: [incallander.co.uk/groups/2023ramblers.pdf](http://incallander.co.uk/groups/2023ramblers.pdf)

#### Callander Bowling Club

Contact: Tel: 01877 330 333  
 Website: [callanderbowlingclub.wixsite.com/callanderbowlers](https://callanderbowlingclub.wixsite.com/callanderbowlers)

#### Callander Golf Club

Contact: [secretary@callandergolfclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@callandergolfclub.co.uk)  
 Website: [callandergolfclub.co.uk](http://callandergolfclub.co.uk)

#### McLaren RFC

Contact: [mclarenrfcmini@gmail.com](mailto:mclarenrfcmini@gmail.com)  
 Website: [mclarenrfc.com/home](http://mclarenrfc.com/home)

#### Callander Thistle AFC

Contact: [callanderthistleafc@gmail.com](mailto:callanderthistleafc@gmail.com)  
 Website: [facebook.com/callanderthistle](https://facebook.com/callanderthistle)

#### Callander Badminton Club

Contact: Tel 07917 100 251  
 Website: [facebook.com/mclarenbadmintonclub](https://facebook.com/mclarenbadmintonclub)

#### Julia Osfield Yoga

Contact: [julia.osfield@gmail.com](mailto:julia.osfield@gmail.com)  
 Website: <https://juliaosfieldyoga.com/>

#### Dance Connection

Contact:  
 Website: [www.danceconnectiononline.co.uk](http://www.danceconnectiononline.co.uk)

**Callander Meanders Cycling Group**

Contact: Colin Welsh 07963 736044  
email: [colintross2@aol.com](mailto:colintross2@aol.com)

**Central Athletic Club**

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

**Callander Cricket Club**

Contact: [callandercricket.secretary@yahoo.com](mailto:callandercricket.secretary@yahoo.com)  
Website: <https://www.callandercricketclub.com/>

**Health**

**Walk in the Park**

Contact: [fiona@trustinthepark.org](mailto:fiona@trustinthepark.org)  
Website: [www.trustinthepark/walk-in-the-park/](http://www.trustinthepark/walk-in-the-park/)

**Playlist for Life**

Contact: [info@playlistforlife.org.uk](mailto:info@playlistforlife.org.uk)  
Website: [www.playlistforlife.org.uk/](http://www.playlistforlife.org.uk/)

**Emergency Services**

**Trossachs Search and Resue**

Contact: [secretary@trossachs-sar.com](mailto:secretary@trossachs-sar.com)  
Website: <https://trossachs-sar.com/>

**Killin, Callander & District Search & Rescue**

Contact: [secretary@killinmountainrescue.scot](mailto:secretary@killinmountainrescue.scot)  
Website: <https://www.killinmountainrescue.scot/>

**Scottish Fire & Resue Service - Callander**

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

**Education**

**Callander Primary School Parent's Council**

Contact:  
[callanderparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:callanderparentcouncil@gmail.com)

**McLaren High School PTA**

Contact: [mclaren465@gmail.com](mailto:mclaren465@gmail.com)

**For Children and Young People 1st Callander Guides**

Contact:  
Website:

**2nd Callander Brownie Unit**

Contact: Louise Corrieri 07718 226210

**Scouts**

Contact: [adambassett@me.com](mailto:adambassett@me.com)

**Callander & District Young Farmers**

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

**CYP Youth Club**

Contact: [info@cyp.org.uk](mailto:info@cyp.org.uk)  
Website: [callanderyouthproject.co.uk](http://callanderyouthproject.co.uk)

**Seniors**

Craigard Club - senior's lunch club  
Contact: Anne Docherty  
[mail@annedocherty.co.uk](mailto:mail@annedocherty.co.uk)

**A BIG THANK YOU...**

...to Bob Donaldson on his retirement.

He has been delivering the Ben Ledi View to Menteith Crescent for nearly seven years – a brilliant contribution!

*From the Trustees of the Ben Ledi View.*



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

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

Pop in anytime between 12.30 -2.30pm

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

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

**Are your group's details missing or incorrect?**

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

## What's On for April and May 2024

### REGULAR MEETINGS

#### Mondays:

- RigFit 7.00-7.45 am McLaren Leisure
- Active Life 9.30-10.30 am McLaren Leisure
- Chair Yoga 11.00-12noon McLaren Leisure
- Kettle Fit 12.15-12.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Highland Dancing 4.00pm Kirk Hall: not 8th and 15th April or 6th May
- Music & Memories 2.00-3.30pm Kirk Hall 8th April, 13th May & 10th June contact Ann Ross on [07720 887720](tel:07720887720) or Anne McLachlan [017743 125966](tel:017743125966)
- Teen Fit 4.00-5.00pm McLaren Leisure
- RigFit 5.30-6.15 am McLaren Leisure
- Yoga Fit 6.00- 7.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 6.20-7.05pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit Adv 7.15-8.15pm McLaren Leisure
- Core Fit 8.15-9.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Pump Fit 7.15-8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Guides 6.30-8.00pm Callander Primary School
- Callander Pipe Band practice/teaching 7.00pm Masonic Hall
- Open rink night Bowling Club 7.00pm Visitors/beginners welcome (bowls available) Contact Donald [075134 488453](tel:075134488453)
- 

#### Tuesdays:

- Callander Cycle Meander meet 10.00am Ancaster Square (contact [01877 339074](tel:01877339074))
- Cycle Fit 9.30-10.15pm McLaren Leisure
- Walk in the Park 10.20am Medical Centre)
- Aquacise 11.00-12.00noon McLaren Leisure
- MumFit 11.00-12 noon McLaren Leisure
- Yoga Basics 12.00-1.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Gentle Yoga 2.00- 3.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Strength and Balance 3.00-4.00pm McLaren Leisure
- 

- Body Fit Express 5.00 - 6.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Power Fit 6.00-6.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Line-dancing (beginners) 6.30-8.00pm St.Andrew's Church Hall
- AquaFit 7.15-8.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Badminton Club 7.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Evening Yoga 7.30-9.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Taekwondo 7.00-9.00pm McLaren Leisure
- Song Squad practice 7.00-9.00pm at Callander Fire Station

#### Wednesdays:

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

#### Thursdays:

- Aquacise 9.30-10.30am McLaren Leisure
- Craigard Club meet for lunch 12.00-2.00pm Callander Hostel
- TeenFIT 3.30-4.30pm McLaren Leisure
- Cycle Fit 7.30-8.15pm McLaren leisure
- Core Fit 8.00 8.45pm McLaren Leisure
- Bridge Club 7.00-10.00pm upstairs in Callander Library
- 

- Redtooth Poker League at Lade Inn 7.30pm all welcome
- Scottish Country Dancing 7.00pm Masonic Hall

#### Fridays:

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

## April

### Friday 5th

#### Ben Ledi View published

### Saturday 6th

- Callander and District Horticultural Society Spring Bulb Show 10am-12noon Kirk Hall Floral displays/Cuppa and cake/stalls

### Tuesday 9th

- Arthritis Club AGM Cheese and Wine 2.00pm Callander Kirk Hall
- Walk in the Park meet Ancaster Square 10.20am -NCN7 Lagrannoch Drive

### Thursday 11th

- SWT brief AGM followed by talk 'Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels an Update' 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall, suggested donation £3 incl.tea/coffee and biscuits

### Saturday 13th

- Ben Ledi Open Morning 10am to 2pm Callander Connect, Main Street

### Saturday 14th

- Callander Film Society - Anatomy of a Fall - McLaren Leisure, 7pm for 7.30pm

### Monday 15th

- Community Council meet 7.30pm Callander Hostel

### Tuesday 16th

- Walk in the Park meet Ancaster Square 10.20am - -NCN7 Loch Venecher (Invertrossachs Road)

**Wednesday 17th**

- Heritage Society speaker Michael Given on 'The newly discovered Glencoe Hoard' 7.30pm Masonic Hall (doors open 7.00pm) Annual membership £15 visitors £5.

**Tuesday 23rd**

- Walk in the Park meet Ancaster Square 10.20am --Railway and Golf Club

**Tuesday 30th**

- Walk in the Park meet Ancaster Square 10.20am --Bridgend and the Meadows

**May**

**Wednesday 1st**

- Heritage Society talk by Bruce Keith on 'The History of Milestones' Masonic Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm

**Saturday 4th**

- Rotary Coffee, Lunch and Crafts 10.30am to 2.00pm Kirk Hall

**Tuesday 7th**

- Walk in the Park meet Ancaster Square 10.20am --Doune Allotments

**Saturday 11th**

- Mental Health Matters Bottle Stall 9.00am -2.00pm Ancaster Square
- Coffee Morning and Baking Stall 10.00am-1.00pm Kirk Hall
- Family Ceilidh with live band the HILLAROOS 7.00pm-10pm

**Sunday 12th**

- Callander Film Society - Broker - McLaren Leisure, 7pm for 7.30pm

**Tuesday 14th**

- Walk in the Park meet Ancaster Square 10.20am --Keltie Bridge

**Thursday 16th**

- Mental Health Matters Quiz Night at Crown Hotel and Waverley Hotel 7.30-10.00 pm

**Saturday 18th**

- Mental Health Awareness free Fitness activities 10.00am-12noon McLaren Leisure

**Monday 20th**

- Community Council meet 7.30pm Callander Hostel

**Tuesday 21st**

- Walk in the Park meet Ancaster Square 10.20am --Callander to Kilmahog

**Saturday 25th**

- Greener Callander Annual Plant Sale, Tombola and bric-a-brac 9.00am to 4.00pm Ancaster Square

**Sunday 26th**

- CHAS sale with tombola 10.00am-4.00pm Ancaster Square

**Tuesday 28th**









- Walk in the Park meet Ancaster Square 10.20am --Brig O'Turk

**June**

**Friday 7th**

Ben Ledi View published

**JOIN US FOR A Walk IN CALLANDER ON TUESDAYS**  Always 10:20 AM

Date	Meeting Place	Walking Route	Car Share	
09 April	Ancaster Square	NCN7 Lagrannoch Drive		
16 April	Ancaster Square	Loch Venachar (Invertrossachs Road)		
23 April	Ancaster Square	Railway and Golf Club		
30 April	Ancaster Square	Bridgend and Meadows		
07 May	Ancaster Square	Doune Allotments		
14 May	Medical Centre	Keltie Bridge		
21 May	Medical Centre	Callander to Kilmahog		
28 May	Ancaster Square	Brig o'Turk		

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

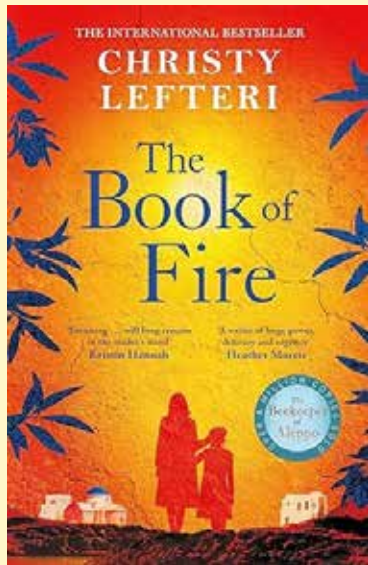


Walk in the Park welcomes people living with dementia, and their carers, on our walks. Routes identified with this logo are suitable for most abilities. Please contact us for more details.



## Book Review

This issue's book review title is *The Book of Fire* by Christy Lefteri



(Manilla Press: 2023).

This is the third book by international bestselling author, Christy Lefteri (*The Beekeeper of Aleppo*). *The Book of Fire* is about a small family who live a quiet life in a beautiful Greek village. However, this

idyll is changed forever, when a devastating forest fire destroys the life and land that the family have always known.

The story is told from the perspective of Irini, wife to Tasso and mother to young Chara. Both Tasso and Chara are badly injured in the fire and the book begins with Irini struggling to deal with caring for her husband and daughter following this life-changing event.

Tasso, prior to the fire, was a talented artist. However, with badly burnt hands, his future as a painter is uncertain. Moreover, Tasso's father was one of many to perish in the fire, as it spread quickly through the local woodland engulfing the small houses within. Tasso withdraws from Irini and spends his days sitting outside, staring at the charred remains of what used to be a beautiful forest.

Whilst Irini was not physically hurt, she walks the blackened forests, trying to make sense of the tragedy, and has considerable psychological scars. On one of these walks, she makes a shocking discovery. Her subsequent actions leave her ridden with guilt, questioning her moral

foundations and the actions of those around her.

Lefteri is not afraid to tackle big topics. Whilst the narrative is from Irini's perspective, an intersect of chapters provides a depersonalised third-person account of the fire; the attempts of one family to escape it and the aftermath of trying to locate loved ones in the packed hospitals.

Lefteri's account raises many questions around the increased number of fatal wildfires in recent years, in Greece, Europe and beyond (Australia and the US). Many fires are started deliberately, and climate change exacerbates the speed at which the fires spread. However, there are individual and political interventions that have been missed which could have prevented these distressing disasters. A sobering read.

Beady-eyed readers who were wondering where's the book review of *Karma* by Boy George (Blink Publishing, 2023) will be delighted to know this will be reviewed in the next BLV issue.

*Maggie Magor*

## Callander Amateur Operatic Society

Happy Easter and a big "thank you" to all our supporters from the CAOS cast. As always, I am writing this a couple of weeks before the opening night of *Carousel* so we hope you enjoyed our production of this wonderful musical. After some initial misgivings, it was a great show and we had some great laughs, and only a few tears, during rehearsals. No doubt there were a few tears at the end of the performances, though I think we found a good balance between the gravity of the subject matter and the humour that keeps us going through the storms of life. There will be a review of *Carousel* in the next issue of Ben Ledi View.

Sadly our fantastic producer/director Mhairi and musical director, Linda, are stepping back from CAOS (hopefully not too far!) and will not be leading us through 2024/25. Both Mhairi and Linda have put so much into these productions it is difficult to know how to thank them. We talk of the 'CAOS Family' and once again, with a great sense of humour, and an even greater amount of patience, they have taken 25 or so hesitant 'children' and produced the performances you saw in March. I think, simply, a big THANK YOU.

Happily we are in a position to announce our show for March 2025: the hilariously funny *Made in Dagenham*. Based on the 2010 film, this modern show is inspired by the events surrounding the women who worked in Ford's Dagenham plant when they took on corrupt bosses in their fight for equal pay. This great show, like *Carousel*, deals with issues relevant to today with both humour and compassion – it is sure to have you laughing out loud. We are already looking forward to starting rehearsals in September – more details in the next Ben Ledi View.

*Steve Murphy* for the CAOS committee



# Your BLV Needs You!!

The December/January issue of this paper, featured that rather striking front cover of a young man sitting on a partially submerged bench on the flooded Meadows which served as a rather striking analogy of what it feels like to be the Convenor or Editor of the Ben Ledi View at this time. The picture was accompanied by a warning that more volunteers are required if the paper is to continue to be published and for it to remain sustainable going forward. That message was not scaremongering; we have insufficient volunteers to keep publishing the BLV beyond the short to medium term.

Whenever I have spoken to people in Callander about the BLV, their responses have been overwhelmingly positive. Residents turn to it to find out about what is happening locally, local clubs and societies use it to communicate to existing and potential members and businesses advertise in it to reach out to customers and to generate local revenue. Everything about the Ben Ledi View is local.

That point also applies to the dedicated teams of volunteers who put together the paper, administer the placing of and billing for advertisements and the distributors who come rain or shine deliver it to your doors. Yes, all those involved in the BLV are volunteers; they do it to help and serve the community in which we all live and I would take this opportunity to acknowledge their dedication and to thank them all on your behalf.



Unfortunately, as pointed out in the December issue, there aren't enough of us to ensure that the BLV continues to be published and whilst the earlier issue did result in a couple of enquiries there were not enough.

## Ben Ledi View Open Day

The December issue included articles on what it's like to edit both the whole paper or a Section so rather than repeat them in this issue, please refer to those (the articles are on our website [www.benlediview.org](http://www.benlediview.org)) and if you require more details or to talk to any or all of the team there will be a Ben Ledi View Open Day on Saturday 13th April at Callander Connect, 43 Main Street from 10am to 2pm, please come in for a chat and a coffee.

I urge anyone with an interest in volunteering to come and meet us then or to contact me via email to [convenor@benlediview.org](mailto:convenor@benlediview.org) or [editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org). I look forward to hearing from you!

Mark Griffiths  
Convenor.

**Ben Ledi View**  
**Open Day**

**Come and meet the team!**

See how the magazine is edited  
...  
Try your hand at editing  
...  
Or just have a cuppa and a chat about what we do!!

**Saturday 13th April**  
**10am to 2pm**  
...

**Callander Connect**  
**43 Main Street**  
...

### Scotland's Garden Scheme Open Gardens - some dates for forthcoming open days:



SUNDAY 28th APRIL. 3, SOUTHFIELD CRES. STIRLING. FK8 2JQ. 1.00pm - 5.00pm. *Photo by M McCaig*

Mary McCaig's lovely town garden will be opening once again after a gap of several years. Behind the boundary hedge you will find many pots of Spring bulbs and plants. There are plenty of interesting specimen trees and shrubs to see. The semi walled garden has a frog pond and a chicken run beside the raised beds. As well as a plant stall homemade teas will be available.

SUNDAY 5th MAY. OAKMORE, BLAIRHOYLE, PORT OF MENTEITH FK8 3LF 11.00am - 5.00 pm.

This three and a half acre garden was just a field ten years ago. Rachel Nunn has created a wonderful new garden with herbaceous borders, shrubbery, rose garden and much more. Plant enthusiasts will enjoy this work in progress and be able to visit again on the 14th July to see the Summer flowers displays. Teas and a plant stall will be available.

SUNDAY 12th MAY. 18, BUCHANY, DOUNE FK16 6 HG. 1.00pm - 5.00pm. *Photo by S. Burrows*

This cottage garden makes extensive use of pots and tubs for spring bulbs, herbaceous plants, annuals as well as shrubs. You will see vegetables in tubs as well as in raised beds. This makes them readily accessible for elderly gardeners. The owners, John and Sarah Burrows are well known for showing their flowers and produce at local Flower Shows. There will be homemade teas available as well as a plant and a bric-a-brac stall.

Visitors must go to Moray Estate Office to pick up a shuttle to the garden.



SUNDAY 19th MAY. BRIDGE OF ALLAN GARDENS. FK9 4AT. 1 pm - 5.pm Admission £6 for all gardens.

Several gardens are again open this year after the Beechgrove Garden TV coverage last year. Town gardens of different sizes can be seen with a great variety of styles and planting. Maps and tickets are only available at St Saviour's Church, Keir Street, FK9 4AY and also there in the garden is the plant stall. Teas will be served in the Church Hall.



SUNDAY 26th MAY. KILBRYDE CASTLE, DUNBLANE. FK15 9NF. 11.00am - 5.00pm. *Photo by Lady Campbell*

The gardens are split into several areas including an informal garden, woodland garden and a wild area. After the spring bulbs have gone over there are many flowering trees and shrubs to see as well as herbaceous borders near the Castle. There will be a plant stall and refreshments are available on the Sunday Open Day.

Details for all gardens can be found on the website [scotlandsgardens.org](http://scotlandsgardens.org).

*Fiona Campbell*

## Trypraying

Most likely, you will have seen the 'trypraying' banner outside Callander Kirk and perhaps wondered what it is all about.

It is estimated that 27 million adults in the UK pray, ten million regularly. Of the people who say they are not religious one in five pray. People have health scares and money problems. They worry about relationships and the future. Even with a full life, many can feel empty and wonder if there is more to life. If this sounds familiar, how about trypraying?

Trypraying is a guide for people who are not religious and don't do church. The A6 size booklet is easy to carry in a bag or a pocket. It is a seven-day guide with a theme and a story of answered prayers for each day. There are 'honest to God' prayers that anyone can pray without pretending. And it's free!

If you would like to give it a go, please help yourself to a trypraying booklet from the Perspex box next to the banner or go online to [trypraying.org](http://trypraying.org) or download the trypraying App.

You never know, it might just change your life!







**Now Available... Home Visits**

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

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

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

**Pricing:**

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

**Important Things to Note:**

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

Call reception to book in!

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## Are you our next Chair?

Killin Mountain Rescue Team is looking for an experienced, inspirational, inclusive and credible leader to lead a talented group of Trustees, Operational Managers and Team members.

We are seeking someone who brings excellent communication, people skills and governance experience along with a passion and commitment to outdoor pursuits, particularly those in the mountains. You will be a strategic thinker, have an inclusive leadership style which creates a culture where everyone can be 'their best self', open to feedback and input and committed to supporting this inspirational charity.

Whilst it is not essential that the person is local to our operating area, we believe it would be very beneficial, given the location of Board meetings and more importantly enabling a genuine understanding of the location and terrain we operate in.

For more details contact our current Chair at [teamleader@killinmountainrescue.scot](mailto:teamleader@killinmountainrescue.scot)




### Full Steam Ahead At Loch Katrine

The curtain was raised on the main tourist season at Loch Katrine in March with the reintroduction of three daily sailings of the 124-year-old Steamship Sir Walter Scott, back for her first complete season in five years.

As James Fraser, CEO and Trustee at Loch Katrine, explains, this is a landmark year for the popular Trossachs attraction. "For the first time in a long time, we have the historic Steamship back for an entire season. There was a great response from the public when she returned after her restoration midway through last summer with good passenger numbers and, very encouragingly, advance bookings for this season from overseas and UK group tour organisers and individuals are well up on last year so we are hopeful this will be a busy season..."

Full Story and pictures at: <https://www.lochkatrine.com/news/full-steam-ahead-at-loch-katrine>

### STOP PRESS...!!

On Sunday 24th March many residents in Callander experienced disruption to their water supply as Scottish Water were in attendance to deal with a burst fire hydrant.

Only a couple of hours after receiving a "final" PDF copy of this issue, Convenor Mark Griffiths had emailed the team to say "It's a shame we've gone to press, as Callander's acquired a new, impromptu, tourist attraction at the crossroads between Aveland and Ancaster Roads. Geyser and hot(?) Spring!" along with this dramatic picture from the scene. We couldn't resist this "Stop Press" moment and squeezed in this quick report.

With the water turned off at 10pm Sunday and repairs still underway on Monday morning, this is - as they say - an ongoing situation.

We sincerely hope you weren't too inconvenienced by the events and agree with us that it was quite a spectacular display!



## Emergency Services: 999

### Callander Police: 101

Local Council Office & Registrar:  
01877 33004

Social Work: 01786 471177

Post Office: 01877 330267

Stirling Council: 01786 404040

### Councillors

Martin Earl - [earlm@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:earlm@stirling.gov.uk)

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

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

### MSP

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

### National Health

Callander Medical Practice 01877 331000 (Prescriptions (10.00am till 3pm)

District Nurse 01877 330150

NHS 24 111 or [www.nhs24.scot](http://www.nhs24.scot)

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

### Chemists

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

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

### Vets

Callander:01877 381213

### Schools

McLaren High: 01877 330156

Callander Primary: 01877 331576



## Callander Kirk

The Church of Scotland,

South Church Street, Callander

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

### Communion Services Sunday 2nd June

Kirk Church 11.15

Trossach Church 3.00pm

### Trossach Church

April - No service

Sunday May 5th 3.00pm

Rev Jeffery McCormick BD

[jmccormick@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jmccormick@churchofscotland.org.uk) 01567 820247

Church Office/Hall Bookings:

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

## Bin Collections

Bins are now collected on a Saturday or a Tuesday.

The dates are

### April

	Tues	Sat
Grey/Blue	9th	27th
Brown/Green	2nd/30th	6th
Brown/Blue Box	16th	20th

### May

	Tues	Sat
Grey/Blue	7th	25th
Brown/Green	28th	4th
Brown/Blue Box	14th	18th

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

## Lagrannoch WRC Opening times

- Monday - Friday 5.00pm to 7.30pm
- Saturday 10.00am-1.30pm
- Sunday closed
- Lagrannoch depot 01877 330492  
Also for sandbags and grit
- Stirling Council Main number 08452 777000 (Functions as emergency number from 5.00pm to 9.00am and over weekends. Also use for non-collection of wheelie bins.)



We warmly welcome you to join us in worship on a Sunday afternoon. This takes place in St Andrew's Church Hall at 4.00pm each week, followed by refreshments. Our weekly prayer meeting is at 7.30pm, Monday evening.

Pastor: Rev Nathan Swisher

For further details please contact : [admin@callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk](mailto:admin@callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk) or visit : [www.callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk](http://www.callanderchristianfellowship.org.uk)



## 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 infor 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



## St Joseph's Catholic Church

Glen Artney Road,

Callander

Website: [stfdac.co.uk](http://stfdac.co.uk); Phone: 01877 330702

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

Parish Priest: Rev. Leszek Wicaszek SAC

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Callander

Tuesday & Thursday Holy Mass at 10.00am

Sunday Holy Mass at 11.30am

## Housebound Library Service

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

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

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

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

## New Trial Opening Times for Callander Library from Monday 8th April:

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



Books, DVDs, hearing aid batteries.

## Planning Applications

We hope for planning applications to resume in the near future - the council portal is currently not reporting any new applications. We will update here as soon as we have some news.

## BLV Deadlines

The next issue of the Ben Ledi View will be published on:

**Friday 7th June 2024.**

## Advertisements copy & artwork

Please send all advertisement copy for the **Jun/July** issue to our Advertising Co-ordinator Agnes Allen: [advertising@benlediview.org](mailto:advertising@benlediview.org) by **Wednesday 8th May 2024**

Full details of sizes for advertisement and artwork specifications are at [www.benlediview.org](http://www.benlediview.org) under the Advertise tab. Please email for advice if in doubt.

## Editorial copy

All editorial contributions for the **Jun/July** issue should be emailed to [editor@benlediview.org](mailto:editor@benlediview.org) or handed in to the Callander Library by **Friday 10th May 2024.**

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

## Citizens' Advice - Callander

Citizens' Advice outreach sessions in Callander:

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



**Messy Church**

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 a.m. All welcome

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



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Come along and join us on Mondays - 8<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May & 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Callander Kirk Hall ~ 2.00pm-3.30pm

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Anne McLachlan 07743 125966

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**When**  
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## Help Always Needed

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

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

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

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

[emailconvenor@benlediview.org](mailto:emailconvenor@benlediview.org)

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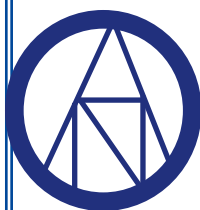
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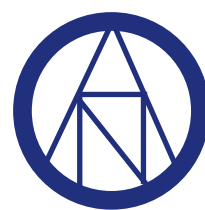
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# Ben Ledi View

# Open Day

**Come and meet the team!**

See how the magazine is edited

...

Try your hand at editing

...

Or just have a cuppa and a chat about what we do!!

**Saturday 13th April**  
**10am to 2pm**

**Callander Connect**  
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...

