



# Strathard News

FOR THE COMMUNITY - BY THE COMMUNITY



Aberfoyle - Stronachlachar - Kinlochard - Inversnaid

Issue No 120  
May 2022



# Aberfoyle Bowling Club

The bowling club in Aberfoyle is situated on Trossachs Road immediately behind the Memorial Hall. The green was built in the 1950s, the attached photographs are from 1959 and show many local participants enjoying a game on the newly opened green.

In the 1990s, Thornhill Bowling Club closed and many members from there joined Aberfoyle. Today the club has members from Aberfoyle and the communities all around, including Thornhill, Gartmore, Buchlivie and even further afield.

The club is social and welcoming, and also competitive. Social evening and friendly games are held on Mondays and Wednesdays, around 6pm. Although members can use the green at anytime during the playing season.

The club also competes in the Forth and Endrick Bowling League, involving clubs from Callander, Kippen, Balfron, Drymen and Strathblane. These games take place, on a home and away basis, on Friday evenings.

The club would encourage anyone interested in taking up this healthy outdoor pastime to get in touch, or come along and have a go. The club has equipment which can be borrowed, at no cost, so you can have a go without making a commitment. There are no age restrictions and the club is looking for ladies and men to join.

Contact Stewart Gibson on: 07792 650980 or email:

[stewartgibson@btinternet.com](mailto:stewartgibson@btinternet.com)

Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/AberfoyleBowlingClub,TrossachsRoad](https://www.facebook.com/AberfoyleBowlingClub,TrossachsRoad)



Photos of the newly opened green from 1959.

## JOIN FOR A Walk ABERFOYLE ON MONDAYS Always 10:20AM

Meet in the car park behind the Scottish Wool Centre

**WALK  
IN THE  
PARK**

All walks are led by trained Walk Leader volunteers and suitable for all abilities, lasting between 1 hour and 1 hour 30 minutes

No need to book, just turn up.  
New walkers and visitors  
always welcome.



Walks are followed by optional refreshments in a local coffee shop.

Walk in the Park welcomes people living with dementia, and their carers, on our walks. Please contact us for more details.



For more information contact: [fran.crumley@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:fran.crumley@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

Volunteering opportunities  
with full training provided



For girls aged 5 to 7 years old  
Weds 5 - 6pm  
Returns 24th August  
Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

Get involved - Get in touch

Register to secure a place for your child at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)  
For volunteering: [aberfoylerrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:aberfoylerrainbows@gmail.com)

Our Rainbows Group urgently needs extra adult helpers. Commitment level to suit. Extensive range of learning opportunities. Basic training/PVG checks are easy, free and all that is required to lend a hand.



## Welcome to our latest Strathard News

There has been so much going on and we hope to have captured much of it to share here. Dates for your diary are in our new calendar layout at the back of the magazine.

By now the Gala will have been & gone, the school shoes checked and the scurry for uniform hopefully completed. Strathard is bouncing, buses are mostly running and the coach tours are back! We've got Dukes Weekender coming up and our Scarecrow competition ready to go. Watch out for posters on the notice boards and facebook posts for more information about the Apple Day on 1st Oct at Aberfoyle Memorial Hall.

As ever, thanks so much to all our contributors for this issue. We've tried our best to give you a mix of articles, information and updates. If there's something you'd like to see included please do get in touch with us.

Donation boxes are still available across the community; Coop, Liz McGregors, PO, Forth Inn and the Pharmacy. Thank you very much for the donations we receive. In the future, we will manage to have an electronic system in place too but this is still a work in progress.

If you would like to advertise with us please contact [advertising@strathardnews.com](mailto:advertising@strathardnews.com) We rely on our advertising to cover the costs of producing the magazine, thanks to those who do this.

Do get in touch via [editor@strathardnews.com](mailto:editor@strathardnews.com)

the Strathard News team

*Emma, Bev, John, Mark, Alison, Kate & Hannah*



### Alaina and Emily Raise money for Ukraine

Alaina and Emily spent their first weekend of the Easter holidays knocking on doors to offer to wash cars to raise money for the children of the Ukraine. They raised £277, and should be very proud of themselves for using their own initiative for a great cause!

### Scarecrows!

This year, community scarecrows are welcome to lurk in hedgerows or hang out on doorsteps during the Dukes weekender event (9/10th Sept).

See if you can beat the competition and get creative!

Scarecrows on display from **5th September**. Judging will be week beginning **12th September**.



*Ben Lomond, from Echo Rock.*



# Aberfoyle's Jubilant Celebrations!



The big parties for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee may have been down in London, but Aberfoyle's village party on Sunday 5th June was just about the right size for the venue. In fact, it felt like the Memorial Hall was bursting at the seams by the time the party was in full swing.

We were blessed with good weather and folk were able to sit outside and enjoy the atmosphere and excellent BBQ food provided by Cammy at Skinners of Kippen. It was some feast, and we don't think anyone went home hungry.

The party was kindly organised by the Strathard Community Trust and attendees were welcomed by complimentary drinks of Prosecco or fruit juice, along with entertainment from the local Highland Dancers, Rainbow Unit and Jock the Box.

The dancers had practiced hard for putting on a great show, with some as young as 3 years old. The Highland Hustlers fitness group, led by Fiona Connel did a flash mob dance to get everyone up and dancing, which they did.

The Rainbows wanted to play their part for the celebrations by singing their song, as the Brownies had made the beautiful party bunting and pictures to decorate the hall already.

While the adults blethered (as they do), the younger guests were entertained by the lovely Christine doing some beautiful face painting. Thank you so much for dealing with such a long queue of little people!

Outside there was the Great Corgi Hunt, which involved the 'hunter's having to locate and name the Queen's corgis who has gone off to play with the local dogs (just pretend of course!)

Successful dog wranglers were given corgi cookies and stickers as a prize and you'll be glad to hear all the Corgis were accounted for by the end of the day.

Thank you to all the helpers working away behind the scenes to make this happen. To John Connel for being a

lovely compere and host. Many thanks to the Co-op, Stirling Council and the Hydro Fund who all made contributions to make this free family event possible.

*Alison Boa and the Strathard Community Trust*









# Mindful Ranger Moments – August Edition

*As we come into late summer (Yes! It's still summer, despite what meagre offering June and July gave us!), you may notice some interesting things start to appear or even disappear. Here are a few highlights and things to take some time to notice...*

## The Gall of It!!

Have you ever noticed strange growths on some leaves and stems of trees and plants? You may see some round spots or balls growing....these are called GALLS.



A gall is a growth on a plant that is made of plant tissue but caused by another organism. It might be caused by insects, bacteria, fungi or viruses. Insect galls are the most common, such as 'gall wasps' laying eggs. They are grown to benefit the thing that caused it, for protection whilst growing. They don't harm the plant or tree. Spangle galls on oak leaves contain a tiny little grub and are a particular favourite of pigeons who will peck them up as they fall to the ground.



## Hip Hip Hooray!!

Keep an eye out for the stunning colours of hips and haws beginning to appear on the wild roses and hawthorns.

Rose hips are a great source of vitamin C and can relieve the symptoms of knee and hip osteoarthritis. Rosehips were often gathered by children during the war years to make rosehip syrup, when citrus fruits were rationed or not available. Do you or your family members have memories of doing this? Why not try it now?



## It's oh so quiet...

You may have noticed there is something missing in nature just now, particularly in the mornings...bird song. The reason? Birds stop singing when they moult and grow new feathers at this time of year, so become more vulnerable and don't want to advertise themselves! Hence you may see more feathers on the ground. Have you picked up a feather and looked at it closely? They are incredible pieces of natural engineering.

You may also hear the contact calls of young buzzards or even ospreys as they beg for food or the squeaks and chirps of small song birds as the fledgelings keep in touch with their parents. That will soon end as they become more independent, and the adults start to sing again to regain their territories with their new plumage.

Enjoy your nature-noticing and keep finding those mindful moments with nature.

*Bev Clarke*

## Rose Hip Syrup

This syrup is extremely rich in vitamin C. Two teaspoons each day will supply all you need. It makes an ideal addition to babies' and children's diets.

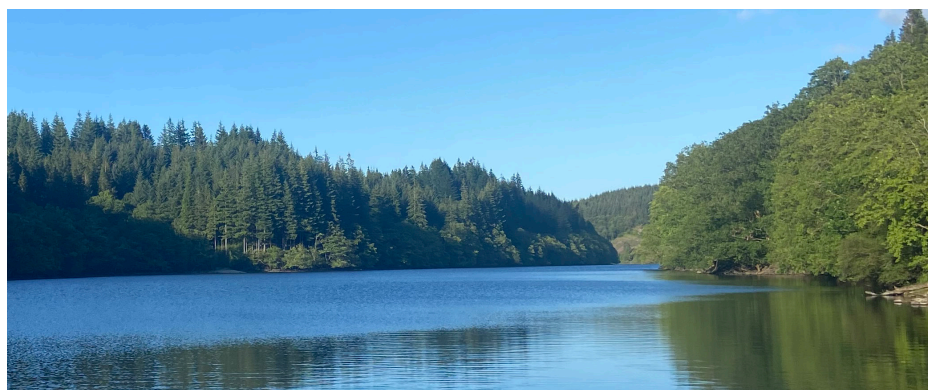
3 lb. rose hips  
6½ pints (16½ cups) water  
1½ lb. (3 cups) white sugar

Mince the rose hips coarsely and place them immediately into a saucepan with 4½ pints (11¼ cups) of the water. Bring to the boil again then remove from the heat. Cover the pan and put aside for 15 minutes.

Pour the water and rose hips into a scalded jelly bag and allow the liquid to drip through into a clean bowl. Return the pulp to the saucepan, add the remaining 2 pints (5 cups) of water. Cover the pan and put it aside again for another 15 minutes. Strain the juice through the jelly bag as before.

Pour the strained juice into a clean saucepan, bring to the boil then boil until reduced to about 2½–2¾ pints (5½–6½ cups). Add the sugar, stir until dissolved, and boil for a further 5 minutes. Pour the hot syrup into hot clean bottles and seal. Continue as for other fruit syrups (see above) except that the bottles should be processed in the hot water bath by boiling for 5 minutes not simmering for 20 minutes.

*Extract from Victory Cookbook by Marguerite Patte*



*Loch Drunkie, from the Three Lochs Drive.*



# Natural History Courses

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We cover all areas of UK natural history and **biodiversity** for **novices**, enthusiasts, volunteer recorders and **professionals**



Image: David Wedge



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# Grace goes the extra mile for Ukraine

Seven-year-old primary school girl Grace Morgan made the decision one morning in April to get on her bike and raise money for the people and animals of Ukraine, currently suffering the devastating impacts of war.



Under her own initiative and steam she told her dad, Val of Aberfoyle and mum, Emma Clarke of Doune, that she was going to cycle the 22 miles between the two villages to raise money.

With a little help, she set up her own JustGiving page and so far has raised a staggering £1,330. The money will be divided equally between the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and Network for Animals, both working to support people and animals in urgent need of help.

As well as donations, Grace got great support from local businesses. Aberfoyle Bike Hire checked over her bike and got rid of her squeaky breaks and the fantastic outdoor shop Intrepid generously donated a brand-new funky helmet.



Then, with very few training rides but lots of support and encouragement from mum and dad, Grace hit the road on Sunday 8th May.

There was a great send off from friends and family in Doune. Accompanied for the first leg by friend Niamh Mitchell, the girls were cheered on along the way to Callander by friends by the side of the road, before stopping for a hearty lunch kindly provided free of charge by McLaren Leisure Centre.

From there Grace, with her dad in support, headed into the Trossachs, along Loch Venachar and over the Menteith Hills. Having set off at 10.30am Grace made her speedy descent into Aberfoyle at 5pm to be met by her mum and pals for pizza and a well-deserved chocolate fountain.

Speaking about why she took on Grace's Cycle Challenge and how she feels about her accomplishment, Grace said:

"I wanted to help the people and animals of Ukraine as they're having a very hard time right now. Everything about the day was fun, going down hills and being outdoors all day. It was really nice to have my friends and their mums and dads come out and support me. Thank you to everyone for their donations."

Proud dad, Val said: "I've been amazed by Grace from start to finish. The idea absolutely came out of the blue, it was completely Grace's idea, with no discussion, she just told us she was doing it, her mind was made up. Then raising the money and taking on the challenge itself. I still can't quite believe that a wee seven-year-old girl can cycle 22 miles in one go, including over the hills. Many adults wouldn't be able to do that. Grace has a wonderful heart and this is a fantastic achievement. She can be very proud of what she's accomplished."

Delighted Mum, Emma said, "It's amazing that Grace has wanted to help both people and animals affected by the war in Ukraine and has followed through with her idea. Even at the end she still wanted to carry on cycling! It's a fantastic achievement - she's my little star."



**To make a donation to Grace's Cycle Challenge, please visit:**

[www.justgiving.com/crowd-funding/graces-cycle-challenge](http://www.justgiving.com/crowd-funding/graces-cycle-challenge)



# Bridge

A Card game for Carse Dwellers.

Bridge, the card game, was declared a sport for inclusion in the 2018 Asian Games held in Tokyo. So now bridge can be considered part of your sporting regime. So, if you are a bridge player you might like to consider the following:

Much research has gone into the benefits of mental exercising. Activities such as chess, bridge or learning a musical instrument are now recognised as some of the best forms of mental exercise to ward off dementia and Alzheimer's.

An intensive recent study by the Mayo Clinic (2017) shows that playing Contract Bridge reduces the likelihood of mental decline before the onset of dementia.

Further studies (including notably the 90+ Study) shows that mentally stimulating activity such as playing cards or completing crosswords can

reduce the risk of developing dementia by as much as 75%.

Of course, the earlier you start the better, so some recognition is made of the fact that some of the test subjects are individuals who took up the 'mental stimulation' some time ago, but that does not detract from possible benefits if you start now.

Not only does Contract Bridge have proven mental health benefits but it develops skills: skills such as strategic planning, flexibility in problem-solving, concentration and focus.

And, finally, it is a social game which provides the opportunity for those of us without partners (and those of us with partners) to gather socially for a hand or two and some friendly conversation.

Locally there is the Drymen Bridge Club which meets on a Thursday afternoon. This is a friendly club of bridge players with quite a wide range of ability. Also, at this end of the carse is the Killearn Bridge Club which meets in the winter on Tuesday evenings [see [Killearnbridge.org.uk](http://Killearnbridge.org.uk)]. The Killearn Bridge Club Website is extensive and

they publish articles in the Killearn Courier[[kcfc.co.uk/courier.html](http://kcfc.co.uk/courier.html)] However, if you are a beginner there are two groups of learners locally; one in Gartmore meeting on a Tuesday afternoon and one in Kinlochard meeting on a Wednesday evening. Killearn has run some learning sessions in the past and for that opportunity please contact their club secretary whose details are on their website.

I hope this article might have stimulated your interest in bridge. If so, please feel free to contact John MacGregor on 01877 387287 [johndmacg@hotmail.com](mailto:johndmacg@hotmail.com) or the Killearn club via their web address.



Community Garden in bloom.

## New Zealand Flatworm

### ***Do you know what this is?***

Regular local gardeners will likely know, but folk new to the area or new to gardening may not.

The New Zealand Flatworm was introduced to the UK on imported plant material in the 1960s, and eats our native earthworms, which are essential for good soil quality and the food chain, especially hedgehogs and garden birds.

They are between 5-15cm long, flat with a dark brown topside and a creamy pale underside and edge, and often found curled up like a Swiss roll. They are pointed at both ends and covered in sticky mucus. They produce hard black eggs about the size of a pea, which can contain numerous live young.

New Zealand flatworms are spread by moving topsoil or rooted plants between places, which allows this species to move from garden to garden.

If you are sharing plants from your garden, please check the underside of the pots and the soil. Carefully repot the plant in clean compost with as much soil removed. Also be aware if you are getting topsoil or moving it elsewhere. It's probably best not to do so if you know you have flatworms.

If you find any flatworms or eggs in your garden, place them in a sealed container like a glass jar, as they can escape! Cover in boiling water to dispatch them and the eggs.

**For more information visit: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/biodiversity/non-native-flatworms>**





## Monster radishes in slug trials

Nope, we don't have them in the dock answering charges but have been learning loads about what methods do & don't work in reducing their impact. For any gardeners out there,, you'll know how bad this year has been for slug damage.

Despite this, we are determined to succeed! This is a great resource: [www.slughelp.com](http://www.slughelp.com)

They seem to love the french beans and completely trashed our courgettes. We replanted and protected them with copper tape and they are looking good so far! We've got a few pumpkins in there too, don't know if they'll be big enough for Samhain (Halloween).

Onions and spring onions are doing great which is strange because the ones at home were destroyed. It's a fun experiment to find out what is going to grow well and survive at the Memorial Hall. Some of the raspberries have taken well and we've loads of tatties growing in pots. Go & have a nosey round - it's your community garden too.

This year we've planted up the banking by the car park area with a big variety of flowers, some were split from home gardens and others we grew from seed. It's starting to all flower now, along with the heap of debris created



when the drainage work at the hall was done. It's been brilliant watching it all take shape and see our gardening community grow.

The marvellous Bev has also built us a Crop Swap which is for anyone to use in the community - if you've spare plants to donate or are looking for a lupin or two, please go and help yourself from anything on the Blue Pallet pictured. Huge thanks to everyone who comes along, creates the fun, brings plants, sows seed, waters everything, removes slugs, drinks tea, leans on a shovel etc. Also, please remember you can harvest seed in your garden and donate to the Seed Library hosted at Intrepid. For guidance with seed collecting, get in touch with us or get googling!



Community Garden in bloom.



Bev and Wendy in front of the crop swap.

To find out more, contact:

**aberfoylememorialhall@  
hotmail.co.uk**



# Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park-Strategic Tourism Infrastructure studies Update

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park has commenced work on a series of Strategic Tourism Infrastructure studies and, having completed studies for East and West Loch Lomond earlier this year, we are pleased to begin focus on the Strathard and Trossachs area.

These studies have been commissioned to support our place-based, holistic approach to help tackle tourism challenges and identify solutions, and are being carried out in collaboration with local communities, businesses and strategic stakeholders.

Completed studies are already being utilised as resources to help unlock funding. In East Loch Lomond, the study identified Balmaha as a priority site for infrastructure development, and assisted us in securing funding to develop a transport and place-based Masterplan for Balmaha. This will be a focused response to unsustainable visitor pressures and a plan for visitor management in the area.

As a consequence of the West Loch Lomond study, a similar Masterplan approach is being developed and, in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council, the study has served to unlock funding for improvements

at the Cobbler car park. A tender is being prepared with a view to getting a design company in place for March 2023.



*Lake of Mentith at Sunset.*

We are currently in the analysis phase of the project looking at the Strathard and Trossachs area, and our appointed consultant is undertaking a series of one-to-one meetings with community representatives, landowners, businesses and local authorities to discuss opportunities and challenges, and to better

understand the pressures relating to tourism infrastructure specific to individual communities in this region. Further workshops to examine visitor management strategy and place-specific proposals will take place between July and September.

We anticipate that the Strathard and Trossachs study will be published in September/October this year and we look forward to sharing upon completion.

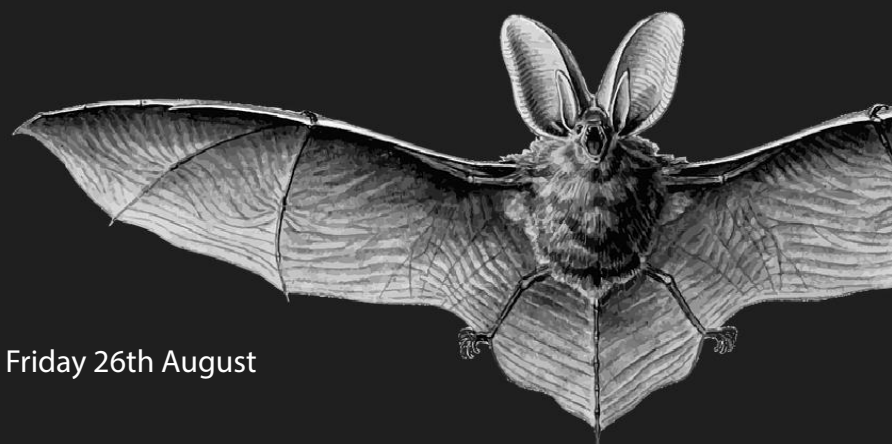
*Jamie Proudfoot*

Place Based Support Officer, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park



*Goats on Ben Venue.*

## TALK, WALK AND SURVEY OF OUR LOCAL BATS – INTERNATIONAL BAT NIGHT 8PM to 10PM – KINLOCHARD VILLAGE HALL & SURROUNDS – £1



Friday 26th August

### REGISTER/CONTACT:

[janine@finfilms.co.uk](mailto:janine@finfilms.co.uk)  
0795 747 6397

- Learn about bats in our local village, and the UK
- Spot some of our local bats here in the village, using echolocation devices
- A few to help survey a local roost (weather pending)
- Hosted by the Kinlochard Ecological Group, with Beverley from Lomond Bat Group, and local Janine (co-director BBC4 bat documentary).
- Children welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult
- Bring headtorches, warm clothes, sturdy footwear, midge spray and midge net!



# Bike Trossachs Update

Bike Trossachs are a group of volunteer local residents and cycling enthusiasts based in the community of Aberfoyle and the surrounding area. We come from different backgrounds and have our own full time jobs but are driven by our passion for cycling and the place we call home; the beautiful Trossachs.

We believe cycling can positively enhance the way of life for all our residents and visitors, making Strathard an even more wonderful place to grow-up, live and work in. We know that cycle tourism is a key economic driver for our community, bringing substantial benefits and employment opportunities to the local economy.

We believe that an increase in cycle-friendly local businesses along with improved infrastructure, such as way-marked routes will help distribute these economic benefits further within our rural communities.



*Cool kids, by Pete Scullion.*

You might have noticed the new information panels that have been installed in the car park and on the main street - these mark the launch of our new 'Gravelfoyle' way-marked cycle routes. The three routes start and finish in the centre of Aberfoyle and capitalise on the vast forest network of the National Park. These 10km, 20km and 30km trail loops explore Loch Ard, Loch Chon and venture deep into the Forest, encouraging visitors to our area to experience the joy of our local gravel riding. 'Gravelfoyle' is the destination brand created to promote the trails, information and infrastructure to visitors of our local area. Gravelfoyle was born from the



*Cycling along Loch Ard, by Jered Gruber*

hugely successful Dukes Weekender, an annual family-friendly weekend cycling festival based in Aberfoyle. We are excited to announce that Bike Trossachs is now operating The Dukes Weekender with all profits from the event being used directly to realise our community-centred mission.

Partnership and collaboration are at the heart of this mission; funding for the first three way-marked trails has come from Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER, Forestry and Land Scotland, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and The Strathard Development Trust, which have all committed to providing support for the future development of access infrastructure. LEADER funding has also allowed us to create two new positions for Kerry MacPhee and Beth Legg who are passionate about the benefits of inclusive and supported access to cycling participation.

By making cycling part of our way of life we can play our part in tackling widespread social and environmental challenges whilst encouraging sustainable economic growth. This will help increase clean transport links, tackle physical and mental health challenges and enable active lifestyle choices across a wide demographic of our community.



*Passing the Loch Arklet view point, by Jered Gruber*



*The new waymarked paths, by Jered Gruber*





*A great day out, by Pete Sculion.*

Each one of us at Bike Trossachs want the area to be a truly cycle-friendly community for our children and their friends as they grow up - the skills they learn now will stay with them for life. Funds raised from The Dukes Weekender have recently provided Aberfoyle, Gartmore and Port of Mentieth Primary Schools with essential safety equipment, including helmets, gloves and jackets from Endura to be used by the children participating in the Bike Ability Scheme. This will help the children to progress in their cycling ability and also give them the confidence to

safely navigate the roads around our local area. As additional support for this the

Community Fund at our Co-op allowed us to purchase 5 bikes this spring from Aberfoyle Bike Hire for the pupils to use. Funding from NatureScot outdoor fund, managed by Strathard Development Trust, has also allowed us to purchase an outdoor bike shelter for the school children along with some basic bike tools so that they can learn fundamental trail-side skills and bike maintenance.

An exciting area for planned future development is our local bike park at Rabbit Hill. Bike Trossachs opened the current track in July 2014 and it has been well used and loved by local children, adults, schools and tourists alike. It now needs an upgrade. We plan to install a multi-use, asphalt pump track on the west slope, and remodel the gravel trails on the east side. Having listened to local teenagers via the Strathard Life Plan we will be installing an eco-friendly timber shelter. We are currently developing designs and plans, so keep a look out for a public consultation in the coming months. Another project in the pipe-line is the Bike Trossachs Cycle Club - a friendly multi-disciplinary club which will of course be making the most of the fantastic gravel on our doorstep.

This years Dukes Weekender will be held on the 10th & 11th September and we are looking for marshals - please email [beth@biketrossachs.com](mailto:beth@biketrossachs.com) if you'd like to help out at this fun event.

**If you have any questions  
please email us at:**

**[info@biketrossachs.com](mailto:info@biketrossachs.com)**



*Important planning! by Pete Sculion.*



# Loch Ard Sailing Club!

Loch Ard Sailing Club - Solstice Fun Day 18th June 2022. For more information about the club and membership [www.lochardsc.org.uk](http://www.lochardsc.org.uk)



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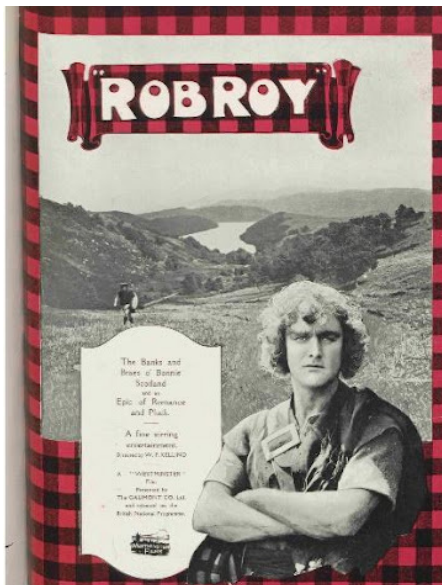
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## Stories from Strathard

*Do you ever wonder what was happening in Strathard in 1922? The columns of the rural edition of the Stirling Observer gives us some ideas. A longer version of this article is available with a host of other local history news on the Strathard Heritage Digital Website <https://strathardheritage.org/>*

In early January the Christmas celebrations were reported upon with a Fancy Dress dance attended by over 100 people, funds raised went to the War Memorial Fund. Throughout the winter and early spring of 1922, dances, whist drives and summer ice competitions were a regular part of social life in Strathard. The Cayzer Cup was the main Summer Ice competition which was won by Gartmore who defeated Aberfoyle in February 1922. In the same month the popular and much respected Dr. Thomas MacGregor died -he had been some 35 years in medical practice in the area. Also, on medical matters a major influenza epidemic occurred with advice about avoiding crowded and over-heated places.



As the community prepared for the tourist season the demise of the four in hand coaches was announced with the arrival of the motorised charabancs. A tragic accident at Ardross House in Kinlochard in May. A painter and decorator from Edinburgh fell of the ladders and somehow the scissors caught his jugular vein leading to his immediate death.



In May, Lady Helen Graham addressed meetings in Aberfoyle and Kinlochard about the advantages of having a resident nurse in the area—this had become a major issue in rural communities and necessitated local fundraising and the establishment of a local committee. The first AGM of the Nursing Association Committee was held in late September 1922. During the summer the area was a location to film a version of Rob Roy which generated much interest. However, the sense of optimism was diluted by the tragic news of the Plean Colliery Disaster when some 12 miners were killed and 5 injured.

As the autumn arrived the availability and access to higher education in Callander was made possible by the establishment of the first daily school bus from Kinlochard to Callander via Aberfoyle, Port of Menteith and Thornhill. The coach was organised by Captain Cameron from the Bailie Nicol Jarvie who promised the 'fares would be kept affordable'.

November saw the 1922 UK General Election take place which was won locally by Thomas Johnson of the Labour Party. He defeated the sitting MP Sir Harry Hope of the Unionist Part for the Stirling and Clackmannan seat. Just like nowadays flooding and a visit by Santa Claus.

*James Kennedy*



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## The Baillie

When the Baillie Nicole Jarvie hotel closed, many years ago, the figure on the end of the building was going into a skip.

The Seabrook's couldn't see this happen so rescued him. Time moves on and so did The Baillie, he moved from Scotland to England where he sheltered at the back of a garage. Mrs Wallace kept nagging that the Baillie should be back where he belonged, and so off to find him.

We tracked down Rowan, son of Mr and Mrs Seabrook and the Baillie was recovered. Now what to do? He was in a bit of a state and needed a little TLC. Would The Repair Shop be interested

said Annie? So the long journey started, we contacted them to ask if they were interested and low and behold they said yes!

The Baillie's travels started again, down to Chichester where Dom was set the task of repairing him back to his former glory (only having old postcards and pictures to go on). Time passed, Covid had its say, but eventually he was ready.

The Repair shop said they would like to come up and film the big reveal, time to jump through hoops to get ready for them. Time was short but with some helpful local volunteers we were ready for the reveal.



The day came and no-one had seen The Baillie as he was wrapped up, so it was a surprise for those involved, as well as the many people in the crowd that came to see it.

The cameras rolled and The Big Man was revealed (with a small hitch and a second take). And there he stands up on the Baillie wall to watch the safety of the locals as they go to school or just doing their daily routine, as he did 30 plus years ago.

***Thanks to all the locals involved, you know who you are!***

*Aberfoyle Village People*





## Eve & Ian's Adventuring update!



We join you again along our walk from John o'Groats to Lands End, this time from Yorkshire.

Yesterday we summited a wee hill called Withins Height which is said to be where Brontë got her inspiration for the novel Wuthering Heights. Needless to say the views were amazing.

We've been walking through Yorkshire following the Pennine Way for quite a while now with its stunning scenery and varied landscapes. We're hoping to reach the Peak District and this complete the Pennine Way in the next week which will be a major milestone!



By the time you read this article we'll hopefully be well on the way towards Birmingham, Gloucester and then the South West coast! We can't wait!

The recent hot weather has seen us both struggle as I'm sure we all have, we're just not used to it. Eve had been amazing though and plodded on regardless. We have been taking lots of breaks and drinking plenty of fluids and getting that sun cream out!

Whilst walking Eve has been listening to audiobooks mainly ones by David Williams. I must admit I'm quite enjoying them too!



We have sampled many ice creams, cakes and drinks along the way. Spoke to, stroked and admired lots of different animals, from sheep, cows and chickens, to cats, dogs. And it was only this morning Eve spotted a stoat



across the path! We've cloud spotted, eaten wild raspberries, and paddled in rivers and streams! Who could ask for more?!

We are thoroughly enjoying our walk although it is challenging at times. We just want to say thank you to everyone who is supporting us. All your kind words, offers of help and generous donations are spurring us on in difficult times.

Thank you all!

*From Ian & Eve*



If you would like to follow our journey please check out:

[www.Facebook.com/ourspectrumadventures](https://www.facebook.com/ourspectrumadventures)

And if you would like to support us please see the links below. Thank you

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/johnogroatstolandsendourspectrumadventures](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/johnogroatstolandsendourspectrumadventures)

[www.gofundme.com/eve-ian-hike-John-o-groats-to-Lands-end](https://www.gofundme.com/eve-ian-hike-John-o-groats-to-Lands-end)

[www.buymeacoffee.com/OurSpectrumAdv](https://www.buymeacoffee.com/OurSpectrumAdv)



# A reflection on Kinlochard's four days of Jubilee events



**Kinship in Kinlochard was certainly in abundance over the Jubilee weekend.**

It was a real treat for the many people who turned out to watch the Thursday morning showing of the Trooping of the Colour on screen in the village hall rather than sit at home on their own. A chance to blether over tea/coffee and home baking and catch up again was too good to miss.

## Carrying a torch for Kinlochard

The children of Kinlochard proudly carried their hand held lighted torches in a moving piped procession through the village to the community field to light the Kinlochard Beacons. This marked the end of the first day of the Jubilee celebrations for the village and surrounding communities.

And the beacons themselves – stunning, so different, a world first –

were among the comments. Two huge (and I mean so huge it took five men with ropes and tackle to unload and position them) swedish style candles situated on the Loch Ard shoreline together with five smaller candles located along the jetty out into the water marked the seven decades.

What a sight to see as those candles in the wind burned bright well into the night entralling the 100 plus spectators. A night that will last long in the memories of those who were there.



**....and there was music and songs....**

A good old sing a long of music through the decades on the Friday evening over a wee drink and snacks brought out some 50 folk to exercise their vocal chords. With good humour and great company it was a night much enjoyed by everyone there.

## The Saturday BBQ

As another fabulous sunny day dawned arrangements were well in hand for the community BBQ in the grounds of the village hall. Specially made beef burgers - and plant alternatives - with salads and other side dishes – together with generously donated home baking for afters all washed down with Pimms and other libations! And not just for the children a range of games and activities were available in the field made from recycled items and materials to be kind to the planet.



Together with an array of classic cars from over the decades stimulating discussion about who used to own or drive what kind of car many a happy motoring memory came back to mind.





We were grateful to receive a Community grant of £500 from Stirling Council which covered the cost of the BBQ meaning it could be provided free of charge to those attending. What's not to like!! Well some 150 folks present tells it's own story. And some of them almost unrecognisable in their posh outfits.

### The Sunday street party.



Sunny Sunday brought out some 60 or more picnickers for the street party in the grounds of the village hall bringing with them their own lunch and a pudding to share. The display barrows were groaning with puddings too good to resist so seconds (and thirds, you know who you are) were the order of the day!

The River of Hope display based on



comments and ideas from children in the community was centre stage. Thanks to funding of £500 from Kinlochard Village Hall specially printed souvenir tee shirts for the children and tea towels for others based on the River of Hope images were presented. There were seven window displays looking back at key events over the seven decades and The Local History Group kindly produced a comprehensive board display setting out Royal/local connections.



A lazy afternoon chewing, chatting and enjoying the company concluded the four day celebrations.

### The Ard Chair – History in the making

This unique chair was made with salvaged timbers taken from a Victorian boathouse on the shore of Loch Ard. The support timbers which had been sunk into the loch over a hundred years before were perfectly preserved. The original axe and saw markings are still visible.

It has been put in position in the grounds of Kinlochard Village Hall (in June 2022) as part of the village celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee - and for George McLaren's 80th birthday! Unveiled on the Saturday afternoon with George present and able to take a seat was a magic moment.

The village is grateful to Drew and Robbie Keir for their ingenuity and skill in constructing this artefact.



### The Final Word from the Kinlochard Jubilee Committee

There are so many people to thank and a risk some one would be missed - so a huge, huge thank you to everyone for their ideas, practical help and for coming along to one or more of the events. We couldn't have done it without you. Please keep the Kin(ship) in Kinlochard going.....

*Words by Morag Philips on behalf of Kinlochard Jubilee Committee*







# Strathard News

FOR THE COMMUNITY - BY THE COMMUNITY

## PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS TO YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

STRATHARD NEWS is our community magazine run by volunteers, funded by advertisers, sponsors and donors. This is a great great opportunity to advertise your business locally and promote your services to the people who live in the area.

- Published 4 times per year  
NOV | FEB | MAY | AUG
- Print run 1,000 copies per issue
- A4 size, printed full colour
- Distributed to residents in Aberfoyle, Kinlochard, Inversnaid and Stronachlachar
- Digital edition online (Coming soon!).
- **Special offer \*advertise your business annually in all 4 issues of the Strathard News to receive a 20% discount\***





## Get in Touch

- For advertising, speak to Emma at the Co-op or Mark at Frenich Farm - [advertising@strathardnews.com](mailto:advertising@strathardnews.com)
- To sponsor an issue, contact Alison Boa or Kate Bovill - [editor@strathardnews.com](mailto:editor@strathardnews.com)
- For editorial contributions, send your news to Kate Bovill - [editor@strathardnews.com](mailto:editor@strathardnews.com)
- For Finance, contact John Macgregor - [treasurer@strathardnews.com](mailto:treasurer@strathardnews.com)

**Thank you,** the magazine's success is due to the contribution and support from all of Strathard's residents.



Summer fun on Loch Ard

## St. Mary's Business Forum

St. Mary's Business Forum will be starting its meetings again on 6th September. The focus for the season's meetings will be Hospitality.

Our hospitality sector has suffered badly during Covid, and it continues to struggle, particularly with recruitment. The programme of meetings addresses this by emphasising that hospitality is not simply a holiday job of pulling pints and putting plates on tables, but it is a career which has its own qualifications and standards of professionalism. Like all businesses, it cannot stand still but must maintain its competitive edge through constant innovation.

The programme of speakers is:

- 6 Sep 22: Keynote presentation: Nick Nairn (TBC);
- 4 Oct 22: Andrew Thomson, Chairman, Institute of Hospitality Scotland;
- 1 Nov 22: Sarah Heward, The Real Food Cafe & our local Scotland's Food Ambassador. Sarah runs her own restaurant in Tyn-drum which, after many tribulations, now has a turnover of £2M and employs 28 people. She has some innovative ideas about specialist sectors;
- 6 Dec 22: Helen Lavery, Zero Waste Scotland - The Circular Economy
- 10 Jan 23: Lyndsey Eckford, VisitScotland. Lynsey sits on STERG, the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group, which includes the Scottish Tourism Alliance, COSLA, and Skills Development Scotland, among others. She also lectures on hospitality twice a week at Forth Valley College;
- 7 Feb 23: STEP to give a presentation on HR & Recruitment;
- 7 Mar 23: Ross Pollock, National Park, on their plans to support local business.
- 4 Apr 23: Not yet decided! Possibly Business Planning in the hospitality sector.

This is a powerful set of presenters which should give us all plenty to think about.

Although the focus is on hospitality, these meetings will be useful across other sectors of our economy, and of course there is much to be gained through networking with friends and colleagues. We also welcome school leavers and students who may be thinking of setting up their own businesses at some time in the future. All are welcome!

The meetings are all on the FIRST Tuesday of the month, except January when the meeting will be on the second Tuesday. The meetings will be at 6.00 p.m. for 6.30, and will be held in St. Mary's Church Room in Aberfoyle, making use of its new IT suite. If you have not been to these meetings, the format is a short (~30 minutes) presentation followed by discussion and networking over refreshments until 8 o'clock. A small (£3) contribution is requested for those over 21 to cover the cost of refreshments and a small gift to our presenters.







## Callander and West Perthshire u3a

### **AGM and RECRUITMENT DAY**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**AGM by Zoom at 10.30am**

(an email link will be sent out to members in advance)

### **Drop-In Session at McLaren Leisure, Callander**

**2pm until 4.30pm**

(sign up for this year's groups, join as a new member, see what we do)

Make the most of life, explore new ideas, skills and interests with your local u3a if you're retired, semi-retired or have time on your hands.

Come together with others and learn for fun.

Please look at our website, **Callander and West Perthshire u3a**, for information about our interest groups and how to make contact with group leaders.

**We always welcome new members.**



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## Whats on in Strathard!

**Strathard Community Council meeting** – Thursday 4th August- Kinlochard Village Hall – 7.15pm. From 6.45pm a local councillor will hold a surgery for residents who wish to raise issues or concerns. Everyone is welcome. Please come along and have your say. Next meeting Thursday 1st September – Aberfoyle Memorial Hall. Next again meeting Thursday 3rd November – Kinlochard Village Hall.

**The Dukes Weekender** Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September

**The Guild** – Wednesday 21st September 2.00pm - The Forth Inn. This will be the first meeting of the Guild for this session. New members will be made very welcome.

**Apple Day** – more info and time TBC!

**Loch Ard Local History Group** – Wednesday 5th October -Dr Ivan Ruddock 'Alexander Bain-the Real Inventor of Television' - 7.30pm - Kinlochard Village Hall. Membership is £15 per annum or £4 per meeting. For further details contact Joyce Kelly 01877387292 or James Kennedy 01877387292.

**Kinlochard Ecological Society- International Bat Night Talk, Walk and Survey** - Friday 26th August- Kinlochard Village hall- £1 8pm-10pm

**Loch Ard Local History Group** - Wednesday 2nd November – Tara Leishman 'Rural Legacies of Transatlantic Slavery' – 7.30pm - Kinlochard Village Hall.

**Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service** - Every Monday at 10.50am for 20 minutes in the main car park.

**Stirling Council Mobile Library** Every second Thursday (4th August for point of reference) -11.45am-12.45pm - main car park.

**Aberfoyle Parish Church** Sunday service – 11.15am.



**Aberfoyle Baby & Toddler Group** Every Wednesday during term time - Aberfoyle Memorial Hall – 9.30-11.30am. £2 for one child and £1 for additional children. All welcome.

**Aberfoyle Bowling Club** Every Monday and Wednesday during the summer months. Everyone welcome. Come along and give it a try.

**Abtrad** Every second Sunday starting on 28th August – 5.00pm-7.00pm - Aberfoyle Memorial Hall. They ask for a £1 voluntary donation. There are instruments available for anyone who would like to join in. Contact cindymcloughlin@yahoo.co.uk

**Canine Good Citizen classes** Every Tuesday – 7pm – Kinlochard Village Hall. Contact natashya@bestbehaviour.org

**Concerts at St Mary's** 3rd Sunday of the month at 3pm.

**Gardening Group (The Monster Radishes)** every second Sunday (7th August as a point of reference) - 4.00-6.00pm - Aberfoyle Memorial Hall. Come along and learn or bring your expertise. There is always a cuppa and a biscuit. We will soon be harvesting what we have been growing this season. Everyone is welcome.

**Hart & Hind Highland** with Fiona Classes starting in the school autumn term – Trossachs Tots: Preschool/Nursery dance Highland/Ballet combo for age 3-5 years. Beginner Highland for age 5-8 years. Beginner/Novice Highland for age 10+ years. Adult Highland and Highland Hustle. Also personal training and nutrition coaching. For further details contact Fiona McDonald Connell 07983897840 missfionasstudio@gmail.com.

**Intrepid Knitting** Every Friday – 10.00am - Intrepid, Main Street, Aberfoyle. Bring along your craftwork and have a chat and a cuppa and biscuits. There is no charge and everyone is welcome.

**K9 Fitness Puppy Training and Socialisation** Monday – 6.30pm - outside venue. For further details contact Mags 07515654007 or info@magsk9fitness.com

**Quiz Night** Last Sunday of the month – 9.00pm - The Forth Inn. The entry fee is £2 per team and the proceeds are donated to a charity of choice.

**Walk in the Park-** 10.20- Mondays- The Car Park behind the Wool Center.

**Zanshin Kai Karate** Thursday evenings – 6.30-9.00pm - Aberfoyle Memorial Hall. There are classes for school age children and adults. For further details contact Sensei Julie Glen 01877 382 296 or Sensei Jackie Bell.

## August

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	2 Canine Good Citizen classes	3	4 Strathard Community council meeting Mobile Library Zanshin Kai Karate	5 Intrepid Knitting	6	7 Gardening Group (The Monster Radishes)
8 Hart & Hind Dance Camp Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	9 Hart & Hind Dance Camp Canine Good Citizen classes	10 Hart & Hind Dance Camp	11 Hart & Hind Dance Camp Zanshin Kai Karate	12 Hart & Hind Dance Camp Intrepid Knitting	13	14
15 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	16 Canine Good Citizen classes	17 <b>Back to School!</b> Baby and toddler group	18 Mobile Library Zanshin Kai Karate	19 Intrepid Knitting	20	21 The Guild Gardening Group (The Monster Radishes) Concert at St Mary's
22 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	23 Canine Good Citizen classes	24 Baby and toddler group	25 Zanshin Kai Karate	26 Intrepid Knitting	27 Bat Walk, Talk and Survey	28 Abtrad Quiz Night
29 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	30 Canine Good Citizen classes	31 Baby and toddler group				



# September

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 Strathard Community council meeting Mobile Library Zanshin Kai Karate	2 Intrepid Knitting	3	4 Gardening Group (The Monster Radishes)
5 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	6 Canine Good Citizen classes St. Mary's Business Forum	7 Baby and toddler group	8 Zanshin Kai Karate	9 Intrepid Knitting	10  Dukes Weekender!	11 Abtrad  Dukes Weekender!
12 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	13 Canine Good Citizen classes	14 Baby and toddler group	15 Mobile Library Zanshin Kai Karate	16 Intrepid Knitting	17	18 Gardening Group (The Monster Radishes) Concert at St Mary's
19 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	20 Canine Good Citizen classes	21 Baby and toddler group	22 Zanshin Kai Karate	23 Intrepid Knitting	24	25 Abtrad Quiz Night
26 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	27 Canine Good Citizen classes	28 Baby and toddler group	29 Mobile Library Zanshin Kai Karate	30 Intrepid Knitting		

# October

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1 Apple day!	2 Gardening Group (The Monster Radishes)
3 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	4 Canine Good Citizen classes St. Mary's Business Forum	5 Loch Ard Local History Group Baby and toddler group	6 Zanshin Kai Karate	7 October holiday starts! Intrepid Knitting  Dirt Diva's MTB Festival	8  Dirt Diva's MTB Festival	9 Abtrad  Dirt Diva's MTB Festival
10 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	11 Canine Good Citizen classes	12	13 Mobile Library Zanshin Kai Karate	14 Intrepid Knitting	15	16 Gardening Group (The Monster Radishes) Concert at St Mary's
17 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	18	19	20 Zanshin Kai Karate	21 Intrepid Knitting	22	23 Abtrad
24 Back to School! Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service	25	26 Baby and toddler group	27 Mobile Library Zanshin Kai Karate	28 Intrepid Knitting	29	30 Gardening Group (The Monster Radishes) Quiz Night
30 Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Service						