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# strathard news

Issue 88  
January 2015

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Cover photo by Paul Barr Photography ©

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# Aberfoyle Bike Park

Sandy Slater, Bike Trossachs

Aberfoyle Bike Park has certainly caught the imagination with not only local riders of all ages sharpening their skills, but families coming from all over to have fun on the berms and jumps. One of the most recent visitors was mountain biking legend Danny MacAskill who had a fun time on the Park and the local trails despite torrential rain.

The profile of Aberfoyle as a mountain biking centre is growing rapidly and the Bike Trossachs Facebook page has had a 30% increase in Likes in the last month alone – check it out for the latest chat, photos and videos - [www.facebook.com/biketrossachs](http://www.facebook.com/biketrossachs). You'll see a short video of Danny chasing his film director, pal and local resident Stu Thomson down a local trail. It racked up over 700,000 views in the 3 days after it was first posted – Aberfoyle is on the map! Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland, the national body promoting mountain biking, also profiles the Bike Park in the Where To Ride section of its website.

Bike Trossachs, the community organisation promoting biking locally, had its AGM recently and discussed what, now that the Bike Park project has been successfully completed, should be the focus for 2015. A number of ideas were floated and will be discussed in detail in the coming months. One is to organise events that will cater for children and encourage their interest in biking. Another is to work on identifying an Enduro route so that the Trossachs can become part of the National Competition circuit. Steve Field from Callander brought the meeting up to date with the exciting plans for trails in Coihallan Woods, which will include trails for disabled bikers. Guy Keating from the National Park outlined to the AGM the Park's plan for a series of new Mountain Bike Route Guides and what its plans were for developing biking in the Park. Bike Trossachs is well placed to be a key partner in helping to implement these plans.



Danny MacAskill

## 'Special recognition' for local artist

Local artist given 'Special Recognition' Award by an international online gallery for painting of a scene at the Lake of Menteith.

Pamela McMahon, who lives at the Port of Menteith, entered her painting 'Lakeside Road in Snow' to the international on-line art competition run by the Light Space and Time Online Gallery. Some 391 entries from 15 different countries were submitted to the competition where artists were asked to submit paintings under the theme of 'Seasons'. Pamela choose to enter a winter scene of the road that runs alongside the Lake of Menteith.

Pamela has lived in the Stirling area since 2008 and works from a small studio in her home. She took early retirement from her job as Regional Director with VisitScotland for Stirling, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Lanarkshire, so that she could realise her life long ambition to paint full time.



Lakeside Road in the Snow, Lake of Menteith  
Medium – acrylic on board  
Dimensions – 50.8 x 76.2 cm / 20 x 30 inches

Pamela said ' I am totally thrilled by this award. The Lake of Menteith area is a magical place and it has inspired many of my paintings. This recognition has given my confidence a great boost. More of Pamela's work can be seen on her website [www.pamelamcmahon.artweb.com](http://www.pamelamcmahon.artweb.com) or her facebook page [www.facebook.com/pamelamcmahonart](http://www.facebook.com/pamelamcmahonart)

The exhibition of the winning entries can be seen online at [www.lightspacetime.com/seasons-art-exhibition-painting-other-media/](http://www.lightspacetime.com/seasons-art-exhibition-painting-other-media/) throughout the month of January. Thereafter it can be seen in the archive section of the Light Space and Time website.

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# The Registrar

I do hope everyone enjoyed their festive celebrations. At the Registration Office we had celebrations of a different sort over the holiday period as, while some weddings continued into the winter out and about, it was Registry Office weddings with local couples that dominated the season! These began in November with the marriage of Aberfoyle Couple, George Fell to Jennifer Allen; although our next wedding saw Duncan MacDonald and Corinne Moore travel from Johnstone, the local theme then continued when Hailey Brogan and Jackson Ward were married on Christmas Eve; to conclude when Kinlochard couple Robert Thomson and Paula Young were married just a day or two before the year's end! I had a fantastic time and would like to offer my congratulations to all couples married in our area throughout 2014!

The year 2014 also saw two more babies being registered before it's end. In November a baby girl, Emily Catherine McLean, to the delight of Kinlochard parents Laura and Stuart; while just a short while later Aberfoyle parents, Claire and Paul, welcomed their baby son Cody George Lambert! Welcome, babies!

As we await the registration, in the area, of the first birth and the first marriage of 2015, sadly I have had to record the death of Aberfoyle resident Maureen Muir, who many will have regularly met, particularly in the company of her son. I would like to join with others in offering my condolences to Trevor and his family, upon their sad loss.

When next I write, the days will be longer and, hopefully, a wee bit warmer. Meantime, Aberfoyle Registration Office continues to be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am until 12 noon. Appointments can be made by telephone [01877 382 986] or by email [regaberfoyle@stirling.gov.uk], and I will look forward to assisting you in every way that I can.

Sharon Johnston Registrar



# Strathard News

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## Deadline Dates 2015

Issue 88	41 January
Issue 89	8 March (Easter)
Issue 90	17 May
Issue 91	19 July
Issue 92	20 September
Issue 93	15 November (xmas)

An email reminder is sent out one week prior to the deadline date. If you would like to be added to the list, please send your details to editor@strathardnews.com

## Sponsorship

The cost of sponsoring is £150, if you would like to sponsor us please get in touch soon. The Easter issue is always popular so to avoid disappointment book it now! We publish six issues per year.

## Advertising

When you place an advert with the Strathard News, we will continue to run it unless you stop or replace it. To place or cancel an advert, please contact Margaret Hill. To amend existing advert, please contact Marion Back.

www.strathardnews.com



# Editorial

Happy New Year! Strathard News has seen another slight change in the team. Mairi Buchanan is now a proud mother of Beth, who was born in early January. We wish her all the best and we'd like to thank Mairi for her hard work on the committee and as Editor last year. I've volunteered to be Editor this year, after having joined the team last September. Thank you to those who have contributed to this edition, and to those who have advertised and sponsored. If you'd like to try your hand at writing a few articles or stories, or offer support to the running of the Strathard News please get in touch.

Lucy



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## Make 2015 your year of change

Police Scotland is calling on people across the country to take on a new career in the new year as a police officer. Since Police Scotland's creation in April 2013, more than 1,300 people have joined the force as officers.

Anyone aged 17 and a half can apply to join Police Scotland as an officer, subject to satisfying eligibility criteria.

The force is especially keen to recruit women, members of the LGBT community, people from ethnic minorities, school leavers & graduates, and mature recruits, who may be looking for a career change, or to give their time as special constables.

Deputy Chief Constable Neil Richardson said: "Police Scotland offers a varied, and rewarding career for people committed to making a difference and keeping people safe.

"Working as a police officer can be challenging, but Police Scotland provides first-class training which equips new recruits with the skills to carry out a job like no other.

"Whether it's solving a crime, reassuring a vulnerable member of the public or providing vital crime prevention advice, the focus for any officer is to keep people safe in the communities we serve. If this sounds like a career for you, apply to train as a police officer – it's a career which is second to none."

Police Scotland Recruitment Manager Lesley Thomson said: "Police Scotland wants to recruit people who will make a difference, challenge themselves, learn new skills and help keep people safe.

"Once you've completed your probationary training, and gained experience as a Constable, there are many varied career paths available. As a front line officer, every day will bring new and unique challenges.

"We've had an exceptionally positive response from those who have attended our recent information evenings, and more dates are being planned for early February. If you'd like to come along and find out more, and talk to the recruiting team, more details will be on the events page of our website soon."

[www.scotland.police.uk/recruitment/police-officers/how-to-apply/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/recruitment/police-officers/how-to-apply/)

### Trossachs and Teith

Our team covers the communities of Balquidder, Lochearnhead and Strathyre, Callander, Gartmore, Killin, Kilmadock, Doune and Deanston, Port of Menteith, Strathard and Aberfoyle, Strathfillan and Crianlarich, Trossachs, Thornhill and Blairdrummond.

### Policing Team

Sgts Anne-Marie Carter and David Solair work from Callander Police Office. Adrian Robertson manages Community Policing and events. Adrian is also based at Callander and covers your area as well as Forth and Endrick Multi member Ward.

Your team of Community officers provides 24 hour response and Community Policing. Whilst all work together as a team covering the whole ward area, The individual officers have a specific focus on particular Community areas:

**Callander:** Constables Gemma Kane; Neil MacLaren; Graham Rattray; Shonagh McKie and Tracy Diamond

**Doune/Deanston:** Constables Donald King; Kenny Thomson; Robert Shearer; Alastair MacKay and Martin Mooney

**Aberfoyle:** Constables Steven MacLean; Neil MacLaren; Julie Todd; Alastair MacKay and Martin Mooney

**Lochearnhead:** Constable Will Diamond

**Killin:** Constables Iona Frickleton and Andrew Fleming

**Crianlarich:** Constable Craig Murray

**Police Scotland**  

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## Rt Hon Anne McGuire DBE MP

The recent horrific terrorist attack in Paris reminds us once again of the terrible threat that terrorism can pose to our

safety, our freedoms and our way of life. It also reminds us of the vital role that our security services and police play, often at great personal risk, in tackling this growing threat.

With 312,000 households in Scotland currently living in the private rented sector (13 percent of all households) and with the number of families living in the private rented sector more than doubling in the last 10 years, I am pleased to support Shelter Scotland's campaign which calls for stability for people wanting to make rented housing their home; flexibility for people to stay in their home as long as they want to; flexible modern tenancies tenants and landlords; fair system for sorting out renting problems when they occur and predictable rents for tenants and landlords. You can find more information on their campaign on their website [www.shelterscotland.org/makerentingright](http://www.shelterscotland.org/makerentingright)

Many of you who live in the more rural parts of Stirling will no doubt have welcomed the drip in fuel prices. However, in the case of home energy prices, the big utility companies and indeed the smaller ones are never as quick to respond to the fall in wholesale prices as they are when they rise and that's why I will be voting in Parliament to give Ofgem the power to force energy companies to respond more quickly and in doing so, help hard pressed household budgets.

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting Town Break which has been supporting people with dementia, their carers and families to help them to live within their communities since 1992. The charity is currently seeking new Trustees with skills and experience in human resources, marketing and fundraising and

would welcome enquiries from those who could offer those skills. You can find out more about their work and their day clubs in Stirling and Callander at [www.townbreakstirling.org.uk](http://www.townbreakstirling.org.uk) or at 01786 447787.

I have heard the loss of the Aberfoyle Medical Centre's dispensing service described as "tragic" by one of the many constituents who have approached me to voice their concerns throughout the long drawn-out battles there, as well as in other rural communities affected by pharmacy applications. Similar "successful" pharmacy applications in Killin and Drymen have had drastic consequences for the health service provision in those communities, and even as I write Aberfoyle area is beginning to feel the pinch at the loss of access to services that income from dispensing brought to the medical practice.

As a direct consequence of the decision to permit a dispensing licence to a private operator, some staff at the medical centre in Aberfoyle have had their hours cut by a third, and opening hours have had to be reduced by four half days each week.

As one local constituent said to me: "The system we had wasn't broken and didn't need fixing. It IS broken now - what is left of it."

I am concerned that despite numerous appeals from service users locally, no consideration has been given to looking again at the original decision. Both my colleague Dr Richard Simpson MSP and I shall continue to explore ways of seeing what can be done to address these very real concerns of constituents in the area who feel they have not been listened to and their concerns given due consideration.

I can be contacted at my office at 22 Viewfield Street, Stirling, FK8 1UA, tel: 01786 446515, [anne.mcguire.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anne.mcguire.mp@parliament.uk) or at [www.annemcguiremp.org.uk](http://www.annemcguiremp.org.uk) or follow me on Twitter @AnneMcGuireMP



## Bruce Crawford MSP

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING BILL WELCOMED

The Scottish Government announced last year that a Human Trafficking Bill would be introduced to strengthen the criminal law against trafficking and enhance the rights of victims, and the bill was introduced to Parliament in December.

The new legislation, which was welcomed by parties across the parliament chamber, will require the creation of a Scottish Anti-Trafficking Strategy, and give statutory responsibility to relevant agencies to work with the Scottish Government to develop and review that strategy. It will also consolidate and strengthen existing criminal law against human trafficking, and enhance the status of and support for the victims of trafficking.

There is a widespread recognition that human trafficking can have a significant physical, emotional and psychological impact on victims. Survivors can remain highly vulnerable and are often disconnected from both family and support services.

The Bill will ensure the rights of trafficked victims to access support and assistance by placing a duty on the Ministers to secure the provision of immediate support and recovery services for adult victims of trafficking. It will list the types of services that will be provided as a minimum but it will allow Ministers to ensure the provisions of any support they think is necessary based on the victim's needs.

I hope that these proposals will strengthen the existing criminal law against human trafficking and the offence relating to slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. There are already a number of offences relating to human trafficking and exploitation and both the police and prosecutors have an obligation to investigate and prosecute these crimes to ensure that those who perpetrate such appalling abuses receive the justice their crimes deserve.

# 19 Artists. 10 Countries. 1 Village Hall.

It was on October 7th at 6:21pm that I first sent an email to the Kinlochard Village Hall from the confines of my studio on Hill Street in Glasgow. I had only just moved to Glasgow three weeks prior where I have chosen to spend the next two years studying on the Postgraduate Master of Fine Arts course at Glasgow School of Art.

Almost immediately I received a reply back from the village hall from Katy Lamb who's continued commitment, enthusiasm and willingness over the next two months led to the proposed exhibitions success and for that once again I want to say a huge thank you on behalf of myself and everybody who participated and came to see the exhibition. Thank you Katy!

As for the exhibition itself, it just so happened that while in the studio I was looking at a map of Scotland that I remembered a trip that my partner and I had been on a year previous where, while searching for a short cut and multiple wrong turns we ended up, by chance, in Kinlochard. After a moments frustration at our lack of mobile signal in the village we left the car for it and ourselves to cool down, finding ourselves instead at The Wee Blether Tea Rooms. From then on the village stayed with me and on trying to find a location for the exhibition, I always had a set idea where I would ideally like it to be staged.

The original intent behind the idea was to create a contemporary art exhibition outside the city of Glasgow, away from many of the institutions normally associated with the staging of such exhibitions. With this I then hoped to find a location where the artists would have to respond to the shift in context presented to them and creating work within these new, imposed limits and in turn allowing the artists to build their own individual relationship with the location and creating their own unique a response to Kinlochard.

What actually happened though, by far surpassed any of my expectations both from the artists participating and the residents of Kinlochard who made this, well and truly a collaborative exhibition.

It was strange to see everything start to take shape on the day of the exhibition. After a 30 mile drive with a canoe tied to the roof. Works I had never seen but only spoke about began to materialize in front of me and by the time the set-up was complete, everything everyone had spoke to me about throughout the past two months began to make sense. So as I walked around during the evening of the private view I thought, for the first time ever with an exhibition I've been involved with - I wouldn't change a thing.

There were some rough corners - marked boards, areas totally missing paint to name but a few! But even these, they became 'it' for me - part of the exhibition. It could have been a freshly painted white board, delivered straight in - instead we had boards that carry the scars of the journey and the miscommunication in their painted completeness. I guess it was to do with the process we had all become part of and now's its been revealed...

I don't think we ever wanted to replicate the white cube of a gallery, instead what we did with the space and the work, I feel, was to actually embrace the area, the community, the history and the dislocation between us.

To everybody who took part in, came to or contributed to the exhibition and the people of Kinlochard - I cannot tell you how much your participation has leant to the overall success of the exhibition and I just want to say thank you again because without you, none of this would have been possible in the first place.



## PLANNING TO USE GOOGLE CHROME ON A NEW WINDOWS PC? – TAKE CARE!

If you've just bought a new Windows 8 computer, and intend to use Google Chrome, take care how you install it. Out of the box, Windows uses Bing as its search engine and Internet Explorer as its web browser. So if you simply start Internet Explorer and type in Chrome, it will search for matches using Bing. In common with many browsers, the first few results, or in the case of Bing quite a few results, are actually paid-for adverts, and in this case the top results are NOT the real Google download site. They take you to sites that will also download unwanted advertising robots.

The solution is to type in the full web address i.e. [www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk) which will take you directly to the genuine Google site from which you can download Chrome without any unintended extras! Personally, I use Google in preference to other search providers as the vast majority of people use Google now, in contrast with Yahoo, Ask or Bing for example, so the results returned from a search reflect what that majority search for and the sites they choose to pursue. I would also set [www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk) as the normal search engine in preference to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) as the former will slant results towards UK, rather than US, websites.

If you have been caught out by this issue, and not made many other changes, my preference would be to restore back to the factory image if possible, and come forward again, rather than trying to undo specifically what has been installed. It can be hard to find all the pieces that have been unintentionally installed. By going back to the factory image you can be sure of what is installed.

Doug Ashworth  
Ashworth Computing Services Ltd  
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## VOLUNTEERING IN THE GREAT TROSSACHS FOREST

We have a number of new volunteering opportunities for 2015. The first two that we are recruiting is a promotional marketing internship and Glen Finglas Gateway volunteer ranger.

In the internship role you will be helping us create and deliver promotional materials for The Great Trossachs Path and is a time commitment of a couple of days a week for three months.

For the Glen Finglas Gateway Volunteer Ranger we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to occasionally staff the Gateway Centre and to meet and engage with visitors to the site (mostly weekends).

If you are interested in either position, please call the office for more information 01877 376340 or see the volunteering section of the Woodland Trust website

## Loch Ard Local History Group



### "The Maid of the Loch" Wednesday, 4th February.

John Beveridge, Founder of The Loch Lomond Steamship Company, tells the story of the long campaign to restore this historic vessel to service.



### "The Dead Centre of Aberfoyle" Wednesday, 4th March

John D MacGregor  
John recounts his family connections to this area.

Meetings 7.30pm Kinlochard Village Hall  
Annual Membership £10. Single Talk £3  
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Secretary: Alan Cooper  
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Thank you

The doctors and staff at Aberfoyle Medical Centre would like to thank the patients for all their kind Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes. Also a very big thank you to everybody who has supported the surgery during 2014. Finally can we wish all our patients a happy and healthy 2015.



**Walk in the Park – Aberfoyle**

**Looking Back** – At the end of 2014 we celebrated with a delicious Christmas meal served

by the wonderful staff of the Forth Inn. We enjoyed the company of the other walkers who take part in the main walk on a Monday morning and the Strength and Balance sessions on a Monday afternoon. A big thank you to the staff at the Forth Inn and to all the walkers for making this event so special.

Earlier in December, the group also had a walk and a get together at Gartmore House. The photo of the group taken around the Christmas tree was taken by Cathy.

**Looking Forward** – After a wee break over the festive period the walking group and the Strength and Balance sessions have now started up again. Weather permitting, we will continue with the schedule during February and March looking forward to the better weather in the Spring and Summer when we hope to include in our programme, outings, picnics, special walks and events. Information about these will be given in the Strathard News so we will keep you posted on this page.



Walk in the Park offers Health Walks in and around the village which are led by trained volunteer walk leaders and are on flat paths and good walking surfaces. Walks take place on a Monday morning, meeting at 10.20am at the Scottish Wool Centre Car Park. All of our sessions and walks are free of charge although walkers pay for their own refreshments at the Forth Inn or the Lodge Forest Visitor Centre. Walks last from 30 -45 minutes. Just turn up and join in.

A Strength and Balance exercise session takes place most Mondays at 12.30pm in the Forth Inn for 30minutes. These sessions are most suited to older adults and are very gentle exercises mostly done from a seated position or standing behind a chair. Please contact Cathy to confirm on the day before coming along and its best to check with your GP or physiotherapist if you have a health condition before taking part in the session.

If you have any questions regarding joining any of our walks or exercise sessions please contact the Project Coordinator- Cathy Scott on 01877 330055 or email: [cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

**Health Walk Schedule – Aberfoyle**

**Feb - March 2015**

Walks take place on Monday morning

Meeting at 10.20am

Date	Meeting Place	Route
2/2/15	Wool Centre Car Park (car share)	Lochan Spring (Duchray Castle road)
9/2/15	Wool Centre Car Park	NCR 7 To Rob Roy
16/2/15	Wool Centre Car Park (car share)	The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre Waterfall Trailor Green Trail
23/2/15	Wool Centre Car Park (car share)	Loch Ruskie
2/3/15	Wool Centre Car Park (car share)	Gartmore House
9/3/15	Wool Centre Car Park (car share)	Milton Car Park to Craigneuk Cottage
16/3/15	Wool Centre Car Park	NCR 7 To Rob Roy
23/3/15	Wool Centre Car Park (car share)	The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre Waterfall Trail
30/3/15	Wool Centre Car Park (car share)	Lemahamish



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# KNOW WHO TO TURN TO WHEN YOU ARE ILL

When you need advice about health or you are feeling unwell, it's important to know who to turn to. There is a wide range of NHS services available across Forth Valley to help you choose the right service. Remember that accident and emergency services are for people who are seriously ill and need of emergency care. In many cases, your local pharmacist, GP, dentist or minor injuries unit will be able to provide advice and treatment.



## Know where to go

Doctor's Telephone Number:  
Dentist's Telephone Number:

This guide will help you choose the right place to go to when you're unwell or injured.  
You can find out more about local health services at [www.nhsforthvalley.com/health-services](http://www.nhsforthvalley.com/health-services)

Community Pharmacies/Chemists	Your General Practitioner –GP (family doctor)	Out of hours/ NHS 24	Dental Services	Minor Injuries Unit (MIU)	Emergency Department (A&E) 999
<p>Pharmacists /chemists offer expert advice on healthcare and medicines. You <b>don't</b> need to make an appointment.</p> <p>The Pharmacy Minor Ailments Service can help you with conditions such as coughs, colds and sore throats.</p> <p>They also offer people who <b>don't pay</b> for their prescriptions free advice and treatment for many common illnesses.</p> <p>To qualify you must be registered with a <b>GP</b> in Scotland, and not as a temporary resident or a resident in a care home.</p> <p>Some chemists also provide advice and support about stopping smoking, diet, blood pressure etc.</p> <p>If you do run out of your <b>prescribed</b> medicine the pharmacy may be able to give you an urgent supply or refer you to your local NHS Out of Hours service.</p>	<p>When you have an illness or injury that just won't go away or is getting worse, make an appointment to see your GP or a member of the practice team.</p> <p>This could be tummy pain, backache, depression, anxiety or long term condition such as diabetes or asthma.</p> <p>If you tell the receptionist you require an urgent appointment you will normally be seen on the same or next day.</p> <p>Your GP will assess your health and may offer advice, information, prescriptions and provide ongoing care. Your GP can also refer you to a specialist, if required.</p>	<p>When your usual services are closed and you're too ill to wait until they re-open, you can call NHS 24 on <b>111</b> or <b>Textphone: 18001 111</b> (open 6pm – 8am and weekends and public holidays).</p> <p>NHS 24 use Language Line for people whose first language is not English:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call NHS 24 on <b>111</b></li> <li>2. tell the call handler that you need an interpreter</li> <li>3. tell the call handler the name of your preferred language</li> </ol>	<p>Toothache, sensitivity to hot or cold, or a dull ache can usually be helped by pain relief from your pharmacy until your dentist is able to see you.</p> <p>Contact your dentist for an appointment.</p> <p>If symptoms worsen phone NHS 24.</p> <p><b>Unregistered dental patients</b> can get help and advice Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm by contacting the Forth Valley Dental Helpline on <b>0844 800 6886</b>.</p>	<p>The Minor Injuries Unit treats adults and children over one year of age for minor injuries, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minor burns</li> <li>• infected wounds</li> <li>• sprains and strains</li> <li>• minor eye, ear, head or neck injuries</li> </ul> <p>They can also arrange X-rays for suspected broken bones and apply plaster.</p> <p>Children <b>under one</b> should be taken to the Emergency Department at Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert.</p> <p>The MIU is at <b>Stirling Community Hospital</b> and is open from <b>9am to 9pm, Monday - Sunday</b>. Tel: 01786 434036 (No appointment needed).</p>	<p>Calling <b>999</b> or attending the <b>Emergency Department</b> should <b>only</b> be used for serious illnesses or injuries, such as suspected stroke, heart attack or collapse.</p> <p>The <b>Emergency Department</b> is at Forth Valley Royal Hospital (Stirling Road, Larbert, FK5 4WR).</p> <p>It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p> <p>Please <b>do not</b> use the Emergency Department for conditions that should be seen by your GP practice, pharmacist or minor injury service.</p>

## Looking After Yourself

Sore throats and coughs, cold and flu symptoms, minor cuts and grazes...

Looking after yourself is often the best option for a speedy recovery. Keeping your medicine cabinet well stocked means you can have the right treatment immediately. This could include:

- Medicines which provide pain relief and reduce high temperature e.g. paracetamol
- Medicine for indigestion relief e.g. antacid
- Cough and cold remedies
- Plasters and antiseptic for minor cuts and grazes

Your pharmacist would be able to advise you on this. Some medicines can be bought 24 hours a day from supermarkets, petrol stations and local shops.

If you have a long term condition, a condition that requires ongoing medication, you will stay healthier if you get to understand your condition better and know what to do if your symptoms worsen. Take your medication regularly and make the changes to your lifestyle that have been advised.

For children's illnesses talk to your Health Visitor or visit the Ready Steady Baby! website for advice or ask your GP for 'When should I worry?' – your guide to coughs, colds, earache and sore throats. If your symptoms get worse or persist you should seek further advice from your pharmacist, GP or NHS 24 phone: 111.

### Did You Know?

Many people go to Accident and Emergency departments each year unnecessarily with minor ailments and injuries which could be treated at home.

NHS Inform – the new national health information service for Scotland contains a wide range of health information and advice, including information on long term conditions. My Condition, My Life ([www.myconditionmylife.org](http://www.myconditionmylife.org)) is a new national self management website which contains advice, information and support for people living with a long term condition.

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# Strathard Community Council

## Seniors Christmas Dinner – Thank You

Our thanks to all those who helped make this annual event such a success – those who attend really appreciate the evening. We do rely on the support of many sponsors to run the dinner, all of whom we gratefully thank, and special mention for their valuable contributions are due to: Forest Hills Hotel for hosting the evening, providing a delicious meal and making the event possible, Trossachs Cab Company for transport, The Kinlochard Ceilidh Band for providing music and entertainment and the young members of Callander & District Pipe Band. Also our thanks to the many local businesses and people who made donations or contributions of prizes for our raffle, which is one of the highlights of the evening, and which allows us to provide gifts to the oldest members of our community. We also appreciate the efforts of all those who help organise and erect the community Christmas trees and lights.



## Right of Way Investigation:

### B829 Lochard Road to A821 Trossachs Road

As covered in the last edition we are carrying out a survey to help decide if there is a public right of way through this land beside the Craigmore Centre onto the Forestry paths. Anyone using this path is encouraged to contribute feedback without delay as we will be sending the paperwork off soon. Copies of the Questionnaire are available from Aberfoyle PO.

## Bruach Hydro Scheme

This active planning application is of particular interest to the local community in that Strathard could receive a financial benefit from it in the future, to varying degrees depending on whether the community progresses an option to invest in the scheme. This possibility will be considered by Strathard Community Council & Strathard Community Trust and local feedback on the hydro scheme would be very welcome, either to ourselves or where applicable sent into National Park Planning. We would also be keen to identify local residents who may have relevant expertise regarding such hydro schemes.

The scheme is located on Forestry land, and the HGV access during construction would be via Hoish.

## Community Information

- Our website is [www.strathard.org.uk](http://www.strathard.org.uk), and can be accessed in Aberfoyle Post Office.
- We send out e-mailings on matters of general community interest. You can sign up for these e-mailings by contacting us via the website.
- Information is also placed on our 4 community noticeboards.

The names of your Community Councillors are shown below – please do get in touch with them on any relevant matter if you would like our help.

Fiona

Strathard Community Council meets at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month, alternating between Aberfoyle, Kinlochard and Inversnaid. The next meetings will be held at Ledard Farm, Kinlochard on 5th February and Inversnaid Hotel on 5th March. Half an hour prior to our meetings a local Stirling Councillor (Martin Earl, Alycia Hayes or Fergus Wood) normally will hold a surgery for residents who wish to raise issues or concerns. If you are planning to come to one of these surgeries we suggest you check noticeboards or our website in advance, since there are sometimes dates when Councillors cannot attend.

## Community Councillors by Ward

### Aberfoyle

John Clow (vice-chair)  
Michelle Colquhoun  
Ros Dingwall (secretary)  
Jimmy Quinn  
Geraint Short  
1 vacancy

### Kinlochard

Fiona McEwan (chair)  
Colin Smith (treasurer)  
Stuart Stephen

### Stronachlachar

Ralph Wolfe

### Inversnaid

Andre Goulancourt

Contact details:  
Tel 01877 387200  
cc@strathard.org.uk  
www.strathard.org.uk



## Letters.....

Got something to say? Post to Strathard News, Innis Ard, Manse Road, Aberfoyle FK8 3XF. Email [editor@strathardnews.com](mailto:editor@strathardnews.com) or hand in to Aberfoyle Post Office. We want to hear from you!

Dear Editor,

I have enjoyed reading your wonderful Strathard News magazine. We spend quite a lot of time at Aberfoyle, dog sitting for friends and also now our daughter & husband & boys will be caravanning all year at Cobleland, as we did 30 years ago. Isn't it strange how life becomes a circle. So I would like to transfer our subscription to our daughter, Lynne. Perhaps we might add a wee story or article sometime.

Monique Hainsworth

## Voter Registration has changed X

The UK Parliamentary election is less than 6 months away. (It will take place on 7th May 2015)

Pete Wildman, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is reminding any new elector or anyone who has moved address recently and who hasn't yet applied to register that they should do now. As it is now an individual registration system you will need to supply your name, address, date of birth and National Insurance Number when registering.

Registering to vote is now available online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) making it quicker and easier.

A Household Enquiry Form (HEF) and reminders have been posted to addresses where no-one is registered to vote or where forms haven't been returned since 2012. Anyone still to return a form should do so now as visits by members of staff will take place from January to each address.

The new Register of Electors will be published on 27th February and it's important that as many eligible electors are included as possible

Anyone who wants to vote by post at the next election can apply now and application forms are available to download from [www.saa.gov.uk/central](http://www.saa.gov.uk/central) or can be collected in your local library. More information on the changes is available at [www.gov.uk/yourvotematters](http://www.gov.uk/yourvotematters).

## Elected Councillors Ward 1 Trossachs & Teith



Councillor Martin Earl, Conservative.  
Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET,  
tel - 01786 443497, mob - 07881 310 922,  
e-mail [earlm@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:earlm@stirling.gov.uk)



Councillor Alycia Hayes, SNP  
Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET,  
tel - 01786 443497, mob - 07881 310 924,  
e-mail [hayesa@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:hayesa@stirling.gov.uk)



Councillor Fergus Wood, SNP  
Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET,  
tel - 01786 443497, mob - 07824 496 019,  
e-mail [woodf@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:woodf@stirling.gov.uk)

# National Park News

By Owen McKee

Oh what a stooshie! As the response deadline for the consultation to Your Park approached The Sunday Herald featured the submission of Kevin Findlater who had, of course, been heavily involved in the East Loch Lomond Management Plan and Byelaws when he was a Chief Inspector at the then Central Scotland Police. Perspectives can change and Kevin's certainly has. From being highly supportive of and indeed initiating controls, he now feels that the proposed measures are draconian and totally unnecessary, with a few unsavoury incidents being used to highlight a non-existent problem. I suppose that opportunity to look at things afresh re-inforces the wisdom of having a consultation. Our task now is to look at all the submissions, including Kevin's, and consider what adjustments to the proposals are necessary for the benefit of The Park, our residents and our visitors. My own experience is that the Park Communities are largely supportive of the proposals but do want to ensure that provisions are in place so that those who camp responsibly are afforded the opportunity to do so. There is a feeling that we should ensure that the anti-social minority should not be allowed to restrict the enjoyment of the vast majority of those wishing to spend time in our National Park. It is going to be an interesting review. And leading that review will be our new Chief Executive Officer, Gordon Watson. Gordon will be known to many of you as he has served the Park since 2002 when he became our first Director of Planning. I am delighted that Gordon came through a very stiff challenge from a strong list of highly qualified candidates and I am sure that he will prove a highly successful Chief Executive. What did surprise me was that there were very few candidates from a National Park background. This is particularly surprising since National Parks in England and Wales have suffered considerably more severe cuts to their funding than we have in Scotland.

Running alongside the statutory consultation on the byelaw was the consultation on the areas in which the provision of camping facilities would be encouraged. Whereas the consultation period is now closed and any further submission on the byelaw would be disregarded the Park Authority will still consider any request from landowners on the provision of camp sites. So if you do have some land which could fit the bill do please get in touch.

While we are still in the grip of winter one is always wary of looking forward too eagerly to spring and summer but with 2014 having been so full of special events attracting new visitors to the area we have to be hopeful that some will return to spend time, and money, so necessary to sustain our business community. Let's all hope that we are in a weather cycle which produces another reasonable summer. We can but hope.

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,  
Lochearnhead

Phone: 01567 830214

email: owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk



## Urban Deer Photography Competition

To celebrate one of Scotland's most renowned and beloved animals, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) launched a free photo contest on 19 December – Scotland's first Urban Deer Photography Competition. More and more deer are moving into urban areas, as new green spaces and woodlands are created in the Central Belt and in towns and cities across the country. This means many more people in Scotland are enjoying seeing wild deer – and have the chance to take some stunning pictures.



There are two types of native deer in Scotland - red deer and roe deer. The majestic red deer is our largest terrestrial mammal, and one of the most impressive wildlife spectacles of Scotland. In contrast, the striking and delicate roe deer is found throughout mainland Scotland wherever there is a tiny patch of cover where they can hide by day. Roe deer are increasingly being seen in towns and cities, with some now even living close to the centre of Glasgow. Fallow and sika deer have also been introduced to Scotland through deliberate releases and escapes from country parks.

There are two great prizes, the first being a day accompanying the Wildlife Operations Unit on a helicopter deer count over a part of the red deer range. The winner will have much opportunity to photograph some of Scotland's most scenic areas from the sky! The runner up will be treated to a day of photography tuition with resident SNH photographer, Lorne Gill. Lorne is a widely respected photographer and will tailor the day to suit. The closing date for entries is 1 March, 2015. Submit photos of deer in urban settings to [urbandeerphotocomp@snh.gov.uk](mailto:urbandeerphotocomp@snh.gov.uk). A maximum of three photos per person will be accepted.

For full contest rules, see [www.snh.gov.uk/enjoying-the-outdoors/deer-photo-competition/](http://www.snh.gov.uk/enjoying-the-outdoors/deer-photo-competition/). Wild deer are a huge asset to Scotland; they are one of Scotland's most iconic species, and play an important part in our rural economy and culture, as well as being an important part of the country's biodiversity.

For full contest rules, see [www.snh.gov.uk/enjoying-the-outdoors/deer-photo-competition/](http://www.snh.gov.uk/enjoying-the-outdoors/deer-photo-competition/). Wild deer are a huge asset to Scotland; they are one of Scotland's most iconic species, and play an important part in our rural economy and culture, as well as being an important part of the country's biodiversity.

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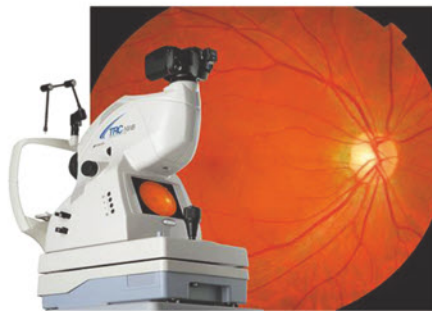
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# The Great Trossachs Forest

## A Great Week- coming soon

The partners of The Great Trossachs Forest are planning a week of events in April to celebrate the opening of our new Visitor Gateways at Glen Finglas and Inversnaid, and The Great Trossachs Path. During the week of April 11th to April 18th a host of activities will be held at various locations within The Great Trossachs Forest and we would love you to be involved, or come along and support others. The programme is still being finalised but already confirmed are the following:

### Saturday 11th April - The Great Tartan Skidaddle.

Take part in either an ultra-marathon, a duathlon or a walking challenge from Inversnaid to Callander. This event is run in association with Skidaddle. Booking is via [www.skidaddle.org](http://www.skidaddle.org)

### Sunday 12th April - The Great Egg Assault Course

Take part in a fun adventure making equipment to help your egg survive the assault in Little Druim Wood

### Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th April - Walk in the Park

A gentle stroll in The Great Trossachs Forest

### Tuesday 14th April - RSPB Nature Cruise with Cruise Loch Lomond

Departing from Tarbet, take a cruise with Cruise Loch Lomond and RSPB, along with a walk on the Inversnaid nature trail to spot wildlife

### Wednesday 15th April - Ramble with the Ramblers

Join Callander Ramblers on a walk from Bochart to the Trossachs Pier

### Thursday 16th April - Family event at Glen Finglas

More details to follow

### Saturday 18th April - Loop o' the Loch

Take part in either the loopy cycle, the loopy run or the loopy duathlon around Loch Venachar. This event is run in association with Skidaddle. Booking is via [www.skidaddle.org](http://www.skidaddle.org)

More details of these events, plus more as they are confirmed can be found on our website in the next few weeks- [www.thegreattrossachsforest.co.uk](http://www.thegreattrossachsforest.co.uk). We would love to see you at an event - or cheering along some crazy athletes.

*The Great Trossachs Forest is one of the most significant woodland regeneration projects to take place in the UK for a generation. It covers 16,500 hectares, an area the size of Glasgow, between Loch Lomond and Callander in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. The Great Trossachs Forest is a partnership project between Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB Scotland, and the Woodland Trust Scotland.*



## Do you need an affordable home ?

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

We currently have over 550 rented houses and flats. Around 50 of these become available for rent each year. We hope to have new properties in Strathblane and Balmaha soon and currently have properties in the following communities

Aberfoyle	Deanston	Gartmore	Lochearnhead
Balfroun	Doone	Killin	Strathyre
Buchlyvie	Drymen	Kinlochard	Stronachlachar
Callander	Gargunnoch	Kippen	Tyndrum

We may be able to build in other communities in the future – please let us know to if you want to live in a village that is not listed above. Information on local housing need and demand helps us plan for the future.

If you are interested in renting one of our properties when they become available please contact us:

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

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# An Aberfoyle Tale

By David Wilkie & Jimmy Ferguson

It was supposed to be the War to end all Wars.

As we now know, of course, it would prove to be inconclusive, as a mere three decades later a far more sinister aspect was introduced in terms of the ongoing conflicts. Clearly, in both predicaments, our liberty and very way of life were placed at serious risk, as the threat of the German advances became ever closer to reality. In the First World War, in particular, the clamour to be involved which existed at the time included a great number of the upper class, who would assume their place in the higher positions, and affect their principles, through geniality. By protocol, they would inevitably prove to be high on the list when it came time to handing out the medals and accommodations. In stark contrast, the conscripted rank and file were invariably considered to be nothing more than statistics in the scheme of things. This, in spite of unstinting courage shown in the face of overwhelming odds and demands proffered upon them amidst atrocious conditions in the front line.

Sadly, many of the dead were interned in unmarked graves close to where they fell. Of the overall damning statistics, in terms of lives lost, the nine million in total included over a hundred and forty thousand Scots, who paid the ultimate price for their loyalty. It was a global War, of and against people. It was also a War of innovation, and production. Ultimately, though, it was a War of destruction, which would forever alter the world's social and political landscape. Amidst the devastation, there was always likely to be a story or two to tell, only a few of which would be realised in the course of time.

## John Ferguson.

### Second Lieutenant, 4th Battalion Cameronians.

The Ferguson name has long been associated with distinction in the history of the village. It should come as no surprise, therefore, to learn of an individual with enormous potential in a sporting sense, who committed to the cause, only to eventually fall amid murderous machine-gun fire during an assault on a German trench in the first Battle of the Somme.

The tale of Aberfoyle raised, and Edinburgh University educated student John becomes ever more interesting upon learning of his exceptional skills as a footballer. Indeed, in the year prior to the outbreak of the First World War,

he was courted by Glasgow Rangers, Newcastle United and Heart of Midlothian. There was also talk of eventual international honours. Tragically, like countless others, his potential was never realised, upon making the decision to enlist with the Scottish Rifles, with the inevitable outcome being his body was not even recovered from the carnage that marked the mass slaughter which took place in the killing fields of Picardy, France, in 1916.

### The Rifles Volunteers Cup.

During his early years, John signed to play for Third Lanark, who played at Cathkin Park, which lies close to Hampden Stadium in Glasgow, from St. Bernard's, who were located in Edinburgh. Both clubs, formed from the volunteer Territorial Army, were instrumental in the formation of what would we recognise today as the Scottish Football League, but are currently reduced to amateur status. Indeed, their illustrious history records the facts that the Saints actually won the Scottish Cup in 1895, whilst Thirds proceeded to emulate this on two occasions, in 1889, and 1905, with a league title success in 1904 sandwiched by the two achievements. A home and away-based fixture was suggested a few

years ago to compete for a trophy to recognise their unique contribution to the history of the game. Third Lanark won the ties, 3-2 in 2011, and a far more comfortable 10-0 in 2012 - the poignancy of the occasions as marked as the heroism shown by many tens of thousands cut down in their prime at The Somme.



# Aberfoyle Primary School

## Primary 1 and Nursery Nativity 'Humph the camel'

On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of December, P1 and Nursery performed a nativity called 'Humph the Camel' about a camel that never says anything apart from 'humph'. The children learned and sang different songs during the performance and all the parents and members of the community really enjoyed the show.



## Eco Shopper Bags

The children designed an eco-shopper bag in December to raise funds for the school. The children drew their own pictures for the bag on the theme of 'Aberfoyle and surrounding areas'. The heavy duty bag is 100% cotton and it is still on sale for £5, available from the school office. The Post Office, Co-op, Guyana and Woollen Mill.



## Cinderella at the Memorial Hall

Children from nursery to primary 7 thoroughly enjoyed watching the pantomime of 'Cinderella' which was organised by the Parent Council on Tuesday 2nd December. Thank you to Hopscotch theatre for a fantastic performance!

## P6/7 News

The children in P6/7 have started their new topic, Natural Disasters. Every week, they are going to learn about a different disaster, and every Friday, two children will show a project to the class about the Natural disaster of that week. Also, every Thursday, P6/7 will spend the morning in the woods, doing different outdoor learning activities. For P.E., their new topic is Gymnastics, and the children are really enjoying it. They get to use the apparatus, the vault, and the beam.



## Primary 1 News

This term our topic is 'Katie Morag'. We love reading her stories by Mairi Hedderwick and we are learning about living on the Isle of Struay. We located Aberfoyle on a map of Scotland and we located the Isle of Coll (Isle of Struay is based on this island), finding out that it would take over 6 hours to get there by driving to Oban and then getting on a ferry. Miss Brown has also arranged for Primary 1 to write to pupils who attend Arinagour school on the Isle of Coll which is exciting, and we will also get to design and make our own island as well.



## Primary 2/3 News

Primary 2/3's topic this term is 'Rainforests'. We are all looking forward to learning about the birds in the rainforest and sharing what we learn with our parents at our open afternoon in March.

We have also started our gymnastics block this term in P.E. and we really like using the stepping stones and curved track to develop our balancing skills. We can't wait to use bigger apparatus such as the box and climbing frame.

## P4/5 news

Primary 4/5's topic this term is 'The Caribbean'. We are really looking forward to starting our topic, especially transforming our classroom and setting up Caribbean festival stores, as well as learning about the currency used in the Caribbean.

We are also making our own puppets such as a sock puppet, string puppet, finger puppet, stick puppet and marionettes puppet. We will use our puppets to create a puppet show and we have already started to make our own scripts.

## P6/7 Assembly

On Friday 5th December P6/7 performed a play about a boy called Archie Dobson and how his life changed when World War 1 started. The children made wooden crosses for each man or boy from Aberfoyle that fought in the war. They laid these crosses down on benches at the end of the assembly, which made many parents emotional. The crosses were also put in flower pots at the front of the playground.



# McLaren High School

## Badminton

On Wednesday 5 November McLaren entered 7 pupils in the Under 14 Stirling Council Badminton Competition. The event was held in the Peak and was organised by Active Stirling. The Junior McLaren team all enjoyed the event and participated in all three categories - Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles. Max Dimmer (S3) and Zach Neufeld (S2) both managed to battle their way through the rounds and made it into the final of the Boys Doubles where they were awarded a silver medal and a place in the Central Schools Competition.

The Under 16 and Under 19 Competitions were held at the same venue on 12 November. This time McLaren entered 19 pupils into the event. Once again all the pupils participated to a high level with several of them reaching the semi-finals and finals, guaranteeing them a position in the Central Schools Competition. Harris Kliskey (S3) and Kim Russell (S3) came 3rd in the U16 Mixed Doubles; Alasdair Murphy (S5) and Jamie Cox (S6) made it into the semi-finals of the U19 Boys Doubles; Chris Orr (S5) and James Ronald (S5) got a gold medal for the U19 Boys Doubles and Ross Paterson (S5) and Monique Ibharalu (S5) got a silver medal for the U19 Mixed Doubles.

The Central Schools Competition was then held on Wednesday 10 December. The McLaren Badminton team managed to secure several places in this round with 8 pupils participating. Once again the event was a great success and I was impressed with the level of play from all pupils. Unfortunately Jamie Cox had double booked the event with a driving theory test (which he passed, congratulations!) but Hamish Cholerton (S5) took his place to team up with Alasdair Murphy in the U19 Boys Doubles. At the end of the day the U14 Boys Doubles (Max Dimmer and Zach Neufeld) and U19 Boys Doubles (Chris Orr and James Ronald), battled their way through heats into the semi-finals and then into the finals where they were both awarded silver medals.

Once again well done to all pupils who took part in the event and a thanks to everyone who helped to organise the event.

Mr Carrol



## Geography Field Trip to Edinburgh

The Higher Geography candidates undertook a range of fieldwork techniques in Edinburgh in order for them to complete some of the course requirements of the new Higher. The main focus of the fieldwork was looking at the types and density of the traffic patterns as well as a comparison of the shopping areas of the city centre of Edinburgh with an out of town shopping centre. Having left McLaren on the minibus we headed East into the sunshine towards Edinburgh. True to the climatic characteristics of December our trip wasn't the warmest of outings. Recording research results in the hustle and bustle of Princes and George Streets isn't the easiest thing to do with numb fingers whilst tackling the cold but we asked the shoppers questions and took notes on the

surrounding environment. Most of the shoppers genuinely interested in what we were doing.

After we had finished noting down the differences between the Old Town and New Town, we hopped on a tram which took us to The Gyle centre. Much like before we posed our questions to a new set of shoppers, but this time in the warmth of central heating.

All in all the day posed challenges to the whole class, which we all undertook and were successful at. We all enjoyed our field trip to Edinburgh (including comparing the services in both the city centre and the Gyle!) and arrived back at McLaren armed with a raft of data to crunch and develop in the warmth!

Alasdair Murphy S5

## Christmas in the Cafeteria

"Ho! Ho! Ho!" Santa said on Wednesday 10 December as pupils tucked into a traditional Christmas lunch served by Scrooge, Rudolph, Elf, Snowman, Turkey and Mr & Mrs Christmas (aka our cafeteria staff!)

Callum Hunter S1 said 'It was the best Christmas lunch I have ever had'. I hope I don't meet his mum in the town!

Thanks to all my customers for supporting the service throughout the year. See you all next year.

Lorna Leckie, Cafeteria Supervisor



## Loch Eil 2014

From 1 - 5 December this year, 40 S3 pupils took part in the Outward Bound Course at Loch Eil. Here are some of their thoughts on the week.

After a 3½ hour bus journey we arrived at Loch Eil near Fort William. On the first afternoon we were split into our 'clans' (Stuart, Cameron, MacDonald and MacLean) and we met our instructors for the week. We then collected our equipment, had a tour and took part in some team building activities. The next day we engaged in high wire activities such as Jacobs Ladder and Trapeze. In the afternoon we had a raft building competition (Stuart clan v MacDonald clan) and the MacDonalds were victorious! That night we had a great game of basketball. On Wednesday there were the exhilarating activities of climbing and canoeing and they were both great fun. On Thursday the MacDonald clan went on a canoeing expedition which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

On the Friday everyone was sad to be going home but we had clan competitions and presentations to make. Everyone was shattered by the time we arrived home but we all absolutely loved the Loch Eil experience and have made memories that we will never forget!

Kim Russell S3

My personal achievement from Loch Eil was getting to the top of Jacobs Ladder. We all enjoyed the week and I had a lot of fun doing activities that I've never done before. I would recommend to everyone that they should go! Katherine Stewart-Earl S3



## Art Exhibition

Advanced Higher Art & Design students Kirsty Crawford, Beth Scott and Georgie Elder recently arranged and hosted a 3 day Art Exhibition in the school. The work featured folios from our National 5 and Higher SQA submissions and a display of their ongoing Advanced Higher work. They arranged a very successful 'opening' event where interested parents and pupils, and our 2 former art teachers Mr Thorburn and Mr Auldjo, attended. Mr Auldjo came to the event with his wife and new baby Emilia Kitty.

## Christmas Dances

The Senior Dance, S1/2 and S3/4 dances all took place in the run up to Christmas. Ian Milligan and his band provided the great ceilidh music for all 3 dances while Allardyce Photography were on hand to capture all the action on the dance floor. Pupils got dressed up for the occasion and enjoyed a night of fun and music with their friends as they whirled around the floor. A great time was had by all!



On Thursday 18 December staff and pupils of the Music Department at McLaren High School presented their 44th Annual Christmas Concert. This festive evening included performances from the orchestra, vocal group and various ensembles. There were some traditional and not so traditional pieces such as Sleigh Ride, Baby it's Cold Outside, the Three Minute Nutcracker and Holiday Mash Up. We were also introduced to the S1 Samba Band who played 'Something Different' and the String Quartet who played their own arrangement of Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence beautifully. The audience sang along to a selection of carols during the evening and were treated to some amazing music by some truly talented pupils. It was a great way to start the Christmas celebrations. Well done to everyone involved!

## Aberfoyle & Port of Menteith Parish Church

**Rev. Terry Taylor**

As I write this at the beginning of a new year, the Minister and members of the Parish Church wish all readers a peaceful and healthy 2015. As we reflect on 2014 we think of all those in the community and the world affected by tragedy and sadness and pray that 2015 will be a better year.

We as a small congregation continue to support those throughout the world and nearer to home less fortunate than ourselves. We have supported Start-Up Stirling, a charity organisation for the needy of the Stirling Council area, throughout the year and especially at Christmas when we were able to deliver 60 kgs of food suitable for parcels, gifts for all ages and £155 to enable all recipients to receive a monetary gift with their Christmas parcel. We thank all those who contributed in any way.

I would like to thank all those in the community who have supported the Church with the various fund raising activities we held in the annexe of the Forth Inn throughout the year. The money raised at the various events help maintain the fabric of the church. Without the willingness of the Management and Staff at the Forth Inn who allowed us the use of the premises these events would not have been possible.

We hope to continue with our fund raising events this year and would like you to note that a Flower Festival is planned for the 29th – 31st May in the Church with tea, coffee and light lunches being served in the Church Hall. The theme this year is "All Round the World" and should be very colourful. Anyone wishing to become involved or contribute in anyway please contact me on 01877 382677 as "many hands make light work". More details will be published in a later edition of the Strathard News. We also hope to continue with our baking and produce stalls at times throughout the year, watch the Strathard News and village notice board for dates.

Whilst we appreciate the support we get from the community with regards fund raising it would be good to see the support on Sunday when we meet for worship at 11.15 am. All would be made very welcome. We have a small Sunday Club who join us for the start of the service before leaving and going into the Church Hall, where they would be delighted to be joined by others of primary school age. The saying is "the more the merrier" and I am sure this would be the case as Sunday Club can be fun.

Best wishes for 2015

Janet MacCallum

Session Clerk

Charity Number SC001308

## St Mary's Episcopal Church

**Richard Grosse, Rector of St Mary's**

I was once taught a salutary lesson. In a previous parish I was watching a farmer plough a field. Eventually he stopped and asked whether I would like to try my hand. So as not to ruin his handiwork, the tractor and plough was driven to an adjacent field. There I was left to try the art. It embarrasses me now to recall the result of my efforts. In spite of endeavouring to keep the steering wheel straight the furrow ploughed wobbled all over the field. What a kind and patient man this farmer was. Climbing into the cab beside me he showed me a fundamental fault: I was driving across the field with no particular end in mind. So he pointed out a distant hedgerow with a sapling growing in its midst. 'Keep your eye on that' he said 'then you will draw a straight furrow'. He was half right: the result was a straighter furrow but still far from perfect. It must have taken him some time to set his field to rights again.

The start of a new year is rather like setting across the field of time to plough a fresh furrow. Naturally we want our efforts to be as effective and straight as possible. Many address this wish by aiming for a fresh start with New Year Resolutions. The trouble is that by the end of February the regime of the gym will be losing its attraction as will an alcohol-free month. In order then to make the best use of a New Year then we need perhaps to set our sights further afield.

So what or where is that imaginary sapling in the hedge of life? Might I suggest the point at which we should aim is beyond earthly life towards the Divine? 'Of course' you will be thinking 'he would say that because that is what he is paid to do'

In truth though, the shedding of an inch off the waistline or forsaking a dram is not a radical rethink of life; rather it is simply rearranging of the deckchairs. To properly address any new year we need to be thinking of basics. One basic that might be considered is the gift of time. Whether we are believers or not, the fact remains that we live on earth not of our own will but of the Divine. Time itself is a precious commodity: no clock nor calendar ever goes backwards but only forward. We don't waste precious banknotes lighting a fire, so why should we waste a day of our lives? A useful reminder of the value of time was penned by the Scots poet Thomas Carlyle. 'So here hath been dawning another blue day. Think wilt thou let it slip useless away'

A Happy New Year to one and all.

## Aberfoyle and Port of Menteith Guild



Members of the Guild met on Monday 15 December 2014 when Christmas was celebrated with Carols, Readings and Poetry. On Monday 19 January 2015 we had a Scots Afternoon with Scottish Music, Songs, Readings and Poetry from members. The next meeting is on Monday, 16 February 2015 when the speaker is Robin Armstrong from Port of Menteith who is going to give us an account of his very interesting life. Friday 6 March is World Day of Prayer. Our final meeting for the session is on Monday 16 March 2015 when Dr Phil Simpson will talk on Abernethy Outdoor Adventure Centres. Contacts are Anne Ralston, President/Secretary (382847) and Isabel Piper, Treasurer (382667).

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# Green Routes

After a very busy end of year, the Green Routes Board, members, tutors, students and volunteers came together at Gartmore House for our Annual General Meeting. Chairman Pete Williams spoke of all that had been achieved by the Board to ensure the continued success of Green Routes, and treasurer Bernard Love led us through financial matters. Manager Gillian Forster gave a colourful presentation of the work and achievements of students over the year and emphasized our aims of developing social, personal and employability skills as well as those of horticulture and woodwork. A welcome innovation this year was a short presentation on our bee project by one of our students. Everyone who had contributed to support the work of Green Routes was warmly thanked.

Most of us then sat down to a delicious Christmas lunch and those who could stay on in the afternoon joined in Christmas songs and party games.

Work has begun again as we prepare for a new year of gardening. Lots of hard-core has been laid to create a good path down to the poultry area, hundreds of pots are being washed, as are the insides of the poly-tunnels and wooden planters. Students have been learning the names of common vegetables, the 'families' to which they belong and the good practice of crop rotation which ensures fertile ground.

All of this work is supported by our tutors and the band of volunteers whose support of our students is so valuable and rewarding. If you would like to visit the Garden, find out more about what we do, and could offer some time to be with us, please contact Gillian Forster on 01877389082, look on our website ([www.greenroutes.org.uk](http://www.greenroutes.org.uk)) or follow us on Facebook.

## Callander & West Perthshire U3A

We started off 2015 in style with a lunch for our members hosted by Callander Golf Club. It was a very pleasant, warm venue on a miserably wet day and after a delicious meal the tables competed with each other in a challenging quiz organised by John Champness, our Membership Secretary. Questions came thick and fast on a wide variety of subjects and heads were bowed in conference as answers were scribbled down. Winners and runners-up were justifiably pleased with their efforts and gratefully received their prizes. Barbara Legg, our Chairperson, proposed a vote of thanks to Fiona Martin who had organised the successful event and to the staff at Callander Golf Club for their excellent services.

Courses are once again in full swing and anyone interested to find out more is welcome to look at our website. Just Google 'Callander and West Perthshire U3A'.



Quiz Winners

## Firewood for Sale



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Mobile: 07890 331 702  
[drew@forthvale.co.uk](mailto:drew@forthvale.co.uk)

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Aberfoyle  
Tel. 01877 382316

## Sandy's Off-Beat History:

My connection to Glen Arklet is a tenuous one insofar that I was born at Bruach in 1940. On May 15th, 1941, when I was a year and 5 days old, a German bomber flew over our shieling and dropped about 20 or so bombs at Inversnaid.



There had been a suspected outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the cattle and so they burned the cattle. During the night, the fire spread through a thick mat of dry bracken, which, to a bomber pilot during a night flight, looked like the fire on a bombed site. It is hard to imagine that, during WW II on the night of 15th May, 1941 this sparsely populated glen would be the target of an air raid. Apparently, burning bracken at the rear of the hotel had, at high altitude, been mistaken for the burning docks on the River Clyde, roughly 40 km to the south. In all, twenty-eight bombs were dropped down the glen. Only one bomb did damage which destroying the post office which was part of the Inversnaid Hotel. Throughout the raid the staff huddled under a staircase, but the manageress ran out of the building and did not stop running up the steep winding road until she reached the boathouse by Loch Arklet half a mile away.

The sound of this single bomber passing over Bruach (our croft) before it dropped its bombs on Inversnaid and in Loch Lomond, sent the family into a well-drilled action – which included putting on gas masks. I was only 1 year and 4 days old and a couple of my siblings were less than 5 years. My eldest sister vividly recalls the gas mask drill insofar as she and my eldest brother were bawling their eyes out; not because of fright from the bomber, but because I was the only one who got a Mickey Mouse mask. But tears soon changed to uncontrollable laughter for two reasons. Firstly; when the siblings who took regular gas drills at the wee Inversnaid School, discovered the endless fun blowing out through the rubber to make loud flatulent noises – even more hilarious when they put the funny looking British version of the Mickey Mouse mask on me. All the funnier when the siblings took turns pumping its bellows to supply air to a blue-faced, gasping baby. It was a little bit of comic relief in those troubling times. I hope the image makes you smile too!



The British version of WWII children's gas mask – dubbed the Mickey Mouse Gas mask.





## Stirling to provide new home for specialist fire equipment



Stirling is set to become a dedicated home for the national fire service's heavy rescue equipment. Since the creation of a single national service in 2013 the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has been looking at ways of sharing resources more efficiently across the country.

And in a report presented to Stirling Council's Public Safety Committee today the city is identified as an ideal base for heavy rescue equipment used to assist at road traffic collisions and large transport incidents such as those involving commercial vehicles or trains.

With its strategic central location and good access to major trunk roads heading north Stirling is one of five locations selected as a base for this equipment, with the others in Inverness, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dumfries.

The fire service in Stirling already has specialist equipment for use in water rescues. Committee convenor Councillor Martin Earl said: "I think that while clearly part of the thinking behind this move is to have specialist equipment available to respond to incidents over as wide an area as possible, local residents and businesses will be delighted to know that such a facility will be on their doorstep in the unfortunate event that it is ever required."

Local Senior Fire Officer Kenny Rogers said: "Before the creation of the single national service individual fire services typically built up their own range of specialist equipment, all of which has been inherited by the new service.

"As a result, detailed work has been carried out to ensure that such equipment is distributed as effectively as possible, based on risk and activity.

"The proposal to site a heavy rescue vehicle at Stirling Station, in addition to the existing water rescue capability, reflects Stirling's key strategic location and the skill and professionalism of Stirling's firefighters."

The outcomes of the review will be implemented over the next two years.

## Fire Extinguishers

**If you find a fire in your home, the best thing to do is get out, stay out and dial 999.**

**Fighting fires is best left to the professionals and isn't worth the risk.**

However, if you have a fire extinguisher that you could use to put out a fire that's small and in one place, then you need to know before hand how to use it properly and safely.

Before you make any attempt to stop a fire with an extinguisher, call 999 first.

- Make sure the fire is contained before trying to put it out yourself
- Make sure you use the right type of extinguisher for the fire
- Keep your fire extinguisher somewhere that'll be easy to reach in an emergency
- Keep an extinguisher in your kitchen – this is where most fires start
- Read the instructions for your extinguisher regularly
- Recharge or replace any extinguisher that's been used at all
- Make sure extinguishers are serviced properly once a year
- Put a fire blanket and a dry powder or foam extinguisher in caravans and motor homes.

### You should never:

- Put yourself in danger – when using a fire extinguisher always stand between the fire and the exit
- Use a fire extinguisher on oil or fat pan fires – the jet from an extinguisher can force the burning oil or fat out of the pan. Use a fire blanket or a wet towel that's been wrung out
- Throw water on a burning fat or oil pan – it will cause an explosion of burning liquid!
- Keep your fire extinguishers over the cooker or a heater.

### Types of fire extinguisher;

#### Dry Powder:

Safe for use on most types of fire (if you're careful) except on oil or fat pan fires.

#### Water:

Can be used on wood, paper or cloth. Never use water on an electrical fire, on liquids or grease, or on oil or fat pan fires.

#### Foam:

Very effective and safe for general use, except on electrical, oil or fat pan fires.

#### Carbon Dioxide (CO2):

For electrical fires and fires with flammable liquids, except oil or fat pan fires.

#### Fire blankets:

Fire blankets are good to have in the kitchen. They can be used to smother oil or fat pan fires. If a person's clothes catch fire, they can be wrapped around the person until the flames go out. If you don't have a fire blanket, use a damp towel in the same way.

All new fire extinguishers should meet British Safety Standards (BS EN3, 1996).

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### Useful numbers

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Aberfoyle Fire Brigade	01877 382 969
Post Office	01877 382 231
Library Service	01786 237553
<b>Health</b>	
Dentist (Callander)	01877 330703
Dentist (Drymen)	01360 661097
Doctors (Aberfoyle)	01877 382 421
Doctors (Buchlyvie)	01360 850 237
<b>Schools</b>	
Aberfoyle School	01877 382 278
Gartmore School	01877 382 343
Port of Menteith School	01877 385 225
McLaren High School	01877 330 156
<b>Vets</b>	
Callander	01877 381213
Doune	01786 841 304
Dunblane	01786 842 400
Killlearn	01360 550 131
<b>Travel</b>	
National Rail Enquiries	0845 748 4950
Stirling Bus Station	01786 446 474
Scotland Travel Line	0870 608 2608
<b>Stirling Council</b>	
Wheeley Bins	08452 777 000
Sandbags & grit	01877 330 492
<b>Floods &amp; Environment</b>	
SEPA Emergency	0800 807 060
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Scottish Water Emergency	0845 600 8855
CCFAG	07580 601142

### Book Club

James Kennedy 01877 387 201

### Brownies

Jane Jackson  
jane@jacko.org.uk  
Jackie Bell

### Community Choir

### recycling balfron + callander

Monday - Friday 17:00 - 20:00  
Saturday 10:00 - 14:00

### mobile bank RBS

Stop	arrive	depart
Gartcharn	09:45	10:05
Aberfoyle	10:45	11:05
Buchlyvie	11:30	12:10
Balloch	12:30	12:50

### Catholic Church

St Joseph's Callander & Doune  
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# Milton

Hello Children,

Already the evenings are getting noticeably lighter. The mornings too, when birdsong begins to bring in the dawn. Snowdrops have brightened the forest floor, beneath the dangling lambs-tail catkins on the hazel trees. In gardens all along Strathard, daffodils have pushed up through the soil, still a few weeks from bursting into glorious, golden bloom. Springtime is certainly on its way, and very welcome it will be. The night skies, however, are still powerfully dark, giving me plenty of opportunity to make good use of my best Christmas present ever – a fantastic telescope.

Easiest shape to find amongst the stars is Orion, the great hunter. Looking south, four stars make a square shape, with a diagonal belt of three, bright star right across the middle. Following behind, at Orion's heel, is Sirius the Dog Star, the brightest visible from Earth. Sirius is actually 23 times more luminous than the Sun. There is an easy way to tell the difference between stars and planets. Stars always twinkle, as the song says, planets don't twinkle at all. Looking from Earth, only planet Neptune cannot be observed in the night sky. The early morning stars are Jupiter, Saturn and, last to fade into the light is Mercury. Evening is best time to see Venus, followed by Mars, Jupiter and Uranus, moving across the sky from east to west. A really magnificent show! It will soon be Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, as it is also known. This is always a special day in the holt, wonderful aromas of pancakes cooking and squeezed lemon juice, soaking into the sprinkled sugar. My sister, Braeval, prefers to pour maple syrup over hers, sent all the way from Canada. I'll happily eat both, and so will the twins, Duke and Katrine. Pancakes are the traditional feast; to be eaten and enjoyed before having to give up sweets and chocolates for Lent. That means no more chocolate until Easter, far away in the future, on 5th April. The month of March is named after Mars, Roman god of war, who was said to be the father of Romulus and Remus, the twins who were raised by a she-wolf and founded the city of Rome. That must have been a long time ago. If you look south-west, into the evening night sky, planet Mars is quite clearly red in colour. On 15th March, do not forget, it will be Mothering Sunday, when you should be sure to make a real fuss over the most important woman in your life. Two days later, the whole world will be celebrating St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland and everything Irish.

Although spring is said to begin at the equinox, 21st March, when the hours of day and night are equal, Grandpa Otter reckons that there will always be a bit more winter to come. The twins can hardly wait for lighter nights, keen to get out on their new bikes and race around the purpose-built Aberfoyle trail. I'll be out and about with my telescope, spying on the local wildlife.

Bye for now,  
Milton.



# The Garden

## Gardening on Prescription?!

At a Royal Horticultural Society lecture last year the importance of people leading healthier lifestyles in reducing the cost to the Health Service was highlighted. One possible solution being looked at in Sweden is to prescribe gardening rather than conventional medicine; I didn't realise that someone had invented a gardening pill! But it's an interesting idea and shows how important our hobby can be in our lives.

As I look out the window in mid January, with sleet falling, and strong winds then freezing nights in the forecast I keep telling myself how good a foray into the garden will be for my well-being!

Obviously winter is well under way but the days are getting longer and Spring is almost just around the corner so it's time to wrap up warm and get out into the garden now, if you haven't been doing so already that is.

## In The Garden

Get the loppers and secateurs or chain saw out and prune back any broken branches, restake trees if necessary and if hedges have been pushed over too far by wind or snow think about renovation pruning. While you've got the loppers or pruning saw to hand, carry out any work on apple and pear trees before they come into leaf (while you can still see the branch network); opening up the canopy will enhance air circulation and reduce the chance of fungal disease. But don't be tempted to tackle any of the Prunus species (plums and gages – stone fruits) until in leaf.

All the fruit trees will benefit from a high potash feed; wood ash is excellent.

Autumn fruiting Raspberries should be cut back to the ground now and new canes planted. And established blackcurrants should have a quarter of the old stems cut to the ground. Also plant other fruit bushes and trees – some may still be available as bare root plants.

Deciduous trees and shrubs that are in the wrong place can still be moved now and deciduous hedges should be planted now too – bare root plants may still be available which make the job a lot easier and cheaper than using pot grown stock later in the year.

If you haven't done so already dig over the vegetable plots and at least plan out what you're going to plant and where following a crop rotation programme. You can then start to sow seeds indoors now and outdoors later in February for some crops. Also start to chits potatoes.

Take hardwood cuttings now, and when snowdrops have finished flowering they can be divided and moved.

## Bird Care

I'm sure you've all been looking after the birds all winter so far, but it's not time to ease up on the feeding yet as there's still plenty of time for more harsh weather. Continue to make sure they have something to eat and unfrozen water to drink and bathe in; it will soon be time for the birds to be thinking about nesting so cut back any deciduous hedges before they start and put up/clean out a bird box or two.

In the **greenhouse** or shed there is plenty to do. Firstly make sure everything is clean including the windows to maximize light levels early in the year. Then get busy with your seed sowing – sow sweetpeas and root crops in modules to avoid root disturbance on planting out; basil, tomatoes and others in a heated propagator. Plant up lily bulbs in containers for making a splash of colour wherever you fancy in the summer.

On warm days keep the greenhouse well ventilated. And keep a good eye-out for aphids – controlling them now will save a lot of effort later in the year.

**Houseplants** can be repotted now so they grow away well for the rest of the year. This includes many **orchids**; assuming they have finished flowering and before they put on new growth, if they have not been repotted for a couple of years think about doing it now. If you're not confident to tackle this job yourself bring them in and let us do it for you.



Benview Garden Centre  
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From 1st March: Mon-Sat: 9.00-5.00 Sunday: 10.00-5.00



## Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

<b>Mon</b>	Lochside Yoga	7.30pm-9.00pm	Gillian 07738 225996 01877 387201
<b>Tues</b>	Aberfoyle Fitness	9.30am-10.30am	Alison Woods 07548 677540
<b>Wed</b>	Toddler Group	10.00am-12pm	Cindy 07886 511894
	French Lessons	3.30pm-4.30pm	Frances Bigwood frances@duchraycastle.com
	Country Dancing	7.30pm-9.30pm	John Epps 01877 382276
<b>Thurs</b>	Karate For All ages	6.30pm-9.00pm	Julie Glen 01877 382 296
<b>Sun</b>	Abtrad Music Group	5.00pm-6.00pm	Cindy McLoughlin 07786 511894

## Scottish Wildlife Trust

In contrast to our usual focus on Scottish wildlife, our talk in December ventured to Antarctica, as Mike and I shared our holiday experiences.

Twelve months earlier we spent 3 weeks on an expedition cruise to Antarctica: from Ushuaia at the southern tip of Argentina to the Falklands, South Georgia, South Shetlands and the Antarctic Peninsula. This route offers an amazing range of wildlife and covers the route taken by Shackleton after his ship Endeavour became crushed in ice. Leaving most of the crew on Elephant Island, 6 crossed to S Georgia in a small lifeboat; he took 17 days (cf our 2) followed by a walk across the mountainous interior of S Georgia to find help at Stromness whaling station – truly heroic!

Where cold Antarctic waters sink beneath the warmer sub-Antarctic waters (Antarctic Convergence), high levels of nutrients well up and lead to microscopic but hugely abundant phytoplankton. These are food for shrimp-like krill that, in turn, are the major food source for many animals such as seals, penguins, whales and sea birds so the Antarctic supports a high population of large animals. From around 1900, seal and whale hunting took their toll and large resting sites are reminders of its industrial scale. Antarctic Treaty restrictions have seen many populations recover but krill are now being plundered by man with numbers dropping by 80% from 1970 to 2004. Please don't buy red krill products, the whales and penguins need them much more!

Summer is no guarantee of good weather in that part of the world but we were lucky and made all planned sailings and landings. We saw at close hand hundreds of thousands of (smelly, noisy) penguins, seals, dolphins, whales and innumerable birds at sea and on land. Watching a 15m humpback whale swim under our 5m Zodiac really is unforgettable!

Lesley Hawkins  
303/1813

### Fur seal & King Penguins



## Inversnaid Reserve

Unless it has been blown away during the xmas period (which on the day I write this could be an extreme possibility), then our visitor gateway should be almost complete.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but they are probably worth a few thousand of mine, so here was the state of play just before the xmas break.

As you can see, it is not completely finished, with small components like, for example, doors and floor missing. However, you can certainly get an idea on what the finished article will look like.



This will be a great asset to the reserve, offering facilities for visitors and volunteers. I will also get the chance to spend more time at the reserve with some basic office facilities. So come this summer, drop in and have a look. I might even be around to have a chat!

If you would like more info about the gateway, or anything else, you can contact me at [fraser.lamont@rspb.org.uk](mailto:fraser.lamont@rspb.org.uk).

See you on the reserve,  
Fraser Lamont  
RSPB Inversnaid Warden



## Pet Profile

This is 'Christie' my last remaining husky (we had thirteen once) she's a complete pet now, loves curling up in bed, food, people and most of all walks. This has to be on an extended lead as huskies are well-known escape artists.



This particular afternoon we had been for a walk in the forest and were coming up to the home gate, where I usually let

her off the lead and in she goes. Not this time .....she took off down Manse Road towards the village we me yelling behind her. I should mention she is 14+ and still fit having raced all her life, but a bit deaf !!. I could see her as we progressed down the road obviously intent on seeing the world. I thought I saw her turn into Duchally Road and followed for a bit but lost sight of her. I decided to go back to the house for the van and stand more chance of catching her. All down Duchally Road round her favourite haunt of Lochan Sping, no sight; by this time I was really panicking, so I went back to the house intending to phone the police in case anybody had seen her. Luckily there was a message on my phone from Toto at the garage to say that she had been seen past the garage heading towards Stirling..... 'NIGHTMARE'. Up to the garage where Toto waved me down and said she was at the Surgery. Off to the surgery where no one had seen her. Came out. When a White Caledonian management van draws up and a man jumps out with the query "have you lost a husky?" I could have kissed him. He said he had dropped her at the Forth Inn, and after thanking him I went there and retrieved her, seemingly OK. How she missed not being run over I don't know, as she was not used to traffic. I was just so relieved. Back home with a feed for Christie and a large glass of wine for me !!

My Thanks to Toto, the man from the Caledonian management van and the Forth Inn and anybody else who spotted her.

Needless to say she doesn't get off her lead until she is *inside* the gate.

P.S

We are always looking for stories about your Pets, so please let us have them for the next issue of the 'News'. Email [editor@strathardnews.com](mailto:editor@strathardnews.com)



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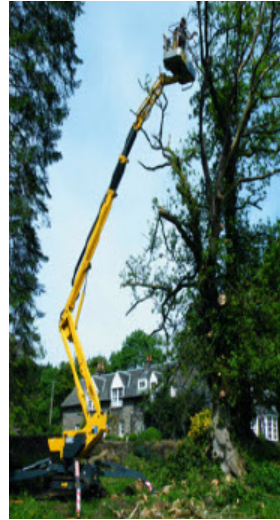
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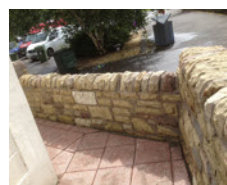
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# Not here....but near

## Scottish Wildlife Trust

Callander Members Centre  
Talks start at 7:30pm  
Waverley Hotel, Callander.

**10 February:**

**'SSPCA's Role in Wildlife Crime'** by Mark Rafferty, SSPCA

**10 March:**

**'Scotland's Butterflies'** by Scott Donaldson, Butterfly Conservation

£2 members, £2:50 non-members, free to full-time students, includes tea/coffee and biscuits

Everyone Welcome



**Gartmore After School Club**

**15:30 - 17:30**

**gartmore primary school**

starting with a snack & juice to restore energy after a hard day at school, we offer a whole range of activities for children including arts/crafts, baking & sports in a 'home from home' environment. £6.00 per child per 2 x hour session. Pre-school children over age 4 now eligible to join.

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# R&C LUKE



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## Callander Ramblers' Diary

**Feb - Mar 2015**

**February 11th** Wed Ramble Glenoglehead and Killin Junction loop 6½ miles Jill & David Johnston 01877-384227

**February 18th** Wed Hill A Ben A'an circuit 461 m Frank Trzebiatowski 01877-376212

**February 25th** Wed Stroll A Forthside trail 5 miles John Snodin 01877-331621

**March 11th** Wed Stroll Banknock to the Wheel 6½ miles Jim & Joan Leddy 01786-825249

**March 18th** Wed Ramble The Whangie 5 miles Jen Shearer & Peter Mehta 01877-330446

**March 28th** Sat Hill Tarmangie to Innerdownie 645 m Rob Smallman 01786-825877

We meet in Ancaster Square, unless otherwise indicated. Bring wet weather clothing, appropriate footwear and a packed lunch. Please let the contact know if you plan to join the walk. Visitors / Non-members welcome.

## GARTMORE VILLAGE HALL Celebrate St Valentine's Day with Les Trois Blondes

Les Trois Blondes are the only band in Scotland specialising in Bal Musette, the French café music of Paris. Perhaps to one's surprise, there is a very strong tradition with Scottish accordionists of playing this style of music which is mostly in waltz tempo. The band comprises John Burns (lead accordion), George Burns, his brother (2nd accordion) and Fergus Wood (drums and compere). John Burns is the current Musette Champion of Scotland and former All-Scotland Accordion Champion.

Join us for a French themed musical evening

**Saturday 14th February 2015**

**Doors open 7.30pm, Performance at 8pm**

Tickets £10.00 available at the door or from Gartmore Village Shop, 01877 382214



**Future Workshops  
with Fintry Development Trust**

31st Jan - Introduction to accessing woodfuel from your community woodland

1st Feb - Energy Efficient Driver Training

7th Feb - Introduction to Sewing

7th Feb - Renewable Open Doors

7th Feb - Spring planting

11th Feb - RHI Application Workshop

To book please email  
[info@fintrydt.org.uk](mailto:info@fintrydt.org.uk) or call 07872-056-755  
All welcome

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Saturday 13:30pm – 8:30pm  
Sunday 4pm – 8:30pm



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Saturday: 12:30 – midnight  
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