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Strathard News

Issue 91 August 2015

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*Photo courtesy of Daria McLennan

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Strathard News

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Deadline Dates 2015

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 toeditor@strathardnews.com

Next Issue deadline - 20 September

Sponsorship

We are delighted to announce that we have sponsors for the next 2 issues. A huge thank you to those sponsors for your support and commitment. If you would like to sponsor an issue next year please get in touch to book your slot.

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 Craig Bunyan.

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Editorial

Well, things are looking up for Strathard News committee, as we have been joined by another keen volunteer, Craig Bunyan. Craig will take on the role of designer and technology guru, designing adverts and getting to grips with our facebook page and website. He can also write great articles as you can read for yourselves on page 6.

I'm delighted that we have a couple of new contributors in this issue. Vet's advice from Marslaidh Smith of Riverside Veterinary Clinic, Callander and a delicious recipe from Michael Clayton. Has Kerry worked her magic? I hope they become regular contributors.

Unfortunately some 'regulars' have missed this issue but should be back in time for the next one. Would you consider sponsoring an issue next year? It remains a good deal, gives you increased exposure and helps the community by ensuring the continuation of the 'News'. Hope to hear from you soon, Marion

Aberfoyle & Port of Menteith Guild



The Annual Guild Sale will be held on
Saturday 8 August 2015
in the Village Car Park
From 10 am until 2pm.



There will be Baking Stall, Produce Stall, Book Stall, Craft Stall and Bottle Stall.
For donations or any further information please contact Anne Ralston (382847)

Strathard Community Council meets at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of every month, alternating between Aberfoyle Memorial Hall, Kinlochard Village Hall and Inversnaid Hotel. The next meetings will be held in Kinlochard Village Hall on 3rd September and Aberfoyle Memorial Hall on 1st October. 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

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Aberfoyle Racer wins at European Le Mans Series

Scottish motor racing prodigy **Charlie Robertson** sealed his, and team-mate Sir Chris Hoy's, second LMP3 Class victory of the 2015 European Le Mans Series at Austria's Red Bull Ring on Sunday, 12th July, thanks to an utterly dominant performance during round three of the season.

Enabling the Team LNT Ginetta-Nissan pairing to reclaim the championship lead they originally held after the opening round of the season at Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit in April, success in the latest four-hour contest means **Aberfoyle** racer Charlie and Sir Chris now hold a 12 point advantage.

"I'm over the moon with this result, it's absolutely fantastic to get our second win", said elated 18-year-old Charlie, "The car ran faultlessly, the guys at Team LNT have really improved the balance since Imola and it's a real pleasure to drive. I was happy with my performance and it was definitely the strongest weekend of the season so far for Sir Chris. It's been a true team effort."

During free practice on Saturday, 11th July, Charlie topped the times in both 90-minute sessions before taking his third LMP3 pole position on the bounce during qualifying on Sunday morning – a time of 1m29.851 seconds (173.3 km/h average) placing him 15th on the overall grid and little more than three seconds shy of much faster LMP2 machinery.

In scintillating form at the wheel of the No.3 Ginetta-Nissan, the BRDC SuperStar enjoyed a superb battle with the leading GTE Class cars during the opening exchanges and prior to the first Safety Car period just six laps into the race he was into 14th position overall and comfortably leading LMP3.

Making his first pit visit with just under an hour completed, running inside the overall top 10 at the time, Charlie remained in the car and continued to lead LMP3 until returning to pitlane to hand the Ginetta-Nissan over to Hoy with roughly 75 minutes completed

Hoy got behind the wheel and continued to lead LMP3 before visiting the pits again with 90 minutes of racing remaining. Staying in the driving seat, Hoy pressed on before then handing the car back to Charlie for the final 20 minute sprint to the flag.

Eventually crossing the line at the four hour mark with an eight lap winning margin over the duo's closest LMP3 pursuer, Investigo and Curo-supported driver Charlie also posted a best LMP3 lap of 1m30.397 seconds (172.3 km/h average) – easily the quickest of any LMP3 contender.

"I started just behind the top three GTE cars and it was a bit of a dogfight, but proper racing, and it was fantastic to be mixing it with them", added the youngster, "The first 25 to 30 minutes were a lot of fun and then the Safety Car periods worked in our favour so it all went totally to plan. It's a great result, absolutely fantastic, and hopefully we can take this forward to the next round."

There is now a lengthy eight week break in the European Le Mans Series calendar with round four of the championship set to take place at Paul Ricard in France over the weekend 5th/6th September.



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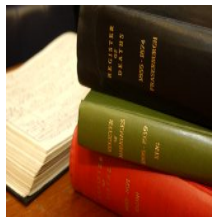
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The Registrar



The hours at Aberfoyle Registration Office have changed, increased, now to be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am until 1pm. As before, appointments can be made by telephone [01877 382 986] or by email [regaberfoyle@stirling.gov.uk]. While pre-arranged appointments do take precedence, we will make every effort to see

you, should you call in during opening hours. We are aware, as before, that in the case of death registration, families are anxious to be told of available appointments as soon as possible and we would like to reassure everyone that local undertakers, and other service providers, do have out-of-office contact numbers.

Following the many welcome arrivals announced in the last edition of the Strathard News, there have been no new babies registered this time round.

Sadly, the same cannot be said for death registrations, and we would like to offer condolences to family and friends of Robert Hooks, from Aberfoyle, who died in June following illness. Many of us will remember Robert and, in particular, I can picture him with his dog, giving a cheerful 'hello' to all, and a biscuit to our canine friends. Our condolences go to all families and friends who have experienced such loss in this period.

Meantime, the wedding boom continues ... and what a boom it has been! I don't think there can be many accommodation and venue providers in the area who haven't hosted, if not a full event, then at least the many visitors to the area that the Guest Lists are bringing! Love must indeed be all around, because it really is a record year and I am so grateful to so many couples because I am having such a wonderful time! People are being married in the forest, in gardens, by loch sides, by waterfalls, indeed, almost everywhere you could imagine (though I am open to ideas I haven't yet imagined)!

Far, far too many weddings to list them all, but couples have come from near and far, with weddings such as the one of Donald MacAngus and Rachel Wilson who travelled from opposite ends of the country, to marry at Altskeith Country House; which also hosted, among so many others, the wedding of Greig Patrick to Jennifer Richmond, who both travelled rather further ... from Australia ... for their big day: Duchray Castle also provided a setting for far flung travellers, such as Raphael Angstmann and Viviane Wegelin, both from Switzerland: while Forest Hills Hotel was kept equally busy, with couples such as Graeme Kennedy and Louise Foreman from Duns; and Marc Shearer and Lisa Ironside, from Aberdeenshire, whose children stole hearts and limelight on the day.

Aberfoyle Registration Office's 'Marriage Room' had visitors from far and near, when Scottish lad, John Laird married his sweetheart from Bulgaria, Valentina Georgieva: While Kinlochard Village Hall extended their welcome to couples such as Jonathan Fenton and Katherine Mackie from Kilbarchan.

Amid all this excitement, during which our local ministers also stayed busy, I could have been forgiven for having my head in the clouds. Unfortunately, a pair of crutches kept my feet firmly on the ground! Having spent the best part of a year in planning of a tree-top wedding on Go-Ape's zip wire and activity course, a dislocated knee kept me on the ground, while my colleague Caroline kindly stepped in, to marry couple Martyn Milner and Colette Gregory, at some considerable distance from the ground!



The scope for variety and versatility in civil weddings is huge, and I am sure I will have other opportunities for the unusual, however ... for me ... the big thing is to be able to provide the marriage ceremony that matches a couples' wishes and dreams! To do my very best for them, on this most important day. That really does give me such pleasure, and that pleasure is never greater than when it is the wedding of a local couple, especially a couple who are friends.

Such a wedding was the one of Alistair (Scoop) Livingston to Maria Thain, at the Rob Roy Hotel. What a fantastic day we all had, so many 'weel kent' faces, and I was both happy and grateful that Scoop and Maria gave me the opportunity to conduct their ceremony ... and, yes, that was a tear in my eye!

My warmest congratulations to these, and to all couples who are married in our area!

Remember, Aberfoyle Registration Office is now open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am until 1pm, and appointments can be made by telephone [01877 382 986] or by email [regaberfoyle@stirling.gov.uk]. I look forward to helping you in every way that I can.

Sharon Johnston Registrar



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Bruce Crawford MSP

The Tourism Industry makes a very significant contribution to the local economy and a great number of jobs depend on it. I am pleased to have become the Convener of a new cross party group on Tourism at Holyrood. It was also pleasing to see new figures showing another strong rise in tourism visits and expenditure in Scotland.

Figures for 2014 show that a total of 15 million tourists visited Scotland last year - up five per cent on 2013 and spending over £4.7bn - with overseas tourists increasing by 11 per cent on the previous year. I am confident that our tourism sector will build on this success in 2015 and beyond.

It was fantastic to visit the Drymen Show with the newly elected MP for Stirling Steven Paterson and local Cllr Graham Lambie to meet with many members of the farming and rural community. During the visit we spent time with Trossachs Search and Rescue Team. The team provide support for communities from Strathblane to Callander, as well as operational support for the Scottish Ambulance Service and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service. It was great to meet Trossachs Search and Rescue Chairman Matthew Mitchell and Mitch the USAR dog, the whole team do a fabulous job across the constituency helping save lives and keep people safe.

I was pleased to see that the NFU Scotland has given its backing to the creation of a Scottish dairy brand, something which I have been pushing for. The brand was launched at the Royal Highland Show by Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. It is hoped that having a Scottish Dairy Brand will bring added value and growth to exports.

This month has also seen the news that around 20,000 two year olds are now eligible for funded early learning and childcare. The entitlement to 600 hours of annual funded early learning and childcare has been extended to two year olds from low income households. This comes into effect from August and adds to the entitlement for all three and four year olds and around 15 per cent of two year olds.

We know the early years are a crucial point in a child's life where they develop essential skills. This is especially true for more vulnerable or disadvantaged children and I'm pleased they will be able to benefit from this extra provision. I'm encouraging all parents and carers to check if their child is eligible for funded early learning and childcare and register now so they can get their place in the autumn term.

As ever you can contact my office in the following ways;

Bruce Crawford MSP, Unit 3.3 Wallace House, Maxwell Place,
Stirling, FK7 9JS
Tel: 01786 471899
Email: bruce.crawford.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

National Park News

By Owen McKee



It is often said that every cloud has a silver lining and I suppose that the silver lining for us is that the lochside problems have been less pronounced this year. But we have to plan to deal with the variety of conditions that arise and, thankfully, we do have years when we are blessed with a little summer sunshine. The "Your Park" proposals are now with the minister, Dr. Eileen McLeod for a decision as to whether bylaws with accompanying camping provision is the appropriate answer for the problems that have plagued us.

Although Dr. McLeod has made a number of visits to the Park I am pleased to say that since we have submitted our proposals she has made a further visit to help her in her deliberations.

This visit took in the new facilities at Loch Lubnaig and the contrasting trip to witness at first hand the turmoil that regularly occurs at the weekend on Loch Earn. The opportunity was taken to let her hear the experiences of local residents of the villages of Lochearnhead and St. Fillans. I am pleased to say that both groups were forceful in their view that the destruction being inflicted on the environment and the attendant anti-social behaviour were major constraints to the enjoyment of the genuine and welcome tourist visitor.

When will we hear the decision which will, of course, include the proposals for Strathard?

We have expressed the hope to the minister that should she be in favour that we would like to hear by September to allow us time to conclude negotiations with landowners to get camping provision in place for the 2016 tourist season. And of course, to get the necessary signage organised.

Maintenance on the West Highland Way is a constant concern but a number of projects have been ongoing to keep this long distance route a major attraction. There has been a re-alignment along the east shore of Loch Lomond, bridge upgrade at Cashel and major repairs between Ptarmigan and Rowchoish bothy. They're also planned bridge replacements in Glen Falloch and major repair work at Derrydarroch. There is a need for some minor diversions because of the ongoing construction work on the Glen Falloch Hydro schemes but I am happy to say that the contractors are working well with us to minimise the impacts.

The Waterbus Service is proving so successful that there has been an increase to the schedules on the Luss to Balmaha and Tarbet to Inversnaid routes. These both feed into the West Highland Way and provide facilities to carry cycles. This facility is of particular interest to Strathard in that it is encouraging journeys to Loch Katrine and beyond.

Last year Loch Lomond hosted the Great Scottish Swim which attracted some 2500 participants. This year the event will return to Balloch on 29th August and will be organised by The Great Run Company. As part of the promotional information a dedicated website has been set up at www.greatrun.org/greatswimhere

As always I can be contacted as follows:

Post: Taigh Na Bhuth,
Lochearnhead.
Phone: 01567830214
email: owen@thevillageshop.fsbusiness.co.uk



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Bike Trossachs wins Business Sponsorship

Bike Trossachs, the community organisation that owns Aberfoyle Bike Park, has struck a business sponsorship deal with local hotel, The Forth Inn. The deal not only provides a cash injection to help pay for the overheads of running the organisation, but will see the two organisations collaborate on initiatives and events that will promote the Trossachs as a destination for cycling and other activities. The collaboration will also aim to develop activities and services for local bikers, in particular to support young bikers to develop their off-road skills so they can enjoy the Bike Park and the local forest trails.

A number of new natural trails have been emerging on the steep hillside behind Aberfoyle, although these are mostly very difficult trails and there is a need to provide trail information for the mountain biker who is looking for a route that is more challenging than the mainstream forest roads. This is acknowledged by the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park who are in the process of identifying and mapping a more challenging series of routes.

Andy Stanford, Chair of Bike Trossachs, said "The Forth Inn has always been very supportive of Bike Trossachs and we're looking forward to working together even more to promote Aberfoyle as a cycling destination. The Bike Park and the new natural trails that are emerging are encouraging a lot more cycling visitors to the area and this can only be good for the village".

Phil Crowder, owner of The Forth Inn, said "Bike Trossachs have done a great job in building the Bike Park and we share the same objective of promoting the area as a place to enjoy the great Scottish outdoors. More visitors to the Trossachs means more successful and sustainable tourism businesses and more secure employment for local people so everyone wins".

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park is aware that cycling, and mountain biking in particular, are strongly growing sports and has identified Aberfoyle in its Outdoor Recreation Plan as a hub for future development of infrastructure and services for cycling. It is currently in the process of producing a new range of mountain bike trail leaflets to cater for bikers looking for more challenging routes.

More info:

Richard Muir 07711-223166

richardrhmuir@btinternet.com

Andy Stanford 07884-402265

andystanford76@hotmail.com

Phil Crowder 07428-658874

philcrowder@mac.com

Aberfoyle Running Group

Aberfoyle is a veritable mecca for trail running. Sitting at the heart of the Queen Elizabeth forest park, the village is the gateway to literally hundreds of miles of trails and forest roads.

This year will be the fourth anniversary for the small group of runners that meet every Tuesday evening to enjoy a run in the forest surrounding Aberfoyle.

We meet at 7pm in the car park behind the Fourth Inn and usually run for around 50 minutes.

I joined the group a few months after it had begun meeting regularly. I'd been an intermittent runner before moving to the village, and had only ever run on tarmac. Having never run in a group, off road or by head torch, that first October evening was a bit of a baptism of fire. The warm welcome and friendly atmosphere quickly dispelled any initial reservations I had.

The group consists of a mixture of fitness level and speeds. We typically run in a different loop every week covering around 6 miles, usually with a "shortcut" available for anyone feeling less energetic.

Off road running is one of the fastest growing sports in the UK. The varied terrain and loose underfoot conditions are less impactful on joints and promote better core strength and greater flexibility.

Running with a group has motivated me to make a Tuesday night workout part of my weekly routine. I find any kind of exercise lifts my mood, but running through the trees along the shore of Loch Ard on a balmy evening (or miserable rainy one!) is one of life's simple pleasures.

The Aberfoyle Running group is free, we would welcome anyone who would like to join us on a Tuesday night.

Craig Bunyan



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Walk in the Park News August - September 2015

Summer Walks

Our program of summer health walks are well underway on a Monday morning meeting at 10.20am and Wednesday evening at 7pm until the end of September (please see the attached schedule).

We always like to welcome new members or visitors to the village so if you are here on holiday or just bored because all the usual community groups have ended for the summer then why not join us for a gentle stroll. All our walks are free, on good walking surfaces and last between 45 min and an hour. We are a friendly bunch so it's a good way to make new friends while getting some exercise in this glorious countryside. The walk ends with an optional cup of tea or coffee and a scone in a local restaurant. We welcome children on the walks but ask they would be accompanied by an adult.

After the refreshments we continue our exercise with Strength and Balance in the Forth Inn from 12.30 – 1pm. Using very gentle exercises based on the Otago falls prevention program we take part in 10 exercises designed to help us to walk more confidently. Anyone who feels they are not able to walk confidently yet can join us in the Forth Inn at 12.00 on Mondays. If you have a health condition that may prevent you from taking part please speak to your GP or physiotherapist before coming along.

If you have any questions about joining in any of our walks or exercise sessions please contact the Walk in the Park Coordinator - Cathy Scott 01877 330055 or send an email to: cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org

A Plea from the Surgery

We are getting a lot of patients not attending their appointments. These are wasted appointments and could be used for other patients.

So please if you know you will not make an appointment can you please contact the surgery to cancel it.

Many many thanks

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Tel 01877 330055 cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossach.org



Date	Meeting Place	Route
7pm Every Wednesday	Scottish Woollen Mill Car Park	Village Walk
3/8/15	Scottish Woollen Mill Car Park (Car Share)	The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre
10/8/15	Scottish Woollen Mill Car Park (Car Share)	Milton Car Park to Craigneuk Cottage
17/8/15	Scottish Woollen Mill Car Park	NCR7 to Rob Roy Motel
24/8/15	Scottish Woollen Mill Car Park (Car Share)	Loch Ard
31/8/15	Scottish Woollen Mill Car Park (Car Share)	Lemahamish and Cobbleland
7/9/15	Scottish Woollen Mill Car Park (Car Share)	The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre
14/9/15	Scottish Woollen Mill Car Park (Car Share)	Loch Ruskie
21/9/15	Scottish Woollen Mill Car Park	Ballaich
28/9/15	Scottish Woollen Mill Car Park (Car Share)	Lochen Spring (Duchray Road)

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The big “C” is something in days gone by that everyone feared, the word cancer meant the end of life as you knew it. Today there are so many trials and tests available that can detect the earliest signs that can be treated successfully, as I can testify to.

Not long after I turned 50 I received a test kit for bowel cancer, which I filled in! as directed and sent back and as I expected got the all clear, my husband too, received the all clear when he returned his kit. Two years later, I for personal reasons, just didn't find the right time to start filling in my latest kit, so I disposed of it. Telling myself when my next kit came I would make sure I completed it. My husband received his, returned it, only to get a request for just one more sample to make sure, which came back all clear.



As you know time just flies by, Christmases come and go birthdays vanish without a trace, we wish! and here comes my next test kit, not the most pleasant job, but you need to do it, why would I miss the chance to check my own internal health, there's no need to be embarrassed, who's going to see you? JUST DO IT, you just might save your own life!

A couple of weeks after I sent my kit back I received a letter suggesting I made an appointment to discuss the results, which I did. I spoke to a nurse who explained my results were abnormal and did I wish to have a colonoscopy to discover what the problem was, it could have been something simple like polyps. I made the appointment for end of that week, and initially the examination looked perfectly clear, but a large ulcerated area was found and biopsies were taken. I was told I would definitely have an operation, but before that I would have a CT scan. To cut a long story short I was told I had bowel cancer and went into hospital to have keyhole surgery to remove the affected area, tests were done on the lymph nodes that had been removed, and thankfully there was no trace of cancer in them. I was offered chemotherapy, as I was considered to be young, it probably wouldn't have made any difference if I didn't take them up on their offer, but in mind it made me feel that I had done everything I could to prevent any reoccurrence of the cancer.

The chemotherapy for bowel cancer is usually in tablet form which for me had very little side effects, so much so I managed to climb Ben Rinnes (a corbet) with my sister, and it was me encouraging her saying come on you can see the top, it's not far now!!! I'm now back at work full time, I've had my first annual CT scan, which I know will be clear. Yes sending the test kit back slowed me down for 8 months, but I'm still here fit and well.

What would life be like if I hadn't???

Next time a bowel testing kit drops through your letter box “JUST DO IT”, I know I will.

You could save your own life.



Letters.....

Dear Editor,



I was disappointed to see the criticism of Fairy Hill in the last issue. The creation of the wonderfully imaginative sculptures out of tree stumps should be commended. I find each of these sculptures to be an absolute work of art. The sculptor(s) should be congratulated on their skill, the results of which fascinate my two young grandchildren. There is indeed a good story to be told about Rev Kirk and this is an environmentally friendly way of doing it. I think the paths are sufficiently well made and drained to withstand a few more small feet. Yes, there is a management issue of the old ribbons and mementoes at the top but everyone I've spoken to finds it a magical and moving place, certainly not a rubbish tip.

Fairy Hill makes Aberfoyle a more interesting place for families to visit and for locals to explore, which can only be a good thing.

Yours faithfully,

Sandy Slater
Craigview, Main Street, Aberfoyle, FK8 3UN
Tel: 07717-217898
E: sandy@wildbikingscotland.com

Dear Editor,



Following the death of my wife in 1985, my (then young) son and I erected a bench to her memory at Kinlochard - a special place where she had family connections - and for many years the view from this bench over Loch Ard has been enjoyed by countless people.

In April this year on the 30th anniversary of her death a flowering cherry tree was planted near the bench by her aunt and cousin with the intention of giving visitors even more pleasure and enjoyment. Sadly within weeks the tree (complete with supporting stake) was dug up and stolen.

Clearly the thief will have had no thought as to the significance of the tree - merely an eye for the main chance - but if they read this and have a conscience they may wish to put it back.

Yours sincerely
John Myles
Edinburgh



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The benefits of Fundraising

Every village community has its unsung heroes who, collectively and individually, raise funds and other resources for the benefit of others. In the area of our villages, we have our share of those, and ... while I am sure they are thanked at the time ... I am also sure that they often then never hear about exactly how the resources, that they secured, have benefited others. Well, there can be no greater benefit than life itself, so my little tale is addressed to those fundraisers, including those who have been raising money for defibrillators.

I was at an event recently, when one of the attendees was taken ill. Dreadfully ill!

In this area we can be a long way from medical assistance, but on that day there was a first piece of luck. Also attending this event were doctors ... quite a lot of them ... who immediately set out to do everything they could.

Even allowing for doctors, we are still quite a long way from help, and it was going to be

important to get emergency services there as soon as possible. That was where the day brought a second piece of luck. Also attending this event were police officers ... and everything was arranged very quickly.

Well you can have doctors, and you can have police officers, and you can have emergency services on the way, but if no-one is equipped for an emergency then what can you do? Well there it was, the third piece of luck. We were only a few minutes from the nearest defibrillator! So, not so much down to luck, as down to hard work by those unsung heroes who freely give their time and effort to raise funds and other resources, to equip our wonderful area with things like defibrillators!

I thought those fund raisers might like to know and I wanted to be one of those to say 'Thank you'.

S.Johnston

They're here! It's well and truly tick season!

These little creatures are external parasites living in the grass and vegetation. They survive by sucking blood from mammals (dogs, cats, sheep, deer.....AND HUMANS!), birds and sometimes reptiles and amphibians. They cause a reaction at the site they attach to and are also responsible for transmitting a number of diseases. In this country our main concern is Lyme disease but we are seeing other disease in the UK after the introduction of the Pet Passport system allowing pets to holiday abroad.

Don't rush and pull the tick off your pet as you may

leave the mouth part imbedded in the skin. There is an art to it! And some tools used to remove them are better than others. Please call your vet for advice on how and what to use or better still come into the clinic. Our vet nurse clinics are free of charge, we can show you how to remove the ticks and give you advice about the multitude of products that can be used to repel and or kill them, how and when to apply and which one is best for your pet BEFORE it happens. Most importantly remember if you, your dog, your cat feel unwell after walking in an area with ticks, please seek advice from your doctor or your vet.



Marslaidh Smith BVM&S MRCVS
Riverside Veterinary Clinic, Callander

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Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre

Three of Glendrick Roost's rescued blind dogs, Frodo, Sherlock and Avatar, are in the middle of their next epic trek! This time they are walking the 80 mile Rob Roy Way from Drymen to Pitlochry, in stages, *OFF LEAD*, to raise funds for the charity that saved them, Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre!

They will be accompanied by manager of the charity, 63 year old Mione Morrison, who had a double mastectomy to beat breast cancer late last year, as well as having had 2 hip replacements, and one of the charity's amazing young volunteers, Sophia. Please show your support for these super-pooches and their heroic humans by sharing their story, sponsoring them as generously as you can and encouraging friends and family to do the same! Thank you so much!

This is the link to the Mydonate fundraising page:
<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/blinddogs>

Glendrick Roost offers a home for life to abused, abandoned and unwanted animals from gerbils to Clydesdale horses, using them to then provide educational and therapeutic animal interactions to people from all walks of life, particularly those experiencing some form of disadvantage. They also offer volunteering opportunities to all. The charity has been struggling more and more in recent months due to the loss of their primary fundraising venue last year and the situation is becoming critical...they are now trying to replace this lost income by hosting bookable tours of their sanctuary near Cobleland Campsite, Gartmore, running Pony Pals group sessions, 1-2-1 Own-a-pony experiences, hosting birthday parties and group visits to their centre...if you would like to know more or help to support their work by booking a visit, please check out their facebook page or call on 01877382964. Unfortunately these forms of fundraising are not guaranteed income and are seasonal at best...they desperately need regular monthly donations to keep the charity running...if you could spare a pound or two a week to help save this local community asset and all the animals that live there, or if you were able to donate any money at all to help them, please drop into the centre, or set up a direct debit through your bank to Glendrick Roost Animal Welfare Centre, Bank of Scotland, Balfron Sort Code 80 12 48 Account number 00914023 Thank you so much....we hope to see you down The Roost! xx



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Brownies

It's been a friendship filled year at 1st Aberfoyle Brownies. The girls have fun, learn new skills and develop as helpful and active members of their local community. The evening ranges from concentrating on badgework and group discussions to riotous games and songs.

For much of this year our numbers at Brownies have been up to eighteen girls and we have relied on our fantastic sixers and seconders to organise and mentor the girls in their sixes – the Kelpies, the Elves and the Ghillie Dhus.

In the middle of May the Brownies had a weekend away at Brownie camp in Kinlochard. The first night the girls had great fun with a campfire, singing, dancing and games. In the morning there was paddling in the chilly loch and shelter building in the forest. We were very lucky to have some of the local Girl Guides coming in to do a workshop with the Brownies about Disability Awareness, helping them to think about how it feels to live with physical or sensory impairments. Over the weekend the girls thought about team work and took part in activities where they had to problem solve and compromise with one another – including finding a way to protect an egg. The girls were very resourceful in using basic materials to stop their eggs from cracking when dropped from a great height, and they were really successful. For many of the girls, Brownie camp was the first time they had stayed away from their family, and I think we can be hugely proud of all of them for looking after one another so well.

We are indebted to Morna Ferguson who has been gardening with groups of Brownies and designed and constructed a display with the Brownies for the Flower Festival on the theme of Brownies Around the World – the girls dressed up in uniforms from other countries and invited visitors to pin flags on the world map where Brownies are active – 145 countries!

At the annual Brownie end of term family rounders game and slide show we reluctantly said goodbye to many members of our group. The Brownie Owls – Tufty Owl (Jane Jackson), Speckled Owl (Jackie Bell) and Wise Owl (Jane Dunlop) were saying goodbye to us after many years dedicated involvement. Their commitment, skills and kindness have made Brownies a happy and inspiring place for the girls. Everyone wanted to show their appreciation and we hope that they enjoy the voucher for a trip out together without having to spend the day planning the Brownie term! Our new team of Owls are looking forward to continuing Brownies in the coming years.

It was also the last evening at Brownies for five of the girls, who fulfilled the Brownie tradition of jumping over the Toadstool and moving on. We will miss especially their wide knowledge of Brownie songs and games. Who knew how much there was to learn about washing socks or entertaining penguins?

Most of the Brownies attend Aberfoyle Primary School together, but we are especially glad to welcome Brownies from the surrounding area. The girls are very keen to make new friends and wider connections. If you are between seven and ten and would be interested in joining us you would be most welcome. When you start, you will have your own Brownie Buddy to support you through the first few weeks of Brownies.

You can make an initial enquiry on the Girl Guiding website at www.girlguiding.org.uk or to make an informal enquiry you can contact us directly on aberfoylebrownies@hotmail.co.uk

The new Brownie term will start the second week of the school term on a Wednesday at 6pm. We are looking working on our fire safety badge with the support of the local Fire Service.

McLaren High School to celebrate 50th anniversary

Callander's McLaren High School is getting set to celebrate a very special anniversary.

This August it will be 50 years since the school moved from its previous location at what is now Callander Primary School to the Trossachs town's Mollands Road. It officially opened in September 1965.

A programme of events has now been organised for Saturday 5th September to mark the occasion, including sports matches between former and current pupils, school tours, an exhibition and a ceilidh. Headteacher Marc Fleming said: "There was no way we could let an anniversary like this go unmarked and I hope as many people as possible turn out for what should be a great fun day."

"There have been a lot of changes at McLaren High School over the years – not least the major refurbishment that took place between 2006 and 2008 and saw the school interior completely transformed – but it has always been important throughout that the school remains a central part of community life, which is why we're inviting everybody in to celebrate this milestone with us."

Among those helping to organise the anniversary celebrations are former pupils Allan Jack and Duncan Strathdee who clearly remember the day of the move in 1965 itself when the entire school paraded through Callander from the old premises to the new.

Allan said of the day: "There was a sense of excitement. Some of us had been into the building site (as the new school was being built), but getting the whole school arranged in order to march up the hill was something special."

Originally from Dunblane Duncan travelled to Callander by train every day on the line that still existed for at least some of his time at school, and added: "The new building was awesome! All new equipment – new desks and chairs, revolving blackboards which were attached to the walls, Technical Drawing tables that flipped over to reveal a drawing board with a sliding T-square."

An immediate fan of Technical Education classes Duncan went on to become a teacher of the subject himself, as retired geologist Allan added that he also has "nothing but great memories" of the school. Duncan said: "If teachers had given up on me while I was at McLaren High School I would never have had the opportunities I have had in my life. They knew I was not the 'finished article' and continued to deposit things into my life during my time there. Doors opened because of that. I am so grateful to all of them and count it a privilege to have attended as a pupil."

A former versus current pupils rugby match will be held at the Callander Primary School pitch from 10am on Saturday 5th September, with football and hockey games on the pitches at McLaren Leisure Centre from noon.

Tours of the current school and the exhibition of McLaren through the years can be enjoyed from noon-3pm and then the ceilidh takes place in the school from 7-11pm with tickets priced £5 each or £15 for a family (two adults and two children).

To take part in the sports matches or to purchase ceilidh tickets email mclarenhighfp@stirling.gov.uk or call 01877 330156.

Tickets can also be bought at the school reception.

Aberfoyle & Port of Menteith Guild



The Guild is open to both women and men and meets in Church House, Aberfoyle at 2 pm on the third Monday of the month. The first meeting of the new session is on Monday 21st September 2015 when the speaker will be Rev. Liz Robertson, Retiring Moderator of Stirling Presbytery. The theme "Be bold, be strong" is for the next three years. The project we will be supporting for the first year is Street Pastors.

New members will be made welcome.

Contacts are Anne Ralston, President/Secretary (382847) and Isabel Piper, Treasurer (382667).



The Lodge

Katy Saulite is the new Information and Education Officer, based at the Lodge Forest Visitor Centre in Aberfoyle. We caught up with her to find out more...

"I was a tutor for the Field Studies Council for a number of years where I worked as part of a team to deliver outdoor education to young people. I covered a wide range of topics, namely geography and biology, and worked with children of all ages. My role at the Lodge is a joint partnership between the RSPB and Forestry Commission Scotland and I am looking forward to working with both organisations to deliver a positive and enjoyable visitor experience, and promote awareness of wildlife and conservation issues.

One of the main aspects of my job role will be to engage with both primary and lower secondary schools in the local area, either welcoming groups to Lodge or interpreting the wildlife in your own locality. I can offer bespoke education sessions, tailor-made to compliment the Curriculum for Excellence or other school projects, using a variety of outdoor learning tools. Please do get in touch if you have any queries or questions, or you can just pop into the Wildlife Room at the Lodge and I would be happy to chat it through!"

Katy joins the team at the Lodge where for the first time in 55 years, the Forestry Commission has employed an all-female staff team. This is a particularly poignant moment in history as the Lodge has a memorial to the Women's Timber Corps within its grounds and has hosted a number of events to reunite members from this forgotten branch of the Women's Land Army. The team at the Lodge are proud to carry on the tradition started by their namesakes, the Lumberjills!

Katy's contact details are:

Tel: 01877 382 258

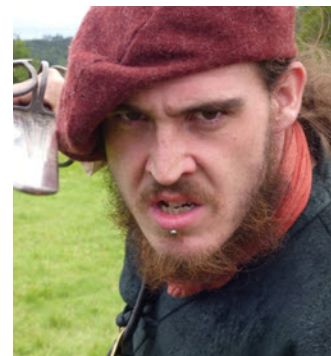
Email: katy.saulite@rspb.org.uk



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Aberfoyle Primary School



Our **annual awards ceremony** was held in the school hall on Friday 26th June. The children sang songs and/or played musical instruments to their audience of family and friends before receiving their certificates and celebrating class awards. Primary 7 ended the ceremony with their leaver's performance which they wrote all by themselves. Their memories of school life in Aberfoyle was enjoyed by everyone! Good luck to all of the children in Primary 7 as they prepare to move onto McLaren HS after the summer holidays.

Sports Award: Thomas Woods and Lucy More

Primary 1-7 Citizenship award

Primary 1 Charley Macadam
Primary 2 Johannes Dalglish
Primary 3 Alex Dunlop
Primary 4 Amber Harrower
Primary 5 Emma Stevenson
Primary 6 George Tutin
Primary 7 Eilidh Jackson

School Dux: Beth Dunlop



Primary 7

P6/7 Outdoor Learning

P6/7 have been working towards the John Muir Award. The award is about exploring a wild place, exploring it, doing something to conserve it and sharing your experiences. For part of it we did a survey on a small piece of land that was cut out of the ground. We were looking for how many worms we could find in each strip. To round up our outdoor learning this year we walked up Craigmore. It was a roasting hot day so we had to stop for regular water breaks. It took us 2 hours to get up but it was worth it because the view was stunning. It was easier to get down but it still took us 1 hour 30 minutes.

Primary 7 Camping Trip

The annual camping trip for our Primary 7's was at Loch Venachar on Wednesday 24th June into Thursday 25th June. The children pitched their own tents and prepared their own dinner. It was a really enjoyable night for everyone! The following morning the children walked along the Rob Roy Way, arriving back at school late mid-afternoon.

P7 Go Country Experience

This term P7 have had a fantastic time being treated to a free session at the Go Country water park. They went with the Primary 7's from Gartmore and thoroughly enjoyed bouncing around on the massive inflatables.

P7 Pizza making

P7 have been lucky enough to have a go at the Frankie and Benny's pizza workshop. They got to top a pizza with their choice of toppings and then eat it for lunch. They had a really good time.

Active Stirling Stirling Primary Schools Track and Field Event

On Wednesday 27th May, seven children from Primary 6/7 took part in the Stirling Primary Schools Track and Field event at Stirling University. Lucy competed in the 80m sprint and won a bronze medal, Fiona competed in the 150m race and Thomas and Beth competed in the 600m race on track. On the field, Eilidh competed in the long jump and George and Molly competed in the javelin event. All of the children did really well – well done to everyone for taking part!



Miniature Garden Competition

Benvieu Garden Centre held their annual miniature garden competition for local primary schools on Saturday 6th June. Several children from Primary 1 to Primary 5 worked extremely hard to create their gardens and they were delighted to have them on show in the garden centre over the weekend. Idris Rees in Primary 3 received 'highly commended' for his garden and Catriona, Megan, Morven and Mara also received 'highly commended' for the group garden.



Nursery to Primary 1 Transition

The pre-school children beginning Primary 1 in August have really enjoyed their P.E., Technology, Science and Music sessions with Miss Brown and Primary 1 as part of our summer transition programme. The children are looking forward to starting school after the summer holidays.

Drymen Show

A selection of art work, from Nursery to Primary 5, was entered into this year's Drymen Show on Saturday 30th May. Congratulations to Alex Dunlop who won 1st prize in the Primary 3/4 Young Artist category and to Charley Macadam who won 3rd prize in the Primary 1/2 Young Artist category. Nursery were delighted to gain a merit for their solar system frieze as well. Well done to everyone who entered!



Potted Sports (Wednesday 3rd June)

Potted sports was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole school on Wednesday 3rd June. The children rotated around four sporting events in their houses and the nursery children joined in as well for the morning which was great! The results from the potted sports were:

Earth 1st Mars 2nd Saturn 3rd Neptune 4th

Sports Day (Wednesday 10th June)

Our annual Sports Day was on Wednesday afternoon (10th June) and the children competed in a variety of field events, finished off with the house relay race for Primary 1-4 and Primary 5-7. The nursery children took part in the running race, bean bag race and egg and spoon race and the children in Primary 1-7 took part in the running race, egg and spoon race and sack race. It was an extremely hot and sunny afternoon and all of the children did extremely well competing in all of the events. Unfortunately there was no parent race this year due to time but thank you to everyone for coming along and supporting the children. A big thank you to our mums, dads and grandpa's who held the finish line and issued out the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place cards.

Everyone did really well and the winning house for Sports Day (with points carried forward from potted sports) was Earth – congratulations!

Caitlin's Taekwondo Competition

At Bellahouston Hall in Glasgow, Caitlin Harrison (Primary 5) took part in a Taekwondo competition against different clubs around Scotland. Caitlin won a silver medal when competing against a 14 year old girl. This was after Caitlin had to stop at half time due to an ankle injury, however she went right back in and finished competing. Well done Caitlin!



McLaren Community Leisure Centre



End of summer

We have entered the last weeks of our packed summer schedule at McLaren Leisure Centre and what a fantastic summer it has been so far. We have again enjoyed another hugely successful and well attended kid's camp. This will be celebrated in style at the kid's End of Season Party on the 14th of August, so if your child has attended Kids Camp at any point this summer, make sure they don't miss out and book them in for their free space!

As the summer draws to a close we now look forward to welcoming back our regular classes and activities for the kids including Soccer School, Climbing club, Multi-sports and Athletics.

We also have plenty on for the adults with the likes of Aqua Therapy, Indoor cycling classes and for those that enjoy high intensity work outs there are our Total Blast, Ab Blast and Insanity classes! We would like to welcome our new Insanity instructor Leslie. Leslie's class has been enthusiastically received, in numbers and feedback. This is definitely our class of the moment to try, so why not come along and 'find out what you're made of'.

Soft Play

The ever popular soft play area has now been redecorated with a new underwater theme for the kids and is great value at just £2.10 per child. Why not come along for a nice cake and coffee from the café while your child burns off some energy, perfect entertainment for under eights, for when the weather isn't great.

Save the Date: Sat 3rd October

Do you have kids in Swimming Lessons at MCLC? We are organising a fantastic relaunch of our new look 'Trossachs Swimming' – swim school, starting with a fun packed Swimming Gala on Saturday 3rd October. This will include everyone from our mini swimmers in the Baby & Toddler classes all the way up to our advanced swimmers! It will be a fantastic day for all the family to enjoy and help us celebrate swimming in style! For more info please contact Emma Stewart: emma@mclarenleisure.co.uk.

Trossachs Summer Festival 1st August 2015

Our inaugural Trossachs Summer Festival was held on the 1st of August and while this article is being written before the event, the support and involvement from local organisations and businesses has been fantastic. With the support of groups such as The Round Table, The Rotary, Ladies Circle and Trossachs Tigers, Callander Thistle and Loch Venachar Sailing Club. We put together a really exciting programme of activities including the Junior Highland Games, a Tug of War tournament, a fantastic farm theme Parade and Fancy dress competition kindly Sponsored by Briarlands Farm. The entertainment line up included dance displays by both Liz Campbell's Highland Dancers and Dance Connection with Cheerleading and a fun flash mob. It is great to have the support of so many local businesses providing stalls and of course delicious food. We'd like to say a special thank you to Briarlands Farm, Deanston Highland Single Malt and Blair Drummond Safari Park for their support in sponsoring the event.

We would now like to turn our attention to future years by inviting local organisations and businesses who are interested in working with us to join our event committee. This committee will meet on a regular basis to help with planning and delivering certain parts of the event from the show ring programme to helping to find sponsorship and funding. For more info contact: rachel@mclarenleisure.co.uk

New car-share scheme for Trossachs 'n' Teith

MCLC is reducing its carbon footprint and helping its customers and residents of the Trossachs and Teith area save money, by setting up a car-sharing scheme. The free-to-use online system, which is designed to cut travel costs as well as local congestion and pollution, enables its members to share lifts to any destination.

Register at www.trossachsandteith.liftshare.com
For more information about the new car-share scheme, or any of the Carbon Challenge Fund projects running from the Leisure Centre contact Andy Cartwright: 07572203877
andy@mclarenleisure.co.uk

David Gordon-McWhirter

Marketing Manager

davidg@mclarenleisure.co.uk

www.mclarenleisure.co.uk

Facebook – search McLaren Leisure Centre

Tel: 01877 330000

McLaren Community Leisure Centre

Leisure Facilities:

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Green Routes

Green Routes is delighted to be sponsoring the Strathard News once again...it gives us the opportunity to bring readers up to date with all that has been happening in the Garden!



As you know, we are a social enterprise supporting and enabling young adults with learning difficulties to learn transferable skills through horticulture and woodwork. We welcome each week pupils from five of Stirling's High Schools and most of our students are those pupils who opt to come to Green Routes on leaving school.

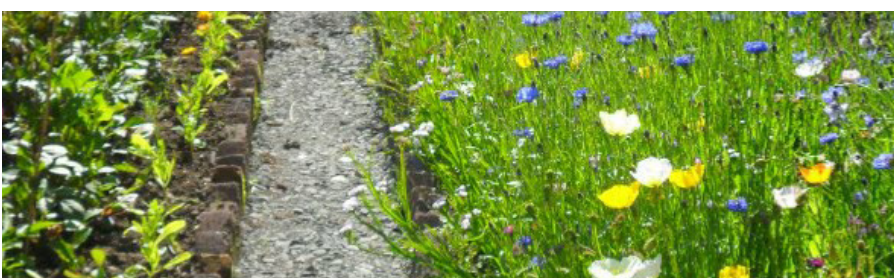
In their four years with us, students study initially for Grow and Learn Awards 1 and 2 through the Royal Horticultural Society. This is a new award which was launched this June in Edinburgh with six of our students attending. Two were selected to speak about Green Routes to Princess Anne and one to receive the six certificates.



Student learning covers the whole year of work in the Garden, including soil preparation, compost-making, seed-sowing, pricking out, potting on, weed and pest control, plant nurture, good watering, gathering and harvesting. Rewards are many and include delicious vegetable soups and fruity jams and puddings.

Further practical work leads to an SVQ1 and perhaps SVQ2 in horticulture with students undertaking supported placements, as they become more ready for their next steps. This year, for the first time, a student spent 6 mornings at Guyana, being made very welcome and learning a great deal about plant care. Other placements have been at Benview and in the Gartmore House kitchen. *(If YOU are able to offer a placement opportunity, do please contact Gillian on 01877389082)*

Each summer we enter planters and pallet gardens into Scotland's Gardens at Ingliston. This year we were awarded several golds, silver-gilts and silver medals with some of our exhibits featured on the Beechgrove Garden. Matt Lowe, one of our tutors won a silver-gilt for his show garden.



As we teach good garden skills we also consider the tools needed. All students learn to use secateurs, mowers and strimmers and our new small tractor is greatly enjoyed and very useful for moving loads of compost, manure and wood.



The entrance to the Garden has been transformed this summer to create a small garden where final year students can take responsibility for mowing the lawn, tending a rose bed and rockery, cutting three types of hedging and planting up a bed of annuals.

Woodwork continues to be very popular and we were delighted to make new planters for Drymen, as well as our egg and garlic boxes, tool boxes and planters.



Our programme of rural skills has been enhanced too. In addition to bees, ducks and hens, we now have three Jacob sheep with black lambs at foot. Animal care is very popular and there has been no lack of volunteers to herd them to their field, help with mucking out and to watch them being shorn. Our bees seem to be thriving, despite the poor summer weather and many students enjoy getting suited-up and helping to keep the bees in good condition.



The work we do is very ably led by Development Manager, Gillian Forster, with tutors, John Forster, Anne Shore and Matt Lowe. Our Board is hard-working and hugely supportive and the team of volunteers who mentor and support the students very much appreciated. *(It is very rewarding being a volunteer at Green Routes, nurturing these very special young people. We are always delighted to welcome more volunteers for whatever time they can give)*

For more information on Green Routes do look at our website:

www.greenroutes.org.uk

We welcome visitors to the Garden – please phone us first on 01877389082.



St Mary's Episcopal Church

Richard Grosse, Rector of St Mary's

Visitors to St Mary's Sunday services at this time of year are often visiting the area for walking and climbing: who can blame them? Speaking of the latter, last month marked the 91st anniversary of the disappearance of Andrew Irvine with a fellow climber, George Mallory whilst in the process of conquering, or returning from the conquering of Mount Everest.

Irvine is of interest because of his local connections. His younger brother Thurstan was for many years Rector of St Andrew's Callander, St Mary's linked parish. Thurstan Irvine was just ten years old when in February 1924 he was at Liverpool docks with his parents and siblings to bid his brother farewell.

Andrew was born in 1902. At school he demonstrated a natural engineering acumen and was able to improvise or improve almost anything mechanical. During the First World War, he created a small stir at the War Office by sending a design for an interrupter gear to allow a machine gun to fire from a propeller-driven aeroplane without damaging the propeller's blades. He was also a keen sportsman, excelling at rowing. His prodigious ability propelled him to Merton College, Oxford to study Engineering. At Oxford he joined the University Mountaineering Club, and was also a member of the winning crew in 1923 of the 'Varsity' Boat race.

In that same year Irvine also took part in the College Arctic Expedition to Spitsbergen, where he excelled on every front. He and the expedition's leader, Noel Odell, discovered that they had met before in 1919 on a Welsh mountain. On that occasion, Irvine had ridden his motorcycle to the summit, surprising Odell who had reached it in more conventional fashion. Subsequently, on Odell's recommendation, Irvine, then 21, was invited to join the forthcoming third British Mount Everest expedition on the grounds that he might be the "superman" that the expedition felt it needed. During the early days of the expedition, Irvine made major and crucial innovations to the expedition's oxygen sets, radically improving their functionality, lightness, and strength. He also maintained the expedition's cameras, camp beds, primus stoves and many other devices. He was universally popular, and respected by his older colleagues for his ingenuity, companionability and unstinting hard work.

The expedition made two unsuccessful attempts on the summit in early June, but there was time for one more before heavy snowfall that came with the summer monsoon would make climbing too dangerous. This last chance fell to the expedition's most experienced climber, George Mallory. To the surprise of other

expedition members, Mallory chose the 22 year-old inexperienced Irvine above the older, more seasoned climber, Odell. Irvine's proficiency with the oxygen equipment was obviously a major factor in Mallory's decision.

Mallory and Irvine began their ascent on 6 June, and by the end of the next day, the pair had established a final two-man camp at 8,168 m (26,800 ft), from which to make their final push to the summit. Odell, who was acting in a supporting role, reported seeing them ascending what he believed was the Second Step of the northeast ridge and 'going strongly for the top'.

It has though never been established whether they reached the summit. They never returned to their camp and died somewhere high on the mountain. The discovery of Mallory's body in 1999, with its severe rope jerk injury about his waist, suggests the two were roped when they fell. Irvine's body though has never been recovered. A search of Mallory's body though revealed two pieces of evidence that suggest that the pair might indeed have reached the summit. Mallory's daughter always maintained that her father carried a photograph of his wife on the expedition with the intention of leaving it on the summit when he reached it. No such photograph was ever found on the body: perhaps Mallory was able to deposit it as he intended. Secondly, Mallory's snow goggles were in his pocket when the body was found, suggesting that he died at night. This implies that he and Irvine had already reached the summit before descending late in the day. It is otherwise unlikely that they would have still been out by nightfall. The search also revealed no trace of either of the two 'Vest Pocket' Kodak cameras that the pair were known to be carrying. Experts believe that if either of the cameras could be found, there is a good chance that the film could be developed to determine the fate of Mallory and Irvine more clearly than any other evidence.

Today, Irvine Scholarships are still awarded to students who carry on the spirit of determination and endurance for which Andrew Irvine was respected. A memorial stone to Irvine, by the sculptor Eric Gill was later placed at Merton College, and a window to both he and George Mallory dedicated in Chester Cathedral.

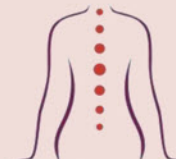
One of Irvine's friends later wrote: 'Irvine did not live long, but he lived well. Into his short life he crowded an overflowing measure of activity which found its climax in his last wonderful year, a year during which he rowed in the winning Oxford boat, explored Spitsbergen, fell in love with skiing, and – perhaps – conquered Everest'. Most of us alas could not achieve that in a lifetime.

Les Trois Blondes will play at St Mary's on 30th October 2015

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.

(Trois Blondes is a double entendre in the context of the band, it means "Three Pints of Lager", please!)





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Aberfoyle Parish Church Flower Festival

Our Bi Annual Flower Festival was held on the last weekend in May, the theme being "Countries of the World". The weather was quite kind to us over the weekend. We would like to thank all who so kindly gave their time and talent to help raise funds for the Church. We raised £1500. Many thanks to our Session Clerk Janet MacCallum for all her help behind the scenes, Dorothy Prescott and her daughter Fiona. Mrs Barwick and Staff at Aberfoyle Primary School and Mrs Crawford for organizing the children. The children and Leaders of the Brownies, Lorna from Port of Menteith Church, Saffrey and Carol from St Mary's Church, Janette Campbell, Mairi MacCallum, Tricia Roberts, Gillian McEwan, Kay Orr, Lindsay MacCallum, Ali Morton, Isobel Piper and Betty, Leaders and children of Aberfoyle Church Sunday School, Bridget Lewis, Agnieszka and Joanna from Buchlyvie, Margaret Neufeld, and Tamsin Dingwall. Thanks also to Guyana for their support in supplying plants for the driveway, Carol-Ann Knight for her help and Bill McLean from Kinlochard for the photographs. A big thank-you to Morna Ferguson and her helpers for lovely lunches and afternoon teas.

Maria Facenna (Flower Convener)



Callander and West Perthshire U3A

The start of summer events in May saw C&WP join with the U3As from Forth Valley and Perth for a musical afternoon with Cream Teas at the Venachar Lochside restaurant where we were entertained by Callander Chimes, the handbell group from Forth Valley U3A, the Ukulele Band from Perth U3A, and our own Singing for Pleasure group. It was a wonderful, friendly afternoon enjoyed by all who attended and a great way to meet other U3A groups. The Gardening Group visited Duntreath Castle and enjoyed the splendid array of colourful plants if not the slightly chilly weather! In June C&WP members of the Current Affairs group were invited to the new Forth Valley College Campus to meet the young students, be shown around the various departments and eat lunch cooked on the premises by the trainee chefs. This visit was much appreciated as a great opportunity for the older generation to see how younger people are being given modern, up-to-date vocational training in such a variety of subjects. At the end of the month fourteen C&WP members braved half-hour driving assessments run by the local Institute of Advanced Driving, based in Stirling. Four friendly assessors came out to Callander and after a talk outlining the aims of the association took each member in turn for a drive through the busy Saturday streets, giving each one a private assessment of their driving capabilities. There was much discussion over

cups of coffee afterwards when all agreed it had been a most worthwhile exercise and a couple of members have now signed up to take the Advanced Driving Test. We are now coming to the end of another successful year and apart from Bridge and Table Tennis all our courses have finished, although keen French speakers meet every Wednesday morning for coffee with their Group Leader at the Old Bank Café in Callander. Members who wish to keep in touch by chatting in English can meet on Friday mornings at the same venue. The Wine Tasting Group ended their year with a flourish – tasting 5 wines in an afternoon, following on the same evening with a splendid dinner to enjoy the same wines with their food. All this took place in the Garden Room of the newly refurbished Gartmore Village Hall and was deemed a great success by all who attended. The Current Affairs Group invited Bruce Crawford, our local MSP, to join them for the last morning session and stay on to enjoy the now traditional end-of-term 'Bring and Share' lunch. The AGM and Enrolment for the new session will take place on Thursday 27 August in Callander Kirk Hall starting at 2.00pm. Refreshments will be served around 3.00pm after which Enrolment will begin. Membership forms and further details will be sent out to members in early August.





POLICE Scotland



Police Scotland



Inspector Gerry McMenemy

The Trossachs and Teith Multi Member Ward area stretches from the River Forth at Craigforth to Tyndrum, taking in a large part of the outstanding natural beauty of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. This is the start of the highlands and from April to October, the area attracts visitors from all over the world who come to enjoy a range of tourist attractions including a Safari Park, distillery, castles, Lochs, Glens, rivers and a range of hills and mountains.

The area hosts a variety of community events, including Highland Games, Music festivals and outdoor sporting competitions and is a focus for walkers and climbers all year round.

Operation Ironworks runs from April to October when visitor numbers to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park increase. We work closely with our partners in the National Park Authority and Forestry Commission, and neighboring Police divisions, to

focus Policing on the right people, in the right places and at the right time. This has improved the experience of visitors to the Park and continues to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Some of the nation's main trunk roads, which are also some of the most scenic, pass through the area and we work to reduce collisions and injury on our roads. Our focus is to reduce crime and disorder, to increase public reassurance within your community and make people feel safe, be they resident or visitor. We will continue to work closely with our partners to find effective long-term solutions to issues you have raised.

Trossachs and Teith

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

How to Contact Us

Our Twitter and Facebook sites are not for reporting crime and they are not monitored 24/7.

In an emergency always dial 999.

For non-urgent crime, you can contact your local police office by telephoning 101.

You can also email your local community policing team using the address below. Please remember that your local community policing officers are out on patrol in your community the vast majority of the time, so your email may not be read or attended to immediately. If you require an emergency police response, then dial 999.

Phone: In an emergency always dial 999. Non-urgent crime, and other matters, phone 101.

Email: TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

Our Twitter and Facebook sites are not for reporting crime and they are not monitored 24/7.

Hate Crime & Third Party Reporting

Hate crime

Did you know that Hate Crime is any criminal offence committed against an individual or property that is motivated by a person's hatred of someone because of his or her actual or perceived race, religion, transgender identity, sexual orientation or disability?

Hate Crime is wrong, it is against the law, and everyone has the right to live safely and without fear. No two individuals are ever the same - embrace individuality and help put an end to Hate crime by reporting it.

You can report a Hate Crime as follows:

By Telephone 999 (emergency)

101 (non-emergency)

In person at any Police office

Report to third party organisation

Or by clicking the following link on Police Scotland website- Hate Crime Reporting Form

Third party reporting

In some cases victims/witnesses of Hate Crime do not feel comfortable reporting the matter directly to the Police and may be more comfortable reporting it to someone they are familiar with.

To ensure all victims/witnesses are able to report Hate Crimes, Police Scotland works in partnership with a wide variety of partners who perform the role of 3rd Party Reporting Centres. Staff within 3rd Party Reporting Centres have been trained to assist a victim or witness in submitting a report to the police and can make such a report on the victim/witnesses behalf.

Examples of 3rd Party Reporting Centres participating in the scheme range from Housing Associations to Victim Support offices and Voluntary Groups.

Find your nearest Third Party Reporting Centre.

Forth Valley

ORGANISATION

Central Scotland Islamic Centre
Falkirk Islamic Centre
Falkirk Mosque
Alloa Mosque
AMINA, The Womens Resource Centre
Falkirk Travelling Persons Site
Stirling Travelling Persons Site
Clackmannanshire Travelling Persons Site
LGBT Youth Scotland
Central Scotland Transgender Group
Central Scotland Gay and Lesbian Switchboard
Forth House Association
The Sensory Centre
Central Advocacy Partners
Central Scotland Regional Equality Centre
Falkirk Childrens Rights

ADDRESS

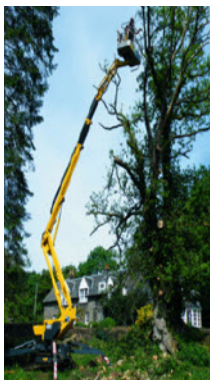
Burghmuir Road, Stirling
6/8 Burnhead Lane, Falkirk
10 Burnhead Lane, Falkirk
97 Whins Road, Alloa
311 Calder Street, Glasgow
Redding Industrial Estate, Falkirk
Craigforth, Drip Road, Stirling
Westhaugh, Alva

Dunblane
Stirling
2 Viewfield Place, Stirling
Redbrae Road, Camelon
27 West Bridge Street, Falkirk, FK1 5RJ
9 Park Street Falkirk
9 Bridge Street Falkirk FK11YD

CONTACT

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The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will soon be recruiting in the Aberfoyle area for part time positions at Aberfoyle Fire Station. This is a station where Fire-Fighters respond to when required for an emergency, the crew live and work in the local area and are called out via a radio pager when needed. If you have any questions in relation to the role please contact Station Manager Brian Fyfe on 07785 572128.



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Stirlingshire Openings 2015

THE STEADING

Yettis O'Muckhart,
By Dollar FK14 7JT

Opening Times: Sunday 16 August 2:00pm - 5:00pm

By arrangement 1 April - 15 October

Disabled Access: None

Admission: £4.00, children free

Charities: Muckhart Parish Amenity receives 20%, Alzheimers Friendship Club receives 20%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries
Now 20 years old, this south-facing rural garden, situated at the foot of the Ochil Hills, continues to develop and rejuvenate. Curvaceous paths meander through a variety of terraced beds and ponds planted with a wide range of seasonal plants and species trees to give all year colour and interest.

Other Details: No dogs except guide dogs. Homemade Teas. Plant stall.

Directions: Situated at the Yettis o' Muckhart junction on the A823/A91 Dunfermline/Crieff road.

THE PINEAPPLE

Near Airth,
Falkirk FK2 8LU

Opening Times: Sunday 30 August 10:30am - 5:00pm

for Harvest Produce and Plant Sale

Disabled Access: Partial

Admission: By donation

Charities: All proceeds to SG Beneficiaries

The Pineapple is named after the bizarre structure built around 1761 in the shape of a pineapple! This folly once held extensive glasshouses and pineapple pits where a variety of exotic fruits and vegetables were grown. It is now an oasis for wildlife including the rare great crested newt - with a dipping pool, an apple orchard and picnic grounds.

Other Details: Join the Pineapple team for a harvest produce and plant sale in this unique setting.

Directions: Seven miles east of Stirling, off A905, then off B9124. 1 mile west of Airth.

LITTLE BROICH

Kippen FK8 3DT

Opening Times: Sunday 4 October 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Disabled Access: Partial

Admission: £4.00 Children free

Charities: Strathcarron Hospice receives 40%, the net remaining to SG Beneficiaries.

A tree lover's heaven! A hidden arboretum of about 8 acres, planted over the last 20 years, with an extensive collection of native and non-native conifers and broad-leaf specimens. Fern leaf oaks, Hungarian oaks, Cercidiphyllum and Glyptostrobus amongst many others around wide, slightly sloping grass paths (can be slippery when wet). Stunning views across the Carse of Stirling and the autumn colours should be outstanding. The garden featured in the October 2014 issue of *Scotland on Sunday*.

Other Details: No dogs except guide dogs. Cream Teas.

Directions: Will be signposted off the B8037. Parking on the road, disabled badge holders can park at the bottom of the lane.

DUNTREATH CASTLE

Blanefield G63 9AJ

Opening Times: By arrangement 1 January - 31 December : Groups welcome

Disabled Access: Full

Admission: £4.00, children free

Charities: All proceeds to SG Beneficiaries.

Extensive gardens with mature and new plantings. Ornamental landscaped lake and bog garden. Sweeping lawns below formal fountain and rose parterre with herbaceous border leading up to an attractive waterfall garden with shrubs and spring plantings. There is a woodland walk and a 15th century keep and chapel

Directions: A81 north of Glasgow between Blanefield and Killearn.



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Balfron	Doune	Killin	Strathyre
Buchlyvie	Drymen	Kinlochard	Stronachlachar
Callander	Gargunnock	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:

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Scottish Wildlife Trust

While still waiting for summer to start, we are already looking ahead to our SWT programme of talks. On 8 September David Bryant will be speaking on 'Birds of Central Scotland: 40 years of change'. Even over 8 years in Callander we have noticed changes in bird populations, one positive being the northerly migration of nuthatches into local woods - a pair even nested in one of our SWT nest boxes. They usually plaster mud around natural nest holes to tailor the entrance but it was interesting to see that, although the hole in the box was not altered they had sealed the lid of the nest box with mud. In June the 6 chicks were ringed, and we'll put up more boxes for next year in the hope of getting some returnees.



4 other boxes had blue tit and great tit nests but in 2 solitary wasps had built nests underneath the lids; one brood had already fledged but the second box had a very sad nest of abandoned chicks.

While not a welcome tenant, the wasp's nest is quite beautiful, made of paper-like chewed vegetation and housing a few cells for the larvae. These Eumenine wasps are also known as potter wasps due to the shape of their nest - could be called lampshade wasps!

In October the speaker on 'Otter Ecology and Conservation: the Work of the International Otter Survival Fund' is Dr Paul Yoxon, CEO of IOSF, based at Broadford, Skye. Note that the date has been changed to Thursday 22 October, 7:30pm. IOSF is a charity set up to protect and help 13 species of otter worldwide; it supports projects to protect otters, ensuring they have a healthy environment and works closely with organisations concerned with wildlife crime. You can help by reporting sightings, dead or alive on www.otter.org/Public/AboutOtters_OtterWatch

Many of us rarely see otters although they are now present in all the UK's major river systems. They travel overland between water courses and, like other wildlife that is active between dawn and dusk, road traffic injuries are a real concern. So please keep an eye out for animals crossing local roads and keep to a speed that allows you to avoid them. While hedgehogs, rabbits and red squirrels may squash quite easily, a big otter, badger or a roe deer could have more serious consequences for vehicles and drivers too.

In spring a large dog otter was killed on 'the long straight' of the A81. It was retrieved then stored in FCS's freezer until taken to Edinburgh University Vet School for examination by students. Its death was not entirely in vain but a healthy, mature male would have been infinitely better!

10 November is 'RSPB's All Nature Programme: Not Just Birds' by James Silvey (RSPB), known to some from his involvement in the Trossachs water vole re-introduction programme. 8 December will be 'John Muir Trust: Giving Wild Land a Voice' on the work of the conservation organisation.

Before then, on 16 August 10-12:30am, we would welcome help to remove invasive Himalayan Balsam along the Teith in Callander. The last 3 years' work is definitely paying off with much less as far as the Turning Pool. This second session will give a chance to get the last few before they disperse thousands of seeds.

If interested contact Lesley Hawkins mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk; it's a great stress-reliever!

Lesley Hawkins



Loch Ard Local History Group



Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month from October to April in the Village Hall in Kinlochard. Although we style ourselves as a "Local History Group" our talks often cover much broader fields, so long as the subject is historical and has a Scottish connection. All are welcome to our talks which are always followed with refreshments and a good deal of conversation, so it's a great way to meet like-minded neighbours and friends.

Programme

7th October 2015

Sue Stephen

"Collectors Daughter"

The story of the troubled life of Marion, daughter of Sir William Burrell. This talk has been carried over from last season when it had to be cancelled for health reasons.

4th November 2015

Callum Pinnie

"The restoration of Dun Dubh Gardens"

Meetings 7.30pm Kinlochard Village Hall

Annual Membership £10 Single Talk £3

Chairman James Kennedy

Secretary Alan Cooper

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The Garden in late summer

Summer seems to have forgotten to come to Scotland this year; with the exception of a few days here and there wind and overcast days have been the norm not making for great gardening weather. With the lack of real warmth we've found that a lot of annuals and especially vegetables have been slow to get going even under glass but established plants have been ok.

But just because the sun hasn't been shining doesn't mean you can forget about watering. Established plants in the ground shouldn't need any attention but anything in containers including hanging baskets will still need regular watering. Fast growing plants such as vegetables also need to be monitored. Remember that it's not just the heat that dries plants out – wind can be just as dehydrating. With many of you heading off on holiday try to prepare your plants for your absence either by lining up a reliable neighbour/friend to do watering duties and/or moving pots out of the sun or setting up some sort of automated watering system.

To prolong **hanging baskets and summer bedding** keep dead-heading and feeding at least every two weeks with a high potash fertilizer such as tomato feed. Also feed shrubs or trees in containers with the same fertilizer as it helps to toughen up the young wood ahead of the winter. But stop feeding before the middle of August; any later will promote soft new growth which will be very susceptible to the cold of winter.

In the **kitchen garden** you should be busy harvesting the fruits of your labours but still planning ahead at the same time. Where you've harvested a crop and have some ground spare you can still sow salad crops such as lettuce. Prune back summer fruiting raspberries after you've picked all the fruit. (Autumn fruiting varieties should be left until the spring before pruning). Lift and pot up strawberry runners.

In the **greenhouse** you can be sowing perpetual spinach, rocket, winter-hardy lettuce, winter radish, red mustard and mizuna. Prepare to take tender perennials in for winter or take cuttings from them.

In **The ornamental garden** if you want to get rid of really difficult perennial weeds such as ground elder and couch grass, spraying them now with a systemic weedkiller is likely to be most effective as the weeds start drawing sap down into their roots taking the weedkiller with it.

Trim back hardy geraniums and other perennials to promote another flush of growth. Collect seed from annuals and hardy perennials, making sure it's dry before you store it. Prune rambling roses as soon as they have finished flowering, taking the flowering shoots back to one or two buds from the main stem. Continue to dead head all other roses. Prune Wisteria and shrubs such as Pyracantha after flowering.



Disease on **roses**; of all the common garden plants roses are more prone to disease than most, the three main problems being black spot, rust and mildew. All three diseases can be spread by rain drops. To minimise the problem pick off the most badly affected leaves and put them in the bin or burn them (DON'T put them on the compost heap) and/or cut back badly affected stems. Then spray with a rose fungicide. For roses in pots, the chance of getting mildew is greatly increased if they get stressed e.g. not watered regularly enough.

Plant spring flowering bulbs for a great display early next year.

In late August/September give the lawn an Autumn Weed & Feed, formulated to toughen the grass up, not produce lush top growth.

Benview Garden Centre, Ward Toll, Balfour Station G63 0QZ
Tel: 01360 850525
www.benviewgardencentre.co.uk



Milton

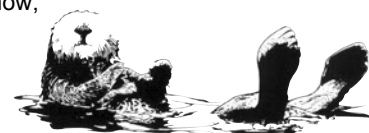
Hello Children,

Summer in Strathard is a wonderful time. Maybe sunshine has been in short supply but the flowers, both wild and cultivated, certainly have been providing plenty of brightness. Many gardeners can pat themselves on the back, their handiwork easily seen for others to enjoy. No matter which way you come into Aberfoyle, there are plenty of colourful, well tended gardens, hanging baskets, tubs and planters to catch the eye. A very popular tourist destination, countless visitors sweep into the Main Street, past the medical centre, on between the neat play park and Stirling Council's lovely flower bed – then to see the state of our Garage.

It is back-to-school time for pupils and teachers, an exciting new academic year ahead with lots of new things to learn. It is possible to be taught new skills outside school, too. Duke and Katrine, were very keen to take part in training of the necessary skills needed for outdoor survival. Sadly, the session at David Marshall Lodge was cancelled – because of the weather! However, Grandpa Otter came to the rescue, teaching the twins how to use trees to find your direction. The strongest roots will be pointing into the prevailing wind, south-west. Smaller and paler leaves grow on the sunny south facing side of the tree. Larger, darker leaves, and more moss on the trunk, on the north side.

The evenings are noticeably drawing in, all the better for stargazing through my telescope. Mercury, the grey planet, has taken its place as our evening star, appearing in the sky to the left of the sun – once the sun has set. Venus and Jupiter have disappeared for now, soon to return in the eastern morning sky, just before sunrise. Mercury is the smallest of our planet and orbits closest to the sun. Mercury was the name of the messenger serving the ancient gods of the Roman Empire. The spectacular Perseid Meteors are already showering through the dark night sky. This display of heavenly fireworks will continue until 20th August. The peak show, 80 an hour, will be on the 13th. There was just time for one last great adventure, before the long school holiday came to an end. We packed a family picnic and set off to meet the newest settlers in the Trossachs, beavers. Like otters, beavers are really at home in water, swimming as well as we can! They also love felling trees, actually gnawing through the tree trunks, to make a new home. Having missed out on building a bivouac at David Marshall Lodge, the twins were soon helping to dam a burn and construct a lodge for the beavers to live in. On the way back to our holt, we paid a visit to Loch Katrine, my little sister's namesake. We watched skipper, Debbie Whyte neatly berthing the Lady of the Lake, the smaller cruise ship. All the passengers seem to have enjoyed their sail on the water.

Bye for now,
Milton.



Trossachs Search and Rescue Team

Scottish Charity no SC028266

Summer Update

Heart of the Community

At time of writing two more additions to the Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) network will be positioned on the Main Street on Thornhill and the Forth Inn Aberfoyle.

Since launching the PAD scheme two and half years ago, the ambition of the Trossachs Search and Rescue Team has been far exceeded due to the fantastic support and public-spirited approach shown by the local communities. As such the magical target of 50 PADS through out the Loch Lomond and Trossachs area is now very much within reach, and is a wonderful endorsement of the various communities who have placed such vital and accessible equipment at the heart of their community.

Indeed the value of having available such potential life saving equipment, was again further underlined when the PAD at Kinlochard Hotel was used in a successful resuscitation of a 40 year man attending a wedding. Bob Griffin, a volunteer with the TSAR, who ironically was working at the event, attended the incident.

Should anyone be interested in finding out more about a PAD for your local area please email trossachs.sar@btinternet.com or indeed would like to attend free Heartstart training then please email Paul Brooks on trossachs.cpr@btinternet.com

Safety and Medical Cover

Following on from the HOKA Highland Fling Race in April, the TSAR team again provided safety and first aid cover for the West Highland Way Race with both our land and boat crews required throughout. For those attending it was truly inspirational to see the competitors taking part in this unique endurance race.

The team was also involved at the Kinlochard Games which included a demonstration of one of the team's highland trained and skilled Urban Search and Rescue dogs.

Best 4x4x4

Following the untimely demise of one the team vehicles, the TSAR charity managed to secure the provision of a brand new Toyota Hilux 4 x4 from Arnold Clark.

Matthew Mitchell Chairman of TSAR said:

'It is vital that the team have such a vehicle for the execution of our daily duties regardless of the weather and road conditions. More importantly a vehicle that we can rely on to safely transport our Urban Search and Rescue Dogs, their handlers and all the necessary kit to a major incident. My thanks to Arnold Clark whose rapid response to our appeal has ensured the continuity of the team's work.'



Left to right are the following TSAR team members and their search and rescue dogs : Bob Griffin and 'Jess'; Stevie Coombes and 'Tess'; Gayle Patrick and 'Taz'



**TROSSACHS
SEARCH + RESCUE**

In search of The Bank Robber's Loot

By Alexander Robertson

As young lad I got a great deal of pleasure wandering through ancient oak woods hunting rabbits in the vicinity of Aberfoyle. But on one occasion in 1956, I think it was, I hunted for something else – the proceeds of a Glasgow Bank Robbery. The Robbers quietly booked into the Rob Roy Motel and carelessly laid out the bank notes on the bed, which the maid, while on her rounds, saw the banknotes. To cut a long story short, the bankers left the hotel and were eventually captured but without the money! Well you know what village gossip is like – which boiled down to “They hid the loot somewhere near the hotel.” Did that ever start a frenzy among the wee population!

Now if you knew the village mentality back then, you would know they wouldn't dash around the countryside for fear of having to share the loot! So from my perch on Queen's Crescent, with its wide-angle view of Ben Lomond to the west and south across the railway track, the River Forth and Campbell's fields to Doon Hill, and to the east end of Flanders moss, I recognized villagers who normally lacked enthusiasm for country walks, had taken a liking to slow studying the railway banks for signs of digging, and traipsing across fields, and forest with heads bobbing like chickens foraging for food.

One witness claimed to see one of the robbers threw a bag or briefcase into the river. So for many months afterwards, fishing with fly and tackle, with bigger hooks, of course, was exceptionally popular for many weeks afterwards. Poor kids like me who couldn't afford a rod and tackle, took to the more artful practice of guddling (using our hands to catch fish) along the banks of the river (for the stolen loot in this case). Yet others, not known for outdoor work (or any work for that matter) seemed more intent on turning stones.

Others took an interest in botany along the railway track by cranking their necks downwards over the railway bank to observe the slightest disturbance in the gravel. Passenger service which we called Aberfoyle Bullet on account of reaching dizzying speeds of 10 miles hour, had ceased by then. But there was still a regular coal train which coasted along rather quietly that one could barely hear it coming.

One of the Robbers was seen crossing the road from the Rob Roy Hotel to a low cliff of breccia* under the oak trees in the forest. At the bottom of the low breccia cliff, there was (and still is) a thick matt of leaf litter gathers. So I spent a lot of my spare time kicking over the leafy soil and rock close to the cliff. All I got for my troubles was bruised toes and the souls of my boots almost stripped off.

Many decades later, when visiting the district with my wife Geraldine, and staying at the Rob Roy Hotel, I recounted the story of the bank robbers and how one went into the woods across the road, and search for the loot. “Let's have another look” she says. So across the road and into the woods we go and started kick through the leaves and soil. Lo! And behold, after a few minutes I kicked loose a little pile of metal and shouted to Geraldine that I have found the robber's loot! “or maybe it's a stash of roman or medieval coins, or a kings treasure that had lain there for hundreds of years.

On clearing away the leaves we started to see strange bits of curly shapes of iron. And when we finally cleared away the leaves all I had uncovered was a fairly big, worthless pile of iron ingots. The bright side was that, on our back home to Canada, we would have nothing to declare.

* Breccia is a rock composed of broken fragments of rock cemented together



The oak forest opposite the Rob Roy Hotel with low outcrops of breccia at the top of the slope.

Rev Kirk & the Faeries

As the last few hours of daylight begin to wane and fade,
When eventide spreads it's silence slowly across the glade.
When fires are lit and dogs are hushed and mankind settles down for the night,
A whole new world awakens and begins to come to life.
Wee small noises here and there and high pitched child like chatter,
The fluttering buzz of tiny wings and small feet pitter patter.

Out from under the mighty tree the procession makes it's way,
And a million tiny glow-worm lamps turn night time into day.
Some are walking, some are dancing, some are fluttering along,
Some are talking, some are watching, some are gathered in song.
Countless tiny people, their numbers, forever growing,
Yet, together they make their way like a small stream flowing.
Down, down they follow the paths that their tiny feet have made,
Down the sides of old Doon Hill where they'll gather in a nearby glade.

The river Forth runs through it the grass is open and wide,
Mighty firs guard the rear, smaller trees watch either side.
There on a beach of tiny shingle in the evening air so cool,
As the faeries dance and gather at Lemahamish pool.

It looks as though someone has scattered a handful of rainbows there,
As every type of colour and hue dances and takes to the air.
Reflected beams of moonlight cause shimmers on leaf and river,
The gentle breeze makes the grass and leaves tremble and shiver.
Passing animals stop and sit and marvel at the view.
Even the fluttering tiny bats join in for a dance or two.
This is the gathering of the faerie folk to celebrate the day,
Yet as the fingers of the Sun arrive, they all must hide away.
Some folk believe in them, some folk don't really care,
Some have spent their lives looking for them, and some just know they're there.

If you were ever able to sneak up and see them all gathered there,
You might notice something that might make you gasp and stare.
For gathered in amongst them are figures less gaily clad,
That look like tiny humans like you, your mum or dad.
No wings adorn their bodies yet they join the faerie swarm,
And the faerie folk look after them and keep them safe from harm.
Who are these tiny human folk that join this joyous throng,
That so obviously are not faeries yet sing and dance along.
They carry tiny glow-worm lamps and gaily make their way,
From the top of Doon Hill to Lemahamish glade at the end of every day.

Allow me to introduce you to one, he was steadfast in his work.
For he was the local parish priest at the Aberfoyle village kirk,
Yet of an evening he would walk to the pathways of Doon Hill,
And take in the quiet of the evening when all was calm and still.
Now, had his timing been a little out or he'd gone left instead of right,
He wouldn't have heard them singing or seen the procession of light.
But saw it he did and from then on his life was never the same,
And each night he hid and watched them as if it was some sort of game.
He caused no alarm to the faeries they'd seen him hiding there,
They passed by without a worry and pretended not to care.
But faerie folk are secretive folk and pretence is just a game,
They pretended not to see him but they watched him just the same.

They called a secret gathering, a meeting to discuss,
The problems that just might arise between the worlds of them and us.
If he should pose no threat to us or cause us harm or pain,
Then let him watch us from afar it's neither a loss nor a gain.
Besides which we have others here, folk not of our own,
If he is happy to let us be, then let's leave him alone.
We'll send faeries to follow him and keep him in their sight,
To make sure he's doing nothing wrong when he leaves this place at night.

The faeries followed him constantly they watched him at his work,
They heard him preaching the bible to the people in the kirk.
They saw him taking walks and visiting the ill,
They watched him more attentively when he walked around the hill.
One night while sitting in his house as he settled for the night,
The faeries hid and watched him and kept well out of sight.
From the rafters corner they watched from a little cobwebbed nook,
They noticed that he wrote a lot, in a little Black note book.
Perhaps it was something to do with his parish and his work today,
But when he'd finished writing he secreted the note book away.
The faeries, curious by nature took the book from it's hiding place,
And as they turned and read each page a look of worry filled each face.

The Reverend was making notes on his sightings every night,
Of the meetings of the faeries and the procession of the lights.
He'd made notes and drawings of where the secret portal stood,
The Reverend Robert Kirk, it seems, was definitely up to no good.
A report of the book and their findings was delivered by the faeries that night,
Their secret lives, they all agreed, was best kept out of sight.
So they gathered, plotted and discussed and devised an elaborate plan
To trap the Reverend on Doon Hill, and snatch him from the world of man.

The evening was set and the faeries gathered by the portal door,
The procession would proceed as normal straight down to the forest floor.
Everyone knew the signal, everyone knew the plan,
Tonight, the Reverend Robert Kirk, would no longer dwell in the world of man.
Down Doon Hill they made their way along the paths they'd made,
Singing and dancing as usual on towards Lemahamish glade.
But as they reached the base of the hill, as one they stopped and all stood still,
No sound, no movement, the forest was still, as if winter had sent an early chill.

As the faeries approached his hiding place, Robert Kirk looked on,
he heard nothing different, he saw nothing wrong.
With a single voice and a tiny shout the tiny glow-worm lamps went out,
The reverend saw nothing all was dark and still.
Not even a breeze moved over Doon Hill,
In silence the faeries gathered into place,
As one the lamps went on and lit up Roberts face
Above, below and around him, a solid ball of light,
And though he tried his best to stand, he couldn't for all of his might.
And when the lights went out again and Robert opened his eyes,
His world looked very different now, a very different size.

A doppelganger of the reverend was found at the bottom of Doon Hill,
And it's empty shell lays at rest in the old Aberfoyle kirkyard still.
His book was published but few believe the notes and drawings within,
Of gaudily clad wee folk with wings and shiny skin.

And yet, if you make your way along the footpath up Doon Hill,
And find the clearing at the top where the mighty pine stands still.
Gaze about you and see the things that we humans have left there,
Messages of hopes and dreams, best wishes, love and care.
Photo's, trinkets and money from countries far and near
What is the magical attraction which seems to draw them there
Is it the faerie portal at the base of that old pine tree
Or is it that twinkle of magic that lives in you and me.

By TOM

Callander Film Festival



Building on the success of the 2014 Film Festival, the second annual Callander Film Festival will run from 25th to 27th September at St Kessog's in Ancaster Square. This year it will have a railway theme to tie in with the railway festival on the same weekend to

mark 50 years since the Callander and Oban railway was closed.

On Sunday 27th September at 2pm we're screening the 1926 Buster Keaton silent classic *The General* with live piano accompaniment from expert silent film improviser Mike Nolan. The rest of the programme is being developed by Callander Film Society and will also feature short films, archive material on the Callander and Oban Railway and feature films. The Festival has been made possible with funding support from Callander Enterprise, Stirling Council and Regional Screen Scotland.

Look out for posters and leaflets in August! Or contact Eammon O'Boyle for details 01877 339323.

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	4	8			1			
				7	4			2
5	9							
				3				
		2						1
	7		9	5				

SUDOKU Hard

Callander Ramblers' Diary Aug, Sept 2015

August

Sat 1 August 08:30 Ramble: Water of Leith: Balerno to Leith (12miles) *Contact 01786-825198*
 Wed 5 August 9:30 Stroll: Banknock to the Wheel (6.5miles) *Contact 01786-825249*
 Sat 8 Aug 08:30 Hill: Beinn Dubhraig (978m) *Contact 01877 330059*
 Sat 15 Aug 08:30 LDP: CT(4) Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkton of Glenisla (14.5miles) *Contact 01877 330032*
 Sat 22 Aug 08:30 Hill: Ben More (Crianlarich) (1174m) *Contact 01877 339080*
 Sat 29 Aug 08:30 Stroll: Shrigaton and Boquan Bridge (6miles) *Contact 01786-825682*

Sept

Sat 5 Sept 08:30 LDP: CT(5) Kirkton of Glenisla to Alyth (11miles) *Contact 01877 330032*
 Wed 16 Sept 09:30 Stroll: Stronachlachar to Inversnaid (5miles) *Contact 01877 376340*
 Sat 19 Sept 08:30 Hill: Beinn Narnain (926m) *Contact 01877 331067*
 Sat 26 Sept 08:30 LDP: CT(6) Alyth to Bridge of Cally (9miles) *Contact 01877 330032*

October

Sat 3 Oct 08:30 Hill: Ben Ledi via the Ridge (879m) *Contact 01877 376212*

All Welcome. Please let the meet leader know if you plan to join the walk.

Useful numbers

Book Club

James Kennedy 01877 387 201

Brownies

Jane Jackson
 jane@jacko.org.uk
 Jackie Bell

Community Choir

Jim Lightbody
 aultwhur@hotmail.co.uk

recycling balfron + callander

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

mobile bank RBS

Stop	arrive	depart
Gartocharn	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
 Daily masses 10am
 Contact: Fr Jim McCrudden:
 01877 330 702

NHS 24	111
Aberfoyle Fire Brigade	01877 382 969
Post Office	01877 382 231
Library Service	01786 237553

Health

Dentist (Callander)	01877 330703
Dentist (Drymen)	01360 661097

Schools

Aberfoyle School	01877 382 278
Gartmore School	01877 382 343
Port of Menteith School	01877 385 225
McLaren High School	01877 330 156

Vets

Callander	01877 381213
Doune	01786 841 304
Dunblane	01786 842 400
Killearn	01360 550 131

Fourth Season for Callander Photo Club

Callander Photo Club will begin its fourth season on Wednesday 9 September at 7:30 pm at the Waverley Hotel on Callander Main Street. Our first meeting will be a workshop on photographing 'little things' with some work on staging and lighting. Please bring your camera, tripod and an LED torch to the first meeting. Our photo topic word for September is 'URBANITY' and photos should be sent to callanderphotoclub@gmail.com by Monday 7 September.

This club is friendly and supportive and hopes to encourage anyone with any type of camera who wishes to improve their skills. Meetings include speakers, presentations, practical workshops and opportunities to share photos and receive feedback. There are also practical and interesting field trips planned during the year.

Our autumn meetings are scheduled for 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, and 9 December. Membership is £12 for the year plus £1 per meeting attended. Guests are welcome and there is a £3 fee per meeting. For more information, please call Susan at 01877 339 323 or e-mail callanderphotoclub@gmail.com.

Scottish Wildlife Trust, Callander August & September 2015

Sun 16 August 10:00-12:30 Balsam Bash. Meet Geisha Road Medical Centre 10:00am.

Contact Lesley Hawkins mlhawkins@tiscali.co.uk if interested.

Tuesday 8 September 7:30pm

'Birds of central Scotland: 40 years of change' by David Bryant
 Kirk Hall, South Church Street, Callander.

£2 members, £2:50 non-members, free for students, includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Everyone Welcome

Alloa Art Club

Alloa Art Club are holding their 4th Annual Art Exhibition at Resonate Arts House, Units A3 - A4, North Castle Street, Alloa, FK10 1EU.

The Preview evening will be held on the evening of 4th September at 7.30pm, and the exhibition runs to Wednesday 14th October. Open Monday to Saturday 10 am - 4 pm.

There will be a wide variety of artwork, also a selection of cards, jewellery, decorative tiles and slates, etc.

Enquiries to Anne-Marie Marshall Tel. 01259 730087 or email anniemal@fsmail.net www.alloaartclub.wordpress.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/AlloaArt

Callander Film Society Returns to St Kessog's

The Film Society is excited to announce the return of the contemporary programme to St Kessog's (Clanranald Trust HQ) for the new season. We have another great selection of movies for you to enjoy over the winter, kicking off on 10th October with award-winning *The Theory of Everything*, the extraordinary story of astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, as told by his ex-wife Jane. Another BAFTA and Oscar winner follows on 24th October; filmed over 12 years with the same cast, *Boyhood* is a ground-breaking story of a boy who literally grows up on screen before our eyes.

Selma chronicles the epic march by Martin Luther King from Selma to Montgomery that culminated in President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In comedy sequel *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* Sonny prepares to expand his Indian hotel for the elderly and beautiful. The thriller *Gone Girl* is about a man who reports that his beautiful wife has gone missing then comes under suspicion as his portrait of a blissful union begins to crumble. *Testament of Youth* is a powerful coming-of-age story based on WWI memoir by Vera Brittain, classic testimony of the war from a woman's point of view. *Far From The Madding Crowd* is the Thomas Hardy story about the independent and headstrong Bathsheba Everdene who attracts three very different suitors.

The first of four foreign movies is *Kumiko The Treasure Hunter* in which a Japanese woman goes in search of a satchel of money buried and lost in the film *Fargo* that she believes is real. In *Ida* a young Polish woman sets off with a relative in 1962 to learn out about their Jewish roots and tragic family story. The French Canadian film *Mommy* is about a passionate widow and her unpredictable 15-year-old ADHD son. *Wild Tales* from Argentina is a collection of short stories about distressed people, some explosive.

Our classic programme screens at The Waverley Hotel on Friday nights at 7.30pm and all include a cartoon or short before the main film. We start in November with a WWI adventure *The African Queen* (1951). A hard drinking river trader (Humphrey Bogart) and a prim missionary (Katharine Hepburn) are forced to take a hazardous river journey together. *Monsieur Hulot's Holiday* (1953) is a hilarious comedy, accidents and misunderstandings follow him wherever he goes.

The 1953 Oscar-winning version of *Titanic* tells the story of a couple trapped in a doomed marriage and the tragic events of the fateful voyage. In contrast, *Footlight Parade* (1933) is a Busby Berkeley musical, with James Cagney playing a stage director who tries to outdo himself with spectacular musical numbers. The last film is *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1939) based on Victor Hugo's famous novel with a haunting and unforgettable performance by Charles Laughton as the mis-shapen bell-ringer Quasimodo. Membership fees remain at £22 for the contemporary programme, £10 for the classic or you can join both for £25. What a bargain!

The Callander Film Society would like to thank McLaren Community Leisure Centre for their support during 2014-2015. We are also grateful to Regional Screen Scotland, British Film Institute, Cinema For All, Stirling & District Arts Forum, Callander Enterprise, Clanranald Trust for Scotland as well as Gordon and Jan at The Waverley Hotel for their ongoing support. Thanks to Callander Enterprise we are online at www.incallander.co.uk/cfs and we also post details and news on Facebook and Twitter. Or please call Eammon O'Boyle 01877 339323 for details.

See you at the movies!



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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



Councillor Alycia Hayes, SNP
Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET
tel 01786 443497, mob 07881 310 924,
e-mail 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

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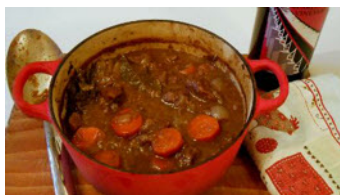
Half page advert £50

1/3rd page £35



Venison and Red Wine Casserole

2lb Diced Venison
¼ pt Red Wine
2 Carrots, Chopped
1 Onion, Diced
½ Leek, Chopped and washed
2 Cloves Garlic, finely chopped
Tomato Puree
Plain Flour
Beef Stock Cube
Salt & Pepper



In a thick bottomed pan brown the venison in a little veg oil. Add the beef stock cube and tomato puree and stir on a low heat for 2-3 mins. Sprinkle approx 2-3 oz flour to coat the meat and stir in, season with salt and black pepper. Add the red wine and cook for 2-3 mins. Cover with water and bring to the boil stirring occasionally. Simmer gently for 1 ½ hrs then add all the vegetables and stir in. Continue simmering until the venison is tender. Serve with some buttered new potatoes or a chunk of crusty bread.

Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

Mon	Lochside Yoga	7.30pm-9.00pm	Gillian 07738 225996 01877 387201
Tues	Aberfoyle Fitness	9.30am-10.30am	Alison Woods 07548 677540
Wed	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	Allan Shepherd 01877 385236
Thur	Karate For All ages	6.30pm-9.00pm	Julie Glen 01877 382 296
Sun	Abtrad Music Group	5.00pm-6.00pm	Cindy McLoughlin 07786 511894

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If you wish to take out an annual subscription please complete the information below.

The completed form should be posted to The Treasurer, Strathard News, Innis Ard, Manse Road, Aberfoyle FK8 3XF along with a cheque for £12 made payable to Strathard News. Alternatively, hand in to Aberfoyle Post Office.

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Address: _____

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Sign: _____

Tel No: _____ Date: _____

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Aberfoyle & Buchlyvie Medical Practice



ABERFOYLE - 01877 382421

Monday	4.00pm-5.30pm	By Appointment
Tuesday	07.30am-08.00am	By Appointment (Alt Tues)
	8.15am-11.00am	By Appointment
Wed	3.00pm-5.30pm	By Appointment
Thursday	9.00am-11.30am	By Appointment
Friday	8.15am-11.00am	By Appointment

BUCHLYVIE - 01360 850237

Monday	07.30am-08.00am	By Appointment (Alt. Mon)
	8.15am-9.30am	Open Surgery
	2.00pm-3.00pm	By Appointment
Tuesday	10.30am-11.30am	Open Surgery
	4.00pm-5.30pm	By Appointment
Wed	9.00am-10.15am	Open Surgery
	2.30pm-3.30pm	By Appointment
Thursday	8.15am-9.30am	Open Surgery
Friday	10.30am-11.30am	Open Surgery
	3.00pm-5.00pm	By Appointment

Remember You Can Book Appointments on Line
Please Ask at Reception

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Saturday: 12:30pm - midnight
Sunday: 1:30pm - 11pm



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Saturday / Sunday: 1:30pm - 9pm

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