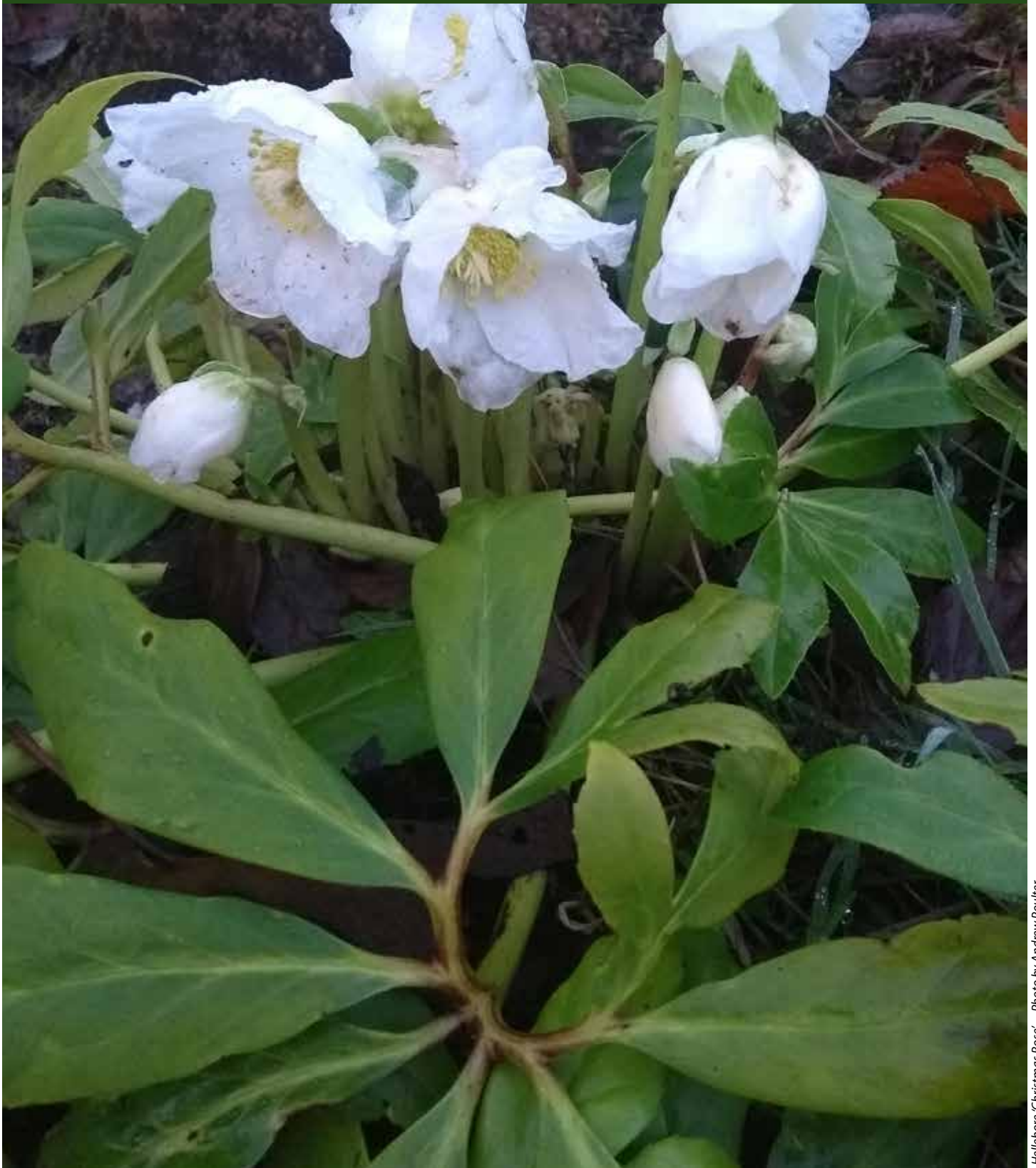




the
Villagers

price
£1

The Voice of Balquhiddy, Lochearnhead, Strathyre & St Fillans • FEBRUARY 2020



Editor's Bit

Christmas and New Year might well be a distant memory but the reports indicate that all the dances were not only packed and enjoyed but also made valuable funds to help with the up-keep of our village halls. So, many congratulations to all who organised, supported and cleared up the morning after! Next month will hopefully be full of Burns Night gatherings and, if anyone has any relevant poems it would be good to develop a Poetry Corner for a change.

Please help us keep the Diary and contacts up to date. We will be happy to include details of your clubs whether they are new or have been going for many years and this can help people moving into the area know what is available and who to contact for further information. We will also be delighted to see old and new faces at our AGM.

JJ



Nelson is Champion!

There was a special gift for recently retired Stirling Council Mobile Library Officer, Nelson Busby, who was named **UK Mobile Library Champion of the Year** after a 35 year career. Congratulations, Nelson!

(And many congratulations and thanks from all your readers in Strathyre, Balquhiddier and Lochearnhead - who miss all your help and smiles. -Ed)

Community Councillors Urgently Needed

In *The Villagers* you are able to catch up with what happens at the Community Council when the minutes of the meetings are published. Could you help your village by representing the views of villagers on the varied subjects discussed at Community Council Meetings?

The commitment is not huge. At the moment we meet approximately every six weeks on a Wednesday evening. Come along to the next meeting if you would like to find out what happens - it's on Wednesday 19th of February at 7.30pm in Strathyre School. If you would like to make a difference and are interested in joining the Balquhiddier, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Community Council please contact David at chair@blscc.org.



The Villagers AGM

Tuesday 25 February
at

The Four Seasons Hotel
St Fillans

7pm

Everyone welcome.
Please come along
and support
your local newsletter!

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Dunblane Allotment Group
14th Annual
POTATO DAY
SATURDAY 7th March 2020
1PM - 3PM
BRAEPORT CENTRE
BRAEPORT, DUNBLANE

Around 27 varieties of seed potatoes including extra Charlotte, 20p per tuber, nets £3.40 each (approx. 25 tubers). Small quantities available. Veg seeds, onions, garlic, garden equipment on sale from Mo Lawn. More info on the Dunblane facebook page

Expert advice will be available from John Marshall
Admission £1.00
Refreshments by Tilly Tearooms



Strathyre News

I'd like to start by wishing everyone a belated happy new year!

Strathyre, as always, put every effort into making the festive season a most enjoyable time of year.

To set the ball rolling we had, which is now becoming a "must," a wonderful **Carol Concert** in the White Stag - and a well attended evening it was. Callander Brass were once again on hand to provide the beautiful music that only a brass band can produce, and I think they enjoy themselves as much as we do.

So well done (again) to Jan and Janet and anyone else involved, for organising the mulled wine and mince pies etc. The concert really puts you in the mood for what is ahead.

The **Kids Party** closely followed, and I am always amazed at the amount of work the organisers put into this. I have no idea how much prep work they get through, but suffice to say, every child gets a "pressie" from Santa and are then entertained for the rest of the day.

That in itself is a major achievement in my books; I have enough problems with a present for Jan!

On a personal note Jan and I and some friends were invited to a wee afternoon at Gus and Ollie Camerons' in Lochearnhead, for afternoon nibbles and some more carol singing - and what an afternoon it turned out to be. Jan played some old Scottish songs on the piano then Ollie took over and played various carols, which we could all join in with, as there were song sheets for everyone! It really was a lovely afternoon.

The end of year culminates in the ever-popular **Hogmanay Ceilidh** in the village hall and once again we were not disappointed. The hall was 'fu' tae the gunnels' with music from **Eriskay Lilt** keeping the dance floor fully occupied with revellers who only had one thought on their minds, and that was to 'have a ball,' and boy, did they succeed!

So, an enormous thank you to Lynne, Emma and Lesley for their tireless work behind the scenes so that everyone could come along and just enjoy the evening.

Keep up the good work girls, and everyone else who gives up their time to make this wonderful village of Strathyre such a special place to be at this time of year.

Wullie D



**Friday 28 February 2020 in Strathyre Primary School
1.30 - 3pm Join us for a cuppa and a blether!**

Refreshments • Crèche area • Board games • soft seating area
Bring your knitting, a book, a game you would like to share with adults or children or just sit, relax and catch up with friends.

Strathyre Emergency Response Team



Strathyre has a team of volunteers that are willing to come together in the event of any major emergency affecting the village of Strathyre. Emergencies can vary from major road traffic accidents, landslide, severe weather impact such as storms or flooding where residents and property may be at risk. The team can be called upon in emergencies through police requests as back up to essential services and mountain rescue on missing person situations.

An emergency plan is set out with a cascade system which has been approved by Emergency Planning at Stirling Council, whereby a set procedure can be initiated to pull volunteers together on any major emergency. In Autumn 2019 the Strathyre Emergency Response Team (SERT) received a grant from Princes Countryside Trust to cover the cost of emergency equipment to help on any future emergency. The grant allowed the allocation of lifebuoy rings and floating throw-lines at Immervoulin Camping and Caravan Park, the Broch suspension bridge, and at Balvaig Cabins where the river Balvaig can reach fast flow conditions. Automatic life jackets are held for emergencies, A selection of head torches, foil blankets, first aid kits, camper beds and two standby generators are also part of the essential equipment held locally to meet any major emergency event.

Recent flood events show that the impact of climate change is sadly going to be a recurring challenge with storm events and increased rainfall leading to localised flood risk. A few years ago, Kenny Higgins, who is the current leader of SERT, had done some consultancy work on the impact of flooding in the Strathyre to Balquhidder area. Kenny was successful in securing funding through Stirling Council to cover the cost of two river monitoring systems. One is located at Balvaig Cabins and the other near Stronslaney where 'Loch Occasional' forms. The two flood monitoring units give local information on levels in river Balvaig which impacts on Balquhidder (East) and Strathyre valley. The monitoring system provides the SERT team member with access to graphs to show what the levels are; this is especially important during the hours of darkness when levels are difficult to see. The graphs have trigger points where email / text alerts are sent to notify that high levels have been recorded.

Kenny has also created Smart Village Scotland based on the gradual development of Strathyre village over recent years.

Smart Village includes a digital portal at <https://strathyre.smartvillage.scot>

The Portal has recently been extended to cover the full BLS community. An important part of this is the Information section which has very useful information on storm and flood risk along with links to weather, flooding, local road closures and so much more. The success of the Smart Village project working in partnership with Growbiz Scotland is now rolling out throughout Scotland.

On 11th January 2020 at 4:30 pm the Stronslaney area witnessed a river top-out level of 3.254 metres and the same day at 5.30 pm at Strathyre; the river Balvaig rose to a peak height of 1.74 Metres.

Any enquires related to this article can be sent to kenny@smartvillage.scot

Kenny Higgins

Director, Smart Village Scotland

Ar Tigh, Strathyre, Scotland FK18 8NA

T: (+44) 7794 535188 <https://strathyre.smartvillage.scot>

<https://twitter.com/smartvillagesco>

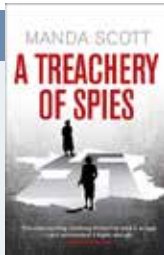
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Lochearnhead Latest

BOOK REVIEW

A Treachery of Spies Manda Scott



This book was nominated for *The Sunday Times Thriller of the Month* and it is a well-deserved accolade. The storyline is a terrific blend of history, spying, politics and an intriguing mystery.

We start with a body, a beautiful elderly woman is found dead in a car, killed in the manner of a professional execution. The police officer in the French city of Orleans where this occurs is given the task of finding the killer. More bodies are discovered and there seems to be a link between these deaths and to the past which makes the task of preventing possibly more murders a race against time.

The story jumps back and forward between events during the second world war in the partisan fight against the German invasion in the mountains of Eastern France. The Resistance fighters are aided by SOE Operatives who had been trained in Northern Scotland and dropped into France. The cast of characters are well drawn, the police officer in charge is back at work after a serious injury. The British officers in charge of the SOE operatives have their own problems to deal with which may or may not temper their decisions on who to send where and when. When our heroine is sent into France to join the Partisans, we are aware that she has an agenda, but we are kept guessing at every step of the way as she plays out her personal war in the deep shadows.

There is much tension, mistrust and treachery at the root of this story but trying to work out who the goodies and the baddies are is a challenge right up to the end of the book. The many twists and turns of supposed loyalty and allegiance keep the reader on their toes as we try to follow the path of this cat and mouse game of political manipulations and personal vendettas. A brilliant read.

Hogmanay 2019

Lochearnhead Hall committee would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and say a big thank you for your support again on the night and during all last year. Our Hogmanay dance was sold out before December started. It was a fantastic night which was enjoyed by everyone one who managed to get a ticket. Although we don't have a final total yet, we know you helped us raise over £950 towards the hall funds. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped make the night such a success, Raband did us proud again with everyone up dancing. The committee for their hard work before, during and clearing up on January 2nd (you know who you are). A special thanks to Mairi who helped with the raffle (not on the committee) and everyone who donated to the raffle so generously. Jimmy, your stovies were the best yet! We look forward to seeing you all soon for our 2020 events.




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Heritage Award for Scout Station

The project to refurbish the roof and glazed canopy at Lochearnhead Scout Station was recognised by the presentation of a Highly Commended Certificate in the National Railway Heritage Awards at a Ceremony in London on 4th December 2019.

The Judges were impressed by the quality of the workmanship and the attention to detail in trying to replicate original Victorian design in the finished work.

They also commented on the way the project was designed and managed by volunteers who were based 450 miles from the site.

The Award Ceremony was held at Merchant Taylors Hall in the City of London with the main Awards being presented by HRH The Princess Royal. This was the 40th Anniversary of the Awards.

"We were extremely fortunate to engage the services of two excellent contractors in Angus Young Roofing Specialists and Transglaze Specialist Glazing Contractors," commented Gordon Marshall of the Lochearnhead Station Management Committee. "Both of them realised the special atmosphere at The Station which has lasted more than fifty years since the vision of Melville Balsillie in acquiring the site and did everything they could to carry out the works in the spirit of heritage that is absolutely vital to everything we do there."

"My only sadness is that our dear friend Maurice Baker didn't live to see the award of the Certificate. He was the heartbeat of the station and he would have been very proud."

Graham Woolley, the Management Committee Chairman, who joined Gordon at the Award Ceremony said "The roofing and canopy project is the first step to some significant and greatly needed upgrades to some of the facilities at The Station to make sure it stays within our stated objective, which is to provide safe, compliant and appropriate facilities to enable access to adventurous outdoor activities for our youth members in a more challenging environment than found in and around Hertfordshire. We are rightly very proud of The Station and the links it provides to the local Community in and around Lochearnhead."

The certificate is to be mounted in a suitably prominent position at The Station in a small ceremony during the Advance Mountaineering Course over the New Year holidays.





Belated Festive Cheer ... and here's to 2020!

What a busy time we have all had. A steady stream of events, all so pleasantly exhausting! I do hope you had a peaceful and joyous Christmas, irrespective of how you celebrated it - and I hope you were able to wish your family, neighbours and friends a Happy New Year! Now that we are well into January, there are a significant number of villagers undertaking a dry month. More power to us all - although in the case of my household, it will be a month foreshortened by Burns Night on the 25th. Perhaps we can restart it in February for a couple of weeks to compensate. Ah well, we will see how we feel...

Before we leave Christmas and New Year behind, some of the village festive activities are worth recording:

On 13 December, **Achray** held an **80s night**, which was well attended. The quality of the costumes on display was outstanding. First prize was awarded to a "not to be named" villager who appeared as Freddie Mercury in an outfit (complete with vacuum) based on the one Mercury wore in the *I Want To Break Free* video when he "came out" while promoting the song. It was too good not to get first prize. I wonder if he is recognisable from the main photo above.

Our annual **Carol Singing** in the village hall took place on 15 December, shortly after Christmas Lunch at the **Golf Club**. Perhaps not quite as many folk as the last couple of years, possibly partly due to the Golf Club Lunch (hic). Nevertheless, we all enjoyed ourselves and were able to still manage a glass of wine and a mince pie after singing.

A couple of days after Christmas, a large number of villagers turned out for a walk to burn off some of that turkey dinner (and I will give more information on this event in Walking Group events below). I mention it here as many of us got together afterwards in the hall for even more wine and more mince pies - and started to undo part of the benefit of the walk. Oh well, Christmas comes but once a year! Hogmanay saw us back to the hall where a small group of villagers (Audrey & Stewart Gavigan, Gordon McDowall and Richard Graham) had done a brilliant job in organising the festivities which went with a swing. Between ticket money, raffle and auction prizes, the event raised the fantastic sum of £636 for village funds.

St Fillans Golf Club Ne'erday Competition was held this year on 2 January, and the weather was absolutely awful. It started to rain as the players teed off and just got worse and worse as their nine holes proceeded. Having said that, 27 hardy souls started - and



all finished. Well done everyone! Amazingly, this was a record turnout of Club Members for this particular annual competition. Perhaps, further testament to the outstanding condition of our golf course! The event was won by Malcolm Linton, who was so wet and cold after the round, he left the club as soon as he received the trophy, without having had his picture taken for club records. That was remedied that evening at another function when, with a group of club members flanking him, Fraser Ballantyne took the photo above.

Well done Malcolm! Great start to 2020. I will see you on the course when the sun shines!

Now that we are into the new year, the **Achray** is planning a **Valentine's Day Dinner** on 13 February which will be exactly one year from Laura and Panu's takeover of the hotel. The same event last year was their first as new proprietors and was a great success, so they will be hoping to repeat that in 2020. Laura also told me that she is planning to hold a **Farmers Market** on 8 February.

Produce will be of a specialist nature and will not compete with anything currently sold in the village shop. For now, this will be a one off exercise at which she will assess whether the village would value it being repeated, perhaps on a monthly basis.

Four Seasons is reopening on 13 February for lunch. Until Easter, they will be fully operational Thursday through Monday with a restricted beverage only service Tuesday/Wednesday. Over winter, Susan has revamped the main restaurant and she is running a competition to give it a new name. Entries by email to:

mr@thefourseasonshotel.co.uk before 13 February please. Remember to include your name. Prize for the winning entry will be Dinner for Four with a bottle of wine. Four Seasons is doing something different over Valentine's weekend by encouraging families to dine together (on the 'share the love' principle) and finally, for leap year, on 29 February, Susan is putting on a **Black Tie Celebration** featuring



Mince Pie Walk

"Jock in the Box", fresh from him putting on a show at the request of the US Military - in the Pentagon no less.

As always, details of events operated by the hotels are available direct from them, and via their websites.

Since I last wrote a report on the **Walking Group** in November for the final *Villagers* magazine of 2019, there have been two "expeditions". The first was a climb up The Girron (the stone topped hill behind the village) on 23 November. The route chosen was up the east side of Glentarken, past the Sheep Pens at the top of the climb along the track. Shortly afterwards, we started towards the summit via a track up to a surge shaft and then a line of grouse butts, which proceed to the westmost point of the east shoulder. From there it is a straight forward and reasonably short ascent to the summit. It wasn't a great day weather-wise, but eight hardy souls took part and all made it to the top. Unfortunately, the rain was steady and there was no view in any direction as can be seen in the photo, top right

We didn't hang around up there, and descended to a point where, while it was still raining, we were out of the wind to enjoy sandwiches and coffee.

As mentioned earlier in the article, a large number (30+) of the villagers decided to go for a walk on 28 December from Dalchonzie back along the cycle track to the village. As can be seen, there were all ages involved from toddlers in push chairs to village "oldies". We from the village at about 11am, got off at the Dalchonzie junction and joined the track westwards back towards the village. Again the weather left a bit to be desired, but everyone appeared to enjoy themselves and it was good to blow away a few cobwebs left over from our Christmas celebrations. On arrival back, there was time to head directly home for a shower and change of clothes, before most came together

again at the hall a little later. There, we did manage another glass of wine and eat a couple more mince pies, and also managed to play some traditional games and entertain the younger ones, some of whom had never seen the like before.

The next adventure is planned for Burns Day - 25 January - when it was originally hoped to walk from the car park at the high point of Glenogle down the cycle/walking route to Killin, where those who wished could partake of late lunch in the Falls of Dochart Hotel. However, it transpires that the hotel is undergoing renovation and will not be open, so that trip has been carried forward to later in the year. Instead, the group will tackle the Comrie circular walk, with an optional climb to the Melville monument on the hilltop above. More information available as usual on the village website. Well done and thanks to Ruth, Geoff and Gordon for organising these trips.

Villagers will be aware of the planned withdrawal of some **bus services** by Stagecoach to and from St Fillans. This will impact a number of villagers who are completely dependent on these services to support their life here. Stewart Gavigan, our recently elected Chair of the Community Council, is to be commended for the effort he has expended in directly contacting Stagecoach to highlight the problems which will be caused. He also contacted all our elected representatives at both parliamentary and council level. All bar one have responded proactively in putting weight behind finding a solution to this problem. The one who has not yet responded in person to Stewart and to the best of his knowledge has not yet become in any way engaged is our newly elected representative in Westminster, Mr John Nicholson. His input to date has been an automated acknowledgement of Stewart's communication - a very



The Girron

disappointing start to his tenure as our MP. While it would be wonderful if Stagecoach could review their proposal, we do not foresee that as likely, so the matter appears to be very much in the hands of Perth and Kinross Council where our representatives there, as well as our MSP, have been very supportive. Realistically, the solution if any, appears to lie with PKC. I will try to get an update for next month.

Just to link the above two sections with a bit of humour...

When we were leaving the village via Stagecoach bus for the Dalchonzie walk, there were so many passengers that the lower deck was absolutely full and we spilled over into the upstairs. Accordingly, someone took a pic and immediately put it into Stagecoach's Facebook and/or Twitter feed. Who can say the service is not used? It was so busy that processing all the passengers caused the driver to be late in leaving the village!

Folk who walk the railway path above St Fillans will have noted the appearance of some additional artworks

Continued overleaf

Continued from previous page

in the weeks and months following the opening of our **Playpark**. As not everyone gets up there, it is worth featuring these not just for information but as a record of our thanks to the creative minds and skilled hands who conceived them and made them happen. There are a few installations to feature and I will cover them all over the next two or three *Villagers* magazines, but this month let's start with our new Crocodile...

Folk will likely remember the large fallen tree just below the old railway line. If not, here it is, pictured right... with only a vague resemblance to a crocodile.

It took many hours of hard work, but it now looks like this... (next photo).

I am sure we can all agree that it is absolutely splendid - and a magnificent addition to our environment. The carving was done by Tim Norman, who operates out of Govan in Glasgow. However, he has local roots (his Mum lives in Comrie) and took great pleasure in performing this work and the work he had earlier done on the Play Park. This work was funded by The ArtRoots Fund as an artwork complementary to our cycle/walking path (Sustrans Route NCN 775). There is an obvious link to the village's other Crocodile further along the path and now that the Playpark has been formally named "The Beithir's Lair", the truth can now be revealed. The Stone Crocodile is NOT A CROCODILE. It was a *Beithir*, one of the very last of the species alive in the whole world. It was turned to stone by a witch flying past in her coracle - I do not know why this happened, but what information does exist will shortly appear on the notice boards at the playpark when they are completed.

We do already know that Beithirs often lived in caves, and our local folklore suggests that this Beithir lived in a cave just above the spot where he now stands. This is certainly quite likely. If you look carefully at the hillside in the pic below, you will see what could well be the remains of a collapsed cave - perhaps the original Beithir's Lair!

And with that thought, I will leave you.

Have a good 2020.

Bruce



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Choir Occasional Concert

A very big thank you to everyone who came along to hear Choir Occasional's very first concert on that cold wintry Friday night at the end of November.

We were all a bit nervous, but needn't have worried as the audience was so appreciative - and as we had worked so hard all year to get the songs as good as possible, it was very gratifying to hear all the nice comments at the end!

The music ranged from Mozart to David Bowie, with some traditional Scottish songs - and Christmas carols, where everyone could join in. We were lucky enough to have some wonderful guests including Alycia Hayes, Matt Duncan, Vera Stewart, Andy Bates, Marc Fallon and the Gods of Olympus, a young band from Killin and Jan's 'Family Affair'.

The church looked beautiful - and with mulled wine and nibbles at half time, everyone was feeling very Christmasy by the end. Well done Choir!

We raised £350 for the Air Ambulance.

Choir Occasional is BLS' community singing group and we meet every Thursday in Balquhider Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome!

Callander Ramblers Club

Sponsored by
Caledonian Country Wear



The Club consists of a group of enthusiasts who meet regularly throughout the year to participate in a programme of strolls, rambles, hill walks and a Long Distance Path. Details are published on incallander.co.uk/ramblers.htm in the Ben Ledi View and on posters around Callander.

New members and guests are always welcome. Here are some dates for your diary:

FEBRUARY 2020

- **Wed 5, 09:30** Stroll: Historic Stirling (6 miles)
Contact 01786 475075
- **Wed 19, 09:30** Stroll: Along the Airth sea wall (5 miles)
Contact 01786 825682
- **Sat 29, 09:30** Hill: Moncrieffe Hill (223m)
Contact 01786 823086

MARCH 2020

- **Wed 11, 09:30** Ramble: Bridge of Allan scenic ramble (7.5 miles)
Contact 01786 475075
- **Wed 25, 09:30** Ramble: Bochastle Panorama (7 miles)
Contact 01877 382682
- **Sat 28, 08:30** Hill: Beinn an Fhogharaidh (616m)
Contact 01877 382682

We meet in Ancaster Square, unless otherwise indicated. Please bring wet weather clothing, appropriate footwear and a packed lunch. And please let the walk leader know if you plan to join the walk via the contact number given!

Visitors and non-members are very welcome.



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More ramblings about
Dundurn Parish

**Great Rainstorm – Floods in
Strathearn - August 1910**

**Serious damage on Loch Earn side -
Public Roads closed to traffic**

A rainstorm of unparalleled severity was experienced on Wednesday 24th August 1910. After a dull but fine day on Tuesday, rain began falling heavily overnight, and with only brief intervals, all the following day, coming down in perfect deluges resulting in extensive damages not only to grain crops, but also roadways, houses and other property; several cows were nearly drowned, while a large number of sheep and lambs were lost, and large quantities of hayricks swept away. The rainstorm and flooding were experienced in great severity on both sides of Loch Earn - the water level rose by two foot in under an hour – in fact it was reported that such disastrous flooding had never been recorded in this region before. The public roads on both sides of the loch being so torn up and encumbered with masses of debris pouring down from the hillside, that they have been closed to vehicular traffic, with travelling vans having to be put up at Lochearnhead until the road reopened. On the north road, which is the principal thoroughfare from east to west, the flooding was of a disastrous character, owing largely to the innumerable hill burns that flow down from the adjoining hillsides into Loch Earn. These burns were speedily choked to an enormous extent with stones and gravel and overflowed all around. Several bridges on the roadway spanning the mountain streams got filled up, with the result that the water rushed over the top leaving behind masses of debris level with the parapets. Probably the most serious destruction occurred at the Derry Farm where the debris carried down by the burn amounted to several hundred tons, sweeping everything in front of it away – including the wall at the roadside, tearing up and rendering the carriageway impassable by a formidable barricade - spreading over the adjoining arable land and causing considerable damage. At Ardveich the Beich Burn was in full spate spreading its waters over the fields, tearing up the ground, leaving great holes and masses of stones in its wake. Some of the cottages there were badly flooded.

Fortunately, the railway culverts on the St Fillans to Lochearnhead line proved equal to carrying down the immense volume of water from the hills, or the loss to property and perhaps to life, might have been greater.



The destruction on the south side of Loch Earn

On the south side road, at a point about a mile west of the village, a usually peaceful stream came down with alarming force, carrying down roots of trees, large boulders, gravel and sand, completely submerging the road to a depth of several feet for a distance of thirty yards. A field of about 10 acres of oats belonging to Mr James Carmichael of the St Fillans Hotel was rendered completely useless, being covered with stones. A stone bridge was swept away at Ardrostan Farmhouse, the enormous flow of water here brought down large stones which lodged in the arch, and the water rushed over the parapets breaking down the bridge.

**Two servant girls narrow escape from
drowning**

During the height of the flood two servant girls at Findoglen farmhouse had a terrible experience. The house belonging to Colonel Stewart of Ardvorlich, and occupied by Mr Arkwright's shooting party, is situated some distance above the south side road. The hill burn above the house, came down like an avalanche. So great was the flood that the debris was piled up as high as the house, and it seems miraculous that it was not swept away. The two servants seeing the danger as the water poured in the back door, rushed out, thinking to avoid the deluge, but were caught in the flood. One of them got hold of a fence, and shouted for help, but the other was carried away by the flood in the direction of the loch and was only stopped by a reaping machine which lay in the course of the water. Fortunately, Mr James McIntyre, a neighbouring shepherd, witnessed her perilous predicament, and rescued her just in time. She suffered considerable shock, as well as from injuries received. The family had to be accommodated in the St Fillans Hotel.

At a special reception in the Sandison Hall on the 10th of October, Mr McIntyre was presented with an award from the Carnegie Hero Fund, for his participation in the girls' rescue.

Curiously the Balquhidder, Strathyre, Lubnaig and Venacher watersheds practically escaped the worst of the storms. Which is more than can be said for Callander: here the burn from Leny Hill burst its banks, and after throwing down a dyke, swept over the beautiful gardens at Callander Lodge belonging to Colonel Robertson, causing serious devastation. The river Teith overflowed its banks causing damage to crops, and, owing to the town's conduits being insufficient to carry off the extra rainwater, many houses were flooded. On Thursday afternoon the new wing of a building nearing completion was struck by lightning and almost destroyed. On a later examination of the building, which is connected to the McLaren High School, it was estimated that it would cost £750 to make good the repairs. Fortunately, Mr McLaren, Clerk to the School Board had the building insured against accident.

The Old Crock



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Balquhiddar Church News

MUSINGS FROM THE MANSE



The Drama of 2020

Well, we are into a New Year and its designation sounds like something from a science-fiction movie. Of course, '20-20 vision' is being able to see with clarity and precision (although I need to go to Specsavers soon!) so the question is, will human beings manage that this coming year, given the challenges we face globally, nationally and even personally? History is full of drama - much of which bequeathed to the modern world a mixed bag - of good and bad.

We have just finished a year of political turmoil in our own country. However we voted, let us pray that some stability and progress can be made in social and political terms for the good of all. Unfortunately, none of us can stop the world and get off, so we have to make do with the situation we find ourselves in. Yet, drama is at the heart of existence. Nothing worthwhile, novel, unique, important, interesting or radical happens without struggle, effort, sacrifice, and creative tension. It is so in nature; it is so in history; it is so in our own personal journeys of life and faith. Many of us enjoy a good drama on the TV and appreciate the twists and turns of a clever plot line which keeps us in suspense and is full of surprises. These usually involve competing characters, motives, behaviours, unforeseen events, and action-packed incidents. From the point of view of entertainment this is all well and good, but what of our own lives? Are we part of a narrative bigger than ourselves? Are we engaged and participating in a plot line that is exciting, enriching and purposeful? Are we going anywhere? It's a "vision" thing (as opposed to a Homer Simpson "stuff" thing). Are our lives all about the "stuff" that is in them or that happens to them or, are we able to transcend all of that with a larger and more expansive "vision" of the world and our place in it?

The Biblical narrative is an 'Epic' - from the Creation to the Consummation of all things. It once undergirded the way we saw the world and our role within it, but that has been lost. Perhaps we need to recover that. Interestingly, a survey conducted in August 2019 indicated that 89% of 16-29 year olds felt that life had no meaning or purpose and headlines like "Millennial Angst" appeared (no wise cracks from the grumpy old farts please... I can just hear the comments already: "Well in my day..." Yeah, yeah, whatever!) The great Judeo-Christian icecap that once covered Europe has melted and we are all fumbling about trying to adapt to a brave new world. Perhaps it's time to get back to our roots. We can't recreate the past, and who would want to? It wasn't perfect anyway. But we are in danger of throwing the baby out with the bathwater... something we do with Jesus every year, along with the decorations when tidying up in the aftermath. But then, as they say: "The trouble with Christmas is the bills come in January and the Baby grows up!"

The church building in Balquhiddar is a testimony to something bigger than itself and to the longevity of a message: a hope, and a faith that has inspired and guided many generations past and present. How much longer will that be the case? The Christian faith has, in ways apparent and hidden, shaped and nurtured our culture. At its centre there is an amazing person who challenges us personally and individually. It is the adult Jesus we have to reckon with: the one who started a revolution; the one whose influence and impact on the world is second to none. The great Napoleon once said that "Jesus may have won men's hearts, but I control their destinies." Then he marched into Russia and was defeated by the snow. Hitler once said, referring to Jesus, that "No anaemic Jew was worthy of the worship of any good German." His *Reich*, which was to have lasted a thousand years, ended in catastrophe after only twelve. Joseph Stalin once vowed to eradicate the name of Jesus from the land of Mother Russia. Yet immediately after his death, it was his name which was removed, and even the city of Stalingrad was changed to Volgograd.

The Monty Python Team were right: "Brian" wasn't the Messiah - only a "very naughty boy!" Jesus however, was, and is, the Messiah. Will 2020 be the year you check this out for yourselves and discover a revolution in your own lives?

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Balquhiddier, Lochearnhead & Strathyre Community Council

Minutes of a meeting held at Strathyre Primary School on 8th January 2020

Please note that these minutes have not yet received formal approval and should be considered as a draft version only.

Present: David Johnston (DJ), Andrew Poulter (AP), Ruth McLusky (RM), Donald McLaren (DM). Apologies: Jeanette Stewart (JS), William Dalziel (WD), Eunice Frame (EF), Angus Cameron (AC); Michelle Flynn (MF), Stirling Council; Billy Ronald (BR), National Park. In attendance: Cllr Evelyn Tweed (ET), Stirling Council; PC Will Diamond (PCWD), Police Scotland; Paul Hicks, minute-taker.

1) Approval of Minutes It was proposed by AP and seconded by DJ, that the minutes of the meeting on 20th November 2019 should be accepted and this was approved unanimously.

2) Declarations of Interest DJ declared an interest in item 7a - a planning application for Balquhiddier Village Hall.

3) Police report (20 Nov 2019 to 7 Jan 2020) In terms of anti-social behaviour: On 22nd December 2019, a disturbance took place at Balquhiddier Braes Caravan Park. As a result, one female was arrested and charged with an offence under Section 38, Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act, 2010. There were no matters of note in terms of road safety or criminality. In terms of community engagement: On Wednesday 20th November, PC Diamond took part in a number of checks of licensed premises within the area in the run-up to the festive period. There were no issues to report. On Sunday 1st December, PC Diamond and a colleague from Balfour took part in an operation that ran across the whole country to tackle wildlife crime, with a specific emphasis on poaching. The focus in Stirlingshire was on a number of recent incidents including hare coursing and deer poaching. On Sunday 8th December, PC Diamond attended the Forth Valley Mountain Rescue Joint Exercise which, this year, was hosted by Lomond Mountain Rescue Team. The exercise was held near Gartmore and involved members from the teams in Killin, Lomond and Ochils getting together to tackle a number of scenarios that had been set up. On Monday 9th December PC Diamond attended Strathyre Primary School and, alongside the deputy head-teacher, commissioned "Junior Road Safety Officers", comprising five P6 pupils. Over the coming months, they will be active in promoting road safety within the local communities and schools with assistance from PC Diamond. On Tuesday 10th December, along with partner agencies, PC Diamond chaired a meeting at the National Park HQ to discuss water safety and proposed events for 2020. All partners are on board and dates have now been set for a number of events. Two will be for school pupils only, but the others will be public events. PC Diamond was on annual leave over the festive period for three weeks.

4) Treasurer's Report EF was indisposed and unable to attend the meeting so this item was deferred to the next meeting. RM referred to item 6a and confirmed that EF had all the relevant information.

5) Matters arising from previous meeting

a) 4G Telephone Mast, Strathyre. There had been no further developments regarding this planning application. Item deferred to next meeting.

b) Light between Balvaig Bridge and A84, Strathyre. There was no progress to report on this matter. ET will liaise with Cllr McDonald regarding the current situation. Item deferred to next meeting.

c) Parking in Callander. ET reported that a meeting about this for local community councils had been deferred due to adverse weather conditions, but is due to be held shortly. Item deferred to next meeting.

d) Co-opted member. WD had asked how the post should be advertised. It was suggested that notices in the village shops and an advertisement in The Villagers would be appropriate. RM reported that JS had also tendered her resignation owing to her family circumstances and commitments. This was noted.

e) Runoff water at Strathyre School. No further information regarding progress on this was available, so the item was deferred to the next meeting.

f) Timber Transport, Balquhiddier. A meeting for stakeholders was held recently and a public meeting has now been arranged on 31st January 2020, probably at 6pm. This will address practical arrangements and help to formulate an agreed plan between the various parties concerned (stakeholders, residents, contractors and the local authority) for how and when the hauliers will operate. Some potential issues were raised for consideration in the public meeting.

g) Additional insurance cover. This had not yet been progressed due to ill health and was deferred to the next meeting.

h) Stirling Council Dementia Service. Lesley Milne has been invited to speak on this and will attend the community council meeting on 1st April 2020.

i) Lochearnhead bus shelter. Chris Carberry, Public Transport Service Delivery Officer for Stirling Council advised on 12th December 2019 that a maintenance team would repair the shelter as soon as possible. In the longer term, the shelter will be marked for possible replacement.

j) A84 between Strathyre and Kingshouse. Neil Macfarlane from Transport Scotland had written on 6th January 2020 to advise the community council that the two recent incidents on this stretch of road were being investigated. He commented that installing a crash barrier is expensive and has to be considered alongside other demands for infrastructure throughout the roads network. Furthermore, in this instance, it may not be possible to construct a suitable barrier due to the physical constraints of the location. However, it may be possible to improve the skid resistance value of the road surface at these locations. PCWD offered to liaise with RM to provide more details of the incidents to Neil Macfarlane.

k) A84 at Blair Drummond Safari Park. A letter of thanks for the community council's support had been received from the Thornhill & Blairdrummond community council.

l) Vehicle Barrier at Forestry car park, Strathyre. There had been problems with the local arrangements for closing and locking this barrier and a proposal had been made to remove it altogether. However, negotiations are currently underway for the sale of the field and its adjoining car park with responsibility for the barrier potentially passing to another owner. It was, therefore, decided to ask the Forestry Commission to defer the removal of the barrier until any change of ownership has been concluded.

6) Correspondence

a) Administration Grant & Minute Taker Funding. Jean Cowie, Funding Officer for Stirling Council, had written to advise that a new process for payment of the annual administration grant and for funding of an external minute-taker would be implemented in the coming year. Payment will only be made on completion of a "request form" accompanied by draft minutes of the annual general meeting and a copy of the accounts that has been independently examined and signed. A form will be sent out in March 2020 for return by 31st July 2020. DJ noted that the accounts would need to be audited. Action: EF to note details of new procedure when notified.

b) Average speed camera enforcement from Tyndrum to Lix Toll. Steven Feeny from the Scottish Safety Camera Programme has notified Bruce Crawford, the local MSP, that an average speed camera system for enforcement of the speed limit on the A84 between Lix Toll and Tyndrum is due to become operational early in 2020. Further information on the project is available at this website: <https://a82-a85road.info/faqs>

c) A84, Teith bridge at Doune. BEAR Scotland has advised that this bridge will be closed during the morning of Saturday 1st February 2020 for essential survey work.

d) M&S Food Surplus Scheme information. Marks & Spencer in Stirling is looking for partners amongst local community groups that would be prepared to assist with the distribution of surplus food stocks. More information is available at this website: "www.neighbourly.com". RM asked if any local groups might benefit from this. PCWD suggested that the Primary School at Strathyre might be interested. Action: RM to notify Strathyre Primary School.

e) Surgeries for Local Councillors. The next local "surgery" - an opportunity to meet with one of the three, local councillors, will be held on Wednesday 19th February 2020 from 7 p.m. at Strathyre Primary School with Cllr Martin Earl. A full list of local "surgeries" can be seen and downloaded at this website: "<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/council-democracy/politicians-elections-democracy/your-councillors/martin-earl/>".



CAB OUTREACH IN CALLANDER

Callander Outreach Citizens Advice

A drop-in outreach service for Stirling Citizens Advice now operates every Wednesday between 9am and 4pm at Callander Library. No appointment is necessary and all residents in rural Stirlingshire can access this. We can help with a wide range of problems from benefits, fuel and debt, to health, home and legal issues. Home visits can also be organised.

Please contact Maggie Magor
07931 334828

Maggie.Magor@
StirlingCABcasonline.org.uk)

7) Planning Matters

a) Smart Meter telecommunications site, Balquhiddar. The proposal is to mount a small pole at one end of the village hall. No objections were expected and it would provide some useful income for the hall.

b) Place Making in the Park. Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park has organised a two-day event for all members of community councils and development trusts on the subject of planning in the context of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, 2015. It will take place on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th January in Tyndrum. This is part of a programme organised by the Social Enterprise Academy and will be facilitated by a social entrepreneur with experience of the challenges facing community planning. Further information is available and can be downloaded from this web address: "https://www.socialenterprise.academy/scot/whats-on/place-making-in-the-park-703".

8) Matters from ward councillors and the National Park

a) The planning for the next budget is coming up. A public consultation exercise was held before Christmas so discussions will be taking place in the light of this feedback.

b) Climate change is currently a major topic for all local authorities. The local group of Extinction Rebellion has published a report on Stirling Council's performance and that will be discussed. ET has found several local climate change groups starting and public opinion is strongly energised to create and support local initiatives.

9) Any other competent business No items were raised under this heading.

There was no further business and, at 8:40 p.m., DJ declared the meeting to be closed. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 19th February 2020 at Strathyre Primary School.



A Room with a View... with a difference!

This amazing structure is called *In The Trees*. It's set in the surrounds of Monachyle Mhor hotel and is open for business!

Slow Cooked Root Vegetable Soup

I was looking for a really easy, really warming, fat free vegetable soup recipe for these cold damp winter days - and found this one online (courtesy Delia Smith). It ticked all the boxes - and filled the kitchen with a delicious aroma!

Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 1, (275F) (140C) (160° fan). You will need a lidded flameproof casserole with a capacity of 6 pints (3.5 litres).

8 oz (225 g) peeled carrots, cut into 2 inch (5 cm) lengths

8 oz (225 g) peeled celeriac, cut into 2 inch (5 cm) pieces

8 oz (225 g) trimmed and washed leeks, halved and cut into 2 inch (5 cm) lengths

8 oz (225 g) peeled swede, cut into 2 inch (5 cm) pieces

1 small onion, peeled and roughly chopped
2½ pints (1.5 litres) stock made with a good quality vegetable stock cube or bouillon powder

3 bay leaves

salt and freshly milled black pepper



All you do is place everything in a hob-to-oven casserole and bring it up to a gentle simmer, then put the lid on, place it in the lowest part of the oven and leave it there for 3 hours, by which time the vegetables will be meltingly tender.

Next remove the bay leaves and process or liquidise the soup in several batches to a purée, then gently re-heat, and serve the soup in bowls, garnished with fresh chives - and a swirl of Greek yoghurt too if you like!

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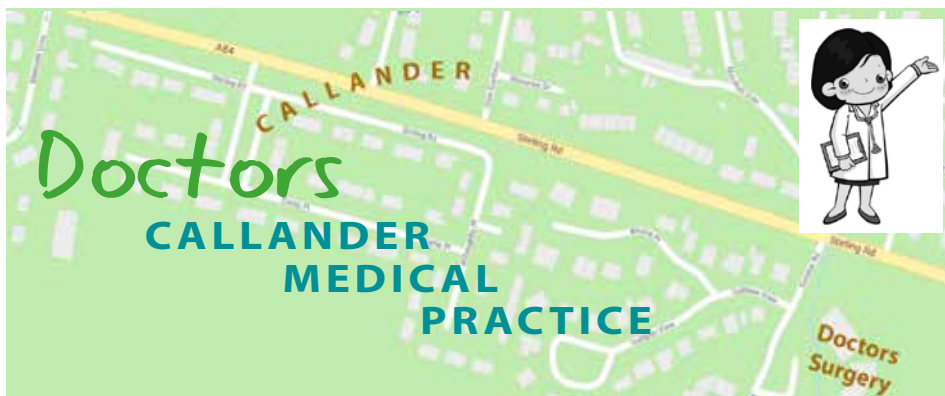


Join me on a journey into Hatha Yoga

7-8.30pm Thursday evenings
in Lochearnhead Village Hall

Level: Beginners to intermediate.
Bring a mat, a blanket for shivasana
and wear relaxed clothing.

For more information contact:
Melanie Lewis
Union Sun&Moon
07525 126482 creative@melanie-lewis.com
www.westerauchrawcroft.com



It is now 3 months since the merger, and things are starting to take shape. Most of the staff are working from one side of the building, although we are waiting for the Health Board to make structural changes to accommodate the rest of the staff. The dedicated prescription line is working well, and patients have commented that they appreciate the receptionists undivided attention at the front desk. We also have a nurse five working days a week. There are still a lot of improvements to make, the most important being a lack of doctors. Although there are more appointments now than prior to the merger, we appreciate that patients are not used to waiting two weeks for a routine appointment.

We are very pleased to announce that in a few months we will have a full complement of doctors. Dr Jay Mackenzie will be joining us in April as a new partner and will work six sessions per week, and Dr Iain Webster will be joining us for two sessions per week. Both doctors come to us with a wealth of experience, fresh ideas and enthusiasm of youth. We are sure you will all welcome them to the practice team.

The merger has come about due to the NHS Scotland's vision for GP practices. Part of this is to include new multi-disciplinary teams to each practice allowing more time for the doctors to look after patients with more complex needs.

We now need your help and support!

Our receptionists are trained to "signpost" patients to the most suitable person. If you are advised to go to a Pharmacist, Optician, Dentist or Minor Injury Unit, please take that advice as they are the most suitable professional for your problem.

If you need to see a doctor, the receptionist will offer you the next available routine appointment, however, if you have become acutely unwell and need to see a doctor urgently, you must tell them, and you will be offered one of our "urgent" appointments which are available at certain times during the day.

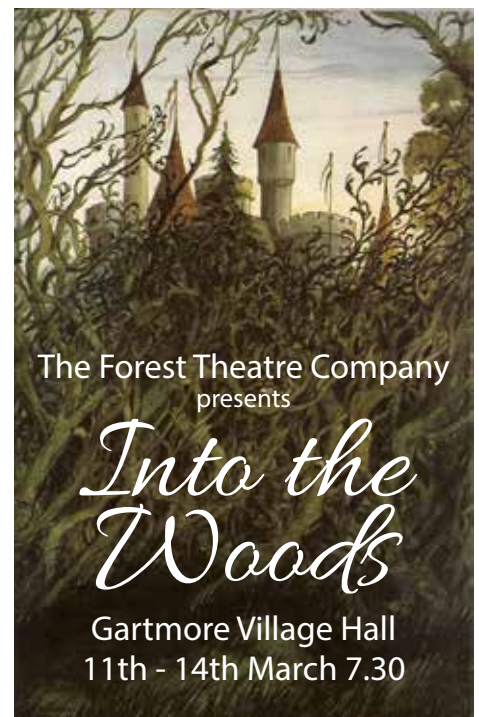
The most efficient way for us to run the GP practice is with an appointment system. Please do not turn up at the surgery expecting to be seen there and then. There may not be a doctor available or the doctor may already have a full surgery for patients who already have an appointment.

Please cancel your appointment as soon as possible if it is no longer required or you cannot attend. We are experiencing a significant increase in patients not turning up for an appointment, and this creates extended waiting times for other patients.

Non-NHS services (such as form-signing and patients requesting letters) are an extra service the practice provides. They are not an urgent part of our service, and you should not expect them to be done the same day. Please give us as much time as possible for these to be completed.

Prescriptions are not taking any longer to go to the Pharmacist than they did prior to the merger. We have always required two working days; however, the Pharmacy systems have changed, and they may take longer to process your request.

Finally, let's all be positive about the merger which is sustaining a GP practice in Callander for your future. Our receptionists have been hurt and upset by comments made by patients (both in the surgery and outside) who have not got what they want, when they want. Aggressive behaviour is not acceptable. If you are unhappy with the level of service you have been offered, or you wish to complain, we would appreciate putting your concerns in writing to the Practice Managers, **and not vent your anger or frustration at on the receptionists who are trying their best to help you!**



Do you remember when you were little having a favourite fairy story? The one your parents read to you and tried to miss bits out, but you knew every bit of it and wouldn't let them lose anything in the telling? Characters like Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk and always a witch to send shivers down your spine...

When one of the best modern composers in musical theatre takes these characters and conjures up a story that links them all, we are guaranteed a treat, no matter what age we are.

Stephen Sondheim will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 22 this year, and here in Gartmore, the Forest Theatre Company will bring to life his magical take on all our favourite stories in "Into The Woods".

We have a talented cast of adults and young folk, who are not afraid to venture into the woods to explore a story which undoubtedly owes more to the Brothers Grimm than to cosier tales.

For a Sondheim production there is always a challenge to match costume, props and stage sets to the imaginative score. The Forest Theatre Company is extremely fortunate in having talented people locally who can turn their hand to anything!

Make a date in your diary for this production of a modern fairy tale.

(Bar open from 6.45)

Tickets £10 adults

£7 child (under 16 years)

Concessions for 60+ £7

on Wed and Thurs performances.

Available from Gartmore Village Shop,

Aberfoyle Post Office,

and online at ticketsource.co.uk

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)

Scottish Wildlife Trust



Flanders Moss

Before we hit the mince pies and cheesy biscuits at our December SWT meeting, Dave Pickett of NatureScot (previously SNH) entertained us with a talk on the history and wildlife of Flanders Moss. This raised bog habitat is increasingly recognised as environmentally important, locking up large amounts of carbon. Its formation began 8000 years ago when bog mosses began to grow on the water-logged clay soils formed when the Carse of Stirling was under the sea. The mosses hold water and continue to grow and die but do not rot down, the dead material continues to pile up to form peat domes up to 7metres above the surrounding land, identified as a 'raised bog'. Such domes contain a record of changes in climate, sea levels, plant life and human activity over 8000 years.

In the 18th century landowners recognised the fertility of the underlying clay soils. They recruited Perthshire Highlanders who had lost their land after the Jacobite rebellion and these 'Moss Lairds' lived rent-free in return for clearing peat and digging drainage ditches, also used to float peat down to the River Forth. Over a third of Flanders Moss was turned into rich farmland and the rest dried out. The remaining legacy can be seen in aerial photographs. A planning application for a peat-fuelled power station that would have decimated the rest of the peat, luckily, didn't go ahead due to boundary arguments then SNH bought out the peat extraction rights for £1.8m.

Since 1992 restoration has included removal of trees and shrubs which dry out the land and blocked up old drainage channels to retain water. Fenced grazing by sheep is being

reintroduced to control shrub regrowth but groups of up to 150 large, healthy red deer are less easily controlled. They lie in safety on the Moss during the daytime and wander onto adjoining farmland at night.

The success of these actions is measured by the 'squelch factor' and the range of wildlife which can be observed from the all-ability access walkways and from the viewing tower. Several plants have adaptations to survive in this wet, acidic habitat: round-leaved sundew gets its nutrients from insects, cranberry has thread-like roots which float above the sphagnum moss. A wildflower meadow by the car park was planted with local schoolchildren and lesser butterfly orchids are found in dryer areas. Different dragonfly species frequent fresh and sphagnum water pools. Moth trapping has shown so many species that it is categorised as a 'moth assemblage', an indicator of a healthy environment. In summer adders frequent the drier areas and lizards can be found sunbathing on the walkways. A rare spider, the tiny Bog Sun Jumper, is only found in 7 UK sites, 1 in Wales and 6 in the Carse of Stirling. Barn Owls hunt over the area and insect-eating birds such as redstarts, whinchats and tree pipits nest there.

Having this National Nature Reserve on our doorstep, it can be visited in different seasons. Dave particularly recommended a May visit for the dawn chorus. Current information can be found on the blog <https://2bogsaswampandsomeislands.wordpress.com/>, including volunteering opportunities.

Of course, you can easily help to preserve other important peat habitats by using peat-free garden compost.

Scottish Wildlife Trust Callander Group meetings

All 7:30pm
in Callander Kirk Hall

Tuesday 11th February 2020
The Celtic Rainforest
Speaker tbc

Tuesday 10th March 2020



Lampreys & Fresh Water Pearl Mussels

Jo Girvan
Forth Rivers Trust

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non-members £2.50
students free
includes tea/coffee & biscuits



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McLaren High School



Ruth MacLeod

McLaren High Photography in Glasgow

On Wednesday 15 January McLaren pupils visited Glasgow city centre as part of their photography course. Pupils visited the Glasgow Botanic Gardens in pursuit of taking the perfect photographs, which in turn would be submitted as part of their course portfolios. We are very happy with the outcome of the trip, the pupils were able to capture some fantastic images and we look forward to seeing more from them in the future.



Ruth MacLeod

Pentathlon



Pentathlon Event

This week McLaren High School was represented by two pupils who were selected to be part of team Scotland in the International Pentathlon event held at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow. Katherine Fowler, pictured left, set new personal records and finished within the top ten for the entire event. Unfortunately Scott had to withdraw due to injury, but we would like to congratulate them both and team Scotland for their outstanding efforts.

McLaren High Christmas Dances

The annual McLaren High School Christmas dances took between Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 December. Thanks to Mrs Young and the committee for organising the event, to the Ian Milligan Trio for the ceilidh music and to senior pupils for providing alternative music for entertainment during the interval. A great night was had by everyone - as pictured left!



School Of Outdoors

This month 1st year McLaren Pupils who are part of the 'School of Outdoors' visited Loch Venachar (left) where they enjoyed an afternoon of canoeing. Pupils were guided on paddling technique and taught proper canoeing etiquette before taking the Loch on their own. The School of Outdoors at McLaren gives pupils the opportunity to be part of some amazing experiences and connects them to the outdoors giving them and appreciation and respect for wild places.



Central Schools Swimming Gala

On 24 November, McLaren Pupils participated in the Central Schools Swimming Championships. Some great swimming was seen by team McLaren with pupils bringing home an array of 1st to 3rd medals.

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Copy Deadline Day is the 21st of the month. Send your contributions to: contact@the-villagers.org.uk
Please help us to get The Villagers to you as soon as possible!

Other Contacts...

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Bruce Montgomery
blmscotland@yahoo.co.uk

Strathyre Contact:
Wullie Dalziel 01877 384 384
Mobile 07768 221661

Mail Order Distribution:
Andrea Poulter 01877 384784

DIARY DATES

Weekly Activities	
Monday	Pilates - Balquhidder Hall - 9.15 to 10.15am. (Contact Abbey 07766 407578 for details. Booking in advance please.)
Tuesday	Keep Fit - Lochearnhead Hall - 10.30 to 11.30am Gaelic Playgroup - Balquhidder Hall - 10.30am to 12.30pm St Fillans Music Circle - Sandison Hall - 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Light lunch included. Contact John Light (01764 685307) / Malcolm Gregory (01764 670493). Country Dancing - St Fillans
Wednesday	Yoga - Balquhidder Hall - 11.00am to 12 noon (contact Ann Cobbett 01877 376291)
Thursday	Darts League - The White Stag, Strathyre - 7.00pm Choir Occasional - Balquhidder Village Hall - 7.30-9pm (contact Gill Waugh 07778 702304) Starts up for 2020 on Thursday 13th February. Yoga - Lochearnhead Village Hall - 7pm to 8.30pm (contact Melanie Lewis for details on 07525 126482. See page 2!)
Friday	Playgroup - Lochearnhead Hall - 10.00am-12 noon (Contact Dani Bird 07812 600301)

FEBRUARY 2020	
11	SWT talk at Callander Kirk - see page 15
19	Community Council Strathyre School - see page 2
25	The Villagers AGM - The Four Seasons Hotel - 7pm - see page 2
28	Community Café, Strathyre Primary School - see page 3

MARCH 2020	
10	SWT talk, Callander Kirk - see page 15
11-14	Theatre at Gartmore Hall - see page 14

Councillor Martin Earl Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling FK8 2ET 01786 233114
earlm@stirling.gov.uk

Councillor Evelyn Tweed Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET 01786 233101

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The Manse, Main Street, Killin FK21 8TN
revmoffat@gmail.com

Dundurn Church, St Fillans
Sundays 11.30am
Interim Moderator: Rev'd John Murdoch
Tel: 01738 628378

ROMAN CATHOLIC
Callander, St Joseph the Worker
Sundays 11.30am
Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm
from May through to September

Killin, in the Episcopal Church
Sundays 2.30pm

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St Angus's Church, Lochearnhead

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2nd Sunday
5.30pm Evensong

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Balquhiddar Hogmany

Last sunset of 2019

In keeping with tradition, the pipes and drums from the Glen marched on to the dancefloor to kick the evening off with a medley of rousing tunes. The Brouhouse Boys then took to the stage for the whole evening, playing a variety of folk and ceilidh music, keeping the dance floor full all night. Locals and visitors joined together to chat, make merry and dance as the clock counted down the minutes to the end of the year. As midnight approached our very own Jim Brown piped in the new year followed by everyone joining in with *Auld Lang Syne*.

Many thanks to Lloyd and Lorraine for stepping in at short notice to keep Balquhiddar's traditional Hogmanay party continuing - as well as welcoming two new grandchildren! -Ed



The Brouhouse Boys (and girl!)



"... and we'll roll the old chariot along..."



New Year's Day: Several sprightly souls (humans and dogs) did the four mile walk from Balquhiddar hall to the Monachyle Mhor on Ne'er Day, to be rewarded by Tom's tasty soup and bread on arrival. Lloyd and Lorraine were first to get there!



Stripping the Willow