



Kinross Newsletter

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Mrs Nan Walker, MBE

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DEADLINE

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Contributions For Inclusion In The Newsletter

The *Newsletter* welcomes items from community organisations and individuals for publication. This is free of charge. (We only charge for business advertising – see below right.) All items may be subject to editing and we reserve the right not to publish an item. Please also see our Letters Policy and Notes on page 2. Submit your item (except adverts) in one of the following ways:

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(all emails will be acknowledged)

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Editor's Page

Cover photo by Jon Hillman

Letter from The Editor

IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE the beginnings of spring finally appear, especially after the heavy snow in February. Thankfully, the snow didn't outstay its welcome for too long and the children of Kinross certainly enjoyed some fun out and about on their sledges (see pp36-39) while it lasted. It was good to see neighbours out and about helping to clear roads and showing that Kinross community spirit is alive and kicking!

When the Kinross Centre put out a call for help on social media looking for volunteers to help deliver meals to the elderly in tough, snowy conditions, they were swamped with offers, which was heart-warming to see.

Sadly, our last Kinross bank will close its doors on 23 March despite the hard work and effort of our local councillors and MSPs to save it. It will be replaced by a fortnightly mobile service – a bone of contention for many of us. See more on p9.

Interestingly, talk has turned once again to the possibility of reinstating the railway line from Perth to

Edinburgh, which would involve putting in a station at Kinross. There are varied views on the subject that you can read more about on p7.

Readers have queried the place of political views in the *Newsletter*. The *Newsletter* itself is politically impartial, but, every month we give all our elected representatives space to speak to their constituents: not everyone will agree but what they say is entirely up to them. (See our politicians pages beginning on p26).

Well done to Loch Leven Health Centre for all their progress with the vaccination programme. We have heard of all the hard work that has been put in to make it successful. Your efforts are appreciated by all concerned.

Primary schools have begun to re-admit children and we can only hope this signals the beginning of a return to a life we can barely remember; hopefully it won't be long before we can barely remember the trials of 2020-2021!

Stay safe everyone.

Hannah Phillips, Editor

Note to Contributors

A great deal of the *Newsletter* comprises reports supplied by local clubs and other organisations. These reports are accepted in good faith. Clubs etc should ensure that reports are factually accurate and do not contain material which could cause legal proceedings to be taken against the *Newsletter*.

Letters Policy

Senders must supply their name and address, which will be published with the letter. Letters should be truthful and not contain matter which could cause legal proceedings to be taken against the *Newsletter*. The *Newsletter* does not necessarily agree with any of the views expressed on the letters or indeed other pages. In special circumstances addresses may be withheld from publication on request (but must still be supplied to the editor).

Note to Readers: Advertising

Inclusion of advertisements in the *Newsletter* does not imply any particular endorsement or recommendation of services or companies by Kinross CC or Kinross Newsletter Ltd.

Abbreviations

PKC: Perth & Kinross Council	Cllr: Councillor
CC: Community Council	CCLl: Community Councillor

About The Kinross Newsletter

The *Newsletter* has been informing and supporting the community for over 40 years.

It began as a way of letting residents know what Kinross Community Council was saying and doing, but soon expanded to be so much more.

Readers use the *Newsletter* to find local trades and services, and our loyal advertisers support the community by enabling us to publish local clubs' reports and essential community information free of charge. Readers, when answering an advertisement, please say you saw it in the *Newsletter*. Thank you.

The *Newsletter* is published by Kinross Newsletter Limited (company no SC374361). Any profits are transferred to charitable company Kinross Community Council Newsletter Limited (charitable company SC040913) to be given away to local good causes.

Thanks



Thank You, Dog Searchers!

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to all those stalwart volunteers who turned out, in the pitch dark and snow, to search through gorse bushes and brambles on a bleak and windy hillside for our missing dog.

Thank you, Katie for organising this band of caring and selfless people. It is a wonderful and most reassuring system you have.

Luckily all ended well with our little dog waiting for us at the car park next morning. He is well and we hope he may have learned his lesson.

Tricia and John

Newsletter Deadlines

A list of future deadlines can be found on our website
www.kinrossnewsletter.org

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Well Done NHS

A big thank you to the Loch Leven Health Centre staff for their part in the vaccination programme so far. We had a smooth, hassle-free, pain-free jag the other day, all on a phone call. It must take a phenomenal amount of planning and careful, safe execution of that plan to get us all vaccinated in the right order, working their way downwards, through the years of birth.

A big salute to the remarkable scientists, and manufacturers who have turned their research, and making of the vaccinations, into arm doses as quickly as they have done; it has been truly exceptional.

So, now let's have more plaudits, and less finger pointing and trying to find fault, please, by opposition politicians, media and others. Let's hear more 'well done!'s. Everyone is doing their very best in a global crisis, for which there is no quick fix blueprint. Mistakes will be made along the way, for sure (that's what being human is) but everyone is trying really hard: scientists, manufacturers, delivery staff, planners, jabbers – and the heroic frontline NHS staff. They all deserve our highest praise and thanks.

Name And Address Withheld

Long Covid

A couple of months ago you were kind enough to publish my article about ME, frequently also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome or CFS, in which I gave details of the local support group.

ME is a disease which usually arises after a viral infection and sadly we are now seeing a large number of people who have ME-like symptoms after contracting the coronavirus. This on-going illness has been called long-COVID and presents with a very wide range of symptoms, including pain, brain fog, breathlessness and unrefreshing sleep.

However, one of the most worrying symptoms of long-COVID is severe fatigue, which worsens after any form of exercise. This is known as 'Post Exertional Malaise' (PEM) and can, in some cases, be brought on by very modest activity such as having a shower or brushing your teeth.

If any of your readers think that they have long-COVID and are looking for support, advice, or simply just an understanding person to listen to their concerns then they're very welcome to get in touch with us at Perth and Kinross ME Support: our contact details are below.

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Front and back of the Lancastria memorial.



Lancastria Memorial

Further to the article in last month's Newsletter about the Lancastria, Fiona Symon has sent in these pictures of the memorial.

She says, 'The Lancastria memorial was funded by The Lancastria Association of Scotland and unveiled in October 2011. It stands on the land where the ship was built by Wm Beardmore and Sons in Clydebank, now the site of the National Golden Jubilee Hospital. It was a day of torrential rain but as one elderly survivor who attended the ceremony said, 'We got a lot wetter on the 17th June 1940'.

Fiona Symon

Political Opinions

Alan Miller is surprised that our MP, like others whose paid job is political, should express such opinions in a local newsletter.

The reasons that criticism is made of Mrs Thatcher may be that her government spent the 8.2% of oil revenues allocated to the people of Scotland on closing down Scottish industries and paying the redundancy costs, whereas the 91.8% of money allocated to England was spent entirely on infrastructure for London and the South-East (of England): the M25; the Jubilee Line; Canary Wharf; The Channel Tunnel; the Eurostar railway and Station – to name but a few.

The economic argument for Independence that Mr Miller has not got from John Nicolson is that only 57% of the taxes paid by the people of Scotland (through Income Tax, National Insurance and many more) is returned to Scotland.

The other 43% is retained to pay for the House of Lords, HS2, nuclear power stations in England, and the vast expense of illegal weapons of mass destruction – now banned by the newly signed international treaty. Scotland is a net contributor to Westminster. For comparison: every £1 pro rata sent to the EU got back £17 – a better deal than 57p in the £1.

Susan FG Forde
Causewayend, Main Street
Scotlandwell

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Should Kinross Be Back On The Rails?

The feasibility of a rail link between Perth and Edinburgh - via Kinross - is, once again, a hot topic

AT THE MOMENT, the journey time from Perth to Edinburgh by rail is much the same as it was 100 years ago. A direct rail link would reduce journey times by about 35 minutes and would also reduce travel times to and from Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness.

The railway between Perth and Edinburgh was closed in 1970 to make way for the M90 motorway, meaning trains are now diverted via Fife, and can take almost 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Liz Smith MSP and Councillor Callum Purves have said they will continue to press the Scottish Government to create a faster direct rail line between Perth and Edinburgh. Transform Scotland, an alliance for sustainable transport in Scotland, have thrown their weight behind the call, stating that the move should be at the top of the Scottish Government's priority list.

Paul Tetlaw, of Transform Scotland, commented: 'Re-creating a direct rail link between and Perth and Edinburgh is a strategic intervention in the rail network of Scotland that should be at the top of the Government's priority list. We have long campaigned for this and fully support Liz Smith in again raising this issue in Parliament. Quite simply, it would transform rail journey times to the north from Edinburgh and better connect Scotland's cities.'

Councillor Purves said, 'A direct rail link with a park-and-ride station at Kinross would be a real boon for Kinross-shire residents. It would help them do their bit for the environment by using their cars less when commuting or going shopping. In Kinross-shire, we have seen hundreds of new houses built in the past few years with more to come. It is now time for the necessary infrastructure for Kinross-shire and reinstating this direct rail link is a way to do just that.'

Local Independent Councillor Mike Barnacle said, 'I note the support of Liz Smith MSP, Paul Tetlaw of Transform Scotland and Cllr Purves for this, which I have always supported, noting that in 1895 Edinburgh to Perth took 65 minutes and in 2015 it took 71 minutes. The Scottish Government rejected Transform



Photo: Kendrew Schexnider

Scotland's proposals for a direct link with Perth Station becoming an inter-city hub in February 2016. At Full Council in Kinross on 4/10/17, a motion to establish a Park & Ride Station at Kinross to link to Fife Circle at Cowdenbeath by lobbying the Scottish Government was passed unanimously. Officers of PKC have asked Transport Scotland to consider the rail link's inclusion in the 2nd Strategic Transport Projects Review this year and the cause is also championed by the Perth City Leadership Forum.'

While the idea of restoring the rail link has been raised many times and appears to be very popular, there are still questions which to date have not been addressed. Councillor Willie Robertson has the following questions about the proposal.

He asks, 'What is the preferred route for the line to take through Kinross-shire and through Glenfarg? A new rail line would require a great deal of land and could have a serious adverse effect on some Kinross-shire communities and homes.'

Secondly, what is the anticipated cost of

such a new line? It is likely to be anything up to a billion pounds given the likely need to cross the M90 in several locations and also the need for tunnels at Glenfarg and through the Ochils. Also, the cost of the compulsory purchasing of houses and land required to create the line. Is this best value for taxpayers' money? I don't think so. I would rather that we had a direct rail link from the Halbeath Park & Ride into Edinburgh – then in time, an extension to Kinross. This is achievable.

I'm sure Liz Smith will have had discussions with Transport Scotland and will be able to provide answers to my questions. I look forward to reading them in the April edition of the *Kinross Newsletter*.'

Cllr Richard Watters added, 'Opening up a new line on the existing route from Kinross to Perth would be almost impossible. A more realistic and achievable community goal would be to campaign for a rail connection from Kinross to Edinburgh, possibly along the old route, to connect with the Cowdenbeath line.' See his column on p26.



Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

We are still here for you and your pets!

Please bear in mind due to the current restrictions we have limited space for appointments, however will arrange appointments as soon as possible.

For all none urgent or routine enquiries and appointments please email our team at Alphavet@inglsvets.com

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WIDESPREAD DERISION FOR NEW BOS MOBILE SERVICE

NEWS THAT THE BANK of Scotland is about to replace its permanent branch with a mobile banking service has been greeted with criticism from all quarters.

The service will make the first of its fortnightly appearances on Tuesday 9 March 2020 in the Green Hotel car park. In a letter from BoS to Kinross Community Council, the bank confirmed that the Kinross branch is set to close its doors for good on 22 March.

Councillors of all political persuasions have been vocal in their opposition to the replacement service. Councillor Callum Purves, who has, along with his colleague Councillor Liz Smith held meetings with BoS officials in an effort to persuade the bank to rescind their decision to close the branch, said: 'It is disappointing that the last bank in Kinross-shire is still set to close despite pressure from the local community. Mobile branches simply don't provide the same level of service that regular branches do.'

'With poor public transport links locally, it is simply not good enough that people will have to travel all the way into Perth to have a face-to-face financial appointment with their bank. I have been pushing the bank to look at providing a community banking officer in the community campus or even working with them to allow people to have virtual meetings from the campus.'

'Liz Smith MSP and I are continuing to explore alternative solutions such as a community banking hub that would bring some local banking services back to Kinross-shire.'

Councillor Willie Robertson also greeted the news with dismay. 'I can't imagine that 3 hours of mobile banking every fortnight will in any way meet the needs of Kinross-shire residents', he said.

'The Kinross branch of the Bank of Scotland is also used by most of our clubs and organisations. Social distancing will still be in place in March which will mean that people, many of whom could be elderly, wishing to use the bank, will most likely have to stand out in the cold while waiting for a space in the bank van to become available. This is not the service that we deserve or should have to accept.'

Councillor Richard Watters was equally dubious over the new service, saying: 'While this is better than no banking services at all, I would question that three hours every two weeks is enough for an area the size of Kinross-shire.'

The mobile banking branch, open between 10am-1pm, allows customers to use key services such as making deposits, withdrawing cash and paying bills.

What's available in the Mobile Branch?

Deposit: Cheques and up to £5000 cash per day (no more than 10 bags of coin) – this can include partial bags of non-mixed coin but they cannot accept cash saver bags.

Withdraw: Up to £500 per day or £1500 if pre-ordered 48 hours before. Some services, such as opening accounts, are unavailable via the mobile branch and some are subject to suitable WiFi coverage.



Councillor Mike Barnacle, another long-standing opponent of the BoS withdrawal, said: 'As far as I am concerned, Bank of Scotland have reneged on their commitment to keep their branch open until the pandemic is over & any other provision is just window-dressing. All the major banks have failed Kinross-shire and PKC should consider my suggestion to our former CEO that we liaise with such banks to see if it would be feasible to have a banking facility at Lochleven Campus.'

Age Concern, the country's leading charity for older citizens, were also very unhappy with the news. Head of Policy and Communications Adam Stachura had this to say:

'The closure of the last bank branch in Kinross is a serious blow for older people in the town. We have been campaigning to protect older people's access to cash and this latest closure will make it more difficult for some older people who prefer to carry out their banking business in person.'

'The introduction of a mobile bank once a fortnight for 3 hours at a time is a poor substitute for a branch that is open five days a week with staff that customers know and trust. It will also raise concerns among older people who don't want to have to queue in the cold, especially during the pandemic.'

'Over the past few years we have seen a decimation of bank branches across the country, creating banking deserts in many parts of rural Scotland.'

'The closure of the Bank of Scotland branch in Kinross will mean the nearest bank branch is in Fife and would take two buses to get there. This challenge is compounded at a time when we are being urged not to travel due to Covid-19 restrictions.'

'While banks are keen to promote online banking as an alternative to going into a branch, digital banking is of no use to the 500,000 over 65s in Scotland don't have access to the internet.'

We would like to see the banks get together and come up with more innovative solutions, such as banking hubs, to ensure that older people can access their money in a way that suits them.'



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DEREK MAKES CHARITY CD

MILNATHORT SINGER and songwriter Derek Flory, who made over 150 recordings during the pandemic, is now raising money for CHAS.

A project which came on the back of requests from friends and family to make recordings of their favourite songs, Derek is now in the midst of producing a CD with support from Stewart and Smart Garage in Milnathort and Loch Leven's Larder. The CD will be available in select local businesses throughout Kinross and Milnathort from late March and all proceeds from the sale of the CD will go to support CHAS.

Derek told the *Newsletter*: 'Lockdown in its many forms presents a major challenge for all of us. For me, coping has been helped by my love of music. When I originally started recording songs my thought was to create a CD for CHAS but doubts crept in. But the encouragement of *Newsletter* editor Hannah Phillips, and the incredible generosity and support given by Stewart and Smart and Loch Leven's Larder have made the production of the CD possible.'

Lyndsay Stobie, community fundraiser at CHAS, said: 'A big part of what we do at CHAS is to help families create special memories with their children, and music plays a huge part in this. During the pandemic, we've brought music virtually to children and families across Scotland, so they can enjoy it within their own homes while they are shielding.



'Similarly, Derek has brought joy to his friends and family through his music, so we are delighted that he will now be using his songbook to raise money for CHAS. We would like to thank both Derek, Stewart and Smart Garage and Loch Leven's Larder for producing a CD for CHAS. We can't wait to hear it!'

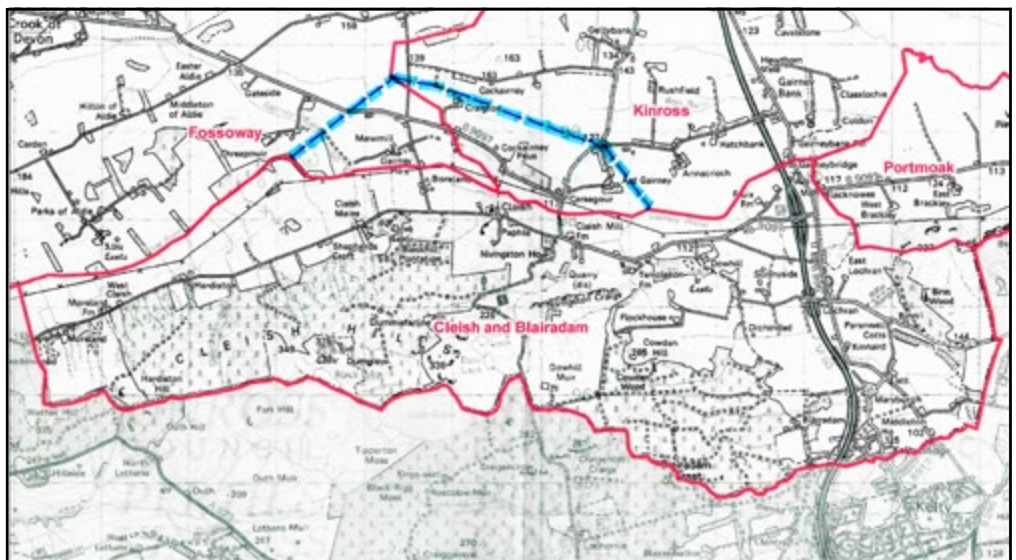
If you are a local business and would be happy to display Derek's CDs for sale on your premises, please get in touch with Lyndsay Stobie at lyndsaystobie@chas.org.uk.

FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION at the most recent Kinross Community Council meeting, here is a map showing the proposed change (marked by the blue line) to the Cleish & Blairadam CC boundary.

Fossoway CC has agreed to the change that affects their boundary while Kinross CC says it will agree to the change if there are no objections following publication in this edition of the *Newsletter*.

The rationale articulated for this change by Cleish & Blairadam Community Council is that it would more closely follow the Cleish Primary School catchment and the area covered by their community newsletter. They also argue that local residents in these areas tend to come to Cleish & Blairadam CC if they want to raise any local issues.

If you have any comments or objections please contact Kinross CC on kinrosscommunitycouncil@gmail.com before close of office hours, 31 March 2021.

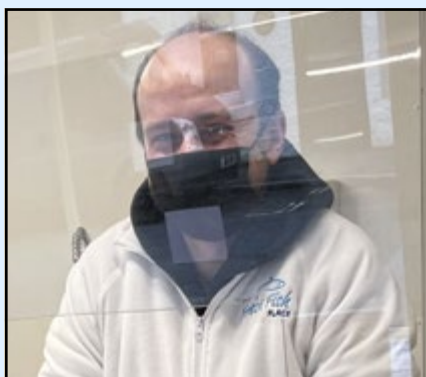


New Proposed Boundary Changes for Cleish & Blairadam

DAN, DAN, THE FISHMONGER'S MAN

THE FRESH FISH PLACE are delighted with the welcome they've received in Kinross and wanted to thank readers for their custom. You may recognise Dan who is now working there. Dan has worked in Kinross-shire hospitality for several years, starting out at the Green Hotel where he was the Bar Supervisor for four years. Sadly, he was made redundant from his last hospitality job in December 2020 due to the ongoing lockdown situation.

Dan was understandably devastated. He was especially concerned as he knew it was coming up to Christmas and that was coupled with the uncertainty of there being very few job opportunities around. Dan understood the situation but of course it was not a great time to be made redundant. Luckily, a family friend knew that John was looking to open up a fish shop in Kinross and put him in touch with Dan.



Dan admits, 'I didn't know a single thing about fish'.

Dan has been at The Fresh Fish Place since day one and continues to learn about the business now that they are a few weeks in. Initially he was just going to work a few hours a week. However, he is now working full time in the business as, due to the popularity of the shop, it requires two full-time staff. Dan

has been learning lots and is involved in all aspects of the business from serving customers in the store, dealing with telephone and online orders and enquiries and learning a lot about fish.

Dan told the *Newsletter*, 'I'm over the moon! It's a great opportunity and I am learning lots. John has really taken me under his wing and I'm looking forward to seeing the business grow. A key part of the job I've enjoyed is helping the customers and I can't thank the local community enough for all the support they've given us.'

Dan says there has been a lot of positive feedback from the community and he got involved in a Home Economics project at Kinross High School. Pupils were learning about different types of fish and Dan helped create a video for this task.

We're glad you have found a great 'plaiice' to work, Dan!

LAPTOPS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN



WITH MANY HOUSEHOLDS home-schooling a number of children at one time, some families have struggled to get enough devices for all their children to participate in their online school lessons. Some may be sharing laptops, tablets, or even using their phones to participate in home-schooling and many are still sharing devices with their siblings and other family members.

Inspired by a similar initiative that he saw in the press, Mike Saint of Limekilns is asking for donations of old/broken laptops that he can refurbish and then give to pupils to help them through the pandemic. Mike started supplying the refurbished laptops throughout Fife and now has several helpers, enabling him to expand his geographical area. While you may think your old laptop is only fit for the bin, it may be worth donating it to Mike if you would like to see it go to a good home, instead.

With only a few senior school children now beginning to return to schools for assessments in practical subjects, it looks like the majority of High School Learners still have a lot of online schooling to get through.

Mike (*pictured left*) went back to university at the age of 51 and studied for a Master's Degree in Business Psychology and a BSC in Applied Psychology. He knows the value of a good education and says he is 'passionate about helping these kids'. He has already given out more than 90 refurbished laptops in the Fife area and has now extended his reach to Kinross-shire. Even an old or broken laptop is useful as long as the camera works (cameras are needed for children to access some of their home schooling). Laptops without working cameras can still be used for spare parts.

Mike said, 'If anything good comes out of the pandemic, it is the great community spirit that we have been seeing. I am still receiving requests by families who are in need. Please keep looking and spreading the word for unwanted laptops.'

If you have an old or unwanted laptop you could donate, please contact the Kinross co-ordinator Diane Walker at dianewalker2004@yahoo.co.uk or call her on 07703 348909. Laptops in good working order can be donated directly to schools in the area, and are still required (many schools have a waiting list of applicants who would like to receive one).

For more information about Mike's refurbished laptops, please email tech4all.scot@gmail.com.

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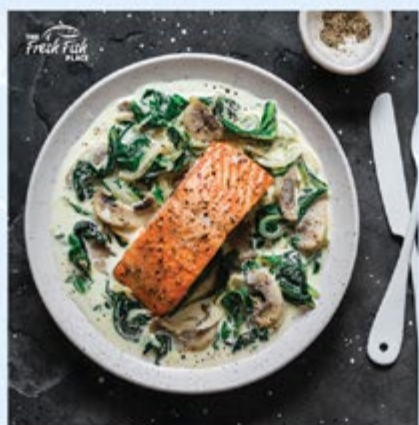
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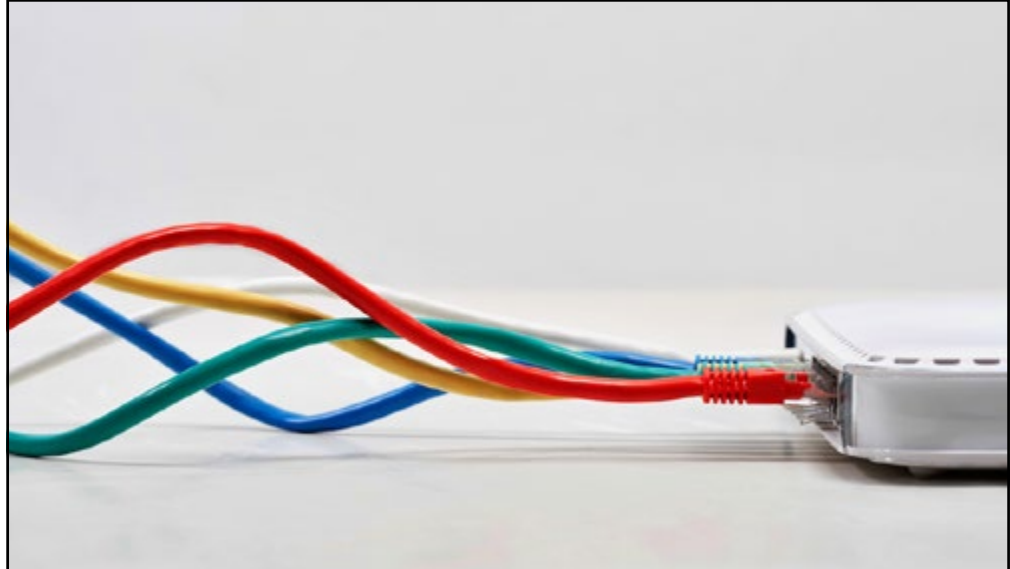
Due to Covid-19, opening hours may be subject to change.



Gigabit Means Such A Gigalot!

GIGABIT KINROSS-SHIRE has been established to secure UK Government-funded gigabit broadband upgrades for homes and businesses throughout the county. The voucher scheme can fully fund gigabit upgrades for properties that have been left out from other initiatives. Residential properties are eligible for a £1500 voucher, while businesses are eligible for £3500.

Gigabit Kinross-shire seeks to bring residents together to pool enough vouchers in a community to make such full-fibre upgrades viable at no cost to home and business owners.



Councillor Callum Purves, chair of Gigabit Kinross-shire, said: 'With so many of us working and learning at home, having a fast and reliable broadband connection is more

important now than ever. But the digital divide is widening, and larger villages and smaller towns are being left behind by other schemes. Schemes like these only work when communities are fully behind them and we need local residents to get involved.

Working together, local Kinross-shire residents have already pooled vouchers to secure full-fibre upgrades for Cleish, Cuthill Towers and Mawcarse. We have recently completed our first project in the centre of Kinross, which will see over 100 properties in the Millbridge area upgraded.

Our ambition is to make Kinross-shire one of the first counties in the UK to have gigabit connections for all residential and business properties so please encourage your friends and family to register their interest at our website.'

Check if you are eligible for the Gigabit Kinross-shire project at www.kinross-shire.org.

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NEW UK-WIDE CORONAVIRUS VACCINE MONITORING STUDY GETS UNDER WAY

VACCINES ARE CRUCIAL FOR reducing Covid-19 and the harm it causes to health. By taking part in the VAC4COVID study, people can help scientists and doctors understand people's health experiences after vaccination and support public confidence in Covid-19 vaccines.

VAC4COVID has been launched by the University of Dundee's Medicines Monitoring Unit (MEMO Research) to help ensure vaccines work as they should.

Anyone over 18 can join as long as they have an email address and a computer or tablet or smartphone. Ideally, participants should join before their first vaccination in order to provide a baseline picture of their health, but you can join at any point before or after your first or second vaccination. Even participants who do not plan to get vaccinated are encouraged to join to enable researchers to gauge whether medical conditions are coincidental or a result of the vaccination.

All vaccines must meet rigorous quality, safety, and efficacy standards before being approved but, as with any new medicines or treatments, ongoing research is needed to fill any gaps in the knowledge obtained from clinical trials. It is important that these studies report any safety or lack of effectiveness signals in real-time, so that action can be taken promptly. MEMO Research will work closely with vaccine regulators to inform them of any findings.

Many thousands of people are needed to take part in VAC4COVID to detect if there are any unexpected, rare conditions linked to vaccination. Participants will provide information about



their health before and after vaccination. Members of the public are invited to sign up on the VAC4COVID study website, which provides a user-friendly way to report diagnoses and symptoms. Those who sign-up will be contacted at regular intervals before and after vaccination to check on their health. Reminder emails will be sent to partici-

pants every month, asking them if there have been any changes to their health. Following vaccination, reminder emails will be sent every week for 4 weeks before reverting back to monthly.

Anyone interested in taking part in the study can sign up at www.vac4covid.com, or follow them on Twitter: @VAC4COVID

Virtual Evening Raises Spirits And Boosts Show Funds

KINROSS-SHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY hosted a Virtual Cheese and Wine event, attended by 70 members and friends of the society that runs Kinross Show.

The guests enjoyed a selection of Scottish cheese and biscuits with a bottle of wine of their choice, the food was generously sponsored by Loch Leven's Larder and Fruix Storage.

Tickets were sold online and delivery was contactless. The event raised over £1000 for Kinross Show funds.

Martin Kennedy, National Farmers Union Scotland Vice President, provided some light-hearted entertainment that

raised a lot of laughs and the highlight of the evening came from his daughter, Katrina, who sang a beautiful version of Caledonia.

President of Kinross Show, Andrew Turnbull commented, 'In this time of social distancing and travel restrictions, we are pleased to have found a way to provide an opportunity for members to take a break, relax and reconnect with friends and neighbours.'

Always nice to hear some good news! Everyone in Kinross is looking forward to the next Kinross Show, whenever it may be.



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Community Disgusted After Destruction Of Bird Hide

OUTRAGE GREETED THE NEWS

of the senseless destruction of the award-winning bird hide at Loch Leven, the Mill Hide, in a fire that is thought to have been started deliberately. The hide was completely gutted in the blaze, which took place between 7-8pm on Thursday, 18 February.

Local residents took to social media to express their anger as the news spread. 'Disgusted,' 'furious,' and 'raging' were just some of the terms that were being hurled at the unknown perpetrator(s) by angry Kinrossians, shocked by the news.

Built in 2011 and situated behind the Todd and Duncan factory, the Mill Hide was a great favourite among visitors and had won awards for its architectural design. It was a much-loved place to enjoy some of the best views of the loch and of the large numbers of birds congregating on the water.

NatureScot's reserve manager Neil Mitchell said: 'When I went out to the site this morning I was shocked and saddened to see what has happened to the hide. It's been completely destroyed and what's worse is we believe the fire was started deliberately.'

'The hide is hugely popular and over the years has brought so many people joy, allowing them to experience and connect with nature at the reserve. It was a beautiful building that has won several awards, and many visitors will have snapped views from it. Sadly we've now had to fence off the site for public safety.'

'The response from the community and the general public has been amazing. We are determined to replace the hide as soon as possible. I would urge anyone with information about the fire to contact Police Scotland.'

MSP Roseanna Cunningham was another who was outraged to discover what had happened. 'This news is shocking. I really am dismayed and angry that this popular and award-winning structure should have been destroyed, seemingly through a deliberate act. I echo the calls that have been made by Police Scotland and urge anyone with any information about the cause of the fire to get in touch with them.'

'The mythical phoenix may not be amongst the many bird species to be seen at Loch Leven but hopefully the Mill Hide can rise again from the ashes and once again provide cover for those looking to enjoy the reserve's natural beauty and sheltered views of the loch and its feathered residents.'

Chief Inspector Graham Binnie of Police Scotland said: 'Starting fires deliberately is reckless, dangerous and risks lives. In this case, the bird hide has been completely, and unnecessarily, destroyed.'

'We are investigating this as a deliberate act and would ask anyone who saw any suspicious behaviour in the area on



The Mill Hide after the shocking blaze and (inset) as it was

Thursday evening, or has information to identify those responsible, to report this to us as soon as possible. Those with information should contact Police Scotland on 101 and quote incident number 0573 of 19 February.




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MUNRO CHALLENGE IN MEMORY OF GRAINNE

KINROSS-SHIRE RESIDENT DAVID GILL has decided to pay tribute to his late partner by raising funds for Cancer Research, a charity close to his heart. David was with Grainne for over 19 years until, sadly, she passed away in April 2019. She had developed COPD and latterly lung cancer. During the last few years she was incredibly brave and never lost her tremendous loving capacity.

David is aware that many charities are struggling badly during this pandemic and that Cancer Research is no different. With this in mind, and with Grainne as his inspiration, he is going to attempt to climb 19 Munros during 2021, one for each year that he and Grainne were together. He hopes to raise some money for Cancer Research. David is going to

take a small stone from the top of each mountain that he climbs, and place it beside Grainne's memorial monument in Kinross cemetery.

David told the Newsletter, 'Cancer Research UK, like many charities, has been hit by the pandemic. There is hardly a family which has not been affected by this disease so any donation, no matter how small, is vital. I hope, as someone of a more mature age, you will help to make the challenge for me of climbing 19 munros worthwhile for the charity. Thank you for your support.'

If you'd like to sponsor David or donate please go to <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/davids-giving-page-2553>

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Business growth can also involve developing an enhanced brand conscience, becoming more aware of a business's environmental impact and establishing greener working solutions. New regular environmental sustainability tips are now shared by means of the weekly newsletter.

- Save paper – send digital documents. Ask the recipient not to print unless absolutely necessary.

- Laptops generally use less energy than desktops. Trade up – and be sure to recycle your old device!

- Recycle your office rubbish. Have one bin for waste paper and other recyclables. Discard litter elsewhere.

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ONLINE HAGGIS FOR BURNS SUPPER

ON SATURDAY 23 JANUARY 2021, the first Virtual Kinross-shire Burns Supper was streamed live on Facebook. Organised by Richard Scott and Karen Davies, and hosted by Drew Drummond, the event started at 7.30pm with world-class piping from the famous Ian Duncan, who also went on to 'pipe in' the haggis. Irene Mcfarlane then recited her poem 'Burns Nicht 2021' and entertained all later on with her version of Holy Willies Prayer.

Emily Scott, then 'took to the stage' back by popular demand from her giving the Selkirk Grace at the Rotary Club 2018 Burns dinner. Richard Scott addressed the haggis. While people were 'eating their meal', gifted local musicians Cathryn and David Archer brought the gift of music into our homes with a mixture of traditional and modern music.

John Gilfillan, who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours list, and the Chieftan of the Bowhill Highland Games, offered a magnificent Immortal Memory. Brenda Frier performed some Scottish songs followed by her husband Tich, who proposed the toast to the Lassies in true Burns style. Jayne Smith, who appeared to be 'virtually' in Kinross House, used her offering to poke some gentle fun at the lads with an amusing and entertaining reply to Tich's toast. The evening was drawn to a close by local lad, Tony Bartlett, with an exceptional Auld Lang Syne version.

There was a technology hitch halfway through the event when the Facebook App crashed, but the event was quickly back 'on-air' 10 minutes later.

When the event finished streaming at 9.30 pm, there had already been over 1100 views on Facebook. By the next morning that had increased to 1300. As well as the Kinross-shire community there were viewers from Dollar, Stirling, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Stafford, London. Our overseas viewers came from across Canada, and the USA, Mauritius and Gibraltar.

Look out for the second Virtual Kinross-shire Burns Supper on Saturday 22 January 2022!



Richard Scott addresses the haggis during Kinross' inaugural Virtual Burns Supper.



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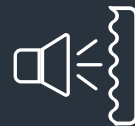
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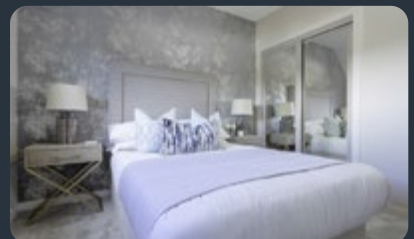
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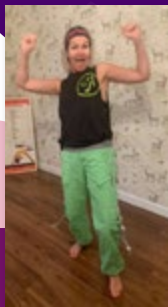
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Studio LBA's Design For Life

Runners and riders in Studio LBA's annual Whitest Trainers Sweepstakes line up for the camera!

IF THIS ISN'T A YEAR for new beginnings, we don't know what is. So with that in mind, we'd like to introduce you to some new residents in the neighbourhood.

Lynsay Bell Manson owns and runs Studio LBA, an established and respected architecture practice, recently opening their second office in one of the converted outbuildings of the home she shares at Orwell Farm with husband Jeff who runs the finance side of the firm.

'We really feel that we've already become part of the community here – which we are so thankful for, given the events of the last year. We are lucky enough not to have felt that sense of isolation too much, mainly because there is always a lot to do in terms of work, but also because the demands of a small toddler and a menagerie of animals don't leave a lot of time for self-reflection!'

Studio LBA is an award-winning practice with a dynamic and creative team designing progressive buildings and spaces for pioneering property developers and private clients who want to create inspiring legacies.

They are certainly doing that with Orwell Farm, a semi-derelict set of farm buildings and farmhouse that they

are still in the process of developing. The converted dairy will become a smart new outpost of the firm, which also has an office in Edinburgh's New Town.

'It was a real change of pace to be working here in Kinross, as opposed to the city office. We love the opportunities that both sites offer to our team in terms of inspiration for their creative output. We see ourselves very much as a family and before lockdown, we were able to arrange some really useful group activities that strengthened the team dynamic and gave the city dwelling staff a chance to experience the beauty of Kinross-Shire.'

The team are looking forward to becoming a real part of the community and have ambitious plans for their little corner of the Shire and their business.

More detail on Lynsay and her team and the kind of work they do can be found at www.studiolba.co.uk

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Church News



Photo: Andy Masson

Church Support Continues In A Difficult Year

The 2020 Annual Report of Kinross Parish Church details how the church has managed to continue to support members and the wider community through a difficult year. Minister Alan Reid says 'Regular activities have been much curtailed or amended but wherever possible alternative arrangements have been made to enable worship and other meetings via Zoom, livestreaming or in other ways for those without internet access. For example, the work of our Bereavement Group and the pastoral contact by elders has had to be by phone or online and we have purchased equipment and had the support from volunteers to move to live-streaming of our services.'

The Report refers to the church's community centre in the High Street (the Church Centre) being used by the Kinross Centre to cook and deliver meals to the elderly during the pandemic. Other local charities supported over the year, through church donations or special offerings, have been Broke Not Broken, CATH (Churches Action for the Homeless), The Kinross-shire Volunteers Group, and KYTHE (Kinross-shire Youth Initiative). It is the Kirk Session's policy not

to solely concentrate on local charities and the past year has also seen donations to the UK charity Meningitis Now and abroad to the church's partner in Hungary - the Great Church in Debrecen – towards its work with disabled children.

The Annual Report and its associated accounts are prepared as part of the governance of the church as Scottish Charity SC 012555 and they were approved in February by the Kirk Session as the charity's Trustees. The Session also took the decision to hold the Annual Stated Meeting of the congregation as part of a Sunday service but to delay that meantime.

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Councillor Richard Watters

Sustainable Transport

The Scottish Government's National Transport Strategy highlights the need to build a Sustainable Travel Network. This promotes walking, cycling, and 'car and ride sharing', in addition to using the bus or train. All of these transport options should work together to provide an affordable, accessible, and connected travel network, enhancing and improving our communities while providing more environmentally friendly travel options as compared to single-occupancy car use.

We have had major successes in creating recreational walking and cycling routes throughout the county and we have seen the creation of numerous Green Routes on local roads that give priority use to walkers and cyclists by slowing traffic speeds to safer levels.

In the medium term, we are making progress with bus services. In the past few years there has been a decline in both the number of bus routes and the frequency of service on the remaining routes. I am pleased that in recent months we have seen a reversal of that decline. This is thanks to the commitment of First Bus Group in providing a new service from Stirling to Kinross and the commitment of Moffat and Williamsons in providing a service from Kinross to Glenrothes via Ladybank. This success is despite the challenges faced by bus operators due to the current Covid pandemic.

I welcome the formation of the Community Bus Forum in Kinross-shire, which is now supported by all the local Councillors as well as the Council's Transport team, and a strong community contingent. The group is making good progress on developing an informed community response to the sustainable transport issues involved in providing a joined-up bus service.

In the longer term, there are possibilities with trains. The original railway line through Kinross was never recommended for closure in the Beeching report that closed many routes throughout Scotland. The railway line was instead closed by the Ministry of Transport in London in order to reduce the cost of building the M90. Opening up a new line on the existing route from Kinross to Perth would be almost impossible because of the M90 motorway, leaving limited options. That has created major challenges in finding a route through the Ochils as well as finding a route through or around Kinross. From a rail perspective, a more realistic and achievable community goal would be to campaign for a rail connection from Kinross to Edinburgh, possibly along the old route, to connect with the Cowdenbeath line.

In the short term, Kinross would benefit more from an investment in creating a sustainable travel network that includes more active travel routes with a greater network of path and cycle routes, along with the development of our bus services, with realistic travel options, to connect our communities. To meet our Climate Emergency obligations, it would be great to see money invested in upgrading our bus fleets to electric or similar vehicles. As soon as the Covid restrictions are lifted, we can return to promoting car-sharing schemes throughout the county.

For the longer term, it would be good to see a non-political Community Group formed that can promote and take forward the idea of getting a railway line to Kinross.

It is interesting to note that the train times 99 years ago were between 15 to 20 minutes **slower** going through Glenfarg than today's route via Ladybank—due to the steep gradient up to Glenfarg.

In creating a sustainable and joined-up travel network within the county with links to neighbouring towns and cities, there is no doubt that a rail link to Edinburgh and if feasible to Perth would be a great asset. I believe the best way to achieve this



would be through the formation of a Community Campaign group similar to the Levenmouth Rail Campaign group that successfully campaigned for the reinstatement of the mothballed line from Thornton to Leven.

In the future it would be good to see the Bus Forum morph into a more general Sustainable Travel Group, that can work with other groups, such as TRACKS and the Council to provide a strong community response to the specific sustainable travel needs of Kinross, including campaigning for an achievable rail connection.

I have previously raised with Council officers the need to have a path from **Lathro Lane** through to the new housing. So, I am pleased that an agreement has now been reached to create a paved path through the shrubs, allowing residents to access the shops and the rest of the town more easily. This path will also allow residents from the original Lathro estate and beyond to have a fully-accessible route to the new Country Park as that develops.

I have recently asked Officers for an update on the **Flood defence scheme on the South Queich**.

RPS group, the consulting engineers, have continued to work on the scheme during the pandemic. The measures they have been considering include Flood Storage further upstream, natural flood management measures, and dredging—as well as the more traditional approach of walls or barriers within the town. An initial workshop with SEPA, SNH, Scottish Water, and the council took place last November to discuss the options.

The council have confirmed they will commence some limited engagement with the community this spring, with a more detailed engagement later in the year.

One of the questions I specifically asked the officers was regarding community water gauges upstream and the benefit such gauges would give to the Flood Resilience Group by giving them time to respond before a flash flood hits the town. It turns out that SEPA has an action in the published Forth Flood Risk Management Plan to investigate the feasibility of flood warning in Kinross by 2021. I have written to SEPA and await an update on their progress with this action.

Councillor Richard Watters

Councillor Mike Barnacle

Footpath and Roads Update

Officers confirm that new footways for Craighead, Drum; Devonshaw, Powmill; Gairneybank, Kinross and Waulkmill. Crook of Devon are listed for implementation, subject to inadequate budget resources at present.

VAS installations are planned for B9097 east of Drum and road south of Kinross through Gairneybank and Gairneybridge, along with a review of 40mph repeater signs at the latter for improvements. Nameplate and direction signs at Lochran scheduled for early 2021/22.

20mph signs/speed limits are set for introduction in Crook of Devon south of A977 at Church Rd, St Serf's and Waulkmill and north of A977 along Naemoor Rd to Woodlands; along with Drum village and north of Drum roads to just beyond Back Crook Rd junction, at my request.

Democratic Deficit

Recent Scottish Government Reporters (unelected) Appeal Decisions granting planning at Lathro. Kinross and Pitdownies, Milnathort against the wishes of the community and local members illustrate that 'we don't live in a democracy' as regards planning.

Only MSPS can change this and they are standing for election next May!

Minutes from the Kinross-shire Community Transport Group, 28 January 2021.

Present: Cllr Barnacle, Cllr Purves, Cllr Robertson (P&K Council),



P Appleby (Fossway CC) M Haigh (Cleish CC), J Fallon (Local Resident, Rumbling Bridge), M Ponton (Glenfarg CC), D Aird (Kinross-shire Volunteer Group), D Colliar (Kinross CC), C Farquhar (Fossway CC) M Roy (P&K Council PTU).

Apologies: A Warrington (ACBuG), S Brown (Kinross High School), Dr Mccracken (Loch Leven Health Centre) A Cragoe, Portmoak CC, P Lord (Muckhart CC).

Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Barnacle opened the meeting and noted apologies from Andrew Warrington. Cllr Barnacle advised group that Ann Cragoe had advised him that she would no longer be able to attend these meetings so Cllr Barnacle will investigate sourcing another representative from Portmoak CC.

Minutes of last meeting on 19 November 2020

Only correction noted was that Service X53 was incorrectly stated as Service 23. This was noted and MR will update this on the minute records. Cllr Barnacle asked if Sarah Brown had been sent a copy of the electronic survey form. MR confirmed that she had asked her colleague John Strachan to undertake this and she trusted he had but she would double check.

Matters arising from last minutes

A lengthy and in-depth discussion took place in the group regarding the paper John Fallon had produced in terms of approaching First and Stagecoach East Scotland Directors with his suggestions for recasting Services X53 and X56. MR confirmed that as JF had not wished his specific papers to be sent to Stagecoach and First at this point without further consultation with Cllr Barnacle, MR had not forwarded them to the Directors.

However, MR had briefly outlined the suggestions for recasting Service X56 to Douglas Robertson, but he explained the operational reasons as to why this would not be something he could implement.

However, majority consensus was that MR should share the proposals for X53 with Andrew Jarvis with the view of preparing for post CV19 services.

Update on Current Subsidised Local Bus Services in Kinross-shire

M Ponton and D Aird provided community feedback on Service 55 and confirmed that all was going well with the service and it was being used although it was accepted that numbers travelling are low due to lockdown. M Ponton added that the additional Service 56 journeys into Perth have resulted in no public transport complaints from Glenfarg residents so suggested these are therefore suitable. MR added that from a PTU perspective it has transpired that the situation with one service operating between Glenfarg and Kinross and one between Glenfarg and Perth is working well, and this model will be used going forward. MR added that it was encouraging that Service 55 had resulted in a local coach operator entering the local bus service market. Cllr Robertson noted that every effort should be made to retain Services 55 and 56 as they are. MR agreed to progress this and liaise with the operators to ascertain if passengers had requested any tweaks to the routes or timings that could be accommodated.

Future Planning for Public Transport Provision in Kinross-shire

Cllr Barnacle noted that in terms of unserved areas of Kinross-shire re public transport, the group needs to ascertain where the real need is. P Appleby advised that there is currently no demand in Cleish or Blairadam for any public transport provision. All acknowledged that post Covid-19 there would be significantly less commuter journeys.

Cllr Robertson noted that it would be a significant responsibility for a Community Group to buy and operate a minibus and also that the Council's Capital Budget is frozen at the moment until further in the year. Cllr Purves agreed.

Cllr Barnacle suggested revisiting the survey to check where the demand had been at that time and then scope out a bus service timetable around that with the intention to commence post Covid-19.

MR advised that the most suitable model may be to build a

timetable around Kinross High School times and then operators who undertake school transport could bid with their vehicles that already serve Kinross High School. MR confirmed that this model is in place already in Loch Tay area, Strathearn area and Crieff town. Perhaps one return journey between Dollar – Blairingone – Powmill – Carnbo and Kinross, 2 or 3 days a week off peak and to fit in with clinic times in Kinross. MR to draft email and share with Cllrs in first instance.

Date of Next Meeting

Cllr Barnacle will canvas opinion on most suitable date nearer the time.

Councillor Michael Barnacle
Independent Member for Kinross-shire

Roseanna Cunningham, MSP



MARCH MARKS A YEAR since we first went into a lockdown to try and tackle the spread of Covid-19 and, sadly, the first death in Scotland from the global pandemic which has had such a massive impact on all of our lives over the past 12 months.

But, this month also brings the vernal equinox, the point in the calendar when the sun is exactly above the Equator and day and night are of equal length.

It heralds the start of spring and at the end of the month, the days will have lengthened to the extent that we will be putting the clocks forward.

Spring is all about rebirth and new growth, lambs starting to gambol in the fields and gardens bursting back into life.

The day after the equinox, 21 March, is World Poetry Day so I thought I might share a few lines from a local poet which seem to fit. These are the opening verses of *Elegy-Written in Spring* by Michael Bruce, a poet from Portmoak, writing in the second half of the eighteenth century:

*'Tis past: the iron North has spent his rage;
Stern Winter now resigns the length'ning day;
The stormy howlings of the winds assuage,
And warm o'er ether western breezes play.*

*Of genial heat and cheerful light the source,
From southern climes, beneath another sky,
The sun, returning, wheels his golden course:
Before his beams all noxious vapours fly.*

Unfortunately, it will take more than sunbeams to make the 'noxious vapours' causing this virus to fly – although a face covering helps protect yourselves and others! – but we are now making really good progress on the thing that will: the rollout of the vaccination programme.

Known as the Poet of Loch Leven, Bruce died of pulmonary tuberculosis at the age of just 21 and yet his works are believed to have been an influence on Robert Burns.

Another poem, *Ode to the Cuckoo* ends with these lines

*O could I fly, I'd fly with thee:
We'd make, with social wing,
Our annual visit o'er the globe,
Companions of the Spring.*

We may not get there in time for this year's summer holidays, but here's hoping that the coming of this spring sees us much closer to the point when we too, like the cuckoo, can make 'our annual visit o'er the globe'.

Until then, let's all keep doing what we have to do by following all the rules and guidance designed to keep us safe.

Roseanna Cunningham, MSP

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Councillor Callum Purves



Kinross-shire Overdevelopment

It seems my cynicism in last month's edition of the *Newsletter* was sadly not misplaced. As anticipated, the Scottish Government's Reporter issued a notice of intention to grant planning permission for Persimmon's revised proposals for phase 2 of Lathro Meadows. This was despite the fact that local councillors overwhelmingly rejected the planning application.

The Reporter dismissed many of the concerns raised by councillors and local residents about housing density, lack of parking, access onto Gallowhill Road, poor drainage, and the capacities of the local schools and GP surgery. He shockingly concluded that there were 'no material considerations that would justify withholding planning permission.'

To add insult to injury, this decision came on the same day as the Scottish Government's Reporter granted full planning permission to Springfield for their Pitdownies development. This was despite permission being unanimously refused by councillors at Perth & Kinross Council.

We need to be clear that this is not about being antidevelopment—we do need more homes. It is about ensuring that development is on a scale appropriate for each of our communities, and that the necessary infrastructure improvements come *before* the extra houses. That is why we go to the bother of putting together local development plans (LDPs).

But each of these decisions has gone against the LDP. Whether it is extra houses over and above what the site was earmarked for in the plan, not meeting the necessary environmental or biodiversity requirements, or poor design that fails to meet the standards we should expect of developers. This is where the much vaunted 'plan-led' system falls down.

If local residents are unhappy with the decisions that their councillors take, they can rectify that every five years through the ballot box. But we have no means of removing reporters who make decisions such as these. We need to put a stop to this undemocratic practice and have faith in local councillors to make decisions that are in the best interests of the communities they represent.

A977 20 mph Limits

As mentioned in previous columns, the Spaces for People programme has allowed us to expedite the installation of 20 mph limits in towns and villages across Kinross-shire. While this needs to be coupled with better enforcement by the police and any future community speed watch initiative, the new limits have been broadly welcomed.

Despite the programme of mitigation measures that is being rolled out for the A977, it remains a dangerous road. After discussion at Fossoway Community Council over a number of meetings, we have decided to put in a request for 20 mph speed limits on the A977 in an effort to help bring down the overall speed of traffic and improve driver behaviour. This would specifically cover the villages of Crook of Devon, Powmill and Blairingone.

We await to hear whether the Council is willing to implement these new restrictions.

Instrumental Music Service

I have been contacted by a number of constituents who have raised concerns about a change to the terms and conditions of the Instrumental Music Service that would prevent pupils who do not go to Perth & Kinross Council schools from participating in central groups and orchestras. This decision was not taken by councillors but by officials in April 2020. Councillors were not even informed of the decision and in my view, it was taken *ultra vires*.

In my view, it is unnecessarily exclusionary to bar pupils who are schooled at home, who go to schools in Fife or Clackmannanshire,

or who attend independent schools from continuing to play with their friends. Their parents still pay their council tax locally and a fee for taking part. I simply cannot understand why this decision has been taken.

I have made my views on this matter known to the education department and have asked that the decision be reversed immediately. I have instead been told that a consultation will be undertaken on the matter. I will continue to push for this to be rectified without further delay.

Greener Kinross-shire

We are now all more aware of the effect that our actions have on the environment and climate change, both locally and on a global scale. These issues will only continue to move up the news agenda this year as the UK hosts the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, where world leaders will gather in Scotland to discuss these important issues.

I know that many people locally are also keen to think about what we can do in Kinross-shire to become a greener county. But rural areas like ours can have their own unique challenges. While many may be keen to use their cars less, for example, a lack of public transport can make that difficult.

A new local initiative supported by Kinross Community Council seeks to address some of these concerns. *Kinross-shire MoveGreener* will provide a car and bike sharing service where local residents who only need to use these forms of transport infrequently can borrow them.

Another potential local project is a pop-up community hub that will run events to increase awareness of sustainable food sources, the zero-waste economy, repairing and recycling. This project will aim to involve local organic growers, producers of eco-products and other businesses to further develop sustainable economy in Kinross-shire.

Working with the *Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation* (KLEO), *Kinross-shire MoveGreener* is looking to undertake these and other environmental initiatives. If you are interested in getting involved with any of those outlined above or have ideas of your own, please let me know at CPurves@pkc.gov.uk. We plan to have a meeting in a few weeks' time to discuss how to progress these projects.

Councillor Callum Purves

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Councillor Willie Robertson



I LOOKED BACK AT the 1994 Kinross Area Local Plan when Pitdownies and Pacehill were included as housing sites. Pitdownies were allocated for 28 houses – now following appeal consent has been given for 59 plus 8 flats. Pacehill was down to take 28 houses – now 77 houses have been given consent on the site. Had local residents been aware of the true levels of housing that would be allocated for these sites back in 1994 I am sure there would have been numerous objections. So people are being totally misled by trusting the agreed local plan.

Local Development Plan – Local Democracy:

The Local Development Plan is formulated over many months through discussions with community groups, community councils, members of the public, developers, elected councillors and Council planning officers. It is then sent to the Scottish government for ratification. When adopted people know where houses are going to be built and roughly how many will be built. However when a site has been agreed many developers see this as a green light to try and build as many houses as possible on the site. As with Pitdownies, Pacehill and Lathro Farm phase 2, developers lodge applications for far more houses than were identified on the local plan. I looked back at the 1994 Kinross Area Local Plan when Pitdownies and Pacehill were included as housing sites. Pitdownies was allocated for 28 houses – now following appeal consent has been given for 59 plus 8 flats. Pacehill was down to take 28 houses – now 77 houses have been given consent on the site. Had local residents been aware of the true levels of housing that would be allocated for these sites back in 1994 I am sure there would have been numerous objections. So people are being totally misled by trusting the agreed

local plan If councillors on the Council’s planning committee reject the application because of the huge increase in housing on the site, the developer appeals and as has happened with Pitdownies and Lathro Farm, the Scottish government planning reporter overturns the Council decision and grants consent. What then is the point of our Local Development Plan or the Council’s planning committee when both can be so easily ignored by unelected government planning reporters?

I personally think that if a Scottish government planning reporter is unhappy with a decision taken by a Council planning committee he should refer it back to the committee stating why he doesn’t agree with their decision and ask them to address his concerns. If the reporters issues can’t be resolved then the original decision should stand. This would put the power back into the hands of democratically elected councillors who are accountable to their electorate, which is the way it should be.

Loch Leven Heritage Trail: The last phase of the LLHT from Vane Farm to Kinross was opened in 2014 and the first two phases from Kinross eastwards to Vane Farm in 2007. Although repair works have been carried out since then there is now a need to have a plan to upgrade many sections of the trail. As chairman of TRACKS, the local committee who built the trail, I wrote to Perth & Kinross Council voicing my concerns about the need for investment in this very important local facility. The Council have now produced a report into the condition of the trail and it shows a number of problems which need to be addressed. These include flooding and drainage, loss of surface materials, narrowing due to tree and bushes and erosion. TRACKS will now work with our partners including Perth & Kinross Council and Nature Scotland to establish a programme to try and restore the trail to its original condition.

Walking On Our Rural Roads: I have been contacted by constituents who have had near misses with cars whilst out walking on our rural roads. I think we should all remember the sections of the Highway Code which deals with pedestrians namely;

- If there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light
- Keep close to the side of the road.
- It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.
- Help other road users to see you. Wear or carry something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions. When it is dark, use reflective materials (eg armbands, sashes, waistcoats, jackets, footwear), which can be seen by drivers using headlights up to three times as far away as non-reflective materials.

Potholes: I am aware that there are numerous potholes on a number of Kinross-shire roads. Because of the bad weather during February repairs have been delayed but as soon as weather conditions allow they will be attended to. However if you spot a pothole please let me know. I’d rather it were reported twice than not at all.

Gairneybank/Hatchbank/Gairneybridge: The lack of pavements along the B996 has long been an issue. Given the speed of the traffic, (even though it is a 40mph limit), it makes the road dangerous for pedestrians. I have been approached by residents asking if it would be possible to create a multi-use path onto the heritage trail from Gairneybridge to provide a safe walking/cycling route into Kinross. I raised this at our recent TRACKS committee meeting and we have agreed to explore this as a possibility.

Councillor Willie Robertson

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Liz Smith, MSP

ALTHOUGH WE ARE ALL still enduring lockdown Covid restrictions it is important to try to look ahead to the future with some hope.

With this in mind, the announcement that the Stone of Destiny will be returning to Perth, after an absence of 700 years, will have brought cheer to many of us.

In December last year, it was announced that the historic Stone will be returning to its ancestral home, where it will become the centrepiece of the Perth City Hall museum, where it is hoped it will attract an extra 163,000 visitors each year.

Last year, Perth and Kinross Council submitted its official bid for the Stone of Destiny as part of a Scottish Government



consultation. The local authority succeeded in beating a counter bid lodged by Historic Environment Scotland, which wanted to keep the Stone in Edinburgh Castle.

Following a public engagement, there were many reasons behind the decision to return the Stone to Perth, with one being that Perth is within 90 minutes of travel time of over 70% of Scotland's population.

I'm sure many *Kinross Newsletter* readers will agree with me in saying that the new museum in Perth will be a fitting place to display the historic Stone of Destiny, with the Stone representing Perth's history as the original capital of Scotland and also laying down a marker for its future.

Made from Old Red Sandstone, geological tests showed that the Stone of Destiny was quarried at Scone and used for early Scottish Kingship. In 1296, the Stone was captured by Edward I and taken to Westminster Abbey, where it was fitted into a wooden chair, known as King Edward's Chair.

Then on Christmas Day 1950, a group of four Scottish students reclaimed the Stone from Westminster Abbey. However, the Stone broke into two pieces during the process of removing it and the students took the larger piece north to Scotland.

The smaller piece was eventually brought up to Scotland and the Stone of Destiny was repaired. The British Government had tried to locate the Stone, but the Stone's custodian left it on the altar of Arbroath Abbey in April 1951, in the safekeeping of the Church of Scotland.

Police in London were then informed of its whereabouts and it was returned to Westminster. Rumours then circulated that copies had been made of the Stone and that the returned Stone was not the original.

The Stone was then restored to Scotland in 1996 when the British Government moved it to Edinburgh Castle and in December 2020, the Commissioners of the Regalia announced it would be making its way home to Perth.

All in all, the Stone of Destiny has a remarkable history and it is very apt that it will now be coming back to its ancestral home in Perth, providing a much-needed economic boost to the whole of Perth and Kinross in the process.

Liz Smith, MSP



John Nicolson, MP

STANLEY BAXTER, the legendary entertainer, was part of my childhood. Those were the days when families gathered around the TV on a Saturday night for spectaculars drawing in audiences of twenty million. My rather strait-laced Dad appeared proprietorial of the man in the sequin-studded ballgowns. He'd been a slightly younger boy at his school. One of a stellar generation at Hillhead High, including the author Alistair MacLean and Gordon Jackson who was to find fame as *Upstairs Downstairs* per jink Mr Hudson, a butler who, one feels, would not have been comfortable with men in tutus.

Stanley has just come out as gay at the age of 95. I sometimes think being in the closet is a bit like having a comb-over. The follicly challenged leaves his house convinced the world sees a man with a full head of hair. Now, even my granny (who thought Liberace was just waiting for the right girl) would probably have guessed the truth about Stanley. But Stanley believed his sexuality was a secret. And it seems to have tortured him. He told his biographer that, had the public known, he'd have lost everything. But, recognising Scotland has changed, rather than take his 'secret' to the grave, he's recently authorised a candid biography.

I sometimes have to pinch myself when I realise how much Scotland has changed. When I came out — while presenting 'BBC Breakfast' 20 years ago — I was the first BBC 1 network presenter to do so. Clause 28, which banned teachers from talking positively to gay kids about their orientation, was still in place. You could be sacked just for being gay. Military police officers spied on servicemen and servicewomen to find out whether they'd same-sex partners. Gay marriage was inconceivable. Indeed, when it was proposed, some folk said it would destroy the institution of marriage itself.

And yet, all those areas of law have been reformed and countless families — and society itself — is the happier for it. Just when you think ancient prejudices have been defeated, however, up pops a new variant. In Scotland, that issue has been trans rights. Specifically, whether trans people should be able to self-declare and change their birth certificate without unwanted medical examinations and intrusive interviews. I think they should. But 'it's an attack on real women' some have shouted, wheeling out all the old tropes about predators and lavatories from the Clause 28 debate.

The 'debate' has become especially heated in my own party, with the First Minister declaring her loathing for transphobia. Her words were powerful, but they'll need to be matched by action if the young trans kids and their parents who've written to me as their MP are to be reassured.

Back to Stanley. You're probably wondering how he's coping with being in the spotlight once more. His biographer tells me he's overwhelmed by the outpouring of love. There is talk of TV specials. And he's to receive a lifetime achievement BAFTA. Bravo Stanley. Encore.

John Nicolson, MP

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Dangerous Driving

THIS VEHICLE was stopped by officers from our Road Policing Unit on Wednesday, 17 February, being driven on the A9 near Perth.



The driver has been charged with dangerous driving, and will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The vehicle has also been prohibited from being used on the road.

Inspector Greg Burns, of Tayside Road Policing Unit, said: 'Our officers could not believe it when they saw this vehicle yesterday. This vehicle should not have been driven in the condition it was in.'

'The man put himself and other road users at huge risk by driving the car in this condition. He was missing a tyre and it is lucky that no one was hurt.'

'It is a driver's responsibility to ensure that their vehicle is safe to drive and if it's not, then don't drive it.'

Updates

Two males aged 26 and 36 were arrested for theft of catalytic converters from vehicles in Clashburn Road, Kinross between Tuesday 19 and Monday 1 February.

Recent Incidents

Anyone with any information that may be useful should contact Tayside Division on 101 or any police officer, quoting the crime reference number listed at each incident. Alternatively, information can be passed anonymously via the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Rogue Traders - Who Should I Call...

...if I feel threatened, unsafe, or suspicious of a caller?

- **Contact the police immediately on 999**

...if I see something suspicious in my area, or want more advice about bogus callers?

- **Contact the police on 101.**
- **Try and take a note of vehicle details or registration numbers, and descriptions of anyone suspicious.**

...if I want to contact the police anonymously?

- **Contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.** You can also visit their website at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

...to find out more about home safety services?

- **When circumstances allow, contact your local council for more information. Depending on your circumstances, you may qualify for a free security alarm.**

Police Scotland – local community

Telephone 101 for non-emergencies

Community officers for Kinross-shire:

PC Ashley Mitchinson and PC Martin Gemmell.

Email: taysidekinross-shireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Community Sergeant (Kinross-shire): **Sgt Mark Craig.**

Community Inspector for Perth South (Strathearn, Strathallan, Almond & Earn, Kinross-shire): **PI Katrina Thompson.**

PC Spalding is also on Police Scotland twitter and can be followed on twitter.com/policescotland or [@Kinross](https://twitter.com/Kinross)

Ways of Following the Police:

Twitter: [@KinrossPc](https://twitter.com/KinrossPc) or twitter.com/policescotland

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland

Website: www.scotland.police.uk

Community Watch

Receive email alerts about criminal incidents in your area, crime prevention advice, flood alerts and much more by signing up to Perth and Kinross Community Watch.

The range of information received can be tailored individually; each person signing up can choose which partner agencies they would like to receive messages from. Visit this website for more details: www.pkcommunitywatch.co.uk

Crime Stoppers – Telephone 0800 555 111

This is a free phone number (unless you are using a mobile phone), which any member of the public can contact at any time if you have information relating to a criminal activity of any sort.

It is, if you wish, confidential and you cannot be contacted if you choose to remain anonymous.

GOSPEL HALL

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Sadly we are once again prevented from opening the hall for the present.
 Many have expressed sadness that we are unable to host
 Friends and Neighbours and Toddlers, we share that!

Please remember our website which is regularly updated and we welcome you to view short, relevant messages.
 In the mean time - keep safe! The Kinross community continues to feature prominently in our prayers.

www.kinrossgospelhall.info

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble: and He knoweth them that trust in Him
 (Nahum Chapter 1 verse 7)

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Photo by Lee Scattinacca

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Hope to see you all on Friday- listen for the Toot!



A 'Well-Known Character'



Tam Daw (1825-88), a celebrated Kinross worthy

FOLLOWING LAST MONTH'S FEATURE on the eccentric local worthy Andrew Nicol, let me introduce you to another Kinross character – Thomas Christie, better known as Tam Daw or 'The Daw'.

Robert S Young, author of *About Kinross-shire and its Folk* (1948), described 'The Daw' as a familiar figure in Kinross 'when I was a lad, fully sixty years ago.' His mother, Katie Daw or Catherine Dall was a character in her own right and was bell ringer of Kinross for 39 years until her death in 1853 at the age of 73. The family lived in a house called the Hollyhand situated in The Damside which is now Mill Street and following his mother's death Tam lived there with his sister Lizzie.

Always curiously dressed in odd garments and often looking a bit shabby, Tam Daw wore second-hand clothes which he acquired from the townfolk using the simple technique of standing outside a house looking ill-kempt until the occupant came outside to give him something decent to wear.

To earn a living, Tam plied a wide variety of trades about town ranging from coal porter, wheel-turner and cattle executioner to vendor of herring and haddock. As a coal porter he charged twopence to shovel coal from the street into tenement coal cellars. On one occasion when offered a three-penny piece for his efforts, he was quite affronted replying 'gie me my tippence.'

Tam Daw's roles as town crier and ringer of the town's

steeple bell at certain hours of the day were legendary. Often uncertain of the exact time, he depended on a cock in his backyard crowing every morning at five o'clock. On one occasion Tam rang the church bell an hour too soon after the rooster greeted the dawn an hour early at four o'clock. When this was pointed out to him, he grabbed the offending bird and 'thrawed its neck,' muttering 'ye'll craw nae mair.'

Of all his activities around the town, it was his for his role as a troubadour that 'The Daw' was best known. He is seen in the accompanying image carrying a horn that was from time to time painted in bright colours by local painter lads and to which were attached ribbons given to him by drapers' apprentices. Tam played music of a kind on his celebrated horn at occasions ranging from the return to Kinross of newly-weds after their honeymoon to market days such as the July Fair where he earned a few coppers. Displayed at Kinross (Marshall) Museum's first exhibition in 2010, Tam Daw's horn forms part of the Marshall Bequest held in Perth Museum.

Predeceased by his elder sister Lizzie, Tam Daw sadly ended his days in an asylum in Springfield where his only joy and comfort was his horn. He died in February 1888 at the age of 63 but not before he had been remembered as a Kinross worthy in a sketch published in the Kinross-shire Advertiser.

*Prof. David Munro
Kinross (Marshall) Museum*



SNOW JOKE!

It will probably be a distant memory by the time you read this, but younger Kinrossians thought it was the best fun ever!

OPP PAGE:

Top left: Marshall enjoying dinner inside the igloo

Right: C.J learning to ski

Bottom left: Grace & Chloe sledging at Craiglaw Farm

Right: Finn

THIS PAGE:

Top: Brooke

Bottom: Sisters Mhairi & Niamh with friend Finn





THIS PAGE:

Top left: Jenni, 4 and Theo, 3 create a snow monster.

Top right: Ella at Muckhart golf course

Bottom left: Finn

Bottom right: Harry, age 2:

A day of sledging can be too much for some!



OPP PAGE:

Top: Mhairi

Bottom left: Ellis, aged 4

Finally: Wonder who's more exhausted?!



St Paul's Episcopal Church

ST PAUL'S OCCUPIES A PROMINENT site at the junction of Springfield Road and the Muirs. When it was built in 1873-74, and for some years thereafter, there was no other building between it and Milnathort on the east side of the road except the gas works. It was the 22nd episcopal church built in the diocese of St Andrews, Dunblane and Dunkeld during the first 21 years of the 39-year episcopate of Charles Wordsworth. Wordsworth was a remarkable man, a nephew of the poet, classical scholar and author; he had a hand in organising, and participated in, the first Oxford and Cambridge cricket match and, a few days later, the first boat race. He was the first headmaster of Glenalmond, founded as the school for budding episcopal clergy, before becoming bishop in 1853. The need for the extensive church building programme, which he encouraged, was the result of the historical position of the Episcopal Church. The close association of the Church with Jacobitism led to its suffering under the repressive legislation passed in the aftermath of the battle of Culloden. Very few episcopal churches survived the order to destroy them, priests were restricted to ministering to groups of no more than four people, and lay people of the episcopal persuasion were barred from public office, deprived of the vote (which not many had in those days) and barred from going to university. This legislation was not repealed until 1792.

The first record of an episcopal service in Kinross is dated November 1869. The service took place in the Town Hall and was opened by the bishop. There was a service there every Sunday thereafter, with some interruptions, until the church was built. It was reckoned that the congregation consisted of about 13 families, some 70 people in all. At the first meeting of the congregation in the Town Hall in September 1871, attended by the vicar, the Reverend Batho from Dunfermline, and six others, a letter from the bishop was read out. He strongly urged that an endeavour be made to raise funds to build a church and endow it. In fact the congregation were

ahead of him; Sir Graham Graham-Montgomery had agreed to give a site for the proposed building and £390 (£36,580 today) had already been raised. It was agreed that more must be done and a committee consisting of Thomas Henry Montgomery of Hattonburn, youngest brother of Sir Graham, Colonel Douglas of Glendeuglie, James Marshall of Duncreevie and Mr Clayton of Bellfield was appointed 'to forward the undertaking'.

Sufficient funds had been subscribed to allow building of the church to be commenced in 1873. Individual subscriptions came in not just from Kinross-shire, but also from elsewhere, and ranged in value from £1 (£93.80 today) to £100. The biggest single contribution of £273-18-10 (£25695 today) came from a 'bazaar'. John Lessels had been engaged as the architect. He had been trained by William Burn and had worked for the Montgomery family both at their estate in Peebles-shire and at Kinross Home Farm. He had also worked on many of the streets in Edinburgh centred on Melville Street. After St Pauls he worked on alterations to Orwell parish church. His design for St Pauls is in the gothic revival style, fashionable at the time. The windows and carvings of heads and heraldic beasts are typical of the style. Thomas Montgomery supervised the building work. It was completed in time for an opening service, at which the bishop preached, to take place on 4 October 1874. The total cost of the building was £1295-12-5 (£692,000 today), rather more than the funds raised could cover. A bank loan had to be taken out which was not paid off until 1881. It was only then that the building was formally consecrated by the bishop.

The building in 1874 did not look quite as it does today. *The Kinross-shire Advertiser* of 10 October that year described the building as 'a very beautiful place of worship' but then went on to say, 'In front the church has unfortunately a somewhat awkward appearance from the clumsy belfry surmounting the





front. A cross similar to others on the roof would have been much more appropriate.' It was not long before the offending belfry was replaced by the bell tower at the north west corner of the building, which can be seen today. Little is known about the construction of the bell tower except that it was erected in memory of James Marshall of Duncreevie. Marshall was an advocate and an honorary sheriff depute at Kinross, a role which he regularly fulfilled. He was one of the committee set up to raise funds for the building of the church in 1871 and had been heavily involved in its affairs ever since. The tower was completed with the contributions of 'numerous subscribers' by 1 October 1882. As Marshall had died at the age of 31 only in September 1881 the speed at which money was raised and the work carried out is impressive.

That was not the end of building for the congregation. The bishop intervened again in 1884 to urge the necessity of building a parsonage. An appeal was made and subscriptions amounting to £620 (£69450 today) were gathered by 1886, which allowed contracts to be placed for the building on a plot to the north of the church again gifted by Sir Graham Graham-Montgomery. The building was completed in the following year with the help of another bank loan at a cost of £860 (£432230 today). Then in 1888 Mr Purvis Russell of Warroch gave to the church the plot to the south of the

church to be used as an 'adjunct to the church and parsonage'. It was used as a garden for the parsonage, but in 1910 the original church hall, still there today, was built on a part of it. It is clad with wood inside and corrugated iron outside in a not unusual construction for ancillary Episcopal church buildings, and, indeed, sometimes for churches themselves. It was used for many years for a Sunday school but now, since the building of a new hall in 2008, it serves the community as The Beacon, home of the food bank.

The church and its surrounding walls are now listed as buildings of architectural and historic interest, category B. The bell tower is not the only memorial in the church; there are many others, often in the form of stained glass, which are well worth a visit and could form the subject of a separate article.

Malcolm Strang Steel

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ARTEFACTS & CURIOS

Health & Wellbeing

News from the Health Centre



Covid Vaccine Update

BOTH ST SERFS AND Orwell Medical Practices are delighted with the rate of uptake of the Covid vaccine locally; well over 90% of our over 70 year old patients and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable have now been vaccinated.

Remember, if you know anyone in this age group who still wishes a vaccine please get in touch with us.



Our Mass Vaccination Centre at Dewars in Perth seem to be racing through the 65-69-year-olds. This is fantastic news – all this is one more step towards community protection.

The next group of patients to be offered vaccines at Loch Leven Health Centre are more complicated and will be 'Priority Group 6a' – patients aged 18-64 with 'at risk' health issues – heart disease, chronic kidney disease, liver disease, diabetes, immunosuppression, those with a BMI

Safety

Each vaccine has gone through a three-stage testing process to ensure its safety.

The COVID-19 vaccine

NHS SCOTLAND Public Health Scotland Healthier Scotland

of greater than 40, and asthma and '6b' – Carers in receipt of benefits (we have been given a list of these from the NHS).

PLEASE NOTE: Initially, the only asthmatics to get the vaccine will be those that have had repeated oral steroids or previous hospital admissions relating to their asthma.

Over 70 or asked to shield? Not been invited for your job?

If you are over 70 or were asked to shield, and have not been offered the COVID-19 vaccine yet, please call your GP

NHS Tayside

Even if you've had your COVID-19 jab, you still need to follow the FACTS

F FACE COVERINGS **A** AVOID CROWDS **C** CLEAN HANDS **T** TWO METRES **S** SELF-ISOLATE

Happy Birthday to *The Complete Look*!

LOCAL BUSINESS AND EMPLOYER The Complete Look beauty salon in Kinross are celebrating their 31st birthday! Given the year we had last year, Catherine and her team decided to ignore the milestone in 2020 but are raring to go for 2021.

They have been keeping the spirits of their loyal customers up throughout lockdown with some great product sales, self-care hints and tips and answering queries on at-home treatments by phone.

Owned and run by Catherine Marshall, The Complete Look has been a fixture of Kinross since Catherine started her own beauty business at the tender age of just 19, in 1987. From small beginnings in a beauty room at MB Salon in Milnathort owned by Rose Anderson, the mother of one of her oldest friends, Catherine began retailing Clarins products. At that time, Clarins was an exclusive, salon-only brand and Catherine built her list of treatments around their range. Some of Catherine's clients still use those products and are still her customers.

After three years, Catherine realised the potential her business had and decided to take the leap to salon ownership with close friend and fellow therapist Jen Meiklem. Together they opened The Complete Look in premises in the High Street, Kinross.

After 10 successful years, they moved on and opened in Parliament Square, their current home. During this time, they looked carefully at their product range, and seeing that Clarins was moving to a more mainstream, department store brand, they made the switch to Decleor products.

She and Jen juggled raising families and running a business and over the years built up a lasting and loyal clientele. This was not easy in a small town like Kinross. They were offering services which, in the early days at least, were considered a luxury, not the essential treatments so many of us look forward to regularly now. But they continued to thrive. After 22 years, Jen moved on to pursue her own goals and the two are still great friends.

As well as a loyal clientele, The Complete Look has a loyal staff with many having been with them for many, many years. The therapists Michelle, Anna, Gillian, Lisa and Suzy, as well as reception staff Susan and Fiona and trainee Evie, are part of a tight knit team that make The Complete Look what it is.

Always with an eye on the future of beauty, they are now slowly moving towards a fantastic new brand called Medik8 which is vegan, cruelty free and focuses on nourishing and revitalising skin with products rich in vitamin A & C.

'It's so important to be agile in this business. There is so much change in the beauty industry and we know that changing product ranges with trends and customer desires is absolutely vital to our success. Beauty is a booming industry and we know that we need to keep innovating. We try and do



that without compromising our high standards and still offering the luxurious, safe and welcoming service our customers love.

We are so grateful to everyone who has supported us over the last 31 years and despite the difficulties of last year, we are hopeful for the future and full of plans to bring new products and treatments into our range.'

After 31 years they are reflecting on what they have achieved and what the coming years may bring. To celebrate their milestone, they are offering all mailing list subscribers 15% off any treatment on their birthday, with new subscribers able to sign up on their website www.thecompletelook.co.uk. Happy birthday to them!

REMEMBER



clocks go forward
Sunday 28 March
at midnight

WINNING WAYS

I WAS VERY NEARLY KILLED a few years ago... I was absolutely certain that my end had come. I was driving through a suburb of Glasgow, down a street that could have been taken for a dual carriageway. I became aware of a car coming straight at me, at high speed, on my side of the road. I felt as if I had nowhere to go. There was a barrier to my left and oncoming traffic to my right. It seemed as if everything was happening in slow motion, although it was all happening at speed. I became aware of the driver's face. Somehow, I could see that she thought I was making a terrible mistake. I flashed my headlights at her, and saw her expression change to realisation that it was she who was making the mistake. Fortunately for me, (and a thousand blessings on and thanks to them) the two drivers she was passing realised what was about to happen, and slowed down, to allow her to pull into the left, and miss me by a whisker! She signed her apology, and my two guardian angels made those 'crazy woman' signs, tapping their heads, and making circular motions with their hands, and flashing their lights at me. And suddenly the little drama was over, almost as soon as it had begun.

I heard myself saying 'Oh my God!' for about ten minutes afterwards, but then I started to smile and laugh. The laughter could have been delayed shock, or a mini attack of hysteria, but I think I was just very glad to be alive – very, very glad to be alive.

So, what do you do when you are suddenly very glad to be alive? Firstly, I was really looking forward to seeing my home and family. They looked so lovely and fresh. I noticed everything with new eyes. I didn't mind being held up in a twenty-minute traffic jam later, and I loved being in the garden all day later, digging,

and sorting. I hope the woman in the other car was OK and I'm eternally grateful to the two guys who read the situation so beautifully. It was poetry in motion for me at any rate!

Now, on a different topic – I have been doing some work recently with people who can't decide what they want to do next. They are at a cross roads in their life, with the opportunity to do some different kind of work. I asked them a few questions, which I would like to share with you.

- *What do you really want your work to be about, beyond what you actually do?*
- *What do you want to be at the heart of your work?*
- *What would you like your work to be for, other than making money?*

You may be thinking that these questions are only for people in regular employment, but they are not. They are really about living your life. It is so easy to sleepwalk through life. I don't want that for anyone, because life is so much more fun when you are awake!

There is a story told of a farmer who found a newly abandoned eagle's nest with one new laid egg in it. He took the egg, and put it in the hen coop, and waited to see what would happen. The hen hatched out the egg and reared the little eagle with its chicks. So, the eagle pecked about in the grit with the hens. A visitor came to the farm and suggested that the farmer teach the eagle to fly. The farmer took the eagle chick up to the top of the barn, and threw it into the air. The eagle fluttered down to earth to all things familiar. He then took the bird up to a local hill and the same thing happened. It fluttered back to the farm yard. Thirdly, the farmer drove the bird up to the top of a high mountain. He urged it to fly and threw him high into the sky. What happened next? How many choices did the eagle have? So often, we think we have no choice. We just have to keep on doing what we have always been doing, saying, thinking and feeling. But there is always a choice, even if it is only a choice of attitude. I wonder what the hen would have thought if the eagle decided to fly. 'Isn't that a bit dangerous, pet?'

- *'Make sure you don't go too high.'*
- *'What will we all do without you?'*

I wonder what all the other chicks would have thought?

I wonder what you would think? I wonder what advice you would give to others? Best to leave you with that thought.

Jo Middlemiss, MBE



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Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy 01592 643355

Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline 01383 623623

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Davidson's Chemist, Milnathort 01577 862219

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Environmental Health 01738 476476

Flooding 01738 476476

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Community Council News

The Community Council News is based on draft minutes of local CC meetings. Full draft minutes are posted on local websites and notice boards. Please note, the Community Council News is not a verbatim reproduction of CC minutes. Where there are two months' worth of reports, there will be a considerable amount of editing.

Kinross Community Council News from the January Meeting

Present at the meeting held on 26 January were Councillors L McKay (Chair), D Colliar, W Freeman, M McFarlane and H Phillips, three members of the public, Cllrs C Purves, W Robertson and R Watters and minute-taker Mrs C Aird.

Apologies were received from Councillor T Stewart, Councillor M Wood and PC A Mitchenson.

Police Report

In the absence of a representative from Police Scotland, Councillor W Freeman read out the Police report. Members noted the following crimes in January 2021:

Six people had been issued with tickets in respect of a Covid-19 breach in Milnathort

Theft by house break in – suspects have broken into property and stolen items

Vandalism at Nato Radio Station – suspects have damaged fence upon entry

Suspicious person in The Muirs – one male has been reported to be handing out charity leaflets and trying door handles.

There had been approx. 27 different traffic reports over the last 4 weeks, varying in nature from breakdowns, speeding offences and driving without insurance. Community officers are aware of the ongoing complaints in respect of speeding throughout the villages. They have been out with the speed gun and a number of verbal warnings have been issued to those drivers who have been speeding, but not quite fast enough to warrant a ticket.

Officers are also asking members of the public to consider joining the online Neighbourhood Watch. This is a communications platform which allow up to date alerts for reports in the area. Both community officers have admin access and have the capacity to send out relevant alerts.

Officers also asked for residents to let them know of any issues or complaints.

Minutes of 22 Dec Meeting

One amendment was required to be made to the minutes of the December 2020 meeting as Councillor T Stewart was not present at the meeting.

The minutes were proposed by Councillor D Colliar and seconded by Councillor W Freeman.

Kinross Local Resilience Group

Mr W Wright advised Members that a lot of work had taken place since the last meeting including the setting up of a Facebook page (currently 50 members), contact made with Scottish Health Forum and lots of documents being received from Paul Laidlaw, including one about the resilience group being a subgroup of the CC. Councillor McKay advised that it would be normal circumstances for the resilience group to be a subgroup of the CC, with community councillors sitting on the subgroup for the purposes of advice and support.

Councillor R Watters commented that at previous meetings, the CC had discussed the legal aspects of the resilience group and asked if the CC had since withdrawn their support. Mr Wright advised that this was not the case and by being linked to the CC, the resilience group would have a legal standing and therefore be covered by third party insurance.

Councillor McFarlane confirmed that the CC need to formally adopt the resilience group and suggested that Mr Wright be co-opted onto the CC for the specific purpose of reporting back on the work of the resilience group direct. Councillor Freeman confirmed that this could take place. Councillor McFarlane suggested that now that the support of the CC had been confirmed, he would write a proposal on the options on how to organise the subgroup for discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Purves also suggested that the Scheme of Delegation be looked at and a separate discussion be had in respect of co-opting Mr Wright onto the CC. Cllr Purves agreed with the decision to make the resilience group a subgroup of the CC.

Mr Wright went on to advise members that questions had been raised as to whether the group would cover Milnathort and it had been agreed that, for now, they would assist where they could, but this would then be passed over to Milnathort CC, although it was felt that it would be useful for the group to be tied in.

Councillor McFarlane suggested that it would be helpful for any plans to be shared and Mr Wright advised that he was currently writing these up but that the community need to be aware of the plan as he needs to know what area(s) are to be covered.

Cllr Watters felt that Councillor McFarlane's suggestion was the current one and confirmed that the update to the Flood Defence Scheme was slightly behind schedule, with the major stumbling block being the recent cyber-attack on SEPA. A lot of design work has been completed since the initial meeting last November and PKC officers were looking at the different options available as defences, such as peat bogs and the planting of trees, but that initial thought had been that a walled defence, with mitigation upstream, would be the best option.

He went on to add that Officers had been asked to look at the designs which had been drawn up, with the potential of having community gauges upstream to allow advance warning. Cllr Watters also confirmed that SEPA had committed to looking to putting in an advance warning system by 2021, although this is now likely to be delayed. According to SEPA, 3 hours is allocated for flood warning but Cllr Watters will contact SEPA to check this, once the cyber-attack issue had been resolved.

Councillor McKay felt that 3 hours didn't seem that long for residents to prepare for a flood but Mr Wright advised that the warning is currently 30-45 mins. Details of this will be included in the report. Mr Wright went on to say that the information received from the Kinross Flood Team was incorrect in terms of where they think the water would go.

Councillor McFarlane is to work with Mr Wright in respect of the various reports to be provided to the CC at the next meeting.

Provost's Lamp

Councillor D Colliar expressed his annoyance at the delay in the Provost's Lamp being fitted in the town centre. He advised those present that there had been discussions held with PKC through the Street Lighting Department and it had been agreed, following a site visit, that the lamp would be brought forward due to cable costs. Councillor Colliar confirmed that at no point had there been any discussion as to why the lamp could not be positioned in the agreed location. He has emailed Scott Denier at PKC but he is currently off work ill.

Another issue was that during the initial work, the cobbles

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have been lifted and replaced with tarmac. It is Cllr Colliar's view that the CC should not be paying for any work until further discussions had been held.

Cllr W Robertson suggested that discussions are put on hold until Scott Denier returned to work – he will email Scott and cc Cllr Colliar into that email.

Cllr McKay commented that there would appear to be an issue with the electricians in the area as when the Christmas lights were on, the clock face was not lit and vice versa. It was agreed that Cllr Colliar and Cllr Robertson would speak to Scott Denier as soon as possible.

Sub Groups and Membership

The following memberships were agreed:

Common Good Fund: Cllr L McKay

Kinross-Shire & Glenfarg Stronger Communities:

Cllr H Phillips

Remembrance Parade: Cllrs L McKay, W Freeman and M McFarlane, with Cllr Colliar available if required.

Website: Cllrs D Colliar, H Phillips and M McFarlane

Partnership: Cllr W Freeman

Planning Sub-Committee: Cllrs W Freeman, L McKay and M Wood. Cllr Colliar agreed to speak to Cllr Wood about this.

Gigabyte Kinross-shire: Cllr M McFarlane

Move Greener Kinross-shire: Cllr M McFarlane

KLEO: Cllrs W Freeman and M McFarlane

Cleish and Blairadam CC Boundary

Cllr C Purves reminded everyone that he had emailed the proposed changes to CC members to aid discussion at tonight's meeting.

Concerns were raised by a number of Community Councillors in respect of whether the affected residents had been advised of the proposal. Cllr Purves advised that the proposals had been approved by PKC around 2½ years ago, and that there was no formal ballot of residents in respect of this. Cllr Purves confirmed that Fossoway CC had already agreed to the changes and now Cleish and Blairadam CC requested agreement from KCC.

Members were happy to agree the proposal but wished to receive confirmation that residents had been consulted on the proposed changes, and that they accepted the changes.

After a long discussion, it was agreed that a formal notice would be placed on the website, Facebook page and in the *Newsletter* with a request for any concerns to be submitted to the CC by 31 March and if no objections were raised by that time, then the CC would agree to the change to the boundary line with effect from 1 April 2021.

It was also agreed that a proposal to a change in the KCC boundary involving Gairneybank would be published on the website, Facebook page and in the *Newsletter* at the same time, with the same deadline. Cllr Colliar agreed to send Cllr Purves a map of the proposed change to the KCC boundary.

Kinross Town Centre

Cllr Colliar advised that the survey report had still not been received and Cllr Purves confirmed that he had spoken to Mike Morgan and asked for the consultation to commence as soon as possible. Cllr Robertson confirmed that PKC Roads Dept. have agreed that there is a problem in the area. Cllr Robertson advised that the Head of Roads Dept. has since retired but he hoped that the issues could be resolved soon.

Planning Matters

Planning Applications received

20/01817/FLL - Alterations and extension to dwelling house at 8 Springfield Road, Kinross

20/01796/FLL - Alterations and extension to dwelling house at 13 Gallowhill Wynd, Kinross

20/01748/LAW - Alterations and extension to garage to form ancillary accommodation (proposed) at The Dell, 96 The Muirs, Kinross

Planning Applications determined

20/01634/LBC – Alterations to 102 High Street, Kinross, approved

20/01790/FLL - Installation of a dispensing unit at 16 High Street, Kinross, approved

20/01748/LAW - Alterations and extension to garage to form ancillary accommodation (proposed) at The Dell, 96 The Muirs, Kinross, approved

20/01632/FLL - Alterations to shop fronts at 102 and 104 High Street, Kinross, approved

20/01865/LAW - Alterations and extension to dwelling house (proposed) at 48 Gallowhill Road, Kinross, approved

Cllr Colliar also confirmed that Persimmon Homes had had their appeal overturned by the Scottish Government and there would therefore be another 168 houses built as part of Phase II. Cllr Watters commented that residents of Phase I were still having issues with Persimmon Homes in respect of faults, with one resident only receiving their completion certificate 3 years after they had moved in. Cllr Watters also commented that Persimmon Homes had requested their expenses be covered for the appeal, although this had been refused.

Scottish Government had also overturned a decision to refuse planning permission for Pitdownies in Milnathort.

Appeals can be made against the Scottish Government decisions but this would be costly and would need to be heard in the Court of Session.

Reports From PKC Councillors

Cllr C Purves

Cllr Purves expressed disappointment in the news that the Scottish Government overturning decisions taken by PKC Councillors, especially when there remain issues with Phase I of the development. It was noted that only two or three PKC Councillors supported the application.

Gritting issues have arisen due to the reduction in the number of gritters. PKC had brought in priority areas which resulted in residential areas and side streets not being covered. It was suggested that PKC use private contractors for these particular areas and Cllr Purves agreed to look at this again.

Cllr Freeman commented that in March, PKC would be requesting feedback on their services and asked if the CC would do anything to help in respect of policy decisions, e.g., removal of grit bins. He also suggested that the request was too early in the year and after discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Freeman would send a list of points for PKC to consider to Cllr Purves.

Cllr Robertson commented that it had been part of the planning approval for Persimmon Homes to fund a crossing in the Gallowhill Road, although it had been decided that the original position was not safe. He also advised that he had requested that the 30mph limit be removed from Gallowhill Road, with a vehicle activation sign being put up instead.

Cllr Robertson is hoping that funding will be made available for upgrading the Heritage Trail, along with a pavement link between Gairneybridge and Kinross/the Heritage Trail. He will mention this at the next TRACKS meeting.

Reports From CC Representatives

Cllr Colliar asked whether it was possible for an application to be made to Historic Scotland in respect of the golf ball site since the owners were starting to market the site. Cllr R Watters agreed to look into this.

Cllr Colliar advised that he was being unsuccessful in discussions with PKC in respect of the flooding at Springfield

Community Council News

Road/The Muirs. Cllr Robertson advised that the flooding was due to the capacity of the drains and he would contact PKC tomorrow to investigate further.

In response to a question from Cllr Colliar in respect of who had access to the CC mailbox, Cllr Freeman advised that only certain individuals had access. Cllr Colliar went on to ask why this was and why the Secretary had not forwarded on emails to members since her appointment at last month's meeting. Cllr Freeman advised that the account had been set up this way by the previous Secretary and that the majority of emails received were junk. He confirmed that he had not had an opportunity to hand over the Secretary's role to Cllr Phillips due to work commitments but would arrange to do so. After discussion, it was agreed that all members would be given access to the email account.

Cllr Freeman commented on the rise in the cost of the bins being emptied, from £35 to £40 and thought that it had been previously agreed that the fee would not rise above £35. Cllr Purves confirmed that PKC had decided that £35 was the revenue maximising price and was therefore unsure as to the reason for the increase.

Cllr M McFarlane advised that he had attended the last Gigabyte Kinross-shire meeting and reported that Millbridge Hall area are being supplied with superfast broadband as part of the project. It is hoped that this will be the first in a number of requests. Cllr Purves confirmed that there would be an article in the next edition of the *Newsletter* about the project. Cllr McKay advised that an email had been received from a concerned resident in respect of Covid-19 breaches at the Unorthodox Rooster, where benches had been placed outside the shop, and also at Kirkgate Park. The resident was concerned that people were not socially distancing outside the coffee shop, thereby not adhering to the advice to avoid households mixing, and there were a high number of cars and people using the park and they questioned whether all these people were locals.

Cllr McKay advised she had contacted the coffee shop to raise these concerns and that the coffee shop had agreed to remove the benches. However, in regard to the cars in Kirkgate Park, this was not an issue for the CC and the resident would be advised to contact Police Scotland.

AOCB

Juniper Residential Development

Cllr Purves advised that he had been contacted by Street Naming and Numbering Team at PKC to request a name for the new development. After discussion it was agreed that Market Park would be suggested.

The next meeting of Kinross Community Council will be held on Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 7.30pm

Fossoway and District Community Council

News from the February Meeting

As it is still not possible to hold physical meetings of the CC we are continuing to publish this description of what was discussed in our virtual meeting, including any updates that we are aware of. Members of the public are encouraged to comment on and question the items below, by email to fossoway.cc@gmail.com or via the CC's Facebook page, which we will answer in our next meeting, be it virtual or physical, on Tuesday 2 March 2021.

Present at the meeting held on 2 February 2021 were: Cllrs S Bruce-Jones, A Cheape, T Duffy, C Farquhar, C Haigh, M Haigh, N Marchant and G Pye; Cllrs C Purves and R Watters.

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Barnacle and W Robertson.

Matters Arising

Bank of Scotland Kinross Branch Closure: Cllr Marchant reported that there is no date currently agreed for the next meeting with the bank, Cllr Purves will progress getting a date for the meeting. There was general agreement that the lack of facilities to withdraw and, for small businesses, deposit cash would be a problem once the branch is closed.

Cllr Marchant has met with Carole Anderson of Age Scotland who has provided much information that will be useful in the next meeting: Age Scotland have received a large volume of calls regarding closure of banks; Some Banks are changing the way that customers can access bank information using phone and are trying to move people to online banking. Age Scotland are also about to launch their over-50s survey seeking views on issues and challenges this group faces, which will provide useful input.

A977 Mitigation: Plans have been presented by PKC for the 20mph zone in Crook of Devon. The CC has to comment by 12 February. The details have been posted on the CC's Facebook page and have received several positive comments; indeed, many suggested that the main street should also be included – previously it was very difficult to get 20mph limits on A-Roads, but Cllr Purves said that there is now a precedent in Kinnesswood, so he and his colleagues will propose the Main Street be included.

Cllr Purves reported that he had requested lowering of the speed limit through Carnbo to 30mph but this is still awaiting further traffic monitoring before it might be implemented.

Fossoway Area Transport/DRT: Cllr M Haigh reminded the meeting that neither Powmill nor Blairingone have any public transport at all. Margaret Roy, from the PKC Public Transport Unit, undertook to explore whether services on perhaps three days a week could be incorporated in the time available between school runs, with the aim of catering for the needs of west Kinross-shire in particular. At the last meeting a member of the group, John Fallon, wondered if the X53 service could be sometimes extended to Halbeath which is a major hub.

Hydro Scheme Fund: Cllr Duffy reported that Energy for All has now paid the annual contribution and the remainder of the bridge fund; she reminded the meeting that the fund is open for grant applications.

Community Development Trust: The first meeting of the Trust will be on 3 February.

Crook Moss Travellers Site: Cllr Farquhar reported that two of the pitches are very well maintained, although the other end of the site is still a mess, possibly even a health hazard.

The CC wrote to PKC's CEO last month about lack of action by the Planners. Cllr Duffy described the reply, which came from Jamie Scott, team leader of the Major Applications and Enforcement Department as disappointing. According to PKC the landscaping is as required – this somewhat surprising view is because the permission only mandates landscaping around the developed pitches and not the whole site, as planning was refused for extra pitches. PKC say they are monitoring the site and acknowledge our concerns about waste and unauthorised use. Cllr Marchant wondered how this view was arrived at when we have also been told that site visits are not currently allowed by PKC's planning department (See later). Cllr Farquhar undertook to act as the liaison with the site if possible.

Cllr Purves told us that a new version of the Planning Enforcement Charter has been issued – The CC should review that and see whether it mandates any actions that are not currently being taken. The CC will write to PKC's new CEO when they are in place to repeat our concerns.

Crook & Drum Growing Together: Cllr Duffy reported that the group have had their first ever Zoom meeting to discuss

the spring planting plans. Colour schemes have been decided on. The group will once more plant up 30 (ten more than last year) hanging baskets and tubs to be handed out to residents in visible areas, mainly along the Main Street. There is no cost to the householder involved for this. Other discussions were about planting more bee and hedgehog friendly areas and the possibility of developing a community garden and/or orchard in the village.

Aldie Road Vegetation: Cllr Marchant said that the vegetation has been cut back but only a small section of the ditch has been cleared resulting in water running down the road, which subsequently froze, creating a major hazard. There have been some reports of grit bins missing in other parts of the County too, perhaps the Roads department should ask CCs to list the ones in their area to create a definitive list for future maintenance.

Fossoway Gathering: Cllr Duffy said that there is a provisional plan for an event on 4 Sept. It will become clearer over the coming months what shape this event would take.

New Business

Coronavirus – Information and Links

www.auchterarderparentssupportingparents.co.uk/about/
This is a group of parents supporting other parents to help families support their children's emotional and mental health wellbeing. In spite of the name it covers a much wider area.

www.kythe.org.uk/ KYTHE aims to serve young people by helping to meet their physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs through innovative and Dynamic Christian Youth Work.

Crook of Devon Village Hall: Cllr Duffy reported that the hall has suffered a major water leak in the roof which has been temporarily patched, but substantial fund raising will be required in order to fix it properly.

Community Council Business

Kinross and Glenfarg Stronger Communities: Cllr Marchant attended the meeting on 26 January – see Bank Closure item above for one useful outcome. The Kinross Kindness group noted during the meeting that they have a reduced number of volunteers during this lockdown, whilst receiving more requests for prescription collection.

Minutes Secretary: Cllr Pye has been undertaking this role since April 2011 and feels it is time for someone else to takeover. None of the current CC members are able to take it on, so initially we will try and find a volunteer, who doesn't need to be a CC member, although we would probably make them an Associate. The post will be advertised in the CC's FB page, and all suggestions for possible candidates are welcome. If the next meeting of this CC is virtual, as currently expected, we will be offering online attendance by members of the public. Anyone interested in attending should email the CC at fossoway.cc@gmail.com for details.

P&K Councillors' Reports

Richard Watters: The scheme for financing Wi-Fi connections for Village Halls has been approved to include Crook of Devon Village Hall.

Callum Purves: Cllr Purves has asked for Aldie Road speed limit to be lowered from 40mph to 30mph; however the Roads department have refused as they want to preserve the distinction between urban and rural roads. They did offer to add more 40mph repeater signs. Several members pointed out that this is a narrow road with (small) passing places and many pedestrians and hence is very dangerous. Cllr Bruce Jones pointed out that this road is part of the National Cycle Network so surely it should justify a lower limit? Cllr Purves will go back to the Roads Department with our concerns and ask them to reconsider.

The Gigabit Kinross-shire project to upgrade internet speeds in smaller towns and larger villages is now underway. See the

website at <https://kinross-shire.org/> to register an interest in taking part.

Planning

New Applications

20/01915/FLL Erection of a garage at Whitewisp, Main Street, Blairingone, no CC comment.

20/01907/FLL Alterations to garage to form extension to ancillary accommodation at 1 Braehead, Rumbling Bridge, Kinross, no CC comment.

20/01860/FLL Erection of a dwelling house at Land 50 metres southwest of Greenparks, Church Road, Crook of Devon. CC Objection: Access track must be improved, No SUDS plan (previously conditioned), flood risk.

We objected in 2006 on flooding and road use, but passed saying no SUDS plan, same in 2012 application.

20/01954/FLL Alterations and extension to dwelling house at Earnieside Cottage, Dunning Glen, Dollar, no CC comment.

21/00001/FLL S42 application to delete condition 6 (access upgrade) of permission 20/01319/FLL at Land 180 metres southwest of Powmill Cottage, Rumbling Bridge. CC Objection: Previous conditions to upgrade track should be continued; Deletion of Condition 6 is contrary to PKC Policy 15 as it would affect public access.

Decided Applications

20/00972/FLL Erection of 2 dwelling houses and garages at Land 100 metres southwest of Easter Muirhead, Blairingone. The application was approved, the CC had objected on road safety grounds and that previous conditions had not been met.

20/01425/FLL Extension to dwelling house at Duanbrig, Naemoor Road, Crook of Devon, Kinross. The application was refused, the CC had not commented.

20/00976/FLL Erection of a dwelling house at Land 90 metres southeast of Maiden Wells House, Rumbling Bridge. The application was approved, the CC had not commented.

Site Visits

The CC notes that recent planning decision reports state 'No site visit due to Covid-19 restrictions; site has been previously visited by officer/enforcement team and Google Street View used.' This also seems to be the case even if there have been no previous visits. The CC finds this policy unacceptable and feels that it is placing an unreasonable emphasis on the CC to provide impartial comments on the conditions at sites.

Scottish Government Consultation on Fourth National Planning Framework

The CC will respond to this consultation - comments are due by 19 February.

<https://consult.gov.scot/planning-architecture/national-planning-framework-position-statement>

Correspondence

The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership Conference will be held at the beginning of February. Ivy Cottage, Powmill is an example of such a property in our area.

Forestry and Land Scotland is conducting a ten-year plan review of Glen Devon and Glen Sherup Forests.

Registration for the next Scottish Rural Parliament is open. Cllr Duffy will attend.

Should anyone wish to see any items please contact the CC by email and a copy can be provided.

The next meeting of Fossoway and District Community Council will be on Tuesday 2 March, 2021 at Powmill Moubray Hall if Government guidelines allow, otherwise virtual. Members of the public wishing to join should email the CC at fossoway.cc@gmail.com.

Milnathort And Orwell Community Council News from the February Meeting

Present at the meeting held on 11 February were Cllrs C Williams, S Colebourn, A McCrae, E Rougvie, A Ward, K Heneghan; Cllrs C Purves and W Robertson and three members of the public. Cllr R Watters joined the meeting later.

Apologies were received from Cllr M Thomson and M Kirkbright, and from PC A Mitchinson. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Williams.

Correspondence

Email from PKC regarding the forthcoming election of two volunteers to represent service users on the Integration Joint Board, which helps plan the future of health and social care services across Perth and Kinross. Noted.

Email from Lead Scotland offering free online internet safety classes during February. Noted.

Email regarding registration for the next Scottish Rural Parliament. Noted.

Planning Matters

Pitdownies: A lengthy discussion followed about the Scottish Government Reporter's decision to uphold Springfield's appeal against the planning committee's refusal of the application to build 59 houses and eight flats on land at the Pitdownies. The CC agreed with Cllr Robertson that the Reporter had made his decision based on a couple of minor points and had completely ignored the strength of feeling within the community. It was considered undemocratic that the final decision should lie with an unelected official. Cllr Purves drew attention to the Scottish Government's consultation paper on the use of mediation in the Scottish planning system, which is part of wider work on planning reform and implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and aims to improve community engagement. The consultation closes on March 12, 2021. Following further discussion, a member of the public, who is trained in such matters and is currently responding on behalf of Kinross-shire Civic Trust, offered to respond on the CC's behalf, which was welcomed.

Councillors' Reports

Budget meeting: Cllr Robertson advised that the PKC budget meeting was due to be held soon. The council is facing a £3million deficit and ways of addressing this are currently being explored. He anticipates giving an update at the next CC meeting.

Litter: There have been a number of complaints about the amount of litter in the area. Due to Covid-19, PKC litter teams have been unavailable but the efforts of volunteers have been greatly appreciated. However, people should be reminded not to drop litter at all.

Other Matters

Dog fouling: Cllr Kirkbright advised by email that she had contacted PKC regarding support material for a dog fouling campaign and will contact the primary school to see if pupils would like to be involved when it becomes possible. She will bring forward a plan for discussion by the CC. Cllr Kirkbright's efforts are greatly appreciated as dog fouling has become a serious problem in the village.

Gig on a Truck and KLEO: Cllr Purves advised that Horsecross were more than happy to stage a production in Milnathort when restrictions allow, while KLEO is keen to hold a market or other event. Cllr Williams agreed to be the contact for both organisations.

Gigabit Kinross-shire: Cllr Ward reported that people in Milnathort are becoming increasingly aware of the project. She will put out more information via social media each weekend and produce physical posters to promote the scheme. In the meantime, anyone wanting to find out more can contact Cllr Ward at andrea.gecos@gmail.com; Kevin Heneghan at [\[rockpool.co.uk\]\(http://rockpool.co.uk\) or Cllr Purves at \[CPurves@pkc.gov.uk\]\(mailto:CPurves@pkc.gov.uk\)](mailto:kevin@</p></div><div data-bbox=)

The next meeting of Milnathort and Orwell Community Council will be held via Zoom at 7pm on Thursday, March 11, 2021. Anyone who wishes to attend is asked to contact communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com

Portmoak Community Council News from the February Meeting

Present at the meeting held on 9 February 2021 were Cllrs A Davidson, S McGregor, D Morris, S Forde, K Donaldson, G Smith; Cllrs W Robertson, C Purvis; and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs R Watters and M Barnacle.

Matters Arising

Portmoak CC – PKC By-Election for PCC and next steps following Nov '20 resignations: The Secretary explained the situation for the forthcoming By-Election which has been triggered by the low number of members of PCC. The Election will probably be held in March or April 2021 (date to be confirmed by PKC who will organise the By-Election). PCC is still operational and able to represent the community on all relevant matters. It is hoped that local interested people will apply to become members of the Community Council, for more information email secretary@portmoak.org. Cllr C Purves confirmed this summary was correct.

Portmoak Cemetery: Cllr C Purves was able to provide an update: previously there had been an agreement made to remove trees in the cemetery to create approximately 10 lairs. There is also going to be a meeting between Cllr C Purves, A Cragoe, and Graham Cox, and Willie Greig for next steps. Cllr S Forde confirmed the trees had been felled.

Road Safety Action in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell: Cllr C Purves had spoken with D McKeown, noting that PCC had been pleased with the outcome of the onsite meeting and D McKeown's follow up. He had confirmed the promised A911 full route plan won't be prioritised at the moment as PKC are focussing on physical distancing measures. The A911 route plan and any changes will be progressed as finances allowed.

Kilmagadwood: 20mph speed repeater signs were to be installed between Kilmagadwood and Scotlandwell.

Speed Cushions: residents had been sent a letter requesting their views. There had been 14 responses out of 66 addresses. 4 objections and 10 in support of speed cushions. Cllrs C Purves and W Robertson had confirmed their agreement for the speed cushion installation to proceed. If there are noise issues or any other problems the cushions can be relocated as they are bolted onto the road.

A member of the public again reported witnessing vehicles travelling well in excess of 20mph down Bruce Road and along Main St in Kinnesswood. Cllr W Robertson encouraged members of public to report speeding concerns to the police action help line to trigger enforcement of the recently lowered speed limits.

Glenlond Sewage: migration of responsibility to Scottish Water: Cllr A Davidson had received an update from the Glenlond residents' committee. They have been in contact with MSP Roseanna Cunningham regarding trying to persuade Scottish Water to accept responsibility for the village sewage system. Separately a private water and drainage company are going to provide suggestions on measures that may be taken to improve the system in the meantime.

Friar Place hedges blocking sight lines and requiring maintenance: Cllr S Forde reiterated that the hedge needs to be cut down to 1m. He has not contacted Gary McConnell due to lockdown and also approaching bird nesting time making the timing not ideal. Suggestion to postpone action on this item till later in 2021.

Public Consultation – Use of Open Space, beside Whitecraigs, Kinnesswood: The CC had received notification that the

consultation had ended and had been resolved. The open space will remain with flowerbeds and it appeared that Kinnesswood in Bloom have kindly offered to take on responsibility of maintenance.

Construction of hill track, Bishop Hill, Kinnesswood: Cllr D Morris had written to land owner to resume a discussion in Spring about the nature of the path and if it is to be a path or some type of road. The path remains very muddy and a lot of water is draining along and across it, although PKC have agreed some drainage work to be carried out by the landowner. Residents are advised to take care on the steeper, muddy sections of the path and in snow. Additionally, there is a lot of cornice of snow on the Lomond Hill and enhanced dangers. There had been a recent snow avalanche on the Bishop. Mountain Rescue have advised people to take account of these hazards.

Reserve Items

Community Resilience Planning: Storm Damage and impact from recent flooding: Cllr D Morris noted that some urgency had been lost on this item and ongoing action around the resilience plan needs to be resumed, to include some focus on paths and flooding issues.

Rural Transport: Cllr C Purves gave an update: Cllr A Crago had been the lead on this item prior to her resignation, and good progress had been made. Cllr M Barnacle would like to have a Portmoak resident involved in those discussions. If any resident is interested in contributing to this project, please reach out to the CC.

New Matters

Easter Balgedie – Wester Balgedie footpath and flooding: There was a discussion about the path between Easter and Wester Balgedie. Complaints about the path had been raised to the CC by locals. A few local people had also helpfully cut a gully at the side of the path to drain the flood water. The CC would like to thank them for their efforts. It was felt that the issue was exacerbated by the ploughed field immediately adjacent to the path. The CC will attempt some discussion with the land owner. Tree or hedge planting at the problematic locations could help stop flooding and also snow drifting. Note to include the item of flooding and potential tree planting in the resilience plan.

Planning

New Applications:

20/01910/FLL Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and erection of a replacement garage, Benarty Wester Balgedie Kinross. This application has been approved by PKC Planning since being added to the agenda.

20/01675/FLL Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse to form garage with raised decking area and balustrade, formation of steps and associated works. The Napix The Cobbles Kinnesswood, no CC comment.

20/01859/FLL Alterations to dwellinghouse and formation of a balcony. Hollow Cottage Blacknoves Kinross, no CC comment.

20/01939/LAW Extension to dwellinghouse to form garage (proposed). 26 Whitecraigs Kinnesswood Kinross, no CC comment.

20/01902/FLL Extensions to dwellinghouse and outbuilding. West Feal Barn, Auchmuirbridge, Leslie, Glenrothes, KY6 3JL.

The Secretary reported that neighbours to this property had approached PCC for assistance as they were planning to object to the application. The Secretary had responded to the request for assistance with PKC planning objection guidelines. The CC had reviewed the application but did not plan to raise an objection.

20/01958/FLL Erection of a dwellinghouse. Land 40 Metres North West Of Bonaly Cottage Main Street, Kinnesswood.

Planning application on this site had previously been granted for 5 plots. This application relates to Plot 5. The applicant has applied to make a substantial change to the permission previously given. The CC debated a great deal about the height and scale of the buildings as the plots are in the Kinnesswood

conservation area. Plot 5 was supposed to be max. 6.3m high, single storey, and a small cottage style building. The revised planning application is now for a two-storey building with three bedrooms instead of two. It is now higher than the other houses. At the time of the approval the CC pressured to have more affordable housing and plot 5 was the one exception that met this requirement as a cottage style dwelling, but the new application pushes the size and scale much closer to the other 4 houses. Also, residents on the East (Hill) side of Main St could suffer some loss of light given the height of the house. The CC agreed to object to this application on the basis of the size of the proposed house. Deadline for objection is 29 Feb.

Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee: Dave Morris attended last (virtual) meeting at which there were discussions about strengthening security and commencement of building work. Work on energy plant to commence in the next few months. Also, path network study should be completed by the end of Feb 2021. Cllr D Morris feels this is going well. The plan includes the potential to connect Scotlandwell and Lochend Farm shop with Westfield.

Planning Decisions

20/01611/LAW Alterations to dwellinghouse (proposed) 4 Findatie Farm Cottage Kinross. PKC decision to approve the application.

Paths Group: The Paths Group reported not much work had taken place due to winter weather. PKC has agreed to provide another trimmer; this will enable lots of work to be completed once the weather improves.

Treasurer CC Accounts:

Main Account: £662.80

MBW: £1,471.82

The CC will make payment for pro-license for Zoom on on a monthly basis, to enable the CC meetings to continue during the pandemic and physical meeting restrictions.

Councillors' Reports

Cllr Robertson: Had requested a litter pick along the A911 which will probably commence in the spring. Footpath users are asked to take litter home with them. PKC can help with providing litter pickers and black bags if residents were prepared to volunteer to litter pick to improve locality. A911 also quite badly potholed. Cllr Robertson had reported this and repairs will commence once the weather is more clement. On request of PCC Cllr Robertson also promised to report potholes on Lethangie Road and the B9097 South road by Findatie, and also the broken man hole cover on the pavement at Wester Balgedie.

Cllr Purves: Bank of Scotland in Kinross had confirmed a date for closure 22 March 2021. Another meeting will be held to mitigate problems with banking services, as some customers will need extra support with the transition. No further information at present. The Mobile banking services is not operational at present due to the Tier 4 restrictions.

PKC Chief Executive: The post for a new Chief Executive had been advertised and a panel of 5 Cllrs would decide who should be appointed.

Matters Notified To The Secretary:

Police Scotland consultation on community views on policing priorities: The Secretary would circulate the consultation link to the CC subscriber list and post on Portmoak Community Facebook page. The link is: <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021/> note this is a consultation and not a link for reporting crimes.

AOB:

Cllr A Davidson expressed thanks to PKC and also by local farmers for local snow clearing.

The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held on Tuesday, 9 March 2021 at 7.30pm.

Club & Community Group News

Common Grounds

[www.spanglefish.com/
commongroundscharitycafe](http://www.spanglefish.com/commongroundscharitycafe)



It has been another quick month but we have been keeping busy. We had our first 'mini-AGM' for the presentation and approval of our accounts. Thanks to our joint treasurers Phil Leiper and Marg Meade for all their hard work in these particularly difficult times. The good news is that we have a healthy balance and can carry on supporting worthwhile charities; it is all due to the very generous support of our volunteers and friends in the past year. A hearty thanks to all.

The February snow not only offered magnificent views but provided us with a fun challenge. We invited people to send in photos of snowmen and the challenge was for an appropriate slogan to sum up the picture of our fallen fellow. Our volunteers/friends are not letting us down and already clever words have flown in. Examples include 'Slip, slip hurrah!', 'I think I should have put my grippers on...', 'Wha spiked my Irn Bru?' and 'Just chill!'. We're sure the readers will have their favourite and some may have their own ideas to offer. Please share your inspiration with us (contact details are at the end of this piece).

As always we hope that everyone is safe and well.

Project: Our project for February was the Tarnos School, Kericho, Western Kenya. It is supported by Ecologica Youth Trust, a Scottish registered charity. Tarnos School was founded



Snow Sober Snowman!

in 2009 by the late Danus Skene, a local man (Pitlour Estate, Strathmiglo) to provide a quality educational experience for children in a large rural area with no school of sufficient quality to guarantee entrance to secondary school. There are now ten classrooms for two nursery classes and a full eight-year primary school, a library, a kitchen, two dormitories for pupils and staff accommodation. Funds are needed to provide an ecological sewerage system, IT equipment, library books and textbooks for the recently introduced new Kenyan curriculum.

More information is available on our website. Our opening hours are still 10am-12.30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at the Guide and Scout Hall, Church Street, Milnathort.

Contacts outside opening hours are Elspeth Caldwell (Convener) on 01577 863350 and Linda Freeman (Secretary) on 01577 865045.

KYTHE



Through her initial volunteering with KYTHE, Katy-Beth King is excited to be developing a new project. It links with a local business to support young people in learning new skills, whilst caring for the environment.

We spoke to Katy-Beth to learn more about her time with KYTHE and this new project:- 'I started volunteering with KYTHE about 2 years ago and, for the last 18 months, have been a sessional youth worker, providing a variety of art classes and groups.'

These have been incredibly popular but a visit to local business, Kinross Wooden Projects, sparked the idea for a new project. Both Katy-Beth and Kirsteen Ross (managing director of Kinross Wooden Products) are keen to utilise available resources and re-manufacture whenever possible. Through their work, Kinross Wooden Products have a surplus of office chairs and desks, which can be re-purposed for new uses, prompting this new project. The chairs will be easier to revamp with donated fabric, patchwork, fabric paints, or the wooden frames could be painted and even adapted with the likes of cupholders. This will be completed at the KYTHE hub in art classes. However, the large office desks will be more challenging to re-manufacture.

Through this new KYTHE project, some young people (from the 16+ project which KYTHE already runs in conjunction with Skills Development Scotland) will spend time at the Kinross Wooden Products workshop, learning the joinery skills required to re-manufacture these desks, potentially for bespoke home use (given the number of people now working from home). The young people will gain work experience and a work ethic in a supportive environment provided by the team at Kinross Wooden Products. They will also learn commercial marketing skills. For the team at Kinross Wooden Products, they will have extra support in their workshop for all the work required. They will gain the satisfaction of knowing that they have supported local young people, helping them to learn new skills and, in doing so, have cared for the environment by re-manufacturing these items.

Check out our social media for details of this and more: @
instaKYTHE, @KYTHEbook, @tweetKYTHE.



'Summer' by Carole Drummond

Kinross and District Art Club

www.kadac.co.uk



Always an inspirational time for artists, the weather and nature of February 2021 did not disappoint our members. From the drama of the snowfall, followed by the winter wonderland scenes and the spectacular sunsets, to the serenity of perfect snowdrops popping through the wintry ground, there was certainly no shortage of pictures to paint. However, although many members continue to create artworks in their own homes, they are still missing the support, shared expertise and camaraderie of their fellow painters at the club. The committee continues to meet, albeit virtually, to discuss and make provisional plans for the coming year.

This month's featured KADAC artist is Carole Drummond. In her profile, Carole describes a joyous, artistic experience: 'I trained as a teacher and taught in Edinburgh for several years. I later used my teaching skills in Berkshire as a trainer with Hewlett-Packard. I joined KADAC in 2000 when we returned home to Scotland.'

I have always loved art, and paint regularly with friends. Holidaying in Spain last year, we discovered 'acrylic flow' technique; very messy, but what fun! We experimented using an assortment of painting implements including balloons, straws, chains and, to my husband's alarm, a blow torch. I enjoy this type of painting as the outcome is unpredictable. This painting is titled 'Summer.'

In normal times, the club meets each week in the Millbridge Hall on Tuesdays and Fridays (2-4pm). If you are interested in joining the club and developing your own creativity, you will find more information and contact details on our website.

In normal times, the club meets weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays (2-4pm) in Millbridge Hall. If you are interested in joining the club and developing your own creativity, you will find more information and contact details on our website.

Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation

www.kleo.org.uk



Kinross-shire's Farmers Market

We hope that the markets can start again from April onwards. The first market will hopefully take place on Saturday 24 April from 10am-2pm on the High Street of Kinross. The following market dates will be on the fourth Saturday of the month from April to October (apart from the July market; no market that month). Dates will therefore be 24 April, 22 May, 26 June, 28 August, 25 September and 23 October.

The market on 26 June will be a special event. If Covid-19 guidelines allow, it will be a bigger market with additional entertainment. Therefore, it will not take place on the High Street but at the Market Park (opposite the Green Hotel).

Leven Voices = Virtual Voices

You can join Virtual Voices from the comfort of your living room (or whatever room you like!). Join Emma Neck and Heather Macleod as they lead you through an hour of song and harmony, covering many different decades and genres with a few of your favourite songs thrown in for good measure! Every Tuesday from 7-8pm until 16 March. Tickets are £3.50 per session are available online at www.horsecross.co.uk. A zoom link will be sent to you an hour before the session starts.

For more info about KLEO and any future events in 2021 please visit our website.



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Kinross and District Town Twinning Association



This month we look back to the summer of 2007 when twinning members from Kinross and Gacé donned period costume to dance traditional dances from previous centuries in the wonderful setting of Kinross House. This local historic setting helped establish a wonderful atmosphere for a memorable summer evening, with stunning views over Loch Leven.

Lockdown has meant the postponement of our planned visit to our French twin town from this summer to 2022. We hope and trust that we will then be able to travel to our host families to renew auld acquaintances and establish new ones too.

Both twin towns are fortunate to have so many places of interest coupled with a wide range of activities virtually on our doorsteps. We very much look forward to re-establishing our 47 year long relationship.

*Anyone considering joining us next summer should please contact the secretary David Munro on **01577 862126**.*

Kinross Garden Group



The Garden Group had a very entertaining and informative talk in February from Dick Alderson from Dalgety Bay – who told us about the wonderful conservation projects that he has been part of as part of the Dalgety Bay Community Woodland Trust. This was accompanied by brilliant photographs of the insects, birds and flowers which were now there as a result of the conservation improvements.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th March at 2pm, on Zoom, in the comfort of your own home. Rob Grindrod, who is the Head Gardener at the Japanese garden at Cowden will talk about *The Construction And Renewal Of The Japanese Garden At Cowden*.

Membership this year is £15 – includes the winter talks and access to the summer garden visits. For the ZOOM talks all instructions will be given to those who wish to join us. For membership and access to talks please contact Caroline Anderson on 01577 864589 or acaroline1000@gmail.com.

Kinross Centre

Once again, a massive thank you goes to all the hard working staff, volunteers and committee at Kinross Centre

and all other organisations in this area. Community spirit is alive and kicking in Kinross and surrounding areas. We would love for you to be involved with the Kinross Centre either as a service-user, a volunteer or as a supporter. If you would like further information please contact Nan Cook on 01577 863869.

Fairtrade in Kinross-shire



Fairtrade Fortnight, 22 February to 7 March 2021

The theme this year is 'Fairtrade, Climate and You'. If you are concerned about climate change there are many individual choices we can make which make a difference. One you may not have known about is that every time you choose to buy an item with the Fairtrade mark, you are also taking a positive action in combating climate change. This is because farmers with the Fairtrade



Mark accreditation use sustainable farming methods, which do less harm to the environment. In addition, these farmers are already struggling with the effects of climate change on their crops so the fairer price they receive for their goods help them to continue to grow the goods such as coffee, tea, bananas and cocoa that we so enjoy.

Boys Brigade and Girls Association



Still no face-to-face BB yet and, to add to the misery, this summer's camp has also been cancelled due to the continuing Covid-19 situation. 'At home' activities have been prepared by headquarters for Anchors, Juniors and Company section members. These are available



on the BB national website as well as from the Company's Facebook page.

Congratulations to Rebekah Roe for successfully completing the recent online BB Queen's Badge Leadership Course. This is an important step towards her completion of the top award members can achieve.

With thoughts of better weather ahead, we turn our minds to camps from the past. In particular, we cast our minds back to seven years ago when we made the long journey by coach and ferry to Perth's twin town of Aschaffenburg. We were hosted by the local Scout Group who coordinated a wide range of memorable activities and visits. The photos above show (top) the group of Kinross BB and Scouts as well as their Aschaffenburg counterparts, while the second photo shows our Kinross group waiting at the campsite bus stop for a local bus into the town of Aschaffenburg for sightseeing.

Kinross Beavers


With the country in lockdown and schools engaging in online learning, we started our new term in January also by meeting online. Five new beavers joined the colony in the new term; welcome to Will, Jack E, Murray, Jack R and Archie.

For our first meeting the beavers looked back at our review of 2020 video before they creating their own wellbeing box.

It is full of positive messages and interesting items to help cheer them up when they are feeling a bit down.

The following week, the beavers started to get ready for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2021 by making bird feeders which they put out in their gardens. The birds hopefully found them in time for the birdwatching activity the week after. After all the messy fun of making the bird feeders the beavers then took part in an active general knowledge quiz.

The beavers usually have a winter sleepover at the hall in January; due to current restrictions, it was not possible to hold this event. However, the beavers had a sleepover at home instead (see photos below!) They took part in a variety of activities such as making a marshmallow fork, learning about global warming by making earth mallows and then roasting them on a campfire and making pizza and popcorn. The beavers also did a lava lamp experiment, had some fun with their families by having a balloon volleyball competition and they stepped into shoes of young people from around the world by making a recycled football. On Saturday morning we had a special Zoom meeting featuring Sarah from Letsbefit. Sarah woke the beavers up by putting them through their paces with a morning boot camp. It certainly was an action-



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Club & Community Group News

packed weekend for the beavers; they also took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch and submitted their results on the RSPB website.

In early February, we were delighted to welcome Andrew Sharkey to our online meeting. Andrew is the Chief Commissioner of Scotland for Scouts. He spoke about what he loves about scouting and he got some great questions from the beavers as well. Andrew was really impressed with the beavers and hopes to visit the colony when restrictions ease.

This term we said goodbye to Ben and Brodie who are both moving onto cubs. We also said goodbye to Bailey who is leaving us after spending the last couple of years with the section. Good luck for the future boys!

Are you interested in volunteering with scouting? Volunteering is easier than you think. We have opportunities both behind the scenes and directly supporting young people in our group. With full support and training, you can volunteer on a flexible basis. Not only is it incredibly rewarding and great fun but you'll learn some brilliant skills transferable to the workplace and further education. Please contact us by email at kinrossbeavers@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

Fifty Plus Club

Donations

I would like to advise all members that the requisite cheques have been handed over to Nan Cook on behalf of the Kinross Centre and to Ella Ward on behalf of the Volunteer Group. I have received letters of thanks from both Nan Cook and Pauline Watson, secretary of the Volunteer Group. They both express their thanks to the club and have asked me to pass on their grateful thanks to all members for the donations.

I hope you are all weathering the pandemic storm and coping with the extremely wintry weather.

Wishing you all best wishes for the future.

Regards to all, Fubister Law.



Cherry Tree in Michael Bruce Garden

Kinnesswood in Bloom



Our picture this month is of the cherry tree in Michael Bruce Garden. It was planted by a member of the Buchan family and has been a lovely tree in flower but, sadly, it has been infected with a fungus this year. This will kill the tree in a short period of time and after consultation with the Greenspace Policy Officer for Trees and Woodland, it was decided to take it down. Kinnesswood in Bloom hope to plant a replacement soon but not in the same part of the garden.

The new interpretation board has arrived and we hope to get it installed at Gamekeepers soon. It contains fascinating history about farming in the area, particularly relating to carts.

While lockdown continues we are limited in what we can do but we are taking part in a couple of Zoom calls. One is with Beautiful Scotland, joining with Lauder in Bloom and Lanark Development Trust to talk about our activities in lockdown. The other one is about Perth and Kinross food growing strategy. Paula Woods from Portmoak Primary is also joining that Zoom meeting as we plan the way ahead with the Climate Challenge project.

While the school was still open to all, one of the video challenges we gave was to paint cans and plant them with bulbs. They were recently retrieved from the school and some were given out to folk in the village as a wee present. Maybe once P1-3 are back we can give them a new task to work on.

When you are out for your daily walk look out for bulbs coming up after the snow. Many more were planted at Benarty View last year so here's hoping for a great display.

Kinross & District Rotary Club

www.ribi.org



Recent Meetings

Ethiopia Medical Project

Members met online on 18 January for an update from Rotarian Jo Middlemiss. Jo confirmed that work at the clinic continues despite the pandemic but is disappointed that she is unable to travel out there this February, as is her custom, to assist and monitor progress. Members were interested to view photographs from the clinic and Jo once again thanked

Kinross In Bloom 200 Club

November Draw

1st	No 87	Peter Stephenson
2nd	No 33	Moira Hookham
3rd	No 27	Anna Graham
4th	No 84	Jill Whitfield

December Draw

1st	No 52	George Milburn
2nd	No 29	Elizabeth Harley
3rd	No 51	Anne Milburn
4th	No 32	Clare Hill

Recipe



Supplied by Kinnesswood in Bloom

Roasted Pepper Soup

Ingredients

- 4 red, orange or yellow peppers, deseeded and sliced
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 4 celery sticks, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2 x 400g tins chopped tomatoes
- 1 vegetable stock cube
- 15g fresh parsley, roughly chopped
- 1 tbsp chilli paste
- 50ml soured cream
- 2 baguettes

Method

Preheat the oven to 220°C (fan 200°C). Toss the peppers with ½ tbsp oil and season with pepper. Roast for 20 mins until charred.

Meanwhile, heat ½ tbsp oil in a saucepan over a medium heat. Add the celery and cook for 5 mins. Add the garlic and cook for 2 mins more, then add the tomatoes and 2 tins full of water. Crumble in the stock cube, increase the heat and simmer for 5 mins, then add the peppers and simmer for 5 mins more.

Remove the pan from the heat and stir the chilli paste through. Blend and season to taste. Divide the soup between 4 bowls and swirl the soured cream through. Scatter with the parsley and serve with the baguettes.

Rotary for the support our club has given this project in Ethiopia.

Visit <https://www.ethiopiamedicalproject.com/> or www.facebook.com/EthiopiaMedicalProject/ for more details on the project.

Kinross First Responders

Do you know where the nearest defibrillator is located? Would you be confident to use it? These and other vital concerns were addressed by local First Responder, Alan Ruiz, at our meeting on 1 February. Kinross First Responders covers the whole Kinross-shire area and they play a vital role in covering the gap between dialling 999 and the arrival of an ambulance.

They are alerted by emergency services following a 999 call to situations which are immediately life-threatening; they are not a general first aid service. They carry equipment to administer essential support while awaiting the full ambulance service. They are also a charity, relying on donations and have, for example, invested in defibrillators throughout Kinross-shire, and are trained by the British Heart Foundation to run 'Heartstart' courses in the community. Members were grateful for Alan's informative presentation and for the exceptionally valuable and valued work by Kinross First Responders in our community.

Why Become a Rotarian?

Are you considering joining our Rotary Club? Over the next few editions of the Newsletter, Rotarians will explain 'Why I became a Rotarian'. The series starts this month with the current president, Brian Timms:

'Early in my working life my employer entered me into a Trainee of the Year Competition organised by the Rotary Club in the town where I worked. I was privileged to win that competition with the Rotary Club sponsoring a two-week work-related study tour to Germany where I stayed with the families of German Rotarians.

Being my first trip abroad, this was life changing, as it opened my horizons and assisted greatly with the development of my self-confidence together with my leadership and communications skills.

Now, as a Rotarian, I want to use my skills and time to provide similar opportunities for young people in our community to give them a chance to grow to realise their potential, together with, through fundraising activities, helping to provide support to good causes both locally and overseas.

Being a Rotarian in Kinross has given me the opportunity to do this with like-minded people who have a positive attitude and foster the ideal of service. We also have fun along the way. If you want to use your skills and time to do the same and make a difference, please make contact with us.'

Although meetings must continue fortnightly online for the immediate future, we welcome anyone to join us at these meetings and we are continuing to plan activities. Contact secretary.kdrc@gmail.com for more details.

Contact us by email at secretary.krdc@gmail.com for further details.

Kinross Camera Club

kinrosscameraclub.org.uk/wp/
www.facebook.com/KinrossCClub



We are a very friendly group and we welcome everyone interested in photography; whether you are experienced, a beginner or would just like to meet up with others with a similar interest. We would love to see you at one of our club nights. These take place on Thursdays at 7.30pm (virtual doors open from 7.20pm) via Zoom. If you would like to join the club or find out more about what we do, please contact us by email at secretary@kinrosscameraclub.org.uk.

We have a great line up of evenings in March. We begin the month with talks by club members Bill Patton and John St

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European Timber Wolves by club member Dave Martin

Clair. Bill will be treating us all, using his fantastic images, to journey with him to Australia and John will be entertaining and inspiring us all with a talk called 'Another Photo Miscellany'.

On the 11 March we have our League 3 Competition judged by Charles Summers. On 18 March we will be welcoming an exceptionally talented amateur photographer, Joe Gilhooley from Loanhead in Midlothian, to present his talk 'If I Can Do It, So Can You'.

Our annual joint meeting with Scottish Wildlife Trust will be held on 25 March. This year we are very excited and honoured to be welcoming Moira Gardner FRPS from Fife to present her talk on 'Wildlife of Costa Rica, Peru and Ecuador'. We are very much looking forward to seeing her stunning images of exotic wildlife and to hear first-hand about her incredible photography adventures to South America.

If you would like to join the club or find out more about what we do, please contact us by email at secretary@kinrosscameraclub.org.uk.

Kinross in Bloom

Winter is nearly over, but we are still living with restrictions. Last year was a hard year with very little being done. Hopefully, things will improve with the weather. Our order for summer plants has been submitted so fingers crossed that they will be delivered at the beginning of April.

We are also looking to replace some of our planters at the Courthouse and also look at a longer-term solution to the problem of slugs which continually eat away the plants in some of our planters.

If you would like to join the Kinross in Bloom team, or just



lend a hand, please contact susan.mitchell50@gmail.com

Inner Wheel

www.innerwheel.co.uk



We continue to meet on Zoom. In February, we enjoyed a very informative talk from Ed Link on the University of the Third Age, now more snappily known as U3A. In March we are looking forward to having the editor of the Newsletter, Hannah Philips, to speak to us.

We have been much cheered over the winter by contact with our sister club in Mata Mata, New Zealand. They are meeting freely now after restrictions similar to our own.

One of our own members also gathered 'lockdown news' from the club, which gave us all a great sense of fellowship.

If you would like to know more about Inner Wheel, or are interested in coming to our meetings, please get in touch by email at jennymac101@icloud.com

Portmoak Community Woodland Project

www.portmoakcw.org.uk



One year on from the first lockdown and the popularity of our two community woodlands shows no sign of diminishing, as people look for nice places to take their daily, local exercise.

On the dreich days at the beginning of February, Portmoak Moss provided a bit of shelter from the wind and the rain. When the main paths became icy and slippery many walkers took to the informal tracks round the edge and enjoyed good views across the surrounding fields.



Our viewpoint indicator obliterated by snow! Photo taken by Jeff Gunnell.

Speaking of views, the best were from Kilmagad Wood once the snow arrived. It's not exactly Cairngorm Mountain but the walk to the Bishop Hill, up through the woodland, was fantastic. Children (and a few adults) were out sledging on the lower slopes while those in search of some serious exercise waded knee, and sometimes thigh, deep in snow up to the higher tops.

When not covered in snow the viewpoint indicator, on the way up the hill, shows just how much you can see on a clear



A stonechat. Photo taken by Michael McGinness.

day, from the Bass Rock in the east to the Wallace Monument in the west.

We have kept up with monthly meetings by Zoom and even held a virtual Burns Supper, to make up for not having a proper celebration in the village hall. It was only 'virtual' in the sense of being online; the haggis, neeps and tatties were real enough, as were the drams, as we sat at our computers and raised a toast to the Bard.

We're continuing to plan our usual events (orchard pruning

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Club & Community Group News

and birch pulling for the spring and apple day in autumn) in the hope that restrictions will be lifted.

We also have some other tricks up our sleeves, starting with a Portmoak bird survey in the spring; an extension of the nature notes which lots of people contributed to last year. The idea is to let us know what you've seen, whether from your window or out in the countryside, and we'll collate all the sightings. It won't be until later in April so we'll put out the details nearer the time.

Meanwhile, watch this space, as they say, as well as finding updates on our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Kinross High School

The return to online learning and teaching may be giving pupils and teachers across Scotland a sense of collective déjà vu! With a second national lockdown impacting the lives of people all over the country, we know how important it is to support each other and stay connected at such a challenging time.



One of the hardest parts of the pandemic has been the lack of face-to-face interactions but we have been able to maintain contact with pupils with our Wellbeing Tracker programme. Our House Pupil Support Teams have been making phone calls to all young people at Kinross High School to check in with them. This approach not only ensures that learners are managing to engage with their online lesson but also allows staff to provide wellbeing support to those who need it.

To encourage young people to talk about how they're feeling, KYTHE and Community Link Worker, Pat Doran, have been offering 'Walk and Talks' in the fresh air. The Educational Psychology Team have also hosted digital drop-in sessions recently to support pupils affected by loss and bereavement. Although our doors are closed to most pupils at the moment, the staff at Kinross High School are still here to listen and staying in touch with friends and loved ones remains a key aspect of protecting mental health and promoting wellbeing during the pandemic.

Recording the attendance of pupils at school is a way of safeguarding. Although young people cannot physically be in the classroom just now, it is still important that learners 'attend' Virtual School. We have been tracking pupil engagement with Google Classroom to ensure that learning and teaching is continuing effectively for pupils. The House Pupil Support Teams are then able to use this information to identify pupils who need support to participate in online lessons.

Since Tuesday 12 January we have been hosting live sessions for parents/carers on a variety of topics including supporting learning at home and an update on assessment for senior phase pupils. We also gave our annual Pathways Evening a

digital makeover and ran events for families who will soon be helping their child make course choices. Pat Doran, Community Link Worker, has also been hosting monthly drop-in sessions to help parents/carers manage anxiety, sleep routines, emotions and more! Hopefully the information shared in these sessions will alleviate some of the stress of learning and working from home.

The Home Economics department have also been trying their hand at interactive events with a live cook-along for S1 pupils. Ingredient packs were made available for collection at local shops so that anyone who wanted to, could take part. The recipe for muesli muffins was versatile enough to allow families to exchange the ingredients for whatever they had left in the cupboards and healthy enough to offset any lockdown indulgences!

At KHS, we're not only supporting pupils and their families but we're also making sure teachers and support staff are staying well connected too. Teachers are using video calls to troubleshoot technical issues and share best practice. Following in the footsteps of our pupils, the PE department have set up a triathlon group using the Strava app so staff can record their collective mileage, whether walking, running, cycling or even sledging! After all, what is good for the pupils is good for their teachers apparently! It can get rather competitive some weeks.

What better way to keep spirits high (sky high, that is) than sharing a bit of good news? S5 Benarty pupil Ben Macleod has, against some tough competition, secured a charity funded 'Take-Off' flying scholarship. The scholarship covers 10 free flying lessons in the EV97 Eurostar aircraft as well as flying gear. This is a fantastic opportunity for Ben to enhance his existing air cadets and gliding skills. Congratulations Ben, the sky's the limit!

Now that Zoom has become part of our everyday vocabulary and the majority of our social interactions come from a screen, it's easy to feel disconnected from the real world. Although it's tough for pupils and teachers to be separated and tougher still to stay away from our loved ones, we're looking forward to a time when we can be together again.

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A bit about me...

Originally from Cowdenbeath, I spent the last 10 years living in Dunfermline. I moved to Gallowhill Road, Kinross in August 2016, with my wife Jacqueline and our two year old son, Calum. I'm a time-served joiner with 17 years' experience.



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Dismay At Lathro Appeal Decision

KINROSS-SHIRE CIVIC TRUST IS deeply disappointed that the Scottish Government Reporter David Buylla is 'minded to allow' Persimmon's appeal against PKC's refusal of permission to grant 169 houses on phase 2 of the Lathro Farm development site. The decision is subject to various conditions and the registering of an agreement under section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to cover matters such as education contributions and affordable housing.

From the Trust's point of view, the Reporter's decision shows that Local Development Plans are virtually meaningless. According to the first Local Development Plan, adopted in 2014, there was supposed to be a limit of 140 houses on Lathro Farm up to the year 2024. However, between 2017 and 2020, 203 houses were erected in phase 1 of Lathro Farm.

The Reporter's decision means we will end up with 372 houses on a site that was supposed to have a total of 260 according to Local Development Plan 1.

Allowing 372 units on a site that was given an allocation of 260 represents an increase of 43%.

When drawing up both the first and second local development plans, it was PKC policy to allocate 10% fewer



The Lathro Farm development site. (Photo: Eileen Thomas)

housing units to development sites in Kinross-shire than would otherwise be the case in view of the sensitivity of Loch Leven. (Foul water drainage from housing ultimately ends up in the loch.) What is the point of this policy when PKC planning officers, who had recommended approval of the application, and now the Reporter ignore it to the degree of allowing development which is 43% over the site allocation?

We are constantly being told that the allocated housing numbers in local development plans are merely 'indicative' but there seems to be little point in stating any numbers in the plans at all. We learned during the

PKC planning committee at which this application was considered that, once a housing site has been built on, even if it is no longer identified as a development site in subsequent plans, it is regarded as 'white land'. This means that the principle of development has been established and so developers can just keep coming back to apply for increased numbers of houses.

Raingardens

As we write our news everything is buried under a late winter blanket of snow, and we are still constrained by Covid-19. Thanks to remote working (when the laptop functions) including electronic meetings, we have been

Artist's impressions of the raingarden wildflower trail: 'Existing' (left) and 'Proposed' (right) (Pics: Collective Architecture)





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Club & Community Group News

making progress. Progress meetings with our funders SEPA, PKC and Scottish Government have gone well, as we focus on content for a draft completion report at the end of March and a final version at the end of May (main recommendations and findings to be reported in the *Newsletter* in June or July).

Our ecological designer, Jane Shields of Living Water, has developed some options for creating three distinctive raingardens at the Kinross Park and Ride. Jane is also helping The Green Hotel address some of their car park problems and, in so doing, will create new raingarden features there. Our architect, Fiona Welch of Collective Architecture, has produced some excellent visualisations of how the construction of houses and commercial developments could create raingardens instead of simply adding impervious surfaces which drain into our elderly sewers. One such example was reported in the December issue of the *Newsletter* (Springfield Road/The Muirs road junction) by our local councillors. We are now urging that a retrofit raingarden feature there is the obvious opportunity for creating a new landscape feature whilst eliminating

a chronic drainage problem. These projects are still in early days, but at least a solution is in sight.

World Water Day takes place on 22 March. We have been invited by the Scottish Government to put forward a presentation on the Kinross-shire Raingardens Challenge. That has now been accepted so look out for it, and lots of other good stuff, on the Scottish Government website.

If you want to cast your eyes on spring and summer raingardens life, have a look at an excellent blog produced for NatureScot (formerly simply SNH to most of us) by pollinators champion Jim

Jeffrey. You can find the blog online at <https://scottishpollinators.wordpress.com>

Consistent with that, another of our recommendations will be that the planned new raingardens at the Park and Ride could be linked by a wildflower strip along the link road, where it runs past the Levenfields housing development. Collective Architecture have produced a visualisation of this for us. It would provide visual and botanical connectivity with the wildflower swales which start directly after the housing and run alongside the commercial development. If you have any views or comments on these proposals please contact us.

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Mitchell Brown in action abroad last summer

Kinross Volleyball

It's amazing how much you miss something when it is taken away from you. Sports around the world have been hit badly by the Covid-19 situation; none more than indoor sports, especially team sports.

Kinross Volleyball Club was lucky to have been provided with two new sets of outdoor nets and posts which were in good use all through the summer months. Sessions were also held on Monday evenings and on Sunday afternoons during November.

We are hopeful that we will be able to re-start our 'Pop up and Play' sessions when we have our first 'easing of lockdown'. We consider ourselves fortunate about the resumption of outdoor volleyball as that will be the way forward in getting our clubs and players active again.

Our 'free' outdoor volleyball sessions on the grass at the rear of the Campus was a success in both keeping members active as well as tempting newcomers to the sport to come and have a go. The club was looking forward to this year's Scottish Open Volleyball Tournament at the end of May but this has already been postponed for a second year.

However, the Open organisers are planning a one-day pre-season tournament on Perth's North Inch. Plans are still at a very early stage but it is hoped that the event will happen on Saturday 11 September.

Our Belgian friends are hopeful that the De Haan outdoor tournament will still take place in August and, if this is the case and we are allowed to travel (and that is another can of administrative worms), we also hope to participate.

Beach volleyball has grown in strength and stature over the past decade and it is hoped that the two sand courts at Darnhall in Perth can re-open for training, informal and formal games. Beach Volleyball is integral to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games and local players are keen to prepare for the Scottish qualification events which will be taking place this summer. Perth's Seain Cook and Kinross players Mitchell Brown and Connor Boyle will be hoping to 'hit the sand' again as soon as possible. Mitchell and Connor are keen to get back on the sand to continue their preparations and, with a local sand court in Perth, this should go a long way towards aiding their qualification aspirations.



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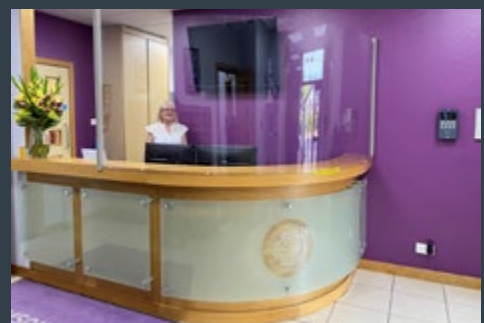
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Kinross Golf Club

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A new season is fast approaching and, with the promise of some fairer weather ahead, we have a lot to be thankful for. Our opening season match is the Captain v Vice Captain match scheduled for 28 March 2021.

At Kinross Golf Club we have two attractive and challenging 18-hole golf parkland courses, the Montgomery and the Bruce. If you like playing competitively, there are members' competitions held on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday. You can bring nine guests to play either course during the year at 25% of normal green fees. You can also take advantage of reciprocal arrangements we have put in place with 10 other golf clubs in Fife which means you can play their courses at significantly reduced rates (often half price). Participating courses include Aberdour, Burntisland, Balbirnie, Dunfermline and several more. In addition, don't forget full use of a modern, attractive clubhouse with lounges and dining room including discounts on food and beverages for you and your guests. If you are tempted would like more information then please visit our website or email us at office@kinrossgolfclub.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



*Socially distanced golfing
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Milnathort S.W.I.

Like so many groups, we have missed our monthly meetings. However, some of our members are managing Zoom meetings on Wednesday evening, when we enjoy catching up with each other and sharing a quiz. Anyone can join these meetings. Ann has the link information. Not all our members have the facility to do this, so the telephone has also become a useful link. Please telephone Ann, myself or any member for a chat. Take care and keep safe and well.

Bishopshire SWI

Members Night:

Mary Nisbet gave a super talk and demonstration on photographic quilting techniques, showing us how she made two 'quilted grandchildren' using apps she downloaded onto her tablet. One which turns pictures into pixels and assigns colours and numbers to each square.

Using this app, she was able to convert photographs into

a pattern of squares and manipulate the squares to use a limited palette of colours to make up a fabric picture in a similar way to painting by numbers. She then used another app to print the pattern so she could lay netting over the top to place the fabric squares before fixing and quilting.

In all it was a long and intricate process which looks well worth the effort with fabulous quilted pictures of her grandchildren produced in the end.

Anna Garner gave a demonstration of box making which some of us need more practise to master, but we were all assured that box making, once mastered, is addictive. Norma gave us ideas for filling the boxes to give away for random acts of kindness. Avril Rodger entertained us with some hilarious anecdotes backed up with poems by Pam Ayres.

Competitions

Valentine Verse

Jane Martin

Flower of the Month

Mamie Wallace

TEMPORARY PARKING AND LOADING RESTRICTION

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The order will prohibit parking and loading (both sides) on Gartwhinzean Loan from its junction with the A977 (301360, 697733) to its junction with the private entrance to Property no 8 (301351, 697671), a distance of 60metres or thereby.

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Greyhound Rescue Fife at Balfour Country Centre, Gairneybank, Kinross, needs volunteers to clean the kennels and walk and feed the greyhounds. Can you help? Phone 01592 890583. Visit our website at www.greyhoundrescuefife.com

Kinross in Bloom: Volunteer group that provides and maintains floral displays to enhance the environment of Kinross. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Susan Mitchell at: susan.mitchell50@gmail.com

Kinross-shire Day Centre: We are looking for volunteers to serve meals and help with day trips and activities, such as bingo and singing, for a lively bunch of over-aged teenagers (over 65s). If you would like to find out more, we would love to hear from you. Pop in and speak to Nan or telephone 01577 863869.

KLEO (Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation): If you enjoy local events on your doorstep, like the monthly Kinross Farmers' market and the winter festival events (concerts, comedy and the festive street market), please join the KLEO team! For more info about KLEO events, go to www.kleo.org.uk. If interested, please contact *Bouwien Bennet* at info@kleo.org.uk or call 01577 863107.

RSPB Scotland Loch Leven: We need volunteer fundraisers to help support the wonderful world of nature on our doorstep. Pin badges, bucket collections, events and sponsored walks – if you'd like to join our team, please contact Lyndsay Stobie at: Lyndsay.Stobie@rspb.org.uk or call 01577 862355.

Kinross (Marshall) Museum: The Museum Trust is looking for volunteers to help care for Kinross-shire's heritage collections and man the Museum Study Room in the Loch Leven Community Campus on Thursdays and Saturdays. If you would like to know more, drop by or contact the Museum on 01577 867153 or email: information@kinrossmuseum.org.uk

Swansacre Playgroup: A long established charity playgroup for children aged 2-5 years, we need volunteers to help support us with play sessions. For more information, please email swansacre@gmail.com

Kinross Heart Start: Campaign to secure funds for public access defibrillators in Kinross. Contact Pamela Hunter to find out how you can volunteer on 01577 862419.

Light Up Kinross is a small local charity with responsibility for Kinross Christmas lights and decorations. We require additional volunteers to assist with fundraising and administration of the lights. If you are interested, please contact David Colliar, email davidcolliar@tiscali.co.uk or Bill Freeman, email billywhizkid78@gmail.com or contact our Facebook page.

Common Grounds: Charity café staffed by volunteers on Tuesdays, Wednesday, Fridays and Saturdays in Guide Hall, Church Street, Milnathort. Open to public 10am-12.30pm. Opportunity to serve in café or bake for the café. Also opportunity to gain recognised hours towards Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Saltire Awards for young people 16 years and over. Funds raised are used to support charities mainly in Africa. Contact: Convener Elspeth Caldwell on 01577 863350 or Secretary Linda Freeman on 01577 865045 for more information.

The Potager Garden is a small community garden in Bowton Road, Kinross, KY13 8EQ. It is a registered charity run by volunteers, a main aim being to give education to schoolchildren about plants, gardening and the environment. If you would like more information about our volunteering opportunities, please contact the Convenor, Amanda James, on 01577 840809, or amandajames1577@gmail.com

Children's Hospices Across Scotland: Can you spare a few hours of your time? We are looking for volunteers in our **kitchen, housekeeping, driving, childcare and garden** teams.

Anyone who is interested is welcome to come for a visit. Please contact us by phone on 01577 865777 or email volunteering@chas.org.uk. To apply online visit www.chas.org.uk.

Seamab is a residential school that cares for some of the most vulnerable children in Scotland. We are looking for volunteers to help us place and manage collecting cans. Volunteering for Seamab makes a huge difference to the lives of the children and is a great way to meet people and develop new skills. For more information contact Melloney Flinn at mflinn@seamab.org.uk or call 01577 840307.

SSAFA, The Armed Forces charity is always on the look out for new volunteers in a variety of roles: client case working (free training is provided), admin office roles, fundraising when back on stream, or PR/media work. Contact the Branch Secretary 01738 625346.

Milnathort Town Hall committee: Can you spare a couple of hours a month? We are looking for volunteers to join us. For more information please contact us at milnathorttownhall1@gmail.com.

Volunteering with Aberlour!

We are currently recruiting new volunteers to support Aberlour, Scotland's Children's Charity. If you have a genuine interest in the wellbeing of children and families and live in Perth and Kinross we would love to hear from you. To find out more, visit www.aberlour.org.uk/volunteer, or contact Shonagh (Volunteer Coordinator) on 07864 625069/shonagh.ferguson@aberlour.org.uk.

SPARKs are a group allowing adults of all ages who have support needs or disabilities to meet together with their carers to improve their health and wellbeing. Volunteers will be supported by workers Roseanne Gray – P&K Community Learning & Development Worker and Shona Fowler – NHS Project Worker. For more information please call 01577 867216 / 867218 or 07769 243282 / 07896 280843.

Scotlands Gardens Do you love gardens? Might you be interested in meeting local garden owners, helping to support local gardens that currently open for charity, plus those that are considering it? If so, and you would like to know more, please ring Lizzie on 01577 862900

For more volunteering opportunities, go to the community website www.kinross.cc and look for 'Volunteering', or look at www.vaperthshire.org

Organisations: If you would like a volunteer appeal to be added to the list above, please email the Newsletter Editor. **Please let us know if you no longer need your appeal to be listed.**





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Good Hare Days

WE HAVE ALMOST made it folks! Sunnier, warmer and longer days will soon be upon us. I love March, but it is truly a meteorological gamble. Yes, it is technically the first month of spring, but it can go one of two ways; I have seen upwards of 17 degrees in March and we have all seen the March 2018 'Beast from the East'. I wonder what this month will bring. March can be a great time to spot the first butterflies. Whether it be a scruffy red admiral or small tortoiseshell awakening from its over-winter hibernation, or an extremely fresh, recently emerged peacock, March offers spring delights which provide excitement and enthusiasm for the coming months, almost like a little 'taste of true spring'. For me, late March is the turning point of the season. This is when you can be walking around the trail and you spot your first sand martin swooping above your head feeding on newly emerged insects. This is when you spot the first osprey of the year over the Loch or catch the sound of the first chiffchaff calling. This winter has been a particularly cold, snowy and slightly depressing one. Spring offers that boost, light and warmth that we could all do with at the moment!

When out and about on the Loch trail and other local walks, lookout for iconic spring wildlife sights. March marks the start of the brown hare mating season; look out for boxing hares in local fields. Watching brown hare box is an exhilarating past-time! Normally, the boxing takes place between an overly persistent male and an antagonised female. The female will have had enough of the male chasing her around and will fend him off with a fierce boxing match.

Listen out for the wondrous song of the skylark; a song so good that it inspired a now famous classical piece, 'The Lark Ascending' by Vaughan Williams. If you hear the song of the skylark, have a look for its display as well. The bird will rise vertically while singing, sometimes rising to massive heights (so much so that is just a tiny speck in the sky). Their wings can beat 12 times per second in this display and it is just mesmerising to watch! A slightly less elegant bird will also be more noticeable. Herons will start to think about returning to the heronry for nest repairs, courtship and egg laying. The heronry is out on Castle Island and calls of these birds can be heard from the Kirkgate viewpoint and beyond.

Latest wildlife highlights from the reserve include 786 coot, 395 goldeneye, 448 mallard, 10 scaup, 9 shelduck and some singing skylark!

Keep on the lookout for the first butterflies on the wing, first osprey fishing, first sand martin or swallow soaring and do let us know your wildlife sightings!

As always, keep an eye on the blog (Loch Leven WordPress),



Loch Leven NNR Facebook page and the Loch Leven NNR Instagram for getting in touch and for regular updates. Enjoy and embrace the start of spring, brighter days are ahead!

TTFN

Simon Ritchie, Nature Reserve Officer

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It's Yellowhammer Time!

THE SIGNS OF SPRING are beginning to show at RSPB Loch Leven this month. Snowdrops are slowly starting to pop up around the reserve, and great spotted woodpecker can be heard drumming in the tree trunks. The first skylark have been heard singing, alongside a lovely flock of 20 yellowhammer in the hedgerow along the heritage trail. Several groups of foraging fieldfares can be seen in areas of open grassland throughout the reserve, and the feeders have been a flurry of activity with flocks of long tailed tit and goldfinch. It has been a great month for birds of prey at the reserve with reports of a male hen harrier, peregrine and kestrel in several locations around the reserve. With much of the wetlands frozen over due to the cold weather, duck and geese numbers have been low. However, the sheltered bays along the loch edge have hosted several teal, tufted duck, wigeon and mallard. Among the frozen wetlands little egret and grey heron can be seen making the most of the running ditches.



Yellowhammer (Pic: Andreas Trepte)

With the ice and snow hitting hard this month the reserve team have been hard at work battling the weather and keeping the paths and car park free from snow and ice. Out on the wetlands brush cutting and topping along the ditches

and other water bodies is underway to help improve the accessibility for waders and wader chicks over the breeding season. Our wonderful volunteer team have been busy assisting with fence repairs, monitoring, and vegetation management along the sleeping giant path and fence around the wetlands.

Across the loch the reserve team have been monitoring goose numbers and are pleased to report 8389 pink-footed geese and 231 greylag geese, a high total compared to previous years. This is probably due to smaller water bodies in the area being frozen over, decreasing the availability of roost sites.

Following successful funding applications to the rural tourism infrastructure fund and the people's postcode lottery innovation trust, we will be able to deliver some exciting changes and improvements to the reserve's visitor facilities this year. We will be restoring one of the steading buildings into a new toilet block that will include a changing places toilet, this continues to build on our desire to make the reserve accessible to as many people as possible. A new much larger welcome area will be formed that will greatly improve visitor flow and allow us to tell more of the stories of our work and the wider landscape, the café and shop will also get a revamp. The car park is going to be enlarged, and electric vehicle charging points installed, together with some new interpretation and signage. At the time of writing, start dates have not been confirmed, but the aim is to have everything complete for the summer. As there will be a large amount of disruption, please keep an eye on our Facebook page @ RSPBTaysideFife for updates on progress, any restrictions or temporary closures.

Rachel Gooday
Visitor experience officer

Weather



Recent Weather Reports From Kinross

January 2021

Total Rainfall	94.5mm/3.78in
Heaviest Fall	13.8mm/0.76in (13 Jan)
Total Sunshine	56.3 hrs
Sunniest Day	6.5 hrs (25 Jan)
Max Temp Average	3.58c
Highest Temp	9.1c (11 Jan)
Min Temp Average	-4.76c
Lowest Temp	-9.1c (23 Jan)

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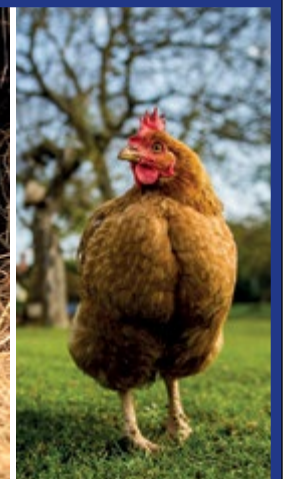
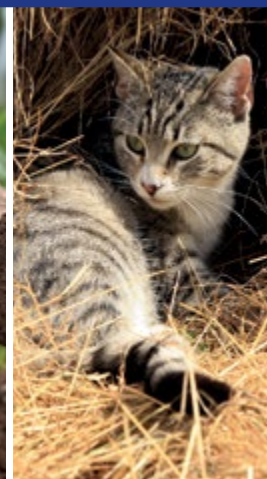

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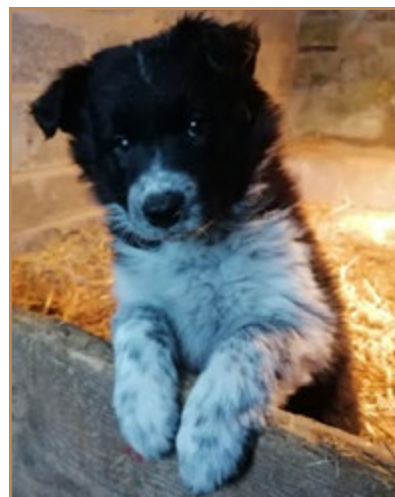
BY THE LIGHT OF the moon just before the winter solstice, we welcomed a new litter of pups to the farm. Liz, our faithful five-year-old black and white collie, bred by Neil Campbell, is the proud mum. Both of our collies are workers and live outside in straw bedded kennels; all they ask for is a warm bed, a good dinner and a bit of praise for all the work they do for us. They really are the most faithful team mates we could wish for. Liz is naturally a very easy-going collie and pretty chilled but, as the due date approached, we noticed the signs she was near to having the pups. We observed as she made a nest and moved about in slow motion. It can take a while, so we were popping in and out to check on her all the time but, unfortunately, we weren't on hand when the first one arrived at teatime and sadly it didn't make it. We missed it by minutes and couldn't do anything, but the second pup arrived very soon after, and with Liz being quicker to lick and attend to this one it started breathing on its own straight away. One hour passed until another pup made an appearance, this one was much smaller, definitely the runt of the litter weighing only eight ounces. The duo started to feed and we all wondered if that was it?

Liz is the older of our two collies and slightly cleverer than her deputy Jess so she was needed on the farm and gathered ewes for scanning until the week before her due date. She

lives for her work and loves being involved in everything we are doing but as her belly grew we kept her home for a rest and to get settled in her whelping box. Her belly looked pretty full so we had a feeling that after having just three puppies, she wasn't finished but maybe just exhausted. We retreated for a cup of tea and gave her a bit of time on her own. By the early

hours, however, with no more puppies delivered and after a phone call to the vets it was deemed that a scan would be helpful. Many thanks to Lisa who performed the ultrasound that showed two more puppies, thankfully still safe and sound in her womb. As a first-time mum, the whelping can take hours so a shot of oxytocin to help nature along a bit was administered and we set out home to wait it out with Liz a bit longer. Whether it was the trip to Milnathort, the moving about to and from the surgery or the oxytocin we aren't sure, but the family was complete by the time we were home, with both remaining puppies born within minutes of each other in the foot well of the Polo. My own niece arrived in the car on the way to hospital, an extremely traumatic experience for my wee sis and her husband, but Liz couldn't have been more relaxed and bounced out the Polo pleased with her efforts and to be reunited with the firstborns. As we left them to get to know each other and we made our way to bed we glimpsed a narrow waxed crescent of the moon. Luna seemed the most fitting name for the pup we are keeping and we are over the moon that one of Liz's offspring will join our team and be on the farm for many years to come.

Fiona



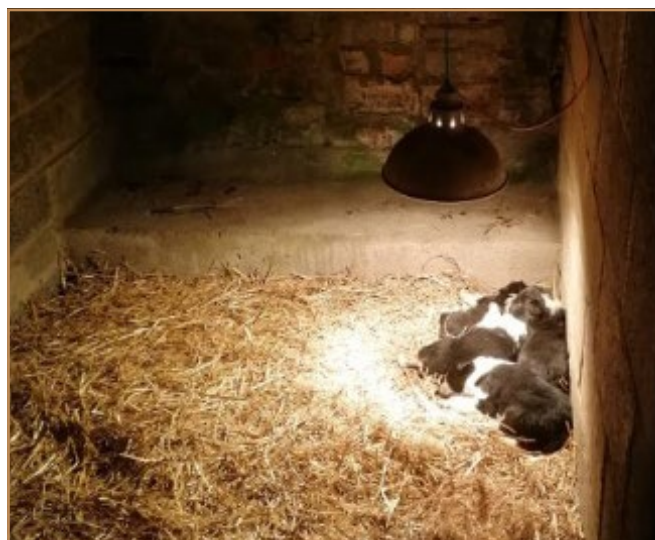
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The Church Office is operating remotely so please leave a phone message or email and we will respond as soon as we can.

Minister: Rev Alan D. Reid MA, BD Tel: (01577) 862952

Assistant Minister: Rev Kathleen (Kathy) Dain tel. 01577 862570

Ordained Local Minister: Rev Margaret Michie (01592) 840602

Session Clerk: Jaffrey Weir Tel: (01577) 865780

KEEPING IN TOUCH: If you have internet access, contact the Church Office to be included in our weekly email of events.

If you have no access to the internet, you can listen to our weekly service and daily prayer on the telephone or receive a CD of the service or a copy of the sermon (see below for details). You can also join in by phone with any of the meetings listed below on Zoom*.

KIN-NECTIONS: The new edition of the church's magazine for March – May is now available on the church's website. Printed copies will be delivered to the congregation once restrictions permit. Contact the Church Office if you would like a copy but are not on our delivery list.

CHANGES: The information below may change. Please check the church's website, Facebook, weekly email of Intimations, the notice boards at the church or contact the Church Office

Regular Services and Events:

Daily Prayer: Monday to Friday, a daily prayer from one of our ministers - 01577 528270 and press 2.

Sundays

10.00am: NEW: The Gathering: an informal 20 minutes of prayer, contemporary worship songs and interaction on Zoom* before the Morning Service.

10.30am: Morning Service. Available on Zoom* or as a live stream on the church website, YouTube and Facebook. Thereafter available to view on YouTube, Facebook and the church's website; from around 1pm, listen by phone on 01577 528270 and press 1; or request a CD or copy of the sermon from the church office.

11.15am: Virtual Coffee – fellowship after the Morning Service on Zoom*. **Replaced on 7 Mar by Communion arrangements below.**

6.00pm: Sunday Evening Prayer, on Zoom*

Mondays

8pm: House Group – Bible study and fellowship on Zoom*.

Tuesdays

1.45pm: House Group – Bible study and fellowship on Zoom*.

Wednesdays

10.30am: Midweek Service on Zoom*, with chat after.

12 noon: Mid-week prayers, livestreamed on Facebook.

1.30pm: Craft Group meet on Zoom*.

7.45pm: Men's House Group and **8.00pm:**

Women's House Group – Bible study & fellowship on Zoom*.

Thursdays

1-2pm Table Talk, on Zoom*. A chance to gather for conversation and coffee

Other Services and Events:

March

Mon 1: 8am: Silent Meditation. Guidelines for a period of reflective stillness published on Facebook

Tue 2: 7.15pm: Guild, on Zoom* - Andrew and Caroline Thomson-Blackhouse, Rossie Estate

Fri 5: 7pm: World Day of Prayer on Zoom* - Kinross-shire Churches Together. Details on KPC website

Sun 7: 10.30am: Morning Service includes Communion, live stream and on Zoom* (details in weekly email to members or contact church office)

Tue 16: 7.15pm: Guild, on Zoom* - AGM and Dr Spritley

Thurs 18: 9pm: late evening service of Compline livestreamed on Facebook

Sat 20: 11.30am: All Friends Together on Zoom*

Sun 21: 4.30pm: Café Church on Zoom*

***For Gatherings on Zoom:** see weekly email or contact the Church Office for link details

Cleish Parish Church

Church of Scotland

(Charity No: SC003168)

Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse BD (Hons)

Tel: 01577 842128

Email: estenhous@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Neil Maclure

Email: neil.maclure19@gmail.com Tel: 01577 864826

Please visit our website: www.cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk



Services for March 2021

at Cleish Parish Church, Cleish KY13 0LR

Unfortunately once again, due to the pandemic and current guidelines, both our Church buildings are closed at present.

We continue to keep in touch through our email network, phone and letter.

Our Sunday 'Zoom' worship services are continuing.

We will hold a joint service of worship by Zoom every Sunday at 10.30am (please note the new time).

Celebration of Holy Communion will take place by Zoom on Thursday 25 March at 7pm. All are welcome.

If you would like to join with us for any of the above please phone the Rev Lis Stenhouse, on 01577 842128.

Any changes to the current situation before next month will be announced on **our new joint church website:** <https://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk>

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(Charity number SC013157)

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www.cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk

Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse Telephone: (01577) 842128

Email: estenhous@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Mrs Janet Harper Telephone: (01577) 840225



Email: aclassicsoul@aol.com

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Celebration of Holy Communion will take place by Zoom on Thursday 25 March at 7pm.

If you would like to join with us for any of the above please phone the Rev Lis Stenhouse, on 01577 842128.

Any changes to the current situation before next month will be announced on **our new joint church website:** <https://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk>

Orwell and Portmoak Parish Church

Church of Scotland (Charity number SC015523)

Minister – Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Telephone: 01577 863461

Email: angusmorrison3@gmail.com

Website: www.orwellportmoakchurch.org.uk

Contact the Office: 01577 861200

Orwell Church remains closed for refurbishment until March 2021, and now Portmoak Church is closed again due to current Covid regulations. Please check the church website or Facebook page for further information should the rules change.

Online services are still being posted each Sunday morning and are available for the rest of the week. To access these, log on to the church website, as above, click on Online Worship and follow the link on the page. DVD versions of the service are available to those without internet facilities.

The Church Office and shop is still closed until further notice. The office email below is being checked, but less frequently than normal: orwellandportmoakchurch@gmail.com

St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church (Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)



Muir, Kinross, KY13 8AY

Fr David Mackenzie Mills, Rector.

Tel: 01577 863795

Email: frdavidkinross@gmail.com

You can also find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurchkinross

St Paul's is inclusive, friendly and welcoming to all age groups (whether regular churchgoers or if you're simply inquisitive about who we are and what we do.)

Friends of CHAS – Kinross Needs You!

Friends of CHAS Kinross, a local volunteer fundraising group, came together in 2020 to help raise funds for Children's Hospices Across Scotland. Their first fundraising initiative (an online raffle) was a resounding success, raising an amazing £2,500. Led by local entrepreneur Beth Gibson, the group are now looking for new members to help them plan their next fundraiser.

Do you enjoy meeting people? Making a difference? Planning fun and creative events? Then please think about Friends of CHAS – Kinross. They'd love for you to join them.

If you'd like to learn more about the group or are interested in joining, please contact community fundraiser Lyndsay Stobie at: lyndsaystobie@chas.org.uk or 07557 370746.

While the Covid-19 infection risk remains high and national lockdown restrictions are in place, services and events connected with St Paul's will continue online. Services will carry on being broadcast from the Meeting Room as livestreams via 'Zoom' and Facebook Live. Thereafter, recordings of these services will be available through the church website, Facebook page and YouTube. Our church bell will ring at 9.20am to signify that we continue to be present and prayerful in the community, despite our congregation's physical absence.

In the meantime, please be assured of our prayers and intercessions, especially if COVID-19 has directly affected you and your family. You are most welcome to contact the Rector by phone or email if there is anything that our community can do to help make this very difficult situation we all face any easier. We live in hope that this health emergency will become manageable enough for us to reconnect in person again as soon as safely possible.

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Events and Services in Lent

Although the church building cannot be open, we offer you an outdoor visual and tactile installation in the church grounds. We hope this provides comfort and reflection over the coming weeks.

Time For A Pause

Themes:

- Seeking drink for a parched soul
- Where are spring buds of peace in your World?
- What has the Climate Crisis go to do with me?
- Are we still thankful for our frontline workers?
- Facing up to the reality of our mortality

We also invite you to add a flower or two to a large wooden cross. It would be lovely if this were to become a cross of flowers in time for Easter. Thank you in advance!

March

Sun 7: Third Sunday in Lent

9.30am 'Virtual' Holy Communion

Wed 10: 9pm Compline (Facebook Live)

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Sun 14: Fourth Sunday in Lent (MOTHERING SUNDAY)

9.30am 'Virtual' Holy Communion

Wed 17: 9pm Compline (Facebook Live)**Sun 21: PASSION SUNDAY**

9.30am 'Virtual' Holy Communion

Wed 24: 9pm Compline (Facebook Live)**Holy Week****Sun 28: PALM SUNDAY**

9.30am 'Virtual' Holy Communion

9pm Night Prayer (Compline) (Facebook Live)

Mon 29: 9pm Night Prayer (Compline) (Facebook Live)**Tue 30:** 9pm Night Prayer (Compline) (Facebook Live)**Wed 31:** 4pm Service to commemorate the Dearly Departed

9pm Night Prayer (Compline) (Facebook Live)

Other activities throughout the coming season of Easter will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

St James' Catholic Church

5 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AW

Parish Priest: Father Martin Pletts. Tel: 01577 863329

www.catholickinross.comEmail: Fr.MartinPletts@gmail.comfacebook.com/parishpriestkinross/facebook.com/stjamesprayergroup/**Regular Services**

Mass Times and Devotions can be found on the website. Make your bookings as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Confirmation of bookings should be received within 24 hours, if not please contact Fr. Martin to check.

Parishioners are kindly reminded to wear a face covering and observe social-distancing and to leave church after Holy Communion to allow cleaning to take place. Confessions are available before or after all Masses, apart from before the 11am Mass on Sunday. A box is available at the back of the churches in order for you to deposit your weekly collections. Holy Souls lists will still be accepted from those who have not yet handed them in.

God bless, Fr. Martin

The weekly newsletter, Mass times, news and updates or changes can be found on our website.

Kinross Christian Fellowship

Jesus said, 'I am among you as one who serves.'

Sunday morning service at 10.30am (refreshments and blether at 10am), Millbridge Hall, Old Causeway, Kinross.

Lively praise (children participate), reverent worship open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, prayer, ministry and solid Bible-based preaching and teaching. An all-round family service for families, which includes Sunday School. Communion every second Sunday, as is our evening service at 6.30pm; a time for praise, worship, sharing and joy in The Lord Jesus. (Followed by light refreshments and more blether.)

Everyone is welcome to either service or to both, so please come and *taste and see that the LORD is good.*

Contact Peter on 01577 863509, for further information.

KCF also runs the Talking Donkey cafe. Additionally, the Friday evening Youth Group at the Millbridge Hall (Space) is also the responsibility of our Fellowship, and we are pleased to accept this privilege.

Death Notices**MACKAY, Edward Peter (Eddie)**

Quietly at home aged 73 on Monday February 15, 2021. Beloved husband of Liz, and wonderful father to Kara and Daniel. Funeral Service on Monday, 22 February 2021, please contact a member of the family for webcast information. Donations may be made directly to Brain Tumour Research in your own time.

Kinross Gospel Hall

8 Montgomery Street, Kinross

Regular services are still suspended.

We invite you to visit our website for short messages relevant to these strange times.

www.kinrossgospelhall.info

contact 0781 805 0785

Loch Leven Church**(Charity No: SC049050)**

Loch Leven Church is temporarily meeting online via Zoom, at 10.30am each Sunday.



Our current sermon series is called 'Finding Freedom' from Galatians:

- 7 Mar** Galatians 4:8-31: **A choice: slavery or freedom** – Tim Power(LLC)
- 14 Mar** Galatians 5:1-26: **Stand firm and free** – Fiona McDonald (Scottish Bible Society)
- 21 Mar** Galatians 6:1-18: **Living out the gospel** – Diane McWilliam (Cinnamon Network)
- 28 Mar** **Communion**

Everyone, of all ages, is very welcome to join the informal service; please just email us for the details to join in.

To be kept up to date, and find out more about us, please visit our Facebook page *We Love Loch Leven*, our website

www.lochlevenchurch.com, or email us at info@lochlevenchurch.com

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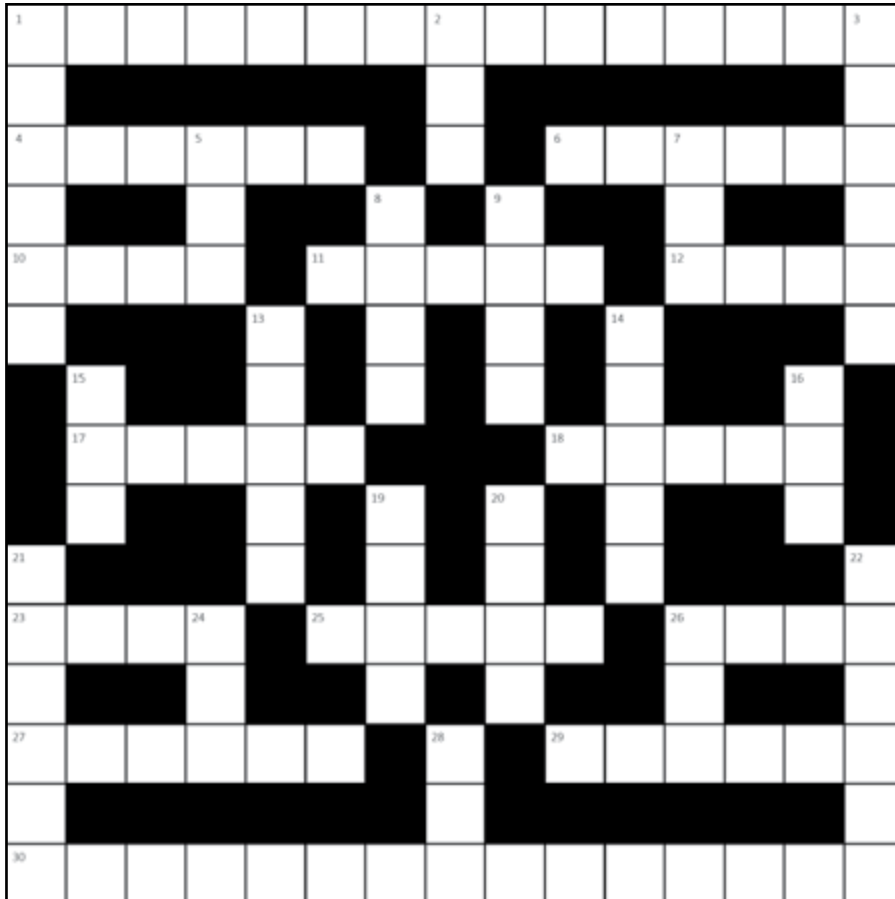


Puzzles

Welcome to our not-so-fiendishly-difficult puzzles page – enough to test your brain, not so much that it will explode from the strain. A moderately difficult sudoku and a Kinross-themed crossword should be enough to accompany your mid-afternoon cup of tea and shortbread.

KINROSSWORD

Test your local knowledge with our crossword, where a number of the clues relate to Kinross and the surrounding area. No prizes – just bragging rights for getting it right. Answers on page 15.



ACROSS

1. Building facing you at the end of Smith Street once used to be this (3, 7, 5)
4. The Rural Access Committee for Kinross-shire (6)
6. Served with ice-cream (6)
10. Green thoroughfare (4)
11. Loch famous for these brown fish (5)
12. Mary has one on the Heritage Trail (4)
17. Kinross Tower (5)
18. One of many local playparks (5)
23. The same place (4)
25. Old Marketplace structure (5)
26. Farm – for birds (4)
27. What the February snow thankfully did (6)
29. Name for 25 across (6)
30. New Kinross group concerned with water levels (5, 10)

DOWN

1. People trained to educate (6)
2. Winter weather problem (3)
3. Spring festival (6)
5. Popular fish (3)
7. Mist (3)
8. Horse gait (4)
9. Animal babies that are older than Beavers (4)
13. A green way to travel (5)
14. Loch pairs (5)
15. Female sheep (3)
16. Masters degree in Science (3)
19. Preserve (4)
20. Type of statue that Dr Mungle is (4)
21. Rice cooked in seasoned broth (6)
22. Amazing Kinross institution helping the elderly (6)
24. Very small circle (3)
26. Unit of electrical power (3)
28. Posh gravy (3)

S U D O K U

		7	8	4		5	1	
	1		5	9			6	
	4	5	1		7	8		9
		9		7	8		4	
5	8		4	1				7
		4			9	1		8
		8	9			3	7	
	9		7	8		4		
	5	1			4	9		



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Notices

Friends of CHAS – Kinross Needs You!

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If you'd like to learn more about the group or are interested in joining, please contact community fundraiser Lyndsay Stobie at: lyndsaystobie@chas.org.uk or 07557 370746.

Grants For Good Causes

Kinross Community Council Newsletter Limited (KCCNL), Charity No. SC040913



All profits from the *Kinross Newsletter* are transferred charitable company, KCCNL, and given away to local good causes. Groups and individuals are invited to apply to KCCNL for grant funding. Decisions on grants are made at two meetings per year. The deadlines for grant applications are:

31 March and 30 September

More information is available on the kinross.cc website. Applications may be downloaded from the website or obtained from the Applications Administrator, Barry Davies, Tel 01577 865004 or email barrydavies57@btinternet.com

Kinross Garden Group

2020/2021 Season

Thursday 11 March 2pm
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Rob Grindrod will talk about

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People who need help to identify and claim the right benefits or advice to help them to negotiate the benefits system in any way can access assistance from Perth Citizens Advice Bureau's 'Benefits Advice In Libraries' project in Kinross at Loch Leven Library. The service is available on Tuesdays by appointment only. Telephone the bureau on 01738 450581 to make an appointment.

Debt and Money Advice Service

Perth CAB has a team of specialist debt advisers. Advice is free, confidential, impartial and independent. To talk to a specialist debt adviser call 01738 450590 or email David Ogston (senior debt adviser) using the following email address: David.Ogston@Perthcab.casonline.org.uk

Newsletter Deadlines

More deadlines for the months ahead can be found on our website.

In very rare circumstances it may be necessary to change a deadline at short notice. Check the *Newsletter* website for latest information: www.kinrossnewsletter.org

Issue	Deadline	Publication Date
April	Friday 12 March	Saturday 27 March 2021
May	Friday 16 April	Saturday 1 May 2021

100th Birthday and Diamond Wedding Anniversaries

Do you know a Perth & Kinross resident who is celebrating their 100th or 105th+ birthday?

Do you know a Perth & Kinross couple celebrating their 60th, 65th or 70th wedding anniversary?

PKC can arrange delivery of flowers or for a local councillor to present a basket of flowers to the person or couple on their special day.

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Anyone who lives, works or studies in Perth & Kinross can become a member of PKCU and then save and/or apply for a loan. The aim is to encourage saving and responsible lending. Any profits are used to lend to other members at a fixed low interest rate with a repayment plan in place. All our savings and borrowing products come with free life insurance cover for most members.

Perth & Kinross Credit Union was formed in 2014, with its office in George St Perth. Volunteers have also manned sub-offices in the rural towns of Auchterarder, Crieff Kinross and Pitlochry. However, with the current restrictions, these rural offices have not been able to open. When restrictions are eased, it is hoped that the Kinross sub office will reopen every Tuesday to support local needs. Meantime the Volunteer Board who run PKCU were acutely aware that this still left extensive rural areas without easy access, particularly during this period of travel restrictions and perhaps with greater need.

PKCU has now solved this problem by offering our service online. All you need is a mobile phone and you join, save and borrow from the comfort of your own home. No need to go out in the snow or travel to Perth!

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To join, or just to find out more, please visit our website at: www.pkcu.org.uk. The PKCU main office is at 58-60 George Street, Perth PH1 5JL, or phone 01738 624872.

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Since its establishment in 2010, the Church Office has been provided administrative support across the range of KPC's ministries including hire of the Church and Church Centre. These duties are carried out by a paid co-ordinator and a team of volunteers.

Since March 2020, the office has become virtual and the current coordinator is working remotely. Like all jobs, the role has adapted and developed to meet the challenges of safely delivering what is needed; in this case focusing on supporting online worship, communication and fellowship, requiring acquisition of new, more technical skills.

Our current Church Office Coordinator is stepping down and we are looking to fill this key role. Do you have previous office experience, good IT skills, along with excellent organisational and communication skills and enjoy working with people? Until it is possible to return safely to the Church Office, the coordinator will work remotely and be able to adapt to changing situations. You will be a key point of contact for the congregation, community and beyond so, if you are talented in ensuring that an organisation runs smoothly and have a heart for getting alongside people and helping things happen, we would love to hear from you.

For informal enquiries, please contact Alice Getley on 01577 863395 .

Job descriptions and salary details available from Alison Brown by email at alisonmdollar@hotmail.com

Closing date for applications (CV with 2 referees) is **Friday 23 April at 12 noon** by email to alisonmdollar@hotmail.com

More information about the Church can be found online at www.kinrossparishchurch.org

Grants and Funding Websites

www.pkgrantsdirect.com

www.foundationscotland.org.uk

MindSpace Recovery College

MindSpace Recovery College runs free courses covering all aspects of mental health, co-delivered by people with lived experience, and are open to all.



Homes for Cats Wanted

Fife Cat Shelter, a Scottish Registered Charity, is always looking for homes for rescued cats.

Cats can be visited, by appointment, at Causeway Cattery, Scotlandwell.

Contact Rhona on 01383 830286.



Notices

Community Councils

Kinross: Chair: Lynne McKay, 01577 531076
Email: kinrosscommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Milnathort & Orwell: Chair: Craig Williams, 07885 722125
Email: craig@stovestuff.scot
Sec: Elizabeth Rougvie
Email: communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com

Portmoak: Chair: Graham Cox
Email: portmoakcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk

Fossoway & District: Chair: Trudy Duffy-Wigman, 01577 840669
Email: fossoway.cc@gmail.com

Cleish Sec: Patty Fraser, 01577 850253

& Blairadam: Email: cleishcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk

Kinross Community Councillors

David Colliar	10 Rannoch Place	01577 864037
Bill Freeman	64 Muirs	01577 865045
Lynne McKay (Chair)	5 Springfield Road	01577 531076
Thomas Stewart	Gellybank Farm	01577 864603
Malcolm McFarlane		07599 621583
Hannah Phillips		07591 228884

Portmoak Community Councillors

S McGregor	(Secretary)	
A Davidson	(Treasurer)	
Susan Forde		01592 840128
Graham Cox	(Chairman)	
Dave Morris		01592 840500

Have a look at our website: www.portmoak.org

Perth and Kinross Councillors Kinross-shire Ward

Cllr MIKE BARNACLE (Independent)
Tel/Fax (home): 01577 840516.
Email: michaelabarnacle@gmail.com
Website: mikebarnacle.co.uk
Moorend, Waulkmill Road, Crook of Devon, Kinross, KY13 0UZ

Cllr CALLUM PURVES (Scottish Conservative & Unionist)
Tel (office): 01738 475092. Mobile: 07557 812570.
Email: cpurves@pkc.gov.uk
7 Boreland Steading, Cleish, Kinross-shire, KY13 0LT

Cllr WILLIE ROBERTSON (Scottish Liberal Democrats)
Tel (home): 01577 865178. Mobile: 07909 884042.
Email: wrobertson@pkc.gov.uk
85 South Street, Milnathort, Kinross, KY13 9XA

Cllr RICHARD WATTERS (SNP)
Mobile: 07557 812513.
Email: rwatters@pkc.gov.uk
Applegarth, Sunnypark, Kinross, KY13 8BX

John Nicolson MP

Member of Parliament for Ochil and South Perthshire

Telephone: 020 7219 3000

Email: john.nicolson.mp@parliament.uk

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mrjohnnicolson>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/JohnNicolsonSNP>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/johnnicolsonmp>

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Perthshire South & Kinross-shire

Roseanna Cunningham MSP

Constituency office: 63 Glasgow Road, Perth, PH2 0PE
Telephone: 01738 620540

Email: roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot

Members of the Scottish Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife Region

All MSPs can be contacted at the following address:
The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Claire Baker MSP (Labour) Tel: 0131 348 6769
Email: claire.baker.msp@parliament.scot

Murdo Fraser MSP (Conservative) Tel: 0131 348 5293
Email: murdo.fraser.msp@parliament.scot

Dean Lockhart MSP (Conservative) Tel: 0131 348 5993
Email: dean.lockhart.msp@parliament.scot

Alex Rowley MSP (Labour) Tel: 0131 348 6826
Email: alex.rowley.msp@parliament.scot

Mark Ruskell MSP (Green) Tel: 0131 348 6468
Email: mark.ruskell.msp@parliament.scot

Liz Smith MSP (Conservative) Tel: 0131 348 6762
Email: elizabeth.smith.msp@parliament.scot

Alexander Stewart MSP (Conservative) Tel: 0131 348 6134
Email: alexander.stewart.msp@parliament.scot

Mobile Library Service

All Library services are cancelled for the foreseeable future

For more information, see: www.culturepk.org.uk/libraries
and click on 'Services in the Community'

Perth Samaritans

Need to talk? We'll listen.

Contact us by

phone: 01738 626666 or 08457 909090

email: jo@samaritans.org

or **visit** us at 3 King's Place, Perth, PH2 8AA

Mondays	1630 – 2130	Thursdays	1630 – 1900
Wednesdays	0830 – 1100	Fridays	1000 – 1630
and	1930 – 2130	Sundays	0800 – 2130

No pressure, no names, no judgment.

We're here for you, anytime.

Enquire

Are you looking for information about your child's rights to support in School? If so, contact **Enquire**, the national advice and information service for additional support for learning.

Enquire offer: a confidential telephone helpline and online enquiry service, practical guides, fact sheets and newsletters, helpful materials for children and young people with additional support needs.

For more information contact: Tel 0345 123 2303

Website: www.enquire.org.uk

Enquire is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Children in Scotland.