



Kinross Newsletter

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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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These prices are with effect from the October 2017 issue

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	<i>Eighth Page</i>	<i>Quarter Page</i>	<i>Half Page</i>
Black & White	£14.70	£29.40	£58.80
Colour (internal)	£25.50	£51.00	£102.00

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- Your name, address, telephone number and, optionally, email address.
- The wording of your advert.
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For full information on advertising in the Newsletter, including terms and conditions, please go to our website www.kinrossnewsletter.org and click on 'Advertising'.

The Newsletter reserves the right to refuse or amend any advertisement or submission and accepts no liability for any omission or inaccuracy.

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Letters

Editorial

The effects of the persistent blizzards at the end of February and beginning of March are mentioned in many reports in this issue of the Newsletter.

There were great examples of community spirit locally during the 'Beast from the East' and Storm Emma. Farmers helped clear roads for residents. Owners of 4x4 vehicles transported key workers to their place of work. Parents cleared playgrounds ready for schools reopening. Social media created some good; some children, upset at their huge snowman being deliberately destroyed, made new friends when others responded by rallying round for an impressive rebuild. And, of course, Kinross-shire had its own 'Call the Midwife' drama.

The severe weather brought important lessons, too, about food supply and the value of local shops; we would encourage everyone to read the excellent article submitted by Dave Morris on page 10.

Happy Easter from the Newsletter team!

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

Cllr: 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.

Any profits made by the Newsletter are given away to local good causes.

Community Website

For contact details of community groups, hall bookings, job vacancies, leisure and visitor information and much more, visit www.kinross.cc

Saved by farmers

Cleish, like many rural hamlets in Scotland, was cut off for three days this year at the beginning of so called "Spring." On Saturday 3 March we were set free by two of our local farmers, working tirelessly to clear not only the village roads, but also driveways and access tracks.

A huge and grateful thank you to John Buchanan and Scott Black, who between them allowed us to re-join the world.

Now, as the thaw begins, our next challenge is to relocate our horrendous collection of pot holes.

Tiggy Whitehead
Mawmill, Cleish

Snowfall thanks

May I, through the Newsletter, say a very big thank you to Jamie and Douglas Alexander who cleared snowdrifts from Gallowhill Road and elsewhere to allow us to get moving. Jamie was operating the machine and also checking on neighbours. A great act of kindness and generosity appreciated by all concerned.

Donald and Janet Wilson
1 Ladeside

Demand Responsive Transport

As Chair of Fossoway and District CC, I would like to react to Alison Hollis' letter about implied criticism of the DRT service. FDCC is **not** in any way critical of the service or of the people who provide this service. As a private individual I use DRT and I cannot find fault; the villages are very grateful to have this service. However, the DRT doesn't fully meet the needs of working people, who need to connect to a bus in the Park & Ride in Kinross, day in, day out and throughout the holidays. That is not the DRT operators' fault or their responsibility – it is the fact that no bus service is provided that connects in any meaningful way to other bus services.

If we care about the environment, if we want less cars on the road, cut our carbon foot print and make life safer and cleaner for all of us, public transport is a must in the 21st century.

Trudy Duffy-Wigman, Chair FDCC
Devon View, Crook of Devon

The Tullibole Trail

The Tullibole Trail thanks all who came at Halloween. We donated £1000 to the Rotary Club of Kinross & District. We also understand the Rotary made more or less a further £800 from the sale of food and drink.

However, the numbers attending last year meant we cannot justify making the Halloween event a yearly event. We may consider holding the The Tullibole Trail Halloween event in 2020 as it is something we really liked to do by way of giving Kinross-shire its own Enchanted Forest.

However, if you want to enjoy the Tullibole Trail this year and you have children aged 12 and under, come to WILDHOOD, a curated weekend of excitement and adventure on the weekend of 8-10 June. Experience an unplugged, safe and magical festival, celebrating nature, games, folklore, history, outdoors, traditional arts & crafts, dance and music – in a fairytale setting.

More information is available at www.wildhoodfestival.com

Rhoderick Moncrieff
Tullibole Castle, Crook of Devon

Loch Leven nominated for prestigious award

Public votes needed!

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and its partners have been nominated for a prestigious Natura 2000 award for work benefiting Loch Leven, its visitors, and the local community. The loch is one of four Natura sites nominated across Europe in the socio-economic category. SNH is encouraging those who enjoy Loch Leven to vote for it to win the coveted European Citizens' Award, in which the general public vote for their favourite award finalist. Votes may be cast at natura2000award-application.eu

The public vote is open until Sunday 22 April.

Francesca Osowska, SNH's Chief Executive, said: "We're thrilled with this nomination for the Natura 2000 Award, which shows that the work done with all of our partners over many years to improve the water quality, environment, and visitor experience at Loch Leven is top notch. The loch attracts over 200,000 visitors a year to see its wonderful wildlife and to walk or cycle along the circular trail."

Dr Linda May of the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH), who has led the Loch Leven monitoring programme for 25 years, added: "The enormous improvements in water quality at Loch Leven over the last 25 years have provided a better habitat for wildlife and increased its amenity value. The loch is now a world-leading example of the benefits to nature and communities of using scientific evidence to inform restoration and management decisions. We should all be very proud of what we have achieved."

Loch Leven has been recognised for its 21-kilometre circular Heritage Trail, which attracts visitors that contribute over £2 million to local businesses and provides significant social benefits. More than 85% of visitors strongly agree that the trail benefits their physical and mental health. The Heritage Trail mobile app and mobility scooters placed at various locations provide opportunities for visitors to access this very popular loch.

Another significant accomplishment which impressed the Natura 2000 judges was the long-term efforts made to improve the water quality of the loch. Historically, nutrient inputs from agricultural, domestic and industrial discharges degraded the lake's water quality. In 1992, this led to a devastating algal bloom known locally as 'Scum Saturday', which resulted in an estimated loss of £1 million to the local economy over the three months that followed. This was a real catalyst for action. Local people and organisations worked together to implement a plan that upgraded waste water treatment works, controlled industrial pollution and reduced agricultural diffuse pollution.

Partners in the project include The Rural Access Committee for Kinross-Shire (TRACKS), Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), Perth & Kinross Council, Kinross Estate Company,

Lockett Agri-Environmental, The James Hutton Institute, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), RSPB Scotland, and local farmers, Robin Niven and Angus Bayne.



The Natura 2000 Award ceremony will take place on 17 May 2018 in Brussels. The Natura 2000 Award is designed to reward excellence in the 27,000 Natura 2000 sites in Europe and showcase the value of the network for local economies. In total, the Natura sites cover almost a fifth of Europe's land and are an important part of the surrounding seas, making it the largest coordinated network of conservation areas anywhere in the world. The network of sites helps ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.



Better Place to Live Fair rescheduled

The **Better Place to Live Fair**, due to take place on Saturday 3 March, was one of the casualties of the 'Beast from the East', with the organisers reluctantly cancelling the event two days beforehand. It has since been rescheduled for **Saturday 9 June**. Organisers have been in contact with those who had applied for stalls at the original event.

Kinross-shire Decided

The '**Kinross-shire Decides!**' participatory budget event, due to take place as part of the Better Place to Live Fair, was rearranged for 10 March. Twelve projects had been short-listed by the Area Partnership to be put to a public vote for a share of £16,500 funding. The maximum that could be applied for was £2,000 per project. Following the public vote, the results were as follows:

	Organisation	Project	Amount awarded
1	Kinross & District Men's Shed	Photography project	£2000
2	Kinross Curling Trust	Lift project for wheelchair users to access the lounge	£2000
3	Community Learning and Development	SPARKS	£1865
4	NHS Healthy Communities	Recovery Café	£1952
5	Kinross-shire Community Sport Hub	Cycling Without Age: Ending Loneliness in the Elderly	£2000
6	Kinross Centre	Kinross Centre holiday	£1790
7	Kinross Colts FC Juniors	The Colts project Donaldson Park	£2000
8	Milnathort & Kinross Art Recovery	Milnathort & Kinross Art Recovery	£1940
9	Leigh Smith Cakes	Bake to escape (therapy for carers)	£410
10	KLEO	Inspiring and upbeat events for young people	£543
11	PKAVS Carers Hub	Learning and Fun for Kinross-shire Carers	0
12	The St Johnstone Community Trust (Saints in the Community)	Saints Opening Goals	0

Each member of the public taking part in the vote received three voting slips. 941 votes were cast.

The first nine placed projects received the full amount that had been applied for. KLEO had applied for £1500 and received a partial award of £543. The last two projects did not receive funding from the Participatory Budget event but council representatives said that the applicants would be helped to find other funding.

Kinross-shire is a Fairtrade County

Luke Graham MP for Ochil and South Perthshire



Since the last edition of the Kinross Newsletter, we have seen some extremely heavy snowfall in Kinross-shire and across Ochil and South Perthshire. I want to praise the fantastic work of the emergency services, farmers and anyone else who helped for everything they did to ensure that life went on as normally as possible.

This month, I was pleased to be able to visit 'Broke Not Broken', in Kinross. They do a fantastic job of providing a service to the people of Kinross-shire. They have an excellent network of working groups across the community – such as credit union, time exchange and Community Capacity – who work together to supply their specialist expertise to those who need it.

I was particularly impressed that they were not just providing a service as a foodbank, but were acting to reduce food waste by working with local supermarkets and grocery stores to develop a food exchange system and provide counselling support in the county.

I was pleased to see that Perth and Kinross Council passed their budget, in spite of the cuts imposed upon them by Edinburgh. I was particularly pleased to see the budget included additional support for rural communities. I will be working with council colleagues to explore further the options this presents for Kinross-shire.

The forthcoming Tay Cities Deal is another exciting opportunity for investment into Perth and Kinross, and so I was pleased to hear the Chancellor, Philip Hammond, reiterate the UK Government's funding commitment to the Cities Deal in the Spring Statement. I have lobbied hard for Kinross-shire and South Perthshire to be considered for investment and I am optimistic that we will see significant funding coming to Kinross-shire from the UK Government.

I have been pleased to be able to hit the ground running in 2018 and have already held a number of surgeries (twenty-seven at the time of writing) across Ochil and South Perthshire, including seven across Kinross-shire, with more to be announced for next month.

It is important to me that you have a choice of options for meeting with me, and so I have aimed to have a mix of street surgeries, to be as accessible to people as possible, and more private surgeries, so that you have the chance to discuss more personal issues should you wish to do so.

As always, if you have any issues or concerns, please contact me at my office on 2 Comrie Street, Crieff or by email at luke.grahamoffice@parliament.uk

Luke Graham MP

Chief Executive to retire

The Chief Executive of Perth & Kinross Council, Bernadette Malone, has announced her decision to retire at the beginning of July this year. Ms Malone has been in post for 15 years, following a long career in local government spanning back to 1990.

Parking charges in Perth go up

There will be a 10% increase in parking charges in all Perth & Kinross owned car parks and on and off street parking for 2018/19 in Perth. The increased charges will become effective on 30 April 2018.

PKC will continue to offer the first 15 minutes of parking free.

Our Portmoak – Discoveries from our Bronze Age, Iron Age and Medieval Past



Our Portmoak's funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland concluded at the end of 2017 and with that our programme of activities.

Anyone wishing to read about some of the highlights from the year, along with our publications of stories from the Portmoak area, should have a look on the Kinross Museum website: www.kinrossmuseum.org.uk. A detailed report from our archaeological programme is available there. Here we have summarised the main findings.

Thank you to all the volunteers who joined in and helped make the discoveries that have given such a wonderful and valuable insight into Portmoak's past.

Old Portmoak Chapel Geophysics Survey and Archaeological Dig



A geophysics survey at the Scottish Glider Centre guided us to excavate at the site of a possible man-made enclosure. Volunteers helped to reveal a previously unknown ditch that contained medieval pottery sherds. This ditch could be the remains of an early medieval monastic vallum around the old church site, which would be a significant find for the area's heritage.

Further post-excavation study and radiocarbon dating is being undertaken. Dates from these should help to clarify these findings.

Dunmore Fort Archaeological Dig

A test pit excavation was opened on Dunmore Hill above Portmoak to investigate the remains of a possible Iron Age hillfort. Teams of volunteers helped to uncover part of a previously unknown defensive wall and found remains of metal-working debris in the form of several slag nodules.

These discoveries demonstrate that the fort on Dunmore would have been a substantial one and of some importance. Radiocarbon dating is currently being undertaken on charcoal samples that were recovered during the dig.



Kilmagadwood Bronze Age Cemetery Geophysics Survey

With the help of some highly sophisticated geophysics technology in the form of a magnetometer, volunteers from the community investigated the area around the site of the 1946 discovery of a Bronze Age cremation urn. The site surveyed is also adjacent to where 23 further urns were discovered and excavated in 2013. The urns are thought to be between 3,500 and 3,900 years old.

The results of the geophysics survey included concentrations of magnetic spikes which may indicate the site of further cremation urns and pits.

Further investigation would be required to verify the findings.

The site is already recognised as significant in terms of its size and the variety and date of the urns that have been excavated.



Two of the urns excavated in 2013 in situ
Photo: David Munro

Portmoak Primary School and the Michael Bruce Cottage Garden Archaeological Dig

In collaboration with Portmoak Primary School and the Michael Bruce Memorial Trust, two excavation trenches were created to allow pupils, their families and members of the local community to take part in an archaeological dig.

Medieval pottery sherds were found along with a range of other post-medieval objects (pottery, nails, glass, clinker and roof tiles), which relate to the heritage of Kinnesswood before the school was built, and are evidence of the nearby limekiln sites and medieval settlement.

Many of the sites of historic interest across the Portmoak area and local finds and artefacts can be seen in detail on our interactive map at www.tinyurl.com/portmoakmap



Contact us for more information:

www.kinrossmuseum.org.uk

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Councillor Purves

Towards the end of February, the Council met to set its budget for the 2018/19 financial year. This was the culmination of a process lasting nearly five months, during which councillors from both the administration and opposition worked with council officers to determine their respective spending priorities for the year ahead.



Since 2010/11, the Scottish Government have made the political choice to reduce funding for local government in Scotland by around 10% in real terms. In their negotiations with the SNP, the Greens only managed to secure a 0.4% cash uplift in Perth & Kinross Council's budget in exchange for their support for the Scottish Government's budget.

At a time when pressures on local public services are increasing, this difficult financial settlement means that PKC is still faced with significant challenges. Our Medium-Term Financial Plan agreed towards the end of last year predicts that we shall have to make around £55 million of savings over the next five years.

This has also meant that we have been given no option other than to proceed with the planned 3% Council Tax rise that the SNP proposed in their indicative budget for 2018/19 last year. We have also had to look at raising charges in other areas to address our funding shortfall and get the budget to balance while still protecting our vital local public services.

The current way the budget works means that officers were tasked with bringing forward a variety of savings proposals in order to meet our savings targets. It is then up to councillors to decide which of these proposals they find acceptable and which they do not. This understandably led to some concern when officer proposals were published, many of which we would later reject.

For too long, in my opinion, PKC had been obsessively focussed on Perth and Perth alone. Expenditure and savings in recent years reflected this urban bias. The Conservative-led Partnership administration was very keen to address this and our first budget makes a real effort to do so by rebalancing the Council's spending towards our rural communities.

Our budget this year focussed on four key themes, which are priorities for our administration. The first of these was children and families. We rejected almost £5 million in proposed savings from Education and Children's Services and invested a further £900,000 for our young people.

This meant that we were able to protect fully primary school teachers, inclusion teachers who help children with additional support needs and educational psychologists,

while also maintaining English and maths class sizes for first- and second-year secondary school pupils at their current levels. The administration also protected the supply teacher budget, school crossing patrollers, parent council funding and swimming lessons for our primary school pupils.

In addition, we set aside £200,000 for targeted interventions to close the poverty-related attainment gap and a further £250,000 to support the introduction of a new digital learning strategy in our schools. Moreover, the administration is also committed to supporting those young people facing significant challenges in their lives and to that end we have invested £200,000 to support our young carers and a further £150,000 to support vulnerable young people at key transition points in their lives.

Rather disappointingly, however, when it came to supporting our children and families, the SNP's budget proposals were somewhat different. Unlike the administration, they proposed cutting £177,000 from the devolved school management budget, which our head teachers use to fund essential items such as textbooks, and they also proposed to reduce the wide range of opportunities that are available to our senior-phase secondary school pupils by cutting vocational courses and apprenticeships that are currently delivered by Perth College. In addition, they proposed significantly increasing the price of the Council's Instrumental Music Service to over £800 per child per year. Not only did the administration reject all of these proposals, we also further invested in the Council's own modern apprenticeship scheme and in widening access to the Council's Instrumental Music Service.

Our second theme was fairness and we committed over £1 million of funding towards making Perth & Kinross a fairer place in which to live and work. We have provided three-year funding for a wide range of organisations that look to tackle inequality and that support the disabled, ethnic minorities and those from more disadvantaged backgrounds. We were also able to protect this year's funding for Live Active Leisure, Horsecross Arts and Culture Perth & Kinross but have asked them to look at new ways to deliver their services in order to make anticipated savings in future years.

Furthermore, as many of you will know, health and social care is now delivered through an Integration Joint Board (IJB) formed of both councillors and NHS board members. This means that the Council no longer has to set its own social care budget but instead only has to determine a spending envelope for the IJB who are then free to spend this money however they choose. We decided to give the IJB the same 0.4% cash uplift that the Council received from the Scottish Government this year, which I believe is a fair settlement.

Our third theme was local infrastructure and we rejected over £4 million of proposed savings from the Environment Service, which would have had a disproportionate impact on our rural communities. We were able to protect the winter maintenance budgets for our footways, fully reject proposed cuts to community green space and grounds maintenance,

continues over page...

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www.kinrossnewsletter.org

Issues from September 2006 to two months ago available

Councillor Purves continued...

and keep our street cleansing budget at its current level. We were also able to reject 90% of the proposed savings to Council-supported bus routes.

As well as rejecting this wide range of savings, we have been listening to our constituents and have been able to put aside money to fund their priorities. The Partnership administration is fundamentally committed to giving our communities more say in the decisions that affect them. Our new £1.2 million community investment fund, which will provide money for each ward in Perth & Kinross to fund local priorities, is a big step in this direction. Local elected members, community councillors and the wider community will be involved in determining exactly how this money is spent.

In addition, we have set aside £600,000 for road safety measures, including money for more of the effective vehicle-activated signs and to introduce more 20 mph speed limits and zones. We have also set aside £300,000 for the development and expansion of footpaths and cycle networks in our rural communities. Furthermore, we have listened to local residents concerned about major housing developments, particularly those in Kinross-shire, and provided funding for two additional planning enforcement officers with additional responsibility for tree protection.

There was also a significant contrast between the administration and opposition budgets in the area of local infrastructure. While the administration proposed keeping Kinross recycling centre open seven days a week, the SNP proposed reducing its opening times to just four days a week, which would have been a nightmare for local residents and

businesses alike. Moreover, they proposed taking £370,000 out of the winter maintenance budget, which would have meant a 20% reduction in the roads network coverage by gritters. This is a vital service, particularly when we have severe weather on the scale that we experienced last month. I am glad the administration was able to block this proposal. Our fourth and final theme was that of rural economic development. This aimed to give our rural communities the support that they deserve and which they have missed out on for so long. We committed £1 million of funding for a number of initiatives. We have invested £300,000 to support the expansion of our rural businesses, including the creation of a microfinance fund. We have also committed £200,000 to improving our town centres with money both for improving building facades and for better co-ordination between local businesses and other organisations. In addition, we have set aside £100,000 to provide start-up funding for recurring events in our rural communities to attract visitors from outside the local area.

I believe that this is a budget that demonstrates the Conservative-led Partnership administration that now runs PKC is listening to our constituents. We have protected the essential local public services on which our constituents rely while also shifting the focus of the Council back to our rural communities – something that is well overdue. I am looking forward to seeing many of the investments that we have made making a real difference to our communities in the months ahead.

Councillor Callum Purves
Scottish Conservative & Unionist

Nursery time ... and the living is healthy

Children from Rosemount Nursery recently enjoyed a healthy breakfast laid on by local store Giacopazzi's as part of a 'Promoting Healthy Eating, Healthy Choices' project run in conjunction with Healthy Living Scotland.

Leading the learning experience was Kathryn Neil from Healthy Living Scotland.

Rosemount is one of the first nurseries to work with this government programme. Nursery principal Louise Smart

emphasised the importance of grounding an early interest and understanding of healthy food options. She said: "We enjoyed a fantastic morning working in partnership with Healthy Living Scotland. The children were busy making fruit kebabs, embarking on a healthy food treasure hunt and rewarding their hard work with a snack of wholesome porridge!"

"We would like to thank Giacopazzi's for facilitating this for us and we look forward to sharing the in-store recipes with our parents."



Elsa Zank and Danny Hodge, age 4



Finlay Mitchell, Ailish Walls and
Danny Hodge, all age 4



Examining the fruit display



Icy adventures in snow-bound Kinross-shire!



Blizzards and local shops

As recent blizzards and snow drifts blocked the A911, many local people discovered a strange new phenomenon in their neighbourhood – their local shop. With access to supermarkets denied to most, a trip to the local shop on ski or foot became a necessity and a pleasure. Kinnesswood shop and Lochend Farm shop remained open throughout, with Loch Leven's Larder also opening once they had returned from some frantic baby delivering duties. Local farmers and their tractors became the main source of vehicle activity on the roads as abandoned vehicles were dug out of drifts before normal traffic flow was restored as the Council snowploughs returned to business.

Local shops were well stocked in anticipation of the blizzards, but re-supply was difficult – 4x4 trips to cash and carry facilities became essential as demand soared. On Friday 2 March, takings in Kinnesswood shop were 460% above the average for a Friday, with big increases also evident on the other three days of road closure. But what happens when the snow melts and life returns to normal?

On 13 March it was reported to Portmoak Community Council that Kinnesswood shop will close unless more people make more purchases. Turnover is too low and it is only surviving at present through cross-subsidy from the garage. Many of those who made purchases during the snow were not regular customers. Some were astonished to find it sold eggs etc! And at prices comparable to the supermarkets. If only a reasonable proportion of these "new" customers made a pledge to spend a bit of money each week in the Kinnesswood shop, it will survive. Otherwise, come the next blizzard, many will find the alternative is an arduous journey to and from Milnathort on foot or ski for bread and milk. Meanwhile, we can even get a coffee and a chat while trying to decide what soups, cakes, birthday cards etc to buy alongside the bread, milk and newspaper in Kinnesswood! Use it or lose it is the main message from this winter's blizzards.

Dave Morris, Kinnesswood

Kinross-shire's snow baby

A Kinross-shire woman who went into labour while snowed in at home had a happy outcome after the community rallied round to help.

A plea was made to a Facebook community group, asking if any local midwives could help Ashleigh Lisa at Wester Balgedie. This was 2 March, when many roads around Kinross-shire were closed due to huge drifts of snow.

Local farmers came to the rescue by bringing off-duty midwives to Ashleigh's home by tractor, just as the labour was reaching a critical phase.

Later that day Ashleigh posted on Facebook: "What an incredible community we live in!"

"Baby boy is here safe and sound after a terrifying home birth which was only possible thanks to you all!"

"Thank you to our amazing neighbours, friends, midwives, ambulance and police services who walked, dug and ploughed their way to us!"



Above: Full shopping bags for anyone on foot or ski in Kinnesswood

Below left: Spectacular icicles in Kinross High Street, 2 March

Right: Kinnesswood shop owner David Buchan relaxes after his latest expedition to the cash and carry



Councillor Watters

Near the end of February, the Tory-led administration budget was passed through Council with only the SNP putting up an alternative prospectus.



In this era of austerity, the Conservatives abandoned their pledge to raise Council Tax by 1%, which they said before the election, and instead raised it by 3%. The budget also delivered the £25 Brown Bin charge and will apply two price rises to this, which means a Brown Bin permit will cost £35 in two years' time.

Unfortunately, and worryingly, the administration budget also slashed half a million pounds from the education budget for secondary school teachers. Perth & Kinross Council currently sits high up on the leader board of Scottish councils for education. However, these cuts will jeopardise this and have a knock-on effect to the educational attainment of our children.

The SNP budget worked to minimise any need for redundancies within the council. In comparison, the Tory-led administration's budget will see cuts in 'Regulation Workforce' (welfare, environmental health and food safety) and within Business Support staff (customer services, planning, fines, licences, permits), along with the aforementioned cuts to teacher numbers. At this stage we have not heard any specific information on the exact number of redundancies and what effect these losses will have on the council's operations.

At the main Council meeting on 7 March there was a healthy debate on the 'Corporate Workforce Plan' and some of the risks to 'skilled staffing' currently posed within the council. It was disappointing that, two weeks earlier at the budget, training budgets within a number of key council services were cut by up to 30%, including Environmental Services, Democratic services and IT. This shows a distinct failure to 'Invest in the Future'. These cuts will not only impact on staff morale and staff retention but will make it more challenging for council staff to provide efficient services to the public.

Within the SNP budget we proposed a significant increase in the road maintenance budget to £5 million over the next three years to help deal with the continued issue of potholes, along with money specifically set aside to help develop tourism in Kinross-shire.

I believe there is a clear difference emerging in the Council between the SNP's record of careful financial management and the current administration, who have on a number of occasions dipped in to the council's reserves, including to fund their 'pothole' policy, which was supposed to improve the pothole problems. Financial reserves are an essential fund which should be maintained for emergencies and severe weather.

Also, only a couple of weeks ago, the Tories tried to get the council to agree paying a Tory councillor thousands of pounds extra per year to which he was not entitled! The councillor was removed from the convenorship of a committee, but the Conservative group put forward a motion allowing him to keep part of the salary solely reserved for convenors. The SNP forced them to withdraw this dubious proposal.

Councillor Richard Watters

**Deadline for all Submissions
5pm, Friday 13 April
for publication on Saturday 28 April**

Coal Porters Backstage

The Coal Porters will play Backstage at the Green Hotel on **Sunday 6 May** as part of their seventh UK tour.

The band has two exciting new additions: Paul Fitzgerald on banjo and Adele's fiddler Kerenza Peacock.

The Coal Porters have been playing acoustic music since 2002. Their unique combination of folk/indie/bluegrass/Celtic music demonstrates the power of fiddle, mandolin, banjo, acoustic guitar and doghouse bass when matched with sweet harmonies set against strong melodies.

Their most recent album, *No. 6*, is produced by John Wood, the legendary British folk-rock mastermind who recorded the classic albums of Fairport Convention, Squeeze and others.

The performance on 6 May is at 8pm, with tickets costing £18. For more information, see www.mundellmusic.com



*The Coal Porters
Photo: Chico Vaughn*

Charity coffee shop open for summer

The popular charity coffee shop in Quarrymill Woodland Park, Perth, has opened for the 2018 season.

The Macmillan Coffee Shop has opened every summer since 1991 and over this time has raised over £950,000 for the Cornhill Macmillan Support Group to help cancer patients in the Perth and Kinross area.

The coffee shop serves delicious lunches and home baking. The outlet also sells greetings cards and gifts.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at the coffee shop, please contact Margaret Rains on 07983 729324, or email macmillancoffeeshop@yahoo.co.uk

The coffee shop is open Mondays to Saturdays, 10am until 4.30pm, until 20 October.

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Ian Mackay 01577 864751

High School site sold for fraction of original offer

Perth & Kinross Council sold the former Kinross High School site to Persimmon Homes for less than a third of the amount originally offered by the developer, it has emerged.

An investigation by reporter Paul Cargill of the Perthshire Advertiser revealed that, in 2012, PKC selected Persimmon Homes Ltd as the preferred bidder for the seven-acre site on the basis of an offer of £3,505,000.

This offer followed the second marketing of the site. The first marketing, immediately following closure of the school in October 2009, failed to secure a purchaser after negotiations between PKC and Sainsbury's failed. The supermarket withdrew in summer 2011.

The offer in 2012 by Persimmon was said to be "substantially higher" than the offer made by the only other bidder at the 2012 closing date, Dundas Estates & Development Co Ltd.

However, at a meeting of PKC's property sub-committee held in private in December 2015, a report to councillors indicated that Persimmon was seeking "deductions" following the developer's failure to gain planning consent for the building of 102 houses on the site in May 2014.

The PA is still attempting to gain access to a full copy of the sub-committee report under Freedom of Information legislation rather than a 'redacted' copy. However, the newspaper did manage to

find out, through intervention of the Scottish Information Commissioner, that the final sale price paid by Persimmon was £1,049,962.

Persimmon had originally wanted to demolish all the high school buildings, including the Edwardian building fronting the High Street, and full demolition was part of their planning application considered in 2014. Historic Scotland and others raised objections and, in revised planning proposals submitted in 2016, the developer included a scheme to convert the Edwardian building to four dwellings. Persimmon also reduced the total number of dwellings it was proposing to build on the site from 102 to 91. This application was approved by PKC.

The site had an allocation of 70 dwellings in the Local Development Plan as adopted by PKC in February 2014.

A Council spokesperson told the PA: "The offers originally received for the site were gross offers, as is normal for residential development sites.

"All of the offers received were subject to deductions, which would have been taken into consideration, to be made for developer contributions for the planning consent and abnormals (site clearance, preparation for building) due to site and ground conditions.

"The deductions could only be calculated after site investigations were carried out. This was not a greenfield site

and, therefore, required considerable expenditure to prepare the site for the new development, including the demolition of the buildings on site."

Kinross Community Council discussed the PA report at its March 2018 meeting. A few days later the CC wrote to the Head of Legal at PKC "... to ask for clarification as follows:

1. Was Persimmon Homes selected as the preferred bidder on the basis of a bid of £3,505,000?
2. Did the Council eventually sell to Persimmon Homes for £1,049,962?
3. Why did the Council sell to Persimmon for such a greatly reduced price?
4. Did the Council consider remarketing the property in the light of Persimmon's wish to greatly reduce their offer?
5. Did the Council consider reverting to the previously second-highest bidder following Persimmon's attempt to negotiate a considerably lower price?
6. Kinross Community Council was told by ward councillors when the Loch Leven Community Campus project was in its infancy that the old High School site would have to be sold to help pay for the campus. How has PKC managed the consequent £2 million hole in its budgeting?"

The CC also asked for unredacted copies of the relevant PKC committee reports. The request is being dealt with under Freedom of Information legislation.



*The former Kinross High School site today
Persimmon paid just over £1 million for the site, after originally offering more than £3.5 million*

Councillor Robertson

Council Budget: Like all Councils, the budget process for Perth & Kinross has been a difficult one. The Council administration wanted to protect the services that our citizens depend on and I think this has been done. We also wanted to redirect Council spending away from a Perth-centric approach and wanted more emphasis placed on spending on rural areas. One of the main new initiatives is the establishment of a ward based community fund, which is something I have wanted to see for a number of years; please see below.

Ward Based Community Fund: As a councillor, I know how hard it can be to get funding to carry out small improvements in our area. Also, local groups often struggle to get financial support for projects or matched funding to support their activities. This is why I have always been keen to see a ward based fund established. It has now been agreed at the recent budget meeting that £50,000 will be allocated to Kinross-shire per year over the next two years. How this money will be allocated will be decided by Kinross-shire community councils in conjunction with the four Kinross-shire councillors. Council officers are currently working on the exact funding criteria. I am hopeful that this fund will make a substantial difference to Kinross-shire and help us all to 'get things done'.

Coventry Place & Avenue Road: The residents of Coventry Place and Avenue Road have been waiting patiently for repairs to be carried out to the steps and walls here. I have been chasing to get these works done and have been assured that the repairs will be done later this Spring.

Potholes: Following the winter, many of our roads are in a terrible condition with potholes appearing everywhere. The Council is working flat out trying to get these holes repaired.

Junction 6 M90: Crossing the M90 at junction 6 can be a dangerous manoeuvre for both cyclists and pedestrians. I have asked the Council to contact Transport Scotland and request that they take steps to improve the roundabout here and make it more cycling and walking friendly.

Winter weather: The worst of the winter weather is now past and we can all look forward to better weather. Many of our rural roads were kept open during the worst of the snow because of the hard work of local farmers. Also, I noticed that many people cleared their pavements and those of neighbours less able to do so. This is all a great example of the great community spirit we have in Kinross-shire, which is so important in times of extreme weather.

Councillor Willie Robertson



Councillor Barnacle

Revenue Budget Debate, 22 February 2018

At the debate, I focused on the Environment Service, giving credit to the sterling work done by my fellow conveners, Cllrs Stewart and Purves, in protecting that budget and proposing additional expenditure.

I had written to PKC administration leaders in November last suggesting a number of budgetary concerns within the Service and was really pleased that most of them were addressed in the partnership's budget motion.

I particularly mentioned full reinstatement of the budget for Recycling Centres to ensure current facilities remained in place (SNP proposals advocated a four-day service in the rural areas), along with full reinstatement of the budget for Winter Maintenance to maintain the current level of footway and road network treatment (although I acknowledge the need for improvements). We also fully reinstated the budgets for Grounds Maintenance that had been a proposed cut by officers.

In my Autumn submission, I had noted the need to maintain the Community Greenspace budget and increase support for Bloom Groups and we managed to do this.

I have long called for the restoration of the footpath budget (set at £325,000 when frozen around 2008/09 with the SNP's council tax freeze having its effect) so the additional £300,000 in 2018/19 will really help address the list of requests (no SNP proposals for this).

The Planning Service clearly needed extra resources and I am pleased we've been able to find extra money for planning enforcement and tree protection, areas that needed strengthening (not recognised in SNP proposals).

The budget for ditch management at road verges has been protected (although it's insufficient) and we have found additional money for road safety measures of £300,000 for both 2018/19 and 2019/20, without borrowing for same, which will help delivery of Route Action Plans (we have three in Kinross-shire to progress). Furthermore, I had suggested restoring the recently lapsed and popular budget for adopted road schemes at £50,000 and so am pleased we have found a top-up for these (unlike the opposition).

I'm not a fan of the nationalist Greens but pressing the SNP Government to put extra money into local authority budgets has helped for this 2018/19 financial settlement, which is a much improved outcome on what we were facing at the end of 2017 when no budget headroom was seemingly available (it always seems to magically appear by the end of the budget process).

Finally, much has been made by the SNP of the administration's decision to implement the charge for brown bin garden waste collections (£25 per annum in 2018/19 that was their previous budget decision, going to £35 per annum in 2019/20 and £50 per annum in 2020/21, subject to a review of the charging scheme). It is important to realise that this is not a PKC statutory responsibility and some areas don't get the Service but they may in the future, subject to our review!

Councillor Mike Barnacle

Vice Convener of Environment & Infrastructure



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Tented pop-up designer sale

County Fabrics and Voyage team up to offer bargains in fabrics, furniture and homeware

Kinross-shire lovers of fabrics and homeware will want to get their diaries out to ensure they don't miss a fantastic event coming up in May.

County Fabrics at Crook of Devon will be offering huge discounts on their amazing range of designer fabric

remnants and short ends, while at the same time Glasgow-based company Voyage will be in a marquee with an equally impressive range of ex-display bargains across furniture, homeware, soft furnishings and wall-art.

For crafters there is a special bonus; County Fabrics is teaming up with CHAS to swap end-of-line designer fabric books for donations to the charity.

The event takes place daily 10am to 4pm from **Thursday 3 May to Sunday 6 May**. It will be a great early summer's

outing for the family with refreshments and ample free parking.

Ian Dykes from Voyage said: 'It's fantastic to be in this partnership with our old friends at County Fabrics and to be putting up our marquee. It will be full of wonderful ex-display and discontinued items across our Voyage Maison range, just waiting to be discovered. Between County Fabrics and Voyage you will be able to transform your home in one unique bargain hunt. Don't miss it!'

Everyone attending the event will receive a discount voucher for use in County Fabrics over the summer.

County Fabrics is located in a former watermill on the outskirts of Crook of Devon.

Voyage's innovative fabric, furniture and homeware will be on display at the special pop-up sale at County Fabrics



Garden Waste Charge

Article submitted by Broke Not Broken

Over the past few weeks, we have approached several of our political and public service representatives regarding the Garden Waste Charge.

Our concern resides in the understanding that £25 is a significant sum for many of the people we see each week and who collect food parcels to see them through after falling on hard times, being sanctioned or finding it difficult to make ends meet.

We communicated with Perth & Kinross Council, several Councillors, our MSP and our MP. We asked why there were currently no payment options for the charge, and no plans to waive it for those in receipt of benefits or on a low income. It is worth noting that we have **NOT** questioned the introduction of the charge, just the lack of concessions or payment options for the most vulnerable in our community.

We received a reply from everyone we applied to, although some have just referred the query on. Here are some of the responses we received which we

feel the Newsletter readership may find interesting:

"There will not be an option to make alternative payments other than that detailed in the letter. The £25 reflects charges introduced by neighbouring authorities and this has been judged to have been fair. We will also require a one-off payment as means of splitting the payment would result in additional administration, monitoring and management and would defeat the purpose of introducing the charge leaving the council to reconsider the service."

Malcolm Reid, Community Waste Education Officer

"There are no provisions in the new charging scheme to help people on low incomes cope with this added cost."

Councillor Willie Robertson

"Unfortunately, there is no provision for waiving or means testing the charge or for allowing for it to be paid in instalments."

Councillor Callum Purves

We met with Luke Graham MP and

asked him about the options for payment of the Garden Waste Charge. His comment was that anyone currently receiving 'Garden Maintenance Scheme' would not be liable to pay the fee. This scheme is open to Perth & Kinross Council tenants aged 65 or over and tenants under 65 and are physically disabled also qualify. It is worth noting, however, that this scheme does have its own charge: £98 per year, payable in advance with your weekly rent.

Many of the responses went to great lengths to defend the introduction of the Garden Waste Charge, a charge that will raise £840,000 for PKC. Again, we are not questioning the introduction of the charge. We do, however, have an issue with the unwillingness to offer a payment scheme or waive the fee altogether for those on benefits or on low incomes.

We will be continuing to pursue this issue through the Community Council, and other means, and would welcome your support.

Annie McCormack
Secretary, Broke Not Broken

New!

Mum-to-mum support in Perth & Kinross



A group of mums from Perth and Kinross have launched an innovative text message support service to help other new mums in their communities.

Breast Buddies are a group of breastfeeding mums who are trained to volunteer as peer supporters with Home-Start Perth. They are funded by the Community Innovations Fund (NHS Tayside) and the Scottish Government's Maternal and Infant Nutrition Fund to provide support and information for new mums who wish to breastfeed.

Eight out of 10 mums stop breastfeeding before they want to, putting them at a much higher risk of postnatal depression. With better support and information, they may have felt able to continue to breastfeed.



Hannah Dalgety, Breast Buddies Coordinator with Home-Start

One mum said: "The support provided by the volunteers is brilliant, I don't know what I would have done without them, they helped me see that I was doing a great job and that, despite it being hard at times, breastfeeding is so worth it!"

Hannah Dalgety, Breast Buddies Coordinator said: "We know that many mums actually want to breastfeed for longer and we hope that through contact with a volunteer peer supporter we can help them do this. Through

this new project mums who wish to breastfeed will receive a text message from a peer supporter in the early days when



they come home with their baby. You can speak to her, or text back, about any concerns you might have or to find out any information you need to help you feed and care for your baby."

NHS Tayside community midwives are working together with volunteers on this project and are enthusiastic about having extra support for mothers in the area.

Additional High Street crossing rejected

A proposal by Perth & Kinross Council to install a pedestrian crossing at the south end of the regenerated section of Kinross High Street will not go ahead.

In response to some concerns raised about the safety of pedestrians, PKC officers had suggested a Puffin crossing on the High Street just north of its junction with Montgomery Street. However, the suggestion has not met with widespread support.

A council spokesperson said: "After carrying out consultation, it is evident that there is not a desire by the community as a whole, for the installation of a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of the High Street. A loss of parking and repositioning of the bus stop were the main reasons cited for opposition of the proposal and therefore, having consulted with the Elected Members, we have decided not to take this project forward."

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Credit Union reassurance

Following reports in the media about North East Scotland Credit Union Ltd, Perth and Kinross Credit Union Ltd has moved to reassure its members and the local community.

North East Scotland Credit Union was declared in default and the FSCS is starting to compensate its members.

David Hutcheson, Chair of Perth and Kinross Credit Union, said: "Perth and Kinross Credit Union Ltd is not affected in any way by events at North East Scotland Credit Union."

"Each of the almost 330 credit unions in Britain is a separate financial co-operative, owned and controlled by its members, so events at any other credit union do not affect us."

"We continue to work hard to provide the best possible services to our members, providing affordable loans and safe savings. New members are always welcome."

"Perth and Kinross Credit Union Ltd is regulated by the Financial Services Authority and covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, so the first £85,000 of a member's savings are completely safe."

Credit unions are financial co-operatives, registered under the Co-operatives and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. They exist to promote thrift amongst their members, provide a source of affordable credit and promote financial education.

See page 53 to learn more about PKCU.

News from the Health Centre



April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

Scotland fares the worst in the UK for bowel cancer, with the highest incidence and highest mortality rate. This means that more people develop and die from bowel cancer in Scotland than elsewhere in the UK. Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in Scotland after lung and breast cancer. Every year, almost 4,000 people are diagnosed with the disease and 95% of the cases occur in those who are over 50. The Scottish Bowel Cancer Screening programme aims to detect bowel cancer at an early stage when there are potentially more treatment options and a better chance of treatment being effective. People between the ages of 50 and 74 are invited for screening every 2 years, but only about half of those sent a testing kit actually complete and return it. The home screening test is the best way to find bowel cancer early. The screening test can spot hidden blood which can often be a sign of bowel cancer – blood you and your doctor wouldn't even know was there.

We would like to encourage everyone who is sent the home screening test to complete it. The bowel screening test was updated in October 2017 so is now even quicker and easier to use. Just one small sample is now required rather than three. We know it is all a bit embarrassing, but it is well worth just getting on and doing it. It can be completed at home in privacy and then popped in the post. This is perfectly safe and it is free to post the test to the Scottish Bowel Screening Centre laboratory.

If you would like more information, there are lots of leaflets in the Health Centre and you can ask your GP or nurse for advice. Information can also be found on the following website: www.nhsinform.scot/bowelscreening. There is also a Freephone Patient Helpline Number for Bowel Screening: 0800 0121 833.

Local band play at King Tut's

On the back of their successful headline gig at Edinburgh's Torchlight Festival, Hypocrites, fronted by Kinross High School student Joey Lawrence, were invited to play the world famous King Tut's Wah Wah Hut in Glasgow. Although a much smaller gig than Torchlight, it was a big step into the mainstream, following in the footsteps of some of the biggest UK bands of recent times including, Oasis, Biffy Clyro, Radiohead, Blur, Travis, and Pulp amongst others.

As headliners, the youngsters played a forty-minute set of both old and new songs, finishing with old favourite, 'If You Come Home' to rapturous applause.

In the summer, the band are looking to do a small UK tour.

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Elizabeth Smith MSP for mid Scotland and Fife



In March, most of Perth and Kinross was battered by extreme weather and I for one can't remember the last time we had so much snow this late. Heavy snowfall and gale

force winds brought our transport infrastructure to a grinding halt, closed hundreds of schools and seriously impacted vital services like hospitals and care providers. Everyone enjoys a snow day or two, but dealing with the clean-up following this weather will now place significant strain on our already stretched public services.

In times like this, the dedication of NHS staff and emergency service workers is humbling. In Glasgow, a surgeon walked for nearly three hours in snow and blizzards to perform a bowel cancer operation. Without the dedication of people like this, our public services would not function anywhere near as well.

Nonetheless, many will question how it got to this point and whether more can be done to plan for extreme weather events. Unfortunately, climate change means that other worldly weather will become more commonplace and relying on the "blitz spirit" to combat this is not a long-term solution. Whilst it wouldn't be financially prudent to invest in snow clearing equipment like Nordic countries, there are legitimate questions over how we plan for extreme weather and I would call on the Scottish Government to reflect on their policies and how they can be improved.

Ultimately, when the weather gets bad we rely on our local authorities to make roads and paths safe. Snow ploughs and gritters are essential for clearing transport arteries, however in March, their work was augmented by hundreds of Perth and Kinross residents armed with nothing more than a snow shovel. Following a call to arms from the Scottish Government, many local people spent their weekends digging out schools and health centres. Once again this was community spirit at its very best, and I am sure that teachers and parents across the region would like to thank them for their efforts.

The work of local authorities in providing services during inclement weather is vital but many will now face additional costs as a result of this. Dealing with the aftermath of Storm Emma will leave town halls across the country short-changed and it's important that we continue to properly fund local government.

Liz Smith MSP

As ever, Liz appreciates the feedback from constituents and can be contacted at the Control Tower, Perth Airport, Scone, PH2 6PL or via email at Elizabeth.Smith.msp@parliament.scot or via telephone at 01738 553 990.

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Community radio project lifts off

Kinross-shire FM

Following the article in last month's Newsletter, the fledgling project to start up a community radio station Kinross-shire FM now has over 30 volunteers keen to get involved. Originator of the project, Sam Dick, said: "Thank you Kinross-shire for your fantastic response! (I'd expect nothing less from the amazing people of Kinross-shire!) It's fantastic to see such enthusiasm for Kinross-shire FM."

It has been decided to start the project as soon as possible and broadcast online rather than waiting for OFCOM licensing processes. This means that the start-up costs are considerably lower. Just £5000 would pay for all the equipment needed to broadcast online.

The community radio station would be run as a non-profit venture. It would provide social gain to volunteers and the wider community and offer training and work experience opportunities.

There is a Crowdfunder page for the project and anyone who would like to see a Kinross-shire community radio service is encouraged to donate. See box at right.



For more information:

Visit: www.kinrossshirefm.co.uk/

Donate: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/kinross-shire-fm

Email: sam@kinrossshirefm.co.uk

Lest We Forget Reflections on the Great War

There is a rolling exhibition at the Kinross (Marshall) Museum on the Great War, telling of some of the events and people of 100 years ago. The museum display is adjacent to the library within Loch Leven Community Campus. The information displayed below is courtesy of the Museum.

First World War Timeline, April 1918

- 9th Germany launches second offensive at the Battle of Lys
- 14th Marshall Foch appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces on the Western Front

Kinross-shire Roll of Honour, April 1918

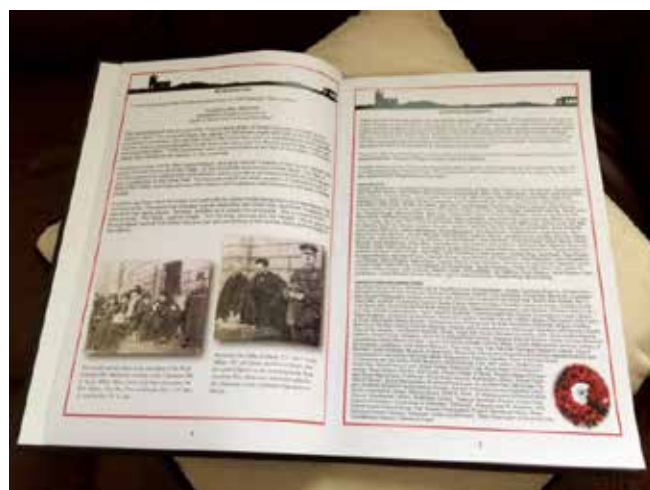
- 6th **John Walker** was a Private in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 100 Bn, when he died aged 22. He was the son of Janet Walker, High Street, Kinross, and the late John Walker. Private Walker had been on leave in Kinross just a month before his death. He is buried at Bienvillers Military Cemetery, France.
- 11th **John Soutar**.
- 14th **James Heggie** was a Private in the Gordon Highlanders 7th Bn when he died at the age of 18. He was the son of James and Annie Heggie of Swarland, Kinross. Private Heggie is commemorated on the Kinross and Glenfarg Memorials and on the Ploegsteert Memorial in Belgium. Private Heggie was a member of the West Church, Kinross.
- 18th **James McBain**.

Perth Academy's Flowers of the Forest

For the past three years, some pupils and staff from Perth Academy have been engaged in the school's 'Flowers of the Forest' project, to produce a commemorative book to honour those from the school who contributed to the Great War.

The book has now been produced. It is in three sections: A Roll of Honour, A Roll of the Fallen; and Biographies of

the Fallen. Pages of the book may also be viewed on Perth Academy's website. (On the home page, look for an icon of a clock tower and click on the one titled 'Perth Academy War Memorial'.) There is a search function to assist those seeking an individual. Three years ago the Kinross Newsletter published an appeal from Perth Academy for any descendants of **Peter Tyrie Duff** to get in touch. The Academy had hoped to obtain a photograph of 2nd Lt Duff for the commemorative book. 2nd Lt Duff had lived in Milnathort and attended Orwell Parish School and Perth Academy. Although no photograph of 2nd Lt Duff was obtained, there is a full page devoted to him in the Perth Academy commemoration. This gives a brief biography, extracts from a war diary for his regiment and a photograph of his gravestone at Houchin British Cemetery. We congratulate those involved in the project at Perth Academy for producing such a beautiful and detailed memorial.



The commemorative book produced by Perth Academy

Spring at Kinross Learning Centre

If you're travelling abroad this summer and want to brush up on your language skills, French, Spanish and Italian classes are running at various levels at the Learning Centre. And for those holiday photos, there is a new Photography course focussing specifically on outdoors (weather permitting!). The programme also includes a range of arts and crafts, and a brand new 'Get to Grips with Social Media' course, covering Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Make Money and more.

To find out more or book a place on any of these courses, contact Maureen Ross at the Learning Centre, 15 Swansacre, KY13 8TE, Kinross, email pc.kinross.perth@uhi.ac.uk, or call 01577 863863.



Course	Start Date	Time	Weeks	Cost
LANGUAGES				
Spanish Beginners 2	Tues 17 April	7 – 9pm	10 weeks	£80
Spanish Improvers	Tue 17 April	4.30 – 6.30pm	10 weeks	£80
Basic Everyday French	Thu 19 April	7 – 9pm	10 weeks	£80
French Improvers	Wed 18 April	10am - 12noon	10 weeks	£80
French Intermediate	Tue 17 April	1 – 3pm	10 weeks	£80
French Advanced	Tue 17 April	10.30-12.30pm	10 weeks	£80
Italian Beginners 3	Tue 17 April	7 – 9pm	8 weeks	£65
Italian Improvers	Tue 17 April	4.30 – 6.30pm	8 weeks	£65
Italian Advanced	Thu 19 April	10am – 12noon	10 weeks	£80
Gaelic Beginners 2	Wed 18 April	7 – 9pm	10 weeks	£80
Get set to Learn – Maths, English and more for all	Thursdays	12.30 – 2.30pm	ONGOING	FREE
IT				
Get to Grips with Social Media	Mon 30 April	7 – 9pm	8 weeks	£65
Get to Grips with your Computer	Thu 19 April	2 – 4pm	8 weeks	£65
ART				
Textile Screen Printing	Thu 19 April	10am – 1pm	8 weeks	£80
Watercolour Painting	Mon 16 April	10am – 12noon	10 weeks	£80
Painting with Acrylics	Wed 18 April	1 – 3pm	10 weeks	£80
CRAFTS				
Upholstery	Wed 11 April	4.30 – 6.30pm	10 weeks	£90
Upholstery	Wed 11 April	7 – 9pm	10 weeks	£90
Sew Smart – Sewing, Mending, Altering, Recycling, Tailoring	Tue 17 April	7 – 9pm	10 weeks	£90
Learn to use your own Sewing Machine	Mon 16 April	2 – 4pm	6 weeks	£50
Stained Glass Intermediate	Sat 7 April	10am – 12noon	8 weeks	£65
Stained Glass Improvers	Thu 5 April	2.30 – 4.30pm	8 weeks	£65
Floristry for Spring & Summer	Fri 11 May	10am – 12noon	6 weeks	£50
Cake Decorating: Novelty Cakes	Tue 24 April	10am – 12noon	4 weeks	£45
Cake Decorating: Wired Flowers	Tue 22 May	10am – 12noon	4 weeks	£45
GENERAL INTEREST				
Photography: Taking Better Outdoor Pictures	Wed 18 April	7 – 9pm	10 weeks	£80

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Crimes of note

Between Sunday 25 and Tuesday 27 February, **two Motocross Motorcycles were stolen** from a secure car garage to the rear of a property on Stirling Road, **Milnathort**. The motorcycles were a Honda CRF 25cc, predominantly red in colour, and a KTM 350cc, predominantly orange and white in colour.

Between 10.15am and midday on Friday 23 February 2018, a black Volvo XC60 motor car was parked on Green Road, Kinross, next to the Green Hotel and opposite the entrance to the new housing site at the old High School. This car was subject to a **Hit and Run incident** with substantial damage sustained.

Televisions were stolen from **Kintronics**, 167 High Street, Kinross, between 1.40am and 1.50am on Friday 23 February. A vehicle was seen leaving the area shortly after the incident with boxed televisions placed within its open boot.

If any person has any information regarding the above, please contact PC Dougie Stapleton on 101.

Spring

We are now into the better weather and all keen gardeners will be in full swing for the upcoming summer months. Let's all ensure that gardening equipment and tools are safely secured within garages and sheds when not in use. These items are much sought after and can at times be easy pickings for thieves.

Police Scotland – local community

Telephone 101 for non-emergencies

Community officers for Kinross-shire:

PC Atholl Spalding and PC Douglas Stapleton.

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

Community Sergeant (Kinross-shire): **Sgt Robert Hogg.**

Community Inspector for Perth South (Strathearn, Strathallan & Carse of Gowrie, Almond & Earn, Kinross-shire): **PI Kevin Chase.**

Ways of following the Police:

Twitter: @KinrossPc or twitter.com/policescotland

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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.

Roseanna Cunningham MSP for Perthshire South & Kinross-shire Royal Bank of Scotland

Ms Cunningham has written once again to RBS asking the bank to provide further detail on the statistics used in their determinations on whether to close or retain Royal Bank of Scotland branches. Ms Cunningham said: *"When the closure of the Royal Bank branches in Comrie and Kinross and others across the country was first announced, RBS justified their decision by quoting customer branch usage figures which were only nationwide so I asked them to provide figures on a branch by branch basis as I was certain that they would show a very different picture in some areas, particularly those branches serving rural communities."*

"The RBS backtrack announcement which gave a reprieve to 10 branches, including Comrie, included some very welcome localised information which confirmed my suspicions but I think that there is more information that could be provided that would paint an even more accurate picture of the importance of rural branches, in particular."

"I want RBS to look into this matter further and provide accurate figures detailing the actual usage and the number of transactions for each branch."

"I have also urged RBS to undertake further analysis and reconsider their position on the 52 branches still listed for closure such as Kinross and Perth South Street as well as those like Comrie under temporary reprieve."

Retirement of Bernadette Malone

Following the announcement by PKC that Bernadette Malone intends to retire from the post of Chief Executive at



the beginning of July, Ms Cunningham paid tribute to Ms Malone's contribution, saying:

"Bernadette Malone has been at the helm of Perth & Kinross Council for the last decade and a half and in that time has overseen many changes, playing a key role in some major achievements along the way, not least securing the reinstatement of Perth's city status in 2012."

"Bernadette has also been a pioneer and trail blazer for women in the higher echelons of local government administration, one of the first women to be appointed to the position of Chief Executive of a Scottish local authority."

"I want to thank Bernadette for her commitment, dedication and service to the people and communities of Perth and Kinross and to wish her all the very best for whatever the future holds following her retirement."

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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 March Meeting

Present at the meeting held on 7 March 2018 were: CCLrs B Freeman, (Chair), E Thomas (Secretary), J Bryson, D Colliar, D Cuthbert, B Davies, I Jack and D West; P&K Cllrs C Purves and R Watters; and five members of the public (MoP). Lynne MacKay was also present and was co-opted to the CC during the meeting.

Apologies were received from CCLrs M Blyth and T Stewart; and P&K Cllrs W Robertson and M Barnacle.

Co-option of Member: PKC CC Liaison had been in touch to say that a valid nomination had been received, for Lynne McKay. CCLr West proposed that Mrs McKay be co-opted to the CC. This was seconded by CCLr Cuthbert and unanimously agreed. Lynne was welcomed to the CC.

Police Report: No police present and no report received.

Kinross Hockey Club proposal for KGV Playing Fields: Gurdial Duhre, President of Kinross Hockey Club, was present to explain the club's proposals for a piece of land at KGV Playing Fields between the artificial pitch and the back of houses on the Muirs. The club would like to "take responsibility" for this for three reasons: (i) health and safety, (ii) to enhance the sport facility; and (iii) to prolong the life of the pitch.

The piece of land would become part of the artificial pitch compound and would be fenced off to prevent general access. Some grass would be replaced by an artificial permeable surface. The existing high fence would be replaced by a lower spectator fence. A shed may be erected.

The health and safety benefits are: no more walking on dog faeces with possible transfer of same on to the hockey pitch; creation of a spectator area off the pitch; no bags left at the side of the pitch. The enhancements are: creation of a warm-up area off pitch; scope to create dugouts for kit and subs; creation of spectator area; storage facility for equipment. The pitch life would be prolonged by: reduced mess coming on to the pitch; absence of bags on pitch; reduction of maintenance requirements for Kinross Astro and PKC, as there would be less grass to mow; reduction of grass minimises debris being blown on to the pitch during mowing.

The CC asked some questions. Mr Duhre was asked if the club would be paying rent for this piece of land. He replied that the fields are owned by PKC and leased to the KGV Playing Fields Association. The hockey club sub-leases the area on which the artificial pitch stands from the Association. The hockey club is looking to extend the area of the sub-lease and have agreement from the KGV Playing Fields Association. CCLr Davies asked if the club had considered creating a spectator area on the east side of the pitch instead. Mr Duhre replied that the rugby club was not agreeable to this. CCLr Thomas noted that the club had applied to the Kinross CC Newsletter charitable fund in 2015 for funding towards the new artificial pitch (with £2,000 being granted.) However, at that time, the project made no reference to a "phase II" development. Mr Duhre replied that there had been no plans for a phase II at that time. CCLr Thomas noted that the documents sent to the neighbouring properties referred to there being "four or five" trees on the site, with consideration being given to their removal. She pointed out that there are actually six trees in the area concerned. Mr Duhre said only one tree is now being considered for removal.

The hockey club has contacted the neighbours affected and received some feedback. The next stage is to seek the support of hockey club members at their AGM in May. Mr Duhre was thanked for his attendance.

Muirs Defibrillator Funds: CCLr Davies now has details for the Scottish Ambulance Service account to which the surplus funds should be transferred. He will supply these to the Treasurer, CCLr Jack.

Community website kinross.cc: The CC received a response from the Kinross-shire Partnership (KP). The CC has discussed possible ways forward for funding and management. It was agreed that the CC should request a meeting involving some CCLrs and some KP directors.

Kinross Common Good Fund: It is now possible for common good fund committees to have a non-voting community representative member. CCLr Thomas was proposed by CCLr Jack and seconded by CCLr West.

War Memorial Railings: CCLr Colliar awaits a reply from PKC regarding a site meeting.

M90 Fencing: A response from BEAR Scotland was read out. Part of it said: "The M90 at this location is subject to safety inspections at seven day intervals. In addition and following notifications from landowners regarding deterioration, we have completed a full inspection of the boundary fence on the M90 to identify and prioritise areas requiring maintenance. Defects identified during each inspection are categorised accordingly and programmed for repair within timescales defined within the Term Maintenance Contract with Transport Scotland, subject to available funding.

"Should any individual wish to report a specific trunk road defect they may do so via Transport Scotland's Freephone Customer Care number, 0800 028 1414, or through BEAR Scotland's website under the 'report a defect' function." Motorway information signs are managed by Traffic Scotland (TS). It was agreed to query the loss of electronic motorway sign prior to entering the M90 south from Kinross to TS.

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A member of the public mentioned huge potholes on the M90. This is a BEAR Scotland responsibility.

CC Finance/wreaths: The Treasurer has still not received payment for wreaths from the Girl Guides or Army Cadets. He recommends not purchasing a wreath on their behalf in future. Cllr Freeman will speak to the cadets.

Matters Arising from Previous Meetings without Update:

- **Recycling:** Does PKC export any of its recycling matter?
- **Ninewells:** When does current car parking contract at Ninewells Hospital expire?

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS): The CC agreed to put forward the following suggestions: One on Muirs, near Loch Leven Leisure, facing north to slow traffic coming from Milnathort; Two on Springfield Road, one in each direction; One on entrance to Kinross near the auction mart; One on Station Road, just after the roundabout at the junction of Springfield Road on the way into Kinross.

Cllr Watters reminded the CC that, as learned at the traffic modelling, traffic lights can be made to stay on red longer if traffic is travelling too fast. This could be more effective than a VAS in some situations.

Kinross Town Centre Regeneration: Since the last CC meeting, reflective strips had been stuck to the granite bollards in the level surface area around the former Town Hall. It was acknowledged that these are required for safety purposes, however Cllr Thomas expressed the opinion that the strips look hideous and that the granite bollards were a design failure from the beginning of the project. Cllr Davies also said the design was a disgrace. A MoP raised the question: "How many problems had there been on the High Street before the regeneration project?"

The secretary wrote to PKC's Chic Haggart on 19 February suggesting single-lane traffic controlled by lights at the Town Hall area while development of the building is underway. No reply has been received yet. Cllr Barnacle wrote to Chic Haggart on 12 February suggesting that a review of the shared space scheme is required. No reply has been received yet as far as the CC is aware.

There was some discussion regarding the metal bollards near the Salvation Hotel, with Cllr Colliar stating that one of them causes larger vehicles difficulty in using Avenue Road. The CC had been copied into some emails regarding Avenue Road and Talla Park. Cllr Robertson was taking the lead on this and was not present.

New Planning Applications: No comments were made on the following:

18/00285/FLL Erection of garage, workshop/store and carport, Oak Brae, Hatchbank, Kinross.

18/00248/FLL Erection of replacement garage, 29 Muirs, Kinross.

Planning Applications Determined by PKC:

18/00155/FLL and **18/00156/CON** Part demolition of buildings, erection of 2no. dwellinghouses and 6no. flats and associated works, former Kirklands Garage, 10 High Street, Kinross. Application Withdrawn.

18/00053/FLL Alterations and reinstatement of window, Royal Bank of Scotland, 55 High Street, Kinross. Approved.

17/02199/LBC Alterations to wall, the Walled Garden, Burnbrae, Kinross. Approved.

17/002260/ADV Display of signs, the Co-operative, 54-56 High Street, Kinross. Approved.

17/02273/ADV Display of sign, land 300m NW of Lathro Farm, Kinross, for Springfield Properties plc. Approved.

Other Planning Matters

Former Kinross High School site: A copy of the bond between Persimmon and PKC is now on the planning portal under reference 16/00255/FLM along with a copy of the schedule of works for the Edwardian building. This appears to indicate that the rebuilding and renovation should be complete by mid July 2018.

An article in the Perthshire Advertiser of 6 March 2018 revealed that the end price paid for the site by Persimmon was a little over £1million, whereas Persimmon's original bid had been over £3.5million. Member of the public Ken Miles had written to the CC requesting that the CC seek accountability from the Council. He said this is another topic that requires scrutiny. Cllr Jack reminded the CC that when the new campus project was put forward, the CC was told that the old High School site would have to be sold to help fund the new campus, but that the Council expected to get £3million for the site. The CC asked the Councillors for comment, but only Cllrs Purves and Watters were present, and they had not been Councillors at the time of the former High School site disposal.

It was agreed that the CC should write to PKC's Head of Legal to ask for clarification. The PA journalist had obtained a document through FoI but the reasons for the price reduction had been redacted. Cllr Cuthbert said the transaction is now complete and so should no longer be secret due to commercial sensitivity. The CC should also ask how the consequent hole in the PKC school estate budget is being managed.

Cllr Cuthbert informed the CC that one of the new-builds at the former High School site is 1.5metres higher than in the plans that were part of the planning consent. Consequently a house at 27a Alexander Drive is overlooked. Cllr Robertson has submitted a letter on behalf of all the ward councillors to Eddie Jordan, Enforcement Officer, about this.

Planning Correspondence

Planning & Development Training Workshop: Sat 28 April at the North Inch campus. Cllr Thomas might attend.

Green Park Play Area Survey is open until 31 March and all with an interest in this park are encouraged to complete it. Cllr Thomas has publicised this on Facebook. The CC asked ward councillors to check what has happened to Persimmon's contribution to the Green Park play area. This had been a condition of the consent for the former High School site housing development.

Cllr Watters has received a suggestion that the Davies Park requires upgrading. This would probably not happen until 2021/22.

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Balado Quarry: Planning application 17/01441/MWM will go before the PKC's planning committee on 14 March.

Licensing: No applications.

Correspondence: Over 30 emails had been received. Most had been circulated to the CC and a summary provided.

Reports from Ward Councillors: Cllrs Purves and Watters mentioned certain items from the administration and opposition proposed budgets drawn up recently. [See pages 8 and 13.]

Cllr Cuthbert pointed out that, in Fife, only the administration proposed budget is published and six months is allowed for comment. He thinks that is a more sensible method. Cllr West commented that a certain press report published prior to the PKC budget debate was deliberate scaremongering. Cllr Purves agreed that the way PKC conducts the budget process creates uncertainty.

Cllr Purves mentioned a £1.2million Community Investment Fund. He will let the CC know when the relevant paper comes before a committee.

Cllr Davies mentioned the intended retirement of PKC's Chief Executive, Bernadette Malone. Cllr Purves explained that three administration and two opposition councillors will consider internal and external candidates.

Other Business

Brown-lidded bins: When the new permit system comes in, neighbours may share a garden waste bin if they agree.

Primary School: Cllr Cuthbert wonders if there will be a formal opening or open day for residents. A MoP said there is an accumulation of rubbish along the school fencing.

Gritting of Paths: Cllr Cuthbert thinks there are inconsistencies regarding which pavements are cleared in the event of snow. Cllr Watters agreed to ask for a route plan of what is supposed to happen.

Homecare: Cllr Cuthbert is aware of the homecare system failing an individual badly recently. Various options are supposed to be available under Health and Social Care Integration. Cllr Purves will find out more.

Action Partnership Participatory Budget (PB): Cllr Cuthbert reported that KLEO applied for PB funding. KLEO received an email rejecting the application, saying it did not meet the criteria. A KLEO representative then received a phone call saying it was a mistake and was given the opportunity to explain more about the project. However, others who are rejected don't know why. Cllr Cuthbert said the Cricket Club would never apply again following their experience. Kinross Primary Parent Council (KPPC) are waiting for feedback but

Cllr Bryson's understanding is that KLEO's proposal was very similar to KPPC's, yet KPPC's was not short-listed. It appears that actions which caused upset last year are being repeated. Cllr Thomas again commented on the timescale of the process. If the application deadline and consequent arrangements had been at least a month sooner, a description of the short-listed projects could have appeared in the Newsletter, raising awareness and encouraging turnout. The CC will write to Keith McNamara.

Cllr Cuthbert said he had applied in December to fill a vacancy on the Action Partnership and has not even received an acknowledgement.

Snowploughs: Two members of the public present complained that Douglas Crescent had not been visited by a snowplough until several days into the recent snow event. Cllr Jack said the B918 did not see a snowplough and was dealt with by tractors etc. Cllr Purves explained the category system of road priorities. The repeated return of snow meant that snowploughs had to keep returning to the priority routes as they became covered with snow again. Residents said even a grit box would help. Cllr Purves noted this. More grit boxes generally would be useful. [Post meeting note: Cllr Davies suggests the SSE Resilient Communities Fund could be a source of funding for grit boxes.]

The Next Meeting of Kinross CC will take place on Wednesday 4 April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall, Muirs, Kinross.

Draft agenda for the meeting on 4 April

Apologies. Declarations of Interest. Minutes of Previous Meeting. Police Report. Matters Arising. Kinross Town Centre Regeneration. Planning Matters (including applications 18/00401/FLL and 18/00402/CON, part demolition of buildings, erection of 2 houses and 6 flats at former Kirklands Garage). Licensing. Correspondence. Reports from Ward Councillors. Other Competent Business. Date of Next Meeting and AGM (2 May 2018.)

Note: Members of the public are welcome to suggest items for discussion by the CC. Members of the public are welcome to contribute to discussion at CC meetings, but if wishing to address the meeting on a specific issue, please advise the Secretary in advance and supply a copy of any relevant documentation.

Secretary: Eileen Thomas, 50 Muirs, Kinross, KY13 8AU

Telephone: 01577 8636714

Email: KinrossCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk

Kinross CC minutes and agendas are posted online at:

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Milnathort Community Council News from the March Meeting

In attendance at the meeting held on 8 March 2018 were: CCLlr C Williams (chairman); CCLlr K Heneghan (secretary); CCLlr E Kirkham (treasurer); CCLlrs S McHardy, M Leach and C Lawson. CCLlr Caroline Flory (vice chairman) joined the meeting at 8.25pm. Also in attendance were: P&K Cllrs W Robertson and C Purves; minute-taker Elizabeth Rougvie; Sgt Robert Hogg and PC Dougie Stapleton of Tayside Police and 11 members of the public. Apologies were received from P&K Cllrs R Watters and M Barnacle.

Police matters: PC Stapleton reported that two motor bikes had been stolen in Milnathort between February 25 and 27. He reminded members of the public to ensure items of value were secure and to call the police on 101 should they see anybody behaving suspiciously and note the registration of any suspicious vehicles. PC Stapleton went on to express frustration about the number of drivers who had ventured out during the snow despite being advised not to. Between eight and 10 vehicles had been abandoned between Scotlandwell and Kinross. He also paid tribute to the farmers for their efforts during the bad weather and in particular for helping a young woman who had gone into labour while trapped in her home by snow.

Minutes of the last meeting: Proposed by CCLlr Kirkham and seconded by CCLlr Heneghan following clarification of the situation regarding the trustees of Donaldson Park. At the last meeting, CCLlrs, with the exception of CCLlr McHardy, agreed that they did not want all five trustees replaced. CCLlr McHardy pointed out that there were only three at present. A lengthy discussion followed during which it was confirmed that the solicitor checking the legal position was doing so free of charge and was not an employee of PKC. In any case, planning permission for a pavilion in Donaldson Park had already been granted so to oppose it now was fruitless. Members of the public had been given their opportunity to object. Cllr Robertson advised a member of the public affected by the pavilion plans that he would get a new garden fence erected.

Matters arising: CCLlr Heneghan reported that he has taken action on the following issues:

Parking restrictions on South Street: PKC have been advised that MCC did not want the double yellow lines replaced outside the businesses in South Street.

Tree trimming in Donaldson Park: PKC have been made aware of the discussion that took place at the previous MCC meeting.

Tillywhally Wood improvements: Milnathort in Bloom, MCC and Scottish Natural Heritage are to meet on site with a view to taking this project forward.

Speeding buses: A complaint from a local resident has been passed on.

MCC notice board in South Street bus shelter: This has been repaired as well as possible at a cost of £17.50. However, there is a problem of condensation on the inside.

Green routes: PKC have been advised of the MCC's support of establishing a green route from Milnathort-Netherton-Glenfarg and have been asked if other green routes could be created.

Primary school: Cllr Purves advised that he had asked the convener of the Lifelong Learning Committee about the possibility of building a new primary school. However, a review of the council's schools estate was still being carried out and no decisions will be taken until June.

Vacant secretary post: CCLlr Heneghan has now resigned as secretary of the MCC after two years and no-one will be appointed until PKC have advised on the election and recruitment process and the appropriate action has been taken.

Planning matters: CCLlr Lawson reported on the following: Applications approved:

- Alterations to wall at The Walled Gardens, Burnbrae.
- Alterations at 1 Arlary Steadings.
- Change of use and alterations to store to form four houses in Old Perth Road.
- Extension to house at 13 Reid Crescent.

Applications submitted:

- Erection of a house (revised design) at Mawcarse Farm.
- Alterations to house at 27 Old Perth Road.
- Erection of a replacement house at 17 North Street.

Noted.

CCLlr Lawson advised that he had set up a link on the MCC website should anyone wish to comment on a survey being carried out by Planning Aid Scotland about future planning.

New matters and correspondence:

Rumoured budget cuts: In answer to questions by CCLlr Lawson, Cllr Robertson said there were no plans to withdraw funding for school patrol crossing officers. It had been proposed in the council's budget but rejected. Likewise, a proposal to cut recycling centre opening hours was also rejected.

Correspondence: CCLlr Heneghan reported that he had received 14 emails, most of which were advisory. Those that were not had been responded to.



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Traffic calming: Cllr Leach reported that two of the four vehicle-activated signs in the village still were not working as they required a mains electricity supply. The other two were solar powered and he had received positive feedback about their effectiveness. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Purves will follow up on the signs that aren't yet operational and that Cllr Leach will seek a meeting with PKC with a view to erecting signs in Stirling Road and North Street. Once PKC's 20mph policy is decided, the CC will look at locations where a lower speed limit would be suitable.

Community investment funding: Cllr Robertson reported on a new community funding programme that would allow communities to carry out projects in conjunction with their local CC. Kinross-shire's share would be £100,000 over the next two years. Officers are currently working out the criteria for the allocation of funds and this information will be available in April.

Windows and doors: Cllr McHardy said that new windows and doors were being fitted to local authority houses in the village but he was concerned that in some cases they may just be repaired, following a visit by a council representative. Cllr Robertson said this was not the case and that it was likely to be part of a routine inspection process.

Potholes: Concerns were expressed about the number of potholes that had appeared following the bad weather. The best way to report them is online at clarence@pkc.gov.uk

Questions from the floor:

Donaldson Park: A member of the public advised that work had started on the new pavilion in Donaldson Park and that a vehicle had accessed the park via Church Street despite there being a locked barrier to prevent this. Cllr Robertson will follow up.

Brown bin permits: Cllr Purves confirmed that the permit for garden waste collection will rise to £30 next year and £35 the following year. During a lengthy debate on the matter, he said that the charge was introduced as a revenue generator and the projected proceeds of around £840,000 a year will go towards vital services such as social care and winter maintenance. The situation will be reviewed amid concerns that elderly and vulnerable people could be affected.

Local events: Following criticism that Perth benefited disproportionately from council funding for events, funding has now been put in place to support events in rural areas such as galas and festivals. Cllr Robertson advised that criteria were being drawn up and he will pass this on in due course.

Dangerous pavements: Cllr Robertson will follow this up.

Speed bumps: Cllr McHardy asked if the speed bumps in Bridgefauld Road could be removed as they were no longer necessary and had caused problems during the snow clearing operations. This was not considered to be a good move as schoolchildren's safety could be compromised.

Councillors' reports:

Cllr Robertson expressed his appreciation for the help given by local farmers during the bad weather. Their efforts had ensured that a number of roads had been able to remain open. This was endorsed by CC members.

Council meetings: All PKC committee and full council meetings are now available to watch on YouTube.

Following the budget meeting, Councillor Purves confirmed that £5 million had been protected for education services.

Other business:

On behalf of the CC, Cllr Williams expressed his thanks to Cllr Heneghan for his sterling service as secretary over the past two years.

The Next Meeting of Milnathort CC will be on Thursday 12 April 2018 at 7.30pm in Milnathort Town Hall. The public are invited to attend.

Find Milnathort CC minutes, agenda and other information at:

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FRED TURVEY



Portmoak Community Council News from the March Meeting

In attendance at the meeting held on 13 March 2018 were: CCLrs M Strang Steel (Chairman), R Cairncross (Secretary), S Forde, D Morris and A Muszynski; Ward Cllrs M Barnacle, C Purves, W Robertson and R Watters; PI K Chase (Police Scotland) and 14 members of the public.

Apologies: CCLrs B Calderwood, A Robertson and T Smith; and PC D Stapleton (Police Scotland).

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

School access - policy on parking. Cllr Purves reported that the Council's Environment and Infrastructure (E&I) Committee will consider a Report addressing access to the school and associated restrictions on parking in the near future. Its scope would not include consideration of safe access routes for children in the vicinity of the school; this matter would be taken up separately by the CC in consultation with the Head Teacher. A "Protocol" was in preparation to act as guide to parents and carers dropping off and picking up children at the school. There would be wide consultation. The contribution of the "Gap Site" in Buchan Avenue in mitigating any parking restrictions required evaluation. Unfortunately it had not to date been possible to determine who in the Council is responsible for this Council owned site. The Report to the E&I Committee will be shared with the CC before it is presented to the Committee. PI Chase commented that all the schools in his area had similar traffic problems.

Footpath from Scotlandwell to the Church Hall and beyond. Adverse weather had forced the cancellation of the meeting to review this matter. A new date was being sought. The CC asked that, in addition to roads engineers, an officer from the Planning Department should be part of the PKC team. It did so recognising that there were issues concerning the path which went beyond engineering matters. Although there were other roads matters at the School and along the main street of Kinnesswood, this meeting would deal solely with the path from Scotlandwell and its associated site visit.

Devil's Burden Race. CCLr D Morris would arrange a meeting with the race organisers to take forward concerns already noted.

RSPB Loch Leven: Underpass commissioning arrangements.

Uwe Stoneman, RSPB's Tayside Reserves Manager was welcomed to the meeting. He confirmed that the underpass would go ahead with work commencing shortly after Easter. This was a significant achievement and will provide an important means for allowing greater access for all people to both the Heritage Trail and the RSPB Loch Leven nature reserve. It is an investment for the future and a long term gain for the community. Mr Stoneman thanked the many donors, including PKC, who had made the underpass possible. Fifty percent of the cost had been met by a grant from Sustrans. Work will commence on 3 April and be completed by 30

July. A temporary single track roadway will be constructed, controlled by traffic lights. No road closures are planned, but any necessary will be short term and notified to the community via the RSPB Tayside and Fife and Visit Loch Leven Facebook pages and the Kinross CC webpage.

Resilience – being better prepared for risks

a. **Community Emergency Plan.** The Chairman explained that the CC was in the process of considering how best to develop its own Resilience Plan. There was encouragement from Government, PKC and SSE to do so. The current situation had been put to the test by the recent snow. The community had risen magnificently to the challenge and the Chairman wished to thank all those who had helped out, whether with snow clearance, helping less able neighbours with supplies and generally keeping an eye out for each other. Special mention should be made of the Kinnesswood and Lochend shops and Loch Leven's Larder who had kept everybody supplied whilst the local supermarkets had been unable to do so. He then asked for contributions from those present to say what had succeeded and what failed in the emergency, to assist with the formulation of the Plan. Already there was a recognition that the Plan would have to meet various scenarios, that it would require "community buy in" and that there was a significant challenge in coordinating and supporting a range of information. The recent snow had focused minds on a how preparation for events like this could be better. Matters might have been much more challenging had the snow been accompanied by a prolonged power cut. The CC are to meet with Resilience officers from PKC on 30 April to explore how best to take this project forward.

b. **The Kinnesswood Shop: Contribution and challenges.** The Chairman invited Ishbel Buchan to explain the role of the Kinnesswood Shop and how that had been challenged during the time of the snow. In advance of the weather deteriorating, the shop had been stocked up so that it could support the immediate needs of the community. Comparing takings with those of the previous week there had been an increase of between 200% and 460% on days when the village had been effectively cut off. Many visiting the shop were doing so for the first time and were surprised to find that essentials at competitive prices were available. Once the event was past, takings had dropped back to what they were before. The regular turnover of the shop was not sufficient to sustain it without the support of the associated garage. Unless custom increased markedly in normal times, the community should recognise that the shop is unlikely to close. The Resilience Plan should therefore not assume that the shop will still be available in the next emergency.

CC Website and communication strategy. The CC had received a Report on the meeting with webmaster Gordon Vance. He provided invaluable help in keeping its website up to date. Key points were:

- A new front page for the website which was much welcomed.
- Contact lists used by both Webmaster and Secretary to be reviewed.
- The Website should be mobile as well as PC friendly.
- The CC website to carry website links to other bodies in Portmoak and beyond. The Ward Councillors would consider whether they would include links to the CC website on their correspondence.
- Improvements to the Electronic mail box.
- A summary panel of current issues on opening page.
- The use of social media such as Facebook to be explored.

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Cemetery. The current cemetery at Portmoak church was now "full". The Chairman reported no progress as yet on the quest for finding a site for another cemetery for Portmoak.

Reports

Police: The Chairman welcomed PI Kevin Chase who explained that his command was one of three Community Policing Teams in Perth and Kinross and that it included Kinross-shire. His Team was supported locally by a Community Sergeant for Kinross-shire, Sgt Robert Hogg, and two Community Police Constables, Douglas Stapleton and Atholl Spalding. He was keen to meet community councils and hear of their particular problems. Crime patterns may vary and while it may appear peaceful in Portmoak there remained issues of farm vehicle theft, sheep worrying, parking issues around schools and a range of road issues including speeding and accidents. The recent weather had presented some significant challenges and the role of the community in providing support had been crucial. The Chairman advised that we had a particular issue in how to discourage the transit of HGV lorries though Portmoak along the A911. PI Chase was thanked for visiting the CC and for participating in its discussions.

The Local Police Report from PC D Stapleton was noted as were the Area Commander's Bulletins of 21 and 28 February and of 7 March.

Treasurer: The balance at the month ending 28 February was £439.20 in the General Account; and £ 1,042.35 in the Michael Bruce Way Account giving a total of £1,481.55. The new "Holding Account" held £1, 500.00.

Planning:

New applications: No new applications.

Progress with Developments:

17/01596/IPL. Land 50m south of 9 Bishop Terrace, Kinnesswood. Erection of a dwelling house in principle. (Stephen's Field). The CC would consider a recently received response from A & J Stephen and PKC and report back.

Fife 16/03661/EIA and 17/03377/FULL). Westfield a) Opencast Site Planning in Principle and b) Installation of up to 10 gas engines. A decision from Fife Council could be taken within the next two months. It was noted that on 14 March the Scottish Parliament would debate issues arising from the burning of waste in incinerators.

16/03661/CON). Former Lomond Inn: proposals for part demolition and erection of 5 dwelling houses. A new application was anticipated.

17/02227/IPL Levenmouth, Scotlandwell. Erection of two houses. The CC had written to PKC setting out its concerns that the decision to delegate the decision for this application was not compatible with the Council's Scheme of Delegation as approved by Scottish Ministers in 2016. The Council had not accepted the CC's concern. The matter would now be referred to the Chairs of PKC's Scrutiny Committee and the Development Management Committee by the CC.

Roads: To note progress with the Roads Report for 2017.

The CC commended the efforts of the snowploughing and gritting programmes to keep the roads open during the recent adverse weather. It noted that PKC was working hard to repair significant damage to road surfaces. The B920 as it leaves Scotlandwell was recognised as being particularly bad.

Paths: No report.

PKC Ward Cllr Reports: All councillors reported on the PKC budget settlement for the next year and, while there may not have been unanimity on whether its outcome was good or not, it was plain that considerable work had gone into minimising and targeting the impact of proposed savings so that services could be sustained or indeed in some instances expanded. The reduction in the education budget had meant that in senior schools teachers in English and Mathematics would need to work slightly longer hours. The allocation of the budget between Perth city and rural Perth and Kinross had been rebalanced to give proportionately more to the latter. New funding had been found for road safety measures including footpaths and a new fund of £100,000 over two years for each ward which the ward councillors could use to fund appropriate projects. This was in addition to local funding provided by Action Partnerships. The CC noted that the Scottish Government had commissioned Glasgow University to look at and report on local decision making and that PKC would be reviewed. It also noted that reporting road defects was made easier by accessing the website "MyPKC".

The Next Meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10 April 2018 in Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell.

Portmoak CC minutes can be viewed:

- on the notice board in the village hall
- in a file in Kinnesswood Village Shop
- on the website www.portmoak.org

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Fossoway and District CC

News from the March Meeting

In attendance at the meeting held on 6 March 2018 were: CCllrs C Brown, A Cheape, T Duffy, and C Farquhar; P&K Cllrs M Barnacle, C Purves and R Watters; and five Members of the Public (MoP).

Apologies: CCllrs J Donachie and G Pye; P&K Cllr W Robertson.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Police report: Unfortunately no officer was able to be present at the meeting. There were no incidents to note in our area in the last month from the Commander's Reports.

Weather: CCllr Cheape thanked local farmers for keeping roads open. One MoP queried the protocol regarding bin pickup during such periods of bad weather; CCllr Duffy confirmed that the bin schedule when missed should continue on as normal afterwards and overflow dealt with in black bin bags. One MoP asked for an update on volunteer pavement clearers. Cllr Barnacle explained there was a problem with equipment. CCllr Duffy reminded the meeting that PKC offer the opportunity to give feedback on winter road and pavement maintenance in April.

Budget: Cllr Barnacle commented that the environment budget is intended to be protected from financial cuts; extra money should be available for paths, adopted roads and community green space. He also felt that the change in the budget process from four to two choices, the administrations and the opposition, led to greater clarity. He considered that a week's recess would be preferable between the draft budget and the final decision being made. Cllr Watters was disappointed with the £0.5 million cut to English and Maths teaching as well as cuts to breakfast clubs which service underprivileged children, which was in contrast to extra money being put aside for incentives like shop front improvements, airing an inequality in society where cuts are being made. Cllr Purves stated that teaching cuts will be made in regard to teacher contact times but class sizes will remain the same; breakfast clubs were loss making and may be replaced by volunteer led incentives; a large incentive was a focus on rural communities i.e. Moving funding away from more urban areas to rural economic areas; a local investment fund is being put in place to empower communities. One MoP voiced concern that were any cuts to education at all.

A977 Mitigation: Community consultations about how the A977 money to be spent to be held on 10 and 13 March. As a recurring agenda item this is a great opportunity to comment on how funds will be spent. Cllr Barnacle informed the

group that the total available fund was £794,000, of which £540,000 is left; some further improvements could come from development as part of LDP2. There has been positive feedback from the community regarding the VAS put in place recently. However, one MoP felt that some areas, particularly Powmill, have not seen a particular improvement from VAS. Another MoP had experienced an improvement with the VAS and is looking forward to seeing them introduced in Rumbling Bridge in the near future.

Powmill in Bloom: CCllr Farquhar reported that the bloom group will not be taking part in the Best Kept Village Award this summer and will instead consolidate on work done to date. The bloom group have arranged to meet with BKV judges to discuss where best to focus their energy on improving the village.

Crook of Devon and Drum Growing Together: CCllr Duffy informed the group that a spring fair is to be held this year as well as other events collaborating with community groups such as Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Hearse House has been presented as a possible opportunity for the Bloom Group; currently it is looking to be a significant undertaking due to the condition of the building. Cllr Barnacle commented that other parties may have interest in the building and may make improvements to it after which the Bloom Group could have some use of the building.

LDP2: Cllr Barnacle said he had contacted Peter Marshall on this topic and can confirm that Cllrs will be briefed in April.

Crook Moss Travellers Site: Cllr Barnacle confirmed that the site still does not have a connection to mains drainage.

War Memorials: Cllr Barnacle informed the meeting that a further planning application for Blairingone Church may be made which will hopefully include the relocation of the memorial. Cllr Barnacle has had feedback from community members and the Church that the existing setting of the memorial is not wholly appropriate at present due to close volumes of traffic and that a new site for Crook of Devon memorial may be desirable. It was mentioned at the meeting that the village green could be an appropriate site. Community engagement will be essential before any decisions are made.

Blairingone School Estate Transformation: Will be discussed at the April meeting.

Matters Arising With No Update Since Last Meeting: Crook Moss Travellers Site, Ivy Cottage Powmill, Fossoway Area Public Transport, Hydro Scheme and B9097.

Verge Cleaning - Aldie to Powmill: Cllr Robertson has been in correspondence with PKC on this matter.

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Crook of Devon School Road: Cllr Barnacle is looking for a waste bin to be located on the road and commented that in general potholing was bad on the road, perhaps in relation to recent construction works. One MoP commented that some basic patching had taken place.

Play Area Improvement Survey: Powmill has been selected as an area for improvement. Make views heard by completing survey on PKC website.

CC Business: Meetings attended: CCllr Farquhar attended a meeting of the Sport Hub on 7 March; the 2k run is going very well. PEPAS (Physical Activity and Sports In Schools) is a new initiative targeting the increase of participation of sports in schools and to encourage club membership. Sport Hub members are willing to work with schools, where possible, to help ensure that every child has the best possible opportunities in PE and Sports.

CCllr Pye attended a community consultation with SSE which will be reported on next month.

CCllr Cheape attended the Kinross Fund meeting at which there have been no applications from Fossoway area in the past year. He would like to remind people that applications are actively encouraged and welcomed for community initiatives and groups.

P&K Councillor Reports

Cllr Barnacle: Last December PKC reviewed the local decision making process with the idea of devolving more to grass roots. Cllr Barnacle is looking for a more fundamental change in local decision making in the form of Ward Committees including CCs, Community Groups, and other sectors, something that other councils have done. A meeting has been scheduled to discuss parking issues within Crook of Devon.

Planning Matters – New Applications:

18/00097/18 Erection of ancillary accommodation at The Meadows, Vicar's Bridge, Blairingone. Application withdrawn.
18/00058/FLL Change of use of children's nursery (class 10) to dwelling house (class 9) at Glenbank Cottage. No CC comment.

18/00228/FLL Erection of 2 dwelling houses at land 30m south of Crook of Devon House. No CC comment.

18/00300/FLL Erection of a dwelling house at land 30m west of Drumgarland, Crook of Devon. No CC comment.

Planning Matters – Decided Applications:

18/00013/FLL Alterations and extension to dwelling house, Craigton Bungalow, Rumbling Bridge. Application withdrawn.

17/02068/FLL Erection of equestrian store, land 70m south-east of An Darach, Fossoway. Approved.

17/02189/FLL Erection of a dwelling house, land 50m north of Mellock House, Fossoway. Approved.

Correspondence: All was available for viewing.

Other Business: CCllr Farquhar commented that the DRT have played an active role recently with the bad weather, gathering messages, prescriptions and providing general transport around the local community and to those in need – in general a very valuable asset to the community.

Draft Agenda for Next CC Meeting: Welcome and Apologies, Declarations of Interest, Community Policing, Minutes of last meeting. Matters arising: Budget, A977 Mitigation, Hydro Scheme, Crook & Drum Growing Together, Powmill in Bloom, Fossoway Area Transport, Blairingone School Estate Transformation. Community Councillors: Meetings Attended, PKC Councillors' Reports, Planning, Correspondence, AOCB

The Next Meeting of Fossoway & District CC will take place on Tuesday 3 April 2018 at 7.30pm at Powmill Moubray Hall. All Welcome.

Fossoway & District CC minutes are posted on the website

www.fossoway.org

and on their Facebook page, along with other community related information. Search for Fossoway & District Community Council on Facebook.

Cleish & Blairadam CC

Cleish & Blairadam CC meets every second month.

The Next Meeting takes place on Monday 9 April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Tabernacle Hall, Keltybridge.

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Club & Community Group News



Support, Help & Integration in Perthshire
for young people with additional support needs

Youth Club

Tuesdays, 6.30pm – 8pm, Loch Leven Community Campus

SHIP is a local charity offering services for children and young people with any additional support needs. We focus on meeting an individual's needs whilst providing carers with a break (tea/coffee, cake and a chat being served).



It is a chance for children and young people to make new friends and enjoy different experiences, e.g. cooking, sensory stories, indoor games, art, all of which are supported by dedicated volunteers, many of whom are also

young people and fully trained staff.

Come along and join in the fun!

If you would like more information, please contact Nicola or Heather at info@ship-perthshire.co.uk or call 07713 565120.

The Gateway, North Methven Street, Perth PH1 5PP

T: 07713 565120

E: info@ship-perthshire.co.uk

Common Grounds

www.spanglefish.com/
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Our first project lunch of 2018 was very successful. Lee Brown from the charity 'Tools for Self Reliance' showed how, by working to benefit many far away, we can also have a positive impact much closer to home.

The Ecology Centre at Kinghorn Loch runs Tool Shed workshops. These provide a centre for those who are experiencing social isolation, mental health issues or who just have the ability to work on a worthwhile project in a tool based workshop. Their efforts result in tools being transformed from rusty blunt pieces into gleaming working equipment which transforms the lives of many in Malawi.

An excellent lunch, as always, was on the menu with tasty homemade soup and bread, followed by a tantalising choice of home-baking. The audience's appreciation was translated into a healthy sum of £352 being raised.



Scottish Charity No. SC031582



Project Co-ordinator, Helen Pearson, presenting a cheque for £1000 to Lee Brown from the charity Tools for Self Reliance

It may have been said before but it cannot be repeated often enough; a huge thanks to all who contributed to the successful event. However, our volunteers and friends will be reading this with more than a tinge of sadness for it was our last memory of Pat Payne who sadly passed away on 3 March. Pat was, for many years, the main organiser of the project lunches and always a keen supporter of all our activities. When she stepped down from her role, she continued to offer a valuable service by sending out letters, informing many of our forthcoming lunch. Despite her own health issues, she was always interested in what others had to say and was full of encouragement. Her cheery smile will be greatly missed by all at Common Grounds and we send our sincere condolences to all the family at this sad time.

Project: Our project for April is Home Leone, a charity that started in 2014. Sierra Leone has some appalling slum conditions and has suffered floods and a catastrophic fire in the capital Freetown. The situation is exacerbated by the devastation of communities by the Ebola virus. The charity plan to acquire land, design and build homes, creating new villages with proper sanitation and solar power. Schools and sustainable businesses with training opportunities are also part of the plan. This is being developed by corporate teams working alongside local people.

For more information, please see our website.

Our opening hours are still 10am to 12.30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at the Guide and Scout Hall, Church Street, Milnathort.

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

Portmoak Hall 100 Club

February Draw

1st	No. 77	Ros Irving, Kinnesswood
2nd	No. 40	Simon Herrington, Scotlandwell
3rd	No. 70	Mike Thomson, Kinnesswood

Kinross-shire 50 Plus Club

The next meeting is on **Thursday 5 April** when our speaker is Mrs Reay talking on 'Dealing with Scams'.



Annual Day Trip: This is to **Dumfries House** on **8 July**. Contact Pat Crawford, 01577 862962.

Away Days

12 Apr Montrose.

26 Apr St Andrews Farmhouse cheese.

The bus leaves the Green Hotel, Kinross, at 9.15am. Contact Pat Crawford, 01577 862962.

Friday Walkers

6 Apr The Wallace Road from Glenfarg to Bridge of Earn.

20 Apr St Andrews along Lade Braes to Craigton Park and return.

All walks leave from the Green Hotel, Kinross. Contact Ian Simpson, 01577 863691.

Hill Walkers

13 Apr Craig A'Barns (nr Dunkeld) Carolyn 9am

27 Apr Glen Tarkin Moira & Ann 9am

Contact Pauline Watson, telephone 01577 862685.

Activities

Activities are open to all members of the club.

L.U.S.T. The slimmers meet each Thursday, 9.30am to 10.30am, in the Millbridge Hall. Contact Norma Anderson, 01577 863548.

Line Dancing every Tuesday and Friday at 10.30am in the Millbridge Hall. Contact Betty Fergus, 01577 866961.

Keep Fit class meets every Monday at 2pm in the Masonic Hall. Contact Val Oswald, 01577 864020.

Craft Group meets Wednesday at 2pm in Millbridge Hall. Contact Elizabeth Smith, 01577 861387.

Fly Tyers meet each Monday in Millbridge Hall. Contact Ian Campbell, 01577 830582.

Carpet Bowls: Meet Monday at 2pm in Millbridge Hall. Contact Helen Duncan, 01577 863248.

Circle Dancing

The weather outside may have been cold and snowy, but at circle dancing we were all warm, cosy and having fun as we danced together. Hopefully the weather will continue to improve and we can look forward to the changing seasons. So far this year we have celebrated (in dance) St Valentine, St David and St Patrick. We have also danced some women's dances to acknowledge International Women's day.

Our repertoire of dances is endless so, if you would like to come along and see exactly what we do, then our door is always open, and you can be assured of a very warm welcome. We dance on Tuesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Millbridge Hall in Kinross and on Wednesday from 10am to 11am in the Dance Studio, Junction Road, Kinross. We will take a short break over the Easter period and will resume dancing on 17 and 18 April. Please contact Lynne on 01259 742173 or 07931398098 for more details.

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Our February meeting was at the Boathouse.

Our speaker was Julian Reeve who told us about Seamab School, located between Crook of Devon and Powmill. Julian told us about the extensive work of the school in educating and caring for vulnerable children aged between five and eighteen. The children have complex needs and Seamab provides a unique service in Scotland. The school is nationally recognized for the specialist work does. Nurture and care is the most important part of their approach, each child being unique and special. The children are given support to believe in themselves and to trust in others.

In March our speaker was Peter Nurick, who delivered a very informative talk on the planning, design and construction of the new V & A museum due to open in Dundee in September. One of the first exhibitions is about ocean liners, linking the city to the river. He left us all wanting to visit the museum as it sounds so interesting, putting Dundee well and truly on the map as a place to visit.

Our next meeting at the Boathouse is on **Monday 9 April** at the changed time of 6.15pm for 6.30pm. Our speaker will be Lyndsay Anderson talking about the RNLI.

For more information about Inner Wheel, contact us by email on Admin@innerwheel.co.uk or look at our website.

Portmoak Film Society

www.portmoakfilmsociety.org.uk

Thirty film fans turned out on a wintry night for our March film, 'Viceroy's House'. Directed by British-Asian director Gurinder Chadha, it achieved a rating of 83% on the audience satisfaction gauge. The evening's enjoyment was increased by the distinctly Indian-flavoured refreshments provided post-film, care of Lochend Farm Shop. These went down a treat. Thank you, Helen!

It's coming to the end of the season now and our last film and AGM will be held on **Saturday 14 April**. As a tribute to the late Professor Stephen Hawking, one of Britain's greatest scientists, we have changed the programme at short notice. We will now show the 2014 biopic about his life, '**The Theory of Everything**', for which Eddie Redmayne received the Academy Award for Best Actor.

As we traditionally hold the **AGM** before the last film, **please arrive for 7pm** so that we can carry out this short procedure before the film starts at 7.30 pm. We will also conduct our annual audience survey and hold a raffle, so come prepared to participate!

Films are shown at Portmoak Community Hall near Scotlandwell. Entry costs £5 on the night or with a membership card. Afterwards we invite you to stay for post-film chat over hot drinks and film-themed refreshments. Please visit our website.

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Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation

www.kleo.org.uk



The Kinross Farmers' Markets will start again in April, with the first market on **Saturday 28 April** from **10am** until **2pm** on the High Street of Kinross. This market will be **bicycle themed** and **Loch Leven Cycles** will be there with a display of various bicycles and equipment. You can also get your bicycle checked out at the event. So come along and get bicycle ready for the season! Also the Community Sports Hub will display a **trishaw**, a special bike that can be used to enable people that are older or no longer able to ride a bike for themselves to still have the opportunity to be taken on a bicycle ride.



The markets will be on **every fourth Saturday of the month from April to October. (Apart from the July market; there will not be a market that month.)** Dates thus being: 28 Apr, 26 May, 23 June, 25 Aug, 22 Sept and 27 Oct from 10am until 2pm. Like last year, for the markets the High Street will be closed from entrance to Burns Begg Street to the entrance to Montgomery Street. There will be special signs in place to guide traffic to alternative routes via Burns Begg Street/Sandport or Bowton Road/Montgomery Street.

Leven Voices Community Choir Concert

Come and listen to all the songs Community Choir Leven Voices has been working on with Horsecross Arts Tutor Alice Marra! The concert is on **Tuesday 17 April, 8pm** at Kinross Parish Church. Donations at the door, proceeds go to local charities. There will be songs for everyone; come along and enjoy!



NEW! Kinross Kacophony Orchestra

Always wanted to play your instrument in a group but never had the opportunity? Get your instruments from your attic and start playing again! We invite players of all instruments to come along (all abilities welcome!) and we will just see what kind of sound we produce with conductor Dougie Flower!

The first session is on **Wednesday 2 May** from 7pm-9pm at Loch Leven Community Campus. The fee is £5. If interested, please phone or e-mail Bouwien (01577 863107 or bouwien@kleo.org.uk) and let me know what kind of instrument you are intending to bring along.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 a great success in Kinross-shire!



Many people responded to the invitation to Come On In to Fairtrade by buying Traidcraft goods, attending a Fairtrade Coffee Morning, looking at the displays in Loch Leven Campus Library and the Colour Studio and giving to Traidcraft Exchanges Hidden Entrepreneur Appeal.

Please continue to buy goods with the Fairtrade Mark all year round, at the Co-operative, Sainsbury's and all other shops, and ask for Fairtrade tea and coffee at our cafes. Many of our local cafes support Fairtrade and buy Traidcraft sugar which you will see on the tables.

All the local churches have Traidcraft stalls and you can also buy at Kinross Parish Church and Orwell Parish Church offices during the week. Please contact us if you would like to buy any Traidcraft items for yourself or your business.

Karena Jarvie
kjarvie@btinternet.com

Some young Fairtrade enthusiasts at St Paul's during Fairtrade Fortnight



Contributors – please send your item well before the deadline if you can

Kinross-shire Community Sport Hub

Cycling Without Age Trishaw Project

We would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and support to develop our trishaw project. This will help people that are elderly or those unable to cycle for themselves to feel the wind in their hair by offering free cycle rides on adapted bikes helping connect generations, build social cohesion and community spirit.

The Sport Hub is delighted to announce that, so far, we have raised £12,000, with £2000 awarded at the recent Kinross-shire Decides Participatory Budgeting event. Our target of £15,000, which will purchase two trishaws, is within sight. You can help us achieve our goal by donating to our crowdfunding page: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/KinrossCSH or handing in a cheque to Andersons solicitors 40 High St, Kinross KY13 8AN.

If you would like to become a volunteer pilot, please get in touch. The bikes have electrical power assist, so there is no need to be super-sporty or fit to volunteer.

HELP NEEDED! We are also looking for a facility to store the trishaws. Any



potential venue needs to be secure, accessible seven days a week and have a power point for charging the trishaw's battery.

Please help us get this project started and make a difference to the lives of people in our community.

For more information, please find Kinross-shire Community Sport Hub on Facebook or contact Kirsteen Ross via KRoss@liveactive.co.uk or Gregory Welsh via GWelsh@liveactive.co.uk

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER PILOTS

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CONTACT KIRSTEEN ROSS – KROSS@LIVEACTIVE.CO.UK

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE

Kinross-shire Historical Society

My Faither Built the Sydney Brig

by Bill Glennie

Bill Glennie's interest in the Sydney Harbour Bridge was sparked by a job exchange he did. He found that the iconic bridge with its steel arch and granite pylons was almost Scottish due to the Scottish architects and quarrymen involved in its construction.

The firm responsible for construction, Dorman Long & Co, consulted Sir John Burnet, a Glasgow architect, who had worked on the British Museum in London and the Cenotaph in Glasgow. They also consulted Thomas Tait, a Paisley architect, who had worked on designs for St Andrew's House in Edinburgh and the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow.

Lawrence Ennis, Director of Construction, was also a Scot.

The final design for the bridge was chosen from seven designs and was based on Hell Gate Bridge in New York.

The granite to be used for the bridge pylons was to be quarried at Moruya, about 200 miles from Sydney. As there was a shortage of masons, many were brought from Scotland. They were given free passage and a house to live in with the rent deducted from their pay. If they stayed for five years their return fare to Scotland would also be paid.

At Moruya a huge amount of preparation was needed, including the construction of a pier, work sheds, family houses, barracks, a school and recreational facilities.

The foundation stones of the bridge were laid in 1924 and it was completed for opening in 1932.



Bill Glennie did a lot of research into the people who worked on the project and, using photographs to identify them, he made contact with many descendants of the quarrymen. Some stayed on in Australia and others returned to Scotland. He showed photos of young children who arrived there in the 1920s and photos of them later in life.

In 2017, Moruya was declared a site of historical interest and a plaque was erected there but only one of the houses built for the workers remains.

After some questions from the audience, Anne Milburn thanked Bill for giving a fascinating talk which explained both the technical and human sides of the bridge building process.

Kinross Garden Group

Unfortunately, due to the very bad weather conditions, the talk by Caroline Thomson of Backhouse Rossie Estate had to be cancelled. However, some members of the Kinross Garden Group will visit the Backhouse Rossie Estate on Thursday 19 April and details of the arrangements for the car-share will be given at the next meeting on **Thursday 12 April at 2pm** in the **Millbridge Hall**, Kinross. Then, after the society AGM, Tom Christian, formerly of the RBGE, will talk about Modern Plant Collecting.

Membership fees are £10 for the year and £2 for visitors. If you are new to Kinross-shire and interested in meeting fellow garden enthusiasts, you will be made very welcome. Doors will be open from 1.30pm. For more details, contact Caroline Anderson on 01577 864589



Kinross & District Probus Club

Giving a hand up (teacher training in South Malawi) by Brenda Frier



In February, Brenda gave a fascinating insight into her work with Dochas Educational Trust (a registered Scottish Charity founded in 2009). She specifically spoke about the development programme they have set up and delivered in Southern Malawi.

Dochas (the Gaelic word for Hope) identified a desperate need for teacher training and development and set their aim of providing support so that the people could help themselves; giving a hand up not a hand out.

Brenda described the conditions that Dochas had found in Malawi; teachers were only given very basic training and then had to teach without resources, in totally inadequate facilities and received very little recognition from the state. Class sizes in excess of 200 pupils were not uncommon and, with many families living in poverty, the dropout rate was high.

Dochas raised enough funding for the first cohort of teachers to receive training. This was eventually accredited by Strathclyde University. The logistics of delivering the training were huge. Teachers had to travel to Blantyre in the centre of Malawi where Dochas had acquired the use of a conference centre with wi-fi connection. The programme was delivered in two-week blocks and followed up with small group tutorials delivered via Skype.

Brenda was amazed by the commitment of the students given the poor resources they had back in their rural villages. It was with immense pride that the first cohort of teachers were presented with their Diplomas in Primary Education in 2015 at a very cheerful and colourful graduation ceremony, with additional cohorts soon following.

If you want to learn more about the work of Dochas, go to www.dochaseducation.org.uk

The vote of thanks was given by Robin Webster.

A Pattern of Islands by Robin Webster

For two years in the 1980s, Robin was Attorney General of the former British colony of Tuvalu. He gave an insight into his experiences of life in this very remote part of the world. Tuvalu is a Polynesian island nation located in the Pacific Ocean, midway between Hawaii and Australia. Its nearest neighbours are Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa and Fiji. It consists of three reef islands and six true atolls and a total land area of only about 26 square km (less than 10 sq. miles), making it the fourth smallest country in the world. Its small size and population, along with lack of natural resources, makes Tuvalu the smallest economy by GDP.

Once known as the Ellice Islands, after many changes, Tuvalu became fully independent within the Commonwealth on 1 October 1978. Tuvalu initially had a population of approximately 10,000 but, with no industry or commerce, it had virtually no income. Robin set up the Tuvalu Trust Fund, which to this day remains the main source of income for the government of the islands.

Robin remembers the day he arrived, flying in from Fiji, with the landing strip having to be cleared of children playing football and a number of grazing pigs. He felt great warmth for the islanders. Life was very basic but with a positive mentality. Over many years the economy developed and on 5 September 2000 Tuvalu became the 189th member of the United Nations.

Today Tuvalu is potentially a tourist destination despite the fact that it is still very difficult to travel to. It has so much to offer, especially to those who want to rest and relax. This remote country is very peaceful and offers a non-commercialized environment. It offers splendid lagoons, beautiful small islands, magnificent coral reefs and distinctive Polynesian culture. Truly, Tuvalu is a treasure in the corner of the Pacific.

The vote of thanks was given by Bill Morrison.

Kinross & District Men's Shed

March, in like a polar bear

'March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb' according to folklore. However, this year it arrived like a polar bear!

We were all set, like many others, for the Better Place to Live Fair. However, the weather intervened and, to modify Burns, 'the best-laid scheme o'mice and men, gang agley'. 'The Beast from the East', what sensationalism! In times gone by heavy snowfalls, sledging and snowball fights were as much a feature of winter as Hogmanay and Christmas!

The 'Kinross Decides' element was postponed for a week. Our stall attracted lots of interest and our bid for funding to



A winter's shed!

acquire photographic equipment was successful. Thank you to everybody who voted for us.

In the shed itself, new members are joining, raising the membership to 44. The restored dinghy has been painted. A bottle will not be cracked against it at the launch. However, it may be an empty lemonade bottle instead of champagne! Our mini-kitchen means food at lunch time, so the guys can stay (and work) longer. Roy, the Treasurer, has been diligently preparing our application for charity status, which should be obtained by the summer.

Some members recently assisted at a public consultation meeting for starting a shed in Comrie. They gave presentations on our first year and people said that it was very helpful. Even the quietest men were asking us questions. Apparently, the shed in Comrie is going ahead. They have formed a committee and are looking at premises which is great. Cultybraggan (once a WW2 Prisoner of War camp and later used by the military) is now in Comrie Community Ownership. The former officer's mess is the largest building and may be the ideal location.

Our **AGM** is on **Saturday 21 April** at 11pm in our Shed at the former Forth Wines, Milnathort. Non-members, men and women, are welcome to attend, but please inform us in advance by emailing secretarykdms@google.com.

Kinross & District Rotary Club



Recent fund-raising and community events

It has been a busy time for us recently. Please check out our Facebook page @kinrossrotaryclub for more photos and also videos of the following events.

Rotary Young Musician Competition

At the District final there were competitors from all across Scotland; from the Forth to Shetland. The club was represented by two pupils from Kinross High; Garry Simpson in the instrumental competition and Euan Alexander in the vocal section. Both put on a great show and congratulations go to Euan for coming third in his section, which was a great achievement.

Interact Tea Dance

The vibrant Interact club at Kinross High School organised and ran a tea dance for 24 elderly people at the campus. They arranged for three music groups to perform, prepared and served drinks and cakes for the guests from the community centre, and they set up the hall. Next they are organising a disco for the P7s. We are really proud of how well this club is run by the students and look forward to continuing to sponsor and mentor it.

Euroscola

The club was delighted to welcome the articulate and engaging Gracie Lee who told us about her trip to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, sponsored by the club. We were delighted to hear how much value she got from it. She left us feeling confident that she has a great future ahead of her. Thank you, Gracie, for being such a great representative of Kinross and of Scotland.



Gracie talking to Rotarian Andy Middlemiss,
Chair of our Vocation and Youth Committee

Primary School Quiz

Competing in this year's quiz were Arngask, Cleish, Fossoway, Kinross, Milnathort and Portmoak. As always, the standard of the teams was really high and it was a contest that went down to the wire!

In the end, congratulations went to Cleish who pipped Milnathort at the post to win our heat. They will now go on to represent the club at the next level of competition in Dalgety Bay.

This year the winner was presented with a new trophy, the David Birrell Shield. It is named in honour of one of our founding members who passed recently. We want to thank David's widow Betty for presenting this first award of the trophy. We'd also like to thank the campus for use of the hall and the KHS local Interact club for their assistance in the quiz.

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents who attended and gave the children their enthusiastic support!



Primary School quiz winners Cleish receiving the trophy
from Betty Birrell

Recent speakers

We had an inspiring talk from one of our members, **John Ross**, about some of the work undertaken by **Kinross Community Sport Hub**. (Find them on Facebook.) The hub's goal is to organise activities that support our local community. These include junior park runs and senior cricket sessions.

Their newest activity aims to reduce loneliness, especially in the older community. It is called 'cycling without age' and involves a fit volunteer taking two people out for a ride using a special cycle. This gets people, who may otherwise never leave their home, out and about meeting other people and chatting with them. The Hub are looking for volunteers to do the cycling, as well as support to raise the money needed to store the bikes safely between rides.

We were treated to some amazing underwater photographs by local celebrity **Gavin Anderson**, who is based in Milnathort. Over 30 years Gavin performed over 3,000 dives around the world, taking photographs for many magazines. He shared the technical challenges that such divers face, and how he managed to take some of his personal favourite photos.

Famous Scottish entrepreneur **Chris Tiso** gave a riveting talk about his involvement in the family business. The company was founded in the days when it was very hard to find quality outdoor clothing, and since Chris' parents shared a passion for various outdoor activities like sailing, hill-walking and climbing, they decided to create some! It was a fascinating tale of the growth and development of one of Scotland's best success stories.

David McDonald from the Stonehaven Rotary Club talked to us about the responsibilities that the new **General Data Protection Regulation 2018** will bring to all organisations, including Rotary Clubs. David is responsible for helping all Rotary clubs in our district to understand how to comply with this new legislation.

Join Us

We meet most Mondays in the Kirklands Hotel, Kinross, at 6.30pm. On the third week of the month the Monday meeting is replaced by a Tuesday breakfast meeting at 7.30am, also at the Kirklands. Come along and find out what's happening in the club and meet some of our members.

Contact and information

Contact Brian Timms, Club Secretary, at secretary.kdrc@gmail.com to find out more or find us on Facebook.

Kinross Camera Club

kinrosscameraclub.org.uk

The club competed in three separate inter club competitions during February. These were against St Andrews and Cupar, Dunfermline and Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy and Linlithgow. We came second each time and met some very friendly members from the other clubs as well as being treated to some tasty home baking. Thanks to Anne for organising all of the Kinross entries.

We were also treated to two very engaging talks on 'Photographic Artistry' and 'Lolitas' last month. The latter was a photographic documentary of a highly exclusive fashion culture in Scotland which most of us never knew existed. It was a great example of how photography can be used to document the existence and traits of different cultures.

Our meetings are held in the Church Centre, Kinross, every Thursday at 7.30pm and all are welcome. Whether you are a complete beginner or seasoned pro, the club has something to offer all standards of photographer. For more information, please contact Alison Rutherford at alison.rutherford1@live.com or visit the club website.



Ragdoll Cat

Kinross in Bloom

Now that the snow has gone, it is nice to see the crocuses peeping through, bringing some colour along Springfield Road, the bottom end of the High Street, Lathro and Gacé Gardens. It won't be long before the daffodils start showing off their dancing heads. Spring has arrived.

At our March meeting, we were pleased to welcome Peter and Denise Stephenson and Susan Mitchell to our group. We are sure they will be excellent additions to our committee.

It won't be long now before we take delivery of our plug plants. This is when the real work commences in our polytunnel. From now until the end of May or beginning of June, we will plant them on into larger cells, feed and water them, then plant out into hanging baskets and planters. Once the hanging baskets are up and the planters around town are filled, our volunteer waterers take over, ensuring all are satisfactorily fed and watered until the end of the season. There is plenty to keep the committee busy.

Our 200 Club March winners were:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. No 35 Mrs A Lockhart | 2. No 59 Lady Montgomery |
| 3. No 44 Mrs D McDiarmid | 4. No 84 Dr M Weir |

As our next meeting date falls on Easter week, our meeting will now be on **Wednesday 11 April** at 7.30pm at the usual venue, the Garden Room of the Church Centre.



'Dreams thrive here'

Perth and Kinross Credit Union

Here at Perth and Kinross Credit Union, along with all other credit unions in Scotland, we recently celebrated World Credit Union Day, an annual event celebrated by more than 223 million members of credit unions worldwide.

This year's theme was 'Dreams Thrive Here'. This gave us pause for thought because every day we help our members tackle the challenges of daily life (a new washing machine, school trip, unexpected expense etc) and we wondered what dreams **they** have for the future.

Have an adventure? Get property, a car, a bike? Start a family? We hope they can fulfil their dreams and we would like to think that we can help them along the way, whether it is by encouraging them to save and or providing them with an affordable loan when needed.

Let dreams thrive here. Are you a member? You could be; you are more than welcome to join us. For more information about our credit union, contact us at 282 High Street, Perth, 01738 624872, visit our website www.pkcu.org.uk or call in to your local Kinross office at St Paul's which is open every Tuesday, 10-12noon.



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Kinross and District Art Club

kadac.co.uk

March did indeed 'come in like a lion', interrupting the normal schedule of painting sessions. However, by Friday 9 March it was a relief to know that the planned demonstration by visiting artist Iain McIntyre Younger would go ahead. It was a well-attended event and did not disappoint. Iain is one of



Iain McIntyre Younger inspired club members

the prestigious 'Perthshire Open Studios' artists and is based in Crieff. His vibrant landscapes are in private collections throughout the UK and beyond.

Club members were clearly inspired and encouraged by his enthusiastic approach, emphasising that painting is for pleasure and should allow for freedom of expression. Most striking was his method of using a large brush to apply a foundation of colour for his painting, followed by his use of a plastic credit card to build up layers of colour and texture. Iain's demonstration generated a great deal of interest in the audience, motivating them to branch out from their 'comfort zone' to try different mediums and different styles of painting. This, with the number of new members joining the club in the past year, means we can look forward to some fresh approaches on display at this year's annual exhibition in September.

Sadly, however, we shall miss the contribution of two past members. David Cochrane, longstanding member and former Chair, passed away recently. David was a talented and prolific artist and active member of the club. He will be greatly missed and our condolences go to his widow, Cathie, and the family.

More recently, Joan Spiers, also a longstanding member until her health failed, passed away. Joan's husband was also Chair for a number of years.

The club owes a debt of gratitude to these two members who loyally supported it in the years when it was a much smaller group than it is today.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact us via our website.

Gaelic Society of Perth

gaelicsocietyofperth.com

We have had some fantastic ceilidhs over this winter. There has been super singing from a number of individuals and excellent musicianship from pipers, accordion players, harpists and fiddlers.

There will be no ceilidh in April but the AGM will be held on **Thursday 10 May**. All members are invited. Come and put your views forward and hear what the Society has been involved with this year along with plans for the future!

Further information can be obtained from the Secretary on 01577 864589, on our website or on Facebook.



R-L: the Mod Medallist James Graham, the piper Jack Liddle, singer Ceitlin Smith, the local Gaelic group Gle and our 'mouthie' player Tony Ramsay - the photo shows the diverse ages represented at ceilidhs

Loch Leven Community Library

Loch Leven Community Campus, Muirs, Kinross

Tel: 01577 867205

Email: lochlevenlibrary@culturepk.org.uk

Website: www.culturepk.org.uk



Opening Times

Monday*	10am-1pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	10am-8pm
Friday	10am-6pm
Saturday*	10am-4pm

* Monday 10am-1pm and Saturday 1pm-4pm: Limited service, provided by volunteers (FLLCL).

Closure for Easter: The library will be closed on Friday 30 March and Saturday 31 March. The library will reopen on Tuesday 3 April. (See also FLLCL, on this page.)

Regular Sessions for Young Children

No need to book, just come along:

- **Bookbug Rhymetimes:** Saturdays 10.30am-11am and Wednesdays 2pm-2.30pm.
- **Pre-school Story Time:** Tuesdays 10.15am-10.45am. Parents, grandparents or guardians and toddlers will be made most welcome at these free, open sessions.
- **Stay and Play:** Wednesdays 2.30pm-3.30pm. Saturdays 11am-12 noon. Pop into the library where you can meet other parents, have a coffee, chat, read a magazine or just relax while your child plays. Toys provided. Family-friendly. These sessions are suitable for pre-school children and their parents or guardians.

IT Help Sessions

Free monthly sessions, but booking essential. Further information from the library.

Book Groups at the Library

We currently have three book groups for adults running at Loch Leven Community Library:

Crime Book Group:

Once a month on a Tuesday evening, 6.45-7.45pm

General Book Group:

Once a month on a Friday morning, 10.30-11.30am

Café Book Group:

Once a month on a Saturday morning, 11.15am. The next meeting for the Café Book Group is **Saturday 7 April**.

Please contact the Library for the other book group dates.

Book Group for Children: Chatterbooks

For children aged 7-11 years. On the first Friday of each month. Spaces are limited, so please contact the library for more details.

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4-4-2 Reading Challenge

For 5-12 years. Read only 4 library books to receive a free Football Match ticket! Sign up and get your challenge card from the library. Challenge runs until the end of May. Sponsored by the Scottish Book Trust and SPFL Trust.



Dinosaur Fun Day, Friday 13 April, 2-4pm

For children 4-10 years and their families. £2 per child. Booking essential. A fun afternoon aimed at children aged 4-10 years and their families.



Come along and: • help paint a Messy Dinosaur • Join in our Dinosaur Hunt • Dino information Zone • Dinosaur Lego challenge • Dinosaur Storytime • Dinosaur crafts and more...

Creative Writing

Workshop,

Tue 24 April, 7.30pm

with author **Catriona Child**. An exciting event to commemorate World Book Night. Start your own writing journey in this creative writing workshop led by a Scottish author. Tickets £5. Booking essential.



Catriona Child

Foodbank

The library is now a foodbank collection point.

Friends of Loch Leven

Community Library (FOLLCL)

Holiday Closures

We will be taking a short break over the Easter holidays; we will be closed on the afternoon of Saturday 31 March and on the following Monday morning (2 April). Happy holidays to all and we hope to see you when we're back to business as usual on Saturday 7 April!

FOLLCL is a group of independent volunteers who staff Loch Leven Community Library on Saturday afternoons from 1pm - 4pm and on Mondays from 10am - 1pm. For further information, please contact Richard Scott on 07 999 510 500 or find us on Facebook.



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Lomond Antiques and Collectors Club



Our second meeting of 2018 was held on 14 March, again at Fossoway Church Hall. The chairman welcomed a new member, Essie. It was a "Members' Night" so we were treated to an interesting display of members' treasures.

Our chairman Ian started proceedings by showing us two lovely watercolour paintings by J K Maxton. It is known that he spent some holidays in the area and one painting was without doubt Loch Leven and Castle Island. The other, Ian thought could possibly be Burleigh Sands taking into account the difference in large trees and other vegetation which had grown up since the painting was done.

Kate followed with two lovely pieces of china which were far too pretty to have contained the noxious ingredients for which they were used. The pretty Edwardian style china boot, a Court Shoe Fairing, held make-up prevalent at the time, such as rouge and other substances. The small bowl and pestle were used for pummelling lead, and held such contents as vinegar and horse manure. These substances were, of course, to prove fatal in many cases.

Claudia was next with her grandmother's scales, believed to be well over 100 years old as her grandmother had married in the 1890s. Claudia described measuring out the Christmas puddings for many years and had a recipe for the pudding from 1891. The scales were a piece of very memorable 'history' for many of us!

Marjory had brought along a Banana Tree pattern dish from the Ming period that she thought was made probably between 1575 and 1650. These pieces of ceramics were classed as Nanking Cargo as they were put aboard the ships as ballast.

Elsa was justly proud of a painting she had inherited from her in-laws' house in Wick. It depicted a typical harbour-side scene and the colours were delightful.

Our newest recruit, Essie, wound up the treasures display by bringing three items; a lovely shaped blue and white jug, a sampler which had been stitched by a 10-year-old girl and an unusual pebble box which Essie thought was for snuff as the hinge was firm. However, the suggestion from elsewhere was that it could possibly have been for pills.

Thanks to Marjory and Kate for excellent goodies, as ever! Our next meeting in April is at Kate's home and our speakers are from Perth Theatre.

Kinross Parish Church

Bobble hats, scarves and blanket squares



If you pop in to Kinross Parish Church on Wednesday afternoons, you'll hear the Craft Group before you see them; there is a lot of chat, laughter and the clicking of needles!

Recently, the group were drawn to an appeal from a Maternity Unit in Bath for baby bobble hats and 36 have been sent off. They are used to identify the level of care a baby needs with bobbles in red, amber or green!

Although the group does lots of crafts, they seem to have been majoring in knitting this winter, with blanket squares for the Freedom from Fistula Foundation and colourful baby hats for Project Sachbondu in Zambia.

The group has grown over the past year and anyone is welcome to join in, whether or not you have a connection with the church. They meet from 1.30pm in the meeting room at Kinross Parish Church (rear door).



Bobble Hats ready for a Bath Maternity Unit, made by the Craft Group, Kinross Parish Church

Kinross Centre

It's practically unheard of for Kinross Centre to close but 'the beast from the East' proved too much and so, for everyone's safety, we closed for three days. Hopefully, the worst of winter is now behind us.

As soon as we got a nice day, we took an afternoon run out to Birnie Loch and again to Burntisland. We can't have our service users getting cabin fever having been stuck indoors by the snow!

We always have plenty of pastimes to choose from within the centre and our relaxation, balance and exercise classes, as well as the ever-popular bingo, are enjoyed by all. Heads have been poring over jigsaws, DVDs have been watched and the boccia and carpet-curling are politely competitive (at least most of the time!). So no one needs be stuck for activity if they wish.

At the same time, some people prefer just to come for lunch and that's fine. We can transport them home straight after lunch if that's what they prefer. We always try to be as flexible as possible in the service that we provide.

Nearly everyone stays for an afternoon of entertainment and this month we have enjoyed two; one laid on by the Inner Wheel and the other at Loch Leven Community Campus. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the organisation of these events.

If you would like to be involved with the Kinross Centre, as a service user, volunteer or as a supporter, speak to Nan Cook on 01577 863869.

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Kinnesswood in Bloom

www.kinnesswoodinbloom.org

Find us on Facebook



Unfortunately the weather has hampered any recent work party plans but we're looking forward to making a start very soon. Thankfully the clearing of trees at Benarty View did manage to happen before the snow arrived so, once the final plans are drawn up, we'll be ready to go with this new garden. The positioning and structure of Tom Buchan's bench is also being finalised and, as soon as we have some drawings, we'll make them available in the shop and on the noticeboard.

We await delivery of the new 'Listening Post' for the Michael Bruce Cottage garden. Installation should be complete sometime in April.

In celebration of the 'Year of Children and Young People', we are working with Portmoak Primary school children on this year's artwork and poetry exhibits. The school children and cubs will also be designing and creating two structures with the help of a local blacksmith.

Our golfers/gardeners have been 'redressed' by the Happy Hookers Group, so we just need some better weather now and they're good to go.

Following on from last year's success, a few members of the group are attending a meeting at Kinross High School to discuss pupils doing voluntary work in Kinnesswood during the summer.

Plans are afoot to have an open garden day during Portmoak Festival week; more information on that next time.

Our next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on **Thursday 5 April** in the Well Country Inn.

Recipe

supplied by Kinnesswood in Bloom

Vegetable Tikka Masala

Serves 3-4

Ingredients

- 4 medium onions, roughly chopped
- 3 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1 heaped tbsp tikka masala paste
- 1 tin chickpeas, drained
- 1/2 can coconut milk
- 3 handfuls of fresh or frozen peas
- 12 par boiled potatoes, medium sized

Method

Fry the onions and garlic in 1 tablespoon of olive oil until soft. Add the ginger and tikka masala paste to coat the onions. Add the other ingredients in the order listed and simmer for 20 minutes.

Serve with rice and chopped coriander leaf.

Apology regarding last month's recipe; The Manna Café is in Newport, not Newburgh.

Subscriptions to the Newsletter

Useful for readers living outside the distribution area of the Newsletter, a subscription service is available. For further details see www.kinrossnewsletter.org or phone Ross McConnell on 01577 865885 or email subscriptions@kinrossnewsletter.org

Kinross & Ochil Walking Group

(Affiliated to Ramblers Scotland)

Hopefully, spring has arrived with daffodils, bluebells and trees coming into leaf and longer days. This is the perfect time to come out walking with us. Explore new places, improve your mental and physical fitness and meet people. Whether you're new or returning to walking, or a regular walker, try out a walk or two to see if you'd like to join our friendly and relaxed group. You will be made very welcome. We operate car-sharing but it is not essential to have a car.

Weekend Walks

Sunday 1 April: Kinghorn Loch, the Binn and Binnend Village, 7.5 miles.

Walk to the loch and through Craigenalt Ecology Centre. Gentle climb to the Binn, retrace path then up past ruins of Binnend Village. Field, path and quiet road to return. Extensive views.

Saturday 14 April: Cambus, Forth and Devon, 6 miles.

A 'figure of eight' walk by the Rivers Forth and Devon, taking in nature reserve at Cambus Pools.

Sunday 29 April: Crieff-Trowan circular, 7.5 miles.

Follow River Earn to Trowan, up to the monument, through woods and up Knock Mary Hill. Past the distillery and back to start.

In case it turns cold and wet, you do need appropriate clothing, including boots/strong shoes and waterproofs. Bring water, a packed lunch and a hot drink.

For further details of where to meet us, or for general enquiries, please call our Group Secretary, Ann Eve, on 01577 863887.

Tuesday Short Walks

For those who are new to walking or want a shorter walk, come and join us on our Tuesday morning walks. These are usually a maximum of 4 miles (1½-2 hours), followed by a sociable visit to a coffee shop, farm shop or pub for refreshments. We would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to try walking with us.

Tuesday 10 April: Dunfermline Ramble

Out from Pittencrieff Park, past Ladysmill to hamlet of Urquhart. Cross A994 then a gentle ascent towards North Urquhart Farm. Path to A907 then short road walk to return.

Tuesday 24 April: Powmill, the Bull Stane and Rumbling Bridge

A circular walk with some quiet road walking. Gentle incline to Keith Mill then footpath past the Bull Stane. Along River Devon into Rumbling Bridge Gorge then a short section of road walking to finish.

For further details of where to meet us, or for general enquiries, please contact Edna Burnett on 01577 862977.

PLANNING PERMISSION BUILDING WARRANTS

McNeil Partnership is a locally based practice with LOCAL knowledge providing drawings and processing applications for Planning permission and Building Warrants.

We specialise in Extensions, Attic Conversions, Conservatories, Porches and Internal and External Alterations.

Contact **Eric or Fiona McNeil**

01577 863000

For free advice

Broke Not Broken Kinross Food Bank

After The Big Freeze

Sadly, we have had a very busy period at the food bank. The effects of universal credit are hitting already struggling families in Kinross-shire hard.

Our particular strength lies in our ability to identify the particular needs of the people who use our services so we have been developing a host of supporting services.

We continue to support the Recovery Café which provides a safe space for people recovering from drug and alcohol abuse. It has recently benefited from an allocation of funds from the participatory budget.

We continue to fund counselling places for those who would benefit most from one to one sessions. These are run by a professional counsellor and last as long as the counsellor deems fit.

On International Women's Day we delivered a box of full of sanitary products to Kinross High School. These were distributed to girls free, in support of the #freeperiods campaign and the call to pass a bill for sanitary products to be free for girls already in receipt of free school meals.

We have continued to raise funds to support these projects and would like to thank Milnathort Filmhouse for their ongoing support. In particular, they recently showed the film 'I, Daniel Blake', and donated the proceeds to us.

Our resident green-fingered expert, Rory Stewart, is getting ready for the growing season ahead, supported by some of our clients. This project continues to provide skills, food and tackle issues of loneliness.

We met with our representative at Westminster, Luke Graham. Having had such a good relationship with our previous MP, Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh, we felt that it was very important to meet with Luke to let him know what we do. We had a very successful meeting with him and his staff.



We are thrilled that our cookery course has started. In partnership with Sainsbury's and run by Pat Doran, we began the course with six of our clients. This is a six-week course aimed at encouraging healthy eating and cooking on a budget, but it's also great for creating friendships and building on existing skills and confidence. At the end, the participants who have completed the course will receive £90 of cooking utensils.

Our ongoing plans for a Service Hub in Kinross continue behind the scenes. At our last meeting we were heartened by interested parties and hope to bring more information about this in the next Newsletter.

Currently, our opening hours at The Beacon for clients are Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 2pm.

For drop-offs, please leave food donations at the collection points in either Co-op or Sainsbury's. Also, if you are interested in volunteering, please contact us by email at secretary@brokennotbroken.org.



Promoting the free periods campaign

Crook and Drum Growing Together

With spring finally arriving, we are looking forward to seeing our daffodils blooming. We planted these along verges between Crook of Devon and Drum, helped by the Perth & Kinross Council Unpaid work team, and our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers.

We have been involved in discussions with Perth & Kinross Council and the Community Council regarding proposals for upgrades along the A977. There is the possibility of new gateway signs with planters and the future of the old Hearse House in the village is also being considered.

We are also starting to plan ahead for planting in the villages for the summer. Any suggestions from local residents would be welcomed.

Three tall tier planters from Essential Edinburgh have been donated to us. These will be located in places where they will be visible to all, but not cause an obstruction. Many thanks to Alan for helping to transport these. If you would be able to 'adopt' a barrel or planter (to water and deadhead it over the summer), please let us know.



Amanda will be working with pupils at Fossoway Primary School to develop a living willow tunnel in the school grounds. She will also give them information about edible planting for the summer.

We are also working in partnership with the PTA to plan our **Spring Fair**. This will take place at Crook of Devon Village Hall on **Saturday 28 April** from 2pm to 4pm. There will be an art exhibition from the school, teas, and lots of activities for families. Attractions will include planting, crafts, wildlife information, Phoenix Cards, plant sales and a children's tombola. We hope you can join us and any donations of plants would be welcomed; if you are dividing plants in the spring, pieces of these could be passed on to us as they are, and we will pot them up. Please contact Amanda if you have any plants or ideas for the event.

Contact Amanda James, Chairperson on 01577 840809 or amanda@tyafon.plus.com.

Hall Bookings

A list of halls and contact details can be found at
www.kinross.cc

Milnathort & Kinross Allotments Association

www.milnathortandkinrossallotments.org

By the time you read this, spring should have finally arrived and, with it, the welcome return of the Kinross farmers' market at the end of April. Allotment members have been preparing for it for some time. We met on a chilly Saturday afternoon in February to sow the hardiest of seeds in our polytunnel for the baby plants to be ready to sell at the end of April. Then it has been up to a team of dedicated volunteers to look after them, putting fleece on every evening and removing it again in the morning to protect them from the worst of the frost, as well as watering them.

One of the challenges we have at the allotments is that we are plagued with field mice, who like nothing better than a tasty selection of vegetable and flower seeds (unless, of course, there are nice fat bulbs on the menu). This time we decided to be craftier than our little 'friends' with an ingenious construction of tables with slippery metal legs and an old table tennis top; so far, it seems to be working!

At the end of March we will be holding our second sowing event for more tender seeds; courgettes, cucumbers, tomatoes and the like. These should be ready for the market at the end of May and, as usual, we will be calling on our members to volunteer their labour.

All 34 allotments are now let and there is now no waiting list. So, if you are interested, please get in touch (details of next committee meeting on the notice board by the gate). We also have some small growing spaces in our community garden. If you would like to start learning about growing, these small plots are ideal for novice gardeners and there is always someone around to offer advice if you need it.

Dobbies Community Champion

The April meeting of the **Little Seedlings Club** will be on **Sunday 8 April** at 11am as the first Sunday of the month is Easter Day. We hope that the weather will be warm enough for us to meet at the allotment site, behind the store, and for the rest of the summer meetings. We have our own growing bed there, where we can grow flowers and vegetables.

The May meeting will be on **Sunday 6 May**. Any accompanied children aged 4 to 10 are welcome to join us.

For all the meetings, please register online at www.dobbies.com under Kinross store and events.

I have recently made some small **donations** to local charities, including the Chest Heart and Stroke group for their fundraiser around the loch, and plants for Lochies School in Sauchie for their summer fair. Glenfarg in Bloom are holding a flowerpot man competition at the school and in the village. I have donated some prizes and have been asked to judge the entries. I hope to have some photos of these for the next Newsletter.

For more information, contact Amanda James at the store on 01577 863327 or by email at community.kinross@dobbies.com.

Need Equipment for a Community Event?

Marquees, Gazebos, Chairs, Tables and more available to hire (or sometimes borrow).

Items are listed on www.kinross.cc at:

www.kinross.cc/equipment_hire/equipment.htm

If your community group has items it would be prepared to lend or hire out, please add them to the list.



Portmoak Community Woodland

When the last thing on your mind is the autumn apple harvest, it's the right time to get out the pruning shears. That's exactly what we did at the end of February. While the trees in the orchard were still dormant, it was important to cut them back so that, when they eventually start producing fruit, the growing apples are fully exposed to the sun.

One of the best antidotes to winter is preparing for the summer ahead and we were lucky to pick a sunny afternoon, before all the snow. As usual there was a good deal of head scratching, as we tried to remember all the pruning lessons given by Andrew Lear, aka 'appletreeman'. Which branch is the true leader? How much should we cut it back? And is this a fruiting bud, or a potential leaf?

We've learned that the most important principles are to open the centre of each tree to light and air by cutting out overlapping branches. It's also important to get rid of any wood that is dead or diseased. Luckily, nature is pretty forgiving and, although we must have made mistakes over the years, we've managed to get good harvests.



Sheena Jamieson and Stuart Byers pruning the apple trees

So the annual work programme is underway and anyone visiting Portmoak Moss will see evidence of other activities, such as 'pulling and popping' birch and conifer saplings on the raised peat bog. This helps to prevent tree regeneration and allows the continued development of the bog and the return of plants like bog cotton.

There are all sorts of other things planned for the months ahead. Find out more (and suggest your own projects) by joining us at 7.30pm, every third Tuesday of the month at The Well Inn, Scotlandwell.

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Grate Building, Tiling etc.

Dollar Museum

Dollar Museum will reopen for the 2018 season at Easter weekend. This year we are celebrating three anniversaries. Our main new exhibition for 2018 is 'The Dollar Community and the Great War', marking the end of the First World War. We look at the stories of local men and women who served in the forces and we examine how life was for those who stayed at home in Dollar.



Princess Mary box and contents

On the home front, the Dollar community supported the war effort in many ways. For example, work parties knitted thousands of socks and other comforts for the troops (original patterns and examples may be handled), vegetables were grown for the Fleet, sphagnum moss was collected in the Ochils, and Belgian refugees and local troops were given hospitality. Summer time, rationing, watering of beer and banning of penny buns were endured. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Black Watch Museums have kindly lent us a variety of items, which will be on display. There will also be a handling box aimed at younger visitors. It will contain a German helmet, a

periscope, shrapnel, a Princess Mary box and many other interesting artefacts. There will be a series of talks relating to the exhibition.

'The Bicentenary of Dollar Academy' celebrates the 200th anniversary of the founding of Dollar Academy in 1818. It tells the story of the early years, starting with the part played by local boy, John McNabb. John made a fortune at sea and left half to Dollar Kirk Session for 'a charity or school'. Others who played important roles are Rev. Andrew Mylne, the first Rector, Craufurd Tait of Harviestoun and William Playfair, architect. The result was a magnificent building containing a unique, co-educational day and boarding school, which provided free (or very cheap) education for all local children, long before school attendance was universal. Our third anniversary is '30 Years of Dollar Museum'. The museum opened at Easter in 1988 when the Parish Church allowed us to use a small room in The Old Schoolhouse. Every item in our tiny, initial collection was on display.



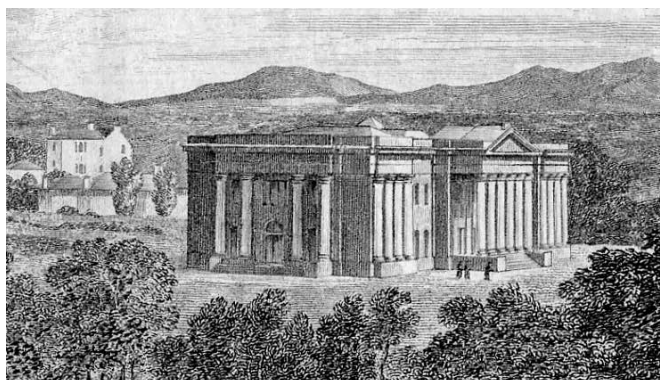
A WWI shaving kit



Dollar Academy war memorial

The success of the venture led to us being offered the current premises in Castle Campbell Hall and, after much fundraising, we were runners-up to 'The Discovery' in the Scottish Museum of the Year Awards.

Lottery funding, upgrading, extension and royal visits followed. It has been a real community project, run by volunteers and friends from the start. We have put on around 150 exhibitions and most Dollar societies have been involved. A large collection has been built up. Photographs, books, maps and so on, all of local interest, are available in the Reading Room, which is well patronised by visitors from near and far. Opening times (from Easter to Christmas) are as follows: on Saturdays from 11am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.30pm and on Sundays from 2pm to 4.30pm. For visits outside opening hours, please contact dollarmuseum@btconnect.com or phone 01259 742895.



Early image of Dollar Academy



Cadets planting potatoes on the hockey field, 1917

Kinross High School

Double Chinese Celebration



This year, we celebrated Chinese New Year by organising a high-profile event to mark the school's new status as Confucius Hub for Perth and Kinross. As of this year, the school is now responsible for ensuring that as many people as possible within the local authority are able to learn Mandarin and are provided with opportunities to find out more about Chinese culture.

The launch event on 21 February was attended by a large number of delegates including local councillors, head teachers, teachers and pupils from Primary and Secondary schools, representatives from the local community including business people, and senior representatives from the Confucius Institute of Scotland's Schools (CISS).

The programme for the day included singing and dance performances in Chinese by Kinross High School pupils, talks from former pupils who use Chinese in their current careers, a presentation from the senior pupils who travelled to China in July 2017 to take part in a three week immersion course, and a Chinese-themed buffet lunch.

The highlight of the day, however, was the performance from the Nanjing Little Red Flower group, a 31 strong cast of young virtuoso musicians and talented dancers, all in



spectacularly colourful costumes, for whom Kinross was the first stop on a UK tour. The group, which has performed all over the world and for heads of state, foreign delegations and diplomatic envoys to China, captivated the audience with cleverly choreographed dances and impressive displays of musicianship, not to mention the excellent English of the 11-year-old compère!

The school would like to thank everyone who helped to make the day such a success, and is looking forward now to promoting Chinese language and culture within the local authority. Thanks to funding provided through a partnership between the Chinese Ministry of Education and the Scottish Government, the school is not only able to offer lessons in Mandarin to its pupils (in addition to French, German, Spanish and Russian) but also to provide similar opportunities to the wider community; therefore, anyone interested in finding out more about Mandarin within the Confucius Hub is invited to contact the school at kinrosshighschool@pkc.gov.uk.



Above: the Nanjing Little Red Flower group

Below: Kinross High School pupils performed at the celebration



Portmoak Primary School

Glenshee Ski Trip

On 27 February, 39 children went to Glenshee for a day of skiing. Despite snowy weather and freezing conditions, they had a super time. It was definitely a day to remember! It was the first time skiing on real snow for a number of our children. The trip followed on from our successful blocks of levels one and two lessons that we have been able to offer at Tillicoultry this year for the first time.

It was a long day but very much worth it. Thank you to the staff and parents who made this trip possible.

Homefront Histories

Our P5/6 and P6/7 classes were visited by Captain Mainwaring from the Home Guard (Dean from Homefront Histories). Each class spent the day with him and his multitude of World War Two artefacts. The children were Captain Mainwaring's



soldiers and dressed up in war uniform, tried on gas masks, learned songs, experienced air raids and made identity cards. They discovered what life was like in Britain during World War Two and were shocked by how little food was available to families due to rationing. Highlights of the day included defusing an incendiary bomb and handling a range of weapons.

When asked to sum up the day, Louis, Cara and Gordon said that it was 'a thrilling learning experience full of war memorabilia and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Highly recommended with a five star rating'.

Bags to School

If you have any rag bag donations (clothing, textiles, curtains) for our 'Bags 2 School' collection we would be very grateful. Community donations have a big impact on the amount of money we raise through this. The next date is before 9am on **Friday 20 April**. Donations can be dropped off here or at Buchan's garage

Thank you for reading our news.

If you have time or expertise that you would like to share with our school, then please get in touch.



Above: Checking out the WW2 artefacts

Left: Dean from Homefront Histories talks to pupils

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Email us at: mrandmrs.readyforaction@gmail.com

Club Correspondents

If sending your submission by **Email**,
please put the name of your community group in the
Subject Line of the Email message. Thank you.

Discover Loch Leven Website

To discover the myriad things to see and do in
Kinross-shire and its neighbouring counties, visit
www.visitlochleven.org

Sports News

Orwell Bowling Club

Bowling Green Avenue, Milnathort

Tel: 01577 865538

orwellbowlingclub.weebly.com



The 'Opening of the Green' will take place on **Saturday 14 April** at 1.30pm for a 2pm start. All members and potential members are welcome. Let's hope we have a good turnout and good weather to kick off the season.

Members who are entering competitions are reminded that their fees are to be paid by **Monday 30 April**. It was agreed at the AGM to increase the membership fees to £85 for full members. New members are half price for the first year after they have completed five coaching sessions.

There is no change in the social or junior membership fees. If anyone would like more information about the club and bowling, check out our website and our Facebook page.

Fossoway Curling Club

Our annual Reid Cup competition was won by Alan Paterson, Sid Grant, Willie Thomson and David Rae. Although the season isn't quite over, Tom McColgan has an unassailable lead in the club championship, thereby winning the Paterson Trophy.



We recently held our own 'Come and Try' session with members bringing along family and friends to try their hand at the game. Hopefully some of them will decide to take up the game and join our club. Our next big event is the Invitation Bonspiel on 31 March where we will be joined by some members of Kinross Curling Development Club along with the newcomers who attended the taster session; it should be a fun afternoon of curling.

Fossoway are a small and friendly local curling club based in Crook of Devon although our members come from far and wide. We play throughout the season, mostly at Kinross, with a few games in Perth. We are always looking for new members (beginners and experienced) who will find a warm welcome waiting. Coaching is available. Contact Alan on 01577 840695 or Willie on 01577 840405 for details.

Kinross Rugby Club

#ERBlitz

On Wednesday 14 March, Kinross RFC were very excited to host three Edinburgh Rugby players at a special training session as part of Edinburgh Rugby's #ERBlitz community player appearance event. Forty children were joined by Tom Galbraith, Nathan Fowles and Jason Harries for the evening, which included training and a Q&A. We are grateful to the players for finding the time in their busy training schedule to support our local youngsters.



Minis

Our youngest rugby players continue to train weekly. Recent fixtures have unfortunately been disrupted by the weather but, with tournament season upon us, there will be no shortage of matches to put their training into practice. The next few months see the youngsters travel to Stonehaven, Edinburgh and Perth.

Training for P1 to P7 takes place on Saturday mornings from 10.30am. New players always welcome.

Midis

Kinross RFC Midis hosted teams from Madras St Leonard's and Deeside Rugby Clubs on Sunday 11 March. The lads demonstrated their continued improvements this season, winning both games with a combination of strong rucking and good handling. Next up are a visiting side from West of Scotland. Here's hoping for more of the same.

S1 upwards boys train on Tuesday nights at 7pm. We welcome all new players, no previous rugby experience needed. Contact Kinrossrugby.juniors@gmail.com



Some of our young supporters with Edinburgh Rugby scrum half Nathan Fowles

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Sending photographs to the Newsletter

Contributors, if sending a photograph to the Newsletter, please send as a JPEG file and not embedded in a word document. Thank you.

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Kinross Golf Club

www.kinrossgolfclub.co.uk

Over the winter months, as well as carrying out necessary drainage, bunkers and greens work, Andy and his team of greenkeepers have also spent time on a few areas that should make for easier play and maintenance.

The banking at the back of the 4th green on the Bruce has been taken down by a couple of feet and smoothed off to give a roll off at the back of the green. This will create an easier shot back onto the green. The area on the right hand side of the 4th fairway on the Bruce, just down in the dip beyond the 17th medal tee, has been overgrown for sometime now and also contributes to slow play. The decision was taken to clear it up. However, there will be a couple of trees left so the area isn't overly bare. The right hand side of the 1st on the Montgomery, down towards the green, has also been cleared.

The first Friday 9 Hole Stableford is scheduled for **Friday 6 April**. This competition has been introduced for ladies and gents; in particular, members who like to play competitive golf but don't always have the time to play 18 holes. Gents can choose to play off either the white tees or the yellow tees, and the ladies will play off the red tees, all playing in the same competition. If you are interested, all you have to do is arrange your own playing partners and tee times then turn up and play.

The Mary Queen of Scots 0.33 carat diamond earrings, which were gifted as a prize for a Hole in One at our Ladies' Open last year will be carried forward to this season's Opens. This fabulous set of earrings will be presented to the lady who achieves the first Hole in One at the Par 3, 3rd on the Bruce in the Mixed Greensomes (Sunday 13 May), the Senior Ladies Greensomes (Thursday 12th July) or the Ladies Individual Stableford (Saturday 8th September).

Charity Quiz Night

Yes folks, it's time for our annual charity quiz. This year, it will take place on **Saturday 21 April** at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Teams of four and the entry fee is £20 per team.

We need your help to raise funds for the winning team's registered charity of choice. Last year's total of £500 was donated to the Alzheimer's Society. To maximise our fundraising, the half time raffle needs your input. Participants are requested to bring along a donation for the raffle; unwanted Christmas presents for recycling will be gratefully accepted. So, there you have it; a fun night to be had and all in a good cause. We look forward to seeing you all on the night! Entry money to be paid on arrival. Food will be available but must be pre-booked. Contact the club on 01577 862237 to reserve your table.

More details on the above, and about other golfing and social events, is available on our website, on Facebook and Twitter and in the clubhouse.

SEWING ALTERATIONS

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Kinross Tennis Club

www.kinrosstennisclub.org.uk



We hope that spring will have sprung by the time of our **Open Day on Saturday 31 March**. From 10.30am to 3pm, there will be lots of activity inside the clubhouse. People will (re)join for the 2018-19 season, sign up for coaching and exchange court keys. There will also be activity out on the courts as coach Daniel Reed eases us gently back into hitting tennis balls.

Juniors

The **Junior Easter Camp** will be running during the second week of the school holidays, starting on **Monday 9 April**. There are daily sessions for 4 to 7 year olds from 9am to 10.30am and then for 8 to 16 year olds from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

An 8-week block of **Junior Summer Term Coaching** will be running on Tuesday and, probably, Friday afternoons, starting on **Tuesday 17 April**.

For more information on both of these and to book, contact Daniel on 07932 614111 or at dartennis@gmx.co.uk.

NEW Tennis for Tots

New for 2018, these sessions start on **Tuesday 17 April**. These new classes for 2 to 5 year olds will introduce the basics of tennis through fun games and activities based on improving balance, co-ordination, agility, movement and racket and ball skills. Parents/carers will join the children on court and get to take part in all the fun games and exciting tennis activities.

The classes will run on Tuesdays from 9.30 to 10.15am and from 2 to 2.45pm. There will also be classes on Wednesdays from 9.30 to 10.15am. There is no need to book or pay in advance. For more information, see our website, Facebook or email Siobhan at Kinrosstenniscoaching@gmail.com.

Adults

The first of our popular Sunday afternoon **social tournaments** will take place on **Sunday 15 April** at 2pm. Friendly mixed doubles play will be combined with afternoon tea and plenty of chat.

With the lighter nights and, hopefully, better weather, we look forward to seeing increased numbers at the **regular club sessions** on Wednesdays at 6.30pm, Sundays at 10.30am and the Thursday afternoon social session at 1.30pm.

The Tennis Tayside leagues will also start at the end of April, with Perth and District leagues close behind.

We also plan to run some **adult coaching sessions** for different levels of players. These are subject to demand, so please email Margaret at kinrosstennis@gmail.com if you are interested.

Quiz thanks

Thank you to everyone who came along to our annual fundraising quiz night at the rugby club in March. Mike and Elaine Spain once again ran an excellent quiz and, as usual, the chilli and traybakes were delicious.

Further information

Check our website for further details on all aspects of the club and follow our Facebook page for latest news.

New members are always welcome; enquiries to our secretary, Margaret, on 07832 937233 or at kinrosstennis@gmail.com. For those new to the area, you can find the club next to Kinross Primary School along Station Road.

Visitors are also welcome. Keys are available from Sands the Ironmongers for a small fee.

Kinross-shire Cricket Club Junior Indoor League

The junior Wee Stramash indoor league has been won by the Titans after winning three of the five match series. There were some outstanding individual performances during the tournament; Finlay Clark produced the highest individual batting score with 48 in four overs and Andrew Hynd picked up the top bowling award with 5 wickets for 8 runs in 2 overs. The formal awards night will be held at the start of the outdoor season in April.

ECB All Stars

The club has again been named as one of the ECB All Stars venues. We will be running cricket for children aged 5 to 8 years old on Sundays starting on **Sunday 6 May**. Sessions will run from 10am to 11am.

The All Stars programme was a massive success last year and 'Twinkle' and the All Stars Activators will be on hand to get 2018 off and running with fun games and skills sessions. Places can be booked on Facebook or on the ECB website.

Quad Bike needed

The club would like to purchase a small quadbike that can be used to tow the grass mowers. The bike must be robust and suitable for agricultural work rather

than a sports type. If you can help, or know someone who has a bike for sale, please contact the club by email at secretary@kinrosscc.co.uk or message the Facebook page.

Outdoor Season Dates

The outdoor junior season starts on **Monday 23 April** at the cricket ground behind Loch Leven's Larder from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. Children aged 8 and above are most welcome.

Senior cricket starts the same week with 'Nets and Pizza' on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm. This year's

seniors training will have a much more social feeling as we are arranging pizza deliveries for those who couldn't eat before training.

If you haven't played before (or for 20 years!) come along for a bit of running around and a lot of fun.

League and friendlies start in May with the senior tour to Vienna taking place from 24 to 28 May.

Current information on club events and activities can be found on the club Facebook page.



Twinkle from the ECB All Stars last year

Kinross Bowling Club

The AGM of Kinross Bowling Club was held in the clubhouse on Sunday 28 January 2018. The following officials were appointed: President – Paul Grant; Secretary – George Rennie; Treasurer – Christine Matthews; Vice President – Janet Mitchell.

The opening of the Bowling Green is on Saturday 14 April at 2pm. We look forward to meeting all existing members and would welcome anyone who would like to try bowling to come along and have a go. It's a friendly sport and good exercise for young and all ages.

For more information, please contact George Rennie, 01577 864727, or email georgemrennie1@bt.connect.com


Athletics

At the IAAF World Indoor Athletics Championships held in Birmingham, 1-4 March 2018:

LAURA MUIR from Milnathort won bronze in the women's 3,000 metres and silver in the women's 1,500 metres. Laura, aged 24, combines her athletics career with her studies in veterinary medicine at Glasgow University.

EILIDH DOYLE (née Child), originally from Kinross, won bronze in the women's 400 metres in a season's best time of 51.60 seconds.

Eilidh (31) also took part in the Indoor Grand Prix in Glasgow in February where she was second in the 400m in a time of 52.38 seconds.



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evelyncrichton@hotmail.co.uk



Kinross Road Runners

kinrossroadrunners.weebly.com



We start our summer training schedule this month – hard to believe when the snow is such a recent memory! A few races and other events were affected by the wintry weather including our 'Plogging' session (litter picking and jogging), so this will be rescheduled for an evening now that the days are longer.

A special mention for our chief coach Scott Strachan who ran a blistering 2:54:34 at the Tokyo Marathon in February – well done, Scott. A mention also for Sarah Eaton and her knitting team who kitted out members with cosy club bobble hats ideal for the winter months – and all in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust.



Sarah Eaton hands over £344 to Emma Vickerstaff from the Teenage Cancer Trust

Entry has now closed for the increasingly popular **Loch Leven Half Marathon** with 600 sign ups in record time. It takes

place on **Saturday 12 May** so get out and support the runners if you can.

The summer training schedule is listed below. Tuesday nights are generally speedwork, meeting at 7pm at Kirkgate Park. Wednesday nights are generally trail runs and we are spoilt for choice with such a great network of local trails. We meet at 6.30pm on Wednesday nights at the Health Centre Car Park to share transport to the start of the run or its 7pm at the run location if you go directly there.

The informal **Sunday morning** run also continues throughout the summer months – meet at 9am at the Health Centre Car Park for either a trail or hill run at a very leisurely pace.

Juniors aged 4 to 14 will always be welcomed at the **Loch Leven Junior Parkrun** for a 2km circuit round Kirkgate Park every Sunday morning starting at 9.30am. Plans for a local Senior Parkrun are progressing well and details should be announced in the near future – watch this space.

Programme for April

Sun 1st	Informal run <i>or</i> Tay Ten
Tue 3rd	April two-mile Time Trial followed by hot chocolate and kit sale at Roger's garage
Wed 4th	Lochore Meadows
Sun 8th	Informal run
Tue 10th	8 x 400m at Kirkgate Park
Wed 11th	Blairadam
Sun 15th	Informal run
Tue 17th	Pyramid reps at Kirkgate Park
Wed 18th	Michael Bruce Trail from Portmoak Church
Sun 22nd	Informal run
Tue 24th	5 x 1k at Kirkgate Park
Wed 25th	Benarty from Findatie car park
Sun 29th	Informal run

Kinross Netball Club

We meet every Friday in the large games hall at the Community Campus. Our sessions run from 7pm to 8.30pm and costs £4 (first week is free).

We're a friendly bunch of ladies who all have a passion for netball. So if you're looking to reignite that passion, or want to try a new sport which will also increase your fitness, come along and join us. You can contact us on Facebook or email us at kinrossnetball@hotmail.com.



Fossoway Tennis Club

We are a family friendly club (nothing too serious) based in Crook of Devon welcoming to new members of all abilities. We have internal competitions for all ages including coaching for younger children. Have a look at our Facebook page or come along on a Thursday evening from 6.30pm to speak to a member. Individual and family memberships available. Contact Gerry on 07549 553063 or email fossowaytennis@hotmail.co.uk.

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Kinross Otters

It's been a busy month for Kinross Otters. Our new intake have slotted in well, getting used to training and building up their stamina.

Our Second Division team performed fantastically well at the Kinross leg of the leagues on Saturday 17 March. There were 28 individual swims with 21 of those achieving PBs! Four others were merely milliseconds away from PBs too. We are so proud of all our Otters, especially as some of the squad are relatively new to the league team. Attitude and determination shown by all was outstanding and we finished the day in first position.

Our fundraiser Annie collected together a great tombola prize table and parent helper Gillian McCloskey was there manning the stall. A great fundraiser for club funds and as always, our dedicated team of parent time-keepers, judges and officials were there moving the day along. Looking good for the rest of the league season!

In other great news, platinum squad swimmer Emily Cumming has qualified for the Scottish National Age Groups

(SNAGS) 2018. This is a 50 metre pool event and is usually the first national competition in a swimmer's career. The qualification criteria changed recently, meaning Emily had to work even harder to shave off precious hundredths from the times that just a few weeks ago would have seen her qualify comfortably.



Emily Cumming, SNAGS qualifier

Around 90 clubs take part, sending about 1000 young people across all age groups. The event takes place at Tollcross International Swimming

Centre at the beginning of April and we wish Emily the best of luck!

Like many sports clubs, we find keeping boys interested and engaged particularly difficult and have been looking at ways to encourage them to stay involved. The benefits of swimming, even as a secondary sport, are many and can help to improve stamina, strength and general fitness. In March we held a 'Dad's Day' where we encouraged Dads, male family members and older male swimmers to come along and help at poolside. We had a great turnout and we're hoping to run events like these regularly, so look out for information on our Facebook page or contact us by email if you'd like to come along.

We'll be running a general poolside helper course soon too so don't worry Mums, you aren't off the hook either!

We were delighted to accept a donation from Persimmon Homes North Scotland who handed over a cheque for £750 to help fund equipment for new training methods. We are grateful for their support.



Kinross Curling

Green Road, Kinross, KY13 8TU

Tel: 01577 861821

www.kinrosscurling.co.uk

Email: lceman@KinrossCurling.co.uk

www.facebook.com/KinrossCurlingRink

The final match of the season takes place on **Saturday 7 April** - our **Closing Bonspiel**. We have had a great response and look forward to the day, which ends with our annual prize-giving at 7pm. Everyone involved with Kinross Curling is welcome. The club of the season will be awarded along with prize winners for all the events running through the season. There is an added 'buzz' as this will be the last event before the builders move in to the rink to start our building project.

We are adding a two-storey extension to provide extra office and lounge space and a lift to provide disabled access to the bar. Congratulations to our ladies who reached the final of the **Morton trophy** on 13 March at Kirkcaldy. They just missed out on becoming national rink champions in a close match against Stirling.

Our men also just missed out in qualification to the national rink finals at Ayr. We have improved year on year - so 2018/19 must be our year!

A rink of mainly local ladies (Angela Wilcox, Susan Scougal and Eileen Thomas, together with Debbie Higgins from Kelso) also had



a great success by winning the **Ladies Open at Stirling** on 7 March.

We were thrilled to be successful in the recent **community grant** 'election' held at the Community Campus on 10 March. Thank you to everyone who cast a vote in favour of our project to provide full disabled access at the curling rink.

Sponsoring events and the rink: We have many ways you can promote your business at the rink and attract the attention of curlers. You can have your logo 'under the ice' and on our stones. Contact Phil Barton on philbarton@kinrosscurling.co.uk



Winners of the Stirling Ladies Open: Debbie Higgins, Angela Wilcox, Susan Scougal and Eileen Thomas

KINROSS GROUP

The Kinross Group of Scottish Women's Institutes held their Spring Meeting on 10 March in Milnathort Town Hall. It was a well attended and enjoyable meeting.

The Ramage Dawson Competition was a Comedy Fashion Show and was adjudicated by Betty Stratton (Fife Federation). Cleish won and received the Ramage Dawson Trophy. Glenfarg were the runners up and received the Erskine Trophy. The Best Individual Performance was awarded to Liz Yuill (Glenfarg) and she received the Jessie Smith Trophy.

The **Autumn Group Meeting** is on **Saturday 3 November** at 2pm in Crook of Devon Institute.

MILNATHORT – On 15 February, Jean Paterson, President, welcomed members to our first meeting in 2018. (Our January meeting had been cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.) Jean introduced Frances Drysdale, who gave an interesting floral demonstration, together with tips on flower arranging.

Flask of Lentil Soup	Kathleen King
Knitted Baby Jacket	Frances Shepherd
Flower of the Month	May Paterson

Jean Paterson, President, welcomed everyone to the meeting on 15 March and hoped members were recovering from the visit of the 'Beast from the East!' The business part of the meeting was conducted with numerous up and coming events mentioned. Jean then introduced Mr Dick Crighton, who gave us a very entertaining insight into his years as a coach driver at home and abroad, with many humorous anecdotes. After lots of questions Jean gave the vote of thanks.

Pot of Bulbs	Denise Stephenson
Three Easter Biscuits	Kathleen King
Flower of the Month	Nan Paterson

Jean thanked everyone for coming out on such a wet evening and wished us all a safe journey home.

CLEISH – President Mrs Helen Buchanan welcomed 33 members to our February meeting. After business she welcomed Gwen McQueen from Heavenly Goodies. We enjoyed an informative talk on how she has grown her business making decadent handmade chocolates and sweets. Samples were provided, which we all enjoyed! A vote of thanks was given by Mrs Jane McGee.

Valentine's Card	Alison Morris
Fruit Salad	Marian Bissett
Bowl of Bulbs	Elinor Craig

President Mrs Helen Buchanan welcomed 27 members to our March meeting. We all enjoyed an informative talk by Celia and Jimmy Fernie from Greyhound Rescue Fife. They were joined on the evening by one of their greyhounds, Kate. We heard all about how the sanctuary rehomes racing greyhounds that come to Gairneybank from all across the UK. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs Helen Buchanan. General business was conducted after the talk.

Vegetable Loaf	Alison Morris
Picture of Favourite Pet	Alison Morris
Flower of the Month	Marian Laird

BLAIRINGONE – We were pleased to have a demonstration of cookery by Frances Drysdale at our March meeting. Her theme was "Entertaining For Busy People". Most of her dishes contained four ingredients or less and could be prepared ready for cooking in less than ten minutes – what better when called on to produce a meal for unexpected visitors or to keep ahead in today's busy lifestyle? The opportunity to taste her cuisine was relished by the members and given the "thumbs up".

To complete her theme, she also brought along a sample of greenery which can be grown in our own gardens. Adding some simple flowers to it would enhance any table decoration and "hey presto" the dinner table is complete.

President Joyce Petrie thanked Frances for an inspiring "hassle free" entertaining demonstration.



Frances Drysdale demonstrated cooking for busy people

BISHOPSHIRE – Jeanette McLellan welcomed members to the meeting on 8 March. Our speaker was crime writer Gillian Galbraith, who treated us to a very amusing talk about her life and career path into writing.

Small Dish of Paté	Wilma Barclay
Words made from SW Institute	Joanne Cowan
Flower of the Month	Margaret Paton

GLENFARG – Many thanks to the ladies of Scone Institute who entertained at the March meeting. It was an excellent programme of songs, quiz, demonstration and stories, all laced with laughter. This made for a lovely, light-hearted evening enjoyed by everyone present. Mrs Margot Moran proposed the vote of thanks.

Embroidered Handkerchief	Margot Moran
Rock Buns	Lillias Johnson
Bowl of Bulbs	Alison Harrison

Visiting Kinross-shire?

For information on Eating Out, Parks and Gardens, Historic Buildings and more, visit

www.visitlochleven.org

SWI continued...

POWMILL – President Sharon Buchanan welcomed members and visitors to the February meeting. Maz Thorn led a workshop on paper Kusudama folded flowers. Using squares from a pastel-coloured memo pad, five individual petals were made and then glued together to form the flower. Everyone produced at least one flower to take home. Fiona Buchanan gave a vote of thanks for an enjoyable workshop.

Homemade sweets	Mary Wilson
A Valentine Haiku	Mary Wilson
Garden Gem	Mary Wilson

In March, President Sharon Buchanan welcomed members and visitors to our charity evening and introduced Katie Brisbane from The Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET). Katie explained that RHET, a charity founded in 1999, provides learning opportunities about farming, food production, the outdoors and the countryside for 3-18 year olds throughout Scotland.

We all took part in trying to match samples of seeds to photos of vegetables and crops with varying degrees of success.

Fiona Buchanan gave a vote of thanks and President Sharon Buchanan presented Katie with a cheque for £100.

Tea was then served by Alison Stirling and Anne McKay. The business meeting followed after tea.

Wedge of Chocolate Cake	Tricia Greer
A Decorated Egg	Mary Wilson
Garden Gem	Mary Wilson



Sharon Buchanan (left) presents a cheque to Katie Brisbane from RHET

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CARNBO – Mauchline ware was the very interesting subject presented at our February meeting by Mr Ian Smith. To many of us it was a total unknown and yet it began “just up the road” in Alyth near Blairgowrie. All very intriguing! As an aside, our competition - bring along your favourite wooden ornament - had the record number of entries of 20! Our sincere thanks to Ian for his obviously thoughtful and meticulous preparation was voiced by Christine Allan. After tea, there followed a full business meeting led by President, Jay Hutchison.

Flower of the Month	Sandra Turnbull
Favourite Wooden Ornament	Christine Allan

To our March meeting, President Jay Hutchison welcomed Bob McQueen and Enid Barker from the charity Diabetes Scotland. Interspersed with Enid's personal experiences of managing the disease when she was diagnosed as suffering from Type 1 Diabetes 47 years ago, only months after having her second child, Bob's very able presentation of the many areas in which the charity helps change lives was both thought-provoking and informative. Margaret Greener thanked them both on our behalf for their very positive and extremely interesting talk on a very pertinent topic.

Flower of the Month	Frances Drysdale
A Low Sugar Dessert and Recipe	Josephine Paterson

At next month's meeting on **Monday 16 April**, we look forward to seeing and hearing about birds of prey from Mr Neil Hunter. All welcome.

Congratulations



Both families are so delighted to announce the safe arrival of our precious, gorgeous baby, **DARCEY ROSE JEAN WATSON**, on 8 March 2018! First baby for Mark and Linda Watson. Third great-grandchild for Jean and Tom Webster.

DAVID and **WILLIS COLLIAR** celebrated their Golden Wedding on 9 March 2018 and thank all relatives and friends for cards and gifts.

JOHN MONCRIEFF Ltd, Kinross-based lighting company, has been named 'Best Lighting Supplier in Scotland' in the LUX magazine Designer Awards 2018. The quarterly LUX magazine informs readers on all aspects of high end lifestyle. Scott Gilmore, Managing Director of John Moncrieff Ltd, said: “We're really thrilled to have won this award; it's a great achievement to get this kind of industry recognition. It's a real team effort so we're pleased that our dedication and hard work is being recognised.”

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Out & About

Loch Leven NNR



What a month it's been! Kinross was right in the path of the so-called Beast from the East. We saw drifts that were above head height. Much of the trail was impassable and at time of writing we still have snow piled up around the trail.

As our office was shut, Neil and I assisted NHS Fife getting frontline staff to and from Victoria Hospital. We were also able to assist vehicles stuck in the snow. It was well worth sending us on our 4x4 training.

The loch stayed fairly ice-free during the cold period because of the strong winds but semi-melted snow on the surface did form spectacular 'snowbergs' along the west shore of the loch. I've never seen that during my 16 years at Loch Leven. This eventually froze, but I think curlers would struggle to play on it!



Snow drifts at Kirkgate Park

Most of the wintering wildfowl disappeared during February. The sudden extreme cold snap did bring a couple of interesting visitors with it. A Puffin was on the loch between Findatie and St Serf's. It is the first record of this species at Loch Leven. Also a Snow Bunting was along the loch shore at Kirkgate. They are fairly easy to see on the hills around the loch but quite scarce at low level. While we were photographing the bunting we spotted a Kittiwake. Common in the Forth, this is the first live example since 1999 around the loch. We've also seen decent flocks of Scaup and the two Little Egrets during the month.

We managed one night of moth trapping at the office. I caught my target moth, a Pale Brindled Beauty. These have only recently been recorded locally. They have been slow to colonise Scotland as the females are flightless.

Neil was in charge of Trout in the Classroom this year. It all went smoothly even if the trout were hatching quite quickly. The snow did not deter the school children going out to release their fish in the local burns. Willie Wilson was once again fantastic and hopefully this will inspire the next generation of conservationist anglers.

We've borrowed the Softrak again from colleagues at the Ecoco. We cleared more scrub from Mary's Knowe. There is still wood chip in piles in Burleigh Sands car park for you to use in your gardens. We also managed to clear several hectares of rank vegetation down at Carsehall Bog, despite the harsh weather.

There was a bit of a stall with the blog mid-month but we are back up and running. Please go on and have a look. Put Loch Leven NNR Wordpress into your search engine to find it.

April the first is when we allow open water access to Loch Leven again. If you wish to go onto Loch Leven with a kayak or canoe, please check out our guidance online or phone us in the office. We are always happy to help promote wildlife friendly access to Loch Leven.

Thanks for your patience as we removed the trees along the golf course. The area is now clear and we will be planting the area up during the first week of April.

Surely some fine weather is just round the corner.

Jeremy, Reserve Officer

SNH and partners have been nominated for a prestigious award. See article on page 3.

Local gardens to visit in April



Glendoick, by Perth, PH2 7NS. Glendoick's five acres includes rhododendrons, magnolias and meconopsis. Open daily, 1 April – 31 May, 10am-4pm. Admission: £5, children free.

Rossie House, Forgandenny, PH2 9EH. A romantic garden. Visits by arrangement. Please contact Mr & Mrs Nichol, tel 01738 812265, email judynichol@rossiehouse.co.uk. website www.rossiegardens.com. Admission: £5, children free.

Hollytree Lodge, Muckhart, Dollar, FK14 7JW. A tranquil garden. Visits by arrangement with Liz & Peter Wyatt, tel 0797 337 4687, email elizwyatt@aol.com. Admission: £4, children free.

Pitcurran House, Abernethy, PH2 9LH. By arrangement. Mrs Noel-Paton, tel 01738 850933, email patricianp@pitcurran.com. Admission: £5, children free.

The gardens listed above, plus many others in Scotland, open under the Scotland's Gardens scheme, raising money for many worthwhile charities. For further information, check out www.scotlandsgardens.org



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From blistering winds, to the beast from the east snowfall, Loch Leven has had a dramatic start to the beginning of spring. The signs of the season can be seen everywhere throughout the reserve, with snowdrops, bluebells, and daffodils poking their heads through the earth. The birds are beginning to start their early morning song, with an exceptionally loud great tit welcoming staff and visitors to the reserve each morning. Greater spotted woodpecker can be heard 'drumming' in the trees near the visitor centre, and a pair have been spotted flying between the feeder screen and the Leafy Loop. Flocks of long tailed tit can be seen on the feeders, as well as excellent numbers of treecreeper. These quirky little birds have been spotted scaling the walls of the visitor centre and foraging for insects within the moss. If you have visited the Gillman hide recently you may have been lucky enough to see a flash of blue through the grassland. Kingfisher have been spotted fishing from the hide in the early hours of the morning! Why not head down to the wetlands and see if you can spot one?



*Snowdrops and other spring flowers are in bloom in the reserve
Photo: Uwe Stoneman*

The reserve team have been hard at work preparing for the bird breeding season by cutting back vegetation and managing the water levels for nesting lapwing. Rafts have been cleaned and restocked with gravel to provide a safe platform for incoming black headed gull colonies. Despite being noisy neighbours, these gulls provide excellent protection against predators for rare species such as black necked grebe and lapwing. The staff at Loch Leven have their fingers crossed that this year's rafts may tempt a second round of little ring plover!

The visitor team is in the process of preparing for Easter this month and will be running a **Easter Lapwing Trail on Fri, Sat, Sun & Mon 30 March – 2 April**. There is no need to book; simply drop in anytime and follow the Easter themed trail around the beautiful woodlands to find wildlife, solve the puzzle, and win a tasty treat!

If you want to brush up on your bird ID skills why not pop along to the **Spring Bird Walk**, 10am – 12pm on **Sunday 8 April**. This is a relaxed walk that will help you identify the songs and calls of your common garden birds. The walk is open to all levels of experience and binocular hire is included with the price. To book onto this event please visit www.rspblochleven.eventbrite.com

We are very pleased to announce that work for the new accessible underpass is scheduled to commence after Easter. The reserve will remain open throughout this period, so please don't hesitate to pop in and stock up on bird food, grab a slice of cake or walk the trails. The work will last approximately 16 weeks, so please bear with us during this time. We will have the reserve back to its beautiful self as soon as possible. A one-way traffic control system will be in operation but we are pleased to say that no road closures are scheduled. The Heritage Trail and access to it from the RSPB car park will remain open throughout. We will keep people updated and informed of any changes via Facebook '(RSPB Tayside and Fife' and 'Visit Loch Leven') and the Kinross CC webpage.

Lochleven Castle, Castle Island, Kinross



Located on an island in beautiful Loch Leven, this is one of Scotland's oldest castles, probably built in the early 1300s. Mary, Queen of Scots spent a traumatic year in captivity here, when she miscarried twins and was forced to abdicate. She dramatically escaped in 1568.

The property is reached by boat, operated by Historic Scotland and departing from the fishery pier (Pier Road, KY13 8UF) where there is parking and a Historic Scotland shop and ticket office.

Due to limited capacity, it is recommended that all visits are booked in advance. This can be done online at www.historicenvironment.scot/lochleven-castle or via the local ticket office. Phone 01577 862670 for further information. Access times for 2018:

26 March to 30 September: Daily, 10am to last outward sailing at 4.15pm
1-31 October: Daily, 10am to last outward sailing at 3.15pm

Admission prices: Adult £7.50, Child £4.50, Conc £6. HS members free.
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Farming

Well, winter is certainly reluctant to release its grip over us but hopefully we are currently in the midst of its final 'hurrah' for the year, and the beast from the east is securely locked up in its cage, tamed for the rest of the season.

March fairly came in like a lion so hopefully will go out like a lamb. The severe blizzard conditions once again showed how vulnerable fresh food supplies are to a relatively short term of bad weather and shows the limitations of having an increasingly centralised distribution network. Many sheep were also suffocated under drifts of snow as they tried to shelter from the bitter conditions.

The very heavy rain and now snow and extreme cold of the past few weeks has held back field work on even kinder farming areas of 'Newsletter' country, so when spring does arrive there will be a hefty workload to contend with. What will also have an impact on spring workload is the fact that, due to wet conditions last autumn, there were fewer acres of winter cereals sown, so a larger area of spring sown crops will be grown.

Here at Backward Farm the conditions were difficult enough, but not as bad as some areas. Our road mostly didn't drift with snow too badly apart from a couple of areas nearer to the main road, so I was able to go and clear it with the tractor for a few days to allow people to get out.

We have had a few sheep lambing, but we had them inside, so they were okay, although the shed is quite open and for a couple of days the shed was as white inside as outside.

The first main batch have been lambing for a week now and the final, largest batch should be in full swing by the time you are reading this.

The ewes scanned well this year, with very few barren ewes and not too many triplets, so we will see how it pans out.

The cows won't be calving for a month yet, although we had a couple of heifers calve last month to our new bull Lotus and they are doing fine.

Over the winter months the pigs have been howling merrily in the muck although they weren't so keen on the snow, staying tucked up in their arks during the worst of the storms. One ark in particular had a drift of snow piled up against it, so it became known as a 'pigloo'.

Dark winter nights get filled up with a seemingly endless stream of meetings and seminars, some of which can be pretty cheugh going, so it was a welcome relief to enjoy a lighter event. Kinross Show had a comedy night in Portmoak Hall which was a full house. There were four comedians providing a variety of entertainment but without doubt the star of the show was Perthshire's farming comedian Jim Smith who gave a hilarious insight to his farming life in the hills and comparing everyday events in an agricultural context. It was certainly a tonic and set everyone up for the spring ahead.


John Buchanan

Weather



February Weather Report from Kinross

Total rainfall	45.8mm = 1.83ins
Heaviest rainfall	8.9mm melted snow
Total sunshine for the month	64.6 hours
Sunniest day	6.3 hours (20th)
Maximum temperature average	5.38°C
Highest temperature	10.4°C (19th)
Minimum temperature average	-4.47°C
Lowest temperature	-10.1°C (6th)



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Facebook: www.facebook.com/kinrossparishchurch.org
Church E-mail: office@kinrossparishchurch.org
Church office and church open: Mon-Fri 10am-12 noon.
Church Office: Tel. (01577) 862570
Contact the church office if you are interested in leasing rooms in the church or church centre.
Minister: Rev Alan D. Reid MA, BD Tel: (01577) 862952
Ordained Local Minister:
Rev Margaret Michie Tel: (01592) 840602
Session Clerk: Jaffrey Weir Tel: (01577) 865780

Events listed below are in the church unless indicated otherwise.

Regular Services and Events

Sundays: 10.30am: Morning Service with Crèche. Junior Church (age 3 to P7) and 'Jam Pact' (Secondary Age) meet at church centre from 10.15am, finish at church.
7.30pm: 'Crossfire' (S1 upwards) in church centre.
Tuesdays: 10am: Pram Service (except in school holidays).
Wednesdays: 10.45am Service, church centre. 1.30pm: Craft Group.
NEW: 3pm: 'Talkback' for P6/7 age (Upper Room in the church).
Fridays: The Brigade, church centre.
Anchor Section 6 - 7.15pm, Junior Section 7 - 9pm, Company Section 8 - 10pm (Contact: David Munro 862126).
Saturdays: 10am -12noon 'Coffee Stop', church centre. Coffee, cakes and book sale most Saturdays.

Other Events and Services

April

- Sun 1 Easter Sunday**
7.30am: United Service at Kirkgate Park, organised by Kinross-shire Churches Together. Breakfast after at Kirklands Hotel.
10.30am: Morning Worship.
6.30pm: Songs of Praise organised by Kinross-shire Churches Together, at Portmoak Parish Church.
- Mon 2** 8am: Silent Meditation.
- Tue 3** 2.30pm: Service at Whyte Court.
NEW 4pm: **Service at The Sycamores** (first Tuesday of the month)
7.15pm: Guild, church centre: 'Milnathort and Kinross Allotments Association'.
- Thu 5** 7.30pm: Thursday Group, church centre: 'Haiti Help'.
- Mon 9** 2pm-4pm: **Movie Fun Afternoon** - Dress up as your favourite movie character, enjoy a movie and ice cream. Cost £5 one child, £8 for 2. No charge for accompanying adult. A fund raiser for this year's summer mission to Hungary.
- Sat 14** 8.30am: Prayer Breakfast (names in advance to church office).
- Thu 19** 6.30pm: 'All Friends Together'.
9pm: late evening service of Compline.
- Sat 21 and Sat 28** 10.30am - 4pm: **Mental Health First Aid Course**. Hosted by Kinross Parish Church but this free course is for any volunteers and professionals who deal regularly with the public (contact George Hayton 01577 863055 or ghayton@clara.co.uk)
- Mon 23** 7pm (tea and cakes), 7.30pm meeting - for those thinking of volunteering to help with **Family Week** ('Teambuilders'), **30 July - 3 August**.
- Tue 24** 2.30pm Service at Causeway Court.

Cleish Parish Church Church of Scotland

(Charity No: SC003168)

Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse BD (Hons)
Tel: 01577 842128
Email: estenhouse@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk: Neil Maclure
Email: neil.maclure19@gmail.com Tel: 01577 864826
Please visit our website: www.cleishchurch.org



Sunday Services 11.15am

April

- Sun 1** 11.15am **Easter Sunday Worship** followed by informal Sacrament of Holy Communion.
- Sun 8** 11.15am **Morning Worship***
- Wed 11** 2pm **Cleish Guild 'Daffodil Tea'** in the Village Hall (see separate notice for details, page 91).
- Sun 15** 11.15am **Morning Worship***
- Sun 22** 11.15am **Morning Worship***
- Sun 29** 11.15am **Morning Worship***

* Please note that refreshments will be served in the Young Room after Morning Worship. All welcome.

A Date for your Diary:
Cleish Church Sale and Fete
Saturday 19 May starting at 2pm

Trinity Church

A new Church ... A new Beginning.

Trinity Church is a **MISSION OUTREACH** of the **UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**, led by **REVEREND JEROME O'BRIEN**.



Crook of Devon, Station Road, KY13 0PG
Website www.trinity-church.co.uk

Sauchie & Fishcross United Free Church of Scotland, Scottish Charity No. SC009740.

Sunday Service

We meet every Sunday at the Crook of Devon Village Hall. The service starts at 10.30am for teas and coffees, with the gathering to worship God commencing at 11am. After the service, there will be occasion for refreshments and conversation.
For more information about who we are and what we do, visit our website.

Family Week in 2018

Dates for your Diary

This summer's Family Week at Kinross Parish Church will run from **Monday 30 July** till **Friday 3 August**. This year's theme is 'Teambuilders' and there is going to be all the usual fun. Children and young people will be very welcome from age three and a half all the way up to 16.

If you would like to join the volunteer helpers, there is a meeting at the church on **Monday 23 April** which starts with tea and cakes at 7pm with details of the plans for 'Teambuilders' from 7.30pm.

Fossoway, St Serf's & Devonside Church

Church of Scotland (Charity number SC013157)

Church Road, Crook of Devon, Kinross-shire, KY13 0UY

www.fossowaychurch.org.uk

Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse Telephone: (01577) 842128

Email: estenhouse@churchofscotland.org.uk

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

Email: aclassicsoul@aol.com

Our church is a very warm and welcoming place situated in the Crook of Devon, a small village about 6 miles from Kinross. Come and join us, we would love to meet you.

Sunday Services at 9.45am. All are welcome.

April

- Sun 1** 9.15-9.30am A Time for Prayer.
9.45am Easter Sunday service and celebration of Holy Communion.
- Sun 8** 9.15-9.30am A Time for Prayer.
9.45am Morning Worship.
- Tue 10** 2.30pm service at Rumbling Bridge Care Home.
- Sun 15** 9.15-9.30am A Time for Prayer.
9.45am Morning Worship.
- Sun 22** 9.15-9.30am A Time for Prayer.
9.45am Morning Worship.
- Sun 29** 9.15-9.30am A Time for Prayer.
9.45am Morning Worship.

Café Refresh

Every Thursday in the Church Hall, 2 - 4pm. Join us for a friendly blether with scrummy home baking, teas and coffees. *All are welcome.*

messychurch@fossoway

Friday 27 April, 3.15pm, at the Crook of Devon Village Hall.

House Group

Wednesday evenings 7.30pm. Please contact Debbie Hill for further details, 01577 842268.

Film Afternoon

Friday 6 April 2pm - A lovely afternoon for you and your children and grandchildren to enjoy 'Paddington 2', with some refreshments provided. Please bring along your Teddy. (Suggested donation £3 per adult and £2 per child.)

Film Evening

Friday 6 April, 7.30pm – 9.30pm, in the Church Hall. We're showing Paddington 2 again and once again refreshments will be provided. *Please join us for the film, a cuppa and a blether and even some popcorn.*



for all occasions – relax with fabulous food
www.stellascanapes.co.uk



T: 01577 862220 M: 07803 136468
E: canapes@tayforth.co.uk

St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)

Muir, Kinross, KY13 8AY Telephone: 01577 864299

Email: office@stpaulskinross51.plus.com

Website: www.stpauls-kinross.co.uk

Fr David Mackenzie Mills, Rector Telephone: 01577 863795

Email: frdavidkinross@gmail.com

You can also find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurchkinross

Mondays and Wednesdays

8am Morning Prayer, said quietly in the warmth of the meeting room!

(1st Mondays) 10am Pastoral Care group (Side chapel).

Tuesdays

11am Informal Holy Communion (celebrated in the Church Office).

Thursdays

10.30am Thursday morning Discussion Group (*usually in the Meeting Room unless otherwise advertised.*)

3.30pm – 4.30pm Rector's Hour – an opportunity to drop in and speak to the Rector in the Church Office.

Forthcoming Services and Events - all welcome

March

Fri 30 GOOD FRIDAY

9am Liturgy of the Cross.

2pm Ecumenical Service for The Last Hour.

Sat 31 EASTER EVE

8.30am Holy Communion.

9pm Easter Vigil with first Sung Eucharist of Easter.

April

Sun 1 EASTER DAY

(7.30am Lochside Service).

8.30am Holy Communion.

11am Family Sung Eucharist.

Sun 8 Easter 2

8.30am Holy Communion.

11am Sung Eucharist.

Sun 15 Easter 3

8.30am Holy Communion.

11am Sung Eucharist.

Sun 22 Earth Day

8.30am Holy Communion.

11am Whole Church Environment-focussed Sung Eucharist.

Sun 29 Easter 5

8.30am Holy Communion.

11am Lay-led Service of the Word, Sung Eucharist, prayers for healing and laying on of hands.

5.30pm Said Evensong with hymns.

Kinross Gospel Hall

Montgomery Street, Kinross

Website: www.kinrossgospelhall.info

- Sunday 10.30am Breaking of Bread
12.30pm Sunday School
4.00pm Gospel Meeting (1st & 3rd Sundays of the month, Friends and Neighbours Tea)
- Monday 7.30pm Prayer Meeting
8.15pm Bible Study
- Thursday 9.30am Toddlers Group (Montgomery Toddlers)

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

Sunday Worship, Junior Church and crèche:

10am Portmoak Church,

11.30am Orwell Church.

All children welcome. Crèche available during the services.

Please note that joint services will be held on the first Sunday of each month in alternate churches at 10.30am.**Prayer Meeting** held 30 mins before each service.**Messy Church:** Saturday 28 April in Orwell Hall, 4 - 6pm.**Service at Ashley House:** first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm.**Morning Prayers at 9am**

Each Thursday at Portmoak Church New Room.

Each Friday at Orwell Church.

Dates and events for your diary

1 Apr Joint Easter service in Portmoak Church at 10.30am.
No service at Orwell Church.
Easter Songs of Praise service in Portmoak Church at 6.30pm.

27 Apr Oasis Ladies' Group meets in Portmoak New Room at 10.15am. Margaret Paton will talk about 'Working with Stained Glass'.

Everyone welcome

Church office & shop open Mon – Fri. 10am until 2pm.

29 South Street, Milnathort KY13 9XA.

Christian cards, gifts, bibles and books for sale. Printing and copying facilities available. Recycling for ink toners, stamps & batteries. Donations of food can be made for the local Foodbank.

Contact the Office 01577 861200
orwellandportmoakchurch@gmail.com

Kinross Christian FellowshipJesus 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.

Kinross-shire Churches Together

Good Friday, 30 March: 1pm 'Walk of Witness', starting at Millbridge Hall; 2pm 'The Last Hour at the Cross' at St Paul's Church; 7.30pm United Service at Fossoway Church

Easter Sunday, 1 April: 7.30am United Service at Kirkgate Park; 6.30pm United Songs of Praise at Portmoak Church.

St James' Catholic Church

5 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AW

Parish Priest: Father Martin Pletts. Tel: 01577 863329

www.catholickinross.com Email: Fr.MartinPletts@gmail.com

m.facebook.com/parishpriestkinross/

m.facebook.com/stjamesprayergroup/

Regular Services

Mon	7pm	Holy Mass preceded by Confessions and Prayer Group at 8pm in the church hall.
Tue	10am	Holy Mass preceded by Confessions and Morning Prayer (9.30 - 9.50am).
Wed	10am	Holy Mass preceded by Confessions and Morning Prayer (9.30 - 9.50am). Teas / Coffees after Mass, in the church hall.
Thu	10am	Holy Mass preceded by Confessions and Morning Prayer (9.30 - 9.50am).
Fri	10am	Holy Mass preceded by Morning Prayer and Confessions (9.30 - 9.50am).
	3pm	Divine Mercy Devotions.
Sat	10-10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions (first Saturday of every month Holy Mass at 10am).
	7pm	Vigil Mass.
Sun	9.30am	Mass (teas/coffees after Mass in church hall).

Confessions also on request.**Prayer Group** meets on a Monday, 8pm-10pm, in the church hall and is open to all.**Children's Catechism class** meets every Monday during term time, 3.45pm-4.30pm in the church hall.

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

Obituary**PATRICIA PAYNE** (died 3 March 2018)

Pat was born in Berwick upon Tweed, but soon thereafter the family moved to Edinburgh. She met David, her future husband, in 1968 in a youth club in Edinburgh where Pat was one of the organisers. David had just returned to Scotland from the USA after living there since a boy. Pat and David were to make many visits to Tennessee and Alabama in the years to come, visiting friends and family.

They married in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church in Edinburgh in 1971. They started their married life in Culross, their daughter Shoena being born in 1972 and their son Mikael being born in 1976. They moved to Kinross in 1977 and their son Russell was born in 1981.

After moving to Kinross, the family became members of St Paul's, a church which she loved. Pat was a loyal member of the local charity Common Grounds. Pat also devoted much attention to the principles of Fair Trade and she was instrumental in making Kinross-shire the first Fair Trade county in Scotland.

Pat suffered a severe illness in late 2016 but became well enough to return home where she had a very good life in so many ways. She was thrilled to have five grandchildren: Bethany, Juliana and Lucia (the daughters of Russell and Sharon) and Annalie and Josie (the daughters of Shoena and Justin). Her extended family gave her so much pleasure. She will be remembered for her lovely smile and her kind heart to all.

Playgroups and Toddlers

Milnathort Babies & Toddlers

Orwell Church Hall, Milnathort
Friday 9.30am-11.15am

A relaxed and friendly group
Healthy snacks, tea & coffee
Children from birth to 3 years
(5 years if attending with younger sibling)
Great fun for the kids, mums, dads and carers!

PLACES NOW AVAILABLE!

To join in the fun
call 07745 804539
Email milnathortbt@gmail.com
Or find us on Facebook



SWANSACRE PLAYGROUP SCIO

21-23 Swansacre, Kinross
Reg Scottish Charity No SCIO7748

Tel: 01577 862071 Mobile: 07592 392 235

We provide a warm, friendly and stimulating environment in which children can learn and develop through play.

Garden Guddle: Mon 9am - 3pm.

Playgroup: Children from age 2 years welcome.
Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 9.05am - 11.50am

Inbetweeners: Mon 9.05 - 11.50am, optional Lunch Club afterwards. Children from the age of 3 years welcome.

Rising Fives: Tues 12.55pm - 3.10pm, optional Lunch Club beforehand, 12.10-12.55pm. Complementary to preschool Nursery.

For availability or more information, please contact:
Lisa 07736 642070, enrolments.swansacre@gmail.com
or Playgroup on telephone numbers above.

Baby and Toddler Group – Thurs 12.45 - 2.45pm

Unfortunately this group is not on at present as there is no one to run it. Should anyone wish to volunteer to start the group up again, please contact Swansacre Playgroup.

The premises are available to hire for Private Functions. For more information, please contact Louise on 07926 600 0657 or the Playgroup on 07592 392235.



GLENFARG BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We meet in the newly refurbished village hall, Greenbank Road, Glenfarg on Wednesdays, 9.30-11.30am.

Healthy snack for children, coffee/tea & biscuits for carer
Role play, jigsaws, physical toys and arts and crafts
Friendly support for all carers
First session free, £2 thereafter (£1 for additional children)

Contact Donna Smith on 07535 595430 or just come along!

LOCHLEVEN BABIES & TODDLERS

Masonic Hall, The Muirs, Kinross
Session times (term time only)

Tuesdays 9.30 - 11.15, Fridays 9.30 - 11.15
Contact Debbie Kennedy 07545 339494,
debileighs@hotmail.com

All Mothers, Fathers, and Carers are welcome to attend, with children aged birth to 5 years if accompanied by a younger sibling who shall be 3 years old or younger.

FOSSOWAY PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

Glenbank Cottage, Powmill

Partner-provider for P&K Education

Places available for 3-5-year-olds and Rising Fives
Sessions 9.30am - 12.45pm Monday - Thursday,
9.30am - 12.30pm Fridays

Contact Pat Irvine 07703 177766 or
www.childcarelink.gov.uk/perthandkinross



PORTMOAK UNDER 5s

Portmoak Hall – between Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell (only 10 mins from Milnathort and Kinross)



We are a friendly and relaxed group welcoming children under 5 years and their parents/carers. We offer a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, dressing up, outdoor play and stories. We also on occasion arrange outings, parties and have special visitors who come to the group!

Session times: Tues & Fri 9.45am – 11.30am.
Sessions are £2 per child (£1.50 for under 1s) and 50p for each additional child. A snack is provided.

For all queries please email
portmoakplaygroup@hotmail.com
or find us on Facebook

MONTGOMERY TODDLERS

Every Thursday 9.30am to 11am (term-time only)
The Gospel Hall, Montgomery Street, Kinross.
Contact Christina Smith 01577 840733 or 07792 260509

Private Nurseries and Childcare

For private nurseries and childcare services, please see advertisements throughout the Newsletter.

To inform the Newsletter of any changes to Playgroup information, please send an email to: editor@kinrossnewsletter.org

Notices

Kinross-shire Volunteer Group and Rural Outreach Scheme Gaberlunzie & Friends Concert



Saturday 31 March

7.30pm – 10.30pm

Milnathort Town Hall

BYOB and nibbles. Raffle.

£10 per person. Tickets from David Aird 01577 830370,
Sandy Smith 01577 862536 or any committee member.



Glenfarg Village Folk Club

*The club meets at "Backstage at the Green",
Green Hotel, Kinross, on Mondays*

Doors open 7.30pm Music starts 8pm

For more info, see: www.glenfargfolkclub.com

2 Apr: Anthony Toner. A talented young singer-songwriter from Northern Ireland. Entry: members £6, non members £9.

6 – 8 Apr: The 40th Glenfarg Folk Feast. Guest artistes include: The Boys of the Lough, John Doyle, Richard Digance, The James Brothers and Emily Smith, Tich Frier, the Farg Folk and many more.

9 Apr: Post-Fest Singaround. Wind down at our recovery evening. All survivors welcome to come and share your songs and tales of the weekend. No theme for tonight. All welcome as always. All £2.

16 Apr: Gness are a dynamic four-piece comprising fiddle, flute, guitar and percussion. They are one of Scotland's hottest up-and-coming folk bands. Entry: members £6, non-members £9.

23 Apr: Singaround. Time for a spring clean! The theme is "house/home". All welcome to help with the housework. All £2.

30 Apr: Rob McHale. A North Carolina-based folk/Americana artiste, Rob is highly regarded in his home country. Members £6, non-members £9.

The Thursday Group

This is a women's group meeting on the first Thursday of the month in the lower hall of the Church Centre at 7.30pm. New members welcome. Contact 01577 863421.

5 Apr Haiti Help

3 May AGM

Kinross-shire Partnership AGM

Monday 9 April at 7pm

Loch Leven Community Campus, Muirs, Kinross

All are welcome to attend and learn about the work of the Partnership across the past year and plans for the coming year.

Please let Karen Grunwell, Kinross-shire Partnership know if you plan to attend by emailing:

mail@kinrosspartnership.org.uk

www.kinrosspartnership.org.uk www.kinross.cc



Fossoway & District Horticultural Society Appeal for Memorabilia

The society will be holding its 100th Show this year on Saturday 18 August in the Village Hall, Crook of Devon.

We hope to have a display of photographs and memorabilia on display to celebrate this and would be pleased to receive any pics or old schedules you might have tucked away in your 'memory box' relating to the Show over past years. Hens and rabbits were judged as well as fruit, flowers and veg back in the 'olden' days! Please contact Gill Kerr on 07943 681999 or email gillyek@hotmail.com if you have anything we can use.

KINROSS HUB THE CARERS CAFE

**9 April 2018
Trading Standards
(Janet Reay)**

COMMENCING 10.15am PROMPT

The hub cafe is an informal meeting place to chat over a cuppa with other carers, cared for and family members.



**LOCHLEVEN COMMUNITY CAMPUS
KINROSS
1st MONDAY of EVERY MONTH
10am—12noon**



Contact Gail Boath
Tel. 07760 363800
Or Annette Bond
01738 567076



Cleish Guild DAFFODIL TEA

to be held in

Cleish Village Hall

Wednesday 11 April

2 – 4pm

Sales Table

£4.00

All proceeds to Guild Projects
(Cleish Church Charity No: 003168)



Kinross Garden Group

2017/18 Season

Thursday 12 April

at 2pm in the Millbridge Hall, Kinross

Tom Christian, formerly of RBGE: 'Modern Plant Collecting'

All welcome to join us



Crook and Drum Growing Together SPRING FAIR

Crook of Devon Village Hall

Saturday 28 April

2pm – 4pm

Fundraising for our local bloom group

- Art Exhibition from Fossoway School • RSPB Wildlife Activities • Children's Crafts • Kids' Planting Activity
- Phoenix Cards • Plant Sales • Children's Tombola
- Plant Doctor: bring along your unhappy houseplants or plant pictures for advice!

Come and enjoy the fun! Volunteers to help most welcome.

See also page 60





Networking Breakfast

Wednesday 11 April

at Loch Leven's Larder, 7.15am-9am

Well, we thought that The Beast from the East had done its thing and been and gone, but it had a little last minute death throe which caused us to cancel our March meeting, at very short notice, for safety reasons. We did not cancel our speaker, however, only postponing her appearance until this next meeting on **Wednesday 11 April**. Yes – that is correct, we have moved from our customary “first Wednesday of the month” slot for April, so that those who are away for the Easter week need not miss their Networking Breakfast fix!

Our guest speaker is an unsung local hero who will tell us about her pioneering work with the Ethiopia Medical Project. Jo Middlemiss is a founder member of the charity which she set up in 2009 with her cousin Maureen Burnett. The aim of the charity is to help the thousands of women in the area suffering from uterine prolapse, a hidden condition of almost epidemic proportions, which is fairly readily resolved. The Buccama Clinic is situated in South Ethiopia and every year Jo and Maureen travel out to work for a month in the clinic to ensure that the generously donated funds, raised in Kinross-shire and surrounding area, continue to be spent wisely and well. In 2016, Jo and Maureen were Evening Times Scotswoman of the Year finalists.

Jo is a Personal Life Coach and Relationship Counsellor and, with a background in education, she spent many years teaching children with learning difficulties. She has been married to husband Andy for over 40 years and spent much of that time accompanying him on army postings around the world.

Please put this event in your diary now to ensure you don't miss the opportunity to meet your fellow Kinross-shire residents over a hearty and delicious Scottish Breakfast. Cost of the meeting, including breakfast is £10 – the chance to network and listen to our speaker is invaluable. This time, why not bring along a friend, colleague or neighbour?

To book your place, please email Karen Grunwell at mail@kinrosspartnership.org.uk. You can choose whether to pay online in advance (full details are available when you book) or in cash on the day.

www.kinrosspartnership.org.uk www.facebook.com/visitlochleven
www.visitlochleven.org www.twitter.com/VisitLochLeven

Kinross and District Men's Shed

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 21 April at 11am

in The Shed

(former Forth Wines building, Milnathort)

All members are entitled to attend and to vote.

Anyone interested in the Shed is invited to come along and will receive a warm welcome. Non-members wanting to attend please let us know beforehand by emailing: secretary@gmail.com

Scottish Country Dancing

Milnathort Town Hall

on **Wednesday evenings** at 7.30pm

Old and new members welcome

For more information, please ring Cathie on 01577 861103



Following Christ
Spreading the Word
Serving the Community

Mental Health First Aid Course

The course should be useful to volunteers and professionals who deal regularly with the public.

As part of our commitment to serving the community, the Kirk Session intends to host a Mental Health first Aid course over two days:

Saturday 21 April and Saturday 28 April

The course is free and open to local groups and individuals. It carries a certificate when completed.

The tutor is Dr. Iliyan Stefanov who is Head of Student Services at Queen Margaret University.

Timing: 10 am to between 4 and 4.30pm. Tea and coffee will be available and those attending should bring a packed lunch.

To register for the course or for more information contact George Hayton, ghayton@clara.co.uk. Tel 01577 863055.

Applications will be on a first come first served basis and confirmation will be sent out when we have the minimum number.

Visit <http://www.smhfa.com/>

Skeins & Bobbins Classes

Primary Children Knitting Classes

Tuesdays: April 24; May 1, 8, 15 & 29; June 5, 12 & 19.

Thursdays: April 26; May 3, 10, 17 & 31; June 7, 14 & 21.

Senior Knitting Classes

Fridays: April 27; May 4, 11 & 18; June 1, 8, 15 & 22.

Adult Knitting and Crochet Groups

Saturday afternoons. Each week there is either an experienced crochet tutor or knitting tutor. 14 April (crochet), 21 April (knitting), 28 April (crochet), 5 May

Yarn Shop Day: Saturday 12 May

Skeins & Bobbins will be participating in Yarn Shop Day. Leading up to this day there will be competitions and an opportunity to be part of a raffle.

Please contact the shop for more details.

120 High Street, Kinross. 01577 208107.

Light Up Kinross

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 25 April

at 7.30pm

Millbridge Hall, Kinross

All welcome. Please come along and help support our display for next year



Kinross Floral Art Club

Annual General Meeting

in the Kirkland's Hotel at 6.30pm on

Thursday 26 April

This meeting is for members only and for those members who wish to compete for the Renton Trophy; the title is “April Showers”.

There will also be a talk after dinner from Mrs Christine McKenna on Orchids.

The Kinross-shire Civic Trust
 Helping protect, conserve and provide a
 better built and natural environment
 website: www.kinross-shirecivictrust.org
 Find us on Facebook



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We are very pleased to invite you to the **AGM** of the **Kinross-shire Civic Trust** which will take place at **Cleish Hall** on

Monday 23 April 2018 at 7.30pm

The AGM will be followed by refreshments and a talk by
DUNCAN CUNNINGHAM, HEAD GARDENER
AT SCONE PALACE

Duncan will be talking about

The Historic Gardens at Scone Palace

The gardens at Scone Palace have a very historic significance and this will be a wonderful opportunity to hear all the about the gardens and some of the very important events that have been developed from there.

All members are cordially invited and any non-members are very welcome as well.

Annual subscriptions will be welcome on the night.



Scotlandwell in Bloom Plant & Bake Sale/ Coffee Morning

Saturday 12 May, 11am – 2pm

The Well Country Inn, Scotlandwell



"It is utterly forbidden to be half-hearted about gardening. You have got to love your garden whether you like it or not!"

Scotlandwell in Bloom is holding a Plant & Bake Sale/ Coffee Morning on Saturday 12 May in the Well Country Inn, Scotlandwell from 11am until 2pm. A variety of plants, flowers and vegetables ready for planting will be on sale. In addition, there will be an opportunity to buy delicious home baking and locally produced jams and chutneys; small hanging baskets and other garden bits 'n' bobs. There will also be our fantastic Tombola stall with goodies for all! Come along and see what's on offer; it's a very sociable event and even if gardening's not your thing, just bring a friend and come along for coffee, cake and a chat – we'd love to see you there.

All proceeds go towards the upkeep of planters, tubs, floral displays and generally helping to 'keep our village patch up to scratch'.

All Welcome

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



The annual Portmoak Hall Ceilidh

Saturday 12 May, 7.30 - 11.30pm

With the **Glenfarg Ceilidh Band**, buffet, bar, and raffle, what more could you ask?

Tickets at £10 adult and £5 per child are available from Kinnesswood Shop, John Nicol on 01592 840573 or Shelagh Goudie 01592 840200



Cleish Fête

Saturday 19 May at 2.00pm

A brilliant afternoon out!

Plants • Afternoon Teas • Dog Show
Baking & Produce • Books and Media
Tombola • Children's Games



Cleish Church open
Come and join us!
 Postcode: KY13 0LR
 (Charity No: SC003168)

Kinross Guides

Looking for somewhere to go on a Tuesday evening from 7.30pm until 9pm? Look no further. Kinross Guides have places available for girls between the ages of 10 and 14. Come along to Millbridge Hall on a Tuesday evening and give us a try.

For further information or notes of interest, contact M Scott on mbs21@btinternet.com or telephone 01577 862945.



Are you going to the Flower Show at Gardening Scotland?



Kinross Floral Art Club will be entering the Flower Show at Gardening Scotland this year and would love it if everyone attending would look them up!

Thank you!



Gardening Scotland takes place at
Ingliston, 1 – 3 June 2018



Kinross-shire Better Place to Live Fair 2018

Loch Leven Community Campus, Kinross KY13 8FQ

Saturday 9th June, 10am – 2pm

Free Family Fun Day
Community Event

Come along and see what Kinross-shire has to offer!

Ceilidh Dancing

Mondays: From 2pm till 3pm every Monday in the Guide Hall, Milnathort. You don't need a partner and it is all very informal and great fun. Just come along – the more the merrier. No age limit. All proceeds go to the Scouts and Guides.

Monthly Sunday Ceilidhs: These take place in Milnathort Town Hall, 2pm until 5pm, with a break at 3pm for tea and biscuits. Cost: £5. There is no pressure to dance; what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than hearing these top players? (Many of them are recent Scottish champions.) People wishing to learn dances could attend the Monday classes (see above).

All money left over after paying the band and hall will go to charity. I am looking for suggestions for these donations. All I ask is that the charity sends someone along to say a few words and take the money away. Please contact Vi Todd, 01577 863244.

22 April	Gordon Patullo
27 May	George Rennie
24 June	Alan Small
22 July	Steven Carcary
19 August	Liam Hope
16 September	Leonard Brown
21 October	Scott Band
25 November	Liam Stewart
16 December	Ian McCallum

PLUS Perth

www.plusperth.co.uk
Tel: 01738 626242
77 Canal Street, Perth



PLUS is a member-led local charity and social movement which gives hope and opportunity to those affected by disadvantage; in the main to those with experience of mental ill health and substance misuse.

The PLUS office is open Mon-Fri 9.30am – 4pm for mental health signposting and enquiries.

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.



Give a Greyhound A Home

Look on our Website
www.greyhoundrescuefife.com

**Forever homes needed
 for rescued Greyhounds**

**Greyhounds are very gentle creatures
 that require very little walking!**

Please call or email for details
 Phone: 01577 850393 (evenings)
 Mob: 07826244765 (daytime)
 email us on femiejimmyf@aol.com

Kinross Recovery and Conversation Café

This weekly group is for anyone with an interest in improving their wellbeing and needing support on their recovery journey from addiction or substance misuse. The Café aims to get people speaking about recovery and wellbeing in all its many forms and provides the opportunity to:

- share ideas, information and resources
- explore support networks and ways of moving forward
- breakdown isolation
- improve health and wellbeing

The Café takes place **every Tuesday**, 1pm-3pm, at Millbridge Hall, Kinross. Drop in and have a cuppa and a chat.

For more information, contact:

Shona Fowler: 07896 280843, shonafowler@nhs.net

Richard Lister: 07885 971298, richard.lister@cairscotland.org.uk



Supported and funded by Broke Not Broken, a local charity tackling the effects of poverty.

Broke Not Broken

Drop off donations at:

**Sainsbury's, Kinross
 Glenfarg Village Shop
 Co-operative, Kinross**



Open to clients:

Every Tuesday and Thursday, 10am – 2pm

The Beacon, St Paul's Church, Muirs, Kinross, KY13 8AU

Contact: Tel: 07518 913107

Email: admin@brokenotbroken.org



Broke Not Broken. Tackling the effects of poverty.
 Scottish Registered Charity SC046033

Grants for good causes

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



All profits from the Kinross Newsletter are transferred to a 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: **30 September and 31 March.**

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

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.



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 Newsletter website for latest information: www.kinrossnewsletter.org

Issue	Deadline	Publication Date
May	Friday 13 April	Saturday 28 April
June	Friday 18 May	Saturday 2 June



THE TALKING DONKEY

Every Friday 11am – 2pm
@ The Millbridge Hall

For further information, or if you want to be involved please ring
07766 515 950 or 07771 696 830

The Cafe where everything is **FREE!**

 Soups 

 Snacks 

 Hot Drinks 

 Cold Drinks 

 Home-cooked lunches 

All brought to your table by our friendly staff

The Talking Donkey is a Christian venture so there will always be people on hand to offer

Prayer For Any Need



Multiple Sclerosis Society Scotland

Perth & Kinross Branch of the MS Society are calling anyone affected by MS to come along to The Green Hotel, Kinross on the third Tuesday of every month from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Come along for a blether, a cuppa or just to get out of the house! Family, friends and carers are welcome too. For further information, please contact the Branch on 07552 368216, perthkinross@mssociety.org.uk or check out our website www.perth-kinross.org.uk or find us on Facebook: MS Society Perth&Kinross Branch.



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. Tel: 01738 475051 Email: CivicServices@pkc.gov.uk

Perth & Kinross School Term Dates 2017-18

Term	Start (for pupils)	End
Summer	Tue 17 Apr 2018	Thu 28 Jun 2018

Holidays and In-Service Days:

Spring holiday:	Fri 30 Mar – Fri 13 Apr 2018 (Easter Sunday is 1 April 2018)
In-Service day:	Mon 16 Apr 2018
May Day holiday:	Mon 7 May 2018

Perth Citizens Advice Bureau

Outreach Advice Surgery

The Kinross surgery is held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Muirs, Kinross.

The next visits are: **10 & 24 April**

No appointment is necessary as the surgery is a drop-in service. For complex issues a further appointment may be necessary. Perth CAB can help you. Our advice is free, confidential, impartial and independent.

Contact us: Advice line 01738 450580.

Appointment line 01738 450581.

Benefits Advice in Libraries (BAIL)

Benefits specialist Sarah MacLean is available at Loch Leven Community Campus to provide advice on all benefit related issues. Alongside general benefits advice, Sarah can help with: completing forms (including online), conducting checks to see if clients are receiving everything they are entitled to, and providing advice and support where an application is refused or awarded at a lower level than expected.

Sarah is available **by appointment only**. Appointments are usually offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays. To make an appointment, call 01738 450599 or email Andrew Scobie (benefits and debt administration) using the following: Andrew.Scobie@Perthcab.casonline.org.uk

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

Blythswood Care collection in Perth

Blythswood Care collects second hand items to help with "Christian care for body and soul". The uplift is in Perth, at Asda on Dunkeld Road, on the following Tuesdays, from 11.30am until 1.15pm:

3 April, 8 May, 5 June

Blythswood Care welcomes donations of: clothes, shoes, books, toys, blankets, bric à brac and small items of furniture. All soft furnishing must have a fire label with BS code BS7177 attached. Regrettably Blythswood **cannot** accept: prams, pushchairs, highchairs, car seats, bikes, carpets, duvets, coat hangers, gas appliances, TVs, computer monitors, exercise equipment, wall units, electrical items and video cassettes.

La Leche League meetings in Kinross ...

**First Thursday of the month,
10am – 12 noon**

St Paul's Church Meeting Room, The Muirs, Kinross

- Friendly, relaxed mum-to-mum breastfeeding support and chat.
- Informal chat and an interesting group discussion.
- Plenty of time for answering your questions.

We welcome any mums (and mums to be) who are interested in breastfeeding. Children all very welcome.

For more details, contact:

Hannah Dalgety (LLL Leader, Kinross) 07886 859461

www.lll-fife-tayside.co.uk

Find us on Facebook: La Leche League Fife and Tayside



LA LECHE LEAGUE
INTERNATIONAL

Community Councils

Kinross: Secy: Eileen Thomas, 01577 863714
Email: KinrossCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk

Milnathort: Chair: Craig Williams, 07885 722125
Email: craig@stovestuff.scot

Portmoak: Chair: Malcolm Strang Steel, 01592 840459
Email: PortmoakCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk

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

Cleish & Blairadam: Secy: Patty Fraser, 01577 850253
Email: CleishCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk

Kinross Community Councillors

Margaret Blyth	6 Muir Grove	
Jonathan Bryson	4 Burnbank Meadows	
David Colliar	10 Rannoch Place	01577 864037
Dave Cuthbert	8 Highfield Circle	07799 750289
Barry Davies	60 Lathro Park	01577 865004
Bill Freeman (Chair)	64 Muirs	01577 865045
Ian Jack	Burnbrae Grange	01577 863980
Lynne McKay	5 Springfield Road	01577 531076
Thomas Stewart	Gellybank Farm	01577 864603
Eileen Thomas (Secy)	50 Muirs	01577 863714
David West	30 Muirs	07824 313974

Portmoak Community Councillors

Robin Cairncross	(Secretary)	01592 840672
Bruce Calderwood	(Treasurer)	01592 840423
Susan Forde		01592 840128
Tom Smith		01592 841160
Malcolm Strang Steel	(Chairman)	01592 840459
Dave Morris		01592 840500
Alison Robertson		01592 840131
Andrew Muszynski		01592 840467

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
54 Lathro Park, Kinross, KY13 8RU

CLlr WILLIE ROBERTSON (*Scottish Liberal Democrats*)
Tel (home): 01577 865178. Email: wbrobertson@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

Luke Graham MP Member of Parliament for Ochil and South Perthshire

38 Primrose Street, Alloa, FK10 1JG

Telephone: 01259 764407

Email: luke.graham.mp@parliament.uk

Twitter: @LukeGrahamMP

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Luke-Graham-for-Ochil-and-South-Perthshire-392788644215614

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

Perth & Kinross Council www.pkc.gov.uk

Customer Service Centre Tel: 01738 475000

(Mon to Fri, 8am-6pm)

Out of Hours Emergencies Tel: 01738 476476

(Roads, flooding, environmental health and dangerous buildings)

Clarence (for non-emergency road and lighting defects) Tel: 0800 232323

Registrar Tel: 01577 867133

The Registrar is normally in Kinross only on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Loch Leven Community Campus

Mobile Library Service

Visiting on Tuesdays 10 & 24 April:

Milnathort	South Street	1230-1315
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Visiting every Tuesday:

Glenfarg	Main Street	1130-1300
Forgandenny	School	1430-1530

Visiting on Wednesdays 4 & 18 April:

Powmill	Mill Gardens	0930-0950
Fossoway Pre-school	Powmill	0955-1020
Kinnesswood	Shop	1050-1120
Portmoak	Community Hall	1125-1140
Scotlandwell	Leslie Road	1145-1205
Hatchbank	Road	1220-1240
Cleish	Phone Box	1400-1415
Crook of Devon	Inn, Main Street	1430-1530
Carnbo	Pitcairnie Lane	1540-1610
Milnathort	South Road	1620-1650
Mawcarse		1700-1710

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

Local Volunteer Opportunities

Broke not Broken is a voluntary organisation working for the prevention and relief of poverty by providing support and practical assistance to individuals and families experiencing hardship. Please contact Claire Slight to found out how you can help: clare.slight@brokennotbroken.org

Greyhound Rescue Fife at Balfree Country Centre, Gairneybank, Kinross, need 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 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.

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 Iain Todd at: iandmtodd@talktalk.net

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.

The Potager Garden is a small community garden in Bowton Road in Kinross, KY13 8EQ. It is a registered charity run by volunteers, and a main aim is 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 amanda@tyafon.plus.com

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.

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

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 through 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.

Children's Hospices Across Scotland: We are currently looking for **Shop Volunteers** for our two shops in Kinross. Can you spare a few hours of your time? In return you will be rewarded by our friendly and welcoming retail team and volunteering with CHAS is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and to make a huge difference to the lives of the families who use our services. For further information, contact Sarah Stephen on 01577 864692 or email volunteering@chas.org.uk for an application pack.

We are also looking for **Kitchen Volunteers**. Please email volunteering@chas.org.uk

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.



The Bike Station

Donate unwanted bikes, parts and cycling accessories for reuse. Poorer bikes are salvaged for parts. Bikes are refurbished by qualified expert mechanics and sold on to the public at affordable prices with a three-month warranty.

Donated bikes and parts are collected from all Perth & Kinross Recycling Centres, including the Kinross centre at the Bridgend Industrial Estate.

Bike sales are held at The Bike Station, 284 High Street, Perth, PH1 5QS, Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 5pm.

The Bike Station also offers a Repair Service, a Fix Your Own Bike facility and a Dr Bike mobile service.

Tel: 01738 444430. Website: www.thebikestation.org.uk

The Perth Bike Station is an accredited Revolve organisation.



Dollar Museum

Open from Easter to Christmas at the following times:

Saturdays 11am – 1pm and 2pm – 4.30pm
Sundays 2pm – 4.30pm

Access also possible by arrangement

Email: dollarmuseum@btconnect.com

Free entry. All welcome. Parking and disabled access.

1 High Street, Dollar, FK14 7AY

Looking for a venue that can tick all the boxes?

Crook of Devon Village Hall

- ✓ **Space** We can seat up to 100 for a formal meal; 120 for meetings, theatrical performance, talent shows; 80-90 for discos, family gatherings, community events. We can even accommodate bouncy castles for that "all weather" children's party.
- ✓ **Car Parking** - ample parking for the hall.
- ✓ **Catering** - Kitchen with oven, dishwasher and microwave, plus a great serving area.
- ✓ **Stage** and back stage area for performances, costume changes, etc.
- ✓ Plus the usual facilities - toilets, disabled toilets, changing areas.
- ✓ We also offer chair and table rental for functions at home.
- ✓ **Weekly bookings** taken for activities, e.g. yoga, ballet, fitness classes, badminton, youth clubs.



For all hall bookings and enquiries, including our **special block booking rates**, please contact Jean on 01577 840543 or jeanshearer630@btinternet.com

Grants and Funding Websites

www.pkgrantsdirect.com

www.foundationscotland.org.uk

**Film shows • Cards • Dominoes • Art Class
Daily Papers • Chiropody • Trips • Exercises**

Weekly Programme

Monday	Exercise Class	11.15am	Bingo	1.30pm
	Scrabble, cards & other Games			1.15pm
	"Stride for Life" Walking Group			2pm
Tuesday	Carpet Curling	11am		
	Relaxation Class	1.15pm		
	Games	1.15pm		
	Singing group with Alex Cant	1.45pm		
Wednesday	Morning Worship	10.45am		
	Dominoes, Scrabble & other Games			1.30pm
	Fantastic Fun Quiz	2pm		
Thursday	Carpet Curling or Boccia	11am		
	Crafts	1.30pm	Film or music Afternoon	1.30pm
	Dominoes, Scrabble, cards etc	1.30pm		
	Balance & Strength Class	1.30pm		
Friday	Balance & Strength Exercise Class	11am - 12pm		
	Dominoes, Games or music	1.30pm		
	Bingo	1.30pm		



Public Holiday: Please note that the Centre will be closed on Monday 2 April

Additional Events for April

Chiropody	Thursday	5th, 19th	9.45am - 1pm (phone 01577 863869 for an appointment)
Hearing Loss Support and Advice	Monday	9th	11am - 12pm
Tai Chi	Wednesday	4th, 18th	1.30pm - 2pm
Barge Trip	Friday	20th	11am - 3.30pm
Library Visit	Thursday	26th	1.30pm



Coffee Bar open to the public 8.30am - 4pm, Older Adults Lunches Daily

Our activities are open to everyone - please feel free to come in and have a great afternoon.

Phone: 01577 863869 Fax: 01577 863869 Email: kindaycent@tiscali.co.uk

LOCAL CHEMIST INFORMATION



Rowlands Pharmacy, Kinross

Mon - Fri: 9.00 am - 6.00 pm
Saturday: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Tel: 862422

Davidson's Chemist, Milnathort

Mon to Fri: 9.00 am - 1.00 pm &
2.00 pm - 6.00 pm
Saturday: 9.00 am - 12.30 pm
Tel: 862219



Sundays: The nearest open pharmacy is Asda, Dunfermline

Kinross Bridge Club

We meet every Wednesday during Winter and Spring.
The evening starts at 6.45pm prompt and finishes by 10pm.
New members are always welcome.
For further information, please contact Catriona Marshall 864482.



Kinross-shire Fund

The Kinross-shire Fund was established in 2006 to make the



area a better place to live, by making grants to a wide range of local charities, organisations and projects which make a positive difference to the community.

To date, over 50 organisations within the 73 square miles of Kinross-shire have benefited from an award, with beneficiaries ranging in age from pre-school to the elderly. The Fund is managed by Foundation Scotland and is currently open for applications, with deadlines quarterly on the first Monday of February, May, August and November each year.

The next deadline is Monday 7 May 2018.

Full details, including how to apply via our online application link, can be found at:

www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/kinross-shire-fund

PKAVS Carer Therapies

Now on the first Monday of the month (rather than Friday)
Now at Loch Leven Community Campus (not Health Centre)
By appointment. Tel: Annette Bond 01738 567076

Items for Sale

The Newsletter publishes items for sale listed on the kinross.cc website. If interested in purchasing an item, we suggest **checking the website for current availability** (www.kinross.cc then 'Local Adverts' then 'Classified Adverts'). If interested in selling an item, please list it on www.kinross.cc and it will automatically be published in the next available Newsletter, subject to space.

Jakarta 5 piece hardwood patio set £95

2 benches, 2 armchairs and 1 large table. Light and versatile, unused and in original boxes. straightforward self-assembly required. H90 x W120 x D66cm. Grab a bargain! Delivered free within Kinross-shire.

Seller Details:

David Anderson 07747 890375
whitesands1.da@googlemail.com

Black and chrome TV table £25

Very good condition

Blenheim Chrome LED inset electric fire £65

Still under guarantee. Rarely used. Excellent condition.

Henry Vacuum Cleaner £60

Excellent condition. Rarely used. Still under warranty.

Seller Details for above 3 items:

Mrs Haggart 01577 865474

Kinross Recycling Centre

Bridgend Industrial Estate

Opening Times: **Mondays to Fridays 9am to 7pm**
Saturdays and Sundays 9am to 5pm

Bras, bicycles, cans (inc aerosols, biscuit tins, aluminium foil), car and household batteries, cardboard, cooking oil, electricals (WEEE), engine oil, fluorescent tubes, long life light bulbs, food and drinks cartons (Tetra packs), fridges, freezers, garden waste, glass, large domestic appliances, paper, plastic (rigid plastic packaging), rubble stone and soil, scrap metal, telephone directories, textiles (clothes and shoes), timber, tyres (maximum two per visit, strictly householders only) and non-recyclable (general) waste.

Bikes and bike parts will be recycled. (See separate Bike Station notice.)

Collection point for Perth College WEEE project: IT equipment will be refurbished and sold on at an affordable price or recycled for parts. Items accepted include: desktop computers, laptops, mobile phones (without the sim card), tablets, keyboards, mouse controls, cables, DVD players, video players, portable music players, games consoles, new or empty printer cartridges, projectors and flat screen working monitors. The project cannot accept Cathode Ray Tube or broken monitors.

Compost can be collected from the Recycling Centre, subject to availability. Maximum of 2 x 25kg bags per visitor.

Perth Samaritans

Need to talk? We'll listen.

Contact us by

phone on 01738 626666 or 08457 909090

Email us 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.

Situations Vacant

In conjunction with www.kinross.cc, the Newsletter is pleased to publish local situations vacant. Please go to the kinross.cc website before applying to see fuller details and to **check whether a position is still available**. (Go to www.kinross.cc then click on 'Local Adverts' and choose 'Situations Vacant').

Stove Fitter, Kinross Stove and Cooker Centre

Training available for the right candidate. If you have a good range of trade skills and want to add another one there may be a place on our fitting team.

We seek a competent tradesperson who aims for high standards and is willing to learn new skills. You will work with our HETAS qualified fitters initially and, if your ability is proven, then a HETAS course will result. Rates of pay commensurate with experience and skill level. Submit CV and covering letter/email outlining experience and any other relevant information to corinne@kinrossstovecentre.co.uk

Play Assistant, S.H.I.P. Loch Leven Community Campus, Kinross

We are recruiting an enthusiastic play assistant to support children and young people with additional support needs at a weekly youth club. Some experience desirable but training will be given. Fixed term post until 29 June 2018. 2 hours per week, Tuesday 6 -8 pm. £7.50 per hour. For more details contact manager@ship-perthshire.co.uk

Local Correspondent

for Perthshire Advertiser and Fife Herald newspapers

Linda Freeman

Tel 01577 865045. Email: linda.freeman_64@btinternet.com

Are you living with a long-term health condition?

We are a charity supporting those living with a long-term health condition in Perth & Kinross. We help people improve the quality of their lives by providing information and running regular self-management courses, workshops and peer support groups. Our Peer Support Group in Kinross is now a meet up group and is currently *not* meeting at St Paul's Church room. This runs on the first Thursday of the month from 1.30pm. Please contact our office for further details.

All of our services are confidential, free and designed to be flexible depending on individual and community need. Find us at:

Perth Business Centre/NCOC, 28 Glasgow Road, Perth, PH2 0NX

Tel: 01738440099. Email: enquiries.positivechoices@gmail.com

We are a registered Scottish Charity SC031076

Empowering Lives, Improving Health



Befriending Kinross



Are you new to the Area?
Would you like someone to talk to?

Someone to have a coffee with?

Help to feel less socially isolated?

If you would like to request a befriender please contact us and we will arrange a time to meet with you to discuss the process.

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March			Page
Fri-Mon	30-2	Easter Lapwing Trail at RSPB Loch Leven	81
Fri	30	Kinross-shire Churches Together Good Friday events and services	87
Sat	31	Open Day at Kinross Tennis Club	68
Sat	31	Gaberlunzie and Friends in Concert for KVG&ROS	91
Sat	31	Spring deadline for applications to KCCNL charity	94
April			Page
Sun	1	EASTER SUNDAY	
Sun	1	Kinross & Ochil Walking Group has walks throughout the month	59
Sun	1	Kinross-shire Churches Together Easter Day Service at Kirkgate Park, 7.30am	87
Sun	1	Kinross-shire Churches Together Songs of Praise at Portmoak Church	87
Mon	2	Glenfarg Village Folk Club meets weekly	91
Tue	3	Fossoway & District CC meets	42
Wed	4	Kinross CC meets	30
Thu	5	Fifty Plus Club meets	44
Thu	5	The Thursday Group: Haiti Help	91
Fri	6	Film afternoon and evening at Fossoway Church: Paddington 2	86
Fri-Sun	6-8	Glenfarg Folk Feast	91
Sun	8	Spring Bird Walk with RSPB Loch Leven	81
Sun	8	Little Seedlings Club meets	61
Mon	9	Kinross Tennis Club Junior Easter Camp begins	68
Mon	9	Kinross Hub Carers Café: Trading Standards	91
Mon	9	Movie Fun Afternoon at Kinross Parish Church	85
Mon	9	Kinross-shire Partnership AGM	91
Mon	9	Cleish & Blairadam CC meets	42
Tue	10	Citizens Advice Bureau surgery (also on 24th)	95
Tue	10	Portmoak CC meets	38
Wed	11	Networking Breakfast	92
Wed	11	Cleish Guild Daffodil Tea	91
Thu	12	Kinross Garden Group meets	48, 91
Thu	12	Milnathort CC meets	34
Fri	13	Dinosaur Fun Day at the Library	55
Fri	13	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	1
Sat	14	Opening of the Green, Kinross Bowling Club	71
Sat	14	Opening of the Green, Orwell Bowling Club	67
Sat	14	Portmoak Film Society: AGM and showing of The Theory of Everything	44
Tue	17	Kinross Tennis Club Junior Summer Term Coaching begins	68
Tue	17	Tennis for Tots begins at Kinross Tennis Club	68
Tue	17	Leven Voices Community Choir Concert	47
Sat	21	Men's Shed AGM	49, 92
Sat	21	Mental Health First Aid Course (also on 28th)	92
Sat	21	Charity Quiz Night at Kinross Golf Club	68
Sun	22	Ceilidh in Milnathort Town Hall	94
Sun	22	Deadline for Natura 2000 Award voting	3
Mon	23	Junior Cricket Outdoor Season begins	71
Mon	23	Kinross-shire Civic Trust AGM and talk on the gardens of Scone Palace	93
Tue	24	Creative Writing Workshop with Catriona Child	55
Wed	25	Light Up Kinross AGM	92
Thu	26	Kinross Floral Art Club AGM	92
Sat	28	Farmers' Market in Kinross	47
Sat	28	Crook and Drum Growing Together Spring Fair	60, 91
May			Page
Wed	2	First session of Kinross Kacophony Orchestra	47
Thu-Sun	3-6	Pop-up designer sale at County Fabrics	18
Thu	3	The Thursday Group AGM	91
Sun	6	Little Seedlings Club meets	61
Sun	6	ECB All Stars Cricket for children begins	71
Sun	6	Coal Porters play Backstage at the Green Hotel	13