



# Kinross Newsletter

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Founding editor,  
Mrs Nan Walker, MBE

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## DEADLINE

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## Contributions For Inclusion In The Newsletter

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

Email: [editor@kinrossnewsletter.org](mailto:editor@kinrossnewsletter.org)  
(all emails will be acknowledged)

Post or hand in to:

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## Commercial Advertising in the Newsletter

Our advertising terms and conditions are available to view at  
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If you wish to place a typed advert on a permanent or semi-permanent basis, contact the Advertising Manager to see if you can go on to our billing list.

For full information on advertising in the *Newsletter*, including terms and conditions, please go to our website [www.kinrossnewsletter.org](http://www.kinrossnewsletter.org) and click on 'Advertising'.

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Editor Hannah Phillips Assistant Editor Joyce Horsman Layout & Design Chris Collins  
Advertising Julia Fulton Treasurer and Subscriptions Ross McConnell Distribution David Anderson

# Editor's Page

Cover photo and design by Lee Scammacca of Cree8.

## Letter from The Editor

**JANUARY IS NEVER A** popular month, and I for one am glad to see it drawing to a close. Given that we are all once again living under strict lockdown restrictions, spring can't come too soon for most of us. Let's hope that February brings us some cold, crisp winter sunshine and some snowdrops.

Just as we were going to press, news reached us here that we are to have 169 more houses built at both Lathro Meadows and 67 more residences at Pitdownies in Milnathort, after a 'Notice of Intention' was issued by the Scottish Government reporter on 22 January.

This is despite strong and sustained community objections and opposition voiced by all four of our democratically elected local councillors, The Kinross-shire Civic Trust and many other local organisations and individuals. Time will tell if the reasons for their objections will become reality.

Some positive news: a new fish shop, The Fresh Fish Place, is causing a stir in the High Street and

it's great to see how busy it has been. We are lucky to have continued expansion of our superb local shops and I am sure the community will support them as best we can during this difficult time.

If you know anyone who is shielding or ordering their shopping online to avoid going out, please ask them if they would like to have their *Newsletter* delivered – if so, call Baillies Newsagents in the High St, who will be able to arrange it. Of course, you could always drop one in yourself if you are passing. It might make their day!

The Kinross-shire community, and Glenfarg in particular were saddened to hear about the tragic death of sixteen-year-old Sonny Hoggan in January. The news of his death devastated the wider community who had pulled together to assist police in their search for him. He was well-loved in Glenfarg and beyond, with many friends at Kinross High School. He will be sadly missed. My heart goes out to his family.

*Hannah Phillips, Editor*

### Note to Contributors

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

### Letters Policy

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

### Note to Readers: Advertising

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

### Abbreviations

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

## About The Kinross Newsletter

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

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

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

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

# Thanks



## Poppy Appeal 2020

**WE PROMISED IN THE** last edition, to give a quick update on what the 2020 poppy appeal made in the many outlets, shops and businesses, which kindly let us place our poppy boxes and tins on their premises last November. We knew the hard cash donations in tins would be reduced, because of a big change in spending habits, and reduced cash in wallets, but still the Kinross area tins took an amazing £1026.38.



The top four were:

<b>Caulders garden centre</b>	<b>£274.03</b>
<b>Crook of Devon store</b>	<b>£131.17</b>
<b>The Sycamores</b>	<b>£112.76</b>
<b>Baillies newsagents</b>	<b>£106.91</b>

The Milnathort area took a fantastic £1089.34, from 16 collecting boxes/tins.

Renewed thanks to you all – outlets and generous public.

The **Poppy Appeal JustGiving page** for the Kinross area took a fabulous £680.00, with the additional £122.50 in gift aid that will be added in.

As for donating by QR codes on tins, or by texting, we tried hard to move quickly and make digital giving easier this year. It had limited success as a first time, but some kind souls did give it a go. Hopefully, next year we will be able to provide more guidance, and make more of the public aware of it as an option, prior to the Poppy Appeal.

Thanks to **Sainsbury's** staff for taking the poppy boxes and displaying the merchandise stand, and to **local schools – staff and young people** – who kindly took the boxes. The Sainsbury's total was a superb £1009, but the schools' numbers aren't finalised yet at time of writing. But even without those in yet, we are at night on £3000 – fabulous.

*Andy Middlemiss and Christine Robertson  
Scottish Poppy Appeal  
Kinross and Milnathort*



## Soberish for October

**IN 2017 MY YOUNGEST** son Luke was diagnosed with a brain tumour. At 17, Luke underwent surgery and radiotherapy and had an extensive period of time recovering. With the support of our family members and very good friends we made it through some very difficult times. We are eternally grateful to everyone and especially to the charities that supported Luke throughout his recovery.

In early March this year I started my Level 4 Yoga Diploma. I have taught group fitness in Kinross for almost 30 years. Yoga has always been something I wanted to try but just couldn't find the time. The pandemic gave me time to practice and study along with the opportunity to set up my online community group fitness session, Evelyn's Fitness Flow.

Last month we decided to raise funds for charity, we were delighted with the amount raised. Luke and I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who took part in Evelyn's Fitness Flow 'Soberish For October' challenge. Through registrations, fines and donations we raised:

<b>Teenage Cancer Trust:</b>	<b>£845.00</b>
<b>Macmillan Cancer Support:</b>	<b>£845.00</b>

Anyone can join our yoga journey. There's never been a better time to improve your strength and flexibility, learn something new and make good movement a habit!

*Evelyn Crichton  
Evelyn's Fitness Flow*





## Thanks



### Light Up Kinross

**WE HOPE YOU ALL** enjoyed our new lights in Station Road and the High Street. We thank the Kinross-shire Action Partnership for their grant towards them. A special thank you to the **Kilted Christmas Tree Company** for the supply and erection of the tree given free of charge annually to the town.

We did not appeal to the businesses during this pandemic year but give a grateful thanks to the local businesses that continued their support. Our thanks go to all the members of the public who gave generously to our collection cans and donations to the funds.

As we could do no fundraising due to the pandemic, we have much-reduced funds for this year's display. We require to raise around £3000 for annual installation and maintenance. We have been awarded a grant of £5000 from **The Arthur & Margaret Thomson Trust** which is ring-fenced to purchase new lights so we can look forward to replacing some of the older lights.

Many thanks to all who have contributed in any way towards our display.

*David Colliar,  
Light Up Kinross*

## Congratulations



Congratulations to **Matthew Hendry, SAC, RAF** for successfully graduating from RAF Chicksands as an Arabic linguist.

Matthew, a former pupil of Kinross High School and Primary School, was also awarded the Best Course Student award.

A terrific achievement. A very proud moment for all his family and friends in Kinross.



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## Letters

### Lay Off The NHS

I RECEIVED A PROMOTIONAL pamphlet, *PRI Is One Of Our Most Precious Assets*, from Liz Smith, Conservative MSP, towards the end of November. I contacted her to say that I found some of her comments about the NHS to be deeply divisive.

While rightly praising clinical staff, she then raised the trope of the 'unwieldy bureaucracy of the NHS' which the pandemic has apparently highlighted. Since March I have had non-COVID-related reasons to visit my local health centre, Perth Royal Infirmary, and Ninewells; all these experiences have been entirely satisfactory, which is admirable given the challenges to the NHS of coping with the pandemic.

I am not involved with NHS management, but I do have close to four decades of management experience in large organisations around the world and, based on that, what I see is evidence of capable, dedicated, hard-working managers and administrators.

This group of people appear to have coped well with limited budgets and over-stretched staff, while adapting to constantly moving targets during the worst health crisis the world has faced in a century.

I found Ms Smith's casual dismissal of their efforts to be ill-advised; goodness knows what reading this must feel like to those working in NHS services such as logistics, procurement, pharmacy, transport, building management, or finance.

In her response to me Ms Smith merely highlighted that she had received genuine complaints from constituents and did not address my concerns about her attack on NHS Tayside's non-clinical staff. I do not doubt that she has received constituent concerns with NHS experiences: most of us have had negative experiences at one time or another (my father died 3 months into a 9-month cardiac surgery waiting list in 1994).

I am sure there is room for improvement in NHS Tayside; it would be the first large organisation I have come across where that was not the case.

However, before blithely accusing those who run the NHS operations of 'submerging' our frontline staff in bureaucracy that (and I cannot believe she wrote this) 'could be almost as deadly a disease as the virus itself', she might want to pause and have a look at what the UK Government has been doing with our money in securing PPE for the NHS.

According to the BMJ, 'three of the biggest beneficiaries of government contract awards were companies specialising in jewellery (Saiger), pest control (Pestfix) and an opaque 'family office' owned through a tax haven (Ayanda)'.

The Saiger contract reportedly involved payment to a commercial intermediary of over £37 million – for perspective that is a fixer's fee equivalent to over 4% of the annual NHS Tayside budget. This is the type of waste that Ms Smith might want to highlight to colleagues in her party, rather than attacking the efforts of the people who continuously strive to facilitate clinical efficacy and efficiency.

Bob Young, Cleish

### Not Just A Cycle Path

AS A REGULAR USER of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail, I have become increasingly concerned by the behaviour of a minority of cyclists using this facility. The trail is a mixed-use route, with walkers, cyclists, wheelchair users and others shar-

ing what is a relatively narrow path with limited space for passing. Unfortunately, some cyclists appear to believe that they have priority over other users, refusing to slow down when passing walkers and expecting right of way into the bargain. Their attitude, when confronted, seems to confirm this. Some, I suspect, are using the Strava app for timekeeping purposes and this is completely inappropriate for what is intended to be primarily a nature-focused route. I would emphasise that most cyclists are considerate and polite but a certain number are spoiling it for everyone. It would be a pity if we had to have prominent notices reminding users of their responsibilities but ultimately this might be the only solution.

Name and address withheld

### MP's Opinions

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS my dismay at the *Newsletter* allowing John Nicolson MP to express his political opinions in your publication.

Such opinions and comments such as 'a brutal and relentless foe in the Conservative Government led by Margaret Thatcher' and 'Mrs Thatcher the enemy within' have no place in a local newsletter. Apart from that, they give a totally distorted view of the facts displaying a prejudiced and ignorant opinion of the reality.

I am particularly upset that I have asked Mr Nicholson on two occasions to explain the SNP's economic argument for Independence but he has been unable to do so. I would suggest he concentrates on his own party's failings and doesn't use the platform of the *Newsletter* to further his distorted views of political history.

Alan Miller

Wester Tillyrie, Milnathort

### Keep Dogs Off Gravestones

WHILE VISITING THE NORTH CEMETERY in Kinross at the weekend, I noticed a constant flow of people entering through the main gate and walking down the south side path to gain access to the woods at the east side of the cemetery. Most of these people had dogs, which were urinating on the headstones. This is not a right of way to access the woods. There is a gap in the beech hedge in order to allow people through. From here you can proceed along the road for 100 metres to gain access to the woodland walk.

Rab Wallace

rabwallace@hotmail.co.uk

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## POLITICIANS IN ONGOING FIGHT TO KEEP BoS IN KINROSS

**THE BANK OF SCOTLAND** in Kinross is to close its doors permanently on 22 March, leaving Kinross without a single bank branch and causing serious concerns for local residents, for whom the nearest branch of the Bank of Scotland will now be in Cowdenbeath.

Councillor Callum Purves and Liz Smith MSP want answers on a range of issues from Bank of Scotland bosses following the decision to shut the Kinross branch.

The politicians are seeking a meeting with senior bank officials to discuss various unresolved matters after being told the branch will close its doors on March 22.

They last spoke to Bank of Scotland officials in September 2020, via a virtual meeting, when they highlighted how closing the Kinross branch would seriously impact local residents.

The Bank of Scotland granted a temporary stay of execution for the branch last year after Covid-19 swept across the country.

Councillor Purves, who represents the Kinross-shire ward, said: 'I am very concerned to hear that the Bank of Scotland is planning to close the Kinross branch when it looks like the lockdown will continue for months.

'The closure of the Kinross branch will have a huge impact on local residents. My colleague, Liz Smith, and I are seeking a further meeting with the Bank of Scotland to address a number of issues.

'These include the fact that we were told that the mobile branch would be operational in Kinross six weeks prior to closure and that existing staff would be on hand to help customers with the transition. However, I believe these mobile branches are not operating under Tier 4 restrictions. So, we want to know how this fits with the now confirmed closure date.

'In addition, we were also offered the opportunity to see the facilities during this transition.

Councillor Purves continued: 'The Co-op is still operating a one in, one out system during peak periods, which



*Cllr Callum Purves (left) & MSP Liz Smith outside the threatened Bank of Scotland*

will make it more difficult for people to use the banking facilities at the Post Office located within that shop. There have been a number of reports online over the past few weeks that people in Kinross-shire have been unable to deposit money at the Post Office, which is clearly a concern with the impending closure.'

And Liz Smith MSP added: 'We are seeking a meeting as soon as possible to raise these issues with senior staff at the Bank of Scotland. This branch closure will result in major changes for banking for local residents, with the

Bank of Scotland stating the nearest available branch will be Cowdenbeath once Kinross closes.

'Public transport in parts of rural Kinross-shire is not great and many residents who live in the likes of Powmill, Crook of Devon and Rumbling Bridge could spend hours having to travel on buses to get to a bank; many of them will be reluctant to do so because of the lockdown measures and concerns over the virus.'

Councillor Purves and Liz Smith MSP have been working with Fossoway Community Council on this matter.





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# New Year's Honours For Kinross Residents

**THE KINROSS HONOURS** keep on coming – now two Kinross residents have received recognition in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

For his contribution of over 20 years to the ex-services community in Perth and Kinross, Lt Col Andy Middlemiss has been recognised by Her Majesty The Queen in the New Year's Honours list with the award of a British Empire Medal (BEM). Andy is Chairman of the local branch of SSAFA (The Armed Forces Charity) which helps servicemen and their families in need. He is a Vice President of the Service children's charity (The Royal Caledonian Education Trust) and he runs the Poppy Appeal in Kinross. In 2020, SSAFA carried out over 100 cases in the county, ranging from debt, homelessness, employment, housing, drink and drugs issues, mobility, and increasingly, mental health and loneliness challenges.

Andy said: 'I am honoured, humbled, surprised and very touched to be recognised by the remarkable lady, who I have worked for since I was 18, HM The Queen, for doing something close to my heart, all my life. That is the care for, and support, of my fellow members of HM Forces, and crucially their families. My wife Jo always says 'The men may be the soldiers, but the wives are the warriors' – so true!'

I accept it on behalf of all the terrific SSAFA volunteers, and all the very good friends I have had the pleasure of working with in SSAFA, UK and worldwide, for over 20 years.



Andy Middlemiss with grandfather George's WW1 medals. George was an army doctor at Gallipoli in 1915 and on the Western Front.

There are countless extraordinary volunteers out there, and I wish every one of them could get a BEM – they all deserve it. There is no I in team, so this fantastic BEM award is for you – SSAFA Team.'

The British Empire Medal (BEM) was established in 1922 and is awarded for meritorious civil or military service, worthy of recognition by the Crown. The BEM was awarded to subjects of the United Kingdom until 1992, after which time it lay in abeyance in the United Kingdom. It was specifically re-instated in June 2012, for HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, specifically to reward and honour those who work in the charitable, and voluntary sectors.



British Empire Medal  
those who work in the

Hats off to the wonderful team in SSAFA, now over 135 years old.

To find out more about what SSAFA does locally or how to help as a volunteer, go to [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)



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#### Company Review

Bob McIntosh ★★★★★

Very pleased to have our issue sorted out efficiently and promptly.

#### Company Review

Andrew Clark ★★★★★

Excellent service. If in future I have any more problems (being a Senior Client) with my computer I would certainly use this company again. His advice was invaluable.

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# MBE FOR FIONA IN HONOURS LIST

**FIONA SYMON, THE TIRELESS** campaigner for recognition and remembrance of the loss of HMT *Lancastria*, the maritime tragedy that cost the lives of thousands of civilians and service personnel at the onset of World War Two, has been awarded an MBE for 'Services To Maritime Heritage' in the New Year's Honours list.

Fiona, of Kinross, was instrumental in gaining official acknowledgement of the tragedy, and persuading the government to reveal more of the details behind the event.

Her father, Andrew Richardson, was one of the victims of the sinking of the troopship, an ocean-going liner that was sunk by the Luftwaffe in 1940 while rescuing British personnel from France. The total number of dead exceeds that of the *Titanic* and the *Lusitania* combined, although the official death toll has still never been revealed.

Mrs Fiona Symons, MBE told the *Newsletter*, 'I am greatly honoured and feel extremely humble in receiving this MBE. This honour marks the recognition we all worked to achieve. The families I have met have enriched my life and many have become treasured friends.'

The story of HMT *Lancastria* is told by Andy Middlemiss on pp40-41.

*Opposite: Fiona Symon and her dog, Bruar. Fiona is wearing the commemorative medal for the Lancastria.*



## Green Light For Controversial Appeals

**DISMAY HAS GREETED THE** news that the green light seems to have been given to increase the numbers originally agreed for the controversial housing developments in Kinross and Milnathort.

Kinross Civic Trust expressed their disappointment that 'official confirmation has been published that Springfield's appeal over Pitdownies has been allowed by the Reporter and planning permission has been granted'. The Pitdownies development has been subject to a continued tussle over the number of homes to be built, with many local objections raised over the insufficiency of the planned access, pressure on local health and education services and the detrimental effect on the water quality in Loch Leven.

The same objections were raised when Persimmon Homes appealed the ruling that refused an additional 169 houses in their Lathro Farm development.

Both appeals, despite objections from Community Councils, Perth & Kinross Council and many local people, went before the Scottish Government Reporter, who passed the appeals for both proposals after Perth and Kinross Council had refused to allow the controversial plans.

Kinross-shire councillors from all parties had expressed concerns about over-development in the area and the effect more houses would have on the water quality of Loch Leven. There were more than 170 objections to the plan to extend the development at Lathro Farm.

Commenting on the decision, Councillor Callum Purves, said: "This is a democratic outrage. Local residents are sick to the back teeth of unelected Scottish Government bureaucrats riding roughshod over local democracy and overturning decisions taken by local councillors.

"This latest application for the Lathro

Meadows development tries to cram yet more houses onto a site that is already bursting at the seams and completely throws the Local Development Plan out the window. It fails to have any regard for concerns about Loch Leven, drainage, road safety or pressure on local infrastructure in Kinross and wider Kinross-shire.'

Liz Smith MSP added: 'We are seeing 10 or 15 years' worth of development being built in just a few years in Kinross-shire. This decision to uphold the appeal on Lathro will put further pressure on both the primary and high schools as well as the health centre, which has more patients following the closure of the GP practice at Bridge of Earn.

'When there is development on this scale, we need to see local infrastructure upgraded before the houses are built. This sadly just isn't happening in the case of Lathro Meadows.'

# IT'S FISHY IN THE HIGH STREET!

**KINROSS HIGH STREET** is flourishing with new businesses! Hot on the heels of The Long Spoon Larder deli is a new fish shop, The Fresh Fish Place, which has made its home in the former Kintronics premises. Both businesses have been waiting a long time to get to Kinross, delayed by the Covid-19 restrictions. Kinross is delighted to have them with us and their customers and other local businesses alike have welcomed them with open arms.



*The Fresh Fish Place, the latest addition to Kinross High Street*

The owners, John and Hazel Stephen, (who already have shops in Alloa, Bathgate, Dunfermline, Falkirk, Grangemouth and Stirling) were delighted to finally open their Kinross shop to customers on Tuesday 12 January. Coming from generations of fishermen, and born in Peterhead, their dads and grandads were fishermen too. John himself was at sea for 15 years, the last five as skipper of his own trawler.

John started the fish shop business 3 and a half years ago, beginning with one small unit. That number grew in the second year of trading and he now has 7 shops throughout Scotland.

Says John: 'We have been humbled by the welcome we have received in Kinross. There is such a supportive community spirit here, from people putting pics of their fish dinners on Facebook to Hunters the Butchers promoting us on their own Facebook page.'

Thank you, everyone, for your support and kindness.'



*Owner John Stephen (above) and a mouth-watering selection of his wares (below)*

With many friends and family in the fishing industry, their main suppliers are located in Peterhead and Fraserburgh, and they supply fresh fish to The Fresh Fish Place on a daily basis.

'We strive to bring the freshest of fish daily from Peterhead', says John, 'most of our fish coming from my cousin's factory. We now have a fantastic choice of up to 50 fishy choices including amazing shellfish such as dressed crab and lobster.'

Health experts say you should eat 2 to 3 servings of a variety of cooked fish, or about 8 to 12 ounces, every week.

Variety is certainly no problem at The Fresh Fish Place. Their aim is to undertake to supply you with the best selection of fresh fish, smoked fish, marinades, shellfish and frozen fish. Special orders can also be requested – just pop in and chat to John, or use the contact details below.

Current restrictions mean that only three people can be in the shop at any

one time. The shop is open every Tuesday to Friday, from 9.30am-3.30pm and on Saturdays from 9.30am-3pm.

*The Fresh Fish Place,  
167 High St, Kinross  
KY13 8DA  
01577 863772*

*www.thefreshfishplace.co.uk*

*Facebook: thefreshfishplacescotland.*





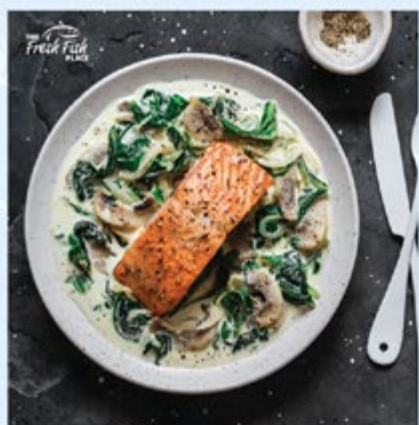
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# FIGHTING FOR FAST BROADBAND FOR KINROSS-SHIRE

**READ MORE ABOUT HOW** to claim your Government funded voucher (worth up to £3500) and get involved in this exciting community-led project.

## What is Gigabit Kinross-shire ?

The December 2020 Ofcom 'Connected Nations' broadband report highlights the digital divide between urban and rural areas. In Edinburgh, 85% of properties enjoy ultrafast broadband (100 mbps or faster) and 40% can get gigabit broadband (1000 mbps or faster). This compares with 7.3% ultrafast and 4.7% gigabit in Kinross-shire – more a digital chasm than a digital divide.

Gigabit Kinross-shire is a community organisation established to secure government funded gigabit broadband upgrades (download speeds of more than 1000 mbps) for homes and businesses throughout Kinross-shire. Gigabit Kinross-shire comprises representatives from local groups and is supported by a range of voluntary organisations and businesses as well as by Perth & Kinross Council.

## How Does It Work?

The Scottish Government is running a country-wide scheme ('Reaching 100%' / 'R100') to upgrade rural areas where internet speeds are less than 30 Mbps, and private companies are installing full-fibre broadband in cities and larger towns. Both these initiatives miss out larger villages and smaller towns such as Kinross, Milnathort, Crook of Devon, Kinnesswood and Glenfarg – and this is where Gigabit Kinross-shire comes in.

The UK Government has a voucher scheme that fully funds gigabit broad-

band upgrades. Each property (not already covered by 'R100') is eligible for a voucher; £1500 for private residences and £3500 for businesses (Small and Medium Enterprises, including self-employed and sole traders registered at private residences). Through residents and businesses pooling sufficient vouchers to cover installation costs, full-fibre upgrades can be carried out at zero cost to home and business owners in that community/area.

In pledging your voucher, you will commit to a 12-month subscription for a telephone and broadband service from the company installing the full fibre connection. This will be on similar terms and costs as your current service. And, after the first 12 months, you can switch to another broadband supplier.

## Why Would I Want A Gigabit Connection?

At a time when more of us have been working from home, we are becoming more reliant upon internet connections. Download and upload speeds are important for conference calls, transferring large files or streaming media, but they are not the only benefits. Full-fibre [to the premises] is far more reliable than traditional copper broadband; speeds

do not drop when more people are on-line at the same time, and full-fibre is not affected by adverse weather as copper lines can be.

## How Do I Get Involved?

You can get more information, check your eligibility and register your interest for a free upgrade by visiting our website at [kinross-shire.org](http://kinross-shire.org) and our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/gigabitkinross](https://www.facebook.com/gigabitkinross)

The more people that sign up, the more likely upgrades will be possible in your area. We also need 'Community Broadband Champions' (CBC) who will help co-ordinate projects locally and drum up more support. So, if you want to be a CBC, please let us know when you sign up.

## KINROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1. Muckle, 4. Tipple, 8. Frack, 11. Infrastructures, 12. Prelim, 13. Bunkum, 14. Snow, 17. Ewes, 19. Engraving, 20. Earl, 21. Rhea, 22. Turn, 24. Ague, 25. Peas, 26. Term, 27. Easter, .

**DOWN:** 2. Central, 3. Ear, 4. Tic, 5. Penguin, 6. Shrimp, 7. Balsam, 8. Fishmonger, 9. Aura, 10. Kickboxing, 14. Steeple, 15. Welts, 16. Cat, 17. Egret, 18. Scammed, 23. Nun, 24. Ava

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# Rotary Youth Leadership Award

- *Will you be 16-17 years old in July, or do you know someone who will?*
- *Would the person in question enjoy a life-changing week – totally free?\**

## What Is The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)?

RYLA is a leadership development course. Your local Kinross and District Rotary Club will pay all expenses for one boy and one girl to attend a week-long adventure and leadership camp in the Highlands in July. They know you have all been robbed by the pandemic of many opportunities. Here is a golden chance to put that right!

The girls' camp is 3-10 July and the boys' camp is 10-17 July.

It is not a pass or fail course, and you will be as successful on it as you are willing to be. The aim is to help you realise some of the leadership potential that others have seen when they selected you for the course.

A lot of the activities may take place outside – in the Cairngorm National Park – and it is about using a variety of activities, both in and outdoors to develop you as an individual,



course member the opportunity to take on a leader's role. You will then be given feedback on individual and team performances, not only by Abernethy staff, but also by other course participants, and your mentors. But – don't worry, there is no exam or assessment and no pass or fail!

## Who Are We?

The staff are a mixture of Rotarians, professional instructors and mentors, many of whom are past RYLA candidates. All of them have experience in leadership roles and are there to assist with the development of your leadership skills.

During the week, you will be in a team of about 7/8 and will work with a mentor. Your mentor will support you and watch your development of leadership skills, and will do their best to make sure your whole team benefit from the experiences that you will all go through.

## What to Expect

During the course you will be challenged, tired, and you may feel that you are being pushed to your limits, but you will enjoy it – honestly! Here are words former RYLA candidates have used:

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Your local Rotary Club will sponsor your place on the course in full, and arrange for you to be transported to and from Nethybridge. They are also available to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Our aim is that each awardee leaves the course with a clearer understanding of their role as potential leaders, and managers of the future, no matter what their chosen career paths.

## How to Apply

Go to: [www.ryla1010.com](http://www.ryla1010.com) where you will find an application form. Make sure you say you are from the Kinross Club area. After that, all the applications will be looked at, and a short list will be interviewed by a club member, and a teacher, probably on Zoom.

For further details, contact [secretary.krdc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.krdc@gmail.com)

*\* Covid-19 allowing – and we have to be optimistic...*



as a team member and as a leader of a team in a safe and enjoyable environment.

It is a rare opportunity to experience and learn things about yourself, about working in a team, but more importantly about leading and supervising other people. These are the skills employers look for in the workplace.


The courses are open to young people who will be 16 and 17 years old in July, and take place at Abernethy's Outdoor Centre at Nethybridge, located in the Cairngorm National Park, and which has been running RYLA courses with Rotary for over 30 years.

The selected activities on the course are all based on elements of problem solving, communication, organisation, delegation and teamwork etc. The tasks are largely centred on outdoor activities, which add a physical dimension to the problems you will face, but this is not an activity holiday!

## Leadership

The activity side of the course is used to highlight the problems of leadership in a practical situation and to allow each






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## Church News

# KEEPING CONNECTED IN 2021

**KINROSS PARISH CHURCH** has introduced further ways for its congregation, and anyone else, to remain connected despite the current restrictions.

Sunday and Wednesday services at 10.30am are now available on Zoom with the chance to chat together afterwards. Sunday evening prayers have also started on Zoom at 6pm allowing people to pray together. Another new venture is Table Talk, an informal meeting for coffee and chat on Zoom between 1pm and 2pm on Thursdays. The easiest way to stay in touch if you have internet access is

to contact the Church Office (01577 862570, [office@kinrossparishchurch.org](mailto:office@kinrossparishchurch.org)) to be sent the weekly email of events with Zoom links.

For those without access to the internet, all Zoom events can also be accessed through a telephone and the Sunday service is also available as a CD. The congregation's magazine, *Kin-nections*, is another good way of staying in touch. Details of how to access all of this is given in the Diary page for the church in this *Newsletter*.

The church's Minister, Rev Alan Reid, says: 'Of course, none of us wanted to

be where we find ourselves again in lockdown. Nonetheless I want to encourage you not to lose heart but instead lift your eyes in faith as we step forward.

Research has consistently shown that the more engaged people are in the life of the church the less likely they are to feel isolated and the more likely they are to be hopeful about the future.

Let's keep connected.'

Gordon McFarlane

Tel: 07519 512435

[gordonjohnmcfarlane@gmail.com](mailto:gordonjohnmcfarlane@gmail.com)

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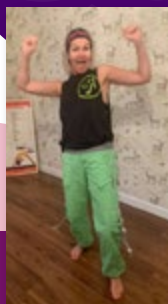
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# New Flood Response Group For Kinross



*Firemen pumping floodwater away from the junction of Queich Place and the High St in February last year*

**IN FEBRUARY 2020 KINROSS** experienced 2 solid weeks of rain after storm Ciara and storm Dennis battered the country and the waterways were overwhelmed. The South Queich and the Clash Burn burst their banks and flooded a large area of south Kinross, forcing many residents out of their homes. The area was flooded again just six months later after a single night of thunderstorms and torrential downpour of rain.

One year later, a handful of residents have gathered to form the Kinross Flooding Resilience Group, which aims to deliver a community driven flood response to help minimise the risk and the impact of flooding on residents and businesses in the area.

To ensure that Kinross is prepared for the next flood that hits, they are looking to increase their membership and find volunteers willing to help with delivering a flood action plan to alert residents of an incoming flood, and deploy emergency resilience measures, such as sandbags, to at-risk properties.

Would you like to know more? You can find the KFRG on facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/kinrossflooding](https://www.facebook.com/groups/kinrossflooding) or email [kinrossflooding@gmail.com](mailto:kinrossflooding@gmail.com) with your details.



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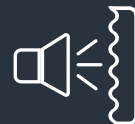
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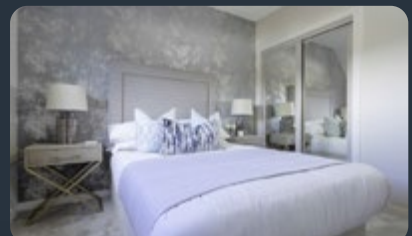
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# FEARS OVER LOCH ICE

*Reports of children playing too far out on a frozen Loch Leven have raised spectres of previous tragedies*

**A POLICE WARNING WAS** issued for people to stay off the ice at Loch Leven and other open bodies of water in Kinross-shire, when freezing temperatures hit Kinross-shire in January. The warnings came as the usual winter cold spells tempted people to take to the ice throughout Kinross and in other parts of Scotland. Both children and adults were spotted walking on the frozen loch, a very dangerous activity.

Warning signs were placed at the main access points reminding locals that the ice at Loch Leven was not safe to walk on. A spokesperson from Loch Leven Nature Reserve commented, 'Sadly, when we get this type of weather, it is so easily marred by the tragic loss of life that can result from falling through the ice. Please remember that, yes, you may be confident the ice you are standing on is solid, but think also of the example you are setting to all of the children who are watching and may try the same on another occasion.'

While it may look really solid and therefore safe, ice rarely freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick at one point and only an inch or two just a few feet away. Large, deep bodies of water take longer to freeze and ice near the shore may be weaker than ice further out. The insulating effect of snow also slows down the freezing process. Ice that is underneath the snow will be thinner and weaker than uncovered ice. When temperatures vary widely, causing the ice to thaw during the day and refreeze at night, the result is weak, unsafe ice.

So, those walking on it could have been in very serious danger of falling through – not only risking their own life but that of anyone else who would have to go to their rescue.

The only way to really know if ice is safe for walking is to drill or cut into it and take measurements of its thickness. It's thought that it should be at least 15 centimetres thick for a person to walk or skate, or 20cm thick for a group of people. The colour of the ice is also very telling. The strongest and safest colour of ice is either blue or black. This is the ice that forms as the surface of the lake or pond directly freezes in cold weather. As a result, it is very dense. If the ice is opaque white, it can appear safe, but that is not necessarily the case. For most of us, who do not have a way of drilling down to see

exactly how thick the ice is, it is best to avoid being out on it. Grey ice is dangerous. Any shade of grey means it is likely decaying or melting, and it is probably fairly thin and weak. The source of the grey colour is typically the dark liquid water underneath showing through the ice.

Of course, safety concerns did not put off our ancestors from going out on a frozen Loch Leven. Curling was probably played on and around Loch Leven from the early part of the fifteenth century. It's thought that the monks living on St Serf's Island curled on Loch Leven in hard winters. In 1912, a bonspiel with teams from Perthshire against those from Fife and Kinross was held on the loch. The last Grand Match was played on the Loch in 1959.

In 2010 when Scotland had an exceptionally cold winter, believed to be the most intense in Scotland for 50 years, it was thought that the ice at both Piper Dam and at Loch Leven would be the necessary seven inches thick, allowing curling to go ahead. However, the surface of Loch Leven was deemed to be too rough and unstable. The Royal Caledonian Curling Club's chief executive Colin Grahamslaw had explained, 'It's the wrong kind of ice. It's effectively ice, then snow, then ice.' The club said that the objections of the emergency services and Stirling council made it impossible for them to get event insurance.

The Kinross Marshall museum published a sad story from 1870 that should remind us all to heed the dangers of walking on a frozen loch.

'Perhaps the most distressing accident that ever occurred in our district happened on Lochleven on Saturday 22 January. For on that day three sisters, Jane, Bathia and Margaret Steedman, whose ages were respectively 24, 22 and 20, all extremely well known in the social life of our town, perished together. The circumstances under which the sad event occurred are so pathetic, and form so dramatic a tragedy, that after the lapse of years they might be recalled.

Since the opening of the year, frost had been intermittent, and Loch Leven was only partially frozen. A fringe of firm ice, however, formed skating facilities, and the three young ladies had arranged for a few hours enjoyment in the afternoon in the company of one or two friends.

Similar expeditions were usually planned from the 'Jingle Dyke' a well-known landmark on the northern side of the loch, adjacent to the boathouse and pier. A favourite retriever accompanied them to the rendezvous, and just as they reached it, the dogs attention was attracted by the waterfowl who at this season keep the water open by congregating in large numbers. Reaching the edge of the ice it plunged into the water, and when the ladies looked up they saw the animal struggling to secure a footing on the ice.

In an indescribably short space of time a terrible calamity was completed, and only a few minutes had elapsed before a boat reached the spot from the pier. By that time the dog was found sitting on the ice with a glove in its mouth, and looking with intense eagerness for the appearance of its owner. In their anxiety to save their canine favourite, the

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*Photo courtesy of Cliff Hands*

ladies one after the other rushed to the spot, only to find the ice sink beneath their weight, and all efforts to restore life proved unavailing.

Within a little more than an hour from the time they had left home 'buoyant with life and hope, they were borne back to it lifeless.' The inscription on their tombstone in the West churchyard expressively memorises the sad tragedy in the words of the text 'They were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their deaths were not divided.' In these later days a system of life ladders and kindred appliances has been established, and these are placed along the shore during the winter season. It is doubtful if these would have proved of material aid even although such means of rendering assis-

tance had been available, owing to the startling suddenness of the catastrophe.'

Tayside Police issued a statement in January 2021 which said, 'We would like to remind the public to avoid venturing out onto the ice. Stretches of frozen water are unsafe and we would urge people to take great care and resist the temptation to use them as areas of play.

'We would urge everyone, to take great care and resist the temptation to use the loch as an area of play. If you see anyone in difficulty on the ice, please contact 999.'

In January the SSPCA received more than 70 calls from concerned members of the public regarding swans they mistakenly feared were stuck in ice on frozen lochs or ponds.

## Rural Business Support From Growbiz

**2020 WAS AN EXTRAORDINARILY** tough year and many businesses in need of assistance turned to us at GrowBiz. Since the March lockdown we have helped over 800 rural businesses, providing support for them to keep going, adapt and wherever possible, use digital applications to keep trading. We are also poised to help as many as possible through this year too. Here's just a few of the ways we can provide support:

1-1 meetings are available over the phone or via video conferencing (Zoom). This means you can chat with an experienced and friendly advisor in a completely confidential setting. In particular, your advisor can talk you

through what funding options might be available and even help you to apply.

Online events provide opportunities to learn and network. Instead of meeting in person, GrowBiz's free events are now held online via Zoom and include opportunities to meet peers, share experiences and hear from inspirational speakers. Many of our events also include opportunities to learn new skills or improve existing ones.

Learning resources are available on our website. Through our new Learning pages you can download a variety of resources on topics such as moving sales and services online, and digital marketing to help you adapt to the current business environment and

make your enterprise as resilient as possible.

REDS membership is designed to help rural businesses. GrowBiz launched REDS after seeing how rural businesses suffered as a result of the March 2020 lockdown. It provides free enterprise support to all its members across Scotland, exclusive events, a supportive community, the opportunity to sign up to the REDS gift card programme and a listing on the REDS directory. Find out more at [www.reds.scot](http://www.reds.scot)

GrowBiz also has a dedicated Coronavirus Support page on its website, sends out a weekly newsletter with all the latest news, and publishes a weekly coronavirus update on its blog. See all this and more at [www.growbiz.co.uk](http://www.growbiz.co.uk)



# Festive Market at Market Park

**THE ANNUAL FESTIVE MARKET**, which took place on 28 November 2020, was obviously a bit different due to the Covid-19 pandemic since it could not go ahead at the usual High Street venue. After several weeks of rain prior to the event we were lucky with the weather with the sun coming out turning it into a gorgeous late November day!

We were delighted to see that the local population supported the event in great numbers and, all-in-all there was a wonderful festive atmosphere in the lead up to Christmas.

There were 45 stall holders ranging from farmers' market produce (cheese, honey, variety of meats, Christmas trees, tablet, home baking and other treats) to a good selection of stalls selling crafts and gifts. In addition, there was also a number of local stalls that raised money for their charities.

The KLEO team would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who visited the market. We were very glad that everyone was wearing their face masks and keeping the appropriate social distance. We also give our grateful thanks to all the volunteers,

who helped with erecting and dismantling market stalls and stewarding the event with a special thank you to Martin Lawson who was our first aider at the event. We are glad that he had a very quiet afternoon!

The KLEO team are looking forward to quick improvements in the Covid-19 restrictions to allow the Kinross Farmers' Markets to start again on 24 April. These markets are planned to take place from 10am-2pm on Kinross High Street.

For more info about this year's KLEO events please visit [www.kleo.org.uk](http://www.kleo.org.uk)



Photos: Vincent Johnston





# BETH'S 2020 CHARITY FUNDRAISER

**DESPITE THE TRIALS OF 2020**, once again (and for the third year running) local entrepreneur Beth Gibson from Milnathort has successfully raised a fantastic amount for CHAS (Children's Hospices Across Scotland) with an online raffle.

Beth who runs 'Beauty by Beth' and 'Forever Living' products, along with her fellow volunteers Tina Parkes, Janet McIlroy and community CHAS fundraiser Lyndsay Stobie used the power of social media to raise awareness. Led by Beth, a Friends of CHAS Kinross Facebook page was set up. The charity received generous donations from many local businesses, all of which were raffled away, at a live event on Facebook on 12 December 2020 hosted by Beth and her mum, Angela (*pictured right*).

One of the lucky winners received a 20-minute light aircraft flight from Alisdair Stewart of the Kinross Aerospace project. Other businesses such as Stewart & Smart, The Kirklands Hotel and many local therapy and arts and crafts artisans offered some fantastic prizes.

Beth has been a CHAS volunteer for four years offering therapeutic massage and this year raised £2500 for Rachel House in Kinross. Well done, Beth!





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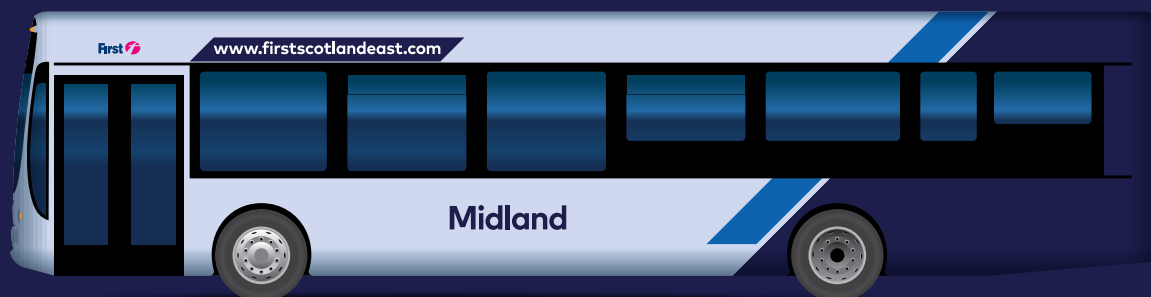


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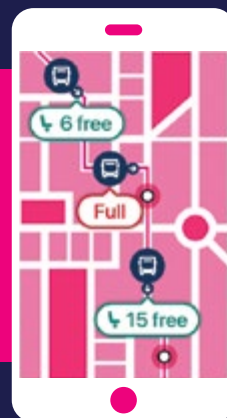


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# NEW HANGAR FOR BALADO AIRFIELD

**THE OWNERS OF BALADO AIRFIELD** are hoping that more pilots will soon be able to use the site to store their aeroplanes and helicopters for private charter flights.

The Balado site has been used for various outdoor events in the recent past, including motorsports and the famous 'T In The Park' musical festival. T in the Park was held at Balado from 1997 to 2014. It was moved to Strathallan Castle in 2015 after concerns about an underground gas pipeline. The event was later cancelled after two people died at it in 2016.

Hilton Estates have submitted an application to PKC Council for permission to create a new hangar at the airfield. It would be capable of housing up to ten more light aircraft.

The planning statement sent to P&K Council indicates that although the airfield currently has a number of consented uses, it 'still retains its aircraft use which is now largely limited to aircraft training and private light and rotary wing aircraft visits'.



The Balado site has aviation history, with RAF Balado Bridge, opened in 1942, playing an important role during the Second World War. The airfield would have been called 'RAF Kinross', however, the naming of airfields at the time was to avoid confusion with other places like RAF Kinloss at Forres.

Balado Bridge had two runways. The tower was of the Watch Office for Fighter Satellite Station type. There were two

hangars; the larger a B1 type, designed as an aircraft repair shed, used mainly for heavy bombers and the smaller a 'Super Robin' type.

Following decommissioning as an RAF station, part of the site served as a NATO Communication Satellite Groundstation. It operated from 1985 to 2006. Now, there are a number of poultry farm buildings sited on parts of the old runways. The remaining section of the airfield, including the Control Tower, is used as a base for microlight flying.

The airfield attracts visitors to Kinross and has increased the variety of leisure pursuits that are available in the area.

A youth scholarship programme is currently being delivered by the team at Balado Airfield and FlyScotland, meaning the local community and businesses will benefit from this new development.

The new hangar could result in as many as 60 movements each week, but the statement says this is a 'maximum number' and that 'in most cases there would be fewer movements per day'.



**PIZZA VIA**

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## Councillor Mike Barnacle

SEE BELOW FOR THE minutes of two recent meetings.

### Kinross-Shire Forum Of Community Councils

(Wednesday 2 December 2020: 7pm Via Zoom)



**Present:** S Bruce-Jones & A Cheape (Fossoway CC), D Colliar & L McKay (Kinross CC), F Principe-Gillespie (Cleish CC), D Morris (Portmoak CC), Councillors: M Barnacle, C Purves, W Robertson, R Watters.

**Apologies:** Milnathort CC

#### Cllr Barnacle's correspondence exchange with PKC CEO

MB summarised this, excluding our Agenda Items 3 & 6, to which the following comments were subsequently made viz –

#### Addressing the o/s crime, environment & planning issues at Crook Moss Gypsy Traveller Site

MB stated that, although purely an issue for Fossoway CC, it was one of the worst planning decisions in his 20 years as a councillor and he continues to get representations from the community about it & PKC's inaction. He suggested at Fossoway CC on 1 December that he would make one final attempt to get Planning to bring a compliance report back to committee in advance of a possible petition in Drum (post-Covid-19) and adverse press coverage of PKC. AC & SBJ agreed that action was needed, CP referred to PKC's enforcement charter, WR stated 'light touch' approach of PKC to gypsy travellers & a query was raised on site residents paying council tax? It was agreed that MB would work on a joint letter to be sent to Planning from ward councillors & Fossoway CC.

#### Ochil Hills & Lomond Hills Regional Parks Creation & Extension

In response to PKC's lack of resources argument, DM suggested writing to Scottish Government regarding the Lomond Hills extension encompassing Fife & PKC authority boundaries & what external funding is available for Regional Parks? WR stressed the need for a political decision at PKC. MB to speak to Angus Forbes, Convenor of Enterprise & Infrastructure prior to Committee motion on further action.

#### Affordable Housing in Rural Communities of Kinross-shire

DM stated that existing policy mitigates against this even though we have a policy for on-site provision, which RW agreed was happening but this was due to lack of policy implementation at Committee (Development Management). WR suggested we need a policy amendment because developers get around it and FG asked how? Both MB & RW serve on member officer working groups that cover this, so will pursue it in 2021.

#### Kinross-shire Border Signage

General agreement on local fund-raising for this i.e. DC re Kinross CC funding & AC re Kinross-shire Fund. CP noted 'County of Kinross' sign at entrance to Keltbridge. MB offered to do survey of Kinross-shire border to evaluate requirements.

**NOTE** MB disappointed that no comment was made in relation to following issues viz

- Lack of PKC policy on maintaining sustainability of rural communities.
- Ensuring the retention of a banking facility in Kinross-shire – subsequently announced that Bank of Scotland are closing last branch in March 2021.
- Restoring the landscape designations for the Cleish Hills & Devon Gorge.
- Level of Housing Development in Kinross & Milnathort & their effect on Loch Leven, etc.

#### Kinross-shire Area Committee Proposal Update

CP stated that our draft scheme had not been assessed for competence by PKC Legal & that their suggestions on referral to another MOWG & for provision under the P&K offer were not

appropriate so we were going around in circles with bureaucratic obfuscation. AC suggested that the increase in our population since former Kinross County justified an area committee. RW suggested that our 'pilot scheme' should be seen as an opportunity that may benefit other areas of PKC. DM thought we needed planning to be devolved but CP not sure we could deliver that at present. WR suggested approaching Cllr Murray Lyle (Admin Leader) & MB agreed to explore with group leaders @ PKC officer resistance to proposal. (N.B. MB in course of doing that)

#### Kinross-shire Community Transport Group Update

MB outlined this & that the draft minutes of our meeting on 19/11/20 were to come to him for approval & circulation (subsequently done). There had been a subsequent exchange of emails between PKC's public transport unit & John Fallon of Rumbling Bridge. MB had been informed of a PKAVS contact to help achieve charitable status for group. MB had asked Margaret Roy if PKC would produce a Capital Budget Business Case for an electric mini-bus service in the shire.

#### Kinross-shire Community Speedwatch Initiative Update

WR stated that Cleish CC had met with the Police to discuss this, which has their support. Aim is to establish a Kinross-shire wide scheme, which would need funding because equipment costing around £1500 needed. FG pointed out that equipment has to be calibrated annually; it was queried whether his assertion that the presence of 3 witnesses would enable pursuance of a speeding offence; public liability could be obtained under PKC cover. DM felt that speeding control should be left to the Police but both SBJ & WR said the police were not enforcing same. WR stated that all pedestrian lighted crossings in PKC had now reverted to push-button operation (MB thought this correct with exception of Blairingone West as traffic calming measure). Both SBJ & LM said their CC's supported the initiative & WR wanted all CC's to let him know by next Forum meeting.

#### Perth & Kinross Offer

WR & CP stated that CC's should know that PKC were looking at different ways of doing things in ward areas, involving more use of voluntary groups in a new contract between communities & PKC. DM felt this was a distraction in dealing with an intransigent PKC with a culture of officers pursuing their own agenda; there was a need to get the basics right!

#### AOCB

WR felt there was a lack of a united front on issues at the Forum because of the attendance viz no show from Glenfarg & Milnathort CC's & only one member representing Cleish & Portmoak CC's respectively.

Date of next meetings in 2021 were agreed, all at 7pm on first Wednesday quarterly viz

- 3 March (CP to take minutes) Probably virtually!
- 2 June (WR to take minutes) Hopefully at Campus
- 1 September (RW to take minutes) Hopefully at Campus

#### Kinross-shire Public Transport/Community Transport

(Zoom Meeting, 7pm, 19 November 2020)

**Present:** Cllr Barnacle, Cllr Purves, Cllr Robertson, Cllr Watters (Perth & Kinross Council), Paul Appleby (Cleish Community Council), Carol Farquhar (Fossoway Community Council), Malcolm Thomson (Milnathort Community Council), Michael Haigh (Fossoway Community Council), John Fallon (Local Resident Rumbling Bridge), Margaret Ponton, Douglas Fraser (Glenfarg Community Council), David Aird (Kinross-shire Volunteer Group), David Collier (Kinross Community Council), Margaret Roy (Perth & Kinross Council PTU).

**Apologies:** Andrew Warrington (ACBuG), Sarah Brown (Kinross High School), Doctor McCracken (Loch Leven Health Centre), Ann Cragoe (Portmoak Community Council), Pauline Watson (Kinross-Shire Volunteer Group).

Cllr Barnacle opened the meeting and noted apologies from Andrew Warrington. All attendees then introduced themselves.

### Kinross-shire Transport Survey 2019 Re-Cap

Councillor Michael Barnacle opened the meeting by recapping on the results of the results of the 2019 Kinross-Shire Public Transport/Community Transport Survey and highlighting that the 3 main reasons for public transport demand in the area were:

- Shopping
- Health
- Social Reasons

### New Local Bus Services: Services X53 and 55

John Fallon advised that he had observed and travelled on Service 53X and his findings were that the patronage is good west of Dollar but very low numbers in the other direction. He added that the timetable was similar to the previous Service 23 in that you had a 2 hour wait in Kinross before you could make a return journey. JF shared details of a suggested re-cast of both Services X53 and X56. Cllr Barnacle asked that JF then email his proposals to MR so that consideration could be given for MR progressing these with First and Stagecoach East Scotland. Margaret Ponton advised that she had used Service 55 and that the facility to visit Sainsburys for 40 minutes before a return journey was welcome. MP shared that local feedback had been that the connections with the X Services were not working. MR queried if this was due to passengers expecting to connect in Milnathort rather than Kinross Park and Ride. MR clarified that timetable had been cast with Kinross Park and Ride as connecting point as that if X bus broke down etc, passengers would have opportunity to shelter and use facilities in nearby Sainsburys whereas in Milnathort they may not have that option. MR to email MP the timetable highlighting where and when all connections are for sharing with Glenfarg area residents. MP shared that young people in Glenfarg are using Service 55 to travel home from after school activities in Kinross.

MR confirmed that she receives passenger stats from Earnside Coaches re usage but all agreed that current numbers are not representative of potential demand in recovery due to current restrictions.

MR confirmed that she continues to liaise with Stagecoach regarding securing a off peak day return journey on Service 56 between Glenfarg and Perth

### The Future of Public Transport in Kinross-shire

MR confirmed that Angela's Cars had re-commenced operating the DRT scheme but due to current restrictions and also provision of Service X23, the option of sourcing additional operators into this scheme were not being progressed at this time and this situation would be re-visited in the Spring.

Cllr Barnacle suggested that a small community bus is an option worth consideration for future transport provision in rural Kinross-shire.

Cllr Purves added that facility for North, West and East all linking into Kinross should be explored but was also happy to revisit an East/West service.

Cllr Barnacle highlighted that a pilot may be advisable to test if there was a genuine demand for such a community bus service and asked MR to establish a approximate cost of a group buying a vehicle or contracting out to a commercial bus operator so that the group can make an informed choice.

DA confirmed that the above suggested community bus would not impact on the work of KVG as KVG doesn't run a bus service but rather they offer a particular more bespoke and befriending transport solution.

Cllr Robertson noted that a concerted effort should be made to retain Service 55.

### AOB

Cllr Barnacle noted that if a group were to be formed then they would require a constitution and charitable status. MR advised that she had a contact at PKAVS in this regard who she would put in touch with Cllr Barnacle.

Group in agreement that a copy of the final agreed minutes should be submitted to the next *Kinross Newsletter*.

Group keen to connect with Kinross High School headteacher at next meeting in terms of establishing transport needs of young people.

Also wish to progress discussion with Doctor from Loch Leven surgery as to fitting appointments in with public transport times. Some members of Milnathort Community Council had issues accessing Microsoft Teams for the meeting and Zoom would be a preferable format. Councillor Purves confirmed that he had a Zoom account and could facilitate meetings in this format going forward.

*Date of next meeting: Either Thursday 21 January or Thursday 28 January 2021. Cllr Barnacle will canvas opinion on most suitable date nearer the time.*

**Councillor Michael Barnacle**  
**Independent Member for Kinross-shire**

## Roseanna Cunningham, MSP



**IN MORE SOCIALLY ACTIVE** times, we would now be coming to the end of the 'Burns Season' – our weel-swail'd kyles bent like drums, like the auld Guidman who, sitting back replete with haggis, 'Bethankit' hums.

Like so much else affected by the global pandemic, haggis-makers will doubtless have seen a drop in demand this year, but one local company has really gone above and beyond (or as Buzz Lightyear in Toy Story would say, to infinity and beyond) in promoting their product – by sending a haggis into outer space!

In an incredible entry into the culinary record books, the first ever haggis destined to travel into space came from Simon Howie's butchery business. It's hurdies, presumably, like a distant moon.

That interesting marketing ploy, however, is but a temporary distraction from the daily challenges still facing us in tackling Covid-19. As we pit vaccine against virus, the race continues.

If – and, these days, we always have to be aware of the 'if' – all is going as anticipated, then by the first week of this month, all of those in the first two priority groups identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (the JCVI) will have received their first dose of the vaccine. That is, elderly residents in care homes, care home staff, front-line health and social care staff and those over 80 living in the community.

Looking ahead to the end of February, the intention is to have reached all over 70s and those in the over 65 age bracket who are regarded as clinically extremely vulnerable. That all means that in Scotland, by the start of next month, we will have covered priority groups 1-5 as listed by the JCVI, a total of just over 1.4 million people.

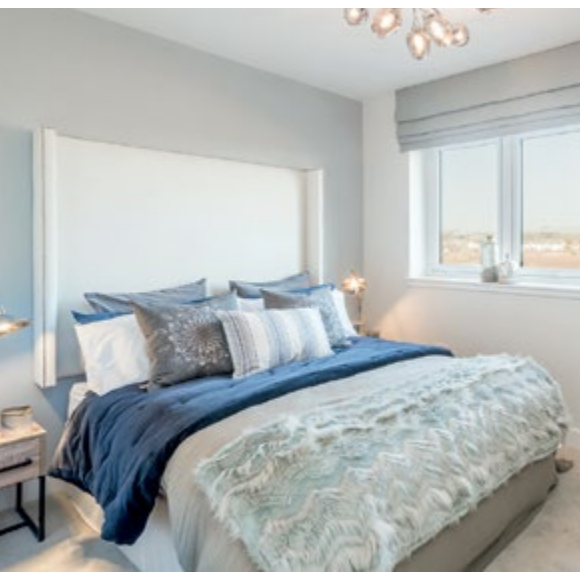
That will be a really significant achievement, but it cannot stand in isolation. This is a race in which we are more than just spectators cheering on from the sidelines. We can, all of us, affect the outcome.

On the one hand, we can help to slow down the spread of the virus and we do that by following, as closely as we possibly can, all of the advice and guidance that is coming to us from Government, both in the spirit and the letter of the law. Every time we look for a loophole in the rules we open up a space the virus can get through.

And while, the Scottish Government is doing everything it can to vaccinate the population as quickly as possible – working through that list of priority groups – for those of us not actively involved in the vaccination programme, there is still one thing that we can do to help in this part of the race – and that is to step up and get our jags as soon as it becomes available to us.

**Roseanna Cunningham, MSP**





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## Councillor Callum Purves

### Gritting

Early January brought with it a particularly cold spell. While Council gritting teams were working hard, including undertaking night shifts, many roads remained impassable due to the snow and ice.

This is primarily due to the priority system that the Council uses for treating its roads and pavements. It ranks them by perceived usage and gritters work their way down the list. This system was introduced to deal with a reduction in the number of gritters in early 2017 as a result of a budget cut.

While this might work when there is a short period of severe winter weather, it just does not cut the mustard during longer periods like the one we experienced in early January. The lower priority routes do not get covered as the gritting teams simply go back to the start to cover the top priority routes that have iced up again.

Another issue is due to staffing. I recently found out that lower priority routes are not covered at weekends or bank holidays at all, which meant that residential streets were completely ignored over the January bank holiday weekend.

While some staff were drafted in to do voluntary extra shifts, it is difficult to increase the level of staffing for gritting. This is because those who do winter maintenance are often drawn from other duties such as street cleaning and refuse collection.

Given the Council's focus on main arterial routes, many local residents were keen to help out and grit their own section of pavement. The Council itself had encouraged this with the introduction of community hand gritters a few years ago.

But people were unable to help as most grit bins locally were empty. The Council also has a policy of not installing new grit bins and, shockingly if unsurprisingly, their system does not actually have a record of all local grit bins.

And this is one of the few cases in the Council where money is not really an issue. The winter maintenance revenue budget has been protected since I was elected back in May 2017. In bad years, extra money comes from the Council's reserves, and in better years, surplus from the allocated budget goes back into the reserves.

The problem here is one of poor policy. And this is a policy that has a real detrimental effect on people's day-to-day lives. In early January, PRI's emergency department treated 66 people for slipping or falling on icy roads and pavements. I expect a number of Kinross-shire residents may also have been treated by NHS Fife.

There are a few key things that I think we need to do to sort this problem. We need to reverse the cut to the number of gritters taken in the previous Council term. We need to look at more flexible staffing arrangements to allow residential streets to be treated at weekends and bank holidays. We need to make more community hand gritters available. We need to scrap the policy of not installing more grit bins and we need to make sure grit bins are filled more regularly.

These measures are not particularly costly, but as with all these things, we will need to secure the support of councillors across the rest of Perth & Kinross, which is easier said than done.

### Cleish Primary School

Parents and the local community in Cleish have been extremely patient, but it is now more than four years since the primary school was included in the PKC School Estates Review back in November 2016. While Cleish was in one of the later phases of the review, a report on future options for the school was first promised for May 2019, but it is still yet to materialise.

Understandably Covid-19 has caused further delays, but we



now do seem to be making a little progress. Towards the end of last year, the Parent Council were able to meet with the Review Team to hear about their approach and the assumptions that they have made about the future school roll.

Like the community, I want to see a solution that ensures the long-term sustainability of a primary school in Cleish while addressing the issue of the life-expired buildings. I will continue to press the education department to publish its feasibility study and publicly present its options for the school as soon as possible.

### Drum 20mph Speed Limit

We received and signed off plans for the Drum 20 mph speed limit in December. The lowering of the speed limit is something that local residents have been requesting for some time given the inconsiderate driving of some who use the hamlet as a rat run. The new limit should be installed in the near future.

The relaxation in the requirements around changing speed limits to take account of more pedestrian road users has allowed projects like these that have been refused in the past to progress — and quickly. It has been one of the few silver linings of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Lathro Meadows Appeal

At the time of writing, we still do not know the outcome of Persimmon Homes' appeal against the Council's refusal to grant permission for even more houses to be built on its Lathro Meadows site. The decision of the Scottish Government's Reporter to allow the Pitdownies development to go ahead on appeal has made many in the local community sceptical of the outcome.

It is simply undemocratic for an unelected Scottish Government Reporter to be able to overturn the decision of local councillors. Councillor Barnacle and I introduced a motion to the Council in 2019, that would have asked the Scottish Government to introduce a community right of appeal to address this imbalance, but we were overwhelmingly defeated by councillors from all parties.

I was therefore delighted when Douglas Ross MP, announced a new Scottish Conservative policy of legislating to prevent the Scottish Government overturning refusals of developments by local councillors. Had such a law already been on the statute book, the Pitdownies development would not now be going ahead. We may also hope such a law was already in place when we finally get the decision on Lathro Meadows...

*Councillor Callum Purves*

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## Councillor Willie Robertson



**Winter Maintenance:** The prolonged period of icy weather in January showed deficiencies in the council's winter maintenance programme. Many low priority residential streets had little or no gritting and the council struggled to fill grit bins. Also, it is council policy not to install any more grit bins. The argument for this is that the council are unable to keep the grit bins already installed filled during bad weather so adding more would just make matters worse.

However, the result of all this is that many people have fallen and injured themselves on the icy surfaces which is the last thing that we want. I have now written to the convenor of the Council's Environment and Infrastructure committee asking for a complete review of the policy with regards to grit bins. People are prepared to help keep their pavements clear but the Council must give them the resources to do this.

**Snow Clearing Self-help:** The village of Glenfarg have been supplied by the Council with a self-propelled gritting machine and this has helped the community keep their pavements gritted. Surely this is something that could be replicated in other areas. I mentioned this at the January meeting of Milnathort Community Council and they were keen to explore the idea. However, to work we need a few volunteers and somewhere to store the gritting machine. Please let me know if you can help. I would also like to hear from other Kinross-shire communities who are interested in this idea.

**Local Businesses:** I am delighted that despite the very difficult trading conditions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic that new businesses are opening in Kinross. The recent addition of a delicatessen and now a fishmonger to the Kinross High Street is very welcome. We must all do our best to support these new businesses and also our existing ones.

**Recycling Site:** The busy recycling site in Back Loan, Milnathort has been closed. This is because the collection vehicles were having great difficulty since the Thistle Hotel car park has been closed off. There are still glass recycling sites at Ba' Hill and the entrance to Fleming Court. Hopefully a new location for a larger recycling point can be found soon.

*Councillor Willie Robertson*

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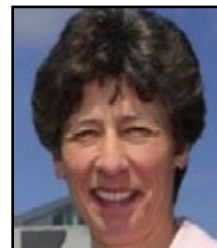
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## Liz Smith, MSP



**IN A MONTH WHERE** we are facing yet more government restrictions as result of the ongoing pressures of Covid-19, may I begin by praising the resolve of all the communities across Kinross-shire.

I never cease to be in awe of the all the support which is being offered on a regular and voluntary basis and I know it is greatly appreciated by so many vulnerable people. Indeed, one of the very few silver linings in our inboxes just now is the appreciative comments coming from constituents who have been well served by neighbours and friends looking after them.

The Zoom age is all very well and good – and a vital lifeline to us all – but it has its big drawbacks too not least of which is the lack of direct human contact and social discourse. This is particularly difficult for many elderly people who neither have the technology nor the desire to Zoom and so I hope Kinross-shire's willing co-operation will continue for as long as we need it.

Spare a thought too for our front-line health workers. The recent alarming rises in the variant strains of Covid-19 have put them under pressure like never before, even when compared to previous bad winters, and I am sure it is taking its personal toll on them all, and their families whom it is all too easy to forget.

Our TV screens have been full of the very worrying scenes in Intensive Care Units (ICU), but they have also shown an extraordinary degree of dedication and professionalism in our NHS staff.

I feel too, for all those in the business and hospitality sectors, many of whom had spent a huge amount of time and money adapting their business in light of the last restrictions only to find they are locked down again. It goes without saying, that this will have an enormous economic impact on Scotland and it is vitally important that they can access the support funds that are necessary to keep their businesses from going under.

There is a full list of these support funds set out on this link: [www.gov.scot/news/extending-support-for-hospitality-retail-and-leisure/](http://www.gov.scot/news/extending-support-for-hospitality-retail-and-leisure/)

We must remember that we now have three Covid vaccines that have been approved, with two – the BioNTech/Pfizer and Oxford/Astra Zeneca – already being rolled out across Scotland. And we recently had the announcement that the Moderna vaccine was approved by the regulators, with supplies of it expected to arrive in the UK around the spring.

These vaccines, which were produced in remarkable time, should pave the way out of this dreadful nightmare.

If the national vaccination programme goes to plan, it is anticipated that we may begin to see some semblance of normal life around the summer or early autumn and that is a positive thought to keep in one's head to keep us all going through the winter months.

Thank you again to all readers of the *Kinross Newsletter* for their community assistance.

*Liz Smith, MSP*

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## Councillor Richard Watters

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Hopefully, 2021 will see us emerge from the worst of this pandemic and allow us to enjoy the company of family and friends again.

Cases in Kinross-shire rose from a handful in the 7-day period to 18 December to more than 40 cases in the week after the New Year. This sharp increase has been reflected across the country and has led to the disappointing but necessary step of a tighter lockdown to preserve the NHS and to protect all of us.

With the increasing compliance to the lockdown rules and with the continued rollout of the vaccine, there is a real optimism that we will see some level of normality return over the summer.

My own experience of this pandemic includes losing a family member early on and then in December seeing my good friend and colleague, Councillor Henry Anderson, lose his fight with the virus. The cost of this pandemic both in lives and also in the health of individuals who have unfortunately caught the virus but survived is immeasurable. As I have spent the last 9 months dealing with the challenges of long Covid, I have no doubt about the importance of sticking to the Scottish Government's lockdown restrictions aimed at containing the new strain of the virus and protecting the NHS.

This is a challenging time for businesses as they adapt to deal with the changing lockdown rules, while ensuring they are still viable as business enterprises. If this affects you, the council has set up a team to help support local businesses. You can find a comprehensive list of support packages for business at [www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/business](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/business) or you can call The Scottish Government business support helpline on 0300 303 0660 or visit [findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/](http://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/).

It was nearly two years ago when the Learning Centre at Swansacre was put on the market and the Men's Shed asked for my support to help them purchase the property. Finally, in November, they took possession of their new Shed only a few weeks before they were due to move out of their old Shed in Milnathort.

I would like to wish the Shedders all the best in their new warm shed, where I'm sure they will carry on contributing to the Kinross-shire community with their positive can-do attitude, whenever lockdown rules allow.

At the beginning of December, the drive to setup a community Flood Resilience group took another big step forward at a virtual meeting hosted by the Scottish Flood Forum. This led to a constructive discussion, with an initial outline for setting up the group and a commitment to open discussions with the Alyth Community Support Group to learn from their experience in setting up a similar group.

The group now have a Facebook page – Kinross Flood Resilience Group – to help coordinate the effort.

If you would like to get involved with the Kinross Flood Resilience Group, then contact me at [rwatters@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:rwatters@pkc.gov.uk) or send a message through the Facebook page.

**Councillor Richard Watters**



## John Nicolson, MP

**HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE.**

I hope Christmas and Hogmanay went as well as could be. My partner and I cooied doon in front of the fire, ate all sorts of things we probably shouldn't have, and spent a couple of days binge-watching TV series the critics loved. If you haven't seen 'Schitt's Creek', I really recommend it. It seemed, somehow, to capture the zeitgeist.

I suspect most of us have never been so glad to see the back of a year. 2020 has left in its wake so much pain and suffering. And just when we thought it had no more power to hurt, we got the terrible news that Councillor Henry Anderson of Perth and Kinross Council had died. Many of you will have known Henry. He and I became friends as we campaigned together in the General Election. I came to appreciate his quiet warmth, his dry—often self-deprecating—humour, and passionate commitment to his community.



Henry Anderson (left), of Perth and Kinross Council, with John Nicolson

Henry radiated good health. His energy was phenomenal. And no one was better informed about the best cuisine Perthshire and Kinross-shire has to offer. From wee cafes to grander dineries, Henry's recommendations were not to be missed. Everywhere he went, people knew him and had tales to tell of how he'd helped them. And so, news of his death from Covid-19 seemed unreal in its suddenness. We'd only recently been corresponding about how proud he was of the restored Art Nouveau tables in the Bridge of Earn Institute. I will miss him, as will his many friends.

As we look ahead to 2021, we all know it's a year of extraordinary possibility. We will have Holyrood elections in May which will determine Scotland's future as a country. Will we become independent? Does our future lie back in the European Union? Has Brexit been the triumph its proponents promised? We will debate with passion, and I hope respect.

But before we go to the polls, we've a pandemic to conquer. But as I write this in January, things are looking promising. Priority groups all across the country are being vaccinated, with the oldest and most vulnerable first in line. Just as it should be. And while the first licensed vaccine from Pfizer remains a scientific marvel, the Oxford AstraZeneca has huge advantages – not least its ease of transportation, storage, and distribution. That's the one most of us will be getting when the letter from our doctor arrives.

We are not out of danger yet. Far from it. The experts warn us these next few weeks could be the deadliest yet. But if we follow the guidelines, keeping our distance, travelling only when strictly necessary, washing our hands – you know the drill – we can keep ourselves and loved ones safe until we all have the jag. And then finally the long nightmare will be over, though our memories of Henry and all the others we've lost will live on. Keep safe.

**John Nicolson, MP**

### The Newsletter on Facebook

We use our Facebook page to announce:

- our deadline and publication dates
- what's in the next issue
- reminders of some local events
- occasional breaking news

'Like' our page to be kept informed. Search for 'Kinross Newsletter' or go to:

[www.facebook.com/kinrossnewsletter](https://www.facebook.com/kinrossnewsletter)





# Police Box

## Drink Drug Driving Offences

Just over 500 motorists were reported for drink drug drive offences during the annual festive Drink Drug Drive campaign. During the campaign, which ran between December 1st 2020 and January 3rd 2021, Police Scotland officers carried out 4013 roadside tests. Overall, 508 drivers were detected for drink/drug offences.

### Breakdown of results:

- 4013 roadside screening tests for drink and drugs carried out during the campaign
- 437 roadside drug screening tests carried out
- 508 people detected for drink/drug offences
- Of those 508, 28 were caught the morning after drinking.

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Williams said 'It is extremely disappointing to see that people are still willing to take the risk and drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.'

ACC Williams continued: 'The current pandemic has seen a decrease in the number of vehicles on the road, however our campaign to improve road safety has been as important as ever and was focused and intelligence led.'

'Once again this year, a number of drivers were reported to us by colleagues, friends or family members and I wish to thank everyone who had the courage to report drink or drug drivers and I ask that you continue to report concerning driving behaviour to us. This information helps our officers to act quickly to stop drivers who are under the influence before they kill or seriously injure someone.'

We will continue to take action against those who selfishly put others at risk by driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.'

## Updates

Four fixed-penalty notices for breach of Coronavirus regulations were issued after police were called to a house party in New Road, Milnathort on Sunday 10 January.

## Recent Incidents

### ATTEMPTED THEFT FROM FORMER MILITARY INSTALLATION, BALADO

We are currently investigating an incident which happened at the former radar station at Balado near Kinross (the 'Golf Ball' building).

Sometime before 4:30am on Tuesday 19 January, the building was broken into and electrical cables were cut with the intent to steal them. As is the case with many buildings which are thought to be empty or disused, the cables were still live. These cables were carrying 11,000 volts, and it can only be described as miraculous that nobody was killed or seriously injured in carrying out this incredibly dangerous act.

Their efforts were ultimately unsuccessful as nothing appears to have been stolen, however the damage caused has been valued as well into four figures.

**Between Friday 1 and Tuesday 5 January**, a property in Green Park, Kinross was broken into and a quantity of electrical equipment stolen. (CR/472/21)

**About 11.50pm, Thursday 7 January**, a window was smashed at a property in High Street, Kinross. (CR/666/21)

**Between Thursday 7 and Sunday 10 January**, a tyre was

slashed on a white Skoda Fabia parked in Dalwhammie Street, Kinross. (CR/1009/21)

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

### Rogue Traders - Who Should I Call...

- ...if I feel threatened, unsafe, or suspicious of a caller?
- **Contact the police immediately on 999**
- ...if I see something suspicious in my area, or want more advice about bogus callers?
- **Contact the police on 101.**
- **Try and take a note of vehicle details or registration numbers, and descriptions of anyone suspicious.**
- ...if I want to contact the police anonymously?
- **Contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.** You can also visit their website at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)
- ...to find out more about home safety services?
- **When circumstances allow, contact your local council for more information. Depending on your circumstances, you may qualify for a free security alarm.**

## Police Scotland – local community

Telephone 101 for non-emergencies

Community officers for Kinross-shire:

**PC Ashley Mitchinson and PC Martin Gemmell.**

**Email:** [taysidekinross-shireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:taysidekinross-shireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

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

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

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

## Ways of Following the Police:

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**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland](https://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland)

**Website:** [www.scotland.police.uk](http://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](http://www.pkcommunitywatch.co.uk)

## Crime Stoppers

### – Telephone 0800 555 111

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

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





# GOSPEL HALL

8 Montgomery Street, Kinross

Sadly we are once again prevented from opening the hall for the present.

Many have expressed sadness that we are unable to host

Friends and Neighbours and Toddlers, we share that!

Please remember our website which is regularly updated and we welcome you to view short, relevant messages.

In the mean time - keep safe! The Kinross community continues to feature prominently in our prayers.

[www.kinrossgospelhall.info](http://www.kinrossgospelhall.info)

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble: and He knoweth them that trust in Him

(Nahum Chapter 1 verse 7)

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



PICT-COLLAGE

## An Eccentric Man

**KINROSS HAS ALWAYS HAD** its fair share of characters, some of whom could even be described as deeply eccentric. One of these was Andrew Nicol, a handloom weaver who lived in Piper Row over 200 years ago.

Not well off by any means, Nicol was proud of having a small stake in the land as one of the 'tofters' of Kinross. He was not affluent enough to be one of the crofters who were able to cultivate an 'acre' or two in the corn lands to the west of the town, his toft only amounting to a house and loomshop with a small kail yard attached. In addition to this, he laid claim to a small plot of land which was used as a middenstead or dunghill, an insignificant adjunct to his property but one that was to make him a 'man of renown' well beyond the bounds of Kinross.

Aspiring to be known as a 'laird', Andrew Nicol took to heart the adage in Fife and Kinross at the time that a laird was one who owned a 'bit of land, a doocot and a guid gangin' law plea.' When the Kinross Estate laid claim to his middenstead, Nicol took action in the local Sheriff Court with some success. The Estate continued litigation, launching a protracted appeal in the Court of Session in Edinburgh that was ultimately to bankrupt poor Andrew who was not equal to the expense of a series of law-suits that ultimately dragged on for nearly 30 years.



John Kay's 1802 caricature of Andrew Nicol with the plan of his middenstead.



John Kay's caricature of the three 'Parliament House worthies' Andrew Nicol (left), Mary Walker and John Skene.

At the expense of his work as a weaver Andrew Nicol made the weekly journey to Edinburgh on foot to keep up with his case. While in the city he kept company with Mary Walker, described as an 'intolerable pest about the Parliament House,' and flax-dresser John Skene who was known as 'The Heckler'. Each of them was considered to be insane.

In the precincts of the Court of Session and the taverns of the Royal Mile Andrew earned the nick name 'Muck Andrew' and at home in Kinross, the local children cruelly called him 'Bogle-boo,' an unkind Scots expression for a hobgoblin or someone to be afraid of.

At the end of the day, Andrew Nicol lost his mind in addition to the little property he had in Kinross. He ended his days imprisoned in the debtors' room of the old Kinross Tolbooth where he survived until his death in 1817. Dr Ebenezer Erskine, in his *Annals of Kinross-shire*, quoted a contemporary notice on the death of Nicol, who for the last 30 years of his life had been celebrated 'as an eccentric man, a man of renown.'

You might expect someone like Andrew Nicol to be largely forgotten after his death, but an encounter with the Edinburgh artist John Kay in 1802 immortalised this 'Parliament House worthy' in two biographical sketches published years later in 1842 in *A series of Original Portraits*. In the first sketch, Kay described the story of Andrew Nicol as a 'satire on judicial proceedings,' noting that when the caricature he had drawn

was first published 'no fewer than one hundred and sixteen subscribers were obtained among the gentlemen of the legal profession – so well acquainted were they with the proprietor of the middenstead.' In the second caricature – *Three Legal Devotees* – Nicol, newly arrived from Kinross with the plan of his middenstead, is seen in the company of Mary Walker and John Skene. Kay emphasised his 'simple face, and genuine Lowland garb.'

In 1824 the Edinburgh publishers W & R Chambers included a paragraph in *The Traditions of Edinburgh* recalling Kay's 1802 caricature of Andrew Nicol who is described as 'a sensible-looking man, with a large flat blue bonnet .... displaying with chuckling pride, a plan of his precious middenstead.'

David Munro  
Kinross (Marshall) Museum

### CONTRIBUTORS

Please send us your  
item well before  
the deadline.

Email: [editor@kinrossnewsletter.org](mailto:editor@kinrossnewsletter.org)



# Out And About With Jen!

**THIS MONTH WE ARE** delighted to feature the work of local amateur photographer, Jenny Beveridge. Most of you in Kinross will know her just as 'Jen'.

Jen loves nothing more than escaping with her camera down to Loch Leven to capture and share the beauty of our wonderful surroundings with us all. As you can see, the results are spectacular.

She is a passionate amateur photographer and, when restrictions are lifted, she hopes to get away for more adventures with her partner Neil in their wee campervan, travelling further afield searching

for more landscapes and sceneries, while cycling, kayaking and walking. Her passion for beautiful scenery came from a Peak District childhood in Derbyshire, where she lived until the age of 12. She's lived in Kinross since she was 15.

Jen has 3 children, Gemma, Ryan and Scott, and also two grandchildren, Daisy and Jacob. As she says, 'I only have to say 'look at Granny' and they turn their faces to me and say 'Cheeeese!'. They know what's coming...'

Climbing Ben Nevis on the hottest day of the year was, she will tell you,

her greatest challenge – especially with all her camera kit (see photos below left and bottom of page). It became a surreal experience, though, when, at the top, she found two men playing the bagpipes.

Jen loves her job as a Support Care Worker, caring for people with Alzheimer's and she raises money as often as she can for the Alzheimer's Society. If you see her out with her camera, she is probably getting more photographs done ready for her 2022 calendar.

Thanks for sharing your pictures with us, Jen!









# Britain's Forgotten Disaster

**MOST PEOPLE KNOW OF** the Titanic, often cited as Britain's worst maritime disaster. Many are also familiar with the tragedy of the *Lusitania*, credited with bringing America into the First World War, after she was torpedoed by a German U-boat. But very few are aware that in 1940 Britain suffered a maritime disaster with more victims than the *Titanic* and *Lusitania* combined – one which, at the time, was hushed up to help public morale.

Fiona was only a baby when she lost her father in the disaster, and she has spent much of her life trying hard to right the wrong of the cover-up. Many years ago, she made a promise to herself, and to the man she never knew.

'I pledge my word to do all in my power to ensure that my father, and the thousands who died with him on HMT *Lancastria*, are at last acknowledged, and remembered with honour, for all time, by the country they gave their lives for.'

## The Lancastria

This British ocean liner, almost 600 feet long and capable of carrying 2200 passengers, was built on the Clydebank and launched in Glasgow as the SS *Tyrrhenia* in 1920, making her maiden voyage to Montreal in 1922. She became the *Lancastria* two years later, as a result of passengers complaining that they found her name unpronounceable. For the next eight years, she sailed the Liverpool to New York route, before becoming a cruise ship sailing around the Mediterranean and Northern Europe.

At the outbreak of war, the *Lancastria* was in Nassau when news came that she had been requisitioned by the government as a troopship. Upon sailing to New York for a refit she was repainted in battleship grey, all unnecessary fittings were removed, her portholes blacked out, and an anti-aircraft gun installed.

First used to carry men and equipment between the UK and Canada, she then assisted in the evacuation of

troops from Norway and the British invasion of Iceland in May 1940.

She was sunk on 17 June, 1940, resulting in the loss of an estimated 4000 lives – possibly many more. This is considered to be the worst loss of life in the sinking of a single British ship, and the bloodiest single engagement for UK forces (in terms of lives lost) in all of WW2. She was sunk off the French port of St Nazaire, while taking part in Operation Ariel, the evacuation of British nationals and troops from France, only two weeks after the Dunkirk evacuation.



## The Attack

After a short overhaul, *Lancastria* left Liverpool on 14 June, under Captain Rudolph Sharp, arriving in the mouth of the Loire estuary two days later and anchoring 11 miles south-west of St Nazaire. By the mid-afternoon of 17 June, an unknown number (estimates range from 4000 up to 9000), of civilian refugees (including embassy staff, employees of Fairey Aviation of Belgium), line-of-communication troops (such as Pioneers and RASC soldiers) and RAF personnel had embarked. While the ship's official capacity was 2200 (including the 375-man crew) such was the pressing need of the situation that Captain Sharp had been instructed by the Royal Navy to 'load as many men as possible, without regard to the limits set down under international law'.

One survivor of the disaster, James Cowan, remembers seeing the *Lancastria* from the quayside at St Nazaire. 'The sun was reflecting off the ship and it looked white,' he said. 'I thought, what a target, what an easy target.'

The ship was still in the lanes, nine

miles out to sea, when the harbour siren sounded and a stream of Junkers JU 88 bombers swooped down on it. Travelling at over 250mph, this specialist anti-shipping squadron descended on the helpless vessel and the thousands of passengers packed on its decks, staring up in horror at this nightmare that was pouring out of the sky.

*Lancastria* was bombed at 1548 hrs by Junkers Ju 88 aircraft from II. Gruppe/Kampfgeschwader 30. Three direct hits caused the ship to list first to starboard, then to port; within 20 minutes she rolled over and sank, with appalling loss of life.

Lifeboats were launched, but because of the overcrowding there were only enough for less than a third of those on board. Even if there had been enough, there was only time to launch about a handful, before the ship began to founder. Thousands of men, women and children jumped into the oil-covered sea as the ship began to capsize. As the ship started to sink, thousands clambered onto the overturning hull. It is claimed that they sang 'Roll out the Barrel' in defiance of the bombers still buzzing overhead.

The *Lancastria* sank around 9.3km south of Chémoulin Point in the Charpentier roads, around 17km from St Nazaire. Over 1400 tons of fuel oil leaked into the sea and caught fire, possibly set alight by strafing German aircraft. Many drowned, were choked by the oil, or were mown down by the planes whilst fighting for their lives in the water.

Survivors were taken aboard other evacuation vessels, the trawler *Cambridgeshire* rescuing 900. There were 2477 survivors. Many families of the dead knew only that they died with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF); the death toll accounted for roughly a third of the total losses of the BEF in France. The *Lancastria* Association lists 1738 deaths. Other sources believe the number to be over 4000 lives, possibly many more.

Under the government's D-Notice

system Prime Minister Winston Churchill ordered a news blackout of the sinking. His opinion was that the British public was suffering enough with the news of the Dunkirk evacuations, so the *Lancastria* tragedy was to be hushed up in an attempt to lessen any further damage to public morale. Hence the ship's disappearance from public memory, and its appearance in very few history books. Due to the government-ordered cover-up, neither the survivors nor the crews of the ships that had gone to their aid would discuss the disaster, for fear of court martial.

The *Lancastria* Association of Scotland was set up in memory of those who died on that terrible day. Fiona Symon and her committee campaigned tirelessly for years for the recognition of this tragedy, and its massive loss of life, and to raise awareness of something, which has been erased from the British memory, like a childhood trauma. More can be found at: [www.lancastria.org.uk/home.html](http://www.lancastria.org.uk/home.html)

'It is said that you never miss what you have never had. This is not true. I was ten months old when my father died in the *Lancastria* disaster, and all my life I have missed the presence of a father.' Fiona said in one interview.

The *Lancastria* Memorial Fund was set up to honour those who paid the supreme sacrifice aboard the troopship *Lancastria* that day, and after Fiona and her committee's long planning and fundraising campaign, a permanent memorial was erected and unveiled to the estimated 4000 souls, who were lost and effectively forgotten by history.

The Memorial – pictured below and unveiled in 2011 – is now a focus of remembrance for the thousands of relatives who lost fathers, family members and friends during the evacuation of France in June 1940. The site for the memorial in the grounds of the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank was deeply symbolic, as



it was there that the *Lancastria* was built and launched. An exciting, innovative Memorial was designed by Scottish sculptor Marion Smith, and finally erected on the banks of the River Clyde

The erecting of this significant memorial in Clydebank to those who were killed in action, completed the circle and marks the sacrifice, courage and determination of those who paid the ultimate price in defence of freedom.

The unveiling of the *Lancastria* memorial took place in October 2011 on the site where the ship was built in Clydebank, Scotland.

There were times when it seemed that the goals would never be achieved, and it is testimony to Fiona Symon's determination that so much was finally done. Finally, her efforts have been recognised with an MBE in the New Year's Honours list. Thanks to Fiona, her father (and his companions who also died that terrible day) are resting in peace, and their story has not been forgotten.

As Fiona says:

'As a small child it was a puzzled feeling of being somehow different – the only child in my class without this

Opposite page: Picture postcard of the *Lancastria*;

This page, top to bottom: The sinking *Lancastria* taken from a rescue ship; the *Lancastria* capsizing; *Lancastria* in happier days.



person called a father. As a teenager, sad and angry at missing out of the relationship my friends enjoyed. Through the years, people who had known him would talk of him to me. But, my mother couldn't, as was the same for many, many other families.

'Before he sailed to France in February 1940, my father wrote in his diary of how he had always tried to maintain honour and the bond of his pledged word. I do know that, had he lived, he would have been in the forefront of our fight for justice. I have been grateful for the opportunity to work for justice for all those involved in the tragedy.'

We will remember them.

Andy Middlemiss





# Poet's Corner

THESE EVOCATIVE SEASONAL POEMS are from *Newsletter* reader Jacqueline Fox. The background image is the work of Jenny Beveridge, whose images are featured on pp.38-39.

If you're an aspiring poet, why not share your work with our readers? Email us at [editor@kinrossnewsletter.org](mailto:editor@kinrossnewsletter.org)

## WINTER

The cold and chill air swirled  
In the room,  
a hint of mist and moisture.

A Curled cat stretches  
recoils to the warmth  
a safe haven,  
as brown leaves fall,  
from once fundant trees,  
bright berries  
heralding new seasons.

Coats are thicker  
people bustle and scurry-  
as winds snarl and bite,  
no time for chatter.  
Collars raised to shield,  
tender skin.

A steaming Latte  
awaits a taster  
In a cosy café.

Summers soporific breezes give way  
to central heating.  
A battening down,  
to cosy chats and cuddles  
by the glowing fireside.

The new moon  
beckons new energy,  
clear thinking and happy times.  
Winter has arrived in a flurry.

*Jacqueline A Fox*

## CALL OF THE WILD

The stillness of the night,  
blanketed in the free fall-  
of virgin snow -  
glistening and untrodden.

Overhead the call and chatter,  
a gaggle of geese in flight  
brings an ancient knowing,  
to all that are tuned in-  
to primal instincts and nature.

Perfect formations guiding  
the intent on a destination,  
new horizons, or landscape,  
whilst the world slumbers.

Into another winters day,  
lovers, cocooned in  
sensual warmth, hold tighter  
under a downie blankets refuge.

Unhurriedly meeting the dawn,  
rising eventually, to hot coffee,  
and the newspapers harsh- awakening.

The geese now miles away,  
leave no echo, no trace  
the blanketed silence stirring  
to the bustle of life.

We all have a call  
to the wild, to new horizons  
chances and dreams.  
Sunrise brings fresh starts,  
and hope on the wing.

*Jacqueline Fox*



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# BEE BEE SEE TEE VEE!



**ON MONDAY 18 JANUARY** 2021, local family-run bee farm Cloverlea Apiaries appeared on the BBC 1 programme *The Farmers' Country Showdown*.

Cloverlea Apiaries is based just north of Milnathort, nestled in the Ochil Hills, where Jeff (aka Dad), and sisters Tracy and Karen run their honey bee breeding farm. What started as a hobby some 15 years ago, has now become a full-on family business. The bee farm was set up four years ago, and have honey bee colonies around, Kinross, Perthshire, Fife, Clackmannanshire, and Stirling-shire.

Last year, the family were contacted by Sidney Street Productions of London, to ask if they would like to appear on the fifth series of the *Farmers' Country Showdown*. This series was to celebrate farming families and rural events including farmers markets where they



showcase their hard work, as they try to sell their produce. With trepidation, having never been on television before, the family decided to get involved and share with people their love for honey

bees, the products they produce and the farmers' markets they attend.

After numerous emails, contracts, and schedules had been sent back and forth, the film crew from London arrived at Cloverlea Apiaries in September 2020, to complete two days of filming. Surprisingly, there were no make-up artists, or hairdressers which Jeff thought would be on hand, but there were three fantastic film producers, Shannon, Andy and not forgetting Ray with a van full of cameras and technical equipment. As each of the film crew tried to work out how to put a bee suit on, Jeff, Tracy and Karen all looked petrified as they were being wired up for sound with personal microphones and battery packs.

The film crew took footage of different areas of the farm; the wildflower meadows, the bees in their hives, and





even the red squirrels, who came to see what was happening.

As part of the filming, they visited one of Cloverlea's heather apiaries, where the bees were still collecting nectar to make Cloverlea Scottish heather honey. After

an off-road driving experience, it was clear the film crew weren't used to country driving, but persevered with Tracy at the wheel. The programme demonstrates how sealed honey is taken from the hive, and jarred ready for market.

On the second day of filming, the film crew met Jeff, Tracy and Karen as they arrived at Bowhouse Market, Fife. The programme shows how the family set up for the day, sell

their produce, interact with customers and launch their new range of honeys, including lemon and ginger infused honey.

The programme is filled with moments of laughter as the family work and live together, with their passion for honey bees and other pollinators, the environment in which they live, as well as their friendly approach to customer sales.

If you missed it, you can always catch up on BBC iPlayer. You can also find it by using this link:

[www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b08fqypb/the-farmers-country-show-down](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b08fqypb/the-farmers-country-show-down)

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# Health & Wellbeing

## News from the Health Centre



# Beware The Vaccine Scammers!

**WE HAVE BEEN MADE** aware of hoax calls where people are being offered the Covid-19 vaccination and asked to provide card details, supposedly to check identification.

Please be assured that the only people who should be contacting you regarding this are NHS Tayside or Loch Leven Health Centre. **We will NEVER ask for your bank account information during these calls.** Should you receive a call of this nature, please contact the police to make them aware.

### COVID-19

Do not come to the Health Centre if you have Coronavirus symptoms (new, continuous cough, temperature above 37.8C, lack of, or change in, sense of smell or taste). If you are unwell or have concerns please consult the NHS Inform, or if you need more help, call 111.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

The Health Centre is keen that patients have all available information about our plans for Covid-19 vaccinations. We are strictly bound by the rules on priority groups to be vaccinated set by the Scottish Government. The priority groups are:

1. *Older care home residents and their carers\* 80 years of age and over*
2. *Frontline health and social care workers*
3. *75 years of age and over*
4. *70 years of age and over*
5. *Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (officially shielded patients) 65 years of age and over*
6. *16 – 64 years of age with underlying health conditions and at clinically higher risk of serious disease and mortality*
7. *60 years of age and over*
8. *55 years of age and over*
9. *50 years of age and over*

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*Fake text, purporting to be from the NHS and asking for card details.*

*\*Group 1 and those who are housebound in all groups will be vaccinated by Community Teams, not by the GP practices.*

Vaccine supply is being centrally managed and this will determine the pace at which we can provide vaccination appointments. The vaccine will be given in two doses.

In line with the rules and regulations set for us, and within the priority groups above, St Serf's Medical practice has begun to contact patients to make first appointments. Those patients will be contacted again by the surgery to book appointments for the second dose.

Orwell Medical Practice will begin contacting patients when confirmation of further vaccine supply has been confirmed.

We understand that patients are keen to be vaccinated and may have questions, but we would ask that you do not telephone the Health Centre to make general enquiries about the vaccine or to book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment.

We will be in touch with you as soon as we can.

If you are unsure about anything, or have questions about the vaccine visit [nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](https://nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine) or call 0800 030 8013 (8am–8pm 7 days a week)

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# STARTING YOUR NEW YEAR WELL

**BEFORE ALL THE DECORATIONS** and lights are put away, I always take time to look at the many, many cards that came through our door. I know that many people choose not to send cards these days, and donate to charities instead, but I still get immense joy from receiving cards, simply because someone has taken time to think of us, write to us, buy stamps and post them. Re-reading the messages though is heart warming, and often funny. The words that came up with great frequency this Christmas were, 'strange', 'unprecedented' 'worrying' and 'odd', but they were also accompanied by 'peace', 'safe' 'blessings' and 'healthy'. We are all one in the oddness of last year, but also aware of goodness and kindness. Let's not allow goodness and kindness to be considered odd or unusual ever again.

In that spirit here are a few pointers for keeping our hearts up during the darker, but then brighter days of 2021.

- *Gratitude: Give thanks for all things that you've got, rather than concentrating on what you haven't got. We tend to take our happiness for granted, and only take note of what makes us unhappy. Gratitude therapy is free.*
- *Praise: Notice people who are doing something well, and tell them. Make someone's day by noticing their hair, a smile or do a kind act. You will be amazed at the results.*
- *Take time to just be with your family or friends – even if it's only by phone or Zoom these days. No TV, mobiles or emails. The other things can wait, but precious moments are beyond value, and can be created.*
- *Take time to ask yourself some of the big questions:*  
*'What am I doing on the planet?'*  
*'What do I hope to have achieved by the end of 2021?'*  
*'How best can I use my talents this year?'*
- *Be true to yourself: As Shakespeare said 'To thine own self be true, then it must follow as night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.'*
- *Forgive: Life is too short to harbour bad feelings. It does whoever you are forgiving good, but it does you far more good. It is the emotional equivalent of weight loss. Unforgiveness sits around your heart like a stone.*
- *Keep learning: You are never too old to learn a new skill, or to revive an old one. Staying young at heart is all about giving yourself new challenges.*
- *Active listening: So often, conversations are just anecdote swaps. Sometimes your friend or family member just wants you to listen to them, really listen, without being concerned about what you are going to say next. You*

*needn't say anything – just make those nice little noises and sounds that tells the speaker that you are really listening, 'mm' 'uhuh', nods and smiles.*

- *Be still: Even if it is just for five minutes a day. Time without the radio, TV, mobile or I pad. Just you, and peace, and quiet.*
- *Choose your attitude. It is a cliché to say that bad things happen to all people – good and bad. We all get our fair share, but if we choose our response, we can change our difficult situation into an opportunity for transformation and growth. Whether we are stuck in the mud, ill, or going through an experience of loss, our response is always our choice – a choice for moving forward and letting go, or a choice to look back with blame, regret or resentment.*

People who live by these pointers report an improved sense of wellbeing and happiness, despite the trials of life and the pandemic. Doesn't that sound like a good option for 2021?

When we look for our blessings they become pretty obvious. Care, share, bless and forgive – then watch your New Year take off.

Happy 2021, everyone

*(This is dedicated to the remarkable, evergreen Bill Abel, who walks regularly along the highways and by-ways of Kinross)*

**Jo Middlemiss, MBE**

## The Newsletter on Facebook

We use our Facebook page to announce:

- our deadline and publication dates
- what's in the next issue
- reminders of some local events
- occasional breaking news

'Like' our page to be kept informed. Search for 'Kinross Newsletter' or go to:

[www.facebook.com/kinrossnewsletter](https://www.facebook.com/kinrossnewsletter)



## Walk Like A Penguin!



### Do The Penguin Walk To Avoid Winter Slips

Bend slightly and keep your knees loose

Point your feet out slightly

Extend your arms to your sides

Walk flat footed, taking short slow steps

Keep your centre of gravity over your feet



[www.keepwellinwinter.scot.nhs.uk](https://www.keepwellinwinter.scot.nhs.uk)

# Nails At Home – Salon Style!

**HERE AT THE COMPLETE LOOK** we had hoped for different news for 2021. Although we can't open the salon, we're still here for you. We've been asked for lots of advice on self-care and what products to use for the best results. Here's how to get salon-style nails at home.

## Good Hand Habits

Winter plays havoc with our skin, especially our hands. The constant hand washing, sanitising and removal of gloves to adjust the face mask will take a toll on even the toughest of mitts!

Make sure you are using a moisturising hand wash and use lukewarm water to wash your hands. Apply hand cream regularly throughout the day to restore some of the natural oils that harsh chemical sanitisers and hand washes can take away.

It's also good hand care to look after your cuticles which helps to keep the nail bed healthy. Just apply a cuticle oil – we recommend Jessica Phenomen Oil – ideally after showering, and gently push back cuticles with an orange stick.

## Prepare!

Before you start your manicure, make sure you have everything you need around you so you aren't fumbling around with wet nails trying to reach your top coat.

Then relax, light a candle and follow our eight easy steps to salon style nails at home.

- Make sure to clean your nails first, even if you aren't wearing polish. This helps to remove any dirt or oil and preps your nails. We recommend using a strengthening and moisturising polish remover.
- File gently to shape the nail and move from one side to the middle, then the other side to the middle so that you keep the shape even. Use a finer finish file as a very heavy grained file could cause damage if not used correctly.



- Swipe over again with polish remover to wipe away any filing residue.
- Use a base coat. We like Jessica Recovery Base Coat which nourishes and hydrates the nail.
- Wait for the base to dry and apply your colour. Leave a tiny gap between the skin and the nail all the way around which will help to stop any bleeding of colour. Apply polish in five even strokes. One down the centre of the nail, one to the left, one to the right and then one at each edge.
- Wait for the first coat to dry thoroughly before applying a second coat in the same way.
- Once dried, always use a top coat. It helps to cut down on chipping and gives a professional looking shine.
- Finish when completely dry with another drop of cuticle oil.

We have a range of fabulous polish colours in our online shop, as well as base and top coats, oils and creams.

Look after your home manicure by wearing gloves when cleaning and moisturising regularly. It won't last as well a gel manicure and may not have the professional look you get from a visit to The Complete Look but you'll have had a relaxing time and can show off your hard work on your next Zoom get together! Share with us too on social media, we'd love to see your skills on show.

Stay safe.

*The Complete Look*

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Ninewells Hospital, Dundee 01382 660111

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Environmental Health 01738 476476

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# RAISING THE STANDARD OF CHILDCARE

# 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 December Meeting

**Present** at the Zoom meeting held on 22 December 2020 were Community Councillors (CCllrs) L McKay (Chair), D Colliar, W Freeman, H Phillips, T Stewart, Councillors C Purves, W Robertson and R Watters. Mrs C Aird (minute-taker) and a member of the public.

**Apologies** were received from CCllr M McFarlane, CCllr T Stewart and CCllr M Wood.

CCllr L McKay welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the CC for 2020.

### Police Report

At the time of the meeting, there was no Police Report available as PC A Mitchenson had submitted her apologies due to work commitments. CCllr L McKay advised members that she had spoken to Inspector Craig Stephen, who is part of a new team in the area, along with PC Mitchenson and Sergeant Mark Craig. The team are looking to work alongside the CC, and during her conversation with Inspector Stephen, CCllr L McKay had welcomed the new members to Kinross and advised that knowing their time would be limited, the agenda could be adjusted to let the team provide their update and then leave the meeting.

### Kinross Local Resilience Group

CCllr R Watters advised that both he and CCllr M McFarlane had attended the meeting on 8 December, with CCllr McFarlane's email of 22 December covering the points raised. CCllr Watters felt that it had been a positive meeting, with a good impetus to continue, with a few actions to prepare in advance of the next meeting on 12 January 2021. Paul Laidlaw, PKC has taken the lead in setting up the group as he is an expert in this field. Scottish Government have launched a consultation which will give both the CC and the community the opportunity to comment, prior to the consultation closing in June 2021.

CCllr C Purves advised that there was a PKC officers meeting scheduled for 6 January 2021 and he will raise the community's concerns in respect of the Council's response at that time. He also asked to be advised of any additional issues which he could raise at the meeting. CCllr Purves is to contact Will Wright to ascertain if there is anything he wishes to be raised at the meeting on 6 January.

### Subgroups and Membership

Discussion delayed until January 2021 meeting.

### Matters Arising

CCllr W Freeman advised that Police Scotland had spoken to the lady concerned about youths throwing stones at windows. All matters arising were covered by the agenda.

### Kinross Town Centre

CCllr Colliar advised that work was continuing on the Windlestrae and Kirklands sites (the cones had now been pulled back at the Kirklands site).

CCllr McKay advised that she had attended the Juniper meeting and there had been concerns raised in respect of houses being sold in order to rent out to people aged 55 years and over.

In response to a question from CCllr Colliar, CCllr Robertson advised that it had previously been agreed that a report be provided in respect of the High Street but having spoken to

Daren McHugh (PKC Road Safety Officer), this did not appear to have been completed. CCllr Robertson agreed to investigate this further and report back. Areas of specific concern remain the junction of Mill Street onto the High Street, outside the Salutation hotel and the turning into Avenue Road.

CCllr Robertson is to report back at a future meeting.

CCllr Purves advised that he had previously spoken to Mike Morgan who had confirmed he was happy to undertake a consultation in respect of the concerns around road safety and he was happy to go back to Mr Morgan if that was felt to be helpful.

CCllr McKay confirmed that she had witnessed cars speeding in the area of the Salutation Hotel and it was agreed to put a notice on the Facebook page asking for residents to raise their concerns.

CCllr Purves advised that there had been an issue with street lights in the town when Scottish Gas Network had been trying to carry out an upgrade. Whilst SGN did not require planning permission to carry out the work, they had been unaware that they had required planning permission to block off spaces etc. After discussion with SGN and the Road Superintendent the matter had been dealt with and closed.

### Planning Matters

#### Planning Applications Received

20/01790/FLL Alterations to building at 16 High Street, Kinross

20/01755/FLL Alterations to flat at 100 High Street, Kinross

20/01726/PNA Erection of an agricultural building at Gairney Bank Farm, Gairney Bank, Kinross

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

20/01161/LBC Alterations to 100 High Street, Kinross

20/01650/FLL (For information only) Erection of a hangar including agricultural store, formation of hard standing and associated drainage works at Balado Activity Centre, The Old Airfield, Kinross

#### Planning Applications Determined

20/01726/PNA Erection of an agricultural building at Gairney Bank Farm, Gairney Bank, Kinross, approved.

20/01316/FLL Erection of a replacement dwelling house at 27 Curate Wynd, Kinross, approved.

20/01633/ADV Display of a sign and canopy at 104 High Street, Kinross, approved.

20/01512/FLL Extension to dwelling house at 46 Ochil View, Kinross, approved.

### Reports from PKC Councillors

CCllr Robertson raised the issue of tree felling in Sunnypark and understood that a TPO was in place but on checking this was apparently not completed by PKC in 2016 (approx.). He will continue to look into the matter and report back in due course.

CCllr Purves gave an update on the Gigabit Kinross-shire. The project had intended to be launched in January with a press release etc. but had now gone live project in the Mill Bridge/Sandport area.

CCllr Purves reported that the IJB in PKC with responsibility for Mental Health Services in NHS Tayside now appeared to be working in a more joined up fashion but that we will need to wait to see if the strategy makes a difference.

In respect of Cleish and Blairadam CC boundary, CCllr Purves advised that they were still very keen to see the boundary



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adjusted so that it was more in line with the school boundary. Apparently PKC will not change the boundary unless the affected CCs agree.

In response to a question from Cllr Freeman, Cllr Purves advised that there would be around 20 people affected by the boundary change and that this should not affect the CCs numbers in terms of elections.

After discussion it was agreed to continue the discussion at the January 2021 meeting as a CC member not present at tonight's meeting lived quite close to the area concerned. It was also agreed that Cllr Purves would obtain a copy of the exact proposal and circulate to members to aid the discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Watters raised the issue of a waste energy plant which is to be built in the community in order to burn non-recyclable products. He advised that, in his opinion, residents needed to be aware of this as he did not feel this was an effective way to create energy. In response to a question from Cllr McKay, Cllr Watters advised that the schedule for change was around two years.

### Reports from CC representatives

Cllr Colliar advised that he had begun the process of updating the mandate for the bank account so that two signatories were required and he was waiting on the bank to confirm that this had happened.

In relation to the flooding at Springfield Road/The Muirs, Cllr Colliar advised that he was frustrated at the lack of progress following his email to Stuart Dall. It was agreed that he would forward his email to Cllr Robertson who would take up the issue with Stuart Dall and Jake Eadie.

Cllr Colliar also raised the issue of the number of buses being parked in the High Street and wondered why they could not use the bus parking available at LLCC.

Cllr Freeman confirmed that a remittance advice had been

received from PKC for the sum of £418.60, with an invoice date of 18 December 2020. Cllr Colliar confirmed that the funds should be sent by PKC by the end of January.

Cllr H Phillips reported that a neighbour had contacted her in respect of trees and she agreed to send the communication to Cllr Robertson for him to follow this up.

Cllr McKay raised a number of issues around drains in Springfield Road/Wilson Court, and outside her home. She agreed to forward a photograph to Cllr Robertson for him to follow this up.

In respect of the recycling centre, cars are being parked on the corner (solid lines) making it difficult for traffic to get round. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Purves would raise the issue of parking in the surrounding areas.

### AOCB

#### Royal Garden Party 2021

Cllr Freeman suggested that Members started to think about nominations for the Royal Garden Party which should be held in July 2021.

Cllr McKay thanked everyone for attending the meeting as well as their time over the past year. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

***The next meeting of Kinross Community Council will be held on Tuesday 25 February, 2021 at 7.30pm.***

## Fossoway and District Community Council

### News from the December Meeting

As it is still not possible to hold physical meetings of the CC we are continuing to publish this description of what was discussed in our virtual meeting, including any updates that we are aware of. Members of the public are encouraged to comment on and question the items below, by email to



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## Community Council News

fossoway.cc@gmail.com or via the CC's Facebook page, which we will answer in our next meeting.

**Present** at the meeting on 1 December were: Community Councillors (CCLRs) S Bruce-Jones, T Duffy, C Farquhar, C Haigh, M Haigh, N Marchant (Associate) and G Pye; Councillor M Barnacle.

**Apologies:** CCLRs A Cheape and R Young; Councillors C Purves, W Robertson and R Watters.

CCLr Young will be taking a sabbatical from CC duties for personal reasons.

### Police Report

There were three incidents to note in our area since the last CC Meeting from the Commander's Reports received via Perth and Kinross Community Watch: Overnight on Sunday 1 November, a white Giant road bike and power tools were stolen from a shed in Main Street, Crook of Devon – this was noted in last month's minutes. Between 4pm on 8 November and 7.30am the following morning a red Case Farmall 115C tractor and a green Yamaha 450 Quad Bike were stolen from a secure outbuilding at a farm in the Blairingone area. About 12.50pm on Monday 16 November, a red Suzuki 400 motorcycle was stolen from Gelvan Farm, Fossoway.

### Minutes Of The Previous Meeting

In the November minutes we noted that Peter Leach had resumed his taxi service. We did not make it clear that this was explicitly referring to his participation in the DRT service. We would like to emphasise that the CC did not intend to, and would never knowingly, promote one business over any other. The minutes of the March meeting (the last face to face meeting) will be signed off once normal meetings resume. Any significant decisions made during the virtual meetings held since then will be brought to the next physical meeting to be formally recorded and ratified.

### Matters Arising

**Bank of Scotland Kinross Branch Closure:** CCLr Marchant reported that the Bank has now postponed the closure of the branch until 22 March 2021. The bank is also considering holding digital skills workshops. Residents have complained to the CC that the RBS mobile bank service in Kinross has been suspended whilst P&K is in Tier 3, making it even more important that the BoS closure is deferred. It's likely that the next meeting with the BoS will be January rather than December. The Post Office regional team don't foresee any capacity issues once the bank branch has closed, but they and the Co-Op will continue to monitor the situation.

**A977 Mitigation:** CCLr Robertson had asked the Highways Department when the resurfacing work outside the Powmill shop would be completed, and was told that it was scheduled for 11 November – the work has now been successfully concluded.

CCLr Duffy had contacted Brian Cargill, PKC's Traffic and Network Service Manager to get an update on the A977 Mitigation works. CCLr Barnacle noted that he had also written to Brian Cargill requesting updates.

Blair Watt, PKC's Project Officer replied to the CC by email, explaining that development of a School Exclusion Zone at Crook of Devon has been suspended until the pedestrian crossing lights near the Village Hall have been installed, when traffic movements will be monitored to assess the requirement for an Exclusion Zone. Design work for the traffic lights is being done by an outside consultancy due to staff redeployment for Covid-19 work. The installation of the lights is likely to be during a school holiday, but there is no accurate timescale for this at the moment. Design of the A977/B9097 junction realignment is still to be finalised. Mr Watt also described proposals for temporary 20mph speed limits in Drum Village and Waulkmill in Crook of Devon. Details are due

to be circulated to local Councillors and the CC for comment, but had not been received at the time of the meeting.

All agreed that resurfacing in Powmill and Crook of Devon was done very well.

**Fossoway Area Transport/DRT:** CCLr Barnacle reported that the first (virtual) meeting of the Community Transport Group took place on 19 November. Margaret Roy from PKC attended as did CCLr M. Haigh. There was general discussion about how the bus service could be improved. John Fallon said in the meeting that he was trying to get public transport access to the P&R at Halbeath.

CCLr Barnacle has a contact who will help to establish charitable status for the group. There is a proposal to prepare a business plan to get a budget allocation from PKC to purchase an electric minibus. It was agreed that although the new bus service was welcome, it doesn't connect very well with ongoing services to Perth, etc.

The next meeting is planned to be held in two months.

**Rumbling Bridge Gorge Bridge:** CCLr Duffy reported that the Hydro Fund Committee have compared the quotes for the Flood Risk Assessment and chosen Millard to do the survey. The Committee have requested funds to be released to finance this.

**Hydro Scheme Fund:** A grant of £300 has been given to help fund the defibrillator which is now placed on the side of the village shop in Powmill. CCLr Farquhar explained that the AED itself was donated by Kinross First Responders, sourced from the Forth Road Bridge. Local resident Isla Kerr raised funds to purchase the heated enclosure. Local Nurse Nicky Cledland initially funded the installation, but was repaid by the fund and there was sufficient to also enable purchase of a reserve battery and pads. Nicky is happy to provide training in use of the device, for no charge other than a small fee of £5 to cover disposables and PPE. She can be contacted through her website <https://reactfastfirstaid.co.uk/> or via the CC. CCLr Farquhar added that the residents of Powmill expressed their gratitude for the grant from the fund.

**Powmill in Bloom:** CCLr Farquhar reported that members have identified an area opposite the Milk Bar that will be developed.

**Community Development Trust:** CCLr Barnacle has almost completed the collection of contact information in order to send out invitations and background information for the first meeting of the Trust, hopefully early in the New Year.

**Crook Moss Travellers Site:** CCLr Farquhar said that there are two new developments at the site that have been done well, but unfortunately there are other areas that still need substantial work to bring them up to a presentable condition. CCLr Barnacle still has concerns about the lack of landscaping on the northeast side of the site; the presence of a permanent building in the cordoned off area that doesn't have planning permission; and that numerous residents are complaining about the appearance of the scrap yard. CCLr Bruce-Jones reported that the local residents don't object to the travellers in principle, but think that PKC is not taking the issues at the site seriously. CCLr Barnacle will write to the new head of the Planning Department listing the issues. The CC will write to PKC's CEO about lack of action by the Planners.

**Crook & Drum Growing Together:** CCLr Duffy said that there will be a fundraiser on Monday 7 December. The group are making Christmas wreaths to order.

CCLr Duffy is investigating the possibility of getting power sockets installed on village lamp posts, which would be used for Xmas decorations next year.

**Aldie Road Vegetation:** CCLr Marchant informed the meeting that the culverts have been dredged, which should hopefully resolve concerns regarding potential flooding of the road.

**Blairingone War Memorial:** The search for a stone mason continues.

**Fossoway Gathering:** The Gathering Committee's AGM will be on 2 December.

**Crook of Devon Skate Park:** Cllr Barnacle had written to Andy Clegg asking for a site meeting to identify a location in Crook of Devon.

### New Business

**Fly Tipping:** A MoP had reported an incident of fly-tipping of building waste on the Arndean Road, and provided a photo of a label that may help to identify the culprit. Cllr Robertson had offered to pass the information to the Police.

### Community Council Business

If the next meeting of this CC is virtual, as currently expected, we will be offering online attendance by members of the public. Anyone interested in attending should email the CC at [fossoway.cc@gmail.com](mailto:fossoway.cc@gmail.com) for details.

### P&K Councillors' Reports

**M Barnacle:** The Kinross Forum meeting is on 2 December – Cllr Barnacle intends to discuss the issues he raised with the CEO. Forum meetings are planned to be held every two months. Cllrs Bruce-Jones and Cheape will attend from this CC.

There has been flooding in Back Crook near Schiehallion – Cllr Barnacle is going to contact the officer who is dealing with the Poplars flooding issue to see if this incident can be addressed at the same time.

In light of the rejection after appeal of the land north-west of Schiehallion (see below) Cllr Barnacle has written to Stuart Shand, the developer of the site (see below) proposing a dialogue before any further applications, but has not received a response as yet. The CC will write to Mr Shand on the same lines.

### Planning

#### New Applications:

**20/00976/FLL** Erection of a dwelling house at land 90 metres southeast of Maiden Wells House, Rumbling Bridge, no CC comment.

#### Decided Applications:

**20/01268/FLL** Extension to dwelling house Machrie Cottage, Carnbo, Kinross. The application was approved, no CC comment.

**20/01051/FLL** Installation of 2 biomass boilers, 2 flues and associated works (in retrospect) Wharlawhill Farm, Carnbo. The application was approved, no CC comment.

#### Appeals:

**19/01673/AML** Land 100 metres northwest of Schiehallion, Crook of Devon. The appeal was rejected by the reporter, the CC had objected.

### News from the January Meeting

**Present** at the meeting held on 5 January 2021 were: Community Councillors (Cllrs) S Bruce-Jones, A Cheape, T Duffy, C Farquhar, C Haigh, M Haigh, N Marchant (co-opted) and G Pye; Councillors M Barnacle, C Purves, W Robertson and R Watters; and three members of the public.

**Declarations Of Interest:** Cllrs Duffy, Cheape, Farquhar and Pye declared an interest in the first planning item discussed.

**Membership:** Cllr R Young had stepped down with immediate effect due to personal reasons. We thank him for his contribution over the past years and wish him all the best in the coming time.

The Council agreed to change the status of Cllr Marchant from Associate to Co-opted in light of the resignation of Cllr Young.

### Planning

Cllr Duffy welcomed the three members of the public who

were attending because of their direct interest in the first two planning matters being prioritised for consideration, which were ultimately for the District Council to determine. She then invited Cllr Marchant to outline the issues at stake, but undertook that those who had declared an interest in the first proposal (including herself) would take no part in the subsequent discussion.

### New Applications

**20/01642/FLL** Cllr Marchant advised that the proposal for this development at Easter Yetts hinged on whether or not it complied with Policy 19 of Housing in the Countryside and/or would result in the formation of a ribbon development of more than five properties. The objector attending then detailed his views as to why the proposed development did contravene the policy, after which the applicant similarly rehearsed his contention that the proposal was in accord with the policy. Cllr Barnacle then indicated that he had previously conversed with both the applicant and the objector, and that a PKC official would make a site visit before the Planning & Development Committee of the Council made a decision. In light of the foregoing and the acknowledgment that the policy was capable of different interpretation the Community Council resolved to submit to PKC a neutral comment.

**20/01660/FLL** Erection of a dwelling house at Land East of Lynwood, Main Street, Crook of Devon. An objector whose property neighboured the proposed development then voiced her objection, chiefly on the grounds that, if constructed, the new house would be only a little over one metre away from her gable end wall, which would inhibit possible future maintenance work in that area. After discussion the Council decided on a neutral comment on the basis that, whilst it welcomed the prospect of new affordable housing, it was concerned that the proposed building could impact adversely on access to the neighbour's property.

**20/01425/FLL** Extension to dwelling house at Duanbrig, Naemoor Road, Crook of Devon, no CC comment.

**20/01804/FLL** Erection of a dwelling house on land 30m east of Vine House, no CC comment.

### Appeals

**19/01673/AML** Land 100 metres northwest of Schiehallion, Crook of Devon. Cllr Marchant had written to Mr S. Shand suggesting either a Zoom meeting or a physical meeting (when feasible) between him and representatives of the CC, so that possibilities could be discussed. As yet she had received no response.

### Police Report

A single-axle Hobby caravan was stolen from Hallhill Farm overnight on 2 December.

### Matters Arising

**Fossoway Area Transport/DRT:** It was expected that a further meeting of the group would be held on 21 or 28 January.

**Rumbling Bridge Gorge Bridge:** Cllr Duffy had accepted a quotation in the sum of £5460 (including VAT but excluding costs) from Millard for flood risk assessment.

**Crook Moss Travellers' Site:** Responses were awaited to letters sent to the new head of the Planning Department and the CEO.

**Crook & Drum Growing Together:** It was reported that at the meeting held on 7 December the wreath-making fundraiser was a success, with about 20 wreaths sold.

**Blairingone War Memorial:** The arrangements envisaged had proved not to be feasible and therefore an alternative solution would need to be sought, possibly via the Community Development Trust.

**Fossoway Gathering Committee:** It was reported that at the AGM normal meeting held on 2 December the group would investigate whether an event in September might be possible.



## Community Council News

**Crook of Devon Skate Park:** Cllr Barnacle had written to Andy Clegg asking for a site meeting to identify a location in Crook of Devon.

**Bank of Scotland Kinross Branch Closure:** Cllr Watters said he understood that the March closure of the Kinross branch was now definitive. The CC expressed dismay at this prospect, which Cllr Marchant said she would explore in general terms and perhaps consult Liz Smith MP.

**A977 Mitigation:** Discussions about the introduction of 20 mph speed limits at places both on and off the main road were ongoing.

**Community Development Trust:** Cllr Barnacle said he hoped the 15 people who formed the Trust could meet virtually in the first week in February. He had suggested issues which might be discussed, including the adoption of Drummond Park in Crook of Devon.

### New Business

**Gritting of Roads:** There was concern about inadequate gritting of roads and pavements in the current icy conditions. It was believed, however, that PKC was aware of the threats to public safety and was doing its best to address the situation in difficult circumstances. The CC had been in touch with PKC about St Serf's Road after a complaint by a resident: this road and the pavements had now been gritted.

**Kinross Forum:** Cllr Bruce-Jones reported on the meeting on 2 December which she and Cllr Cheape had attended on behalf of the CC. Matters discussed included contacts with PKC senior officers, especially in the context of the Travellers' Site in Crook of Devon, the needs for affordable housing, community transport and speedwatch. quarterly meetings of the Forum were intended.

### Community Council Business

Cllr Pye reported that this year's grant had been received from PKC, although the amount was 8p short for some reason, probably an administrative error.

If the next meeting of the CC is virtual, as currently expected, we will be offering online attendance by members of the public. Anyone interested in 'attending' should email the CC at [fossoway.cc@gmail.com](mailto:fossoway.cc@gmail.com) for details.

**Insurance:** Cllr Bruce-Jones advised that the CC's insurance policy was due for renewal. She undertook to deal with the matter in conjunction with Cllrs Pye and Duffy.

**Data Control:** Cllr Pye said that changed circumstances required the password for the Fossoway email account to be changed and said he would do this immediately.

*The next meeting of Fossoway Community Council will be held on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at Carnbo Village Hall if Government guidelines allow, otherwise it will be a virtual meeting. Members of public wishing to join please email the CC at [fossoway.cc@gmail.com](mailto:fossoway.cc@gmail.com)*

## Milnathort And Orwell Community Council News from the December Meeting

**Present** at the meeting held on 10 December 2020 were Community Councillors (Cllrs) M Thomson (chairman), A McCrae, C Williams; Councillors W Robertson and C Purves; associate member K Heneghan and four members of the public. Also in attendance for the first part of the meeting were two Police Scotland officers based in Kinross.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Colebourn and E Rougvie.

### Police Matters

PC Ashley Mitchinson gave an update on issues affecting Milnathort as follows:

A white van seen in the area has aroused some suspicion. Members of the public are urged to be vigilant.

There had been several rural crimes in the area, including the theft of quad bikes and the theft of a tractor, which was subsequently recovered in Stirling.

There had been 22 traffic-related incidents, ranging in severity from not wearing a seatbelt to drink-driving and dangerous driving.

PC Mitchinson reported that a number of CCs in the area were looking to set up a community Speedwatch scheme, whereby volunteers were provided with speed guns and other equipment aimed at deterring speeders. Following discussion, it was agreed to explore this further.

The chairman raised the issue of drivers ignoring pedestrian crossings, while noting that Cllr Robertson had called for the one in South Street to be converted to a puffin crossing. PC Mitchinson will alert her team to the concerns.

It is important that members of the public notify the police of any incidents of anti-social behaviour rather than posting on Facebook. Primarily because of Covid-19, police resources are stretched at present and it may take some time to get a response to 101 calls, but nevertheless they should be contacted. The email address in the *Newsletter* can also be used if necessary. Logging incidents not only strengthens the case for more resources, but also helps the Council and the Community Safety Team.

A member of the public raised the issue of dog fouling in the village. PC Mitchinson advised that this was most appropriately dealt with by the dog warden service, who could provide signs and advice.

Sgt Mark Craig then briefly introduced himself as the new community police sergeant for Kinross, and both officers were thanked for their attendance.

### Correspondence

**Auld Mart:** A letter was received from a resident of Auld Mart Lane public expressing concerns about the overgrown hedge on the public footpath to Auld Mart; the preponderance of non-native species in the area: the silt on the bed of the South Queich, which he feared may flood nearby properties, and the possibility of development taking place on the field near Auld Mart Road. Cllr Robertson responded as follows:

**Overgrown hedge:** He will ask the appropriate PKC official to address the issue of the hedge by asking its owners, the Purves Group, to cut it back. The CC also thought this was something that the Core Paths Group could help with.

**Non-native species:** The giant hogweed at the bridge has been sprayed but this will have to be repeated as it is a very dangerous plant. NatureScot (formerly SNH) have an ongoing project to try to eradicate the Himalayan balsam, which is not toxic but can choke other plants.

**Dredging:** To dredge the queich would require a licence from SEPA, who would certainly refuse as it was not their policy to dredge waterways.

**Field:** There will be no development carried out in this location.

**Invitation to the Scottish Open Government Conference.** Cllr Williams will attend.

**Email about Gig on a Truck:** This is an initiative by Perth Theatre whereby entertainment is brought into the community. The CC is keen to explore this, and, following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Purves would take the idea forward through his connection with Perth Theatre. He will also speak to KLEO about the possibility of staging an event in Milnathort once restrictions are lifted.

It was noted that BT will be carrying out **maintenance works in Milnathort for 19 days** from January 4 and on March 2.

It was also noted that **Milnathort Town Hall has now been equipped with Wi-Fi.**

### Planning Matters

#### New Applications

Change of house type on the site of the former Ochil Hills Hospital (20/01639/FLL), noted.

#### **Applications Decided:**

Alterations and extension to 24 New Road (20/01499/FLL), approved.

Alterations and extension and formation of raised decking at 2 Greenburn Field, New Road (20/01461/FLL), approved.

Alterations and extension to 6 Linden Park Terrace (20/01449/FLL), approved.

**Core Paths Group:** Kevin Heneghan reported that the article about the group in the *Newsletter* had been successful in that a volunteer had come forward with a trailer. The group had been offered a grant of £500 with which to buy equipment and will take professional advice about what to choose.

#### **Councillors' Reports**

##### **Cllr Purves**

**Rural transport:** The Community Transport Group is looking at ways of connecting rural parts of Kinross-shire, either by putting out to tender the creation of a new route or funding a minibus.

**Devolution:** The Kinross-shire Area Committee has proposed that more matters affecting the county be devolved as it's considered that the full council is too 'Perth-centric'. The committee is writing to group leaders on behalf of the ward councillors and CC's and MOCC will be kept informed of developments.

**Regional park:** The area committee also discussed the possibility of extending the boundary of the Lomond Hills regional park to include Loch Leven. While Fife Council is willing to provide funding for rangers and maintenance, PKC has thus far been reluctant. A motion is to be put to PKC's Environment and Infrastructure Committee requesting that officials from both local authorities engage in dialogue.

**Gigabit Kinross-shire project:** The first stage of this will involve BT Openreach providing free vouchers to around 100 households near Millbridge Hall in Kinross. A website is to be launched in January with further details.

**Mental health services:** Following a damning report earlier in the year about mental health services in Tayside, a strategy has been produced that takes in the views of service users and carers.

##### **Cllr Robertson**

**Speedwatch:** Cllr Robertson added his support for the Speedwatch scheme and hoped that MOCC would get on board in the new year. It was likely that grants would be available to cover costs, which would amount to around £1500.

**TRACKS:** A new project officer will take up his role in March.

##### **Co-options:**

Andrea Ward was co-opted on to MOCC, having been proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr McCrae.

#### **News from the January Meeting**

**Present** at the meeting held on 14 January 2021 were Community Councillors (Cllrs) M Thomson (chairman); A McCrae, S Colebourn, C Williams, A Ward and E Rougvie; K Heneghan (associate member); Cllr W Robertson and three members of the public. Cllr C Purves joined the meeting later.

##### **Police Matters**

Cllr Colebourn reported on the following recent incidents in Milnathort:

Between Friday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 16, 2020, a tyre was stolen from a grey Seat Leon parked in Bidgefauld Road.

Between Friday, December 11, and Monday, December 14, 2020, a quantity of power tools was stolen from a Volkswagen Crafter parked in Old Perth Road.

Four fixed penalty notices for breach of Coronavirus regulations

were issued after police were called to a house party in New Road on Sunday, January 10.

##### **Planning matters**

**New Applications:** Erection of a house (in part retrospect) on land 50 metres south west of Rosewood Cottage, Hattonburn (20/01720/FLL), noted.

##### **Other Business**

**Gigabit Kinross-shire project:** Kevin Heneghan advised that he and Cllr Ward had attended an online meeting about the project, which is due to be officially launched on 29 January. This has begun in the Millbridge area of Kinross, with 113 properties (74 per cent of those eligible) so far taking up the offer of vouchers entitling them to have fibre optic broadband delivered to their premises. Following discussion, it was agreed that residents of Milnathort should be encouraged to register their interest when the scheme becomes available in the village. For more information, visit <https://kinross-shire.org/gigawhat>

**Icy roads and pavements:** Cllr Robertson advised that he had written to the convener of PKC's environment and infrastructure committee as he considered that the winter maintenance system was poor and he disagreed with the council's policy of not installing new grit bins. The CC agreed that gritting had been inadequate during the recent icy weather and, following discussion, it was agreed to pursue the idea of acquiring a hand-held gritter as had been done in Glenfarg. Cllr Robertson has written on the subject for the February edition of the *Kinross Newsletter*.

**Bike stand:** It was agreed that the bike stand in the centre of the village had been poorly situated and was causing an obstruction. Cllr Robertson has written to the council, who have agreed to move it.

**Street names:** The CC had been asked for their suggestions for names for two streets in the new Pitdownies development. Following discussion, it was agreed to suggest Glebe Park and Pitdownies Avenue.

**Christmas tree:** The CC expressed its thanks to Daniel Webster and Campbell Lawson for providing and erecting the Christmas tree outside Milnathort Town Hall in December.

**Core paths:** While landowners are happy to have core paths on their land, walkers are reminded to stick to the paths and not venture from them. A grant of £150 is available from Greenspace Scotland to improve signage. PKC's ranger service is to provide the local core paths group with £500 to buy basic equipment with which to maintain paths once spring arrives. An interactive map of local core paths can be found at [www.pkc.gov.uk/corepathsmap](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/corepathsmap)

**Defibrillator:** It was agreed that money from the David Drysdale bequest could be used to buy replacement pads for the defibrillator in the village. Cllr Colebourn will also follow up other sources of funding.

**Bank of Scotland:** Cllr Purves advised that the Bank of Scotland branch in Kinross was due to close permanently on 22 March and it had not been possible to operate mobile branches due to the pandemic. He and Liz Smith MSP are looking at ways to mitigate the effects of the closure.

##### **Co-Option**

Michelle Kirkbright was co-opted as a member of Milnathort Community Council, having been proposed by Cllr Colebourn and seconded by Cllr Rougvie.

*The next meeting of Milnathort and Orwell Community Council will be held via Zoom at 7pm on Thursday, 11 February, 2021. Any members of the public wishing to 'attend' can do so by emailing [communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com](mailto:communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com).*



## Portmoak Community Council News from the December meeting

**Present** at the meeting held on Tuesday 9 December were CCllrs A Davidson, S Forde, S McGregor, D Morris; Assoc. Members K Donaldson and G Smith; Cllrs C Purves, W Robertson; and one member of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr R Watters.

### Portmoak Cemetery

Former Cllr A Cragoe, who has been working on this item, had sent a report of her meeting on 19/11/20 with Willie Grieg of PKC. Cllr Morris summarised the report indicating most of the discussion appeared to be regarding increasing capacity of the existing cemetery with new lairs and casket space, but no further information on cemetery extension. The question of PKC strategy around cemetery extension was raised as discussed at previous CC meeting in November 2020. Cllr Robertson had contacted W Grieg on this subject. W Grieg said PKC policy was that burials would be done in large central cemeteries, but PKC are still prepared to look at extensions. The CC suspect that PKC will continue to try to centralise. Cllr Purves highlighted that policy cited by Andy Clegg (circulated in July 20) indicated that if 20 years of lairs can be secured then PKC could potentially go ahead with a Portmoak extension. There was doubt expressed that PKC would accept a separate, new tract of land to be made into a cemetery. There was a short discussion about the results of test digs, and could the CC obtain this information. It was agreed that A Cragoe had worked very hard on this item for which the CC is grateful. A Cragoe has offered to continue to liaise with PKC as a resident, and will report to the CC.

### Road Safety Action in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell

Daryl McKeown had responded with a follow-up email to the site visit on 28/10/20. This was understood to be a first step towards the creation of a more comprehensive road action plan. There were a great many positive outcomes, some guarantees, and some future planning. Cllr Purves read out some key points:

**Wester Balgedie:** a speed limit reduction will be done between the village nameplates and out along the B919, north of the Balgedie Toll for a short section, to be prioritised as the resources permit. Options for footpath widening will be surveyed and assessed. The B919 Balgedie Toll junction realignment will remain on the list of future schemes. The PKC signals programme is fully allocated this financial year. The Balgedie Toll site will be reviewed as part of the preparation for next year's programme and completion possibly beyond 2021/22. Proposal to extend the Footway at the southeast of the village. PKC propose to construct a footway across the 10m approx. of grassy verge of the lane along to Leven Cottage. This would not be a land purchase. CC to identify the landowner for permissions.

**Easter Balgedie:** the speed limit will be lowered to 30mph, to be prioritised as the resources permit (as in Wester Balgedie).

**Kinnesswood:** a Priority System at shop will be designed to restrict traffic flow approaching the village shop. This would enable the footway immediately outside the shop to be widened. Site survey and assessment will be completed regarding road visibility. Additional speed reduction measures, such as ramps or speed cushions, will be considered as part of the design. A footway bollard had been discussed on the north side of the shop to discourage drivers from over-riding the low kerb and mounting the footway but instead protection of this area will probably be linked to the Priority System.

**Scotlandwell:** VAS signs – these had been reprogrammed to correspond with the 20mph speed limit. Additional VAS sites, on the hill between the church and the village, facing southbound traffic, had been identified; and these have been added to the

list of future VAS. These will be installed as resources permit in future years.

**20Mph Speed Limit Signage:** the size, frequency and prominence of the 20mph speed limit repeater signs will be increased to encourage better driver compliance. This work is now underway as part of PKC ongoing 'Spaces For People' speed limits project. Signs have been manufactured and will be installed. Village nameplate signs: at most villages, including the other approaches to Scotlandwell, these are combined to create more prominent signage to encourage better compliance with the lower speed limit. There are two options at this site: 1. Combine the Scotlandwell nameplate signs with the speed roundel signs, or 2. Erect Kilmagadwood nameplate signs beside the speed roundel signs and erect an additional set of nameplate signs for Scotlandwell – either at the top of the hill beside Portmoak Church or at the bottom of the hill entering the village. CC to consult with community on this item.

**Puffin Crossing in Village Hall and Portmoak Church Area:** The Urban Traffic Control team (within Traffic & Network) will assess the area to determine if a suitable location exists for a Puffin crossing (or crossings). This will be added to the list of future traffic signals and crossings to be assessed, ranked, and installed as resources permit.

**Portmoak Church Footpath Link:** will be progressed by the Community Greenspace Team as any potential route is separated from the public road and its verge. The Traffic & Network Team will liaise with Community Greenspace about how and where the footpath connects to the A911.

**Main Street Priority System:** this was discussed on site regarding the position of the current priority system and island. Alternative locations were discussed to see if the island could be used as an extension of the footway to help pedestrians navigate a pinch-point. No suitable alternative was found but this will be investigated further as it may link to the church footpath. Junction realignment of the A911 to B920 junction: this was discussed but may create as many problems as it solves. It was agreed that the Traffic & Network Team would do some auto-tracking on a computer programme to identify the benefits and the hazards, but there has not been an opportunity to do this yet. Installation of a mini-roundabout at this junction was discussed, but it is likely there is insufficient space. A request from within the community to move the Western priority system to the other side of the road is included in the list of road safety schemes; but has not been progressed yet as there are still schemes of higher priority to be completed first.

Regarding speed enforcement, a member of the public mentioned that police had been seen in Kinnesswood apparently doing speed checks on vehicles. Cllr S McGregor thanked the police for their responsiveness to the CC's request for speed enforcement action.

### Glenlomond Sewage: Migration of Responsibility to Scottish Water

Cllr A Davidson reported some good news: an expert drainage company had completed an assessment of the village and identified some unused drains in village from previous buildings, now demolished, which could be repurposed and reactivated to channel surface water. This would buy Glenlomond a bit of time re the sewage work. The Village Committee have commissioned someone to look at the long-term options for upgrade of the sewage works as Scottish Water have demanded that the system be upgraded to standard before they will adopt it.

### Public Consultation – Use of Open Space, in Whitecraigs, Kinnesswood

The consultation period was now finished. The CC expressed some concern about open space and recreational use by young persons possibly being compromised by flower bed development.

### Construction of Hill Track, Bishop Hill, Kinnesswood

Cllr Morris had provided an update report that had been circulated to the CC and subscribers. This confirmed that the landowner had failed to make a 'Prior Notification and Approval' request to PKC before construction started, as required by planning regulations. He had, however, received consent from Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot) for these works to take place within the Site of Special Scientific Interest and had also discussed the proposed works with the then chairman of the CC, Graham Cox. The statement in the Nov report on this hill track construction was therefore incorrect in suggesting that there had been no consultation with the CC.

The CC noted that the surface of the track had improved considerably during the drier weather and PKC and the landowner had agreed on some limited drainage work to be carried out during the winter period on a few muddy sections. The CC welcomed the recommendation that further discussion should take place with the landowner in springtime to see if agreement could be reached on final restitution of the path surface and the extent to which the route should be available for vehicular use, or not. In the meantime, it was noted that it would probably not be necessary to proceed further with the suggested retrospective planning application as had been proposed at the previous meeting.

### Kinross-shire Forum Meeting, 2 Dec 2020:

CCllr Morris and the Cllrs had attended the meeting. Cllr M Barnacle had provided extensive information.

Discussion about Regional Parks. It was noted that there had been longstanding discussions about extending the Lomond Hills Regional Park to include Bishop Hill and the Loch Leven area, as was originally proposed as a joint Fife/ Perthshire initiative in the 1970s. PKC seem to have been reluctant to do this, possibly due to burden on finances e.g. Rangers etc. CCllr Morris to investigate the extent to which Regional Parks can attract external money from the Scottish Government and other sources before further representations are made to or within PKC.

**Affordable Housing:** general agreement between participants that good mechanisms are not in place to promote affordable housing. Portmoak always seems to see large size luxury housing being built. e.g. Lomond Inn site (5 new houses proposed), Levenmouth (10 new houses being built/proposed) with no affordable housing being constructed anywhere in Portmoak in recent years. Although some developers have to pay significant sums to support affordable housing this goes into a central pot in PKC with no requirement that it is spent in Portmoak. The CC also noted that planning officials appeared to be far too willing to approve large houses without any recognition of the way in which this unbalanced the housing stock in Portmoak, with no new property available for young people leaving home or old people wanting to downsize. Ward Councillors agreed to take this up at policy level in PKC.

**Speed Watch Scheme:** Cllr Robertson explained the Speed Watch Scheme which had been abandoned as Police Scotland were formed but the police are now keen to resurrect it. Problems with speeding occur all over Kinross-shire. In the Speed Watch Scheme, volunteers are issued with a speed gun ostensibly to collect data. Excessive speeding vehicles are then flagged to the police for follow up and a warning. Costs are high for the equipment. Request to PCC to indicate if they were in support of Speedwatch scheme. Problem areas for speeding can then be targeted, to make maximum use of funds.

### Matters Arising:

**CC Resignations and Next Steps:** This item was fully discussed at the start of the CC meeting and agreed that the CC meeting would proceed. The Secretary had discussed the issue with the PKC Elections and Community Councils Officer who had indicated that the resignations would trigger a CC by-election

and the reduced numbers may make the CC unable to make representation because the CC was now composed of three elected, one co-opted and two associate members. The by election was triggered by the elected members falling below the required minimum for Portmoak of four elected members. The Cllrs indicated that there may have been an incorrect interpretation of the Scheme of Establishment guidance by the Officers as regards the ability of the CC to make representations, as the co-opted member had voting rights so the total able to vote on any issue was four. Cllr Purves offered to discuss the circumstances with the Elections & Community Councils officers and provide clarity. The CC welcomed this as the best way to ensure the correct action was taken for the benefit of the Community.

**Covid-19 Resilience – Local Volunteer Support:** The CC had taken some steps to contact the volunteer coordinators in each of the villages to confirm that volunteer support for anyone who was ill or isolating was still available should residents need it. Information on contact details had been circulated at the start of the pandemic, but if any resident would like information about who to contact in their area they should feel free to reach out to the CC at [secretary@portmoak.org](mailto:secretary@portmoak.org) and the CC will pass on details of the local volunteer contact.

### Planning

#### New Applications:

**20/01611/LAW.** Alterations to dwellinghouse (proposed). 4 Findatie Farm Cottage Kinross: Cllr Morris had looked at this application which has the suffix '-LAW'; this apparently meant that this was an application for a 'certificate of lawfulness'. The Cllrs confirmed they had seen this type of application before but usually in the situation where a developer wanted confirmation that they had permitted development rights to carry out a specific development, ie that they did not require planning permission. 20/01611/LAW application is to create a dormer window which does not appear to fall within the scope of permitted development rights. A previous application which had been determined in October 2020, had been rejected by PKC planning as the dormer window was contrary to the Development Plan with respect to the place making criteria. It appeared that the details supplied in respect of the current application were identical to those of the previous, rejected application. This application for a certificate of lawfulness might therefore be a convenient way of sidestepping the planning process. The CC decided to make an objection to PKC, pending confirmation from Cllr Purves that the CC is able to make such a representation, given its reduced numbers. Otherwise, individual Community Councillors or members of the public can make their own representations.

#### Progress with Developments:

**Westfield Community Liaison Committee:** Cllr Morris confirmed there had been no recent meetings of the committee, but he had been in some discussions with Hargreaves and the consultants about the proposed Westfield path network with an expectation that a report would be available by 21 February.

### Treasurer CC Accounts

The Treasurer reported that the bank have not yet added the new PCC Treasurer as a signatory, mostly due to Covid-19 restrictions around the procedure for signatories to be present. As such there was no update on bank accounts for this month. *There was no January meeting. The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 February, 2021. To request Zoom meeting details, email [secretary@portmoak.org](mailto:secretary@portmoak.org).*



# Club & Community Group News

## Common Grounds

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



First of all, we hope that readers are safe and well. Judging by the amount of very clever funnies swooping through the airways again, we have all resigned ourselves to the lockdown. However, at Common Grounds, if we need cheering up then we just have to reflect on how we saw the Auld Year out as, yet again, our supporters surpassed themselves.

Our December craft corner raised an unbelievable total of £1,175.40; the raffle morning raised £221.50 while Teddy's total for three days amounted to £294.70. Moreover, two heavy bags of coin collections were handed in along with several unexpected Christmas donations.

However, our celebrations were tinged with sadness. Our loyal friend, Laura Keppie, suddenly passed away which shocked us all. She is greatly missed. We have been deeply touched that Laura's family have nominated Common Grounds as their chosen charity in her memory and we have received several wonderful donations. Words of thanks seem so inadequate for all the generosity noted in this report. We greatly appreciate this support and emphasise the positive impact it has on our chosen projects. Our doors are closed for the moment and so it's back to Zoom chats and challenges. No doubt hidden creativity will come to the fore and help us through these challenging times

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

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



## Kinross and District Art Club

[www.kadac.co.uk](http://www.kadac.co.uk)



Painting sessions and the general business of our club are still suspended due to the Covid-19 restrictions. However, we are confident that in a few months we will be meeting up again to share our passion for painting, drawing and enthusing in all visual arts. Our schedule for the year has already been prepared by our club secretary and is ready for action whenever we are given the go ahead. That will be a joyous day.

Club membership is still extremely healthy, sitting at around 50 members. During last year, our monthly Newsletter reports focused mainly on individual members' profiles. This month our profile concentrates on the club in general.

Kinross and District Art Club is now in its 54th year having started up in August 1967. One of our nonagenarians has been a member for 52 of these years! The club is ever evolving. At our twice-weekly sessions, members paint and draw at their leisure. We are fortunate to have a professional artist, Tom, on site at each session. He is available to give advice and guidance when members wish it. He also organises workshops and demonstrations from professional artists throughout the year.

The pinnacle of each KADAC year is the annual exhibition, where members' artworks are displayed and presented for sale. This normally takes place during the Perthshire Open Studios week in September; KADAC is part of the POS Turquoise Route.

When it is possible to meet up again, new members will be welcomed regardless of their art experience. Whether a total beginner or someone who is well experienced in painting, they will be embraced with warmth and enthusiasm. Please see below for details of how to contact us.

*December craft corner items from Common Grounds*



**When sending your club item to the Newsletter, please put the name of your club in the email subject line**



Snowdrops to represent hope for 2021

Meanwhile, members have been inspired by winter's natural beauty; the glorious sunrises and sunsets, the frozen loch and the snow-capped Ochils emerging from the low-lying mists.

All members of KADAC wish readers good health, happiness and hope for 2021. As an illustration of that hope, we have included two small, coloured drawings of snowdrops by Irene Douglas and Gillian Ross.

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

## KYTHE

### Open Waters Debut

Monthly 'altitude' events have continued in line with current restrictions. In December, the end of year celebration featured local band Open Waters. The band consists of Charlotte Chadwick on vocals, Duncan Crichton on guitar, Stuart Pritchard on bass and Zoë Neave on drums. The band formed during summertime in lockdown and worked relentlessly to



Open Waters by Hannah Eastop.

deliver a set of songs for the young people at KYTHE. They did not disappoint and wowed our young people. Singing songs by Blur, Nirvana and even a Christmas number, the band provided tune after tune with many-a-head-a-bobbing in the KYTHE hub. To follow them on Instagram go to @Open\_waters to hear for yourself!

### Coming up at KYTHE

With the recent lockdown being put in place and in line with the latest guidelines, we are working hard behind the scenes to plan our 2021 using innovative and dynamic youth work.

Thanks to the joys of modern technology, we will be bringing the young people of Kinross-shire some exciting new opportunities to engage online with KYTHE over the next while in lockdown. Without saying too much and spoiling the surprise, it is going to be fun!

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

## Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation

[www.kleo.org.uk](http://www.kleo.org.uk)



There was a wonderful festive atmosphere at the Festive Market at the Market Park last November. See article on page 24 in this Newsletter.

### Kinross-shire's Farmers' Market back in April

The KLEO committee hopes that the Kinross Farmers' Markets can start again from April onwards, with the first market on Saturday 24 April from 10am-2pm on the High Street of Kinross. The following market dates will be on every 4th Saturday of the month from April to October (apart from the July market; there will not be a market that month). Dates will therefore be 24 April, 22 May, 26 June\*, 28 August, 25 September and 23 October.

### \*Special market at the Market Park on 26 June

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

### KLEO AGM meeting

The next KLEO meeting is an AGM and it takes place on Monday 8 February, 7.30pm by zoom. If interested in attending this meeting please send an email to [info@kleo.org.uk](mailto:info@kleo.org.uk) and a Zoom link will be sent to you nearer the time.

### Leven Voices = Virtual Voices

You can join Virtual Voices from the comfort of your living room (or whatever room you like!). Join Emma Neck and Heather





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Festive Market Stall. Photo: Vincent Johnston

Macleod as they lead you through an hour of song and harmony, covering many different decades and genres with a few of your favourite songs thrown in for good measure! Every Tuesday from 7pm to 8pm until 16 March. Tickets £3.50 per session are available from [www.horsecross.co.uk](http://www.horsecross.co.uk). A zoom link will be sent to you an hour before the session starts.

For more info about KLEO and any future events in 2021 please visit [www.kleo.org.uk](http://www.kleo.org.uk)

## Kinross and District Town Twinning Association



It is a worrying time for families in both Kinross and Gacé due to the continuing spread of Covid-19. We cannot meet or organise events until such time as restrictions ease and a vaccine is rolled out.

When we are permitted to meet and socialise again, we will organise some social fundraising events. We hope that these can take place in June or July.

This month's photo takes us back to our visit of 2006 when we presented the Gacéans with a highland targe.

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



Gacé twinning President Michel Brodin with the highland targe.

## Inner Wheel

[www.innerwheel.co.uk](http://www.innerwheel.co.uk)



Members are looking forward to the rest of our winter and spring meetings which continue to be held on Zoom.

Our January speaker was James Dawson from the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. He gave us a real insight into the work they do to make the countryside more accessible to the public. One of their biggest projects is the care of the Fife Coastal Path and the Trust have recently re-established a Pilgrim's Way in the county. It runs from Inverkeithing to St Andrews.

Due to current circumstances, we were unable to meet as normal to celebrate Inner Wheel Day on 9 January. However, we decided to mark the occasion with donations to Broke not Broken.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 8 February, when Ed Link will talk about the University of the Third Age (U3A). If you would like any information about the club, please contact Jenny MacLeod by email at [jennymac101@icloud.com](mailto:jennymac101@icloud.com).

## Kinross Garden Group

In December, the group enjoyed a really informative talk from Adrian Miles of Helensbank, Kincardine. This was held on Zoom and was accompanied by brilliant photographs.

In January we held a very enjoyable quiz in place of the festive lunch. Many thanks go to our chairperson, David Walker, for presenting and providing all the photos of gardens visited.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11 February at 2pm on Zoom so you can take part in the comfort of your own home. Dick Alderson from Dalgety Bay will talk about 'The development of a community area incorporating woodland, wildflowers and WW1 historical sites'. Dick has worked with the Dalgety Bay Community Woodland Trust over many years.

The membership fee this year is £15. It includes the winter talks and access to the summer garden visits. Instructions for all Zoom talks will be given to those who wish to join us. For membership and access to talks please contact Caroline Anderson on 01577 864589 or by emailing [acaroline1000@gmail.com](mailto:acaroline1000@gmail.com).

## Kinross Centre

Hi everyone, well what can we say? I'm sure we are not the only ones who are struggling to keep up with all the different rules and regulations that are being bestowed on us at the moment. However, if we obey the rules there will be a light at the end of this very long tunnel we are all in.

We had really hoped Kinross Centre would be open by now but sadly this is not the case. In light of the way things are moving at the moment and the response we have had to our questionnaire, it is clear you all feel that it is safer for everyone to continue as we are for just a little longer.

I know a few of you have now had the long-awaited vaccine and I must praise Loch Leven Health Centre staff for the fantastic way they are dealing with this very important and delicate situation. Well done all of you!

We continue delivering meals to our vulnerable adults. It is nice to know that we can still help out in one way or another. The meals save them the hassle of cooking and tidying up which is always a bonus!

To keep amused and to occupy our brains, we also send out a weekly quiz and bingo which has proved to be a great hit.





'Benarty Hill sunset' by Richard Dibley

If you are interested in having meals delivered, please don't hesitate to contact the centre on 01577 863869 and we will happily sort this out for you.

Following the newest guidelines, we are unable to have customers in the coffee bar building for the foreseeable future. However, we are operating a takeaway system from the front door. Some people have been phoning us with their order in advance and we have it prepared for them to pick up. Alternatively, ring the doorbell at the front door and we will come and take your order. You are free to choose the way you place your order. A menu, soup of the day and meal special will all be visible at the door to help you make your choice. To place an order by phone call 01577 863869.

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

Please stay safe.

## Kinross Camera Club

[kinrosscameraclub.org.uk/wp/](http://kinrosscameraclub.org.uk/wp/)  
[www.facebook.com/KinrossCCLub](https://www.facebook.com/KinrossCCLub)



We welcome all photographers in 2021! If you have any interest in photography we would love to welcome you along to our club nights on Thursdays. These are held on Zoom at 7.30pm (virtual doors open from 7.20pm).

We start with our AGM on Thursday 4 February but the serious business will be complemented by a light-hearted discussion of 'Photos I love or hate' and 'Why I took it' by club members.

On 11 February we take part in a 3-way inter-club competition with Cupar and St Andrews. It's usually a strong competition so fingers crossed we do ourselves proud! The judge will be Douglas Berndt from Edinburgh. We have another round of 'Picture a Quarter' on 18 February in which members share images taken in the last few months.

The Digital Group returns on Tuesday 23 February. It is a forum to share knowledge on photo editing software. We finish up the month with a virtual visit by Roy Robertson, former President of the Royal Photographic Society. He will give us a talk on being 'Caught in New Zealand's lockdown' and give advice on preparing portfolios of images.

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


## Boys Brigade and Girls Association



Covid-19 continues to impinge upon our plans. Just before Christmas we managed to organise a 'pantomime show' at the Church Centre using a DVD. Since then, of course, everything has shut down.

However, two of our senior members have enrolled for a national online Queen's Badge skills course. This has been organised to replace the normal one day course at Carronvale House. This is a major component in the pathway towards gaining the Queen's Badge.

All other activities are now linked to online resources for anchors, juniors and seniors. There are a range of excellent



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Kinross Company programme cover for the BB Centenary Year celebrations of 1983.

activities and challenges on our Company Facebook page.

On Sunday 12 January, we noted a significant milestone for the Company. On that date in 1941 the re-founded Kinross group was officially registered with BBHQ. This was inscribed on the inside cover of the Company Roll Book by the then Captain Roddy Beaton.

We are all hoping for a return to some form of face-to-face contact soon due to the vaccine and sensible governance. All points gained from the individual and squad competitions this session will carry over until we can meet again.

Junior and Company section staff are preparing for entry to the national activity competition this session. It features a range of physical, mental and team challenges.

Summer Camp is still an issue and we have pencilled in the last week of July as a possibility although no venue has been selected yet.

## Kinross Museum

[www.kinrossmuseum.org.uk](http://www.kinrossmuseum.org.uk)

Although we were able to open at weekends from September until Christmas, we are now closed until further notice because of the current Covid-19 lockdown. However, you can keep in touch with museum volunteers by emailing [information@kinrossmuseum.org.uk](mailto:information@kinrossmuseum.org.uk).

We also continue to contribute historical articles to the monthly *Kinross Community Council Newsletter* and the quarterly *Stramash* magazine which we hope you will find of interest. Our Facebook page also features occasional



Mid-winter museum display mounted in association with the library.

snippets of information and images drawn from the museum collections.

During the weeks leading up to Christmas we refreshed all exhibitions and also collaborated with the Community Campus Library in putting on a special Christmas/mid-winter display which included a rolling slide show of winter scenes in Kinross-shire. For summaries of our new exhibitions please visit our website.

We look forward to re-opening and welcoming friends and visitors once again in the not-too-distant future.

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## Kinross Beavers

For the first time in eight months the beavers were able to take part in an indoor session at the Milnathort Guide Hall in mid-November. This is our temporary location while the Millbridge Hall is closed. For our first night back indoors the beavers took part in UK Parliament Week by learning about the voting system before playing 'vote with your feet'. The beavers were asked a series of questions and had to vote 'Aye' or 'No' to each question. They then did a natural art activity and they worked in groups creating a variety of pictures using leaves and twigs. To continue with the UK Parliament Week theme the leaders were then each given a vote to pick their favourite design.

On the same evening we said goodbye to Finlay, Ailah and Magnus who were all moving on to cubs. Good luck with the next stage of your scouting journey!

As we had some beavers moving on, we needed to appoint new lodge and assistant lodge leaders. Congratulations to our new lodge leaders Cameron and Finn and also congratulations to our new assistant lodge leaders Rupert, Jude and Brodie.

Some of the other activities of last term included some fun STEM activities. The beavers created lolly stick towers to see which group could make the highest tower. They also made paper aeroplanes before testing them out to see how far their plane would fly. Campfires was another activity the beavers took part in as they worked in teams to build fires before lighting them. The beavers then got to roast marshmallows and starburst on their fires before eating them!

At the beginning of December the beavers took part in #RaceAroundTheWorld. They did a sponsored walk from Burleigh Sands to Loch Leven's Larder to raise funds to



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## Club & Community Group News

As well as issuing badges last term we also gave out a variety of awards. Well done to Harris, Atholl, Callum, Robbie, Ben, Struan, Rupert and Finn who were presented with certificates last term for having 100% attendance during the autumn 2020 term. Congratulations to Alfie and Ryan who were both presented with a special recognition award for being kind and helpful. Well done boys!

We also issued five Chief Scout's Bronze Awards last term. Congratulations to Ailah, Magnus, Alfie, Brodie and Atholl who successfully completed all six challenge badges and four stage/activity badges to earn their Bronze Award. Well done!

We were also busy investing new beavers into the Colony. Congratulations to Rose, Danny, Rohan, Caiden, Lochlan, Hanna and Callum who were all invested last term. In an addition to this we officially welcomed our newest leader Neil to the group as he was invested into the Colony and presented with his leader badges and necker.

At the end of the term we said goodbye to Alfie and Douglas who were both moving on from beavers after spending the last two years with the Colony. Good luck for the future boys!

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

## Kinross in Bloom

The information board for the fountain was finally erected in November. However, there are issues with drainage which we hope will be rectified as soon as the recent restrictions will allow.

We also have some money left over from the money raised and we hope to restore the lions' heads on the fountains, again once restrictions will allow.

If you would like to join the Kinross in Bloom team, or just lend a hand, please contact [susan.mitchell50@gmail.com](mailto:susan.mitchell50@gmail.com)

## Kinnesswood in Bloom

This is a difficult time for everyone and I hope our fellow in bloomers are coping with the new reality. I have found a picture of daffodils in Benarty View last March to cheer everyone up. I think a few are popping up already after the snow.

We did put up a Christmas tree in December and it was the best one yet. There were lots of compliments from the public and we hope it brought some joy. Thanks also to Martin who provided a star to brighten up the Picture Garden.

Although we have been told not to volunteer at the moment, we can do a few things in preparation for the year ahead and there is plenty going on in Kinnesswood behind the scenes.

### Want to sell something?

Advertise your item free of charge in the **Classified Advertisements** section on [www.kinross.cc](http://www.kinross.cc)



We now have funding for the interpretation board beside our lovely refurbished cart at Gamekeepers. There are a few hoops to go through and Gordon is working on planning permission. Professor David Munro has written a wonderful description of carts and their history in the area. Meanwhile David MacKenzie, our locally born graphic artist living in Australia, has turned the words and pictures into an interesting and colourful board. It's amazing what people can do individually to bring a project together.

Portmoak Primary School has been awarded a grant by the Community Climate Action Fund and Kinnesswood in Bloom will benefit from a shed for storing gardening equipment used in gardening lessons with the school. Hopefully we will get back to doing this again soon. Rory will be building their new raised beds. The school will also be purchasing a very special polytunnel which will make gardening lessons possible in all weathers so watch this space.

*Cheerful daffodils, still to come!*



Meanwhile everyone can get their seed catalogues out or view them online. Being at home last year was certainly different for me as I was able to nurture hundreds of seedlings, some for myself and others for the village.

We'll also be taking part in the second year of 'Coasts and Waters'. We diverted from that theme last year to honour the essential workers but, if anyone wants to do some crafty knitting or crochet, we have patterns available for water-based fish and animals. We also have a few other surprises up our sleeves. We already have a few things in storage from last year thanks to our talented crafters.

## Guide Dogs Kinross

Happy New Year. Let's all hope it is the start of a new, better normal.

As always, we need to support our training centres and those puppies in training to become life changing guide dogs. We had a very successful stall at the Christmas Festive Market and would like to thank everyone who supported us.

We are always looking for ideas for funding raising, so if you have anything to contribute, do not hesitate to get in touch. One such kind offer came to us last year; a British sign language teacher offered to do taster sessions in exchange for donations to guide dogs and there will be updates next month on how we intend to deliver this. The more the merrier but, if there are too many people, our supporter has kindly offered to repeat sessions as required.

Fundraising has obviously suffered a big hit over the past



New GD pup, Star

## Recipe



Supplied by Kinnesswood in Bloom

### Roast Root Vegetable Curry

A little something to keep you warm during the cold months.

#### Ingredients

- 2 small turnips
- 2 large carrots
- 1 large potato
- 1 sweet potato
- 1 tbsp cumin seeds
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil

#### For the sauce:-

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 red onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 1 tbsp chopped ginger
- 1 tsp chilli powder
- ½ tsp turmeric
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- 400g tinned tomatoes
- 1 tbsp garam masala
- 100g frozen peas

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees celsius. Peel all the vegetables, chop into bite size pieces and place in a roasting tin. Add the cumin seed and vegetable oil and mix well. Cook for 30-45 minutes until soft. Stir regularly to stop them sticking.

While they are roasting, heat oil in large pan. Add onion and fry till soft. Add garlic and chopped ginger and fry for 1 minute. Add chilli powder, turmeric and tomato puree. Stir well and cook for another minute.

Add tin of tomatoes and stir well. Reduce heat and simmer. Just before vegetables are ready, add garam masala and peas. If sauce is too thick, add some water. Cook until the peas are warmed through then add the root vegetables. Mix well and season with salt and pepper.

Serve with rice, naan bread and pickles.

year but we must look forward and support each other. The BSL sessions could be a refreshing way to stimulate those brain cells and learn new skills. Any other ideas will be gratefully received.

Meanwhile, stay safe and sane.





## Fairtrade in Kinross-shire

**Fairtrade Fortnight, 22 February to 7 March 2021**

The theme this year is 'Fairtrade, Climate and You'. If you are concerned about climate change there are many individual choices we can make which make a difference. One you may not have known about is that every time you choose to buy an item with the Fairtrade mark, you are also taking a positive action in combating climate change. This is because farmers with the Fairtrade Mark accreditation use sustainable farming methods, which do less harm to the environment. In addition, these farmers are already struggling with the effects of climate change on their crops so the fairer price they receive for their goods help them to continue to grow the goods such as coffee, tea, bananas and cocoa that we so enjoy.



## Portmoak Community Woodland Project

[www.portmoakcw.org.uk](http://www.portmoakcw.org.uk)



Normally our news at this time of year is dominated by what happened at the Burns Ceilidh and how many turned up to the annual Christmas tree event. However, as everyone knows, there's been only 'one story in town'; namely Covid-19 and its impacts.

Despite having to cancel the Christmas trees we raised the amazing sum of £270 on our Just Giving page. The donations came from extremely generous people who simply wanted to thank us for the work we do and help us with ongoing expenses for equipment, as well as projects and events. We are very grateful to everyone who donated.

Since the first lockdown Portmoak Moss and Kilmagad Wood have been noticeably busier, with people going to them for much-needed walks. On New Year's Day an extraordinary number of people took advantage of the beautiful weather to head up through Kilmagad Wood to reach the top of the hill. Can you first foot a hill? Well, you can now and some folk brought champagne or drams to make a proper job of it!

Icy conditions made for difficult walking on the main paths in both woodlands but there were still plenty of 'off-road' alternatives. February should see some better weather and anyone who likes to break their walk or sit and watch birds will be pleased to hear that the Woodland Trust Scotland reports good progress with the new oak bench for Portmoak Moss. They will be putting it just off the main path, to replace the existing seat, which has become rotten. The group has discussed whether there are better places to locate it but



decided that the current position gives the best views and is not too close to the path.

You can also sit there and watch other people work; always a most relaxing pastime. The workers in question are likely to be volunteers from the group pulling up conifer and birch saplings as we do not want the saplings turning into full grown trees and taking water from the peat bog.

The success of the peat bog restoration should soon be evident again, as spring heralds one of the best sights on the Moss; the explosion of bog cotton, looking like a snowstorm. Roe deer are adept at sniffing out the new shoots so there should be good opportunities to see them too.

Other signs of spring in and around the Portmoak woodlands are the drumming of great spotted woodpeckers and brown hares boxing in the fields. If you are lucky or clever enough to get photos of either of these, or any other fauna in the woods, you might like to send them to us by email at [info@portmoakcw.org.uk](mailto:info@portmoakcw.org.uk) and we can add them to our nature notes.

## Portmoak Primary School

Portmoak Primary School has been awarded a substantial grant from the Community Climate Asset Fund for the purchase of a polytunnel and other food-growing equipment. This is to help our pupils, along with members of our community, to reduce local carbon emissions by creating a sustainable food-growing programme.

We will be collaborating with Kinnesswood in Bloom who have much experience in food-growing and gardening. We currently have a small food-growing programme which benefits some of our pupils and we now plan to extend this to grow enough food for all classes to take home, use in class cooking lessons and to be able to issue food bags to the community. In doing so, we will be equipping our young people with the skills to





grow their own food and to teach others to do the same.

Most of the grant will be spent on the purchase of a polycarbonate tunnel called a 'polycrub', which is specially designed to withstand strong winds and adverse weather. Due to our school's location on the side of Bishop Hill, we have regular problems with damage to our greenhouses, with one being destroyed completely in a storm. We will also be purchasing the materials to build 12 raised beds, a substantial storage shed for our materials and equipment and some other bits and pieces to support our project.

Having just been awarded our fourth Green Eco Flag, this project will form part of our journey towards our fifth Green Flag in promoting the 'no food waste' message. Our pupils will also benefit from intergenerational knowledge exchange by engaging with older generations who have much more experience in food-growing.

## Kinross & District Rotary Club

[www.ribi.org](http://www.ribi.org)



A very Happy New Year to you all. As President Brian Timms reflected, 'Without doubt 2020 has been a difficult year for everybody. However, despite all the restrictions The Rotary Club of Kinross & District has continued to play its part within the local community.'

### Festive Market

On 28 November, the club ran a tombola stall at the festive market in aid of 'End Polio Now'. It was great to see our supporters face to face for a welcome change! Since 1985, Rotary's key humanitarian principle has been to rid the world of polio. We raised £434 at the stall including some generous donations; George Lawrie donated £175 raised during his summer hair challenge and we rounded the sum donated up to £650. As every £1 raised by any Rotary club is matched by another £2 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, that is a magnificent £1,950 which will protect many children with a life-changing polio vaccine. Thank you so much!

### Santa's Sleigh

We were delighted to be able to bring Santa and his sleigh to Kinross-shire before Christmas. We regretted that we were unable to stop and chat as we usually do, but it was good to see you out to watch Santa flying past. As well as bringing some normality to the community, thanks to all who donated through our Just Giving page. A total of £1,670 was raised and will be used for future charitable causes in the community and internationally. Rotarians Barry Davies and George Lawrie once again led the club to deliver a successful event for all concerned.

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Thanks also to all who entered our competitions for best photograph and best child's drawing. Entries really summed up the tremendous spirit of the event. Congratulations to our winners!

The results are: Winning Photograph (above), **Vicky Silvera**; Runner-Up, **Emily Louise Shepherd**; Best Drawing (under



7yrs) (far below), **Alysia Shepherd**; Best Drawing over 7yrs), (below) **Lara Davies**.

### Christmas Day Lunch

The club provided support to the Christmas Day lunch initiative organised via Kinross Parish Church by Richard and Sylvia Scott. This year a hot Christmas Day lunch was delivered to a number of the older members of the community. Together with the meal each person received a gift of a Christmas trinket tray and a card. We were extremely pleased to be able to facilitate the provision of these gifts which were generously donated by Caulders Garden Centre.

### Recent Meetings

Dr Paul Baughan addressed the club on Zoom on 16 November and provided an insight into the impact of Covid-19 from a GP's perspective. Paul combines work as a GP in Dollar with his role as national clinical lead for palliative and end of life care with Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

He told us how life as a GP 'changed overnight' at the start of the pandemic. Emphasising that GP surgeries are not closed but operating a different way of working, he described the benefits of video consultations. He urged us to consider anticipatory care planning; the 'thinking ahead' approach being promoted by Healthcare Improvement Scotland. As part of this, people are encouraged to consider what care they would like if, and when, their health deteriorates. It is a chance to make choices and identify who they would like to involve in any future decisions. He also advised appointing a Power of Attorney to speak on your behalf if you are unwell. We appreciated Paul giving us his time and helpful advice in such busy times for frontline workers.

Our last speaker of 2020 was Drew Drummond on 30 November. Drew is Managing Director of Drummond International, a family-owned leadership consultancy business which helps individuals and organisations deal with change, culture and conflict, emphasising the importance of value-led leadership. He helped us to reflect on the present position of our club and to consider the challenges we face. He saluted the core values of Rotary and that we provide opportunity for the community, for young people and for the international community. His advice of 'do whatever you can to help others be their best' certainly fits with our present practice and future plans for the club.

We were also joined briefly that evening by PC Ashley Mitchinson who outlined the work of the community team in Kinross-shire.

Our speakers are varied, informative, thought provoking and interesting. The talks are just one of the benefits of joining Rotary!

### Fellowship and Fun

Our annual Christmas party may have been virtual this year but, on 14 December, we enjoyed it regardless. Entertainment included bingo, a quiz and mute carol singing! While enjoying mince pies and a glass of wine (dropped off by president Brian in advance) we raised £230 for Rotary Foundation.

We reconvened on 12 January to welcome the New Year together and we enjoyed another quiz. Cause for further celebration was news of the award of the British Empire Medal to Rotarian Andy Middlemiss, retired Lieutenant Colonel, who was honoured for 20 years of service to SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity. We know how dedicated Andy is as the Perth branch chairman and we are delighted that this has been suitably acknowledged.

Thanks to Andy and his wife Jo who kept our brains sharpened over the festive period with a fiendish letters and numbers quiz in aid of SSAFA and EMP (the Ethiopia Medical Project). Well done to Rotarian George Sutherland who scored an awesome 157/160.

### Looking Ahead

Now we look forward to 2021 and, like everyone, hope that we will gradually be able to return to some normality. We are running a Young Writer Competition for school age children and plans are being made in the hope that the RYLA camps will take place this summer (see p.17).



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**A bit about me...**

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



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## Club & Community Group News

Why don't you join us at a future meeting and find out more about what we do and how you might participate? At present, we are using Zoom to meet fortnightly on Monday evenings. You will be made very welcome.

Contact us by email at [secretary.krdc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.krdc@gmail.com) for further details.

## Broke Not Broken

### New Year, New Challenges

We have all been hoping 2021 would bring more hope, and starting with a new lockdown wasn't what any of us wanted but with the vaccine on the horizon it could be the last.

What have we been up to over the last couple of months?

#### October

In October we launched our Winter Coat project where we gave families vouchers to buy winter clothing for their children. Each child got £25 and we were referred 96 children by referral agents for this project. We were so glad to do this before the weather got too cold and got some lovely comments from client:

*'Thank you. I did receive the vouchers and the girls now have new wellies and a new winter coat.'*

*'Thank you from the bottom of our hearts'*

#### November

In November we launched our Winter warmer projects, where we delivered slow cookers with veg bags and vouchers for Hunters Butchers to referred clients. 35 were delivered to families and individuals. We used funding we received from the Kinross Newsletter fund as well as from the Henry Duncan fund and got some lovely feedback:

*'Thank you so much for the slow cooker and vouchers for hunters. I really appreciate it and look forward to using it.'*



## Portmoak Hall 100 Club

### December Draw

1st	No 32	Sue Wilson	Kinnesswood
2nd	No 77	Huw Philips	Wester Balgedie
3rd	No 136	Stuart O' Hara	Kinnesswood

*'A huge thank you for our delivery of the slow cooker. It is very very much appreciated, and the vouchers. We will have a lovely Christmas meal and New Year meal... We were a bit tearful seeing it'*

#### December

December saw us running two projects. The first was the Christmas Helper – distributing Argos vouchers to families to help mitigate the cost of Christmas and avoid racking up debts. We gave out 150 £25 vouchers to help with the cost of Christmas and help budgeting and at the same time enable families to buy presents for their own children. Giving that bit of power back adds a bit of dignity to a situation that can make people feel powerless and demoralised.

The second project was our annual Christmas Hamper project. We knew this year would be very different. We packed 120 hampers, benefitting 233 people, with some Christmas goodies and an envelope packed with vouchers for local business including Sainsburys, Hunter's Butchers, Baynes Bakers, Heaven Scent, La Casanova, Pizza Via, Courthouse, Cafe 98, Aldi, Le Jardin and Avant Garde. The feedback was amazing and really warmed our hearts. Our hope had been it would shift Christmas for people struggling from surviving to thriving, and at the same time support our local businesses.

*'Hi, I just wanted to let you know every voucher I received was magnificent, the hamper touch my heart so much'*

*'Thank you so much I was overwhelmed with the vouchers I received. They are very much appreciated thank you again.'*

The vouchers were fantastic thank you. Absolutely perfect. It gave us the opportunity to shop in places we don't get to shop in very often and treat the children. Thank you so much. Getting this feedback really gives us the energy to keep going.

#### Christmas

To get us into the Christmas spirit we asked local schools to send us their Christmas card design for what Christmas means to them. The results were extraordinary. Well done to:





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## Club & Community Group News

- Mia Templar and Rosie Givan (Rosie's card opposite) (Kinross Primary)
- Catherine Savage and Douglas Blake (Douglas's card below) (Milnathort Primary)
- Julian Lowe and Olivia Nevitt (Portmoak Primary)
- Lucy Nosal and Cameron Hayes (Fossoway Primary)

We also worked with Kinross Primary P5 classes who were looking at Nutrition as part of their school topic. We were blown away by their research, social conscience and their empathy for the subject of food poverty.

## New Lockdown

It's been a long hard slog and the new lockdown brings new challenges. Luckily, we have gathered experiences and volunteers to be able to react quickly. Last time the schools closed we distributed lunch parcels. This time we are posting vouchers for local supermarkets for families to be able to buy exactly what they need. This also protects volunteers and clients from unnecessary contact.

## Thanks

Donations came in thick and fast as Christmas approached and we would like to thank:

- Portmoak Primary School who donated £470
- Glenfarg Village Store who donated £1580
- The audience of the TPSO zoom concert who donated £430
- Kinross Camera Club who donated £100
- Baynes Bakers who donated £1200

We also received funding of **£4000 through the Weir Trust** to put towards fuel poverty, and **£3200 from PKC** towards fresh food in our food parcels.

We would also like to thank PA Advocacy, Kinross Rugby, Kinross Colts, Kinross Primary School and staff, Loch Leven Church, St Paul's Church, Kinross Parish Church, St James Church, Orwell and Portmoak Parish Church, Smartworks, Little Fish Books, Kinross Centre, Loch Leven Health Centre and staff, Kinross High School pupils and staff, The Muirs, Bishopshire SWI, Kinross Rotary, SSAFA, Co-op, Sainsbury's and Moto Services.

We will be revealing the total raised through Sainsbury's Help Brighten a million campaign as we know a lot of you donated through that too.

And finally, thanks to everyone who has set up a standing order, whether it is £3 or £300, it all is put to the best use we can think of: To tackle poverty in our local community. Poverty caused by so many different and complex factors, but effecting everyday people who deserve dignity and respect to help them upwards and onwards.

Anne McCormack, [admin@brokennotbroken.org](mailto:admin@brokennotbroken.org)

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We use our Facebook page to announce:

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- what's in the next issue
- reminders of some local events
- occasional breaking news

'Like' our page to be kept informed. Search for 'Kinross Newsletter' or go to:

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Email: [KinrossshireCivicTrustSecy@gmail.com](mailto:KinrossshireCivicTrustSecy@gmail.com)

Happy new year to you all.

### Planning Matters

**Pitdownies appeal:** We can expect the final decision from the Scottish Government Reporter soon. In July 2020 the Reporter David Buyla issued a 'Notice of Intention' in which he said he was minded to allow Springfield's appeal for planning permission for 59 houses and eight flats at Pitdownies, which PKC had refused. He required Springfield and PKC to sign a Section 75 Agreement to cover matters such as the delivery of affordable units and education contributions. Although it took longer than the 13-week period stipulated, documents on the DPEA website indicate that a Section 75 Agreement has now been made.

**Lathro Farm, phase 2:** We also expect to hear soon the result of Persimmon's appeal over PKC's refusal for 169 houses on phase 2 of Lathro Farm. The target date for a decision was 29 December 2020 but the Reporter (David Buyla, the same as for Pitdownies) certainly has a lot of documents to plough through!

**Facebook:** Our planning group looks at the Kinross-shire applications that appear on PKC's planning list each week. We're thinking it might be useful to publish the Kinross-shire applications on our Facebook page, so if you want to keep an eye on local planning matters, follow our Facebook page.

### Kinross-shire Raingardens Challenge

We have been working with Perth and Kinross Council in relation to the Park and Ride, with our Ecological Designer Jane Shields leading for us on how to overcome some technical issues and create proposals we can put forward for consideration and hopefully implementation. Jane is also working closely with local businesses as we try and get some retrofit raingardens created and demonstrate what can be done. We have added making an input to new developments to Jane's remit. That is dependent on support from Scottish Water – the missing partner in this endeavour to date – but that is about to change, we hope, following further discussions we've had in January. If successful, that will allow us to extend the initiative into the next financial year and give us a fair chance to achieve our aims.

In parallel with the above work, Fiona Welch of Collective Architecture is working up a multi-layer set of maps, plans, and photographs showing the raingardens in and around Kinross-shire, in particular the proposed Raingardens Trail from the Park and Ride down to join with the Loch Leven Heritage Trail and possibilities for the High Street- Muirs through Kinross. The principal customer for that output is Perth and Kinross Council, who will then

be able to help us establish the Trail. The Council have been a positive partner in this endeavour from the outset and have recently established an information portal in the Council so each of the different departments can see what is happening and input according to their specific remits, i.e. roads; maintenance; planning (placemaking and development control); trees and biodiversity; and flood risk management.

We have also been in discussion with ecologists in NatureScot (formerly SNH), Perth and Kinross, RSPB and Tayside Wildlife, to participate in the various biodiversity and habitat protection and enhancement initiatives they have in hand or planned. We are natural allies with mutual interests.

Even the optimists, we have also been seeking designs and quotes for awards for participating businesses and departments in Perth and Kinross Council (they seem excluded from many environment award schemes); the positive side of Kinross-shire Civic trust activities! We are grateful for the help of Jacquie Seller Ceramics.

The Covid crisis has hit us hard, making the many necessary site and office meetings difficult or impossible at various times during the year past and again now. But we are continuing to work as above and shall be in touch with key groups and businesses as soon as we can.



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# Sports News

## Kinross Rugby Club

Alistair Brown – a rugby tribute

On 9 January one of the founders of the Kinross Over 35s group of veterans who initiated such a run of success for the club, passed away.

An elder of Portmoak Church and avid folk fan, returning regularly from his home in the Shetlands over recent years to Kinross, Alistair made a great contribution to his local community in many ways beyond the scope of this note. For those of us fortunate to have known him as a rugby player he is remembered as a gentle giant off the field, but a very solid hard worker on the pitch; a real presence and source of strength to us lesser beings. As well as a rock-solid power in scrums, for a big guy Alistair was an athletic player who routinely won lineouts and was mobile and influential in open play too.

Alistair was in his 40s when he stepped up to express a cautious interest in resuming some rugby activity after decades since he had last played. Wow, what a discovery for the rest of us. Like a few other long-since given up players who took our numbers from less than a XV to about 40 names on our telephone list, Alistair gained a new lease of life for his sporting career. He helped us win games on a Wednesday evening and establish the Over 35s Rugby idea with other local clubs as something to do once a month in the evenings, leaving the weekend free for family commitments. After the success winning the Dunfermline Over 35s tournament (amazing for Kinross who knocked out the hosts) we wondered what to do next and Alistair was active in advocating and planning the veterans' tour to Paris. Breaking with boozy male tradition, ten of us took our wives, and Alistair and Aileen, who knew Paris well, were excellent travelling companions for our free time that weekend. They followed up the Paris tour with a tour to Dublin the following year which has passed into legend for the river dance episode, for those present and others who have only heard the stories...

Alistair, with his son Campbell, also started playing for Kinross 2nd XV, helping them to unprecedented success (the KRFC committee even began to talk about starting a 3rd XV, such was the abundance of players). The combination of youth and experience was a winner. But a very large helping of ever-cheerful, positive personality goes a long way too; thanks Alistair, great to have known you, RIP.



*Alistair Brown and some of his team-mates from the initial KRFC Over 35s squad, 1994/5*



## Kinross Volleyball

Due to the current lockdown, we cannot play volleyball. However, there have been live information sessions highlighting various aspects of the sport. The referees' commission, coaching commission and beach volleyball commission have explained their current setup and plans for when volleyball can resume.

There will be no competitive leagues or cups until the Scottish Government and Sport Scotland give permission. In reality this means that local events and competitions will be first to resume. The Kinross club should have been moving to indoor training in January but this has been put on hold.

Once restrictions are lifted, club practice sessions will take place at 7.30-9pm in the large games hall of the campus. New members will be made welcome; all you need to bring is yourself, shorts, t-shirt, trainers and the £2 court hire fee.

Club members are hoping that they can enter teams in the Scottish Open Volleyball Tournament in May and the De Haan Tournament in Belgium in August. Both events were sorely missed last year.

There is also the hope that Perth Beach Volleyball can open at their Darnhall facility, giving the opportunity to play 2v2 volleyball on sand over the summer months. Beach volleyball is taking off across Scotland and a number of clubs have been formed. Beach volleyball now features in the Birmingham Commonwealth Games and Scotland will have both men's and women's teams competing in the summer of 2022.

We also hope to resume coaching sessions in Kinross High School through the Active Schools National Programme. Sessions run on Wednesday lunchtimes and after school from 3.40-6pm. However, this is unlikely to happen until after Easter at the earliest.

**For further information contact club coach Dave Munro on 01577 862126.**

## Kinross Badminton Club

Bill Macdonald and the club committee wish all members a Happy New Year. No badminton is possible during lockdown or in level 4 so it does not look like the club will be able to resume playing anytime soon.

However, the committee remain in place and will get things going again once when safe to do so. We hope that existing and new members will return when we reopen. We all look forward to playing badminton again after such a long time and will post updates on our Facebook page.

## Kinross Golf Club

[www.kinrossgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.kinrossgolfclub.co.uk)

Happy New Year to all our members. Some people may say there is little to be happy about at the moment but we golfers are an optimistic lot. Hopefully there will be fairer weather ahead and the roll out of the vaccine will see us all back on the golf courses enjoying ourselves.

That said, January threw some pretty cold weather at us and both courses were closed for most of the month. The picture over the page doesn't even begin to portray the actual freezing temperatures or the treacherous ice that formed on





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*Frozen golf courses in January*

fairways and greens but let's hope that's all behind us now.

Meanwhile, we successfully held our AGM. Many thanks to everyone who took part and congratulations to the conveners for managing to bring together all the reports and carry out the Zoom webinar without any hitches. If you are interested in joining the club, please contact the Club House Manager by email at [manager@kinrossgolf.co.uk](mailto:manager@kinrossgolf.co.uk). There is also some useful information on our website and Facebook page.

Best wishes and keep safe.

## Kinross Colts

So we're back in lockdown for a while (hopefully not too long). However, as the photo of our Donaldson Park pavilion shows, we probably wouldn't have been playing much with the weather the way it's been. At least our four-legged friends are enjoying running around the pitch!

As we head into 2021, we take a look at how our club has grown over the last 10 years. As the graph shows, we have seen phenomenal growth and we now have teams at all

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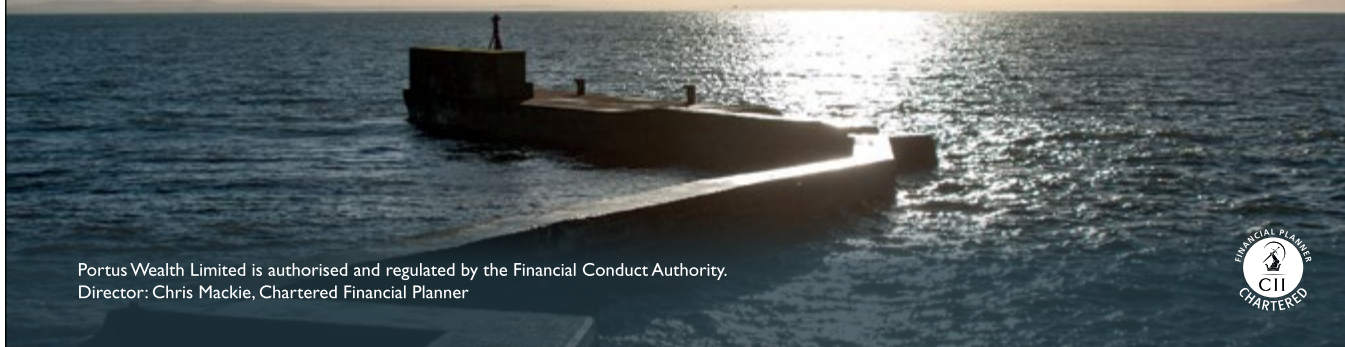
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Donaldson Park Pavilion

age groups, ranging from under-6s up to under-17s, a women's team, 2 adult amateur teams, an over-35s team and 2 7-a-side squads made up of players ranging in age from veteran to vintage.

Our plans for this year are to continue to increase participation in football amongst the good people of Kinross-shire by expanding our existing teams where possible. We also aim to add a girls' team, an under-5s team and a walking football team to the club. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for further announcements.

We continually aim to improve the football facilities in the area and we also plan to work with external coaches to further increase the quality of our training sessions. We will also keep working with our mental health charity partner Back Onside and support Broke Not Broken and aim to



expand our supporter base by enabling some of the older members of our community to come along to our games to enjoy a pie and a bovril.

Thanks go to all players, parents, coaches, officials, sponsors and supporters who have helped to grow the club so far. If anyone would like to join any new or existing teams, or get involved in any way, please send an email to us at [info@kinrosscoltsfcj.co.uk](mailto:info@kinrosscoltsfcj.co.uk).

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# Scottish Women's Institutes



## CLEISH

### Meeting 21 December 2020

Dorothy Morris welcomed everyone.

Dorothy Morris welcomed Linda Retson our speaker for the evening and Anne Kerr, current SWI National President.

Congratulations to Alison Morris on gaining 3rd place in the Evelyn Baxter competition.

Dorothy then introduced Linda. Linda gave a great talk and slide show on her team as SWI National Chairman/ President. It was interesting to hear about her adventures and antics in Scotland, other parts of the UK and abroad during her three-year stint representing the SWI. She wasn't always alone on these trips as she was accompanied by Fergus the bear.

Our next meeting will be 11 January 2021, and will be hosted by Agnes and Lynn.

There will be no competition in January.

Dorothy closed the meeting wishing all members a safe and happy Christmas.

### Competition Results

**1st Alison Morris**

### Meeting 11 January 2021

President Dorothy Morris welcomed all who joined the meeting, then wished everybody a happy new year.

Dorothy reported that Womankind are having a Gardening night on 13 January and a Burns night on 25 January, both on Zoom.

The meeting was then handed over to Agnes and Lynn for our fun night, there was a quiz, scavenger hunt and activity bingo. The questions on the quiz all related to the number 21.

Everyone agreed that it was an enjoyable evening.

Alison then gave the vote of thanks.

Our next meeting will on 8 February, when we will be entertained by Bishopshire SWI.

The competition is a Valentine's verse. Verses have to be forwarded to Alison by 1 February.

## BISHOPSHIRE

Bishopshire SWI have been meeting on Zoom since September last year and our meetings have been varied and interesting. We have all been getting used to the technology and we have slowly come to grips with it. Competitions have been judged online by the various speakers which seems to have worked quite well.

### 10 September 2020

This meeting was an informal AGM with current committee members agreeing to stay in place until next year. Those members who braved the technology told us about what they have been doing over lockdown, so many wonderful items have been made by our talented members.

### 8 October 2020

Ian Carnachan of Guide Dogs for the Blind spoke to us about the organisation. He has been involved with the service for many years and is currently the co-ordinator for speakers. He answered a number of questions from our members and showed pictures of some of his dogs in training. Although he lives in Ireland, his puppies go to Forfar for advanced training before being matched with their blind owners. He currently does not have a puppy in training due to having taken on a dog who failed her training who might pass on bad habits. In all it was an interesting and informative talk.

## COMPETITIONS

<b>Picture of a Dog</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Linda Chapman</b>
<b>Flower of the Month</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Norma Smith</b>

### 12 November 2020

Adele Martin, who is a sustainable stylist with House of Colour gave a fascinating talk on how to dress to be more visible. Her key message was how to feel good in your clothes without buying anything new. Her practical demonstration on how we are judged by others on first impressions based on what colours we wear was a revelation, as was her suggestions for mixing and matching items from your existing wardrobe to make new outfits.

## COMPETITIONS

<b>Decorated Leaf – Rainbow theme</b>	<b>1st Margaret Paton</b>
<b>Flower of the Month</b>	<b>1st Greta Hogg</b>

### 10 December 2020

Zoom Christmas Party. Members took part in a Christmas Quiz, made Christmas decorations and tried (and failed) to sing some Christmas Carols. It turns out that, although Zoom is good for many things, you cannot sing together due to broadband speeds being a bit different. We all raised a glass/cup of tea, to a better 2021.

### 14 January 2021

Clair Paton from Lethangie House gave us a very enjoyable quiz on items from her Victorian Kitchen and told us about each of the articles. This was great fun, and showed how the workings of our kitchens have changed/stayed the same over time. She has promised to come along to a meeting (when we have one!) to give a talk on the history of Lethangie.

## COMPETITIONS

<b>Mini Quiche</b>	<b>1st Norma Smith</b>
<b>Flower of the Month</b>	<b>1st Margo Waddell</b>

Next month will be a members' night. If you would like to take part please contact the SWI for details.



## POWMILL

Since March our secretary Maz Thorn (above) has been helping other SWI members from across Scotland with Zoom. Maz has been teaching members new skills and giving them 'how to' tips. As a former teacher her teaching skills are certainly being put to good use with one pupil in her late 80s! Members are benefiting from her weekly 'zoom school' sessions where she demonstrates her self-taught knowledge. It has been a huge boost for members to be shown how to use this, where they can now join in Institute, Group and National meetings. By joining in these meetings 'virtual' friendships have been formed by members who otherwise wouldn't have known one another.

From us all at Powmill and SWI members across Scotland, thank you Maz.



## 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 [admin@brokennotbroken.org](mailto:admin@brokennotbroken.org) to find out how you can help.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The Potager Garden** is a small community garden in Bowton Road, Kinross, KY13 8EQ. It is a registered charity run by volunteers, a main aim being to give education to schoolchildren about plants, gardening and the environment. If you would like more information about our volunteering opportunities, please contact the Convenor, **Amanda James**, on 01577 840809, or [amandajames1577@gmail.com](mailto:amandajames1577@gmail.com)  
**Children's Hospices Across Scotland:** Can you spare a few hours of your time? We are looking for volunteers in our **kitchen, housekeeping, driving, childcare** and **garden** teams.

Anyone who is interested is welcome to come for a visit. Please contact us by phone on 01577 865777 or email [volunteering@chas.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@chas.org.uk). To apply online visit [www.chas.org.uk](http://www.chas.org.uk).

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

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

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

### Volunteering with Aberlour!

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

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

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

For more volunteering opportunities, go to the community website [www.kinross.cc](http://www.kinross.cc) and look for 'Volunteering', or look at [www.vaperthshire.org](http://www.vaperthshire.org)

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



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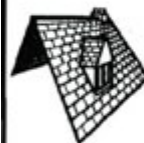
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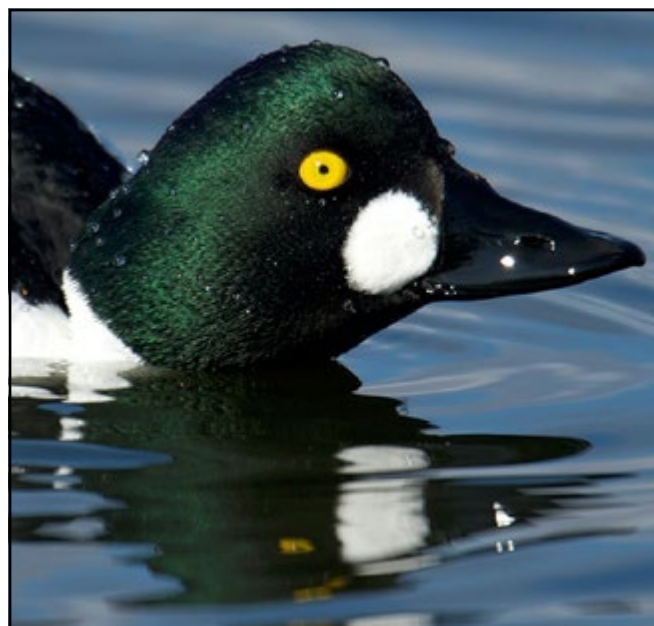
# Goldeneye For The Ladies

**WE ARE NOW INTO** February and, for me, this is when spring starts to rear its weary head. The start of January was icy, snowy and cold and I am not saying February will be much better, but sometimes you can notice a little warmth in the sun. February is a great time to spot the first early flowers of spring. Look out for Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) near woodlands and hedgerows, Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) along ditches and streams, Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) on the woodland floor and Common dog violet (*Viola riviniana*) in grasslands and gardens.

Birds will start to think about pairing up again for the breeding season. Have a look out for mute swan pairs on the loch; they can be identified by feeding together. Watch out for their territorial displays. This is when there is a dispute over territory or personal space. The unhappy swans will swim towards each other with their wings in a 'V-Shaped' posture and will parade around until one of them moves off. Mute swans can also do a 'courtship display' in February. Pairs can be seen paddling around in circles together for minutes at a time as well as doing their well renowned 'heart-shape head movements'.

February is a great time to watch duck displays as well. What better way to show your love to a partner than to do some wicked (and sometimes frankly weird) dance moves. Potentially, one of the most well-known duck displays comes from the goldeneye. The drakes (males) extend their neck and flick their head right onto their back. It is an amazing sight! The UK's most common duck, the mallard can be seen displaying as well. Head to any local loch/pond/river where you see mallard duck and look out for their head pumping and tail docking.

Keep on the lookout for small birds pairing up. One of the most colourful small birds is the bullfinch. If you are lucky, you will spot them around the loch or maybe even in your garden! Mary's Knowe and Burleigh are good hotspots for them. The males are stunning birds with their bright red-pink breast and cheeks. They have a grey back and a black cap. The females are similar but instead of red-pink breast and cheek it is more of a mottled brown. They also have a lovely soft whistle call, one of my favourite wee birds.



Goldeneye Duck

Latest wildlife highlights around the reserve include; 1812 coot, 200 whooper swan, pygmy shrew, 4 scaup, 6 little egret, 450 goldeneye, 800 teal, lots of roe deer and a stoat!

As the grasps of winter start to loosen, make sure to get out on the reserve and make the most of the crisp weather. Spring will soon start to raise its head even more and before you know it sand martins will be flying and calling overhead... but hey, more about that next month!

Keep an eye on the blog (Loch Leven WordPress), Loch Leven NNR Facebook page and the Loch Leven NNR Instagram for regular updates.

TTFN

Simon Ritchie  
Nature Reserve Officer

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## Ducks Deluxe!

**AS WE SHUT OUR** doors to the outside world and settle in for another long month of lockdown, the wildlife at Loch Leven have been getting on with things in their usual fashion. Red squirrel activity has been especially good at the reserve in recent times, with several sightings down at the peanut feeders and in the larches.

The recent cold weather has kept our bird feeders busy too, with lots of hungry blue tits, great tits and coal tits visiting regularly. Treecreepers have also been spotted on the trees near the feeders scaling along the bark looking for insects. On the wetland

trail up to five little egrets have been spotted at one time, alongside several disgruntled looking grey herons.

A bit of an unusual sighting of a long-tailed duck has also been spotted on the loch. This bird is a small, neat sea duck. They have small round heads and steep foreheads. In winter, the male is mainly white with some brownish-black markings. He also has greatly elongated tail feathers – hence the name.

With much of the loch frozen over in the cold weather there was an amusing sighting of 80 curlew stood defiantly in the middle of the frozen loch. Two peregrines have also been spotted out on the wetland trail with a nice report of one being ambushed by the other during a squabble over some potential prey.

Our warden team have been hard at work monitoring wader numbers this month and are pleased to report good numbers of teal and wigeon at the flood. Habitat management continues in preparation for the breeding season. Staff and volunteers have been out cutting back rush to ensure that when the wader chicks arrive, they will have access to the scrapes and pools on the wetland. Lapwing and other waders will be arriving back



in March to breed, so it's all hands on deck to make sure the reserve is as good as it can be before they start nesting!

Our project to improve the diversity of our bumblebee meadow (aka pollinator project) continues, but with a twist. We have just secured a new contractor to help us dig up the ground so we can sow wildflower seed into the soil... of the furry variety! We are utilising the wonderful earth that the moles create for us in the wildflower meadow.

Now instead of spending lots of time turfing and rotavating areas of the meadow to re-seed, we are letting nature take its course by simply flattening and sowing seed into the freshly churned up ground and dotting this all over the meadow. Although judging by the size of some of the mole hills, we are starting to wonder if this is some new variety of ginormous teenage mutant ninja mole! This will hopefully create a burst of colour with new blooms of poppies and cornflowers.

For all the latest news about the reserve and the visitor centre, shop and café, please visit our Facebook page at @RSPBTaysideFife.

*Rachel Gooday, Visitor Experience Officer*

## Weather



### Recent Weather Reports from Kinross

#### November 2020

Total Rainfall	<b>95.6mm/3.82in</b>
Heaviest Fall	<b>10.8mm/0.42in (11 Nov)</b>
Total Sunshine	<b>52.4 hrs</b>
Sunniest Day	<b>6.3 hrs (2 Nov)</b>
Max Temp Average	<b>9.73c</b>
Highest Temp	<b>14.4c (17 Nov)</b>
Min Temp Average	<b>1.66c</b>
Lowest Temp	<b>-5.7c (28 Nov)</b>

#### December 2020

Total Rainfall	<b>151.1mm/6.04in</b>
Heaviest Fall	<b>36.3mm/1.45in (4 Dec)</b>
Total Sunshine	<b>33.4hrs</b>
Sunniest Day	<b>4.3 hrs (22 Dec)</b>
Max Temp Average	<b>6.16c</b>
Highest Temp	<b>12.7c (18 Dec)</b>
Min Temp Average	<b>-1.47c</b>
Lowest Temp	<b>-9.3c (29 Dec)</b>

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# Has Anyone Lost A Pig?

**I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD** start my first article of 2021 by writing about a subject I have been known to mention on the odd occasion – the weather.

The autumn turned very wet just after harvest time. It was just as well the potato harvest I help with (as featured in Fiona's articles) was started and finished earlier than usual, because the rain came on the day after that job was finished and didn't stop until just before Christmas. The change to drier cooler conditions was very welcome and although our road and yard were pretty icy at times, at least the temperatures generally weren't too extreme, so frozen pies weren't too much of a problem. Really hard frosts in December can cause problems here at Backward Farm. This is because we are on the 'dark side' of the valley, so, in December when the sun is at its lowest in the sky, it only rises up above the hills behind us for two or three hours a day. The result is that we don't get much of a thawing effect on our farm buildings. Once we get well through January and into February the thawing effect of the sun's rays dramatically improves and the cold nights don't bite so hard. Already, midway through January, there is a noticeable difference to the daylight hours, which I always find very encouraging.

We are fully settled into the winter routine with all the cattle inside, even the hardy little Dexter cattle which are a recent



*Sjakie, a Gloucester Old Spot*

addition to the farm stock. The frosty conditions meant they were able to stay out longer than expected without damaging their field too much.

There has been plenty of grass to keep the sheep happy up till now, although I have given them an occasional bale of haylage recently in case they were a bit hungry due to the snow on the ground. They are mostly in good condition and they will be getting pregnancy scanned in a couple of weeks, so we will find out how many lambs to expect come the spring. We decided to delay lambing slightly this year so there should be more grass available at lambing time. That should reduce the cost of buying supplementary feeding for the sheep and we hope to lamb most of them outside. We will see how that goes.

The pigs' excavation antics have been slowed by the ground being frozen. Once they find a softer area, they can soon dig a new hole. They will no doubt be happy that it has thawed a bit for the moment as they will be able to dig more freely again. They are amazingly hardy creatures. They are out rooting about quite happily even on the most miserable of days.

We have been making some new paddocks for them and experimenting with a new 'super duper' style of fencing in an attempt (again) to keep them better contained. It is more expensive and more time-consuming to build, but early signs are encouraging and hopes are high. Time will be the judge.

Sjakie, one of the original Gloucester Old Spot boars found fame on social media the other day as he decided to 'go walk about' along the road. As if the 20-acre field he was in wasn't big enough! They are free range pigs, after all – very free range.

*John*

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# Kinross-shire Churches Together



## Cleish Parish Church

### Church of Scotland

(Charity No: SC003168)

**Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse** BD (Hons)

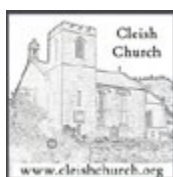
Tel: 01577 842128

Email: [estenhouse@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:estenhouse@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Session Clerk: Neil Maclure**

Email: [neil.maclure19@gmail.com](mailto:neil.maclure19@gmail.com) Tel: 01577 864826

Please visit our website: [www.cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk](http://www.cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk)



## Services for January 2021

### at Cleish Parish Church, Cleish KY13 0LR

Unfortunately once again, due to the pandemic and current guidelines, our Church building is closed at present.

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

Our Sunday 'Zoom' worship services are continuing.

**We will hold a joint service with our sister church, Cleish, by Zoom every Sunday at 10.30am (please note the new time).**

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

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

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

## Fossoway, St Serf's & Devonside Church

### Church of Scotland

(Charity number SC013157)

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

[www.cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk](http://www.cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk)

**Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse** Telephone: (01577) 842128

Email: [estenhouse@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:estenhouse@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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

Email: [aclassicsoul@aol.com](mailto:aclassicsoul@aol.com)

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## Orwell and Portmoak Parish Church

### Church of Scotland (Charity number SC015523)

Minister – Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Telephone: 01577 863461

Email: [angusmorrison3@gmail.com](mailto:angusmorrison3@gmail.com)

Website: [www.orwellportmoakchurch.org.uk](http://www.orwellportmoakchurch.org.uk)

**Contact the Office:** 01577 861200

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

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

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

## St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church

### (Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)

Muir, Kinross, KY13 8AY

Tel: 01577 864299

Email: [office@stpaulskinross51.plus.com](mailto:office@stpaulskinross51.plus.com)

[www.stpauls-kinross.co.uk](http://www.stpauls-kinross.co.uk)

Fr David Mackenzie Mills, Rector.

Tel: 01577 863795

Email: [frdavidkinross@gmail.com](mailto:frdavidkinross@gmail.com)

You can also find us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurchkinross](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurchkinross)

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

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

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

*May the road rise up to meet you.*

*May the wind be always at your back.*

*May the sun shine warm upon your face;*

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

### Thursdays @ 2.30pm

'Zoom' cuppa chat (Please contact the Rector by the Monday if you would like to join. You will be sent details of the unique login details for that week.)

### February

#### Sun 7: Epiphany 5

9.30am 'Virtual' Holy Communion

9pm Compline from the Rectory (Facebook Live)

#### Sun 14: Sunday Before Lent

9.30am 'Virtual' Holy Communion

**Sun 28: Lent 2**

9.30am 'Virtual' Holy Communion

*Other activities throughout the coming seasons of Lent, Holy Week and Easter will be posted on our website and Facebook page.*

**St James' Catholic Church**

5 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AW

Parish Priest: Father Martin Pletts. Tel: 01577 863329

[www.catholickinross.com](http://www.catholickinross.com)

Email: [Fr.MartinPletts@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.MartinPletts@gmail.com)

[facebook.com/parishpriestkinross/](https://facebook.com/parishpriestkinross/)

[facebook.com/stjamesprayergroup/](https://facebook.com/stjamesprayergroup/)

**Regular Services**

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

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

God bless, Fr. Martin

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

**Kinross Christian Fellowship**

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

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

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

Everyone is welcome to either service or to both, so please

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07466 360152

*Please contact before attending to ensure availability.*

come and taste and see that the LORD is good.

**Contact Peter on 01577 863509, for further information.**

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

**Kinross Parish Church**

**Church of Scotland** (Charity no SC012555)

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10 Station Road, Kinross KY13 8TG

Visit our **website**: [www.kinrossparishchurch.org](http://www.kinrossparishchurch.org)

Follow us on **Facebook**: Kinross Parish Church of Scotland

**YouTube**: Kinross Parish Worship

**Instagram**: kpcscotland

Church E-mail: [office@kinrossparishchurch.org](mailto:office@kinrossparishchurch.org)

Church Office: Tel. (01577) 862570

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

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

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

Ordained Local Minister: Rev Margaret Michie (01592) 840602

Session Clerk: Jaffrey Weir Tel: (01577) 865780

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

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

**KIN-NECTIONS:** The church's magazine is delivered to the congregation (restrictions permitting). If you would like a copy but are not on our delivery list, please contact the Church Office.

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

**Regular Services and Events:**

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

**Sundays**

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

**11.15am: Virtual Coffee** - fellowship after the Morning Service on Zoom\*. **Replaced on 7 Feb by Communion arrangements (see below)**

**6.00pm: Sunday Evening Prayer**, on Zoom\*

**Mondays**

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

**Tuesdays**

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

**Wednesdays**

**10.30am: Midweek Service** on Zoom\*, also allowing time for a chat afterwards.

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

**1.30pm: Craft Group** meet on Zoom\*.

**7.45pm: Men's House Group** and **8.00pm: Women's House Group** - Bible study and fellowship on Zoom\*.



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**Thursdays**

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

**Other Services and Events:****February**

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

**Tue 2: 7.15pm: Guild, on Zoom\*** - Rev Alan Reid

**Sun 7: 11.15am: Communion, on Zoom\*** (details in weekly email to members or contact church office)

**Tue 16: 7.15pm: Guild, on Zoom\*** - Guild Project

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

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

**Sun 21: 4.30pm: Café Church** on Zoom\*

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

**Kinross Gospel Hall**

8 Montgomery Street, Kinross

**Regular services are still suspended.**

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

[www.kinrossgospelhall.info](http://www.kinrossgospelhall.info)

**contact 0781 805 0785**

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

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



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

**7 Feb** Galatians 3:1-14: **The Promise Of The Spirit**  
Stephen Jones (LLC)

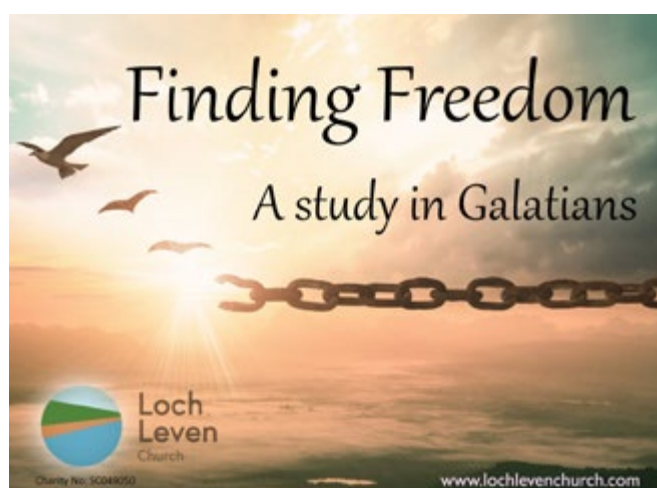
**14 Feb** Galatians 3:15-29: **All One In Christ**  
Gordy McKay (Perth Baptist Church)

**21 Feb** Galatians 4:1-7: **When The Time Had Come**  
Gavin Matthews (Solas)

**28 Feb** **Communion** – Matthew Leach (LLC)

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

**To be kept up to date, and find out more about us, please visit our Facebook page *We Love Loch Leven*, our website [www.lochlevenchurch.com](http://www.lochlevenchurch.com), or email us at [info@lochlevenchurch.com](mailto:info@lochlevenchurch.com)**

**Acknowledgements****DANDIE**

Ann and the family of Ian Dandie would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their help and support following the death of Ian on 24 December.

Also, thanks to the staff at Gowrie House Care Home and at Ward 22 of the Victoria Hospital for their outstanding care, to Gordon Stewart for his compassion and professionalism, to Neil Dorward for conducting the service and to Gerry Marshall for his tribute.

Many thanks also go to all who sent messages of condolence including Ian's friends at The Scottish Gliding Centre.

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## Task:

**To produce a written or typed story in prose entitled, 'My Happiest Day'.**

- The written entry could be fiction or non-fiction, prose, or a poem, as long as the piece relates to the theme.
- Up to maximum of 550 hundred words for prose entries. / Up to a maximum of 40 lines for poetry entries.
- No pictures/drawings to be part of the entry.
- All entries to be legible. Can be written or typed.

Entries should be sent to [secretary.krdc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.krdc@gmail.com) by 14 February 2021.

Please include full name, age and date of birth

### Age Groups

Junior 7 to 10 years old

Intermediate 11 to 13 years old

### Prizes

At all stages of the competition, competitors will receive a certificate of participation.

The winner in each age group in the Kinross heat will receive a book token.

At the National Final, the winners will receive a vocational experience such as working in a newspaper or publishing environment with a professional practitioner.

Full details at [www.rotary-ribi.org/upimages/distreps/1010/Youth/Young%20Writer/2020-21-Young-Writer-Information-Pack.pdf](http://www.rotary-ribi.org/upimages/distreps/1010/Youth/Young%20Writer/2020-21-Young-Writer-Information-Pack.pdf)



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# All EU/EEA/Swiss nationals and their family members living in the UK must apply to the EU Settlement Scheme for Settled or Pre-Settled status by the end of June 2021.

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Всички граждани на държави от ЕС/ЕИЗ/Швейцария и членовете на техните семейства живеещи във Великобритания трябва да кандидатстват за статут на уседналост или временен статут на уседналост до края на 2021. В случай, че се нуждаете от помощ по процеса на кандидатстване, обърнете се към нас - ние предлагаме БЕЗПЛАТНА И РЕГЛАМЕНТИРАНА информация, както и консултации.



Ako ste državljanin EU-a, EGP-a ili Švicarske, vi i vaša obitelj trebate prijaviti u Sustav registracije i boravku EU-a državljanin kako bi mogli živjeti u Ujedinjenoj Kraljevini nakon 30. lipnja 2021. godine. Ako budete sigurni da želite, dobit ćete status trajnog ili privremeno boravka. Ako vam je potrebna pomoć u vezi s vašom prijavom kontaktirajte nas - pružamo BESPLATNE I REGULIRANE informacije i savjete.



Kõik Ühendkuningriigis elavad EL/EEA/Šveitsi kodanikud peavad taotlema püsitanikut staatust (EU Settlement Scheme) 2021. aasta juuni lõpuks. Kui te vajate taotluse esitamisel abi, palun võtke meiega ühendust. Pakume TASUTA nõu ja KONTROLLITUD k informatsiooni.



Kaikkien EU / ETA / Sveitsin kansalaisten ja heidän perheenjäsentensä jotka asuvat UK:ssa, on hakeuduttava EU Settlement Scheme -järjestelmään kesäkuun 2021 loppuun mennessä. Jos tarvitset apua hakemuksessasi, ota meihin yhteyttä - tarjoamme ilmaista ja säädeltä tietoa ja neuvontaa.



Tous les ressortissants de l'UE, de l'EEE, ou de la Suisse et les membres de leur famille résidant au Royaume-Uni doivent postuler au dispositif d'enregistrement pour les citoyen(ne)s européen(ne)s avant la fin du mois de juin 2021 afin d'obtenir un statut de résident permanent ou provisoire. Si vous avez besoin d'aide avec votre dossier - contactez nous. Nous pouvons vous apporter une assistance GRATUITE et RÉGLEMENTÉE.



Alle in Großbritannien lebenden EU/EEA/Schweizer Bürger\*innen müssen spätestens bis Ende Juni 2021 beim EU-Settlement Scheme den „Settled-“ oder „Pre-Settled-Status“ beantragt haben. Bitte kontaktieren Sie uns, wenn Sie Hilfe bei der Antragstellung benötigen - Wir bieten KOSTENFREIE und QUALIFIZIERTE Information und Beratung.



Όλοι οι υπήκοοι της ΕΕ / ΕΟΧ / Ελβετίας και τα μέλη της οικογένειάς τους που ζουν στο Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο πρέπει να υποβάλουν αίτηση στο Πρόγραμμα Εγκατάστασης της ΕΕ για να αποκτήσουν το καθεστώς Εγκατάστασης ή Προ-Εγκατάστασης έως το τέλος του Ιουνίου 2021. Εάν χρειάζεστε βοήθεια με την αίτησή σας επικοινωνήστε μαζί μας - παρέχουμε ΔΩΡΕΑΝ, έγκυρες πληροφορίες και συμβουλευτική υποστήριξη, σύμφωνα με επίσημους κανονισμούς.



Allir ESB / EES / svissneskir ríkisborgarar og fjölskyldumeðlimir þeirra, sem búa í Bretlandi, verða að sækja um "EU Settlement Scheme" og þá annað hvort "settled status" eða "pre-settled status" fyrir lok júní 2021. Ef þú þarft hjálp við umsókn þína hafðu samband við okkur - við veitum ÓKEYPIS og skipulagðar upplýsingar og ráð.



Entro la fine di giugno 2021, tutti i cittadini dell'UE / SEE / svizzeri e i loro familiari che vivono nel Regno Unito devono fare domanda per il Settled Status o Pre-Settled Status. Se hai bisogno di aiuto con la tua richiesta contattaci: forniamo informazioni e consulenza GRATUITE e REGOLARI.



Irish citizens can apply to the EUSS but they are not required to. Non-EU family members of Irish citizens should apply to the scheme even if their Irish family member has not. From the 24th August British and Irish people from Northern Ireland can apply to the EUSS but they are not required to. Non-EU family members of people from Northern Ireland should apply even if their NI family member has not.



Visi Eiropas Savienības, Šveices un Eiropas Ekonomikas zonu valstspiederīgie un to ģimenes locekļi, kas patstāvīgi uzturas Apvienotajā Karalistē ir jāreģistrē pastāvīgā (settled) vai pagaidu (pre-settled) iedzīvotāja statuss. Reģistrēšanās termiņš ir 2021.gada 30.jūnijš. Jautājumam vai neskaidrību gadījumā droši varat sazināties ar mums. Nodrošinām bezmaksas, akreditētu informāciju un konsultācijas.



Visi JK gyvenantys ES / EEE / Šveicarijos piliečiai ir jų šeimos nariai turi kreiptis pagal ES Nuolatinio gyventojo programą dėl nuolatinio arba preliminarus gyventojo statuso iki 2021 m. birželio mėn. Jei jums reikia pagalbos dėl jūsų paraiškų, susisieki su mumis - mes teikiame NEMOKAMĄ ir REGLAMENTUOTĄ informaciją bei patarimus.



Iedereen die in de UK woont en de EU, EEA of de Zwitserse nationaliteit heeft is verplicht om 'Settled' of 'Pre-settled Status' aan te vragen bij de EU Settlement Scheme. Dit moet voor het einde van juni 2021 gedaan zijn. Als u hulp nodig heeft met deze aanvraag neemt u dan contact met ons op. Wij kunnen u informatie en advies geven. Deze hulp is gratis en gereguleerd.



Wszyscy obywatele Unii Europejskiej, EWG i Szwajcarii, oraz członkowie ich rodzin mieszkający na terenie Wielkiej Brytanii muszą złożyć wniosek o status osiedleńczy do 'EU Settlement Scheme'. Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy w złożeniu wniosku skontaktuj się z nami - oferujemy BEZPŁATNĄ i UREGULOWANĄ PRAWNIE informacje oraz poradę imigracyjną.



Todos os cidadãos da UE / EEE / Suíça e seus familiares que moram no Reino Unido devem solicitar o status do Acordo de liquidação da UE para liquidação ou pré-liquidação até o final de junho de 2021. Se precisar de ajuda com sua inscrição, entre em contato conosco - fornecemos informações e conselhos GRATUITOS e REGULAMENTADOS.



Cetatenii UE / EEA / Elvețieni și membrii familiei lor care locuiesc în Marea Britanie trebuie să aplice la sistemul de rezidență a cetățenilor europeni în Marea Britanie după Brexit (EU settlement scheme), pentru statutul de stabilit (settled status) sau prestabilit (pre settled status) până la sfârșitul lunii iunie 2021. Dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru aplicația dvs., contactați-ne pentru a vă oferi informații și sfaturi GRATUITE și CORECTE.



Všetci občania z krajín EÚ/EHP/Švajčiarska a ich rodinný príslušníci žijúci v Spojenom Kráľovstve Veľkej Británie musia požiadať v rámci pobytovej schémy pre občanov EÚ o Status Usadlíka, alebo Predbežný Status Usadlíka do konca júna 2021. Ak potrebujete pomocť so žiadosťou, kontaktujte nás - poskytneme informácie a REGULOVANÉ poradenstvo ZDARMA.



Todos/as los/las ciudadanos/as de la UE, el EEE y Suiza que viven en el Reino Unido, así como sus familiares, deben inscribirse en el sistema de registro de ciudadanos/as de la UE (EU settlement scheme) para solicitar su estatus de pre-asentado o asentado antes del 30/06/2021. Si necesitas ayuda con tu solicitud, ponte en contacto con nosotros. Ofrecemos asesoramiento gratuito y regulado.



Om ni bor i Storbritannien och är från länder i EU/EES eller från Schweiz, måste ni ansöka till EUs Settlement Scheme för att få bosatt eller ansökt (settled or pre-settled) status. Detta måste göras innan juni månads slut och gäller också för var och en i familjen som också bor i Storbritannien. Vi kan erbjuda gratis assistans och hjälp med er ansökan, från ett officiellt reglerat projekt. Ni kan kontakta oss enligt nedanstående detaljer.



<http://citizensrightsproject.org>



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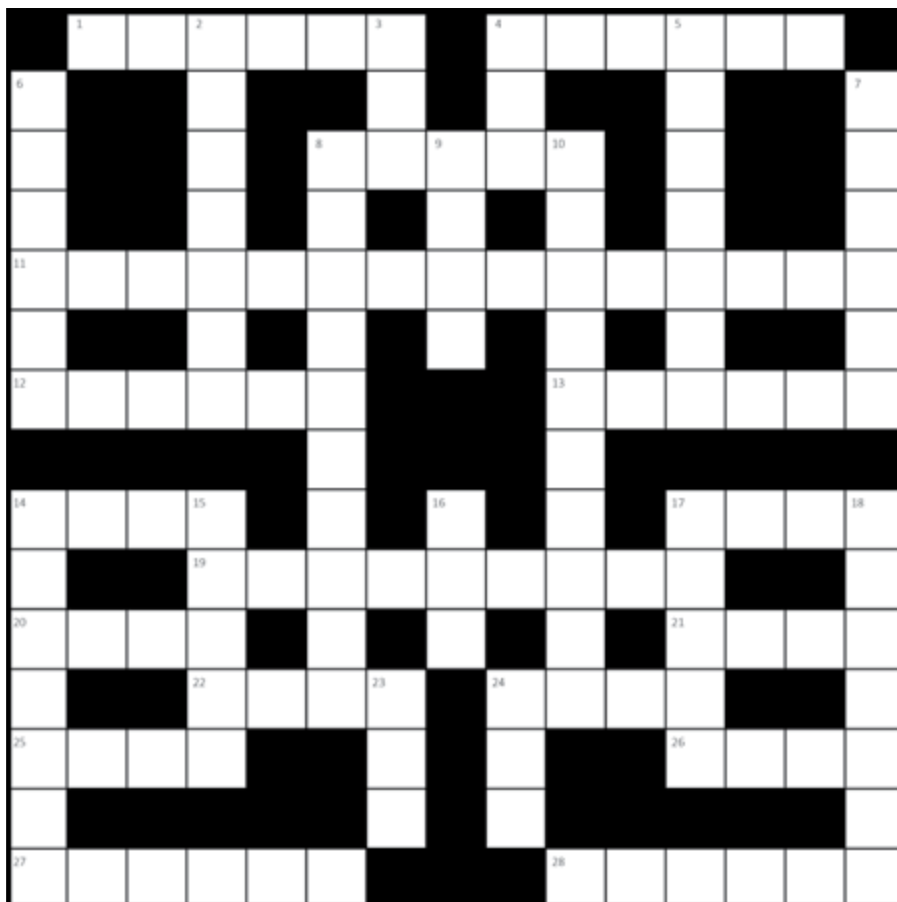



# Puzzles

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

## KINROSSWORD

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



### ACROSS

1. Name of the Knowe that leads to the side entrance into Kinross House (6)
4. Something to look forward to when Kinross pubs re-open (6)
8. Extract (oil or gas) by injecting liquid into a subterranean rock formation, borehole, etc. at high pressure (5)
11. Increased house-building in Kinross puts pressure on these (15)
12. The first cancelled exam (6)
13. Hot air (6)
14. Something to play in (4)
17. Ladies in danger from dogs off their leads (4)
19. Service provided by Sands the Iron-mongers (9)
20. A person of rank (4)
21. Hear about bird (4)
22. Go left or right (4)
24. A fever that is seen in all plagues (4)
25. Green legumes (4)
26. Period of time (4)
27. Egg timer, or when children might return to school (7)
28. Passed around (6)

## SUDOKU

6		1			2	7	8	
2		9	7				4	1
7	3				1			9
		7	3		4	9	2	
3				2		4		7
9	2		1	7		3		
4			2		3	1	7	
	1				7	8		2
	7		9	1			3	

### DOWN

2. Chip shop at the heart of Kinross? (7)
4. Sudden, repetitive, nonrhythmic motor movement or vocalisation (3)
5. Antarctic creature (7)
6. Available at The Fresh Fish Place (6)
7. Himalayan variety causing trouble at Portmoak Moss (6)
8. Newest Kinross food shop (10)
9. Distinctive impression (4)
10. Martial art (10)
14. Visible on the Kinross skyline (7)
15. Raised marks (5)
16. Feline (3)
17. Heron chick (5)
18. Swindled by believable looking text message (7)
23. A kind of sister (3)
24. Naval centre (3)





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T: 01577 864212 E: [grouseandclaret@lineone.net](mailto:grouseandclaret@lineone.net)

## Walk Like A Penguin!



Do The  
Penguin Walk  
To Avoid  
Winter Slips

Bend slightly and keep your knees loose

Point your feet out slightly



Extend your arms to your sides

Walk flat footed, taking short slow steps

Keep your centre of gravity over your feet

[www.keepwellinwinter.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.keepwellinwinter.scot.nhs.uk)



## Stephen Lyon Organisation

Support service in Kinross and surrounding areas

We help empower change and strengthening resilience  
to improve quality of life and prevent suicide.

Speak without discrimination.

Get in touch: 01577 820012

or Email: [info@slo20.com](mailto:info@slo20.com)

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# Notices



**Give a Greyhound a Home**  
[www.greyhoundrescuefife.com](http://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**

Tel: 01577 850393 (evenings)

07826 244765 (daytime)

Email: [femiejimmyf@aol.com](mailto:femiejimmyf@aol.com)



## 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:

**31 March and 30 September**

More information is available on the [kinross.cc](http://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](mailto:barrydavies57@btinternet.com)

## Kinross Garden Group

**2020/2021 Season**

*Thursday 11th February 2pm  
 At your own home via ZOOM!*

**Dick Alderson** will talk about

*'Development of a Community Area incorporating woodland  
 Wild flowers and WW1 Historical Sites'*

All welcome to join us

To find out how to do this

Contact Caroline Anderson on 01577 864589

Or [acaroline1000@gmail.com](mailto:acaroline1000@gmail.com)

## 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](http://www.thebikestation.org.uk)

The Perth Bike Station is an accredited Revolve organisation.



## Perth Citizens Advice Bureau

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)

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

## Debt and Money Advice Service

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

## Newsletter Deadlines

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

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

Issue	Deadline	Publication Date
March	Friday 12 February	Saturday 27 February 2021
April	Friday 12 March	Saturday 27 March 2021

## 100th Birthday and Diamond Wedding Anniversaries

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

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

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

Tel: 01738 475051 Email: [CivicServices@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:CivicServices@pkc.gov.uk)

## Local Correspondent


for Perthshire Advertiser  
 and Fife Herald newspapers

**Linda Freeman**

**Tel 01577 865045.**


**Email: [linda.freeman\\_64@btinternet.com](mailto:linda.freeman_64@btinternet.com)**





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Mobile: 0775 9619666 E: [sinclairtv@yahoo.com](mailto:sinclairtv@yahoo.com)

## Loch Leven Laundry

### Washing

**Due to Covid-19 impact**  
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Pick up & Delivery Available

**Phone: 01577 862 696 / 07 999 510 500**

Open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm & Saturday 9.30am to 2pm  
77 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AA (Opposite Sands the Ironmongers)




## Mr Chan's

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FOR RESERVATIONS or TAKEAWAYS

52 High Street Kinross

**TEL: 01577 863178**

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Closed all day Tuesday



## 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](http://www.kinross.cc) then 'Local Adverts' then 'Classified Adverts'). If interested in selling an item, please list it on [www.kinross.cc](http://www.kinross.cc) and it will automatically be published in the next available *Newsletter*, subject to space.

### Sorrento Tilting Chair **£1100**

A partially motorised, specialist chair to reduce pressure for those who sit most of the day. The motorised mechanism allows for easy and regular repositioning to change pressure points. On castors and easily moveable in a home setting.

Previously used for 2 years whilst my Mum was in care. Excellent condition apart from a couple of small tears on the footrest. Cost new was £2600.

**Marion Hutt** 01577 861741  
stephen950@btinternet.com

### Indian Runner Drakes **£15**

3 runner boys available (one black, one white and one grey and white). 12 weeks old. Easy to look after and fun to watch. Will keep your garden pests at bay. £10 each or £25 for 3.

**Marion Hutt** 01577 861741  
stephen950@btinternet.com

### Four matching winter wheels **£250**

Tyres and alloys. Hardly used. Loads of tread. Tyres are Nokian WRA3 225/50VR17. Alloys are Dezent 17".

**Philip Teale** 01577863559  
phil\_teale@hotmail.co.uk

### Cordless house phones **£15**

2 cordless house phones.  
Brand new. Veva 1900 with call blocker.

**Alex Penny** 01577 862943  
p22eck@hotmail.co.uk

### Dog cage **£10**

For car boot. Medium size. 26 inches x 21 inches.

**Alex Penny** 01577 862943  
p22eck@hotmail.co.uk

**Connect Counselling Scotland**  
Accessible Counselling Service  
Milnathort & Kinross Area

**Carrie Arnott PGDip**  
Person-Centred Counsellor

talk@connectcounselling.scot  
**07425 167 569**

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## Situations Vacant

### Loch Leven Health Centre is Recruiting!

We have a number of exciting opportunities for suitably qualified and experienced candidates to join our administration team.

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a broad range of administrative knowledge, skills and experience. Previous experience in the Healthcare sector would be advantageous. Please send CVs for the attention of Recruitment at Loch Leven Health Centre to [lochlevenadmin.tayside@nhs.scot](mailto:lochlevenadmin.tayside@nhs.scot)

### Remember FACTS for a safer Scotland

**F** Face coverings

**A** Avoid crowded places

**C** Clean your hands regularly

**T** Two metre distance

**S** Self isolate and book a test if you have symptoms







[nhsinform.scotland/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/inform-scotland/coronavirus)  
#WeAreScotland




### Grants and Funding Websites

[www.pkgrantsdirect.com](http://www.pkgrantsdirect.com)  
[www.foundationscotland.org.uk](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk)

### Mindspace Recovery College

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



### Homes for Cats Wanted

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

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

Contact Rhona on 01383 830286.







Lifelong support for our Forces and their families

**WHO ARE WE?** We are the national charity, which for nearly 140 years has been helping serving and ex-service men and women, Regular and Reservist, and their families, in need. Eligibility is based on only one day's paid service.

**WHERE ARE WE?** There are 91 branches all over the UK, of which 22 are in Scotland. They all operate with a network of trained volunteers in the local area, to look into cases with understanding and sensitivity. Many of the volunteers are ex-Services themselves. The Perth and Kinross Branch has an office

in Queen's Barracks, Perth – courtesy of 7th Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland. So far this year, despite Covid 19, the Branch has looked after over 80 cases. Our Branch Patron is the Provost of Perth and Kinross who, with his council staff, are wonderful supporters.

**WHAT DO WE DO?** We take immediate action whenever there is hardship and need. Our help and advice is totally confidential, and we help all ages. We work closely with other agencies, and service charities, and help can vary hugely...

We may help a war widow manage her bills; an ex Serviceman with a mobility challenge; assist a Service family with a special needs child, or a returned veteran from Iraq or Afghanistan conflicts.

Last year we helped 50,000+ cases in UK. <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/>

**HELP, ADVICE, FRIENDSHIP** Please don't hesitate to get in touch: SSAFA, Perth & Kinross Branch Queen's Barracks, 131 Dunkeld Road, PERTH PH1 5BT Tel: 01738 625346 (with ansaphone) or Email: [Perth.Branch@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:Perth.Branch@ssafa.org.uk)

**PATRON – HM THE QUEEN Reg Charity –SCO 38056**

## 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.

[ptb.kinross@bethanyct.com](mailto:ptb.kinross@bethanyct.com)

t: 07747 018 550

## Perth & Kinross School Term Dates 2021

Inservice day: Wed 10 Feb 2021

Occasional holidays: Thurs 11 Feb and Fri 12 Feb 2021

Term ends: Thurs 1 April 2021

Spring holiday: Fri 2 April 2021 – Fri 16 April 2021

## Kinross Recycling Centre

Bridgend Industrial Estate

Opening Times:

**Mon - Fri 9am - 7pm**

**Sat - Sun 9am - 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.

## 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.

Full details, including how to apply via our online application link, can be found at:

[www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/kinross-shire-fund](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/kinross-shire-fund)

## Community Councils

**Kinross:** Chair: Bill Freeman, 01577 865045  
Email: [kinrosscommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kinrosscommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

**Milnathort & Orwell:** Chair: Craig Williams, 07885 722125  
Email: [craig@stovestuff.scot](mailto:craig@stovestuff.scot)  
Sec: Elizabeth Rougvie  
Email: [communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com](mailto:communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com)

**Portmoak:** Chair: Graham Cox  
Email: [portmoakcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:portmoakcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk)

**Fossoway & District:** Chair: Trudy Duffy-Wigman, 01577 840669  
Email: [fossoway.cc@gmail.com](mailto:fossoway.cc@gmail.com)

**Cleish** Sec: Patty Fraser, 01577 850253

**& Blairadam:** Email: [cleishcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:cleishcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk)

## Kinross Community Councillors

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

## Portmoak Community Councillors

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

Have a look at our website: [www.portmoak.org](http://www.portmoak.org)

## Perth and Kinross Councillors Kinross-shire Ward

**CLlr MIKE BARNACLE** (*Independent*)  
Tel/Fax (home): 01577 840516.  
Email: [michaelabarnacle@gmail.com](mailto:michaelabarnacle@gmail.com)  
Website: [mikebarnacle.co.uk](http://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](mailto:cpurves@pkc.gov.uk)  
54 Lathro Park, Kinross, KY13 8RU

**CLlr WILLIE ROBERTSON** (*Scottish Liberal Democrats*)  
Tel (home): 01577 865178. Mobile: 07909 884042.  
Email: [wbrobertson@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:wbrobertson@pkc.gov.uk)  
85 South Street, Milnathort, Kinross, KY13 9XA

**CLlr RICHARD WATTERS** (*SNP*)  
Mobile: 07557 812513.  
Email: [rwatters@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:rwatters@pkc.gov.uk)  
Applegarth, Sunnypark, Kinross, KY13 8BX

## John Nicolson MP Member of Parliament for Ochil and South Perthshire

Telephone: 020 7219 3000  
Email: [john.nicolson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:john.nicolson.mp@parliament.uk)  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mrjohnnicolson>  
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/JohnNicolsonSNP>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/johnnicolsonmp>

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

### Roseanna Cunningham MSP

Constituency office: 63 Glasgow Road, Perth, PH2 0PE  
Telephone: 01738 620540  
Email: [roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot](mailto: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](mailto:claire.baker.msp@parliament.scot)

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Mobile Library Service

All Library services are cancelled for the foreseeable future  
For more information, see: [www.culturepk.org.uk/libraries](http://www.culturepk.org.uk/libraries)  
and click on 'Services in the Community'

## Perth Samaritans

Need to talk? We'll listen.

Contact us by

**phone:** 01738 626666 or 08457 909090

**email:** [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

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

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

**No pressure, no names, no judgment.**  
**We're here for you, anytime.**

## Enquire

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

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

For more information contact: Tel 0345 123 2303

Website: [www.enquire.org.uk](http://www.enquire.org.uk)

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



# Diary

All events are subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions.

All meetings listed are held on Zoom.

## February

2nd	Tues	<b>Fossoway and District CC Meets</b>	58
8th	Mon	KLEO (Kinross Local Events Organisation) AGM	63
8th	Mon	Inner Wheel meets (Talk on U3A)	63
9th	Tues	<b>Portmoak CC Meets</b>	61
10th	Wed	PKC schools inservice day	106
11-12th	Thur/Fri	PKC schools occasional holidays	106
11th	Thurs	Kinross Garden Group	65
11th	Thurs	<b>Milnathort CC Meets</b>	59
14th	Sun	Deadline for Young Writer Competition	98
25th	Tues	<b>Kinross CC Meets</b>	55

## March

22nd	Mon	Bank of Scotland to close its doors	7
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## April

24th	Sat	Farmers' Market in Kinross High Street 10am-2pm	63
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### Blue-lidded bin

Collected every TWO WEEKS

**YES** ✓

**Paper**

- ✓ Newspapers & magazines
- ✓ Office paper
- ✓ Directories & books
- ✓ Envelopes (including windowed envelopes)
- ✓ Unwanted mail
- ✓ Shredded paper
- ✓ Gift wrap (non-metallic)

**Cardboard**

- ✓ Food & drinks cartons eg Tetra Pak®
- ✓ Cardboard packaging
- ✓ Ready meal sleeves
- ✓ Toilet & kitchen roll tubes
- ✓ Cardboard egg cartons
- ✓ Greetings cards

**Plastic Bottles & Containers**

- ✓ Tubs, food trays & punnets
- ✓ Yoghurt pots
- ✓ Detergent bottles
- ✓ Plastic drinks bottles
- ✓ Shampoo bottles
- ✓ Plastic sauce bottles
- ✓ All bottles tops

**Tins & Cans**

- ✓ Aerosol cans
- ✓ Biscuit tins
- ✓ Sweets tins
- ✓ Food tins
- ✓ Drinks cans
- ✓ Pet food cans
- ✓ Metal jar lids

**NO** ✗

- ✗ Glass
- ✗ Black sacks
- ✗ Nappies
- ✗ Plastic film or bags
- ✗ Food contaminated packaging
- ✗ Foil packaging
- ✗ Polystyrene

**Rinse**

**Flatten**

Place recycling loose in your blue-lidded bin

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

[www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk) (PKC Design Team - 2018087)

## Worried about weight loss?

Lost interest in cooking or eating?

Clothes or rings getting loose?

Call our tayside wide advice line

**01738 450 556**

MONDAY 09:30 - 12:30  
WEDNESDAY 15:00 - 18:00  
FRIDAY 12:00 - 15:00

[tay.getnourished@nhs.scot](mailto:tay.getnourished@nhs.scot)