



Kinross Newsletter

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DEADLINE

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Contributions For Inclusion In The Newsletter

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

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(all emails will be acknowledged)

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Editor's Page

Cover design by Lee Sammacca of Cree8

Letter from The Editor

It's sometimes difficult to believe that only a year ago life was so very different to the way it is now. Shops that seemed to be part of the fabric of the High Street have disappeared forever from bigger cities but, thankfully, although our businesses have undoubtedly struggled, we haven't lost any shops in Kinross – and we've even been able to welcome a couple of fantastic new retailers.

There is a note of cautious optimism in the air, with all of our school-children set to return full time after the Easter holidays, hairdressers due to re-open in the next few days and restaurants gearing up to serve us a meal indoors once again. If we've learnt anything over the past year, it's to take none of those things for granted.

Ross Mitchell has, by the time this *Newsletter* goes to print, completed more than 365 days of taking his portrait photos of Kinross-shire residents out for their daily walks near Loch Leven. You can see his photos on p35-37 and read about what has inspired him to carry on. What an achievement! Ross has been something of a constant for many of us, during such uncertain times, and we have looked forward to seeing his Facebook posts at the end of the day.

It's been an eventful month with some good news: funding has been announced for the Heritage Trail and also for the Pier Car Park, which is set to look quite different when work is completed. You can see the plans on p12. There was also great excitement – not to mention trepidation – when an

unexploded bomb, almost certainly a relic from the Second World War, was discovered in a garden in Milnathort. Luckily it ended well for all concerned – read about it on p14.

As usual, residents and businesses of Kinross-shire continue to inspire us with their fundraising efforts. The community has pulled together to help NatureScot raise money to replace the Mill Hide, which was destroyed in a fire (p7). And Sam Allen, of Kinnesswood is taking to running up and down his local Benarty Hill, many times over, to raise much needed funds for the Michael Bruce Cottage Museum. (p17).

I think we are all feeling a little brighter with the advent of spring and at least we know we can look forward to longer, lighter days with more sunshine and blue skies. Let's hope that all the other things we are looking forward to also come about, after so many months of putting them on hold or cancelling them completely. No one can say for certain what the next few months will hold, but we are beginning at last to look forward to the rest of 2021 with a renewed sense of energy.

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	CCllr: Community Councillor

About The Kinross Newsletter

The *Kinross 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.

Traffic On New Road, Milnathort

We live on New Road, Milnathort which runs through the middle of the village. While we are very lucky to live in such a lovely area, I have noticed more and more recently that people who drive to visit the shops in the village seem to be sitting with engines running while they eat ice creams, use their phones or just wait for people who are in the shops. New Road itself is getting busier, which I guess we can't do anything about, but I feel it is really inconsiderate of people sitting with engines running while they are parked. It's getting to the stage where I can't walk from our house to the cross in the middle of the village without passing 2 or 3 cars doing this. This is mainly in the area outside the local shops.

Our local councillor, Willie Robertson, has been really helpful and notified the local police who say they will carry out more patrols if they can and also the local community council to raise awareness of the issue.

The police advise not to approach people and challenge them on this, which I agree is good advice but this is difficult not to do, especially when you see people who do this regularly.

As I understand it this is an offence under the road traffic act but I'm more concerned about local air quality, as we have a 5-year-old daughter, as well as environmental impact in general.

I presume people feel it is ok to do this at is outside shops but perhaps don't appreciate that people like ourselves actually live in the village and walk past these cars every day.

If you are visiting the shops in the village by car, please could I ask you to show consideration for local residents and switch your engines off while you are waiting.

Thank you.

*Murdo McHardy
Milnathort*



Kinross Railway: Practical Or Pie In The Sky?

WHILE IT MAY BE a wish for a rail link to the Fife circle from Cowdenbeath to Perth and thus link Kinross by rail to Edinburgh, there are major questions that need to be answered even before one is considered. Not least is the question as to the route to be taken and the actual cost, given what has happened to the course of the old railway line since its closure in the 1970s.

Where rail links have been re-established elsewhere the main advantage was that much of the route of the railway that had been closed as a result of Dr Beeching still existed, this is not the case with the Cowdenbeath to Perth link. The original line branched off outside Cowdenbeath at Lumphinnans, an area which has now been built upon in a number of places. It proceeded to stations at Kelty Junction close to the old Aiken Pits and mineral lines which served mining in the area, then on to Blairadam Station and Kinross Station to Milnathort and Mawcarse where it branched to go through to Glenfarg, Bridge of Earn and then Perth.

Looking at this railway, which I am old enough to remember and have used as a youngster, there appears to be major difficulties in re-establishing this route. The course of the line has been developed not only at Cowdenbeath but elsewhere on its route. To the north the embankments that were in place have been levelled, not least those that ran through or close to the Aitkin Colliery which is now part of Lochore Meadows Country Park. Further north, what was Blairadam Station is now a private house and other homes and buildings have been built on the course of the railway at the side of the B996 (old A90). The B909 Vane Farm Road (South Loch Road) went over a railway bridge close to the B906. This was removed years ago. While the bridge over the old railway line still exists at Bridge End in Kinross, houses have been built on this part of the route, as well as on much of Junction Road, Sainsburys, Davis Park and parts of the 'Wimpey Estate', Lathro Park, the Persimmons development and the list goes on.

The line branched to the north at Mawcarse and much of the original route through Glenfarg is now part of the M90. In Bridge of Earn there are again houses and housing developments built on the course of the old line with a large housing estate now existing where it meets the current line into Perth from North Fife.

Given this, it would appear that the cost of purchasing all the land required, creating new tunnels and embank-



Letters

ments could be prohibitive. New homes would need to be built to re-house people as not all the houses are private homes. This would be the case even if the line stopped at Kinross. Would such an expense justify the use to which the line would be put, especially if it did stop in Kinross-shire? Or is there another route being proposed? If so, from where?

Bob Corrieri

Reopening The Train Line Through Kinross And Milnathort Is A Non-Starter

THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE UK ban on sales of new diesel and petrol car sales by 2030. The carbon cost of building a Kinross railway would be astronomical compared to the carbon savings. By the time it would be built all cars will be powered by renewable energy and not oil, so transport by electric train would have a negligible effect on the carbon usage of people going from Perth to Edinburgh.

With Scotland about to hit its 100% renewable electricity target, the carbon cost of construction becomes one of the primary issues and cannot be justified.

Two infrastructure projects that could benefit Kinross-shire would be a train halt at Halbeath Park & Ride and bringing the trams from Edinburgh airport over the old road bridge to Ferrytoll Park & Ride.

Of concern is the Kinross-shire power grid, as most houses are fused for 1 Phase 63 Amp, and ideally to charge a car without much waiting you need a house to have an extra 3

Phase 32A socket. This would require extra wiring for most houses and the street cabling. Do we need to provide grants for this to get it done?

There is also the need to provide far more public car charging points, and has the Kinross shire grid the ability to cope with the extra load.

So, if there is transport infrastructure money available, spend it on coping with car electrification, not on a rail link.

Rhoderick Moncreiff

I MUST DECLARE MYSELF as having a love of trains and train journeys; in fact, most things train apart from the high price of tickets and crowded compartments. A train-link from Kinross, attractive as it is, may not be feasible in terms of practicability or cost, particularly in the coming period of inevitable economic pressure post-pandemic. Other priorities and pressures on the public purse will rightly be given precedence.

An alternative and perhaps more realistic option might lie in improving the already successful Park and Ride schemes by increasing space capacity. Increasing the number of direct Express services, particularly to Glasgow from Dunfermline, increasing the number of buses from Kinross and putting an end to long-stay holiday or overnight parking – Dunfermline – would be a good start. This would be a discussion more likely to bear fruit.

Essie Tough

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UK Government Spending In Scotland

I READ THE LETTER from Susan Forde in the March Newsletter about UK Government spending in Scotland.

She wrote; "Only 57% of the taxes paid by the people of Scotland is returned to Scotland. The other 43% is retained to pay for the House of Lords, HS2, nuclear power stations in England, and the vast expense of illegal weapons. Scotland is a net contributor to Westminster. For comparison: every £1 pro rata sent to the EU got back £17 – a better deal than 57p in the £1."

Ms. Forde is obviously unaware that the Scottish Government publishes something called Government Expenditure & Revenue (GERS) every year, prepared by qualified and independent statisticians. The publication is overseen, approved and published by the SNP ministers.

It tells us that in 2019/20, Scotland's economy raised £66 billion in revenue. Holyrood spent £48 billion, but here is the bit that Ms. Forde conveniently overlooks. The fact is that Westminster spends an additional £33 billion of spending both for and in Scotland (mainly pensions and benefits, but also network rail costs, research & innovation investment, R&D tax credits, Foreign Office costs, DWP and HMRC staff, etc.).

So, in fact, total government spending in Scotland is £81 billion versus our revenue of £66 billion, a deficit of £15 billion. Therefore every £1 sent to Westminster brings us back £1.23 in spending, and not 57 pence as Ms. Forde states.

Just to confirm, these are not my opinions. These are the facts as published by the Scottish Government.

The bottom line here is that no rational interpretation of

the data could conclude that Scotland gets back less than it sends to Westminster. Accepting this is not to deny the possibility of independence, but if independence is such a good idea, you would think that supporters would use facts instead of fiction.

Alan Thomson
Kinross

We need your help! We want to streamline the online resources for the community so that information about Kinross-shire can be found and shared in one place online.

We'd love your input as to the type of information you'd like to see, what you think is unnecessary, and any other comments you might have that will help us to create a resource that really works for Kinross-shire and everyone in it.

Soon we'll be sharing a survey link where you can have your say. Look out for the link on social media. We're also delighted that several local businesses have offered to share a poster with additional details and a link to the survey too.

This is your Kinross-shire, help us make sure we celebrate everything *that goes on in our area in a way that works for everyone.*

Kinross-shire Community Website

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Community Help Re-Build The Mill Hide

THE COMMUNITY has rallied round to help rebuild the Mill Hide, which was burned to the ground in February.

Neil Mitchell, from NatureScot, told the *Newsletter*:

‘The sheer volume of positive thoughts and offers of help we have received is truly astonishing. Encouraged by the many offers of support from the community, we are leading a campaign to raise funds to re-build the hide through MyParkScotland, Scotland’s only crowdfunding site specifically for nature reserves, parks and greenspaces.’

Their crowd funder for the hide repairs is available here: www.mypark.scot/projects/rebuild-the-mill-hide/

So far over £15,000 has been raised for the project. The original hide cost about £35,000 and it is anticipated that the replacement cost will be about the same. NatureScot hope to find the remaining funds to rebuild in 2021, and thanks to the generosity of the Kinross-shire community they are now off to a great start.

Meanwhile, local business Loch Leven Brewery have created a limited edition *Pheonix* beer; half of all sales of the beer will go to NatureScot.

Brewery director Thomas Moffat said, ‘Like everyone else, we were shocked at the news of the fire. We wanted to help raise funds for the new bird hide. The name Phoenix came to me and it seemed perfect, because it was a bird rising from



a fire.’ Interest in the Pheonix beer was recently boosted thanks to a re-tweet by author Ian Rankin.

NatureScot’s Neil Mitchell said: ‘We’re really pleased that Loch Leven Brewery is supporting the Mill Hide rebuild project’.

£160,000 FOR LOCH LEVEN HERITAGE TRAIL

AS REPORTED BY COUNCILLOR Willie Robertson in his column last month, many residents of Kinross-shire are very concerned about the current condition of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail. Since the trail was officially opened in 2014, no major works have been carried out to repair it. The path has become badly eroded in several places and also requires widening in other sections. There are also some sections that are prone to flooding. Cllr Robertson made a bid as part of the Council’s 2021/22 budget for £160,000 to help restore the path to an excellent condition.

He says, ‘I am delighted to say that my bid was successful. The Heritage Trail is an extremely well-used community asset and it mustn’t be allowed to deteriorate. The investment that has been secured will allow the damaged sections to be repaired and make the trail once more usable by everyone, including users of mobility scooters and cycling trishaws.’

A spokesperson from NatureScot told the *Newsletter*:

‘NatureScot are pleased that Perth & Kinross Council are funding and undertaking much needed maintenance and improvement work on the Loch Leven Heritage Trail. With around 250,000 visitors each year, bringing an estimated £2m in economic benefit to the surrounding area, the NNR and the Trail will be valuable assets to Kinrosshire in our green recovery from the Covid crisis.

‘We look forward to supporting and working with Perth & Kinross Council and TRACKS as they undertake this important work on the Trail.’

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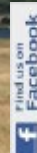
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DEREK'S CD HITS THE SHOPS!

AFTER HEARING ABOUT HIS recordings of songs for friends and family during lockdown, here at *The Kinross Newsletter* we were delighted to hear that Derek had decided to pursue the idea of making a CD in aid of CHAS. Good news! Derek has been working hard and his CD, *The Gift You Are*, has now been produced. It will be available in lots of our local shops and outlets from the end of March, and costs £10 in aid of CHAS.

Derek told the *Newsletter*, 'I am delighted that the CD has finally been created and that I have the opportunity to share some of my favourite songs and favourite songwriters with everyone.'

Some songs may bring back memories and some may introduce people to new artists and their work but above all, I hope people enjoy listening to it.

I am looking forward to seeing it in the shops, and thank you to all the businesses who have agreed to stock *The Gift You Are*. You have all been so positive and supportive of such a wonderful and worthy cause.'

CHAS are equally thrilled at the outcome of the venture. Lynsey Stobie, Community Fundraiser for CHAS told us, 'Everyone at CHAS is so touched by Derek's musical endeavour to raise money to help us support so many children and their families across Scotland. To see so much local support from both Stewart and Smart Garage and Loch Leven's Larder, as well as all of the shops that have offered to stock the CD, is also truly overwhelming. We can't thank everyone enough for their support. It's been a pleasure to listen to Derek's music and we're sure that everyone else who purchases the CD will get the same amount of enjoyment as we have. It's such a positive project to have come out of a very difficult time for so many people.'



CD STOCKISTS

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- *Loch Leven's Larder*
- *Glenfarg Village Shop*
- *Giacopazzis*
- *Baillies Newsagents*
- *Hunters of Kinross*
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Milnathort

- *Stewart and Smart*
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Milnathort School Covid Scare

MILNATHORT NURSERY SCHOOL was forced to close in March only a few weeks after re-opening, after several children and staff tested positive for Covid-19.

It was a bittersweet Monday for the school staff who were welcoming all their P4-P7 children back into the building on one hand but had to close the doors of the nursery with the other.

The school staff are currently working with NHS Tay-side, Public Health Scotland and Perth & Kinross's education and children's services to contain the outbreak. Less than a week after schools returned, more than 200 pupils and staff members in the Perth & Kinross area have had to self-isolate.

'I appreciate that this will be an anxious and worrying time,' said headteacher, Sandra McColgan.

Families of nursery children were sent letters detailing their isolation dates. Close contacts may also have been asked to stay home for up to 10 days and were also asked to take a test at the start of the isolation period. Those who develop symptoms have also been asked to arrange a test.



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LOCAL COUNCILLORS TO TRIAL DEVOLUTION FOR KINROSS-SHIRE

LOCAL COUNCILLORS HAVE PLEDGED to pilot a devolved decision-making committee for Kinross-shire.

The county of Kinross was established in the thirteenth century with the parishes of Kinross and Orwell (Milnathort). An Act of Parliament in 1685 expanded it to include the parishes of Cleish, Portmoak and Tullibole (Fossoway). Kinross-shire formed a joint county council with Perthshire in 1929 before being amalgamated into the new Perth and Kinross District Council in 1975 and its modern-day successor from 1996.

The scheme, which was part of the Perth and Kinross Council budget passed on 10 March 2010, would give Kinross-shire ward councillors more control over local decisions and budgets and will also seek to involve community councils and other local groups.

The scheme could consider taking local decisions on priorities such as local economic development, tourism, community transport, road safety, footpaths and local infrastructure projects. The initial pilot will not, however, cover quasi-judicial matters such as the determination of planning and licensing applications.

Plans to introduce a devolved decision-making committee have previously been backed by all six community councils covering Kinross-shire.

Commenting, Councillor Callum Purves, said: 'Despite becoming subsumed into Perth and Kinross Council a number of decades ago, Kinross-shire has retained its local identity: often the priorities of local residents differ from those across Perth and Kinross and the decisions made in Perth.'

'I am delighted to have been able to secure funding for this scheme, which is a first step towards restoring some of the powers that were lost when Kinross-shire ceased to be a county in its own right. It will put Kinross-shire residents back at the heart of local decisions.'

MSP Liz Smith added: 'We believe that our local communities are best placed to make the decisions that most affect them. Kinross-shire has a rich history and a strong sense of community. This trial will empower local residents.'

Independent Councillor Mike Barnacle, who backed the plans, commented: 'I was glad to see that the Conservative budget motion included funding to support a pilot devolved committee for Kinross-shire. This is something that I have campaigned for throughout my term of office since 1999. Councillor Purves and I had more recently been working on



proposals for the scheme and this budget commitment will deliver on them.

'I think this proposal will be warmly welcomed across the Kinross-shire community.'

Councillor Willie Robertson had this to say. 'I am delighted that my colleague Councillor Mike Barnacle has managed to get the Council's Conservative administration to agree to fund a pilot area committee for Kinross-shire. It is a long-held ambition of his. The hard work will now begin. We must show that an area committee will work and is able to make a valuable contribution to service delivery and decision making in Kinross-shire. As I write this, I am still not sure what powers the committee will have or what budget will be set to be decided locally, but, as a Liberal Democrat, I believe that as many decisions as possible should be taken locally. As councillors we work with all our community councils and local organisations and are aware of the priorities of local people. We have a history in this county of working together to achieve shared objectives. A local area committee if it is adequately funded and supported by the Council will help to address local priorities quickly and effectively. If we can make a success of this, I am sure that local area committees will follow in other parts of Perth & Kinross. I will do my best to make our area committee a success.'

Meal Makers Is Back!

IT HAS BEEN NEARLY a year since the start of the pandemic and nearly 8 months since Meal Makers launched back into



Perth and Kinross. We've made some wonderful matches which are blossoming into friendships. Our volunteer cooks are carefully complying with the guidelines which mean no visits inside, so meals are passed through windows or left on doorsteps. We are making an appeal for diners in Kinross-shire as

we have several cooks inducted and ready to start cooking. The befriending side is still on hold until the Government says it is safe to do so. Pictured is one of our newest P&K pairings: the diner looks forward to a homecooked meal each week and they both enjoy a distanced chat on the doorstep.

Meal Makers are particularly keen to reach older people who may not have access to the internet. Anyone aged 55 years and older can refer themselves or be referred by friends, family or a statutory organisation by calling 0800 783 7770 or by signing up at www.mealmakers.org.uk/Home/SuggestDiner. We are always looking to sign up new cooks too!

NEW PIER CAR PARK PLANS

THE KINROSS ESTATE COMPANY made a planning application just over a year ago to improve car parking facilities beside the Pier and Boathouse in Kinross. The car park, originally for anglers, has become more popular over the last ten years or so as one of the starting points for the Loch Leven Heritage Trail.

Unfortunately, it has never been upgraded from being a basic anglers' car park and does not create a good impression for visitors to Kinross and the loch.

Now planning permission and crucial funding is in place, the project can go ahead – thanks to PKC and their Town Centre Fund, without which this would not be possible.

The contract is signed and work is due to start. The project is scheduled to take 4 months and will, all being well, be complete by the end of July. In order to ensure that public access is maintained throughout, together with some car parking capacity, the project is being split into two main phases which are shown on the bottom photo. The 1st phase will be the pink shaded area furthest from the Boathouse beside the Car Auction fence. When that is complete, phase 2 will be the green shaded section closest to the Boathouse.



Jamie Montgomery, Director of the Kinross Estate Company said, 'One of the key aims has been to improve both pedestrian and vehicle access from the High Street. The road between Sandport and the car park is going to be widened but will only have its final surface laid towards the end of the project. However, one of the first things the contractor is going to do is to create a new path for pedestrians alongside the road to avoid them having to walk on the road itself and dodge the cars as has been the case until now.'

'Once the car park is complete, it will hopefully be a facility that Kinross can be proud of and an appropriate gateway with which to impress visitors on arrival.'

'The Boathouse Restaurant will definitely be reopened at some stage although in precisely which form is still being actively discussed.'



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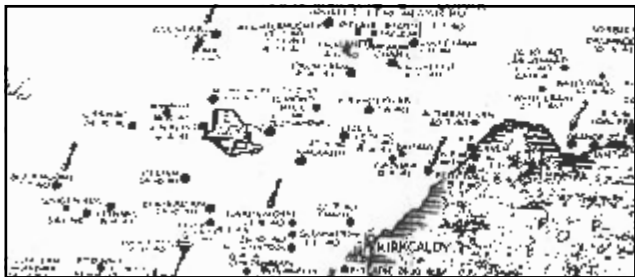
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UNEXPLODED BOMB REMOVED FROM MILNATHORT GARDEN

FRIDAY 12 MARCH WAS no average start to the weekend for those living in Milnathort, following the discovery of an unexploded bomb in a garden. Police cordoned off an area on Victoria Avenue in Milnathort while specialist teams investigated. The item, believed to be an ordnance device dating back many years, was found on Friday afternoon.

A police spokeswoman said the homes were evacuated as a 'precaution', and Police Scotland reported that after specialist teams examined the item it was removed from the area. No one was injured by the incident and no damage was caused to any property.

At the time of the incident a Police Scotland spokesperson



said: 'Officers are in attendance in Milnathort after what is believed to be an unexploded ordnance device was found in the Victoria Avenue area. A cordon remains in place while specialist teams examine the item. A number of properties have been evacuated as a precaution.'

The official presence was, naturally, considerable. Three police vans were in attendance as well as other police vehicles, army bomb squad units, and a further emergency service vehicle arriving on the scene just after 7pm. All residents within 100 metres of the device were evacuated from their homes. Some residents were left outside their homes for several hours and were not able to return until 1am.

The device was discovered by Daniel Webster and Stewart Brown after moving a boulder, while renovating the back garden of a home owned by Mr Webster. The device was described as being heavy, about a foot long, and was initially thought to be a WW2 cylinder bomb.

One Milnathort resident told the *Newsletter*, 'When we saw the police cars outside our windows we rushed out to see what had happened. The entire New Road was blocked and a policeman was stopping all the cars. We didn't know at that point what had happened and I felt concerned as my daughter was out on a walk with a friend.'

'The news about the bomb came from Facebook, but this



made me even more worried as we had no idea where exactly it was found. It could have been in our neighbour's garden. So, I started wondering why we were not evacuated and contacted my friends who live nearby to check if they were fine. I found out that the bomb was found on Victoria Avenue, so we were a good distance away. This explained why we were not evacuated, but it was surprising that the police did not inform us.

My daughter could not get home from the walk through the village so she had to walk along the golf course and cross the stream to get to the house from the back.

My husband said it made great news to tell friends at work! When I told my friend in Poland yesterday, she told me it had even been on the Polish news! So Milnathort became famous for a day, but it makes you wonder if I should be more careful from now on when digging in the garden.'

Much discussion on the bomb's origins ensued on social media groups after the event. One theory is that it was the among the last of the cargo of a German WWII bomber, disposed of at random after a bombing raid on Dundee.

The map (inset), showing where bombs were dropped in the local area was given to Portmoak Primary a few years ago. It gives a date of 1 November 1940 for bombing activity over Milnathort, although it is not known if the Victoria Avenue bomb is from that date.

A spokesperson for the Army bomb disposal section could not be contacted for comment.



Reminiscence Project For Care Homes



social connections amongst care-home residents and others who have been most severely impacted by the pandemic.

A Place In Time will bring together local historians, singers, musicians, writers and artists to compile a film library of stories, music and songs about the history of Perthshire and Kinross-shire – all designed to prompt reminiscence and encourage people to share their stories. Participants will be invited to write or record memories, compile personal archives and audio playlists, as well as share messages of positivity – Pocket Positives – with local schoolchildren, from their own life experiences.

The project has been awarded more than £7000 from The National Lottery Community Fund and is being delivered in partnership with Culture Perth and Kinross, whose archive collections will add a rich resource of material to the project.

The films will be made available on the Generating Opportunity website (www.generatingopportunity.com) and YouTube channel over the next 6-8 weeks. There will be written support materials and guidance for people to tell and share their stories, with support to access audio equipment as required. People who wish to share their living memories will be invited to contribute to an anthology of prose and poetry to be published later this year, called Brighter Days Ahead.

At the end of the project, recordings collected will be add-

ed to the Perth and Kinross Archive's oral history collection.

'We are delighted to be delivering a project that we hope will bring a sense of comfort, wellbeing and enjoyment to residents of care homes and others in our community who have suffered so much during the pandemic,' says Project Co-ordinator Linda Grant.

'In partnership with Culture Perth and Kinross and the fantastic community of artists and creative practitioners involved, we will record and celebrate the life stories of our participants. Their living memories and messages of positivity will create a sense of place, time and connection between people, that will enable us to help our community build back better. We would like as many people as possible to participate, including members of care and support groups and individuals in hospital or in the community, who have been isolated through their personal situations or health conditions.'

The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland Chair Kate Still commented: 'I would like to congratulate Generating Opportunity on their award. Theirs is an important project and will support people now and in the future when they can physically come back together to make great things happen in their community.'

Jordan Irvine, Senior Officer Communities and Learning at Culture Perth and Kinross added: 'We are excited to be a partner in this project supporting people to reminisce and record their living memories, with the opportunity for these to live on as part of the Perth and Kinross Archive. The world moves at such a fast pace now that we must not forget how the past has shaped the present.'

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Sam Brings Everest To Kinnesswood!

A TEENAGER FROM KINNESSWOOD

has set himself the challenge to climb Mount Everest – or the equivalent of – in our very own Kinnesswood. 14-year-old Sam Allen is raising money for the Michael Bruce Cottage Museum in the village, which has sadly fallen into a state of disrepair.

Sam's challenge will take him 20 days, starting on 20 March (the first day of spring). He is going to race up Bishop's hill, and is hoping to take seconds off his time with each attempt. While Sam does not have any grand ambition to climb Mount Everest for real in the future, he says he felt very lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the world during lockdown and really appreciates the hill on his doorstep. He told the *News-letter*, 'I am sure if I lived in a city I would be less happy, and climbing every day has really helped.'

Sam has fond memories of a school trip to the Michael Bruce Cottage museum when he was a pupil at Portmoak Primary School. Sam said, 'I want the museum to be around for future generations. It's a place I should be able to take my grandchildren. Recently there has been water coming in the bottom floor which is really sad to see.' Sam remembers that when he was 10 he showed his American family around the museum when they visited Scotland, and now he wants to do whatever he can to help with the renovations.

Repairs were put on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions and




Photos: The Courier

the pandemic has also led to a decrease in local fundraisers which would normally support community projects like this one. As well as unwanted water in the building, the walls and ceilings need renovation and there are exterior fixings (thack stone and chimney, ornament halfway up the gable) that are in need of repair. The walls in the cottage garden also need to be repaired. You can donate at:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/climbing-for-kinnesswood






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September Date For The Fossoway Gathering

IN THE HOPE AND EXPECTATION of lockdown restrictions easing, the 2021 Fossoway Gathering will take place in Crook of Devon on Saturday 4th September. It promises to be a post-Lockdown community celebration to remember!

In addition to activities for all ages in and outside the main arena, The Gathering will bring together a large number of community organisations demonstrating a fantastic range of opportunities and activities for members of our communities to engage in and enjoy. The various marquees will provide space for local artisan businesses too. On-site catering and refreshments will add to what promises to be a hugely enjoyable event. To bring the festivities to a close in the evening this year we are introducing a not to be missed Fossoway Gathering Ceilidh.

The Fossoway Gathering was revived in 2019 after a 13 year absence and proved a bigger event than we could have

imagined. We are keen to hear from as many local organisations, businesses and individuals that would like to participate or contribute in any way to making the 2021 event an even bigger success.

Delivering such an event requires a dedicated team of volunteers engaged in planning over the year. We also need volunteers who can give up a few hours to help with site set-up and take-down and with a variety of tasks during the day itself. Whatever your skills, there is a role for you.

Organisations or individuals wishing to take part and / or volunteer their services are asked to contact us on fossowaygathering@gmail.com

Keep up to date with event information on our Facebook page [@fossowaygathering](https://www.facebook.com/fossowaygathering)

Jim Duffy, Chair, The Fossoway Gathering Committee

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS April Deadlines For Postal & Proxy Votes

A SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY 6 MAY 2021.

The last date to apply to be registered to vote for Scottish Parliamentary elections is Monday 19 April 2021.

Voting in Person

Polling Stations will be open from 7am to 10pm on 6 May and will be following all public health advice with appropriate hygiene and physical distancing measures in place.

Postal Voting

In the current circumstances, particularly the Covid-19 pandemic, you may be thinking about voting by post.

The last day to apply for a new postal vote, or to change an existing postal or postal proxy vote for this election is 5pm on Tuesday 6 April 2021, but applications should be made at the earliest opportunity.

For electors in Perth & Kinross, visit www.tayside-vjb.gov.uk/postal-vote-perth/ for more information on how to apply for a postal vote.

Voting by Appointing a Proxy

The deadline to apply for a new proxy vote for this election is 5pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021

You can visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voting-person-post-or-proxy/voting-post to download any application forms.

If you require any information please visit www.tayside-vjb.gov.uk/electoral-registration/

If you require any further assistance please contact the Electoral Registration Officer for Perth & Kinross at perth@tayside-vjb.gov.uk or call 01738 630303.

Contributors – please send your item well before the deadline for inclusion



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Kinross First Responders: Raising Defibrillator Awareness In Our Community

THE KINROSS FIRST RESPONDERS CHARITY, with support from the local community, has so far placed seven public access defibrillators around Kinross-shire. They hope to add to this later in the year and rely on donations to allow them to maintain the defibrillators that they look after on behalf of the community.

Defibrillators, or heart-restarters as they are known, can be used in the event of a cardiac arrest to restart a patient's heart. They cannot cause harm and will only administer a shock if needed. They require no training to use and talk you through the steps to take with simple and clear instructions that anyone can follow. Bystanders can do CPR (chest compressions) to keep blood flowing around the patient's body whilst a defibrillator is obtained, or an ambulance arrives.

As a local volunteer run charity, they are trying to increase awareness of the location of all public access defibrillators in Kinross-shire. These have been put in place by a combination of organisations including ourselves, private companies and community groups/organisations. Some are accessible 24h per day (You will likely need a code to access which can be obtained by calling 999) and others are only available during opening hours. Most importantly if you think you need one for a patient who is unresponsive and not breathing normally, remember to call 999 immediately. The call operator will talk you through the actions to take, and if there is someone else with you, they will tell you the location of the nearest defibrillator and the access code for the cabinet.

The list below is available on the Facebook page: Facebook.com/KinrossFR and regularly updated.

Milnathort Area:

- **Stewart & Smart Garage – 24h Accessible.**
- **Milnathort Golf Club – 24h Accessible (Code Required).**
- **West Netherton (On the wall of Henderson's Chartered Surveyors) - 24h Accessible.**

Kinross:

- **Giacopazzi's Kinross - 24h Accessible (Code Required).**
- **The Muirs (old phone box) - 24h Accessible.**
- **Corner of Sutherland Drive / Argyle Road – 24h Accessible.**



- **Hunters of Kinross - 24h Accessible (Code Required).**
- **Cashmere @ Loch Leven – 24h Accessible.**
- **Kinross Primary (Accessed from Station Road) - 24h Accessible (Code Required).**
- **Kinross Golf Club - 24h Accessible (Code Required).**
- **SNH Office (Pier) - 24h Accessible.**
- **Loch Leven Health Centre (the doctors surgery) - Accessible during opening hours only.**
- **Kinross Rugby Club - Accessible only during games / training.**
- **Kinross Day Centre - Accessible during opening hours only.**
- **High School / Community Campus - Accessible during opening hours only.**
- **Live Active (Swimming Pool) - Accessible during opening hours only.**
- **Kinross Curling Rink - Accessible during opening hours only.**

Wider Area:

- **Carnbo Village Hall – 24h Accessible.**
- **Portmoak Village Hall – 24h Accessible.**
- **Loch Leven's Larder (At the Cricket Pavilion) - 24h Accessible (Code Required).**
- **Glenfarg Village Shop – 24h Accessible.**
- **Crook of Devon Village Hall - 24h Accessible (Code Required).**
- **Powmill Store - 24h Accessible (Code Required).**
- **Gairneybank (Hatchbank Road) - 24h Accessible (Code Required).**
- **Kinnesswood (Opposite Garage) - 24h Accessible (Code Required).**



If you would like to donate and help them continue to maintain these life-saving assets on behalf of the local community, please visit the Facebook Page and click on the donate button or go to Go Fund Me online and search for Kinross First Responders Charity. More information is available if you email kinrossfr@gmail.com.



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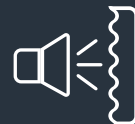
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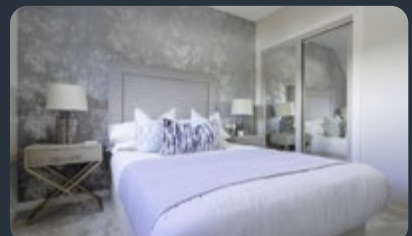
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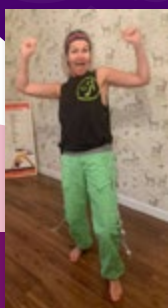
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Guide Dogs Join World's Biggest Tea Party



Kinross Guide Dog Puppy, Star

GUIDE DOGS WILL JOIN FORCES with celebrities for a Guinness World Record attempt at the world's biggest virtual tea party.

Alan Titchmarsh, Hugh Bonneville and Gregg Wallace are inviting the public to join them for a cuppa in lockdown and raise funds for the charity Guide Dogs.

As the lockdown continues to impact all of us, the national pastime of catching up with friends for a nice cup of tea is still something to look forward to. So, Guide Dogs is planning the world's biggest virtual tea party again on National Tea Day – 21 April, to bring the country back together online for a cup of tea, a slice of cake – and the company of some wonderful guide dogs.

The volunteers of the Kinross fundraising group, will be joining in the party by posting their picture on Facebook with a cuppa on 21 April, National Tea Day.

Just like last year, there are a host of famous faces helping spread the word of the event taking place between 3-4pm on Wednesday 21 April, with photos of themselves enjoying a cup of tea and some of their favourite recipes.

This includes star of Masterchef Gregg Wallace who said: 'I'm so pleased to be able to support Guide Dogs again this year for their attempt at the World's Biggest Virtual Tea Party. We've all become very familiar with what it feels like to be isolated this past year, but Guide Dogs exists to support people with sight loss who deal with isolation every day. So why not help them continue to provide their life-changing services by joining them on National Tea Day on 21 April as they attempt to get as many people as possible sharing a photo of themselves with their favourite cuppa? I'm supporting Guide Dogs and I hope you will too.'

Anne Rowse, Fundraising Manager at Guide Dogs said: 'Over the past year we have all become aware of what it feels like to be isolated. Everyone hosting a virtual tea

party for us or donating the cost of their cuppa on National Tea Day will ensure people with sight loss don't feel alone now, and in the future...'

To register for a free guide to hosting your own virtual tea party and find out how you can be a record breaker, go to www.guidedogs.org.uk/teatime

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Start The Season With REDS

APRIL TRADITIONALLY MARKS the start of the season for small local businesses — especially those that are tourist based. But this is no ordinary year, and it looks like the season is set to start properly later in the summer. In the meantime, REDS is an excellent

way to support rural micro-businesses.

REDS is a community of small businesses and the self-employed throughout rural Scotland. Members of REDS benefit from enterprise support from GrowBiz, and two exclusive events each month designed to provoke ideas,

spark collaboration opportunities and enhance business skills. Members also have access to the REDS Fund — currently open for applications from any REDS member who's found themselves ineligible for Government financial assistance schemes.

Another major benefit of

REDS membership is the REDS Rural Gift Card scheme. A REDS Card works just like an ordinary gift card, but it can only be spent at participating REDS members, keeping the value of the card circulating in the rural economy and directly supporting the small businesses within it. The card can be spent with over 120 rural and island businesses, on anything from outdoor adventures to artisan foods, holiday accommodation to unique works of art.

So, if you would like to support small rural businesses in this slower start to the season, consider purchasing a REDS card for a loved one here: www.ruralscotlandgiftcard.scot

And if you have a small business in rural Scotland that would benefit from being part of a community with collaboration, capital and commerce opportunities, find out how to join REDS at www.reds.scot

Find out more about GrowBiz enterprise support at www.growbiz.co.uk



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Church News

Kin-nections:

THE NEW ISSUE OF Kin-nections, the magazine of Kinross Parish Church, is now available at www.kinrossparishchurch.org, under 'News'. Once restrictions allow, printed copies will be delivered to the congregation and anyone else who wishes one - contact the church's office (01577 862570 or email office@kinrossparishchurch.org)

Graeme Shaw, the magazine's Creative Editor, says: 'The theme of this edition is 'Reasons to be Thankful'. We wanted to showcase what we have been able to do while we continue to live with the Covid-19 pandemic. As a congregation we've been able, for example, to develop our 'Growing Young' and 'Eco-Congregation' initiatives and support the Perth Presbytery's mission at Bertha Park, Perth and KYTHE here in Kinross.'

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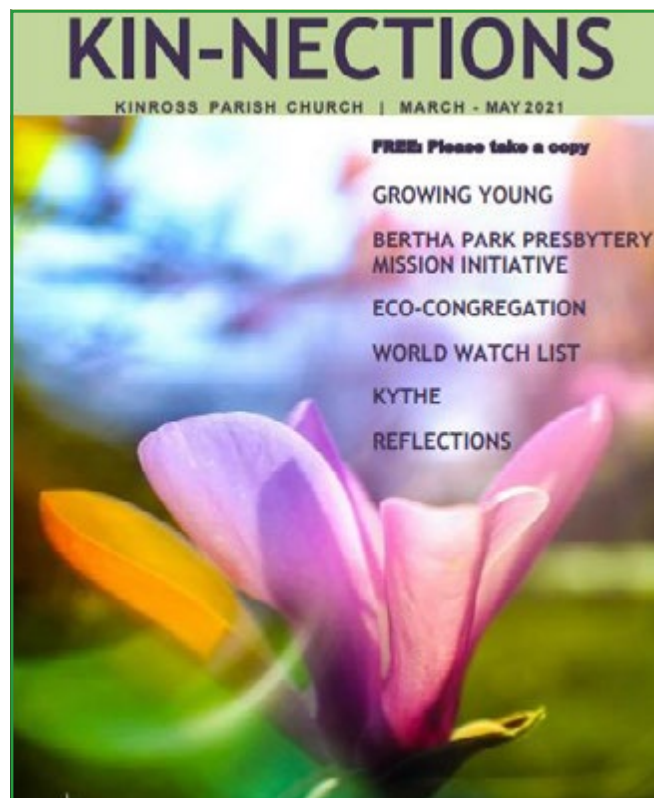
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Councillor Richard Watters



As we start to emerge from the pandemic we can reflect on the fantastic work done by local community groups in our area, including Broke Not Broken, Kinross Kindness, Kinross Centre, KYTHE, Crook of Devon Resilience Group, Glenfarg Community Council, Ability Net, and Kinross Voluntary Group. All these groups have provided an amazing response to the challenges of the pandemic.

And each of these groups had access to crucial money through the Kinross Action Partnership—in a quick and relatively easy manner—to help them provide key services during the pandemic.

I'm sure that most residents of Kinross will share my concern that the Council Budget presented last month does not allocate any money to our Kinross Action Partnership (KAP). The KAP wants to continue providing funding to our local community groups so that those groups can continue supporting all of us as we slowly emerge from the pandemic.

But the only funding that can be provided is limited to money left over from last year. The SNP budget had £600,000 allocated for Action Partnerships to support communities emerging from the pandemic and extra money to fund Social Prescribing to aid mental and physical well-being. While there is also some money left over from previous budgets for the Community Investment Fund, I have enquired of the council over the last few months what access the Action Partnerships have to this money. I still await a full response to this.

It is essential that we support our groups on the front line in dealing with the after-effects of the pandemic and lockdowns, especially well-being and mental health.

It is also important that we provide adequate support to our local businesses that have been adversely affected by the lockdowns. Perth and Kinross Council have responded by directly distributing 56 million pounds from the Scottish Government to businesses throughout the Council Area. This includes a discretionary fund to plug any gaps in the funding.

In February I was informed by residents that raw sewage from the Lathro Meadows development was being pumped from a 30,000-litre tanker into drains at Lathro Park. I immediately raised the issue with the Council and with Scottish Water. This was followed a few days later by tankers pumping sewage out of the

drains in Lathro Lane. Investigations by Scottish Water don't seem to have been conclusive over exactly what happened.

This has highlighted the issue of the drains on the Lathro Meadows Development. I've made my views very clear to Persimmon and to the Council that we need to ensure these drains are brought up to an adoptable standard by Persimmon. When speaking to the Development Operations team from Scottish Water, I was given a commitment that they will continue to give as much help to Persimmon as needed to ensure this happens.

I'm delighted to see further progress on upgrading the car park at the Pier on Loch Leven, with work due to start immediately, thanks to Jamie Montgomery. This will be good use of the Scottish Government's Town Centre fund that is being used to fund this project, money that was suggested and sponsored by myself through council. The clear links between Loch Leven Pier and Kinross Town Centre, will provide a clear economic boost to local businesses in Kinross by maximising the tourist potential of Loch Leven within the town.

Councillor Richard Watters

Councillor Mike Barnacle



PKC budget debate on 10/3/21

At the Full Council meeting 24/2/21 we had received an update on the terms of the draft 2021/22 Scottish Government Budget, including funding for a Council Tax freeze. During the debate, when all political groups except the Liberal Democrats agreed to that freeze for 2021/22, I said I was not a fan of council tax freezes and hope that accepting this one was not a precursor to future freezes like a previous 10-year freeze period under the SNP Government. Freezes are usually caveated by significant ring-fencing of Government funds allocated to local authorities, who increasingly become mere agents of government policy. However, as we exit the COVID lockdown it is probably appropriate to support a freeze and it is of course electorally popular before an election because all but the most discerning of the public do not make the connection between cuts in services resulting from council tax freezes.

Subsequently, having agreed a freeze, PKC had to debate how to adjust our provisional Revenue budget which had been based on a council tax increase of 4.28% in March 2020.

So, on 10/3/21 the Independent Group produced a budget which, unlike the other party groups, did not involve taking any money from earmarked Reserves for Covid-19. In my speech to the debate, I highlighted 3 main themes to our budget proposals for additional expenditure:

1. Post Covid-19 lockdown we felt there was a need to support children, youth and older people so made proposals for Youth Community Golf & Tennis (£75,000), the Equalities Fund (£40,000), Supporting Activities for Older People (£75,000) and Mental Health Initiatives (£70,000).
2. We made capital provisions totalling £31.75 million to be funded from Revenue by covering the annual cost of borrowing at current 'record' low interest rates; so effectively providing, amongst other things, a Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (£1m), a Town Centre Regeneration Fund (£3m), Local Roads (£3.5m + £40,000 from Revenue for unadopted roads that had been previously withdrawn, including provisions for pothole repairs & flood prevention i.e. ditch clearance and gully cleaning, the latter not mentioned by other groups), Loch Leven Heritage Trail (£250,000) and Active Travel Routes/Paths (£1m).

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3. I also asked Members to note that most of our additional expenditure proposals were based on recurring expenditure, not just for one year, in a rolling programme for the future.

Finally, in relation to Kinross-shire Ward, we proposed 3 measures:

1. Funding to support administration costs (£40,000) for a 'pilot' Area Committee of PKC for Kinross-shire. I have been working for this since my first term of office began in 1999 and would like to see it come to fruition before I stand down in 2022. A scheme for devolving power to community level is particularly appropriate for the former county of Kinross-shire whose area population is so much greater than it was at re-organisation of local government in the 1970s. The concept is supported by the 4 local members and the Kinross-shire Forum of Community Councils, with Cllr Purves and myself having recently pursued a draft scheme with officers and happy to work further on an acceptable scheme that, initially, would not include quasi-judicial matters and would retain voting rights to local members only.
2. The Kinross Railway 'Feasibility Study' builds on a PKC unanimous decision of 4/10/17 made at our historic council meeting in Kinross and provides £50,000.
3. Regional Parks (£50,000) need feasibility work on the creation of an Ochil Hills Regional Park and the expansion of the Lomond Hills Park, which is also supported by Kinross-shire Forum & Local Members.

Unfortunately, our budget did not pass but the proposals from the minority Tory Administration did and that included money for Local Roads (£4m including restoring the withdrawn funding for unadopted roads), Loch Leven Heritage Trail (£160,000), the provision of a new permanent ranger service that we had suggested and crucially our 'pilot' local decision-making committee for Kinross-shire Ward (£40,000). Our budget lost to the SNP amendment, which was then set against the Administration's budget and I voted for the latter because of the noted inclusions above.

If any reader wants further clarity on the budget debate and proposals, I am happy to provide it.

Councillor Michael Barnacle
Independent Member for Kinross-shire

Roseanna Cunningham MSP



APRIL. The month that opens with a day devoted to tricking or making fools of others. And – apparently – the 24th of the month is National Scream Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness of the benefits of screaming. I kid you not, this is not my April Fool trick on you, it seems that screaming has been shown to be very beneficial and that you can scream in your pillow, in your car, in the woods, or wherever you feel most comfortable.

I can quite understand that screaming can help let out pent up emotions. And there is absolutely no doubt that after the year we have all been through there are plenty of those. So maybe, after all, there is some sense in saying that letting out a scream can be a healthy way to release your emotions.

Hopefully, however, what April will bring to us all is a decreasing sense of the need to scream, whether a full-throated outdoors bellow, or the quiet kind we keep to ourselves. Every indication at the moment is that we are making steady and sustainable progress along the path out of lockdown.

Assuming we continue to stick to the advice that is being given, that vaccine supply continues as anticipated, and that there are no unforeseeable setbacks, then by the summer we will be in a place that is closer to our old way of living than we have seen for much of the last year.

It does seem as if there is a day, a week or a month for everything these days, ranging from the worthy important campaigns about serious medical issues to the, frankly, downright bizarre.

There is a handy website that tells me that not only is April the month designated for Bowel Cancer Awareness, Stress Awareness, and National Pet Month. We also have National Parks Week, 'Bee Active, Bee Healthy, Bee Happy Week', Community Garden Week and, of course, Tartan Day – I had a fantastic trip to New York quite some years ago now representing the Scottish Parliament at their annual Tartan Day parade.

There are weeks raising awareness for Multiple Sclerosis, Men's Cancers and Parkinsons Disease but also days associated with Skipping and Asparagus as well as, of course, Screaming. This is sometimes what life in politics is like, being able to focus on the big important things when there are small, seemingly trivial issues constantly competing for your attention.

As the pages of the calendar turn, inexorably, towards the next Scottish Parliament election – the first one in which I will not be appearing on a ballot paper, I note that April bridges into May with National Gardening Week and whilst I may not be able to celebrate it to its fullest this year, next year I might!

Roseanna Cunningham, MSP

The meaning of life, is to give life meaning.

Angela McCormack
Independent Funeral Celebrant

Nothing can prepare you for the loss of a loved one, so how can you begin to think of a send off for them? My personal experiences of love and loss, grief and bereavement have given me the strength and tools to look after you and guide you through this difficult time. I am here to listen to your treasured memories and turn them into a fitting, wonderful tribute to your loved one.

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RAISING THE STANDARD OF CHILDCARE

Councillor Callum Purves

Council Tax

The main focus of the last month at the Council was the annual budget-setting meeting. Last year, I was the only councillor to propose freezing the council tax, so I was pleased that this year all councillors supported this move except those in the Liberal Democrats who proposed a rise of 4.28 per cent.

I believe that it is incumbent on councillors to try to keep the tax burden on their constituents as low as possible and to seek to deliver high-quality public services as efficiently as possible. Freezing the council tax was particularly important this year given the strains that many people are under having reduced incomes or sadly lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic.

While we received the equivalent of offsetting a 3% council tax rise from the Scottish Government our overall grant from Holyrood only rose by 0.9%. This is despite the fact that the UK Government's block grant to the Scottish Parliament is rising by 9 per cent over the same period. While I believe there are still many ways Councils can be more efficient, whenever we make improvements it just goes into plugging the gap of the Scottish Government's underfunding. We really need local government to be given its fair share.

Kinross-shire Devolution

That being said, this was a strong budget for Kinross-shire.

With the support of Councillor Barnacle, I managed to secure a commitment from the Conservative administration to pilot a devolved decision-making committee for Kinross-shire. I share the frustration of many local residents at some of the decisions that are taking up in Perth. This is less about political differences, and more about the fact that what suits Perth or another part of Perthshire might not suit Kinross-shire.

I need to be clear, however, that this is not a panacea. The initial pilot will not cover some of the thorny issues like the determination of planning or licensing applications. There is still also a need for the whole of the Council to adopt a more 'Think Yes' approach to solving problems for local residents. But it is very much a step in the right direction and one that I am very much looking forward to progressing.

Loch Leven Heritage Trail

Recent severe weather has damaged the condition of the trail and there are problems with the path's surface and width and with drainage. Councillors Robertson, Barnacle and I all included funding for the maintenance of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail in our budgets and this finance was secured in the final vote.

The trail is a fantastic tourist attraction and a great draw for local businesses but is also much valued by local residents who have made even better use of it during the lockdown. It is essential that it is well maintained and while much capital funding has been secured over the years from external funding, it is more difficult to secure maintenance costs so it is welcome that the Council will step in.

Subject Choice

It was also a good budget for the whole of Perth & Kinross too.

We have seen a worrying reduction in the breadth of course choice at secondary schools across Scotland over the past few years. It is vitally important that our pupils have access to the subjects that they need and at the appropriate level so that they are not deprived of any future opportunities.

The Conservatives on the Council therefore pledged additional investment into the expansion of subject choice. Both through funding to accelerate the rollout of the virtual campus programme to provide more academic subjects and additional funding for the expansion of vocational courses, local young people will start to see an increased breadth of choice, which is a very welcome development.



Social Care

Social care can often be difficult to provide in more rural areas and we have had problems in recent years with private companies being able to provide services in Kinross-shire.

In Highland Perthshire, they have established a care and wellbeing co-operative. These co-operatives support self-employed carers and personal assistants to provide bespoke care packages for local people. These carers often live in the same communities as the services users and the co-operatives give local residents a greater degree of personal choice in the care they receive.

The Conservatives on the Council have invested funds to expand this model into other areas of Perth & Kinross. This will help us to reduce inequality of access to services that support care and wellbeing. It will also help to increase the employability of existing workers and potentially also to attract new people to work in the area of personal care.

Economic Development

Our local businesses have had a difficult time over the past year. They have had to contend with multiple enforced shutdowns and the requirement to adapt by moving on-line or ensuring business premises are COVID compliant.

Local Conservatives on the Council have put forward a £1.3 million funding package to support economic development. It includes grants and loans for small businesses as well as incentives to get vacant properties back into use and to encourage local businesses to try establishing their own retail premises. It was disappointing that the SNP failed to include any money for economic development in their amendment.

I am sure these proposals will be welcomed by many of our hard-working business owners and employees across Perth & Kinross. In particular, I want to welcome the proposal for a skills passport. Many people have sadly lost their jobs as a result of the coronavirus restrictions and there is no certainty about what jobs will remain or return. When there are such changes in our economy, the state sometimes has a role to assist people retrain and reskill so that they can take advantage of different employment opportunities. This initiative will give a helping hand to get many local residents back into the workplace.

Roads

This state of the roads is one of the issues that is raised with me most often by constituents. The restrictions placed on works early in the pandemic and many staff who would usually have been fixing potholes being redeployed to support the coronavirus response has made the situation worse. On top of this, the recent severe winter weather has resulted in even more and larger potholes on our roads.

The Conservatives on Perth & Kinross Council are committed to tackling this problem and to putting our money where our mouth is. To that end, we announced an additional £4 million investment in roads maintenance for the new financial year on top of the £10 million already in the budget. This total pot of £14 million is the single biggest annual investment in our roads in Perth & Kinross Council history. I very much hope we shall be seeing improvements in the near future.

All in all, this is a good budget for Kinross-shire, particularly with the proposals for devolution. It will also benefit people across the whole of Perth & Kinross with its focus on recovery from the pandemic, while protecting the incomes of local families, and prioritizing key issues such as subject choice expansion, social care, and getting our roads up to standard.

Updates

I occasionally hand deliver update leaflets on my work on the Council to local residents and am always looking for volunteers to assist with this. If you are able to help, please e-mail me at callum4kinrossshire@gmail.com

Councillor Callum Purves

Councillor Willie Robertson

Perth & Kinross Council Budget

The Council was agreed on 10 March and had some good news for Kinross-shire residents.

The highlights are;

- The Council Tax has been frozen
- Kinross-shire has been chosen to pilot a devolved area committee (see separate article on p.11)
- £160,000 awarded to carry out repairs to the Loch Leven Heritage Trail (see below)
- Road repairs budget increased from £10 million to £14 million!

Unsung Heroes

As many of you know many of the Council's staff responsible for clearing our verges and streets of litter have been transferred to other duties during the current pandemic. The reason that our paths and roadside verges are not now covered in litter is down to a few dedicated volunteer litter-picking teams in Milnathort and Kinross. Between them they have collected nearly 120 bags of litter. Since the start of the pandemic the Kinross group has grown to 26 volunteers, this includes Eco group, other volunteers and young people from Kythe. Plus there are a number who go out individually on a regular basis. The Kinross co-ordinator is Gillian Boardman who started in Lockdown April 2020 by clearing the community wood at Lathro, plus school campus area. She collected 39 bags of rubbish in total. Then in the summer last year she heard about the Eco church group that was being set up within Kinross Parish Church. Litter picking was one of their action points so Gillian, together with Susan Smith and Christine Reid took the lead in developing the group. One of the volunteers kindly donated £300 so the group could purchase additional litter pickers, high viz vests and gloves!



Milnathort also has a very active litter picking group that works in tandem with the Kinross one. They have cleared litter as far out as Mawcarse and down to the Milnathort Waste Water Treatment works.

Perth & Kinross Council have provided bags and 6 litter pickers and the local depot collects the full bags of litter on the organised picking days.

If you want to find out more about this amazing group and want to help, please contact Gillian. Her email address is gillboard@btinternet.com. There are also other litter picking teams in other parts of Kinross-shire. I notice that all the roads around Dalquieich and Craigow have been litter picked recently. We all owe a big vote of thanks to everyone who is trying to keep our beautiful county litter free.

Loch Leven Heritage Trail

As I reported last month, I am very concerned about the condition of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail. There has been to major works done to the trail since it opened in 2014 and the path is now badly eroded in places and also requires widening in other sections. There are also sections prone to flooding. I made a bid as part of the Council's 2021/22 budget for £160,000 to help restore the path to an excellent condition. I am delighted to say that my bid was successful.

The heritage trail is an extremely well-used community asset and it mustn't be allowed to deteriorate. The investment that has been secured will allow the damaged sections to be repaired and make the trail once more usable by everyone, including users of mobility scooters and cycling trishaws.

Fly-tipping Junction 5

I am aware of the rubbish dumped beside the layby on the east side of junction 5 on the M90. BEAR Scotland have said that it isn't their land as does the Council so neither will remove the rubbish. I have now contacted the Council's Community Justice Service (CJS) and have asked if it can be cleared by offenders carrying out community service orders. All CJS staff have currently been transferred to help in the NHS but will resume their duties on the 26 April and have promised to see what they can do then.

Winter Maintenance

Another plus from the recent Council budget was an increase in the money available for supplying self-push gritters to communities. Glenlomond village has already successfully secured a self-push gritter from the Council for use in the village next winter. Please let me know if you are interested in this scheme and I will send you details on it.

Road repairs

Everyone is complaining about the condition of our roads. A combination of the winter weather and delays caused by the pandemic have led to a backlog in road repairs. The A911 is particularly bad and many of the road drains along this road between Milnathort and Scotlandwell are a danger to drivers and cyclists. The Council are working hard to get these repairs done. The extra £4 million in next year's budget will help the roads department to catch up with outstanding works.

Councillor Willie Robertson



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Liz Smith, MSP

THE ECONOMY OF KINROSS-SHIRE – and of that of the whole UK – will benefit from a range of positive measures rolled out in the Chancellor's Budget, which was recently announced.



Rishi Sunak highlighted just how serious the financial impact of Covid is, and, as a result, he set out a series of steps which will hopefully create a stable economy in Scotland and the rest of the UK as we come out of lockdown and return to some form of normality.

The measures, which will help businesses in Kinross-shire, included extending the extremely beneficial furlough scheme until the autumn and increasing the amount of Universal Credit by £20 a week – a move that the Scottish Conservatives had called for. The Chancellor also confirmed that more grants will be available to the self-employed and he unveiled a mortgage guarantee scheme to help Britons get on the housing ladder with small deposits.

Under this scheme, the Government will offer lenders a guarantee, incentivising them to boost the number of riskier 95% mortgages.

The UK Budget also saw an extension of the VAT cut to hospitality continuing until September at 5% as well as the setting up of a recovery loan scheme for businesses and the freezing of fuel duty and also on all alcohol duties, including whisky, which is vital to Scotland with 11,000 jobs protected as a result.

Other measures that will benefit Scotland include a £150 million community buy scheme which could allow communities to take over struggling pubs, sport clubs and theatre venues and a £520 million Help to Grow scheme, offering management training for firms to boost productivity, as well as providing £34 million towards various projects in north-east Scotland.

Another major announcement made as part of the Budget was a new UK Infrastructure Bank, which will provide loans that can be tailored to support the needs of renewable energy and carbon storage projects, and I believe the creation of this bank will provide significant benefits to Scotland.

The timing of this announcement couldn't have been better, being made ahead of the UK hosting the climate change COP Conference in Glasgow in November. The UK Infrastructure Bank promises to give a massive boost to green infrastructure projects in Scotland and across the UK.

It will mean that the bank will be able to offer equity, loans and guarantees which will support the needs of private sector infrastructure projects in sectors including energy, carbon capture and storage and transportation.

In addition, the bank will also offer infrastructure loans to local authorities at low rates which will help fund a range of projects right across the UK.

Scotland will benefit significantly from this move as it comes at a pivotal time for the country as we move forward with our aims to tackle climate change and tackle environmental issues in the country.

Businesses across Kinross-shire have all suffered from the devastating financial impact of this pandemic but hopefully many of these measures outlined in the UK Budget will go some way to protect jobs and livelihoods as we look to rebuild the economy.

Liz Smith, MSP

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John Nicolson, MP

WE'VE ALL BEEN HEARING a lot about 'Cancel Culture' recently. Apparently, right-wing commentators are finding it impossible to have their voices heard. The claim is that they've been rendered mute by a prevailing intolerance, now widespread on college campuses and elsewhere. The victims, more often than not, tend to moan at great length about being silenced either in their three-hour radio shows or over double-page spreads in their *Daily Mail* columns. Silenced? Really?



It all rather echoes the tabloid hysteria a few decades back when we were warned that a plague of 'political correctness' was upon us. The tabloids screamed warnings about Council commissars descending on every toy shop in the land to rip much-loved playthings from the hands of babes, simply because the toys mocked minorities with racial epithets. Black bins bags were to go. No more blackboards. And the nation's youth was to be encouraged to adopt homosexuality immediately.

It was all nonsense, of course. Much of it made up in the editorial offices of *the Sun* newspaper. But, for a while, it produced a kind of frenzy. Folk who'd never heard the phrase, suddenly found themselves tut-tutting about 'political correctness gone mad.' And yet, society now finds itself in agreement that people with physical and mental disabilities should be respected not mocked. It's a good thing to have diversity in the workplace. We have discovered that equal marriage doesn't undermine the foundations of society. And we've realised too that black bin bags are still around.

Back to 'cancel culture.' The Prime Minister has decided that there should be a 'free speech champion' to investigate any attempts to impose a collective view on campuses (as if there's ever been a collective view about anything on college campuses). But wait! Just as he's calling for more free speech, he also wants to prevent anyone 'rewriting history'. Now I worry when people say we can't rewrite history. As Churchill (and many others) have said: it's the victor who writes the first draft. It's the duty, surely, of further generations to interpret.

When the Museum of the Home in London recently conducted a survey to decide whether patrons thought its slave-trading founder Robert Geffrye should continue to be honoured with a statue on its front facade, the answer came back 'No. Put him inside with a plaque explaining how he acquired his wealth.' It seemed a thoughtful and considered response to the question asked by the Museum directors. But the Culture Secretary was having none of it. The views of the museum and its visitors were to be ignored. He ordered that the statue stay put. And he went further, summoning 25 of the UK's biggest heritage bodies to a summit to tell them 'to defend our culture from... activists constantly trying to do Britain down.'

I'm sure Mr Geffrye would have been pleased that, 300 years on, no one in government is trying to 'cancel' his legacy.

John Nicolson, MP

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What3Words

Members of the public calling 999/101 can now use a mobile phone app to identify their location when they are in an unknown or remote area.

From Tuesday, 9 March, Police Scotland will introduce What3Words as an additional location sharing tool.

What3Words grids the Earth into 3x3 metre squares by encoding GPS coordinates to give each square a unique set of three words. This means that when someone contacts Police Scotland, they have the option to use What3Words if they are in an unfamiliar area, rural location or one that is difficult to describe. However, Police Scotland service advisors will always ask for a postal address as default when someone calls 999/101 – this will not change.

The app is already in use by the majority of emergency services across the UK, including Scottish Fire and Rescue and Scottish Ambulance Service.

What3Words will also help to support local policing incidents and pre-planned operations and events.

Superintendent Iain MacLelland, Digitally Enabled Policing Programme, said: 'What3Words will help front line police officers and staff to locate members of the public quickly when they are calling from an unknown or rural area.'

'The introduction of What3Words is a great additional resource for our communities and our officers who serve them.'

'It's also important to highlight that, when Covid-19 restrictions begin to ease, we know that people may want to venture further from home, to remote or rural locations. 'What3Words does not change the requirement to ensure that you are properly prepared if heading to the hills, always have a map and compass and ensure that you have your route planned out in advance.'

Updates

A drug search warrant was executed at a property in Acremoar Drive, Kinross on Tuesday 2 March. Cocaine valued at £1810 was recovered along with cannabis valued at £937. 2 men aged 18 and 23 will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

Recent Incidents

About 2.30pm, Tuesday 23 February, a white Ford Transit Van was broken into in Montgomery Street, Kinross. (CR/5037/21)

About 3pm, Friday 12 of March, police responded to a call in Victoria Street, Milnathort after a member of the public reported that a suspicious device had been excavated within the curtilage of a property.

At the time, Police Scotland took all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of the community, such as a cordon and the evacuation of nearby residents.

Specialist resources were deployed and removed the item. We can confirm that no persons were injured and there was no damage to property.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the public for their assistance during this incident.

Anyone with any information that may be useful should contact Tayside Division on 101 or any police officer,

*quoting the crime reference number listed at each incident. Alternatively, information can be passed anonymously via the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. **Rogue Traders - Who Should I Call...***

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

- **Contact the police immediately on 999**

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

- **Contact the police on 101.**

- **Try and take a note of vehicle details or registration numbers, and descriptions of anyone suspicious.**

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

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

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

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

Police Scotland – local community

Telephone 101 for non-emergencies

Community officers for Kinross-shire:

PC Ashley Mitchinson and PC Martin Gemmell.

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

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

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

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

Ways of Following the Police:

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland

Website: www.scotland.police.uk

Community Watch

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

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

Crime Stoppers

– Telephone 0800 555 111

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

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



GOSPEL HALL

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

Many have expressed sadness that we are unable to host Friends and Neighbours and Toddlers, we share that!

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

www.kinrossgospelhall.info

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

(Nahum Chapter 1 verse 7)

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PIC-COLLAGE



A Year Under LOCKDOWN

Photographer Ross Mitchell has been a familiar sight on the paths around Loch Leven over the past year, photographing walkers against the backdrop of the changing seasons. Here he shares with us some of his favourite images and talks of this ongoing project, documenting the lockdown experience through the lens of his camera.

IT HAS BEEN A whole year now that I have been doing this project, capturing portraits of people and their four-legged companions whilst out on my daily walk, witnessing the contrast of the different seasons and changes in nature.

Who would have thought that a year on from when I first started, that I would still be doing this? If I'm honest, I did.

It has been such a journey through this pandemic. The one thing we know we are all experiencing just now is our 'new norm' but now, we are starting to see a glimmer of hope.

I know everyone looks forward to my daily posts on the Kinross Community page. You are what keeps me going, that, and my commitment and determination!

It has been a rollercoaster of emotions for me. I walk about 7 miles a day, and being a documentary photographer I have so far captured about 2500 portraits. It is a commitment to phases of people's lives. Some I bump into nearly everyday so I'm getting to know quite a few locals quite well. I have developed an emotional bond with some of them, perhaps.

Even though I decided from the start to keep it light-hearted, seeing friends, family and loved ones spending time together out on their daily walks has a darkness about it too.

There are pets that are no longer with us and, sadly, some people in my portraits that are no longer with us either.

I have encountered people that have had Covid-19 and, thankfully, recovered. I have met people that are struggling emotionally. Not only do I take their portrait, but I am someone for them to talk to. For some, I am the only person they have spoken to that day, because they live alone and are really struggling without human contact.

It gives me a feel good factor knowing I have touched people's hearts. That's what gives me the drive to keep on going, although it is physically demanding.

It has been a whole year after all!

The project gives me something to focus on every day. I didn't expect people's engagement in it would be so strong, helping to bring everyone together, even if it is from a distance.

Ross Mitchell

www.rossmitchell.com

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:

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ROTARY YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION

WELL DONE TO ALL those fabulous Young Writers across Kinross-shire who entered the Kinross and District heat of this national competition! Rotarians and former teachers, Jo Middlemiss and Carolyn Poller, spent many happy hours reading through the stories and discussing them - 59 in total. It was genuinely difficult to select but the prizewinners are:

INTERMEDIATE

Ottile Price

JUNIOR

Josephine Carlow

Highly Commended

Jamie Eglington

Harry Wallace

Peggy Carlow

Josephine and Ottile now go on to the next round – the District Finals. Good luck!

MY HAPPIEST DAY

by Josephine Willow Carlow, aged 11

STRAINING MY EYES, I try to see 3 centimetres in front of me. 'Keep together,' comes a harassed voice. Harry's form can be seen tugging an object behind him. 'Anna, could you take Ella?' 'Alright,' I reply.

We have been wandering for hours. Me, doing my best to keep little Ella warm. 11-year-old Harry trying, but failing, to help me.

We washed up on the beaches of the Arctic, after falling from our parents' ship, which was sailing round the world. Bedraggled and cold we are searching for help.

*

If you were here, travelling far over the hills, in front of us three, you would notice a pile of snow slightly bigger than all the others and every now and then it moves.

If you watched it for long enough, you would see a body climb out of it. You would see an animal shake its long shaggy coat and white mane and tail.

You would see it rear up on its hind legs and canter over the hills, far away out of eyesight. But before it does so, you would see it trot a few metres back towards us and set hoof prints right in the direction of safety, in the hope we would see them.

*

'What's that?' I puzzle.

'What's what?' asks Harry who has come over to join me.

'Hoof prints are not normally found out here in the middle of the Arctic' I reply.

'You've found hoof prints?' 'Yeah.'

'Well, follow them,' decides Harry.

'Ok,' I confirm. And so, we do.

We trace them for at least an hour until it leads us to an underground cave. The moment we step inside, a creature arises.

We had assumed them to be a host of icicles, but it turns out to be the long sought-after Arctic Horse. Ella squeaks in terror and excitement, her cyan eyes flashing, and brownie-gold locks seem to be exploding around her. The giant animal bends low.

'I...I think He's blessing us,' I whisper, hardly daring to believe my own words.

*

'So, I was thinking... er why is he... like kneeling in front of us and why are you climbing onto his back?' stammers Harry.

'Well, isn't it obvious; he wants us to get on,' I reply.

'Oh,' realises Harry. So, we clamber on. The magnificent animal, with me clinging on to Ella for my life, starts off at a gallop.

We ascend a hill and can see smoke in the horizon. The horse heads towards the sign of life. Before we get more than half-way, we hear shrieking, so we shoot off to see who is being murdered. It turns out to be a group of Inuit children playing tig, who greet us with happy faces. They take us to their village to get help. When we turn to say goodbye, the horse is gone.

*

It's time to go home. We say goodbye; the Arctic Horse reappears to take us to the port where our parents' boat waits for us.



We see them at once, silhouetted against the mountains, and embrace in the biggest family hug ever known - and this is my happiest day.

I close my eyes and sense the vibrations of hooves galloping across white landscapes.

MY HAPPIEST DAY

by Jamie Eglington

**My happiest day is yet to come,
Spent with my family and friends in the sun.**

**We will laugh and play, be near at last,
And lockdown will be a thing in the past.**

**It won't be long until we can travel afar,
Abroad or at home, by plane, train or car,
I long for the waves of the sea, sun and sand,
And an overpriced ice-cream melting in my hand.**

**No longer will we cover our face,
When we leave the house, our Safe Place.
We will breathe in the air and the smell of the grass,
I can't wait for lockdown to be a thing in the past.**

**I can't wait until I can visit my Nan,
I've barely seen her since this all began,
We are all waiting patiently for the vaccine,**

When I will finally get a game with my football team.

**So for now I will stay home, stay safe,
and take cover,
Carry on home schooling with my Mum, Dad and Brother,
The last year at home has been sort of fun,
But my happiest day is yet to come!**



Bandit

by Otilie Price, aged 11

I REMEMBER THAT horrific day, I remember the croaky whispers of the horse rustlers, I remember the deafening screams of my mother as her beloved horses injured her badly, I remember the pain in Bandit's eyes as he bolted away, I remember the nurse who told us mum didn't make it, I remember so much that I don't want to remember.

When I was young, I had everything I could ever want, then one day all of that was taken away from me...



That was 7 years ago and now I'm 11, I should be over it by now, however I still see images in my head at night, screams still ring in my ears.

After the accident my father married a woman called Anna and we moved out of our beautiful farm cottage, we moved in with Anna and her son, father sold everything except Bandit as he ran away onto the moors when that horrific incident happened. I hate our small house in the village, in fact it's so small I have to share with Anna's son and he's 6! I dream about being young, living at the farm with mother and Bandit but then my dreams crash and I know mother is never coming back, nonetheless I can still hope that Bandit is still out there waiting for me.

'Jasmine!' shouted Jackson.

'What is it Jackie it's the middle of the night!' I sighed.

'I broke my train!'

'Please go back to sleep,' I groaned.

I couldn't get back to sleep, what if Bandit is out there waiting for me, the only thing I wanted right now was to see his beautiful eyes again, to stroke his mane and breath in his smell of fresh hay and oats, and before I knew it I was staggering out of bed. I hauled on a hoodie, grabbed a rucksack, filled it with apples from the kitchen and a flask of hot cocoa then started pulling on my boots when I realized what I was doing, Bandit wouldn't even be there, but I pushed that thought out of my mind and thrust the door open.

Gusts of wind blew my hair back and I darted through the village making my way to the farm, a house came into view... my heart stopped all the memories came flooding back, still I kept going, I tilted my chin and ran as fast as I could, dashing through meadows until I came to the moors. Before I knew what was happening a herd of wild horses galloped towards me, I put my hands over my face and waited for them to knock me down, but nothing happened, I slowly took my hands away from my eyes and gasped in shock...

It was an Appaloosa horse, Bandit! He had chased them away and was now standing in front of me, I rubbed my face thinking it was a dream but it wasn't! Bandit was really standing in front of me. I put my hand on his nose and suddenly I was crying, cradling his head in my arms. He whined in my ear and we stayed there for a while.

This was the best day ever. Eventually I whispered in his ear 'Finding an old friend is like finding a lost treasure.'



Mary And The Alien

by Peggy Carlow, aged 7

Ch. 1

ONCE UPON A TIME there was a little girl named Mary. Mary was going to bed. She tucked under her lovely starry duvet. That night an alien came in through the window.

"What are you doing here?" asked Mary.

"I'm here to take you to space."

"Wow really!"

The alien was green all over and he had a cranky voice. Mary was having the time of her life. The alien took her to the moon. Mary met all the other aliens, but after a while, the alien said that they had to go back. Mary was very sad but she went. When she got back home she told her mum and the mum said back, "What a nice dream you had!"

Ch. 2

On Saturday, Mary and her mum and dad went to a fair. Her mum got her one balloon, but Mary wanted all the balloons. She got all the balloons, but after about one minute, Mary took off. Mary got higher and higher until her parents were just little tiny dots. Mary went into space. Then all her balloons went POP!!! Mary was so scared. Then, from out of nowhere, came an alien. The alien grabbed Mary with his space ship. For a moment Mary didn't recognise the green, cranky-voiced alien, but once they were half-way down, Mary recognised him. Once they got down the alien came for tea. And they all lived happily ever after.

THE END

My Happiest Day

by Harry Wallace

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT the best day of someone's life and that someone is me! The precise date of this moment I can't remember but I know that it was some time this year, and by knowing that I know that it must have been one day in January. Anyway, enough about that, this day was very special.

I woke up to a fairly grim morning and was in not the best of moods. So, I did the usual things that most people do in the morning such as open my curtains get dressed brushed my teeth and dragged myself down the stairs. Obviously, next I cuddled my two dogs one of which was pregnant. They managed to lift my spirits a little bit but I was still not my best self. I found some crumpets in the cupboard (after quite a lot of digging!).

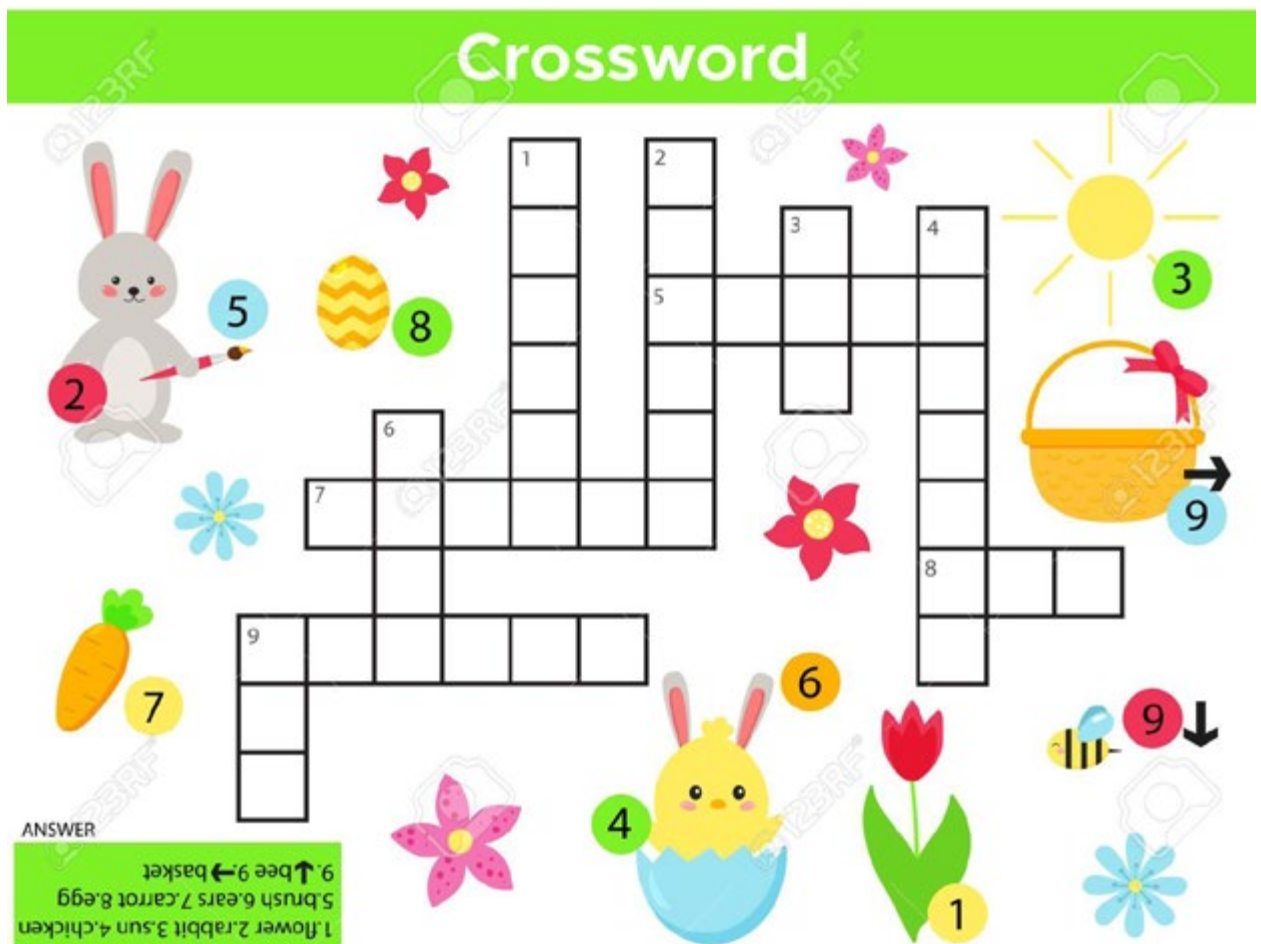
When my crumpets were fully toasted, I buttered them up and gobbled them up at the speed of light. After I had gobbled my crumpets, I speedily ate a perfect banana which lifted my spirits a bit more. Then I made my packed lunch.

Let's fast forward a bit to the start of school. I was walking in through the doors when my mum called and said that Lucy (my pregnant dog) was acting very strangely. So, I ran straight back out through the doors got on my bike and raced like a cheetah in pursuit of its prey straight back to the house and I tumbled through the doors like a stampeding elephant, my bike flying into the kitchen door.

My mum came out to greet me with a grin as wide as the sun, "You've got to see" she told me! I didn't need telling twice I sprinted into the kitchen to see ten beautiful pups drinking their mother's milk. They were all beautiful Labrador puppies. Then as

if by magic the sun appeared through the dark grey clouds. My mum phoned the school to say that I would be taking the day off. They were born like all other dogs deaf and blind, so they stayed close to their mum the whole time. I stayed with the puppies the entire time until my dad came home from work. He took me to the pet shop to go and find some puppy food for when they get old enough to eat proper food and not their mums' milk. We also got a lot of chew toys so that when the puppies started teething, they chewed the chew toys and not our clothes!

When we got home, granny was already there admiring the puppies. As soon as word got out that there were new-born puppies people started flocking to the house like sheep when they see their food (they come quickly!). On that one day alone when the puppies had only just been born ten families must have visited. The puppies slept through most of the day, so we tried to keep everyone from touching them which was pretty hard considering how many children came but saying that I am a child, and it is hard not to cuddle new-born puppies!



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Fontane Had A Fine Time

IN THE SUMMER OF 1858 a young German writer named Theodor Fontane made a journey to Scotland which he later described as 'one of the most beautiful in my life, at all events the most poetic.' A highlight of this Scottish pilgrimage was the opportunity to visit 'the Douglas Castle in the loch by Kinross.' Published in 1860, his account of this excursion from Edinburgh to Loch Leven – *Beyond the Tweed: A tour of Scotland in 1858* – is still worth reading more than 160 years later.

Born in Neuruppin in the German state of Brandenburg, Theodor Fontane (1819-98) developed a fascination with Scotland that was prompted by reading the ballads and novels of Sir Walter Scott. His membership of a literary society in Berlin led him not only to translate English and Scottish Ballads into German but also to pen his own ballads, one of which – Archibald Douglas – was later put to music by the composer Carl Loewe, the 'Schubert of north Germany.'

Working as a freelance journalist for various German newspapers, Fontane was able to make several visits to London, eventually earning enough to allow him to travel north to Scotland in 1858. He prepared himself for the journey by reading Black's Picturesque Tourist of Scotland and on 9 August he set off from King's Cross Station in the company of the artist Bernhard von Leper, a close friend and officer in the regular army of Prussia.

Using Edinburgh as a base for their travels, Fontane and Leper ventured south to the Borders, west to Linlithgow, Stirling, the Trossachs, Oban and Staffa, and north to Inverness. But top of Theodor Fontane's 'to do list' was a visit to Kinross where, he wrote, 'it had long been my wish to see Loch Leven Castle.'

The rail journey from Edinburgh to Kinross was, at that time, a lengthy and circuitous one that began with a short trip to Granton that was followed by a ferry crossing to Burntisland where the train journeyed first to Dunfermline then north-eastwards to Ladybank Junction before turning west along the Fife and Kinross Railway through Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Gateside and Milnathort, the end of the line being Hopefield Station, Kinross. In all, this was a journey of three to four hours.

It is quite likely that Fontane and Leper were the first tourists to travel this route to the 'unpretentious little town' of Kinross since the line was only officially opened on 20 August 1858. Fontane notes that 'on the very day when we left to pay our visit to the old Castle the railway between Edinburgh and Loch Leven was opened.'

Stopping for lunch at the Salutation Hotel, the travellers enjoyed 'salmon-trout, which are a speciality in Loch Leven and must be eaten by everyone who visits Kinross.' The meal was so memorable that Theodor Fontane was to mention Loch Leven salmon-trout in one of his novels, *Cécile*, written nearly 30 years later. Guests served with trout at a lunch in a hotel in the Harz Mountains enter into a debate on where the best trout is to be found. Herr von Gordon, an engineer of Scottish origin praises the salmon-trout of Loch Leven as 'unreservedly finest of all'.

Fontane describes in detail the boat trip out to Castle Island with two boatmen who 'did not seem to be in any undue hurry.' One of the men who acted as guide, was described by him as 'a pale sickly looking man with a dreamy look in his eye.' This was the owner of the boat, David Marshall, tacks-



Theodor Fontane

man of the Loch Leven fishing and well-known local historian whose name is remembered today in the Kinross (Marshall) Museum. Fontane went on to comment on the character of Marshall: 'What raised him far above those hundreds of guides whose acquaintance I have made was his unaffected enthusiasm for the lake and for the island castle towards which we were now rowing.'

A man of few words initially, David Marshall gradually began to appreciate Theodor Fontane's interest in local history, especially the story of Mary Queen of Scots and her imprisonment in the castle. Fontane went on to write 'No sooner, however, had he recognised in me an unsimulated interest and a certain familiarity with the history of the place than his heart overflowed, and in time with the strokes of the oars, as they went up and down, we now heard the verse-rhythms of all those who ever had sung a song in honour of Loch Leven.'

In writing his account of this visit to Loch Leven Castle in the company of von Leper, David Marshall and a broad-shouldered boatman, Fontane begins by quoting lines from Michael Bruce's poem *Lochleven*. The chapter concludes with the story of the escape Mary Queen of Scots from Loch Leven Castle as told to Fontane by Marshall who 'despised Sir Walter Scott's version'.

Fontane's companion, Bernhard von Leper, to whom the book *Beyond the Tweed: A tour of Scotland in 1858* is dedicated, made a number of pencil drawings which have been included in various editions of the work. His sketch of Castle Island includes, in the bottom right-hand corner, a small boat carrying the four men on an excursion that made perhaps the greatest impression on Theodor Fontane who went on to become one of Germany's most noted writers, lifting the German nineteenth-century novel from provincialism to the European mainstream.

David Munro
Kinross (Marshall) Museum



A Momentous Moment

It was a gut reaction:
She said we could exercise
OUTDOORS, TOGETHER!
Wheels set in motion:
Finding place, making plans.
Green space: accessible, sheltered?
Covid acceptable toilet!

It was an out-of-body experience,
My automatic was in full drive.
There literally was no other choice:
Such was the dearth in our connection,
Bone-weary from isolation and restriction.
Such was the momentum of this
Momentous moment.

It was an utter delight to see
Eleven brave women step forward,
Clad in fleece, hats and trainers.
Tentatively moving & breathing
In the cool March air.
Broken connections repairing.
And smiling, smiling, smiling.

To the momentum of this
Momentous moment.

© orla beaton

MAISTRES BLAKKIE - A TALE IN TWA TONGUES

Maistres Blakkie

HIT IS UNCO AT WHAN the hale warl is tholin a gryte trigidie the smaw hamelt loss is juist as sair as ivver. Wir gairden is tuim an lanerlie syne we tint wir pet blakkie. Shae bad in the gairden fur severals o eirs an hed twa clekkins in ilka simmer. Hir *chink-chink* caw telt uz at mair mailwirms wes note. We gied the faimlie frute furby seids sae thai hed a hailthfu dyet. Ane eftinuin shae cam happin wi a caum souch intil ma chaumer whaur a wes liggin in bed - ti mynd me o ma dewties nae dout. Hir guidman wesna sae bauld bot A aften sein hir gaein baklins til the nest ti tel him at he suid cum wi hir ti redd up the vittals we hed out pit. Whan A wes howkin growthe shae wes ma constant billie, huntin yird wirms.

This wintir shae wes aye ti the foir. A wes fettlin the mash at hains the strawberries at bene tuirn bi the snaw. Afoir ma denner A gaed bak ti admeir ma wirk. On the grun wes a richt ferlie. A sparrowhawk wes puin the fedders aff o a deid burd. He wes a codd, blak bakkit wi orange chooks an wesna ti be

fleggit awaw. He bot glowered at me wi twa bricht glentin ein an gaed about hiz fell wirk. Eftir ma mait A bak gaed kiz A thocht mibbies he bene insnorled in a bit lowss mash. He wes aye thair, as braw an gallus as afoir. He hed a a kinna divot gruppit in hiz cluiks. A stappit forrit ti sei gif it wes hinnerin the hawk frae flie-in.

In the glimmer o ane ei he wes awaw owre the bussis an A unnerstuid at the divot he wes gruppin wes the lyke o ma frein, the blakkie. Aw at wes laed ahent wes a sairie walin o fedders. The maist orra pairt o ma taill is at a Rid Rab wes singin frae a branch abune aw the tyme at the ploy wes on gaein.

Mrs Blacky

IT IS A VERY STRANGE THING that when the whole world is enduring an immense tragedy the small domestic loss is just as painful as ever. Our garden is empty and lonely since we lost our tame blackbird. She lived in the garden for several years and had two broods every summer. Her *chink-chink* call told us that more mealworms were needed. We gave the family fruit as well as seeds so they had a healthy diet. One afternoon she came hopping quite calmly into my bedroom where I was lying in bed - no doubt to remind me of my duties. Her husband was not so brave but I have often seen her going back to the nest to tell him that he should come with her to tidy up the food we had left out. When I was pulling up weeds she was my constant companion, hunting earthworms.

This winter she was always present. I was mending the netting that protects the strawberries that had been torn by the snow. Before my lunch I went back to admire my work.

On the ground was a very curious sight. A sparrowhawk was plucking the plumage off a dead bird. He was a cock, with a black back and orange cheeks, and refused to be frightened away. He only stared at me with bright glittering eyes and carried on with his savage work. After my meal I went back because I thought that perhaps he had been entangled in a piece of loose mesh. He was still there, as handsome and wild as before. He had something like a lump of turf gripped in his talons. I stepped forward to see if it was preventing the hawk from flying.

In the blink of an eye he was away over the bushes and I understood that the turf he was grasping was the dead body of my friend the blackbird. All that was left behind was a sad collection of feathers. The most odd part of my tale is that a robin was singing from a branch overhead all the time this was happening.

Iain WD Forde, Scotlandwell

Fons Scotiae



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ARTEFACTS & CURIOS

Health & Wellbeing

News from the Health Centre



Covid Vaccine Update

News from Loch Leven Health Centre

Both practices are delighted with the progress we are making in our Covid Vaccination Programme. We continue to run clinics as vaccine supply allows and will soon begin to deliver second doses. Patients who fall in to any of the following cohorts and have not yet been invited for their first vaccination should contact the surgery to be booked in:

- **80 years of age and over**
- **Frontline health and social care workers**
- **75 years of age and over**
- **70 years of age and over**
- **Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (officially shielded patients)**
- **65 years of age and over**
- **16 - 64 years of age with underlying health conditions and at clinically higher risk of serious disease and mortality**
- **Carers who receive carers benefits**

Dewars Mass Vaccination Centre is currently working through patients aged 55-64.

If your contact details have changed recently, please ensure that these have been updated on our system.

Unpaid Carers

Unpaid carers are being asked to register to have the vaccine via the following web address:

www.nhsinform.scot/carersregister

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



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TWO METRES



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



OLIO

PICTURE THE SCENE: you are off for three weeks of holidays abroad, but before all the suitcases are packed, your fridge needs to be cleaned out. Off you to see the neighbours, to offer them that bottle of milk, a few carrots and an unopened tub of cream cheese. Phew, no need to put them in our, already very full, landfill bin.

The idea of sharing (more often referred as 'getting rid of') is not strange, but it is only on rare occasions that we apply it to food. More often, perhaps, we share household goods and bric-a-brac. It might then not surprise us that annually in the UK, £15 billion tons of food goes to waste. 71% of that comes from private households (Guardian, 2019). The result is huge amount of waste, causing devastation of the environment and an increase in climate change. On the other hand, over 8 million people live in poverty and are malnourished. Is there a way to solve this by preventing such waste?

You might say there are already food banks and charities that address this problem. However, reducing food waste is a much more difficult problem than we can imagine and many types of food (perishable items) are not accepted by food banks. Hence in the middle of summer, when you

grow too many courgettes or apples, they are a definite surplus not easily distributed among all your friends. Some of them might also hate courgettes. What then?

The answer is quite simple – OLIO.

OLIO was created in 2015 by Tessa Cook and Sasha Celestial-One in north London. It soon gained huge popularity in the UK and 46 other countries, with 900,000 users. In December 2018 OLIO received a climate action award at the UN climate change conference.

OLIO is a FREE app available to download on your mobile from the Play store. The app lets you list items like food (any food needs to be fresh or within sell by date) or non-food household products (any small and large everyday use). In order to list an item, just take a photo and give a very brief description. Pick-ups are arranged through private messages within the app. Once there are several local OLIO users it is a good way to share surplus food or unwanted household items with people who live locally.

In Kinross-shire there have been a few people trying to use OLIO, but the app needs a good number of users who regularly list items available locally. This requirement made it more popular in



larger cities, but the founders say it is now beginning to pick up in smaller towns.

Celestial-One, the founder said: 'Since we started Olio there has been a shift ... in awareness of the unsustainable problem of food waste. The message that small actions can lead to big change seems to be resonating with consumers more (Guardian, 1 April 2019).

Olio might be just another app, but it's a simple eco-friendly solution to food waste that connects members of the community and promotes a sustainable way of life. It can offer huge benefits to people in Kinross-shire moving us forward towards the future green economy. Why not give it a try?

Gosia Stanton



CHOREOBICS®
feel the music

Release Your Happy Hormones With Choreobics!

Lockdown has been a challenge in so many ways – not least to our physical and mental well-being.

I've always loved exercising; so much so, in fact, that I qualified as a teacher. I love it not just because of the benefits it brings in terms of health and fitness, but because it keeps my mind healthy too.

As a self-employed designer working from home, it's important to me to see other people on a regular basis, and, as well as the social aspect of exercise classes, the endorphins produced during a workout really lift the spirits.

I've been teaching Cize for two years now, and I'm sure my regulars would agree with me that it's a really fun way to keep fit, as we dance our little socks off to some banging tunes!

During the first lockdown, I taught my classes on Facebook, but was delighted when restrictions were eased and I could return to the Matthew Dance Academy Studio.

However, when the next lockdown happened, I virtually hibernated – and I'm sure many of you did too.

Finding the motivation to exercise during the winter months was difficult, and I'm not ashamed to say I felt quite low, especially as I was beginning to put on weight. My body and spirit both noticed my lack of exercise, and I was sure there were others in the same boat.

So that's when Choreobics was born.

I wanted to create a class which would 'do what it says on the tin'; something which would be quick, easy, and achievable from home. Although I can send recordings to people to complete the class at times to suit, I feel it's much better to commit to a time and do it in the group.

As the name suggests, Choreobics is a combination of a dance flavour and aerobics, and only takes 30 minutes to do, so it's achievable for the time-poor and those with a low boredom threshold! Most of all, it's great fun, and the pre-class blether via Zoom is an added bonus.

It's so easy to take part, and not only is it good for your heart and overall health and fitness, but the happy hormones are addictive!

I can guarantee that after 30 minutes of Choreobics you will feel brighter, less tired, more energetic, and you will be smiling LOTS!

Charlotte Giacopazzi

WINNING WAYS

by Jo Middlemiss

Life is like juggling.

Or is it?

A few years ago, pre-pandemic, I was asked to do some work for the Association of Scottish Business Women. It was a week-end conference, (remember those good old days?) being held just before Easter. The theme was 'juggling', and I ran workshops on Work-Life balance. Of course, I was delighted to be asked, and as usual I said 'Yes', before I really knew what I was letting myself in for. But it was an opportunity to meet and interact with interesting and motivated women from all over Scotland, plus the chance to make a difference to their lives – and mine!

Although the theme was 'juggling', I wanted to move them away from the idea of juggling pretty quickly. I wanted to move them onto the idea of balance. Even the thought of juggling or plate-spinning creates panic and anxiety in my mind, although I know that most working women would identify with the notion of juggling.

I wanted to get them to imagine life as a game in which they are juggling five balls in the air.

The balls are named – work, family, health, friends and spirit, and they are keeping all of these balls in the air.

They will soon understand that work is a rubber ball. If it is dropped, it will bounce back. But the other four balls – family, health, friends and spirit – are made of glass.

If any of these are dropped, they will be irrevocably marked, nicked, damaged or even shattered. They will never be quite the same.

Once that is understood, I hope they will realise that balance is a more comfortable thing to pursue.

Here are my thoughts for gaining and maintaining balance:

- 1 *Value your own worth, and not by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special.*
- 2 *Set your goals by what you deem important, not others. Only you know what is best for you.*
- 3 *Cherish the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them, life is meaningless.*
- 4 *Live your life one day at a time, and you'll live ALL the days of your life.*
- 5 *Nothing is really over until the moment you stop giving.*
- 6 *Admit when you are less than perfect. It is this fragile thread that binds us together.*
- 7 *Have a go at risk taking. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.*
- 8 *The quickest way to receive love is to give it; the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly; and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.*
- 9 *Go through life knowing where you are going.*
- 10 *A person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.*
- 11 *Always strive to learn. Knowledge is weightless, a treasure you can always carry easily. Use time and words carefully. Neither can be retrieved.*

Not everyone can take on all of these rules of course, and I often forget to live by them from time to time myself, but it is worth remembering that there was never a man or woman, who wished, with their last breath, that they had spent more time in the office! If life has to be a game, with coloured balls, then let it be snooker or billiards. If you make a pot, the balls just drop into a pocket and wait for you to retrieve them. The rest of the balls lie still on the smooth green baize, and wait for you to take action. Mistakes might lose you a few points, but nothing will be smashed, broken or lost. I hope that the high-powered business women were able to take on the idea of balanced billiards, rather than nerve-jangling juggling.

Life is not a race, but a journey to be savoured, each step of the way.

Yesterday is History.

Tomorrow is a Mystery, and Today is a Gift: that's why we call it The Present.



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Community Council News

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

Kinross Community Council News from the February Meeting

Present at the meeting held on 23 February were: Cllr L McKay (Chair), Cllr D Colliar, Cllr W Freeman, Cllr M McFarlane, Cllr H Phillip, Cllr T Stewart and Cllr M Wood, Cllr C Purves, Cllr W Robertson and Cllr R Watters and minute-taker Mrs C Aird.

Declaration Of Interest

Cllr M McFarlane declared an interest in the Kinross-shire Move Greener Initiative.

Police Report

At the time of the meeting, there was no Police Report available but it was agreed that this would be forwarded to members when it was available.

Kinross-shire Flood Resilience Group

In the absence of Will Wright, Cllr M McFarlane advised that there were 3 options available to KCC in respect of the Group. The first was around co-opting Mr Wright onto the KCC which will enable him to have full voting rights, the second was to appoint Mr Wright as an associate which would allow him to attend meetings, get support from KCC but no voting rights. The final option was for KCC to send attendees to the Resilience Group meetings and then report back to KCC meetings. Having discussed the options with Mr Wright, Cllr McFarlane confirmed that the Groups preferred option would be to go down the associate route, with Mr Wright attending KCC meetings to report on this one particular item.

There is an issue around insurance costs for the Resilience Group (around £156 per annum) and after discussion it was agreed that Cllr Watters would speak to the Responsible Officer at PKC (Keith Colville) for further advice, and he would also speak to the Alyth Group.

There was also a discussion around data protection and again, it was confirmed that the Resilience Group would need to deal with this themselves.

In summary, Cllr McFarlane confirmed the following actions: KCC continue to offer support to the Resilience Group meantime

Cllr Watters to investigate the issue of insurance and report back to the next meeting

Cllr Watters commented that the Group may need to apply for funding for the insurance via charities etc.

Kinross-shire Move Greener Initiative

Cllr M McFarlane advised that he has approached PKC in order to establish an approval for a permit in respect of one parking space for a pilot scheme. It is thought that by providing one car for the initiative that this could displace up to eleven cars. Cllr McFarlane reported that he was working with commercial organisations, including Enterprise Car Club who will provide the vehicle and it was noted that whilst there would be no costs to KCC, the hirers of the vehicle would be charged £10 per hire. It is proposed to have the car placed in the Old Causeway/Millbridge car park – this had been chosen due to the fact that people will see the vehicle more often.

Cllr Colliar advised that he could not support the suggestion to give up the parking space at Millbridge as this was the busiest car park in the town; he suggested Curate Wynd or

School Wynd as alternatives. Cllr McKay asked if it would make more sense for the parking space to be at the park and ride. Cllr McFarlane confirmed that this was an option, but the proposal was for a hybrid car to be provided, giving the ability for the permit and the car around the town. Cllr McKay reported that the park and ride was already set up for electric cars and Members were advised that there were two aims for the proposal, (a) to get more cars out of the town on a longer-term basis and (b) to park the car where residents will see it. Members confirmed their agreement in respect of the suggestion with regard to the two other car parks which could be used. Cllr Freeman was disappointed that the vehicle would not be electric, especially since the Scottish Government are trying to move everyone to electric vehicles. He also commented that the town had managed without four parking spaces at Millbridge before so, in his opinion, he didn't see losing one space being an issue.

Cllr Watters reminded Members that the location of the electricity points would need to be carefully considered as they will take up pavement space but Cllr McFarlane advised that in terms of the hybrid car, the only requirement would be to put a sign on a lamppost.

After a long discussion, it was agreed that the trial be for a period of one year, with a review to be arranged at the end of that time. It was also suggested that another power point be in place within the year. Cllr McFarlane advised that the second car would be fully electric and based at the park and ride.

It was agreed that Cllr Phillips would confirm KCC's position by letter to Claire Rogers at PKC.

Cllr McFarlane advised that there were currently two applications for significant funding in respect of bringing a fleet of up to 24 bikes (electric/standard mix) but this scheme will probably not be in place until 2022. It is proposed to provide a range of bikes including tandems, rickshaws, wheelchair accessible etc. and these will be sited at the park and ride, the loch/Kirkgate Park as well as the other side of the loch, with a view to the scheme being extended to other areas in the Kinross-shire area.

In response to a question from Cllr McKay, Cllr McFarlane confirmed that there was no advantage to himself in terms of bringing the pilot into the area.

Matters Arising

Cllr Watters advised that he had not yet been able to speak to the person at HES with regard to the Nato building at Balado. He feels that site would fit into quite a few elements in respect of an application for a heritage site. He will provide an update at the next meeting.

Cllr Colliar advised that nothing could be done in respect of the location of the Provost's Lamp until Scott Denier returned to work at PKC. Members agreed that if the Lamp had to be moved, then it should be placed in front of the War Memorial. However, there were concerns that the Lamp be damaged by cars parking in the vicinity. Cllr Colliar advised that a few years ago, Kinross in Bloom had agreed to place tubs to stop cars parking but these had recently been moved, allowing cars to be parked there. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Kinross in Bloom asking why the tubs had been removed as well as requesting that they be returned. Cllr Phillips is to write to Kinross in Bloom.

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Cleish and Blairadam CC Boundary

In the absence of Cllr Purves, Cllr Robertson advised that CBCC are keen to resolve the issue as soon as possible. Members were advised by Cllr Phillips that an article is to be included in the next edition of the *Newsletter*, with a deadline of the end of March for any comments. If no comments are received the boundary change will happen automatically. It was agreed that Cllrs McKay, Colliar and Phillips would compose a letter which would be distributed, along with a copy of the map, to the affected households in the area.

Cllr Purves confirmed that CBCC had already sent a letter to the affected households and everyone had confirmed that they were happy with the proposal. Cllr McKay asked Cllr Purves to arrange for copies of the responses to be provided to KCC.

Kinross Town Centre

Cllr Robertson advised that he had not heard back from PKC in respect of the drainage issue at The Muirs/Springfield Road and would report back to a future meeting.

There were concerns raised about the amount of potholes and it was noted that, while the bad weather had not helped, this was mainly due to a lack of investment by PKC. Cllr Phillips commented that the potholes were particularly bad between the two junctions of the M90.

Cllr Colliar asked for the March agenda to include an item on the holes in the bollards outside the opticians.

Planning Matters

Planning Applications Received

20/01971/FLL Alterations to roof at 11 Talla Park, Kinross.

20/01963/FLL Erection of a garage/store at 71 Bowton Road, Kinross, (withdrawn).

21/00052/FLL Extension to dwelling house at 38 Montgomery Way, Kinross.

20/01948/FLL Erection of a dwelling house on land south of 27 Alexander Drive, Kinross.

21/00028/LAW Formation of vehicular access and track (existing) on land 30 metres south west of Leiland House, Balado.

21/00183/FLL Extension to dwelling house at 45a High Street, Kinross.

21/00037/FLL Part change of use from café/takeaway to retail (Class 1) at 157 High Street, Kinross.

20/01972/FLL Alterations and extension to dwelling house and formation of a raised deck at 16 Broom Road, Kinross.

No comments were received on any of the applications.

Planning Applications Determined

20/01963/FLL Erection of a garage/store at 71 Bowton Road, Kinross, (withdrawn).

20/01755/FLL Alterations to flat at 100 High Street, Kinross, (withdrawn).

20/01650/FLL Erection of a hangar including agricultural store, formation of hardstanding and associated drainage works at Balado Activity Centre, The Old Airfield, Kinross (approved).

20/01161/LBC Alterations at 100 High Street, Kinross, (withdrawn).

20/00580/FLL Alterations to dwelling house at 51 Argyle Road and land 10 metres east of 51 Argyll Road, Kinross, (withdrawn).

20/01817/FLL alterations and extension to dwelling house at 8 Springfield Road, Kinross, (approved).

20/01796/FLL Alterations and extension to dwelling house at 13 Gallowhill Wynd, Kinross, (approved).

Other Planning Matters

Cllr Purves advised that PKC had declined the suggestion of Market Park for the estate on the site of the Windlestrae Hotel and Members needed to agree on a name, otherwise PKC would choose something themselves.

After discussion, and various suggestions, it was agreed to suggest Sir Alan Smith Court / Place / Drive / Close / Avenue to PKC. This suggestion was made by Cllr Colliar as Sir Alan Smith used to own the Windlestrae, and it was he who converted it into a hotel.

Cllr Purves agreed to email members outwith the meeting for their approval of this suggestion.

Reports From PKC Councillors

Cllr Robertson advised that he had raised the issue of the condition of the Heritage Trail (path erosion/narrowed in places) at a recent Trax Committee and had requested funding be obtained to restore the path. He will provide an update at a future meeting.

Cllr McKay suggested that perhaps the schools could help with this in terms of outdoor learning and Cllr Robertson confirmed he would contact Neil Mitchell at the Pier to discuss how children could help.

Cllr Watters raised issues around drainage at the Lathro site. There had been an issue recently where Enviroclean had removed 30,000 litres of sewage and placed this into Scottish Water drains. He commented that he was astounded that Enviroclean had not known that there were regulations to deal with this and he had contacted both PKC and Scottish Water to raise an action which has resulted in Persimmon Homes being told that this should not happen again. A report has been undertaken by Enviroclean and Cllr Watters has requested sight of this.

There had been ongoing drainage issues over the years and he had emailed PKC requesting an update. He had since received a response from the Head of Development Team at PKC who felt that there was no issue with the design of the drains and it was therefore a case that they had not been fitted correctly. PKC believe that Persimmon will spend whatever is required to resolve the issue. It was noted that Scottish Water would not adopt the drains until all issues had been resolved. Cllr Robertson confirmed that he and the remaining ward councillors were drafting a response to the Head of Planning at PKC which will hopefully get a resolution for the residents of the development. It was noted that PKC do not take into account any previous issues when deciding on planning applications.

An update will be given at a future meeting.

Reports From CC Representatives

Cllr McFarlane confirmed following the recent fire at Mill Hide, the hide would be replaced and there was a lot of community support for this.

Cllr McFarlane advised that KLEO were planning to have their first market on the last Saturday in April, and also have a full winter programme planned for 2021.

In respect of the Kinross Gigabyte, Cllr McFarlane confirmed that the first fully funded pilot had gone live earlier that day. Interest is definitely growing, despite a small issue with the Open reach website.

Cllr Freeman reported a fault with a lamppost in The Muirs and Cllr Robertson agreed to report this to PKC.

Cllr Purves reminded Members that it was possible to report faults etc. on the 'mypkc' portal (<https://my.pkc.gov.uk/>)

Cllr Freeman asked whether Cllr Mike Barnacle was OK as he hadn't attended meetings for a number of months. Members were advised that Cllr Barnacle was fine but was very busy in his other role as an accountant.

Cllr Colliar advised that there was a meeting of the Kinross-shire Fund next Monday (1 March) to discuss the three applications which had been received.

Cllr McKay advised that a complaint had been received via the Facebook page in respect of dog fouling in the cemetery. Having spoken to the Dog Warden, they have confirmed that

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dogs are now allowed in the cemetery and there was nothing that could be done.

Cllr McKay reported that a resident had fallen in Queen's Crescent and asked what could be done about this. Cllr Robertson commented that if the fall was on private land, then the homeowner was responsible for any repairs, but if the fall had been on a pavement, then it fell under the Council's jurisdiction.

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

Fossoway and District Community Council

News from the March Meeting

As it is still not possible to hold physical meetings of the CC we are continuing to publish this description of what was discussed in our Virtual meeting, including any updates that we are aware of. Members of the Public are encouraged to comment on and question the items below, by email to fossoway.cc@gmail.com or via the CC's Facebook page, which we will answer in our next meeting, be it virtual or physical, on Tuesday 6 April 2021.

Present at the meeting held on 2 March were: Community Councillors (Cllrs) S Bruce-Jones, T Duffy, C Haigh, M Haigh, N Marchant and G Pye; Councillor W Robertson.

Apologies: Cllrs Angus Cheape and Carol Farquhar; P&K Councillors Michael Barnacle, Callum Purves and Richard Watters.

Police Report

There were no incidents to note in our area. The CC will write to the police requesting more frequent attendance at our meetings in future.

Matters Arising

Bank of Scotland Kinross Branch Closure: Cllr Marchant, Cllr Purves and David Siddle (Liz Smith MSP's assistant) met with Patrick Leavey from the Bank on 11 February. The Bank will definitely close on 22 March 2021. The mobile branch will start visiting Kinross on Tuesday 9 March at the Green Hotel car park. It will be there fortnightly (every other Tuesday) after that. Initially, it will be open from 10am until 1pm. It will then be open 10am to 12pm, closed for 45 mins at lunchtime, then open 12.45pm until 3pm.

A special phone number has been put in place for customers over the age of 70 years and those that are vulnerable to provide them extra reassurance and support when they use telephone banking. The bank is in the process of calling all of these customers to provide any additional support or training. Cllrs Duffy and M Haigh are concerned that vulnerable customers might think that the calls are scammers. Cllr Marchant replied that the Bank's response was that the website lists the special number, but it was generally agreed that it was quite likely that those customers wouldn't be online.

Mr Leavey confirmed that the Bank has a contract with the Post Office for customers to deposit and withdraw cash, although Cllr Purves has been contacted by some members of the community who had not been able to do this. SMEs that have a Business Account can arrange, at a cost, to deposit or withdraw cash outside of PO hours.

Mr Leavey promised to provide flyers regarding the closure and alternative service at the Post Office which will be displayed on noticeboards. Currently the Bank does not have a community banker service but they are part of the National Community Access to Cash Pilot. Cllr Purves has contacted the Cambuslang pilot, but they would prefer to run with the scheme for a while before we meet with them. If the pilots are successful, we should encourage banks to offer this service in Kinross.

A977 Mitigation: There has been discussion on the CC's FB page about the proposed 20mph limits in Crook of Devon, with opinions on both sides about including the main A977 in the scheme. Cllr Duffy stressed that there will be full consultation before the changes. Cllr Bruce-Jones added that it's important that people who are commenting on social media need to understand that they must answer the official consultation process if they want their concerns to be heard.

Fossoway Area Transport/DRT: The next Community Transport Forum Meeting is Thursday 18 March via Zoom. Cllr Barnacle's Kinross-shire Community Transport Group will be meeting on 1 April. Cllr M Haigh will attend.

Community Development Trust: Cllr Duffy reported that the first meeting of the Trust was on 3 February – 12 people from all over Fossoway attended this meeting. Topics discussed were the legal status of the Trust, the scope of the Trust, initial funding and engagement with the community. The Trust should move to a membership organisation and membership should be open to all members of the community. The Board will then be elected by the members – the current members are a steering group to get the Trust established.

Engaging with the community will not be an easy task, so having a 'winning project' to set it in motion would be most helpful. The Rumbling Bridge Gorge Bridge could be such a project – The CC Members present agreed to this.

Fossoway and District Community Council Benefit Fund (a.k.a. Hydro Scheme Fund): Cllr Duffy reported that Elspeth King (Board member of the Rumbling Bridge Hydro Co-op) wants to set up a funding scheme that covers Muckhart, and asked Cllr Duffy how the Fossoway Fund operates. Subsequently Ms King approached the Fund with a proposal that rather than set up a new fund it should extend the coverage of the current fund to include Muckhart. Cllr Pye asked how the funds would be handled – would they be ring-fenced per community. Cllr Duffy replied that the details weren't yet known. Cllr Bruce-Jones commented that in her opinion MoPs believe that the fund should be principally for the benefit of Crook of Devon as that was the area most impacted by the Hydro Scheme works. Since Muckhart is in Clacks and not PKC and the two councils have quite different models for public spending this might lead to problems with prioritising funding between the two areas. Cllr Marchant added that as Fossoway District is in the process of establishing a Community Development Trust (CDT) and wants to encourage our Community to engage with it she felt that it would be confusing to set up a joint fund with Muckhart at the same time. Conversely it may be more beneficial to link the Fossoway Fund to the newly formed CDT. Cllr Duffy suggested that it might be better to keep the CDT and Fossoway Fund at 'arm's length'.

Rumbling Bridge Gorge Bridge: Cllr Robertson said that TRACKS were waiting for the CC to give the go-ahead for the surveys, whilst the CC thought this had already been done! Cllr Duffy will notify TRACKS formally, copying Cllr Robertson as chair of TRACKS.

Crook Moss Travellers Site: Cllr Farquhar reported that apparently there is an unauthorised septic tank on the site. Cllr Barnacle has been informed.

Planning Officer Site Visits: The CC continues to be concerned that these are not happening at the moment due to PKC's interpretation of the Covid-19 restrictions. The issue was reported in the press. A MoP who attended the meeting had her planning application turned down – in her view this was because without a site visit the officers were unable to appreciate the constraints affecting the design as a member of her household is disabled. Cllr Robertson described a similar situation near Kelty where it was proving very difficult to get a planning officer on site. None of us can understand why such visits are not considered to be acceptable under the current

rules allowing normal business to continue if it's not possible to perform it at home. Cllr Robertson suggested the CC should write to the Acting CEO Barbara Denton to say that we think PKC are not carrying out their statutory duty. Cllr Marchant said that if the 'due process' says a site visit should be made, then a decision should be deferred without one. Cllr Robertson explained that the Scottish Government is encouraging Councils to decide applications timeously – which surely means that the visits are essential and hence should be allowed!

Crook & Drum Growing Together: Cllr Duffy reported that the group have made plans for the spring.

Aldie Road Vegetation: Cllr Marchant said that there was no change, although some of the local farmers have cleared sections of the ditches themselves. However, a new problem is that potholes are appearing. Cllr Robertson said that the easiest way to report any problem to the council is via <https://my.pkc.gov.uk/>. A registration process enables tracking of your reports, but reports can also be submitted without an account.

Fossoway Gathering: Cllr Duffy said that there is a provisional plan for an event on 4 September.

New Business

Royal Mail Deliveries: A MoP had raised concerns about lack of Royal Mail deliveries during bad weather, but this seems to be resolved now.

Community Council Business: Cllr Duffy will attend a meeting of the Scottish Rural Parliament on 8 March.

Minutes Secretary: A volunteer has kindly answered the advert on FB and offered to take on this role; they will be invited to the next meeting.

Cllr M Haigh attended a training talk from **Kinross First Responders** about operation of the Powmill defibrillator.

PKC have notified us that any website remotely connected with receiving public money must conform to **Accessibility Regulations** and be usable by all abilities. The fossoway.org website has some information about this CC, but is not owned by this CC, and does not currently fully comply. Cllr Duffy will speak to Jim Pritchard, who operates the site, and look into whether this can be addressed.

The next meeting of the **Kinross-shire Forum** was to have been Wednesday 3 March at 7pm via Zoom, but has now been postponed to 24 March. Information had been sent to Cllrs Bruce-Jones and Cheape rather than to the CC's email account. Cllr Bruce-Jones will ask the Forum to send the info to the CC's account in future.

The next meeting of **P&K Stronger Communities** is 10 March, Cllr Marchant will attend.

The Kinross-shire fund has not formally met, however Cllr Cheape has discussed the applications with the other members and grants have been made to Friends of Wallace Park, Kinross First Responders and Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation.

P&K Councillors' Reports:

Willie Robertson: The roads department has lost six weeks of work due to weather, and are trying to catch up on pot holes. The roadside litter problem has got worse as the litter picking teams are being redeployed to Covid-19 activities. Perhaps some local schemes could be set up? PKC's Budget will be discussed next week, and is likely to require some tough decisions as money is tight.

Callum Purves: Although Cllr Purves could not attend the meeting, he reported by email that the road safety requests discussed last month, including the 20mph limits along the A977 have been entered into the system.

Planning

New Applications:

21/00122/FLL Erection of two dwelling houses and garages with ancillary accommodation (Plots 3 and 4) at land 70m

southeast of Merryhills, Rumbling Bridge, no CC comment.

21/00124/FLL Change of use of garden ground and garage to form office (Class 2) and associated parking area at Honeysuckle Cottage, Carnbo, Kinross, no CC comment.

21/00125/FLL Erection of workshop/garage at Craigend House, Powmill, Kinross, no CC comment.

21/00176/FLL Part change of use and alterations to stables to form events venue and installation of air source heat pump at Fossoway Stables, Fossoway, Kinross, no CC comment.

Decided Applications:

20/01907/FLL Alterations to garage to form extension to ancillary accommodation 1 Braehead, Rumbling Bridge, Kinross. The application was approved, the CC had not commented.

20/01915/FLL Erection of a garage Whitewisp, Main Street, Blairingone, Dollar. The application was approved, the CC had not commented.

20/01954/FLL Alterations and extension to dwelling house at Earnieside Cottage, Dunning Glen, Dollar. The application was approved, the CC had not commented.

Response to Request for Consultation:

Draft Mediation Guidance: Cllr Marchant prepared a response to this document, which was approved by the CC – We are concerned that a guidance document may become a process and hence needs to be open-ended, allowing mediation to be used at all stages if appropriate. Otherwise, the CC generally agrees to the proposals.

Planning (Scotland) Act – Pre-application Consultation:

The new regulations are due to come into effect on 1st October 2021 – The CC commented that these consultations should be more inclusive and ensure that any pre-application meetings are accessible to the community – a view also expressed by other responders, but this has only been added as guidance not law.

Correspondence

Elina Eronen, a final year student at the University of Edinburgh, has asked for input to a survey about Loch Leven Management Plans for her dissertation: <https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/dissertation-survey-10>.

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

AOCB

Cllr Marchant noted that the Gigabit programme is gaining interest. Cllr Bruce Jones agreed, however there is no one driving the scheme in her area.

The next meeting of Fossoway and District Community Council will be held on Tuesday 6 April 2021 at Crook of Devon Village Hall if Government guidelines allow, otherwise it will be virtual. Members of the public wishing to join should please email the CC at fossoway.cc@gmail.com

Milnathort And Orwell Community Council News from the March Meeting

Present at the meeting held on 11 March were: Cllrs M Thomson (Chairman), S Colebourn (treasurer); A McCrae (secretary); M Kirkbright; C Williams and A Ward; associate member K Heneghan; Cllrs C Purves; W Robertson; R Watters and four members of the public.

Police matters:

Police Scotland have introduced 'what3words' as an additional location finding tool.

Two boys aged 14 and 16 years old will be reported to the Children's Panel for setting fire to a bird hide at Loch Leven, Kinross on Tuesday 18 February.

A drug search warrant was executed at a property in Acremoar

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Drive, Kinross on Tuesday 2 March. Cocaine valued at £1810 was recovered along with cannabis valued at £937. Two men aged 18 and 23 will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

Between 4pm, Friday 19 and 11am, Saturday 20 February, a silver VW Golf was scratched whilst parked in Manse Brae, Milnathort. (CR/4807/21)

About 2.30pm, Tuesday 23rd February, a white Ford Transit Van was broken into in Montgomery Street, Kinross. (CR/5037/21)

Correspondence

16/02/21 Zero Waste Scotland & PAS (Planning Aid Scotland) have sent out an invite to attend a conference Regarding The Circular Economy & the Planning System.

6/02/21 Email from P&K regarding an update to the 'Planning Enforcement Charter'.

16/02/21 Strategic Transport Projects Review.

25/02/21 Perth & Kinross Council Community Transport Forum invites the MOCC to attend a meeting on 18 March.

01/03/21 Kinross-shire Community Transport Group minutes.

11/03/21 Open University are offering free training opportunities for Community Councillors.

Councillors' Reports

Budget meeting: All Cllrs expressed their positivity at the recently agreed budget.

There will be £160k for maintenance and improvement of the heritage trail at Loch Leven.

The road repair budget has been increased from £10m to £14m.

Plans are going ahead to create a devolved local committee for Kinross-shire where the four local ward councillors will have responsibility for decision making (not on planning or licensing).

£1m was secured for economic development (skill support and business grants).

Money was also secured to expand subject choice in secondary schools.

Cllr Watters raised a concern at the lack of money for Action Partnerships which has effectively distributed funds to local charities during the pandemic. Despite support for Action Partnerships this was not allocated any money.

Other matters

Litter Pick: There will be a community litter pick at the end of March. It would be great if people could sign up to help the dedicated volunteers who have been cleaning up Milnathort recently. Please check Facebook and the Notice Board for details.

Cars Idling On New Road: Cllr Willie Robertson raised the issue of motorists idling in their cars on New Road, Milnathort. The Community Council would like to remind road users that idling contributes to harmful pollution, wastes fuel and is a ticketed offence if caught by the police. Please be considerate and turn your engine off when parked.

Dog Waste: Dog waste continues to be a widespread issue on the streets of Milnathort. If you witness a dog owner failing to clean up after their dog, you can report them at www.pkc.gov.uk/dogfouling. Rest assured that this is an anonymous process.

New Forestry At Stronachie: A concern was raised about an increase of forestry plantation at Stronachie totalling 250 hectares. Cllr Willie Robertson reiterated that the forestry operators pay a bond to the council to ensure roads are repaired and that the forestry vehicles must use preapproved routes (avoiding North St, Milnathort).

Victoria Avenue Parking: The scarcity of available parking on Victoria Avenue is causing considerable angst amongst residents. The Community Council would like to request that

homeowners restrict their use of parking on Victoria Avenue to two cars. If you require additional, longer term parking, there is ample space on Perth Road. This will allow all residents to park at least one car outside their homes.

Special Mention

All in attendance would like to express their gratitude for the sterling work performed by former Community Councillor and secretary Liz Rougve over the past few years. We wish her well in her exciting new career as an author.

The next meeting of Milnathort and Orwell Community Council will be held via Zoom at 7pm on Thursday, 8 April, 2021. Anyone who wishes to attend is asked to contact communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com.

Cleish & Blairadam Community Council

News from the February Meeting

Present at the meeting held on 22 February were: Cllr F. Principe-Gillespie (FG), Cllr P. Appleby (PA), Cllr C MacLaren (CM), Cllr F. Whalley (FW), Cllr J. Leishman (JL), Cllr C. Purves (CP), Cllr W. Robertson (WR) and 9 members of the public.

Apologies: M. Traylor (MT, Treasurer). The Chair (FG) had received an update from MT.

Crime Prevention / Community Speedwatch update

There were no police officers in attendance. No update had been received from the police which was recognised as disappointing as there had been a number of crashes on the B996 which was perceived as an alarmingly regular occurrence. This prompted lively debate with WR advising a written communication to the police and the council. The summary findings were that excessive speed was the problem. There had been proposals to reduce the speed limit to 40mph at Blairforge and Blairfordel with the council to monitor. CP was to take this forward with the council. Lack of police resources was seen as a contributory factor.

The community speedwatch was positively received and was definitely worth trying. CM reported that although there was not any interest shown in the Boreland area there was an interest in traffic calming measures. (CM)'s report is under village updates later in this document.

WR suggested that it would be sensible to put the speedwatch issue to one side until the current pandemic was over and things returned to some semblance of normality.

Boundary Updates and discussion

There was lengthy discussion regarding extension the Cleish and Blairadam boundary with CP reporting that the issue had been live for a couple of years without clear resolution. The council appear to be unwilling to impose boundary changes without the agreement of the relevant community councils.

Broadband update and proposal for Maryburgh / Blairforge

The Maryburgh CFP was continuing albeit it slowly, the 26 properties involved should, within the next few weeks, be notified of the web site where the vouchers can be applied. PA advised of the website for other residents in the area to check their status for future fibre provision. www.scotlandsuperfast.com.

Drainage Update

CM provided an update on Cleish drainage.

A site meeting with Tilhill Forestry (TF) was held on 8 December. TF are sympathetic to local issues however are limited in what can be practically done in the immediate term as the forest is mature and there is little ability to operate machinery in a confined space. In the short to medium term a relatively modest drainage redesign might be possible subject to proper process being followed and consents achieved.

Key provisional dates that are relevant in this regard:

- Next community consultation 2022
- Harvesting 2023
- Replanting 2024

The time to reconsider drainage design would be at the consultation in 2022, with implementation being at the time of replanting in 2024. In addition, consultation should consider any potential drainage impairment during the 2023 harvest i.e., there might be some work needed to mitigate the short-term risk of flooding during that time.

A separate site meeting was held with Scottish Woodlands (SW) on 11 December. Timing is more beneficial as the SW block has recently been harvested and SW will be planning their drainage in early spring in advance of planting in Q2.

SW agreed to revert to share their proposed drainage scheme which will extend to approximately 1100m. Broadly SW intend to slow the peak flow in line with forestry management guidelines by reducing the hill drainage gradient to 3 degrees in a chicane style, with overspill to rough land / attenuation and also equalising the outflow to the various drainage points i.e., minimising the pressure on one drain at peak flow.

Separately FW updated that improvement to the culvert south of Cleish House had been agreed and work would commence shortly.

Financial Update

FG presented the financial report as below:

The CC top up for the year 1/9/20- 31/8/21 was £374.93 and was credited to the CC's Bank of Scotland A/C on 22/12/20.

The balance now stands at £600.50.

All previous Community Councillors who held authorised signatory status on the Bank of Scotland Account have been removed, Paul Appleby as Vice Chair has now been added which means that the three authorised signatories on the account are: FG; MT & PA.

Planning

The Chairman thanked Cllr Willie Robertson for his work regarding the ongoing situation in Blairforge, WR explained at length that there is an active case running but council officials were currently not permitted to make site visits. There was lively discussion on the placement of static caravans/mobile homes in the fields to the east of Blairforge with particular emphasis on the level and type of traffic on the small unadopted access road. WR is taking residents concerns back to David Rennie, PKC Enforcement Officer.

Erection of a dwelling house in principle 90 mtrs south of Hillview, Blairadam (pending consideration)

Alterations to dwelling house (in retrospect) Beatha Cottage Maryburgh (pending consideration)

Alterations and extension to dwelling house and erection of garden buildings (in retrospect) 1 Blairfordel Steading Kelty (pending consideration)

Erection of replacement extension (proposed) Watergate Cottage Cleish (pending consideration)

Alterations and extension to dwelling house and associated works 2 Middleton Park Keltybridge (pending consideration)

Erection of dwelling house (in principle) Land 30mtres west of Hollow Cottage Kinross (pending decision)

Erection of a dwelling house, garage and workshop/temporary residential accommodation, installation of air source heat pump, erection of gates, formation of landscaping and associated works. Land 60 mtrs north of Craigbank House, Cleish (application approved)

Erection of a dwelling house and formation of vehicular access Gordon Bungalow, Benarty Rd Kelty (Application refused). The owner of the property was present at the meeting and sought advice as to reapplying and the reasons for refusal.

FG and FW explained at length the community council's role in planning applications. It was noted that the applicant had a considerable level of support for her application. The CC had no objection in principle to a house development on the site and that it was PKC's Planning Officer who made the final decision rather than the CC. FW recommended that the applicant has a discussion with the Planning Officer before submitting a revised proposal.

Village Update – Blairadam

Thanks were forthcoming to Councillor Graham and Stuart D'All and his team at PKC from all residents, for all their help in arranging for the gritting carried out regularly in Keltybridge and Maryburgh on the treacherous pavements and roads in the area caused by the snowy, icy severe weather conditions we experienced from the New Year period and beyond. Their help enabled residents to get out for essential shopping or for their daily walk.

The placement of static caravans and groundwork in the fields to the east of Blairforge: keep on the agenda.

Litter and dog poo problems in Keltybridge all along the Sawmill Road and up towards the motorway bridge and beyond. This has been exacerbated by the volume of walkers using this route.

A neighbour decided to do a litter and poo clear up. She picked 3 large bags of litter. This is a part of the core path network but not an adopted road so not sure that PKC will offer to help with clearing up but one idea would be to obtain an official PKC litter bin to try to alleviate or help with the issue. Dog poo is a serious environmental and health issue. The Sawmill Road is directly next to the Keltyburn/Blackburn where heavy rain will wash it into the burn. These burns feed directly into Lochore Meadows. The issue of dog waste bins was discussed at length. One resident had written to PKC about the situation in Maryburgh and received a negative email from the Community Waste Team with the comment that the officer was unable to see a suitable location/need for a bin and also unable to see a requirement for one! WP advised to write to him or CP with a view to obtaining a bin. CP further advised that the council not provide additional bins.

Also, the amount of litter along the verges on the B996 to the junction of the B9097 is a disgrace, also at the layby on the B9097 before the M90 where illegal tipping seems to be happening again.

Problems with noisy trials motor bikes in the area again coming in from the Kelty area heading into Blairadam Forest. One resident has reported that they had saw what looked like a parent driving a vehicle with a trailer attached with trail bikes on it! The problem is no one is able to catch sight of any registrations to report them, and if they drive the bikes in through the village to get in the forest, there are no registrations on the bikes driven by youngsters. WR advised that this was a police issue.

Following the last meeting CP had arranged for Jim Mitchell, Community Warden, in touch with PA regarding the illegal tipping situation in the area. Jim met with PA and had produced some CCTV signs which have now been erected at the triangle in Maryburgh and in adjacent to the layby on approach to the B996. Since the placement of these signs no further tipping had been evident.

Several sightings of a suspicious white flatbed van. Reports mention attempts to take photos with their phone, but the van driver stopped, and they felt intimidated, so no one seems to be able to get the registration. They felt it was also watching for dogs! They were also concerned that it might be trying to illegally tip rubbish. There was a report on the Kinross and Fossoway Forum about a suspicious vehicle with a similar description and it was also thought that they might be looking for dogs. The police are warning about stolen dogs at the moment.

Concern was raised about Openreach telephone cables insecurely fixed adjacent to the bridge just north of Keltybridge, indeed one set of cables is not buried at all across the farm gates, it is clear that the tractor has been dragging these cables as it enters and leaves the field. PA agreed to take this up with Openreach.

Village Update – Cleish

With regard to broadband most of the Boreland area is eligible for the R100 programme, however work is not due to commence during 2021. There is no published map that identifies which properties are either included or excluded however residents can check their own address by using the online tool at scotlandsuperfast.com. In the interim if a property is included then vouchers of up to £400 per property are available to help prior to R100 delivering. Excluded properties may be eligible for vouchers up to £5000. Details of both schemes are available on the online tool.

Enquiries had been received about traffic calming, in the Boreland area, particularly speed bumps. It was noted that there were issues with speed bumps, however other options might be possible e.g., improved signage. CP agreed to ask Daryl from the roads department to undertake an assessment in the first instance.

A couple of Boreland residents had expressed an interest in street lighting being installed. However, there were mixed views locally with some residents preferring the status quo. Given the lack of unanimous support the idea would not be progressed at this time.

Residents had noted the increased incidence of potholes during winter and it was noted that the PKC online portal is the agreed method to report potholes to the Council.

An increase in dog waste was noted along the walk from the Church car park to Millennium Walk despite good signage and poop scoops being made available. The issue will be brought to the attention of PKC dog warden and in the interim dog walkers are asked to clean up appropriately.

FG asked about the provision of warning signs for the protection of red squirrels. WR advised that the council do not provide these and advised people to purchase them should they desire.

AOCB

FW raised the issue of lack of access to footpath at Flockhouse FG advised that the Community Council website is no longer available and that he was proposing to write a new front page with hyperlinks to minutes etc. The contract still had a year to run. FG offered condolences to the family of Chris Conn who passed away on 12 February.

Condolences were also offered to the family of Richard Crombie who also passed away recently.

The next meeting of Cleish and Blairadam Community Council will be on Monday 7 June 2021 (Zoom).

Portmoak Community Council News from the March Meeting

Present at the meeting on 9 March were: CCLRs A Davidson (acting Chair), D Morris, S Forde, K Donaldson, Cllrs C Purves, W Robertson, and 1 member of the public.

Apologies: Cllr G Smith

Matters Arising

Portmoak CC – PKC By-Election for PCC and next steps following Nov '20 resignations

The CC had not received any update from PKC about the proposed date of the by-election. Cllr CPurves commented that Glenfarg CC were also facing a by-election and given the forthcoming Scottish Parliament elections the PCC by-election may be held after this in May '21. PCC by-election date to be confirmed.

Portmoak Cemetery: The Secretary had spoken to A Cragoe who was continuing with the cemetery extension project. There was no update for this meeting but A Cragoe had a meeting with Willie Grieg on 10/03/21 so there would be an update for the PCC meeting on 13/04/21.

Road Safety Action in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell: Cllr CPurves did not have an update from Daryl McKeown regarding the A911 road plan. The installation of 20mph repeater signs between Scotlandwell and Kilmagadwood will be completed (no time estimate on this).

Cllr D Morris enquired about any forthcoming budget increase for active travel coming through from the UK government to proactively promote walking and cycling. It appeared that £430m was being allocated to Scotland. Cllr C Purves confirmed PKC did receive notice about extra money coming through across Scotland, of which £15m was for active travel in PKC. Cllr W Robertson mentioned he was in Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust but had received no indication yet of when money would come through. There are a lot of projects in PKC but the money hasn't come through for these yet. It can take a while for money to filter down to project level. The CC asked that the Westfield path network report could be flagged for allocation of funds as it is in the final stage of preparation. Cllr D Morris indicated that, at this stage, the report was confidential because landowner contacts had been limited due to Covid-19 restrictions, but he agreed to ask Hargreaves whether the report could be sent in confidence to the four ward councillors so that they were aware of the Westfield network possibilities when considering the active travel budget options.

Glenlomond Sewage: migration of responsibility to Scottish Water: Because of pandemic restrictions and the severe winter weather, actions had not progressed substantially. The village Residents' Association were currently waiting for quotes to do some urgent maintenance work with the long-term objective ultimately to get Scottish Water to adopt the sewerage system.

Glenlomond Snow Clearing and Gritting: Glenlomond village have bought in coarse salt and sand to be able to grit and salt the road themselves. Cllr W Robertson suggested the village should approach PKC to obtain hand push gritters which may be available from PKC.

Easter Balgedie – Wester Balgedie Footpath and Flooding: There was a brief discussion about the continued flooding of the footpath along the A911 between Easter and Wester Balgedie as a result of soil washing off the adjacent fields during heavy rain. The CC were appreciative of the efforts of local residents and farmers who had undertaken to dig gulleys and remove mud and silt to clear the footpath. The CC will approach local farmers and PKC once the weather improves.

New Matters:

New Rail Link at Kinross: There was a discussion about the potential project which had been featured in the Kinross Newsletter. MSP Liz Smith & Cllr C Purves were in support of this project and felt there was a strong case for this, with benefits to commuters, and bringing tourism to Kinross, and benefits to hospitality trade. A proper feasibility study is required to assess cost. Cllr W Robertson expressed concerns about the excessive cost and that priorities were health and housing. The route had not yet been confirmed but there was probably going to be only one station at Kinross and no more local stations. The CC commented that the Newsletter had suggested that it was possible for the public to voice their opinions on the project, but Cllr Purves confirmed there was not a public consultation at present. Any comments in support or objection could be made by writing to MSP Liz Smith. The CC commented that a direct rail link could potentially bring pressure on local housing and detrimentally

on the Loch Leven environment from new house building, Cllr Purves suggested these impacts would be assessed in the feasibility study.

Sledging at Bishopshire Golf Club, Kinnesswood: The CC had heard comments of upsetting confrontations between residents, with children who were sledging, and Bishopshire Golf Club members during the recent snowy weather. Bishopshire Golf Club had not approached the CC at all, but the CC Secretary had reached out to the Secretary of the Golf Club and another officer at the Golf Club to discuss the incident. The Golf Club Secretary had said the golf club accepted people sledging there and had taken measures to mark out the greens which they would prefer locals did not sledge across due to the damage caused and costs incurred in repair. Concern had also been expressed about dog walkers who were leaving excrement bags in rough ground alongside the fairways. Access rights and responsibilities apply across golf courses in Scotland with advice contained within the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. (www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

Police Reports

PC Ashley Mitchinson was in attendance.

Local incidents included a theft of diesel by siphoning which people should be aware of.

PC Mitchinson was keen to raise public awareness of the what3words app <https://what3words.com/products/what3words-app/> which had proved useful recently in locating a walker who had slipped and been injured. Mountain Rescue had used the what3words app in locating the walker. The public can download this app for free. Reminder from the Police to exercise caution and have correct equipment for the terrain and weather if out walking, especially in winter.

The Police had been out doing mobile speed checks in villages. Unmarked traffic cars are also patrolling. The CC asked if it was possible to continue increased enforcement of the speed restrictions that PKC had recently applied to the area as it was generally observed that traffic was travelling in excess of the speed limits. The CC also enquired about the volunteer Speedcheck project, PC Mitchinson advised this was not possible at present due to pandemic restrictions, but as restrictions eased the Speedcheck project could potentially start again.

Cllr D Morris raised item regarding a confrontation with a landowner behaving in intimidating way. Another local resident had a similar confrontation. A Police Community Officer was supposed to have followed up but this hadn't happened. PC Mitchinson asked the Cllr to email her directly about this.

Cllr D Morris also raised concerns that some farmers in Kinross-shire were not treating core paths properly. The right to roam legislation allows for core paths in fields to be ploughed and planted but the core path surface must be restored for ease of public use within 14 days. Failure to do so is potentially a criminal offence. PC Mitchinson agreed to research on this item and report back.

The CC voiced their appreciation for PC Mitchinson attending at the meeting.

Planning

New Applications:

21/00227/FLL Installation of replacement windows and door, Old School Cottage, Main Street, Scotlandwell, Kinross, no CC comment.

20/01855/ADV Display of information board, Land at Kinnesswood Play Area, Buchan Avenue, Kinnesswood, no CC comment.

21/00073/ADV Land 30 Metres East of Greenacres, Gamekeepers Road, Kinnesswood, no CC comment.

Previous Application:

20/01902/FLL Extensions to dwellinghouse and outbuilding,

West Feal Barn, Auchmuirbridge, Leslie, Glenrothes: Note: the closing date for comments on this application is now past but PCC had subsequently been made aware of potential traffic issues along the Core Path that leads to the property in the application. The Planning Application has been withdrawn, but PCC will make a representation about the traffic situation along the road should a similar application be made again in the future. Any future approval should include a planning condition which required all traffic to proceed in a forward gear as the road is 2 miles long, single track and has a lot of walkers and cyclists in view of core path status. In addition, at or close to the property, the condition would require the provision of a turning circle which is suitable for use by all vehicles, of whatever length.

20/01958/FLL Erection of a dwellinghouse, Land 40 Metres North West of Bonaly Cottage, Main Street, Kinnesswood. The closing date for comments on this application is now past.

The CC has submitted their objection to the application. The objection explained why the planning application breached four policies contained within the Local Development Plan. There had also been 22 objections from individual members of the public to this planning application. There is a new Planning Officer responsible for this application and PCC agreed to send some supplementary information to provide a wider context to this planning application, including the previous planning situation regarding the site as a whole and progress regarding community right to buy efforts.

Planning Decisions

Progress with Developments: Westfield Community Liaison Committee

Cllr D Morris confirmed there were no updates at present, there has been no further meeting.

K Donaldson was able to report there has been clearing of scrub on sides of roads at the site, possibly for landscaping and security are present.

Treasurer CC Accounts: The Treasurer reported no movement of any Accounts.

The former Treasurer will work with Cllr A Davidson to try to move to online banking for PCC due to issues of delay in transferring the accounts to the control of the Treasurer. Treasurer to set up a new online account.

Ward Councillors' Reports: Cllr W Robertson noted PKC are aware of surface issues on A911. PKC are behind with repair schedule given the recent bad weather. Council budget is being released on 10/03/21. A Council tax freeze will operate in 2021/22.

Cllr C Purves agreed the main item was the forthcoming budget. Cllr Purves is optimistic about the budget and will continue to promote value for money, alternative ways of working, and trying to reduce tax burden on constituents. The process of appointing a new PKC Chief Executive is underway and at shortlisting stage.

AOB:

Member of the public commented on the Visitor Information sign at the Kinnesswood bus-stop which is very tatty and has no information on it. Suggestion to remove the board or put something on it.

The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 13 April 2021.

Newsletter Deadlines

A list of future deadlines can be found on our website

www.kinrossnewsletter.org

Club & Community Group News

Kinross and District Art Club

www.kadac.co.uk



This month, members are feeling slightly more optimistic that they will soon be able to meet up outside to share their passion for drawing and painting. Recently, the committee have held Zoom meetings to discuss plans for the year ahead. Provisional dates were identified for 3 'en plein air' sessions over the next few months. The details of these meetings will follow when we know which restrictions still apply.

The committee also agreed to begin plans to hold an Art Exhibition later in the year to dovetail with the Perthshire Open Studios event in September.

Meanwhile, more members have submitted their profiles and artworks to share on our website and in the Newsletter. This month, our showcase artist is Pauline Connolly, who describes the part Art plays in her life:

'Joining KADAC only a few years ago after winding down my career in teaching was to be the start of my journey back into creating art after a gap of over 40 years! The youngest

the artworks you will see my scary, much-loved Dad reading his Sunday papers; Charles Dickens, the writer who alongside the Bronte's, Austen, Shakespeare, (and Agatha Christie!) were my chums through teenage years and beyond. They kept a love of learning and the arts alive in me until I could rediscover it for myself. Finally, me with my wonderful step-grandson on Christmas Eve 2020, when Christmas dinner consisted of take-out sandwiches and coffee at a picnic bench next to Loch Leven in brilliant, freezing sunshine. The encouragement I have gained from belonging to the KADAC community has helped me develop both skill and confidence and being involved in a group of like-minded folks, particularly throughout the lockdown period, has been a joy and a blessing.'

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.

Common Grounds

www.spanglefish.com/commongroundscharitycafe



It's been another quick month. We have kept in touch with our drop-in Zoom meetings, where we not only put the world to rights, but share cheery chats and laughter. Several of our volunteers have been enjoying a book exchange whilst strictly adhering to all guidelines, as so many of us had exhausted our reading material. Our bookcase will be overflowing with donations when our doors re-open!

Meanwhile, thoughts have been turning to re-opening and hopefully the welcome hints of spring will bring good news on all fronts, sooner than expected. Whenever the green light is flashing, look out for our yellow billboard announcing our return to business. In the meantime, best wishes for staying safe and an Easter heralding better days.

Project: Our project for April is an 'Out of Africa' project; The Free To Live Trust – Seema's Project. We last supported this charity in April 2016 and we were very fortunate to have a speaker from the charity, Dr Pam Cairns, come to a Project Lunch that month and tell us about their marvellous work.

The charity works in collaboration with an Indian Non-Governmental Organisation and is based in Bori, a village in the Indian district of Maharashtra. Established in 2014, the charity built a home for 40 children, the abandoned offspring of trafficked sex workers and rescued commercial sex workers who had been trafficked and wanted to live a life free from exploitation.

The charity has used funding to build two accommodation blocks and both are packed to capacity; these offer housing and a training facility for cottage industries and education in literacy and numeracy. There are now over 60 children in residence and Seema has taken on many extra staff and food bills have soared. Schools are closed in India, but the project staff have risen to the challenge and are educating the children in a structured way. The Free To Live Trust have been supported since 2018 by the Church of Scotland Guild; this partnership ends in April. Without this support the Trust



of 5 children, my secondary education and pathway to Art College, was interrupted by caring responsibilities which left little time for anything social, never mind creative! Beyond this time, I was always playing catch-up, but thank goodness for the Open University, I found myself very happily teaching English, immersed in literature. Why is all this relevant, I hear you ask? Because the art I love to create now is based around the narrative of my life. I love to draw scenes that detail aspects of my experience in ways I can't express in words. In

would not have been able to support Seema's critical work during the pandemic.

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

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

KYTHE

Walking the 'length of Britain' with young people

KYTHE staff and volunteers have walked 1,681,006 steps with the young people of Kinross-shire in the last 3 months during lockdown. That's roughly 760 miles in all weathers!



Walk and Talk Barry

'Walk and Talks' started in January to connect with young people at a difficult time; and often this was the only time they were getting out of their homes with the restrictions. Walking and talking has helped to support them with mental health struggles and isolation and has promoted good health and wellbeing. There was a great turn out each week in all weather conditions. KYTHE is now sourcing waterproof jackets, trousers and umbrellas for staff and volunteers for the inclement weather but with the hope that, as summer arrives, we'll need sunhats instead.

To arrange a 'Walk and Talk' contact KYTHE.

Meanwhile, plans are underway for Easter holidays but, with the ever-changing





Easter holiday activities
5th — 16th April

Art Workshops:
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:30am-12:30pm
Katy-Beth brings you extreme arts and crafts!

Drop in:
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 1:30pm-4:00pm
Wednesdays: 10:30am-12:30pm
Hang out at our centre... play pool ...

Games:
Wednesday 7th April: 1:30-4pm
Wednesday 14th April: 1:30-4pm
Join Jabbie (Jack and Abbie) with their famous games...

Altitude:
Saturday 10th April: 6pm-9pm
Open youth club night at KYTHE for any young person to come and hang out and enjoy some entertainment and fun...

May be subject to change—COVID dependent.
Keep up to date via Instagram, Facebook, Twitter



Registered
500
SCHOOLS



KYTHE (Kinross-Shire Youth Enterprise SCIO) Muirs,
Kinross, KY13 8FP
office@kythe.org.uk
01577-869290



Covid-19 restrictions, this could change. However, we plan for Katy-Beth's art classes, drop-in sessions, games afternoons, and the ever popular Altitude.

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

Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation

www.kleo.org.uk



Farmers' Market Returns

The Kinross Farmers' Markets can start again from April onwards. The first market will take place on Saturday 24 April, 10am-2pm, on the High Street of Kinross. This market will only feature food and drinks stalls as non-essential shops will not open until 26 April. However, government guidelines may change nearer the time so please keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for updates.

The following market dates will be on every fourth Saturday of the month from April to October (apart from the July market; there will not be a market that month). Exact dates for the markets are 24 April, 22 May, 26 June*, 28 August, 25 September and 23 October.

*We are planning a special market at Market Park on 26 June. We hope it will be a bigger market with some additional entertainment if Covid-19 guidelines permit. Therefore, please note that the market on 26 June will not take place on the High Street but at the Market Park (opposite the Green Hotel).

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



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A village chateau, modelled on popular historic buildings found in the Normandy region, taken in 2006

Kinross and District Town Twinning Association



Given that this summer's twinning visit to Gacé in Normandy has been postponed until late July 2022 and that groups still cannot meet under current covid-19 restrictions, our local twinningers can only reminisce about visits over the past four decades.

Our Norman hosts have taken us to many spectacular local places and events over many years. The day trips to Paris are probably the ones which stick in most people's mind but the most important memories are those made with our host families in their own homes, living as they live.

Gacé itself is a very quaint town, much the same as Kinross; they also had a motorway built to bypass them on the main road south to Le Mans. Supermarkets in Gacé still close at lunchtime, along with the other shops.

The Covid-19 crisis has affected them in the same way as it has affected us and we can all only hope that, with vaccinations now available, restrictions will ease considerably over the next few months so that all shops and visitor attractions will re-open to welcome customers who have been starved of human contact.

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

Kinross Garden Group



In March, we enjoyed a wonderful talk from Jane Clifford, a volunteer at the Japanese Garden at Cowden near Muckart. She gave us the history and background to the building of the garden and what the various elements included in the garden mean in Japanese gardening terms. Jane also shared some brilliant photographs. Do

go to visit the Japanese Garden when it is open if you can!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 8 April at 2pm, on Zoom so you can join in from the comfort of your own home. Heather McHaffie from the Edinburgh Botanic Garden will talk about 'Growing native species in a small garden'. Talks will continue for 2 more months until the situation regarding garden visits is clearer.

Membership this year is £15 and includes the winter talks and access to the summer garden visits. Instructions for the 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 acaroline1000@gmail.com.

Kinross Centre

Well, here we are again; another month down the line and still following Covid-19 restrictions, although we are finally seeing light at the end of the tunnel!

Back in January, we had the 'go ahead' from public health to open gradually. We have decided to do this very slowly and with the consent of each user and their family. From March, we have increased to having between 6 to 8 individuals in each day; this is approximately 30 each week. We carry out constant risk assessments and hope to continue increasing the numbers bit by bit with the aim of opening in a 'new normal' way eventually. Many would still prefer to wait that bit longer which is absolutely fine. We are leaving the choice in their hands.

We are still delivering meals to our service users; it's nice to know we can still help out by saving them the hassle of cooking!

To keep amused and our brains working, we also send out a weekly quiz and bingo. This has been a great hit! If you are interested in having meals delivered, please do not hesitate to contact the centre on 01577 863869 and we will happily sort this out for you.

Club & Community Group News

Following the newest guidelines, we are unable to have customers in the coffee bar for the foreseeable future. We are hoping to open sometime this month, but we do not want to set an exact date as it may change. However, we are however still operating a take-away 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, please ring the doorbell at the front door to alert us and we will come and take your order. You are free to choose how to order; it is completely up to yourself. A menu, soup of the day and meal special will all be visible at the door to help make your choice. Once again, you can place your order by calling 01577 863869.

Meanwhile, 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 you to get 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!

Boys Brigade and Girls Association

With restrictions easing, it is hoped that we can get back to face-to-face meetings with our youngsters before the school summer holidays.



Meanwhile, congratulations are due to David Savage and Zoe Webster who successfully completed a BB online leadership course which qualifies them for their Presidents Badges. They can now start working towards their Queen's Badge over the next 2 sessions.

Rebekah Roe just needs to attend a residential Queen's Badge completion course to gain her award but that is not likely to take place until September at the earliest.

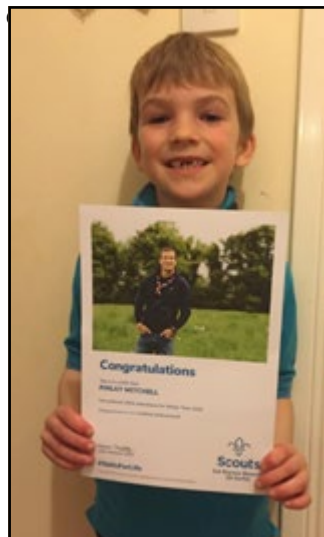
If we had been meeting, Company Section members would be preparing for the Battalion Drill Competition, competing for the General Ralston medal which was originally presented in 1891. It is worth noting that the BB logo does not have the cross centring the anchor as this was not added until 1926. The Kinross Company are the current holders of the medal and have had numerous successes over the years. Details can be seen on the engraved plate in the picture.

General Ralston Medal and engraved plate



Kinross Beavers

Our meetings have continued Covid-19 restrictions. For one of our recent meetings the beavers played a game of Pictionary. Prior to the meeting all beavers were informed of what object they had to build. Then, during the meeting, they all had to create with Lego (or substitutes like drawing or arts and crafts) the object they have been allocated. The other beavers then had to guess what object had been created. Everyone did a great job building their object and also guessing what everyone else had built.



The heavy snow in early February gave the beavers (and the leaders!) the opportunity to create a virtual snowball fight video and everyone had great fun doing this.


The beavers had fun making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. This was followed by a game of Pancake Dobble whilst eating

their pancakes. At the end of February, the beavers joined other colonies from Perth & Kinross to enjoy Cammy Young's online magic show. Cammy is an ex-scout from Fife and appeared on Britain's Got Talent last year. The beavers had a great time and we have arranged for Cammy to do an online show for the beavers and cubs in Kinross at the end of March.

At the beginning of March we were delighted to welcome Annie from Broke Not Broken to our online meeting. Annie spoke about foodbanks and how they

help people in the local community who need support. The beavers also did a scavenger hunt around their houses trying to find items you would normally get in a food parcel. The beavers also asked some excellent questions including what they could do to support Broke Not Broken. A big thank you





Podiatrist/Chiroprapist
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Kate Miller Bsc MChS

Tel: 01577 863498

to Annie for a very informative presentation and for giving up some of her Friday evening to join us.

Congratulations to Robbie, Struan, Danny, Rose, Finlay M and Caiden who were presented with certificates in February for having 100% attendance at beavers last term. Well done!

As we write this article, we are pleased to say that we have just received notification from Scouts Scotland that Scouting in Scotland moves to the amber readiness level from Friday 12 March 2021. This means we can start to meet outdoors in small groups. The beaver leadership team will be reviewing this new guidance to make sure that we have the relevant risk assessment and safety procedures in place with a view to returning to outdoor face-to-face meetings before the Easter break.



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 in our group. With full support and training, you can volunteer on a flexible basis. Not only is it incredibly rewarding and great fun but you'll learn some brilliant skills transferable to the workplace and further education. Please contact us by email at kinrossbeavers@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

Portmoak Primary School

Amphibian ladder for Portmoak Primary School

Every year in spring, and again in autumn, amphibians (newts, toads and frogs) migrate to and then from their breeding ponds and are liable to fall through the grids over road gullies where they die of lack of food or due to the polluted, oily water in the road gully. Small mammals such as voles and field mice can also fall in and die there, so the classic grid by the side of a road, or in a car park or school playground, is a potentially lethal trap for local wildlife.

Trevor Rose, a professional engineer who is also Secretary

of the British Herpetological Society, (natural historians and scientists with interests in amphibians and reptiles) has designed and overseen the manufacture of 'amphibian ladders' to be fitted into road gullies, so that amphibians which would otherwise fall in and be trapped and die, can escape. Trevor has kindly supplied a ladder for a gully in the playground at Portmoak Primary School, Kinnesswood, which was installed on 1 March.

Some of our pupils had already been doing impromptu amphibian rescues from local street gullies last summer (not to be recommended from a road safety perspective), so when they told staff at school about their finds, an alternative opportunity to encourage their interest was welcomed. The gift of the amphibian ladder was accepted, and it was inserted at a gully in the school grounds; safe from traffic but still liable (prior to fitting the ladder) to have been a risk

Female toad escaping from grid



for frogs, newts, toads and any small mammals too. The fine plastic mesh on the upper surface of the metal panel allows animals to climb up and out.

Amphibians, even frogs and newts, have been shown to climb up the ladders inside the gully chamber in trials elsewhere (undertaken before the product was finally approved) and seen to be able to climb out to freedom and dispersal to safety. The gully at Portmoak is not far from a breeding pond for amphibians, also on the school premises, so has a role to play in saving the local wildlife.

Kinross and District Probus Club

Our club, like so many, has been greatly impacted by Covid-19, the early Lockdown in March 2020 and the ongoing restrictions. It proved a very frustrating year as we were unable to meet as a club and there appears to be little opportunity of doing so anytime soon. Although we have been unable to meet, members have kept in touch via



Club & Community Group News

telephone, Zoom and social media and this demonstrates the importance the club plays in members' lives.

On a sad note, we remember the members we have lost since the club last met; we thank them for their friendship and pass on our thoughts to their families.

Given the uncertainty of how and when restrictions will be lifted, the club committee have decided to suspend the meetings of the club until Jan 2022. By then, there should be a clearer picture of what the future holds in relation to Covid-19 restrictions.

Although we remain unable to meet the club continues to operate and we are always looking for new members. Kinross and District Probus Club is open for retired or semi-retired people who would enjoy meeting twice a month from September to April each year. We have guest speakers, a lunch club and annual outings, and the most important part of the club is the opportunity to meet socially with our peers. If you are interested in joining us please contact our Secretary Alan Harper by email at ajadh@aol.com

Kinross Camera Club

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

Our line-up of events for April looks very exciting. We begin the month on 1 April with our very popular 'Picture a Quarter' where we enjoy seeing



photographs our members have taken over the last 3 months. It is always a very relaxed, enjoyable evening, chatting about where we have all been with our cameras and seeing the interesting things we have snapped.

Our Annual Competition will take place on 8 April when we welcome judge Roy Smith DPAGB AFIAP Hon SPF from South Ayrshire to join us via Zoom and give his appraisal and constructive critique of our images.

On 15 April we are very much looking forward to a Zoom presentation by David Garthwaite, a skilled fine art photographer from Leeds. David specialises in black and white landscape, architecture, portrait and product photography.

On 22 April we welcome Colleen Slater a creative, macro photography specialist from Brighton. Colleen has an interest in the smaller things in life, whether insects or flowers. Her evocative, atmospheric and intimate images draw attention to the ordinary, often unnoticed things in the everyday world. Her latest images reveal close-up details found in the urban environment.

We always welcome new members and we would love to see you at one of our club nights on Thursdays. At the moment they are held via Zoom at 7.30pm (virtual doors open from 7.20pm).

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

Picture of the month - 'Cold and Steamy' by David Hatton



Kinross & District Rotary Club

www.ribi.org



The Little Travelling Bookshop

We are always interested to hear about enterprise in the community and, on 15 February, Becca Flory was our speaker with her story. A former pupil of Kinross High School and Law graduate from Glasgow University, Becca had worked in both corporate law and in business before suffering sudden and unexpected ill health. It was while recovering that she rediscovered her love of books and reading – which set her on the path of developing a new venture – The Little Travelling Bookshop. She and her partner, Andrew, have converted a vintage van into a small bookshop and events space and plan to start travelling in it to communities the length and breadth of Scotland. It is a metaphor for her new lifestyle; taking the slow road and enjoying the scenery. Rotarians were inspired by her resilience, her energy and her decision to take a risk and try something new and different.

Becca hopes to be at the April Farmers' market if you would like to find out more, or visit the website at:

www.thelittletravellingbookshop.com/

Heart And Soul

On 1 March, Zoe Tod joined us on Zoom. Another former Kinross High School pupil (and also a RYLA candidate) she told us about setting up her business, Heart and Soul Holistic Centre at 14 High Street, Kinross, almost five years ago with the aim of creating a nurturing space. She now has a team offering a range of therapies, workshops and classes to provide physical, mental, emotional and spiritual support.

Zoe then led us in a series of exercises to demonstrate the benefits of pilates with controlled breathing and some gentle stretches to get us loosened up and moving. Members noted immediate benefits and showed a great deal of interest in how to maximise well-being.

Visit www.heartandsoultherapy.co.uk/ for more details

Why I Am A Rotarian

Rotary is one of the world's largest and most successful global membership and humanitarian service organisations,

Club & Community Group News

with 1.2 million members in over 200 countries. In this series, Rotarians write about their own experience of belonging to Rotary.

This month Barry Davies (former president and energetic long-serving member) shares his reasons for being part of Rotary:

Helping others, young and old.

I get great personal pleasure, satisfaction and feel proud/humble knowing I have helped others. For example, doing simple things like helping to develop young people in RYLA with mock interviews; providing entertainment and food parcels for the elderly; supporting orphans with AIDS in Kenya.

Making a difference in our community to benefit everyone.

It is good to make a difference nationally and internationally. For example, the installation of defibrillators; providing free message in a bottle; organising MQS; Kinross Agricultural Show; Santa sleigh; raising charitable funds; providing financial support for huge projects such as eradication of Polio, Water Relief, Shelter Boxes, Sand Dams, Aid for Beirut disaster.

To be with like-minded people with the same objectives. To make friends and have fun.

It is great being one of the 1.2 million members in the world raising \$1million per week for charitable needs. We enjoy doing things together, making genuine friends and making a difference. I have made many new Rotarian friends in America, Kenya and the UK.

As summarised by Barry, the benefits of Rotary membership are wide-ranging. Why not join us at a future meeting to find out more about what we do and how you might participate? At present, we are using Zoom to meet once a fortnight on Monday evenings. You would be made very welcome!

Email secretary.kdrc@gmail.com for further details.

Kinross-shire Partnership



Business Networking Meetings

After our winter recess, the directors of Kinross-shire Partnership are delighted to announce the next session of Business Networking Meetings for the next 4 months.

We have changed the frequency of meetings from fortnightly to monthly, with start times continuing to alternate between 8am and 10am, to suit more of our attendees.

At the time of writing, the first of these meetings was scheduled for Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 8am, hosted on Microsoft Teams and featuring guest speaker Malcolm Wood. Malcolm is a multi-award-winning entrepreneur, environmentalist and inventor.

Kinross In Bloom 200 Club

January Draw

1st	No 5	Susan Bathgate
2nd	No 22	Kate Francis
3rd	No 18	Helen Duncan
4th	No 28	Sid Grant

February Draw

1st	No 15	Molly Dobson
2nd	No 74	Iain Todd
3rd	No 29	Elizabeth Harley
4th	No 53	Jean Miller

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Kinross In Bloom team replacing one of the Courthouse planters

Following this meeting, we have lined up a mix of speakers to discuss diverse topics including expanding a business in a pandemic, recent changes in employment law and better connectivity for your business. The talks will take place on the first Wednesday of the month as follows:

- 14 April, 10am, John Stephen, The Fresh Fish Place – Bringing fish to Kinross.
- 12 May, 8am, Kevin Heneghan, Fife Computers – Improving Connectivity in Kinross-shire.
- 16 June, 10am, Alistair Booth, The HR Booth – Giving youth a start and the changes in employment.

Notifications will be on Facebook and we will email our regular attendees. If you would like to be included in this list, please email mail@kinrosspartnership.org.uk and put 'Business Networking' in the title line. Links to attend will be emailed prior to each meeting.

Meetings are free, last only one hour, and will be held on Teams. Remember that this is work, so grab your coffee and join us to meet new faces and learn something new!

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help run our Networking meetings. We need people to source speakers, help schedule meetings and look after invitations and attendance. This is a great way to get to know people throughout the area and beyond and to extend your own network. If you think you would be interested in this area of the Partnership's work, please get in touch by emailing mail@kinrosspartnership.org.uk. We'd love to hear from you.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place on Microsoft Teams on 20 April 2021 at 7pm. Again, if you would like to attend the meeting, please email mail@kinrosspartnership.org.uk with 'Annual General Meeting' in the subject line. If you are interested in being involved in the future of Kinross-shire, please do come along.

Kinross in Bloom

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

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

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



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www.kinross.cc



Fairtrade in Kinross-shire

Traidcraft at the Farmer's Market

Please come to our stall at the KLEO Farmer's Market on 24 April 2021, 10am-2pm. #ChooseTheWorldYouWant by buying Fairtrade goods so that farmers and producers are paid a fair price for their products. We have Kilombero rice from Malawi, curries and chutneys from Eswatini, pasta sauces from Kenya, bamboo socks and Divine chocolate as well as Fairtrade coffee and tea.

Please come and have a look, we will be delighted to see you.



Portmoak Community Woodland Project

www.portmoakcw.org.uk

This time last year, when we had no choice but to take exercise locally, Portmoak Community Woodland Group received so many interesting sightings of wildlife that we began compiling 'Nature Notes' to share with anyone who was interested.

We kept these going, on and off, throughout the rest of the year and it helped to keep us all connected and make up for the fact that we had to cancel all our usual activities in Portmoak Moss and Kilmagad Wood.

In fact, it proved so popular that this spring we're going repeat the exercise with a focus on bird life. We're calling it 'The Great Portmoak Bird Watch' and, from 3-11 April we would like to hear about anything and everything you've seen, from pigeons and crows to the more unusual woodpeckers and warblers.

Many birds are arriving back to breed and our resident

species are already building nests so let's find out what we've got and where. Everyone can join in; from your sitting room window, a visit to the shops or a walk up the hill. In other words, it's not confined to what's in the two community woodlands.

Our website will feature a map with numbered areas. It mainly covers places in Portmoak but, if you're off the map (and we hear there is life outside Portmoak), we'd still like to know what you've seen.

For all participants, the rules are simple: please tell us

Great Tit (photo: Michael McGuinness)



Club & Community Group News

which birds you have seen, how many, where and when. For example, '3 blackbirds in my garden at Kilmagadwood, area 6, Sunday morning', '1 green woodpecker in Portmoak Moss (heard but not seen), area 18, Tuesday'.

Photos will also be welcomed. If you're not sure what you've spotted the RSPB have identification guides. If you're still not sure you could always send us a description and someone may be able to work it out!

This is clearly not a scientific survey but it is a fun and interesting way to remind ourselves what's out there and, between our countryside and our gardens, how lucky we are to have a huge range of interesting bird habitats. There will be a list of what has been seen, for everyone to read once it's completed.

Please send updates through the week, while the sightings are fresh in your mind, or save them up for one big hit at the end.

For all the information you need about how to contact us and to access the map, please go to our website or find us on Facebook.



then refilled them with bulbs and pansies for the winter. We will be organising their return again around the start of May, for another seasonal change. We will be providing another 10 baskets this season.

We have been working for some time with PKC to clear the area on the A977 at the corner of West Crook Way; this should be completed by contractors by the end of March. We will then be sowing a wildflower mix, with annuals for colour this summer, and perennials to continue flowering in future years. We are also looking at some other areas where we could lift the grass to sow annual wildflowers, and will be planting flowering plants for bees and other pollinators in the grass verge at the back of Waulkmill path.

So there is plenty to look forward to and we hope the villages will become a welcoming sight for everyone, as well as encouraging local wildlife.

If you would like to help with our activities, or have any suggestions, please contact Amanda James on amandajames1577@gmail.com or 07963 476803.



Crook and Drum Growing Together

With the first signs of spring, after a long, difficult winter for everyone, we are now looking forward to our planting plans for the summer. We have recently gained a few more volunteers and hope that some distanced activities outside will be possible soon.

The first thing to look forward to is the daffodils around the villages, particularly on the Green area in Crook of Devon. We have ordered plug plants for plenty of bright colour in our summer planters and are looking at extending wildflower planting in several areas.

Last year we offered free baskets and tubs to residents on the Main Street who could care for these over the summer, and



Broke Not Broken

So spring has sprung and schools are going back. Vaccinations are rolling out and we are all hoping for a new beginning. A wee update from us is overdue and we have lots to tell.

We recently gave a talk to the Kinross Beavers groups. We had a great time getting them to talk about food and what the food bank does. They were all so lovely, a credit to themselves, and we loved chatting to them and seeing drawings of their favourite foods.

We have been busy with food deliveries; here are some statistics. In January, we delivered to 150 households and supported 461 individuals (201 adults, 260 children). In February we delivered to 121 households and supported 379 individuals (157 adults, 222 children).

We have been sending vouchers out to help referred families during lockdown. To date, £7439 has been spent on this project. We have also been working on fuel poverty by helping people referred to us pay for the extra gas and electric used during cold spells and lockdown. To date, £4677.40 has been spent on this.

We have been very fortunate to receive funding from PKC CLD and Kinross-shire Action Partnership. This money has helped us to provide vital services, food and vouchers and we met with the funders to tell them about all the projects we have been running over the past 6 months.

We continue to make sure that our volunteers have access to



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Mrs Lesley Naismith,
Cromar Drive,
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"I had a full house of windows fitted when I was renovating my home. Barry is a hard worker and delivered a great service - on time and on budget."

Mrs Lorraine McMillan,
Morar Road,
Crossford

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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PPE equipment and sanitiser so that our deliveries as safe as possible and we hope everyone will be vaccinated over the next few months.

We are working with Nourish Scotland on the affordability of a healthy shopping basket, as well as regularly taking part in meetings with the Independent Food Aid Network to share best practice. We are also working with the local Stronger Communities group to make sure we keep in tune with the other local community groups that we are so lucky to have.

Our big news is to reveal the amount of money raised through the Sainsburys 'Brighten A Million Christmases' campaign. The total amount was (drum roll).....**£18580.36!** This amazing amount of money has been raised in our community. Thanks go to everyone who donated food and cash personally as well as Kinross Colts, Loch Leven Church and staff at Kinross Primary and Portmoak Primary Schools. The money will be used to support people who need a little extra help in Kinross-shire. As always, we will work closely with our referral agents to get support to the right people.

We also had our AGM and we were so pleased that so many people managed to attend; a silver lining of Covid-19 is that these meetings are much more accessible. We thanked our outgoing treasurer, Louise Scott, for her hard work and are so thankful she is staying around to keep us in check and oversee the running of The Beacon. We would like to welcome Sheena Hall as trustee and treasurer. Annie McCormack remains chair, Susan Mitchell remains secretary and John Cameron takes on the vice-chair role. A huge thank-you goes to our volunteers (whose time is priceless), and without whom we

could not function at all. We are 100% volunteer-run and community led.

If you would like to donate your time, money or food please contact us by email at admin@brokennotbroken.com.

Please take care, stay safe and look after each other.

Kinnesswood in Bloom



It's amazing to realise that April is here, and we have been in lockdown for some time now. However, things are relaxing a bit and we are now able to work outside in small groups. By the time the Newsletter is published things may be relaxing further.

Meanwhile in the Michael Bruce garden, Matt has removed the tree which was infected with fungus. It was a considerable task and Matt is to be congratulated for removing the giant roots and tidying up the area ready for the next stage.

We are also impressed with the fundraising efforts of Sam Allen who is climbing Mount Everest in Kinnesswood, raising monies to save the Michael Bruce Cottage. Over 20 days, Sam has challenging himself to race up Bishop's hill, taking seconds off his time at each attempt. Good luck Sam!

The polycrub is arriving at the school at the end of March and should be in place by the time the children come back after the Easter holidays. Hopefully, some of the new raised beds and the gardening shed will also be in place. We won't be able to work directly with the children, but Kinnesswood in Bloom can send them seeds, instructions and possibly more videos to show them what to do.

Although outdoor work has been mostly halted, the crafting ladies of Kinnesswood have been busy crocheting a reef and making sewn, knitted and crochet fish and other sea



Recipe

Supplied by Kinnesswood in Bloom

Easter Egg Cookies

Hopefully you'll have some visitors in the garden at Easter so here is a recipe for some cookies to share.

Ingredients

- 175g softened butter
- 200g light brown sugar
- 100g caster sugar
- 1 tblsp vanilla extract
- 1 large egg
- 250g plain flour
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 50g white chocolate chopped into chunks
- 100g dark chocolate chopped into chunks
- 100g mini chocolate eggs, lightly crushed with a rolling pin

Method

Heat oven to 190 °C. Line two baking trays. Tip the butter, sugars and vanilla into a bowl. Beat until pale and fluffy. Add the egg and beat again. Tip in the flour, bicarbonate of soda then mix using a spatula before adding the chocolate chunks and half the mini eggs. Set aside the larger pieces to decorate.

Scoop golf ball sized mounds of cookie dough onto baking sheets, leaving plenty of space between each one. This should make about twenty cookies. Approximately 4-6 cookies fit on each tray so you will have to bake them in batches. Push remaining egg pieces into tops before baking for 15-18 minutes. For soft and chewy cookies, they should still be pale and soft in the middle. If you like them crunchy, bake for a little longer.



Kinross High School



We are delighted to be able to have pupils back in the building for the first time since before Christmas! Never before have young people been asked to cope with so much and we could not be prouder of how they've handled everything thrown at them this year. The very cautious phased return gives our learning community the opportunity to re-engage with classroom learning and re-connect with their friends, classmates and teachers before making a full time return to in-person lessons after Easter.

Like so many other celebrations and events, World Book Day had a virtual make over this year so it could still go ahead. Although we weren't able to celebrate this as we have done in previous years by visiting the library and showing off our costumes in person, there were still lots of fun activities to participate in. S1-3 English classes took part in book quizzes, designed posters and also took part in a 'Drop Everything and Read'. We hope the video sharing staff reading recommendations gave readers some inspiration.

British Science Week was no different. Young scientists at Kinross High School took part in a variety of online activities including a poster competition which really got them thinking about the theme of 'Innovation for the Future'. Learners were challenged to invent a product which could be used in the future (2, 20 or 200 years from now) and present their idea in poster form to explain the science or maths behind it. Teaching staff from the Science department also put together suggestions for experiments which could be carried out in the kitchen (some with the help of an adult lab assistant) such as

creatures. This will form part of the displays this year on the theme of 'Coasts and Waters'. The school are also joining in with recycled, woven and zentangle fish. If anyone wants to add more, we have patterns you can use.

Inner Wheel

www.innerwheel.co.uk



The club enjoyed a very informative talk last month from the editor of the *Kinross newsletter*, a monthly publication we all read. Hannah took us through the history and development of the magazine, moving on to the sometimes hectic approach to production each month.

For the next meeting on 5 April we are holding an afternoon tea on Zoom. As we have not been able to meet in person, members are missing the social contact we used to enjoy. Various cakes will be supplied, prepared (according to Covid-19 regulations) and we will have time to chat and catch up with each other's news.

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

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Club & Community Group News

a gravity-defying water trick and assembling a home-made lava lamp using items you can find around the house.

However, the kitchen isn't just for experiments. Our Home Economics department invited S1 and S2 pupils and their families to take part in live cook-alongs. Ahead of the sessions, we shared the recipes with our learning community and made free ingredient packs available in local shops for families who needed them. To support families to stick to the 'Stay at Home' message, the Home Economics teachers picked recipes which could be easily adapted to suit whatever parents and carers had in the cupboards such as muesli muffins. Blueberries could easily be swapped for raisins, bananas or even chocolate chips.

Student Mandarin teacher Miss Yan also invited families to immerse themselves in her culture for the evening by having a go at cooking Chinese fried noodles together via Zoom. This simple but tasty recipe gives young people another versatile, go-to meal which can be adapted with different ingredients and flavours to create a repertoire of delicious, filling dishes to feed the whole family.

The Languages faculty are finalising work on Espacios Increíbles IDL, a joint architecture project with the Art and Design department. The winners will present their amazing spaces design in Spanish and compete against other schools from all over Scotland in the final which is planned for after Easter.

If the prevalence of the virus continues to decrease in Scotland, we hope to be able to have all pupils back in school full time after the Easter break. We can't wait to see our pupils together again and feel the school coming back to life.



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Portmoak Hall 100 Club

February Draw

1st	No 102	Neil Robertson	Kinnesswood
2nd	No 120	Bob Hogg	Scotlandwell
3rd	No 20	Pat Perry	Kinnesswood

March Draw

1st	No 135	Martin Silvera	Scotlandwell
2nd	No 118	Morag Hogg	Kinnesswood
3rd	No 83	Neil Barton	Kinnesswood

Kinross-shire Action Partnership

Kinross-shire Action Partnership is made up of Councillors, community reps and public services. Action Partnerships were established in Perth & Kinross to bring services and communities together, in order to tackle local issues and inequalities. The Partnership has continued to meet virtually during the pandemic, ensuring groups like Kinross Kindness and Broke not Broken were adequately funded.

KAP is chaired by community representative Dr Alistair McCracken, the Lead Officer is Police Inspector Craig Stephen and Lindsey Bailie, the South Locality Manager for P&K Health & Social Care Partnership, also attends. The other community representatives are Victoria Robb, Rosemary Tolson, Karole Swanson, Jaffrey Weir and Shona Fowler. Councillors Barnacle, Purves, Robertson and Watters are there as elected Councillors. The Partnership is guided and supported by PKC officers such as Roseanne Gray from Community Learning and Development and James Gardner, Community Empowerment Officer with Community Planning.

In the past we have been involved in funding local groups through Participatory Budgeting, Community Investment Fund and small grants. We have instigated and funded projects such as the Centre for Inclusive Living, shop accessibility ramp scheme and the installation of Wi-Fi to village halls. KAP have also provided funding to the local groups who supported the community throughout the pandemic to help them cover their costs. We endeavour to make this a very simple process for the groups, recognising how busy they are and how the pandemic has impacted on their service delivery.

Examples of funding (totalling £22,780) during Covid include: Broke not broken, £5000 in March 2020, £3000 in March 2021; Kinross Centre, £2000 in April 2020, £3000 in March 2021; KVG & ROS, £3000 in March 2021; KYTHE in £3000 in March 2021; Kinross Kindness, £2000 in April 2020; Crook of Devon Resilience Group, £500 in April 2020; Glenfarg Community Council, £320 in June 2020, £260 in October 2020; AbilityNet (digital support to combat isolation), £700 in June 2020.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we are looking at ways of supporting local groups with any extra costs incurred due to Covid-19 guidelines. We would be keen to hear from groups about this, to see if we could support them financially going forward. We can be contacted through PKC Community Planning by email at communityplanningpartnership@pkc.gov.uk.



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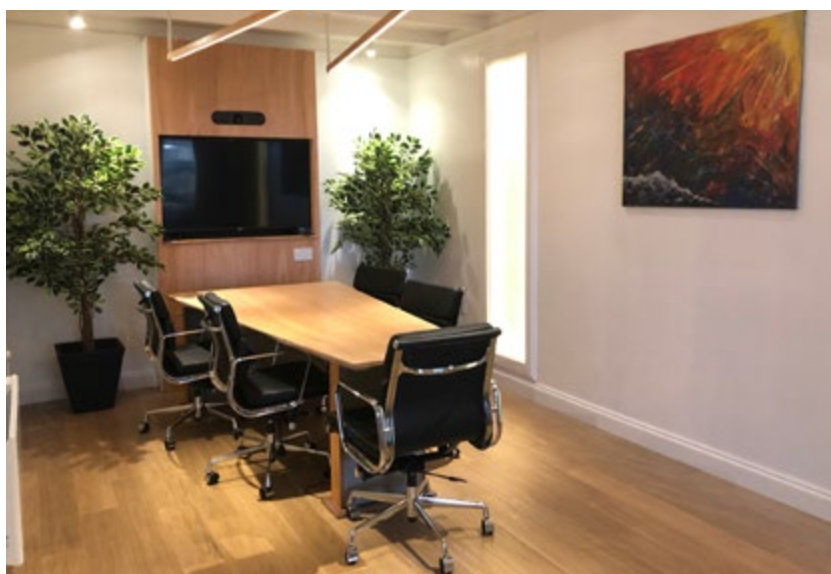
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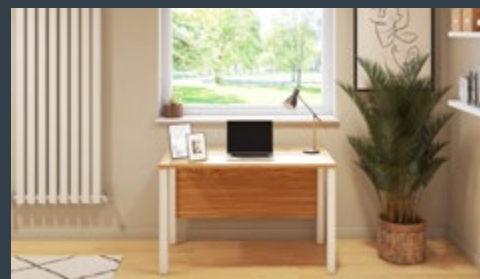
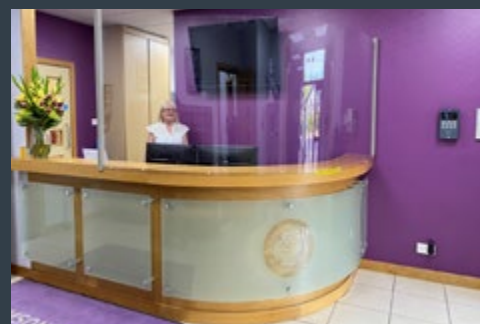
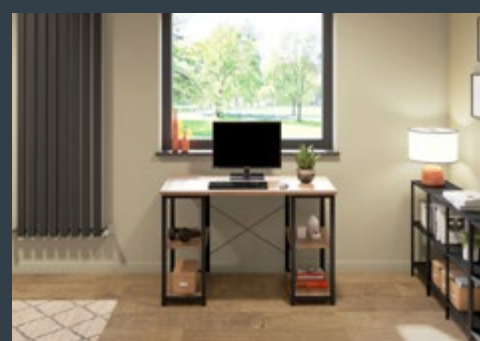
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Trust Challenges Reporter's Decision

The Trust has succeeded in getting the appeal for phase 2 of Lathro Farm paused, at least for a short time. The Scottish Government Reporter dealing with Persimmon's appeal for more housing on phase 2 issued a 'Notice of Intention' in January that he was 'minded' to grant the appeal subject to conditions and Persimmon and PKC drawing up a Section 75 Agreement to cover developer contributions.

The Trust challenged some of what the Reporter, David Buylia, had said in his Notice of Intention about drainage. We stressed the serious nature of the problems with the phase 1 sewers, evidenced by regular pumping and removal of waste by Enviro-Clean trucks. Our letter expressed concern about the risks to health of local residents and potential pollution of Loch Leven through leakage into groundwater if the waste pipes have not been installed correctly. We said that we believed a thorough investigation of the drainage problems must take place before planning permission for phase 2 is granted and asked that the Reporter consult directly with Scottish Water and SEPA on this matter.

The Reporter sent a copy of the Trust's letter to Persimmon's agent, Montagu Evans, and PKC, giving both parties two weeks to respond.

Wildflower swale along the west Kinross link road



Enviro-Clean trucks attend Lathro Meadows regularly to remove sewage from the failing drainage system

Well-Kept County Competition 2021

The Trust still intends to hold the annual 'Well Kept County' competition later this year. We are aiming for July but it will depend on the relaxation of the lockdown regulations. More information on this will follow.

Raingardens Challenge

Once again, we have been deluged with rain. The roads are awash with it, hiding deep potholes and sunken road gullies beneath the murky water. Our enthusiasm for the alternatives presented by the raingardens challenge is exemplified by the situation in the photograph below. The image shows the wildflower swale along the west

Kinross link road, doing its job in the heavy rain, filling up with water off the road – direct inflow, no grids and gullies or pipes to block – for slow release as the intensity of the rainstorm abates.

For managing community flood risks (and reducing sewer overflows) there is much that can be done on a private plot too. A simple action is to drain driveways into the garden, where that may be possible. We are working with living water biologist Jane Shields to develop a method for putting roof water into gardens. The idea is to create a 'raingarden soakaway'; a safe way to use the rainwater to create an attractive garden features. More on that in a subsequent update.

We are currently working on guidance for optimising wildlife value from the raingardens; taking advice from an informal group of local and national wildlife biologists. One of the management actions is to encourage less frequent mowing of the grass verges and parts of other grass amenity areas, with removal of cut material for composting.

Now is a good time for dialogue with both PKC and the general public on this as there will be massive pressure to reduce costs as the cost of the Covid-19 measure begins to hit us. Instead of simply cutting costs, a tidy strategic mix of conventional and pollinator-friendly wildflower features with some more conventional garden landscapes too, should be possible.

Hopefully these ideas will be welcomed as they develop. As always, any comments on the above will be welcome.



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Kinross Volleyball

Outdoor Play is back!

With the easing of restrictions, we can resume outdoor play in small-sided games! Game-starved volleyballers will return to the campus grass to rid themselves of the rust embedded in our muscle memory and we will have fun with other human beings one again! As a non-contact sport, the news that we can return to play is very welcome after months of lay off.

Track and Trace and sanitisation procedures will be a priority before players can take to the courts for the free sessions

on Sunday afternoons, 3.30-5pm. Numbers will be limited and the courts will be spaced appropriately. Players will be expected to social distance before and after play, although they may play in closer proximity to the other members of their 'team bubble'.

Scottish Volleyball has announced that they will be starting a development programme for youngsters. It will include a player pathway, allowing different age levels to progress from local, through regional, to national squads. Ultimately players will enter youth teams in European Championships commencing in 2024. This is great news for our younger

Sports News

members and certainly gives them performance targets to aim for over the next few years.

Beach volleyball is becoming more prominent. With the Birmingham Commonwealth Games featuring men's and women's competitions, some of our local young men will be aiming to compete in qualification ranking tournaments starting this summer. Team selection is due to take place early next year.

Rugby Nippers

www.rugbynippers.co.uk

It is fair to say that the last year has been challenging in so many ways; too many ways to mention really. However, as the snowdrops are blooming there is definitely hope and excitement in the air. With the Government's latest announcements, we can see the restrictions beginning to ease again and, for Rugby Nippers, that means preparing for fun, adventure and rugby.

Rugby Nippers is Perthshire's rugby programme for girls and boys aged 2-7 run by James Knight and a team of coaches. Rugby Nippers uses the fundamental ABCs of physical activity – Agility, Balance and Coordination – whilst developing social skills such as listening, teamwork, and following instructions. Coaches are experienced and each class is designed to help children learn to work as a team, make new friends and develop new skills.

'We are so excited to be able to look at bringing our classes back. At the moment, the focus is on them being outdoor sessions as many of our local community halls are still closed. The feedback we have had from so many of our parents is that this way you get the perfect combination of fresh air and

Daniel Knight



play', said James.

'We recognise that not all of our parents will be sure about being outdoors though so we are offering a taster session to everyone, even our long-standing nippers, so everyone can get a taste of what an outdoor session is like. Even if they don't sign up, it is nice to be able to give a free opportunity for nippers to socialise, run around and play after the year they have had'.

At the moment Rugby Nippers are running a 2-7 year old programme at Oakbank in Perth and our afterschool programme (5-7 year olds) in Bridge of Earn, Scone and Auchterarder. They are just about to start pre-school classes in Kinross. Details of all the classes are on our website.

'The team is looking forward to getting back out into the community. We are a local business and the children and families who attend our sessions are the reason we do what we do. We are looking forward to bringing fun and games back as well as getting to know our nippers again after a year away... bring on the Spring and Summer'.

Kinross Golf Club

www.kinrossgolfclub.co.uk



There are some exciting new Membership categories are available now at Kinross Golf

Club, including:- Young adults (age 18 to 25), £323 for first 3 years then £233; Intermediate (age 26 to 30), £479 for first 3 years then £344

For unlimited golf with no competitions, the fee is £300. We also offer a starter option of 2 months trial membership; no competitions and the offer can only be used once. If you decide to join after the trial period, £105 will be deducted from your full new membership subscription.

We are also still offering our full playing membership at £635 for the first 3 years and then £455 (subject to annual review). Alternatively, we have a 5-day membership at £489 for 3 years, then £356 (subject to annual review).

There are several benefits of being a member of Kinross Golf Club including access to 2 challenging but fair, 18-hole parkland courses in the heart of Scotland with stunning scenery. You also receive a full club competition fixture card every season (all sections, individual and team). This allows you to attain and maintain an official competition handicap.

The club also has a full social calendar throughout the year, featuring a range of functions during the close season. We have a modern clubhouse with a comfortable lounge and more formal dining area. Both benefit from stunning views over the course to Bishop's Hill. They also have Sky, BT Sports, a pool table, full bar and catering service. In addition, our member loyalty card gives 10% discount on bar and catering purchases

As a member, you have full voting rights in club decisions together with discounted guest tickets and reciprocal discounted green fee arrangements with other clubs in surrounding areas. We also have a well-stocked pro-shop and lessons from PGA Pro, Greig McSporran are available at a competitive rate. For more details, please email manager@kinrossgolfclub.co.uk.

We are hoping that the competition playing season will be able to start at the end of March with the clubhouse opening at the end of April. Obviously, everything depends on the Covid-19 restrictions, but further news will feature in upcoming Newsletters.



Kinross Otters

It has been another frustrating few weeks for everyone involved with Kinross Otters since the country went back into lockdown at the end of last year and the pool was closed. But not being able to swim does not mean the Otters have been quiet. We are still a team and we are still together – albeit on Zoom!

Head coach Fiona Dodds has been hosting three online fitness sessions each week for kids of all ages – and some willing parents. Shoulder health, mobility, cardio and yoga stretches have all been rolled into fun 45-minute sessions, with regular 'catch-up' chats also scheduled for the swimmers to stay in touch when they catch their breath. Friendly competitions have been devised to keep everyone on their toes ahead of pools being reopened in the – hopefully – not-too-distant future.

Having said pools are closed, one Otter has been resourceful in keeping training during lockdown. Struan Bennett's fitness regime was featured in *The Scotsman* after braving the cold to make the most of an outsized paddling pool in his back garden in a bid to keep in shape. With the pool at Live Active Loch Leven a comfortable 29°C, Struan's water has been a bit chillier at somewhere between 1°C and 4°C!

Covid-19 restrictions have denied Struan – ninth in the British Championships for Triathlons for his age group in 2019 – the chance to compete to qualify as an elite athlete, which in turn has meant he has not been allowed to use swimming facilities for training during lockdown. He is having to prove inventive in working towards a selection race in Wales in May for the junior ETU European Triathlon, which takes place in Austria a month later.

Another Otter, Emily Cumming, has similarly been denied a hard-earned opportunity because of the restrictions surrounding elite athletes.

Emily recently found out she had qualified for the British Championships in London – a magnificent achievement. The meet was cancelled last year but Emily was very excited to find out she met the qualifying criteria for the rescheduled competition this year. However, with the championships being restricted to only elite athletes, disappointingly, Emily will not be able to take up her place.

Everyone attached to the club is keeping their fingers crossed all the swimmers can pick up where they left off when we are all able to make a splash again.

Meanwhile, massive thanks go to Smith Street Motors in Kinross for donating £50 towards the purchase of land training equipment for Otters. The club will also be fundraising next month when they take part in the Virtual Kiltwalk Weekend on April 23-25.



Orwell Bowling Club

Bowling Green Avenue, Milnathort
01577 863739
orwellbowlingclub.weebly.com

I hope our members have kept safe and well during this pandemic. There is still some uncertainty as we approach the 2021 bowling season but I am optimistic we will be able to return to the Bowling Green this year in some form or another. We will be following the recommendations received from Bowls Scotland to ensure the safety and welfare of our members at all times. As soon as we can, we will issue further information and guidance to our members.

As the club AGM could not take place in November last year due to the Covid-19 restrictions it was agreed that the club officials and committee members would continue in their positions until we can safely have an AGM.

Congratulations to Jean and Tom Reekie who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 26 March.

Fossoway Tennis Club

Fossoway Tennis Club is welcoming new members for upcoming season. A family friendly club we mainly play for fun! We have kids camps and coaching for everyone.

Visit our website or Facebook page and follow the link for on line memberships available.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/fossowaytennisclub>

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Useful for readers living outside the distribution area of the Newsletter, a subscription service is available.

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Scottish Women's Institutes



Milnathort S.W.I.

Milnathort SWI, like everyone else, are hoping that in the very near future we may be able to meet face to face, but meanwhile Ann, our Secretary, keeps us up-to-date with emails relating to SWI news. Our Zoom meetings, held on Wednesday evenings at 7pm are quite well attended. We have a quiz and time to catch up with news from our members. We are sorry to report the death of one of our honorary and most talented members, Nan Douglas, who was well into her 90s.

It is hoped we can meet up somewhere outdoors during the summer, as soon as we are given the go-ahead we will make arrangements and let everyone know. In the meantime, hope to see you at our Zoom meetings. Keep safe and keep well.

Bishopshire

In a change to our syllabus members took part in telling stories and reciting poems about Journeys. The programme was varied and interesting, taking us from Singapore to Canada via Orkney, our own homes and many points in between.

Competition:

Postcard/Picture 'I wish I was here because...'

1st	Margo Waddell
2nd	Mary Nisbett
3rd	Norma Smith

Flower of the month

1st	Mamie Wallace
2nd	Margo Waddell
3rd	Joanne Cowan

Cleish SWI

February

Dorothy Morris welcomed all, she also welcomed members from Bishopshire who entertained us for the meeting.

We were entertained by three members from Bishopshire.

Jeanette gave an interesting talk on her experience at Windsor Castle receiving Maundy Money from the Queen.

Marion hosted a quiz. The questions were either musical or general knowledge.

Avril then ended by entertaining us with amusing stories and poems by Pam Ayers.

Agnes gave the vote of thanks.

Competition

Valentine Verse

1st	Dorothy Morris
2nd	Lizzie Glennie
3rd	Marion Laird and Alison Morris.

March

President Dorothy Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Highland show and Perth show are both cancelled for this year.

There is to be a Kinross Group zoom meeting on 27 March at 2pm.

The next meeting is a talk about the history of Gleneagles. The competition is a knitted premature baby hat. This will be judged by Linda Retson. Entries to be with Dorothy or Alison by 31 March.

Dorothy then handed over to Margaret Nelson who showed us how to make a roulade.

The next one to demonstrate was Elinor Craig who told us about launching her new business, then showed us how to do a flower arrangement.

Dorothy then demonstrated how to make gift boxes. There were plenty of laughs and giggles and shouts for help.

A good time was had by all.

Agnes gave the vote of thanks.

Dorothy thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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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 to find out how you can help.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteering with Aberlour!

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

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

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

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

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





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There's A Real Buzz In The Air...

WELL FOLKS, ITS SPRING! April is a month of returning birds; swallow, blackcap, willow warbler, sedge warbler, whitethroat, house martin and many more will be arriving in Scotland from Africa. Osprey and sand martin have already made their way here. Out on St Serfs Island our greylag geese will have chicks and mallard ducks will be sitting on eggs awaiting the hatch of their young. It is truly a fantastic time of year! April is a great time to hear the dawn chorus; it is worth getting up at dawn with a cuppa and listening to the cacophony of bird song that fills the air!

April is also great time to spot the first butterflies feeding up and looking for a potential mate. April butterflies to look out for are: peacock; small tortoiseshell; small copper; green-veined white; orange tip and if you are somewhere with lots of blueberry, green hairstreak.

There is something about observing butterflies that is extremely soothing; you can block out the worries of the world and spend some time watching these elegant insects. I highly recommend it.

Spring flowers are well out now. Look out for plants such as primrose, ragged robin, cowslip, bluebells, cow parsley, lesser celandine and much more. Often these early plants are a saviour for insects that are in desperate need for nectar. Another April insect to look out for is the humble bumblebee. The Queen bee is the only member of the colony that overwinters. It feeds up on pollen in autumn, and in the process gets very fat, this allows the bee to hibernate and survive over the winter. These Queen bees then emerge in spring and are on the lookout for another nest site in which to start a new colony. Bumblebee species to look out for in spring include: common-carder bee; red-tailed bumblebee; buff-tailed bumblebee and white-tailed bumblebee.

It is worth keeping a lookout for a fairly new coloniser on Scottish soil! The tree bumblebee was first recorded in the UK in 2001 and was first recorded in Scotland in 2013. It is thought the UK population originated from mainland Europe, where the species had undergone a large expansion. Its fast colonisation is probably due to its readiness to nest in a variety of places, including sheds, bird boxes and attics. They can be identified from their colouring; all tree bumblebees have a ginger thorax, black body and a white tail. They can be seen in early spring and are normally flying between April and July. It is certainly worth keeping an eye out; they have been seen at Loch Leven before!

The latest wildlife sightings on the loch include; 627 goldeneye, 38 great-crested grebe (looking stunning in



Red-tailed bumblebee

breeding plumage), 879 tufted duck and 49 whooper swan. Plenty of birds have started nesting as well. Red squirrels have been active around the reserve, as have the local foxes.

The warmer weather will hopefully be here to stay and spring will keep on springing!

As always, keep an eye on the blog (Loch Leven WordPress), Loch Leven NNR Facebook page and the Loch Leven NNR Instagram for regular updates.

Cheers!

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www.visitlochleven.org

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Songs For A New Season

SPRING IS IN THE AIR at RSPB Loch Leven this month. Lots of birds have been warming up their voices in preparation for the breeding season. Highlights around the visitor centre include singing great tits, robins, blue tits, coal tits, duncock and chaffinch. There have also been regular drumming noises from great spotted woodpeckers in the woods. The red squirrels have been active too, preparing for the breeding season by busily collecting peanuts from the feeder and scurrying along the leafy loop and wildlife garden. A wonderful sighting of a tawny owl was also noted by a late-night visitor from our car park.

On the wetland trail skylark have been performing their beautiful aerial songs and can be heard along the heritage trail. Wader numbers have also been good with 150 curlew, 40 lapwing and a few oystercatchers spotted on site. Many of the lapwing and oystercatcher will be breeding on the reserve soon, and some of the lapwing have already started to show off their mating displays. The black-headed gull population has begun to rise too, another regular breeder on the reserve that adds a lot more noise to the proceedings!

A lovely surprise in the form of an otter footprint was noted by the first hide this month. The print was spotted left behind in the snowfall. Despite having a camera trap, we did not manage to pick up any images of the otter but remain hopeful for a return visit. It is pleasing to see signs of them about and that they have made it through the cold winter. Other highlights have also included regular visits from peregrine falcon, kestrel and buzzard over the wetland. The first bumblebees of the year have also started to be spotted too.

Our wonderful volunteer team has been busy with brush cutting out on the reserve to bring the habitat into good condition for the breeding waders. The height of the



Red Squirrel (pic: Alan Ruiz)

vegetation needs to be just right so that chicks can remain hidden from predators, but low enough they can still move about. The volunteers have also helped install three new small rafts out on the flood and have moved the large raft closer to the hide to improve the viewing area for visitors. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for all the hard work they have carried out to keep the reserve safe and running throughout the pandemic.

To stay updated with the latest news and ongoing at the reserve please follow our Facebook @RSPBTaysideFife and Twitter @RSPBLochLeven pages.

Rachel Gooday
Visitor experience officer

Weather



Recent Weather Reports From Kinross

February 2021

Total Rainfall	167.1mm/6.68in
Heaviest Fall	48.2mm/1.92in (4 Feb)
Total Sunshine	70.06 hrs
Sunniest Day	7.9 hrs (25 Feb)
Max Temp Average	5.86c
Highest Temp	11.9c (20 Feb)
Min Temp Average	-1.96c
Lowest Temp	-16.1c (10 Feb)

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Ian Mackay 01577 864751



John Tulloch sent us this fantastic photograph of a ladybird he took while out and about in Kinross in March. Thanks, John!

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Spring Forward And Brighten Up!

IT'S ALWAYS A SURPRISE every year that following the dark, cold winter, spring starts to appear with new growth and full of promise for the year ahead. No idea why it's such a surprise, but during the snow a few weeks back it was hard to believe it would ever happen.

The first signs of spring in any garden are usually early spring bulbs: snowdrops, crocuses and irises. I planted some irises in a tub many years ago around a buddleia and they always bring a smile to my face when they start to bloom – it's a sure sign that things are looking up and that winter is slowly losing its grip.

As things start to get going, there are of course many jobs to be doing in the garden and greenhouse/kitchen windowsill. March and April are ideal for starting off seeds to fill those gaps in the garden and tubs during the summer. I usually do this towards the end of March, or earlier for some such as alyssum and sweet peas – alyssum is quite slow growing and sweet peas can be planted out even when there is still a chance of frost. The alyssum in the picture opposite were started the first week in March (sown in groups so that they form a nice clump of flowers) and are coming along really well.

Other seeds I'll be starting soon (if I can get compost) are sunflowers, lavatera, calendula, aster, cosmos, dahlia and marigold. A few more varieties will no doubt catch my eye as the weeks go on. The method I use and have had great success with is to fill a small container (think egg-box-lid size) with compost, sprinkle the seed thinly and then top with vermiculite. If you don't have vermiculite, a very thin layer of compost is fine. Always read the seed packet though, as some



seeds don't like to be covered at all. I then water them lightly and cover the container with cling film or put it in a plastic bag and keep it somewhere light and warm. I use an electric propagator, but a sunny windowsill is ideal for the job.

Once the seedlings start to appear, whip off the plastic covering. When the seedlings have two sets of leaves, prick them out and plant them into seed trays. I use 15-cell seed tray inserts – they will grow quite happily in these until it is time to plant them out in your garden.

Spring is also an ideal time to tidy your flower borders. I don't know about you, but the autumn was so wet I didn't get around to taking out all my bedding plants from last year. So, my next few weeks will be filled with digging out dead plants and cutting back the perennials I didn't quite manage to sort out last year.

Soft fruit will also be getting a good 'seeing to' in the coming weeks. I have raspberry canes that are out of control and really need thinned out, and strawberry runners that are determined to make a break for it. I'll be potting up any strawberry runners I can find, clearing out any dead leaves and putting a yummy layer of manure down to give them a nice feed in the coming months. I might even get around to putting down a layer of straw under the plants this year, but let's not be too ambitious, eh?

Well, looks like that's me for this month. Wishing you a productive month ahead – and don't forget to leave some dandelions for the bees!

Teresa Stirling



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Kinross Kindness

Community information and support 01577 212 036

Medical

Loch Leven Health Centre 01577 862112

Loch Leven Health Centre Out of Hours 01577 865252

NHS 24 111

Perth Royal Infirmary main switchboard 01382 660111

Perth Royal Infirmary
(Admissions and Enquiries Desk) 01738 473734

Ninewells Hospital, Dundee 01382 660111

Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy 01592 643355

Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline 01383 623623

Rowlands Pharmacy, Kinross 01577 862422

Davidson's Chemist, Milnathort 01577 862219

Police, non-emergency 101

Police, Fire, Ambulance & Coastguard Emergencies 999

Gas (worried about gas safety) 0800 111 999

Water (loss of supply, foul water emergency) 0845 600 8855

Floods SEPA Floodline recorded messages 0345 988 1188

Perth & Kinross Council (PKC)

Customer Service Centre (Mon- Fri, 8am-6pm)

01738 475000

Reporting non-emergency Road and

Lighting faults (CLARENCE) 0800 232323

PKC Out of Hours emergency numbers

Adult care services 0345 301 11 20

Anti-social behaviour helpline 01738 476173*42*

(*42* telephone and leave a voicemail)

Child protection 01738 476768

Council housing emergency repairs 01738 476000

Dangerous buildings 01738 476476

Environmental Health 01738 476476

Flooding 01738 476476

Homelessness 0800 917 0708

Mental health services 0345 301 11 20

Roads (e.g. reporting blockage) 01738 476476

Traveline Scotland 0871 200 22 33

Loch Leven Community Campus 01577 867200

Kinross High School 01577 867100

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Look After Your Matbro!

It is always great to see the daylight hours lengthening and it is even better when there is a good dollop of sunshine thrown into the mix. Hopefully we have seen the last of the snow for the winter and spring is well and truly on its way. The past few days have been very pleasant, certainly for mid-March.

We are still almost a month away from lambing as I write and the ewes have eaten a lot of silage since they were pregnancy scanned at the beginning of February. They are noticeably thinner now than they were at scanning which isn't a huge surprise as February turned out to be a cold, hard month for them.

They have been divided into their various groups according to the number of lambs they are expecting and how fat and thin they are so that feed can be targeted to the ones who need it. Lambing time always brings a great burst of new life into the countryside and hopefully it will be complimented with some nice sunny days.

The cows are happily munching their way through their pile of silage bales and although we are probably a bit tight on supplies, we shouldn't be too bad. When you get nice sunny days at this time of year, you can see them getting restless and gazing out over the gates of their sheds, anxious to get out to the fields. They will have to be patient for a few weeks yet, however until there is some grass for them to eat. I think they would be very disappointed if I was to let them out to a field just now and it wouldn't be long until they were roaring to get back into their comfy shed with a pile of silage to eat!

Every farm has an indispensable tool or piece of equipment and in our case, it is our trusty old Matbro forklift. It is used almost every day of the year feeding and bedding the animals or doing various jobs about the farm. It is certainly not in its first flush of youth and is in need of some TLC and I have thought long and hard about how I could replace it. A brand new machine of a similar size would be great but they come with an eye watering price tag, certainly well over



the backward farm budget! Even upgrading to something a bit more modern would incur quite a considerable cost and there is always the risk of buying something unreliable.

Therefore I have decided to give our faithful old machine a bit of a makeover since it is very simple and reliable as well as being cheap to run. I'm not sure if it would quite be a Gok Wan style makeover or if it will look 10 years younger but hopefully we should prepare it for a few more years of trusty service. Fortunately spare parts are easily sourced because Matbro was the market leader and thousands of these machines were sold through the 1990's. They were so popular that when forklifts were discussed they were referred to as Matbro's in the same way as vacuum cleaners are referred to as hoovers.

The Matbro company went out of business about 20 years ago but there are still many of their machines in use up and down the country supporting a healthy trade in spare parts and renovation. My only concern is that our Matbro could end up like Trigger's broom in *Only Fools and Horses*, with no original parts to its name, but it would still, of course be the same machine.

To paraphrase Trigger's immortal words; Look after your Matbro!

John

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Kinross Parish Church

Church of Scotland (Charity no SC012555)

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Visit our **website**: www.kinrossparishchurch.org

Follow us on **Facebook**: [Kinross Parish Church of Scotland](https://www.facebook.com/KinrossParishChurchofScotland)

YouTube: [Kinross Parish Worship](https://www.youtube.com/KinrossParishWorship)

Instagram: [kpscotland](https://www.instagram.com/kpscotland)

Church E-mail: 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 new church magazine is available on the church's website under 'News'. Printed copies will be delivered to the congregation once restrictions permit.

CHANGES: Note below the significant changes from recent months if public worship is allowed from 26 March, as expected. Restrictions will apply, including booking in advance and only 40 in the congregation. Please check the church's website, Facebook, weekly email of intimations, the notice boards at the church or contact the Church Office in case further changes have been necessary.

Regular Services and Events:

Daily Prayer: Monday to Friday, listen to a daily prayer - 01577 528270.

Sundays

10.30am: Morning Service in the church. Booking essential for attendance, through the church office. The office will also explain the restrictions in operation.

Also available 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.

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: from 7 April: Service in the church. See Sunday Morning Service above for booking arrangements. Not available online.

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

1.30pm: Craft Group meet on Zoom*.

7.45pm: Men's House Group and

8.00pm: Women's House Group – Bible study & fellowship on Zoom*.



Thursdays

1-2pm Table Talk. Gather for chat and coffee on Zoom*

Other Services and Events:

March

Sat 27 Litter Pick – Eco-Congregation event: Bags back to the church lane by 3.30pm. Contact Church Office for details and equipment

Sun 28 PALM SUNDAY 10.30am: The first Service since December with a congregation back in the church. See 'Sunday Services' above for booking arrangements.

Mon 29 – Fri 2 HOLY WEEK: Daily Reflections online. See church website, Facebook etc. for details

Tue 30 7pm for 7.15pm: Guild – 'Broke not Broken'

April

Thu 1 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30pm Communion service via Zoom*

Fri 2 GOOD FRIDAY 10.30am Service in the church. Arrangements as for Sunday Morning Services, including online.

Sun 4 EASTER SUNDAY 10.30am: Morning Service - 'Risen Indeed!', in the church. See Sunday Morning Services above for arrangements

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

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

Sun 21: 4.30pm: Café Church on Zoom*

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

Cleish Parish Church

Church of Scotland

(Charity No: SC003168)

Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse BD (Hons)

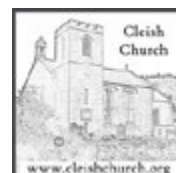
Tel: 01577 842128

Email: estenhouse@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Neil Maclure

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

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



April 2021

We are very pleased to announce that our church buildings will be reopening on March 28th 2021, dependent on any subsequent alterations in guidelines the government may make in the meantime. Any changes to our plans we be announced on our new joint church website <https://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk>

March 28th 2021 Palm Sunday

9.45am Morning worship service at Fossoway Church

11am Morning worship service at Cleish Church

12 noon Joint churches Zoom morning worship

April 1st 2021 Maundy Thursday

7pm Celebration of Holy Communion by 'Zoom'

April 2nd 2021 Good Friday

7pm Good Friday Refection by 'Zoom'

April 4th 2021 Easter Sunday

9.45am Morning worship service at Fossoway Church
11am Morning worship service at Cleish Church
12 noon Joint churches Zoom morning worship

April 11th 2021

9.45am Fossoway Church a Time for Prayer
9.45am Cleish Church a Time for Prayer
11am Joint churches morning worship by 'Zoom'

April 18th 2021

9.45am Fossoway Church a Time for Prayer
9.45am Cleish Church a Time for Prayer
11am Joint churches morning worship by 'Zoom'

April 25th 2021

9.45am Fossoway Church morning worship
9.45am Cleish Church a Time for Prayer
11am Joint churches morning worship by 'Zoom'

29th April

7pm Celebration of Holy Communion by 'Zoom'

May 2nd 2021

9.45am Cleish Church morning worship
9.45am Fossoway Church a Time for Prayer
11am Joint churches morning worship by 'Zoom'

If you would like to join with us for any of the above Zoom services: please phone the Rev Lis Stenhouse 01577 842128. As we have limited seating in our churches due to current pandemic restrictions you will need to reserve a seat in advance.

To book a seat at Fossoway Church please phone Janet Harper 01577 840225

or to book a seat at Cleish Church please phone Margaret McMillan 01506 825641

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

Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse Telephone: (01577) 842128

Email: estenhouse@churchofscotland.org.uk

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

Email: aclassicsoul@aol.com



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

Orwell and Portmoak Parish Church

Church of Scotland (Charity number SC015523)

Minister – Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Telephone: 01577 863461

Email: angusmorrison3@gmail.com

Website: www.orwellportmoakchurch.org.uk

Contact the Office: 01577 861200

Orwell Church remains closed for refurbishment, but with recent changes in the regulations, services continue again

Church Information

in Portmoak Church at 10am each Sunday with all current Covid safety procedures in place. Only 25 people can be accommodated within the church and masks must be worn. To avoid people having to be turned away it is necessary that seats be reserved in advance each week by emailing kirkbooking@btinternet.com or by telephoning 01592 840528. For contact tracing purposes please include a contact telephone number for anyone attending. Please only use the booking email address for that purpose. The situation will be monitored as the weeks go by, and further changes will be made as the regulations change. Please check the church website or Facebook page for further information.

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

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



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

Muir, Kinross, KY13 8AY
Fr David Mackenzie Mills, Rector.
Tel: 01577 863795

Email: frdavidkinross@gmail.com

You can also find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurchkinross

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

****Although the national lockdown restrictions are easing towards allowing church services to take place in person, our worship will continue online only. Not everyone who would like to come will have yet been vaccinated. So, for the time being, services will carry on being broadcast from the Meeting Room as livestreams via 'Zoom' and Facebook Live. Thereafter, recordings of these services will be available through the church website, Facebook page and YouTube. Our church bell will ring at 9.20am to signify that we continue to be present and prayerful in the community, despite our congregation's physical absence.**

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

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back;
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and, until we
meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Events and Services in Lent

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

Themes:

- Facing up to the reality of our mortality

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

April

(YouTube Premieres)

Thursday 1st: MAUNDY THURSDAY

9pm Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar and the Watch

Friday 2nd: GOOD FRIDAY

2pm The Last Hour – a meditation on the cross, using poetry, music and visual drama.

(Facebook Live)

Saturday 3rd: HOLY SATURDAY

8pm The Easter Fire and shortened Easter Vigil service from the Rectory

Sunday 4th: EASTER DAY

10am Family Service (premiered via YouTube)

(Zoom)

Sunday 11th: Easter 2

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 18th: Easter 3

9.30am Holy Communion

(Zoom & Facebook Live)

Sunday 25th: MARK THE EVANGELIST

9.30am Holy Communion

Other occasional activities 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

Email: Fr.MartinPletts@gmail.com

facebook.com/parishpriestkinross/

facebook.com/stjamesprayergroup/

Regular Services

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

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

God bless, Fr. Martin

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

Kinross Christian Fellowship

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

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

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

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

Contact Peter on 01577 863509, for further information.

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

Kinross Gospel Hall

8 Montgomery Street, Kinross

Regular services are still suspended.

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

www.kinrossgospelhall.info

contact 0781 805 0785

Loch Leven Church (Charity No: SC049050)

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

Our sermon series from April to June is called 'What's In A Name' and we'll be hosting the following online services in April:

4 Apr Easter Sunday

11 Apr What's in a Name? Elohim: The God of Power - Genesis 1:1

18 Apr What's in a Name? Jehovah Jireh: The Lord Provider - Genesis 22:1-19

25 Apr Communion

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

To be kept up to date, and find out more about us, please visit our Facebook page *We Love Loch Leven*, our website www.lochlevenchurch.com, or email us at info@lochlevenchurch.com



Death Notices

BIRD, George (Geordie)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of George (Geordie) Bird. George was born in Dunfermline (the younger twin and third child in a family of four brothers), but always liked to remind friends and family that he was, 'made in Lochgelly!' Having lived and worked in Kinross-shire since



1992, he was easy to spot around the area in his big red van, and there are no doubt many walls in the area still adorned with the ceramic tiles he fitted – a feat he somehow managed to squeeze in between drinking copious amounts of coffee, having a blether, and the odd cigar.

George passed away on Monday 1 February at Ninewells Hospital at the age of 71, following a long fight against cancer. His family would like to thank all those involved in his care, and who provided support in his latter days, with a special mention to the staff at Cornhill MacMillan Centre in Perth, and to family and friends who ensured that George never felt forgotten.

George was husband to his beloved Betty, to whom he was married for 51 years. He was a loving father to Paul & Angela, doting grandfather to Melanie, Innes, & Cailean, and devoted great-grandfather to Ellis, Leo, & Nova.

TEMPORARY PARKING AND LOADING RESTRICTION

GALLOWHILL ROAD, KINROSS

In order to undertake the installation of a Toucan crossing on the following road I recommend that a temporary traffic regulation order be prepared. It is to be effective on the 12th April 2021 for a period of four weeks.

The order will promote a temporary suspension of loading and parking on both sides of the carriageway on Gallowhill Road from its junction with Gallowhill Gardens (311419, 703336) to its junction with the private access leading to the property known as Achramore (311076, 703611), a distance of 433.39 metres or thereby.

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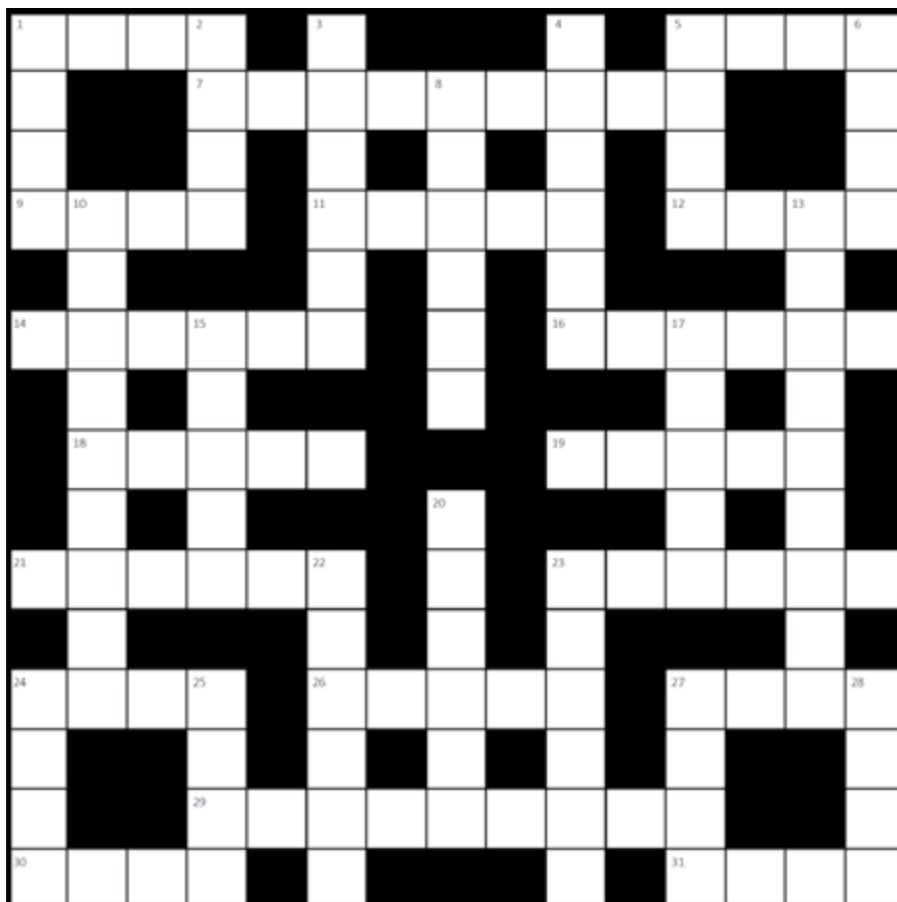
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Puzzles

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 7.



ACROSS

1. Last seen in Kinross when Justin Beiber visited (4)
5. Scale of challenge for Kinnesswood's Sam Allen (4)
7. Bird often seen with chaffinches (9)
9. Legendary monster (4)
11. A genus of algae, and of moths (5)
12. A bag made of paper or plastic (4)
14. Rodent (6)
15. Start of Seasonal Kinross road (6)
18. Popping up all over Kinross-shire (5)
19. Poet Michael (5)
21. Local river (6)
23. Kinross-shire hamlet (6)
24. Periphery (4)
26. Garlic mayonnaise (5)
27. Get rid of (4)
29. Road that leads to 10 down (9)
30. Food sharing App (4)
31. Sheltering Kinross Men from the elements (4)

DOWN

1. Game with dice (4)
2. Woodwind instrument (4)
3. What we did to everything in 2020 (6)
4. Kinross-shire bridge (5)
5. Hidden chocolate (4)
6. Activity schoolchildren could do on-line in real time (4)
8. Home of Broke not Broken (6)
10. Local rescue for this type of canine (9)
13. Shoes, or just talking (9)
15. Babe in the woods (5)
17. Way around the loch (5)
20. Required for feet on Heritage Trail (6)
22. Vaccination centre (6)
23. Like an alligator (6)
24. European currency (4)
25. Heard in Glenfarg tunnels (4)
27. Large trees (4)
28. Heritage Trail is often this (4)

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	



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- ✓ Ready meal sleeves
- ✓ Toilet & kitchen roll tubes
- ✓ Cardboard egg cartons
- ✓ Greeting 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



- ✗ 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.

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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 website. Applications may be downloaded from the website or obtained from the Applications Administrator, Barry Davies, Tel 01577 865004 or email barrydavies57@btinternet.com

Kinross Garden Group

2020/2021 Season

Thursday 8 April 2pm

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Heather McHaffie from RBGE will talk about
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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

Newsletter Deadlines

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

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

Issue	Deadline	Publication Date
May	Friday 16 April	Saturday 1 May 2021
June	Friday 14 May	Saturday 29 May 2021

100th Birthday and Diamond Wedding Anniversaries

Do you know a Perth & Kinross resident who is
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Since its establishment in 2010, the Church Office has been functioning as an administrative support across the range of KPC's ministries, for all users of the office and in coordinating hire of the Church and Church Centre. This is undertaken by a paid Office Coordinator and team of volunteers, the office being open Monday to Friday, 10am to 12 noon.

Since March 2020, Covid-19 has forced the office to become virtual, the current Coordinator working remotely. Like all jobs, the role has adapted and developed to meet the challenges of safely delivering what is needed, in this case focusing on supporting online worship, communication and fellowship, requiring acquisition of new, more technical skills.

Until it is possible to return safely to the Church Office, the Coordinator will be required to be able to work remotely and be adaptable to changing situations.

You will be a key point of contact from the congregation, community and beyond so, if you are talented in ensuring that an organisation runs smoothly and have a heart for getting alongside people and helping things happen, we would love to hear from you. Our website address is www.kinrossparishchurch.org

For informal enquiries, please contact Alice Getley on 01577 863395

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

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

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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

t: 07747 018 550

Perth & Kinross School Term Dates 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

Community Councils

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

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

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

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

Cleish & Blairadam: Sec: Patty Fraser, 01577 850253
Email: cleishcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk

Kinross Community Councillors

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

Portmoak Community Councillors

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

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

Perth and Kinross Councillors Kinross-shire Ward

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

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

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

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

John Nicolson MP

Member of Parliament for Ochil and South Perthshire

Telephone: 020 7219 3000

Email: john.nicolson.mp@parliament.uk

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

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

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

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

Roseanna Cunningham MSP

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

Email: roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot

Members of the Scottish Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife Region

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mobile Library Service

All Library services are cancelled for the foreseeable future

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

Perth Samaritans

Need to talk? We'll listen.

Contact us by

phone: 01738 626666 or 08457 909090

email: jo@samaritans.org

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

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

No pressure, no names, no judgment.
We're here for you, anytime.

Enquire

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

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

For more information contact: Tel 0345 123 2303

Website: www.enquire.org.uk

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

Diary

April

Fri	2	Good Friday - P&K schools on holiday	
Sat	3-11	The Great Portmoak Bird Watch	68
Sun	4	Easter Sunday Church Service 10.30am (Kinross Parish Church)	94
Sun	4	Free Volleyball! (Every Sunday)	79
Mon-Sat	5-10	Easter holiday activities at KYTHE	61
Tues	6	Deadline to apply for a new postal vote in Scottish Parliamentary Elections	19
Tues	6	Fossoway and District Community Council meets	55
Thurs	8	Garden Group meets	63
Thurs	8	Milnathort and Orwell Community Council meets	56
Tues	13	Portmoak Community Council meets	
Wed	14	Business Networking Meeting – guest speaker John Stephen, The Fresh Fish Place	68
Mon	19	Deadline to apply to be registered to vote in Scottish Parliamentary Elections	19
Wed	21	National Tea Day – Guide Dogs Virtual Tea Party	23
Sat	24	Farmers' Market, Kinross High Street 10am-2pm	
Tues	27	Kinross Community Council meets	54
Tues	27	Deadline to apply for a new proxy vote in Scottish Parliamentary Elections	19

May

Wed	12	Business Networking Meeting – guest speaker Kevin Heneghan, Fife Computers	68
Sat	22	Farmers' Market, Kinross High Street 10am-2pm	61

June

Mon	7	Cleish and Blairadam Community Council meets	58
Sat	26	Farmers' Market, Market Park Kinross	

September

Sat	4	Fossoway Gathering (Provisional date)	
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