



# Kinross Newsletter

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Mrs Nan Walker, MBE

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## DEADLINE

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**Post or hand in to:**

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## CONTENTS

From the Editor.....	2
Letters and Thanks.....	3
News.....	7
<b>Santa's Schedule .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Church News.....	23
Politicians.....	29
Features.....	37
Health and Wellbeing .....	49
Community Councils.....	53
Club and Community Group News .....	62
SWI.....	84
Sport.....	87
Kinross-Shire Centre Programme.....	91
Volunteering .....	92
Out and About .....	95
Church Information.....	100
Obituary.....	103
Holiday Closing .....	104
Christmas Puzzles .....	105
Notices.....	106
Situations Vacant, Items For Sale.....	109
Emergency Contact Numbers .....	110
Diary .....	112

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# Editor's Page

Cover photo: Marie Tweddle Cover Design: Lee Scammacca of Cree8

## Letter From The Editor

**THE FIRST SNOW OF** the winter arrived just in time for the Kinross Festive Market at the weekend. It was great to see so many people out supporting the stallholders despite the freezing conditions (numb toes all round!) Everyone enjoyed the great entertainment and talent on show from the young people of Kinross who took to the stage to showcase their abilities. Well done to them all and to KYTHE for the valuable work they do in the community with these youngsters.

What a shame that Storm Arwen put paid to the Christmas Light Switch On entertainment, although of course the lights did still go on! They are looking great. Well done to all at Light Up Kinross. The community really appreciate all you do to brighten up the town each year.

Santa Claus will of course still be visiting Kinross-shire in the weeks to come and you can find out more about where he will be and when on p21.

First it was banks, and now it is buses. If you are wondering where all the buses have gone, have a look at p8-9. It's really important that we don't lose our public transport links, especially when we are being told to

reduce our car usage and 'go green'. Rural areas like Kinross really need good links to other towns and cities to enable people to travel for work, study, medical appointments and to get on with their everyday lives.

If you want to help keep the First Bus X53 to Stirling, which is due to be axed on 9 January, you can sign the petition here: <https://greens.scot/KeepClacksConnected>.

Make your voice heard!

Your input as an individual **can** make a difference. It only takes a few minute to express your views.

There is another important issue to have your say on by 8 December.

The Boundary Commission For Scotland propose to split Kinross-shire into two voting constituencies, half to be included with Fife and the other half with Glenrothes. Read about why it would be such a disastrous idea for Kinross-shire on p7 – to make your comment visit [www.bcs2023review.com](http://www.bcs2023review.com).

*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 and the *Newsletter* accepts no liability for any inaccuracies contained therein. Senders should ensure 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 contact details. Letters should be truthful and not contain matter which could cause legal proceedings to be taken against the *Newsletter*, which accepts no liability for any inaccuracies contained therein. The *Newsletter* does not necessarily agree with any of the views expressed on the letters or indeed other pages. All letters must contain the sender's address, although this may be withheld from publication on request.

### 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  
CC: Community Council

Clr: Councillor  
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.

## Letters

### Voting Boundary Changes Will Split The Shire

**I THOUGHT IT WORTHWHILE** highlighting the proposals for the new Westminster constituencies. In brief it's proposed that, for electoral purposes, Fossoway and Cleish westward are hived off into 'West Fife' with the remainder of the Kinross-Shire swallowed in 'Glenrothes and Loch Leven, which would include Ballingry and Lochgelly as well as Glenrothes. Maps are available online.

This table top exercise fails to take into account the cohesive and historical nature of Kinross-shire and I anticipate that many of you will want to make representations to change this proposal. These can be made online at [www.bcs2023review.com](http://www.bcs2023review.com).

Personally I would recommend either retaining the Kinross-shire whole and leave it in the proposed constituency, or to adjust the boundaries to move us into NE Fife, renamed NE Fife and Kinross-shire.

*David West, Kinross*

### Just In Case It's Not Just Me

**I RECENTLY FOUND MYSELF** listening to a podcast from a stranger in their thirties. They told a powerful story of self-discovery, that they are an autistic person. I heard them using words that strongly resonated with so many of my own life experiences. Such a revelation was both incredibly hard and one of the most liberating moments I can remember.

If this in any way chimes with the story of how you've got to know who you are, you're not alone. (It can certainly feel that way at times.) You will have learned strategies, or found your own, that have helped you cope, whether or not you've sought a formal diagnosis.

I reckon there is room in Kinross-shire for a community of the broken yet strong to come together in a safe space, welcoming those who are a long way along this journey or who are right at the beginning, for anyone who aches to know how to engage with a world that has never known how to truly understand them.

I'd be really grateful to hear what has helped you become the person you're now so proud to know.

*David Mackenzie Mills  
david75\_mills@yahoo.com*

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### Who's Standing Up For Who?

**MANY KINROSS RESIDENTS ARE** shocked at the extent of the over-development taking place at Lathro Farm after the SNP Scottish Government overturned the Perth & Kinross council decision to withhold planning consent.

You may be interested in our local MSP's response: 'I do not have a view on this development as it is out of my remit and is a decision for the Scottish Government Reporter.'

That is the SNP standing up for Kinross!

*Alan Thomson, Kinross*

## Thanks



### A Huge Thank You

I would like to say many thanks to **all those who bought plants** at my plant stall on the Aldie Road during the summer. This was in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, which raised £248.43 including donations.

*Heather Turnbull, Easter Aldie*

### Broke Not Broken trips

Thanks to **Broke not Broken** for the great trips they put on on a Tuesday throughout the holidays.

*A Grateful Kinross Resident*

### Poppy Appeal 2021: Big Thanks To All

We want to say a massive thank you to the 45 outlets, shops and businesses which let us place our poppy boxes and tins on their premises this year. We hope the large poppies placed about the towns, and outlying villages, gave you a feel for the season too.

A big thanks to Richard and team at the Loch Leven Laundry for his terrific and imaginative window display, and to all others who did similar – it's really good of you all.

Huge thanks to all of your readers for donating by QR codes on tins, by texting, in cash, or on our online giving site. We tried hard to make digital giving easier again, because of a big change in spending habits, and reduced cash in wallets.

So, what are our totals? We haven't got the final numbers yet, as this is written; we are still counting as the *Newsletter* deadline approaches. But we'll let you know in the next edition how we did.



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Thanks to Sainsbury’s staff, Kinross, for taking the poppy boxes, displaying the merchandise stand, and for letting us do in store collections again – we were there every day at differing times in the week’s run up to Sunday. Thanks to local schools – staff and young people – who kindly took the boxes too.

It’s SO important that the young understand the poppy, its significance, and continue telling the story. There are some really good resources for the young at all levels at [www.poppyscotland.org.uk](http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk).

The aim of ‘Poppyscotland Learning – Sowing the Poppy seed’ is to provide a comprehensive learning experience for nurseries, schools, further education institutions, and other youth organisations. The material highlights the im-

**Newsletter Deadlines**

A list of future deadlines can be found on our website

**[www.kinrossnewsletter.org](http://www.kinrossnewsletter.org)**

portance of remembrance, veterans and the poppy in its 100th Year.

It was wonderful for us veterans and youth groups to have our march back on again, and parade at the War Memorial this year. Thanks to the Community Council, youth organisations and Ministers locally for doing what they could, within guidelines, to make things happen as normally as was allowable. Thanks to the pipe band and police too. Special shout out to Gregor Kolziel, musical student at the Conservatoire, for playing the Last Post so beautifully.

Note to veterans: there were lots of you in the crowd wearing medals; please come and march with us next year.

Renewed thanks to you the public for your support. The monies raised during the Scottish Poppy Appeal will be used to provide vital life-changing support to the Armed Forces community in Scotland.

*Andy Middlemiss & Christine Robertson  
Scottish Poppy Appeal Area Organisers,  
Kinross And Milnathort*

**Congratulations!** 

Huge congratulations to **Lorine Clark** who will graduate from the University of Glasgow on 9 December with Merit, with a Master’s Degree in Museum Studies. From all the family.

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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.



## VOTER ALARM OVER THREATS TO CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND, the body set up by the government to monitor constituency voting numbers, is seeking to change UK constituency boundaries to make them more similar in size. Their proposal for Kinross-shire is as follows:

- *The Kinross-shire ward is proposed to be split between two different constituencies.*
- *These seats will be shared with Fife rather than other parts of Perth and Kinross.*
- *Fossoway and Cleish will be included in a proposed 'West Fife' constituency dominated by Dunfermline.*
- *The rest of Kinross-shire will be included in a proposed 'Glenrothes and Loch Leven' constituency dominated by Glenrothes.*

The proposals can be viewed at: [www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies](http://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies)

### WHAT ARE THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST THIS?

- *As an historic county in our own right, Kinross-shire should be contained within a single constituency.*
- *Kinross-shire is a cohesive community. Splitting the ward between two seats would lead to poorer representation.*
- *Including all or part of Kinross-shire within a constituency dominated by Dunfermline or Glenrothes will mean that our concerns are less of a priority.*
- *Issues faced by rural communities (e.g. broadband, tourism or farming) are very different to those faced in urban areas like Dunfermline or Glenrothes.*
- *Kinross-shire shares a council with Perthshire and it makes far more sense to be included in a single constituency with other parts of Perth & Kinross.*
- *Kinross-shire has never before been included in a constituency with parts of Fife. Glenfarg has also never been split off from the rest of Perthshire.*

It seems as though the Boundary Commission are keen to split up the country based on numbers, rather than on identity and geography.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STOP THIS?

We have stopped similar changes in the past. The more people who



write in to object, the more likely we are to get these plans changed. Please send your comments by the deadline of 8 December.

The proposed boundaries are drawn up under strict numerical criteria so that similar number of voters are present in all constituencies. This has to be central to any response – those who want to oppose the proposals should make alternative suggestions which meet the numerical criteria.

### YOU CAN COMMENT IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

- **Online:** [www.bcs2023review.com](http://www.bcs2023review.com)
- **By email:** [bcs@scottishboundaries.gov.uk](mailto:bcs@scottishboundaries.gov.uk)
- **In writing:** Boundary Commission for Scotland, Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD

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# WHERE HAVE ALL

**MUCH DISMAY HAS GREETED** the news that bus services connecting Kinross to Stirling, Perth and Edinburgh have been drastically reduced – or even completely axed – leaving many without any suitable means of transport to work, university and for other vital travel requirements such as doctor or hospital appointments.

With only a week's leave, Stagecoach announced that their X56 route, which serves Kinross en route between Perth and Edinburgh, would have its frequency cut to every two hours. The change to the Edinburgh service came into effect on Monday November 1 and will remain until further notice.

Then recently First Buses announced that the X53 service, which links Kinross, Crook of Devon and Rumbling Bridge to Stirling, would be temporarily suspended. The service was only launched 18 months ago but bosses confirmed it will be axed on January 9, if more drivers cannot be found.

For those living in a rural area, the bus is a crucial lifeline. Both routes are vital for students and commuters who have been left bewildered and upset by the changes. One distressed resident told the *Newsletter*, 'I go from Gairneybridge to Edinburgh six days a week; it's going to be a nightmare getting there and getting back. I'm either late for work by an hour or early by an hour – it's infuriating!'

Stagecoach have also been criticised for removing the most commonly-used buses on the route. Speaking of the reduction of the X56 route, one disgruntled user commented: 'I really don't understand why they kept on the likes of the bus that goes through Milnathort at 3.18pm and ditched the one at 4.18pm. Barely any buses go through here at peak times and the next X56 is just before 6pm.'

'It's understandable that they might need to cut some services if they're short on drivers, but surely they should have stopped the afternoon ones and made sure they had more between peak times of 4-6 when more people are finished work, kids are finished school, etc. It seems odd more people use the bus in the middle of the afternoon than between 4 and 6.'

With COP26 recently on our doorstep and measures being taken to encourage us to think about more environmentally friendly means of transport, many local people are angry – not just by the cuts in services, but by the lack of information notice and information provided by the bus companies.

On hearing the news about the X56, Lesley from Kinross said, 'Really? I thought hourly was bad but this is basically a Sunday service... I haven't seen anything about this either on the buses or at the bus stops. This is just as bad as the lack of information regarding the closure of Perth bus station for re-surfacing; when the bus station was closed (which no one seemed to know about in advance) there was NO informa-



*The X53 in happier days (and nicer weather)*

tion available regarding where to get the buses. It's absolutely shocking, the lack of communication.'

Andi from Milnathort said, 'The bus my daughter relies on to get to gymnastics in Perth each week is no longer running. This is ridiculous at such short notice! I've pre-paid for classes that we're now struggling to get to.'

Both routes have been deemed vital to students and commuters but transport bosses say their hands have been forced by national driver shortages connected to Covid and Brexit.

Local councillor Willie Robertson said 'Stagecoach have said that driver shortage is the main reason for the 50% cut in the X56 services and for First Bus's removal altogether of the X53 Kinross - Stirling service. There is a national shortage of bus drivers. This has been solved in the past by recruiting drivers from abroad but, due to Brexit, this is no longer available. Myself and my fellow ward councillors have written to MP John Nicolson asking him to try and get the rules around using foreign drivers relaxed (as has been done with HGV drivers). We await his response.'

'I am already getting reports that with the X56 only running every two hours it is making life difficult for those who depend on the service to access their work and other appointments. The loss of the X53 will also make it very difficult for those in West Kinross-shire to attend doctor appointments in Dollar and for students to travel to Stirling University.'

It is very concerning to be losing bus services at a time when we should be trying to divert more journeys away from cars and on to public transport.

The Council's public transport officers have tried to persuade the bus companies to reverse their decision without success.



# THE BUSES GONE?



Soon to become extinct, the increasingly rare X53 seen here in its natural habitat

the X53 service. While I know there are a number of issues that have affected the availability of drivers and passenger numbers, the pandemic has clearly led to reduced usage. I hope that once some of these issues have been resolved, and when people are looking to travel more, Stagecoach will consider reinstating this route.

‘Kinross-shire is a rural area and many local residents rely on public transport to get about to get to work, school, GP or the shops. This will make it a lot more difficult for people locally to go about their daily lives. I hope the work of the Kinross-shire Community Transport Group will help to link our rural communities with Kinross for connecting services, which while not a perfect solution, may alleviate some of the problems.’

Cllr Richard Watters said, ‘Having dependable bus services that aren’t at risk

MSP Liz Smith was equally unhappy about the changes. ‘It is little wonder that local people are complaining so bitterly about these changes. They come at a time when Scotrail is proposing to remove the direct train link between Perth and Edinburgh and also on top of the cancellation of the X53 bus route between Stirling and St Andrews. All of this just adds to the misery being faced by all those who rely heavily on public transport.

‘The M90 corridor is seeing extensive house building which will clearly increase demand for bus services so this change doesn’t make any sense at all, especially when we are all being encouraged to ‘go green’.

I have written to First Buses on behalf of constituents and I hope they will quickly review matters.’

Cllr Mike Barnacle told the *Newsletter*, ‘I think it is remiss of commercial operators to close services without consultation, based on passenger numbers during the pandemic when Scottish Government were advising folk not to use public transport. It is always rural services that are hit first.’

Cllr Callum Purves added, ‘It is really disappointing that Stagecoach have taken this decision alongside the loss of

of being withdrawn or changed at the rate we have seen over the last few years are essential if we are to provide alternative options to single person car journeys.’

In a statement, Graeme Macfarlane, commercial director for First Bus in Scotland, said ‘As is being experienced across the bus industry, we have seen varying levels of driver shortages in some of our operating areas over the last few weeks. We are doing everything we can to maintain a comprehensive network of services that supports our customers and our communities. The majority of routes are running normally although in some areas we are making temporary timetable adjustments to ensure a reliable service and minimise disruption. We thank customers for their patience and understanding while we overcome this short-term situation.’

He added: ‘We have entered a 70 day process to temporarily suspend the service until further notice, in order to help address the driver shortage and focus resource where there is current demand and on those services that we are seeing a higher rate of post-Covid passenger recovery on.

‘The 70 day process will give us time to try to address the shortages and if driver numbers improve then this is something that we can cancel at any point and we will of course keep passengers informed of any decisions made in this regard well in advance of any changes taking effect.’

A spokesperson for Stagecoach East Scotland said: ‘We apologise to our customers who have been affected by travel disruptions in the area. Like many industries, we are experiencing a number of challenges due to national driver shortage.

‘In an effort to reduce the impact to communities, tickets will be accepted on certain Citylink services, full details of which can be found on our website, [stagecoachbus.com](http://stagecoachbus.com).

‘The reduction to these services is a temporary measure until such time our staffing level returns to a point where we can reliably operate our schedule. We have a strong pipeline of talented individuals currently in our training school which is at capacity. We understand these changes can be frustrating and would like to thank customers for their patience.’

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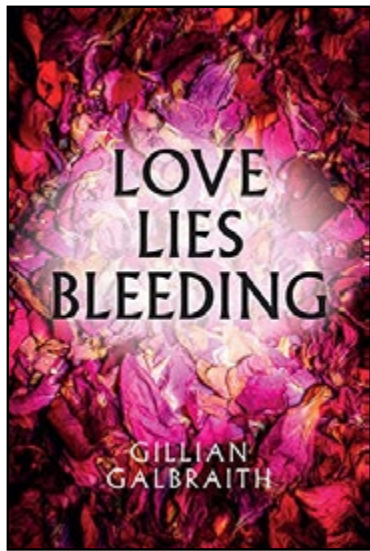


**FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF** previous years Christmas Day Lunch, Members of Kinross Parish Church are once again hosting a lunch in the Kinross Centre, 64 High Street, Kinross on Christmas Day for people in the community who would otherwise be on their own. There will be entertainment from 12pm, lunch will be served around 1pm with more entertainment afterwards, finishing around 4pm.

This is open to anyone in the community and there is no

charge. So that we have enough turkey (kindly donated by Hunters of Kinross) please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to join us. Transport can also be arranged.

If there are any other entertainers who would like to spare an hour on Christmas Day please get in touch. Please call Richard Scott 07 999 510 500 or Kinross Parish Church office 01577 862570 for more information.



## New Book From Local Author Gillian Galbraith

**FANS OF MILNATHORT** crime author Gillian Galbraith will be delighted that she has a new novel out.

Her new book is about a dying man who is haunted by the memory of a love affair with Laura, a woman who changed his life forever.

Just when he begins to believe himself the happiest

of men, a strange discovery makes him question not only all his old certainties but who Laura is, and if he ever knew her at all.

Gillian, a former crime advocate, now writes crime/mystery novels, most notably about Lothian detective Alice Rice. She has appeared in Kinross on several occasions about her writing.

**Praise for Gillian Galbraith**

'The new Rebus' *Sunday Express*

'An author to watch' *Publishing News*

'Vivid and exciting . . . not a dull page from start to finish' *Alexander McCall Smith*

'Highly original fiction . . .' *Sunday Times Crime Club*



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## SCOTTISH GLIDING CENTRE

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

# Scottish Gliding Centre On The Up!

IT'S BEEN QUITE THE year for the Scottish Gliding Centre. They have slowly moved back to being able to get people in the air and are happy to see the airfield at Portmoak busy again with members and first timers!

They have big plans for 2022 and will be offering a range of exciting new gliding opportunities like Learn to Glide packages, holiday courses and improved air experience offers.

They've trained 6 new instructors this year and 3 pilots who are now qualified to help with introductory flights. All are keen to put their newfound skills to the test and share their love of the skies with new gliders in 2022!

Gift memberships and packages have been flying (pun intended) off the shelves and centre staff are looking forward to welcoming the lucky recipients to the centre and showing them why they love this sport so much. There is still time to get a last-minute voucher or learn to glide package for your nearest and dearest by visiting the website.

They have had 13 new solo pilots this year, two of whom were solo by the end of their intensive course. That is testament to the fantastic team of instructors who have nurtured them and given them all the skills they need to experience the thrill of gliding all by themselves! Many congratulations to everyone who made this happen.

The Open Day is all set for summer 2022 where they'll be throwing open the hangar doors and letting you all see what goes on and how you can get involved. They'll have trial flights, kids' activities, simulator experiences and much more. Look out for more information early in 2022.

Members have been managing to get back to competition this year and have taken home a great haul of silverware; 5 bronze cross-country endorsements, 2 sil-



*Newly qualified assistant instructors*

ver badges and 1 gold badge. Many congratulations to them.

The centre is hoping for a wider calendar of events in 2022 that will give newly solo members the opportunity to enjoy the experience of competition.

A spokesperson said, 'Finally, thanks to you, the people of Kinross-shire who proved once again your amazing capacity for supporting local businesses and groups and helping them through what has been an incredibly difficult couple of years. Your support through purchasing vouchers, experiences and mem-

berships and spreading the word about the centre and the fantastic sport of gliding, means much more than you will ever know.'

Here's to a bigger and better 2022 for all of us!

## OCHIL GREEN STUDIO

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*Hello, my name is Amy.*  
 I'm passionate about keeping people moving, helping to reduce those aches and pains. Please just drop me a message or call to see if I can help you.  
 I look forward to meeting you soon!

## Kinross Parish Church Christmas Services 2021

We will be offering worship and fellowship throughout the Advent and Christmas season.

<p><b>Sunday 19 December</b> Nativity Service 10:30am</p> <p><b>Friday 24 December</b> Crib Service 4:30pm</p> <p><b>Saturday 25 December</b> Christmas Day Service 10:30am</p>	<p><b>Monday 20 December</b> Bereavement Service 6.30pm</p> <p><b>Friday 24 December</b> Watchnight Service 11:15pm</p> <p><b>Sunday 26 December</b> Lessons &amp; Carol Service 10:30am</p>
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[www.kinrossparishchurch.org](http://www.kinrossparishchurch.org)



# HUNTERS of KINROSS



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- 250grms Ayrshire Streaky Bacon
- Foil Cooking Tray & Pop up Timer
- 5 Kilo Bag Potatoes

**FEEDS 4-6 People**

**£80**

**Christmas Food Box**

- 1.5kilo Rolled & Ready Turkey Breast Roast
- 1Kilo Rolled Beef Roasting Joint
- 1.5kilo Luxury Loin Bacon Joint
- 2 x 500grms Pork Stuffing Sage & Onion & Chestnut
- 1kilo of Pork Chipolatas approx 40
- 2 x 250grms Ayrshire Streaky Bacon
- A 5kilo Bag of Perthshire Potatoes
- 2 Foil Cook Trays & Pop up Timers

**FEEDS 8-10 PEOPLE**

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 MON 20TH DEC. - WED 22ND DEC: 8.00AM - 4.00PM  
 THURS 23RD: 7.30AM - 4.00PM  
 FRI 24TH DEC: 8.00AM - 4.00PM  
**CHRISTMAS DAY & BOXING DAY: CLOSED**  
 MON 27TH DEC. - THURS 30TH DEC: 8.00AM - 4.00PM  
 HOGMANAY: 8.00AM - 4.00PM  
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# Loch Leven Visitor Centre Reopens



**AFTER A LONG WAIT**, the visitor facilities at RSPB Loch Leven are finally back up and running. There have been alterations to the pricing structure; it has now changed from an entry fee to a car parking fee.

Parking for the day is £3 for non-RSPB members, or free for RSPB members and blue badge holders. Payment can be made by cash or contactless card at the machines in the car park. Visitors are not expected to pay when popping in to the shop, so there are designated spaces set aside for shop customers, allowing up to 30 minutes free parking. These can also be used for visitors popping into the café for takeaway food and drinks.

RSPB Loch Leven believe this offers great value for money and it will allow them to maintain the reserve as a wonderful haven for both wildlife and visitors. In recent years, the reserve has

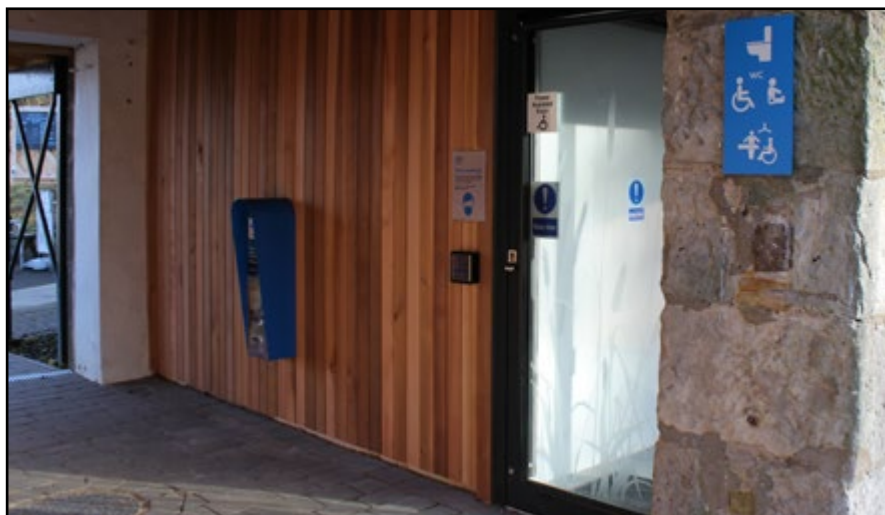


undergone some incredible improvements, bringing more people closer to wildlife.

A spokesperson said: 'We want to further develop the reserve to provide visitors with an excellent, inspiring and accessible day out. As a charity, the income we generate from the parking charge will allow us to maintain and build upon our facilities, whilst continuing to carry out vital conservation work.'

As part of the changes, well behaved dogs are now allowed into the café!

The new toilet facilities have also been quite a talking point, with some of the most inclusive facilities in Scotland. The new Changing Places room has already attracted a lot of interest, as this will allow those with multiple access needs to visit with their families and carers.



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# CHILD POVERTY INCREASE IN PKC

A SHOCKING 5500 CHILDREN in Perth and Kinross are currently living in poverty. The figures, recently published by PKC, show the number of local children living in poverty has risen to almost a quarter at 22.6%.

The report warned these were pre-Covid figures and likely to be an underestimate. The Local Child Poverty Action Report stated that while local authorities alone cannot end child poverty they do have a 'considerable influence'.

The pandemic has had a significant impact with 8500 Perth and Kinross householders struggling to pay for food and other essentials. 24,500 families are estimated to have no or less than one months' savings – almost double the pre-pandemic figure. One in six jobs were lost to the local economy and the number of people on out-of-work benefits doubled to 4195.

The number of P&K households receiving Universal Credit increased by 237% and 105 families with three or more children had their benefit capped. An officer said the Scottish Government measure poverty on four scales: relative poverty, absolute poverty, combined low income and material deprivation and persistent poverty.

Council Leader Murray Lyle said, 'The negative impacts of poverty on each child cannot be underestimated.' He highlighted efforts made by PKC and its partners to tackle the problems.

# Heritage Trail Repair



A NEW EXPERIMENTAL path surface has been laid on the section of the Heritage Trail that regularly floods in front of Kinross House. The 100 metres stretch has been repaired free of charge by contractor McKenzie Construction as a trial.

The new surface is said to be non-slip and long-lasting. The existing path material is lifted, crushed and mixed with a bonding material, then a top coat of fine gavel is applied before it is rolled. Its life span is up to 30-years and its benefit is that it recycles existing path materials.

Councillor Willie Robertson, who has, through TRACKS, co-ordinated the work with the contractors, says: 'If it proves successful it will be used on other sections of the trail. Please let me know what you think.'

You can comment on the results via Cllr Robertson's Facebook page.

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# Northern Lights Reach Kinross

**EYES WERE CAST UPWARDS** in November as the Kinross sky was lit up with a spectacular show from the Northern Lights. Kinross residents were treated to magnificent hues of green and purple as some of the most ideal conditions of the year were in place.

Taking their name from Aurora (Roman goddess of dawn) and Boreas (the Greek name for the north wind), the breath-taking phenomenon of lights are caused by solar ac-

tivity. They occur when a huge burst of material from the sun causes a geomagnetic storm, which interferes with the Earth's magnetic field.

The solar storm is caused by a type of solar flare called a coronal mass ejection – a huge expulsion of plasma from the Sun's outer layer, called the corona. Charged particles in the solar wind collide with the earth's magnetic field, which pulls them north and south to the poles. Scotland is one of the best places in Europe outwith Scandinavia to see them.

Usually the Northern Lights are best seen between December and January. Luckily in November even skywatchers in Edinburgh and Glasgow were lucky enough to see them overcome the usual light pollution.

Local resident Alan Ruiz sent us these terrific photos, taken from Vane Farm and Cleish Hill. Alan told the Newsletter, "I got very lucky. I just happened to be out trying to photograph some deep space stuff. I abandoned that when I saw the sky!"

*Photos: Alan Ruiz*

## Do You Have Great Photos Of Kinross-Shire?

If you would like to see your photos featured in the *Newsletter*, why not send them to [editor@kinrossnewsletter.org](mailto:editor@kinrossnewsletter.org). We are always looking for good photos! They must be high resolution images for print (at least 300 pixels per inch).







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# Grants Flow From Rumbling Bridge Hydro



**RUMBLING BRIDGE** Community Hydro has given a total of £21,000 in grants to local facilities and events from its surplus profits made in 2020/21. It operates a hydroelectric scheme which utilises water from the River Devon near Kinross, and is one of the largest community-owned hydro schemes in the UK.

Grants ranging from £500 to £5000 were awarded to the Crook of Devon Hall, the Coronation Hall in Muckhart, the Moubray Hall in Powmill, Fossoway Church Hall and Muckhart Parish Church Hall. The Muckhart Horticultural Society and the Fossoway Flower Show were also beneficiaries.

These grants are to support local village halls and events which have been adverse-

ly affected by a lack of income due to difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Hugh Wallace, Chair of the Rumbling Bridge Community Hydro Society Board said: "We are delighted to have been able to award these grants. This brings the total donated to local community projects by the

Society to over £100,000 since the hydro scheme launched in 2016."

As a community-owned co-operative, members of the public can own a stake in their local renewable energy source and thus benefit from the sale of green electricity. Any queries should be directed to [info@rumblingbridgehydro.coop](mailto:info@rumblingbridgehydro.coop).



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Hi, I'm Emma, a professional Menopause and Midlife Coach based in Kinross. I help women to live well in menopause and beyond by supporting them on their journey through menopause. From fatigue, low mood and overwhelm to being empowered and energised, enabling them to manage the everyday...and enjoy life. I do this through my amazing 5-step signature programme.

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For all none urgent or routine enquiries and appointments please email our team at **[Alphavet@inglisset.com](mailto:Alphavet@inglisset.com)**

For emergency care or advice please call us on **01577 863 328**.



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# Santa Claus Is Coming To Town!



**SANTA WILL BE HERE** in December thanks to the wonderful Rotary Club. More details on the Santa Tracker app (to give you precise timings of his progress each night) are available at [www.SleighTracker.co.uk](http://www.SleighTracker.co.uk)

**Look out for Santa at the times and places shown here!**

Covid-19 restrictions mean there will be no Little Elves knocking on doors, so listen out for Santa's music. Santa's Helpers will still be able to accept cash donations in special collection buckets this year and there will be an opportunity to donate online at [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/santasleigh2021](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/santasleigh2021).

**Rotary Club of Kinross and District**





**Santa Claus is coming to town in December**  
 Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Kinross South including Clashlochle  
 Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Middle Balado, Cleish, Drum & Crook of Devon  
 Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Kinross Central  
 Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Kinross North & Milnathort  
 Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Mawcarse, Cuthill Towers, Duncreevie & Glenfarg  
 Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Wester Balgedie, Glenlmond, Kinnesswood & Scotlandwell

Remember that all runs are weather dependent, so like our Facebook page to get up to date information on the night

 [Facebook.com/Kinross & District Rotary club](https://www.facebook.com/Kinross & District Rotary club)

Or why don't you Track the Sleigh on the night by downloading the App and activate the tracker <http://www.SleighTracker.co.uk>

**There will be a limited collection this year, but if you would like to donate please go to our Justgiving page**  
[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/santasleigh2021](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/santasleigh2021)

**SANTA'S SCHEDULE**

SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER

Kinross South and Clashlochle: 5.30 - 8.30pm.

SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER

Middle Balado, Cleish, The Drum and Crook of Devon: 5.30 - 8.30pm.

SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER

Kinross Central Route 1: 4.30 - 6.30pm.  
Kinross Central Route 2: 6.30 - 8.30pm.

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER

Kinross North, Milnathort: 5.30 - 8.30pm.

SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER

Mawcarse, Cuthill Towers, Drunzie, Duncreevie and Glenfarg: 5.30 - 8.30pm.

SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER

Balgedie, Glenlmond, Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell: 5.30 - 8.30pm.

FOLLOW SANTA ON THE TRACKER APP

[www.sleightracker.co.uk](http://www.sleightracker.co.uk)  
*Santa's Helpers will have their special collection buckets to take your donations. But if you prefer to give online, and help us continue to support local charities, please go to*  
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# Christmas at Loch Leven Church

28<sup>th</sup> November - First Sunday of advent - 10.30 am  
*The Prophets' Candle, symbolising hope*

5<sup>th</sup> December - Second Sunday - 10.30 am  
*The Bethlehem Candle, symbolising faith*

12<sup>th</sup> December - Third Sunday - 4 pm  
*The Shepherds' Candle, symbolising joy*

19<sup>th</sup> December - Fourth Sunday - 10.30 am  
*The Angel's Candle, symbolising peace*

9<sup>th</sup> January - services recommence

All services will be held in The Boathouse, Pier Road,  
 Kinross, KY13 8YJ. Everyone is welcome and  
 refreshments and mince pies will be available afterwards.



**Loch Leven Church**  
 Charity No: SC049050



Keep an eye on our website or find us on  
 facebook: @WeLoveLochLeven  
 for up-to-date information about other  
 Christmas events and meetings in  
 December and January.

[www.lochlevenchurch.com](http://www.lochlevenchurch.com)    [www.facebook.com/LochLevenChurch](http://www.facebook.com/LochLevenChurch)    [info@lochlevenchurch.com](mailto:info@lochlevenchurch.com)

# LOCH LEVEN CHURCH NEWS

**BACK IN 2019 MEMBERS** of Loch Leven Church (LLC) raised funds for Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS) by volunteering to pack Christmas grocery bags at Kinross Sainsbury's. In 2020, when even Santa and his grotto workers were forced to socially distance (and, in some cases, elf-isolate), church members responded creatively by writing and recording original songs, collaborating on music videos and even stepping up (or sitting down) as part of the toilet-roll challenge (best not to ask!)

This month, having mastered the drive-in service (complete with honks for hallelujahs and car-communion), LLC will be back outdoors! Members have been dashing through the snow to deliver advent calendars in the local area. The LLC band appeared on the stage at the legendary Kinross Festive Market. The following day, LLC joined forces with Church

All people are therefore warmly invited to the Boathouse for Sunday services which will be taking place throughout the advent season, starting with the themes of Hope and Faith (5 December at 10.30am). A joy-themed service will manifest as an outdoor celebration, with festive music played live on the twinkly light-adorned decking area (12 December at 4pm). All who are joyful and triumphant are welcome to grab a winter warmer from the hatch and join the band loch-side! Then, on the final Sunday of advent, which traditionally focuses on Peace, LLC will be hosting family-friendly fun in the form of a special children's service (19 December at 10.30am). And one thing's for sure, it doesn't take a prophet to foretell that the likelihood of peace is... well... low.

And that's because LLC meetings are not stand-on-ceremony but lively, family-centred celebrations. Generous amounts of 'Goodwill to all men' are always served! So Come, All Ye Faithful, and, when your insides are tingling (albeit from hot drinks and mince pies served from the hatch), may you experience that timeless 'Christmassy feeling', when everything is right with the world and with your Creator, and;

*'Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born'*

[info@lochlevenchurch.com](mailto:info@lochlevenchurch.com)

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wednesday 22 December, 6pm at Perth Concert Hall:  
Christmas Box 2021 £3 (adult) / £1 (child).**

A night of traditional Christmas entertainment sponsored by the Souter Charitable Trust in aid of the Bethany Homeless Project. Includes an outdoor nativity, live animals, an amassed Choir of Angels and music from Celtic Worship. A free bus will be leaving from Kinross and LLC will cover the cost of tickets. Please get in contact if you would like to come!

**Sunday 26 December: No service**

**Sunday 2 January, 10.30am Meet at The Boathouse:  
Family Walk.**

Join a relaxed walk along a section of Loch Leven.  
Details TBC.

Outdoors to host an advent event at Lendrick Muir which took the idea of Carols by Candlelight to a whole new level: Believers by the Bonfire. Thankfully, it wasn't quite the bleak mid-winter and frosty wind didn't make moan. There wasn't much chance of a Silent Night either!

Being under starlight at Christmas time is always reminiscent of that first Christmas night in Bethlehem when an angel of the Lord announced Jesus' arrival to the shepherds, saying 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people' (*Luke 2:10 KJV*). The inimitable Rev. Billy Graham explained that 'The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that he might offer up his life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas.' And this message is not just for the Church-Goers, the Favoured Few, the Chosen Frozen, the Jesus Freaks, or the Happy Clappies. It's for everyone.

## Newsletter Deadlines

A list of future deadlines can be found on our website

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**CHRISTMAS BOX 2021**

**WEDNESDAY 22 DECEMBER  
6PM, PERTH CONCERT HALL**

Christmas box is an eclectic mix beginning at 6pm with an outdoor nativity play which will be held in the quadrant outside the Concert Hall featuring live animals and real camels. This will be followed by a Christmas show in the auditorium where we are privileged to have Wynne Evans (voice of Go Compare), Celtic Worship and Li Lau an escape artist who has performed on Britain's Got Talent.

This will be blended together with a Christmas theme and everyone will receive a Christmas box which has participating items. There will also be guest appearances from people who have remarkable stories of hope and freedom.

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# A BUSY CHRISTMAS AT KINROSS PARISH CHURCH

**REV ALAN REID OF** Kinross Parish Church of Scotland is gearing up for a busy Christmas – including four services in less than two days! The Kirk Session agreed to his suggestion that a full programme of special Christmas Services should go ahead this year to help bring the God of Hope to people at Christmas, especially after what has been a difficult year for many.

The Nativity Service will be at 10.30am on 19 December – with a twist, as the church's young people have been creating a film. An important part of the programme is a quiet service of remembrance and thanksgiving at 6.30pm on Monday 20th. This is particularly for those who have been bereaved and for whom Christmas is often a difficult time. On Christmas Eve there is a Crib Service for those with young children at 4.30pm and the moving Watchnight Service starting at 11.15pm and running into Christmas Day. On Christmas Day itself there is a short, all-age, service at 10.30am and, at the same time on Sunday 26, a Service of Lessons and Carols.

Rev Alan Reid says, 'Because Christmas Day, a Saturday, will immediately be followed by Christmas Sunday the programme will be particularly concentrated. But each of these Christmas services is a special part of Christmas for many. I'm sure that people will welcome that this year we can celebrate the coming of Jesus at Christmas by worshipping in person, though some of these services will also be on line. Track and Trace details are no longer necessary though masks are required. We continue to ensure good ventilation – expect a colder kirk than normal! – and have maintained spacing of chairs. A team of volunteers will ensure special cleaning and sanitising between services.'

## Kin-nections

**THE NEW ISSUE OF** Kin-nections, the magazine of Kinross Parish Church, is now available. It is delivered to the congregation but free copies are also available at the Library, Church, Church Centre and in various cafes around the town.

This issue, covering December – February, has an Advent theme, including details of special Christmas services. The magazine includes not just news of church activities but also reflections and prayers. These have been written by members of the congregation in the hope that many will find them supportive and helpful, especially if health or other concerns mean they are unable to attend church.



*KPS in the snow. Photo: Andy Masson*

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# RAISING THE STANDARD OF CHILDCARE

# Community Litter Pick



Gill Boardman, awarded a Gold Litter Picker award, with Jim Smith, convener of the Eco-Congregation Group at Kinross Parish Church

**THE NEXT LITTER PICK** is on Saturday 4 December. If you want to be involved either contact [office@kinrossparishchurch.org](mailto:office@kinrossparishchurch.org) or tel 01577 862570 or come along to the lane beside Kinross Parish Church, 10 Station Road, between 9.30am and 10.30am on 4 December to pick up rubbish bags, litter pickers, gloves and high-visibility tabards. Filled bags have to be returned to the lane by 3pm.

The litter pick, which is now a wide community effort with teams in both Kinross and Milnathort, is organised by the Eco-Congregation team of Kinross Parish Church with the equipment being paid for by money raised by Susan Smith of the church making and selling masks and bags from donated material.

The idea for a community litter pick started with Gill Boardman, who was originally litter picking on her own during the first Lockdown. Her work has now been recognised by a Gold Litter Picker Award by Perth and Kinross Council. Around 250 bags of litter have been collected over 18 months!



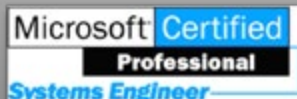
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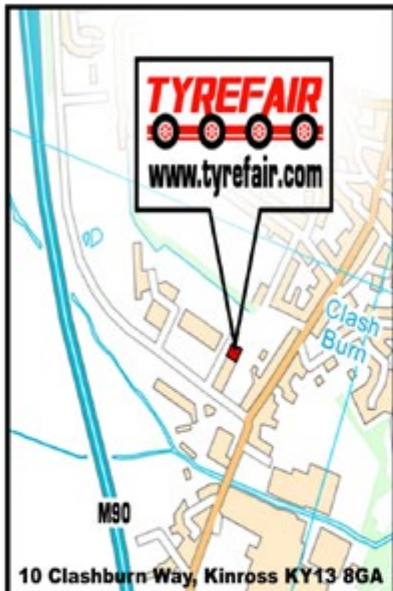
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## John Nicolson, MP



**I DIDN'T KNOW DAVID** Amess well. We probably talked a couple of dozen times in lifts, queues, or the Members' Lobby. I remember him as a warm man with a ready smile. We agreed on very little. Although I admired his passionate advocacy on behalf of animals, he was a Brexiteer and a social conservative. I doubt we were ever in the same lobby to vote.

Everyone knew that David wasn't a sook. Whips could find no blandishment which would persuade him to place party above conscience. He didn't care about promotion, which was just as well as he was never offered any. He cared about issues. And, above all else, he cared about his constituents. He died doing what he loved most, helping those who had come to his weekly constituency surgery asking for help.

Most folk never contact their MP. MPs can sometimes seem remote. People worry that if they voted for a different party their MP might not want to help them. And in any case, what's the point? David knew that there was a point. The best MPs are blind to party allegiance when helping constituents. We've no idea how people voted. And we know that we are often the last port of call for constituents who desperately need help. We can't solve every issue. But with our team of dedicated caseworkers, we try.

Since the start of the pandemic, I've been available for

surgeries two days a week. They're mostly on Zoom, with some on the phone. People tell me they like the privacy involved. And for me, it's the most rewarding aspect of my job. That's why, although there has been some talk since David's death about curtailing or even halting surgeries, I intend to keep on doing them. And I know most of my colleagues, cross-party, feel the same.

There was an arrest made following David's killing. There will be a trial and so I can't speculate on the motive of the man who ended his life so cruelly, leaving his wife and children bereft. Many blame social media for the coarsening of language used in political debate, and for the increasing radicalisation of aspects of our public life. It's certainly true that disinformation is the scourge of our age. We know online abuse is at epidemic levels with women MPs targeted disproportionately. And we know that children can now be bullied from the moment they get up in the morning until the moment they go to bed. In the Instagram era, there is no safe space. As an MP sitting on the Joint Committee on the Draft Online Harms Bill, I'm working on ways to address these fundamental challenges to our social cohesion. We will be publishing our recommendations soon.

But with or without legislation we can all take a leaf out of David Amess's book. It has to be possible to disagree without being disagreeable. As another murdered colleague Jo Cox famously said: "We have far more in common than that which divides us."

*John Nicolson, MP*

## Jim Fairlie, MSP



**IT IS INCREDIBLY FRUSTRATING** that businesses desperate to make up for the unavoidably difficult times brought upon us by a global pandemic are having to contend with the additional impact of something that was far from unavoidable and which is making their road to recovery very much harder than it needed to be.

Major employers across my constituency have been contacting me to express their concern at the major shortages in staff they are all suffering from.

As John Swinney, the Deputy First Minister, said when I raised the issue with him, we are facing acute challenges in availability of skills in a number of sectors. It is an issue not only in health and social care, but in hospitality, transportation, distribution and in the rural economy.

I have written to the UK Home Secretary demanding she take urgent and immediate action to alleviate the problem because there is absolutely no doubt that the single biggest source of these problems is Brexit and the impact it has had on freedom of movement and the ability of people from EU countries to work here as they have done in the past.

Meanwhile, as we enter the last month of the year, I sincerely hope that we will be able to enjoy a far more recognisable festive season than was possible last year.

All the data clearly shows that being vaccinated gives protection against infection but also, if you do catch the virus, your chances of becoming seriously unwell are much reduced.

Covid-19 has not gone away and without the incredible efforts of everyone involved in the vaccination programme – and the fantastic numbers of people prepared to get their sleeves rolled up and get the jags – there is no question that the level of restrictions in place would be far more akin to last winter than the much more limited protections that are necessary now.

We are already past the remarkable milestone of 1,000,000

people having had the third injection and I would encourage everybody to take up the opportunity of getting vaccinated whenever the opportunity presents itself – whether you are due your first, second or booster injection, get yourself jugged. And that applies to the regular winter flu vaccine as well as the Covid one!

The end of December is when the year turns with the days beginning to lengthen, and it is no surprise that before the solstice, the moment at which the sun is at the furthest south it reaches in its apparent travels across the sky, there is so much festivity – secular and religious – associated with celebrating light.

Reflecting on the year that is now coming to an end, it is on a year that has brought huge change for me personally and I want to, once again, thank the people of this area for putting their trust in me and electing me as the Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Perthshire South & Kinross-shire constituency.

I wish the team at the *Kinross Newsletter* and all of you reading this every best wish for an enjoyable Christmas and look forward to 2022 with hope and optimism.

*Jim Fairlie, MSP*

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## Liz Smith, MSP

LAST MONTH THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP, announced his Budget to the House of Commons and it includes some significant investments in key projects right across Scotland. A particular aspect of the budget that caught my eye was the £8 million injection to upgrade broadband in 3,600 premises, spread across five of Scotland's rural regions, including Perth and Kinross, as part of the UK-wide Project Gigabit.



Project Gigabit is the largest rollout of broadband ever and it is being aimed at the UK's most rural areas. It will deliver future-proofed connectivity and gigabit-capable connections through full fibre broadband cables, which will be both fast and reliable.

Weak broadband is a concern that has been raised with me countless times by constituents in Kinross-shire over my many years as an MSP, so I am delighted that this budget is delivering on your priorities.

I am more than aware of the frustration that weak broadband causes and the negative affect this can have on work and social life. Moreover slow connectivity has a detrimental impact when encouraging home start-ups and keeping the established local businesses as competitive as possible. For many, Covid-19 has changed the way they work, and how they will work in the future, and access to broadband for virtual meetings on Zoom and Microsoft Teams at home has become an absolutely essential aspect of working life. If anyone in Kinross-shire is continuing to have issues with connectivity, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with my office and I will do all I can to assist.

Another great piece of news has come to Perth and Kinross last month with Perth becoming the first city in the UK to become a UNESCO City of Craft and Folk Art. It comes after a lengthy application process by Perth and Kinross Council which emphasised Perth's long tradition of being a centre for crafts (being known as 'Craftistown' from the early 16th century) and extensive consultation with craftspeople across the city. While the bid was centred around Perth City, the designation is for the entirety of Perth and Kinross. This is fantastic news for Kinross-shire because the new UNESCO badge will likely deliver increased funding and more learning opportunities for those in the trade. I know there are many artisans and manufacturers in the Kinross-shire area who will have a keen interest in the opportunities this presents.

As this will be my last column before the new year, I would like to extend season's greetings to everyone. While the last 20 months have been extraordinarily difficult, we can be truly inspired by the selfless – at times heroic – actions of many individuals across Kinross-shire during the height of the pandemic, not to mention, the collective community spirit which has helped carry us all through this difficult period together.

Liz Smith, MSP

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## Councillor Willie Robertson



**Bus Services:** Government and Council policy is to try and encourage people to stop using their cars and use public transport instead. A policy which I totally support. However here in Kinross-shire we have in the last few weeks lost the X53 Kinross – Stirling service and seen the X56 service between Perth and Edinburgh reduced to a two hourly service. This goes completely against what we should be doing and makes life really difficult for those who depend on public transport. The bus companies blame the loss of European drivers because of Brexit and the Covid 19 pandemic. The loss of the X53 service leaves those living in west Kinross-shire with no bus service at all. The Council's public transport department are speaking to the bus companies in a bid to get these cuts reversed but are not at all optimistic that they will be successful.

**Pier Car Park:** The new car park at The Pier, Kinross is already looking very good even though there is still a lot of work to do. I am however concerned that the pedestrian links to The Pier that are proposed are not as good as I was hoping for. Meetings have been held to see what can be done to make it as safe as possible for people walking to The Pier and heritage trail and avoid them having to try and dodge cars and other vehicles on Pier Road.

**Community Speed Watch:** Visitors who read our community council minutes will be aware that speeding traffic is a big issue locally. To try and address this we are hoping to establish, with the support of our local Police, a Kinross-shire Community Speed Watch Scheme. If you are interested in volunteering please get in touch and I will send you information on the scheme. Our community councils are currently listing speeding blackspots in their areas so that they can be assessed by the Police for their suitability as locations to carry out Speed Watch checks.

**Loch Leven Heritage Trail repair:** By the time you read this the new 150 metre section of heritage trail path in front of Kinross House should be laid. This new surface is hoped to be much longer lasting and require far less maintenance than conventional path surfaces. If this new surface proves to be successful TRACKS will use it on other sections of the Loch Leven trail, especially the parts that are low lying or prone to erosion. I would welcome your comments on this new section of path.

**Kinross-shire Area Committee:** The first meeting of the KAC will be held virtually in December. The committee will be made up of the four Kinross-shire ward councillors and a representative from each of our community councils. As I write this report the agenda for this meeting is being drawn up. Among the items that will be discussed are road safety issues and speed limits in Kinross-shire.

**Festive Greetings:** May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. 2021 has seen a slow return to a new normal. The discovery of a vaccine for Covid has made a huge difference in the number of people becoming seriously ill and worse but we must still all do our best to keep this virus at bay.

Councillor Willie Robertson

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## Councillor Mike Barnacle

**AN EMAILED SUBMISSION OF 26/10/21 to SEPA's consultation on the Flood Risk Management Plan with particular reference to DRUM.**

*Message from Councillor Michael Barnacle*



**Dear Staff**

I am responding to your consultation as an elected member for the Kinross-shire Ward of Perth & Kinross Council (PKC), but not on their behalf. I am happy with my responses to be shared with PKC.

In relation to the Forth Estuary Local Plan District (FELPD) (LDP 10) on Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVA), I do not agree that you have identified all the communities that require flood risk management within the District. I am concerned about the exclusion of the Drum Area in West Kinross-shire and fundamentally disagree with PKC that this is not an area requiring flood management. It has a high water table and lies just east of the River Devon Catchment. To my certain knowledge, during periods of high rainfall, several areas of land around the settlement flood extensively and I am aware of 2 houses experiencing serious flooding and several others at high risk thereof. PKC do not listen to Community Council representation on the flood risk in the area when sanctioning further new build development that exacerbates the situation. The waste water treatment plant put in relatively recently by Scottish Water, as an environmental improvement after community request, is at near capacity. For years, I have asked PKC to support a ditch management scheme for the area (there are a significant number of water courses flowing through the settlement from neighbouring hills for which I have the maps and they frequently get obstructed) to no avail.

I fully support the response to your consultation from my constituent, Julie King and have personally witnessed the flooding that her home has been subjected to. PKC have done little to assist with the problem. The above response also relates to Kinross target area 239, actions thereon and the identified timescale therefor. I reiterate that declaring Drum a PVA and agreeing a suitable Ditch Management Scheme would help considerably with managing flood risk in a separate or an extended target area.

*Yours faithfully  
Councillor Michael Barnacle*

### **Kinross-shire Community Transport Group, Minutes of Meeting held on 28 October 2021 Matters Arising From Last Minutes**

**CLLR BARNACLE ADVISED GROUP** that he had issued the last minutes to the Kinross Newsletter where they had been published. Cllr Barnacle had also provided the Kwik Survey to Sarah Brown, HT at Kinross High School in terms of a school pupil transport survey. MR will collate the results once the closing date of 15 November has passed.

Douglas Fraser requested that he be provided with the link to this online survey to assist with the transport survey he is drafting in terms of Service 55 in Glenfarg. Cllr Barnacle will provide this link to DF.

### **Update on Current Subsidised and Commercial Local Bus Services in Kinross-shire**

**X53:** MR confirmed that First had advised the Council that they are to withdraw this commercial service in January 2022, with its last day of operation being Saturday, 08 January 2022. MR added that First had cited ongoing bus driver shortages as the reason for this withdrawal of service.

All meeting attendees agreed this was bad news and PL added that this was also hugely disappointing for the residents of Muckhart.

All Cllrs in attendance agreed that this was a significant blow to rural transport. Cllr Robertson will collate all their concerns and submit a joint letter to John Nicolson MP.

### **Service 55**

Douglas Fraser asked if MR could examine the above timetable to ascertain if certain tweaks could be possible. Requests were that the service connected with the 1015 Service 56 departure in Glenfarg for Perth. MR confirmed she would liaise with the bus company in terms of any adverse effect such a re-timing would have on current passengers.

### **Future Planning for Public Transport Provision in Kinross-shire**

Lengthy discussions took place regarding the withdrawal of the Service X53 and what action was required to mitigate this loss of service.

MR confirmed that she had received the boarding and alighting figures from First from 2nd August – 22nd October (day the notice to withdraw was given). MR will interrogate these stats to ascertain the travel demand patterns and passenger levels during this period and update the Cllrs when completed.

MH made the point that some people continue to be inhibited to use bus services due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation.

MR also confirmed that she would speak with her colleagues in Stirling/Clacks Public Transport Unit and ascertain what their intentions were and if any partnership working was possible.

Phillip Lord confirmed that he had contacts at Stirling University and he would contact them to ask what impact this withdrawal would have on the University students and staff.

Three options were agreed covering short-term and long-term actions:

- MR to investigate possibility of tendering the X53 timetable with the resultant cost shared between the three Council areas. JF added that the tender should be widely publicised. MR confirmed that if a tender was issued it would be through PCS-T.
- MR to compile off peak timetable that would operate between Kinross and Yettis o' Muckhart or possibly Kinross and Dollar. Clacks to be approached to ask if they would contribute to this service if it operated to Dollar. The intention would be to put this in place as from 10 January 2022, subject to senior management approval.
- MR to prepare business case to purchase a small minibus including cost of training and employing drivers to operate a Community Transport service in West Kinross-shire at the request of Councillor Barnacle. MM added that reference to COP26 and environmental benefit of community transport should be mentioned.

### **AOCB and Date of Next Meeting :**

There was no AOCB.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 9 December 2021 at 7pm on Teams.

Douglas Fraser tendered his apologies for this next meeting.

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## News

Letter to Mr Thomas Glen,  
Chief Executive Perth & Kinross Council

Dear Thomas

I write in the first instance to welcome your appointment to the post of Chief Executive of our Council and to wish you all the best for the future, noting my first introduction to you at our recent Full Council meeting.

I now write to you on the following topic:

### Lack of Affordable Housing in the Rural Villages of Kinross-shire

At the last meeting of Portmoak Community there was a discussion about the recently withdrawn planning application for 22 houses in Scotlandwell (where no on-site affordable housing was proposed), which is site H54 in our Local Development Plan. I was encouraged to draft a letter to you, on behalf of the 4 elected members of Kinross-shire, in relation to the wider issue headed above.

It is the view of the Kinross-shire Forum of elected members and community councils, now to be replaced by a PKC Area Committee for Kinross-shire that is to hold its first meeting shortly under my convenership, that the Planning Department are not carrying out correctly the policy of PKC as regards affordable housing. No sites for affordable housing in the rural villages are currently in the plan for the coming decade. The Housing Service say there is no demand, which we utterly refute! Our policy states that, wherever possible for sites of 5 houses upwards then a percentage on-site provision of affordable units should be provided. However, we note that planning officers appear to be negotiating with developers to allow commuted sums to 'a central pot' rather than on-site provision without reference to a viability statement. This results in the affordable housing only being provided in the main towns of the housing market area. I can provide examples! Councillor Watters and I serve on the Development Management Committee and note the lack of affordable on-site provision when applications come forward in our rural areas.

The effect of this interpretation of the Affordable Housing policy means that people in the rural villages are effectively unable to either get on the housing ladder or have to move into the towns if they want to down-size. Where is the ability to have social housing, mid-market rented houses or even self build plots? All that is being built in rural Kinross-shire are large houses for the Edinburgh market catchment area. I would ask you respectfully to use your office to bring pressure to bear on the housing and planning services to implement properly our current policy.

*Written with the signed agreement of  
Councillors Purves, Robertson and Watters*

**Councillor Michael Barnacle**

## Councillor Richard Watters



### COP26

COP26 has highlighted the need for transformational change if we are to contain Global Warming to within 1.5 degrees.

With such a vast problem, it can be difficult to know how to make a difference. However, in Kinross-shire I believe that we can play our part. I am in no doubt that people in our community want to do their bit to help, but it is key that all levels of Government look at how our infrastructure can be improved to allow positive options for individuals in Kinross-shire looking to reduce their carbon footprint. It is important that we address multiple areas which have a large scope for improvement such as household energy and transport emissions which are strongly implicated in the current climate crisis. The changes required will provide opportunities for each of us and create a better society for all.

Transport emissions are Scotland's single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. In transitioning to meet the Scottish Government's 2030 goal of 75% reduction in greenhouse gases, it is key to put in place infrastructure to allow the necessary transition to take place.

### X53 Bus Service

I have been having numerous conversations with council officers and others regarding First Bus terminating the x53 service. The Kinross to Stirling route has had numerous changes over the last few years. Add to that, the temporary reduction in the 56 service between Perth and Kinross by Stagecoach. The reason given by both operators is the lack of bus drivers, due to drivers needing to self-isolate as a result of Covid, fewer European drivers and problems with DVLA in getting provisional driver licences released.

Having dependable bus services that don't risk being withdrawn or changed at the rate we have seen over the last few years are essential if we are to provide alternative options to single person car journeys.

### EV Charge points

Along with this, one of my fellow SNP Councillors, John Rebbeck, and myself have asked the council to install electric vehicle charging points at all the Council run schools in Perth and Kinross, where practical. This would help and encourage teachers who are considering purchasing electric vehicles.

They can do so with confidence that the infrastructure is available to support their decisions.

### Provost

At November's Full Council meeting a motion was brought forward by two Conservative councillors to put an application into the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition to 'reinststate' our Provost with the Title of 'Lord Provost of the City of Perth'. This title was removed in 1975 with the creation of Tayside and Perth & Kinross, the same time as the removal of the Provost of Kinross. Before being able to seek clarification on what this meant for Kinross-shire or Rural Perthshire, both the Tories and the Independents shut down the debate by raising a separate call to go straight to the vote.

The Papers for the motion can be found on the Council's website.

**Councillor Richard Watters**



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We work with partners, including businesses and security staff, to keep Scotland safe. The aim is to make Scotland a difficult place for criminals and terrorists.

Project Servator has been successful in gathering intelligence. It has helped Counter Terrorism Units investigate and prevent acts of terror.

It has also resulted in arrests. It helps remove firearms, knives and drugs from the streets.



If a Project Servator deployment is happening where you are, there's nothing to worry about. They are normal police deployments.

Project Servator deployments are highly visible and unpredictable.

They can happen at any time, anywhere. They are made up of specially trained uniformed and plain clothes officers.

They can involve a wide range of other specialist police resources such as police dogs and horses.

Officers also make use of a range of technology including CCTV cameras and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR).

Officers will speak to people and local businesses to let them know what they are doing.

They will remind them to be vigilant, trust their instincts and report any suspicious or unusual behaviour.

You may also see officers handing out leaflets explaining what Project Servator is or posters on display.

Working with the community is vital to making Project Servator a success. If you have any questions please feel free to talk to our officers.

Our teams also work with partners such as British Transport Police, security staff and CCTV operators to carry out deployments.

You have an important part to play. Report anything that doesn't feel right, for example an unattended item or someone acting suspiciously.

We'll always take your report seriously.

- Tell a police officer or member of security or retail staff
- Call 101 (police non-emergency number)
- In an emergency, always call 999

## Recent Incidents

There were no recent incidents to report.

*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 Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.*

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

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

- **Contact the police immediately on 999**

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

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

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

- **Contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.** You can also visit their website at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

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

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

## Police Scotland – local community

**Telephone 101 for non-emergencies**

Community officers for Kinross-shire:

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

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

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

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

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

## Ways of Following the Police:

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

## Community Watch

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

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

## Crime Stoppers 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.



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PIC-COLLAGE

## A Most Happy And Wonderful Life

*Gina's nephew told the Newsletter about the life of his wonderful Auntie, Gina Long.*

*£360 was raised for charity at the funeral collection.*

**EARLIEST MEMORIES, FOR SOME** reason, are of happy times with my grandparents. My mother would put me on a certain bus in Milnathort and my gran would be waiting for me at the bus stop in Kinross – which was just across the road from her house. My grandfather was severely disabled with rheumatism and spent many hours in his workshop making wooden toys for me. There was a wooden doll and a cradle and he was also very good at making a slit in the top of a pink electric light bulb which he acquired from the manager of the nearby picture house. He then fitted the bulb into a holder making it into a bank to hold the silver three penny he gave me at the end of every visit.

At five years old I was enrolled into the 'Infant' or 'Wee' school in Milnathort. It was thus called as we could only do two years there before moving to the 'Primary' or 'Big' school. I had not been many months at the 'Wee' school when I took Scarlet Fever. I can remember my mother telling me I was going for a ride in a horse and carriage – this was the local ambulance which was to take me to the 'Fever Hospital' at Gallowhill, about two miles from my home. When anyone from the family came to visit, they had to stand on a step outside the window and try to make themselves heard. Visitors were not allowed to come inside. Shortly afterwards we saw the beginning of World War 2 and the issue of the 'gas mask' which we were required to carry to school each day. Thankfully these were never required. We often heard the sirens warning of an impending air raid but always in the evening and only on one occasion did we hear the terrific bang of a landmine dropping at Tillywhally Farm. One of our upstairs windows was blown out and part of the ceiling fell away. Many people of the village trudged to the farm to view the crater and to collect a piece of the metal as a souvenir.

At the age of seven I moved on to the 'Big' school and enjoyed my school days there. My first teacher in primary three was Miss Baxter – she had been in the same class as my father many years before.

The neighbouring children of my age with whom I spent the after school hours were all boys – so I was usually the last picked to make up a team – whether it was cricket, football or kick the can. The boys even taught me how to 'guddle' fish in the burn but



I was not too keen on this ploy – always a bit scared as to what I might find under the stones! However, at 10, my mum presented me with a little brother, Frank – who I was always particularly close to – and I was then able to do all the 'girlie things' only not with the usual teddy bear or doll – but a real live baby!

During the autumn of each year we schoolchildren looked forward to the 'tattie picking'. We had to approach either the farmer or his manager prior to the holiday to ask if we could get a job helping to bring in the potato harvest. We had to be at a certain spot each morning to meet the tractor and trailer that would take us to the potato field. As it was very cold in the mornings, usually with a touch of frost, we had to be appropriately dressed and with gloves and Wellingtons and to complete the picture was the inevitable knapsack that held our lunch and a bottle of juice. Of course the knapsack served two purposes – at the end of the day it was filled with potatoes to take home. The pay was good – sometimes 10/- and even sometimes 12/6d – but come the afternoon most of us were doing the work by crawling along on our hands and knees! However, we were kept going by the thought of the pay packet at the end of the week – this was usually used to clothe us out for the coming school term.

Towards the end of my primary school days, I had the 'twelve plus' examination and the result of that meant that I could move on to Perth Academy. I spent three years there, taking a classical course – I had the odd idea that I wanted to be a chemist! I have no interesting memories of my time at the Academy – only that it was hard work. We did have fun travelling in a double decker bus when there were many feet of snow on the ground. No matter how deep, each morning we would turn up at the bus stop anxious to get to school and often we had a long walk home when the bus got into difficulties and the driver found that he could take the bus no further. Sometimes we had to come home by train.

In the village there was a butcher, Andrew Duncan, and on Saturday afternoons my dad and I delivered the meat orders that Andrew had secured on his visit to Portmoak and Fossoway. I can still remember the names of his customers and the contents of their order, usually the same from week to week. I often got a 'tip' and a fresh egg being one that I remember, as, being war-time, there were not many fresh eggs available. Another customer gave me a shilling (5 pence) and that too was very acceptable.



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## Features

Best of all, on the back roads from Drum to Milnathort, my dad taught me how to drive! Obviously there was not the traffic that we have nowadays! My pay for the afternoon was 4/6d – a fortune to me!

I was 16 by the time I left Perth Academy and my thoughts of employment had moved on to secretarial so I was enrolled into the Perth Secretarial College, just behind St. John's Church in Perth. I had a very happy year there learning shorthand, typing, book-keeping and office procedures. At the end of the year, offices, with vacancies for juniors, would contact the college and the supervisor would send us out for interviews. My first interview was in a plumber's office but I decided against it because of the very low pay. Miss Robertson, the College Supervisor, then asked me if my father was tee-total as she had another interview in mind for me – this was with Arthur Bell, the whisky firm. But this meeting did not last very long – they did not want anyone from the 'country' because of the possibility of not being able to get to work because of bad weather! Third time lucky – I went to see a Mr Mactaggart, the Export Director in the office of Matthew Gloag & Son, blenders of the Famous Grouse Scotch Whisky, and my fate was sealed. He was looking for a 'country girl' – the pay was good and little did I know when I entered the door on 26th July 1950 that I would remain with that firm for 43 years moving through the various stages from office junior to Personal Assistant to the Joint Managing Director/Deputy Chairman. I retired on my 60th birthday – 20 December 1993.

I had, in my 12-14 years, been a 1st Orwell Girl Guide. The meetings were held in the 'Big' school as the army had taken over the Guide & Scout Hall in Church Street. By the time I reached the age of 18 a friend, Maureen Giacopazzi by name, asked if I would like to come back into Guiding and in due course become a Lieutenant, as the current Captain was retiring. I had enjoyed my Guiding days, so 'yes' I would give it a go. Shortly after becoming Lieutenant, Maureen moved on to join the Police Force in Clyde-

bank, so then I was catapulted into the position of Captain at the age of 23 – a position I was to hold for 34 years! The vacant position of Lieutenant was shortly filled by my very good friend, Jean Toshack who had been a very keen guide, and between us we ran the company in complete harmony. We had such fun – doing all the usual guide programme, badges, camping, country dancing – we won this class at the Perthshire Musical Festival on several occasions and even with the mixed class where we entered four guides and four scouts. On one occasion we even entered the company into the camp fire section of the Festival but the training and practice for this was by Valerie, another Guider who worked with us for several years – as neither Jean nor I had been blessed with good singing voices! Then there was the never to be forgotten bi-annual jumble sale – most of the villagers donated to this event and turned up on THE day! We usually cleared over a thousand pounds. Much of the sale takings were used to buy tents and camping equipment as we were a camping company and went to camp for a week each year. The Orwell Company eventually owned enough canvas and equipment to cater for about 20 guides. We also bought uniforms for the girls as we did not ask parents to do this, only if they preferred it.

During this time we had a Young Leader, Sheila Muirhead, who had been a keen guide before coming to live in Milnathort. She completed her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award with the Orwell Company and invited me to join her parents to witness her presentation by The Duke of Edinburgh at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. This was a very happy and memorable day. I have a clear picture of seeing a young and lovely Princess Anne in a lemon suit.

In June of 1987 I was invited, along with Jean, to another Holyrood Palace Garden Party – this time the invitation was issued by The Lord Chamberlain on behalf of Her Majesty but instigated by the Milnathort Community Council – for services to the Community – another day to be fondly remembered.

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To mark our retiral from Guiding Jean and I were invited on 27th March 1992 to a 'cup of tea' by our Commissioner, only to discover that it was in fact an invitation to a Surprise Party in Milnathort Town Hall. This was a very special night and attended by many friends whom we had met over the years – Friends, Guiders, Scouters and many of the very brave ladies who had faithfully manned the stalls at our jumble sales. We each were presented with good service certificates and brooches by Mrs Valerie Gordon, County Commissioner; engraved paperweights were presented by Mrs Adele Inglis on behalf of Guiding in Kinross-shire and a handsome cheque from our many friends was presented by Miss Pat Eadie. I spent my cheque in a jewellery shop and purchased a beautiful gold chain bracelet.

I was also much involved with the Church and for many years assisted with the Sunday School.

I also became involved, as I thought on a one-off occasion, with the Kinross-shire Agricultural Society. However, for the past 28 years I have been one of two Stewards at the Dog Section of the Show.

Another one of my interests was the Kinross-shire Historical Society, being secretary for ten years. Although no longer secretary I still have involvement in that I am in charge of a grand collection of old postcards and photographs, adding to them as necessary.

As I have mentioned earlier, my working days were all spent in the offices of Matthew Gloag & Son Limited, in Perth. I start-

ed as the office junior and one incident that has remained in my memory is the day that I stuck the stamps willy nilly on the corner of each envelope. My boss, Miss Smith, on examining my work took me to one side and explained that work like this did not go out from the office of Matthew Gloag. She made me go to the kitchen, boil a kettle of water, and with the steam detach all stamps that had not been attached straight. To this day, no one will ever get an envelope from me where the stamp is not stuck squarely in the corner.

I moved up fairly quickly through the various office desks – and eventually found myself to be Office Supervisor, a position I held for many years. Then sadly in 1971 my boss, Mr Fred Gloag died very suddenly on a Sunday followed by the death of his wife the following Wednesday. This was devastating for the firm – double death duty! How was the firm to continue? But survive we did – we came under the umbrella of Highland Distiller and the brand has never looked back, in fact it went from strength to strength and today I think is number one in Scotland. As the office personnel grew in size I moved on from the General Office to become secretary to the Sales Director and later, when he was promoted to the position of Joint Managing Director/Deputy Chairman, I became his Personal Assistant.

In 1990 Mr & Mrs Matthew Gloag invited the four longest serving members of the company to accompany them as representatives of the firm to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace given by the Queen to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Royal Warrant Holders Association – The Famous Grouse having held this Warrant for several years. It was a remarkable day and we had good views of Princess Diana, The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and The Queen Mother who was in her 90th year. In the evening we went to see the show 'Miss Saigon'. We returned to Perth the following morning and were back at our desks by the afternoon – a very busy but most enjoyable 24 hours.

I retired in December 1993, having spent 43 years in the service of Matthew Gloag & Son Limited, the firm that I had joined in 1950. I had seen the small private firm as I knew it in 1950 become one of the Scotch Whisky giants and I had loved every minute of my working life – well almost – there were naturally a few ups and downs!

To my delight my retiral gift from the firm was a computer and printer and it was not long before I was approached by Mrs Nan Walker, Editor of the monthly *Kinross Newsletter*. I spent

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much time typing up articles for inclusion in the *Newsletter* and this lasted until it became computerised under the wings of a new editor. Progress – I was really quite sad to give up on the old style of setting up the *Newsletter* with the help of a light-box and the old cut and paste method!

I was enjoying my retiral and spending much time with my little Jack Russell, Rusty, then one day in early May 1994, the postman dropped a letter through my letter-box marked “On Her Majesty’s Service” – it was from the office of the Principal Private Secretary at 10 Downing Street informing me that the Prime Minister, Mr. John Major, ‘in strict confidence, had it in mind, on the occasion of the forthcoming list of Birthday Honours, to submit my name to The Queen with a recommendation ... ..that I be appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire.’ A form was enclosed which I had to complete and send by return of post if I could assure the P.M. that I agreed to accept the honour! Wow! I wanted to shout this news from the rooftops but, at the same time, had to observe that this information had been given in confidence. Then in June a further letter was received from The Scottish Office – I was given the option of having the award presented by The Queen probably, but not necessarily at Buckingham Palace, or locally by the Lord Lieutenant. I was also told that I was allowed to invite three relatives or friends to accompany me so, without a doubt; I chose The Queen and Buckingham Palace. Come Saturday 11 June – the Queens Birthday Honours’ list was published and the secret was out! What excitement as the news spread around the village, phone calls and many cards of congratulations.

My guests included friends Jean Toshack, Margaret Garry and my sister-in-law, Margaret Harley. Then in August I received a letter advising that the Investiture was to take place on Tuesday 8 November. What fun we had in the weeks following – visiting the boutiques – and making all kinds of arrangements. The firm, Matthew Gloag & Son paid for our return plane flight and one night in the Goring Hotel, just around the corner from Buckingham Palace.

On THE day, the most important day of my life, I can remember my friends tucking in to a lovely breakfast but my nerves were such that I could only watch them eat! We walked to the palace, joined a queue of people all looking as nervous as I was feeling and very shortly we were shown inside – my friends went one way and I the other! I had to wait in a very large predominately red room, along with the others who were to be invested, and instructed as to how to address her Majesty, not to turn our back on her, and how and when to curtsy. Everything went like clockwork and when it was my turn to go forward, a loud voice from somewhere announced – Miss Georgina Harley – for services to the distilling industry. That was my cue to approach the Queen. As she pinned the medal on to a hook, that had been pre-

fixed to my jacket, she asked how I been involved in the industry. After my reply she shook my hand, I took five steps backwards, did my curtsy – and that was it – all over!

Back at The Goring, we picked up our luggage and made our way to The Strand Hotel, where we were going to spend a further three days. We did some shopping in Harrods and also took in a show – Starlight Express – wonderful! Too soon we were on the plane for Edinburgh but it had been a fantastic four days – never to be forgotten.

My next most important day was to be my wedding in the following year. As I said earlier, I had mapped out all of the things I was going to do in my retirement but matters didn’t go according to my plans. Quite by chance I met my future American husband in the village Post Office and we wed in November 1995. Very much a traveller, he has taken me on many trips to the U.S.A. and we have visited around 42 states, as well as Canada, Malaysia, Borneo, Australia and many countries of Europe. We do not travel abroad now; we have a ‘rescue’ dog living with us so we take holidays where he can go with us...

Life has been good to me – I had kind and loving parents, good friends, I enjoyed every minute of my working life; I had much fun with the Girl Guides and in retirement blessed with a husband who has been, and still is, very kind and exciting. And as if that was not enough, I became step-mum to Ward’s two charming and delightful sons whom I love dearly – Charles and Michael and they, in turn, blessed my life further with the addition of their wives Karen and Hanne and children Callum, Lise, Lachlan and Kayleigh. Yes! There is no doubt about it – I have had a most happy and wonderful life!

Written on 6 September 2007  
(additions 21 March 2013)


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# Christmas Tragedy In The Air



Herbert Norman Scott Anderson

**IT WAS 104 YEARS AGO**, on Christmas Eve 1917, that one of Kinross-shire's youngest casualties of the Great War of 1914-18 died as the result of a tragic accident while training for active service. Having enlisted in September of that year in the Royal Flying Corps, the story of Second-Lieutenant Herbert Norman Scott Anderson is told in the Roll of Honour compiled by Alastair Smith and held in the archives of Kinross (Marshall) Museum.

Born in 1899, 'Bertie', as he was known to family and friends, was the son of Murdoch Christie Anderson and his wife Josephine Lydia Scott who lived at Bracklemoss in The Muirs and later at The Hollies on the corner of St Ronan's Drive and the High Street in the centre of Kinross. Murdoch Anderson, who was a solicitor, held the position of Provost of Kinross from the onset of the First World War until 1923. His only son Herbert was educated in Kinross and then at Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh where he carried off an exhibition or scholarship that would have taken him on to Cambridge University had he not decided to enlist in the Royal Flying Corps.

Looking forward with eagerness to active service Herbert Anderson began his training with the 80th Squadron at Montrose before heading south to Beverley in Yorkshire in November 1917 where the squadron was equipped with Sopwith Camel F1 fighters. Scheduled to take off for France in January 1918, Bertie took to the air at every opportunity in order to practise manoeuvres and gain confidence in handling his machine. Before long he earned

tributes from his Commanding Officer and brother officers who described him as 'a very fine pilot and second to none.'

On the morning of 24 December, Bertie and two other officers were ordered into the air where they went up to a good height doing assorted 'stunts' for over 50 minutes. In one of these stunts, Bertie dramatically spun down from 1500 feet to 400 feet where he recovered control of the plane before making a further dive of 200 feet in order to regain more speed. Unfortunately, he was too near the ground to get the engine working properly and he spun out of control, crashing the plane on the Beverley Westwood golf course. Sustaining very severe injuries, he died soon after arrival at the local Cottage Hospital.

An inquest that followed returned a verdict of accidental death and his remains were brought north to Kinross where a funeral with full military honours was held on Friday 28 December. A service, conducted by the Rev. M D Fletcher, was first held in St Paul's Church prior to the cortege processing down through the town accompanied by a firing party of 40 men of the Royal Scots Fusiliers with a pipe band drawn from the same regiment. Bertie Anderson was finally laid to rest in the Kirkgate burial ground with bugles playing the 'Last Post.'

Today you can still see the fine memorial stone over the grave of Herbert Norman Scott Anderson which takes the form of a cross emblazoned with the wings of the Royal Flying Corps and the Latin motto *per ardua et astra* – 'Through adversity to the stars.' The inscription below notes that he was 'killed while flying 24 December 1917 Aged 18 years.' It ends with another Latin quotation taken from an ode by the Roman poet Horace – *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori* – 'It is sweet and fitting to die for one's country,' words that bring to mind one of the most famous poems by the war poet Wilfred Owen (1893-1918).

David Munro

Herbert Anderson's gravestone in the Kirkgate burial ground



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# The War Poet And The Attractions Of Milnathort



Poet Wilfred Owen

**POET WILFRED OWEN'S LINK** with Craiglockhart Hospital in Edinburgh is well documented – much less well known is his connection to Milnathort.

Owen is regarded as the greatest poet of World War One and his works about the horrors of trench and gas warfare are still taught in schools today.

Born in Shropshire in 1893, he was beginning to forge a career as a teacher when war broke out. In 1917, while being treated for shell shock at Craiglockhart Hospital in Edinburgh, he taught English in the city – one of a number of projects in which, to aid his recovery, Owen was encouraged to take part.

At Craiglockhart Owen met Dr Arthur John Brock, who encouraged him to write poetry, and Siegfried Sassoon, another war poet, who was also a patient there.

Neil McLennan, a historian from the University of Aberdeen, says: 'Owen wrote about a quarter or a third of his poems during his time in Edinburgh, including his most powerful, *Anthem for Doomed Youth*, and *Dulce et Decorum est*.'

Craiglockhart treated thousands of soldiers, some so damaged by their war experiences that they could not even leave their rooms. Others, like Owen and Sassoon, were allowed out to work or to travel.

'They wore blue armbands to show they were serving soldiers, undergoing treatment, but they were able to travel around the country,' Mr McLennan says.

'Sassoon was a keen golfer so they went to North Berwick and St Andrews.' But the two poets also made regular visits to Milnathort in Kinross-shire. Milnathort had a golf course, which may have been the initial draw for Sassoon – but for Owen, the village had another attraction.

'Albert Dauthieu had been the head chef at the Savoy in London and now ran the Thistle Inn in Milnathort,' Mr McLennan says. 'The food would have been remarkable for two young men used to war hospital fare, and army rations.'

Albert had two daughters, 19-year-old Albertina, and her younger sister Rose. Rose was deaf and mute, and something of a mascot for local soldiers. She collected autographs from visitors in a book, which is now in the Craiglockhart Collection.

Albertina was engaged to a Scottish captain, but she quickly became smitten

with Owen. 'The story goes that Albertina was taken with Owen, and the feeling was mutual,' Mr McLennan says. 'According to her family, it was agreed that whoever returned from war first, would take her hand in marriage.'

Sadly, neither returned. The young captain died in March 1918 and Owen the week before war ended, at just 25 years old. The telegram was delivered to his parents in Shropshire on 11 November 1918 as the bells rang out to mark the Armistice.

Owen's sexuality has always been the subject of speculation, but McLennan believes the latest information leaves open the possibility that his inclinations were more complex than had been previously suspected. 'Romantic undertones are a key part of his poems,' he says. 'The assumption was that these had homosexual connotations but this changes things, and will hopefully lead to a re-examination of his work.'

Owen's poems were published posthumously. He left a list of 25 people who were to receive first editions, should they ever be published. Five of them were in Edinburgh, including Dr Brock, who first encouraged him to write. And among the collection was *The Ballad of Many Thorns*, which seems to reference Milnathort and the French family with whom he found a brief moment of happiness before returning to the horrors of the Western Front.

'I hope the village of Milnathort can now have this strong connection and pride in Wilfred Owen,' says Mr McLennan, who is writing a book about Owen's time in Scotland, which will be published next year.

'For history, it's an important moment, because more than 100 years after the end of the First World War, it shows there's still much evidence to be unearthed and interpreted to help us better understand that era.'

*With thanks to BBC Scotland News*



The Thistle Hotel today

# HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE PARK & RIDE?

*In recent months, Kinross Park and Ride has become a dumping ground for vehicles and rubbish, with potholes and poor drainage. Here Brian D’Arcy shows us the proposed solution.*



## THE PROBLEM

**THE KINROSS PARK AND RIDE** has become a local hotspot for dumping cars and caravans in recent months, and littering has increased noticeably too.

Not only that, but the tarmac surfaces are crumbling with potholes, and cars and vans regularly drive over the grass amenity strips in the centre, tracking mud across the car park surface and crushing the plants. It looks a mess.

As described in previous *Newsletters*, the car park has a failed drainage feature, resulting in water pooling in the car park spaces. The muddy pools of rainwater on the parking spaces adds to the degraded, neglected appearance.

## THE PROPOSAL

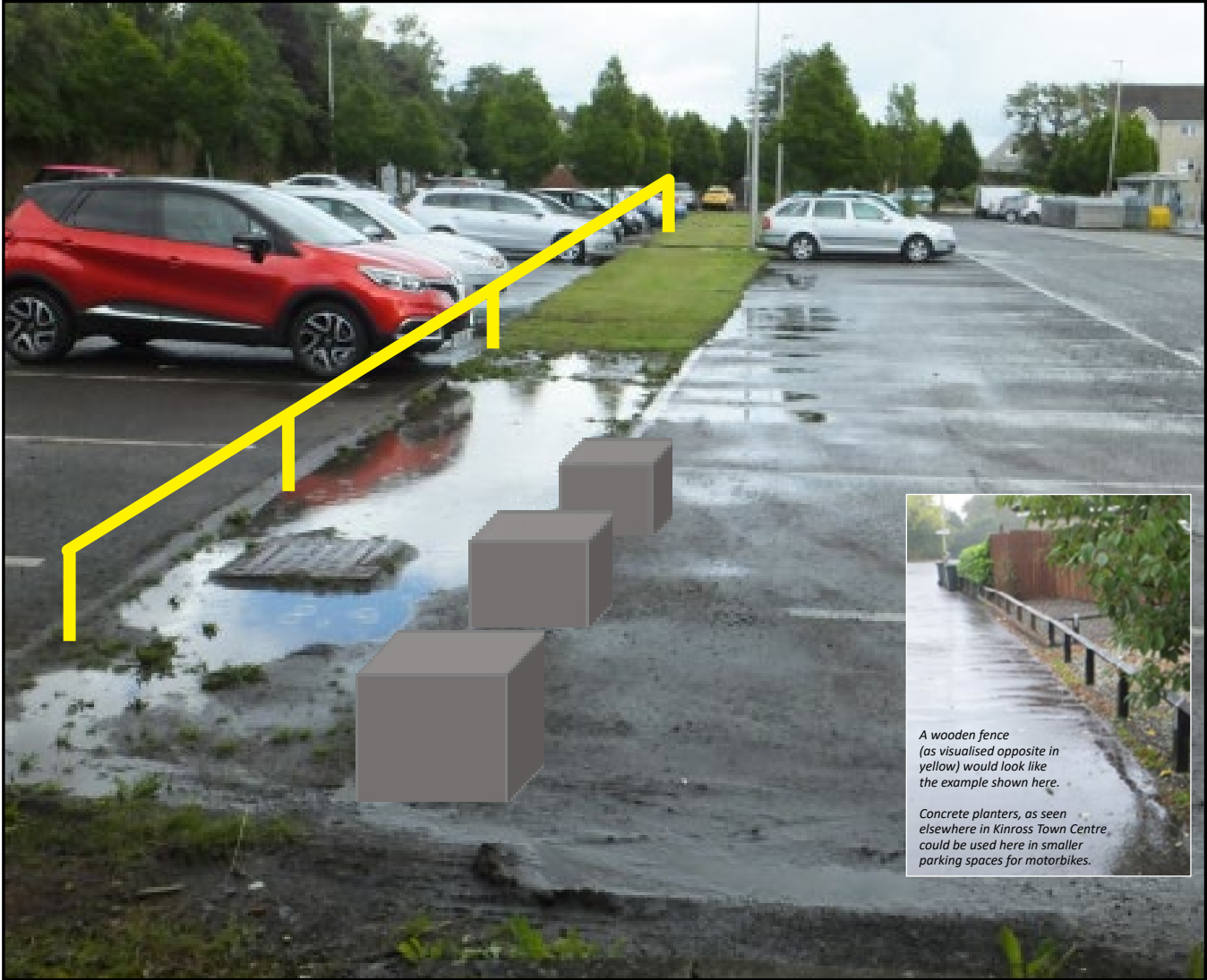
### Surface Water Drainage

Surface water drainage should run into the grass and the soakaway structure lying beneath, but is prevented from so doing by excess height of the grass turf. This project will reduce the level of the grass and soil in the central grass features to allow rainfall runoff to enter them and the soakaways beneath.

At the top end where the grass strip is widest and soil depth is greatest (See diagram on next page: *Raingarden 1*), a wildflower meadow will be created, using native wildflowers and some of the original turf. The mid-section (*Raingarden 2*) will be a wildflowers seed mix with plug plants and limited grass, since the soil is shallower. The final strip is extremely shallow; even



**Features**



A wooden fence (as visualised opposite in yellow) would look like the example shown here.

Concrete planters, as seen elsewhere in Kinross Town Centre, could be used here in smaller parking spaces for motorbikes.

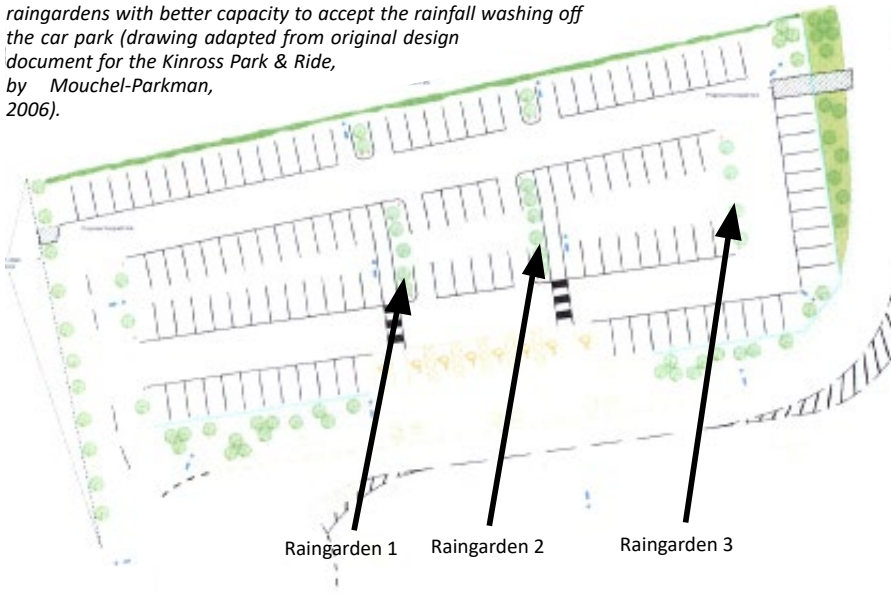
Example of the fence to be used at the Park and Ride (examples are across the road from the P&R site).

with compaction caused by driving over it, there is barely enough potential for a reasonable freeboard to accept the runoff. It drains poorly too. A planter might be useful to support biodiversity and aesthetic interest?

**Fences**

Fences were originally in place around the grass strips but were removed years ago. New fences, along the north side only, are essential to stop the damage caused by driving over the grass. A tim-

The three 'grass' soakaway strips which are to be converted to raingardens with better capacity to accept the rainfall washing off the car park (drawing adapted from original design document for the Kinross Park & Ride, by Mouchel-Parkman, 2006).



**ANY COMMENTS OR IDEAS?**  
Please send your comments to [Kinrossshirecivictrustsecy@gmail.com](mailto:Kinrossshirecivictrustsecy@gmail.com)

ber fence as exists across from the car park, is proposed. That would still leave access for maintenance work, from the south side of the centre strips.

**The Soakaway Drainage Layer**

The soakaway drainage layer (washed stone within a Terram liner) will not be altered or subject to interference by the changes to the soil cover and plants.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

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**THE DEADLINE**

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# Health & Wellbeing

## News from the Health Centre



### Christmas and New Year Closing

Over the Christmas and New Year period, Loch Leven Health Centre will be closed on the following dates:

Monday 27 December 2021	Closed
Tuesday 28 December 2021	Closed
Monday 3 January 2022	Closed
Tuesday 4 January 2022	Closed

On all other weekdays over the Christmas and New Year period, we will be open as usual from 8am until 6pm. Out of Hours cover for evenings and weekends is provided by NHS24 and the Fife Primary Care Emergency Service. They will also be providing emergency cover on the Mondays and Tuesdays when we are closed. They can be contacted on 111. All calls will be recorded and we would please ask patients to contact them only when a medical emergency occurs which cannot

wait until we re-open. Thank you.

We would ask all patients to make sure that they have sufficient medication to last over the Christmas and New Year period. If your medication will run out over Christmas and New Year, please ensure that you submit a request for your medication by Friday 17 December. We receive a greatly increased number of requests at this time of year and therefore need a bit of time to process them all. Repeat prescriptions may be ordered online. If you have not yet signed up for this service, you can do so on our website: [www.lochlevenhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.lochlevenhealthcentre.co.uk)

If you have sufficient medication to last over this period, please do not submit a request for more. Prescription requests are all checked prior to issue, and where it appears that sufficient medication has been issued recently, further requests may be declined.

## Winning Ways

### The Goose Is Getting Fat ...Or Is It?

**NOW I HATE TO** do this to you, but it is almost December, and everyone has started talking about Christmas. This year, I'd like you to take a different attitude to your Christmas. So many people moan and groan about the stresses and pressures of Christmas, as if they had no choice in the matter. You do have choices about every single aspect of it, even if you feel your Christmas traditions are set in concrete.

- **Step 1:** Start with the end in mind. Close your eyes and visualise your Christmas Day, but do it in reverse. Imagine the day being over. How do you feel? What happened? How did all your plans turn out? Take time doing this, ensuring that you imagine the outcomes you want, rather than the outcomes you've always had in the past. If you find yourself re-running past Christmases, then make the changes you need to make, in order to make everything as you would like it.

by

**Jo Middlemiss**

- **Step 2:** Now work your way back through December, and plan everything you need to do, and the order you need to do it, for you to have a happy and stress free Christmas.
- **Step 3:** Plan how you are going to be – calm, organised, generous, industrious, cheery. You choose. Choosing your attitude is a sure way to get you through any challenge.
- **Step 4:** Take some time to flick through some magazines and Sunday supplements. Cut out pictures and words that will help you make a collage of how your Christmas is going to be. If you, as a family, go to church, then find a good picture of a church, and make sure it's there. Have

every facet of your Christmas represented. Also, create a picture or a drawing to represent you floating through your plans and preparations like an angel (male or female).

- **Step 5:** Do it your way. Start a new tradition. In our family we've made a new decision about giving presents to our vast and extended connection.

This year we are applying the Secret Santa system. We have set an amount of money and put all the names in a hat. Everyone has one person to buy for. It can be precious or funny, but must not exceed the set amount. This only applies to the adults of course. The children will still have a good day. But this year I think we are all aware of waste and consumption, so there might just be a touch of recycling and planet support.

Have a very merry Christmas.

*Jo Middlemiss*

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Along with other shops in the area, we're ready for Christmas and our stock is on the shelves ready to be gift wrapped. Vouchers are always available and will be right up until Christmas Eve for all those last-minute shoppers.

Dropping in to browse our ranges is most welcome and our team will be very happy to give you advice on skincare, beauty and gifting. Like you, we are looking forward to a much better Christmas this year and we can help you celebrate with treatments that will leave you feeling fabulous, or gifts that will thrill your family and friends.

We have some great offers for festive shopping with a range of Neom and Decléor gift sets and lots of other fabulous gift ideas.

We've recently launched a brand new range of Decléor facials which are



targeted at specific skin concerns, and our warming massage treatments in particular have proved very popular now that we are well and truly into winter.

Thank you so much for continuing to support us and our Kinross-shire local business colleagues. Shopping local is vital to keep our High Streets vibrant and benefits the local economy.

We want to thank everyone who has already purchased from us, and the customers who continue to support us by

booking treatments and recommending our services to others. Every time you buy from a local business you directly benefit your own community.

So if you have a local business you love, one you get great service from, or just want to celebrate their hard work, visit and shop with them or even leave an online review. It really will make the world of difference.

Merry Christmas from everyone at The Complete Look.

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# Poet's Corner

Thanks to Bel Maclean and the pupils of Kinross High School  
for sending us these poems

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

## Yule

once more yule time  
friends and family time  
candles and mulled wine

winter white yule time  
end of another year time  
moments for memories

2021 Bel Maclean



## A Reflection

Loch Leven waters bright and blue,  
Out in the distance a Highland coo  
Ginger as Irn Bru  
The reflection mirrored in snowdrops' dew.  
New life is born to see the sights.  
Hazy skies dotted with activity  
Trees, leaves and honeybees  
Buzzing under the chunky, clunky trees.  
Purple thistles and flowers all out to impress.  
The fluffy Highland coos,  
Lazing around enjoying the beautiful views.  
But eventually the rain will come to pour,  
Summer abandons us once more.  
Trees weep, swaying slowly  
Old leaves, falling like feathers.  
Treasures glistening gold.  
Through the autumnal leaves a bushy burnished tail shows off – a red squirrel.  
I closed my eyes and listened to the waves.  
The salty air sweeps through the fiery leaves.  
Autumn leaves  
Tumbling  
From skeleton trees.  
The snow begins to lose its grip on the clouds  
Water is blanketed in the gentle frost.  
Crystalised petals grace the grass  
Geese see us only in the rear-view.  
But they will return bringing the sun with them.  
When spring comes home.



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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 October Meeting

**Present** at the meeting held on 26 October were Councillors L McKay, (Chair), D Colliar, W Freeman, H Phillips, T Stewart, Councillors Purves and R Watters, one member of the public and Mrs Caron Aird, minute-taker.

**Apologies** were received from Councillor M Wood, Councillors M Barnacle and W Robertson.

### Matters Arising

**Gallowhill Road and Garden:** Councillor C Purves advised that he had chased PKC for a response again.

**Water Safety:** Live Action are still to respond.

**High Street:** issues in respect of green spaces will fall under the jurisdiction of the new local committee which is currently being set up. A paper describing the committee's remit will be discussed at a future CC meeting.

**Flooding:** Councillor Purves advised that he had spoken with Angus Forbes at PKC and there still appeared to be confusion in respect of what the insurers are being asked to look at. The group had asked PKC to take them on as volunteers but things now appeared to be at an impasse. While the CC can demonstrate that other councils are operating in this way, it would appear that PKC want to go down a different route. Councillor Watters advised that he was meeting with PKC later in the week and would raise the issue with them again.

**Learning Centre Signs:** it was confirmed that the majority of the signs had been removed, although two still required to be replaced as they were joint signs with the free parking signs (they are on order).

**Common Good Fund:** Councillor Colliar advised that he had been invited to the previous meeting of the Fund but had received an email advising that whilst he could attend, he was not to contribute to any discussion. When he joined the meeting, it had already started and it was obvious that a mistake had been made with the arrangements. Councillor Colliar agreed to forward the email to Councillor Purves so that this could be discussed at the next meeting of the Fund.

**War Memorial:** there had been no response.

**Repair to Bridges:** this had been raised at a recent TRACKS meeting where it had been announced that these were the responsibility of PKC and not SNH. No response has been received from PKC as yet.

**Benches:** Councillor Purves agreed to ask PKC to look at the broken bench which was discussed at a recent meeting. Councillor Freeman also advised that there was a broken bench at Kirkgate Park which needed to be repaired.

Councillor H Phillips asked if the Men's Shed could repair the benches but Councillor Purves advised he would ask PKC to look at these first.

**VAS:** Councillor Purves advised that the signs for Springfield Road (one at either end) which had been scheduled to be erected in 2021 had been delayed due to the lack of components and it is likely to be later in the financial year before the issue will be resolved.

It was noted that there were now traffic lights at the Campus and that there had been a three car RTA on Springfield Road/The Muirs.

**GDPR:** Councillor Freeman confirmed that he had completed the action allocated to him.

**Kirkgate Park:** Councillor McKay advised that a space had been allocated in the park for the exercise equipment, although funding would need to be raised for this (around £30,000: £35,000). PKC funding for Davis Park in terms of a possible pump park, shelter, charging points for phones, along with one main structure (including a climbing frame) is to be provided. Councillor Purves suggested the CC contact the Sports Hub for funding. It was noted that PKC would take on the maintenance and public liability insurance for the park. Designs are still to be received and consultation process is ongoing. Councillor Purves advised the CC to liaise with PKC as early as possible, and in writing, with regard to the fees involved for Kirkgate Park.

A report will be provided at future meetings.

**Remembrance Parade:** Councillor Colliar advised that whilst he had been unable to contact everyone for a meeting, the Cadets, Brownies, Scouts/Cubs and Masonic Order were all keen to be involved in a full parade.

Road closure requirements were under consideration, and it was agreed that a Church service could be held.

It was agreed that Councillor Colliar would contact the individual organisations in respect of their requirements for wreaths, with payment being required upfront. Councillors Colliar, Freeman and McKay will work together on this.

### Planning Matters

#### Applications Received

*21/01729/FLL:* Change of use from agricultural storage building to workshop (Class 5) and display area, and erection of a fence at land 70 metres south of Gallowhill Cottage, Kinross.

Councillor Colliar asked whether the CC would want to submit a letter of support in respect of this application, as there is no reason to refuse the application. It was agreed that Councillor Phillips would write a letter to PKC.

*21/01767/LBC:* (internal) Alterations to Kirklands Hotel, 20 High Street, Kinross

#### Applications Determined

*21/01589/LAW:* Extension to dwelling house (proposed) at 14 Ross Street, Kinross, approved.

*21/01329/FLL:* S42 application to amend condition 4 (access construction) and delete condition 14 (street lighting) of planning permission 16/00996/FLL at land 110 metres south east of Beaufield, Balado, approved .

#### Other planning matters

Councillor Purves advised that PKC had made a final decision in respect of Phase II at Lathro Meadows, and this had been approved. There remains a separate concern regarding the residents' association and the factor continues to deal with greenspace maintenance.

Play park discussions are ongoing, and whilst this is supposed to be temporary, there is no option to appeal the decision.

Councillor Purves also advised the CC that there had been disquiet in respect of the height/scale of buildings on the Windlestrae site, particularly the buildings which back onto Muirpark Road and while the buildings are imposing, there is nothing which can be done.

Councillor Colliar commented that the Kirklands garage development was looking good and the properties were much better than had been expected.

### Reports From PKC Councillors

Cllr Purves advised that at a recent full meeting of PKC, the four ward councillors had supported the creation of a local committee to deal with all local issues. It is hoped that the first meeting would be held on 4 December and he would circulate the Scheme of Administration for information.

From a CC perspective, one representative would be requested to join the committee (same person preferable) in a non-voting role. Cllr Freeman volunteered to join the committee. Cllr R Watters advised that he had received an email from Mr W Wright in respect of the flood resilience group and the insurance issues being experienced.

Cllr McKay and the CC felt that discussions were going round in circles. A vote had been taken not to continue discussions with the group, the CC members did not feel it was appropriate for them to be held liable for any accidents and that this was an issue for PKC to work with the resilience group.

Cllr McKay confirmed that it was the CC's view that the group should be set up as a charity or constituted group in order to obtain insurance from another source.

It was agreed that the ward councillors would continue to push PKC to insure the group in the same way as other local authorities do. Cllr Watters agreed to respond to Mr Wright confirming that while the CC were fully supportive, there was nothing more they could do to help the group.

### Reports From CC Representatives

**Kinross Partnership AGM:** Cllr McKay had been invited to attend in her role as chair of the CC. She had also been asked to arrange a meeting with the Partnership to discuss the website.

**Wall at Rowlands Pharmacy:** it was noted that the wall outside the pharmacy had been damaged and Cllr Purves agreed to report this to PKC so that it could be repaired. It was noted that while there was CCTV attached to the RBS building, this pointed in the wrong direction so that identifying the people involved would be difficult.

In respect of the pharmacy itself, Cllr McKay advised that they were having to close regularly due to drainage issues, as well as having staffing issues. The pharmacy had agreed to try to keep the CC and their local Facebook page updated with the latest information.

**Blocked Drains:** it was noted that the drains where Mr Wright lived were blocked and this needed addressed as a matter of urgency. Cllr Watters agreed to raise this issue again with PKC, along with the drain issues in the High Street/side streets.

### AOCB

**Request for Volunteers: Musical Theatre, Perth Concert Hall**  
Cllr Freeman advised that an email had been received requesting volunteers for the Musical Theatre in Perth. It was agreed that this would be shared on Facebook and circulated to Members.

### Crossing at Lathro Meadows

The issue of a 30mph limit was raised again and Cllr Purves advised that the limit did not need to be moved until the first residents had moved into the area. Cllrs Purves and Watters agreed to raise this issue again with PKC.

It was also noted that there was funding left over from Persimmon Homes.

*The next meeting of Kinross Community Council will be 25 January 2022 at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall.*

## Portmoak Community Council News from the November Meeting

**Present At The Meeting** on 9 November were Cllrs W Robertson, M Barnacle, R Watters, and C Purves, Cllrs A Miller (Chair), S McGregor (Secretary), A Davidson (Treasurer), D Morris (Vice-Chair), S Forde, D Paterson; and 5 members of the public.

### Matters Arising

**Kinross-shire Committee:** Cllr M Barnacle is convener of the new Kinross-shire Committee. Awaiting PKC officers confirmation of first official meeting which will probably be in December 21. M Barnacle confirmed the Scheme allows for a substitution in place of the assigned member from PCC. It was agreed the Chair A Miller would attend the committee meetings and Vice-Chair D Morris confirmed his willingness to attend in Chair's place, if required. M Barnacle has circulated his ideas on agenda for first meeting categorised as long term issues, short term issues, and budget ideas. C Purves had circulated a request to members for a list of priority items. M Barnacle mentioned the topic of a Kinross-shire Regional Park in brief: flagging the need for forward planning to other authorities that would also be involved. Engagement with other authorities would be key. D Morris mentioned he had been involved in previous discussions regarding a Regional Park and a key question was if ScotGov would make money available, at that time it had seemed unlikely, but it is possible that the situation may have changed now with more momentum for regional national parks from ScotGov. M Barnacle confirmed that D Morris was probably correct in his summations.

### Road Safety Action Update in Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell:

The Chair commented that his request for provision of the data from trial of 20mph zone was still outstanding. Chair flagged that speed of traffic still appears excessive and physical mitigation measures are still required to slow traffic, by way of road cushions or buildouts. This has been an item on PCC agenda for many months and years.

C Purves had requested the information on Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood trials. Data does show that traffic speeds are reduced. W Robertson did however confirm that he had seen the 20mph trial data, which had concluded that the 20mph zoning had been ineffective. It was suggested that, Kinross-shire Committee can look at this issue and decide how to proceed. D Paterson commented that, anecdotally, in Scotlandwell traffic exiting the village to the South via the Causeway seemed to be going faster than ever leaving the village. S Forde asked the Cllrs about possibility of speed cushions on this stretch. D Morris commented that speed cushions often did not appear to be a good measure in most locations, as some of the Kinnesswood cushions had proved. D Morris felt there was a need for PKC to agree to physical build-outs at pinch points and 1-way priorities in all the communities. D Morris had recently travelled through Norway where comparable roads have a general limit of 50mph speed limit with hamlets at 25mph. ScotGov is considering reduction of speed limits across the country. Clear intention across governments to reduce speed limits. D Morris suggested the whole of the A911 speed through Portmoak should be reduced to 40pmh, from the northern boundary near the standing stones (Orwell farm) through to the southern boundary at Auchmuir Bridge, with a 20mph in E&W Balgedie, Kinnesswood, Scotlandwell, and Bowhouse. The Secretary agreed with this suggestion. A member of the public from Easter Balgedie commented that the speed limit restrictions there do not seem to have reduced the speed at all, anecdotal evidence of drivers travelling at 50mph and excess, also abuse being called by drivers towards residents and farmers trying to cross the road.

The Chair and members of PCC agreed that physical mitigation measures are needed in addition to speed limits.

Cllr Barnacle suggested that the item be added to the priority agenda items for Kinross-shire Committee. Cllr Purves suggested the A911 Route Action Plan would be useful in this situation in terms of estimates of funding and taking requests to PCC. On Scotlandwell to Auchmuir bridge, there is conflict of opinion on best approach and Cllr Purves suggested employing the method of a Charette to find united approach.

**Glenlomond Sewage, and Water Supply to Glenlomond and Wester Balgedie:** Cllr A Davidson provided an update. Minor repairs to the system were being done by local residents, and the village had had no report from Jim Fairlie MSP as yet. Cllr Davidson asked if the Cllrs could bring pressure to bear to get Scottish Water to get them to adopt the system. Cllr Watters offered to speak with Jim Fairlie to chase on the status of this. D Morris agreed that pressure needs to be brought on Scottish Water and Jim Fairlie should be encouraged to take this up with the minister responsible for Scottish Water.

**Portmoak Primary Parking Issues:** Cllr D Morris commented that issues seemed to be OK at present, there was no further update, this is not a high priority item, and attention needs to be given to other transport agenda issues.

**Issue of Local Affordable Housing (Update From Cllrs):** The Cllrs accepted that there was deviation within PKC Planning Dept on applying the policy as regards including affordable housing, which is a requirement in developments of more than five houses. The policy required affordable housing to be provided on site in such developments or at an alternative location nearby, with the commuted sum option being very much a last resort. Cllrs confirmed this was the policy and they were pressing for adherence to the policy. And for planning officers to stop using the commuted sum option unless there were exceptional circumstances. PCC noted that failure to follow the policy was resulting in virtually no affordable housing being built in rural areas. As one of the Cllrs who sits on planning committees, Cllr Watters said he felt responsibility to press for an explanation of why affordable housing is often not provided on site. He stressed the need for Cllrs to remind Planning Officers that affordable housing is required in rural areas and it is wrong that the funds secured through the commuted sum route appear to be used primarily for affordable housing provision in urban areas. The Chair commented that a fundamental issue is the scale of housing. For example, the recent H54 Scotlandwell application had 22 houses with values between £400-£650K, with no allocation for Affordable Housing at all. Cllr Morris agreed the policy of PKC is very sound, and there was no need for Cllrs to seek policy revision. The fundamental problem appears to be the PKC Planning Officers who encourage developers to go down the commuted sum fee route instead of incorporating affordable housing within their planning applications. Cllr Morris requested that the four Cllrs should write to the PKC Chief Executive, to request a memorandum to officers, with copy to PCC, which instructed the planning officers to follow the PKC policy. A member of the public commented on the need to build a mix of sustainable housing to represent the communities we live in and for the future. Cllr McGregor asked for clarification if mixed level housing was also required by the policy in addition to affordable housing and Cllr Barnacle confirmed this was the case. Cllr Watters explained that Affordable Housing can take different forms, and the commuted sum fee will be spent by PKC wherever affordable housing can be best created. He agreed that the way the policy is being interpreted by officers is leading to no affordable housing being provided in rural areas.

### New Matters Arising:

**Proposed Changes To Constituency Boundaries For UK Parliament:** Cllr C Purves outlined the details: the Boundary Commission for Scotland has sought to change UK Constituency boundaries to make them more similar in size. The initial proposal has been published:

- The Kinross-shire ward is proposed to be split between two different constituencies.

- These seats will be shared with Fife rather than other parts of Perth and Kinross.
- Fossoway and Cleish will be included in a proposed 'West Fife' constituency dominated by Dunfermline.
- The rest of Kinross-shire will be included in a proposed 'Glenrothes and Loch Leven' constituency dominated by Glenrothes.

The proposals can be viewed here: [www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies](http://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies)

Cllr C Purves stressed that the proposed boundaries were drawn up under strict numerical criteria so that similar number of voters were present in all constituencies. This had to be central to any response – if PCC wanted to oppose the proposals, alternative suggestions would have to be made which met the numerical criteria. Cllr CPurves raised concerns that local issues faced by rural communities such as broadband, tourism and farming are very different to those faced in urban areas like Dunfermline or Glenrothes. Kinross-shire shares a Council with Perthshire and it makes far more sense to be included in a single constituency with other parts of Perth & Kinross. Also, Kinross-shire is a cohesive community and splitting the ward between two seats would lead to poorer representation. As an historic county in its own right, Kinross-shire should be contained within a single constituency. Not least was the issue that the Kinross-shire Committee had just got the go-ahead to form as an area committee to focus on local Kinross-shire issues and the boundary change could undermine the opportunities the new committee offered. Cllr Robertson, M Barnacle, and R Watters agreed with the points that had been made. Cllr M Barnacle and a member of the public both commented the boundaries are not concerned with communities, they are concerned with numbers, and sought to split up a country on numbers, rather than identity and geography. The Consultation has 4 weeks left to go, all correspondence will be published.

PCC encourage members of Kinross-shire and Portmoak to send their comments via: On-line: [www.bcs2023review.com](http://www.bcs2023review.com) By e-mail: [bcsc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk](mailto:bcsc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk) or by writing to: Boundary Commission for Scotland, Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD.

### Police Reports

PC A Mitchison was not able to connect to the meeting due to technical issues. But provided a short update via email of two recent incidents of note: firstly on 13/12/21 a glider had crashed into a field near Portmoak airfield. PC Mitchinson had attended the incident and fortunately the pilot had not suffered life changing or serious injuries. Second a door-to-door caller in Kinnesswood who claimed to represent Cancer Research and requesting donations. The Police asked residents to remain alert and ask for ID when approached by any cold caller. There have been approximately eight traffic related incidents in the nearby area.

**Community Speedwatch Programme:** W Robertson updated on the project. Speedwatch meeting had been hosted by PC A Mitchinson. Volunteers were requested from Portmoak. The Secretary had previously posted on Portmoak Community Facebook requesting volunteers and had had a good response. In terms of timelines, it is unlikely anything will happen before beginning of 2022. There were concerns voiced that volunteers may be disincentivised if they were asked to do Speedwatch in a different area, but were motivated instead by the opportunity to make their own area safer. The Cllrs thought that the scheme should be flexible to accommodate the wish of volunteers to do Speedwatch in their own area.

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## Planning

### New Applications

21/01742/FLL Alteration to garage, Shanthi, Wester Balgedie Kinross, no comment.

### Existing Applications:

21/00997/FLL Erection of 22 dwellinghouses, 3 garages and a garage with ancillary accommodation, formation of SUDS pond, landscaping and associated works (LDP site H54). Land 100 Metres South East Of Cragton Villa Rost Gardens Scotlandwell.

Application has been withdrawn at present. There was no firm knowledge at meeting as to why the application was withdrawn.

### Paths Group Update

Paths Group had supplied an update report. Paths Group volunteers continue to keep local paths clear mainly removing gorse and other overgrowing vegetation in the Stephen's Field area. A particular problem within 50 metres of the access gates to Stephen's Field from Bishop Terrace was a lot of dog poo, and the Group encouraged dog walkers to please remove their dogs' poo.

### Treasurer CC Accounts:

**General Account:** £ 499.70

**Michael Bruce Way Account:** £ 1522.82

The Treasurer had submitted accounts to PKC. A Grant of £700 was expected. £150 grant had been received.

The Treasurer and Secretary had met to complete and sign forms for opening an account at the Credit Union.

### Councillors' Reports

**W Robertson:** a Special County meeting was to be held on the next Monday on the issue of rural poverty action. W Robertson gave the troubling statistic that there are 5500 children in PKC described as living in poverty which is a 22% rise since last survey. Interesting to hear the discussion that evolves from that meeting and W Robertson would update at next PCC meeting.

**R Watters:** The Recycling Contracts for PKC are coming up for renewal, and these should be reviewed in context of sustainability and environmental issues. Flooding between Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell at the Golf Course. Silt traps were to be installed to establish how much silt comes off the hill and advise future for alleviating issues of silt blocking up drains and exacerbating flooding. Cllr D Morris requested a copy of the report. R Watters agreed to send this report to PCC. D Morris felt the solution was to plant more trees and stabilise the hillside in landslip areas.

### AOB

**Kinnesson Memorial:** significant amounts of items left in memoriam. A few members of the community have commented that these are causing distraction particularly at night in the beam of headlights. PCC do not suggest that the memorial be taken away and have all sympathies with the families and friends of the motorcyclist who had died there. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Cllr D Paterson and one member of the public felt the memorial was distracting to drivers at night. Four additional members of the public had raised the same complaint with Cllrs in the weeks prior to the meeting. W Robertson suggested that PCC take a step back and do not get directly involved and write instead to PKC. The Secretary thought that the issue was not one for PCC to address, and that if safety was being compromised by people or items distracting on road then this should be reported to the police as suggested at the October PCC meeting by PC A Mitchinson. Chair commended Kinnesswood in Bloom for winning the Nourishing your Community RHS award. The Chair also thanked Scotlandwell in Bloom and the many local people who also

attend to public areas locally and improve the local environment.

**PKC Village Hall:** Chair had attended the AGM for the Hall. The Committee had agreed to repair the floor. Due diligence was carried out with three companies before lock down, but the selected company has gone into liquidation and funds paid upfront (a deposit of approx £12,000) had been lost. Also windows are now needing replaced approx. £6000k. Day-to-day hall hires are the main stay of income at present as events cannot be held just now. The Chair suggested that PCC should look at the background and ways to potentially help the Hall as a centre within Portmoak for meetings and social occasions. D Morris commented on the COP26 Conference taking place, and suggested this could be added to a future agenda to reflect on the conference outcomes and potential relevance for Portmoak.

*The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council is on Tuesday, 14 December 2021, at 7.30pm. It will be held online.*

## Fossoway and District Community Council

### News from the November Meeting

**Present at the meeting were** Cllrs S Bruce-Jones, T Duffy, C Farquhar, N Marchant and G Pye; Cllrs M Barnacle, C Purves and R Watters; and 7 members of the public (MoP).

**Apologies:** Cllrs A Cheape and G Mudie; Cllr W Robertson; PC A Mitchinson.

**Co-option of New CC Member:** The CC welcomed Faiza Hansraj Jackson as a co-opted member – Proposed: Trudy Duffy, Seconded: Graham Pye.

**Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Mudie had previously declared an interest in planning application 21/01755/FLL.

### Matters Arising

**Access to Cash in Kinross-shire:** Cllr Marchant and Cllr Purves are working with BoS to provide additional financial services in Kinross.

**Community Development Trust:** Cllr Barnacle reported on the 27 October meeting of the steering group, there is difficulty in attracting enough members, so combining with the Muckhart trust which is in a similar position was considered with no conclusion reached – a public meeting will be held, probably on 24 November, to seek the community's opinion. If there are sufficient people to join the Fossoway Trust it may still be possible to continue alone. It's been agreed by the steering group that the Trust should be a company limited by guarantee, which will be created once the name is determined. The Trust needs to have at least 20 members, and ideally more.

**Fossoway Area Transport/DRT:** Cllr Duffy reported that the X53 service through Crook of Devon will be discontinued in January – it hardly seems fair if this has been stopped on the basis of insufficient usage in the wake of a pandemic. Cllr Watters explained that First Bus is actually discontinuing the service due to shortage of drivers.

Local councillors have made it clear to PKC's Bus Group that it is essential that there are bus services in rural Kinross shire. Clackmannanshire are having similar problems and it may be possible to create a solution in conjunction with them. The next meeting of the Transport Group will be in December. Cllr Farquhar pointed out that there is still only one driver operating the DRT. The Kinross-shire Volunteer Group operate a driving service for the residents of Kinross-shire: [www.kvgandros.org.uk/index.htm](http://www.kvgandros.org.uk/index.htm)

**A977 Mitigation Measures:** There is no news about when the remaining measures will be implemented. Cllr Barnacle has arranged for PKC to perform an HGV survey of the A977 between the M90 and Blairingone. Cllr Barnacle has asked Transport Scotland to consider changing road signs from the Glasgow side to suggest routes along the M9 rather than the A977.

## Community Council News

Cllr Duffy noted that the police have installed a PC Kirstie Speed Check Cut-out in Blairingone. Additional ones can be purchased by the Community at a cost of approximately £50. Cllr Purves has made an application to request speed measuring lines to the west of Crook of Devon and east of Drum. This will hopefully give us evidence to support a request for a lower speed limit.

**Crook Moss Travellers Site:** Cllr Barnacle is trying to set up a site meeting with the Planners so they can see the state of the site. Cllr Purves observed that additional budget was allocated to increase the capacity for site visits, but this doesn't appear to have had any effect.

**Speeding in Carnbo:** The proposal to include the Village Hall in the 30mph limit is not currently included but Cllr Purves has put in an application to extend 40mph to before the Hall. PKC's traffic department responded that they recommended keeping the existing 40mph limit to the west (past the South Queich bridge to the Muckhart side of the Gelvanmoor Road junction) with the 30mph limit starting nearer to the village – this is planned to be worked on in the autumn. However they were not in favour of extending the 40mph limit east to the Village Hall, as the road conditions mean that compliance would be poor unless further measures, e.g. VAS, were considered.

A MoP from Carnbo passed a survey of village members to Cllr Purves representing their views on what should be done. Carnbo didn't get speed limit reductions under the 'Spaces for People' scheme during Covid because it was thought to have pavements, which residents point out are actually not usable.

**Flooding in Drum:** Cllr Barnacle had shared his response to the Flood Risk Management Plan – Forth Estuary Local Plan Consultation. He considers that the Drum area should be included in communities requiring flood management and that Drum should be declared as a Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA). Cllr Bruce Jones asked whether it would be worth asking for a ditch management programme – Cllr Barnacle thought it would be.

Cllr Purves asked if a public meeting should be held with Drum residents to hear views on how flooding (and speeding) should be handled – Cllr Bruce Jones agreed to organise one.

**Community Speedwatch:** Cllr Duffy attended a meeting on 26 October with the police and a number of other CCs to discuss restarting the Speedwatch Programme. During the meeting it was clear that Community Councils in the Kinross shire area are keen to take part. Officer Ashley Mitchinson asked that all CCs indicate areas where this could take place – only in 20/30/40 MPH areas, straight stretches with good sight lines. They will then risk assess those areas, after which PKC has to risk assess them as well. A minimum of three people should be there per team, one to operate the speed-

measuring equipment and two to corroborate. All need to be highly visible. All the volunteers will be checked by the Police before they are allowed to operate. Volunteers can come forward as of now, forms will be available soon.

The speed measuring equipment, as well as the warning signs and the high-viz gear need to be bought by the group as well as insurance for the equipment and public liability. The standard measuring gun is £2200, but jackets and signs are also needed. There was a discussion about whether a separate organisation should be set up or just a loose cooperation between CCs. Ideally volunteers would be deployed throughout the area. A follow-up meeting will be organised.

### Blairingone War Memorial

Cllr Barnacle is trying to set up a meeting with PKC's Cemeteries Department to discuss the access to the site (as approved by a planning application.) A mason has been found, but their price won't be covered by available monies.

### Aldie Road Vegetation

Nothing has been done. Cllr Marchant asked about the procedure for salt bin filling as there was a problem last year. Cllr Purves agreed to investigate.

### New Business

**Kinross-shire Committee (previously known as the Kinross Forum):** There will be a final meeting on Thursday 5 November of the Kinross Forum for all the CCs to assemble a list of possible items for the new Committee to cover. Cllrs Bruce-Jones and Cheape will attend the meeting. Cllr Purves said that the first meeting of the Committee should be before the end of the year, and the CC needs to nominate a named (non-voting) representative.

**Blairingone Tapestry:** The CC was approached about a tapestry/textile work made in Blairingone School in the Millennium Year. The PKC archives can't hold it and the museum doesn't want it – it has been offered back to the community. A posting on FB provided suggestions – three people have offered to store it; one said to give it to Fossoway School. It was agreed that we would accept one of the offers to store it for the time being.

**Seamab School New Build (21/01467/FLL):** A member of the public raised concerns about the state of the access road, which is dismal, contrary to the statement in the planning application which claims the road has been recently resurfaced, in fact only a very small section has been done. Cllr Marchant said that the applicant has had a pre-application discussion with the planners during which they stated they would restore the road after the works were complete. MoP asked what conditions were in place when the house was originally converted to a school? There was a restriction on the number of children which apparently may have been exceeded.

Cllr Barnacle suggested that the CC asks for a community consultation even though it's not a major app.

The CC will ask for a two week extension for comments (two weeks) to allow a consultation; meanwhile the CC will submit a neutral comment requesting that conditions regarding the road are enforced.

**Dunning Glen Signs:** A member of the Devon Angling Association reported that signs exhorting campers to be tidy have been erected, however it's not known who put them up. All answers welcome – as are the signs!

**Glendevon Bridge:** PKC have informed the CC that they are currently planning final repairs to the A823 Glendevon Bridge, damaged during the storm in August 2020, with closure starting on 15th November 2021, and reopening on 20th December 2021. A full closure for vehicles will be necessary for part of the works, but it is intended that it will mostly remain open for pedestrians and cyclists.



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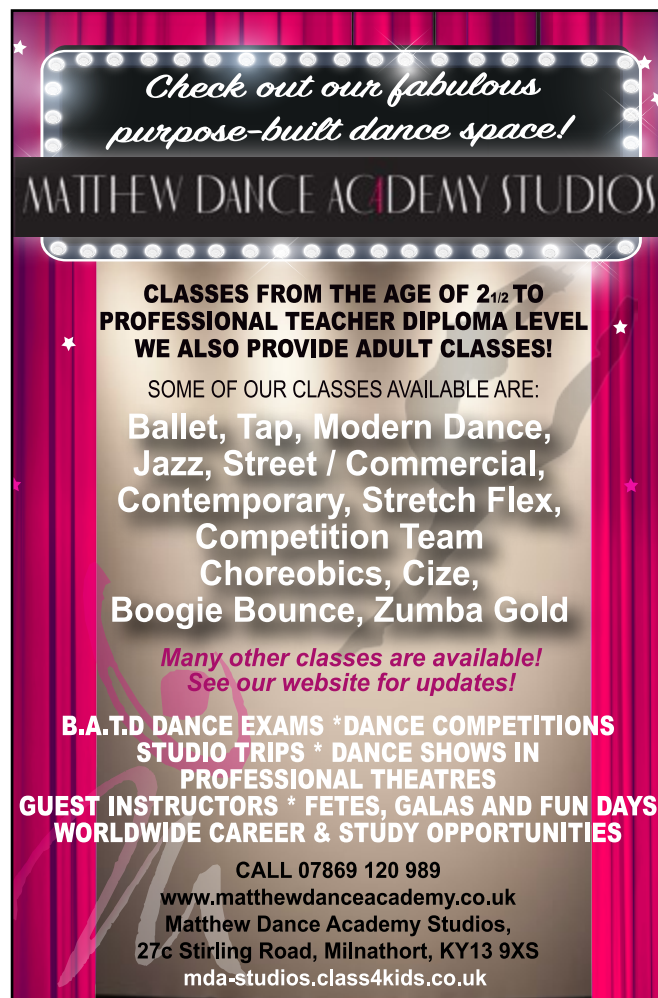


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### Community Council Business:

**Minutes Secretary:** Cllr Marchant's 'job description' for a volunteer will be published in the KHS Pupil Bulletin; will be on the Notice Board; in the *Kinross Newsletter* and on the Kinross website in the volunteering section.

Cllr Marchant has submitted comments to the proposed new Planning Policy 41 - Planning for Nature: Development Management and Wildlife Guide.

### P&K Councillors' Reports:

**Mike Barnacle:** Last month a MoP drew attention to the additional charges PKC has to pay when the wrong material is placed in recycling bins – the response from Environment Service, discussed at Committee, is that if there is persistent offending by a household the bin is tagged and not emptied, but they're reluctant to impose fines and think that education is a better idea. Cllr Faiza noted that it's a problem that recycling options are different in each Council area, and if options are too complex there's a risk that people will put everything in landfill; some councils take a much wider range. Cllr Watters said that PKC's recycling goes to Newcastle to be processed, but the contract is due to be renewed – this time it should be based on environmental rather than just financial justifications.

**Callum Purves:** Cllr Purves drew attention to the proposed changes to Westminster Constituency boundaries. Current proposals would see Kinross shire split in two and other parts merged with Fife. All agreed that this would mix rural and urban areas in the same constituency which would not be a good idea. Instead similar rural places should be combined, e.g. merge Kinross shire with parts of rural Perthshire. Everyone can, and should, comment on this proposal which can be found at:

[www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies](http://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies)

### Planning

Due to the closing date for comments, the first item below was initially discussed amongst the CC Members by email in order to reach a decision in time, however see agenda item above.

### New Applications

**21/01467/FLL** Erection of replacement school, formation of multi-use games area, external play areas, vehicular accesses, parking areas, landscaping and associated works at Seamab School, Rumbling Bridge, Kinross.

**21/01590/FLL** Erection of a dwelling house at Land 40 metres south of Craighead Bungalow, Drum. No CC Comment.

**21/01720/FLL** Erection of a dwelling house (revised design) (plot 6) at Former Steading, Pitfar, Powmill. No CC Comment

**21/01755/FLL** Erection of 3 dwelling houses, 3 garages and associated works at Land 30 metres north east of Rantrie

Knowe, Drum. CC will object that flood assessment doesn't consider effect on surrounding properties; inform the planners of residents' concerns about contamination.

### Appeals

**21/00001/FLL** S42 application to delete condition 6 (access upgrade) of permission **20/01319/FLL** at Land 180 metres south west of Powmill Cottage, Rumbling Bridge. At 14 September LRB meeting the application was deferred until further information into potential remedies had been obtained.

### Decided Applications:

**21/01347/FLL** Erection of a dwelling house and garage - Land at Castle Hill View Rumbling Bridge. The application was approved, the CC had not commented.

**21/01393/FLL** Extension to dwelling house – 2 Cottage, Whorlawhill, Carnbo, Kinross. The application was approved, the CC had not commented.

### Enforcement Issues:

**20/00809/FLL** Craigton Farm Lane – MoP reported that there is now one static and two mobile caravans on site. PKC had asked the CC to confirm that there's no building taking place prior to an Enforcement Notice being issued.

*The next meeting of Fossoway and District Community Council will be held on Tuesday 7 December 2021 7.30pm at Moubray Hall.*

## Milnathort And Orwell CC News from the October Meeting

**Absent at the meeting** held on Thursday, 11 October 2021 were Craig Williams and Sean Colebourn.

### Police Matters

**Suspicious Incident:** Door to door callers near to Milnathort whereby cold callers were asking for donations for a cancer charity. Unknown if this is genuine or not but asking members of the public to be aware and ask for ID.

### Correspondence

Kinrosshire Partnership are looking for new members to continue their work. A General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 December at 7pm at The Green Hotel.

**Growbiz Rural Enterprise Support:** promoting services to help self-employment, new businesses and social enterprises: go to [www.growbiz.co.uk](http://www.growbiz.co.uk)

**Christmas Gift Bags:** Following on from our very successful summer and October activity bags, we are looking to deliver 100 bags to families for Christmas. These bags will include a board game/jigsaw, a book per child as well as some Christmas treats! This will be subject to funding, however we are being very organised, so please submit applications by 5pm on Friday 19 November. Email: [parenting@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:parenting@pkc.gov.uk)

**Fuelled For Fun Applications** for funding are now open for schools and community groups planning to run initiatives aimed at reducing holiday hunger across Perth and Kinross during the upcoming Christmas school holidays (23 December 2021: 5 January 2022). The *Fuelled for Fun* Programme aims to support local groups or organisations with whole or partial funding towards initiatives that meet criteria to tackle what is referred to nationally as FIHP (Food Insecurity during the Holiday Periods). Please do not hesitate to contact the Council's FIHP team by emailing [fihp@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:fihp@pkc.gov.uk) if you have any other queries.

### Roads

**TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING, PARKING AND LOADING:** U241 DRUM (FROM THE B9097 TO THE A977). In order to permit the Scottish Water sewer works; effective from 10 January 2021 for a period of two weeks.



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**Planning**

**Applications Submitted**

21/01457/FLL P8 Kinross-shire, Erection of 4 dwellinghouses, and reinstatement, alterations and extension to 2 dwellinghouses at Land At Hattonburn Farm, Milnathort for The Good House Company.

21/01822/FLL P8 Kinross-shire: Erection of replacement extension at 3 Auld Mart Road, Milnathort, for Mr Stephen Cairns c/o Grant Allan Architecture.

**Applications Decided**

21/01640/FLL P8 Kinross-shire: Extension to dwellinghouse 7 Coventry Way Milnathort for Mr A Mckinnon c/o CR Smith, application approved.

**Westminster Constituency Boundaries**

Cllr Callum Purves advised that the Boundaries Commission are proposing to change Kinross-shire and Milnathort would be absorbed into the Glenrothes constituency. There are many problematic issues with this. There is a consultation underway and residents are urged to write in with their views to the commission.

**Core Paths Update:** Kevin Heneghan advised there will be a last maintenance cut of the year on 27 November or 4 December. Maintenance machinery will be purchased shortly. It was noted that the Pace Hill core path is still fenced off.

**Speeding on New Road:** A speed activated sign is due to be installed. This has been an ongoing problem and is part of overall speeding issues in the village.

**20mph Speeding Trials:** Cllr Willie Robertson advised that each community in Kinross-shire are to identify areas for the police to concentrate the Speedwatch efforts, and names of volunteers to be submitted.

**Puffin Crossing on South Street:** Several close misses have been reported with cars driving through the crossing whilst children have been crossing. One of the problems is cars parking on the diagonal-lined areas either side of the crossing: this is illegal and extremely dangerous. It was asked if traffic wardens could patrol this area.

**Community Investment Fund:** Cllr Callum Purves advised on the funding allocation meeting.

The Town Hall committee has advised that the Hall has had funding accepted to install sound deadening.

**Gigabit Update For Milnathort:** The Gigabit partnership groups are awaiting communication for BT Outreach for progress.

Sean Colebourn is stepping down from the committee due to moving away for his work. The committee's thanks were noted for Sean's hard work and diligence during his time on the committee, particularly in his role as Treasurer and also undertaking a lot of the Secretary's work at the same time.

Freda Brookes was welcomed as a new member of the committee.

It was noted that a new Secretary and Treasurer is required and stressed that these 2 roles are crucial for the running of the committee. It was suggested a short explanation on the secretary and treasurer roles and to add a short piece on each of the members on the website, it was agreed to action this.

**Comments And Questions From The Floor**

It was asked if the 'smelly tree' is still to be re-located, this is being looked into.

**Replacement benches** on the Community Woodland Walk were discussed, this is being progressed.

**Christmas lights:** The MCC will liaise with Milnathort in Bloom on the existing lights for this year and look to organise more lights/decorations for next year.

**Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Richard Watters: Recycling materials are currently being sent to England and should be getting recycled more locally. He mentioned electric car recharging points and that members of the public should notify PKC on where they think these points should be.

Cllr Willie Robertson: The first meeting of the Kinross-shire Area Committee will be in December and a member of the MCC will attend. PKC will have a full meeting next week and the Child Poverty Plan will be central to the meeting.

Cllr Callum Purves: 20mph limits enquiries are being assessed as part of the overall trials. Lathro Meadows Phase 2 has been granted despite the Council having rejected their application. The Kinross-shire Area Committee are asking for CC's thoughts on what should be included.

**AOCB**

An enquiry was made about the bottle recycling station and whether it will be located at Bowling Green Avenue. MCC has been in contact with the PKC dept involved and bigger glass bins will be installed, at either Ba' Hill or Bowling Green Avenue: this is to be confirmed.

**Attracting younger new members:** It was suggested to approach the High School about promoting this and possibly the Duke of Edinburgh scheme would be a route. It was also suggested if the CC would ask along youngsters and possibly mentor them.


**Community Led Development:** A young people's forum: it was asked if Kinross-shire had one, there is not but was agreed that it would be good to form one. This could be a good thing for the Kinross-shire Local Committee and this will be looked into.

*The next meeting of Milnathort Community Council will take place on Thursday 9 December, 7pm on Zoom.*

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# Club & Community Group News

## Portmoak Film Society

Our November film, 'JoJo Rabbit', which caused some controversy on its release in 2019, proved a resounding success, with a 94% excellent/good rating from the audience. We now follow up with multi-award winning 'Nomadland' starring the wonderful Frances McDormand on Saturday 11 December. We do hope you'll join us for a great film and some delicious Christmas goodies afterwards!

Date change! Please note, the first film of the New Year will now be shown on Saturday 22 January and will feature the US thriller 'Knives Out', starring Daniel Craig as the Inspector trying to solve a murder mystery in true Agatha Christie style with a star-studded cast of suspects.

We have made the venue as safe as possible, and all guests are asked to wear masks throughout the evening, following Scottish Government guidance for the use of community halls. The seating is well spaced and hot drinks and refreshments will be served after the film, but please keep your distance! Use your membership card to get in (£40) or pay £6 on the door. Doors open at 7pm and films start promptly at 7.30pm. For further information, contact Felicity Garvie on 01592 840825.

## Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for a projectionist to run the films and set up the AV equipment on the night. Please see Situations Vacant section on p109.

## Kinross Community Garden Group

We had a super talk from Sandra Goodswen about how to encourage bees into your garden, the types of plants necessary to attract a wide range of bees, and why bees are essential. Sandra had brilliant photographs and an amazing knowledge of plants and bees.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 9 December at the Parish Church, Kinross at 2pm with Patricia Keppie from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Patricia will talk about horticulture around the world including what it takes to maintain the vast number of War Grave cemeteries around the world, and the different ways that the planting has to be managed to cope with different climates. Covid-19 measures will be in place including Test and Protect, face masks, sanitising and social distancing to ensure safety.

There is no meeting in January as we hope to have our festive lunch on 13 January.

Membership fees are £20 for the year and £5 for visitors. If you are new to Kinross-shire and interested in meeting fellow garden enthusiasts, you will be made very welcome. Doors will be open from 1.30pm.

For more details contact Caroline Anderson on 01577 864589 or email [acaroline1000@gmail.com](mailto:acaroline1000@gmail.com)

## Kinross Guide Dogs

We have a new addition to the household! Number six guide dog puppy is a live wire, full of mischief and boundless energy. She is keeping us on our toes and is a keen gardener. I am not so keen on that. A bit of a challenge to start training, but we are always up for learning how to get to know each individual puppy and try our best to mould them into something resembling a guide dog for training. All we can do



is the basics and socialise them and we get a lovely bundle to have with us for about a year.

We are now looking for new puppy raisers (formerly walkers) and fosterers (formerly boarders) for our new pups. If you are interested, go to the guide dogs website and the section on volunteering. If you want to chat about it, feel free to email [she61@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:she61@hotmail.co.uk). I am standing down from my role as group coordinator in our small, but perfectly formed, fundraising group. We are looking for a replacement so, if you are interested and want to know more, please contact me or look on the website for volunteer positions.

We are a sociable and friendly group and are always looking for more hands to help out, whether just for one hour or for as much as you'd like to do.

At this time of year, we are starting our festive fundraising. Local volunteers are raising funds for 12 new guide dogs, known as the '12 Guide Dogs of Christmas'. It's been another tough year for local volunteer groups who haven't been able to meet the public at collections and events much this year. In addition, we are celebrating the 90th anniversary of guide dogs this year. So the group are determined to aim big this Christmas and come together with volunteers across the UK with the hope of raising enough to fund 12 new life-changing guide dogs!

We attended the Christmas Market and circulated posters and QR codes for people to use over the festive period to help us meet that goal. If you'd like a poster, collection dog or QR code one for your business, please get in touch.

Pam White, Fundraising Manager at Guide Dogs said,

'Over the last year our wonderful fundraising volunteers have been unable to get out and meet the public at collections and events with their friendly fundraising dogs who, for many, are the face of Guide Dogs in their local communities. Whilst it can be a challenge for our fundraising groups to venture out this December, they still want to fundraise for Guide Dogs. Many of these volunteers are guide dog owners and service users who really understand and value the work Guide Dogs does for them personally, and for so many across the UK.

They are determined to raise enough to fund 12 new life-changers this Christmas and we really hope everyone will get behind them and support their fundraising activities.'

Anyone can support the '12 Guide Dogs of Christmas' by organising their own festive fundraising activity. Even if you're



*'Chilly Squirrel' in Pastel by Gillian Ross*

short on time, you can donate with a Facebook fundraiser, which only takes a few clicks and could start collecting donations within minutes! Ask your family to donate instead of sending a card, encourage friends to ditch secret Santa gifts, or challenge colleagues to donate their last hour of pay. Find out how you can help this December by visiting [www.guidedogs.org.uk/12-dogs-of-christmas](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/12-dogs-of-christmas)

## Kinross and District Art Club

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



The club welcomed two new members in November, bringing our membership to over 50. Tuesday painting sessions are most popular, with over 20 members attending at times. Covid-19 safety measures continue. We wear masks, keep the door open to outside and carry out lots of sanitising and hand washing. Friday sessions are also becoming busier, and we often have 12 members attending. Many members have invested in thermal clothing, which makes sitting painting with the door open in the winter months much more pleasant.

Throughout November, members were delighted to take part in a small club project inspired by the recent COP26 event in Glasgow. A photobook called 'Our Beautiful World – Our Fragile World' is being created and members are invited to submit an artwork on this theme to be included in the book. Stewart Niven, KADAC member, took quality photos of the paintings and those will now be used in the production of the photobook. The book aims to encapsulate the world as it is now; and will enable the viewer to consider how the artist might portray the same picture in 30 years' time. The complete book will be available to be viewed online in the New Year; the link for this will be available on our website for all to see.

The last painting session of 2021 is Friday 2 December with the AGM on Tuesday 30 November 2021 at 2pm. Mince pies were served after the AGM and members had an opportunity to browse the art club library which includes many art books and DVDs. A big thank you to Mary Nobbs, our library co-ordinator, for organising this and thanks also to Linda Sharp for helping with this on the day.

The first painting sessions of the New Year will be on Tuesday 11 January and Friday 14 January 2022. Members are hoping for a more 'normal' year and the committee are planning a full complement of activities for the year ahead, including workshops, demonstrations, and an exhibition.

Kinross and District Art Club members wish readers a happy Christmas filled with love and joy and a very happy and healthy 2022.

'Wishing you all a very Joyous Christmas' from KADAC.

*The club meets every Tues and Fri (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/](http://www.spanglefish.com/)  
[commongroundscharitycafe](http://commongroundscharitycafe)



Our successful AGM was held on Friday 12 November with our new committee being proposed and seconded. They are as follows: Co-conveners, Gaylor Hoskins and Elaine Matthew; Secretary, Linda Freeman; Treasurers, Elaine Spain and Marg Meade; Project Co-ordination, Ann Milburn; Volunteer Reps, rota team 1) Gillian Thomson, Barbara Dowie, Helen Wilson; 2) James Henry, Elspeth Caldwell.

The next big date in our calendar is the Christmas raffle, including the star prize of a hamper donated by Edna and





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Andrew Burnett. The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 21 December at 11am. All donations are welcome and raffle tickets are on sale from Tuesday 23 November.

Contacts outside opening hours are the co-conveners, Gaylor Hoskins on 07976553502 or Elaine Matthew on 01592 840266.

## Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation

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



### Kinross-shire's Winter Festival

Similar to last year, the winter festival was very much a slimmed down version of events. However, hopefully you enjoyed the events such as the Kacophony Orchestra concert, the 2040 film at Milnathort Filmhouse and the author talks by Jenny Colgan and James Robertson during Bookweek Scotland. While writing this piece the festive weekend with the Light Up Kinross lights, the Light Up the Night window decorations and the festive market have not happened yet but it will hopefully add to a wonderful festive atmosphere in the lead up to Christmas!

The KLEO team would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped to distribute the winter festival booklet door to door in Kinross, Milnathort and other surrounding villages and who helped with erecting and dismantling market stalls and stewarding at the festive market (pictured below). A huge thank you to local company Haki Access Solutions for providing the entertainment stage for the festive market. Also many thanks to the *Kinross Newsletter* who did a special feature article for us.

### Kinross Kacophony Orchestra

Rehearsals will start again on Wednesday 12 January at Milnathort Town Hall (7–8.30pm). The Kacophony Orchestra is for adults who would like to play their instruments in a group with conductor Dougie Flower. We invite players of all orchestral instruments to come along (all abilities are welcome but it is handy if you read music). Please don't worry if you haven't played for a while; we are a very friendly and informal bunch. Weekly fee is £5.

### Leven Voices

Community Choir Leven Voices will hopefully start again in the New Year once we have found a big enough venue where we can sing socially distanced without using face masks. If you like to be added to the mailing list for any updates on this, please send an email to [info@kleo.org.uk](mailto:info@kleo.org.uk).

### Further Information

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

## Kinross in Bloom



We took delivery of 2100 plug plants, and they are now out in the planters around the town. One of the planters at the surgery, which had a huge crack down the side, has been replaced.

Looking forward, we have ordered the summer bedding plants taking into account that 2022 will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

A big thank you to all our sponsors, waterers, the rugby club and helpers who have helped make Kinross bloom in 2021.

We had our AGM at the start of November and the office bearers for 2022 are as follows: Chair, Graham Barnett; Secretary, Susan Mitchell; Treasurer, Aileen Sorbie.

### Chair Report 2021

Primarily, I would like to thank Susan and Aileen for their sterling efforts as secretary and treasurer and all other members of the Bloom for their work throughout the year, especially as myself and Kathy could not commit to any assistance due to a family bereavement.

For the second year running, Covid-19 reared its ugly head, what with its restrictions and adverse effects. Despite this, Kinross in Bloom were able to succeed in keeping the town looking colourful throughout the year with the winter pansies going on to create a riot of colour as the weather heated up, flowering well into May/June. This was followed by a colourful summer display.

Planters throughout the town were planted up with winter pansies in 2020 which bloomed through the winter months until May/June when they were lifted, even though still in full bloom, to make way for summer planting. The summer plug plants were delivered in April and were immediately planted up into larger trays and placed within the polytunnel to grow on prior to planting out. May saw the Bloom busy when some 2000 plants were planted up into the hanging baskets and later on into the planters throughout the town. The hanging baskets were put out onto their hangers with help from the Kinross Rugby Club and our thanks and gratitude go to them. With all plants in place for the summer a watering rota was drawn up by Aileen and the work began in keeping the planters and baskets watered and looking in top condition. My thanks go out to all members and others who were prepared to use their own time to keep the town looking bright and cheerful for a few months.

Towards the end of the summer, the weather, being fickle as it is, meant that some of the plants were looking somewhat tired earlier than usual and some of the planters were overrun with chickweed. With this in mind, the decision was taken to strip out the planters a bit earlier than usual which



## Club & Community Group News

enabled us to do something with the chickweed and top up planters as required with new compost and slow-release feed pellets. These planters were then left 'to rest' for a couple of weeks prior to starting the cycle again by planting up the winter pansies. Hanging baskets throughout the town were removed, with help once again from the Rugby club, and these were taken to the recycling centre and emptied into the recycling skip. Thanks once again go to the Kinross Rugby Club for sterling effort and we look forward to working with them next year. Thanks lads!

With all the watering for the year completed, the tank was removed from the back of the buggy and placed within the compound until next season. Due to Covid-19 and other circumstances no major projects were started during 2021, but the Bloom group are still committed to the work to spruce up the Mungal bust memorial at Swansacre. This work involves the sympathetic cleaning of the bust and plinth, painting of the metal railings around the memorial, and also the refreshment of the eulogy, either by painting of the old lettering or full replacement. Any other necessary work will also be attended to. Hopefully this work will be carried out during 2022.

I would like to sign off for the year by once again giving my heartfelt thanks to everybody who was involved in keeping the town of Kinross looking colourful and inviting throughout 2021. Thank you all!

### Can You Help Us In 2022?

Would you like to be part of the team which waters the planters and hanging baskets throughout the summer months? If so, please contact [susan.mitchell50@gmail.com](mailto:susan.mitchell50@gmail.com)

## Kinross Camera Club

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

The club begins December with an evening of images taken by members over the last couple of months. We will have a slideshow to showcase what we have all been busy photographing throughout the autumn and approaching winter days. We also look forward to a few of our more experienced members sharing their knowledge on printing techniques and how to successfully mount our images to show them off and make them ready for competition.

We look forward to meeting up face to face again in the hall for our Thackery and Creative Digital competitions judged by Roger Stewart LRPS. Our theme for the Thackery competition this year is a triptych of 'Flowers in Close Up' and our Creative Digital competition gives us an opportunity to have a go at something a little different and to challenge our inner creativity. Definitely an evening to look forward to.

To get us all ready for the festive season on our last meeting of 2021 we have an evening of merriment with a Christmas Quiz, festivities and of course a wee tippie with mince pies and sausage rolls.

Our first meeting in January will bring 2022 in with a fabulous speaker from overseas. Scott Hurd is a professional photographer who lives and works in Namibia. In his talk Scott will lead us through his journey from the UK to Namibia and through his stunning photography will show how his work unfolds from photographing children at school, fabulous weddings and, of course, the wildlife. Black and white rhinos, hippopotamus, desert elephants and pangolins. He tells of the plight of pangolins and how these animals need to be saved from poachers who sell



*This month's photograph is called 'Dunstanburgh Castle' by Janet Lowe*

their scales for medicine and their bodies for food. Scott's work in photographing all these endangered species certainly helps to raise awareness worldwide. One not to miss.

Our second League competition of the season will be judged by Donald Stewart FRPS. Hopefully we will all be meeting up face to face again in Kinross Church Hall Covid restrictions allowing!

Roy Carr, a photographer from SE Wales, will be joining us via a Zoom meeting to show us his images from a recent documentary project he has done called 'A Year in Their Lives' about sheep farming in Wales. Roy tells us the story of a farming year on 3 sheep farms within the Cynon Valley in South Wales. Through his images Roy records the key events from lambing, shearing, hay making, dipping, selling and winter grazing. He sensitively captures the interaction between the people and the animals.

Our final Zoom presentation for January is by Brian Lloyd Duckett whose talk is entitled 'Conquer Your Fears in Street Photography'. Brian is a Street Photographer from London who visits all the major cities of the UK taking fantastic, quirky and inspiring images. In his talk he will help to build our confidence to have a go ourselves at this genre of photography.

*If you would like to learn more about our friendly and welcoming club and join us for an evening, please get in touch by sending an email to [secretary@kinrosscameraclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@kinrosscameraclub.org.uk).*

## Kinross In Bloom 200 Club

### November Draw

1st	No 80	Cath Watson
2nd	No 33	Moira Hookham
3rd	No 37	Derek Lawrence
4th	No 28	Sid Grant

### December Draw

1st	No 34	Dorothy Hutton
2nd	No 45	Hilda MacPherson
3rd	No 68	Graham Sorbie
4th	No 84	Jill Whitfield

## Kinross and District Town Twinning Association



Our Gacé friends have confirmed that they are looking forward to hosting an official twinning visit next summer. The plan is to leave Kinross on 28 July and travel by coach to Newcastle for the overnight crossing to Ijmuiden, arriving in Gacé late afternoon on 29 July. We will return to Ijmuiden late afternoon on 6 August for the return overnight crossing to Newcastle, arriving back in Kinross around midday on 7 August.

Evening meals, cabins and breakfasts will be provided on board for both journeys. All other meals will be provided by host families and a full programme of optional visits will be arranged by our French hosts. Covid-19 travel restrictions are at a minimal level for the time being but fluctuations in spread may see stricter measures put in place, either by the UK or French governments but we do hope that, by next July, we are able to meet up again with our French friends.

It is estimated that the cost of next summer's visit will be just less than £300 for an all-inclusive trip. Further details

are available from twinning secretary David Munro on 01577 862126.

The committee hope to resume social gatherings and fundraisers over the autumn and winter period in preparation for our visit to Gacé next summer. New twinning families are welcome to join us and anyone wishing further information should contact secretary, David Munro, on 01577 862126.

## Portmoak Community Woodland Group



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

While everyone else was planting trees for COP26, we were pulling them out. That's because we have a raised peat bog on the doorstep and peat stores about ten times more carbon than forests.

Our members were joined by a dozen from the Lothians Conservation Volunteers, who specialise in jobs like restoring peat bogs and who've had a long association with our group. Everyone was there to do their bit, protecting the special place that is Portmoak Moss, where the peat is so thick (at least six metres deep) that it stores the carbon footprint of more than 40,000 people. One of the volunteers, Jackie Howlett, from Edinburgh, said, 'Peat bogs have got a very important role to play in stopping climate change.'

Sphagnum moss, which forms the peat, takes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and locks it into the bog. Unfortunately, if too many trees are allowed to grow on the bog they dry it out and the carbon is released. We do have too many birch saplings at the moment which is why we spent six hours on Sunday 7 November pulling them out.

Both groups were helped by volunteers from Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood, who grappled with the tough birch roots to get the saplings off the Moss. 6,000 square metres of bog were cleared of birch in weather conditions that might not have been wet enough for bogs but were fine and calm and welcomed by everybody there.

Michael McGinnes, of PCWG, and the event organiser,



## Club & Community Group News

said, 'With so much help we achieved twice as much as we expected and considerably more than on previous events, so it was highly successful. A big thank-you to the Lothians Conservation Volunteers.'

We'll be removing more trees on Sunday 12 December when we hold our popular Christmas tree event. This time it'll be spruce and, as ever, you can do your bit for restoring the bog and helping us to raise funds by coming along and choosing a tree which we'll cut down for you.

We welcome donations so please remember to bring cash as we don't have card facilities in the Moss. The event will be from 11am-2pm and there will be home-baking and hot drinks.

## Kinnesswood in Bloom

We continue to dodge the November showers and finish up the season by clearing plants, cutting back, sweeping leaves (continuously) and put our little figures away for the winter. There has certainly been plenty to do. The cart had a little feature in the Beechgrove special programme about the refurbishment of the community park in Alloa. It looks well worth a visit as does the cart in Gamekeepers.

Funding was obtained to build a base for the shed for gardening equipment which is part of the school growing together project. This will make a big difference to keeping everything in order and accessible to both the school and Kinnesswood in Bloom. It has taken time, but we look forward to the last bit of the project happening at last. It was December last year when the school heard that they were to get funding through the Climate Action Fund. Sometimes we just have to be patient watching a project progress.

The school and Kinnesswood in Bloom look forward to showing off the grounds in the spring. We recently received funding for a drum compost maker which hopefully will



## Recipe



Supplied by Kinnesswood in Bloom

## Christmas Punch

If you are hoping to get together with a few folk this Christmas or New Year, try serving this punch. You can try either the alcoholic or non-alcoholic version.

### Ingredients

2 pears or apples, sliced  
2 lemons, 1 sliced, 1 juiced  
2 tbsp caster sugar  
1 tsp mixed spice  
400ml white grape juice  
100-150 ml white, dark or spiced rum, vodka or gin (optional)  
275 ml ginger ale  
500 ml sparkling water  
Ice  
Handful of pomegranate seeds  
Rosemary sprigs to serve

### Method

Put the pear or apple and lemon slices, sugar and mixed spice in a large bowl or jug and chill for an hour. Add the lemon juice and grape juice, stirring to dissolve any sugar. Stir in your chosen spirit if using.

Pour in the ginger ale and sparkling water and add a few handfuls of ice. Sprinkle over the pomegranate seeds and drop in a few sprigs of rosemary.

accelerate the compost making process. There is also funding for the children to purchase seeds for next year. Maybe by then we can work directly with the children again, but we will have contingencies in place if that can't happen. Meanwhile the classes have a list of tasks which they can carry out in the school grounds, and they are working through them when weather permits. We were also fortunate to have some compost donated and this has filled up the new raised beds in the polytunnel.

On 14 November members joined other groups and local folk to lay a wreath and honour the people whose names are on the War Memorial. Thank you Morag for such a lovely wreath. A few late poppies emerged just at the right time.

We will be putting up a tree in the picture garden in mid-December and providing a bit of sparkle around the village. Last year we were preparing for a Christmas where we could only visit for one day and had to stay outside. Let's hope we can all celebrate with all our friends and family in a more normal way.

Thank you all for your good wishes over the year and continued support for the group. Thank you Millie, our Duke of Edinburgh volunteer, for the regular work with our group. We have really appreciated it.

We look forward to work progressing in 2022 on the Michael Bruce Cottage and garden.

## Boys Brigade and Girls Association



All sections enjoyed a fun evening with a variety of popular halloween games. Food and refreshments were altered slightly to accommodate Covid-19 regulations.

Our session is now well underway. Members took part in their annual enrolment service at Kinross Parish Church as well as the annual armistice parade from the Parish Church to the war memorial.

Junior and company section members are looking forward to the battalion swimming gala at Perth Leisure Pool at the end of November. Other battalion competitions are due to take place from January onwards.

Congratulations to staff sergeant Rebekah Roe for gaining her Queen's Badge. Covid-19 meant that there were delays in completing some aspects of the work and the completion course had to be carried out online. Two other seniors are now working towards their Queen's badges having recently gained their President's badges.

A new badge programme for company and senior members is now in operation with anchors and juniors badges remaining the same for the time being.

There are still a few vacancies in all three sections for boys and girls (anchors P1-3; juniors P4-6; company P7-S2 and seniors S3-S6).

## Kinross and Ochil Walking Group

(Affiliated to Ramblers Scotland)

[www.ramblers.org.uk/kinross-ochil](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/kinross-ochil)

Winter is upon us and what better way to cheer yourself up than by getting out into the open air and exercising? We are a relaxed and sociable group who are always happy to welcome new walkers. Some of our male walkers have had to drop out with injuries so we would particularly welcome any men who would like to try walking with us.

### Weekend Walks

#### Sunday 5 Dec, Gartmorn Dam Circular, 7 miles

A walk from Muircot farm shop, dropping to Gartmorn Dam. Circuit of dam on good paths and tracks before return to Muircot.

#### Saturday 18 Dec, Muckhart and Crook of Devon, 9 miles

This walk uses a mixture of small private roads and paths between the villages of Pool of Muckhart and Crook of Devon. It goes through a mixture of farmland, woodland, small villages and beside the River Devon.

#### Sunday 9 Jan

Walk details still to be confirmed. Check our website later in December.

#### Saturday 22 Jan

Walk details still to be confirmed. Check our website later in December.

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

*For further details of where to meet us, or for general enquiries, please call our group secretary, Sandra Wilkinson, on 01577 865472.*

### Tuesday Short Walks

For those who are new to walking or want a shorter walk, come and join us on our Tuesday morning walks. These



*Sergeant Zoe Webster with the company colours accompanied by her sister Zara. Photo courtesy of mum Janice Webster]*

are usually a maximum of 4 miles (1½-2 hours) followed, if practical, by an optional sociable visit to a coffee shop, farm shop or pub for refreshments.

#### Tuesday 14 Dec, Riverside East, Tarvit Ponds and Tarvit Farm

Good paths through parkland, a wood and open countryside with views over Cupar and surrounding area. Some pavement walking.

#### Tuesday 4 Jan, Strathmiglo

A walk through west Strathmiglo and out into open countryside on scenic paths. Return to east Strathmiglo for a pleasant stroll through farmland towards the Lomond Hills and back to start.

#### Tuesday 18 Jan, Abernethy Glen

A walk through a lovely, wooded glen. Above the Ballo Burn is a stretch known as the Witches Road where, in the 16th century, 22 women were taken this way before being burned to death on Abernethy Hill for witchcraft.

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

## KYTHE

As everyone at KYTHE approaches winter and the end of the year, we can reflect on the year that has almost finished.



We have been fortunate to receive donations throughout the year from organisations, churches, groups and individuals. These are essential for the continued and expanding work of KYTHE to transform young lives.

The work of KYTHE takes many formats (Drop in, Youth Band, Chill n Chat, Band Camps and Art Workshops to name a few) and can start from a brief encounter but develop over time. This is the story of AB.

'When AB first arrived in KYTHE, they were quiet and reserved, using few words to speak to the team. During drop-ins, they would often have a shot of the keyboard in the hub and teach themselves songs! This eventually led to them being 'found out' as a budding guitarist, picking up songs easily without any lessons! They then joined KYTHE for a holiday band camp.



When asked if any young person would like to sing, instead of the group leader, they quickly rose and said, 'I will'. We were taken aback, as we had never heard this young person sing before but were nervous as to what they would sound like! The young person blew us away! Now two years down the line, this young person has developed unbelievably in confidence and now writes their own music and performs confidently to rooms full of people without batting an eyelid!

From a shy and quiet young boy to a confident and self-



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assured young man. This is one of the reasons why journeying alongside young people is so necessary and fruitful, as it's a marathon and not a sprint.'

Last year a food insecurity grant enabled us to have provide lunches (at a cost of £3 per person) to the young people who attend KYTHE. Everyone will know that at this time of their lives in their teenage years, young people are growing and their appetites often surpass that which is available. Please support KYTHE to nurture young people – physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. Visit our website [www.kythe.org.uk](http://www.kythe.org.uk) or our giving page at [www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/2019607](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/2019607)

Recently a Friday afternoon drop-in session had attracted 47 young people. This is now the regular numbers and monthly attendances at all KYTHE activities total about 450 and are set to continue and increase. Youth work to transform young lives in Kinross-shire is necessary and we are thankful for our volunteers who contribute an average of 225 hours per month. However we can support more young people with more volunteers and supporters. To find out more visit <https://www.kythe.org.uk/support-us>

## Kinross-shire Climate Café

November was a busy month with COP26 taking place in Glasgow. A few of us participated in the COP26 fringe events for civil society. The Main Space Climate Café provided a great opportunity to meet visitors from Tunisia, Sumatra, Australia and so on, while the Green Space featured climate change frontier exhibitions.

The Human Institute organised a film evening at the Pearce Institute called 'Listening to the Land: Indigenous Voices at COP26', about the devastating damage of climate change to the lives of African communities. One part focused on a Danish windfarm in Kenya that displaced an indigenous community from their land without any compensation; a significant negative effect of 'green energy' investment that ignores human rights.

COP26 was the time to speak out for indigenous peoples who contribute to only a minor fraction of climate change, but who suffer the majority of its effects. As a result of climate change many communities lost their access to fresh water, lost their property (homes and livestock) and are unable to grow crops. One of the main aims of COP26 was that world leaders would agree to create an immediate fund of £100 billion that would help to rebuild ruined communities and make them more resilient to extreme events in the future. As we all now know, that unfortunately did not happen.

Another expectation of COP26 was to agree on phasing out fossil fuels in a bid to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C; an ambition first drawn up by the Paris Agreement in 2015. As we all know this also did not take place; not only as gas and oil were omitted in the final agreement, but also 'phasing out' of coal was changed at the last minute to 'phasing down'. In view of that it is hard to accept that governments are still serious about limiting the temperature rise to 1.5°C (or even 2°C) despite the rhetoric of the final COP26 agreement.

One major positive aspect of COP26 was the huge involvement of civil society in a great variety of fringe debates, forums, events and marches. The main marches in Glasgow (Fridays for Future on 5 November and Global Climate Justice on 6 November) have each brought 100,000 protesters to the streets carrying messages to the leaders about the urgency of action to phase out fossil fuels and ensuring climate change justice. Many of those people travelled from other countries,

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many others set out on pilgrimages from distant parts of Scotland and the UK on their bikes (Pedal on COP groups), or walking and carrying their messages (Coat of Hopes). Others spoke through singing about climate change; the Big Sing in front of the Scottish Parliament with our local group, Leven Voices, joining in the event at Kirkgate Park on 6 November. Some people spoke through digital media; 'Voices from Loch Leven', a film with local people sharing their reflections and hopes for the future.

Hope for the future was the main message of the documentary film '2040' that was screened in Milnathort Town Hall on 6 November, thanks to generous help from Milnathort Filmhouse and supported by KLEO. In the film Damon Gameau travels the world in search of already existing solutions that could be embraced to help overcome the climate change crisis. This presents an idealised futuristic view of the world, showing a vivid picture of a balanced, sustainable, and just world.

Our next meeting will be on 6 December at 7pm in Milnathort Town Hall. Karen Jarvie from Fairtrade will talk about how her organisation aids climate change justice and the adaptation of indigenous communities; an important issue particularly as it was not addressed in COP26. Our group will also share ideas about sustainable ways to celebrate Christmas.

At our January meeting we will welcome Orla Beaton, a local mindfulness and yoga teacher who will offer a session on 'Cultivating Happiness in Difficult Times', with mindfulness teachings, gentle movement and writing to strengthen our resilience to climate change.

*Everyone is welcome to join our group. If you are interested, please contact Gosia by email at [climatecafe@kleo.org.uk](mailto:climatecafe@kleo.org.uk).*

## Kinross Cubs

For our first meeting back after the October break the cubs were delighted to welcome Annie from Broke Not Broken who spoke about the work they do in the local community. On the same evening the cubs had great fun making pizzas.

The following week the cubs were again getting creative as they designed edible bonfires for bonfire night. In addition to this, the cubs also discussed and decided what their challenges would be for the personal challenge badge which they work on over the course of this term.

On the same evening, we were delighted to present two special recognition awards to Muir and Ailah (below) for being kind and helpful last term. Well done! Also, congratulations are due to Angus and Ewan who were presented with a certificate for having 100% attendance at cubs last term.

The cubs have also been thinking about Remembrance Day this term and, just before Remembrance Day, we had a great

Zoom meeting. The cubs discussed the event before making their own poppies for the Remembrance Sunday Parade.

Talking of the parade, we had 15 cubs taking part this year. The cubs joined the beavers and scouts to march from Kinross Parish Church to the War Memorial at The Court House for the Act of Remembrance. The cubs were extremely respectful as they paid their respects and were a huge credit to the pack.

In the middle of November, the cubs had a great time taking part in a night hike up Hill of Beath. When they reached the summit, they were presented with views of the Forth Bridges and Dunfermline all lit up.

This term we said goodbye to Jamie, Eilidh, Mungo and Muir who were moving on to scouts. We hope you have a great time on your next scouting adventure.

If you would like to get involved with 1st Kinross Cubs and see how far your young one can grow, then please email [kinrosscubs@hotmail.com](mailto:kinrosscubs@hotmail.com) for more details.

## Kinross-Shire Beavers

Our winter programme kicked off at the end of October and we returned to the Millbridge Hall to focus on our personal challenge badge. Individually the beavers had to commit to two challenges, which had to be completed everyday over the week. We are delighted to say that there was resounding success with all of the beavers achieving the badge. We also welcomed three new starts that evening and said hello again to an old friend who's been in quarantine for nearly two years; Woody, our beaver mascot! We are delighted that he will be able to share adventures again over the coming weeks and months.

On bonfire night the beavers got creative by making edible bonfires from digestive biscuits, chocolate spread, mini marshmallows, strawberry laces and quality street matchmakers. There was certainly an 'excitement in the air' from that activity although that may have been down to the sugar! However, it wasn't all just sweets. The beavers also debated the benefits of different types of fruit to signify debating in parliament as it was also UK parliament week.

The following Friday we took part in lots of problem-solving challenges. It was great to see little minds working away individually and in teams to try and successfully solve the challenges presented. It wasn't all just brainwork however, as the challenges were tied into games to ensure that lots of energy was burnt off too.

On Sunday 14 November, the beavers joined the Remembrance Parade in Kinross. The leaders were incredibly proud of how they conducted themselves. Each and every one of them did so with respect and dignity and were a huge credit to the colony.





There were also many badges and awards issued over the course of the weeks. Struan received his bronze award which is the top award a beaver can get (previous page). Archie, Lochlan and Atholl (above) were each presented with a certificate for having 100% attendance last term. Finlay T was presented with a special recognition award for being kind and helpful last term. We must also make mention of one of our leaders, Richard, who was presented with the Commissioner's Commendation award in recognition of his exceptional service to beavers. Well done all.

Finally, we said goodbye to Emily, Robert and Finlay T who moved onto Portmoak cubs. Good luck with the next stage of your scouting journey.

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

## Fairtrade in Kinross-shire

There is a new online platform where we can advertise shops, cafés and restaurants in Kinross-shire that sell Fairtrade goods. We have started adding businesses like The Court House, Loch Leven Lodges and Hunters of Kinross that sell goods from Traidcraft, but we would like everyone to ask for Fairtrade products in our local businesses and then either add them to the website yourself or contact us through the Kinross Fairtrade Steering Group Facebook Page and we will upload it for you. We just need the name of the business and what Fairtrade products they sell, for example tea, coffee and chocolate. You can also use this



website to search for businesses that stock Fairtrade goods all over Scotland. Let's #ChooseTheWorldWeWant in 2022 and choose to buy goods that are ethical and sustainable.

## Kinross High School



Whilst the world's leaders were attending COP26, our learning community were partaking in events designed to enhance awareness of climate change and engage young minds with ideas to keep the global temperature from rising by 2°C.

One lucky pupil, Callum in S4, got the chance to attend the summit in person. After winning the Keep Scotland Beautiful competition, Callum had the unique opportunity to provide coverage of COP26 as a young reporter for the environment. Together with three other young reporters from around the UK, he attended conferences, conducted interviews, explored the blue zone and even gave a rousing 'call to action' speech at the Foundation for Environmental Education's Climate Action: Harnessing the Power of Networks event. After his busy week at COP26, Callum said, 'I don't think I'll ever forget the experience. It really was incredible.'

What's more, the Eco Committee have been successful in achieving green flag status for Kinross High School. The group, mostly made up of senior students, worked throughout the year to make KHS as environmentally friendly as possible. Empty plastic bottles were collected from the dining areas, as well as from local residents and businesses around Kinross. The responsible bunch then used these to build a greenhouse in the pupil support garden, preventing the materials being sent to landfill or ending up in the ocean. Since we started building our eco credentials three years ago, the greenhouse is just one of many green initiatives including removing all plastics and non-recyclable cutlery from lunches

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## Portmoak Hall 100 Club

### November Draw

1st	No 72	Violet Sherratt	Kinnesswood
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3rd	No 134	Helen Martin	Gairneybridge

during 'Plastic Free Week' and collecting wastepaper from classrooms around the school to ensure that it is recycled properly. The school aims to continue tackling climate change by building on our recycling goals as well as looking at how the school grounds can be made more habitable for local flora and fauna.

Headteacher Mrs Brown commended the strong example set by the Eco-Committee, saying,

'I am delighted that the school's eco group has achieved green flag status. This recognises the hard work that has been undertaken to engage with environmental issues. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the group for their achievement and I look forward to seeing more from the pupils who are currently involved in eco-schools.'

Not only are we doing good for the environment at KHS but we're also doing our bit for charity. Last session the English department applied to the Big Scottish Story Ripple which encourages schools and organisations to carry out a good deed in the community in exchange for a free storytelling session. For our good deed, staff from the English department donated clothing to the appeal for Afghani refugees arriving in Scotland. In return, traditional Highland storyteller, Scot AnSgeulaiche (pronounced An Skayl-uch-ah), joined S2 classes virtually to tell the tales of some long-dead characters

from Scotland's past that you'll probably wish you could have met, if only to ask them 'did that really happen?'

In addition, senior pupils have been leading our fundraising efforts whilst bringing some fun back to KHS after the pandemic paused events. The halloween fancy dress and bake sale raised a whopping £550 for mental health charity Lighthouse in Perth. Two teams went head-to-head in an S5 v S6 football match which added a further £150 to the donation and gave spectators something to cheer for.

Over the past few months, S1 pupils have been taking part in the 'Couch to 5K' programme in preparation for the annual reindeer run! On 20 December, the herd will be dressing in their house colours and galloping round the track to raise money for the school charity.

Every year, pupils and staff collect food for Broke Not Broken's Christmas hamper appeal. Over the last year, the local foodbank has provided over 1000 food parcels for families in the Kinross-shire area. Over the last two years, we have contributed three quarters of a tonne of food which had a major impact on how much support the charity could offer and we're hoping for another record-breaking year. Generous donations of biscuits, cosy gloves and socks, mince pies and many more yuletide goodies are being collected and sorted by a busy band of elves, ready to go to families who may have otherwise worried about the cost of Christmas. We hope the hampers will help to fill the festive season with joy and goodwill for people in our community.

Reconnecting with one another has been so important to our learning community as restrictions continue to ease gradually. Recently our pupils collectively wrote a poem on the theme of Scottish nature. Each English class from across the school contributed, evoking the changeable seasons in one or two lines, then the Advanced Higher class assembled them into a beautiful work of poetry filled with hope for what spring will bring. (see Poetry Corner, p51)

Wishing readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the pupils and staff at Kinross High School.

## Inner Wheel

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



The club had a most enjoyable meeting on 8 November with a virtual visit on Zoom from Mary Berstan, our district chair. We discussed ways in which clubs are returning to face-to-face meetings and plans for raising funds in the forthcoming year.

Our meeting on 13 December will be a talk from Donna whose new delicatessen, the Long Spoon Larder, has celebrated its first anniversary as a very successful addition to the shops in Kinross.

If you would like to join us or learn more about Inner Wheel, please email [jennymac101@icloud.com](mailto:jennymac101@icloud.com).

## Loch Leven Community Library

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

Bookbug sessions are held in Loch Leven Community Library every Saturday morning from 9.15am-9.45am and every Wednesday afternoon from 2pm-2.30pm. These are free, fun, and friendly sessions of songs, rhymes and stories for babies, toddlers, and pre-school children to enjoy with their parents and carers. As spaces are limited at the moment, please book ahead by emailing [lochlevenlibrary@culturepk.org.uk](mailto:lochlevenlibrary@culturepk.org.uk) or call on 01577 867205.

Culture Perth and Kinross Libraries have online library services available 24/7 via the library website ([www.culturepk.org](http://www.culturepk.org)).



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uk/libraries) or by downloading the library app: browse the library catalogue, online joining, requesting and renewing items.

A selection of e-resources is also available from the library website ([www.culturepk.org.uk/libraries](http://www.culturepk.org.uk/libraries)): e-books, e-audio books, e-magazines, e-news, and e-reference resources (Britannica, SCRAN, Theory Test PRO and Ancestry).

Don't forget, Loch Leven Community Library accept used stamps and batteries for recycling.

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Sunday:	Closed

Contact: 01577 867205 / [lochlevenlibrary@culturepk.org.uk](mailto:lochlevenlibrary@culturepk.org.uk)

All Perth and Kinross Libraries will be closed from 24 December 2021 for the Christmas and New Year holidays. All libraries will reopen on 7 January 2022.

## Kinross & District Rotary Club

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



Thank you for helping us to help others!

Our recent Table Top Sale at the Kinross Centre on 23 October raised over £500. Thanks to all who contributed and to those who showed such an interest in our work. Funds raised will be used for good causes.

A fantastic 251 Rotary Shoeboxes are now on their way to disadvantaged children and adults in Eastern Europe. See [www.rotaryshoebox.org](http://www.rotaryshoebox.org) if you would like further details of this scheme, which has been running for over 25 years. Well done to our lovely Kinross-shire Primary Schools for their hard work in filling their boxes, and to all other donors.

### Santa Claus is Coming to Town...SOON!

We were sad that due to Storm Arwen Santa could not be at the 'Christmas Lights Switch On' on Friday 26 November. He will be visiting you during December as detailed below.

In addition, more details on the Santa Tracker app (to give you precise timings of his progress each night) will be available on our Facebook page.

See p21 for all the details.

### Christmas Competitions

Create some memories of Santa's visit and enter our Christmas competitions!

Prizes for best drawing (under 7 years), best drawing (7-12 years) and best photograph (no age limit!).

Please email entries to [secretary.kdrc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.kdrc@gmail.com) by 12 noon on Monday 20 December.

### Young Writer Competition

Do you love writing? Why not enter Rotary's Young Writer competition?

You may write in any style you wish on this year's theme of 'Environment'.

- *Up to 550 words for prose entries.*
- *Up to a maximum of 40 lines for poetry entries.*
- *All entries to be legible – written or typed.*
- *No pictures or drawings to be part of the entry*

The three age groups are (age at 31 August 2021):

- *Junior 7 to 10 years old*
- *Intermediate 11 to 13 years old*
- *Senior 14 to 17 years old*

Please send entries, with your full name and date of birth by 9 February 2022 to [secretary.kdrc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.kdrc@gmail.com).

Prizes for winners in all categories. The 1st prize winner in each category will go forward to the Rotary District 1010 competition and, hopefully, to the national competition too! We received some brilliant pieces last year and we're looking forward to reading your entries!

### Recent Meetings

On 18 October, we were indebted to former Rotarian and past president Malcom Wood for standing in at short notice as speaker. Malcolm gave us an update on his recent business activities.

In 2019 he spent time in Dubai, introducing his Peeltech filtration system, until the pandemic struck and curtailed progress. Demonstrating his customary resilience and innovation, Malcolm returned home and to his former business, the preparation and supply of chips for catering. The challenges during this difficult period of business inactivity were immense but hard work and adaptability are paying off, with excellent progress this year and prospects for further expansion and development.

We were delighted to meet up with Malcolm again and impressed, as ever, by his energy and work ethic.

On 1 November the Rev. Angus Morrison joined us on Zoom as our speaker. Recently retired, Angus told us about his 'Life in the Ministry', over 42 years. Ordained in 1979 in his home town of Oban in the Free Church of Scotland, he worked there for 7 years. He moved to Edinburgh in 1986 for 15 years, then to St Columba's Church of Scotland in Stornoway in 2000, and finally to the parish of Orwell and Portmoak in 2011.

Furthermore, he became Minister to the Lord High Commissioner, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, in 2005 and, in 2006, he became one of the Chaplains in Ordinary to the Queen; a position he will retain until his 70th birthday. In 2015-16 he was the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Angus regaled us with many tales from his long and interesting career, including preaching at Crathie Church and in Gaelic in Stornoway; experiences at Holyrood Palace and at Balmoral; and international work and travel in his role as an ambassador for the church.

He described his time in Kinross-shire as 'a happy and fulfilled decade' and reflected on the 'privilege of serving for 42 years.... meeting so many interesting people from all walks of life'.

We wish Angus and his wife Marion a long and happy retirement.

At a breakfast meeting on 9 November, John Ross, operations director at Kinross Wooden Products Company, gave us a fascinating insight into his work as a timber manufacturer intent on reducing waste and CO2 while supporting people and communities.

With over 30 years' experience in furniture manufacturing, logistics and wholesale, he and his wife Kirsteen are focusing on furniture remanufacturing. John illustrated the need for circularity; to re-use resources, not to use briefly and throw away. He provided us with a range of exciting and impressive examples of their work, including repurposing unwanted furniture to create bespoke homeworkers' desks, fun playground equipment, and garden furniture created

## Club & Community Group News

out of unwanted potato boxes. Furthermore, he believes that we need to create local employment and grow our local economy. John believes in training and mentoring staff, helping to develop people.

With messages from COP26 ringing in our ears, this was a fantastic local example of innovation and resource management.

### Why I Became A Rotarian

As you can see, we have some interesting and inspiring speakers.

George Riddell, one of our newest members, was brought up in Kinross for the first 27 years of his life before moving to Dunfermline. George has always stayed involved in the Kinross community through involvement with Kinross Golf Club and Kinross Curling Club and Kinross Jolly Beggars, keeping abreast of local events through the Newsletter. Here he reflects on his recent membership in Kinross & District Rotary Club:

'My wife and I returned to live in Kinross in 2018 after 35 years living in Dunfermline. I was aware of the great work Rotary did locally, nationally and internationally. I also knew a number of the founding members of Rotary in Kinross and thought that, on returning to Kinross, Rotary would be a great opportunity to serve the local community in some way. In the summer of 2019, I was invited to a Rotary meeting as a guest. I was impressed by the comradeship of the members and of the high standard of speakers the club attracted. I became a Rotary member in autumn 2019. However, by spring of 2020, meetings were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Amazingly, the club quickly adapted to a Zoom meeting format and the work of Rotary continued, raising money with initiatives such as Lockdown 1200, a sponsored virtual road trip of 1200 kilometres, an 'End Polio' tombola stall at the Christmas fayre and then the Covid-19 adapted Santa's Sleigh runs, when it was very gratifying to see the excitement on the children's faces along with the money raised on the back of sleigh runs through our 'Just Giving' page. All in all, my first two years in Rotary have been very enjoyable, notwithstanding the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and raising substantial monies for good causes in Kinross and District.'

*Kinross Pipe Band leading the Armistice Parade, 14 November 2021. Photo courtesy of Martin Cawston]*

*You too are welcome to join us. Contact [secretary.kdrc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.kdrc@gmail.com) if you would like to find out more or join one of our meetings.*

## Kinross Pipe Band

It's been some time since the last update, but we are delighted to report that, despite the difficulties of meeting and practicing through the pandemic, the band continues to go from strength to strength!

Pipe Major Stuart Scott has succeeded in stoking the band numbers considerably (especially on the piping side) to the point where the band will be able to comfortably field 15 plus pipers in competition next season.

The friendly atmosphere and the great camaraderie within the band continues as always, but the attention to detail and focus on the music is greater than ever before, with the band already putting out a very strong sound with excellent piping, drumming and ensemble integration. At such an early stage (with the 2022 competing season in mind) this is incredibly positive, and it's fair to say that everyone is eagerly looking forward to the first contests!

Tuition of learners continues, with some of the current crop of youngsters now progressing through to playing in the band, which is hugely encouraging. We would, once again, like to shout out to all pipers and drummers within Kinross and the surrounding area to welcome you along to come and see what you think. There is no hard sell here; we are happy at any time to have any prospective players visit and delighted, of course, if they choose to stay and swell the ranks!

The band were delighted to be out playing locally once again at the Armistice Parade on Sunday 14 November, after sadly having missed out last year due to Covid-19 restrictions. Sadly the band could not play Santa down the street to switch on the Christmas lights on Friday 26 November due to Storm Arwen.

Watch this space for further updates on the band. We are expecting great things in 2022!

*For all those interested in joining the band, or learning the chanter or drums, please contact Kathleen Mitchell on 07818 532091 or by email at [secretary@kinross-pipe-band.co.uk](mailto:secretary@kinross-pipe-band.co.uk).*





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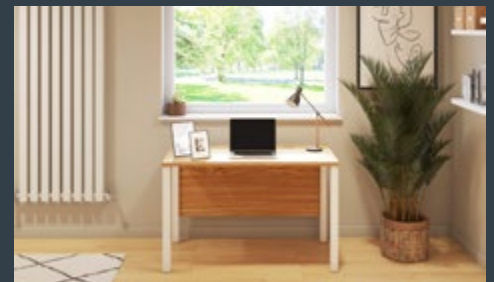
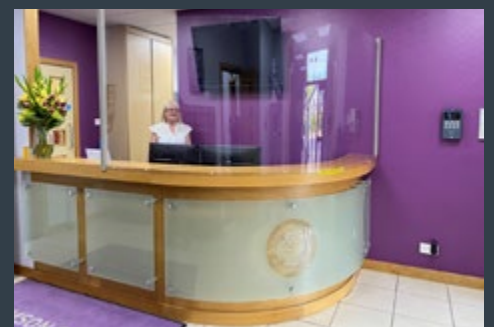
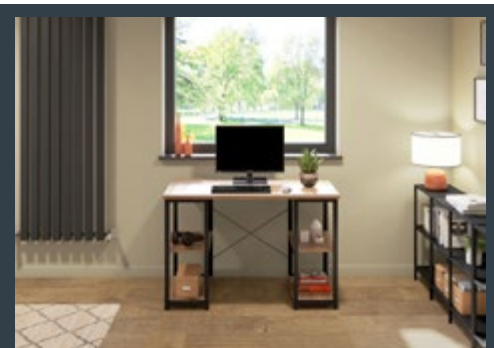
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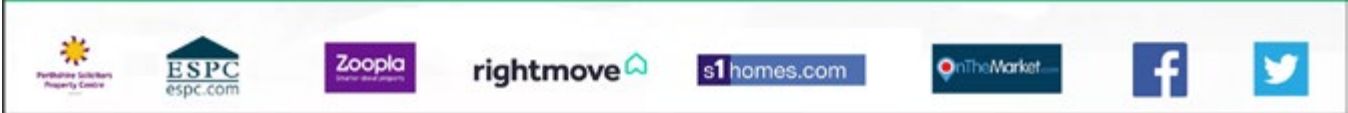


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## Kinross Museum

On Saturday 20 November the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS), presented to local charity Broke Not Broken on 7 September, was put on public display in one of the museum cabinets for all to see. This award, created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, recognises outstanding work by volunteer groups. Do come and see this prestigious award which honours one of Kinross-shire's hardest working charities, founded in 2015.

Another museum display in the making tells the story of local champion angler the late Eric Campbell, drawing on medals, trophies and other memorabilia kindly lent by members of his family.

Museum volunteers are glad to be reconnecting with school pupils after a long absence during the Covid-19 lockdown. Forty High School students took part in a History Department World War I Remembrance project on 25 October and plans are afoot to work with Kinross Primary School P4 pupils in a project connecting maps, place names, landscapes and story-telling.

Our study room door is open to visitors on Thursdays and Saturdays, so do come along to look at our displays or research any historical queries you may have. You will be made most welcome.

## Bridge

Milnathort Bridge Club held a face-to-face AGM at the end of October; the first time we have met, as a group, since March 2020. The enthusiasm for a return to normal play was evident. Consequently, our newly appointed president, Jan Hill, 'set the ball rolling' and, with her committee, confirmed that a trial run of face-to-face bridge in Orwell Bowling Club would be held on Monday 29 November at 6.30pm.

A Christmas event is also scheduled for Monday 13 December when a festive supper will be provided. An invitation to join the play has been extended to Kinross Bridge Club members and to any visitors in the area. Further face-to-face sessions

are anticipated in the New Year, with Kinross Bridge Club switching from Wednesday evenings to Thursday afternoons. Meantime, Jim Marshall has agreed to continue managing the online league which has been so very well received over the past 18 months. Indeed, for many of us, it has been a bonus not having to leave the comfort of our own home to have our weekly game. On the other hand, we have all missed the social interaction with our friends which is not available online.

The final round of the online league resulted in a change round of the top three couples from the previous week. The winning slot went to Jim Marshall and Sandy Greenhill. Just pipped at the post were Jan Hill and David Poole with Willie Young and Jane Smith in third place; a really close finish with only 0.9% dividing the top three places.

The schedule for the club until the New Year is as follows; a new league started on 22 November with rounds 2 and 3 on 6 and 20 December respectively. We will, of course, be monitoring Covid-19 restrictions and will make any adjustments as required.

*If you are a bridge player and would like to know more about either club contact Gloria Wilson on 01577 862553 or Catriona Marshall on 01577 864482.*

## Kinross-shire Reminiscence Group

Come along to share your memories of Kinross and beyond. We chat about vintage objects, old photographs, postcards and other memorabilia. We always enjoy a good-humoured fun afternoon and a cuppa. Our meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month in the garden room, Kinross Centre, 64 High Street. Our first meeting of 2022 is on Wednesday 2 February. We hope to see you there.



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## Kinross and District Probus Club

It has been a while since we last met due to last years' lockdown and the many restrictions that prohibited us from holding an 'actual' meeting.

So, on 3 November, it was a delight to have a presentation from one of our own members, Rev Duncan Stenhouse. Duncan had spent many years as prison chaplain at Friarton Prison in Perth. There is no evidence of the prison nowadays with the buildings having been demolished and new housing built on the site. It had originally been a fever hospital before being purchased and redeveloped to house inmates who had committed minor crimes and then, later in its life, to house long term prisoners who were coming to the end of their sentence and were undergoing rehabilitation.

Duncan related tales of inmates who had been sent up from Barlinnie in Glasgow and Saughton in Edinburgh. In those days, when people didn't travel far from home, Perth might as well have been on the moon and some prisoners took being away from family very hard. In certain circumstances they may have been granted a day pass to go home; the result was that some decided 'hame's best' and didn't return.

To say there were characters amongst the inmates is an understatement! They were all characters, and Duncan had stories galore about the tricks they would get up to. However, he said it was generally all good natured and, in the main, they were just lads who had strayed from the path with no real hardcore inmates.

Church services were always a bit hit and miss and Duncan

recalled the time that another minister seemed to be able to attract much larger numbers to his services; only when it was pointed out that he always brought the communion wine with him did the reason become fairly obvious.

Many would think prison chaplain would be an onerous position, but Duncan looks back fondly at his time there and retains many memories.

A vote of thanks was delivered.

Our next meeting will be held on 15 December 2021.

## Scotlandwell in Bloom

### The Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2021

Our team enjoyed a very successful shoe box filling afternoon on Friday 22 October at the Well Country Inn. We had a huge amount of donations and we were able to fill 58 boxes full of essentials and goodies.

A big thank you to the 'knitters' for the lovely hats, gloves, and jumpers and to everyone who donated such a variety of items to support the appeal. Thanks also to all those who came along to help.

After the boxes were filled, we enjoyed coffee and delicious cake (courtesy of Tanya); it was a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere enjoyed by all. Grateful thanks as always to Tanya and the staff at the Well Country Inn for hosting and helping with the event. A special mention goes to Trish for wrapping all the boxes!

The boxes were safely delivered to the Blythswood lorry on 3 November. Here's hoping our efforts will spread some much-needed Christmas cheer to those less fortunate.

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### Lathro Appeal Decision – Volume House Builders Win Yet Again

The Trust was disappointed, but not surprised, at the Scottish Government Reporter's decision, issued on 18 October, to allow Persimmon's appeal against Perth & Kinross Council's refusal of their application for an increased number of houses on phase 2 at Lathro Farm.

We were not surprised because the Reporter, David Buylla, had issued a 'Notice of Intention' in January stating that he was minded to grant the appeal, subject to the local authority and the developer registering a Section 75 agreement regarding contributions for education, transport infrastructure and affordable housing.

The Trust had submitted two letters to the Scottish Government's Planning and Environment Appeals Division (DPEA) before the deadline for comments for the appeal, plus three later submissions with new evidence, gained through Freedom of Information, regarding the sub-standard drainage in phase 1. We felt this was relevant as the phase 2 drainage was to be connected to the phase 1 drainage. However, the Reporter felt that the phase 1 drainage problems had 'very limited relevance to a consideration of this appeal.'

The decision will result in a further 169 houses at Lathro Farm, where 203 houses were built in phase 1.

The decision raises lots of questions.

When Lathro Farm was named as a development site in a draft version of the first PKC Local Development Plan, the Scottish Government Reporter who examined that Proposed Plan in 2013 said, '...the potential developer's suggestion of 350 (27 units per hectare) appears excessive in this edge of town location' and added, 'the council's alternative of 20 units per hectare, i.e. 260 houses on H47 (140 during the Plan period) is a reasonable solution here.'

So, one Reporter thinks that 350 was an excessive number of dwellings on this site, but another Reporter thinks that 372 is just fine. Where is the logic and consistency within the DPEA?

One of the requirements of a Local Development Plan (LDP) is to estimate housing needs for a ten year period and identify sites that can fulfil this Housing



*It is hoped that trees can be planted to fill the gaps of the current screening of the M90, making a better environment for the Raingardens Trail*

Supply Target. In both Development Plans 1 and 2, PKC reduced the housing land requirement for the Kinross area by 10% and reallocated it to the Perth area for 'environmental reasons.'

This is because, even with processing at Waste Water Treatment Plants, a certain amount of phosphorus generated from households' waste water ends up in Loch Leven, with a detrimental effect on water quality. Loch Leven is a 'Special Protection Area' due to its importance for breeding and over-wintering wildfowl.

What is the point of reducing the housing target in the Kinross area by 10% due to the sensitivity of Loch Leven if planning officers recommend approval of, and Reporters grant appeals for, developments that are greatly in excess of their LDP allocations?

This has happened with numerous housing sites in the area in recent years: Lathro Farm: **43% over the LDP allocation.** (372 dwellings instead of 260. There was also a limit of 140 dwellings up to the year 2024 in the LDP but PKC did not impose this.)

Pace Hill, Milnathort: **54% over the LDP allocation.** (77 dwellings instead of 50.)

Former High School: **30% over the LDP allocation.** (91 dwellings instead of 70.)

Pitdownies, Milnathort: **67% over the LDP allocation.** (67 dwellings instead of 40.) In this case, not only did the

planning committee of councillors refuse the application, but planning officers had recommended refusal. Nevertheless, the Reporter granted Springfield's appeal.

Why should the opinion of one person, the Reporter, get to override the views of the local planning committee?

Of course, only developers who have had an application refused can appeal. There is no right of appeal for 'third parties' such as local communities who are affected by the planning proposals.

The planning system in Scotland is not fit for purpose and is heavily weighted in favour of the volume house-builders.

### Raingardens

Our focus last month has been to work up the projects provisionally agreed with Perth and Kinross Council for the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund. (See feature elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.)

In parallel, we have also been helping identify some sites for tree planting as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative (see Rotary Club), including some gaps in the trees planted to screen traffic noise from the M90 where the proposed Raingardens Trail is especially exposed to the unscreened movement of trucks, buses and cars. That would be a nice win-win action for residents and visitors, as well as extending the habitat link provided by the M90 margins belt of trees.



## Powmill SWI

President Tricia Greer welcomed everyone to the November meeting. We had a workshop on portrait drawing by Theresa Gourlay.

Theresa did a warm up of speed drawing parts of our partners face. We were then shown how to focus on the different areas of light and shadow in our partners face.

We had a fantastic evening with a lot of laughter.

A huge thanks to Theresa for coming along and making us all artists for the evening.

### Competitions

**Fruit Loaf:** 1st Anne McKay, 2nd Fiona Black, 3rd Tricia Green

**Portrait:** 1st Sharon Buchanan, 2nd Joyce, 3rd Tricia Greer

Our next meeting is wreath making on Wednesday 15 December.

*If you would like to find out more information or would like to join us please contact Tricia Greer on 07984 644 810.*

## Glenfarg SWI

Aileen Neilson and Michael McCready from Wheelchair Curling came to talk about their experiences in the sport.

Theirs were stories of great courage, determination and huge amounts of hard work to reach the very top levels of their curling – and basketball in Michael's case – and to battle through all the ups and downs to gain an impressive range of medals.

With the daughter of one of our members, Margaret Swan, being their coach through various World Championships, Glenfarg feels it is very privileged to have such a close connection with these inspiring people and wish them all success in their future competitions.

Margie Davidson gave the vote of thanks.

### Competitions

**Book Mark:** 1. Linda Martin 2: Lillias Johnson 3: Allison Harrison

**Baked Potato:** 1: Alison Harrison 2: Liz Yull 3: Linda Martin

**Flower of the Month:** 1: Suzanne Bruce 2: Sheena Chisholm 3: Alison Harrison

## Cleish SWI

President Agnes Thomson welcomed 29 members to our November meeting.

After business Agnes introduced our guest speaker for the evening Joyce Petrie from Blairingone. Joyce gave a hands on demonstration of Kanzashi Flowers. This was very interesting and members were given materials to make their own flower.

A vote of thanks was given by Helen Buchanan.

### Competitions

**Flower Of The Month:** 1st Anne Bayne, 2nd Marion Laird, 3rd Janette Craig

**Photo Of Fireworks:** 1st Fiona Barnfather, 2nd Marion Laird

## Milnathort SWI

Milnathort SWI Jean Paterson, President, welcomed members to our November meeting. After general Institute business, we agreed a menu for our 16 December meeting, which will be a Christmas party in Milnathort Town Hall.

Jean then introduced Suzanne, her mother Shirley being one of our members, they then gave an informative demonstration, creating a beautiful Christmas Wreath and a table decoration. from greenery found in most of our gardens. Two lucky members received these in our raffle.

Lovely to see lots of competition entries. Results as follows:

**Christmas Card:** 1st Claudia Pleass

**Paperback Hedgehog:** 1st Frances Shepherd

**Flower Of The Month:** 1st Denise Stephenson

Hope to see everyone at our December meeting, 7.15pm Milnathort Town Hall.



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# Sports News

## Kinross Volleyball

Monday evening training sessions in the large games hall of the campus are proving particularly popular with youngsters. A number of teenage boys and girls are joining the growing numbers taking to volleyball as a fun sport. The weekly sessions run from 8.30pm, cost only £3 per person, and no special equipment is required. The Kinross club has gold status PACES with Perth & Kinross Council's accreditation scheme.

Club members continue to meet and play outdoors on the campus grass on Sunday afternoons from 2-4pm (or dusk, whichever is sooner). These free sessions have also proved to be popular and we have been particularly fortunate that most Sunday afternoons have been rain free.

It is hoped that the Perth District league will resume after the Christmas break and the club anticipates entering multiple teams in the premier and recreational leagues. We also plan to arrange friendly matches with other teams in the East Central area.

Two senior boys from the club are currently running an after-school volleyball club at Kinross High School. This is for pupils in S1, 2 and 3 and takes place on Wednesdays. These sessions will continue until Perth & Kinross Education Department permits direct coaching input from external sources.

We also hope that Perth Beach Volleyball club will be operating a winter/spring programme of activities including coaching and playing.

## Kinross Road Runners

<https://kinrossroadrunners.weebly.com>

With some poor weather last month, it was good to see so many runners out and about and spirits not too dampened.

Racing continued over the month, with lots of races to report on. Eight club members took part in the Aviemore half marathon. Other half marathons included the Devils Foot half marathon, the Liverpool Rock n Roll half marathon and Glen Clova. Five club members took part in the East District cross country league in Hawick. There were also a variety of other race distances including the Callander 10K, the Skeabost 5k, the Templeton 10 mile race and the Braid Hills XC 10k. Seven club members took part in the Glen Ogle 33 ultramarathon which is 33 miles up the 'valley of dread', and one brave member took part in the Dava Way 50k.

The photo below shows the Aviemore half marathon, with everyone still smiling after the races.



As our parkrun championship continues, we saw more and more club members running each week. Some locations visited last month included Kelso, Glasgow, Oban, Essex, Yorkshire, Stonehaven, Falkirk, Shetland and Inverness. If there's a park run in town, our club members will run it, wherever they are.

Well done to all the club members for getting out there; from those doing 50k, to those just getting out for a short run.

Training sessions included speed sessions at KGV, speedwork at Fife Cycle Park, 4 minute intervals, pyramid reps and our 2



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mile time trial. Informal sessions also continued each week for chatty runs around the lit streets of Kinross and Milnathort.

Just a reminder as always that the club training sessions fit all abilities and involve a variety of running activities. Interval sessions improve running speed, trail runs build up strength and stamina, and slower chatty runs are good for socialising. The club welcomes all abilities and, whether you are new to running, or experienced, just looking for new routes to try out, or to meet new faces, there is something for everyone. If you fancy getting involved or trying out a run with the club, visit our website and get in touch. Most importantly, however you run, enjoy it.

## Kinross Colts

### Womens' Football

Kinross Colts have been actively developing woman's football since 2019. Recently the club have applied to become fully affiliated members of the Scottish Women's Football (SWF) association. This will allow us to establish a girl's and women's pathway in partnership with Live Active, SWF and the SFA.

Live Active run a girl's only football session at the campus on Fridays at 5pm with around 20 girls from ages 5 to 12 regularly attending. With support from the Colt's female football ambassadors, our hope is that we can get these girls along to some fun festivals when the season resumes next March. We hope that, once the girls have caught the football bug, we can encourage enough player and volunteer support to establish age-specific teams within the club and get the girls playing regularly in fun festivals and competitive football.

Our longer-term aim is to have a pathway similar to that which currently exists for the men's game. Girls will progress through the age groups and will feed into a competitive women's team playing in the national SWF leagues or into our recreational women's team. Ambitious plans indeed but exciting times are ahead for girl's and women's football in Kinross-Shire. If anyone is interested in getting involved in developing the female football pathway (either playing, coaching or volunteering) please feel free to get in touch with us by email at [trustees@kinrosscoltsfcj.co.uk](mailto:trustees@kinrosscoltsfcj.co.uk).

In addition to the pathways development, we already have an active adult team up and running. One of our existing team members has shared the history of how the team has developed over the last few years:

'June 2019; a message appeared on the local Kinross-shire community group Facebook page asking if there was any interest for women's football in the area. It was a hot summer evening at the community campus with a decent turn out on the first meeting, and that was the start of it. After a few months we had established a good number of regular attendees and joined forces with the Kinross Colts.

We continued to meet every Monday evening from 7-8pm



through the winter months and travelled up to Crieff community campus for our first friendly match. We welcomed them back to our campus for another friendly with the Colts winning both matches.

Then Covid was among us and, like everywhere else, all training, matches and meet ups were on hold for months. Regrouping after restrictions were lifted, Kinross Colts women happily welcomed back both old and new members with more women in the community wanting to take part. As the club continues to grow, we are in the process of gaining feedback from all our members about what they want from the club and ideas for the future. There are not many other social and recreational women's teams in the area so organising matches is one of the challenges. However, we are in regular meetings with the Scottish FA and exciting times are ahead. Currently we have 18 members, ranging in age from 17 to 40-somethings. New friendships have been established, along with improvements in skills, but most importantly, an inclusive club for women of all ages and abilities to play football is thriving. Player manager Alison Scott says, 'We have such a great bunch of ladies all here for different reasons. It's fantastic to see them leave training with huge smiles on their faces each week. We do have some great fun and the football's not bad either!'

*Anyone who wants to come along to try it out can contact Alison on 07947 274278.*

## Kinross Otters

After months of amalgamated groups due to Covid, everyone has been getting back into the 'swim' of things after returning to four squads following the October holidays. With new, longer session times it has allowed for more swimming and more socialising!

The club fellowship was certainly firmly on show when the swimmers took part in two competitions in November. The first, the Midland District short course meet at Michael Woods Sports Centre in Glenrothes, was for the older

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## Sports News

members, racing across 100m, 200m and 400m distances. Personal bests were smashed left, right and centre! More importantly, we were reminded that, although swimming is tough, working together and supporting each other can help us achieve our goals.

The second event was a 'mini meet' in our home pool for the club's bronze and silver squads, to give them a chance to experience a competition environment, some for the first time. Swimming 50m and 100m distances across all four strokes and 'individual medley', there were a few nerves on show but also lots and lots of effort and enjoyment.

Well done everyone who took part – and a huge thanks to the parents and volunteers who helped out at both competitions with starting duties, judging, time-keeping, marshalling, coaching and organising behind the scenes to ensure the events went swimmingly.

## Kinross Badminton Club

The club resumed playing in August, after an 18-month gap due to Covid-19. It has been good to see so many previous members return to playing regularly. We have also had a good number of new players come along to try out the club (first night is free) and several have joined us regularly. We currently have three courts each week, with doubles badminton played throughout the evening, mixing up the players for varied games.

Kinross Badminton Club plays weekly on Tuesdays at Loch Leven Community Campus in the main sports hall. Please note that the current playing times are 7.45-9.30pm. This is 15 minutes earlier than it used to be due to restrictions at the campus. We will revert to the 8pm start if the campus goes back to previous arrangements.



We look forward to welcoming more players. We don't have a junior section, so we don't accept the youngest players, but we do have some younger players from the senior end of the high school.

Kinross Badminton Club will play weekly until our last badminton night before Christmas on Tuesday 14 December. We will then resume playing on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

### 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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## Weekly Programme For December 2021

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Exercise Class</b>	<b>11.30am</b>
	<b>Games – with safety measures</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
	<b>Indoor curling, quizzes, Scrabble</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>
	<b>‘Stride for Life’ Walking Group</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Carers Cafe (14 Dec ONLY)</b>	<b>10-12pm</b>
	<b>Exercise Group</b>	<b>11.30am</b>
	<b>Games (with safety measures)</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
	<b>Indoor curling, quizzes</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Church Service (NOT 8 Dec)</b>	<b>11.15am</b>
	<b>Christmas Lunch &amp; Concert (15 Dec ONLY)</b>	<b>12.00pm</b>
	<b>Games – with safety measures</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
	<b>Indoor curling, quizzes</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Interactive Games</b>	<b>11.30am</b>
	<b>Christmas Lunch &amp; Concert (16 Dec ONLY)</b>	<b>12.00pm</b>
	<b>Games – with safety measures</b>	<b>1.15pm</b>
	<b>Indoor curling, quizzes</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
	<b>Art Group</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Exercise Class</b>	<b>11.30am</b>
	<b>Fun Music Afternoon Concert (3 Dec ONLY)</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
	<b>Bingo – with safety measures (NOT 3 Dec)</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
	<b>Games – with safety measures</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
	<b>Indoor curling, quizzes (NOT 3 Dec)</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>



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May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
We would also like to thank all our service users, Committee, volunteers and the whole community of Kinross and surrounding areas, for your continued support of Kinross Centre.

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## Local Volunteer Opportunities

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### Greyhound Rescue Fife

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](http://www.greyhoundrescuefife.com)

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

### KLEO

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

### Guide Dogs Kinross

Support group. We are always looking for new volunteers. Contact Sheila at [She61@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:She61@hotmail.co.uk).

### RSPB Scotland Loch Leven

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

### Kinross (Marshall) Museum

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

### Swansacre Playgroup

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

### Kinross Heart Start

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

### Light Up Kinross

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

### Common Grounds

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

### Seamab

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

### SSAFA

The Armed Forces charity is always on the look out for new volunteers in a variety of roles: client case working (free training is provided), admin office roles, fundraising when back on stream, or PR/media work. Contact the Branch Secretary 07594 650900.

### 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.

### Milnathort Town Hall Committee

Can you spare a couple of hours a month? We are looking for volunteers to join us. For more information please contact us at [milnathorttownhall1@gmail.com](mailto:milnathorttownhall1@gmail.com).

### Volunteering with Aberlour!

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

### SPARKS

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.

### Scotland's 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.

### Duke of Edinburgh

The Kinross-shire Duke of Edinburgh Open Group was established over 13 years ago as wholly parent run group. Everyone is a volunteer and we are licensed to run the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme for young people in the area via Perth and Kinross Council.

We have a wide range of adult volunteering opportunities available, be that help with admin and fundraising to those who want to lead expeditions out in the hills. There is something for every parent or adult here.

We also welcome back those participants who have completed their awards, are over 18 and wish to give back to the Group. We can arrange all necessary training and also support adult volunteers financially to complete any relevant qualifications that they may require.

Contact us at [dofekinrossshire@gmail.com](mailto:dofekinrossshire@gmail.com) or visit [www.dofe.org/run/volunteer](http://www.dofe.org/run/volunteer) for more information.

### The Potager Garden

The Potager Garden is a small community garden in Bowton Road, Kinross, KY13 8EQ. It is a registered charity run by volunteers, a main aim being to give education to schoolchildren about plants, gardening and the environment. If you would like more information about our volunteering opportunities, please

contact the Convenor, Amanda James, on 01577 840809, or [amandajames1577@gmail.com](mailto:amandajames1577@gmail.com)

### Interested in Guiding?

Girl Guide Troops In Milnathort, Kinross & Portmoak Need Helpers. Volunteer with Girl Guiding and help make a difference to the lives of girls. Be an inspiration for girls and young women and help them realise their full potential and share some unforgettable moments along the way. Register on line at [go.girlguiding.org.uk](http://go.girlguiding.org.uk) and I will get back to you. Kinross need a Guide Helper, Brownie leader and helper. Portmoak need a brownie helper and Milnathort are looking for a Rangers leader. If you would like to volunteer and would like a little more information, please just give me a buzz. Call Alison on 07764 750212

### Friends of CHAS Kinross

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

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

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

### 1st Kinross Cubs

**1st Kinross Cubs** is a part of the 1st Kinross Scout Group and offers the young children of Kinross-shire the opportunity to gain new skills and experiences under the guidance of the Scout Association. Every year the Scout Association help over 450,000 young people in the UK enjoy new adventures; to experience the outdoors, interact with others, gain confidence and have the opportunity to reach their full potential. It's not just young people who can get in on the action. Working alongside our youth members are thousands of adult volunteers, with a huge variety of roles and opportunities available. Why not strengthen your CV while making a real impact on the lives of young people? How much time you give is up to you, and you don't need any previous experience. We currently have several volunteering roles available with the cub section, and whatever you choose, we'll make sure you're properly trained and supported. If you are interested and would like more information about our volunteering opportunities, then please contact Daryl on 01577830346 or email [kinrossbeavers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kinrossbeavers@hotmail.co.uk)

### Kinross in Bloom

Volunteer group which provides and maintains floral displays to enhance the environment in Kinross. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [susan.mitchell50@gmail.com](mailto:susan.mitchell50@gmail.com)

### Fossoway and District Community Council

Ideal for a Modern Studies/ Social Studies student?

Fossoway is located within Perth & Kinross and includes the settlements of Blairingone, Powmill, Crook of Devon & Drum, Rumbling Bridge and Carnbo. The Fossoway and District Community Council is a group of volunteers, elected by the Community who work together for the benefit of the Community. We meet with members of the public on the first Tuesday of every month from 7.30pm to 9pm and discuss issues that affect the community which can range from planning applications to local crime to concerns about community facilities. Our meetings rotate around public buildings in our villages.

We have a volunteering opportunity for a young person ideally in the higher years to join us as an associate community council member for the period of 1 year.

- The individual would be asked to attend our monthly evening meetings to act as minute taker. They would have an opportunity to see how a community council operates and meet a diverse group of people.

- We are also seeking the individuals help in considering new opportunities for us to enhance our engagement with the community especially through the use of social media. This could be in the form of a project led by the individual with outcomes reported to the Community Council. The project could be used as part of their exam submission for subjects such as Business Management or contribute to volunteering for a Duke of Edinburgh award.

- The Fossoway District is also in the process of establishing a community development trust. Presently we are looking for community engagement opportunities to seek members of the trust and again the individual could support these events and help raise our profile with the younger generation.

- Ideally the candidate would be confident using Microsoft Office and social media tools.

- Training and mentorship will be provided

If you are interested please send us an email – [fossoway.cc@gmail.com](mailto:fossoway.cc@gmail.com) stating why this would be of interest to you.

You can find out more by looking at <http://www.fossoway.org/dcc:about>

**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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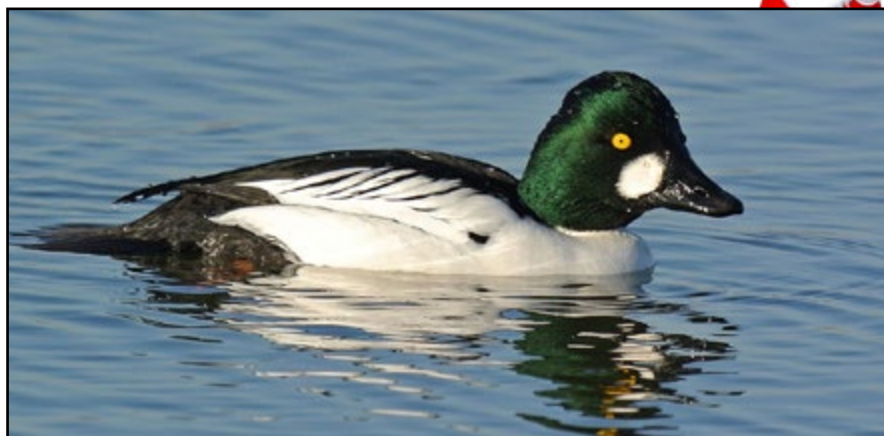
# Goldeneye Bond On Loch Leven



'TIS THE SEASON AT Loch Leven National Nature Reserve! We can now wave goodbye to autumn and welcome in the winter months....or try to, even if that means keeping warm indoors and breaking out the woolly jumpers. Thinking about seasonal wildlife; have you ever wondered why robins are depicted all over Christmas cards and other festive merchandise? Well, legend says that this all started in the Victorian era. Christmas cards first started becoming popular around this time, and the royal mail postmen who were busy delivering all of these Christmas cards all wore bright red uniforms; thus giving them the nickname 'robin' or 'redbreast'. Over time, people started to decorate their Christmas cards with robins and fast forward one-hundred years robins are a very common site on baubles, wrapping paper, jumpers etc.

We also see a large increase of robins during the winter months as they escape the cold winter climes of Scandinavia, the robin visiting your garden could have hailed from the forests of Norway/Sweden! Robins may look cute and symbolise the jolly time of Christmas, but they are very territorial and will happily chase off any intruding robin on their 'patch' – even fighting to the death!

On a more jolly note... the Reserve has now got its winter hat on. The trees are bare, we have large flocks of winter thrushes (redwing, fieldfare, mistle thrush, blackbird etc.) and the ducks are looking pristine! They have moulted into their breeding plumage and are looking fantastic. Drake (male) goldeneye are absolutely stunning ducks and this is the time that they look their best. Look



out for a duck with a white body, green head with big white cheek patches. We have recently spent a bit of time building some goldeneye boxes to put up around the loch. Goldeneye are rare breeders in Scotland with a handful of pairs in Deeside and Speyside. We get around 30,000 birds wintering, but less than 200 breeding! Normally you associate ducks nesting on the ground, but goldeneye nest in trees. We hope that we can attract a pair of goldeneye into our boxes and have these glorious ducks breeding on the loch for the first time.

The starling roost at the pier is still active at dusk, which is around 3.30pm. The murmuration is quite small, with only around 500 birds currently. It was up to 1000 earlier in the autumn, and the numbers might build if we get a cold spell! It's fascinating to watch, all of the shapes and swirls that they create. If you are lucky, you might spot a sparrowhawk trying

to catch a starling! Safety in numbers however, and this is the reason why they have these murmurations – to confuse predators and make it much harder to catch a bird.

Recent wildlife highlights include; 21 slavonian grebe, 280 great crested grebe, 25 pintail, lots of redwing and fieldfare and kidney spot ladybird (first for Loch Leven!).

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.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Simon Ritchie  
Loch Leven National  
Nature Reserve Officer*

### Discover Loch Leven Website

To discover the many things to see and do in Kinross-shire and its neighbouring counties, visit

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

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# We're Open For Visitors!

**WE ARE VERY EXCITED** to announce that the Visitor Centre is now fully open at RSPB Scotland Loch Leven and it's wonderful to welcome back our visitors into the warm and dry. As part of the changes, we are now able to welcome well behaved dogs into the café!

Our new toilet facilities have been quite a talking point with some of the most inclusive facilities in Scotland. The new Changing Places room has already attracted a lot of interest, as this will allow those with multiple access needs to visit us with their families and carers.

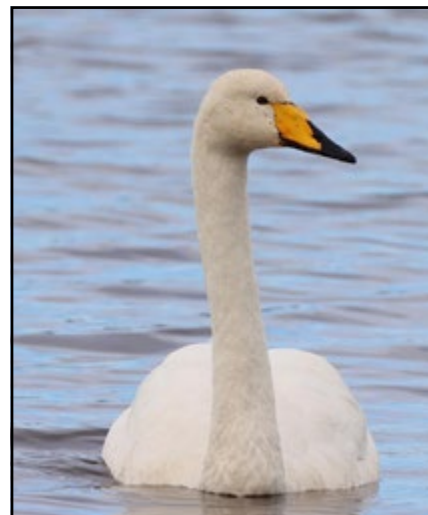
With all the visitor facilities back up and running, we are now changing from an entry fee to a car parking fee. This offers great value for money and allows us to maintain our reserve as a wonderful haven for both wildlife and visitors. In recent years, the reserve has undergone some incredible improvements, bringing more people closer to the amazing wildlife here. We want to be able to further develop the reserve to provide our visitors with an excellent, inspiring and accessible day out. As a charity, the additional income we generate from the parking charge will allow us to maintain and build upon our new facilities, whilst continuing to carry out the vital conservation work here.

Parking for the day is £3 for non-RSPB members, or free for RSPB members and blue badge holders. Payment can be by cash or contactless card

at the machines in the car park. We don't expect visitors to our shop to pay for parking when popping in to make some purchases, so we have designated spaces set aside for shop customers, allowing up to 30 minutes free parking. These can also be used for visitors popping into the café for takeaway food and drinks.

Our volunteers, as ever, have been doing an amazing job this month. They have been working hard to help us with re-opening by putting up signage, clearing paths, fixing fencing, painting and giving the place a general tidy up as we start to welcome people back to the centre again. We've also been working on the wildflower banks around the underpass which gets strimmed and raked every year to ensure good conditions for next year's beautiful flowers. There is also our fabulous team of visitor volunteers who are ready to welcome you and answer any questions you may have.

In terms of our wonderful wildlife, wintering bird numbers are continuing to build with around 400 teal and almost 150 wigeon seen from the third hide on the reserve. There have been amazing numbers of grebes on the loch too with almost 300 great crested grebes and 21 Slavonian grebes. Slavonian grebes are one of the UK's rarest breeding birds with around 30 pairs. In the winter, numbers build to around 1000



Mute swan (photo:Darran Dixon)

birds, so it's exciting to have so many here at Loch Leven.

Finally, why not join us until 10 January for our new Robin Robin themed Christmas trail? This amazing new trail will encapsulate the adventures of Robin who features in the brand new Aardman film Robin Robin, which is available to watch on Netflix!

Please note that the centre will be closed between both 25-26 December and 1-2 January, so the trail will sadly be unavailable on these dates.

On behalf of all of us here at RSPB Scotland Loch Leven, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Pintail duck (photo:Darran Dixon)



**EMERGENCY CONTACTS are in our Notices section**

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## Farming

# Keeping Company Once Again

'GETTING THE ROSES BACK in your cheeks' may be what your gran told you when recovering from a childhood cold, but it seems like that's exactly what is happening to the people around me right now and also to the organisations I belong to. Despite some nervousness, I am enjoying the opportunity to return to social events and meet safely face to face.

Cleish SWI has bounced back with a super syllabus and it was John, my fellow farming columnist's, son Ian and his partner Kerry who kick started the year with a talk on *Rootin' and Roamin'*, their free-range pork business. Kerry began with photos of the first pigs purchased by Ian back in 2017, then talking us through their first sales, trading at farmers markets, the arrival of piglets and the power of social media in developing the brand. Ian arrived half way through, having just helped calve a cow, he has some hilarious tales of escapee piglets and the exploits of Donald their infamous Tamworth boar. It was clear to see the parity between them and their joint passion for developing the business and also great to hear that by moving swiftly to online sales and local delivery, their business continued to grow throughout the pandemic. Whilst Kerry packed up the projector, Ian emerged out of the kitchen with a plate of handmade sausage rolls for us to sample – of course they were mouth-wateringly delicious and we were so glad the meeting wasn't on Zoom!

Also returning to normality was the Kinross Show dinner, held annually to celebrate the efforts of everyone involved in organising the show. Hosted in Kinross Golf Club, the room was buzzing, folks were very happy to be together again and there was a lot of talk of brushing dust off the going-out shoes that had been hidden in cupboards for two years or more. The evening follows the same format each year with the highlight always being the after dinner speaker. This year's President, Harold Greer, had worked his Irish charm and invited Kay Adam, Newhouse of Glamis to take on the role. I believe Kay to be the first female to deliver an after-dinner speech for



From left to right: Ewan Paterson, Vice President, Julie Savin, partner of Harold Greer, Harold Greer, President of Kinross-shire Agricultural Society, Kay Adam, speaker for the evening, Dora Smith, Junior Vice President

Kinross-shire Agricultural Society, so it was a far from ordinary evening and we were privileged that she agreed to 'step out of her comfort zone' and share her stories with us. From an early age, Kay was involved in bringing both sheep and cattle from the family farms at Westhall and Craighall, For-gandenny. The Fotheringham family are renowned livestock breeders but Kay said they always made sure to make the annual trip to Kinross when she was growing up. Cattle filled the front of the float, with sheep to the rear, and the front two seats were occupied by their stockman and her Dad, so the children travelled in the Luton space above the cab - squeezing in together up high gave them a bird's eye view of the journey, with the avenue of Kinross House lined with vintage tractors and trade stands being a well-remembered moment from her childhood. One of Kay's first jobs after un-loading was to set about getting the Blackface sheep ready for judging and with such long coats much back brushing and colouring with clay was required. All the hard work paid off, however, when the family scooped the Auchtenny Trophy for the 'Best Blackface Animal Bred by an Exhibitor'. The ringside hospitality of the locals was also fondly remembered with Kay saying her Dad could rely on a good dram from many but the late Donald McLaren of Classlochie would serve the biggest. By this point, the audience was laughing out loud, enjoying the great timing in the delivery of her tales. Glancing around the room there were many smiling faces and rosy cheeks, a seal of approval for the speech and the efforts to get the show and the dinner back on the road.

Fiona

## Weather



### Recent Weather Reports From Kinross

#### September 2021

Total Rainfall **159.2mm/6.36in**  
Heaviest Fall **25.7ml/1.03in (16 Oct)**

Total Sunshine **85 hrs**  
Sunniest Day **9.2 hrs (15 Oct)**

Max Temp Average **13.11c**  
Highest Temp **18.0c (7 Oct)**

Min Temp Average **4.3c**  
Lowest Temp **-2.2c (14 Oct)**





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# Kinross-shire Churches Together



## Kinross Parish Church

**Church of Scotland** (Charity no SC012555)

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Facebook: Kinross Parish Church of Scotland

YouTube: Kinross Parish Worship

Instagram: [kpscotland](https://www.instagram.com/kpscotland)

E-mail: [office@kinrossparishchurch.org](mailto:office@kinrossparishchurch.org)

Office Tel: (01577) 862570

The Church Office is operating remotely. Leave a phone message or email.

Minister: Rev Alan D. Reid MA, BD

Tel: (01577) 862952

Ordained Local Minister: Rev Margaret Michie

Session Clerk: Jaffrey Weir

KEEPING IN TOUCH: contact the Church Office to be included in our weekly email of events.

**Regular Services and Events: (All now in the church unless otherwise indicated.)**

**Prayer:** Listen to a reflection and prayer: 01577 528270

### Sundays

Check the weekly email, website or contact the church office for up to date information as we experiment with different formats.

**10.30am: Morning Service in the church.** Preceded by coffees (normally outside) from 10, then music and a gathering song about 10.25. **Track and Trace details not needed unless having coffees.** Seats are still spaced so you can choose a single seat, a pair or a group. Seats also available in the balcony. **Masks have still to be worn.**

Sunday morning services are also available as a live stream on the church website, YouTube and Facebook, and on Zoom\*. 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.

**6pm: Sunday Evening Prayer**, on Zoom\*

**7pm: Crossfire** for P7 – Secondary. Christmas break after 12 Dec

### Mondays

**8pm: House Group** – Bible study and fellowship

### Tuesdays

**1.45pm: House Group**

### Wednesdays

**12 noon: Mid-week prayers.**

**1.30pm: Craft Group.**

**7.45pm: Men's House Group.**

**8.00pm: Women's House Group.**

### Thursdays

**11-12pm Table Talk** – Chat and coffee on Zoom\*

### Fridays

**Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association in the church centre.**

Anchors 6pm; Juniors 7pm;

Company and Seniors 7pm



## Other Services and Events:

### December

**Sat 4 Community Litter Pick**, organised by Eco-Congregation group. 9.30am – 10.30am pick up equipment from church lane. Return filled bags there by 3pm

**Sun 5 10.30am: Quarterly Communion Service.** Special collection for Christians Against Poverty, a UK charity advising those in debt

**Mon 6 8am: Silent Meditation.**

**Sun 12 7pm: Crossfire Christmas Party.**

**Thu 16 9pm: Evening service of Compline** in the church and on Facebook

**Sat 18 All Friends Together**

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Sun 19 10.30am: Nativity Service**

**Mon 20 6.30pm: Service of Quiet Remembrance and Thanksgiving**, for those bereaved in the past year or for anyone who would like to remember a loved one at Christmas.

### Christmas Eve

**Fri 24 4.30pm: Crib Service**

**11.15pm: Watchnight Service**

### Christmas Day

**Sat 25 10.30am: Short service for Christmas Day**

### Christmas Sunday

**Sun 26 10.30 am: Service of Lessons and Carols**

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

## Fossoway, St Serf's & Devonside Church

**Church of Scotland**

(Charity number SC013157)

Church Road, Crook of Devon,

Kinross-shire, KY13 0UY

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

**Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse** Telephone: (01577) 842128

Email: [estenhouse@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:estenhouse@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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

Email: [aclassicsoul@aol.com](mailto:aclassicsoul@aol.com)



### December 2021

**Sunday, 5 Dec: 2nd Sunday in Advent**

**9.45am: Morning Worship.**

Tea/coffee after the service and the Traidcraft Stall will be present.

**12.30pm: Zoom worship service**

**Thursday, 9 Dec: 2-4pm Refresh.**

**Friday, 10 Dec: 7.30pm Film Night**

'Downton Abbey' with Festive Refreshments.

**Sunday, 12 Dec: 3rd Sunday in Advent**

**9.45am: Morning Worship.**

Tea/coffee after the service.

**Thursday, 16 Dec**

**2-4pm A Christmas Refresh.** Join us for a time of Fun and Refreshment with Isabel and her Dream Team

**Sunday, 19 Dec: 4th Sunday in Advent**

**9.45am:** Morning Worship.  
Tea and coffee after the service.

**Thursday, 24 Dec**

**5pm: Family Service.** Children – bring your parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and any one else you would like to bring to this fun service of celebration.

**11.15pm: Christmas Eve service.**

**Sunday, 26 Dec**

**9.45am:** Morning Worship.

**January 2022**

**Sunday, 2 Jan 2**

**9.45am:** Morning Worship, followed by tea and coffee.

**Sunday, Jan 9th**

**9.45am:** Morning Worship.

**Sunday, Jan 16th**

**9.45am:** Morning Worship.

**Sunday, Jan 23rd**

**9.45am:** Morning Worship.

**Sunday, Jan 30th**

**9.45am:** Morning Worship.

**Fossway Babies and Toddlers**

Fridays 9.30 – 11.30am, in Fossway Church Hall (except Dec 24th or 31st).

**Please note that covid controls are in place at all services and events**

**Cleish Parish Church**

**Church of Scotland**

(Charity No: SC003168)

**Minister: Rev Lis Stenhouse BD (Hons)**

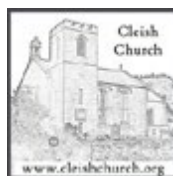
Tel: 01577 842128

Email: [estenhous@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:estenhous@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Session Clerk: Neil Maclure**

Email: [neil.maclure19@gmail.com](mailto:neil.maclure19@gmail.com) Tel: 01577 864826

Please visit our website: [www.cleishandfosswaychurches.org.uk](http://www.cleishandfosswaychurches.org.uk)



**December 2021**

We are very pleased to announce that our church building is open and we look forward to welcoming you to worship with us once again in Cleish Church.

Updates and changes to the dates below can be found on our church website <https://cleishandfosswaychurches.org.uk>

**Sunday, 5 Dec**

**11.15am:** Advent Morning Worship.

Refreshments after the service. Traidcraft stall.

**12.30pm:** Joint Cleish and Fossway Churches Morning Worship by Zoom

**Sunday, 12 Dec**

**11.15am:** Advent Morning Worship.

**Sunday, 19 Dec**

**11.15am:** Advent Morning Worship.

**Saturday 25 Dec**

**11.15am: Christmas Day 'Toy Service' for all the family.**

**Sunday, 26 Dec**

**11.15am: Service of Lessons and Carols**

**January 2022**

**Sunday, 2 Jan 2**

**11.15am:** Morning Worship,

**12.30pm:** Joint Cleish and Fossway Churches Morning Worship by Zoom

**Sunday, Jan 9th**

**11.15am:** Morning Worship.

**Sunday, Jan 16th**

**11.15am:** Morning Worship.

**Sunday, Jan 23rd**

**11.15am:** Morning Worship.

**Sunday, Jan 30th**

**11.15am:** Morning Worship.

If you would like to join with us for any of the above Zoom services, please phone Rev Lis Stenhouse (01577 84212) who will be happy to send you the link.

**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](mailto:frdavidkinross@gmail.com)

You can also find us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurchkinross](http://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.)

**\*\*The church building is open for services in person. Our Sunday morning services begin at 10am, unless otherwise advertised. (Our church bell rings from 9.45am.) We will provide regular updates on our website; please do refer to it regularly. Although government guidelines removed the need for social distancing, we maintain a 1m distancing policy in the church building and face coverings are worn. We also operate a track & trace system for those who would like to attend in person. We look forward to seeing you!\*\***

Our services are also broadcast from the church building as livestreams via 'Zoom' and Facebook Live. Thereafter, recordings of these services can be viewed on our Facebook page.

Please be assured of our prayers and intercessions, especially if Covid-19 has directly affected you and your family. As always, you are most welcome to contact the Rector by phone or email if there is anything that our community can offer, a listening ear or any practical help under restrictions as they stand.

*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 December**

**Sunday 5 Dec: (Advent 2)**

**10am** Sung Eucharist followed by the Annual Church Meeting

**Wednesday 8 Dec**

**10am** Midweek Meditative Holy Communion

**Sunday 12 Dec: (Advent 3)**

**10am** Sung Eucharist

**Wednesday 15 Dec:**

**10am** Midweek Meditative Holy Communion

**Sunday 19 Dec: (Advent 4)**

**10am** Sung Eucharist

**Wednesday 22 Dec:**

**10am** Midweek Meditative Holy Communion.

**3pm** Family Christingle Service

**Thursday 23 Dec:**

**5pm** Christmas Carol Service

**Friday 24 Dec: CHRISTMAS EVE**

**11.30pm** Midnight Mass



## Church Information

### Saturday 25 Dec: CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Family Christmas morning Eucharist

**NB: There will be no service on Sunday 26th Dec or midweek Communion on Wednesday 29th Dec.**

*The Scottish Episcopal Church has committed itself to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. There is much to consider in the next 8½ years regarding climate change, and how our choices affect the lives of millions of our neighbours across the world.*

*If you are interested in joining us either in person or online via 'Zoom', please contact Fr David.*

### Events and services in January

#### Sunday 2 Jan: (Christmas 2)

10am Sung Eucharist

#### Wednesday 5 Jan

10am Midweek Meditative Holy Communion

#### Sunday 9 Jan: (EPIPHANY SUNDAY)

10am Sung Eucharist

#### Wednesday 12 Jan

10am Midweek Meditative Holy Communion

#### Sunday 16 Jan: (Epiphany 2)

10am Sung Eucharist

#### Wednesday 19 Jan

10am Midweek Meditative Holy Communion

#### Sunday 23 Jan: (Epiphany 3)

10am Sung Eucharist with 'In Conversation'

#### Wednesday 26 Jan

10am Midweek Meditative Holy Communion

#### Saturday 30th: (CANDLEMAS SUNDAY)

10am Sung Eucharist

## Orwell and Portmoak Parish Church

**Church of Scotland** (Charity number SC015523)

Interim Moderator – Rev Alan Reid

Telephone 01577 862952

Email: [areid@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:areid@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Website: [orwellportmoakchurch.org.uk](http://orwellportmoakchurch.org.uk)

Office email: [orwellandportmoakchurch@gmail.com](mailto:orwellandportmoakchurch@gmail.com)

**Sunday services continue in Portmoak Church at 10am** each Sunday with all current Covid-19 safety procedures in place, including the wearing of masks.

Uncertainty still continues as to when the final parts of the renovations at Orwell Church will be completed, and church services able to resume but it is just possible that we will be able to have the joint service on Dec 5th in Orwell Church.

If that is the case, services thereafter will be held in both churches as before, in Portmoak at 10am and Orwell at 11:30am, apart from joint services.

**Services will have all current Covid safety procedures in place, including the wearing of masks.**

### Brass Band Concert

The Tullis Russell Community Band (featuring youth bands) will play in Portmoak Church on Sunday Dec 5th at 7:30pm. Tickets are £6 each and are available in the Church Office or at the door.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Christmas Eve service** in Portmoak Church at 6:30pm

**Watchnight service** in Orwell Church at 11:30pm

### NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

**Joint Service** in Portmoak Church on Boxing Day

**The service of dedication for Orwell Church will be led by Angus Morrison on Sunday 6th Feb.**

Please check the church website or Facebook page for further information on all services in case things change.

**The Church Office and shop** is open again between 10am and 12pm on Monday to Friday.

## St James' Catholic Church

5 High Street, Kinross, KY13 8AW

Parish Priest: Father Martin Pletts. Tel: 01577 863329

[www.catholickinross.com](http://www.catholickinross.com)

Email: [Fr.MartinPletts@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.MartinPletts@gmail.com)

[facebook.com/parishpriestkinross/](https://facebook.com/parishpriestkinross/)

[facebook.com/stjamesprayergroup/](https://facebook.com/stjamesprayergroup/)

## 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.**

*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

**At Last!** We're delighted to announce that we are able to recommence Gospel meetings. These will take place **every Sunday at 4pm** for approximately 40 minutes.

We look forward to welcoming old friends and new and especially welcome everyone who is able to join us. **We will, of course, follow all the current Covid-19 guidelines.**

Sadly, we do not think it appropriate at this point to restart Friends and Neighbours, but we continue to monitor the situation.

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

**contact 0781 805 0785**

## Loch Leven Church

(Charity No: SC049050)

**Loch Leven Church is temporarily meeting in The Boathouse, Kinross and we'll be hosting the following advent services this month:**

Our sermon series in November is called 'Abba: Abiding in the Father Heart of God' and we'll be hosting the following services this month:

<b>5 Dec:</b>	<b>10.30am:</b>	Second Sunday: The Bethlehem Candle, symbolising faith
	<b>7pm:</b>	KYTHE Youth Takeover
<b>12 Dec:</b>	<b>4pm:</b>	Third Sunday: The Shepherds' Candle, symbolising joy
<b>19 Dec:</b>	<b>10.30am:</b>	Fourth Sunday: The Angel's Candle, symbolising peace
<b>26 Dec:</b>	<b>NO SERVICE</b>	
<b>2 Jan:</b>		Family walk around a section of Loch Leven. Meet at the Boathouse at <b>10.30am</b>
<b>9 Jan:</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Services recommence in The Boathouse

Everyone, of all ages, is very welcome and there are separate activities for children during the service. **To find out more about us, please visit our Facebook page *We Love Loch Leven*, our website [www.lochlevenchurch.com](http://www.lochlevenchurch.com), or email us at [info@lochlevenchurch.com](mailto:info@lochlevenchurch.com)**



## Obituary

# ‘Go And Do Something For Someone Else!’

Here is a touching tribute from her family to **Agnes Smith**, who always put other people before herself for all of her 103 years.

Agnes Smith was born at 138 High Street, Kinross on April 14 1918.

The daughter of George Moffat and Isabella (nee Stuart) she was baptised in St Paul’s Episcopal Church, Kinross – where she remained a member for more than 100 years. It was the same church her grandfather had founded.

She was the only child of her father – whose profession was recorded as chauffeur, and her former shoemaker mum. But thanks to her mother being the youngest of 13 she had plenty of cousins. Agnes attended Kinross Primary School and then the junior secondary.

After school she became a nanny before working in a baker’s shop. In 1942 Agnes married Tom Smith in the manse of the United Free Church and they moved to Milnathort, where he ran his W and T Smith plumbing business.

Agnes was known for her hospitality and ability to make anyone feel welcome. The couple’s three children Sandy, Leise and Isobel recall their mother having an open door policy. And when Tom died in 1974, Agnes had nursed him through illness then began a new chapter in her life as a landlady, helping the village bank manager by providing accommodation for single men employed but moving into the area.

‘She earned the name Mum Smith with mine and my sisters’ friends and then when we had children and they grew up she



## Acknowledgements

### ‘Granny Smith’

Sandy Smith would like to thank Rev David McKenzie Mills of St Pauls for the service, Stewarts Funeral Directors for their professional help, the dedicated staff at Ashley House for their care of mother for 4½ years and all the family and friends who attended her funeral at Perth crematorium and all the support we have received.

became known around the area as ‘Granny Smith,’ said Sandy. Agnes’ concern for others was further shown in the work she did with the RSPCC – then called the League of Pity. Both she and a friend were on the leadership committee, staging concerts and winter balls in Kinross’ Bridgend Hotel. Being a member of the league came with a pledge. Members had to undertake to do all they could “to help suffering children and make them happy”.

But the charity’s patron – Princess Margaret – took note of their hard work and the pair were invited to Edinburgh to receive an award for their work.

Until her 99th birthday Agnes lived on her own in a Kinross flat, having moved from Milnathort following Tom’s death. Until a fairly recent hospital appointment after a fall, her previous hospital visit was on the birth of her youngest 72 years earlier.

Mobility issues meant she moved to Ashley House Care Home for her final years. “It was my birthday in July,” said Sandy. “Visiting my mother, now in her 104th year, I asked, ‘do you know what day it is?’ “Of course I do,’ she replied. ‘I was there!’ “And that’s the kind of sharp wit and humour she had until the very end.” Agnes was very proud of her seven grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and her great, great grandson born in November last year. Getting to finally meet him and to stage a five generations photo was the highlight of her year following a difficult time during lockdown.

Never losing her spirit she even learned to take selfies when she was 96.

Sandy added: “What was the secret to her long life? Putting others above herself. “If ever anyone was down she would say ‘go and do something for someone else.’”

Kinross Christian Fellowship  
wishes you a peaceful and uplifting  
Christmas.

We invite you to join us at our Carol Service  
on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 3pm  
at the Millbridge Hall, Old Causeway, Kinross.

In a world full of uncertainty and when darkness  
seems so close at hand, may the hope and light of  
Jesus’ birth encourage you.



# Christmas & New Year Holiday Arrangements



## Recommended Last Posting Dates

Beat the rush! Get your letters & parcels in the post on time. For full information, go to [www.royalmail.com/greetings](http://www.royalmail.com/greetings)

### United Kingdom

**Sat 18 Dec:** 2nd Class, Royal Mail Signed For®

**Tues 21 Dec:** 1st Class, Royal Mail Signed For®  
Royal Mail Tracked 48®\*\*\*

**Wed 22 Dec:** Royal Mail Tracked 24®\*\*\*

**Thurs 23 Dec:** Special Delivery Guaranteed®

\*Royal Mail Tracked 24 and Royal Mail Tracked 48 services are unavailable to purchase at Post Office® branches.

### International Standard

**Wed 1 Dec:** Caribbean

**Mon 6 Dec:** Australia Greece, Italy, New Zealand and Portugal

**Wed 8 Dec:** Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Far and Middle East

**Fri 10 Dec:** Cyprus, Malta and Sweden

**Sat 11 Dec:** Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia), Turkey

**Mon 13 Dec:** Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Poland and USA

**Thurs 16 Dec:** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland

## Perth and Kinross Libraries

All Perth and Kinross Libraries will be closed from 24 December 2021 for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

All libraries will reopen on 7 January 2022\*.

## Loch Leven Health Centre

**Mon 27 Dec:** Closed

**Tues 28 Dec:** Closed

**Mon 3 Jan:** Closed

**Tues 4 Jan:** Closed

## RSPB Loch Leven

**Sat 25 Dec:** Closed

**Sun 26 Dec:** Closed

**Sat 1 Jan:** Closed

**Sun 2 Jan:** Closed

## Rowlands Chemist, Kinross

Information not received at time of going to press.

## Davidsons the Chemist, Milnathort

**Fri 24 Dec:** 9am-6pm

**Sat 25 Dec:** 2pm – 3pm

**Sun 26 Dec:** Closed

**Mon 27 Dec:** Closed

**Tues 28 Dec – Fri 31 Dec:** 9am – 6pm

**Sat 1 Jan:** **CLOSED**

**Sun 2 Jan:** 2pm – 4pm

**Tues 4 Jan:** Back to usual hours

## Kinross Post Office (in Greens, High St)

**Christmas Eve:** 9 – 4pm

**Christmas Day:** Closed

**Boxing Day:** Closed

**Mon 27 Dec:** Closed

**Tues 28 Dec:** 9 – 5.30pm

**Wed 29 Dec:** 9 – 5.30 Dec

**Thur 30 Dec:** 9 – 5.30 Dec

**New Year's Eve:** 9 – 4 Dec

**New Year's Day:** Closed

**Sun 2 Jan:** Closed

**Mon 3 Jan:** Closed

**Tues 4 Jan onwards:** 9 – 5.30pm

## Kinross Sorting Office

Information not received at time of going to press.

## Milnathort Post Office (Giacopazzi's)

**Fri 24 Dec:** 5.30am – 10pm

**Sat 25 Dec:** closed

**Sun 26 Dec:** 8am – 7pm

**Mon 27 Dec:** 5.30am – 10pm

**Tues 28 Dec:** 5.30am – 10pm

**Wed 29 Dec:** 5.30am – 10pm

**Thurs 30 Dec:** 5.30am – 10pm

**Fri 31 Dec:** 5:30am – 9pm

**Sat 1 Jan:** 9am – 5pm

**Sun 2 Jan:** 8am – 7pm

**Mon 3 Jan:** 5.30am – 10pm

## PKC Waste Collections

There will be no domestic or commercial collections on 25 and 26 DEC 2021 or 1 and 2 JAN 2022 Unless notified directly by letter, the following will apply:

**Collections due on Sat 25 Dec will take place on Fri 24 Dec**

**Collections due on Sun 26 Dec will take place on Mon 27 Dec**

**Collections due on Sat 1 Jan will take place on Fri 31 Dec**

**Collections due on Sunday 2 Jan will take place on Mon 3 Jan**

There are no scheduled garden and food waste collections after Thurs 23 Dec. Collection dates will return to normal from Fri 7 Jan.

Real Christmas trees can be chopped up and added to your home compost bin, chopped up and placed in your brown-lidded bin (if you have a Garden Waste Permit) or taken to your local Recycling Centre.

## Recycling Centres

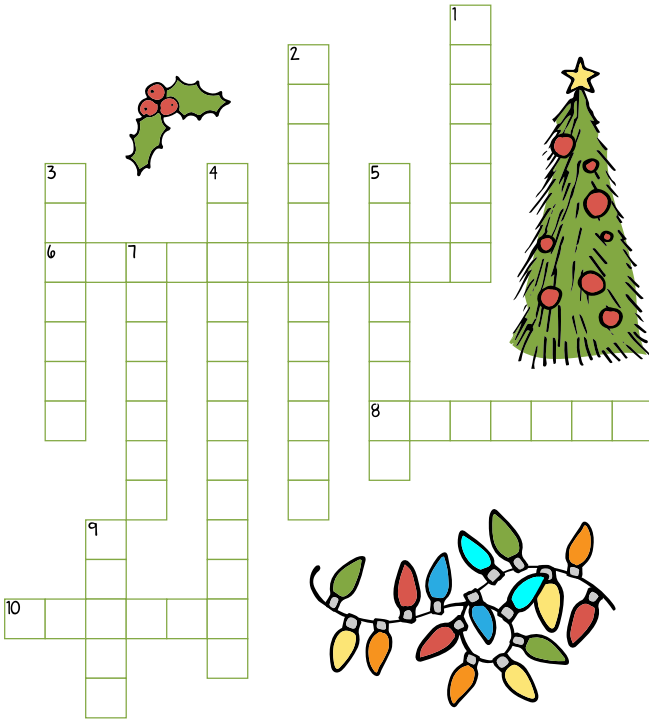
All Recycling Centres will be Closed on 25 and 26 Dec 2021 and 1 and 2 Jan 2022. Opening hours otherwise remain the same over the festive period.

## Special Uplifts

**SPECIAL UPLIFTS** The last special uplift collection will be Thursday 23 Dec 2021. Normal collections resume on Tuesday 4 Jan 2022.



# Christmas Puzzles

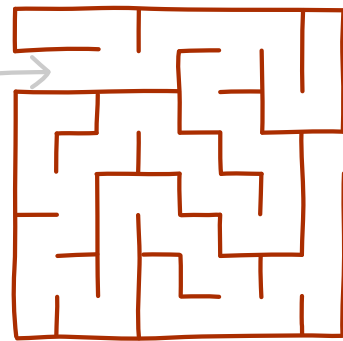
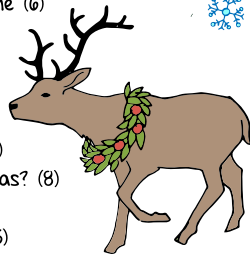
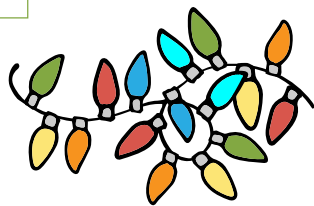


**Across**

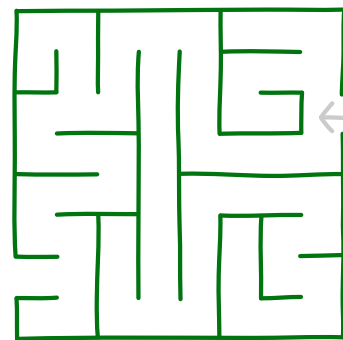
- 6. What do you put up around the house at Christmas time? (11)
- 8. "We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy \_\_\_\_\_!" (3,4)
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_ Bells is a popular song at Christmas time (6)

**Down**

- 1. What does Father Christmas like to eat? (7)
- 2. What is the day before Christmas called? (9,3)
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ the Red Nose Reindeer (7)
- 4. Presents go underneath the \_\_\_\_\_ (9,4)
- 5. What do you hang up the night before Christmas? (8)
- 7. What do reindeer like to eat? (7)
- 9. What is another name for Father Christmas? (5)



Help deliver the presents to the trees!









## Find The Santas!

We think we've hidden 20 Santas in the pages of the Newsletter (we lost count...)

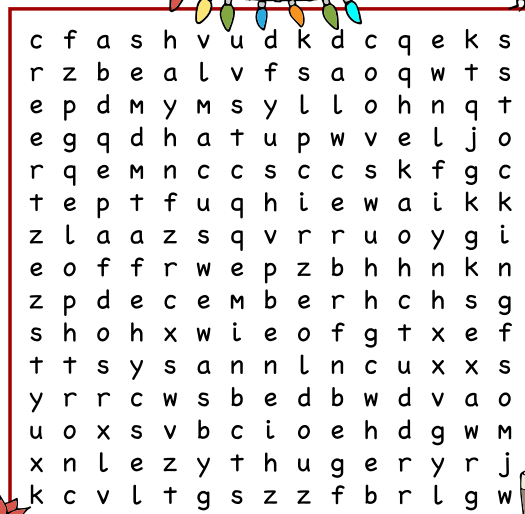
Can you find them all?



## Christmas Crackers

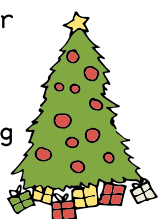
-  What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas?  
*Cross-mouse cards!*
-  What type of key do you need for a Nativity play?  
*A don-key!*
-  How does Santa get his medicine when he's ill?  
*Through the National Elf!*
-  What do monkeys sing at Christmas?  
*Jungle bells!*
-  How you can tell that Santa is real?  
*You can always sense his presents!*
-  What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?  
*A Christmas Quacker!*

## Christmas Wordsearch



christmas  
december  
elf  
holly  
northpole  
presents

reindeer  
santa  
snow  
stocking  
tree



# Notices

## Let's Sing! Is Back!

This informal singing group is primarily for people with dementia who enjoy singing and are accompanied by their carer(s), but anyone who likes singing is welcome.

We meet on the second Sunday of every month from 3pm – 4pm in Kinross Parish Church. Our next two meetings will be:

**Sunday 12 December:** our Christmas singing extravaganza

**Sunday 9 January 2022:** Please come and join us!

**Face masks should be worn.**

For more details please contact:

**Brenda Frier** [bj.frier@gmail.com](mailto:bj.frier@gmail.com) 07771 985265

**Isobel Watt** [issiewatt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:issiewatt@yahoo.co.uk) 07961919967

## Music In Dollar

Music In Dollar have no concert in December – but January brings a feast of goodies. On Sunday 16 of January at 3pm (pre-concert performance 2.45pm), we have Sirocco Winds, a prize-winning, dynamic wind ensemble who came together at the Scottish Conservatoire. They play a huge variety of music ranging across classical, jazz, show tunes, folk and contemporary music. A concert not to be missed. Tickets cost £10 either on line or at the door, £7 for members and free to under 18s and those in full time education.



On Sunday 30 January we are reintroducing the Music In Dollar Young Musician competition. This will take the form of a Piano Day (afternoon) where young pianists from local schools will play a set of their choice and prizes will be awarded for best performance. This will start at 2pm and is free of charge. Refreshments will be provided while the adjudicator is making their notes and coming to a decision. Everyone is welcome. Come and see the stars of tomorrow!

We will be observing all the relevant Covid secure regulations re Test and Protect, masks, sanitising, social distancing to ensure the safety of all participants. All concerts take place at the Gibson Hall, Dollar Academy, FK14 7DU

Further information from the Concert Secretary on 01577 864589 or the Society website [www.musicindollar.org.uk](http://www.musicindollar.org.uk).

## MOBILE LIBRARY 8, 22 December (Fortnightly, Wednesdays)

Kinnesswood (Opposite Shop)	09.30 – 10:00	Powmill (Mill Gardens)	13:20 – 13:40
Portmoak Hall	10:05 – 10:20	Crook of Devon (Village Inn)	13:45 – 14:45
Scotlandwell (Leslie Road)	10:25 – 10:50	Carnbo (Pitcairnie Lane)	15:00 – 15:30
Levenmouth Farm	11:00 – 11:20	Whyte Court (Kinross)	15:45 – 16:15
Hatchbank Road (Gairneybank, Kinross)	11:40 – 12:00		

AERO SPACE SCIENTIFIC EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Scottish Charity SCO45931  
Community Benefit Society 7524

## NOTICE of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on  
**Friday 21 January 2022 at 7:00PM**  
by Video Conference

### AGENDA

The agenda will comprise (a) the chairman's review of the activities of the society, (b) adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021, (c) the application of profits, (d) election of trustees, and (e) appointment of the Company Secretary.

**By order of the board**  
**Eric Williamson**  
Secretary

## LOCAL CHEMIST INFORMATION

### Rowlands Pharmacy, Kinross

Mon – Fri 9am-6pm (closed 2-2.20pm)

Saturday 9am-5pm (closed 2-2.20pm)

Tel 01577 862422



### Davidson's Chemist, Milnathort

Mon – Fri: 9am-6pm (Open lunchtime)

Saturday: 9am-12.30pm

Tel: 01577 862219

Sundays: Nearest open pharmacy: Asda, Dunfermline



## Grants and Funding Websites

[www.pkgrantsdirect.com](http://www.pkgrantsdirect.com)

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

## Grants For Good Causes

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



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

**31 March and 30 September**

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

### Perth & Kinross School Term Dates 2021/22

#### WINTER TERM 2021

**Term ends:** Wednesday 22 December 2021

**Christmas holiday:** Thursday 23 December 2021 - Wednesday 5 January 2022

**Inservice Days:** Thursday 17 & 18 February 2022

### RBS MOBILE BANKING

Weekly on Fridays  
10.15 - 11.15 am

Giacopazzi car park, Kinross

### Mindspace Recovery College

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



### Homes For Cats Wanted

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

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

Contact Rhona on 01383 830286.



**Give a Greyhound a Home**  
[www.greyhoundrescuefife.com](http://www.greyhoundrescuefife.com)

Forever homes needed for rescued greyhounds.  
Greyhounds are very gentle creatures that require very little walking!

**Please call or email for details**

Tel: 01577 850393 (evenings)

07826 244765 (daytime)

Email: [femiejimmyf@aol.com](mailto:femiejimmyf@aol.com)



## Perth Citizens Advice Bureau

Perth CAB can help you. Our advice is free, confidential, impartial and independent.

**Advice line:** 01738 450580

**Appointment line:** 01738 450581



Clients can access advice in the following ways:

- **By calling us** on 01738 450580 between 10am and 3pm any weekday. If the query is quick for us to deal with, we will do so and if it requires more time or research then we will arrange for an adviser to get back to them either via e-mail or with a telephone appointment.
- **Webchat** from our Perth CAB website [www.perthcab.org.uk/](http://www.perthcab.org.uk/) this is available from 10am each weekday, currently until 1pm but we hope to expand these hours soon
- **Via e-mail** to [advice@perthcab.org.uk](mailto:advice@perthcab.org.uk)

### Debt and Money Advice Service

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

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

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

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

Issue	Deadline	Publication Date
February	Friday 14 January	Saturday 29 January 2022

### 100th Birthday and Diamond Wedding Anniversaries

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

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

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

**Tel: 01738 475051 Email: [CivicServices@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:CivicServices@pkc.gov.uk)**

### Local Correspondent

for Perthshire Advertiser and Fife Herald newspapers

**Linda Freeman**

**Tel 01577 865045.**

**Email: [linda.freeman\\_64@btinternet.com](mailto:linda.freeman_64@btinternet.com)**

# Christmas Concert

by

## Tullis Brass Band

(featuring Youth Bands)

Sunday 5 December

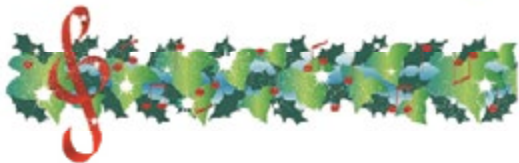
at 7.30pm in

Portmoak Church

Tickets - £6

Tickets available from Church Office (South Street)  
10am-12 noon on weekdays (or at the door)

or contact Rosemary on  
07738 954740 or 01577 531527



Fridays: 11.30am—1.30pm  
@ Millbridge Hall

For further information, or  
if you want to be involved,  
please ring 07933 387562

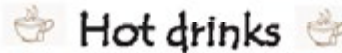
The Café where  
everything is  
**FREE!**



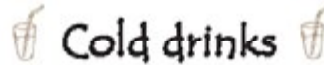
Soup



Snacks



Hot drinks



Cold drinks



Home-cooked lunches

All brought to your table by our friendly staff

The Talking Donkey is a Christian venture so there  
will always be people on hand to offer

Prayer for any need



Lifelong support for our Forces and their families

**WHO ARE WE?** We are the national charity, which for nearly 140 years has been helping serving and ex-service men and women, Regular and Reservist, and their families, in need. Eligibility is based on only one day's paid service.

**WHERE ARE WE?** There are 91 branches all over the UK, of which 22 are in Scotland. They all operate with a network of trained volunteers in the local area, to look into cases with understanding and sensitivity. Many of the volunteers are ex-Services themselves. The Perth and Kinross Branch has an office

in Queen's Barracks, Perth – courtesy of 7th Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Our Branch Patron is the Provost of Perth and Kinross who, with his council staff, are wonderful supporters.

**WHAT DO WE DO?** We take immediate action whenever there is hardship and need. Our help and advice is totally confidential, and we help all ages. We work closely with other agencies, and service charities, and help can vary hugely...

We may help a war widow manage her bills; an ex Serviceman with a mobility challenge; assist a Service family with a special needs child, or a returned veteran from Iraq or Afghanistan conflicts.

Last year we helped 50,000+ cases in UK. [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

**HELP, ADVICE, FRIENDSHIP** Please don't hesitate to get in touch: SSAFA, Perth & Kinross Branch Queen's Barracks, 131 Dunkeld Road, PERTH PH1 5BT Tel: 07594 650900 (with answerphone) or Email: [Perth.Branch@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:Perth.Branch@ssafa.org.uk)

PATRON – HM THE QUEEN Reg Charity –SCO 38056

## Situations Vacant

### Projectionist/Technical Assistant, Portmoak Film Society

We are looking for a young person to take on this role from now until April 2022. We are a local film club which has provided a popular service to the communities of Portmoak, Kinross and Milnathort since 2006.

The role involves setting up, running, and breaking down the audiovisual equipment at Portmoak Community Hall in Scotlandwell on the second Saturday of each month before, during and after the films which start at 7.30pm. We can provide training and initial supervision and will pay any travel expenses involved in carrying out the role. Applicants should be absolutely reliable, tech-savvy and have an enthusiasm for film. This is a voluntary role which we will honour at the end of the season with a positive reference for your CV.

Contact Felicity Garvie, PFS Chair, on 01592 840825 or by email at f.sgarvie@talk21.com if you are interested.

### Taxi Driver

A2B Taxis are currently looking for a self-employed part-time taxi driver to potentially cover a council contract Monday to Wednesday (approx 1-2 hours AM and PM) and also one Friday, Saturday and Sunday per month. Candidates must be of good character, smart appearance and be able to look after and keep their vehicle clean and sanitised at all times. Would suit active retired person living in the Kinross-shire area.

Anyone interested in this position should call Bruce on 07743 332237.

## Classified Ads

### Items for Sale

The Newsletter publishes items for sale listed on the *kinross.cc* website. If interested in purchasing an item, we suggest **checking the website for current availability** (*www.kinross.cc* then 'Local Adverts' then 'Classified Adverts'). If interested in selling an item, please list it on *www.kinross.cc* and it will automatically be published in the next available *Newsletter*, subject to space.

**BRITAX ASIS CHILD CAR SEAT** £Offers  
**FROG BALANCE BIKE** £Offers

Suitable from 18 months old. Brand new, never used and still in sealed packaging.

*Seller: Anne Marie McHardy*  
 01577 865418 *jm.ammchardy@hotmail.co.uk*

**SET OF TWO SEATER DFS SOFAS** £80 for set  
 Lime green, nearly new. £80 for set.

**WHITE KNIGHT TUMBLE DRYER** £20

White, nearly new.

**ICEKING FRIDGE** £80

White. Brand new, never used and still in sealed packaging.

**BEKO WASHING MACHINE** £80 ONO

White. Used once.

**Buyer must uplift from Milnathort**

*Seller: Karen Bell 07710 634835*

**GENUINE LLOYDLOOM GREEN CHAIR & BEDSIDE CABINET** Offers when seen

**PINE SINGLE BED AND MATTRESS** £50

In good condition

*Seller: Helen Brodie 01577 631520*

**DISPLAY CABINET** £50

Three semi-circular Victorian display cabinet (two glass shelves). 10 thin glass panels curved at the top and bottom round the sides and front of the cabinet. 51ins(H), 41ins(W). Stands on four small sculpted legs.

*Seller: David McIntosh 01577 861087*  
*d.hmci2@yahoo.com*

## Milnathort filmhouse at Milnathort Town Hall



Friday 3 December at 8pm, doors open at 7.30

Information and Online Booking  
[milnathortfilmhouse.com](http://milnathortfilmhouse.com)



## KINROSS CARERS DROP IN

This drop in centre is for all "UNPAID CARERS" pop in to see how we can make your life easier. PKC & PKAVS Carer support workers will be on hand to help guide you through your journey

The safety of our communities remains a priority and we will comply with current COVID-19 guidelines.

Drop in for information, advice and signposting, peer support and a cuppa.



KINROSS CENTRE (Garden Room)  
 High Street Kinross  
 2<sup>nd</sup> TUESDAY EACH MONTH  
 10:00 - 12:00

Contact Gail Boath  
 Tel. 07760 363 800  
 Or PKAVS  
 01738 567076



**MOBILE POST VAN AT  
BUCHAN AVENUE,  
KINNESSWOOD**

**MONDAYS 13.45 till 14.45  
WEDNESDAYS 12.45 till 13.45**

**KINROSS DELIVERY OFFICE  
ROYAL MAIL  
87 High St, Kinross KY13 8AR  
OPENING TIMES**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>8-10am</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>8-10am</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>8-10am</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>8-10am and 4-7pm</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>8-10am</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>8am-12pm</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

**Kinross Garden Group**

2021/22 Season

Thursday 9 December 2pm

Parish Church, Kinross.

Patricia Keppie: Commonwealth War Graves Commission

'Horticulture around the world'

All welcome to join us.

**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.

Compost can be collected from the Recycling Centre, subject to availability. Maximum of 2 x 25kg bags per visitor.

**Kinross-shire Fund**



The Kinross-shire Fund was established in 2006 to make the area a better place to live,



by making grants to a wide range of local charities, organisations and projects which make a positive difference to the community.

To date, over 50 organisations within the 73 square miles of Kinross-shire have benefited from an award, with beneficiaries ranging in age from pre-school to the elderly. The Fund is managed by Foundation Scotland and is currently open for applications, with deadlines quarterly on the first Monday of February, May, August and November each year.

Full details, including how to apply via our online application link, can be found at:

[www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/kinross-shire-fund](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/kinross-shire-fund)

**EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS**

**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 (*42* telephone and leave a voicemail)	01738 476173*42*
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

## Community Councils

**Kinross:** Chair: Lynne McKay, 01577 531076  
Email: [kinrosscommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kinrosscommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

**Milnathort** Chair: Craig Williams, 07885 722125

**& Orwell:** Email: [craig@stovestuff.scot](mailto:craig@stovestuff.scot)  
Email: [communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com](mailto:communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com)

**Portmoak:** Email: [portmoakcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:portmoakcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk)

**Fossoway** Chair: Trudy Duffy-Wigman, 01577 840669

**& District:** Email: [fossoway.cc@gmail.com](mailto:fossoway.cc@gmail.com)

**Cleish** Sec: Patty Fraser, 01577 850253

**& Blairadam:** Email: [cleishcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:cleishcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk)

## Kinross Community Councillors

David Colliar	10 Rannoch Place	01577 864037
Bill Freeman	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
Malcolm Wood	The Woodlands, Hatchbank	

## Portmoak Community Councillors

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

Have a look at our website: [www.portmoak.org](http://www.portmoak.org)

## Perth and Kinross Councillors Kinross-shire Ward

**ClIr MIKE BARNACLE** (*Scottish Conservative & Unionist*)  
Tel/Fax (home): 01577 840516.  
Email: [michaelabarnacle@gmail.com](mailto:michaelabarnacle@gmail.com)  
Website: [mikebarnacle.co.uk](http://mikebarnacle.co.uk)  
Moorend, Waulkmill Road, Crook of Devon, Kinross, KY13 0UZ

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

**ClIr WILLIE ROBERTSON** (*Scottish Liberal Democrats*)  
Mobile: 07909 884042

**ClIr RICHARD WATTERS** (*SNP*)  
Mobile: 07557 812513.  
Email: [rwatters@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:rwatters@pkc.gov.uk)  
Applegarth, Sunnypark, Kinross, KY13 8BX

## John Nicolson MP

### Member of Parliament for Ochil and South Perthshire

Telephone: 020 7219 3000  
Email: [john.nicolson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:john.nicolson.mp@parliament.uk)  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mrjohnnicolson>  
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/JohnNicolsonSNP>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/johnnicolsonmp>

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

### Jim Fairlie, MSP

Constituency office: 63 Glasgow Road, Perth, PH2 0PE  
Telephone: 01738 620540  
Email: [Jim.Fairlie.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Jim.Fairlie.msp@parliament.scot)

## Members of the Scottish Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife Region

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Mobile Library Service

Mobile Library services have now resumed. See panel on p102 for details. For more information, see: [www.culturepk.org.uk/libraries](http://www.culturepk.org.uk/libraries) and click on 'Services in the Community'

## Perth Samaritans

Need to talk? We'll listen.

Contact us by

phone: 01738 626666 or 08457 909090  
email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

Visit us at 3 King's Place, Perth, PH2 8AA

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

No pressure, no names, no judgment.  
We're here for you, anytime.

## Enquire

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

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

For more information contact: Tel 0345 123 2303

Website: [www.enquire.org.uk](http://www.enquire.org.uk)

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

# Diary

## December

Fri	3	Milnathort Film Society show 'Last Christmas'	109
Sat	4	Santa in Kinross South	19
Sat	4	Community Litter Pick	27
Sun	5	Santa in Middle Balado, Cleish, The Drum, Crook of Devon	19
Sun	5	Kinross and Ochil Walking Group Weekend Walk	69
Tues	7	Fossoway CC meets	60
Wed	8	Deadline for comments to the Boundary Commission for Scotland	7
Thur	9	Kinross Garden Group meets	62
Thur	9	Milnathort and Orwell CC meets	61
Sat	11	Santa in Kinross Central	19
Sat	11	Portmoak Film Society show 'Nomadland'	62
Sun	12	Portmoak Christmas Tree Event	68
Sun	12	Santa in Kinross North, Milnathort	19
Mon	13	Inner Wheel Talk	75
Tues	14	Portmoak CC meets	57
Sat	18	Santa in Mawcarse - Glenfarg	19
Sat	18	Kinross and Ochil Walking Group Weekend Walk	69
Sun	19	Santa in Balgedie, Glenlmond, Kinnesswood & Scotlandwell	19
Sun	19	Nativity Service, Kinross Parish Church	25
Mon	20	Service of Remembrance for the bereaved, Kinross Parish Church	25
Mon	20	Deadline for Rotary Christmas Children's Competitions	77
Wed	22	Last day of term, P&K schools	107

## January

Thurs	6	New school term starts for P&K schools	107
Fri	7	Library reopens	77
Sun	9	Kinross and Ochil Walking Group Weekend Walk	69
Sat	22	Kinross and Ochil Walking Group Weekend Walk	69
Tues	25	Kinross CC meets	54



### The Kinross Community Council Newsletter

is available from:

<b>Greens of Kinross</b>	High Street, Kinross	<b>Buchan's Garage</b>	Main Street, Kinnesswood
<b>Baillies</b>	High Street, Kinross	<b>Shop</b>	Main Street, Kinnesswood
<b>Sainsburys</b>	Station Road, Kinross	<b>Fossoway Store</b>	Crook of Devon
<b>Giacopazzis</b>	Lathro, Kinross	<b>Fossoway Garage</b>	Crook of Devon
<b>Keystore More</b>	Green Road, Kinross	<b>Mona's Coffee Shop</b>	Muckhart
<b>Giacopazzis</b>	New Road, Milnathort	<b>Powmill Stores</b>	Powmill
<b>Stewart &amp; Smart</b>	Stirling Road, Milnathort	<b>Loch Leven's Larder</b>	Near Wester Balgedie
<b>Heaven Scent</b>	South Street, Milnathort	<b>Glenfarg Village Shop</b>	Glenfarg