



# Kinross Newsletter

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Founding editor,  
Mrs Nan Walker, MBE

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## DEADLINE

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## Contributions

The *Newsletter* welcomes items from community organisations and individuals for publication. This is free of charge. (We only charge for business advertising – see below right.)

All items may be subject to editing and we reserve the right not to publish an item.

Please also see our Letters Policy and Notes on page 2. Submit your item (except adverts) in one of the following ways:

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

Post or by hand to:

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- **A note of the number of insertions required.**
- **Your remittance.**

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# Editor's Page

Cover photo and design: Lee Scammacca

## Letter From The Editor

**IT'S BEEN BLOOMIN' FREEZING** in Kinross over the last few days. As I write this, the icy snow has gone but Storm Isha is threatening to blow the roof off the house.

While the roads have been gritted and looked after as well as we can expect, the pavements were particularly treacherous during our period of Arctic weather, leaving some Kinross residents unable to easily get out and about.

This made me remember reading the fascinating book *Invisible Women* by Caroline Criado Perez. She argues that snow clearing could be considered a feminist issue.

She notes that in Sweden, roads were once cleared before pavements, a policy derived from data that prioritised

commuters in cars over pedestrians ferrying children or doing the shopping.

Studies soon showed that the practice of clearing roads before footpaths, disproportionately disadvantaged women, who are more likely to walk, over men, who are more likely to drive.

Swedish officials eventually realised that it's easier to drive through three inches of snow than push a buggy through it. A study in one Swedish town found that pedestrians were three times more likely to be injured in icy conditions than car drivers; and 70% of those injured were women.

Clearing pavements first also saved money. The cost of pedestrian accidents due to icy conditions – both in terms of healthcare costs and lost productivity – was about twice the road maintenance cost, and this dropped.

A further study in Stockholm revealed that accidents halved when the city started clearing its cycle and pedestrian lanes of snow. Interesting stuff!

If we do get another cold snap, have a look at the extensive list of Warm Spaces on offer in Kinross-shire on p17. Hopefully the pavements will be safe enough for people to get to them on foot if they wish to!

If you are interested in the future of the Salutation Hotel (currently for sale) on the High Street, you might be pleased to hear that there are plenty of ideas circulating about turning it into a community space.

I think the idea of a tourist information area on the High Street is a great one! It would be sad to see the building sitting empty for a long time as has happened with many other hotels in the past. See p23 for an interesting feature about the story of this historic building. And keep warm!

*Hannah Phillips, Editor*

### About The Kinross Newsletter

The *Kinross Newsletter* has been informing and supporting the community for over 45 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.

### 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

Cllr: Councillor  
CCllr: Community Councillor

## Pensions Guidance

### Lindsay Ross Ballantyne

The UK's state pension is one of the worst in the developed world – equivalent to about half the minimum wage at best and not paid until your late sixties.

With a good pension (private and/or employer) you can now take some of your pension at age 55, even if you're not retired.

I am now retired from the financial industry and feel that there is an overwhelming need to explain pensions to people of all ages in clear and simple terms. I'm not selling anything other than my expertise. After a consultation with me you will be able to:

- Engage with your employer about your pension
- Understand the benefits of increasing your pension contributions or setting up your own pension
- Understand why tax relief = 'money for nothing'
- Consider making one off payments to your pension
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- Know how to spot scams and unscrupulous advisers

*Whatever age you are now you need to understand your pension.*

Enquiries welcome: 07712 181293 E-mail: [lindsay63@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindsay63@hotmail.co.uk)

Visit: [www.lbpensionsguidance.co.uk](http://www.lbpensionsguidance.co.uk)

## Letters

### WINDFARM PROPOSALS

In his open letter to Cleish and Fossoway community councils in November's *Newsletter*, Mike Barnacle raises many important points about the windfarm proposals for the Ochil hills. This is an area in which I have professional expertise, and I share many of his concerns.

Mike is right about the impact on the landscape. We are lucky to live in Kinross-shire, an area of great natural beauty, but also one that is not overrun with tourists. It's a well-kept secret. If we allow these new windfarm proposals to go through, the damage will start to become irreparable. The two existing windfarms will become five, of course, but that is not where it will end. Delivering the net zero will require a vastly bigger wind fleet – perhaps ten times bigger if technology improves, and 20 times bigger if it doesn't. Do you fancy more – lots more! – of these windfarms on the Ochils? Developers might but the birds and the bats may not agree.

Don't fool yourself that these windfarms will be built elsewhere. Many upland areas, such as the Cairngorms, are protected, so hilltop sites are in relatively short supply. Those close to markets even more so, so developers will push hard. With five windfarms already built here, they will argue that the landscape is already degraded. How can anyone possibly object when the landscape is trashed already? We will end up surrounded by steel towers.

There is always the temptation to take the developers' bribes – a new boiler for the church hall, new strips for the footie team – but that seems to me to be incredibly short-sighted. We should think of ourselves as the caretakers of the Kinross-shire environment. To wreck it for short-term financial gain would be shameful.

And we'd be shooting ourselves in the foot too. While there is a great deal of propaganda claiming that windfarms are 'cheap', it simply isn't true. We can see this clearly in the effect on electricity prices, which doubled between 2002, when the country decided to go for renewables, and 2020, on the eve of the Ukraine war, when the surge in gas prices pushed them up further still.

So much of what you think you know about renewables, and in particular windfarms, is wrong. They are bad for the nation, and they will certainly be bad for Kinross-shire. Mike Barnacle and I are hoping to organise a public discussion over the whole question of renewables in the Ochils and in society as a whole. Look out for notices.

*Andrew Montford, Kinross*

### A COMPLIMENT TO THE LOCAL POLICE

I recently was exposed to a rogue tradesman which I reported to the police using the 101 service. The matter was dealt with seriously and sympathetically, follow up calls happened as promised and I was left with the feeling 'Yes, they are working on our behalf, the public'. Full marks for an excellent service.

Not unexpectedly, there was no positive outcome.

*Name and address withheld*

### CLIMATE CRISIS?

I was disappointed to see an entire page [*January Newsletter, 2024*] dedicated to an article based on the premise that we are in a period warmer than that of 100K years ago and that we should be doing something about it. Whilst factually correct to state we are in a period warmer than 100K years ago, the data point is not in context and appears to have been cherry picked. If we look at the temperature of ice core data beyond this to 500K years we see that around 130K years ago the temperature of the Earth was higher than that of today. There were no combustion engines or fossil fuels used then. From the data charts and there are many like them, the temperature changes appear cyclical so cannot be attributed to man or man's alleged excess CO2 emissions due to fossil fuel use: the 'polluting' gas boilers referred to.

David Cairns [CATCH] based his opening remarks on the premise that climate being the hottest in the last 100K years and ironically included a picture of the Lomond hills covered in snow. David appears to be promoting the concept of removing 'polluting' gas boilers along with the implementation of a District Heating Network (DHN) to one implemented at our expense no doubt though increased taxes such as the council tax, at £900 million by PKC and in alignment with the Scottish Government who have their own net zero agenda.

In truth he is only sharing the information about the current or up and coming consultation that will be used to rubber stamp such an initiative, through the proposed Scottish Government's 'heat-in-buildings' legislation. The climate data itself shows a different story than described by David and the Scottish Government. The Climate Cafe also uses the term 'climate crisis' and references the article David wrote.

As can be seen from the real data taken from studies of ice core temperatures and when put in context, the premise that

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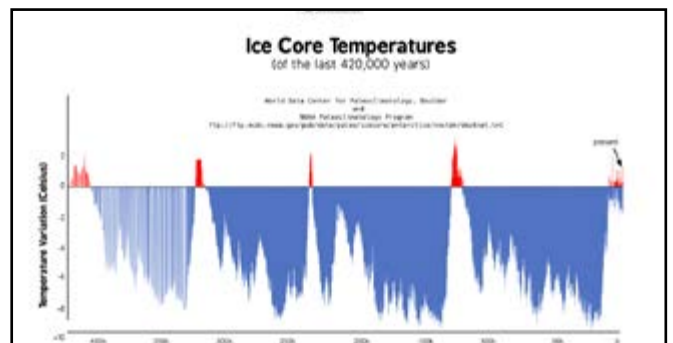
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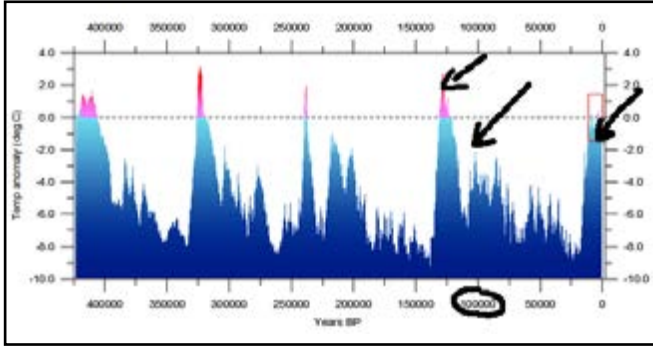
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we are in the middle of some kind of man-made warm period is not factually correct, according to the data. Examples of climate data, when examined and placed into context can be found here:

<https://notrickszone.com/2013/04/25/sudden-european-temperature-plunge-over-the-last-decade-are-we-on-the-brink-of-little-ice-age/>

The article concludes 'At ~10,500 years our current cooler but benign Holocene interglacial is coming towards its end and the reversion of our planet to a real ice age is foreseeable.'

...and here: [https://www.wpclipart.com/weather/climate\\_change/Ice\\_Core\\_Temperatures\\_historic.png.html](https://www.wpclipart.com/weather/climate_change/Ice_Core_Temperatures_historic.png.html)

*Jonathan Douglas, Kinross*

### MIND BLOWING

I am not exactly sure which words to use in response to John Nicolson's column in the *January Newsletter*. For any member of the SNP, never mind an MP, to focus an article on integrity is brave, crass, brass-necked, ignorant or arrogant or any combination of the above. His attempt to blame the Labour Party for suppressing those showing moral courage is mind-blowing considering the behaviour of his own party.

Mr Nicolson seems to have forgotten or is ignoring, the fact that many SNP supporters, councillors, MSPs and MPs faced bullying, isolation, demotion, threats of rape and death because they voiced concerns over aspects of the Gender Recognition Bill. Some of these people, whose integrity was outstanding even had to call for police protection.

Mr Nicolson should remember the old saying 'People in glass houses should not throw stones' and just get back to writing articles that Gerald Kaufman would call pompous piffle.

*David A MacKenzie, Kinross*

## Thanks



### CAROLS AT THE CROSS

On behalf of **MILNATHORT IN BLOOM**, **MILNATHORT TOWN HALL** and **ORWELL AND PORTMOAK PARISH CHURCH** we would like to thank all involved in Carols at the Cross on Sunday 17 December 2023. We had such a great turnout and cannot thank you all enough for coming.

Thanks to **Brenda Frier** for leading the singing with **Nigel Ewen** on Bass Guitar and **members of Leven Voices** helping to lead the singing. We had a few folks in the hall as well, holding their own with harmonies and fiddle playing. It was a fabulous evening

### ALTERED IMAGES

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with all ages attending and looking forward to next year. We raised £94 for Broke not Broken.

We also thank Heaven Scent and Giacomazzis for donating the shortbread and mince pies, they were very well received and the folks who helped on the night, couldn't be without you. It doesn't happen with just three people; Irene, Aileen and Rosemary feel so very grateful to all who helped make it such a success.

### LIGHT UP KINROSS

**LIGHT UP KINROSS** gives a big thank you to Greens of Kinross for the use of their premises for the Christmas lights switch-on.

Many thanks for assistance to the **Kilted Christmas Tree Co.** (supply and installation of the tree), **Bob Purvis** (free storage of lights), **PKC & Tayside Contracts** (for installing lights), **Reminisc** (for costumes), **Dave Munro** (assistance with maintenance), **Kinross Pipe Band**, **Elsa from Frozen**, **Marshall from Paw Patrol & Spiderman**, **Duncan** for singing on stage, (entertainment) **Haki** (for use of stage), **Kinross Rotary Club** (for stewarding), **CR Smith** and of course **SANTA and his sleigh** (Kinross Rotary).

Thanks also to local traders **Douglas Miller** (plumber), **Kirklands Hotel**, **Todd & Duncan** (Cashmere Mills), **Sandy Baird** (refrigeration), **Andersons LLP** (solicitors), **SM Bayne** (bakers), **First Sight Estate** (Kinross House), **Peel Tech** (Malcolm Wood), **Andrew Baillie** (solicitors), **The Complete Look** (beauty salon), **Greens** (supermarket), **Pauline Watson** and **The Fyfe family**.

Thanks also to **Kinross CC Newsletter**, **Tayside Contracts**, **Kinross Common Good Fund**, **Kinross-shire Fund** for financial assistance.

We were delighted with the large crowd that turned out to witness Provost McDade and Santa with Paw Patrol, Elsa from Frozen and Spiderman switching on the lights. The collection on the night amounted to £317.72.

The 2024 lights will be the 25th anniversary of Light Up Kinross. We would like to make this event special and are open to suggestions. Please contact us on our Facebook page. We will be running fundraising events during the year. Look out for details and please support us so that we can make it a special event.

### CARNBO HALL

**CARNBO HALL COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS** would like to thank the **Kinross Newsletter Fund**; the money received has been used to increase the level of roof insulation in the Community Hall at Carnbo. The benefits are already being felt and the funding is greatly appreciated.

#### UPCOMING 'WARM WELCOME' EVENTS

##### COFFEE & CHAT

**14 Feb, 13 Mar** 10am-12 noon, Wednesdays

##### HALL TALKS 7.30PM

**Monday 5 Feb:** *RSPB Loch Leven* by Vicky Turnbull

**Monday 4 March:** *Kinross-shire, Then & Now, A Photo Journey* by Kevin Heneghan

Carnbo Hall is available for private hire. Contact [carnbohalla@gmail.com](mailto:carnbohalla@gmail.com).

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## Thanks



### CHAS

A huge thank you to all of you who signed up to CHAS'S first ever Christmas tree recycling initiative. An amazing £1000 was raised!

A big, big thank you must also go out to our wonderful volunteers and members of Kinross Rotary Club, Kinross Cycling Club and Crawford Tree Surgery who helped pick up and recycle 80 trees across Kinross-shire this weekend. The grounds of Rachel House are set for Spring!



## Congratulations!



**Wendy & William Sneddon,** Kinrosswood are delighted to share the announcement of the engagement of their son, Cammy Sneddon with Kelsey White of Glenrothes.

In January the **Central** (takeaway) marked its 35th birthday of trading in Kinross. They sent a message to their loyal customers on Facebook to thank them for all their custom over the years, saying:

'Today the Central marks 35 years since we (grandad Don) and my late granny (Ida) along with their children Dad Lorenzo) and daughter (Maria) opened the doors for the first time in Kinross. Thank you all for the custom over these years.

*Andreucci family.'*

Congratulations to them from all their customers: we hope you will still be on the Kinross High Street in another 35 years!

# GLENFARG COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP

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	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
Kinross P&R	0745	0845	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445
Kirkland's Hotel	0748	0848	0948	1048	1148	1248	1348	1448
Campus, HC	0753	0853	0953	1053	1153	1253	1353	1453
Milnathort, Church St	0755	0855	0955	1055	1155	1255	1355	1455
Glenfarg, Greenbank Road	0805	0905	1005	1105	1205	1305	1405	1505
Bridge of Earn, Side Street	---	0918	1018	1118	1218	1318	1418	1518
Perth, Canal St	---	0928	1028	1128	1228	1328	1428	1528
Perth, Railway & Bus Station	---	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1530
Perth, Leisure Pool	---	0932	1032	1132	1232	1332	1432	1532
Perth Royal Infirmary	---	0935	1035	1135	1235	1335	1435	1535
Perth, Retail Park	---	0939	1039	1139	1239	1339	1439	1539
Perth, Mill Street	---	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1545
Bridge of Earn, Side Street	---	0955	1055	1155	1255	1355	1455	1555
Glenfarg, Greenbank Road	0710	0810	0910	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410
Milnathort, Church St	0720	0820	0920	1020	1120	1220	1320	1420
Campus, HC	0722	0822	0922	1022	1122	1222	1322	1422
Kinross P&R	0730	0830	0930	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430

From January we will be starting a three-to-six-month pilot of an extension to the 55-bus route. The extended daytime service will be running hourly from Kinross, through Milnathort, Glenfarg and Bridge of Earn to Perth, where we will serve a range of stops including the station, leisure pool, hospital and retail park in addition to the City Centre. We are therefore recruiting.

Our drivers are a very special breed! We say that our service is not about buses, it is about people. Every passenger we carry has a story to tell about why they use the bus, and our drivers are very sensitive to the needs of our travelling public – they go the extra mile (often literally) to make sure that our wee bus service delivers much more than public transport.

**Contact us: [transport@glenfarg.org](mailto:transport@glenfarg.org)**



# SAVE OUR SAL!

Could the Salutation Hotel become a community asset?

AS MANY READERS WILL be aware, the Salutation Inn at 99 High Street, Kinross, is currently being marketed for sale. Given its long, rich history and prominent position, it is a building whose future use could have a significant impact on Kinross High Street.

It could also have great potential to support and enhance the Kinross-shire community through continuing to be a public gathering place and providing space for existing and new community initiatives.

In other towns around the country, local pubs have been bought through community share schemes, often as an alternative to conversion to Airbnbs or housing.

The Red Lion pub in Culross is a recent example of this, where a community purchase means the pub remains an inter-generational social space and the heart of the community.

When the owners of The Red Lion Inn in Culross announced they were retiring, villagers wanted to preserve the pub and run it to benefit local people. Profits from the community-run pub now fund electric bikes and car charging points.

Scotland's community wealth minister hailed the project as



*c.1910 showing the gable end of the Salutation with sign post. Photo 'courtesy of Kinross (Marshall) Museum'*



a good example of what the Scottish Government’s new community wealth building legislation is seeking to achieve.

The legislation, ‘seeks to transform our local and regional economic systems to enable more local communities and people to own, have a stake in, access and benefit from the wealth our economy generates. Community Wealth Building can deliver more and better jobs, business growth, community-owned assets and shorter supply chains creating greater resilience and supporting net zero ambitions.’

Some ideas for a multi-use community building might include:

- Tourist information
- Local heritage centre
- Small business incubator space
- Hotdesking areas
- Creative 'maker spaces'/ studios
- Accommodation for a Kinross-shire artist-in-residence
- Crisis support & counselling

Many other great ideas will be out there; to get the ball rolling on

assessing the viability of a community purchase, the first step would be forming a working group of local people with passion, time and energy to talk to local stakeholder groups, seek funding for a feasibility study and register community interest in the building.

If you are interested in being part of a discussion about potential community ownership, or have ideas about services the Salutation could provide, please contact Deborah at [SalutationCommunityGroup@gmail.com](mailto:SalutationCommunityGroup@gmail.com).

## KIND PANTRY HELPS OUT

**THE KIND PANTRY IS** now taking collections of medicine blister packs, since they are no longer allowed in our grey wheelie bins. PKC made a mistake on their literature which was delivered to households throughout Kinross and advertised widely, but have now removed medicine blister packs from the list of recyclable items.

Owner Moira Hookham told the *Newsletter*, 'If it would make it more convenient for people I would be happy for *The Kind Pantry* to collect blister packs again. I have an outlet where they get recycled.'

*The Kind Pantry* is at 153 High St. Thanks, Moira!



## THE KINROSS NEWSLETTER

All profits given away to local good causes



# PKC LEISURE CUTS: IS KINROSS POOL ALSO UNDER THREAT?

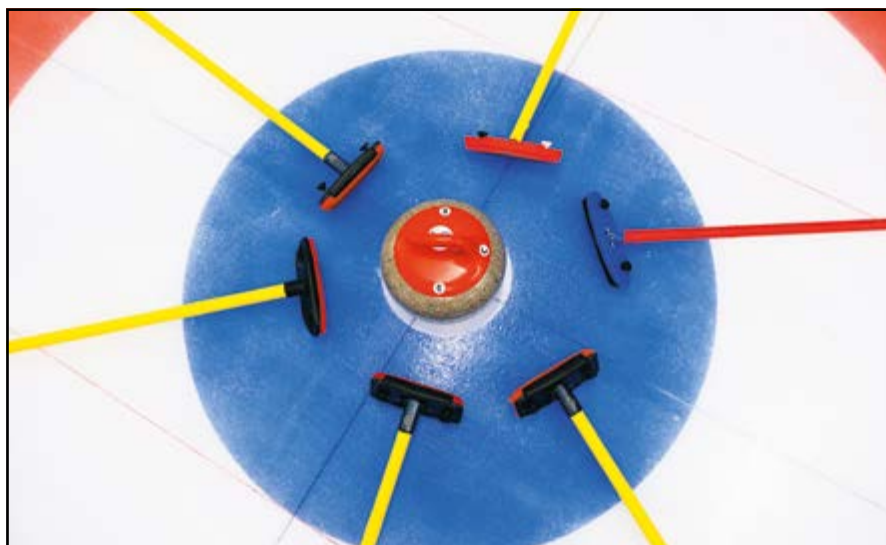
**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL** are debating the future for our leisure facilities in the local area at a full council meeting on 22 January, just after this *Newsletter* goes to print. The three city-centre leisure centres – Perth Leisure Pool, Bells Sports Centre and the Dewars Centre are currently running at a deficit of £1.6m a year.

The most controversial aspect of the debate is the suggestion that Dewars Centre, which contains one of Scotland's premier curling rinks, could fall victim to the axe. Many, including Olympic curler Eve Muirhead, have expressed shock at the idea of the Dewars closure.

Perth and Kinross Council want to close the ice rink in Perth and the two other Perth leisure facilities and create a new centre in Perth (which would not include an ice rink).

At the full council meeting the councillors will be asked to consider options and ideas to bring together the provision of leisure in Perth to one site 'to ensure future affordability and provision'.

The review recommends creating one centre, which would contain a 25m, eight-lane pool, fitness gym, sports hall, studios



and family play activities (but no ice rink). It is thought that it would replace the current three Perth leisure venues: Dewars, Perth Leisure Pool, and the Bell's Sports Centre.

Discussions will have to take into account the future of Loch Leven Leisure Centre as well, which is never immune to the threat of local authority cut-

backs. With many local residents feeling that Perth and Kinross Council is often 'Perth-centric' it will be interesting to see exactly where proposed cuts to the budget will be made. We hope it will not have a detrimental impact on leisure facilities provided by PKC in the Kinross area – time will tell!

## TRAFFIC NOTICES

### TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING, PARKING AND LOADING

#### **A91 Stirling Road/ Croft Wynd – MILNATHORT**

In order to permit BT Works on the above section of road a temporary traffic regulation order will be prepared. It is to be effective from 26 February 2024 for a period of three days.

The order will temporarily prohibit parking and loading (both sides) on the following length of carriageway:

A91 Stirling Road, Milnathort from its junction with Wester Loan (312053, 704712) to its junction with Church Street (311716, 704680) a distance of 339.84 metres or thereby.

Croft Wynd, Milnathort from its junction with the A91 Stirling Road (311949, 704707) to its junction with private access to property known as Number 9, Croft Wynd (311912, 704783), a distance of 95.77 metres or thereby.

Pedestrian & emergency vehicular access to premises will be maintained.

### TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING, PARKING AND LOADING

#### **Naemoor Road, CROOK OF DEVON**

In order to permit BT Works on the above section of road a temporary traffic regulation order will be prepared. It is to be effective from 5 February 2024 for a period of three days.

The order will temporarily prohibit all vehicles from driving, parking and loading on Naemoor Road, Crook of Devon from its junction with private access to property known as Tigh Struan (303321, 700233) to its junction with private access to property known as The Rowans (303182, 700389), a distance of 219.29 metres or thereby.

Pedestrian & emergency vehicular access to premises will be maintained.

# THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE TO LIVE THAN KINROSS!

**KINROSS-SHIRE BETTER PLACE TO Live Fair 2024** celebrates what makes the area a wonderful place to live. The upcoming event at Loch Leven Community Campus highlights the ways community groups, organisations, local businesses, and services in Glenfarg and Kinross-shire contribute to their local area.

The Better Place to Live Fair takes place in Kinross on Saturday 23 March 2024, and will provide a fantastic opportunity for groups, organisations, and clubs to show-



case what they do in the community; network with other groups; fundraise; recruit new members/volunteers and celebrate what Kinross-shire has to offer. The event has been organised through partnership working between The Kinross-shire Partnership and the Loch Leven Campus Partners.

Activities and opportunities planned for the fair so far include the chance to try out virtual reality headsets and a 3D printer, live music by Kythe, an army assault course, BBQ, and free tasters of the new primary and secondary school menus.

Entry to the fair is free. If you're part of a local group or organisation and you'd like to be part of the Fair, secure your place now by collecting a booking form from reception at Loch Leven Community Campus or by emailing [pauline@thegreyhouse.co.uk](mailto:pauline@thegreyhouse.co.uk). Completed forms must be returned no later than Friday 23 February 2023.

**WANT TO LEARN REIKI?**  
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Reiki Level 1 & 2 training offered by reiki master Kor Newhouse at his Scotlandwell reiki studio.  
 Full details on the website.

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[www.korstiareiki.com](http://www.korstiareiki.com)  
 T: 07739 462465

## CAUGHT!

**KINROSS COMMUNITY OFFICER**  
 Police Constable Ben Samson has asked the *Newsletter* to express the appreciation of Police Scotland to those members of the public whose information helped them track down two criminals.

In April 2023, two males in a blue van were seen acting suspiciously on various farms in the Kinross-shire area. The incident received a lot of local attention at the time, resulting in a great deal of information from the public. Following police enquiries, two men were identified and are now being charged with multiple offences.

Police Scotland told the *Newsletter*, 'Two men, aged 31 and 22 will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with offences relating to the intention to commit theft after a series of incidents at farms in the Kinross area. The incidents happened at various farms across the area in April 2023.

The 22-year-old man has been arrested and charged in connection with the incidents. The 31-year-old will also be the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

**POLICE SCOTLAND**

# NEW COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH GROUP FOR KINROSS-SHIRE

**KINROSS-SHIRE SPEEDWATCH ARE A** new local community speedwatch group that has been set up to help monitor driving standards within the Kinross-shire area.

They held their first meeting at the Milnathort Town Hall in December, and received a great presentation from the Community Police Officer PC Ben Samson which gave all the required information on what is expected of a community speedwatch group and what forms need to be complete and checks that will be performed before a volunteer is approved to be involved in community speedwatch activities.

Typical speedwatch activities include placing the cardboard police officers in appropriate places across Kinross-shire, using speed monitoring equipment in a three-

person team to log vehicles travelling over the speed limit as per the guidance set by Police Scotland, recording the necessary information and passing this information on to Police Scotland. They will then notify the owners of the vehicles by letter that they have been observed by the community speed watch team of being in excess of the speed limit.

The point of Kinross-shire Speedwatch is not to catch as many excessive speeders as possible or for there to be any prosecutions but to increase awareness of what the speed limit is, to help drivers to observe the speed limit and the importance of doing that and to help ensure our towns and villages are kept safe and absent from road traffic accidents caused by excessive speeds. Success will be when Kinross-shire Speedwatch has

no notifications or very little to send to Police Scotland and not the opposite!

They are currently in the process of ordering all the safety equipment we require and will be conducting training sessions as soon as it arrives.

A spokesperson told the *Newsletter*, 'We are still looking for volunteers, so that we have enough to cover the whole of the Kinross-shire area. Volunteers will not have to carry out speed watch activities in their own village/town. If you would like more information or to become a volunteer please email *speed-*



*watch.ks@gmail.com* for more details.'

Kinross-shire Speedwatch would like to thank PC Ben Samson and his colleagues from Police Scotland for their presentation and answering all their questions, Trudy Duffy and Fossoway Community Council for providing all the funding to buy all the initial equipment necessary to help start up this group and Milnathort and Orwell Community Council, for helping to organise the initial meeting, organise purchasing and secure storage of the equipment.

## Get More In '24!



*Kirsteen and Hayley from Growbiz*

**THERE ARE MANY WAYS** the self-employed, micro businesses and social enterprises in P&K can benefit from GrowBiz support services this year. One key focus for in 2024 will be providing jargon-free, practical advice on creating realistic and manageable net zero targets.

Made possible with funding from SSE Renewables, GrowBiz's net zero support will take into account specific rural challenges, such as lack of public transport. It will facilitate conversations, provide peer support and learning events, and will also include support for better mental health and wellbeing.

To start a conversation with a friendly GrowBiz team member on how to start or continue your journey to net zero, email *connect@growbiz.co.uk*

They will also be continuing to provide their usual support of 1-1 business advice, networking events, mentoring and online learning sessions on useful topics for small business owners. On Tuesday 27 February, you can learn how to use design platform Canva to create professional and eye-catching video content to support and promote your business.

Another learning session on Wednesday 6 March will discuss cashflow management and how it can help you manage your projected income and expenditure over a given period of time. Events are free, informal, interactive and open to anyone thinking about starting or growing a business or enterprise in rural Scotland. To see more of their services or book an event go to *www.growbiz.co.uk*.

### HIGH STREET SEWING Clothing and Curtain alterations and repairs (1-2 week turnaround)

Available hours:

Monday 0900-1230 & 1330-1700

Tuesday 0900-1230

Thursday 0900-1230 & 1330-1700

Friday 0900-1230

Saturday 0900-1230

Location - behind Loch Leven Laundry and Baillies

LINETTE MANN – 07732 902419

# KINROSS RUGBY CLUB



## MEN'S SIX NATIONS INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FIXTURES 2024

### Round 1

Friday 02 February	France		KO 20.00 Orange Vélodrome Marseille		Ireland
Saturday 03 February	Italy		KO 14.15 Stadio Olimpico Rome		England
Saturday 03 February	Wales		KO 16.45 Principality Stadium Cardiff		Scotland

### Round 2

Saturday 10 February	Scotland		KO 14.15 Murrayfield Stadium Edinburgh		France
Saturday 10 February	England		KO 16.45 Twickenham Stadium London		Wales
Sunday 11 February	Ireland		KO 15.00 Aviva Stadium Dublin		Italy

### Round 3

Saturday 24 February	Ireland		KO 14.15 Aviva Stadium Dublin		Wales
Saturday 24 February	Scotland		KO 16.45 Murrayfield Stadium Edinburgh		England
Sunday 25 February	France		KO 15.00 Stade Pierre Mauroy Lille		Italy

### Round 4

Saturday 09 March	Italy		KO 14.15 Stadio Olimpico Rome		Scotland
Saturday 09 March	England		KO 16.45 Twickenham Stadium London		Ireland
Sunday 10 March	Wales		KO 15.00 Principality Stadium Cardiff		France

### Round 5

Saturday 16 March	Wales		KO 14.15 Principality Stadium Cardiff		Italy
Saturday 16 March	Ireland		KO 14.45 Aviva Stadium Dublin		Scotland
Saturday 16 March	France		KO 20.00 Groupama Stadium Lyon		England

All Times GMT

# News From The Health Centre



# MUCH-LOVED DOCTOR LEAVES KINROSS

**FOR THOSE OF YOU** who may not have heard, Dr Caroline Osborne has decided to take up a new position with the Newburgh Practice from February.

Caroline has been a partner in Orwell Practice since 2003. During that time she has enabled the practice list size to double and has been responsible for many beneficial changes and innovations for the benefit of patients.

Above all, in an era when medicine and general practice are changing rapidly towards more remote, IT driven consultations, Caroline provided continuity and reassurance to countless patients through appointments at the surgery and home visiting to the sick and elderly, which often involved shopping trips on their behalf.

An excellent diagnostician, Caroline was highly respected by her colleagues from all disciplines.

Everyone in the Orwell Practice and Loch Leven Health Centre wishes her well in her new post.



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# A SAFE BET FOR CHARLOTTE

A MAJOR GAMBLE HAS paid off for Charlotte, who has transformed a near-derelict betting shop on the High Street into a unique retail experience.

Designer Charlotte Giacobazzi launched Tartan Kipper Lifestyle at the start of November and it has become a firm favourite with customers from all over town and beyond.

It took months of hard work to transform the former bookie's into the beautiful space it is now, but as soon as she saw the place Charlotte spotted its potential.

'I've always wanted to run a shop that would complement my design business and I knew it would be ideal because of its generous size and perfect location,' she said.

'The old betting shop was in a serious state of disrepair, which let the High Street down as the surrounding businesses are all smart and well-established. We're in between *Unorthodox Roasters* and *La Casanova*, both of which are very popular, and just across the road from the award-winning butcher *Hunter's* and the beauty salon *The Complete Look*.

'Taking it on was daunting, to say the least, but I'm delighted that it's been received so well. I've been overwhelmed by the support I've had from customers, who say it's just what the town needed. It's also become something of a social hub, and this is one of the reasons I have no intention of selling online.'

Selling clothes, jewellery, gifts and homewares, Charlotte has made a point of stocking local makers whenever possible, reflecting the wealth of talent and creativity throughout Kinross-shire.

She's also lined up a number of experts to host workshops in various crafts, including pottery painting, sewing, art and Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken items with lacquer dusted with gold or silver.

Meanwhile, Charlotte's long-established design business continues to thrive, offering branding, personalised wedding stationery, artwork, illustrations and much more. For more information, visit [www.tartankipper.co.uk](http://www.tartankipper.co.uk)



# SUSTAINABLE OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE AT ORWELL FARM

WITH THE LATEST RESIDENTS of Orwell Farm, McCaskie Country Stores, having moved into their bespoke retail space, the focus is now on the remaining units at the business hub.

It includes a 1,596 sq ft net zero self-contained office space with ground and mezzanine levels which is available immediately.

This bright, airy, open-plan space includes a meeting room, kitchen and shower room.



There is also a 2,000sqft Dutch barn. It can be designed bespoke to suit the interested business and work pods ranging from 380-480 sq ft, again which can be

signed to suit the tenant's needs.

For more information on Orwell Farm check out the website at [www.orwellfarm.com](http://www.orwellfarm.com) or contact [jeff@orwellfarm.com](mailto:jeff@orwellfarm.com)

# The Fossoway Gathering Committee

**NOW FIRMLY RE-ESTABLISHED** as a key annual event, the Fossoway Gathering is organised by a fantastic group of volunteers from across the communities of Fossoway. Their 4th AGM will celebrate another successful year during which participation and attendance at the Gathering once again exceeded expectations.

The Gathering takes place on the first Saturday in September. It enjoys incredible support from individuals, organisations and businesses across Fossoway, Kinross-shire and beyond. By way of thanks they extend an invitation to all those who have helped in any way dur-

ing the past year to join them for a cheese and wine social following the (short) AGM.

A spokesperson told the *Newsletter*, 'We will be welcoming new members and would be delighted to have more. All skills welcome! It's a great way to get to know your community, make new friends, have fun and gain a sense of achievement delivering a hugely valued event. We are always looking at ways to improve. If you have ideas or are curious to learn more, join us on the 9th.

'In any event, drop us an email to [fossoway-gathering@gmail.com](mailto:fossoway-gathering@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you.'



## NEW GLENFARG BUS ROUTE IS A HIT!

**GLENFARG COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP'S** new extended 55 service, launched in January and running hourly from Kinross to Perth via Glenfarg, has already proven itself a hit with passengers.

The first few weeks were run as a 'soft launch' to see if the timetables worked and allow the drivers to familiarise themselves with the new route in and out of Perth. However, it has proven popular almost immediately with around 600 passengers per week making use of the new route.

It had been hoped that the bus could get to PRI, the pool and retail park 'on demand,' but it has proven difficult to keep to that schedule due to long-term roadworks in a number of locations.

These ambitions have been scaled back until spring and the introduction of the MooveFlexi App, which will show service punctuality

to passengers. The service will also appear on real-time destination boards where available (coming soon to P&R, Kirkland's, Milnathort Church St and Glenfarg Copperfields).

In the meantime, the 55 will deliver passengers to Canal Street and the bus station, and those heading to the hospital can connect at Mill Street with Stagecoach Services 1 (to the hospital) and service 2 (from the hospital) which run every 15 minutes.

In Perth, the 55 bus picks up at the bus station stance 1 at 20 minutes to the hour and Mill Street (stop G for Glenfarg), then Scott Street outside St John's Shopping Centre and opposite The Twa Tams at 15 minutes to the hour. The full timetable is at [GlenfargCT.co.uk](http://GlenfargCT.co.uk) or scan the QR code on p6. This timetable will be the most up-to-date and may change as the new service evolves.

## FOR SALE - 9 SELF BUILT PLOTS



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## KINROSS HOUSE



## Recruitment Day

We are currently hiring Events Staff, Kitchen Porters and Night Porters for our upcoming year of exciting events being held on the Kinross House Estate.

Come along and meet us to find out more about the roles and how to apply to become one of our casual team members.

THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 2024 | 2PM-6PM | KY13 8ET  
REGISTER TO ATTEND AT [KINROSSHOUSE.COM/RECRUITMENTDAY](https://www.kinrosshouse.com/recruitmentday)



# KINROSS-SHIRE WARM SPACES



## Loch Leven Library

Tuesday and Thursday: 10am-7pm;  
Wednesday and Friday: 10am-6pm;  
Saturday: 10am-1pm.

Warm space, hot drinks.

## Glenfarg Community Centre

Mondays: soup and roll 12.30-1.30pm.

## Men's Shed

Mondays: 2pm-4.30pm, hot drinks and rolls with activities.  
[kdms.secretary@outlook.com](mailto:kdms.secretary@outlook.com)

## Tabernacle Hall, Blairadam

Every second Wednesday until March 2024, 12-4pm.  
Booking required; please call 07990 662073 and speak to Margaret.

## Orwell and Portmoak Church

Milnathort Warm welcome, last Friday of the month, 10am-12noon. Messy Church and 3-course meal

## Portmoak Church

Speaker and afternoon tea. Call 01577 861200

## Carnbo Village Hall

Monday evening talks, first Monday of the month except January, starting at 7.30pm, refreshments. Call 07917 319003.

Coffee and Chat, Wednesday following the Monday talks, 10am-12noon.

## Kinross Day Centre

Monday to Friday. Lunch and activities for older people, including board games, quizzes, singing, indoor curling and gentle exercise.

## KYTHE

Study group (age 11-19), Monday, 3.45-5pm

Fitness group, Tuesday, 3.45-5pm

Art group, Wednesday 3.45-5pm

Music, Wednesday, 6pm-8pm (by appointment only)

Chill and bible chat; Thursday 3.45pm-5pm

Drop-in, Friday 1pm-4pm

<https://kythe.org.uk/>

## Millbridge Hall, Talking Donkey Café

Fri 11.30am-1.30pm. Open to all for a great hot lunch, a cuppa and a blether.

## Warm Packs: Broke Not Broken, Kinross Day Centre

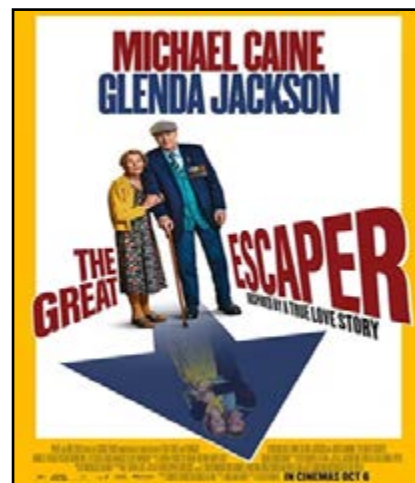
Soup in a flask (flask can be brought back and re-filled at the Centre, Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

## Loch Leven Library

Warm items, e.g. blankets, hot water bottles and flasks.

## Kinross Parish Church

Board Games once a fortnight (on 5 and 19 February) 2-4pm



**AS PART OF PKC'S** Warm Spaces, the Milnathort Filmhouse is delighted to offer you a warm welcome on Friday 9 February.

Join us for stovies and a screening from 1pm in the Milnathort Town Hall. Email [milnathortfilmhouse@gmail.com](mailto:milnathortfilmhouse@gmail.com) to book your free place.

## MEETING ROOM for HIRE

### St PAUL'S CHURCH, Muirs, Kinross

**MEETING ROOM** Comfortable, modern, bright, warm, carpeted with flexible table and seating arrangement and Wi-Fi.

**KITCHEN AREA** Sink unit, fridge, kettle, and microwave.

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**GARDEN AREA** gives additional and adjacent outdoor space. Accommodation is highly suitable for meetings, family gatherings and celebrations, receptions, exhibitions, small group activities, classes or clubs.

**HIRE RATE £10 per hour** or part hour on weekdays. Reasonable weekly and weekend hire may also be negotiated.

**Enquiries to Peter Croft - Tel: 01383-223004**

## Carnbo Coffee & Chat

@ Carnbo Hall 10am-12noon

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March

Over the Autumn and Winter months  
Coffee & Chat in Carnbo Hall

No agenda, just come along for a cuppa and a chat!

Open to all, bring a friend, or come on your own!

There is also a Book Swap Station swap a book for free, or £1 donation without a swap!

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**WHAT'S ON?**  
January/February

**Veganuary**  
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**Late night Gather & Gab**  
January 9th: 6pm - 10pm  
February 2nd: 6pm - 10pm  
Open late, small plates & BYOB

**Road to Dahl Afternoon Tea**  
February 14th - 18th  
Join us this half-term for a special kids afternoon tea! Follow us on socials for more info!

**Charaid Afternoon Tea**  
February 10th - 11th  
Besties celebrating each other over our speciality afternoon tea. The perfect excuse for a catch up!

Charaid - Scottish Gaelic:  
pal/friend/mate/buddy

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# TRACKS SECURES FUNDING FOR PHASE 2 REPAIRS

**TRACKS**, THE RURAL ACCESS Committee For Kinross-Shire, which helps maintains public access routes for cyclists and walkers, have announced that they have secured the funds from Perth and Kinross Council, Paths for All and The Gannochy Trust to carry out Phase 2 of repair and upgrade work to the Loch Leven Heritage Trail between Findatie and the Boathouse in Kinross.

The work, at a cost of £194,000 for this 8km section, is expected to commence in the second half of February 2024 and be completed by the end of April 2024.

During this period this section of the trail will be closed to all users. **TRACKS** will provide updates on the progress of the work on their website: <https://kinross-tracks.org.uk/recent-and-current-projects/>.



*The Loch Leven Heritage Trail has received £194,000 in grants for repairs and maintenance*

## Six Nations at Kinross Rugby Club

**KINROSS RUGBY CLUB ARE** showing all the games in the 2024 mens and women's Six Nations tournament. All are welcome, but non-members will need to be either signed in by a member or be prepared to join the club as an associate member.

Children under 14 are welcome but **must** be accompanied by an adult. Kinross Rugby Club is on the first floor of the newly extended King George V Muirs Pavilion.

See p12 for the Fixture List. More details in our Sports section.

## KINROSS FELLOWSHIP DISBANDS

**FOLLOWING A DEPLETION** in members, the Kinross Fellowship have decided that it is no longer viable for them to continue meeting on a Sunday morning and they have therefore announced their decision to disband.

Sadly, this also means the end of the Talking Donkey café, a community resource that provided hot food, drinks and a friendly word to anyone who attended. It will be missed.

## KPC Raises £2200 For Salvation Army

**THOSE ATTENDING THE** Christmas Services and December Communion at Kinross Parish Church raised £2,200 for the work of the Salvation Army in a special collection for its Winter Appeal.

Church Treasurer, Alan McGhie, said: 'Well done everyone! We may not all be

aware of the many ways in which the Salvation Army puts its Christian faith into action.

'For example, to reduce homelessness it offers night shelters, nap pads, support for rough sleepers, life-houses, drop-ins, outreach, addiction services and other initiatives to tackle the cycle of homelessness.'

## PIANO TUITION



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**Contact:**  
**Mrs Michelle Smith**  
**07925 267997**

## Could you ride a Trishaw?

**KINROSS-SHIRE TRISHAWS** are looking for new pilots. The bikes are all e-bikes so little fitness is needed. An interest in others, sharing stories and meeting people is all that's required.

Full training is provided. See the Clubs entry for Kinross Trishaws for details on how to apply.

## THE KINROSS NEWSLETTER

All profits given away to local good causes



**FEBRUARY STREET TRADING**

**CROOK - VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK  
SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**GLENFARG - VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK  
SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup>**

**MILNATHORT - STEWART + SMART GARAGE  
THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup>**

**PORTMOAK - CHURCH CAR PARK  
SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup>**

**KINROSS - OCHIL VIEW  
SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup>**

serving from 4:30 till 8pm

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# SARAH RANKIN COOKS



I CANNOT COOK rice to the correct volume. Regardless of how often I do it, I always cook far too much. The happy result is that there are often leftovers, which are a vehicle for all kinds of fantastic flavours and base for quick suppers and breakfasts.

Bibimbap is a Korean breakfast dish that will wake you your tastebuds for the day, but you can

serve it at any time. Its beauty is that you could top it off with whatever you like so it's a great way to use up leftover veg and meats too. I make mine with carrots, edamame, mushrooms and kimchi from a jar. This is a crunchy, spicy fermented cabbage relish which tastes a lot better than it sounds.

I then add chopped spring

onion, a crispy fried egg and dollop on a large spoon of homemade crispy chilli oil. This is a base recipe you can add whatever you like to, but the chilli oil, crispy egg, spring onion and fresh coriander are constants.

Simply heat your rice thoroughly – the microwave is the best place for this – add your toppings, and enjoy immediately.

## BIBIMBAP

### You Will Need

#### BIBIMBAP

(Serves 1)

125g cooked rice

1 spring onion, sliced

1 egg

Half a jar of kimchi

1 tbsp of crispy chilli oil – recipe below

Few fresh coriander leaves

#### CRISPY CHILLI OIL

(Makes 2 small jars of crispy chilli oil)

2 shallots

1 garlic bulb

750 ml vegetable oil

100 g chilli flakes

2 tbsp soy sauce

1 tsp black pepper

2 tsp szechuan pepper – optional

1 star anise

1 tbsp caster sugar



Thinly slice your shallots and garlic. Heat the veg oil in a large pan and add the shallots.

Simmer gently for 10 minutes. The shallots should begin to turn golden.

Add your garlic, then simmer for another three minutes until your garlic has gone crispy.

Don't let anything burn, or go too dark as it will taste bitter. Use a slotted spoon to remove the shallots and garlic and drain on kitchen paper.

Add the chilli flakes, soy sauce, pepper, star anise and sugar to a large bowl. Strain the oil through a sieve into the bowl

and stir everything together.

The oil should still be hot enough to sizzle the ingredients. Add the garlic and shallots and cover.

Leave overnight to infuse and then store in sterilised jars. They will keep in the fridge for around a month.



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# THE SALUTATION HOTEL: A WALK THROUGH HISTORY



*We look at the history of one of the most historic buildings in Kinross – one which may be about to undergo yet another transformation*

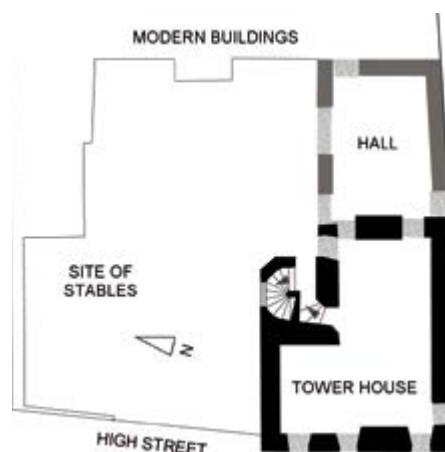
The hall to the east (in grey), originally two stories high, has a different alignment and floor height from the front block and was added later to create a downstairs dining parlour and additional bedrooms.

Originally part of a much larger property which included houses, a maltbarn, maltkiln, 'coble' (for steeping the malt), corn barn, barn yard and 1½ acres of toft land as well as 2 acres elsewhere, the house could have sustained a large household which entertained in style as well as providing wheat, flour and bread for sale. It may even have functioned as an inn.

Built by a member of the prolific and well-off Steidman/ Steedman family, it apparently remained in the same ownership for six generations. However by 1695 much of the land had been sold off and by 1721 there were new owners, William White and Elizabeth Dempster. They updated

**WOULD A 17th-CENTURY** time-traveller recognise any buildings in Kinross today? Well, parts of the Salutation Hotel might seem familiar. The oldest section (in black on the plan) is a three-story house with an octagonal stair tower, dating from the late-16th or early-17th century. It would originally have been entered through a secure gated courtyard with access to the stables and rear yards as well as to the main entrance door at the foot of the stair tower. The modern door still opens onto the turnpike stair which provided access down a few steps to the kitchen or up to the family apartments and attic rooms. The form of the chimney stacks suggest that the roof was originally thatched.

*Salutation Hotel, Sketch plan. Door to staircase original, other openings undated.*



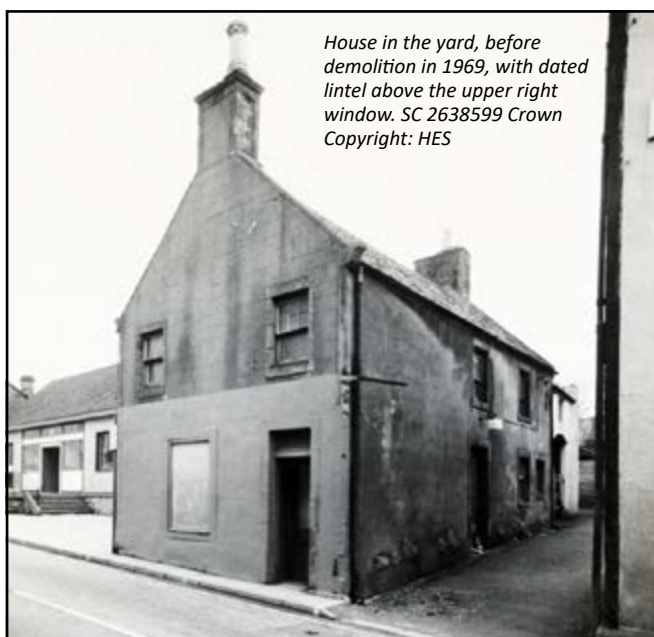
it with large sash windows and an elegant new street door incorporating their initials and the date (still visible); they must have been frustrated when forced to site the door off-centre to avoid the earlier fireplace! Around the time of the Jacobite rising in 1745 the house was auctioned to a Mr James Stewart and tenanted by 'John Meldrum, innkeeper',

the first secure record of it as an inn. It was sold again in 1799 and has changed ownership many times since then.

At some point the northern part of the plot, including 'dwelling house, brewhouse, yard, midden-stead, maltbarn, oven and half of the adjacent close', was sold separately from the main house. In 1725 the owners were David Mories and Margaret Simpson: the lintel dated 1729, now in the courtyard, was originally above an upper window and presumably records an upgrade to their 'dwelling house'. The whole stable block was demolished around 1970.

In spite of many changes, our time traveller would still recognise the core of the Salutation they once knew.

**Dr Catherine Kent**



*House in the yard, before demolition in 1969, with dated lintel above the upper right window. SC 2638599 Crown Copyright: HES*

# KIRAN'S EYE ON NATURE



*Kiran Simpson may only be 12 years old but he is already an avid nature photographer*

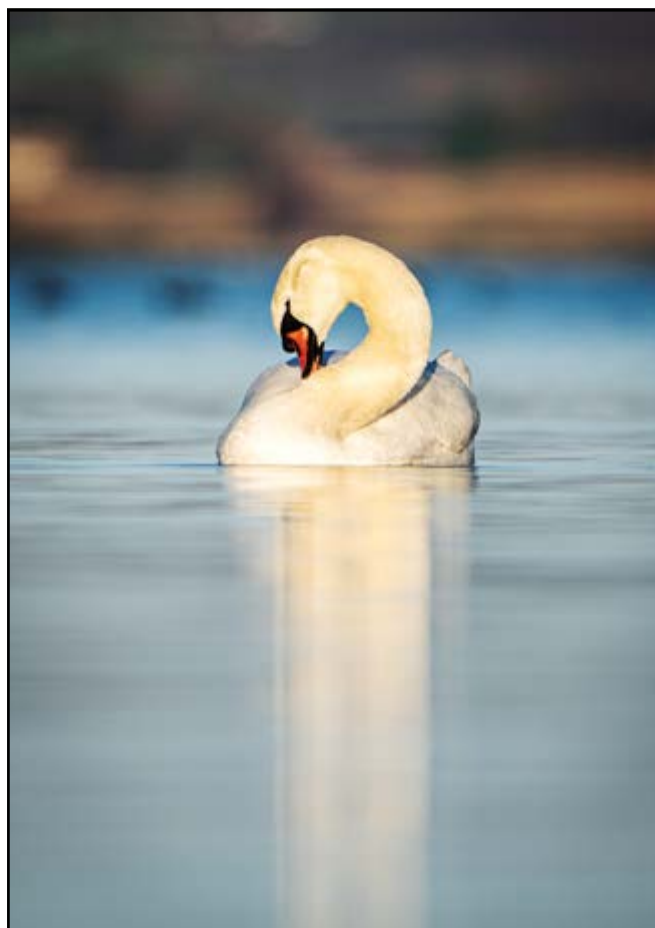
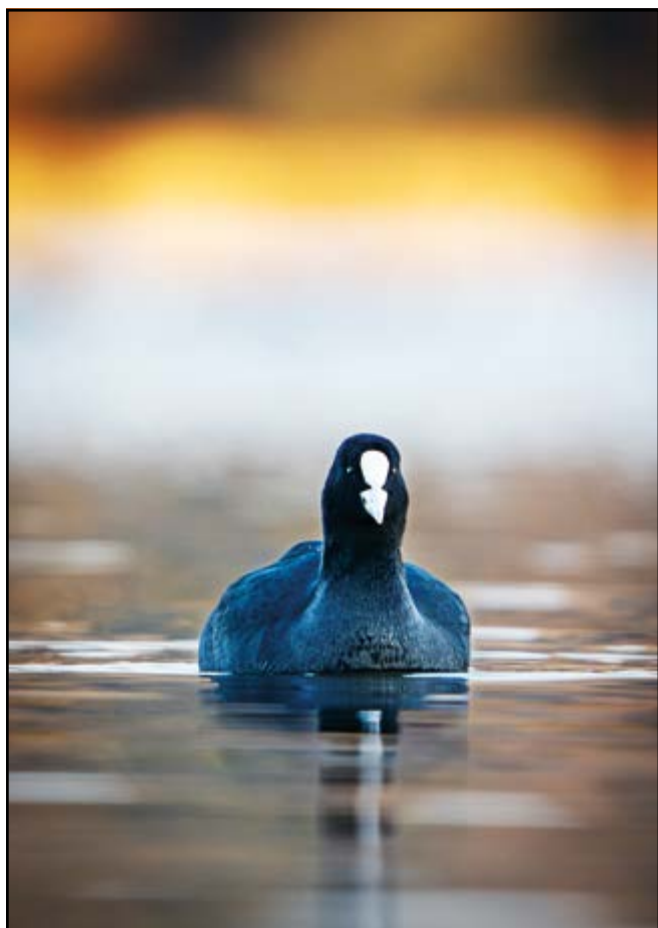
**SINCE HE WAS A** little four-year-old, Kiran has been immersed in the world of nature, showing a deep fascination for the weird and wonderful.

His captivation with reruns of *Springwatch* and admiration for explorers like Gordon Buchanan and George McGavin, especially witnessing Gordon's Bhutan trek, have fuelled his passion for the natural world.

At the age of 9, Kiran (*pictured left*) naturally cultivated a passion for photographing birds and tiny micro-insects.

Visiting Loch Leven several times a week provided the perfect opportunity for capturing the diverse array of wildlife that the reserve attracts throughout the changing seasons.

His passion for nature really shows through with his photographs. He is inspired again and again by the fantastic diversity of the visiting wildlife.







The photos shown here were taken on News Year's Eve and New Year's Day at Loch Leven. Thank you, Kiran, for letting us share your wonderful photos.

Although he is not yet in the Kinross Camera Club, we are sure he will be very welcome!

*Opposite page: Eurasian Coot (l) and Swan (r)  
This page: Robin (above), Blue tit (right), Goldeneye (below)*





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# Three Million On The Move

## *The Mass Evacuation Of Children On The Eve Of War*

**IN THE RUN UP** to D Day 80 in June, readers might like to think about what it was like for little ones in Britain during the war.

On 1 September 1939, two days before war was declared, the evacuation of children began. It was the largest movement of people ever seen in Britain. Most travelled by train with their schools, and went to live with foster parents. The mass exodus of civilians in Britain during the Second World War was designed to protect people – especially children – from aerial bombing, by moving them to areas thought to be less at risk. In the summer of 1939, more than 3 million children were evacuated from the big cities in ‘Operation Pied Piper’, while most parents stayed behind to work and help out with the war effort. Yes, that number was **three million!**

For many children, this was a time of great upheaval, and the transition from one region to another was extremely stressful, as you can imagine. Children were lined up outside schools and stations, clutching small



backpacks, with gas masks and one toy each, identified only by a name tag. After the tears and goodbyes, it was off to the scary unknown: to families they’d never met, and to places they’d never even heard of.

Evacuation was an adventure for some who had never seen the countryside, but others were homesick and unhappy. Foster parents were often shocked by the lack of hygiene and poor diets of inner city children.

During this early period, known as the ‘Phoney War’, the expected air raids did not materialise. Many evacuees went home. In 1940 however, the invasion of France and the start of air attacks on Britain led to a second wave of evacuation. After the fall of France in 1940, there was a real fear that

Britain would be invaded. With German air attacks underway, families in southern and eastern England were felt to be on the front line.

More children were evacuated, again, often from areas where they had previously been sent for safety. Many of those who remained witnessed dramatic aerial dogfights between British fighter aircraft and German bombers during the Battle of Britain.

‘We marched to Waterloo Station behind our head teacher carrying a banner with our school’s name on it. We all thought it was a holiday, but the only thing we couldn’t work out was why our mothers were all crying.’

Everyone living on the home front in Britain had to cope with shortages of food and clothing. People were encouraged to grow their own vegetables and to try new recipes. Children joined in, growing vegetables at school and at home.

The war also disrupted the education of many children. Over 2000 school buildings were requisitioned for war use. One in five schools was damaged by bombing, and air raids frequently stopped lessons for hours at a time. Although many schools were evacuated during the war, others chose to stay open. Cellars and basements were con-



verted into makeshift classrooms. Teachers, books, paper and equipment were all in short supply.

After the war ended, family life remained disrupted for many months, and sometimes longer. Evacuees who had stayed in the country now rejoined their families after years of separation.

Fathers returning from the forces seemed like strangers to children, who had never known them. For children who had lost parents or loved ones, or had been made homeless by the war, life would never be the same again.

For those wanting a bit more, there is a lovely novel about this.

*Goodnight Mister Tom* is a children’s novel by English author Michelle Magorian, published by Kestrel in 1981. Set during The Second World War, it features a boy abused at home in London, who is evacuated to the country at the outbreak of the war. In the care of Mister Tom, an elderly recluse, he experiences a new life of loving and care.


Comparing all this, we have a lot to be grateful for today, don’t we?

*Andy Middlemiss BEM DL*

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 Thursday: Explorers (Primary school age) 6.00 - 7.00 pm \*\*  
\*\* School term time only

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 (Nahum Chapter 1 verse 7)

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# LOCAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Fossoway and District Community Council

We seek to co-opt one or two members to the council. We are looking for individuals who would be willing to take on some admin tasks. Please phone Trudy on 07584 127906.

## The Potager Garden

A small community garden in Bowton Road Kinross. Contact Amanda James on 07963 476803, or [amandajames1577@gmail.com](mailto:amandajames1577@gmail.com).

## Broke not Broken

Broke not Broken is a voluntary organisation working for the prevention and relief of poverty. Contact [admin@brokennotbroken.org](mailto:admin@brokennotbroken.org).

## Greyhound Rescue Fife

Greyhound Rescue Fife at Baltree Country Centre, Gairneybank, Kinross, needs volunteers to clean the kennels and walk and feed the greyhounds. 01592 890583. [www.greyhoundrescuefife.com](http://www.greyhoundrescuefife.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! Contact Bouwien Bennet at [info@kleo.org.uk](mailto:info@kleo.org.uk) or call 01577 863107.

## RSPB Scotland Loch Leven

RSPB Scotland Loch Leven: We need volunteer fundraisers to help with pin badge boxes and bucket collections. Please get in touch on [communityfundraisingscotland@rspb.org.uk](mailto:communityfundraisingscotland@rspb.org.uk).

## Kinross (Marshall) Museum

The Museum Trust is looking for volunteers. If you would like to know more 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. Please contact David Colliar, email [davidcolliar@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davidcolliar@tiscali.co.uk) or Bill Freeman, [billywhizkid78@gmail.com](mailto:billywhizkid78@gmail.com).

## Common Grounds

A Charity Cafe staffed by volunteers on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 10am-12.30pm in the Guide Hall, Church Street, Milnathort. Contact: Gaylor Hopkins 01337 860535 or Elaine Matthew 01592 840266.

## Seamab

Seamab is a residential school that cares for some of the most vulnerable children in Scotland. 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 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). Pop in and speak to Nan or telephone 01577 863869.

## Milnathort Town Hall Committee

We are looking for volunteers. 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. Visit [www.aberlour.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.aberlour.org.uk/volunteer), or contact Shonagh on 07864 625069/[shonagh.ferguson@aberlour.org.uk](mailto:shonagh.ferguson@aberlour.org.uk).

## SPARKS

SPARKs allows adults of all ages who have support needs or disabilities to meet together with their carers. For more information 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 has a wide range of adult volunteering opportunities available. Contact us at [dofekinrossshire@gmail.com](mailto:dofekinrossshire@gmail.com).

## Interested in Guiding?

Volunteer with Girl Guiding and help make a difference to the lives of girls. If you would like to volunteer call Alison on 07764 750212.

## Friends of CHAS Kinross

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 please contact community fundraiser Lyndsay Stobie at: [lyndsastobie@chas.org.uk](mailto:lyndsastobie@chas.org.uk) or 07557 370746.

## Kinross-shire Volunteer Group & Rural Outreach Scheme

Could you become a volunteer driver for Kinross-shire Volunteer Group & Rural Outreach Scheme? We deliver a vital service to help the elderly and disabled attend appointments. Please contact the Administrator 01577-840196 or email [administrator@kvgrs.org.uk](mailto:administrator@kvgrs.org.uk).

## Guide Dogs Kinross

We would love new volunteers to join our fundraising group and we are also looking for a treasurer. You can still contact me for the foreseeable future by email at [she61@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:she61@hotmail.co.uk).

## 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. We have several volunteering roles available. 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).

**ORGANISATIONS: To add an appeal, email the Editor. Please let us know if you no longer need your appeal to be listed.**

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## Councillor Willie Robertson



**Glass Recycling:** With the recycling centre at Bridgend closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and closed from 4pm on other days due to budget cuts, it is more difficult for those wishing to use the glass recycling containers there. We have also lost the glass recycling point at Sainburys. It was clear over the Christmas and New Year holidays that we really need better access to glass recycling points. With a view to this I have written to the Council and asked if the fencing at the Bridgend site could be reconfigured so that the recycling containers can be located outside the yard. This would allow access for users at all times. They have responded saying that this would not be easy as it could create blockages in the one way system. However they have agreed to hold discussions with Sainsburys to see if they would allow the Council to locate glass recycling bins in their car park. We really need to increase the glass recycling capacity locally.

**Empty Homes:** Kinross-shire has the smallest number of long-term empty homes in Perth & Kinross with 25. Almond and Earn have 51 and Highland have a surprising total of 124. There are 775 long term empty houses with Perth & Kinross. These houses will now have to pay double the normal council tax to encourage their owners to put them back into use.

**Loch Leven Heritage Trail:** As you may be aware TRACKS have been seeking funding to carry out phase two of the trail upgrade from Vane Farm to Kinross. I am delighted to report that we have been successful in our funding applications with grants being awarded from Paths for All, The Gannochy Trust and Perth & Kinross Council. It is hoped the work will be carried out in the spring of this year. The total cost of the path widening, resurfacing and remedial works comes to nearly £200,000.

**Aldi Application Milnathort:** I get asked regularly about the Aldi planning application on land in Auld Mart Road, Milnathort. The latest position, according to the planning department, is that nearly all the information requested from Aldi has been provided. However there are still some Transport Planning issues outstanding. A decision on the application should be reached by the end of February.

I have not been told what the likely recommendation on the application will be.

*Councillor Willie Robertson*

## Councillor Dave Cuthbert



### Is Democracy Dead?

I am apolitical when it comes to party politics. My view is that people need to work together to get things done. I think party politics gets in the way of that.

In Kinross-shire, we are lucky to have four elected members who park party politics in Perth and work together locally. However, I do feel the need to take a pop at the current Scottish Government when it comes to development planning, as I think the current planning system completely undermines local democracy.

The way it currently works is that the Scottish Government require each local authority to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP), which in theory is the measure used to judge each planning application received by the local authority.

Preparation of the LDP is a huge and costly exercise, which takes several years to complete and currently has a budget of £1.4m per year. Once prepared, the LDP goes to full Council where it gets debated and a finalised copy is produced. This means that

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the LDP produced at this stage, reflects the democratic view of the people of Perth and Kinross.

The LDP which has been produced by the Local Authority, then goes to the Scottish Government, who tweak it to suit their agenda, thereby changing the document and this is where the wheels start to come off in the process.

When a planning application is received by the council, it is validated and then considered against the LDP by planning officers and should it be an uncontroversial minor application, then it will be determined by officers under powers delegated to them by the Council.

If it is a major application or a controversial minor application, it is then put before a committee of 13 elected members who consider its merits and then either give it permission or refuse it.

At this point, a heavy bias is introduced, in that the law allows developers to appeal a refusal decision to the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division of the Scottish Government (DPEA). However, should the application be approved, there is no process for objectors to appeal the decision.

The DPEA appoint one officer to look at the application and to determine it. Their decision is final.

An example of this process was an application to develop a site of 10 houses in the Back Crook area of Crook of Devon.

This application was considered by Fossoway CC who objected to it, as did other residents, so the application came to the Planning Committee, who voted to refuse it. The applicant appealed this decision and it went to the DPEA, who approved it. I think this is undemocratic and makes a mockery of the millions spent on the LDP.

### Post Office Scandal

Talking of undemocratic, I have been watching the Post Office scandal play out with fascination. The stories which have been coming out of it are heartbreaking! There are some interesting



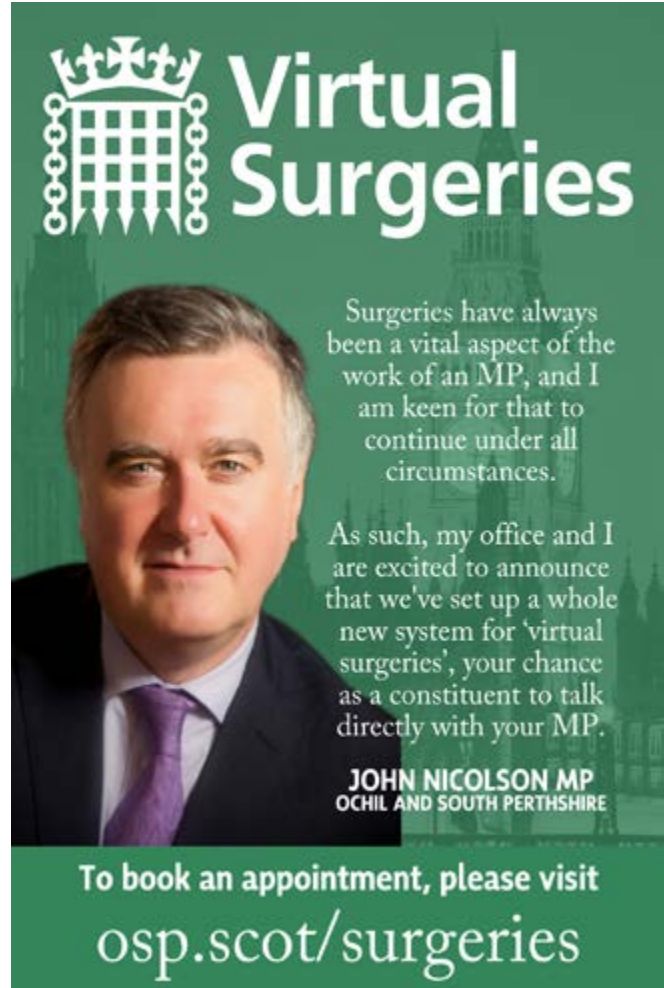
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techniques used by the Post Office to deal with the complaints that people raised.

For example, there is one scene where a representative of the affected sub-postmasters, plus one other person is met with a team of eight Post Office representatives in a meeting (presumably intended to intimidate them). Another example is where the Post Office senior management decide to carry out an external review, only to drop it when it starts to come to uncomfortable conclusions. I think these techniques are very sad, and unfortunately, recognisable more locally.

I feel sorry for the people who work for the Post Office at lower levels. It must be very hard for them watching this play out. I think they do an incredible job, delivering our post regardless of the weather.

### Council Budget

The Council considers its budget on 28 February. The process is in full swing as I write this and it is not looking very good. There will be some hard choices to make to balance the books. Needless to say, I am deep in the process and it will be very time consuming!

### Curling in Perth

One of the issues to be considered in the budget process is the arm's length organisations which the council owns and uses to provide services.

These consist of Culture Perth and Kinross, who provide library, museum and other services; Perth Theatre and Concert Hall, who run the cultural programme out of Perth Theatre and Perth Concert Hall; Live Active Leisure, who provide sports for the Council and operate a number of facilities in the area, including Perth Leisure Pool, Bells Sports Centre and the Dewar Centre. These three facilities are currently running at a deficit of £1.6m a year, so something must be done to resolve this. As I write this, there is to be a Full Council meeting on 22 January, where a debate will be had on the way forward for these facilities. It is important that there is a curling facility and swimming pool in Perth, although I do struggle with the fact that many of the rural swimming pools (including Kinross) were built by public subscription. Likewise, the curling rink in Kinross was saved from closure by people digging into their own pockets and raising external finance. It will be an interesting debate.

*Councillor Dave Cuthbert*

### Jim Fairlie, MSP

This time of year can be a difficult time for many, given the dark nights and the current financial pinch. For anyone needing advice, Advice Direct Scotland can offer advice on a whole host of subjects, from energy to consumer and also debt advice, including information on benefits. They can be contacted on 0808 800 9060 and at [www.advice.scot](http://www.advice.scot).



The Scottish Government has made tackling child poverty its number one priority and one of the ways in which we are trying to have an impact is through the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment. I welcome the latest figures showing that child poverty has reduced 5% in 2023/24. The Scottish Child Payment, which provides £25 per week to every eligible child, is estimated to lift 50,000 children out of relative poverty in 2023/24. The cost of living crisis is continuing to affect households across Kinross-shire, and families are facing even greater challenges, with many struggling to make ends meet. The Scottish Child Payment will therefore be even more vital at this time of the year. 7,250 children across Perth and Kinross-shire are already benefiting from the Scottish Child Payment, which represents a cash injection of £10,157,115 directly into bank accounts in Perth and Kinross-shire.

Newly released figures show the real difference that devolving social security powers can make to people's day-to-day lives. The recent survey found that 97% of recipients of people across Scotland received their payments on time, 90% said their experience with staff was 'very good' or 'good' and 93% feel they were treated with kindness. In Perth and Kinross-shire, 91% of respondents rated their overall experience with Social Security Scotland as good or very good.

The Scottish Government has built a welfare system rooted in dignity, fairness and respect; whose foundational principle is to help and support the most vulnerable, in stark contrast with the DWP. That is not to say that they always get it right first time. They are a new organisation and are dealing with a huge transfer of information that the DWP gave to them overnight. My office remains available to assist in any cases where constituents are facing delays with Social Security Scotland transfer cases.

As always, if anyone needs to contact me, please call my office on 01738 620540 or email [Jim.Fairlie.MSP@Parliament.Scot](mailto:Jim.Fairlie.MSP@Parliament.Scot)

*Jim Fairlie, MSP*

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## Politicians

### John Nicolson, MP

I have all my Grandfather's letters home from the trenches in Flanders to his Mither in faraway Scotstoun. Crisp as the day she opened them, the pencilled lettering in his immaculate copperplate is faded – calligraphy he learnt before leaving school at the age of twelve for work in the shipyards.

John George Stant was a volunteer. His letters chart a five year descent from idealistic young recruit certain that the war would soon be over because 'the Hun' wouldn't dare fight, through grinding despair at the mess and misery, to numb disbelief when an officer rode up and told the men that the war was over.

He'd reached the rank of Sergeant and had much to live for on his return. He was due to marry his sweetheart Jenny. He had kept up his mandolin and banjo skills throughout the war, getting new strings posted to the war trenches from a Merkat Cross music shop at a speed which would challenge today's Royal Mail. And he was keen to find out more about the new movie star Charlie Chaplin as Jenny kept saying how funny he was.

Johnny had every reason to imagine he'd be back soon and able to move into a family 'Home fit for heroes'. And he knew that 'the Boss' who had visited his mother – and fiancée – regularly throughout the War had promised them that his shipyard job was



### Liz Smith, MSP

IT WAS THE GREATEST privilege to be awarded a CBE for Services to Sport in His Majesty, The King's New Year's Honours. The award was completely unexpected and I want to publicly thank those who nominated me.

Sport has been a very large part of my life from a very young age and I have both my parents to thank for that. They were both hugely supportive and encouraging, as were my teachers and good friends at school. The sports in which I have participated are too numerous to mention but there is no doubt that, over many years, I gained the most from tennis, hockey and cricket. They instilled in me the importance of being part of a team; of good leadership, of building confidence, resilience and self-esteem, but also that sportsmanship is just as important as the competition itself. Sport taught me how to lose as well as how to win, or, in the words of Rudyard Kipling which are inscribed above the Players' Entrance at Wimbledon, how to "treat the two imposters of triumph and disaster just the same." That lesson in life is so important (especially in politics!).

Since becoming an MSP in 2007, much of my work has been devoted to Holyrood's Cross Party Group on Sport and on developing the opportunities for young people to experience the benefits of outdoor education. In both cases, it has been my privilege to work with so many sports associations and educational establishments across Scotland and particularly with so many wonderful volunteers at every level. Often unsung and working in challenging circumstances (including the Scottish weather!), they are a remarkable army of people who do so much to bring credit and excellence to Scottish sport. Without them, we wouldn't have our elite athletes but neither would we have the thousands of grassroots clubs where it all begins.

Recently, as Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Sport, I once again hosted the annual Scottish Sports Association Reception at Holyrood. On this occasion there was specific focus on the development of disability sport. The sheer courage and determination and also the skills of the athletes who attended was remarkable and an example to us all about what sport really means. It is so good to see the progress that is being made to improve inclusion and accessibility in sport although there is still much work to be done. That challenge will remain central to my efforts in the Scottish Parliament.

Working with the governing bodies within the Scottish Sports Association, so ably run by Kim Atkinson, is one of the great pleasures in my life at Holyrood. I would like to thank my CBE reflects their dedicated service to sport across Scotland.



*Liz Smith, MSP*



waiting. If Johnny was jealous of these visits he kept his counsel, instead sending detailed instructions about how important it was to polish the brasses to make a good impression before 'the Boss' arrived for his visits.

But in reality his job had been given away. And unemployment loomed as a grim prospect. So he opted for paid work as a soldier, joining the Army of Occupation in Germany post-War. How he must have dreaded his reception that Christmas, billeted on a German family as their nation lay in ruins. But far from hostility he found kindness – and surprises. He wrote home in astonishment at the way his hosts dragged a tree from the nearby forest and covered it with candles. "It could go on fire any moment" he told his Mother. And under the tree he found a present, carefully wrapped, and labelled for the Scottish lad so far from his home and family.

I wish I knew those Germans' names. I'd love to trace their descendants and thank them for their family's kindness. There's was surely the Christmas message we can all embrace whatever our beliefs: a welcome for strangers. A conviction even in the darkest times that more unites than divides us. And an acceptance of the futility of war.

I wish you and yours the blessings of the season and a happy and peaceful New Year 2024.

*John Nicolson, MP*

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# ACTION HEROES

## WINNING WAYS

by Jo Middlemiss

**THIS WEEK I HAVE** noticed that in spite of all the disasters and dramas going on in the world, there are still many stories of a heroic nature. There are countless people, who value life and its wonders, and really do appreciate it, in all its many facets, even when the world might think that that life is not worth living.

None of us could have missed the ongoing saga of Mr Bates vs The Post Office. It is a classic case of determination, and to quote Winston Churchill:

‘Never, never, never, never, never, never, never, give up!’

Seven ‘nevers’ and only one ‘give up’. It was said to be his shortest speech, but carried a big punch. Mr Bates, Mrs Jo Hamilton and all of the brave postmasters knew that the truth matters and it is worth fighting for.

Doris Haddock was an American woman of 94, who gained fame for herself by walking coast to coast across America. Next, she ran for Congress. She started walking because she wanted to change the system that only rich people are able to run for Congress. She took as her role model Mahatma Ghandi, because he too was a simple man of non-violence, who walked across India to draw attention to his cause. Her slogan was ‘*You are never too old to raise a little hell*’.

Then comes the story of a young American called Aaron Earlston, who wrote a book called *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*. He is an outdoor sort of person, used to climbing, hiking and camping. But on this particular day, he did not take the usual precautions, because he was just out for a simple sort of strolling day. He was walking in a canyon, but dislodged a huge boulder, and managed to trap his right hand in an impossible position. He knew that he was sitting in his grave, if he didn’t do something for himself. Using his camping knife, he actually cut off his own hand, and managed to walk to his truck, where he was rescued, thanks to an extraordinary train of events, making this book a ‘must read.’

I have listened to Aaron talking, and he genuinely believes that he isn’t extraordinary in any way, that we all have these superhuman qualities for self-rescue, if our desire to escape is strong enough. He says that the experience is something that he is now immensely grateful for, and if he could turn the clock back, he wouldn’t change what happened, because of all the



Mount Sula Grande

things that he has learned through this one incident. He now has a false hand, which he has designed himself, not a pretty thing, but incredibly useful with removable gadgets, which he markets for others who have lost limbs.

This story got me thinking about other unsung heroes: Victor Frankl who survived life as a POW, in order to help people understand better how the mind works: Ed Jackson the rugby player who lost all four limbs, and now is one of the best and bravest quadriplegic climbers in the world: Olivia Giles, a young Edinburgh lawyer, who also lost all four limbs through sepsis, and funded her own charity providing prostheses for people in Malawi and Zambia. Let’s think about Joe Simpson who crawled off Mount Sula Grande with a broken leg, having been given up for dead. His book *Touching the Void* has many lessons about survival and forgiveness that could instruct us all, even if we never set foot on a mountain track.

Look hard enough in your newspapers and you will spot real life heroes who simply refuse to give up in the face of adversity. If you think about your friends, neighbours and family, you will know some heroes of your own. Ordinary people who have never hit the headlines, but who nevertheless have done extraordinary things, all of which would make great and inspiring stories.

Jo Middlemiss MBE

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# Kinross Hub Feb Calendar



The sessions are drop-in but if you prefer an appointment time, please phone the number detailed for the agency you wish to connect with, or contact: Shona Fowler on 07896 280843 [shona.fowler@nhs.scot](mailto:shona.fowler@nhs.scot).

<b>Thu 1st</b>	10am–12.30pm	<b>Broke not Broken</b> - to offer advice, connections to support and also for foodbank referrals. <b>07518 913107</b>
	1pm–3pm	<b>Mindspace</b> - Info on supporting mental wellbeing. <b>07928 859628</b> or <b>01738 631657</b>
<b>Fri 2nd</b>	10am–12noon	<b>VOICEABILITY</b> for free advocacy regarding benefits access and supporting people to be heard in decisions about their health, care & wellbeing <b>07918 560891</b>
<b>Wed 7th</b>	1.30pm–4pm	<b>CATH</b> will support with form filling – PIP, Universal Credit, Blue Badge etc <b>07955 333163</b>
<b>Thu 8th</b>	10am–12noon	<b>Home Energy Scotland</b> offering impartial advice on energy use, keeping warm and minimising costs <b>0808 808 2282</b>
	1.30–3.30pm	<b>PKC Employment Support Team</b> Job advice and help for those who have learning disability, acquired brain injury, mental health issues or autistic spectrum diagnosis, sensory loss or physical disabilities <b>07788 389659</b>
<b>Fri 9th</b>	10am–12noon	<b>Community Listening Service</b> , an opportunity to talk, particularly during stressful events at home or work, or after bereavement or loss. <b>01382 423116</b> or <b>07967 771941</b> <a href="mailto:tay.listening@nhs.scot">tay.listening@nhs.scot</a>
<b>Thu 15th</b>	10am–12noon	<b>Older Peoples Mental Health Team</b> here to support and advise on all aspects of mental health for the over 65s <b>01764 653173</b>
	2pm–4pm	<b>Camille Vickers, Social Prescriber</b> - Community Connecting/ Signposting <b>07775 701836</b>
<b>Fri 16th</b>	10am–12.30pm	<b>PKC Skills &amp; Employment</b> - support & advice re CVs, Job search, support after redundancy etc. <b>07867 351268</b>
		<b>Futures for Families</b> - supporting parents to access or progress in work - <a href="mailto:skillsandemployment@pkc.gov.uk">skillsandemployment@pkc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Wed 21st</b>	1.30pm–4pm	<b>CATH</b> will support with form filling – PIP, Universal Credit etc <b>07955 333163</b>
<b>Thu 22nd</b>	10am–12.30pm	<b>Broke not Broken</b> - to offer advice, connections to support and also for foodbank referrals. <b>07518 913107</b>
	2pm–4pm	<b>PKC Housing Team</b> for housing advice and signposting to their service. <b>07917 552231</b>
<b>Fri 23rd</b>	11am–1pm	<b>Social Security Scotland</b> offering advice on their benefits –Adult Disability Payment, Carers Allowance Supplement, Child Disability Payment, Funeral Support Payment, Best Start Grants etc. <b>0800 182 2222</b>

## LOCAL ADVICE HUB

**THE ADVICE HUB IS** a partnership between Broke not Broken, P&K Health and Social Care Partnership and Loch Leven HC. It provides a much-needed local drop-in facility to support people with community connections, signposting to benefits services, foodbank support, mental health agencies and community organisations.

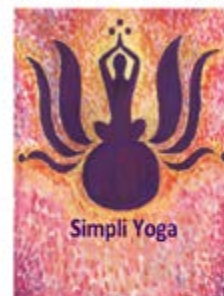
If you are experiencing financial difficulty during this time or feel you need support/advice please call Shona Fowler on 07896 280843 to have a chat or email [shona.fowler@nhs.scot](mailto:shona.fowler@nhs.scot)

If you wish to connect with Broke not Broken directly Danielle is in the advice hub on Thursday mornings or can be contacted on 07518 913107 or email [admin@brokenotbroken.org](mailto:admin@brokenotbroken.org)

The Social Prescriber will connect you with local community groups, supportive exercise sessions, walking groups, green/nature prescribing activities, volunteering, learning opportunities or help you link with another agency. They can be contacted via [southsocprescribers@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:southsocprescribers@pkc.gov.uk)

These are just examples so please contact us if there is anything else you need or want to discuss with us. We're always available for a friendly, informal chat.

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If you don't already have a loyalty card, be sure to pop in and pick one up from Fiona or Christine at reception. Every treatment and product gets one stamp and after you have collected 15 stamps, you'll get 15% off any treatments or products purchased in a single sale. Terms apply so check out our website for all the details.


We are still holding some Decleor stock, although this is now becoming limited. If you are a user of these products, please do pop in as some lines are now very low in stock. L'Oreal have decided to close the brand down and as a result, no further orders are available. So when it's gone, it's gone!

Don't forget to shop local this Valentine's Day and drop

in to see our range of products and gifts, as well of course as our gift vouchers which take away all the guesswork. We'll be happy to gift wrap any purchases and can even help you choose what's best for the one you love. We have increased our range of packages which offer the very best value with bundled treatments at discounted pricing. You can find the whole range on the website at [www.thecompletelook.co.uk](http://www.thecompletelook.co.uk), or by dropping in, we're always happy to see you.

We have a busy few months ahead and as always, we encourage your to make your appointment bookings as far in advance as you can to ensure we can fit in your favourite treatments. Our app always has the best availability and any cancellations or last minute appointment times are always shared on our Facebook page.

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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.

## Fossoway Community Council

### News from the January Meeting

<https://www.fossoway.org/community-council>

**Present** at the meeting on 2 January were CCLRs N Marchant, S Bruce-Jones, A Carter, A Cheape, T Lamb and 3 members of the public (MoP).

**Apologies:** CCLr G Pye, Assoc CCLr C Farquhar; Cllrs D Cuthbert, N Freshwater, W Robertson and R Watters.

### Police Report

From 5 December 2023 (last meeting) there have been 33 calls to Police from the Fossoway area and 2 crimes recorded on Police systems. On 14/12/2023 Roads Policing officers were carrying out speed checks in Carnbo where they issued a driver a ticket for speeding.

Roads Policing officers have also been out on the M90 near to junctions 5 & 6 following road traffic collisions. During these incidents various drivers have been charged for careless/dangerous driving, having bald tyres and driving whilst unfit through drink/drugs.

On 13/12/2023 PC Samson and PS Craig attended at the regular 'Carnbo Coffee & Chat' at Carnbo Hall for an informal visit to speak to the locals in the community. This was well received by the community.

### Matters Arising

#### Windfarms

The CC has organised a public meeting for 30 January 2024 at 7.30pm in Carnbo Village Hall where we will share the findings from our wind farm survey.

#### Community Development Trust

An external funding request for monies to support the development of a Community Action Plan/Local Place Plan and website for the Trust has been submitted to PKC. A Trust member has submitted a fee exemption form to the ICO and is preparing a data protection policy for the Trust. The next meeting will be in February.

#### Road Safety In FDCC Area inc. A977 Mitigation Measures

**Drum Crossroads:** PKC notified residents that their traffic signal contractor has had staffing issues which has delayed the installation of the equipment approaching the winter shutdown. They therefore decided that it is best to delay this work until the New Year. The installation will now commence on Monday 8 January and they hope to be in a position to switch on the junction between 15 and 17 January. For the contractor's safety, 4-way temporary traffic signals will be used during this time.

Following the switch-on, the only outstanding work will be the installation of the surface material around the maintenance areas. Due to the type of material being used, it is not recommended to lay it in current temperatures and therefore they will arrange for this to be completed once temperatures rise. This should be able to be completed with minor disruption.

#### Speed Watch

CCLRs Bruce-Jones and Lamb attended a meeting of Speedwatch volunteers organised by Milnathort CC on 12 Dec. It seems like at last this is going to happen. There are potentially 20 volunteers either in the pipeline or ready to apply. Funds have been secured to cover costs for the first camera and ancillary equipment needed for the Volunteers. Milnathort CC is happy to order and store equipment. PC Ben Samson is going to co-ordinate and get this up and running channelled through Allan at Milnathort CC. Unfortunately much of the information and vetting information already submitted has been found to be corrupted so all applicants will have to start again from scratch. Email addresses

of those interested will be sent to PC Samson who will reissue the vetting forms for completion. It was also suggested by CCLr Bruce-Jones and agreed that further grant funding be looked at now for a second set so that two teams of three could be out and about simultaneously around Kinross-shire.

### Yellow Grit Bins

A yellow grit bin has been requested for Craighend Rd., in addition to the two requested for the Aldie Rd. Concerns were raised by MOP that some side and minor roads were not gritted or cleared. Regarding community clearance question was raised about the ability of farmers to use red diesel in their vehicles on public roads to carry out snow clearance.

### Fossoway area transport – 202 bus service

Constructive meetings have been held with PKC and Glenfarg regarding Glenfarg and the Fossoway CDT jointly taking on a local community bus service. A further meeting of the Trust and CC is planned for 4 Jan 2024. There will be a need for more volunteer and employed drivers and more buses and community input on a timetable. No negative reports on the 202 bus running with the new 14 plate longer wheelbase vehicle.

### Note of Concern Regarding CC Review of Planning Applications

An email was received from a MoP regarding their concern that a CCLr had an interest in a recent planning application. CCLr Marchant replied to the MoP pointing out that CCLr members raised any declaration of interest at the start of all of our meetings and then did not participate in any verbal or written communication regarding the application. In this instance the CCLr had not attended the meeting and had raised a declaration of interest with the Chair via email prior to the meeting. CCLr Marchant assured the MoP that CCLRs always acted with integrity for the benefit of the Community.

### New Business

PKC new Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils comes into force this month CCLr Pye has reviewed the document and reported as follows:

A new section listing issues that are \*NOT\* PKC's responsibility, including: complaints (see later), internal issues, business we choose to be involved in, our own policies and procedures, IT support for virtual meetings, legal advice, insurance for third parties.

Next election is 6 November 2025 then every three years on first Thursday of November. 16 and 17 year olds can vote in CC elections. Candidates now only need a witness, no longer a proposer and seconder.

Number of co-opted members may not exceed a third (rounded)

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of the \*maximum\* number of members, i.e. 8 / 3 = 3 in our case. Co-opted members still must wait 12 months before becoming full members.

**New Complaints Section:** CCs are exclusively responsible for dealing with complaints; any sent to PKC will just be handed to us. There's a guidance note on how to handle them, however this has not been updated for a long time.

**New section on Virtual/Hybrid Meetings:** We can do them how we like and don't have to include the public. \*BUT\* we must still publish the agenda as usual (in advance) and allow people to "address the meeting" in advance or during the meeting in any way we see fit. Minutes are to be taken and published as usual. Recording is only allowed if all present agree, and must be destroyed once the minutes are approved.

Accounts need only include spending the admin grant. Our electorate has increased from 1,535 in 2019 to 1,613.

Importantly we now only need to wait for three months after an election before we can co-opt someone else. However, this change will not come into force until after the next full election.

**Kinross Banking Hub** – Age Scotland reached out to us to see if we would be interested in sharing our banking challenges with a BBC reporter. Cllr Watters and Cllr Marchant agreed to have a chat with the reporter. Date to be arranged. Further analysis of why people use banks is required and implication that current policies on closures are discriminatory.

### Consultations

**Zero Waste Scotland: The Circular Economy** The CC responded to this survey using the information from the Big Place Conversations.

**PKC: Have Your Say On Council Spending** The CC responded to this survey using the information from the Big Place Conversations to prioritise where PKC should spend their budget

### Scottish Government

#### Democracy Matters Phase 2

Democracy Matters conversations have already started to explore whether far more decisions could be made by communities themselves. This is a key and connected part of the wider Local Governance Review which is looking across all of Scotland's vital public services to consider how power and resources should be shared between national and local government. **Closes 28th Feb 2024.**

Link to Survey: <https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/democracy-matters>

#### Proposals for a Heat in Buildings Bill

Like many other countries, Scotland has a legal target to reach 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions. The way we heat our homes, workplaces and other buildings is the third-largest cause of greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland. There is no way to meet our legal obligation to reach 'net zero' without changing the heating systems in the vast majority of our buildings.

The purpose of the consultation is to make public aware of Government proposal to make new laws around the heating systems that can be used in homes and places of work, and to invite your views on those proposals. This will have a significant

impact on all property owners and we urge public to respond. **Closes 8th March 2024**

Link to survey: <https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/corporate.../budget-2024-25/>

## Community Council Business

### Meetings Attended

CCllrs Bruce-Jones and Lamb attended meeting on 12 Dec 2023 of Speedwatch volunteers that was organised by Milnathort CC who now lead this. Cllr Lamb attended meeting organised by Margaret Roy on rural transport on 14 Dec 2023

### Planning Decisions

**23/01213/FLL** Siting of temporary accommodation unit and erection of carport/store (in retrospect) at Land 245 metres southeast of Craigton House, Rumbling Bridge, Kinross. The application was approved – The CC had made a neutral comment seeking confirmation that the current lodge on the site was temporary.

### AOCB

MOP raised issue of damage to road drains outside Powmill Stores likely caused by HGV pulling into shop.

MOP raised issue of sight lines on road on the bridge at Rumbling Bridge. Request that traffic controls be put in place with lights.

Public notice of A91 closure for three months to allow repairs to Old Fossoway Bridge. Once again the diversion via A823 Rumbling Bridge and A977 Crook of Devon will have a significant impact on volume of traffic through Fossoway.

**The next meeting of Fossoway and District Community Council will be on Tuesday 6 February at 7.30pm in Crook of Devon Village Hall. All welcome.**

## Milnathort and Orwell Community Council

### News from the December Meeting

**Present** at the meeting on 14 December were: N Bingham, A Wanless, M Thomson, K Heneghan, A Macrae, Cllrs W Robertson and D Cuthbert, L Watson (MPS)

**Apologies:** P Britton, Cllrs R Watters, Cllr N Freshwater, PC B Samson

### Police Matters

#### Crimes of note (since last meeting 9/11/2023)

**14/11/2023** Theft (Stewart and Smart) MO – Fill up with fuel and fail to pay. *Subject to live investigation*

**26/11/2023** Assault x 2 & vandalism (Thistle Hotel) MO – Smash window and assault persons *Subject to live investigation (2 x persons identified and to be arrested and charged)*

### Road Traffic Matters

Community officers are aware of regular areas where there are complaints about speeding in and around Milnathort. These are all on our speeding matrix and we will continue to make efforts to carry out speed checks across the area during our patrols.



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### Actions From Previous Meeting

**Gate/Bridge/Fence Gate To Fleming Court** The gate procurement is in progress, and the foundations for the new bridge are currently being built.

**Broken Dog Bin At Tillywally Woods** Cllr Watters was not present to give an update on whether PKC stocks of new dog bins have been replenished.

### Correspondences

#### Free Bus travel around Perth & Kinross

Free Bus Travel on 2, 9, 16 and 23 December – for journeys made wholly in Perth and Kinross.

#### Craighead Windfarm – Public Exhibitions

A second round of consultation events will be undertaken in January 2024, on Tuesday 23 January between 3.30pm and 7.30pm at Carnbo Village, and at the same times on Tuesday 24 January at Dunning Village Hall, where we will seek to incorporate, where possible, feedback from the first series of events. A further newsletter will be circulated to the local community in advance of this.

#### Milnathort Primary School Update, provided by Laura Watson

We held a successful Christmas fayre which was organised and run by parent council, there were a mixture of external stalls and those run by the children.

The children spread some Christmas cheer around the community, visiting Heaven Scent and the Ashley House Care Home singing carols.

The children will attend the end of term service at church and there will be 3 performances of the Nativity play before the end of term.

We are still looking for a school crossing controller, please get in touch if you are interested in applying or visit the Tayside Contracts webpage.

In a response to how the capacity of the school is doing, Laura responded that the occupancy is at 218, the capacity is steady, with no surge and no out of placing requests. No mass increase is expected.

### Core Paths Update

The landowner is very happy for the Core Path running round the perimeter of the two fields from Stirling Road to Pitdownies to be re-established and flailed. Alistair McLeod from PKC and Kevin Heneghan will do that on Monday 18 December.

A date with Alistair MacLeod to assess Core Paths in the area to be waymarked will be agreed. This assessment will happen in January.

The Core Path Group will be looking to buy more stone to infill on Core Paths where necessary, as well as any other tools we need.

### Planning Applications

23/01747/FLL Kinross-shire Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, erection of garden building and extension to raised terrace at 1 Kellieside Park, Milnathort

23/01843/FLL Kinross-shire Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, formation of raised patio and steps at 13 Balfour Crescent, Milnathort

23/01769/FLL Kinross-shire Change of use of land to form garden ground at 9 Curlers Crescent, Milnathort

### Planning Decisions

23/01251/FLL Kinross-shire Erection of a water tank enclosure, land 25 metres west of 14 The Woods Milnathort for Athron Hill Dev Co Ltd, approve the application

### Large Planning Applications

There are no updates on any of the large planning applications; Loch Leven Gateway (BCA), Aldi supermarket or any of the Windfarms.

### Speeding and Speedwatch

A request by a member of the public as to whether anything can be done to reduce the occurrence of speeding and accidents near the bridge over the North Queich on the A91. Cllr Willie Robertson has spoken with PKC officers to see whether the markings on the

bridge can be refreshed or anything else can be done to ensure drivers are aware of the small bridge and tight corner in advance.

### Speedwatch

The first meeting of Kinross-shire Speedwatch group was held on Tuesday 12 December, thank you to PC Samson for the presentation and for providing all the information necessary to complete the speedwatch forms and for answering all our questions. We had 10 volunteers attending, from Scotlandwell, Glenfarg, Milnathort to Crook of Devon. We will use the winter months to purchase the necessary equipment, hold training sessions and complete the necessary administration and planning to hopefully start getting out and about in the community in early April.

We will also be running a logo competition involving all the local primary schools in the new year.

If you wish to become a volunteer, please get in touch via [speedwatch.ks@gmail.com](mailto:speedwatch.ks@gmail.com)

### Councillors' Reports

**Cllr Cuthbert:** Glenfarg Transport Group are looking into extending their service to cover the Kinross to Tillicoultry route, as they are aware that a lot of residents are unhappy with the current service. They have asked for other Community Councils to help by setting up their own Community transport groups. If you are interested in being involved in this group, then please get in touch with MOCC.

### Any Other Matters

An estimate for the damaged wall at Burleigh is expected in the coming weeks.

### Banking Hub And Mobile Banking Service

Unfortunately, the Bank of Scotland mobile banking service will cease and the banking hub that Cllr Richard Watters has applied for has been rejected. However, the FCA are in the process of consulting on the criteria used to determine whether a banking hub is needed and viable, and once this is complete. Cllr Watters will determine whether to re-submit or appeal the previous rejection.

### Message In A Bottle

This is a bottle that is placed in the fridge that contains the details of any medication you are on to help the emergency services. The MOCC have a number of bottles to share out, if you would like one, please get in touch.

### Sustainability Group

The Sustainability group that covers Kinross-shire CC's and EarnCC were given a presentation from the 9CC group, along with the PKC ward councillors with regards to working together on sharing any community benefits for Windfarms etc. The Sustainability group will now work on getting a Memorandum of Understanding drafted for review and approval.

### Christmas Lights

Thanks to all the MOCC volunteers for helping to put up all the Christmas lights around the village and for Websters for providing the Christmas Tree at the Village Hall.

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## Community Council News

### Grey Recycling Bins

A number of residents have remarked at the mixed success of the new Grey recycling bins, the surprise at how much soft plastics they now recycle and for some, how small their green waste has become. It was also highlighted that the originally PKC advertised that blister packs could be recycled however this was a misunderstanding with the recycle company and the mixed metal/plastic packaging of this nature cannot be recycled in the grey recycling bin. PKC are looking at an alternative solution but would like us to remind residents that blister packs cannot be placed in the grey recycling bin.

### Remembrance Garden

The fallen trees in the remembrance garden will be replaced with funding from The Green House and the MOCC.

Neill and the MOCC would like to thank everyone in the village for all their support throughout the year, for getting involved by attending our meetings, asking questions, raising issues, volunteering for Core Paths and for supporting our fundraising initiatives.

**The next meeting of Milnathort Community Council will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 8 February 2024, 7.30pm at Milnathort Town Hall.**

## Kinross Community Council

### News from the November Meeting

#### Notes from the AGM

**Present** at the AGM on 28 November 2023 were: CClrs L McKay, W Freeman, E Leslie, B West, M Wilson, T Stewart, C Wilsher, S Wells and P Chan, Cllrs D Cuthbert, W Robertson and R Watters, 3 members of the public and minute-taker Mrs C Aird.

**Apologies:** Cllr N Freshwater and PC B Samson.

#### Chair's Report

Cllr McKay thanked everyone for their help and support over the last twelve months. She advised that there had been a couple of resignations from the Community Council (Chris Collins and Hannah Phillips) and therefore a number of councillors had been co-opted into the CC meanwhile.

#### Adoption of Accounts

The accounts were not available for review and it was agreed that Cllr W Freeman chase this up.

#### Appointment of Office Bearers

Post	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair	Lynne McKay	Chris Willsher	Emma Leslie
Vice-Chair	Bill Freeman	Sharon Wells	Emma Leslie
Secretary	None appointed		
Planning	Chris Willsher	(with initial help from W Freeman) Lynne McKay	Emma Leslie
Treasurer	Emma Leslie	Bill Freeman	Chris Willsher

Cllr W Robertson commented that if there was anything that CC

members, particularly the newer members, were unsure of, they should just ask. Sub-committee memberships would be reviewed once new members had been given more information on the groups purpose.

#### Dates, Times And Venues Of Forthcoming Meetings

While there had been an offer for KCC to meet on the second Monday of the month, meetings will continue on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December) in the Masonic Hall, Muirs, Kinross at 7.30pm until otherwise notified. Cllr McKay is to contact the Lodge to determine whether the hall would be available on the second Monday. Cllr D Cuthbert also confirmed that the CC could use LLCC and Cllr E Leslie agreed to follow this up.

**AGM 2024 – Tuesday 22 October 2024 at 7.30 pm**

#### Notes from the November Meeting

##### Police Scotland Report

Whilst no-one from Police Scotland was able to attend the meeting, a report had been provided. Since the date of the last meeting (24 October 2023), there had been 100 calls to Police from the Kinross area, resulting in 29 crimes being recorded on Police systems. This included 12 crimes for thefts at Sainsbury's in Kinross. Officers are investigating these reports. A 36-year-old man has been arrested and charged in relation to six shopliftings with the stolen value reaching around £2000.

##### Crimes Of Note (since last meeting 24/10/2023)

26/10/2023 – 27/10/2023 Theft by housebreaking (Kinross Golf Club) *Subject to live investigation*

Community officers continue to carry out speed checks across the area during patrols.

##### Matters Arising

##### Proposed New Pharmacy, 145 High Street, Kinross

Cllr McKay welcomed Raymond Kelly and Kristopher Archibald to the meeting advising attendees that they were here to present and discuss the background to their application for a new pharmacy in the town.

The meeting was advised that Mr Kelly and Mr Archibald had more than 20 years pharmacy experience, having owned/run pharmacies across the area, as well as in Kinglassie and Falkland, with residents from further afield using their services.

Mr Kelly advised that he and Mr Archibald had undertaken some preliminary work to determine how busy the current pharmacies are, and what services they provide. Their findings showed that it would be beneficial for the town to have another pharmacy to meet the needs of residents, particularly due to the current strain on GP practices and the increasing number of new homes in the area, and they therefore asked to come along to the meeting to hear comments and thoughts on their proposal from attendees.

Cllr McKay confirmed that there had been positive comments on the Facebook page and she would welcome another pharmacy to the town. In response to a comment from Cllr C Willsher, who felt that the potential location was wrong, the meeting was

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advised that a suitable venue needed to be identified prior to submitting an application. Cllr M Wilson asked if consideration had been given to supplying an automatic dispenser, like the one in use in Milnathort, Mr Kelly advised that while this is something they may look into, they were looking to provide a service where residents could access professional advice, without having to make an appointment with a GP.

Mr Archibald, in response to a question from Cllr S Wells, confirmed that they would be operating as an independent company, something which had to be set up to progress their application. He went on to say that the pharmacy would be known as a pharmacy first plus as they would be able to prescribe medication for a range of illnesses/infections as well as offering vaccination services. They confirmed that they were unaware as to whether other pharmacies in the town offered this service.

In response to a question from a member of the public about employment opportunities, Mr Kelly and Mr Archibald confirmed that there would be a range of opportunities available including dispensers, delivery drivers and technicians. Employees would also be given the opportunity to undertake training allowing them to progress their careers. They both confirmed that they would need to look at the requirements for being a living wage employer but that pay ranges would be wide ranging and increase as employees progressed.

Prior to submitting a joint application, with Tayside Health Board, a survey will be issued asking for comments on whether another pharmacy is required and whether there were any other services which residents would like to see being provided. The survey will conclude in March 2024 when the application will be submitted.

Cllr McKay thanked Mr Kelly and Mr Archibald for coming along and Mr Kelly confirmed that he would forward the survey link which could be circulated. He also confirmed that Mr Archibald and himself would be delighted to come back to a future CC meeting to discuss the matter further.

#### **Broke Not Broken**

Cllr McKay introduced Annie McCormack to the meeting, advising that she had asked to come along to update members on the work that the group had undertaken.

Ms McCormack advised that the group had provided over 2000 food parcels, supporting more than 2600 children in 2021/22, an increase of 70% and 31% on the previous year. Referrals to the organisation came from a range of organisations including social work, housing tenancies and schools, as well as self-referrals. In 2022, a total of £82,000 had been spent on vouchers and both perishable and non-perishable items, and while they had received a donation from the Thomson Trust, most had come from the community. However, it is expected that more will be spent this year, although donations are reducing, mainly due to the current cost of living crisis. It was noted that 80% of users were women.

While the organisation offers food parcels and energy payments, they also offer a wide range of services including counselling, organised trips during school holidays and support groups. January and February tend to be the busiest months. They

currently operate with one part-time member of staff and 45 volunteers.

In response to a question from Cllr Willsher in terms of what the CC could do to help, Ms McCormack asked for residents to write to MSPs asking what they are doing to help. She said that the system is not keeping up with the increase in requests for help, the eligibility criteria is not fit for purpose, and particularly highlighted that PKC has no poverty strategy and any funding for this is not spent in a strategic way. Structural change is required. It was also suggested that the CC reminds residents to purchase something which can be donated when they are doing their shopping (there is a list of suitable items in Sainsburys). Cllr Wells asked if it was possible to tap into unused Nectar card points and Ms McCormack advised that they could not do this, but that there was a gift card which sat in Sainsburys which people could add funds to. The CC were not aware of this and agreed to advertise this more prominently.

Cllr R Watters asked if any difference had been made following last winter's energy payments and Ms McCormack advised that there had been 35 referrals last week alone.

In response to a question from Cllr W Freeman about contacting bakers etc regarding receiving unsold produce at the end of the day, Ms McCormack confirmed that they had done this during Covid but this had stopped as recipients had felt that this made them feel like second class citizens.

On behalf of KCC, Cllr McKay thanked Ms McCormack for attending to update them on the work of the group.

#### **Matters Arising**

**Parking:** Cllr N Freshwater has raised several issues regarding parking in the shared spaces with PKC and these have been added to the list for the road safety programme.

Cllr E Leslie and Cllr R Watters advised that they had spoken with several business owners in the High Street and all had supported the removal of the 1hr parking restrictions as this caused issues for customers, an example was given of customers of the Funeral Directors being issued with parking tickets. Businesses had confirmed they would be willing to give statements in support of the recommendation.

With regard to the issues highlighted at the previous meeting re irresponsible parking causing issues for a disabled resident, Cllr Cuthbert confirmed he had walked around the town to see the problem for himself, and he was now chasing PKC officers for a date for them to visit. An update will be given in due course.

**Bus Shelter (Kirklands Hotel):** Cllr Cuthbert advised that there has been a delay in replacing the bus shelter due to an issue with the final amount for the claim.

**Banking Hub:** Cllr R Watters advised that Cash Access UK had requested a meeting (Cllr Watters will attend the meeting) and an update will be given in due course.

**Walking Bus:** The meeting was advised that this had been scrapped due to a lack of volunteers.

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### Kinross Town Centre

**Parking:** further to the discussion in item 8, members were advised that an email had been received from a resident highlighting parking concerns and it was agreed that the email would be forwarded to Councillors. Cllr Cuthbert commented that a request could be made for PKC parking wardens to visit in the evening. He also commented that a new parking restriction was being introduced across Scotland where it would be illegal to park on pavements.

### Planning Matters

#### Planning Applications Received

23/01751/FLL erection of a staff welfare/storage unit, workshop and canopy at Loch Leven Fisheries, Pier Road, Kinross.

23/01718/FLL erection of dwellinghouse (revised design - plot 14) at land 130 metres west of Copperbank, Balado, Kinross.

23/01811/FLL alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and formation of patio at Cottar Fauld, High Street, Kinross.

23/01777/FLL alterations and extension to dwellinghouse at 20 Cameron Avenue, Kinross.

23/01859/FLL erection of a dwellinghouse at land 20 metres southwest of Braeside House, Hatchbank Road, Gairney Bank, Kinross.

23/01819/FLL alterations to garage to form ancillary accommodation unit at 94 Muirs, Kinross.

23/01890/LAW extension to dwellinghouse and erection of fence (proposed) at 14 Sutherland Drive, Kinross (in retrospect).

#### Planning Applications Determined

23/01369/FLL extension to dwellinghouse and erection of garage/workshop at Lochlea, Hatchbank, Kinross, (refused).

23/01194/FLL installation of replacement door at Kinross Parish Church, 64 High Street, Kinross, (approved).

23/0137/IPL renewal of permission 20/00507/IPL (erection of a dwellinghouse (in principle)) at land to rear of Station Road, Kinross (approved).

23/01413/FLL formation of access road at land 60 metres southwest of Baltree Farm, Hatchbank for Greyhound Rescue Fife (approved).

23/01607/IPL erection of a dwellinghouse (in principle) at land 45 metres north of Chance Inn Farm, Kinross, (approved)

23/01604/FLL alterations and extension to dwellinghouse at The Bungalow, Brunthill Farm, Kinross, (approved).

23/00323/FLL siting of combined heat and power unit (CHP) and erection of steam boiler enclosure, transformer and compound, radiator, low temperature hot water boiler enclosure and fencing at Todd and Duncan Ltd, Lochleven Mills, High Street, Kinross (approved).

### Other Planning Matters

22/01004/FLL - erection of a retail unit (Class 1), formation of parking areas, landscaping and associated works (LDP site E21) at Auld Mart Business Park, Kingfisher House, Orwell Road, Milnathort, Kinross

There was a general discussion about the applications for Auld Mart Business Park and the BCA site and it was felt that while it would be beneficial to have a choice of retail units (Aldi/Lidl) in the town, there was an impression that there was only support for one.

In respect of the revised planning application for the proposed retail unit at Auld Mart Business Park, there was a discussion around this and in response to a question from CCllr Leslie, it was noted that the CC had not yet submitted any comments on the application. The CC had been given an extension to allow them to submit any comments if they so wished. Following discussion, a decision was taken to vote on whether to support the application or not. Members voted in favour of supporting the application (8 votes) with one member voting against. It was also noted that while one CC member voted in favour, they felt that the location was wrong.

### Reports From PKC Councillors

**Cllr Cuthbert** advised that he had completed a walkabout in the town centre following the issue raised by a disabled resident regarding cars parking at dropped kerbs etc and he will chase up PKC about its findings. He also commented that there had been a recent announcement where Scottish Government may start to charge up to double the amount of council tax for second homes, which may affect several residents.

Kinross Newsletter Fund had recently made seven funding awards to local groups.

Glenfarg Transport Hub had recently purchased e-scooters with the Civic Trust providing funding for bike storage/shelters for customers waiting on buses.

**Cllr R Watters** advised that survey markings had been put down at the bridge connecting Milnathort and Kinross CC areas.

He also reported that flood defence mechanisms had been discussed by PKC the previous day and it had been agreed that

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the culvert behind Montgomery Way would be redirected.

Cllr Watters advised that the options for the BCA site were being looked at, and that there had been an increase in costs regarding flood prevention. It is hoped that the flood work will be complete by 2025 but it should be noted that any application for the BCA site may take 3 – 4 years to get through the planning process.

Cllr Watters also advised that a report on several options regarding regional transport would be put to the Kinross Partnership Committee in February 2024 and an update will be given at a future meeting.

### Reports from KCC Councillors

**Cllr T Stewart** advised that his farm had received two green bins a few months ago and had received a smaller bin yesterday and asked for advice as to who to speak to about this. He was advised to report this to PKC via their portal and he agreed to do this.

**Cllr S Wells** reported an increase in the amount of dog fouling in the area and although she has reported this to the dog warden, Cllr D Cuthbert asked her to forward him the details and he would also report the issue.

**Cllr E Leslie** asked if it would be possible to have double yellow lines painted outside the primary school to deter motorists from parking there and Cllr Cuthbert advised that this request was on schedule of works for the road traffic programme. Cllr Mckay commented that there had been an incident the previous day where an ambulance could not access the tennis club due to parked cars.

**Cllr W Freeman** asked that sub-committee membership be added to the agenda for the next meeting, with a sub-group for planning to be added to the list.

**Cllr L Mckay** asked for an update on drain cleaning and was advised by Cllr Cuthbert that this is undertaken on a rotational basis and he would investigate whether any issues had been reported.

Cllr Mckay also commented on the dangerous parking which had been witnessed during the successful festive market in the Muirs/ Springfield Road areas.

### AOCB

#### PKC Grey Bin

In response to a question from a member who sought clarification on whether medication blister packs should be placed in their grey bin, Cllr Robertson advised that information provided by PKC should be followed.

### KOSAG

David West from the group advised the meeting that the group were close to finalising the second stage of their application regarding their Community Asset Transfer application and it was hoped to submit this prior to Christmas. The group will continue to keep KCC updated on their progress.

### Remembrance Parade 2023

Cllr Mckay thanked everyone for their support and help in making the Parade successful. She also thanked Lodge St Serf for the use of the hall to provide refreshments to the community. *The next meeting of Kinross Community Council will be on 27 February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. All are welcome.*

## Portmoak Community Council

*The January meeting was cancelled.*

*The next Portmoak CC meeting will be an online meeting on Tue 13 February 2024, at 7.30pm.*

## Blairadam and Cleish Community Council

### News from the December meeting

**Present** on 4 December 2023 were Cllrs F Principe-Gillespie, C MaLaren, F Whalley, S Gordon, Cllrs D Cuthbert, N Freshwater

**Apologies:** M Traylor, Cllrs W Robertson, R Watters

### Matters Arising

#### Keltybridge Pavements

There was a site visit by PKC Roads Manager Garry McConnel where it was discovered that the pavements in Keltybridge have not been adopted by PKC.

#### Keltybridge Drainage

The drain at Borrowdale remains blocked. Scottish Water closed the excavation as the drain runs under the nearby private road and so is not within the jurisdiction of Scottish Water or PKC Roads Department.

#### Cleish School Sign

The PKC Education committee is looking at removing the sign and replacing with one which is more appropriate for the area.

Crimes of note since last meeting:

25/09/23 – Driving whilst unfit and careless driving (B9097, Cleish Road). Driving while unfit through drugs / failure to negotiate left-hand bend and left road into a field. One person charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

20/11/23 – Wilful Fire-raising (Fruix). Motor vehicle set on fire. Subject to an active investigation.


Traffic units have recently been carrying out speed checks in the area most notably on the M90 at junction 5. During this period tickets have been issued for speeding and a driver charged with driving under the influence of drugs.

### Broadband Update

#### Blairadam Area


The final phase of the Keltybridge and Blairadam Fibre Project is now underway, with funding secured to connect the remaining 12 properties. Openreach has started the survey work and will be providing an update in the near future on estimated timescales. There are 2 remaining properties in the area which are excluded from this project due to being part of the R100

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rollout scheduled for later in 2024, however it is hoped that these properties will be pulled into the new Openreach project as they are served by the same access point.

### Cleish Area

Deployment is progressing, but there are a small number of properties around Cleish Castle which may not yet be connected. Kinross-shire Committee

The CC Chair provided an update from the latest meeting:

PKC is adopting a "No Mow" strategy in PKC Parks and Verges to reduce costs and improve the environment for wildlife. The CC raised concerns that verges at junctions would still be mowed to ensure safety for vehicles. Advice was to use the PKC Portal to report any junctions where growth on the verge was causing a road safety issue.

A future meeting will be looking at the planning process and how the community and CCs can engage with the planning process.

### Drainage

#### Cleish

Flooding in the village resulting from water and mud run off from a nearby potato field has resulted in extensive erosion of the recently repaired road surface leading to Cleish Cemetery, raising health and safety and access concerns. Resultant water build-up in the cemetery car park endangers the stability of the stone wall, already in a poor condition due to tree root damage. PKC are liaising with landowners with a view to improving flood resilience going forward. However, it is noted that saturation of the ground is currently preventing remediation work being carried out.

#### Keltybridge

The entrance to Middleton Park regularly floods during heavy rain as the nearby drain appears to be unable to deal with the volume of water. The drain appears to be partially blocked, or restricted as the water does eventually clear after about a day.

Despite intervention and excavation by Scottish Water during November and December 2023, the flooding problem remains as water is not flowing away from the drain on the main road at the corner with Borrowdale.

### Financial Update

Financial balance is £604.06 which includes the PKC top up of £290.38 received into the bank account on 7th November.

Wind Turbine Applications on the Ochil Hills

Charles Maclaren provided a report from a meeting with the local windfarm group where a successful community organisation in East Ayrshire presented how they had grouped together the 9 local Community Councils to negotiate collectively with the windfarm developers to provide the best benefits for all the local community areas. It was clear that the local community councils in the Kinross area can learn from the approach taken by the East Ayrshire group. The Cleish and Blairadam Community Council will canvas the local community to gauge interest in joining a similar local initiative.

### Local Place Plan

Sean Gordon attended the PKC Planning Users Forum where the Local Place Plan was discussed. The Local Place Plan is the most effective way that a local community can express their vision for the future of their local area as the council is required to take into account any existing Local Place Plan when looking at planning applications.

The Local Place Plan for Cleish and Blairadam would need to be submitted by September 2024 to be considered as part of the next PKC Local Development Plan which will run from 2027 to 2037.

The Cleish and Blairadam Community Council will canvas the local community to gauge interest in developing a Local Place Plan for Cleish and Blairadam.



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## Planning

Under the new guidance, an objection by the Community Council automatically refers an application to the Planning Committee; otherwise, it requires 6 objections from separate households to refer an application.

### Applications Pending

23/01695/FLL Erection of a dwellinghouse. Land 15 metres east of Borrowdale Blairadam Keltybridge, The CC will object.

23/01655/FLL Change of use, alterations and extension to ancillary accommodation to form dwelling house, The Flat, 6 Main Street, Keltybridge

23/01565/LBC Installation of replacement roof window and garage roof covering, Middleton House, Blairadam, Keltybridge.

22/02113/IPL Erection of a dwellinghouse (in principle) land 30 metres north east of Craigbank House, Cleish.

22/02018/FLL Siting of 2 holiday accommodation units, stable building/log store, 3 sheds and garage, formation of access road and associated works (in retrospect) land 190 metres north-west of Blairfordel Farm, Kelty. This land is already subject to multiple enforcement orders for PKC for unapproved development.

23/01706/FLL Change of use of woodland to form extension to garden ground and erection of garage, 8 Abbot's Wynd, Keltybridge, Kelty. This land is subject to enforcement notice. The CC will object.

### Applications Approved

23/01281/FLL Erection of a garage, East Locharn House, Blairadam

23/00934/FLL Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, alterations to driveway, formation of parking area and landscaping, installation of oil tank and associated works, Darnley Cottage Blairadam

23/00112/FLL Erection of a dwellinghouse and formation of vehicle access, land 140 metres north east of Hardiston Farm, Cleish

### Applications Refused

23/00532/FLL Erection of a dwellinghouse and associated works land north of 31 Main Street Keltybridge. This application was opposed by the CC and attracted a large number of objections from the local community. The refusal has now been referred to the PKC Local Review Body and is on the agenda for the 18 December Meeting. This site is also subject to an enforcement notice as a condition of the planning consent of the previous development of No 29 & 31.

### Blairforge

The land around here is subject to a number of enforcement orders by PKC for breaches of planning.

Residents of the development known as Purple Meadows raised concerns about their interactions with PKC planning, particularly in relation to the recent attempt to enforce the removal of unauthorised structures on this land. The advice given was that any attempt to develop or build on this land must have the appropriate planning permission from PKC, so any developments

should be applied for so that the relevant planning process and legislation can be followed.

The local councillors also suggested that the residents submit for a pre-planning enquiry for the whole site to understand any planning concerns.

### Village Updates

A number of properties still have not received their grey lidded recycling bins, but it is understood from the attending councillors that the distribution of these bins is still a work in progress.

*The next meeting of Cleish & Blairadam Community Council will be Monday 5 February, at 7.30pm in Cleish Village Hall. It is hoped that with the imminent arrival of fibre broadband at the Tabernacle Hall in Keltybridge that the CC can once again begin meeting there on alternating dates in 2024.*

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### Advice For Pedestrians

- Dress for the weather by wearing reflective or bright-coloured clothing so other road users can see you when it's dark or visibility is poor
- If you are walking home late at night, make sure someone knows where you're going and when
- Vehicles can take up to ten times longer to stop on slippery road surfaces so take extra care crossing the road
- Stick to pedestrian crossings
- If there are no crossings nearby, find a place with a clear view and wait for long gaps in the traffic before crossing the road
- Don't cross the road between parked vehicles, unless it can't be avoided then take extra care (look out for vehicles that suddenly pull out or reverse)
- Never cross the road behind a bus
- If there is no pavement, keep to the right hand side of the road so you can see traffic coming towards you.

### Advice For Cyclists

- Make sure your bike can be seen by people on the road
- Use a good set of front and rear lights (white at the front, red at the back)
- Wear clothes that help you be seen on your bike, such as bright and light reflective items
- Pay attention to road signs, markings and particularly red lights
- Do not cycle on the pavements, they may be slippery and can also endanger pedestrians
- Be mindful of the effects poor weather can have on other road users
- Make sure you know about the dangers around you
- Cars can take twice as long to stop in wet weather
- Braking can be unpredictable in ice and snow.

### Advice For Drivers

- Make sure your car is ready for winter
- Check that your tyres, brakes, windscreens, wiper blades and windows are free from defects and clean
- Drive to the road conditions. Road conditions can change



without warning, stopping distances will be affected by the weather

- Make sure your windows are clean and aren't misted up
- Make sure there is no snow and ice on your windows before you drive
- When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in a high gear
- Accelerate and brake very gently
- Driving distracted (for example, using a Sat Nav) can cause additional stress. It is dangerous to yourself, passengers and other road users.

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- ...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

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

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

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### Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

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Sunday	Closed .

### Events

If you are looking for something to do in the February school break, pop into the library during opening hours for some mystical beast crafts.

### D Day Planning Talk on Wednesday 27 March 2024, 6-7pm

Find out about the meticulous planning and preparations of D-Day, in this 80th Anniversary year. Thursday 6 June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day when Allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world has ever witnessed. In 1944 Operation Overlord saw over 5,000 ships and landing craft set down more than 130,000 troops on five Normandy beaches in an action that would bring about the liberation of North-West Europe from Nazi occupation. Join retired soldier Andy Middlemiss on 27 March as he talks about the preparations and planning that led to D-Day itself.

A further talk will take place on Thursday 6 June (the actual 80th Anniversary). Andy Middlemiss will talk about landings and the ensuing breakout battles for Normandy that followed.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite ([https://bit.ly/dday\\_lochleven](https://bit.ly/dday_lochleven)) or can be booked in the library for £10 per person.

### Interested in writing?

The next Creative Writing Group sessions are at 7pm-9pm on Wednesday 7 February and Wednesday 6 March. Please contact the library if you would like more information.

### Activities in your Library

Come along to our free Thursday morning get together (10am-12 noon) with your needles and pins for a morning of crochet and knitting, a chat and hot drink.

Or come along on Thursday afternoon at 2.30pm-4.30pm to try your hand at one of the ever-popular board games including Scrabble, chess and snakes and ladders. No prizes, no pressure, just fun and a warm drink.

## Kinross Garden Group

Our January festive lunch was held at the Thistle Hotel. It was a lovely meal with convivial company and good food, attentively served. Our next meeting is on Thursday 9 February in the Kinross Parish Church, Station Road, Kinross at 2pm when Frazer Henderson will give a talk called, 'It's not all sand: the mountain flora of Yemen'.

The summer garden visit programme will (hopefully) be available at the meeting. Membership fees are £20 this 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 by email at [acaroline1000@gmail.com](mailto:acaroline1000@gmail.com)



## Kinross-shire Local Events Organisation

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



### Kinross Farmers Markets

The markets will start again on Saturday 27 April at 10am-2pm on the High Street of Kinross. The following market dates will be on every fourth Saturday of the month from April to October (there is no market in July market). The exact dates are 27 April, 25 May, 22 June, 24 August\*, 28 September and 26 October from 10am-2pm. On market days the High Street will be closed from the entrance at Burns Begg Street to the entrance at Montgomery Street.

\*The August market will be bigger and will take place at the Market Park.

### Kacophony Orchestra

This is an orchestra for adults who like to play their instruments in a group, with conductor Dougie Flower. All abilities welcome but it is handy if you can read music. Please don't worry if you haven't played for a while. We are a very friendly and informal bunch. Sessions take place on Wednesday evenings from 7.15pm to 9.15pm at Loch Leven Community Campus. The fee is £5 a session.

### Leven Voices

This is a fun, informal drop-in singing group which you can join anytime. No music reading or singing experience is necessary. Tuesday evenings with Horsecross Arts tutor David McLean from 7.30pm-9.30pm at Kinross Parish Church. The fee is £4 a session.

For more information about KLEO events visit our website or email [info@kleo.org.uk](mailto:info@kleo.org.uk).

## Kinross (Marshall) Museum



Once again we organised a 20-question Christmas quiz, titled 'How well do you know Kinross-shire?'

From nearly 100 entries, the winners were Mhairi Rose and Linda and David Gibson who received Christmas hampers at an event held in the Museum on Thursday 19 December 2023. The proceeds from the sale of entry forms will be used to help conserve items from the Museum Collection.

*Christmas Quiz Winners Mhairi Rose (left) and Linda and David Gibson with their prize winners hampers*



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ADVICE

## Portmoak Community Woodland Group

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



We have found a new way to beat the winter blues. Alcohol might have been involved but so was singing, banging drums and hanging toast from the trees.

This was all in aid of wassailing those apple trees in Portmoak community orchard. It's a custom which originated in the cider orchards of southern England and is now spreading rapidly across the UK, with the rise of community orchards.

The various rituals have to do with banishing bugs and diseases which might affect this year's crop. The idea of the toast (dipped in cider) is, apparently, to attract the birds which, in turn, eat the bugs.

We found that some hot, mulled cider went down pretty well, not to mention a few cans of ale. This was just a group event, as we did not have a clue what we were doing. However, it was such good fun that we will think about making it public next year.

The weather was glorious, unlike the day we chose, just before Hogmanay, for a walk across part of Portmoak Moss to check for any unwanted birch saplings. There were few showing that the bog restoration work is making an impact, but by the time we finished the snow was falling and it was hard to see anything!

Removing conifers is another part of the restoration work and we are pleased to report that our Christmas tree day drew a bigger crowd than ever. At least 60 people came along on 10 December.

As well as trees there was home baking and hot drinks. Marje Smith went the extra mile this time, providing custard to go with the warm crumbles. The other goodies included chocolate torte, clottie dumpling (a shout out to Michael McGinnes for these), shortbread and cookies.

Thanks to everyone for taking away around 60 spruce trees and donating over £1,400. This was an amazing sum and will help to pay for all sorts of things this year, kicking off with lots of bird boxes for a special day with Portmoak Primary School, supported by Kinross and District Men's Shed. The pupils are going to help finish the nest boxes and hang them up at an event in mid-February to mark National Nest Box Week. This will kick off another exciting programme for 2024 and we will try to maintain our standard of home baking to accompany everything.

## Portmoak Film Society

### CINEMA PARADISO: TREAT IN STORE AT PORTMOAK!



Portmoak Film Society is proud to be screening one of the all time classics of international cinema on Saturday 10 February. Cinema Paradiso, originally released in 1988, is a tribute to the power of film in a small town in Sicily, where a famous director returns to the scene of his first love affair with cinema in his youth. Music by Ennio Morricone of 'Spaghetti Western' fame! Don't miss it and bring a friend!

All films are shown at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell. Doors open at 7pm and films start promptly at 7.30pm. Entry costs £6 on the door and refreshments are served after the film, regulars and newcomers welcome! For further information, contact Felicity Garvie on 01592 840825.

## Kinross-shire Climate Café

Our group meets once a month to listen to invited guest speakers who are experts in different aspects of climate change mitigation, to chat informally with a cup of tea/coffee about problems we face in climate crisis and to share ideas on how best to adapt. Everyone is welcome to take part in the meetings.



At our next meeting on Tuesday 6 February at 7pm in the Loch



Members of PCWG having fun!

Leven Library we will discuss Kinross-shire Repair Café starting this year in Kinross and Milnathort.

There will be an opportunity to meet representatives from other Scottish repair cafes (Pitlochry and Birnam) and a few of our Repairers.

In Scotland waste contributes to 1.2 megatons of carbon dioxide emissions, while each person produces on average 0.43 tons of waste each year.

Repair cafés offer a sustainable solution to waste by facilitating the repair and reuse of old household items in a social setting alongside climate café and a swap shop. They also help to save money as it is more economical in the long term to extend the life shelf of the product.

Come and learn more about Kinross-shire Repair Cafes and how they can help you to live more sustainably and economically.

Our great thank you to all the Loch Leven Library Staff who support our group in hosting the events. All talks are free but the library asks for donations to Culture Perth and Kinross charity.

For more information, contact Gosia Stanton by email at [climatecafe@kleo.org.uk](mailto:climatecafe@kleo.org.uk).

## Kinross-shire Trishaws



### Season 2024

Kinross-shire Trishaws are busy making plans to restart our rides at Easter time – or sooner if the weather allows. We are recruiting new pilots to ride the bikes this year.

Rides are usually Monday to Friday (mornings and afternoons) but if we can get enough volunteers available at the weekend, we could open up another opportunity to take more passengers.

All of our bikes are e-bikes so little fitness is needed. Volunteers should enjoy helping our passengers to get out and about in the local countryside to admire the views and feel the wind in their hair.

An interest in others, sharing stories and meeting people is all that's required. Full training is provided to all volunteers and the minimum commitment is to deliver one ride a month.

To apply, please email [KinrossTrishaws@gmail.com](mailto:KinrossTrishaws@gmail.com)



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## Kinross Centre

We hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Here at Kinross Centre, our service users continue to be entertained with a full range of activities. They also enjoy a wonderful freshly cooked three course meal prepared daily on the premises.

We all enjoyed a very busy run up to Christmas with our festive lunch and concert on Thursday 14 December. It was just amazing! Our heartfelt thanks go to the staff, volunteers and committee. Thanks also go to Vicki and David from the Grouse and Claret, an anonymous donor, and the Rotary Club who all helped to make it such a memorable and fun day.

We also had a carol concert on Tuesday 19 December with Margaret Sikora and Rosemary Tolson. Everyone enjoyed a great afternoon.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our Burns lunch on Thursday 25 January with Richard Scott as our Piper. Richard also does an amazing 'address to the Haggis'.

The coffee bar has been very busy recently and, as well as our regulars, it has been nice to see visitors to the area coming in and enjoying the service.

As always, a massive thank you goes to all the hard-working staff, volunteers and committee at Kinross Centre. We don't know where we would be without you all.

*We would love you to be involved with the Kinross Centre, either as a service-user, a volunteer or as a supporter. If you would like further information, please contact Nan Cook 01577 863869.*

## Kinross & District Town Twinning Association



We are very much looking forward to welcoming our Gacé twinningers to Kinross at the end of July to help us celebrate 50 years of twinning, based on their first visit to Kinross in August 1974.

The week-long visit, staying with host families, will involve a number of visits to local places of interest as well as an official celebratory meal and the customary exchange of gifts.

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of the original Gacé twinning president Msr Albert Debotte who was also mayor of Gacé for a period during the early twinning years. Albert's host family was Jim and Chris Renton, both of whom were stalwarts of twinning until their passing.

It is also hoped that inter school links between Kinross High School and the Gacé secondary schools can be re-established knowing that there is now support from Perth & Kinross Council to promote the benefits of twinning links across the region with the intention of strengthening these existing twinning organisations.

The January 'Pot Luck Supper' will now be a happy memory for locals who got together for the first official event of 2024.

Anyone who is interested in becoming involved in our historic twinning visit should contact secretary David Munro by phone on 01577 862126 or by email at [d\\_g\\_munro@hotmail.com](mailto:d_g_munro@hotmail.com). We will also be available to discuss twinning at the Better Place to Live fair at the local campus in March.

## Kinross in Bloom

There are now little signs of impending Spring. Green shoots, signs of bulbs and the hope of colour.

The winter pansies in various locations around the town have survived the rain and frost and should put on a display for Easter.

The first meeting of the new session takes place at 7pm on Wednesday 7 February in the Church Centre on High Street. Anyone who wants to find out more about Bloom activities, or wants to volunteer for the various activities throughout the year, will be made very welcome. The more the merrier and hopefully the better the displays over the summer months.

Any enquiries to [daviddickson2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:daviddickson2@hotmail.co.uk) or [susanmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:susanmitchell@gmail.com).



Christmas fun at the Day Centre

## Kinross-shire Conversations

Find us on Facebook

We are hoping to cover a wide range of subjects, and no topic is off limits. If you have any suggestions for speakers, topics, want us to hold an event in your area, or just wish to be notified of any future events, then please get in touch by email at [kinrossshireconversations@gmail.com](mailto:kinrossshireconversations@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook.

## Clubs & Community Groups

### Milnathort Bridge Club

Following the Christmas and New Year festivities it's back to weekly meetings for Milnathort Bridge Club in Orwell Bowling Club. Over the past couple of months we have enjoyed a number of new members and visitors who hopefully will become regular attenders. With the increase of participants and the enthusiasm of Willie Young's students to progress to club competition, all bodes well for the future of the club.

On our final 2023 evening of club bridge before Christmas members, were treated to a superb supper and prizes for the winners that night.

If you need a partner for any evening just contact Gloria Wilson (secretary). For further information on playing bridge on Monday evenings with Milnathort Bridge Club, contact Gloria Wilson on 07961 795812 or email [Gairneyview@gmail.com](mailto:Gairneyview@gmail.com).

#### RESULTS

##### North/South

18 December

Willie Young and Jane Smith

8 January

Jim Marshall and Beryl Harley

15 January

##### East/West

Kathryn & Peter Edgerton

Linda Bayne & Susie Ballantyne

TBC TBC

### Kinross High School Parent Council

Linktree: [linktr.ee/kinrosshparentcouncil](https://linktr.ee/kinrosshparentcouncil)

Find us on Facebook

The Parent Council enters the third term of the 2023/24 academic year after a busy first six months. To date, work has been focused on the re-establishment of the Parent Council at Kinross High School and creating a new constitution, working practices and a handbook to support the running of it. We have gathered and shared feedback on a number of issues raised by the Parent Forum in areas that were collectively important to parents, and we are grateful to those who took the time to come along to meetings, participated in surveys, or dropped us an email.

Our priority for the next six months will see attention focused on one of our main statutory functions which is to provide a parent voice to inform school improvement planning. This will include reaching out to parents to share their views with us and the consultation process will be shared within the next few weeks so remember to check our Linktree, Facebook page or email us to take part.

In addition to this, the Parent Council are in the privileged position to be able to invest some of its funds back into the pupil community to enrich their high school experience. We will be taking applications from school departments, extra-curricular clubs and other groups who may need some extra support. If anyone in the community has ideas or, if you run an extra-curricular group at Kinross High school, please get in touch with us using the email address below. The application process will be made available shortly after our meeting on 30 January. We will publish a list of all successful applicants in the *Newsletter* before the end of the school year.

We look forward to a busy term ahead.

Email us at [Kinrosshparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Kinrosshparentcouncil@gmail.com).



[linktr.ee/kinrosshparentcouncil](https://linktr.ee/kinrosshparentcouncil)



*Kinnesswood crafters have been busy!*

### Kinnesswood in Bloom



Happy New Year to everyone in Kinnesswood and the surrounding area as well as everyone who passes through the village. We hope you enjoyed our Christmas tree and light display which brightened everything up during the festive season. There have been lovely days in between the dull and wet days when everyone has enjoyed getting out and about.

Sadly we had a casualty in the Bee Garden when a large rectangular planter was reversed into. We hope to replace it in the near future. We are lucky that there are very few occasions when our displays are damaged and the offender was spotted by a concerned resident.

Norma enjoyed her trip to Westminster Abbey to attend the service organised by the Princess of Wales. It was a very moving occasion with 1500 people holding candles at the beginning and end of the service. It was fun spotting people like Beverley Knight and Adam Lambert in matching green outfits, hearing Jim Broadbent read a Tolkien poem about Father Christmas and work out who was who among the Royal family. Many youth organisations were represented as well as midwives, nursery staff, Red Cross and schools. It was lovely to represent Kinnesswood in Bloom and the young people we work with doing gardening and art.

Now that the festive season is over it is time to plan for 2024. Beautiful Scotland has come up with the themes of 'cakes' and 'celebrations'. This may be a hint to provide the judges with more cake! After the lovely wildflower displays, information boards and artwork last year we will celebrate birds this year; there are plenty of them in the area!

We are looking for crafters to help us with our village displays and some are already at work. Anyone who can offer their crafting skills in any way, please get in touch. We have patterns for knitted and crochet cakes and birds, but any crafts will be very welcome. Among our plans are a Mad Hatter's tea party, a teddy bear's picnic and maybe a bake off. Other suggestions are most welcome. The festival art this year will be on the theme of birds.

Look out for the bulbs coming up in the next few weeks. They are always particularly beautiful in Benarty View and the banking in front of the golf course.





Fairtrade at the Climate Cafe

## Fairtrade in Kinross-shire

### FairTrade and the Climate Crisis

In 2024 it would be good if we could make a difference to some of the problems that we see around us on the news and in our local area. If you are concerned about the climate crisis please come along to the Climate Café on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the library at the campus. The topics covered are varied and there is a chance to meet other members of the community and discuss steps we can all take.

One of these steps is to choose Fairtrade products in your weekly shopping and when you are in a café for a cup of tea or coffee. If you do that, you know that the farmer has received a fair price, but also has been supported to use sustainable farming practices and no child labour. The Fairtrade premium also offers communities extra money to spend on whatever it is that they most need; for example water, help with education or help to recover when droughts or floods mean they need to plant again.



Inner Wheel President Liz Pottie continuing the theme of centenary celebrations

## Inner Wheel

For Inner Wheel Day in January we collected in excess of 100 items for Broke not Broken. All items were taken to Sainsbury's which is the official collecting point.

We also had 100 pots of hyacinth bulbs which, by now, will have been given to the many people in our area who take meals on wheels.

Our speaker for February is Morag Ridings, the author of the book 'A Girl from Glasgow'. In March Professor Calum Sutherland will speak to us on Diabetes/Dementia Research.

Our next two meetings will be held at the Kirklands Hotel. Meetings start at 2.30pm and all visitors and guests are welcome. For further information please contact Tricia Lucas by email at [triciaciw@btinternet.com](mailto:triciaciw@btinternet.com).

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## Clubs & Community Groups

### Kinross Beavers

The penultimate week before we finished for the Christmas break saw the Beavers get into their creative space for the builder's badge. There were some brilliant creations and everyone did very well. Even the young leaders got in on the action!

At the end of the meeting we were delighted to invest our newest beavers into the colony. Congratulations to Ben, Daniel, Struan, Holly, Jude, Finn and Joshua.

In addition to this all the beavers who took part in the Remembrance Parade in November were presented with a certificate of participation. Bravo!

There were some presentations made to a couple of the leaders as our Assistant Beaver Scout Leader Stephen (right) who was presented with his wood badge after completing all his leader training. Bravo Stephen! Congratulations are also due to our Assistant Beaver Scout Leader Richard (below) who was presented with the Chief Scout's five year length of



service award. Well done to you both!

For our final meeting of the year the following week the beavers, along with Portmoak cubs, visited Rachel House to sing Christmas Carols to the children there. Once they had finished singing the songs the beavers and cubs were pulling Christmas crackers with the residents. Before they left to return to the hall everyone was given a selection box from Rachel House to take home. On returning to the hall the beavers had lots of fun taking part in a snowball fight.

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 at [kinrossbeavers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kinrossbeavers@hotmail.co.uk) for more information.

### Portmoak Hall 100 Club

#### December Draw

1st No 33 Doreen Thomson, Kinnesswood

2nd No 58 Anne Taylor, Kinnesswood

3rd No 54 Karen Wright, Scotlandwell



### Kinross Squirrels

As we approached the Christmas break the squirrels were working on their Feel Good activity badge. They played emotions bingo, listened to the colour monster story and were drawing pictures of what makes them happy, sad, angry and calm.

We were also delighted to invest our newest squirrels. Congratulations to Joshua, Catherine, Blair, Oliver and Alex who were invested into the Drey!

We also presented certificates of participation to all of the squirrels who took part in the Remembrance Parade in November. This was the first time the section has taken part in this community event and all squirrels were a credit to the group.

Congratulations to Jude who has become the first squirrel from 1st Kinross to achieve the Chief Scout's Acorn Award which is the highest award in the Squirrel section.

Finally, we were delighted to also invest our newest leaders Colin and Lauren into the Drey. Bravo!

The Squirrels had a great Christmas party for their final meeting of the term as they took part in a variety of games such as musical statues, Kim's game, creating snowmen and musical corners. We then ended the evening with a snowball fight before all the squirrels were given a selection box to take home.

Are you interested in helping at Squirrels? Volunteering gives you career-boosting skills, improves your wellbeing, and helps you make connections with friends, family and your local community. If you are interested in helping with the section, then please email us on [kinrosssquirrels@outlook.com](mailto:kinrosssquirrels@outlook.com) for more information.

Above: New Squirrel Leaders

Below: Acorn Award for Jude





Above: New Sixers and Seconders at Cubs.  
Below: Jack's investiture

## Kinross Cubs

It was all about money for the cubs in mid-December as they took part in a variety of activities including designing a new bank note, looking at the influence of adverts, created a shopping list for a camp and also created a password and then tested it out to see how secure it was.

At the end of the meeting we were delighted to invest Jack into the pack. We also presented certificates of participation to all cubs who took part in the Remembrance Parade in November.

Finally, we were delighted to appoint some new sixers and seconders. Congratulations to Harris, Charlie, Atholl, Danny, Carys, Oliver, Struan and Ally!

The cubs had an enjoyable time at their Christmas Party for the final meeting of the term just before Christmas. They took part in a variety of party games before everyone was given a selection box at the end of the meeting. Thanks to our parent helpers throughout the term for your support, it is much appreciated by the cub leadership team.

Volunteering can make a huge difference to young people's lives, as well as your own. From having something to look forward to every week to learning in the great outdoors, being a volunteer is good for you, supporting your own confidence and skills, health, happiness, and community.

If you would like to get involved with 1st Kinross Cubs, then please email [kinrosscubs@hotmail.com](mailto:kinrosscubs@hotmail.com) for more details.



## Common Grounds

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



Since welcoming our friends back in January after our New Year closure we have had busy coffee mornings and enjoyed catching up with old and new friends.

This followed a very successful Christmas craft stall at the beginning of December and also Milnathort Church Hall craft evening We made the fantastic sum of £1247.70! Our thanks go to those who contributed and worked to make it so successful and also to those who bought our wares.

Our Christmas coffee morning and raffle on 23 December was also was a very successful event and we made a total of £436.

Our Project for February is On Call Africa. This charity helps to improve access to healthcare in rural Zambia through treating, teaching and training. Mobile clinics deliver primary care directly to the patients and can diagnose HIV, malaria, STIs and pregnancy without patients having to travel to the city. Through the teaching and training given, they are able to help improve and give existing health care and services.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our coffee mornings held every Tuesday and Saturday.

## Kinross-shire u3a

[u3asites.org.uk/Kinross/home](http://u3asites.org.uk/Kinross/home)



U3A is open to semi-retired and retired people and the joining fee is £10. We currently have a number of varied groups who enjoying activities such as a book club, military history, poetry, scrabble, genealogy, famous Scots and so on.

We also meet at Kinross Parish Church on the first Tuesday of each month. In May we hold our Annual General Meeting and each month from September to April we offer a talk to our membership from an invited speaker. If you are interested come along to a couple of talks, get to know us and get a taste of what u3a is all about. We would love to meet you.

On Tuesday 6 February David Aird will be providing us with an informative talk on Kinross Volunteer Drivers. Doors to the Parish Church will open shortly after 2pm with the presentation starting at 2.30pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served afterwards.

If you are interested in joining the u3a information is available from our website or you can contact us by email at [mbs21@btinternet.com](mailto:mbs21@btinternet.com). New members are always welcome. Why not try out one of our monthly meetings?

## Clubs & Community Groups

### Kinross-shire Civic Trust

Helping protect, conserve and provide a better built and natural environment



[www.kinross-shirecivictrust.org](http://www.kinross-shirecivictrust.org)

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

Email: [KinrossshireCivicTrustSecy@gmail.com](mailto:KinrossshireCivicTrustSecy@gmail.com)

### Raingardens Update

The Trust has been successful in obtaining grant funding to carry out additional planting in the peripheral areas of the Kinross Park & Ride. This should result in improved visual amenity and biodiversity.

Further works will take place in the coming months in the wetland areas just off Junction Road. An existing pool will be widened and deepened, and an additional, smaller pool will be created. This should create an improved habitat for amphibians. More wetland-loving plants will also be put in place. Excavations to create the pool will take place from 7 to 10 February.

The wetlands at Junction Road are a floodplain and these works will assist in preventing or reducing flooding in and on man-made structures such as roads and housing.

### Kinross Historical Society



The January talk on The Fife Pilgrim Way was given by Iwan Thomas from the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. He explained the history of pilgrimages which took place, mainly in medieval times, as being a way to try avoid purgatory, pay a penance, cure an ailment or just as a customary thing to do as a break from the normal.

Historically there were four different routes through Fife starting off at Queensferry and going through towns like Dunfermline and Scotlandwell on the way to St Andrews. Queen Margaret, who became a saint, assisted pilgrims on their way providing such things

as boats to cross the Forth. Along the routes were inns, chapels and alms houses offering resting places.

Pilgrims would buy badges which they wore and indulgences which offered protection. This was seen as corrupting the church and the Reformation of the church saw the end of pilgrimages.

Scotland's Pilgrim Routes Forum has started setting up various pilgrim routes around the country. The last 30-40 years has seen a revival of interest in pilgrimages although perhaps not for the same reasons as in medieval days.

The Fife Pilgrim Way idea was started in 2012 and funding was acquired by 2017. It was ready to open in 2019 but the Covid-19 outbreak in early 2020 stopped the big launch. The ideas behind it were to encourage visitors to inland Fife and to help to connect people with the environment. The route cost nearly £1 million, including the cost of path laying, fencing, gates and signage.

The route doesn't match any of the old routes but can be started from either Culross or North Queensferry, finishing in St Andrews. It crosses old industrial areas, built-up roads, beautiful countryside and historic villages. It is about 64 miles long in 7 key sections which can be done individually. It can be done easily using public transport.

Community involvement has been, and continues to be, important. Future plans include 'champing' which would get churches to open up for pilgrims to stay overnight on their journeys, keeping the path maintained in good condition and improving signage. The long term plan is for community ownership and collaboration with volunteer support.

Iwan Thomas recommended *The Fife Pilgrim Way* by Ian Bradley to anyone who wants to know more.

Anne Milburn gave the vote of thanks, saying that many members were walkers and would really benefit from walking the Pilgrim Way with its fascinating sense of history as outlined by Iwan Thomas.



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## The Rotary Club of Kinross and District

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

A New Year has begun, halfway through the Rotary year, and we are busy as ever.



### Meetings

Our meetings sometimes include contributions from a variety of speakers. These meetings are a good opportunity for fellowship with fellow members and for interested people to join us if they wish.

On 12 December, we enjoyed a breakfast meeting with David Cairns as our speaker. David updated us on the progress of CATCH (Climate Action Through Community Heating). There is no doubt that our planet needs to be a greener world. This group are working hard to find solutions to help to reduce climate change and reduce energy bills with a community heating project. COP 28 took place recently but saw little decisive action from world leaders. However, if we act as a community, we could make a significant difference; and that difference really is needed. Did you know that 63% of homes in Perth and Kinross spend more than 10% of their income on heating?

David's presentation was thought-provoking and inspiring. It is time for us all to get engaged with the proposed model which would belong to us, members of the community.

### Santa's Sleigh

We managed to complete all the trips according to schedule, despite some very wet weather! We have already evaluated this much-loved event and look forward to returning next Christmas, hopefully with a tracker operating again. We raised well over £3000 which we will disperse to good causes when we reconvene. Thanks again to all who assisted and donated.

### Fun and Fellowship

After all festive activities, Rotarians finally had time to enjoy a Christmas party in the Kirklands Hotel. As usual Shona, Anthony and their staff laid on a delicious meal and looked after us very well. We played silly games, had a picture quiz, pass the parcel, a recital and a song. There was lots of chatter and laughter. It was a fun way to end the year.

In January, while the Kirklands is closed for a well-earned rest, Rotarians go out and about to see how other Rotary clubs work. We enjoyed the welcoming and interesting visits.

### Young Musician

The club heat for this award was held at Loch Leven Community Campus on 12 December.

The standard was extremely high and, from a fabulously talented group of entrants, we congratulate Alexander McGuire on winning our heat with an outstanding performance on piano. Anna Mitchell was a worthy runner up, and Faith Archer best vocalist. Alexander

will soon progress to the district stage of the competition. We wish him well!

Many thanks to our judges at the event; Kevin Lamb, Alana Brown and Gillian Lindsay.

### Young Writer

The deadline for this is fast approaching! Young writers who live in Kinross-shire are invited to produce a piece of writing (fiction or non-fiction, prose or a poem) on the theme of 'Rebuilding'.

- Up to 550 words for prose entries.
- Up to 40 lines for poetry entries.
- All entries need to be legible and preferably typed (Word document).
- No pictures or drawings to be part of the entry.
- No photos as part of entries.

There are three age groups:

**Junior** up to and including 10 years old

**Intermediate** 11 to 13 years old

**Senior** 14 to 17 years old

Entrants must not be over the upper age parameters for each group on 31 August 2023.

Please forward entries, with writer's full name and date of birth, to [secretary.kdrc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.kdrc@gmail.com) by Monday 19 February.

We look forward to reading the entries and hope for continued success at district and national level!

### Get Involved

After a very busy period, we are now planning our activities for the next few months. This is an ideal time to join us, or to meet us and investigate what Rotary is all about. We are a diverse group of individuals involved in a diverse range of activities; there is something for everyone to engage in and benefit from.

Contact [secretary.kdrc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.kdrc@gmail.com) for further details.

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*Our featured photograph this month is 'From A Carriage Window', taken by David Hatton. This is the winning projected digital image from our recent league two competition*

## Kinross Camera Club

[www.kinrosscameraclub.wordpress.com](http://www.kinrosscameraclub.wordpress.com)

Find us on Facebook

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 1 February at 7.30pm on Zoom. The second half of the evening is a less formal section where we can sit back and enjoy members pictures. All members are encouraged to have a look through the photos they have taken over the last couple of months and choose two of their favourite shots to submit. We then all enjoy a slideshow of these images and many of our more experienced members are always happy to offer positive advice and tips on how the image can be improved. This is a popular evening and sometimes these images go on to be entered into club competitions.

This month it is our turn to host the annual 3-way competition with St Andrews Photographic Society and Cupar Camera Club. This meeting will be held in the hall. It is always an enjoyable evening where each club submits 15 projected digital images for an external judge to critique and score. It is a friendly competition which gives us a chance to see the work of other local clubs. Great sportsmanship of course but each club always has its eye on the trophy.

Our Four On A Board Competition will take place in the hall on 15 February. It involves four related photographs mounted on a board on any theme. This is an informal competition which is judged on the night by members.

Later in February we look forward to a Zoom presentation by JP Stones who will share with us his stunning and inspirational images of the Mexican Charro and discuss the unexpected rewards of completing a long term photography project.

We will be holding another practical evening at the end of February. This meeting will be in the hall and we will be exploring macro and close up photography. It provides a hands-on opportunity to have a go



at macro photography in a relaxed environment with plenty of advice available from some of our members who are macro enthusiasts.

If you would like to learn more about Kinross Camera Club and the planned activities and events please contact us by email at [secretary@kinrosscameraclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@kinrosscameraclub.org.uk).

Throughout the season we hold a mixture of Zoom meetings where you can enjoy presentations in the comfort of your home and we also arrange meetings in the hall at the Church Centre in Kinross. Please see our syllabus on the website for details.

Whether you are a beginner or have years of experience with your camera, you will be made very welcome. There is no need for lots of expensive kit; just an interest in photography and meeting up with likeminded folk. Why not come along and see if it's for you?

## Broke not Broken

Happy New Year from all of us at Broke Not Broken. As our volunteers hit the ground running this January with meeting the increasing demand for support, and running projects to help those living with the effects of poverty across Kinross-shire, we are also reflecting on 2023.

'Busy' may be the over-riding word from last year, but also a real sense of community building within our projects; friendships growing and a lot of fun and laughter!

As a team we were completely blown away by the kindness and generosity right across the community, from local groups and individuals who supported us in the lead up to the holiday period so thank you!

On 3 December we held our Christmas hamper pack which were wrapped and packed by members of the community who kindly donated their time. We made and distributed 159 Christmas hampers this year They were filled with Christmas treats, vouchers for Baynes, Winton's fine foods or Hunter's butchers and local supermarket vouchers, most of which were delivered the same day by volunteers who braved the challenging weather conditions we had that weekend. Thanks to the Green Hotel for their kind donation of the space for the day.

**BROKE  
NOT  
BROKEN**



We were able to secure funding to take 100 people to the Panto to see The Wizard of Oz at the Alhambra over the holiday period and everyone who attended had a lovely takeaway afternoon tea from Heaven Scent as part of the trip. A fantastic day out which was much enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to our Tuesday trips running again in the Easter holidays.

We also distributed 80 winter warmer packs in October which have winter veg, vouchers for the butchers and, if required, a slow cooker and electric blankets. We received some lovely feedback from families using this to make several meals. These will go out again within the next month.

Throughout November and December we saw a rise in referrals for food and energy support as the cost of living continued to impact those locally and the colder weather began. We provided over 900 food supports (food parcel or voucher) during the same months. We spent over £15000 on energy payments in 2023 to support those across Kinross-shire.

The rising cost of living was reflected in the foodbank with a 37% increase in foodbank costs, food or vouchers, rising to £113,573 this past year. This reflected both more people needing support (40% increase in new households!) and the food we buy costing more. We are incredibly well supported by the community and thank everyone for this; much of the foodbank is funded by donations from those within our local community, without which we would not be able to meet the needs of those requiring support.

As we move forward in 2024 part of our focus will be on hearing from those we support and the community to improve, continue or change what we do but also to better advocate for change with councillors, local authority and panels we sit on. If you want to see change happen, we encourage you to contact your local councillors and MP/MSP to ask what they plan to do to improve the livelihoods of those living on low incomes within our community and hold them to account for this. As demand and rising costs look likely to outstrip our funding this year for the foodbank this advocacy is needed more than ever before. Our team of volunteers continue to work incredibly hard ensuring people have the essentials they need; they go above and beyond every time. However our ultimate goal is for there to be no more foodbank in Kinross; to see demand fall, not increase, year on year.

## Scottish Women's Institute

### Carnbo SWI

President Heather Dennis welcomed all members and guests to the January meeting. After business we went back through the archive of Carnbo rural provided by Grace Paterson with old photograph albums, syllabus, programmes and items made for Kinross show. We also heard from Josephine Paterson, Christine Dawson, Molly White, June Brunton and Lyn Willsher about their memories of the rural. Linda Band gave the vote of thanks.

#### COMPETITIONS:

**Flower Of The Month:** 1st Joyce Hallgren, 2nd Cath Mearns;  
**What The Rural Means To Me, a poem:**  
 1st Heather Dennis, 2nd Sheila Reid.

The next meeting is in Carnbo Hall on 19 Feb at 7.15pm. All welcome. Speakers are Mr and Mrs Hipwell on rare breeds, Shetland sheep.

### Cleish SWI

President Helen Buchanan welcomed 22 members and 1 visitor to our November meeting which was a talk by Will Bowler of Bowler and Binnie Auctions in Dunfermline. Members brought their favourite antique item along to be valued and it was a very interesting evening.

#### COMPETITIONS

**Favourite Antique:** 1st Elinor Craig,  
 2nd Margaret Nelson, 3rd Gillian Skene;  
**Slice Of Tea Loaf:** 1st Alison Morris,  
 2nd Fiona Campbell, 3rd Lynn Hewitt;  
**Flower Of The Month:** 1st Marion Laird,  
 2nd Elinor Craig, 3rd Margaret Kilpatrick.

Helen then welcomed 28 members and 1 visitor to our December meeting which was a very entertaining and hands on evening with Aileen Wright from Sew Yarn Crafty in Dunfermline. With Aileen demonstrating on her flip board, whilst sharing stories of her life, we used chalk pens to turn paper bags into Christmas gift bags.

Congratulations to Dorothy Morris who won the baby hat and two bonding squares competition held during the P&K Federation Meeting in November. Dorothy was presented with the Moulin Bell.

#### COMPETITIONS

**Wrapped Christmas Parcel:** 1st Lynn Hewitt,  
 2nd Margo Wills, 3rd Fiona Campbell  
**Christmas Pie:** 1st Lynn Hewitt,  
 2nd Margaret Nelson, 3rd Anne Doig  
**Flower Of The Month:** 1st Marion Laird,  
 2nd Judith MacLaren, 3rd Elinor Craig.

In January Helen welcomed 25 ladies to our meeting which was a very informative talk by Kendra Flockhart from East Coast Homeopathy. Kendra gave us an insight into the history, how it works and the benefits of homeopathy.

#### COMPETITIONS

**Best Auld Wives Tale Remedy:** 1st Alison Morris,  
 2nd Marion Laird, 3rd Anne Doig;  
**Healthy Smoothie:** 1st Marion Laird,  
 2nd Lynn Hewitt, 3rd Alison Morris;  
**Pot Plant:** 1st Lynn Hewitt,  
 2nd Pauline Cobbold, 3rd Sandra Webster.

Our next meeting is a fun fundraising evening on Monday 12 February in Cleish Village Hall at 7.30pm.

### Powmill SWI

In December we had a Christmas wreath workshop. Sharon Buchanan, assisted by Sally, guided everyone to achieve a wonderful festive wreath using oranges, cinnamon sticks, cones, fir, holly, ivy and, of course, topped off with some colourful glittery baubles.

Members also enjoyed a Christmas meal and entertainment, along with Blairingone SWI, at the Woodsman restaurant at Fishcross.

The February meeting is a talk about Gleneagles from Jane McGee. Everyone is welcome at 7.30pm at Moubray hall, Powmill.

#### COMPETITIONS

**Gift Tag From Recycled Christmas Card:** Mary Wilson  
**Three pieces of tablet:** 1. Donna McBain  
 2. Mary Wilson 3. Tricia Greer;  
**Table Centre With Candle:** Mary Wilson.



Powmill SWI

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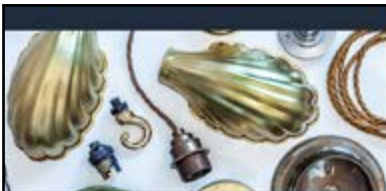
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## Kinross & Ochil Walking Group

(Affiliated to Ramblers Scotland)

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

Fresh air, exercise, good company and wonderful views. We offer all this and visits to some of the spectacular scenery and lesser known places that surround us. We are a friendly and relaxed group and, if you'd like to try a walk with us, you will be made very welcome.

### Tuesday Short Walks

Unless otherwise stated, these walks are usually about two hours long and a fairly gentle four miles. We often follow the walk with a visit to a cafe, farm shop or pub for refreshments, but this is entirely optional.

#### Tuesday 13 February, Blairadam Forest

This is a gentle, leisurely walk through the forest returning to the start along a river bank.

#### Tuesday 27 February, Historic Falkland and Falkland Estate

An easy walk from the heart of Falkland village (greeting Onesiphorus on the way) and into Falkland Estate. Depending on the unpredictable February weather, there is a choice of varied paths through the area.

*For further details of where to meet us for Tuesday walks, or for general enquiries, please contact Susan Tester on 01786 834535.*

### Weekend Longer Walks

Weekend walks are a degree more challenging and of varied longer lengths. We advise bringing along a packed lunch and flask or drink. We also recommend that you have appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear.

#### Sunday 4 February, Auchtermuchty, Pitmedden and Carpow Hill

Starting from the southern forest edge near Newton in Fife, the walk consists of a mix of forest vehicle tracks, pedestrian paths through woods and some minor roads. Booking essential. Walking poles recommended.

#### Saturday 17 February, Dumyat from Menstrie

From the start of the walk in Menstrie there is a steep initial hill climb towards Dumyat farm. After this quite strenuous ascent, panoramic views open up over the Forth Valley. Descent is via Lossburn Reservoir, then to Jerah farmstead. The final stage is

a winding descent on forestry tracks back down to Menstrie. Booking essential. Walking poles recommended.

*For further details of where to meet us for weekend walks or for general enquiries, please contact Ken Staples on 07810 180283.*

## Kinross and District Art Club

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



Kinross and District Art Club painting sessions for 2024 opened on Tuesday 9 January with a cheery and creative buzz. Twenty-five members including a few new members enjoyed the afternoon painting and chatting. Angela Walter, the new KADAC Chairperson, welcomed everyone and wished them a happy and productive New Year. Everyone present was delighted to share their 'artworks-in-progress' with the other folks; the inspiring afternoon ended with lots of motivated members keen to develop their practice.

Looking forward to the year ahead, there are already a few activities in the diary over and above the regular painting sessions. On Thursday 1 February, some members will attend Kinross Primary School as 'Artists in Residence' for a couple of hours. This is a delightful intergenerational activity which KADAC has been involved in a few times already. You can find out more about our previous visit on our website.

Tom Sutton Smith, Professional Adviser to the Club, is already organising a workshop/ artist's demonstration for Tuesday 13 February; and on Saturday, 23 March, KADAC looks forward to setting up stall with other local organisations at the Better Place to Live Fair in the Community Campus.

The KADAC website is full of information and photographs of previous KADAC events and activities. A new feature on our website is a short, delightful video of the KADAC Year, created by one of the Club's members, Andrew Burnett. The video can be found on the website ([www.kadac.co.uk](http://www.kadac.co.uk)) under Club News.

*If you are interested in joining the club and developing your own creativity, you will find more information and contact details on our website, alternatively, please do just drop in around 3pm on a Tuesday or Friday afternoon to chat about becoming a member over a cuppa. The Kinross and District Art Club meets on Tuesdays and Fridays (2-4pm) in Millbridge Hall.*



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Callum Johnston



Vice Captain  
Michael Jack

## Kinross Hockey

[Kinrosshockey.org](http://Kinrosshockey.org)



### Never too late and never too early

Welcome to Callum Johnston who is demonstrating that it is never too late to take up hockey. Callum who moved to Kinross from Perth in 2022 with his girlfriend was originally a squash player. He played squash from the age of 12, representing Scotland and later, after graduating from Aberdeen University transitioned to coaching with clubs and Dundee University.

However, a series of lower back problems meant that Callum had to give up squash. After taking a break he realised that he missed the social aspect of sport and decided to give alternative sports a try. His initial experience in Perth was not enjoyable. Callum did not feel welcome and was thrown in with children who were also complete beginners.

Fortuitously for us, he was a friend of a Kinross ladies player (thank you Amy) who brought him along to one of our summer mixed sessions. Callum has been impressed with the fact that our club coaching covers all levels from beginners to international players and feels friendly and inclusive (well done Monty and Andy). The impact on Callum has been such that he is already an indispensable member of the squad; his fitness and passing skills are referred to by some as the Declan Rice of Kinross Hockey Club.

It is such a pleasure to have Callum join us. When not playing hockey he travels throughout Scotland providing business development advice to people in rural environments.

On the other hand, Michael is at the other end of the scale. Having played since a very early age and still in sixth year at school, Michael has stepped up to take on the responsibilities of first team Vice Captain. He is mindful that this is an opportunity that a lot of clubs would not be prepared to grant to one so young. He is looking forward to gaining as much experience and knowledge from the more mature players as he can.

When asked whether he thought that the duties would interfere with his studies, Michael was unequivocal in stating that playing hockey on a Saturday afternoon gives him the mental break that was needed from his books. He also said that,

'it is important to undertake exercise as there is truth in the old adage that a healthy body leads to a healthy mind; it's almost like mindfulness, for 70 minutes you completely forget about the daily stress and grind and just focus on the small white (sometimes orange) ball'.

Is Michael preparing himself to become a future team captain? 'No comment' was the swift reply. The club wishes him well for the season.

The club holds training sessions every evening from Monday through to Thursday. There are sessions for ages from 7 upwards and players are separated into appropriate sections, ages and abilities. To enquire please check out our website or email [Kinrosshockey@gmail.com](mailto:Kinrosshockey@gmail.com).

### Kinross Otters

Kinross Otters welcomed swimmers, parents and guardians to our Club Championship presentation on Friday 15 December at the Community Campus. It was a great night celebrating the young people of the club. The evening was finished off with music from local band, Open Waters.

Presentations were made to the following swimmers:

**9 and under Girls 50m:**

Gold Phoebe Jones, Silver Isla Crane, Bronze Lucy Donaldson

**9 and under Boys 50m:**

Gold Nathan Kenny, Silver Lochlan Lambert, Bronze Lochlan Smyth

**10 and under (10) Girls:**

Gold Niamh McGourty, Silver Lucy Jackson, Bronze Emma McIntyre

**10 and under (10) Boys:** Gold Callum McElroy, Silver Rory Walker

**12 and under (11/12) Girls:**

Gold Aila Wilson and Anna Jackson, Bronze Mia McCluskey

**12 and under (11/12) Boys:**

Gold Lewis Smith, Silver Ewan Smith, Bronze Magnus Lambert

**13/14 Belleisle Trophy Girls:**

Gold Lucy Couch, Silver Jessica Sloan, Bronze Eve Rankin

**13/14 Dunblane Trophy Boys:** Gold Matthew Kenny, Silver Alex Bailey, Bronze Thomas Aitken

## Sports News

### Seniors (15+) Girls:

Gold Charlotte Chadwick, Silver Grace McCall, Bronze Hannah Breingan

### Seniors (15+) Boys:

Gold Hayden McKenzie, Silver Stuart Pritchard

### Bronze Girls Squad 100 IM:

Gold Phoebe Jones, Silver Mairi McKie, Bronze Heidi Milne

### Bronze Boys 100 IM:

Gold Brodie Hearnden, Silver Finlay Rickman, Bronze Callum McElroy;

### Silver Girls 100 IM:

Gold Amelia Guthrie, Silver Amy Orrock, Bronze Ariana Paterson

### Silver Boys 100 IM:

Gold Wil Kirke; Silver Thomas Aitken; Bronze Kaiden Moffat; Gold

### Girls 200 IM:

Gold Anna Jackson; Silver Aila Wilson, Bronze Isla Gordon; Gold

### Boys 200 IM:

Gold Lewis Smith, Silver Magnus Lambert, Bronze Douglas Thomson;

### Platinum Girls 200 IM:

Gold Charlotte Chadwick; Silver Grace McCall; Bronze Lucy Couch

### Platinum Boys 200 IM:

Gold Hayden McKenzie, Silver Stuart Pritchard, Bronze Matthew Kenny

### Eilidh Neave Trophy for Bronze Newcomer:

50m Breaststroke, Tibbie Cillan-Taylor

### Bronze Coaches Award: Euan McKie

### Silver Coaches Award: Amelia Guthrie

### Gold Coaches Award: Lily Pritchard

### Platinum Coaches Award: Jessica Sloan

### Swimmer of the Year Girls: Charlotte Chadwick

### Swimmer of the Year Boys: Matthew Kenny

Once again thank you to our coaches and volunteers who put together such a fantastic evening!

## Kinross Road Runners

<https://kinrossroadrunners.weebly.com>

Now that the fun and festivities are over, preparations begin for the Loch Leven half-marathon on 12 May and, this year, Kinross



John and Scott looking very fresh after 26.2 miles



Road Runners are proud to be hosting the East District championships. Keep an eye out for more information over the coming months. If you would like to enter, you can do so online at [www.entrycentral.com](http://www.entrycentral.com).

Two weeks before Christmas, we held our annual club Handicap 10k. Runners are set off based on their estimated race times with the idea of a blanket finish. Congratulations to our winner Kirsty Higgins, chased down by Brigid Wallen in second place and Connor Findlay in third place.

Back in Milnathort town hall afterwards for hot soup and prize giving, it was also time to draw names out of a hat to award the London Marathon club place to anyone who had entered but had received their rejection slip. Allison Callaghan was the lucky recipient so our best wishes to her on 21 April.

We also donated perishable goods to Broke Not Broken and president Ann passed these over to the charity in time for Christmas.

On the same weekend in sunnier climes, Scott Strachan and John Beveridge were in Malaga. Unfortunately they were not lying on a beach with a beer but were taking part in the Generali Maraton Malaga. Both finished under the magical three hour mark in 2:54.19 and 2:56.44 respectively. Congratulations gents! For those lucky enough not be working between Christmas and New Year, eight members took part in the Tilli 10k. First home in the yellow and blue was Jim Reilly, Karen Ritchie hot on his heels and ably supported by Laura

Reilly, Ann Malcolm, Linda MacEachen, Michelle Murray, Lynn Beveridge and Sarah Eaton.

On New Year's Day, Bart Burza was in hill running action at the Aonoch Mor uphill race, setting a fantastic time of 31.08 for the 4km lung-busting 2000ft ascent.

The first weekend of the New Year was the Falkland Yomp. Our newly crowned off road champions, Steph Johnson and Alex Reilly finished off the final race in style finishing second female and eighth male overall. They were followed home by Murray Speight, David Mudie, Frazer Munro, Michael Atkinson and Judith Dobson (third FV60).

Next month is the Devil's Burdens relay and to prepare for the self-navigation course, several of our runners met at the Willie Clarke Centre at Lochore for navigation training. The course was provided by Fiona Horsefield and gave runners the chance to learn, or brush up, on their map reading and compass skills. We will find out how successful they were in next month's *Newsletter*.

A New Year brings new resolutions so, if you want to join Kinross Road Runners, go to our website and get in touch.

## Kinross Golf Club

[www.kinrossgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.kinrossgolfclub.co.uk) 2 Beeches Park, KY13 8EU  
Tel: 01577 862237



## Upcoming Social Events

Our Valentine's Event will be on Saturday 10 February. Entertainment for the evening will be Del Charles with his Neil Diamond and friends tribute followed by cabaret.



Ticket price includes a glass of bubbly on arrival followed by a delicious three course meal (menu to follow).

## Social Event Feedback

The Hogmanay dance was a sell-out and everyone had a great evening. The entertainment for the evening was provided by Pinnacle, who created a great atmosphere to dance to and bring in the bells.



Volleyball  
Christmas Party

The annual games day was held on 2 January and was very well attended. Members and guests participate in darts, dominoes, carpet bowls, and pool. This was run and organised by Willie Burnside and Graham (Guz) Thomson. A great fun day and a big thanks to Willie and Guz for organising this event.



### Jet Setting Kinross Girl

Former junior member, Jennifer Saxton, began her golfing adventure as a junior at Kinross Golf Club and holds the course records for both courses. Jennifer is part of the Scottish Elite Women's Squad off for 'warm weather training' across the Atlantic. Last week they competed in The Sammy Tournament (formerly The South Atlantic

Women's Amateur Championship) at Oceanside Country Club, Florida. During this tournament Jen achieved her first Hole-in-One. This week they have moved on to the Bahamas.

Not only is Jen spending time in the USA with her job, but she is also beginning 2024 playing golf in Florida and the Bahamas thanks to Scottish Golf and The Sean Connery Foundation!

### Kinross Volleyball

The club Christmas fun night was well supported. Lochlann McLean and Christine Mitchell won the chocolate Santas, gaining the most points in competition during the evening.



Volleyball Chocolate Santa Winners

Perth District League matches have resumed after the festive break. Our teams suffered a bit of a downturn in performances which has seen them slip from second place to fourth place in the leagues.

Monday evening training sessions at the campus large games hall have resumed. They are at 8-9.45 pm and have been well attended. New

members are welcome to come along and try their hand. It is great fun!

Kinross High School pupils are preparing for their Scottish Cup matches in January. The Wednesday Active Schools sessions are well attended. It has been good to see a number of new pupils coming along.

Following the end of the league season the club will be preparing for the Scottish Open Volleyball tournament in Perth at the end of May and for the De Haan 50th Tournament in Belgium in mid-August.

### Kinross Rugby Club

All are welcome to come along to Kinross Rugby Football Club and enjoy the atmosphere and spectacle of this year's Men and Women Six Nations Rugby Championship games. Non-members should either be accompanied (signed in) by a member or be prepared to join the club as an associate member.



Each of the Scotland games and others will be shown live on the four large televisions at KRFC clubhouse and all members and their guests will have access to the licensed bar. Children under 14 are welcome and must be accompanied by an adult.

Kinross Rugby Club is on the first floor of the newly extended King George V Muirs Pavilion, at the KGV Muirs playing field which is directly behind St Paul's church on the Muirs.

### Milnathort Golf Club

37 South Street Milnathort, KY13 9XA  
01577 864069  
[www.milnathortgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.milnathortgolfclub.co.uk)



The start of the year is a time when many people make New Year resolutions. In 2024, is yours to start playing golf? If so, come along to Milnathort Golf Club and give it a try! We run 'Get Into Golf' where you receive coaching lessons from a PGA registered coach. Memberships can be paid in 10 monthly instalments of £41.50 via BRS. The clubhouse kitchen and bar are open Monday to Saturday from 10am-3pm for full service on tea, coffee, home baking and lunch.

Despite the challenging weather and volume of rain, the winter maintenance programme is well underway to ensure that the best quality course is available for the new season.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 February	Chinese New Year
10 March	Mothering Sunday
30 March	Opening Day Event

If you are interested in any of the above, or for more information, please visit our website.

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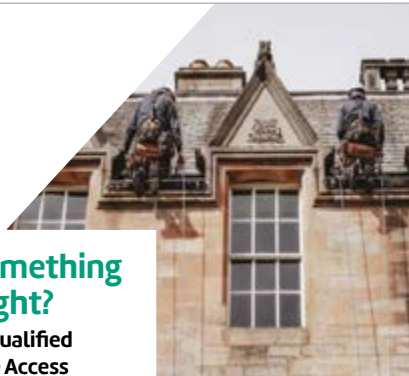


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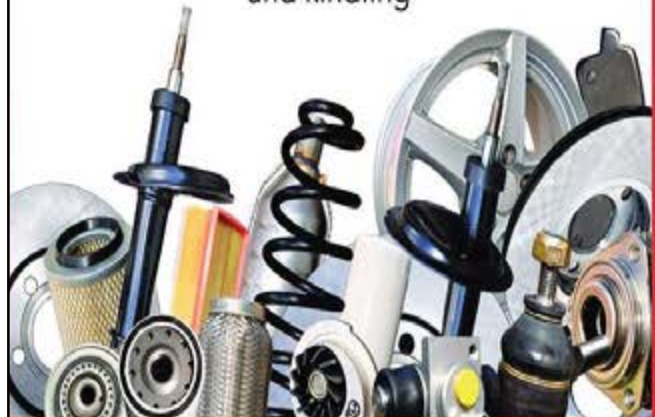


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# Dancing On Ice



**AS WE HEAD FURTHER** into 2024, we're preparing more events for the coming months to get the local community involved at Loch Leven. After the great success of the Christmas character trail at Burleigh, we've been putting our thinking caps on about what other characters we can create to put around the reserve. Coming up in February we've got a nest box making event for valentines day, a drop in for the public to come along and have a go at making a box to put up in the garden for a couple of lucky love birds. Keep an eye out on our social channels for updates on other events.

World Wetlands Day falls on 2 February, and is the perfect excuse to head out to the loch and enjoy all that it has to offer. If there's ever a day made for Loch Leven it's this day! Over the winter, wetlands provide essential habitat for birds, and in the spring and summer for breeding birds. This is why we work so hard to keep the loch protected and make sure habitats around the site are up to scratch. This is a great excuse to head out and enjoy a walk around the loch and appreciate all this wetland has to offer.

Wildlife sightings across the reserve start to change as we head into spring. There are a few birds that create quite the spectacle during courtship such as goldeneye and great-crested grebes. Male goldeneye perform a complex series of courtship displays, with up to 14 different moves like the 'masthead', 'bowsprit' and 'head throw back', where the male bends its head all the way back before thrusting forward and kicking up its feet. Great crested grebes perform a courtship 'dance' on the water, a synchronised performance involving shaking their extravagant head plumes from side to side.

The finale is the 'weed ceremony', using vegetation as a prop during their dance.

Spring flowers will start to appear. Common species such as daffodils and snowdrops flower, and although non-native to the UK they're a sure sign that spring is here! Native plants such as chickweed produces small white star-like flowers, and can actually be seen all year round. Daisies will be seen more frequently across gardens and lawns. Red-dead-nettle may begin flowering mid-February, and the ever yellow gorse is always a pleasant site. Another flower to spot is coltsfoot, a small bright yellow flower often seen along roadsides and paths. Having plants that flower early is great for early emerging bees, providing a food source as temperatures start to rise.

We'll be busy with plenty of practical work around the reserve, continuing tree planting and habitat maintenance before

birds start nesting. You may see us out and about so feel free to say hello if you do!

To keep updated with what is going on the reserve have a look at our social media (Facebook, Instagram and Wordpress blog – [@LochLevenNNR](#)), and feel free to get in touch with any of your own as well.

*Sally Reay  
Loch Leven Nature Reserve Officer*

## Weather



### Recent Weather Reports From Kinross

#### December 2023

Total Rainfall	<b>209mm/8.36in</b>	
Heaviest Fall	<b>18mm/0.72in</b>	(27 Dec)
Total Sunshine	<b>24.9hrs</b>	
Sunniest Day	<b>3.7hrs</b>	(1 Dec)
Max Temp Average	<b>6.58°C</b>	
Highest Temp	<b>11.5°C</b>	(24 Dec)
Min Temp Average	<b>0.72°C</b>	
Lowest Temp	<b>-10.0°C</b>	(29 Dec)



# A Scurry Of Squirrels

At RSPB Loch Leven we are gearing up for the Big Garden Birdwatch, a citizen science project that has been running since 1979. It takes place from the 26 to 28 of January and can be carried out by anyone with access to a patch of garden or some greenspace.

All it requires is an hour of your time to watch the birds and record what you see. More details for this can be found on our website or by searching big garden birdwatch. At the reserve we have a big garden bird watch trail which has lots of information about the birds commonly seen.

The reserve has been a mix of very quiet and very busy over the past month with the weather strongly dictates the wildlife that can be seen. During the cold spell the bird feeders have been very busy with all the usual suspects including close views of redwing and fieldfare. It has been nice watching them come down to drink from the ponds. The red squirrels have also been very active. You can also see a live stream of the squirrel feeder on YouTube by searching for 'Loch Leven squirrel cam' and watch red squirrels and birds feeding till your hearts content!

Down on the reserve itself we have had days with lots of wild-fowl when it's not been frozen. The main species we are seeing are teal, wigeon, mallard, whooper swan and goldeneye. The bay itself has had big rafts of tufted duck and pochard too.

There are still some pink-footed geese around the loch, however, numbers have fallen to around 2-3000 on our last count in mid-January and this is usual for this time of year as the influx from autumn has moved southwards.

There have also been some nice sightings in the last month of



Red Squirrel at Kirkgate Park by Paul Kirby

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peregrine falcon, hen harrier, little egret and out on the loch records of smew have been quite regular.

The volunteers have been working on a lovely new addition to our wildlife garden, constructing a cottage garden from old railway sleepers. These will be made into raised beds that will be used for growing wildflower plugs that can be planted out onto the reserve.

They've also helped with keeping our reserve well gritted during the cold spell, helping repair water troughs, sorting out some cross drains up the hill and brush cutting our predator fence.

Speaking of the hill, the sleeping giant path is now open for business again after some extensive repairs and improvements.

*Darran Dixon, Assistant Warden*

## DISCOVER LOCH LEVEN ON FACEBOOK

To discover the myriad things to see and do in Kinross and the surrounding area, see **Visit Loch Leven**

## Farming

# Having A Ruff Day



The weather is certainly the single biggest factor to affect farmers on a day to day basis. Too wet, too dry, too cold, too hot, there's always some complaint and while it can usually be justified when we moan about it, we really shouldn't be surprised when it doesn't happen quite how we would like it.

Just as the 'wrong trousers' in Wallace and Gromit leads Wallace on an uncontrolled string of events, the wrong weather can have a similar effect on farmers as we try to harness the unpredictable power of nature as best as we can to produce our various food products. We just need to have the quiet, cool, logical thought process of Gromit to help us arrive at the best outcomes. It's very easy to write it down on paper in theory but definitely not so easy to put into practice when the chips are not so much down but very much out. So there's our challenge for the year.

One thing which definitely helps with achieving the best outcome in whatever job we do is having the right tools for the task in hand, and Gromit has the extremely enviable talent of having just the right item at just the right time. This was brought home to me just the other day back in the real world (yes I do live there occasionally!).

**AS WE TENTATIVELY TIP-TOE** our way into the brave new world which is heralded by the changing of the calendar into another year, we farmers tend to take stock of the 12 months just gone and make resolutions for the 12 to come. For the backward farm report card of 2023, I think the overall teacher's comments would be along the lines of – improvements made in some areas, regression of previous forward steps in others, and overall still plenty of room for improvement and hard work required. Teacher would also probably comment on the bad habit of blaming the weather when things don't go to plan. Guilty as charged, m'laud.

Younger son Callum and I were trying to gather in his Blackface ewes from the fields they were grazing at my brother's farm to bring them back home to be pregnancy scanned (which will have happened by the time you are reading this). Blackface ewes can be particularly stubborn and suspicious of anything different, especially when they have, as Callum's flock has, spent their lives grazing the open high hills of the Border country.

We had set up the mobile sheep pens in the corner of the field but try as we might, we couldn't persuade them to go into the enclosure. They would go as far as the entrance then they would just stop, turn round to face us and break off in different directions.

Tempers were getting slightly frayed and the ewes were getting stressed, when local farming friends and near neighbours Norman and Calum happened upon the scene of disarray. As luck would have it, they had their collie, Ben in the pickup with them, and they offered to lend a hand. In less than five minutes the flock were calmly and steadily guided into the holding pen. No fuss, no stress. These sheep were used to being gathered with dogs on the farm they originated from, so they totally respected the presence of the dog, but that is not to detract from the fact that Ben is a very good sheepdog and Calum is a very good handler. It was like a piece of machinery working in perfect harmony, with precision. The right tool for the right job, at the right time, and not a wrong pair of trousers or a sheep-shift-o-matic in sight.

John

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# Kinross-shire Centre

Scottish Charity SC004968

64 High Street  
Kinross  
KY13 8AJ

## Weekly Programme For February 2024

Monday	Hearing Aid Clinic (5 Feb ONLY)	10am-12pm
	Exercise Class	11.30am
	Games: Indoor curling, quizzes, Scrabble, dominoes	1.30pm
	'Stride for Life' Walking Group	2.00pm
Tuesday	Vision PK (6 & 20 Feb ONLY)	10-11.45am
	Exercise Class	11.30am
	Singing Group (13 Feb ONLY)	1.30pm
	Games: quizzes, Scrabble, dominoes (7, 14, 21 Jan ONLY)	1.30pm
Wednesday	Church Service	11.15am
	Games: quizzes, Scrabble, dominoes	1.30pm
	Craft Group (7 & 21 Feb ONLY)	1.30pm
	Reminiscence Group Garden Room (7 Feb ONLY)	1.30pm
Thursday	Chiropody Service (1 & 29 Feb ONLY)	10am-1pm
	Interactive Games	11.30am
	Games: Indoor curling, quizzes, Scrabble	1.15pm
	Art Group	1.30pm
	Exercise Class with Kenny from Live Active	2.00pm
Friday	Football Memories ALL WELCOME (2 & 16 Feb ONLY)	11am-12pm
	Exercise Group	11.30am
	Bingo	1.30pm
	Life Story Books	1.30pm
	Board Games	1.30pm



Film shows • Cards  
Dominoes • Art Class  
Exercises • Chiropody  
Trips • Daily Papers

All Activities Subject To Change. Activities May Be Added.

## KINROSS CENTRE

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# Kinross-shire Churches Together



## Kinross Parish Church Church of Scotland

(Charity no SC012555)



*Following Christ*

*Spreading the Word / Serving the Community*

10 Station Road, Kinross KY13 8TG

Website: [www.kinrossparishchurch.org](http://www.kinrossparishchurch.org)

Facebook: Kinross Parish Church of Scotland

YouTube: Kinross Parish Worship

Instagram: kpcscotland

E-mail: [office@kinrossparishchurch.org](mailto:office@kinrossparishchurch.org)

Office Tel: (01577) 862570

The Church Office is open 10am-12noon, Mon & Fri.

Otherwise operating remotely. Leave phone message or email.

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

Assistant Minister: Rev Austin Wicks

Ordained Local Minister: Rev Margaret Michie

Session Clerk: Jaffrey Weir

Contact the Church Office for our weekly email of events and Zoom details. Events below are in the church unless otherwise indicated:

### Regular Services and Events

#### Sundays

9.15am Choir Practice

10.30am: **Morning Service**, gathering song about 10.25.  
**For young people:** Junior Church (age 4 -11) meets in the Upper Room from 10.30 then joins in at the end of the service. Within the church there is a corner for parents with babies and toddlers.

Refreshments and Fairtrade Stall after most services.

Sunday morning services are also available online: live on YouTube and Facebook. Thereafter on YouTube, Facebook and the church website. Listen by phone on 01577 528270, or request a CD.

6pm: **Sunday Evening Prayer**, on Zoom

6pm: **Crossfire**, church centre. Age P7 upwards.

#### Mondays

10-12pm: Church Office open to visitors.

2-4pm: **NEW: Now weekly – Bridge and Board Games**

7.30pm: **Dungeons and Dragons** for adults  
certain Mondays – see diary below

#### Tuesdays

10-11.30am: **Stepping Stones** for babies, toddlers and carers.

2.30pm: House Group

#### Wednesdays

9.30am: House Group

11.15am: **Midweek Service**, at the church centre.

1.30pm: **Craft Group**

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

8.00pm: **Women's House Group**

#### Thursdays

10.30am: House Group

11-12pm: **Table Talk** – chat on Zoom.

## STEPPING STONES

Weekly in  
Kinross Parish Church  
10-11.30am.

Stepping Stones is  
for parents, carers,  
babies and toddlers.  
**ALL WELCOME**



#### Fridays

10-12pm: **Church Office** open to visitors.

5.30pm: **Youth Dungeons and Dragons**  
certain Fridays – check website

**Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association**,  
(Church Centre during term time)

6 - 7.15pm Anchor Section (P1-P3)

7 - 9pm Junior Section (P4-P6)

7 - 9.30pm Company Section (P7-S3)

7 - 9.30pm Senior Section (S4-S6)

#### OTHER SERVICES AND EVENTS:

##### February

Sun 4 10.30: **Morning Service** followed by **Communion** at 11.45am

Mon 5 8am: **Guided Silent Meditation**

2pm – 4pm: **Bridge and Board Games Afternoon** – a social get-together for anyone in the community to play Bridge or Scrabble, Rummikub and other board games. All welcome. Now every Monday.

Mon 12 7.30pm: **Dungeons and Dragons** for adults

Tue 13 10.30am: **Guild** meets for coffee at the Court House

Thurs 15 9pm: Evening service of **Compline**

Sat 17 11am: **All Friends Together** for adults with learning difficulties

Mon 26 7.30pm: **Dungeons and Dragons** for adults

##### March

Fri 1 2pm: **World Day of Prayer** at Church Centre

7pm: **World Day of Prayer** at St. Paul's

Sun 3 10.30am: **Morning Worship** inc **Quarterly Communion**

## Cleish Parish Church

Church of Scotland

(Charity No: SC003168)

Interim Moderator and Locum Minister:

Rev Beverley Stevenson OLM

Tel: 07584 902508

Email: [BStevenson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:BStevenson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Session Clerk: Christine Maclure

Email: [maclure19@gmail.com](mailto:maclure19@gmail.com) Tel: 07704 884584

Updates and changes to the dates below can be found on our church website : [www.cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk](http://www.cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you to worship with us in Cleish Church, located in the village of Cleish, KY13 0LR.

##### FEBRUARY 2024

4 Feb – 11.15am Morning Worship. Fairtrade Stall.

11 Feb 11.15am Morning Worship

18 Feb 11.15am Morning Worship

25 Feb 11.15am Morning Worship  
Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Refreshments are served in the Young Room every Sunday after worship*



## 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)

Interim Moderator: Rev Beverley Stevenson

Telephone: 07584 902508

Email: [BStevenson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:BStevenson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Session Clerk: Anne McKay Telephone: 07766 418016

Email: [annemckay90@gmail.com](mailto:annemckay90@gmail.com)

Our church is a very warm and welcoming place situated in the Crook of Devon, a small village about 6 miles from



**Kinross. Come and join us – we would love to meet you. All are welcome at any of our meetings and services.**  
*Updates and changes to the dates below can be found on our church website <https://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk>*

**JANUARY**

**4 Feb: 9.45am Sunday Morning Worship**

*Refreshments and the Fairtrade Stall will be available after the service*

**11 Feb: 9.45am Sunday Morning Worship**

**18 Feb: 9.45am Sunday Morning Worship**

**25 Feb: 9.45am Celebration of Holy Communion**

**REFRESH THURSDAY**

Thursdays, 2-4pm in the Church Hall

*Join us for a friendly blether with delicious home baking, tea and coffee. All are welcome.*

**FILM NIGHT**

**Friday 2 Feb 7.30pm** in the Church Hall **The Great Escaper** (12)

In the summer of 2014, Bernard Jordan (Michael Caine) made global headlines. He staged a “great escape” from his care home to join fellow war veterans in Normandy, commemorating their fallen comrades at the D-Day Landings 70th anniversary. It was one man’s need to come to terms with the lasting trauma of war.

*Donations of £5 appreciated, including tea/coffee and biscuits. Please join us for the film, some refreshments and a blether. All are welcome*

**FOSSOWAY BABIES AND TODDLERS**

The group meets every **Friday 9.30-11.30am**, in Fossoway Church Hall. Join us for snacks, play and blether.

**FOSSOWAY CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP**

Meets on **Monday evenings from 6.30pm** in the Church Hall. Please bring your own craft and join us.

**FOSSOWAY HOUSE GROUP**

Our House Group usually meets every **Thursday evening at 7.30pm**. For more details please contact Debbie Hill 01577 842268.

**FOSSOWAY YOUTH GROUP WITH KYTHE**

Calling all 11-19 year olds, come along and join us on **Sunday 11th Feb 2024, 7pm – 8.30pm**

**MEN’S BREAKFAST GROUP**

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday 10th Feb at 8.30am** in the church hall with a talk from ex-prison governor Dan Gunn, entitled *Prisoners, Prisons And The Public*. Full cooked breakfast provided!

Further information available from Alan Harper (07762 709316)

*All are welcome at any of our meetings and services. If you would like any more information, please contact Anne McKay, Session Clerk, 01577 840093.*

**HALL BOOKINGS**

If you wish to book our hall or meeting rooms, please contact **Mrs E Black 01259 742046**

**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)

**Locum – Rev Dr Robert Calvert**

**Sunday Worship, and Junior Church: All children welcome.**

**10am** Portmoak Church; **11.30am** Orwell Church

**Joint family services with the Praise Band will be held at 10:30am in Orwell Church, on the first Sunday of each month.**

**Messy Church** will meet on Saturday 24 February from 4-6pm at Orwell Church with all the usual crafts, fun, and food.

**Dates For Your Diary**

- 1 Feb** Ashley House Service at 2pm.
- 4 Feb** Joint family service in Orwell Church at 10:30am  
No morning service at Portmoak Church
- 6 Feb** Guild Friendship Group meets in Orwell Hall 2pm – 3:30pm

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## Churches

- 16 Feb** Tea and a Bletcher in Orwell, 2-3:30pm  
**23 Feb** Oasis Ladies Group Portmoak New Room 10:15am-12pm.  
**3 Mar** Joint family service in Orwell Church at 10:30am  
**No morning service at Portmoak Church**

The Church Office and Shop is open 10-12pm, Mon-Fri.

Office email: [orwellandportmoakchurch@gmail.com](mailto:orwellandportmoakchurch@gmail.com)

Website: [orwellportmoakchurch.org.uk](http://orwellportmoakchurch.org.uk)

## St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)

Muirs, 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](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsepiscopalchurchkinross)

Fr David and the congregation at St Paul's look forward to welcoming to you to our Episcopal worship services and other outreach and social activities.

We recognise how scary it can be to cross the threshold into an unfamiliar place, so you're assured of a friendly smile and any help you need for you and your family to feel comfortable.

Our Sunday and Wednesday morning services begin at 10am, unless otherwise advertised. (We are currently gathering for worship in the Meeting Room, the building adjacent to the main church.) We usually hold Eucharists (worship with Communion, sung with hymns on Sundays). Our church bell rings from 9.45am.

We will provide regular updates on the website concerning our schedule of worship. Please do refer to it regularly.

Although we don't insist that people wear face coverings, you are very welcome to do so if that helps you feel safer in public spaces.

Our services are also broadcast from the church building as livestreams via Zoom (please email us to be sent weekly links).

The Liturgy outline can be followed on the website via the seasonal Sung Eucharist e-booklets and the weekly pewsheets.

## Events and Services in February

**Sun 4 (Epiphany 5)**

10am: Sung Eucharist

(NB No Midweek Holy Communion on Wednesday 7th)

**Sun 11 (Sunday Before Lent – The Transfiguration)**

10am: Sung Eucharist

**Wed 14 (ASH WEDNESDAY)**

7pm: Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

**Sun 18 (Lent 1)**

10am: Sung Eucharist

**Wed 21**

10am: Midweek Meditative Holy Communion

7pm: Lent Study via Zoom:

*Listening as Scripture speaks into today's paradigm*

8pm: Compline via Zoom (please email Fr David for details of the link.)



**Sun 25 (Lent 2)**

10am: Sung Eucharist

**Wed 28**

10am: Midweek Meditative Holy Communion

7pm: Lent Study via Zoom:

*Listening as Scripture speaks into today's paradigm*

8pm: Compline via Zoom (please email Fr David for details of the link.)

## Loch Leven Church

(Charity No: SC049050)

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



Loch Leven Church meets at Loch

Leven Community Campus, at 10:30am each Sunday.

Our sermon series from January to March is 'Joseph: God Meant It For Good' and we'll be hosting the following services in February:

**4 Feb:** **Genesis 40-41: Joseph... The forgotten interpreter**  
(Michael Forde-Hyde, Hope City Church, Edinburgh)

**11 Feb:** **Genesis 42-45: Joseph... The testing brother**  
(Robin Kent, LLC)

**18 Feb:** **Genesis 46-47: Joseph... The reunited son**  
(Callum White, Buckingham Evangelical Church)

**25 Feb:** **Communion Sunday**  
(Will Cottrell, Tayside Christian Fellowship)

Everyone, of all ages, is very welcome to join any of these. To know 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)

## Kinross Gospel Hall

8 Montgomery Street, Kinross

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

Tel 07818 050785

**Gospel Meeting** Sundays 4pm.

**Toddlers' Group** Thurs 9.30-11am;

**Explorers** (Primary School) 6-7pm.

We look forward to seeing old friends and welcoming new ones. All welcome.



## The Newsletter on Facebook

We use our Facebook page to announce:

- Our deadline and publication dates
- What's in the next issue
- Reminders of some local events
- Occasional breaking news

'Like' our page to be kept informed.

Search for **Kinross Newsletter** or go to:

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



A space to offer personal experience and learn new ways of sharing stories of living as neurodiverse people in a majority neurotypical world.

**Mondays 7pm – 8.30pm**  
**Family Room, Orwell Church, Milnathort**

To find out more, please contact  
David Mackenzie Mills or Margaret West  
([COTNCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:COTNCommittee@gmail.com))





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References Available



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# KINROSS

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**M: 07912 100 845**  
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 Kinross KY13 9XT

[www.kinrossphysiotherapy.co.uk](http://www.kinrossphysiotherapy.co.uk)  
[enquiries@kinrossphysiotherapy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kinrossphysiotherapy.co.uk)



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## For Sale

### 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](http://www.kinross.cc) then 'Local Adverts' then 'Classified Adverts'). If interested in selling an item, please list it on [www.kinross.cc](http://www.kinross.cc) and it will automatically be published in the next available *Newsletter*, subject to space.

#### **VONROC Vacuum £50**

VONROC ash vacuum cleaner. Brand new, still in box.  
*Seller details Tel: 07984 541395*

#### **LOGIK Chest Freezer L14CFW17 £80**

In good condition. Can deliver.  
*Seller Details Tel: 07986 711099 (Blairadam)*

#### **Electrolux Vitesse Upright Vacuum Cleaner £10**

Old and no accessories but works perfectly.  
*Seller Details Tel: 07415 581426*

#### **Love Seat With Matching Footstool £65**

Antigua range from Marks and Spencer. Quality Conservatory Furniture. Dimensions:- Love Seat Maximum width is 172cm (width at floor level is 102cm) Depth is 86cm maximum height at back is 96 cm. Stool is 78cm wide by 53cm deep and 43cm high.  
*Seller Details Tel: 07794 941011*

#### **IKEA Storage Box £10**

IKEA wooden storage box with lid. The storage box is a 47cm cube. The lid is exactly 50cm square. This could be used as a toy box or a coffee table.  
*Seller Details Tel: 07794 941011*

**Better Place to Live Fair**

Kinross is a **thriving** community!

Join us at the **Better Place to Live Fair** for a great day celebrating all that makes this a wonderful place to live.

**23rd MARCH 2024**  
**10 - 3 FREE ENTRY**  
**Get involved!**

local clubs  
live music  
activities  
stalls

**BETTER PLACE TO LIVE FAIR**  
Saturday 23rd March 2024  
10am-3pm  
Loch Leven  
Community Campus  
Muirs  
Kinross

## A MESSAGE FROM NATURESCOT

There is currently no water access on the loch until April. This means no kayaks, paddleboards, swimmers or any variation on those! This is to protect the massive population of wintering wildfowl. We must do everything we can to protect them from any disturbance. **Thank you in advance for your co-operation.**

## Situations Vacant

### Anderson Smith

#### Health & Protection Products Administrator

Anderson Smith Insurance Brokers are seeking a local motivated team-orientated individual to join its fast growing and ambitious business.

Due to increasing client demand for its Health & Protection cover products (group private medical insurance, group life and employee assistance), Anderson Smith needs to employ an additional member of staff on its Health & Protection team.

#### Duties will include:

- Liaising with other staff and clients to gather information
- Preparing and submitting requests for quotes to suppliers
- Preparing received quotes for onward presentation to clients
- Booking received orders and distributing documentation to clients
- Other general administrative duties

For the right candidate, the role could expand in the fullness of time to take on other commercial insurance-based duties.

The role is office-based at our location at 16 High Street, Kinross. Full training will be given. Previous experience in financial services or the finance team of a business would be useful but not essential. Familiarity with MS Office products (Word, Excel, Outlook) very useful as would be similar experience with an accounting package or B2B quote engine. For those wanting to build a career in this industry, support with professional qualifications is available too.

#### Working hours

This role could be part or full-time. Part-time would have to be a minimum of 15 hours per week. Normal office hours are Monday – Friday 09:00-17:00.

Starting Salary – dependent upon skills and experience. Please send your application (together with a CV) to – [recruitment@anderson-smith.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@anderson-smith.co.uk) or 01577 333177.

#### About Anderson Smith

Anderson Smith Insurance Brokers is a fast growing and successful business based in Kinross specialising in commercial insurance and health & protection. [www.anderson-smith.co.uk](http://www.anderson-smith.co.uk).

## MOBILE LIBRARY 14, 28 February

(Fortnightly, Wednesdays)

Kinnesswood (Opposite Shop)	09.30 – 10:00
Portmoak Hall	10:05 – 10:20
Scotlandwell (Leslie Road)	10:25 – 10:50
Levenmouth Farm	11:00 – 11:20
Hatchbank Rd (Gairneybank, Kinross)	11:40 – 12:00
Powmill (Mill Gardens)	13:20 – 13:40
Crook of Devon (Village Inn)	13:45 – 14:45
Carnbo (Pitcairnie Lane)	15:00 – 15:30
Whyte Court (Kinross)	15:45 – 16:15

Contact us by phone on 01577 867205  
or by email at [lochlevenlibrary@culturepk.org.uk](mailto:lochlevenlibrary@culturepk.org.uk).

## 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)

## 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 [kinrosscommunitycouncil.com](http://kinrosscommunitycouncil.com) website. Applications may be downloaded at [www.kinrosscommunitycouncil.com/contact-us](http://www.kinrosscommunitycouncil.com/contact-us)

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

In very rare circumstances it may be necessary to change a deadline at short notice. Check the *Newsletter* Facebook Page for the latest information.

Issue	Deadline	Publication Date
March	Friday 16 February	Saturday 2 March
April	Friday 15 March	Saturday 30 March

## KINROSS GARDEN GROUP

2023/24 Season

Thursday 8 February at 2pm

Kinross Parish Church

Frazer Henderson

**'It's not all sand: the mountain flora of Yemen'**

All welcome to join us.

### P&K SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024

Spring term 2024

In-Service day: Wednesday 14 February 2024

Occasional holidays: Thursday 15 February and Friday 16 February 2024

## THE GAELIC SOCIETY OF PERTH

The next cèilidh will be on 23 February at 7.30pm at St Matthew's Church, Tay St, Perth. We will have the Perth Gaelic Choir and other singers and instrumentalists.

Come along and practice your Gaelic as well, and enjoy the brilliant refreshments at half time! Admission on the door is £7 for non-members and £5 for members for a great evening's entertainment.

## MUSIC IN DOLLAR

Music in Dollar's next concert is on Sunday 4 February at 3pm in the Gibson Hall, Dollar Academy, FK14 7DU. The entertainment will be provided by Trio Ecosaise (clarinet, cello and piano). They will perform a beautiful programme which includes the Kegelstatt Trio by Mozart and the Trio in A minor by Brahms – along with some shorter pieces by Faure, Debussy and Gwyneth Walker. Tickets are £12 – pay on the door or on the website [www.musicin-dollar.org.uk](http://www.musicin-dollar.org.uk). Season Tickets for all 5 concerts cost £40. That's £8 per concert, unbeatable value! Anyone in full-time education goes free.

We will also have a Young Person's Piano Performance Afternoon on 28 January at the Gibson Hall, Dollar Academy – this starts at 2.30pm and is free entry. Refreshments will be available. Come and hear some of tomorrow's super pianists!



**We're Looking For Volunteer Pilots!**

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**Email: KinrossTrishaws@gmail.com**

**Join Us and Create Miles of Smiles!**




**Faculty of Pupil Support**  
KINROSS HIGH SCHOOL

**Pupil Support Café**

Every Thursday at Kinross High School  
in the meeting room beside library.  
Enter through school reception  
All welcome

Selection of cakes plus either tea or coffee  
- £1

Funds are used to buy new resources for the  
Pupil Support Faculty



**THE KINROSS NEWSLETTER**  
**ALL PROFITS GO TO LOCAL GOOD CAUSES**

**GLENFARG FOLK CLUB**  
The Club meets every Monday evening  
in the Gateside Memorial Hall  
Doors open 7:30pm. Music starts at 8pm prompt.



**Carnbo Hall Talks**  
2023-24

**February 5th** **RSPB Loch Leven**  
By Vicky Turnbull

**March 4th** **Kinross-shire: Then & Now, A Photo Journey**  
By Kevin Heneghan

Talk starts @ 7:30pm followed by refreshments  
All welcome

For more information email: [carnbohall@gmail.com](mailto:carnbohall@gmail.com)  
Or Phone/Text Claire Mason on 07917319003

**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)

**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)**

**MOBILE POST VAN AT  
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**MONDAYS 13.45 till 14.45  
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**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.



**KINROSS DELIVERY OFFICE  
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<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>8-10am</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>8-10am</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>8-10am</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>8am-12pm</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

**Baby & Toddler Groups**

**Monday**

**Milnathort Babies and Toddlers**  
Orwell Church Hall 9.30 -11am

**Tuesday**

**Portmoak Babies and Toddlers**  
Portmoak Church Hall  
9.45-11.30am

**Stepping Stones**

Kinross Parish Church 10-11.30am

**Wednesday**

**Breast Buddies**  
Health Centre 10-12pm

**Glenfarg Babies and Toddlers**  
Village Hall 9.30am

**Muckhart Babies and Toddlers**  
Church Hall 9.30-11am

**Thursday**

**Montgomery Toddlers**  
Kinross Gospel Hall 9.30 -11am

**Friday**

**Loch Leven Babies and Toddlers**  
Masonic Hall, Kinross 9.30-11.30am

**Portmoak Babies and Toddlers**  
Portmoak Church Hall 9.45-11.30am

**Fossoway Babies and Toddlers**

Crook of Devon  
Church Hall  
9.30-11.30am

*Please let us know  
if you have any  
info to add to this list.*



**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 (voicemail)	01738 476173
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 & Orwell:** Chair: Neill Bingham  
Email: [communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com](mailto:communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com)

**Portmoak:** Email: [portmoakcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:portmoakcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk)

**Fossoway & District:** Chair: Nicola Marchant  
Email: [fossoway.cc@gmail.com](mailto:fossoway.cc@gmail.com)

**Cleish & Blairadam:** Email: [cleishandblairadamcc@gmail.com](mailto:cleishandblairadamcc@gmail.com)

### Kinross Community Councillors

Bill Freeman	64 Muirs	01577 865045
Lynne McKay	5 Springfield Road	01577 531076
Tom Stewart		
Michael Wilson	16 Acremoar Drive, Kinross	01577 861181
Emma Leslie		
Chris Willsher		
Sharon Wells		
Brian West		

Have a look at our website [www.kinrosscommunitycouncil.com](http://www.kinrosscommunitycouncil.com)

### Portmoak Community Councillors

Andy Miller	Chair	E: <a href="mailto:Chair@portmoak.org">Chair@portmoak.org</a>
Dave Morris	Vice-Chair	
Ann Davidson	Treasurer	
Sue McGregor	Secretary	E: <a href="mailto:secretary@portmoak.org">secretary@portmoak.org</a>
Dave Patterson	Member	
Kenneth Donaldson	Associated Member	

Have a look at our website [www.portmoak.org](http://www.portmoak.org)

### Perth and Kinross Councillors Kinross-shire Ward

**Clr DAVE CUTHBERT** (*Independent*)  
Tel: 01738 475110  
Email: [dcuthbert@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:dcuthbert@pkc.gov.uk)  
Address: 85 Bowton Road, Kinross, KY13 8EG

**Clr NEIL FRESHWATER** (*Scottish Conservative & Unionist*)  
Tel (office): 01738 475108  
Email: [nfreshwater@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:nfreshwater@pkc.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/neil4kinrossshire](http://www.facebook.com/neil4kinrossshire)

**Clr WILLIE ROBERTSON** (*Scottish Liberal Democrats*)  
Mobile: 07909 884042  
Email: [wrobertson@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:wrobertson@pkc.gov.uk)

**Clr RICHARD WATTERS** (*SNP*)  
Mobile: 07557 812513  
Email: [rwatters@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:rwatters@pkc.gov.uk)

### 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)  
Email: [claire.baker.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:claire.baker.msp@parliament.scot)

**Murdo Fraser MSP** (Conservative)  
Email: [murdo.fraser.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:murdo.fraser.msp@parliament.scot)

**Roz McCall MSP** (Conservative)  
Email: [roz.McCall.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:roz.McCall.msp@parliament.scot)

**Alex Rowley MSP** (Labour)  
Email: [alex.rowley.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:alex.rowley.msp@parliament.scot)

**Mark Ruskell MSP** (Green)  
Email: [mark.ruskell.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:mark.ruskell.msp@parliament.scot)

**Liz Smith MSP** (Conservative)  
Email: [elizabeth.smith.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:elizabeth.smith.msp@parliament.scot)

**Alexander Stewart MSP** (Conservative)  
Email: [alexander.stewart.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:alexander.stewart.msp@parliament.scot)

## KINROSS RECYCLING CENTRE

### Bridgend Industrial Estate

Monday, Thursday and Friday 9am-4pm  
(last entry 3.45pm)

Saturday & Sunday 9am - 4pm  
(last entry 3.45pm)

### THE RECYCLING CENTRE WILL ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS

Bicycles	Engine Oil	Rigid Plastic Packaging
Books	Fluorescent, LED & Long Life Light Bulbs	Rubble
Bras	Fridges & Freezers	Scrap Metal
Bulky Goods	Garden Waste	Soil
Car Batteries	Stone	Telephone Directories
Cardboard	Glass	Textiles (Clothes & Shoes)
Cartons and Paper containers with metal ends	Household Batteries	Timber
Cooking Oil	Large Domestic Appliances	Car Tyres (maximum two per day, strictly household only)
Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE - remove & recycle batteries separately)	Non-Recyclable Waste (General Waste)	
	Paper	

Free compost available (subject to availability).  
A maximum of 2 x 25kg bags per day

# Diary

## January

Fri	26-28	<b>Big Garden Birdwatch weekend</b>
Sat	27	<b>Big Burns Bash</b>
Sun	28	Kinross Golf Club AGM

## February

Thurs	1	Camera Club AGM
Fri	2	<b>World Wetlands Day</b>
Sun	4	Kinross & Ochil Walking Group - see club entry for walk details
Mon	5	<b>Cleish and Blairadam Community Council meets</b>
Tues	6	U3A talk, Kinross Parish Church
Tues	6	<b>Kinross Climate Cafe meets - see club entry for details</b>
Tues	6	<b>Fossoway and District Community Council meets</b>
Wed	7	Creative writing group, library
Wed	7	Kinross in Bloom meets
Thurs	8	Garden Group meets
Thurs	8	<b>Milnathort and Orwell Community Council meets</b>
Fri	9	<b>AGM and Cheese And Wine Social for Fossoway Gathering</b>
Fri	9	<b>Milnathort Filmhouse shows The Great Escape</b>
Sat	10	<b>Portmoak Film Society shows Cinema Paradiso</b>
Tues	13	<b>Portmoak Community Council meets</b>
Wed	14	<b>Carnbo Coffee and Chat</b>
Wed	14-16	<b>P&amp;K school inservice day and occasional holidays</b>
Fri	16	<b>Newsletter Deadline for March Issue</b>
Mon	19	<b>Deadline for Young Writers' Competition</b>
Tues	27	<b>Kinross Community Council meets</b>

### The Kinross 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>Kinnesswood 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