



Kinross Newsletter

Founded in 1977 by Kinross Community Council
Published by Kinross Newsletter Limited, Company No. SC374361

All profits given away to local good causes by The Kinross Community Council Newsletter, Charitable Company No. SC040913

www.kinrosscommunitycouncil.com/kinross-newsletter www.facebook.com/kinrossnewsletter

Founding editor,
Mrs Nan Walker, MBE

ISSN 1757-4781
Issue No 552

March 2026

DEADLINE

for the April Issue
5pm,
Friday 13 March, 2026
for publication on
Saturday 28 March, 2026

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 any item.

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

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Post or by hand to:

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Editor Hannah Collins Deputy Editor Chris Collins

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Letter From The Editor

THANKS TO IAN JARVIE for sending me this lovely photo of Loch Leven, before the miserable rain began, and which can give us memories of and hope for dry days as spring approaches!

As someone wise once told me, 'Nothing lasts forever'. I suspect that was my Dad, whose words often pop into my head when I am needing some reassurance or comfort.

Like many others I have succumbed to the local lurgy-of-the-month and my head feels like it has been stuffed to the extreme edges with cotton wool. However, the snowdrops are out, the daffodils will not be far behind, and the sun even made an



appearance for a couple of days last week, so brighter days are ahead. Mustn't grumble!

March sees the return of the Better Place to Live Fair. It will be held in Loch Leven Community Campus on 28 March between 10am and 2pm. If you have never been, get along and see for yourself all the things you can get up to in Kinross-shire. We will be there and look forward to meeting you.

The fair is a great chance to see all the clubs and groups locally and find out what they have to offer, as well as what you have to offer them. There's always a great atmosphere, or 'vibe' as my teenagers would say, and everyone is welcome. It's free and friendly!

If you are involved in running a sports club, please do go along to the EGM of the local Sports Hub at 7pm on Thursday 5 March in the former café area of Loch Leven Leisure Centre. The Sports Hub is an important body which offers advice, assists with training and governance, celebrates success and reports back to PKC (see News, p9).

It's also important to make your opinion heard at the public consultation regarding the proposed spa, leisure club and lodges next to Burleigh Castle on Wednesday 4 March at Milnathort Golf Club. The drop-in event runs from 4-8pm. If you can't make it, there will be a second event on Wednesday 8 April 2026 at the same time, in the same location.

It's great to hear that the old Kinross Stove Centre site adjacent to Caulders Garden Centre on the A977 will soon be revitalised with a new deli and shop (see p6). We wish them all the best.

Lastly, but by no means least. If you are interested in community matters and in making things better in your local area, live in the Kinross catchment and have a couple of hours to spare once a month to attend a meeting at the campus, please do consider getting yourself nominated for the Community Council.

It isn't an arduous task and it has the potential to make a real difference to the area where you live. We don't only talk about pot-holes!

Hannah Collins, Editor

About The Kinross Newsletter

The *Kinross Newsletter* has been informing and supporting the community for nearly 50 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.

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Abbreviations

PKC: Perth & Kinross Council
CC: Community Council

Cllr: Councillor
CCllr: Community Councillor

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Local And National Sports Crisis



Kinross Community Sports Hub

SPORTSCOTLAND, REPRESENTING the national governing bodies of sport, has informed the Scottish Government that sport across the country is 'running on empty' due to a lack of current funding.

Senior leaders in sports across Scotland, have warned John Swinney that a perfect storm of rising costs, increased demand and reduced real terms funding threatens the ability of many to continue to operate properly and reduces their ability to support vital community programmes.

The Kinross Community Sports Hub is a community-led group representing local sports which reflect the sporting needs within our local community identifying specific drawbacks to participation as well as celebrating areas of success.

For too long sports, locally and nationally, have operated in isolation so now it is time for sports to work together to influence the future of our local sports.

The closure of Bell's Sports Centre has had a major negative impact on hall hire availability and although Council has assured that almost all sports have been relocated these sports now operate a 'nomadic existence' having to travel to Dundee, Blairgowrie and elsewhere to train and compete which is far from ideal.

All local sports are invited to attend an Extraordinary General Meeting of our local Sports Hub at **7pm on Thursday 5 March** in the former café area of Kinross Swimming Pool. This meeting has been called due to the dwindling number of local sports who attend the thrice annual meetings which report back to Perth & Kinross Council.

It is a case of 'use it or lose it' for our sports hub which offers advice on the existing PACES scheme, Sports Council and external funding bodies which can assist with training courses, governance etc. as well as a sounding board for local sport progress and issues of concern.

Let's have all our local sporting groups, football, rugby, netball, volleyball, tennis, badminton, basketball, boccia, bowls, table tennis, pickleball, pétanque, hockey, golf, gymnastics, vaulting, water sports etc. turn up on 5 March to secure an active future for our local communities.

Dave Munro

The Traffic Lights No One Wants

AS SOMEONE LIVING right next to where these lights are going, it's obvious they're just going to make it harder and more stressful to get in and out of our driveway. I'm really worried about how we're meant to do that safely with traffic queued up all day. At the moment it's only busy at school times, twice a day. With these lights, we'll have queues affecting everyone in Kinross, all day, every day. I honestly can't understand how this has been pushed through without proper input from residents or our local councillors. They've tried to argue for a roundabout instead, but PKC and Persimmon don't seem interested in changing anything or speaking to the people who actually live here. My understanding is that our MSP Jim Fairlie was contacted too, but there doesn't seem to have been much effort to

help find a better solution than traffic lights that will just slow everything down on one of the main routes through the town.

Concerned local resident (name and address supplied)



The Politicians No One Wants

I HONESTLY DON'T know who to vote for in the Scottish Parliamentary Elections on 7 May.

Not Labour, certainly, with all this fuss about Peter Mandelson and Jeffrey Epstein. The involvement of Sarah Ferguson and Prince Andrew, who must be Tories, surely, just makes it more confusing. Anyway, My Dad always said he'd rather eat his own excrement than vote Tory. I miss my Dad, still. He's been dead for over 29 years!

Not Green, who not only have been backing the SNP for years, and anyway want to cover all our beautiful countryside with wind turbines. It's not so much the windmills I object to, as the endless lines of pylons they trail in their wake, everywhere they go.

Some sort of socialists? In Kinross-shire? They haven't a snowball's chance in hell! I remember thinking when I moved to Kinross, what an important place it must be – it was once the constituency of the Prime Minister. If Alec Douglas-Home could see it now, without even a bank! He must be turning in his grave,

As for the SNP, the 'Party of Power', they have been nothing but feeble, totally obsessed with 'Independence – Nothing Less', as if it was going to cure everything, and altogether very disappointing.

As for the rest: Lib Dems? Wasn't that Jo Grimond's lot? Show-er of wasters if you ask me. Alba are essentially Alex Salmond's cast-offs. Reform? Nigel Farage is never out of the pub. I can almost smell the fags and booze from here!

So who does that leave? Independent candidates? Maybe I should stand myself!

Dr Brendan Hamill, Kinross



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Thanks!



Kinross-shire Volunteer Drivers Raffle – Thank you

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who donated prizes and bought raffle tickets to raise money for the Kinross-shire Volunteer Drivers. Thanks to the generosity of service users, drivers and members of the wider community the amount raised was a tremendous £2331! We are so grateful to everyone for their support for this vital service.

Fossway & District Community Council

IN THE LIGHT of her decision to step down, and after the many years service with the Community Council of both her and her late husband, The Fossway & District Community Council would like to sincerely thank **Carol Farquhar** for her continued contribution and support.

www.pkc.gov.uk/adultlearninghub

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Congratulations!



CARNBO & DISTRICT Community Hall Association and its members would also like to send our warmest congratulations and best wishes to **David Roulston**, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on 20 March. David was a long-standing and active member of the Carnbo community, and many will fondly remember the generosity with which he opened his beautiful garden each year for others to enjoy. Reaching 100 years is a remarkable milestone, and we thank David for all he has contributed to our community over the years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO **Alex Johnson** who has been chosen by Kinross-shire Parish Church to be one of its two full-time ministers. Alex was voted on by the congregation in January and his Call was accepted by the Presbytery of Perth in February. The Presbytery will ordain and induct Alex to his new charge at a special service in Kinross Church at 7pm on Thursday 19 March to which all are invited. Alex will be based at Crook of Devon and will work in a Team Ministry with existing minister Alan Reid, who is based in Kinross.

Kinross-shire Parish Church was formed in 2025, uniting the previous local Church of Scotland congregations. This was in accordance with the Presbytery of Perth's Mission Plan which envisaged the union and allocated two ministers to the new united church.



Alex Johnson (left) and Alan Reid

Step up!

Make a Difference Where You Live

Be the voice your neighbourhood needs and join your local community council.

NEW LEISURE CLUB & SPA FOR BURLEIGH?



A FIRST PUBLIC consultation is being held on 4 March about a proposed holiday lodge development and new leisure club and spa near Burleigh Castle, Milnathort. It will include exhibition boards and informal question and answer sessions. The consultations will give local people the chance to review plans and influence which facilities the leisure club and spa should prioritise. A second event will take place on Wednesday 8 April 2026 between 4-8pm at the same time and location, Milnathort Golf Club.

These development proposals are at a formative stage. More detailed proposals will be unveiled in April once the views and opinions of the local communities have been considered. Should a planning application be lodged members of the public will also have the opportunity to make formal representations directly to PKC at that stage.

A spokesperson said, 'We believe that there is demand for a new high quality visitor destination which will be accessible and appeal to a wide catchment for a variety of pursuits. A wide range and mix of accommodation is planned.

'Proposals are designed to respond to local tourism and economic development strategies as well as the recent consultation in respect of LDP3.

'The lodge element is designed to attract more visitors to Kinross & Milnathort, supporting local shops, restaurants, and jobs by boosting inward tourism while respecting the character of the area. Development will provide an important addition to the visitor infrastructure in the area integrating with other local facilities close to Loch Leven.

'Crucially, the leisure club and spa are being developed with the local community in mind. Kinross and Milnathort currently lack extensive recreational facilities, so the proposal includes a community-focused leisure offer — gym, pool, studio spaces, wellness treatment rooms and flexible areas for classes and social activities — with a range of affordable membership options and pay-as-you-go day passes so residents can choose what suits them. This addresses issues raised by the local community in terms of existing and replacement leisure facilities in the area.'

While some will welcome the creation of jobs, services and recreational facilities, others have already shown

some concern about further development on agricultural land around Kinross-shire, as well as stressing that our local infrastructure is struggling to cope.

Addressing likely concerns, a spokesperson told us, 'The park aims to be Carbon Neutral and Energy Positive through low-carbon construction, renewable energy generation, high efficiency building systems and sensitive landscaping to protect local ecology and enhance biodiversity. The scheme seeks to minimise vehicular traffic and visual impact while delivering long-term environmental benefits to the area. Development would respect the cultural and natural heritage of the site whilst taking advantage of its outstanding natural beauty.'

Whatever your opinion, make it known at the drop-in events which will be held at Milnathort Golf Club from 4-8pm.

A consultancy team will be available to respond to queries and provide further information. Please go along to share your views and help shape a development intended to bring jobs, services, and sustainable recreation to our community.

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 Regulation 7(2)(b)

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION PUBLIC EVENT

Proposal: Proposed lodge and spa development. Development comprising non-permanent residential lodges and associated indoor and outdoor leisure facilities. Formation of site access, landscaping, footpath/cycleway links, open space, car and cycle parking with associated servicing and infrastructure.

Site Location: Land 400m to the west of Tarhill, Milnathort, to the southeast of Burleigh Castle. Access from the A911. Postcode KY13 9GG.

A Public Event is being held for the purposes of community consultation for this possible development proposal.

The event will take place on Wednesday 4th March 2026 between the hours of 16:00-20:00 and is being held at Milnathort Golf Club, South Steet, Milnathort, KY13 9XA.

Further information relating to this proposal may be obtained from the prospective developer, Curveblock Ltd and Burleigh Castle Lodges Ltd by contacting Lesley McGrath by phone 07841487916, email lesley@larnermcgrath.co.uk or by post at: LarnerMcGrath Ltd, 3 Walker Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7JY.

You are able to make comment on the proposals directly to the developer at this stage, either at the above event and/or in writing to LarnerMcGrath Ltd, 3 Walker Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7JY and/or email to lesley@larnermcgrath.co.uk. These comments must be submitted no later than 18th of March 2026.

Please note that all comments must be sent to the developer to the contact details stated above and NOT to Perth and Kinross Council. There will be an opportunity to make representations to the Council as and when a formal planning application for the proposal is submitted.

LarnerMcGrath Ltd.

On behalf of Burleigh Castle Lodges Ltd.

TURFHILLS - WINTONS BRANCH OUT!

TURFHILLS – A NEW WINTONS production facility and retail space – is coming to Kinross!

Due to the continued success of Wintons, Milnathort, and driven by the constraints of the existing production area, the need for a 'pie factory' was identified as the next step in business growth. However, the prime location of the site adjacent to Caulders Garden Centre on the A977 provided the opportunity to create a deli counter and retail outlet to market local produce together with fresh vegetables, flowers – and, of course, Davie Winton's amazing steak pies.

A spokesperson said, 'Named in recognition of the local history of the site, Turfhills Farm, we aim to base ourselves strongly within the realms of eco-conscious, affordable, and locally produced produce where possible. In the retail space, we are proud to be putting small Scottish produc-

ers in the spotlight. If you are a local producer or know of someone who is, we want to work with you! Please contact enquiries@turfhills.co.uk, and our Retail Operations Manager will be in touch to learn more about your product.

'Both David and Graeme are delighted at the prospect of supplying the area with locally sourced foods. The refurbishment and fit out works are nearing completion and they aim to be trading in early March. The existing village

shop in Milnathort will continue to serve the local community and the business expansion will create additional employment and hopefully a fifth generation butcher.'

Turfhills will be open from 10am – 6pm Monday to Saturday, and 10am – 4pm on Sundays. Consider stopping by for all your local produce, high-quality meats, larder essentials, or a freshly prepared deli lunch – they can't wait to welcome you!



CARNBO ARE NEW SCOTTISH TABLE TENNIS CHAMPS!

CARNBO ARE DELIGHTED to share some exciting news from their community.

J&K Carnbo Table Tennis Club has recently been crowned Scottish Champions, finally claiming the title after two years as runners-up and overcoming defending champions North Ayrshire.



That is a tremendous achievement!

The club previously trained at Carnbo Hall before moving to larger premises. Congratulations to everyone involved.

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THE BETTER PLACE TO LIVE FAIR IS BACK!



THE KINROSS-SHIRE BETTER Place To Live Fair will be held in Loch Leven Community Campus on 28 March between 10am and 2pm. This is always a very well attended local event that showcases community groups, local services and organisations. Many visitors comment that they never realised that Kinross-shire had so many activities and groups that they can get involved with.

The event has taken place biannually for over 20 years and, until this year, has been very ably organised by Pauline Watson of Kinross-shire Partnership.

Pauline has now handed the baton over to local ladies Zoe Garvie and Danielle Ramage who will take the BPTLF forward. Danielle and Zoe would like to sincerely thank Pauline for all of her incredible guidance and for making this event such a success over the last two decades.

Please go along and support the fair – there will be lots of fun activities for all, numerous stalls with local information and opportunities to see what the library, museum and Live Active have to offer.

The Aero Space Kin-

ross team will be back with their immersive, state-of-the-art planetarium. You can book a time slots to their films in advance to avoid disappointment.

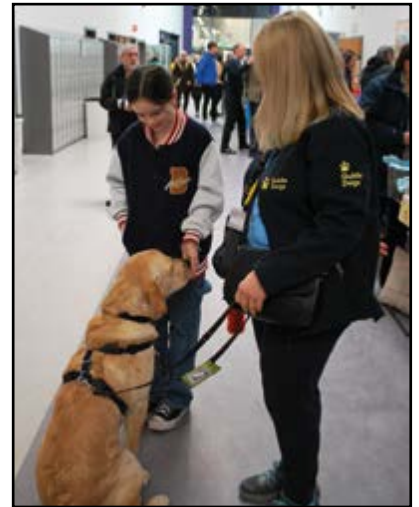
Their 360° immersive multi-media theatre will be running two wonderful shows during the day.

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Community Councils bridge the gap between local authorities and communities, acting as a statutory voice for local areas. They represent, coordinate, and express local views on public matters, aiming to enhance the area through community projects, campaigning, and consultation.

ITS ROLE

- To support and hold PKC Cllrs to account
- Statutory consultees on many issues
- To have community leadership role

WHY NOW

- Plans for development for both housing and business in the area are being decided for the the next decade
- It's clear from the community action plan that there are many things local people want action on - it won't happen unless the Community Council thrives

COMMITMENT

- Meeting once a month - second Monday at 7.30pm
- Taking lead on some aspect of the work of the CC - usually something you have a keen interest in

REPRESENTATION

- We are looking for people from all parts of Kinross CC area, especially west of the motorway and south of Kinross town
- There is a by-election for the six spaces - deadline for nominations is 12th March 2026

CONTACT

contact@kinrosscommunitycouncil.gov.uk
informal chat txt 07824 313 974 for call back

COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB UNDER THREAT

THE KINROSS COMMUNITY Sports Hub is a community led group representing local sports which reflect the sporting needs within our local community identifying specific drawbacks to participation as well as celebrating areas of success.

A Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was given on 27 January 2026 to all Members of Kinross Community Sports Hub that an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Kinross Community Sports Hub (KCSH) will be held on 5 March 2026 at 7pm at Loch Leven Leisure Centre.

The purpose of this Extraordinary General Meeting is to consider and, if thought fit, pass a Special Resolution regarding the conditional dissolution of the Kinross Community Sports Hub, in accordance with the Hub's Constitution.

Members will be asked to consider the following resolution:

"That the Kinross Community Sports Hub shall be dissolved with effect from 31 March 2026, unless by that date, suitable members have agreed to take on the voluntary roles of Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, thereby enabling the Hub to continue to operate in accordance with its Constitution."

In accordance with the Constitution of KCSH This resolution requires the support of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of members present and entitled to vote at the meeting.

Should the Hub be dissolved any assets will be transferred to another organisation with similar aims, or failing that, to charitable purposes, as determined by resolution, in line with the Constitution.

All members are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting, as the decision will determine the future of the Kinross Community Sports Hub. Members who may be willing to take on one of the officer roles of Chair, Treasurer, or Secretary are encouraged to make themselves known either

in advance of the meeting or at the meeting itself.

Dave Munro said, 'All local sports are invited to attend an Extraordinary General Meeting of our local Sports Hub at 7 pm on Thursday 5 March in the former café area of Kinross Swimming Pool. This meeting has been called due to the dwindling number of local sports who attend the thrice annual meetings which report back to Perth & Kinross Council.

'It is a case of "use it or lose it" for our sports hub which offers advice on the existing PACES scheme, Sports Council and external funding bodies which can assist with training courses, governance etc. as well as a sounding board for local sport progress and issues of concern.'



NO HOPE LEFT FOR BANK HUB



Back when Kinross still had a bank

PETE WISHART, MP says it is 'hugely disappointing' that LINK, the UK's cash-access regulator, have now refused the appeal for a banking hub in Kinross, after an initial application was rejected last month.

He said, 'The case I jointly put forward with Jim Fairlie MSP and Councillor Richard Watters was detailed, robust and firmly grounded in evidence.

'It drew on the Kinross Community Action Plan, local business surveys, census data and testimony from residents, traders and community organisations.

'We set out clearly that Kinross has lost every bank branch, that the Post Office is increasingly unreliable and soon to lose cheque deposit services, and that businesses are being forced to travel to Dunfermline simply to deposit cash.'

The request was initially made back in December.

Other similar communities (e.g. Auchterarder and Crieff) have achieved a banking hub, yet despite Kinross losing all its local bank branches over the last few years, the LINK assessment concluded that no new services were required in the local area.

CLlr Richard Watters said, 'I am deeply disappointed — and frankly angered — by LINK's refusal to reconsider their decision.

'I cannot accept a system that places more weight on theoretical mapping tools than on real human experience. Kinross does not have "sufficient provision".

'If it did, we wouldn't have older residents, carers, small businesses and local organisations repeatedly telling us they are struggling.'

See more in his column on p 37.



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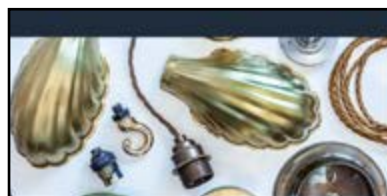
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AN ICON FOR KINROSS

ORGANISERS EXTENDED A huge thank you to everyone who supported the charity fundraising exhibition of Icons on Ammo Boxes held on 3 and 4 January 2026 and the parallel ecumenical eleven-hour Prayer Vigil for Peace taking place at St Paul's Church in Kinross.

Deputy Lord Lieutenant Jennifer Erskine opened the exhibition which was staffed in part by volunteer veterans and supported by Arts @ St Paul's. There was a steady flow of visitors with almost 200 people viewing the exhibition over the weekend and many joining the moving prayer vigil taking place in the church which was led by volunteers from the Church of Scotland and St Paul's Episcopal Church.

Anne Taylor of Arts @St Paul's said, 'Profound thanks to all who took part, visited and donated generously over the weekend to raise £1500 in funds to support medical and humanitarian aid to the front-line regions of Ukraine.'

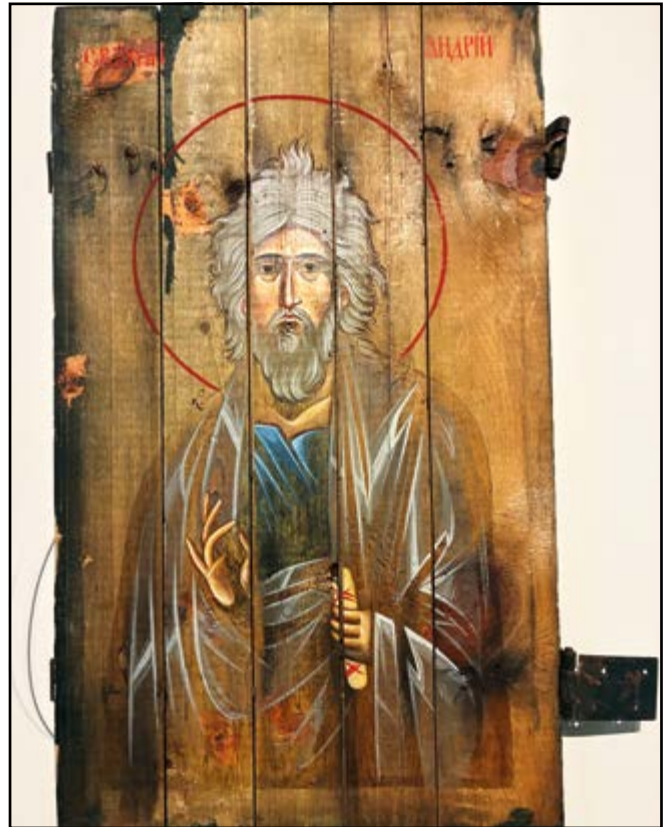
'The Icons were due to be returned to Edinburgh on the following day, but we were aware that some people had missed the opportunity to view the exhibition. Miraculously we discovered that through a change of circumstance we were able to keep the Icons for a further week, so we left the exhibition hanging and reopened the following Sunday afternoon and raised a further £500.'

'To date donations sent to Spiders for Ukraine have amounted to £2000, which was sufficient to secure us an Icon for Kinross. With our fundraising at this level there was a decision to be made at this point between three possible Icons. One depicting the head of Christ, a second one of St Anthony the Great or at a higher fundraising level of £2500 one of two Icons of St Andrew. Needless to say, the Patron Saint of Scotland (and Ukraine!) won our hearts!'

We Did It!

Pictured is the Icon of St Andrew the Apostle 'written; in tempera by Ukrainian Icon artist Oleksandr Klymenko on the lid of an ammo box which was brought to him from the Kyiv region in Ukraine. This Icon is a symbol of life and peace 'written' on a fragment of an ammunition box which stored lethal implements of death and war.

So where is it now? Well, St Andrew the Icon rested for a week at St Paul's and then in the care of Rev Alan Reid it began a tour of the five Church of Scotland communities in Kinross-shire. On Sunday 15 February it returns to St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kinross when the Rt. Rev. Ian Paton Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane is preaching and will give a blessing to this Ukrainian Icon which has travelled far to raise awareness of the plight of the Ukrainian people.



Icon of St Andrew

Later it will find a home at The Marshall Museum in the Kinross Community Library where it can be seen by everyone. It will appear in our churches and at community events from time to time as a lasting symbol of solidarity with the Ukrainian people in their struggle to maintain their sovereignty.

What of St Andrew's companion Icon Paintings?

Well, their fundraising mission continues as they travelled from here to next be exhibited in Ely Cathedral in England.

Anne Taylor said, 'Does it stop there? Well, Kinross fundraising is still open as we would like to hit that £2500 mark and are now, thanks to further donations, just short of £300.'

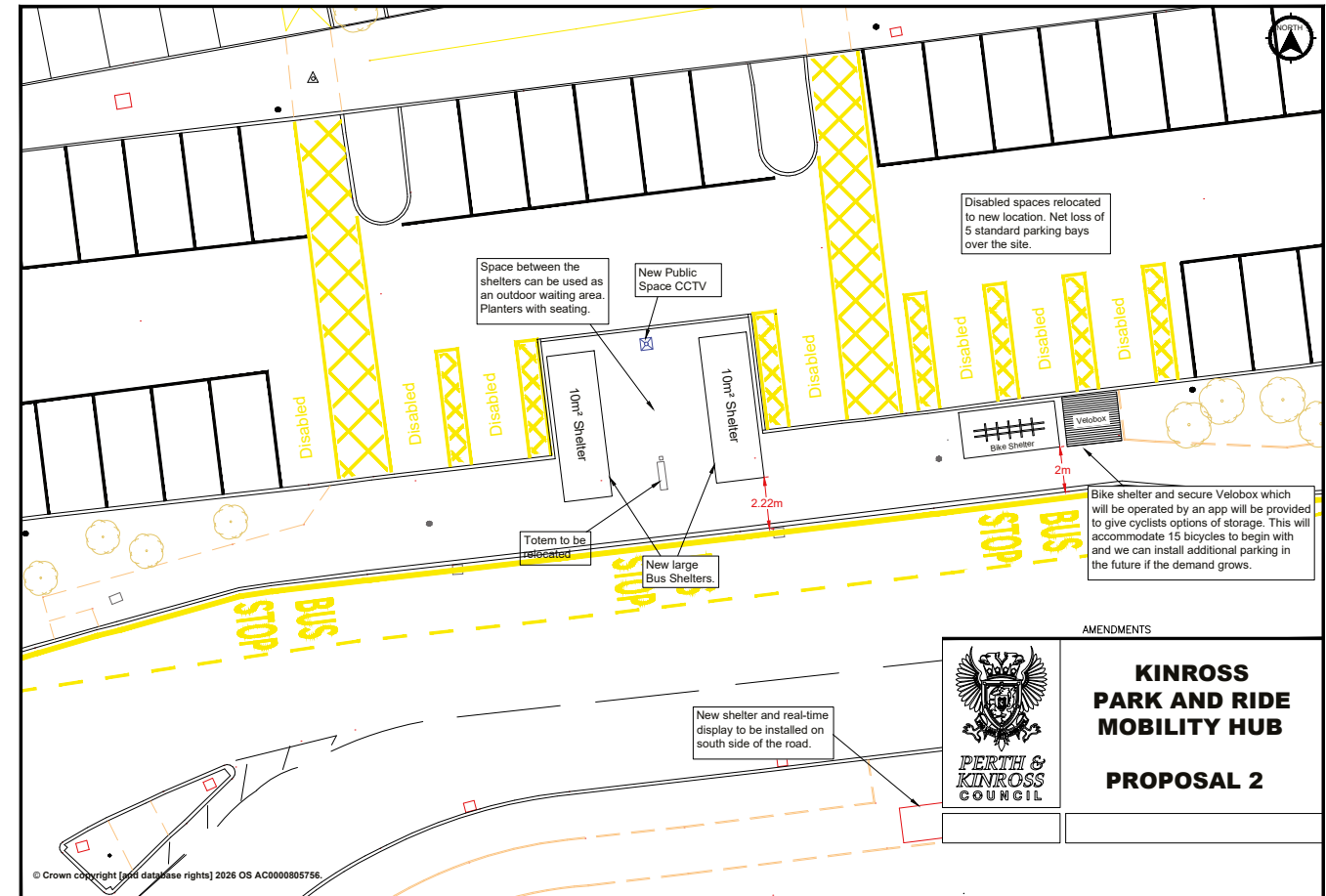
If you would like to run a fundraising event or donate, please contact her by emailing: ataylor.rowancottage@gmail.com.

(Pic left) Anne Taylor of Arts @ St Paul's thanks Deputy Lord Lieutenant Jennifer Erskine for opening the exhibition



Rt Rev Bishop Ian Paton with Icon of St Andrew

across station road nearer the roundabout. The toucan crossings will be put in place as part of the upgrade to the Kinross Park and Ride area, with an upgrade design recently voted on by the committee. The toucan crossing looks just like a pelican and puffin crossing from a distance – but the difference is an additional



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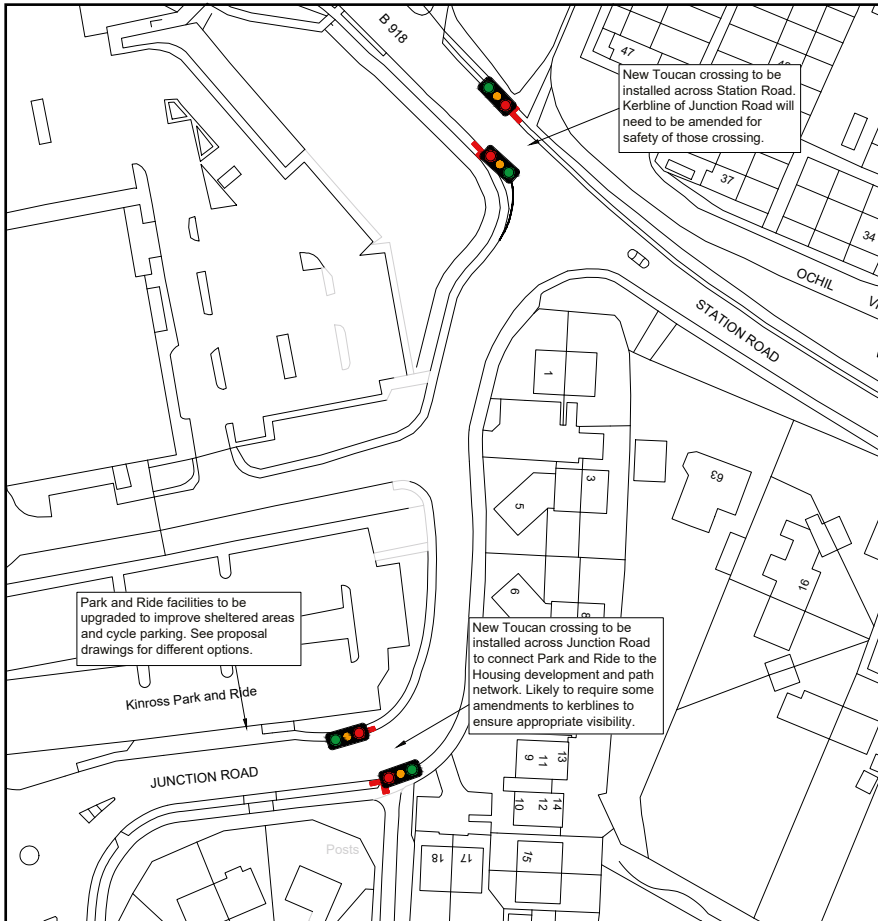
Following Glendale Security Systems going in to administration, Safe Building Services have stepped in to provide all former Glendale Security Systems a continuation of service with the same friendly faces.

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signal for bikes. Toucan crossings don't have a flashing stage as part of their signal sequence.

Four years ago some of the bike storage at the Kinross Park & Ride was lost, but now an upgrade to the site has been approved at the Kinross-shire Committee meeting in February. After a close vote between two of the three design options, the committee agreed to proceed with the middle option (shown on previous page).

Cllr Cuthbert said, 'The proposals for the park and ride, including the new pedestrian crossings were discussed and voted on at a recent Kinross-shire Committee meeting on Thursday 19 February. The recording of the full meeting will be available on the Council's website should anyone wish to view it.'

The new upgrade to the Park and Ride facility will deliver:

- Two new, larger bus shelters with

improved seating and greater protection from the prevailing westerly winds

- Secure bike storage alongside general cycle parking
- Additional outdoor seating and planters adjacent to the shelters
- Toucan crossings on Junction Road, Station Road, and Springfield Road to improve pedestrian and cycling safety

In keeping with the award-winning rain gardens already on site, all new shelter roofs will feature green (grass) roofing.

Cllr Richard Watters said, 'Funding is secured, and officers have committed to completing the works within this calendar year. My thanks go to the Council's Active Travel and Bus

teams for their work in developing and presenting these designs.

'As part of the final decision, officers have also committed to reviewing how car parking at the site can be optimised. This will align with wider ongoing work across the Council relating to both Kinross Park & Ride and the Broxden site in Perth.

'This upgrade represents a forward-looking, sustainable investment in Kinross-shire's transport network – one that strengthens active travel, improves safety, and enhances public transport facilities for years to come. It demonstrates the council's commitment to modern, climate-resilient infrastructure and ensures that our Park & Ride remains a high-quality, accessible hub serving the whole community.'

Cllr Robertson added, 'I am very pleased to see the improvements planned at our very popular Park and Ride. The big problem going forward is the fact that it is so popular. We need to be looking at ways to increase the amount of parking spaces and this I have been told by PKC officers will be done.'



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SATURDAY 7th**

**GLENFARG - VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 14th**

**MILNATHORT - STEWART + SMART GARAGE
THURSDAY 19th**

**PORTMOAK - CHURCH CAR PARK
SATURDAY 21st**

**KINROSS - OCHIL VIEW
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what's on?



march/april

mother's day

Bookings for Mother's Day will open in February, so keep an eye on our socials for memes and booking details! 13th-15th March

'the art project' mother's day workshop

Gift your mum or special person an evening together crafting, as well as an evening tea! Enquire for more details.

easter specials

Seasonal speciality drinks & pancakes to be announced! Kids sizes also available!

after school

Pop along after school and enjoy our selection of board games, drawing & books! Free Wi-Fi available for catching up with homework too!

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PORTMOAK FESTIVAL 2026



Make space in your diary for Pudding Club!

PORTMOAK FESTIVAL ARE planning their programme for 2026. This year the Festival will be a little later in the year, starting on 14 June just after the Gala Day.

The children of Portmoak Primary School are working on their artwork on the theme of volunteers this term. There are so many lovely volunteers in the Portmoak area and we are taking pictures of as many as we can to inspire the children.

So far we have cream teas on the programme, hopefully with some music on the Sunday as this was such a hit last year. We hope to have the pudding club again and there will be a couple of workshops during the day.

By next month we will have a better idea of our full programme so keep an eye out for April's Newsletter. There have been a couple of folk who have expressed interest in volunteering to help with the festival and more are always welcome. Contact tomandnorma.smith@gmail.com for more information.

WHAT'S ON AT CARNBO HALL

CARNBO HALL HAS a number of events planned for March that you are welcome to get involved with!

RYAN MACDONALD: EXOPLANETS & THE SEARCH FOR ALIEN LIFE
Mon 2 March, 7.30pm

An engaging and accessible talk exploring how astronomers discover planets beyond our solar system and what scientists are learning about the potential for life elsewhere in the universe.

KEEP CARNBO CLEAN & COLOURFUL
Sat 7 March, 10am at Carnbo Hall

Come and join us for our village clean-up to tackle litter along local paths and improve pavement edges. Litter pickers, bags and hi-vis vests will be provided.

COFFEE & CHAT MORNING
Wed 11 March, 10am–12 noon

Join us at our last 'Warm Welcome' event for this series, kindly supported by PKC funding. Enjoy delicious home baking and friendly conversation in a warm & welcoming atmosphere. All ages welcome.

SIMPLI YOGA MEDITATION EVENING
Sun 29 March, 7.00–8.30pm

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session suitable for all levels, led by Simpli Yoga. For more information or to book, please contact Carnbo Hall at carnbo-hall@gmail.com or email enquiries@simpliyoga.com.

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SHE SHED OPEN EVENING

THE KINROSS SHE SHED committee invite women in Kinross to come along to their open evening on Thursday 5 March at Kinross Rugby Club from 6.30pm (rescheduled from last month due to the Six Nations Rugby tournament!)

The She Shed are grateful to the Rugby Club for the generous use of their facility for their get-togethers. They would also like to thank Greens for providing the refreshments for the Open Evening, as well as a generous donation to their funds.

The Kinross She Shed exist to uplift women, aiming to create a space where every woman feels safe, valued, and included. The She Shed is open to all women, with a focus on those who are seeking connection, perhaps because they are new to the area and looking to make new friends, or perhaps due to bereavement or loss. Whatever your situation, you are guaranteed a warm welcome.

Currently She Shed meetings are a safe space for women that focus on wellbeing and connection.

A spokesperson said, 'We want to discuss our ideas for this year and hear your ideas. We are definitely hoping to invite some guest speakers to come and talk to us soon and to run some practical workshops that build confidence and new skills.'

Community projects so far by She-Shedders have included offering practical help such as DIY and gardening for women who live alone or who are survivors of domestic violence or abuse.

The group's aims are to:

- **Share knowledge, skills, and experience**
- **Build friendships across generations and walks of life**
- **Support one another in moments of crisis or isolation**
- **Organise meaningful events that educate, uplift, and connect**
- **Encourage creativity and lifelong learning**
- **Amplify underrepresented voices**
- **Make our communities stronger, safer, and more connected**

Please go along and find out more, meet some lovely people, enjoy a cuppa and some cake and help shape Kinross She Shed for the future.



KINROSS-SHIRE ROADWORKS ROUNDUP

SCOTTISH WATER WORKS

U215 BLAIRINGONE 25 March – two days.

The order will temporarily prohibit all vehicles from driving, parking and loading on the U215 Blairingone from its junction with private access to property known as Blairingone Mains Cottage to a point 221 metres north west, a distance of 221 metres or thereby. The alternative route for vehicles is via – U215 - U216 - A977

NORTH STREET - MILNATHORT 30 March – two days.

The order will temporarily prohibit all vehicles from driving, parking and loading on North Street, Milnathort from its junction with private access to property known as Number 16, North Street to its junction with private access to property known as Number 30, North Street, a distance of 70.54 metres or thereby. The alternative route for vehicles is via – Manse Road - Ba'hill

MANSE ROAD - MILNATHORT 31 March – two days.

The order will temporarily prohibit all vehicles from driving, parking and loading on Manse Road, Milnathort from its junction with North Street to its junction with Wellfield, a distance of 21.33 metres or thereby. The alternative route for vehicles is via –Wester Loan

A911 MAIN STREET - KINNESSWOOD

25 March – two days.

The order will temporarily prohibit all vehicles from parking and loading on both sides of the A911 Main Street, Kinnesswood from its junction with Bruce Road to its junction with the private access to the property known as Avalon, a distance of 74.92 metres or thereby.

BT WORKS

C493 CLEISH 16 March – five days.

The order will temporarily prohibit all vehicles from driving, parking and loading (both sides) of the C493 Cleish from its junction with Cleish Castle to its junction with private access to property known as Cleish Mains Farm, a distance of 231.48 metres or thereby. The alternative route for vehicles is via – C493 - A823 - A977 - B9097

The order will temporarily prohibit all vehicles from driving, parking and loading on both sides of the A911 Main Street, Kinnesswood from its junction with Bruce Road to its junction with the private access to the property known as Avalon, a distance of 74.92 metres or thereby.

C414 GLENFARG (PH2 9NL)

24 March – three days.

The order will temporarily prohibit all vehicles from driving, parking and loading on the C414 Glenfarg from its junction with private access to property known as Glendy Mill to its junction with Melville Terrace, a distance of 897.57 metres or thereby.

The alternative route for vehicles is via C420 – B996 PERTH ROAD – A91 NEW ROAD – WESTER LOAN – NORTH STREET – C499

Pedestrian and emergency vehicular access to premises will be maintained.

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The Last Letter of Mary, Queen of Scots is now available to view, free of charge, at Perth Museum. Visitors have the chance to read the Queen's last thoughts in her own handwriting, penned just hours before her execution in 1587.

You can also delve deeper into Mary's legacy and other National Library of Scotland treasures including works from Robert Burns and Liz Lochhead, both Scottish legends in their own right who were inspired by Mary's story across the centuries. This linked exhibition takes place at Perth's AK Bell Library.



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OPEN CALL FOR SINGERS AT CLEISH

FOLLOWING THEIR SUCCESS in December, choir Bel Canto will be returning to Cleish Church for a concert at 3pm on Saturday 28 March with a performance of Gabriel Faure's setting of the Requiem.

The piece was composed by the French composer in the late 1880s, and is a staple of many choral societies and choirs across the country.

David Buchanan-Cook, who directs Bel Canto said that the piece's beauty and accessibility have made a mainstay:

'It's a fairly well-known and popular piece of music and for very good reasons, and I am delighted we can bring the work to Kinross-shire this March.

'Bel Canto draws on singers from Clacks, Fife and Edinburgh, and we are really keen to hear from anyone in and around Kinross-shire, who may have sung the piece in the past and might like to sing this and future concerts. If so, please drop me a line at helensbank@aol.com'.

Originally composed for orchestra, the concert will be accompanied by organist Matt Edwards and will feature other choral and organ works.

Tickets, by voluntary donation are available online at bit.ly/cleish-belcanto.

Proceeds will go to Cleish Village Trust and Scotland's Gardens Scheme.

Music at Cleish with Bel Canto

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COULD YOU OPEN YOUR GARDEN FOR MARIE CURIE?

PLANS FOR THE Open Gardens are growing nicely!

Organisers wish to say a big thank you to the gardeners who have agreed to open their gardens to the public for a summer weekend for the first or the second time. They are hoping that a few more gardeners will be kind enough to come forward and do the same.

They are once again hoping for a variety of gardens, large or small, that reflect your floral interests and lifestyle. The previous Open Gardens featured vegetable patches, ponds, potted plants patches, hen and rabbit runs, a hot tub, outdoor kitchen and gin/coffee corners coffee to sit and admire the fruits of your labours! But the simplest of well loved gardens will of course be very welcome.

They would also appreciate help with ticket sales, baking and or serving teas and coffees.

For further information please text or call Marg Meade 07907 192097 or Enid Campbell 07841 435864.

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KINROSS CC BY-ELECTION

PERTH AND KINROSS Council have announced the by-election timetable for Kinross Community Council. Nominees must have an address in the Kinross area (as there are six community councils in Kinross-shire (see map above). Meetings take place on the second monday of each month at the Loch Leven Community Campus.

Community Councils have a particularly key role in the development of the physical environment of the area – influencing



where new housing, business and retail will be located going forward. In addition, the recently completed Community Action Plan has brought forward several priorities that the Community Council needs to take the lead on. These won't happen unless there is a fully functioning Community Council – so if you want things to happen, then it's time to step up.

The closing date for nominations is 4pm on Thursday 12 March. For more information and nomination forms contact either CommunityCouncils@pkc.gov.uk or Contact@kinrosscommunitycouncil.gov.uk

A MESSAGE FROM NATURESCOT

There is currently no water access on Loch Leven until April. No kayaks, no paddleboards, no 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.

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PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL

KINROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BY-ELECTION

TIMETABLE

Notice of Election		Thursday 19 February 2026
Close of nominations and submission of 50 word statement to support nomination	By 4pm	Thursday 12 March 2026
If there are less than 50% of nominations for the whole community council area received by close of nominations, the Returning Officer shall extend the period for receipt of nominations by 5 days.	By 4pm	Tuesday 17 March 2026
In the event of less nominations than vacancies being received publish the Notice of Results of those duly elected		Friday 13 March 2026/ Wednesday 18 March 2026
Date of Election (if no ballot required)		Thursday 26 March 2026

If after close of nominations/extended nomination period MORE nominations than vacancies are received the election will be suspended until after the Scottish Parliament Elections to be held on 7 May 2026.

Key dates to support the election will be issued after the 7 May 2026.

CARER SUPPORT

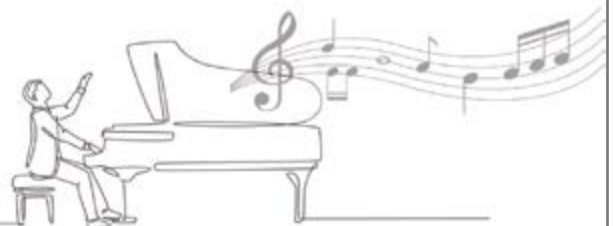
PERTH & KINROSS HEALTH and Social Care Partnership want to hear from you! They are inviting unpaid carers to help them develop sustainable local supports to enable them to have a life alongside their caring role.

Join them to meet charitable organisations and community groups to share what really matters and how they can work together better to support you to care.

A spokesperson said, 'Your views are important to us to inform how we should change and provide improved and more local support.

Date: Tuesday 24 March 2026, 12noon-3pm, Civic Hall, 2 High Street, Perth. Can't attend the whole event? Please feel free to drop in and share your views. RSVP by 10 March 2026 by emailing communityengagement@pkc.gov.uk or call 07342 079949. Please let us know if you have any accessibility requirements. Your views matter!

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MILNATHORT MAKES BEST 9-HOLE FINAL

WHILE WEATHER ALONE has meant a challenging start to the year, Milnathort Gold Club have announced an even more thrilling challenge they now face.

Alongside three other Scottish courses; Covesea, squeezed between RAF Lossiemouth and the Moray Firth; last year's winner Durness Golf Club in the far north west and relatively near neighbours the Kingarrock Hickory Course at Hill of Tarvit, they have been shortlisted for the Scottish Golf Tourism Best 9-Hole Golf Course award, with the final to be held on 12 March at Edinburgh's National Museum of Scotland. These prestigious awards bring together industry leaders from golf, tourism, hospitality and many other sectors.

Milnathort want to say a huge thank you to the many volunteers (too many to name), their greenkeeping and catering teams and Golf Development Manager Stuart McHardy for making this possible. Special thanks go to Elizabeth Hughes, with assistance from Colin Payne, for undertaking the submission. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Best of luck, Milnathort!

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ARE YOU BEING SERVED? ARE YOU HIRING?

TWO THINGS HAPPENED to me last week, both relatively insignificant but somehow, have hung around my mind since. One was reading a newspaper article about the current state of high street shopping and the second was a group of girls who came into the shop asking if I was hiring. There is no obvious link – or is there?

The newspaper article was inspiring; that is why it has floated around my thoughts all week. For too long I have believed the narrative that our high streets are declining and slowly on their way out. But in actual fact 72% of shopping is still done on the high street and I have seen similar figures elsewhere.

Online shoppers are getting tired of purchases that aren't the colour, quality or fit that was expected. There are now off-putting payments for returns. 40% of virtual baskets are dumped before checkout, due to indecision.

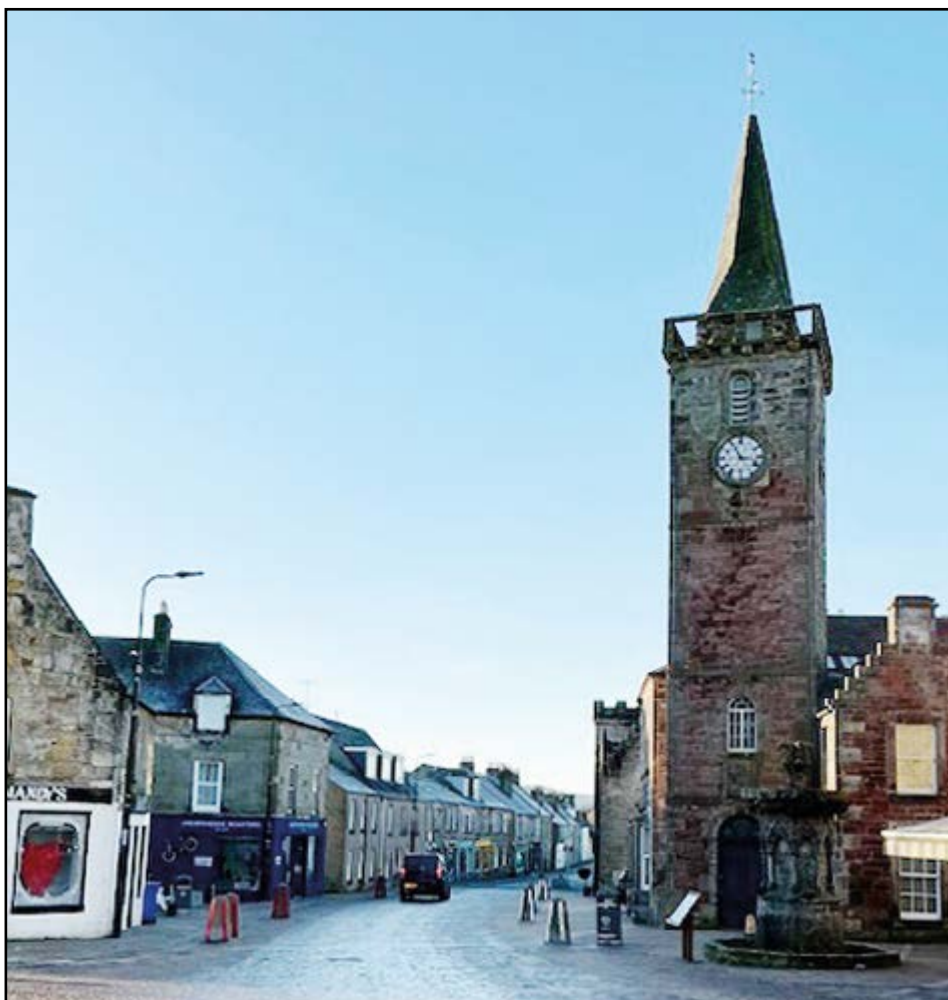
Larger retailers have focused their investments on developing their digital offering, but now that has been redirected to improving the in-store customer experience, so that browsing and shopping become an enjoyable event.

The focus is on encouraging the shopper to linger longer, offering friendly assistance, resulting in more chance of a purchase. Fashion shows, gin bars, a men's creche (aka football) are pop up ideas set to change the shopping experience from drudgery to 'feel good'.

AI has a place in streamlining behind-the-scenes operational processes, inhibition of shop lifting as well as personal shopping. (Is it really going to be able to answer 'Does my bum look too big in this?') Stores with eco-friendly practices are appealing to a growing group of environmentally conscious consumers. So rather than dying, high street shopping is evolving, and those retailers able to adapt will benefit most.

In Kinross, we now have a lovely and varied selection of shops. As owners, we are passionate about our businesses and you will mainly find us front-of-house offering a very personalised service. We are already creating a sense of community, together and from our individual hubs. We add to our bricks and mortar experience digitally through social media and AI.

However, the challenges for all retail are still significant. Foremost, as the cost of living hits households, many of us have to prioritise and be cautious about spending. March, June and October are months in the retail calendar when sales tend to be down. At these times, loyalty is a saviour and so is intention – intentionally, without spending more, choose that a certain pro-



portion per week goes locally rather than on line or elsewhere. Steady income makes for more confident local businesses. Confident businesses make a thriving high street, a buzzing community and the ability to support charities and employ temporary and permanent staff. So I'm looking forward to a retail future where there are no qualms when someone asks 'Are you hiring?'

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THE KOREAN WAR, 75 YEARS AGO

A FEW EDITIONS AGO, I promised to keep you up to date with progress of this brutal conflict – and I will, occasionally, over the next year or so, as this war lasted three years.

It was the brutal and complex conflict between North Korea and South Korea that quickly drew in superpowers like the United States, China, and the Soviet Union. At this time of year - in



the winter of late 1950 and early 1951 - some of the war's most intense battles took place and the fighting truly showed how difficult war could be in freezing weather.

Where Things Stood

When the war began in June 1950, the North Korean Army quickly pushed south and nearly captured all of South Korea. But then United Nations forces, led by the U.S., landed at Incheon, and drove north into North Korea. By late 1950, they were close to the Yalu River at the Chinese border.

However, winter changed everything. In late November 1950, Chinese army forces entered the war in large numbers, and attacked the advancing UN forces. These new attacks forced UN troops to retreat in bitter cold, marking a major shift from hopeful advance to desperate fighting.

Brutal Winter Fighting

One of the most famous battles of this period was the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. In freezing temperatures well below 0

Scottish soldiers operating in the hard winter



°F, UN troops – especially U.S. Marines – found themselves surrounded by overwhelming Chinese forces. Despite heavy snow and blistering cold, these troops fought their way out, and made a difficult retreat to the coast.

This battle showed both the bravery and the suffering of soldiers. It wasn't just enemy bullets and artillery that were deadly – the winter cold injured many more men with frostbite and exhaustion. Food and ammunition became harder to move through snow, and soldiers tried to dig trenches in frozen ground, that was too hard to break.

Shifting Front Lines

By January 1951, the Chinese and North Korean forces were able to push UN troops back farther south, and the capital city – Seoul – changed hands again. This winter marked the end of hopes for a fast victory and the beginning of a long stalemate that would continue for years. Shades of Ukraine to a degree?

Around this time, other battles such as Chip'yong-ni in February 1951 were fought, as UN forces tried to stabilise their defensive lines, ultimately stopping the Chinese advance, and setting up the front near the original border, known as the 38th parallel.

Life in Winter War

For soldiers and civilians alike, the winter conditions made everything harder. Refugees fled the advancing armies in all seasons, but during winter the cold added another deadly threat to people already facing danger from combat. Stories and photos from the war often show soldiers wearing heavy winter gear, and struggling through snow to capture a bit of ground.

Summary

At this time of year – winter 1950–1951 – the Korean War had reached one of its toughest turning points:

- Chinese forces entered the war and changed the battle lines.
- UN troops were forced to retreat from deep in North Korea.
- Harsh winter weather became almost as deadly as combat.
- The fighting shifted from rapid advances to a long, grinding struggle that would last until a ceasefire in 1953.

More in later editions....

Andy Middlemiss BEM DL

ORWELL CURLING CLUB CELEBRATES BICENTENARY



One of Scotland's Oldest Clubs Marks 200-Yr Milestone at Kinross Ice Rink

ORWELL CURLING CLUB celebrated its 200th anniversary at Kinross Ice Rink in February, bringing together members past and present to mark two centuries of curling tradition, camaraderie and community spirit.

The celebrations opened in memorable style as Lorne Watson piped the curlers onto the ice for a commemorative group photograph, before Honorary President Willie Paterson delivered the first symbolic stone to officially set the anniversary games in motion.

The bonspiel involving 12 teams, made up of Orwell members, neighbouring clubs and special guests, followed, with teams playing two four-end games. The anniversary match was won by a rink skipped by Sandy Hay, with Ian Gwynne (Dollar), Mike Spain and Jim Barton (Inverkeithing and Chair of KCT).

After the curling, members and guests adjourned to the bar for refreshments and an excellent dinner, followed by speeches, toasts and presentations.



Keith Prentice President of Scottish Curling, attended as guest speaker and proposed a toast to Orwell Curling Club, praising its enduring contribution to curling at both local and national level.

Willie Young treated the audience to a shortened history of the club's 200 years, highlighting key moments and generations of curl-

Top: The Walk Forward.

Above: Honorary President Willie Paterson delivered the first symbolic stone

Below: Hog Line Up (Photographs by Duncan McEnhill)





Willie Young receiving his Royal Caledonian Curling Club 50-year medal from Keith Prentice.

ers who have shaped Orwell Curling Club since its founding. In recognition of his long service to the sport, Willie Young was subsequently presented with his Royal Caledonian Curling Club 50-year medal by Keith Prentice.

Tributes were paid throughout the event to the generations of players and volunteers whose dedication has sustained the club over 200 years. Kinross Ice Rink provided a fitting backdrop for the celebrations, filled with shared memories.

Orwell Curling Club welcome anyone interested in curling with us. Please get in touch at orwellcurling@gmail.com to find out how to join us. If you are a curler already, then there will be plenty opportunities to play straight away. Otherwise if you have not yet played then you can join the coaching team to learn all about the game.

Robin Kay

A 200-YEAR HISTORY OF THE ORWELL CURLING CLUB (1826–2026)

A Historical View by Willie Young, with assistance on historical facts by Rory Stewart

THE ORWELL CURLING CLUB is one of Scotland's oldest curling institutions, with its origins dating back to **February 1826**, when a group of local gentlemen met in Milnathort to establish the Club on a permanent footing. From the outset, Orwell demonstrated a strong sense of organisation and purpose. Land, generously made available by the Black family of Tillywhally, was secured for a curling pond, and written rules were adopted to govern membership, conduct, competitions, and the care of stones and ice.

Throughout the **nineteenth century**, Orwell Curling Club flourished and became a central feature of winter life in the parish. Regular medal competitions, internal matches and annual meetings were complemented by keen but friendly rivalries with neighbouring clubs such as Kinross, Glenfarg, Cupar and Bishopshire. The Club steadily improved its facilities, expanding and maintaining its ponds and curling house, often with the support of local landowners. Curling at Orwell was not merely a sport, but a social institution that brought together generations in fellowship and friendly competition.

By the **mid- and late-Victorian period**, Orwell had established a strong reputation both on and off the ice. Participation in provincial and national competitions linked the Club to the wider curling world, while locally the annual dinner, presentation of trophies and curling songs reinforced a proud sense of tradition. Leadership passed smoothly from one generation to the next, ensuring continuity and stability.

The **early twentieth century** brought both progress and challenge. The Club remained active and well organised, but the outbreak of the **First World War** inevitably curtailed normal activity. Competitive curling was reduced, annual dinners were

suspended, and organised sport took a secondary role. Despite these difficulties, the Club maintained its structure and sense of purpose, supporting wartime charitable efforts such as fundraising for the **Red Cross** through whist drives and social events.

Following the return of peace in **1918**, Orwell Curling Club entered a period of renewal. Matches resumed, new members were welcomed, and attention returned to the maintenance of the curling pond

longevity, its sportsmanship, and its role in preserving Scotland's national winter game.

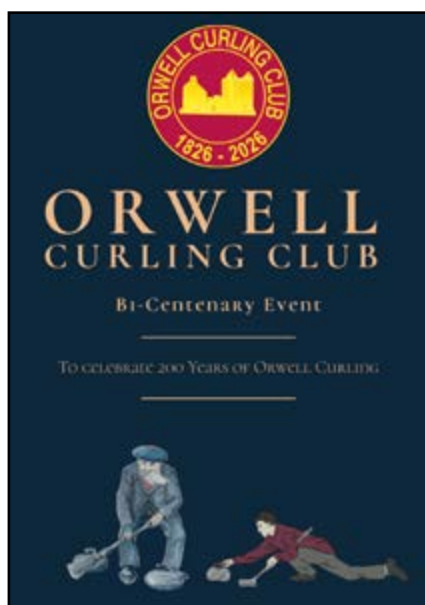
In the **years following the centenary**, the Club continued to prosper. Membership remained healthy, competitions were keenly contested, and careful financial management ensured stability even during seasons when ice was scarce. The late 1920s demonstrated the Club's adaptability, with fixtures arranged at short notice and continued investment in equipment and facilities.

The **inter-war period** and the outbreak of the **Second World War** again disrupted normal activity. Curling was necessarily limited, yet the Club endured, preserving its records, traditions and assets so that play could resume promptly when conditions allowed.

The **post-war decades** brought renewed vitality. Increased leisure time and improved transport benefited curling, and Orwell continued to participate in provincial and national competitions under the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. During this period, the Club adapted to changing conditions by making use of **artificial ice rinks**, in Falkirk, Kirkcaldy, Perth, Edinburgh and Kinross (opened in 1977), ensuring continuity of play while still cherishing the traditions associated with the pond in Milnathort.

Throughout the **mid- and late-twentieth century**, Orwell Curling Club balanced tradition with progress. Annual dinners, initiation ceremonies and the election of office bearers remained important features of club life, while new generations of curlers were welcomed into membership.

As Orwell Curling Club celebrates its **200th anniversary**, it does so with pride in a remarkable legacy. From early nineteenth-century beginnings on a rural pond to organised play in the modern era, the Club's history is a testament to the dedication, fellowship and sporting spirit of the generations who ensured that curling at Orwell would endure.



and clubhouse. Long-standing challenges relating to water supply, grass growth and bank erosion were addressed through repairs, drainage improvements and, later, the erection of fencing around the pond, undertaken with the cooperation of the Tillywhally estate.

A major milestone was reached in **1926**, when the Club celebrated its **Centenary**. The centenary dinner was a memorable occasion, attended by representatives of neighbouring clubs who paid warm tribute to Orwell's hundred years of continuous curling. Speeches reflected pride in the Club's



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Your Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Kinross over the next 5 years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out over a six month period from April – September 2025

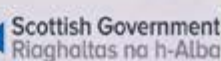
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- A summary of our Community Profile
- Our main likes and dislikes as identified in our Community Views Survey
- Our Vision Statement for the future of Kinross
- The main themes and priorities for action
- Information on how you can stay in touch and get involved

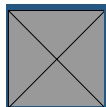
CONTACT

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informal chat txt 07824 313 974 for call back



KINROSS COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN STEERING GROUP

Kinross Hub March



LOCAL ADVICE HUB AT LOCH LEVEN COMMUNITY CAMPUS (ICT Meeting Room 2) Sessions are drop-in but if you prefer an appointment, please phone the number detailed for the agency.

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Thu 5	10am–12noon	Broke not Broken – to offer advice, connections for support and also for foodbank referrals. 07518 913107 PKC Housing Team for housing advice and signposting to their service. 07917 552231
	1pm–3pm	Change Mental Health – to offer advice, support and guidance around any mental health issues or queries
Wed 11	1pm–3.30pm	Grandmentors – an inter-generational mentoring project across Perth and Kinross supporting young people with challenges that range from getting a job, getting into education, developing life skills such as budgeting and dealing with social anxiety, to just meeting every week for a chat and a cuppa. It is free and confidential, and for young people aged 15-26. Their aim is to help young people become more confident and independent. 07939 895208
Thu 12	10am to 12.30pm	PKC Skills & Employment offers support & advice re CVs, Job search, support after redundancy etc. 07867 351268
	1.30–3.30pm	PKC Employment Support Team – Job advice and help for those who have learning disability, acquired brain injury, mental health issues, autistic spectrum, sensory loss and physical disabilities 07788 389659
Thu 19	10am–12noon	Heat Project Craig will be here providing free energy advice to households, helping them become more energy efficient and reducing energy bills 07868 864418
	2pm–4pm	Camille Vickers, Social Prescriber - Community Connecting/Signposting 07775 701630
Wed 25	1.30pm–3.30pm	Alison Tanner, Support Choices - provides free, independent information and advice about getting social care and support in Perth and Kinross 01350 729130
Thu 26	10am–12noon	PKC Trading Standards SCAM AWARENESS Melanie will give advice and information on avoiding scams and dealing with cold callers 07557 214420

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LOCAL ADVICE HUB at LLHC

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

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@brokennotbroken.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

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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IT'S HARD TO LET GO

WINNING WAYS *by Jo Middlemiss*

Three Inspiring Stories On Why It's Hard To Let Go!

THIS YEAR THE journey to Ethiopia (hard to believe it was my 16th year running) was different, tricky and exhausting. Initially, I was in agreement with doing the journey in one day: Glasgow – London Heathrow, London – Addis Ababa, Addis – Arbaminch (a very small regional airport in the middle of nowhere) and a two-hour drive up to our clinic in Buccama and bed. Some plan it turned out to be Other airlines are available, but I missed not going by Emirates via Dubai badly! Long waits at each airport, changing terminals, dreary overnight flights on packed planes, bags not quite making it, phones and forms to fill in. Result... exhaustion. On the other hand, a fascinating road trip – baboons on the road, sleeping policemen for absolutely no reason, except that it allowed young children to surround the car with mangoes, bananas, limes and papayas, all for crazy cheap prices. Who could resist? The road is shared with goats and donkeys and tuk-tuks known as bajas, and children who seem to know no fear. It's a world away from everything here.

Once in the confines of the Health Centre and Convent, I know that I am safe and content. So much happens – even in two weeks – that I can't even begin to describe, but I want to share three stories about three remarkable Ethiopian people.



Johannes

JOHANNES IS a tall, strong and handsome Ethiopian man – he was probably about 18 when I first met him, helping out at the clinic. But just before we met, Johannes had been in a very dark place. He had failed his leaving certificate, and lost his dream of going to University. His brother phoned Sister Haimanot, my friend and Head of clinic.

Johannes was desperate and threatening to end his life. 'Send him to me', said Sister. 'Johannes, you start work here on Monday in the card room, where records are kept and appointments made.' We were on the point of setting up our Podoconiosis Clinic with just 10 buckets and 10 patients. Johannes was assigned to us to make the appointments. Fast forward four years to two weeks ago. Johannes completed weekend study at Soddo University, and graduated proudly in Cap and Gown, as a fully qualified Lab Technician. Through Sister and EMP sponsorship, he studied at the weekends, and worked in the Health Centre all week. In the evenings he returned home to his tiny farm, and did all that work, because his father was ill. I can't begin to describe the joy in that family for his success, and the privilege of going to their tiny rural home for a celebration, and thanksgiving.

Divorna

ONE OF THE days when the foot clinic was in full swing, a very beautiful young Ethiopian woman turned up to see us. She came from very far away, probably about 50 miles. She had suffered from Podoconiosis since she was about 16. No one knew what

to do. One leg was fine, the other a horrible and very ugly mess. She saw a piece on TV about Buccama Health Centre and its work. Doctors had tried all sorts with her foot, including offering to amputate. She couldn't go, or be anywhere, because the smell was too horrific, and the bullying equally bad. Anyway, bravely she came to us, and was offered

the treatment that we offer to all. Soaking, soaping, massage, socks and shoes. Because she had come from so far, she could only come once a month, but she drank in the knowledge with a great thirst! She was given soap and vaseline to take away. Now, only a few months later, she is wearing normal trainers, she has a job, and she is smiling, and has rejoined society after 16 years of isolation. Her leg has still a long way to go but her story was priceless to me and our team, who helped her.



Sister Haimanot

DESPITE EVERY precaution, I did manage to eat something that definitely did not agree with me, and I was pretty much slain for 24 hours with food poisoning. Details not required! The point of this was that Sister Haimanot with all her responsibilities was scrubbing my bathroom floor, and sleeping on a mattress outside my room, until she knew I was better.

To my dying day, I will be grateful that fate has allowed my life to cross with hers. When she was just four, her father gave her to an aunt, who was a nun, to rear. She was destined from that age to dedicate her life to God, the sick and the poor. And yet, she is funny and clever and the most outstanding servant leader you could hope to meet. No medals, no plaudits, no great recompense, save that she is living out her purpose, although I'm not even sure she thinks like that. Unusually though, she loves chocolate and cheese, which is what we bring her. I miss her like mad, and will continue to do everything I can to help her look after the thousands of people, who depend on her.

That is the work of the Ethiopia Medical Project.

Jo Middlemiss MBE



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Councillor Richard Watters



Kinross P&R Upgrades

FOLLOWING THE loss of bike storage at the Kinross Park & Ride four years ago, a significant upgrade to the site was approved at the recent Kinross-shire Committee meeting in February. After a close vote between two of the three design options, the committee agreed to proceed with the middle option, as shown in the accompanying plans (see p12).

This upgrade will deliver:

- **Two new, larger bus shelters with improved seating and greater protection from the prevailing westerly winds**
- **Secure bike storage alongside general cycle parking**
- **Additional outdoor seating and planters adjacent to the shelters**
- **Toucan crossings on Junction Road, Station Road, and Springfield Road to improve pedestrian and cycling safety**

In keeping with the award-winning rain gardens already on site, all new shelter roofs will feature green (grass) roofing.

Funding is secured, and officers have committed to completing the works within this calendar year. My thanks go to the Council's Active Travel and Bus teams for their work in developing and presenting these designs.

As part of the final decision, officers have also committed to reviewing how car parking at the site can be optimised. This will align with wider ongoing work across the Council relating to both Kinross Park & Ride and the Broxden site in Perth.

This upgrade represents a forward-looking, sustainable investment in Kinross-shire's transport network—one that strengthens active travel, improves safety, and enhances public transport facilities for years to come. It demonstrates the council's commitment to modern, climate-resilient infrastructure and ensures that our Park & Ride remains a high-quality, accessible hub serving the whole community.

Banking Hub Appeal Decision

AS THE local councillor who submitted the original Banking Hub application for Kinross, I am deeply disappointed — and frankly angered — by LINK's refusal to reconsider their decision. Once again, a national assessment process has dismissed overwhelming local evidence in favour of a rigid, box-ticking framework that fails to understand how rural communities actually function.

LINK's response states that our appeal "did not introduce new evidence" and therefore the rejection must stand. This is despite

the fact that we presented clear, detailed information about transport barriers, the real travel times involved, and the impact on older residents and local businesses. None of this appears to have altered LINK's position.

From my perspective, the problem is not the quality of evidence provided by the community — it's the **FCA-regulated methodology** LINK is forced to follow. Their own assessment openly relies on *straight-line distance measurements* and the assumption that a Post Office and a couple of ATMs somehow meet the needs of a rapidly growing rural town. This bears no resemblance to the reality faced by Kinross-shire residents who must make multi-bus journeys, pay high fares, and overcome significant mobility challenges just to access basic banking.

As someone who speaks daily with residents, community groups and businesses, I cannot accept a system that places more weight on theoretical mapping tools than on real human experience. Kinross does not have 'sufficient provision'. If it did, we wouldn't have older residents, carers, small businesses and local organisations repeatedly telling us they are struggling.

What frustrates me most is the message this sends: **the national process is simply not designed to recognise rural Scotland's needs**. Our demographic profile, transport limitations and growing population were all acknowledged by LINK — but dismissed as not meeting thresholds set in London-centric regulatory guidance.

Despite this setback, I remain committed to pushing for change. The people of Kinross-shire deserve fair access to essential services. I will continue working with partners, MSPs, MPs and local organisations to challenge a system that is clearly failing communities like ours.

Councillor Richard Watters

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- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1 March | Matthew 5:17-48: Understanding and fulfilling the law
(Gavin Matthews, Solas) |
| 8 March | Matthew 6:1-18: Reality with God
(Chris Aitcheson, LLC) |
| 15 March | Matthew 6:19-34: Laying up treasure
(Robin Kent, LLC) |
| 22 March | Matthew 7:1-28: Establishing priorities
(Douglas Reid, Tayside Christian Fellowship) |
| 29 March | Matthew 8:1-9:34: Miracles and faith
(Allan McKinnon, Tilsley Bible College) |

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Councillor Neil Freshwater

Milnathort Rural Broadband

THE ROLL-OUT of broadband across Kinross-shire has been very successful in recent years, and the area now benefits from some of the best connectivity in the country. However, a small number of properties in rural Milnathort and surrounding areas remain unconnected. Andrew Mitchell from the UK Government's R100 team and I met with residents in Stronachie to discuss the current position. In summary, there is unlikely to be any immediate progress due to ongoing re-tendering. However, it is hoped, in my estimation, that within the next two to three years these properties will be upgraded from copper to fibre. In the meantime, technology has improved significantly. There are now viable alternatives, including low-earth-orbit satellite services such as Starlink and 4G-based mobile broadband solutions. These options are increasingly affordable and reliable, and can provide an effective short- to medium-term solution, or potentially a longer-term one.

Potholes

SADLY, IT IS pothole season. The January cold snap, followed by sustained heavy rain, has caused road conditions in many areas to deteriorate rapidly. Residents are understandably frustrated at the apparent ease with which potholes suddenly appear, or indeed reappear.

Is there not a longer-lasting solution? I raised this with a roads maintenance officer, who advised that this has been the worst spell of January weather for four or five years, making durable repairs far more challenging. That said, crews are out and progress is being made.

Please continue to report potholes via the 'Report It' function at pkc.gov.uk, where you can upload images and pinpoint locations on a map.

Kinross Community Action Plan

KINROSS COMMUNITY Council has published an excellent Community Action Plan, presented at its February meeting. It is a strong document, shaped by many months of engagement and consultation, and sets out residents' needs and ambitions for the next five years. The Plan will serve as an important reference point for informing wider Perth and Kinross Council plans, including the Local Development Plan, which guides what is built and where. Copies are being distributed across Kinross and it is also available to view online. Well done to all involved.

Red Squirrels in Kinross-shire

IT IS GREAT to see red squirrels thriving in Kinross-shire, and equally encouraging to see how many people are engaged and enthusiastic about them, both on social media and through the work of the Kinross-shire Red Squirrel Group.

When I first moved to the county over ten years ago, I remember spotting one on a walk and being so excited, as what was once a common sight in Scotland had become rare, that I ran home to fetch a camera with a zoom lens, alas, I was too late. Last year I saw my first urban red in Kinross, and recently they have returned to our garden after disappearing when a nearby wood was felled.

Thank you to everyone involved in supporting this superb but fragile species.

New Business on the High Street

I OFTEN speak about the importance of a vibrant high street, and it is encouraging to see new businesses opening in recent months. Last month, Oliver Twixt restaurant opened its doors in the former Salutation Inn.



I have not yet visited, but look forward to doing so. Well done to the team for making the investment, and I wish them every success as their plans develop over the coming months.

Councillor Neil Freshwater

Photo by Lorne Gill



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Councillor Dave Cuthbert

Kinross-shire Community Councils

KINROSS-SHIRE IS blessed with some fantastic community councils (CCs) who do some great work. There was an election last November and all the CCs managed to attract enough members to form up, however, many of them have spaces on them and they are looking for new faces to join them.

To give you one example of what they do, last Thursday night I attended a presentation from Milnathort CC on the Local Development Plan (LDP). There were about 80 residents present and it was very well done and informative. Basically, the LDP is the Council's rule book for planning applications and sets down what should be happening in the area with the built environment. This affects every one of us as it looks at infrastructure, roads, health centres, schools, supermarkets, sports facilities, and so on.

The closing of the Muirs in Kinross highlighted the problems of access to the South from Milnathort. I have been asking for a south bound slip road on and off the M90 at the Milnathort junction for some time. This isn't in the hands of Perth and Kinross Council but lies with the Scottish Government.

There is an election in May, so, it might be worth you asking prospective candidates why there aren't south bound slip roads at junction 7.

Many of the CCs have been putting together Community Action Plans for their areas and these will be feeding into the LDP. If you are interested in how your community is going to develop in future years, please join your local community council.



Perth and Kinross Council Budget

THE COUNCIL budget is progressing slowly! The Scottish Government Budget was late this year, so we are still looking at options for pressures and savings. The budget debate is due to take place on 4 March, so we are running out of time!

Windfarms Craighead, Brunt Hill, Glen Lednock and now Blackford near Auchterarder

AT THE Planning committee meeting on 11 February, I seconded a motion to object to the construction of a further 13 wind turbines in the Ochils, this time they are further west. However, they will still affect the amenity of the Ochils. Unlike Glen Lednock, which is near Crieff, the officers had decided to recommend not objecting. The rationale was that there are only a few wind turbines in this development in Perth and Kinross. Unfortunately, our motion to object was outvoted, so, the Council will not be objecting. Thankfully Clackmannanshire Council did object. We will have to wait and see what decisions the reporter's unit makes on Brunt Hill and Blackford windfarms.

South Kinross Flood defences - update

AT THE TIME of writing, the reporter's unit have not yet reached a verdict on this.

1-5 High Street

SOME OF YOU will be readers of the *Courier* and will have read about the sale of the former council offices at 1-5 High Street in Perth. It is turning into something of a saga and has been rumbling on since 2011.

At a Council meeting on 10 December a paper was presented outlining an officer proposal to sell the buildings to a developer for £1 and to then pay them £1.9m to carry out heritage works to the building and to develop into serviced apartments, which officers are claiming is an hotel.

In essence, it is my view that the information given to Councillors to allow them to decide was flawed. So, I will be supporting a motion to bring the issue back to Council with corrected information at the Council meeting due to take place on 25 February.

You can read more about what I am up to on my Facebook page, just search for Dave Cuthbert Independent Councillor.

Councillor Dave Cuthbert



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Councillor Willie Robertson

LDP 3

I THINK IT is good that people are getting involved with the proposals for land use in Kinross-shire as shown in the recently published map. Milnathort Community Council gave an excellent presentation on the LDP 3 plans for Milnathort at their February Meeting to a packed town hall in Milnathort. Milnathort and Kinross are being targeted for a large number of houses. Crook of Devon also has a large housing site identified. I would urge everyone to have a look at the Called for Sites Map. It can be seen on the Perth & Kinross Council website or I can email you a copy. It is important when looking at it that we identify possible community benefits that could be requested if a particular housing site is chosen.

Kinross and Milnathort Connectivity

THE RECENT emergency closure of the Muirs in February showed the precarious nature of the connections between Milnathort and Kinross. The closure resulted in the following;

- All bus services in Milnathort and north Kinross were suspended
- A diversion route along the A977 to Rumbling Bridge, then on to Yetts of Muckhart then back to Milnathort via the A91

This is all a result of the lack of infrastructural investment locally. We really need a fully integrated junction on the M90 at Milnathort. If we build more and more houses as part of LDP 3, (nearly all the sites proposed are north of Springfield Road), this will put further strain on the Muirs and Springfield Road.

We need to improve the connectivity between our two largest settlements. The upgrade of junction 7 would do that. Unfortunately this is not seen as a priority by Transport Scotland who manage our motorways.

Road Surfaces

FOLLOWING THE winter our roads are in a very poor state with potholes appearing everywhere. The Council are doing their best to repair the worst of them asap.

Please report any pothole you see to P & K Council or let me know about it and I will report it. It could save someone from doing serious damage to their car.

Councillor Willie Robertson



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Jim Fairlie, MSP

MANY OF YOU will already be aware of the disappointing decision by LINK to reject the application for a banking hub in Kinross, and to uphold that decision following our appeal. I appreciate how frustrating this will be, particularly to those who contributed evidence and supported our case.

Pete Wishart has set out the detail of that process, and the next steps available to us, in his column in this edition, so I would encourage you to read that for a fuller update. Please be assured that we will continue to press the case and work collectively to ensure Kinross receives fair access to essential services.

Turning to what is another very important issue for many readers, Portmoak Moss.

At the time of writing, I have just returned from a visit to Portmoak, where I met with members of the local community and representatives from the Woodland Trust to discuss the proposals for the site.

It was important to see the area first-hand and to listen directly to those who use and care about it. I was struck by its sheer beauty. It is a special place, valued by walkers, dog owners, wildlife enthusiasts and families, and I completely understand the strength of feeling locally about protecting it.

In principle, the Woodland Trust's intentions are sound. Peatland restoration plays an important role in delivering Scotland's climate objectives. Healthy peatlands store carbon, support biodiversity and contribute to our wider environmental goals; aims that the local community recognises.

However, it is equally clear that the scale of what has been proposed has caused deep concern, and not without justification. For many, this is not simply a plantation to be altered, but a living ecosystem and a cherished community woodland. The balance between environmental objectives and community wellbeing must be carefully managed.

What encouraged me during my visit was that there appears to be willingness on both sides to find a compromise. I welcome the Woodland Trust's commitment to facilitating community workshops to explore what that compromise could look like in practice. That level of engagement is essential. I made it clear that no decisions can be imposed on the community, and that they must be at the centre of any decision-making going forward.

I will be writing formally to the Woodland Trust to reinforce that message and will continue to keep a close eye on developments. I remain optimistic that, through constructive dialogue and good-faith collaboration, a solution can be found that protects both the environmental value of Portmoak Moss and its importance to the community.

Jim Fairlie, MSP



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Liz Smith, MSP

AS READERS WILL be well aware, the political 'purdah' period ahead of the dissolution of the Scottish Parliament is almost upon us. This is therefore my last column for the *Kinross Newsletter* as an MSP.



Before I stand down, I want to thank constituents right across Mid Scotland and Fife for their engagement over the last two decades. You have given me the privilege of serving four parliamentary terms and whilst I know I have not pleased everyone in terms of my political persuasion on national policy, I hope I have been able to represent you effectively when it came to your specific concerns about constituency issues.

As I leave the Scottish Parliament to concentrate my energies on other aspects of public life, I am very aware that many voters have lost trust in politics and in politicians. That worries me. This is because I believe it has potential to undermine the democratic process given more people feel disenfranchised and disillusioned. That is never good for politics.

Likewise, both within the UK and across the world, too many political leaders have been lacking integrity and lacking in respect for the rules of international engagement that promote peace and prosperity. That instability – whether within Scotland or elsewhere – is a dangerous reflection of our current approach to politics and so it is vital that the next generation of politicians can do something to address these problems. The forthcoming election is a chance to vote for politicians who will make Scotland a better place.

These opportunities will be enhanced if there are some reforms at Holyrood to ensure it is a parliament that fully lives up to voters' expectations and delivers better legislation. Just two things I would like to see change are the introduction of a Finance Bill process which would allow greater scrutiny of how government spends taxpayer's money and the election – rather than party appointment – of committee convenors. Whoever becomes the next Presiding Officer has a big task ahead to put in place reforms that will rekindle trust in the institution and therefore within politics.

What have I achieved in two decades? Well, I leave that to others to decide but I hope my work in the field of education, including the passing of my Member's Bill to allow all youngsters to access residential outdoor education, has made a difference to the opportunities that lie ahead of the next generation, and I also hope that my work representing my constituents, including those such as the former patients of the disgraced neuro-surgeon Sam Eljamel, has helped to hold government and our public agencies to account.

I hope my successors – whoever they are after the May election – will find their time in Parliament as fulfilling as I have and may I thank this Newsletter for its co-operation over the years.

Liz Smith, MSP



Pete Wishart MP

MANY OF YOU will know that we recently submitted an application for a banking hub in Kinross. I'm sorry to update you that LINK – the body responsible for assessing cash access – has rejected the application, and our subsequent appeal has also now been refused.



This is hugely disappointing. The case I jointly put forward with Jim Fairlie MSP and Councillor Richard Watters was detailed, robust and firmly grounded in evidence. It drew on the Kinross Community Action Plan, local business surveys, census data and testimony from residents, traders and community organisations. We set out clearly that Kinross has lost every bank branch, that the Post Office is increasingly unreliable and soon to lose cheque deposit services, and that businesses are being forced to travel to Dunfermline simply to deposit cash.

You can read the full submission here: www.petewishartmp.com/newsletters

We do not agree with LINK's reasoning. Their conclusion was that there is no "significant gap" in cash access locally simply does not reflect what many of you have told us. It also fails to account properly for Kinross's unique geography, our ageing population, transport barriers, and the fact that Kinross and Milnathort operate together as a service hub for a much wider rural area.

What this makes clear is that the current eligibility criteria for banking hubs are not fit for rural Scotland. A rigid 1km population test and a narrow interpretation of cash access do not capture how smaller towns function or the very real impact of losing in-person banking services.

This is not just a Kinross issue. My Scottish parliamentary colleague Maree Todd MSP has lodged a parliamentary petition calling for a review of access to cash in rural areas and reform of the FCA rules and LINK criteria. This follows similar challenges she has faced in her own constituency.

Jim, Richard and I have all signed the petition, and I would encourage anyone who shares our concerns to consider adding their name: petition.parliament.uk/petitions/751773

Although this decision is deeply frustrating, it is not the end of the matter. We can submit a fresh application in 12 months' time, and we fully intend to do so. In the meantime, we will continue pressing for reform of the criteria so that they properly reflect rural realities and are fair to communities like Kinross.

There is no doubt that Kinross needs and deserves better access to essential banking services, and we will keep making that case.

Pete Wishart, MP

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SARAH RANKIN COOKS

THE HUMBLE BEETROOT is a year-round favourite of mine for its versatility and deliciousness. It is nutrient rich with an earthy, sweet flavour and a rather impressive range of health benefits. It's packed with vitamins, minerals and powerful plant compounds, which can help to reduce inflammation, support heart health and lower blood pressure. It's also high in fibre, a must-have for good digestion and healthy gut biomes which apparently, we can't go 5 minutes without hearing about.

It is never so delicious as when roasted, and this superfood salad has just the right balance of healthy ingredients and well, bacon. So you can feel virtuous, while also eating something that brings pleasure, and as I've already mentioned, bacon.



ROASTED BEETROOT AND KALE SALAD

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

1 bunch or pack of beetroot, cooked and cut into wedges
 200g kale, roughly chopped and any thick ribs removed
 1 tsp crushed fennel seeds
 100g chopped pancetta
 1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
 1 tbsp maple syrup
 50ml veg stock
 Juice of half a lemon
 50g pecans, roughly chopped
 Oil for frying
 Salt and pepper



Preheat the oven to 180°C fan.

Toss the beetroot in a little oil with the crushed fennel seeds, salt and pepper and roast for 25 – 25 minutes until tender.

Toast the pecans in a dry pan.

Chop the pancetta until crisp and set aside, saving the oil released while cooking. Wash the kale and cook for 2 minutes in the veg stock. Drain and reserve the stock. Add that and the reserved oil to a

small pan on a very low heat and add the mustard, maple syrup and lemon juice. Whisk together and remove from the heat.

Add the kale, beetroot and pancetta to a large bowl and drizzle over the warm dressing. Toss together gently and scatter over the toasted pecans, finishing with a little lemon zest.

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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.



PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL
KINROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BY-ELECTION
TIMETABLE

Notice of Election		Thursday 19 February 2026
Close of nominations and submission of 50 word statement to support nomination	By 4pm	Thursday 12 March 2026
If there are less than 50% of nominations for the whole community council area received by close of nominations, the Returning Officer shall extend the period for receipt of nominations by 5 days.	By 4pm	Tuesday 17 March 2026
In the event of less nominations than vacancies being received publish the Notice of Results of those duly elected		Friday 13 March 2026/ Wednesday 18 March 2026
Date of Election (if no ballot required)		Thursday 26 March 2026

If after close of nominations/extended nomination period MORE nominations than vacancies are received the election will be suspended until after the Scottish Parliament Elections to be held on 7 May 2026.

Key dates to support the election will be issued after the 7 May 2026.

Kinross Community Council News from the February Meeting

Present on Monday 9 February were: Cllrs D West, C Collins, R Gilmour, H Collins and M West, W Robertson, N Freshwater and R Watters, and one MoP

Apologies: PC B Samson, Police Scotland, Cllr D Cuthbert

CAP

The Community Action Plan (CAP) will be launched at the end of March at the Better Place to Live Fair (BPTLF). The report has been printed and it is intended to deliver to all households in Kinross. Some will also be sent to Council. The CAP, importantly, highlights the communities request that no more housing will be put on BCA site as well as other clear wishes of the community.

CAP finances to be completed by end of March. Congratulations to the steering group for an excellent document.

Local Place Plan

Progress is being made. There will be a consultation at the BPTLF. This will then be adopted and sent to the council.

New Email Address

We now have this email address contact@kinrosscommunitycouncil.gov.uk. To be updated in Newsletter and website.

Planning

There was nothing of note. To ask Milnathort CC about the Burleigh Spa and Lodge development to see if we can support.

Reports From Local Councillors

Willie Robertson – the traffic light work has begun. Local councillors and CCS have done their very best to stop this work, there have been lots of complaints already.

Budget process – a huge shortfall in social care budget is worrying

Gallowhill Road – increased traffic is a concern here, popular walking and cycling routes are soon to be joined up thanks to TRACKS

R Watters – Lathro drainage issues, blockages were found. Scottish Water making Persimmon complete a survey. SUDS pond not up to standard. Other issues and major work required to fix the sewage leaks.

Park and Ride – changes coming to bike parking area etc. Surveys done – feed back to Kinross Committee **Action RW**. Suggestion to add parking space boundary lines to the Bypass Road as there are not enough spaces. This would narrow the road which would also slow traffic. Discussion ensued on charging for car parking. No one was in favour.

Banking Hub Appeal – appeal was also refused. The main consideration seems to be access to cash as the crow flies (Dunfermline). Next step would be Financial Conduct Authority.

Neil Freshwater MoP reports issues with mobility scooter at Talla Park. Unadopted Road. Dropped kerb needs improvement.

Comments from CCLrs

Gentleman who has been seen out sawing trees for firewood is reportedly trying to keep warm with wood burning stove. To be referred for help/advice.

Potholes – very problematic at the moment. Keep reporting.

Gallowhill Road benches – is there another good site?

Heritage Trail Benches - NatureScot will either replace or refurbish

Kinross-shire Committee

Items for discussion

Average speed cameras update

Park and Ride Crossing at Station Road

Kinross-shire Flag

Comments from the Floor

MoP asked about the potential to plant trees to block out motorway noise and to act as a buffer between motorway and housing near Davies Park. KCC will find out who owns the land (AMEY?) and then local councillor will help with access

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Community Council News

to trees, many available from Woodland Trust and Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust.

Issue at power lines, with one side having vegetation cut down to 2m high but the other taken right down to grass level. Extreme cutting by Scottish Power? They can be asked to review.

Pot holes: St Mary's Place. MoP advised to log on council website where all potholes can be logged for action by anyone. Refuse bins – Bins are being damaged/vandalised in Davies park. This has happened repeatedly and it was suggested they be drilled down at the base so they can't be removed so easily.

AOCB

Roadworks on Muirs show how easily we can be cut off with ridiculous diversions between Milnathort and Kinross. LDP3 – motorway Milnathort junction would have solved the issue! Discuss with MOCC alternative routes.

The next meeting of Kinross Community Council is on Monday 9 March 2026 in Loch Leven Community Campus. All are welcome to attend.

Milnathort and Orwell Community Council News from the December Meeting

Present at the meeting on 11 December were CCllrs N Bingham, K Heneghan, A Wanless, J McCracken, D Dingwall, Cllrs N Freshwater and R Watters and two members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs Dave Cuthbert and Willie Robertson, PC Ben Sampson.

EGM: As this meeting was in part our Extraordinary General Meeting, Cllr Neil Freshwater began by confirming our newly elected committee. CCllr Neill Bingham confirmed as chair and existing committee members in position will remain. CCllr Donald Dingwall appointed as Data Protection Officer.

Police Matters

The police were not present at the meeting but hope to attend our meeting in January.

Actions from previous meeting

The CC were delighted to hear, that following a matter raised by a member of public regarding the asbestos fly tipping in a field at the rear of Orwell Church, that this has now been cleared. Thanks were given to Cllr Richard Watters who had raised this with PKC and SEPA. Cllr Watters advised that PKC were very proactive on this issue. There was a discussion about Mawcarse Junction, which has seen several accidents recently. The CC asked about possible safety measures, including visible warning signs on the road surface and speed reduction.

Correspondences

Correspondences to MOCC were received from PKC on the proposed Grow Wild Areas. This will be discussed at our

meeting in February with an invitation to members of the public to attend.

Roads

PKC have confirmed that it is possible to control lights at the crossing on South Street and will liaise with Kirsteen Ross about the timings on crossings to consider the Friday Community Bike Bus.

A MOP raised the issue of parking on Church Street and whether it would be possible to remind drivers that it is a one-way street. PKCllr Neil Freshwater will raise a note to PKC for white line painting and one-way street signs.

Speedwatch

CCllr Neill Bingham has spoken at the Kinross-shire committee regarding Speedwatch. The plan going forward is, for all CCs to nominate a representative from their committee to be the point of contact. Then a planned diary can be set up and equipment shared accordingly. MOCC will organise a lockable container to store equipment.

Planning

The proposed windfarm at Craighead has been approved. The proposed windfarm at Brunt Hill received no objection from planning committee at PKC; awaiting decision from Energy Consents Unit.

EDP Development Plan

The CC discussed the Local Development Plan (LDP3), and the proposed sites contained in initial report. With a significant number of houses being proposed over various sites in and around Milnathort and Kinross it was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next CC meeting.

Milnathort Primary School

A report from Ms Hutchison was read out and shows what a busy and productive last few weeks of term has been at MPS. Christmas lunch, Nursery sing-a-long and a hugely successful Christmas Fayre. The Book Sale in November raised close to £350. Primary 4 organised a very successful Broken not Broken donation as part of their enterprise learning with Ms Sarah Fowler their ECP link. The active Pupil Council created a speeding banner which is currently displayed on the school perimeter fence. Pupils were delighted to see their artwork displayed in shop windows for the Christmas Market and thanks Heaven Scent for donating money for the art supplies. Bikeability continues with children being supported throughout the school in learning how to ride bikes safely. A team of Education Officers and Headteachers will visit the school in January as part of the Quality Improvement Review.

Milnathort Core Paths Update

CCllr Kevin Heneghan from the Milnathort Core Paths Group (MCPG) updated the CC on recent work. MCPG has completed the work on the access/egress point of the newly reinstated



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Core Path running from the footbridge at the golf course to Burleigh Road where it exits opposite Mayfield Gardens. The access / egress point was via a section of broken wall, leading straight onto the road itself. It was dangerous and wasn't the original access/egress point. On Monday 17 November MCPG repaired the broken wall and opened up the correct access point that safely leads onto the pavement. We erected a waymarker so that the Path is now clearly identified. A waymarker at the other end of the Path where it joins the golf course Path will be erected shortly. Our application to the Green Living Fund (about controlling Giant Hogweed in this area) was successful. I attended a "winners event" on the 27th November. We're very grateful to be supported by the Green Living Fund. MCPG will be cutting back overgrowth and widening some Core Paths over the next few months, there's still plenty to do.

Councillors' Reports

Cllr Richard Watters informed the committee of the recent mapping exercise completed in Milnathort on 3 December 2025. This exercise looked especially at the state of roads and pavements in the community. A report is being prepared for Mr D McEwan, PKC's Road Safety Officer and it's hoped this will be shared with the community for consultation.

The next meeting (second Thursday of each month) will be held on 12 March 2026, 7.30pm at Milnathort Town Hall.

Glenfarg Community Council

The next Glenfarg Community Council meeting will be held on Monday 2 March.

Fossoway & District Community Council

News from the February Meeting

Present at the meeting on 3 February were Cllrs) N Freshwater & W Robertson: CCllrs A Cheape, J Hampson, K Morrill, H Wallace, G Pye, G Whittington, G Blundel; Associate CCllr C Farquhar; 12MoP:

Apologies: CCllr M O'Byren, Community Police Officer

Community Police Report

Police Scotland were unable to attend but provided a written update. Key points included:

- Ongoing speeding concerns in Carnbo, Crook of Devon and Powmill remain a priority.
- Speed checks continue in these areas.
- Any permanent traffic measures fall under PKC / Transport Scotland.
- Police visited Fossoway Primary School on 30 January; safeguarding matters are being reviewed by the school and Council.



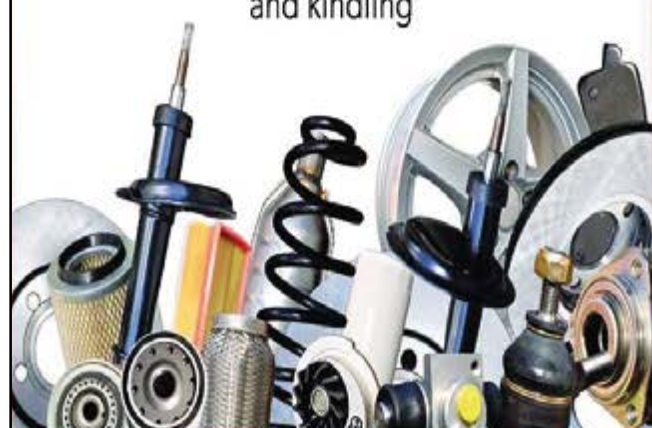
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Community Council News

Progress and Matters Arising

Recruitment:

Gary Whittington (Powmill) and Greg (Rumbling Bridge) were proposed and seconded as new co-opted members. Anya Bacon expressed interest and we hope to invite her to join FDCC in an allowable capacity that fits with the PKC process.

Seamab School:

Letter sent to MSP Jim Fairlie on 19th January – awaiting a reply.

Invitation sent to Seamab CEO; meeting provisionally scheduled for late March. 3x FDCC members will attend.

Concerns raised by residents regarding litter, animal safety and communication. FDCC will raise these during the meeting and explore a named liaison contact and regular engagement.

Powmill Recycling Bins:

No replacement site identified yet. PKC continue investigations.

Flooding – Powmill Bridge:

Issue remains unresolved. PKC order raised (Category C) with expected action by mid-February.

Potholes – Pitfar:

Awaiting confirmation of incident report; Councillors advised reporting via PKC system.

Kinross Committee Minutes:

December minutes received and will be shared.

Traveller's Site – Crook of Devon:

£5k allocated for waste removal. Awaiting confirmation on skips, labour and access control.

New Business

20mph Trial:

Councillors confirmed an 18-month bedding-in period. Data collection and community consultation will inform outcomes.

Flood Management Consultation:

FDCC invited to comment; views to be gathered before response.

LDP3 Engagement:

Community engagement event planned; update provided.

Liquor Licence – Crook of Devon Store:

Further information requested before FDCC comment.

Consultations

Invitation received to comment on Blairingone masterplan. Members sought to attend meeting on 12th February.

Community Council Business

Meeting frequency (11 per year) to be continued unchanged. Hydro Fund application for admin support – proposed spend is eligible from the financial support provided annually by the Hydro Fund. Discussion on purchase specifics to be confirmed by FDCC.

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Parish Online licence renewal approved.

Proposal to engage Kinross High School students on community engagement supported.

PKC Business

Councillors provided updates including road safety and Traveller's site progress.

Planning Matters

25/01811/FLL – No CC comment.

25/01825/LBC – No CC comment.

The next meeting of Fossoway CC will be on Tuesday 3 March 2026 at Powmill Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Fossoway Development Trust

The next Members Meeting will be on 24 March 2026, from 7-9pm at Moubray Hall, Powmill.

Cleish & Blairadam Community Council

News from the February Meeting

Present at the meeting on 2 February were Charles MacLaren, Sean Gordon, Simon Jenkins, Jes Bunce

Apologies: F Principe-Gillespie, F Whalley Cllrs W Robertson, R Watters, D Cuthbert, N Freshwater

Kinross High School Update

Jillian Shaw (Headteacher) and Nayyarah Bilal (School Captain) attended to provide an update on the activities and plans, and to connect with broader community which is served by Kinross High School.

Updates were provided on the activities of the S6 pupils and their work with local charities and community activities such as Polio Awareness and Rachel House

Future events include an afternoon tea on 27 February, which will be raising funds for this year's school charities - UNICEF and Cancer Research UK. Tickets for the Afternoon Tea can be purchased by contacting Jillian Shaw (KinrossHigh@pkc.gov.uk) One of Kinross High School's latest initiatives is "Ambitious Attire", which has now been running for a of couple months. This is a school charity shop for a uniform, (separate to the uniform order system), and is targeted for pupils who may have forgotten their uniform on the day, and pupils in the school who are from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. Uniform packages can be ordered with, for example, two trousers, three shirts and a tie and a jumper or a cardigan.

Kinross High School also has around 20 pupil mental health ambassadors who help promote mental health, and who will be supporting the upcoming Mental Health.

Kinross High School also has a Pupil Parliament which engages the pupils in discussing key topics of importance to the pupils, including a recent debate on the use of mobile phones in schools; a topic which has been getting press coverage around the globe.

Crime Prevention & Police Report

No crimes reported since the last CC Meeting in December, however 11 speeding and traffic offences were reported on the M90.

Correspondence

Several representations were received from concerned members of the community relating to planning violations – these are covered in the Planning Section.

Request for Input from SEPA for input into the new flood risk management plan. At this stage the request for input relates to identified "at risk" areas, however there are none of these areas within our CC area. There are identified areas in adjacent CC areas, so the CC is encouraging individuals to review the

plan and to comment if there is an impact on their travel or activities beyond our CC area.

<https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/frmp-phase-1-consultation/>

Kinross-shire Civic Trust copied the CC on their input to the recent Call for Sites in the PKC LDP.

The Community Council will review this feedback and provide our own in relation to areas within our parish.

Cyber Security Guidance was recently issued by Police Scotland in relation to the heightened Cyber Security threats across the UK. This is available to download from the CC website <https://cleishandblairadam.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/police-scotland-cyber-security-alert.pdf>

Drainage

Cleish

There are still on-going problems with the gullies in Cleish, particularly in the Borland area.

Multiple attempts have been made to raise a request to have these gullies cleaned via the PKC Portal, however each time a new request is entered the system automatically closes the request with a response that the gullies are on the existing cleaning schedule.

Financial Update

Current state of accounts shows a balance of £897.70

The CC are still paying ongoing bank charges to Bank of Scotland which are in excess of £60 per year, so the CC plans to move the account to RBS.

The CC agreed to restart the subscription to the APRS (Scotland's Countryside Charity) [<https://aprs.scot>]. This subscription was paused last year due to a lack of CC funds.

CC agreed to purchase a laptop for use by the CC members, and to support the virtual meetings and secretarial work.

Kinross-shire Committee

CC agreed to rotate the attendees to this committee to ensure that each CC member can attend.

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

25/01331/FLL Siting of a residential caravan (in retrospect)

Land 150 Metres North of Benview Benarty Road Kelty.

Enforcements

25/00002/ALUNDV Alleged unauthorised erection of a garden building at Hillview Kinnaird Blairadam

Blairforge – Concerns were again raised about the continued lack of enforcement by PKC of the numerous planning violations which have been allowed to proceed unchecked over the last several years.

The residents and CC are requesting an update from PKC and the Elected Local Councillors.

Borrowdale – Several residents have contacted the CC and PKC planning to raise concerns about the level of excavation carried out on this site, and the lack of any shoring up of the vehicle access track to the South of the plot. In addition, a large static caravan has now been installed in this plot without any planning permission, and a significant amount of damage has been inflicted on the pavement to the East of the plot, rendering it dangerous to use for foot traffic due to the amount of dirt and debris.

The residents and CC are requesting an update from PKC and the Elected Local Councillors.

Local Place Plan

The registration of the Cleish and Blairadam Local Place Plan is proceeding. The CC has received a request for clarification on two points in the plan, relating to additional parking in Keltybridge and the actual routes of local paths. The CC will respond with the requested information.

Village Updates

Blairadam

Pavement Parking – The problem with inconsiderate residents parking on the pavements and rendering them impassible to foot traffic continues!

Cleish

Cleish Village Trust – Negotiations with Church of Scotland regarding purchase are continuing, and funding is progressing well with £20,000 still to find. Further fundraising events are planned.

Any Other Business

Maintenance of the Secession Monument at Gairney Bridge – This monument is believed to be the responsibility of PKC and is in need of some maintenance due to the damage being caused to it by a nearby tree.

The next meeting date of Cleish and Blairadam CC is Monday 6 April in Cleish Village Hall.

Portmoak Community Council News from the December Meeting

Present at the meeting on 9 December were Cllr W Robertson; Cllrs A Miller, K Donaldson, A Davidson, S McGregor, A Clark, L Hatch, J Horal, G Marshall, and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: Police Liaison

Matters Arising

Kinross-shire Committee and other Committee updates: The Chair had attended last meeting on 04/12/25. There were a lot of agenda items which fall under other categories of road safety etc. but the Chair highlighted a couple of the other items discussed. Chloe Rodger, a PKC Grow Wild Officer, had spoken and advised of funding through P&K, Grow Wild greening project, <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/wildlife>, to provide seeds to any local organisations who would like to put in some wilding or any other projects that meet the criteria. Grow Wild had mapping available at this link showing active projects. The local In-Bloom organisations would be the obvious candidates for this.

The KC also discussed Fairer Communities for All: a fund for Community improvements. Essentially it is to secure funding for organisations who want to make an overall improvement in their area, to encourage integration through all parts of their communities. Cllr W Robertson highlighted the info is available at PKC website, (fund is now closed for applications until 2026.)

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Community Council News

Kinross-shire Active Travel Master Plan: discussed at KC. No large changes since Nov 25 meeting. The ARAP report has been prepared for all active travel routes and actively pursuing an App for all of Kinross-shire. It is a massive project, to input such large amounts of data. Underlying emphasis is that project should roll out for all of PKC, but that Kinross-shire could be used as a pilot project. Perhaps in time to include Fife routes. WRobertson added his concern that the project has to be sustainable, that wider P&K funded by PKC council would be better rather than applying for funding for just Kinross-shire.

Portmoak Travel Plan

Chair had connected with Drew Smart, who reiterated the difficulties in getting a local bus service up and running through Portmoak, due to funding and existing Stagecoach bus services as highlighted previously. Hope for some developments through 2026.

Road Safety Action Update: Discussed at KC at length. There had been a very unfortunate accident in Scotlandwell with an S1 pupil injured by a car while crossing the road from school bus. The pupil is now back at school and PCC wish her a continued and speedy recovery. All the Kinross-shire CCs were in attendance and PKC Roads officer D McKeown acknowledged the problems of controlling speed within restricted zones. It was felt that the multiple speed zones, and other speed mitigations such as VAS and build-outs were not doing much to control speed or change driver behaviour through Kinross-shire villages. The potential introduction of Average Speed Cameras (ASC) was interesting. D McKeown informed that ASCs are operated by Police Scotland and Bear, in a joint partnership. D McKeown to make enquiries to Police Scotland and Bear as to how to move this project forward. W Robertson pointed out that KC exists to do things differently where appropriate. Chair had impressed on Road Officers that trialling ASC in Kinross is something that the local CCs were interested to try. North West of Kinross-shire PKC have been putting in cross-road speed cushions, which is a deviation from normal Roads Policy. D McEown said he would be willing to highlight areas that he felt would benefit from these introductions in Kinross-shire. Cllr W Robertson and the other Cllrs thought it was important to be more flexible to new ideas and think outside the box, particularly due to cost. Member of public from Scotlandwell voiced concerns about the speeds of traffic going through the village between the speed mitigation at either end of the village. It was agreed that this was a common problem.

Speedwatch: was discussed at KC, Chair had managed to speak to a new representative who has taken over from Allan Macrae at Milnathort & Orwell, and requested PCC to refresh the notes of interest from any volunteers.

Scotlandwell to Portmoak Church Path: no update. The land adjacent to the road on the South side which has previously discussed for the path to traverse has appeared in the Call for Sites for LDP3, but this does not mean that development is a given. The land is only proposed at present for inclusion in the LDP3.

Adoption of road: Wellside Park, Scotlandwell: W Robertson provided an update from PKC: can't adopt Wellside Park until the works are completed. W Robertson is still hopeful for adoption in early 2026

New Matters:

Call for Sites – Local Development Plan (LDP3): Call for Sites. Essentially a list of sites and plans submitted to PKC with a view to potentially being developed. This does not mean the sites will be adopted or developed. The info. on the Call for Sites had been shared across PCC and to subscribers and on Portmoak Community FB. Cllr W Robertson asked the PCC to decide what is most acceptable with regard to the sites that are proposed and work out any benefits the Community could expect to flow from proposed development. Some areas may have Community benefit where others will not have any. PCC have talked about the path from Scotlandwell to Church. A Resident from Scotlandwell was very concerned about the proposed site in Scotlandwell between the Church and Scotlandwell and asked to speak to the Chair about the potential objections, the Chair agreed to assist.

J Hornal talked about Community Assets and how to include these, such as car parking. The Secretary asked W Robertson to clarify certain points around the Call for Sites: firstly that there was no point in raising objections for any particular site before the first Draft LDP3 was produced which would be the late Spring of 2026.

W Robertson confirmed that this was the case. There was no PKC set amounts for allocation of different types of development within Portmoak. If sites were ultimately included in the final LDP3, then a site allocated for any designation e.g. housing could be subject to change for a different use at time of future planning application, LDP3 is a plan and may be subject to change. Brown-field sites would be favoured over green-field.

Portmoak Moss – Peatland Restoration Project:

Woodland Trust Consultation Meeting in Portmoak Hall from 3- 7 Wed 10/12/25. The Secretary had circulated details to Subscribers and FB. The Chair encouraged residents to attend the consultation meeting to review the plans and address concerns directly to the Woodland Trust. PCC members had reviewed plans and had received representation from local residents in opposition to the plans and the members had agreed to make a holding objection to the Proposals. Chair to draft letter to Woodland Trust.

Scottish Airspace Modernisation – Proposed Airspace Changes & Effects On Portmoak Gliding:

John Williams of the Scottish Gliding Union (SGU) gave a presentation. There are currently three different airspace change proposals from Edinburgh, Glasgow, and National Air Traffic Spaces (NATS) who do upper air space. SGU have been waiting almost 30yrs to see a modernisation of Scottish Airspace, as the airspace was designed for old low speed aircraft and is no longer suitable for the current situation, amendments have been made piecemeal in the interim. John Williams gave a synopsis of the changes, for which there was considerable documentation. In Portmoak there should not be a great deal of change to aircraft flying over Portmoak, the location is well outside the main routes. Other issues may affect the Gliding Club. Proposed routes are out over the Forth which is good from perspective of noise pollution. Edinburgh have confirmed they will use the most modern technology for



scheduling aircraft to allow for steeper descents and ascents which mean smaller footprint of airspace. Edinburgh however, want more airspace extended out towards Glasgow. Gliding Club are concerned about this latter aspect. NATS are making a hold over the Loch Lomond National Park, where there is currently very little traffic, and trying to make this a controlled airspace where it is an important flying space for the SGU. The SGU are going to attempt to negotiate their position. Portmoak residents should not experience much change. Balado Airfield may not be affected as their aircraft don't usually fly as high as the gliders do. In terms of activity out of Portmoak Gliding Club the proposals will directly impact the club, and the proposals, if they go ahead as they are, may significantly impact the viability of the club. PCC members agreed to make a representation on behalf of the Gliding Club, and the Chair looked to G Marshall, a member of the SGU, to keep PCC apprised of progress and draft a letter of representation in support of the SGU on behalf of PCC.

Pupils' Parliament – Introduction & Update On Current Projects:

Jason Bain, Deputy Head Teacher, and Alex Yaw, a pupil from S6, joined the meeting. The Pupils' Parliament (PP) is in the 3rd year of operation. It is a forum that pupils can make representation on issues. Currently 55 members, S1 through to S6. Projects in the past have included: Participatory budgeting; they have re-established the climbing wall; they have given high quality feedback on bullying and the school curriculum. Alex Yaw, KHS School Captain, talked about some of the events the PP have been involved in: the Annual Christmas Video in a festive theme, nice tradition that has been going for a few years, he is currently confirming filming dates and school pupils and staff members will be involved; also organising leaving activities for last day: the Celebrations Committee take lead undertaking tasks between the School Houses on the day; Alex Yaw will be leading the school assembly. In 2025 they have been trying to encourage more pupils to be involved in the organisation.

The PP have been debating and gauging opinion on many topics of improvement around the school. Students wanted more specific feedback from teachers and lessons, and more revision in class. Students also felt they did not have good revision skills and would like to learn better how to revise. The PP held a Mobile 'phones debate and discovered mobiles are viewed positively among students. PP is effective way of liaising and allowing students and to have a voice on issues.

The Chair thanked Jason Bain and Alex Yaw for their contribution and remarked the PP was an ideal way to really start making changes and exploring the ways to enable these for all the age groups within KHS. And these were good skills to take forward to effecting change in other ways through life.

A Clark asked about the approaching Scottish Elections as some young KHS pupils would be eligible to vote. Jason Bain answered, educating pupils without bias on devolved power and what is relevant to the Scottish Parliament Elections.

There was an agreement for the PP to represent from time to time at PCC meetings in the future.

Drain Clearing for Winter: The Chair and G Marshall commended PKC on their swift response to clear drains in the Cobbles and Main Street in Kinnesswood. One issue was rectified and the other is yet to be resolved. Drains had also been cleared at Grahamstone, and Glenlomond. A resident from Scotlandwell pointed to a drain that was almost permanently blocked outside her house, W Robertson offered to raise this as an issue.

Reports

Police Reports

G Marshall gave a summarised the Police report had been circulated for 3 Dec '25. Portmoak Community Police Report, campaign for cyclists and for drivers to ensure they gave cyclists space when passing. There had been 9 contacts to police and 2 unspecified crimes reported. On road traffic matters, the Police reported that Community Officers are aware of regular areas where there are concerns of speeding which Police would continue to patrol. There had been 1 offence of careless driving.

Planning

Brunthill Wind Farm: informed that the Brunthill planning has been approved. Goes now to the Energy Consents Unit at ScotGov. PKC had decided not to object to the application. PCC were disappointed, but unsurprised. KC had discussed the community benefits that were potentially available to local Communities as this project was to go ahead.

Westfield Site Update

(a) Westfield Community Liaison Committee: no update. Notice of a B9097 closure from Jan – Apr, for major infrastructure works, moving a main water pipe. The Westfield Community Fund is now closed for applications. New Community Fund for the plant now in operation. Battery storage being built 2030 onwards. Plant will shut in April '26 for 2 weeks for general maintenance.

Paths Group Update:

J Hornal updated that she and A Clark were established as the new contacts for this and would report in the new year.

Treasurer CC Accounts:

No change from November

PCC Account: £ 326.27

MB Way: £1429.80

AOB

A Clark: noted that driving from Scotlandwell and turning onto B9097 towards Vane Farm, there is a distracting light that is very bright on the Scottish Water building. W Robertson suggested contacting Scottish Water directly to ask them to change it.

K Donaldson: raised concern about construction works at the Kelty end of B9097 that he wasn't sure had planning permission, the Chair offered to investigate.

Portmoak: *Perfect Place To Live*, 28th Feb, Community event free to attend for residents to engage with local organisations such as the Kinnesswood Development Trust, CC, Gliding Club, or any other local organisations that were interested to attend. Organisations interested can contact Alison at info@kinnesswood.org or see <https://kinnesswood.org/>

The next meeting of Portmoak Community Council is Tuesday 10 March at 7.30pm.



Andrew Baillie

SOLICITOR & NOTARY PUBLIC



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Kinross Day Centre

Well what about the weather! You really can't go anywhere without wellies and an umbrella; we are considering building a few boats to get about rather than the minibuses.



We have had a busy month and are now preparing for another Silent disco. Yes, you read it right. A 'Silent Disco'. We had one last month and it was fantastic I would highly recommend it to everyone. It will be on Thursday 12 March from 1.30 -3pm.

We are all looking forward to Spring, when our outings on the trishaws, picnics on the barges, and a variety of other day trips can start up again.

Kinross Centre will be closed on Thursday 26 March for Staff First Aid Training. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

If you would like to join us in the centre or know anyone that might enjoy a bit of company including a nutritious meal,

please give Nan a call on 01577 863869.

Kinross & District Men's Shed

www.kinrossmensshed.org

Down at Swansacre, Kinross and District Men's shed are looking forward to the ending of the interminable rain and the prospect of some form of Spring!



We at KDMS have plenty of plans for the coming months. Probably our biggest project is the construction of a new workshop to support our increasing membership which has been most encouraging over recent months. The workshop will add more space to our existing facility and having gained the relevant planning permission. We are hoping to commence construction in the next couple of months. KDMS is asking for a degree of sponsorship from local companies and professionals in the supply of materials and advice. If you are able to help please contact Jim McIntosh, chairman. kdms@gmail.com.

Our famed music group, 'The Shrinking Violets', is currently enjoying something of a sabbatical. The aim is improve the band's musical 'skill set' – to that end we are grateful for the input of our very patient guitar tutor Kevin Miller. 'The Shrinking Violets' looks to be back on tour mid-summer!

We occasionally venture out from our home in Swansacre on field visits. In April we are fortunate to have been invited to view the PS Waverley at her maintenance berth in Glasgow before she sets sail on her summer programme. It's a visit that has generated much interest at KDMS as we have many engineers etc. amongst our membership. We also hope to visit the West Coast Harley Davidson site in Glasgow – to satiate the appetite of our motorbike fanatics!

In the next *Newsletter* we hope to have news about our famed 'Rocking Horse' project which is reaching its conclusion. Also, just to advise that our official 'Warm Space' will stay open until the end of March (Mondays, 1pm – 3pm).



Some photos of our Burns day

KYTHE

www.kythe.org.uk



Finlay is the newest member of KYTHE having been appointed to provide maternity cover for one of the youth workers. Finlay was brought up in a Christian family and his dad works with Scripture Union (SU), so Finlay attended SU camps from a very young age and has led various groups there.



A stroke at a young age resulted in what Finlay refers to as 'a messed-up hand'. When he moved to high school, Finlay was the only one from his primary school, so he had to get to know a whole new group of people, and his 'messed-up hand' made him stand out, so this was not an easy time for him.

However various youth workers and family friends helped Finlay through this time, and they are the inspiration for Finlay's work now. After a year's work to prepare for a gap year, Finlay felt called to work in a large church in the centre of London. During his year there, Finlay worked with many young people, some living in deprived areas, others being affluent, and learnt how to adapt to this diversity, and plan activities and groups accordingly.

On his return from London, Finlay started to volunteer regularly with KYTHE and was successful in being appointed as youth-worker (maternity cover). Since starting in the middle of January, Finlay has been involved in planning for the year and will be working with specific groups and projects throughout the week, such as Chill'n'Chat, Youth Voice, Rooted, and the ever-popular Friday drop-ins.

Knowing the positive impact that youth workers had on him in his teenage years, Finlay is looking forward to building relationships with the young people he already knows, meeting new young people, and supporting them, wherever they are in their life- and faith-journeys.



Greener-Kinross-shire

www.greenerkinross-shire.org.uk

The first hints of spring are finally beginning to show, bringing with them a welcome sense of renewal. After the relentless rain of January and February, many of us are ready for brighter days, a bit more sunshine, and the return of colour to our landscapes. If the wet weather has taken a toll on you, our local Climate Café offers a supportive evening to help you get prepared: details below.

Spring is a season of possibility, and we're excited to share it with you.

Climate Café – 3 March, 7pm, Loch Leven Community Library

This month we're delighted to welcome the Scottish Flood Forum, who will be joining us with their specially adapted FLO vehicle. We'll hear a talk on flood resilience and then have the chance to step aboard the FLO to explore simple, practical ways to prepare for increased rainfall and flooding. To receive regular updates, you can join the mailing list by contacting Kara Mackay at climatecafekinrossshire@gmail.com.

Repair Café – 14 March, 10 am–12 pm, Loch Leven Campus.

Our monthly Repair Café is a friendly place to bring textiles, electrics, IT items, and household goods for repair. We also offer a simple tool-sharpening service, which can be booked in advance by following the instructions on our website. If you're planning to bring hi-fi equipment or any complex electrical item, please let us know ahead of time and arrive promptly at 10am.

Upcoming events. In May, we're thrilled to launch **Fixit Kinross** — a one-day repair festival bringing together local businesses, skilled repair experts, and enthusiastic makers to celebrate all things fixable. The event will put the circular economy at the heart of Kinross-shire, with a special upcycled fashion project designed to inspire younger participants. To help deliver this exciting programme, we'll soon be recruiting an Events Coordinator, with full details coming to our website and social channels.

At Greener Kinross-shire, we exist to turn concern into action by offering a friendly, inclusive space for anyone who wants to get involved, learn, contribute, or simply connect with



others who care about the future of our local environment.

If you enjoy fixing things or love the idea of helping items get a second life, our Repair Café — held on the second Saturday of each month — is always looking for volunteers. We're also hoping to welcome someone who can help manage our social media and website, an ideal hands-on opportunity for a media student eager to build experience.

Check our website for the details of our events, upcoming projects and to share your ideas and comments.:

Kinross Potager Garden

Follow us on Facebook.

Enquiries to Amanda James on 07963 476803 or amandajames1577@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to Spring; not too long now. Having survived such a wet winter, we all need some dry weather and sun to get out into our gardens. We planted a new cherry tree and some bulbs at the Potager Garden in the Autumn; we can see the daffodils tentatively poking their stems out of the ground. A great sign of hope for Spring.

We will be working in the garden, depending on the weather on Monday mornings, from the end of March, or hopefully, slightly earlier. If you are passing and the gates are unlocked pop in and say hello. We will be at 'The Better Place to Live Fair' at the Community Campus on Saturday 28 March and will have some early flowering plants for sale. If you would like to learn about gardening or are an experienced gardener and have a little spare time do come and chat with us or get in contact through our Facebook page. We are hoping we can add to our small group of friendly volunteers this season.



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Kinross & Ochil Walking Group

(Affiliated to Ramblers Scotland)

www.ramblers.org.uk/kinross-ochil

Unfortunately, we have had to walk in the rain recently. However, as you can see from our smiling faces this has not dampened the mood.

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 3 March, Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood Circular

Walk from Scotlandwell to Kinnesswood, returning via Portmoak Moss. Great views over Loch Leven and the surrounding hills. From Portmoak Moss a short detour to see the Scotlandwell wash house and well.

Tuesday 17 March, Culross to Preston Island Circular

From the Culross East car park the walk starts along the shore path running parallel to the railway, then follows the gravel path around the 'island' with views of the Forth bridges and remains of the mining and salt industries before turning inland and returning to the start.

Tuesday 31 March, Townhill Loch and Woods

From the car park the walk follows the path clockwise around the lake before turning off along the old railway embankment and continuing with a walk through Townhill Woods, eventually returning to complete the circuit of the Loch.

Weekend Longer Walks

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

Sunday 1 March, Balbirnie and Star Moss

A delightful walk through Balbirnie Estate, past the ancient Stob Cross and a Victorian graveyard. Then along a footpath, ascending a small steep hill and over the fields to the pretty village of Star. Return mainly via a footpath. A leisurely 5.5 miles.

Saturday 14 March, Collessie and Monimail Circular

The walk passes through the historic hamlet of Collessie and proceeds north over Cairney Hill, then returns south on part of the Pictish Trail (a 750 km cycle route between Caithness and Edinburgh) to Monimail and the renovated 13th century Bishop's Tower.

The terrain is quiet roads, tracks and open fields with the odd fence climb.

Sunday 29 March, House of the Binns and Abercorn

This walk follows part of the John Muir Way to Hopetoun House and Abercorn.

Fairly good paths and tracks. Lovely views of the Firth of Forth and Blackness Castle

For further details of how to book a place and where to meet us for walks or for general enquiries, please contact: Carol Wilkinson on 07375 058542.

Kinross-shire u3a

u3asites.org.uk/Kinross/home

Find us on Facebook

kinross-shire.u3asite.uk

Kinross-Shire u3a Speaker Meeting on Tuesday 3 March 2026 in Kinross Parish Church.

A member of our u3a Committee will be talking about British Adaptive Rower and Cyclist, David Smith MBE, holder of gold medals for the 2011 World Rowing Championships and the 2012 Summer Paralympics and who is also an Inspirational Speaker for Nike.

The BBC ran a documentary of his life in 2015 called 'Dead Man Cycling'. Speaker Meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month from September 2025 to April 2026 with the AGM held in May 2026.

Annual Membership £15 full member and £10 Associate Member (Member of another u3a).

We have 12 current Interest Groups:

Places of Interest, Film and Theatre, Famous Scots, Book Club, Gardening Group, Wine Group, Scrabble, Rummikub, Wine Tasting, Genealogy, Walking Group, Gentle Exercise.

New Members Welcome.



Kinross Camera Club

www.kinrosscameraclub.wordpress.com

Find us on Facebook

The Digital Knockout competition held recently was won by Doug Carrie with his image called 'Winter Walk' which you can see alongside this article. Chris Hopkinson was 2nd with 'Causeway Moods' while Sam Murray and Paul Kirkby shared 3rd place.

The club started the month of February with their annual AGM at which a new committee was elected including our new president, Margaret Wilcock. Many thanks to the outgoing president David Sharman for guiding the club successfully for the last 5 years, including some difficult times during covid, and good luck to all the incoming committee members.

We have another varied and exciting set of meetings lined up for March. On Thursday 5 March there is the Thackery print competition which will be judged by George Robertson from Glasgow and on Thursday 12 March we have our final practical evening of the year in the church hall where members will get an opportunity to practice their camera skills. Then on Thursday 19 March we have a talk over Zoom from Stan Farrow called 'Abstract Photography'. Stan is well known for his abstract images and has won many prestigious awards. Our final meeting in March is a new competition this year which is simply for any member who has not been placed in the top 3 of any other competition in the last couple of years.

If you are interested in finding out more about the club, please visit our website or Facebook page where you can keep up to date with what is happening and/or enquire about joining.



Our photo this month is called 'Winter Walk' by Doug Carrie.

Kinross Radio Model Flying Club (KRMFC)

krmfc.bmfa.club

Find us on Facebook



For yet another month the weather has been very challenging for flying and at the time of writing there has only been around two or three days through January and the first half of February that have been suitable. On the positive side one of our club members did get to the field with his large glider



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in early February and even managed to catch a few thermals (or maybe steam rising from soaking wet cows!). We remain very optimistic for the rest of the year!

As a result of the weather, this month's picture is a blast from the past, it was taken in early Dec of last year and features a couple of helicopters owned by Billy Wilkie. The one on the left is XL Power Specter v2 700 fitted with an OS105 nitro engine and the one on the right is a SAB Kraken 700 fitted with a YS120srx nitro engine. Both these models use a flybarless system which means a flight controller is continually monitoring the model's position using a gyroscope and adjusting the rotor positions automatically when needed.

It has now been a full year since our new website went online and it is working very well for us. The technical aspects of the site (like backups) are done for us by the British Model Flying Association (BMFA) so all that is left for us to do is put up new content which is a great arrangement.

The latest club newsletter came out in February and while the "Activity at the Field" section was thinner than usual due to the weather, the edition still ran to 25 pages and covered a variety of topics including items for sale, the latest build projects and up and coming events. All of our newsletters are available for anyone to read on the club website.

By the time you read this, most of our members will have been at the Balbedie Bring and Buy sale which takes place in mid February. This is a local event held in Portmoak Village Hall where all manner of aeromodelling parts are bought and sold, ranging from small propellers all the way up to complete flying models. There are always good bargains to be had!

In general, If you just want to see what we are up to, the best way to see that is on our Facebook page (search for Kinross Radio Model Flying Club). If you are interested in joining the club please use the contact form on the club website.

KLEO

Acoustic Open Mic nights at Green Hotel

KLEO member Nigel Ewen has been organising Acoustic Open Mic evenings for a few years now and the local talent these evenings have attracted has been amazing!

The Open Mic evenings are for anyone who would like to play a couple of songs in a live situation. Or, feel free to come and listen! Sessions take place every third Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm in the lounge of the Green Hotel. The next session is on Wednesday 18 March. For more information please text Nigel on 07758 559187.



Kinross Farmers' Markets

The Kinross Farmers' Markets will start again in April, with the first market on **Saturday 25 April from 10am-2pm** on the High Street of Kinross. The following market dates will be on every 4th Saturday of the month from April to October (apart from the July market, there will not be a market that month). Dates thus being: 25 Apr, 23 May*, 27 June, 22 Aug*, 26 Sept and 24 Oct from 10am-2pm. For the markets the High Street will be closed from entrance Burns Begg Street to entrance Montgomery Street. *

*Like last year the 23 May Spring Market and 22 August Summer Market will be bigger markets and will take place at the Market Park from 10am to 3pm.

Kinross Kacophony Orchestra

The Kacophony orchestra 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 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 per session.

Leven Voices is a fun, informal drop-in community singing group which you can join anytime. No music reading or

singing experience is necessary. Tuesday evenings with tutor David McLean, 7.30pm-9.30pm at Kinross Parish Church. Fee is £4 a session.

Kinross Community Folk Group

Dust off your instruments and come along. We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1pm to 3pm at St Paul's Church Hall on the Muirs. Fee is £3 a session to pay for the hall and coffee/teas. Any queries contact Ian Hardie 07941 847657.

For more information about KLEO events go to www.kleo.org.uk or e-mail info@kleo.org.uk

Loch Leven Library

www.culturepk.org.uk

Tel: 01577 867205.

Email lochlevenlibrary@culturepk.org.uk.



Opening Times

Monday	10am-1pm*
Tuesday	10am-7pm
Wednesday	10am-6pm
Thursday	10am-7pm
Friday	10am-6pm
Saturday	10am-1pm & 1-3pm*
Sunday	Closed

* Reduced service with volunteers. Please make sure you have your library card with you if you wish to take out books.

Storytelling - Join us for our storytelling sessions from 4pm - 4.30pm every Tuesday. Our storytelling sessions are suitable for primary-aged children. Booking is not required.

Bookbug sessions are held at Loch Leven Community Library every Wednesday afternoon from 2pm - 2.30pm and Saturday morning from 10am - 10.30am. They offer fun, friendly sessions of songs, rhymes, and stories. These sessions are suitable for babies, toddlers, and preschool children to enjoy with their parents and carers. To book a space at any session, please contact Loch Leven Community Library.

Digital Skills. Are you struggling to make sense of the digital world? Would you like to learn more about your tablet, phone, laptop or any digital device? Why not pop into our IT sessions for one-to-one support? You could learn how to send emails, download apps, and surf the internet - topics covered would be specific to your needs. By taking the first step and booking a 45-minute, face-to-face session it might just make a big difference to your life. The sessions are monthly at Loch Leven Community Library, anyone interested in attending a session can book their time slot by phoning the library on 01577 867205.

A Knitting and Crochet Group meets in the library every Thursday morning from 10am. (NB this is not an instruction group, just a

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Clubs & Community Groups

group of people who enjoy coming together to knit, crochet, and natter).

Interested in writing? The next Creative Writing Group sessions will be on Wednesday 4 March from 6.30pm to 9pm. Please contact the library if you would like more information.

Did you know you can access our FREE digital resources with your library card? Visit the AppStore or Google Play and download the BorrowBox, Libby and PressReader apps for free and use your library card to access an extensive range of digital resources. The apps offer access to a wide selection of eBooks, audiobooks, eMagazines, eComics and eNewspapers. Full details can be found in your local library or online at www.culturepk.org.uk/libraries/e-library/.

Fairtrade in Kinross-shire

Exciting new products!

The next Farmers' Market is not till April, but we have exciting new chutneys, jams and marmalade from Black Mamba, which is based in Eswatini near South Africa, which will be on sale at our Fairtrade Coffee Morning on 21 March at the Kinross Centre and at the Better Place to Live Fair. Along with these we have jars of Sliced Jalapenos, Cayenne Chilli Paste, Crispy Chilli Oil and Basil & Cayenne pesto to liven up lots of dishes. Great as presents too!



Kinross in Bloom

For more information contact
susan.mitchell50@gmail.com or
daviddickson2@hotmail.co.uk.



As the sleet pours down at the time of writing it seems hard to believe that the group will receive delivery of the summer plants at the end of March. The season rolls on. Plans for the spring also include looking at some of the planters around the Kilt shop and Tartan Kipper as some of the sustainable plants are probably past their best and there is a need for more colour to enhance the townscape.

There are many groups in and around Kinross who are beaver away to improve the green environment. Kinross in Bloom were very happy to work with the staff from the Forth Rivers Trust to provide an opportunity for an interactive workshop attended by fourteen representatives from various organisations on Friday 30th January. This event was busy and purposeful. The Trust staff are looking to take on a role as Local Coordinator. Ideas such as joint events, corporate volunteering days and engaging with schools and youth were seen as being very important and perhaps more easy to achieve if coordinated by one person liaising with representatives of the various green groups. The idea of strength in numbers and mutual support can only help groups in advancing their aims to make Kinross as green an environment as possible. More information will become available throughout the year as concepts become embedded.

In the meantime all the various groups will always be happy to welcome new and existing volunteers.

200 Club winners for January and February:

January,: Susie Montgomery, Louise Scott, Bill and Barbara Belford, Linda Adams.



February: Susie Montgomery, Hilda MacPherson, Aileen Sorbie, Dianne McDiarmid

KADAC Kinross and District Art Club

January has proven to be a busy month for KADAC members with many of our artists trying to forget the miserable weather by concentrating on their artistic endeavours either for personal edification, to complete



commissions or to provide gifts for friends and family members.

The first taught workshop of the year was planned for late January with a Transatlantic video link up with

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****Worn items must be cleaned before I can work on them****

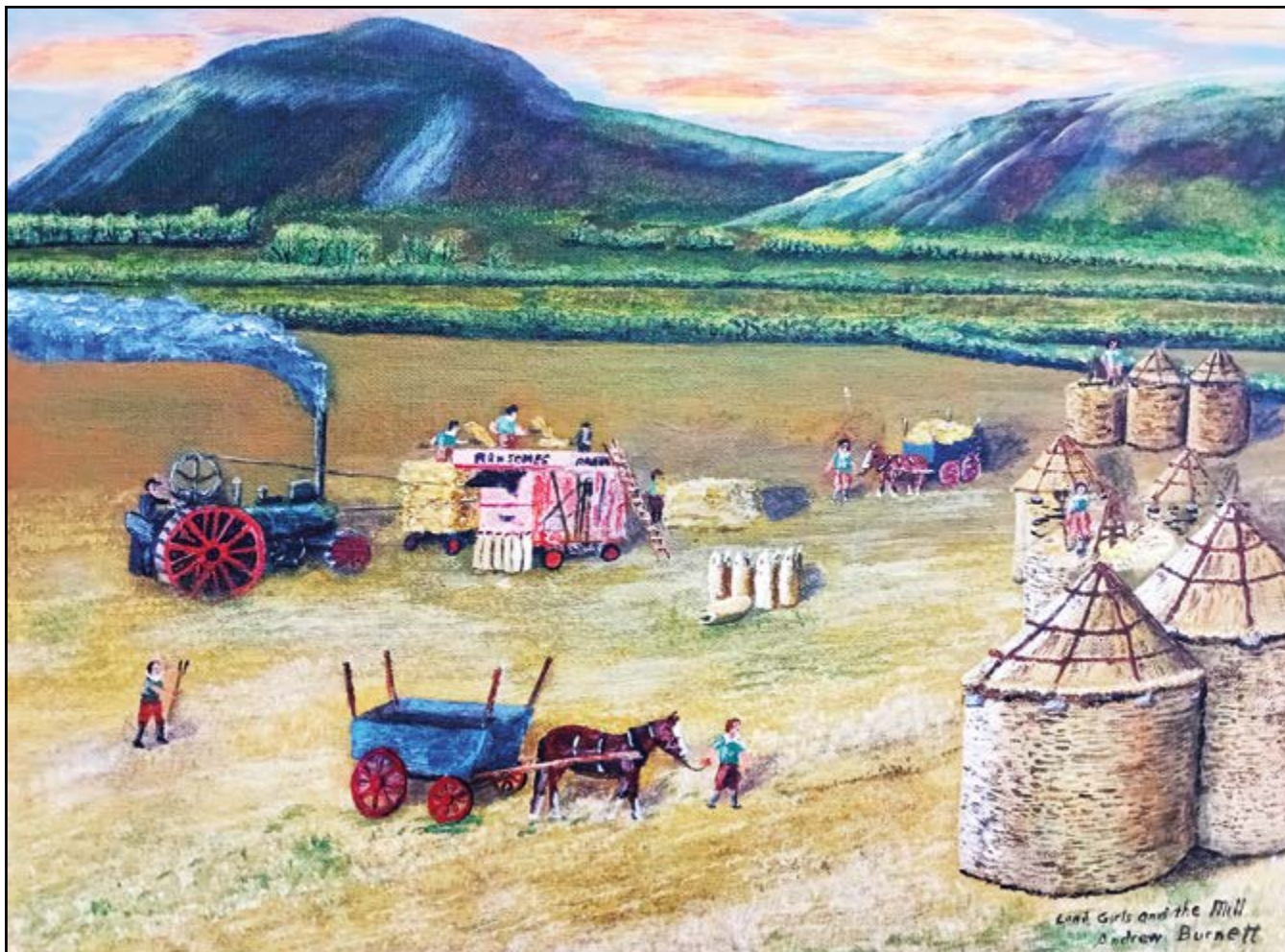
They can now be handed into Loch Leven Laundry

NO drop-in one-to-one fittings

Please contact me directly to make an appointment

Many Thanks Linette Mann

07732 902419



Canadian artist Debbie Mosher. Debbie is an experienced art tutor who coaches a group of around 50 artists from her own studio in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Weather patterns, however, proved to be problematic with high snowfall and freezing temperatures in North America's eastern seaboard and storm Chandra raging over Scotland necessitating a week's delay.

The workshop went ahead on Tuesday 4 February and was a great success. Fourteen KADAC members benefitted from Debbie's tuition on acrylic landscapes and her easy to follow demonstration of how to use tonal values to achieve depth in a painting.

Creating a finished landscape in the space of a 40 minute Zoom call was a big ask but Debbie rose to the challenge and produced a beautiful depiction of forested Canadian riverbanks which was successfully reproduced by several of the KADAC members in attendance.

Debbie provided constructive commentary throughout the workshop and fostered a warm and supportive learning environment (despite several feet of snow evident through her studio window). The session was agreed to have been a huge success and we look forward to similar workshops in the future.

If you are interested in joining the club and developing your own creativity, you will find more information and contact details on our website. The Kinross and District Art Club meets on Tuesdays and Fridays (2-4pm) in Millbridge Hall.

This month's Picture of the Month is by KADAC member Andrew Burnett. It is a landscape rendered in acrylic and entitled "Land Girls and the Mill". It depicts land girls toiling in local fields during the Second World War and was painted to support the video "Women at War" shown at the Museum of Communication in Burntisland and which is now available in book form.

Common Grounds

www.spanglefish.com/
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I hope by the time you read this report the wet weather has improved!

We have though enjoyed seeing old and new friends who have braved the awful rain to join us for our coffee mornings. Maybe the site of a warm fire has helped!

We held a Project Lunch on Tuesday 24 February with an excellent speaker Phyllis Hutchinson from 4 Steps to Freedom, a worthwhile charity helping eliminating Rabies both through education and medically.

Our charity that we have chosen to give a donation to in February is Seed Madagascar. This is an island off the east coast of Africa with 28 million people and have a prolonged drought crisis causing hunger and malnutrition. Those with disabilities are hit the hardest with great barriers obtaining health care, and only 11 per cent of children attend school.

The charity provides life changing health care and ensures those with disabilities get access to education. They also help schools and teachers get access to training and resources to support disabled children.

We continue to look forward to seeing you at our coffee mornings on Tuesday and Saturday 10am till 12.30pm.

CONTRIBUTORS

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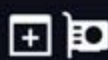
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Portmoak Community Woodland Group

Members of Portmoak Community Woodland Group have been braving the elements, to prune the apple and pear trees in the orchard.

The trees have been planted in the big gully in Kilmagad Wood which is one of the most sheltered spots on the hill. But that doesn't protect it from the rain and the slopes get very slippery. As every gardener knows, there are some tasks you can't postpone and pruning apples and pears is one of them, if you want healthy growth in the spring and summer.

So, we give them a fairly severe 'haircut' to encourage lots of fruiting buds on the lower branches.

We are not great experts but our simple aims are to cut out disease, let in plenty of light and make sure the trees don't get so tall that we can't reach the fruit.

It's hard to imagine we shall get another bumper crop like last year's but as long as the blossoms are not hit by late frosts and we have a half decent summer, we should have enough fruit for our annual community apple day in the autumn.

That is a long way off and in the meantime we have plenty to do, getting our heads round the Woodland Trust Scotland's plans for tree felling and peatland restoration in Portmoak Moss. Members of the community talk to us all the time and we are well aware that everyone who goes to the Moss loves the place for a whole variety of reasons.

In early March, there is to be a workshop involving experts and invited participants, to look at all the issues. This will be followed by a public meeting, with a date tbc.

In the Moss, the business of pulling out birch saplings continues and this month we are looking forward to welcoming employees from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, who are allocated volunteering days, to help with projects like this. Removing the birch helps to protect the peat from drying out and allows the growth of sphagnum mosses.



Our regular meetings continue, on every third Tuesday of the month, in The Well Inn and now start at the earlier time of 6.30pm for 6.45pm.

Kinross Community Garden Group



Our February talk was from Peter Hart at Kirklands in Saline – which is a beautiful garden – and Peter told us all about how he and Gill had developed it into what we see today. It was a very amusing talk, which touched on many gardener's thoughts – but digging seemed to feature highly – not so amusing, possibly!

Our next meeting is on 12 March at 2pm in The Parish Church, Kinross, when Calum Clunie from The Beechgrove Garden on BBC will talk about 'My Horticultural Journey'.

Summer visit schedules will be available again, but all schedules must be handed in today so that we can be ready for the visit to St Andrews and Willowhill in May.

Membership fees are £20 for the year and £5 for visitors. If you are new, or even a long time resident, to Kinross-shire and interested in meeting fellow garden enthusiasts you will be made very welcome. Doors will be open from 1.30pm. For more details contact Caroline Anderson on 01577 864589 or email acaroline1000@gmail.com.

Portmoak Hall 100 Club

JANUARY DRAW

1st No 34 Andrea Drummond Kinnesswood

2nd No 56 Norma Smith Kinnesswood

3rd No 11 Bruce Inglis Kinnesswood

Kinross High School

NHS Health Drama and Workshops

All our S3 classes attended the annual NHS Health Drama and Workshops which explored many topics relevant to young people such as substance misuse, mental health, self-harm, eating disorders, coercive relationships and young carers. Actors and service providers discussed the issues, the importance of seeking help and where to find support with pupils.

Many thanks to the NHS Tayside Early Years and Young People Team and our partners for giving our young people this valuable experience.

S1 Scots' Verse finalists!

Our winner was Daniel, who recited 'Address to a Haggis'. Runners up were Jasmine, Eben and Brodie. Congratulations to all who took part.

Rotary Young artist and Photography Competition

The winner's presentation was held on 3 February with pupils and rotary representatives Yvonne and Andy.

Junior category: 1st – Malin, 2nd – Alba, 3rd – Freya

Middle category: 1st – Iona, 2nd – Erin, 3rd – Mave

Young photographer: 1st Freya, 2nd Holly, Joint 3rd Charlotte & Lydia

Orkney Netball Trip

Our S3 team travelled to Orkney to play Kirkwall Grammar School in the last 16 of the Scottish Cup. After an end-to-end first quarter, Kinross took a 3-point lead. However, Kirkwall Grammar pulled away over the remaining three quarters, with exceptional shooting, and ultimately secured the win. It was a highly competitive game, and our players fought hard right to the final whistle, believing they could still close the gap. Unfortunately, on this occasion, we had to accept defeat.

Although pupils were disappointed to be knocked out of the cup — the furthest we have ever progressed — we were extremely grateful for the opportunity to travel to Orkney. The team enjoyed a fantastic overnight trip, travelling through the north of Scotland, visiting Dornoch and Thurso, sailing with NorthLink Ferries to Kirkwall, passing the Old Man of Hoy, and visiting the Standing Stones at the Ring of Brodgar.



Our players were a credit to Kinross High School throughout the trip. Thank you to parents for their support and to the Parent Council for their financial contribution towards accommodation and travel.

Young Chef Competition

We hosted the District heat of Young Chef competition with young people coming from as far as Inverness. Our pupil Eilidh won 3rd prize and will go forward to the next stage of the competition at Forth Valley College. Well done, Eilidh!



SSSA Alpine Ski Championships

Kinross High School was

represented at the SSSA Alpine Ski Championships in Glenshee by 21 skiers, supported by 10 parents. The young people all showed resilience, enthusiasm and teamwork. Conditions were pretty brutal in blizzards, white out and wind chill – but nothing dampened the spirits of the group who had an absolutely brilliant day on the snow. Thank you to the fantastic group of parents who supported them!

Sportshall Athletics Festival

ISP and Leven pupils took part in the Sportshall Athletics Festival at UHI Perth. They demonstrated stamina, skill and confidence across all the events. The adapted athletics activities were fully inclusive and included Speed-bounce, Javelin, Shuttle runs, Target throw, Hurdles, Standing Long Jump, Hi-stepper, Seated chest push and relay runs.



Tunnocks Competition

Congratulations to all in S1-3 who took part in the Tunnocks competition. The standard of entries was very high and they were very creative! This event was organised by Becky McRitchie S5 as part of her Level 6 Leadership Qualification.

Silent Disco

KHS's first ever Silent Disco with S1 was a fantastic success! S2 and S3 couldn't resist joining in on the fun too! KHS Interact Rotary Club organised and led the event (Ruari, Hugo and Annalie Committee Leaders). Ruari did a great job delivering the key messages about raising money for the Ethiopia Medical project at the end of the event and thanked all the pupils for helping to support this charity. A big thank you to Zoe Todd who led the silent disco and allowed us to use her equipment. The Rotary team (Shona and Yvonne) have guided the group for many weeks and did an amazing job setting up the hall, as well as supporting the interact pupil leaders on the day.

Chinese Lanterns

Our students have been celebrating Chinese New Year in a creative way during their maths lessons — by designing and making their very own Chinese lanterns!

Using skills in symmetry, pattern, and precise measurement, pupils combined mathematical thinking with cultural learning to produce some fantastic lantern designs.

A brilliant blend of creativity and numeracy — and a wonderful way to welcome the Lunar New Year!

Better Place to Live Fair

We are looking forward to meeting you all at The Better Place to Live Fair. We will have various KHS stalls at the fair including school tours, face-painting, and free period products.

Kinnesswood In Bloom

At our recent February meeting we heard that there were now eight bonus ball numbers available. This is a good fund raiser for Kinnesswood in Bloom. Contact any of our members if you are interested. Various ideas for fundraising were also discussed.



Norma had had a telephone interview with someone from the Kinross shire Fund about funding and we should hear if we had been successful in a few weeks.

The new recycled bench had been purchased but needs assembled once the weather is a bit warmer. It cost a little more than we anticipated but the extra came out of our general fund. That completes our CIF funding.

Kinnesswood will not be competing in the Beautiful Scotland awards this year. We will be keeping the place looking good as usual and will be following the theme of volunteers.

It's been a pretty wet January and beginning of February but weather permitting the first work party will be the first Saturday in March. Look out for us then and if you are interested in joining us come along for a chat. You can do as little or as much as you can.

As a result of



tightening up of disclosure procedures nationally, Janice has taken the lead to sort us all out. We are hoping everyone can be accredited soon. Some of us have already done this through the school. It means we can work with children and vulnerable adults.

We had a lovely meal at the Thistle Hotel. It was enjoyed by all and lovely to see Carol and Gordon again.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 5 March at 7pm in the Well Country Inn. Please come along if you are interested.

Portmoak Film Society



Portmoak Films Shows

Jonathan Glazer's 'The Zone Of Interest'

A sizeable audience showed their true romantic colours to attend our Valentine's Day offering, 'In the Mood for Love' and unanimously agreed that it was a very different take on the traditional love story. Set in Hong Kong in the '60s, sadly the course of true love did not run smooth, but that didn't detract from the film's beautiful styling, cinematography and score.

At Portmoak we like to include films that are different from mainstream entertainment and the next film, showing on 14 March, is one such. It's director Jonathan Glazer's 'The Zone of Interest' set in the house and garden of Auschwitz commander Rudolf Hoess and his family, who strive to live a good life right next to the Nazi camp. The film is based on a novel by Martin Amis and was released to critical acclaim in 2023, garnering multiple awards. It may not be an easy watch, but asks profound questions about the inhumanity of individuals in power that seem increasingly relevant today.

All films are shown at Portmoak Village Hall, Scotlandwell. Doors open at 7pm and films start promptly at 7.30pm. Entry is £6 on the door, tea and coffee are served after the film, regulars and newcomers all welcome! For further information, visit our Facebook page or contact Felicity Garvie on 01592 840825.

Kinross-shire Partnership Networking Breakfast



Fifteen local business people and community groups met at The Green Hotel on the first Wednesday of February for our monthly Networking Breakfast.

Everyone had the opportunity to introduce their business or group over a hearty breakfast, before hearing from our guest speaker, Steve Wilson of Focus Business Consultancy, who shared valuable insights into business utilities and how to manage them effectively.

If you would like to join us for our March meeting on Wednesday 4 March, please email kpnetworkingbreakfast@gmail.com or call Richard on 07999 510500 to reserve your place. The cost is £12, which includes a choice of full cooked, vegetarian cooked, or continental breakfast. We look forward to welcoming you!



The Rotary Club of Kinross and District

www.ribi.org



February has seen us back in the routine of regular meetings, along with supporting our community's youth with lots of activities.

After a period of 'Scatter Weeks' - where we visit other clubs to widen our awareness of their activities and reflect on fresh outlooks. Thanks to all the clubs who hosted our members.

We held a breakfast meeting on 20 January when Rotarian Jo Middlemiss spoke about her beloved 'Ethiopia Medical Project', which she and her cousin, Maureen Burnett, set up in 2013. Annual visits since then have created major developments and forged immensely positive relationships. Jo speaks of 'fulfilling life's purpose' and there is no doubt of her genuine passion. Despite contracting malaria last year, she was about to set off yet again for her annual trip and members of the club are proud to support her - and proud of her and her achievements. For more information on EMP see www.ethiopiamedicalproject.com

On 26 January, we held a 'light' Burns Supper. Delicious haggis supplied by the Kirklands Hotel was piped in by Richard Scott, with the Selkirk Grace read by Alana Brown of Buckhaven Rotary Club. George Sutherland provided a fascinating 'Immortal Memory' and we finished the evening with a Burns Quiz organised by Shona Mitchell. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all. Thanks, as always, to Shona, Anthony and their staff for facilitating this event.

On 9 February we were visited by Karen and Peter who

Intermediate 2nd Alba: Look Beyond



are dedicated volunteer coordinators for the West Fife Fundraising Group of Guide Dogs Scotland. Known for their significant contributions to the charity, they outlined the lengthy training process for training a guide dog. Do you know that it costs £102,000 to fund a dog from birth to retirement, including food, vet's bill, etc? Or that AI glasses can now provide detailed information which even the most attentive guide dog cannot? The evening finished with some experiential activities that showed us the difficulties faced by the visually impaired. Various pairs of glasses demonstrated the range of sight limitations, and we had a somewhat hilarious task of attempting to draw a guide dog while wearing an eye mask. We were left in no doubt that this is a charity well worth supporting.

On 31 January our club was pleased to host Rotary District 1010's final of the Young Chef Competition. Young people from all over this huge district provided an awesome array of tasty and beautifully presented dishes. And we are so proud that our Kinross entrant, Eilidh, achieved 3rd place. Thanks to Catriona Cairney and her staff from Kinross High School for supporting Rotary to stage this competition. Well done Eilidh - future Masterchef?!

Talented youngsters have been taking art in various competitions on the theme of 'Happiness in Nature'.

Young Artist Competition

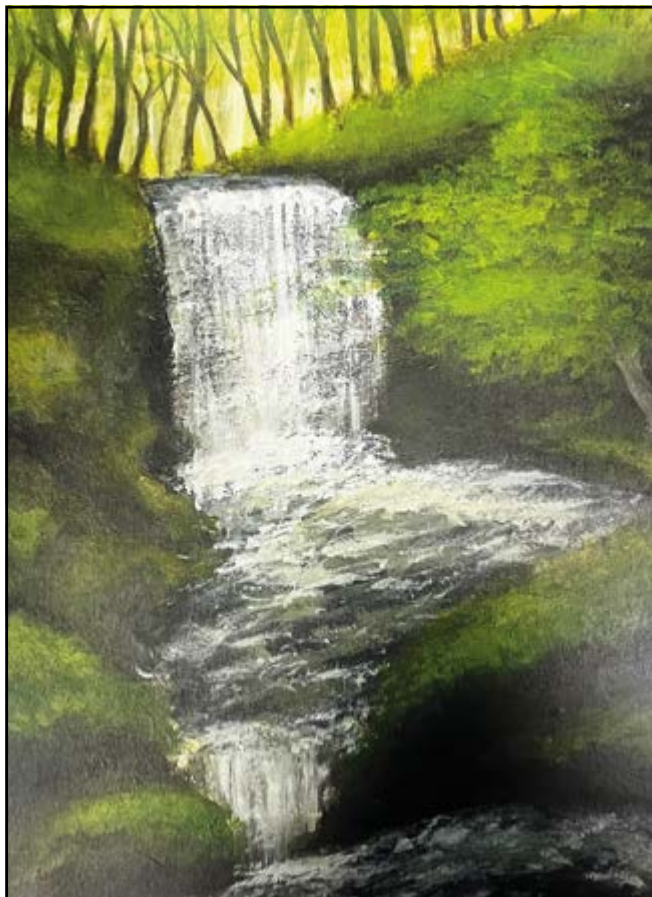
Seniors: 1st Iona, 2nd Erin, 3rd Maeve

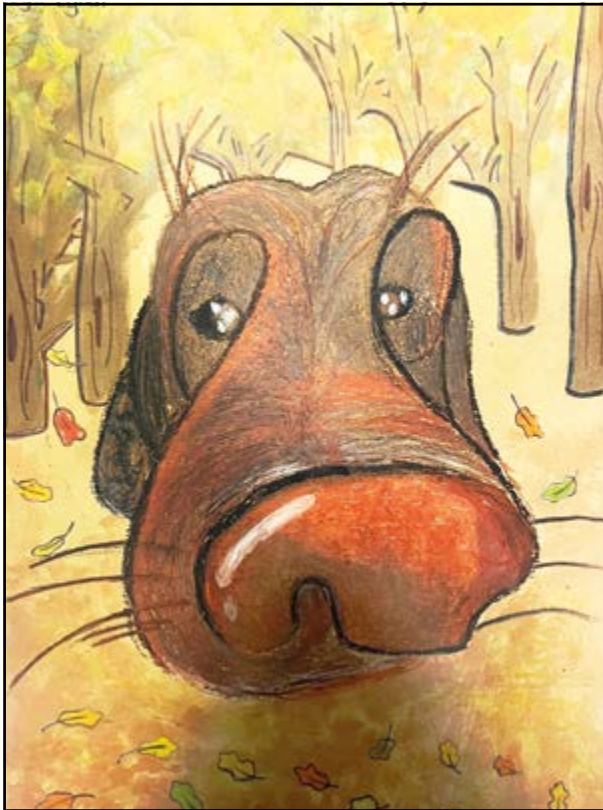
Intermediate: 1st Malin, 2nd Alba, 3rd Freya

Thanks to our judges, Anne Taylor; Barry Scott and Glenys Andrews and to KHS teachers Elizabeth Smith and Benn Brown who promoted these projects.

Other youth competitions have been taking place - results coming soon! Some creative treats in store from our talented young people...

Seniors 1st Iona: The Water





Intermediate 3rd Freya: Walking the Dog

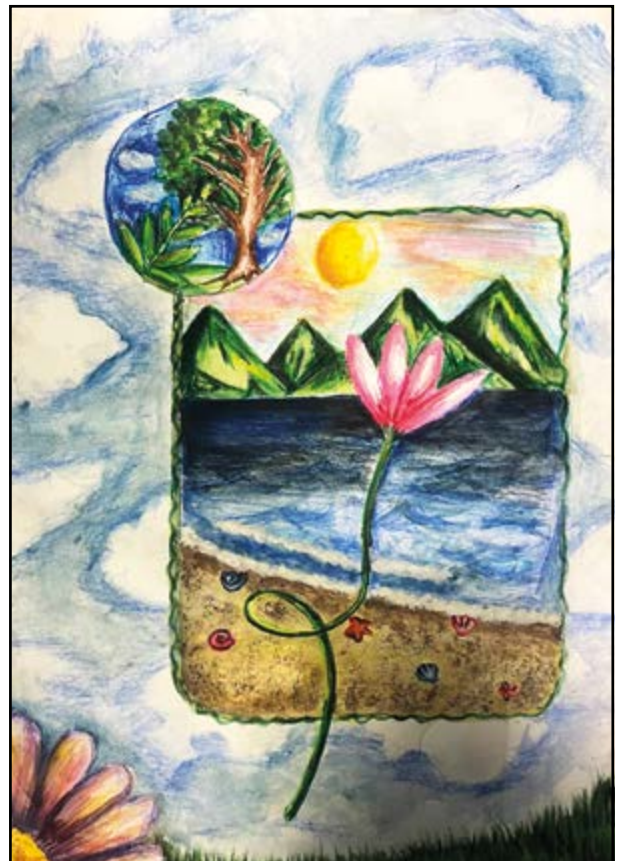


Seniors 2nd Erin: Fungi

Intermediate 1st Malin: Life Goose On



Seniors 3rd Maeve: Contrasting Shapes



Our next fundraiser towards our ambitious CHAS target is a Casino and Curry Night at 7pm on Saturday 28 March at Kinross Rugby Club. Tickets are £25 per person, including a welcome drink on arrival, a delicious curry and £10 worth of chips. It promises to be another great night. Please come

and support this worthy cause – limited tickets now available so act fast!

For tickets and further information about any aspect of Rotary, contact secretary.kdrc@gmail.com or call/ message 07380 414637.



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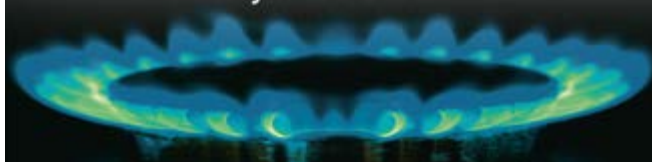
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Kinross-shire Trishaws and Community Cycling

To find out more about KTACC events and activities, visit www.ktacc.org.uk.



We held a very successful information evening early in February and have recruited 11 new volunteers for our trishaws, all-ability cycling, and community cycling programmes. We will be carrying out some training over the coming weeks ready to begin our 2026 programmes in just a few weeks' time when hopefully the weather is better. You may see us checking out new routes and testing out our new adaptive bikes.

With the increase in our volunteers, we need more of our existing pilots to take on the role of training and supporting our new recruits. We hosted a 'train the trainer' session which was led by Cycling Without Age Scotland to increase the skills and knowledge of our team which places us in a very strong position to grow and support our volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer for us, we will be at the Better Place to Live Fair at the end of March. Please come and have a chat.

Keep an eye on our website www.ktacc.org.uk for further details.

Kinross (Marshall) Museum



The Museum's latest exhibition within the library space at Loch Leven Community Campus continues. Entitled 'Kirk and Community', the displays feature the impacts of structural changes over time upon community life in the rural parishes of Kinross-shire. Please come along, especially if you have an interest in Blairingone, Cleish, Glenfarg, Kinnesswood or Scotlandwell. There are some fascinating and entertaining stories.

Just turn right as you enter the Library and you can step back in time. Before returning to the present day, please leave us a comment in the Visitors' Book.

A separate section of the display features 'The Last Letter' written by Mary, Queen of Scots in the night before her execution in England on 8 February 1587. The original document, 438 years old, is now on display at Perth Museum, until 26 April.

Mary was imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle from 17 June 1567. She was held by Sir William Douglas, the owner of the island. While there, she was forced to abdicate her throne in favour of her son, James VI. The abdication document is included within our display, as is a nearby cut-away model of the castle.

With the help of the Douglas family, she escaped her imprisonment by boat on 2 May 1568. There are extra displays about this escapade and another castle model within the Study Room at the Museum, so if you're in the Library on a Thursday (to 7pm) or Saturday morning (to 1pm) you can view all the details.

Meantime, the volunteer researchers continue to provide a Local Family History service. If you have an interest in tracing your ancestors or learning more about times past hereabouts, please contact us on information@kinrossmuseum.org.uk or via our Facebook page. Recent projects have included finding maps, pictures and stories about the barber's shops run in 1893-1924 by the great grandfather of a local lady. Another enquiry came from Australia about relatives who lived in a cottage in Netherton in the 1930s.

If you have a Library card, there's free access to Ancestry,

which claims to be the world's largest genealogy website. We can help you make use of it. Please send us your enquiries on friends@kinrossmuseum.org.uk or via Kinross Museum on Facebook.

Milnathort Bridge Club



February was another well-supported month for Milnathort Bridge Club, with continued good attendances and some closely contested evenings of bridge despite the weather.

MBC members continue to make their presence felt at various Central District competitions. As a result of an excellent performance at the SBU's Russell French Teams of 4 event in Dundee, Jim and Catriona Marshall and Pat Cook and Donna Stevenson qualified for the National Championship, which will be held in Glasgow in April.

Members also took part in the ECats UNICEF Simultaneous Pairs competition, and out of 183 pairs, MBC had three pairs finishing in the top 20 placings. Bob Robertson and Roy Berry finished in 6th place, Willie Young and Jim Marshall in 14th place, and Donna Stevenson and Pat Cook in 17th place - quite a remarkable achievement. Well done to all concerned.

Recently we welcomed new members Roy Berry and David MacDonald to the club and as visitors, Chris Myrerscough and Struthers Brown.

26 January

North / South: **Pat Cook & Donna Stevenson**

East / West: **Roy Berry & Bob Robertson**

2 Feb

North / South: **Sandy Greenhill & Jan Hill**

East / West: **Roy Berry & Bob Robertson**

9 Feb

North / South: **Pat Cook & Ian Paton**

East / West: **Liz Pottie & Jessie Mitchell**

16 Feb

North / South: **Pat Cook & Ian Paton**

East / West: **Liz Pottie & Jessie Mitchell**

Kinross Squirrels

The squirrels have been working on the Scottish Thistle Award and they continued this theme in January. They started the evening by listening to the story *There Was a Wee Lassie Who Swallowed a Midgie* before splitting into groups and getting creative by coming up with their very own Scottish myth or legend. There were some fantastic ideas, great drawings and lots of imagination on show!

The squirrels had a fantastic time celebrating Burns Night the following week. They got into the spirit of Scotland with traditional Scottish dancing, showing off their moves and having a great laugh along the way. The squirrels also enjoyed tasting a range of Scottish treats, from porridge and





oatcake biscuits to shortbread and even haggis – lots of new flavours to try!

The squirrels had a brilliant time enjoying a Highland Games themed meeting at the end of January as they took part in activities like welly throwing, caber toss and tug of war. At the other base, they took part in some Scottish playground games, including favourites like 'What's the Time, Mr Wolf!' Lots of fun, laughter and energy all round!

Love was all around for our first meeting in February as the Squirrels had a heart-warming time getting creative making Valentine's cards for the people they love and decorating delicious heart-shaped biscuits. There were sparkles, stickers and lots of proud moments as they shared who their cards were for.

At the end of the meeting we were delighted to present the Chief Scout's Acorn Award, which is the highest award in the Squirrel section, to Ben, Noah, Lewis and James. Bravo!

We also said goodbye to Noah, Alistair, Ben and Ramsay who are moving on to Beavers. Good luck for the next stage of your scouting journey.

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 for more information.

Kinross Beavers

In January the beavers went to UHI Perth Climbing Centre for some taster sessions on the wall. Led by the climbing instructors, they all got to do some roped climbs. It was a great success and they did brilliantly. There are definitely some climbing stars in the making.

The following week it was back to the hall as the beavers got fully stuck into all things Scottish – creating their very own haggis.

They also enjoyed watching a classic episode of the cartoon *The Family-Ness* and then designed their own versions of Nessie. At our third base, the beavers learned all about Scottish coat of arms and put their creativity to work by designing their own — there were some fantastic ideas and artwork on display!

For our final meeting in January it was all games, games, games for the beavers. Led by our young leaders we had three

Portmoak Hall 100 Club
December Draw

1st	82	Heather Dunnett	Kinnesswood
2nd	11	Bruce Inglis	Kinnesswood
3rd	69	Greta Hogg	Scotlandwell



bases, which focused on activities from Highland Games and the playground. Everyone had great fun and there was some real competition at the tug of war.

The following day the beavers had a brilliant sleepover at the hall. After everyone arrived, the beavers got stuck into their Experiment badge, taking part in three fun (and slightly messy!) experiments, before starting the Builder badge by designing what they would like to build from cardboard. After a much-appreciated dinner from Central Chippy, it was time to bring those designs to life and get building. Once beds were set up, the beavers relaxed with a film night watching *Wallace and Gromit*, then settled down for the night – with

everyone falling asleep surprisingly quickly! In the morning, the beavers packed up, enjoyed breakfast, and finished the sleepover with some games before heading home. A fantastic weekend full of creativity, teamwork and fun – well done Beavers!

The beavers were working on their navigational skills for our first meeting in February as they had a brilliant time working towards their Navigator Stage 1 badge. They got stuck into OS map symbol bingo before finding some of the symbols on a map. The beavers also learned about compass points by playing a fun game. Our final base saw the beavers explore a map of Kinross and the surrounding area before showing off their creativity by drawing their own maps of the hall, their house or their school – some excellent map-making skills on display!

We then presented the beavers with the badges they achieved last term. Congratulations to Isobel, Ben and Harry who were awarded the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. Bravo!

We also goodbye to Harry who is moving on to cubs. We hope you enjoy the next stage of your scouting journey.

Please note that we are in need for adult leaders to help at Beavers. So please come forward, volunteering is easier than you think. The Scouts provide full support and training, and 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 on kinrossbeavers@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

Kinross Cubs

On 14 January the cubs were working towards their Entertainer Badge. They worked in their Sixes to create their own dance routines, which they then performed in the dark using glow sticks and light-up glasses – a fun and memorable activity for everyone involved. The cubs also enjoyed some quieter creative time, drawing pictures of their favourite character from a book or TV programme. The final activity saw the cubs learn a selection of classic campfire songs. A lovely mix of creativity, teamwork and confidence-building.

The following week the cubs were busy working on the Scottish Thistle Award, taking part in their very own mini-Highland Games and also learned some traditional Scottish dances – lots of energy, teamwork and fun all round. They also found out about the Collector Badge, which they'll be working on over the course of the term before presenting their collections at the beginning of March.



Over the past few months, the cubs have been busy working towards their DIY badge, and they did an amazing job finishing off the badge at the end of January. Working in their Sixes, each group teamed up to build their very own bird box. Lots of hammering, problem-solving and great teamwork all round!

The cubs had a fantastic time working towards their Animal Carer badge as we moved into February. They learned about the possible dangers to wildlife and got creative by making eye-catching posters using recycled items. The cubs also filled in a care diary, thinking carefully about how to look after an animal – from family pets to local wildlife – and what they need to stay happy and healthy. As part of a Pet Care Licence activity, the final group saw the cubs learn how to care for a variety of pets including dogs, birds and rabbits, gaining some great practical knowledge along the way. To complete his Skills Challenge badge Matthew also showed his Six how to safely put a wheelchair into a WAV as part of helping to look after his sister. Well done Matthew!

We then ended the meeting by making some special presentations. Congratulations to Logan, Matthew, Struan, Oliver, Sammi and Innes who were awarded the Chief Scouts Silver Award. Bravo!

We also said goodbye to Logan, Matthew, Oliver, Hudson and Nico who are moving on after spending the last couple of years at Cubs. Good luck for the future!

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 and happiness, and community. If you would like to get involved with 1st Kinross Cubs, then please email kinrosscubs@hotmail.com for more details.

Kinross Historical Society

In February, members and visitors were given a wonderful talk by Willie Shand entitled 'Tales of the Forth'.



He started with a montage of views of many of the places passed by the Forth, set to music, including the Forth Bridge, fishing villages, mining communities, Stirling, Bannockburn and the Wallace Monument.

The River Forth flows as a small stream from Loch Ard to the North Sea and by the time it reaches there it is 15 miles wide. It meanders through Flanders Moss to Stirling and there were stories for many of the places shown in the slides, including tales of fairies in the Trossachs and Rob Roy stealing the Kippen livestock in 1691.

At Stirling, the Forth becomes the salty Firth of Forth. Willie Shand worked as a surveyor at Stirling Castle during the renovation work and is very knowledgeable about it. His slides showed the beautifully restored rooms, tapestries and ceilings. From Jacobite times to 1960s it was used by the military. The Stirling Bridge of today is not the one from Wallace's famous battle, but rebuilt in 1400s. In 1869, Willie Shand's granny walked to the official opening of the Wallace Monument from Crook of Devon and back home again afterwards.

As the Forth flows on, it joins with the River Devon in Clackmannanshire. Near Kincardine, John Murray had a pineapple constructed overlooking his orchard as at the time a pineapple was considered the height of luxury.

Culross, on the north side of the river was not always in Fife but was a part of Perthshire. The palace was the home of mine owner, George Bruce. There were also salt pans and the coal fed the furnaces used to make the Culross 'girdle' first made for toasting oatcakes. The coal mine flooded in 1625.

Limekilns was a source of lime as its name implies. R L Stevenson set a scene from *Kidnapped* in the inn there and it is said that he started writing the book in the Hawes Inn in South Queensferry on the other side of the river.

On the south side of the Forth lies Bo'ness with its Ironworks and was the port for Linlithgow. Blackness Castle was a state prison and said to be 'a ship that couldn't be sunk'. South Queensferry was named after Queen Margaret who established a ferry there across the river for pilgrims in the eleventh century. The ferry ran here for 700 years until the Forth Road Bridge was opened in 1964. The Queensferry Crossing now has taken over and is the tallest bridge in UK.

Cramond Island can be reached twice a day on foot as it is tidal there. Plague victims were sent into quarantine on Inch Garvie. Inch Colm has an abbey built in 1335, set up by Alexander 1.

Photo by Lorne Gill



Ocean Terminal in Leith berths the Royal Yacht. Mary Queen of Scots arrived there in Leith in thick mist from the French Court in the sixteenth century. There were further tales about the towns along the coast, Prestonpans, Gullane and North Berwick overlooking the Bass Rock.

Back on the north side of the Forth, Robert the Bruce is buried at Dunfermline Abbey as were King Malcolm and Queen Margaret his wife, until she was made a saint by the Pope and they were reburied elsewhere.

Aberdour was a place for pilgrims at St Fillans Church. Burntisland, Pettycur and Kinghorn are remembered for the death of Alexander III. Plague victims were sent to Inchkeith and James IV used it for an experiment into the origins of speech in 1493. Kirkcaldy was the home for making linoleum. Ravenscraig Castle overlooks Dysart where the Devil confronted St Serf in the fifth century. Continuing along the coast come the Wemyss with their castles, Buckhaven, Methil, Leven and then Lower Largo which was the birthplace of Alexander Selkirk who wrote 'Robinson Crusoe'. Largo Law was the meeting place for local witches and also haunted. Elie had a bell rung to clear the streets when Lady Anstruther was going to bathe.

There were lots of stories about the fishing villages of St Monans, Anstruther, Crail and Pittenweem and Willie Shand entertained the audience with many superstitions about things that affect the safety and the catch of the fisher folk. Problems in St Monans were blamed on where the church bell was hung, Buckie House in Anstruther was decorated with shells, inside and out, in Victorian times by the owner who then charged entry to visitors. At Crail there is a marked circle cut into the rocks which was a failed attempt to build a lighthouse by Stevenson.

David Munro thanked Willie Shand for yet another wonderful talk and with wonderful landscapes urban and rural. The

stories were well told from source to sea, with fantastic imagery and music.

The next meeting, the last for this season will be on 16 March. 'Shackleton's Endurance' by Donald Lamont.

Kinross-Shire (and Glenfarg) Red Squirrel Group (KRSg):

We have now held several open meetings over the past year, in the Green Hotel and at RSPB Vane Farm, as well as a couple of 'squirrel walks' at Vane and in Crook of Devon. There are over 40 expressions of interest from within the community (and 300 members on our FaceBook page!), so we decided it is time to set up a proper Constitution, with a Committee. The first such meeting was held in the Green Hotel on Sunday 15 February. It was agreed that the aims of the group are:

'To support the long-term conservation and recovery of native red squirrels (*Sciurus vulgaris*) within Kinross-shire by

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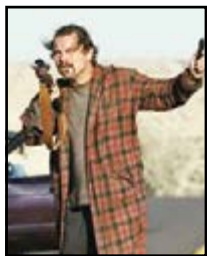
contributing to coordinated, evidence-based and community-led conservation action'.

If you would like to join us, please make contact at kinrossshireredsquirrelgroup@gmail.com or via our website at scottishsquirrels.org.uk (follow the trail to the Kinross-Shire group pages!).

Milnathort Filmhouse

Some great films plus bonus extras coming your way over the next few months, from your local community cinema. Screenings in Milnathort Town Hall and all tickets just £4.

7pm Saturday 21 March: With the Oscars later this month we are delighted to bring you a real BAFTA-winning BlockBuster intro to the awards season, *One Battle after Another* starring Leonardo DiCaprio. There aren't many big cinematic masterpieces being produced anymore. So, when one comes along—and does it right—there is cause for celebration. Winner of six BAFTAs and nominated for 13 Oscars, critics have praised its ambitious style, strong performances, and complex themes of resistance and rebellion.



2.30 Saturday 11 April: *Dog Man*. After a policeman and his police dog are fused together to turn into Dog Man, he must stop the villainous Petey the Cat from cloning himself and creating an evil kitten, doubling his evil abilities. Brilliant animated film from Dreamworks and the books of Dav Pilkey. Are you in Team Dog Man or Team Cat?

7.30 Saturday 23 May: Another Oscar nominated film *Song Sung Blue* starring Kate Hudson and Hugh Jackman, a Milwaukee husband and wife Neil Diamond tribute act, experience soaring success and devastating heartbreak in their musical journey together.

Finally, something a bit different from us to you; we are planning an autumn season of films + extras. In September we have *Iron Ladies*, a documentary celebration of the iron willed women who maintained the 1984/85 Miners' Strike as they fought for the future of their communities. We will be joined by one of the contributors to the film for a Q&A afterwards.

Later in October we'll bring you another multi-BAFTA winner – *I Swear*, a 2025 Scottish biographical drama film directed, written, and produced by Kirk Jones. It is based on the true life story of John Davidson, a Scottish man with severe Tourette's syndrome. We will be joined by a representative from Tourette Scotland for a discussion about the film. If you liked the Coen Brothers *No Country for Old Men*, keep a lookout for a special screening, where we'll be looking at how the masterful tension



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Powmill SWI

Wednesday 18 February saw Powmill SWI meet in Moubray hall on a chilly winters evening.

Pam Goodwin kindly came to share her skills in the craft of macramé. Everyone enjoyed a practical hands on learning experience with some finding it easier than others to master.

A photo of Pam with some of her creations.



COMPETITIONS

Flask of Noodle Soup

1st Janice Young, 2nd Donna McBain, 3rd Mary Wilson

Decorated Wine Bottle

1st Mary Wilson, 2nd Donna McBain, 3rd Sharon Buchanan

Jill Hampson won the single bloom.

The next meeting is Wednesday 18 March in Moubray Hall where Sylvie McCreary will give a presentation on *The Importance Of Sleep*.

Carnbo SWI

President Mhairi Lavender welcomed members and guests to the February meeting. After business Mhairi introduced our speaker Alistair Dawson who gave us a most interesting talk on how he built his Earthship home. After tea the raffle was drawn.

COMPETITIONS:

Flower Of The Month

1st- Molly White, 2nd- Kath Mearns

Favourite Gardening Tip For 2026

1st - Kath Mearns, 2nd- Sheila Hutchinson

Cleish SWI

President Anne Douglas welcomed members to our meeting on Monday 9 February. Members had a great evening learning about Japanese Needlecraft from Sue and then enjoyed trying out some Boro stitching for themselves.

COMPETITIONS:

Holiday Souvenir

1st Julie White, 2nd Elinor Craig, 3rd Marion Laird

Bowl of Bulbs

1st Margaret Kilpatrick, 2nd Dorothy Morris, 3rd Lynn Hewitt

Our next meeting is on Monday 9 March at 7.30pm in Cleish Village Hall when we will be having a talk from one of the Curling Ladies who were selected to go on the Curling tour of Canada. New members always welcome.

Kinross Road Runners

In the last month at KRR we have held our annual awards dinner, AGM and the first of the races in our off road championship took place.

The awards dinner was a huge success attended by over 80 members, how lovely to see everyone dressed up for a change. The winners of our road championship were Wendy Grieve for the ladies and Matt Newton for the men. The off-road championship was won by Stephanie Johnson for the ladies, and Matt Newton taking the win for the men, to take home both championship trophies.

The KRR athlete of the year, as chosen by our amazing members, was Michelle Murray.



Michelle Murray with her Athlete of the Year trophy, with Ann.

Michelle truly inspires us all. Last year, she completed an incredible number of ultra marathons and marathons, as well as lots of other races ranging from 5Ks to half marathons. However, it's not just about the miles she covers, Michelle does all of this while constantly supporting the club, volunteering at our races, and cheering on fellow members as they achieve their goals. And, she does it all with a smile and a positive, friendly nature that we all appreciate. Huge congratulations Michelle! And a massive well done to everyone who received trophies and recognition on the night.

At the AGM this year we said goodbye to Ann Malcolm as our president. Ann has stepped down after serving as president

Stephanie Johnson with her Off Road Championship trophy, with Karen Ritchie, who came second.



Michelle truly inspires us all. Last year, she completed an incredible number of ultra marathons and marathons, as well as lots of other races ranging from 5Ks to half marathons. However, it's not just about the miles she covers, Michelle does all of this while constantly supporting the club,

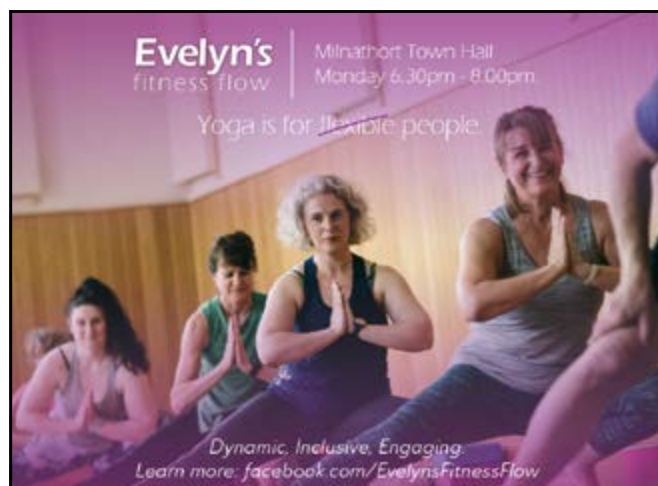


Wendy Grieve with her Road Championship trophy, along with Ann Malcolm (president) in the middle and Linda's MacEachen, who came second.

for four years. In that time she has seen the success of the club grow, with an increase in membership, the transition of the Loch Leven Half Marathon to a closed road event and of course our 40th birthday year last year. Thank you Ann for all your hardwork and dedication.

KRR are delighted that Richard Aldred has accepted nomination as our new president. He has been a member for several years and will no doubt do a fantastic job for the club.

Matt Newton, with his Road Championship trophy, with Ann.





Kinross Cricket Club

2026 Season Fixtures

The early season fixtures are in place with only one Sunday still to be filled. With only two fixtures away, the ground staff will have a busy time from April to July.

May

Sun 10 Dundee University XI Larder 30 Overs 1pm

Sun 31 Gifford Goblin Ha Haddington 30 Overs 1pm

June

Sun 7 Dollar CC Larder 30 Overs 1pm

Tue 9 Big Stramash Larder 10 Overs 6.30pm

Sun 14 Doune & Dunblane CC Doune 30 Overs 1pm

Tue 16 Big Stramash Larder 10 Overs 6.30pm

Sun 21 Meigle CC Larder 30 Overs 1pm

Tue 23 Big Stramash Larder 10 Overs 6.30pm

Sun 28 Free at time of printing

Tue 30 Big Stramash Larder 10 Overs 6.30pm

Big Stramash Community Cricket

During June and August, we will be running open community cricket on Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm until about 8pm. The format is 10 overs per side, soft ball and no pads or helmets and both sides bat the full 10 overs even if they lose all their wickets. We have two team squads, The Hurricanes and The Ospreys. All you have to do is turn up at the Larder and play. No experience is needed as coaching will be provided. The main aim is to get as many people as possible having fun. Squads are open to anyone over the age of 12 years. There will be a finals day match on 6th September.

From the Archives

As we have no results to report yet, it's good to look back at some of our previous matches. This is from a junior match in 2014.

Comfortable Scottish Cup win for Kinross-shire U13s

On Monday 19 May 2014 the Kinross-shire Under 13 team travelled to Arbroath for their 1st round evening match in the 2014 Scottish cup campaign. Arbroath batted first and were soon one wicket down as Jack McCreanor took his debut 2014 Scottish cup wicket bowling Sinclair in the very first over. The Arbroath pair of Salmon and O'Mara batted solidly to take the team total to 45 before Salmon was also bowled by Jack McCreanor in the 10th over. O'Mara and Lawrence found runs difficult to get as the Kinross-shire bowlers stuck to their jobs and restricted Arbroath to 80 for 2 in their 20 overs. Top bowler was Jack McCreanor with 2 for 21 with Kinross-shire skipper, Toby Douglas, providing excellent support with 4 over and 0 for 7.

Arbroath may have felt this was a good total as the light faded and were taken aback by the serious onslaught dealt out by Stuart McCreanor and Toby Douglas. Toby hit 30 before his mandatory retirement under the competition rules. His



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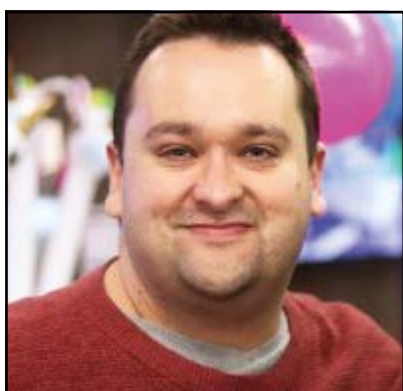
innings included six 4's. Stuart was joined by his twin brother Jack, and they chased the total down in the 9th over with Kinross-shire 83 for none. Stuart hit a final 4 to win the game and bring his individual total to 31 not out including five 4's.

This was a comfortable win and will give the team great confidence for the next round when they will face either Forfarshire or Dundee High School FP's.

Player Profile

Each month we will feature one of our regular team players.

Ivan Groenewald



Originally from South Africa but now a Dunfermline resident, Ivan made his Kinross-shire debut on 29 April 2018. He quickly established himself as an excellent leg break wrist spinner. At the end of the 2025 season, he had played in 52 matches and taken 75 wickets. His best

bowling figures are 5 wickets for 27 runs. Ivan has been Bowler of the Year on four occasions since 2019. During the 2024 season Ivan became a regular opening batsman. In the field Ivan has taken 8 catches and affected two run outs. A talented all-rounder, Ivan has been a club committee member since 2000.

Kinross Volleyball

School Volleyball

Wednesday lunchtime sessions are proving very popular among the boys with some missing out as the four courts fill up very quickly.

Primary 7 pupils can now attend the free Wednesday after school beginner sessions from 3:40 till 5 pm as part of the Active Schools' programme.

Mixed teams of four S3/4 pupils are preparing for Scottish Volleyball's annual festival which will take place in Edinburgh.

Scottish Volleyball has a "Tartan Talent" pathway which is open to talented youngsters from Kinross High School. We have had a number of youngsters progress from this scheme to be playing higher level volleyball with national league teams as well as junior international play.

Training/coaching sessions continue on Monday evenings from 8pm till 9.45pm throughout March with the Perth District Leagues scheduled to complete in early March. Our recreational league team are current league champions and still have an opportunity to retain their title although this season's competition has been very close with only 3 points separating the top four teams (see above).

It is hoped to resume free outdoor "pop up and play" sessions after the school Easter break (weather permitting). These free sessions will take place on the grass area adjacent to the Campus rear car park with beginners welcome.

The Better Place to Live Fair on Saturday 28 March will have a free "come and try volleyball" session from 12 noon till 1 pm in the indoor sport hall for anyone wishing to "have a go" with club coaches on hand to run the session and answer any questions.





Kinross Hockey Club

Kinrosshockey.org

Never too old – sport for life

It was a great endorsement for Kinross Astro to host the inaugural training session for Scotland Women's Over70 squad.

It is an honour for us to be able to host them in our dedicated hockey facility. Good luck ladies in your endeavours during this season in Belfast and Brasschaat, Belgium.

Hopefully it will demonstrate to the youngsters in the Kinross women's (yes I know they are still technically children) second team that sport can be 'for life'.



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Find us on Facebook @kinrosstennisclub and

@siobhannmacleodtennis

As the days lengthen and days (hopefully!) become a little drier and warmer, Kinross Tennis Club is gearing up for another season on court - and everyone in town is invited to get involved! Whether you're a seasoned player, a previous member, or simply curious about what the club has to offer, there's something for all ages and abilities at Kinross Tennis Club.

Membership Open to All

The club is delighted to announce that membership fees remain unchanged for 2026, and with subscription possible on the website it is easier than ever to join or renew. We think it's great value for adults to join and play tennis all year for less than £60. Juniors up to 10 years old are only £10 a year and it's £19 for those up to 18. We'd love to see many of you from around Kinross enjoying tennis, so please feel free to drop us a line to our email address below if you are interested in learning more about the club.

Upcoming Events: Get Involved!

Clean-Up Day (8 March 2026): Help spruce up the courts and clubhouse for the new season. It's a great way to meet some of our members and the Committee, enjoy a chat over a cuppa, and lend a hand—many hands make light work!

Open Day (19 April 2026): Bring friends, family, and neighbours for a day of tennis, refreshments, and socialising.

Activities will be available for adults and juniors, making it the perfect introduction for anyone interested in trying tennis or learning more about the club.

Themed Tennis Events: The club's popular Wimbledon Whites and French Open days are back, promising fun and friendly competition in classic tennis style.

Keep an eye on the website for more details on activities at the club coming soon.

Coaching for All Ages

Coaching sessions led by the club's coach, Siobhan, resume at the courts from 15 February. Classes cater to all ages and skill levels, from beginners to those looking to fine-tune their game. Both junior and adult coaching information is available on the club's website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/KinrossTennisClub/Coaching>.

Interested in Competitive Play?

League matches start in April, and adult and junior teams from Kinross will be visiting clubs across Tayside and Perthshire through the season. It's always fun to experience play at other clubs and we look forward to welcoming new members along to play with our teams.

Join the Fun in 2026

The club encourages everyone in Kinross to get involved—renew your membership, try a coaching session, join in the events, or simply come along to see what's happening. Your enthusiasm and participation help make Kinross Tennis Club a welcoming and lively part of the community. For more information, visit <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/KinrossTennisClub> or email kinrosstennis@gmail.com

Junior Pickleball Camp



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(Snowdrop) Gardens To Visit in March

Fingask Castle

Rait PH2 7SA Mr and Mrs Andrew Murray Threipland.
01821 670777 ext 4 & 6 andrew@fingaskcastle.com
www.fingaskcastle.co.uk

19 Jan - 5 Mar (not Fri, Sat & Sun), 10am - 4pm for
Snowdrops and Winter Walks.

Admission: £6, children free.

Sunday 29 March, 1pm - 4:30pm Admission £6, chil-
dren free.

Nominated Charity: Fingask Follies 30% & All Saints
Episcopal Church 30%.

Description: It's New, and it's very, very old; both the
17th century designed Fingask landscape and the Fin-
gask Long Barrow. Come and see it open on our open
days and by email request.

Other Details: Homemade teas on 29 Mar only.



1 Feb - 11 Mar, 10am - 5pm and 12 Mar - 31 Oct, 10am - 5pm

Admission: £5, children free.

Nominated Charity: The Woodland Trust Scotland 60%.

Description: A 19th-century landscaped garden with a plethora
of wonderful and interesting trees, shrubs, bulbs and plants.

Other Details: No dogs please.

Princeland House

School Road, Coupar Angus, Blairgowrie PH13 9AU. Helen and
Alastair Carmichael. T:07864778170 E:carmichaelhf@hotmail.com
Sunday 1 Mar & Saturday/Sunday, 7/8 Mar, 10am - 3pm. Please call
or email to book a time slot.

Admission: £5, children free.

Nominated Charity: MY Name's Doddie Foundation 60%.

Description: Sited on the edge of Coupar Angus, the wider
grounds of Princeland House garden are currently under active
renovation and replanting by Mrs Carmichael.

Other Details: Teas. Dogs on a lead only. Please call or email to
book a time slot.

Kilbryde Castle

Dunblane FK15 9NF Sir James and Lady Campbell. T:01786 824897
carolaandjames@googlemail.com. www.kilbrydecastle.com

By arrangement 1 Feb - 15 Mar

Admission: £6, children free. Email Garden

By arrangement 16 Mar - 30 Sept

Admission: £6, children free.

Nominated Charity: Leighton Library Trust 60%.

Description: Kilbryde Castle gardens cover some 12 acres and
are situated above the Ardoch Burn and below the castle. The
gardens are split into three parts: informal, woodland and wild.

Braco Castle

Braco FK15 9LA Mr and Mrs M van Ballegooijen T: 01786 880437



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Mrs Lorraine McMillan,
Morar Road,
Crossford

“ A bit about me... ”

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



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Spring Has Sprung!

THE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING are starting to appear; the snowdrops are nearly over but the daffodils and tulips aren't far away. At the start of February there was a lot of excitement on the Reserve when a male hen harrier was spotted. We also had two Slavonian grebes, a smew, a ring-necked duck and green winged teal which were seen in and around Loch Leven.

All the conservation work we do on the RSPB reserve at Loch Leven is driven by our Conservation Management Plan. This document provides us with clarity over our ecological objectives and the actions we need to do to meet our targets, and it also ensures alignment with RSPB's national priorities. Each one usually lasts for five years, and the current one is coming to an end in March. We are in the process of reviewing the existing plan, identifying anything new we need to consider and starting to draft the next one. At this stage the objectives are set to remain largely the same as the current plan. The primary objectives will see us continue to focus on maintaining and improving the wetlands that are visible from the hides, and we have ambitions to improve and expand the wetland habitats in the fields beside the Gairney and the Loch Leven Heritage Trail, which form the boundary of the reserve. The third element of these objectives is to maintain the area that is designated as a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) that is along the Loch edge in good condition. Another grouping of objectives will see us continue to improve the flowering plant assemblage in the Bumblebee Meadow to enhance it and create a longer flowering period for pollinators, maintain the Lowland Raised Bog and to allow the woodland to continue to expand on Vane Hill.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Management Plan and what we want to achieve over the next five years for conservation, then there will be a display at the Reserve for the month of March. This is also a great opportunity to add your thoughts to the proposed objectives.

We have an Introduction to Birdsong guided walk on Sunday 29 March. These will be led by expert Scott Paterson; group sizes will be kept small so there will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions. The walks are aimed at beginners or those wishing to improve their skills.

We will be running our self-led Easter trail from Saturday 4 – Sunday 19 April, 10am-4pm. This is great fun for kids, and a brilliant way of exploring the reserve. There's no need to pre-book, just pick up a trail sheet for £3 from the Visitor Centre. To find out more about our events programme, visit our website events.rspb.org.uk/lochleven or get in touch using our contact information below.

Our café is open from 10am-3pm and 10am-4pm for the Shop and Visitor Centre, Monday to Sunday. As always, our car park, trails, hides and toilets are open 24/7.

To keep up to date with any changes to our opening hours, please visit our website or get in touch on lochleven@rspb.org.uk, 01577 862355. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Photo by Ava Sheehan

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Elinor Craig

Flowers of Spring

WITH SPRING ON the horizon, and the weather warming up, we will start to see more flowers coming out across the reserve. The first we get in February are the snowdrops, but March should see daffodils, primrose, wood anemone, marsh marigold, lesser celandine and dandelions. As temperatures rise, we will also start to see some early insects emerging from hibernating or pupation, which includes queen bumblebees and possibly some early butterflies such as small tortoiseshell. The flowering plants in March are vital to these insects' survival. Willow catkins are another early provider of pollen for insects and are especially loved by bees!

Some more interesting bird sightings we've had this month have included Slavonian grebes, smews and great white egrets. And we had our last early morning goose count in February, revealed low numbers of pink-footed geese on the loch, as these birds will be starting their journeys back north to Iceland to their summer breeding grounds. Heading into Spring and the birds breeding season, you will often see more territorial behaviour, especially from mute swans who will chase youngsters and other adults out of their territories. In February the herons started hanging out in the Heronry on Castle Island, where they nest in the treetops!

We want to thank everyone who came along to our Valentine's Day bird box making event this year. Hopefully they've been put up in gardens and people will start to see their local garden birds taking an interest. Blue tits, coal tits and great tits are often to first to scope out garden nest boxes. What species use your boxes can depend on the size and shape of the holes in them, or even a different design, as Robins, and Wrens like open fronted boxes.

Our Trout in the Classroom project is underway again this year, with Kinross, Milnathort, Arngask, and a new school Kelty taking



Willow catkins by Lorne Gill

part this year. Each class was given a tank with 100 Ova (Brown Trout eggs) and were tasked with monitoring their progress. These eggs with hatch throughout February into tiny Alevin, and in the first week of March we will be heading out to local water sources, all of which lead back into the loch, to release them.

As we (hopefully) head into nicer weather, we would like to remind visitors to the reserve to follow our local access guidance. There is no water-borne access until 1 April when it is allowed but restricted, and we ask all visitors not to have any open fires, fire pits or disposable BBQs. Please look up SOAC before visiting local nature reserves.

We are recruiting two seasonal staff members this year. For more info on these roles please visit www.nature.scot/about-naturescot/working-and-volunteering-us/current-vacancies

To keep updated with whats going on the reserve have a look at our social media (Facebook and Instagram - @LochLevenNNR).

Sally

Weather

Recent Weather Reports From Kinross January 2026

Total Rainfall	127.3mm/5.092in	
Heaviest Fall	25.7mm/1.028in	(27 Jan)
Total Sunshine	45.2hrs	
Sunniest Day	6.3 hrs	(28 Jan)
Max Temp Average	4.8°C	
Highest Temp	9.5°C	(11 Jan)
Min Temp Average	-3.42°C	
Lowest Temp	-13°C	(5 Jan)



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Rain and Remembering



IT'S BEEN A BIT wet since I last wrote. We needed as many dry days as possible to plant the 600m of hedge I mentioned in December. We got 11 days planting, I kept a wee spreadsheet and it took 160 man hours to plant it, this included Andrew breaking the soil up with the digger. I've no idea whether that's an efficient or embarrassing figure, but the hedge is in.

I was humbled to receive a few offers of help after my appeal in this column in December. Unfortunately, the weather meant I couldn't utilise the volunteers this time, but thank you to those who offered, I hope I can be in touch another time.

Alongside the hedge, the ewe lambs have been a big focus this winter. In 2024 and 2025 I berated myself for letting them slip into poorer condition than I'd have liked. With waterlogged fields threatening sore feet and fluke, this winter could easily have been a hat trick, but we made a few important changes.

Thanks to friends who offered extra grazing, the lambs had a spell away, and there's nothing like fresh grass for sheep of that age. Administering the wormer just before the move has, I believe, made it more effective this year. When they returned to their usual patch, the ground had been well rested, helping to reduce further worm burdens. Since coming home, they've had

good silage, some tasty turnips from Fife to nibble at, and feed blocks to supplement them.

Last week, walking through them in truly horrible rain, I saw something that lifted my heart. One minute they were standing quietly, the next they were springing straight up as if they were on trampolines, full of life and energy. After the winter we've had, seeing that bounce felt like a small triumph. Energetic sheep are healthy sheep, and this return to my usual standards is a real relief.

As many readers will know, our year has begun with deep sadness. We lost our lovely mum, Helen, on 6 January. With a daughter like me, who is farming mad, you might have expected she was the same, but this wasn't the case.

Mum was a baker's daughter from Glasgow who trained as a nurse in her early twenties. She married into farming and became part of farm life and the business, but she kept her own professional identity.

One of Mum's great strengths was perspective. She wouldn't let farming dominate every conversation at the lunch table. If we drifted back to sheep or silage for the third time, she'd glance at the clock, raise her eyebrows, and gently remind us she'd made a lovely lunch and that perhaps we might talk about something else happening in the world. It was, in hindsight, a wonderful lesson in balance and protecting our mental wellbeing.

When she and Dad moved here from Torr Farm, in Dunbartonshire in 1987, it was a challenging time in agriculture. Mum's regular income brought stability. Dad has often said he could not have continued farming without that security. She was, in every sense, a true farming and life partner. I am so grateful that my son and I are able to continue the business that Mum and Dad built together.

Each year, when we got excited about lambing, Mum would support us. Over the years we had lots of late night chats, and she would often tell me gently that she wouldn't always be here. I still can't quite believe she isn't. And yet, alongside hedge planting and sheep jobs, we are finding moments of joy. It won't be easy, but we will try to remember to talk about other things at lunchtime too.

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Scottish Charity SC004968

64 High Street
Kinross
KY13 8AJ

Weekly Programme For March

Monday	Hearing Aid Clinic (2 Mar ONLY)	10am-12pm
	Exercise Class	11.30am
	Games: Indoor Curling, Quizzes, Scrabble, Dominoes	1.30pm
Tuesday	Vision PK (3, 17 Mar ONLY)	10-11.45am
	'Stride for Life' Walking Group	10.00am
	Relaxation Class (10, 24 Mar ONLY)	11.30am
	Trishaws <i>STARTING SOON! (weather permitting)</i>	1.30pm
	Singing Group (10 Mar ONLY)	1.30pm
	Games: Curling, Quizzes etc	1.30pm
Wednesday	Church Service	11.15am
	Reminiscence Group (4 Mar ONLY)	1.30pm
	Fun Quiz	1.30pm
	Games: Indoor Curling, Quizzes	1.30pm
	Craft Group (11, 25 Mar ONLY)	1.30pm
Thursday	Chiropody Service (19 Mar – appts ONLY)	10am-1pm
	Interactive Games	11.30am
	Exercise Class with Kenny	11.30am
	Games: Curling, Quizzes, Scrabble	1.15pm
	Silent Disco (12 Mar ONLY)	1.30-3pm
	Art Group	1.30pm
	CLOSED ALL DAY (26 Mar ONLY)	
Friday	Cancer Support Group (6, 20 Mar ONLY)	11am-12.30pm
	Exercise Group (6, 13, 20, 27 Mar ONLY)	11.30am
	Trishaws <i>STARTING SOON! (weather permitting)</i>	1.30pm
	Board Games	1.30pm
	Bingo	1.30pm
	Life Story Books	1.30pm



Film shows • Cards
Dominoes • Art Class
Exercises • Chiropody
Trips • Daily Papers

KINROSS CENTRE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURS 26 MAR FOR STAFF FIRST AID TRAINING.

All Activities Subject To Change. Activities May Be Added.

We would like to thank all our service users, committee, volunteers and the whole community of Kinross and surrounding areas, for your continued support of Kinross Centre.

KINROSS CENTRE

64 HIGH STREET KINROSS KY13 8AJ

TEL/FAX: 01577 863869; Email: kinrossdaycentre@outlook.com

COFFEE BAR OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC from 8.30am - 3.30pm

Dominoes; Exercises; Lunches Daily

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Kinross-shire Parish Church

Church of Scotland (Charity no SC015523)

Worshipping God – Following Christ – Serving the Community

The local Church of Scotland congregations united in 2025 to become 'Kinross-shire Parish Church'.

This is formed from the previous congregations of Arngask, Cleish, Fossoway, Kinross, and Orwell & Portmoak. The congregation holds worship and events across the parish, but primarily at its three worship centres of Fossoway Church (Crook of Devon), Kinross Church and Orwell Church (Milnathort). The individual diaries for each worship centre are below.

Ministry Team

Based in Kinross: **Rev Alan D. Reid MA, BD**

Tel: (01577) 862952

Based in Crook of Devon: **Rev Alex Johnson (to be ordained and inducted at Kinross Church, 7pm Thurs 19 March).**

Associate Minister (Orwell): **Rev Dr Robert Calvert**

Kinross Church

Part of Kinross-shire Parish Church

Kinross Church: 10 Station Road, Kinross KY13 8TG

Kinross Church Centre: 64 High St, Kinross, KY13 8AJ

Website: www.kinrossparishchurch.org

Facebook: Kinross Parish Church of Scotland

YouTube: Kinross Parish Worship; **Instagram:** [kpscotland](https://www.instagram.com/kpscotland)

E-mail: office@kinrossparishchurch.org

Office Tel: (01577) 862570

The Kinross Church Office is open 10am-12noon, Mon & Fri.

Otherwise operating remotely. Leave a phone message or email.

Contact the Kinross Church Office for the weekly email of events and Zoom details.

REGULAR SERVICES AND EVENTS IN KINROSS

Events are in Kinross Church unless otherwise indicated.

Sundays

9.15am Choir Practice

10.30am: **Morning Service:** There is often a 'gathering song' about 10.25am
For Young People: Junior Church (age 4 -11) meets in the Upper Room from 10.30am then joins in at the end. There is a corner in the church for parents with babies/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.

6.00pm: **Sunday Evening Prayer,** on Zoom.

6.00pm: **Crossfire,** church centre. Age P7 & up.

7.00pm: **Sunday@7** informal worship fortnightly.

Mondays

10am-12pm: Kinross Church Office open to visitors

2.00pm: **Bridge and Board Games Afternoon.**

7.30pm: **Adult Dungeons and Dragons** fortnightly

7.30pm: **House Group** Bible study & fellowship.

Tuesdays

10-11.30am: **Stepping Stones** for babies, toddlers and carers.

2.30pm: **House Group.**

7.00pm: **Guild** fortnightly (now finished for the winter)

Wednesdays

11.15am **Midweek Service,** in the Church Centre Garden Room.

1.30pm: **Craft Group.**

7.45pm: **Men's House Group.**

8.00pm: **Women's House Group.**

Thursdays

10.30am: **House Group**

11am-12pm: **Table Talk** – chat on Zoom.

8.00pm: **Young Mum's House Group** on Zoom.

Fridays

10am-12pm: Kinross Church Office open to visitors.

5.30pm: **Youth Dungeons and Dragons** (fortnightly)

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association, (Church Centre)

6pm-7.15pm **Anchor Section** (P1-P3)

7pm-9.00pm **Junior Section** (P4-P6)

7pm-9.30pm **Company Section** (P7-S3)

7pm-9.30pm **Senior Section** (S4-S6)

OTHER SERVICES AND EVENTS

In Kinross Church unless otherwise indicated.

MARCH

Sun 1 **10.30am: Morning Service** with **Quarterly Communion**

Mon 2 **8am: Guided Silent Meditation**

Thu 5 **7pm: Parish-wide Lent Study** at Cleish Church

Fri 6 **2pm: World Day of Prayer**

(also 7pm at Orwell Church)

5.30pm: Youth Dungeons and Dragons

Sun 8 **2.30pm: Let's Sing** Tea and a sing for all, but especially for those living with dementia and their carers. In Church Centre.

7pm: Sunday@7 Informal worship

Mon 9 **7.30pm: Adult Dungeons and Dragons**

Thu 12 **7pm: Parish-wide Lent Study** at Elizabeth Wilkie Hall, Fossoway Church

Thu 19 **7pm: Service of Ordination and Induction** led by the Presbytery of Perth to welcome our new minister **Alex Johnson** to Kinross-shire Parish Church

Fri 20 **5.30pm: Youth Dungeons and Dragons**

Sat 21 **10-12pm: Coffee Morning** at Kinross Church Centre to celebrate forty years of Transform Trade
11am: All Friends Together for adults with learning disabilities

Sun 22 **7pm: Sunday@7: Informal worship**

Mon 23 **7.30pm: Adult Dungeons and Dragons**

Thu 26 **7pm: Parish-wide Lent Study** at Orwell Church

Sat 28 **10am-2pm: Church Stall** at the **Better Place to Live** Fair, Loch Leven Campus

Cleish and Fossoway

Part of Kinross-shire Parish Church

Cleish Church: Cleish, Kinross-shire, KY13 0LR

Fossoway Church: Church Road, Crook of Devon, Kinross-shire, KY13 0PQ

Our churches are very warm and welcoming places. Fossoway Church is situated in Crook of Devon and services are held there weekly. Cleish Church is situated in Cleish, where services are held monthly. Come and join us – we would love to meet you. All are welcome at any of our meetings and services.

If you would like any more information, please contact:

Christine Sime: 07759 463448, revcsime@gmail.com

Anne McKay: 07766 418016, annemckay90@gmail.com

Christine Maclure: 07704 884584, maclure19@gmail.com

Updates and changes to the dates below can be found on our church website: <https://cleishandfossowaychurches.org.uk>, or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fossowaychurch>

The following services will take place at Fossoway Church, unless otherwise stated:

MARCH

Sun 1 Mar: Sunday Morning Worship

9.45am (Fossoway) & 11.15am (Cleish)

Fairtrade Stall and refreshments after both services

Sun 8 Mar: 9.45am Sunday Morning Worship,
Refreshments will be available after the service

Sun 15 Mar: 9.45am Sunday Morning Worship,
Refreshments will be available after the service

Sun 22 Mar: 9.45am Sunday Morning Worship

Refreshments will be available after the service

Sun 29 Mar: 9.45am Sunday Morning Worship

Refreshments will be available after the service

REFRESH THURSDAY

Thursdays 2.00pm - 4.00pm in Fossoway Church Hall
Join us for a friendly blether with delicious home baking, tea, and coffee. All are welcome.

FOSSOWAY CHURCH CHOIR

Our church choir meets every Sunday morning before morning worship and our wonderful organists run through the hymns that we will be singing during worship. There is no need to read music as the organist helps us to learn what we need to know. We also meet from time to time to practice for special projects e.g. Easter, Christmas. We are a friendly group of people and would love to welcome new members with open arms.

FILM NIGHT

Fri 6 Mar 7.30pm: WAKING NED (PG)

The lucky winner of the national lottery is Ned Devine, so taken by his good fortune that he now can't be waked, because he died from the shock of it! News of the win spread quickly in the scenic little Irish village of Tully More, but not the secret news of Ned's demise. With lottery officials closing in to confirm the prize claimed by the deceased Devine, Ned's closest friends scheme to keep the prize money close to home, in memory of Ned of course! But as the plot twists humorously, they learn it is hard to keep such a secret in a small town.

Donations of £5 appreciated, including tea/coffee and biscuits. Please join us for the film, some refreshments and a blether. All welcome.

FOSSOWAY BABIES AND TODDLERS

Every Friday 9.30 – 11.30am, in Fossoway Church Hall.

Join us for snacks, play and blether.

FOSSOWAY CREATIVE CRAFTERS GROUP

Meets on Monday evenings from 6.30pm at Fossoway.

Please bring your own craft and join us.

CROOK YOUTH CLUB

Term-Time Weekly Drop In. Every Thurs 6 – 8pm at Fossoway

Come along! It's a space to be, play games, pool table, football table, snacks and good chats! For all young people aged 11-19yrs old. Completely free! Check the KYTHE Facebook page and Instagram account for more details and up-to-date information.

FOSSOWAY HOUSE GROUP

Our House Group usually meets **every Thursday evening at 7.30pm.**

For more details, please contact Debbie Hill 01577 842268

HALL BOOKINGS

If you wish to book our hall or meeting rooms, please contact:
Kinross-shire Parish Church on (01577) 862570
or email: office@kinrossparishchurch.org

Orwell and Portmoak Churches

Part of Kinross-shire Parish Church

Sunday Worship, and Junior Church:

Sunday morning services in Orwell Church at 10.30am. All children welcome.

Family services with the Praise Band will be held on the first Sunday of each month, except January.

No morning services will be held in Portmoak Church, but there will be a service on the last Sunday of each month until the building is sold, as detailed in the diary dates.

Messy Church will meet on Sat 28 Feb. from 4-6pm at Orwell Church with all the usual crafts, activities, fun, and food.



DISCOVER LOCH LEVEN ON FACEBOOK

To discover myriad things to see and do in Kinross and the surrounding area, see

Visit Loch Leven

MARCH

1 Mar

Family service with the Praise Band

3 Mar

Guild Friendship Group in Orwell Hall 2 - 3:30pm

5 Mar

Ashley House Service at 2pm.

6 Mar

World Day of Prayer in Orwell at 7pm.

13 Mar

Tea and a Blether in Orwell, 2 - 3:30pm

26 Mar

Parish-wide Lent Study in Orwell, 7pm

27 Mar

Oasis Ladies Group, Portmoak New Room 10:15 - 12pm

29 Mar

Praise Service, Portmoak Church at 6.30pm

The Church Office and Shop is open 10am-12pm, Mon-Fri.

Office email: orwellandportmoakchurch@gmail.com

Website: orwellportmoakchurch.org.uk

St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church

**(Part of the Worldwide
Anglican Communion)**

Muir, Kinross, KY13 8AY



Website: <https://www.stpauls-kinross.co.uk/>

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

Rector: We are currently without a Rector. During the vacancy, **Contacts** for church business and pastoral care including baptisms, weddings and funerals are:

Interim Pastor: Rev Elaine Ryder e-mail revelaine212@gmail.com
07977 101742 (texts preferred) Not Tuesdays

Chair of Vestry: at present we do not have a Chair of Vestry
Peter Croft is the interim contact. e-mail malajafli@gmx.com

Associate Priest: Rev Fliss Shaw

e-mail rev.fmshaw@btinternet.com 07546 219938

Our Sunday morning services begin at 10am, unless otherwise advertised. These are usually Sung Eucharists (worship with Communion). Our church bell rings from 9.45am.

We hope in the future to provide regular updates on our website concerning our schedule of worship.

Our services are broadcast from the church as livestreams via Zoom (please email us for links). The Liturgy outline can be followed on the website via the seasonal Sung Eucharist e-booklets and the weekly pewsheets.

We look forward to seeing you in person or online. All are welcome! Our meeting room is available for hire at competitive rates.

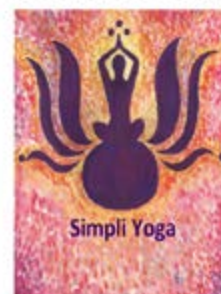
MARCH EVENTS AND SERVICES

NB: there will be no midweek Communion services for the present time.

Sun 1 Lent 2

10am: Sung Eucharist.

Yoga & Meditation



Public Classes & Online

Come along and enjoy a balanced guided practise for your mind and body in Kinross or Perth. Morning and evening sessions available locally or online. We offer sessions for adults, kids, pregnancy and babies.

www.simpliyoga.com

Churches

- Sun 8 Lent 3**
10am: Sung Eucharist
- Sun 15 Mothering Sunday**
10am: Sung Eucharist
- Sun 22 Lent 5 Passiontide begins**
10am: Sung Eucharist
- Sun 29 Palm Sunday**
10am: Sung Eucharist
with a dramatic reading of the Passion

APRIL

- Thu 2 Maundy Thursday**
7.30pm: Sung Eucharist with washing of hands, stripping of the altar and The Watch until 9.45pm
- Fri 3 Good Friday**
12-1pm: **At The Foot Of The Cross** at St James', Dollar, led by Rev Elaine Ryder
2-3pm: **The Last Hour**, at St Paul's, Kinross led by Rev Felicity Shaw
- Sun 5 Easter Day, Alleluia Christ is Risen**
7.30am: Ecumenical Service at the Loch side
8.45am: Breakfast at St Paul's, Coffee and Croissants
9.45am: Lighting the Easter Candle
10am: Sung Eucharist

Loch Leven Church

(Charity No: SC049050)

info@lochlevenchurch.com

Loch Leven Church meets at Loch Leven Community Campus, at 10:30am each Sunday.

Our current sermon series is 'The King & His Kingdom: The Gospel of Matthew' and in March we'll be hosting the following services:

- 1 March** - Matthew 5:17-48: Understanding and fulfilling the law (Gavin Matthews, Solas)
- 8 March** - Matthew 6:1-18: Reality With God (Chris Aitcheson, LLC)
- 15 March** - Matthew 6:19-34: Laying Up Treasure (Robin Kent, LLC)
- 22 March** - Matthew 7:1-28: Establishing Priorities (Douglas Reid, Tayside Christian Fellowship)
- 29 March** - Matthew 8:1-9:34: Miracles And Faith (Allan McKinnon, Tilsley Bible College)

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, or email us at info@lochlevenchurch.com

St. James' RC Church

Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld

5 High Street, Kinross KY13 8AW

Te: 01577 863329 Mob: 07540 534480

E-mail: stjames@dunkelldiocese.org.uk

Website: www.catholicinross.com Weekly newsletter available online

Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Pletts

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Des Conners

TIMES OF HOLY MASS

Sat: Vigil Mass at 5pm

Sun: Holy Mass at 10am

Confessions after Vigil Mass

Kinross Gospel Hall

8 Montgomery Street, Kinross

www.kinrossgospelhall.info

Tel 07818 050785



Gospel Meeting: Sundays 4pm

Toddlers' Group: Thurs 9.30-11am

Explorers (Primary School): Thurs 6-7pm

We look forward to seeing old friends and welcoming new ones. All are welcome.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HUGH DOBSON

Molly and family of the late **Hugh Dobson** would like to thank all friends for their attendance and support at the crematorium and Kinross Rugby Club to celebrate Hugh's life. Special thanks to Rev Alan Reid for his comforting service and to Stewart Funeral Directors for their gentle guidance with arrangements. Thanks is also due to those who sent kind messages, cards and flowers and contributed to our chosen charities. Also our thanks to Loch Leven Health Centre for their care of Hugh in recent months.



Mondays 7pm – 8.30pm
Family Room, Orwell Church, Milnathort

To find out more, please contact Margaret West
(COTNCommittee@gmail.com)

Alpha Youth
Join a Conversation on Life, Faith and Purpose

On Sundays in Kinross Church Centre

Starting Sunday 11th January
Then every week till Sunday 8th March

10.15am till 11.45am
Includes breakfast
(Full day away on Sun 15th Feb)

Everyone welcome P7-S6



Here if you need us
Talk to us, we'll listen

Call free day or night on
116 123



LOCAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Loch Leven Explorers

Loch Leven Explorers are looking for volunteers to assist with running the unit. The Explorer programme follows on from Scouts and supports young people gain useful life skills, leadership, community service and have meaningful outdoor adventures. No prior Scouting experience needed.

Find out more at: lochlevenexplorers@hotmail.com

Milnathort Filmhouse

Come join our brilliant community cinema group. We do screenings every couple of months in the wonderful Milnathort Town Hall. Help choose the films and dish out the popcorn! Email us milnathortfilmhouse@gmail.com or contact Janieann McCracken on 077450 12315

Could You Mentor A Young Person?

Grandmentors matches volunteer mentors (usually aged 50+) with young people (16-26) who are care experienced or have had adverse childhood experiences. We provide training and support during your mentorship. If you would like to give a little time to help a young person take steps towards independence, or hear more about the project, please get in touch at perthandkinross@volunteeringmatters.org.uk

The Kinross-shire Partnership

Kinross-shire Partnership is looking for help to manage the Mobility Scooters, the website www.kinross.cc, organise the Better Place To Live Fair, Networking Breakfasts and the Community Champion Award Event. Please email Richard on: kpnetworkingbreakfast@gmail.com or call 07999 510500. We would love to hear from you.

The Potager Garden

A small community garden in Bowton Road Kinross. Contact Amanda James on 07963 476803, or 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.

Greyhound Rescue Fife

Greyhound Rescue Fife at Balfree Country Centre, Gairneybank, Kinross, needs volunteers to clean the kennels and walk and feed the greyhounds. 01592 890583. 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 please join us! Contact Bouwien Bennet at info@kleo.org.uk or call 07979 064345.

RSPB Loch Leven

We are always out on the lookout for volunteers to help at our reserve, this could be from working in the café, shop or visitor centre. If you're interested, please get in touch on lochleven@rspb.org.uk.

Kinross (Marshall) Museum

The museum, based at the Campus, depends on a small group of volunteers who undertake research, and answer queries sent from around the world. Email information@kinrossmuseum.org.uk or call into the museum when the study room is open (Saturday 10am-1pm or Thursdays 10am-7pm).

Swansacre Playgroup

Our long-established charity playgroup is welcoming volunteers for flexible and rewarding roles including fundraising, garden upkeep, lunch preparation and committee support. No experience necessary. Please contact swansacre.chair@gmail.com for more information.

Kinross Heart Start

Campaign to secure funds for public access defibrillators. Contact Pamela Hunter on 01577 862419.

Common Grounds

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/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 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.

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.

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. Contact lyndsaystobie@chas.org.uk or 07557 370746.

Kinross-shire Volunteer Drivers

We are a local charity providing a volunteer private car service for the residents of Kinross-shire & Glenfarg of any age who require transportation to the health centre, hospital or other health related appointments. We also provide support with local shopping and other social requests to help reduce social isolation and support mental health and well-being. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver with us please do get in touch with one of our administrators by phone 01577 840196 or email administrator@kvd.org.uk. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Guide Dogs Kinross

We would love new volunteers to join our fundraising group. Email 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. Contact Daryl kinrossbeavers@hotmail.co.uk.

Kinross in Bloom

Volunteer group which provides and maintains floral displays to enhance the environment in Kinross. Contact susan.mitchell50@gmail.com.

Light Up Kinross

Light Up Kinross is a small local charity with responsibility for Kinross Christmas lights. Email mbs21@btinternet.com

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



Reimagining Carer Support Event

Creating, Collaborating and Co-designing together

Are you an unpaid carer? Do you support unpaid carers? Do you manage or lead services?

You are invited to attend

Participate Share your views and experiences



Tuesday 24 March 2026, 12-3 pm.
Civic Hall, 2 High Street, Perth.

Carers - can't attend the full event?
 Feel free to drop in; your opinion matters

Refreshments and light lunch will be provided.

Please register your attendance by Tuesday 10 March:

- Scan the QR code
- Phone: 07342 079949 or
- Email: communityengagement@pkc.gov.uk





Music.

KINROSS HIGH SCHOOL

CONCERT SERIES 25/26

13:25

LOCH LEVEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

TUESDAYS THURSDAYS



OCT 7TH



DEC 18TH



FEB 10TH



MAR 26TH



JUN 2ND



ARTS.
KINROSS HIGH SCHOOL



GET INVOLVED

KINROSS-SHIRE RED SQUIRREL GROUP

HELP SAVE RED SQUIRRELS

AND PROTECT NATIVE SPECIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



The Kinross-shire Red Squirrel Group is a volunteer-led group looking for new members to help monitor squirrel populations in the area and educate others about the plight of the red squirrel



If you would like to find out more about the group, let us know about what you are already doing to help or find out how you can get involved - please email us at: kinrossshireredssquirrelgroup@gmail.com

PKAVS CARERS CENTRE IN THE COMMUNITY

Where to find us in Kinross

Kinross Day centre
 (run by The Kinross Centre)

1030am - 12pm, the third Thursday of the month

Kinross Church Centre, 64 High Street, Kinross

A member of our Adult Carers Team will be available to chat with you.

Please feel free to drop in.

CONTACT US

01738 567076

Carersshortbreaks@pkavs.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SC005561 Companies House Registration Number: SC086065



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/ <https://www.perthcab.org.uk/contact-us>

Debt and Money Advice Service

Perth CAB has a team of specialist debt advisers. Advice is free, confidential, impartial and independent.



Perth & Kinross Citizens Advice Bureau

Free, Confidential, Impartial



Energy Debt Building Up?

Let's get you back on your feet before winter...

Contact us for help with:

- Dealing with energy debt
- Understanding and challenging energy bills
- Financial support you may be entitled to



0808 196 9440

(Freephone from mobile & landlines)



www.perthcab.org.uk/contact-us

Charity No. SC0003259 Company No. 153915 Registered at: 5 South St Johns Place, Perth, PH1 5SU

Music at Cleish with Bel Canto

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SING IN THIS CONCERT?

CONTACT DAVID: helen@belcanto.com

FAURE REQUIEM
+ CHORAL & ORGAN WORKS

28 MARCH 2026, 3pm

DIRECTOR: DAVID BUCHANAN-COOK
SUNG BY BEL CANTO
MATT EDWARDS (ORGAN)

SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026 3 PM

CLEISH CHURCH KINROSS-SHIRE KY13 0LR

PROCEEDS TO CLEISH VILLAGE TRUST (SC053691) & SCOTLAND'S GARDENS SCHEME (049866)

TICKET RESERVATIONS: BITLY/CLEISH-BELCANTO (BY DONATION - SUGGESTED £12.50)

info@cleishvillagetrust.org

Gaelic Society of Perth

THE NEXT CÈILIDH and last one of the season will be on 20 March at 7.30pm at St Matthew's Church, Tay St, Perth. We will have three wonderful singers D.I.Brown, Steven MacIver and Anne Bennett as well as some instrumentalists on the night. Come along and practice your Gaelic, and enjoy the brilliant refreshments and chat at half time! Admission on the door is £10 for non-members and £6 for members for a great evening's entertainment.

MUSIC IN DOLLAR



Sunday 1 March at 3pm – we have the outstanding Singaporean pianist Jia Ning Ng – who will play a wonderful programme including Beethoven (Moonlight Sonata), Mozart, Mendelssohn and Granados. She has a history of Standing Ovation! Don't miss it.

Sunday 15 March at 3pm we have the superb Violinist Charlotte Rowan accompanied by Charlotte Stevenson. They will play a programme of some of the most beautiful violin pieces written – including works by Moszkowski, Shostakovich, Wieniawski, Tchaikovsky and Elgar. This will be a concert to remember!

Tickets cost £12 on the door or on the website – free to all under 18s and those in full time education. www.MusicinDollar.org.uk. Save money with a Season Ticket! All concerts at the Gibson Hall, Dollar Academy, Dollar, FK14 7DU

How to get started

You can refer yourself or your family & friends can refer you. Either by going to our website PK.Learning & Development - Community Link Workers

Use the QR code to refer yourself

Telephone 01738 475575

Contact your Community Link Worker team

• 01738 475575
Communitylinkworkers@pkc.gov.uk

Need support? We can link you to local help and activities

COMMUNITY LINK WORKER

Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership
Pillar House, 35 Kinross St, Perth, PH1 5GD

Care Opinion
What's your opinion?

MOBILE LIBRARY

11 MARCH

www.culturepk.org.uk/library/mobile-library

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
Causeway Court	11:40 – 12:00
Powmill (Mill Gardens)	13:20 – 13:40
Crook of Devon (Village Inn)	13:45 – 14:30
Carnbo (Pitcairnie Lane)	14:45 – 15:15
Whyte Court (Kinross)	15:30 – 16:00

Contact us by phone on 01577 867205
or by email at lochlevenlibrary@culturepk.org.uk.

PERTH & KINROSS SCHOOL TERM DATES

Term Ends: Thurs 2 April 2026
Spring Holiday: Fri 3 April to Fri 17 April 2026
Easter Sunday: Sun 5 April 2026

THE KINROSS NEWSLETTER

*All Profits Returned
To The Community*



Rotary Kinross & District

CASINO & Curry Night

When:
Saturday 28th March 2026
Doors open at 7pm

Where:
Kinross Rugby Club

Tickets:
£25.00 per person
Price includes a welcome drink on arrival,
a delicious curry, and £10 of chips.
(more chips can be purchased on the night)

Proudly supporting Rachel House
Our local Children's Hospice

CHaS
Children's Hospices
Across Scotland

For tickets, please contact
secretary.kdrc@gmail.com
07380 414637

Follow us
on Facebook






Employability Support Drop-in

Loch Leven Community
Campus

ICT Meeting Room 2
(access through library)

8th January, 12th February,
12th March

10:00am - 12:30pm

Job search
Training & volunteering
opportunities
Interview skills
CVs/applications

Contact Chris: CForber@pkc.gov.uk / 07352 743578



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.

**Loch Leven
Community Campus**
Saturday 28th March, 2026
10am – 2pm



Scan the QR Code to book a stall

STEPPING STONES

Weekly in
Kinross Parish Church
Tuesdays, 10-11.30am.

Stepping Stones is
for parents, carers,
babies and toddlers.

ALL WELCOME



**Carnbo Community Hall
Talks 2026**

**MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2026
7.30PM
POLLY PULLAR
SAVING THE RED SQUIRREL**

**MONDAY 2ND MARCH 2026
7.30PM
RYAN MACDONALD
EXO PLANETS &
THE SEARCH FOR ALIEN LIFE**

carnbohall@gmail.com
07917 319003
ALL WELCOME, REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW
PKC WARM WELCOME FUND
REG CHARITY SC015354
CARNBO AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY HALL ASSOC

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES		
Issue	Deadline	Publication Date
April	Friday 13 March	Saturday 28 March

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
Books	Fluorescent, LED	Packaging
Bras	& Long Life Light	Rubble
Bulky Goods	Bulbs	Scrap Metal
Car Batteries	Fridges &	Soil
Cardboard	Freezers	Stone
Cartons and	Garden Waste	Telephone
Paper containers	Glass	Directories
with metal ends	Household	Textiles
Cooking Oil	Batteries	(Clothes & Shoes)
Electrical &	Large Domestic	Timber
Electronic	Appliances	Car Tyres
Equipment	Non-Recyclable	(maximum two
(WEEE - remove &	Waste	per day, strictly
recycle batteries	(General Waste)	household only)
separately)	Paper	

FREE COMPOST AVAILABLE (subject to availability).

SITUATIONS VACANT

Assistant Administrator

Kinross-shire Volunteer Drivers (formerly KVG & ROS) is a registered charity providing a voluntary car driver/befriender service which enables the residents of Kinross-shire and Glenfarg to attend medical appointments as well as providing support with shopping and requests for social purposes to help reduce social isolation and support people's mental health and wellbeing.

We are looking to employ a paid, part time assistant administrator to work 12 hours per week, from home, organising drivers from a pool of volunteers to meet requests for lifts to appointments. The successful candidate will need to have a good telephone manner, computer skills, local knowledge and a sympathetic and caring approach to our mainly elderly service users.

The post holder would be required to work 2 hours per day in the late afternoon/early evening and be able to increase their hours occasionally to cover leave for the other Administrator. Applications forms can be found on our website at www.kvd.org.uk. For further information please contact Pauline Watson by email secretary@kvd.org.uk or call 07877 840347.

FAIRTRADE COFFEE MORNING

KINROSS CHURCH CENTRE
Saturday 21 March 10am-12pm

Come along and enjoy Fairtrade tea, coffee
& baking and buy from the stalls:
Fairtrade, Crafts, Plants and Baking!

Admission £3 at the door

**Kinross She Shed
Due to six nations
New date -
Thurs 5th March,
Kinross Rugby Club,
6.30 pm**

The Kinross She Shed committee invite you to an
Open evening
at Kinross Rugby Club with drinks and nibbles.

We want to discuss our ideas for this year and to hear
your ideas about how best to use our funds.
Ideas suggested so far include a board game evening,
supper club, jewellery design workshop, pottery,
crystal/tarot cards, theatre trips and so much more!

Come along and find out more!
Open to all women in Kinross-shire.

**MOBILE POST VAN AT
BUCHAN AVENUE,
KINNESSWOOD**

**MONDAYS 13.45 till 14.45
WEDNESDAYS 12.45 till 13.45**

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
ROYAL MAIL**

87 High St, Kinross KY13 8AR

MONDAY	8-10am
TUESDAY	8-10am
WEDNESDAY	8-10am
THURSDAY	8-10am
FRIDAY	8-10am
SATURDAY	8-12pm
SUNDAY	CLOSED

Baby & Toddler Groups

TUESDAY

Milnathort Babies and Toddlers
Orwell Church Hall 9.30 -11am

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 -11.30am

Muckhart Babies and Toddlers
Church Hall 9.30-11am

THURSDAY

Montgomery Toddlers
Kinross Gospel Hall 9.30 -11am

FRIDAY

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) 0800 0778 778

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 0141 465 1878

Loch Leven Community Campus 01577 867200

Kinross High School 01577 867100

Community Councils

Cleish & Blairadam: Chair: Francis Principe-Gillespie
Email: cleishandblairadamcc@gmail.com

Fossoway & District: Chair: Nicola Marchant
Email: fossoway.cc@gmail.com

Glenfarg: Chair: Douglas Fraser
Email: secretary@glenfarg.org

Kinross: Chair: David West
Email: contact@kinrosscommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Milnathort & Orwell: Chair: Neill Bingham
Email: communitycouncilmilnathort@gmail.com

Portmoak: Chair: Andy Miller
Email: portmoakcommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk

Kinross Community Councillors

David West Chair
Chris Collins Secretary
Margaret West Treasurer
Members Roy Gilmour, Hannah Collins

Have a look at our website www.kinrosscommunitycouncil.com

Portmoak Community Councillors

Andy Miller Chair E: Chair@portmoak.org
Ann Davidson Treasurer
Sue McGregor Secretary E: secretary@portmoak.org
Dave Patterson Member
Kenneth Donaldson Associated Member

Have a look at our website www.portmoak.org

Perth and Kinross Councillors Kinross-shire Ward

CLlr DAVE CUTHBERT (Independent)
Tel: 01738 475110
Email: dcuthbert@pkc.gov.uk
Address: 85 Bowton Road, Kinross, KY13 8EG

CLlr NEIL FRESHWATER (Scottish Conservative & Unionist)
Tel (office): 01738 475108
Email: nfreshwater@pkc.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/neil4kinrossshire

CLlr WILLIE ROBERTSON (Scottish Liberal Democrats)
Mobile: 07909 884042
Email: wbrobertson@pkc.gov.uk

CLlr RICHARD WATTERS (SNP)
Mobile: 07557 812513
Email: rwatters@pkc.gov.uk

Pete Wishart MP

Member of Parliament for Perth and Kinross-shire

Constituency office: 63 Glasgow Road, Perth, PH2 0PE
Telephone: 01738 639598
Email: Pete.wishart.mp@parliament.uk

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

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

Murdo Fraser MSP (Conservative)
Email: murdo.fraser.msp@parliament.scot

Roz McCall MSP (Conservative)
Email: roz.McCall.msp@parliament.scot

Alex Rowley MSP (Labour)
Email: alex.rowley.msp@parliament.scot

Mark Ruskell MSP (Green)
Email: mark.ruskell.msp@parliament.scot

Liz Smith MSP (Conservative)
Email: elizabeth.smith.msp@parliament.scot

Alexander Stewart MSP (Conservative)
Email: alexander.stewart.msp@parliament.scot

KINROSS GARDEN GROUP

2025/2026 Season

Thursday 12 March at 2pm

Kinross Parish Church.

Calum Clunie from Beechgrove Garden, BBC
'My Horticultural Journey'

All welcome to join us.

GRANTS FOR GOOD CAUSES

Kinross Community Council
Newsletter Limited (KCCNL),
Charity No. SC040913



All profits from the *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 at kinrosscommunitycouncil.com

Diary

March

Sun	1 & 14, 29	Kinross and Ochil Walking Group Meets – see clubs entry
Mon	2	Glenfarg Community Council meets
Mon	2	Carnbo Hall Talk, Ryan Macdonald – Exo Planets And The Search For Alien Life
Tues	3	Kinross-shire U3A Speaker meeting
Tues	3	Fossoway Community Council meets
Tues	3	Climate Cafe Meets, library
Wed	4	Networking Breakfast, Green Hotel
Wed	4	Creative Writing evening, library
Thurs	5	She Sheds Open Evening, Rugby Club 6.30pm
Mon	9	Kinross Community Council meets
Tues	10/24/31	Kinross Handcraft Circle, Gateside Memorial Hall 9.45-12.15
Tues	10	Portmoak Community Council meets
Wed	11	Carnbo Coffee and Chat 10-12am
Thurs	12	Milnathort and Orwell Community Council meets
Thurs	12	Nominations deadline for Community Council
Thurs	12	Garden Group meets 2pm K Parish Church, Calum Clunie from Beechgrove Garden, BBC
Fri	12	Employability Support Drop in, Campus 10am -12.30
Fri	13	Kinross Newsletter Deadline for April issue
Sat	14	Repair Cafe, campus
Sat	14	Portmoak Film Society shows The Zone of Interest
Mon	16	Kinross Historical Society Talk at Kinross Parish Church
Wed	18	Acoustic Open Mic Evening, Green Hotel
Sat	21	Kinross Parish Church Fairtrade Coffee Morning, Church Centre
Thurs	26	KHS Free Lunchtime Concert, library
Sat	28	Better Place to Live Fair, Campus 10-2
Sat	28	Rotary Casino and Curry Night
Sun	29	Introduction to Birdsong Guided Walk, RSBP Loch Leven

April

Thurs	2	Perth and Kinross School Term ends
Mon	6	Cleish and Blairadam Community Council meets

The Kinross Newsletter is available from:

Greens of Kinross	High Street, Kinross
Premier Stores	High Street, Kinross
Read & Relax	High Street, Kinross
Sainsbury's	Station Road, Kinross
Giacopazzi's	Lathro, Kinross
Keystore More	Green Road, Kinross
Giacopazzi's	New Road, Milnathort
Stewart & Smart	Stirling Road, Milnathort

Heaven Scent	South Street, Milnathort
Lochend Farm Shop	Scotlandwell
Kinnesswood Shop	Main Street, Kinnesswood
Fossoway Stores	Crook of Devon
Mona's Coffee Shop	Muckhart
Powmill Stores	Powmill
Loch Leven's Larder	Near Wester Balgedie
Glenfarg Village Shop	Glenfarg