



Callander Connect



JANUARY 2025

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1 Year of Callander Connect!

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Callander Connect 1 Year Anniversary

December 9th marked one full year since Callander Connect was launched at 43 Main Street.

Since then we've hosted more than 20 groups and organisations, and more than 1,000 visitors looking for information and connection. We hope you enjoyed the window showcase of one of our regular groups - Knit & Knatter (pictured left)!

Connect has also afforded both the Development Trust and Community Council much greater opportunity to engage with residents face-to-face.



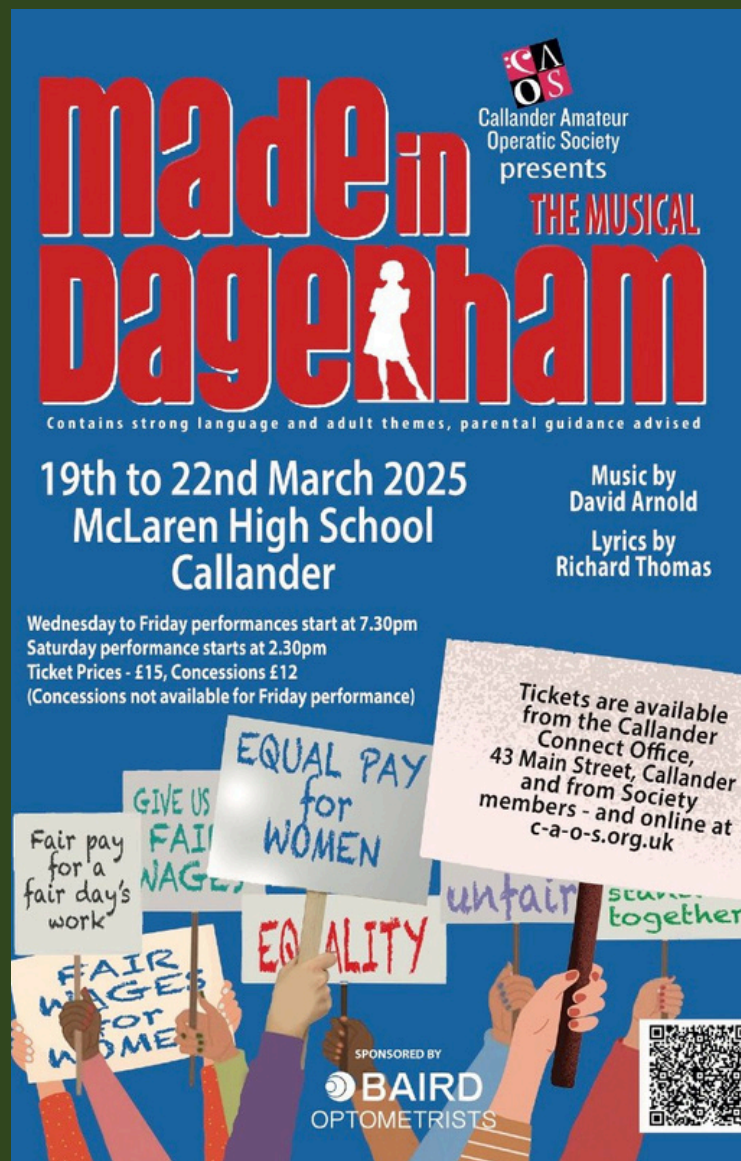
It was a pleasure to hold our anniversary celebration event on the day itself, with a great turnout of people who helped launch Connect, as well as representatives from the groups that have made use of the space over the last year.

We hope it has been of use so far!

Who's been in?

Box Office: CAOS Presents Made In Dagenham

Callander Amateur Operatic Society open their pop-up ticket office for their upcoming production of Made In Dagenham. They can be found at Callander Connect on Wednesdays from 1pm-3pm, Fridays from 12pm-2pm and Saturdays from 10am-12pm.



made in Dagenham THE MUSICAL

Callander Amateur Operatic Society presents

Contains strong language and adult themes, parental guidance advised

19th to 22nd March 2025
McLaren High School
Callander

Music by David Arnold
Lyrics by Richard Thomas

Wednesday to Friday performances start at 7.30pm
Saturday performance starts at 2.30pm
Ticket Prices - £15, Concessions £12
(Concessions not available for Friday performance)

Tickets are available from the Callander Connect Office, 43 Main Street, Callander and from Society members - and online at c-a-o-s.org.uk

SPONSORED BY BAIRD OPTOMETRISTS

Illustration of hands holding signs: "Fair pay for a fair day's work", "GIVE US FAIR WAGES", "EQUAL PAY for WOMEN", "EQUALITY", "unfair starts together", "FAIR WAGES FOR WOMEN".

Callander Flood Group

Remaining an important contact for the Flood Officers at Stirling Council, Callander Flood Group have been able to hold productive meetings on Callander Flood Strategy with them in Callander Connect.

Knit & Knatter

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, a newly formed band of knitters and knatterers practise their skills over a hot drink and a blether!



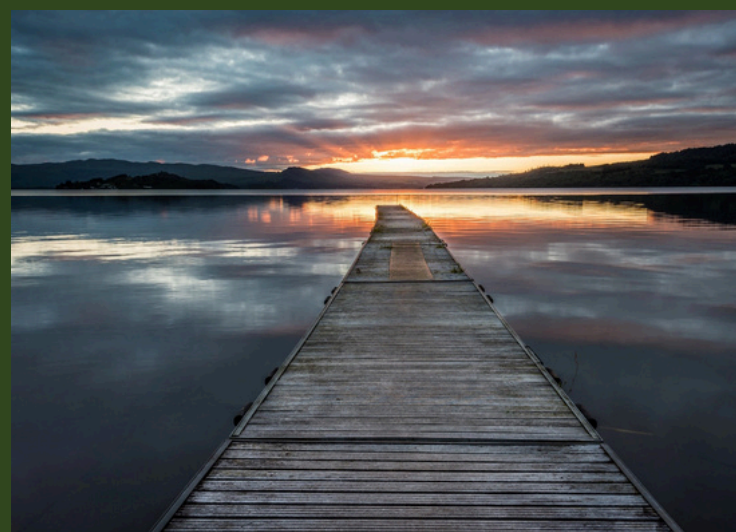
Scrabble Club

Every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, join the growing group of wordsmiths for a few relaxed games of Scrabble.



Meditation Classes

We are pleased to be hosting a four-week course of Meditation Classes for beginners throughout January. More info at meditationiseasy.co.uk.



Community Council Surgery

The next Community Council meeting is to be held at Callander Youth Project on Monday 17th February, with February's surgery taking place at Callander Connect on Saturday 15th February between 11am and 1pm. Going forward, surgeries will be held the Saturday before each Community Council Meeting (3rd Monday of the month, except for January and July).

Local Place Plan Priorities Update

Pedestrian Bridge (1.i.a)

& Safe Walking Routes to School (1.i.b & 1.ii)

Subgroups for each of these priorities have had a couple of recent meetings with Stirling Council who are making the case to Scottish Government to access the £2.5m needed to begin work on the footbridge and path upgrades, including the Creep. Community representatives from CCDT, CCC, McLaren Leisure Centre, McLaren High School, Callander Primary School and Callander Enterprise have written a joint letter to Scottish Government to endorse this bid and expedite the process.

Main Street Regeneration (5.i & 5.iii)

Our application to Stirling Council's Premises Improvement Grant was successful. We now have access to funds to repaint around a dozen shop frontages on Main Street, for those business owners who would like one. A further funding application has also been submitted for new signwriting, again for those who would like this.

Meadows Masterplan (2.i)

The vision for the CLLD funded Green Adventure Gateway project has been assembled after several months of consultation with expert stakeholders in the fields of flooding, visitor management, biodiversity and active travel. Drafts have been publicly displayed online, in Callander Connect and elsewhere on Main Street as well as four community engagement events to gather local views and invaluable insights.

The project has identified projects in the Meadows and Station Road car park to take forward into 2025 and beyond.

We are excited to be holding an end of project exhibition for Callander residents to view the newest version of the vision and accompanying history and ideas to evolve this part of town on Friday 7th February at Callander Connect from 1pm til 7pm (drop-in). There will be a chance to ask questions, submit feedback and further ideas, as well as a guided Walk & Talk of the Meadows and Station Road at 3:15pm.

Find the event on Facebook ("In & Around the Meadows Exhibition") or get in touch directly.

SAVE THE DATE

A future vision of the Meadows & Station Rd for Callander

Ideas developed as part of the Green Adventure Gateway project (Aug 2024 to Feb 2025)

Join us on **7th February 2025** to find out all about it and share your thoughts.

Full Programme of activities to be released soon!

This project is supported by

CALLANDER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Callander Community Council

FORTH VALLEY & LOMOND CLLD

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

Project Information can be found here: www.padlet.com/callanderconnect/localplaceplan

In the meantime, project information is available at <https://padlet.com/callanderconnect/localplaceplan>

Development Trust update



Following our October AGM, the CCDT Board met to elect their office bearers for the coming year. Toby Kliskey continues as Treasurer, and in the role of Chair we welcome Alison Boa who takes over from Frank Park after many years of devoted service in this role.



A huge thank you to the local artists who lent their creations for display in the windows of Callander Connect, the Visitor Information Centre and the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Office window over the festive period. It was wonderful to showcase local photography, prints, jewellery and even mosaics alongside all the other fantastic decorations on Main Street.

Preparations are already well underway for the opening of the Visitor Information Centre at the end of March. We're always looking for volunteers to help give welcome and information to the tens of thousands of grateful visitors from around the world! Get in touch if you are interested in joining the team.

And a heads up about the next deadline for Hydro Fund Applications - **31st March!** Best of luck to all who applied in December, you will hear from us by mid-February!

Community Council update



Callander Community Council did not meet in January so it has been a quiet month for the Community Council. However, we have received a few applications for the Braes of Doune Fund and as the current 3-month window for larger grants (over £250) closes at the end of January, this is your last chance if you need money for Easter Events. On 1st February, the next 3-month window opens and closes at the end of April. For awards £250 and under, then just the Community Council review those applications so they can be approved more quickly.

Callander shops are gradually being taken over by new shopkeepers and to help improve the Main Street, one of the main Local Place Plan projects on Regeneration of Main Street has just been awarded a large sum sufficient to paint the outside of a number of shops, exact numbers depend on the final quote accepted. The project team has members from CCC, CCDT and Callander Enterprise with support from Callander Connect. Hopefully the Main Street will be buzzing by the new season.

Please note, Callander Community Council is extending the time for residents to nominate their Callander Citizen of the Year 2024. Please send any nominations to callandercc556@gmail.com giving details of the name of the person and why they were particularly outstanding in 2024.