

14 completed the challenge !

- Andrea
- Christine
- Gary
- Gordon
- Harry
- Hilary
- Isobel
- Kirsteen
- Mary
- Moira
- Richard
- Rob
- Sheila
- Ulrika



£8,139

raised of £5,000 target
by 233 supporters



Supported by -

- Blair
- John
- Pamela
- Steve



Reported by -

- Bruce



Extracted by -

- Audrey
- Rico



Hosted by -

- Sheila & Blair




2023

the Villagers

The Voice of Balquhidder, Lochearnhead, Strathyre & St Fillans • OCTOBER 2021

JustGiving Menu Start Fundraising

They did it!



162%
raised of £5,000 target
by 281 supporters

Give Now Share



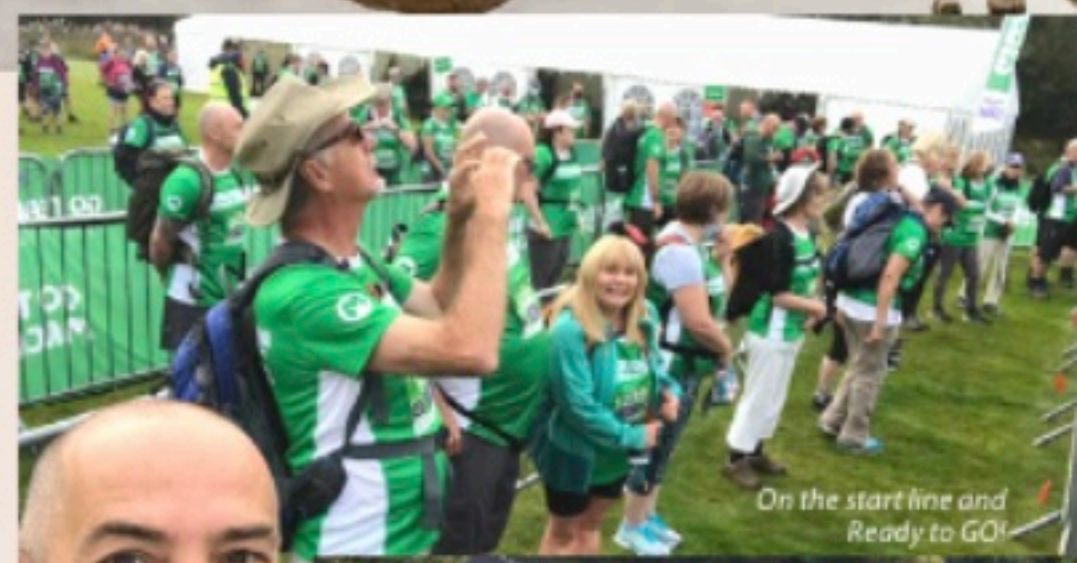
Well done "Mighty Hikers"!

Pictured on this month's cover is our team of hikers who, on 28 August, ALL completed the 26.2 mile Mighty Hike from Callander to Killin in aid of the MacMillan Cancer Support Charity. Just to remind you, they are (from left to right) Harry Burnett, Gordon McDowall, Gary Loudon, Moira Loudon, Ulrika Hollas, Isobel Howell, Sheila Cramond, Mary Macnaughton, Christine Wilkie, Andrea Hudspeth, Kirsteen Jones, Hilary Burnett - plus Rob Amos who was hiding when the pic was taken. Some say he was at the bar, but they may be telling stories! It was taken shortly after they had all completed the course and I note the odd glass of something bubbly in view. Good on you all - you deserve it. Also on the cover is the medal which all participants received on completion of the course, plus a screenshot of their JustGiving webpage, showing a total of £8109.

As I submit this article to The Villagers Editor, I have checked again and the total has increased by a further £100 to now stand at £8119. This is a fantastic contribution to MacMillan Cancer Support which completely dwarfs the team's original target of £5000. My understanding is that the JustGiving webpage will run until 28 September, so there is a chance it might yet increase further.

I must leave it to those who took part to tell you how it happened and how the day proceeded. First, there is Gordon McDowall's story of how St Fillans participation evolved from small beginnings to the success it was; then a personal perspective from Mary Macnaughton, as to how and why she joined up and how the day went.

Gordon provided me with the following:
"It all started back in 2019 when I came across the initial advertising for the 2020 event. I thought it might be something for me to try as an individual - but then as a result of talking about it in the village's "Walkie/Talkie" group it began to interest other villagers. The idea was circulated and 17 signed up to do the walk in 2020. This group got to the stage of meeting up, assigning roles and developing a training plan... but then Covid struck, and it all stopped. The 2020 event was formally cancelled. However, in early 2021 it looked as though it might happen and so I again circulated the village. Not all the 2020 crowd could do it in 2021, but there were some additional volunteers, some of whom were



recent permanent residents of the village which was hugely positive. Covid of course continued to disrupt normal communication and most early contact was done via Zoom calls. However, this allowed a start and enabled us to cover footwear and training, as well as to share walks and best practice. It was during one of these calls that our fundraising target of £5000 was set. As the year progressed and the Covid situation gradually improved, we were able to organise various group training walks, intentionally covering all types of terrain and elevations. We eventually had walked the complete route of the walk itself, albeit over four separate training days. This however exposed the team to all the conditions which would be incurred along the way and helped us choose footwear selection etc. As we got closer to the day itself, we pushed the fundraising aspect a bit more and in addition to sponsorship, village bakers raised an unbelievable sum of £750 via their cake sale. Wow! This figure is included in the total shown above but when we crossed the start line on the day, we all knew that our target had been surpassed and we needed to justify the huge support we had been given. The day went well with great support from our drivers, who got us to the 7.30am start but were not required to

rescue anyone throughout the day. The organisation of the event by MacMillan could not have been bettered and after nine hours of walking the whole team crossed the finishing line in Killin together!"
Mary Macnaughton, who had arrived in the village in the midst of the pandemic, was kind enough to give me the following write up.
"Looking back, when the message popped up on the village WhatsApp group, I wasn't slow to respond. Moving to the St Fillans area in the middle of the first lockdown meant that meeting people hadn't really happened as it would in the normal way. The event ticked all my boxes; walking (which I love), meeting people from the village, seeing more of the local area and learning local walks whilst at the same time raising funds for MacMillan Cancer Support, a charity that has supported so many through difficult times. The introductory meeting for the 2021 Mighty Hike was on Zoom, as the country was locked down yet again. We were given a basic overview of what the event entailed and guidance on footwear and socks, (which I failed to follow for my first training walk and thoroughly deserved the dodgy toenails I got as a result!). Unfortunately, I didn't manage all the training walks organised

by Gordon, our group leader, did still linger in my mind that I attended were bl weather. On the first walk from Comrie along the path met the team on the path and fell into step, chatting with those that I walked popular vote, an alternative suggested back from Comrie Ma'am Road; the going the skies were blue, an glorious walk. Then at Boltachan was another me. I never knew how area just above where I was fascinating to pick local history as we walked. The day of the walk it and early. We had decided own pace and I was comfortable with a group somewhere of our troupe. I hadn't first two sections of the practice and it really again under stunning red berries, still lovely areas where beavers MacMillan had organised along the route and provided an amazing array of snacks Balquidder was a special for our lunch stop and G

