

Ballachulish News

Your free community newsletter produced by Ballachulish Community Forum



Welcome!

Many years ago The BOG Standard circulated around these parts and was a well-loved community newspaper. The Community Forum are looking to reintroduce a similar free publication produced approximately 6 times a year, but we need YOUR help.

We have a small team of volunteers who are willing to collate and produce the newsletter, but it needs content. Please send anything, and we mean anything to Rob Malpas – rileyrob@btinternet.com; Sheila McLean – sheila@brecklet.co.uk or drop it into the Black letterbox at the village hall.

This edition is a trial to see what the community want from the newsletter and also to give you all an update on what is currently happening. If you have any news or stories that you wish to share – past, present or future – please get in touch!

The next issue is planned to go to print in January 2017, for delivery at the end of the month. Deadline for submissions is 14th January.

What is the Community Forum?

We're glad you asked!

The Community Forum was set up over a year ago to try and bring the various groups and associations in the community together to help build a better community for us all. We have had attendees from almost every group at our meetings, minutes from which are all available on the community website –

www.ballachulish.org.uk/our-community/community-action-plan/

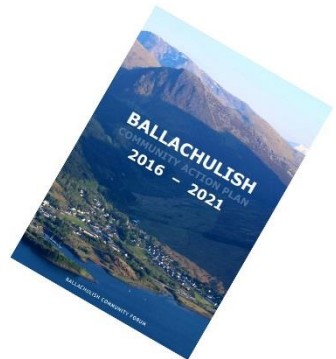
The first project undertaken was the Community Action Plan which has canvassed the views of many households and other community stakeholders to see what the community want to achieve. See below for more information.

Ballachulish Community Action Plan

Remember this?

You should all now have had time to look through and read the Community Action Plan (CAP). Now is the time to put it into action.

This very newsletter is in response to some of the comments received, and we had the mobile skate park in the village for 2 weeks in the summer, so we have already started, but we also need your help. Yes, you, everyone and anyone who can (and even those who can't). The Community have asked for lots of ideas and projects to be investigated and progressed, and that is fantastic, but we all need to work together to make progress and so even if you can only spare half an hour, please, please, please come along and help with something to give someone else the time to invest in the projects in the Plan. If you have more time and energy to spare, please let us know – our contact details are on the back page of the plan itself.



Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who has enabled us to produce this newsletter in a short space of time, the local businesses who have helped pay for it by advertising and also to all of you for taking the time to read it.

We really do want to know what you think, good bad and ugly, so please get in touch.

Community Company News – September 2016



Membership.

If you have yet to pay your membership fee—only £5 per annum—please try to do that as soon as possible. The easiest way is to pop your £5 in an envelope, write “membership” and your name clearly on the envelope and post it in the company post-box which is by the entrance to the village hall near the Community Association box. Alternatively, if you know any of the board, just pass the envelope on to them and they will see that it gets to me. I'll see that you get an email as a receipt, ensure that we record that you've paid and pass the £5 on to one of our committee members. All the support we get really is appreciated. It gives you a personal stake in the company, a voice and a vote. Please pay your subscription as soon as you can.

Current BCC projects

Although there are no substantive updates to report at present on either the Hydro Scheme or the possible purchase of the old Water Treatment Works, both matters are “bubbling under” (apologies for that appalling pun). Various possibilities are being explored and we're anticipating there will be some positive developments to report in the near-future.

Ballachulish Community Company AGM:

7pm on Wednesday 9 November at Shinty Pavilion. Prior to the AGM business there will be a short explanation of Community Share Schemes.

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Village Hall News

This new community Newsletter now includes the Village Hall Newsletter. This means that our news and events will be coming through your door more often than ever before!

Forthcoming Events

Ballachulish Village Hall endeavour to put on a range of events during the course of each year. Below are a selection of those coming up over the next couple of months.

Colours Fashion Show – 19th November

High Street Fashion comes back to Ballachulish with the Colours Fashion Show.

Colours.

BYO Refreshments, Raffle on the night and a chance to buy some of the clothes after the show. Adult Ladies clothes only. Tickets are £5 each.

**[FUN]DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS**

<http://www.coloursfashionshows.com>

Christmas Market

Sunday 4th Dec 12-4pm

Refreshments

Santa's Grotto only £3

Christmas Raffle

Craft & Produce Stalls And More...



Lantern Parade

The Village Lantern Parade will once again be taking place at 8pm on New Years Eve, with the hall open from 10-4 during 29th, 30th and 31st December for making the lanterns.

We will be serving Mulled Wine, Cocoa, Mince Pies and nibbles in the hall after the parade.



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Trustees & Volunteers

Following on from the CAP, the current Trustees of Ballachulish Community Association, who are responsible for the village hall amongst other things, have agreed that we need more help. As such, we will be putting forward a motion at the AGM (around Easter 2017) to increase our number to 7, and we will be actively seeking new trustees (or just volunteers) for the following:



- Take a lead with our Community Heritage projects, and potentially establish a heritage group.
- Hall extension – we need someone to start looking into building an extension onto our village hall.
- Bring some new ideas, and energy to our Fundraising Committee
- We won't mention the cleaning rota this time.

If you have the time and energy to help with any of the above, please get in touch, well even if you don't but would like to help, we want to hear from you!

Ballachulish Rainbow Baby & Toddler Group

Our Playgroup is a vital part of the community run by volunteers. We provide a fun, interesting environment for pre-schoolers to play together at the village hall.

There is a varied programme of activities with Crafts, singing and storytelling and we hold parties at Christmas and Halloween.

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 – 11.30

£1.50 per child

(includes a snack)

Everybody welcome!

Contact: Sara McLean

07826 187053



Ballachulish Camanachd

Our local Shinty team are currently playing in the National Division. At time of going to press they were, unfortunately lying in last place:

	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Goal Diff	Points
Ballachulish	14	1	1	12	11	81	-70	3



However, with the season now drawing to a close, we wish them all the best for next year.

Ballachulish Camanachd also have youth teams, who enter a range of competitions and train at the village hall from 6pm on Tuesday evenings over the winter. Please contact Iain Brown for more information.



4th Lochaber Scout Group

Beavers 6-8 years, 5.30-6.30pm

Cubs 8-10½ years, 6.45-7.45pm

Scouts 10-14 years, 8-9.15pm

All groups meet at Ballachulish Village Hall

Our local Scout Group are now starting their 5th year since reforming in 2012. Having had waiting lists in the past, the smaller year groups in the local schools means that our troop has now dropped to around 50 young people in total. If your child is interested in joining, please get in touch with Rob Malpas or Karl Griffin and we can pass your details on. We take young people from across South Lochaber and Appin.

We carry out a varied and exciting program with a variety of trips and activities planned through the year, including at least one camp each summer. Our recent camp at Spean Bridge saw around 30 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from our group enjoy a weekend of fun and fabulous weather.



Extracts from the Link

News from St Munda's Church of Scotland

Introduction of Revd Sandy Stoddart

It seems a long time ago now, but on 1st April, at a well-attended service at St Munda's, led by representatives of the Presbytery of Lochaber, Revd Sandy was inducted to the pastoral charge of Duror linked with St Munda's. The service was followed by a marvelous buffet and social at the Kentallen and Duror Community Hall.



Since his first service as our minister on 3rd April, he has wasted no time in getting to know the congregations and playing an active part in the communities. We hope that both he and Moira feel at home here. We wish them well and look forward to this next, new phase in our congregational lives.

Christmas

We're inviting everyone to 'Community Carols' in Ballachulish Hall on Monday 19th December at



7.00pm. This will be a lovely opportunity to join together in the spirit of Christmas, sing carols and enjoy mince pies and refreshments. We'll also have a Watchnight Service at 11.30 pm on 24th December at Duror Church and a short Christmas Morning Service at 10.30 am in St Munda's and, as always, all are welcome.

South Lochaber Bowmen

Offering you the opportunity to learn the Ancient skill of Archery...

Based in the Leven Centre in Kinlochleven, (next to the High School) coaching and practice sessions are offered to interested people.

- Monday nights from 6.30pm - 7.30 pm for Juniors (5+) fees apply
- Tuesday nights from 7pm – 9pm for Adults (16 - 116) fees apply

We also accommodate all abilities persons. These club meets are available all year round. Enquiries can be made through the Facebook pages which are available for both Junior and Senior clubs.



Local Transport News

Bus Services

Lochaber Transport Forum has just set up a Bus Users Group. This is to deal with complaints and suggestions about both Local and Citylink buses.

There will be an open meeting in Fort William Council Chambers on the 1st of November where members of the public can meet bus company representatives.

Meanwhile you can phone Lochaber Transport

Forum on 07789 517990 or email transportforum@carelochaber.org



Lochaber Car Scheme

Do you have problems with transport going to the shops, health centre, visiting friends etc? There is a Car Scheme with local drivers available to take you there and back anywhere in Lochaber. Phone 01397 701222 to find out more. There is a small charge for this service.

There is also a Community Bus for this area which goes to Fort William every Wednesday calling at the High Street, Morrisons and Poundstretcher. It also occasionally goes to Oban. To find out more, phone May Rosie on 01855 831275

Cycling

The cycle path network continues to develop and if you want to give it a try you can hire a bike from the Isles of Glencoe tel. 01764 651582 (www.actionglen.com) or from Davy Gunn in Glencoe – who can also mend bikes and provide a map of local cycle tracks – tel 07746 860023 (www.crankitupgear.com)

The Waterfalls are back!

This Year's Ballachulish Fireworks display is on 12th November, with gates opening at 6.30pm. In order to make this event the success it is, we require an army of volunteers, to do everything from setting out the barriers to flipping burgers and marshalling the crowds.

So if you would like to help, please get in touch or come down to the quarry during the day and we can find plenty for you to do!



Paths

We have seen a big improvement in the local path network over the last few years, now there are new paths for walking and cycling and reasonable low level paths to favourite areas. This includes the 'Orbital Path' in Glencoe, or rather the Almost Orbital Path! The National Trust are still working to secure funding to complete the path and they will know by the end of the year if the money is available or not.

Walking

For fit people the main walking group for this area is the Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers – for more information contact Sally Cameron on 07810 464994. There are also walking groups in Fort William – Young at Heart and Nevis Hill Walking Group.

Based in Ballachulish is the local Walking For Health group – 'Step it Up' which meets twice a week in Ballachulish. You go at your own speed for these walks and there are trained leaders if you need any help. The Friday walk lasts about an hour and is for people with mobility problems or those who haven't walked for ages (please come even if you have a bad knee and think you'll be too slow). The walk on Monday is nearer 2 hours and is for the slightly more ambitious. The walks are free and they both end somewhere for tea/coffee.



We meet at the car park side of the Ballachulish Tourist Information Centre at 10am. For more information, contact Sallie Jack on 01855 821351 or Paul Selby on 01855 821030 or Kath Small on 01855 811520 or just turn up. You will be made very welcome!



Some of the Step it Up walkers ready to leave and out enjoying our magnificent local scenery.

What's going on??

You may have heard rumours about various things happening in the community. This page hopes to give a brief outline of what projects are currently being progressed.

Boatsheds

The Boatsheds at the East (Isles Hotel) Harbour are in a poor state. In order to better secure funding and therefore the long term future of these unique and historic structures, the current owner has offered to effectively give them to the community. However, before we accept this generous offer we need to ensure that we have the funding and ability to undertake a restoration, rather than the boatsheds simply becoming an expensive liability for the community.



The Arch

There have been many comments regarding the recent work undertaken on the arch. The Community Council have been pressing the various bodies responsible for answers, but this is still work in progress. Hopefully we will have a better update for you in the new year.

Ballachulish Museum

We are still working in the background on options for providing a museum to celebrate the rich and diverse history of our community. Unfortunately, the two premises that were potentially available as a short term solution proved to not be financially viable, so we are now having to look at the longer term. There may be an opportunity to incorporate this project in an extension to the Village Hall.

Rhododendrons

A couple of members of our community are currently working on a project that could see the eradication of the invasive rhododendron ponticum variety. Other varieties will be left untouched, but we hope that this common, pink variety which spreads rapidly can be removed from our area, allowing other plants to thrive in its place.



West Highland Local Development Plan

From the Highland Council: *The WHLDP needs to be replaced in the next 2-3 years. We have made good progress in preparing Area Local Development Plans that guide where development can happen. This means that the replacement WHLDP can become a policy only plan to guide how development should happen. The first stage is the Main Issues Report (MIR) which we consulted on from 25 September 2015 to 29 January 2016. The MIR is not a draft version of the WHLDP - it is a discussion document that seeks people's views on options for dealing with the main planning issues affecting Highland. You can view the MIR and all comments received on the Consultation Portal. If you need a large print copies or have any questions please contact the Development Plans Team at hwldp@highland.gov.uk or 01349 886608.*

Recently people have been asking about the above if you would like to learn more then this link will hopefully help:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/local_and_statutory_development_plans/199/highland-wide_local_development_plan.

If anyone has concerns or would like to discuss how to input to the plan, then they can contact any member of the Community Council who will try and help.

There are meetings and consultations in this regard organised by Highland Council but some seem confused between this and Planning Permissions Processes. The former identifies potential areas for development either for commercial, housing, mixed use, tourist purposes etc. over a future period. The latter is the actual specific plans for building, changes of use etc. and is a separate process.

Both are important to us and we should try to ensure we are aware of what is happening. The Community organisations do monitor them and where required give input. However, it is for all of us to monitor and comment on if we wish.

The Croft

Recently there was some confusion over a proposed Site for Development put forward for consultation regarding the Croft in Ballachulish which some thought was for Planning permission. The proposed developer was in contact with the community organisations and was advised by the Community Council, that they might wish to come to the village and lay-out their proposals to the community. They have agreed and the Public meeting will be advertised when arrangements are made.

Grass Cutting and Toilets

We all know about the cuts being made throughout Government and council services. Unfortunately, Ballachulish is not immune and there are consultations ongoing concerning the village toilets and grass cutting provision. Even the grass cutting around the village hall is under threat, as the Highland Council have indirectly paid for this in recent years. As soon as any definite plans come to our attention we shall share them with you all. If you would like to find out more in the meantime, please get in touch with Kevin Smith.

Playparks Committee

Our village Playparks Committee are currently working on funding for making some improvements to the playparks in the village.

For more information, or to get involved, please contact Sophie Fyfe (nee Malcolm). sophiemal@hotmail.com



Resilience Plan

Over the past year the Community Association and others have been working on resilience planning in case of any emergency. To that end the Association received Grant Funding which has purchased heaters radios lamps blankets etc. for use in an emergency where the Village Hall would be a main place of shelter.

Alongside this we have been working to create a Local Emergency Plan, which lists the resources and abilities available in the Community that may be called on in an Emergency. For example, severe weather leading to road blockages, extended Power outage, Flooding or even a combination of some of these.

Our first actions in this were the distribution to all households of the Household Emergency Action Plan. If you have misplaced your copy or would like more information on this please contact Jimmy Waugh, E-mail Ballachulishcc@aol.com , Tel. 01855 811540.

Now we will be setting up a Resilience Sub-Committee of the Community Association to build the plan. For more information you can follow this link: <http://www.readyscotland.org/my-community/creating-a-community-emergency-plan/> or if you have difficulties in accessing this contact the Community Association, Community Council or Community Company. The Contact details are on the back of the Community Action Plan document distributed to all households.

Competition Time!

You may have noticed the rather boring title given to this newsletter. If you think you can do better, please let us know.

We are also looking for a logo for this newsletter, something that reflects the varied life of our community.

Please send all entries to rileyrob@btinternet.com or drop them into the letterbox at the village hall before Christmas.

There may even be a prize if your idea is used!



Births Marriages and Deaths



... or Girl. If you would like to let everyone know about your new child or grandchild, this space could be yours!



Whether you are 21, or just feel like it, celebrate with the whole village by letting us know!



Weddings

Are you getting married, or have you just tied the knot? Silver Anniversary approaching? Let us know and we will print it here.

If you have recently lost a loved one, we can print a few words here. And for those well-loved members of the community who have passed in recent months, all our thoughts are with their family and friends.



Notices will be printed free of charge – maximum word counts may apply.



Winter Warmer

Pop into the Club House at **Dragon's Tooth** for a fresh, home-baked scone. It's FREE, with a coffee or tea, until 20th December. 10am to mid-day. 7 days. Enjoy the free wifi too, along with the flickering flames from the stove, the glow of the candles.

Just a great place to hide-away and to relax



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Useful Contacts

Community Council: www.ballachulish.org.uk

Our Community Councillors are: Shirley Grant (Vice-Chair), Alisdair Jack (Treasurer), Dave Kitson (Secretary), Rob Malpas, Kath Small, Kevin Smith (Chair), Jimmy Waugh

Community Association: www.balla-hall.co.uk

Our Trustees are: Brian Dickie (Vice Chair), Rob Malpas (Secretary), Isobel Robertson (Treasurer), Jo Watt (Chair)

Community Company: [on Facebook](#)

Simon Ingram (Treasurer), Dave Kitson, Angus MacInnes, Sheila McLean, Susan Sinclair, Kevin Smith, Mike Smith, Morgan Smith, Jimmy Waugh (Chair)

Patient Participation Group: Bill Strachan or Shirley Grant



CHRISTMAS TREE SALE!

THE CABIN GARDEN CENTRE

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH A DELUX SCOTTISH NORDMANN FIR (non shed) TREE

We will be open Friday to Sunday
2nd to 4th & 9th to 11th December
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Dragon's Foot Golf Course

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Regular Weekly Activities

Please note some activities do not meet during school holidays.

Monday

- 10am Step it Up Walking Group meet at TiC 
- After school primary football – Jubilee Park
- 7pm Highland Hustle at School
- 8-10pm Scottish / Country Dancing at Village Hall

Tuesday

- 9.30-11.30am  Playgroup at Village Hall
- 6-8pm Junior Shinty Training at Village Hall


Wednesday

- 6.30-7.15pm Zumba at Village Hall

Thursday

- 9.30-11.30am  Playgroup at Village Hall
- 5.30-9.15pm   &  at Village Hall
- Evenings – Shinty Team Practice at Jubilee Park

Friday

- 10am Step it up Walking group meet at TiC 
- After school dancing session at school

Sunday

- 11.30am Church of Scotland Service at St Munda's
- Episcopal Church Service at St John's
- Catholic Church Service at St Mun's

RBS Mobile Bank

Tuesdays

10:45-11:30 Abbeyfield

11:45-13:00 V Hall

Fridays

10:30-12:00 V Hall



Mobile Library

Thurs 10/11 & 1/12

12:40-12:55 Square

13:00-13:10 Lochside

Cottages

Wed 16/11 & 7/12

13:30-14:25 School

14:30-15:15 W Laroch

15:20-16:00 Park Rd &

Abbeyfield

16:05-16:30 Albert Rd



As you can see, ours is a very busy community with lots going on. However, if your group isn't mentioned above, please get in touch!

If you are interested in any of the above, we're sure you will be made very welcome. Contact details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, on facebook or simply ask us and we shall pass your enquiry on!

Also active locally:

- South Lochaber Bowmen – Archery Club
- Ballachulish Football Club

Community Calendar

The Community Calendar is available to see online at

<http://www.ballachulish.org.uk/our-community/community-calendar/>

Not everything is listed yet, so if an event is missing, please contact Rob Malpas. Activities and events are also advertised in our village notice boards and via facebook.

Forthcoming Events

November

- 1st – 7pm Community Council meeting at Shinty Pavillion - all welcome
- 9th – Community Company AGM
- 12th – Fireworks Display in Quarry. Volunteers required over the weekend for all aspects of organizing this fantastic annual event.
- 19th – Colours Fashion Show

Colours.
[FUN]DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS



December

- 4th – Christmas Market & Santas Grotto at Village Hall 12-4pm
- 6th – 7pm Community Council meeting at Shinty Pavillion – all welcome
- 11th – Kids Christmas Party
- 19th – 7pm Community Carols at Ballachulish Village Hall
- 23rd – Last day of School Term
- 25th – Christmas Day services at local churches
- 29th-31st Lantern Building at Village Hall 10-4
- 31st – Lantern Parade around village, starts at Village Hall at 8pm; refreshments in hall afterwards.



Advertising

If you would like to advertise your local business in this newsletter, please get in touch. Adverts will cost £20 per issue, for a quarter page which includes a small banner advert on the Community Website. We will take a maximum of 10 adverts per issue, and can do the artwork for you if that helps.

Ballachulish Community Council, Ballachulish Community Company and Ballachulish Community Association SCIO (SC023308) have worked together to produce this newsletter.

Editors: Rob Malpas and Sheila McLean

Distribution: Sheila McLean and Kath Small (with helpers) to approximately 370 properties in the Ballachulish and Glenachulish community. Funded through Ballachulish Community Association SCIO, Ballachulish Village Hall, East Pier Road, Ballachulish PH49 4LE