

SLATEST NEWS

Your free community newsletter produced by Ballachulish Community Forum

Edition 2 – April/May 2017



Burning the dead wood at the community clean up weekend in March. Next date is 8th/9th April.



Village Tidy-up Continues



Irritated by the
Litter, weeds or
brambles around
the village?



Then come and help us on

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th April

Meet at the Village Hall at 9.30am

Free lunch for all volunteers

Children welcome if accompanied by adult



**Even if you can only spare
a couple of hours, please
come and give us a hand.**

Someone at the hall will be able to point you in the
right direction if you come down later



*4th Lochaber Scouts on their
Day trip to Inverness*

WELCOME!

We have received a lot of good feedback about Slatest News, and as you can see there is a wealth of interesting articles and information coming in to make this issue a great read! If you would like to submit an article, 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.

The next issue is planned to go to print in May 2017, for delivery at the end of the month. Deadline for submissions is 14th May. Anything submitted after this date may not be included.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Our first date this year saw over a dozen volunteers out clearing up around the Village Hall, car park and Jubilee Park. This included cutting back brambles, removing weeds and clearing up fallen tree branches for a bonfire by the hall. There was also a small group at the school removing a problem tree. Several people have also been out litter picking or pruning in other parts of the village, with others committing to do so when they have time.



As we go to print, there is also a work party planned at the school to do some work around the grounds and keep the school a safe and enjoyable place for our children. It is hoped to have a school work party every couple of months.

Thank you to all these volunteers whose hard work keeps our village looking good. If you haven't already been out helping, our next date is the big Spring Clean on the weekend of 8th and 9th April, starting from the village hall at 9.30am. A free lunch is provided for all volunteers, and everyone is welcome – we have had volunteers aged 5 to 85 over the last couple of years. Even if you are unable to help with the heavier work involved, we still need volunteers to help with the lunch, keep the workers refreshed with teas, coffees and bottles of water, and litter pick.

We look forward to seeing you in the future.

Happy Easter



Sunday 16th April

Easter is just around the corner, and whilst it means different things to different people, it is still an important time of year for many in our community, whether remembering the sacrifice made by Jesus or enjoying a well earned family holiday after the winter.

Amongst activities happening in the area for Easter, The Church of Scotland will be holding a morning service at Cuil Bay on Easter Sunday, and Glencoe Visitor Centre will be holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt from 9-4pm over the 4 day Easter Weekend.

NEWS FROM ST MUNDAS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

In the last few months, the church has become quite involved with Re-Act - Lochaber and Argyll who work to bring the necessities of life to refugees in this country, Europe and beyond. We've produced leaflets (usually available in the Co-op and at the Tourist Information Centre) which give an idea of what donations are required, our church hall is one of the donation collection points, some members help to sort items at the Fort William depot, some have helped to prepare houses in Kinlochleven which will soon become home for some refugee families and one has trained to be a befriender to those families.

We're also delighted to support the Wednesday evening youth drop-in in the village hall with personnel and in other ways – we'll be supplying a basketball hoop soon.

On Easter Sunday (16th April) we'll be having an early morning service at 8am at Cuil Bay followed by bacon rolls in Duror Church. Everyone is welcome.

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

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



BCA AGM – 9th April

The AGM will be held in Ballachulish Village Hall on Sunday 9th April, 2017 at 5.00pm. All members of the community are welcome. We are also looking for volunteers to help move forwards with a couple of projects from the Community Action Plan. If you would like to find out more, please come to the AGM or contact one of the trustees.

Craft Fair and Duck Race – 27th May

The summer craft fair will be from 12-4pm on Saturday May 27th with a good range of local craft and food producers in the hall. There will also be a bouncy castle for the kids, weather permitting.

Immediately following the fair, the duck race will launch from the Brig O'Laroch at 4pm sharp, with the first five ducks to the Albert Road Bridge winning a cash prize!

Ducks will be on sale in advance from the TiC at £2 each or 3 for £5, and on the day from the hall.



Colours Fashion Show – 10th June

Colours.

**[FUN]DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS**

High Street Fashion comes to Ballachulish with the Colours Fashion Show. Refreshments and Raffle on the night and a chance to buy some of the clothes after the show. Adult Ladies clothes only. Tickets are £5 each.

<http://www.coloursfashionshows.com>

Hall Storage

Regular users of the hall will have noticed that the doors under the stage have recently been replaced. This was done by local Argyll & Lochaber Joiners and partly funded by the SSE Resilient Communities Fund. Behind the new doors, the floor has been raised and storage trollies installed to help with storage of the equipment already provided for dealing with emergency situations.

Note of thanks

Some of you will be aware that the hall suffered a break in in early March. Fortunately there was only minimal damage and a broken window. We would like to thank some of the younger members of our community who had the presence of mind to contact the hall committee who alerted the police before any further damage was caused.

COMMUNITY COMPANY NEWS – April 2017

Firstly, here is a wee bit information of the purpose of the Community Company, following comments that some of you are not exactly sure what it is for. If you are on Facebook there is a section on our page which tells you in some detail. You can also, if you wish, find our articles on Companies House register and OSCR Register. If you don't have access to the internet and would like a paper copy feel free to contact [me](#).



A brief on the Purposes and Functioning of the Ballachulish Community Company.

Structure, governance and management - Ballachulish Community Company is a charitable, non profit making community business. It is registered with OSCR the Scottish Charity Regulator. The company is run by a group of Directors and members of the organisation who meet on a regular basis throughout the year

Objectives and activities - To create, develop, provide and assist in the provision of opportunities and facilities for the benefit of all residents of Ballachulish area.

The company will support activities in relation to the above to include, but not be restricted by

- The advancement of education and training in their broadest sense
- The relief of poverty
- The protection of health, the environment and community values
- The provision, in the interests of social welfare, of facilities for recreation and other leisure time activity with a view to improving conditions of life.

A diverse and challenging purpose and the Company continues in its role to search and review any opportunities for community development in the local area.

Currently we are seeking funding to move forward with the River Laroch hydro scheme and are monitoring the progress of the GHR Scheme in Glenachulish as a community share in the scheme will be available to us if it reaches completion. This would be a small lump sum and 5% of the generation revenue.

As for the River Laroch hydro project we've been in discussion with the Energy Scotland (CARES) and HIE in regard to looking at a possible model for the sale and distribution of our generation. This would involve not feeding into the National Grid, but initially selling direct to the biggest energy users in the community. Contact has been made with them to gauge their interest. This means looking at the feasibility of a private wire, direct to the consumers and other matters. The driver for this is Environmental but there will be a community payback from any profits made after loans are repaid; 50% Funding for this would be from application to the Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP) and we'd need to raise the other funding on behalf of the Community. A feasibility study on this is now scheduled to begin soon.

We are also in contact with a company who specialise in working with communities on schemes like ours as a joint project leading to shared ownership and awaiting further discussions before deciding if we move forward on this.

The Company are also discussing with Scottish Water about the possible Community Asset Transfer of their unused buildings and land in Brecklet Forest. Depending on the results a feasibility study will then be commissioned to work up a business case.

Mike Smith



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

On 11th February we took 11 Scouts up to Inverness for the day. After a session at the Swimming Pool, we had a picnic in Bught Park and then walked up across the Ness Islands to Eden Court to see Black Beauty. The Scouts were quietly engrossed in this production by a travelling theatre company. We then stopped in Fort Augustus for Chips on the way home.



Cubs and Beavers are also enjoying a varied program including making Smoothies and Bath Bombs.

BALLACHULISH CAMANACHD

Balla started their campaign in South Division 1 with a good away win against Taynuilt with new captain Lorne Brown scoring the only goal of the game. The team will compete in this league after a couple of very difficult seasons in the National League which was undoubtedly a step too far for them.



The team will be managed again by Donald Wilson with assistance from Malcolm Grant. Training takes place every Tuesday & Thursday in the hall for the moment but then in the Jubilee Park when the clocks and the weather allow.

Fixtures will be detailed on the club facebook page with updates of any cancellations or fixture reversals posted immediately we know. Additionally the Camanachd Association web page www.shinty.com will have all fixtures and updates if required.

The team will compete far better this year with a mix of youth and experience and being in South Division 1 will give manager Wilson the opportunity to bring more young players through. It will be a more local league with teams generally from Argyll plus the odd trip to Fife & Edinburgh added in.

Come along and support your local club who will reach their 125th year in 2018!

Most of us still remember the centenary celebrations in 1993, and look forward to next year, although plans are at a very early stage

The club are always looking for new volunteers to help run the club so if you are interested at all contact us, we could always do with assistance running the club, putting nets up, washing strips, making teas, indeed everything!

Iain Brown, Chairman

SOUTH LOCHABER BOWMEN

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

Based in the Leven Centre, Kinlochleven. Coaching and practice sessions are offered to interested people.

- Monday nights from 1830– 1930 for our younger members 5-11 years (Cubs and Otters)
- Monday nights from 1930 - 2030 11-17 years (Juniors)
- Tuesday nights from 1900 -2100 17 years plus (Seniors)

We also accommodate all abilities persons.

Club meets are available all year round. Fees apply to all sessions. Enquiries can be made through the Facebook pages which are available for both Junior and Senior clubs.

South Lochaber Bowmen likes to create interest from all quarters, so if you have been charged with organising an event ie: Summer Fete, Gala Day, Festival and would like a further attraction South Lochaber Bowmen are prepared to offer a very popular participation opportunity in the form of a "Come and Try" activity.

Please contact us through the Facebook page for South Lochaber Bowmen, where your questions and queries will be answered.

Club members involved in this activity are qualified / certificated Archery coaches / instructors.



Lochaber Agricultural Show



Come and try session at the Ballachulish village Summer Fayre

SHOW US YOUR KNICKERS

www.smallsforall.org

Collecting box at
Ballachulish Surgery

We're having a collection for Smalls for All – a fantastic charity that collects and distributes underwear to women and children in Africa who need our help.

For more information
Contact Frances on
higgins922@btinternet.com

LOCAL TRANSPORT NEWS

Lochaber Community Car Scheme



Care Lochaber

The Car Scheme gives a door to door service. It is for people – whatever their age – who have difficulty with transport. The journey can be for any reason – visiting friends, shopping (help given to those who need it), medical appointments etc. And anywhere in Lochaber.

An example of a run would be from Ballachulish to Fort William, calling at a bank, coffee at the Alexandra with friends, then shopping at Lidl and Morrisons. This would cost approximately £8, which could be shared with another passenger. The cost is based on the mileage.

To sign up or book a journey contact Jodie on 01397 701222; 10-2pm Mon-Fri or go online at www.carelochaber.org.

Sunday Bus Service

Following threats of our Sunday Bus service ceasing completely, Stagecoach have now made a U turn and will be introducing an additional service each way on a Sunday. We do not have the times for the village yet, but the service is expected to leave Fort William at 9.40am and take an hour to Kinlochleven, continuing until the last departure from Kinloch at 17:40.



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.

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 – 11.30

£1.50 per child

(includes a snack)

Everybody welcome!

Contact: Sara McLean

07826 187053



STEP IT UP WALKING GROUP



Friday Walk Report

Our Friday walks last about an hour. They are for people with mobility problems, e.g. bad knees or hips and we go at our own pace with trained leaders to help when needed, so no-one is left behind.



Ten of us enjoyed an hour's circular walk from Glencoe village to Invercoe. We set off through the village, then along the old road track past the tidal pool. Soon after we saw bracket fungus on a tree trunk, looking like steps up the trunk.

Then down steps to the caravan park at Invercoe where we stopped to admire the view over the loch. Through the park and back along the road from where we saw some deer lying down in a field (looking like cows). Along



the track past the secret garden and the playing park by the school and so back to the cars.

Monday Walk Report

Our Monday walks are more ambitious & last about 2 hours.



Twelve of us enjoyed walking the Glenachulish Horseshoe track. This was our first walk in the snow this winter – the snow was only 1cm deep at most but it made it interesting as we could clearly see the prints of a small deer and also those of (possibly) a pine martin following as they zig-zagged across the track. From near the top we had a good view of North Ballachulish basking in the sunshine.

Come and Join Us

We meet at 10.00am at the TIC to arrange car sharing and finish at a café, where the next week's walk is planned, before returning by car to the TIC. The only cost is for a drink at the café.

Reports by Hilary Malpas.



50 YEARS OF HISTORY...

Since first opening its doors in June 1967, Glencoe Folk Museum has been witness to 50 years of history: technological advances, changing fashions, royal occasions, local events...

1960s When the museum was first established, the sixties were in full swing. The 'flower-power' generation was promoting peace and love, the Beatles were ruling the charts and, in 1969, the first man walked on the moon. Towns and villages across Scotland were being affected by the closure of branch railway lines, following an inquiry by Dr Beeching of the British Transport Commission. The 28-mile Connel to Ballachulish railway line had closed in 1966.



1970s The Seventies is often remembered for glam rock, hippies and platform shoes. Locally, the Ballachulish ferry closed in December 1975 after the opening of the new Ballachulish Bridge. By the early 70s, the museum had outgrown its original premises and the collection was rehoused in its current location. The new building was opened by Mrs Macdonald Clarke in June 1972, on one of the wettest days the Glen had seen.

1980s In the 80s, the world witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall. Music videos killed the radio star, shoulder pads and leg warmers were all the rage, and 750 million people worldwide tuned in to the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer in 1981. The 80s saw an increase in tourism locally, and in 1985 the museum won a prize at the Scottish Museum of the Year Awards (right) for publishing their own book "Highland Heritage".



1990s The 90s is often looked back on as the dawn of the information age. The internet was launched in 1991 and mobile telephones became smaller and more affordable. The music scene was dominated by boy and girl groups such as the Spice Girls and Boyzone, and CDs took over from cassettes. Locally, the former Ballachulish railway station was converted into a doctor's surgery, which opened in 1993, and the Tercentenary of the Massacre of Glencoe was commemorated in 1992.

2000s The 21st Century has seen huge advances in technology and communication. Social networking, emailing and texting have become hugely popular, and 26.2 million people watched the Royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011. Closer to home, after almost a century of producing aluminum, the Kinlochleven smelter was closed in 2000. 2009 also saw the closure of Glencoe Hospital, formerly Glencoe House.

Which brings us to the present day, and the Glencoe Folk Museum's 50th Anniversary. As part of our anniversary celebrations, we are creating a temporary exhibition entitled '50 Objects for 50 Years'. This will be a celebration of the past five decades, featuring classic toys and games, and highlighting the changing fashions and technology. We are inviting people to loan us objects which can be used in this display, for example, games consoles, mobile phones, records and CDs, toys...and even photographs of themselves or their families from this period, preferably with matching 70s hairdos or 80s ski suits - the cheesier the better! Please get in touch with Catriona at curator@glencoemuseum.com if you would like more information, or have something you would like to offer. In conjunction with our exhibition, we will also be holding a 'Museum Memories' event on Saturday 20th May to coincide with the Festival of Museums, featuring fun craft activities and reminiscence. The Festival of Museums is an annual event coordinated by Museums Galleries Scotland to showcase Scotland's extensive cultural offering through over 120 exciting events taking place over one weekend across the country. At Glencoe Folk Museum, children (and big kids!) can try their hand at creating their own tie-dye tops or flower-power headbands, while adults can share photos and memories to our reminiscence board. Free entry to the museum, £1 per craft activity.



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CIVIC TRUST AWARD - 1980

THE TRANSFORMATION OF BALLACHULISH

New Ballachulish to emerge from shadows of the slate banks

From The Oban Times Thursday June 29th 1978

A £1million scheme to transform the scarred landscape of Ballachulish was launched with a theatrical flourish on Monday. A red rocket flare was the signal for ranks of bulldozers to roll forward, crushing the slate waste which has marred the area's scenery for decades. The flare was fired by Sir William Gray, chairman of the Scottish Development Agency, which is financing the scheme.

The launch of the project was greeted with the closest that normally-placid Ballachulish is likely to get to euphoria. Several hundred villagers turned out to see work begin. But a note of caution was struck later by Highland Regional councillor Malcolm J MacKay. He told a reception at Ballachulish Hotel: "We don't want to see this go ahead only to be followed by another 25 years of



stagnation. What comes after?" It was then that officials of various bodies outlined ambitious plans to develop Ballachulish as a centre for visitors. It was described as an "important tourist crossroads".

The immediate project, however, aims to encourage tourists not to take one look at Ballachulish and drive on. This was said to be a common visitor reaction at present. The hoped for "new lease of life" is a result of efforts by the SDA, Highland Regional council, the Scottish Tourist Board, the Highlands and Islands Development Board, Lochaber District Council, the Countryside Commission for Scotland and private landowners.

The problem these bodies set out to tackle is by no means a small one. Quarrying started at Ballachulish in 1693 and ended in 1955. For some time, waste was dumped out to sea. But when this became uneconomic the slate mountains, which now tower over the houses, began to grow... and grow. These massive eyesores were an obvious target for the SDA, set up in 1975 to clear industrial dereliction which was beyond the capacity of local authorities.

The bulldozers are to re-shape more than 750,000 cubic metres of slate waste around Ballachulish and along the shores of Loch Leven. Land will be made suitable for tourism or light industrial use. Landscaping work will enhance the surrounding countryside.

BAD DREAM

Three water-filled quarries will be reclaimed, one for industry and the other two, to the east of the village, will be made shallow and converted to attractive water features. The work is expected to take almost two years. In a separate contract, a riverside walkway will be created and improvement made to Jubilee Park. Sir William Gray commented: "Families in Ballachulish have had to live in the shadow of these ugly slate banks for many decades, but the job of removing them was a complex one for local authorities to tackle alone.

"The Agency, which has committed over £35million to clearing industrial dereliction throughout Scotland, has been enthusiastic to solve the problem. By injecting over £1million and taking action so quickly, we will give the entire community a new lease of life and prepare the way for an exciting future for the village". Sir William claimed that, in future, the people of Ballachulish would think the slate banks were part of "a bad dream".

Councillor MacKay's concern about a follow-up to the land reclamation was answered by Mr William Ross, secretary and deputy chief executive of the Scottish Tourist Board. He said that a feasibility study had been commissioned into developing the cleared land as a water sports complex. The report is being discussed with the HIDB and the Countryside Commission and will go to the Scottish Office for consideration for a cash grant. It envisages a marina, water sports centre and holiday village with restaurants and recreation areas. It is hoped to keep the land in public ownership and lease it to private developers.

Sir William also pointed out that the contractors, Clachan Ltd, have agreed to use local labour wherever possible and he also had hopes that long term employment prospects would be improved as a result of the project. The HIDB have plans for a visitor centre and are considering building advance factories.

The object was not to turn Ballachulish into a "west coast Aviemore", Sir William added, but to give the village its rightful place as one of the most important tourist crossroads in Scotland.

Continued over leaf



Highland Hospice & Lochaber Showstoppers
invite you to vintage afternoon tea
and music in Ballachulish Hall
Saturday 8th April 2.30pm to 5.30 pm £8



This joint community event will see all proceeds supporting The Highland Hospice and Lochaber Showstoppers



Any enquiries Contact:
Maggie Wilson in Hospice
shop Fort William or
janeangusfw@gmail.com

HOW BALLACHULISH WON A TOP AWARD

From The Oban Times Thursday November 27th 1980

The landscaping and removal of former slate quarry tips at Ballachulish, Lochaber, has won one of only four 1980 Civic Trust Awards to be made in Scotland .

On Monday, the Scottish Civic Trust announced the award for the Scottish Development Agency scheme which took two years and more than £1,000,000 to complete. Some 80,000 trees were planted, grass was sown and thousands of cubic metres of slate waste were in-filled, transferred and regraded by the contractor, Clachan Excavations and Construction Ltd.

Designers of the clearance and improvement, which removed the oppressive black heaps of slate waste by the village and replaced them with pleasant grassy open space that blends with the surrounding countryside, were Building Design Architects.

The Civic Trust Awards report on the Ballachulish scheme refers to it as “a most significant and visible act of betterment” and goes on to say:

“The improvement cannot be measured solely on physical environmental terms. The social and economic benefits cannot be questioned and in particular an improvement of tourist potential is assured, come and go, but the people of Ballachulish can now see and enjoy the results – green grass, trees, a new field replacing overshadowing hills of dark slate waste”.

The report adds that the scheme has provided a “new start” for the village and that its effect has been to encourage an already apparent “self improvement” in the area. In addition, it notes that planning for the local coal and garage business and the re-alignment of the trunk road outside the village is already under way.

The “tourist potential” mentioned by the report is a reference to plans for the creation of a holiday complex and marina on 25 acres of the site by Highland Regional Council and the Scottish Development Agency.

With thanks to Mavis Fletcher for arranging permission to reproduce with the Oban Times.



Costumes

The Village Hall now has a range of costumes that can be hired for events. These include Mickey & Minnie Mouse and Hello Kitty.

If you would like more information please contact Jo Watt or use the contact form on the Website.



With Deepest Sympathy



Terry Walker

The Ballachulish Community Association would like to extend their sincere sympathies to his family on the sudden loss of Terry. Terry was a frequent attendee at our Craft Fairs helping Sheila and Julie and he will be sadly missed.

Philip Rankin

It was with sadness that we learned of the recent passing of Philip Rankin. He would have been 100 this April. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. For those who don't know his story, here is a brief outline:

Philip had been a Spitfire Pilot in World War 2 and was shot down over the North Sea in 1942. During his convalescence, an interest in Skiing was encouraged. After the war, he worked in the shipyards on the Clyde, and in the 1950s he and his colleagues were instrumental in starting the Glen Coe Ski Centre, using their skills and scrap metal to build the first lift. Sixty years later, parts of this infrastructure are still in use!

In recent years, Philip continued to visit the Ski centre from his home in Ballachulish, and with a lifetime achievement award from Snowsport Scotland, and the 'Rankins Return' Ski Run at Glencoe named in his honour, his memory will live on for many years to come.

Fish & Chips

<i>Fish & Chip Suppers</i>	
<i>Haddock</i>	<i>6.80</i>
<i>Scampi</i>	<i>6.95</i>
<i>Chicken Fillet</i>	<i>6.50</i>
<i>Haggis Supper</i>	<i>5.00</i>
<i>King Rib</i>	<i>5.00</i>
<i>Mozzerella Sticks</i>	<i>5.50</i>
<i>Steak Pie</i>	<i>5.50</i>

Pizzeria

<i>10" Italian Style Pizzas</i>	
<i>Margherita</i>	<i>6.95</i>
<i>Pepperoni</i>	<i>8.50</i>
<i>Spicy Beef</i>	<i>8.50</i>
<i>Meat Feast</i>	<i>9.50</i>
<i>Peri Peri Chicken</i>	<i>8.50</i>
<i>Vegetarian</i>	<i>8.25</i>
<i>5" Margherita</i>	<i>3.00</i>

Ice Cream Bar

<i>Equis Sundeas</i>	
<i>Cookies & Cream</i>	<i>7.00</i>
<i>Strawberry Shortbread</i>	<i>7.00</i>
<i>Peanut Butter Crunch</i>	<i>7.00</i>
<i>Choc Mud Drizzle</i>	<i>7.00</i>
<i>Salted Caramel Fudge</i>	<i>7.00</i>
<i>Mint Monster</i>	<i>7.00</i>
<i>Waffle S'mores</i>	<i>6.50</i>



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BALLACHULISH MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Pulling together for health



Ballachulish Defib and Training in CPR

Ballachulish PPG (Practice Participation Group) is happy to announce that the village defib is now installed on the outside of the Medical Practice. It's in a green box by the main entrance (the Angus Crescent side, not the Strathassynt side) – have a look next time you are passing. The box is always unlocked.

If someone has a heart attack, they are more likely to survive if bystanders 1) call 999 for an ambulance, 2) give CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation), especially chest compressions and then 3) use a defib to get the person's heart beating normally again. The quicker the casualty gets CPR and defibrillation, the better their chances of survival. A defibrillator (full name Automated External Defibrillator or AED) is a device that delivers a high energy electric shock to the heart and can, in some types of cardiac arrest, restore a more stable rhythm. They are simple and safe to use; the machine gives clear spoken instructions and will only deliver a shock if the casualty needs it.

David Doogan of the Scottish Ambulance Service has already delivered some training in CPR and using the defib. Keep an eye on the Co-op and Medical Practice notice boards to find out the next training dates. It takes less than an hour, is free and does not involve a test. Come along with a friend – you never know – one day you might save one another's life!

You don't need training to use a defib, but if you have had training on CPR and defibrillation you'll be more confident and quicker at doing it.

A second defib will soon be up on the wall of the ambulance station in Glencoe and a third is planned for Onich.

The PPG is grateful for the support of the Medical Practice, local community, local businesses, Glencoe and Ballachulish Community Councils, Highland Council, the Scottish Ambulance Service (especially David Doogan) and the NHS.



By Meg Pollock for Ballachulish Patient Participation Group



South Lochaber Youth Development would like to announce their new Socialize youth night In Ballachulish Village Hall.

It is held every Wednesday from 7.15 until 9pm.

For all young people **12+** Have a laugh, meet up with friends, plan activity days away and have FUN!!!

Best of all... it's **FREE!!!**

Are you a young person...

- Looking for a space just to hang out??
- Want to explore volunteering opportunities??
- Catch up and Socialise with friends??

Why not come along and chat to Jenn or Kara and see what High Life Highland Youth Development have to offer!!!

Quote from a young person: "I come here because youth workers listen to my ideas"

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jennifer Davidson Tel 07775411366 Email Jennifer.davidson@highlifehighland.com



Ballachulish Visitor Centre

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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.

Skate Park

Following the successful visit of the mobile Skate Park to the village last summer, High Life have provisionally booked for the skate park to return this summer. Dates and location should be confirmed in the next issue.



South Lochaber Community Interest Company

The Association of South Lochaber Community Councils are currently looking into setting up the above. Plans are still at an early stage, and it is hoped that any new organization will be able to work with all of the existing Community groups, giving them a stronger, unified voice when needed.

WEST HIGHLAND & ISLANDS PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN INCLUDING CROFT PROPOSAL UPDATE — 13TH MARCH 2017

Extract from Minutes Lochaber Committee. Date: Wednesday, 18 January 2017

It was felt that both Glenachulish and South Ballachulish should be considered together in the local development plan. They were both served by the same Community Council and were a strongly linked community. There was a need for additional housing in Ballachulish, particularly social housing, but that this should be considered in the whole Glenachulish and Ballachulish development. The site identified at Ballachulish roundabout partly addressed this need, but because of the wider community opinion about cherished open space, it was suggested removing this site (The Croft / BHH3) from the local development plan as the housing need was addressed within the overall development pattern on the south side of the loch.

Further, it was queried if the land at the northern edge of site BHM3 (Above West Laroach / MacColl Terrace) along the line of the existing houses, could be allocated for housing. It was advised that building housing on this land would be challenging. Also reference to the textual information in the plan should refer this site (BHH3) as 'the croft land' as it was not existing croft land and local language had always referred to it as the croft land. Therefore, if this site was developed it was not a loss of existing croft land. It was decided to defer a decision on site allocations BHH3 and BHM3 pending a site visit by Members and further discussions with a decision to be made at the next available Lochaber Ward Business meeting ahead of purdah."

As far as can be ascertained after a site meeting which was attended by all Ward 22 Members, local Planning Team Leader and the Lochaber Wards Manager, discussion took place with regard to both site allocations, it is believed the following is the decisions taken.

BHM3 (Land at Rear of West Laroach leading to MacColl terrace) – noting that part of the site is already included within the existing Settlement Development Area, all Ward 22 Members agreed to exclude the proposed allocation from the Proposed Plan due to the restricted road access from MacColl Terrace, the difficult access from the rear of West Laroach and the challenging site conditions/topography. Members agreed that the Settlement Development Area boundary remain the same as the adopted plan.

BHH3 (Croft proposal) – concerns were heard on the allocation of the site allocation proposed. These included concerns around impacts on the wider area arising from the increase in housing; visual impact; pedestrian safety etc. After discussion, the majority of Members present supported the allocation of the site as proposed. However, they considered that this should be the subject of a transport/traffic assessment which should identify the most suitable access point. Further, Members would expect developer contributions to be made to put in place the necessary improvements to ensure pedestrian safety in the locale and satisfactory junction sight lines. Finally, Members also expressed the view that development on this site should be generally single storey and of a high-quality design and finish in order to minimise visual impact. Cllr A Baxter proposed that the Croft Field allocation was removed from the draft local plan. As none of his colleagues was prepared to second that, it failed as an amendment. His dissent was recorded. Simply put three councillors who have had little or no contact with the Community and did not attend the Public meeting with the Developer supported the Croft proposal taking no cognisance whatsoever of the Community Input and it seems merely danced to the tune of the “officials”.

In regard to the Phase 2 West Laroach development for housing, which had been on the local plan for decades in the past, they refused to re-instate it on the advice of officials.

I hope you have also picked up, unlike what we were told by the developer at this Public Meeting, access if the proposal is granted could be via Croft Road and not a separate access from West Laroach.

If the community accept this as Democracy, they can now just sit back and let the matter run its course however if they think this is more akin to Dictatorship by Bureaucracy and wish to protest this proposal being accepted will need to organise themselves and ensure their voices are heard.

Jimmy Waugh. West Laroach

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BRECKLET RIVERBANK GARDEN — PART 1

The Scottish Rhododendron Society, and her sister group, the Rhododendron Species Conservation Group have visited my riverbank garden at Ballachulish on a number of occasions, and 2015 marked its silver jubilee. Twenty-five years of gardening a steep highland gorge, where the river level can rise and fall again in an hour.

The River Laroch rises in the glen above the village, it's a rocky glen. There is little topsoil and the steep terrain means the high rainfall runs off quickly. By the time the river reaches the village, even in times of less rain, it has a considerable flow. In times of heavy rain the boulders, some weighing many tons, can be heard rumbling and bouncing, driven by a huge force of water.

But let's go back a while. In 1979 I started work in Mallaig two days per week. On the outskirts of the village of Arisaig, were curious trees with shiny red trunks. Others had huge leaves with a sort of "hairiness" on their underside. The following spring these beauties burst into flower with amazing trusses of red and yellow flowers. Outside the RBG Edinburgh, I had not seen rhododendron species such as these. When time allowed, on the way home I stopped, hopped over the fence and wandered about in the plantings. This was Larach Mhor, the garden produced by John Holms in the late 1920s and early 1930s. With my "Hillier's Manual" I attempted some identification. So the seeds of rhodoholism were sown.

My garden at the time was a triangle above the River Laroch. It was mainly a slate scree which had been used as a car park when the main house had been a bed and breakfast establishment. *Rhododendron ponticum* grew well, but among these were two different rhododendrons. One had flowers of similar colour to *R. ponticum* but were semi double (*R. 'Fastuosum Flore Pleno'*). The other was a straggly bush, outgrown by the *R. ponticum* so it was nearly invisible in the jungle. But when it flowered it was clearly different. The flowers were white with a brown leopard skin blotch at the base, in a conical shaped truss. I set about clearing around these bushes.

A year later a family holiday to the Llanberis area of North Wales involved a visit to Bodnant Garden. Strolling in the amazing rhododendron plantings clinched the idea of producing a rhododendron garden of my own. I particularly remember a flight of stone steps flanked by evergreen azaleas. These were so covered in flower they made waves of pink, purple, and red.



At this time I was also doing occasional working forays to the Ardnamurchan peninsula. This took me past the Ardgour plant nursery of Ard Daraich, the former holiday home of Constance Spry. Major David and Lady Edith MacLaren had been gardening here since 1969, and David loved to propagate and sell on some of his rhododendrons. So one frosty January day, I called in. I wanted a red one and a yellow one! "Hmph" said David, "I wasn't expecting customers today. The plants are all frozen into the ground!" However he was persuaded to part with *R. 'Chink'* and *R. 'Scarlet'*

Wonder'. And so my rhododendron garden had begun, and a friendship with the MacLaren family that lasts to this day with son Norrie and his wife Anna Raven.

Fast forward to the latter half of the 1980s. I had a burning ambition to expand my garden. I had plants such as *Rhododendron sinogrande* and *R. barbatum* growing in pots, layers of others “temporarily” heeled into the ground, and cuttings that were urgently needing a home. I viewed various properties and areas of ground for sale, but at that time prices were becoming inflated with speculators wanting to develop for profit. So my desired garden “patch” was becoming only a remote possibility. Then I started to see something that was right under my nose. Upstream from where I lived at that point was an area of riverbank overgrown with saplings, brambles, nettles and had been like that all the time I had lived in Ballachulish. Some enquiries revealed the land belonged to the company that had once owned the now defunct slate quarries. A visit to the land agent of the Ballachulish Estate Company, Major John Parnell, clinched a deal for me to buy this area of riverbank, and another small area nearby. So late summer 1990, with loppers and bushman saw, I set about taming the jungle. The area was totally overgrown with ash and sycamore, mostly only six inches in diameter at the base, but twenty feet tall as they fought for the light. It was some four months of hard graft later that *R. sinogrande* and others had a place in the new garden.



By John Roy and abridged from an article that appeared in the Scottish Rhododendron Society Yearbook No 17. Part 2 will come in the next issue.

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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)

Membership is £5 per annum and open to all residents of Ballachulish, Glenachulish and Lettermore. Contact Mike Smith ballacomco@hotmail.com 811346

Patient Participation Group: Bill Strachan or Shirley Grant

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Events and Activities over the Summer months
- Updates from the clubs and groups in our community
- Part 2 of Brecklet Riverbank Garden
- More Local History you may never have heard about!

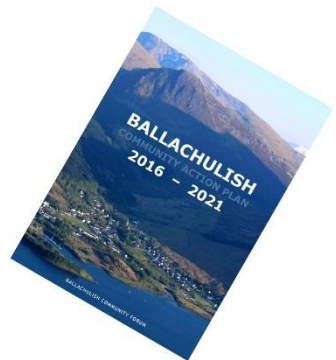
BALLACHULISH COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Remember this?

It is now nearly a year since the CAP was launched, and whilst work is ongoing behind the scenes and a variety of small steps have been taken, we need to start looking in earnest at the bigger projects raised within the CAP.

If you would like to be involved, please come to the Community Association AGM at the village hall at 5pm on Sunday 9th April. We will be looking to recruit volunteers for a range of positions to help progress with the CAP.


If you can't make the meeting, but would like to be involved, please contact Rob Malpas at rileyrob@btinternet.com or Jo Watt at gatsbycass@gmail.com.



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 / Jubilee


Wednesday

- 6.30-7.15pm Zumba at Village Hall
- 7.15-9pm Youth Club at Village Hall

Thursday

- 9.30-11.30am  Playgroup at Village Hall
- 10.30-1pm Knit & Knatter, Coffee & Crochet at TiC
- 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 6/4, 27/4,

18/5 & 25/5

12:40-12:55 Square

13:00-13:10 Lochside Cottages

Wed 12/4, 3/5 & 24/5

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 on our village notice boards and via facebook.

Noticeboard at Co-op

If you would like a poster inserted in the community noticeboard at the Co-op, please put it in one of the letterboxes at the village hall for consideration. No Small Ads.

FORTHCOMING DATES

April

- 4th – 7pm Community Council meeting at Shinty Pavilion - all welcome
- 5th – Schools finish for Easter Holidays
- 8th – 2.30pm Vintage Tea with Showstoppers at Hall in aid of Highland Hospice
- 8th 9th – from 9.30am Ballachulish Spring Clean based at Village Hall
- 9th – 5pm Community Association AGM at Village Hall – all welcome
- 14th-17th – Easter Egg Hunts at Glencoe Visitor Centre
- 15th – Country Dancing Rally at Village Hall
- 16th – 8am Easter Service at Cuil Bay
- 16th – Easter Sunday services at local churches
- 24th – Schools return after Easter



May

- 2nd – 7pm Community Council meeting at Shinty Pavilion – all welcome
- 20th – Glencoe Museum 'Museum Memories' Open Day
- 25th – Craft Fayre at Village Hall from 12-4
- 25th – 4pm DUCK RACE! Starting at Brig o'Laroch and ending at Albert Road



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