

## 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

### June

- 1<sup>st</sup> School Summer Fayre 6-8pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The 306:day - Scottish National Theatre Touring Company at Hall 7.30pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Coffee Morning at hall for St Muns Church
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cheesy Beats at hall to raise money for Roy Castle (Cancer) Foundation
- 6<sup>th</sup> Community Council Meeting at shinty pavilion – everyone welcome.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Colours Fashion Show at Village Hall
- 16<sup>th</sup> Cup Cake day at hall, raising money for Alzheimer's Research 11-3pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> Community clean up day
- 30<sup>th</sup> End of School Year

### July

- 4<sup>th</sup> Community Council Meeting at shinty pavilion
- 7<sup>th</sup> School Sports day at Jubilee Park
- 14<sup>th</sup> HoRo Ceilidh Dance 8pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> The Recovery by Bright Star Productions (Ilona Lawson) at Hall raising money to go to Edinburgh Fringe



### 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

# SLATEST NEWS

Your free community newsletter produced by Ballachulish Community Forum

Edition 3 – June/July 2017



*The Scouts say hello to the Wee Minister at the bottom of the Lairig Leacach.*



*Above – Walking the West Highland Way for Christian Aid  
Left – The new donations post at the Quarry*

# WELCOME!

We have received a lot of good feedback about Slate 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](mailto:rileyrob@btinternet.com); Sheila McLean – [sheila@brecklet.co.uk](mailto: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 July 2017, for delivery at the end of the month. Deadline for submissions is 14<sup>th</sup> July. Unfortunately, due to holidays, anything submitted after this date will not be included.

## Co-op Community Fundraising

The first round of awards from the new co-op membership community fundraising scheme have now been paid out as follows:

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| • Ballachulish Sports and Playpark Association | £1395 |
| • 4 <sup>th</sup> Lochaber Scout Group         | £1365 |
| • Ballachulish Community Association           | £1335 |

Thank you to everyone who has helped raise this money for our local groups – it is as easy as swiping your card each time you shop. Hopefully there will be more details in the next issue of Slate News detailing how the money is being spent.

The next round is now underway, with money being raised for more worthwhile causes, so keep swiping your membership card! The groups looking for money this time are:

- **Ballachulish Sports and Playpark Association** – We want to improve our playpark so that our children have somewhere local to have fun, keep active and stay fit in the process.
- **Ballachulish Community Association** - We (with other community groups) would like to purchase an electronic display board for the gable end of our hall.
- **Ballachulish Playgroup** - We wish to take the children on some trips to animals parks and the sea life centre; money will help pay for entry fees and transport.

So far each group has nearly £500 towards their projects.




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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 / 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 8/6, 29/6 & 20/7

12:40-12:55 Square

13:00-13:10 Lochside

Cottages

Wed 14/6, 5/7 & 26/7

(13:30-14:25 School)

14:30-15:15 W Laroche

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



## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Community Council:** [www.ballachulish.org.uk](http://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](http://www.balla-hall.co.uk)

Our Trustees are: Brian Dickie (Vice Chair), Rob Malpas (Secretary), Sheila McLean, Isobel Robertson (Treasurer), Sandy Stoddart, Marjorie Thornton, 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

## COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

It has come to our attention that some members of our community are unsure about the abbreviations / acronyms being used. If this includes you, here are a few of the more common ones:

AoSLCC – Association of South Lochaber Community Councils

Comprising Ballachulish, Glencoe, Nether Lochaber and Kinlochleven.

BCA – Ballachulish Community Association

Run the village hall and are progressing projects from the CAP

BCC – Ballachulish Community Council (or sometimes Company)

Statutory body with overview of various community matters

BC Coy / The Company – Ballachulish Community Company

Progressing the River Laroch Hydro Scheme and other projects

CAP – Community Action Plan

Document drawn up with community involvement in 2016

NSA – National Scenic Area

Government Designation for Ben Nevis & Glencoe area

PEL – Public Entertainment Licence

Bureaucratic council paperwork required for holding public events

SCIO – Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity with a business footing

WHLDP – West Highland Local Development Plan

Highland Council's Consultation on local development in the area

If there are any more, please get in touch.

## NEWS FROM ST MUNDAS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

### Duror and St Munda's Parish Church

Over the last few months the church has been supporting Re-Act (Lochaber and Argyll) who work to help refugees in this country and abroad. St Munda's Church is a collection point for donations and volunteers have helped to prepare homes for refugee families in Kinlochleven and helped to sort donations in the centre in Fort William.

May is the month for Christian Aid and, calling themselves 'Munda's Men', 3 men from the church, Ewan Smith, Bill Strachan and Jon Ure together with a friend, John Pullman, were sponsored to walk the 96 miles of the West Highland Way (see front cover). They had a great experience of this wonderful stretch of countryside over 6 days, meeting lots of interesting people and enjoying some good food and refreshment. Some of the track is hard-going and not surprisingly they suffered some wear and tear along the way. Well done to them all! Photos and film of the trip will be shown in the church on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Closer to home there was a Christian Aid Lunch in Duror and Kentallen Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> May where the usual excellent catering was enjoyed.

During May the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met and the outdoor celebration from Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens was live-streamed to Duncansburgh Mackintosh Church in Fort William. As well as joining in with the events in Edinburgh there was a local programme of interest and entertainment. Our Praise Band was playing and singing some modern hymns.

Now that there are increasing numbers of tourists around we look forward to welcoming visitors from far and near to join us at worship.

*Rev Sandy Stoddart*

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# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

## AGM

The Community Association held our annual AGM just before Easter, and the chair's report can be seen opposite. As part of the proceedings, we amended our constitution to increase the number of trustees to 7, and duly elected 3 new trustees:

- Sheila McLean who will be progressing the hall facilities project to create more space for community use.
- Marjorie Thornton who will be looking at creating a Museum space for the village
- Sandy Stoddart who will be assisting with various aspects of the associations work.

We welcome them all, and look forward to working with them as these exciting projects from the Community Action Plan progress.



## Colours Fashion Show – 10<sup>th</sup> 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>



## Cupcake Day – 16<sup>th</sup> June

To help raise money for Alzheimer's Society, Ballachulish Hall will host a Cupcake Day on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 11-3pm. Coffee, tea and of course lots of cupcakes will be available!



**Ballachulish Rainbow Baby & Toddler Group**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 – 11.30  
£1.50 per child  
(includes a snack)  
Everybody welcome!  
Contact: Sara McLean  
07826 187053



Epiphytic rhododendrons such as *R. moupinense* and *R. megeratum* were planted in the forks of ash trees in moss secured by chicken wire stapled to the tree. This let the plants get a start, and the lighter canopy of ash means sufficient light penetrates. Spurred on by this success, I tried screwing metal baskets to other trees, filling them with moss, and planting into them. I have *R. edgeworthii* growing very healthily like this, also hybrids of *R. johnstonianum*, *R. dendrocharis* and one of Chip Lima's *Maddenia* subsection hybrids with yellow flowers.

I have now been on eleven plant exploration trips to the Himalaya and Sino-Himalaya. Each trip has educated me as to the way plants survive in the wild, and I have tried to bring that back to my riverbank. On my first trip to Yunnan, I saw *Rhododendron hippophaeoides* and *R. racemosum* growing together on the plateau at Zhongdian. Always *R. racemosum* was on the drier



mounds while *R. hippophaeoides* grew in the damper hollows. I planted both together, mirroring what I had seen. Two years later, venturing over the Doshong La in south east Tibet was an education in itself. On top of a huge boulder the size of a two storey house, *R. exasperatum* and *R. leucaspis* grew together taking advantage of drainage from the incessant rain. I now have both succeeding on a (much smaller) boulder. In Arunachal Pradesh I have trekked through sub-tropical into temperate and alpine altitudes through zones of rhododendrons. Large-leaved and less hardy species survive at lower levels through to tiny alpenines such as *R. pumilum* and *R. ludlowii* at the higher altitudes. My large leaved species grow successfully in the valley floor, and the small alpenines are happy in raised beds and troughs of free draining material.

I have brought all of these experiences back to Brecklet Riverbank and tried to produce a garden something like a Himalayan glen. How successful I have been is for others to judge, but it has been a most enjoyable 25 years.

**By John Roy and abridged from an article that appeared in the Scottish Rhododendron Society Yearbook No 17. Part 1 was in the last issue.**

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## BRECKLET RIVERBANK GARDEN — PART 2



The following summer John Parnell called round to see how I was getting on with my project. He was duly impressed, so much so that he offered me the land on the east bank also. Parts of this area were even more overgrown, and exceedingly steep but I needed no persuasion, and the loppers and bushman saw were brought into further action. And so my riverbank garden now encompassed both sides. The steepness of the east bank meant drainage was particularly good, but before I could exploit that, there was much work to do. Some of the more mature trees were retained as shelter, and to ensure the raging torrent did not destabilise the banks. Once again I did most of the work by myself, but for some of the larger trees, I obtained help from two men experienced in using a chainsaw.

Work continued throughout that winter, and planting commenced in the following spring. *Rhododendron barbatum* was

finally released from its pot. Years later it makes a wonderful sight, with the overhead canopy drawing it up so its beautiful red trunk is shown off. Another beautiful trunk is that of *Prunus serrula*, also planted on this riverbank. A coincidence of planting it in its position is the winter sun catches the peeling bark on the bare branches and as one walks up the road it looks alight. In 1999 a house purchase involved a move to the east riverbank, and upstream to my present abode. This added a further third of an acre, and involved several more bushes coming with me. Others were just too big to move.

As with any garden, planting and maintenance continues. I have made many mistakes, mainly with insufficient drainage, and attempting rhododendrons too tender for my area. Although situated on the west coast, and close to the salt water Loch Leven, the effects of the gulf stream are diluted somewhat by the long length of Loch Linnhe. Milder than gardens further inland, I am not as mild as the likes of Arduaine or Inverewe. Undeterred, where the ground refused to drain sufficiently, plants such as *Rodgersia* and some candelabra primulas thrive. Most years the rainfall tops 100 inches (2540mm). 2015 exceeded all records with rainfall of very nearly 152 inches (3860mm). Planting rhododendrons in these circumstances requires mounding organic matter, and planting above soil level.

## BCA CHAIR REPORT 2017

The year 2016/17 has once again been an eventful and busy time for the hall. Sept 2016 saw the well attended official roll out of the Ballachulish Community 5-year action plan (CAP) where during the Open Day, the community's vision for the next 5 years was presented.

One of the five themes identified was the Community and Recreational Facilities and Activities where the further development of the village hall was identified as a priority.

While this is clearly a project that requires feasibility studies and funding it also impacts on the hall with a requirement for the appointment of more trustees.

A further priority was to improve facilities and activities for young people and I am pleased to report that as a result off the CAP the Youth Development Group now have weekly Youth Club meetings in the hall while other priorities are being addressed (i.e. arts and cultural activities).

As part of our ongoing hall improvements we were successfully awarded £8592 from the Big Lottery Fund. This enabled us to purchase tables, chairs, storage trolleys, wipeable table coverings and event signs for which we are hugely appreciative. The remainder of this grant is being used to purchase chairs for the comfort of our elderly community members.

We are also fortunate and grateful that we are one of the three local groups that have been selected for the Cooperative funding awards and we plan to get a portable PA system which will be more than well used at events.

As always we are pleased to see the variation in bookings that come through our doors. Dec 2016 saw the hall host a well attended and very enthusiastic Community Christmas Carols with the Reverend Sandy Stoddart leading proceedings while in 2017 a highly entertaining and well supported Burns Supper as a St Muns fundraiser saw the community 'talking for days' !!!!!

We would like to thank our regular income contributors for their loyalty and support. These include our local country dancing group, shinty club, zumba classes, 4th Lochaber Scout Group, cubs and beavers. A recent addition is our Youth Club to which we extend a warm welcome.

Once again an energetic and enthusiastic fund raising committee continues to deliver and it is immensely satisfying that regular events now on the calendar such as the Duck Race, Christmas Market and Santa's Grotto, Mickie and Minnie's Disney Brunch and the Lantern Parade (now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year) are very much enjoyed and commented on not just by our local community but thanks to social media, from visitors from much further afield.

Particular mention and thanks must also be expressed to not just the Ballachulish and Glenachulish community for support and attendance at events but also to our surrounding community partners from Glencoe, Kinlochleven, Nether Lochaber, Duror and Fort William. Rurally the onus is on us all to support, engage and share good practice in the challenging times which lie ahead.

In closing I would once again like to thank the hard work and commitment of my fellow trustees and committee members of the Ballachulish Community Association.

Thank you, **Jo Watt**



## 4<sup>th</sup> 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

### Expedition Challenge

On the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> May, Ballachulish Scouts undertook their expedition challenge. This is one of 9 challenge awards they need to achieve in order to gain their Chief Scouts Gold Award, and for many of our younger scouts it is their first completed challenge award.

The weekend saw us travel to the Scouts camp site near Spean Bridge and pitch the tents. Then, after lunch we undertook a 4 hour walk, climbing up the Lairig Leacach, an old drovers route which ultimately connects with the head of Glen Nevis, Luibeilt above Kinlochleven and Kingshouse. The Scouts had planned the walk (with guidance) and were navigating. Once back at camp, the Scouts cooked their own meal, which had also been planned in advance and enjoyed games and a campfire before lights out.



On Sunday morning, bleary eyed scouts and leaders had breakfast and packed up the tents

and equipment. There were a few sore feet and weary muscles, but spirits were high as we set off. We walked through the Leanachan Forest, from the campsite to Nevis Range, from where, after a bit of car shuffling we headed home.

### Scouts favourite bits:

Being away from home

The rope swing on the campsite

Cooking

Sleeping

Seeing Forestry Equipment

Going Home!

And Capture the Flag, their favourite game!

No one said walking...



## 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 18:30 – 19:30 for our younger members 5-11 years (Cubs and Otters)
- Monday nights from 19:30 – 20:30 11-17 years (Juniors)
- Tuesday nights from 19:00 – 21:00 17+ (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.



### Use of the Brecklet Range

Lately members of South Lochaber Bowmen have been finding a large number of arrows of a type that are not used by our members left on the range at Brecklet. Due to the type of arrow and locations of these, the club feels we have to clarify with everyone about the use of the range. For example Members of the club are instructed to look, check the range for possible hazards before any shooting begins to protect themselves and others from injury. Including looking for missing arrows after the shoot then reported to the club committee. These arrows have been found stuck in branches and trees towards the targets.

***The lease with the forestry commission only provides the members of the club the right to use the forest for archery not the public.***

This is due to the issue of liability. Who is at fault if someone is injured by a rogue arrow or deflection. The club has Public Liability Insurance for the use of the range and copies are sent to the respective parties that require a copy. Therefore only members with active membership can use the forest for archery. If a member of the public was to use the same course for rifle shooting or archery it would be considered as Armed Trespassing due to neither having a lease from the forestry commission or insurance to protect themselves or the public. If it was a person walking their dog or general hill walking they would not be trespassing due to the Scottish outdoor access code.

As a result the club is asking anyone walking up to the range, or past to keep an eye on things. If you feel it is safe to do so, please ask to see current 2017/18 membership cards. Otherwise, please report to the club via the links below.

If you wish to learn more about the range or the club please contact us by either Email or facebook below or come along on our next shoot on May 27th at 10am until 5 pm.

*Keiron Thomson, President, South Lochaber Bowmen*

southlochaberbowmen@gmail.com

[www.facebook.com/SLbowmen](https://www.facebook.com/SLbowmen) or [www.facebook.com/SLbowmemJuniors](https://www.facebook.com/SLbowmemJuniors)

## WHAT'S GOING ON??

### South Lochaber Community Interest Company

The Association of South Lochaber Community Councils are currently progressing with setting up the above. It is hoped that the new organization will be able to work with all of the existing Community groups, giving them a stronger, unified voice when needed.

### Quarry – Public Entertainment Licence

The Community Company, along with the Community Council, are exploring the possibility of acquiring a Public Entertainment Licence for the Quarry, which will cover the Fireworks and maybe other projects for a period of 3 years. Similarly, we have been in discussions with the Highland Council with regard to a possible community acquisition of part of the quarry. The Company would be the legal entity which would be the vehicle for negotiating and agreeing contracts with Highland Council if we proceed.

### Quarry – Development

Some of you will have noticed the new arrival at the quarry gate, a yellow post for Donations. This is emptied daily, and any funds raised will be spent by the community for enhancement of the quarry and surrounding area. Inside the quarry, the Cro has been built as one of the final pieces of the redevelopment of the quarry.

### Glencoe Orbital Path

Funding has finally been found to complete the orbital path. This will see a new path built along the south side of the A82 from the visitor centre up to Glean Leac na Muidhe and round the corner to the Signal Rock car park.

## NEW CHANCE TO HAVE SAY ON CROFT FIELD

Earlier this year, my now three ex-councillor colleagues ignored widespread village opinion and pushed ahead with proposals to allocate the Croft Field for housing development. They voted against my amendment to the draft local development plan, which would have protected the area as “cherished open space.”

There is now another opportunity to right that wrong as Highland Council published the development plan and opened a **public consultation that ends on 30th June 2017**. This plan guides where development should and should not occur over the next 10 to 20 years, and continues to list Croft Field as a preferred site. Council officers continue to recommend that the site is suitable for 15 houses, but fail to adequately address concerns about additional traffic using Croft Road and West Laroach.

Please use this chance to express your opinion, details are available at <http://consult.highland.gov.uk> where you can submit your views direct to the council. If you would rather not use this online method, I am once again collating local views. You can send them to me either by email [andrew@lochabervoice.com](mailto:andrew@lochabervoice.com) or by post to 12 Riverside Road, Kinlochleven, Argyll, PH50 4QH.

*Cllr Andrew Baxter*

## COMMUNITY COMPANY NEWS – June 2017



### Your community, your Community Company—it's time to get involved!

One of our directors, Susan Sinclair, is standing down after 3 years on the board, most recently as our company secretary. She has been a thoughtful and conscientious contributor; we would like to record our appreciation to Susan for all that she has done for the company.

I am also having to leave the board, so that will leave vacancies and plenty of room for fresh blood. Although the remaining members of the board will carry the company forward, they would hugely appreciate some help. If you think that the company is worthwhile, please come forward to offer your support. Previous expertise or experience is not needed; enthusiasm, a little time and commitment are far more important. Contact our chair, Jimmy Waugh, on 01855 811540, to register your interest and discover what you can do.

### Community Empowerment?

Much as you would be very welcome if you were to offer your help to the board, it would be misleading if I were to claim that you would immediately be pitched into lots of dynamic schemes to improve your community. The upcoming General Election, Brexit, possible Scottish independence, and at best a lethargy about understanding and facilitating the Community Empowerment Act, have created a perfect storm of political and bureaucratic impediments to progress for companies like ours.

### Ongoing Work

A feasibility study of having a private wire from the proposed River Laroach Hydro scheme, directly to the consumers, for the supply of electricity, is underway, being conducted by Ricardo Energy & Environment.

We are still trying to get an answer from Scottish Water about their assets at Brecklet. We may have to seek support from the Scottish Government and Community Land Ownership organisations, of which we are a member, in regard to this.

### A local representative!

On a positive note, we can hope that now we have our own Ballachulish resident on the Highland Council after the recent elections, we might be able to give them an occasional nudge in the right direction. Congratulations to Niall Maclean, the son of one of our directors, on his election as one of the four councillors for the Fort William and Ardnarmurchan ward.

### And it's goodbye from me.

This is my final newsletter for the Community Company. Although I've had my home in this wonderful and friendly community for 24 years, I'm heading down to Norfolk. I haven't lived in Norfolk, where I was born and brought up, since 1972, yet, ridiculously really, it still undeniably feels like home. So, as I stumble into old age, I'm heading back. My best wishes for the future to you all—and thank you for reading these newsletters!

*Mike*



## BARRS STORES

There is a building at the heart of our community that has been important since it was first built in the 1870s. When built, it was on the main road through the village, a short distance from the East Quarry. The exact date of construction is not clear, but it is believed that the building was already a year or two old when Barrs Stores moved in in 1880.

The shop quickly became the most important store in the village, and over the next 70 years or so the building was home to Hardware, drapers, butchers and grocers shops in the 3 shop units. After the start of construction works at Kinlochleven, a branch was opened there too, and there was also a branch in Glencoe Village for several years. By the time that the railway arrived in 1903 a bakery building had been built at the back of the stores, providing bread for the village. In 1945 the Co-op opened a branch in Ballachulish, where Quarry Cottages now stand, and for the next 50 years there were two grocers stores in the village.

In 1978 the Grant family, descendants of the Barrs, sold the store just under a century after establishing it. In the 1980s it was a Spar store, and home to the Post Office, whilst the old bakery was a fish and chip shop. In 1987 planning permission was sought to convert and extend the former bakery to become a pub, which finally opened in 1991.

Then, in 1997, the Co-op bought Barrs Stores and moved down the road. Finally, in 2014, the Co-op moved into the new store and for the first time in at least 134 years the building stood empty. A year later, local businessman Karl Griffin bought the old shop and started to redevelop it as the Quarriers Kitchen, Takeaway and eat in Fish & Chips and Pizzas.



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*One Mile from Glencoe      Sit In or Take Away*

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**Activities are open to ages of 12-18 year olds.**

Date	Activity	Activity Information	No of places
17th June	Community Clean-Up and BBQ in Balla!	Saltire Hours Challenge Award!	Unlimited
13th July	Tubing @ Glencoe !	11am depart and 2pm return (Approx)	10 spaces
27th July	3 wise monkeys Climbing wall- FW	Depart @ 9.45am and return @ 2pm (approx.) Packed lunch required.	8 spaces
10th August	City trip = Inverness shopping, Aquadome and dinner!	Depart @ 9am, return approx. 6pm. HilghLife Leisure card if applicable & Spending money.	8 spaces
Ongoing	Youth Club @ Balla	Continually running every Wednesday within Ballachulish Village hall. 7.15pm	Unlimited

Please note:- Activities may change at short notice due to inclement weather, staffing, lack of numbers and other unforeseen circumstances. Please keep an eye on South Lochaber Youth Development Facebook Page!

Further details of each activity will be provided on the individual posters provided. These will be on show in the Leven Centre, Youth Development Facebook Page, Kinlochleven High or ask your Youth Development officer: Kara Gillespie or Jennifer Davidson.

Can ALL young people booking onto any of the above activities PLEASE ensure that they attain the necessary forms from Kara or Jenn in the Leven Centre.

These forms MUST be filled out correctly, signed by parents and returned before the activity takes place, forms cannot be submitted on the day of the trip.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Jennifer Davidson Tel 07775411366 Email [Jennifer.davidson@highlifehighland.com](mailto:Jennifer.davidson@highlifehighland.com)



## MAKE THE MOST OF THESE SUMMER EVENINGS.

For the next two months it is light until at least 10pm, so if you don't already do so, why not turn that TV or I-pad off and get out and make the most of the summer?

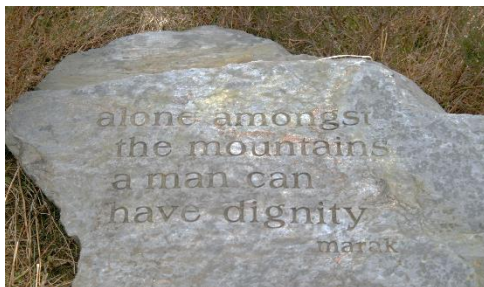
We are extremely lucky to live here, with many fine walks along the coast or into the forests and hills. There are many things to go and discover, views to enjoy and sunsets to watch, here are just a few ideas:

### Quarry and Shore 1 hour

Stroll round the quarry and then pass under the A82 to the shore, where the views up the loch or over to the Burial Isle and Pap of Glencoe can be enjoyed from a series of benches.

### Brecklet Path 1-1½ hours

Climb up from the quarry to enjoy the view out across the village and loch. Continue into the forest, discover the old ruins and drop down to the top of the village at Brecklet.



### St Johns Church 1-2½ hours

Start from the village and walk out along the cycle track, or park at the church and climb up through the forest to enjoy the views. Turn back from the picnic bench, or drop down to Glenachulish and follow the cycle track home.

### Glencoe Lochan 1-3 hours

Start from the village and walk out along the cycle track or park at the lochan and follow the waymarked paths. Tracks lead down to Invercoe for a different way back.

### Cycle Track Glenachulish – Kentallen 1-3 hours

This is one of the finest walks, with stunning coastal views, a wide range of flora and fauna to discover. Watch the seals playing in the loch, or the bees and butterflies on the flowers.



### Glenachulish Mast – 1½-2 hours

For a more energetic leg stretch, park at Glenachulish and climb up past the bridge, before doubling back and climbing the contours above Lettermore to reach the mast with stunning views over to Ardgour.

**BALLACHULISH PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER**

# Summer Fayre

Tombolas Kids Hill Race  
Bottle Stall BBQ  
Bouncy Castle Raffle  
Ice Cream Face Painting  
Candy Floss Lucky Dip  
Home Baking Diggers

.....And lots more

**THURSDAY 1ST JUNE**  
**6PM @ THE SCHOOL**

**Ballachulish Visitor Centre**

Visitor Information  
Activity Bookings  
Crafts & Gifts  
Café

Scotland

Tel: 01855 811866 | [www.glencoe-tourism.co.uk](http://www.glencoe-tourism.co.uk)

**Lochaber's Premier Fishing Tackle Shop**

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## 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.

A couple of weeks ago, we met a bit earlier than usual to make sure we were in time to park & catch the Corran ferry across to Ardgour & North Corran. We had a good walk up past the church and through the woods, before returning to the ferry and crossing back for a coffee at the new Corran Inn.



### Monday Walk Report

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

Recently we joined with the newly formed Kinlochleven Step It Up group & went up the West Highland Way past the Mamore Lodge (sadly in a bad state of disrepair). From the top of our walk, where we turned back down, we had good views of Loch Leven, the Pap of Glencoe and of the pipe line coming down from the Blackwater Reservoir.



### 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.*



## BATTLE OF THE LARACH

In the early 9<sup>th</sup> or late 10<sup>th</sup> Century, Ailde eloped to Argyll with the wife of the King of Lochlann and joined the Feinn run by Fionn. Earragan the King sailed to Loch Leven with 40 ships to seek revenge. They raised their tents about a mile from Invercoe in a field later called Larach (sic) and challenged the Feinn.

The Feinn dug 4 long ditches on the slope of the pap for defence and dwelling. These trenches on the pap can still be seen.

Both sides had several thousand men, however the Feinn were better fighters and won. Only 2 of Earragan's ships sailed away.

The men who were killed were buried in the field where they lay. The commanders were put in 4 stone coffins and cairns raised – all cairns are said to have now been removed, but Charles Stewart of Ballachulish saved the covering Stone Slabs.

Synopsis from the Dewar Manuscripts, supplied by *Kath Small*.

## BALLACHULISH GODDESS

Going back even further in time, over 2000 years ago the wooden statue now known as the Ballachulish Goddess was lost in peatbog near Alltschellach House, North Ballachulish. This summer, from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> August, an experimental Archaeology Group from Ireland, working with Northlight Heritage in Glasgow will be attempting to create a replica of the Goddess, using replica tools and methods.

Their visit will include demonstrations and an evening talk based around the Quarry and Village Hall here in Ballachulish, and when complete the replica will be taken across the loch to the original site.



*With Thanks*



### Terry Walker

The Family would like to sincerely thank friends and neighbours for their good wishes, and condolences on the sudden death of Terry in February. At our most difficult time, your thoughtfulness and assistance was greatly appreciated. Also to the paramedics who tried so hard to save him, and the lovely doctors and nurses at the Belford Hospital who were so kind in our grief.