

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 outside the Co-op, please put it in one of the letterboxes at the village hall for consideration. No Small Ads.

FORTHCOMING DATES

August

- 1st Community Council Meeting at shinty pavilion
- 3rd – 5th Ballachulish Goddess Experimental Archeology
- 4th – 20th Local Drama Group Bright Productions are at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with their show The Recovery Version.
- 15th New school year starts

September

- 5th Community Council Meeting at shinty pavilion
- 16th Colours Fashion Show at Village Hall. 7.30pm
- 23rd / 24th Tidy up weekend, focusing on Quarry. From 9.30am



Colours.
[FUN]DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS

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 4 – August / September 2017



Above – The cubs preparing for their end of term trip on the SeaXplorer.



Right – the very successful Cupcake day in aid of Alzheimer's Research.



WELCOME!

Thirty six hours before the deadline for this edition we were looking at a single sheet of A4 and wondering how to fill it up, so thank you to everyone who sent in articles with just a few hours to spare! We appreciate that many people are on holiday this time of year, and we hope those holidays provide the adventure or relaxation you desire!

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

Co-op Community Fundraising

Once again the Co-op Ballachulish are looking for local causes to apply for our next round of fundraising. We are currently supporting Ballachulish Playgroup, Ballachulish Community Association and Ballachulish Sports and Playpark Association, and prior to that we were able to raise a massive £1300 each for the 4th Lochaber Scouts, Ballachulish Community Association and Ballachulish Sports and Playpark Association, so it's definitely worth completing an application! Apply now at coop.co.uk/causes.

The money is raised by our customers simply by signing up for a Co-op Card. Once you have a card 1% of your spend on Co-op goods will go to the charity you choose, or be split between the three. In addition to this you will receive 5% of your total spend on Co-op goods back into your membership account, which you can save up for a special occasion or use anytime to pay for your shopping.

Don't forget that, as a member of the Co-op, you also get a say on the products we sell and the causes we champion. See you in store!





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

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 10/8, 31/8 & 21/9

12:40-12:55 Square
13:00-13:10 Lochside Cottages

Wed 16/8, 6/9 & 27/9

(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

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), 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, Kevin Smith, Morgan Smith, Jimmy Waugh (Chair)

Patient Participation Group: Bill Strachan or Shirley Grant

HAVE YOU HAD AN EXCITING HOLIDAY THIS YEAR?

Whether in a Holiday Park on the Ayrshire coast or a Caribbean Cruise, if you would like to share some tales of your summer holiday, please get in touch. We would love to hear about your adventures!



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BALLACHULISH FIREWORKS

As many of you will have read in the Oban Times: The Ballachulish Community regret to announce that we will be unable to hold our annual Fireworks Display in Ballachulish Quarry for 2017.

In January this year, the Highland Council instigated a requirement for all such events to have a Public Entertainment Licence, with an Event Management Plan, which has resulted in much more onerous licensing requirements that were not previously required for small community events. We have been looking at all of the paperwork for over a year and have sadly concluded that the additional requirements, both in terms of associated costs and additional man-hours make it impossible to continue at the present time to meet the Highland Council Time Frame for licenced events this year.

The Fireworks have been a great community event over the last decade, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in helping to organise the event, and also all of you who have come and enjoyed the display over the years. We are still considering our options for 2018 and hope to be able to hold a replacement event of some form, although at this point in time it is unlikely to be a fireworks display.



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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Ballachulish Community Association were very grateful to be one of 3 local groups recently awarded an amount of £1334.83 by the Co-op Local Communities fund. Some of this money has already been used towards village plants, compost etc while the remainder is planned for a portable PA system for the hall and general village or hall improvements.



Colours Fashion Show – 16th September

Colours.

**[FUN]DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS**

High Street Fashion comes to Ballachulish with the Colours Fashion Show. Refreshments at tables and Raffle on the night and a chance to buy some of the clothes after the show. Adult Ladies clothes only. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are £5 each and available from Jo Watt, either via Facebook or on 07766 562600.

<http://www.coloursfashionshows.com>

Cycling Time Trials

The Cycling Time Trials 10th anniversary in honour of the late Jason MacIntyre from Fort William was held on May 14th, based at the hall. This was the first time ever held in Scotland as historically they are always held south of the border. Over 70 riders male and female participated in the event, having travelled from as far afield as the Isle of Man. Fastest rider home, having cycled round Loch Leven was Archibald with an astounding time of 38 minutes 40seconds. The organisers were very complimentary about what Ballachulish had to offer, were 'blown away' by the scenic route of the ride around the Loch and plans are currently ongoing to make this an annual event which has the potential to be a massive economic boost to the area. The Jason MacIntyre Memorial Trophy was awarded to the fastest rider by Jason's widow Caroline and her daughters in the hall afterwards where Jason memorabilia was on display including his bike which had not been seen in public in ten years.

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BALLACHULISH GODDESS

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 3rd – 5th 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.



Plans are still being finalised, but will be roughly as follows:

- Thursday – Evening presentation event at village hall
- Friday and Saturday – 10-4 Carving of the figurine and demonstrations at the Quarry (or hall if bad weather) using replica tools and techniques.
- Saturday evening – It is hoped to take the figurine back to the discovery site at North Ballachulish.

It promises to be a very interesting weekend, so why not pop down and have a look.



THE LOCH

So who has been watching? This edition has gone to print just before the last episode airs, so we don't know who the murderer is. Did you guess right?

Whether or not you have enjoyed the series, it has, at the very least, been good to see Ballachulish and Glencoe on the telly, even if Fort Augustus has had star billing! Did you recognize all of the locations? And will there be a second series?

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BALLACHULISH MEDICAL PRACTICE

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Pulling together for health



On-line repeat prescriptions

Do you have a smartphone or tablet computer? If yes you can sign up to use Patient Access – this on-line facility means you can order repeat medication and check appointments.

It is hoped that in the very near future some appointments will be able to be booked on-line. Developments will be in the PPG Newsletter and posted on the Noticeboard.

Travel Immunisations – Seek Advice Early!

Provision of travel health advice and immunisations is done by the Practice Nurse, Zoe. You can also get travel advice from chemists (including online) and specialist travel clinics. Provision of travel health advice is being reviewed across Scotland and may be taken away from GP practices in the future.

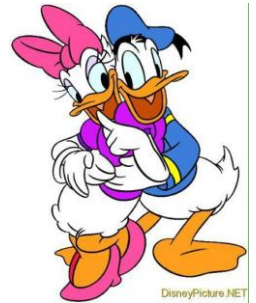
For now if you need travel health advice and want to get that from the GP surgery you need to book an appointment with the Practice Nurse, as early as possible to discuss where you are going, review your medical notes and agree with you what immunisations or medication may be required. We do not stock travel immunisations or malaria tablets as we have limited capacity for storage and they can go out of date. If you do need vaccines you will be given a prescription to take to the chemist, and appointments to come back for your vaccines. As some vaccines are given over the course of several months it is really important that you come for travel advice as soon as possible. Don't leave it too late and risk going overseas unprotected. A really useful website is fitfortravel.co.uk it is run by Health Protection Scotland - it uses all the same guidance and research that the Practice will do. It is important before you come for your travel appointment to come in with an itinerary of where and when you are going to help the risk assessment. Leaving it too late to seek travel advice is not an emergency, if you cannot be seen routinely you will be asked to seek private travel health advice from another provider. Furthermore if we are seeing you for travel we need to do an assessment before we can prescribe any immunisations, we do not take anyone else's say so for what is required - it would be irresponsible and unsafe of us to do that.

All travel advice and immunisation requires a booked appointment of the appropriate length. There is no charge for travel advice, however some vaccines and malaria medication are considered 'private' and will be charged for by the chemist and a private prescription fee of £15 per item is paid to the Practice. If you are not sure what is provided by the NHS and what is paid for you can ask at your travel health appointment.

Duck Race Results

Congratulation to all our lucky duck winners. The first duck in was Rev Sandy's from Kentallen, second was Kirsty from Duror, third was Amanda, fourth was Carol and fifth was Mavis, all from Ballachulish.

Donald & Daisy say thank you for supporting us see you all for a quacking time next year and a BIG thank you to all who helped out in the hall and river. Also big thanks to Cally and Kenzie for their help.



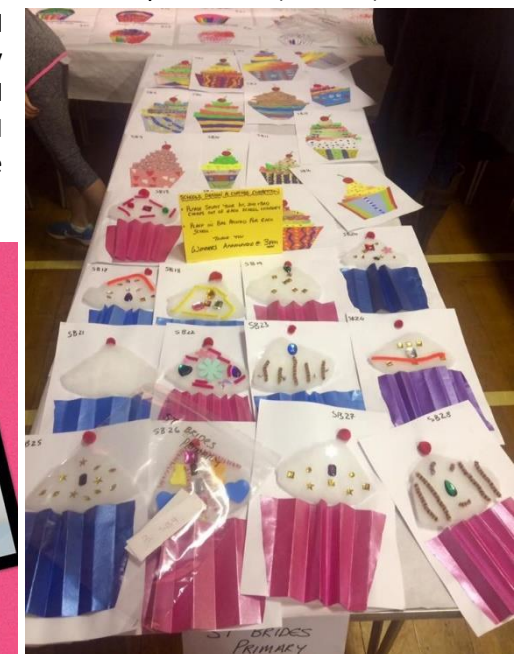
A BIG thank you also goes to Ballachulish Primary School who made time to make up a 'Keep Balla Beautiful' banner that can be used to advertise village tidy up events.

Cupcake Day – 16th June

Thank you to everyone who helped support our Cupcake day. We raised a fantastic total of £1175 for Alzheimer Research Scotland.

We were also overwhelmed by the fantastic array and quality of the cupcake designs produced by the local schools, making it very hard to chose the winners. It was just so lovely that the kids were such a big part of the day.

Here are the 1st prize winners from each school: Holly Chandler (Glencoe), Julia Galka (Ballachulish), Jasmine Bashir (Duror) and Sam Hobson (St Brides). The Nursery winners were Jessica Allen (St Brides) and Jake (Ballachulish). Ali from Highland Cupcake Company will recreate the winning cupcake from each school.





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

The Scouts have had a busy summer term, with a variety of activities. In early June, the Scouts got out on the loch with Rockhopper Canoes and Kayaks. Some managed to fight the tide and reach the Burial Isle. The same evening, the Cubs were on the shore with a scavenger hunt. The Beavers also enjoyed a trip across the Corran Ferry for the evening.

Later in the month, the Scouts spent an evening at the Lochan Orienteering, whilst to round off the year all three sections enjoyed a trip out on the SeaXplorer, with thanks to Jill Mills and her crew. The trip was paid for by the excess over what we expected to receive from the Co-op fund, so thank you to everyone who helped raise the money for us!

The same evening we also awarded 4 of our Scouts (three of whom have now progressed to helping) with the Chief Scouts Gold Award, a commendable achievement, and needless to say the first for our group since it was formed in 2012. Congratulations to Naomi Hannah, Dawn Beaton, Finlay Pitt (all right) and Jodie Daynes.



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.



WHAT'S GOING ON??

Many of the projects happening around our community are currently paused whilst the volunteers progressing them enjoy a well-earned holiday. Needless to say, work is continuing as quickly as it can, and hopefully more updates will be available in the next issue. Meanwhile, if you would like to help in any way, please get in touch.

Fundraising and Sponsored Events

Following a recent item in the PPG Newsletter, if anyone is planning a sponsored event or any other fundraising activity, please get in touch and we can help publicise your plans in Slate News. It may also be possible to place a poster in the community noticeboard outside the Co-op.

We all know how difficult it can be when everyone seems to be looking for money, and whilst there are grants available, and the excellent new Co-op scheme, these are not always available to smaller endeavours. Nevertheless, there are some local people who work hard to raise money for both local, national and international charities, and we will do our best to help in any way we can.

Anniversary Surprise

On July 1st a very special 40th wedding anniversary celebration was held in the village hall as a surprise for Mr and Mrs Malcolm Christie who now live in Aberdeen. The event, organised by family, saw many friends travel to the area from near and far. The couple who met whilst Mr Christie was working on the Ballachulish Bridge in the 70s have a particular fondness for the area and it was fitting that the celebration should take place in an area that has come to mean so much to them. Happy Anniversary!!!



This man has been the ❤️ of Ballachulish Village Hall for over 30 years and has brought such a range of the arts and other events to the hall in that time period plus everything else that he does voluntarily for the Community. Happy 70th Dickie from ALL Ballachulish Community groups.

Also a huge thanks to Katalin Barna who made the cake, it was just FANTASTIC!

NEWS FROM ST MUNDA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Duror and St Munda's Parish Church

Our churches continue to support 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 are frequently at the local distribution point in Caol helping to sort donations. Requirements change from time to time and we publish updated lists. Recently, under the slogan 'Coming to Church isn't a Pain' we collected over 75 packets of painkillers which went as part of a shipment to a refugee camp in Yemen.

In our support for Christian Aid 'Munda's Men' collected an amazing £1075 for their sponsored walk of the West Highland Way and Duror Church raised well over £500 at their Christian Aid lunch. After the service on 25th June, with sandwiches and loads of home-baking, we enjoyed a slide-show with commentary on the experiences of 'Munda's Men' on their walk. That service was made extra special with contributions from our Praise Band who also led the congregation in some modern hymns.

The church supports the Ballachulish Youth Club with the minister there every week and another volunteer starting to get involved. Two of us recently attended a meeting in Fort William which discussed the possibility of starting a Street Pastor service there.

Our churches are open during the day partly to allow visitors to the area to enjoy them but also for anyone to come in and spend some quiet time. Scriptural and spiritual materials are being developed to offer some thoughts to guide private prayer or contemplation.

This being holiday time we're enjoying having visitors from around the UK as well as Germany, USA, Holland, Australia and probably other places too. Services are relaxed and informal and we'd love to welcome new folk from much closer to home as well. You can keep up to date with what's happening on our website or Facebook page. It would be great to see you.

Rev Sandy Stoddart

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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.

We joined our friends from the Kinlochleven Step it up group & walked out to the Kinlochleven salmon pools at the head of the loch – the rocks by the pools have some fantastic colourings. The model fish below is near the tail race from the powerhouse for the old smelter.



Monday Walk Report

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

We had an interesting walk from Cuil Bay, crossing small mounds but following the coast around towards Ardsheal. At one point, we climbed down to the shore to look at the remains of the lime kiln; the arch had needed buttresses added to support it and the rock to the side had had a wall built on top to support the buttresses.

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.



MRS MALLOCH'S SPINNING WHEEL

One of the best things about working in a museum is learning about the history of our objects; finding out about the people behind them, and being able to share their stories. That is exactly what happened when one of our visitors from New Zealand shared this wonderful image with us recently.

The picture features Alexandrina Malloch, who was the proprietress of the Kings House Hotel during the Second World War and a relative of our New Zealand visitor. Mrs Malloch used to do spinning demonstrations outside the Kings House for tourists. Our visitor had been told by family members that the spinning wheel pictured was on display in Glencoe Folk Museum, and so decided to come and see it for herself while visiting the area. The spinning wheel has been in our collections for years with no record of its provenance apart from the name of the donor: Mrs Cameron. Our visitor recognised Mrs Cameron as Mrs Malloch's daughter, and so we were able to reunite our old spinning wheel with its past!

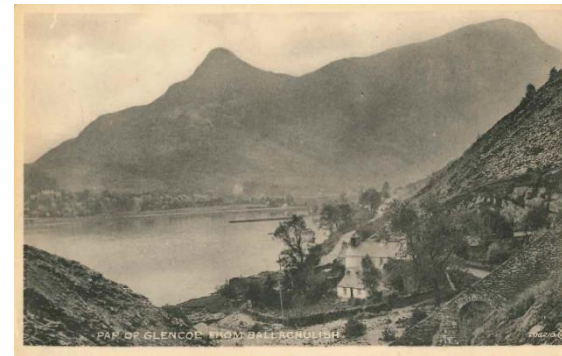
If you remember Mrs Malloch or her family, or indeed have any other local tales like this that you are willing to share, please get in touch with Catriona at curator@glencoemuseum.com – we would love to hear your stories!



OLD PHOTOS

Following on from the article about Barrs Stores in the last Slatepost news, I have been sent this photo, from Angus Wylie's collection. The caption reads:

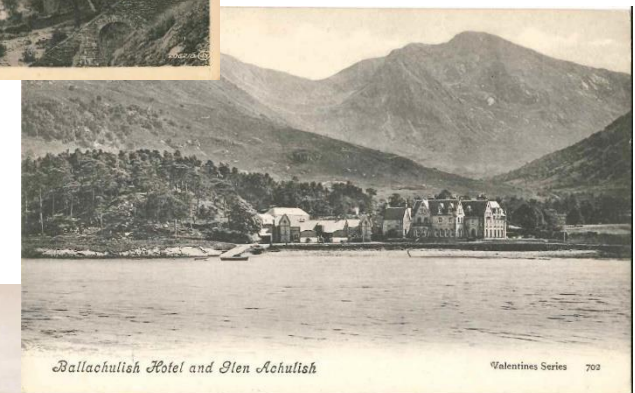
The pipe track at Bridge end, 1907. The buildings on the left nearest the camera are Barr & Co's Stores.



Left: an old postcard showing the Pap of Coe from Ballachulish, with the arch and Glac an Tobhair visible in the foreground.

Postcards courtesy of Caroline Thurnham.

Right: Ballachulish Hotel and the ferry slipway from North Ballachulish.



Left: The view from above Argyll Cottages. This postcard is dated 1930, so not long after the houses were built.

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