

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

There's **lots** going on in Ballachulish over the next few weeks!

December

- 3rd Christmas Fayre and Santa's Grotto 12-4 at Village Hall
- 5th Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion
- 10th Santa Dash – starting at 12noon from TiC
- 10th Kids Christmas Party at the hall 1-3pm
- 14th School Christmas Show
- 16th Gyuto Monks at Village Hall 7.30pm
- 18th Community Carols at the Village Hall 7pm
- 22nd – 8th Jan School Holidays
- 25th Merry Christmas to you all! Christmas Day services at local churches.
- 29th – 31st Village Hall open for making Lanterns 10-4
- 31st Lantern Parade starting at 8pm from Village Hall

More details on all events listed inside



January

- 1st Happy New Year
- 9th Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion

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.

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 6 – December 2017 / January 2018



Christmas is coming!

Come and meet Santa at The Village Hall

Sunday December 3rd 12-4pm



Some of the Scouts who have been with us for the full 5 years since we started, at our Halloween Party. The Beavers produced the fantastic poster.

WELCOME!

Thanks, as always, to everyone who has supplied articles for this edition of Slatest News. The next issue is planned to go to print in January 2018, for delivery at the end of the month. Deadline for submissions is 14th January. 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.

REMEMBER THIS?

It doesn't seem possible that it is now a year since the first Ballachulish Newsletter was produced and distributed around our community. However, that first edition was produced late last year and since then Slatest News has gone from strength to strength.

This has only happened thanks to the enormous support we have received from everyone who has helped, whether by supplying articles, adverts, information, helping to distribute the newsletter to our community, or even just reading it and talking about it with friends and family. Thank you to you all, and here's to the next year.



ST JOHNS AND ST MARYS EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

Christmas is for Little Children – of All Ages

One of the saddest things I ever heard was, "Christmas is just for little children." I was 11 at the time and the poor old speaker was a schoolboy merely a year or two older.

Perhaps we are forced to rationalise Christmas in this way when we accept the lie that Santa Claus is not real. In fact, St Nicholas was a very real fourth century Greek bishop and it was customary to give gifts to children on his feast day, 6th December.

Our Christmas celebrations include gathering family, giving gifts, eating lovely food and perhaps even going to church! We are all reaching back in our memories to when we were "little children", trying to recapture the kind of Christmas joy that our young hearts experienced.

This year, celebrate Christmas with the wonder you had as a child and receive the gift that the Christ Child brings; peace on earth and goodwill to all.


Rev'd Amanda Fairclough

Priest in Charge, West Highland Region Scottish Episcopal Church

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

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

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 14/12

12:40-12:55 Square

13:00-13:10 Lochside

Cottages

Wed 20/12

(13:30-14:25 School)

14:30-15:15 W Laroch

15:20-16:00 Park Rd &

Abbeyfield

16:05-16:30 Albert Rd

January dates tbc.



USEFUL CONTACTS

If you have any questions about what is going on in the community, or would like to help with anything, please get in touch with someone below:

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), Iain Dickie

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

Patient Participation Group: Bill Strachan or Shirley Grant



Ballachulish Visitor Centre



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Celebrate Christmas at the TIC





T: 01855 811866

w: ballachulishvisitorcentre.co.uk

NEWS FROM ST MUNDA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Christmas Message

It always saddens me a little when I hear people say that Christmas is really a time for children or families. It's true that the 'secular Christmas' is aimed mostly in that direction but God, in his love, sent Jesus for each one of us. The Christmas story is of a boy born to parents who were not yet married, were far away from home and, according to Matthew's Gospel, they were even refugees for a time. So Jesus understands pain and sorrow; he knows what it's like when life doesn't turn out as we might hope. The light that came in Jesus can never be overwhelmed by the darkness - any darkness or anyone's darkness - and he gives strength and hope and peace which last throughout the year. So Merry Christmas and may you know the light of Christ shine on you and yours throughout 2018 and beyond.

Rev Sandy Stoddart



Specially for Christmas at our local churches

Sunday 17th

- 3pm – St Adamnan's Duror Family Carol Service
- 7pm – Duror Church Duror and Kentallen Community Choir Christmas Concert

Monday 18th

- 7pm – Ballachulish Village Hall Community Carols

Wednesday 20th

- 7.30pm – St Munda's Church Blue Christmas Service

This type of service acknowledges the feelings of grief, loss and emptiness that many people feel at this time. It won't be downbeat or depressing but neither does it force us to pretend to be full of joy and I hope that people will come and feel something of 'the true light which gives light to everyone' (John 1.9).

Friday 22nd

- 7pm – St Paul's, Kinlochleven Café Christmas

Sunday 24th

- 10am – Duror Church; 11.30am – St Munda's Church It's nearly Christmas
- 4pm – St Mary's Christingle Service
- 11.30pm – St Mary's Glencoe Midnight Eucharist
- 11.30pm – St Munda's Church Watchnight Service

Monday 25th – *Merry Christmas everyone!*

- 10.30am – Duror Church Christmas Day Service (short family service)
- 10.30am – St Pauls, Kinlochleven Family Christmas Service

Wednesday 27th

- 11am – St John's Church Patronal Festival Eucharist (St John the Evangelist)



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Merry Christmas everyone!

We have lots of festive events planned over the next few weeks, so don't be Bah Humbug! – get in the Christmas spirit, meet some friends, make some new ones and enjoy this fabulous time of year.



Christmas Market

This year we have more stalls than ever before
Come and meet Santa on Sunday 3rd Dec 12-4pm
Santa's Grotto only £3 *Christmas Gift Ideas*
Christmas Raffle *Refreshments*
Craft & Produce Stalls *And More...*



Gyuto Monks of Tibet

After last year's warm welcome for a packed event at Ballachulish Village Hall, the monks requested a return to us this year. They will be here on Saturday 16th December, at 7.30pm.



Lantern Parade

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

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



And through the rest of December (details elsewhere in Slatest):

- **Kids Christmas Party – 10th December**
- **Community Carols – 18th December**



CHILDREN'S HALLOWE'EN PARTY

The annual Hallowe'en party (previously hosted by Glencoe Hall) was a big hit with the children again this year, with the hall packed as you can see from the photos below:



Huge thanks to the mums, dads and others who made it all happen.

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Many of you will know that two long-serving members of the team at the Co-op have recently retired – Marie Purden and Frances Griffin. We understand that Angela Bickerstaff and Isobel Robertson are also retiring from the homecare service, again after many years of serving our community. We would like to thank them all and wish them well for the future.



HIGHLAND LASSIE O

Here's a little bit of Burns for you. Not Auld Lang Syne, but you can have too much of that at this time of year!
Supplied by Jimmy Waugh.

Nae gentle dames tho' ne'er sae fair
Shall ever be my Muse's care;
Their titles a' are empty show,
Gie me my Highland Lassie, O.-

Within the glen sae bushy, O,
Aboon the plain sae rashy, O,
I set me down wi' right gude will
To sing my Highland Lassie, O.-

O were yon hills and vallies mine,
Yon palace and yon gardens fine;
The world then the love should know
I bear my Highland Lassie, O.-

But fickle Fortune frowns on me,
And I maun cross the raging sea;
But while my crimson currents flow,
I love my Highland Lassie, O.-

Altho' thro' foreign climes I range,
I know her heart will never change;
For her bosom burns with honor's glow,
My faithful Highland Lassie, O.-

For her I'll dare the billow's roar;
For her I'll trace a distant shore;
That Indian wealth may lustre throw
Around my Highland Lassie, O.-

She has my heart, she has my hand,
By secret Truth and Honor's band:
Till the mortal stroke shall lay me low,
I'm thine, my Highland Lassie, O.-

Farewell, the glen sae bushy! O
Farewell, the plain sae rashy! O
To other lands I now must go
To sing my Highland Lassie, O.-

SNOWY BALLACHULISH

Here's a rather festive photo from the 1970s or 80s of Barrs Stores, with the snow on the hills behind, with thanks to Glencoe Museum.



Hall Update

The Community Association are hoping to redecorate the hall in the coming weeks. It is now 6 or 7 years since the hall was last painted, and we think it is time for a mini makeover. Hopefully none of our regular users will be inconvenienced, and you will all welcome the changes.

BALLACHULISH HERITAGE

Following on from the success of the two recent anniversary/history exhibitions in the village hall and the desire expressed by many in the community to highlight the heritage of Ballachulish, The Ballachulish Community Association have now purchased securer storage cabinets as a first step to creating a village archive.

It is hoped that members of the community and those belonging to but no longer living here will donate or lend photographs, papers, pamphlets and/or artefacts for safe keeping until such time as the village has a dedicated exhibition space.

In the interim, all items will be catalogued and securely stored in the appropriate manner in the hope that this will form the foundation of an on-going and growing Ballachulish archive. If you have anything tucked away that reflects the story of the village that you would be happy to donate or lend, please contact - Marjorie Thornton 01855 811123.





Hotties Heat logs

£5.35 each

10 for £40

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COMMUNITY COMPANY NEWS – Nov 2017

We held our AGM on Thursday, 9th November, 2017 our thanks to those who attended. The turnout can only be described as pitiful but apathy seems to be prevalent in most Community Involvement in our area at present. We are no doubt living in turbulent times and the chaotic Governance and Parliament in the UK I would suggest is not helping.

Sheila McLean, a long serving director had to stand down as per our constitution for at least a year. On behalf of the Company, members and the community can I express our thanks for all her assistance and service.

We agreed unanimously to a motion that the Ballachulish Community Association SCIO be offered, for a trial period of two years, a director's post that they would select the incumbent for. If this is successful it is proposed that the Board suggest to the members a change to the Constitution to reflect this.

The Chair's report was tabled and questions on it invited. Some discussion took place on the offer from Green Highland Renewables to consider replacing them in the Glenachulish hydro project. The meeting agreed unanimously that this be explored by the new Board. The Board is now seeking nominations for at least two directors posts, currently vacant, which will be required to move forward on this matter.

The Christmas and New Year Holiday season will soon be upon us so can I offer my best wishes to all and hope for a happy and prosperous New Year for our country and communities.

Jimmy Waugh



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CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING

Christmas is not just a time for friends and family, it is also a time for compassion to all men, women and children. Whilst you are enjoying yourselves over the festive season, spare a thought for those less fortunate, and if you can afford to why not spare more than a thought. There are many local charities who are always looking for help, and never more so than at Christmas.

There is a collection point at St Munda's Church for Re-Act



RE-Act
REFUGEE ACTION SCOTLAND

Lochaber, who have now joined forces with 'The Highlands Support Refugees' who are based in Conon Bridge. <https://thehighlandssupportrefugees.com/>



The local foodbank is based in Fort William, and has a collection point in the Co-op here in Ballachulish. <https://lochaber.foodbank.org.uk/>

New Start Highland also have a shop in Fort William and collect good quality furniture and furnishings throughout the year. <http://www.newstarthighland.org/>



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

St Munda's and Duror Churches are also collecting gifts for some of the less fortunate teenagers in the Lochaber area this Christmas, which will be passed on via the Social Work team.

There are also Salvation Army recycling bins at the Co-op and behind the Catholic Church for old clothes and shoes; the primary school has a 'rag bag' collection point for items that are perhaps not reusable.

Also spare a thought for any friends and neighbours who may be struggling this winter, and help and support them if required.



SOUTH LOCHABER BOWMEN

"Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year" from all South Lochaber Bowmen members.

How about resolving to do something different ... call in and share an Archery session

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)

During each month on Tuesday nights, there is a friendly competition within the Senior Club with a wee perpetual trophy as well. (Returned at the end of each month to be presented to the new winner). It is a bit of fun and interest and allows each member to see improvements in their skill

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.



Community Company Chair's report extracts :

The Company continued in its role to search and review any opportunities for community development in the local area. The group focused their main attention on progressing the business of electricity generation in relation to two potential hydro schemes in the area. In the course of the year, they met regularly as a Board to focus on realising:

- a community share in the potential Forestry Commission hydro scheme in Glenachulish
- a community company scheme on the Laroach River, above Ballachulish Village
- Sourcing appropriate funding to move the project forward.
- Community Asset transfer of the Quarry

In regard to the River Laroach Hydro project due to changes in the Government Feed in Tariffs and the UK Government policy changes on Renewables, at present the viability of the finance mode we had been progressing with was compromised. The Company obtained a loan funding commitment from Local Energy Scotland, and entered into a loan arrangement with them in order to raise necessary cash to support pre-development costs.... During the year several feasibility studies were carried out on our behalf by Local Energy Scotland to find a feasible scheme to allow the River Laroach Scheme to proceed. This looked at various scenarios and included the possibility of a private distribution system selling directly to our bigger users.....

It proved impossible to come up with a financially viable scheme and accordingly the Board has entered the process of winding down the outstanding loan with the Scottish government. This involves a full audit, due diligence and accounting for all decision making and attempts to find a viable way forward, then submission to a Scottish Government Committee for their consideration as to changing the loan to a grant. The River Laroach Scheme for the present is not viable with the current subsidies available.

The Glenachulish Scheme officially known as Abhainn Greadhain Hydro Scheme being progressed by Green Highland Renewables has reached full planning stage and we have entered discussions, after being approached by them, in regard to the community, if they feel they are interested, taking their place. Initial discussions and inquiries have been started to look at the feasibility and financing. We will be consulting with the members and the community when we have some concrete feasibility figures as to their wishes.

The Company have also entered into correspondence with Scottish Water re the possible Community Asset Transfer of their unused buildings and land in Brecklet Forest. To date no progress has been made on this.

The Company in liaison with the Ballachulish Community Association SCIO, and the Ballachulish Community Council have been involved in a project to obtain funding to survey the Boat sheds at the Isles of Glencoe Hotel with a view to restoration. The first tranche of grant funding topped up by the Community Council and BCA has been obtained and the surveys completed. It is hoped to progress this over the next year.

The Company has also been involved with the Ballachulish Community Council re obtaining a Public Entertainment Licence for the Quarry which is now needed, due to new legislation, for Fireworks Displays and other events to take place. Alongside this we have been party to discussions on the possibility of a Community Asset Transfer of the Quarry.

Ballachulish Rainbow Baby & Toddler Group

We provide a fun, interesting environment for pre-schoolers to play together at the village hall.

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

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 – 11.30
£1.50 per child; 6months & under - free
(includes a snack)
Everybody welcome!

Contact Julie-Anne Moran
07919285243

Bookbug Sessions 28/11 & 12/12 @ 9.30am
Reduced charge





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

As reported in the last edition of Slatest, our local Scout Group celebrated its 5th Birthday at the beginning of November. To celebrate, each section had a Hallowe'en themed party, just as we did on our very first night back in 2012. We were also proud to award a dozen of our young people with their 5 year service award (see front cover) – some started as Scouts and are now Explorer young leaders, others started in Cubs and some have been through all 3 sections.

The following week, it was the leaders turn, when all of the leaders, past and present, were invited to a meal and social evening at the Laroch. Five of our leaders and helpers have also been with us since the very beginning, and they were duly thanked. We had a very enjoyable evening, and thanks to the Laroch staff for organising the lovely cake!

Looking forward to the next few weeks, we have a varied and active program ahead, across all three sections, with the Scouts once more due to go bowling as their Christmas treat at the end of term.

Kenya 2018

We are also pleased to say that two of our Explorer young leaders – Dawn Beaton and Naomi Hannah – have been accepted to join with other Explorers from the Highlands and Islands to travel to Kenya next summer for three weeks. Whilst there, they will meet and work with Scouts and young people around Nairobi and also climb Mount Kenya. Please support their fundraising for the trip.



Stop Press!

As Slatest was being finalized, we have heard we are in the next round of the Co-op Community Fund. We are raising money to take the Scouts to an outdoor centre for the weekend, and the more money we receive, the more Scouts we can take, so please spend generously!

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Monday Walk Report

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

We recently walked from Kinlochleven up to the wee dam on the way up to the Blackwater Dam. It was a fine day for photos, and the dam was overflowing as you can see.



The following week we intended to climb up the Devil's Staircase from Allt na Feadh but the gale force winds (courtesy of hurricane Ophelia) decided us against that walk; the next idea was to walk the WHW towards Kingshouse, but we realised the recent heavy rains would make the burns too deep to cross via the stepping stones. So, we decided the other side of Glencoe was more sheltered & we walked up the track towards Great Gully on Stob Dearg; a dry walk up but hailing as we came back down. Not a day for photos. We intend to do the other walks in the near future if you would like to join us.

Come and Join Us

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

Reports by Hilary Malpas.

STEP IT UP WALKING GROUP

Winter may be closing in on us, but our intrepid local walkers are still out and about making the most of this time of year.

Friday Walk Report

Our Friday walks last about an hour.

Over the last couple of months, we've enjoyed a couple of nice walks along the cycle track, firstly from Leitir Mhor towards Kentallen. Although the forecast was rain, it stayed dry & we saw a rainbow on our way back.



Two weeks later we started from the same point but walked in the opposite direction along the cycle track towards Glenachulish.

We had another fine day walking from Inchree through to the caravan park, where we watched the ducks (below) and other birds on the water & had a good view of the waterfalls on the way back.

The following four Friday walks fell on wet or inclement days which were no good for my camera, but we still enjoyed the walks. We visited Glencoe Lochan, noticing that a lot of vegetation had been cut down. The next week, we walked along the road from the Oban road to Ardsheal House, and later we started from the Highland Titles reception hut on Keil Hill and walked to the Salmon Pool where there was a magnificent display from the waterfall into the pool. We then had a more local walk when we went round Glenachulish Golf Course through to the village & back to the cars at the Ballachulish Hotel.



TAKE YOUR PARTNERS....

There are a number of enthusiastic Scottish Country Dancers in the area and we meet on Mondays at 8pm in Ballachulish Village Hall. We host an annual fancy dress night, invite dancers from other areas and enjoy a convivial night of dancing. The Sparkling Christmas Cracker night held during December 2016 was attended by 44 dancers, the dance programme had a Christmas theme and everyone wore something sparkly. One of the class devised a lovely strathspey called The Christmas Tree and, with 'flash card' instructions, we were all (almost) foot perfect. A party food supper and mulled wine added to the enjoyment of the night and we ended with the traditional Auld Lang Syne.

Throughout the year invitations are extended from other dance clubs to attend their Annual dance evenings and many Ballachulish dancers travel to Appin, Ardrishaig, Oban, North Connel, Inverness, Beaulie, Kilmallie (Corpach) and Fort William. We hosted our Annual Dance on 15th April, music was provided by Marian Anderson and around 60 dancers enjoyed the evening.

Our 2017/2018 session has started and I am pleased to say that we average 16 dancers each week, new members are always welcome.



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SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER	SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

CONTACT US
07584418253

Run Ballachulish/Glencoe present their 5th

SANTA

All ages can dress as Santa & join in the fun
Elves & Reindeer equally welcome

Run, Jog, Walk 2k around Ballachulish village

DASH!

Saturday 9th December 2017

Run starts at 12pm from the Quarry Cafe
Tourist Information Centre, Ballachulish

Registration 10:30 - 11:30, Warm-up and Start 12:00

We are delighted to be holding the 5th Ballachulish Santa Dash this year. This fun walk, jog, run takes you around the village 2k (teensy, no excuse), kids welcome, dogs on leads welcome, buggies welcome, wheelchairs welcome.

This year we are raising money for 4th Lochaber Scouts, Sports & Playparks Association (Playpark Fund), Ballachulish Village Hall.

Cheap entry, even cheaper if in costume. A bit of silly bright fun raising a wee bit of dosh for small local groups. It takes approximately 40mins max!! You'll be done and off Christmas shopping before you know it and feeling all the better for it. All this and a wee bit of exercise to boot.

This year we have a RAFFLE with great prizes donated by Highland Titles, Artisan Felt Studio and the benefiting groups. £1 per strip. Can't make the Dash? Buy a ticket - contact Merriol, Lorna or Debs for details.

Super fun warm-up with Lorna Scott from Highland Hustle - a whole sack of Santas Highland dancing in December, it's worth it just for that. Thanks, Lorna.

Thank you once again to Quarry Cafe, Ballachulish Tourist Information Centre for your support this year.

Can you help? Posters, certificates, registration, direction signs, collection buckets... Etc please get in touch!! Spread the word.

Merriol Baldwin

glittermummy@gmail.com or via facebook



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

Many of us make new year's resolutions, some to eat healthier, some to get fitter, and many other resolutions that we struggle to keep. Below are a few ideas to mull over:

- Ballachulish Village Hall hosts a Zumba session every Wednesday from 6.30-7.15pm.
- Country Dancing meetings are held in the hall every Monday – see separate article.
- Step it up walking group – see overleaf.

If you're into running or open water swimming, or would like to get started, there are two local Facebook pages that might just help you out:

- Run Ballachulish/Glencoe
- Loch Leven (Glencoe) Open Water Swimmers



Kinlochleven Fitness Classes

Aerobics (cardio, tone & stretch) Mondays & Thursdays 6-7pm. A great mix of exercises to increase cardio fitness and tone the body, all done to great music!

Metafit Interval Training (squats, lunges, press ups etc) Mondays & Thursdays 7-7.30pm
Amazing quick 30 min class which burns loads of fat and calories, builds strength!

Both classes can be adapted and exercises altered to suit any level of fitness.

Classes held at Kinlochleven Primary Gym Hall (use main school entrance). £5.60 per class or free to Highlife Members. Phone Sharon 07894 856849 for more info.

Knit & Knatter, Coffee & Crochet group

If energetic activities aren't quite your thing, why not try something more relaxing. We meet every week on Thursday mornings, 10:30 - 13:00 at the TiC. Come when you want for as long as you want. It's free but bring some money for tea/cake. Friendly folk wanting to chat and work on their projects. Everyone and every ability welcome.

Merriol Baldwin.



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1841 STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

Ballachulish now lies in the united parish of Lismore and Appin – a split from the larger parish of Kilmallie. It stretches to Rannoch Moor – 48 miles with an average breadth of 10 miles, and includes the southern half of Kinlochleven.

- It is not improbable that after the reformation the people, who disclaimed everything popish, would pull down the parish church (on Eilean Munda) and built the plain fabric whose remains are now to be seen.
- The mountains of Glencoe... inspire reverence mixed with awe... In many of them, particularly on the south side of the valley, no foot of man or beast has ever trod.
- The highest of the Ballachulish Hills – Beinn-bheithir – is the mountain of the thunderbolt, perhaps from the singed red appearance of its two pointed pinnacles. Two thirds of its height... is fine luxuriant pasture, but its top is perfectly barren... a fit habitation for the ptarmigan and mountain hare.
- A journal of the weather kept at Bailechelish... average temperature of the year 1837 – morning 44.5F (7C); noon 51F (10.5C); evening 46.5F (8C) The highest average noon temperature was 66F (19C) in July.
- Animals include... Blackcock, Ptarmigan, Grouse... an abundance of Hares, Otters and wild Cats.
- The valley of Glencoe and its neighbourhood are rendered classic by Ossian, who, with poetic pathos, sung the 'Voice of Cona'.
- The quern or ancient hand mill is still in use in some parts... never tasted better oatmeal.
- The Slate Quarry at Ballachulish (Property of Charles Stewart) produces large quantities annually – from 5 to 7 million slates.
- About 300 employed including blacksmiths, carpenters etc. Average wage 12s (60p) per week – unequally divided (annual rent of house and land for cow and for vegetables - £4 6s).
- Fuel used is entirely coals... brought in... by vessels coming for slates (all other areas use peat).
- Six villages, five with population of c100, Laroch has 500.
- Catholic chapel and priest in Ballachulish. Fifteen catholic families from immigrant slate workers.
- There are few, if any, in the parish between 6 and 15 who are not in school... but 200 above 40 years of age who have no education whatsoever.
- There is an excellent inn at the ferry of Bailechelish... and a small public house at the far of Clachaig. Also, several other little dram shops which are by no means necessary.

Supplied by Kath Small.



Ballachulish Primary School

CHRISTMAS FAYRE
WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
SCHOOL HALL
DOORS OPEN 7PM

LOCAL TRANSPORT NEWS

Lochaber Transport Forum

The Forum is part of care Lochaber, and is managed by Benny MacDonald. He arranges committee meetings, with four quarterly meetings open to the public. These are attended by representatives from bus, rail and ferry operators who provide updates and respond to queries from the public. Due to a rise in complaints, as previously reported in Slatest, a separate Bus Users Group has been formed. Dates for these meetings are publicised in the media. More information is on their website: <http://www.lochabertransport.org.uk/>



Lochaber Community Car Scheme

The Car Scheme is available for those who have a problem with transport when going to visit friends, shops, doctors, or indeed anywhere else locally. Local drivers are available to take you anywhere in Lochaber, from Home to Home. Phone 01397 701222 or e-mail carscheme@carelochaber.org to find out more. There is a small charge for this service.



Loch Leven Community Minibus

Headquarters: The Leven Centre, Kinlochleven
Now with new Management. The area serviced by this bus, for interested persons / groups wishing to avail themselves of it, spreads from Kinlochleven, "Around the Loch" to include Duror and Kentallen, Glencoe and Glen Etive and of course Ballachulish.



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COLOURING COMPETITION



There are two £20 gift vouchers up for grabs for the best entries in each category – Up to P4 and P5 and over. Please include your name, age, and a contact (e-mail, phone or address) and deliver to the black letterbox at the village hall or the Claymore in Glencoe. Closing date is 30th December, judging will be done at the Lantern Parade. This Competition is sponsored by the Claymore in Glencoe.

