

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### October

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion  
6<sup>th</sup> Village Tidy up day from 9.30am meet at hall  
12<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> School October Break  
27<sup>th</sup> Kids Halloween Party at Village Hall 6.30-8.30pm  
31<sup>st</sup> Halloween



### November

- 6<sup>th</sup> Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion  
15<sup>th</sup> Community Company AGM at 7.30pm at shinty pavilion  
25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Market & Santas Grotto at Village Hall 12-4pm

## COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Everything you need to know about what is happening over Christmas and New Year.  
Including Christmas Parties, Pantomime and Community Carols.



### 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

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# SLATEST NEWS

Your free community newsletter produced by Ballachulish Community Forum

Edition 11 – October / November 2018



TV's Paul Murton talking to Jimmy Cormack for his BBC show *Grand Tours of Scottish Lochs*, now available on BBC iPlayer



## Christmas Market & Santa's Grotto

Come and meet Santa on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 12-4pm

Local Traders

Christmas Gift Ideas

Christmas Raffle

Refreshments

Craft & Produce Stalls And More...



## WELCOME!

As ever, thank you to everyone who has supplied an article for this edition of Slatest. If you have some interesting snippets of local history or have found some old photos or want to share a memory, please get in touch, we can also help put articles together.

Slatest belongs to the community, and needs your support to continue being a success, the deadline for the next edition is **14<sup>th</sup> November 2018** with deliveries by the end of November, in time for Christmas so please get in touch if you have any events or ideas!

## BALLACHULISH ON TV

Those of you who have been watching Paul Murton's BBC series Grand Tours of Scottish Lochs will have seen the recent episode which featured Ballachulish and the Goddess. This was filmed way back in June during our glorious Summer, but we were asked not to release any details at the time. As it has been broadcast after Slatest is printed, we do not know how much made the final cut, but the kids involved were Nathan MacLeod, George Mair and Mikey and Isla Donald (right). Also thanks to Jimmy Cormack for doing the interview (front cover). The program is available on BBC iPlayer.



*ITV3 is also showing a repeat of the Murder Drama The Loch from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.*

## BALLACHULISH FIREWORKS

Following queries from members of the community, can we re-iterate that due to changes to the Highland Councils licensing requirements, we no longer feel able to hold the fireworks display in the quarry. We apologise again for the disappointment.




WWW.QUARRIERSWEBSITE.CO.UK | CALL. 01855 811600

*Winter Opening Hours in November*

## 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 Mary's, Glencoe
- Catholic Church Service at St Mun's

### RBS Mobile Bank

#### Tuesdays

10:45-11:15 Abbeyfield

11:30-12:30 V Hall

#### Fridays

10:30-12:00 V Hall



### Mobile Library

Thurs 4 & 25/10;

15/11

12:40-12:55 Square

13:00-13:10 Lochside Cottages

Wed 10 & 31/10;

21/11

(13:30-14:25 School)

14:30-15:15 W Laroach

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



## HARD ROAD TO EVEREST

Ballachulish Village hall recently hosted a well-attended presentation entitled Hard Road to Everest by mountaineering legends Doug Scott CBE and Paul Braithwaite. The two climbers were part of the Chris Bonnington led attempt on Everest in 1975. The event was launched by Glencoe climbing legend Hamish MacInnes, who gave an amusing introduction. The successful event, enjoyed by a range of age groups, raised £1500 to be split between Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team and Doug Scott's charity Community Action Nepal.



## 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](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), Iain Dickie

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

Our Trustees are: Brian Dickie (Vice Chair), Donella MacDonald, Rob Malpas (Secretary), Sheila McLean, Sandy Stoddart, Marjie Thornton

Booking Secretary: Judy Bigham

**Community Company:** [on Facebook](#)

Brian Dickie, Simon Ingram (Treasurer), Dave Kitson, Angus MacInnes, Niall McLean, Kevin Smith, Morgan Smith, Jimmy Waugh (Chair)

**Patient Participation Group:** Pauline Selby or Meg Pollock

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A: Ar Dachaidh, West Laroach, Ballachulish, PH49 4JJ

## NEWS FROM ST MUNDA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

In our Sunday morning services we explore biblical themes and, especially, what it means to be a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September we'll have Harvest Thanksgiving Services where we'll receive donations of food which will be taken to the Food-bank in Fort William. Starting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm in St Munda's Church Hall we'll have a series of studies called 'Holy Habits' which look at the way of life that the first Christians developed as they explored how they could answer Jesus' call to 'Follow me'. These will be held on different days and at different times to try to ensure that everyone has a chance to get to at least some of them.

We continue to help 'The Highlands Support Refugees' both by being a collection point and providing volunteers to transport and sort donations and some of our members recently held a Book Sale (above) which raised over £260 for the charity 'Mary's Meals' which helps children through 'School + Food = Hope'.

By the time this is published 'St Munda's Social Group' will have had the first speaker of the new session, Bill Clifford, who speaks about the work of 'Mary's Meals'. Look out for dates of Karl Griffin speaking on his experiences with Glencoe Photography, including working with radio and TV personalities; a performance from Bright Productions theatre group; a ten pin bowling night in Fort William and many other attractions. Anyone is always welcome to everything that the church is doing.

I'll always be very happy to receive requests to visit anyone at home or in hospital (01631 740285).

Best wishes,  
Rev Sandy Stoddart





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## COMMUNITY COMPANY NEWS – Oct 2018

Well what a lovely Summer we had , now Autumn is on its way and this means AGM draws close. It is proposed to have the AGM at 19.30 hours, Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at Jubilee Park Pavilion, Ballachulish all welcome. We will also be publicising this nearer the time



A wee update on the possibility of the Community taking control of the **Abhainn Greadhain Scheme at Glenachulish**. The Board appointed Directors Kevin Smith and David Kitson to look at the feasibility of taking this forward. A site meeting (5/5/18) with Forestry took place and we examined various possibilities including opening discussion with Scottish Water re the seemingly redundant pen-stock and Water facilities and looking to incorporate this into the proposed scheme. It has been agreed by the Board that in view of the Community Action Plan proposals and the support for a community Hydro Generation Scheme that funding be sought for a feasibility study. This is underway. Should we move forward we will need voluntary assistance from the community so anyone interested please can you make contact via the details at the end of the newsletter.

The Company has been working with BCA and the Community Council on a proposal for restoration of the Boat sheds at the east harbour. Initial surveys have been carried out and it is proposed that funding be sought. The lead on this is Ballachulish Community Association and a draft Business proposal has been prepared.

We have made contact with Community Empowerment and Assets division of Scottish Water enquiring as to the possibility of the community obtaining ownership of the Scottish Water Buildings and land at Brecklet and await further discussion.

We would be delighted to chat with anyone who has an interest in joining the Board of the company. Please feel free to contact any Director or the Chair Jimmy Waugh on 01855811540.

You are free to unsubscribe or change your preferences at anytime by sending a letter to our registered address Ballachulish Village Hall, East Pier Road, Ballachulish, Argyll, PH49 4LE , e-mailing Ballachulishcc@aol.com , telephoning Jimmy Waugh on 01855811540 or popping a note into our Post Box, the silver one, at the Ballachulish Village Hall.

### Littering around the village

It has been brought to the Community Council's attention that littering in a number of the village car park areas has become an issue. Witnesses have reported Local Youths throwing rubbish out of their vehicles rather than disposing in the nearby litter bin, although this may not be the sole cause of the increase in litter. Can we please ask that common sense prevail before this becomes a serious issue, others are having to clear up the mess to keep the area tidy, for which we are grateful.

## BALLACHULISH CAMANACHD

The Shinty Memories project is a scheme to help people with dementia by using the Cammanachd Association archives. The project for the Lochaber area is in its early stages at the moment with further developments due in the new year.



Although our club does not have any information on the school ambassadors at the moment, we have had the Shinty Development Officer Euan McMurdo and active Schools visiting the local schools in the last week of September.

Finally, the Club is celebrating 125 Years this year and we are hoping to hold a dinner and dance in the Isles of Glencoe sometime in November.

*Philip MacLean*

## LOCAL ANCESTRY & FAMILY HISTORY

"Following on from guests staying with us and casual callers asking about people who have lived in Fern Villa or the village I have set up a Facebook page called 'Glencoe and Ballachulish Genealogy, Ancestry and Family History'.

It would be great if locals could like the page and share family stories and photographs, preserving more local history. Also people outwith the area are looking for information about their ancestors which I'm sure some of you would be able to help with.

Please do take a look at the page, there has already been a great selection of photographs shared, especially school photos and of the shinty team.

*Catherine Susans*

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SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER  
**BALLACHULISH VILLAGE HALL**



**Kids Halloween Party**

6.30-8.30PM

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**AGES 0-12 YEARS**  
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## BEWARE OF ROGUE TRADERS

Please be aware of bogus workmen and rogue traders who may be operating within our communities. These people may call at your home pretending to be traders, perhaps offering to carry out work in your garden, or on your house. They may also pose as officials from utility companies or as charity collectors. Please be aware of pushy sellers who offer large discounts or prizes. If something sounds too good to be true, then it probably is.

Any traders who attend at your door informing you that they have noticed something wrong with your property, which they can fix, are to be avoided at all costs. Any reputable trader will not cold call at your house. Legitimate tradesmen are generally so busy that they will not have the need to do this. Always rely on recommendations from friends or family for traders, obtain 3 quotes and consult somebody you trust before agreeing to any work.

Any person claiming to be from a utility company, or the police or council will have an identification badge which they will show you. Please do not allow any person to enter your property if they are not in possession of an ID badge. Any legitimate representative from these organisations will understand your reservations about allowing them into your home and will be more than happy for you to phone that organisation to double check that they should be in the area. You will find phone numbers on utility bills or letters from the company. In addition, the police will never ask you for PIN numbers and bank details. Neither will bank staff or anybody from legitimate organisations. NEVER give this information out to anybody.

Please also be aware of any person who comes to your home who states they are feeling ill, asking to use your phone or asking for your help, unless it is somebody that you know and trust. Do not let strangers into your home.

You do not have to open your door to anybody. Lock your back door while you answer your front door. Occasionally fraudsters will work in pairs and one will keep you talking at the front door while the other will try to enter through another door. Use a door chain if you have one and use a peep hole if there is one. If you are not expecting somebody at your door then be vigilant. Always ask for an ID badge and examine it carefully. You can set up a password with utility companies which will be known by any person which the company sends to your house to ensure that they are genuine.

Please do not keep large sums of cash within your home address.

Please look out for everybody within your community, especially vulnerable people, and do not hesitate to report suspicious activity. Do not be embarrassed to say 'no' to people or ask them to leave. If you feel threatened then please contact the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

For further advice and information, please contact PC Katy Duncan at Fort William Police Station on 101.



## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Team Cupcake would like to gratefully acknowledge all the help that came from the Duror, Nether Lochaber, Glencoe, Kinlochleven Communities. Special thanks to Abbeyfield for once again hosting their own coffee morning and raffle, the proceeds of which were added to the final total. Congratulations to the School and nursery Cupcake winners from Glencoe, Duror, Ballachulish and St Brides. The winning cupcake from All was recreated by Ali Farr Little Highland Cupcake Company and presented to the winner. Thanks to all the teachers who once again assisted in supervising the enthusiastic children that attended AND took part in the fabulous music provided by Paul, Aileen and their own 'team'. If anyone wishes to get involved next year in helping us raise more money for research into this devastating disease, please contact Jo on 07483216883. We will be preparing the hall for Christmas on the evening of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> and during the day on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Please come along to help if you can, new Volunteers are always welcome!

### Costumes

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

If you would like more information please contact Rob Malpas or use the contact form on the Website.



# THANK YOU!

In aid of Alzheimer Research Scotland  
**CUPPA & CUPCAKE DAY**

We have raised, with all your help

## £1540.35

**Thank you for all the donations of  
cupcakes, raffle & tombola prizes  
& money donations they were all  
greatly appreciated!**

**& we will see you next year!**

## PANTOMIME 2018

Ballachulish Village Hall will play host to Lochaber Showstoppers 2018 Pantomime, Beauty and the Beast, on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December. Full details of this, and all of the festive events will be in the next issue of Slatest News.





## 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

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts recently enjoyed a group camp at the Scouts Inch Campsite near Spean Bridge. Despite some pretty unpleasant weather overnight on the Saturday, there were only occasional showers during daylight hours, allowing all of the activities to proceed as planned. This included campfire, cooking, craft work, sports and playing around with water (below)!



As the winter draws in, the group have a varied program of activities planned for all sections, including some outdoors, such as the Scouts Night Hike (weather permitting) and a Halloween Party after the October Holiday.

## Dawn's Kenya Expedition

Our Explorer Young Leader spent 3 weeks in Kenya this summer with other Explorer Scouts from the Highlands and Islands.

As well as meeting and working with many local children (right), they also climbed Mount Kenya and had safari trips.

A full photo blog is on Facebook, search for Dawn's Kenya Expedition.



## SOUTH LOCHABER BOWMEN

Archery Club at the Leven Centre, Kinlochleven

Come and give Archery a try; All abilities welcome

Otters (5-7yrs) Cubs (8-12yrs) Juniors (13-17 yrs)

Monday evenings 6-8pm £2.50 per session

Adults 18 and over Tuesday evenings

7:00-9:30pm - £4 per session - All equipment supplied

Archery sessions are run by qualified coaches in both Field and Target Archery.

You can also find us on facebook: [www.facebook.com/SLBowmen](http://www.facebook.com/SLBowmen).



## New Fees

South Lochaber Bowmen Archery club is being faced with increased Leven Centre, Kinlochleven, Hall hire charges. It is with regret that we have had to pass this increase onto our Members / participants, so we can continue to provide this much enjoyed activity to the community. The club has not had an increase in fees for 8 years.

Tuesday August 21st was the start of the new school year, and saw the new prices implemented as follows:

Juniors, Monday club session charge is £2.50

Seniors, Tuesday club session charge is £4.00 (plus donation for the tea trolley)

This fee will be due every week, whether you attend or not, to cover the hall hire for those who do come along.

There is a choice of payment:

- 1) to pay each week
- 2) to pay each month (in advance)
- 3) If you wish to pay an annual amount (in advance) this may be paid by bank transfer (for Bank details please contact club Treasurer Keiron Thomson).

## VILLAGE TIDY UP

A small group of Volunteers made good progress at the back of the hall and in the quarry recently. We are planning another days work party on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October for litter picking and vegetation clearance, including along Albert Road. Meet at the hall at about 9.30am, or come along when you can.



### Ballachulish Visitor Centre

Visitor Information  
Activity Bookings  
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## BALLACHULISH PRIMARY NEWS

Well done Primary 5/6/7 on finishing 15th out of nearly 6,000 schools in this week's Sumdog Scotland Maths Week contest! Fantastic effort! It is also noted that the school were ranked highest in Highland Council Schools.



Ballachulish Primary School were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Milne and Mrs Sutherland in June. Both ladies will be sorely missed in the school and are irreplaceable. However, they have sent a photo to us to reassure us all that they are really enjoying their retirement.

## South Lochaber School Management Review

Ballachulish Primary and all the associated schools in the area had meetings in early September with Highland Council Education Managers about the future of our local schools. Ballachulish parents are meeting on 25th September at 6:15pm in the school to discuss and air their views. The venue is open at 7:15pm for all of the other associated school's parents to come along for a collective group discussion. Highland Council Education Managers have advised that a steering group should be formed to take everyone's opinions and views forward. All parents and members of the community are welcome to attend both the 6:15 and 7:15 meetings. Links to the relevant documents are available from the school.

*Carol Divers* - [carol.divers@highland.gov.uk](mailto:carol.divers@highland.gov.uk)

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## SOFT PLAY FOR THE RAINBOWS



Rainbow Baby & Toddler Group recently had a soft play session, provided by Rosy Cheeks Soft Play, in Ballachulish Village Hall. We used some of our CoOp Grant to pay for the event. The kids all had great fun and burned off lots of energy. We meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings in term time, all under 5s and their parents / carers welcome.

**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.

£1.50 per child; 6months & under - free  
Everybody welcome!

Contact Meg Pollock  
07887 837648





## LOCAL TRANSPORT NEWS

### Local Bus Service

Shiel Buses are now running the N44 bus service between Fort William and Kinlochleven, to the following timetable (Slight variations on Friday Afternoons due to shorter school day):

#### Ballachulish Square -> Fort William

8:02 / 9:20 / 11:50 / 13:50 / 16:10 / 18:50 / 21:20

Saturdays: 7:50 / 9:50 / 11:50 / 13:50 / 15:50 / 18:50 / 21:20

Sundays 10:50 / 12:50 / 15:50 / 17:50

#### Ballachulish Square -> Kinlochleven

7:10 / 8:20 / 11:00 / 13:00 / 15:00 / 18:00 / 20:30 (Fridays: 14:15)

Saturdays 07:00 / 09:00 / 11:00 / 13:00 / 15:00 / 18:00 / 20:30

Sundays 10:00 / 12:00 / 15:00 / 17:00

Our local councilor has created an on-line survey to gauge when the last bus should run. It's a short, one question survey to try to understand the needs of the area:

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VJ5KGBY>



### Glasgow & Local Buses

The Companies would like to hear about any suggestions or problems anyone has with the new timetables or any other matters. Please leave a note for Kath Small at the TIC or phone her on 811520 before November and she will collate and pass on any comments.

### 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](mailto:carscheme@carelochaber.org) to find out more. There is a small charge for this service.



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## CUP AND RING MARKS

Cup and Ring Marks are a common motif in Europe. They consist of a roughly circular central hollow surrounded by one or more concentric rings and/or other decorations. There is also often just the cup mark on its own, like those found in North Ballachulish. They appear to date from between the Neolithic and Bronze ages. The most famous marks in Scotland are perhaps those which abound in the Kilmartin Glen (pictured) near Lochgilphead.



The marks are largely assumed to have ritual use and probably fell out of use when religious ideas changed. It has also been suggested that the religion went underground, or at least indoors as the climate changed. Many of these marks can be found near burials, and there are several on the SW edge of An Dunan at Alltschellach in North Ballachulish. Another set have previously been recorded further round the bay near Carness. As these are next to the sea, it has been suggested that they may have been used, or even made, for storing live bait.

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