

SLATEST NEWS

Your free community newsletter produced by Ballachulish Community Forum

Edition 14 – April / May 2019

*Our Country Dancers enjoying a
Wild West Night*



Whats going on here then?

Above is one of the hundreds of strips of photos from 1992, showing an event at the pub including a giant inflatable slide (left). Were you there? Can you remember what was going on? If so, please get in touch!

WELCOME!

Thank you to everyone who has supplied articles for this edition of Slatest. This is your magazine, and it always has room for new items. 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 **14th May 2019** with deliveries by the end of May, so please get in touch if you have any events or ideas!

BALLACHULISH PRIMARY SCHOOL NEW ECO PROJECT - CAN YOU HELP?

"Using our Plastic to make Eco bricks & Save the Environment"

An Eco brick is a plastic bottle stuffed "Solid" with non-biological waste. (Plastic from fruit bags, home deliveries, plastic bags etc etc) The bricks in turn will be used by our children to make outdoor furniture, allsorts. Let's make a positive change in our wonderful world. Something that everyone can do at home right now!

Let's make bricks –

1. Choose a clean, Dry 2 litre bottle
2. Collect your filler material
3. Grab a stick, wooden spoon, poker? & start stuffing
4. Weigh your bottle (a 2 litre bottle should weigh 660g when completely full)

It looks easy-peasy lemon squeezy :-) believe me it is not. Fourth week & still filling. Totally amazed how much is going in.

Good Luck....

Once filled pass to the school.
Please share with family & friends, lets get the community involved.

PS: there is lots of information online showing what can be made with the bricks, it is incredible. Have a look if you can.

<https://www.ecobricks.org/>



NEWS FROM ST MUNDA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

I mentioned in my last article that electrical problems had meant that we couldn't worship in the church for a time. These problems have now been partially resolved so we are back in the church on Sundays. We do, however, have issues to address following a survey report on the property. We'll be having meetings to discuss what we are able to do and the wider community will be kept informed of our progress.



There's a film of centenary celebrations at St Munda's and that has now been digitised and will be shown on Wednesday 27th March at 7.30 pm in the church hall. This will no doubt bring back many memories and everyone is welcome to come along, watch the film and have a chat over tea, coffee and home baking.

Just before Easter we're planning some 'after-school' fun in the church hall with crafts and food. Details will be on posters around Ballachulish and Glencoe and hopefully 'schoolbag mail' will be effective.

The charity that we've been able to support most recently is Child Bereavement UK which supports families and educates professionals when a baby or child of any age dies or is dying, or when a child is facing bereavement. This charity was highlighted to churches by the Church of Scotland National Youth Assembly. We're always looking for ways to be involved.

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

Thanks for all the support we receive and best wishes,

Rev Sandy Stoddart

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

AGM

The Community Association will be holding our AGM on Sunday April 14th at 5pm in the hall. If you have any interest in helping with the village hall, local heritage or other aspects of the community, please come along.



Cuppa & Cupcakes

Dementia Awareness Week Scotland this year will take place on the 3rd – 9th June and Ballachulish Hall will once again host the popular Cuppa & Cupcake Day on Fri June 7th with proceeds going to Alzheimers Research Scotland, Action on Dementia. Similar to last year, Ballachulish, Glencoe, St Brides and Duror Primary Schools and Nurseries will be invited to design a cupcake and the entries will be judged at the hall. More details and posters to follow,

donations of cupcakes, and raffle prizes would be gratefully appreciated and if anyone would like to get involved

please get in touch with Jo Watt as any help is gratefully accepted. Please come and show your support for this devastating illness so that we can raise more money this year to benefit research.



Thank you from Team Cupcake

Events Team

It is with regret that Ballachulish Community Association have decided to suspend the Events Committee. Following requests for help, we simply did not receive enough support to persevere with a standalone events committee. At present, we are in the fortunate position whereby the hall is currently breaking even, with a small profit, but any unforeseen expense could quickly change this.

We will continue to organise a summer Duck Race, and the events over the Christmas and New Year period, but we do not have enough volunteer help to arrange additional events during the year. Having said that, we will warmly welcome any offers of help, or ideas, whether they are to raise money for the hall or any other good cause. Please get in touch with a member of the hall committee, or come along to the AGM if you have any ideas.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

The Monday night dancing has, once again, been well attended. Book no52, published during 2018, and being the current issue, found us introduced to yet more new and challenging dances. We were not discouraged but persevered and are now quite expert at a few from that book. Christmas Party night saw our numbers almost doubled with the attendance of dancers from Appin. We hosted a Country & Western (Ballachulish Style) theme night earlier this year, dancers from Appin, Fort William and Kilmallie attended. I am always amazed at the enthusiasm of the dancers, impressed by the outfits and the themed food. The photo shows the many 'cowboys/girls' in attendance, and of course we had a well turned out 'saloon girl' - now who was that?

We will hold our Annual Rally on 23rd March. Marian Anderson and her band will be providing the music and this year our many familiar dancers from other areas will be joined by dancers from the Ribble Valley who are spending a few days in Fort William. We are all looking forward to the evening.

Lunch on Sunday 24th at the Isles will bring the winter dancing to a close.

Mary Michie



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STEP IT UP WALKING GROUP

As Spring approaches our intrepid local walkers are still out and about making the most of this time of year.

Our Friday walks last about an hour, while our Monday walks are more ambitious and last about 2 hours. 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.

Why not come and join us?



VILLAGE SPRING TIDY UP

We are lucky in our community that we have a small group of hard working volunteers who regularly take time at weekends to ensure that our village is kept as tidy as we can. However, it is not an easy job and we are always looking for more volunteers. If you haven't already



helped in the past, maybe this year is the year to start? We arrange a number of specific dates when we provide free lunches to all volunteers, but if the brambles are overhanging a pavement near you, or a verge is covered in litter why not spend half an hour tidying it up. If we all spent just an hour or so a year, our village would be immaculate!

tools & **t**ackle
... & the great outdoors
garden plants, compost,
pots, tools, and more

A collage of four images: top-left shows a variety of colorful flowers in a garden; top-right shows various garden tools like a spade, fork, and gloves; bottom-left shows shelves stocked with garden supplies like bags of compost and pots; bottom-right shows stacks of bags of compost.

**New Garden Section
Opening April 2019**

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T: 01855811438/347 M: 07855813166
E: aawhyte@tiscali.co.uk
A: Ar Dachaidh, West Laroach, Ballachulish, PH49 4JJ



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

We meet at Ballachulish Village Hall on Thursdays

All sections of the Scouts have continued to enjoy a varied program through the darker winter nights, but are looking forward to the lighter evenings of summer that are now rapidly approaching. The Cubs and Scouts are also getting excited about our trip to Lochgoilhead in May, which has been substantially funded by the Co-op community fund, for which we thank everyone who supported us in store.

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

7:00-9:00pm - £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.

The club is now a member of the Scottish Field Archery Association (SFAA) which allows current year card holding members to attend club shoots and Championships all around Scotland. Further details of this opportunity can be obtained through South Lochaber Bowmen Facebook page. Your questions will be answered promptly.

New members are always welcome, whether you are a first timer or experienced archer please feel free to come along and try out your skills!

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ROCKSKOOL - JAM SESSIONS

RocksKool is coming to the end of our first term of Wednesday night Jam sessions in the hall. The sessions have been really well attended by young people from South Lochaber & Fort William who have been working on music for their summer performance. We never ceased to be amazed by the talent and enthusiasm they having for performing and can't wait to see them all on stage again in front of a good crowd. I.C.E would like to thank Paul for his ongoing tutoring and also a huge thanks to Sheena & Richard Coull for their encouragement and support during the sessions but most of all to all the young people that attend each week and make it all worthwhile!



If you fancy joining us and are aged between 14 and 25 and can play guitar, keys, drums or sing then come along between 7:30-9pm Wednesday nights term time.

Could you have filled this space?

We are always looking for new articles for Slatest, so if you think you have something worth sharing, please put pen to paper or start tapping at your keyboard. There's about 6 weeks to the next deadline!!

RAINBOW BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Playgroup has been well attended recently and we have enjoyed having some of the new babies in the village along. Look out for information on our upcoming activities, including soft play and a 'playgroup in Abbeyfield session'. All welcome :)

Recently we have made good use of our tuff table: the wee ones have played with snow, ice, water, cornflour, playdoh, paint, paper and glue to name a few.



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



Free Entry to Local Residents

Glencoe Folk Museum



Present this voucher on your arrival at the museum for free entry
Valid until 30/6/2019

Email: curator@glencoemuseum.com

www.glencoemuseum.com



KINGSHOUSE HOTEL

Many of you will be aware that the Kingshouse Hotel has recently re-opened after a multi million pound rebuild, and I'm sure we would all like to wish the staff and management well as they embark on the next stage of this historic hotel's history.

But what of that history, where did it all begin?



The name 'Kingshouse', or King's House, relates to the Inn's time serving the soldiers who used the Military Road across Rannoch Moor. This road, along with the old stone arch bridge next to the Hotel, date back to 1751/2 when the road was constructed under the guidance of Major William Caulfeild, who had taken over from General George Wade prior to the '45. That uprising led to a vast extension to Wade's network of military roads, and the route across Rannoch Moor was one of the most important, as it provided a much more direct route from the Fort at Fort William to the central belt, avoiding the Corrieyairack Pass. It did, however, have a rather notorious pass of its own – the Devil's Staircase, built to allow the road to pass around Loch Leven, avoiding the need for a ferry, but perhaps more importantly, avoiding Glen Coe, scene of the infamous massacre just sixty years earlier.

The Inn, therefore, was used as a staging post at the bottom of the Devil's Staircase, a refuge where soldiers could camp (while their officers stayed in the Inn!) when the pass was impassable. The current front part of the Hotel, which has been retained during the recent redevelopment, dates from the construction of the road, and similar buildings can be found elsewhere on the military road network, at Kingshouse at Balquiddher and Garvamore at the eastern end of the Corrieyairack to name just two.

However, it is likely that the presence of an Inn at the head of Glen Etive dates back much further. The site was also on a Drovers' route, heading for the Trysts at Crieff, Falkirk and elsewhere. The Inn at Inveroran near Bridge of Orchy is an old Drovers' Inn with a stance for the cattle to stop the night, and Kingshouse would have been used likewise. How far back the Kingshouse site stretches into history will perhaps never be known, but it was this long history that led to the construction of the present Inn. It is very likely that the current building therefore is just the latest in a very long line of Inns on this site, and the often quoted 'oldest Inn in Scotland' is very likely correct.

“The Appin Murder – the Case for a Pardon”

**A Talk & Presentation by Allan Macinnes
(Emeritus Professor of History)**

**Saturday April 13th 2019 in Ballachulish Village Hall
(arrive 11a.m. for 11.30 a.m. start)**

**Highlighting his theories regarding the true identity of
Colin Campbell of Glenure’s assassin**

**The talk will be followed by a Question & Answer session
and a soup lunch.**

**After lunch there will be an opportunity to accompany
Prof. Macinnes to the murder site at Lettermore
where he will further expand his evidence on site
(weather permitting)**

**Donations at the door if you wish
All proceeds to the Village Hall**



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Smalls For All Update

Unfortunately there is no longer a collection basket in the Ballachulish Medical Centre. Thank you all for the excellent support & donations. Items can still be sent to the following address.

Please Note it is NOT Freepost:

Smalls for All, 108 Buchanan Crescent, Elburn South, Livingston, EH54 7EF



YEAR IN THE LIFE – 1992

The recent exhibition of photos from the Year in the Life project undertaken by the village back in 1992 was very successful with many members of the community coming in to see the photos, as well as the school coming down on the Friday afternoon.

Whether you lived in the village in 92 or not, there were many old memories rekindled by the photos, which showed friends, family and neighbours nearly 3 decades ago. The photos on show were just a fraction of those taken at the time, and while we do have many negatives and contact prints (thumbnails) in addition to the large prints, we still suspect that there are more negatives in cupboards or lofts around the village. If you know of any, please get in touch. The community are planning on purchasing a high quality scanner to digitise all of the images for the future.

Over the weekend Rob Malpas scanned in and printed over 200 of the contact prints, and while this allowed many images to be seen for the first time in decades, the quality is not as good as the original prints. Two interesting examples are shown opposite, however. At the top is the original Co-op which stood where Quarry Cottages now are, and below is the Milk Bar, which stood at the end of the quarry road in West Laroch.

It was also suggested that the community might like to repeat the project during 2022, 30 years after the original Year in the Life project. More information on this will be in Slatest in a couple of years time!



QUARRIER'S
Kitchen

Fish & Chips Pizzeria Ice Cream Bar

Summer Hours from 5th April
Thursday – Monday 4:30pm – 9:30pm



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Above: The old Co-op opposite Fern Villa; Below: The Milk Bar in West Laroch



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.ballah-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)

PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF

Almost 12 months ago one of our local residents had occasion to help retrieve a Dementia patient from Abbeyfield, who had made a dash for freedom and was running down Park Road. Notification was made and the patient quickly repatriated.

However it was noticed that there was no AGED PERSONS road sign at this end of the road and so an appeal was made to the Highland Council, asking them to erect one and explaining why, as the cars can race through there like a rat run on a lot of occasions.

After some gentle prodding, the sign was erected in mid-March, 2 weeks short of 12 months later, never the less, the job is done.

Please take notice of the signs around the village – and further afield – when driving, it is all too easy to let them blend in with the scenery, but they are (mostly) there for a reason!



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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
- 7.30-9pm RockSkool 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



Thurs 11/4; 2/5 & 23/5

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

Wed 17/4; 29/5

(13:30-14:25 School)
14:30-15:15 W Laroch
15:20-16:00 Park Rd & Abbeyfield
16:05-16:30 Albert Rd



As you can see, ours is a very busy community with lots going on. However, if your group isn't mentioned above, please get in touch!

If you are interested in any of the above, we're sure you will be made very welcome. Contact details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, on facebook or simply ask us and we shall pass your enquiry on!

Also active locally:

- South Lochaber Bowmen – Archery Club
- Ballachulish Football Club

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April

- 2nd Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion
- 5th Schools break up for the Easter Holiday
- 13th The Appin Murder talk at Village Hall
- 14th Village Hall AGM at 5pm
- 21st Easter Sunday
- 23rd Schools return after Easter Holiday

May

- 4th Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion
- 10th-12th Scouts Activity Weekend at Lochgoilhead

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 380 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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