

SLATEST NEWS

Your free community newsletter produced by Ballachulish Community Forum

Edition 16 – August / September 2019

Community Council Elections are this Autumn

***Would you like to become more
involved with our community?
See inside for more information***

The Cubs go Plogging!!



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 September 2019** with deliveries by the end of September, so please get in touch if you have any events or ideas!

Community Council Elections

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the community, see the centre pages for information on the Community Council and the forthcoming elections. We would like to have enough people come forward to have an election, and even if you don't get elected, the community council meetings are open to everyone, so you will be more than welcome to come along.



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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

River Laroch Duck Race

Thank you to everyone who bought a duck for our duck race, you bought more ducks than ever before, raising nearly £600 after prizes.

Things didn't quite go smoothly, however! The date had been set as Sunday 30th June, and at 11 o'clock in the morning the river looked a little high, but generally ok. However, by 3pm it had risen by around 6-9 inches (approx. 20cm) and was simply flowing too fast and powerfully for it to be safe to hold the race. A last minute postponement saw us reconvene on the Wednesday evening, and the river was much lower again, letting the kids have fun catching the ducks.

The winners were as follows:

- 1st Sandy Stoddart
- 2nd John Banks
- 3rd Leah Cattanach
- 4th Richard Coull
- 5th Kath Small



Christmas Market

This year's Christmas Market will take place on Sunday November 24th. Bookings are already coming in for tables. Please pass the word or book a table via Jo Watt on 07483 216883.

STEP IT UP WALKING GROUP

Summer is now here and our intrepid local walkers are out and about exploring the local area.



Come & Join Us

We meet at 10.00am on Fridays for a shorter walk and Mondays for a longer, 2 hour walk, 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.



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

Cubs go Plogging

Plogging is a combination of jogging with picking up litter (Swedish: plocka upp). It started as an organised activity in Sweden around 2016 and spread to other countries in 2018, following increased concern about plastic pollution.

Inspired by our friends at London based Plogolution, local Cubs decided to plog around Ballachulish. On a very hot and sunny Thursday evening we set off hoping to cover most of the village. However due to the volume of rubbish, we were only able to clean around the hall, and over to the Coop. We collected 5 bags of rubbish which included 11 cans, 7 bottles, well over 100 cigarette butts and endless plastic wrappers - all in just over an hour. Thanks to the Highland Council for the supply of bags, gloves and litter pickers.

The plogging was good because it was good to see the amount of rubbish there was around our village, it was incredible how much there was, I was shocked. It was nice being outside in the sun. I really enjoyed spending time with friends and helping the environment at the same time!

For doing it we were split into 2 teams one walking and the other running. The worst places were behind the hall the co op car park and in front of the tic we collected 3 and a half bags of rubbish - Eben, 10



We'll be plogging again in September!

If anyone is interested in an adult Plog between the village and the bridge get in touch with Debs via the 4th Lochaber Scouts Facebook page.

End of Term Activities

At the end of the Summer term, both the Beavers and Scouts went Tubing up at Glencoe Mountain. The Beavers had glorious weather, but it was a bit wet and midgy the following week for the Scouts, not that they minded!

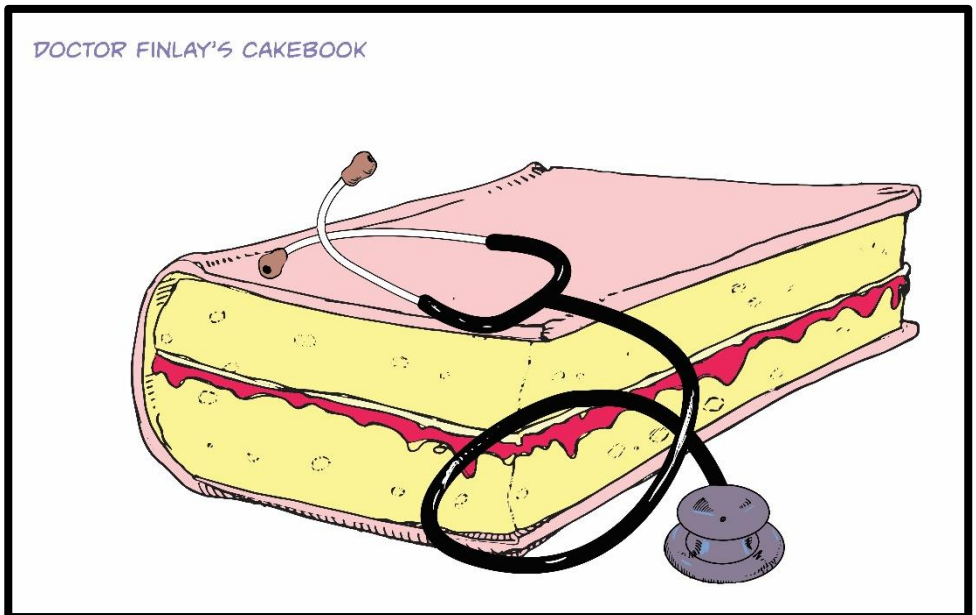
The cubs stayed in the village and had a barbecue (right) and games, which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

Earlier in the term, the Scouts also enjoyed a cycle ride, walks, and a variety of outdoor activities, making the most of the weather.

All sections will start back when the Schools go back, and they are already looking forward to the District camp in mid September.

GREAT SCOTTISH MISPRINTS

©Gosh Wow Comics



DUROR AND ST MUNDA'S PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

We've just recently enjoyed hosting end of term services or assemblies as schools break up for summer and we wish children and staff well. The theme was 'Change'. For some this was a natural moving on from class to class or going on to secondary school from primary but for some school staff and parents this is a painful and worrying time. Changes in the clustering of local schools, in the provision of support staff and in teacher and head teacher staffing leaves many wondering what will happen in August.

There's general consensus that the Church needs to change. Many people think we're outdated and irrelevant so, even though they might be surprised if they heard the message inside, not many come. The way the Church has been over the last 50 years, at least in many places, cannot be the way the Church continues. At this year's General Assembly of the Church of Scotland virtually all of the many specific proposals for change that were put forward were enthusiastically accepted. This will mean radical changes at national and local levels and we should seize opportunities because we have a great message which could make a lot of difference if only it were heard.

We continue to support refugees through 'Lochaber Supports Refugees' and, as well as continuing to be a 'drop-off' point for general donations, are making a special collection of toiletries and men's underwear (small and medium sizes) during July and August which will be sent to refugee camps.

With Ballachulish School we're supporting the Mary's Meals 'Backpack Project'. 'Mary's Meals' is a charity which is best known for providing food at schools in some poorer countries to encourage hungry children to get an education which might help them out of poverty later in their life. The 'Backpack Project' recognises that many of these children don't have the basics for learning such as pencils, notepads and P.E. kit.

If school bags are being replaced over the summer or if there are old ones lying in a cupboard then, if they're in reasonable condition, they can be brought to the school or church and we encourage church members or anyone in the community to donate stationery articles or children's P.E. kit items to fill them. 'Mary's Meals' will arrange to transport them to appropriate schools.

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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A CENTURY OF HOMES FIT FOR HEROES

If you walk round our village, you will pass dozens of houses, but have you ever thought about their history? Who built them and when?

Between Ballachulish and Glenachulish, well over half of our homes were either built by, or subsequently owned by either a local council or housing association. This is above the national average, but thanks to the exceptional efforts of Glasgow City Council and it's neighbours, who built several hundred thousand homes between the wars alone, well below the Scottish average. So how did it all begin?

Towards the end of World War One, the Government decided that the existing housing stock across Britain was rapidly deteriorating and well below what people deserved, especially those soldiers who had been away fighting. The Tudor Walters Report of 1918 was produced with a series of recommendations on how to address the situation. The main thrust was that those building companies which had survived the war were completely unprepared for building the volume of property required, and that the state, through the local councils, needed to step in and take over. Locally, of course, this also included a number of Forestry Houses and some of the local estates were also involved, but all through the same Government funded scheme.

The first houses were built in 1919, and while progress was understandably slow to start with, by 1939 hundreds of thousands of new homes had been built across Scotland, and over a million across Britain as a whole.

Coming back to Ballachulish, Argyll Cottages, West Laroch Crescent and the flats of Leven Terrace and Lorne Cottages (right, soon after they were built) were all built, as well as the houses in Glenachulish. Park Road and Albert Road were started in 1939, but only a handful of houses were completed before war broke out again. Work continued slowly during the war, with several photos surviving of half finished houses, the local men working on them when they were home for leave. The last of the houses were finally completed in the early 1950s.



After World War Two, thanks to German bombs, the need for new housing was ever more pressing, and so the prefabs were designed and built across the country – Ballachulish getting a group as the original houses of Croft Road. A decade or so later, and the prefabs were replaced with houses similar to those already built in West Laroch and MacColl Terrace, which had replaced the old white cottages seen in the photo above.

GLENCOE MUSEUM REDEVELOPMENT PLANS

Glencoe Folk Museum would like to welcome our newest member of staff, David Rounce, to the team. David hails from Yorkshire, though we don't hold that against him, and has a background in history and archaeology and a keen interest in amateur dramatics. He is joining us as our new Redevelopment Manager to take us through an exciting two-year redevelopment project which will ensure long-term sustainability and will include the installation of toilets and other facilities, the reorganisation of our exhibition space and the improvement of our historic buildings. We aim to create a space that is fit for purpose and accessible to all, and hope to encourage community engagement both during the redevelopment and going forward.



As part of the “community engagement” side of things, David is currently in the process of gathering feedback, suggestions and information from local businesses and residents, and he would love to hear from YOU! Tell us what you like (or don't like – we want to hear all opinions!) about the museum, what you would like to see in the museum in the future and what services you think the museum should be offering the community. You can email David directly at redvelopment@glencoemuseum.com, visit our Facebook page to complete a visitor survey, or just stop for a chat if you see him in the Co-op!

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COMMUNITY COMPANY NEWS

The Community Company has not taken up the offer on the Glenachulish Hydro Scheme from GHR due to the time scale of FITS closure and amendments to the existing Plan would have meant the Community being put at risk.



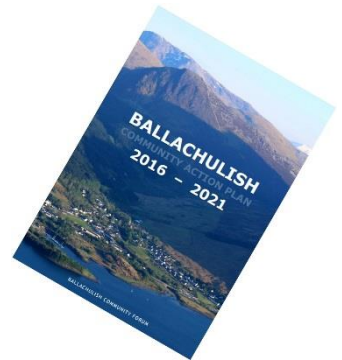
Very briefly, the Company looked at the end of FITS deadline in March 2019, and contacted all of the relevant bodies to discuss the options available. The basic outcome was that with a build schedule of 12 months and having to alter the existing Planning Permission, we could not have met the strict timescales required. We were unwilling to put the Community at risk, over a process of which we had no control. The Company are now waiting to see what, if any, further scheme from the Scottish Government becomes available to assist Communities to become more resilient.

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Ballachulish Community Action Plan has now been in place for nearly 3 years, and so it is time to review how far we have got and plan what comes next. As such we will be holding a Community Forum in September – date to be confirmed. All members of the community are welcome, so please keep an eye open for the meeting date and come along.

So what have we done so far?

- Village enhancement – work continues but we need more volunteers – Thank you to those who have helped recently and indeed in the past, your efforts are appreciated.
- New Christmas Lights, and more to come.
- Latest News, the Community Newsletter
- Boat Shed survey carried out and restoration prospects investigated
- Mobile Skate Park visited village
- New Benches for Jubilee Park
- Work with partner agencies on local footpaths ongoing



There is, of course, a lot more we could be doing, so please come along to the forum meeting if you can, whether to offer assistance, advice or just find out about what we have done so far, and what is still in the pipeline.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

West Highland Local Plan

The Highland Council Local Plan has now been passed by the independent Reporter; the result of which is that the Croft Housing site has been added into the Local Plan, while West Laroch has not been included after being on the local plan previously. This is contrary to the community wishes, which were expressed to the Highland Council on a number of occasions.

The access for any development in the croft would be from Croft Road, and not West Laroch as has been discussed in the past. Visit the HC Planning Portal to view the Local Plan.

Community Issues

River Laroch – Scottish Water has agreed to carry out repair and reinstatement works, but we are still awaiting the result of the discussions between HC and SW to agree the works.

Community Tidy up and Grass Cutting date to be agreed, we are looking to increase the volunteer base to allow us to carry out tidy up works on a regular schedule. May I take this opportunity to thank all the previous volunteers for their valued assistance in the past projects.

Defibrillator

The Defibrillator at the medical centre was recently used for the second time that we know of since it was installed, this time to assist someone at the Isles Hotel.



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SHINTY MEMORIES GROUP MEETING

The initial introductory meeting of a proposed Shinty Memories Group was held on Wednesday 3rd July in the Shinty Clubhouse. A mix of Committee members and ex-players of all ages attended.

After the opening presentation by Memories Group Ambassador, John MacKenzie and renowned Gaelic and sports broadcaster, Hugh Dan MacLennan, it was obvious that those present could see the worth of establishing a Group in Ballachulish and were keen to take the project forward.

Ten Groups are now up and running or being formed throughout the shinty community. The second half of the meeting naturally evolved into the essence of what Shinty Memories Groups are all about – older members of the community and ex-players combining to exchange recollections and stories prompted by the various items of shinty memorabilia that had been brought to the meeting.

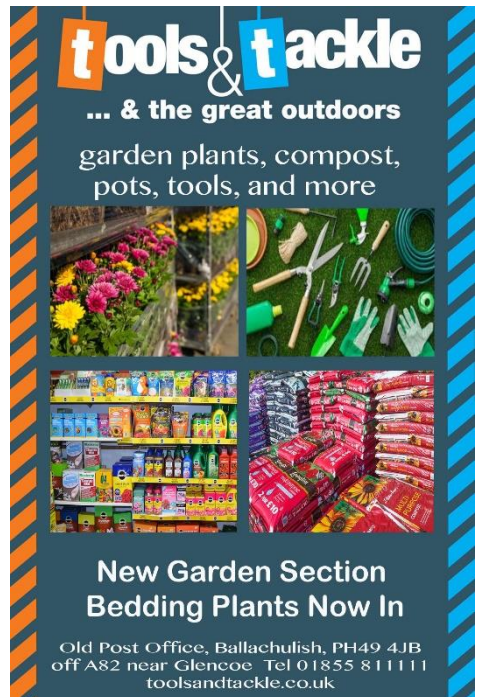
If there were any doubts as to the worth of having a Shinty Memories Group in Ballachulish, they were completely dispelled by the end of the afternoon.

The Group was presented with a Memories Box - the initial practical catalyst for all new Groups. Photographs, old programmes, medals, old strips and equipment can all be added to the Box over time to make it specific to the village.

Anyone out there who thinks they have something to contribute, please hand it to a member of the Shinty Club and it can be added to the Box. We hope to have the first meeting proper on an afternoon in late August. Venue, date & time to follow.

Although Shinty Memories Groups initially tend to focus on older members of the Community, successful Groups ensure that all ages are involved and we'd hope that this will happen in Ballachulish, including all people with even a passing interest in the game.

If anyone would like further information about how Shinty Memories Groups work, please just get in touch with the Shinty Club.



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TAKE YOUR PARTNERS

The Monday night winter dancing ended, without a doubt, 'on a high'. Our Annual Rally was held on 23rd March. The attendance of around 90 dancers, including a group from the Ribble Valley, was well in excess of what was expected. The dancers from the Ribble valley were celebrating their 25th Anniversary.

We at Ballachulish rose to the challenge, welcomed our visitors, provided a superb buffet and, together with the exceptional music provided by Marian Anderson and her Scottish Country Dance Band, ensured that all in attendance enjoyed a memorable evening.

The following day, at The Isles of Glencoe Hotel, we enjoyed a leisurely end of session lunch, followed by a few well known dances. Angela, thank you so much for all your help with menu & venue. The local touch certainly made a difference.

Other clubs hold dances throughout the Summer months to which we are invited so if gardens are up to date, visitors been and gone, look out the pumps and go along.

Our Winter Session will commence on 14th October.



Doggy Doings

A Quick reminder that doggy poo bags are designed to be taken to a bin. It may be that no one in our community is guilty, but poo bags are not intended to be hung in trees, slung under bushes or just left lying on the edge of the path. Thank you.



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James of The Glen Steps at Ballachulish Bridge

Some details on the current condition and proposed refurbishment works to the stairway from the A828 to the A82 (and the James Stewart Memorial site) at the south end of Ballachulish Bridge.

There have been reports of steps becoming loose recently. BEAR's Corpach depot has put signage out to warn pedestrians of the hazardous area. These two steps will be reset at the earliest opportunity once there is a suitable weather window.

BEAR Scotland on behalf of Transport Scotland is programming works to overhaul the steps and improve DDA accessibility. They are working to commence on site this September 2019. The refurbishment work will include: securing the steps and installing anti-slip nosing; the existing handrails will be removed and DDA compliant handrails/guardrails installed in their place; tactile warning surfaces will be installed on landings; the lighting system will be upgraded; trees will be cut back (felled where appropriate) and vegetation will be cleared.

The BEAR operations team plan to inspect the steps weekly to ensure that they are secure. In the mean-time if you have reports of any loose steps, please contact BEAR Scotland's customer care team (0800 028 1414) with defect reports.



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BALLACHULISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NEEDS YOU!

- Would you like to be more involved in our community?
- Are you aged 16+?
- Can you spare one evening a month?

If you answered yes to any of the above, read on...

Community Council elections are to be held this November, so if you would like to become more involved in our community, now is the time to start! We have 7 elected members, and can have up to 3 additional co-opted members. At least two of our current councillors are considering retiring after many years of service to the community, so we are looking for new members. We would like to have some younger members too, so if you are aged 16+ and would like to be involved, please get in touch.

Meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of every month at the shinty pavilion at 7pm – everyone is welcome, so why not come along and see what it is all about?

6th August; 3rd September; 1st October; 5th November; 3rd December

Search *Highland Council Community Council elections* online for more details

If we don't get enough people come forward to form a council, the community council would be dissolved until the spring, meaning that most of the hard work our current councillors are undertaking would be paused, or completely stopped. If you have an interest in becoming part of the Community Council for the benefit of the whole community please contact any of the existing members for information.



WHAT DOES BALLACHULISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTUALLY DO?

The Community Council works hard to ensure that Ballachulish is a nice place to live and visit, carrying out work that is visible to locals and visitors alike, and also working in the background to try and improve services.

Village Enhancement

- Christmas Lights
- Litter Picks
- Weeding, Vegetation Clearance; tree and bush trimming
- Quarry grounds maintenance and upkeep
- Grass Cutting
- Planters and Flower Tubs

Communications

- Helps produce Slatest News to share all aspects of community news
- Maintains Website and Facebook Presence
- Facilitates community wide discussions on a variety of matters, via Community Forum and attendance at other meetings.

Works with and supports all parts of the community

- Supporting School Parent Council with recent clustering and ASN / PSA cutbacks
- Attend meetings regarding Belford Hospital replacement
- Working hard to get Scottish Water and Highland Council to attend to the problems in the river at the Albert Road Bridge
- Working with Shinty Club on improvements to Jubilee Park
- Raising awareness of Ballachulish, our history and what our community can offer today
- Working with neighbouring communities as part of the Association of South Lochaber Community Councils



RAINBOW BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We have been busy during the Spring and early Summer, with sessions twice every week, playing outside at the back of the Hall during the spells of fine weather. We have spent some more of our Co-Op grant: in May we provided an indoor soft play session, enjoyed by all, and in June three playgroup families went to an outdoor nursery taster session at the Highland Wildlife Park at Kincaig (right). We had a very successful visit to Abbeyfield where young and old enjoyed playing with foam balls, singing and having a snack together. We plan to carry on visiting Abbeyfield regularly.

Attendance has been good recently with a good number of toddlers and young babies and their parents coming; we look forward to meeting more new wee ones, mums, dads and grandparents. The group is breast-feeding friendly and we provide a healthy snack for kids over 6 months old and tea/coffee for adults. It's £1.50 per child over 6 months old.

We plan to run most weeks of the summer holidays – hopefully with lots of outdoor play! Older siblings are welcome to come along too.



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



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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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

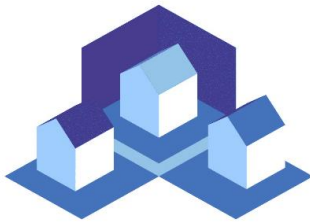
Community Association: www.ballah-hall.co.uk

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

Booking Secretary: Judy Bigham 811758

Community Company: [on Facebook](#)

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



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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



The Royal Bank of Scotland Group

Mobile Library

Thurs 15/8; 5 & 26/9

12:40-12:55 Square

13:00-13:10 Lochside

Cottages

Wed 21/8; 11/9

(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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August

6th Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion

20th New School year starts

September

3rd Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion

TBA Community Forum at Village Hall

13th-15th Scout Camp

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.

A reminder that all notices for the board inside the co-op should be taken in to the Post Office.

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. We will take a maximum of 12 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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