

SLATEST NEWS

Your free community newsletter produced by Ballachulish Community Forum

Edition 17 – October / November 2019

Community Council Elections are coming soon

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

A rather damp Campfire at the Scouts district camp



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 Christmas edition is **14th November 2019** with deliveries by the end of November, so please get in touch if you have any events or ideas! It will include all of the information you need about what is happening over the festive season.

Community Council Elections

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the community, see opposite for more information on the forthcoming Community Council 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.



Claymore Limited

Tyndrum Road Glencoe

Tel 01855 811308

Tools, Hardware, Oils &
Lubricants, Groceries

Now Licensed

**for
Off Sales**



Wonderful seasonal menus served in both our restaurant and bar in the heart of Ballachulish

Tel: 01855 811940

**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 soon, 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.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION TIMETABLE

For more details see the Highland Council Website:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/799/elections_and_voting/643/community_council_elections

Tuesday 24 September Earliest date for receipt of Nomination Papers

Tuesday 8 October Latest date for lodging Nomination Papers – papers must be received by 12noon

Wednesday 9 October Publication by 12noon on The HC website of list of nominations and notices of: contested election; uncontested election and CC not formed

Tuesday 29 October Post out of ballot papers, where election is contested

Tuesday 19 November Existing Community Councils that were contested to be dissolved at 11.59 pm

WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER ELECTION DAY – postal ballot papers must be received by 12 noon.

Thursday / Friday 21 & 22 November Counting of the Votes.

By Friday 13 December Notification issued regarding the calling of the first meetings of the new Community Councils

2019 SHOWSTOPPERS PANTOMIME



This year Ballachulish Hall will once again be hosting Lochaber Showstoppers Panto – The Swan Princess.

Rehearsals are already well underway, with performances in the first week of December – 5th – 7th including a Saturday Matinee. Tickets will be available nearer the time – look out for more information!

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Our Christmas Market and Santa's Grotto is now firmly established on the local calendar. This year's market will take place on Sunday 24th November from 12-4pm. Don't miss it! Please pass the word or get in touch via Jo Watt on 07483 216883.



The Christmas Market is just the first of our Festive events, look out for more details in the next edition of Slatest News!

NEW BENCHES FOR THE PLAYPARK

The Playparks committee have recently had some new benches installed in the West End Playpark. They are made from recycled material and come with a 100 year guarantee, so they should last longer than the wooden ones – hopefully until 2119! That is not a challenge of course! The Playparks Committee have other plans in the pipeline, and we will hopefully be able to tell you more in a future edition of Slatest.





HEALTH & WELLBEING DAY



Car Scheme



Ballachulish Village Hall



Hospice

Friday 11th October,

Kinlochlovin'

from 10.00 hrs. until 16.00 hrs



BALLACHULISH MEDICAL PRACTICE

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Pulling together for health



My name is Pauline Selby and I am currently the Secretary of the Ballachulish Medical Practice Patient Participation Group. We aim to be a liaison between the public and the medical staff at our surgery.

We are arranging a Health and Wellbeing Day, at the local Village Hall on Friday 11th October, from 10.00 hrs. until 16.00 hrs. We hope to have as many groups represented as possible. The event will be advertised throughout our medical practice area and we feel this will be an ideal opportunity to make the public aware of your organisation.

The aim of the event is for the local community to become aware of just how many resources & activities there are in the area, to offer help and support in many ways, aiming to inspire people to take better care of their own health. Also, it might encourage people to volunteer for your groups.

Please let me know if you would be interested in having your group represented at our Health and Wellbeing event by having some literature on a table, some posters or some representatives to talk about your particular group.



**REFRIGERATION &
AIR CONDITIONING**

Sales, Service & Installation



**Air Source
Heat Pumps**

Low Energy Heating Systems Supplied & Installed

On Call 24/7

Tel: **01 855 81 1641**

Mobiles:

07970 824252

07970 824506

www.ks-refrigeration.co.uk

iPowerboat Ltd - Maritime Training

RYA Powerboat Courses | VHF Radio Courses
Navigation Training | RYA Sea Survival
First Aid Courses | Boat Sales & Servicing
Gill Marine Clothing

www.ipowerboat.co.uk | 01855 811847 | South Ballachulish | PH49 4JX



DUROR AND ST MUNDA'S PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Over the summer, in addition to the ongoing support for refugees through 'Lochaber Supports Refugees', we made a special collection of toiletries and men's underwear to go to a refugee camp. The list of items gathered included 65 items of underwear, 20 pairs of socks, 120 bars of soap, 142 tooth brushes and a lot more. This collection was completed on the last Sunday of August, taken to a distribution depot at Muir of Ord on the Tuesday and the next day was en-route to Syria.

Before the end of term Ballachulish School pupils were given a letter and told about the Mary's Meals 'Backpack Project'. This project recognises that many of the children who receive 'Mary's Meals' don't have the basics for learning such as pencils, notepads and P.E. kit. We're still hoping to get more donations of school bags in reasonable condition which can be brought to the school or church then we'll 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.

'What's So Amazing About Grace?' From Wednesday 25th September (7.00pm in Duror Church hall) we'll have roughly weekly sessions thinking about this question with a DVD intro from the author, Philip Yancey, and other contributors. The sessions will switch between Duror and St Munda's and be on different days and different times of day so that people should manage to at least some meetings. Anyone is welcome and tea and coffee will be served.

Hamish Brown, climber, traveller and author will give a talk at St Munda's Church on Wednesday 23rd October at 7.00 pm telling the story of his family who were caught in Japan at the outbreak of the Second World War in the Pacific. He'll bring to life not only the dying days of the British Empire but also the terrible reality of the invasion of Singapore into which the family had escaped.

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



**Glencoe
Taxi**

Hazelton Private Hire

Dogs, Bikes & Well Behaved Humans carried.
Reliable with Fair Pricing
Wheelchair access

**Tel: 01855 811764
Mob: 07793 258335
E-mail: glencoetaxis@gmail.com**



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

It has been a busy start to term with new members welcomed in all sections for a range of exciting activities, culminating in the District Camp at Spean Bridge. The weather was not exactly favourable, with the river rising around 2m on Saturday evening, but despite that most of the activities ran to plan, and the kids had a great time.

Activities on the Saturday included cooking, craft work (right), treasure hunts, games and challenges, with a rather damp campfire in the evening. On the Sunday there were sports and a Tug of War (below), where the kids just about beat the leaders in the best of three pulls!

We had over 20 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from Ballachulish attending, who all had a lot of fun, so thanks to all of the parents and leaders who helped and provided transport, and especially to our Group Scout Leader Karl Griffin who organized the camp.



RAINBOW BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Playgroup members, adults and kids alike, have had lots of fun spending the last of our 2017 Co-op Grant recently. We went to Auchingarrich wildlife park, near Comrie, where you can touch guinea pigs, chicks, rabbits and tortoises and well as see the bigger animals like lemurs and meercats. And we went to Fort William by bus to see the steam train leave and then had a soft play session and group lunch at the Nevis Centre.



Every
Tuesday & Thursday
Ballachulish Village Hall
9:30 – 11:30am
£1.50 inc snack 😊
(Suggested Donation)
Contact Alice Wilson - 07709100618



BALLACHULISH JUNIOR RUN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Coming soon to Ballachulish...

Weekly Junior 2km timed run on Sunday mornings at 9:30am

We want to create a free and fun weekly run for local children (aged 4-14). We are looking for volunteer marshals to make it happen. If you have an hour or so to spare on a Sunday morning, even if it is just occasionally or once a month, please speak to Zoe Newson, Matt Allen or Rachel McKerral for more details.

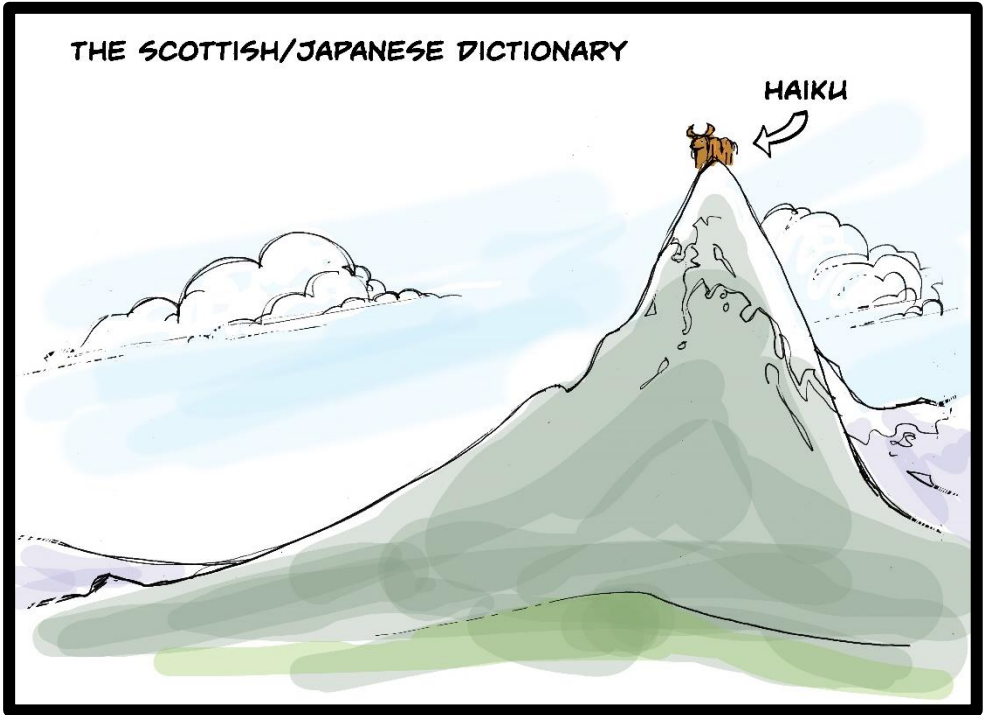
You can e-mail us at ballachulishjuniorrund@gmail.com

Thanks, Rachel McKerral



.GREAT SCOTTISH MISPRINTS

©Gosh Wow Comics



SPONSORED HAIR CUT FOR CANCER CHARITIES

Sarah Whyte is having her hair cut (12 inches of it!) and donating it to The Little Princess Trust and we have set up a Just Giving page to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support with a target of £200. In less than a week the amount raised is almost £2000 - we have been absolutely overwhelmed by people's kindness & generosity & lovely messages.



The following is Sarah's story that she wrote for the Just Giving page:

My name is Sarah & I'm 9 years old.

Last year when my Mum lost all her hair because of her treatment for breast cancer, I wanted to shave my head so that she wouldn't be lonely. But my Mum asked me to keep my hair so she could still play with it.

Now my Mum's hair is growing back (slowly & curly!) and my hair is really long!

I am going to have 12 inches of my hair cut off and donate it to The Little Princess Trust who make wigs for children and I want to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Services who helped my Mum.

I will be getting my 12" haircut on Saturday 21st September 2019.

Please sponsor me. Thank you xx

The Just Giving page for anyone who would like to donate can be found at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/Sarah-Rose-Whyte>

AA WHYTE & SONS
Plumbing & Heating
Registered Gas & Oil Installers

For all your
domestic & commercial
plumbing & heating
requirements

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

Colgate Terracycle recycling

By the time you read this the school should have a Colgate / Terracycle recycling point for collecting all old toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes and other related items, which will then be recycled.



ABBNEYFIELD BALLACHULISH CELEBRATES NINE YEARS OF TOP GRADES



Abbeyfield Ballachulish, the independent local charity that provides a range of services for older people, is celebrating receiving an overall “Excellent” Grade 6, the highest grade possible for the ninth year running, following a recent unannounced inspection by the Care Inspectorate; one of only 10 to achieve this in the UK.

Abbeyfield Ballachulish relies on fund raising through the local community, grant funding, local business support and partnership working with NHS Highland, and strives to provide local services that meet the needs of the community. Abbeyfield is currently planning to expand its much needed services and needs to raise £400,000 to convert part of the building to provide an additional eight care beds.

If any members of the community feel they have the skills and drive to support the voluntary board of trustees in this task we would love to hear from you.

Abbeyfield Ballachulish

Wilma Allan, Director of Care, Tel: 01855 812950

Servicing **MOTs**
Diagnostics **Brakes**
Tyres **Clutches**
Wheel Alignment
Friendly Service

West Quarry Ballachulish
lochsidegarage@btconnect.com
01855 811880



ballachulishtyres.co.uk

t o o l s & t a c k l e
... & the great outdoors
garden plants, compost,
pots, tools, and more

New Garden Section
Bedding Plants Now In

Old Post Office, Ballachulish, PH49 4JB
off A82 near Glencoe Tel 01855 811111
toolsandtackle.co.uk

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!



QUARRIER'S

Kitchen



Fish & Chips

Pizzeria

Ice Cream Bar

Open Weekends

Friday & Saturday 4:30pm – 9:30pm



“With a new management team, my aim is to serve no fuss comfort food with customer service we can be proud of”

Karl Griffin, Manager, Quarrier's Kitchen

One Mile from Glencoe

Sit In or Take Away

quarrierskitchen.co.uk

01855 811600

BALLACHULISH PRIMARY SCHOOL UPDATE

As many of you are aware, The Highland Council have recently concluded a review of the management of the local schools. The final outcome is that Kinlochleven Primary and High Schools will become a 3-18 campus with a single Headteacher, while at this end of the Loch the four schools will be put in to two 2-school clusters, Ballachulish and Duror in one and Glencoe and St Brides in the other.

Our current head teacher, Carol Divers, has decided not to apply for a cluster head role and Marilyn MacDonald, who was previously overseeing the other three schools, has retired. Ainslie Burns has been appointed as headteacher for Ballachulish and Duror, but will cover Glencoe, Duror and St Brides in the interim, with a new appointment to be made for Glencoe and St Brides in the near future. Carol Divers remains in post as Head of Ballachulish Primary until the new post is filled.

However, the Parent Council, which represents all parents and carers who have a child enrolled at the school, have concerns about the processes and outcomes of the Review and is currently looking at ways of challenging Highland Council's decisions, seeking support from our MP and MSPs.

- The Parent Council is concerned that the interests and well-being of pupils and staff at our schools have not been forefront of the Review process.
- Communication has been very poor between Highland Council and parent representatives regarding plans for the future running of our schools.
- The normal procedure of involving the community and parents in the interview process for the new post in this instance was completely sidestepped, thus removing the sense of participation and partnership that is so important to The Highland Council and the communities involved.

It should also be noted that there are still serious ongoing problems regarding Additional Support Needs and Pupil Support Assistants where the education of our children is being compromised by the lack of provision of these important roles. Also, following the retirement of our school secretary Sandie Young, there is at the time of writing, no evidence of the Council trying to recruit for this post. None of these issues seem to be at the forefront of the Education Department's actions despite having a serious adverse effect on the quality of education being given to our children.



COMMUNITY COMPANY NEWS

We have been informed that Lochaber Energy Group (LEG) have registered for the FITS payment scheme on the Glenachulish Hydro Scheme. The Community Company would like to wish them all the best in their venture.



Their scheme is in the early stages of process and the final outcome has not been reached on the viability of the project. We have asked to be kept informed of the progress and offered our assistance with any information that may prove relevant. In view of the Climate Emergency we feel we should support all community groups looking to ameliorate the effects and to that end we commend their efforts. The need for Communities to become more resilient and lower their carbon footprint will be a major issue to be met for Communities betterment.

In the future there could be a small financial benefit to the Community dependent on the outcome of LEG venture

Kevin Smith Ballachulish Company Trustee

THANK YOU KATH!

On behalf of the Community we note the retirement of Kath Small from the Community Council. Kath has had a major influence in the Community for a large number of years, first serving on the community council under Dr MacLeod. She has also given commitment to a number of volunteer groups including the Village Hall, where she served as booking secretary



for many years. She was also involved in local arts, history and archaeological groups and helped to set up local walking groups which remain very popular.

Her enthusiasm for village life, quick wit and determination to complete any number of tasks will be sorely missed.

We wish her well in her retirement, hoping her all the best for the future.

HAMISH MACINNES — THE EARLY YEARS

When he was young, our local and world-renowned mountain-eering expert Hamish MacInnes lived at 31 Catherine Street, Gatehouse of Fleet in Kirkcudbrightshire. In the 1920s and 1930s his parents ran Market Cross Stores at 35-37 High Street.



Hamish's father and mother standing in front of Gatehouse of Fleet Market Cross Stores

After the Second World War, his family moved to Greenock on the Clyde. There Hamish became interested in mountaineering, learning by accompanying a neighbour when he went climbing in the Arrochar Alps and by going out with the Glasgow Creag Dhu Club. When Hamish started climbing, it was mostly a hobby of the well-to-do, but the club allowed working class men to enjoy the sport too. The rest, as they say, is history.

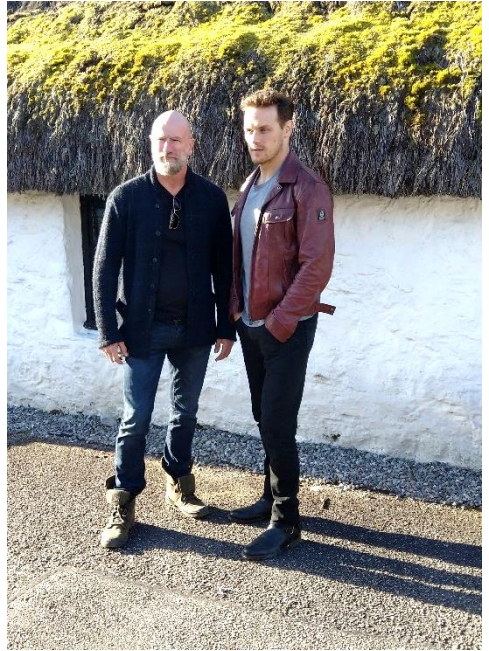


CLAN LANDS

If you were out and about in Glencoe at the weekend, you may have spotted some celebrities...

Glencoe Folk Museum were thrilled to welcome Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish on Saturday, as they embarked on their first day of filming for 'Clan Lands', an upcoming show exploring the history and culture of the Scottish clans. The Outlander stars got up close and personal with some of the museum's Jacobite objects – including a pistol from Culloden Battlefield and a bible belonging to the MacDonald Chiefs - and chatted to staff and volunteer Jimmy the Bush about the history of the museum and the area.

The museum's curator, Catriona Davidson, said, "It is great that Sam and Graham will be bringing the fascinating history of Scotland and its clans to an international audience, and we are very excited to be involved. Outlander has already introduced so many people all over the world to a period of Scottish history that they had never heard of before, and we can't wait to see Clan Lands bring this to life even more."



As well as visiting the museum, the duo spent some time whisky tasting and listening to traditional Scottish music at the Clachaig Inn, before chatting to NTS archaeologist Derek Alexander about recent excavations in the glen.

Clan Lands will air sometime in 2020.

Catriona Davidson

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

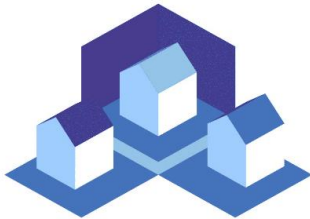
Community Association: www.ballah-hall.co.uk

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



Inside Out

Property Maintenance

- **Painting & Decorating (Interior & Exterior)**
- **Bathrooms & Kitchens fitted**
- **Joinery work undertaken**
- **Hard & soft landscaping designed and installed.**
- **Fully insured / DBS clearance.**
- **Tiling**
- **Flooring laid / adapted**

No job too small or large

Call for a free no obligation Quote


07507 266649 (Ask for Rob)

**For all your
Handyman / Home
Maintenance
Solutions**

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Please note some activities do not meet during school holidays.

Monday

- 10am Local 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 Local 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 17/10; 7 & 28/11

12:40-12:55 Square

13:00-13:10 Lochside

Cottages

Wed 2 & 23/10;

13/11

(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

October

- 1st Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion
8th Community Council elections – Nominations must be in by 12 noon
11th - 27th School October Holidays
26th Kids Halloween Party at Village Hall 6.30-8.30pm
31st Halloween



November

- 6th Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion
20th Community Council Elections – Ballots must be in by 12noon
24th Christmas Market & Santas Grotto at Village Hall 12-4pm



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



ARGYLL & LOCHABER JOINERS

New Builds | Kit Erections
Extensions | Doors & Windows
Kitchens | Renovations
All Joinery Work Undertaken



ARGYLL & LOCHABER PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES

Bathrooms | Kitchens
Boiler Servicing & Repairs
All Plumbing Work Undertaken



ARGYLL & LOCHABER PAINTING & DECORATING

Interior & Exterior Painting
Ames Taping
All Paining & Decorating
Work Undertaken

Mobile: 07444 823 647 Email: argyll-lochaberjoiners@outlook.com