

# SLATEST NEWS

Your free community newsletter produced by Ballachulish Community Forum

Edition 27 – Christmas 2020



*How many Santas can you find in this edition of Slatest News?*





## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We have nearly made it to the end of what must surely be the strangest year any of us can remember. It is, however, a year of which Ballachulish can be very proud. The huge community spirit we enjoyed during lockdown proves what a special place we can call home. But it isn't over yet, with so many restrictions still in place, our resilience team have been helping out with organizing some festive events and ideas, to ensure that our community remains well cared for over the coming weeks.

This will hopefully include:

- A Christmas Market on 6<sup>th</sup> December
- Lantern Evening on 31<sup>st</sup> December
- Advent Calendars on Facebook
- Secret Santa being planned



There is more information on all of these inside this edition of Slatest News.

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 news or history or have found some old photos or want to share a memory, please get in touch – [rileyrob@btinternet.com](mailto:rileyrob@btinternet.com), 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> January 2021** with deliveries by the end of January, so please get in touch if you have any events or ideas!

**Donations** can be made anonymously and dropped into the Black letterbox at the village hall, or paid direct to the Ballachulish Community Association bank account (please put Slatest News in as a reference): RBS 83-20-16 / 10833089. The same applies for any other donations you wish to make – please put in an appropriate reference (eg: Foodbank or Resilience).

Thank You Everyone.



# DUROR AND ST MUNDA'S PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

During this time of restriction the church has been continuing with video worship, Zoom Services, daily readings and prayers on Facebook and monthly 'Drive-in' Services. Between these and regular phone calls we've been able to keep in touch with one another within and beyond the congregations.

During the Advent and Christmas period all of this will continue but there will be more. As happened last year, Christmas baubles will 'appear' around Ballachulish and Glencoe with a small message attached. If you find one you're welcome to take it home with our best wishes for it to become part of the decoration of your house this Christmas.



We can't have the now traditional 'Community Carols' but I'm planning to have a 'Drive-in' Carols event around Ballachulish during December – look out for details on notice boards and Facebook.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December there will be a 'Zoom Nativity' Service and that afternoon we're planning to have St Munda's Church open for a couple of hours for people to have some private time in that sacred space.

On Watchnight and Christmas morning I intend to livestream brief Services to mark these important moments.

Everyone is always welcome to everything – just contact me for links or further information.

Christmas will be different but we still celebrate Jesus' birth.

Best wishes to you and yours for Christmas,  
Rev Sandy

[astoddart@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:astoddart@churchofscotland.org.uk) 01631  
740285



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Stuck for Christmas present ideas or  
just want to enjoy some Christmas  
cheer? Come along to our

# OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Craft and Produce stalls & Christmas Raffle

Covid 19 Social Distancing  
Guidelines in place

[Facebook.com/covid19balla](https://www.facebook.com/covid19balla)

**6TH DECEMBER 1.30 - 4:00 PM**  
**BALLACHULISH VILLAGE HALL**

Ballachulish Community Association SCIO  
Scottish Charity No SC023308 [www.ballachulish.co.uk](http://www.ballachulish.co.uk)



# BALLACHULISH VILLAGE HALL NEWS

## Community Support Worker

We're delighted to announce that we've appointed Caroline Knox in the role of Community Support Worker!

Caroline will be working with our group of volunteers over the winter on a number of exciting projects. Caroline was one of the original Foodbank team members way back in April, and part of her future role includes leading our Wellbeing Larder and Wellbeing Bank offerings, working to combat hardship and stop food waste.

Another of our group aims is to spread a little winter cheer in our community and Caroline is already working with our volunteers on some fun ideas. Congratulations Caroline, we're delighted to have you in this role!



## Lantern Evening

We are working on a couple of Lantern ideas which we hope will be able to proceed no matter what restrictions are in place come New Year.

So, even though you will not be able to come to the hall to make lanterns, we would encourage you to make them at home. Whilst all of the materials can be bought online, why not look round your house first and see what you can recycle? An old pillow case? Some garden canes? Use your imagination and see what you can create.



At the very least we will be asking you to place your lanterns out in your front garden for everyone to enjoy as they walk round the village over New Year. Thank You.





## 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

We meet at Ballachulish Village Hall on Thursdays

Since we re-started Scouts we have, with one or two exceptions, enjoyed mostly dry evenings, allowing us to run a variety of activities while outside. Some of the highlights have seen the Beavers build Wigwams (right), while the Cubs and Scouts have enjoyed twilight / night walks and several fires.



### Thank You Debs!

Ballachulish Scouts would like to extend a special thank you to one of its Leaders who has decided to move onto pastures

new at the end of this term. Deborah Fyfe was one of the original founders of the current group eight years ago and has helped out and later run the Cubs since. Her energy and enthusiasm for the young people of this area will be missed.

Two other leaders will be leaving us soon as well and although they have not been around as long as Debs their contribution has been no less important. Catriona Davidson and Zach Wishart are both moving on and the group would like to thank them both.

## SOUTH LOCHABER BOWMEN

Archery Club at the Leven  
Centre, Kinlochleven

**Although we are currently not meeting, please keep an eye on our facebook page for re-activated meeting times and dates as soon as we can.**

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

Find us on facebook: [www.facebook.com/SLBowmen](http://www.facebook.com/SLBowmen).



# BALLACHULISH MEDICAL PRACTICE — UPDATE ON APPOINTMENTS



When you phone the surgery reception staff will ask a few questions about your problem to ensure you receive the most appropriate appointment type; ie telephone appointment; near me video appointment (like facetime etc), both of which re covid safe; or a face-to-face appointment. Face to Face appointments should only be used where a physical examination is required or where there may be any communication problems. It is important that we have this information to ensure the GP you are seeing has the right equipment ready for you in the consulting room.

The clinicians all wear full PPE (mask/apron/gloves/visor) and the room and equipment is cleaned after every patient. For all face to face appointments, we will call you on the day prior to the appointment time scheduled to ensure no Covid symptoms are present. Patients are asked to wear a mask if they are able and we are still using the car park as our waiting room, so we can ensure patients are guided safely to the consulting room and spend as little time in the building as is possible.

If you think you have symptoms of Covid, but feel ok, book a swab test through NHS inform and self isolate your household. If you feel unwell with Covid symptoms, phone 111.

We have a porta cabin which is our red area, separate from the building if we need to see patients who are self-isolating or have Covid symptoms and need seen by a GP.

We are continuing to manage chronic medical conditions as well as acute although this may involve some at home monitoring eg. Home blood pressure readings or peak flow readings. We have some equipment we can lend out but you may wish to purchase your own blood pressure monitor from your local or online chemist.

We are also delivering the Flu Vaccinations Programme at the surgery, Cervical Screening with our practice nurse and Childhood Vaccinations.  
*Dr Morag Calder*



# THE WELL-BEING SHED

While it's all too easy to focus on the challenges that the pandemic has brought us, it is always nice to focus on the positives. One of these has been the success of the Well-being Bank. From its humble beginnings as a couple of wheeled bookcases and a box of food outside the Shinty Pavilion, it has grown to become a well-used community resource and a great means of helping to stop food waste.



Originally intended as a temporary resource to help the community while restrictions were in place, over time resilience group volunteers noticed just how popular the bank had become. The idea of a more permanent resource was hatched and of course we now have our lovely Well-being Shed!

The Shed is intended to be a positive legacy from these Covid times and volunteers plan that it will be used on a long-term basis. The usual selection of foods, books, games, jigsaws etc will be supplemented by occasional treats often with a seasonal theme. Please do make use of the Shed, it has been set up for everyone in the local community. While people are happy to take books and games, we often hear of people saying that they would take some of the food-share but they “don’t like” or wouldn’t want to take from someone who needs it more. It’s important to remember that much of the food we put out was destined for landfill, and that we restock every day – if you want to take some food, take some food! Just remember to check the dates and quality of the food. We would never knowingly put something that was off into the bank, but just check you’re happy that it’s ok before you consume. We’d love to hear from you if you’ve made something lovely from the food we put out. Post a pic and a recipe on our page at any time.

The Ballachulish Well-being Shed was built using funding from the Scottish Government’s Covid 19 Supporting Communities fund, administered by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). Huge thanks to Karl Griffin for providing the great location for the Shed. Further thank yous go to the Coop and the Coop staff for providing the Food-share; the volunteers who go out each evening to collect, sort and distribute it; the Shinty Club for the use of the Pavilion for the original Bank, and to Al Jack who opened and closed it daily. Most of all thanks to all of you for using and supporting it so enthusiastically!



A community-run store  
of food and household  
essentials.

Here for you if you  
need a little  
something extra.



**Wellbeing**

**Larder**  
◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

**01855**

**604311**

Run by Ballachulish and  
Glencoe Community  
Support Groups

**Who is it for?**

For anyone to receive or donate. No referral  
necessary, completely confidential, just call us or  
visit during opening hours.

**When?**

Tuesdays 5.30-7pm  
Saturdays 10am - 12noon  
Ballachulish Village Hall

**Can we help?**

Yes! We can arrange a delivery for you or someone  
you are concerned about. If you can't make it to the  
hall you can call the confidential helpline.

# TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

T	A	C	D	A	Y	S	O	F	P	I	P	E	R	S
W	P	A	R	T	R	I	D	G	E	N	D	D	A	H
E	A	L	L	P	P	M	Y	N	A	E	O	W	Y	E
L	A	L	R	A	T	O	E	Y	R	E	V	O	L	O
V	U	I	A	L	Y	T	U	R	T	L	E	T	L	F
E	S	N	A	W	S	I	R	O	R	M	S	R	S	L
A	W	G	T	E	S	T	N	N	E	Y	E	U	W	S
B	I	B	O	A	L	L	A	G	E	E	S	E	C	S
G	M	I	H	L	A	D	I	E	S	U	L	I	P	R
N	M	R	R	S	D	A	N	C	I	N	G	H	I	E
I	I	D	I	G	H	S	I	L	U	H	C	A	P	M
K	N	S	N	E	H	H	C	N	E	R	F	N	I	M
L	G	O	G	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	N	U
I	S	E	S	D	R	O	L	E	A	P	I	N	G	R
M	A	I	D	S	L	G	G	N	I	M	M	U	R	D



Can you find all of the twelve days of Christmas in this wordsearch? Some of the days (like Gold Rings) are split but still close together.

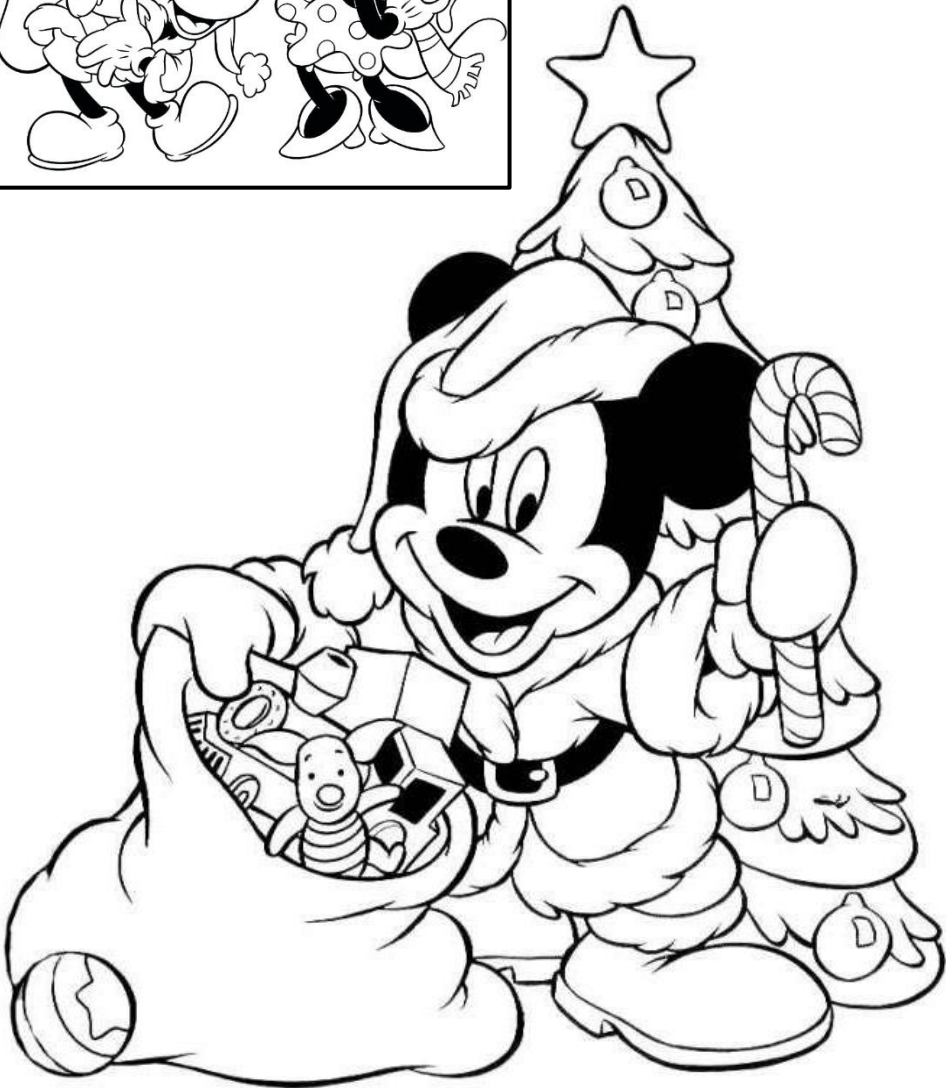
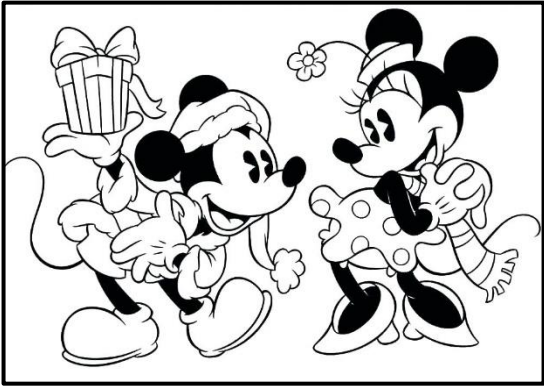
## BALLACHULISH ON TV

Ballachulish has twice in the last few months featured on BBCs Landward programme. The first episode, back in September, looked at why Ballachulish was dubbed the ‘dirtiest village in Scotland’ and the subsequent improvement works.

The second episode in early November looked at the story of the famous story of the Ballachulish Three, Willie Kemp, Sandy MacDonald and Ginger Wilson and their escape through France after Dunkirk, which we featured in Slate’s Goes Viral back in June. This is still available online to download, or get in touch if you would like a paper copy.



CHRISTMAS COLOURING IN PAGE



# A PERSONAL LOG BY E W WYLD ON HER FIRST VISIT TO THE HIGH ARCTIC – PART 3

Sunday 1st April



I woke at 8.00, not a stir from anyone else. I was a little concerned in case Haggis had not woken for his insulin injection so I poked Kelvin to be told, he'll be OK and the hat and head disappeared from view. 8.30 still no movement so I poked Avril to be told, he knows his limitations and will have set his alarm. 9.00 still no response, so I said "Haggis" and an arm came out of the sleeping bag, what a relief. I spoke to Haggis later on and he told me he carried the insulin next to him to prevent freezing and therefore he did not even to get out of bed for his injection. The alarm clock had not been set nevertheless. So back to sleep, we must have been tired, to awake at 12.30. I got up as I went to bed, I'd even slept in my hat. There was ice on the wall behind me and round the top of my bag. We all felt a little stiff and seemed very slow to move, it was  $-26^{\circ}\text{C}$  outside cloudy and very very quiet. It took an hour from Mike getting out of bed to a cup of tea in our hands. The silent burner seemed to be efficient once it was lit, Kelvin had trouble lighting the other stoves, they didn't like the extreme cold.

Haggis and Simon began to pull wood out of the snow and chop some of it for the stove. It was interesting to note that although there were no trees on Spitsbergen there was an abundance of drift wood from old mine workings and from Russia. Also there was wood on our side of the fjord but not the other, Coriolis effect on tides so I am told. I went for a recce to look for the toilet, to find it had been flattened, another job to be done. On return I heard that the others were concerned about the pulling powers of the skidoos and this might mean



we could not go North. Kelvin was to be in charge of the weather station and take readings every hour if we were there. The humidity was 72.5% which surprised me and it was trying to snow.

We decided to have porridge for breakfast, the easy way straight out of a tin but we hadn't bargained for it being frozen solid. So we boiled the tins in a billie and scraped out the contents and proceeded to cook it. Meanwhile Haggis and Si found more billies, work gloves, saws, hammer and nails. The kettle handle had been broken in transit so a repair was done with Milliput (an epoxy putty). 2.00, porridge time, "it was worth having for nothing", cooking time 50-60 minutes from -25°C, it was palatable with a lot of jam which fortunately was not frozen on the top of the tub. We needed 3 tins between the six of us and when you are hungry and cool you appreciate anything. Second course, ham sawn up and fried and lots of toast on Haggis' toaster straight on to the primus, sent down with hot strong tea.

There were lots of jobs to be done: skidoos to be serviced, new shelves to be put up, the door needed mending, wood needed to be fetched from the next bay, and the tea chests needed to be sorted. The sun came out and the view was fantastic, the bright blue of the Tunabreen snout against the white snow on the mountains. At 4.00, it was -27°C and very clear. Two or three skidoos pulling pulkes passed along the fjord. There were no birds to be heard and only the sound of our voices in the crisp cold air.

The stove had been lit but was not pulling very well. It was useful enough to thaw out the ham for tea. We made soup from various mixed packets of cuppa-soup which were quick to cook. We had brought with us many varieties of cold sweets when we really needed hot ones. Cheesecake was easy enough to make and quite palatable. We had a washing up bowl but the plastic was cold and brittle and cracked so we made a new one from a water container. Kelvin noticed what we thought were tears from bear claws in the thick polythene window. We must make the window smaller. Every drop of water had to be melted from snow which we collected in a dustbin bag, choosing our sites very carefully.

Planning meeting: it was decided that we had to base ourselves here as snow conditions, temperatures and the pulling power of the skidoos were not considered favorable to the planned northern trip.

***To be continued in the next edition of Slate News!***

Photos © E.W.Wyld 1990

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# WALKING ALONG THE CYCLE PATH

At the beginning of lockdown in March, I was enjoying walking up over Brecklet & looking down on the village. Then my leg started hurting me and now, since August and under Doctors Orders, my walking is restricted to the cycle track between the Holly Tree & Glenachulish where there is a flat & level surface with gradual undulations & relatively sheltered. Parking at Leitir Mhor I can go in either (or both) directions walking as far as I want depending on weather & how I feel.



The other week on three successive days I saw a seal lying on the small “cormorant” rock (above, without the seal). The first day I wasn’t sure and the second day it was in the same place and position, but it kept lifting up its head then flipper-tail & finally swam off. The third day it was just swimming onto the rock. The next week the tide was high and the rock was just under water, only visible by the waves crashing together as they approached it from each end. The next day the rock disappeared under calm water during my walk, but I saw the seal swimming nearby & watched it for a few minutes as it kept diving, presumably for fish, and then reappearing. Walking along to the big “cormorant” rock towards Glenachulish I again saw a seal (was it the same one?) swimming & diving travelling towards the rock – it swam quicker than I could walk – then went behind the rock so out of sight.

I watch the cormorants on the rock as they take off or land, always standing on the top of the rock looking like a set of spikes. Although the seagulls also sit on the rock, the cormorants always take precedence. Sometimes when they take off they fly so low skimming the water that their wing tips touch the water sending up jets of spray. Once, as the tide was coming in with the wind and causing spray, the cormorants were sitting as usual on the top of the rock when a higher spray hit the top of the rock & all the cormorants flew away – time to leave until the tide was lower again.



Another week I saw an otter for the first time, swimming, catching a fish and eating it, before catching another fish. Then it swam to shore and ate the fish whilst sitting on a rock facing me, then it swam to another rock & rested before swimming off – it was raining. Occasionally a heron is seen perching on the rocks (left).

I find it interesting watching the different levels of water on the rocks, according to the tide. On a longer walk

I can see the difference on my outward walk compared to my return. But there are also things to see along the cycle track itself. I've seen butterflies (Red Admiral & Scotch Argus, right), a variety of different plants & fungi; one day the verge grass and low bushes were adorned with gossamer like cobwebs with the early dew (or maybe rain) glistening in the sunshine like diamonds – I could imagine fairy wings from my childhood stories. The trees & bushes have gradually changed from green to golden brown & their leaves have covered the path with gold; with the last gale winds most of the remaining leaves have blown off leaving clear views to the loch.



## ARGYLL & LOCHABER JOINERS

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Ames Taping  
All Paining & Decorating  
Work Undertaken

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY BALLACHULISH CO-OP



It may only be six and a half years since our new Co-op opened but the 1<sup>st</sup> of December marks 75 years since the Co-op first opened in Ballachulish. As many of our residents will remember, the first store stood opposite Fern Villa, and was home to the Co-op until 1997. This tiny shop had previously been Cochran's the Bakers, and had a bigger store room than shop floor! Nevertheless, there are many happy memories of the old store.



In 1997, the Co-op bought Barrs Stores, previously a Spar store, and moved down the road. This was supposed to be a temporary solution until a new store was built, but ended up being home to the Co-op for seventeen years!



Finally, in February 2014, the new store was opened, offering more space than the two older shops put together. This year in particular, we have all been thankful that the Co-op have continued to invest in our village store, and that we have the bright spacious shop where it is possible to maintain some social distancing. Just imagine trying to shop in one of the older stores with their narrow aisles and cramped tills.

So next time you're in store, remember your Granny's old Divi number and wish the place a happy birthday!





# BUILDINGS OF BALLACHULISH

Throughout September and October, the Slatest News Facebook page was looking at some of the many interesting Buildings of Ballachulish. Don't worry if you have missed them, because we have collated a new book, incorporating many of the fascinating comments added by residents past and present – see the inside back cover for more details.

Here are a few of the memories:

## **Craigleven from Angie Margot Gunn**

*Remember it well, the gate used to squeak and it was like a squeak of doom when you went down the path to the surgery. The waiting room was always cold and dark and was sometimes heated with a single bar electric fire. These were the days when Dr McKenzie had your medical record in his head and could tell you which illness you had had years later, amazing.*



## **Railway Cottages from Stephen Cairns and Iain MacColl**

*When I worked with Chisholms in the seventies the houses were lying empty and one of them was used to store a lot of carpets etc. that came from Jimmy's auction buys in military bases! SC*



*He was a hell of a man for the auctions ....I remember the old man telling me Jimmy bought a wrecked ship blind and then sold it on for salvage rights and made 10 times what he paid....hell of a man. Went to Glasgow car auctions one time to buy a car with him ..when other bidders realised he was bidding it all stopped and we got the car for pennies.....lol IM*

## **Craigellachie from Alisdair Campbell**

*My great grandfather Hugh MacInnes built Craigellachie. He had his butchers shop on one side of the ground floor and the family house was up above. The other side of the ground floor was occupied by the Royal Bank hence the old name Royal Bank Buildings. He also had Laroch Farm (Station House) where my grandfather was born and which is now where the Medical Centre is.*





For more details please contact:  
 Rev Amanda Fairclough  
 Priest in Charge  
 St Mary's Rectory, Glencoe  
 01855 811633

## The Churches of the West Highland Region are **OPEN** for public worship as follows:

### Said Eucharist at 11:00am

15th November at St Paul's, Kinlochleven  
 22nd November at St Paul's, Kinlochleven  
 29th November at St Mary's, Glencoe (Advent Sunday)  
 6th December at St Paul's, Kinlochleven  
 13th December at St Adamnan's, Duror \*  
 20th December at St Mary's, Glencoe  
 27th December at St John's, Ballachulish (Patronal Festival)

### Christmas Services of Said Eucharist

3:00pm Christmas Eve at St Adamnan's, Duror \*  
 6:00pm Christmas Eve at St Mary's, Glencoe  
 11:00am Christmas Day at St Paul's, Kinlochleven

### Online Services via Zoom (see Facebook @WHRSEC)

5:00pm Sunday 29th November - Advent Carol Service  
 5:00pm Sunday 20th December - Christmas Carol Service

\* Due to Covid-19 restrictions, capacity at all services is limited but particularly so at St Adamnan's.  
 Please email [a.fairclough@amandafairclough.co.uk](mailto:a.fairclough@amandafairclough.co.uk) to reserve a place at these services.



## Ballachulish Visitor Centre



Best  
 Coffee  
 In  
 Ballachulish

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 Gallery

Hearty Food

Homemade  
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Great Coffee

Vouchers



## Celebrate Christmas at the TIC



Winter Opening Hours 10am - 4pm seven days

Tel: 01855 811866

# THE RANKINE FAMILY OF TIGH PHUIRT

I was interested in the recent article in The Oban Times about the Craft Shop and Restaurant at Tigh Phuirst, Glencoe called Crafts & Things.

The Cooper family have run an excellent business for the past 50 years catering to the citizens of the latter part of the 20th century, and now the 21st century.

“Tigh Phuirst” means “House at the Port” and there was a pier opposite the house.

The premises, comprising house, croft and steading were run for over 100 years by the Rankine family as slaughtery, butchery and village shop, which was situated in the front rooms of the house. It was, like today, a hive of industry and activity.

Of the last generation of Rankines i.e. three girls and one boy, only Marjory married. She settled in Oban and my late husband, Robin Banks, was their grand-son.

Robin, living in Oban, frequently went by train to stay with the Aunts and Uncle in the Thirties and Forties. In the shop he hardly heard a word of English except for “margarine” and “an ounce of bogey roll”. He remembered hams hanging by hooks on the rafters and boxes of mens’ black tackety boots. The shop literally sold everything and they were “open all hours”. The family nickname was the “Poondens”, probably because everything was sold in pounds and ounces. Aunt Teenie, the only one I knew, died in 1963, aged 93, and subsequently the property was sold to the Cooper family.

Towards the end of 19th century, the famous American evangelists, Sankey and Moodie, held a religious rally at Ballachulish. They were the forerunners of Billy Graham.

Teenie and her sister Mary attended the rally, were converted, left their established church, and joined the “Faith Mission”.

Teenie used to talk about a neighbour, John Cameron, who, sitting at her fireside, composed a poem called “Chi mi na Mor-bheanna” – “The Mist Covered Mountains”, which is a much-loved Gaelic song frequently sung today.

It is a great joy to me knowing that there is still life in the old house although it has changed so dramatically.

*by Ishbel Banks, Oban - 20-9-20*



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





## CHRISTMAS IN BALLACHULISH

To help bring some festive cheer to Ballachulish this winter, we are asking everyone who can to decorate your homes for Christmas, whether with lights, or just a window display. Many of you already have lights up, for which we thank you.

The facebook pages of both Slatest News and the Resilience team will be featuring advent calendars, so please look out for them, and find out what a hedgehog has to do with the nativity! Maybe you would like to share your own advent calendars or nativity scenes, either by posting on facebook, or displaying in your own windows.

Finally, we are looking at running a Secret Santa for the village, look out for more information nearer Christmas.



# Lochside Garage

BALLACHULISH

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**Tyres**

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West Quarry Ballachulish  
lochsidegarage@btconnect.com  
01855 811880



[ballachulishtyres.co.uk](http://ballachulishtyres.co.uk)

## tools & tackle

... & the great outdoors



**Get ready for Winter**

Logs, Salt, Shovels,  
Sledges, Christmas Lights



**Winter Opening Hours**

Open 10am - 4pm Mon - Sat  
Closed Sundays

**Ballachulish, 01855 811111**



# TAKE YOUR PARTNERS

Here we are, Saturday night, time to Take the Floor with Marian Anderson and her band. The programme was recorded on 24th June 2017 and, as I listened to the familiar dance tunes, Roxburgh Castle, Best Set In The Hall, Orchards of Armagh etc, I realised just how much I am missing the Scottish Country dancing. One thought I had is that, perhaps twice each week, we should all be enjoying a warm up routine. The bending, stretching and pointing, together with an occasional skip change of step and a few “paddy bas” will ensure we are all ‘good to go’ when classes resume.

Let us all look forward to the restrictions being lifted, classes starting again and meeting up with fellow dancers. It cannot come soon enough. Stay safe.

## MORE LITTER IN BALLACHULISH.

One of our local residents recently collected this litter and broken glass from underneath the underpass. As it was green glass it was hidden in the leaves therefore blending in and as it was against the wall of the underpass there was always the risk that dogs would get it in their paws whilst doing their usual ‘leg up’.

Whilst there they met a number of dog walkers so alerted them, one mentioned that a couple of days previously she had filled a whole bag of rubbish in the quarry round about the Cro’!!

We have a number of our neighbours who spend an hour or more a week collecting litter like this round the village, which they really shouldn’t have to do. Can we all please use the litter bins, or take the rubbish home. Our village was looking fabulous in lockdown, it would be a shame for all that hard work to be wasted.



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# SLATEST BOOKS

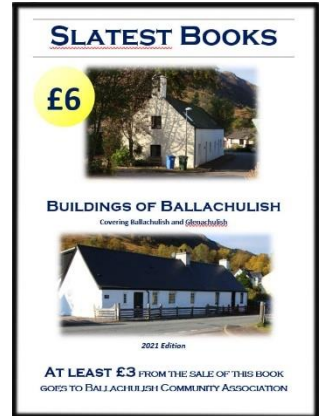
We are pleased to announce the launch of Slatest Books, where all of the profits from the sale of the books will now go to Ballachulish Community Association SCIO. The money will be used to maintain the hall, support Slatest News, and assist with the ongoing resilience project, amongst other community projects.

Four titles will be available for Christmas, three fully revised and one brand new, with others due in the spring. The first four titles are:

- Ballachulish Timeline – revised and updated to 2020
- Exploring the Ballachulish – Connel Railway – fully revised
- Ferries of Lochaber and North Lorne – revised
- Buildings of Ballachulish – \*new\*

The last title is the new one, and has been created with help from our facebook readers who contributed much of the fascinating history of some of our village's most interesting buildings.

If you would like to purchase any of the above, they can be ordered with the slip below, returned to the Black Letterbox at the village hall. If you don't live in the village, they will be available on Ebay – please see the facebook page for details.



**Launch Offer**  
**only £5**  
**each**

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Please can I order the following books, I enclose £5 per book ordered. Please make cheques payable to Ballachulish Community Association.

- ☐ Ballachulish Timeline
- ☐ Exploring the Ballachulish – Connel Railway
- ☐ Ferries of Lochaber and North Lorne
- ☐ Buildings of Ballachulish



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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All books ordered for local delivery before 20<sup>th</sup> December will be delivered by Christmas Eve.

# 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: Michael Chisholm, Shirley Grant (Vice-Chair), Alisdair Jack (Treasurer), Dave Kitson (Secretary), Rob Malpas, Anthony McKenna, Kevin Smith (Chair)

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

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

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

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

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**(Ask for Rob)**

We will be closing  
on 13th December  
and reopen on  
29th January  
Happy Christmas!



# QUARRIER'S

• *Kitchen* •

*Fish and Chips*



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*There are a few events organized for Christmas, which will hopefully be able to go ahead:*

## December

**6<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Market outside Village Hall 1.30-4pm (weather permitting)

**TBC** Drive in Christmas Carols

**25<sup>th</sup>** Happy Christmas!  
Christmas Church services are detailed inside.

**31<sup>st</sup>** Lantern evening – details tbc

## January

**1<sup>st</sup>** Happy New Year!



## 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.

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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 (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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