# SLATEST NEWS

Your free community newsletter produced by Ballachulish Community Forum

#### Edition 12 – Christmas 2018





Lochaber Showstoppers present Beauty and the Beast from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December See inside for more details

## WELCOME!

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

Slatest belongs to the community, and needs your support to continue being a success, the deadline for the next edition is **14<sup>th</sup> January 2019** with deliveries by the end of January, so please get in touch if you have any events or ideas!

# Ballachulísh Chrístmas Líghts Competítíon

In order to help raise money for Christmas Lights around the village, we are holding a Christmas Lights Competition this year.

To enter your house / garden, simply fill in the form below and drop into the black letterbox at the village hall, along with your £5 entry fee before Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December. We will then be asking the Scouts to choose their favourite houses in the week before Christmas, with the overall winner getting a £30 prize.

#### **Ballachulish Christmas lights competition**

Name

#### House

Please include £5 entry fee and deliver to black letterbox at village hall by 11<sup>th</sup> December

## NEWS FROM ST MUNDA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

We're close to entering the season of Advent in the run-up to Christmas. This tends to be a busy time for many people, for schools and for churches. Advent is important for Christians and the Christmas season is an emotive time for many with hopes of joy and peace often counterbalanced by stress and sometimes thoughts of loss or of what might have been. We have a variety of Services which try to reflect and allow time for these different feelings and everyone is always welcome to everything we do. The churches are open for private prayer or meditation and there will be some Advent themed prayer space material which you might like to use to guide your thoughts.



We had a hugely successful WW1 Commemoration Evening with a lovely meal followed by a moving tribute in sketch, songs, readings and community singing all conducted in a wonderfully decorated hall. A lot of hard work went into the preparation of this and people were encouraged to dress appropriately for the period. The attached pictures perhaps help to give a sense of the occasion.

It's been a busy year of worship, social activities, community involvement and charity work and we

look forward to doing more next year. I'll always be very happy to receive requests to visit anyone at home or in hospital (01631 740285).

We're looking forward to welcoming anyone and everyone to the 'Community Carols' evening at 7.00 pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December in Ballachulish Hall.

Thanks for all the support we receive and best wishes, Rev Sandy Stoddart

- 17 December 'Community Carols' Ballachulish Village Hall, 7.00 pm, refreshments
- 20 December 'Blue Christmas' Service, 7.30 pm, Duror Church
- 23 December Family Christmas Service, 11.30 am, St Munda's
- 23 December Abbeyfield Carol Service 3.00 pm
- 24 December Watchnight 11.30 pm, Duror Church
- Christmas Day Short Family Service, 10.30 am, St Munda's







## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST THE PANTO!

I do not know if you have heard, but panto time draws near. Lochaber Showstoppers are hard at work with plenty of holiday cheer. They say there is a beauty, I think her name is Belle but then again there is a Beast, with a fairy tale to tell. Some singing and some dancing too, with costumes wigs and more, before you even know it you will be shouting out for more.

Please come along and see us, we really wish you would. It's time to boo the baddies and cheer loudly for the good. By the time that we are finished you'll be in the Christmas mood.

Tickets available from Ballachulish Tourist Information Centre.

#### Ballachullish Village Hall – this December

- Thursday 20th 7pm Doors open 7.30pm Curtain up.
- Friday 21st 7pm Doors open 7.30pm Curtain up and
- Saturday 22nd 2pm Matinee and 7pm Door open 7.30pm Curtain up.

There are more Christmas events detailed throughout this edition of Slatest, highlighted by a picture of Santa!





## 1PM-3PM



COME ALONG AND HAVE A GREAT TIME WITH MADDIE, LOTS OF GAMES, MUSIC & PRIZES!

& The Beast THER **20th**, 2 1508 22nd DECEMBER 2018 Village Hall Ballachulish. Door s pn

SHOWSTOPPERS

£30 Family of 4 / £10 Adult / £6 Concession Tickets available from TIC from 19th November

## BALLACHULISH MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP Pulling together for health

Ballachchulish Patient Participation Group has been set up as a voice for patients to help them give constructive feedback to the GP practice at Ballachulish Medical Centre on developing and improving services.

It can advise the practice on what matters most to patients and work with practice staff to identify solutions to any problems that exist.

The PPG was formed in 2013. Our aim is to help information flow both ways between Ballachulish medical practice and the community.

How to contact the PPG

- Place a note in the suggestion box in the entrance to the Medical Practice.
- Email us at: balla.PPG.sec@gmail.com

We produce frequent Newsletters with many, varied short articles and information. The Newsletters are free and can be found in the Doctor's surgery, the Co-op notice board, Post-office counter (in the Co-op) and in the shop in Glencoe.

#### Message in a Bottle

This is a method of informing others of medication you take if you should be

unable to communicate through sudden illness. Details of your medicines are written down and placed in a small bottle which you keep in your fridge. Personal information such as illnesses, next of kin, etc, can also be included. As nearly every household has a fridge, friends and relatives would know where to look for information on your medication and be able to source it for you.

Should emergency services such as an ambulance crew or nurses need to attend you, they know to look for the stickers and can see what medication you are using. The bottle system has been trialled in the area and has given reassurance to those using it, especially those living alone.

If you would like to use the Message in a Bottle service, please ask at reception as we now have lots of bottles in stock. This service is free.







## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

There is a lot going on as we approach Christmas. We've already had the Christmas Market, and we have the following events still to come:

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Kids Christmas Party Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Community Carols

Nonday 17<sup>th</sup> Community Carois

20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Lochaber Showstoppers Panto

And for New Year there is the annual Lantern Parade:

## Lantern Parade

The Village Lantern Parade will once again be taking place at 8pm on New Years Eve, with the hall open from 10-4 during  $29^{th}$ ,  $30^{th}$  and  $31^{st}$  December for making the lanterns.





We will be serving Mulled Wine, Cocoa, Mince Pies and nibbles in the hall after the parade.

## Christmas Market

Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Christmas Market, and especially Jo Watt who co-ordinated it all.

Donations from this year's Christmas Market will go to the Royal British Legion who attended on the day to mark 100 years since the end of World War One.

In memory of the late Sandra Cameron who



with Kathleen was a regular and hugely popular attender of the Christmas Market, the baking table will now be known as the 'Toodles' Table. We would like to acknowledge also the delicious donations of baking that the late Diane Robertson has done for the hall over the years in particular her lemon shortbread. Huge losses to our community. The 'Toodles' table will be hosted this year by Berit MacIntosh who was a regular attender at Nether Lochaber, and a friend of Sandra's. She provided quiches, sausage rolls, jams and lots of baking.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to Santa and his elves who yet again found time in their busy schedules to visit us in Ballachulish!



## 4<sup>th</sup> Lochaber Scout Group

Beavers 6-8 years, 5.30-6.30pm Cubs 8-10½ years, 6.45-7.45pm Scouts 10-14 years, 8-9.15pm All groups meet at Ballachulish Village Hall

# THANK YOU

Yes, that's a huge Thank You from the Scouts to everyone who has supported us through the Co-op Community Membership scheme. Over the last year, you have raised over £2500 for us to take the Scouts to the Scouts National Activity Centre at Lochgoilhead. We last visited about 5 years ago, and it is a very rewarding experience for the Scouts with a range of activities both on site and on the loch, as well as the opportunity to mix with other Scout groups from across Scotland.

In other news, we have been enjoying a wide ranging program across all three



sections since the summer, with a mix of indoor and outdoor activities. The Beavers and Cubs enjoyed the traditional Halloween Party, while the Scouts went for a walk in the spooky forest.

Our Scout group has now been running for 6 years, and we would like to thank all of the leaders who have helped over those years. We have averaged around 50-60 kids between the three sections and most of our Scouts started in Beavers – some were too young to join back in 2012! So far 5 Scouts have achieved the Scout Gold Award, with another one nearly there.



## SOUTH LOCHABER BOWMEN

Archery Club at the Leven Centre, Kinlochleven Come and give Archery a try; All abilities welcome Otters (5-7yrs) Cubs (8-12yrs) Juniors (13-17 yrs) Monday evenings 6-8pm £2.50 per session Adults 18 and over Tuesday evenings 7:00-9:30pm - £4 per session - All equipment supplied



Archery sessions are run by qualified coaches in both Field and Target Archery. You can also find us on facebook: www.facebook.com/SLBowmen.

## Merry Christmas and all the best to everyone for the New Year

#### **New Fees**

South Lochaber Bowmen Archery club is being faced with increased Leven Centre, Kinlochleven, Hall hire charges. It is with regret that we have had to pass this increase onto our Members /

participants, so we can continue to provide this much enjoyed activity to the community. The club has not had an increase in fees for 8 years.

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

Juniors, Monday session charge is £2.50 Seniors, Tuesday club session charge is £4.00 (plus donation for the tea trolley)

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

There is a choice of payment:

- 1) to pay each week
- 2) to pay each month (in advance)

3) If you wish to pay an annual amount (in advance) this may be paid by bank transfer

(for Bank details please contact club Treasurer Keiron Thomson).



There are few more impressive sights in the world than a Scotsman on the make. *JM Barrie*  Dreich the day: The craws cannae fash thirsels croupin Dull today: The crows can't be bothered to Caw Scots Haiku – Bruce Leeming

## **RAINBOW BABY & TODDLER GROUP**

We have been busy having fun this autumn. We had a visit from the Police, who brought a van for us to see, a trip to the Sea Life sanctuary in Oban before it shut, a ceilidh with accordionist Kirsten MacLeod, a Halloween party and some Bookbug singing sessions. We raised over £50 with a guess the name of the seal competition - thanks to everyone who took part. Our Christmas party will be on Thursday 13th Dec. We welcome new members and would be very happy to see grannies and grandads who are looking after wee





ones. For more info contact Meg on 811485 or Alice on 07709 100 618.

## 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

registered charity SC006241

## CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING

Christmas is not just a time for friends and family, it is also a time for compassion to all men, women and children. Whilst you are enjoying yourselves over the festive season, spare a thought for those less fortunate, and if you can afford to why not spare more than a thought. There are many local charities who are always looking for help, and never more so than at Christmas.

ReAct has joined in with 'The Highlands Support Refugees' and St



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Munda's Church continues to support this charity both by being a collection point and providing volunteers to transport and sort donations.

Through the year the church has also supported 'Mary's Meals' and Water Aid and the local Food Bank and will continue to do so. A Christmas Quiz sheet raise funds in aid of Water Aid; and is available from the TiC.



Smalls for Al

# SHOW US YOUR KNICKERS

Thanks to everyone who has donated to "Smalls for All" at Ballachulish Medical Practice. The response has been absolutely amazing, the PPG are totally filled with gratitude.

Collecting and delivering to Livingston (thanks Dad for driving x) has been an overwhelming experience. Especially meeting Maria .

Just a reminder of what is actually required & accepted.

No doubt whilst Christmas shopping, some folks will remember those in need in Africa...

- Brand New pants for boys & girls aged 3-15
- Brand New pants for woman UK size 8 -16 (both in sealed packets)
- New or gently worn Bras

Unfortunately, Pants not sealed in shop bought packets, ladies tights and men's boxer shorts cannot be forwarded. However, they will be recycled at Ballachulish Primary School clothing bank.

Thank you again for all your continued support.Hope you all have a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous 2019,Frances

## SUMMING UP THE SEASON AT GLENCOE MUSEUM

It has been a great, busy season at Glencoe Folk Museum. We welcomed nearly 6000 visitors from all over the world, including descendants of the MacDonalds of Glencoe who had travelled from places like Canada, New Zealand and Australia to trace their Scottish roots. We also had visits from the local Beavers and Cub groups, Lochaber Action and the Clan Gregor Society all the way from the United States.

We were so grateful to Mick Tighe of the Scottish Mountain Heritage Collection for loaning us a number of objects – including ice axes and a mountain rescue stretcher - for our 2018 temporary exhibition 'Mind in the Mountains'. At the end of the loan period, he was generous enough to donate some of these items to the museum, and they have now been accessioned into our permanent collections.

We held a number of fun, family activities throughout the season, bookended by our annual Easter and Halloween events. We took part in festivals both local and national: commemorating the centenary of the end of the Great War with our Festival of Museums event, "War in the Glen", and creating beautiful "thatchcharms" and soap-carving the Ballachulish



goddess as part of the Highland Archaeology Festival.

We watched our fabulous volunteer, Jimmy Cormack, interviewed on the television not once but twice – firstly on Mach a Seo! for BBC Alba, a young person's travel guide which highlighted the museum as a place to visit in Glencoe, and secondly on Paul Murton's Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs, where Jimmy discussed the mystery of the Ballachulish Goddess.

A definite highlight of the year for us was the conservation of one of our most significant items, a Stuart Chair, which was carried out by Younger Conservation. This 17<sup>th</sup> Century chair reputedly belonged to Prince Charles Edward Stuart himself, and was gifted to the museum by the Clan Donald Society. We were thrilled to receive a Remedial Conservation Grant from the Association of Independent Museums/Pilgrim Trust to carry out this vital work, and are so pleased with the results. We can't wait to get it back on display next season so that this wonderful piece of history can be experienced by all.

Next season promises to be even busier, now that the Scottish Highlands and Islands have been named by Lonely Planet as one of the Top Ten regions to visit in 2019. In the meantime, you can keep up to date with our plans and progress via our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

From all of us at Glencoe Folk Museum, thank you so much for your support, and have a wonderful Christmas and Hogmanay. See you in 2019! *Catriona Davidson* 

## A YEAR IN THE LIFE - 1992

Some of you will remember nearly 30 years ago that the community undertook a year in the life photographic project detailing life in and around Ballachulish. For a number of years it was feared that all but a handful of these photos had been lost, but the albums have recently been found and are now back in the possession of Ballachulish Community Association. We are extremely grateful to the person who found them, not just for returning them to the community but also for, perhaps unknowingly, keeping them safe over the last few years.

The Community Association are hoping to find some time to look through the albums, digitise as many of the photos as possible, and hopefully hold an exhibition in the village hall at some point next year to let everyone see the images again. If you would like to help in this process in any way, please contact either Rob Malpas rileyrob@btinternet.com or Marjie Thornton greasort@btinternet.com.

Above: Gala Day in 1992? Do you recognise these girls?







Above: Hughie Christie, Kenny MacMillan and Archie Whyte

*Left: Opening the new surgery in 1992.* 

## COMMUNITY COMPANY NEWS - Xmas 2018

#### Achievements and performance

The Company continued in its role to search and review any opportunities for community development in the local area.

The group focused their main attention on progressing the business of

electricity generation in relation to two potential hydro schemes in the area. In the course of the year they met regularly as a Board to focus on realising:

- The feasibility of the Community taking over the GHR proposed Hydro Scheme at Abhainn Greadhain, Glenachulish
- The winding down of the community company scheme on the River Laroch
- Community Asset transfer of the Quarry
- Restoration of the Boat sheds at Ballachulish Pier.

In regard to the River Laroch Hydro project it proved impossible to come up with a financially viable scheme and accordingly the Board has submitted the appropriate correspondence required for the process of winding down the outstanding loan with the Scottish Government.

The Glenachulish Scheme officially known as Abhainn Greadhain Hydro Scheme being progressed by Green Highland Renewables has reached full planning stage and we have entered discussions, after being approached by them, with regards to the community potentially taking their place. Initial discussions and enquiries have started to look at the feasibility and financing assisted by Local Energy Scotland. Site meetings with the Forestry took place and enquiries with Scottish Water as to the possibility of obtaining their assets and pen-stock to incorporate into a new scheme have been started. We will be consulting with the members and the community when we have some concrete feasibility figures as to their wishes.

The Company have continued correspondence with Scottish Water re the possible Community Asset Transfer of their unused buildings and land in Brecklet Forest. To date no progress has been made on this.

The Company in liaison with the Ballachulish Community Association SCIO, and the Ballachulish Community Council have been involved in a project to obtain funding to survey the Boat sheds at the Isles of Glencoe Hotel with a view to restoration. The first tranche of grant funding topped up

by the Community Council and BCA has been obtained and the surveys completed. A Draft Business Plan has been produced and funding will be sought.

The Company has also been involved with the Ballachulish Community Council re obtaining a Public Entertainment Licence for the Quarry which is now needed due to new legislation for Fireworks Displays and other events to take place. It was concluded that due to resourcing and financing this would not be of benefit to the community at this time. Alongside this we have been party to discussions on the





possibility of a Community Asset Transfer of the Quarry. Sheila McLean one of our long-standing directors retired during this year I would like to express our thanks to her and wish her well on behalf of the Company and the Community.

Finally on Behalf of the Board and members can I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Guid New Year Jimmy Waugh

## BALLACHULISH CAMANACHD

Another season over with the club starting poorly but finishing the season well under the management of Lorne Brown & Morgan Smith – Lorne is standing down from team management to concentrate on playing again next year, Morgan will be carrying on. The team is now performing well and has a good squad of young players which undoubtedly augurs well for next season.



FIES

& the great outdoors

The club has just had its AGM and will likely be looking for new committee members if anyone is interested. Both Shirley Grant (secretary) & Mary MacDonald (treasurer) have indicated that they wish to stand down so we are looking for suitable candidates to fill these positions. Additionally the club chairman, Iain Brown is looking to step back a bit as he can't get involved

in summer shinty for business reasons. The club is in a good position financially and operationally so it's a good time for new members to get involved.

Obviously having written this before the club AGM we can't give you any update on what happens at the meeting but will update everything on the club facebook page.

The club would like to place on record their appreciation for all the after-match catering by Annette & Jim at the Holly Tree, it's been excellent. The club would also like to thank all the various outlets for selling the club lottery tickets and also to the community for buying them – this is technically the only major income source the club has now.

We will be offering some advertising space around the park for next season, if anyone out there is interested have a chat with any of the committee.



**Christmas Lights** 

DOISO

## ABBEYFIELD UPDATE

Now that the reports have been finalised, I would like to say a huge congratulations to the staffing team on grading the highest grades achievable, 6-excellent, across the board again in the latest Care Inspection. Not only did we grade 6 in the care home, our Day Care services were inspected and also graded 6 in all areas.



I could not think of a more deserving team of staff who work tirelessly to ensure that all our clients continue to live happily in their home. I am proud to be part of that team and thank each and every one of you for making Abbeyfield Ballachulish "home from home". Thank you also for all of the support we receive from the community.

Louise Duffy.

#### Lochaber Community Car Scheme

The Car Scheme is available for those who have a problem with transport when going to visit friends, shops, doctors, or indeed anywhere else locally. Local drivers are available to take you anywhere in Lochaber, from Home to Home. Phone 01397 701222 or e-mail carscheme@carelochaber.org to find out more. There is a small charge for this service.

Care Lochaber





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## TAKE YOUR PARTNERS

During the past few months dancers have attended Annual Dances, Day Schools and various social dancing functions. Local venues include Appin, Kilmallie, Lismore, North Connel and Oban. The Ballachulish & Onich Dancers hosted their Annual Dance during March. The music, provided by Marian Anderson and her Band, was excellent and the evening was very successful.

Local dancers are invited to our Christmas Party night, and, during the year, we arrange a fun night.

Last year the theme was the 'Fabulous Fifties'. The hall was decorated 50s style, appropriate dances chosen, 50s food and of course 50s fancy dress, as seen in the photo.

Scottish Country Dancing, it is said, should be a pleasurable social activity, it certainly is in Ballachulish!



## HALLOWEEN PARTY

A couple of photos from this years Halloween Party at the village hall. Thanks to the hard Working mums and dads who organised it all!







## 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.balla-hall.co.uk

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

#### **Community Company: on Facebook**

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

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



## REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

## Please note some activities do not meet during school holidays. **Monday**

- 10am Step it Up Walking Group meet at TiC 🕺 🕺
- After school primary football Jubilee Park
- 7pm Highland Hustle at School
- 8-10pm Scottish / Country Dancing at Village Hall

#### Tuesday

- 9.30-11.30am Playgroup at Village Hall
- 6-8pm Junior Shinty Training at Village Hall / Jubilee

#### Wednesday

- 6.30-7.15pm Zumba at Village Hall
- 7.15-9pm Youth Club at Village Hall

#### Thursday

- 9.30-11.30am Playgroup at Village Hall
- 10.30-1pm Knit & Knatter, Coffee & Crochet at TiC
- 5.30-9.15pm BEAVERS\* CUBS & SCOUTS\* 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

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

#### **RBS Mobile Bank**

**Tuesdays** 10:45-11:15 Abbeyfield 11:30-12:30 V Hall

Fridays 10:30-12:00 V Hall



#### Mobile Library

**Thurs 6/12** 12:40-12:55 Square 13:00-13:10 Lochside Cottages

#### Wed 12/12

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



## **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

#### December

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Council Meeting, 7pm at shinty pavilion
- 6<sup>th</sup> Christmas Fayre at Primary School 7-9pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> Kids Christmas Party at Village Hall, 1-3pm Free
- 17<sup>th</sup> Community Carols at Village Hall 7pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> School Christmas show at primary school

20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Panto at Village Hall

- 21<sup>st</sup> End of School term
- 24<sup>th</sup> Watchnight Service at Duror Church, 11:30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Merry Christmas everyone! Christmas family service at St Mundas 10:30am
- 31<sup>st</sup> Lantern Parade

#### January

- 1<sup>st</sup> Happy New Year to you all!
- 6<sup>th</sup> Schools go back





#### 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

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