



**Balloch Community Council would like to thank
NEXFOR for sponsoring this edition of the
Balloch Community Newsletter.**

EDITORIAL

Many issues have involved the Balloch Community Council over the last 9 months. The Bowling Club has been granted outline planning permission. I believe this will provide extra facilities for the village. The Community Councillors have been actively involved in studying and commenting on the deposit local plan, and commenting where appropriate on planning requests. Three Councillors attended a one-day awareness forum on planning issues to familiarise themselves with the process within the Highland Council Planning Department. Also we, along with other Community Councils, continue to be involved in regular meetings with Nexfor. This is a valuable opportunity to represent any concerns the community might have and to be briefed on operations within the factory.

For the future, we are very keen to establish better facilities for the young people in the village and to that end we will be working with the Youth Development Worker based in the Smithton/Culloden Youth Centre. First steps will be to consult with our young people. Additionally, at the invitation of the Primary School Board, we will be cooperating with the implementation of the Travel Plan as part of Safer Routes to School. This will include looking at the existing traffic calming measures and, if necessary, seek to enhance them where practicable.

Ian Thompson has created a website for the Community Council, which will help to broaden the way we communicate with the Community. I hope to see it develop to compliment the Newsletter so eventually other organisations and individuals can use it to inform the wider Community.

Len Phillips will retire from the Community Council at the elections (which by the time you read this will have happened). I won't embarrass him by listing all he has done; it is sufficient to say that his contribution has been very significant and worthy of public acknowledgment.

On behalf of all the Community Councillors I would like to thank you for your support and hope you all have a really good Christmas.

Ian Williams
Chairman

BALLOCH OVER 60'S CLUB

The club goes from strength to strength and has just started it's new season with an outing to Spean Bridge, then back to Tomatin via Laggan – Monarch of the Glen country. A High Tea at the Tomatin Inn went down well after a most enjoyable afternoon in the Scottish Highlands.

Our main objective in running the club is to enjoy the friendship that exists in the community, and to spend a few hours either listening to visiting speakers or participating in the various functions that are held.

Several of our new members have read the Balloch Newsletter and have then come along to join us. Why not do the same? We meet fortnightly during the season September to May on a Wednesday, the next one being on 19th November, starting at 2.30pm

Membership is only £2.00 per annum with a small charge for a cuppa and biscuit after the talk. Our next event is our Christmas Luncheon at the Cawdor Tavern followed in January by the Burns Luncheon. You will be most welcome to join our club and to meet old and new friends. We meet in the Village Community Hall. Come along and meet us.

Frank Nunn, Secretary.

Working from home?

Want to explore new business opportunities?

If you are interested in getting together with others living locally for a coffee, chat and the chance to network, then please contact:

Frances Forsyth - 01463 791043

or

Susan Williams - 01463 790282

POLICE REPORT

It has been generally quiet in Balloch, although the odd problem has arisen now and again. If you see any offence or problem occur, please report the matter to the police **at the time** in order that officers can trace/identify offenders as soon as possible. Please do not be afraid to contact me if you have any qualms or queries. The phone number for Culloden Police Station is 794550.

Norman Kinnaird,

Community Constable, Culloden Police Station.



Interested in Curling?

Dalcross is your local curling club based around Balloch.

We welcome new members (including new beginners).

For more information please call:

Ronnie Baird: 792196

Michael Hulse: 790030

Ian Thomson: 790969

Councillors Report

I expect most households are now making preparation for Christmas & the New Year particularly those with young children who will be getting more excited by the day.

The last few months have been quite hectic with the new Highland Council settling and in many cases picking up where we had left off with various matters. Such as the resolution of flooding and drainage issues which many residents of the Balloch Ward suffered in the past year. A lot of work has been done by the Highland Council TEC Services, Forestry Enterprise and others, to alleviate the situation.

A great deal more is required to provide flood defences to ensure that we in the Balloch Culloden area do not suffer similar problems in future. This the Highland Council are working on, to produce a Flood Defensive scheme to forward to the Scottish Executive for funding approval and to implement as early as possible. With a further public preview of proposals to be held in the Culloden Library at a date yet to be confirmed, and as a follow up to the display held in Culloden Academy in September

Balloch Primary School playing field has had remedial health and safety works done over the summer, including fence repairs. Further improvements such as an all weather surface would enhance the playing field as a facility for both the school and the community, but this would require fund raising efforts by both school and community bodies to whom I will give every assistance.

Road Safety continues to be an issue particularly Culloden Road, and the Balloch School Board, Community Council and I have discussed various options with Safer Routes to school personnel and the Council TEC services with a view to implementation of a number of those over a period.

As many of you may know I have been on a Trade Mission and fact finding trip to China, from which my Council colleagues and I learnt a great deal, and hopefully can put some of those lessons learnt into practice for the benefit of our constituents

Regards



Cllr. Bob Wynd

Councillor Robert Wynd M.C.M.I., M.Inst., T.A.
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Balloch Social & Outdoor **Bowling Club**

Update 15th October 2003

Project & Planning

Outline planning permission gained in July, which enables us to apply for the funding we require to complete the project.

A Fundraising Consultant has been engaged, following advice from Inverness & Nairn Enterprise, to apply for relevant funding on our behalf. We anticipate it will take 12 months to get funding in place and a further 12 months to obtain detailed planning permission and build.

Village Fete

The Village Fete was very successful and was really well supported. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way and a big thanks to those who attended and helped us to raise almost £2400. This was in addition to the funds raised by some of the other groups who participated. It is a pity that the rain came but everyone appeared to have a good time. Next years date has been set for Saturday 28th August 2004

Funds

Thanks to everyone's efforts we now have just over £40,000, which is almost a third of the way towards our target of £125,000, which represents 25% of the total anticipated project cost of £500,000.

Membership Conversion

We have started the full conversion of membership into the company and would welcome new members. Please contact John MacLennan, 5 Moray Drive, Balloch, (01463) 790247 to obtain an application form or alternately download one from our website.

Fundraising

A new fundraising initiative has commenced as we have distributed Yellow Moon Christmas Catalogues to houses in Balloch. Christmas Gifts and Stocking Fillers ordered from this source make a commission for the club and will hopefully swell our funds considerably.

Social Events

Social Events for your diary – all held in the village hall.

Please try to support these, as they are generally very good. We would like each of them to be sell-outs and although we normally like to sell tickets in advance we would welcome anyone who wished to attend and purchase their ticket at the door. If you are new to the village it is a good way to meet people and make new friends.

Saturday 6th December	8.00pm – late	Christmas Dance
Wednesday 31st December	8.00pm –	Hogmanay Party
Saturday 17th January		Quiz Night



Contact the Elderly

Can you please help CONTACT THE ELDERLY?

Loneliness is not an illness but it can cause a lot of pain.

Across Scotland since 1971 one Sunday afternoon a month, Contact friends have been providing companionship in a simple and informal way for older people who live on their own.

Small groups of volunteers with cars collect the same older members and take them to a private house where they all have a chance to chat over tea. They visit a different house each month, so that there is a variety of outings, but the group remains the same, so that over the months friendships develop,

If you are free JUST ONE SUNDAY AFTERNOON A YEAR and have ground floor facilities and a large teapot, could you please invite an Inverness group to tea. **OR**

If you have a car and are free JUST ONE SUNDAY AFTERNOON A MONTH would you be willing to join a group as driver, so that more lonely people can once again spend a few hours each month with friends who care.

There are thousands of pensioners living alone in the Highlands many of whom would like to be part of a Contact the Elderly Group but cannot because we have a shortage of hosts and drivers. The numbers of older people, living alone and living longer, are ever increasing.

WE NEED DRIVERS AND HOSTS - PLEASE COULD YOU HELP?

For further details please contact the Development Officer Alan Michael, 28 Culloden Road, Balloch, Inverness 1V2 7HQ or telephone 01463-790410

CULLODEN PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

The Patient Participation Group at the Practice of Drs MacVicar, Macleod, Snow & Ennis continues to build upon its experiences shared with the other groups in the area. Following the launch of its "Smoking Cessation Project" the group undertook to compile a comprehensive questionnaire which was distributed to a random selection of patients for their comments.

The returns from this questionnaire were in excess of 75% and the results are being discussed at the meeting on November 20th at the surgery.

We have a new Chairperson in Jane who is carrying on the work already in progress. The meetings are open to any patient of the practice and notices are displayed at the Reception giving details and times. It's a group that talks with the medical profession and works to a greater understanding between all parties.

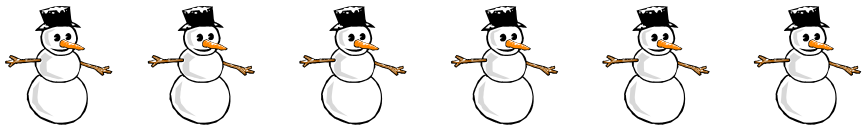
If you would like to come along you would be made very welcome.

Frank Nunn, Vice Chairman.



**LIMITED NUMBER OF
COMPOST BINS COULD
BE AVAILABLE
SOON.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT
BALLOCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL SECRETARY
MIKE CREW ON 793492.**



Balloch Parent and Teacher Association
Christmas CD/Cassette Fundraiser

Christmas has come early at Balloch Primary!

All pupils have been working hard at rehearsals for the production of a CD/Cassette containing many traditional Christmas carols and extra special songs.

We have secured the services of a highly professional recording studio and it is anticipated that the finished product will be due for release in early November.

Balloch Stores have kindly agreed to stock supplies of our CD's and cassettes to enable all members of the community to be able to purchase copies.

Costs will be £10 for the CD with a generous discount for bulk purchases - £16 for 2 with 3 or more at £7 each. Cassettes are £7 each with 2 for £12 and 3 or more at £5 each.

Copies will also be available for sale at the School Christmas Concert in December.

Should you be unable to secure a copy as it is anticipated that it will be one of the year's "must haves", please contact Lesley Newton on 793198 and we will do our best to fulfil your order.

We hope you will enjoy listening to this seasonal memento of Balloch Primary School.

Balloch Babysitting Circle

The babysitting circle is a group of families who look after each other's children in the evening to allow parents to go out. The 'circle' operates with tokens, earned by sitting for each other

The circle is ideal for parents who do not have relatives close at hand to look after their children.

Spending an evening in someone else's house can often be a luxury, with no ironing, etc. to be done!



To find out more about the babysitting circle and meet other families who use the system, come along on **Tuesday 25th November at 8pm** to a get-together at 1 Ormond Drive, Balloch. If you cannot attend the get-together but would like to know more please contact Sarah Crawshaw on 790373 or Brigitte Johnstone on 798581.

BALLOCH POST OFFICE & STORES

OPENING TIMES

SHOP

POST OFFICE

7am - 8pm	Monday	9am - 1pm	2pm - 5.30pm
7am - 8pm	Tuesday	9am - 1pm	2pm - 5.30pm
7am - 8pm	Wednesday	9am - 1pm	Closed
7am - 8pm	Thursday	9am - 1pm	2pm - 5.30pm
7am - 8pm	Friday	9am - 1pm	2pm - 5.30pm
7am - 8pm	Saturday	9am - 12.30pm	Closed
7am - 6pm	Sunday	Closed	

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOP & POST OFFICE