

Balloch Village Trust
www.ballochvillagetrust.com
Chairman's Report
3 September 2013

1. Introduction

The past year seems to have flown in so quickly. Nevertheless, we have made some progress and embraced change. The Board has been strengthened by the addition of new Directors and we have been modernised by the introduction of e-banking. Work continues on the Community Woodland Management and Improvement Plan; and Carols at the Christmas tree was again a successful community event. We trust these endeavours are welcomed by the people of Balloch and would welcome more of them as members.

2. New Directors

It was good to welcome new Directors to the Board at last year's AGM. Joining as new Directors nominated from Balloch Community Council were Elspeth Fraser and Moira Unwin. Carolyn Gethin and Gillian Spalding were elected unanimously as new Directors. Carolyn also takes over as Treasurer from Ian Thomson. James MacKenzie was co-opted as Director. Thanks to them for their valuable contributions during the year.

3. Balloch Community Woodland

Balloch Village Trust has agreed to manage the community woodland on behalf of Balloch Community Council and local people. Work is currently under way on a **woodland management and improvement plan**. It is hoped this can be done in partnership with the Inverness College School of Forestry so that students can experience practical activities as part of their curriculum. A monthly inspection rota is in place, which provides a regular condition report regarding the condition of trees, paths and volume of litter.

4. e-banking

Balloch Village Trust banking has moved into the digital age with the introduction of e-banking. This means transactions can now be done online at any time of the day – or night. Thanks to Carolyn for this initiative.

5. Archive material

Balloch Village Trust currently holds a collection of materials that were gathered when the Balloch book was being produced. Some has been published on the Balloch Village Trust web site. The Highland Archive Centre in Inverness has agreed to keep these materials as historical social records.

6. Carols at the Christmas Tree

The second Carols at the Christmas Tree was held on Thursday 20th December 2012 with about 70 people gathered around the Christmas Tree at Cherry Park to sing carols and enjoy mincemeat pies with warm mulled wine. Our thanks to ASDA for the mincemeat pies and to TESCO for the mulled wine. Culloden Baptist Church was magnificent as their choir and musicians led us in singing. Santa made his usual appearance to the great delight of all the children. Thanks, particularly, to Joy from ASDA who was very hands on helping to dish out the mincemeat pies and mulled wine – bringing joy to all.

7. Membership

The current membership of Balloch Village Trust is 53. Balloch has a population of about 1300 people so an increase in members would help it to be more representative. The target is to achieve membership of 10% of the community. Membership is free so you can now join for no charge. Please consider becoming a member and encourage friends and neighbours to do likewise.

8. Looking Forward

The Development Strategy 2012–2027 provides direction for the coming years with the immediate priorities to increase membership of Balloch Village Trust and to finalise the Community Woodland Management and Improvement Plan.

9. Finally

The Board recognises the support of the current membership and other supporters for which it is grateful. We extend our thanks to all who have helped in various ways over the past year and look forward to working with you and for you in the year ahead. Thank you, also, to the current Directors for their support and endeavour over the past year and in particular to Susan Williams for her work as Secretary and to Carolyn Gethin for her work as Treasurer.

Charles Stephen
3 September 2013