A very positive outcome for Carbisdale Castle redevelopment is expected

The developers have letters of support from Ardgay and Creich Community Councils, Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, Jamie Mc Grigor MSP, Mary Scanlon MSP and our new MP, Dr Paul Monaghan

Bonar Bridge, 29th April. A crowd of people gathered at the Community Hall for a meeting chaired by Tim Griffin, Director of Michael Laird Architects and Lead Consultant for the development. This was the first time that the attendees had first hand information regarding the exciting plans for Carbisdale Castle. (Continue on page 4)

Kos Development Trust has received excellent feedback from the local community

Success of Falls of Shin project public exhibitions

More than 200 visitors admired the plans of the proposed building and gave their views on the project including a cafe, shop and children’s play area (Page 6)

What’s on this summer: Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week events Page 17

Tips for sharing our roads safely: Think bike! Page 12
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Email: cassistant@kyleofsutherland.co.uk or
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Tel: 01863766190 for more details
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ARDGAY & District photographs

Summer sunset over the Kyle of Sutherland by Susan Ross
This photo was taken in July 2013. It was the first time Susan rode the horse up the Struie. His name is Ed and he is now 20. He was bred by Pat Macgettigan at Achnagart, Culrain. Some of Susan Ross’ photos can be seen at As Seen Through Horses’ Ears and Kyle of Sutherland’s Scenery Facebook pages.

Exciting projects

In this summer issue we have positive news of three most welcome development projects in our area: Falls of Shin visitor centre’s plans have been very well received by the public, Kyle of Sutherland Hub has secured £1.4 million from the Big Lottery Fund, and it is hoped that Carbisdale Castle will reopen as a state-of-the-art hotel. Thanks to all who support and contribute to the newsletter and the community, and of course to our volunteer distributors, who kindly donate their time to deliver copies to our homes. I hope you will enjoy this edition, as well as some of the great events planned for the summer.

Silvia Muras Editor
A five-star hotel with an impressive garden

Tim Griffin and his team gave details of the project at a public meeting held in April. Ardgay and Creich Community Councils and the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust have given the developers their support for the purchase of the 56 acres of forestry.

The plans presented by Tim Griffin and his team that evening made it clear that to make the project viable the developer would like to purchase about 56 acres of forestry land mostly to the north of the castle. The plan is to design a landscape garden similar to Dunrobin Castle, a new car park, and they also expressed their intention of planting native species of woodland. The creation of a five star hotel boasting the biggest royal suite in the UK has the potential to generate a huge amount of publicity for tourism in the area. The public warmly welcomed this and the estimated 90 direct jobs which it will bring.

Representatives of Culrain & District Hall Committee at the meeting raised concerns over the sale of Forestry Commission land to the developers. Their objections revolved around the public access to cycling and walking paths in the 2,000 acre Carbisdale forest, and their plans for a community forest. It was made clear that the cycling and walking paths were not included within the boundaries of the 56 acres. Tim Griffin also stressed the need for a deer fence to protect the gardens and was reminded of the statutory rights of access in Scotland.

SALE OF ARTWORK
When the local community knew that SYHA was offering at auction many of the castle’s sculptures, a petition on the website change.org was created to try to stop the sale. More than 1,000 individuals showed their support. SYHA released an statement on the 13th May saying that, “On several occasions over the last 70 years, SYHA has sold artwork, farms and forestry land to subsidise the running of the castle.” and “The proceeds of the sale will be used to sustain SYHA’s diverse youth hostel network.”

A total of 52 pieces of art - sculptures and paintings- were sold at Sotheby’s “19th and 20th Century Sculpture” auction in London on the 20th of May. The lots achieved a combined price of more than £950,000, which after commission and tax gave a profit of around £600,000 to SYHA.
The local community says on Facebook...

- “Let's start looking to the future and not stay stuck in the past, the hostel is gone, it will never be a hostel again... let the Castle live once more”
- “I for one only signed the petition against the sale of the artefacts from the castle. I am all for all the other exciting plans put forward”
- “The reason the majority are in favour of the sale is that if it isn't sold it'll be left to crumble.”
- “The building needs serious cash spent on it, SYHA don't have it so it's up to the wealthy to do something with it otherwise it will fall down!”
- “It's the sale of the artwork that's an issue for me. Please about the plans for the castle though?”
- “I think we should be happy that something is happening (if it does) to the building and that jobs will be created”
- “In favour of the sale as well, would be fantastic to see it restored to its formal state, but would be fantastic if they could keep the statues and paintings”
- “No one as far as I’m aware is interested in the loch and the battlefield are not included or wanted by the developer? Why are people determined to think they are losing precious woodland when the FC could at anytime come in and clear fell the lot ruining it anyway?”
- “It's superb business idea. I stand by the buyer 100%. If it's turned into a hotel good stuff”

Would you like to give your opinion? Please visit Ardgay & DCC website or send a letter to the editor.

The exciting life of Mary Caroline, ‘Duchess Blair’

She was the daughter of Rev. Richard Michell of Oxford. Miss Mary Caroline Michell married Captain Arthur Blair, her cousin. The union was as happy as that of most couples until George, third Duke of Sutherland, appeared on the scene. The duke was himself the husband of a charming wife and the father of a grown-up family, but he permitted himself to fall in love with Mrs. Blair, and she warmly reciprocated his affection.

As a consequence of rumors which came to the ears of Captain Blair, he is said to have shot himself in a fit of despondency. His widow, Mrs. Blair, at once accompanied her du- cal lover on a long yachting voyage to the Far East.

In 1883 the Duchess died, and the pair went to Florida, where they were married within three months of the Duke's first wife's death. On their re-appearance in England some of the old retainers left the ducal service, and the wives of the farmers on the estate also refused to acknowledge the new Duchess. The Duke died in 1892, leaving his wife £150,000, in addition to £9,000 a year, a life interest in the collieries of the Sutherland family, the use of the family diamonds for life, and absolute gifts of country residences, and a sum of over £10,000 to Irene Blair, her daughter by her first husband.

The new Duke intimidated that he would contest the will. Litigation dragged on for months. The judge eventually made an order for the handing over of certain documents to the administrator of the estate, the solicitors of both parties to be in attendance. The Duchess picked up one of the bundles, took out a document, and after reading it threw the paper into the fire.

This act led to proceedings against the Duchess for contempt of court. A fine of £250 and a prison sentence of six weeks was imposed on her. She underwent the imprisonment in a luxuriously furnished “cell”. Ultimately, the litigation with regard to the estate was settled through the intervention of the late King Edward.

The dowager Duchess became the wife of Sir Albert Rollitt in 1896. Her Grace's last bid for notoriety was in the singular loss of £20,000 worth of jewels in Paris, and their yet more singular recovery in London.

Great success of the Falls of Shin Visitor Centre Public Exhibition days

Visitors to the exhibition learned that the proposal was based on the provision of a café, shop and children’s play area on the site of the former restaurant and visitor centre.

Falls of Shin Community Project would like to thank the 240 visitors, particularly the 12 juniors, who visited the Public Exhibition days held across Ardgay, Bonar Bridge, Lairg and Rosehall recently.

Valerie Houston, Project Officer, said, “We were extremely pleased with the response and support shown across each exhibition day. The days allowed the team to gain valuable feedback on the development plans and hear some great stories from people’s memories of visits to the Falls of Shin. We welcome readers to view the plans and input to the questionnaire. It would also be great to receive some more stories and view more images on our Facebook page @FallsOfShin”.

The brief for the new facility was developed by the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust in conjunction with stakeholders, building users, local tour operators and experienced operators. It was established that the optimum size for the café would be 60 covers so that it could accommodate one coach and several independent tourists at the same time. This is smaller than the previous facility but will help to ensure that the facility is economically sustainable during the shoulder months.

A small retail area was considered to be important to enable local produce to be showcased.

Leading role of the salmon

Interpretation boards explaining the life cycle of the salmon and the importance of catch and release salmon fishing to the local economy are considered important to demonstrate the credibility of the venue.

Provision of live digital coverage of the salmon leap is also seen as essential so that the experience of visiting the facility is not diminished for those who are unable to walk to the Falls themselves. A strong connection between the indoor and outdoor experience is essential.

Falls of Shin Community Project

If you would like further information on the project and/or would like copies of the information shared at the public exhibition days please contact Valerie direct by email fosoffice@kyleofsutherland.co.uk or telephone 01863 766554 or alternatively check the details via the QR Codes.
A FISH-SHAPED BUILDING
The design concept of the building, created by CH Architecture, is loosely based on the image of a fish and is made up of a head, body and tail. Each part forms a distinctive function.

The head forms the main element of the facility and contains the cafe, shop, kitchen and toilets. The body is formed out of a timber trellis walkway and contains the interpretation and outside exhibition area. The tail is formed of a decorative metal canopy which creates a distinctive entrance portal. The three components are grouped around an external plaza which will be used for gala events and external exhibitions and will be provided with services suitable for a marquee.

Whilst the overall image of the fish may not be legible from the ground level it will be seen in the aerial view and through time, will be included in Google earth’s satellite survey of the world.

CATERING FOR THE SUMMER
The project submitted a planning application further to the public exhibition and are on schedule to submit their Stage 2 BIG Lottery application in September.

Falls of Shin have continued to be a popular venue for walkers and tourists alike. If all goes to plan KoSDT should have managed to arrange a catering offering to be onsite for the summer months.

Valerie Houston, FOS Officer

KOS HUB HAS SECURED £1.4 MILLION FROM THE BIG LOTTERY FUND

The works for the new Youth and Family Hub could start in October

The Kyle of Sutherland Hub Ltd (formerly Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group) is delighted, relieved and super excited to announce the securing of £1.4 million from the Big Lottery Fund towards the build costs and first 3 years running costs for its planned new Youth and Family Hub. Together with funding from EON and Achany windfarms and Peoples and Communities fund we are now well on our way to securing the full amount needed of £1.8 million to see this fantastic project through to fruition.

The Group together with the design team are now working towards a building warrant application and further fundraising with the aim of building work commencing in October 2015.

Director and Chair Hayley Bangs describes the moment the Lottery called to give them the news and how the community were informed: “On Friday morning the phone rang and our project officer from the lottery told me, ‘You’ve been awarded the full amount.’ It was an incredible moment, tears were shed and off I went to jump up and down, and cheer (a lot) with the group’s secretary Kathy Smith who with me has spent months and months of time on the application. The full committee who have worked so hard on this project were all told that day, but unfortunately we were under strict instructions that we were not able to announce it for a further week! On the following Friday two children from each of the local schools were given a sealed envelope to open and read out to all pupils at the start of school, inside it read, ‘We are going to get our new building at Bus Club.’ There were loud cheers and it was lovely that the children were the first ones to hear the news.”

This is an exciting time for the Kyle of Sutherland communities and we hope the Hub will improve quality of life, attract visitors to the area and provide some much needed employment opportunities.

The children were the first ones to hear the news about the Big Lottery funding application.

The group wish to give a huge thank you to all the volunteers who dedicate their time to the project, all who have supported our events, the children and young people who have been our inspiration and motivation and all those who filled in the endless stream of surveys to help us decide which facilities the Hub should provide and support our funding applications.

For more information please visit our Facebook page ‘Kyle of Sutherland Hub’ (it would be great if you could ‘like’ it too) or our website using the details below.

Valerie Houston, FOS Officer

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development@kyleofsutherland.co.uk
@KosSutherland
Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust

Hayley Bangs, Chair
Kyle of Sutherland Hub
01863 766 310
www.kyleofsutherland.com
Ardgay Public Hall’s new kitchen is finished

The good news continues with the announcement that a £9,910 grant has been received from Awards for All Scotland towards the provision of a new heating system throughout the whole building.

Unfortunately, the application for the balance of funds needed was unsuccessful. Nonetheless, the committee with the help of Helen Houston, the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust Officer, will continue this financial quest with every intention of seeing the project completed before next winter.

Meanwhile, two other applications have already been submitted with the aim of replacing all the windows with double glazed units and installing insulation in the two loft areas. Again, if these applications prove successful, it is hoped to have the work completed by the winter. It was unfortunate that the application to the Climate Challenge Fund failed as this would have encompassed all of the work. But, as you can see, the committee are continuing their endeavours undaunted.

Community Support

However, it is not possible to find all the money needed from ‘outside’ funding sources without the local community demonstrating its own support for the hall. So the committee are planning a self-generated Fund Raising Appeal. This includes a ‘£1 Lucky Squares Board’ – the prize is a Daewoo Microwave which is now circulating around some of the local shops etc, so please keep an eye out for it or check the hall’s Facebook page for its current location.

The 27th of June will see the Ardgay Hall Auction take place at 7pm. There will also be a Grand Raffle drawn on the night, with a first prize of £200 generously donated by Ardgay Plant & Quarry Services. It would be fantastic if anyone who is able to help, either beforehand or on the night itself, could get in touch with the committee ASAP.

Plans are also taking shape for the 4th of July, with an American themed dinner to celebrate the opening of the new kitchen pictured. Info on posters, Facebook, etc in due course.

It is hoped that July 10th will see a Family Beetle Drive taking place in the hall. This will be well advertised nearer the time, but again, if you would like to help please get in touch.

The committee would be delighted to hear from anyone with any other fund-raising ideas, at any time of year. Why not come along to the next meeting? As usual, the date will be displayed on the notice boards and posted on the Facebook page. Everyone with the future of the hall at heart is very welcome to attend. Rhonwen Copley, Secretary

Auction & Grand Raffle
27th June
Ardgay Hall
Viewing from 6pm
Selling 7pm sharp

Donations welcome – Contact 01863 - 766174 or 766602
All Profits Go to Hall Funds – Ardgay Public Hall – Scottish Charity No. SC068869

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Ardgay & District News

1st Children’s Art Competition prize giving event at Ardgay

THANKS TO ALL who turned up to the exhibition and prize giving event on the 28th of March. A huge thanks to David Hannah and Mrs Legg from Bonar Bridge Primary School for their invaluable help. The competition was kindly funded by Beinn nan Oighrean Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. Look out for our next competition!

Elizabeth Lunardini receiving the 1st prize. Layla Dalton poses with her winning artwork.

Problem party in the woods

Ledmore and Migdale woods is a beautiful place that many local residents enjoy. The woods are there for everyone, but it’s sad when the carelessness of one group affects the fun and safety of others.

In early May this year a group of young people held a party in a clearing by the loch Migdale track, a spot which is used regularly for children’s events. So far so good! But the rest of the story isn’t so happy. The partygoers left litter marring the beauty of the woods, and a campfire full of broken glass and sharp metal. Fortunately two young overseas visitors spotted the issue and helped Woodland Trust staff clear up the mess. They were just in time, as a group of younger children from the Dornoch-based Allsorts Club arrived at the clearing the very next day for some Easter holiday activities!

The kids came to no harm this time, but it’s sad to think that a group of teenagers so nearly spoiled their fun. The message form Ledmore & Migdale is: please come and enjoy the woods in whatever way you choose, but please respect them – they are a special habitat for wildlife and for people too!

Photo album

Fourth Mad Hatter’s Tea Party at The Manse

Mad Hatter’s competition. Left to right: Tilly Munro (Second Prize) Harvey Whittock, Morgan Bannerman, Carys Jones (Third Prize), Rhianna Lall, Ythan Menzies and Lily Howard (First Prize)

Photos below: Children enjoying the bouncy castle (left) and bric a brac stall (right).

The event hosted by Rev Anthony Jones and his wife Beverley at the Manse in Ardgay helped raise vital funds for both Gledfield Primary School and, the Rotary Club of Tain & District’s charities including the Himajyolti School in Nepal which was flattened by the recent earthquake. There were fun and activities for young and old alike including bouncy castle, face painting, hook a duck, home baking, bric a brac, children’s fairy garden, in house teas. This year’s hatters competition included stunning creations made by the children at school. The competition was judged by Mrs Lorna Ross of Edderton.
Ardgay & District News

Community Council Members and Contact Details

David Hannah
Chair

Marion Turner
Vice-Chair

Alan Lawrence
Treasurer

Phil Olson

Betty Wright

Bob Sendall

Teresa Langley
Secretary

secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Silvia Muras

Councillors Representing the Highland Council North, West and Central Sutherland Ward 1

George Farlow

Hugh Morrison

Linda Munro

Latest Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Awards:
- Gærrochollie Wood - £900 for running costs.
- Scottish Air Ambulance - £220 - towards general costs.
- Ardgay & District CC - £2000 - towards Amenity/Community projects.
- CAB Golspie - £255 - towards outreach work.
- Sutherland Provincial Mod - £200 - towards advertising and hall costs.

How to apply for Community Benefit money

The Beinn na Oighrean Windfarm Awards
Small projects under £250
1. Go to Ardgay & District CC website: www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk/funding where you can find full details.
2. Or send a letter to Teresa Langley (see column left)

The Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund
Projects under £2,000
1. Go to Ardgay & District CC website: www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk/funding where you can find full details.
2. Send an email to beinntharsuinn.awards@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk
3. Or send a letter to Teresa Langley (see column left)

SSE Achany Community Fund
Between £250 and £10,000 +
1. Visit sse.com/beingresponsible/responsiblecommunitymember/localcommunityfunds/achany for more info and to download the application form.
2. Complete and return to fiona.morrison@sse.com or by Royal Mail to: Fiona Morrison, Corporate Affairs, SSE, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN

E.ON Rosehall Community Fund
Between £2,000 and £25,000 +
2. Alternatively, you can contact Carol Elliot by email carol@foundationscotland.org.uk or call 07500 779 227 if you require any further information or advice.
Royal British Legion Scotland last WW1 services

The Creich and Kincardine Branch of Royal British Legion Scotland has now completed their WW1 graveside commemoration services for 2015. There will be more in the next few years on the 100th anniversary of the deaths of those buried in local cemeteries. Since the last issue of the newsletter there have been 2 more services, one in each of Croick and Creich cemeteries.

The Croick service was held on 30 March for Private John McPherson. John was born in 1873 at the family croft, Lubconich, Croick. He became a schoolmaster but later joined the Lovat Scouts and fought with distinction in the Boer War. He was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. On 2 Sept 1914 John re-enlisted at Dingwall, joining the 8th (Service) Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders. Sadly he was discharged on 21 January 1915 as he was suffering from tuberculosis and died at home in Dingwall on 30 March 1915. He was 42 years old, a school teacher and married to a South African nurse with an 18 month old son called Donald. He is buried alongside his parents and four of his brothers and sisters.

The Branch was very pleased that four members of his family were present for the service; great nephew James Mackenzie and his wife Wilma and great nephew Willie Ross and his son Steven.

The other service held at Creich cemetery on 11 May was for Private Duncan MacKenzie. Duncan was born at Kildonan in 1878 but later moved with the family to their croft Achuan at Airdens, Bonar Bridge. At age 23 he moved to Falkirk, working as a grocer's assistant. He married in 1903 but sadly Kate died 6 years later. Two years later he was a grocery salesman for the Co-op in Dumbartonshire. Duncan then joined the 17th (Service) Battalion (3rd Glasgows) of the Highland Light Infantry. Sadly Duncan accidentally drowned during a training exercise at Troon on 11 May 1915. He was 37 years old and buried in the family plot along with his parents and some of his brothers and sisters. His younger brother, George Thomas, was also a casualty. He saw heavy fighting at Gallipoli and the Western Front. He was killed in action at Givenchy, France on 18 April 1918. He is buried in France but is also named on the family stone.

His great nephews William and Alastair Ross attended the service, along with William's son Brian who served with the Queen's Own Highlanders.
Ardgay & District News

Approved minutes of Ardgay & District Community Council meetings
Available online from www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk and in your local library.
NEXT MEETINGS: 10TH AUGUST 2015 & 14TH SEPTEMBER 2015 ARDGAY PUBLIC HALL 7 PM

HOW TO MAKE USING THE ROADS SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FOR ALL

Sharing our roads:
Cycling

The Kyle of Sutherland Cycling Club meets on a Thursday at 7 pm at Heaven Bikes and it is good to see folks getting out on their bicycles now that the good weather is here. We also have large numbers of visitors who cycle through our area on National Cycle Route 1 or doing LEJOG (Land’s End-John O’ Groats) so as drivers we need to be extra aware.

**Cyclists:**
*Tips to Keep You Safe*

1. Ride positively, decisively and well clear of the edge of the road where there may be potholes, grid covers and debris. Normally, this is about a 1/3 of the way into the lane.

2. If the road is narrow or if visibility is limited ride in a position where you can see and be seen. This may be in the middle of the lane.

3. If cycling in “bunches” make sure that you leave room so that vehicles can overtake safely.

4. Try not to hold up drivers unnecessarily.

5. Use lights and wear bright/reflective clothing.

6. Wear a helmet.

7. Make eye contact with other road users, especially at junctions, then you know they’ve seen you.

8. Never cycle along the inside of large vehicles such as lorries or buses especially at junctions. This is where many accidents occur especially when vehicles are turning left.

9. Signal clearly at all times and use a bell to alert pedestrians.

10. Keep your bike well maintained.

**Motorists:**
*Think Bike!*

1. Give cyclists a wide berth when overtaking. If you can’t do this because the road is narrow or you can’t see far enough ahead or there is oncoming traffic then hang back some distance until it is safe to overtake. Cyclists sometimes ride two abreast or ride in the middle of the lane to ensure drivers overtake safely.

2. Watch out for cyclists who may be hidden on the inside of a left hand bend. A cyclist may be travelling at 10 MPH – a driver may be doing 40 or 50.

3. In our area we sometimes get big groups of cyclists. They may get spread out in their ones and twos. Keep this in mind and be alert.

4. Many of our visiting cyclists are carrying luggage. You need to give them more space.

5. When turning left watch for cyclists coming up on your near side and don’t cut them up.

6. At night, dip your headlights when approaching cyclists.

7. In wet weather, allow cyclists extra room as surfaces may be slippery. When visibility is poor, in mist or fog cyclists can be difficult to see. Think bike!
Gerarrchoille Community Wood

Summer activities in your community wood

Join our group of volunteers on first Thursday of each month at 2 pm or, if you enjoy the wood and would like to support it, why not become a member?

The Gerarrchoille members would like to thank Beinn Tharsuinn fund for supporting our running costs through 2015/16. As we are a company and registered charity there are financial obligations which have to be met each year. The membership fees contribute to this, so I would encourage all of those who use the wood to join! Forms available on our website, or why not come along to our AGM on Thursday 18th June, 7 pm in Ardgay Public Hall.

Most of the maintenance work in the wood continues to be done by volunteers, who meet first Thursday of each month at 2 pm. Thanks to Peter and Sean from Muirhall Energy who joined us in April when we continued to tidy up after the storm. ■ Betty Wright

gerrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk
gearrchoille@gmail.com
01863755316

Saturday 13th JUNE Moth identification with Margaret Currie & Andy Scott, County Moth Recorders for East Ross. Gerarrchoille car Park at 10 am
Thursday 18th JUNE AGM & talk on Forest Schools by Lucy Williams. 7 pm Ardgay Hall
Date tbc JULY Willow weaving for children
Tuesday 4th AUGUST Gala week event: Den Building with Andy Murray. From 10 am to 12 pm. Meet at Gerarrchoille car Park at 10 am.

Ardgay Bonar Boys Brigade enjoys outdoor activities

The 1st Ardgay Bonar Boys Brigade Company have been enjoying some outdoor activities including a climb up Stac Pollaidh and a trip to Fairburn Activity Centre near Marybank where they took part in mountain biking, zorbing, archery and canoeing.

The prize giving service will be in Ardgay church at 12:15 pm on Sunday 21st June when the boys will receive the badges and awards which they have been working hard towards throughout the year. ■ Donald Brown 01863 766166
Greening Kyle

FIRST GREENING KYLE PUMPKIN FESTIVAL, SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER AT BONAR BRIDGE COMMUNITY HALL

Start growing your pumpkins this summer

Join Kyle of Sutherland Growing Group for advice on successfully growing your own

The first ever Greening Kyle Pumpkin Festival is due to take place on Saturday 24th October 2015 in the Bonar Bridge Community Hall. This fun event promises to be a great day out for all of the community. The Pumpkin Festival is open to anyone to enter and/or attend, you do not have to live in the Kyle of Sutherland Area.

The exhibition entries will be available for viewing from 11am until 2pm with prizes for first and second place. The exhibition categories have something for everyone in them. For the serious growers amongst you there is the heaviest pumpkin grown, the ugliest pumpkin or squash grown and most unusually shaped pumpkin or squash. Get your carving knives out for the best carved pumpkin (both home grown and shop bought), the smallest carved pumpkin and the largest carved pumpkin. Get creative for the best knitted pumpkin, pumpkin with the best personality and the best dressed pumpkin. For the children there’s the best pumpkin vegetable monster, best pumpkin related drawing and painting and best decorated pumpkin. All exhibition categories are open to your own interpretation.

From 12 pm until 1:30 pm a free pumpkin-themed lunch, provided by Greening Kyle and cooked by Lowecroft Catering, will be served up. A Greening Kyle Pumpkin & Squash Recipes booklet will be printed and made available on the day for anyone who might want to try and make their own pumpkin themed lunch. We are looking for your best pumpkin themed recipes to include in our free recipe booklet. Please send them in to gkassistant@kyleofsutherland.co.uk along with your full name and the area that you live in and your recipe could be included in our booklet.

Entry forms and the exhibition categories leaflets (with a full list of the exhibition categories) is available in local shops. Alternatively you can pick them up from our office at the Trust Office, Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EB or electronic copies are available by emailing gkassistant@kyleofsutherland.co.uk.

There are generally no rules for each exhibition category, however if you are found to have cheated in any of your entries then you will be disqualified and made to do the washing up after the free lunch!

If you would like advice on successfully growing your own pumpkins then why not come along to the next Kyle of Sutherland Growing Group meeting? The next meeting is on Monday 29th June at 7 pm in Rosehall Village Hall. Rhionna Mackay Project Officer gkofficer@kyleofsutherland.co.uk 01863 766 554

Promoting activity and wellbeing in the local community

The Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust are delighted to welcome two new members to our Team. Beverley and Emma will be working on the Keep Active Together (KAT) Project. KAT is an exciting new project whose aim is to increase activity along with health and well being for residents in the Ardgay and Creich Community Council areas. This will be achieved by running fitness and activity sessions for people of all ages and abilities. We will be organising group exercise classes, nutrition and exercise clubs, one to one exercise and also family and outdoor activities.

Class timetables will be advertised on the Kyle of Sutherland Trust website, Facebook and local community noticeboards.

We are currently recruiting staff to work on a sessional basis to deliver exercise and activity classes and also four Walk Leaders for which training and expenses will be provided. Please find contact details below. Beverley Hill Project Officer (KAT) katofficer@kyleofsutherland.co.uk 01863 766 554
Pumpkin Festival

A fun event for all of the family. Come along to view the exhibition entries and enjoy a free pumpkin themed lunch cooked by Lowecroft Catering

Saturday 24th October
11am—2pm
Bonar Bridge Community Hall
FREE Lunch 12pm—1.30pm

Competition Categories

• Heaviest pumpkin grown
• Best carved pumpkin
• Best pumpkin monster (under 12’s)

Plus many more!

Pick up an entry form and exhibition categories leaflet at local shops or contact us for one

Contact gkassistant@kyleofsutherland.co.uk for an entry form or further information
What’s on in the area

**ARDGAY PUBLIC HALL**

**Auction & Grand Raffle**

27 JUNE

All profits to go to Ardgay Public Hall Funds. Donations welcome. Viewing from 6 pm – Selling at 7 pm sharp. There will also be a Grand Raffle drawn on the night, with a first prize of £200 generously donated by Ardgay Plant & Quarry Services.

**ROSEHALL HALL**

**KoS Growing group**

29 JUNE

Get advice on growing your own fruit and vegetables. Organised by Greening Kyle, the group meets on the 29th June at 7 pm. All welcome!

**BB/ARDGAY GOLF CLUB**

**Whist Drives**

15 JULY

Bonar Bridge Ardgay Golf Club.

At 7:30 pm. £2 entry. Raffle. Help to raise funds for Invercharron Highland Games. Other dates: 17th June (Youth Club), 24th June (Gala Week) 22th July (Youth Club), 29th July (Gala Week).

**GLENMORANGIE GROUND, A9 NORTH OF TAIN**

**Tain Highland Gathering**

13 AUG.

A traditional Highland Gathering with all the usual events: Highland Dancing, Piping, Track & Field Events, Cycling, and the Heavies. Local events at 11 am. Open Events from 2 pm. Adults: £5, Under 16: £2, Car Park: £2. Toddlers free. Sponsored by Glenmorangie Plc.

**INVERSHIN**

**Car Treasure Hunt**

2 AUG.

Meet at 4 pm at Invershin Hall car park. Around two hours of treasure hunting fun! There will be prizes for the winners and refreshments (soup & sandwiches) at Invershin Hall to reward the hunters.

**LEDMORE & MIGDALE WOODS - FROM 2 TO 5 PM - FREE AND ALL WELCOME!**

**The Carnegie Story Trail**

27 JUNE

The Carnegie Story Trail follows a 1.5 mile route (one way) through beautiful native woodlands, with stops at seven secret locations, where chapters of a special story are hidden. The trail is suitable for nimble adults and children. Pushchairs will be able to follow much of the route, but some of the hiding spots are off-the-path.

**How do I find the hidden story?**

Each chapter of the story has been placed in a different ‘geocache’. A geocache is a hidden container which can be found using an ordnance survey map and compass, or a smartphone with a geocaching app, or any other GPS enabled device. Geocaching is a popular, outdoor, treasure-hunting game played by millions of people around the world. Map coordinates for the Carnegie Story Trail can be downloaded from the official geocaching website www.geocaching.com.

**Is there treasure?**

As well as the Story Caches, there are three bonus caches, where lucky treasure seekers may find one of our specially-minted Carnegie Geocoins, and details of their amazing worldwide mission. There are lots of fun activities to keep you entertained along the story trail, with a family-friendly activity sheet in each cache. The story chapters and the activity sheets are available from the Woodland Trust website. The story is written by award winning writer Thereasa Breslin who will be attending the event. Also, we might be lucky enough to have a brief appearance of Mr Carnegie himself!

There is no need to book, just come along for a 2pm start to the car park at Torroy Croft. There will be expert geocachers on hand to help and some tea/coffee and cakes to reward you after you find some geocaches! Contact Juliet at ledmoremigdale@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Saturday 1st – Gala Fete, Raft Race, Queen Crowning & Float parade, Dance to The Ceilidh Cowboys.

Sunday 2nd – Dry Stone Dyking Demo, Artie’s Tartan Tales, Car Treasure Hunt & Mountain Biking Session.


Tuesday 4th – Book Bug, Flower Festival & Pancake Day, Den Building and Family Cycle.

Wednesday 5th – Flower Festival, Street Dance, Craft session, Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition, Radio Controlled Car Club & Whist Drive.


Friday 7th – Sports Day & Bouncy Castle, Woodland Session, Football Competition & Darts Competition.

Saturday 8th – Canoeing, Duck Race & Pub Quiz.

Sunday 9th – Mountain Biking Session & Big Lunch.

(Events subject to change)

See Programme at www.spanglefish.com/kyleofsutherlandgalaweek or email Elissa (Secretary) on elizasteven@hotmail.com for a copy.
What’s on in the area

GEARROCHAILLE COMMUNITY WOOD

4 AUG.

Den Building

Try your hand at building a shelter and learn about staying warm and dry outdoors. With Andy Murray. From 10 am to 12 pm. Meet at Gearrochaille Community Wood car park at 10 am for this exciting Gala Week event.

ROSEHALL

24 JULY

Flower Festival

Rosehall Church of Scotland Flower Festival. From 24 July to 26 July. Come along between 11 am to 6 pm. Sunday from 2 pm to 6 pm. All welcome!

BONAR BRIDGE

31 JULY

Knit and Natter

Caley Cafe at 10 am. Catch up with friends and join us for a cuppa. Bring your knitting and crochet projects and get help from fellow crafters. Contact: Jo Smith 01863 766554

DORNOCH

17 JULY

Book Fair

5 pm to 9 pm. Weekend of Friday 17th - Sunday 19th July in Dornoch Social Club. Browse and buy from a wide selection of second hand and antiquarian books. Meet local authors. Take part in a creative writing workshop.

NORTHERN MEETING PARK, INVERNESS

5 JULY

Highland Strongman Show

The Highland Strongman Show will feature our original stone lifting challenge of lifting a 252 pound stone over a 5 foot bar. Other great events you can enjoy: Yoke walk, Log press, Deadlift, Medley, Tyre flip and Inverness Stones. More details: invernesshighlandgames.com

THE LINKS, DORNOCH

25 JULY

The Sutherland County Agricultural Show

Livestock, native horses, light horses, poultry, food & craft and flower & vegetable competitions. This year, the Strathorn Clydesdales will take centre stage by performing their musical drill ride to demonstrate their power, skill and versatility. The heart of the show of course is the animals and the busy livestock section will show off the quality sheep and cattle from the north. There will be a Poultry Section for the first time in response to a growing interest in the breeding and keeping of a wide variety of birds. Take a walk through the trade stands, past the dog show to see the horses compete in ridden and in-hand classes, rounding off a busy day on the field with the excitement of a new Puissance competition. Finally, starting at 9pm, ‘Rant’ will provide the music at the marquee dance. More info at www.sutherlandshow.com or email info@sutherlandshow.com

MOY ESTATE, MOY

7 AUG.

Highland Fields Sport Fair

7th and 8th of August, from 10 am to 6 pm. The fair offers a diversity of entertainments and activities for all of the family, from creche facilities to archery! The emphasis is on field sports activities with competitions in fly casting, gun dog handling and clay pigeon shooting. Adults: £10. Under 16: free. Free car park.
Adult Clubs & Societies

Bonar Bridge Local History Society
Organising events and history walks.
Contact: Marion Fraser ① 01863 766 235

Ardgay Badminton Club
Starts again in October.
Contact: George Ross ① 01863 755 329

Kyle of Sutherland Cycling Club
Website: www.koscc.co.uk
Facebook: Kyle of Sutherland CC
Contact: Chris ② 07543 466 699

Kyle of Sutherland Joggers
Leaders trained by Jog Scotland. All levels of fitness are welcome. Facebook: Kyle of Sutherland Joggers
Contact:
Eliza / Caroline / Gemma ② 07743 228 661
② 07799 391 281
② 07545 929 768

Ardgay Scottish Country Dancing Club
Starts again in October.
Contact: Doreen Bruce ① 01863 766 852

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society
Website www.kyle-of-sutherland-heritage.org.uk
Contact: Steve Copley ① 01863 766 174

Sutherland Walkers Club
We meet the 4th Sunday of the month, all year round.
**SUNDAY 28 JUNE**
Quinag, by bouldery east ridge over Spidean Coinich 6 miles, circular. Leader: Stan Holroyd. 01408 621370
**SUNDAY 5 JULY**
Summer Special. Morven, Caithness. 9 miles, track and rough hill, linear. Leader: David Hannah. 01863 766061
**SUNDAY 26 JULY**
Glenalvie Forest. 10 miles, track and rough hill, circular. Leader: David Hannah. 01863 766061
**SUNDAY 23 AUGUST**
Grummore and Grumbeg clearance villages. 7 miles, linear. Leader: Bruce Field. 01408 633118
Car sharing available.
We are pleased to welcome occasional walkers or new members to any of these walks, but please contact us in advance.
Contact: David Hannah ① 01863 766 601

Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club
Will be back in September
Contact: Rosemary Logan ① 01549 421 282

Bonar Bridge Ardgay Golf Club
Market Stance, Migdale Road, Bonar Bridge. Sutherland IV24 3EJ ② 01863 766 199

Creich & Kincardine Art Group
Meets in Bonar Bridge Hall tearoom on Wednesdays from 10 am to 3 pm. All welcome. Contact: Joan Mulligan ① 01549 421 321

Kyle of Sutherland Cinema Club
Starts again in October. Second and fourth Friday of each month. Bonar Bridge Hall. Contact: Silvia Muras ① 01863 766 690

Edderton & District Gardening Club
From September to May in Edderton Community Hall.
Contact: ① 01863 766 061 ② 01862 811 381

Pilates
Bonar Bridge Hall, Mondays from 10 to 11 am. Please call in advance. Contact: Moira Chisholm ① 01863 810 786

Tai Chi
Ardgay Public Hall - Wednesdays 7 pm £2.
Contact: Margaret ① 01863 775 329

Sutherland Radio Control Club
By Ardgay Garage.
Facebook: Sutherland Radio Control Club ② 07703 196 005

Scottish Women’s Rural Institute
All ages welcome. Ardgay Public Hall 7:30 pm 3rd Tuesday each month / Culrain Hall 7:30 pm 4th Thursday of the month.
Contact: Mrs. Jean Jack ① 01863 766 646

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU
Please send us your feedback, comments, letters, suggestions or contributions. Visit www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk or email ardgaynewsletter@gmail.com

ADVERTISING TARIFF
FULL PAGE: £40 (A4)
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1/3 PAGE £15 (A5 PORTRAIT)
1/4 PAGE £10 (A6)
SMALL SIZES FROM £4
CLASSIFIEDS: FREE
Book for the whole year and get a discount!
Booking & enquiries:
ardgaynewsletter@gmail.com 01863 766 690

Next edition: 10th September
‘Priceless’ refreshment of the soul

WE are always glad to see the seasonal visitors into and around our beautiful area whether fishing the rivers, walking the beaches or thronging the streets of our seaside places. How fortunate we are, who live and work here, to live in a holiday area; boats moored alongside the lochs, other stranger craft out at sea, the busy ferries toing and froing, the castles, pavementside restaurants and pubs, and so much more. Nor should we forget to visit our historic local churches. Little Croick church with its transatlantic connections, its visitors book filling up with signatures of those coming to seek peace or connect with its sad past of the Highland Clearances. But, whether we live in a holiday area like ours or not, we all need a holiday - a slackening of the pace with preferably a change of scenery! Even Jesus and his disciples took a holiday to escape the constant pressure of the immense crowds which followed them (cp. Matthew 15.30). Always there were their incessant demands for the healing of the lame, the blind, the dumb, the crippled and many others, ‘And they cast them down at Jesus’ feet; and he healed them.’ What a welcome break those few days abroad, beside the sea, must have been. They needed peace, relaxation and a renewing of body, mind and spirit in the sea air of Tyre and Sidon. Nor were they too self-centred to the needs of the Syro-Phoenician woman who came pleading with Jesus to cure her poor demented daughter. Nor did He turn her away disappointed (cp. Matthew 15.21).

When we go on holiday, let us go on holiday with Jesus i.e. seek that refreshment he offers all who are worn out with their daily labours, frustrations and worries. (cp. Matthew 11.28). Whether we travel from hundreds of miles inland to spend our holiday here in Edderton, Ardgay, Bonar Bridge or Rosehall or abandon our homes for a few days in favour of distant moor or mountain, let us not forget to seek above all that spiritual refreshment that only Jesus can give - the priceless refreshment of the soul, the inner self.

“Come unto me all you that labour and are heavy laden and, I will give you rest.” May you know peace, rest and refreshment this holiday season.

Rev. Anthony M. Jones

The Kyle of Sutherland Churches
Kincardine, Croick and Edderton
linked with Creich and Rosehall Parishes
Minister: Rev. Anthony M. Jones
The Manse, Manse Road, Ardgay, Sutherland IV24 3BG
☎ 01863 766 285
✉ revanthonyjones@yahoo.com

Three-Way Cross Cultural Concert Helps Raise Funds For The Dornoch Firth Group

A recital held at both Tain Parish Church and Dornoch Cathedral helped raise charitable funds for the Dornoch Firth Group. Entitled, “From Dreaming Spires and Ivory Towers to Distant Shores” the evening included the published poetic works and hymns of local writer and parish minister, Rev Anthony Jones, themes drawn from Scotland and Wales were included. Crossing cultural boundaries, there were also songs from Holland shared by Dutch singing duo, ‘Friends and Neighbours’, Margriet van Overbeeke and Irene Bom who sang extracts from their latest recording. Sandy Macpherson from the High Kirk, Dunoon, Argyll also took the audience on an imaginative auto-biographical musical journey surrounding Reverend Jones’ life.
It was a hot summer day. Morag asked, “What would you like to do today, Hamish?” He replied, “I could do with stretching my wings. Would you like to go for a fly?” Morag climbed onto Hamish’s back and they flew.

They soared higher than the tops of the mountains, as high as the clouds. Morag exclaimed, “Oh, look! That’s where my mum and dad work for the king of Norway. He lives there just now.”
Guide to local services A-Z

**BRADBURY CENTRE**
Bradbury Centre Bonar Bridge
01863 766 772

**BUSES**
MacLeod’s Coaches
01408 641 354
Bradbury Centre Bus
01863 766 772

**CAB**
Citizens Advice Bureau Golspie
01408 633 000

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**
Kincardine Parish Church
Rev. Anthony M. Jones
01863 766 285

**DVLA**
DVLA Inverness
0300 790 6801

**ELECTRICITY**
24Hr Emergency
0800 300 999
Customer Help
0800 300 111

**FIRE BRIGADE**
Fire Station Dornoch
01862 810 297

**FORESTRY COMMISSION**
Forestry Commission Scotland
01309 674 004

**GOLF CLUB**
Bonar Bridge-Ardgay GC
01863 766 199

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL**
Drummuie Golspie
01408 635 370
Service Point Bonar Bridge
01863 766 083
Service Point Dornoch
01862 810 491

**HIGH SCHOOLS**
Tain Royal Academy
01862 892 121
Dornoch Academy
01862 810 246

**KYLE OF SUTHERLAND**
KoS Development Trust
01863 766 536
KoS Fisheries Trust
01863 766 702
KoS Youth Development Group
01863 766 310

**LIBRARIES**
Bonar Bridge Library
01863 760 083
Mobile Libraries Ardgay & Strathoykel, Strathcarron
0773 330 0761

**NHS**
Migdale Hospital
01863 766 211
Doctors Creich Surgery
01863 766 379
Nurses Creich Surgery
01863 766 237

**POLICE**
Local Police (Inverness)
0845 600 5703
National Emergency 101
Confidential Line:
01463 723 321
Textphone:
01463 723 325

**POST OFFICE**
Bonar Bridge
01863 766 219

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS**
Gledfield
01863 766 580
Bonar Bridge
01863 766 221
Rosehall
01549 441 348

**RECYCLING CENTRE**
Bonar Bridge
01349 868 439

**SCOTTISH WATER**
24Hr Emergency
0845 600 8855
Customer Help
0845 601 8855

**TAXIS**
Ronnie’s Taxis Ardgay
01863 766 422
A&B Taxis Ardgay-Bonar
07549 999 760

**TRAINS**
National Rail Enquiries
0845 748 4950

**VETS**
Rogart Vets (Farm Animals, Pets & Horses)
01408 641 352
Easter Ross Vets Tain
01862 893 142
Johnston & Farrell Tain
01862 894 223
Kessocks Equine Vets
01463 731 107

**Royal Bank of Scotland**
Booked by 14:00 on the previous route. These journeys must be passengers up to a mile from the service. The service will divert which will be available as part of the service. The service will divert on request to pick up prebooked passengers up to a mile from the route. These journeys must be booked by 14:00 on the previous working day 01863 766 772

**MacLeod’s Coaches Timetable**
*ARDGAY ➔ TAIN*

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1 Connects with Stagecoach bus to/from Inverness

**Mobile Library Ardgay**
EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY
08/07/15 - 29/07/15 - 19/08/15 - 08/09/15
Oakwood Place, Ardgay
Arrive 13:45 Depart 14:00
The Lady Ross, Ardgay
Arrive 14:00 Depart 15:15
VOLUNTEER ADVISERS WANTED No special skills are needed and full training is provided. Citizens Advice Bureau 01408 633 000

GAZEBO / Small Marquee The CC have a small gazebo / marquee available for hire for community activities. Contact Marion Turner or Phil Olson 01863 766 100.

BOOKING Ardgay Public Hall. Contact: Fiona Venters 01863 766 602

BOOKING Kincardine Heritage Centre, Old Church of Kincardine, Ardgay. Mrs. Mary Stobo 01863 766 868

BOOKING Ardgay Church Hall. The Reverend Anthony Jones – 01863 766 285

Classified ads

Train times
From 14/12/2014
INVERNESS ➔ ARDGAY

Monday to Saturday:
07:02 (08:33) Catering Saturdays only
10:38 (12:05) Catering serv. available
14:00 (15:29) Catering serv. available
17:12 (18:39)
18:28 (20:01)

Sunday:
17:54 (19:23) Catering serv. available

ARDGAY ➔ INVERNESS

Monday to Saturday:
06:16 (07:44)
06:45 (08:13)
09:07 (10:34) Catering Saturdays only
10:54 (12:23) Catering serv. available
15:30 (17:01) Catering serv. available
18:52 (20:10) Catering serv. available
19:28 (20:57)

Sunday:
14:49 (16:16) Catering serv. available

Crosswords

Across
5. Impure earthy ore of iron or a ferruginous clay, usually red (hematite) or yellow (limonite), used as a pigment. 6. A strong ale formerly brewed in Norfolk, England. 9. The craggy peak which accommodates Carbisdale Castle, a place name related to the battle of Carbisdale (two words).

Down
1. Breed of draught horse named after a region of Scotland. 2. A long, thin piece of cotton, wool, etc., that is thicker than thread and is used for knitting and weaving. 3. A game in which players are given the geographical coordinates of a cache of items which they search for with a GPS device. 4. An insect that looks like a small worm and is the young form of a fly. 7. The main part of a ship or boat. / The deck, sides, and bottom of a ship or boat. / The outer covering of a fruit, grain, or seed. 8. An ornamental rooflike structure. / A protective covering like the uppermost spreading branchy layer of a forest. 10. Female sheep.

Around the end of June, the solution will be published at: www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Traditional Sporting Activities for experienced and beginners

HIGHLAND SHOOTING CENTRE
Scotland’s first 100m Underground Shooting Range. Introductory rifle and shotgun courses as well as bespoke tuition. Also Virtual Shooting Simulator which is a fully interactive indoor shooting experience suitable for all ages and abilities.

Clay Pigeon Shooting and Tuition.
All available individually or for groups
Do you live in the Creich or Ardgay community council areas?

We would like to help you with:

- Free home energy assessments
- Impartial home energy and energy reduction advice
- Home food growing help and advice
- Food waste reduction help and advice
- Reducing your household food and energy bills

www.facebook.com/greeningkyle  T: 01863 766554  E: gkassistant@kyleofsutherland.co.uk
Greening Kyle is funded by the Scottish Government through the Climate Challenge Fund. It is a part of the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, which is a Company Limited by Guarantee Scottish Registration: SC401019 & Scottish Charity: SC043587

ARDGAY & DISTRICT
Community Council newsletter

Editor: Silvia Muras Sanmartin
Design & Layout: Silvia Muras Sanmartin
01863 766 690 / silviamurassanmartin@gmail.com

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ARDGAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:
(Full contact details in page 10)
David Hannah (Chair), Marion Turner (Vice-Chair), Alan Lawrence (Treasurer), Phil Olson, Betty Wright, Bob Sendall, Teresa Langley (Secretary), Silvia Muras

COUNCILLORS:
(Full contact details in page 10)
George Farlow, Hugh Morrison, Linda Munro

ONLINE VERSION AVAILABLE FROM:
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ADVERTISING, LETTERS & CONTRIBUTIONS:
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ardgaynewsletter@gmail.com

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