Superfast broadband is coming to Ardgay and District in 2016

A cabinet will provide high speed broadband to all houses 2 km from the centre of Ardgay. The Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust is exploring how a community owned broadband company could be formed for those who live further away.

Superfast broadband is coming to Ardgay sometime early next year from a green cabinet in the centre of the village. Residents will be able to order it from their service provider once the cabinet “goes live”. Those who live closest to the cabinet will get the highest speeds and as you go further out the speeds will drop off. If you are more than about 2 km away from the village centre it is likely that you will not get any improvement in your current speeds. Because of this, the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust is exploring setting up a community run and owned broadband company which would bring fast broadband to those who may not be reached from the cabinet. (Continue on page 4)

Sandy’s Crossing

The bright yellow cycle wheeling ramp, pictured, was perceived as an urgent need at roughly the same time by both Creich Community Council and Ardgay & District Community Council. That was about three years ago and since then Sandy Chalmers kept the concept alive and moving forward. He obtained a design from a local steel fabricator and consulted Highland Council officials to work up an acceptable project. Eventually, in addition to the two community councils and the fabricator, Highland Council, Network Rail and Sustrans all became involved to finalise the design and get the steel installed. Thanks to everyone. The ramp works very well and will make Sandy’s Crossing safer and easier to use.

Campaign against the reduction in hours at the Bank of Scotland Bonar Bridge branch (Page 5)

Ten golden rules while applying for Community Wind Farm Awards

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Children & Young people extra pages

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Pete Andrews Driving School

Patient Friendly Tuition
Refresher Courses
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Areas Covered:
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Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee Scottish Registration: SC0401019 & Scottish Charity: SC043587. Registered office: The Trust Offices, Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland, IV24 3EB

Email: cdassist@kyleofsutherland.co.uk or Tel: 01863766190 for more details

Business support in Sutherland

We can help you with almost every aspect of starting, developing and running a business:

• Accessing finance
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Contact us:
David Knight, Senior Area Business Manager
Marianne Ross, Recruitment Adviser
Business Gateway, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EB
01863 766128
David.Knight@highland-opportunity.com
Marianne.Ross@highland-opportunity.com
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Ardgay & District photographs

Croick Church by Kirsty Woollard
Photo taken in 2014. Croick Church was built to the design of Thomas Telford in 1827, becoming more than just a place of worship, a safe haven for the people during the Clearance of Glencalvie in 1845.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Happy Christmas

I am excited with our frontpage article and the possibility of having superfast broadband at home. From watching online tv to submitting my work, in my opinion, a good Internet connection is essential in a rural remote area such as Ardgay & District. I hope there are many of you sharing the same point of view. A big thank you to our readers for the wonderful feedback, to our contributors and volunteer reporters, to our distributors who have delivered to you this copy despite the bad weather, and to our funders who are kindly supporting this venture. A very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Silvia Muras Editor
ARDGAY VILLAGE CENTRE WILL GET SUPERFAST BROADBAND EARLY IN 2016, THE REST WILL NEED TO WAIT

A superfast community owned broadband company for the Kyle of Sutherland?

The Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust is working with Community Broadband Scotland, who specialise in getting hard to reach areas connected, to investigate whether there is a demand for this and what the technical options are.

(Starts on front page)

All households in the outlying areas have recently received a letter and survey about broadband. If there is enough demand for a community broadband service then Community Broadband Scotland will help the Trust set up the infrastructure and management needed. The cost of community broadband to households would be pegged to follow market prices so it would not cost more than you would pay with a mainstream provider.

The information the Trust gathers from the survey will be important in deciding how our community takes this forward. Please make sure you return the survey or complete it online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/kosdtbroadbandscope

MEETING IN BONAR BRIDGE

On 23rd November, a well-attended meeting arranged by Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust took place at Bonar Bridge Hall. Nick Scroggie, Project Manager of the Digital Team at HIE, explained about the roll-out of Superfast broadband in Highland. It is expected that the green cabinet in Ardgay will go live early in 2016. Although they have extended the superfast “backbone” and are installing new green cabinets, the service will still rely on the existing copper wire from these cabinets to reach households. It is hoped that this will reach 84% of households.

Sarah Jones, Advisor with Community Broadband Scotland, explained that the Scottish Government has set up this organisation to find ways of getting fast broadband to the remaining 16% of households because as you get further away from a green cabinet the speed you will receive will drop off. This can be an issue in rural areas like ours where houses are spread out.

SUCCESSFUL SCHEMES

Sarah Jones gave examples of schemes which she has been involved in such as Locheilnet in Lochaber, which has 200 subscribers paying about £15 per month and Gigaplus Argyll which connects the islands of Islay, Jura, Coll, Craignish, Lismore and Mull; about 3,000 people in 1,500 premises.

At this stage they are studying maps of our area to calculate how many households are more than 2km away from the cabinet and which postcodes they belong to. Community Broadband Scotland will come back in early 2016 with further information and there will be a public meeting to finalise the shape of the project in our area.

Ron Boothroyd from the KoSDT encouraged everyone to return the survey which was delivered to all outlying households.

“Survey results are coming in and it is clear that there are many areas in the Kyle of Sutherland where the broadband speed is currently very poor.” Calum Couston, Community Development Assistant, KoSDT.
Ardgay & District Community Council recently sent a letter to the Bank of Scotland expressing people’s concerns and explaining how this measure will have a negative impact on the community. No answer has been received yet.

Bank of Scotland has failed to acknowledge receipt of the letter sent by Ardgay & District Community Council regarding the reduction in hours at the local branch of the Bank of Scotland. This letter supports the campaign led by Michael Baird in Bonar Bridge.

Here are some of the points raised by Ardgay & District CC:

- “There was no consultation with your customers or the community of interest. The reduction in footfall [...] is most likely a result of the bank in Bonar Bridge’s already reduced opening hours – only 2 days per week. The Bank has created the conditions which have led to this situation and further reduction in hours will, we fear, lead to closure.”

- “An aging population, a non-existent public transport system and irregular opening hours at the closest branches (20 – 30 mile round trip) make the alternatives not just inconvenient but unworkable.”

- “The Treasurers of many local groups, including this Community Council, who are willing volunteers, will now face obstacles to doing business. As the bank does not offer an account for small local community organisations, most of these groups operate the business account and find communication with the central office very difficult and unsatisfactory. When issues arise, [...] in the end it is only the local staff, who understand the situation on the ground, who can help them navigate the bureaucratic maze that the business account has become.”

- “There is a real danger that members of the community will shy away from becoming treasurer for these groups and the groups’ existence will be threatened.”

- “The Bank should feel some loyalty and make some “social payback” to a populace which locally has supported the bank for decades.”

- “Reducing the hours at Bonar Bridge will result in the human face of the bank, the one which helps people do business, becoming largely unavailable.”

- “Telephone and internet bank scamming is on the increase. This is not a time to be reducing face to face contact.”

- “Bank of Scotland should recognise its debt to this remote rural community of loyal customers and reconsider this decision.”

Local Campaigner

Michael Baird, has been campaigning against the bank’s unpopular decision for months. His plea last appeared at the Press & Journal on the 29th November, where he stated: “It is definitely a lifeline service because for many people, it is the last thing they have got available, especially older people who go there to collect their pensions and pay their bills.”
Wreath laying on Remembrance Sunday at Ardgay War Memorial.

THE LUNCH TOOK PLACE AFTER THE PARADE, WREATH LAYING AND CHURCH SERVICE

Royal British Legion Scotland Remembrance Sunday lunch for veterans and widows

Creich and Kincardine Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland organised a lunch for member veterans and widows after the Remembrance Sunday parade, wreath laying and church service in Ardgay this year. This combined two of the key roles of Legion Scotland, remembrance and comradeship. Funding was provided by Legion Scotland along with a donation from Friends of Sutherland Veterans. 23 veterans, widows and guests attended and enjoyed an excellent lunch provided by local caterers Lowecroft Catering.

Earlier wreaths were laid at the Ardgay and Bonar Bridge War Memorials by Legion Scotland, the Creich and Ardgay Community Councils, Fire Service and Lord Lieutenant. Local children planted crosses. The community turned out in force at both Memorials to show their respect and to remember. During the church service the names of those who fell in WW1 between the start of the war and a 100 years ago to the day, 8 November 1915, named on these Memorials were read out.

The lunch took place at Ardgay Public Hall.

Available online from www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk and in your local library.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS ROUND 2: ELECTION DAY THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 2016
Greening Kyle Warmer Homes Service
A free, local energy saving advice and practical measures service for residents in the Ardgay and Creich Community Council areas

Only available until 31st March 2016!
Take advantage now to save money on your energy bills and make your home warmer

Free Home Energy Assessments
Conducted by fully trained Domestic Energy Advisors

A practical Warmer Homes Service
Offering free draught proofing, insulation and energy saving measures (conditions apply)

Impartial energy advice
And information on available government grants and schemes, switching supplier and other energy assistance queries

To find out more about our services or to book a free home energy assessment contact us using the details below
Muirhall Energy - Caplich to fund training co-ordinated by Lairg Learning Centre

Do you work locally or would like to work locally? Are you a member of a community group? Would some training help your group? This fund may be able to help.

The developers of Caplich Wind Farm have pledged £8,000 to the three Community Council areas of Ardgay & District, Creich and Lairg, to spend on training. Lairg & District Learning Centre will co-ordinate the scheme. The classes will be run in all three areas in the first half of 2016.

WHO CAN BENEFIT?
Do you work locally or would you like to work locally? Are you aware of some training you could do which would help you get into employment or improve your skills in the job you currently do? Are you a member of a community group? Would some training help your group? This fund may be able to help.

Opportunities to attend training which may lead to useful, recognised qualifications could also be arranged locally.

COURSES ‘ON DEMAND’
Suggestions are already coming in and a popular choice seems to be learning how to use a chainsaw. This ticketed training helps residents improve their employability skills, but the community also benefits as more locals will have the skills to help with, say, coppicing the community woods. Please contact the centre if this is your choice of course.

Another idea is to help crofters with digital inclusion because large organisations are making more day-to-day croft administration computerised. Or how about dry-stone walling? A short course could provide sufficient information and practical experience to be able to rebuild a small section of wall.

If you are interested please contact the Lairg Learning Centre to discuss your ideas.

Jane Dixon
Manager
www.lairglearningcentre.org.uk
admin@lairglearningcentre.org.uk
01549 402 050

Lairg Learning Centre

Some of the ideas already put forward are chainsaw training, dry-stone walling and computerised croft administration.
Ten golden rules when applying for Community Wind Farm Awards

We asked members of local Wind Farm Award panels what are the most common errors that applicants make, and how to increase the chances of getting a grant.

**Wether you are already familiar with funding applications or you are thinking of applying for the first time, here are some tips that can help you maximise the chances of being successful.**

1. **DO SOME RESEARCH.** Read as much as possible about the fund or funds you are going to apply to. Visit their websites and look for the guidelines that most of them have available to download.

2. **GET HELP!** Phone or email the funders if you have any questions. Your Community Council or the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust will also be happy to assist you.

3. **SELECT THE RIGHT FUND FOR YOUR PROJECT.** Some awards are designed to fund big projects, and the application process is usually lengthy; others are targeted to small projects, have a limit e.g. £2,000, and you will have the final decision in just one or two months. It seems obvious, but do not try to apply for more money than the fund is able to give.

4. **MAKE SURE YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A GRANT.** Community Wind Farm Benefit panels will only make awards to non-profit organisations or constituted charities. If you are trying to apply as an individual or a business, you will need to try other sources of funding.

5. **EXPLAIN IN DETAIL WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU DO.** While writing your application, you need to describe your group, saying how many members it has, how many times a week/month/year you meet, etc. Do not take it for granted that the people who are going to make a decision already know you.

6. **TELL THEM HOW OBTAINING THE AWARD IS GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE** for the community, and who is going to benefit from it. This is perhaps the most important of all points. Ask yourself: “How many people from the relevant area will benefit directly from the award? And how many indirectly?” For example, your project is based in Ardgay, but the members of your group are residents of Bonar Bridge and Lairg. In this case, you could file three different applications to community funds in Ardgay, Creich and Lairg.

7. **SHOW A BREAKDOWN OF THE COSTS.** The members of the panel need to know how your group is going to spend the money. If you write a breakdown of your expenses, you give them the opportunity of funding some of the costs, if not all. If you do not give details you will very likely receive a negative answer.

8. **FILL IN YOUR APPLICATION CAREFULLY,** even if it is not the first time. Just because your organisation got money from the same fund before does not mean that they are going to grant it again. The panel might have changed, or they can decide that your project is not relevant anymore. Show them you take things seriously, do not write a careless application and be surprised if it is refused.

9. **TRY TO GET OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME** for your project and reflect that in your application. The panel will be more inclined to grant you money if they see you are raising funds elsewhere. Some funds will only exceptionally give money to cover 100% of the costs of a project.

10. **ACKNOWLEDGE THE GRANT.** Once you have your funding, do not forget to thank the funders. Also, ensure that you acknowledge their help in any publicity that you use in connection with the project. — Silvia Muras

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Community Wind Farm Awards will not give funds to:

- Support the advancement of commerce, religion or politics
- Hospitality as a reward for normal business activity
- Costs already incurred
- Repayment of loans
- Purchase of a vehicle
- Buy second hand items
- Activities contrary to the interests of renewable energy
How to apply for Community Benefit money

The Beinn nan 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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Decisions on the applications to this fund will not be made until a new Community Council is formed in Ardgay.

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 communitybenefit@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

IMPORTANT NOTE: Decisions on the applications to this fund will not be made until a new Community Council is formed in Ardgay.

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 +

1. Foundation Scotland administers E.ON Rosehall Community Fund. Visit wwwFOUNDATIONSANDSCOTLAND.ORG.UK/PROGRAMMES/EON-ROSEHALL.aspx for full details
2. Alternatively, you can contact Carol Elliot by email carol@FOUNDATIONSANDSCOTLAND.ORG.UK or call 07500 779 227 if you require any further information or advice.

Latest Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Awards:
Since the last newsletter the following awards have been made:

- Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust - £2,000 towards the cost of Ardgay regeneration proposal.
- Gearrchoille Community Wood Argyll - £800 towards running costs.
- Bradbury Centre - £360 towards the costs of seasonal activities.
- Ardgay Hall - £900 towards the cost of heating system removal.

Contact the Community Council Secretary:
secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Contact our Ward Manager
Ward 1: North, West and Central Sutherland

Andrew Mackay
Mobile: 07776 465 844
andy.mackay@highland.gov.uk

Councillors Representing the Highland Council North, West and Central Sutherland

George Farlow
gorge.farlow.clr@highland.gov.uk

Hugh Morrison
hugh.morrison.clr@highland.gov.uk

Linda Munro
linda.munro.clr@highland.gov.uk
Happy birthday, Ardgay shop!

Since opening, the shop has developed in response to its customers and now has a wider range of items as well as fruit and veg. Adam said, “If someone has a request for something we can usually get it for them.” It’s this kind of service, and the open every day policy, which has seen their customer numbers grow from the early beginnings when Holly and Adam moved north to start the business.

Being an independent shop, not part of a chain, brings some advantages but also lots of hard work. Holly said, “The hours are long and it’s hard work but I really enjoy it. I like meeting our customers and getting to know them.”

The cosy café has proved popular with locals and is also a great stop-off for those who are traveling up and down the road. Holly said, “People have heard about our haggis and cheese toasties and come in to try them. Our bacon rolls and cafetiere coffee are a big hit too.”

We wish them a Happy Birthday and continued success!

Over 50? Wanting to keep on feeling good?

The Keep Active Together (KAT) programme is very diverse and includes ‘Keeping Fit for Over 50s’ each Friday Morning in Ardgay Public Hall, 10:30 for an hour.

This is not body-building, nor working up a sweat. Emma, our trainer, concentrates on balance and movement, which we all do, every waking hour. The gentle, natural exercises are fun and help keep us as efficient as we were 20 years ago.

Join in!

Police Scotland’s Festive Safety Campaign

Police Scotland launched its annual Festive Safety Campaign on the 18th November with a focus on a number of issues which could affect people in Scotland over the coming winter months.

The five-week campaign will offer advice and information to the public regarding online safety, shop safety, party safety and home safety.

Online Safety encourages people to think about what they are posting on social networking sites and to make sure their web browser and internet security is up to date.

Shop Safely by keeping presents out of sight in cars and being careful when using cash machines.

Party Safely messages include planning ahead for nights out, sticking with friends and being sensible about how much alcohol is consumed.

Home Safety advice includes tips on keeping homes secure and ensuring presents are kept out of sight.

For more information visit: www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/festive-safety/.
Letters to the editor

Do you have a strong feeling about something you read? Would you like to raise awareness of our community's issues? Send your letters to ardgaynewsletter@gmail.com. Please try not to exceed 300 words.

Struie Road maintenance

I am one of those who commute in the early morning over the Struie road. I know the Highland Council is not gritting this road because is not a primary route, but everybody uses it because is several miles shorter than the alternative route. Last week the road was very dangerous in all the usual places where the ice forms, because of a lack of grit. I understand that if the road is not suitable for use, or dangerous, they should close it.

A reader, Ardgay

(Retired) CC Chair's thank you letter

Well that's it, eight years of faithful service to the Community Council, six as Chair and all that is left is to express my sincere thanks to all those dedicated members who have served with me, and are also now retired, leaving our community unrepresented.

Thank You - Marion Turner - Vice Chair, Alan Lawrence - Treasurer, Bob Sendal, Betty Wright, Phil Olson – Website Manager, Silvia Muras – Newsletter Editor, and those who served and have moved on Liz Cormack, Teresa Langley, Doreen Gibbs & David Laver and Lest we Forget - Tony Gibbs & Peter Armstrong.

Sincere Thanks too to: Jeannie Sparling for caring that the community and passing visitors had nice clean and bright toilets in which to comfort themselves.

Jocky Hewitt, Carol Laver & Doreen Bruce who made sure out village and station blossomed with lovely floral displays.

Paul Whittock for brightening up the village and school at Christmas.

The Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust for all their hard work in promoting the Kyle as an area worth living in and visiting and also for their tremendous efforts to engage with the community at all levels through a wide range of activities in Keep Active Together.

The Garechoille Community Wood Ardgay Committee – who strive to make sure the Wood is a place worth visiting and preserving for future generations.

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society – whose few dedicated volunteers also try to ensure that the Kincardine Old Church is preserved and is a reference point for historians and archivists on information about Ardgay & District, and is a major focal point on the Pictish Trail.

The Windfarm Developers which have helped us financially and with help and guidance to achieve the maximum possible community benefit.

When you all realise how much your Community Council did for you perhaps you'll consider standing for election when the next opportunity comes along.

(I'll still be working - voluntarily for Ardgay & District through – Garechoille Community Wood Ardgay, Dornoch Firth Group, East & Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau, East & Central Sutherland Community Care Forum, Voluntary Groups East & Central Sutherland, Highland Third Sector Interface, Kincardine Parish Church, Sutherland Local Area Partnership and I trust that you will be working for Ardgay & District too). Yours sincerely.

David Hannah, Ardgay
Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust

KYLE OF SUTHERLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST SECURES OVER £300,000 FOR “COSY HOMES” PROJECT

British Gas Energy Trust Healthy Homes Fund

In January 2016 KoSDT is launching “Cosy Homes East Sutherland Scheme” to provide energy efficiency measures for homes which will bring about an improvement in the health of the householders.

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust has been awarded £326,983 for Cosy Homes East Sutherland Scheme (CHESS). An innovative project to provide energy efficiency measures for homes which through the installation of new heating systems, double glazing or other energy efficiency measures will bring about an improvement in the health of the householders. The project will be led by Rhionna Mackay who was previously the Project Officer for Greening Kyle, a carbon reduction project in the Kyle of Sutherland. Rhionna will be joined by local Sarah Forrest who has been appointed as the part time Project Assistant.

Local support for CHESS was provided by the medical practices in Brora, Golspie and Bonar Bridge and Home Energy Scotland. KoSDT will commence this new project in January 2016 when referrals will be made by the medical practices and through self-referrals. Households who meet the criteria will be eligible for measures costing up to a maximum of £12,000. There will also be a hardship fund available to households which find themselves in fuel poverty.

This major project to provide affordable warmth in homes throughout East Sutherland has been funded by the British Gas Energy Trust Healthy Homes Scheme. Administered by Charis Grants on behalf of the Trust, the Healthy Homes Scheme is funding projects aiming to assist low income, vulnerable households address health problems exacerbated by fuel poverty.

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust is one of just over 40 projects to achieve funding from the British Gas Energy Trust after it received more than 140 applications from organisations across the UK. Cosy Homes East Sutherland Scheme is one of just six projects in Scotland to be successful.

Alec Broadhurst, Healthy Homes Programme Manager at Charis Grants said “Charis Grants are delighted to award Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust funding on behalf of the British Gas Energy Trust Healthy Homes Scheme. We look forward to supporting them as they work with local partners to provide affordable warmth and deliver a positive impact on the health and well-being of vulnerable people in East Sutherland”.

Rhionna Mackay Project Officer

gkofficer@kyleofsutherland.co.uk
01863 766 554

Falls of Shin Community Project update

We are delighted to announce that The Highland Council have committed £100,000 towards the funding package and applications have also been submitted to HIE and BIG Lottery with decisions expected by the end of February 2016.

If you would like further information on the project please contact Valerie direct by email fosofficer@kyleofsutherland.co.uk or telephone 01863 766 554 or alternatively check the details via the QR Codes.
Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust

A year with many community activities and projects coming to fruition

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust held its AGM on the 16th November. Peter Campbell, Chairman, and Helen Houston, Development Manager, presented their annual reports.

_It has been a very busy year for the KoSDT. The Trust has supported many groups to access funds for their projects or to provide advice on matters such as governance and finance. £62,509 has been successful raised on behalf of local groups._

_GREENING KYLÉ_
The team have held 30 events to provide people with information on home energy, growing your own food and cookery classes. 60 home energy visits have been carried out and the team have also been referring clients to the Trust's 'A Helping Hand' small grants scheme providing fuel poor households with much needed fuel.

_POST OFFICE_
Catriona Hill brought the renovation of the post office house to completion on time and in budget. On December 2014 planning permission was granted for a terrace of three, one bedroom units on the land behind the post office. The Trust continues to watch for funding opportunities to be able to continue this development.

_SCOTGRAD ASSOCIATE_
The Trust sought a Community Development Assistant Scot Grad Associate and appointed Calum Couston, who moved from the central belt to take up his position.

_KEEP ACTIVE TOGETHER_
One full time and one part time position were offered and the project officer Beverley Hill moved from the central belt to take up the position and locally based Emma Mackay was successful in her application as activity assistant. The aim of the project is to provide activities which promote health and wellbeing for older people and families.

_Small Grant Scheme_
The scheme has been funded by EON Rosehall Community Windfarm fund. The small grants are reaching people who may not benefit in any other way from windfarm funds.

_TRUST OFFICE_
On average 30 people a week access the services offered by the Trust, this being for photocopying, to arrange an energy visit, enquire about events or to seek assistance for their community group. Membership has grown from 67 to 225.

Winter news from the Bradbury Centre - Bonar Bridge

_The Bradbury Centre has been busy preparing activity for Christmas. It has now two dates in December for clients to go to the pantomime, these are the 10th and 12th. Clients have recently had a shopping trip and their Christmas Lunch will be the 16th of December. The centre has also sent packages with various items for the Nepal Earthquake Appeal. There are various crafts and knitted items for sale at the Bradbury Centre, these are scarves and handbags and they could make excellent Christmas gifts. There is also a raffle to be drawn on the 16th of December after the Christmas Lunch. Raffle tickets can be obtained from the Bradbury centre, and donations for raffle and hamper are very welcome._

_Remember that all are welcome to visit anytime._

_Barbara Hartsbourn_,
Bradbury Centre
Gearrchoille Community Wood

Autumn has been a fairly quiet time in the Gearrchoille. The weather has been warm and mostly dry which helped to make some lovely autumn colours, particularly the aspens.

We continue to meet for our volunteer afternoons on the first Thurs of each month (at 2 pm in the car park). We will be thinning birch through the winter months – the thinned birch makes good firewood for volunteers to take away, so do come along!

We now have the grant money, thanks to Rosehall Eon community benefit fund, and planning permission as required for the shelter and storage container in the wood. The container should be arriving soon, which will be used for storing tools for use during volunteer sessions. The shelter is a very simple open-sided construction which will give often welcome shelter from the weather. This will make it much easier to plan regular community events in the wood. It would be great to be able to offer regular events for children in the woods – such as a Forest School group. Having a shelter readily available will make it possible to organise music and storytelling events. Lots of exciting things to come!

For further info or offers of help, contact us using the details below. ■ Betty Wright

gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk
gearrchoille@gmail.com
01863755316
Children & Young people

**GLEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

- Kirsten Macneil Cluster Headteacher Rosehall & Gledfield Primary Schools

---

**FOOTBALL:** Our team proudly shows off their new football strip kindly sponsored by Ardgay Game before heading off to the outdoor competition.

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**GLEDFIELD CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Ardgay pupils put on their festive hats and sang some Christmas songs to open the village craft fair.

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**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

Our Pupil Council organised a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and raised an amazing £160.91 for this great cause! Our boys in P7 baked a massive cake as part of their efforts to raise money! Rev. Jones came along and did a short Harvest Thanksgiving service as part of the morning. Our Pupil Council also organised a fun afternoon in the school for Children in Need and raised a great £74.41.

---

**WREATH LAYING**

Our pupils gathered to lay a wreath they had made at the war memorial on Remembrance Day. Rev. Jones led the short service of remembrance.

---

**DOCTOR CHRIS MAIR** came to our school to share with us his experiences in Africa when he was there to fight the Ebola outbreak.
Children & Young people

MEET HAMISH THE TARTAN DRAGON
A Shy veggie dragon who lives on Carn Bren
by Andymack & Sil

One sunny winter morning, Morag woke up and looked through the window: everything was covered in snow! It was the first snow of the winter holidays, so she asked permission of her mum and dad to play outside with her sledge.

She went to see Hamish and they slid down the hill many times, until they were tired.

“Do you want to make a snowman?” said Morag.

“A snowman? What is a snowman?” said Hamish.

“It’s easy. I will show you,” she said, while starting to make snowballs. “You will need to make the body, and two arms, and this carrot will be his nose…,” she explained and when she finished her snowman she turned to see that Hamish had made his with a tail, four legs and horns made of carrots! A ‘snowdragon’!

RAG BAG
Gledfield Primary would be delighted for any donations of old clothes, shoes, bed linen, towels etc as part of their efforts to raise money for the school. All the items can be dropped off at the school.

INVER FUN RUN
Some of our pupils took part in the Inver Fun Run and had a great time despite the cold weather!!

MEET HAMISH

The Tartan Dragon

A Shy veggie dragon who lives on Carn Bren

by Andymack & Sil
**Sutherland Walkers Club**

We meet the 4th Sunday of the month, all year round. **SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER** Christmas Special. Newton Point, via Pulrossie Farm. 4 miles, circular, road and open coastal area. **SUNDAY 24 JANUARY** Brora, Old Drove Road. 7 – 8 miles, road and track, circular. Walk from Loch Brora to Oldtown, then old drove road to East Clyne. **SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY** Black Rock Gorge Circular. From Evanton to the Gorge and on to Glen Glass Waterfalls. 7 miles, tracks and paths, river bank, spectacular gorge, forest. 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 766 061

**Edderton & District Gardening Club**

During the lovely autumn weather the club enjoyed visits to Læl Forest Gardens and Inverness Botanic Gardens. The remainder of the winter programme is: **JANUARY**: lunch at Luigi’s in Dornoch, for club members. **MONDAY 1ST FEBRUARY**: annual light-hearted gardening quiz evening at 7.30pm in Edderton Community Hall. Everybody is welcome. The March and April meetings will be day time visits, dates to be confirmed depending on the early spring weather. Contact: ① 01863 766 061

**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

**Ardgay Badminton Club**

Thursday nights at Ardgay Public Hall. Juniors: 18:30 - 19:30 - £1 Teenagers & Adults: 19:30 - 22:00 £1/hour Contact: George Ross ① 01863 755 395

**Ardgay Scottish Country Dancing Club**

Every Tuesday from 7:30 pm in Ardgay Public Hall. Contact: Doreen Bruce ① 01863 766 852

**Bonar Bridge Local History Society**

Organising events and history walks. Contact: Marion Fraser ① 01863 766 235

**Tai Chi**

Ardgay Public Hall Monday 2:30 pm £2 Contact: Angela ① 01549 421 336

**Pilates**

Bonar Bridge Hall, Mondays from 10 to 11 am. Please call in advance. Contact: Moira Chisholm ② 01862 810 786

**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 Whist Club**

Bonar Bridge Hall, Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. Admission £2 including tea. Contact: Rosemary Logan ② 01549 421 282

**Bonar Bridge Ardgay Golf Club**

Market Stance, Migdale Road, Bonar Bridge. Sutherland IV24 3EJ ① 01863 766 199

**Bonar Bridge Edderton & District Gardening Club**

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**Kyle of Sutherland Joggers**

Leaders trained by Jog Scotland. All levels of fitness are welcome. Facebook: Kyle of Sutherland Joggers Contact: Eliza / Caroline / Gemma ① 07743 228 661 ② 07799 391 281 ③ 07545 929 768

**Kyle of Sutherland Cycling Club**

if you fancy a ride out seeing some great scenery or fancy just getting fit or even just getting a natter then feel free to come out for a ride with all at KOSCC Website: www.koscc.co.uk Facebook: Kyle of Sutherland CC Contact: Chris ① 07543 466 699

**Kyle of Sutherland Cinema Club**

Second and fourth Friday of each month. Bonar Bridge Hall at 7:30 pm. All welcome. Contact: Silvia Muras ① 01863 766 690

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What’s on in the area

ARDROSS HALL

29 JAN.

An Then What?

And Then What? will be the first in a series of dance theatre works reflecting on themes of ‘Where are we going?’ If, at all, we will ever know! Choreographed by plan B’s Artistic Director, Frank McConnell, the piece will be a witty and inventive take on what it is we want to be when we grow up? This brand new production will appeal to audience aged 8 upwards. 8 pm Tickets: £10 and £7 conc. Booking line: 01349 880591

INVERSHIN HALL, 7 PM

29 FEB.

Growing Kyle meeting

If you enjoy gardening, grow your own produce or would like to and want to meet with like-minded people to share ideas, tips and have a chat, then come along to our meeting. All ages and abilities welcome. Further information: Jo Smith 01863 766554

BONAR BRIDGE HALL - 11 AM

16 JAN.

Winter Warmer Event

Come along to our Winter Warmer Day to find out how to keep your home and yourself warm and healthy this winter. You don’t have to choose between heating and eating this winter. Come along for free advice and Winter Survival Kits. Stall holders to be announced.

STRATHPEFFER PAVILION

27 FEB.

Opera highlights

This year’s programme includes favourites from Mozart’s Don Giovanni, Rossini’s The Barber of Seville and Verdi’s La Traviata, as well as lesser-known works by Vaughan Williams, Copland and Ambroise Thomas. Add in a smattering of operetta and some Viennese waltzes, plus a world premiere from Scottish Opera’s Composer in Residence, Liam Paterson, and you’ve got a night out that’s not to be missed. Tickets: £11 and £5 conc.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

31 DEC.

Hogmanay in Dornoch

The Whole Hog
12:00 to 3:30 pm. Drop-in candle making workshop Coast Candle Co. (01862 811333) - £20
4:00 to 6:00 pm. A moment’s calm in the Cathedral Experience the Labyrinth Dornoch Cathedral
6:30 to 10:30 pm. Family Hogmanay Ceilidh Grannie’s Heilan’ Hame (food served from 3pm)
8:30 to 10:30 pm. Ceilidh Dancing, Beginners welcome, Dornoch Social Club (silver collection)
7:00 pm. Dornoch Castle Hotel 5 course Gala Dinner with champagne and canapes on arrival £65 per person, booking essential (01862 810216)
10:30 pm. Dancing in the Street! The Famous Dornoch Hogmanay Party with Monach Isle Ceilidh Band. Dornoch Square. Lone Piper on Castle Battlements at midnight, followed by Firework Display

BONAR BRIDGE

6 JAN.

Whist

Join the Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club on its first whist drive of 2016. Bonar Bridge Community Hall, 7 pm. Admission £2 including tea.
From the Manse...

From the Manse...

“Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly”

Dear Friends, The next line to the popular Christmas carol goes “tis the season to be jolly.” To be jolly - I wonder what that phrase means to us today? Sometimes it seems we have lost the ability ‘to be jolly’. Life these days is taken far too seriously. We will all be doing a fair deal of rushing around the shops during the Christmas period. The weary mother may well feel utterly drained, and the father stressed out with overexcited children lagging behind. There may be many a Christmas “grump” not feeling the least bit jolly but, rather the expression might be, “Bah, Humbug!” No, Christmas may well have lost its jolliness in the fits of consumerism. “To be jolly” nowadays seems to be confined to the mere consumption of alcohol. In the days when the carol was written it expressed a much more potent and longer lasting feeling. In Victorian times to be jolly meant more than that glass of “Christmas cheer”. The first angel’s message was to “be of good cheer. I bring you glad tidings of great joy.” Thank God for Bethlehem or, we wouldn’t be encouraged nationally, and internationally, at least once a year to think about others and to experience great joy in the giving and receiving of presents in commemoration of the shepherds and the Wise Men. To remember that not just at that particular time in history but every day God gives us the greatest gift of all, His love through His Son Jesus Christ - the greatest hope for all humanity. We need to be reminded of that in today’s world. Sometimes it seems the world has grown tired and people are only mean and selfish. It is no mistake however that we celebrate the brightest, most cheerful, ‘jolly’ season at the darkest time of year. There is every reason to cast off the gloom, to rejoice, to give thanks, to deck our halls with boughs of holly but only if we remember the real reason why we celebrate.

We look forward to welcoming you to our churches during the Christmas season.

A Very Happy Christmas & A Healthy & Peaceful New Year to You. Rev. Anthony M. Jones

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thursday 17th December - Bonar Bridge Primary School Service at Creich Parish Church at 2 pm

Monday 21st December Gledfield Primary School Service at Ardgay Parish Church at 10 am Edderton Primary School Service at Edderton Parish Church at 2 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE:
Thursday 24th December Watchnight Services:
11 pm at Rosehall Parish Church
11:15 pm at Creich Parish Church
11:30 pm at Edderton Parish Church

CHRISTMAS DAY:
Friday 25th December Short Toy Service at 10:30 am at Ardgay Parish Church (children bring along a favourite toy)
Sunday 27th December: Family services:
10:30 am Creich Parish Church
11 am Edderton Parish Church
12 pm Rosehall Parish Church

Sunday 3rd January, 2016: New Year Service for all the churches of the Kyle of Sutherland at Ardgay Parish Church at 11 am

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

Rosehall Church “Fisher’s Praise” at the Cemetery Pool, River Cassley, Rosehall (left). Creich Church Flower Festival (right).
Guide to local services

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

Keep Active Together weekly activity programme

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<tr>
<th>MONDAYS</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ballroom / Latin class</td>
<td>Ardgay Public Hall</td>
<td>£2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Lego Fun</td>
<td>Bonar Bridge Community Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workout plus</td>
<td>Ardgay Public Hall</td>
<td>£2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ballroom / Latin class</td>
<td>Rosehall Hall</td>
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<th>TUESDAYS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Family ABC Fitness</td>
<td>Ardgay Public Hall</td>
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<td>OTAGO</td>
<td>Ardgay Public Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin Cardio Workout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Nature Trial</td>
<td>Gearrchoille Community Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walk’n’Talk</td>
<td>Meet at KoS Trust Office</td>
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<td>Streetdance 5-11 years</td>
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<td>Streetdance 12-18 years</td>
<td>Bonar Bridge Community Hall</td>
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Mobile Library Ardgay
EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY
23 December 2015
13 January 2016
3 February 2016
24 February 2016
Oakwood Place, Ardgay
Arrive 13:45 Depart 14:00
The Lady Ross, Ardgay
Arrive 14:00 Depart 15:15

Post Office Ardgay
Ardgay Public Hall
Opening times
MONDAY: 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
FRIDAY: 10 am - 1 pm

Post Office Bonar Bridge
Laig Road, Bonar Bridge
Opening times
MONDAY TO FRIDAY:
8:15 am - 6 pm
SATURDAY: 8:15 am - 1 pm

Keep Active Together:
Weekly Activity Programme

| Village Halls & venues           |                         |       |
| ARDGAY & DISTRICT Ardgay Public Hall | Fiona Ventrers / 01863 766 199 |       |
| Ardgay Church Hall Rev. Anthony Jones 01863 766 285 |                         |       |
| Culrain Village Hall culrainmains@gmail.com |                         |       |
| Croick Church enquiries@croickchurch.com |                         |       |
| Kincardine Heritage Centre Mrs. Mary Stobo / 01863 766 868 |                         |       |
| Kyle of Sutherland Bonar Bridge Community Hall Sally Thompson / 01863 766 883 |                         |       |
| Bradbury Centre Lorraine Askew / 01863 766 772 |                         |       |
| Invershin Hall Elissa Stevens / 01549 421 369 |                         |       |
| Rosehall Hall Beverly Morrison / 01549 441371 |                         |       |

Bonar Bridge Recycling Centre
Opening Hours
MONDAY: 1 pm - 4:30 pm
TUESDAY: 1 pm - 4:30 pm
WEDNESDAY: Closed
THURSDAY: 8 am - 12 pm
FRIDAY: 8 am - 12 pm
SATURDAY: 9 am - 1 pm
SUNDAY: Closed

Materials accepted
Batteries, car batteries, cardboard, fluorescent light tubes, standard and energy efficient light bulbs, fridges and freezers, garden waste, gas cylinders, plastic bottles, tyres, waste electrical and electronic equipment.
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

CHILDREN & FAMILY
Kyle of Sutherland Hub
01863 766 310

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

FISHERIES
KoS Fisheries Trust
01863 766 702

HIGHLAND COUNCIL
Drummuie Golspie
01408 635 370
Service Point Bonar Bridge
01863 766 083
Service Point Dornoch
01862 810 491
Tain Registration Office
01349 886 644

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

KOSDT
KoS Development Trust
01863 766 190
Keep Active Together
01863 766 554

LIBRARIES
Bonar Bridge Library
01863 760 083
Mobile Libraries Ardgay & Strathdon, Strathsooch
0773 330 0761

NHS
Midgale Hospital
01863 766 211
Doctors Creich Surgery
01863 766 379
Nurses Creich Surgery
01863 766 237

POLICE
Local Police (Inverness)
0845 600 5703
Non 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 888 439

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
Kessock Equine Vets
01463 731 107

Royal Bank of Scotland
Mobile Timetable TUESDAY
Bonar Bridge War Memorial
Arrive 11:50 Depart 12:05

MacLeod's Coaches Timetable

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Argyll &amp; Sutherland</th>
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Bradbury Centre Bus

BONAR BRIDGE CIRCULAR
(Via Spinningdale, Tain and Edderton)
920 - Wednesday

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<tr>
<th>Bonar Bridge</th>
<th>Bonar Bridge</th>
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<th>Strathdon</th>
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<tr>
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| BONAR BRIDGE - ALNESS 919 - Tuesday

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The minibus has a wheelchair lift 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

THE END
Puzzles

Sudoku

**Easy**

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A number may not appear twice in the same row or in the same column or in any of the nine 3x3 subregions.

Crosswords

**Across**

5. To choose one thing instead of another.
6. An evergreen tree or bush with stiff needles and small red berries.
8. (Three words) Gaelic name of a hill, a wind farm and a community benefit award of Ardgay & District, meaning “hill of the cloudberries”.

**Down**

1. A Scottish hill between 2,500 and 2,999ft (762 to 914m), with a drop all round of at least 500 ft (152.4m).
2. The history of a word or phrase shown by tracing its development and relationships.
3. A group of people who give advice to the leader of a government.
4. An Indian bread that is round, flat, and soft.
7. An unstylish, unattractive, or socially inept person; especially: one slavishly devoted to intellectual or academic pursuits.
9. The superior or head of an abbey.

Solutions can be found at: [www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk)
Keep Active Together (KAT)

“Aiming to increase activity along with health and wellbeing for the Kyle of Sutherland residents.”

Keep Active Together (KAT) is an exciting project which aims to increase activity along with health and wellbeing for residents in the Ardgay, Bonar Bridge and Creich Community Council areas. This will be achieved by running weekly fitness and activity sessions for people of all ages and abilities. We run group exercise classes, nutrition and exercise clubs and also family and outdoor activities.

We have a extensive range of classes including Latin/Ballroom, Otago, Family Lego Fun and cookery classes for young people. We also have seasonal classes, please see posters for more information.

All of our events are advertised on the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust website, the Keep Active Together Facebook page and local community noticeboards in the Kyle of Sutherland Area. Be sure to like us on Facebook!

Pop upstairs to meet Keep Active Together staff, Beverley Hill, Project Officer and Emma Mackay, Activity Assistant.