Interview with Sarah Jones, Community Broadband Scotland Advisor for the Area

“A subscriber to a community broadband project should not pay more than the market rate”

The Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust is working with Community Broadband Scotland to explore the possibilities of setting up a community owned broadband company that will deliver “superfast” broadband to the Kyle of Sutherland.

Ardgay & District CC newsletter spoke to CBS Advisor Sarah Jones, who is working with the KoS-DT to confirm the details of a potential project in the Kyle of Sutherland area. The project is still at an early stage but the Trust will be hosting a number of public meetings to ensure that members of the community are kept informed of how the project is progressing. (Continue on page 4)

Falls of Shin project awarded £1 million from the Big Lottery Fund (Page 12)

KoSDT manager, Helen Houston, Falls of Shin Development Manager, Valerie Houston, Project Manager & Catriona Hill from CH Architecture with some of the KoSDT directors.

Funding is now in place for the project ‘Gateway to Sutherland’ to regenerate Ardgay Centre (Page 13)

Kyle of Sutherland Forest Trust set up to develop a community owned forest in Culrain

In June 2015, Kyle of Sutherland Forest Trust was created in order to register interest in approximately 100 acres of Carbisdale Forest surrounding the village of Culrain. (Page 11)
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For further information please contact T:01863 766554  www.facebook.com/keepactivetogether
E:katofficer@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

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Editor’s Letter

Community spirit

Thank you to all our contributors and volunteers. It is very rewarding to be the editor of the community newsletter when there is so much exciting news to share. The Kyle of Sutherland, and particularly Ardgay & District is a vibrant area with many community projects going on: there are plans to create a community broadband, a new visitor centre in the Falls of Shin, a community forest in Culrain, the redevelopment of the Lady Ross site, and the new facility KoS Hub! And finally, a new community council has been elected in Ardgay. I wish the best of luck to all these projects and groups.

Silvia Muras Editor

Ardgay & District photographs

Spring Aurora Borealis by Janis Hedley
Photo taken on the 14th May 2015 from the Struie. This was the last northern lights display visible until August because the nights were getting much lighter. The orange is the sun sitting just below the horizon.
CBS is working closely with the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust to identify the project area. A community owned broadband company would provide “superfast service” to the Kyle of Sutherland confirmed project area with little or no extra cost.

(Starts on front page)

**A&DCC Newsletter: What is ‘superfast’ broadband and what speeds should we expect?**

**Sarah Jones:** “Superfast” Broadband is defined by the EU as having a download speed of 30 mbps and over. The community broadband project area is still being confirmed so it is not possible to say at this stage who will get what speed. It is worth noting that the current plan is for the project to deliver a “superfast service” to the project area and this area will be confirmed in the coming months.

**A&DCQN:** Is the Kyle of Sutherland broadband project different from previous projects you have been involved in?

**SJ:** All community broadband projects are different as they cover different terrain and have different numbers of subscribers to the broadband service. However, the process that we follow for each project is very similar so in this regard this project is not that different. CBS will work closely with the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust and expert consultants to design a project that will best provide a service for the project area.

**A&DCCN:** How does a community broadband work for customers here? Who pays the costs of setting it all up?

**SJ:** CBS funding is available for planning the project (at an intervention rate of 100%) and funding is available for the capital cost of the community broadband project (i.e. building the system) at an intervention rate of 89%. 11% of the funding needs to come from non-public sources. There are a number of ways that the 11% can be raised including community share offers or through community benefit funds from renewable energy developments.

**A&DCQN:** Will I need to buy any special equipment to use the community broadband?

**SJ:** This depends on the final design of the project. If it is a wireless project, you are likely to need some...
Ardgay & District News

form of wireless “receiver” on your house to capture the wireless internet signal. Once the signal has been received it then travels down a cable into your home and into a wireless router. This “receiver” is about the same size as a presentation whisky case. If the project design includes fibre then there is likely to be some trenching in order to lay the fibre cable. These details will be determined through the final project design in consultation with the consultants. Through working with consultants, CBS will support the community in developing a project that will provide the best coverage for the project area.

A&DCCN: Who will provide me with support?
SJ: Who will provide the broadband support is still to be confirmed for this community broadband project. Some projects are supported entirely by fully trained volunteers, other projects are supported by paid members of staff who work for a third party and some projects have a combination of the two.

A&DCCN: Will the community broadband be more expensive than our current Internet provider?
SJ: CBS does a lot of work on the business planning for each community broadband project to help determine numbers of subscribers and what the price points should be to pay for the broadband service. The golden rule for a CBS project is that a subscriber to a community broadband project should not pay more than the market rate for a broadband service (excluding any introductory offers). So you should pay a comparable price to your current internet provider for a given broadband speed.

A&DCCN: We have been informed that there is enough interest and now the project is in “phase two”. Could you please give us some details about what happens next and how long will it be before we have the community broadband up and running?
SJ: The next key step is to confirm the project area. CBS is working closely with the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust on this. Once this has been confirmed meetings will be organised with the communities due to benefit from the community broadband project. In parallel with this a State Aid consultation process will commence, following this a tendering process will start for the build of the project. Because this project is at an early stage it is difficult to say with accuracy when the project will be up and running but it is likely to be in 2017.

A&DCCN: If I didn’t register my interest in the broadband at the first survey, can I join the community broadband project later?
SJ: If you are in the project area then you should be able to become a subscriber to the community broadband project. 

What is Community Broadband Scotland?

Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) has been set up and funded by the Scottish Government to support communities that are unlikely to benefit from the Digital Scotland Superfast (DSSB) fibre roll out. There is more information on CBS here:
www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-broadband-scotland
and more information on the DSSB fibre roll out here:
www.scotlandsuperfast.com/where-when

Silvia Muras

Sarah Jones
Advisor
www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-broadband-scotland
Successful refurbishment projects have greatly improved Ardgay Public Hall

New windows & new electric heating system, blinds for the main hall, committee room & kitchen, a commercial grade dishwasher... and more improvements will follow.

Regular readers of this newsletter will remember that in last autumn's edition the hall committee outlined all the refurbishment projects that had been successfully completed since autumn 2012. Today, the committee are pleased to say that there are several additions to be made to that list.

By the turn of 2015/16, as promised, with a £10,000 grant from the SSE Achany Community Fund and £9,910 of financial support from Awards for All Scotland, both the new windows and new electric heating system had been installed throughout the hall.

In February this year enough money was finally accrued – ‘Thank You’ to everyone who attended the 2015 Christmas Fair - to permit the purchase of new vertical blinds for both the main hall and committee room windows, whilst the kitchen acquired a colourful set of new roller blinds.

It was disappointing that when the new kitchen was originally installed last year there was not enough funding available to include a commercial grade dishwasher. So the committee was delighted when our three Highland Council Ward Members, Cllr. Linda Munro, Cllr. George Farlow and Cllr. Hugh Morrison agreed to support the hall with £1,700 of finance from their Discretionary Fund; enabling the purchase of such a machine, which has now been delivered to the hall and will be installed shortly.

The committee is also very pleased to be able to announce that a new ‘Cleaners Cupboard’ is going to be created soon by converting some existing storage space to incorporate a low level sink with hot & cold water on tap. This will make it much easier to fill and empty mop buckets, etc. The committee are grateful to the E.ON Rosehall Community Fund supported by Foundation Scotland for the £2,000 grant that has made this much longed for work possible.

It is hoped, that with the continued help and support of Catriona Hill, of CH Architecture, Bonar Bridge, more work will also be carried out soon.

A recent application to the Highland Council Carbon Clever Fund has resulted in an award of £658 towards the cost of installing insulation in the ceilings above the committee room, toilets, etc, alongside some other carbon saving measures. This project will be taken forward immediately the balance of funds needed is in hand.

The committee would really like to hear from you if you have any fund-raising ideas, because with every submission for grant aid, to which ever funding body, it is necessary to show that a portion of the proposed costs will be met from the hall’s own funds.

And if you would like to see the list of completed projects continue to grow why not come along to the next committee meeting and get involved? 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

The well-attended auction of June 2015 helped raise vital funds for the Hall.
Ardgay & District News

DESPITE THE PLEAS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Bank of Scotland Bonar Bridge branch will only open 5 hours a week

The Bank of Scotland has made a decision to offer only five hours of Banking on a Tuesday at Bonar Bridge, from 10 am to 3 pm. The Northern Times (26/02/16) published that campaigner Michael Baird had talks with Paul Monaghan MP and a banking chief but, at the moment, the bank’s decision seems firm.

Asked by A&DCCN, Michael Baird said: “The bank has made a decision. It is up to the readers to argue that individual members are getting a bad service. Do the banks have a moral duty to serve the public first, or only their shareholders and the interests of staff ‘efficiency’?”

The campaign highlights the challenges faced by many customers, some of them without computer or Internet access, and forced to travel long distances to other branches or ATM.

SSE Beauty-Loch Buidhe overhead line reinforcement project, on hold

Scottish Hydro Electric (SHE) Transmission are advising communities between Beauty and Bonar Bridge that plans to develop the Beauty-Loch Buidhe overhead line reinforcement project are to be put on hold. In light of the most recent assessments, SHE Transmission will postpone development of the current project pending further ongoing assessment. Public consultation events originally proposed to be held in early 2016 will now not take place.
Alec Campbell passed away on the 9th February, aged 85 years. His brother John and his nephew Simon wrote this tribute, that was read at the funeral on the 12th February.

Alexander Ross MacLeod Campbell hated having such a long name, he thought it burdensome and couldn’t be bothered by formality. He was simply Alec to all his friends.

Alec was born on the 17th January 1931 in Dounie’s Old Croft House to Christine (nee MacLeod) and Hector Campbell. There were 6 siblings: Iain, Hector, Hugh, Alexander (Alec), Christine and John. The eldest brother died aged 13 due to appendicitis. Alec’s father died aged 62 years when Alec was 18 years of age, in 1949.

When Alec left school, the school master got Alec a job in Gledfield estate as a farm hand. He left school to work the croft and took on the croft after his father died. Working on the croft and farm made Alec a skilled crofter and he knew the land as if it was part of himself. He also worked as a skilled tractor driver under the supervision of Fred Collier.

When he left there he took up seasonal salmon fishing which was far more lucrative at that time. He also acted as a water bailiff which was to become very useful later on in life. After salmon fishing, Alec worked for Duncan Munro at Invercarron. He took this work very seriously indeed and having purchased a brand new Ferguson TE35, Alec’s skills were in very high demand especially for ploughing. It was not unusual for Alec to be working from dawn till dust throughout the district and often 18 hours a day.

Christine Macaulay and Alec met at a wedding in Bonar Bridge when Alec was best man and Christine the bridesmaid for Nor and Innes Macgregor. Having met Christine, Alec was set on marriage and family and they were married 7 October 1959 in the same church. They have since been together for 56 years. Alec and Christine have three daughters: Linda, Sandra, and Amanda, and the family was raised in the Old Croft House where Alec came into the world. He commissioned, built and lived in the New House on Dounie since the late 70’s. The girls have now given five grandchildren: Michael, Shannon, Michael, Rebecca and Maria, and also a great grandchild, Carly.

Alec’s exploits and pursuits have given him legendary status. He had a love for salmon and venison and always preferred salmon when the cooking method was ‘poached’. Alec was known throughout Sutherland and Ross-shire from his time attending sheep trials, games, and sales at Rogart or Dingwall, but it was his love for sport that he was well renowned for. He was captain of the Ardgay Football Team leading them to winning the Ross-shire Welfare League and Cup in successive seasons. He played other sports too: badminton, running and boxing. He had a passion for sport and instilled that same passion in his younger brother John. Alec took responsibility for John after their father’s death and they were pretty inseparable as a pair of worthies.

John took up work in Edinburgh and Alec cycled home to Ardgay after one of his visits, sleeping in a bush overnight and being chased off the motorway by the police during the adventure.

Boxing was Alec’s greatest pleasure in sport and he worshiped the talents of Muhammad Ali, even attending World Boxing Championship fights with John in Glasgow on occasion.

Alec dedicated his life to his family and to his livestock on the croft. A shepherd throughout his life driving through the hills with dog, staff and wellies, and never without his faithful hat he adorned on his head. Alec was tough! A proverbial ‘Ironman’ if ever there was one. But to his family he was husband, dad, grandpa, brother, uncle or friend.

Alec enjoyed regaling stories from the ‘Swalks’- local name for the MacLeod’s maternal uncles- and all sorts of folklore. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of everyone in his area.

Minutes of Ardgay & District Community Council meetings
Available online from www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk and in your local library.
NEXT MEETING (TO BE CONFIRMED) MONDAY 9TH MAY ARDGAY PUBLIC HALL 7 PM
Please visit www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk for updates on next meetings & agendas.
Royal British Legion Scotland service for Private Hector Levy

Creich and Kincardine Branch of Royal British Legion Scotland are holding services at the graveside of all the fallen from WW1 buried in local cemeteries. The next service will be at 11am on 19th March at Creich Old Cemetery, 100 years to the day that Private Hector Levy died. Everyone is welcome to attend the service, especially any descendants who can participate if they wish (please contact the Branch Secretary Fiona Porter on 01863 766349).

Hector was born on 6th November 1890 in Durness. He was the 8th of 15 children born to Andrew and Barbara (nee Dunlop). Andrew was the meal miller. The family lived in the 3 room Miller’s house, Balnakiel, throughout Hector’s childhood but sometime after his 20th birthday they moved to Inish, Airdens, Bonar Bridge. At age 20 he was a ploughman. Hector was a territorial before the Great War then joined the 5th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders. He served in the trenches on the Western front before apparently drinking water poisoned by the Germans. Hector was sent to various hospitals but when he showed no signs of recovery he was allowed to return home to the family croft. Sadly he died there on 19th March 1916, aged 26. Tragically within 9 months two of his brothers were killed in action; George at the Somme, France aged 24 and John in Salonika aged 27. All three brothers are remembered on the Creich War Memorial. Hector is buried in the family plot in Creich Cemetery, where the memorial service will be held.

Fiona Porter Secretary

Apologies

In our Autumn edition (# 29) - We wrongly stated that Tain Rotary Club had raised £3,000 in aid of Bhattidanda village in Nepal. The money was raised by the community in the Ardgay and Bonar Bridge areas.

In our Winter edition (# 30) - Bonar Bridge Bank of Scotland branch is open only 5 hours on a Tuesday, instead of 3 as it read under the picture.
Ardgay & District News

How to apply for Community Awards

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.

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

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.

E.ON Rosehall Community Fund:
12 awards were made in Year 3. Those most relevant to Ardgay are shown below:
- Gledfield Primary School Parent Council- £4,000 to improve the outdoor play area at the nursery.
- Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust - £5,500 to fund small grants for children and older people.
- Kos Hub Ltd - £25,000 to contribute to the costs of Phase 1 of building a new multi-use facility.
- Gearrchoille Community Wood Ardgay - £3,809 to provide a shelter in the wood, tools and storage container (to be paid in Year 4).

Elected Community Council Members:
Sheila Lall
Carn Bhren, Culrain, Ardgay, IV24 3DW
Silvia Muras Sanmartin
Croft House, Dounie, Ardgay, IV24 3BW
Rob Pope
The Cottage, Culrain, Ardgay, IV24 3DW
Marion Turner
Oldtown, Ardgay, IV24 3DH
Andy Wright
Balchrich, Ardgay, IV24 3BW
Betty Wright
Balchrich, Ardgay, IV24 3BW
(Community Council office bearers to be appointed at the meeting on 14th March)

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

Ward Manager
Garry Cameron,
Temporary Ward Manager Ward 1
garry.cameron@highland.gov.uk

Councillors Representing the Highland Council North, West and Central Sutherland
George Farlow
george.farlow.clr@highland.gov.uk
Hugh Morrison
hugh.morrison.clr@highland.gov.uk
Linda Munro
linda.munro.clr@highland.gov.uk
Throughout Scotland, there are now many successful examples of community owned forests which are being developed to benefit not only the people who live in and near them but the wider community and those visiting from afar. The Scottish Government’s new Land Reform Act aims to make it easier to navigate the process of bringing land and other assets into community ownership.

On March 12th, the Scottish Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Aileen McLeod, will decide whether or not the application to register a community interest in Forestry Commission managed land at Carbisdale Forest will be accepted.

In June 2015, the community of Culrain and District formed the Kyle of Sutherland Forest Trust in order to register interest in approximately 100 acres of Carbisdale Forest which surrounds the village. The forest has been developed, largely through the efforts of the Kyle of Sutherland Initiative, to provide a network of mountain bike trails and recreational footpaths and is much used by locals and visitors to the area.

**Plans for the Land**

If the registration is successful, the community, through the Trust, have to be offered the opportunity to buy the land if it is marketed.

What happens next is down to the Trust members. As well as the job of raising funds for purchase, the members and trustees have to develop a plan for the land. Many options have been suggested and discussed, everything from low impact tourist accommodation to renewable energy options. All will be explored and a sustainable development plan for the future produced.

**Walled Garden**

A further exciting development is the offer, to the community, of the walled garden at Carbisdale. This has fallen into disuse over a number of years and the owners have generously offered the community, through the Trust, the opportunity to develop it as a community garden. The Trustees intend to organise a meeting and workshop in April in order to plan the next steps.

Membership of the Kyle of Sutherland Forest Trust is free and open to all and it is hoped that we will attract new members to join us on our exciting journey.

For membership details and further information please find contact details below. ■ Anne Henderson

---

**Kyle of Sutherland Forest Trust**

Protect, promote, prosper

Anne Henderson, Chairperson
Kyle of Sutherland Forest Trust
Culrain Mains
Culrain, Ardgay
IV24 3DW

culrainmains@gmail.com
Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust

THE NEW VISITOR CENTRE WILL PROVIDE IMPORTANT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Falls of Shin secures £1M award from Big Lottery Investing in Communities

The project is a partnership between the community, the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust and the stakeholders who include, Forestry Commission, Highland Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust, and Visit Scotland.

Pete Campbell, Chairman of the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust said, “The Trust is delighted that the Big Lottery panel acknowledged the social and economic benefits that the creation of the new Falls of Shin Community Project will bring to the area. The development of a modern facility, set in grounds filled with, and surrounded by, activities for all ages of visitors is essential to the regeneration of the area and will provide important employment and training opportunities. Not only will the communities around the Kyle of Sutherland rejoice at the news of the award but that joy will be felt across the Highlands and further afield”. The award from the Big Lottery Investing in Communities strand is £1,000,567.

In November Highland Councillors approved support of £100,000 over two years from the Council’s Capital Discretionary Fund. Chairman of the Resources Committee, Councillor Bill Fernie said: “During our meeting there was strong support for this project to develop the new Visitor Centre and the excellent work undertaken by the Kyle of Sutherland Trust was specifically highlighted. As well as creating local jobs, bringing economic benefits and attracting visitors, it is also a great opportunity to showcase the many other jewels that can be found in the North Highlands which makes it the ideal holiday destination throughout the year. This is a real opportunity to bounce back after the devastation felt in the community following the fire in 2013. I am delighted the Council is offering full backing and I very much look forward to seeing the plans turn into a reality.”

Fiona Morrison, SSE’s Community Fund Manager said, “We are delighted when our community funds help deliver a positive legacy through creating a project which impacts both socially and economically on local communities. This award, £30,000, made by the Achany Community Fund panel, will help create a positive destination for both visitors and locals”

Hazel MacLean for Forest Enterprise Scotland’s North Highland team, said; “It’s great news that thanks to the Big Lottery fund this community project at Falls of Shin will go ahead. We’re looking forward to working with the Trust and

A drawing and a scale model of the projected building, designed by Catriona Hill of CH Architecture. / CH ARCHITECTURE
the other stakeholders to make the most out of this project, which will have a really positive social and economic impact on the community.”

Scott Armstrong, VisitScotland Regional Partnerships Director, said: “I am delighted to hear that the Falls of Shin Community Project has secured Big Lottery funding. Aside from the fantastic opportunities a new visitor centre will bring in terms of tourism, this will hopefully also bring a jobs boost and have a positive impact on the local visitor economy of this area.

Without tourism, many remote communities would not be sustainable and business sectors like drinks, retail, construction or outdoor pursuits would be severely impacted. The visitor economy causes a ripple effect that touches every industry, business and community in the country – from life sciences to laundry services.”

Confirmation of the last part of the funding package from HIE is awaited. Bringing this project to fruition has been a partnership between the community, the Trust and the stakeholders who include Forestry Commission, Highland Council, HIE, Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust and Visit Scotland.

The Project Team including Valerie Houston of Falls of Shin Community Project, Catriona Hill of CH Architecture, Gary Wilson of WSD, Fairhurst Engineers and CDMM Building Services, were pivotal to the development of the design. ■ Helen Houston, Development Manager

Funding is now in place for the project Gateway to Sutherland

The project to regenerate Ardgay Centre includes a village square with new business hub and housing.

In 2014 the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (KoSDT) asked Highland Council (HC) to consider designating the Lady Ross site in Ardgay as a vacant and derelict land site. Allan Webster from THC agreed it was indeed a site which could be considered and Allan approached the Scottish Government for funding to clear the site – this funding is now in place. In June 2015 the Scottish Government announced the opening of the Regeneration Capital Fund. KoSDT development manager, Helen Houston, approached Stuart Black, Director of Development to ask if THC would work in partnership with the Trust to access funding from the fund to regenerate the Ardgay village centre.

Lots of work has been happening in the background but the Trust is pleased to announce that most of the funding package is now in place and we will commence the work needed to bring this project to fruition. This is the project which we brought to the community in October last year.

However, we ask that people be patient as there are a few issues relating to the site which will need to be addressed.

Working in partnership with Highland Council, Highland Small Communities Housing Trust and CH Architecture the Trust will lead this exciting new project which will put the heart back into the centre of Ardgay. ■
Adult Clubs & Societies

Go on - Give Golf a Go at Bonar Bridge Ardgay Golf Club

If you have ever had even the remotest idea about playing golf, why not give it serious thought for 2016 and give it a try.

You can probably think of many reasons why you have not done it before - Too expensive. Not enough time. How do I start? I don’t know the rules. Do I have to commit to lots of competitions? I’m too old to take up a new sport. I do not want to make a fool of myself if I’m not able to hit the ball. We have all started playing Golf with the same reservations.

Everyday we are being advised to get off the couch and do some exercise and golf is actually the ideal sport. Gentle, regular walking is great for building fitness and stamina, losing weight and getting that feel good factor. We are so lucky having one of the most stunning 9 hole courses in the north of Scotland. The Club has a friendly, vibrant membership but always wants to welcome new members of all ages and abilities.

Golf is a sport that can be taken up at any age from 7 onwards. Many people do not start until much later on though. There are people here and at other local courses who are still playing great golf into their 90’s! The enjoyment of golf is getting out in the fresh air and achieving something. It’s a wonderfully social game played between friends and family. For me, I particularly enjoy playing golf with my thirty something son. It gives us a time when we can walk and talk. We can be competitive as equals or just enjoy the game. Whole families like to play golf together on holiday. It’s a great social skill for anybody.

Golf is now extremely popular with people like Ant and Dec, Chris Evans, Jodie Kidd and Naga Munchetty all enjoying the game. For those that remember Alice Cooper its been a lifesaver for him. (For those young ones, Yes- it is a him.)

Getting Started
At Bonar Bridge Ardgay Golf Club we will give you all the help you need to start playing. There is a “Getintogolf” scheme which will teach you the basics if you have never played before. It is always a good idea to learn the right way first even if, like most of us, you develop your own style later! A visiting professional also runs courses for different age groups too, usually starting in the early spring.

However, If you really don’t feel ready to do that yet, a club member will be happy to meet up with you to give you a chance to swing a club first.

There are sets of clubs and trolleys etc. that you can use to get started until you feel ready to get your own. So there is no initial outlay for equipment until you are ready to do so.

BBAGC have special deals for first time golfers who join up for “Getintogolf” but even a full subscription is extremely competitive here by comparison to other clubs and other sports. If you play regularly it can work out a very reasonably priced hobby indeed.

It may take a few months of practice before you feel ready to “get your handicap” but this is perfectly normal so persevere!

We will give you all the support you need to get there. The handicap system is designed so golfers of different playing abilities can play as equals. Once you have a handicap, you
Adult Clubs & Societies

can play in as many or as few competitions as you like. There are club competitions most weeks of the summer, several Open competitions (with other local clubs), mixed and family events too. Even if you are working most competitions can be accommodated. If you do not want to play in competitions then you can play any time there is not something on, eg. most afternoons.

Yes, there are some rules and etiquette, but please don’t be put off by those words! These are necessary for every player’s benefit and safety but are learned gradually.

During the season you can get great food in the Clubhouse -up to mid afternoon- but you do not need to be a member to enjoy that facility.

Get in touch with a member and find out more, why not persuade a friend to start with you. It really is a good all round sport for everyone. Give it a go. Vicki Burnett

Sutherland Walkers Club

We meet the 4th Sunday of the month, all year round.
SUNDAY 20 MARCH
Dunbeath Strath. 7 miles approx., riverside path, track and open moorland to Cnoc na Maranaich.
Leader: Patricia Hannah
01863 766 061
Meet for car share at Bonar Bridge Post Office 09:00 am. We are pleased to welcome occasional walkers or new members, but please contact us in advance.
Contact: David Hannah
01863 766 061

Kyle of Sutherland Cinema Club

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

Ardgay Scottish Country Dancing Club

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

Pilates

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

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
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
01863 755 395

Edderton & District Gardening Club

The March and April meetings will be day time visits, dates to be confirmed depending on the early spring weather.
Contact: 01863 766 061

Kyle of Sutherland Joggers

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

Bonar Bridge Local History Society

Organising events and history walks.
Contact: Moira Boothroyd
01549 441 761

Tai Chi

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

Creich & Kincardine Art Group

Meets in Bonar Bridge tearoom on Wednesdays from 10 am to 3 pm. All welcome.
Contact: Joan Mulligan
01549 421 321

Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club

Bonar Bridge Hall, Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. Admission £2 including tea.
23 MARCH - Bonar Bridge Community Hall
30 MARCH - Gala Week
6 APRIL - Bonar Bridge Indoor Bowling Club
13 APRIL - Ladybird Club
20 APRIL - Dornoch Firth Group
27 APRIL - KoS Whist Club
Contact: Rosemary Logan
01549 421 282

Kyle of Sutherland Cycling Club

If you fancy a ride out 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
07543 466 699
Volunteering with the Gearrchoille Community wood has proved quite popular this winter. Thinning birch is good warm work whatever the weather and provides some extra fuel for the fires of those who come along to lend a hand. But that is finished for another season. We got a sizeable area thinned this year, which makes for more light getting through to the woodland floor and the dead hedging provides good habitat for insects & other small creatures.

The storage container was delivered in January – luckily the ground was well frozen so the lorry was able to reverse into the old quarry and off load exactly where planned. The next volunteer day we were able to share a cuppa brewed on site! Next month we will start construction of the shelter, which will continue into the summer.

During the cold spell in mid-January, hair ice was photographed in the Gearrchoille. Several people had noticed this previously, but an item on BBC news website drew our attention to it. The ice only appears on wood which has fungus growing in it and there needs to be exactly the correct combination of humidity and temperature.

Do email pictures of interesting things you come across in the wood, or your favourite trees – and any suggestions for events you would like to see, either ones previously enjoyed, such as pond dipping or den building, or new ideas. ➤ Betty Wright
gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk
gearrchoille@gmail.com
01863755316

Winter diary of the Gearrchoille

The storage container is now on site and the construction of the shelter will start this Spring, continuing throughout the Summer. Our volunteer afternoons are on the first Thursday of each month, meeting at 2 pm in the car park.
What’s on in the area

**“COMIC JAZZ” AT ARDROSS HALL**

The Busquitos

The Busquitos play a very catchy mix of brilliantly played music, sung with an impressive Louis Armstrong like hoarse voice, and dazzling, funny entertainment that will put a smile on everyone’s face! Sunday 24th April at 8 pm. Booking line: 01349 880591 (free) or online on: www.ardrosscommunityhall.ticket-source.co.uk (booking fee) £10 and £7 conc.

**Easter Craft & Food Fayre**

**INvershIN hall, 11 am To 3 pm**

Free entry! Easter games & crafts for the kids, a large variety of crafts, food and craft demonstrations, soup & sandwiches, and tea & cakes. To book a table or for more info contact Elissa on 01549 421 369

**KYLE OF SUTHERLAND HERITAGE CENTRE**

**Art and Craft Exhibition**

**MARCH**

The 18th Annual Art Exhibition by Highland Artists, at the Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Centre (Old Church of Kincardine) will be held until Thursday 26th March. From 10:30 am to 5 pm. (Sunday 27th from 1 pm to 5 pm). All welcome!

**ROAD FROM ARDGAY TO CROICK, 9 MILES**

**Amat’s Gardens Open Day**

Riverside Garden set in Amat Forest. Herbaceous borders and rockery set in large lawn looking onto salmon pool. Old and new rhododendrons with woodland and river walk plus large specimen trees in policies. Saturday 11 June 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm and Sunday 12 June 2:00pm – 5:00pm. Admission £4.50. Teas £2.50. Full wheelchair Access. Dogs allowed. Plant stall. Proceeds to Gardening Leave, Croick Church & SG Beneficiaries.

**LEDMORE AND MIGDALE WOODS**

**Woodland Heritage Festival**

**APRIL**

Join us for a fabulous woodland celebration at Torroy! The day will include: Unveiling of mosaics made by local schools, Tree planting, Woodland survival, Storytelling, Totem pole display, Sausage sizzle and music. FREE and suitable for all ages. No booking necessary. Outdoor clothing. From 11 am until 4 pm. For more information, contact Juliet on 07810 027556 or ledmoremigdale@woodlandtrust.org.uk

**CLASHMORE HALL, DORNOCH**

**Sutherland Sessions Spring Fling**

**APRIL**

Dancing to the Drams Ceilidh Band, featuring a line up of yet more of Scotland’s leading trad musicians. All money raised is for The Highlands Supports Refugees. Children very welcome. Under 12’s are free. BYO. Tickets are £12.50 / £6 conc and are available from http://sutherlandsessionsspringfling.eventbrite.co.uk/

**INVERSIN HALL, 11 AM TO 3 PM**

**Easter Craft & Food Fayre**

Dancing to the Drams Ceilidh Band, featuring a line up of yet more of Scotland’s leading trad musicians. All money raised is for The Highlands Supports Refugees. Children very welcome. Under 12’s are free. BYO. Tickets are £12.50 / £6 conc and are available from http://sutherlandsessionsspringfling.eventbrite.co.uk/
Children & Young people

It's spring!  How many pink flowers do you see?

GLEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kirsten Macneil  Cluster Headteacher Rosehall & Gledfield Primary Schools

TOROY BOTHY MOSAIC

Our pupils in P4-7 are working alongside local artist, Sally Purdy, to create a mosaic which will be displayed within the Toroy Bothy at Migdale Woods. Our pupils were all inspired to draw something that might be seen within Migdale Woods. Their ideas and artwork are then to be re-created as a mosaic.

INDOOR FOOTBALL

Our pupils took part in the Indoor Football competition at Golspie and had a great time. Well done to Annie for helping make up our boys team!!

ROBBIE BURNS HAGGIS LUNCH

Our pupils all 'enjoyed' their Haggis lunch at school to celebrate Robbie Burn's birthday.
Children & Young people

SPRING JOKE: Q: Can February March?

A: No, but April May!

SHAPE HUNT
Pupils in P1-3 had fun recently taking their learning outdoors and going on a Shape Hunt. Our pupils looked through their shape frames to see what 2D and 3D shapes they could find in our playground.

UKELELE ORCHESTRA OF GLEDFIELD
Our pupils have been eagerly learning how to play the Ukulele with our Pupil Support Teacher, Mrs Livings.

One sunny morning in early spring, Morag's dad started to plough one of the fields of his croft. But after a little while, one of the wheels fell in a ditch and the tractor got stuck. He had to call it a day and went home, where he found Morag and told her what had happened at the field.

Morag couldn't help but tell Hamish, who decided to help his friends. Hamish went to the field that very evening and lifted the tractor out of its muddy trap with the only help of an elf or two. The next morning, Morag's dad could not figure out how his tractor got out of the ditch!

MEET HAMISH THE TARTAN DRAGON
A shy veggie dragon who lives on Carn Bren

by Andymack & Sil
From the Manse...

Easter Message from the Minister

Dear Friends, we have had quite a fair share of wild weather during the winter with winds, snow and rain. It is so good that Easter comes early this year in our calendar. With it come all the signs of Spring, new life and promise. Commercially of course it begins earlier every year. Easter eggs were in fact on sale in the local shops in January! There is of course much more to Easter than the eggs - as much as we enjoy eating them. At Easter we are invited to step out of man’s time into God’s time. We are encouraged to make a ‘window’ to concentrate on why Christ came to the world and, why he died, and to learn of his glorious resurrection. This year, the first Sunday of Lent is on Valentine’s Day, and on Sunday 6th March we celebrate Mothering Sunday at church. At Edderton church we will be holding a World Day of Prayer Service on Mothering Sunday. This year’s theme is ‘Cuba’ and, folk from our church community will be sharing the service with me. On Palm Sunday there will be a joint service at 11 am at Ardgay Church. On Maundy Thursday, Rosehall Church are inviting us to come and share with them in a short act of communion, and a simple service of reflection, at 6 pm. On Good Friday, Creich Church, Bonar Bridge will be having the traditional ‘service of Vigil at the Cross’ at 7 pm. Early on Easter Sunday 27th March at 8 am, we will be sharing a short ‘sunrise service’ at the stone ring beside the Kyle at Ardgay at 8 am. Everyone is welcome. Easter morning family services will be held at Edderton church at 11 am and at Creich Church at 10:30 am, and at Rosehall Church at 12 pm. It is always such a great pleasure for us to share in the joy of Easter morning and for us all to wish each other a ‘Happy Easter’ and join in the celebration of Easter Sunday at 11 am. Whatever your plans for the coming season, I do hope you will take the time to come to church and join in the reflections of Lent and the joyous celebration of Easter itself. Happy Easter to all our friends in the community.

Rev. Anthony M. Jones

Presentation to the retiring Session Clerk of Creich Church and welcome to New Session Clerk

A presentation of an engraved glass bowl gifted from the congregation of Creich Church was made during morning worship on Sunday 29th November by the the Parish Minister, Rev Anthony Jones and Jeani Hunter, together with a bouquet of flowers presented by Carys Jones, the youngest member of the congregation. Reverend Jones, together with members of Session and the congregation, thanked Mrs Rosemary Logan for her eighteen years of service to Creich Church and, welcomed Jeani Hunter as the new Session Clerk.
Guide to local services

**Village Halls & venues**

**ARDGAY & DISTRICT**

Ardgay Public Hall
Fiona Venters / 01863 766 602
fcmn11@hotmail.com

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 Steven / 01549 421 369

Rosehall Hall
Beverly Morrison / 01549 441 371

**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.

**Mobile Library Ardgay**

**EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY**

6 April 2016
27 April 2016
18 May 2016
8 June 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:**
9 am - 5:30 pm
**SATURDAY:** 9 am - 1 pm

**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

**ARDBGAY GARAGE**

ARDBGAY - Tel (01863) 766231
Now doing Main Dealer Warranted Servicing
Please ring for details

NOW DOING BIKE MOT’S

HOURS OF BUSINESS
Monday – Thursday 8:30 - 5:30
Friday : 08.30 - 4.30
Alternate Saturdays : 9.00 – 12 noon

**Pete Andrews Driving School**

**Patient Friendly Tuition**

Refresher Courses
Pass Plus

Areas Covered:
Ardgay, Bonar Bridge
Laig, Golspie, Tain
Dornoch & Alness

Tel. 01863 766 884 Mob. 07763 133 922
e-mail. pete@peteandrews.org
Guide to local services A-Z

**BRADBRURY 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 & Strathokey, Strathcarron
0773 330 0761

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
**HIGHLAND COUNCIL**
Drummuie Golspie
01408 635 370
Service Point Bonar Bridge
01863 766 083
Service Point Dornoch
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**LIBRARIES**
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Mobile Libraries Ardgay & Strathokey, 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
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 886 439

**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

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

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**MacLeod’s Coaches Timetable**

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**Bradbury Centre Bus**

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**KoS Fisheries Trust**
01863 766 702

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**BONAR BRIDGE - ALNESS**

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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.
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

2. The effective centre of an activity, region, or network:
4. A long poem, typically one derived from ancient oral tradition, narrating the deeds and adventures of heroic or legendary figures or the past history of a nation.
5. Break up and move earth with a tool or machine, or with hands, paws, snout, etc.
7. An expert in a particular subject or field who is frequently called upon to give their opinions to the public.

Down

1. A color of a delicate purple, violet, or lilac.
3. (Two words) Name of the electricity substation being built near Bonar Bridge.
6. Obtain (information) from various sources, often with difficulty.
8. A Central American cereal plant which yields large grains (corn or sweetcorn) set in rows on a cob.

Solutions can be found at: www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk