

ARDGAY & DISTRICT

Community Council *newsletter*

£1.00 [suggested donation]

Issue No. 34 • WINTER 2016-2017 •



Gateway to Sutherland



Kyle of Sutherland Hub



Falls of Shin Visitor Centre

These three key developments are under way

Works seem advanced at the new Kyle of Sutherland Hub, which is expected to open in May/June 2017. Falls of Shin Visitor Centre is taking shape, and the site is now cleared at Ardgay centre.

It looks like very soon we will have the Kyle of Sutherland Hub up and running, with soft play zone, cafe and fitness suite. (Page 5)

The Falls of Shin visitor centre will return for locals and tourists (Page 10). A business centre, an art shed, and a square will bring new life to Ardgay village centre. (Page 4)



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Gledfield pupils sang their hearts out at the Ardgay Christmas Fair to welcome Santa and all the Christmas shoppers. Pages 11 & 19

Invercharron Highland Games has new committee

There were some fears this year that the Games was in danger of closure, however, new committee members and office bearers have been recruited and the Invercharron Games will now proceed in 2017. Page 15

A bench to remember Philip Entwhistle at Ledmore and Migdale wood Page 16

Creich and Kincardine
Royal British Legion
Scotland Remembrance
Sunday celebrations

Page 9



Scottish
wintering
wild geese

Page 22



Extra pages, Letters to the Editor, Opening times, Telephone guide, Bus & Train timetable, Crosswords, Sudoku...

The Community Food Stop

EVERY MONDAY

BONAR BRIDGE COMMUNITY HALL

EVERYONE WELCOME



The Community Food Stop, is a shop and cafe, selling healthy, wholesome and nutritious food. The food on sale has been subsidised, by the Scottish Government, to make nutritious food available to all in our community. Anyone, who cannot afford to pay the subsidised price of food, can make a small donation towards the cost.

Takeaways are available and, for those unable to leave the house, there is a home delivery service, on request.

OPENING TIMES — 11.30am-2pm



**SPAR KYLE BAKERY
& GROCERS SHOP**



www.facebook.com/communityfoodstop T:-01863 766554 E:fftfofficer@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

The Community Food Stop is funded by the Scottish Government. It is part of the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, which is a company Limited by Guarantee Scottish Registration: SC401019 & Scottish Charity:SC043587. Registered Office:The Trust Offices, Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland, IV24 3EB.

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Morning frost by Louise Worthy

Looking towards Ben Klibreck from Culrain on a frosty morning.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Exciting 2017

Thank you for all the contributions to this issue: your overwhelming response made us print extra pages! After two and a half years as Editor, it is very rewarding to see this newsletter become a reference for local news and community groups. 2017 will bring a brand new Family Hub to South Bonar, and the KoSDT projects Falls of Shin and Gateway to Sutherland are also coming to fruition. We would like to hear your views on the proposed developments, the name of the new square, and the Highland Council priorities for the area, etc. as the CC exists to represent the wider community. Merry Christmas! ■

Silvia Muras *Editor*



Ardgay & District News

THE PROJECT INCLUDES A NEW VILLAGE SQUARE, BUSINESS CENTRE AND ART SHED

Progress of the Gateway to Sutherland project at the heart of Ardgay Village

The demolition of the derelict pub has enabled us to better appreciate the barn, part of the original Balnagown hotel, which will be transformed into a Business Centre.

DEMOLITION OF THE derelict Lady Ross building is finished and it is anticipated that work on the new facility will start early next year to create a new village square, Business Centre and Art Shed where local artists will have the opportunity to show their work.

The new Business Centre will provide a total of 200 square meters of office space which includes 7 newly furnished offices with a fully equipped kitchen and meeting room. The building is just across the road from the train station, local bus service and has access to free dedicated parking. The Business Centre will contain spaces for the Trust as well as for local businesses such as Business Gateway.



Scale model of the square, Business centre and Art Shed.

Kyle of Sutherland Development (KoSDT) is working in conjunction with Highland Council who own the land and who will transfer ownership to KoSDT early next year, with an anticipated finish later in 2017.

The masterplan also includes 4 terraced houses that will be developed by Albyn Housing Society and two self-build plots for sale through The High-

lands Small Communities Housing Trust.

To register your interest in the office space contact Sasha Hudekova using the contact details below. ■

Sasha Hudekova Project Officer (Construction) KoSDT

☎ 01863 766 554

✉ scotgrad@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

THE KYLE OF SUTHERLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST HAS PUT FORWARD THE NAME "DROVERS SQUARE"

Proposed name for the new square at Ardgay Centre

Ardgay & District Community Council is seeking your views and suggestions regarding the future name of the square that will be created at the Lady Ross site.

THE TRUST HAS SUBMITTED an application to the Highland Council CAG team to request that the village square in Ardgay be called Drovers Square. In due course Highland Council will consult with the community representatives, Ardgay Community Council on the proposed name.

The name suggested seeks to reflect the fact that drovers played an important role in the history of the village and links well to the drovers path in the Gearrhoille Community

Wood and to the Clach Eiteag stone which was moved from parish to parish to mark the site of the drovers' cattle fair. By the middle of 18th century, the three day annual cattle and farm produce fair, the Feill Eiteachan, was held in the parish of Kincardine for three days every November. Thus a triangle of historical connections will be attained by the new square being called Drovers Square. The use of the name Lady Ross speaks of a time when land and people were controlled

by the landed gentry unlike the drovers who were of the people. Today communities are being encouraged to take more control of their land and thus their destiny, having the square named after a person of title, continues to endorse those old structures. It was the intention of the Trust to have an interpretation panel in the square which tells of the Drovers, the Gearrhoille Wood and the Clach Eiteag stone. ■ **Helen Houston** Development Manager KoSDT



Ardgay & District News



The new building is taking shape.

NEW SPACE FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

Kyle of Sutherland Hub is expected to open in May / June 2017

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW Youth and Family Hub is well underway. This exciting development will provide year round access to facilities for residents, visitors and tourists and a huge support to our children and young people.

The soft play centre will create a space where children aged 0-11 can participate in active play in all weathers. Chosen by the children the play frame will include slides, tunnels, a toddler area and climbing decks. Catering for up to 42 chil-

dren this colourful space will also be available for children's parties.

The café creperie designed by our young people is going to cater for 24 covers with additional seating available in the multi-use room during busy periods. The design is very cool creating a different eating experience for all users. The café has a viewing window to the soft play.

The multi-use room will cater for exercise classes, additional café seating and for children's clubs aged 0-18.

The second hand sale point is located outside the multi-use room. Residents can pick up a bargain with all funds raised from this going into the children & young people's services.

The youth rooms will enable the group to run after school clubs, youth clubs and eventually holiday play schemes.

FITNESS IN THE KYLE

The fitness suite has the most spectacular views of the Kyle to Carbisdale. The space will be able to cater for 12-15 users at a time and there will be targeted sessions for under 16's, over 60's, women only and rehabilitation.

The community use room is a space to rent for remedial therapists and practitioners, and family support agencies.

An outdoor play area will support open access drop in for children & young people. To follow progress please visit our web site or our Facebook page (see details below). ■ Hayley Bangs

KOSH opening hours

CENTRE OPEN

Mon-Fri	9 am	8:30 pm
Sat	9 am	5 pm
Sun	10 am	4 pm

GYM

Mon-Fri	9:15 am	8:15 pm
Sat	9:15 am	4:30 pm
Sun	10:15 am	3:30 pm

SOFT PLAY TIMES

Mon-Fri	9:15 am	7 pm
Sat	9:15 am	4:30 pm
Sun	10 am	3:30 pm

CAFÉ

Mon-Fri	10 am	4:30 pm
Sat	10 am	4:30 pm
Youth café	6:30 pm	8:30 pm
Sun	10 am	3:00 pm

Planned opening times are as shown, however this may change.



Hayley Bangs,
Chair

☎ 01863 766 310

www.kyleofsutherland.com



Kyle of Sutherland Hub



Ardgay & District News

Job opportunity: Ardgay toilets caretaking

A JOB OPPORTUNITY has arisen locally, as Jeannie and Gordon Sparling are retiring as caretakers of Ardgay toilets. The toilets are open from Easter until after Armistice Sunday. The work is to daily clean & restock and open and close each day. Should you be interested in applying for the job, please contact the Community Council using the details below. ■

These are the priorities for Ardgay & District that your CC has submitted to the Highland Council

1. COMMUNICATIONS: Superfast broadband to every premises in Ardgay & District. Support the delivery of improved mobile phone coverage.

2. SERVICES: Retain all current Highland Council Services in Ardgay & District, including Gledfield Primary School, Toilets, Playpark area, Road maintenance, Verge cutting and Winter Salt treatment. Retain services located in Bonar Bridge but directly affecting Ardgay & District, such as Recycling centre, Library and Service Point.

3. TRANSPORT: Support and improve the actual train service in Ardgay & Culrain. Retain the existing bus service, preventing further service cuts. Make it possible for people in A&D CC area to access trunk road transport links. More infrastructure to support cycling as A&D CC has National Cycle Route 1

4. BUSINESS & SOCIAL ENTERPRISES: Support businesses in the area. Support the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust. Support measures which enhance our area for tourism. Support the Village Hall. ■

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL: BETTY WRIGHT, Chairperson, SILVIA MURAS, Vice Chair, MARION TURNER, Treasurer, SHEILA LALL, ROB POPE, ANDY WRIGHT, LESLIE POPE, Secretary (*Associated member*), MARY GOULDER, Minute Secretary, GEORGE FARLOW, Councillor (*Member ex officio*)

HOW TO CONTACT

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



By phone

01549 421 244 (Leslie Pope, Secretary)



By mail

Leslie Pope, Secretary A&DCC
The Cottage, Culrain, Ardgay IV24 3DW



Email

secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk



Website

www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk



Facebook

Ardgay & District Community Council



Drop-in Sessions

We will be holding clinics from 1 to 4 pm at the Ardgay Stores on the following dates:
14 JANUARY & 11 FEBRUARY
Please stop by for a cup of tea/coffee and chat.



In person

Just contact any member you know or come along to our meetings at Ardgay Public Hall, at 7 pm. Next meetings:
13 FEBRUARY & 13 MARCH

COUNCILLORS NORTH, WEST & CENTRAL SUTHERLAND

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Ardgay & District News

ARDGAY & DISTRICT CC SUBMITTED LOCAL PRIORITIES TO COUNCILLORS

Sutherland County Committee's Priorities report for our area

A REPORT PRESENTED AT the 30th November meeting of Sutherland County Committee, and authored by Ward Manager Garry Cameron, aims to provide members with the local strategic priorities for Sutherland. The title of the report is "A voice for Sutherland and its People". Some of its key points are:

● **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT.** Ensure communities are consulted on proposals to change Council services.

● **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** Encourage population growth through inward migration and dis-

couraging outward migration. Expand employment opportunities.

● **INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY.** Ensure the rollout of broadband to all properties. Urgent improvement to the mobile phone network.

● **EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.** Retaining our young people in well paid and respected careers.

● **CARE AND WELL-BEING**

● **LAND USE.** Take advantage of powers under land reform legislation with a view especially to Community Asset Transfers and creation of new crofts. ■



Removal of BT payphone at Culrain

Public opinion has been sought on BT's proposal to remove 178 public payphones from across Highland, one of them at Culrain. Initially, Ardgay & District CC did not support the removal of any payphones in the area when we have such poor mobile coverage. However, Culrain's payphone has not been used in the last 12 months, a fact that made A&D CC agree with the removal. ■



Christmas cards made by students.



Ipad and tablet class.

Lairg Learning Centre courses in Ardgay and Bonar Bridge

LAIRG & DISTRICT LEARNING Centre has been busy running classes all over the area again this term and some local ones have included Ipad and tablet classes/clubs in Bonar Bridge and Ardgay, Art workshops in Ardgay, and Christmas Cakes for adults, and another for kids, in Ardgay hall. The training is designed for all age groups, and arts and crafts, such as the Christmas card making in Bonar Bridge, attracted intergen-

eration learners, whereas computing classes and clubs were designed more for adults.

The classes were subsidised by Achany Windfarm, with workshops costing only £5, and the computing clubs were free. 2017 will be busy too, with the next prospectus due out mid December, which will be available in local shops, the website (www.lairglearningcentre.org.uk) or the

Learning Centre's Facebook page.

A taster of some offerings includes a six-week Nutrition and Weightloss class in Ardgay Hall, which will be run by a life coach to teach people how to modify their eating habits. Computing classes will run in Ardgay and a Computer club will run in Bonar Bridge. Language classes will also run in Bonar and include Gaelic for Beginners and Italian for Beginners, as well as workshops, such as massage and aromatherapy. In Lairg, Advanced Family History, Upholstery and a Creative Writing course are offered, with more Gardening classes being held in Rogart. If you would like more information, please contact the admin team. ■



Paula White
Administrator

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www.lairglearningcentre.org.uk

f Lairg Learning Centre



Ardgay & District News



Tain Pipe Band (left). Lord Lieutenant takes salute, flanked by Linda Munro and Gus Mackay (right).

A service to dedicate the new Branch Standard

Bonar Bridge enjoyed the spectacle of massed Standards on Sunday 25 September.

THE LOCAL CREICH and Kincardine Royal British Legion Branch had organised a service to dedicate their new Branch Standard and invited other Legion Scotland Branches and other organisations to attend with their Standards. There were 11 Standards in all, brought from as far afield as Thurso and Forres.

Standards are looked on as the rallying point for a Branch and are a constant symbolic reminder to members of the Legion Scotland motto "Service Not Self". In the top corner is the Union Flag which symbolises unity, chivalry and loyalty to the Queen, community and nation. The remainder of the flag is blue, denoting loyalty and fidelity, and gold signifying service "as tried by fire" and reminds us of all of those who gave their lives for their country. Standards must be dedicated before use and after service are laid up in sacred or public buildings, in line with the veneration with which they are regarded.

The old Branch standard was 63 years old and showing its age. So the Branch obtained nearly £8,000 from the Big Lottery Fund to buy a new Branch Standard and a new Queen's Colour and to hold the

dedication service for the Standard. The grant also covered the completion of the renovation of the Bonar Bridge War Memorial.

The day began with a parade led by Tain Pipe Band. The massed Standards were led by the national and Highlands and Islands Legion Scotland Standards, with the old Creich and Kincardine the last, borne by Eric Porter the Branch Standard Bearer. Then followed

Legion Scotland Area and Branch officials and members. Last was the furled new Creich and Kincardine Branch Standard, carried by Branch Secretary Fiona Porter.

During the church service, conducted by Rev Anthony Jones, the old Standard was formally laid up and the new Standard dedicated. The old Standard and old Queen's Colour are now displayed in the church permanently for safe keeping. After the service, the parade reformed with the new Standard at its head. The march was from the Church past the War Memorial where the Lord Lieutenant, Dr Monica Main took the salute.

There followed a soup and sandwich lunch in the Bonar Bridge Hall, attended by many locals who had gathered to watch the parade. Eric Munro, the Legion Scotland Highlands and Islands Best Kept War Memorial Convenor, presented Fiona Porter with two certificates; as the winner of the H&I Small Communities with Garden Section and for 3rd place in the national finals, a Very Highly Commended. £242 were raised towards the cost of the Christmas parcels the Branch will be giving to pensioner members. ■



Dedication of new standard.



Fiona Porter receives certificate from Eric Munro.



Ardgay & District News

The Branch Committee, keen to recruit new members

WHILE THE DEDICATION of the new Branch Standard and Remembrance Sunday went well, they highlighted the reducing numbers of Legionnaires who parade and attend these events and who are available to help organise them. The Branch Committee are therefore keen to recruit new members and new committee members. Although our purpose is to support forces veterans and organise remembrance events, members do not need to be veterans. They just need to be driven to help the ex-forces community and to remember the fallen. Anyone interested should contact Branch Secretary

Fiona Porter. The local Branch AGM was held on Monday 5th Dec. Everyone in the Community was warmly invited to attend.

The whist night at Bonar Bridge Hall at 7.30pm on 21st December will be in aid of Branch funds and will be used to fund the Christmas Food Parcels we will deliver to our pensioner members and widows.

Weather permitting, there will be a graveside remembrance service at Tutim cemetery, Rosehall on 29th December, the 100th anniversary of the death of Private George MacDonald in WW1. As for previous services of those buried locally,

the Branch Standard and Queen's Colour will be present and as part of a short service, a cross planted. All members of the community are invited to attend but especially George's relatives. We would really like to find out more about George before the service so would be grateful if any one with information could contact the Branch Secretary. ■



Fiona Porter Secretary

✉ f.porter514@btinternet.com

☎ 01863 766349

CREICH AND ARDGAY COMMEMORATED THE DAY WITH THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND

Remembrance Sunday 2016

LOCAL CHILDREN TOOK a leading role at the Remembrance Sunday services at Bonar Bridge, organised by the Royal British Legion Scotland. A large crowd watched around 15 children planting crosses at the War Memorial. Then at Creich church 4 children from Bonar Bridge and Gledfield Primary Schools read out the names of the local men killed in WW1 between November 1915 and November 1916. Special mention was made of Pte Lachlan MacKintosh who died a year ago to the day on the Western Front. Also for three killed at the

Somme the following day; Pte Alexander Gordon, Pte John MacLennan and Pte Thomas Ross.

While Leanne and Caron Munro (from Culrain and members of Tain Pipe Band) played Highland Cathedral as the lament,

the Queen's Colour and Branch Standard were dipped in respect. This was the first time both had been used since the new Branch Standard was dedicated at a service in September. This time the Minister, Anthony Jones,

blessed the new Union flag. Both were purchased following a successful bid to the Big Lottery Fund. The renovation of the War Memorial was also completed shortly before the service, with the impressive bronze statue having a clean and wax to help protect it against the weather.

Wreaths were laid at Bonar Bridge by Legion Scotland, the Fire Service, Creich Community Council and Kay Smart. At a short service at Ardgay War Memorial wreaths were laid by Legion Scotland and Ardgay & District Community Council. ■



Colours dipped for the lament. /FP





Ardgay & District News

Heart of Sutherland Tourism (HOST) is hoping to encourage visitors to divert off the NC500

WE ARE A GROUP which has been founded to try and encourage visitors to come to Sutherland and to divert off the NC500. Our aim is to increase business for its members by establishing the area's regional identity. Any



business in the centre of Sutherland is welcome to join our formally constituted group, with membership being free at this stage. Anyone who wishes to join should contact Sarah Orrell at secretary@heartofsutherland.co.uk in the first instance. Currently we have approximately 30 members and this is growing daily." ■ **Sarah Orrell, Secretary**

✉ secretary@heartofsutherland.co.uk



Architectural rendering of the new attraction. /CH ARCHITECTURE

Progress of the works at the new Falls of Shin visitor centre

On the Facebook page 'Falls of Shin Community Project' you can find weekly videos of the work site progress.

AS YOU MAY BE aware William Gray Construction Ltd (WGC) started onsite at the start of September and work is progressing well. The past two months have seen WGC set up onsite with the first task being to remove the slab, which was the base of the former Falls of Shin Visitor Centre. As we approach the end of November you can now see the sal-

mons head. In other words the café walls, roof and windows are all in place and first fix is underway.

We are posting weekly progress video on our Facebook page. Do be sure to find us 'Falls of Shin Community Project'. ■ **Valerie Houston, Implementation Manager Falls of Shin Community Project**

✉ fsofficer@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society joins forces with Bonar Bridge Local History Society

AT THE RECENT AGM OF THE SOCIETY which is based in the Heritage Centre at Kincardine Old Church (beside the Cemetery) it was good to welcome members of the Bonar Bridge Local History Society on to the committee. It's an exciting time with the two groups deciding to work together as one to continue to provide events and encourage a wide interest in local history. During the winter months while the Centre is closed as access through the graveyard is difficult, the plan is to arrange events in a suitable venue in Bonar Bridge. The first of these will be on Thursday, 23rd February at 7.00 when Mary Stobo will tell of her recent Safari to Tanzania. The venue will be confirmed later – contact Valerie MacKenzie-Harris for more details and watch out for

the posters. The annual Art Show will take place as usual over Easter beginning with the Preview Evening on Wednesday 12th April and ending on Thursday 20th – spread the word to your artist friends.

We warmly welcome new members and have vacancies on the committee for anyone interested in helping take this new phase in the life of our groups forward. We would be happy to hear of any ideas or topics that would be of interest to include in our programme. ■ **Mary Stobo**

Rev Mary J Stobo (Chair KOSHS)

Druim an Sgairnich, Ardgay IV24 3BG

☎ 01863 766868



Ardgay & District News



A view of the main hall at our Christmas Fair, on Saturday 26th November.

A very well attended Christmas Fair at Ardgay Hall

The event cleared a profit of £714, for hall funds, which is indeed a fair result.

GOOD NEWS! - Ardgay Hall now has a Wi-Fi service throughout the building and, with the support of A&DCC, a new projector screen in the committee room; ideal for meetings, training sessions, lectures, etc.

MORE GOOD NEWS! - Also thanks to the support of A&DCC the hall has secured a grant from the Ardgay-Beinn Tharsuinn Fund to insulate the exterior walls of the committee room. This work will start as soon as practicable.

YET MORE GOOD NEWS! - This year's Christmas Fair cleared a profit of £714, for hall funds. The committee want to thank everyone who came and supported the event and to say to everyone who helped in whatever way to make this vital fund-raising event such a success; your efforts are fully appreciated. But special thanks must go to Car-

ol Shaw; her "Fair Organisational Skills" will remain a legend with the committee for years to come!

And Yet More News - Ardgay Public Hall is now a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and that therefore made this year's AGM a bit more significant.

It was with genuine regret that this meeting - on the 20th of October - had to accept the resignations of both Carol Shaw, who has carried the office of chairperson with such effective dedication for so long, and that of Teresa Langley, whose commitment to the hall has also been much appreciated.

The 2016 -17 management committee members were then duly elected. These are: David Hannah, who also accepted nomination as chairman. Fiona Venters, who agreed to continue as booking secretary, Rhonwen Copley, who agreed to continue as general sec-

retary and treasurer, Jockie Hewitt and Sinead Macfarlane.

It was noted with disappointment that there were no new names put forward and, even though the new constitution expressly provides for it, no hall user group had nominated any of their members to represent them on the committee either.

The date of the next management meeting will, as usual, be displayed on the notice boards, and whether you currently use the hall or not, if you live in the area and are interested in the future of the hall the committee hope you will come along to a meeting soon. In the meantime, a Merry Christmas & a very Happy New Year is wished to each and every one of you from everyone on the committee. ■ **Rhonwen Copley, Secretary**

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



Ardgay Public Hall





Ardgay & District News

KINCARDINE CEMETERY ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT ASSOCIATION (KCEEA)

Find out who takes care of the lovely trees and shrubs at Kincardine Cemetery

IF YOU THINK THAT cemeteries are gloomy places, think again! Of course, the old part of Kincardine Cemetery is of considerable historic interest, but the extension part is not bad either. A small band of friends help to look after it, and we think that it's a lovely place, see for yourself.

Well over ten years ago, trees and briar roses were planted round the perimeter fence of the extension, and they've grown into beautiful mature trees and shrubs. Let's face it – unless you've made other arrangements (such as living forever) – almost all of us are likely to find a wee niche there sooner or later. And I'm sure it will help our loved ones in their sadness to be comforted by the pleasant environment that has been created there. A big thank-you goes to Frank van Duivenbode, in particular, who looks after the trees. Recently, he also had his work cut out refurbishing the bench he designed and made in the early 2000s. As you may know, it's under the sycamore tree, and very popular with



KCEEA members met at memorial bench in October. / BRIGITTE GEDDES

birds, if not with visitors. Our group met up there in October and we went walkabout to discuss any work that has to be done before we're back in the growing season.

When we were given permission for planting trees and roses, we had to commit ourselves to certain rules, so please don't just go and plant any tree you would like to see there. However, if you have any suggestions or would like to make a donation to our funds, please contact us using the details below. We planted a

lot of snowdrops along the fence on the side where the sycamore stands, but unfortunately, not many of them survived. So we would be grateful to receive any snowdrop plants you can spare (best to dig them up just after they finish flowering) or any spare crocuses. Just drop Brigitte a line to arrange collection. No larger spring bulbs such as daffodils or narcissus, please; they get in the way of ground maintenance. ■ **Brigitte Geddes,**

KCEEA Chair and Treasurer

✉ woodland@allezweb.co.uk





Ardgay & District News

Winter Resilience Programme: Aid to Communities

The Highland Council is looking for volunteers who would be willing to take part in this programme. If you are interested, or if you would like more details, please contact your CC.

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL is again offering assistance to communities who wish to help clear snow and ice from footpaths in their own areas. This assistance will take the form of the provision of salt, snow clearing equipment, PPE, Health & Safety advice and insurance cover for pre-registered volunteers. Full details of what is provided by the Council, and what resources will need to be supplied by the community, as well as the application form are available on demand. Please contact Ardgay & District Com-



The Highland Council is ready for winter

60,000 tonnes of salt in stock

105 gritters

45 footpath tractors

1 snow cutter

munity Council Secretary, Leslie Pope (details below). All volunteers must be listed on the application form as insurance cover will not extend to individuals who are not named. Additional volunteers can be added later by submitting an additional form but this must be done prior to those individuals undertaking any snow clearance activities under this scheme. ■

Leslie Pope, *Secretary A&DCC*

✉ secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

☎ 01549 421 244

CHRISTMAS PARTY ON 21ST DECEMBER

Festive events at the Bradbury Centre

THE CLIENTS HAD A LOVELY DAY out in October for afternoon tea in the Victoria Restaurant Dingwall. This was funded by Beinn nan Oighrean Windfarm (Ardgay), and Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Limited (Creich).

We now have on loan an interactive screen donated by Dementia Friendly. The clients are enjoying using the screen with the staff. Also at the Centre we have reflexology weekly, as well as two weekly visits for music and movement. We also do flower arranging and Ipad tuition. The centre is delighted to be part of a 2 year pilot scheme Fare Share, that is running with Tesco. We receive donations twice a week.

The Christmas Party is coming up on the 21st of December, and the carol service on the 23rd December. A Christmas Raffle will be drawn at the party (raffle tickets are still for sale). The iPad square, £10 per square will be drawn on the 10th of December. Dornoch Service runs for all of the community from the Centre on Tuesday.

For the 902 service (Tuesdays & Wednesdays) please see the updated bus timetable on page 26.

■ **Barbara Hartshorn**



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Ardgay & District News

CHESS, FROM THE KYLE OF SUTHERLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST, WON THE CLIMATE CHANGE CATEGORY

Cosy Homes East Sutherland Scheme wins a Rural Innovators Award at the Scottish Rural Parliament

The KoSDT project received a prize for improving lives in the rural community.

THE 2016 SCOTTISH Rural Parliament was held in Brechin Community Campus, Angus; between 6th-8th October. The biennial event brought together people from across rural Scotland to discuss issues of most importance to their communities.

Cosy Homes East Sutherland Scheme (CHESS) received a place as they had been nominated for, and had won, the Climate Change category of the Rural Innovators Award. This award is for a project, person or organisation which improves lives in the rural community where it is based.

Cat Wright, CHESS Project Assistant, travelled to Brechin to represent the team and collect the award. During the morning of the award ceremony, delegates were invited to visit local projects within the Angus area. Cat was part of the group who went to see the Carmyllie Heritage Society, Denfind Stone Quarry and the Dragon Matrix; a project venture between ANGU-Salve and Vision Mechanics.

The site visits were followed by a lunch of locally-sourced produce and the opening ceremony, with a



All rural innovators winners 2016.

Keynote address from the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy & Connectivity, Fergus Ewing MSP.

Throughout the afternoon there were several workshops running; each one focusing on a topic that is important to those living in a rural community. The evening wrapped up with presentations from the winning innovators and collection of their awards.

CHESS has improved lives within the East Sutherland area by awarding grants to householders to make their homes warmer and

more energy efficient. These improvements are to help reduce Fuel Poverty within the East Sutherland area and will also see Carbon Emissions from these houses being reduced, therefore helping tackle Climate Change.

Over its lifetime CHESS has had almost 300 enquiries, installed 45 homes with energy efficiency measures and have made over 100 referrals to partnership organisations. ■ **Cat Wright**, Project Assistant Cosy Homes East Sutherland Scheme (CHESS)

Craic 'n' Gigs: New what's on for East Sutherland and nearby

ARE YOU INTERESTED in attending music, theatre, dance or arts events, workshops and sessions? Do you keep missing them? Do you want an easier way to see what's on where? Well, there's a new web site & mailing list in town - www.CraicNGigs.co.uk.

If you organize events, then please get in touch to add your events to the calendar. If you're interest-

Craic 'N' Gigs

ed in attending events, then please bookmark the web site and join the mailing list. If you know of anyone running relevant events, then please let us know so that we can include them. Thanks & hope to see you at an event soon. ■ **Anna Patfield**

www.CraicNGigs.co.uk

✉ craicngigs@gmail.com



Ardgay & District News



Some of the Invercharron committee.



Our Chieftain this year was Val McDermid.

New Invercharron Highland Games committee

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 16 September 2017 at Balblair Farm.

THIS YEAR, THANKS to Pete Campbell allowing use of his field again, the Invercharron Highland Games was one of the best ever and achieved a record gate. The Games were supported by large numbers of local people, folk from across Scotland and visitors from over 24 countries worldwide. It truly was an international event. Our Chieftain this year was Val McDermid, International best-selling author whose novels have been translated into more than thirty languages, and have sold over eleven million copies. Val thoroughly enjoyed her day and was a great Chieftain, spending time chatting to visitors and competitors, presenting medals and trophies and giving an excellent speech after the Chieftain's procession following the Tain Pipe Band.

This year's Games were a first in terms of sporting events. Twelve Highland region games combined

to create a new league for the Heavy sports with Invercharron hosting the finals. This was hugely successful and attracted a field of 11 Heavy athletes. Invercharron also hosted the finals of the National Tug O War competition which was a great crowd pleaser with fierce competition. A number of ground records were also broken.

LOCAL SUPPORT

The Games are supported annually by a number of financial sponsors from both local businesses and individuals and some grant making trusts and for this support we are eternally grateful. This year, an additional and much appreciated funding award was received from the Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Limited (Ardgay and Creich). This enabled the Games to update crucial equipment and also to pay for additional toilet facilities which

are now required because of increasing numbers of visitors year on year.

There were some fears this year that the Games was in danger of closure, however, and very fortunately new committee members and office bearers have been recruited and the Invercharron Games will now proceed in 2017. New committee members are still welcome and we are also urgently recruiting people to help us in the few days before the games to help set up the field; the day of the games to help and the day after the games to take down the tents. Anyone who would like additional information or would like to volunteer their services please contact us using the details below. ■



Sally Mackintosh
Secretary

✉ invercharronhighlandgames@outlook.com



Ardgay & District News

New site manager at Ledmore & Migdale wood

'The Woodland Trust's Ledmore and Migdale wood between Spinningdale and Bonar Bridge is the charity's most northerly property, and one of the most spectacular.'

FROM FANTASTIC OAKWOODS along the A949 to pinewoods, cliffs and amazing views over Loch Migdale, it is a brilliant spot to take a wander at any time of year. Thanks to Ardgay's Bill Ross, there is now a work of art you can take a seat upon and soak in the view. This incredible bench (photo) has been built from a single windblown oak tree from Ledmore wood and has been created and placed at the viewpoint to Loch Migdale in dedication to Philip Entwistle, a professional entomologist who spent hundreds of hours volunteering on the site studying many weird and wonderful creatures. Bill has been crafting this bench for the last couple of years, with many fantastic details about Philip's life and adventures carved into parts of the bench.

Regular users of the A949 may have noticed a deer fence being built near the Spinningdale end of the Ledmore Wood, which will be an enclosure fence around a clearfell nearby. The shape of the fence is hoped to encourage deer to follow the fence up the hill and away from the road. If users of the road see changes in the deer use of this piece of ground, and see more deer near the road, please contact the Site Manager on the details below.

IMPROVING THE TRACKS

There has been some work done to the tracks network through October, which will help access for local contractors working on the site, and help to reduce the volume of water on the tracks for the public

walking, cycling and horse riding through the woods. Over the next year, additional work will be undertaken to further improve the tracks network for all users. A full tree safety survey has been undertaken along the charity's part of the A949, and will result in a number of trees being felled to reduce the likelihood of tree related accidents.

The site has a new Manager, who has been busily getting to know the place and the people who surround it. He has been in post for around 3 months now. Ross Watson manages seven sites across the north and is based in Strathspey. ■



Ross Watson

Site manager

✉ rosswatson@woodlandtrust.org.uk

📞 03437 705 483



The bench, with Ross Watson sitting on it to give a sense of scale.

Letters to the editor

Do you have a strong feeling about something you read? Do you want to share your opinion? Send your letters to ardgaynewsletter@gmail.com.

Working as a volunteer for my community

I THINK IT IS important that people in our community know that they are being represented in the following groups, and have direct access to them through me as an active member, office-bearer, Board Member or Trustee for any queries or information:

- Highland Senior Citizens Network
- Highland Third Sector Interface
- Voluntary Groups East & Central Sutherland
- Highland Small Communities Housing Trust

- Dornoch Firth Group
 - East & Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau
 - Sutherland Community Care Forum
 - UNISON Retired Members
 - Scottish Esperanto Association
 - Ardgay Public Hall
 - Gearrchoille Community Wood Ardgay
 - Friends of the John o'Groats Trail
 - Sutherland Walkers Group
 - Ardgay Scottish Country Dance Club
- I'd also like to know if anyone else in the community represents other groups working for our benefit in the area. ■

David Hannah, Ardgay

AT ARDGAY STORES & BONAR BRIDGE POST OFFICE

Ardgay & District CC newsletter copies for sale

Do you live outside of the Ardgay & District CC area and you would like to buy a hard copy of the newsletter? There are spare copies at Ardgay Stores & Highland Café and at the Post Office in Bonar Bridge, at £1. We are also studying the possibility of sending the newsletter to subscribers by mail, but only if we find that there is enough interest to increase the production. Please contact us using the details below if you would like to become a subscriber.

Do you receive the newsletter and you have thought of making a donation but you don't know how? We have recently set up a "donate" button at our website. ■

www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

✉ ardgaynewsletter@gmail.com

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Andrew Mackenzie

**Contact us
for a quote**



Please send us your comments, letters, suggestions or contributions. Visit www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

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FULL PAGE: £40 (A4)

HALF PAGE: £20 (A5 LANDSCAPE)

1/3 PAGE £15 (A5 PORTRAIT)

1/4 PAGE £10 (A6 PORTRAIT)

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**Next
edition: 15th
March**

BOOKING & ENQUIRIES:
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01863 766 690

Ardgay Stores & Highland Café



OPENING TIMES:

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Tuesday 7am-8pm

Wednesday 7am-8pm

Thursday 7am-9pm

Friday 7am-4pm

Saturday 8am-8pm

Sunday 8:30-7pm

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Windfarm Community Funds



How to apply for Community Awards

SMALL PROJECTS UNDER £250

The Beinn nan Oighrean Windfarm Awards

- Go to Ardgay & District CC website: **www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk/funding** where you can find full details and download the application form.
- Send your completed application form to **secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk**

PROJECTS UNDER £2,000

The Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund

- Go to **<http://ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk/funding/windfarmcommunitybenefit/>** to download the guidelines and application form.
- Send your completed application form to **secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk** or to **alex.macmanus@highland.gov.uk**

BETWEEN £2,000 AND £10,000+

SSE Achany Community Fund

- Visit the fund's page **sse.com/beingresponsible/responsiblecommunitymember/localcommunity-funds/achany** for more info and to download the application form. Please note that there are two different forms: £2,000-£10,000 and £10,000+.
- Complete and return to **fiona.morrison@sse.com** or by Royal Mail to: **Fiona Morrison**, Corporate Affairs, SSE, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN
- Next deadline: **30 April 2017**

BETWEEN £2,000 AND £25,000+

E.ON Rosehall Community Fund

- **Foundation Scotland** administers E.ON Rosehall Community Fund. Visit **www.foundationScotland.org.uk/programmes/eon-rosehall.aspx** for details. You can apply online or download the application forms (£2,000-£25,000 and £25,000+).
- 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.
- Next deadline: **30 April 2017**

Latest Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Awards (Ardgay)

Since our last newsletter, the following awards have been made:

- **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust** - £2,000 towards the upgrading of the Bonar Bridge Post Office business area.
- **Kyle of Sutherland Gala Group** - £622 towards christmas lighting for Santa's Grotto in the Gearr-choille wood.
- **Ardgay Public Hall** - £1,700 towards the cost of insulating the committee room.



Beinn Tharsuinn Community Limited funds a new boat for the Kyle of Sutherland Angling Association

With a joint grant from Ardgay and Creich Beinn Tharsuinn Community Funds, the Kyle of Sutherland Angling Association (KoSAS) purchased a new Pioneer 13 that has been delivered to Loch an Lagain.



Gearrchoille Community Wood



Low water level encourages the growth of vegetation.



Fabric sides on the shelter to provide protection from the weather.



Andy making planks from one of the wind blown trees.

THE COMMUNITY WOOD'S VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN BUSY DIGGING THE POND

Autumn improvements at the Gearrchoille

THE LOVELY AUTUMN weather - dry and fairly sunny - meant that the water level in the old curling pond stayed very low and that seemed to encourage the growth of vegetation. So for a while there was a lot of mud and greenery but not so much water. This allowed us to get on our waders and dig out some of the silt that has accumulated over the last 5 or 6 years. (There is more to do, so if you think playing with that much mud looks like your kind of thing, come along to one of our first-Thurs-of-the-month afternoons). The water is once again flowing over the top of the sluice and the pond looks more attractive - although changing water levels and the appearance of some mud and vegetation form part of the normal cycle of pondlife and we try to manage this, not stop it happening.



Collecting and sowing acorns.

quired; there was a bumper crop of acorns, some of which were collected for us and have been sown off-site to provide saplings should we do any planting next year. Andy brought his chainsaw mill into the wood and made some planks from one of the wind blown trees. When this has dried a bit, it can be finished and used to provide seating in the shelter.

We are in the process of moving our website to a new platform so it can be updated easily. Please have a look and leave any feedback (see below). ■ **Betty Wright**

Other activities have continued - the shelter now has fabric sides to provide extra protection from the weather when re-

gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk

✉ gearrchoille@gmail.com

☎ 01863755316

📘 Gearrchoille Community Wood

Adult Clubs & Societies



Ardgay Badminton Club

Thursday evenings at Ardgay Public Hall.

Contact: **Gregor Laing**

☎ 01863 766 223

Alternative sessions organised by KAT, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 pm.

☎ 01863 766 702

Scottish Women's Rural Institute

All ages welcome. Ardgay Public Hall 7:30 pm. 3rd Tuesday each month

Contact: **Mrs. Jean Jack**

☎ 01863 766 646

Culrain & Invershin SW1. 4th Thursday of the month.

Contact: **Liz Cormack**

☎ 01863 766 841

Ardgay Scottish Country Dancing Club

Every Tuesday evening from 7:30 pm in Ardgay Public Hall until 25th April. Experienced, rusty and new dancers always welcome.

Contact: **David Hannah**

☎ 01863 766 061

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society

Kincardine Old Church, Ardgay. Organising events and history walks.

Contact: **Mary Stobo**

☎ 01863 766868

Tai Chi

Ardgay Public Hall
Monday 2:30 pm £2

Contact: **Angela**

☎ 01549 421 336

Edderton & District Gardening Club

JANUARY: after Christmas members shake off the January blues with a lunch at Luigi's in Dornoch.

FEBRUARY: on Monday 6th February we will be back at Edderton Community Centre at 7:30 pm, for a talk and advice about seed sowing.

MARCH: our annual light-hearted gardening quiz. Monday 6th March, at 7:30 pm, in Edderton Community Centre. New members are always welcome. A small raffle is held at each meeting to raise money, with any surplus being donated to gardening related charities. During the growing season there is a plant swap of surplus plants. Contact:

Patricia ☎ 01863 766 061
pahannah@hotmail.com

Esther ☎ 01862 811 381
esther@bumblebeecottage.me.uk



Creich & Kincardine Art Group

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

☎ 01549 421 321



Sutherland Walkers Club

We meet the 4th Sunday of the month, all year round.

SUNDAY 22 JANUARY

Dunrobin Circular. Leader: Jon Jenkins. Tel: 01862 810382.

Meet for car share at Bonar Bridge Post Office, 9 am.

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

Ben Horn. Leader: Cliff Beck. Tel: 01862 810 033. Meet for car share at Bonar Bridge Post Office, 9:15 am.

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH

AGM. Golspie Community Centre. 7:30 pm

SUNDAY 26 MARCH

Dunbeath to Lybster, following the John O'Groats Trail.

Leader: Jon Jenkins.

Tel: 01862 810382. Meet for car share at Bonar Bridge Post Office, 9 am.

We are pleased to welcome occasional walkers or new members, but please contact us in advance.

Contact: **David Hannah**

☎ 01863 766 061

Sutherland Radio Control Club

By Ardgay Garage.

Facebook: **Sutherland Radio Control Club**

☎ 07703 196 005

Bonar Bridge Ardgay Golf Club

Market Stance, Migdale Road, Bonar Bridge.

☎ 01863 766 199

Kyle of Sutherland Cinema Club

Film nights on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Bonar Bridge Hall at 7:30 pm. Free Entry. Contact: **Silvia Muras**

☎ 01863 766 690

Pilates

Bonar Bridge Hall, Mondays 10-11 am. Contact: **Moir**

Chisholm

☎ 01862 810 786

Alternative Pilates group (KAT) 1.30pm-2.30pm, Ardgay Public Hall.

Beginners welcome.

☎ 01863 766 702

Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club

11 JANUARY Whist Club in aid of Hall Funds

18 JANUARY Kyle of Sutherland Joggers

25 JANUARY Ardgay Scottish Country Dancers
1 FEBRUARY Malawi Trip Fundraiser.

Admission £2 including tea.

Contact: **Rosemary Logan**

☎ 01549 421 282

Alternative whist club organised by KAT: Fridays, 2:30 to 4:30 pm, Bonar Bridge Hall. Beginners welcome. Free.

☎ 01863 766 646

Kyle of Sutherland Joggers

Joggers meet Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 pm. Check Facebook page for meeting point: **Kyle of Sutherland Joggers** Contact:

Elissa ☎ 07743 228 661

Naomi ☎ 07818 482 341

Catriona ☎ 07929 886 105



What's on in the area

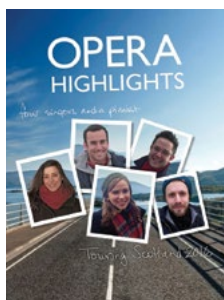
2

ARDROSS VILLAGE HALL

Scottish Opera Highlights

MARCH

This year's programme includes favourites from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and Verdi's *La Traviata*. The piano-accompanied tour features the vocal talents of soprano Filipa van Eck, mezzo soprano Samantha Price, tenor Anthony Flaum and baritone Johnny Herford. Tickets £12 and £5 under 26. Booking and more info: www.ardrosscommunityhall.ticketsource.co.uk



27

THE IRONWORKS, INVERNESS

Red Hot Chilli Pipers

DEC.

Red Hot Chilli Pipers, the most famous bagpipe band on the planet in concert on Tuesday 27 Dec 2016, 19:30 at The Ironworks, Please Note: Under 16s must be accompanied by a responsible adult over 18. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.co.uk



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BONAR BRIDGE COMMUNITY HALL

JAN.

Burns night

Share songs and haggis with friends at Bonar Bridge Community Hall. Contact: Yvonne Lowe. Tel. 07909 897 347

25

BONAR BRIDGE COMMUNITY HALL

Whist drive

JAN.

In aid of Ardgay Scottish Country Dancing Club. Admission £2 including tea.



FROM

INVERNESS MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

17

Chris White: Discovering Red, Green and Blue

JAN.

Named after the popular ski location and 6th highest Scottish peak Cairn Gorm, which is translated as either Blue Hill or Green Hill and long before known as Am Monadh Ruadh or The Red Hills, the Cairngorms attract many winter sports enthusiasts throughout the winter. During 2015 photographer Chris White took regular trips to this highland wilderness, recording the changing seasons and the unique views that only the highlands can offer. Opening times: Tuesday – Thursday 12pm-4pm and Friday – Saturday 11am-4pm.

31

DEC.

DORNOCH

Hogmanay

10:30 pm Dancing in the Street! With Monach Isle Ceilidh Band. Dornoch Square. Lone Piper at midnight, followed by Firework Display - Bucket Collection - Donations please!





Children & Young people



LANTERNS, STORYTELLING, HOT CHOCOLATE, AND TREATS!

Spooky lanterns at Ledmore & Migdale woods

IF YOU COME DOWN to the woods today, you're in for a big surprise! That was certainly the case when 70 people came to our Spooky Lantern event at Ledmore & Migdale woods, Spinningdale on Saturday 29th of October. We had two sessions, one at 5 pm for the younger children and the second at 7 pm for those who like to be thoroughly scared in the dark! We made some fabulous lanterns in the bothy

which the children took to light their way up into the woods.

The children then gathered outside the croft with the storyteller 'The Green Guga'. Tales were told of helpful tree sprites, like the rare Ghillie Dhu, who have been known to help lost children find their way. Some children looked carefully to see if we were followed by any of these birch loving fairies.

The story ended at the top of the trail where the children learnt that not all fairy folk are pleasant, as in the tale of the wicked green Whupity Stoorie! Knowing the names of the things in your wood may come in very useful one day... We had some welcome hot chocolate and treats to end each event. We are planning to run this again next year, hope you can come! ■ **Juliet Robinson** (Woodland Trust)

GREYLAG
GOOSE



BARNACLE
GOOSE



PINK FOOTED
GOOSE



Wildlife WILD GEESSE

■ **GREYLAG** geese are the ancestor of most domestic geese. ■ It is the largest and bulkiest of the wild geese native to Europe. ■ They used to breed in Iceland, but nowadays many of the **GREYLAG** geese we see in autumn have bred locally in the northern Highlands and Islands

■ **BARNACLE** geese are very sociable. ■ They fly in packs and long lines, with a noisy chorus of barking or yapping sounds.

■ **BARNACLE** geese come from Greenland, and they can be seen in Scotland from October until March. ■ **PINK FOOTED** geese come in large numbers to spend the winter here, arriving from their breeding grounds

Barnacle
geese



in Spitsbergen, Iceland and Greenland. ■ **PINK FOOTED** geese eat grain, winter cereals, potatoes and grass. Visit www.rspb.org.uk and www.snh.gov.uk to learn more about Scotland's wintering wild geese.

Greylag
goose



Pink footed
goose



Children & Young people

GLEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



SCOTTISH BOOK WEEK

As part of Scottish Book Week we were joined by author and illustrator Meg McLaren. Meg shared her new book 'Life Is Magic' with us. All our pupils joined in with many fun activities inspired by her book.



K-NEX

All our pupils from Nursery to P7 took part in K-Nex Science and technology workshops at the school. Our pupils designed their own remote control robots and had a fantastic time.



NURSERY WALK

Gledfield nursery made the most of the mild weather and walked the triangle on Tuesday 15th November, we were looking for things to do with their current topic The Farm.



Our benchball team took part in the annual interschool competition in Golspie games hall. Each pupil played at least one game and all played to a very high standard and just narrowly missed out on the top spot! We are very proud of them all.



BENCHBALL

■ **Kirsten Macneil** Cluster Headteacher
Rosehall & Gledfield Primary Schools



by Andymack & Sil

MEET HAMISH THE TARTAN DRAGON

A shy veggie dragon who lives on Carn Bren

Winter has arrived and the days are shorter. Tom Nae Hurry and Hamish have made a little fire to keep them warm on a snowy evening. Morag has to sing a Christmas Carol at her school show, and she is practising by singing for them:

"The holly and the ivy / When they are full grown / Of all the trees that are in the wood / The holly bears the crown / The rising of the sun / And the running of the deer / The playing of the merry organ / Sweet singing in the choir."

From the Manse...



Christmas time is here again!

DEAR FRIENDS, yes, we are nearly there again. Christmas is one of the two key festivals of the Church calendar (the other being Easter). I can remember even as a boy being taken by my parents to Church for the 'midnight service' on Christmas Eve. In those days, I sang in the church choir and was the lead chorister. It was always an exciting time with all the build up to the Big day itself. Part of the attraction of going to Church on Christmas Eve was to be able to 'welcome' Christmas Day itself and to be the first to wish each other a 'Happy Christmas'. Boyhood memories of all the great carols we sang, the symbols of Christmas - the beauty of the Christmas tree, and the crib itself with all the characters of the Christmas story. Thank God, it is still as potent and meaningful today. People still make a special effort to gather with loved ones in churches across the country. Why is this so - ordinary people like you

At the end of the old year and the gateway to the new year, Jesus Christ offers us all a new beginning and hope for the future

and I still need 'God'. The Christian Church still offers a message of 'hope' to the war torn countries of Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq. A message of 'hope' to the starving and the homeless shines out across the world. Of one thing we can be certain, the real present to aching human hearts is that of the love of God in the baby Jesus who was born into this world to set us free. At the end of the old year, and the gateway to



The Royal British Legion Scotland laying up their Old Standard.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- **Sunday 18 December** - 6:30 pm
Crib Service for the whole family with popular carols and readings at Ardgay Parish Church.
- **Thursday 22 December** - 10 am
Edderton School Christmas Service at Edderton Church
- **Friday 23 December** - 10 am
Gledfield School Christmas Service at Ardgay Church
- **Friday 23 December** - 1:45 pm
Rosehall School Christmas Service at Rosehall Church
- **Saturday 24 December 11:15 pm**
Watchnight Service at Rosehall Church **11:15 pm** Watchnight Service at Creich Church **11:30 pm** Watchnight Service at Edderton Church
- **Sunday 25 December** at 10:30 am
Short Family Toy Service at Ardgay Church (children bring a favourite toy to church). We join our friends to celebrate together at Ardgay
- **Sunday 1 January** 11 am New Year Service for all the Kyle churches at Creich Church

BIG SING BY CANDLELIGHT: Friday 16th December everyone in our church communities is invited to join in a celebration of Christmas. There will be a 'Big Sing' with carols by candlelight and festive refreshments at Ardgay Village Hall at 7pm.

the new year, Jesus Christ offers us all a new beginning, and 'hope' for the future. It has been an exciting year with so many developments on the world stage. We join with our friends across the Atlantic as we pray for America as it faces a new dawn, and a new presidency. The message of the angels at the first Christmas was "Peace on earth, goodwill to all people." We hope that, amidst all the busyness of the season, you will once again find time to join us as we celebrate Christmas together in the Church, and with our friends in the neighbouring communities.

A Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year to you all. ■ **Rev. Anthony**

Rev. Anthony M. Jones

Parish Minister

The Manse, Ardgay

☎ 01863 766 285

✉ revanthonyjones@yahoo.com

Please remember if you would like a visit to you at home or in hospital, you can phone me and, I shall be happy to call by on my regular rounds. Rev Anthony



Guide to local services

Village Halls & venues

ARDGAY & DISTRICT

Ardgay Public Hall

Fiona Venters / 01863 766 602
fcmm11@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 766 888

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 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.

Mobile Library Ardgay

EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY

4 January 2017

25 January 2017

15 February 2017

8 March 2017



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

Lairg Road, Bonar Bridge

Opening times

MONDAY TO FRIDAY:

9 am - 5:30 pm

SATURDAY: 9 am - 1 pm

Train times



From 11/12/2016 to 20/05/2017

INVERNESS → ARDGAY

Monday to Saturday:

07:02 (08:33) Catering serv. available

10:38 (12:05) Catering serv. available

14:00 (15:29) Catering serv. available

17:12 (18:39)

18:28 (20:01) Catering serv. available

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 serv. available

10:54 (12:25) 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



Development Trust

*Offering competitive rates on photocopying
and printing:*

Size	Black and White	Colour	Laminating
A4	10p	20p	50p
A3	15p	30p	80p

Email: cdassist@kyleofsutherland.co.uk or

Tel: 01863766190 for more details

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust is a Company Limited
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Charity: SC043587. Registered office: The Trust Offices, Dor-
noch Road, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland, IV24 3EB

ARDGAY GARAGE



ARDGAY - Tel (01863) 766231

**Now doing Main Dealer Warranted
Servicing**

Please ring for details

Please drop in at any time.

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



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 810 594

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

Andrew's Buses

ARDGAY → TAIN

Monday to Saturday

Ardgay	Ardgay
09:08	10:35
11:26	13:35
14:23	16:35
17:20	19:09
	↑
Edderton	Edderton
09:20	10:20
11:38	13:20
14:35	16:20
17:35	18:54
	↑
Tain Lamington St	Tain Lamington St
09:30 *	10:11
11:48 *	13:11 *
14:45 *	16:11
17:45	18:45 *
	↑
Tain ASDA	Tain ASDA
09:33	10:03
11:53	13:03
14:48	16:03
17:48	18:37

* Connects with Stagecoach bus to / from Inverness

Royal Bank of Scotland

Mobile Timetable TUESDAY
Bonar Bridge War Memorial
Arrive 11:50 Depart 12:05

LIBRARIES

Bonar Bridge Library
01863 760 083
Mobile Libraries
0773 330 0761

NHS

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

PHARMACY

Mitchells Chemist Bonar
01863 760 011

POLICE

Local Police (Inverness)
0845 600 5703
Non Emergency: 101
Emergency: 999

POST OFFICE

Bonar Bridge
01863 766 219

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Gledfield
01863 766 580
Bonar Bridge
01863 766 221
Rosehall
01549 441 348

RECYCLING CENTRE

Bonar Bridge
01349 868 439

SCOTTISH WATER

24Hr Emergency
0845 600 8855
Customer Help
0845 601 8855

TAXIS

Ronnie's Taxis Ardgay
01863 766 422
A&B Taxis Ardgay-Bonar
07549 999 760

TRAINS

National Rail Enquiries
0845 748 4950

VETS

Rogart Vets
01408 641 352
Easter Ross Vets Tain
01862 893 142
Johnston & Farrell Tain
01862 894 223
Kessock Equine Vets
01463 731 107

Bradbury Centre Bus

920 - TUESDAY

Bonar Bridge to Dornoch
via Spinningdale

Bonar Bridge	Bonar Bridge
Cherry Grove	Cherry Grove
09:40	10:20
13:30	14:20
	↓
Spinningdale	Spinningdale
Layby at Post Box	Layby at Post Box
09:48	10:12
13:38	14:11
	↓
Clashmore	Clashmore
Carnegie Hall	Carnegie Hall
09:54	10:06
13:44	14:05
	↓
Dornoch Sq	Dornoch Sq
10:00	10:05
13:50	14:00

920 - WEDNESDAY

Bonar Bridge circular to Dornoch
via Spinningdale, Tain & Edderton

Bonar Bridge	Bonar Bridge
Cherry Grove	Cherry Grove
09:30	14:40
	↓
Spinningdale	Spinningdale
Layby at Post Box	Layby at Post Box
09:38	14:31
	↓
Clashmore	Clashmore
Carnegie Hall	Carnegie Hall
09:54	14:19
	↓
Tain	Tain
Bus stop at Co-Op	Bus stop at Co-Op
10:02	14:08
	↓
Tain	Tain
Lamington Street	Lamington Street
10:04	14:06
	↓
Edderton	Edderton
10:17	13:53
	↓
Ardgay	Ardgay
10:39	13:33
	↓
Bonar Bridge	Bonar Bridge
Cherry Grove	Cherry Grove
10:42	13:30

Operates every Tuesday and Wednesday apart from Christmas and New Year weeks.

The minibus has a wheelchair lift which will be available as part of the service.

Bookings: 01863 766 772

Puzzles



Sudoku

Easy

Grid n°100031040 easy

		4	6	1				
	8							9
		5		8	9	6		7
		2	1	4	7			
1					5			
5			9				2	
8				7				5
	7				2	9	1	

Medium

Grid n°27305 medium

	5					9		8
9			4	6			5	
	1					2		
7				4		1		9
				9	2			
		8				5	7	
			8		6		4	
			2					5

Hard

Grid n°214455254 hard

9	5			2	8			
		1	9	5				4
	8		1					6
					1		4	3
		2	4	9		1	8	
		9					6	
5					6			
				8				
	4							

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

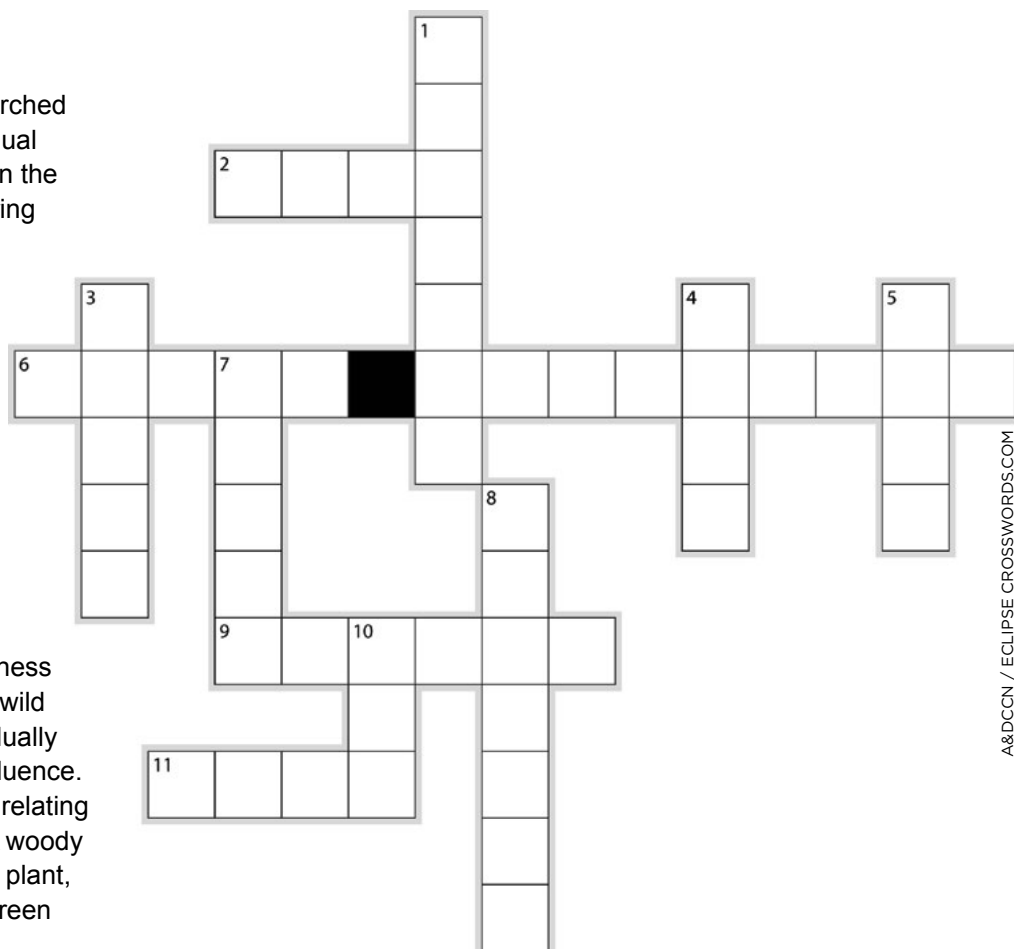
Crosswords

Across

- 2.** Exhausted of moisture; parched with heat; dry; barren. **6.** Annual cattle and farm produce fair in the parish of Kincardine held during three days in November. **9.** A hanging, tapering piece formed by the freezing of dripping water. **11.** (Nautical) A call used to greet someone or draw attention to something from a distance.

Down

- 1.** A young child who is just beginning to walk. **3.** A river of Hades whose waters when drunk caused forgetfulness of the past. **4.** The cry of the wild goose; a honk. **5.** To fall gradually from power, prosperity, or influence. **7.** A porch or veranda. **8.** Of, relating to, or resembling a fox. **10.** A woody evergreen Eurasian climbing plant, typically having shiny, dark green five-pointed leaves.



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The Christmas Big Sing

BY CANDLELIGHT

at Ardgay Village Hall

ON FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER AT 7PM

Come along and join in a singalong of popular Christmas songs both old and new including your favourite carols

Festive refreshments



Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust

AGM

**Monday 9 January
7.00pm**

ARDGAY VILLAGE HALL

Tea & Coffee will be served after the AGM

All Welcome

Company Limited by Guarantee registered in Scotland: SC401019.
Registered Scottish Charity: SC043587.

Registered office: The Trust Offices, Dornoch Road,
Bonar Bridge Sutherland, IV24 3EB

ARDGAY & DISTRICT

Community Council *newsletter*

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ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

Betty Wright (Chairperson), **Silvia Muras** (Vice Chair),
Marion Turner (Treasurer), **Leslie Pope** (Secretary),
Andy Wright, Sheila Lall, Rob Pope.

COUNCILLORS:

George Farlow, Hugh Morrison, Linda Munro

(More details in page 6)

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