The transformation of Ardgay
100 years separate these two images. Let’s take a look at the history of our village. Page 6 Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust’s The Barn is now open. Page 4

The attentive restoration of Carbisdale Castle
Great care is being taken to restore Carbisdale Castle to its former glory. The clock tower is now fully restored. The owners were particularly pleased to be able to engage the original company that built the clock to handle its refurbishment. Page 5

Fixed Wireless Superfast broadband ready in Edderton
The providers, Highland Wireless & IT, will work in partnership with the KoSDT to service Rosehall and Strathcarron. Page 10

Celebration of the official opening of The Hub
Page 10

Red Robin, our favourite Christmas bird
Page 26

32 pages featuring What’s on in the area, Opening times, Telephone guide, Bus & Train timetable, Sudoku & Crosswords
HO, HO, HO!

It’s time to dust off your dancing shoes and come along to our Christmas Ceilidh Tea Dance. Santa and his helpers will be there again, serving refreshments and handing out gifts.

WEDNESDAY 20th DECEMBER,
2pm-4pm
ROSEHALL VILLAGE HALL

Admission £2
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## Ardgay & District photographs

Ardgay by Donald Bain

A stunning view of Ardgay with a snowy Carn Bren in the background. The photo was taken on the 7th March 2016. For more photos from Donald Bain, please visit the Facebook page Kyle of Sutherland’s Scenery.

### EDITOR’S LETTER

**Renewal**

Thanks for your continued support, and a very warm thank you to those who have contributed to this edition for the first time. This winter we have many things to celebrate in our area, as most of the developments we have been following on these pages over the years are coming to fruition. The long awaited Hub is now part of our everyday lives, as will be the business Barn in Ardgay. For those living in Culrain, it’s nice to see the clocks giving the correct time, and it’s a testimony to the work being done to refurbish Carbisdale Castle. I hope you will enjoy the peek into the past from our pages about the history of Ardgay, now that the village centre is being renewed. Certainly Ardgay has seen quite a few buildings rise from their ashes in the last century!

Silvia Muras Editor
Ardgay Barn open for business

The new development which has transformed the centre of Ardgay is now up and running.

Built on the site of the old Lady Ross Hotel in the middle of the village, The Barn provides six business spaces which opened at the beginning of December and are all already rented out to local businesses. A new village square, to be known as Drovers Square, has also been created as part of the project work carried out by contractors William Gray Construction Ltd on behalf of local development group the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.

The Barn is now home to a variety of local businesses, ranging from holistic massage therapists Kyle of Serenity and hairdresser Hair @ The Barn to Business Gateway, CH Architecture and upholstery, craft and design studio Tweed at Heart. Heaven Bikes are renting storage space while the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust has moved all its team into one large office. The Barn is fully equipped with Wi-Fi, photocopying and scanning facilities and the Trust also provides a call answering and general office services.

Marion Turner, Board Director, said: “We are delighted that The Barn is opening for business right on schedule and that Drovers Square is such an attractive addition to the village. We had always hoped that local businesses would want to set up in Ardgay but we have been overwhelmed by the demand which proves that this was a timely and much needed development. “We’re also pleased to be able to offer assistance to existing and new businesses with services which they might otherwise have had to find out with the Kyle. Bringing this regeneration project to fruition has only been possible with the generous support of the Scottish Government, Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, SSE Regional Fund, Achany Community Benefit Fund and E.ON Rosehall Community Benefit Fund.”

Jenny MacPherson

The Trust welcomed four new team members in December. Kirstin Langlois joins as marketing officer. Kirstin lives in Dornoch with her family and has a strong track record in marketing within the social enterprise sector. To assist the Sutherland Community Partnership to engage with communities to create locality plans, Martin Thomsen joins our team to take on the role of Community Engagement Officer. Martin is moving to the Highlands from Denmark but he already has a strong tie to Tain and has worked in Scotland on other community based projects. James Turner is currently studying for his BSc in Sustainable Development at UHI and he will be the full time Community Engagement Assistant, James and his family live in Dingwall. Taking on the part time Community Engagement Assistant position is Jodie Ross from Dornoch. Jodie brings her talent in advertising and public relations to the team.

New KoSDT team members

Helen Houston, Development Manager
Carbisdale Castle is being restored to its former glory

The works on the castle are progressing well and completed to the highest standards.

A spokesperson for FCFM Group Limited said:

“The renovation of Carbisdale Castle is progressing well and work has already been completed in a number of important areas. The structural damage has been rectified, the building is water-tight and the clock tower, for example, is now fully restored along with the main staircase, stained glass windows and the unique ceilings in all of the rooms. We were particularly pleased to be able to engage the original company that built the clock to handle its refurbishment. All three faces of the clock now tell the time again and the bells chime perfectly once again. Work is now focused on restoring the living quarters within the castle and selecting furniture and fittings to show the castle off at its very best. While the structural and building work continues, all of the castle’s paintings have been sent for restoration and we look forward to receiving them back in the near future so they can be re-hung in their rightful place. Carbisdale Castle is one of the finest buildings in Sutherland and we take very seriously the restoration of this magnificent building. All of the work is being completed to the highest standards, using skilled tradesmen and professional architects and engineers. We are mindful of the grounds and the wider estate also and look forward very much to working with the local community to develop these for the wider benefit. It is very important to us that the community is involved in securing and sustaining the castle for the future and to that end we plan to invite the community into the castle in the Spring or Summer 2018, once works are completed, so that everyone can see the work that has taken place, the magnificence of the castle and of course to meet with you and share some time together.”

Following an initial approach several months ago by the new owners of Carbisdale Castle via an intermediary, representatives of the Community Council were invited to the castle to view the renovation works. The works are indeed impressive. The owners indicated that once the renovation is complete they would like to establish discussions with the local community about potential future involvement with the castle and any associated developments.
Ardgay & District News

The deep transformation of Ardgay

(Left) Balnagown Arms Hotel in 1918, Church Street with the old Hall and smiddy. The two buildings on the right are the general merchants owned at the time by David Mackay, and the Post Office. (Centre) 1930: The hotel’s main building has been extended with an additional gable hidden to the rear (with extra chimney pots visible). There are two new porches, the windows on the right have been turned into bay windows and curiously one of the new windows in the roof has a chimney built in front of it. The photo also shows a clear view of Church

1812
Opening of Telford’s 1st Bonar Bridge.

1892
Lady Ross of Balnagown gifts a Public Hall to the people of Ardgay District, built just behind the hotel.

1943
A thriving Balnagown hotel burns to the ground. Its ruins will stand in the centre of the village for many years.

1850s
A fair or market that lasted three days in November is at this point established in Kincardine/Ardgay.

1893
Opening of the Second Bonar Bridge.

1958
The Lady Ross Road House Bar & Café is built on the site of the hotel.

1817
A farm house is converted in the Balnagown Arms Hotel. In the following years, the parish centre will move from Kincardine to this junction of roads by the hotel, marking the beginning of ‘Ardgay’.

1818

(Left) William Daniell (1769–1837), aquatint on paper depicting the first Bonar Bridge. (Centre) The Balnagown Arms hotel before undergoing extensive renovations. The old hotel was built in 1817 and was originally a farmhouse. We can see Ivy Cottage, which dates from 1790. (Right) The Lady Ross after its opening. The old barn from the Balnagown farm can be seen in the background.
Ardgay & District News

Let’s take a look at the history of Ardgay, now undergoing profound change. Witness of the times, the old barn from the original farm house is now refurbished as a business hub. SM

ARDGAY VILLAGE THROUGH TIME

Street with the old hall, blacksmith’s workshop run by Donald Aird, and the blacksmith’s house. The house which is now Noranside was originally The Commercial Bank (it’s the building with a dormer window in the roof). (Right) In 1975 there was a bank, grocer, Lady Ross café and pub, paint shop, butcher, paper shop, post office, and two garages with petrol pumps. By the mid seventies Nigg oilrig yard was the big employer, with workers commuting from Golspie and Brora. The bus would pass daily through the village picking up workers on the way.

1966
The original Balnagown Public Hall is declared condemned as unsafe.

1968
The local community builds a new Public Hall on adjacent land donated by Balnagown Estates.

2008
The Lady Ross closes two years after suffering a fire that damaged the building.

2014
A café and two new shops open in the village. A year later, the KoSDT launches the project Gateway to Sutherland.

1973
Opening of the Third Bonar Bridge.

1991
The Dornoch Bridge opens and the traffic through Ardgay reduces drastically. From now on, the majority of Ardgay & Bonar Bridge hotels, B&Bs, shops, and all of the filling stations will close down.

2017
The new commercial centre ‘The Barn’ brings several new business to the village. The development includes a new Drovers Square.

(Left) The 2000s saw the loss of almost all of the village’s shops: Ardgay last filling station closed in 2006, The Lady Ross Post Office, in 2008. (Right) The Barn, with several business spaces, brings new life into the village. The project includes the creation of the new Drovers Square and a terrace of houses.

To know more: Copley, Stephen (2015) The Kyle of Sutherland, A brief history. Published by the Kyle Of Sutherland Heritage Society, this 200+ book contains a wealth of information about the Kyle of Sutherland.
Ardgay & District News

FROM SSEN RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FUND

Ardgay & District Community Council receives grant to purchase two defibrillators

Your Community Council’s recent bid for funding to the Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Resilient Communities Fund has been successful. Ardgay & District CC has been awarded £3,000 towards the costs of purchasing and installing two defibrillators for Ardgay and Culrain. We would like to thank our funders for this award.

The aim is to install the defibrillators in the porch of the Hall in Ardgay, and also by the Hall in Culrain. The two defibrillators will be registered with Scottish Ambulance Service. The Community Council will organise free courses of CPR to all those interested in understanding how to use these lifesaving devices.

A cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time, and a person’s chance of survival falls by about 10% for each minute that passes without defibrillation. It’s important that members of the community know where it is and how to use it. ■ Silvia Muras, Vice Chair

Speed limit on the A836 Ardgay to Bonar

Ardgay & District CC and Creich CC are working together to secure a safer limit in the A836 between Ardgay and Bonar Bridge. Following the opening of The Hub, traffic has increased with children involved when attending the facility. Councillor Linda Munro has raised the formal request for a traffic speed analysis with a view to having the speed reduced to 30 mph limit. However, it is highly unlikely that the full stretch would be approved for restriction. ■

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL: BETTY WRIGHT, Chairperson, SILVIA MURAS, Vice Chair, MARION TURNER, Treasurer & Secretary, ROB POPE, ANDY WRIGHT, DR BUSTER CRABB (Co-opted member), LESLIE POPE (Associate member), MARY GOULDER, Minute Secretary

HOW TO CONTACT ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

By phone
01863 766 100 (Marion Turner, Secretary)

By mail
Marion Turner, Secretary A&DCC Oldtown, Ardgay IV24 3DH

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:
13 JANUARY & 10 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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MP CAITHNESS, SUTHERLAND & EASTER ROSS
Jamie Stone House of Commons, London, SW1A OAA Tel 01862 892 726 jamie.stone.mp@parliament.uk
Remembrance Sunday at Ardgay

Local children played a central role at the Remembrance wreath laying service at the Kincardine War Memorial in Ardgay.

Eight boys and girls from Bonar Bridge and Gledfield Primary Schools volunteered to read the names of the 32 men from Creich and Kincardine parishes who fell in WW1 between 12 November 1916 and 11 November 1917. 11 girls from the newly formed 1st Kyle of Sutherland Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Unit joined the parade and Paige Matthews laid their wreath. While around 30 children laid crosses in remembrance.

The day began with a wreath laying service at the Creich War Memorial in Bonar Bridge and ended with a service at Ardgay church. Music was a moving feature throughout. Tony Osborne played the Last Post and Reveille on the bugle, the first time he had played in public for 50 years. Piper Chris Bowden played Highland Cathedral as the lament. The singing of Psalm 23 at the Ardgay Memorial was lead by Minister Karl Weidner and organist Euan Stewart, who also accompanied the hymns and National Anthem in the church. And the Singing For Fun Choir sang a remembrance anthem, conducted by local musician John Brozovsky who had written the piece specially for the occasion.

The services were organised by the Creich and Kincardine Branch of Royal British Legion Scotland. Eric Porter oversaw proceedings as Parade Commander, while David Hannah and Carl Claridge King were the standard bearers. Fiona Porter laid the Legion Scotland wreaths at both War Memorials. Wreaths were also laid by the Ardgay and Creich Community Councils, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Highland Council, the Rotary Club, and Kay Smart.

POPPY APPEAL

The Branch also organised the local Poppy Scotland appeal for the first time this year, collecting an impressive £1,344. The total was higher than last year because volunteers went collecting door to door in Ardgay and Culrain for the first time in years and Gledfield Primary School also did a collection.

Branch Secretary Fiona Porter said “Remembrance is a key priority for Legion Scotland. It was good to see so many from the local community attend the services to pay their respects to those who gave their lives for us, especially at this time when we are remembering those who fell in WW1 100 years ago. We are also very grateful for their generosity in giving to the Poppy appeal, which raises vital funds to help veterans”. — Fiona Porter

Fiona Porter Secretary
f.porter514@btinternet.com
01863 766349
Ardgay & District News

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KO(SDL TO DELIVER BROADBAND TO THE KYLE OF SUTHERLAND AND STRATHCARRON AREAS

Readers will remember that two years ago the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust consulted with the community on the need for a community broadband scheme but due to changes out with our control it was not then possible to go ahead with the proposed scheme.

The results from the community consultation at that time were: 50% of the total respondents couldn’t achieve 2MBps with households in Rosehall and The Craigs being unable to achieve speeds greater than 0.512 Mbps.

These two exchanges service 260 homes and 11 non-residential premises. The survey showed a clear desire for an improved service across the area. Some of the comments from the surveys were:

“At present it is not possible to conduct business, children’s homework, watch YouTube clips.”
“Disgraceful service! There’s many households away from the East Coast corridor who require and demand parity.”
“Almost impossible to download anything”
“Although I am fortunate as I have battled with BT to provide me with higher speeds than most in this area, the service is inadequate for present day needs and also limits me to one supplier.”
“Speed very poor, sometimes total loss of signal for no apparent reason. Not reliable at all.”
“The appalling speeds make working from home near impossible. Breaks in service, poor quality email provision. Bad for getting new residents.”
“Possibly interested, depends what is offered. As we are obliged to interact with government online, e.g. DVLA, VAT, Tax etc. High Speed Broadband should be a priority to 100% of population and not exclude rural areas.”

With funding from the Beatrice Partnership Fund the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust will now be able to commission a microwave system to provide superfast broadband across the Kyle of Sutherland. Highland Wireless will commence work on the scheme in January 2018 and there will be a gradual rollout across the area during the year.

Helen Houston, KoSDL Development Manager

Joint Ardgay & Culrain Scottish Women’s Institute

Ardgay and Culrain institutes have now amalgamated. It will now be known as ”Ardgay and Culrain SWI” and we meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm from September until the end of May annually. The Institute looks forward to celebrating 2018 as it will be the 100th Anniversary of Argay SWI.

Christmas at the Bradbury Centre Bonar Bridge

The Centre will be having its Christmas party on the 20th December, and a Carol service on the 22nd December. We will be closed from 4 pm on the 22nd December until 9 am on the 8th January. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Fixed Wireless Project is in the Final Build Stage

Edderton premises are getting superfast broadband this winter

As announced in the last issue of the Edderton Community Council Newsletter, the company is now in the final build stage and will be ready to accept orders very soon. They will be delivering flyers to each property within the Edderton Coverage Area with all the relevant details.

The project uses fixed wireless point to point technology. Residential users will receive up to 50Mbps download and 20Mbps upload. Business users will have a range of speeds available - up to 50Mbps, 80Mbps and 120Mbps.

The order process will involve carrying out a survey to see if the property can get a clear line of sight of the nearest transmission station. The installation consists in fixing a small antenna on the side of the property. Those who currently receive a poor broadband service (2Mbps or below) or who have not benefited from fibre rollout through Digital Scotland / Highlands & Islands Enterprise, will be eligible for a Government grant to cover all but £40 of the installation fee. For more information, visit www.highlandwireless.co.uk.
Ardgay & District News

KOSAS scheme Co-ordinator’s Progress Report for 2017

The Kyle of Sutherland Apprenticeship Scheme has been going from strength-to-strength over the past year, with all apprentices making good progress and two new apprentices joining the scheme, making seven in training. One apprentice completed his training and fully qualified a year early. Another apprenticeship terminated early with the youngster achieving a level 2 SVQ. Every young person improved their practical, on-site skills, and all college exams and skills tests were passed.

Promotion of the scheme has been via leaflets, press releases, attending events such as the Sutherland Jobs Fair, and the KoSAS Facebook page.

There has been serious interest from a few local organisations which has not transferred into apprenticeships, some employing a young person for fixed term or seasonal work, others, such as a local hotel, struggling to recruit an apprentice, although this is a common problem in the hospitality industry. Surveying the 15 apprentices that have engaged with the scheme, 5 apprentices have fully qualified and are still in post, 6 are still apprentices, living locally, although two have moved to organisations outside of the scheme’s remit area, 1 is a fulltime mum and another is self-employed. Only two did not fully qualify and moved out of the area, which equates to 13% of grant recipients, which is far lower than the 22% Skills Development Scotland dropout rate for Scottish apprentices in 2016/17.

The scheme successfully gained a further grant and are about to embark on an employer engagement initiative, to capture possible Christmas school leavers. If any business or young person is interested in an apprenticeship within the community council areas of Ardgay, Creich and Lairg, then please contact Jane Dixon, the Co-ordinator.

Jane Dixon, KOSAS Co-ordinator
01549 402 050
jane@lairglearningcentre.org.uk

Senior Citizens Lunch
Monday 11th December
Includes: 3 course Christmas Lunch
Tea & Coffee and Mince Pies
Only £10.50 per person

Pre Christmas Lunches
From 1st—24th December Daily
Includes: 3 course Christmas Lunch
Tea & Coffee and Mince Pies
Only £18.50 per person

To Book Call 01549 402 888
Falls of Shin Café & Gifts, Achany Glen, By Lairg, Sutherland, IV27 4EE
The Kyle of Sutherland Hub officially opened on Saturday 21st October. Over 600 people attended to join The Hub in a day of celebrations. With craft stalls, music, crepes and smoothies, a DJ and mocktails, canvas art, soft play, football shoot off and gym sessions - showcasing all the things the Hub has to offer. There were also fantastic dance and cheerleading displays from Jan Trumbles Dance School. The day was a huge success.

The opening saw each child residing at a Sutherland postcode get a raffle ticket upon entry, the winning holder was Lee Holden aged 7 from Bonar Bridge Primary school who was given the opportunity of cutting the opening ribbon, declaring the hub officially open. The day ended on a high with the most spectacular firework display from Fireworxs Scotland, with many of the children lying down on the soft play surface looking up to the sky.

Hayley Bangs, Chair said, “It was an emotional day for myself and the Management Committee to finally see the Hub officially open after an incredible journey of 14 years. To see so many people join us on the day to celebrate was fantastic. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped us get here. We look forward to seeing the project grow and develop further and achieve the aims that we have set in place in tackling issues that affect this remote area.”

Adele Newlands, Hub Manager said, “it was a very humbling day, the Hub was buzzing with...
people of all ages doing something in every area of the building. The weather held out and we have had some really lovely feedback from the community and further afield. We are now looking forward to setting up a calendar of events for the year ahead which I’m sure will include a further one year anniversary of this fantastic project to the community of Sutherland.”

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers, our funders, McGregor’s Construction, Adams & Sutherland Architects and the design team and Catriona Hill for making the Hub become a reality. Here’s to 2018 and all the exciting projects and adventures the Hub will take us on.

Soft Play costs £4.50 PAYG, there are membership options available that reduce the rate to £3 per child. We have different Gym Memberships, if you are looking to book an induction or would like more information please call 01863 769 170.

Ardgay Stores & Highland Café
OPENING TIMES:
Monday 7am-8pm
Tuesday 7am-8pm
Wednesday 7am-8pm
Thursday 7am-9pm
Friday 7am-8pm
Saturday 8am-8pm
Sunday 8:30-7pm

SERVICES AVAILABLE:
— Cash deposits and withdrawals via chip and pin
— Postal services
— Post Office® card account
— Postal orders
— Moneygram
— Electronic bill payments
— E top-ups
— Pre-order travel money
— Car tax
— Euro and US dollar currency

Contact us at ardgaynewsletter@gmail.com

Bonar Bridge Post Office

SERVICES AVAILABLE:
— Cash deposits and withdrawals via chip and pin
— Postal services
— Post Office® card account
— Postal orders
— Moneygram
— Electronic bill payments
— E top-ups
— Pre-order travel money
— Car tax
— Euro and US dollar currency

Contact us at ardgaynewsletter@gmail.com

Your advert could be HERE

400
PAPER COPIES DISTRIBUTED FOR FREE TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS IN THE ARDGAY & DISTRICT AREA

400
DIGITAL COPIES DISTRIBUTED BY EMAIL (AND GROWING)

500+
TIMES EACH EDITION IS DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE

Contact us at ardgaynewsletter@gmail.com
Over 100 people sat to meals in the restaurant and 12 businesses displayed their products within the shopping village. There was also the Christmas Prize Draw, which would see the Bradbury Centre and Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, both benefit from the £1,400 raised in ticket sales from the draw. However, the highlight of the night was an incredible display of fireworks from Fireworx Scotland that left everybody in amazement.

The night was an incredible success for the new centre and Experience Officer, Dale Pryde-MacDonald, wanted to thank everybody for their involvement. He said “Everybody involved tonight was in fantastic spirits and it contributed to an unforgettable night for us all. This is our first time doing an event like this and there will be lessons to learn but we can not detract from the positives of tonight as well. I can not thank everybody involved enough, from the stall holders to the catering staff to the fireworks team and especially Beth Simco and Valerie Houston who were sensational in helping to make this event a success.”

The KoSDT would like to thank the following for their support: Bradbury Centre, Fireworx Scotland, Catering 1864, North Highland Events, Councillor Linda Munro, Mark Shaw, Invercharron Highland Games, Herchers Funfair, Little Lads & Lassies, Isla's Jewellery Box, Kilted Fudge Company, Glenwyvis Distillery, Alison Cuthbertson, Highland Candles, Loch Ness Gin, Cocoa Skye, Highland Bake House, Scottish Unbakery, Sonsie, Highland Home Cook, Anta Pottery, Tain Pottery and everybody that attended the event. ■ Dale Pryde-MacDonald, Experience Officer - Falls of Shin
Visit of the Inverness Architects Association

Friday 3rd November 2017 saw over 20 architects from the Inverness Architects Association flocking to the new Visitor’s Centre as part of their conference which took place at Carnegie Hall, Clashmore. Organised by Catriona Hill, architect of Falls of Shin Visitor’s Centre and Director of CH Architecture, the visit received fantastic feedback.

The Inverness Architects Association is the Northern Chapter of the Royal Incorporation of Scottish Architects. The professionals spent around 30 minutes discussing various points of building and its construction. They were joined by Falls of Shin Experience Officer Dale Pryde-MacDonald, who expressed what the new facility meant to the visitors and which parts had stood out to them over the summer months. Dale Pryde-MacDonald, was delighted with the endorsements the new centre received. He said, “It’s a real testament to Catriona and her team for having the vision and determination to see the concept through. I think sometimes, being in the far north of Scotland is easy to get lost amongst the rest of the world, but this is a moment where CH Architecture need to take the praise they deserve. We have always had a knack of finding great people in Sutherland, regardless of whether it be in sport, art, cookery, the list is endless, but this visit shows that we have found a gem in CH Architecture.”

Dale felt that they had made something that sets them aside: “you can go right across the North of Scotland and see 40 castles that all look similar, Falls Falls is totally different to anything in the North of Scotland and that is what makes us stand out to people.” — Dale Pryde-MacDonald, Experience Officer - Falls of Shin
Ardgay & District News

ORGANISED BY LAIRG & DISTRICT LEARNING CENTRE

Ardgay Upholstery Class

LAIRG LEARNING CENTRE were delighted when they were awarded funding to run free classes and workshops until March 2018 and over the last 3 months, they have had 576 people engage with their classes, workshops, energy cafes and Harvest Celebration.

The upcycling classes and workshops have proven very popular, with waiting lists for many subjects. Woodworking with their Upcycling Tutor, at their kitted out Cabin in their grounds, is always oversubscribed, and students have converted old pallets into planters, trugs, saw horses, and more arty items like Highland Coos!

Upholstery is another popular subject and the recent class is Ardgay had seven students ripping apart old foot stools and chairs, updating them into lovely new pieces of furniture. Some items were destined for landfill, others were heirlooms that had seen better days, but all benefitted from being transformed with new or upcycled textiles. One student became so enthused by her upholstery work that she stopped a static caravan from going into landfill and is now completely renovating it instead! New Upholstery sessions are now running in Invershin and more will be held in the new year, the venues and times being released in early January.

As well as running upcycling and recycling classes, there are also cookery and gardening classes, and ‘Energy cafes’ – this is where staff visit local groups and can either give a talk or run a bespoke workshop. The Ardgay SWRI requested a talk last month, but did not ‘want a green talk’. The Manager, Jane, gave an animated talk about the centre’s Climate Challenge Fund project, and all of the exciting free classes, and they became completely engaged in ways they could reuse all sorts of materials. They also liked the community volunteering sessions, where upcycled wood is being turned into benches and planters for community use, under tutor tuition.

The centre are currently taking donations of wood and textiles, for further classes, and are also planning a swishing event in January. Their classes until Christmas are mostly full, although some additional workshops have just been added. If you would like more information, please contact using the details below.

| Laird & District Learning Centre | 01549 402 050 |
| admin@lairglearnincentre.org.uk | www.lairglearnincentre.org.uk |

Closure of Bonar Bridge Police Station

POLICE SCOTLAND is seeking the views of the communities on the future of some police stations, including Bonar Bridge and Lairg. The online survey gives the public the opportunity to learn more about the premises being considered for disposal and their future. Available here: https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/estates/. Until 18th January.

Education Bill Consultation launched

FOR ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST in the future of education in Scotland, please contribute to the Scottish Government’s new consultation on the Education (Scotland) Bill. Decisions to be made as close as possible. The consultation is available here: https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/education-scotland-bill/. Until 30th January.
Bonfire night

Great firework display in Dornoch on the night of the 4th November. It was a cold and bitter evening but that didn’t spoil the fun of the people there. © STEVEN LAMB

About History and Heritage

Please do not be put off by the title of the organisation. It was chosen to encompass all those dwelling within the area referred to as the Kyle of Sutherland. Heritage is not just History (as some think), it refers to all things belonging to people and places, and can include climate, environment, language (written and spoken), art in all its forms, local fauna and flora, etc.

History is not just dates, politics and battles. It refers to people, places, events, things people make and do and achieve. All ages and times, even as I write, history is being made not only on the international and nation stages but in your lives too.

Speakers are as varied as their topics. Do you have something of which you could speak? A hobby, a house, a family? Or some idea you would like to hear about more fully? Someone you know who is a good speaker who might be persuaded to give an hour or so of their time?

Alternatively, come along to an evening of open discussion, “Your memories of Ardgay, Bonar Bridge and Edderton etc in not too far off times” at the Bradbury Centre on Tuesday 13th February at 7 pm.

Do you play an instrument? Or otherwise perform? Do you want an audience? A venue? We could help. An artist? Want a place to show your pictures? Contact Hilary Gardiner for our Art Show hold over Easter, newcomers are always welcome.

An appeal: Found amongst our archive there are pamphlets, etc referring to another Kincardine in Canada. Does anyone know how we acquired those? Any family with relations in that place? Please contact Mary Stobo or myself.

Any more information required, or for a visit to the Heritage Centre, Kincardine Old Church Ardgay, please contact me. For any talk or exhibition all are welcome.

Valerie Mackenzie Harris
Elmbank, Lairg Road, Bonar Bridge

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society

How to get extra support in the event of a power cut

Scottish & Southern Electricity Network’s free priority service offers extra help to those who need it most during a power outage.

Some reasons you might want to be on the register:
- you are deaf or hard of hearing
- You are disabled
- You have children under the age of five at home
- You are blind or partially sighted
- You are chronically ill
- You rely on powered medical equipment
- You are over 60

The service offers:
- A Priority Services line available 24 hours a day. SSEN will contact you, or a nominated contact, if they need to switch off your power to carry out essential maintenance.
- Safety advice tailored to your needs.
- Connection to local emergency services.
- Provisions for your community during severe weather events and prolonged power outages.
- Emergency power supplies (e.g. for home medical care).
- Security password to keep you safe.

If you’d like to register for Priority Services, even if only temporarily, please call SSEN on 0800 294 3259 or visit www.ssen.co.uk/priorityservices.
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](http://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](http://ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk/funding/windfarmcommunitybenefit) to download the guidelines and application form.
  - Send your completed application form to secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk and 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](http://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 2018

- **E.ON Rosehall Community Fund**
  - Foundation Scotland administers E.ON Rosehall Community Fund. Visit [www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/eon-rosehall.aspx](http://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 779227 if you require any further information or advice.
  - Next deadline: 30 April 2018

Summary of awards relevant to Ardgay & District from the E.ON Rosehall Community Fund last year

During year 5, from August 2016 to July 2017, E.On Rosehall made the following awards relating to Ardgay:

- **Kyle of Sutherland Hub, £4,148.** To employ a part-time general assistant for one year.
- **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, £15,874.** To contribute to the cost of converting an out-house on the Lady Ross Hotel site.
- **Creich Croick and Kincardine District Day Care Association, £8,840.** To employ a part-time support worker over two years.
- **Creich Croick and Kincardine District Day Care Association, £4,982.** To contribute to the cost of architect fees and other costs for an extension.
  - **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, £6,000.** To provide support to people in need in the area.

The Panel at 31 July 2017 was:

- **Ardgay:** Community representatives: David Hannah and Betty Wright. CClrs: Silvia Muras and Marion Turner.
- **Creich:** Community representatives: Lorraine Askew & Rosie Baxter. CClrs: Pete Campbell and Ron Boothroyd.
- **Lairg:** community representatives: Anne Morrison and David Ross. CClrs: Andrew MacKay and Jeff Norrie.

Latest Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Awards (Ardgay)

Since last reported, in the summer 2017 edition, the following awards have been made:

- **Ardgay Public Hall - £418** towards the cost of providing a free Wi-Fi service in Ardgay Public Hall.
- **Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week - £330** to support various events at this year’s Gala.
- **Ardgay Public Hall- £1,700** towards the cost of essential refurbishments of the gents’ toilet facilities.
Letters to the editor

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

Heating oil buying clubs in the area: Can you help?

Citizens Advice Scotland are running a project looking into heating oil buying clubs in different regions of Scotland and the potential savings there could be for customers and East & Central Sutherland CAB are involved in researching for the project. We would like to hear from anyone in the local area who is involved in or uses an oil club for their domestic heating oil. We would also like to hear from anyone who uses oil but is not currently a member of a buying club. Get in touch by email: Susannah.Munro@esvas.casonline.org.uk. Golspie office: 01408 633 000 (Monday & Tuesday 10am – 1 pm to speak with Susannah).

Susannah Munro, Oil Project Research Worker

Sutherland CP

The Sutherland Community Partnership started off as being a better alternative to the previously run Sutherland District Partnership. However, it is losing momentum and it’s not reaching the communities it is supposed to be serving. Few of the partners actually live in Sutherland, and almost all of those attending are paid employees of one of the partners. There is no voluntary input from the communities and although members of the public are ‘permitted’ to input at the end of the meeting, their comments are not minuted and therefore have no action points against them.

David Hannah, Ardgay

BENCHES AND TABLES FOR SALE

Good quality benches and tables available for viewing by arrangement. For details contact 01863 766 285.

Sutherland CP

Bonar Bridge Gaelic Playgroup

Croileagan a’ Chaolais

Programme

22th December: Christmas Party
15th January: Normal Session
19th January: Children’s Dance Session with Julia McGhee
26th January: Burns Ceilidh - Book Bug Session.
2nd February: Storytelling with Catriona Lexy.
9th February: Valentine’s Day Crafts.
16th February: Normal Session
23rd February: Normal Session - Banner Painting
24TH FEBRUARY
SOUPL & SWEET EVENT
Bonar bridge Community Hall
12 noon - 2 pm
2nd March: Messy Ness & Open Day

Suggested donation 50p

BOOKING & ENQUIRIES:
Silvia Muras
01863 766 690

Next edition: 15th March

ARDGAY & DISTRICT Community Council newsletter

Advertising Tariff

- Design available Contact us to get a quote
- Get help with sizes & files
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ARDGAY & DISTRICT
Community Council newsletter

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The whole year will cost you ONLY £20!

BOOKING & ENQUIRIES:
Silvia Muras
01863 766 690

Next edition: 15th March
Charities & Volunteering

SUTHERLAND CARE FORUM IS EXPANDING ITS SERVICES IN CENTRAL SUTHERLAND

New SCF nail cutting and advice service

The Sutherland Care Forum (SCF) is delighted to announce the launch of a new service in central Sutherland.

With thanks to the E.ON Rosehall Community Fund we will be introducing a new nail cutting and advice service in Central Sutherland soon. By listening to our service users and carers this new service will plug a gap of unmet local need. In community feedback to the Forum it was established that people often had problems accessing foot care services for a whole host of reasons, for example:

- lack of transport to access services,
- financial constraints,
- nail cutting not being part of the NHS podiatry services in some areas.

The recent Lairg Community consultation (independent of the SCF findings) also mirrored the need for such a service in the Lairg area.

Recruitment is now in progress to appoint a Service Co-ordinator to run this new Sutherland Care Forum service.

Isobel Murray, Service Manager, SCF
07907 595 962
isobelesccf@yahoo.co.uk

Universal Credit Outreach Services

From 1st December, East & Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau will deliver outreach clinics to help people who are claiming or looking to claim Universal Credit.

Following a successful funding bid to the Community Capacity and Resilience Fund through the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations ECSCAB are delighted to have secured £10,000 to deliver outreach clinics and services for people who are claiming or are looking to claim Universal Credit across East & Central Sutherland. The project starts on 1st December 2017 and runs for 12 months. The project will be delivered by the current Client Access Officer, James Sutherland, who has 8 years of experience in delivering welfare and benefits advice.

Universal Credit is the new benefit which replaces Tax Credits, income related Job Seekers Allowance/Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support and Housing Benefit. The Highlands became a Universal Credit full service area on 5th July 2017; this means that most people who need to make a new application for a means-tested benefit will have to claim Universal Credit. Claims for this benefit need to be made and maintained online and this can pose problems for people who don’t know how to use a computer or who don’t have access to the internet at home. Additionally it can be up to 6 weeks before claimants receive their first payment which can result in hardship for some clients. ECSCAB can support claimants by providing information on sources of help and funds that they can access until their first payment comes through. The clinics will offer a place for claimants to come and learn how to make a claim, access their online journal, update their journal and receive help resolving any issues that they are having with their claim. In addition clients will be offered benefit checks to maximise their income and ensure they are receiving all benefits that they are entitled to and information on the nearest places to them with computer access to will be available. The project will empower clients to be able to take control of their Universal Credit claim and to fully understand the commitments that come with it.

Clinics are currently being planned for Ardgay, Bonar Bridge, Lairg, Dornoch, Golspie, Brora and Helmsdale. Full details will be available locally, as soon as they are finalised, through the ECSCAB Facebook page and by contacting the office.

Rhionna Mackay
East Sutherland CAB
01408 633 000
advice@esvas.casonline.org.uk
Charities & Volunteering

East & Central Sutherland CAB need you to volunteer

The new group Friends of ECSCAB will organise events and activities around East and Central Sutherland to help raise funds for your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Did you know that East & Central Sutherland CAB is a registered charity? You may also not be aware that all CABs in Scotland are independent and receive different levels of funding from different sources. In order to deliver parts of our service, including outreach clinics and generalist advice, we rely on grants and fundraising as well as the time dedicated by our fantastic volunteers.

We are setting up a ‘Friends of ECSCAB’ group whose focus will be on organising and running events and activities around East & Central Sutherland to raise funds to help us deliver our service. We are looking for volunteers of all ages with all different kinds of experience to join the group. Bureau Manager Rhionna Mackay will be on hand to provide support when necessary so do not let a lack of experience put you off from becoming involved. If you would like to fundraise for us as a one off instead of being involved in the group please let us know.

We are also recruiting for volunteer advisers. This varied role involves comprehensive training through our online Adviser Training Programme and on site learning to prepare you for face to face interviews with clients with a wide range of enquiries. If this is something you’d like to know more about please get in touch.

East & Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau

Your local, independent advice charity

We need volunteers to help plan and organise fundraising events and activities throughout the area as part of our new ‘Friends of ECSCAB’ group. All funds raised will go towards running our service.

People of all ages and from all areas will be welcome to join. If you would like to be involved please get in touch.

Call or email for further information

Telephone: 01408 633 000
Email: advice@esvas.casonline.org.uk
If you didn’t manage to get to the hall AGM last October you may not know that the committee of David Hannah (Chairman), Fiona Venters (Booking Secretary), Rhonwen Copley (General Secretary / Treasurer), Jockie Hewitt, Sinead MacFarlane, and Silvia Muras (A&DCC Rep.) was re-elected, and that it is their clear aim and intention to continue to maintain and enhance the hall building for everyone in the community. If you would like to help them in this endeavour, please, come along to their next meeting; notices will be posted as usual, but this is currently scheduled for Tuesday, 9th January, 2018, at 7pm, in the hall. You would be made most welcome.

Meanwhile, a big “Thank You” is due to everyone who supported November’s Christmas Fair in any way; this is an essential fund-raising event for the hall, and you achieved a clear profit of £738. Well done! The children from Gledfield Primary School certainly set the Christmassy tone with their wonderful carol singing, and with all that festive retail therapy on offer it was no wonder that reviving refreshments were in such high demand; Rhona, Margaret and all the kitchen team – Many Thanks, we needed you!

The committee were also pleased to have been able to deliver the provision and installation of new stage curtains and a new kitchen extractor fan in time for the fair. These were both self-financed from hall funds. However, the upcoming refurbishment of the gents toilet, including internal insulation within the external wall to help mitigate running costs and the building’s carbon footprint, has only been made possible with the ongoing support of Ardgay & District Community Council and the Beinn Tharsuinn and Beinn nan Oighrean wind-farm funds, for which the committee is most grateful.

As the New Year approaches and the on-going hire of the building by a wide variety of user groups confirms that the hall provides a much needed service to the local area, the committee feel optimistic that, with community support, more projects will come to fruition in 2018. Things like the redecoration of the main hall, and the plans which are afoot to investigate refurbishing / insulating the remaining toilet areas and installing name signage on the exterior of the building. But, to achieve any of these financial help has to be secured, and an inescapable element of any grant application is a degree self-generated funding. So, if you have any fund-raising ideas which would benefit the hall, please, get in touch with anyone on the committee, or better still come along to a hall meeting. After all, the hall belongs to everyone: Not to the committee.

Finally, everyone on the committee would like to wish you a very happy & peaceful 2017 festive season.

Rhonwen Copley, Secretary
What’s on in the area

### ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL, 8 PM
**The Busquitos**

The Busquitos play a very catchy mix of brilliantly played music, sing with an impressive Louis Armstrong-like hoarse voice, and dazzling, funny entertainment that will put a smile on everyone’s face! Tickets available on: 01349 880591 or on: www.ardrosscommunityhall.ticketsource.co.uk £10 and £8 conc.

### BONAR BRIDGE COMMUNITY HALL
**Sweet & Soup lunch**

Come along on Saturday 24th February from 12 noon until 2 pm for a warm soup and homemade baking. In aid of the Gaelic Playgroup Bonar Bridge.

### DORNOCH SQUARE
**Hogmanay party**

10:30 pm Dancing in the Street! With The Red Reel Ceilidh Band. Lone Piper on Castle Battlements at midnight, followed by Fireworks Display. Bucket Collection – all donations gratefully received!

### BRADBURY CENTRE, BONAR BRIDGE
**Evening of open discussion**

Come along to the evening “Your memories of Ardgay, Bonar Bridge and Edderton et al in not too far off times” at the Bradbury Centre on Tuesday 13th February at 7 pm. Organised by Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society with Bonar Bridge History Group.

### UNTIL GEARRCHOILLE CW ARDGAY
**Magical Woods**

Take a wander through this magical display of fairy lights and Christmas tree messages for a truly wonderful experience. The lights will be on from 3 until 8 pm each day. This event is organised by the KOS Hub, KOS Gala, Ardgay & Bonar Bridge Christmas party committees and the Gearrchoille Woods. If you would like to make a donation towards the continuation of this annual event there is a donations box at the Hub.

### UNTIL GOLSPIE GALLERY
**‘Polar’ Exhibition**

Until 24 December, Monday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm. Lots of new craft and art including beautiful embroidered textile work by Rachel Wright (pictured) and series of daily paintings by FE Clark. Free entry.

### ACHNESS HOTEL, ROSEHALL 7.30 PM
**Gillian Frame with Anna Massie**

The ever-popular mid-winter concert in the Achness Hotel this year features multi-talent-ed musicians Gillian Frame and Anna Massie. Tickets from www.gillianframe.eventbrite.co.uk, from Lindsay’s in Golspie and the Pier, Lairg. Organised by Sutherland Sessions.
Adult Clubs & Societies

Pilates
Bonar Bridge Hall, Mondays 10-11 am. Contact: Moira Chisholm 01862 810 786

Ardgay Scottish Country Dancing Club
Ardgay Public Hall at 7:30 pm. The free sessions from October to December was a great success and we attracted enough new members to make up 2 sets every Tuesday. New Year Classes start again on 9th January. Contact: David Hannah 01863 766 061

Ardgay Badminton Club
ADULTS: Thursday evenings at Ardgay Hall, 8 - 10 pm £2 per night. Adult’s badminton sessions will stop during Christmas from 21st December until 4th January. Contact: Gregor Laing 01863 766 223
JUNIORS (P4 upwards): Thursday evenings at Ardgay Hall, 7 - 8 pm. Jr. Juniors’ sessions will stop for Christmas on 14th December and will resume on 11th January. Contact: Patricia Hannah 01863 766 061

Sutherland Walkers Club
We meet the 4th Sunday of the month, all year round. SUNDAY 28 JANUARY Kinrhev, OS 21 685 737 8.5 miles, circular. Leader: Caroline Dallman. Enquiries: Fiona MacDonald 01862 810 275.
SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY Sleastery to Overskibo. OS 21 642 962. 8 miles, track, low level, one way. Leader: Jean Mezzetti 01862 810 422.
WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH AGM. Golspie Community Centre, 7:30 pm. Contact the Walk Leader the day before the walk to confirm that it is taking place. Contact: David Hannah 01863 766 061

Bonnard Bridge Ardgay Golf Club
Market Stance, Migdale Road, Bonar Bridge. 01863 766 199

Creich & Kincardine Art Group
Meets in Bonar Bridge Hall tearoom on Wednesdays from 10 am to 3 pm. All welcome. Contact: Doreen Bruce 01863 766 852

Kyle of Sutherland Cinema Club
2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Bonar Bridge Hall at 7:30 pm. Free entry. £2 Refreshments. Contact: Silvia Muras Facebook: Kyle of Sutherland Cinema Club 01863 766 690

Edderton & District Gardening Club
Meetings start at 7:30 pm in Edderton Community Hall.
JANUARY: Members meet for a social lunch at Luigi’s in Dornoch. MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY: Our annual light-hearted gardening quiz night at 7:30 pm in Edderton Community Centre.
MONDAY 5TH MARCH: Jay-Jay Gladwin will be talking about garden design and the gardens at Old Allangrange. New members and visitors are always welcome. Club members benefit from a 50% discount on Suttons seeds orders, and 15% discount on other products. During the growing season there is a plant swap of surplus plants. Patricia 01863 766 061 pahannah@hotmail.com Esther 01862 811 381 esther@bumblebeecottage.me.uk

Kyle of Sutherland Joggers
Facebook page: Kyle of Sutherland Joggers
Contact: Elissa 07743 228 661 Naomi 07818 482 341 Catriona 07929 886 105

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

Ardgay & Culrain SWI
All ages welcome. Ardgay Public Hall 7:30 pm. Meets on the 3rd Tuesday each month from September until the end of May. Contact: Mrs Gillian Glennie 01863 766 674

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society
Kincardine Old Church, Ardgay. Organising events, exhibitions, lectures, workshops and history walks. Contact: Mary Stobo 01863 766 868 Facebook: Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society

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

Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club
Whist Drives Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, Bonar Bridge Hall. Admission £2 including tea. 20 DEC: RBLs, Creich & Kincardine Branch. 10 JAN: Bonar Bridge Hall Funds, 17 JAN: KOS Joggers, 27 JAN: Ardgay Scottish Country Dancers, 31 JAN: Ladybird Club, 7 FEB: Ardgay & Culrain SWI, 14 FEB: KOS Heritage Society, 24 FEB: RBLs, Creich & Kincardine Branch, 7 MAR: Gledfield School PTA, Contact: Rosemary Logan 01549 421 282

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Kincardine Old Church, Ardgay. Organising events, exhibitions, lectures, workshops and history walks. Contact: Mary Stobo 01863 766 868 Facebook: Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society

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

Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club
Whist Drives Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, Bonar Bridge Hall. Admission £2 including tea. 20 DEC: RBLs, Creich & Kincardine Branch. 10 JAN: Bonar Bridge Hall Funds, 17 JAN: KOS Joggers, 27 JAN: Ardgay Scottish Country Dancers, 31 JAN: Ladybird Club, 7 FEB: Ardgay & Culrain SWI, 14 FEB: KOS Heritage Society, 24 FEB: RBLs, Creich & Kincardine Branch, 7 MAR: Gledfield School PTA, Contact: Rosemary Logan 01549 421 282
The competition is open to all children from Gledfield, Bonar Bridge and Rosehall Primary Schools, from Nursery to P7. Entries are grouped by age (Nursery-P1, P2-P4 and P5-P7). Each artist may submit a maximum of 4 entries. The size of the artwork and the painting/drawing technique are the artist's choice. The artists should choose one of the following themes for their artworks: FRIENDS or TREES, or HOME. Artworks should be submitted at their Primary School before the 31st January 2015. All artwork submitted to the competition must be the original idea and creation of the credited artist. Please do not copy (e.g. your favourite cartoon character), or colour in an outline printed or drawn by someone else. Winning artworks and the name of the artists will be published on the Spring issue of Ardgay & District newsletter (#39 Spring 2018). Prize giving will be after 15th February date TBC.
Children & Young people

GLEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have lots in the diary so far! We have had some exciting events over the last few weeks and lots more to come. Thanks to everyone for their continued support of the school. We are grateful for all everyone does to help us. We look forward to seeing you all for lots of fun Christmas events.

Anne Wemyss, Clerical Assistant, Gledfield Primary School

OUTDOOR FOOTBALL

Our football team played extremely well and had a great time at the competition in Brora.

SAFE HIGHLANDERS

Our P7 pupils had a very interesting and informative day at the Safe Highlander event. They learnt all about how to keep themselves safe and healthy.

CHRISTMAS

EXTRAVAGANZA & CHRISTMAS PLAY:

We are holding our Christmas Extravaganza and play on the 21st December at 1 pm in Ardgay Village Hall. If you would like a ticket for this event, please contact the school office. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICE

It will take place in the church at 10am on Friday 22nd December. As last year we will then go back to the school for our Christmas party.

Wildlife

Red robin

ERITHacus RUBECula

Our beloved robin redbreasts are present all year round, but may just be overlooked by most people. Males and females look identical, and young birds have no RED BREAST and are spotted with golden brown. Despite their cute appearance, they are aggressively TERRITORIAL and are quick to drive away intruders. Our resident robins are joined in the winter months by MIGRANTS FROM SCANDANAVIA, meaning that the number of robins does actually increase in the winter. It is thought that robins’ association with Christmas originated in the Victorian era. At that time, BRITISH POSTMEN uniforms were emblazoned red, and the postmen earned themselves the nickname ‘Robins’. After this, robins began to appear on Christmas cards. More info: www.rspb.org.uk and www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk.

Adult

Male and female look identical.

Juvenile

Robins acquire their red breasts 3-4 months after fledging.
Children & Young people

GLEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

BENCHBALL COMPETITION
Another fantastic effort by our Benchball team. Lots of fun and amazing teamwork!

MUSIC
All our pupils have been enjoying some specialist music input. Our pupils in P1-4 have been getting Kodaly music and our pupils in P5-7 have been enjoying more traditional lessons through Feis.

HALLOWEEN
The pupils from P1-7 joined the Nursery Pupils for a bowl of pumpkin soup at Halloween. On the right photo: Nursery pupils making gloop.

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

That winter, Hamish had learnt everything there is to know about Christmas. He wished he could get a visit from Santa. It was Christmas day in the morning, Hamish looked under his tree and... nothing! But then Morag came, carrying a wrapped packet. “Father Christmas left this for you in our house”, she said. Hamish opened it quickly. It was a beautiful fluffy dragon-size scarf!
Ask not what you can get out of it

Christmas time is often misunderstood as a time of giving, when in fact it is better understood as a time of giving. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in very lowly circumstances – God’s greatest gift to the world. It should be a time of joy, a time of peace, and a time of love. Real love is shown as a two way thing – there is the one who receives, but there is also the one who gives. The old saying has it that it is “more blessed to give than to receive”.

‘Ask not what you can get out of it but, what you put into it’ or ‘You have to put out to get owt’. These are two expressions which have passed into our everyday language and everyday lives. This can also be applied to going to church. Sometimes people are heard saying “I don’t get anything out of going to church. It does not do anything for me”, as if going to church was a kind of quick fix. Too often we want easy answers, we want an instant reach doctors’ surgery where we are given instant cures. The problems of life do not all go away. When we come to church, we come to church. There are no perfect ministers - thank goodness! To put Him above all other. Much as we might pray, the church is not a recruitment of full time ministers. Each Sunday is a window of opportunity to meet with God and when we come to church we seek him. There are no perfect ministers - thank goodness! When we come to church, we come above everything else to worship God. To put Him above all other. Much as we might pray, the church is not a doctors’ surgery where we are given instant cures. The problems of life will not all go away. When we come to church, we come to give back, to honour the legacy of faith we have earned and to give God the glory that only is his due.

I pray that your Christmas will be blessed as you seek to give back praise for all you receive.

A Happy Christmas and a Bright and Healthy New Year to you all. ■ Rev. Anthony
Guide to local services

VILLAGE HALLS & VENUES
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 766 868

INVERNESS
ARDGAy
Auld Kirk of East Sutherland and Tain
Part of the Scottish Episcopal Church. House services at Hollybank Ardgay every 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 10:30 am. Father James Currall: 01862 881 737

Mobile Library
GLEDFIELD, CULRAIN CARBISDALE
18 January 2018
8 February 2018
1 March 2018
Gledfield School 9:30 10:40
Grumards 10:55 11:10
The Craigs 11:30 11:50
Corvost 11:55 12:10
Braelangwell 13:15 13:30
Cornhill 13:40 13:55
Culrain 14:10 14:45
Mr & Mrs Charge 14:55 15:10
Wester Badarach 15:20 15:40
Housebound service 16:00 16:30

EDDERTON - ARDGAY
17 January 2018
7 February 2018
28 February 2018
Arcrannie 13:00 13:25
Oakwood 13:40 14:00
Ardgay Hall 14:10 15:10
Housebound 15:15 15:35
Arabella 16:30 16:50

Bonar Bridge Recycling Centre
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

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

Post Office Bonar Bridge
MONDAY: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
TUESDAY: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm
WEDNESDAY: 8:30 am - 1 pm
THURSDAY: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm
FRIDAY: 9 am - 12:30 pm
SATURDAY: 9 am - 12:30 pm

Train times
From 10/12/2017 to 19/05/2018
INVERNESS ➔ ARDGAY
Monday to Saturday:
07:00 (08:33) Catering serv. available
10:41 (12:05) Catering serv. available
14:00 (15:29) Catering serv. available
17:12 (18:39)
18:30 (20:01) Catering serv. available
Sunday:
17:54 (19:23) Catering serv. available
ARDGAY ➔ INVERNESS
Monday to Saturday:
06:14 (07:43)
06:43 (08:12)
09:07 (10:35) Catering serv. available
10:54 (12:28) Catering serv. available
15:30 (17:02) Catering serv. available
18:52 (20:10) Catering serv. available
19:28 (20:57)
Sunday:
14:49 (16:16) Catering serv. available

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From 10/12/2017 to 19/05/2018
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Photocopying Prices
May 2017
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A4 single sided 15p
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A4 double sided 20p
A3 double sided 25p

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A4 double sided 35p
A3 double sided 45p

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Anna Patfield
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Dog Behaviour Help
Dog Training
Puppy Training & Early Learning
Prevent puppy problems arising with puppy early learning and puppy socialisation & training. Sort out lead pulling and jumping with your dog. Or resolve more complex behaviour problems from aggression to separation issues or barking.

Pet Shop
On line pet shop with toys, leads, collars, chews etc – Please look at the shop and call to arrange pick up.

Group Workshops
Various workshops helping you to understand more about how dogs and puppies think, and therefore how to help with their behaviour and training issues.
Details at www.pawsability.co.uk/workshop

For more information please see
www.PawsAbility.co.uk
or call Anna on 07906 173993

PLUS
Free On-Line Help & Advice pages.
Guide to local services A-Z

BRADBURY CENTRE
Bradbury Centre 01863 766 772
Bradbury Centre Bus 01863 766 772

BUSES
Andrew's Buses 01408 641 354

CAB GOLSPIE
CITIZENS ADVICE
01408 633 000

CAB GOLSPIE

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

KOSFISH Trust
Fire Station Dornoch 01863 760 083
KOS DEVELOPMENT TRUST
01863 766 190
Keep Active Together 01863 766 554

KOS DEVELOPMENT TRUST

COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Carnegie Hall 01863 766 379
Doctors Creich Surgery 01863 766 379
Nurses Creich Surgery 01863 766 237

ELECTRICITY
24HR EMERGENCY 0800 300 999
CUSTOMER HELP 0800 300 111

FIRE BRIGADE
Fire Station Dornoch 01862 810 297

FISHERIES
KOS Fisheries Trust 01863 766 702

EPISCOPALIAN CHURCH
Father James Currall 01862 881 737

FORESTRY COMMISSION
F. Commission Scotland 01309 674 004

GOLF CLUB
Bonar Bridge-Ardgay GC 01863 766 199

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND
Mobile Timetable TUESDAY
Bonar Bridge War Memorial Arrive 12:05 Depart 12:20

THRANSITION COUNTY COUNCIL
Easter Ross Vets Tain 01862 893 142
Johnston & Farrell Tain 01862 894 223
Kessock Equine Vets 01463 731 107

TAXIS
Ronnie’s Taxis Ardgay 01863 766 422

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

WINTER 2017-2018

The minibus has a wheelchair lift and New Year weeks.
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

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Crosswords

Across

3. Vulgar, using or given to coarse language. 6. A Russian country cottage used especially in the summer. 8. Forest situated in the confluence of the four glens of Strath Cuileannach, Alladale, Gleann Mor and Glencalvie. 10. Quick-cooking egg noodles usually served in a broth with bits of meat and vegetables.

Down

1. (Informal) Showing poor taste and quality. 2. (Two words) A statement -such as a response- that does not follow logically from or is not clearly related to anything previously said. 4. (Scottish) The workshop of a worker in metals. 5. A light mauvish-crimson which is one of the primary subtractive colours, complementary to green. 7. A maker of bits, spurs, and metal mountings for bridles and saddles. 9. A ball of thread, yarn, or cord.

Solutions can be found at: www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk
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Starting up your own business could be the best career move you ever make. If you want to make your business dream a reality, but don’t quite know where to start, we can help.

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