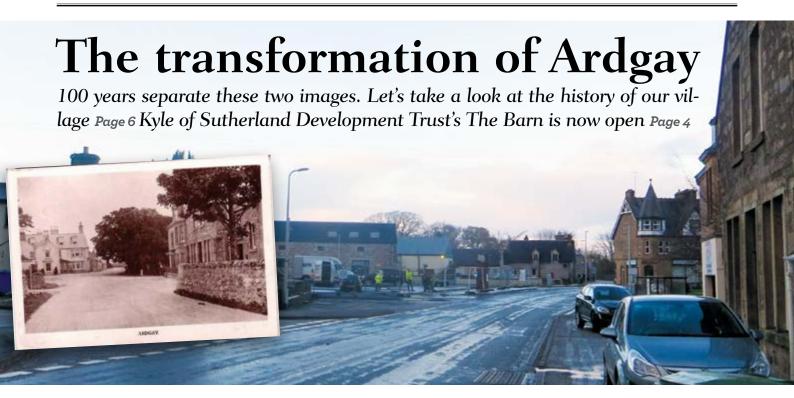
ARDGAY & DISTRICT

Community Council newsletter

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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 KoS-DT to service Rosehall and Strathcarron Page 10





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

KEEP ACTIVE TOGETHER (KAT)





www.facebook.com/keepactivetogether T:01863 766554 E:katofficer@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

Keep Active Together (KAT) 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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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





Exterior and interior images of The Barn. / © AWFIE BONNIE PHOTOGRAPHY

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 outwith 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

New KoSDT team members

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. • 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 watertight 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 com-

pany 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.

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.

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." ■



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.

1850s

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

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.

1810

820

1830

1840

1850

860

1870

1880

900

1910

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'.

1893

Opening of the Second Bonar Bridge.

1958

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







(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.

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.

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

2

2010

973

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.



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 Suthern 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 regis-

tered 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

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By mail

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



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secretary@ardgay and district community council.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



The girls from the Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Unit. Rebekah Lall is holding the wreath. Front row from left is Rhianna Lall, Maree Munro, Amy Grant, Milly Grant, Chloe Sawyer and Rhea Vetters. Back row from left Kayleigh Chalmers, Holly Mackenzie, Cameron Chalmers and Paige Matthews.

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

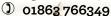
The Branch also organised the local Poppy Scotland appeal for the first time this year, collecting an impressive £1,344. The total was higher than last year because volunteers went collecting door to door in Ardgay and Culrain for the first time in years and Gledfield Primary School also did a collection.

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

 \boxtimes f.porter514@btinternet.com



WITH SUPPORT FROM THE BEATRICE PARTNERSHIP FUND AND SUPPLIED BY HIGHLAND WIRELESS

Partnership with the KoSDT 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, KoSDT 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 instalation 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.

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, onsite 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

0 01549 402 050

jane@lairglearningcentre.org.uk











ON SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER OVER 600 PEOPLE ATTENDED THIS DAY OF CELEBRATIONS

Official opening of KoS Hub

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 OPENING TIMES	November 2017		
Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	9 am 9 am 9 am 9 am	7:15 pm 8:30 pm 5 pm 4 pm	

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 calender 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, McGregors 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.* ■



Adele Newlands, Hub Manager ① 01863 769 170

a dele.newlands@kyleofsutherland.com



SERVICES AVAILABLE:

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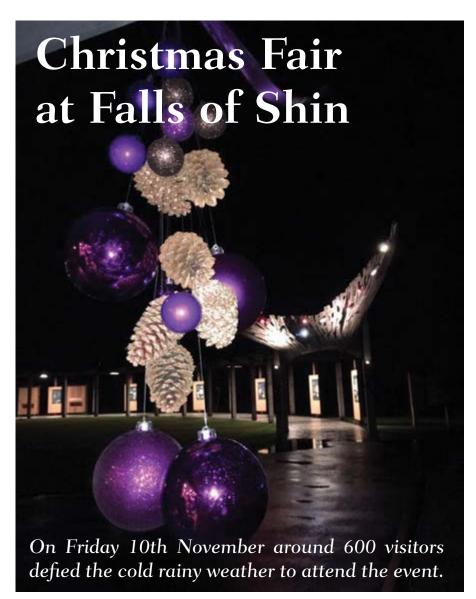
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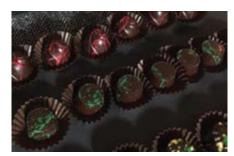
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Contact us at ardgaynewsletter@gmail.com



It was certainly a fantastic night for all in attendance. With a range of stalls in the shopping village accompanied with food services from both the restaurant and pavilion there was a great family feel to the event.

The event, which had been heavily publicised and well-received on social media, attracted around 600 visitors on the night amid the cold, and rainy conditions. Liam Christie, of North Highland Events, kept the crowds entertained with some music, and the Christmas Lights were officially turned on at 6.30pm by Councillor Linda Munro.





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 amazed.

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



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Ardgay & District News

AS PART OF THE IAA CONFERENCE AT CARNEGIE HALL, OVER 20 ARCHITECTS VISITED THE NEW ATTRACTION

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 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-Mac-Donald, who expressed what the new facility meant to the visitors and which parts had stood out to them over the summer months. Dale Pryde-Mac-Donald, 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 its 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-Mac-Donald, Experience Officer - Falls of Shin

G 01863 766 231



MOTs on cars and bikes, welding, tyres, servicing, diagnostics and much more...

Main dealer warranted servicing



Contact us on Facebook: Ardgay Garage





RORY LOWE BODYWORKER

Mob. 07598 727 400

RORY LOWE

Msc, Bsc (hons) Adv SRM.

Over 18 years of experience in alternative therapies, sports and remedial massage. I travel throughout the highlands providing services to individuals including Beauly Shinty team, Rangers F.C. and osteopath and physiotherapy therapy clinics.

TREATMENTS:

Sports & remedial massage with posture position & alignment • Myofascial release & trigger point therapy • Sports stretching • Swedish massage Hot stones • Indian head massage Reflexology

lowerory@hotmail.com







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.

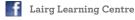
The centre are currently taking donations of wood and textiles, for further classes, and are also planning a swishing event in January. Their classes until Christmas are mostly full, although some additional workshops have just been added. If you would like more information, please contact using the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



Lairg & District Learning Centre

1 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 pupils as possible. The consultation is available here: https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/education-scotland-bill/. Until 30th January.

KYLE OF SUTHERLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY WITH BONAR BRIDGE HISTORY GROUP

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 refered 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. 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 et al 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 refering 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



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

SSEN PRIORITY SERVICE REGISTRATION

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 vour 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 vou 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 where you can find full details and download the application form.
- Send your completed application form to secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil. org.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 2018

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 and to alex.macmanus@highland.gov.uk

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 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 outhouse 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. CCllrs: Silvia Muras and Marion Turner.

Creich: Community representatives: Lorraine Askew & Rosie Baxter. CCllrs: Pete Campbell and Ron Boothroyd.

Lairg: community representatives: Anne Morrison and David Ross. CCllrs: 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).

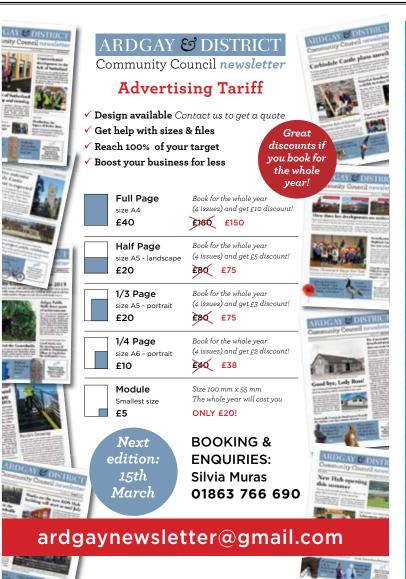
Susannah Munro, Oil Project Research Worker

BENCHES AND TABLES FOR SALE

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

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





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. Valerie Gale, Development Worker



Isobel Murray, Service

Manager, SCF

① 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 needs 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 & Central Sutherland CAB.

① 01408 633 000

□ advice@esvas.casonline.org.uk



East Sutherland CAB

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.

1 01408 633 000

⊠ advice@esvas.casonline.org.uk

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 633000

Email: advice@esvas.casonline.org.uk



Ardgay Public Hall



Ardgay Public Hall Christmas Fair 2017

The Committee wishes to thank everyone who supported the Fair, and invites anyone who would like to help maintain the hall to come along to our next meeting on the 9th January.

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 fundraising 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



Gledfield pupils singing Christmas carols at this year's Christmas Fair.

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 windfarm 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

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!





What's on in the area



JAN.

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.





FEB.

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.

GOLSPIE GALLERY

Until 24 Decem-

'Polar' Exhibition

DEC.

ber, 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

The ever-popular mid-winter concert in the Achness Hotel this year features multi-talented 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

① 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 ① 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 ① 01863 766 223 JUNIORS (P4 upwards):

Thursday evenings at Ardgay Hall, 7 - 8 pm. £1. Juniors' sessions will stop for Christmas on 14th December and will resume on 11th January.

Contact Patricia Hannah 0 01863 766 061

Please let us know in advance if you are interested in the junior's class. Alternative sessions organised by KAT, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 pm.

① 01863 766 702

Sutherland Walkers Club

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

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY

Kinhrive. 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 810422.

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 ① 01863 766 061

Bonar Bridge Ardgay Golf Club

Market Stance, Migdale Road, Bonar Bridge. **①** 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 ① 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

① 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 guiz 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 **①** 01863 766 061 pahannah@hotmail.com Esther **①** 01862 811 381 esther@bumblebeecottage.

Kyle of Sutherland **Joggers**

Facebook page: Kyle of **Sutherland Joggers** Contact: Elissa ① 07743 228 661 Naomi ① 07818 482 341

Catriona 3 07929 886 105

Tai Chi

Ardgay Public Hall. Monday 2:30 pm £2 Contact: Angela 0 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 Mav.

Contact: Mrs Gillian Glennie ① 01863 766 674

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society

Kincardine Old Church, Ardgay. Organising events, exhibitions, lectures, workshops and history walks. Contact: Mary Stobo **①** 01863 766868 Facebook: Kyle of Sutherland **Heritage Society**

Sutherland Radio Control Club

By Ardgay Garage. Facebook: Sutherland Radio **Control Club** ① 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



CATEGORIES

NURSERY TO P1, P2 TO P4, AND P5 TO P7

IST PRIZE

Nursery to P1



IST PRIZE

P2 to P4



IST PRIZE

P5 to P7



THEMES

FRIENDS

TREES

- HOM

DEADLINE

WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY

RULES

- 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 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?





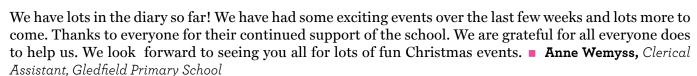














OUTDOOR FOOTBALL Our football team played extremely well and had a great time at the competition in Brora.

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



روا

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.



joined the Nursery Pupils for a bowl of pumkin soup at Halloween. On the right photo: Nursery pupils making gloop.





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!

by Andymack & Sil

MEET HAMISH THE TARTAN DRAGON

A shy veggie dragon who lives on Carn Bren

From the Manse...



Ask not what you can get out of it

HRISTMAS time is often misunderstood as a time of getting, 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 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 every day language and every day 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 reply from God. As if He were a kind of medicine that has to lift us off our feet and be a 'cure all' for every dilemma. It is a well known fact that our prayers are not always answered or at least not in the way we would like and expect. No, God is a God of surprises indeed, He is constantly surprising us with all kinds of answers to our prayers and not the way we want. Often he sends us pains and afflictions, illness even, but, if we remain faithful then he is a faithful God in the end. There is another saying perhaps more apt for our fast moving times 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going'. God is in there with us, believe it or not, if we trust him. When we come to church whether feeling strong or weak - God is with us and we each have something valuable to contribute. It is not who we are, what background we are from, or even how we are feeling on



Gledfield Primary School Christmas Story Celebration at Ardgay Parish Church.

any given day. It is what we bring to the fellowship of faith and God knows nothing of a solitary religion. You cannot be a christian in isolation. We share our gifts and help each other. Church of course is much more than the sharing of gifts and the encourage-

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

- Sunday 17th December Children's Crib Service. Ardgay Parish Church at 6:30 pm.
- Tuesday 19th December Bonar Bridge PS Annual Christmas Service. Creich Parish Church at 10 am
- Wednesday 20th December Edderton PS Christmas School Service. Edderton Parish Church at 10 am
- Friday 22nd December Gledfield PS 'Time to celebrate the Christmas story'. Ardgay Parish Church at 10 am CHRISTMAS EVE 24th December
- Family Service with children's Nativity. Creich Parish Church at 10:30 am
- Family Service at Edderton Parish Church at 11 am
- Early evening Watchnight Service at Edderton Parish Church at 7 pm
- Watchnight Service at Rosehall Parish Church at 11:15 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY 25th December

■ Short Children's Toy Service at Ardgay Parish Church at 10:30 am. Children are invited to bring a favourite present to the service.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 31st December

- Family Service at Ardgay Parish Church at 11am
- Sunday 7th January Combined Service for the Kyle of Sutherland Churches. Ardgay Parish Church at 11 am.

ment of friendships. Church is much more than the preacher, whoever they happen to be. I am fortunate to have others who can assist me with Sunday services, each with differing skills. If this were not the case, my ministry would be impossible. Our churches are all increasingly 'stretched' in the local area and the national church has seen an enormous shortage in the 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

Rev. Anthony M. Jones

The Manse, Ardgay

① 01863 766 285

⊠ revanthonyjones@yahoo.com

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

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

Ann Malone / 01549 441 345

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 Gruinards 10:55 11:10 The Craigs 11:30 11:50 Corvost 12:10 Braelangwell 13:15 13:30 Cornhill 13:40 13:55 14.10 Culrain 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

Ardvannie	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



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



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 (12:26) 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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or call Anna on 07906 173993

ree 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

CITIZENS ADVICE

CAB Golspie 01408 633 000

CHILDREN & FAMILY

Kyle of Sutherland Hub 01863 766 310

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

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

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Drummuie Golspie

01408 635 370 Service Point Bonar Bridge 01863 766 083 Service Point Dornoch 01862 810 594 **Tain Registration Office**

HIGH SCHOOLS

01349 886 644

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

KOSDT

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

D & E Coaches

ARDGAY → TAIN 900 - 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 13:03 11:53 14:48 16:03 17:48 18:37

Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Timetable TUESDAY Bonar Bridge War Memorial

Arrive 12:05 Depart 12:20

Connects with Stagecoach bus

to / from Inverness

LIBRARIES

Bonar Bridge Libray 01863 760 083 **Mobile Libraries** 0773 330 0761

NHS

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

Bradbury Centre Bus

01863 766 237

920 - TUESDAY

Bonar Bridge to Dornoch via Spinningdale

Bonar Bridge **Bonar Bridge** Cherry Grove 09:40 Cherry Grov 13:30 14:20 Spinningdale Spinningdale Layby at Post Layby at Post 09:48 13:38 14:11 Clashmore Clashmore Carnegie Hall Carnegie Hall 09:54

13:44 14:05 Dornoch Sq Dornoch Sq

13:50

920 - WEDNESDAY

14:00

Bonar Bridge circular to Dornoch via Spinningdale, Tain & Edderton

Bonar Bridge **Bonar Bridge** Cherry Grove 09:30 Cherry Grove 14:40 Spinningdale Spinningdale Layby at Post 14:31 Layby at Post Box 09:38 Clashmore Clashmore 09:Š4 14:19 Tain Tain Bus ston at Co-On Bus ston at Co-On 10:02 14:08 Tain Tain Lamington Street 10:04 gton Street Lamington 14:06

Edderton Edderton 10:17 13:53 Ardgay Ardgay 10:39 13:33 Bonar Bridge
Bonar Bridge Cherry Grov

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

10:42

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

Bookings: 01863 766 772

PHARMACY

Mitchells Chemist Bonar 01863 760 011

POLICE

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

POST OFFICE

Bonar Bridge Post Office 01863 766 219

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Gledfield

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

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

Puzzles



Sudoku

yarn, or cord.

Medium Easy Hard

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 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. A&DCCN / ECLIPSE CROSSWORDS.COM 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 mauvishcrimson 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,

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ARDGAY & DISTRICT

Community Council newsletter

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