

ARDGAY & DISTRICT

Community Council *newsletter*

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW MANAGER OF THE KYLE OF SUTHERLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST

David Watson: “I’m fully committed to the area, I believe it can be a strong sustainable community.”

ORIGINALLY FROM ALTASS, Rural Development expert David Watson has worked in places such as the Cairngorms National Park, Shetland and Inverness. He is now returning to this area to take on the role of Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust Manager.

-How does it feel coming back?

-This is very different for me than when I was working in other areas because there are friends of mine from when I went to Primary School who still live in the area, my mother still lives in this area, my auntie lives in this area... I have to answer to those people.

-The stakes are higher...

-The stakes are much higher. That doesn't intimidate me, I actually find it a really good challenge. I know that the Trust is not going to be able to please everybody but we are trying to do what we think will work for the community to make it a more sustain-



David Watson (centre) with some of the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust Team.

able place to move forward. I really want to do what is best for the community and I'm hopeful that we can work with the different communities within our area to help them under-

stand why we are doing things. It's easy to see what we are doing, we want to be even better in telling people why we are doing things and why it matters to them. *(Continues on page 4)*

Ardgay Public Hall 50th Anniversary: stories of the Hall opening and who used it *Page 12*

Consult the amended plans for the tree planting proposal at Poplars (Jubilee Hill) *Page 7*



History of farming in Ardgay: grain harvest

Page 16

The missing salmon project

Page 9



36 pages featuring
Lettes to the Editor,
Opening times,
Telephone guide, Bus &
Train timetable,
Sudokus & Crossword



The Community Food Stop MENU



SAMPLE MENU

11.30am until 2pm

Bonar Bridge Community Hall

Everyone Welcome

Lentil Broth

—00—

Chicken Pie, Carrots and Roast Potatoes

—00—

Strawberry Gateau and Ice Cream

—00—

Toasties - Cheese/Tuna mayo/Ham

—00—

**Childrens' Snack Boxes (sandwich, yoghurt, raisins and
fresh fruit juice)**

—00—

**Cappuccino, Mocha, Latte or Hot Chocolate
Tea/Coffee**

Fruit Juice, Bottled Water—Still or Sparkling

—00—

**Takeaways must be ordered before 11.30am and collected
by 1pm. Please phone 0798 5626340/01863 766554 to
order.**

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Bridge over the river Carron by Donald Bain

2018 marks the 200th anniversary of Carron Bridge, built by Alexander Thomas Luirson. The inscription on a plaque which is centre on the downstream side reads: "This bridge was erected at the expense of the Second District of Roads in Ross-shire in 1818." This date is unusually early for a highland road bridge, reflecting the importance of the area. Its alternative Gaelic name is 'Torrán Dubh'.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Looking back

There are quite a few anniversaries in 2018 (200 years of Carron Bridge, 100 years of the Armistice, 50 years of Ardgay Hall), and some of you have approached me to share photos and stories of past times -which I am very grateful for- (history of farming, past and present of Croick Church). So, in the pages of this Winter edition, we'll look closely at local history and heritage, hopefully to learn something and to get inspiration moving forward. To balance this, I hope you'll enjoy the interview with David Watson, new manager at the Development Trust, who speaks about the future of the Kyle of Sutherland. ■

Silvia Muras *Editor*



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INTERVIEW WITH DAVID WATSON, KYLE OF SUTHERLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST MANAGER:

“We want to be even better in telling people why we are doing things and why it matters to them”

(Starts on front page)

David Watson received A&DCC editor at his office at the Barn. Approachable, sharp and direct, he speaks very passionately about the area and his job at the front of the Trust.

-You are originally from Altass. How does it feel coming back after being away?

-Really good. I've worked in many places through the Highlands and further afield but never really felt like home. This is home. I hope to move back to the area shortly. It's always been really important for me to come back, so I'm really happy, this is in the essence my dream job.

-What are your first impressions?

-First impressions are really good and it's incredible the amount of good work that the Trust has done in the last five years and in particular when Helen Houston was the Manager. I've come into an organisation that has 16 other staff apart from me. That's a huge amount for a development trust in a small rural area. I'm massively impressed with all the staff and the professionalism of the good people we have working here. There is actually a good amount of people from the local area employed, which is really positive as well. That shows that some of the work -as far as economic development- is working, because young people with degrees have the opportunity to work in their profession.

-What motivates you?

-Growing up in a rural area. My family has been in the same croft in Altass since the 1880s. My granny, who was the head of the family, she always instilled the real sense of belonging to us. So I was always inter-



“Wherever I was undertaking projects in other areas, I would always have at the back on my mind, ‘I wonder how would this work back at home’

ested in rural development and over the years I've seen the rural areas change. There were 30 children in Rosehall Primary School when I left, and there are significantly less than that now. But there was a lot more opportunities for young people, and people were able to work the land a lot more. I've seen that gradually deteriorate as far as the economic opportunities and the opportunities for economic reactive people in the area, and it's always been something that I've wanted to try and do something about. So whenever I've been working in these other areas, whether it be Shetland or Inverness and Nairn and Moray and the National Park, wherever I was undertaking

projects there, I would always had on the back of my mind: “I wonder how would this work back at home”. I've always felt a huge sense of belonging to where I come from. I'm very proud of being a Highlander and very proud of being from Sutherland, so it's been something that probably is a passion for me as much as work. I'm doing work that I really enjoy.

-You've been the Economic Development Manager at the Cairngorms National Park, and your studies are focused on Economics. Are you going to put the word ‘Economic’ in the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust?

-My most recent job is Economic Development Manager at the National Park. I have often had Economic in my title, but I am not a person who believes in the economics of growth at all costs. I think sustainability is the most important aspect, especially in rural communities. At the same time, I do believe that figures have to add up, and if you are assessing a project you have to make sure that it's sustainable.



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Not all of the things that we choose to do from a social perspective are going to be economically sustainable, so sometimes what we have to do is find other ways of bringing in the ability to sustain services that are necessary for the population but aren't always going to be able to make money and to sustain themselves. One of the things I'll have to try and balance is how to do that. Generating more income from the Trust that is not just driven from public investment is really important. See how we can bring in commercial income streams so we can continue to do some of the work that might not generate a good income stream but is really important to the community -and that could be things from the Community Food Stop to Keep Active Together- but, as I said, you can't run them as a commercial business so we have to generate income streams elsewhere.

-What are the strongest assets to this area?

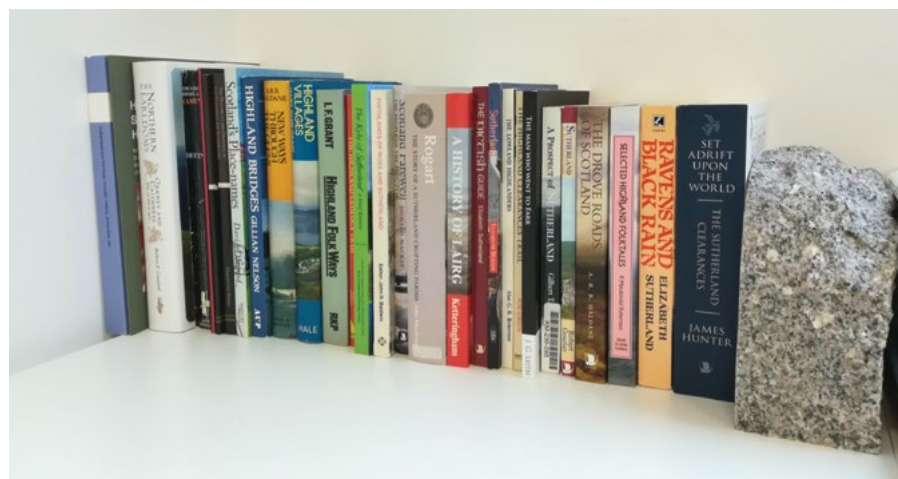
-The people. The people are the strongest asset to any area, and specially when you talk about rural areas. If you don't have people and you don't have a mix of people, the whole place dies. We have incredible environmental assets here, we live in a beautiful part of the world, but without homes, without jobs, without transport, without childcare and without digital connectivity, the community will suffer. I feel that we have to look at those five pillars of sustainable development and make sure that we are giving the community the opportunity not to be disadvantaged, we have to make sure they have the ability to thrive.

-Some of the current projects of the KoS Development Trust reach other parts of Sutherland, or even a wider Highland area, can we expect to have the focus of the KoS Development Trust back into Ardgay & District and Creich areas?

-The focus of the Trust has always

"People are the strongest asset to any area, especially when you talk about rural areas. If you don't have people, a mix of people, the whole place dies"

"Without homes, without jobs, without transport, without childcare and without digital connectivity, the community will suffer"



David has an impressive collection of books about heritage and local history at his office.

been in the communities here. The reality is -and this is why I say that as an organisation we need to get better at telling people why we do things- that if we look at the work that our contracts team has done with the Embo Trust developing their project, that has brought in income into this Trust that's allowed us to do the work that doesn't make the income. So, although we may be working out-with the Kyle of Sutherland area, the focus will always be in there. The reason we work out-with the area is to ensure that we can generate income, that we can generate employment and that the benefit of that income and that employment is actually here. We need to reinforce that although we are do-

ing things out there and we have been successful doing other contracts, the reason we do that is to continue to work within the Kyle of Sutherland.

-Who should approach the Development Trust?

Anybody that has a real interest in helping the community to thrive should approach the Trust. I think one of the things we wish to do in the future is find an easier way for the local community to engage with the Trust, and for the Trust to engage with the community because the success of the Trust and the success of the local community are inextricably linked: one

cannot succeed without the other. It's really important that we have a linkage there, so I think in the future we will try to make it easier. But my office door is open, so if anybody would like to come and have a chat about how they feel about the area, if they have ideas that they want to share, I'm more than happy to have a chat with anybody who feels that can help the community to thrive.

-What are the biggest challenges for the Trust in the near future?

-We have been very successful in the last 5-year period and we have a large number of staff working here. We have to ensure that the Trust can continue to produce what it has been

(Continues on page 6) ►►



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►► (Starts on page 5)

producing, which is a big challenge. It's really difficult for us to make money, we have to put in a lot of applications, we have to work in a lot of project development to make sure that we can get money, and money is hard to come by. We need to continue to make sure that we can produce for the community.

We need to, I think, better engage with the community, but I don't think that's a big challenge, that's an enjoyable thing. I think that's an important aspect of what we are doing, I really want to do that. Without doing that, we're going to struggle.

Other big challenges... Well, I've mentioned five areas where rural communities need input:

HOMES: We sold the land adjacent to Drovers Square in Ardgay to Albyn Housing Association who are currently building four new houses for social rent -so there are homes going up at the moment, and we are looking at other areas within the Trust area.

EMPLOYMENT: Apart from the employment we have within the Trust, we also have several businesses sharing this space: CH Architecture, Hair at the Barn and Business Gateway, for instance. We employ local contractors as much as we can. But one area that we need to be working a little bit more successfully is the promotion of tourism, because tourism is the best way for local businesses to gain more customers. And we have a good story to tell here and with the success of the NC 500 this area is a wonderful place to visit. We'll put a little bit more work into bringing more visitors here where businesses can thrive on those visitors and we'll work with HOST, Heart of Sutherland Tourism, to do that.

DIGITAL: We put a significant amount of money into equipment that allows Highland Wireless to be able to roll out. Rosehall went live in November. We are really hopeful we

can help with the digital aspect.

CHILDCARE: One of the two more challenging ones I think is childcare. Childcare is essential in rural areas for allowing women to get back into the workplace, for stopping population drift towards populated places that have more opportunities for women in particular to be able to work. We're



A number of businesses share space with the Development Trust at The Barn.

To be a sustainable community we need better transport between the communities of the Kyle of Sutherland and to Tain, Dornoch, Inverness

looking at areas where we can work with local partners to try and develop something that helps with that.

TRANSPORT: The one which is probably the most difficult, -and I've seen it in other areas as well, so is not unique to here-, it's community transport. I really want to get to the bottom to what provision we have at the moment and what possibilities we have in the future because I think if we really want to be a sustainable community to move forward, we have to try and get better transport

between the internal communities of the Kyle of Sutherland, and also onwards to Tain, Dornoch, Inverness. We're lucky we have a train station in Ardgay, we need to link up with that. Most people have to travel in rural areas and a lot of people have cars because of that, but also there are some people who don't have access to cars so it can be challenging.

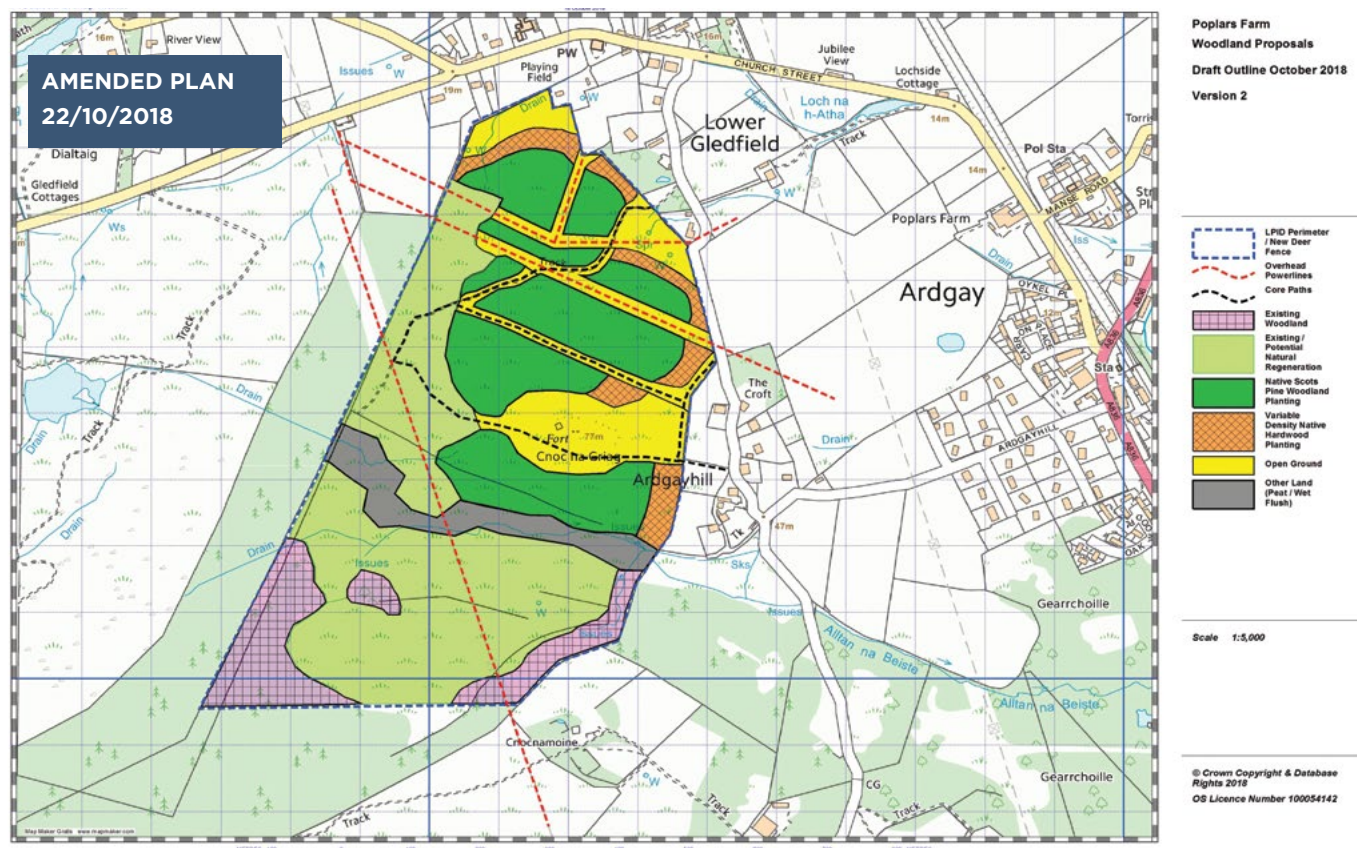
Those five areas are really crucial areas for us to investigate. If we tackle those five areas and see what we can do, that's going to help a lot. I have to also have a balance about wanting to ensure that tourism can thrive in the area, wanting to ensure that we have a good tourism product for visitors to come to and, at the same time, doing the day-to-day job that we do.

-Is there anything you would like to add?

-Basically, the one thing is that I'm fully committed to the area. I believe in this area and I believe it does have the real possibilities to be a strong sustainable community. The Trust are one of the partners who can help that happen. I think we're lucky in what's been done here. If we look at the fact that we own the Post Office building which has allowed the Post Office service to continue in Bonar Bridge; when the Falls of Shin burnt down there was no other organisation that could step in and do something there; and as far as re-developing the square here, I think that's been fantastic because it was becoming an eyesore in one of the gateways to Sutherland. Our track record is good but we want to continue to do that, and for the people to feel that the Trust is a valuable part of the community. But I know that I can't just expect that, I have to work hard to make sure that continues. We're probably never going to please everybody but we'll try to do what's best for the community and make sure that the community is sustainable moving forward. ■ Silvia Muras



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AFTER THE PRESENTATION GIVEN AT ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL OCTOBER MEETING

Amendments to the initial proposal of tree planting on Balnagown Estates (Jubilee Hill)

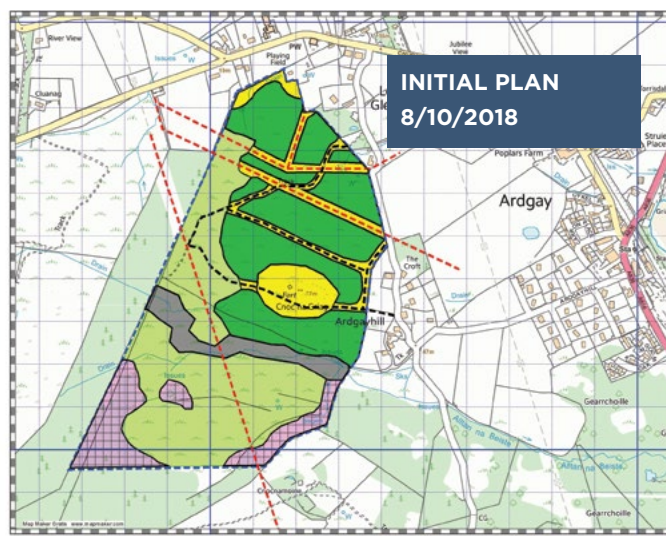
AS WAS PRESENTED at the Community Meeting there is a desire to undertake tree planting across Balnagown Estates which is widely demonstrated already, however there have not been planting schemes at Ardgay until now.

The proposal is that the poorer ground on Poplars Farm, on and around Jubilee Hill, will be enclosed by deer fencing and planted with native tree species, largely Scots Pine and Birch whilst also protecting the existing natu-

ral regeneration of trees currently growing. All existing access will be maintained, notably the core paths, with gates through the deer fence provided.

Following the comments from the Community Council meeting, the proposed planting has been amended to significantly increase the open ground adjacent to houses and that no Scots Pine trees will be planted within 70 metres of anyone's house.

In addition, no planting of trees will take place



on the eastern side of the summit of Jubilee Hill so that people can contin-

ue to enjoy the views. ■
Chris Gordon, Balnagown Estate Manager



Ardgay & District News

Community Council meetings over the next few months

AS REPORTED IN PREVIOUS newsletters, our budget from the Highland Council for the year 2018-19 has been greatly reduced. We are now in the unfortunate position that costs for our meeting in December will have reduced our Administration budget to zero. This means that we can no longer hold regular meetings until the next financial year.

We can however use funds from Windfarm Community Benefit to allow us to meet to consider applications to Beinn nan Oighrean and Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit funds. Our next meeting to consider applications will be on the 11th February 2019. Please note that unless our financial situation is resolved, this will not be a public meeting. ■

Winter road maintenance

IN ARDGAY, THE FOLLOWING Morning Routes Monday to Sunday will apply: **A836-A837:** Ardgay - Invershin - Craggie - via Culrain - Ardgay Side roads, and **A836-B9176:** Ardgay - Struie - Ardross - Ederton - Ardgay Side roads.

It should be noted that all routes cannot be treated at the same time and the routes are designed to ensure that, as far as resources allow, Primary and Secondary routes are treated by the target times. Other routes will be treated as resources allow.

Note that just because a gritter has been through in front of you does not mean the road is safe – the salt needs the mechanical action of traffic to break it down and dissolve it to allow the resulting brine mixture to melt the ice. This also applies to roads that have low traffic volumes. ■

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

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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:
12th JANUARY & 9th FEBRUARY
Please stop by for a cup of tea/coffee and chat.



In person

Ardgay Public Hall, at 7 pm. Next meeting:
11th FEBRUARY
If you are planning to attend, please contact us in advance to confirm it will be a public meeting.

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Ardgay & District News

(Right) A rotary screw trap used to capture smolts migrating downstream.

Below, an Atlantic Salmon parr (top) and smolt (bottom).



Where are the missing salmon?

Salmon have been in the news this year, branded as 'missing'. For every 100 salmon that go to sea only five return. This species is in decline, and a new £1m project aims to find out why.

SALMON HAVE AN "anadromous" life cycle, they are born in freshwater and migrate to the sea to feed (off the coast of Greenland) before eventually returning to freshwater rivers to spawn. These extraordinary fish undergo major changes to their body in a process called "smoltification" as they prepare to go from fresh to salt water. Their body becomes more "torpedo" like, they silver in color and their gills prepare for the challenge of going from fresh to salt water. This stage of their journey is filled with danger; from predators such as trout, cormorants and seals, fish can also be impacted by heat-waves and barriers to migration, and loss of habitat.

This migration to sea and back is the stage of the Salmon's life cycle that around only 5% survive. However, we don't know where they are being lost, or what is driving this. This is why the Atlantic

Salmon Trust recently launched "The Missing Salmon" project. Running over three years, fish from 7 rivers in the Moray Firth will be captured during their seaward migration and fitted with acoustic tracking tags, and released to follow their journey to the North sea.

Listening stations will be placed along the rivers to detect fish as they pass on their migration, as well as across the Dornoch and Moray Firths in large arrays. This should tell us how far out these fish make it on their migration and will tell us where fish are being "lost". Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries will be trapping smolts from the Oykel and Shin for this project. Once we know where these fish are "dropping off the map", the project hopes that we can look at those areas in more depth to figure out why there is such a high mortality of this fish. When

we understand the causes of mortality, it is hoped that efforts can then be directed at these causes to try and reverse the decline in the salmon population. This does not replace the important work that fishery boards, landowners and other stakeholders do, such as habitat restoration, but should supplement it.

If you are interested on volunteering or would like more information please visit our website. Finally, we would like to extend a huge thank-you to all those who have fundraised and contributed towards purchasing acoustic tags and receivers for this project. ■ **Sean Robertson**, Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries, Science and Mitigation Officer



Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries

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Ardgay & District News

THE SECOND PHASE THAT WENT LIVE IN NOVEMBER COVERS ROSEHALL, ALTASS AND ACHNAHANAT

Second phase of Superfast broadband goes live in the Kyle of Sutherland

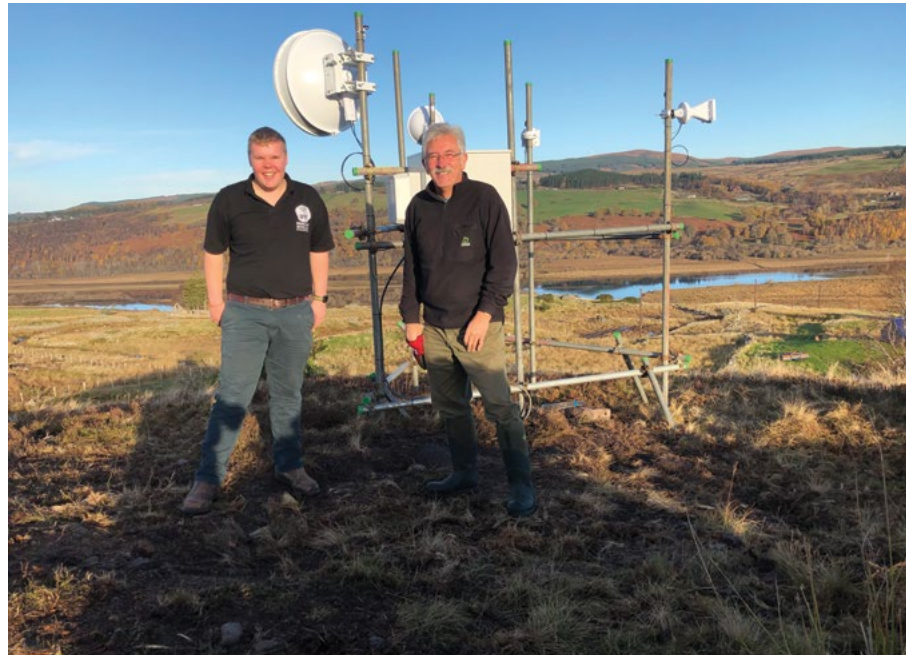
HIGHLAND WIRELESS in partnership with the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust are delighted to announce that a superfast broadband service is now available in the remote glens in the Kyle of Sutherland.

Earlier in the year, Highland Wireless launched the first phase of its high-speed unlimited data usage broadband service (up to 50 mbs), in the area surrounding Bonar Bridge and Ardgay, including Culrain. The second phase of the service, which 'went live' on Wednesday 14th November extends to Rosehall, Altass and Kyle of Sutherland.

Highland Wireless will continue to expand their coverage into Strathcarron. In the early part of 2019 they will bring online at least two further transmission stations which will take the signal as far as possible, expanding the coverage where the majority of the residential houses are and into the upper part of Strathcarron.

Ron Boothroyd who is on the board of directors of the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust said, "Residents of communities such as Altass where I live have had to put up with terrible internet connection speeds that just don't meet up to 21st century life! More and more services such as banking are done online these days - but the internet speeds that many households experience in some parts of Sutherland make it difficult to run businesses or even just stream films..."

Recently the opportunity to work in partnership with Highland Wireless came about, and thanks to a grant from the SSE Beatrice Fund,



Cameron Warren from Highland Wireless (left) and Ron Boothroyd from the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.

Ron Boothroyd has volunteered to assist Highland Wireless in getting the broadband project up and running

the Trust purchased the equipment which it is leasing to Highland Wireless who is delivering and managing the service across the area. Although people have to pay for this service – they may be eligible to submit a 'BDUK' Government Grant Voucher application to assist them with the installation costs."

Cameron Warren, from Highland Wireless added, "For the past few months we have been working to secure transmission sites, which can provide best coverage across the Kyle of Sutherland. We would like to thank the Forestry Commis-

sion, Balnagown Estates and local landowners who have been very co-operative in helping us secure these transmission sites. Residents in the coverage areas will now be able to enjoy superfast reliable broadband. This will ensure that people are able to make the most of online services whether this be for business or residential use."

For more information or to book a survey, visit the Highland Wireless website: www.highland-wireless.co.uk ■ **Kirstin Langlois**, Marketing Officer



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🐦 @KOSutherland

📘 Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust



Ardgay & District News

Festive Season at the Bradbury Centre

There will be lots to do and celebrate at the Centre in the run-up to Christmas and New Year.

THERE HAS BEEN a lot happening at the Bradbury since our last news update in the autumn edition. We have had the Royal Bank of Scotland in giving a talk about scam issues, we have had Telecare in educating the clients about alarms, sensors and equipment that is available which would allow clients to live more independently at home.

Thanks to Liz we had a nice haul of fresh vegetables grown in our very own garden. We have also had a large donation of apples from the local community which we are very grateful for. Thanks to everyone for selecting us in the Tesco blue tokens in Tain, we came third. We have also opted to have SSE priority services registration forms in the centre so why not pop in and collect a form or check if you are eligible.

A great day was had by all when we had our Halloween party where clients enjoyed taking part in some classic games such as dooking for apples and Doughnuts on a string.

We had our AGM on the 2nd of November. The Centre has had a



Bradbury Centre clients at their Halloween party.

very generous donation from one of our former clients Nancy Macdonald (previously of Ardgay). This then leads us on to the news that we have now had confirmation of funding for the extension of the Centre and we hope that the work will be carried out in 2019. We have several upcoming events:

- 19/12/2018 – Christmas party
- 21/12/2018 – 11 am : Carol service at the Bradbury centre. All welcome

We will then be closed for two

weeks over the festive period and will re-open on Monday 7/01/2019.

There has been so much going on at the Bradbury it is simply too much to write in this one article so to keep up to date with what is happening why not follow us on Facebook. ■

Lorraine Askew, Manager



The Bradbury Centre

☎ **01863 766 772**

www.bradburycentre.co.uk

✉ bradburydaycare@btconnect.com

f Bradbury Centre

CAB: Charitable Support volunteer needed

WE ARE LOOKING for help with accessing and applying for grants and charitable support for people in need. Full training will be provided and the role will involve finding charitable grants and help for our clients in need and applying for this support on their behalf if necessary.

Finances are always tighter for people in the run up to Christmas but

continuing changes to the welfare system, delays in benefit appeals and increases in the cost of living have put an even greater strain on people all year round. We are looking for help to allow us to support people in accessing charitable support to help them heat their homes, replace run down white goods and generally better afford

the cost of living. In the past we have helped people to apply to trusts such as the British Gas Energy Trust, The Royal Society for the Support of Women of Scotland, SSAFA, and Hospitality Action for help with living costs, new white goods, seques-

tration fees and fuel debts but increasing demands on our service mean we are reaching more people in greater need but have less resources to be able to help them apply for further charitable support. ■ **Rhionna Mackay, Manager**



East & Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau

☎ **01408 633 000**

✉ advice@esvas.casonline.org.uk



Ardgay & District News

NEW HALL AT ARDGAY

£16,000 Achievement

"A new era" for the parish of Kincardine and Croick had been ushered in by the erection of the new £16,000 community centre at Ardgay, it was stated by Mr T. Stewart, chairman of Tain District Council, last Saturday night.

He was performing the formal opening ceremony and he paid tribute to those who had sponsored the project, "the very salt of the earth and well worthy of the public's grateful thanks."

Presiding was Mrs Agnes Macdonald, Bank House, Ardgay, the hall committee chairman, and the occasion was celebrated by a first-class concert which proved how good were the hall's acoustics.

DEPOTISED

Mrs Macdonald began by paying tribute to their capable and hard-working committee during the three years the hall was being built and particularly to the splendid public response to appeals for financial aid. She also referred to the financial help they had received from the local councils and committees who were represented there that evening. Their support and encouragement had been thoroughly appreciated. It had been hoped that Col. Hill would perform the opening ceremony, but unfortunately he was ill, and Mr Stewart had willingly stepped into the breach.

OPTIMISM AND ENTHUSIASM

Mr Stewart said Col. Hill, who was in a nursing home, had sent his best wishes for an enjoyable evening. In 1964 Col. Hill had been chairman of the district council when they were considering the need to provide money for improving the amenities of Ardgay. Then, in October, 1965, he was chairman at the public meeting in Ardgay when a committee was elected to assume responsibility for this task. There was a tremendous spirit of optimism and enthusiasm at that time. Then, in February, 1966, it was decided the district council were taking no great risk in giving £1000 of public money to bolster up the morale of those who were fighting to get money to meet the cost of a new hall. The district council, later, had been easily persuaded to give a further donation of £500.

"We are well satisfied that our money has been well spent," said Mr Stewart. "This fine building is a testimonial to your hard work. You need not be ashamed of it. This is now the focal point of community effort and will continue to foster a spirit of communal pride. Success will largely depend on the committee members who run it. This is never an easy task. But the public can help here." He was sure that the youth of the community, too, would be willing to help if invited to do so.

Then Mr Stewart went on to refer to the old building which had been erected in 1892 by Sir Charles Ross, of Balnagown, for the tenantry.

ARDGAY HALL COMMITTEE OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW VILLAGE HALL AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

TOMORROW (SATURDAY), 21st December, at 8 p.m.

By Col. ROBERT HILL, of Locheye House, Fearn

CONCERT TO FOLLOW

Dingwall Gaelic Choir (holders of the Margaret Duncan Trophy)

Conductor — Mr EWEN STEWART

Also LOCAL ARTISTES

Admission—4/-; Children, 1/6

FIRST CHAIRMAN

He paid tribute to those who were the initial movers of this new project and on whose shoulders had fallen the burden of responsibility. There were Mr Allan Waugh, the first chairman, then Mr John Holden and now Mrs Macdonald. The secretaryship had been jointly held by Captain Richardson and Miss Ann Macdonald, and now Mrs Walter Matheson was assistant secretary and the treasurer was Mr Fraser Wilson. These fine people who had given freely of their time and energy in the service of the community were the very salt of the earth and well worthy of the public's grateful thanks.

The site of the new hall had been given to them by the Balnagown Estate, who had undertaken to clear away the old building and also improve the amenities of the village. He was delighted to know, said Mr Stewart, that the district council's efforts in this direction had also been appreciated by the public. He then formally declared the hall open.

At that point Pipe-Major Sandy Murray and Piper Fraser Wilson, of the Ardgay-Bonar Pipe Band, marched on to the platform to open the concert, and Mrs Macdonald and Mr Stewart stood between them as their photograph was taken.

ACCOUNTS OF THE FIRST YEAR OF YOUR COMMUNITY HALL AND ITS USERS

Ardgay Public Hall 50th anniversary

THE ARDGAY HALL MINUTE Books tell us that after a public meeting in February 1966 it was agreed to build a new public hall in Ardgay. By July 1967 the plans had been finalised with architect Mr. Robert Beaton, Golspie; with tenders being sent out in September that year for a start date in January 1968. By June 1968 the minutes show the committee were discussing finishing details and by October that,

"although not absolutely complete, the building would be ready for the first function, a concert and dance, to be held on 15th. November 1968... it was decided that the official opening ceremony of the new hall should be held on 21st

Who was using the hall in 1967?

In the Hall's archives we found the following notes:

"The new Hall Utilization Sub-committee had drawn up a list of local organisations and had appointed representatives for them as follows:

- Girl Guide Group: Capt. G. Richardson
- Boy Scout Group: Miss A. MacDonald
- W.R.I.: Mrs S. Mackenzie
- Mothercraft Classes: Nurse Shilleto
- Badminton Club: Mr Innes MacGregor
- Dramatic Society: Miss N. Ross
- Football Club: Mr J. Fraser
- Film Club (also

Highlands & Islands: Capt. G. Richardson

• Pipe Band: Mr I. Wilson

• Scottish Country Dancing: Mrs N. MacDonald

• Church of Scotland: Rev. I. McEwen

Organisations at present in formation:

• Revival of Social Club: Mr Ian MacGregor and Mr W. MacLaren

It is also hoped to have a Rifle Range in the new Hall." ■



Ardgay & District News

ARDGAY
Memorable Occasion.—The first public functions to be held in Ardgay's new hall were a concert and dance last Friday evening. Mr J. Holden, retiring chairman, presided at the concert, at the request of the new chairman, Mrs A. H. McDonald.
 A capacity audience was entertained by a fine variety of artistes—the Lovat Dance Band (from Arbroath), with Lindsay Ross, I. Matheson (accordion), Mrs M. McLeod (soloist), B. Manson (accordion), J. Moffat (violinist), D. Ross and J. Matheson (comedians), Argo Cameron (soloist) and both junior and senior pupils of Gledfield School, trained by Mrs R. L. McKenzie.
 The dance afterwards, with music by the Lovat Band, was also very well attended.
 Last Saturday night there were again capacity audiences for the Scottish Hour and dance when the ever-popular Curly McKay made a welcome reappearance in Ardgay.
 All in all, it was a most successful opening to the new hall over the two evenings.

These extracts appeared in The Northern Times at the time of the new Hall opening, including adverts for opening night, the first dance, and the first concert held at the Hall.

ARDGAY HALL COMMITTEE
MELODY HOUR
 with
CURLY MACKAY and his BAND
 in the
NEW VILLAGE HALL, ARDGAY
 on
SATURDAY, 16th NOVEMBER
 at 8 p.m.
 Admission — 3/-; Children — 1/6
DANCE to Follow Admission — 5/-

ARDGAY HALL COMMITTEE
 invite you all to the first
CONCERT
 to be held in the
NEW VILLAGE HALL, ARDGAY
 on
FRIDAY, 15th NOVEMBER
 at 8 p.m.
 Admission — 4/-; Children — 2/-
DANCE to Follow
LOVAT DANCE BAND
 (from Arbroath)
 Admission — 6/-

ARDGAY PUBLIC HALL



Support your Hall: commemorative mugs and bags

The Hall committee has produced commemorative mugs and tote bags to mark this date. These were for sale at the Christmas Fair in November. All profits from the sale of these items will go towards the Hall's funds. There are still some available. If you would like to show your support please phone 01863 766 174 to get yours! ■

Ardgay "new" Hall had its official opening ceremony on the 21st December 1968. Since then, it hasn't stopped serving the community and hosting a fair number of local groups and organisations, many of which still gather at the Hall today.

December 1968." The extracts reproduced in these pages show the Northern Times contemporary 1968 reports.

The hall records also show that back in the 1960s there were enough community volunteers on the hall committee for several sub-committees to be set up, sharing out the work load and enabling the ongoing, day-to-day business of the old hall to continue whilst the huge task of building the new one was completed.

It is pleasing to note that today of these original hall user groups the SWI, Badminton, and Scottish Country Dancing clubs and the Church of Scotland are still regular

hall users, and that the 2018 user group list also includes the Ardgay Christmas Party committee; Ardgay & District Community Council; Central & East Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau; Ladybird Club, the bi-weekly Post Office service; Tai-Chi and various regular recreational and educational activities organised by both the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust and Lairg Learning Centre.

The only unfortunate thing is that today there are only six committee members endeavouring to ensure the 'new' hall continues to be fit for purpose and every one of them would welcome more community involvement in the run-

ning of the hall. So, if you would like to help to make sure the hall is here for future generations to enjoy, please, don't wait to be asked, just come along to any committee meeting they are always advertised on the village notice boards and on the hall Facebook page.

As well as wishing each and every one of you a Happy and Peaceful Festive Season, the committee are pleased to report that this year's Christmas Fair at the hall, realised a fantastic profit of £872 for hall funds. Thank You. ■ **Rhonwen Copley**, Secretary

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



Ardgay Public Hall





Ardgay & District News

THE TEAS TEAM HAS BEEN ON THE ROAD DELIVERING WORKSHOPS ACROSS SUTHERLAND

Home energy advice Carbon Literacy training

Autumn into winter with The Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust's Energy Advice Service (TEAS) has been one of supporting, encouraging, listening and empowering.

BOTH ARABELLA (Project Officer) and Pat (Project Assistant) have been on the road across Sutherland supporting clients with home energy advice, providing practical and affordable solutions to reduce their home energy use, cut fuel bills and carbon emissions. Do call our team if you would like any assistance regarding your home energy usage or to set up a free and impartial home energy visit, particularly with the winter ahead. Call 01863 760050 or email arabella@kyleofsutherland.co.uk.

Lynn (Education Assistant) has been running various engagement workshops to connect how activities, such as reducing home energy usage, can have an impact against carbon emissions and climate change. Discussing the project Lynn explained: "Our funders at Climate Challenge Fund, ad-



Launching our Climate community Library which will head north and west with the Highlife Highland Brora Mobile Library in December.



ministered by Keep Scotland Beautiful, encourage us to learn alongside our community to create actions and changes which will support targets at a local, national and global scale. Our workshops all hope to connect with the public on their ideas, hopes and fears about our current impact on climate change." ■

Community Engagement

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES in Assynt, Melness-Tongue-Skerry and Ardgay and District have now concluded, and the Community Engagement Team are currently putting the finishing touches to Community Plans which have resulted from the engagements in each of these Community Council areas.

They have also begun initial engagement activities in Durness, Edderton and Scourie and are working closely with organisations in these communities, promoting the questionnaire and preparing for the follow-up workshops. They also recently visited Tain Royal Academy to conduct a workshop with pupils who live in the communities in the Kyle of Sutherland so that their voices can be reflected in the Ardgay, Creich and Edderton Community Plans. ■



Community Engagement event in Ardgay Hall.

BETH SIMCO IS 'YOUNG APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR'

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust employee wins a prestigious Highland Business Award

KYLE OF SUTHERLAND Development Trust employee Beth Simco from Bonar Bridge has scooped the 'Young Apprentice of the Year' award at the Highland Business Awards. The annual awards organised by Inverness Chamber of Commerce were held at a ceremony at the Drumossie Hotel in Inverness on the 28th September 2018. This year over 100 entries were received across the twelve categories, presenting the judges with an enormous task of narrowing down the final shortlist.

Beth Simco began her career at the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust by doing volunteer work experience when she was still at school. She formally began working for the Trust in September 2017 when she was offered the post of Contracts Officer. She is now studying a Business Management degree at Strathclyde University through a new Graduate Level Apprenticeship initiative designed to allow students to study whilst working at the same time. ■



Helen Houston announced as the winner of a Social Enterprise Champion Award

AT SCOTLAND'S ANNUAL awards for innovation and success in social enterprise awards ceremony in The Scottish Parliament, Helen Houston, the former manager of Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, was awarded the accolade of Social Enterprise Champion (over 26) for her outstanding work with the Trust and other Highland organisations over the years.

Commenting on her award, Helen said: "I'm delighted to have been acknowledged for my community development work during the last 25 years. (...) Having recently stepped down from my role at the Trust I am now looking forward to new challenges whatever they may be - time will tell."

Pete Campbell, the Chairman of Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust said, "We are absolutely delighted that Helen's hard work has been acknowledged in these awards and we wish her the very best in her plans for the future." ■



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Wednesday 7am-8pm
Thursday 7am-9pm
Friday 7am-8pm
Saturday 8am-8pm
Sunday 8:30-7pm



ARDGAY & DISTRICT Community Council *newsletter*

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Next edition: 15th March



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Ardgay & District News

History of farming in Ardgay



Poplars Farm, Ardgay, 1950s. Alister MacLaren and William MacLaren, unloading hay. / © IAN MACKENZIE

Farming has evolved immensely in the last 200 years. Sheaves, stooks, ricks and manual threshing were gradually improved and finally replaced by the modern combine harvester. The following photos show the evolution of grain harvesting at some of the local farms.

THE GRAIN HARVEST in 2018 was completed in record time as a result of the crops ripening early after the hot dry summer. The modern combine harvesters were able to work night and day -if conditions allowed- to gather in the crop and complete the harvest in some cases before they were able to start in previous years due to inclement weather, an indication how far the improvements in farm machinery have progressed in the past 200 hundred years when all the harvesting and threshing was done by hand.

Before modern-day harvesting machines were developed, agricultural workers had to harvest crops using hand-tools such as:

THE REAPER

In 1826 in Scotland, the inventor Reverend Patrick Bell designed a reaper machine -which used the scissors principle of plant cutting- a principle that is still used today.

The reaped grain stalks were gathered into sheaves, tied with a twist of straw. Several sheaves were then leant against each other with the ears off the ground to dry out, forming a stook.

After drying, the sheaves are gathered from the field and stacked, being placed with the ears inwards, this is called a stack or rick. Ricks are made in an area inaccessible to livestock, called a rick-yard or stack-

yard. The corn-rick is later broken down and the sheaves threshed, to separate the grain from the straw.

THE BINDER

The reaper was later replaced by the binder which would also gather the crop and tie it into sheaves. Early binders were horse-drawn, their cutting and tying-mechanisms powered by a bull-wheel. Later models were tractor-drawn and tractor-powered. Binders have a reel and a cutter bar like a modern grain head for a combine harvester. The cut stems fall onto a canvas bed which conveys the cut stems to the

(Continues on page 18) ►►



Ardgay & District News



(Left) Binding oats at the Poplars, Ardgay, 1930-33 / © IAN MACKENZIE. (Right) Stackyard at the Poplars, 1930s © IAN MACKENZIE



(Left) Stackyard at Ardgay Farm (connected with the old Balnagown hotel) in the 1940s. Left to right are Fergie Macleod (Balnagown hotel owner) holding on to his nephew Neil Anderson, Hugh Macgregor, Miss Heap, Sinclair Coghill, Jock Mackenzie (Dounie), David Mackay (postmaster). / © DONALD BROWN. (Right) Alister and Peter MacLaren, and Ian Scott, binding oats in the late 1950s © IAN MACKENZIE



Stooks drying at Ardgay Farm, 1950s. The farm buildings can be seen where Carron Place now stands. The large roof behind the sheds on the far right of the photo is the old Ardgay Hall. / © DONALD BROWN. (Right) Edward Laing sitting on his binder. / © GREGOR LAING





Ardgay & District News



(Left) Alister MacLaren and William Dunbar loading sheaves at the Poplars, Ardgay. / © IAN MACKENZIE. (Right) A harvesting scene: stooks and sheaves waiting to be stooked in the field above the road overlooking Western Fearn Farm from 1971. / © GREGOR LAING

(Starts on page 16)

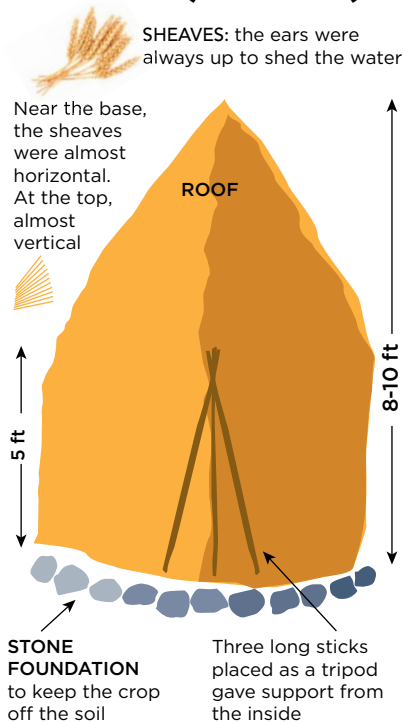
- binding mechanism. This mechanism bundles the stems of grain and ties the bundle with string to form a sheaf. Once tied, the sheaf is discharged from the side of the binder, to be picked up by the 'stookers'. Considered a huge step forward, the binder reduced the arduous task of manually cutting, gathering and binding the crop

THE THRESHING MILL

A threshing mill or thresher is a piece of farm equipment that removes the seeds from the stalks and husks. It does so by beating the plant to make the seeds fall out.

Before such machines were developed, threshing was done by hand with flails: such hand threshing was very laborious and time-consuming, taking about one-quarter of agricultural labour by the 18th century. Mechanization of this process removed a substantial amount of drudgery from farm labour. The first threshing machine was invented circa 1786 by the Scottish engineer Andrew Meikle and the subsequent adoption of such machines was one of the earlier examples of the mechanization of agriculture. During the 19th century, threshers and mechan-

STACK (OR RICK)



ical and reaper/binders gradually became widespread and made grain production much less laborious.

A crofter had neither the room nor the buildings to put in a large mill, nor the money. They had to make do with what they could afford, and the invention of a small hand-threshing mill would have been a great step forward from the flail. The earliest

small one was the "Tiny" hand mill of George W. Murray, of Banff Foundry. There is still one in the barn of a Strathcarron croft.

In his firm's catalogue of 1878, he described his "Tiny" No 1 hand mill. Made entirely of iron, he stated that it was ideal for tropical countries as it would neither warp nor rot in the damp heat, nor be eaten by termites. Murray's No 1 "Tiny" thresher was designed as a crofter's mill, the cost in 1878 being £6.10/- for the basic machine. In 1949 the Strathcarron crofter converted his hand mill to be driven by a Lister petrol engine although it has been many years since it's been in use.

THE COMBINE HARVESTER

Binders and threshing mills continued to be used well into the 20th century and it was not until after WW2 that combine harvesters become more widely used. As the name implies the binding and threshing were combined into one operation, further reducing the labour requirement on the farms. Since the 1950s the development of the combine harvester has been rapid into the sophisticated machines capable of ever greater output per day. ■ Gregor Laing



Ardgay & District News

KYLE OF SUTHERLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST HAVE PROJECT MANAGED THE RE-DEVELOPMENT

The Embo Trust are handed the keys to 'The Old School Embo'

The new hub, which was designed by Tain based practice Blueprint Architecture, will house the Embo Community Grocers and Post Office, a café, meeting room, and a community hall.

NOVEMBER WAS an exciting month for Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust's Contracts team. An external project that they have been coordinating this year to re-develop The Old School Embo was handed over to their client The Embo Trust.

Embo Primary School closed its doors to pupils in 1982. It had been used as a community centre until 2008 but had fallen in to a state of disrepair and has been lying empty since then. In 2012, Highland Council transferred ownership to the Embo Trust for the nominal sum of £100 on the condition that it be used by the community. Following this the Trust consulted with local people to find out what their vision was for the vacant building. It was felt that the close-knit community needed a place where locals could meet up and socialise but also welcome the many visitors that flock to Embo each year.

Morrison Construction started working on site in March this year and on the 12th November, they handed over the keys of the building to the Kyle of Sutherland

Development Trust who have project managed the redevelopment of the building on behalf of The Embo Trust.

The new hub which is in the centre of the village overlooking the sea, will house the Embo Community Grocers and Post Office, a café, meeting room, and a community hall which can be hired out for events, weddings, and other activities. An operator will be appointed to run the café in 2019.

Valerie Houston from the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust said, "We are really proud to have been part of this fantastic project and we'd like to thank our clients the Embo Trust and project partners for helping to make the project build run so smoothly."

There will be an open afternoon for people to explore the building on Saturday 1st December from 12.30-3.30pm.

The Project was funded by: The Embo Trust, The Big Lottery, The Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, SSE Beatrice Fund, Leader, SSE Sustainable Fund, Robertson Trust, The John Gordon Legacy and Carbon Clever. ■



'The Old School Embo' after re-developed.

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Ardgay & District News

Remembrance Sunday 2018

Bonar Bridge was the centre of the WW1 centenary commemorations organised by the Creich and Kincardine Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland on Remembrance Sunday.

THE DAY BEGAN with the Branch Chairman Tony Osborne playing Reveille on the bugle at 6am outside Creich Church. Piper Chris Bowden then played Battle's O'er and led a march round to Creich War Memorial. In the early morning mist this was a memorable way to start what would be a very moving day.

Later the traditional wreath laying services were held at the Kincardine and Creich War Memorials, with a very large turnout at both locations and the silence at 11am. School children read the names of the WW1 fallen and planted crosses. Legion Scotland and Community Council wreaths were laid at both memorials. At Bonar Bridge, wreaths were also laid by a serving member of the RAF, Scotland's Fire and Rescue Service, Highland Councillor Linda Munro, the 1st Kyle of Sutherland Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Unit, the Inverness Military Wives Choir and the Rotary club.

A very well attended service at Creich Church followed, with Graeme Muckhart as Minister.

Over 100 invited guests - veterans, Legion Scotland members and families - then enjoyed a WW1 themed lunch in the Community Hall. Green split pea soup was followed by corned beef hash, pork cassoulet and lentil dahl. A ceilidh followed with the music provided by Rogart Ceilidh Band.

During the tea break, the Singing for Fun choir led a singalong of WW1 tunes. A 1918 recipe fruit cake was served along with WW1 era tastings such as Anzac biscuits and potato shortbread. And children played traditional games like conkers.



(Top) The service at Creich War Memorial. (Bottom left) The Creich Church congregation. (Bottom right) Celebrating at Bonar Bridge Community Hall.

The hall looked stunning, decorated with a Union Jack theme to mirror events that would have been held 100 years ago to the day. Fabulous 5ft by 4ft banners had been created from poppy themed posters produced by every child from Bonar, Gledfield, Rosehall, Lairg and Rogart Primary Schools.

There but Not There Silhouettes were placed on pews in Church, on several seats in the Hall and with the Band, as a very poignant reminder of the fallen throughout the day. An excellent WW1 exhibition

filled the upstairs room and included model planes, genuine trench art and a morse code key.

After a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne everyone returned to the War Memorial for the unveiling of the Centenary Field plaque and lighting of the bonfire. Events closed with the piper playing Highland Cathedral and the bugler the Last Post. A very moving end to an incredible day, funded by grants from the Ardgay and Creich Community Councils from their Binn Tharsuinn windfarm funds. ■



Ardgay & District News



Creich War Memorial Garden becomes a Centenary Field

Highland Councillor Linda Munro unveiled the plaque on Remembrance Sunday.

LEGION SCOTLAND are partners with the charity Centenary Fields in Trust in delivering an ambitious programme called Centenary Fields. Launched by Centenary Fields in Trust President The Duke of Cambridge, the programme is remembering the sacrifices made by so many during World War 1 whilst looking to the health and well-being of future generations. By protecting local green spaces with connections to WW1, it is creating a nationwide legacy in this, the centenary of that war.

Fiona Porter, Branch Secretary of the Creich and Kincardine Branch, thought that the Creich War Memorial Garden in Bonar Bridge would make a great Centenary Field. She contacted the landowner of the site and worked with them to get the site designated as a Centenary Field.

She said "I am delighted that we have managed to include the Garden in this national programme to remember the sacrifices made by so many during WW1." ■

Poppy appeal

The Ardgay and Bonar Bridge communities together raised a record £1,559.59 in this year's Poppy Appeal. The Area Organiser, Fiona Porter, thanks everyone who donated, the local businesses and schools that had collection boxes and all the volunteers who went out collecting door to door. ■



Fiona Porter Secretary

✉ f.porter514@btinternet.com

☎ 01863 766349

'BEST USE OF TIMBER' AND 'PLACEMAKING'

Falls of Shin wins two awards at the Inverness Architectural Association Awards

ON THE 2ND NOVEMBER 2018, the Inverness Architectural Association (IAA) which is the Highlands & Islands Chapter of the Royal Incorporation of Architects Scotland, held its prestigious biennial awards at Eden Court Theatre to celebrate and recognise the projects that have enhanced the landscape and identity of the region between 2016 – 2018. The IAA 'patch' covers the entire Highlands and Islands, including Lochaber and Moray.

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust was delighted to have two of its building projects: Falls of Shin Visitor Attraction and The Barn in Ardgay, shortlisted at the awards. On the evening – Falls of Shin won the 'Best Use Of Timber' and 'Placemaking' awards, and was Highly Commended for 'Best Building'. Meanwhile 'The Barn' was Commended in the 'New Life for Old Buildings' category.

Both buildings were designed by Catriona Hill of Ardgay based practice CH Architecture. Catriona Hill commented: "The quality of the entries this year was so high that it was humbling just to be shortlisted in the awards – but to win the 'Placemaking' and 'Best Use of Timber' categories was particularly meaningful because they were so pertinent to the Falls of Shin site."

Meanwhile -after winning best building in the Tourism and Leisure category of the Scottish RICS Awards earlier this year- Falls of Shin is also going head to head with the other regional winners at the national Grand Final in London. Wish them luck! ■



Catriona Hill of CH Architecture collected the awards.



Ardgay & District News

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** where you can find full details and download the application form.
- Send your completed application form to **secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk**
- Next deadlines: **11 February & 8 April 2019**

PROJECTS UNDER £2,000

The Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund

- Go to **<http://ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk>** to download the guidelines and application form.
- Send your completed application form to **phil.tomalin@highland.gov.uk** and to **secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk**
- Next deadlines: **11 February & 8 April 2019**

BETWEEN £2,000 AND £10,000+

SSE Achany Community Fund

- Visit the fund's page **<http://sse.com/communities/fundlocations/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 2019**

BETWEEN £2,000 AND £25,000+

E.ON Rosehall Community Fund

- **Foundation Scotland** administers E.ON Rosehall Community Fund. Visit **<https://www.foundation-scotland.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 **Eilidh Gunn** by email **Eilidh@foundationscotland.org.uk** or call **07801 530 218** if you require any further information or advice.
- Next deadline: **30 April 2019**

Directors sought for High Life Highland Board

HIGH LIFE HIGHLAND is a charity registered in Scotland and a company, limited by guarantee, wholly owned by The Highland Council. Its ambition is to be recognised and respected as the leading organisation for developing, promoting and inspiring opportunities in culture, learning, sport, leisure, health and wellbeing.

The Council is looking to recruit Directors to the Board to provide strategic direction and governance to the charity and expert advice and sup-



port to its management team. Applications are welcome from people with a good track record in business or community management with experience of working as part of a board or senior management team of a charity or other large organisation, experience of leading a team within a company or community organisation as well as knowledge of the cultural, learning and/or leisure sector in the Highlands. An interest and/or experience in representing young people's views, health,

employability, older people's issues, partnership working and tourism would be particularly welcome. The positions are unpaid but reasonable expenses will be available.

Anyone interested has until 5pm on 28 January 2019 to submit their application. Interviews will take place on 21 February 2019 and the appointment will be confirmed at the 7 March 2019 Highland Council meeting. For an application pack please contact Ms J MacLennan on 01463 7021121 or e-mail jane.maclennan@highland.gov.uk. ■



KEEP ACTIVE TOGETHER (KAT) WEEKLY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019



MONDAY

Singing For Fun 7pm-8.15pm
ARDGAY VILLAGE HALL FREE
(Excluding 28th Jan and 11th Feb)

Music Practice Group 7pm-9pm
BONAR HALL FREE
CINEMA ROOM
(Commencing 21st Jan)

TUESDAY

Ballroom/Latin 2pm-4pm
ROSEHALL VILLAGE HALL £2

Latin Cardio Fit 7pm-8pm
BONAR BRIDGE PRIMARY £2

WEDNESDAY

Badminton 10am-12pm
ARDGAY VILLAGE HALL FREE

FRIDAY

Yoga 10am-11am
ARDGAY VILLAGE HALL £2

BEINN THARSUINN COMMUNITY
WINDFARM LTD.

www.facebook.com/keepactivetgether T:01863 766190 E: beverley@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. VAT registration number: 251 4030 5

Registered office: The Trust Office, The Barn, Drovers Square, Ardgay, Sutherland, IV24 3AL



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.

Winter Resilience Plan for the Kyle of Sutherland

I am bringing this to your attention as our community leaders and as other concerned members of the public. Just a quick note to register my concerns, and to make you aware that, to the best of my knowledge - there does not seem to be a Winter Resilience Plan in place for the Kyle of Sutherland.

I had thought that the Bradbury Centre was our nominated location for emergencies like loss of electricity during severe weather, for our elderly and infirm. I also thought that the Brad-

bury centre had lists of drivers and resources which could be used during emergencies to get those at risk into the Bradbury Centre where they would be warm, fed and cared for.

I was informed that this is not the case, and anyway the Bradbury Centre is due to close for around 20 weeks for refurbishment and upgrading. Where does this leave the vulnerable members of our communities? Please discuss this with anyone you think is relevant and come up with a plan to be circulated to those in danger during these emergencies.

Thanks. ■

David Hannah, Ardgay

Winter resilience: answer from the Bradbury Centre

At this time we don't have a date for moving out of the centre, a contractor has not been appointed and when they are appointed, they may say we can stay until the break through of the building.

We are looking at options for generators at this time with the assistance from SSE. It is important that the SSE emergency forms (please see below) are completed by the members in our community who would need help. As far as I am aware not many have been completed, and I am only able to ensure my clients have done this. Perhaps this is something that could be looked at. We should know by mid December if we are moving out before spring. Wherever we go, we would hope to still be able to help with transport and food as in the past. Nothing has changed in this respect. ■

Lorraine Askew, Bradbury Centre Manager

FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE

How to apply to be included in the SSSEN Priority Service registry



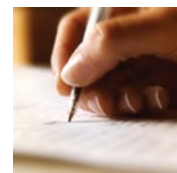
SCOTTISH & SOUTHERN ELECTRICITY NETWORK'S free Priority Service offers extra help to those who need it most during a power outage. Some reasons you might want to be on the register:

- 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, 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, and a 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/prioritieservices. ■

Letters to the editor



Concerns over Croick Church



PAST & PRESENT These two photos are taken from the same angle. Over the years, the trees around the church have overwhelmed the building. / © CALLUM CAMPBELL

Disappointed visit

All I can say is how much I had been looking forward to seeing Croick Church with all its history for the first time last summer, but how disappointed I was in its appearance and condi-

tion, being totally overwhelmed by the trees.

I could not believe the state of the windows with the infamous inscriptions on them. The windows now have rotten sills, people had at some time vandalised them trying to steal some of the panes

of glass, how very sad. Also, the roof is starting to sag. Surely there must be money available somewhere through either heritage or lottery funds to restore the church to its former glory. Imagine if nothing is

done and a branch or worse, a tree, falls down destroying the windows? If I was a local, I would be doing my utmost to make sure this is not allowed to happen. ■

Calum Campbell,
Esslemont Estate, Ellon,
Aberdeenshire



IMPOSSIBLE AERIAL VIEW As we can see on the image above, the church building is almost impossible to capture in a photo, even with the help of a drone. / © GREGOR LAING



Without trees

In this image probably from late 1800s or very early 1900s, there were no trees at all around the building. Dr Coutts, minister at the Manse (probably around 1910s-1920s) planted all the trees we see nowadays. Two specimens have a special significance, as it is said that the two trees at either side of the gate came from Holy Land. ■ © MARGARET ROSS



What's on in the area



31
DEC.

ARDGAY PUBLIC HALL
**Hogmanay Sessions
with Inyal + Heisk**

Organised by Sutherland Sessions. From 10 pm to 1 am. £20.00 Tickets for sale at www.eventbrite.co.uk. Electronics and twisted beats combine with intricate fiddle and pipes. With their innovative fusion of mercurial tunes, ethereal songs and intricate electronics, INYAL have crafted a sound that owes as much to their traditional roots as it does to the rhythms of modern Scotland. The event is licensed. Entry includes a complimentary beer or glass of prosecco. Over 18s only.

SUTHERLAND SESSIONS - EDDERTON HALL

16
FEB.

Mike Vass: Save His Calm

Mike Vass presents 'Save His Calm' with support from Calum McIlroy, Megan MacDonald and Ruairidh Gollan. One of Scotland's foremost musicians is returning to Edderton Hall performing his remarkable new song cycle. Mike Vass, previously a nominee in the Scottish Album of the Year (SAY) award and winner in the Scots Trad music awards composer of the year category, is a creative force of nature on the Scottish music scene. Raffle | Baking | Tea/Coffee. Tickets: £10/£8 online at ruairidhgollanmusic.eventbrite.co.uk or on the door.



ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL, 7:30 PM

23
FEB.

Scottish Opera Touring

Join four talented singers and a pianist for Scottish Opera's ever-popular Opera Highlights tour. The expertly curated selection of music celebrates the best of opera, including extracts from Carmen, La traviata and Die Fledermaus and works by Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Tickets: 01349 880591 (free) or online on: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ardrosscommunityhall> (booking fee) £12 and £5 Under 26



UNTIL NOVAR, DINGWALL

31
DEC.

Charity garden opening

Water gardens have been renovated and replanted since the last garden opening. There is a new terrace garden. Five acre walled garden, rhododendrons and azaleas. Newly planted apple orchard. By arrangement. Times vary / £6 (Children free). More info: enquiries@novarestate.co.uk / scotlandsgardens.org/novar/

ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL, 8 PM

19
JAN.

**Mairi Campbell:
Auld Lang Syne**

Auld Lang Syne is the new one-woman theatre show from Scottish musician Mairi Campbell. Auld Lang Syne tells a very human story through her personal relationship with the world-renowned Scottish song. Tickets: 01349 880591 (free) or <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ardrosscommunityhall> (booking fee) £10 and £8 conc.



Wildlife



Pine Marten

MARTES MARTES



■ Pine Martens are **MUSTELIDS** (members of the weasel family) and have a long, slender body with dark brown fur, a white/yellow throat patch, and a bushy tail. ■ They weigh about 1-2 kg and they are 45cm plus a tail of 25cm, about the size of a **SMALL CAT**. ■ They're largely **NOCTURNAL** and elusive. They can sometimes be more visible in winter when there's less vegetation. ■ They are **PROTECTED**. Scotland is the species stronghold, with only a very small number left in England and Wales. ■ Pine Martens climb very well and live in **HOLES IN TREES**, in old squirrel dreys or old birds' nests. ■ They hunt a range of **SMALL MAMMALS**, as well as taking birds and their eggs, and berries. ■ In the summer, bilberries might make its droppings turn **BLUE**. ■ Research has suggested the presence of pine martens can be beneficial for the endangered **RED SQUIRREL**. More info: scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk and woodlandtrust.org.uk



Thistle welding & fabrication

All light welding and fabrication projects undertaken.
Auto restoration and repair performed to high standards.

Hours: 0830 - 1630 (Mon - Fri)
0900 - 1300 (Sat)

Contact us on Facebook
at Thistle Welding and Fabrication

07496 908 143

Bonar Bridge Gaelic Playgroup Croileagan a' Chaolais

12:30 UNTIL 2:30 PM
EVERY TERM TIME FRIDAY

Library visits, Gaelic Bookbug,
Gaelic related crafts, and messy play.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21st December: Christmas Party

8th February:

Mac & Cheese Family Bingo Night
Bonar Bridge Hall - 4-6 pm

All Welcome.
Free entry
(donations welcome)

Lunch
included

Contact
for more
info - Zoe
07749 134 490





Adult Clubs & Societies



Ardgay Scottish Country Dancing Club

New Season starts on Tuesday 8th January at 7.30pm in Ardgay Public Hall. £2 per session or £20 for the season until 30th April. If Tuesdays are difficult for you there is another class in Clashmore Hall from 7 pm on Mondays.

Contact: **David Hannah**
 ☎ 01863 766 061
 dhannah559@hotmail.co.uk

Ardgay Badminton Club

At Ardgay Public Hall.
ADULTS: MONDAY evenings, 8 - 10 pm £2 per night.
THURSDAY evenings 8 - 10 pm. £2 per night.

Contact **Gregor Laing**
 ☎ 01863 766 223

JUNIORS: (P4 upwards):
 Thursday evenings at Ardgay Hall, 7 - 8 pm. £1, starting on 4th October.

Contact **Patricia Hannah**
 ☎ 01863 766 061

Racquets may be borrowed, and players of all abilities are welcome. Alternative sessions by KAT, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 pm.
 ☎ 01863 766 702

Bonar 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

Bonar Bridge Hall, 7:30 pm. Film nights every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. Free admission / £2 Refreshments. Contact: **Silvia**
 Facebook: **Kyle of Sutherland Cinema Club**
 ☎ 01863 766 690

Kyle of Sutherland Joggers

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

Kyle of Sutherland Growing Group

Meetings last Monday of the month at Invershin Hall from 7-9 pm. all aspects of growing fruit, vegetables and flowers, including gardening for wildlife.
 Contact: **Jean**
 ☎ 01863 760 190

Ardgay & Culrain SWI

All ages welcome. SWI meetings on the 3rd Tuesday each month. Ardgay Public Hall 7:30 pm.
 Contact: **Mrs Gillian Glennie**
 ☎ 01863 766 674



Sutherland Walkers Club

We meet the 4th Sunday of the month, all year round.
27TH JANUARY Dornoch, Embo and Coul Links. 8 miles, circular, good paths and beach. Option for self-guided shorter walks of 4 and 6 miles. Leaders: Jon and Jayne Jenkins : 01862 810 382. The walk starts from Dornoch Square at 10 am
24 FEBRUARY Loch Laoigh, Loch Lannsaidh, Ben Tarvie : 270m / 885ft. 6 miles, circular, some rough heather. Option for self-guided shorter walk omitting Ben Tarvie. Leaders: Jean Mezzetti: 01862 810 422 and Steve Farquharson: 01862 811 381. The walk starts from the Scottish Water Filter Station at 10 am.

6TH MARCH AGM 7:30 pm Golspie Community Centre
Contact the Walk Leader the day before the walk to confirm that it is taking place.
 New members and walk leaders are always welcome.
 Contact: **David Hannah**
 ☎ 01863 766 061
 Facebook: **Sutherland Walkers Group**

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society

With Bonar Bridge History Group. Tuesdays 7:30 pm at the Heritage Centre, Ardgay.
 Contact: **Valerie Mackenzie-Harris**
 ☎ 01863 766 700

Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club

Bonar Bridge Hall. Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, Admission £2 including tea. Drives:
23 JAN Ardgay Scottish Country Dancers.
30 JAN Ladybird Club.
6 FEB Ardgay-Culrain SWI.
13 FEB Heritage Society.
20 FEB Four Seasons Club.
27 FEB Royal British Legion Scotland, Creich & Kincardine Branch.
6 MAR Gledfield School Parent's Council.
13 MAR Bonar Bridge Children's Christmas Party

Pilates

Bonar Bridge Hall, Mondays 10-11 am. Contact: **Moir Chisholm**
 ☎ 01862 810 786

Edderton & District Gardening Club

First Monday of each month. Edderton Community Centre, 7:30 pm.
4TH FEBRUARY: Quiz night.
4TH MARCH: Guest speaker JayJay Gladwin from Old Allangrange Garden. Members receive 50% discount on Suttons seeds and 10% discount at Scotsburn Garden Centre, as well as enjoying friendly meetings once a month.
 Contact: **Patricia**
 ☎ 01863 766 061

Tai Chi

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



Gearrchoille Community Wood



Winter in the woods

In the last months we've been busy with the boardwalk and birch thinning

WE HAVE BEEN progressing work on the boardwalk hoping to make the route around that corner of the wood reasonably mud-free over the next few months. We have also started birch thinning – revisiting an area near the car park. It's worth taking your time when walking through the wood – there's always so much you nearly miss. There are lots of signs of hidey-holes used by the smaller residents in the wood and working in the wood we often find traces of past activity – in the area we're currently thinning there are more signs of the route of the old drove road and an old swing well camouflaged.

The pond and surrounding area has made a remarkable recovery after the work of the summer – it's good to see the sluice overflowing again.

The environmental audit that we had done several years ago suggested that the oak trees were exclusively *Quercus petraea* (sessile or durmast oak = acorns without stalks) and not *Quercus robur* (pedunculated oak = acorns on long stems). Over the years we have collected and sown a lot of acorns some of which have been planted off-site and now have grown into young trees producing acorns. And those acorns definitely have stalks. I wonder if some of the larger trees in the Gearrchoille, whose acorns are collected after they have fallen are in fact *Quercus robur*. Do they produce more and bigger acorns? I have noticed this year that the oak trees along Strathcarron have produced masses of acorns (with stalks) compared to those in the Gearrchoille which were smaller in size and number. Something to investigate next year. ■ **Betty Wright**



(Top) An old swing well camouflaged. (Bottom left) *Quercus petraea* or *Quercus robur*? (Bottom right) Our volunteers working on the boardwalk.

gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk

✉ gearrchoille@gmail.com

☎ 01863755316

📘 Gearrchoille Community Wood



Children & Young people

GLEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



■ **Anne Wemyss**, Clerical
Assistant, Gledfield Primary
School

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

The pupils had fun dressing
up for school on the 31st
October for Halloween.



REMEMBRANCE

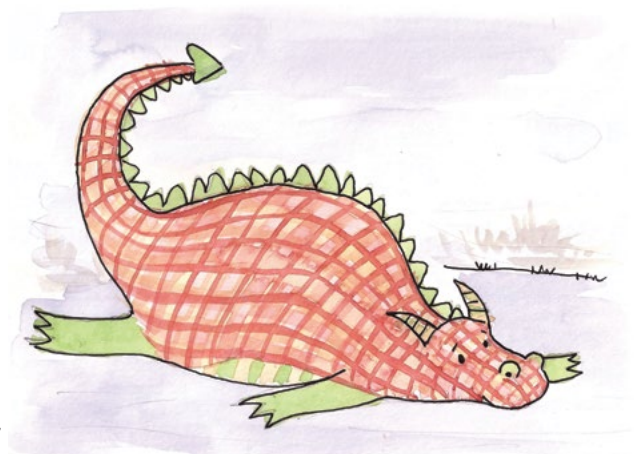
The pupils made some fantastic poppy displays to
commemorate the 100 year anniversary of Word War 1.



MEET HAMISH THE TARTAN DRAGON

A shy veggie
dragon
who lives
on Carn Bren

by Andymack & Sil



It was very frosty and a small shallow pond froze over. Morag decided to go skating, she found some old skates in the cup-

board under the stairs. Hamish tried to walk on the ice, but fell flat on his tummy, and they both found this very funny.

COMMUNITY FOOD STOP



Healthy Cooking on a Budget Classes

LET'S COOK TOGETHER FOR UNDER A FIVER!

The recipes are based on cooking for a family of four but can be easily adapted.

Let's cook together and have some fun.

All recipes are cooked from scratch, using fresh ingredients, with recipe cards, including costs, available to take home.

Thursday 10th January – Thursday 28th February 2019 (block booking)

10am until 12 noon

Ardgay Public Hall

If you are interested in joining us, please book your place by contacting
Andrea - 01863 766190, andrea@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

www.facebook.com/keepactivetogether T:01863 766190 E: beverley@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. VAT registration number: 251 4030 5

Registered office: The Trust Office, The Barn, Drovers Square, Ardgay, Sutherland, IV24 3AL

Churches



Christmas is coming

CHRISTMAS IS COMING and as a child I remember it as a really exciting time. For some time before the big day, I hardly slept a wink as I looked forward to all the hoped-for toys, the Christmas decorations, the Christmas food and the exciting buzz of Christmas itself. We lived in Sheffield at the time and the main shopping street was wonderfully decorated with coloured lights. One of the highlights was to be taken for a drive along that street, to marvel at the spectacle of it all. As an adult I still find Christmas exciting but in a different way. We quite often have relatives visit at some point over Christmas and, once the business of Church Services in a variety of locations is over, it is good to have time to relax with family and friends.

Christmas is not a happy or exciting time for everyone. There are many in our communities who have no relatives, or are estranged from those that they have. It's a sad fact that there are many people who don't get the opportunity for even a brief conversation with a friend or neighbour once in a



while. One in twenty adults in Scotland have contact with family, friends or neighbours less than once or twice a week and three times that figure have fewer than three people they feel that they can turn to for comfort and support in a personal crisis. Loneliness and social isolation are a very real and growing problem.

Over the years the spending on Christmas has grown. The retail industry has persuaded us to start spending earlier and earlier and to dig deeper and deeper. But of course it's not like that for everyone. There are many in our society who cannot afford the basic necessities of an ordinary week, let alone having the re-

sources to splash out on special food, drink and presents for all the family. The Trussell Trust food bank network in the UK handed out around 41,000 food packs in 2009/10 rising to 1.2 million in 2016/17. In 2017 Highland Foodbank (part of that network) fed over 6,200 people from across the Highlands, distributing some 50 tonnes of food.

As we make our plans for Christmas, we can spread our joy and excitement by remembering those less fortunate than ourselves. We could include a neighbour who lives alone in our celebrations or we could buy a few extra items to donate to the food bank when we're out shopping. Both of which could make such a difference in the lives of others. By such actions we are sharing our joy and excitement of the festive period and reducing the number of people who feel excluded from it or worse still, dread it. I wish you all a very happy Christmas, however you spend it. ■

Rev James Currall, *Episcopal Priest in Charge of Dornoch, Tain and Lairg*

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KYLE OF SUTHERLAND CHURCHES OF SCOTLAND AND THE EAST SUTHERLAND & TAIN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

● **Christians Together singing Carols at the Kyle of Sutherland Hub.** TUES 11 Dec at 5:30 pm

● **Christmas Carol Singing** in Creich Church, Bonar Bridge SAT 15 Dec at 3 pm

● **Carols by Candlelight** at Ardgay Hall. SUN 16 Dec at 3 pm – fun for all including community carol singing, activities for the youngsters and tasty treats.

● **The Joy of Christmas at St Finnbarr's Dornoch.** TUES 18 Dec at 7 pm – carols and poetry, followed by refreshments, donations to Emmaus.

● **Gledfield Primary School Christmas Service** in Kincardine Parish Church, Ardgay. THUR 20 Dec at 11 am

● **Communion and Fellowship at The Crask Inn.** THURS 20 Dec at 12 Noon – Communion Service and lunch in the bar.

● **Edderton Primary School Christmas Service** in Edderton Parish Church, Edderton. FRI 21 Dec at 11 am

● **Bonar-Bridge Primary School Christmas Service** in Creich Parish Church, Bonar Bridge. FRI 21 Dec at 1:30 pm

● **Family Service** Kincardine Church, Ardgay. SUN 23 Dec at 11 am. Christingle service

● **Christmas Midnight Sung Eucharist** at St Finnbarr's Dornoch. MON 24 Dec at 11 pm

● **Rosehall Christmas Eve candle-lit readings & carols** MON 24 Dec at 11:15 pm

● **Christmas Midnight Sung Eucharist** at St Andrew's Tain MON 24 Dec at 11:30 pm

● **Creich Watchnight Service** MON 24 Dec at 11:45 pm

● **Christmas Day Eucharist** at St Maelrubha's Lairg (in Lairg CoS) TUE 25 Dec at 8:15 am

● **Christmas Day Sung Eucharist** at St Finnbarr's Dornoch. TUE 25 Dec at 9:30 am

● **Christmas Day Sung Eucharist** at St Andrew's Tain TUE 25 Dec at 10:30 am

● **Carol Service at The Crask Inn.** THUR 27 Dec at 2 pm

● **Carol Service** at St Andrew's Tain. FRI 28 Dec at 3 pm

● **New Year Joint Service for the linkage** in Creich Church Bonar Bridge. SUN 6 Jan 2019 at 11 am



Guide to local services



Village Halls & Venues for hire

Ardgay Public Hall

Fiona Venters / 01863 766 602
fcm11@hotmail.com

The Hub

Jan Burdett / 01863 769 170
info@kyleofsutherland.com

Kincardine Heritage Centre

Valerie Mackenzie-Harris /
01863 766 700

Ardgay Church Hall

Mary Stobo / 01863 766 868

Croick Church

enquiries@croickchurch.com

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

Mobile Library

GLEDFIELD, CULRAIN CARBISDALE

20 December 2018
10 January / 31 January 2019
21 February / 14 March 2019

Gledfield School	9:30	10:40
Gruinards	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

19 December 2018
9 January / 30 January 2019
20 February / 13 March 2019

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

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
TUESDAY: 14:30 - 17:00
THURSDAY: 13:00 - 16:00

Post Office Bonar Bridge

MONDAY: Closed
TUES: 8:30-13:30 / 14:00-17:30
WED: 8:30-13:30 / 14:00-17:30
THUR: 8:30-13:30 / 14:00-17:30
FRI: 8:30-13:30 / 14:00-17:30
SAT: 8:30-13:30 / 14:00-17:30

Train times



From 09/12/2018 to 18/05/2019

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)
18:31 (20:01) Catering serv. available

Sunday:

17:56 (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 (20:13) Catering serv. available
19:28 (20:57)

Sunday:

14:49 (16:16) Catering serv. available



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May 2017

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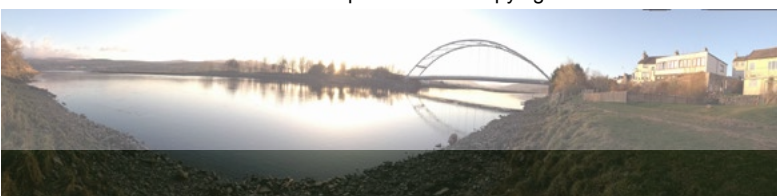
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A3 single sided	35p	A3 double sided	45p

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www.facebook.com/kyleofsutherland.Development.Trust. Telephone: 01863766190

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust is a company Limited by Guarantee

Registered in Scotland: SC401019 and a registered Scottish charity: SC043587. Registered office: The Trust Offices, Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland, IV24 3EB



Anna Patfield
Dog Behaviourist & Trainer

Pawsability®

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Prevent puppy problems arising with puppy early learning and puppy socialisation & training.
Sort out lead pulling and jumping with your dog.
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For more information please see

www.PawsAbility.co.uk

or call 07906 173993 / 01863 760004

PLUS

Free On-Line Help & Advice pages.





Guide to local services

B

Bradbury Centre

01863 766 772

BUSES

Bradbury Centre Bus

01863 766 772

Stagecoach Highlands

01463 233 371

C

CAB Golspie

01408 633 000

CHURCHES

Church of Scotland

01863 766 868

Scottish Episcopal Church

01862 881 737

D

DVLA Inverness

0300 790 6801

E

ELECTRICITY

Power Cuts

105

SSE Customer Help

0345 026 2658

F

Fire Brigade Dornoch

01862 810 297

Fisheries Trust (KoS)

01863 766 702

Forestry Commission

01309 674 004

G

Bonar Bridge-Ardgay Golf Club

01863 766 199

H

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Customer service

01349 886606

Drummuie Golspie

01408 635 370

Service Point Dornoch

01862 810 594

Tain Registration Office

01349 886 644

HIGH SCHOOLS

Tain Royal Academy

01862 892 121

Dornoch Academy

01862 810 246

The Hub

01863 769 170

K

KoS Development Trust

01863 766 190

L

LIBRARIES

Bonar Bridge Library

01863 760 083

Mobile Libraries

01349 852 698

N

NHS

Doctors Creich Surgery

01863 766 379

Nurses Creich Surgery

01863 766 237

Migdale Hospital

01863 766 211

P

PHARMACY

Mitchells Chemist Bonar

01863 760 011

POLICE

Non Emergency: 101

Emergency: 999

POST OFFICE

Post Office Bonar Bridge

01863 766 219

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Gledfield

01863 766 580

Bonar Bridge

01863 766 221

Rosehall

01549 441 348

Edderton

01862 821260

R

Recycling Centre Bonar

01349 868 439

S

Scottish Water 24Hr

Emergency

0845 600 8855

Customer Help

0845 601 8855

T

Ronnie's Taxis Ardgay

01863 766 422

TRAINS

National Rail Enquiries

0845 748 4950

V

VETS

Rogart Vets

01408 641 352

Easter Ross Vets Tain

01862 893 142

Johnston & Farrell Tain

01862 894 223

Stagecoach

67 - MON TO SAT

TAIRN → LAIRG

Tain Lamington St 06:45¹ 07:00² 08:32² 11:48
08:00 10:11 09:27 14:42*
13:11* 15:45 17:27¹ 17:42
16:30³ 18:45 17:57³ 20:12

Edderton ↓ 06:55¹ 07:10² 08:22² 11:38
08:10 10:20 09:17 14:32*
13:20* 15:55 17:17¹ 17:32
16:40³ 18:55 17:47³ 20:02

Ardgay Hall ↓ 07:07¹ 07:22² 08:10² 11:26
08:22 10:33 09:05 14:20*
13:32¹ 16:07 17:05¹ 17:20
16:52³ 19:07 17:35³ 19:50

Bonar Bridge ↓ 07:10¹ 07:25² 08:07² 11:23
08:25 10:36 09:02 14:17*
13:36¹ 16:10 17:02¹ 17:17
16:55³ 19:10 17:32³ 19:47

Invershin ↓ 07:15¹ 07:30² 08:02² 11:18
08:30 10:41 08:57 14:12*
13:41* 16:15 16:57¹ 17:12
17:00³ 19:15 17:27³ 19:42

Lairg Post Office ↓ 07:27¹ 07:42² 07:50² 11:00
08:42 10:55 08:45 14:00*
13:57* 16:29 16:45¹ 17:00
17:12³ 19:29 17:15³ 19:30

00:00¹ Mon-Fri when Academy is open. 00:00² Mon-Fri when Academy is closed. 00:00 Mon-Sat 00:00³ Mon-Fri 00:00 Does not operate on Fridays when Academy is open. 00:00 Saturday only.

Stagecoach

167 - MON TO FRI

LAIRG → DORNOCH

Lairg Football Ground 07:31 16:42
Invershin o/s Hotel 07:39 16:34
Bonar Bridge Post Office 07:46 16:29 ↑

Ardgay opp Ardgay Hall 07:49 16:26
Ardgay o/s Ardgay Hall 07:59 16:16 ↑

Bonar Bridge o/s Police Station 08:02 16:13
Spinningdale o/s Post Office 08:10 16:05 ↑

Clashmore Telephone Kiosk 08:19 15:56
Dornoch Cathedral Square 08:27 15:40

Bradbury Centre Bus

920 - TUESDAY

Bonar Bridge to Dornoch via Spinningdale

Bonar Bridge Cherry Grove 09:40 10:20
13:30 14:20

Spinningdale Layby at Post Box 09:48 10:12
13:38 14:11

Clashmore Carnegie Hall 09:54 10:06 ↑
13:44 14:05

Dornoch Sq 10:00 10:05
13:50 14:00

920 - WEDNESDAY

Bonar Bridge circular to Dornoch via Spinningdale, Tain & Edderton

Bonar Bridge Cherry Grove 09:30 14:40

Spinningdale Layby at Post Box 09:38 14:31

Clashmore Carnegie Hall 09:54 14:19

Tain Bus stop at Co-Op 10:02 14:08 ↑

Tain Lamington Street 10:04 14:06

Edderton 10:17 13:53

Ardgay 10:39 13:33

Bonar Bridge Cherry Grove 10:42 13:30

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

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

Bookings: 01863 766 772

Mobile Banking

Royal Bank of Scotland



TUESDAY

Bonar Bridge War Memorial
Arrive 12:05 Depart 12:20

Bank of Scotland



TUESDAY

Bonar Bridge War Memorial
Arrive 10:00 Depart 12:00

Puzzles



Sudoku

Easy

Grid n°94540 easy

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

Medium

Grid n°94617 medium

		9					2	
		4		6	8			
2	7					8	6	
						5		
4				3	7			
	5			4	6			
	4					6	8	
5	8		3		4			
						9		

Hard

Grid n°10574 hard

	8			3				
9								
		6						
1			8					
	3	7					4	9
			5	3				6
	1				8		5	
			4		5	9		1
3	4			6	1		7	

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

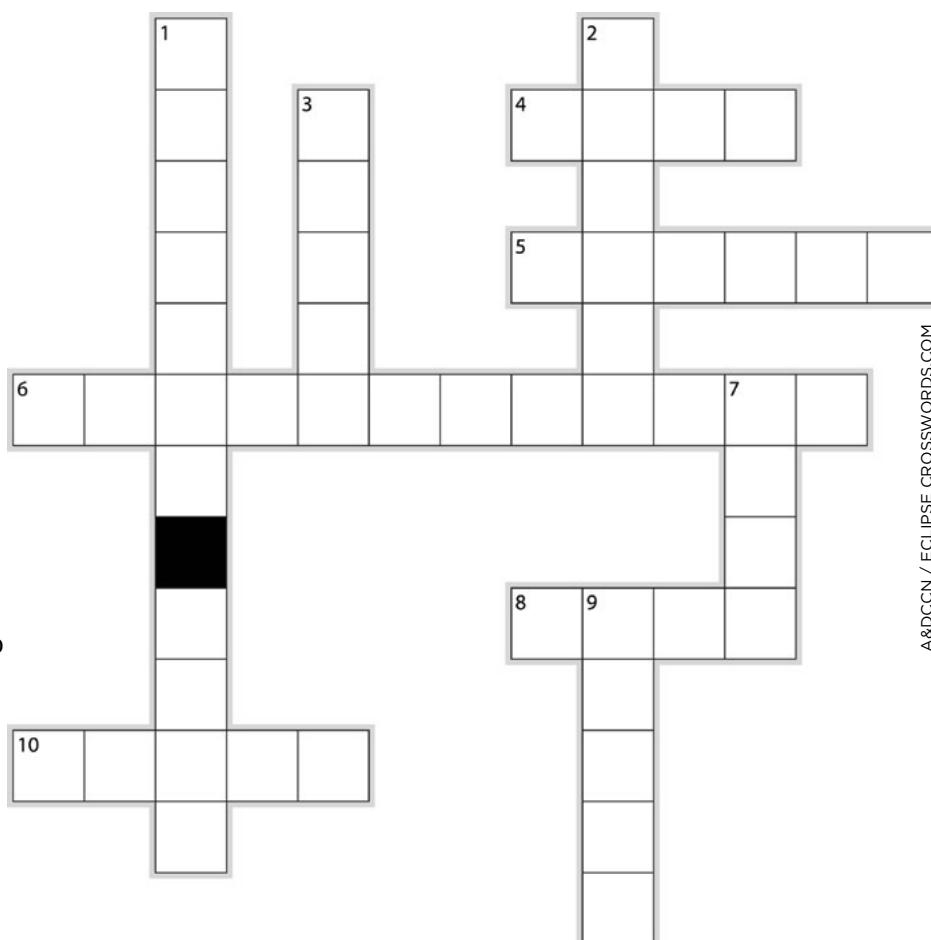
Crossword

Across

4. (*Heraldry*) The leg of an animal (especially a lion) as represented on a coat of arms. **5.** (*Scottish*) A coin of low value. **6.** In a way that it is impossible to disentangle or separate. **8.** A young salmon distinguished by dark rounded patches evenly spaced along its sides. **10.** A dance in triple time performed by a couple, who as a pair turn rhythmically round and round as they progress around the dance floor.

Down

1. (*Two words*) The summit of Ardgay Hill is commonly referred to as... **2.** A tropical fruit shaped like an elongated melon, with edible orange flesh and small black seeds. **3.** One side of something many-sided, especially of a cut gem. **7.** Look or gaze in a lascivious or unpleasant way. **9.** A full-length, sleeveless outer garment worn by Arabs.



A&DCCN / ECLIPSE CROSSWORDS.COM

ARDGAY GARAGE

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

Main dealer warranted servicing



HOURS OF BUSINESS: Monday to Thursday 8:30 - 5:30
Friday 8:30 - 4:30 Saturdays by appointment only



Contact us on Facebook: Ardgay Garage



Invershin Hall

EVENTS IN 2019

Balance Bike & Pedal Bike sessions

**STARTING SATURDAY 19TH JANUARY 2019
FOR A 6 WEEK BLOCK**

In addition we will also be offering **Bike Maintenance sessions** running alongside these sessions. Perfect for keeping your/your child bike in tip top condition! These sessions will be run by Chris at Heaven Bikes. Further info will be on the Invershin Hall's Facebook page and on posters locally.

Family Ceilidh

JANUARY/FEBRUARY (DATE TBC)

Board Games afternoon

JANUARY/FEBRUARY (DATE TBC)

ARDGAY & DISTRICT

Community Council *newsletter*

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ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

Betty Wright (Chairperson), **Silvia Muras** (Vice Chair), **Marion Turner** (Treasurer / Secretary), **Rob Pope, Andy Wright, Dr Buster Crabb, Leslie Pope.**

COUNCILLORS: **Linda Munro, Hugh Morrison, Kirsteen Currie** (*More details on page 8*)

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www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

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Facebook: Ardgay & District Community Council

