World Heritage Site bid for The Flow Country

This exciting project could bring a globally-recognised accolade to the North Highlands and help to preserve this incredible environment for future generations.

This year, The Peatlands Partnership will attempt an important step in the process of securing World Heritage Site status for The Flow Country. In addition to an extensive community consultation, we will submit a technical evaluation to the UK Government, explaining why we feel The Flow deserves to be recognised alongside such illustrious names as The Great Barrier Reef, The Grand Canyon and The Taj Mahal. (Continues on page 7)

The proposed site is home to many bird species, such as these black throated divers.

Declaring a Climate emergency in The Highland Council

Are local authorities responding to the global Climate crisis? Find out how to join a local group to protect the environment Page 4

The ‘Massacre of the Rosses’

Police brutality and sympathetic press in one of the last and harshest clearances in the Highlands, the Greenyard evictions Page 16

The work of the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust Page 8

The Hub has activities for all Page 18

What’s on this Summer near you, including Gala Week events Pages 22-25

Learn about honey bees and how to help them Page 31

36 pages featuring Opening times, Telephone guide, Bus & Train timetable, Sudokus & Crossword
The Community Food Stop

MENU

Sample Menu
11.30am until 2pm
Bonar Bridge Community Hall

Leek and Potato Soup
—00—

Chicken Pie, Roast Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables
—00—

Lemon Meringue Pie and Cream
—00—

Sandwiches/Toasties - Prawn Mayo/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 766190 to order.
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Heritage & children

Natural and historical heritage features prominently in this Summer edition: in an article about the proposed Unesco recognition for the Flow Country, in the Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society news, and in the shocking story of the Greenyards clearances. Children are also key: we can look for activities with them in The Hub and the What’s on pages, as well as finding out what Gledfield Primary pupils have been up to this term. Thank you to all A&DCC contributors (23 to this issue) and to the volunteer distributors who brought this copy to you. I hope you’ll enjoy this issue as much as I do!

Silvia Muras Editor
Ardgay & District News

Declaring a Climate Emergency

After our last meeting in April, Ardgay & District Community Council wrote to the Highland Council urging councillors to declare a state of Climate Change Emergency in Highland.

At the April meeting of the Community Council we discussed the Climate Crisis the world is now facing, and agreed to call on The Highland Council to declare a Climate Emergency which required prompt and decisive action to reduce our Carbon emissions to zero. The Council debated the issue on 9th May when Cllr Davidson, the leader of the Council, put forward a motion seeking member support from across the chamber to declare a state of Climate Change Emergency in Highland. Members voted by a clear majority to form a climate change emergency panel. This follows declarations of Climate Emergency by UK, Scottish and Welsh governments.

Also in the news recently has been the publication of the UK Climate Change Committee report which called on the Government to legislate to reduce Carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 for UK and by 2045 for Scotland. Declarations alone will do nothing, but the good news is that we do not have to wait for governments to take action, there are a lot of organisations (e.g. Friends of the Earth, Centre for Alternative Technology, Greenpeace) giving advice about how we as individuals can reduce our personal carbon footprint – including by reviewing the way and amount we travel, how we heat our homes, the food we eat and the stuff we buy.

As a community we can get involved with exploring ways to address community transport and develop local energy schemes – as mentioned in the report on CARES conference. ■ Betty Wright, Chair Ardgay and District Community Council

Planet Sutherland, new local group to fight Climate change

Are you worried about the planet? Have you given up hope? Before attending a workshop in the Lairg Learning Centre with Arabella and Lynn from The Energy Advice Saving Service (formally with the KOSDT), my answer to both those questions was a definite Yes! Fortunately I came away from the workshop with hope. Hope that there is something we can still do to help. My mind has been sparking with ideas ever since, and it transpires that I’m not alone.

A small group of us are gathering on the 1st June to see what we can do to benefit our wee corner of the earth. Ideas will vary from community veg and fruit trees to plastic recycling ideas and transport improvement and beyond. We’ll also be looking into some fact-finding ventures to determine the truth behind the planetary costs regarding many topics such as meat vs veg and organic vs local. Hopefully we’ll identify many tiny, easy changes that will truly help. Of course, there is much good work being done by many local folks and local businesses already. If you’re already doing something or if you are interested in coming along or hearing more about our wee project, code named “Planet Sutherland”, please do get in touch by emailing planetsutherland1@gmail.com (don’t forget the “1”) ■ Anna Patfield

WHY PLANET SUTHERLAND?
Nature is loaded with fractal shapes. This fern leaf exhibits one of the key characteristics of fractals: self-similarity. Each tiny leaflet is curled into a shape which mimics the larger frond.
A NEW CC FOR ARDGAY & DISTRICT WILL BE FORMED IN NOVEMBER

Community Council Elections 2019

As per the usual four year cycle, elections for all Highland Community Councils are due to take place in Autumn 2019. This is your opportunity to work with other people to represent the views of your community across a wide range of issues, from new buildings and roads to services and facilities, and to make positive changes in your local community.

If you want to find out a bit more about what being a Community Councillor involves, you can contact your ward manager: Phil Tomalin, Ward Manager - Sutherland. Highland Council, Drummie, Golspie KW10 6TA. Tel: 01408 635335 Mob 07747 048776, or phil.tomalin@highland.gov.uk.

If you are interested in becoming a Community Councillor, you can nominate yourself between Tuesday 24th September and Tuesday 8th October. Nomination forms will be available on the Council’s website or from local Service Points. If there are more nominations than places on the CC, then there will be an election ballot in that local area.

Ardgay & District News

Gledfield Mill Pottery

Open Studio

Handmade wood fired pottery

Sunday 7th July 2019
10am-4pm

Gledfield Mill
Ardgay
IV24 3BW
Tel 01863 766270
Glass recycling bins

Now that the potholes on the designated site for the glass recycling bins have been repaired, we expect the Waste Management Office at The Highland Council will be making arrangements to move the glass banks back to the Industrial Estate in the following weeks.

Community and Renewable Energy Scheme conference (CARES)

We attended this conference – Community and Renewable Energy Scheme, part of Local Energy Scotland – on behalf of the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust and the Community Council to learn how communities and businesses throughout Scotland are developing local energy schemes and using the revenue from these to help their local communities.

A number of the projects focused on working towards creating a smart local grid – producing, storing and using electricity locally. This would increase the carbon saving of the project, and realise savings for local residents on their fuel bills.

The revenues from such projects could be used to address local issues such as: Community transport and Fuel poverty.

There are ongoing discussions with local energy developers about shared ownership of their proposed schemes which could bring these ideas to reality – exciting times!

Betty & Andy Wright

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

HOW TO CONTACT
ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

By phone
01863 766 100 (Marion Turner, Secretary)

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

Email
secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Website
www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Facebook
Ardgay & District Community Council

Drop-in Sessions
We will be holding clinics from 1 to 4 pm at the Ardgay Stores on the following dates:
13th JULY, 10th AUGUST & 14th SEPTEMBER
Please stop by for a cup of tea/coffee and chat.

In person
Ardgay Public Hall, at 7 pm. Next meetings:
12th AUGUST
14th OCTOBER

COUNCILLORS NORTH, WEST & CENTRAL SUTHERLAND
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MP CAITHNESS, SUTHERLAND & EASTERN ROSS
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The Flow Country, proposed World Heritage Site

(Starts on front page)

The proposed Flow Country World Heritage Site straddles Caithness and Sutherland, lying at the heart of one of the largest areas of blanket bog in the world. This globally rare habitat includes a wide range of peatland vegetation, bog pools and of course many important bird species.

The Flow Country is considered the best habitat of its type, anywhere in the world. It is the quality and extent of the blanket bog that gives this site outstanding universal value and justifies its current position on the UK's tentative list for World Heritage Site status. The peat throughout this remarkable ecosystem records the history of the plants, animals and people who have made this region their home for thousands of years.

In addition to being a globally-rare type of peatland, blanket bog has been recognised as an important habitat for the environmental services it provides. The blanket bog of The Flow Country stores an incredible amount of carbon (400 million tonnes!) and healthy blanket bog continuously removes carbon from our atmosphere. These peatlands also act as a natural filtration system for the rivers and streams that run off it; thus, providing cleaner waters for our fish and other aquatic wildlife.

**BENEFITS FOR THE AREA**

A World Heritage Site is quite different to some of the existing environmental designations in the north of The Highlands and could bring some very unique benefits. These benefits include branding opportunities for local producers and accommodation providers; educational resources for local students of all ages; modest increases in heritage and eco-tourism and the potential to leverage more money for peatland restoration and other agri-environment.

We feel strongly that involving local people and businesses in this project is the best way to bring about a World Heritage Site which brings benefits to everyone, which is why we are taking The Flow Country World Heritage Site on tour! We are currently part way through an extensive community consultation, which will see us holding fifteen drop-in sessions around Caithness and Sutherland. In addition to this, we will also hold three big events from the 5th-7th July in Lairg, Thurso and Inverness respectively, which will consist of three fascinating talks from world-class speakers.

Throughout this period it will also be possible to give your feedback through our website, at: http://www.theflowcountry.org.uk/world-heritage-site/ or through The Highland Council’s Consultation portal at: https://highland-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/environment/flow_country_whs/flow_country_whs.

**Joe Perry,** Project Coordinator
Flow Country World Heritage Site Working Group
A

s you will be aware,
as a result of Scots-
tish Government
budget cuts, KoSDT have
been unsuccessful in our
bid to the Climate Chal-
lenge Fund (CCF) to con-
tinue to deliver The Ener-
gy Advice Service (TEAS)
across Sutherland, despite
the application being rec-
ommended for approval.
This has resulted in the
loss of the service and the
loss of three highly valued
members of staff.

CCF is the Scottish fund
set up to tackle climate
change through reducing
local carbon emissions.
However, the budget to
support new projects
through the CCF was cut
from £5 million last year to
£2 million this year. Only
22 schemes were funded in
2019, compared to 65 in
2018. 43 projects, includ-
ing the application from
KoSDT, that were recom-
mended for approval by an
independent panel, were
not funded. This is despite
repeated declarations from
Scottish Government that
we are in the midst of a cli-
mate emergency.

On-going public sec-
tor cuts, such as this, have
changed the funding land-
scape considerably in re-
cent times. Historically,
one in three Third Sector
funding applications were
successful; that statistic
is now one in twenty! It is
clear that public sector in-
vestments are now much
harder to secure. This has
a knock-on effect for other
funding pots such as local
community benefit funds
secured from local Wind
Farms. The availability of
community benefit fund-
ing is more competitive
than ever, meaning that
there are inevitably going
to be more disappoint-
ments as the funds do not
have the ability to support
all applications.

With current political
uncertainty, we have to face
the reality that KoSDT, just
as any other charity, social
enterprise and small busi-
ness in the country will
have to be fit for purpose
and ensure that it remains
sustainable in the future.
This will undoubtedly have
effect on KoSDT and the
number of staff members
it can employ. In October
of 2018, after a sustained peri-
od of growth, the Trust was
employing 17 members of
staff. However, funding for
14 of the 17 staff members
was unsecured past June
2019. Therefore, there is a
realisation that employing
17 staff was extraordinary
and, whilst it should, of
course, be applauded, but
it will be unlikely to be the
norm as we move forwards.

We have already lost
three staff members as a
result of not securing CCF
funding; three other mem-
bers of staff have moved on
to more secure opportuni-
ties as their contracts were
running down. We are now
in the process of re-applying
to the Scottish Govern-
ment for funding to con-
tinue with provision of the
Community Foodstop and
Keep Active Together Pro-
gramme. These projects
support one full-time and
two part-time staff mem-
bers. The funding bid will
be submitted in June and

“There is a need
to move the Trust
onto a more
sustainable,
long-term footing
to ensure that we
continue to deliver
for the community
in years to come”

although, we are confident
of being successful, the les-
sons learned from our un-
successful application to
the climate challenge fund
mean that we also have to
be realistic that the invest-
ment may not be secured.

This would be another
huge blow to KoSDT and
the area that we support.
However, the Board have
made it clear that they
wish to proceed with the
Foodstop, come what may,
as this is a valuable service
that needs to continue to
deliver in our community.

We are looking at viable al-
ternatives.

Given this, there is a
need to move the Trust
onto a more sustainable,
long-term footing to en-
sure that we continue to be
able to deliver for the com-
unity in years to come. To
do this we are looking at
generating income in other
ways such as consultancy
services, community own-
ership of renewable energy
generation and through a
community endowment
fund.

At the same time, we
will continue to assist and
develop projects which will
deliver long-term sustaina-
ble growth that strengthen
the local community and
make a difference to the
lives of local people. We
will, of course, also con-
tinue our work in facilitat-
ing other organisations to
thrive. Indeed, in May and
June alone, KoSDT will
have submitted six funding
applications to help de-
liver community projects,
secure jobs and help with
communication within the
area.

Please feel free to drop
into the Trust offices at The
Barn, Ardgay at any time to
discuss ideas, existing and
new projects, how to get
more involved, or just to
gain a better idea of what
we do and how we do it.

Here’s to a sustainable
future.
Scotland’s wild salmon population is in crisis. Levels of wild salmon are at their lowest level since records began in 1952. 2019 is the ‘International Year of the Salmon’ and salmon conservation must become a national priority. We are proposing a Salmon Netting project on the Kyle aimed at combining aspects of both heritage and the gathering of scientific information that will contribute to the management of the species locally.
National Advice available at a local level for Universal Credit and Financial Health Checks

East & Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau have now two advisers in the Multi-Channel Hub, prepared to help citizens with these claims and checks.

A new national telephone and webchat advice service is being delivered by 39 Citizens Advice Bureaux all across Scotland and East & Central Sutherland CAB are delighted to be involved, employing 2 people locally to help deliver the service. The Multi-Channel Hub will provide help if you need help to make a new Universal Credit claim or if you would like a Financial Health Check.

The Help to Claim line is there if you're thinking about claiming Universal Credit for the first time. Advisers can talk you through creating a new email address, preparing for a work coach appointment, sorting evidence for a claim and finding internet access and these are just a few of the things that we can assist you with.

A Financial Health Check can help you if you are struggling to make money last or worried about how to pay the bills. We can check if you're receiving the money that you are entitled to and also look to make sure you aren't paying over the odds for services.

The service offers national telephone helplines and a web chat service, giving you an opportunity to ask a quick question or receive some guidance regarding making a universal credit claim. We can also refer you to your local Citizens Advice Bureau to arrange a face to face appointment, ensuring you can get face to face support when needed.

The service opens at 8 am and once we've logged in we will be put into a national queue were we might receive either a Help to Claim call or a Financial Health Check call.

The call/webchat that we take could come from anywhere in Scotland as it is a national helpline so our 'Find your local bureau' tool comes in very handy. Some queries may only be just a quick question like wanting to know the website that they need to access to claim universal credit. Others may require step by step help completing the claim online or we could even refer them to their local bureau so that they can attend a face to face appointment.

Once the telephone call or web chat is finished we update our case recording system so that all the details of the conversation are logged in case the client needs to phone back.

After that it's then back into the queue waiting for the next contact. No call/webchat is ever the same so it really keeps the job interesting and very rewarding being able to make people feel more at ease when making a new Universal Credit claim or helping people to save money through a financial health check. — Steven Sinclair, Multi-Channel Hub Adviser

How to access the services

To contact the national services use the details below:

HELP TO CLAIM LINE: 08000 232 581
FINANCIAL HEALTH CHECK LINE: 08000 857 145

Both lines are open from 8:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday
Alternatively the web chat can be accessed by going onto www.cas.org.uk/helptoclaim and clicking on the chat with us icon. Web Chat is also available from 8:00 - 18:00 Monday to Friday

To contact East & Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau:
☎ 01408 633 000
✉ advice@esvas.casonline.org.uk

Steven Sinclair, Multi-Channel Hub Adviser.
Financial Health Check

A Financial Health Check (FHC) is a completely free and confidential service which begins with a full benefits check to determine whether you are in receipt of all benefits you are entitled to; 500,000 Scots are not claiming what they have a right to claim. We can also look into any grants or exemptions which you may not be aware of and consider what you are currently paying on your utility bills and insurances with a view to accessing cheaper deals and saving you money. A search for the best deals available is done using various comparison sites; one client has saved almost £500 each year by switching their electricity supplier, telephone contract and home insurance.

A typical day in the life of a FHC adviser can vary from a day in the Golspie office working with individuals and families, to heading out into the community introducing this new service to local groups and organisations. Home visits are also available for anyone with an illness or disability that prevents them from attending the office or an outreach clinic.

Working with community groups has been very successful. This involves speaking with those in attendance and allowing for discussion within the group around the topic of where money can be made and saved. If somewhere suitable is available, benefit checks can be carried out at this time getting the FHC process started. If you are involved with a local group or organisation and feel that a FHC be of benefit to you and your members please contact the office and an appointment can be made for a group visit.

Contacting your local FHC adviser couldn’t be easier. Simply call the East & Central Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau on 01408 633000 to book an appointment or email: advice@ecscab.org.uk.

Melanie Bell, Financial Health Check Adviser
Volunteers needed for Ardgay Public Hall

As the poet would have it - Hope springs eternal in the human breast. But what is hope?

According to my dictionary, Hope is an optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one’s life or the world at large.

It’s also the necessary mindset of the hall committee every time a grant application is submitted on behalf of Ardgay Hall.

At the time of writing the outcomes of the two current applications are still awaited. The first concerns the renovation of the car park wall and the second the funding of a professional architect to enable the essential refurbishment and insulation of the Ladies and Disabled toilets; a project which in itself will inevitably entail further funding applications to ensure its completion.

So, what can you do to help keep your hall committee hopeful?

Every funding application, like the successful submission to the Beinn nan Oighrean fund which recently enabled the renovation of the Carron Place fire escape path, has to include at least a small element of self-generated finance. Could you help at fund-raising events like the biennial auction on 14th June or the annual Christmas Fair in November? Or, do you have any fresh ideas for other events which would help boost the hall funds, so that the committee has the resources to hopeful submit future applications and continue the building refurbishments?

If so, all you have to do is contact any committee member, that’s David Hannah (Chairman) , Rhonwen Copley (Treasurer), Fiona Venters (Booking Secretary), Jockie Hewitt and Silvia Muras (committee Members), or, just come along to any management meeting, they are always advertised in the hall, on the village notice boards and via the hall Facebook page.

And finally, don’t forget to look out for the October AGM notices – date yet to be confirmed. The committee continue to remain hopeful that many of you will attend this meeting to comment on what has / has not been achieved over the last twelve months and at least have your say about what is hoped will be achieved in 2020. Not to mention hoping that you would also like to help by volunteering to join the committee too. ■ Rhonwen Copley, Secretary

Bank of Scotland services

At the recent Lloyds Banking Group AGM in Edinburgh on the 26th May 2019 I tackled the Board with their move that customers should use the Post Office where their local bank branch has gone.

This is all very well if you have a Post Office to go to. In Scourie, for instance, the Post Office is no longer. The next PO is at Kinlochbervie, some 15 miles away. In Brora there is no permanent Post Office, as it closed when the shopkeeper retired, and the Post Office sends a mobile unit twice a week. The Government in Westminster is happy to say that the furthest a customer is from a post office is no more that three miles.

Why not pop in for tea and chat on a Tuesday morning to the Village Hall between 10-12 noon, while the Bank of Scotland mobile unit is in operation? Cheques will soon be able to be scanned and sent to the Bank via one phone App. ■ Michael Baird

MSP praises local children

In a letter received by the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust last May, Scottish Minister Mairi Gougeon MSP thanked Sutherland children for their Climate change postcards submitted by Lynn Munro, from the Energy Advice Service.

She said, “I am really pleased to see so many young people showing that they care passionately about protecting the planet and the local environment. I was interested in the many ideas and opinions the pupils have on how climate change might impact Sutherland and what can be done to help.” ■
Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society with Bonar Bridge History Group update

Easter 2019 and the Society’s 20th Art Exhibition took place. Some 30 artists mounted over 100 pictures and supplied cards and prints. Some of the artists too came to act as stewards and the committee are most grateful for their assistance. Thanks too are extended to the two visitors who arrived to see the church and helped to dismantle the exhibition.

An evening of poetry reading was held early in April, and was enjoyed by those present. (Some poems were new even to me!) An evening of music was provided by Veda (violin) and John (piano) in May.

Our June events have yet to be confirmed. One is to be either a Sunday lunch or evening at the Crannag bistro by invitation of the proprietors. Numbers are limited so names please to Valerie who will hopefully have more information soon.

On the 2nd of July there will be an evening with Sean Robertson of the Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Board about a joint project he wishes to undertake - collaboration will be needed to fulfill the work. All interested will be most welcome.

On July 17th at 7:30pm, Sarah Horne, daughter of the late Dr & Mrs MacGregor of Craigdhu, Bonar Bridge will be speaking of one of her ancestors, a niece of prison reformer Elizabeth Fry.

An evening of Scottish ceilidh dancing with some demonstrations and music (date to be confirmed) Tuesday 3rd September, “One Man’s War”, on the 80th Anniversary of the start of WWII. Not much of the fighting but the people and places and the backdrop of five years in Africa - and beyond.

And October, during the Archeology Festival a “Round Table” open to all to bring photos, letters, etc about the area or the family to share.

All meetings are open to the general public, residents and visitors alike (except the visit to The Crannag) and entry is by donation. • Valerie Mackenzie-Harris

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Booking & enquiries:
(Silvia) 01863 766 690
ardgaynewsletter@gmail.com

Next edition: 15 Sept.
Ardgay & District News

Tulloch Road Land

KoSDT had previously been granted planning permission to build three units of affordable housing on the land that the Trust owns next to the Post Office in Bonar Bridge. However, after exploring this further it has become clear that the business case does not stack up, so the Trust will not proceed with this project. This means that the site will be put on the market as a self-build plot with a rural housing burden. Any funds that are raised from the sale of the land will be used for the development of community assets. If you are interested in purchasing the land, please contact Valerie Houston at valerie@kyleofsutherland.co.uk.

Funding Announcement

KoSDT has recently been awarded £21,250 of ‘CARES’ funding from Local Energy Scotland to help us secure financial and legal advice that will help us to explore future opportunities for community ownership of renewable energy projects.

KoSDT Office Services

It is now possible to rent a ‘Hot Desk’ in The Barn (open plan) office space on certain days of the week. Please contact valerie@kyleofsutherland.co.uk if you would like to book a slot.

Notes:
- Half Day Slots: AM – 8:30am – 12:30pm, PM 1pm – 5pm
- Desk Rental includes Power and Guest Wi-Fi.
- Printing costs are over and above rental costs.
- Subject to availability!

HOT DESK TARIFF

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* Prices Ex VAT.

Playpark Developments

Earlier this year it was reported that The Highland Council had planned to close the children’s play park in Carnmhor Road in Bonar Bridge because the equipment was deemed to be unsafe. KoSDT has been communicating with the Highland Council to find ways to retain the facility without taking ownership of the site, and we have been seeking quotes to make improvements to the park. Funding still needs to be sourced to allow this to move forward. In the meantime, KoSDT has been contracted by Edderton Village Hall committee to redevelop its existing play park over the summer months. Funding for this project was secured by the Hall committee from Leader, Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm, Ward Discretionary Fund and Balblair Distillery.
Ardgay & District News

A new face at the Community Food Stop

Over the summer months the Community Food Stop in Bonar Bridge Hall will have a student based at the café as part of a ‘Food, Poverty and Social Exclusion Internship Project’ which is a partnership between the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and the University of Edinburgh.

The project (funded by the Scottish Government) has created internship opportunities for nine students to undertake a piece of research to develop an understanding of the impact and value of their host, third sector organisation’s work conducted around food, poverty and social exclusion.

Lee McNeish, the student who has been placed with KoSDT said, “The Community Food Stop caught my attention because I have a strong belief in the importance of food as a foundation to bring people together and as a starting point to address social issues, especially loneliness and isolation.” The Trust looks forward to welcoming Lee – please feel free to come and chat to him if you come to the Café!

Plot for Sale

Tulloch Road, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EF
O. I. R. O £30,000

Planning Permission Granted
Set in centre of Bonar Bridge with good facilities close by
Rural Housing Burden applies once sold

Contact Us | 01863 766190 or valerie@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

Views across the Kyle

Photocopying Prices
May 2017

Black and White

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Price on request for bulk copying.
The Massacre of the Rosses

Ten years after the Glencalvie clearance, when the interest of the press in the “Highland problem” was beginning to wane, Donald Ross published a pamphlet describing in detail the brutality some 40 policemen used against women in the Greenyards eviction in Strathcarron.

The violence and brutality following the tenants' resistance to the evictions in Greenyards surpassed any reported cases at the time. Donald Ross, a lawyer in Glasgow who had been particularly active reporting the Highland clearances in the press, came to Strathcarron a few days after the events. He interviewed witnesses and victims, and even collected pieces of evidence on the spot. His detailed descriptions of the injuries and his account of the conduct of the constables was deemed to be “incredible” even for his own (radical) newspaper, the Northern Ensign.

After the editors modified to a large extent one of Ross' articles, he decided to publish a pamphlet called “The Russians of Ross-shire, the massacre of the Rosses”. Here he gave the full account of twenty cases with graphic descriptions of their beatings and injuries, a harrowing read.

**DELAYED EVICTION**

The story began when in 1842 James Gillanders placed an advertisement stating that farms were to be let as sheep walks on the estates of Greenyard and Glencalvie. The Glencalvie clearances followed, with a correspondent to The Times reporting on the improvised refugee camp at Croick churchyard. The case of the evicted Highlanders attracted great sympathy from Press and readers all over the country.

The Greenyards evictions were postponed to avoid unwanted interest. According to John Prebble, Gillanders had been planning clearing the property one tenant at a time (there were only four tenants but close to 400 people in total). It was hoped to execute the evictions quietly and efficiently within four years. However, he had been busy with his own marriage to the landlord’s daughter, and forgotten to start procedures.

Gillanders, the landlord law-maker Steward and the tacksman Alexander Munro met secretly in Tain and decided to clear the property in early 1854. Munro was confronted by his sub-tenants, but he denied any intention of clearing Greenyards. The Sheriff tried to deliver the summons twice, and in both occasions his
The story of Grace Ross

Stephen Fisk, on his website abandonedcommunities.co.uk narrates the ordeal of the victims. One of them was Grace Ross, aged 21, from Cawdearg, well known for her ‘good conduct and amiable disposition’. “She was watching as a spectator when a policeman struck her a savage blow with his baton on her forehead. She collapsed immediately. The blow caused a cut four inches long, exposed the skull, shattered the frontal bone, and carried into the fissures pieces of the cap that was on her head. For a few minutes Grace lay unconscious, but then she tried to crawl away towards a wood. The police noticed her, and started beating her again on the back and shoulders. She ran into the river and stood there with the water up to her waist. Eventually the police moved away from her, and she came out of the river, falling prostrate on the bank. People on the northern bank held hands and waded across towards her. They carried her across the river and took her back to Cawdearg. Grace Ross subsequently made a good recovery. She married and brought up a family, and lived at Cawdearg for the rest of her life. She died on 1913, a month before her 82nd birthday. One of her descendants, Alastair McIntyre, Grace’s great grandson, still lives there today. He told me that Grace used to demonstrate her injury by placing a button in the depression on top of her head.”

In the end, only two people were charged and they both plead guilty to a breach of the peace: Anne Ross (12 months prison) and Peter Ross alias Bain (18 months hard labour). Peter Ross was not present at Fearnaich but was charged for the “Gauger Affair”. The court case ended quickly and quietly. There was no public uproar, and by mid 1850s, the public opinion had shifted to the Crimean War. “Where are the Highlanders?” was asking the Press, when the recruitment for this war failed miserably in the Highlands. “Across the Atlantic, feeding the strength of other lands”, Donad Ross would answer bitterly. 

Silvia Muras
The Hub, activities for all ages

Do you know what goes on behind the doors of the Kyle of Sutherland’s very own Rainbow? There’s a lot more than meets the eye!

As a registered charity and social enterprise, we are a not-for-profit organisation that continuously aims to reinvest in services and facilities that meet the needs of all community members, our outlying neighbours, and tourists who bring in much needed income to the whole area. The Hub is voluntary managed by a small group of dedicated locals, a wonderful staff team of 8 employees, 7 brilliant casual employees and over 19 priceless volunteers ranging in age from 12 to 73.

Being situated in a remote rural area with a small population the project is working hard to reach sustainability, although with huge costs and limited income this is very difficult, and so we rely heavily on external funding to meet core running costs and provide the wonderful array of activities we do as well as investing in things like resurfacing the car park and entrance area to the industrial estate.

So just how much investment has The Hub attracted to the area and what exactly does it support?

In 2018 the Hub secured £181,561.33 of external funding. Some of this covers a period of 2-3 years, some is for revenue and some for particular projects. All of it is awarded with belief in our project and the communities we serve.

The National Lottery Community Fund, Tudor Trust, The Foyle Foundation, Hugh Fraser Foundation and Aspiring Communities Fund (the Scottish Government) have been our lifeline funders during 2018 with commitments continuing from some into 2019 and 2020. As a fledgling project, with annual running costs in excess of £150,000 per annum, without these funders we simply couldn’t have continued operating. They support staff costs, utilities and give us the breathing space to research and develop new ideas.

After School/Weekend and Holiday Clubs

In January with funding secured from the Aspiring Communities Fund along with an Assistant Manager we were able to recruit a playworker. This has hugely impacted on what we have been able to offer at the Hub to the Primary age group as well as allowing us to maintain the services that had started some time ago on “The Bus”. Since starting we have offered over 143 different activities including weekend clubs and an action-packed Easter Holiday activity program. It is thanks to the ACF and Beinn Tharsuinn that we can offer these activities for free making them accessible to all children irrespective of circumstances.

Reach for the Stars is a three-year program of activity for 3 year olds and under. These classes help parents to learn skills that they can
replicate at home and mix with other parents reducing the isolation that can come with living in a rural community. Some of the classes we have offered so far through The Cattanach Fund are “Sing & Sign”, “Reflexology” and “ante natal yoga”. Additionally, we have provided “Messy Play” sessions at two local playgroups.

**YOUTH CAFÉ**
In November we ran our first Youth Café for young people of Secondary School age. Every other Saturday evening the multi-use room is turned into a funky lit, eatery with music. The young people are given food, smoothies and an activity. These have included a magician, nerf wars, quizzes, mocktails with the Wild Highland Drinks Co and other fun games. Coming up we have alcohol awareness activities and self-defence. This project runs until November 2019 and is growing each week in popularity. A model of how to engage, reduce isolation and increase cohesion amongst this age group it has simply been brilliant. These cafés are free for the youths to attend thanks to the “Scotch Whisky Action Fund” and lots of willing volunteers.

Also, for this age group we have youth gym supported by the Hub, youth Clubs supported by Highland Highlife and Youth Scotland.

There are so many projects it is impossible to list them all but a few are flower arranging and cookery supported by the Lairg Learning Centre, a mother’s day afternoon tea supported by Christians together. As well as these projects the Hub has been able to secure and bring to the area instructors providing Kempo, Boogie Bounce, Yoga, Insanity and HIIT step.

**SO, WHAT’S COMING UP**
At present we are focusing our fund-raising efforts on employment for a full-time fitness instructor and coordinator. Many of you have said that you would like more help in the gym at times that we can not currently meet with existing staff, and more exercise classes. We have listened and are trying our hardest. Unfortunately, we had the application refused by a funder recently, but fingers crossed another one will see the benefit to the community and the broad positive effects it will have.

We have an action-packed fun filled Summer program for 0-18 year olds and have been busy in the café developing new healthy summer tasty treats.

We wouldn’t be motivated, existing, and able to carry on without you the lovely people who use and support the Hub, we hope you enjoy your visits. If you haven’t been in, pop in there is always someone to show you around this amazing project we are so lucky to have. If you would like to get involved – even for just an hour or two – please don’t hesitate to get in touch using the details below or just pop in for a chat.

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**Cancellation of Invercharron Highland Games**

Unfortunately the Invercharron Highland Games committee has had to take the decision that the games will no longer be taking place.

It had been hoped to run the games this year with a small but determined Committee. However, due to personal circumstances the size of the committee has now dwindled to a level that means that it is impossible to carry out the planning, organising and fund raising that is required in the months preceding the games to deliver a successful games.

It had been hoped that the games would take place in Bonar Bridge this year with a view to creating more interest in the games from the local community, however this has not been possible. In line with its constitution the assets of the games will be frozen and be made available if a new committee is established to resurrect the games.

The games committee would like to thank past committee members, volunteers, judges and sponsors for all their past efforts and local landowners for their provision and more recently offers of land on which to hold the games. For further information e-mail: mail@invercharrongames.co.uk

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Carol Shaw, Co-manager
Kyle of Sutherland Hub

01863 769 170

www.kyleofsutherland.com

jan.burdett@kyleofsutherland.com

carol.shaw@kyleofsutherland.com

Kyle of Sutherland Hub

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**Easter Club**

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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: 12 August 2019 & 14 October 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: 12 August & 14 October 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: 31 October 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: 31 October 2019

Summary of Awards made by Achany Community Fund in year 9
List of awards from SSE Achany Community Fund from January 2018-January 2019

Year 9 has seen the panel make decisions on the Achany Community Fund, Kyle of Sutherland Apprenticeship Scheme and E.ON’s Rosehall fund. The panel have had to make some difficult decisions, with a visible reduction in funding opportunities, the number of applications and especially those from organisations based out-with the areas of benefit of the fund. The panel consists of 12 members representing the three community councils which make up the Area of Benefit for Achany wind farm (Ardgay & District, Creich and Lairg). In 2018 SSE, as the developer of the Achany Wind Farm, contributed £93,547.30 into the main Achany Fund.

- **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust**
  Contribution to Development manager post for two years
  £80,000.00
  - **Lairg Community Association**
    Contribution towards equipment for Community Centre to operate as a wedding venue
    £6,000.00
  - **KOSAS**
    Apprenticeship funding from variable sum
    £19,000.00
  - **Culrain and District Hall**
    Towards structural survey and Architectural services
    £10,000.00
  - **Lairg and District Community Initiative**
    Development Officer Post
    £17,500.00
  - **Edinburgh International Science Festival**
    Science workshops within local primary schools
    £2,000.00
Success of #DigitalKyle

More than 80 people attended the wide programme of events organised locally by the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.

Inspired by Safer Internet Day 2019, KoSDT teamed up with several organisations including Highlands & Islands Enterprise, SCVO One Digital, Police Scotland, University of the Highlands and Islands STEM Hub, Mhor Collective, Highland Wireless, Brora Rangers Youth Initiative, Google, and Business Gateway to curate a series of free digital themed events that took place throughout February and March at the Kyle of Sutherland Hub.

Over 80 people took part in the programme, with the events being targeted at different age groups, with the aim of raising awareness about cyber security risks for both families and businesses – but also to help increase digital participation so that people of all ages could enhance their digital skills, use online resources to support and market their businesses and to have fun too!

Lynsey Gilmour from Edderton, whose children took part in the UHI STEM Hub workshops said, “My children both had a fantastic time at the workshop. It was really accessible for different levels of learning need, and being really hands on kept the kids engaged throughout. We’d definitely recommend the workshops, and I’m fact I’m hoping to arrange one for my Rainbow and Brownie Units next term.”

Bonar Bridge Ardgay Golf Club Board Member Terry Jones attended the ‘Digital Storytelling’ workshop run by Mhor Collective. He commented, “It was a very good interactive course aimed at folk with some or no knowledge of digital communications and digital concepts. The course was well structured and run. The venue was ideal. Worth attending if you need these skills…”

In the future KoSDT aims to work with partner organisations to run similar programmes to explore different themes that will be of interest to Kyle of Sutherland residents. ● Kirstin Langlois

‘Am Bratach’ magazine closed following May edition

The board of North West Sutherland Council for Community Action, publishers of Am Bratach, announced the closure of the magazine in the May issue. In its editorial “Final curtain falls on Am Bratach” the board explained, “Following a decision made in April, the publication will be wound up after the May edition. Thanks are due to the many readers, subscribers, advertisers and contributors who have supported the magazine over almost twenty-eight years of continuous publication. Am Bratach was first published in November 1991.” [...] “Over the years, Am Bratach attracted a varied and loyal readership, each of whom, as John MacDonald describes, had their “priority article” when opening the magazine. One subscriber, journalist Kirsty Gunn, publicly praised the range and quality of writing on offer in Am Bratach in a column published by The Scotsman in March 2018. “It’s a full afternoon of engaged reading and, in its way, as absorbing as The New Yorker or Scottish Review of Books, other journals I take,” she wrote, a generous tribute.”

An article published in The Northern Times on the 18th May reported that the publishers [...] have given the departure of their editor as the reason for the “reluctant” decision to close it down. ●
What’s on in the area

**7 JULY**

**Pottery Studio Open Day**
Gleedfield Mill, Ardgay, 10am - 4pm
Come along and visit the pottery and see what we do. Pottery items for sale and free tea/coffee and home bakes available. You can also enjoy a walk by the River Carron. 10am to 4pm.

**20 JUNE**

**Gearrchoille AGM**
Gearrchoille Community Wood committee AGM, followed by illustrated talk by Ross Watson of The Woodland Trust. Teas / coffees: £1

**2 JULY**

**Salmon netting on the Kyle**
Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries in association with Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society & Bonar Bridge History Group. Scotland’s wild salmon population is at its lowest level since records began in 1952. Salmon conservation must become a national priority. The Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries are proposing a Salmon Netting project on the Kyle aimed at combining aspects of both heritage and the gathering of scientific information that will contribute to the management of the species locally.

**13 JULY**

**Three Gardens near Dornoch**

**13 JULY**

**Tain Highland Gathering**
A traditional Highland Gathering with all the usual events - Highland Dancing, Piping, Track & Field Events, Cycling, and, of course, the Heavies - see the Heavies compete in a special Caber event where they attempt to turn one of the longest and heaviest Cabers in the Games circuit! Local Events commence 11am - Open Events from 2pm. Entry - Adults £6.00; Under 16 £2.50, Car Park £2, Programme £1. Toddlers free

**9 JULY**

**Yoga**
With Yoga Up North. Monthly beginners class on Hatha yoga in our beautiful restaurant surrounded by nature. Learn simple asanas (yoga postures) and pranayama (breathing exercises) which help bring peace to the mind and body. 6pm-7.30pm, second Tuesday of every month, tickets £10 (can be paid on the door).

**18 JUNE**

**Red Squirrel Adventures**
What’s on in the area

**From MOY ESTATE, INVERNESS, 10AM - 5.30PM**

**Highland Field Sports Fair**

Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd August. Full range of activities, including Pipe Bands, Birds of Prey demonstration, Tug of War, Gundog and Fishing demonstrations, pets parade, Foxhounds and Terrier racing, freestyle mountain bike stunt teams, Pony Rides. Tickets: £15 per adult, Under 16’s Free. Includes free car parking & a complimentary programme per car.

**Sutherland Show**

DORNOCH, 7.30 PM

**20 JULY**

Sutherland Agricultural Show is a great day out for all the family with plenty to see and do including the trade stands, main ring of entertainment, sheep, cattle, horses and ponies, poultry, dog show, flower and vegetables and food and crafts. Well behaved dogs are welcome on leads. Adults: £8. Children (5-14)/concessions: £5. Under 5s: free. Family ticket: £18. Parking free. Saturday night marque dance – 9pm start. Tickets: £10

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**Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week 2019**

**BONAR BRIDGE, ARDGAY, CULRAIN, INVERSHIN & ROSEHALL AREAS**

**Lots of Fun Family Events for Everyone**

**Saturday 10th August - Sunday 18th August**

**SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST**

Fruit & Veg Show, Queen Crowning and Tipsy Tea Party.

**SUNDAY 11TH AUGUST**

Raft Race and Car Treasure Hunt.

**MONDAY 12TH AUGUST**


**TUESDAY 13TH AUGUST**

Flower Festival & Pancake Day, Sing & Sign, Arts & Crafts and Pet Show.

**WEDNESDAY 14TH AUGUST**

Flower Festival, Bug Hunt, Soup & Sweet, Kids Film, Clay Pigeon Shoot and Whist Drive.

**THURSDAY 15TH AUGUST**

Flower Festival, Arts & Crafts, Earthtime, Wheelbarrow & Space-hopper Race and Bingo.

**FRIDAY 16TH AUGUST**

Arts & Crafts, Family afternoon: BBQ, Bouncy Castle & Games, Darts Night and Ceilidh

**SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST**

Duck Crafts, Race & BBQ, Youth Cafe, Pub Quiz & Grand Raffle Draw.

**SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST**

The Big Tea Party

*(All events are subject to change)*

See Programme (coming soon) will be available in local shops and from the Committee members for 50p.

www.spanglefish.com/kyleofsutherlandgalaweek/

Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week

See Programme (coming soon) or email elizasteven@hotmail.com for a copy.
What’s on in the area

**BONAR BRIDGE HALL, 7:30 PM**

**The Seer**

Brought to you by Sutherland Sessions. Commissioned in 2017 by Fèis Rois and premiered at Celtic Connections, ‘The Seer’ is a 45 min suite of new music based on the life and prophecies of 17th Century prophet, The Brahan Seer. Growing up on the Black Isle, acclaimed fiddler and composer Lauren MacColl has long been immersed in the tales of this ‘Highland Nostradamus’, stories deeply embedded in the aural culture of the north. Lauren’s music is accompanied by images from artist Somhairle MacDonald. The accompanying album was shortlisted for both Album of the Year and Composer of the Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards. Tickets: Adults £12 / £10 concession. Under 12s free. Tickets available on eventbrite.co.uk

**NORTHERN MEETING PARK, INVERNESS**

**Madness**

The original Nutty Boys, back together with all their greatest hits, including ‘Baggy Trousers’ and ‘It Must Be Love’. They are Britain’s most successful chart band in music history, having had over 30 top twenty singles. Despite their impressive back catalogue, Madness continue to record new material and released the critically acclaimed studio albums ‘The Liberty Of Norton Folgate’ and ‘Oui Oui Si Si Ja Ja Da Da’ in recent years and ‘Can’t Touch Us Now’ in 2016. At 6 pm. £42.90. Tickets: www.ticketmaster.co.uk

**ARDGAY PUBLIC HALL, 8 PM**

**Queen Dance - Penny Lane**

Organised by the Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week. Meet this year’s Gala Queen at the Queen Dance! After the success of last year’s vote, the committee are repeating the local voting options: an online vote and a voting box in a local shop. Voting closes on 22nd June. The top 3 will be announced and PennyLane will decide on the Gala Queen at the Queen Dance. £10 Admission. BYOB. Over 16s only (ID required)

**BONAR BRIDGE HALL, 8 PM**

**Peter Price, Acoustic Blues & Beyond**

Broadway World says, “His audiences are taken on strange and exotic journeys, from the folk and country blues style of Robert Johnson, Blind Willie McTell and Lead Belly, to jazz, Latin and world music. A gifted artist, Peter’s performances demonstrate a mind-boggling mastery of the acoustic guitar, a rich singing voice and a relaxed yet compelling stage presence. Organised by Craic ‘N’ Gigs. More info: craicngigs@gmail.com / 07906 173 993 (Anna)
What’s on in the area

CONCERTS

5 JULY
BUGHT PARK, INVERNES, 3 PM

The Proclaimers

Twin brothers Charlie and Craig first came to everyone’s attention when they hit the charts in the late 80s with anthems like ‘I’m Gonna Be (500 Miles)’ (later adopted by Peter Kay for a memorable charity video and single) and ‘Letter From America’. Since then a steady flow of successful albums have followed and their material took a surprising turn in 2013 when it was used in a new British musical Sunshine On Leith, taking its name from their 1988 platinum album. General admission: £42.45

1 SEPT.
STRATHPEFFER PAVILION, 7 PM

The Merry Widow
Opera Bohemia

Opera Bohemia, Scotland’s professional touring company, returns to Strathpeffer Pavilion with one of the world’s best loved operettas, The Merry Widow by Franz Lehár. Set in the romantic city of Paris, various suitors squabble and fight to win the hand of the recently widowed, but very wealthy Hannah Glawari. The Merry Widow is full of iconic and stunning Viennese melodies, including show stopping numbers like ‘Viljah’, ‘The Merry Widow Waltz’ and ‘Chez Maxim’s’. Tickets – Adults: £16 // Concession: £14 // Under 18s: £6, available at www.wegottickets.com.

30 AUG.
CARNegie HALL, PORTMAHOMACK

Doghouse

The unique sound of Glasgow’s Doghouse Roses lies in the threads that connect British folk music and Americana. Their third album, “Lost Is Not Losing”, released in November 2016, received widespread critical acclaim, while the duo continue to delight audiences across Europe as they gather material for their fourth release. 7:30 for 8 pm, Entry £10. BYOB

Gearrchoille Community Wood Ardgay

AGM
Tuesday 20th June 2019
8pm
@Kyle of Sutherland Hub

Followed by illustrated talk by Ross Watson Of the Woodland Trust

All Welcome.
Teas/coffees available £1
**Ardgay Scottish Country Dancing Club**

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in Ardgay Public Hall. £2 per session. Starts on Tuesday 1st October.

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

**Ardgay Badminton Club**

At Ardgay Public Hall.

**ADULTS: THURSDAY evenings, 8 - 10pm Supported by Keep Active Together (KoSDT)**

Contact Gregor Laing 01863 766 223

**JUNIORS: (P4 upwards) will be back in October. WEDNESDAY mornings, 10am - 12pm, organised by Keep Active Together 01863 766 702**

Racquets may be borrowed, and players of all abilities are welcome.

**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

**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 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.

25TH JUNE: Roses: the different types and their uses in your garden

29TH JULY: Garden wildlife: how to encourage and discourage in your garden.

26TH AUGUST: Fruit growing: what will and what won’t grow in the far north and how to grow it.

Contact: Jean 01863 760 190

**Edderton & District Gardening Club**

First Monday of each month. Edderton Community Centre, 7:30 pm. Club meetings will resume in September. Two of our members are opening their gardens for charity under Scotland’s Gardens Scheme; Amat and a participant on the Dornoch Gardens’ Trail. Members also helped at the Marie Curie Plant Sale at Foulis Castle on 19th May.

Contact: Patricia 01863 766 061

**Pilates**

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

**Sutherland Walkers Club**

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

**SUN 23 JUNE** Cranstackie, ascent & Ben Spionnaidh, descent and re-ascent: 12km / 7.5 miles, tracks, open grassy fell, with rough boulders near summit. Leader: Stan Holroyd: 01408 621370. Car sharing essential, due to limited parking.

**SUN 7 JULY -Summer Special- Falls of Kirkaig and Fionn Loch** 13km / 8 miles approx., track, linear. Leader: Jon Jenkins: 01862 810382. Meal after the walk at Peet’s Restaurant, Lochinver. (Ring in advance to book).

**SATURDAY 27 JULY** Ben Wyvis (Munro). No dogs. Leader: David Hannah: 01863 766061

**SUN 25 AUGUST** Balblair Wood and Littleferry Links. Leader: Jon Jenkins: 01862 810382. Contact the Walk Leader the day before the walk to confirm that it is taking place.

Contact: David Hannah 01863 766061

**Bonar Bridge Ardgay Golf Club**

Market Stance, Migdale Road, Bonar Bridge. 01863 766 199

**Kyle of Sutherland Cinema Club**

Regular film nights will be back in September. 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 Whist Club**

Will be back in September. 7.30 pm, Bonar Bridge Hall. Admission £2 including tea.

Contact: Rosemary Logan 01549 421 282

**Tai Chi**

Ardgay Public Hall. Monday 2:30 pm £2

Contact: Angela 01549 421 336
Gearrchoille Community Wood

Oak tree planting and invite to AGM

Gearrchoille Community Wood volunteers meet on the first Thursday of each month, at 2pm. This year we will be holding our AGM on Tuesday 20th June at The Hub.

On a wonderfully sunny morning and with permission from Balnagown Estate (who still own the area of the Gearrchoille between Oakwood Place and the second gate), we planted out about 40 young oak trees which had been grown from acorns collected from the wood. This area was heavily grazed until fairly recently, so there are good open spaces for planting out. Some of the ground may be a bit too wet for oak trees to thrive. We shall see!

We have recently been approached by a couple of local groups wishing to use the wood as a venue for outdoor activities. As your community wood, the Gearrchoille is available for all to use, but we do ask that you respect the ‘No Fire’ policy. To arrive at this decision we considered:

- What a unique place the Gearrchoille Wood is – it is hugely biodiverse and needs to be cherished.
- There was a wildfire here in May 2016 which burned an extensive area (about 20%) of the wood and did unknown amount of damage to the complex ecosystem in the understory and to the lichens growing on the trees (Over 100 species of lichen have been recorded in the wood). A few of the trees also suffered more damage than initially thought and now appear dead. The area affected is to the south of the path, so most visitors to the wood will not appreciate the extent of the burned area.
- The warnings issued recently by the Scottish Fire Service about the high risk of wildfires.

As many of you will know, the Gearrchoille Community Wood Ardgay was formed to take ownership of the Gearrchoille wood on behalf of the local community. As a company we are obliged each year to hold an AGM which is an opportunity for our members (you- the owners of the wood!) to come along and share their ideas for future activities they would like to see happening in the wood and also to support the work that is done in the woodland. This year our AGM will be held at The Hub on Tuesday 20th June at 8pm (after Adult Boogie Bounce). For those unable to attend – you can still register your support by filling in a membership form, copies of which are available in the shelter in the wood. Following the AGM, Ross Watson, North Scotland site manager for Woodland Trust, will give an illustrated talk about their work at Ledmore and Migdale including proposed introduction of red squirrels. See you there!

Betty Wright

gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk
gearrchoille@gmail.com
01863755316
facebook Gearrchoille Community Wood

(Left) Volunteers enjoying a cuppa and a blether. (Right) There are not just trees in the woods, there’s ivy and 100+ species of lichen.
At Gledfield, Health and Wellbeing is a core part of our curriculum along with Literacy and Numeracy. SHANARRI is the acronym used to help everyone understand what health and wellbeing means – it includes physical, mental and social wellbeing.

This term we are focusing on meeting these needs out of doors. Some of what has been achieved has been made possible with the expert help of parent and community volunteers, for which we are very grateful. This is what the P4-7 pupils have to say about what they have learned so far. ▲ Patricia Rannie, P4-P7 Teacher

SAFE: P6 and P7 Road Safety Officers learn how to raise awareness of road safety in the school and lead us when we are on trips. Ewan

SAFE: We did a safety audit to see what needed fixed in our playground to make it safe for everyone. Alistair

ACTIVE: Lots of us worked hard to dismantle the earth mound – and it was very muddy sometimes. Harvey

HEALTHY: Being outside is good for exercising your heart. Rhianna

HEALTHY: Doing the Daily Mile helps keep us fit with our friends. Kieran

INCLUDED: If someone looks sad we ask them if they’re OK. Lily

INCLUDED: Our rejuvenated willow structure makes an amazing learning space. Miss Rannie

ACHIEVING: I have got much better at climbing up the net on the climbing frame. Bella

RESPONSIBLE: We pick up litter because we know it can end up in the ocean and hurt animals. Logan

RESPECTED: This term P5 and P6 are learning about playground leadership and it’s fun. Kyle

RESPpected: When it is nice weather the whole school eats together at our playground Café. Tilly

NURTURED: We welcome new pupils to our playground. Maddie

SAFE: Patrick Rannie, P4-P7 Teacher

GLEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Children & Young people

P1-P3

This term our inquiry is “Where does food come from?”. We have enjoyed going on two different field trips to learn about various animals. We first learned all about eggs and chickens from P2 pupil Grace Barnett’s mum, Rosemary Barnett. We then visited Croit Lara in Bonar Bridge to see pigs, chickens, horses, and rabbits. We were fortunate enough to use the Bradbury bus for transport. ■ Hannah Willows, P1-P3 Teacher
Children & Young people

The nursery children have been working really hard this term to rejuvenate their outside play area. Can you believe that 3 and 4 year olds painted this? A big thank you to Susan Bremner and her oldest son Logan for all of their help. Last term we got to try Yoga with Mrs. Ansbro. Who knew they could lay still for 5 minutes? ■ Nikki Beesley Nursery Teacher

One Summer afternoon, Hamish and Morag were sitting in the sunshine. “What’s your favourite food?” asked Morag.

“Let’s see... I like thistles and broom, and sweet yellow whin flowers, but my favourite food is heather in bloom!” said Hamish.

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

by Andymack & Sil

NURSERY

The pupils did a great job painting the fence.

The children did very well and enjoyed the yoga sessions.

We added flower pots!
Wildlife

Honey bee

**APIS MELLIFERA**

- In the United Kingdom are three main types of bees: **THE BUMBLE-BEE, SOLITARY BEE** and the **HONEY BEE**. The Honey bee is thinner, less furry and less stripy than the well known bumblebee. Its colour varies between brown, grey, black and yellow. Often the honey bee gets confused with a wasp or a hoverfly - the wasp has brighter yellow and black strips, and a hoverfly is smaller and doesn’t have pollen on the legs.

- Their history goes back to the Neolithic age - the bee fossil in the natural museum in New York is believed to be **OVER 80 MILLION YEARS OLD**. Egyptians, Greeks and Romans were known to keep bees.

- Honey bees live within a “superfamily” also known as a **COLONY**. There are three different classes in a colony: **QUEEN, WORKERS** and **DRONES**. The queen’s only role is to mate and lay eggs. She controls the colony via pheromones. Her fertile eggs become female workers whereas the non fertile eggs become male bees called drones. The drones have no sting and their sole function is to reproduce with the queen on the wing.

- Every bee has the same four stages in life: **EGG, LARVAE, PUPA** and **ADULT**. The eggs all hatch after three days into larvae. The larvae are fed by the female workers constantly with **ROYAL JELLY** and a mixture of honey and pollen. Only the queen gets fed solely royal jelly. After 5 days -6 days for the drone - it’s the start of pupa stage (they spin a cocoon around themselves). Queens will emerge as adult bees after around 16 days, workers after around 21 days, and drones around 24 days.

- The **WORKER BEE** spends the first three weeks in **THE HIVE**. During her 6 week lifespan in summer -6 month in winter - she is constantly busy. Her duties include guarding and defending the nest, clean and empty cells in brood area, and feeding larvae, queen & drones. The female worker secretes **WAX**, makes **COMBS** and converts nectar into **HONEY**. Bees can uncouple their wings and use them as a fan in combination with a certain amount of water via evaporation to control the hive temperature and humidity. After the nursing and domestic stages, at about three weeks of age, she becomes a **FORAGER BEE** and goes out in search of nectar, pollen, propolis and water. Unfortunately, all over the globe pollinating insects are in decline and the possible causes are: **HABITAT LOSS**: ‘topped’ grass, fewer garden plants, fewer plant diversity, intensive monoculture, loss of nature or hay meadow lands; **DISEASES**: the main threat is the varroa mite, which causes weakness and deformities; And **PESTICIDES**. The average **FLYING SPEED** is 14mph. Their wings stroke over 11 000 times per minute. **HEATHER HONEY** is not runny - its like jelly. They forage in a radius of 1 to 3 miles from their hive. In case of being **STUNG**, do not use tweezers to remove the sting, just wipe it, otherwise you pump the remaining venom into your body. Due to lack of bees some crops in **CHINA** are pollinated by hand using feather brushes. **Royal jelly** is believed to be one of the most nutritious substances on planet Earth. If you would like to learn more about bees or **BEEKEEPING** locally please contact the Sutherland Beekeepers Association. Otherwise please contact The British Beekeepers Association via www.bbka.org.uk

- **Sabrina Ross**
Summer with the Kyle of Sutherland Churches

KYLE CHURCHES - WHAT’S ON
We are looking forward to welcoming a student minister and his family coming for the summer to the Kyle Churches and join in our activities. So when you see activity at the manse you know what’s happening and can stop and say hello!

KINCAIRDINE, CROICK & EDDERTON
Services 11am in Kincardine Church, Ardgay each Sunday except second Sunday of the month at Edderton, with Croick 3pm on second Sunday in the month.
Friday 21st June - 3pm onwards. Midsummer Madness - Fun afternoon with crafts and games for children and their carers followed by a BBQ. This event is free! Members of the congregation will be doing a sponsored walk during this time!

Sponsored Walk Details:
- **Sunday 30th June**: Congregational Lunch after service, everyone welcome to come for a bite to eat and a blether.
- **Saturday 24th August**: Gift Day In Ardgay Village Hall 2 - 4.30 pm

CREICHC, BONAR BRIDGE
Services April to September 11.30am and then October to March 10.30am.
Alternate Tuesdays at 11am dep. From Kyle Bakery - Tortoise walks - July TBC: Young Folks Day - details to be confirmed
Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th August: 10am - 4pm daily – Flower Festival & Pancake Day
Friday 13th September: 7pm for 7.30pm in Bonar Bridge Hall – 60s buffet dinner & dance

ROSEHALL
Friday 5th July to Sunday 7th July: Flower Festival in the church
Sunday 7th July: 6.30pm Songs of Praise in the church
TBC: 12 noon to 3pm – Outreach BBQ for Rosehall Parish Church with Games for children and History display.

MIDSUMMER MADNESS
Friday 21st June – Kincardine Church Ardgay
Schools Out – all children and their carers are invited to come along to an afternoon of crafts and games followed by a BBQ. Primary school children need to bring a parent or other responsible adult with them - carers you can have some fun too. Secondary school young people are welcome too once the bus get in - bring an adult if at all possible. – or send them on ahead for a cuppa!
If you care to, you can sponsor a member of the congregation to take part in a “Relay Marathon” – 26 miles so come and cheer them on!

Mary Stobo

BONAR BRIDGE & LAIRG
FREE CHURCH
Website: [www.bonarandlairg.org](http://www.bonarandlairg.org)
Elder: John Mann
01863 766 472

EAST SUTHERLAND & TAIN SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Website: [www.episcopaldornochtain.org](http://www.episcopaldornochtain.org)
Priest in Charge: Rev James Currall
01862 881 737
Guide to local services

**Mobile Library**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gledfield, Culrain Carbisdale</td>
<td>Thursday: 27 June / 18 July / 8 August / 29 August / 19 September 2019</td>
<td>9:30 - 10:40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grumurs</td>
<td>10:55 - 11:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Craig</td>
<td>11:30 - 11:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corvost</td>
<td>11:55 - 12:10</td>
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<td>13:40 - 13:55</td>
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<td>Culrain</td>
<td>14:10 - 14:45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr &amp; Mrs Charge</td>
<td>14:55 - 15:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wester Badarach</td>
<td>15:20 - 16:00</td>
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**Bonar Bridge Recycling Centre**

**Post Office Ardgay**

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<tr>
<td>Ardgay Public Hall</td>
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<td>TUESDAY: 1 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY: Closed</td>
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<td>THURSDAY: 8 am - 12 pm</td>
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<td>FRIDAY: 8 am - 12 pm</td>
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<td>SATURDAY: 9 am - 1 pm</td>
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<td>SUNDAY: Closed</td>
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**Post Office Bonar Bridge**

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<tr>
<td>Ardgay Hall</td>
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<td>TUES: 8:30-13:30 / 14:00-17:30</td>
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**Train times**

From 19/05/2019 to 14/12/2019

**INVERNESS ➔ ARDGAY**

**Monday to Saturday:**

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<td>10:41</td>
<td>12:05 Catering serv. available</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>15:29 Catering serv. available</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18:39</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:31</td>
<td>20:01 Catering serv. available</td>
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**Sunday:**

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<th>Service Available</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17:54</td>
<td>19:23 Catering serv. available</td>
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**MONDAY: 14:30 - 17:00**

**THURSDAY: 13:00 - 16:00**

**Post Office Ardgay Hall**

<table>
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<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ardgay Public Hall</td>
<td>MONDAY: Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUES: 8:30-13:30 / 14:00-17:30</td>
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<td>SAT 8:30-13:30 / 14:00-17:30</td>
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Anna Patfield
Dog Behaviourist & Trainer
Pawsability®
www.PawsAbility.co.uk

Dog Behaviour Help
Dog Training
Puppy Training & Early Learning

Prevent puppy problems arising with puppy early learning and puppy socialisation & training. Sort out lead pulling and jumping with your dog. Or resolve more complex behaviour problems from aggression to separation issues or barking.

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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.

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
Guide to local services

**B**
- Bradbury Centre
  - 01863 766 772
- BUS ES
- 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
- 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 886006
  - 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 Libray
    - 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 800 8855
- Customer Help
  - 0845 801 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

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**Stagecoach**

**67 - MON TO SAT**

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**Stagecoach**

**167 - MON TO FRI**

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<td>Football Ground</td>
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<td>07:31</td>
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<td>Invershin</td>
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<td>on Hotel</td>
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<td>07:39</td>
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<td>Bonar Bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>on Police Station</td>
<td>on Police Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:02</td>
<td>16:13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spinningdale</td>
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<td>opp Post Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clashmore</td>
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**PARK & RIDE**

- Lamington Street
  - Mon-Sat
  - 08:00 - 16:00

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**Bradbury Centre Bus**

**920 - TUESDAY**

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<th>Dornoch</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Bonar Bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spinningdale</td>
<td>Lady at Post Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:48</td>
<td>10:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clashmore</td>
<td>Camp Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:54</td>
<td>10:06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dornoch</td>
<td>Dornoch Squ</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>10:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:50</td>
<td>14:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Mobile Banking**

**Bank of Scotland**

**TUESDAY**

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

**Royal Bank of Scotland**

**TUESDAY**

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

Sudoku

Easy

Medium

Hard

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

2. Mathematics: A curve or geometrical figure, each part of which has the same statistical character as the whole. 3. An Indonesian and Malaysian dish consisting of small pieces of meat grilled on a skewer and served with a spiced sauce that typically contains peanuts. 6. A low and marshy or frequently flooded area of land. 7. So mysterious, strange, or unexpected as to send a chill up the spine. 8. A friend; a Spanish term applied in the Philippine Islands to friendly natives. 9. Lasting a very short time

Down

1. Plural: A caste of priests, philosophers, and magicians, among the ancient Persians. 2. Field in Strathcarron where the events known as the “Massacre of the Rosses” took place in 1854. 4. Scottish: (especially of weather) dreary; bleak. 5. A red or brown resinous substance collected by honeybees from tree buds, used by them to fill crevices and to fix and varnish honeycombs.

Solutions can be found at: www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk
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• To draw on the wealth of market research available from our information service.
• Help with loan funding and access to our own Specialist Investment Manager.

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• Market research
• Funding opportunities
• Business development programmes

We were delighted with the growth support we received from Business Gateway Highland
Jeni Hardie, Bad Girl Bakery

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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 6)

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