

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS - October 2008**

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**This is the first edition. We hope to issue 4 x times a year. Copy for the next issue to be with the Editor by Monday 17 November for the Christmas Issue.**

**If we missed you out and you want to be included in future issues contact the Secretary or Editor – photographs and articles welcome.**

**We will take advertising at £40 for a full page, £20 for half page, £10 for a quarter page, £5.00 for all smaller sizes.**

# ARDGAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

(Covering Ardgay & District, and including items from Kincardine Parish Church, Gearraichille Community Wood etc.)



Ardgay, Cam Bhrenn & Ben Sallachaidh from Bonar Bridge

## EDITORIAL

Hello! and welcome to the first edition of Ardgay Community Council's Newsletter. After much deliberation we decided that it is better to let you know what is happening directly, rather than leaving copies of the Minutes of the Meetings in the Post Office, where we realise that it is not possible for everyone to read them. So we are trying to have a copy of this newsletter delivered to you. We meet regularly on the first Monday of each month, when possible. There are usually about a dozen of us, and one of the area Councillors. Sometimes we have invited guests to speak about specific local issues, and we have put up notices to let you know about these in advance.

## CONTENTS

- Community Council
- Creich Surgery New Times
- Events
- Groups
- Comments
- Travel Timetables
- Kincardine Parish Church
- Remembrance Sunday
- Community Councillors
- Elected Members



As this is the first issue we may not be addressing all of the things you are concerned about, or interested in but if you let us know what these are they can be included in future Newsletters.

But, remember that it is our newsletter it is for the Ardgay Community Council District and are as much responsible for what goes in it as I am. If you want to let everyone else know what is going on in the area you have to tell us, then we can tell them. Best wishes.

David Hannah – Editor

**Agenda Items from the Last Community Council Meeting – Monday 01 September 2008**

**Chairperson's Comments**

1. Welcome from the Chair Tony Gibbs and East Sutherland Report
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Last Meeting – Monday 30 June 2008 – 7.00pm in Ardgay Village Hall
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report
  - a. Surgery Opening Hours
  - b. Ward Forum Meeting
  - c. KOSI (Kyle of Sutherland Initiative)
  - d. Migdale Hospital
  - e. Bus Shelter(s)
  - f. Swimming Pool (Tain)
6. Secretary's Report
  - a. East Sutherland CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau)
  - b. Braemore Windfarm
  - c. Minute Secretary
  - d. Proposed Newsletter
  - e. Bonar Bridge Library (e-mail copy of Minutes)
  - f. Received Correspondence
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Youth Development Group
9. The Highland Small Communities Housing Trust
10. Kincardine Cemetery Extension
11. AOCB (Any Other Competent Business)
12. Date of Next Meeting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October in Ardgay Hall at 7.00pm



Clach Eileag If the Stone could talk you wouldn't need a newsletter, but we hope this is as good.

**Gearrhoille Community Wood Ardgay**

**Fancy a walk in the woods? - Estimated distance/time - 0.9 mile/30 minutes**

FROM THE ARDGAY WAR MEMORIAL WALK TOWARDS TAIN, TURN RIGHT AT OAKWOOD PLACE AND FOLLOW THE FINGERPOST DIRECTION, THROUGH THE KISSING GATE, INTO THE FIELD. FROM HERE THE YELLOW WAY-MARKERS INDICATE A CIRCULAR WALK THROUGH THE GEARRCHOILLE WOODS THAT WILL RETURN YOU TO THIS SAME GATE (SEE ITS ADJACENT INFORMATION BOARD). THEN RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO THE WAR MEMORIAL.

**Please note: this route covers some uneven ground that can be wet in places.**

ACCESS TO A SHORTER, ALL ABILITIES, SECTION OF PATH IS VIA THE GEARRCHOILLE CAR PARK BESIDE THE A836 (ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE AS YOU HEAD FOR TAIN, APPROX. 1/2 MILE FROM THE WAR MEMORIAL) IT ALSO HAS AN INFORMATION BOARD.



Pollarded Oak in the Gearrhoille woods

**Did you know** there is a photographic competition taking place? It's open to everyone [except professional photographers] and it's FREE to enter!

The aim is to find the 12 photos that best show the diversity of the Gearrhoille throughout the year. These photos will then become the 2010 GCWA Calendar. Full completion rule can be found in the Gearrhoille information folder in either Ardgay Post Office or Bonar Bridge library:

By post from:- GCWA Photo Competition, Balchrinch, Ardgay, IV24 3BP. Or on the World Wide Web, along with much more information, at [www.gearrhoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk](http://www.gearrhoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk)

The closing date is the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009. Any profits from the sale of these calendars will go directly into caring for the wood.

**The 2009 calendar is now on sale** - in Ardgay and Bonar Bridge, plus the Falls of Shin and Ferrycroft visitor centres. It is compact enough to send through the mail at a reasonable price, and would make an ideal special 'Christmas card' that would last all year through for friends and family - something to think about with Xmas less than 100 days away! Again, any profits will go directly into caring for the woodland.

**Membership is open to everyone and application forms are available from** – The Secretary – Mrs Rhonwen Copley, 16 Oakwood Place, Ardgay, Tel 766174

Gearrhoille Community Wood Ardgay. A charitable company limited by guarantee.  
Registered in Scotland No:263887 Scottish Charity No: SC 036 181  
Registered Office: 28 Queensgate, Inverness IV1 1YN

**Highlights from the Minutes - (Full copies are available in Ardgay Post Office and Bonar Bridge Library, or upon request from Iain Shand, Secretary)**

**ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE OF MEETING - Monday 1st September 2008**  
Ardgay Hall at 7.00pm

**Present:**

Tony Gibbs, Chairperson Lynne Burgess, Vice Chair Iain Shand, Secretary Liz Cormack  
David Hannah William McLaren Derek Matheson Cllr. George Farlow

**Apologies.** Apologies were received from David Knight, David Ross and Hilda Buchanan.

**Minutes.** The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Proposed by David Hannah and seconded by Liz Cormack.  
**Welcome & Report** included: – **Surgery Opening Hours.** We now have 4 doctors for the price of three. Secretary to write to the surgery asking to be included in any further consultations.

**Ward Forum** – Successful day at

**K.O.S.I. Replacement.** An open meeting will be held in Bonar Hall on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September from 7 – 8.30pm. All welcome.

**Migdale Hospital** – Proposed Plans and Consultations in Ardgay & Bonar Bridge for the 24 x bed replacement..

**Bus Shelter.** Place shelter beside telephone box. Go ahead on this. Campbell Stewart has had a letter asking if this could be done before the winter sets in.

**Swimming Pool.** The bus from Lairg will now go to the Tain Swimming Pool for the 12.00 – 13.00 session. Swimmers will have to walk down to town for the return bus service.

**Secretary's Report** included – CAB Iain Shand appointed as a Director of CAB East

Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau.  
**War Memorial.** David Hannah was thanked for his continued work in the War Memorial. Previous certificates are still in the Lady Ross, with one having been damaged in the fire.

**Braemore Windfarm.** A public meeting is required for the people in Ardgay and Bonar. The company used the 5-mile radius rule to inform residents of their plans but Ardgay and Bonar were out of the radius. Secretary to write to the company and the local MSP's and MP's to gain their help with this matter. Rather than the monies offered by the company, David Hannah suggested that cheaper (or free) heating for everyone in the village(s) would be a better idea. Secretary will also mention that in his letter.

**Minute Secretary.** The meeting agreed that Mrs Doreen Gibbs would become our new Minute Secretary.  
**Police.** Andy Brown, Chief Inspector, Area Commander for Caithness. A letter has been sent to him with a list of our meetings and an open invitation to come along or send a representative.

**Bonar Bridge Library** – A copy of the Minutes will be sent by e-mail  
**Proposed Newsletter** – David Hannah has offered to produce a newsletter for Ardgay & District Community Council and it is hoped that it will be issued in conjunction with the Bell.

**Treasurer's Report.** The treasurer's report was read out by Tony and accepted by all present.

**Youth Development Group** – Last meeting AGM August 08. **Youth Workers** – 4 x part time have been appointed since the group began and Highland Council has now been asked to provide much needed youth support in this area, as it already does for other parts of the Highlands. **Land purchase** –

The coal yard was bought in April and Highland Council have been approached to provide a more adequate access. The next stage is for the group to discuss proposals for the land and seek funding from the New Ideas Fund for a feasibility study.

**Youth Café** – involves the use of the 'bus' as a supervised meeting place for young people and we have had to report back to the funders, the Princes Trust that we have not been able to get started yet. Vicki Telfer is in post until September and has been meeting with young people on the bus. Bridget may be back from maternity leave in October. Work on the bus has been ongoing and it has now been moved to the coal yard, fitted with security grills for security and has been rewired for light and sound. It will provide an exciting venue for young people, but the main issue will still be supervision. Funding – Hayley has been sending letters to Funder Funder for assistance with salaries and the youth café project. To date we have received £500 from the Tay Charitable Trust. An outline application to the Strengthening Communities fund for 'green' projects on the site is being looked at favourably. **Accounts** – A late corporation tax submission resulted in a £100 fine. In order to avoid this in future, as things get more complex it was agreed to ask Key Commercial Services to undertake the accounts for the group.

**Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.** David Hannah will represent us at their AGM in Inverness on the 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**AOCB**

**Christmas Lights.** Liz Cormack said she would be happy to co-ordinate the catering, prizes and raffle tickets for the Community Council Whist on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. The money raised goes towards the Christmas Lights in Ardgay.

**ScotRail.** It was suggested that we write to Frank Roach and ask him to address a joint meeting with Ardgay and Creich CC to discuss the timetables and extra trains planned for the route.

**Gledfield Primary School Parent Council.** Joint Head meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.

**Lay-by between Ardgay and Bonar.** Maybe a parking sign would help. Cost could be around £30,000. Put into next years' budget. Have a word with John Clarke.

**Kincardine Cemetery Extension** – some damage had been done to the bench/seat by grass cutting equipment and will be repaired.

**Date of the Next Meeting.** - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in Ardgay Hall at 7pm.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

**Coming Events**  
(If you want to advertise your event please send details to the Secretary)

- **Culrain & Invershin SWRI** which takes place the last Thursday of the months from September to May at 7 30 PM in Culrain Hall new members welcome.
- **Bingo** sessions every Thursday night in Invershin Hall from March to December, doors open at 7.PM commences 7.30 PM every one welcome.

**Local News** – no information received.

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**Update on Windfarms - (& Windfalls)** – See ACC Highlights of Minutes.

**Change of Train & Bus Times** – new timetables coming out soon. Ardgay CC have asked Frank Roach from ScotRail to address a joint Communities Council meeting.

**Remembrance Sunday** – The Royal British Legion parade and main wreath laying service will take place in Bonar Bridge on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 10.50. Assemble at the War Memorial. The wreath laying at Ardgay War Memorial will take place at the same time. There will be a joint Service of Remembrance in Creich Parish Church at 11.30pm.

**Ardgay War Memorial – Best Kept War Memorial Completion 2008 - We** Won the award for the Memorial without a garden. Although much of the thanks goes to Jeannie Spurling and her team for the beautifully kept flower tubs which make it a pleasure to sit and contemplate. A well kept War Memorial is a powerful symbol for reminding the general public of the sacrifices made for our freedom.

**LAC/W Mary Macaskill (Culrain)** – Served in 953 Blue Barrage Balloon Squadron, WAAF. Mary was killed in action on 18 May 1943 when her balloon site in Colchester Road, Cardiff received a direct hit from a German bomb. A Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone marks her grave in Kincardine Old Cemetery.

**Christmas is Coming** – Let me have your information for the next issue and the New Year.

**Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club**  
Wednesdays at 7.30pm in Bonar Bridge Hall – Admission £1.50 including supper

**Hosts**

September 17<sup>th</sup> Rosehall SWRI

September 24<sup>th</sup> Ardgay Christmas Lights

October 1<sup>st</sup> Scottish War Blinded

October 8<sup>th</sup> Highland Hospice

October 15<sup>th</sup> Culrain Hall Committee

October 22<sup>nd</sup> Northern Counties Blind

October 29<sup>th</sup> Bonar Bridge/Ardgay Golf Club

November 5<sup>th</sup> Bonar Bridge Indoor Bowling Club

November 12<sup>th</sup> Invercharron Highland Games

November 19<sup>th</sup> Bonar Bridge Christmas Lights

November 26<sup>th</sup> Culrain & Invershin SWRI

December 3<sup>rd</sup> Ardgay Children's Christmas Party

December Fire Service Benevolent Fund

December 17<sup>th</sup> Royal British Legion, Creich & Kincardine Branch

If you would like more information about the Whist Club or any of the Host Groups please contact Mrs Rosemary Logan 01549 421 282



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**David Hannah - Ardgay - Covering Sutherland, Caithness and East**

**Ross**

Tel 01863 766061 Mob 07880 776909

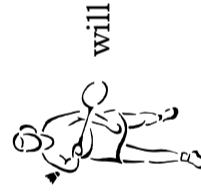
e-mail <david@tntchome.co.uk>



**Scottish Country Dancing**

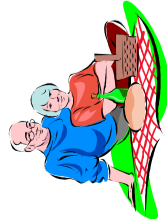
Jack Campbell's Class will be Starting – Monday 13 October at 8.00pm in Ardgay Village Hall, (beginners class from 7.30pm). Contact Doreen Bruce – Tel 01863 766852 for more information.

**Boy's Brigade** -



**Ardgay Badminton Club** – New season starts for adults on Thursday 16 October at 8.30pm in Ardgay Village Hall. £1.50 per evening. George Ross will notify Juniors & Juveniles when their classes are starting. Everyone welcome.

**School - Gledfield Primary School** now have **Parent Council**. Their role is to:



- support the school in its work with pupils
- represent the views of all parents
- encourage links between the school, parents, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community
- report back to the Parent Forum (all with children at the school)

Office bearers are Chairperson - Jamie Burgess, Treasurer - Paul Herbert and Joint Secretaries - Carol Shaw & Julie Davies. Our next meeting is on **7th October, 2008 at 7pm** in the school hall. All welcome to attend - any matters for the agenda can be raised with the secretaries or by email [gledfield@scottishparents.com](mailto:gledfield@scottishparents.com) **The Parent Council are delighted to welcome Kirsten MacGruer as the new head teacher to the school.**

**Kincardine, Croik & Edderton Guild** – As Autumn approaches The Guild will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in Ardgay Church Hall. A variety of speakers are booked for the autumn and winter session. Everyone will be made welcome. Provisional Programme

Date	Speaker(s)	Topic
14/10	<b>The Rev. Graeme Muckhart</b>	Rededication
11/11	<b>Peter &amp; Helen Fairgrieve</b>	Illustrated Talk
09/12	<b>The Rev. Dr John Sterrett</b>	TBA
10/02	<b>TBA</b>	The Kilmuir Trust
10/03	<b>All</b>	AGM & Social Evening

Contact for details – **Mrs Isobel Adlard Tel 766 469**

**Lest we Forget** - To mark the forthcoming centenary of the Great War the Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society will try to compile a pictorial archive of the respected who died for us and whose names are etched on the memories of their families, and on Kyle of Sutherland's War Memorials. Along with pictures brief details of each of those who served will be included in the project. If you are able to provide copies of photographs and other information, no matter how scant please contact the project co-ordinator – Steve Copley Tel 766 174.

**KOSI replacement** - At the last meeting on Friday 03 October 2008 in Bonar Bridge Hall Mrs Lynne Burgess was unanimously appointed Chairperson of the Steering Group set up to officially launch the replacement group for KOSI. Attended by only a few of the more interested parties the Steering Group is represented by members of the Community Councils of Ardgay, Bonar Bridge and Lairg districts.

Lindsey Kelly, formerly with the Kyle of Sutherland Initiative (KOSI) has been helping, on a voluntary basis to get the group up and running, so that they can start managing their own affairs. The Steering Group is still looking to have a much larger community involvement, particularly with representatives from the commercial & business sectors, families and other organisations on the Steering Group, if you want more information contact Lynne of your Community Council Chairperson. The official Logo was picked from a large competition entry and will shortly be seen on all stationary, once the winner and two runners up have been notified.

**The next meeting will be in Invershin Community Hall and the group will be producing a 'Mission Statement' and deciding on a name on Wednesday 29 October at 7.30pm. Everyone in the Kyle of Sutherland is eligible, and welcome to attend.**

**Kincardine Parish Church** (extracted from The Bell)

**Minister** – The Rev. Graeme Muckhart, The Manse Ardgay, IV24 3BG Tel 766 285  
 Session Clerk/Roll Keeper – Mrs Rosalie Sutherland Tel 0186w 821 320  
 Clerk to the Congregational Board – Mrs Babs Gemmill Tel 766 495  
 Treasurer/Newsletter – The Bell Editor Tel 766107

**Centenary** - In 2009 the Parish Church building will be one hundred years old and several events are being planned to mark the Centenary, more details will follow. To start the year off and to mark the actual anniversary of the opening of what was then the United Free Church there will be a service of thanksgiving led by The Right Reverend David Lunan, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Everyone is invited to attend this historic event.

**Provoking Thought?** – It will not be possible or practical for there to be two full time Ministers for Ardgay & Bonar Bridge areas. When the Minister retires what will happen to the Church and Manse in Ardgay?

**Creich Surgery - Bonar Bridge**, Creich Surgery, Cherry Grove, Bonar Bridge IV24 3EP  
 Tel: 01863 766379 Fax: 01863 766768.



Following a patient survey the Doctors have changed the surgery system to appointments only.

Day	Morning Appointments	Afternoon Appointments
<b>Monday</b>	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
<b>Tuesday</b>	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
<b>Wednesday</b>	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
<b>Thursday</b>	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
<b>Friday</b>	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700 & 1800 – 1830 for working patients

**Out of hours GP services** - are available between 6.00pm and 8am on weekdays, at the weekend, and on public holidays. These services provide help when your GP surgery is closed and your condition is too serious to wait until the next day. If you phone your surgery when it is closed you will get a message explaining how to contact your local out of hours service.

**NHS24** - Contact for health care advice on 08454 24 24 24 (Textphone 18001 08454 24 24 24).

**Dental Helpline** - Should you experience difficulties in registering or accessing emergency care for NHS Dental treatment, please contact the NHS Dental Helpline on 0845 6442271 or email [DentalHelpLine@hpt.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:DentalHelpLine@hpt.scot.nhs.uk)