

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Ardgay and District Community Council Population 598 Area 624.8 Sq Kilometers Density 1.04 per Sqkm
(Back issues available at our website <ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk>) No 13 – Autumn Edition 2011

June 2011 Launch
Chair Claire Bruce and Development Worker Lynsey (Mailer) Burns welcomed over fifty people from Ardgay and Bonar Bridge Communities to the Very Positive Launch of the Kyle of Sutherland Development Plan in Bonar Bridge Hall.



Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust Launch – June 2011

From the Chair

Welcome to the 13th edition of our Newsletter

In this issue your Community Council is urging you to fully participate in the forthcoming Elections. Nomination forms have to be completed and returned by 04 October 2011 for the count in November. (*you can nominate yourself*).

It is important to you, even if you don't think so. If there are not enough people coming forward for election and there is no Community Council for Ardgay & District area Highland Council will assume complete responsibility for the running and management of all local affairs. This would include taking charge of any community benefit from the many, many wind farms that will be operating around us.

We would urge you to stand for election, or nominate someone who you feel would be able to help keep this a very good place to live and also improve it with the money we will have for the next twenty five years, and beyond.

David Hannah

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ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of meeting - Minutes of meeting — Monday 11 July 2011 — Ardgay Hall (*there was no meeting in August*)

Present: David Hannah (Chair), Doreen Gibbs (Vice Chair) Alan Lawrence (Treasurer), David Laver, Jeannie Sparling, Peter Armstrong (Secretary), Cllr Linda Munro.

Member of the Public: Carole Shaw (Gledfield Primary School Parent Council).

1 Welcome Chair opened the meeting with a welcome to those present.

2. Guest Speaker Sheena MacLeod, General Manager of the North Highland Community Health Partnership had come to the meeting to talk about current directions in health care provision in our area. Difficulties included the increasingly elderly population and the increasing costs of health care. The partnership, which was responsible for hospital, GP and community health services in Caithness and Sutherland, had to prioritise within a budget falling by £20 million in each of the next five years. They were having to investigate more cost-effective ways of delivering services, which might include sub-contracting to providers better placed to meet local needs. The use of telecare for routine health checks was being developed. A shared care bed had been trialled in Melvich using GP and community services to deliver hospital type care without the need for transfer to Inverness. Efforts were also being made to establish consistent and efficient pathways for patients with any particular health issue. She was delighted with the new hospital at Migdale.

Ms MacLeod went on to look at what money was currently spent on within the NHCHP - there was an ongoing issue with GP over-prescribing, though the current pharmacist was attempting to address this by encouraging GPs to look at the cost-effectiveness of what they were prescribing. Another issue was the way older people in particular often ended up taking a cocktail of medication, some unnecessary, some counterproductive. New software was being trialled which would flag up prescription issues of this kind. Ms MacLeod answered questions from members on a variety of issues – the idea of an annual health and treatment review for all patients would not be accepted by GPs without additional payments: there were no local specialist children's or maternity services because of low population density: there would be no emergency, x-ray or out of hours service at Migdale because there was no attending GP: since there were no Southern Cross care homes in the area, the only effect on local care homes would be due to any relocation of residents required. Chair felt there had been little sense of a community partnership in our area, with local GPs showing little interest in working with the community. He asked how local people could support the efforts to improve local health care. He felt this would be a good time to seek community support given the high level of interest generated by the opening of the new hospital in June. Ms MacLeod suggested a body like the Patient Council at Caithness General Hospital might be a good way to have a say on local health care issues.

3 Apologies were received from, Marion Turner, Liz Cormack, Phil Olson, Derek Matheson & William MacLaren.

4 Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 June 2011 were approved.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

Carbisdale Castle closure -There were still no signs informing visitors of the closure of the castle for repairs. The closure was now due to last till early in 2012. Chair would raise the issue at AGM of the SYHA in September.

KOSDT meeting Over fifty people had attended the first public meeting of the new development trust, where Lynsey (Mailer) Burns had outlined a five year plan for local development.

Gledfield Primary funding request Carole Shaw of Gledfield Primary School Parent Council had come to the meeting to present a request for support from the community council's projects fund for a programme of school trips costing £700. She was also seeking help with replacing football goalposts which had been damaged by being borrowed by older children for use in a field opposite the school. Jeannie Sparling pointed out that local teenagers had already spoken with KoSDT about the possibility of a joint project with the school to develop an all-weather pitch adjacent to the school which pupils would have exclusive use of during the school day. The Chairman proposed that the community council contribute a sum of £350 to the costs of the school trip programme, suggesting that the plans for football facilities be referred to Lynsey Burns. This proposal was approved by members. Cllr Munro said she would try to find the balance of the costs from the Ward Discretionary Budget.

6. Chairman's Report - No additional items.

7. Secretary's Report/Correspondence

The Association of Scottish Community Councils - Was to be disbanded following withdrawal of its Scottish Government funding. In view of the new community council elections in November it was felt this might be a good time to look at different ways of working together with other community councils in the area, and perhaps consider a local association or federation to address shared issues such as windfarm developments.

Funding request - The owners of Ardgay Garage had written to ask for financial support from the Community Council in erecting a fence round their property at the former filling station adjacent to their garage. They felt a fence around the site would enhance the appearance of the village and be to the benefit of the community in general. After discussion it was agreed that while it was important to support new development initiatives, it would be inappropriate for the community council to fund private developments of this kind. A similar application had been declined by the Beinn Tharsuinn Trust because it had not come from a community group. It was agreed that the application should be referred to KoSDevelopment Trust.

Ardgay Hill-Oakwood Footpath - Balnagown Estates have written to confirm their agreement to this construction project, though they would be unable to provide any public liability cover for the work. The Estate have already agreed to donate construction materials to the project, which it is hoped will be carried out by Technical Services. CC has received a grant from Rosehall Windfarm towards the cost of carrying out this work.

BT Adopt a Kiosk Scheme - BT had confirmed that three red phone boxes in our area were now available for "adoption" at a cost of £1 each. It would be the community's responsibility to maintain and clean the boxes. For more information about the scheme and to see how communities elsewhere have used their kiosks, go to http://www.payphones.bt.com/adopt_a_kiosk. CC agreed to purchase these.

8. Treasurer's Update

- *Treasurer's account* *Current cleared balance* £2208 *Outstanding liabilities* £0
- *Projects account* *Current cleared balance* £2957.30 *Outstanding liabilities* £245.50
- *Toilets account* *Current cleared balance* £82.65

Last year the Highland Council grant of £1500 for the public toilet running costs was received in July.

9. KOSDT Meeting on 16th was very well attended and Trust ideas well received. We haven't met since as Lynsey has been on leave (getting married) so bicycle stand issues will have to wait till first meeting after holidays.

10. Windfarms update

Braemore Objectors were seeking funding for an independent noise level assessment.

Glencassley MT sent off a response to Energy Consents Unit re scoping consultation.

David Cowie contacted about getting a composite map centred on Lairg and Ardgay of all the windfarms at various stages. I think this would help us greatly when responding to these consultations. He is looking into this and will get back to me to let me know if they can do it. He's concerned that there may be difficulties if THC get the boundaries even just a little bit wrong.

11. Awards from Windfarms A sum of £800 had been received by the Community Council from the Community Fund for Rosehall Wind Farm towards the completion of the Ardgay Hill-Oakwood footpath. The sponsor had asked for a photograph of the finished project. Jeannie Sparling asked whether all the windfarm benefit funds used the same funding criteria, since there seemed to be inconsistencies in what was approved by different funds. Cllr Munro confirmed that each of the wind farm developers had their own independent scheme with specific rules.

12. Review of Community Council financial arrangements - Highland Council had revised the basis on which grants to Community Councils were calculated. Alan Lawrence reported that as a result, our own Community Council funding for the current year was down by £375 from last year's level. He pointed out that this funding was purely to cover administration costs. Chair asked Cllr Munro how this cut had been justified by the Council. She pointed out that all three ward Councillors had voted against the change.

13. Members' roles Discussion of this topic was deferred until the next meeting.

14. AOCB

Election arrangements - Highland Council had published some details of the arrangements concerning new Community Council elections on 16 November. It was noted that it was still unclear where to obtain nomination papers for the election. There was discussion of the need to promote the elections locally to encourage participation. It was suggested that there should be liaison with local secondary schools, particularly given the lowering of the voting/standing rights to the age of 16.

Ardgay public toilets Jeannie Sparling said that the flooring paint applied by Council in toilets last year had immediately started to lift. The painter had left spare paint, which Jeannie had used, but paint was still not adhering properly to the surface, making the toilets look shabby. Chair said he had some spare paint which could be tried – if this failed to last, it may be time to consider tiling.

Planning application David Laver asked whether the Community Council could submit a planning application for new signage on behalf of Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society to take advantage of lower costs. This proposal was approved.

Newsletter deadline The next Community Council newsletter would be issued on 12 September, with the deadline for submission of items for inclusion being 16 August.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm. Next meeting will be at 7pm on Mon 12th September.

Late Items

Matters arising:

New Migdale – Steven Mouat Memorial - Marion Turner completed the job of gathering up the cash! The sum of £250 was collected through the tins in Ardgay, Bonar Bridge, Rosehall and Lairg. When each CC puts in their £100 donation and that added to the residue of the fighting fund it should be a decent amount. Liz got a plaque which was displayed on Open Day. The rest will be passed on to NHS Highland for appropriate use at Migdale.

Struie Road – Threat of closure if repairs cost too much. Possible weight restriction to "preserve" road for light traffic.

Forestry Commission Consultation - The person I need to speak to at the Forestry Commission on recreational use of the forest estate, is on holiday. I'll contact her when I get back. MT

One response so far - BE A STAR - Christmas Lights Crisis – We only have 14 lights to put up on the lamp-posts and only two people to help. If you would be willing to become part of the Christmas Lights Helpers Group please contact your Community Councillor –There will be LIGHT in 2011.



Ardgay & District Community Council Meeting 2011 dates all Mondays at 7.00pm in Ardgay Village Hall

10 October	14 November	12 December (Newly Elected Community Council?)
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All meetings are open to the public and we would welcome your support by attending some of them to let us know how well you think we are doing in managing our community affairs.



Private Music Lessons – John Brozovsky, 9 Bishopfield Road, Dornoch, IV25 3LJ, Tel 01862 811612, E-mail music.broz@virgin.net
Call for information on Keyboard, Composition, Conducting and Music Theory.

Kincardine Parish Church

Contact Details - Minister- Rev. Anthony M. Jones The Manse, Manse Road, Ardgay, Sutherland IV24 3BG
email: <revanthonymjones@amservice.com> Tel: 01863 766285

Session Clerk/Roll Keeper – Mrs Rosalie Sutherland Tel 01862 821 320

Clerk to the Congregational Board – Mrs Babs Gemmill Tel 01863 766 495,

Treasurer Hilary Gardner Tel 01863 766107

Sunday Services - Edderton @ 10.30am, Ardgay @ 12.15pm – If you would like information about the Church of Scotland contact Mrs Rosalie Sutherland, Session Clerk on 01862 821 320.



SUTHERLAND CELEBRATES - FUN DAY- 24th September 1.30pm - 5.30pm in Golspie Community Centre

Everyone of all ages welcome- Puppets, Face Painting, Crafts, Competitions, Quiet Space, BBQ van, Teas.

Come along and join the fun and meet the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Bridge Project - (Dornoch Firth Group – Scottish Charity Number SC034932). The Dornoch Firth Group was established in 2007 by the six Church of Scotland Parishes around the Dornoch Firth, (Kincardine, Creich, Edderton, Rosehall, Croick & Dornoch).

“Good Morning Sutherland” – This service has been designed to reduce isolation, experienced by some of the over 50's, who live alone in our communities. It is a service to reassure you that someone will check on you every day, with a telephone call from one of our trained team. If your “Good Morning Sutherland” call is not answered, we will call again in a few minutes. If there is still no answer after a third call, we will contact your agreed contact person. (There is no charge for the service). Referrals can also be made from various services such as Medical Services, District Nurses, Doctors' Surgeries or local Churches, of any denomination.

Volunteers wanted – If you would like to give time to supporting and assisting with this service, or give a donation to cover administration costs. **Contact** – John McMurray, Community Outreach Worker, Wilalimar, Rowan Avenue, Dornoch, IV25 3QW, Tel 07801496609, e-mail johnmcmurray@yahoo.com

Bonar Bridge Showstoppers - The Dornoch Firth Group summer activities in Bonar went well and both the organisers and children felt



the week was a resounding success. During the first week in August the Bonar Hall was turned into an imaginary theatre. A cast of 29 primary school aged children, and 19 volunteers joined Director Chris Watt from OUT OF THE BOX.

Chris and his team of volunteers used the theatre theme to run their activities for these children. The children enjoyed singing, dancing, telling jokes, crafts & quizzes, all fuelled by fruit cocktails and drinks prepared by “different? international chefs!” The fun was so good that they all returned to the Hall on Sunday morning, to show their parents and friends what went on during the week. The week's activities were funded in part by the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Fund, Claremont Trust, Gideons & Dornoch Firth Group. Everyone had a great time and it is hoped to organise a repeat next summer

and monthly activities throughout the winter months.

The event was primarily for the children of Edderton, Ardgay, Croick, Rosehall, Spinningdale, and Bonar Bridge.

The Bridge Project - Hi everyone - Over the last few months I have been working on developing a social gathering place for people with learning difficulties. I have met with around 40 people with learning difficulties and a range of professionals and carers. Before I can start this new activity I need volunteers. As the ratio of volunteers to clients is going to be around 1:1 I will need around 10 to 15 volunteers each evening. So not to be a major commitment if we have 40 to 60 volunteers, each volunteer need only be on duty once a month. Would you be interested? Or do you know someone who might be interested? The plan is to start the club on Wednesday 28th September meeting in the Dornoch West Church Hall each Wednesday evening from 7pm to 9pm. Each week we will be pursuing something different, crafts, sports, drama and performing arts, cooking, quizzes, bingo, visiting speaker and outings. This will be needed to ensure that those with learning difficulties will have somewhere to meet their friends. We will be running a training evening for all volunteers on Wednesday 14th September. (If you missed this date and still want to help – please contact John McMurray). We have 9 volunteers already, of which 7 are new to the project. As we will need to disclose all the volunteers, and this takes about 2 months to recruit and disclose folk, we need to start to identify folk now. Can you help me by putting this opportunity before some folk, and asking them to contact me if they are interested, or know someone I should approach? Thanks. John McMurray, Community Outreach Worker, The Bridge Project, Dornoch Firth Group, Scottish Charity Number SC034932 WILALIMAR, Rowan Avenue, Dornoch, IV25 3QW, Home & Work 01862-810835, Personal mobile 07801496609 johnmcmurray@yahoo.com.

Kincardine, Croick & Edderton Guild (Charity No SC016877) – We at the Guild invite you to come along to our sessions – usually the 2nd Tuesday of each month except December & January at 7.30pm in Ardgay Church Hall. We have speakers, demonstrations and slide shows, and always a cup of tea and a chat - Contact for details – Mrs Isobel Adlard Tel 01863 766 469.

SWRI (Scottish Women's Rural Institute) SWRI – Ardgay - Contact for details – Mrs Jean Jack Tel 01863 766 646. Culrain and Invershin in the Culrain Hall the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Contact Marjory Matheson - 01863 766 600

Ardgay Badminton Club – Currently a very healthy 60 members. Aim to start on Thursday 6th October and end before the lambing season in early April. Players will be moved to suitable groups depending more on ability than age after the first couple of nights. Used to play badminton? Come along on a Tuesday, we're a friendly club and our members come along for a bit of social fun rather than serious match play. Below shows how it worked out last season but may change depending on numbers. It should work out at £1.00 per hour for all. Rackets available. Children are allowed to start if they are in primary 4 upwards at the start of the season. Contact details for George Ross: Tel 01863 755 329, e-mail <ochayeman@hotmail.co.uk>.



Tues		Thurs		Sat	
Beginners	1830 – 1930 £1.00,	Teens	1830 – 2000 £1.50,	Competition Squad	Boys 1900 – 2030 £1.50,
Advanced	1930 – 2030 £1.00,	Adults	2000 – 2230 £2.00		Girls 2030 – 2200 £1.50
Adult "Beginners"	2030 – 2200 £1.50				

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

Consulting Times for appointments



Day	Morning Appointments	Afternoon Appointments
Monday	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
Tuesday	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
Wednesday	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
Thursday	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
Friday	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).

NHS Inform – You no longer need to look in lots of different places for Health Information you can trust. Call 0800 22 44 88 (8am to 10pm) or visit www.nhsinform.co.uk.

Dental Helpline - Should you experience difficulties in registering or accessing emergency care for NHS Dental treatment, please contact the NHS Dental Helpline on 08456 442271 (Evenings & Weekends NHS 24 on 08454 242424) or email nhshighland.dentalhelpline@nhs.net. If you are not registered with a dentist and are disabled it may be that you can qualify for a fast track registration provided that you fit the dental criteria. If you get a letter from your doctor which explains your condition and disability and forward the information to the following address you may get registered sooner: The Centre for Health Science, Inverness Dental Centre, Old Perth Road, Inverness, IV2 3JH, Tel 08456 442271.



Gledfield Primary School - Gledfield Primary Parent Council: email gledfield@scottishparents.com

Office bearers: Chair: Vacant, Vice-chair: Vacant, Secretary: Rhys Llewellyn, Treasurer: Jacqueline Sutherland. Teacher Member & Headteacher - Kirsten McGruer, Headteacher -

Dornoch/Tain High Schools – Dornoch information: DORNOCH ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL - Website: <http://www.spanglefish.com/DAPC/>. Contact details for Tain Royal Academy parent council: CHAIRMAN Mr Paul Hoggarth, Redstone Gables Edderton (01862 821214). 'The latest newsletter from Tain Royal Academy can be viewed at www.tainroyalacademy.org.uk Articles include the schools link with Malawi, school trip to CERN & all the sports news.'

Community Contact numbers - Thank you to the Bradbury Centre Local Telephone Directory for this information:

Police	Dornoch Road	Bonar Bridge	766222	Migdale Hospital	Cherry Grove	Bonar Br.	766211
Doctors	Creich Surgery	Bonar Bridge	766379	Primary Schools	Bonar Br.	Bonar Br.	766219
Nurses	Creich Surgery	Bonar Bridge	766237	"	Gledfield	Ardgay	766580
Electricity	24Hr Emergency	0800	300999	"	Rosehall	01549	441348
"	Enquiries	0800	300000	Post Office	Alness	01349	884487
"	Customer Help	0800	300111	"	Bonar Br.	Bonar Br.	766219
H. Council	Drummuie	Golspie 01408	635370	"	Rosehall	01549	441338
"	Service Point	Bonar Bridge	766838	Bradbury Centre	Bonar Br.	Bonar Br.	766772
"	Service Point	Dornoch 01862	810491	Scot. Water	24 Hr Emergency	08456	008855
				"	Customer Help	08456	018855
Community Development Service – Lynsey Burns				Tel 07961046715		e-mail <lynseymailer@gmail.com>	

Scottish Country Dancing – Starts again in October 2011 on Mondays from 8.00pm, beginners from 7.30pm in Ardgay Hall please contact Doreen Bruce – Tel 01863 766852 for information.



Rosehall Community Arts – Events Programme. (during village hall closure in Church, Achness Hotel, Invershin Hall)

Sat 17 September – Splinters Theatre, Drama, Invershin Hall 8.00pm £8/£6	Wed 28 September – Phil Drane, Singer/Guitarist, Achness Hotel, 7.30pm £8/£6
Wed 19 October – School of Scottish Studies, Archive Project, Achness Hotel, 7.30pm £8/£6	Sat 29 October – Mick Ryan & Paul Downes, Singers, songwriter, guitarists, Achness Hotel, 7.30pm £8/£6

Contacts for information Dave Goulder 01549 441283, Lily Byron 01549 441291

Mobile Library timetable for Ardgay 2011: Wednesdays - Oakwood 1.45 p.m. – 2 p.m., Lady Ross 2 p.m. – 3.20 p.m.

21st September	12th October	2nd & 23rd November	14th December
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Culrain 2.10 – 2.45pm, Strathoykel & Strathcarron - Thursdays

22nd September	13th October	3rd & 24th November	15th December
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During term-time the Mobile Library visits Gledfield Primary School. During holidays pupils are welcome to use the Mobile Library at other stops, provided they have their Library tickets. Contact 07733300761 or 01862 766709 for information on other stops and times.

Bonar Bridge Library/Service Point opening times	Monday 10.00am – 12.30pm and 2.30pm – 5.00pm
Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 10.00am – 12.30pm	Thursday 10.00am – 12.30pm and 5.30pm – 8.00pm
Contact – Angi Banks, Service Point Officer/Library Assistant, Bonar Bridge Library & Service Point, Carnegie Buildings, Lairg Road, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EA. Tel/Fax 01863 766838, Email: bonarbridge.library@highland.gov.uk	

VG-ES (Voluntary Groups East Sutherland) - for information on Third Sector groups and organisations. Helping to keep you in touch with the wider world. Tel 01408 633001 FAX 05601 146813 or e-mail christine@vges.org.uk - liz@vges.org.uk - christine@vges.org.uk Manager -Christine Ross. There are over 200 community groups and organisations linked through VG-ES who provide a great deal of practical and help and support in maintaining their operational work.

Bonar Bridge Recycling Centre (Civic Amenity Site): Opening Times

Mon - 1.00 to 4.00pm	Tues - 1.00 to 4.00pm	Thu – 8.00 to 12 noon	Fri - 8.00 to 12 noon	Sat – 9.00 to 12 noon
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Will take: Cans, car batteries, engine oil, fridges, garden waste, gas cylinders, glass, paper – for advice on other items call 01349 868439.

Charities – The known charities, with recycling shops in the area & which all need volunteers are:

Dornoch – St Finbar’s Scottish Episcopal Church, just off Cathedral Square. (clothes, books, bric a brac etc.)

Golspie – 2nd Best (Alzheimer Scotland Society), Main Street, Tel 01408 633008. (clothes, books, bric a brac etc.)

Tain – Blythswood Christian Care, 25 Lamington Street, Tel 01862 893408. (foodbank, shoeboxes appeal, clothes, books, bric a brac etc.) For larger items e.g furniture, white goods, sports equipment, fixtures and fittings, carpets etc. call the Highland Deeplaven Depot, Alness 01349 830777

Tain - Highland Hospice, 11 King Street, Tel. 01862 894216. (clothes, books, bric a brac etc.)

(let me know if there are any others – editor)

Thinking of Volunteering – there are many opportunities in our area and these are only a few:

CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) – As well as the satisfaction from seeing the difference you make. CAB volunteering will equip you with new skills that stay with you not matter what you do next. You don’t need special skills or knowledge to be an adviser, as you bureau will give you all the training you need. Being a volunteer can seem a little daunting, but don’t worry! From your very first day you’ll get all the help you need. We’ll pay expenses and volunteering needn’t affect your benefits. Contact Richard Gale, Manager East Sutherland CAB, Station Road, Golspie, KW10 6SN, Tel 01408 633000, e-mail advice@esvas.org.uk

The Citizens Advice Bureau free drop-in session every Thursday morning in Bonar Bridge Library, 10.15-12.15.

CAB are offering FREE – MONEY ADVICE - ‘Don’t hide it under the bed’ Book a free, confidential appointment with a Money Adviser – call 0808800 0118 or East Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau on 01408 633 000.



Our trained Money Adviser can help you manage you money day to day, plan for monthly outgoings and explain money matters in an easy to understand way. We won’t recommend any products or try to sell you anything. It’s about clear, unbiased money advice you can trust and that can make a real difference to your life. (Examples – budgeting to saving, credit and borrowing, mortgages, insurance, pensions and retirement planning). Website <moneyadviceservice.org.uk>

Bradbury Centre Bus – Timetable and Routes – From Tuesday 04 May 2010

Mondays & Fridays – Bonar Bridge to Lairg/Rosehall Dial-a-bus 0900, 1100, 1400, 1600 (all journeys must be pre-booked) **To Book journeys Telephone The Bradbury Centre – 01863 776 772**

Tuesday – Bonar Bridge to Alness

Depart		Return	
Bonar Bridge (Cherry Grove)	1030	Alness (on B817 outside Morrison's)	1300
Bonar Bridge (Opposite Police Station)	1032	Ardross (Crossroads on B9176)	1317
Ardgay (Station Bus Stop)	1334	Mid Fearn	1333
Mid Fearn	1042	Ardgay	1340
Ardross (Crossroads on B9176)	1058	Bonar Bridge (Police Station)	1345
Alness (on B817 outside Morrison's)	1115	Bonar Bridge (Cherry Grove)	1347

Wednesday – Bonar Bridge circular via Spinningdale, Tain and Edderton

Depart		Return	
Bonar Bridge (Cherry Grove)	1030	Bonar Bridge (Cherry Grove)	1330
Spinningdale (lay-by at post box)	1039	Ardgay	1333
Clashmore (Carnegie Hall)	1053	Edderton	1353
Tain (Bus Stop at big Co-op)	1102	Tain (Lamington Street)	1406
Tain (Lamington Street)	1104	Tain (Bus Stop at big Co-op)	1408
Edderton	1117	Clashmore (Carnegie Hall)	1419
Ardgay	1139	Spinningdale (lay-by at post box)	1431
Bonar Bridge (Cherry Grove)	1142	Bonar Bridge (Cherry Grove)	1440

The Minibus has a wheelchair lift which will be available as part of the service. Additional time has been added to the timetable to accommodate this but, as it takes up to 10 minutes for the lift to load or unload a passenger there may be subsequent delays of up to 10 minutes along the route. The services will divert on request to pick up pre-booked passengers up to a mile from the route. These journeys must be booked by 1400 on the previous working day. i.e. **1400 on Friday for Monday**, 1400 on Monday for Tuesday, 1400 on Tuesday for Wednesday, **1400 on Wednesday for Friday**.

The services will operate every week apart from Christmas and New Year.

KoS/Development Trust - contact Lynsey Burns on Tel. 01863 766908 / 07961 046715 development@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

Bradbury Centre - We are now running a car wash service;
Mondays & Wednesdays between 9am and 2pm
Fridays between 11am and 1pm



£5 per car

Sutherland Walkers Group (SWG) – Programme - More information - Fiona MacDonald, Secretary – 01862 810275



SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER South Sutor, Cromarty, via Nigg Ferry. OS 21 789676 5 miles, circular, steep paths in places. Leader: Jon Jenkins : 01862 810382 Meet for car share at:- Tain Co-op 09.30 Ferry cost : £6 return / Free on production of Highland Council Bus Pass

Blas 2011 – Presents - Cherish the Ladies in Concert – with Kirstan Harvey & The Sanna – Ardgay Village Hall – Thursday 15 September at 7.30pm. Celebrating 25 years as the most successful and sought-after Irish-American group in Celtic music history, Cherish the ladies share their timeless Irish traditions passed down from fathers to daughters. Local Contacts for Tickets - 01863766386/ 07923 490142.

Highland Handyperson Service – Are you aged 65 or living with a disability? Do you need a Handyperson to help with minor repairs at home? Each Handyperson is fully equipped with tools and will be ready to undertake your repair. You will only be charged for materials used to complete the agreed work. There is no charge for the Handyperson's time or travel expenses. Contact – Sutherland Handyperson Service, ILM (Highland), Unit 1G, Lairg Industrial Estate, Churchill Road, Lairg, Sutherland, IV27 4BL, Tel 01549 402798, e-mail <suthcare@ilmhighland.co.uk>

Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club – Bonar Bridge Hall – Wednesdays at 7.30pm



2011 Whist Drives - Participation £1.50 including refreshments. (Lessons can be arranged if you would like to learn how to play and participate in fundraising for community groups).

See local notice boards for groups 'Whisting' this autumn.

Whist nights start on 14 September and Wednesdays – raising funds for local groups.

For information about the Whist Club or any of the Host Groups please contact Mrs Rosemary Logan 01549 421 282

WINDFARMS

Beinn Tharsuinn – See A&DCC Draft Minute

Braemore – Proposals for a 27 x turbine windfarm at Braemore Wood 6Kkm southwest of Lairg. Contact for details Heather Houghton, Wind Prospect, 13 Rutland Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2ae Tel 01312258545, Web www.braemorewindfarm.co.uk E-mail braemore@windprospect.co.uk.

Achany – For further information about the Fund please contact any of the Panel members locally or make contact with Rachel Searle-Mbullu at the Scottish Community Foundation (0141 341 4961 or rachel@scottishcf.org) who supports the Fund's management and administration through the Scottish Community Foundation. The next deadlines for applications are 10 October. Application forms are available from the Bonar Bridge Service Point or from www.scottishcf.org/achany. – Applications Deadlines, 10 October. Meanwhile if you'd like to find out more about the Fund please contact either David Hannah or Marion Turner (Community Council Members)

Rosehall - Work began on site on 5th April 2011 and is progressing. A839 road improvements have been completed. Grants have already been awarded to A & DCC for construction of a footpath between Oakwood Place and Ardgay Hill and to Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group for an Open Day. Contact – Local representative, Liz Fraser 0800 0569 090 or e-mail rosehall@eon-uk.com. Updates are available at eon-uk.com/rosehall

Sallachy – Wind farm proposal – Location Sallachy & Duchally Estates, Loch Shin, 22 Turbines up to 125 metres high to tip of blade. Public exhibition given in Lairg Community Hall on 12 & 13 August 2011. Intention is to link in with the Achany Panel for Community Benefit and negotiations will be starting subject to planning consents, Contact - Meg Deasley, Senior Consultant, Docherty Consulting Limited, Centre Cottage, Bush House, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0BB, Tel: 0131 445 7580, Mob: 07917 725 150 Fax: 0131 445 7594, e-mail: meg@dochertyconsulting.com, Web: www.dochertyconsulting.com

Glen Moray – Nothing to report recently.

Glen Cassley – (5 kilometres south east of Lairg) Are now proceeding to a Scoping Opinion Request, Section 36 Application, for more information contact Lorraine Brown, The Scottish Government, Energy and Climate Change Directorate, Energy Division, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU. Tel 0300 244 1241, e-mail <Lorraine.brown2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dalnessie (at the Lairg end of Loch Shin) – Scoping exercise in progress – Contact Meg Deasley, Docherty Consulting Ltd Tel 0131 445 7580 <info@dochertyconsultingltd.com>

Coire na Cloich (close to Beinn Tharsuinn and Glen Morey) – Ardgay, Ardross and Edderton Community Councils meeting to discuss proposals.

Lairg Wind Farm – Of no practical benefit to Ardgay & District – but it does include a further 3 x Turbines in the general area from early September 2011.



A&DCC Chair wrote to all MSPs/MPs (6) and the 'press' across the Highlands in June 2011 asking for a 'Communities Champion' to be set up so that all communities which have wind farms 'imposed' would have consistency in dealing with the developers. To date only Mary Scanlon MSP has responded, and is providing positive support to protect all communities against the type of exploitation that is going on across Scotland under the present system.



Scottish Hydro Achany Community Day - invites residents of Lairg, Creich and Ardgay & District to a Community Day at Achany wind farm which is being held on:

Saturday 24 September from 9.30am until 4.00pm. Coach tours to the wind farm will leave from Lairg Community Centre throughout the day, giving you the opportunity to learn more about the site and surrounding area and see the turbines up close.

Tours will leave Lairg at the following times and will last approximately 90 minutes:

10.15am/11.15am/12.25am/1.30pm/2.35pm.

Registration for the coach tours will take place at the Community Centre throughout the day. As places on each tour are limited **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**, they will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. This family friendly day will have refreshments (including a light buffet), kids activities, competitions and lots of information about the wind farm. In addition, a return shuttle bus will operate from Bonar Bridge (opposite the war memorial) and Rosehall to Lairg (times will be advertised locally). Achany wind farm, which consists of 19 turbines, began construction in April 2009 and was successfully completed in October 2010.

For more information about the event, please contact our Liaison Manager Ruth Liddicoat on 01738 455120 or ruth.liddicoat@sse.com.

A warm welcome awaits you at Achany.

Background - KoSAB, a constituted organisation, was formed in February 2011 to ensure that the Braemore wind farm (BWF) planning application is declined in full. At a public meeting held in Invershin on 1st March, unanimous approval was given for KoSAB to act on behalf of those in the community opposed to Braemore. In order to keep as many as possible of those who object or objected to the proposed massive 27 turbine BWF up to date, it is now time to let you know what the current position is..... please read on!

Objections to Braemore - All the statutory consultees objected – namely Ardgay, Creich and Lairg Community Councils, RSPB, SEPA and SNH. RSPB's objection was based on the impact to on-site breeding hen harriers and the risks posed. SNH's objections were based on: - 1. The potential impacts to the River Oykel Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Kyle of Sutherland Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI). 2. Hen Harrier as per RSPB. 3 Landscape and Visual impacts - (for example they recommend the removal of the 3 most easterly turbines). SEPA – objections based on peat and ground water aspects.

There were over 200 individual objections.

Next Stages in Planning process - Highland Council is currently still processing all the information from SEPA, SNH and RSPB and other statutory consultees. It is also having the Developer's photomontages examined to judge their accuracy. The Developer (Wind Prospect) is now trying to reconcile the objections of the likes of SNH and RSPB with site modifications to try and meet all of their objections. For example, it is understood that the Developer has recently adhered to SNH's objection on 3 turbines and has said they will remove the three easterly turbines. Highland Council's Planning Officer for the application is thought likely to suggest that the application may be ready to go to Committee (the Planning Cttee of Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross) about September 2011. At that stage the Planning Officer will recommend to this Committee refusal or acceptance. When they meet, this HC Committee will vote to recommend either "refusal or acceptance" to the Scottish Minister. If acceptance, it is likely that the Minister will give the go-ahead. If they recommend refusal, then a mandatory Public Inquiry, which would last between 2 to 3 weeks, takes place. **It is vital we get a HC "refusal" vote at this point in the planning proceedings.** A Scottish government "Reporter" chairs an Inquiry, and once completed, makes his recommendation to the Minister, taking into account all representations from the Developer and objectors.

Key Factors in the objectors winning the Braemore case - There are four main factors which are key to winning the argument - Policy; Landscape; Landscape and Visual cumulative impact and Noise. The latter two are the most important in Braemore's case. Braemore is not within the Dornoch Firth National Scenic Area, so in this case landscape is less of an issue, though "**landscape and Visual cumulative impact**" is very important, due to the proximity of Achany and Rosehall Hill wind farms. **Noise** A major factor for Braemore given the 70 to 80 dwellings within 2kms of turbines. The likes of SNH, SEPA etc do not object to noise, **so it is vital that we raise the profile of noise, which is likely to affect many of us.** Using the proposed Spittal wind farm in Caithness as an equivalent case to follow, the Developer there commissioned two separate noise surveys, both which put all the 62 dwellings, within 2kms of the turbines, as being within the legal noise limit. However the local Spittal objectors commissioned their own noise survey at their expense **and this proved that noise exceeded the legal limit at most of these 62 houses.** (Note - the Spittal Public Inquiry has recently ended). In Braemore's case, the Developer is saying in its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that there is no noise problem at any local houses. This cannot be correct given the problems some houses are finding with Achany.

NEXT STEPS – We have been professionally advised that there is a need for KoSAB to commission its own independent noise survey using an expert in this field. Noise has become the principal area where Braemore's Developer can be challenged. However in order to ensure we have our facts absolutely correct (as per Spittal), it is vital that KoSAB commissions an independent noise survey as soon as possible. If we can get our noise survey done in good time and before HC's local Planning Committee meet to discuss the application, it will strengthen our case enormously. This independent noise survey will cost £1,400, but will be money well spent. KoSAB needs to raise this amount as soon as possible, and preferably more for other possible eventualities, by 15th July at the latest. This is our "Fighting Fund". We currently have £450 in the KoSAB account following a few individual generous donations, so we need a further £1,000 (essential) and more if possible.

DONATIONS - Please donate as much as you wish. If everyone who objects or objected to Braemore were to make a donation, we should raise our £1,000, and hopefully more! **Please send donations by cheque (made out to KoSAB) to:**

Michael Baird, The Bank House, Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, Ardgay, IV24 3EB.

Thank you -- from KoSAB's Steering Committee of Andy Simpson, Robert Howden, Michael Baird, Sandy Chalmers, David Lymburn, David Houston and Colin Gilmour.

Bonar Bridge Local History Society SCO 325 38 - Contact Marion Fraser. Secretary 01863 766235

The society has reached agreement with two Speakers for our Autumn programme, dates still to be confirmed for local posters.

They are Jim Johnston, Headmaster Farr High School. Dr Nick Lindsay -Talk on his walk through Sutherland to Cape Wrath.

To celebrate Highland Archaeology Fortnight, a visit to Langwell Fort Dun and 4000 year old grave is arranged for 12th October. There will be a written presentation to view,(indoors). Assembly Point will be South Bonar from which to proceed via the A837 Route. It is hoped that talks will be confirmed in the community hall for September and October.



The Business Gateway is a national programme to support enterprise throughout Scotland. In our area it is managed by Highland Opportunity Limited, which is an Enterprise Trust owned by Highland Council. If you wish to start or develop your own business contact David Knight – based at Key Commercial Services, Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EB, Mobile Number 07730419692 or E-mail david.knight@highland-opportunity.com.

Ardgay Meeting/Function Venues

Contact for Booking Ardgay Hall – Mrs Jennifer Burnett 01863 766658

Contact for Booking Kincardine Heritage Centre – Mrs Mary Stobo 01863 766868

Contact for Booking Ardgay Church Hall – Minister The Reverend Anthony Jones – 01863 766285



This is the list of groups and organisations in Ardgay & District, which I know about:

Achany Windfarm Trust	Ardgay & District Community Council	Ardgay & District Xmas Party
Ardgay Hall Committee	Art Club	Ardgay Badminton Club
Bradbury Centre	Bonar Bridge Football Club	Bonar Bridge/Ardgay Golf Club
Boys' Brigade	Bonar Bridge Local History Society	Church of Scotland
Crofters Group	Camera Club	Dornoch Academy Parent Council
Gardening Club	Gearchoille Community Wood Association	Highland Councillors
Invercharron Highland Games	Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust	Gledfield School PTA
Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group	Kyle of Sutherland Gala Committee	Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club
Kyle of Sutherland Initiative (KOSI)	The Ladybird Club	Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society
Other Worship Groups	Royal British Legion, Scotland	Mums & Toddlers/Playgroup
Scottish Country Dancers	Scottish Esperanto Association	SWRI
Sutherland Walkers Group	The Bridge Project	Tain Royal Academy
The Guild	Ward Forum	Community Development Service
Tain & District Rotary Club	Rosehall Community Arts	Citizens Advice Bureau

If you are a member of one of these, or know of any others and want to contribute regularly to the newsletter please contact the Editor (David Hannah on 01863 766061 or at <david@tnchome.co.uk>).

Creich & Kincardine Art Group – Meets Wednesdays from 10.00 to 3.00pm in Bonar Bridge Hall.

Contact Joan Mulligan – 01549 421321 for more information.



McLeod's Coaches Dial a Bus - Timetable - Ardgay, Bonar Bridge - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

09.30 - 12.30 13.30 - 15.00 16.00 - 17.30. Area of operation - 6 mile radius of Ardgay Station, plus Strathcarron road as far as Croick.

To and from Dornoch and Lawson Hospital, Golspie* *Please pre book your journey by 18.00 hrs on the previous day or 24 hrs in advance for destinations marked**. These services are operated under contract to the Highland Council. **Links to Macleod's Coaches** -

01408 641354 www.macleodiscoaches.co.uk A new timetable came into force on Monday 16 August 2010.

ARDGAY to Tain	06.53	09.13	11.18	14.18	17.08	17.53
EDDERTON	07.05	09.25	11.30	14.30	17.20	18.05
TAIN(LAMINGTON ST)	07.15C	09.35C	11.40C	14.40C	17.30C	18.15
TAIN(LAMINGTON ST) to Ardgay		07.30	10.11A	13.11G	15.11G	18.48
EDDERTON		07.36	10.17	13.17	15.17	18.54
ARDGAY		07.50	10.30	13.30	15.30	19.07

A - Will wait up to 5 minutes when necessary, for arrival of Stagecoach Service 25x bus from Inverness.

C - Stagecoach bus to Inverness departs 07.20 : 09.50 : 11.50

G - Will wait up to 10 minutes when necessary, for arrival of Stagecoach Service 25X bus from Inverness

Public Transport Access to TRACC Swimming Pool from Ardgay

By request – Tuesday's only – up to Sunday 9th October 2011* Macleod's Lairg -Tain bus service:-

Departs Ardgay 11.18 hrs. Arrives TRACC Swimming Pool 11.45 hrs.

Tain Royal Academy Community Complex Open Session until 12.30 hrs.

Macleod's Tain - Lairg bus service:- Departs TRACC 12.55 hrs. Arrives Ardgay 13.30 hrs. * After 9th October either: - see Ardgay village notice board; contact TRACC, Hartfield Road, Tain, 01862 893767 or contact Macleod's Coaches 01408-641345

Edderton and District Gardening Club. Edderton and District Gardening Club meets on the first Monday of each month from September through to June. At the winter meetings talks from guest speakers are followed by refreshments and informal discussions. There is usually a plant swap stall. Meetings are held in Edderton Community Centre, starting at 7.30 p.m. (except for the AGM which starts at 7p.m.) Garden visits and social events take place during the summer. Members come from the Kyle of Sutherland through to Tain and new members are always welcome - telephone 01863 766061 for more information.

Autumn programme: 3rd October at 7.30 p.m. Heather McAllister from Tain Gardening Club – "Gardens of Australia".

7th November at 7.30 p.m. Fiona MacDonald from Grean will give an update of the activities of Golspie Recycling & Environmental Action network.

5th December at 7.30 p.m. Sally Wild will demonstrate "Making Decorations from your Garden"



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Outreach Post Office Service for Ardgay - The service operates from the Ardgay Community Hall twice a week (**Monday 1330hrs to 1630hrs and Friday 1000hrs to 1300hrs**). As the post office is a mobile operation there is only limited scope for the introduction of retail products such as stationery. Once the demand is understood then it is hoped that the Ardgay Outreach service will be able to stock a basic range of envelopes, mailing bags and posting boxes. Ardgay Outreach Post Office is operated from Alness Post Office and so the products and services on offer include:

Full range of Royal Mail postal services	Pre-order foreign currency	
Full range of parcelforce UK and international services	Stamps, stamp books	
Post Office Card Account services (pensions and benefits)	Motor Vehicle Licence discs	
Council tax payments (with a payment card)	Postal orders	
Bill payments (electricity, gas, telephone, transcash)	International phone cards	
Processing NSI savings products, including premium bonds	Christmas savings card	Budget card (to replace savings stamps)
Highland Council and housing association rent payments (with a payment card)		

Please do not hesitate to pop in and ask about the services available from your community Post Office, I'll do my best to answer your questions. **Sarah Burton, Sub postmistress – Tel 01349 884487**

Boy's Brigade – Will resume after the October holidays and all new members in primary seven and older will be most welcome. They meet every Friday night at 7pm in the hall and would welcome anyone of P7 age or older who wishes to join. Leaders & Helpers required. Please contact Donald Simmonds (766796) or Donald Brown (766166)

KYLE OF SUTHERLAND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GROUP (KSYDG) – call Hayley on 766 310

The KSYDG is continuing to expand its project based on the south Bonar Industrial Estate please telephone Hayley on 01863766310.

WARD FORUM – The Ward Forum for West & Central Sutherland takes place in Lochinver Village Hall on Saturday 24th September. If you are unable to attend but would like anything raised at the Ward Forum please contact one of your Community Councillors.

Gazebo/Small Marquee - The Community Council have a small gazebo/marquee available for hire for community activities. Contact Marion Turner or Phil Olson for Terms and Conditions.

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society, EXHIBITION 2011

Kincardine Old Church, Ardgay - (Reg Scottish Charity No. (SC0145547) - HERITAGE CENTRE DIARY - Steve Copley, Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society, 'Lest We Forget' project co-ordinator.

This year's annual KOSHS exhibition runs from **October 1st – 16th** and is called "A Place To Call Home". It will highlight some of the aspects that make the Kyle of Sutherland such a special place.

The society have been very lucky to establish a link with Professional wildlife photographer Charlie Phillips and for the duration of the 2011 exhibition we will be displaying a selection of Charlie's wildlife photographs. On the evenings of **10th & 11th October** – at 7:30pm - Charlie will be giving his own illustrated lecture entitled "Fur, Fins and Feathers" at which he will show many more of his local wildlife photographs.

As well as providing a home for wildlife the Kyle of Sutherland is home to people, both past and present and the Society will have on show a new selection from its own Photo Archive, which will contain images of the area and its people from times past - to not so very long ago.

The 'Lest We Forget' project is not displaying at the exhibition this year as it has now started its second phase of research and is busily rediscovering the men and women who died for us in the 2nd World War, but if anyone has information or photographs for the 'LWF' project please bring them to the exhibition to have them copied. However, during the 2011 exhibition we will be selling the last few copies of the 'LWF' projects 111 page, illustrated, first report. This first report uses contemporary written sources and photographs to detail the daily life of people in the Kyle of Sutherland before and during the First World War. The report also gives details of each of the men and women of who are now immortalised on our area's War Memorials and



concludes with the – sometimes quarrelsome - stories of the building of our area's four war memorials. The report is a must for anyone interested in the area's history and all for only £5 a copy.

Also at the 2011 exhibition there will be a special display of the society's research relating to the Clearances and we will be launching our new "Clearances Project". The aim of the Clearances Project is to try and gather together all the information we can on all the Clearances which took place in the Kyle of Sutherland area during the 18th and 19th centuries. These Clearances, some better known than others, are spread throughout our area from Airdens and Achany to Rosehall, Glencalvie, Culrain and Gruinards. If you have any information regarding any or all of these clearances please bring it along to the exhibition and if you are interested in this unfortunate but fascinating part of our history then why not join the project and help with our research?

As next year, 2012, marks the 200th anniversary of the building of the very first Bonar Bridge – and therefore the establishing of the village of Bonar-Bridge - the Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society are eager to hear from anyone who has any information, paintings or photographs of Bonar in days gone by, as it is hoped the Society's 2012 Exhibition will be entirely devoted to charting the two centuries since the Bridge at Bonar was built and illustrating what it has meant not just for Bonar but for the entire area once reliable road – and later rail - communications with the outside world were established. Please let the Society know what photos or other information you may have.

The Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society's 2011 exhibition is open every day from the 1st to the 16th October inclusive from 10 am to 5 pm. and on Tuesday the 4th until 8 pm, the lectures on the 10th & 11th begin at 7:30pm. There will be plenty to see at the exhibition for both adults and children alike. Entry to the Exhibition and the two evening lectures is free but if anyone wishes to make a donation towards the work of the society it would be very much appreciated

CYCLE for WELLBEING - The Bailey Bridge Circular (45Km). This route is entirely on road. A good run with a choice of coffee stops!

All distances are approximate. Leave Ardgay and take the road to Culrain (7Km). From Culrain continue below Carbisdale Castle and on up Strathkyle to the Bailey Bridge across the Oykel River (at 22Km). Turn right for Rosehall and after Rosehall bear right for Bonar Bridge. Cross the River Shin at the Invershin Power Station (at 36Km) and continue to the Invershin railway viaduct (at 38Km) where you have a choice: you can stay on the main road and return via Bonar Bridge to Ardgay directly (45Km) or cross the viaduct and return by the Culrain road (45Km).



If you have a walk or cycle trail you would like to feature in the Newsletter please email: info@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

The Kyle of Sutherland Cycling Club - launched last month organised by Chris Bowden at Heaven Bikes. The club sets off every Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from the Ardgay Garage. Tuesday nights are ladies nights offering a gentle ride out with Wednesday being a mixed group night covering a longer distance (ride outs differ based on ability and weather conditions)

For more information on the club please contact Chris at info@koscc.co.uk or check out their website at www.koscc.co.uk

You can also find the club on Facebook - search for Kyle of Sutherland Cycling Club.

Community Council Elections

Community Council elections 2011

For the first time later this year, elections for 153 Community Councils across the Highlands will be held at the same time. This is the result of the approval of a new scheme of establishment agreed by The Highland Council in June. A local election, by postal vote, will take place where the number of valid nominations exceeds the maximum number of members each Community Council is allowed.

The deadline for nominations is 4 pm on Tuesday 4 October and, where an election is required, the deadline for voting by post will be 5pm on Wednesday 16 November.

Counting will take place over the following two days. The scheme provides for the election of 1,322 Community Council members. The Highland Council is organising elections to the new Community Councils as required by the new Scheme of Community Councils. Community Councils have statutory duties in terms of licensing and planning however they are essentially voluntary bodies established within a statutory framework.

The key roles of Community Councils are:

- To represent the views of the community to The Highland Council and other public bodies operating in their area
- To act to further the interests of their communities
- To be consulted on planning applications within their area (The Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Amendment Order 1996)
- To consider exercising their powers to object to the granting, renewal or transfer of liquor licences. (The Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976)

THE WORK OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS - The Highland Council recognises the wide range of work undertaken by Community Councils and that it is for each Community Council to determine the range of work it wishes to undertake. The Highland Council will provide advice and practical assistance to Community Councils undertaking the following range of work:

- Seeking and representing local views through local meetings, surveys, newsletters, exhibitions, etc.
- Undertaking pilot projects which lead to good practice that can be used as examples for other Community Councils to follow
- Working in partnership with The Highland Council and other organisations on projects that meet local community needs
Developing good working relationships with the Highland Councillors, Area Committees and Council staff
- Providing annual feedback to The Highland Council through the submission of an Annual Report
- Participating in the work of Area Community Council Forums (Area Forums will be encouraged to attend the AGM of the Association of Scottish Community Councils)
- Undertaking Forward Planning to ensure that the future work of the Community Council takes account of changing local needs and external changes.

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS ELECTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS



As a result of the introduction of a new Scheme of Community Councils, Elections must be held to create the new Community Councils.

The Elections will take place on **Wednesday 16 November 2011** where the number of valid Nominations exceeds the membership number of the relevant Community Council.

Persons seeking election require to appear in the current Electoral Register for the Community Council area, or if aged 16 or 17 years old, have completed a Voter Registration application.

Voter Registration forms and copies of the scheme for the establishment of Community Councils can be downloaded from the Highland Council Website; obtained on request, by e-mail to elections@highland.gov.uk; in person from any Service Point, or from the Council's Service Centre (Tel 01349 886606). To stand as a candidate at the Election, the Completed registration forms must be submitted to the Electoral Registration Officer by Wednesday 31 August. Completed Nomination Forms must be submitted by Tuesday 04 October.

Alistair Dodds,
Returning Officer,
Council Headquarters,
Glenurquhart Road,
INVERNESS IV3 5NX

The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust Annual General Meeting will be held on 23 September 2011 at 10.30am in Highland Council Headquarters, Inverness. A & DCC Chair has been nominated for election as a Community Elected Board Member.

Gearrhoille Community Woodland Association - Membership is open to everyone and all of the money raised is spent on the wood. Application forms are available from: The Secretary – Mrs Rhonwen Copley, 16 Oakwood Place, Ardgay, Tel. 01863 766174

Gearrhoille Community Wood Ardgay - Registered Office: 28 Queensgate, Inverness IV1 1YN
Registered in Scotland No: 263887 Scottish Charity No: SC 036 181 email: gcwa@btinternet.com

Upcoming event: Birds & Beasts in the Gearrhoille Sat October 1st. We are planning a morning of activities in the oak wood, suitable for all ages. Bird Ringing with Andrew Ramsay, a minibeast hunt with Ian Paterson, Countryside Ranger and willow sculpture/art workshop with Christel Smeets. Full details available on posters locally, or contact Betty Wright, gcwa@btinternet.com Tel 01863 755316 www.gearrhoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk has masses of information about the woodland and notices of upcoming events. It also offers you the opportunity to contact the GCWA directors and let them know what you would like to see happen in the wood in the future.

Last month, as part of the Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week there was a Bushcraft & Shelter Building event held in the Gearrhoille Wood. Ian Paterson, the Highland Council Countryside Ranger, soon had his enthusiastic audience fully engaged in constructing a variety of shelters – it was suggested that any of the local bird watchers who came across these structures would also appreciate them as temporary hides and who knows what they may spy from them. The fun didn't stop with the completion of the shelters; Ian went on to encourage a hands-on, practical experiment in a basic survival skill. This was thoroughly enjoyed by both those who took part and the less adventurous onlookers. Ian was thanked for making this such an enjoyable event and being lucky enough to pick a sunny morning to hold it on in what, unfortunately, had been



Countryside Ranger Ian Paterson and some of the children 'bushcrafting'

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Friday : 08.30 – 4.30

Saturday : 9.00 – 12 noon

Ardgay Flower Pots - Fancy a colourful



container for your garden this summer? Jeannie & Douglas are planting containers with a variety of Summer flower to provide eye-catching displays and will be offering these at low costs. We also have a garden tidy service.

Contact us for details. Jeannie Sparling, Tel 01863 766609. Douglas Sparling, Tel 07513541569.

e-mail douglasparring@btinternet.com

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Now available for 'small handyman' jobs

David Hannah, Ardgay Tel 01863 766061

Mobile 07880 776909.

e-mail david@tnchome.co.uk

Now that Summer has gone, and Autumn is upon us it is time to start thinking about Winter tips for Homes and Cars.

Homes – clear out gutters and rhones, check over for loose slates and tiles, turn of water in garages and drain down.

Cars – check over your tyres and fit Winter ones if you are driving in snow and icy conditions, top up anti-freeze and put your emergency kit back in the car (blankets, snow shovel, bag of grit, welly boots and waterproofs, snow chains if you have them). Safe driving.

