A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST AND FUTURE OF THIS EMBLEMATIC ARDGAY LANDMARK

A new stage for The Lady Ross

Ardgay & District Community Council has been actively seeking for a group to manage a development project for the site. Find out what are the possibilities.

A public meeting was held on the 14th April to identify a group who can form a development project for The Lady Ross site. Although the subject aroused interest and gathered around 25 persons at the Hall, the Community Council failed to identify a small group of leaders willing to step up and start managing the project. However, there was one thing about which most people agree: The Lady Ross is a good brand and might be worth keeping.

(Continue reading in page 4)

KINCARDINE WAR MEMORIAL AMONG THE BEST KEPT WAR MEMORIALS 2014

First World War centenary events

Our local War Memorials in Creich and Kincardine are ready for the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of the WW1

- **Royal British Legion Scotland** is ultimating the restoration works in Creich War Memorial with a public rededication service due on Monday 4th August.  
  Page 6

- **The Highland Military Tattoo** returns to Inverness (5-7 September). The programme of activities includes a “Historical Vignette 1914”.  
  Page 17

- **Ferrycroft Centre** will hold the exhibition “Reading between the lines”, a community remembrance project from Lairg & District Learning Centre.  
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The Kincardine (Ardgay) War Memorial has been entered into the Best Kept War Memorial 2014 competition.

Greening Kyle: growing your own food while reducing waste and carbon footprint

The organisation aims to reduce household energy consumption, energy bills and food waste whilst encouraging local food growing for the Kyle of Sutherland residents.  

**How to apply for Community Benefit Money**  
Page 10

Telephone guide, Bus timetable, Events in the area, Gardening tips, Crosswords...
Muirhall Energy Ltd, a renewable energy company based in rural South Lanarkshire, is hosting a public exhibition for their potential 23 turbine wind energy development on land at Caplich, Oykel Bridge.

The exhibition will give the public an opportunity to chat with developers, observe our plans and ask any questions related to the potential development.

The Exhibitions will take place at the following venues:
- Elphin Hall – Wednesday 18th June 17:00-20:00
- Bonar Bridge Community Hall – Thursday 19th June 10:00-13:00
- Rosehall Village Hall – Thursday 19th June 17:00-20:00

Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat, provide feedback and have a cup of tea.

If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact us at the following:
- Peter Marshall – pgm@muirhallenergy.co.uk
- Meghan Cunningham – mc@muirhallenergy.co.uk

Business support in Sutherland

We can help you with almost every aspect of starting, developing and running a business:

- Accessing finance
- Business planning
- Taking on staff
- Improving efficiency
- Winning public contracts
- Branching into new markets
- and much more...

Contact us:
- David Knight, Senior Area Business Manager
  Marianne Ross, Recruitment Adviser
- Business Gateway, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EB
  01863 766128
  David.Knight@highland-opportunity.com
  Marianne.Ross@highland-opportunity.com
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EDITOR'S LETTER

Beginnings

I have to begin this letter thanking David Hannah, who first took up the challenge of creating this newsletter. Without his work, any of these pages could exist. Also, to all the people who have kindly contributed to this issue in one way or another, and to those who had encouraging words for me: thank you. I sincerely hope you will find these pages useful. I would like to hear your views about the new contents and layout and hopefully in the future we could also have more reader's letters and contributions and this newsletter will become more and more a community forum.

Silvia Muras Editor
Past and future of The Lady Ross

On the former site of the Balnagown Arms Hotel a new building was opened in 1959 as The Lady Ross which was sadly gutted by fire in 2006. After being empty for eight years, the time has come to bring life again to the building.

(Starts on front page)

Dorothy Mercado, also known as Lady Ross, was the third wife of Sir Charles Ross of Balnagown. Ross spent most of his working life in the United States, where Dorothy Mercado worked as his American secretary before marrying in 1938. He passed away aged 70 in St. Petersburg, Florida, so in 1942 Lady Ross inherited the castle and estates, as well as many debts. Jeanne Mitchell reports that she was a beautiful, warm, generous and energetic woman. She tried to run the estates with her second husband, Frank de Moleyns, but they failed in their business adventure, and the estate was gradually sold off. By the late 1960s the castle itself was in a state of decay. What remained of the estates was bought by Mohamed al Fayed in 1972, who restored the castle.

CAFE, POST OFFICE & PUB

In June 1959, a new building in the place of the Balnagown Arms Hotel opened as a bar and a cafe with accommodation in the back. It proved to be a great success. “There was always a good menu offering home-cooked food of excellent quality. It certainly was a lively place with bus parties sometimes arriving in hoards”, wrote Lily Byron for The Northern Times. After decades of activity as a cafe, post office and pub, The Lady Ross was gutted by fire in the early hours of the morning of the 12th April 2006. The business has been closed ever since, but the parking is still a meeting point for the people of Ardgay and without a doubt the site enjoys an advantageous position in the village.

REFERENCES & FURTHER READING
www.tainmuseum.org.uk
A TIME FOR ACTION
The Community Council cannot own assets, but it can give directions to any group willing to undertake the task of developing a plan for community ownership of The Lady Ross. A key point for getting money from the Land Fund is that, in the early stages of the process, managers must give evidence of the interest of at least 10% of the population of Ardgay & District, a percentage that will increase to more than 50% after having a plan. In addition, this plan needs to be long term oriented and sustainable. Ardgay Community Council has now handed over the information and, should a local group appear with a plan, they would most probably be able to provide consulting on Funding applications.

OTHER CASES
The first land secured under community buy-out legislation is in Crossgates, Fife. In 2005 Crossgates Community Woodland raised £150,000 to buy the Taft, a 15 hectare site near the village and turned it into a community facility. Another example is Assynt Foundation that bought Drumrunie Forest, Glencanisp Lodge and Glencanisp Forest for £2,915,000. The Foundation rents Glencanisp Lodge as quality holiday accommodation, offering sporting activities to their guests. And of course, the closest example is the recent purchase of the Post Office in Bonar Bridge by the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.

LETTER FROM OLIVER PATENT
Opportunity for local businesses
Sallachy Wind Farm

Hello and thank you once again for letting WKN contribute to the Ardgay & District Community Council Newsletter.

This is just a short update to let you know that, along with trade group Energy North, we are currently urging local companies across the Highlands to get registered so they can tender for a share of around £100 million worth of work from the construction of Sallachy Wind Farm should it be consented.

As you may know, The Highland Council backed our proposal for Sallachy in May 2013 when it ‘raised no objection’ to the application and the proposal is currently with the Scottish Government’s Energy Consent Deployment Unit for consideration, however if the wind farm is consented we want to be able to move quickly to get construction work started.

That’s why, alongside Energy North, we recently held an event in Inverness for businesses across the region and invited them to register their interest and sign a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). We had thirteen local businesses attend the event, with over twenty five people in attendance, and the feedback we received was that they greatly appreciated the way we were engaging with the local community.

If you know of any local companies who would be interested in registering and would like to obtain a copy of the PQQ form please don’t hesitate to get in touch using my contact details below. You can also access the form and more information online at www.sallachywindfarm.co.uk.

We also held a Sallachy Liaison Forum in mid-May and it was very helpful to receive news from the local community council representatives and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who attended.

We hope to hear shortly regarding our application for Sallachy Wind Farm and we will of course keep you updated however, in the meantime, if you have any questions about the PQQ process or our application please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks for taking the time to read my update.

Oliver Patent, WKN AG
patent@wkn-ag.de
0141 212 7222

Community Benefit Panel vacancies

There are two vacancies coming up on the SSE & E.ON Community Funds Panel which makes decisions on the E.ON Rosehall and Scottish Hydro Achany Community Funds. One community representative is required from each of the Ardgay Community Council and Creich Community Council areas. Nomination forms will be available from 6 June locally (see posters for details) or from www.foundationscotland.org.uk/rosehall.

Closing date for nominations is Friday 27 June at 5pm.
Ardgay & District News

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND

War Memorials ready for Centenary Commemorations

The Kincardine War Memorial (Ardgay) has been entered into the Best Kept War Memorial 2014 competition and Creich War Memorial (Bonar Bridge) will have a public rededication service on 4th August.

The Creich and Kincardine Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland met on 5 May.

The whist night on 5 March raised £140 for the Branch. As ever, the Branch really values the support we receive from the local community.

The Kincardine (Ardgay) War Memorial has been entered into the Best Kept War Memorial 2014 competition.

We are delighted with the restoration work on the Creich (Bonar Bridge) War Memorial that started on 19 May and finished by the beginning of June. Posters had been put up in the village to provide more details and leaflets had been dropped into homes in the immediate vicinity. A public rededication service followed by a lunch in the Village Hall is being planned for 4 August to form part of our Centenary Commemorations of the start of WW1.

A raffle for Branch funds will also be launched -donations, particularly from local businesses, would be much appreciated.

The Highlands and Islands Area Golf Competition will be held at the Bonar Bridge/Ardgay Golf Club on 15 June. The Club have very generously donated golf vouchers for the Branch raffle. Any RBLS members interested in playing in the Area competition should contact Fiona Porter, the Branch Secretary, on 01863 766349.

Several members advised that they will be attending the Armed Forces event at Drummuie, Golspie on 23rd June, including the Branch Standard Bearer. Any other members wishing to attend the ceremony and lunch should contact the Branch Secretary.

Fiona Porter, Secretary RBLG

Royal British Legion Scotland
Creich & Kincardine Branch
f.porter514@btinternet.com
01863 766 349

NEW WELFARE RIGHTS OUTREACH WORKER, MS CHRIS DALL

East Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau are here to help

We offer free, confidential, impartial and independent advice, information, and assistance to anyone, on just about any subject. We are asked about a huge range of concerns. Although many queries relate to welfare benefits, we also deal frequently with issues about employment, housing, relationships, consumer matters and debt.

The CAB now has a new welfare rights outreach worker, Ms Chris Dall who has over four years’ bureau experience, both as volunteer and staff member. Chris’s role, with a particular focus on young mothers, young carers and older people, aims to help people claim their benefits entitlements, as well as providing support for appeals and tribunals where appropriate. Chris will also be able to refer clients to the CAB for more general assistance.

We are always eager for new volunteers to join us as advisers. No special skills are needed and full training is provided. Becoming a CAB adviser is an excellent way of making a contribution to, and becoming involved in, the local community.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any bureau, and the experience can be stimulating and satisfying – and can help with moving on to employment. .

Based in Station Road, Golspie, the CAB is open between 10am-1pm, and 2-4pm Mon-Thurs, and 10am-1pm on Fridays. We also have outreach clinics in Brora (in the library, Tuesdays, from 2-4pm), Dornoch (in the Service Point, Wednesdays from 2-4pm) and Bonar Bridge (in the Library, Thursdays from 10.15am-12.15pm).

Jim McCourt

CAB, Station Road, Golspie
advice@esvas.casonline.org.uk
01408 633 000
Look out for your survey in mid-June.

Prize Draw: £30 voucher from Ormiston and Watt Butchers

Return date: 4th July 2014

The Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust has commissioned the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) to carry out an in-depth local survey of housing need now and analysis of future demand.

Every household should receive a copy through the mail, then complete it and return it to HSCHT for analysis. An online option will also be available. Your details will remain strictly confidential. A report will be compiled over the summer months.

If you would like any further information, please contact us on:

01463 233 549     info@hscht.co.uk     www.hscht.co.uk
Exploring Telford’s heritage in the Kyle of Sutherland

A new project exploring local heritage, and particularly that of Thomas Telford, is starting this month. Over the next seven months there will be courses, walks, workshops and talks, something for everyone inside and out.

Thomas Telford changed the face of the Highlands,’ explains Susan Kruse, project organiser with Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands. ‘He built roads, bridges, harbours, piers, and canals, in the early 1800s, creating at last a transport network for the Highlands. Many remains survive in the Kyle of Sutherland area, though some such as the famous Bonar Bridge no longer exist. In addition Telford also built churches and manses in remote areas, with Croick church one of the finest examples. This project allows us to learn about, explore and then promote his achievements in this area.’

The project started with sessions to share and listen to memories, stories and knowledge of the buildings, sites and features in the area, both those relating to Telford and others people know about. These took place on 29th May and 5th June, 7-9:30 at Kincardine Old Church. Everyone is welcome to attend the sessions, whether to share memories or to learn about local heritage.

This is followed by a lecture by Dr Malcolm Bangor-Jones on ‘Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland’ on 12th June, 7pm, also at Kincardine Old Church. This will set the scene for the sessions which follow, drawing on research in archives.

On 19th and 26th June the focus switches to researching Telford remains, with sessions at Bonar Bridge Community Hall, 7-9:30. On 19th June, there will be opportunities to explore local and national heritage databases which record all known heritage in the area. These not only provide useful information about what is already known, but can be used when planning walks. On 26th June the focus will switch to old maps, exploring many of the ones available from the 1600s through to modern times. No computing experience needed for either session.

Further sessions over the summer and in the autumn will include walks, building survey workshops and other courses encouraging people to research, record and photograph Telford remains in the area. In the autumn participants will create a display and leaflet. All events are free, and transport can be provided if needed. Contact the ARCH office (leave message) if you want further information or would like to be kept informed of future activities relating to the project.

The Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland project is funded by the Robertson Trust and E.ON Rosehall Community Fund managed by Foundation Scotland.

Susan Kruse
ARCH Project Officer

ARCH
info@archhighland.org.uk
01349 868 230
Was your Granny a Suffragist?

Can any readers assist in providing information, stories or memorabilia about women and men involved in the suffrage campaign in the Highlands a hundred years ago? The Workers’ Educational Association (WEA) is currently investigating the campaign for women’s suffrage in the Highlands as part of a project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and participants on the project are researching archives and other sources of information.

While there has been a lot of work concerning suffrage elsewhere in Scotland, there is very little known about activities here. However, from looking at old newspapers we know that there was huge interest, with rallies throughout the Highlands attended by hundreds of men and women. Do you have any information, family stories or photographs of any of the people involved, for or against? If you can help, please contact: Susan Kruse Project tutor WEA, 57 Church Street, Inverness highlandsuffrage@gmail.com 01463 710 577

Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland

A variety of free courses and workshops focussing on heritage in the Kyle of Sutherland, and in particular that of Thomas Telford, will continue into the autumn. The first sessions have been arranged:

29th May & 5th June: Remembering Kyle of Sutherland. Kincardine Old Church, 7-9:30
12th June: Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland. Public lecture by Malcolm Bangor-Jones, Kincardine Old Church 7pm
19th June: Heritage databases. Bonar Bridge Hall, 7-9:30
26th June: Old maps. Bonar Bridge Hall, 7-9:30

See article for further details. Transport is available if needed. Other events to follow! Contact the ARCH office for more information or to be added to the mailing list for future events: info@archhighland.org.uk or 01349 868230.
Ardgay & District News

Step by step guide to apply for Community Benefit money

The Beinn na Oighrean Windfarm Awards
Small projects under £250
1. Go to Ardgay & District CC website:
   www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk/funding where you can find full details.
2. Or send a letter to Teresa Langley (see right column)

The Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm
Community Benefit Fund
Projects under £2,000
1. Go to Ardgay & district CC website:
   www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk/funding where you can find full details.
2. Send an email to beinntharsuinn.awards@ardgayand districtcommunitycouncil.org.uk
3. Or send a letter to Teresa Langley (see right column)

SSE Achany Community Fund
Between £250 and £10,000 +
1. Visit sse.com/beingresponsible/responsiblecommunitymember/localcommunityfunds/achany for more info and to download the application form.
2. Complete and return to fiona.morrison@sse.com or by Royal Mail to: Fiona Morrison, Corporate Affairs, SSE, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN
3. Next deadline: 31th October 2014 and the Panel meets at the end of December.

E.ON Rosehall Community Fund
Between £2,000 and £25,000 +
2. Alternatively, you can contact Carol Elliot by email carol@foundationscotland.org.uk or call 07500 779 227 if you require any further information or advice.
3. Next deadline: 31th October 2014 and the Panel meets at the end of December.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON SSE & E.ON COMMUNITY FUNDS:
Decisions on awards are made by the SSE & E.ON Community Funds Panel. Applications can only be made to one or other of these Funds.
Ardgay & District News

**GEARRCHOILLE COMMUNITY WOOD ARDGAY**

**A busy spring and next summer events in your Community Wood**

Our team of volunteers meets regularly on the first Thursday of each month at 2 pm. There will be also many extra activities during the summer, including pond dipping.

We have been busy in the wood this spring. We thinned an area of birch trees alongside the all abilities path from the car park, which was then put through a chipper & scattered in the wood. The chippings can be put to use in the garden, either as a mulch or as a top dressing (scatter 1cm of fresh chippings from branch wood - smaller than 7 cms diameter - on the soil and rake into the top 5 or 10cms of soil) See www.scribd.com/doc/97216016/Chipped-Wood for detailed instructions. If you would like some chippings when we do more thinning next year, let us know.

We will continue with our volunteer afternoons through the summer. We have been doing general tidying, clearing drains, checking tree tubes, putting up notice boards and waymarking a path through the north end of the wood. We will be strimming the paths and hopefully have enough volunteers to flatten the area of bracken and repaint the picnic benches. We don’t work too hard, so there is always time for a chat.

We were fortunate enough to have Ian Paterson returning this year for another of his bushcraft events. There were plenty of folks to enjoy learning knots & becoming proficient enough to make a bridge across a stream which supported the weight of all those brave enough to cross (including adults).

Pond Dipping: Ian will be back again on Friday August 08, Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm Meet at the Gearchoille Wood car park - A great place to look for the creatures lurking in the pond and dragonflies over it. ■ Betty Wright

* gcwardgay@btinternet.com
Ardgay Public Hall

PLEASE SUPPORT THE HALL BY COMING ALONG TO THE NEXT MEETING

Local input needed for our Public Hall

Ardgay Hall Committee are calling on the residents of Ardgay to come along to their next meeting... don't worry it is not an AGM... so you will not be asked to be an office bearer!

We really need new committee members... we have six members at the moment and we are finding it very difficult to run fundraising events with so few pairs of hands. The hall belongs to the community of Ardgay not the committee that runs it... so please, please, please come along and give whatever time you can to your Community Hall :)

Committee meetings are advertised in the hall and on the village notice boards, so please look out for the next notice.

Rhonwen Copley

Ardgay Public Hall Committee:
CHARITY NUMBER 008669
David Laver Chair
Rhonwen Copley Secretary/Treasurer
Fiona Venter Booking Sec.
Carol Shaw, Caroline Sale, and Jockie Hewitt

LIKE US IN FACEBOOK!

The Lady Ross officially opened the door to the original Balnagown hall on 1st February 1892, being this building “erected solely at her expense and to her taste” (Ross-shire Journal)

Who owns Ardgay Public Hall?

1ST FEBRUARY 1892

“Through the generosity and kind consideration of Lady Ross of Balnagown, the people of Ardgay district have been presented with a neat and comfortable public hall.” [...] It has been erected solely at the expense of Lady Ross, and to her taste, the plans having all been approved in detail by her before being carried out. The building is whinstone, from the estate, with freestone dressings, inside it is neatly fitted up, special attention having been given to comfort and convenience.” (Ross-shire Journal 05-02-1892)

1966

At a public meeting it was confirmed that the original Balnagown Hall had been condemned as unsafe. The community agreed at that meeting to accept a gift of adjacent land from Balnagown Estate and to raise the funds to build a new hall on it. The agreement being that the new hall would be owned by the residents of the parish of Kincardine & Croick, and managed by a voluntary committee drawn from local residents and hall user group representatives.

FEBRUARY 1966 - MAY 1967

The Hall Committee archive shows a mountain of work towards planning the present day ‘new’ hall. The project included the construction of ‘Miniature Rifle Ranges’.

21ST DECEMBER 1968

The community worked hard to raise the funding and the ‘new’ hall was officially opened on Saturday 21st December 1968. The old hall was finally demolished the following August. It continues to be the focus for a vast majority of community activities. being used on a regular basis by Badminton; Tai-chi; Playgroup; Boys Brigade; Country Dancing club; SWRI...
Greening Kyle

FIND OUT HOW GREENING KYLE CAN HELP YOU REDUCE YOUR ENERGY BILL AND FOOD WASTE

Save energy, grow your own food and reduce carbon footprint

A new organisation has been formed with the remit of reducing household energy consumption, energy bills and food waste whilst encouraging local food growing.

The Greening Kyle project, part of the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, welcomed Valerie Houston, Rhionna Pace and Irene Macnab into post on 31st March 2014. This sees the roles of Project Officer, Project Assistant and part time Project Administrator being undertaken to deliver the 2 year project.

The project will work with the community to decrease energy use, lower household bills, tackle fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions by offering advice on how to use energy efficiently in the home. The project will also provide information and support to enable local people to decrease food waste and encourage residents to grow their own food. Both of these activities will help to further decrease local carbon emissions and tackle climate change while helping residents save money. A series of workshops aimed at reducing food waste and saving money on food bills will be scheduled in the coming months.

Home Energy Assessments
Greening Kyle staff and volunteers recently completed their City & Guilds Energy Assessor certificate and free home energy visits are now available to residents in the Ardgay and Creich community council areas. We will come to your house and show you the most efficient way to use your heating and hot water systems, talk you through how to use your heating timers and programmers and offer help and advice if your heating system does not function properly. We can also offer help and advice regarding insulation and draught proofing, condensation and damp problems and reducing your household food and energy bills. We will contact the Energy Savings Trust on your behalf and they may be able to arrange for an upgraded heating system or improved insulation measures.

Energy advice to householders will be ongoing and you can refer yourself, friends or relatives to our service. Referral forms are available from shops and public buildings around the local villages. Home energy assessment visits will typically be less than one hour and are completely free.

The project are currently establishing a working partnership with Gledfield, Rosehall and Bonar Bridge Primary Schools in a bid to increase children’s awareness of climate change through workshops and competitions.

Growing Group
We are looking to establish a ‘growing group’ in the Kyle of Sutherland area for anyone that is interested in learning how to grow their own produce and are also looking to recruit households to take up an energy and waste reduction challenge. To find out more about the growing group, the energy and waste reduction challenge, our home energy assessments or anything else about the project then please get in touch.

Valerie Houston Project Officer Trust Offices, Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge IV24 3EB
☎ 01863 766 554
✉ gkassistant@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

Like Us in Facebook!

Greening Kyle
Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust

40th Bridge Birthday Celebrations – 17 May 2014

An exhibition with tea and cakes during the day and family ceilidh was followed by Blue Ridge in Bonar Bridge Hall in the evening.

Kirstin Pickett, Trust Business Services assistant has very ably managed the events. All the competitions had a good number of entries. There was a good turn out to see the exhibition and the family ceilidh was very well supported.

Winning poem
Haile Jade Tripney
from Gledfield Primary School in the P4-7 category
won the poetry competition with “The Bridge” (right)

A SALMON’S TALE

Smolt Trap Trip

These events reveal the fascinating life of the Atlantic salmon and explain the crucial conservation work being done by Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries. Smolt Trap Trip had four paying clients of its first trip. It was a grand day out and the participants found the whole day fascinating. The second trip could not happen as there was not sufficient water in rivers thus the traps had no fish.
FOLLOWING THEIR successful application to the Scottish Land Fund and subsequent acquisition of the post office, adjacent house and surrounding land, the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust plan to start refurbishment of the existing house this summer.

The refurbishment of the Post Office house has been supported by Ardgay Community Council and Criech Community Council through their generous donation of £2000 each from the Beinn Thuarsinn Windfarm trust. This money will provide a valuable contribution towards insulating and refurbishing the old building.

Russell Taylor of Creich Community Council and Phil Olson of Ardgay Community Council took the opportunity to welcome Catriona to the post earlier this week. Catriona will oversee the refurbishment of the house and will lead the development proposals for the adjacent site. The Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust will deliver affordable housing to the area and are planning to partner with The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust in order to deliver highly sustainable new homes for local people. The support of the local community has been greatly appreciated to date and the Trust looks forward to being able to work with local interest groups to develop the best outcome for the site.”

Primary Schools

SECURED SPONSORSHIP from Balnagown and Ardgay Game for football strips for Gledfield and Rosehall. Trust has agreed to pay for new country dancing outfits for Bonar Bridge primary school - £300.

Housing needs survey

Highland Small Communities Housing Trust will be commissioned to carry out a housing needs survey. Then using that information the Trust will decide how to go forward with future housing project/s. From initial discussions the view is that on the Trust ground a terrace of three single storey houses be built.

Social Media Training by Rene Looper

No parent or pupil turned up for the Keeping your Child Safe online, so the KoSDT staff had a session with Rene. Around twenty people came along to the evening event and it was a very good session.

KoSDT welcomes another new Project Officer

The Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, recently welcomed local architect, Catriona Hill, to take on the part time role of Project Officer for the development of the Bonar Bridge Post Office site.

KoSDT

The Trust Offices, Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge IV24 3EB
Tel: 01863 766 190
Email: development@kyleofsutherland.co.uk
@KoSutherland
@Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust
What’s on in the area

FROM SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST

Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week

Congratulations to our 2014 Salmon Queen
Jessica Banks!
Kicking off on Saturday 2nd August and running until Saturday 9th August.
The annual events during the week will include the Queen Crowning and small fete, car treasure hunt, pet show, sports day, kids disco, pub quiz, canoeing and lots more!!

LIKE US IN FACEBOOK!
Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week

INVERSHIN HOTEL

Pub Quiz

A fundraising event on behalf of the Kyle of Sutherland Highland Games 2014, which are due to start on Saturday, 20th September. Raffle. £3.

INVERSHIN

Car treasure hunt

On Sunday afternoon there will be around two hours of treasure hunting fun. It will finish with refreshments at Invershin Hall, awards for the winners, and a raffle.

FERRYCROFT CENTRE LAIRG

Reading Between the lines

Exhibition

Opening night of the exhibition Reading Between the lines, organised by Lairg & District Learning Centre, and including images from their WW1 local archive, artwork from a photography project, war poems written and performed by local people and a premier of Lairg Youth Film. After the event, the photographs will be displayed at the Ferrycroft Centre for one month. Free entry.

ACHNESS SHOW FIELD

Rosehall Community Day

Something for everyone and everyone welcome. Achness Show Field, Rosehall. Gates open at 11 am.

ARDROSS HALL

In my Father’s words

Theatre

In My Father’s Words tells the story of a father and son in Canada, who have a fraught relationship. The father is in the middle stages of dementia and through the play we discover that the ‘nonsense’ he is speaking is actually Gaelic. 8 pm. £10/£7 conc.

CONTACT DETAILS OF
COMMUNITY HALLS IN THE AREA

Bonar Bridge Community Hall
www.bonarbridgecommunityhall.org.uk
athomson73@btinternet.com
01863 766 883 / 07842 076274

Ardgay Public Hall
Facebook: Ardgay Public Hall
01863 766 602

Rosehall Village Hall
bevmor10@btinternet.com
01549 441 371

Invershin Village Hall
balchraggan@msn.com
001549 421 336

Culrain Village Hall
suec726@aol.com
01549 421 337
What’s on in the area

**Highland Military Tattoo**

After a three year absence, The Highland Military Tattoo returns to Fort George from 5th to 7th September 2014. Some of the exciting events included in the programme are: an RAF Typhoon fly past; massed pipe bands, military bands and youth pipe bands; fiddlers, an international act; Highland dance set; historical vignettes, armed forces competitions and a fireworks display. See the website www.highlandmilitarytattoo.com for more info.

**Magical Midsummer**

21 JUNE

From 2 to 4pm (prompt start) Join us for a very special Magical Midsummer extravaganza. Make your own wand and cast some spells, journey deep into the forest to hang your wish on the old spreading rowan, and learn a faery song to call the people of the forest. Let’s see if we can make some magic happen! No dogs, please. Free. Booking is not required. From the A949 in Spinningdale, turn onto the minor road sign posted to Migdale. Parking is 0.6 miles on the right.

**Whist**

6 AUG

Gala Whist night at Bonar Bridge Community Hall. Starts at 7:30 pm

**Rosamunde and Robin Pilcher**

27 JUNE

It is hoped that both Rosamunde and Robin may be available for booking signings at the end of the evening. Starts at 7 pm. Musical quartet. Refreshments. Tickets for sale at Dornoch Book Shop.

Gardening

**Russian Comfrey**

A patch of comfrey is a great thing to have in your garden. Not the common yellow flowered variety, which can be a bit of a pest and spread where you don’t want it, but the purple flowered Russian variety. This is a very heavy cropping variety and can stand being cut 3 or 4 times a year, giving you lots of leaves which can be used in various ways. When the plants are about 60 cm high, cut to about 5cm above ground level.

*Symphytum uplandicum*

Other names: Russian Comfrey, Healing Herb, Blackwort, Bruisewort, Wallwort, Gum Plant

The first cut of leaves (usually sometime in May), can be used to line trenches for planting potatoes. I have generally planted potatoes before this so instead I stuff a barrel (with a handy tap at the bottom) full with the comfrey, cover it and wait till the comfrey rots down to an amazing dark, smelly liquid. This I use as a potash rich liquid feed, diluted 1 part comfrey to 20 parts water, for pot grown tomatoes and peppers. Feed 2-3 times a week.

The second cut of the year I use as a mulch around tomato plants and put some on the compost heap where it makes a good compost activator. The final cut, made by beginning of September at the latest, I chop up and put in a dustbin, alternating with layers of leaf mould. This is covered and left until the following spring when it makes a good potting compost. Plants available from www.organiccatalogue.com. Plant out at 60cm spacing. Once established, plants can be split. Feed by mulching with grass cuttings in the springs and vegetable shreddings in the autumn. ■ Betty Wright
Adult Clubs & Societies

Ardgay & District has a wide variety of groups and societies. If you fancy starting a new hobby or simply meeting like-minded people, here are some contact details.

Sutherland Walkers Club
SUNDAY WALKS
4th Sunday each Month.

Creich & Kincardine Art Group
Tea Room at Bonar Bridge Hall on Wednesdays from 10 am to 3 pm. Come along, members are very willing to give help and encouragement to newcomers.
More details: Joan Mulligan 01549 421 321

Ardgay Badminton Club
Thursday / Monday evenings at Ardgay Public Hall.
From November to April
Contact George Ross 01863 755 329

Bonar Bridge Local History Society
Organising events and history walks.
Contact: Marion Fraser Secretary 01863 766 235

Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club
Bonar Bridge Hall
Wednesdays - 7:30 pm from September to April
Contact Mrs. Rosemary Logan 01549 421 282

Bonar Bridge Ardgay Golf Club
Family Golf: Join us this summer on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.
01863 766 199

Kyle of Sutherland Joggers
Why choose jogging? Social benefits, make friends, time to blether. Boosts energy levels, enhances self-esteem and aids long-term weight loss. Being active has a host of specific health benefits and it’s fun.
Facebook: Kyle of Sutherland Joggers
Contact: Eliza 07743 228 661
Contact: Caroline 07799 391 281
Contact: Gemma 07545 929 768

Kyle of Sutherland Cycling Club
Contact Chris at heaven.bikes@hotmail.co.uk or www.koscc.co.uk
Also in Facebook: Kyle of Sutherland CC 07543 466 699

Edderton & District Gardening Club
First Monday of the month in Edderton Community Hall 7:30 pm from September to May
Contact 01863 766 061

Scottish Women Rural Institute
All ages welcome. Ardgay Public Hall 7:30 pm 3rd Tuesday each month
Culrain Hall 7:30 pm
Last Thursday of the month
from September to May
Contact for details: Mrs. Jean Jack 01863 766 646

Sutherland Radio Control Club
By Ardgay Garage
Now racing every Thursday at 7:00 pm
Facebook: Sutherland Radio Control Club 07703 196 005

Ardgay Scottish Country Dancing Club
Starting again on Tuesday 14 October in Ardgay Public Hall 7:30 to 9:30pm. Contact: Doreen Bruce 01863 766 852

Gearrchoille Community Wood
From 2pm, on the afternoon of the first Thursday of each month, join other like-minded folk helping to carry out some of the lighter maintenance tasks of the wood.
gcwardgay@btinternet.com
Gledfield Primary School

Author Visit

Gledfield Primary was delighted to welcome award-winning children’s author Theresa Breslin to the school to introduce us to an exciting project she is involved in. Theresa has been commissioned by the Woodland Trust to write a story which will help highlight the connection between Ledmore & Migdale Woods, the philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie and children’s literature. Schools in the surrounding areas will be working alongside Theresa Breslin in developing a ‘geo-cache story trail’ in the woods next year.

Rag Bag

Just a reminder that we are always very willing to take all your old clothes, shoes and rags as part of our Rag Bag fundraising efforts. This is a very easy way for us to raise a bit of money for our school. You are welcome to drop off items to the school at any time. We will let you know when the next pick up will be.

Keep Scotland Beautiful Spring

Our pupils, staff and volunteers supported Ardgay and District Community Council recently in a village litter pick-up as part of Keep Scotland Beautiful Spring clean up. Equipment was supplied by the Community Council and the Highland Council. The village was pretty litter free and we had to look quite hard for most of the litter. Lots of fun was had by all who took part in this community event.

Meet Hamish the Tartan Dragon

It was a warm sunny morning and Morag was gathering flowers in Carn Bren. As she walked around some large rocks, she stepped on something that moved... With a groan, a voice said: “Excuse me, but that is my tail”

“What are you?”, exclaimed Morag. “I am Hamish, the tartan dragon”, said the voice, “I was eating my breakfast when you stood on my tail”

“And what do you have for breakfast?”, asked Morag. “Oh, I just eat heather, there is plenty of it here. And... who are you?”, said Hamish. “I am Morag” (to be continued)
2014 - A full diary of ‘recreation’ in a busy summertime

Once again we reach the “silly season” - the high point in many people’s yearly calendar as they look forward to longer days, lighter evenings and balmier weather. It has been a warm Spring and, we are all making diary appointments to make the most of the Summertime. Here in the parish at Ardgay, we have already enjoyed a community garden party and fun day at the Manse. This was a big success with families from the village and area attending. We also enjoyed the fourth annual outdoor ‘Lambing Service’ to mark the successful completion of the lambing season (this year held at Migdale Country Stores). This has become a ‘tradition’ and, rotates each year around our villages.

Boys Brigade Company Prize Giving Service
The local schools will soon be holding their end of term Sports Days in the open air. On Sunday 1st June, the annual Boys Brigade Company Prize Giving service was held at Ardgay Parish Church. Parents and families were invited to come and celebrate a year of achievement for the eighteen boys that make up the Company. On the same day at 3pm, the annual ‘Preaching Ark’ event was held at Old Edderton church. There was fun and games for the whole family and, the old kirk was open especially. There was also the chance for visitors to see the ancient Pictish stone that stands in the grounds.

Another busy Sunday followed on Sunday 8th June. At Rosehall Church, I took part in a ‘unique’ Pet Service. During the service, attendees had their pets blessed. In the afternoon, Croick Church had a Summer service. In the evening of the same day, there was a ‘Pentecost Praise’ service at Edderton Church. Creich Parish Church, Bonar Bridge, will celebrate the season with the ever popular Flower Festival opening with a ‘Pancake Day’ on Tuesday 5th running through to Thursday 7th August. Creich Church will be open from 10am to 4pm. The Annual Croick Pilgrimage service will this year be held on Sunday 10th August at Croick Church (walkers meet at 2pm at Amat) This will be a unique opportunity to celebrate our faith together and share Communion in a ‘pilgrims service’ that I will be sharing with my colleagues, Rev Mary Stobo and Rev Hilary Gardner. All this goes to show that there is plenty happening in our parishes. There is a lot to look forward to. I hope you will take the opportunity of joining us at one or more of these great community occasions.

Rev. Anthony M. Jones

Kincardine Parish Church - Sunday (usual) services: Ardgay at 12:15 pm
Minister: Rev. Anthony M. Jones
The Manse, Manse Road, Ardgay, Sutherland IV24 3BG
☎ 01863 766 285
✉ revanthonyjones@yahoo.com

Session Clerk & Roll Keeper Minister
Clerk to the Congregational Board: Mrs Babs Gemmill
☎ 01863 766 495
Treasurer: Hilary Gardner ☎ 01863 766 107
Charities & Volunteering

30TH JULY 2014, 10 AM AT VG-ES, GOLSPIE

VG-ES: Finding Volunteers

Voluntary Groups - East Sutherland is aware that finding new volunteers can be difficult in the East and Central Sutherland area. We would like to invite you to attend this first meeting of the Volunteer Managers Network to share your experiences and ideas, and collectively discuss how we can maximize our support in finding volunteers for your group. To reserve a place please send an email to grahame@vges.org.uk by Monday 23rd June.

Bradbury Centre
Well-Being Centre for the Elderly of East Sutherland
Opening hours - Monday & Friday 9 am to 3 pm, Tuesday 9 am to 2 pm, Wednesday 9 am to 2:30 pm
Some of the activities are: chair based exercises, games to stimulate the mind, table and carpet games, quiz and bingo. Lunches served all day. Volunteers needed.
Contact: Lorraine or Elizabeth
① 01863 766 772

East Sutherland Community Care Forum
Contact: Carol Summers
① 01463 718 817

Highland One Stop Shop run by Autism Initiatives
Contact: Diane Roberts
① 01463 717 880

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
Supporting, promoting and connecting organisations from across the third sector in Scotland
① 01314 748 000

The Relationship Helpline
Confidential support for all your relationship difficulties.
① 08088 022 088

Highland Handyperson service
Do you need help with minor repairs at home?
① 01549 402 798

East Sutherland Community Care Forum
Contact: Carol Summers
① 01463 718 817

Highland One Stop Shop run by Autism Initiatives
Contact: Diane Roberts
① 01463 717 880

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
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The Relationship Helpline
Confidential support for all your relationship difficulties.
① 08088 022 088

Highland Handyperson service
Do you need help with minor repairs at home?
① 01549 402 798

Pete Andrews Driving School
Patient Friendly Tuition
Refresher Courses Pass Plus
Areas Covered: Ardgay, Bonar Bridge Lairg, Golspie, Tain Dornoch & Alness
Tel. 01863 766 884 Mob. 07763 133 922
email. pete@peteandrews.org
Guide to local services A-Z

**BRADBURY CENTRE**
Bradbury Centre Bonar Bridge
01863 766 772

**BUSES**
MacLeod’s Coaches
01408 641 354
Bradbury Centre Bus
01863 766 772

**CAB**
Citizens Advice Bureau Golspie
01408 633 000

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**
Kincardine Parish Church Rev. Anthony M. Jones
01863 766 285

**DVLA**
DVLA Inverness
0300 790 6801

**ELECTRICITY**
24Hr Emergency
0800 300 999
Customer Help
0800 300 111

**FIRE BRIGADE**
Fire Station Dornoch
01862 810 297

**FORESTRY COMMISSION**
Forestry Commission Scotland
01309 674 004

**GOLF CLUB**
Bonar Bridge-Ardgay GC
01863 766 199

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL**
Drummuie Golspie
01408 635 370
Service Point Bonar Bridge
01863 766 083
Service Point Dornoch
01862 810 491

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

**KYLE OF SUTHERLAND**
KoS Development Trust
01863 766 536
KoS Fisheries Trust
01863 766 702
KoS Youth Development Group
01408 633 451

**LIBRARIES**
Bonar Bridge Libray
01863 760 083
Mobile Libraries Ardgay & Strathroykel, Strathcarron
0773 330 0761

**NHS**
Migdale Hospital
01863 766 211
Doctors Creich Surgery
01863 766 379
Nurses Creich Surgery
01863 766 237

**POLICE**
Local Police (Inverness)
0845 600 5703
National Emergency 101
Confidential Line:
01463 723 321
Textphone:
01463 723 325

**POST OFFICE**
Bonar Bridge
01863 766 219

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS**
Gledfield
01349 886 439

**RECYCLING CENTRE**
Bonar Bridge
01349 886 439

**SCOTTISH WATER**
24Hr Emergency
0845 600 8855
Customer Help
0845 601 8855

**TAXIS**
Ronnie’s Taxis Ardgay
01863 766 422
A&B Taxis Ardgay-Bonar
07549 999 760

**TRAiNS**
National Rail Enquiries
0845 748 4950

**VETS**
Rogart Vets (Farm Animals, Pets & Horses)
01408 641 352
Easter Ross Vets Tain
01862 893 142
Johnston & Farrell Tain
01862 894 223
Kessocks Equine Vets
01463 731 107

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**Bradbury Centre Bus**
**BONAR BRIDGE CIRCULAR**
(Via Spinningdale, Tain and Edderton)
920 - Wednesday
Bonar Bridge
Cherry Grove
10:30 ▼
Spinningdale
10:39 ▼
Clashmore
10:53 ▼
Tain old CO-OP
11:02 ▼
Tain Laming St
11:04 ▼
Edderton
11:19 ▼
Argay
11:30 ▼
Bonar Bridge
Cherry Grove
11:42 ▼
**BONAR BRIDGE - ALNESS**
919 - Tuesday
Bonar Bridge
Cherry Grove
10:30 ▼
Argay
10:34 ▼
Easter Fearn
10:42 ▼
Ardross
10:58 ▼
Alness
11:15 ▼
The minibus has a wheelchair lift which will be available as part of the service. The service will divert on request to pick up prebooked passengers up to a mile from the route. These journeys must be booked by 14:00 on the previous working day 01863 766 772

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**Mobile Library Ardgay**
**EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY**
Oakwood Place, Ardgay
Arrive 13:45 Depart 14:00
The Lady Ross, Ardgay
Arrive 14:00 Depart 15:10

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**Royal Bank of Scotland**
Mobile Timetable
**TUESDAY**
Arrive 13:35 Depart 13:50

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**MacLeod’s Coaches**
Timetable
**ARDGAY›TAIN** (Laming St)

- Ardgay
  - 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 Laming St
  - 07:15 / 09:35
  - 11:40 / 14:40
  - 17:30 / 18:15

1 Stagecoach bus to Inverness departs 07:20 / 09:50 / 11:50
2 Will wait up to 5 minutes when necessary, for arrival of Stagecoach Service 25x bus from Inverness
3 Will wait up to 10 minutes when necessary, for arrival of Stagecoach Service 25x bus from Inverness

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**RECYCLING CENTRE**
Bonar Bridge
01349 886 439

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**VETs**
Rogart Vets (Farm Animals, Pets & Horses)
01408 641 352
Easter Ross Vets Tain
01862 893 142
Johnston & Farrell Tain
01862 894 223
Kessocks Equine Vets
01463 731 107

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**TAXIS**
Ronnie’s Taxis Ardgay
01863 766 422
A&B Taxis Ardgay-Bonar
07549 999 760

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**TRAINs**
National Rail Enquiries
0845 748 4950
**VOLUNTEER ADVISERS WANTED** No special skills are needed – except for some basic computer knowledge – and full training is provided. Becoming a CAB adviser is an excellent way of making a contribution to, and becoming involved in, the local community. Citizens Advice Bureau 01408 633 000

**TUTORS WANTED** Are you a Tutor? Can you offer courses? We are always looking for skilled Tutors to help develop new learning opportunities. Lairg Learning Centre: 01549 402 050

**OCCASIONAL ORGANIST REQUIRED** The Church of Scotland Ardgay and Eddarton parish churches are currently seeking an organist to assist on occasional Sundays at their regular services of worship at 10.30 am and 12:15 pm. For further details telephone: 01863 766 285

**NEW MEMBERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS URGENTLY REQUIRED** If you want to help in sustaining the Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society – from helping to set up or curate our annual exhibitions, carrying our research, making tea at events or lecture nights or in any other way please contact us at 01863 776 174.

**COMMUNITY BENEFIT PANEL VACANCIES** There are two vacancies coming up on the SSE & E.ON Community Funds Panel. One community representative is required from each of the Ardgay Community Council and Creich Community Council areas. Nomination forms will be available from 6 June locally.

**REPRESENTATIVE FROM ARDGAY** to take a place on East Sutherland Community Care Forum board and to provide communication to and from the people. Please contact Carol Summers for more details. 01463 718 817 Mob: 07918 747 756

**BOARD MEMBERS** We are keen to recruit at least a couple more Board members. Anyone interested in helping with the management of the Bradbury Centre should contact Dr. Brian Martin 01863 766 147

**GRAPHIC DESIGN** Logos, brochures, business cards, web design, invitations... Silvia Muras 01863 766 690

**GAZEBO / SMALL MARQUEE** The Community Council have a small gazebo / marquee available for hire for community activities. Contact Marion Turner or Phil Olson 01863 766 100.

**VOLUNTEERS** for Gledfield Primary School. If you have any skills you would like to share with our pupils or just fancy helping out in any way please get in touch. 01863 766 500

**BOOKING** Ardgay Public Hall Fiona Venters 01863 766 602

**BOOKING** Kincardine Heritage Centre Mrs. Mary Stobo 01863 766 868

**BOOKING** Ardgay Church Hall. The Reverend Anthony Jones – 01863 766 285

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**Crosswords**

**Across**

1. Breed of sheep with multiple horns.
5. A woman belonging to a religious order.
7. Scots word for grand, fine.
8. One of the rivers that feeds the Kyle of Sutherland.
10. Item of dress banned after Culloden.
11. Scottish word for ‘kyle’.
12. A young salmon or sea trout about two years old.
15. Enemy.
17. Distillery in East Sutherland, Highlands.

**Down**

2. The Lady Ross, between 1959 and 2006.
3. The feeling of wanting to have what someone else has.
4. Not decayed or corrupted.
6. A solid resembling an egg in shape.
7. Name of the estates inherited by Lady Ross in 1942.
9. To make (something) imperfect or less beautiful.
13. Conifer in the genus Larix, in the family Pinaceae.
14. The ability to do or say things without offending or upsetting other people.
16. A small quantity of liquor.

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Around the 25th June, the solution will be published at: www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Just enter “crosswords” in the search tool or select the category “crosswords” in “Our news by category”.
Do you live in the Creich or Ardgay community council areas?

We would like to help you with:

- Free home energy assessments
- Impartial home energy and energy reduction advice
- Home food growing help and advice
- Food waste reduction help and advice
- Reducing your household food and energy bills

www.facebook.com/greeningkyle  T: 01863 766554  E: gkassistant@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

Greening Kyle is funded by the Scottish Government through the Climate Challenge Fund. It is a part of the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, which is a Company Limited by Guarantee Scottish Registration: SC401019 & Scottish Charity: SC045587

ARGDAGY & DISTRICT
Community Council newsletter

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(Please contact us if you are not receiving the newsletter)

ARDGAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:
(Full contact details in page 10)
David Hannah (Chair), Alan Lawrence (Treasurer), Phil Olson, Marion Turner, David Laver, Betty Wright, Bob Sendall, Teresa Langley (Secretary)

COUNCILLORS:
(Full contact details in page 10)
George Farlow, Hugh Morrison, Linda Munro

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