

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



No 9 – Autumn Edition 2010

Back issues available at our website <ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk>



Bridge at Brae – Community Council Quandary? (see article Page 11)

From the Chair

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Newsletter

HIGHLAND GAMES – CRISIS AVERTED

We are coming out - but only in support of Invercharron Highland Games which take place on Saturday 18 September. Since the withdrawal of sponsorship by Skibo, and their many associates it was doubtful if the Games would be able to carry on. However due to extremely hard work by the Games Committee they have managed to acquire sufficient funding to carry on, at least for this year. One of the biggest problems has been the lack of visible support for the Games from Ardgay, Bonar Bridge, Invershin, Lairg and Rosehall communities. We have all become complacent and tend to forget that these are **OUR** Highland Games and despite the fact that most of the 'Heavy' events and Highland Dancing competitors come from outwith the Kyle of Sutherland area we must support this major community event, if we want to keep it. Ardgay & District Community Council will be taking a tent to help promote the Kyle of Sutherland and we need you to come along and support the Games too.

David Hannah

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MINUTE OF MEETING - WEDNESDAY 7th JULY 2010 - IN ARDGAY HALL

Present: David Hannah (Chair), Tony Gibbs (Vice-Chair), Alan Lawrence (Treasurer), Doreen Gibbs (Secretary), Liz Cormack, Brigitte Geddes, David Laver, Derek Matheson, Phil Olson, David Ross

In attendance: Councillor Robbie Rowantree, Sgt. Garry Cameron (Police Representative)

1. Welcome The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome to Members.

2. Apologies Jamie Burgess and Marion Turner

The Chair welcomed Sgt Garry Cameron who gave us an update of recent events and incidents occurring in the area involving Police attendance.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 2nd June 2010 - A small amendment was noted to Agenda item 5; it now reads "Marion Turner will make an application for funding towards the repair of the bridge at Badvoon.

The minutes were agreed

4. Matters arising from the minutes –

- Highland Core Path Improvement Scheme: Phil Olson updated the Committee on a proposed application to provide a replacement bridge at Badvoon. The approximate total estimate for the project is £17,000, which it is hoped will be funded by the Highland Core Path Improvement Programme. Any future ongoing maintenance will have to be the responsibility of the Community Council. The Committee approved the proposals and agreed that the application should go ahead. It was further agreed that a structural survey should be sought on the state of repair of the Brae Bridge. The cost for this will be £2,000 and an application for funding could be made from the Leader Fund. Phil Olson will apply for a survey to be carried out before any decisions can be made concerning repairs.
- Continuing with the theme of footpaths, it was noted that the footpath from Ardgay Hill to Oakwood Place, which is part of the Core Path Scheme is in need of maintenance. The Secretary will contact John Clarke (HC) about this.
Action: Sec
- Support for Invercharron Games. Phil Olson submitted a proposal to set up a "display unit" which could be transported to various sites/events/locations in the area, hired out to local groups or used at future fairs/festivals. The purpose of this is to be able to inter-act with the public, publicise the work of the Community Council, and to survey needs of visitors and the public visiting the area for any events, and in the first instance, at the Invercharron Games.
- The display unit would include a gazebo/tent – 3m x 2m, plus table and a Display Banner.
- From the unit, publicity materials could be handed out, and members of the public will be able to view displays, ask questions, and engage with members of the Ardgay & District CC. The display will need to be manned at times by members of the Community Council and any others, and the total cost of the "display unit" plus consumables would be approximately £400 plus any costs for sites at Games or other events. There will be ongoing costs for display materials, stickers etc.
- It was agreed that the proposal should go ahead and the project will be supported and funded by the Ardgay & District CC to promote and publicise the district of Ardgay and its location in the Kyle of Sutherland.
- It was further agreed that the Community Council will make a donation to the Invercharron Games of £30 towards games funding instead of attending as Traders. It will be more appropriate for our Community Organisation to be present with the new proposed display unit.

5. Secretary's Report - The Secretary had received the following copies of correspondence which are available for members to peruse:

- The Highland Council Development Plan Scheme 2010
- The Scottish Rights of Way Report and Subscription Renewal. *Renewal agreed*
- Crossroads Caring for Carers East Sutherland (Request for donations for carers)
- Caithness & Sutherland Planning Day (Area Police Command) – Thursday 19th August at Helmsdale Community Centre at 11 am. *Chair will attend.*
- Communication from Ward Manager (North West and Central Sutherland) – Consultation on Community Care – Tuesday 10th August in Helmsdale Community Centre – 7.00pm - *Ardgay CC unable to send a rep.*

6 Treasurer's Update - Alan Lawrence reported:

- Treasurer's account £2,561.57
- Projects account £ 931.78 (outstanding liabilities of £440.00)
- Toilets account £ 229.21 (outstanding liabilities of £180.00)
- The Toilets grant £1500 is expected within the next few days.

7. Community Windfarm Benefit – update following letter to MSP, Michael Mather and HC.

A letter was sent to Mr Michael Mather, voicing our concerns that the Highland Council is endeavouring to gain access to Community Benefit Funds. (Copy previously circulated to members). A reply to this letter was received 5 July 2010 (Copy previously circulated to members). The negative tone of the reply was received with dismay and members are concerned about the future direction that the Scottish Government may take on this matter.

Robbie Rowantree reminded members that Community Benefit is voluntary and windfarms are not obliged to pay Community Benefit. He feels that this matter will have to be addressed in both the Scottish Parliament and the Government in Westminster.

8. Grant Application to Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit - Following discussions with representatives from the Ardgay Community Hall and Tony Gibbs and David Laver, it was recommended that the application for £12,000 be approved. It was further decided to recommend to the Ardgay Hall Committee that a thorough review be made of further major repairs and renovations that will be needed to bring the Hall up to a necessary standard.

Robbie Rowantree suggested that the Ward Manager, Andy Mackay would be able to offer advice and guidance, and it was recommended we should ask the Hall Committee to accept David Laver to serve on their committee. His professional expertise will be helpful. The Community Council will also assist in seeking sources for funding for new improvements and developments of the Hall. [Action: Sec to write to Phil Tomalin and Chair of Hall Committee](#)

9. KOSI - David Hannah reported that the Chairs of the Three Community Councils Lairg, Creich and Ardgay had discussed and agreed in principle to wind up the Kyle of Sutherland Initiative and split the balance of money in the HBOS account into three equal parts and return it to Community Council funds, before the final decision is made the Chair invited comments to the proposal. Brigitte Geddes referred to her email (previously sent to members) voicing her concerns about the proposals to wind up KOSI. David Hannah explained that Lairg have already gone along a new route on their own, and as Ardgay & Creich hope to set up a joint venture for a Community Development Initiative, this will become a Kyle of Sutherland Initiative, but without Lairg. The Vice-Chair of KOSI will be asked to call a meeting to wind-up KOSI in its current state. The Council agreed to the proposal to wind up KOSI. [Action: Chair](#)

10. Windfarms Update

a) Achany - David Hannah said that the Panel intend to carry out an audit of Village Halls.

Lynne Burgess, one of our public representatives on the Achany Panel, has resigned, and an advertisement for her replacement will be prepared in due course. Work on the windfarm is nearly complete, with no apparent problems.

b) Rosehall - Tony Gibbs reported on a meeting of the Rosehall Wind Farm Community Liaison Group. Discussions had been about site work completed so far. Some delays had occurred due to bad weather. There has been concern about tree felling on Sundays, and this has been stopped. Noise from the turbines is a concern for Durcha residents, and this will be looked at when the turbines are operational. A newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis to update the community on developments.

11. Social Enterprise – Update - No new information to report. Awaiting result of grant application.

12. Development Trust – Update - Awaiting outcome of KOSI decisions. Grant application to Achany Windfarm Benefit Fund ongoing

13. Community Needs Assessment - Update Morven Taylor is seeking funding for the survey, further information will follow.

14. Any other competent business -

- SHETL Doreen Gibbs spoke about the reply received from Gareth Edwards, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) about the Dounreay to Beaulieu transmission project. (Copy previously circulated to members).

As there are a few issues which need to be addressed before the work begins in 2011, it was decided to invite Mr Edwards to our September meeting to answer question on the project. [Action: Sec.](#)

- Doreen Gibbs asked if it would possible to have an additional notice-board. As we no longer have the use of the windows in the previous Post Office (The Lady Ross) the existing notice-board is not large enough. We need to double the present capacity to cope with the number of notices we need to display. It would be beneficial if we could have one notice-board for public and official notices, i.e. Ardgay & DCC and HC material, and one notice-board for "public use". The suggestion was approved. [Liz Cormack will approach Andy MacKay about this.](#)
- Doreen Gibbs informed members that she is going to ask HC if a dog-waste bin could be put near the grassed area between the playpark and Oakwood Place near where our flower tubs are displayed. It has been noticed that this is a problem in that area. The Committee agreed that this is needed, and congratulated Jeannie Sparling on the splendid display the new flower tubs make now that they have been planted up. [Action: Sec](#)
- It was agreed that we should look into the possibility of setting up an Enterprise Company in collaboration with the Development Trust to look at a 'buy-out' of a property in Ardgay, which could be developed for housing needs (flats) and shops. All of which would be an asset to the Village. It was agreed that this proposal should be taken further.
- Derek Matheson asked if grass verges will be cut this year. Robbie Rowantree said that it is unlikely any will be cut this year, due to financial cut-backs.
- It was agreed that David Hannah should make an application to the Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Fund for a grant for funding of the next year's issues of the ADCC Newsletter. [Action Newsletter Editor](#)

15. Date, time and venue of the next meeting - Wednesday 1st September at 7.00pm in Ardgay Community Hall.

There being no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.50pm and wished members a good summer break.

Kincardine Parish Church - Contact Details - Minister-The Reverend Anthony M Jones, revanthonymjones@amserve.com

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

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

Treasurer/Newsletter – The Bell Editor Hilary Gardner Tel 766107

Sunday Services - Edderton @ 10.30am, Ardgay @ 12.15pm – More details from Mrs Sutherland

Church – If you would like any other information about the Church of Scotland please contact Mrs Rosalie Sutherland, Session Clerk on 01862 821 320. **A WORD FROM THE MANSE** - 'COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE COME' We hope you will take the opportunity to celebrate the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' at one of our forthcoming Harvest services in the parishes of Creich and Rosehall linked with Kincardine, Croick and Edderton. I can't believe that the Harvest season has come around again. It is always a poignant time. Memories of childhood Harvest services spring to mind. It is an important opportunity to stop, remind ourselves of the gifts we receive every day. Particularly in the countryside, it is right to celebrate the work of the farmer, the fisherman, and all who work (even in far off lands) to provide food for others. Principal Harvest services in the parishes are: Sunday 19th September - Harvest services at 10.30am Creich and 12pm Rosehall and Sunday 26th September at 10.30am Edderton and Ardgay. Another special time to gather for worship will be at the Joint service of Holy Communion at Edderton on Sunday 12th September at 10.30am

We look forward to welcoming you to our services - Reverend Anthony M. Jones [Parish Minister].

Copies of my poetry book *'The Waves of Love' are on sale locally at the Dornoch Book Shop (price £6.99)

DIARY DATES: Please note there will be a Combined Session Meeting of the linked parish sessions on Tuesday 14th September and the Dornoch Firth Group Churches Committee meets on Tuesday 21st September at 7pm at Ardgay Church Hall.

Boy's Brigade –The company meets during winter months on Friday evenings at 7pm in Ardgay Hall and all new members who are in primary seven will be made very welcome. Please contact D Simmonds 766796 or D Brown 766166.

Ardgay Badminton Club – Starting again in October 2010 Contact George Ross 01863 755329 e-mail <rosscroft@btinternet.com>

Juniors and Intermediates will have Tuesdays (not Thursdays)

TUESDAYS	Juniors 6.30 – 7.30 Cost £1.00	Intermediates 7.30 – 9.00pm. Cost £1.00
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Teenagers and Adults Thursdays

THURSDAYS	Teenagers 6.30 – 8.00pm Cost £1.00	Adults 8 – 11.00pm. Cost £2.00
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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).

Dental Helpline - Should you experience difficulties in registering or accessing emergency care for NHS Dental treatment, please contact the NHS Dental Helpline on 0845 6442271 or email 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 0845 6442271.



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

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

The Gledfield Primary School Parent Council meetings are open to all parents/guardians and members of the public. It meets once a term and endeavours to identify and represent the views of parents on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the welfare of the pupils. They also raise funds and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of pupils. They are currently assisting the school to formalise a School Travel Plan, which aims to promote and support safer travel to school by foot or bicycle. Copies of minutes of meetings are available from the Secretary or via the school. For details of the next meeting at 7pm in the school hall please contact Rhys Llewellyn Secretary. All parents/guardians are most welcome.

Dornoch/Tain High Schools – Dornoch some 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).

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.

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

Police	Dornoch Road	Bonar Bridge	766222	Migdale Hospital	Lower Floor	Bonar Br.	766211
Doctors	Creich Surgery	Bonar Bridge	766379	“	Upper Floor	Bonar Br.	766843
Nurses	Creich Surgery	Bonar Bridge	766237	“	Occ Therapy	Bonar Br.	766194
Electricity	24Hr Emergency	0800	300999	Primary Schools	Bonar Br.	Bonar Br.	766219
“	Enquiries	0800	300000	“	Gledfield	Ardgay	766580
“	Customer Help	0800	300111	“	Rosehall	01549	441348
Scot. Water	24 Hr Emergency	08456	008855	Post Office	Alness	01349	884487
“	Customer Help	08456	018855	“	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				

Scottish Country Dancing – Starting again in October 2010 on Mondays from 8.00pm, beginners from 7.30pm in Ardgay Hall please contact Doreen Bruce – Tel 01863 766852 for information.

Sutherland Walkers Group (SWG) – Programme

Sunday 26 September (A) Fuar Tholl - 10 Miles Leader David Hannah 01863 766061	Sunday 26 September (B) Achnashellach via Coulin Pass Leaders Frank & Fran Green 01549 402561
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More information from Fiona MacDonald, Secretary – 01862 810275

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 Sutherland, 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	

Mobile Library Edderton & Ardgay route 2010

8 September	29 September	20 October	10 November	1 December	22 December
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Ardgay Oakwood 1.45 p.m. – 2 p.m., Ardgay (Lady Ross) 2 p.m. – 3.20 p.m.
Contact 07733300761, 01863 766838 or 01862 811585 for information about other stops.

Culrain, Strathoykel & Strathcarron route 2010 (Including Gledfield School) School pupils are welcome to use the Mobile Library at other stops during the school holidays, or to use the branch library. Remember to take your library cards home from school though!

9 September	30 September	21 October	11 November	2 December	23 December
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Culrain 2.10 – 2.45 p.m. Contact 07733300761, 01863 766838 or 01862 811585 for information about other stops.



Welcome to the Edderton and District Gardening Club. The club continues to grow and more people are needed to help things along. If you feel you could help on any of the Committees, please contact Chair - Bronwen Shannon 01862 821288. **Edderton Gardening Club – Restarts Monday 06 September.**

Coming Events – Nothing received for inclusion in the newsletter that is not mentioned elsewhere - (If you want to advertise your group's event please send details to the Editor). One of the problems with the Ardgay & District Community Newsletter is that it is not like a newspaper with paid staff chasing round for copy. It is voluntarily produced for the Community Council and paid for by them and distributed free to each house in the Ardgay & District Community Council area by the Community Councillors and other volunteers. The editor relies on members of groups and organisations sending information they would like to pass on to the community and is always pleased to put items into the newsletter for groups and organisations, but doesn't have the time to chase them up. The majority of items in the newsletter have been sent in by groups who want to let the community know what they are/ have been doing and try to encourage the community to join in. Please encourage any other groups or organisations you belong to, to send information in. If you are not resident in the 'district' you can still read the newsletter online on the: <ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org> website. I look forward to receiving for the next issue, by Monday 11 November for distribution at the December Community Council meeting, in time for Christmas.

VG-ES (Voluntary Groups East Sutherland) - for information on Third Sector groups and organisations.
Tel 01408 633001 FAX 05601 146813 or e-mail ann@vges.org.uk - liz@vges.org.uk - christine@vges.org.uk

The Role and Value of Volunteers – There is a long history of volunteering in Scotland and the Highlands which has brought benefit to people, their families, groups, communities and volunteers themselves. Many volunteers are recognised for the work they do, but many others receive no thanks, nor seek it. As a community we value and support the important role of volunteers in the life and work of the Kyle of Sutherland. By freely committing their time and energy, without any financial benefit other than partial re-imburement of expenses, although some volunteers may also benefit for example by developing skills which assist them to find employment. Volunteering can contribute to raising self-esteem and self confidence, it can also contribute to the regeneration of local communities like ours and the wider society. The scope for volunteering is wide and covers all aspects of our lives – from pre-birth to post-death and all levels in between. Regardless of who or how we thank all volunteers for their time and commitment and hope that through their dedication they will encourage others to volunteer – **we need you all – THANKS.**

Re-cycling Information

GREAN – Golspie (Contact No 01408 634253 – collects: Wednesday | Lairg, Bonar, Ardgay, Spinningdale, Pittentrail

How To Use Your Box and Bag - A WELL-FILLED BOX AND BAG HELPS US DELIVER OUR SERVICE EFFICIENTLY
Your box will be emptied every week you put it out and your full bag will be replaced with a new bag, it helps us to provide an economical service if you wait until they are full before you put them out for collection. **What we would like you to put in the box:** If you have plastic carrier bags, please put the following items in separate bags - carrier bags are ideal - and place the bags in the box. **Paper** (newspapers, magazines, catalogues, telephone directories, office type paper, unwanted mail and greetings cards), Cardboard, Glass bottles and jars, Textiles shoes and accessories, Electric cable, Mobile phones, Your box cover('box hat')keeps the contents dry and prevents it from blowing away, it also allows you to pack in as much as you can without it falling out! The cover is tied at one side to the box, please make sure it is tied before you put the box out for collection. These covers and ties wear out or blow away, if this happens please ask the collectors to supply you with a new one. **What we would like you to put in the bag:** At each collection you will receive a large plastic bag. Please put the following items in the bag, and tie the handles before collection. Plastic drinks bottles (tops removed and put in bag) Plastic milk bottles, Food cans, Drinks cans, Aluminium foil (sheet and trays), Please rinse out all these before putting them in the bag. Leave labels on, but PLEASE do not put anything else in the bag, especially glass bottles. The bags are manually handled and sorted, so contaminated material and glass are a hazard to our workers. **Please fill the bag if you can before putting it out for collection, the bags are expensive and we need you to make best use of them to ensure economic service. Other items** Bicycles and lawnmowers can be left next to your box, but please ensure they are clearly labelled for us to collect. We don't want to pick up someone's much-loved bike by mistake!

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 – Blythwood 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 Deephaven 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)

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

Creich & Kincardine Art Group – Meets Wednesdays from 10.00 to 3.00pm in Bonar Bridge Hall. Contact Joan Mulligan – 01549 421321 for more information.

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



2010 Whist Drive Series
Participation £1.50 including refreshments.

(Lessons can be arranged)

The New Whist Season will start on 15 September 2010 and every Wednesday up to Christmas - With - Rosehall SWRI Hosting the evening See local notice boards for more details.

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

WINDFARMS - Braemore Wind Farm Public Exhibition (Heather Houghton Development Officer) have now booked Lairg Community Centre to hold this exhibition on Friday 3rd September. The exhibition will run from 3pm to around 7.30pm, which will hopefully allow enough time for everyone that wishes to attend to do so. We will also be mailing a flier to the local public shortly, providing the exhibition details and a brief description of the project.

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)

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.**

To Book journeys Telephone The Bradbury Centre – 01863 776 772

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.

Tain Royal Academy Community Complex (TRACC), Hartfield Road, Tain, Call 01862 893767 for more information

TUESDAYS 1100 – 1245 OPEN SESSION - Swimming Pool Timetable - Contact 01862 893767 (some examples shown)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
0715-0830 Swim Breakfast	0715-0830 Swim Breakfast	1900-1945 Aquarobics	0715-0830 Swim Breakfast	1315-1430 Lane Swimming	1230-1330 Open Session	1030-1130 Family Session

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

This is the list of groups and organisations in Ardgay & District, that 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	

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 <tn24@tiscali.co.uk>).

Ardgay Meeting/Function Venues

Contact for Booking Ardgay Hall – Mrs Jennifer Burnett 01863 766658

Contact for Booking Kincardine Heritage Centre – Mr Bill Stobo 01863 766868

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

NOTE - Here is the web address and contact info for the fruit & vegetable van that visits the Ardgay area on Tuesdays
www.iv28fruitandveg.com Their phone numbers are 07887643693 or 07803593856 or
email <info@iv28fruitandveg.com>

Better Broadband

We wanted to keep you up to date with developments on broadband issues now that the new government at Westminster has taken office. We are pleased the initial signs are that the importance of broadband is being recognised. However, we have concerns about the opinion that the Minister who has been given responsibility for broadband matters at Westminster, Jeremy Hunt previously voiced about the roll-out of super-fast broadband. In November last year Mr Hunt voiced the opinion that telecoms companies should be encouraged to take the lead in the roll-out of super-fast broadband services to major cities, before moving on to rural areas (Guardian.co.uk – 18 November 2009). This is in direct contrast to our view that rural areas must be given priority in any roll-out. We have therefore written to the Minister stressing the commitment given in the Digital Britain report that those areas without a service would be given priority in any government funded roll-out and calling upon him to adopt this position. We understand however it may be the case that some market testing pilot projects will be undertaken to establish how super-fast broadband can be delivered to rural areas. We have advised the Minister of some of the highly innovative trials which have been undertaken in the Highlands and Islands which demonstrate that super-fast broadband is an achievable objective, within relatively short timescales, and have called for the Highlands and Islands region to be designated a pilot area for this research. In addition, we have sought a meeting with the Minister to allow us to set out the challenges and problems which are specific to the Highlands and Islands region and to offer potential policy solutions. We will of course keep you updated on developments with this but in the meantime we would ask you to join us in lobbying Mr Hunt for the Highlands and Islands to become a pilot area. A letter is available from our website at <http://www.hibroadband.org.uk/letter.htm>. You may have noticed that the LEADER funding for rural broadband was announced recently. If your community is interested in applying for this funding you should contact your Local Action Group (LAG) – details of LEADER LAGS are available from <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/0411141433/16> If your community does apply for this funding, we would be grateful if you could copy us in on any submission you make. We will of course keep you updated on any future developments in this area but please feel free to come back to us in the meantime if we can be of any further help to you.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



PETER PEACOCK, MSP



RHODA GRANT, MSP



DAVID STEWART, MSP

Bonar Bridge Local History Society SCO 325 38 A contribution to Newsletter. The society has become the custodian of the completed Archiving Project which was instigated by the F'eisean Nan Gaidheal Movement. The chief Executive, Arthur Cormack is based in his native Isle of Skye. It may be viewed, by arrangement, at The Chequered Flag Art Shop. The Highland Festival is a celebration of Gaelic language, music and art. The documents are written in Gaelic and English with accompanying CD by the local interviewees. Photographs and drawings are included < www.f'eisean.org/archiving > project. The complementary booklet is on sale at £5 from Fiona Macleod, Balnacraobhe, Migdale, Ardgay IV 24 3AR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS (01 June 2010)

Members	Addresses	Contact Details
Chair David Hannah		
Vice Chair Tony Gibbs		
Secretary & Minute Secretary - Doreen Gibbs		
Treasurer Alan Lawrence		
1 - Liz Cormack		
2 - Derek Matheson		
3 - David Ross		
4 - William MacLaren		
5 - Brigitte Geddes		
6 - Jamie Burgess		
7 - Phil Olson		
8 - Marion Turner		
9 - David Laver		
Councillors	Representing the Highland Council North, West and Central Sutherland ward	
George Farlow		
Robbie Rowantree		
Linda Munro		
Community Police Bonar Bridge Police Station	Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EB	Tel : 01863 766222 E-mail

Outreach Post Office Service for Ardgay - On 22nd February 2010 Post Office Ltd opened the outreach post office service in Ardgay as a replacement for the previous, permanent post office. The new service operates from the Ardgay Community Hall twice a week (**Monday 1330hrs to 1630hrs and Friday 1000hrs to 1300hrs**). There are now just under 600 Outreach Post Offices operating in many of the more remote and smaller communities across the UK. These offices offer the same range of Post Office services that are available at the core office that operates the service. 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)	

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.

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**

September 19th Art Workshop – Christine O’Keefe

October TBA – Exhibition – Lest We Forget

Art Workshops contact Mary Stobo 01863-766868 e. mail : mary@stobo.ultimatebroadband.net
opening times - Art Exhibition Week days 10am – 5pm, Sundays 12pm - 5pm, Lectures start at 7.30pm Admission by donation



COMMERCIAL SERVICES



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Contact us on:
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info@keycs.com
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**Drop in: Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge
(opposite the Bank of Scotland)**

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David Hannah, Ardgay
Tel 01863 766061 * Mob
07880776909

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

business gateway

Dornoch Rd, Bonar Bridge
IV24 3EB

Tel: 07730 419 692

david.knight@highland-opportunity.com

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WALK for WELLBEING (3) - Ardgay to Carbisdale Castle – OS Map Landranger 21 - Ardgay Circular (18 Kilometres/11 miles – 4-5 hours) - Starting from Ardgay Station proceed along the road following the signs to Croick and Carbisdale Castle, passing Ardgay Church and Gledfield Primary School. At the fork bear right following the road to Carbisdale over the river Charron until you reach the junction. Bearing left up Strath Carron continue on until you reach the forest trail sign going up the hill and follow the track until it forks. Take the right fork and follow that track, without turning off until you reach the lochan and picnic site. Proceed from there following the waymarked posts until you reach Carbisdale Castle (now an excellent Youth Hostel and which serves hot drinks during the open season April to October). Leaving the Castle follow the drive down to Culrain, admiring the well kept community garden at the village hall. Turn left here and follow the fenced path toward Invershin and cross the river by the footbridge to Invershin. From there follow the road toward Bonar Bridge until you pass Invershin Hotel and keeping carefully to the left side of the road take the track which goes up between two houses into Balblair Wood and follow the logging road until you reach Markle Wood and the car park by Drumliath. From there it is a road/pavement walk all the way back passing through Bonar Bridge main street and over Bonar Bridge across to Ardgay. If you have a walk you would like to feature in the Newsletter please email: info@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

WARD FORUM – The next Ward Forum for West & Central Sutherland takes place in Scourie Village Hall on Saturday 18 September from 11.00. Main Topic – **Planning and Development**. If you are unable to attend but would like anything raised at the Ward Forum please contact one of the Community Councillors.



Gearrchoille Community Woodland Association

Splendid Moths of the Gearrchoille



We couldn't have been luckier with the weather when two moth traps were set on a warm night after a series of cold weeks! The morning of 16th June dawned still and warm when we covered up the traps at around 5 am. Already we discovered a very large and beautifully coloured moth (greys/browns and red), one of five impressive Poplar Hawkmoths (see photograph) that were later uncovered when a large group of children from Gledfield Primary joined some very keen moth explorers from Ardgay and further

afield. Ian Paterson, our Countryside Ranger from Lairg, and Christine Blanco from Rosehall guided us expertly in all the do's and don't's of moth identification. Did you know that we have just 33 species of butterflies in Scotland compared to some 1300 of moths? And the good news is that the clothes moth is in decline, because most people wear synthetic clothes nowadays. Anyway, none of the woodland species are the least bit interested in our treasured sweaters. So we can forget about our irrational fear of them and enjoy their colourful names (see list) and intricate shapes and patterns. If you ever find one trapped inside your window, don't pick it up by its wings, because that will damage the tiny scales on its wings and prevent it from flying ever again. Just open the window and blow at it gently to coax it to leave, or try and get it to crawl on to your finger, because moths are surprisingly tame. Some got away when the traps were uncovered, but in total we caught a respectable June cross-section of nineteen species (as listed below). If we'd repeated the event in July, we might have found some spectacular 'antler' moths. Different species emerge at different times of the season, because their larvae feed on different plants. We found such a lot of Poplar Hawkmoths (wingspan up to 9 cm), because the traps were set up among a patch of aspen trees which belong to the poplar family. This hawkmoth is a fast flyer - it can reach up to 25 kmh, the speed of a fast cyclist. However, our most exciting find was another species associated with aspen trees: the Poplar Grey, a master of camouflage, as you can see from the photograph. It had never been recorded in Easter Ross and our part of Sutherland, as we were told by Barbara Ballinger, the current official recorder for that combined area. With the help of several kind photographers, the artistic flair of Gledfield schoolchildren and Betty Wright's DTP skills, the GCWA is planning the publication of the children's Top Ten favourite Moths of the Gearrchoille in the near future. Many thanks to all those who helped to make the day a lot of fun and a great success, and a big thank-you to the Community Woodlands Association for assistance with funding.



List of species identified on 16th June 2010:

Brimstone, Oak Hook-tip, Pebble Hook-tip, Peacock, Lesser Swallow Prominent, Nut-tree Tussock, Brown Rustic, Peppered Moth, Water Carpet, Poplar Hawkmoth, Pale Prominent, Pale-shouldered Brocade, Small Phoenix, Peach Blossom, Poplar Grey, Birch Mocha, Green Carpet, Green Silver-lines and Scalloped Hazel.

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

Gearrchoille 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

www.gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk

The Bridge at Brae – Community Council Quandary – Your Community Council in its effort to manage and maintain our widespread area have come up against a problem with this bridge. It was built by public subscription, formerly maintained by 'The Council' last time approximately 25 years ago, when it was on register. It is a 'listed' bridge and the Highland Council now say they are not responsible for it – this is in dispute. Meanwhile the bridge is not safe for public use –

Quandary 1 – Whose responsibility is it? Quandary 2 – Who will pay for any repairs? Quandary 3 – If it is deemed to be unsafe for public use – who will remove it? We are looking at as many options as possible to keep it – can you help to enlighten us?



Ardgay & District Community Council Meeting
Dates all at 7.00pm in Ardgay Village Hall

Wednesday

13th October

3rd November

1st December

All meetings are open to you and we would welcome your support.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 14 NOVEMBER 2010

Joint Service in Bonar Bridge



(From the Judging, during July, by the Highlands and Islands Area Council of the Royal British Legion Scotland - Ardgay War Memorial has won the Best Kept War Memorial Competition 2010 for the Memorial without a garden and will be put forward for judging in the national finals. The judges said "93 out of 100 - A monument the Ardgay community can be proud of. As previous years the only negative comments referred to the rust on the rifle bayonet and algae beginning to grow on the monument. Very impressive by any standard but a clean-up of the stonework would certainly enhance it").

The Newsletter is now available on-line at:
<ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk>

Let your friends and family away from home or outwith the area know about the website so they can see what is happening here too.

This is the tenth edition of the newsletter. We are hoping to continue issuing 4 x times a year: Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter. Copy for the Winter issue should be with the Editor by 11 November to be out in time for Christmas.

If we missed you out and you want to be included in future issues contact any Community Councillor or the Editor – photographs and articles are always welcome.

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

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(We need YOU to tell us how it was.)



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