

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



No 7 – Spring Edition 2010

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

The Road to New Migdale

It is good to see that work has started on access to the new Migdale Hospital, heading up through Cherry Grove, past the Doctors' Surgery and close to the Bradbury Centre.

Once the access is formed work can start on construction of the new hospital. The Principal Contractor – Robertson Highland is already looking for local subcontractors, material suppliers and plant hire companies. (see article P 4)



From the Chair

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Newsletter and the first for 2010. The Community Council is very proud of its own publication. The idea for it was first suggested back in 2007. We needed a means of communicating with every household in the area, to inform and update on the events, activities and plans that could affect each and every one of us. We wanted to invite the community to be involved in the work of their Community Council. Thus the concept for a newsletter was born.

In conjunction with the newsletter, we have been able to develop our own Community Website, and this enables those of us able to access the internet, to use this facility for further communication of facts and knowledge. To look at the website go to www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk you will be pleasantly surprised at the amount of information there. We thank David Hannah, vice-chair, and Phil Olson for their untiring efforts in producing the newsletter and developing the website.

As we look forward to the coming year, we are aware that this year will be one of the most decisive and important for the lives of many people in Britain. The forthcoming General Election will be fought on many issues, several of which will directly affect the lives of older people today and the generations to come. For the first time it is likely that the majority of people casting their vote will be aged over 50, and this fact is evident in our own area. Already our councils are looking to make cuts and savings in many areas, and none of us is likely to escape the effects.

We all have our opinions about the areas of greatest concern but in exercising our right to vote at the election, let us remember that the decisions we make today will reflect heavily on the generations of tomorrow.

Tony Gibbs

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Minute from Ardgay & District Community Council Meeting of 03 February 2010 – (draft for approval at 03 March Meeting) in Ardgay Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Tony Gibbs (Chair), David Hannah (Vice-Chair), Alan Lawrence (Treasurer), Doreen Gibbs (Secretary), Brigitte Geddes, David Laver, William MacLaren, Phil Olson, Marion Turner.

1. Welcome The Chairperson Tony Gibbs opened the meeting with a welcome to members.

2. Apologies received from Jamie Burgess, Liz Cormack, Derek Matheson, David Ross, Cllr. Robbie Rowantree.

3. Minutes of meeting held on Wed. 3rd December 2009 were approved. Proposed by David Hannah and seconded by Phil Olson.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

New Salt Bin in Struie Place. No feedback has been received.

Ward Forum Meeting. Members have been advised that the next meeting has been postponed until Saturday 27th February 2010. Minutes from the previous meeting have been circulated.

Planning Matters Phil Olson asked why this Committee had not been consulted over the application from the Alladale Wilderness Reserve for the renewal of a Dangerous Wild Animals license, approved by the Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross Licensing Committee on Monday 1st February 2010. The Chairman will investigate.

Highland Tourism Seminar Brigitte Geddes said that a report of the Seminar could be viewed on the Highland Council website.

Christmas Lights were taken down and are again being stored by the Gala Committee in Bonar. The need for the existing lights to be replaced and or renewed will be discussed at a future meeting.

Invercharron Games (Deferred from Last meeting) Tony Gibbs reported on an email received from Creich CC. on behalf of the Invercharron Games Committee. They are concerned that they could lose their main sponsor (Skibo) if they cannot attract a larger "gate" at the event. It is suggested that a greater degree of co-operation between the various committees within Bonar and Ardgay district could help, and Michael Baird on behalf of the Games committee could come to a future meeting to speak on this. It was agreed that Michael Baird would be invited to speak at a future meeting when there is space available on our agenda.

New Minister for the Church of Scotland. The Service of Induction for the Rev. Anthony Jones will be held in Creich Church on 26th February 2010.

At this point David Hannah introduced our Guest Speaker Frank Roach from Hitrans. Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership is a statutory body. Mr Roach spoke about the Regional Transport Strategy within the current political framework, future plans for the rail services in the Highland Region, and the method of funding. Additional trains to and from Inverness and Wick have been introduced in 2009. Unfortunately some routes are limited in the number of stations served. Transport links to stations will become a necessity if reliance on the car is discouraged. There is little allowance for flexibility in train time-tables. Arrival and departure times are designed for the convenience of connections to main-line services rather than the convenience of passengers wishing to use those stations serving small rural communities. There has been a considerable increase in use of the service from Ardgay. This fact arrived at from ticket sales. Other areas covered were the future use of rail for transport of timber, development of the Dalcross-Inverness rail link, Active Travel – an audit to identify cycling/walking regions, Sunday services – to operate a peak Sunday Service in the Summer and plans to cope with problems that may arise because of repairs to the Kessock Bridge, such as extra coaches added to peak hour trains, and possibly a park and ride service (Inverness to Tore).

6. Secretary's Report - From previous meeting Agenda Item (6) Planning Items

(1) Development at Land North West of Brindavan, Kincardine Hatchery, Ardgay - The Secretary reported that a response had been submitted to the Highland Council Planning Department, that the applications should be refused, as the development constitutes Ribbon Development in a predominantly rural area outside the Settlement Development Area, on land not designated for residential or commercial use. The applicant was urged to find alternative locations within the Settlement Development Plan.

(2) Wester Fearn Burn Hydro Our response was to approve the variation, subject to the proviso that all conditions imposed on the approved scheme are being adhered to fully by the Developer, that the interest of the Hatchery are maintained and that the HC address the issues raised by the Hatchery through their Freedom of Information request.

Beinn Tharsuinn Grant Applicants were informed of the Ardgay Community Council decisions on 4th December and passed to Phil Tomalin for payment.

Major Consultation planned over Community Council Review – 1st Phase – A letter was sent to the HC on behalf of the Ardgay & District Community Council on 16 December 2009. Copy circulated to members.

Scottish Water and Ongoing Problems – In response to a request from Creich CC for support in urging Scottish Water to address the problems with the local water supply, a letter was sent to Scottish Water with copies to John Thurso MP, Jamie Stone MSP and local MSPs. A reply has been received from Scottish Water. (copy circulated).

Ardgay Post Office – Service re-opening on Monday 22nd February in Ardgay Village Hall.

A Letter received from Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd. - Dounreay to Beaully 275kv Electricity Transmission Line. (Copy previously circulated)

7. Treasurer's Report - Alan Lawrence presented a report showing current balances for the three accounts.

Treasurer account: £1793.56, Projects account: £1801.09, Toilets account: £9.12

It was recommended that in future a Treasurer's report should be presented once a quarter instead of every month.

It was agreed that the costs for the next newsletter (Spring edition 2010) will be met from the Projects account. A request has been received from Lairg and Creich CC's to share the cost of expenses for Peter Campbell (Creich CC) to attend a meeting with EON and the SCF to discuss a format for the payment and management of community benefit from the new windfarm (at Rosehall). Ardgay are asked to contribute a third of the costs. This was agreed.

8. Windfarms - Achany Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Launch Event is to be held at Bonar Bridge Community Hall on Monday 8th February 2010 from 6pm-7pm. Tony Gibbs presented for perusal, a copy of a Scoping Report for the development of a wind farm on the Kildermorie and Glencalvie Estates in Easter Ross, to be known as the Glenmorrie Wind Farm. This will in due course be submitted to the Highland Council for planning permission. Tony Gibbs suggested that a representative from the project be invited to speak at a public meeting. **Action: Chair/Sec**

9. Any other competent business - It was agreed that the Community Council would pay expenses for Brigitte Geddes to attend the Highland Bio-Diversity Forum in March 2010 in Inverness. Brigitte Geddes asked about the future of KOSI which seems to be in a state of uncertainty at the moment. David Hannah said that it has been without a Chairman since the resignation of Lynne Burgess, and meetings have not been held. It was agreed that we should encourage any moves to revive KOSI. Tony Gibbs has received an email from Colin Gilmour asking for nominations of deserving local residents to attend the Royal Garden Party at the Palace of Holyrood in July. It was agreed that Jeanie Sparling, and Alan Lawrence should be nominated. **Action: Chair**
David Hannah agreed to invite Ronnie MacRae (Housing Feasibility Study) to speak at the next meeting in March. **Action: DH**
David Hannah reminded members that he must have items for the newsletter by 15th February.

Marion Turner asked members to support the Public Library Service. **Action: All members**

10. Date, time and venue of next meeting- Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 7.00pm in Ardgay Village Hall.

There being no further business Tony Gibbs thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

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 getting your bits and pieces for the next issue, by Monday 17th of May for distribution after the 2nd of June Community Council meeting.

Kincardine Parish Church (extracts from The Bell) - Contact Details

Minister – Interim Moderator – The Reverend Susan Brown, Dornoch Cathedral

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 – "We are pleased to announce the coming of the new Minister – The Reverend Anthony Jones, a new minister for the Church of Scotland. In the autumn of 2009 the nomination committee of the newly linked Parishes of Kincardine, Croick, Edderton with Creich and Rosehall invited the Rev. Anthony M. Jones to preach to the congregations as sole nominee. They were delighted that the Church members and adherents who came to those services voted overwhelmingly for Rev. Jones and his appointment has been sustained. Anthony will live in the manse in Ardgay, with his wife Beverley and their children Samuel, Miles, Barty and Carys. He is relocating from Innellan, where he was Minister for the Parish of Dunoon High Kirk with Innellan and Toward. Born in Southampton, he grew up and was educated in Wales. He is a Bachelor of Divinity and a Master of Theology. Among his many interests are music, drama, swimming and writing. He has had four collections of his poetry published. The congregations are looking forward eagerly to Anthony's ministry and hope that the community in general will also welcome him and his family. It is proposed that he will take services in Kincardine and Edderton on alternate Sundays with Creich and Rosehall. Do watch for the dates and come along and hear him preach. If you would like any other information about the Church of Scotland please contact Mrs Rosalie Sutherland, Session Clerk on 01862 821 320."

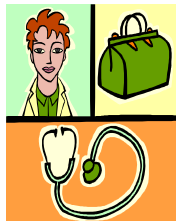
Dornoch Firth Group of Churches Events – Regrettably the Bridge Project Lunch Quiz with soup and dessert lunch had to be cancelled because of the snow – watch out for posters advertising the new date, profits and retiring collection will go to the Haiti Disaster Fund.

Boy's Brigade – The company meet every Friday evening 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 – (February 2010) Due to high attendance this season we have decided to split the club nights to Tuesdays and Thursdays. Further information – Carron League and Struie League – The last round will be on Saturday 13th March. Carron League players start at 3.00pm and Struie League players at 7.30pm. Prize-givings for Carron & Struie Leagues will be on Wed 17th & Thurs 18th March respectively. There might be a Cup & Plate Competition on Saturday 27th March. Contact George Ross 01863 755329 e-mail <rosscroft@btinternet.com>

Juniors and Intermediates will have Tuesdays (not Thursdays) (Last Session Tuesday 6 th April)		
TUESDAYS	Juniors 6.30 – 7.30 Cost £1.00	Intermediates 7.30 – 9.00pm. Cost £1.00
Teenagers and Adults Thursdays (Last Session Thursday 8 th April)		
THURSDAYS	Teenagers 6.30 – 8.00pm Cost £1.00	Adults 8 – 11.00pm. Cost £2.00

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 DentalHelpLine@hpcot.scot.nhs.uk. 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.



Work starts on new hospital project in Central Sutherland

Contractors have started work on a project that will see the existing Migdale Hospital at Bonar Bridge, which is almost 150 years old, replaced with a new £8.3 million facility. The new hospital, which will provide inpatient and some outpatient services, is to be built in the centre of the village, close to the Bradbury Centre and the GP Surgery in Cherry Grove. Robertson Highland began work on the access road and drainage in January. Work on the hospital building will begin when the road is completed. It is hoped that the hospital will be fully operational in April 2011. Inpatient facilities at the new hospital will be divided into two units – one for older people with mental health needs and the other providing GP-led beds, offering a range of in-patient services, including palliative care, general medicine and less intensive rehabilitation services. All the bedrooms will be single occupancy, with en-suite toilets and showers, and the internal layout has been designed so that two of them can be used by either unit, to provide flexibility. The new hospital forms part of NHS Highland's programme of service improvement and change, called "Changing for the Better", which includes providing safe, quality care for patients as close to their homes as possible.

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. A pupil sponsored cycle is also planned in May to raise money for school funds. Copies of minutes of meetings are available from the Secretary or via the school. The next meeting is on Tuesday 20th April, 7pm in the school hall. All parents/guardians are most welcome.

Dornoch/Tain High Schools – Dornoch no news as there is a meeting this coming Thursday but some info

DORNOCH ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL - Website: <http://www.spanglefish.com/DAPC/>

Next meeting: Thursday 20th May – All welcome – also contact details for Tain Royal Academy parent council if you want: CHAIRMAN Mr Paul Hoggarth, Redstone Gables Edderton (01862 821214).

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)		Date	Hosts	Date	Hosts
		10 Mar	Royal British Legion C & K Branch	7 Apr	Bonar Bridge Community Hall
		17 Mar	Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club	14 Apr	Ardgay Children's Christmas Party
		24 Mar	Cancer Research	21 Apr	Bonar Bridge Indoor Bowling Club
		31 Mar	Bonar Bridge/Ardgay Gala Week	28 Apr	Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club

(For example Ardgay Scottish Country Dancers raised £107.00 on 10 February to help with club costs)

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

Kincardine, Croick & Edderton Guild – Guild meetings – usually the 2nd Tuesday of each month during the winter at 7.30pm in Ardgay Church Hall - Contact for details – Mrs Isobel Adlard Tel 01863 766 469.

Scottish Country Dancing - 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 28 March - Ben Stack

AGM: Wednesday 10 March 2010: Golspie CC - 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 760083 email: bonarbridge.library@highland.gov.uk			

Edderton & Ardgay Mobile Library 2010

3 March	24 March	14 April	5 May	26 May	16 June
7 July	28 July	18 August	8 September	29 September	20 October
10 November	1 December	22 December			

Ardgay Oakwood 1.45 p.m. – 2 p.m., Ardgay (Lady Ross) 2 p.m. – 3.20 p.m.

Contact 07733300761, 01863 766709 or 01862 811585 for information about other stops.

Culrain, Strathoykel & Strathcarron Mobile Library 2010

4 March	25 March	15 April	6 May	27 May
17 June	8 July	29 July	19 August	9 September
30 September	21 October	11 November	2 December	23 December

Culrain 2.10 – 2.45 p.m.

Contact 07733300761, 01863 766709 or 01862 811585 for information about other stops.

Edderton Gardening Club



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 Graham Park on 01862 821339..

Ardgay (Scottish Women's Rural Institute) SWRI – Contact for details – Mrs Jean Jack Tel 766 646

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

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

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	Ardgay	Ardgay	766210
“	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				

TRACC – Tain Royal Academy Community Complex

Swimming Pool Timetable - 11 January to 26 March 2010 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 – Buses to Tain

ARDGAY	06.53	-	09.18	11.18	-	14.18	17.08	17.53
EDDERTON	07.05	-	09.30	11.30	-	14.30	17.20	18.05
TAIN(LAMINGTON ST)	07.15	-	09.40	11.40	-	14.40	17.30	18.15
Buses to Ardgay								
TAIN(LAMINGTON ST)	07.30	-	10.11	13.11	-	15.11	18.48	
EDDERTON	07.36	-	10.17	13.17	-	15.17	18.54	
ARDGAY	07.50	-	10.30	13.30	-	15.30	19.07	

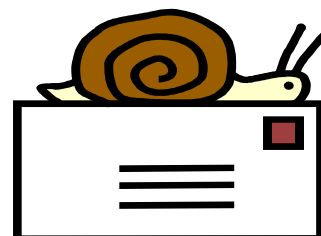
This is the list of groups and organisations in Ardgay & District , that I know about:

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	Gardening Club
Gearchoille Community Wood Association	Dornoch Academy Parent Council	Highland Councillors
Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust	Gledfield School PTA	Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club
Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group	Kyle of Sutherland Gala Committee	Kyle of Sutherland History Society
Kyle of Sutherland Initiative (KOSI)	The Ladybird Club	Mums & Toddlers/Playgroup
Other Worship Groups	Royal British Legion, Scotland	Sutherland Walkers Group
Scottish Country Dancers	SWRI	The Guild
Ward Manager		

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 <tnc24@tiscali.co.uk>).

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>

Ardgay Post Office – Service re-opening from Monday 22 February 2010 in Ardgay Village Hall small meeting room. Service will be available on Monday afternoons and Friday mornings. Please endeavour to use this as much as possible, or we will lose it.



Especially for our readers who may not have accessed our excellent website - this is an example of what you will see:

Welcome - The Ardgay & District Community Council welcomes you to our web site.

We aim to make our official information easily available for you. And, we hope to interest you in all aspects of our area.



[Our Council:](#)

The **Community Council area** lies along the central southern border of the [County of Sutherland](#), in the Scottish [Highlands](#).

Probably the most notable local landmark is the Bridge spanning the [Dornoch Firth](#), or more properly, the Kyle of Sutherland, northward to [Bonar Bridge](#), our companion village in the next parish.



Also of note are [Croick Church](#), which gained notoriety during the [Highland Clearances](#),

and [Carbisdale Castle](#), whose late Victorian stone walls dominate the [Kyle of Sutherland](#) for miles.



Largely unseen, but very important to our local identity and to our commerce are the salmon returning from years at sea. The [catching of the salmon](#) attracts many visitors and anglers, some of whom just like the salmon, make an annual pilgrimage to their favourite river.

Land based activity dominates our economy. Agriculture is probably the largest employer. [Forestry](#) occupies many hectares of upland. [Deer stalking](#) attracts a worldwide clientele. Our fishing rivers are world famous. Tourism is based upon the sheer beauty of the whole area and activity holidaying is now growing quickly.

We live in a Rural location, classified as Remote. This is an attraction for visitors, for lifestyle residents and for those born and educated here but remoteness is at times an impediment to economic development and hence this is a recurring theme discussed by the Ardgay & District Community Council.

January/February 2010 : [Winter Update](#)

Add our web site bookmark to your favorites – Press CTRL-D now!

Select / Navigate - [Welcome](#), [Members](#), [Agenda & Minutes](#), [Projects & Issues We are discussing](#), [Public Issues Raised](#), [Newsletters](#), [Fundraising](#), [Links](#), [Important Local Information](#), [Local Events](#), [Adverse Weather January 2010](#), [The Sutherland Summit](#), [Personal Notices](#)

And for those who don't have access to the internet this is your re-assurance that we are working hard to let people know that Ardgay exists and is a vibrant part of the Highlands. [Editor's note – Grateful thanks to Phil Olson who produced and maintains our webpage.](#)

HOST uk – (Hosting for Overseas Students) is a registered charity founded in 1987 and funded by the British Council and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, The Victoria League and more than 100 participating institutions. The purpose of HOST is to enable adult international students at universities and colleges in the UK to stay for a weekend or a few days at Christmas or New Year as guests in private homes. The aim is to help students feel welcome in this country and to promote international friendship and understanding.

Who are the Students? – The students come from all over the world. They are at universities and colleges throughout the UK. Some are young undergraduates, others are post-graduates and professionals. They range in age from 18-60, although the majority are in their 20s and 30s. Some are here for less than a year and some for up to 3 years. A few bring their partners, and sometimes children with them to the UK.

Who are the HOSTS? – That could be [you!](#)

What to do next? – Contact Mrs Joan Mackenzie, Aultgowrie House, Aultgowrie, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire, IV6 7XA, Tel. 01997 433291, e-mail jmackenzie10@btinternet.com and ask for information if you would like to be a HOST, or speak to this Newsletter Editor - David Hannah who is already HOSTing.

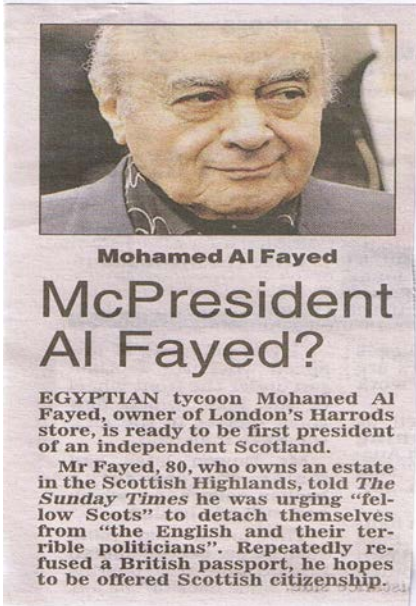
COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS (01 December 2009)

Members	Addresses	Contact Details
Chair Tony Gibbs		
Vice Chair David Hannah		
Secretary & Minute Secretary - Doreen Gibbs		
Treasurer Alan Lawrence		
1 – Iain Shand		
2 - Liz Cormack		
3 - Derek Matheson		
4 - David Ross		
5 - William MacLaren		
6 - Brigitte Geddes		
7 – Jamie Burgess		
8 – Phil Olson		
9 – Marion Turner		
10 David Laver	Loco Cottage, Station Yard. Ardgay. IV24 3	
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

The Bridge Project (part of the Dornoch Group – Scottish Charity Number SC034932)

- **Good Morning Sutherland** – Are you interested in ensuring that older people who live on their own are safe each day and if they have a fall someone living close by can come to their aid? The project is now recruiting volunteers to provide a daily telephone contact service to check that those older people living on their own are OK. If you have time from 9.00 – 10.00 to “phone a friend” please contact John McMurray on 07801496609. John will give you more information about this. The project will only start once we have enough volunteers to cope with the demand.
- **SU (Scripture Union) – Bonar Bridge** – Between 25 & 30 children have been attending each week since this started in mid-January. Diane Macrae was appointed by SU to the position of volunteer leader during November.
- **iMPACT** – Organised chaos will return to the Dornoch Beaches this summer when iMPACT which is part of the Church of Scotland will be working with the Bridge Project to run activities from 31st July to 8th August. As well as volunteers we will need accommodation for those from further afield coming to help for the week.
- **Young and old Together** – The Bridge Project is pursuing “intergenerational activities” in partnership with Dornoch Academy. They have brought together adults with skills in craftwork and 2nd year pupils interested in learning these abilities. This is all part of developing enterprise initiative, now part of the school curriculum.

Taken from an Australian Newspaper and sent in by one of our readers.



Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society, Kincardine Old Church, Ardgay
 Programme of Events – 2010 (Reg Scottish Charity No. (SC0145547)

March 31st – Reception for Artists and Friends 7.30 – 9.30pm

April 1st – 11th – Art Exhibition for Highland Artists with special section for Local Primary Schools – Ardgay: Bonar Bridge: Edderton: Rosehall

TBA – Lecture on Heraldry – The Reverend Graeme Muckhart

May 8th – Art Workshop – Christine O’Keefe

TBA – Lecture on Brochs – Cathy Dagg

June 15th – AGM in Kincardine Old Church 7.30pm

17th – Illustrated Lecture – Charlie Phillips – “Wild Life in the Moray Firth” (for local primary school children)

26th – Art Workshop – Stuart Mingham

July – Nothing scheduled at present

August 7th – 8th & 14th – 15th Photo Exhibition – Hi-Fab Nigg Yard

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

Bowel Screening – Over 3,000 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer every year in Scotland. The good news is – bowel screening reduces bowel cancer deaths. Everyone between 50 and 75 will receive a test kit by post every two years. Take the test. You can do it at home – it’s quick and easy to do and it could be your lifesaver. To find out more call the Helpline on 0800 0121 8333 or visit www.bowelscreening.scot.nhs.uk.

 <p>Business Support Services Bonar Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Business & Administrative Services Accounts & Payroll Management Event Organising Data Capture & Management Bulk Direct Mailing / eMailing  Photocopying Faxing Laminating Emailing Internet Access Sage Accounts & Payroll Software Training, Installation & Support <p>Contact us on: T: 01863 766536 info@keycs.com www.keycs.com</p> <p>Drop in: Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge (opposite the Bank of Scotland)</p>	<h1 style="text-align: center;">THIS</h1> <p>(The House Inspection Service) Registered Technical Consultant with over 40 years construction experience provides – offers Pre sale Home Surveys, Maintenance & Repair Inspections with Comprehensive Reports on Works Required (Your House MoT). David Hannah, Ardgay Tel 01863 766061, Mob 07880776909 <e-mail david@tnchome.co.uk></p>  <hr/> <p>URACHADH – Ardgay Village Hall Saturday 20 March @ 7.00pm – £7/£5 Children Free Travel through 400 years of N W Sutherland’s history during an audio-visual presentation with music, stunning photos, stories, poetry and Gaelic song with talented musicians: James Graham, Carol-Anne Mackay, Catriona MacLeod, James Ross and Rhona Sutherland. Refreshments included. A NIGHT NOT TO BE MISSED.</p>
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Achany Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

FIRST GRANTS AWARDED!

The first grants have been awarded to Lairg & District Community Initiative, the Bradbury Centre, Lairg Learning Centre and Sutherland Outdoor Activity Project. We will make available further information about the details of each particular grant later in February. Meanwhile we look forward to receiving more applications from groups and organisations working in the community council areas of Ardgay & District, Creich and Lairg* during 2010 who may apply for:

Main Grants - from £2,000 - £10,000 - Apply by application form –
Large Grants over £10,000 - Contact the Scottish Community Foundation to discuss your proposal first.
The next 2 deadlines during 2010 are 26 May, 27 August

Application Forms and Guidelines can be collected from the Service Points in Bonar Bridge and Lairg or downloaded from www.scottishcf.org. A factsheet about the Fund is also available at the Service Points. For further information tel. 0141 341 4961 or email rachel@scottishcf.org (* Projects must benefit people living in these Community Council areas)

Achany Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

WHAT IS THE ACHANY PANEL?

The Achany Panel has been established to advise the Scottish Community Foundation on decisions about grants from the Achany Fund. As a team of 12 people who live in the community benefit area covered by the 3 community council areas of Ardgay & District, Creich and Lairg, the Panel is well placed to prioritise projects of greatest impact and benefit to the community. Each community council area has 4 members on the Panel, 2 of whom are members of their local community council and the other 2 are residents who are not currently on the community council. Since this is a 25 year Fund it's likely that there will be opportunities for many people to get involved in the Panel at different times.

Current Panel members (from Sept 09) committed to serving for between 1-3 years are:

Ardgay & District – Hilda Buchanan, Lynne Burgess, David Hannah, Marion Turner

Creich – Joan Bishop, Claire Bruce, Pete Campbell, Philip Meldrum

Lairg – Sandy Allison, Alasdair Ross, David Walker, Barbara Watson

Achany Fund Application Forms and Guidelines can be collected from the Service Points in Bonar Bridge and Lairg or downloaded from www.scottishcf.org. A factsheet about the Fund is also available at the Service Points. For further information about the Panel or Fund please tel. 0141 341 4961 or email rachel@scottishcf.org



Rachel & Nadine – SCF at the Grants Launch in Bonar Bridge Hall when Annie Boyd – Chair of the Scottish Community Foundation announced the first four grants awarded to local group:

1. £30,000 to Lairg and District Community Initiative – to help with the costs of employing project manager Graeme Mackay's post.
2. £10,000 to Bradbury Centre to help with the costs of minibus provision for the centre and available for hire to other local groups.
3. £6,720 to Lairg Learning Centre to promote and deliver a new Learning to be Enterprising Course.
4. £5,000 to Sutherland Outdoor Activities Project to fund a major water sports, and associated events at Invershin.



Cycle for Wellbeing - Both cycling & walking help us stay healthy. Our parish offers many opportunities for both. This note describes a circular cycling route of about 18.7km. Starting at the War Memorial in Ardgay the route follows the road to the Carron Bridge then forest road to Carbisdale Castle and returns to Ardgay by road. As about half the route is by road a thin-wheeled bike could be used, but as half is 'off-road' a wide-wheeled bike is justified. The route is easy to find & has 4 steep uphill sections, but only 1 is over 100m long so it is mostly not a stressful route. Start at the Ardgay War Memorial. Ride out across the Carron Bridge and turn up Strath Carron for 200m. Turn right into the forest and up a short, steep, paved section turning right near the top. Relax on level forest road until Bonar Bridge appears with views over Ardgay to the Struie Ridge. Begin a 1km uphill climb and when on level road enjoy long views to Klibreck and Ben Hope. Follow this forest road with no turns left or right until the descent to Carbisdale Castle. 1km after passing above Carbisdale loch (the only loch) look for a 'T' junction, turn right downhill and prepare for a wild downhill on this land-rover track. Pass the castle; refreshments may be available if you ask. Continue downhill then straight on at Culrain over the railway then on to cross Carron Bridge and finally back to Ardgay where you may also find refreshments. For the very fit this route takes about 1 hr; 2hrs+ for leisure cyclists. *(author wishes to remain anonymous)*

Be safe at all times and follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code:

Take responsibility for your own actions.

Respect people's privacy and peace of mind.

Help farmers, landowners and others to work safely and effectively.

Care for the environment.

Gearrhoille Community Woodland Association

If, Ands', Buts' & Maybe - "Wood" you help?

If everyone who had ever thought "I really must support our community wood by becoming a member" had done so. AND if every existing member had encouraged just one more person to join, then there would be no BUTS' when it came to showing public support for the GCWA on grant applications. MAYBE.

If everyone who uses the woodland encouraged other people to discover its delights for themselves, AND those people then continued to use the woodland too, then there would be no BUTS' when it came to showing public use of the GCWA on grant applications. MAYBE.

IF the costs involved in meeting the GCWA's statutory commitments cannot be covered by its own fundraising – which they can't – AND grant aid for them cannot be secured, BUT the costs remain – which they will - the community will lose its wood. MAYBE.

IF the Gearrhoille's paths and bridges are to continue to be improved AND the old curling pond revitalised as a wildlife resource, for education as well as pure pleasure, BUT you have never got round to becoming a GCWA member, then there is no MAYBE. Now is the time to act.

The adult membership fee is £2 per year, or part thereof, renewable every May at the AGM.

Family membership is just £4. Membership forms are available from Bonar Bridge Library or www.gearrhoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk or any Director.

Then MAYBE, IF we work together AND show our support and use of the wood there will be no more BUTS' on grant application or anywhere else.

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 (2010 Calendars still available, but only a few left).

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

The Bridge Project – Thriving Young People – recent developments have caused the project to take action with and for young people living in the two areas around Ardgay and Dornoch. This action could involve establishment of a COSY COFFEE CAFÉ in both Ardgay and Dornoch. The project is seeking additional volunteers to help one evening per week. People 18 and over can contact John McMurray on 07801496609 for more details, on this and any other Bridge Project matters.

This is the seventh edition of the newsletter. We are hoping to continue issuing 4 x times a year: Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter. Copy for the Summer issue to be with the Editor by Monday 17th May to be out in time for Summer.

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.

**This is a community newsletter produced and published by:
Ardgay & District Community Council for:**



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

Ardgay & District Community Council Meeting Dates

Wednesday	7 April AGM 7.00pm – Ordinary Meeting 7.30pm	5th May 7.00pm
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All meetings are open to you and we would welcome your support.

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

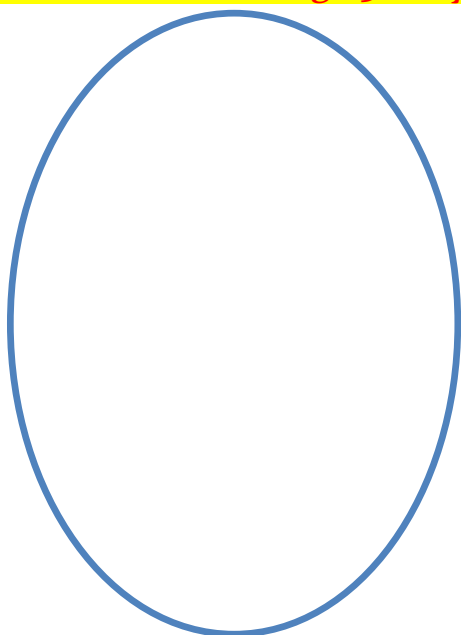
Let friends and family outwith the area know so they can see what is happening too.

Editor's Correction – in the last issue I referred to the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial.

“It has been pointed out that Mr Karl Weidner who took the service at the War Memorial in Ardgay was wrongly given the title "Reverend". He is actually a Reader (trained lay preacher) of the Church of Scotland and so is not entitled to be referred to in this way.”

Apologies for any misunderstanding this may have caused. David Hannah

Age 5 - 12 years old - Easter Egg Competition



This competition is especially for primary school children living within the Ardgay and District Community Council area and there will be prizes for the 3 best entries received before the Community Council meeting on Wednesday 7th April 2010. The winning Egg will appear in the next edition of this newsletter and all 3 prizewinners will be mentioned.

The prizes will be real Easter Eggs.

What you have to do – Colour in this Egg and add a design of your choice, with an Easter Theme.

Return your Egg with your Name, Address and Age to David Hannah, Tigh na Cnoc, Ardgay Hill, Ardgay, IV24 3DH (or by e-mail to tnc24@tiscali.co.uk before Good Friday.

Prizes will be delivered to you as soon as possible after 7th April.