

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Ardgay and District Community Council

Population 598

Area 624.8 Sq Kilometres

No 11 – Spring Edition 2010

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

Lynsey Mailer



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE FOR ARDGAY AND CREICH DISTRICT - Lynsey Mailer has been contracted to provide a community development service to the Ardgay and Creich Districts. She has been tasked with creating a development plan for the area, which she will present to a steering group comprising David Hannah, David Laver and Liz Cormack of Ardgay Community Council and Peter Campbell, Claire Bruce and Russell Smith of Creich Community Council at the end of March 2011.

The proposed outcome of the Community Development Service will be to stimulate economic, social and cultural regeneration within the communities and to produce long lasting and sustainable improvement in the quality of the lives of the people who live within them. Lynsey's role is funded, for the next two years, by the Beinn Tharsuinn and Achany community funds, with support from the Highland Leader Programme. Her role was created through the resounding need for a dedicated service to ensure the funding available to the area works to benefit the community across a range of projects and initiatives. Lynsey is readily available to help members of the community who would like to make fund applications, have any community led ideas or comments. She can be contacted at development@kyleofsutherland.co.uk or Tel. 07961 046715. Lynsey also has a desk space at Key Commercial Services in Bonar Bridge.

From the Chair

Welcome to the Eleventh edition of our Newsletter

VERY, VERY GOOD NEWS

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Lynsey Mailer as our Development Service Worker for the Kyle of Sutherland. With this opportunity to work more closely with Creich Community Council we are now a more active part of the Kyle of Sutherland giving us a much bigger partnership with Rosehall, Bonar Bridge and Spinningdale as well as our own very extended district.

Lynsey will be reporting on her progress in the newsletter and we hope you will take the opportunity to meet with her when you can and help her to get to know us and what we feel our needs are. Lynsey is here to help us all to improve our prospects for the future.

If you want to be more involved speak to any of your Community Councillors to find out what you can do.

David Hannah

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Present: David Hannah (Chair), Doreen Gibbs (Secretary), Alan Lawrence (Treasurer), Derek Matheson, Phil Olson, Marion Turner, David Laver, Liz Cormack, Peter Armstrong, Cllr Linda Munro, Cllr George Farlow, PC Joanne Hogg, Lynsey Mailer (Kyle of Sutherland Development Service). Six members of the public also attended the meeting.

1. Welcome: David Hannah opened the meeting with a welcome to those present.

2. Apologies: had been received from David Ross.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 Dec 2010 were approved as presented.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Core Paths - There had still been no formal response from Highland Council to our request to have a right of way reinstated between Ardgay Hill and the Lady Ross car park area. Matt Dent has passed the matter to John Clark for information.

Christmas Lights - Thanks were expressed to the local Fire & Rescue Service crew who had put up the lights again this year, and to Derek Matheson and son for erecting the Christmas tree.

5. Secretary's Report: The secretary had written in response to the 3rd phase consultation on Community Councils. Her letter had been acknowledged but there had been no further response to the questions raised. Cllr Farlow presented maps showing the proposed changes to parish boundaries and explained the rationale for the changes, to which there were no objections.

A letter had been received from Mr Jonny Shaw, Amat, seeking the Community Council's support for a scheme to remove a barrier to salmon migration created in the 1940s by the construction of a hydroelectric abstraction point at a dam in Glen Beag, River Carron. Mr Shaw asked if we could confirm our support by email to the Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust. It was agreed to support the initiative in the interests of conserving local salmon stocks.

6. Wind Farms update:

Braemore Several members of the public had attended the meeting to express their opposition to the development of a 27 turbine windfarm at Braemore, and to urge the community council to make a formal objection to the planning application. Amongst the concerns expressed were the number and size of the turbines proposed in an area which already had its fair share of windfarms, the fact that any employment generated would only be short term, and the proximity of turbines to residential property. Several members proceeded to voice their own opposition to the development on the grounds of its impact on the environment, wildlife, landscape and quality of life, and after discussion it was agreed unanimously to object to the application.

Coire na Cloiche The secretary read a letter sent by Henrik F. Christensen, of RockbySea (Scotland) Ltd. who would be submitting a planning application in June this year.

Sallachy Members had seen copies of a scoping report for the Sallachy proposal (30 turbine windfarm adjacent to Loch Shin). Some felt that it had been poorly researched. David Hannah said the developers had planned to meet with community council chairs last December, but this had been cancelled owing to the weather. An environmental assessment is still to be produced, followed by formal consultations later in the year.

Moray Off-shore Windfarms Marion Turner noted that a Highland Council working group, ostensibly set up to discuss offshore developments, had also been discussing models for the distribution of *onshore* benefit funding. Cllr Munro said she understood there would be no retrospective clawback of community benefit funding, but agreed that we should write to Isobel McCallum, chair of the Community Benefit Working Group, and Michael Foxley to ask why there was no Sutherland member on the working group, and why the affected communities themselves were not being consulted. *Marion to write to Cllr McCallum*

There followed a discussion as to whether the increasing number of wind farm development applications required a more cooperative strategy on the part of local communities. It was agreed that the idea of a Sutherland ward forum to discuss policy on wind farms should be investigated. Cllr Munro said she would take this idea forward.

7. Police report: PC Hogg said she understood timber lorries were continuing to use the Struie road despite a prohibition. She said the police had not themselves witnessed any contraventions. It was pointed out that at a previous meeting, the Highland Councillor present had stated that a number of lorries had been stopped in the first days of the prohibition order. Marion asked if the police could issue renewed guidance to the public as to the details needed to report any contraventions – registration nos., time, place, etc. David Hannah said he had received no response to emails he had forwarded to Northern Constabulary from local residents concerned about the speed of lorries in built-up/residential areas. PC Hogg said she would inquire into this, and suggested that the preferred local contact for community council communications with the police was Sgt Gary Cameron at Lairg Police Station. Cllr Munro felt that Northern Constabulary might want to report on the issues raised to the next Ward Forum, as well as responding to the community council.

8. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Account £1419.25, with £25 outstanding. Projects Account
£3806.44, with £5.06 outstanding. Toilet Account £9.58

9. Development Service Update: The Chairman welcomed Lynsey Mailer, who has recently been awarded a contract to provide a development support service for the communities of Creich and Ardgay. Lynsey introduced herself to the meeting, and explained that she will be spending her first few months meeting all the groups, businesses and individuals with an interest in local development, looking for ideas and opinions and identifying the range of funding sources and programmes which may be available for projects. She plans to spend two days a week (Tue & Thu) in an office leased from Key Commercial Services in Bonar Bridge. Anyone with an interest in or ideas about local development is welcome to contact her at the office or by email at lynseymailer@gmail.com. A new website is being developed for the service. Cllr Munro invited Lynsey to attend the next local Ward Forum to publicise the new service.

10. Grant applications to Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Ltd: Gledfield School had applied for a total of £1100 for the purchase of educational resources including a mathematics software package and a printed/online newspaper subscription. Jackie Sutherland of Gledfield School Parent Teacher Association, who was present at the meeting, explained that Highland Council had no obligation to provide these materials. After discussion it was agreed that the Community Council should contribute £200 from its own funds, with the balance of £900 to be requested from the Beinn Tharsuinn community benefit fund.

11. Mobile reception in Kyle of Sutherland area: Marion Turner had been approached by a member of the business community about mobile phone reception in the area which was generally poor and sometimes non-existent. Members expressed their agreement, and Marion was asked to write on our behalf to Ofcom to highlight the issue and seek an improved service.

12. Gearrchoille Community Wood: Item carried over to next meeting.

13. Timber lorries: Marion Turner had received complaints from the public about these lorries and agreed to clarify the exact procedure for making a complaint either to the Highland Council or the Police (see item 7).

14. Tribute to the late Stephen Mouat: At the request of Liz Cormack, the Chairman proposed the establishment of a fund in memory of Stephen Mouat, who had been instrumental over many years in making and ultimately winning the case for the new Migdale Hospital. It was agreed that a suitable memorial should be located at the site of the new hospital when building was completed. The community councils in Lairg, Creich and Ardgay would be asked for financial contributions, and public collections organised in the three communities.

15. Any other competent business: Struie tree risk - Residents had expressed concern about the potential hazard of weather-damaged trees falling on the Struie road. Cllr Munro said she would raise the issue with the Council.

New Migdale - Members had been invited to take a tour of the hospital construction site. Five members wanted to accept the offer, and would visit the hospital on 18 February.

Bus contract Service details had been submitted of the only tender for the new local bus service contract starting 1 January 2012.

Ward Forum - The next Ward Forum would be at the Melvich Hotel on the 26 February.

Spring newsletter - The Chair wished to remind everyone that the deadline for submissions to the Spring newsletter was 1 March 2011

Meeting ended at 9.32pm. **Next meeting Mon 14 March at 7pm.**

????????? Questions to the Community Council ???????????

Can we have more dog waste bins?

What has happened to the short cut from Ardgay Hill road through the Lady Ross Car Park?

What can be done about timber lorries which are causing concern?

Should the post box be moved?

What can be done about the poor mobile phone reception in our area?

Can something be done about the overhanging trees on the Struie Road?

You can follow progress on these questions in the Community Council Minutes in the newsletters and online at ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

If you have an issue which you think the Community Council can help with please contact one of the members.

(NHS Highland – Northern Constabulary – The Highland Council)

Violence Against Women Survivors Survey – Have you, your friends or your family been affected by Domestic Violence; Rape; Sexual Assault or Child Sexual Abuse? Help us to improve services in Highland by taking part in our Survivors Survey at: www.highland.gov.uk/violenceagainstwomen. This survey is also available on paper or by e-mail – please contact us: By e-mail - high-uhb.violenceagainstwomen@nhs.net or telephone 01463 704907. Call for confidential information and support – Rape & Abuse Line Nationwide 09099 000123. Caithness and Sutherland Women's Aid 0845 4080151. Ross-shire Women's Aid 01349 863568.



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

Clerk to the Congregational Board – Mrs Babs Gemmill Tel 766 495, **Treasurer** 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.

GREETINGS FROM THE MANSE – We have an area that is noted for farming, crofting, fishing and golfing. This time of year we are all "gearing" ourselves up for the season. It is good to know then that your church is very involved in the life of the community. This Spring in particular we are preparing for a number of special services and events when we shall be joining together with different groups in our community. We invite you to join with us at anyone or all of these diary dates. Remember your local church is there for you. We welcome people of all ages to our services. I am often asked if we operate a Sunday school for younger folk. The answer is an unequivocal 'yes!'. Ardgay and Edderton have a Family service on the last Sunday of the month at 10.30am. Edderton also run a regular children's group when children are present [during the service] Creich expect to introduce a regular Family service. The first of these is on Sunday 27th February at 10.30am (further dates will also be intimated) A regular children's group also meets during the service for art and crafts and monthly discussion. With Every Blessing Rev ANTHONY M. JONES [Parish Minister]

Golfing Service - Sunday 13th March at Creich Parish Church 'tee off' at 10.30am [with the Blessing of the Clubs]

Remember to Celebrate Easter Holy Week in April - In addition to the family services on Easter Day in the linkage, there will be a Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday at 7pm in Ardgay Church and a Good Friday Service at 7pm at Creich Church. It is also hoped to hold a service of Holy Communion at Edderton Old Parish Church during Holy Week (watch out for details to be intimated at Creich) Parish Church **Easter Sunday** 10.30am - Family Services at Ardgay & Edderton Churches 10.30am - Morning Worship with Holy Communion at Creich Church 12pm - Morning Worship with Holy Communion at Rosehall Church 12pm.

Saturday 7th May – Rosehall Car Boot Sale from 10.30am in Rosehall Village Hall

Combined Service for all Churches – Sunday 22nd May at 11am Lambing Service at Migdale Croft - An open air celebration in words and music for all the family to welcome the lambing season. A service of songs of praise and readings to 'welcome' the Spring. This is the first such event. Our hope is that the service will rotate each year around farms in the linkage.

Ardgay & Edderton Churches Annual Gift Day - Saturday 11th June. The churches will be open from 10.30am to 3.30pm for visitors.

Parish Flower Festival - This year the flower festival will be held at Ardgay Parish Church the weekend commencing Friday 10th June. The church will be open from 10.30am to 3.30pm. We welcome help from anyone who would wish to take part or contribute to the displays. For details please contact Rev Hilary Gardner on 01863 7661907.

SONGS OF PRAISE AT ARDGAY - On Sunday 12th June at 6.30pm there will be a 'Songs of Praise' service to which everyone is invited. The service will be conducted by organist Mr Ewan Stewart.

SATURDAY 13th JUNE - GIFT DAY Remember your local church. The churches will be open.

SUNDAY 14th JUNE - OPEN AIR SERVICE at the PREACHING ARC at 3pm Edderton Old Parish Church [service in the church if the weather is inclement] ARDGAY EVENING SONGS OF PRAISE led by Ewan Stewart [rehearsal in the afternoon] details to be confirmed

'PREACHING ARC' SERVICE - The annual open air service at the 'preaching arc' at Edderton Old Church will be held this year on Sunday 26th June at 3pm

Advance Diary Dates: Croick Pilgrimage: - Sunday 14th August : Walk from Amat for a unique celebration of Holy Communion at 3pm in Croick Church the parish's oldest place of worship.

'The BIG Sing': - Dornoch Cathedral Sunday 14th August at 7pm Join together for an evening of favourite hymns with new hymns by Rev Anthony Jones & John Brozovsky accompanied by Sandy Macpherson.

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

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

Volunteers – If you would like to give time to supporting and assisting with this service, or give a donation to cover administration costs.

Contact – John McMurray, Community Outreach Worker, Wilalimar, Rowan Avenue, Dornoch, IV25 3QW, Tel 07801496609, e.mail johnmcmurray@yahoo.com

Men's Fellowship 2011 Programme

7.00pm Royal Dornoch Golf Club (Contacts for details John Muir 01862 810880 – John McMurray 01862 810835)

24th March & 7th April – Is God really the author of this book?

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.



Ardgay Badminton Club – Starting again in October 2011 - 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 & Ladies - 7.30 – 8.30/8.30 – 10.00pm. Cost £1.00 & £2.00
Teenagers and Adults Thursdays		
THURSDAYS	Teenagers 6.30 – 8.30pm Cost £1.00	Adults 8.30 – 11.00pm. Cost £2.00

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



'IMPROVING SUPPORT AND INFORMATION PROVISION FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE CARING FOR SOMEONE WITH DEMENTIA'



Alzheimer Scotland (research project). - Are you helping to look after someone with dementia?

Or have you done so in the past? Alzheimer Scotland is carrying out research which aims to improve support and information provision to anyone supporting, or helping to support someone, with dementia in the NHS Highland region. This is a two year project funded through the Big Lottery.

Lynne O'Donnell, Development Worker, would like to speak with you about your experience of caring for a partner, relative, friend or neighbour. Your experience and views are highly valuable information which will be used to develop a resource guide for carers of people with dementia in the NHS Highland area. It will contain relevant dementia specific information and aim to make it easier for people to find out about important issues such as how to access support and services in their area, their legal rights, and training opportunities. The guide will not only be for individual carers but will also be a resource for the wider community and others working with carers.

In addition a report will be produced which will highlight models of good practice for supporting unpaid carers in the community. It will also provide recommendations as to how barriers that carers may face in accessing specialist support may be overcome and therefore improve the lives of both the unpaid carer and the person with dementia they care for.

There are various ways in which you can be involved through face to face meetings, telephone conversation or group discussion.

Anyone wishing to participate in the project please contact Lynne on 01463 711707 / 07825804751 or by email lodonnell@alzscot.org.

Replacement Migdale Community Hospital Project – Robertson Highland Contractors Update 31/01/2011 Progress Summary – Next 4 weeks - Completion of the external wall finishes and the installation of the remaining banks of windows are targeted to be done by early March which will see the scaffold taken away. Externally - external works can re-commence on drainage and installation of the mains services. Internally – completion of taping and painting will continue and floors finishing will start. Radiant panel heating system will be installed to all rooms and ventilation system will be completed. Electrically we will continue the installation of wiring throughout to the many outlet points for services to the new hospital. (Contacts – Robertson Highland Limited 01863 769010 e-mail migdale@robertson.co.uk.)

Gledfield Primary School - Gledfield Primary Parent Council: email gledfield@scottishparents.com
Office bearers: Chair: Vacant, Vice-chair: Vacant, Secretary: Rhys Llewellyn, Treasurer: Jacqueline Sutherland. Teacher Member - 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 information: DORNOCH ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL - Website: <http://www.spanglefish.com/DAPC/>.

Contact details for Tain Royal Academy parent council: CHAIRMAN Mr Paul Hoggarth, Redstone Gables Edderton (01862 821214). 'The latest newsletter from Tain Royal Academy can be viewed at www.tainroyalacademy.org.uk Articles include the schools link with Malawi, school trip to CERN & all the sports news.'

Concerned about Timber Lorries?

Travelling in Convoy - The Highland Council have an agreement with timber haulage companies that there should be a gap of 20 minutes between loaded vehicles. This helps to reduce the damage to our roads and applies to all our roads except the A9 Trunk road. If you see loaded timber lorries travelling too closely together you should:

Note the name of the haulier - Note the registration of the vehicle

Contact Nick Lindsay at Highland Council with these details Nick.lindsay@highland.gov.uk – or by phone, fax or post - see below
Nick Lindsay, PI Officer, TEC Services, Highland Council, Drummuie, Golspie, KW10 6TA - Tel: 01408 635314 - Fax: 01408 634041

Sometimes the Highland Council impose conditions on a site by site basis. These could include restrictions such as numbers of loads per day, or the types of vehicles to be used.

The Forestry Commission has produced a Code of Practice for timber haulage on public roads – see the link below:

http://www.timbertransportforum.org.uk/Upload/Documents/41_Road_haulage_of_round_timber_COP.pdf

Breaking the Rules of the Road - If you think that a timber lorry is breaking the law for example, speeding or driving carelessly, then this is a police matter. You should note the details as above and contact the police with the information on 01863 766222.

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				
Community Development Service – Lynsey Mailer			Tel 07961046715		e-mail < lynseymailer@gmail.com >		



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

Spring 2011 Rally photo- over 60 dancers and friends in Ardgay Hall



BE A STAR - Christmas Lights Crisis – We only have 14 lights to put up on the lampposts and no one to help. If you would be willing to become part of the Christmas Lights Helpers Committee please contact your Community Councillor – or there will be none for 2011. 'NO ONE RESPONDED'
IF YOU WANT LIGHTS NEXT YEAR – WE NEED YOU!



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

Sunday 27 March - Dalchork/Crask area. OS 16 583063 Approx. 8 miles. Leaders: Gillian Morris : 01408 641316 & Liz Quinn : 01549 402187 (Google – Sutherland Walkers Group for up to date programme walks are on the 4th Sunday of each month)

AGM - Wednesday 9 March 2011 : 19:00 - Golspie Community Centre

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

16th March	6th & 27th April	18th May	8th & 29th June	20 th July
10th & 31st August	21st September	12th October	2nd & 23rd November	14th December

Culrain (Culrain 2.10 – 2.45 p.m), Strathoykel & Strathcarron Mobile Library 2011: Thursdays

17th March	7th & 28th April	19th May	9th & 30th June	21st July
11th August	1st & 22nd September	13th October	3rd & 24th November	15th December

During term-time the Library visits Gledfield School.

During holidays pupils are welcome to use the Mobile Library at other stops, provided they have their Library tickets.

Contact 07733300761, 01863 766709 or 01862 811585 for information about the other stops in this area.

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

Edderton and District Gardening Club. Meets on the first Monday of the month, in Edderton Village Hall at 7.30pm and anyone interested in gardening is welcome to attend. Contact - Bronwen on 01862 821288 or Jane on 01863 755306 for more information. Visit by Robert Chapman from the British Cactus and Succulent Society on 04 April.

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 you, 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 **16 MAY** for distribution at the June Community Council meeting.

VG-ES (Voluntary Groups East Sutherland) - for information on Third Sector groups and organisations. helping to keep you in touch with the wider world.

Tel 01408 633001 FAX 05601 146813 or e-mail ann@vges.org.uk - liz@vges.org.uk - christine@vges.org.uk

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.

"Housing and people - the future of rural communities"

Joint event between HSCHT and TPAS Scotland - 31 March 2011 & 1 April 2011 - MacDonald Resort, Aviemore

We often see housing as something which is special and separate, we forget that we live in communities and that housing and communities are special! This event will challenge and inform anyone with an interest in housing and developing local communities - Landowners, contractors, community land trusts, councillors, tenants, community councillors, housing staff and people who live and work in rural communities! . The conference will end with a presentation and questions from Chief Secretary to the Treasury: Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP. To reserve your place, please visit our website www.hscht.co.uk click on the booking link or contact Elaine Scoular on 0141 552 3633.

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

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


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

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

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

	2010 Whist Drives - Participation £1.50 including refreshments. (Lessons can be arranged if you would like to learn how to play and participate in fundraising for community groups)	March 23rd - Bonar Bridge Children's Christmas Party	March 30th - Gledfield School Parent's Council
		April 6th - Bonar Bridge Indoor Bowling Club	April 13th - Bonar Bridge Community Hall
		April 20th - Bonar Bridge Provincial Mod	April 27th - Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club

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

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

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

Tuesday – Bonar Bridge to Alness

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

Wednesday – Bonar Bridge circular via Spinningdale, Tain and Edderton

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

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

Bradbury Centre - Coffee morning In Bonar Bridge Community Hall



22nd April 10.30 – 12.30

In aid of The friends of the Bradbury Centre

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

£5 per car



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>

WINDFARMS

Beinn Tharsuinn – One grant awarded by Ardgay & District Community Council – see Draft Minutes.

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

Both Creich and Ardgay Community Councils lodged objections to the proposals, as did many of the individual members of the communities. Objections to the Scottish Government may force major adjustments to the proposals.



Achany – The Panel met on Wednesday 02 March and reviewed progress to date. It was agreed that a good job had been done in dispersing grants of around £150,000 and setting up a very successful Apprenticeship Scheme – to help local young people get into meaningful work. The Panel are also looking at two other proposals for apprenticeship/getting into work proposals. The Panel have also completed their initial Village Halls Survey with all four of the halls having responded. Dates for grant applications for 2011 – Applications Deadlines 11 April, 11 July, 11 October. Meanwhile if you'd like to find out more about the Fund please contact either David Hannah or Marion Turner (Community Council Members)

Rosehall - We are able to have a fund during construction which will provide £10,000 per year for community projects starting from 2011. My preference is that requests come directly to Liz Fraser (Liz will confirm this to me) and we can publicise this in the next newsletter. We'll be making a donation to the Mayfest 2011 (£2,000). Contact - Sophie Moeng, Stakeholder & Marketing Executive, Tel: 02476 182 547, Mobile: 07525 703 974 Email: sophie.moeng@eon-uk.com, eon-uk.com

Sallachy – The first meeting with Community Leaders took place during March to discuss proposals for a 30 x turbine windfarm on Loch Shin at Sallachy, anticipated to start in 2011. The main impact of this windfarm will be on those living around or travelling up/down Loch Shin. There will be a major public consultation by WKN the developers, probably in Lairg later this year, following release of their Environmental Impact Assessment

Summary of Resident Survey – Initial Quantitative Findings – 2,223 questionnaires were sent out to all homes within a 30 km radius of the site. 453 completed questionnaires were returned – giving a 21% response, (this is considered a good result). **Key Findings** (from respondents) – 87% believe climate change to be a major/current issue. 78% support windpower in the UK. 70% support the use of windpower locally. 49% believe that the proposed site will be a good location, (25% are unsure & 26% are not in favour of this site). 71 responses were received from people who live in Lairg, of those 65% believe the proposed site will be a good location. 51% of respondents said they would be interested in attending a public consultation event, this is seen as positive interest in finding out more about the proposed Wind Farm. Docherty Consulting will also be carrying out youth work in Lairg as part of the community consultation Contact - Meg Deasley, Senior Consultant, Docherty Consulting Limited, Centre Cottage, Bush House, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0BB, Tel: 0131 445 7580, Mob: 07917 725 150 Fax: 0131 445 7594, e-mail: meg@dochertyconsulting.com, Web: www.dochertyconsulting.com

Glen Moray – Nothing to report recently.

Community Councillor Marion Turner has been nominated Chair of the Community Benefit Working Group on behalf of the Ardgay & District Community Council.

Highland Wind Farm Activity November 2010

There have been 89 Windfarm Sites Proposals in the Highlands to date. Of those 6 have been withdrawn and 11 have been refused consent to proceed. This is only the tip of the Wind Power iceberg and does not include any 'off-shore' proposals.

As of 3rd March 2011 The Highland Council has agreed changes to the way communities will benefit from renewable energy developments. For onshore developments, the Council is adopting a three-tier approach to community benefit. This will be on the basis of a floor level of £100,000 per year whereby all benefit will accrue at a local level. Thereafter any benefit above £100,000 per year will accrue on the basis of 55% local, 30% at a locality level and 15% at a Pan-Highland level. For example, a Community Benefit Fund in the sum of £250,000 per annum would give rise to benefits as follows:- The local community would keep all of the benefit up to the floor level of £100,000; The local community – whether that is one or more community council area – would gain a further 55% of the remaining £150,000, that is £82,500; This would give the local communities a total benefit of £182,500 – that is two thirds of the original benefit sum; The locality – whether one or more Council wards – would be entitled to a share of 30% of the remaining £150,000, that is £45,000; The Pan-Highland Fund would be entitled to 15% of the remaining £150,000 that is £22,500. The Council also agreed that geographical factors would be taken into account in deciding the "share" of benefit that would accrue to the local and intermediate tiers. These would include proximity to the site, visual impact, construction impact, community use of the site and the number of residents involved. For offshore renewable energy developments, the Council is adopting a two tier approach, generally on the basis of 80% per year accruing to a Pan-Highland Fund and 20% accruing to coastal communities, all taking into account possible sharing of benefit with other authority areas. The split reflects a more widespread impact on onshore communities. The level of payments paid by developers should be increased to £5,000 per megawatt of installed capacity. All payments should be index linked. The Council has agreed to seek to enter into agreements with developers in advance and then seek to become involved in individual negotiations on behalf of communities. It will always be open to some communities to strike their own deals.

The Association of Scottish Community Councils state that there is a national 78% community support for Wind Farms.

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	Gearrhoille Community Wood Association	Highland Councillors
Invercharron Highland Games	Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust	Gledfield School PTA
Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group	Kyle of Sutherland Gala Committee	Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club
Kyle of Sutherland Initiative (KOSI)	The Ladybird Club	Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society
Other Worship Groups	Royal British Legion, Scotland	Mums & Toddlers/Playgroup
Scottish Country Dancers	Scottish Esperanto Association	SWRI
Sutherland Walkers Group	The Bridge Project	Tain Royal Academy
The Guild	Ward Forum	Community Development Service

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

Ardgay Meeting/Function Venues

Contact for Booking Ardgay Hall – Mrs Jennifer Burnett 01863 766658

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

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

Snowman Rally (report from Brigitte Geddes)



I wanted to let you have a snap (2 versions) of car number 37 going in for a pit stop (changing tyres) at the industrial estate between Ardgay and Bonar. They had great weather for it. It was dry in the morning and got even sunny towards lunchtime. They roared past the house back and forwards, and I thought I might find it a bit daunting to pick up the newspaper in Bonar. In fact, the drivers I encountered were all a great deal more civilised than the 'joyriders' we sometimes get in the area. I waved them past wherever I could, because they were coming out of some of the side roads, and they were all very courteous and disciplined. Apparently their route took them up to Cornhill and Carbisdale, and then back to Tain where Frank watched them on Tarlogie Hill.

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

Contact Joan Mulligan – 01549 421321 for more information.



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

Ardgay Hall Committee Report - It is business as usual once again in Ardgay village hall after a series of burst pipes during the frosty Christmas period flooded the kitchen and was beginning to cause damage to the flooring in the adjacent rooms. Everything has now dried out and the committee would like to thank the hall plumber Mr Moray Munro for his quick response and excellent work.

The **Easter Fayre** will take place in the hall on **Saturday 23rd April at 2pm** with the usual stalls and crafts run by local organisations. There will be a large raffle and teas will be served and the committee look forward to the usual large attendance and support in this venture. As was stated in the last newsletter the current long serving committee wish to stand down at the next AGM which will be in November. They have already welcomed some new members over the past few months and there are still a few places to be filled. If anyone is interested in supporting the hall in this way please contact the secretary Mrs Jennifer Burnett on 766658 or the treasurer Mrs Rhona Macfarlane on 766568. **Spring Fayre Saturday 23 April – see local notice boards for information.**

Need Help? If it is a Highland Council issue then Angie Banks can help. She's based in the Library/Service Point in Bonar Bridge – see opening times below. The library has a good selection of fiction and non-fiction so why not get a library card and take out some books!



Bridges and Paths -The Community Council applied for funding from the Highland Core Path Implementation Programme to upgrade two local bridges. We hoped to obtain funding to put a bridge over the Eiteachan Burn at Badvoon so that the Core Path network could be expanded. The other project was the footbridge at Tuiteam which some of you may know has been closed. We had hoped to initiate repairs. However, both of these bids were rejected. We will stay on the lookout for any other means of supporting these projects. If you would like to be involved in this or if you have a project you would like to take forward please contact the Community Council.

McLeod's Coaches Dial a Bus - Timetable - Ardgay, Bonar Bridge - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
09.30 - 12.30 13.30 - 15.00 16.00 - 17.30. Area of operation - 6 mile radius of Ardgay Station, plus Strathcarron road as far as Croick. To and from Dornoch and Lawson Hospital, Golspie* *Please pre book your journey by 18.00 hrs on the previous day or 24 hrs in advance for destinations marked**. These services are operated under contract to the Highland Council.

Links to Macleod's Coaches - 01408 641354 <www.macleodcoaches.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

Access by public transport to TRACC swimming pool - Macleod's Coaches Lairg to Tain service:

Tuesdays only; by request; until 5th April '11

Depart Ardgay 11.18 - Arrive TRACC 11.45 Depart TRACC 12.55 - Arrive Ardgay 13.30

TRACC Swimming pool Timetable - 4th January –10th April 2011 - Tuesdays - Open Session 1100 - 1430

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

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

11 April AGM & Usual Business Meeting

9 May	13 June	11 July
12 September	10 October	14 November
12 December		

All meetings are open to the public and we would welcome your support by attending some of them to let us know how well you think we are doing in managing our community affairs.

TaxHelp for Older People (TOP) - is a service originally provided through the Low Incomes Tax Reform Group (associated with the Chartered Institute of Taxation) but is now provided by Tax Volunteers, an independent organisation, to make free professional advice on personal tax available to older people who could not otherwise afford to pay for it. TOP is supported by all the main accountancy bodies and the Inland Revenue, and works in partnership with all voluntary and statutory bodies concerned with older people's welfare. It remains, however, a completely independent organisation, offering a fully professional and confidential service to its clients. Further information about TOP can be found on the website of Tax Volunteers on www.taxvol.org.uk. All registered blind people are entitled to claim a special blind persons allowance. This means that an additional annual income of £1890 (as at April 2009) can be received without being taxed. To claim the allowance call 0845 366 7887

Helping older people on low incomes with their tax problems Tax Volunteers is a company limited by guarantee, company no. 4894491 Registered office 11-19 Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RT Registered charity no. 1102276



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SpingTips

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- ☒ Check your roof for slipped or
missing slates/tiles.
- ☒ Seal up any frost damage to stone/brick/render
- ☒ Call me if you have any doubts

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS (01 March 2011)

Members	Addresses	Contact Details
Chair David Hannah		
Vice Chair	Vacant	
Secretary - Doreen Gibbs		
Treasurer Alan Lawrence		
1 - Liz Cormack		
2 - Derek Matheson		
3 - David Ross		
4 - William MacLaren		
5 - Phil Olson		
6 - Marion Turner		
7 - Peter Armstrong (Minute Secretary)		
8 - 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 - The service operates from the Ardgay Community Hall twice a week (**Monday 1330hrs to 1630hrs and Friday 1000hrs to 1300hrs**). As the post office is a mobile operation there is only limited scope for the introduction of retail products such as stationery. Once the demand is understood then it is hoped that the Ardgay Outreach service will be able to stock a basic range of envelopes, mailing bags and posting boxes. Ardgay Outreach Post Office is operated from Alness Post Office and so the products and services on offer include:

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

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

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society, Kincardine Old Church, Ardgay - Programme of Events – 2011 to follow (Reg Scottish Charity No. (SC0145547)

HERITAGE CENTRE DIARY

A Recital of Music by John Brozovsky at Ardgay Heritage Centre on Friday 18th March at 7.30pm - £5 admission, tea & coffee available.

Sutherland Wildlife by Ian Paterson countryside ranger – Thu. 24 March 7.30 admission by donation, tea & coffee available.

Annual Art Exhibition 18 -2 25 April See local notices for details.

A Recital of Poetry by local minister Rev Anthony Jones at Ardgay Heritage Centre on Tuesday 31st May at 7.30pm

GLEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our Sport Success !!

Congratulations to our pupils who have experienced huge success at the recent inter schools sporting events at Golspie.



Our boys and girls won the benchball.



Our boys won the basketball.



Our girls won the football.

SCOTTISH OPERA - Pupils from P4-7 at Gledfield had a workshop with the Scottish Opera at Dornoch Academy. They were joined by pupils from Bonar Bridge and Dornoch Primary. They are working very hard to learn the songs for the event. Parents were invited to watch the final performance of "Scotland Our Scotland".

EDEN COURT DRAMA SPECIALIST - We are delighted to welcome Eden Court Theatre's drama specialist, Naomi Shoba. Ms Shoba is working with all primary pupils on a weekly basis for this term helping to develop our Expressive Arts curriculum. Following the success of our school shows we can see the benefit of allowing pupils the chance to perform and participate in expressive activities.

DRUMMING - All pupils had a brilliant time at their drumming workshop at Bonar Bridge. They learnt all about rhythm in a fun and interactive way where all pupils participated. Following the drumming Rosehall pupils joined us at Gledfield along with our nursery pupils to enjoy a wonderful lunch to celebrate Chinese New Year.

HEALTHY COOKING - Our P7 pupils have been having cookery lessons with our school nurse, Debbie Farrall. The pupils are learning many different things about cooking and healthy eating.

FEIS - Pupils in P4-7 have been having a block of music lessons with our Feis specialist Bob Massie. The pupils have been learning to play the tin whistle and learning some Scottish songs. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to learn more about traditional music in a fun and enjoyable way.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING - Our pupil council did a fantastic job organising fun events to raise money for Children In Need. They raised an amazing £74.53. The nursery also organised a "Wear Tartan To School" day to raise a brilliant £30.48 for the Highland Hospice.

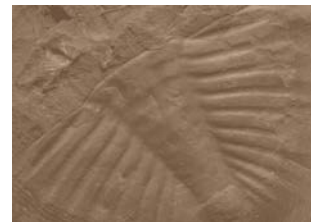
Boy's Brigade – The Boys Brigade continued throughout the winter albeit with a few breaks because of bad weather and burst pipes in the hall. They are extremely grateful to Rev Hilary Gardner who has been leading an excellent bible class for the past few weeks which will count towards part of their badgework. The boys and leaders are looking forward to the brighter evenings for some outdoor activities. They meet every Friday night at 7pm in the hall and would welcome anyone of P7 age or older who wishes to join.

Please contact Donald Simmonds (766796) or Donald Brown (766166)

Bonar Bridge Local History Society SCO 325 38 **Marion Fraser. Secretary 01863 766235** The Society on hearing of the deaths of members Millie Mansefield and Bill Stobo sent messages of sympathy to their families. We send our good wishes to Life Member Dr Ellen Macnamara, Ken & Jessie MacKinnon and Bunty Gordon who are no longer able to attend meetings. The secretary keeps them informed of our 'doings'. The AGM took place on 28 February 2011 (details to follow).

Genealogical enquiries received via the Internet are promptly dealt with, usually resulting in book sales income contributing to the bank balance. Local sales of 'Looking in to the Creich' are usually bought by people no longer living in the area. The Food & Drink Quiz raised £150 for funds, thanks to members for their support. The annual midsummer walk was to place of archaeological interest in the township of Migdale led by Alastair MacIntyre. There was no input during Highland Archaeological Fortnight last October but we supported other events around the area. Our excursion last August was to Wick, by train and Brigitte Geddes conducted us on a pedestrian tour of Old Pulteneytown. This was the first planned industrial town of 1,000 houses in Britain, built in support of the Herring Trade in the 19th century. After an enjoyable lunch in the Alexander Bain, (Wetherspoon's) in Wick centre we proceeded to the exceptional Heritage Museum with a vast collection of artefacts of life in Wick during many centuries, often donated by descendants now living in other lands. We are proposing to visit Ullapool during the Tall Ships Race when they will be in Loch Broom – mid July and depending on the tides a visit to the deserted Isle Martin.

There is a new programme of events from Archaeology Scotland running from April 2011 to March 2016 to learn about heritage and to develop skills to promote 'placemaking' as a means of improving knowledge of Scotland's historic environment. ***(Placemaking - Action on the Historic Environment - We need to improve knowledge and understanding of the historic environment so that decisions on management and change are better informed, creating results that maximise benefit for residents and visitors alike. The ball is rolling with the establishment of the Audit of the Historic Environment – this good work must continue and expand. The appropriate provisions of the Planning, Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas legislation require urgent amendment to improve efficiency and increase protection afforded to vulnerable sites).***



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Highlands & Islands Restaurant of the Year 2010



Gearrhoille Community Woodland Association

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

Gearrhoille Community Wood Ardgay - Registered Office: 28 Queensgate, Inverness IV1 1YN

Registered in Scotland No: 263887 Scottish Charity No: SC 036 181 email: gcwa@btinternet.com

www.gearrhoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk

It was with great sadness that the GCWA directors learnt that Bill Stobo had lost his fight against his illness and that they had lost their well respected chairman.

Bill's ethos of contributing to the community he lived in had deep roots, stretching back from his involvement with Scouting as a youngster, to serving on our local Community Council and right up to present times where, amongst many other commitments, he became a GCWA Director.

From such a broad experience of life long volunteering Bill brought much wisdom with him to the GCWA. He was well aware that the community had 'spoken' through open days, surveys etc and the collective desire was for improved access to the woodland and ultimately the creation of a wildlife pond. He was also well aware of volunteer fatigue; and that although the car park and all-abilities section of path had been achieved and the old stiles had been replaced by kissing-gates and the Environmental Audit had been completed, the current directors still saw this ultimate goal as a mountain to climb. Once a Boy Scout, always a Boy Scout. Bill remembered being taught that once you had taken a bearing on the summit of your chosen mountain you work out a logical path to take and then you put your head down and followed that path by taking one step at a time. As Chairman he guided the GCWA through the planning; the permissions; the fund-finding and finally the whole works. The directors were delighted in the month before he died to be able to let Bill know that the mountain had finally been conquered, by sending a photo from the summit -of the view over the newly completed pond with a "Thank you Bill, we couldn't have done it without you!" His response was typical Bill "Great; now let's get more people using the woodland – more often!" In other words ...This is your next step on the continuing Gearrhoille journey.



The answer to the GCWA's Prize Cross word was 'Hook Tip' the answers to the for fun number square and the full crossword answer can be found on the GCWA website.

KYLE OF SUTHERLAND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GROUP (KSYDG) - The KSYDG is continuing to expand its project based on the south Bonar please telephone Hayley on 01863766310.

The Scottish Census - The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) is now publicising the census nationally. This will be followed from 7 March by the delivery of the questionnaires to all households either by hand, or posted out in remote parts of Scotland. If your bureau receives any queries about the census, clients and advisers can find relevant information on the website www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk in the first instance. Its content explains what people need to do. It contains information about the census including a "frequently asked questions" section. The FAQs will be updated on a regular basis and will reflect calls received by the helpline which will be available from 7 March until 17 June. You can direct callers to it on: 0300 123 1702. The helpline will be open from 8.00am – 8.00pm on weekdays and 9.00am – 4.00pm on weekends. On the weekend of the census, 26 and 27 March, it will be open from 8:00am to 8:00pm. The census is the biggest population survey – everyone is included in the count that happens once every 10 years to create a complete picture of Scotland today. It is important that the information collected is as comprehensive and as accurate as possible. The results are used to produce statistics that provides the basis for how billions of pounds of taxes will be spent every year on services that everyone needs, such as education, transport and healthcare. **Participation in the census is vitally important for everyone who lives in Scotland and is required by law.**

WARD FORUM – The Ward Forum for West & Central Sutherland took place in Melvich Village Hall on Saturday 26 February (Report to follow). **If you are unable to attend but would like anything raised at the Ward Forum please contact one of your Community Councillors.**

Crofting Resource Programme

The Scottish Crofting Federation is running a programme to help develop crofting in the Highlands & Islands. This could take the form of advice to individuals, training on different aspects of crofting, help for new starters, or looking at development opportunities for individual crofts or for townships. If you want to discuss anything, contact Russell Smith on 01863 766144



Ardgay Village Centre – 1970s from a picture by Anne Baxter (supplied from Gregor Laing's Archive Photos)

This Newsletter is also available on-line at:
[<ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk>](http://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 eleventh edition of the newsletter. We are hoping to continue issuing 4 x times a year: Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter. Copy for the Summer issue should be with the Editor by 16 May for issue in June.

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 be pleased to take commercial advertising at £40 for a full page, £20 for half, £10 for a quarter, £5.00 for all smaller sizes.

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



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

Delivery Problem - Strathcarron - Jane & Sadie from Glen Calvie have very kindly offered to distribute newsletters in Strathcarron. Please help them by letting me know if you are able to take few for your neighbours to reduce their load, (Editor).