

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Ardgay and District Community Council Population 596 Area 624.8 Sq Kilometres Density 1.04 per Sqkm
Back issues available at our website <ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk> **No 15 – Spring Edition 2012**

CLOSED

Sadly, Ardgay lost the last and only shop. Although many of us felt that the Alladale Country Store & Café catered more for visitors than provide a local service it does mean a job loss and another empty 'face' for those coming to or passing through our village.



The Alladale Country Store & Café closed for the last time on 31 January 2012

From the Chair

Happy New Year

You are probably thinking that it seems a long time since we last said this to one another, and you would be right. However, this is my first opportunity to send all our readers our very best wishes for 2012. This is a significant year for us – we have a new Community Council, Local Council Elections take place in May, the Olympic & Paralympic Games will be taking place in London. More locally the Community Council are negotiating significant levels of Community Benefit from the many, many wind turbines proposed for Sutherland (300 if they all go ahead). We are not merely looking at financial gains and we will continue to support the Apprenticeship Scheme which is successfully helping to provide employment for 4 local young people. We are also encouraging the windfarm companies to provide other benefits in terms of educational bursaries for young people to be able to pursue careers in windfarm technology and environmental studies, either in the UK or abroad. The Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust and Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group continue to engage with our communities to provide aspirations for the future and to encourage as many people as possible to come forward and offer to help.

Although the Community Council membership is set at 8 by Highland Council we are permitted to increase this by co-opting additional members with specific skills and we need you.

David Hannah - Editor

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Ardgay & District Community Council Meeting 2012 dates all Mondays at 7.00pm in Ardgay Village Hall

Present: Elected members: David Hannah, Chair (DH), Peter Armstrong, Secretary (PA), Alan Lawrence, Treasurer (AL), Phil Olson (PO), Marion Turner (MT), Betty Wright (BW), Bob Sendall (BS), David Laver (DL)

Minute Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Members of the public: Neil McInnes, Paul and Vicky Whittock

Apologies: Highland Councillor Linda Munro (LM)

Items 1/2. Welcome/Apologies (see above) Chair David Hannah welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Paul Whittock to address the meeting regarding the Christmas lights. Paul sought to gain Community Council approval to purchase replacement lights as required and to plan a theme for next season's display. Within reasonable costs this was agreed. The CC is still awaiting a reply from Highland Council regarding the setting up of the three lights outside the school. Paul will liaise with DH. Paul and Vicky were thanked for attending and left at 7.05pm.

Item 3. Minutes of January meeting. The minutes from 9th January were accepted as a true and accurate record, with appropriate amendments as noted below in Matters Arising; proposed: Marion Turner; seconded: Betty Wright.

Item 4. Matters arising from January minutes. (1) Access permission from Village Hall for work at The Lady Ross. David Laver informed the CC that it is noted in the minutes of the Village Hall Committee that no written permission was either sought or granted by that committee. **(2) Letter to KPMG re Lady Ross.** The minutes should be amended to state that a letter would be sent to KPMG asking that they urgently resolve the situation at the Lady Ross and that they outline their proposals for the building. **MG/PA**

Action. (3) Station road junction. DL suggested that Highland Council should be approached at this time asking for safety improvements to be considered at this dangerous junction. If such improvements, to sightlines in particular, might require use of land currently part of the Lady Ross site, this would be a good time to instigate discussions between HC and KPMG. Secretary will write to TEC Services. **PA Action. (4) Ardgay Hill-Oakwood Place footpath.** Matt Dent was unavailable to attend the site meeting last month; Andy Mackay attended but was not in a position to respond to all the points which the CC wished to raise. Matt Dent was expected to make a report to Cllr Munro who would then liaise with the Tenants Association Officer. The matter rests meantime with HC. **LM Action.**

(5) Signatories. Alan has this in hand. **AL Action. (6) Phone box.** The box at Amatnatua at the junction of the Amat/Croick road is the second box acquired by the CC although AL advises that no payment has yet been requested from BT for either box. Suggestions for use of the boxes are welcome, e.g. local information regarding the nearest telephone/mobile signal etc. **(7) Minutes content.** It was agreed that no post-meeting information should be included in the Minutes. Problems experienced by MG with including the two logos (CC and KOSDT) will be looked at by the Secretary, possibly with a new sketch design for the CC. **PA Action.**

Item 5. Ward Forum feedback. Phil reported that the most interesting part of the Forum was the information given by Inspector Matthew Reiss. In addition to reporting on drug abuse, scrap metal thefts, and progress towards the single police force, Mr Reiss also give details regarding traffic fatalities stating that half of those which occurred in Highland were in Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross. There is no particular pattern for this with various factors given as causes. There were only five Community Councils represented at the Forum and only five members of the public attended. Questions must be asked as to whether the Forum should continue as it is clearly poorly supported. On the housing issues raised by Ardgay CC, no figures were given for the housing register nor was there information available concerning what land within the CC boundaries is owned by Highland Council. A review of assets is being carried out but the report is not expected for two years. Locally only 11% of Council housing is suitable for elderly/disabled residents, way below the 25% in the rest of Scotland. Currently housing is being allocated to those on the housing list with 90-100 points. Anyone with less than 45 points is unlikely ever to qualify for housing – medical considerations are the only ones which will add points. The question of the unoccupied house at Gledfield School was raised. Cllr Munro will be asked to check this out. **LM Action.** Ongoing issues with Broadband speeds and service indicate poor planning by BT with no proper response to public questioning. Phil encouraged everyone to conduct speed tests, the BT test being the most appropriate, and to advise him of results. An item will be in the next newsletter.

Marion advised that she raised the issue of appropriate training for Community Councillors, with particular regard to encouraging community engagement and communication/working with Highland Council departments. None of this was mentioned in the official notes of the Forum. Nor was her vote of thanks to the Highland Councillors for their help and support in this area. Such training as appears to be being planned by HC is expected to be inappropriate and also the timescale for dates of training sessions is unacceptable. Previously Cllr Munro suggested she bring a high-ranking HC official to meet the Community Council and this was still felt to be a better way forward. How the CC works with Highland Council officials remains at the heart of the problem. **LM Action.** The consensus remained that the Ward Forum format be scrapped as it is not working. The next scheduled one is on Saturday 26th May in Skerry. Anyone planning to attend should inform the Chair.

Item 6. Correspondence. Peter has received emails from **ScotRail**. They are apparently looking into a mobile ticketing option to deal with the problem of purchasing tickets for travel from Ardgay's non –manned station. The CC is advised to contact HITRANS directly to pursue the issue of lack of service to Ardgay after 17.54hrs. The CC was also invited to consider 'adopting' the station to restore a floral presence. No-one is sure just what that would entail in the future. Secretary has written again. Emails received from Highland Council regarding

Community Benefit training workshops. Posters are on display in the Library. Phil will attend in Inverness on February 24th as Ardgay CC representative. General discussion on the proposed HC pan-Highland community benefit plan indicated the wish to remain outside this new system and continue direct negotiations with developers as at present, perhaps with ongoing support in administration by SCF. The Achany Panel is a good example of the communities working together with SCF and developers to the benefit of the immediate local area.

Colin Gilmour has requested nominations for person/s to attend the **Royal Garden Party** in Edinburgh this summer. Agreed to put forward the names of Liz Cormack (previously nominated but unable to attend) and Gillian Glennie.

Following receipt of information from the **Highland Community Care Forum** it was agreed to invite a representative to attend a CC meeting. **PA Action.**

Item 7. Treasurer's report. Alan Lawrence gave the following report: Treasurer's Account: cleared balance stands at £2,070.08 with one outstanding open cheque for £15.00. Projects Account: £4,329.70. Recent deposits have been made of £140.00 and outstanding cheques add up to £148.35. Toilets Account: £7.65.

Item 8. Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm funding applications. There is a current application from the Gledfield Primary School Parent Council Fundraising Group. Mary has approached the applicants to supply the further information requested by CC members but has no reply as yet. She will chase this up. Discussion of application held over till next month. **MG Action.**

Item 9. Windfarms update. Sallachy. Meeting scheduled for 14th February. **Glenmorrie.** Meeting scheduled for 16th February. Marion will take the EIA and expects discussion regarding the nine turbines which are to be removed. **Achany.** Carol Elliott has been appointed to the Inverness office of SCF. The next meeting is in April. **Braemore.** Alan reported watching a helicopter working over the Braemore site all day last Saturday apparently depositing 'slung loads' on site. It is understood this planning application is being re-submitted. **Rosehall.** E.ON is reported to be considering administering community benefit through the Achany Panel. **Glencassley.** Scoping now. **Coire na Cloiche.** Nothing new at this stage.

Item 10. KOSDT update. The sixth monthly report has been received (included in this newsletter). Everyone is satisfied with this continuing as a six monthly update. The website is now running and regularly updated. Photograph submissions would be welcome. A local query regarding the mention of a 'safe space' at the old filling station refers to fencing erected to avoid access to the railway land behind the site on which decontamination has also been carried out.

Item 11. Floral displays. Jeannie Sparling has offered to deal with displays in the village, and perhaps at the station platform. She would welcome volunteers. She also seeks greenhouse space for the development of plants. Perhaps these could be mentioned in the upcoming newsletter. Marion is still optimistic about securing some more half barrels.

Item 12. Public toilets. A leak reported in November remains in spite of John Clark having passed the complaint to the relevant department in Highland Council. Secretary will write again, via John Clark. The floor painting must wait until the leak is repaired.

Item 13. Communications with Highland Council. Unable to discuss in detail without the presence of a Highland Councillor but talk did cover the apparent lack of understanding by HC employees with regard to how Community Councils operate. Very poor response from HC when the CC writes with complaints or queries. Also prior notice of events, e.g. training dates, is often far too short. It seems to be irrelevant that many CC members are in employment and cannot always make arrangements in time, if at all. It should also be stressed once again that CC members are unpaid volunteers.

Item 14. AOCB. (1) Beinn Tharsuinn Endowment Fund/Creich Community Council. It was noted from the Creich CC Minutes that it was hoped to establish some discussion between the two CCs with regard to jointly setting up an endowment fund. So far no approach from Creich has been received by the Treasurer. Phil will check with Phil Tomalin, Company Secretary, if such a venture would be allowed under the regulations. **PO Action.**

Members were requested to include Mary in their email circulation of relevant information.

The next edition of the **newsletter** is in preparation and will be at the printers next week. So far no item has been received from the Police for inclusion. Marion offered to contact Sgt McCafferty to urge him to supply a short article. Mary will provide his email address to Marion. **MG/MT Action.**

Betty reported the **dangerous condition of three or four patches of road**, each about 20 -30 feet in length, **between Ardgay and Edderton** where overflowing water remains constantly frozen causing hazardous conditions. At least one of these is on an unmarked bend. Secretary will write to TECS requesting improved drainage and signage. **PA Action.**

Transportation of **radioactive material** from Dounreay. Concern was expressed regarding the safety precautions in place, with specific regard to the containers used, procedures to deal with possible derailment or delays, etc. BW will seek out further information and liaise with PA to send a questioning letter to the appropriate body/bodies. **BW/PA Action.**

Core paths/Tuiteam bridge/Oakwood-Ardgay Hill. This should be an agenda item for next month. Funding could be available. Phil will bring appropriate forms. Marion will email Matt Dent with ideas and points for discussion. **PA/PO/MT Action.**

Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th March 2012 at 7pm in Ardgay Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

12 March	09 April	14 May	11 June	09 July	August Holiday	10 September
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All meetings are open to the public and we would welcome your support by attending some of them to let us know how well you think we are doing in managing your community affairs.

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

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

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

Treasurer Hilary Gardner Tel 01863 766107



Greetings From The Manse – At Easter in the church, we remember that the life of God's community found its fulfilment 'crystallised' in the life of one dynamic human being, Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. He was born at Bethlehem and died after being crucified on a charge of sedition by the Roman authorities. He was of course persecuted by his own people, the Jewish priests, the Pharisees and the Sadducees (for whom he had very strong words) He was fully human - just like you and me - and so suffered in every way - like you and I, and worse. Greater still however is what came after his death - the miracle celebrated every Easter in churches all over the world. Christ rose from the dead on Easter morning. No other religion teaches that God 'visited' earth in such an intensely personal human fashion. No other religion talks of a Son of God being 'sent' to help us practically in our every day lives and, lead us to a much greater life beyond anything we can experience here. At Easter we celebrate not just the miracle of Spring's new life but, that of our eternal 'inheritance' and this continues to change peoples lives and, can shape our lives as we grow and are changed in community together. I would like to turn an old 'catch phrase' upside down that is - 'the church is the community' and, instead say, 'the community is the church!'. There is not one part of our community that is not represented or does not fit in our church. Everyone is there from the postie to the banker, the solicitor, the farmer, the crofter and all children. Not one walk of life that isn't represented and rightly so. Variety makes for richness and none more so than in the family of the church. Each week we meet, we do so as a celebration for all that our community means to us and, what we mean to each other. More so we meet to give thanks for the God of community whose story is told in the Bible. A story of prophets, leaders, ancient tribes, wandering pilgrim peoples, warring and persecuted peoples sorting themselves out to become one nation-one great big community under God. Wishing You All the Blessings of the Season. REVEREND ANTHONY

EASTER SERVICES IN THE KYLE OF SUTHERLAND - HOLY WEEK

Sunday 1st April: Palm Sunday - 10.30am Combined Family Service for Parishes of Kincardine, Croick and Edderton at Edderton Parish Church (followed by Annual Stated Meeting). 10.30am Family Service at Creich Parish Church (followed by Annual Stated Meeting). 12pm Family Service at Rosehall Parish Church (followed by Annual Stated Meeting)

Thursday 5th April: Maundy Thursday - 12pm Service with Informal Celebration of Holy Communion at Edderton Parish Church
7pm Evening Service at Kincardine Parish Church

Friday 6th April: Good Friday - 7pm 'Reflections on the Cross' at Creich Parish Church

Sunday 8th April: Easter Sunday - 10.30am Service at Edderton Parish Church (Sunday School). 11am Service at Kincardine Parish Church. 10.30am Family Service with Holy Communion at Creich Parish Church. 12pm Family Service at Rosehall Parish Church
3pm Easter Service (family celebration) at Croick Parish Church

Future diary dates: Saturday 14th April: Coffee Morning & Easter Egg Hunt at Rosehall (details to be intimated)

Saturday 5th May: 'Mad Hatter's' Garden Party & Family Fun in the Manse Garden, Ardgay from 11am to 3pm (proceeds to Rotary charities) Everyone welcome.mad hatter



'OUT DOOR' COMMUNITY SERVICES - We look forward to seeing you again at one of the many special services as a community in church or outdoors. Especially look out for the community services out 'in the open'this Spring: **On Sunday 6th May Rosehall Church** plan to hold a 'Fishing Service' by the river in Glen Cassley at 12pm (details to be intimated) Anglers, ghillies, old and young most welcome! After the success of last year's Combined "Lambing Service, this year on **Sunday 13th May** at 11am at Old Edderton Church, the parishes of Kincardine, Croick and Edderton will host a 'celebration of songs of praise and readings by the field' celebrating the season (meeting in the church car park) Thanks to Donald Clarke for helping make this possible. On **Sunday 27th May** at Old Edderton Church at 3pm the annual outdoor Preaching Ark' service will take place. Everyone Welcome

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

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

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

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

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 from September to March 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.

Carbisdale Castle Youth Hostel – probably won't open until July 2012!

Carbisdale Castle Update - Essential repairs owing to damage incurred during the severe winter of 2010/11 are ongoing at Carbisdale Castle Youth Hostel. As a result the Castle will remain closed during the period of these works. Keith Legge, Chief Executive of SYHA Hostelling Scotland, says: "As work has progressed, wide-ranging additional, serious issues have emerged. This means the reinstatement work has become increasingly complex. The challenges associated with this work have extended estimated timescales and led to costs that are escalating significantly. This is of considerable concern as we are a self-funding charitable organisation."

Kind regards - Wendy Grindle, – SYHA Hostelling Scotland, Marketing Manager



SWRI (Scottish Women's Rural Institute) SWRI – Ardgay 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of every month September to March in Ardgay Village Hall. All ages welcome - 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.



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



Mondays			Thursdays			Saturdays		
Beginners	1830 – 1930	£1.00,	Teens	1830 – 2000	£1.50,	Competition Squad	Boys	1900 – 2030 £1.50,
Advanced	1930 – 2030	£1.00,	Adults	2000 – 2230	£2.00		Girls	2030 – 2200 £1.50
Adult "Beginners"	2030 – 2200	£1.50						

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



Consulting Times for appointments

Day	Morning Appointments	Afternoon Appointments
Monday	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
Tuesday	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
Wednesday	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
Thursday	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700
Friday	0900 – 1130	1530 – 1700 & 1800 – 1830 for working patients

Out of hours GP services - are available between 6.00pm and 8am on weekdays, at the weekend, and on public holidays. These services provide help when your GP surgery is closed and your condition is too serious to wait until the next day. If you phone your surgery when it is closed you will get a message explaining how to contact your local out of hours service.

NHS24 - Contact for health care advice on 08454 24 24 24 (Textphone 18001 08454 24 24 24).

NHS Inform – You no longer need to look in lots of different places for Health Information you can trust.

Call 0800 22 44 88 (8am to 10pm) or visit www.nhsinform.co.uk.

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



In case you didn't notice it in the Northern Times – The Scottish Government promised to re-instate Area Committees as part of the Community Engagement – let them know what you think if this in the forthcoming Local Council Elections in May

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.'
(Why does no one from these schools contribute anything to this newsletter??)

Gledfield Primary School - Gledfield Primary Parent Council: email gledfield@scottishparents.com
Office bearers: Chair: Vacant ?, Vice-chair: Vacant, ? Secretary: Rhys Llewellyn, Treasurer: Jacqueline Sutherland.
Teacher Member & Headteacher - Kirsten McGruer,



GLEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Feis Music Lessons - This term we have had another block of music lessons from Feis. Pupils in P4-7 have been learning Scottish tunes on the tin whistle along with some Scottish songs. Our Feis music instructors are fantastic and make the lessons fun for all.

Eden Court Pantomime Trip - Gledfield pupils all enjoyed a trip to Inverness to the Pantomime before Christmas. This year we watched a performance of Cinderella!! There was a lot of audience participation – especially from one Gledfield Dad!!!

Christmas Show - Our Christmas Show 'Baboushka' was an enormous success and enjoyed by all. We raised an amazing £380 for our school fund. We would like to thank everyone who helped organise the event and make it the success it was.

Sport Events - Our pupils have been taking part in a few different inter-school sports events. All small schools are finding it increasingly challenging to get teams together to enter the competitions. Pupils in our P4/5 classes are up against pupils in P6/7 classes from the bigger schools!! Quite a challenge but one Gledfield pupils accept and try their best at all times!!! We would like to say a huge thank you to all parents who helped coach our pupils and help transport pupils to the events. Your support is much appreciated.

Charity Fundraising - Our pupils organised various activities to raise a fantastic £144 for Children In Need. The pupils were delighted with all they raised for this very worthwhile charity. We also raised, with the help of the community, £46.29 for the Bradbury Centre when we sung Christmas songs at the Christmas Craft Fayre.

Rag Bag - We would like to remind everyone that we can raise money for the school by collecting old rags throughout the year. If you have any old clothes, linens, shoes etc that you no longer need then we would be very grateful for any donations. Our next collection for Rag Bag will be in May so plenty time to spring clean your wardrobes before then!! Donations can be dropped off at the school at any time.

Morrisons and Tesco Vouchers - We would be grateful if members of the community would collect both Morrisons and Tesco vouchers for us whenever the shops are running the schemes. The vouchers are a fantastic way for us to get new and exciting resources for the school.

Volunteers - We are always eager to hear from members of the community who would like to volunteer their time at the school to help run extra-curricular clubs. Our school garden is one area that is always in need of some TLC!! If you feel you have skills which would benefit our pupils and that you can spare some time then we would be delighted to hear from you.

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

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

Scottish Country Dancing - on Tuesdays from 7.30pm in Ardgay Hall please contact Doreen Bruce – Tel 01863 766852 for information.

This season ends on Tuesday 27 March 2012 – See you all again in October.



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

	2012 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 14 TH	CANCER RESEARCH FUND
		MARCH 21 ST	BONAR BRIDGE CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY
		MARCH 28 TH	GLEDFIELD SCHOOL PARENTS' COUNCIL
		APRIL 4 TH	BONAR BRIDGE INDOOR BOWLING CLUB
		APRIL 11 TH	BONAR BRIDGE COMMUNITY HALL
		APRIL 18 TH	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

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society – Presents their 14th Annual Art Exhibition from Friday 6th to Sunday 15th April. Daily from 10.00am to 5.00pm, except Sunday 8th April when it will be open from 1.00pm to 4.30pm. Details, Entry Forms etc. from Hilary Gardner, Tel 01863 766107 or by e-mail gardener@hotmail.co.uk. Other events, talks etc. throughout the summer - see website www.kyleofsutherlandheritage.org.uk or Tel 01863766700 (V MacKenzie-Harris. This number for access at other times). The building will be open 1st & 3rd Sundays during June, July & August in conjunction with Nigg Church and Edderton Old Church Trust for a "Pictish Experience". Again view website or phone for details. Kincardine Old Church, Ardgay - (Reg Scottish Charity No. (SC0145547). Steve Copley, Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society, Lest We Forget' Project Co-ordinator.

Rosehall Community Arts – Contact Dave Goulder number 01549 441283 info/booking.

Mobile Library dates and times Ardgay



Wednesdays 28th March, 18th April, 9th and 30th May, 20th June, 11th July, 1st and 22nd August, 12th September, 3rd and 24th October, 14th November, 5th December.
Oakwood, Ardgay: 1.45 p.m. – 2 p.m. Lady Ross, Ardgay 2 p.m. – 3.20 p.m.



Mobile Library dates and times Culrain, Gledfield, Strathoykel, Strathcarron

Thursdays 29th March, 19th April, 10th and 31st May, 21st June, 12th July, 2nd and 23rd August, 13th September, 4th and 25th October, 15th November, 6th December.

Culrain village 2.10 p.m. – 2.45 p.m. Other stops in Strathoykel and Strathcarron as per timetable.



During term-time the Mobile Library visits Gledfield Primary School. During holidays pupils are welcome to use the Mobile Library at other stops, provided they have their Library tickets. Contact 07733300761 or 01862 766709 for information on other stops and times.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Futures Sutherland – is voluntary, does not affect your benefits, is not a training course, is flexible, is friendly, is a positive step towards your new future. Tel 01863 766183, E-mail <info@newfutures.freemove.co.uk>, Make an appointment to come in to The Library Building, Lairg Road, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland, IV24 3EA

Thinking of Volunteering? – There are many opportunities in our area and these are only a few: Voluntary Groups East Sutherland can give you details.

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

Introducing the new Development Officer - I would like to introduce myself as the new VG-ES development officer, **Nemo Shaw**. Last year I was delighted to move into the Sutherland area and in January 2012 I started working with Voluntary Groups-East Sutherland. My work includes supporting the development of volunteering and the voluntary Sector, the involvement of the voluntary sector in community planning, supporting social enterprise, youth volunteering, 'Protection of Vulnerable Groups'(PVG), providing assistance with funding applications as well as provision of training, and more. Currently the focus of my work is getting to know all the different groups across East Sutherland and working on volunteering awards. My area of work is East Sutherland, so if you are in the area please feel free to contact me with any queries at Voluntary Groups-East Sutherland on 01408 633001, email me at nemo@vges.org.uk, or pop in to the VGES base at Alba, Main Street, Golspie. I look forward to working with many of you over the coming months.

CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) – As well as the satisfaction from seeing the difference you make. CAB volunteering will equip you with new skills that stay with you no matter what you do next. You don't need special skills or knowledge to be an adviser, as your bureau will give you all the training you need. Being a volunteer can seem a little daunting, but don't worry! From your very first day you'll get all the help you need. We'll pay expenses and volunteering needn't affect your benefits. Contact Richard Gale, Manager East Sutherland CAB, Station Road, Golspie, KW10 6SN, Tel 01408 633000, e-mail advice@esvas.org.uk
The Citizens Advice Bureau free drop-in sessions every Thursday morning in Bonar Bridge Library, 10.15-12.15 and Lairg Community Centre Conservatory every Thursday morning between 10.00 & 12.00. A drop-in session is being proposed for Rosehall now that the Hall is ready to re-open.

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



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

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

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

Tuesday – Bonar Bridge to Alness

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

Wednesday – Bonar Bridge circular via Spinningdale, Tain and Edderton

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

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

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust & Community Development Service - Six Month Report – January 2012



The Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust launched in June 2011 with a public meeting at which the local development officer, Lynsey Burns presented a development plan for the area. The plan promised to focus on supporting, inspiring and encouraging local groups to work together in building a true sense of pride. Building a strong identity for the area and producing a website designed for both residents and visitors alike was key to getting the plan off the ground. The plan was split into the following sections, with the goal of completing the following in the first year:

Getting Started - Creating a strong identity for the area, launching a local events calendar, launching a website designed for visitors and residents alike, getting subsidised travel schemes up and running, supporting local groups through funding for venue hire, obtaining approval and erecting bike stands in the villages and supporting improvements to the villages.

People - Working with local care facilities, schools, arranging sports training with local organisations, funding new sports equipment, helping with the launch of a bike club and launching a family focused group to identify specific needs for local families

Education & Economic Growth - Building on the existing Achany Apprenticeship Scheme, launching a local jobs page on the new website, setting up a local business forum, developing additional curriculum led training for youngsters, developing an Eat Local, Buy Local, Stay Local initiative to support local businesses and drive income to the area. Engaging with local renewable proposals, keeping abreast of any opportunities that may be open to the local community.

Where we are today - As of January 2012, the development plan remains very much on schedule with the launch of www.kyleofsutherland.co.uk website this month. The new website is designed to accommodate the needs of both local residents and visitors to the area. The site features a central calendar of events, information on all aspects of the area including business directories, information on local jobs and training and up to date information on things to see and do for residents and visitors alike.

Local Identity - A Kyle of Sutherland logo has been produced and it is hoped this will be used to create a mark of local authenticity, solidarity and unity for the area. The Trust would ideally like to see the Kyle of Sutherland firmly positioned on the tourism map of Scotland as a destination in the Highlands for outdoor activities, outstanding natural beauty and somewhere that holds a real feeling of pride and belonging. The identity is available for everyone in the area to use and it is hoped we can encourage everyone in the community to use the logo on their email signatures and well as being featured on marketing for local businesses, producers and groups.

Tourism and Networking - Tourism was recognised as one of the strongest business opportunities for the Kyle of Sutherland and it was recognised that a new website and an identity for the area would support this along with the establishment of a new local business network. To ensure communication and joint promotional efforts of the region the local development officer is also working with her development officer counterparts across Sutherland with plans to create a tourism and activity network. The common goal being to positively, promote the region to visitors.

Events - Since its launch the Trust has supported and co-ordinated several events with plans for more in the coming months. These have included a family focus event held in December, which provided valuable feedback from local families. As a result plans to establish a baby-sitting group and the launch a kid's film club are in place for this spring. Funding support to help groups purchase sports equipment and help with venue hire is already in place. A follow up event is planned in February with more activities throughout 2012.

Training - A training taster session co-ordinated with Lairg & District Learning Centre was held in Bonar Bridge in November and as a result of the feedback gained at this event there are now plans for the learning centre to hold local training workshops in the Kyle of Sutherland this Spring.

Achany Apprenticeship Scheme - A feasibility study was undertaken with the support of the local development officer to help secure further funding as part of the Achany Apprenticeship scheme. We are pleased to say there are now four apprentices in the local area supported by the scheme. Further funding is available and there have been steady enquiries with regards to the fund.

Local Business Network - The Trust will also be launching a local business network this Spring in order to bring local businesses and producers together with the aim to identify support requirements and idea on how to boost the local economy. Posters and advertising will begin shortly to promote this.

Schools and Young People - The Trust has worked with local primary schools and parent councils to identify how it can support the needs of local children and have partially funded outdoor education materials and sports equipment for each of the three local schools. This will continue with Ross Sutherland Rugby Training starting soon and the launch of a language and music programme in 2012.

The Trust is also very keen and wholly in support of the Kyle of Sutherland's Youth Development Group's plan to raise funds and build a new multi-purpose venue in the heart of the Kyle of Sutherland.

Notice Boards, Bike Stands & Signage - This month, Trust members finally got to meet with the local council with the aim of getting approval for the placement of new notice boards, bike stands and signage in the area. Providing we have the consent of the council, the Trust will endeavour to have the bike stands in place early 2012 with the notice boards and new signage to follow.

Transport Support - Transport funding – 7 new people from the local community have now completed MIDAS training through LEADER funding and thanks to the Bradbury centre for arranging the training. Funding is in place for subsidised use of the bus and local groups are welcome to apply for support in hiring the bus. It is recognised that a lot more needs to be done to support the transport issues in the area and the Trust is working on addressing current issues.

Empty Buildings - Research has been conducted in identifying any potential community use of local empty buildings including the old Migdale Hospital and the old paper shop in Bonar Bridge. This is an ongoing project and feedback and information from the local community is always welcome.

Old Filling Station in Ardgay - The local development officer has helped gain funding to create a safe space with the potential for community use at the old filling station in Ardgay and will continue to liaise with the owners to support all activities that are to the benefit of the local community.

Community Garden - The Trust have been working on the establishment of a community garden which would potentially include a horticulture training programme designed for those with special needs and learning disabilities. We are currently chasing feedback on a couple of potential sites and will update shortly.

Updates - The community development service submits a monthly report to the local community councils and the Trust directors include representatives from each community council who work to ensure that each group is kept up to date and have clear lines of communication on a regular basis.

Challenges - The main challenge of the Trust and in particular the community development service is the level of administration that is required in maintaining the organisation and the development role. Reporting, updating, responding to enquiries as to what we are doing, applying for grants, completing approved grant claims all take up a lot of time. Managing the expectation that the role of community development service is to run projects and 'do it all' is a huge challenge and sometimes counter-productive in getting things done. A lot has been achieved in a very short space of time, however it has proved to be difficult to move forward with what we saw as quick hits such as the bike stands, notice boards and signage due to the approval process. There is a huge amount to be done and there are constantly new projects and ideas being suggested, meaning that a lot of focus on sticking to plan is required. Another consideration with projects moving forward is that as many people involved are volunteers, time is limited. It is often expected that the local development officer should do the lion's share of work to bring ideas to fruition and when things don't happen the blame falls on the Trust and development officer. To reiterate, as detailed in the June 2011 development plan the role of the community development service is to work as enabler, facilitator and ambassador within the community. Supporting those who are willing to drive change within the community, whilst encouraging everyone to work together for positive effect.

Funding to date - As of January 2012, the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust has received £5,000 in funding from the Achany Windfarm Community Fund. These funds have been used to develop and finalise a brand identity for the area, including email signatures, poster templates and letterheads. It also allowed us to get started on the Kyle of Sutherland website. It has enabled the Trust to sponsor the training taster workshop in association with the Lairg & District Learning Centre and allowed us to run the first Family Focus event. We have allocated £1,000 of the £5,000 funding to establish a transport subsidy covering the hire of the Bradbury Centre minibus. We have also used the funds to start the hall slot and sports equipment funding pots, which includes helping the Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group to pay for new football goal posts and bibs. To date the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust has secured £30k of funds from the Achany Windfarm Community Fund for year one to help implement the first phase of the development plan and will continue to update the community on what is achieved through this funding. It is hoped through this funding we will be able to secure further match funding to continue to improve the area and create real benefit to the community of the Kyle of Sutherland.

New Kyle of Sutherland Website - Would you like to feature your holiday let, B&B, hotel or tourist activity on the new Kyle of Sutherland website? We are also creating local business, producer and service provider directories for the site and welcome all entries and information. It's free and easy to do. For submissions and further information please contact Lynsey Burns Tel. 01863 766908 / 07961 046715. Email.

development@kyleofsutherland.co.uk.

Send details of forthcoming events for the monthly diary Lynsey produces for this area, and distributes widely.

Kyle of Sutherland Website went live Monday 6th February 2012 – with the launch of the eagerly anticipated Kyle of Sutherland website. <www.kyleofsutherland.co.uk>. The site has been designed and completed as part of the Kyle of Sutherland Development plan and offers a go-to platform on which to find out everything there is to know about the area. The site is designed to cater for residents and visitors to the area and offers a wide selection of information ranging from a local events calendar, community information, what's on pages, places to eat, places to stay and things to see and do. The website also features information on local training, education and businesses. An important feature of the site is the business directory, designed to support the local economy. Information on the local apprenticeship scheme and local training opportunities can be found on the site and there are plans to also feature a local jobs notice board. Information on the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, the development plan and bi-annual reports will be available on the site as well as links to community groups, local travel information and local news. The latest report completed January 2012 is now available. As part of the development plan a local identity has been designed for the Kyle of Sutherland and this is featured throughout the site. The plan is to also offer the new logo in the form of email signatures, stamps and for use in local marketing materials, signage and business communications with the idea of the logo becoming a symbol of unity and local authenticity. If anyone would like to add further information to the website including information on local events please contact Lynsey Burns at development@kyleofsutherland.co.uk. Tel. 01863 766908

Lairg Learning Centre Open Day in Bonar Bridge Hall Saturday 19 November 2011

Jane Dixon, Development Officer Please contact us to book your place Tel 01549 402050 or e-mail <caralairglearningcentre@hotmail.com>

Wednesday 21 March & Saturday 24 March 9.30 – 12.00 Felt Making

All workshops are for adults and youths ages 14 + Workshops cost £15.00 per person per workshop



Help us make Ardgay blossom this year (you know it makes scents)

Every year the community council enlists the help of some good hearted volunteers to create floral displays at the centre of the village. It always brings a welcome dash of spirit-lifting colour, and this year we're planning to freshen things up with some smart new half barrels. We're also hoping to brighten up the railway platform as part of the "Adopt a Station" scheme.

All we need now is volunteers. You don't need to have done anything like this before – just come along ready to get your hands (or gloves) a wee bit dirty in a good cause. We would of course also really appreciate help from any budding or mature gardeners who'd be kind enough to share their skills and some free time with the rest of us. Help us choose the right plants to give us a good show right through to the autumn, or get really creative and design a special display to mark the Olympics or the Diamond Jubilee, or whatever else takes your fancy. And we're not done with our begging! We'd also particularly like to hear from anyone who has some greenhouse or polytunnel space we could use to bring on plants for this year's displays. So if you think you'd like to give us some blooming help, please ring Jeannie on 766609 or Peter on 766196. We hope to have a get-together for anyone interested at the hall to make a plan of action before we get down to things.

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

SUNDAY WALKS



25 March – Achaluachrach to the River Brora, via Craigton **OS16** 679099 7 miles linear. Leader Jimmy Melville Tel 01862811476. Meet to car share at Rogart Hall Car Park for 10.00am
Spring & Summer Programme is being compiled on 9 March at the AGM. Please contact the Secretary for details of walks.

Wednesday 9 March 19.30 Golspie Community Centre – SWG AGM

Creich & Kincardine Art Group – Meets Wednesdays from 10.00 to 3.00pm in Bonar Bridge Hall.
Contact Joan Mulligan – 01549 421321 e-mail joanmulligan@yahoo.co.uk for more information.



Help yourself to help us help you - Local organisations have come to understand that the common roadblockage of days gone by – lack of funds – may no longer be the barrier it once was. There are now quite a few funders to apply to and we are becoming surrounded by windfarms which offer funds to local community organisations. All organisations should feel they can grow to be all they can be with some positive thinking and some effort in making good applications to funders. What efforts make an application the best it can be? This varies from fund to fund, but some points are common to many. So, read the guidelines carefully. Your contact details are easy to write. The project name may be simple but the description may take more words than the application allows. Get a separate sheet of paper ready to fully explain what is involved, why, who will benefit, what the timescale is, and so on. Know the costs. Outline these on the application and expand this on that separate sheet. Where else will you get funds from? Be brief on the application and expand who else you are applying to on that separate sheet. Always try to use funding from A to match funds from B then add A & B to lever more funds from C. Usually funders are impressed by multiple sources of funding. Do not forget to include 'in-kind' contributions. Who supports this project? State how and who you have asked why your group needs this project. Who benefits? State how your members will benefit; state how others in the community will benefit; state how the community will be enhanced by your project; state how the project fits into policy – Government or Council policy; state that this may be the first, or second, phase of a community improvement. Being complete and clear avoids delay if questions have to be asked about information best provided right at the start.

WINDFARMS

Beinn Tharsuinn – See A&DCC Draft Minute

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

Achany – Scottish Hydro Achany Community Fund - The Achany Panel last met in November 2011 and awarded three grants:

Lairg & District Community Initiative (contact Moira Matheson 01549 402843) £90,000 over 5 years - to ensure sustainability of the development officer post.

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (contact Lynsey Burns 01863 766908) £30,000 - to contribute to a wide range of project activity.

Bonar Bridge, Ardgay Golf Club - £10,000 towards the cost of replacing greenkeeping machinery.

The grants to the area's two Development Trusts are significant amounts of money and will sustain the good work that both Trusts are doing. The grant to LDCI will maintain the Development Officer post for up to 5 years but the Panel is keen to see LDCI bring in match funding to contribute to this post after the first year. Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust is as we all know in a more embryonic stage, having only been formally established last year. The grant will support progress with developing enterprising projects that will begin to generate income for the Trust.

At present Achany Panel members are: Ardgay & District: Hilda Buchanan, Betty Wright, David Hannah, Marion Turner.

Crìech: Rosie Baxter, Claire Bruce, Pete Campbell, Christine Gordon.

Lairg: David King, Barbara Watson. (David Walker and David Naman recently resigned since neither stood for re-election for Lairg Community Council. New Community Council members will be put forward to serve on the panel after the first meeting of Lairg's Community Council).

If you wish to be considered for vacancies that may arise in your community council area please contact the Panel Secretariat, Audrey Campbell, on 01863 766536. The next deadline for grants of between £2000 - £10,000 is 2nd July.

For Large Grants of over £10,000 please contact Carol Elliot at the Scottish Community Foundation's Inverness office to discuss your proposal. She can be contacted at 07500 779227 or email on carol@scottishcf.org *Projects must benefit people living in these Community Council areas. Grant application forms are available from the service points in Lairg and Bonar Bridge, or from the Key Commercial Services office in Bonar Bridge. The deadlines are **25 June** and **15 October**. Groups and organisations working in the community council areas of Ardgay & District, Creich and Lairg* may continue to apply.

The Achany Apprenticeship Scheme continues to be available. Please contact the Kyle of Sutherland Trust's Development Officer, Lynsey Burns to find out more. For further information about the Fund please contact any of the Panel members locally or make contact with Rachel Searle-Mbullu at the Scottish Community Foundation (0141 341 4961 or rachel@scottishcf.org) who supports the Fund's management and administration through the Scottish Community Foundation.

The next deadlines for applications are 10 October. Application forms are available from the Bonar Bridge Service Point or from www.scottishcf.org/achany. – Meanwhile if you'd like to find out more about the Fund please contact either David Hannah or Marion Turner (Community Council Members)

Rosehall - The next round of small grants to the community will be available from early December. Applications to E.On Liz Fraser for further info. NB It was mentioned that Siemens are also keen to add to this pot so there could be larger amounts available. Date of next meeting Tuesday 6th March 2012.

Contact – Liz Fraser 0800 0569 090 or e-mail rosehall@eon-uk.com. Updates are available at eon-uk.com/rosehall

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

Coire na Cloich (close to Beinn Tharsuinn and Glen Morie) Developer Rock-by-Sea – Ardgay, Ardross and Edderton Community Councils meeting to discuss proposals.



Glen Morie – Environmental Impact Assessment released for consultation in November 2011. Copies in Bonar Bridge Library. Contact - Glenmorie Wind Farm LLP, 37-39 Kew Foot Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2SS, Tel + 44 (0) 208 334 4743

Fax + 44 (0) 208 332 9078, info@glenmorie.com. The Section 36 application for the proposed Glenmorie Wind Farm will be submitted to the Scottish Government on Friday. The submission includes the following documents: Planning Statement in support of the application A pre-application consultation report An Environmental Statement A Non-Technical Summary. Natasha Rai, Project Manager for Glenmorie Wind Farm said: "We have carried out a thorough environmental assessment of the Glenmorie site and listened to people's feedback on our proposals. So far, we have received quite a positive response to our plans from the local community. At our last public exhibitions in May, three quarters of respondents said they supported the proposal or had 'no view'. "We have reduced the scale of our original project and carefully designed the wind farm to limit any visual impact as this was a key concern. The topography of the site means that most of the wind farm will be hidden from view from the surrounding villages, while still maintaining a suitable position for the turbines where there is good wind resource for producing electricity. "If it is approved, this wind farm would provide enough electricity to power approximately 90,000 households. More information is available on our website at www.glenmorie.com." (Application now reduced by 9 x Turbines and discussion is taking place with Community Councils).

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

Dalnessie (at the Lairg end of Loch Shin) – Scoping exercise in progress. Contact SSE Liaison Manager, Ruth Liddicoat, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ, E-mail ruth.liddicoat@sse.com, Tel 01738455120, Mob 07767852826.

Highland Handyperson Service – Are you aged 65 or living with a disability? Do you need a Handyperson to help with minor repairs at home? Each Handyperson is fully equipped with tools and will be ready to undertake your repair. You will only be charged for materials used to complete the agreed work. There is no charge for the Handyperson's time or travel expenses.

Contact – Sutherland Handyperson Service, ILM (Highland), Unit 1G, Lairg Industrial Estate, Churchill Road, Lairg, Sutherland, IV27 4BL, Tel 01549 402798, e-mail suthcare@ilmhighland.co.uk. Need assistance with Adaptations to your HOME? Contact the Handyperson/Care & Repair Agent at the above address, or Highland Council Technical Officer – Tel 01408 635325 e-mail <env.health@highland.gov.uk>



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 you 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.

NEWS RELEASE - 'NEW JOBS' SERVICE FOR REMOTE AREAS.

Business Gateway Highland has launched a service to help create new jobs in some of the region's most remote, rural areas. The service will target more than 300 businesses in Caithness, Sutherland, Wester Ross, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch and Strathspey to help them better understand the process of recruiting staff for the first time. Two recruitment advisers, based in Fort William and Bonar Bridge, have been taken on to give businesses help on issues including employment legislation, identifying the right people for interview and employment contracts.

Marianne Ross, the new recruitment adviser in Bonar Bridge says: "*Business Gateway's recruitment service sets out to help businesses by providing an integrated package of information, advice and practical support. This service is highly personal, specialist and designed to help create jobs in some of this region's most fragile areas by helping give businesses greater confidence and knowledge about the recruitment process.*"

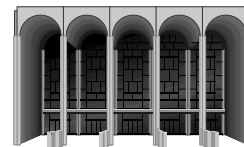
Marianne, from Migdale, will be based in the Key Commercial Services offices in Bonar Bridge and can be contacted on **07867 394346** or marianne.ross@highland-opportunity.com

Ardgay Meeting/Function Venues

Contact for Booking Ardgay Hall – Fiona Mackenzie, 4 Carron Place, Ardgay 01863 766602

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

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



Edderton and District Gardening Club. - Meetings, 2nd April and 21st May. Edderton and District Gardening Club meet on the first Monday of each month from September through to June. At the winter meetings talks from guest speakers are followed by refreshments and informal discussions. There is usually a plant swap stall. Meetings are held in Edderton Community Centre, starting at 7.30 p.m. (except for the AGM in September which starts at 7p.m.) Garden visits and social events take place during the summer. Members come from the Kyle of Sutherland through to Tain and new members are always welcome - telephone 01863 766061 for more information.



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

Achany Windfarm Trust	Ardgay & District Community Council	Ardgay & District Xmas Party
Ardgay Hall Committee	Art Club	Ardgay Badminton Club
Bradbury Centre	Bonar Bridge Football Club	Bonar Bridge/Ardgay Golf Club
Boys' Brigade	Bonar Bridge Local History Society	Church of Scotland
Crofters Group	Camera Club	Dornoch Academy Parent Council
Gardening Club	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
Tain & District Rotary Club	Rosehall Community Arts	Citizens Advice Bureau

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

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

Public Transport Access to TRACC Swimming Pool from Ardgay

After 9th October either - see Ardgay village notice board; contact TRACC, Hartfield Road, Tain, 01862 893767 or contact Macleod's Coaches 01408-641345

Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Timetable from January 2012

Tuesday	Bonar Bridge War Memorial	Arrive 1.35pm	Depart 1.50pm
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The Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group is continuing with their efforts to raise funds for a new multi purpose building on the existing site. Funds are currently being sought for the first phase of securing an Architect to produce a visual concept taken from ideas given by the members and the public at the open day in June 2011. This is an exciting project and will involve further consultation when funding is secured. The projects currently running continue to provide a great space for the children & young people to engage socially and participate in the many activities on offer. Over 100 members attend the various projects each week

Tuesday	3.30 - 4.30	P1-P4	After school club -	7.00 - 9.00	S1+	Army Cadets
Wednesday	10-11	0-5	Music & movement			
Thursday	3.45 4.45	P5-P7	After school club -	7.30-9.30	S1+	Youth Group
Friday	10-11	0-5	Art club (this is currently full)			

The KSYDG is based on the South Bonar Industrial Estate please telephone Hayley on 01863766310.

Bonar Bridge Local History Society SCO 325 38 - Contact Marion Fraser. Secretary 01863 766235 - AGM took place on Friday 24 February 2012 and details will be published in the next issue of this newsletter.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS (16 November 2011)

Members	Addresses	Contact Details
David Hannah (Chair)		
Peter Armstrong (Secretary)		
Alan Lawrence (Treasurer)		
Phil Olson		
Marion Turner		
David Laver		
Betty Wright		
Bob Sendall		
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

For the information of residents within the Sutherland and Easter Ross areas. The public numbers to contact police within your area are - Dornoch 01862 810222 & Tain 01862 893852. Should either office not be staffed your call will quickly divert to a 24 hour control room usually in Wick. The operator will have direct radio contact with officers on duty in your area and any requests for police will be dispatched accordingly. Should you require an incident number with your enquiry please request this at the time of your call, it may take a few moments extra to generate. In the event of an emergency always call 999 for the quickest and most direct response.

Police Advice - ADVANCE FEE FRAUD - When an individual is required to provide payment in advance on the promise of wealth, gifts or prizes. Usual initial contact can be made by mail (letter), phone (cold calling) fax or email. Examples of claims are:

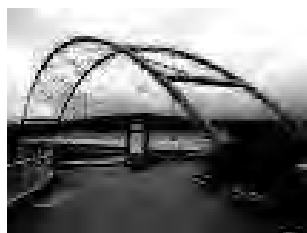
- Time Share refunds
- Payment Protection Insurance Refunds
- Bank Charges refunds
- An insurance policy in recipients name
- Lottery (foreign) win
- Financial Company providing loan require admin fee

In order to receive the monies recipients are required to pay an "Admin" fee in this case via purchase of Pay Point vouchers at local shop.

Recipient will then be telephoned again and requested to give the 19 digit voucher code which is all that is required to realise the value.

If you receive such a call DO NOT purchase the voucher and DO NOT tell anyone the 19 digit code

As this year, 2012, marks the 200th anniversary of the building of the very first Bonar Bridge – and therefore the



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

East Sutherland Producers/Dornoch Farmers Market - If you are interested in taking a stall, contact Russell Smith on 01863 766144

CROFTERS AND SMALL LANDHOLDERS SKILLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Practical Training Courses - CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND

A wide range of further courses is available and being arranged in topics such as horticulture, vet skills, equipment maintenance. For more information please contact: **Su Cooper, Scottish Crofting Federation, Tel: 01463 796836 / 01599 530005 e-mail: training@crofting.org, www.crofting.org**

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031919 Funded by – **The Scottish Government & Highlands and Islands Enterprise**

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.



crofting in the

Timber Lorries - They are likely to be hauling timber from our area for some time yet so stay watchful for hauliers who break the agreement they have with The Highland Council. The hauliers have agreed that loaded timber lorries will not travel "in convoy" but will have a 20 minute gap between them. The reason for this is that closely travelling loaded lorries cause significantly more damage to our roads. If we want to protect our roads it is in our own interest to report those lorries who break the agreement. We have had some success with complaints. **What you have to do is:** Get as many details of the lorries as possible.

E.g. registration, name of haulier. I know this is difficult when they travel so close but I have had some success by using a digital camera. Note the date, time, place and direction of travel. Email the information to Simon.young@highland.gov.uk or contact using this information: Simon Young, PI Officer, TEC Services, Highland Council, Drummie House, Golspie, KW10 6TA, Tel: 01408 635314, Fax: 01408 634041. If you think that the lorries are infringing the law then you should contact the police with details of the incident.



ARDGAY COMMUNITY CENTRE - ARDGAY PUBLIC HALL Charity No SC 008669

Committee – Chairman David Laver, Caroline Sales Vice Chair/Press Secretary, Secretary/Treasurer Rhonwen Copley, Fiona MacKenzie, Gregor Laing, Jocky Hewitt, Carol Shaw, Jane Ripley, Andrew Hill, Jeannie Sparling.

After over twenty years of tireless service Jennifer Burnett has now retired from the Ardgay Hall Management Committee. The workload Jennifer had carried for so long has now been divided into two, Fiona Mackenzie of 4, Carron Place, Ardgay telephone number 01863 766602 is now the Hall Booking Secretary; Rhonwen Copley is to be business secretary. Also leaving the committee is Rhona Macfarland, who has given unstinting service as hall treasurer over most of the last twenty years too. The experience accumulated by both Jennifer and Rhona will be missed by the new committee, who have sent grateful thanks to them both.

Looking forward, planning is now in hand for the Hall's FUND RAISING AUCTION which is to be held in JUNE this year. Perhaps now is the time to have a good clear out of cupboards, lofts and sheds in readiness of donating any unwanted articles - with the exception of white goods and large furniture - to the auction. The Committee will be very grateful. Details will be posted closer to the time in respect of times and dates when both the Hall will be open for dropping off your Donations and when committee members will also be driving around making collections of goods. The new committee would also welcome any suggestions or ideas either for future use of the hall or self-help ways of fund raising. (see photo of Ian Tolmie 'The Auctioneer'). Also as the newly elected Committee have been going through the archives, we notice there are no photographs of the old Balnagown Hall - which the present hall replaced. If anyone would like to share their old photos, especially of the old hall - but also of today's when it really was 'the New hall' - we will happily scan and return them. Please let Rhonwen Copley know if you have any which may be of interest on telephone number 01863 766174



BOYS BRIGADE – The 1st Ardgay-Bonar Boys Brigade badminton team at Culloden Academy on Saturday 11th Feb. The competition was attended by a large number of boys from various BB companies in the Inverness Battalion.

Back row (left to right): Ewan MacIennan, Steven Mackenzie, Liam Munro, Andrew Mackay.

Front row: Kevin Maclean, James Shepherd, Ryan Sutherland, Grant Mackinnon. Liam won the senior doubles (pairing up with a boy from another company) and also came runner up in the singles event. Kevin won the intermediate singles and Ryan and Grant won the junior doubles tournament.

The team all played extremely well and were awarded the trophy for the highest points overall in the competition.

New members in primary seven and older will be most welcome on Friday evenings at 7pm.

Leaders & Helpers required. Please contact Donald Simmonds (766796) or Donald Brown (766166)



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

Homecoming 2014 – The 2009 year was so successful that Scotland is planning another Year of Homecoming in 2014. Voluntary Groups East Sutherland (VGES) propose to identify a selection of events and with a co-ordinated approach produce a calendar of occasions which can be programmed, and identify the logistics and costs to allow this to become part of the event. As a result of the extensive community consultation work undertaken in Sutherland recently under the banner of the Sutherland Summit, a Sutherland Development and Action Plan has been produced as a strategic planning document for the county. (SD&AP Theme 3 Tourism Development long term aspirations fitting in to the Actions already underway). VGES have commissioned me to provoke ideas from community groups that can be included into a programme of activities to be carried out 2014. This will identify any current plans and ascertain if there is scope to enhance these with a co-operative inter-community approach. A final report will include a proposed programme with the planning and implementation suggestions with linking to costs and funding where possible. This can also dovetail with a similar report for North & West Sutherland so that the whole county of Sutherland can gain maximum benefit from Homecoming 2014. VGES wish to include groups and individuals in any sector from several different approaches, by looking at themes, interests and activities.

Are you aware of it? Is it something your group could be involved in? In what way or to what extent could you become involved? Have you any concrete ideas you could offer or would like to develop? What support/help would you need to bring them to fruition? (funding/marketing etc.) Could you be involved on a parish/district/county basis to plan a joint approach? Contact Irene MacLeod, Tubeg, Skerray, Sutherland, KW14 7TJ, E-mail tubeg259@btinternet.com Tel 01641 521219.

North, West and Central Sutherland Ward Forum - Lairg Community Centre - Saturday 24th January 2012 at 11.00 am

Present, Councillor Robbie Rowantree, Chair, Councillor Linda Munro, Andy Mackay, Ward Manager, Highland Council

Chief Inspector Matthew Reiss, Northern Constabulary, Jim Holden, Assistant Area Housing Manager

Kevin Crowe Durness Community Council, Russell Taylor, Creich Community Council, Roddie Kerr, Assynt Community Council, Gary Sutherland, Kinlochbervie Community Council, Marion Turner, Ardgay & District Community Council

1. Apologies - Councillor George Farlow, David Hannah, Ardgay & District Community Council, Donald Fisher, Scourie Community Council, Janette Mackay, Strath Community Council, Sandra Munro, Bettyhill Community Council

There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

2. Welcome: Councillor Robbie Rowantree welcomed everyone and introduced the members of the Ward Forum.

3. Note of Last Meeting and matters arising. - Note was amended – remove the last word and under final paragraph in point 4. Note was accepted as a true record.

4. Matters arising: Under point 7 Cllrs were to contact HC Transport Officer regarding complaints about the Parent Council concerns about the Ullapool School Bus service. Action: AM asked to contact Transport Officer for an update and circulate to Councillors and Assynt CC members.

5. Police / Community Safety – Chief Inspector Matthew Reiss, advised he is based in Wick, Inspector Garry Cameron is now based in Thurso and Sgt Ian Sutherland is in Lairg and the Com. Safety Officer, Angi Grant, is covering Caithness & Sutherland. One of the main concerns for Police is on road safety. In Highlands, last year sadly saw of all fatal road accidents, almost 50% happened in CSER, and the 3 main causes of most road accidents were not wearing a seatbelt, driving under the influence of drink or drugs and driving at excessive speed. Winter road conditions were discussed and it was acknowledged not all roads could be gritted but that drivers should respond to the road conditions. Simple things like, fitting of winter tyres, allowing more time for journeys, be more aware and alert to the winter conditions especially if temperatures are between +6°C – – 7°C. Cllr Rowantree reported how the Ward 1 members had met the Chair and Director of TECs Services about the conditions of the roads and the consequences of this was more funds have been made available to address road drainage and maintenance. Driving Ambitions programme for S6 Pupils is delivered by Police and other partners each year and has been very effective in the message it sends out to young people. He explained due to the numbers, it takes place on the east coast secondary schools. The current position with the single Scottish Police Force which is to be in place for 2013 was discussed and at this time there is little detail of the future structure.

Questions raised; From Kinlochbervie CC, how the snow clearing and gritting on single track roads has been worrying for them. One instance was given is where the snow plough blade appears to be so high it ends up making the road in a worse condition and it was felt the gritter wasn't doing the job it should do? Action: KLB CC to contact Stuart Bell, Community Works Manager and invite him to attend a future community council meeting. Chief Inspector Reiss was thanked by everyone for his attendance at the forums.

6. Access to Affordable Housing in NW & C Sutherland: Jim Holden, Assistant, Area Housing Manager gave a presentation on the HC Housing and Property Service. Explained that Highland Council now owned c13,500 houses in Highland (reduced from c19,500 in 1998) and that c12,00 people were on the 'housing waiting list' now called the Highland Housing Register. In the NW and Central Sutherland area, there were 484 social rented houses owned by HC and Housing associations. 65 of these became available for rent last year, but there were 145 applicants whose first choice for location of housing was in that area: there were around 300 applicants for whom NW & Central Sutherland communities were second or lower choices. This excess of demand over housing supply typified all areas of Highland and made access to affordable housing very challenging. The Council was adopting a Housing options approach, whereby applicants for housing would be advised of a range of ways of meeting their housing needs (and aspirations) that might or might not include social rented housing. Gave a thumbnail sketch of the housing allocation policy, and explained how a dispassionate and evidence based information was required in order to ensure peoples housing needs are met, which took in social factors, such as health and disability. Described how the Highland Council is looking at working and supporting communities interested in developing housing in their area and further information is available on the HC website

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/livinghere/housing/findinghousing/commonhousingregister/housingprospects.htm>

Questions were raised about allocations, priority to homeless, points, a more open housing register, role of the Homeless Intervention Officer and on HC land for communities to develop houses on to meet demand. Action: Cllr Rowantree to speak with Housing and Property to see where they are with the asset register that shows all land the HC owns.

Durness has a need for affordable housing for their area but there is a high number of unoccupied housing in the area. Action JH offered his help in discussions with the Housing Association and Durness.

Kinlochbervie A house by KLB High School lies boarded up. Action Jim Holden said he would look into this matter with ECS.

Cllr Rowantree thanked Mr Holden for his excellent presentation.

7. Ward Discretionary Budget : The Ward Manager explained how the spending has taken place so far for this year.

8. Community Council Matters: Ardgay – Training for Community Councils and on methods to get real community engagement.

Action AM to circulate dates of new training for Community Councils and for CC to provide what it is they would like to have training on.

Assynt – Mentioned the festival that the community is planning throughout this year.

Creich – Lack of publicity of the Rosehall post bus service and asked for better joined up working to look at ways of travelling around the area.

That due to failure of broadband services the CC has written to BT. RR mentioned the HIE and Scottish Gov broadband project and on how Ofcom are trialling 4G trials in Cornwall.

Durness - Raised their concerns about the position of Northwest Care Alliance and the funding of respite care which has been reduced. Councillors reported on how they had met on a number of occasions with NWCA and Social Work regarding the service. They advised the Durness CC Chair, the funding for respite care has been decided and agreed by the full Highland Council Committee. The current model for respite care is no longer on the table, that the status quo is not an option, but assured him that they would continue to encourage NWCA to fully investigate looking at the offer of the contract for Care at Home Service.

Scourie – No problems to report (all positive) - we're looking forward to the Scourie Pier Regeneration Project, the go-ahead is now eagerly awaited, HC, project managing contract. Thanks to WDB, for financial support to the Scourie News.

9. A.O.B. Model of forum and structure was discussed.

10. Theme, Date and Venue for next meeting Saturday 26 May 2012 at Skerry Village Hall. Theme – Update on the Integration of Health and Social Care Services.

The Kyle of Sutherland Cycling Club – No planned rides during the winter months - For more information on the club please contact Chris at info@koscc.co.uk or check out their website at www.koscc.co.uk You can also find the club on Facebook - search for Kyle of Sutherland Cycling Club.

Forestry Commission Scotland

The National Forest Land Scheme gives community groups the opportunity to apply to buy these woodlands before they are put on the open market - if you'd like advice, information or more details of what this involves please get in touch.

Jon Hollingdale, Chief Executive Officer, Community Woodlands Association, Steading Cottage, Craigfield Farm, Kintessack, Forres, Moray IV36 2SP, Web: www.communitywoods.org | Tel: 01309 674004 | Mob: 07792 028675



Tree Planting in Sutherland & Caithness Free advice SRDP applications North Highland Forest Trust

www.nhft.org.uk Steve Robertson 01408 633 986 07840 260 834 steve@nhft.org.uk



ARDGAY VILLAGE CENTRE - We'd like to hear your ideas! With the continued closure of the Lady Ross we are in danger of losing the "centre" of our village. If you have a good idea about how the centre of the village could be improved please share it with us. Contact any member of the Community Council. You can find a list of Community Council members in this edition.

Walk/Cycle for Wellbeing - Along the Carron River - This is a very scenic walk along the banks of the Carron River from the Carron Bridge to Gruinards. It takes 1h30mins one way but can be done as an out and back of any length you wish. When you reach the end you have a choice of returning by the river bank, walking the road (slightly shorter) or getting picked up. The walk starts at the Carron Bridge but it is possible to leave your car at the Gledfield Electricity Sub Station and walk up the road a short way and take the grassy track through the trees to the Carron Bridge. Pass behind Carron Cottage and follow the river upstream by heading for the small gate in the fence. Follow the fisherman's path along the banks of the Carron and enjoy the varied scenery along this beautiful river. No special instructions are needed: just follow the path until you reach DUNE (about 45 minutes). At Dune stay low along the river and across wooden walkways. After the bridge go sharp left up with the house to your right, over the stile across the field in front of the house and through the gate. To finish here, walk up the drive to the road or if you wish to continue from the gate go straight ahead keeping an electricity pole on your right. This track continues the walk, skirting above the spectacular, Little Gorge. At Marge the track ends with a gate on your left. You can retrace your steps along the river or walk uphill through the field to come out on the road near Gruinards (1h30mins).

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.
- Keep your dog under proper control.

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

Highland Core Path Implementation Programme - Final Phase Projects

We are seeking suggestions for community lead projects to improve paths in Caithness and Sutherland through the above project. This is for the final year of the programme with projects starting from any time in 2012 through to April 2013. The application forms and guidance are available on the council website at the address below. For now I am keen to hear from potential projects and I will be willing to work with the local community group to deliver it. If I can get replies as soon as practical that would be appreciated, I can work on preliminary ideas with the forms completed at a later date when all the information has been collected.

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/what-to-see/countrysideaccess/hcpip.htm>

If you have previously applied for funding but were turned down you are welcome to reapply if the project still has community support. The priority, as before, will be given to the routes in the council's core path plan, or route that provide links/extensions to these routes. Look forward to hearing from you. Matt Dent, Access Officer, Caithness and Sutherland, The Highland Council, Drummuie GOLSPIE, KW10 6TA, 01408 635377

Gearrchoille Community Woodland Association – As you know from the last edition of this newsletter, 2011 ended on a high note for our community woodland when the Gearrchoille's wildlife pond gained the accolade of 'Best Environmental Project 2011' from the Community Woodlands Association. Well, 2012 has got off to a good start too; The Directors were delighted to hear at their recent meeting that not only had funding support for annual running costs been received from the Co-Operative Community Fund but, that a similar amount of support is also to be received from The Rosehall Windfarm Fund. Whilst these two grants do not fully cover the expected expenditure, the Directors are grateful that they do go a large way towards it. Applications regarding the remaining balance have so far proved unsuccessful. However, of necessity, funding will continue to be sought. On a lighter

note, the directors are now turning some of their attention to this year's programme of events. Please keep a look-out for local posters etc. Also, if you have any suggestions for GCWA activities the directors would like to hear from you, either in person or via the gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk website. And, hopefully, by the time the first event takes place the new roadside signage will be in place on the A836 so that everyone can find their way to Ardgay's own Community Wood – We hope to see *you* there soon! Directors: D Hannah, B Geddes, B Wright, G Ross, R Copley, M Munro, D Laver, H Buchanan, A Wright.





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

Registered in Scotland No: 263887 Scottish Charity No: SC 036 181.

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 email: gcwa@btinternet.com . Full details available on posters locally, or contact Betty Wright, gcwa@btinternet.com Tel 01863 755316 www.gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk has masses of information about the woodland and notices of upcoming events. It also offers you the opportunity to contact the GCWA directors and let them know what *you* would like to see happen in the wood in the future.

Red Phone Boxes in Ardgay & District Community Council area.

This year BT offered us the opportunity of purchasing 2 x redundant kiosks at £1.00 each and we have completed the necessary paperwork and will shortly take ownership of these.

One is at Achnahane and the other is at the Amatnatua to Croik road junction at Amat. We are happy that the community has been able to purchase these historic telephone kiosks and we are looking for suggestions or ideas on how to benefit the community through their use.

The telephone equipment has been removed although they still seem to have power for lighting.

We would appreciate some help from those living close by in keeping an eye on them and reporting anything out of the ordinary. It would be really helpful if someone near could help us by removing any rubbish or litter left in them.

We are proposing to put some information in the kiosks to let people know where the nearest public telephone can be found along with some information about the area.



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Anna Patfield BSc. CABP, Cert CN

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Stewart McCarroll
Ardgay - 01863 760004
www.woodenquaich.com

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HOURS OF BUSINESS
Monday - Thursday :8.30 - 5.30
Friday : 08.30 - 4.30

Alternate Saturdays : 9.00 - 12 noon

Ardgay Flower Pots - Fancy a colourful container for your garden this summer?



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

Jeannie Sparling, Tel 01863 766609. Douglas Sparling, Tel 07513541569.

e-mail douglassparling@btinternet.com

THIS - (The Home Inspection Service)

House Maintenance & Repair
Inspections. Advice.
(Comprehensive Reports on
Works Required).

Now available for
Grass-cutting/Strimming
David Hannah, Ardgay Tel

01863 766061

Mobile 07880 776909.

e-mail david@tnchome.co.uk



This is the Fifteenth edition of the newsletter. We hope to issue 4 times per year:
Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter.

Copy for the Summer issue should be with the Editor by 17th May for issue in June.

Your Newsletter costs £1.00 per copy to produce and is distributed free of charge. If you would like to help keep it going – with a financial contribution, donation or by advertising please contact the Treasurer or any of your Community Councillors.

Newsletter Finance

Income					Expenditure	
Date	Grants	Adverts	Donations	Total	Production	Total
08/09	£1297.00				£782.00	
09/10		£10.00			£1,433.75	
10/11	£1,875.00	£80.00			£1,369.00	
11/12	£2,500.00	£125.00	£72.00		£1,261.90	
Totals	£5,672.00	£215.00	£72.00	£5,959.00	£4,846.65	£4,845.65

Current Balance £1,113.35

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.

Gruinards House

Quite a long time ago.

Photo Provided by:

Gregor Laing



Delivery Problem - Strathcarron – Davy Ross, Derek Matheson and Warwick Harrison have kindly offered to distribute your 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).



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

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