



£1.10

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



A & DCC

Population 597

Area 624.8 Sq. Km

Density 1.05 per Sqkm

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

No 19– Spring Edition 2013

Highland Council Planning Committee for the Glen Morie Wind Farm Application 'viewpoints' tour on the Struie



WELCOME TO SPRING – Isn't it really great to see the back of winter and the brightness of Snowdrops and Daffodils appearing. We'll be looking out for this year's new lambs and, hopefully some warmer and drier weather. Just remember that when you start digging over the garden not to overdo it the first time. Take care and Happy Easter to all.

David Hannah - Editor

Glen Morie - In January I had the unique opportunity of seeing Highland Council Planning Committee in operation as I had been invited, as a Community Council observer to join their tour of the viewpoints of the proposed Glen Morie Wind Farm, adjacent to Beinn Tharsuinn. It was a most enlightening experience as I watched and listened to the Committee get on and off the bus at each and every stop. Before the tour we had been given route maps and details of other Wind Farms in the area, along with instructions about what we could do, and what we couldn't. The Chair, Planning Officer and Wind Farm Developers explained what could be seen at each point, giving distances and other technical information. At several points along the route we were met by members of the communities, some of whom had pertinent questions to ask – they were all answered, although not all the answers satisfied the person asking the question. In all I felt it was a good example of our Councillors working together to address a controversial issue which affected several local communities. It also gave many of the Councillors an opportunity to meet, outside committee rooms and get to know each other better, which can only be of benefit to those they serve. OK it may have been expensive but cost is relative to what is being paid for and in this case I felt it was justified. *David Hannah - Editor*

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**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.

THIS - (The Home Inspection Service)
House Maintenance & Repair Inspections.

David Hannah,
Ardgay

Tel 01863 766061

Mobile 07880 776909.

e-mail dhannah559@hotmail.co.uk



GLEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



APOLOGIES BUT WE ARE STRUGGLING TO GET ENOUGH TOGETHER THIS TIME. HOWEVER THERE IS LOTS ON IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS SO WILL HAVE A GOOD BIT WITH PHOTOS FOR THE SUMMER EDITION. -
REGARDS - **KIRSTEN**

Kirsten Macneil, Cluster Head Teacher, Gledfield & Rosehall Primary Schools
Gledfield ~ 01863 766580, Rosehall ~ 01549 441214

Cookery Workshops for S1-3 in Bonar Bridge Community Hall

Supported by the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan a menu to a budget 2. Cook a meal together 3. Enjoy the results! 	<p>Fridays after-school 4-6pm</p>  <p>March 8th April 19th May 10th June 7th</p>	<p>New for 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Access for menu & budget research • Hold an end of session food event to raise funds • for next years' workshops
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Places are restricted to 12, so please contact Rosie Baxter to book your place - tel 01863 766257, text 07840 902792 or email drrosiereid@yahoo.co.uk

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of meeting held on Monday 11 February 2013

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

Also present: Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF),

Invited guests: Lizzie Foot and Steve Hunter, AES, re Glenmorie Wind Farm project

Members of the public: Angela Marwick (AM), Gregor Laing (GL), Andy Wright (AW)

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG), **Apologies:** None



Item 1. Welcome/Glenmorie Wind Farm Project. DH welcomed everyone at 7pm and asked Steve Hunter to address the meeting. In a brief history, he covered the original planning application in October 2011 which was for 34 turbines, later reduced by nine turbines following objections and concerns by SNH, some Community Councils and other interested parties. The addendum was submitted in June 2012 for the remaining 34 turbines, each at 125metres in height. A site meeting took place in January this year and the proposal will be discussed tomorrow (February 12th) by the Planning Committee at Highland Council. The Planning Officer has recommended that no objection is necessary. If no objection is registered the application passes to the Scottish Government to decide. If Highland Council does record an objection, Scottish Government will set up a public enquiry after which the Reporter will make the decision as to whether or not the development is approved. Discussions have taken place regarding possible Community Benefit arrangements should the development go ahead. As yet the company has not decided if it would sign up to the Highland Council scheme or make separate arrangements with local community councils. It is expected that payment would be in line with other established schemes, at £5,000 per installed megawatt per year for the life of the wind farm, anticipated as twenty-five years. The scheme would probably be administered through Foundation Scotland (previously SCF) with whom the CC has experience regarding other developments. AES would set up a 'responsible contracting policy' under which tenders would identify local benefit for jobs, apprenticeships and local input. These would be taken into account when selecting contractors and monitored to ensure compliance, with reporting made back to local CCs. This socio-economic assessment has been based on a model employed by the Welsh Government for road building schemes where it has proved most successful. The company has also been in discussion with the Highland Salmon Company and intends to set up a legally binding financial bond to cover environmental damage to/impact on the fish farm. The details are yet to be finalised but if established the bond would be in place for one year after commencement of work. A water management plan is being devised at present. The site visit in January was held to have been of use by the company and some of those who attended. Community Councillors indicated that site visits are essential to proper understanding of the scale and detail of developments. AES representatives left the meeting at 7.25pm as did Andy Wright.

Item 2. Apologies. As above.

Item 3. Police report. PC Katy Hunter arrived during the AES presentation which was halted to allow her to make her report, resuming after she left at 7.20pm. Ten incidents have been reported in the last calendar month, nine of them non-criminal, the other being a road traffic fixed penalty offence. DH highlighted the ongoing problem of drivers ignoring the 20mph limit at the school; others pointed out that often after observing the 20mph limit, drivers then speed up above the 30mph limit into the rest of the village. PC Hunter intends, if duties allow, attending in the area in the next week or so to reinforce the limits. Asked her opinion regarding 'Smiley Face' speed indicator devices, KH stated, from her personal experience of the one employed by Creich CC in Bonar Bridge, a noticeable improvement in driving speeds has been evident. She has no 'scientific' or statistical evidence on the subject. A new national 101 Police call system is to be brought into effect during the coming year. As of this month callers locally will be answered initially in Inverness. Local officers will respond to calls for attendance. PC Hunter left at 7.20pm.

Item 4. Minutes of last meeting. The Minutes of the December meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record; proposed by Betty Wright; seconded by Phil Olson.

Item 5. Matters arising. (1) **Ronnie MacNeill's retirement.** Sandy Chalmers, Creich CC, will be placing posters in the Bonar Bridge shops indicating the collection being made for a presentation to Mr MacNeill, (contributions/donations can be passed on through any Community Councillor). A lunchtime ceremony is expected to be arranged in March at the Bradbury Centre. (2) **Culrain flooding/Archonie road works.** Some ditch work has been done which has altered the flow of the flooding across the road. Further channelling is required. No news regarding the Ardchronie diversion. The rail line will need to close when the work is carried out with passengers being bussed on this section. It is hoped the work will be done during the summer. **GF Action.** (3) **Jubilee (Ardgay) Hill.** It was stated in the December minutes that a problem here had been resolved when in fact the blocked footpath remains in the condition it has been for the last year. This is a Core Path. Cllr Farlow will discuss with Matt Dent, Core Paths Officer. **GF Action.** (4) **Tetra Pack recycling.** It is understood that the general waste from this area is sorted in Evanton. The suggestion was made that Highland Council should renegotiate the contract to allow for Tetra Packs to be gathered at this stage and sent by HC direct to the company. This could be an income stream for HC and allow for proper recycling of the cartons. **GF Action.** (5) **Toilets.** The status quo will be maintained regarding the care of the toilet block. The Chair produced quotes for flooring: industrial flooring would cost £565 plus three metal bands to seal, but that a further £641 would be incurred by the cleaning and scarifying of the surface required first. The work would then carry a twenty year guarantee. DH will now seek a quote for quarry tiling. All agreed in principal that the work should be undertaken as soon as possible following receipt of the best quote. **DH Action.** (6) **Out of date signs at railway station.** The signs in question were described to the Secretary who will pass on the information to John Clark for their removal. **PA Action.**

Item 6. Correspondence. (1) PA passed out information leaflets regarding the **Dial-a-Bus** service. Cllr Farlow requested that any comments or complaints regarding the service be passed directly to Highland Council. (2) **Oakwood Place footpath.** A letter will be sent in reply to Mrs Copley thanking her and noting her comments but stating there is nothing further the CC can do. Money is held to cover the cost of materials should any resident group wish to take on the project. **PA Action.** (3) **Funds to Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.** The Trust, currently seeking new funding to re-establish the Development Officer post, has asked if it may keep on hold the £6,000 awarded by the CC but which is not yet spent. The money would be utilised once the situation resolves. All agreed. (4) **Evaluation of Community Councils.** As this item has only come to light today it was agreed to hold it over until the next meeting to allow members to consider it fully and come prepared to discuss. This will be the first item on the agenda in March following the Police report. MT offered to circulate relevant documents ahead of the meeting. **Agenda item. PA/MT Action.** (5) **Police contact.** Sgt Henderson based in Tain has written indicating he is the liaison contact. He will endeavour to ensure Police attendance at meetings but offered to send an email report each month should attendance prove impossible. Secretary will thank him, reinforcing the importance of the ongoing liaison and stating how much the actual attendance, when achieved, is appreciated. **PA Action.** (6) **Scottish Water.** Grave concerns exist with regard to the state of the water supply in the district. Secretary requested to invite a representative of the company to attend the March meeting. **PA Action.** (7) **Land for affordable housing.** A letter to Russell Smith, Creich Community Council, from Highland Council, dated 10 April 2012 has come to hand in which it is stated that land adjacent to the Bradbury Centre will be held available for building affordable housing, although it also indicated that there was no demonstrable requirement for it at that time. (8) **Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust** is hoping to establish the number of pipers in the area. DH has passed their letter to Andrew Hill.

Item 7. Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust update. MT advised that the Trust is awaiting the results of recent funding applications before advertising the Development Office post. Key Commercial Services and the Board members are handling the day to day running meantime.

Item 8. Windfarms update. Dalnессie. Planning Decision scheduled for tomorrow (February 12th). **Glenmorie.** (See above.) Application before Planning Committee of Highland Council tomorrow. **Braemore.** A new planning application has been submitted.

Item 9. CC insurance cover renewal. Secretary has dealt with the renewal form online. Cover is in place meantime until the end of March. New premium is taken from the HC grant before it is paid to CC. The principal cover is for public liability. The computer equipment cover is no longer required. PA will ask that this be removed. **PA Action.**

Item 10. Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's Account balance stands at £1314.03 with no outstanding liabilities; Projects Account at £4008.38 with one outstanding cheque for £525.00. The Toilets Account stands at £5.65. The Treasurer will transfer back the sum of £660.00 in time to deal with the opening of the facility. **AL Action.** The audited accounts will be completed in good time for the end of the financial year. The AGM will be held in June in line with Highland Council regulations. The HC grant can be expected in August, with the Toilets grant in September.

Item 11. Update on application procedures for ADCC and BTWF grants. BS handed round final documents for the updated guidelines with his apologies for delays unavoidably caused by his accident last autumn. The application form and the guidelines will all be placed on the CC website. Applicants can download the documents themselves or approach any CC member who will do this for them. Documents will also be available in the Service Point in Bonar Bridge. BS was sincerely thanked for his efforts paperwork.

Item 12. Endowment Trust. MT advised that the next SSE and E.ON Community Funds Panel meeting will cover the setting up of an endowment trust. Agreed to hold this as an agenda item in March when further information will be available. **Agenda item. PA Action.**

Item 13. Plans for 2013. a) Ardgay Station will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2014 – time to consider how to mark this. b) CC Open Shop. Appointing a facilitator to handle this project might be a most useful way forward; perhaps the public would speak more readily to one with no local involvement. Attempts will be made to seek out such a person. c) Changes to the running of CC meetings. From the floor and by invitation, AM suggested the meetings be more inclusive with the public being seated with the CC members and given copies of the agenda and Minutes so they can better follow the proceedings. Those interested could supply their email addresses to receive advance reminders of meeting dates and agenda items. A youth member should be encouraged to participate. DH will highlight these points in the upcoming Newsletter. **DH Action.**

Item 14. Newsletter. Copy deadline for next issue is 17th February.

Item 15. Any other competent business. a. **Pillar box, Ardgay.** It was noted tonight by the Chair that the box is sealed up. Enquiry will be made as to when it will be back in service. (*See website for information*) **DH Action.** b. **Lady Ross.** Secretary will enquire of KPMG if they are prepared to advise the CC should the property be coming on the open market. **PA Action.** c. **Street light power saving.** Cllr Farlow advised a pilot scheme is suggested to turn off some street lights during the period May to September in areas where it is considered unnecessary through the summer. d. **Bus to meet the evening train in Lairg.** Cllr Farlow also advised a scheme is being considered for a (bookable) bus to be contracted to meet the 7.37pm train in Lairg. This would enable passengers from the north and west to conduct day journeys to Inverness; at present such a trip requires an overnight stay en route. e. **Copies of agenda/Minutes for meetings.** Secretary will photocopy Minutes and agendas to ensure spare copies available at meetings in future. Photocopying for CC business is non-chargeable at the Service Point, thus providing a saving to members in ink and paper costs. **PA Action.** d. **Alladale Estate.** BW reports that all the signage at the Estate boundaries has been removed. It is thought that the Estate may have been sold. e. **Overhead cabling work.** This three phased project continues. Complaints received regarding waste left after work is completed and the team moves on. PO has the contact information at SSE, to pass on complaints. d. Angela Marwick gave the members thanks on behalf of the Highland Salmon Fish Farm for the support shown by the CC during the negotiations with AES over possible impact of construction. e. **Phone boxes.** Both BW and AL report all is well at the boxes.

They will keep copies of up to date agendas and Minutes available there. **BW/AL Action.** f. **Regular items for agenda.** It was suggested that a regular agenda item should be a brief report from the Highland Councillor attending. Also Planning and Licensing should be a monthly item. **Agenda items.** **GF/PA Action.**

Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th March at 7pm in Ardgay Public Hall. PA will book the hall. **PA Action.**

Item 17. Beinn Tharsuinn funding applications (private session). There were three applications to be discussed. The following awards were approved: Bonar Bridge Community Hall P6/7 Youth Club, £1,000; New Futures, Sutherland, £1,000; Gearrhoille Woods Committee, £1,543. MG will advise Phil Tomalin, Company Secretary. **MG Action.** Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

We are trying to encourage more public participation in our meetings and will try harder to make you feel welcome at our meetings. It is obvious to us that putting a notice in Ardgay and Culrain is not enough so we'd like to invite you to come to our meetings through this newsletter, our website and if you are willing by e-mail. If you would like to be notified personally by e-mail please inform the Secretary: Peter Armstrong, (Station House, Ardgay, IV24 3DH, Tel 01863 766196, E-mail peterbrownarmstrong@gmail.com. Who will let you know a week before the meeting and supply an Agenda for you.

Ardgay & District Community Council Meeting 2013 dates 2nd Mondays of the month at 7.00pm in Ardgay Village Hall

11 Mar	8 Apr	13 May	10 Jun	Jul –No CC	12 Aug	9 Sep	14 Oct	11 Nov	9 Dec
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All meetings are open to the public and we would welcome your support for our guest speakers by attending them.

Kincardine Parish Church - Contact Details - Minister- Rev. Anthony M. Jones The Manse, Manse Road, Ardgay, Sutherland IV24 3BG email: [<revanthonymjones@yahoo.co.uk>](mailto:revanthonymjones@yahoo.co.uk) 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

FROM THE MANSE....'Easter is a'comin!' - Just What Does it Mean?

Life in a family is always busy, sometimes trying, always a challenge, and a gammot of cliches spring to mind! 'Never a dull moment' 'make the most of it while it lasts' 'the best time is when children are at their youngest' The other day my youngest son came in and declared (after looking at some old baby pictures) "I wish I was smaller again because that is when I liked it best!" We can all view the past with rose-tinted spectacles but, often it is sadly true we were happiest when we were young - free of illness, anxieties and the stress of adulthood. It is interesting that Easter in the Western calendar follows not really long after Christmas. The celebration of our Lord Jesus' birth and then, the remembrance of his death - and resurrection. As if to remind us that life and death are so closely interlinked as to be inextricable! Inextricable - yes, were it not for the Resurrection of Jesus. And that makes the greatest difference to our lives in the world. Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, though he was dead - yet shall he live". I am glad that Easter comes when it does both in the natural world (at Spring) and in our own spiritual experience - to remind us that life, however short does not end in death. The cross of Jesus points to a much greater life beyond this world, beyond our human dimension. The followers of Jesus believed fervently in the 'life of the world to come'. After the darkness of the lenten season - Easter comes as surely as the first resurrection morning. After hearing the news of this great event, we too should be found amongst the ones who went running from the empty tomb to proclaim the good news of Christ's power over death and His gift of new life to everyone who believes in Him. It may not be given to us to fully understand now but, in time it will be made clear to us. I pray that after the pilgrimage of Lent you will know something of that resurrection joy and power in your hearts this Easter. I hope that you will take the time to join us at one of the many family services taking place in the churches of the Kyle of Sutherland soon to be celebrating holy week and Easter itself.

With Every Blessing. Your Minister and Friend. *Reverend Anthony*



EASTER IN THE PARISHES OF THE KYLE OF SUTHERLAND - Special Services



Sunday 10th March - Edderton Church Service as usual at 10.30am / Ardgay Church Service at 12.15pm
Mothering Sunday Service with family baptism at Creich Parish Church 10.30am,
Rosehall Church Service at 12pm

Sunday 17th March - Edderton and Ardgay Joint Service with Annual Stated Meeting at Ardgay Church at 10.30am

Creich Church Service at 10.30am/Rosehall Church Service at 12pm

Creich Church : Songs of Praise and Annual Meeting of the Dornoch Firth Group of Churches Charity at 6pm

HOLY WEEK 2013

Sunday 24th March - Palm Sunday



Edderton Church Service at 10.30am/Ardgay Church Service at 12.15pm

Creich Church Service: Children's Palm Procession, Service of Dedication & Annual Stated Meeting at 10.30am

Rosehall Family Service with Children's Palm Procession, Service of Confirmation & Annual Stated Meeting

Thursday 28th March - Maundy Thursday

Edderton Old Church at 12pm Service with informal communion (by kind permission of the Edderton Old Church Preservation Trust)

Rosehall Church at 6pm Service of Communion and Reflection in the Upper Room (Everyone Welcome)

Friday 29th March - Good Friday - Creich Church at 7pm Service of Vigil & Reflections on the Cross

Sunday 31st March - Easter Sunday

8am Sunrise Service by the Kyle at the stone circle, 10.30am Easter Morning Family Service at Edderton Church

10.30am Easter Service at Creich Church, 12pm Easter Service at Rosehall Church

Lenten Study at Ardgay Church Hall (throughout Lent)

Commencing on Wednesday 27th February at 10am. A series of shared reflection, discussion and fellowship to help us understand the meaning of Lent. Each study will last an hour and will concentrate on the meaning of the passion of Jesus led by the minister and auxiliary minister. Everyone welcome to 'drop in' when you can.

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.

Kincardine, Croick & Edderton Guild (Charity No SC016877) - Contact for details – Mrs Isobel Adlard Tel 01863 766 469.


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. I am looking for your help. The DFG "Good Morning Sutherland" project provides daily calls for its clients who are people living on their own in Sutherland. We have pairs of volunteers who take turn, usually a week about or a month about to call the same, up to three clients each morning when on duty. Today we have filled all our spaces as new clients have applied for this service. I now have to find another pair of volunteers or more, and train them to provide this service. Do you know of someone who may be interested in supporting elderly folk living on their own? If you do, would you let me know their contact details so I can approach them?

Thanks [John](#)

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

Dornoch Firth Group – Bonar Bridge Carol Singing - Hi Everyone - Just a big thanks to all those who participated in the carol Singing today. We had 7 children and 8 adults who's singing raised £50 for MFR Cash for Kids. Well done. The Quiz Night in Edderton had 8 x teams participating and Tain won it (again). We raised £164.00. Well done again and thanks to John McMurray for organizing it all.

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). (See Community Notice boards for 2013)	MARCH 6TH	ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, CREICH & KINCARDINE BRANCH
	MARCH 13TH	CANCER RESEARCH FUND
	MARCH 20TH	BONAR BRIDGE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
	MARCH 27TH	DORNOCH FIRTH GROUP OF CHURCHES
	APRIL 3RD	BONAR BRIDGE INDOOR BOWLING CLUB
	APRIL 10TH	BONAR BRIDGE GALA WEEK
	APRIL 17TH	BONAR BRIDGE COMMUNITY HALL
	APRIL 24TH	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

SWRI (Scottish Women's Rural Institute) SWRI



Ardgay 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of every month September to May 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.

"The aims of the SWRI are to promote country life, home skills, family welfare and citizenship and to promote the preservation and development of Scotland's traditions, rural heritage and culture. Here in Ardgay we meet once a month from September to the end of May, the third Tuesday in each month from 7:30pm to about 9-9:30pm. We aim to have a speaker each month and try to select a mixture of speakers and demonstrators to suit all tastes. We also have two competitions each month, one culinary and one craft; there is no obligation to take part, members are free to choose whether or not they wish to participate. The minutes are read at monthly meetings along with any correspondence that needs to be dealt with. Federation meetings occur twice a year and usually one or two members attend. We have a summer outing which is not restricted to members only, if there are seats on the bus available anyone may come along and are welcomed. This year we travelled to the Castle of Mey on a fabulous summer day, perhaps the only one this year, and spent a lovely day in the castle and gardens. We also have a Christmas lunch, the venue is chosen by members voting. This season we have had a guest from Wales who gave a short talk about her Women's Institute followed by a fund raiser from the Archie Foundation which was very enlightening. We have been invited to Munro's nursery for an evening of fun including refreshments and a chance to purchase some of their huge selection of gifts for Christmas. We have enjoyed this trip once a year for several years and all the Ross-shire Federation Institutes are invited so there is a chance to meet up and chat to other members.

We take part in the Ross-shire Federation Handicraft show which takes place in April and some members like to exhibit baking and bulbs in the Bulb and Baking show in March. We welcome new members and always try to make them feel included. Most importantly we aim to be friendly and helpful and support one another."

Yours sincerely Gillian Glennie (Mrs) Ardgay SWRI Treasurer (now also Press Secretary!)

Millienum Quilt



Which has been presented to Migdale Hospital – SWRI would like you to mention please how grateful both Ardgay and Culrain/Invershin were for the funding from both Creich and Ardgay and District Councils. We all agree that it looks lovely hanging in the Hospital and adds something of interest to an otherwise rather plain area.

Best wishes Gillian Glennie.

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	Scottish Water	24 Hr Emergency	08456	008855
				"	Customer Help	08456	018855
Community Development Service – c/o KCS			Tel 01863 766536 or e-mail <development@kyleofsutherland.co.uk>				

Royal British Legion Scotland – Creich & Kincardine Branch

Dr Ken MacDonald, who had been our welfare officer for many years, has recently moved to Inverness, so he provided a written report. During 2012 he had made a total of 53 home visits and seven to either hospital or a nursing home. The President said that for those Members on e-mail it would be worth sending out the Minutes of meetings electronically. Mr Calder agreed to provide the President with any member's e-mail that was not already known to the latter.

Dates of 2013 Meetings. The following five Monday dates were chosen for branch meetings during 2013:

4 Feb, 6 May, 5 Aug, 28 Oct and 2 Dec (AGM). These would start at 7.30pm in Bonar Bridge Hall.

If you are Ex-Services or a family member of Ex-Services personnel you are eligible to join the Branch and would be made welcome at our meetings. There being no Secretary at Present – Contact can be made at the meetings.

Mobile Library dates & times Ardgay. Wednesdays 20 March. - Oakwood, Ardgay: 1.40 p.m. – 2 p.m. Lady Ross, Ardgay 2 p.m. – 3.10p.m



Mobile Library dates and times - Strathoykel, Strathcarron Thursdays, 21st March.

Gledfield Primary School 9.40 – 10.40, Culrain 14.10 - 1445, (Times for other stops available on request).

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 01349 852698 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 – Bonar Bridge Library & Service Point, Carnegie Buildings, Lairg Road, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EA. Tel/Fax 01863 766838. Email: bonarbridge.library@highlifehighland.com	

Scottish Country Dancing – Regular classes - on Tuesdays until 30th April from 7.30pm in Ardgay Public Hall please contact

Doreen Bruce – Tel 01863 766852 for information. Annual Rally, Christmas Party, Visits to other Groups throughout the year. Beginners always encouraged.



Highland Disabled Ramblers – Enabling disabled people to enjoy the outdoors. Monthly rambles for up to 3 -4 miles. Start 10.30am, bring a picnic lunch, finish around 3.00pm, ranger or professional guide. Family members, carers and other able bodied members welcome. We provide electric scooters for members to go that bit further. Centred around Inverness our rambles take us to Lairg, Aviemore & Fort Augustus. Contact Highland Disabled Ramblers. Suite 452, 24 Station Square, Inverness, IV1 1LD. Tel 01463 772671. Mobile 07895 066 965, E-mail admin@highland-disabled-ramblers.org or visit www.highland-disabled-ramblers.org.

Creich Surgery - 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.



NHS Minor Ailments Service – is an NHS service for children, people aged 60 or over, people who hold a medical exemption certificate and people on certain benefits. When you are registered for the Minor Ailments Service your pharmacist can give you medicine for a minor illness or complaint, if they think you need it. You will not have to pay for this but you will have to register with a pharmacist. For more information contact – your local pharmacy, your doctor or NHS staff involved with your care, your local CAB or the NHS inform Helpline on 0800 22 44 88 (calls from a landline are free).



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.

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.

Recycling Tetrapak - http://www.tetrapakrecycling.co.uk/Recyclable_consumers.asp

Above a link to tetrapak. The labels they provide are not Freepost. Some local authorities are providing kerbside collections for these, so hopefully THC can be encouraged to soon.

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

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

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

Tain – Blythswood Christian Care, 25 Lamington Street, Tel 01862 893408. (foodbank, shoeboxes appeal, clothes, books, bric a brac etc.) **For larger items e.g furniture, white goods, sports equipment, fixtures and fittings, carpets etc. call the Highland Deephaven Depot, Alness 01349 830777**

Lairg – Blythswood Christian Care, behind the Bank of Scotland, Main Street, (Wed, Thu, Fri 10.00 – 16.00) 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)

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. A home visit for the Kyle of Sutherland area can be arranged by phoning the CAB Office in Golspie on 01408 633000 to arrange an appointment.

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 <moneyadviceservice.org.uk>.



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.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY - Dear Active Schools and Sports Development managers, As you may be aware Glasgow 2014 are looking for up to 15,000 of Scotland's friendliest people to volunteer at the **Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games**. From today, people can register their interest on their new volunteering site before the online application process opens mid-January 2013. For more details on volunteering, including how the application process works, the types of roles available and the benefits of taking part, please visit the 2014 website. You'll also be able to download our volunteer digital toolkit which will provide everything you need to begin talking to your networks, members and/or staff on how to get involved and “be the Games”. Please help support the recruitment drive and share this email with coordinators, officers and wider networks.

If you'd like to talk to one of the Glasgow 2014 team, please call their contact centre on 030 3333 2014 or email them at <contactus@glasgow2014.com>. Thank you for your support.

REGISTERED CHARITY? – This notice is essential for you. - Please find below important information on Gift Aid.

Tax-effective giving - Added or updated on the legal update website for voluntary organisations

Very important changes from **6 April** in the procedure for making gift aid repayment claims. Charities and community amateur sports clubs which claim gift aid really must start planning now, if they haven't already. Also very important: to be eligible for the final tranche of transitional relief (on gift aid donations made from 6 April 2010 to 5 April 2011), make your gift aid claim by **5 April**.

Reduced admin from **6 April** for charity shops claiming gift aid on donated goods.

Old gift aid declaration forms (from before February 2012) no longer valid.

Discussions on a universal gift aid declaration, covering donations to all charities.

All at www.sandy-a.co.uk/finance.htm#giftaid

Detailed explanation of the gift aid small donations scheme (GASDS), which starts on **6 April**.

www.sandy-a.co.uk/finance.htm#smalldonations

Consultation on payroll giving - ends **19 April**.


www.sandy-a.co.uk/finance.htm#payroll-giving

Sandy Adirondack, [Governance and legal training and consultancy for the voluntary sector]

39 Gabriel House, 10 Odessa Street, London SE16 7HQ, tel 020 7232 0726, fax 020 7237 8117

sandy@sandy-a.co.uk, www.sandy-a.co.uk

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

SUNDAY WALKS 4 th Sunday each Month	24 March – Ledmore Woods & Spinningdale – 8 Mile Circular – Leader Patricia Hannah 01863 766061 14 July – Summer Special – Novar Windfarms 1 & 2 and High Tea – See Summer programme for details.	
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SWG AGM & Walks Planning - Wednesday 6 March 2013 at 19.30 in Golspie Community Centre

Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group - Bonar Youth Bus – Next Stop the Stars!



After eight years of planning and consultation, the Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group (KOSYDG) is finally turning dreams into reality by developing a state of the art youth and family facility on the industrial estate between Ardgay and Bonar Bridge.

The need for youth facilities in the area led to the formation of KOSYDG in 2004 and since then, the group has successfully raised funds to purchase the youth bus, the old coal yard and temporary classrooms. The group is run by volunteers and services offered include music & movement and art classes for toddlers, as well as after school clubs. The Highland Highlife supports the project through

the supply of part time Youth Leaders to work with secondary school ages. Membership has grown as activities increase and the need for a permanent facility to meet existing and future needs is evident. Building on ideas generated in the community consultation 'Kyle of Sutherland Vision 2008' and subsequent meetings and open days held on the bus site, KOSYDG has appointed an architect to develop a design scheme for the new building. With funding from the 'Investing in Ideas' lottery programme, Adams & Sutherland Ltd were selected from a shortlist of eight architectural practices, primarily because of their impressive track record in the creation of community and youth facilities. Graeme Sutherland, director at Adams & Sutherland said "This is a really exciting project to create a new versatile place that will enthuse children, support families, and help bring communities together." Following the creation of a robust business plan due for completion soon, the group has secured funds from the Eon Rosehall Community Fund to take the project to planning. It is hoped that the new facility will include a soft play area, discovery centre, observatory, gym, climbing wall, members' café, kick about zone and improved spaces for existing clubs. Hayley Bangs, Chair of the group said "With very clever use of limited space, we hope to include ideas from the local community which will also attract people in to the area and give them a new experience." KOSYDG is always looking for volunteers to help deliver services and to sit on the management committee. "This is a very exciting time for the youth group, with a great deal still to do." said Kathy Smith, Secretary. "We will continue to work with the local community to create a facility of which we can all be proud." **Anyone interesting in offering their time and skills should contact Hayley on 01863 766310.**

The Kyle of Sutherland (formerly Achany) Apprenticeship Scheme continues to be available and is now supporting 4 placements. For further information about the Fund please contact any of the Panel members locally or make contact with Carol Elliot, Community Programmes Executive, 07500 779227 | carol@scottishhcf.org | www.scottishhcf.org Scottish Community Foundation | Office 5 | Farraline Park | Margaret Street | Inverness | IV1 1NH. The Scottish Community Foundation (known also as "SCF") is registered as a Scottish charity (SC022910) and is a company limited by guarantee (SC152949) with its registered office at 22 Calton Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8DP.

Applications can be made at any time. Application forms are available from the Bonar Bridge Service Point or from www.scottishhcf.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)

Highland Council Private Housing Grants Available



The Highland Councils "Scheme of Assistance" offers grant assistance and technical advice for a variety of repairs, disabled adaptation and energy efficiency improvements. If you've owned and lived in your property for a minimum of 2 years then you may be eligible to qualify.

For further information please contact, Davy Ross – Technical Officer, Housing Grants The Highland Council, Drummuie, GOLSPIE, Sutherland, KW10 6TA, Tel. 01408 635325

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



Ardgay Meeting/Function Venues

Contact for Booking Ardgay Hall – Fiona Venters (formerly 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

East Sutherland Camera Club - meets in Brora on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7.00pm, has competitions and a programme for 2013. Contact Bruce Wallace, Secretary 01408 622238



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.			

Edderton and District Gardening Club. - meet on the first Monday of each month from September through to June.



There is usually a plant swap stall. Garden visits and social events take place during the summer. Members come from Ross-shire and Sutherland, new members are always welcome. Club members, along with everyone else, are hoping for a better growing season this year. All meetings are held in the Community Hall at Edderton, starting at 7.30 pm, (except for the AGM in September which starts at 7p.m.) and the talks are followed by refreshments. For more information telephone 01863 766061.

There are two more talks in the winter programme, to which everybody is welcome:

Monday 15th April: Douglas Paterson will be talking about the renovation of the walled garden at Scotsburn.

Monday 20th May: Fay Wilkinson will speak about the gardens of Argyll.

Good Neighbours – Are you one?

GOOD NEIGHBOUR 1	GOOD NEIGHBOUR 2	GOOD NEIGHBOUR 3	GOOD? NEIGHBOUR 4
Visits you every day to see how you are. Remembers your birthday every year. Brings home baking when they come. Always there for you if you need them. Walks your dog for you. Has lots of parties, and invites you.	Always busy but speaks to you over the boundary wall/fence and passes the time of day. Keeps an eye on your home if you are away. Takes in parcels etc. for you. Gives you your own space but is always there for you if needed. Exchanges emergency contact details.	Lives quietly next door and never bothers you at all. Never invites you in for tea/coffee or expects you to invite them. Keeps themselves to themselves. Always finds time to make a difference in the community as a volunteer. Would like to know you better	House is a tip, lots of dogs and cats. Goes to the pub and comes home late, singing. There are always lots of cars coming and going. The police are round all the time in response to complaints. How often do you pray they'd move away



Which one are you?

Could you be a BETTER neighbor?

Which one would you like to have living next door and be your Good Neighbour?



Lairg (& Our) Learning Centre News (Full details on (www.lairglearningcentre.org.uk – Tel 01549 402050)

Courses – Photoshop – 17 April - £40 for 8 x weeks. **Spanish** – 18 April £40 for 8 x weeks.(Ardgay).

Felt Making – Craft Workshop – 12 March 9.30 – 15.30 £20.

(These are the courses when met the deadline for this edition of the newsletter – there are many other courses – including those on the timetable – contact Lairg Learning Centre for details if you are interested in those).

TUTORS WANTED – Are you a Tutor? Can you offer courses? If so please get in touch with us we are always looking for skilled Tutors to help develop new learning opportunities.



Classes Timetable for 2013

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Patchwork	Patchwork	
Tuesday	Gardening		
Wednesday	Cake Decorating	Work Club/Laptop Club/Creative Writing	Cake Decorating/Photoshop
Thursday	Scottish Literature		Spanish
Friday	German/Work Club/Poetry Cafe	Book Club	
Saturday	Workshop		

WINDFARMS

OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW IN 2013!

Scottish Community Foundation. - Change of name. Over the past two years, our work at the Foundation has grown and we are now working with a range of donors who are investing several million pounds of charitable funds across Scotland. This of course includes the various community funds we manage on behalf of communities and developers. Towards the end of 2011 we restructured to reflect these changes. This led to the development of the position of Community Executive (North) which I was appointed to in January 2012. We then went through a process to review our written and visual identity and we found an overwhelming case for a re-design of the Foundation's brand. It's exciting to share with you that we are changing our name to **'Foundation Scotland'** and with an accompanying new logo and strapline **'Where philanthropy meets community'**. We feel this provides better clarity reflecting the depth and breadth of our work. So from 7th Jan 2013 you will notice a different look and feel to any communication coming from myself and the wider Foundation. I've been asked to pass on belated thanks to any of you who contributed to some of the consultation work that preceded this change. We certainly tried to take the temperature from a wide range of different stakeholders. My working arrangements - From w/c 7th January my working hours will change. I will only be working 2.5 days a week, generally Tues, Weds and a Thursday morning.



This will be flexible of course depending on what is happening with various funds and other pieces of work. I will also be home based but hope to have an additional alternative contact number secured later in January.

Thanks to you all for your hard work to support the effective management of your community fund this past year. I look forward to continued work together in 2013 and beyond. Carol

Carol Elliot, Community Executive (North), 07500 779227 | carol@scottishcf.org (with effect from 7 January 2013

carol@foundationscotland.org.uk) | www.scottishcf.org

Community Benefit Money (Windfarm Grants) - There are several options for local groups looking for funding for their projects. For grants under £2000, there is the Beinn Tharsuinn fund. Application forms (& full details of the fund, including guidelines for applicants) can be downloaded from A&DCC website, or obtained from Highland council in Golspie (01408 635335). The completed form should be returned to Phil Thomalin, Highland Council as Highland Council administers the fund. The form will then be forwarded to the Community Council for consideration at their next monthly meeting.



For larger projects (>£2000), there are the SSE & EoN Community Benefit Funds. These are both administered by **Foundation Scotland** and decisions made locally by the Panel. Application forms for both these funds are available at HC service points, Key Commercial Services office in Bonar Bridge; by e-mailing Carol Elliot (as above) Applications can only be made to one or other of these funds. Future deadlines for SSE & EoN Community Benefit Applications - 30th Jun 2013; 31st Oct 2013.

The panel meets approx. 6 weeks after these deadlines to consider applications.

Beinn Tharsuinn – See CC Minutes

Braemore – Decision of Scottish Government Pending - Contact for details Sarah Dooley, Wind Prospect, 13 Rutland Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2AE, Tel 0131 225 8545, Web www.braemorewindfarm.co.uk E-mail sarah.dooley@windprospect.co.uk.

NAME CHANGE(Rosehall) now EoN – The first tranche of funding is available and some grants have already been awarded by the Panel. Application forms are now available at Highland Council Service Points in Bonar Bridge and Lairg. Community Benefit being linked through Foundation Scotland and grants approved by the existing Panel. Further details are available from **Carol Elliot (as above)**

NAME CHANGE (Scottish Hydro Achany Community Fund) Now SSE & EoN Community Fund - The Panel last met on January 28th for the Annual Review and potentially approved two new apprenticeship opportunities.

Next Panel Meeting will be 29 April 2013 to consider grant applications submitted by 28 February 2013.

SSE & EoN Community Benefit Panel members are:-

Ardgay & District: Hilda Buchanan, Betty Wright, Marion Turner, David Hannah.

Creich: Rosie Baxter, Pete Campbell, Russell Taylor, Chirstine Gordon.

Lairg: David King, Barbara Watson, Sandy Allison, Ian Mackay, David King.

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 2013.

Sallachy – Wind farm proposal – Location Sallachy & Duchally Estates, Loch Shin, 22 Turbines up to 125 metres high to tip of blade. Ardgay, Creich & Lairg Community Councils have signed a new deal with WKN the developers for £8.6 million Community Benefit over 25 x years with the intention is to link in with the Achany & Rosehall windfarms and assistance from Scottish Communities Foundation using the Achany Panel approving grants to disburse Community Benefit at sometime within the next two years, subject to Planning etc. **WKN AG Sallachy**, Wind Farm, February 2013 Update

For those of you who haven't already heard of us, WKN AG is a German wind farm developer with over 20 years experience in wind farm development across Europe and the United States with over 90 successfully developed wind farms. Sallachy Wind Farm is our first project within the UK and represents a potential £100m inward investment to the Scottish economy. We submitted our planning application for Sallachy Wind Farm on the south west shore of Loch Shin in December 2011. In January this year we supplemented this with an addendum that included a further period of public consultation that allowed representations to be made to the Scottish Government by both members of the public and organisations. This second period of public consultation closed at the beginning of February and WKN now awaits a date for our proposals to be heard by the Highland Council's North Planning Applications Committee later this year. After the Highland Council has made their recommendation the decision will then be passed to the Scottish Ministers for determination. Since submitting our planning application in late 2011 we have signed two ground breaking partnerships that we will exercise once planning has been granted. The first of these is a community benefit scheme between the community councils of Ardgay & District, Lairg and Creich whereby the three communities stand to share £8.5 million over the 25 life cycle of the wind farm in a fixed payment model set to rise over the years. This agreement was signed in a small ceremony at the Falls of Shin Visitor Centre in August 2012 and represents an largely elevated community benefit fund than is expected by the Highland Council. The second partnership we signed in 2012 was with Energy North and North Highland College's Environmental Research Institute, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands. In this tripartite partnership we signed two initiatives a graduate placement scheme and a supply side incubator. The graduate placement scheme will allow for up to five graduates from the Highlands and Islands who are graduates of UHI to enter a 12 - 15 month placement scheme during the construction phase of Sallachy Wind Farm where they will have the opportunity to work within a variety of industries linked to the renewables sector across the Highlands. The supply side incubator is a progressive initiative that will be developed over time. It will encourage small (Tier 3) contractors to become Tier 2 contractors during the construction of Sallachy Wind Farm. Furthermore, it will require any main (Tier 1) contractor awarded the Sallachy Wind Farm contract to work with local suppliers and contractors throughout the construction phase.

Both our initiatives with Energy North and North Highland College will encourage the Highland economy to flourish by providing up to 42 full time jobs during the construction phase, as well as providing young graduates with employment and experience in a buzzing UK wide sector that they will set them ahead of many graduate when seeking future employment. WKN is eager to talk with any member of the local community who has any queries regarding our proposals. Please contact Jennifer Bowker at jennifer.bowker@invictapa.co.uk or on 0131 220 0159 if you have any questions or suggestions regarding our proposals. Oliver Patent, Head of International Developments, WKN AG

Glen Morie – 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. **Planning Permission was refused by Highland Council Planning Committee on Tuesday 12 February and this application will now be referred to the Scottish Government Community Councils are meeting to discuss their options.**

Glen Cassley –Wind farm proposal - As you are aware, over the last few years we have been developing a proposal for a wind farm site at Glencassley (within Creich Community Council's area), approximately 12km northwest of Lairg, in Sutherland. In September 2011 we held public exhibitions in Rosehall and Lairg in order to consult with the local community on the proposal. In addition, surveys and assessments have continued over the last year or so and the findings (together with consultation feedback) have been considered as part of the development process. We are now in the process of refining the design and compiling the Environment Statement (ES) which will accompany our planning submission. The intention is to submit our planning application to the Scottish Government in June and we are holding public exhibitions at the end of May in order to present the final proposal to the community. Once the planning application has been submitted, there will be an opportunity to make formal representations during the statutory consultation period conducted by the Scottish Government.

We 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 - Wind farm proposal I thought that it would also be helpful to provide you with an update on the Dalnessie wind farm proposal. In

– 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. **Planning Permission was refused by Highland Council Planning Committee on Tuesday 12 February and this application will now be referred to the Scottish Government.**

Coire na Cloich – An amended token offer of Community Benefit has been made by the developers and the Community Councils involved are continuing negotiations. Wind farm proposal (close to Beinn Tharsuinn and Glen Morie) Developer Rock-by-Sea. **In view of Highland Council's Planning Committee decision of 12 February more consideration will be given to this application by Community Councils.**

Royal Bank of Scotland Mobile Timetable from January 2012

Tuesday	Bonar Bridge War Memorial	Arrive 1.35pm	Depart 1.50pm
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Help yourself to help us help you - Local organisations have come to understand that the common road blockage 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.

Gazebo/Small Marquee - The Community Council have a small gazebo/marquee available for hire for community activities. Contact Marion Turner or Phil Olson 01863 766100.



This is the list of groups and organisations in Ardgay & District, which we know about with contact details:

Organisation & Contact	Organisation & Contact
Ardgay & District Community Council – 01863 766 196	Ardgay Hall Committee – 01863 766 174
Creich & Kincardine Art Group - 01549 421 321	Ardgay Childrens Christmas Party – 01863 766 609
Ardgay Badminton Club – 01863 755 329	Bradbury Centre – 01863 776 772
Bonar Bridge Football Club - www.spanglefish.com/bonarbridgefootballclub	Bonar Bridge/Ardgay Golf Club - 01549 441363
Boys' Brigade - 01863 766 166	Bonar Bridge Local History Society - 01863 766 235
Church of Scotland – 01863 766 285	Citizens Advice Bureau - 01408 633 000
Camera Club 01863 766 223	Crofters Group - 01863 766 144
Edderton & District Gardening Club - 01863 766 061	Dornoch Academy Parent Council - 01862 821 214
Gledfield School - 01863 766580	Gearrhoille Com Wood Ardgay - 01863 766 174
Highland Councillors – see newsletter	Invercharron Highland Games - 01863 766726
Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust - 01863 766536	Kyle of Sutherland Gala Committee - www.spanglefish.com/kyleofsutherlandgalaweek
Kyle/Suth. Youth Development Group - 01863 766 310	Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Soc. - 01863 766 700
Kyle of Sutherland Cycle Club - info@koscc.co.uk	Royal British Legion, Scotland - 01549 441 374
Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club - 01549 421 282	Scottish Country Dancers – 01863 766852
Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust - 01863 766 908	SWRI – 01863 766 646
The Ladybird Club - 07927 375836	The Bridge Project – 07801 496609
Scottish Esperanto Association -01863 766 061	Tain Royal Academy PTA - 01862 892637
Sutherland Walkers Group - 01863 766 061	Ward Forum – Community Council
Windfarms –Community Council	Rosehall Community Arts - 01549 441 283
The Guild – 01863 766 469	Tain & District Rotary Club - 01863 766 285

If you know of any others and want to contribute regularly to the newsletter.

Please contact the Editor (David Hannah on 01863 766061 or at [<dhannah559@hotmail.co.uk>](mailto:dhannah559@hotmail.co.uk))

DIAL-A-BUS – 01408 641 354 – Operator - MacLeod's Coaches - Covering Ardgay/Lairg & Rosehall.

COMPREHENSIVE LEAFLETS ABOUT THIS SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE FROM HIGHLAND COUNCIL SERVICE POINTS



Service Available – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 09.00 to 12.30 & 13.15 – 15.00

How to Book – Phone the Operator at any time up to 18.00 on the day before you want to travel. You will need to state when you want to travel, where you are going to and from, and give a contact phone number. If you have a fixed appointment you can book this service many weeks in advance of travel. You can book outward and return journeys at the same time. Fares are similar to ordinary buses, and Free Concessionary

travel is available if you have a bus pass. You can be picked up from the nearest public road point to your home, (if you have a disability it is up to the Operator to decide whether the bus will come for you). The bus will come for only one passenger, (no need to fill the bus). Passengers may also be carried between this area and Dornoch or between this area and the Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie, but these journeys must be booked at least 24 hours in advance.

The Highland Council want to know if you have any comments or suggestions concerning the use of this service.

Please phone 01463 242951, (please state the date and time of any problems when you phone).

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 & Asda	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 (Asda & 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

POLICE CALL MANAGEMENT - For the information of residents within the Sutherland and Easter Ross areas.



The public numbers to contact police within your area changed with effect from 18 February 2013 and all calls to the Police will now go directly to Inverness **0845 600 5703**. A local officer will then be contacted to respond to your call.

There will shortly be a national Emergency number 101 – more details will follow when this comes into force.

For non-urgent matters - Fax: 01463 230800, **Confidential Line:** 01463 723321

Freedom of Information: Please see our [FOI access](#) page, **Textphone:** 01463 723325 (for use by people with speech or hearing difficulties), **Email:** mail@northern.pnn.police.uk

Post: Northern Constabulary, Police Headquarters, Old Perth Road, Inverness, IV2 3SY

Crimestoppers - To pass on information about crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or fill out a secure, encrypted [online form](#) via the Crimestoppers website.

Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust - SELF BUILD INITIATIVE FUND (SBIF) - Following our successful bid to the Scottish Governments Innovation & Investment Fund last year, we are pleased to announce the launch of our Self Build Initiative Fund for self-builders in the Highlands. The fund will front fund self builders with loans ranging from **£5,000 — £20,000** to help finance the start up costs of new builds. The loans are only re-payable at wind and water tight stage when standard mortgage facilities become available. It is hoped that this fund will enable the provision of Low Cost Home Ownership throughout the Highlands. An arrangement fee is payable but the loans are **interest free** and have no hidden costs. In addition to the SBIF, we also have a **deferred plot payment scheme** whereby purchasers of our plots have the option of signing a loan agreement with HSCHT agreeing to pay for the plot at a later date. For further details on the SBIF or deferred plot payment scheme, please contact morven.taylor@hscht.co.uk or tele-phone 01463 233 549.



Community Right to Build - seed corn funding - is a new process from the Localism Act aiming to help communities to deliver the development they want – homes, shops, businesses or facilities – where the benefits of the development will be retained in the community. Community groups are invited to apply for a share of the £17.5m fund which is being made available through the **Homes and Communities Agency** to help groups to formally establish, build up their development proposals and submit a Community Right to Build Order. The funding is available until the end of March 2015. Any community group or parish council can apply provided they meet certain basic standards. Community groups should first discuss their proposals with the Community Right to Build Support Hub at Locality who can be contacted through their [website](#) or on 0845 345 4564. Further details on how to apply and the requirements of the programme are detailed in our application guidance which is available to download from the website. If you have any questions about the fund in general please email them.

Contact: Homes and Communities Agency

Email: crtb@hca.gsi.gov.uk **Website:** <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/community-right-to-build>

Knowledge share events - Do you want to get involved in woodland crofting? Are you a potential crofter? or landowners/community wanting to convert land to woodland? Then these events are for you.

The Community Woodland Association (CWA), Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) and Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) will be holding 3 events between September and December (dates TBC) aimed at those interested in woodland crofts and becoming woodland crofters/landlords or making land available for this use. Each event will focus on one of the 3 main components of the scheme, and will show how that element can interact with the others, with CWA looking at woodland enterprises, SCF focusing on the crofting element and HSCHT on housing options. The seminar will be spread geographically with the venues likely to range from Kilfinnan in the South, Gairloch in the West and Tain area on the East. The events will have representatives from the 3 organisations in attendance for advice as required. For further details or to register your interest, please contact HSCHT on info@hscht.co.uk or visit the HSCHT website at www.hscht.co.uk

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

AGE UK (combining Age Concern & Help the Aged) – Products and Services for the over 50s – Travel Insurance, Home Insurance, Electricity, Personal Alarms, Stairlifts, Funeral Plan, Will & Legal Services, Annuity Service, Equity Release, Lifebook, Weekly Lottery, Charity Flowers, Bathing range. Find out more – Contact General Enquiries, Tel 0800 085 3741. www.ageuk.or.uk/information.

North, West and Central Sutherland Ward Forum – There has not been a Ward Forum since before the last Highland Council Elections, no other information has been provided.

Gazebo/Small Marquee - The Community Council have a small gazebo/marquee available for hire for community activities. Contact Marion Turner or Phil Olson 01863 766100.

Bonar Bridge Local History Society SCO 325 38 - Contact Marion Fraser. Secretary 01863 766235. Membership now stands at 16 fully paid.

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 Registered in Scotland as a Limited Company No: SC218658 Recognised as a Scottish Charity No. SC 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.

Horticulture: a Handbook for Crofters - The Scottish Crofting Federation have just brought out a handbook on horticulture which looks specifically at the problems (and opportunities) of growing fruit and veg in the Highlands & Islands. It is clearly written, beautifully illustrated and professionally produced. The articles are all by experienced growers who have made a success of producing food in the North of Scotland so the advice and tips are always practical and relevant. And it is not just for crofters! Copies are available from the S Crofters F on 01599 530005 or email hq@crofting.org. Price is £10 for members or £15 for non members.

ARDGAY PUBLIC HALL (CHARITY NUMBER 008669) **Committee** – Chairman David Laver, Caroline Sales Vice Chair/Press, Secretary/Treasurer Rhonwen Copley, Fiona Venters, Angi Banks, Gregor Laing, Jocky Hewitt, Carol Shaw, Jeannie Sparling.



Hall Committee: Ardgay Public Hall Committee would like to reassure everyone that they are still working towards the long awaited improvements; they also hope that all hall user groups and local residents will continue to contribute suggestions and comments on the planned refurbishments. Members of the committee – their contact details are displayed in the hall - are happy to discuss any details of these

refurbishments, should you so wish. Over the last year The Hall has received generous donations from several of the local Estates, and these, alongside those received from many local businesses, local residents and even from folk who regard Ardgay as home but now reside outwith the area, have all been sincerely appreciated by the committee. This generosity and the large attendance at both the Auction and the Christmas Fair last year, add up to constructive support for the committee, which they value highly.

However, there are no 'quick fixes' for the challenges ahead. So the committee will continue to strive to the best of its ability to ensure that the needs of all hall users are met, and they will also endeavor to keep hall rental charges as low as possible, for as long as possible. Any new ideas for self-help ways of fund-raising would be warmly welcomed by the committee; the date and time of their meetings are displayed in the hall.

Ardgay Public Hall – Weekly Timetable

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Ladybird Club	Post Office	Badminton – A&DCC 2 nd Monday each month
Tuesday			Scottish Country Dancing – SWRI 3 rd Tuesday each month
Wednesday			Tai Chi
Thursday			Badminton
Friday	Post Office		Boys Brigade
Saturday			Every 2 nd Saturday
Sunday			

The hall is well used in the evenings but not much during the day. I'm sure there are not many halls used through the day! But contact Fiona Ventners on 01863 766602, or any of the Hall Committee if you want fill any empty slots.

BOYS BRIGADE – 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)

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS (January 2013)

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 1	
George Farlow		
Hugh Morrison		
Linda Munro		
Community Police - Bonar Bridge Police Station Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EB		Tel : 01863 766222 Website < www.northern.police.uk/contact.html >

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. – **DESPITE this they are still doing it. 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.



Homecoming 2014 – an appeal to the drovers' diaspora ... (Article from Brigitte Geddes)



Meet Rothiebrisan Knight! Isn't he a magnificent animal?! In the 1920s this bull fetched 5,000 guineas when he left Dalmore Farm, Alness, to head for Argentina. For hundreds of years, cattle were the backbone of Scotland's rural economy, and it was an important and challenging job to take those cattle to markets like our very own Feill Eiteachan- from the remotest corners of the Highlands and Islands. As described in an excellent booklet "Remembering the Sutherland Drovers" produced by the Lairg & District Learning Centre, drovers had to be extremely clever and adaptable and often think on their feet to get a good price for their clients. Homecoming 2014 is just around the corner. In view of the local droving stance in the Gearrhoille, and the drove road leading right through it, the board of the Gearrhoille Community Wood Ardgay (GCWA) thought this

might be just the right moment to try and revive old family memories. It's well known that the history of droving had its ups and downs, especially when cattle made way to sheep, and the "iron horse" penetrated deep into the Highlands. Several waves of emigration prompted numerous drovers to make their fortune in North or South America, Australia or New Zealand. Many of them continued to ply their trade while others had put enough by to become ranchers and cattle barons in their new homeland. Although the deadline for applications to the fund of Homecoming 2014 was last September, it may not be too late to raise some money to do a joint project with Lairg & District Learning Centre, probing into the family history (genealogy) of our local families to see how many droving connections we can find. But if you, dear reader or a friend of yours, are a drover's descendant now living far from Sutherland, perhaps this article will prompt a memory of some distant relation, or some picture in a family album. In that case, would you please contact us (the GCWA) at bg@allezweb.co.uk and tell us your story?! It is so easy nowadays to get pictures scanned. You're sure to find someone who'll do that for you and send them to our email address, if you're not sure how to do it yourself ...



BRADBURY CENTRE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF COMPILING THE KYLE OF SUTHERLAND LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY TO BE INCLUDED, OR REMOVED - CONTACT THE BRADBURY CENTRE BY TELEPHONE TO 01863 766 772 OR E-MAIL TO BRADBURYDAYCARE@BTCONNECT.COM

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust –Check out the Website for information www.kyleofsutherland.co.uk/the-trust/index.php Advertising for a replacement Development Worker will start as soon as funding is secured.

As you may already know, Lynsey has now left to have her baby and I am temporarily keeping the administration up to date until the appointment of a new development officer.

With this in mind, I would appreciate if you could send details of any upcoming events/meetings/activities of which you may be aware for the 'What's on' calendar on the Kyle of Sutherland website

You can forward details by email to audrey@keycs.com or by phone 01863 766 536; or pop in to the office.

Please feel free to pass this email on to anyone you think might have something for inclusion.

Kind regards - Audrey Campbell, on behalf of Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust

Walk/Cycle for Wellbeing – Nobody sent any in this time – if you do any let me know (Editor)

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

If you are concerned about any loss of access anywhere in the Ardgay & District Community Council area please let us know.

We are working with Matt Dent Access Officer, Caithness and Sutherland, The Highland Council, Drummie, GOLSPIE, KW10 6TA, 01408 635377 & The Scottish Rights of Way Society to ensure that no existing footpaths or long term access is lost.

The Kyle of Sutherland Cycling Club – New times for club runs in 2013. Both runs will be leaving from the old Gritter Shed behind Ardgay Garage. Under 16's ride for free and must be accompanied by an adult. Adults are £1.00 a ride. After runs there will be refreshments provided by the Club. **Helmets are compulsory** and must fit correctly. First run will commence on Tuesday 2nd April and Wednesday 3rd April and weekly after that until further notice.

Tuesday Nights - Departing at 7.00pm – this is a mixed club run taking in some beautiful scenery within a maximum ride of 15 miles and usually taking 1 hour 30 minutes. Road/Hybrid bikes are preferred but not essential.

Wednesday Nights – Departing at 7.00pm – This is another mixed run taking in some stunning roads in Ardgay & Bonar Bridge areas. Runs will last approximately 1 hour and up to 3 miles on road cycling at a leisurely pace and any bike can be used.

For more information on the club please contact Chris at [<heaven.bikes@hotmail.co.uk>](mailto:heaven.bikes@hotmail.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 cc.

Text to chris@heavenbikes on : 07543 466 699.



BIG Bike Run - Total - 1200 MILES - On the 21st July 2013 2-man duo Forward Motion, consisting of Chris Bowden who works in Ardgay Garage and also owns a small Ardgay bike shop, Heaven Bikes; and Mark Campbell from Tain will set off to cycle 1200 miles around the coast of Scotland. They aim to cover this distance in 12 days, hopefully finishing on 1st August 2013, meaning they will have cycled 12 back-to-back centuries. All proceeds raised in the run up to the event and for 1 month afterwards will be donated equally between Macmillan Cancer Support www.macmillan.org.uk and The Archie Foundation www.archiefoundation.org.uk located very close to home in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Their journey will start in Tain on Sunday 21st July around 7:00 am

Day 1 : Tain - Thurso	Day 2 : Thurso - Scourie	Day 3 : Scourie – Gairloch
Day 4 : Gairloch - Fort William	Day 5 : Fort William - Lochranza	Day 6 : Lochranza - Castle Douglas
Day 7 : Castle Douglas - Selkirk	Day 8 : Selkirk – Musselburgh	Day 9 : Musselburgh - Arbroath
Day 10 : Arbroath – New Aberdour Beach	Day 11 : New Aberdour Beach - Culloden	Day 12 ; Culloden - Tain

Sutherland Remote Control Club (SRCC) - will be up and running in April 2013. We have been hard at work designing and building the all weather astro turf 1/10th Buggy Race track which is situated at the rear of Ardgay garage. We have converted the old compound into a buggy track, and the race control in the brick building. From the club Ardgay models began. This again will be run from the race control shop. We have just found out that we have secured the 3rd round of the Scottish RC championship to be held on June the 9th. 30 to 40 regional drivers will be travelling up to sunny Ardgay to race, all spectators welcome. We hope to start taking memberships in April so if you fancy a go or just to watch come down to the club or contact Paul Whittock at Ardgay garage who can advise and help you out. So weather your young or old we hope to see you soon.



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 routes that provide links/extensions to these routes.

Look forward to hearing from you. Matt Dent, Access Officer, Caithness and Sutherland, The Highland Council, Drumuie GOLSPIE, KW10 6TA, 01408 635377

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



Ledmore & Migdale Woods - Dear All, I'm writing to share some very exciting news –we have been awarded funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the E.ON Rosehall Community fund and other sources to deliver a three year 'People and Trees' project at Ledmore and Migdale Woods. This will allow us to build on our popular programme of events at the woods, which has been piloted over the past four years with support from the Forestry for People Fund. A few highlights coming up for 2013: A programme of themed 'Discovery Days' for a range of ages and interests A 2-day Woodland Heritage Workshop based around the unique character, history and archaeology of the woods (15th-16th June –save the date!) Practical conservation volunteering sessions. The grand opening of Torroy Croft – a new covered venue for picnics, activities and events. As well as events for the general public, we will continue to work with local schools and organisations, to offer activities and learning resources for children and young people in Sutherland and Ross-shire. And that's just this year..... 2014 will see an oral history project based around the woods in association with ARCH, Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands; and in 2015 we'll be celebrating the woodland's connection with Andrew Carnegie, with the help of Carnegie medal winning Scottish author, Theresa Breslin just two more things to look forward to from a packed programme. We'll keep in touch with details of events and opportunities to get involved throughout the year. If you have any questions or comments in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can reach me by email at eleanororgarty@woodlandtrust.org.uk, or our Community Woodsman, Chris Williams at spinningdalewoodsman@woodlandtrust.org.uk Kind regards, Eleanor Garty, Site Manager – Highlands

Gearrhoille 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.gearrhoillecommunitywoodardgay.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. At their first meeting of 2013 the GCWA directors were pleased to note

confirmation from Highland Council Ranger, Ian Paterson, that he will hold three events in the Gearrhoille woodland this summer. These, and any other events, will be well advertised both locally and on the website, in due course.

Unfortunately, the tricky subject of annual funding took up the rest of the meeting. When Balnagown Estate kindly gave the 33 acre woodland to the community it was necessary to establish a charitable company - GCWA - as the legal entity through which the community could own and manage the land. This company has statutory obligations and these bring with them unavoidable annual costs. Since its inception these costs have well outstripped the income from membership fees and so have been met by applications to grant bodies. This is becoming more and more difficult, as even the local Windfarm benefit funders seem to look unfavourably upon applications for running cost; only appearing interested in capital investment. Even though the GCWA contributes to the local economy by way of employment through projects and maintenance and adds value to the area as a tourist destination, by way of free public access to the woodland 24/7 and appearing on tourist information boards e.g. at the Ferry-Croft Centre. I would split up the previous sentence – it's a bit long. All this in addition to the more immediate and frequent use the woodland is put to by its members and the wider local community.

However, the GCWA directors – all of whom are unpaid volunteers – were encouraged by the news that although two other applications had been unsuccessful, £500 has been received from the Clydesdale Bank Foundation, towards the 2013-14 expenditure. Of necessity, the directors agreed submissions to other funders. The directors would welcome any ideas from the local community for realistic self-help funding projects or offers of help with small practical tasks. They can be contacted either in person or via the website.

Ardgay & District Community Newsletter Distribution (350 produced)

Area	Distributor	N0.	Contact
Ardgay Hill East	Phil Olson & Marion Turner	28	Phil & Marion
Ardgay Hill West	David Hannah	22	Editor
Bonar Bridge	Various – Post Office, Library, Bradbury Centre, Creich Surgery, Key Commercial Services, Police Station, Migdale Hospital, Business Gateway	15	Editor
Carron Place	Jeannie Sparling	24	Editor
Culrain Lower	Liz Cormack	22	Editor
Culrain to Oykel	Alan Lawrence	20	Alan
Culrain Upper	Tony Gibbs	12	Editor
David Laver	Station and Centre	8	David
Dounie to Amat	Derek Matheson	30	Editor
Gledfield – Dounie	Davy Ross	16	Editor
Highland Councillors	Editor	3	Editor
Kincardine Hill	David Knight	13	Editor
Manse/Struie Place	Peter Armstrong	26	Peter
Oakwood Place	Rhonwen Copley	22	Editor
Oakwood Place to W Fearn	Brigitte Geddes	26	Editor
Other bit of Oykel	Bob Sendal	20	Bob
Strathcarron North	Warwick Harrison	32	Editor
Cornhill	Theresa Langley	8	Editor
And of course it is available on-line at ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk		Total	347

Community Councillors - 138 Delivery to others & distributors Editor – 209 - Spare 3

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This is the **Nineteenth** (4+ x years) edition of the newsletter.
 We hope to issue 4 times per year: Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter.
Copy for the Spring issue should be with the Editor by 20th May for issue in June



Strathkyle House

£1.10

This Newsletter cost £1.10 per copy to produce and we are continually striving to reduce production costs. It is printed at the lowest cost we can find by Alness Heritage Centre. It is free and distributed by volunteers. If you feel you would like to help keep it going – with a financial contribution or donation of any amount or by advertising please contact the Treasurer or any of your Community Councillors. We have been obliged to apply for Community Benefit Funding to keep it going – or:

DO YOU WANT US TO STOP?

Newsletter Finance

Income					Expenditure	
Date	Grants	Adverts	Donations	Total	Production	Total
Totals	£5,672.00	£150.00	£79.50	£5,901.50	£6,422.10	£6,422.10

Current Balance -£520.60 Next Print – March 2013 £385.00 - Grant applied for to SSE Achany Windfarm.

ARE YOU GETTING YOURS? - If we missed you out (see Distribution List on P17) and you want to be included in future issues contact any Community Councillor or the Editor – photographs and articles are always welcome and some more feedback would be appreciated.



to

ONGOING - 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 reduce their load, (Editor).

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

