

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



No 8 – Summer Edition 2010

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



The new Minister being welcomed by the Reverend John Sterret

NEW MINISTER

to Lead Worship

The Reverend Anthony M Jones is now living in the Manse in Ardgay and conducting worship for the Church of Scotland in the Kyle of Sutherland with regular church services in Rosehall, Creich, Kincardine, Edderton and Croick and alternating around the churches with a support team helping to lead worship in the other communities. We extend a very warm welcome to Anthony, Beverley and their family to our community.

Beverley and their family to our community.

From the Chair

Welcome to the eighth edition of the Newsletter

As the newly elected Chair of what is a vibrant community council I am pleased to be able to report on some of the activities of which I will be acting, on your behalf. Ardgay & District Community Council produces an excellent Newsletter every quarter and we try to give as much opportunity as possible for people to contribute. Our website <ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org> is one of the best in Community Council land. As your Community Council we are looking to form closer links with Creich CC to carry out a range of initiatives to benefit both communities. These will include working with the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust to carry out a Community Needs Assessment for Ardgay and Bonar Bridge with Creich and Lairg CCs we are also looking at ways of employing a Project Officer to make better use of the potential benefits coming from the Windfarms e.g. setting up a Social Enterprise company to generate income to invest in our communities. If you are interested please contact us.

David Hannah

Contents

- A & DCC Minutes Précis
- Events
- Groups
- Church
- GWCA
- Windfarm Grants
- Surgery Times
- Library Timetables
- Comments etc.
- Community Councillors
- Elected Members
- Website Link



Minute from Ardgay & District Community Council Meetings of 12 May 2010

(draft for approval at 02 June Meeting in Ardgay Hall at 7.00pm)

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

In Attendance: Councillor Robbie Rowantree, Representatives from the Alladale Wilderness Reserve

Mr Hugh Fullerton –Smith Mr Innes MacNeill and Mr Jeremy Usher Smith

1) Welcome - The Chair - David Hannah opened the meeting with a welcome to members and visitors.

2) Apologies - William Maclaren.

Introduction of Speakers - The Chairperson, David Hannah introduced speakers from the Alladale Wilderness Reserve who had asked to speak to the Community Council about their plans for the development of the Reserve and the application to the Highland Council for a Zoo Licence. Members were given a plain and clear-cut presentation of reasons for the application for the Zoo Licence and the intentions to introduce new animals to the reserve. Members of the public will be invited to view the future plans and voice their opinions at a public meeting in Ardgay Hall on Wednesday 19th May, 2010.

3) Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 7th April 2010 - The minutes were approved. Proposed by Liz Cormack and seconded by David Laver.

4) Matters arising from the minutes - Ardgay Toilets David Hannah said that he has asked John Clarke to arrange for the floors of the toilets to be painted. Presentation to Ian Matheson. Liz Cormack said that this will be held on Friday 28th May in Ardgay Village Hall. David Hannah offered to produce posters to publicise the event. Sandy McCaughtrie. A gift of garden vouchers has been handed over in recognition of his retirement from the Bonar/Ardgay Fire Service. Flower Tubs, Robbie Rowantree suggested that if there is a problem in obtaining new wooden flower tubs, we might consider contacting the Green Re-cycling project in Golspie to purchase recyclable tubs.

5) Secretary's Report - The Secretary reported that she had written to the Ministry of Defence expressing concerns about low flying and a reply has been received asking if they may come and speak to us at a future meeting. *Action: The Secretary will reply*

An invitation has been sent to the Rev Anthony Jones to come and meet members at a future Council Meeting. Communications have been received from the Highland Council about:- Highland Core Path Improvement Scheme inviting Community Councils to apply for funding for core path improvement projects. *Marion Turner will make an application for help towards repairs to the footbridges at Brae and Croick*. Bilingual Path Signs. Signposting of paths that are not already signposted will shortly be carried out, and we are asked if we would like the signs to be bilingual. *The Community Council has adopted a neutral position in this matter, and no reply to the letter will be sent*. A planning application has been received from the HC Planning Service for a proposed installation of temporary 80m MET Mast at Land at Meall Buidhe 4km North of Croick. Croick Estate, Ardgay. This has also been publicised in the Northern Times. *Members raised no objections to the application*.

Gearrchoille Community Wood invitation to their AGM and Family Fun evening at Ardgay Hall on Thursday 20th May. *It was agreed that the Community council will join the GCWA as a group member*. *Action: Sec. Cllr. Robbie Rowantree agreed to see if there is any progress being made on the assessment of the reduction of speed limits particularly in relation to Manse Road, Ardgay*

6) Treasurer's Report. - Alan Lawrence said that the 2009/10 accounts have been passed to Mr Martin Calder for audit. The Committee agreed that as in previous years, in token of appreciation for carrying out the audit a donation of £50 will be made according to the preferences of Mr Calder. The Accounts stand as follows: Treasurers Account - £1780, Projects -£1801

Toilets - £520. It was noted that the Highland Council grants have not yet been received for this year. The funding of the newsletter was discussed, and it was pointed out that it could be funded from the Beinn Nan Oighrean Windfarm Community Benefit which will soon be available or an application could be made to the Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Fund.

7) Social Enterprise - This can be defined as business trading for social and environmental purposes. Principally for the purpose of investing in the community. A sub-committee of the Community Council has been formed to look into the setting up of a Social Enterprise Company. The members involved are David Hannah, Tony Gibbs, David Laver and John McMurray (Community Outreach Worker). Their first meeting will be on the 24th May, 2010. Development Worker/Trust project is about getting a project worker for Ardgay & District CC and Creich CC to set up a variety of projects to make better use of windfarm monies. This will also help with setting up the Social Enterprise Company. Obtaining funding for local businesses to support apprenticeships, to take on local youngsters to get work experience and skills training, working in partnership with UHI and Lairg Learning Centre, The Social Enterprise Academy, and David Knight, Hisez etc. Community Needs Assessment will be carried out in partnership with Creich CC and the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust to identify present and future needs, not just in housing but for the whole community.

8) Newsletter The next edition will be ready for circulation at the next meeting. Community Website. Phil Olson was congratulated on producing a clear and precise report about the Website (presented at the April meeting) the number of hits (visitors to the site) is continuing to increase. It was decided that matters relating to Community Business shall be made public on the website or in the newsletter only after discussion at Community Council meetings.

9) Any other competent business - Tony Gibbs asked if we could invite Mr Michael Baird to come and speak to the CC about support for the Invercharron Games. This will be the first opportunity we have had to discuss the matter, and it was agreed that he should be invited to come to the next meeting on 2nd June *Action: Sec. Glenmore Windfarm – (new application)* It was agreed that the public meetings on this new development had been informative and there is no need to invite speakers to our meeting. Tony Gibbs suggested that he would like to develop a Youth Council in Ardgay, to provide a platform for young people to voice their opinions.

David Laver said that a re-application for a development of 6 houses has been made for the old petrol station site in Ardgay.

Ward Forum - held on 24th April 2010 Robbie Rowantree reported that the Director of Education had spoken at the meeting about the expected shortfall in the Education Budget, which may have to lead to a rationalisation of schools. Further cuts across the board may lead to closures of libraries and Care Homes. Concerns were raised about the effect that the closure of local care homes would have on our community and those persons who rely on the care provided in residential facilities. It was pointed out that it is less expensive to provide care at home than to maintain Care Homes. This will be a subject for further discussion when results of budget decisions are made known. **The next Ward Forum will be in Scourie on the 19th September, 2010.**

Gledfield School House Marion Turner raised a concern about the empty schoolhouse at Gledfield School, and asked why it could not be made available to rent by local teachers who are in need of accommodation. *The Secretary will write to Graham Nicholls at HC for an answer to this question.* **Ardgay War Memorial** David Hannah said that the War Memorial will shortly be cleaned and tidied and repairs will be made to the lights. It was noted that the Bradbury Centre have launched their new **Community Bus Service**. Timetables and planned routes have been published.

10) Date and Time of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd June, 2010 in Ardgay Hall at 7.00pm
There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

Highland Young Musicians – some of the members (Imogen, Lindsay & Claire) of Bettyhill felt so strongly about the proposed cuts by Highland Council to existing provision of the eight regional groups that they attended the Ward Forum in Bettyhill on 24th April and 'lobbied' Hugh Fraser, Director of Education, Culture & sport. Imogen related her own involvement and experiences, here are some of her comments: "Being part of these groups gave me a lot of confidence. I was going away from home, meeting new people, making new friends, having fun and also developing a higher standard of musicianship." Why keep these groups – "The first group to start was HYRO, over 20 years ago.



More groups have developed and there has been more interest over the years. Most of our parents never had these opportunities". Save our Music. Keep music instructors and regional groups". "Preserve our heritage and culture". "Give more young folk these great opportunities". If you feel as strongly as these girls contact Norman Bolton, Music Development Officer for Highland Council, or Hugh Fraser, Director of Education, Culture & Sport and let them know you want to support the Highland Young Musicians.

Kincardine Parish Church (extracts from The Bell) –

Contact Details - Minister – The Reverend Anthony M Jones
Session Clerk/Roll Keeper – Mrs Rosalie Sutherland Tel 01862 821 320
Clerk to the Congregational Board – Mrs Babs Gemmill Tel 766 495
Treasurer/Newsletter – The Bell Editor Hilary Gardner Tel 766107



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

Church – If you would like any other information about the Church of Scotland please contact Mrs Rosalie Sutherland, Session Clerk on 01862 821 320."

KYLE PARISHES INDUCTION - February 2010 (photograph front page): Rev John Sterrett, Moderator of Sutherland Presbytery, welcomes Rev Anthony Jones as Parish Minister at his Induction Service at Creich Parish Church on Friday 26th February.

A WORD FROM THE MANSE - "COMMUNITY WELCOME" & BACKGROUND - On behalf of my wife Beverley and the family, I wish to thank you for the warm welcome received in the parish community. Ardgay and surrounding area is a beautiful place to live. I have had experience of ministering in a similar parish grouping before. When we lived in the Borders, I was looking after 5 rural churches in the parish of Hobkirk and Southdean with Ruberslaw [Bedrule, Denholm and Minto]. My last parish consisted of a very busy town church, Dunoon, High Kirk and 3 rural parishes, Innellan, Toward and Inverchaolain on the Cowal Peninsula. I am of course a busy family man with my wife Beverley and four children, Samuel and Miles attend Gledfields Primary School, Barty attends Gledfields nursery and Carys, Ardgay playgroup. The newly extended linkage will certainly be a challenge. It is good to have readers on board to share the burden of services. Ministers today covering such wide territory are being called to be more like 'administrators'. The pastoral demands for a minister, even with the assistance of session elders are huge.

MINISTER'S ROLE - I have a strong feeling that even with the current 're-defining' of roles, there will always be a place for the Parish Minister. People still ask for or 'want' the Minister in rural communities like these. The Church of Scotland call for 'the ordinances of religion': whether via the sacraments: holy communion and baptism, or moderating the session, weddings, rites of passage, the leadership of all public worship, still remain largely the prerogative of the Minister. All these 'offices' still apply and that is without mentioning pastoral work in such a scattered parish area.

I am informed my parish area is one of, if not, the largest territorial parish area in the Presbytery of Sutherland and possibly Scotland (in length some 40 miles from Edderton taking in historic Glen Calvie and Croick Church, Glen Carron to the boundaries of Glen Oykel (near Ullapool) in one direction and to Spinningdale, near Skibo in the opposite direction.

HOPES LOOKING FORWARD - "GREATER OPPORTUNITIES" - I am looking forward to being of service to the local community. Particular areas that I wish to continue to develop are mission and outreach in the parishes: pastoral support of the elderly and greater involvement with young people and local schools. My wife and I established 2 Boys Brigade Companies in previous parishes. I am therefore very pleased that a BB Company already exists in Ardgay. My eldest son Samuel has been able to continue his involvement at Company level here. I would also wish to strengthen the church and community relationship. This will mean greater opportunities for people to come together for services and, special social events to help local causes eg Migdale Hospital and the Rosehall First Responders.

I have found that being a rotarian also helps strengthen my links with the local community. I was therefore very pleased to be invited to play my part as a founding member of Tain & District Club.

CHURCH CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS - A glance at the busy church calendar provides a preview of some of the forthcoming current community highlights in the Minister's diary including the BB Prizegiving at Ardgay and the 'open air' service at the 'preaching ark', Old Edderton Parish church both at Pentecost (Sunday 23rd May); the 'open air' Songs of Praise service at Edderton on Sunday 6th June at 6.30pm and the Joint Summer 'Songs of Praise' at Rosehall Church on Sunday 1st August; the Croick Pilgrimage and Service on Sunday 8th August and the Joint Service of Holy Communion with Rosehall at Creich on Sunday 22nd August. - **REVEREND ANTHONY M. JONES**

Dornoch Firth Group of Churches Events – 'An Evening of Music, Poetry and Praise' at Dornoch Cathedral on Sunday 1st August at 8pm, featuring Reverend Anthony M Jones, Ardgay.

For my sins!, I have been asked to 'recite' some of my poetry on what will be a 'musical tour' of the UK (together with hymn singing congregational participation) There will be music provided by Sandy Macpherson, organist from the High Kirk, Dunoon and, the opportunity to share some of our best loved hymns.

Proceeds from the retiral offering will go to the Dornoch Firth Group and Rotary Foundation charities.

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

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

Juniors and Intermediates will have Tuesdays (not Thursdays)		
TUESDAYS	Juniors 6.30 – 7.30 Cost £1.00	Intermediates 7.30 – 9.00pm. Cost £1.00
Teenagers and Adults Thursdays		
THURSDAYS	Teenagers 6.30 – 8.00pm Cost £1.00	Adults 8 – 11.00pm. Cost £2.00

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

Consulting Times for appointments



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

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

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

Dental Helpline - Should you experience difficulties in registering or accessing emergency care for NHS Dental treatment, please contact the NHS Dental Helpline on 0845 6442271 or email nhshighland.dentalhelpline@nhs.net If you are not registered with a dentist and are disabled it may be that you can qualify for a fast track registration provided that you fit the dental criteria. If you get a letter from your doctor which explains your condition and disability and forward the information to the following address you may get registered sooner: The Centre for Health Science, Inverness Dental Centre, Old Perth Road, Inverness, IV2 3JH, Tel 0845 6442271.



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

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

Gledfield Primary School Parent Council's next meeting will be the AGM on 1st June at 7pm in the school, immediately followed by an ordinary meeting. Meetings are open to all parents/guardians and members of the public.

We would be especially keen to hear from parents & guardians at the next meeting, when the function of the Parent Council will undergo a review to: focus more clearly on its purpose, encourage greater parental input, become more proactive in school development




The Gledfield Primary School Parent Council meetings are open to all parents/guardians and members of the public. It meets once a term and endeavours to identify and represent the views of parents on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the welfare of the pupils.

They also raise funds and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of pupils. They are currently assisting the school to formalise a School Travel Plan, which aims to promote and support safer travel to school by foot or bicycle. A pupil sponsored cycle is also planned in May to raise money for school funds. Copies of minutes of meetings are available from the Secretary or via the school. For details of the next meeting at 7pm in the school hall please contact Rhys Llewellyn Secretary. All parents/guardians are most welcome.

Dornoch/Tain High Schools – Dornoch no news as there is a meeting this coming Thursday but some info DORNOCH ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL - Website: <http://www.spanglefish.com/DAPC/>
 Contact details for Tain Royal Academy parent council if you want: CHAIRMAN Mr Paul Hoggarth, Redstone Gables Edderton (01862 821214).

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

	2010 Whist Drive Series Participation £1.50 including refreshments. (Lessons can be arranged)	Date – The New Whist Season will start in September 2010 Kyle of Sutherland Gala Whist will be on 11th August.
---	---	---

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

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

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

Sutherland Walkers Group (SWG) – Programme

Sunday 27 June – Foinaven - 8 miles. Leader David Hannah 01863 766061	Sunday 11 July (A) Dagrums – 12 miles.(high level) Leader David Hannah 01863 766061	Sunday 11 July (B) Loch Morlich – 10 miles (low level) Leader Kirstie Gillanders 01862 810252	Sunday 25 July – Lochinver to Achmelvich - 7 miles Leader Jean Mezzetti 01862 881353
Sunday 22 August – Castletown to Harold's Tower – 9 miles Leader David Hannah 01863 766061	Sunday 26 September (A) Fuar Tholl - 10 Miles Leader David Hannah 01863 766061	Sunday 26 September (B) Achnashellach via Coulin Pass Leaders Frank & Fran Green 01549 402561	

More information from Fiona MacDonald, Secretary – 01862 810275

Bonar Bridge Library/Service Point opening times	Monday 10.00am – 12.30pm and 2.30pm – 5.00pm
Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 10.00am – 12.30pm	Thursday 10.00am – 12.30pm and 5.30pm – 8.00pm
Contact – Angi Sutherland, Service point Officer/Library Assistant, Bonar Bridge Library & Service Point, Carnegie Buildings, Lairg Road, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EA. Tel/Fax 01863 760083, Email: bonarbridge.library@highland.gov.uk	

Library Summer Activities: the *Summer Reading Challenge* runs throughout the school holidays for Primary school children. This year the national theme is "Space hop", following the 40th anniversary in 2009 of the landing on the moon. As always there will be small rewards and certificates for children completing the challenge.

There is a special summer Bookcrawl for pre-school children – ask at the Library for information. There will also be special events in the Library during the holidays – watch for posters nearer the time.



Mobile Library Edderton & Ardgay route 2010

16 June	7 July	28 July	18 August	8 September
29 September	20 October	10 November	1 December	22 December

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

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

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

17 June	8 July	29 July	19 August	9 September
30 September	21 October	11 November	2 December	23 December

Primary school children using the Mobile Library may also participate in the Summer Reading Challenge.

Culrain 2.10 – 2.45 p.m. Contact 07733300761, 01863 766709 or 01862 811585 for information about other stops.



Welcome to the Edderton and District Gardening Club.

The club continues to grow and more people are needed to help things along. If you feel you could help on any of the Committees, please contact Graham Park on 01862 821339.

Edderton Gardening Club – Restarts in Autumn 2010

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

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

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

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

Mondays & Fridays – Bonar Bridge to Lairg/Rosehall Dial-a-bus

0900, 1100, 1400, 1600 (all journeys must be pre-booked)

Tuesday – Bonar Bridge to Alness

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

Wednesday – Bonar Bridge circular via Spinningdale, Tain and Edderton

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

The Minibus has a wheelchair lift which will be available as part of the service. Additional time has been added to the timetable to accommodate this but, as it takes up to 10 minutes for the lift to load or unload a passenger there may be subsequent delays of up to 10 minutes along the route.

The services will divert on request to pick up pre-booked passengers up to a mile from the route. These journeys must be booked by 1400 on the previous working day. i.e. **1400 on Friday for Monday**, 1400 on Monday for Tuesday, 1400 on Tuesday for Wednesday, **1400 on Wednesday for Friday**.

The services will operate every week apart from Christmas and New Year.

To Book journeys Telephone The Bradbury Centre – 01863 776 772

Coming Events – Nothing received for inclusion in the newsletter that is not mentioned elsewhere. -- (If you want to advertise your group's event please send details to the Editor). One of the problems with the Ardgay & District Community Newsletter is that it is not like a newspaper with paid staff chasing round for copy. It is voluntarily produced for the Community Council and paid for by them and distributed free to each house in the Ardgay & District Community Council area by the Community Councillors and other volunteers. The editor relies on members of groups and organisations sending information they would like to pass on to the community and is always pleased to put items into the newsletter for groups and organisations, but doesn't have the time to chase them up. The majority of items in the newsletter have been sent in by groups who want to let the community know what they are/have been doing and try to encourage the community to join in. Please encourage any other groups or organisations you belong to, to send information in. If you are not resident in the 'district' you can still read the newsletter online on the: ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org website. I look forward to getting your bits and pieces for the next issue, by Monday 17th of August for distribution after the September Community Council meeting.

URGENT – Culrain Community Hall is desperately seeking a community minded person to act as Hall-keeper. Contact Margaret MacLennan, Secretary, Culrain Community Hall on 07707 571 250 for information and details of this position.

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

Police	Dornoch Road	Bonar Bridge	766222	Migdale Hospital	Lower Floor	Bonar Br.	766211
Doctors	Creich Surgery	Bonar Bridge	766379	“	Upper Floor	Bonar Br.	766843
Nurses	Creich Surgery	Bonar Bridge	766237	“	Occ Therapy	Bonar Br.	766194
Electricity	24Hr Emergency	0800	300999	Primary Schools	Bonar Br.	Bonar Br.	766219
“	Enquiries	0800	300000	“	Gledfield	Ardgay	766580
“	Customer Help	0800	300111	“	Rosehall	01549	441348
Scot. Water	24 Hr Emergency	08456	008855	Post Office	Ardgat	01349	884487
“	Customer Help	08456	018855	“	Bonar Br.	Bonar Br.	766219
H. Council	Drummuie	Golspie 01408	635370	“	Rosehall	01549	441338
“	Service Point	Bonar Bridge	766838	Bradbury Centre	Bonar Br.	Bonar Br.	766772
“	Service Point	Dornoch 01862	810491				

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

TAIN SWIMMING POOL TIMETABLE - UP TO FRIDAY 2ND JULY 2010 - TUESDAYS 1100 – 1245 OPEN SESSION

SERVICE BUS - ARDGAY – TRACC - ARDGAY

Outward	Ardgay - 11.18	Tain (Lamington Street) C - 11.40	Tracc (#) - 11.50
Homeward	Tracc (#)- 12.55	Tain (Lamington Street) G- 13.11	Ardgay - 13.30

(#) – By request Tuesdays *only*, C - Stagecoach bus to Inverness departs 11.50

G - Will wait up to 10 minutes when necessary, for arrival of Stagecoach Service 25X bus from Inverness

TRACC – Tain Royal Academy Community Complex

Swimming Pool Timetable - Contact 01862 893767 (some examples shown)

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

Links to Macleod’s Coaches - 01408 641354 – Buses to Tain

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

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

Achany Windfarm Trust	Ardgay & District Community Council	Ardgay & District Xmas Party
Ardgay Hall Committee	Art Club	Ardgay Badminton Club
Bradbury Centre	Bonar Bridge Football Club	Bonar Bridge/Ardgay Golf Club
Boys’ Brigade	Bonar Bridge Local History Society	Church of Scotland
Crofters Group	Camera Club	Gardening Club
Gearchoille Community Wood Association	Dornoch Academy Parent Council	Highland Councillors
Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust	Gledfield School PTA	Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club
Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group	Kyle of Sutherland Gala Committee	Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society
Kyle of Sutherland Initiative (KOSI)	The Ladybird Club	Mums & Toddlers/Playgroup
Other Worship Groups	Royal British Legion, Scotland	Sutherland Walkers Group
Scottish Country Dancers	SWRI	The Guild
The Bridge Project	Ward Forum	

If you are a member of one of these, or know of any others and want to contribute regularly to the newsletter please contact the Editor (David Hannah on 01863 766061 or at <tnc24@tiscali.co.uk>).

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

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

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

As the post office is a mobile operation there is only limited scope for the introduction of retail products such as stationery. Once the demand is understood then it is hoped that the Ardgay Outreach service will be able to stock a basic range of envelopes, mailing bags and posting boxes.

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

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS (01 June 2010)

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

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

June 15th – AGM in Kincardine Old Church 7.30pm

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

26th – Art Workshop – Stuart Mingham

July – Nothing scheduled at present

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

September 19th Art Workshop – Christine O’Keefe

October TBA – Exhibition – Lest We Forget

Art Workshops contact Mary Stobo 01863-766868 e. mail : mary@stobo.ultimatebroadband.net

opening times - Art Exhibition Week days 10am – 5pm, Sundays 12pm - 5pm, Lectures start at 7.30pm Admission by donation

Key

**COMMERCIAL
SERVICES**



Business Support Services Bonar Bridge



Business & Administrative Services
Accounts & Payroll Management
Event Organising
Data Capture & Management
Bulk Direct Mailing / eMailing



Photocopying
Faxing
Laminating
Emailing
Internet Access



Sage Accounts & Payroll Software
Training, Installation & Support

Contact us on:
T:01863 766536
info@keycs.com
www.keycs.com

**Drop in: Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge
(opposite the Bank of Scotland)**

THIS

(The House Inspection Service)

Registered Technical
Consultant with over 40 years
construction experience -
offers Pre sale Home Surveys,
Maintenance & Repair
Inspections with Comprehensive
Reports on Works Required -
(Your House MoT). Technical
advice provided on what your
house needs to survive.

David Hannah, Ardgay
Tel 01863 766061
Mob 07880776909



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

Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week – Gala Queen Dance to Wood and Stone will be held on Saturday 12th June, in Bonar Hall. The Gala itself is being held from the 7th to the 14th August and a fun-packed programme is promised.

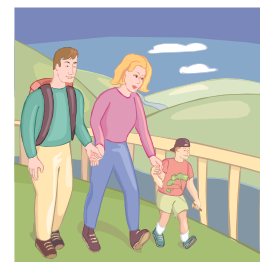
A Round Tuit - At long last, we have a sufficient quantity for each of you to have your own. Guard it with your life. These tuits have been hard to come by, especially the round ones. This is an indispensable item. It will help you become a more efficient worker. For years we have heard people say “I’ll do it when I get a round tuit”. Now that you have a round tuit of your very own, many things that have been beyond you can be accomplished and will get done.



WALK for WELLBEING

The Badvoon/Kincardine Circuit. 80 minutes. An easy walk with lovely views which starts and finishes in the village. The timings do not include stops. Wear sensible footwear.

At the War Memorial in Ardgay walk up Ardgay Hill. After Cherry Cottage fork down left to where the Alltan na Beiste burn (little burn of the beast) flows under the road on its way to feed the old curling pond in the Gearrhoille Community Wood. Continue uphill, over the cattle grid, to the top where you have beautiful views over the Kyle of Sutherland to Bonar Bridge and Dun Creich.



When the tar ends (1.2km, 15mins) at a three way junction, go straight ahead on a track to pass behind Struie Cottage. Stick to the main track walking among the recently thinned pine wood. This is the Badvoon Road. Look out for tits, crossbills and buzzards. The track ends at a gate into a green field (2.1km, 25 mins) and ahead up above the Allt Eiteachan Burn – sometimes called the Miller’s Burn - sits the house, Badvoon. As you walk down the slope towards the gate you can see the little footbridge which crosses the Allt Eiteachan Burn up near the house at Badvoon.

Go through the gate and walk straight ahead across the grass for about 150m. Cross the bridge with care and once over, walk to the left, following faint vehicle tracks, in the direction of a single birch tree where and on the left you can see a ford. At the birch, bear right heading for a clump of trees (30 mins). Cross this damp area as best you can and head diagonally up the slope to a pink marker post. Follow the grassy track with views of Migdale Rock ahead of you and Carn Bhraim behind. Soon Bonar Bridge comes into view. You reach a gate with a stile (40 mins). Cross the stile and follow the track till it meets the tarred road at another gate with a stile (45 mins). Walk down the Kincardine Hill Road till it reaches the main road (55 mins). At the main road turn left and after about 200m go into the Gearrhoille Community Wood Car Park (60mins). Once in the wood follow the yellow marker posts, past the old curling pond and at a T junction turn left out through a kissing gate along the old drove road to Oakwood Place to return to the War Memorial (80mins).

Follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code: Take responsibility for your own actions. Respect people’s privacy and peace of mind. Help farmers, landowners and others to work safely and effectively. Care for the environment.

Keep your dog under proper control.

If you have a walk you would like to feature in the Newsletter please email:

info@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Ardgay & District Community Council - Community Website Report to AGM April 2010

The A & D CC web site received its first visitor on 6th July 2009. There have been 510 visits through 31st March. That represented 279 individually recognised different visitors. They opened 2,633 pages, and viewed 5.16 pages per visit, spending 4.22 minutes on the site at each visit. Ineffective visits were 19% of the total (they only opened one page and left). The most opened pages were: 811 - The Main Page, 382 - Minutes & Agenda, 204 – Members, 103 – Newsletters, 85 - Projects we are discussing, 80 - Local links, 70 - Local events, 67 - Projects & issues. Other pages were opened fewer times. Searches from Google predominated using one or another form of 'Ardgay', 'community council' or some derivative wording. Several local web sites directed visitors to our site; highland.gov and gearrhoillecommunitywood.org predominated. Possibly the pages mostly visited (the first four above) represented success in providing what people wanted to see. If these pages are in fact called successful there may still be room to improve them. Very little direct communication with the public has been carried out to determine if these areas of the web site really are satisfying a demand. There are a few poorly developed areas of the web site, which should be improved or dropped - Projects and Issues, Links, and Events are not well developed. There is scope to improve these with input from CC members and feedback from local organisations as to what should be published and in assembling the correct information. It would not be difficult to improve these areas given guidance and input as to what was wanted. CC members may wish to similarly request improvements in other areas. Any feedback would be welcome. Phil Olson. April 2010.

Ward Discretionary Budgets 2010 -2011

Budget Balance = ££55,353.00

Ward 1 - North, West & Central Sutherland – Ward Manager – Andy MacKay

Project No.	Name of Project and Description	Total Cost of Project	WBD Cont.	Ptnr Cont.
NWCS 1/10	VGES Development Officer Support Post	22,853.00	1,000.00	21,853.00
NWCS 2/10	CASVAG Visitors Attractions Leaflet Reprint	2,720.00	360.00	1,912.00
NWCS 3/10	Gearrhoille Community Wood Curling Pond Enhancement	28,000.00	1,921.00	26,079.00
NWCS 4/10	Northlands Creative Glass Outreach Project at Farr High School	1,250.00	625.00	625.00
NWCS 5/10	Lairg Provincial Mod – Hold Mod in Lairg 2010	4,000.00	400.00	3,600.00
	Contribution Totals To date		4,306.00	54,069.00

Gearrhoille Community Woodland Association

Good News from the Gearrhoille! - If you were at the AGM for your community wood on the 20th of May you will already know. If you weren't there you may well have heard from someone who was. But if you still don't know then please take note now. The long awaited, much talked about wildlife pond, at the site of the old curling pond in the Gearrhoille woodland is about to become a reality. The necessary funding has been secured from The Sutherland Partnership Environmental Fund; The North Childcare & Family Resources Partnership and the North, West and Central Sutherland Ward Discretionary Budget. The GCWA directors wish to thank everyone involved with the funding process in all of these organisations for their help and encouragement. There is more news on the access front too. As you are already



aware, thanks to the sterling work of Matt Dent, the Highland Council Access Officer and Monty & Co of Ardgay Quarry and Plant, the vast majority of the existing footpath through the wood was upgraded last year. But round the pond and up to the burn still needs attention. Well, Awards for All Scotland have now granted the bulk of the finance necessary to improve this stretch of path and upgrade the burn crossing with a new bridge – and yes, this one will have handrails! It is hoped that the application currently lodged with the Achany Wind farm Trust for the balance of the money needed to complete this phase of works will be successful and allow the work to be carried out at the same time as the pond enhancement. To complete the upgrade of the whole of the circular footpath through the woodland a new, level access bridge to replace the existing plank crossing of the burn between the all-abilities path and the newly upgraded path on the village side of the wood, needs to be installed. Planning permission for this new structure has been applied for thanks to the help and support of Ardgay & District Community Council. There is a funding application for the bridge etc currently being processed by the People's Postcode Lottery Trust. If the GCWA is lucky enough to secure this funding too it is hoped that the work will be completed by the autumn. The plan is to keep the disturbance in the woodland to the absolute minimum. But some interruption to 'normal service' will be unavoidable. The GCWA directors hope you agree that this short term inconvenience is well outweighed by the long term benefits. More information about the woodland, its wildlife and history can be found on:- www.gearrhoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk

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

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

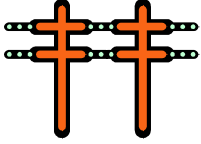
Registered in Scotland No: 263887 Scottish Charity No: SC 036 181 email: gcwa@btinternet.com

www.gearrhoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk

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

Achany Windfarm Community Benefit Fund – at the meeting on 28 April 2010 the Panel approved the application from the Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group - To support upgrade/renovation of recently acquired modular buildings. Amount Requested: £4257. Views - It was mentioned that the group has been running for a number of years and have grown steadily with the current leaders being particularly capable and committed. A concern was expressed that, as the group were heavily dependent on volunteer effort, sustainability may be a concern. It was pointed out that a youth group on Sanday (where this is another SSE community benefit fund) are keen to link with the KOSYDG and Rachel will pursue this. Decision Unanimous agreement to grant funds requested in full with no conditions attached.

HELP !Some of our 'poles' are missing – Gearrhoille Community Woodland Association had been donated 3 pieces of 'redundant' telegraph/power poles to form a gateway and height restriction barrier at the car park. While we were waiting for the better weather so that we could dig the holes for the uprights and fit the top – all 3 x pieces of pole disappeared. If you borrowed them – can we have them back – Please?



ARDGAY, CREICH & LAIRG - The Achany Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund can provide grants of between £2k and £10k for community groups in the Ardgay & District, Creich and Lairg areas of Sutherland. Both capital and revenue grants are available for projects which Strengthen and diversify the local economy through support for social enterprises, especially those that explore, test and develop activity that sensitively exploits the area's tourist potential or niche business areas. Stimulate new ideas and innovative approaches to generate growth and development and new employment. Support the acquisition, development and use of new community assets and maintain and enhance existing ones. Ensure adequate provision and/or services are available for the community that improves their life chances and/or quality of life. Support efforts that co-ordinate community activity and optimise local resources and assets. Respond to unforeseen circumstances or opportunities that are in keeping with the broad Fund aims. The scheme is administered by Scottish Community Foundation and the next deadline date for applications is **27 August 2010**. More information - <http://www.scottishcf.org/resources/funds/view/78/achany-wind-farm-community-benefit-fund/?from=All/1>

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

Wednesday	7th July	1st September	October – TBA	3rd November
------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------	--------------------------------

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

**Age 5 - 12 years old - Easter Egg Competition
There were no entries
received for the
competition.**

(so I just ate all the eggs) - Fat Editor