

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Ardgay and District Community Council

Population 598

Area 624.8 Sq Kilometers

No 12 – Summer Edition 2011

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

We had a very successful day at the Spring Fayre and thanks to Phil and Marion for conducting the 'Opinion Poll' details shown inside.

In April we had our AGM and sadly Davy Ross resigned after many years of service – THANKS Davy. Fortunately Jeannie Sparling offered to serve on the Community Council until the next Elections – to be held in November.



Phil with the A&DCC Stand at the Spring Fayre

From the Chair

Welcome to the Twelfth edition of our Newsletter

As we start another session, following the AGM in April we are preparing, yet again for major change. The Scottish Government, have set out a programme for re-structuring all of Scotland's 1200 Community Council's.

From July details will become available as to how this is to be done, but we will all be dissolved and there will be elections in November.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to effect change by standing for election, nominating others and voting in those elections. We feel we are doing a good job in helping to manage the daily affairs our community, keep you informed and involve you in what is happening. November will be your chance to say whether we have done a good job, or if you know someone who could do it better.

More information will be coming in the next newsletter and we hope to be able to include nomination forms.

David Hannah

Contents

- A & DCC Minutes Précis
- Events
- Groups
- Church
- GWCA
- Gledfield Primary
- Windfarms
- Surgery Times
- Library Timetables
- Development Report
- Community Councillors
- Elected Members
- Website Link
- Youth Group



ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AGM Report - The Annual General Meeting of Ardgay and District Community Council was held on 12th April in Ardgay Hall.

Chairman David Hannah opened his report with a warm tribute to the contribution of his predecessor Tony Gibbs, who had been forced to resign in 2010 through ill health. The huge increase in the number of wind farm proposals had generated a great deal of work for the community council, but was also making possible the creation of a new Development Trust for the Kyle of Sutherland, which would have the potential to generate long term benefits for the area. The community council would continue to work closely with neighbouring councils on this and other initiatives such as the Achany wind farm panel and the Stephen Mouat Memorial Fund. Thanks were offered to everyone involved in helping produce and distribute the community newsletter, to Phil Olson for his excellent work on the website, and to our three Highland Councillors Robbie, George and Linda and ward manager Andy Mackay for all their support in the past year.

Members of the community council continued to represent Ardgay and District on the boards of a wide range of voluntary organisations, including Voluntary Groups East Sutherland, the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust and the Scottish Youth Hostels Association. The Chairman particularly wanted to thank Doreen Gibbs, who was standing down from the role of secretary, for her valued service and welcomed her offer to continue as a member of the community council until the elections in November. In conclusion he offered his appreciation for all the help he had received throughout the year from the residents of Ardgay and District who did so much that was often un-recognised. Office bearers were elected for the period up to November 2011, when fresh public elections will be held to mark the adoption of the new Community Councils Scheme. The new scheme will for the first time extend the right to vote and stand for election to any local resident over the age of 16. Office Bearers from April 2011 to November 2011 were proposed and adopted as follows:- David Hannah (Chair), Doreen Gibbs (Vice Chair), Peter Armstrong (Secretary) and Alan Lawrence (Treasurer). Voting and nomination arrangements for the election in November will be advertised as soon as these are confirmed by Highland Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting - Monday 09 May 2011 in Ardgay Hall

Present: David Hannah (Chair), Doreen Gibbs, (Vice Chair), Peter Armstrong (Secretary), Derek Matheson, Phil Olson, Marion Turner, David Laver, Liz Cormack, Jeannie Sparling.

Guest Speaker - Keith Legge, Markus Riebicke-Carrington Highland Area Manager.

Members of the Public: Louise Worthy, Sheila Rhind, Alan Rhind, Sandy Chalmers

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

2 Mr Keith Legge, Chief Executive of SYHA had agreed to attend the meeting to discuss issues arising from the present closure for repairs of the Carbisdale Castle hostel following weather damage sustained during the winter. Mr Legge was accompanied by SYHA Northern Services Manager, Markus Riebicke-Carrington. Mr Legge gave a brief overview of the Association's activities - around half a million people a year used the hostels, roughly one third each from Scotland, the rest of the UK and overseas (mainly Europe). The organisation employs 260-290 staff in high season, around 170 of whom are employed all year. Accommodation ranges from a 20 bed cottage at Loch Ossian to a 300 bed hostel in central Edinburgh. Carbisdale Castle itself can cater for 150 guests. SYHA is the largest provider of accommodation for school activities, catering for parties from within and outwith the UK. The severe cold and abrupt thaws last winter had resulted in water damage to all three floors of the North wing, which was *fortunately a less ornate part of the building. The strip-out of damaged areas had now been completed, but Mr Legge said the pace of the repairs was being dictated by the requirements of the insurers, and the current estimated date for reopening was the beginning of August 2011.* There followed a question and answer session covering several issues. Mr Legge described the ways in which he felt Carbisdale contributed to the local economy, by promoting the accommodation and activities available at the castle, and by serving as a tourist information centre for the area. He felt that the local area needed a greater range of visitor attractions to satisfy the needs of the increasing number of young families holidaying within the UK. He did not feel that the hostel was having a negative impact on local businesses by holding occasional licensed events. He said any promotional materials for local businesses would be displayed at the Castle if space was available. While he himself did not see wedding receptions as an appropriate role for the hostel, they were an important source of revenue in an increasingly difficult economic climate; the idea of running theme weekends in the winter was also being discussed. £80,000 was to be spent on restoring the castle clock to working order, and there were plans to build some Yurts on land within Carbisdale Forest. The Chair thanked Mr Legge for his contribution and hoped to see good communications established between SYHA and the community as regards events and developments at the castle.

3. Apologies were received from Alan Lawrence, William MacLaren and Cllr George Farlow, who has also submitted apologies on behalf of Cllr Linda Munro.

4. Minutes of the last meeting held on 11 April 2011 were approved after clarification of amendments.

5. Matters arising from the minutes - Nothing arising not already on the agenda.

6. Chair's Report - The Chairman had no items to report beyond what was on the agenda.

7. Secretary's Report - The secretary had received two consultation documents from Highland Council, namely the *Highland Development Plan Scheme 2011* and the *Draft Supplementary Guidance for Onshore Wind Energy*. Closing date for submissions to both consultations was 24 June 2011.

8. Treasurer's Update

Treasurers account Current cleared balance £887.40 Outstanding liabilities £0

Projects account Current cleared balance £2174.80 Outstanding liabilities £0 Recent Deposit £20

Toilets account Current cleared balance £649.58 Outstanding liabilities £190

The 2010/11 accounts have been audited and sent to the Highland Council for approval. The treasurer had proposed that a donation be made from funds to the *Help for Heroes* charity at the request of the auditors. The donation was approved.

9. Kyle of Sutherland Development Service - The first Board for the new Development Trust is now in place. Marion Turner will act as the representative for Ardgay Community Council.

10. Windfarms update

Rosehall - Doreen Gibbs would attend the next meeting of the Liaison Group. It was noted that Pete Campbell (Creich CC) and David Walker (Lairg CC) had attended a meeting with Scottish Community Foundation, after which agreement had been reached to set the level of benefit paid at the rate of £2500 per MW. Members were interested to know how this figure had been arrived at, and what had been discussed at the SCF meeting, from which there had been no feedback.

David Hannah said he had been trying to arrange a meeting with Edderton and Ardross CCs to discuss a shared strategy in any future negotiations. He still believed there was a need for a community champion to coordinate local policy on the issue of windfarms. It was agreed to write to the Association of Community Councils to ask if they could help in this process, and to invite their Highland representative to our next meeting.

Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Benefit Applications - *Dornoch Firth Group – Bridge Project* re-submitted a revised application for a grant of £426 for a holiday activity programme for children. The application was approved.

12. Oakwood Place-Ardgay Hill Footpath - Doreen Gibbs reported that Eon, developers of the Rosehall windfarm proposal, had awarded us £800 towards this project from their community projects fund. Marion Turner had applied for the remaining £400 required from the Ward Discretionary Fund, and had been asked who would be responsible for the maintenance of the path. David Hannah said he had understood Highland Council would adopt the path, but the Ward Manager had said this was not the case. Balnagowan Estates have already made it clear that while they can help with materials, they are unable to maintain the path. It was agreed to inform the Council that the Community Council would assume responsibility for the upkeep of the footpath if the Council provided us with adequate funding. Doreen Gibbs to inform the Council of this decision.

13. Migdale Hospital - There is to be an Open Day for the general public on 8th June to mark the opening of the new hospital.

Collection tins for the Stephen Mouat memorial fund would be left in local shops till the end of May.

14. Members' responsibilities - This item was held over until the next meeting.

15. Newsletter - David Hannah reminded members that the deadline for submissions for the summer newsletter was 16 May. This edition would be kept fairly short to contain costs. Marion suggested an item explaining the procedure for the election of a new community council in November. Doreen wondered about an item offering local B&Bs a link from the community council's website.

16. Any other competent business

Invercharron Games - Phil Olson had been asked if the community council wanted to have a stall at the Invercharron Games again this summer. After discussion it was agreed that on the basis of last year's experience, this was not a worthwhile exercise. David Hannah proposed asking the new Development Trust if they would want to take up the offer instead.

Planning - Members commented that there had been no notice of local planning applications this month. The secretary agreed to notify the Council and ask for these to be sent as required.

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society - David Laver had been asked to do some work for Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society in connection with a project to document Kincardine Graveyard. He wondered whether the OS sheets he required could be purchased at the concessionary price available to the CC. This was approved by members.

Highland Council - Cllr Farlow had been asked to obtain an update on plans for Gledfield Schoolhouse. The Education service had provided the following statement: *"The schoolhouse is unoccupied and is under the consideration, like all schoolhouses, of the Property Board. It is a difficult house to dispose of because physically attached to school."*

Lady Ross Post Box - Phil Olson wondered if we could ask for the local post box to be repositioned given the uncertain future of the Lady Ross site. It was agreed to seek the opinion of local postmen about a possible alternative site and then write to Royal Mail.

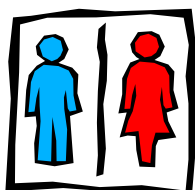
Spring Fayre - Phil Olson reported on the stall he and Marion had hosted for the community council at the Ardgay Hall's Spring Fair. In the course of the event, they had conducted an informal survey asking members of the public what they would like to see for Ardgay.

The priority expressed by over a third of those polled was to see a new shop in the village. More details available on our website

<http://ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk/cc/told/> .

The meeting ended at 9.15pm. Next meeting will be at 7pm on Mon 13th June in Ardgay Hall

"These conveniences deserve full marks!"



So said a visitor from Inverness in his letter to the Northern Times. In his letter he praised the pristine condition and small basket of pot pourri in the gents. Our visitor also remarked that we seem to suffer less from vandalism than elsewhere, but that this does not detract from the effort taken by Jeannie Sparring on behalf of Ardgay & District Community Council to provide such a high level of care for what is our civic amenity.

(Due to copywrite regulations I have not fully reproduced the letter as it appeared in the Northern Times, but we do thank Jeannie regularly for her excellent work - Editor).

Kincardine Parish Church

Contact Details - Minister-The Reverend Anthony M Jones, revanthonymjones@amserve.com

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

Clerk to the Congregational Board – Mrs Babs Gemmill Tel 766 495, **Treasurer** Hilary Gardner Tel 766107

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

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



GREETINGS FROM THE MANSE – My wife Beverley and I are always glad to see the seasonal visitors at church. How fortunate we are, who live and work here, to live in a holiday area; the boundless opportunities for quiet walks, the restaurants and hotels, golf for the hardened 'pro' and the smallest beginner, the lovely gardens and forest parks, castles and so much more. Nor should we forget to visit our historic old parish churches like Croick & Kincardine, (now a Heritage Centre). During the Summer months there is a monthly service on the *second Sunday at 3pm at Croick. In Summer the visitors book fills up with cosmopolitan signatures and comments! But whether we live in an unspoilt holiday area like Sutherland or not, we all need a holiday - a slackening of the pace with, sometimes a change of scenery! Even Jesus and his disciples took a holiday to escape the constant pressure of the immense crowds which followed them (cp.Matt. Ch 15 v30). Always there were their incessant demands for the healing of the lame, the blind, the dumb, the crippled and many others, "and they cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them". What a welcome break those few days abroad, beside the sea, must have been. They needed peace, relaxation and a renewing of body, mind and spirit in the sea air of Tyre and Sidon. Nor were they too self-centred to minister to the needs of the Syro-Phoenician woman who came pleading with Jesus to cure her poor demented daughter. Nor did He turn away disappointed (cp Matt 15.21) When we go on holiday, let us go on holiday with Jesus ie seek that refreshment he offers all who are worn out with their daily labours, frustrations and worries. (cp Matt 11.28). Whether we travel from hundreds of miles inland to spend our holiday here in Ardgay or abandon Ardgay for a few days in favour of distant moor or mountain, let us not forget to seek above all that spiritual refreshment that only Jesus can give - the refreshment of the soul, the inner self. "Come unto me all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you." With Every Blessing for the Holiday Season Anthony

CHURCHES CALENDAR [June to August] **Sunday 19th June** – Rosehall Church BBQ following Morning Worship at 12 pm **Sunday 26th June** – Old Edderton Church Preaching Ark' Service. **Sunday 7th August** – Flower Festival at Creich Church 3pm. Service by the River (Stonehenge). **Sunday 14th August** – Croick Pilgrimage (Holy Communion) Walk to the Historic Church from Amat and/or join the church service at 3pm. **Sunday 14th August** The Big Sing' at Dornoch Cathedral at 7pm An evening of new hymns of praise composed by Rev Anthony Jones & John Brozovsky, together with well known 'old favourites' (accompanied and conducted by Sandy Macpherson) **'The Link'** Churches of the Kyle Newsletter - There is exciting news for the community as there is to be a new newsletter for the extended linkage of Kincardine, Croick and Edderton linked with Creich and Rosehall. The target date for the first issue is July. It is hoped to produce two issues a year. This will include details of events, services and community life. If you have any articles of interest for inclusion please send by email to David Hannah, <dhannah559@hotmail.co.uk>. or any hard copies may be passed to the Minister at church or c/o. Rev Anthony M. Jones The Manse, Manse Road, Ardgay, Sutherland IV24 3BG email: <revanthonymjones@amserve.com> Tel: 01863 766285

The Bridge Project - (Dornoch Firth Group – Scottish Charity Number SC034932). The Dornoch Firth Group was established in 2007 by the six Church of Scotland Parishes around the Dornoch Firth, (Kincardine, Creich, Edderton, Rosehall, Croick & Dornoch). **"Good Morning Sutherland"** – This service has been designed to reduce isolation, experienced by some of the over 50's, who live alone in our communities. It is a service to reassure you that someone will check on you every day, with a telephone call from one of our trained team. If your "Good Morning Sutherland" call is not answered, we will call again in a few minutes. If there is still no answer after a third call, we will contact your agreed contact person. (There is no charge for the service). Referrals can also be made from various services such as Medical Services, District Nurses, Doctors' Surgeries or local Churches, of any denomination. **Volunteers wanted** – If you would like to give time to supporting and assisting with this service, or give a donation to cover administration costs. **Contact** – John McMurray, Community Outreach Worker, Wilalimar, Rowan Avenue, Dornoch, IV25 3QW, Tel 07801496609, e-mail johnmcmurray@yahoo.com

Kincardine, Croick & Edderton Guild (Charity No SC016877) – We at the Guild invite you to come along to our sessions – usually the 2nd Tuesday of each month except December & January at 7.30pm in Ardgay Church Hall. We have speakers, demonstrations and slide shows, and always a cup of tea and a chat - Contact for details – Mrs Isobel Adlard Tel 01863 766 469.

Highland Councillor Note - The local members of the Sutherland Branch of the SNP would like to thank all in Ardgay and District for their kindness and forbearance during the Scottish Parliamentary Campaign. We would also obviously like to thank those who voted for us and helped us to return an historic majority in the Scottish Parliament. We do not forget those in other parties who did not achieve their aspirations and hope they noted the First Minister's welcome that we in SNP do not have a "monopoly of wisdom." The next Highland Council Elections are in May 2012 and of course Ardgay and District Community Council Elections later this year in November. The mantra "vote early, vote often" seems to be coming true! Regards **Councillor George Farlow**, North West and Central Sutherland Ward Highland Council SNP Group Planning Environment Development Spokesperson, Tel no: 01854 612780 mobile: 07765921741 Website: highlandsnp.org



Mixed Doubles Cup & Plate 2011

Cup Winners

George MacLeod
& Kirsten MacKinnon

Runners Up

Helen MacKenzie
& Kevin MacLean

Plate Winners

Fiona MacLeod
& Liam Munro

Runners Up

Jackie Sutherland
& Neil Sutherland

Juniors and Intermediates will have Tuesdays (not Thursdays)		
TUESDAYS	Juniors 6.30 – 7.30 Cost £1.00	Intermediates & Ladies - 7.30 – 8.30/8.30 – 10.00pm. Cost £1.00 & £2.00
Teenagers and Adults Thursdays		
THURSDAYS	Teenagers 6.30 – 8.30pm Cost £1.00	Adults 8.30 – 11.00pm. Cost £2.00

SWRI (Scottish Women's Rural Institute) SWRI – Ardgay - Contact for details – Mrs Jean Jack Tel 01863 766 646.

Culrain and Invershin in the Culrain Hall the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Contact Marjory Matheson - 01863 766 600

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

Consulting Times for appointments



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

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

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

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.



Replacement Migdale Community Hospital Project – Robertson Highland Contractors Update

Open day took place on 9 June and transfer of patients from the Old Migdale are proposed for later this month.

(Contacts – Robertson Highland Limited 01863 769010 e-mail migdale@robertson.co.uk).

Gledfield Primary School - Gledfield Primary Parent Council: email

gledfield@scottishparents.com

Office bearers: Chair: Vacant, Vice-chair: Vacant, Secretary: Rhys Llewellyn, Treasurer: Jacqueline Sutherland. Teacher Member & Headteacher - Kirsten McGruer, Headteacher - (To Ardgay & District Community Council – “A BIG thank you from all the staff and pupils at Gledfield Primary for your very generous support to help us purchase much needed resources – March 2011). Photo – Pupils in P1-3 are already enjoying learning about digital and analogue time using our new active maths on our interactive whiteboard. Our maths are now active and fun!!



Dornoch/Tain High Schools – Dornoch information: DORNOCH ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL - Website:

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

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

Police	Dornoch Road	Bonar Bridge	766222	Migdale Hospital	Lower Floor	Bonar Br.	766211
Doctors	Creich Surgery	Bonar Bridge	766379	"	Upper Floor	Bonar Br.	766843
Nurses	Creich Surgery	Bonar Bridge	766237	"	Occ Therapy	Bonar Br.	766194
Electricity	24Hr Emergency	0800	300999	Primary Schools	Bonar Br.	Bonar Br.	766219
"	Enquiries	0800	300000	"	Gledfield	Ardgay	766580
"	Customer Help	0800	300111	"	Rosehall	01549	441348
Scot. Water	24 Hr Emergency	08456	008855	Post Office	Alness	01349	884487
"	Customer Help	08456	018855	"	Bonar Br.	Bonar Br.	766219
H. Council	Drummuie	Golspie 01408	635370	"	Rosehall	01549	441338
"	Service Point	Bonar Bridge	766838	Bradbury Centre	Bonar Br.	Bonar Br.	766772
"	Service Point	Dornoch 01862	810491				
Community Development Service – Lynsey Mailer			Tel 07961046715		e-mail <lynseymailer@gmail.com>		



Scottish Country Dancing – Starts again in October 2011 on Mondays from 8.00pm, beginners from 7.30pm in Ardgay Hall please contact Doreen Bruce – Tel 01863 766852 for information. *Spring 2011 Rally photo- over 60 dancers and friends in Ardgay Hall*

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



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

SUNDAY 26 JUNE - <u>Walk A</u> : Ben Stack. 721m / 2365ft. OS 9 297402 Paths and rough hill. 4 miles, linear. Leader: David Hannah : 01863 766061 <u>Walk B</u> : Low level walk to Lone. Leader: Bruce Field : 01408 633118 Meet for car share at:- The Mound 08.30 : Lairg 08.50 The walks start from Achfary at 10.30		SUNDAY 10 JULY : Summer Special <u>Walk A</u> : Heights of Dochcarty. OS 20 520610 Paths and rough hill. 10 miles, circular. Leader: David Hannah : 01863 766061 <u>Walk B</u> : Low level walk Dingwall / Strathpeffer area. Meet for car share at:- Tain Co-op 09.30 The walks start at 10.30 High Tea after walks at Red Poppy Restaurant, Strathpeffer <i>Please ring secretary at least one week in advance to book.</i>	SUNDAY 24 JULY <u>Walk A</u> : Kylestrome to Maldie Burn OS 15 218345 8 miles, circular. Leader: Mark Fraser : 01862 810958 <u>Walk B</u> : Kylestrome to Glendhu 8 miles, linear. Leader: Annette Parrott : 01549 402095 Meet for car share at:- The Mound 09.00 : Lairg 09.20 The walks start from Kylestrome at 10.30 Optional meal after the walks at The Kylesku Hotel <i>Please ring Annette Parrott at least one week in advance to book</i>
SUNDAY 28 AUGUST <u>Walk A</u> : Quinag – Sail Garbh - Spidean Coinich. 764m / 2506ft. The walk starts from old quarry on east side of A894 OS 15 232272 6 miles, circular. Leader: Stan Holroyd : 01408 621370 <u>Walk B</u> : Inchnadamp area. The walk starts from the car park at Inchnadamp OS 15 252216 Leader: Bruce Field : 01408 633118 Meet for car share at: The Mound 09.00 : Lairg 09.20 The walks start at 10.30		SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER South Sutor, Cromarty, via Nigg Ferry. OS 21 789676 5 miles, circular, steep paths in places. Leader: Jon Jenkins : 01862 810382 Meet for car share at:- Tain Co-op 09.30 Ferry cost : £6 return / Free on production of Highland Council Bus Pass	
Winter Programme - Walks Planning Meeting : October to March Wednesday 7 September 2011 : 7.00pm Golspie Community Centre			

"Housing and people - the future of rural communities"

Joint event between HSCHT and TPAS Scotland – 10 & 11 June- MacDonald Resort, Aviemore. We often see housing as something which is special and separate, we forget that we live in communities and that housing and communities are special! This event will challenge and inform anyone with an interest in housing and developing local communities - Landowners, contractors, community land trusts, councillors, tenants, community councillors, housing staff and people who live and work in rural communities! . The conference will end with a presentation and questions from Chief Secretary to the Treasury: Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP. To reserve you place, please visit our website www.hscht.co.uk click on the booking link or contact Elaine Scoular on 0141 552 3633.

Rosehall Community Arts – Events Programme. (during village hall closure in Church, Achness Hotel, Invershin Hall)

Thu 28 July – Robin Colvill, Classical Pianist, Church, 7.30pm £8/£6	Sat 13 August – Ross Sutter, US Singer, Achness Hotel, 7.30pm £8/£6	Sat 17 September – Splinters Theatre, Drama, Invershin Hall 8.00pm £8/£6
Wed 28 September – Phil Drane, Singer/Guitarist, Achness Hotel, 7.30pm £8/£6	Wed 19 October – School of Scottish Studies, Archive Project, Achness Hotel, 7.30pm £8/£6	Sat 29 October – Mick Ryan & Paul Downes, Singers, songwriter, guitarists, Achness Hotel, 7.30pm £8/£6

Contacts for information Dave Goulder 01549 441283, Lily Byron 01549 441291

Support local producers at Dornoch Farmers' Markets on Saturday Mornings - 18 June, 2 & 16 July, 6 & 20 August

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

29th June	20 th July	10th & 31st August	21st September
12th October	2nd & 23rd November	14th December	

Culrain 2.10 – 2.45pm, Strathoykel & Strathcarron - Thursdays

30th June	21st July	11th August	1st & 22nd September
13th October	3rd & 24th November	15th December	

During term-time the Mobile Library visits Gledfield Primary School. During holidays pupils are welcome to use the Mobile Library at other stops, provided they have their Library tickets. Contact 07733300761 or 01862 766838 for information about other stops times.

Summer Activities – All children are invited to join the circus and take up the summer reading Challenge, at the Mobile Library or at Bonar Bridge Library. There will also be events as Bonar Bridge – look out for details or contact the Library.

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

VG-ES (Voluntary Groups East Sutherland) - for information on Third Sector groups and organisations. helping to keep you in touch with the wider world. Tel 01408 633001 FAX 05601 146813 or e-mail ann@vges.org.uk - liz@vges.org.uk - christine@vges.org.uk
Sadly – this month we say goodbye to Ann Keatinge who is retiring for her role as Manager after almost 20 years, and we give a warm welcome to Christine Ross who has been appointed to replace Ann. 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.

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
-----------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------

Will take: Cans, car batteries, engine oil, fridges, garden waste, gas cylinders, glass, paper – for advice on other items call 01349 868439.

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

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

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

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

Tain - Highland Hospice, 11 King Street, Tel. 01862 894216. (clothes, books, bric a brac etc.)

(let me know if there are any others – editor)

Thinking of Volunteering – there are many opportunities in our area and these are only a few.

The Bridge Project - Hi everyone - Over the last few months I have been working on developing a social gathering place for people with learning difficulties. I have met with around 40 people with learning difficulties and a range of professionals and carers. Before I can start this new activity I need volunteers. As the ratio of volunteers to clients is going to be around 1:1 I will need around 10 to 15 volunteers each evening. So not to be a major commitment if we have 40 to 60 volunteers, each volunteer need only be on duty once a month. Would you be interested? Or do you know someone who might be interested? The plan is to start the club on Wednesday 28th September meeting in the Dornoch West Church Hall each Wednesday evening from 7pm to 9pm. Each week we will be pursuing something different, crafts, sports, drama and performing arts, cooking, quizzes, bingo, visiting speaker and outings. This will be needed to ensure that those with learning difficulties will have somewhere to meet their friends. We will be running a training evening for all volunteers on Wednesday 14th September. We have 9 volunteers already, of which 7 are new to the project. As we will need to disclose all the volunteers, and this takes about 2 months to recruit and disclose folk, we need to start to identify folk now. Can you help me by putting this opportunity before some folk, and asking them to contact me if they are interested, or know someone I should approach? Thanks John John McMurray, Community Outreach Worker, The Bridge Project, Dornoch Firth Group, Scottish Charity Number SC034932 WILALIMAR, Rowan Avenue, Dornoch, IV25 3QW, Home & Work 01862-810835, Personal mobile 07801496609 johnmcmurray@yahoo.com.

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 not matter what you do next. You don't need special skills or knowledge to be an adviser, as you 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

HOST – An inviting opportunity for you – welcome and international student for a weekend to share your way of life and learn about another culture. Contact Joan Mackenzie, Aultgowrie House, Aultgowrie, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire, IV6 7XA, Tel 01997 433291.

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

2011 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)

**Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week Whist on
Wednesday 10th August 2011 7.30pm in
Bonar Bridge Hall**

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

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

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

Tuesday – Bonar Bridge to Alness

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

Wednesday – Bonar Bridge circular via Spinningdale, Tain and Edderton

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

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

KOSI/Development Trust - The Achany Apprenticeship scheme has so far been a great success with the current placements at Ardgay Garage and WM Munro Plumbing & Heating well into the first year of their apprenticeships. Lynsey Mailer, who provides the community development service for the Kyle of Sutherland is now the main point of contact for the scheme and is working with the businesses to establish some monitoring procedures that will be useful to the business and also the Achany Panel. Lynsey has identified a lot of interest in the scheme from both local businesses and residents within the area. The plan for 2011 is to secure at least four new apprentice placements within the Kyle of Sutherland. The scheme is a fantastic way of providing excellent training and job opportunities for young people within the community, while supporting local businesses through staffing solutions. The Achany Apprenticeship Scheme makes it easier for businesses to take on apprenticeships through offering to cover the costs of apprenticeship college attendance and related expenses. Providing there is enough ongoing interest and adoption of the scheme there is huge opportunity for further funding to be made available to support its growth. A win-win situation for this area. The Panel is in the process of commissioning a study by Rural Insights that will help establish the longer term feasibility of the Scheme. If any businesses and/or individuals are interested in applying for the apprenticeship scheme or wish to find out more about the feasibility study please contact Lynsey on Tel. 01863 766908 / 07961 046715 development@kyleofsutherland.co.uk

Bradbury Centre - We are now running a car wash service;

Mondays & Wednesdays between 9am and 2pm

Fridays between 11am and 1pm

£5 per car



Rotary Club of Tain & District (Building Communities & Bridging Continents) is looking for new members. What do Rotarians do?



They are volunteers who work to make life better locally, regionally and internationally; to get rid of poverty and hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training and work for world peace. Younger people can also participate in Youth programmes such as Rotaract, Rotary Youth Exchange and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and Interact Rotary International's service club for young people aged 12-18. – For more information Contact Rev Anthony M. Jones The Manse, Manse Road, Ardgay, Sutherland IV24 3BG, Tel: 01863 766285 email:

revanthonymjones@amserve.com

Edderton and District Gardening Club. Meets on the first Monday of the month, in Edderton Village Hall at 7.30pm and anyone interested in gardening is welcome to attend. Contact - Bronwen on 01862 821288 for more information.

WINDFARMS

Beinn Tharsuinn – See A&DCC Draft Minute

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



Achany – The Achany Panel continues to work towards ensuring effective distribution of the £76,000 annual fund that supports activity in the three community council areas of Ardgay and District, Creich and Lairg. Current Panel members from Ardgay & District include David Hannah and Marion Turner representing the Community Council and Betty Wright and Hilda Buchanan representing the wider community. Creich is in the process of recruiting two community member representatives to work alongside their Community Council reps who are Pete Campbell and Clare Bruce. Lairg is represented by David King and Barbara Watson from the community and David Walker from the Community Council. Lairg is also recruiting a second community council representative. As well as advising on grant awards, the Panel discusses the wider development of the area and considers where and how the Fund might be able to influence and support strategic initiatives that help strengthen the area's economic and social potential. That accounts for their development of the Achany Apprenticeship Scheme which is in a pilot phase at the moment. Part of this 'testing out the idea' phase' involves looking at the longer term feasibility of the scheme in the coming months. Over the last year one key area the Fund supported was various refurbishment initiatives for the Invershin and Bonar Bridge Community Halls, with some funds also allocated to Rosehall's refurbishment project. This is important work that will help ensure these vitally important community facilities can host and support community activity for many years to come. Within Ardgay, the Gearrhoille Community Wood Ardgay has recently reported how their Achany grant helped improve access within the woodland by assisting with work for the new approach path and bridge in the north west part of the woodland. For further information about the Fund please contact any of the Panel members locally or make contact with Rachel Searle-Mbullu at the Scottish Community Foundation (0141 341 4961 or rachel@scottishcf.org) who supports the Fund's management and administration through the Scottish Community Foundation. The next deadlines for applications are 11 July and 10 October. Application forms are available from the Bonar Bridge Service Point or from www.scottishcf.org/achany.

Achany Wind Farm - Community Benefit Fund - News Update Welcome to our new regular news update, which will provide information about the Achany Fund and how it is being used across the Kyle of Sutherland to make the area a more vibrant place to live, work, visit and do business. **Recent awards** - At the last Panel meeting in March, a grant of £14,997 was awarded to **Lairg & District Learning Centre**. The grant will help pay the salary of a new position at the Centre that will focus on expanding the Centre's work. The last year has been an exciting period of growth for the Learning Centre. The **Learning to be Enterprising** project, supported in part through previous Achany funding is helping people develop their skills and understanding around running businesses and is proving to be a valuable local resource. The grant also contributed towards central coordination costs and helped it move towards the new structure and governance arrangements under which it now operates and seeks to grow. To find out more contact Cara Cameron on 01549 402050 or by email: cara-lairglearningcentre@hotmail.com Another recent award is supporting the new post of a part-time administrator for **Lairg Community Association** over the next two years. To find out more contact Michelle Grover-Smith on 01549 410000 or lairgcommunitycentre@hotmail.co.uk **Village Halls** - Awards were also made over the last year to some of our **valuable local halls**.

Grants totalling £24,000 have been made to the groups running the halls in Rosehall, Bonar Bridge and Invershin for various upgrades and improvements that we're all benefiting from and will do for years to come. The Panel has done an initial survey about use of our various halls with a view to encouraging more collaboration between them. To find out more or if you want to get involved in this please contact Michelle Grover-Smith using the details above. The Panel Dates for grant applications for 2011 – Applications Deadlines, 11 July, 11 October. Meanwhile if you'd like to find out more about the Fund please contact either David Hannah or Marion Turner (Community Council Members)

Rosehall - EoN plan to start building later this summer. Road development is already under way. They intend to be operational by early next year. Community Benefit has been agreed at £2500 per installed MW, they will be installing about 30 MW (though not absolutely certain about that figure). The money will be managed by SCF in exactly the same way as that of the Achany fund and will be distributed through the same panel mechanism. Contact - Sophie Moeng, Stakeholder & Marketing Executive, Tel: 02476 182 547, Mobile: 07525 703 974 Email: sophie.moeng@eon-uk.com, eon-uk.com

Sallachy – Docherty Consulting will also be carrying out youth work in Lairg as part of the community consultation. Contact - Meg Deasley, Senior Consultant, Docherty Consulting Limited, Centre Cottage, Bush House, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0BB, Tel: 0131 445 7580, Mob: 07917 725 150 Fax: 0131 445 7594, e-mail: meg@dochertyconsulting.com, Web: www.dochertyconsulting.com

Glen Moray – Nothing to report recently.

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

Dalnessie (at the Lairg end of Loch Shin) – Scoping exercise in progress – Contact Meg Deasley, Docherty Consulting Ltd Tel 0131 445 7580 <info@dochertyconsultingltd.com>

Coire na Cloich (close to Beinn Tharsuinn and Glen Morey) – Ardgay, Ardross and Edderton Community Councils meeting to discuss proposals.

Ardgay Meeting/Function Venues

Contact for Booking Ardgay Hall – Mrs Jennifer Burnett 01863 766658

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

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

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

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

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

Creich & Kincardine Art Group –will be holding an Exhibition in Bonar Bridge Hall from Thursday 28th July to Saturday 30th July, preview Wednesday evening. Opening times will be advertised on posters. Meets Wednesdays from 10.00 to 3.00pm in Bonar Bridge Hall. Contact Joan Mulligan – 01549 421321 for more information.



The Business Gateway is a national programme to support enterprise throughout Scotland. In our area it is managed by Highland Opportunity Limited, which is an Enterprise Trust owned by Highland Council. If you wish to start or develop 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>



'Those were the days my friend ...' when passengers were able to open a window and lean out to have a chat - like these two gentlemen passing through Ardgay on their steam train journey from Wick to Penzance on a cold but sunny Monday in April. You wouldn't get that chance in our trains nowadays, but to be fair, they offer other comforts, such as getting much faster from A to B. However, in my book, there is nothing to beat the excitement of sticking my head out of the window and being told to take care not to get soot into my eyes - remember the wonderful 1945 weepie 'Brief Encounter'? - or to beware of getting clobbered by a signal along the route. The steam loco 'Great Britain IV' is operated by West Coast Railways and the Penzance to Wick extravaganza was organised by the Norfolk-

based Railway Touring Company. More recently, the 'Dunrobin' steam loco has been brought back to Britain from Canada. After a thorough overhaul it will be based at the Beamish Outdoor Museum in County Durham. I wonder whether it's too much to hope that the 'Dunrobin' will one day come back to the place where the 'Steam Duke' (third Duke of Sutherland) indulged his love of steam locos? Having died in 1892, the Steam Duke would not have lived to see the 'Dunrobin', but his son, the fourth Duke seems to have used her to pull his private train at Dunrobin Station until about 1920. As we all know, the staff were under strict instructions to draw the blinds whenever travelling past Carbisdale Castle - the abode of his much-hated step-mother. Whether it's true that the recent fire at Forsinard Nature Reserve was started by sparks from the Great Britain IV or not - it might be better to schedule the odd visit from a steam loco for a time of year when sparks are less likely to pose a risk to wildlife habitats. The great turn-out of young and old at Ardgay railway station on Monday 18th April, is solid evidence for the enduring love of steam trains. Admit it - how many times have you watched 'The Railway Children'? Wouldn't it be great to watch and hear the old 'Dunrobin' chuntering through one day?

(Article and photograph by Brigitte Geddes)

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.macleodiscoaches.co.uk>

A new timetable came into force on Monday 16 August 2010.

ARDGAY to Tain	06.53	09.13	11.18	14.18	17.08	17.53
EDDERTON	07.05	09.25	11.30	14.30	17.20	18.05
TAIN(LAMINGTON ST)	07.15C	09.35C	11.40C	14.40C	17.30C	18.15

TAIN(LAMINGTON ST) to Ardgay	07.30	10.11A	13.11G	15.11G	18.48
EDDERTON	07.36	10.17	13.17	15.17	18.54
ARDGAY	07.50	10.30	13.30	15.30	19.07

A - Will wait up to 5 minutes when necessary, for arrival of Stagecoach Service 25x bus from Inverness.

C - Stagecoach bus to Inverness departs 07.20 : 09.50 : 11.50

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

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS (01 December 2010)

Members	Addresses	Contact Details
Chair David Hannah		
Vice Chair	Vacant	
Secretary - Doreen Gibbs		
Treasurer Alan Lawrence		
1 - Liz Cormack		
2 - Derek Matheson		
3 - Jeannie Sparling		
4 - William MacLaren		
5 - Phil Olson		
6 - Marion Turner		
7 - Peter Armstrong (Minute Secretary)		
8 - David Laver		Tel 01863 760182 (Co-opted Member)
Councillors	Representing the Highland Council North, West and Central Sutherland ward	
George Farlow		
Robbie Rowantree		
Linda Munro		
Community Police - Bonar Bridge Police Station Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EB		Tel : 01863 766222 E-mail

Bonar Bridge Local History Society SCO 325 38 - **Summer Walk/Tour Edderton area Saturday 25th June 2 - 5pm**, including the recently discovered hill fort at Creag an Fhithich. **Summer Outing Saturday 16th July Ullapool** Leaving 9.30am - visit to see the Tall Ships at anchor, Ullapool Museum and possible visit to Isle Martin. **Contact Marion Fraser. Secretary 01863 766235 - For details.**

New Book in Bonar Bridge Library & on the Mobile Library - Scotch Broth (A mixture of Memories of 90 years) by Alistair McRae Rennie (former Minister for the Parish of Kincardine, Croick & Edderton 1976 - 1986).

Crannag

Bistro

Book on 01863 766111 eat@crannag.com

Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland



Open Tues to Sat from 6.00 pm

Special events catered for.

For information on Theme Nights

throughout the year, please email eat@crannag.com

Highlands & Islands Restaurant of the Year 2010



Local foods served in comfortable surroundings.

Small, freshly cooked menu featuring reasonably priced dishes.

Fully licensed with a delicious range of whiskies and real ales from the far north.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Outreach Post Office Service for Ardgay - The service operates from the Ardgay Community Hall twice a week (**Monday 1330hrs to 1630hrs and Friday 1000hrs to 1300hrs**). As the post office is a mobile operation there is only limited scope for the introduction of retail products such as stationery. Once the demand is understood then it is hoped that the Ardgay Outreach service will be able to stock a basic range of envelopes, mailing bags and posting boxes. Ardgay Outreach Post Office is operated from Alness Post Office and so the products and services on offer include:

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

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

Boy's Brigade – The Boys Brigade prize giving service was held in Ardgay church on Sunday 15th May. The service was conducted by Rev Anthony Jones and the boys received the badges they had been working hard for throughout the year. Simon Fenn, Liam Munro, Sam Jones, Ryan Sutherland and Kevin Maclean were awarded certificates and trophies for achieving perfect attendance and Simon, Liam and Kevin also won awards for their smart uniforms. The trophy for the best member of the company was presented to Simon Fenn who was also promoted to the rank of corporal. Liam Munro and Lee Mackenzie were promoted to the rank of lance corporal and at the end of the service the company lined up with the BB flag outside the church. Boys Brigade has now finished for the summer but will resume after the October holidays and all new members in primary seven and older will be most welcome. They meet every Friday night at 7pm in the hall and would welcome anyone of P7 age or older who wishes to join. Please contact Donald Simmonds (766796) or Donald Brown (766166)

Ardgay Hall Spring Fair, 23rd April 2011 - Ardgay & District Community Council Participation - You Told Us. Thanks to all those who gave us their views. The Community Council are always keen to hear your views. It is important that we know your priorities for the village. Marion and Phil set up the table and stood by to speak to anyone with an interest in the affairs of this parish. A prepared questionnaire was offered to many people who stopped to speak, 21 of these wrote one or more answers to the question asked, which was: Tell us what would you like for Ardgay . . . At least 40 people stopped to say something, not all wished to add a suggestion about what they would like for Ardgay. An analysis of general themes shows : Shops 36% - (we must keep this issue in mind) Services 21%, Sport & Leisure 25%, Youth 21%, Access 7% (Some responses fall into more than one theme.) We thank everyone for their participation. This sample of 8.3% of the community stating their priorities shows that our community council needs to continually request from residents what their desires are so that we can adopt programme(s) which are a priority. Pursuing these suggestions requires community support and participation.

"Tell us what would you like for Ardgay ..."

Subject of suggestions from 21 people		Suggestions				Sums		
Shops	A shop	1	1	1	1	4	36%	
	Grocery	1	1			2		
	Chemist Shop	1				1		
	Health Food Shop	1				1		
	Paper Shop	1				1		
	Café	1				1		
Services	Tourist Information Kiosk	1				1	21%	
	Pub with all day food	1				1		
	Better Water Supply	1				1		
	Fix Pavements in Struie Place	1				1		
	Petrol Station	1				1		
	Post Box moved to Eiteachan Stone	1				1		
Sport&Leisure	More Walks	1	1			2	25%	
	Camp Site	1				1		
	Bike Trails	1				1		
	Skate Board Ramp	1				1		
	Tennis Court	1				1		
	All Weather Pitch	1				1		
Youth	Involve youth in community Management	1				1	21%	
	More for Kids	1				1		
	Public Transport - Youth	1				1		
	Footpath to New Migdale Hospital (on contours)	1				1		
	Footpath to Gearrhoille Wood (along road for wheelchairs)	1				1		
Access							7%	
						28		

Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society, Kincardine Old Church, Ardgay - (Reg Scottish Charity No. (SC0145547) - HERITAGE CENTRE DIARY - The Kyle of Sutherland Heritage society and the Edderton old Church Trust have managed to get together and arrange a series of joint open days this summer. The Two Former churches will be open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday afternoons of the months of June - July- and August from 2p.m. to 4:30pm.

Edderton has the Historic Church, the Pictish Stones and Preaching Ark on display. KOSHS have the Former Church, the Kincardine Grave marker, a display of local history and after its success at last year's LWF exhibition we will also have photo's of the Kyle of Sutherland Area for people to browse on our computers. Both places will have people on hand who can [hopefully] answer visitors questions. Its Free admission but if anyone wants to make a donation to either society they can. Thanks. Steve Copley, Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society, Lest We Forget' project co-ordinator.



Ardgay Flower Pots
Fancy a colourful container for your garden this summer? Jeannie & Douglas are planting containers with a variety of Summer flower to provide eye-catching displays and will be offering these at low costs. We also have a garden tidy service.
Contact us for details. Jeannie Sparling, Tel 01863 766609. Douglas Sparling, Tel 07513541569, e-mail <douglassparling@btinternet.com>

THIS - (The Home Inspection Service)
Registered Property Consultant - offers

- Maintenance & Repair Inspections, (with Reports on Works Required)
- David Hannah, Ardgay Tel 01863 766061
* Mob 07880776909
<e-mail david@tnchome.co.uk>



WALK for WELLBEING - Jubilee Hill. A short walk with lovely views, popular with dog walkers, which starts and finishes in the village. Approximately 3.5km. 40mins -1hour. At the War Memorial in Ardgay walk up Ardgay Hill. After Cherry Cottage follow the road round to the right uphill. Just past Oakview go through the gate on the left near two blue water supply markers. (NH 5943590307). Follow the grassy track to the left and after a few minutes choose your own route to the top of Jubilee Hill. At the top (20mins) enjoy the views all round. Choose a route down the grassy slope to the south west. In a couple of minutes you meet a good path in the heather. Turn right and follow the path keeping left when you come to a fork. Go under the pylon wires where the grassy path curves right and gets wider as it passes the pylon. In places the path has been repaired with field clearance stones. Follow this path to the gate near the old ROC post (30mins). At the tarred road turn left or right to return to the village. 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. Be a responsible dog owner. Be considerate of other users. **If you have a walk you would like to feature in the Newsletter please email:** info@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

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



Royal Observer Corps 1959 to 1991 – Ardgay Post NH59309071 – It is now 20 years since we were stood down and if we don't get called back soon my uniform won't fit. Happy memories to all former members. (L/Obs D Hannah 21 Post Penicuik and RAF Turnhouse HQ)

WARD FORUM – The Ward Forum for West & Central Sutherland took place in Melvich Village Hall on Saturday 28th May **If you are unable to attend but would like anything raised at the Ward Forum please contact one of your Community Councillors.**

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

Gearrhoille Community Woodland Association

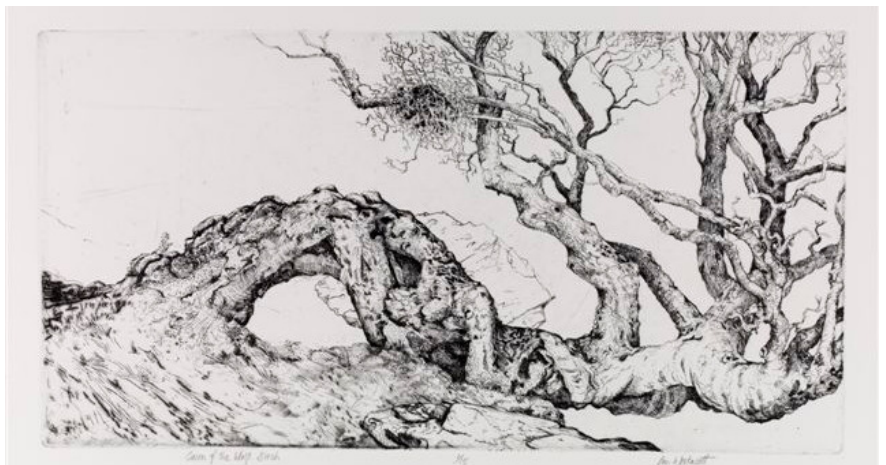
Membership is open to everyone and all of the money raised is spent on the wood – application forms are available from: The Secretary – Mrs Rhonwen Copley, 16 Oakwood Place, Ardgay, Tel. 01863 766174

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

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

www.gearrhoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk

Hope you didn't miss it! As this edition of the A&DCC Newsletter goes to press the Gearrhoille Community Wood directors are busy beaver away organising May the 28th's 'Opening Event' This is to be a community celebration of the completion of the longed for access upgrades and wildlife pond creation. With live music, face painting, and other activities being planned it look like this event should be fun. **Hope you didn't miss it!** By the time this newsletter is published the Gearrhoille's AGM, followed by a talk from Ian Westacott well known for his etchings of our venerable trees - will have been held in Ardgay Hall on the 2nd of June. It looks like it will be an interesting evening. **Hope you didn't miss it!** Grants from funding bodies are essential, not only for financing projects like those celebrated in May, but for the very survival of the GCWA. An established membership demonstrates to funders that they are contributing towards something that already has wide appeal and support. So there is a reason for asking everyone who cares about the future of the woodland to become a GCWA member. **Hope you didn't miss it!** The website 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. **Hope you didn't miss it!**



KYLE OF SUTHERLAND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GROUP (KSYDG) – Two exciting new projects are being facilitated at the Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group based on the Bonar / Ardgay industrial estate. Taking the number of projects provided by the group to five covering ages 0 – 25 the group is also focusing on the long term redevelopment of the site to provide a permanent facility. To start the ball rolling we are holding a community consultation open day on Saturday 25th June 12 to 4pm. Funded by the Rosehall Community Fund Project there will be a free BBQ, music tent showcasing the talents of our young people, displays of redevelopment ideas for community members to comment and add further ideas. For younger children there will be a bouncy castle and art activities. Please take the time to come along it will be valuable to the group in creating a design brief and the huge fundraising efforts that will be required. New to a Tuesday evening the music, rhythm & sound club is open to 12 and overs. The club is in its early stages so is evolving each week with the emphasis at the moment on percussion “Stomp” style (not sure what that is look on **you tube stomp**). The club is a fun way to explore music and is open to anyone interested it is not necessary to have any musical experience. The club is open from 7.30 – 9pm. The second project is a music & movement club for the wee ones. On Wednesday mornings from 10-11 those aged 0-5 take trips down the Amazon, through the jungle, on a bus, and in space rockets. They play instruments, pull funny faces and even go on bear hunts. Continuing each Thursday is the youth group from 7.30-9.30, and the after school clubs on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Projects at these have included guitar and tin whistle lessons, art projects, freely chosen activities using our equipment on site; snooker, table tennis and football. New to arrive soon is a substantial football table. All sessions cost 50p per child which helps pay for core running costs. Future events include activities during the gala week including a dance for p4-p7, we are also open on the day of the MOD from 2 to 6. For any further information or to register please come along to any of the projects or call Hayley on 766 310 **The KSYDG is continuing to expand its project based on the south Bonar please telephone Hayley on 01863766310.**

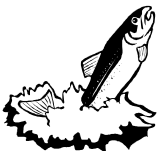
GOING SOUTH – You should note this - A9 Kessock Bridge – Essential Bridge Joint Repairs

Works start Sunday 19th June 2011 for 8 days. The works involve essential major repairs to the north expansion joint on both carriageways of the Kessock Bridge and remedial works to the bridge deck surfacing. The works will start on Sunday 19th June 2011, for 8 days utilising a 24 hour contra flow working with a 30mph speed restriction. At peak times significant traffic delays are anticipated. Both lanes of the northbound carriageway will be closed for the first three days to allow that section of the expansion joint to be dismantled and reassembled. Both lanes of the southbound carriageway will be closed from Wednesday 23rd June 2011, until the evening of Sunday 26th June 2011, to similarly attend to that section of the south bound joint. In order to reduce the impact of the works it is essential that the numbers of vehicles using that route are cut substantially. Scotland Transerv, on behalf of Transport Scotland, encourage all communities and businesses throughout the North of Scotland to consider, amongst other things, car sharing, use of public transport, home working and where practicable staggered working hours. Motorists should allow extra time for their journeys and pay attention to any advisory signs which will be in place throughout the works. For real time journey planning information visit www.trafficscotland.org

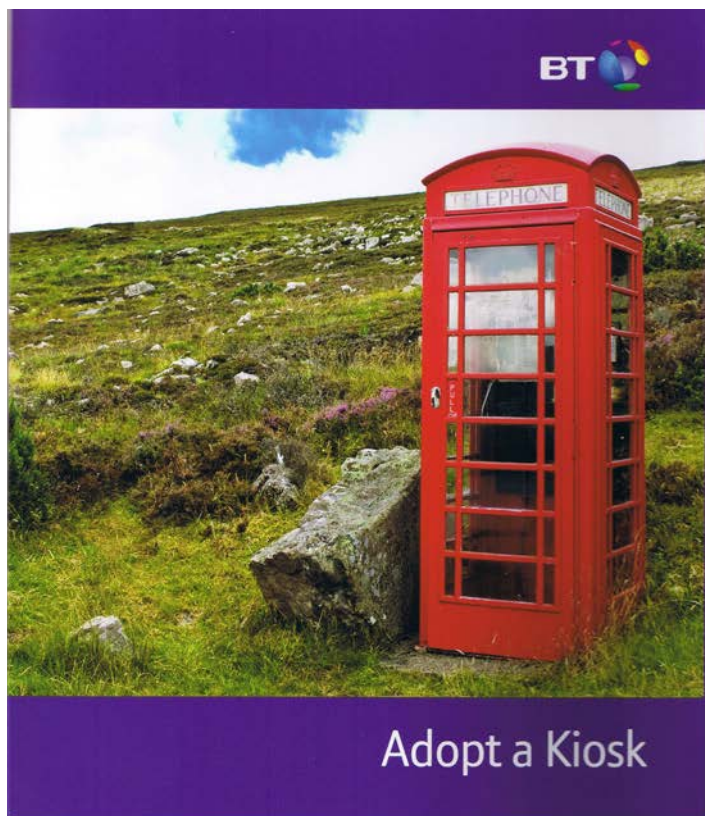


**Ardgay & District Community Council Meeting
2011 Dates all Mondays at 7.00pm in Ardgay Village Hall**

11 July	12 September	10 October	14 November	12 December
All meetings are open to the public and we would welcome your support by attending some of them to let us know how well you think we are doing is managing our community affairs.				



Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week - Salmon King Alvin Campbell & Salmon Queen Sandie Gordon – Very Full Programme commencing 6 - 14 August Starts with - Crowning Ceremony, Raft Race, Children's Fancy Dress parade and competition, Floats, Fun Run, Family Rounders, Bike Rides, Golf Competition, Fancy Dress Wheelbarrow Race, Spacehopper Race, Children's Sports, Badminton Competition, Family Quiz, Ceramic Painting, Craft Workshops, Pet Show, Barbeque, Flower and Vegetable Show, Pool & Darts Competition, Car Treasure Hunt, Flower Festival, Church Services, Family Bingo, Pancake Day, Storytelling, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Soup Lunch, Sandcastle Competition, Music Workshop, Duck Race, Family Ceilidh and Buffet. **YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS YEAR'S GALA WEEK!**



The adopt a Kiosk programme was launched not only to offer communities the chance to do something useful with their phoneboxes which had little or no usage, but to really bring the community together through a project. BT wants to give communities the opportunity to get back in touch with the remaining kiosks.

Phoneboxes already adopted have been turned in a grocery shop, wildlife information centre and even life saving site for defibrillators installed by the Community Heartbeat Trust Charity.

Any recognized local authority or registered charity can apply.

To comply with legal requirements, you will be required to purchase the kiosk from BT for a consideration of £1. If you adopt a kiosk you must obtain relevant local authority consents for usage.

If you want Ardgay & District Community Council to pursue purchase of your BT box, subject to disposal by then please get in touch with your proposal(s).

This Newsletter is also available on-line at:
[<ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk>](http://ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk)

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

This is the Twelfth 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 16 August for issue in September.

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

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

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



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

Delivery Problem - Strathcarron - Jane & Sadie from Glen Calvey have left and Davy Ross, Derek Matheson and Warwick Harrison have kindly offered to distribute your newsletters in Strathcarron.

Please help them by letting me know if you are able to take few for your neighbours to reduce their load, (Editor).