

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



No 6 – Winter Edition 2009

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year's Service of Remembrance took place at the Ardgay War Memorial and was attended by over seventy people from Ardgay, Bonar Bridge & the surrounding areas.

Wreaths were laid on your behalf by Dr MacDonald for The Royal British Legion Scotland, Darren MacRae for the Boys Brigade and David Hannah for the Community Council. The Reverend Karl Weidner conducted the Service.

Thanks to all those who attended, helped or showed their respect in other ways.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



From the Chair

Welcome to the last edition of the Newsletter for 2009.

As we approach the end of the year, we inevitably look back and wonder where did the year go? How time flies or does it? What changes have we seen in our Community over the past 12 months and what can we expect to see next year? As you may be aware, the Scottish Government is currently carrying out a review of Community Councils. What will this mean for Ardgay and District, and our Community Council? At this time, we cannot say with any certainty what will happen. However, next year in December 2010, a Full Review will have been completed. If you have thoughts or opinions about this or other changes, please let us have your comments for our community council meetings and we will submit them for discussion at future Ward Forum Meetings. For the Community Council to be able to play a key role in bringing about changes within our community that will make a difference, we need your support. The Oxford Dictionary's definition of the word, **support** is "give active help and encouragement". As you prepare for the festive season please spare a thought to that meaning and ask yourself who or what can I support in the coming year. How about - your community council, organisations that support local interests and charities, a sports activity group or club, our Village Halls, our young people and children's groups, our School? The list goes on. They all need your support.

We wish you and your families a Joyful and Peaceful Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Tony Gibbs

Contents

- A & DCC Minutes Précis
- Events
- Groups
- KOSI
- Church
- Surgery Times
- Library Timetables
- Comments etc.
- Community Councillors
- Elected Members



Minute from Ardgay & District Community Council Meeting of – November 09 (draft for approval at December Meeting) In Ardgay Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Tony Gibbs (Chair), David Hannah (Vice-Chair), Alan Lawrence (Treasurer), Doreen Gibbs (Secretary), Jamie Burgess, Liz Cormack, David Laver, William MacLaren, Derek Matheson, Phil Olson, David Ross, Marion Turner
Councillor Robbie Rowantree
Member of the Public - Mrs R Copley

1. Welcome - Tony Gibbs opened the meeting with a welcome to members and visitor, and to new co-opted member David Laver.

2. Apologies - were received from Brigitte Geddes and Iain Shand (Nov).

3. Minutes of the previous meeting - held on Wednesday 7TH October 2009. The Minutes as presented were approved. Proposed by David Hannah and Seconded by Jamie Burgess.

4. Matters arising from the minutes;

- Salt Bins - David Ross reported that a Salt Bin has been filled and installed in Struie Place. A payment from Highland Council towards the costs for tools to grit the pavements will be forthcoming.
- Culrain Garden - Tony Gibbs has spoken with the Chairman and the Secretary of the Culrain Hall Committee and unfortunately, they have not been able to recommend anyone to work on the garden. Cllr. Robbie Rowantree has suggested that we may be able to approach Community Service to consider this project. **Action: Sec**
- Overhanging shrubs and trees on bridge in Ardgay - The Secretary reported on the reply received from John Clark that he would pass this to the Landlords on whose land the trees belong, as he cannot cut back trees etc that overhang from adjoining properties. In addition he mentioned that all road repairs/maintenance etc have ceased due to the current financial situation with the Highland Council.
- Scotrail Train Services - The Secretary has received a reply from Frank Roache asking for a clearer idea of what topics we want him to cover when he comes to speak at a future meeting. The Committee suggested, Train Times, Strategy on Service, Future extensions to existing services, cost of fares, transport links to rail and other transport services, Sunday services, existing services stopping at all stations. **Action Sec.**

5. Secretary's Report –

- Secretary reported on correspondence received from Ardgay Hall Committee inviting the Community Council to have a stall at the Christmas Fayre on November 28th. It was felt that due to other commitments on that day we would not be able to take up the invitation this year. **Action: Sec to reply**
- Director of Planning (Highland Council) informing that all planning applications will be managed electronically. **Action: Item for Newsletter /Website**
- The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society renewal of subscription (£20) is due – agreed.
- Voluntary Groups East Sutherland AGM invitation on Friday 27th November in Golspie Golf Club. **Action: Sec to reply**
- Highland Council Tourism Seminar – Wednesday 25th November in Council Chamber Inverness.
- Neil Gillies, Highland Council TECS, in reply to our concerns about Traffic speeds in Manse Road Ardgay. Campbell Stewart will make contact.
- Supt. Julian Innes Division Commander North Division, in reply to my letter asking for assistance in the Manse Road matter. Inspector Aitken will contact us about appropriate times and day when they could carry out a speed monitoring exercise.

6. Treasurer's Report - Alan Lawrence reported that the three signatories had visited the Bank to formalise the signatures for cheque signings.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------------|-----------|-----|--|
| Balances are as follows: - | (a) | Treasurer's a/c | £ 2092.23 | * | |
| | (b) | Projects a/c | £ 1315.36 | ** | |
| | (c) | Toilets a/c | £ 949.92 | *** | |

Notes: * A payment made to Doreen Gibbs of £75.00 honorarium as minute secretary is not yet recorded.

** A payment of £250 made to Dingwall Printers Ltd for the October newsletter but is not included in this figure.

*** A payment made to J. Sparling for the October honorarium but is not included in this figure.

The outstanding balance of £93.68 in petty cash received from Iain Shand has been passed to Doreen Gibbs. It was agreed that any surplus balances in the Toilets accounts should be transferred to the Projects Accounts.

Action: AL

7. Windfarms;

a) Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Fund - Grant applications have been received from:-

- 1) Bradbury Centre
- 2) Bonar Bridge Football Club
- 3) Gearrhoille Community Wood
- 4) Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society

Mrs Copley spoke on behalf of the Gearrhoille Community Wood in support of their application. It was suggested that before decisions are made on these applications, it would be beneficial to have further detailed discussion with the applicants to determine more fully the basis for their requests and to gather additional supporting information. It was agreed that Phil Olson and David Hannah will speak to the Bonar Football Club, Tony Gibbs and David Hannah will contact the Bradbury Centre and Phil Olson and Derek Matheson will speak to the Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Centre. Mrs Copley will supply further information on request. The application from the Gearrhoille Community Wood for the sum of £550 to be paid in this year (2009) was agreed. However, the request for the subsequent amounts will be looked at again on receipt of requested further information. Reports from these meetings will be discussed at the next A & DCC meeting in December prior to further consideration of each application. Marion Turner felt that it would be beneficial if the Community Council should have some training or instruction on guidelines to determine criteria for approving applications for grants from the Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Fund. This proposition to be discussed at the next meeting. In the meantime, Tony Gibbs will contact Phil Tomalin for advice on how to arrange this. **Action: TG**

b) Achany Update - Marion Turner and David Hannah reported that the fund is open for the first round of applications and these will be discussed at the next meeting on January 27th 2010 in Ardgay Hall, and the results available in February.

8. Amenities;

- Christmas Lights - Jamie Burgess and David Hannah will check the lights. Liz Cormack will order two Christmas trees – one for Ardgay Village and one for Culrain Village. Derek Matheson and David Hannah will put up and decorate the Ardgay Tree, additional assistance will be appreciated.
- Ardgay Toilets - Will be closed from Monday 9th November and will re-open again in April 2010.
- Ardgay Flower Arrangements - Tony Gibbs will speak to Jeannie Sparling to see if she will be willing to look after the Flower Tubs next year. **Action: TG**



9. Communications - Newsletter - It was felt that the statement printed in the last newsletter concerning the Lady Ross Hotel Ardgay had been excessive and the Chair will be meeting with the property owner to correct any misunderstandings, and if necessary, a retraction of the last paragraph of the leading article will be printed in the next newsletter. Community Website - Phil Olson said that the website is continuing to be used more often. The public link is proving useful and interesting issues have been raised.

10. Review of Community Councils – First Phase - Documents available at this stage have been circulated to members to consider. The Chair said feedback would be welcome for discussion at the next Ward Forum on 28th November at Kinlochervervie.

11. South Sutherland Activity Park - This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

12. Any Other Competent Business

- Members were reminded that the Annual Service of Remembrance will be on Sunday 8th November. This year the main parade will be in Ardgay after which the Legion will join the congregation in Ardgay Church, Gledfield for the morning service. David Hannah will lay the wreath on behalf of the Community Council. In keeping with previous years, a donation will be made to the British Legion on behalf of Ardgay & District.
- Robbie Rowantree advised the Committee that the Scottish Government has just announced the go-ahead for the new Migdale Hospital.
- William MacLaren was concerned about the lack of a visible Road Name sign for Oykel Place and will speak to John Clark about this. **Action: WM**
- Jamie Burgess questioned the need for the cattle grid(s) on the B 9176 Struie Road, which can be hazardous to motorists using that road. **Action: Sec to write to HC**

13. Date, time & venue of next meeting – Wed. 2nd December 2009 at 7.00pm in Ardgay Hall.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

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).

Kincardine Parish Church (extracts from The Bell) - **Contact Details**

Minister – Interim Moderator – The Reverend Susan Brown, Dornoch Cathedral

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

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



Church & Dornoch Firth Group of Churches Events – Carols by Candlelight in Ardgay Village Hall is on Saturday 12th December (7.30pm). St Andrew's Fair, Dornoch on 5th December. The Labyrinth, Dornoch Cathedral on 31st December 4 – 6pm (come and experience a journey to Christ in a medieval tradition).

Kincardine West (Ardgay) Church Watch-night Service – 24th December 11.30pm

The Vacancy Committee - comprising members of all the churches of Kincardine, Edderton, Croick, Creich and Rosehall are continuing in their search for a new minister to fill the vacancy left following Rev Graeme Muckhart's retirement in July. The committee are pleased to be able to say "that there has been even more progress and the Reverend Anthony Jones will be leading worship on 28 November."

Ardgay Hall – Ardgay Hall Committee - At the AGM in Ardgay Hall on 3rd November the committee welcomed Jamie Burgess as the elected representative from the Community Council. The committee looks forward to a successful year of fundraising for some much needed refurbishment of the hall including their Grand Auction Sale next spring where they hope to have the usual excellent support from the community. To hire the hall please contact the secretary, Mrs Jennifer Burnett on (01863) 766658.

(Halls and Community Buildings Event 2009 – VG-ES in partnership with Community Energy Scotland is to host a Halls and Community Buildings event and an open invitation is extended to members of hall/community building committees and their user groups. Topics likely to be included are: - Licensing, Insurance, Energy Management, All Ability Access, Child Protection, Funding & Arts Events. If you are interested in attending this one day session contact – Christine Ross at VG-ES – 01408 63300)

Scottish Community Foundation – Achany Windfarm. - See CC Minutes.

Contact Tony Gibbs, Chair of Ardgay & District Community Council for other information.

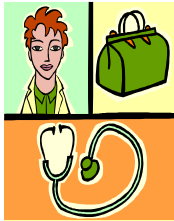
KOSI (Kyle of Sutherland Initiative) – No meetings have taken place since the last edition.

Exhibition Hailed as a Great Success (Steve Copley) - The Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society's, 'Lest We Forget' exhibition, held in October at the former East Church, Ardgay proved to be a very popular event with almost 250 people attending during its 16 day run. The Exhibition consisted of several illustrated information panels, which briefly explained the course of the two World Wars, and how those wars had affected the local area, but the main thrust of the exhibition was to show the public what has been achieved during the first year of the 'Lest We Forget Project'. A ten minute visual presentation featuring some of the fallen for whom details of their brief lives, or war service, are already known, proved very popular and hopefully gave an insight into what the 'Lest We Forget' project hopes to eventually achieve for all 158 of our war dead. On public display, for the first time, were 18 photographs of the area's fallen and during the exhibition 4 other photographs were added to the display. The Project was delighted that 23 pupils from Gledfield School spent a full morning at the exhibition. This has further convinced the project's organisers that if an archive can be collected it will be in good hands as the children were very interested in the exhibition and very insightful in their questioning of the staff and especially Mrs Bunty Gordon who came to speak to them about War time Ardgay. A lot of people put a lot of effort into the exhibition and the project thanks Mrs Bunty Gordon, Mr & Mrs Stobo and especial thanks have to go to Norman MacDonald who stepped into the breach at very short notice and acted as the projects Gaelic spokesman when BBC ALBA TV visited the exhibition and made a short film about the project. This was aired a few days later. The 'Lest We Forget' project also thanks everyone who has already contributed photographs and memories to the archive and we urge anyone else who may have anything to contribute to get in touch as soon as possible because without your photographs and your memories, no matter how fleeting, there will be nothing to pass along to those future generations.



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 DentalHelpLine@hpct.scot.nhs.uk. 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.



Boy's Brigade – The 1st Ardgay Bonar Boys Brigade Company started back in the hall at the beginning of November and on Sunday 8th they took part in the Remembrance Day parade at Ardgay war memorial. The colour party were Connor Burgess and Lee Mackenzie while the BB wreath was laid by Darren MacRae. The company meet every Friday evening 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 – Started October and running through to April 2010 in Ardgay Hall Thursday evenings – contact George Ross 01863 755329 for details and charges.

Gledfield Primary School - Gledfield Primary Parent Council: email

gledfield@scottishparents.com

Office bearers: Chair: Isobel MacKenzie, Vice-chair: Audrey Campbell, Secretary: Rhys Llewellyn, Treasurer: Carol Shaw. Future plans include a sponsored cycle in the Spring 2010. Thanks go to all those who supported the Parent Council in its first year of operation.

Dornoch Academy Parent Council: No report

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

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | 2009 Whist Drive Series | Date | Hosts |
| | Participation £1.50 | December 9 th | Ardgay Children's Christmas Party |
| | including refreshments | December 16 th | Fire & Rescue Service |
| | | December 23 rd | Royal British Legion Creich & Kincardine Branch |

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 - 2nd Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in Ardgay Church hall - Contact for details – Mrs Isobel Adlard Tel 01863 766 469.

(A slide show of a trip to Japan was enjoyed by members on Tuesday 17th November).

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

Bonar Bridge Local History Society (BBLHS) – A reference book of great value to tourists and Gaelic language learners “A Homecoming to Sutherland Celebration” is now on sale at the Art Shop, Bonar Bridge - contact the Secretary Mrs Marion Fraser Tel 01863 766235. During a recent visit by nine members of the society to the ‘recently opened’ Highland Archive in Inverness Susan Begley, Custodian gave a guided tour of the facilities and explained that they are expecting church records, from the Highland Parishes to be returned from Edinburgh and this would be of greater benefit to those carrying out family history research.

The Highland Council Archive Service, Highland Archive and Registration Centre, Bught Road, Inverness, IV3 5SS Telephone: 01463 256444, e-mail: archives@highland.gov.uk

Scottish Country Dancing - 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 13 December - Dornoch Beach - Camore Woods. | Sunday 24 January - Loch Brora : Doll Ford to Kilbraur, |
| Sunday 28 February - Loch Fiag, | Sunday 28 March - Ben Stack |

AGM: Wednesday 10 March 2010: Golspie CC - More information from Fiona MacDonald, Secretary – 01862 810275

Good Neighbour Scheme - The CC has recently been give the chance to obtain a salt bin from The Highland Council to be situated in Struie Place. The salt bin will come ready filled and is to be used for the extra long footpaths between the pavement and Struie Place properties. The Highland Council are also willing to give a one off payment to the Community Council to cover material costs such as shovels, protective clothing etc. In return we as the Community Council have been asked to appeal to volunteers to salt the shared pathways and help residents/neighbours who may have difficulty clearing their own footpaths. If you feel that you may be able to help out on the odd frosty morning; then please contact one of your Community Council members.

(Additional Information – There are a number tools for use with this scheme and a resident of Struie Place needs to volunteer to take responsibility for them, and for using them in bad weather – for themselves and their neighbours. If no one comes forward as a volunteer you may lose the salt bin given as a good will gesture by Highland Council.)

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

Mobile Library Timetable 2009 for Edderton & Ardgay

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Edderton School 9.20 – 9.55am | Edderton Village Hall 10.00 – 11.00am | Ardmore 11.20 – 11.35am |
| Dounie 11.40 – 11.55am | Ardvannie 1. – 1.30pm | Oakwood 1.45 – 2.00pm |
| Ardgay (Lady Ross) 2 – 3.20pm | | |

Dates for 2009 Edderton & Ardgay -

9 December

Gledfield & Strathoykel

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Gledfield School 9.30 – 10.40am | Gruinards 11 – 11.10am | Heatherlea 11.15 – 11.30am |
| Braelangwell 12.05 – 12.15pm | Corvost 1 – 1.20pm | Cornhill 1.40 – 1.55pm |
| Culrain 2.10 – 2.45pm | Upper Rhelonie 2.55 – 3.15pm | Achnahannet 3.30 – 3.45pm |

Mobile Library Dates for 2009 Gledfield & Strathoykel & Strathcarron

10 December

Gardening Club - Meets in Edderton Hall 7.30pm on the first Monday of the month, September to May.

The Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group (KSYDG) - has been running an after school club and youth group since May on the silver bus located on the south Bonar industrial estate. The group runs four sessions, with the after school club run by a team of volunteers who have been disclosed and trained

in first aid. The youth group is led by the highland council youth services and a number of volunteers. Each week there are art, music and games activities available as well as an outside space for football etc. The youth group has had several exciting activities away from the bus including a trip to Fairbairn activity centre and a full day music workshop with John Sinclair (keyboard player with Ozzy Osbourne). Future plans involve a cinema and shopping trip to Inverness. The project has been donated a modular building which we hope to have up and running by February depending on planning which will house a games room with table tennis and snooker an art area and a music and drama room. Sessions run as follows; P1 - P3 Tuesdays 3.30-4.30, P4-P5 Wednesdays 3.45-4.45, P6-P7 Thursdays 3.45-4.45. Youth group Thursdays 7.30-9.30. Entrance to all sessions is 50p. If you would like to register or have any queries please come along to any of the sessions where a member of staff will be happy to help. (Hayley Bangs)

Kyle of Sutherland Youth Group - On the 20th September, a group of 12 members from the Kyle of



Sutherland Youth Group, attended Fairburn activity centre at Marybank near Dingwall. They were accompanied by Highland Council employed and volunteer Youth staff. The group (inc the staff) took part in activities including the zip line, tree climb and cross country biking. Tain and District Youth Development officer, Rob Parkes said: "The group were a pleasure to be with during the whole day and enjoyed the facilities at Fairburn very much. Most of the young people (and staff!) were able to push themselves beyond their own expectations, especially with regard to the tree climb and the support coming from the group for each other, helped to make this possible." The group is based in the

youth bus between Bonar Bridge and Ardgay and meet on a Thursday night between 7.30 and 9.30, it has been running since May. Feedback on the group from the Young people who attend is positive and numbers attending are steadily increasing. A Primary aged after-school club also uses the bus most afternoons and has been a huge success with volunteer staff running this. Numbers are now at around 60 per week.

Kyle of Sutherland Youth Group - Music project with John Sinclair. On Tuesday the 27th October, members of the Kyle of Sutherland Youth Group took part in a music workshop at Bonar Bridge Village hall, their usual venue, the bus, was deemed too small for this event. 8 Young people took the opportunity to work with Highlands based, musician, John Sinclair. Famous acts with whom John, who plays keyboards, has worked with in the past include Suzy Quattro and for 17 years he was on the road with Ozzy Osbourne. John recorded the group playing guitars, violin, singing and added keyboards and percussion. By the end of the day they had recorded, mixed and made CD's of their work, this included covers and song written and performed by one of the group. (Katie Davies)



John said: "They're a pleasure to be around, they worked really hard and hopefully have a better idea of what they can achieve down the line" and thanked them and staff at the group for an enjoyable session. Local Youth Development Officer for Highland Council, Rob Parkes said: "The youth group is hoping to build on the day and the considerable talent of its members by continuing to play together and accessing funds for equipment to expand. Thanks, also to the Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group who funded this very successful day".

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

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

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------|----------------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| Police | Dornoch Road | Bonar Bridge | 766222 | Migdale | Lower Floor | Bonar Br. | 766211 |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------|----------------|-------------|-----------|--------|

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| | | | | Hospital | | | |
| 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 | Ardgay | Ardgay | 766210 |
| “ | 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 | | | | |

Letter to the Editor – Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society (KOSHS)

“Dear David

The trustee and members of the KOSHS. wish to express our appreciation to all who supported us throughout the year by attending the various lectures and exhibitions held at the centre. Typical comments made by some local residents this year: “ I have lived in the area all my life and did not realise what you do “, “ I frequently pass the old church and wondered what they do”, hence this short summary. 2009 started traditionally with the Annual Art Exhibition over Easter and culminated with the “Lest We Forget” exhibition in October. The Art exhibition the 11th of the series, displayed the work of 52 Artist, exhibiting 184 works of an exceptional high standard. The exhibition was opened by Lady Strathnaver. We are indebted to Mrs Margo Bridge who instigated the event and organised the first 9 events. Her enthusiasm, dedication and sheer hard work is appreciated by all. The 12th Exhibition will take place over Easter 2010. The Lest We Forget exhibition displayed the progress made to date of our efforts to trace the background of the fallen recorded on Ardgay; Creich; Rosehall and Edderton war memorials. Several art workshops by visiting artists and illustrated lectures on various local subjects were held throughout the year. The centre was used by some of our local organisations for meetings. We trust this information will provide the answer to the opening comments made. We wish everyone the compliments of the season and look forward to welcoming those who come and support our future events. Please note our new web site. **Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society, Kincardine Old Church, Ardgay Registered Scottish Charity No. SC 014547, (www.kyle-of-sutherland-heritage.org.uk)**
Bill Stobo for the Trustees KOSHS”.

Hello - We are developing Highland’s next 5 year Housing Strategy and investment framework. As part of this we are seeking the public’s views through various ways including:

- Taking part in the Highland Wide Development Plan Information Days
- Taking part in Ward Forums, when invited, to discuss strategic housing issues and proposed options
- Asking people to complete the short survey which also sets out more information on the housing strategy and key options.
- There will also be consultation on the Consultative Draft Housing Strategy 2010-2015 when it is approved by Jan. 2010.

To help with this consultation, can you please distribute this survey to your local community contacts such as community councils; local community care forums etc.? You may wish to email it, hand it out at Ward Forum meetings; have copies available in Service Points etc. If you have any suggestions for distributing this, please let them/me know. It is also available on line at:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/livinghere/housing/housingstrategiesandinitiatives/highlandhousingstrategy.htm>
(Or www.highland.gov.uk/livinghere/housing/)

If you have any questions please get in touch. Thank you for your help. Yours Hilary
(Hilary Parkey, Housing Strategy Officer, Housing & Property Services, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5 NX Tel. 01463 702859 Email. hilary.parkey@highland.gov.uk)

(Advertisement)

The House Inspection Service (THIS)

Wishes to thank all customers and wish a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to readers of this Newsletter
Home Surveys, Maintenance & Repair Inspections with Comprehensive Reports on Works Required. (House MoT)
Think you have a problem with your home **let me worry about it for you.**
Estimates – Minor Building Works (Handyman jobs) - Dry Stone Wall Repairs (Insurance claims a speciality)
David Hannah, Tel 01863 766061 Mob 07880776909 - <e-mail david@tnchome.co.uk>



COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS (01 December 2009)

| Members | Addresses | Contact Details |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Chair Tony Gibbs | | |
| Vice Chair David Hannah | | |
| Secretary & Minute Secretary - Doreen Gibbs | | |
| Treasurer Alan Lawrence | | |
| 1 – Iain Shand | | |
| 2 - Liz Cormack | | |
| 3 - Derek Matheson | | |
| 4 - David Ross | | |
| 5 - William MacLaren | | |
| 6 - Brigitte Geddes | | |
| 7 – Jamie Burgess | | |
| 8 – Phil Olson | | |
| 9 – Marion Turner | | |
| 10 David Laver | | |
| Councillors | Representing the Highland Council North, West and Central Sutherland | |
| George Farlow | | |
| Robbie Rowantree | | |
| Linda Munro | | |
| Community Police Bonar Bridge Police Station | Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, IV24 3EB | Tel : 01863 766222 E-mail |

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

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Ardgay Hall Committee | Ardgay & District Community Council | Art Club |
| Scottish Country Dancers | Gledfield School PTA | The Guild |
| Badminton Club | Kyle of Sutherland Initiative (KOSI) | SWRI |
| Church of Scotland | Mums & Toddlers/Playgroup | Crofters Group |
| Other Worship Groups | Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust | Camera Club |
| Ward Manager | Kyle of Sutherland Gala Committee | Councillors |
| Local History Society(s) | Gearrhoille Community Wood Association | Royal British Legion, Scotland |
| Boy's Brigade | Kyle of Sutherland Whist Club | |
| Achany Windfarm Trust | Sutherland Walkers Group | |

Many of them have not provided information of their meetings and 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 & veg van that visits the Ardgay area on Tuesdays

WALK for WELLBEING (Marion Turner)

The Miller's Burn, 5.5km, 80 minutes. An easy walk 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. You now have a choice, return the way you came or continue on small trails and tracks along the burn, back to the village via Oldtown and the Gearrhoille Community Wood. To continue, go through the gate and head left to pass through another gate and come alongside the burn. Turn left and make your way downstream heading for a metal walking gate which you can see ahead. Look out for dippers, sandpipers and sandmartins. To reach the metal walking gate find some big stones to cross a small stream between you and the gate. Once through the gate (2.4km, 35mins) follow the trail keeping the burn on your right. Choose a way through the wood and where the burn makes a big bend (2.5km) descend to the right to stay alongside the burn till you come to an old weir (3km, 45mins). The weir was built to collect water which was piped to the railway line for the steam trains. More recently, the pipe has taken water to The Hatcheries. At the weir the trail becomes a wider track, follow this through the common grazing till you reach a gate into a field (3.3km, 50mins). Go into the field and follow the grassy track passing left of the house to a gate at the NE corner of the field (3.7km, 55mins). Now you are soon back on a tarred road that leads past Oldtown Croft to the main road. At the main road turn left and after about 200m go into the Gearrhoille Community Wood Car Park (4.3km, 60mins). Once in the wood follow the yellow marker posts, past the old curling pond and out along the old drove road to Oakwood Place to return to the War Memorial (5.5km, 80mins).

Please 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

Drink in the facts...

A few beers and a couple of large glasses of wine are often the subject of a discussion about health, but did you know that a new Licensing law has come into force this year which is designed to help protect you, and your local community from some of the more negative effects of alcohol?

The Act has taken four years to go through so you may have heard snippets about it along the way but might not have realised that it's now in force.

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 Act has five clear objectives which it's hoped will:

- Help prevent crime and disorder
- Enhance public safety
- Prevent public nuisance
- Protect and improve public health
- Protect children from harm

The law has been passed to help make Scotland safer as a whole, and to help you as an individual feel safer, and, if you drink alcohol, to encourage you to adopt healthier, more sociable habits.

Now that this law has come into effect you might find that you notice that alcohol is being sold differently. For example in shops and supermarkets it will be sold from designated areas as opposed to dotted around. Happy hours and promotions such as 'buy one get one free' are banned so that there is no more active enticement to drink more than you really intended. Bars must now provide customers with free tap water if requested; it'll make life a lot more economical for any designated driver who will now be able to alternate between water and other non-alcoholic drinks.

In relation to alcohol which is sold for consumption off the premises, this is allowed only between 10am and 10pm. In relation to all other sales, submissions re 'operating hours' will

have been made by all licensees, when applying to Licensing Boards for their particular licences. Approved 'operating hours' will be contained in a summary licence which must be displayed within each premises.

The Licensing Act will also mean some significant changes for bar staff. All employees in licensed premises have to be fully trained before serving alcohol (including part time and casual staff). This means that there should be more knowledge about the law, and more enforcement. The Act makes it easier for people to make their views heard on how alcohol affects their community as a whole; as long as they have reasonable grounds to do so, anyone can ask a Licensing Board to review the licence of any premises.

Highland Council (and indeed every local Council) employs a number of Licensing Standards Officers to investigate any complaints about licensed premises, and to offer general advice to the public on licensing.

Overall, these measures have been put in place to help create a safer and healthier population.

It's useful to understand what the act will mean for you. More information is available by logging onto www.infoscotland.com/licensingact

For general information about alcohol and what's being done to promote responsible drinking for those who drink alcohol log onto www.highland-adp.org.uk, www.drinkaware.co.uk or www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

Full contact details for your local Licensing Officer in the Highlands are available on www.highland.gov.uk



Gearrhoille Community Woodland Association



Could this be Ardgay Curling Pond – any of our readers out there remember playing on it?

By the time this newsletter is being read the last page of this year's calendar will have been turned. December is a natural time to pause and reflect on the year just passed. One of the more pleasant tasks for the GCWA directors in the early months of the year was choosing the winning entries from the photo competition. As you will know from the very first edition of this newsletter, those photos now make up the Community Wood's 2010 calendar. [It is worth noting that the generous sponsorship received from three local businessmen has resulted in the 2010 calendar selling for £3.50 – this is £1 cheaper than could be achieved for 2009 by the GCWA alone.] The spring edition of the Community Council newsletter helped spread the word that the Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week committee were to host an Egg Hunt in the

woodland. It appeared from all the happy youngsters that the bouncy castle in the Gearrhoille car park was just as big a hit as the Easter Bunny was in the wood! The April picture of a Goldcrest in the 2009 Gearrhoille calendar shows there are other attractions for local youngsters in the wood too. The bird ringing group, led by Andrew Ramsey and George Ross (Heatherlea), visit the woodland throughout the year. The Community Council newsletter also helped extend an invitation to all local residents to the Gearrhoille AGM. And that month's calendar photo, of one of the Gearrhoille's venerable trees, is a reminder of the launch of the new leaflet 'Guide to Tress in the Gearrhoille' and the interesting illustrated talk that Steve Robertson of North Highland Forest Trust gave at that meeting. The Community Council's summer newsletter carried a report of this event too. The frog in the June photo of the calendar brings to mind that the summer edition of this newsletter also let everyone know that whilst progress on the pond project would not be as visible as progress on the paths this year, progress was being made. And as 2009 draws to a close work is still ongoing to find the large amount of funding needed to complete the project. As part of Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week in August the GCWA held its 2nd Extraordinary Perambulatory Treasure Hunt. It was an unfortunate mismatch of timing that meant this event had to be held before the path upgrading work had been carried out in the wood. However, this phase of the path work has now been completed, thanks to the help of Matt Dent, the Highland Council's Access Officer and Ardgay Quarry & Plant Services, who carried out the work. Another fun event - the Moth Day; reported on in the last edition of this newsletter- is invoked by August's butterfly photo. Whilst the photos for September, October & November illustrate well the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness and recall how this year's crop of acorns have helped to 'grow' some interest in the woodland at the 2009 Xmas Fayre in Ardgay Hall. And now, as time draws on towards Christmas, the GCWA directors would like to wish everyone - **A Very Happy and Peaceful Festive Season.**

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 (2010 Calendars still available).

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

Kyle of Sutherland Gala Week – No report.

First Scotrail – are implementing New Technology, starting on 07 December, in the form of 'Typetalk' for hard of hearing users and the new number is 18001 0800 912 2 901. The 'Minicom' number will not operate after 07 December 2009. All other disabled customers should continue to use 0800 912 2 901.

If you need to arrange a train journey and the station is inaccessible First Scotrail will provide alternative transport by taxi. You will need to book at least 24 hours in advance by calling First Scotrail Assisted Travel freephone Helpline on 0800 912 2 901 or 18001 0800 912 2 901 (typetalk, for hard of hearing). For more information about station facilities or First Scotrail services, you can also visit the Scotrail website on www.firstscotrail.com or refer to the Disabled Persons Protection policy booklet.



Statement from the Chairman, on behalf of Ardgay & District Community Council - Following a statement printed in the last edition of our newsletter (No.5 -Autumn Edition 2009). It was felt that remarks made about the Lady Ross Building may have been unfair in reflecting the current state of the building. Following talks with Mr Colin Mitchell the proprietor of the Lady Ross, we apologise for any distress caused by the article, and now agree that Mr. Mitchell has made significant efforts to improve and upgrade the buildings following the damage caused by the unfortunate fire, which badly affected the Postal Services who used the premises.

The recent loss of the Post Office was a blow to both Mr. Mitchell and this community, and is also reflected in the number of small rural communities throughout the UK who have to bear the loss of vital amenities such as Post Offices, Village Shops and Pubs.

This is the sixth edition of the newsletter. We are hoping to continue issuing 4 x times a year: Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter. Copy for the Spring issue to be with the Editor by Monday 16th February to be out in time for Easter.

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 published by:
Ardgay & District Community Council for:**



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



&

**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**