

# ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Ardgay and District Community Council

Population 598

Area 624.8 Sq Kilometers

No 10 – **BUMPER** Winter Edition 2010

Back issues available at our website <[ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk)>

## WOW! ARDGAY VILLAGE HALL IS LOOKING GOOD



### From the Chair

Welcome to the Tenth edition of the Newsletter

In this issue I'd like to pay a special tribute to the recently retired Chair of Ardgay & District Community Council – TONY GIBBS – who has done so much to help our community. Tony, who retired due to ill- health has given up so much of his personal time, knowledge and experience. Here are just some of the works that Tony has had to give up! Chair & Member Ardgay & District Community Council, Director Beinn Tharrsuinn Windfarm Community Limited, Director East Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau, Director Voluntary Groups- East Sutherland, Youth Highland and Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group amongst others. We looked around for volunteers to represent our community on all those groups that Tony represented us on and couldn't find anyone to fill them all – we are still looking for volunteers to work to make our community a place worth living in and not just a lot of individual houses. **THANK YOU - TONY**

David Hannah

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# GLEDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our pupil council have worked hard to put together this page for the community newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about what we have done this session so far. This year the pupil council members are;

Lauren McCulloch P7 ~ Chair  
 Duncan McGavin P7 ~ Vice Chair  
 Beth Llewellyn P6 ~ Secretary  
 Ryan Sutherland P7 ~ Treasurer  
 Cally Munro P7  
 Alex Sutherland P5  
 Miles Jones P4  
 Jessica McCulloch P3  
 Shaun MacInnes P3  
 Grace Clark P2  
 Daniel Howard P1

## Our Pupil Council



P1-3 are doing Kodaly music again this term which is like Feis (Youth Music Initiative) except it is for younger children. They take part in rhymes, singing, games and rhythm sticks which look like drum sticks. They think it is fun because they sing a good song called "do you have your .....voice?" It could be posh voice or scary voice for example.

This term we are doing Feis Rois (Youth Music Initiative) for a 4 week block. Most of our class have done it before, except P4's. It includes penny whistle and singing. So far this term we have learnt *Mary had a Little Lamb* and *Donald Where's Your Troosers*. The person who teaches us is called Bob Massie. He is fantastic at the penny whistle!



This year we are having swimming lessons again at Golspie swimming pool. In the past, it has only been Mrs Simpson's class who have gone for swimming lessons but since we only have 29 pupils in the whole school this year, which is only 5 more than P4-7 class from last year, all the school is allowed to go. There has been 3 groups in the swimming pool, 3 instructors and 2 teachers have gone in the pool too.

**School Christmas Show - 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
 P1-3 and P4-7 are each doing a Christmas Show on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December in Ardgay Hall. P1-3 are doing the Nativity play *The Landlords Cat*. P4-7 are doing *Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf*. It's supposed to be a very funny show! It's the Roald Dahl version so it's got a twist in it. So be aware for some hiccups along the way! Tickets will be allocated to families. However we may have some tickets available for sale nearer the time. Please contact the school.

**Charity Work** - We are planting daffodil bulbs in pots shortly to help raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. These pots will be on sale in the school before Easter. The pupils have also planted crocus bulbs within the school grounds to raise awareness of Polio. These bulbs were donated by the Rotary Club.

Our P7 pupils are going on a residential trip in June to the Fairburn Outdoor Centre. The pupils will be mixing with other P7 pupils from schools which feed into Tain Royal Academy. The pupils are planning lots of different fundraising events between now and then to help take down the cost of the trip.

**More Charity Work** - After Christmas we will be collecting old clothes to help raise money for our school. If you have any clothes you would like to donate then please hand into the school. The heavier the weight of clothes we gather the more money we get !!



**Ardgay & District Childrens Christmas Party** - The party will be held in Ardgay Village Hall on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 2 – 4.30pm**. All local children from birth – Primary 7 and resident in the Ardgay & District area are invited.

**ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** - Minutes of meeting-Wednesday 03/11/2010-Ardgay Hall

**Present:** - David Hannah (Chair), Doreen Gibbs (Secretary), Alan Lawrence (Treasurer), Derek Matheson, Phil Olson, Marion Turner, David Laver, David Ross, William MacLaren, Peter Armstrong, Cllr. Robbie Rowantree.

**1. Welcome** - The chair opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

**2. Apologies** - received from Liz Cormack.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2010** - approved as presented with amendments.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes** - Core Paths. The secretary had written to Matt Dent of Highland Council suggesting use of Paths for All funding for proposed upgrading of the Ardgay Hill/Oakwood path. Christmas Lights. There was discussion as to who would take responsibility for putting up the lights in Ardgay this year. Opinions differed as to whether this work should be done by a volunteer, given the need for safety. It was agreed to consult the local Fire Service for advice and possible assistance *Chair to contact Fire Officer*

**5. Secretary's Report** - Invitations had been received to attend:- Scottish Water Public Board meeting in Inverness on 16 Nov, to include an update on the company's operations and capital expenditure plans. It was understood that Pete Campbell, Chair of Creich CC would be attending, and that he agreed to provide feedback on the meeting. *Secretary to send apologies and request feedback.* Association of Scottish Community Councils AGM on Sat 20 Nov in Glasgow. *Members unable to attend – apologies had been sent*

Crown Estate open day/exhibition on Wind, Wave and Tidal Power in Thurso on 9/10 November. *No members able to attend - apologies to be sent* Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society A copy of a report produced on the Lest We Forget project had been received and was warmly recommended by the Chair. Gearchoille Community Wood Ardgay, A letter had been received raising the issue of future funding for the maintenance of the site and legal costs. *It was agreed that this matter would be deferred until the next meeting.*

**6. Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer's Account - The current cleared balance stands at £1546.74, with no outstanding liabilities. Projects Account - The current cleared balance stands at £4162 with outstanding liabilities of £126.90. An expected bill of £310 for the last newsletter has yet to be received. Toilets Account -The current cleared balance stands at £829.43 with outstanding liabilities of £180. One further payment of £180 is due next week, after which the remainder will be transferred to the Projects Account for the winter.

**7. Proposal to appoint a Vice-Chairman** - for the Community Council - proposal was deferred until AGM in April 2011

**8. Grant applications to Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Ltd** - Ladybird Club, Ardgay £200 towards purchase of art and craft materials – **approved.** Highland Small Communities Housing Trust £615.63 for local housing project feasibility and survey work – **approved.**

**9. Street Light Savings** - An email had been received from Creich CC seeking our views on the possibility of making savings on street lighting between Ardgay and Bonar by either turning the lights off after midnight, or reducing the number of lamps lit by 50%. The Chair invited discussion of this and other opportunities to make savings on unnecessary street lighting. Cllr Rowantree pointed out that since street lighting requirements were generally prescribed in appendices to statutory legislation, there would be difficulties in making local exceptions. There were also specific requirements for lighting where there was a pavement or within 30 mph limits. The Chair noted that lights were kept on at Ardgay Public Toilets even during periods when it was closed. Marion Turner asked whether it might be possible for some of the street lighting to be manually operated with a time-switch as needed by pedestrians. It was agreed to liaise with Creich CC and to contact Robert Gunn at Technical Services to investigate this and any other options for savings on lighting costs.

**10. Voluntary Groups East Sutherland** - The AGM was due to be held on Friday 19 Nov. The Chair was unanimously proposed for election as a director, and will attend with Phil Olson.

**11. Windfarms update** – Achany - The last meeting of the funding applications panel had been inquorate, with the result that applications had to be remitted to the next meeting. It appears that there are ongoing difficulties in finding community representatives. Rosehall - Doreen Gibbs had attended a meeting of the Community Liaison Group on 26 October. E.ON had reported on site preparation, including forestry harvesting and plans to upgrade the road for site traffic. The contractors are committed to using local suppliers. E.ON intend to collaborate with Inverness College to train local people to work on the installation once it is operational. Beinn Tharsuinn - No update .

**12. Development Post Update** - A job description/contract details were being prepared for the Development Officer post by a Kyle of Sutherland Initiative steering group comprised of Ardgay and Creich CC members.

**13. Forestry Roads** - Doreen Gibbs had attended a meeting hosted by Cllr George Farlow to discuss ongoing concerns about the safety and structural impact of timber/windfarm transport using the local road network. Although the Forestry Commission had issued guidance to transport contractors, anecdotal evidence suggested that individual drivers were still contravening regulations in terms of safe speeds and space between vehicles. The transport for windfarms was better regulated, with operators obliged to survey and if necessary upgrade any roads used for site access.

Cllr Rowantree pointed out that no action would be taken unless anyone witnessing a contravention was able to provide details such as registration number, time, description of driver, etc.



He also noted that seven lorries had in fact already been stopped on the Struie road since the introduction of a new weight restriction in mid-September. It was agreed to raise the issue with VOSA (Vehicle and Operator Service Agency) who have the responsibility to regulate commercial vehicle and driving safety. It was also noted that the matter would be on the agenda for the next Ward Forum.

**14. Any other competent business - Struie roadworks** - Several members commented on the driving hazard presented by a steep sided ramp at road works on the Struie Road. It was suggested that the ramp needed to be much better signed and lit to avoid taking drivers by surprise. *Secretary to contact, HC.* **Dog fouling** - Willie MacLaren asked whether a dog waste bin could be provided on the Ardgay-Bonar Bridge road. *Willie to contact John Clark*

**Remembrance Day** - A wreath has been ordered for the service. The public toilets would be open on the day. Refreshments would be available following the service in Bonar Bridge Hall. **Ward Forum** the next one will be in Melvich on the 27 November.

**New Community Council Noticeboard** - The Chair expressed our appreciation for Derek Matheson's help in erecting the new community notice board. **Newsletter** - He also wished to remind everyone that the deadline for submissions to the next newsletter was 11 Nov 2010

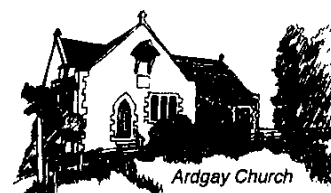
**The meeting ended at 8.55pm Next meeting will be on Wed 1 Dec at 7pm in Ardgay Hall.**

**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** – The Bell Editor Hilary Gardner Tel 766107

**Sunday Services - Edderton @ 10.30am, Ardgay @ 12.15pm** – More details from Mrs Sutherland **Church** – If you would like any other information about the Church of Scotland please contact Mrs Rosalie Sutherland, Session Clerk on 01862 821 320.



**SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE MANSE** - A Message from the Minister

Dear Friends - We hope you will find time to join us during the festive season to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. It will be a very busy Christmas for the parishes of the linked charge of Kincardine, Croick and Edderton linked with Creich linked with Rosehall. This will be a memorable Christmas in the life of the parishes. Memorable because this year within the parishes, we will be joined in church by our local school children for carol services, memorable because we are welcoming new members, and a new elder into one of our sessions, memorable because we will all be joining together for worship (this year at Creich Church) to celebrate the New Year. We ask that you make this Christmas a really "special" one for you by joining with us to celebrate the greatest 'gift' of all, the birth of Jesus Christ. With Every Blessing for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year. ANTHONY M. JONES [Reverend]

**SERVICES OF CELEBRATION DURING DECEMBER & JANUARY** - in the parishes of the linked charge Kincardine, Croick and Edderton with Creich and Rosehall. **Sunday 12th December** - at Creich Parish Church at 10.30am Children's Nativity Service with Confirmation. at Rosehall Parish Church at 12pm Service of Ordination & Admission to Eldership. **Sunday 12th December** – Carols by Candlelight – Presented at 7.30pm in Ardgay Village Hall **Wednesday 22nd December** at Creich Parish Church at 11am Christmas Carol Service with the children of Bonar Bridge Primary School at Ardgay Parish Church at 2pm Christmas Carol Service with the children of Gledfield Primary School. **Thursday 23rd December** at Edderton Parish Church at 12pm Festive Play performed by the children of Edderton Primary School. **Friday 24th December** Christmas Eve Watchnight Services at 11.30pm at Ardgay, Edderton, Creich and Rosehall. **Saturday 25th December** Short Christmas Day Service at Creich Parish Church at 9.30am. Shorter Christmas Day Toy Service at Ardgay Parish Church at 10.30am.

**Friday 31 December** – Dornoch Cathedral Labyrinth 2 – 4.00pm (a very moving experience)

**Sunday 2nd January** - Combined New Year Service for the whole linkage at Creich Parish Church at 10.30am

We look forward to welcoming you to our services - Reverend Anthony M. Jones [Parish Minister].

The Congregations of Kincardine, Edderton and Croick Churches warmly congratulate **Hilary Gardner** our new **Auxiliary Minister**

**Boy's Brigade** – The Boys Brigade started back a few weeks ago with a good attendance and some new recruits. They meet every Friday night at 7pm in the hall and anyone of P7 age or older who wishes to join please contact Donald Simmonds (766796) or Donald Brown (766166)

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

Juniors and Intermediates will have Tuesdays (not Thursdays)		
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>Juniors</b> 6.30 – 7.30 Cost £1.00	<b>Intermediates &amp; Adult Beginners</b> - 7.30 – 9.00pm. Cost £1.00 & £2.00
Teenagers and Adults Thursdays		
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>Teenagers</b> 6.30 – 8.00pm Cost £1.00	<b>Adults</b> 8 – 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

**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 08456 442271 (Evenings & Weekends NHS 24 on 08454 242424) or email [nhshighland.dentalhelpline@nhs.net](mailto: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.



**Gledfield Primary School - Gledfield Primary Parent Council:** email [gledfield@scottishparents.com](mailto:gledfield@scottishparents.com)

Office bearers: Chair: Vacant, Vice-chair: Vacant, Secretary: Rhys Llewellyn, Treasurer: Jacqueline Sutherland. Teacher Member - Kirsten McGruer, Headteacher - The Gledfield Primary School Parent Council meetings are open to all parents/guardians and members of the public. It meets once a term and endeavours to identify and represent the views of parents on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the welfare of the pupils. They also raise funds and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of pupils. They are currently assisting the school to formalise a School Travel Plan, which aims to promote and support safer travel to school by foot or bicycle. Copies of minutes of meetings are available from the Secretary or via the school. For details of the next meeting at 7pm in the school hall please contact Rhys Llewellyn Secretary. All parents/guardians are most welcome.

**Dornoch/Tain High Schools** – Dornoch 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](http://www.tainroyalacademy.org.uk) Articles include the schools link with Malawi, school trip to CERN & all the sports news.'

**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.

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

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



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

**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 Committee please contact your Community Councillor – or there will be none for 2011.



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

<b>Sunday 12 December</b> - Tain Hill Circular. OS 21 753813 - Approx. 5 miles. Leader: David More : 01862 892782	<b>Sunday 23 January</b> - Ben Horn. 520m / 1706ft. OS 17 828005 12 miles. Linear. Leader: Les Christie : 01408 633615 Optional low level walk to Uppat. 10 miles. Circular.
<b>Sunday 27 February</b> - Glen Loth. OS 17 902218 8 miles. Circular. Leader: Mark Fraser : 01862 810958	<b>Sunday 27 March</b> - Dalchork/Crask area. OS 16 583063 Approx. 8 miles. Leaders: Gillian Morris : 01408 641316 & Liz Quinn : 01549 402187
<b>AGM - Wednesday 9 March 2011 : 19:00 - Golspie Community Centre</b>	

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

12th January	2nd & 23rd February	16th March	6th & 27th April	18th May	8th & 29th June
20th July	10th & 31st August	21st September	12th October	2nd & 23rd November	14th December
Culrain (Culrain 2.10 – 2.45 p.m.), Strathoykel & Strathcarron Mobile Library 2011: Thursdays					
13th January	3rd & 24th February	17th March	7th & 28th April	19th May	9th & 30th June
21st July	11th August	1st & 22nd September	13th October	3rd & 24th November	15th December
During term-time the Library visits Gledfield School. During holidays pupils are welcome to use the Mobile Library at other stops, provided they have their Library tickets. Contact 07733300761, 01863 766709 or 01862 811585 for information about the other stops in this area.					

<b>Bonar Bridge Library/Service Point opening times</b>	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 766838, Email: bonarbridge.library@highland.gov.uk	



**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 or Jane on 01863 755306 for more information. The speaker on 06 December will be Sally Wild, artist and gardener. The new year starts with the annual dinner, followed by John Mackay and John Ross, widely respected show judges, speaking about the lighter side of growing and showing on 7 February. There will be a quiz evening on 7 March and visit by Robert Chapman from the British Cactus and Succulent Society on 04 April.

**Coming Events** – Nothing received for inclusion in the newsletter that is not mentioned elsewhere - (If you want to advertise your group's event please send details to the Editor). One of the problems with the Ardgay & District Community Newsletter is that it is not like a newspaper with paid staff chasing round for copy. It is voluntarily produced for the Community Council and paid for by them and distributed free to each house in the Ardgay & District Community Council area by the Community Councillors and other volunteers. The editor relies on members of groups and organisations sending information they would like to pass on to the community and is always pleased to put items into the newsletter for groups and organisations, but doesn't have the time to chase them up. The majority of items in the newsletter have been sent in by groups who want to let the community know what they are/have been doing and try to encourage the community to join in. Please encourage any other groups or organisations you belong to, to send information in. If you are not resident in the 'district' you can still read the newsletter online on the: <ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org> website. I look forward to receiving for the next issue, by **11 February** for distribution at the March Community Council meeting.

**VG-ES (Voluntary Groups East Sutherland)** - for information on Third Sector groups and organisations. Their AGM took place on 19 November and your Community Council Chair is now one of the Directors – 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

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

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

For the newsletter, regarding recycling: there are very few Highland Council recycling centres which will accept the 'Tetrapak' type containers, but it should be noted that our nearest site is the Dingwall recycling centre. This is fine if one is occasionally travelling to Dingwall. It can be awkward as the location of the site is inadequately signed, off the Strathpeffer road. The site is governed by set opening hours which include a shut hour for lunch. All in all it is a worthwhile facility, but one has to understand where it is and when it is open.

**Police Report from September 2010** - Showed a total of 39 incidents recorded for Bonar Bridge Station (including Ardgay & District), none serious but ranging from Night Shooting, Animals Straying, Driver Seat Belts, Drunk Person, Vandalism, Weather Warning, Firearms Enquiries, Road Safety, Dogs, Advisory Call, Courts/Warrants, Fixed Penalty (Conditional Offer), Licensing Laws, Noise, etc.



**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** – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)**

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

 <p>2010 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)</p>	<p><b>December 1<sup>st</sup> - Culrain &amp; Invershin SWRI</b> <b>December 8<sup>th</sup> – The Scouts</b> <b>January 5<sup>th</sup> – Whist Club for the Bonar Hall</b> <b>January 12<sup>th</sup> – OAP Fund - January 19<sup>th</sup> – Boys Brigade</b> <b>January 26<sup>th</sup> – Highland Hospice</b> <b>February 9<sup>th</sup> – Ardgay Scottish Country Dance Club</b></p>
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For information about the Whist Club or any of the Host Groups please contact Mrs Rosemary Logan 01549 421 282

**WINDFARMS - Beinn Tharsuinn** – Two grants awarded by Ardgay & District Community Council – see Draft Minutes.

**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](http://www.braemorewindfarm.co.uk) E-mail <braemore@windprospect.co.uk>

**Achany** - Four grants were recently awarded to local organisations from the SSE Achany Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. Two of the awards were to support energy efficiency measures in two of our local halls with Bonar Bridge Community Hall and Invershin Hall receiving £7550 and £7450 respectively towards ongoing plans to create warmer and more cost efficient community spaces for us all to enjoy. A grant of £5004 was made to East Sutherland Citizen's Advice Bureau which will contribute to the cost of continuing to provide CAB outreach services in Lairg and Bonar Bridge. The fourth grant was awarded to Lairg Community Association to support some of the salary and equipment costs over two years for a new part-time administrator position. This was the fourth round of awards in the first year of the Fund's operation. We will include a short summary of achievements and challenges during this first year in our next newsletter. Meanwhile if you'd like to find out more about the Fund please contact either David Hannah or Marion Turner (Community Council Members)

**Rosehall** - We are able to have a fund during construction which will provide £10,000 per year for community projects starting from 2011. My preference is that requests come directly to Liz Fraser (Liz will confirm this to me) and we can publicise this in the next newsletter, due to be published in January. We'll be making a donation to the Mayfest 2011 (£2,000) but this will come out of our 2010 budget. Contact - Sophie Moeng, Stakeholder & Marketing Executive,

Tel: 02476 182 547, Mobile: 07525 703 974 Email: [sophie.moeng@eon-uk.com](mailto:sophie.moeng@eon-uk.com), eon-uk.com

**Sallachy** – The first meeting with Community Leaders will take place during December to discuss proposals for a 30 x turbine windfarm on Loch Shin at Sallachy, anticipated to start in 2011. 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](mailto:meg@dochertyconsulting.com), Web: [www.dochertyconsulting.com](http://www.dochertyconsulting.com)

**Glen Moray** – Nothing to report recently.

**ACHANY APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME PILOT TAKES OFF - 1 November 2010 - Two local young people began apprenticeships, thanks to funding from SSE's Achany Wind Farm. Andrew Bradford from Tain and Callum Smart from Bonar Bridge recently started work with local businesses, Ardgay Garage and W.M. Plumbing Ltd respectively.**

In February, SSE's Achany Community Fund was launched to benefit the community council areas of Ardgay & District, Creich and Lairg. The fund was established by SSE and will run for the lifetime of the Achany Wind Farm, expected to be 25 years. The main purpose of the fund – which has an annual value of £76,000 – is to stimulate economic regeneration in the Kyle of Sutherland, including creating employment for young people. The Achany Advisory Panel is a group of local people responsible for allocating awards from the fund. It set up a sub-group to consider ways in which the fund could support local business development. They identified the need to support sustainable local employment opportunities for young people. Claire Bruce, from the Panel, said: "We decided to run a pilot scheme to encourage local businesses to take on apprentices, with the fund offsetting the cost of employing the apprentices while they learn their trade. "We want to help stem the tide of young people leaving the area because they can't find work. If we can create genuine long-term employment opportunities for them locally, it'll help strengthen the area and encourage local economic growth." Andrew Bradford is undertaking a Vehicle Technician Apprentice. He said: "I hope my apprenticeship will lead onto a career that I enjoy. It will give me the chance to learn a trade and hopefully gain a recognised qualification. I'm really enjoying my apprenticeship and consider myself very lucky to be a part of this scheme." Peter Donaldson, Head of Renewables Operations for SSE, said: "The Achany Wind Farm will generate around £2million of long-term funding for the community. I'm delighted to see the fund being used in such an innovative way that will help sustain the local economy. I wish Andrew and Callum every success in their chosen careers." Along with the pilot, more research will be carried on the feasibility of funding apprenticeships in this way.

**Driving in the rain - this may save your life - GOOD VISION IN A DOWNPOUR** - How to achieve good vision while driving during a heavy downpour. We are not sure why it is so effective; just try this method when it rains heavily. This method was given me by a Police friend who had experienced and confirmed it. It is useful....even driving at night. One method used by Canadian Military Drivers for years. Most motorists would turn on HIGH or FASTEST SPEED of the wipers during heavy downpour, yet the visibility in front of the windshield is still bad. In the event you face such a situation, just try your SUN GLASSES (any model will do), and miracle! All of a sudden, your visibility in front of your windshield is perfectly clear, as if there is no rain. Make sure you always have a pair of SUN GLASSES in your car, as you are not only helping yourself to drive safely with good vision, but also might save your friend's life by giving them this idea. Amazing, you still see the drops on the windshield, but not the sheet of rain falling. You can see where the rain bounces off the road. It works to eliminate the "blindness" from passing vehicles spraying you too. They ought to teach that little tip in driver's training. It really does work. And for a similar reason, why "Fog" lights must make WHITE light, or else are useless in FOG. Those YELLOW "FOG" lights are great in those blinding night SNOWstorms, and those big snowflakes become virtually invisible. But YELLOW is useless in RAIN & FOG. This next warning is another good one! I wonder how many people know about this:

A 36 year old female had an accident several weeks ago and totaled her car. It was raining, though not excessively, when her car suddenly began to hydro-plane and literally flew through the air.. She was not seriously injured but very stunned at the sudden occurrence! When she explained to the Police Officer what had happened he told her something that every driver should know - NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON .She thought she was being cautious by setting the cruise control and maintaining a safe consistent speed in the rain. But the Officer told her that if the cruise control is on when your car begins to hydro-plane and your tyres lose contact with the road surface, your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed making you take off like an airplane. She told the Police Officer that was exactly what had occurred. The Officer said this warning should be listed on the sun-visor - NEVER USE CRUISE CONTROL WHEN THE ROAD SURFACE IS WET OR ICY, along with the airbag warning. We tell our teenagers to set the cruise control and drive a safe speed - but we don't tell them to use the cruise control only when the tarmac is dry. NOTE: Some vehicles (like the Toyota Sienna Limited XLE) will not allow you to set the cruise control when the windshield wipers are on. If you tell this to 15 people and only one of them doesn't know about it, then it was all worth it.. You might have saved a life.

**Winter Driving Reminders (you already know these)** – Check your tyre treads and change to snow/ice tyres now. Top up your screen-wash with antifreeze type and carry a spare bottle of mixture in the car in case you need to top up during your journey. Keep a couple of blankets in the car along with a drink and some nibbles in case you get caught in a snow drift or long traffic jam because of one. Make sure you always have enough fuel to keep your engine running for the same reason. Carry a spade or shovel in case you need to 'dig out' of snow. Leave lots of room if you are following someone else on an icy road. **Be Careful.**

#### **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.

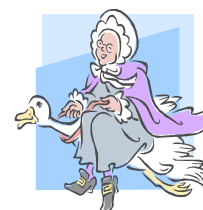


**This is the list of groups and organisations in Ardgay & District, that I know about:**

Achany Windfarm Trust	Ardgay & District Community Council	Ardgay & District Xmas Party
Ardgay Hall Committee	Art Club	Ardgay Badminton Club
Bradbury Centre	Bonar Bridge Football Club	Bonar Bridge/Ardgay Golf Club
Boys' Brigade	Bonar Bridge Local History Society	Church of Scotland
Crofters Group	Camera Club	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	

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>).

**Tain Pantomime Group Present - Mother Goose** - Thurs 9th, Fri 10th and Sat 11th December at 7.30pm at The Duthac Centre, Tain - Tickets priced £7 adult, £4 schoolchild on sale at Novel Idea Bookshop from Monday 29th November. Block Bookings of 10 tickets or more receive a 10% discount. To pre book phone Catherine on 01862 842311 This bright and hilarious local show is a must see for all the family.



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

**Ardgay Meeting/Function Venues**


Contact for Booking Ardgay Hall – Mrs Jennifer Burnett 01863 766658

Contact for Booking Kincardine Heritage Centre – Mr Bill Stobo 01863 766868

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

**Ardgay Hall Committee** - Phase one of Ardgay Hall's refurbishment programme is now complete. This phase consisted of upgrading of the toilet facilities, internal and external paintwork and varnishing of the hall's floor which was carried out by local contractor Jamie Burgess. Funding was made available to the hall committee through the Ardgay Community Council's "Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community" granting scheme as well as overwhelming local support at the Ardgay Hall Auction sale earlier in the summer. This is greatly appreciated and will benefit the local community. Phase two will see the committee looking for funding to bring the kitchen up to a modern standard with phase three including replacement of stage curtains and black out blinds for the windows in the main hall. At the AGM on Tuesday 2nd November, the existing long standing committee decided that this will be their last year due to the fact that they have all served over 20 years and feel that the hall would benefit from fresh faces and new ideas. They would like to thank everyone in the community who has helped and supported them over the years.

**'Lest We Forget' – Archive project first report available for sale at £5.00.** This excellent report covers a period of time from before the First World War up to the completion of the area's four War Memorials, (Kincardine, Creich, Edderton, Rosehall) in 1923. In the report we have tried to set against a background of events, local and international all taken from contemporary newspaper reports and local history, the known details of the 114 men from this district who died in the First World War. To read more – get a copy from the Project Co-ordinator – Steve Copley, 16 Oak Wood Place, Ardgay, IV34 3D4. Tel 01863 766174. Send SAE and £5.00 to have a copy posted out



*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>*

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



**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](http://www.macleodiscoaches.co.uk)>

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

<b>ARDGAY to Tain</b>	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

<b>TAIN(LAMINGTON ST) to Ardgay</b>	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

**Tain Royal Academy Community Complex (TRACC)** , Hartfield Road, Tain, Call 01862 893767 for more information

**TUESDAYS 1100 – 1245 OPEN SESSION** - Swimming Pool Timetable - Contact 01862 893767 (some examples shown)

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



### Business Support Services Bonar Bridge



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



Photocopying  
 Faxing  
 Laminating  
 Emailing  
 Internet Access



**Contact us on:**  
 T:01863 766536  
[info@keycs.com](mailto:info@keycs.com)  
[www.keycs.com](http://www.keycs.com)

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

## THIS



### (The Home Inspection Service)

Registered Technical Consultant with over 40 years construction experience - offers:

- Pre-sale Home Surveys.
- Maintenance & Repair Inspections, (with Reports on Works Required)
- Your Home MoT.
- Technical advice provided on your house.

David Hannah, Ardgay  
 Tel 01863 766061 \* Mob 07880776909  
 <e-mail [david@tnchome.co.uk](mailto:david@tnchome.co.uk)>  
 (Just completed major contract for Sutherland Estates and available as:  
 Clerk of Works/Project Manager,  
 Snagging/Defects & Jobbing Works quoted for.)

### Winter Tips

- ☒ Check out your rhones and gutters to clear them of all leaves and debris.
- ☒ Get some salt and grit in for your footpaths for when it's frosty.
- ☒ Drain off garage and outside taps to prevent frost damage

### 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

**Visit Falls of Shin in the build up to Christmas** - The visitor centre at Falls of Shin has long been popular with the people of Ardgay and the surrounding area at Christmas, and indeed throughout the year. This Christmas promises to be even better, with new Christmas lights, a new Santa's Grotto for the children, and for the parents to relax in a new lounge seating area in the coffee shop. And for those wanting to mix a little business with pleasure, the coffee shop also has free wi-fi! The shop has also been improved, with new ranges of gifts, clothing, foods, wine and other drinks, plus a new chiller cabinet full with produce sourced from across the Highlands. Throughout December the centre will be serving its renowned Christmas lunches on both Saturdays and Sundays, with freshly prepared food always available throughout the week.



**Bonar Bridge Local History Society** SCO 325 38 An extra event to our calendar year (1st March 2010 - 28th February 2011) was instigated by committee member David, that is a train trip to Wick in the month of August. The Bonar group is grateful to fellow member Brigitte Geddes and fully appreciates the amount of research required. Blessed with fine weather the entire expedition, particularly the guided walk to Pulteneytown, the first planned industrial village built in Britain, constructed in the 19th century at the behest of the British Fisheries Society. The group saw Wick in a new light when Brigitte managed to take in a visit to the museum, having to take into account train timings. David's suggestion and Brigitte's expertise in tour guiding paid off. Bonar Bridge Local History Society in its 10th year welcomes new members at the modest cost of £5. The events staged are always advertised in the hope that there will be a sizeable audience for the speaker. An excellent Christmas gift could be a membership or a purchase of our colour photographs of local landscape. The Sutherland Landscape project underway by Lairg history group is worthy of community group support.

**On behalf of members We wish the Ardgay & District CC Newsletter a successful New Year and send Christmas Greetings.**  
**Marion Fraser. Secretary 01863 766235**

### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS (01 December 2010)**

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



**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:

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**

**Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society**, Kincardine Old Church, Ardgay - Programme of Events – 2011 to follow (Reg Scottish Charity No. (SC0145547) Due to Bill Stobo being indisposed – nothing at present.

**CYCLE for WELLBEING** - The Stone Man Circuit (14.5Km) - This mountain bike route is a long gradual ascent with a few steep slopes and good views from the top followed by an exciting descent and a gentle return along the road to Ardgay. It requires good level of fitness and a strong nerve for the final descent. Takes about 2 hours. Leave from the War Memorial and head up Ardgay Hill, fork left on to the Oldtown Road. Cross the cattle grid and when the tarmac runs out go straight ahead passing behind Struie Cottage. Continue to the end of this track, cross the field and head towards the house at Badvoon. Pass below the house and head up behind the steading to pick up a path which takes you through a forestry gate. Follow a well defined path uphill with bracken on one side and heather on the other. There is a wet crossing point before you reach a good forestry road. Along this section look out for the "Stone Man" up on the right. Before the forestry these old stone remains resembling a man – especially in the mist - were an important landmark in an otherwise bare moor. Continue to a T junction with a bridge and gate on your right. Cross the bridge and head uphill through the gate onto Gledfield Estate land. The big gate is kept locked but the small gate should be open. Continue through the forestry uphill on this track till you come out of the forest. Here you have wonderful view of Strathcarron, the Alladale glens, Ben Klibreck and Migdale Rock. It is almost all downhill from here so this is a good point to take a break. What comes next is a very steep downhill section with some loose surface. \* Always cycle within your capabilities. Walk downhill if necessary and enjoy the views!\* At the bottom you will reach the tarmac road at a gate opposite Gledfield Farm. Turn right and it is a short ride back to the village. "During the shooting season as a courtesy & for your safety please ring Gledfield Estate before using this route (01863 766795)".



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 or cycle route you would like to feature in the Newsletter please email: [info@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk)

David here is a juxtaposition which highlights a local problem. Dog poo lying about where people walk. Here, within inches of a dedicated bin, the dog owner saw fit to ignore his/her friends and neighbours and let us see and enjoy this decaying mess. (Use the pic if you wish in the newsletter).



**WARD FORUM** – The next Ward Forum for West & Central Sutherland takes place in Melvich Village Hall on Saturday 27 November from 11.00. This Forum will be themed on the Highland Council Social Work Service, with Mr Bill Alexander, the Director of the Social Work Service in attendance. The forum will continue with the level of interaction and engagement enabling you to speak directly to the officials. Please note there will not be a second theme at this forum on this occasion but I have invited one or two community groups to present on the success of their projects which have received funding from the Ward Discretionary Budget.

**If you are unable to attend but would like anything raised at the Ward Forum please contact one of your Community Councillors.**

**CONGRATULATIONS** – The CRANNAG Bistro, at Bonar Bridge in Sutherland, has been crowned the Press and Journal Taste of Highlands and Islands Restaurant of the Year. The small, family-run restaurant was opened three years ago by husband and wife team Ian and Kathy Smith. The venture was a natural progression for the couple, who previously spent almost 14 years running a food-manufacturing company producing high-quality ready meals using local produce. With Bonar Bridge having a population of less than 1,000, they use innovative ideas – such as holding regular guest chef nights and themed evenings designed to promote local suppliers and showcase Highland fare – to keep diners coming back. As a result, the restaurant has put the village on the culinary map, with guests travelling from far and wide to dine there. Although faced with a difficult decision, the judges, who visited the restaurant anonymously, felt the Smiths' passion for local food – which runs throughout the entire menu — and local alcoholic and soft drinks, made the bistro the clear winner. The judges said: "The food was truly seasonal, innovative without being overly clever, fresh and overall tasted superb. "Real cooking skill was demonstrated to turn non-prime cuts of local meat into excellent dishes, which is much more challenging than starting with the best meat, and puts the cost of good dining within reach of all. "The quality of the food was superb, while the service was unaffectedly Highland: relaxed, informal but as attentive as necessary." The Press and Journal has sponsored the award for the last three years. Editor Derek Tucker said: "The aim of the award is to encourage restaurants to inform customers of their local suppliers and help spread the message about the excellent food and drink produced in the Highlands and islands. "Once again, an impressive list of finalists demonstrated this. My congratulations go to the Crannag Bistro for succeeding in what was very stiff competition."

## Crannag

*Bistro*

Book on 01863 766111 [eat@crannag.com](mailto:eat@crannag.com)

Dornoch Road, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland



Christmas Menu available throughout December for your visiting relatives, friends or festive party.

Contact us for further details.

Please support your local bistro during the winter months. We are open all year round, with the exception of two weeks in January, and possibly dark nights when we have no bookings at all .....



Local foods served in comfortable surroundings.

Open Tuesday to Saturday from 6.00 pm.

Small, freshly cooked menu featuring reasonably priced dishes.

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

We look forward to seeing you soon!



## Ardgay & District Community Council Meeting

**2011 Dates all Mondays at 7.00pm in Ardgay Village Hall**

<b>14 February</b>	<b>14 March</b>	<b>11 April AGM &amp; Usual Business Meeting</b>	
<b>9 May</b>		<b>13 June</b>	<b>11 July</b>
<b>12 September</b>	<b>10 October</b>	<b>14 November</b>	<b>12 December</b>

**All meetings are open to the public and we would welcome your support by attending some of them to let us know how well you think we are doing in managing our community affairs.**

**KYLE OF SUTHERLAND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GROUP (KSYDG)** - The KSYDG is continuing to expand its project based on the south Bonar industrial and are pleased to announce the granting of permission to use the two portocabin classes donated by Farquhar Ltd. The project runs three sessions P1-P4 Tues 3.30 – 4.30, P5-P7 Thurs 3.45 – 4.45, S1 & over Thurs 7.30 – 9.30. The porta-cabins have provided essential additional space to accommodate the increasing number of users and have allowed us to include extra activities. In one room we have a pool table, table tennis, seating & playstation area and an art space. The second room is kept largely as a free space where games can be enjoyed, jamming sessions and a practice space for specific projects. With funds secured from the Scottish community Foundation ( Achany Windfarm) work is under way to further consolidate the building upgrading it to meet the needs of the project.

Events taking place ; Accoustic Guitar lessons funded by MFR & COOP. Course runs from 9<sup>th</sup> Nov to 21<sup>st</sup> Dec on Tuesdays. 7.15 beginners 8.00 intermediate/advance. The group has four guitars which are for loan to those who wish to try but do not have their own guitar. This course is free of charge.

Tin Whistle this is for P1 – P4 and runs on a Tues during the normal club times. Children are given their own tin whistle and are being tutored by Ameilia in groups. We have whistles for 32 children.

Pantomime Will be showing 21<sup>st</sup> January location to be confirmed performed by the youth group and the p5 to P7 choir.

Art The after school club has an active art programme which runs each term projects include clay, bag making, flying insects! To name a few.

The group are continuing to explore future projects and the service and welcome any input from community members, we are also always grateful for volunteers. We are currently researching the possibility of fortnightly pickups for the youth group to those unable to access the project due to distance. If this is a service you would like to use please telephone Hayley on 01863766310.

**Migdale Hospital – Update from Robertson Highland (October 2010)** – Progress The construction on both floors is now complete including all timber wall panels which now allows the roof to be constructed. We are now approaching the 50% mark on the roof and internal works are progressing. Following some late nights during the month we have now completed all the concrete works within the building which completes our requirement for working during the night. In addition to this we have completed the retaining wall through the site that now encapsulates the building within the hillside. Community Tours – Now that the building has developed for all to see we would invite you to the site to view the building as it progresses. To allow this to happen we plan to hold a community tour in the near future, (please telephone 01863 769010 or E-mail [migdale@robertson.co.uk](mailto:migdale@robertson.co.uk) for information. Firewood – As part of our commitment to the environment we aim to divert as much of our waste as possible from landfill and we are offering our waste timber, on a first come first served basis – please telephone or e-mail for details. Next Weeks – We will continue construction of the timber roof and progress to tiling the Main area that faces the village. As the roof progresses above the internals of the building will develop and internal partitions and service installation will begin. The lift shaft will also begin to take shape for the lift to be installed in the new year.

**Speak up for Rural Scotland** – Rural Scotland makes up 94% of our land mass, is home to almost 1 million people and sustains one of the most diverse environments in Europe. It plays a crucial role in making this country and its people who and what they are. Rural Scotland is a great place in which to live, work and visit. Increasingly our rural communities will shape our economy and quality of life for the whole nation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our rural resources can help meet the food, energy and environmental challenges of the future. Most of all, we want to see places where families can find work and homes, and make a future for themselves.

Speak up for Rural Scotland is a consultation paper which offers everyone the opportunity to have their say in shaping the future of Scotland. In the paper the Scottish Government has published the advice provided by the Rural Development Council on a range of issues impacting on rural areas. Now the Scottish Government wants to hear what you think of their ideas and what you see as the key areas that need to change. Whatever your connection to rural Scotland, we want to hear your views on the issues that affect you most – from how we should develop renewable energy to what should be done to empower communities.

**Rural Scotland's future is your future** and this is your chance to help shape Government thinking on the future. So go on, speak up! **Have your say – Be part of the discussion.** A web version of the paper, in English and Gaelic, with a response form is available at [www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/current](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/current). Hard copies may be obtained from the team at: The Speak Up Consultation Team, The Scottish Government, C Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD, E-mail [speakup@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:speakup@scotland.gsi.gov.uk). If you need further information or have questions – telephone 0300 244 6678.



**We did it again – but better this time** – Ardgay War Memorial got 95 out of 100 in the Best Kept War Memorial without a garden, and won the 2010 competition. The Judges comments “A lovely War Memorial well kept and good condition. A credit to the local branch of The Royal British Legion Scotland”. A Rosebowl was presented to David Hannah for this achievement at the RBLs Social Evening on 26 November. David said “Although I tidy up it is not my effort alone the whole community helps by

not littering or allowing dog fouling around our monument to those who died that we might live.

**Sincere thanks to the ‘around 25’ people who turned up for the wreath laying at the Service of Remembrance on 14 November.**



## Gearrchoille Communtty Wood, Ardgay – Then & Now!



### **This is *your* community wood - *Your* membership is its future!**

The works illustrated above were funded by:- The People's Postcode Trust; Awards for All Scotland; The Sutherland Partnership; Ward 1 Councillors Discretionary Budget; North Childcare & Family Resources Partnership; Achany Wind Community Benefit Fund; Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Fund; Highland Council; Plus, help and encouragement from Ardgay & District Community Council.

The GCWA Directors wish to thank all of the above - on your behalf.

W Stobo, B Geddes, R Copley, M Munro, G Ross, D Hannah, H Buchanan, D Laver, A Wright, B Wright.

### **Gearrchoille 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

**Gearrchoille 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](mailto:gcwa@btinternet.com)

[www.gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk](http://www.gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk)

**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 eleventh edition of the newsletter. We are hoping to continue issuing 4 x times a year: Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter. Copy for the Spring issue should be with the Editor by 11 February for issue in March.

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



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

**We would like to take this opportunity at Christmas to thank everyone who does anything at all to make Ardgay & District such a great place to live and particularly to Jeannie Sparling and her team for keeping the public toilets open, clean and such a pleasure to visit as well as maintaining all the lovely flower tubs which brighten our journeys through the village and Donald Brown and Hall Committee for brightening up the centre of our community. We don't have room to thank all of the individuals who keep all the clubs, groups and organisations going so that anyone can enjoy the benefits.**

**But Santa knows who you are and you will be rewarded.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**Delivery Problem - Strathcarron - We apologise for this alternative of leaving your newsletter in a bag on your gate but we are having a problem getting over 50 newsletters delivered to Strathcarron. One of our distributors has moved house and we would appreciate some helpful people in the 'Strath' to take a few and deliver to neighbours rather than this. Contact the Editor if you are willing to help.**