



What's On in Ardross

Edition Sixty Six
September/October 2021

For more information of events in the hall please check the Ardross Community Hall website - www.ardrosshall.org

Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/ArdrossHall>

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ardrosscommunityhall>

Bookings for events can be made online (fees associated) or by phoning the Free Booking line: 01349 880591

For bookings by email to Ardross Hall ardrosshall@hotmail.com or click the link on the hall website for bookings.

ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL & AMAZON SMILE

The Ardross Community Hall is now registered with Amazon smile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of everything we buy to the Hall funds

You just need to log on as smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC027764 (instead of the usual amazon.co.uk)

ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL

As Covid restrictions have been relaxed the Committee are happy to report that Hall has been able to open up further and usage has increased again. The Committee are delighted to welcome back many of the Halls regular user groups (contact details and notice of sessions you will find in this newsletter). The Committee will continue to monitor the public health situation to ensure the safety of all users and visitors.

Since the last newsletter, we have begun an application for the installation of PV panels to further reduce our carbon footprint in keeping with the Halls environmentally friendly ethos. This project is one of a number of recommendations made following an energy assessment in 2018 to reduce the Hall's energy consumption, increase it's efficiency and lower the overall running costs. A number of the recommendations made in the assessment are ongoing, for example, replacing electrical items at their end of life with more energy efficient appliances (lighting, refrigeration etc).

Installation of PV panels would enable the hall to generate the majority of its own electricity. A fund was identified that could finance a significant percentage of the costs and as such, an outline application is being developed. As part of this application, the Directors and Management Committee would like to canvas support from user groups and members of the Ardross community for the installation. I would be grateful to receive your thoughts on this project and if appropriate, your letter of support. Many thanks to those who have already been in touch. Please email me at randgbews@tiscali.co.uk

In addition to working on the PV Panel application, the Committee are also in the process of identifying and purchasing new stacking banqueting chairs to replace the older heavy fabric chairs and are busy working on plans for the renewal of the playpark. More information on this will follow.

For information about the hall and to check What's On please go to <http://www.ardrosshall.org/Welcome.html>

For bookings and general enquiries please email ardrosshall@hotmail.com.

Rory Bews

Chair

Ardross Community Hall

POST OFFICE

The mobile Post Office van arrives in Ardross on **Tuesday 21st September**

Ardross Community Hall car park **11.00 to 11.30am**

The vehicle has an electronic tailgate for those that need easy access. A wide range of services will be available

Every Tuesday 11.00 to 11.30am thereafter

ARDROSS TODDLER GROUP

The Ardross Toddler group has recommenced on Friday mornings 9-12 in the Ardross Community Hall. Everyone welcome, enjoy coffee and a chat while the children play.

Covid risk assessment in place. For more information please message Laura Pearson on **07393 639799**.

ARDROSS CHRISTMAS TREAT

For a number of years, our Community Council have funded the Ardross Christmas Treat.

This initiative was set up as a goodwill gesture to celebrate this special time of year.

If you are/or know of anyone within our community who is 65 years (or over) and has lived in the Ardross Community for at least 6 months and would appreciate a Christmas Treat please let us know.

You can do this by contacting **Kerry Dolan on 883203**.

If you have previously received the Christmas Treat you will still be included on our list.

In line with Covid 19 guidelines we will:

Wear gloves and masks when assembling and handling the gift bags.

Wear masks when delivering the gift bags.

We look forward to hearing from you!

ARDROSS HALL YOGA

Yoga classes are back on in Ardross Hall:

Wednesday evening 8-9.30pm Iyengar style yoga class

Beginners and intermediates welcome.

Please bring a yoga mat and any props you have (brick, block, belt etc.)

Cost £8 and £7 concessions.

Every other Wednesday afternoon 2-3 pm Chair Yoga for the less able

If you are older, disabled or have been injured this is the class for you

Please bring an exercise band or belt

Cost £7 or £6 concessions

Information about classes contact Juliette Lowe 07835458623 or juliette@dalreoch.co.uk

Ceilidh Dancing

The ceilidh dance classes have restarted in the hall fortnightly

from 28 September

7.30pm to 9pm

Great fun & varied couple dances with instruction

please see the hall website or Facebook page for more information

SWI

We will begin our meetings on 9/9/21

PLEASE NOTE new times 3.30-5.30pm

We welcome back our members and hopefully new ones.

We will be observing Covid rules

Please bring your own mug.

Speaker -Betty Fraser will talk on her recent book 'The Stewart Diaries'

Oct14th - Ghostly Poems or stories . Wear a spooky face mask.

Nov 11th - Planting irises in pots & Xmas recipe

Dec 9th - Out for lunch

Jan 2022 Talk by Adrian Clark

For further information contact **Joan Scott 882914**

ARDROSS LUNCH CLUB

We have managed a get together in September and hope to continue with our monthly meetings when the situation improves.

If you have any questions please contact

Joan 01 349 88291 4

We hope everyone continues to be safe and well.

ARDROSS ONLINE

New connections are still being made in Ardross to the network being run by Cromarty Firth Wireless. A further 11 connections will have been made so far in 2021 by the time you read this. Although our project is closed there is plenty of capacity on the network and an extensive network built to cover Ardross. There are also grants available subject to conditions. So if you want to get connected to broadband please contact Cromarty Firth Wireless direct by visiting them at www.cfwn.co.uk Phoning them on 01349 805040 or emailing them at enquiries@cfwn.co.uk They have also asked us to mention that if you have any issues with your broadband connection please do get in touch on any of the above contact details.

John Edmondson john@ardross.online

Director

Ardross Online CIC

SC561188 Tel: **07762 879404** or **01349 884440**

ARDROSS CHURCH



There is a wedding service to be held in Ardross Church on 5th November.

This will be the first service since the Covid outbreak.

However, church services remain suspended for the time being.

Home fire safety

Carbon Monoxide, fire and smoke alarms

The Scottish Government are introducing new standards for carbon monoxide, fire and smoke alarms in all homes from February 2021. Due to the practical difficulties likely to be faced by homeowners seeking to make the necessary changes to their homes, the Scottish Government have agreed to delay the new regulations by 12 months due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to move the implementation of the new regulations, back to February 2022.

This legislation due to come into effect in February 2021 (now February 2022) meant the standard which **currently applies to private rented property and new-builds** would have been extended to all homes in Scotland.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-safety-guidance-private-rented-properties/>

From February 2022 every home must have:

- a smoke alarm in the living room and in circulation spaces such as hallways and landings
- a heat alarm in every kitchen
- all alarms ceiling mounted and interlinked
- a carbon monoxide alarm where there are fixed combustion appliances such as boilers and wood burners

It is important that we make sure all households in the Ardross Community Council area know about the new regulations and what each household must install in relation to carbon monoxide, fire and smoke alarms.

This is compulsory for every household so if homes are privately let it is the responsibility of your landlord to ensure these have been installed (current regulations).

If you own your own home or have a mortgage it is your responsibility to ensure these alarms are installed.

Installation could cost in the region of £400 per household depending on the number of alarms and detectors requiring to be fitted.

To that effect the Ardross Community Council has agreed to contribute £200 from the Community Benefit to household's in the Ardross Community Council area who meet the criteria set out below, in order to help towards the cost of installing these alarms and smoke detectors.

Criteria to qualify:

Own or mortgaged property located in Ardross Community Council area

Second home/residence located in Ardross Community Council area

Excluded:

Private rented properties

Tied properties

Holiday lets/Air BnB properties

Application forms can be requested from Alison Gordon Treasurer Ardross Community Council and will be sent by email or post. Funding will be awarded retrospectively, by way of a cheque following the receipt of the completed application form and a copy of the invoice evidencing the work has been undertaken by a suitably qualified electrician and/or a receipt for the purchase of the appropriate equipment.

Further information can be found on :

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/fire-and-rescue/home-fire-safety/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes/>

www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes.aspx

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS

IMPORTANT NEWS ON FUTURE MEETINGS

The Community Council are at the moment holding their meetings via Zoom. All are welcome, but you need to be proactive to join each one. If you wish to join any of our meetings please email the Secretary secretary@ardross.community to obtain a link.

Our next meeting will be on the **11th October 2021 at 8.00 pm**. We meet on the second Monday of each month so future meetings will be held on **8 November 2021**, **13 December 2021**, and the **10 January 2022**.

It is hoped that during the next quarter that we can meet in the Ardross Community Hall, but we have said that before. Currently the advice from the Highland Council is not to hold face to face meetings. We are currently looking at being able to allow members of the Public to join in remotely as well when we start to meet in public, but this brings its own challenges. Updates as to how we will be meeting will be posted on our website: www.ardross.community and our Facebook page.

The Ardross Community Council is acutely aware that those without internet connections will be unable to partake in the process, so please if you have an issue you would like to discuss please get in touch with any Community Councillor.

ARDROSS MOBILE POST OFFICE

A mobile Post Office Service has now commenced in Ardross. Every Tuesday morning between 11.00-11.30am there will be a mobile Post Office service in the Ardross Community Hall car park. There is a wide range of normal services. The vehicle has an electronic lift for easy access for those that need it.

The Post Office provide essential services, and for those that rely on it can be a lifeline. If you know of anyone who might have difficulty getting to the Hall please offer to help them, or contact the Community Council and we will see what we can do.

OTHER NEWS

We are all hoping that the next quarter will see more normal life returning although there is no indication as to when social distancing restrictions might be lifted, which means public meetings at the Hall will have a limited capacity for the foreseeable future.

At our AGM in June the following Office Bearers were voted into office for a year. Chair - Peter Allen, Secretary - John Edmondson, Treasurer - Alison Gordon.

We are hoping to put out a questionnaire to Ardross residents and businesses before the end of the year to ascertain what improvements, services etc people might want to see in Ardross. Some of these things might not be in the Community Council's power to either provide or facilitate. But we work towards achieving them.

ROADS

The Ardross Community Council are well aware of the poor state of the Struie Road in particular between the junction with the Golf Course Road and Pillars Lodge, as well as sections further north. Following our September meeting after hearing about the number of misses on this section of road, and our pleas to the Highland Council to get the pot holes repaired; we wrote to Police Scotland about the imminent danger to road users. The road has now been temporarily repaired. But the road really needs resurfacing, and the drainage is still an issue. We will continue to pursue this.

The road between Newbridge and the Golf Course Road was due to be repaired and resurfaced in places. Work did commence, but work had to stop because of a COVID related incident. We do not yet know when the work has been rescheduled.

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS...contd

You can report pot holes using the Highland Council website, but it is cumbersome and seems to be designed to discourage reporting. There is an alternative way of reporting these potholes which is a lot easier <https://www.fillthathole.org.uk/hazards/report> and seems to get results. So if you come across a pothole that you think needs repairing please report it. Remember once a pothole has been reported the Highland Council becomes liable for any damage caused by these potholes to vehicles.

ARDROSS FIRE SAFETY GRANT

New regulations require that various smoke/heat/CO alarms are fitted into residential homes before February 2022. To help householders meet these new regulations the Ardrross Community Council are offering £200 towards the cost of the installation. There is more information and details as to how to apply elsewhere in the Newsletter.

WEBSITE

Have you visited our website www.ardross.community? This is getting expanded bit by bit. We have information on current Consultations and Planning as well as the latest Minutes and Agenda. There are Archive files as well. Of course we still have our Facebook page.

FORESTRY

Forestry and Land Scotland have now finished their Consultation on the Ardrross Forest Plan. Many of our comments made at the Scoping stage had been acted upon.

PLANNING & WIND FARMS

Wind Farms

We are aware that Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm is looking at either putting in taller masts and/or expanding the wind farm. Applications have been submitted to put in two met masts on the Edderton/Ardgay side of the hill.

There have been a further two met masts just to north of the Strath Rory that have been applied for.

Planning

There have been quite a few applications over the preceding months. Fishing huts on Loch Morie; garage extensions at two properties in Strathy and north of Stittenham; extensions Oak Cottage and Listed Building Consent for handrails on the embankment walls at Newbridge. The latter was important as the Highland Council had originally deemed that the application did not require Listed Building Consent. This seemed to run contrary to a previous decision regarding the status of not only the Telford bridge but the embankments parapets etc, when this was pointed out by the Community Council the Highland Council determined that Listed Building Consent was in fact required. This should hopefully mean that any work done in future to this important historical structure will be sympathetic.

Strath Rory Wind Farm

Things have moved through various stages since our last update on this wind farm. In June 2021 Members of the North Area Planning Committee led by Cllr Maxine Smith voted against Officer's recommendation and Refused the Strath Rory Wind Farm. In July EnergieKontor appealed this decision. The Appeal is now with the DPEA. Further submissions have now been made by the Ardrross Community Council. The Reporter looking after the Appeal has decided to Determine the case by an unaccompanied site visit.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Grants and getting an Award

The Community Council funds the Newsletter and makes a regular annual payment to the Ardrross Primary School for organised trips, which was increased again to £1,000 as well as electricity payments to eligible households, the number; which stands at 39.

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS...contd

We are making grants up to £200 available to households to help them comply with new Fire Legislation to install CO/Heat/Smoke Alarms, please see elsewhere in this Newsletter for the conditions of the grant and whether you will be eligible.

ARCH were awarded £1,000 to run history courses which are currently underway and well attended, you can still join. They take place every Thursday 7.00pm at the Ardross Community Hall. The Hall's Facebook page has the full details.

If you have a project or ideas for a project that would be eligible for an award please get in touch with Alison Gordon 882740 or the Secretary John Edmondson 884440, secretary@ardross.community for an application form or come along to one of our meetings to discuss your ideas. The Ardross Community Council want to help any group or individual if they have an idea that will benefit the community. But please bear in mind there are certain restrictions as to how the Community Council can distribute the money placed on them by the wind farm operators, they differ slightly so it is best to talk to us.

On March the 1st 2021 the Ardross Community Council held a public meeting via Zoom to discuss the Further Environmental Information submitted for the above wind farm. The heights of the turbines had been reduced and although lighting was no longer required because of their height it was unclear if either the MOD or Inverness airport would require lighting. Having listened to all the comments and after discussions it was decided that the Ardross Community Council would still OBJECT to the wind farm as it was felt that the changes made no material difference to the effect of the wind farm on Ardross.

John Edmondson - Secretary for and on behalf of Ardross Community Council
Dalreoch, Strathrusdale, By Aness, IV17 0YQ
Tel/Text 01349 884440 Mobile 07762 879404 secretary@ardross.community

Windfarm Community Fund

If you have lived in Ardross for more than 6 months and a member of your household is aged 70 years or more you will qualify for the Windfarm Community Electricity Payment. This payment is made twice a year towards your electricity account. For an application form and information about how to apply please contact:

Alison Gordon, Treasurer Ardross Community Council
07770325507 or TreasurerACC2021@outlook.com

Ardross Pot

The Ardross Pot is available to organisations based in Ardross for help with a project, but not running costs. It is also available to individuals, but there must be a clear benefit to the community should the applicant be successful. Application forms are available from the Secretary:

John Edmondson, Dalreoch, Strathrusdale, Ardross on 884440/07762 879404
secretary@ardross.community

Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit Awards

The Community Council is always interested to hear of new ideas and suggestions of ways to help improve our community facilities. So please let us know of any ideas you might have by contacting

John Edmondson, Peter Allen or Alison Gordon or any other Community Council member

Coal

Approx 7-800 kilos of house coal, no longer required as I changed to a wood stove.
£40.00 or very nearest offer, to be donated to Ardross hall.
Buyer to collect.

Call Richard no 4 Achandunie Cottages **01349 368446**



Apples

If anyone in Ardross has spare/ fallen (but not rotten) apples we have the press to make apple juice on a fairly big scale. Last year we pressed five dust bins full making over 20 gallons of juice. Of course, further attention will produce cider. Contact Richard at no 4 Achandunie Cottages Tel. **01349 368446**



There are now 41 newsletters emailed.

If you would prefer to have your newsletter emailed or your address is not correct on the envelope in which your newsletter is enclosed please let Alison know by email to: alisongordon56@icloud.com

The Ardross Community Council has agreed to meet the cost of posting out a newsletter to every household in the Ardross Community Council area. If you know of any household who has not received a newsletter please contact Alison Gordon **07770 325 507** or alisongordon56@icloud.com

If you would like to put something in the next newsletter please get in touch.

Alison Gordon is the co-ordinator of the details for "*What's On in Ardross*"

Contact details: Alison Gordon **07770 325 507** or alisongordon56@icloud.com

