



What's On in Ardross

Edition Sixty Seven
January to March 2022

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

PV Panels

Many thanks to everyone who responded regarding the PV panels. I am pleased to report that the Hall secured the funding and have been able to progress the project. RI Cruden have been appointed to install the PV cell array on the Hall roof and a deposit has been paid to secure the price quoted.

Blue Print Architecture have been instructed to obtain the relevant Permissions. They now have the drawings and have applied for Planning Consent and the Building Warrant. Many thanks to John Edmondson for his efforts in moving this project forward. Cromarty Firth Wireless have been informed of this work and have agreed to install a generator to keep the broadband on for Ardross when the electricity is switched off for the final connection.

Hall Play Park

We hope to move this project forward in the coming months with the aim of commencing works once ground and weather conditions allow. Rory would like to setup a working group to move this on and has already had some volunteers, however, anyone wishing to have involvement please get in touch.

The Hall Committee hope to resume meetings on **Tuesday 18th January at 19:30**, with the intention of returning to regular 6 weekly meetings. All are welcome.

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

randgbews@hotmail.com

07880 701974

Ardross Heritage Open Day
Saturday 26 February 11am-3pm

The interesting heritage of the Ardross area was explored by a group in autumn 2021. Over three months more than 50 people met to share memories, research places and people and then prepare a display pulling together all of this material, led by Susan Kruse of Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH). The results can be seen at an open day at Ardross Community Hall Saturday 26th February 11am-3pm, together with binders of the information which could not fit onto the display.

The group found some surprises along the way including a cluster of Neolithic tombs and carved stone balls, a rare large Bronze Age flint arrowhead found 50 years ago (and now submitted to Treasure Trove), early 18th century gravestones at Nonikiln, slavery connections, the earliest fox farm in Britain, the remarkable hydro-electric scheme of the Castle which not only provided lighting but also heating to the castle and church. Altogether the display illustrates the rich remains of this area.

The collected memories will be available for reading on the day, and can also be downloaded from the Ardross Community Council website. New information and images very welcome: if you have any old photos of Ardross and people you would like to share, these can also be scanned on the day. Teas and coffees available. Please note that this event will only go ahead if Covid regulations permit. If there is any question closer to the time, contact Susan on 077888 35466 or info@archighland.org.uk

ARDROSS HALL YOGA

Yoga classes are back on in Ardross Hall from 12 January 2022

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

POST OFFICE

The mobile Post Office van will be in Ardross from **Tuesday 11th January 2022**

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**.

Ceilidh Dancing

The ceilidh dance classes will resume once the current restrictions on mixing allow, and the Hall will advertise via social media when the classes are re-starting again.

Please check the hall website or Facebook page for updates.

SWI

We will restart our meetings on 13/01/22

PLEASE NOTE new times 3.30-5.30pm

We welcome back our members and welcome to new ones.

We will be observing Covid rules

January 13 Talk by Adrian Clark

February 10 Learn to play whist

March 10 Craft afternoon

Please bring your own mug, wrapped biscuits will be served

For further information contact **Joan Scott 882914**

ARDROSS LUNCH CLUB

We have managed a get together in November & December and we hope to meet up again in February.

Joan will be in touch.

We hope everyone continues to be safe and well.

If you have any questions please contact

Joan 01349 882914

ARDROSS CHURCH



Church building Information - Ardross Church is held in trust for the residents of Ardross. Ever since the church was built by Dyson Perrins it has been held in trust. It is unique in being a 500 seater, independent church building not taking instruction from any church denomination. To this day the building remains in trust.

There have not been scheduled, regular services held in the church building since the start of the Covid pandemic and by definition the building is now not a church; it is an iconic landmark building forming a significant part of the Ardross heritage.

In 2019 the trust title to the building was revised such that trusteeship was widened to include members from the Ardross community. Presently there are 6 trustees 4 of which are resident in Ardross. At this time the title was also revised to include 'community use' and for the 'heritage of Ardross and the wider public.'

Following quintessential surveys it has been identified that significant urgent and essential repairs need to be completed. The trustees are actively seeking funds to undertake the remedial works identified.

The present board of trustees would to thank residents of Ardross and former residents of Ardross for the time and effort they have freely given in support of Ardross Church over the period of many years.

Please note that church services remain suspended for the time being.

Richard Smith

Pathway to Ardross Hall and School from Stittenham/Fox Farm area.

Local help needed!

A pathway to the school and hall from the Stittenham area avoiding using the B9176 is something that has been in discussion for a long time. Ideally this would allow school pupils and other residents a safe route to these amenities avoiding this dangerous stretch of public road where walking and cycling have not been feasible.

The forestry agents who organised the new planting on the Dalnavie fields to the west of the B9176 have designed in open access routes to the schools and hall at our request.

Discussions are ongoing with Forest and Land Scotland (FLS- previously Forestry Commission) who manage a section of the proposed route. They are receptive to our community designing and taking on maintenance for the FLS section.

At this stage (Covid restrictions permitting) it would be beneficial to hold an outdoor meeting with all interested residents.

We could meet up in the yard behind the Fox Farm on **Saturday February 12th at 10.30am** and have an open air discussion and walk along the routes. This would allow us to fully explore various options including access to all households and future maintenance. A team of local volunteers will be required for ongoing maintenance works and coordination of activities.

I would be happy to get feedback in advance from anyone either by phone - **01349 882234** or email **willie.beattie789@gmail.com**. Otherwise I look forward to meeting on the 12th February 2022.

ARDROSS ONLINE

New connections are still being made in Ardross to the network being run by Cromarty Firth Wireless. 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** or 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**

REMINDER

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 1st February 2022.

This new legislation which is due to come into effect on 1st February 2022 means that 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

We have co-opted James McTaggart as a voting member of the Ardross Community Council.

We have been informed by Forestry and Land Scotland that because of any lack of progress the community purchase of the Dublin Woodland will not be going ahead and the land is to be offered on the open market. We have not had an update from the Ardross Community Woodland as we got press.

The Ardross Church Board has approached us to help fund repairs and maintenance of the Church. The Church is administrated by a Board of Trustees, it's ownership and governance is complicated and the Ardross Community Council have several matters that need resolved before proceeding further. We offered to have a face to face meeting in December, but for a variety of reasons this has been delayed until February. Some of the outstanding issues are: that at the moment should we grant any money the Ardross community would not have any control if and to whom the Church could be sold and where the proceeds would go to; the Community Council need assurances that people will not be excluded from using the Church, and be open to all; some of the proposals for the Church's activities would appear to compete with the Ardross Community Hall. None of these present insurmountable obstacles, but need detailed discussions to resolve and we will update you in the next Newsletter.

IMPORTANT NEWS ON MEETINGS

The Community Council are still 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 to obtain a link.
secretary@ardross.community

Our next meeting will be on the **14th February 2022 at 8.00 pm**. We meet on the second Monday of each month so: **14th March 2022, 11th April 2022, and the 9th May 2022**. We are still hoping that during the next quarter 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 meetings of this type. 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

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.

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS...cont'd

ROADS

The Ardross Community Council is pleased to see that the repair work to the Struie Road has been done without too much disruption. It has never intended to be a complete resurfacing and there are still a few areas that are left unrepaired.

But this is just one road and as you are no doubt aware many of the more local roads have some dangerous pot holes, we try and report these when we can, but rely on you to report them.

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, so there is not much time to get this completed to comply with the legislation. To help householders meet these new regulations the Ardross 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 as well as on our website <https://www.ardross.community/home-fire-safety.html> where you can download an application form.

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, where we have started to archive the Newsletters. There is a new page outlining the research for Remembering Ardross and we hope to add more information over time <https://www.ardross.community/ardross-history/remembering-ardross.html> Of course we still have our Facebook page which tends to have more up to date information.

FORESTRY

Forestry and Land Scotland have now finished their Consultation on the Ardross Forest Plan. One of the issues we have been trying to resolve is the formation and maintenance of a clearway between Stittenham and the Primary School. There is an appeal elsewhere in this Newsletter to get volunteers to help with this.

PLANNING & WIND FARMS

Wind Farms

On the 7th January 2022 we were informed that the Strath Rory Wind Farm Appeal was allowed. This means that the developer can go ahead and build 7 turbines of up to 149.9m high on the site subject to other Conditions. This was despite the Objections of many in Ardross, the Ardross Community Council and the Highland Council. There are no realistic opportunities to appeal this decision. The developer EnergieKontor had previously discussed Community Benefit. They have followed a deliberate tactic of involving as many Community Councils as possible to dilute the opposition to the wind farm and also the possible benefit to Ardross which will bear the brunt of the negative impact of this wind farm. Appeals to the landowner to help Ardross gain a fairer share have so far not yielded any results.

It has come to our attention that the route for the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Extension power cables are being assessed. It is our understanding that the power cables are in fact to be over grounded on a double pole arrangement rather than being undergrounded (the Highland Council encourages developers to underground the lines). There are several route options being explored: up Strathrusdale; via Dam Wood or up the Strathy Road. It is disappointing that the operator of the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Scottish Power are not insisting that the power lines are being undergrounded.

Planning

Planning has been relatively quiet for this quarter. With only one application having to be considered for a Peat land Restoration Project just to the north of Loch Bad a'Bhathiach, which we didn't comment on.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Recent Grants and getting an Award

The Community Council funds the Newsletter and makes a regular annual payment to the Ardross Primary School for organised trips, which was increased last year as well as electricity payments to eligible households.

We are making grants 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.

We donated £850 towards the Christmas Treat this year to eligible residents.

We released £7,749.96 to the Ardross Community Hall to part fund the installation of PV cells.

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.

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

There are now 42 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

