



What's On in Ardross

Edition Sixty Eight
April to June 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)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Alistair McCulloch Trio, 20th Anniversary Scottish Tour
Saturday 13th August
8pm

Ardross Community Hall

Well renowned Scottish musicians blending traditional,
contemporary and self-penned material.

Claude Bourbon - The Wee Gig - musical artist
Friday 16th September
8pm

Ardross Community Hall

*"A breathtaking acoustic version of blues, jazz, folk,
classical and Spanish guitar from a stunning guitar virtuoso."*
Altadena

ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL

The Hall Committee held their first face to face meeting on Tuesday 22nd March 2022, 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 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@dalreioich.co.uk

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 have resumed. Dates and times are advertised via social media

Please check the hall website or Facebook page for updates.

ARDROSS SWI

April 14th - The Ardross SWI are meeting at 2pm at the Heritage Centre Alness. Competition - Antique object.

May 12th - AGM in Ardross Hall. Bring and Buy Stall

Fri 8TH April 7pm -9pm & **Sat 9th April** 10am - 3pm - The Ross-shire Handcraft Show in the British Legion Hall Dingwall. Well worth a visit.

For further information contact **Joan Scott 882914**

ARDROSS LUNCH CLUB

We managed to meet up again in February and March.

and will meet again in the Hall on Wed 6th April at 1pm.

We will be serving tea, wrapped sandwiches and cake/biscuits. & please bring your own mug.

Hopefully in May we will be able to serve soup and pudding.

6th April: We have a speaker Peter Davies from the Dingwall Writers Group

4th May; Gardeners Question Time with John Tarrant. We all have one.

May or June : A summer Outing.

We will restart on the first Wednesday in September and would welcome more people to come.

We hope everyone continues to be safe and well.

We appreciate the support given from Ardross Community Council .

If you have any questions please contact

Joan 01349 882914

POST OFFICE

The mobile Post Office van will be in Ardross Community Hall car park

Tuesday's

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

APPLICATION FOR A ONE OFF PAYMENT TOWARDS RISING ENERGY COSTS

You will be aware that energy costs for every household are rising and to that effect the Ardross Community Council has agreed to make a one off payment of £100 per household, from the Community Benefit, in order to help towards these rising costs.

Criteria to qualify:

**Only one application per household.

**Owned, mortgaged, tied or rented home located in Ardross Community Council area

Excluded:

Holiday lets/Air BnB properties/second homes

An application form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Please complete the details required and return to Alison Gordon, Treasurer, Ardross Community Council by post and a cheque will be issued. You can also scan the application form to Alison if that is easier and saves on postage. Funding will be awarded by way of a cheque and applications can be made up to 31.12.22

email: alisongordon56@icloud.com

Mob: 07770325507

ARDROSS CHURCH



At a recent meeting of church trustees it was decided that Ardross Church should be re named Ardross Ark. There have not been any scheduled services in the church building since the start of Covid and by definition the building ceases to be a church. Observant members of Ardross have noticed that the blue notice board has been removed; it is incorrect to advertise services when no Sunday service takes place. A new notice board is being prepared indicating how the 'Ark' might be used for the benefit of Ardross and the wider community.

For the next two months the trustees expect quite a fair amount of activity in the area of the 'ark' and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience this might cause.

On behalf of all trustees I would wish to thank Ardross community members who continually help to keep the ark grounds maintained and those who participated in the recent car park clean up.

Richard Smith
(Trustee)

Pathway from Stittenham/Fox Farm to the school/hall

I have now had a chance to report back to Forest and Land Scotland (FLS) previously Forestry Commission on our meeting at the Foxfarm and the enthusiasm within our community to develop and maintain the link path. Unfortunately the response from FLS wasn't as encouraging as we had hoped, although I believe we have full support from local staff. It's a policy issue related to liability at the 'bean counter level'! They are happy that our work parties proceed with scrub clearance and path maintenance, with hand tools, but will not officially recognise the path system or map it, for future protection from forestry activity. What has been offered is that they map it as an ATV track, although this doesn't give it the status or protection of a pathway. After discussion at our last Community Council meeting in March, the general consensus is that the link path is important. With strong local support and on that basis, we should proceed with the necessary works. Discussions will be continued with FLS as we go forward with the hope that they will recognise the important role this pathway has in our community.

The next thing is that we look at dates for work parties to meet.

Feedback would be much appreciated, either to myself or John Edmondson

Phone: Willie Beattie 01349 882234 or email willie.beattie789@gmail.com

Phone: John Edmondson 01349 884440 or email secretary@ardross.community

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**

MISSING CAT

Sabre has been missing for over a month from her home in Strathrusdale. She is black with a distinctive white mark across her top lip (like a moustache), white paws and a white bit on her chest like a bib.

Sabre has had kittens who are now nine months old and she possibly felt a bit overwhelmed and fed up and decided to leave. Please contact me if anyone has seen her, are feeding a stray or know what might have happened to her. Her kittens miss her and so do I.

Laura Suttie

01349 883455

REMINDER

Home fire safety

Carbon Monoxide, fire and smoke alarms

The Scottish Government introduced new standards for carbon monoxide, fire and smoke alarms in all homes from 1st February 2022. This new legislation means that the standard which **currently applies to private rented property and new-builds** will be 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.

Ardross Community Council has agreed to contribute up to £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**

Please request an application form from Alison Gordon alisongordon56@icloud.com or download one from the Ardross Community Council website. The completed form along with a copy of the invoice for work undertaken to install the alarms and/or the cost of the alarms should be sent to Alison Gordon along with the application form.

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS

Meetings have been started to try and develop a path between Stittenham and the Hall. There are details elsewhere in the Newsletter about this.

At our February meeting it was agreed to grant £100 to every household (certain conditions apply) in the Ardross Community Council area with the intention it goes to help with energy bills. This is a one off payment for this year only. There are details elsewhere in this Newsletter.

ARDROSS CHURCH

The Ardross Church Board has approached us to help fund repairs to 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 had a face to face meeting in February 2022 after the Board delayed it from December 2021.

The Ardross Community Council need to satisfy itself that if it is give a substantial sum of money to the Church that the building can only be disposed of or sold to a similar community organisation, similarly on dissolution of the Board that the building is given to a similar community organisation. The Community Council also needs to satisfy itself that the building will be open and available to everyone regardless. This is to ensure that the Church if it does receive a substantial money is retained as a community building for the long term to everyone in Ardross.

The Church Board of Trustees is made up of 8 members. One each of the Church of Scotland and Free Church, who then chose a further 2 Trustees from these two denominations. These Trustees ask for a further 4 members from the Ardross Community. We have asked that the community representation is larger, and if the "cascade" arrangement for appointing of the Trustees can be altered. This is to ensure that it is members of the Ardross Community who have the majority for making decisions on the building.

The money that is being asked for is for repairs and maintenance which comes from a building report, and so costings and quotes from contractors will also be required.

We have also asked that the opinion of Ardross residents is sought as to the future of the Church so please let your views be known.

IMPORTANT NEWS ON MEETINGS

The Community Council will now be holding their meetings in the Ardross Community Hall. All are welcome and please be aware that face coverings are still required and social distancing needs to be observed at these meetings. We are hoping to run our future meetings as a blended meeting, this will be a steep learning curve for us so please be patient. If you wish to join any of our meetings remotely please email the Secretary secretary@ardross.community to obtain a link.

Our next meeting will be on the **11th April 2022 at 8.00 pm**. We meet on the second Monday of each month so: **9th May 2022**, **13th June 2022** which is also our AGM, and the **11th July 2022**. Updates on our meetings will be posted on our website: www.ardross.community and our Facebook page. Copies of Minutes and the Agenda area also available here.

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.

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 was never intended to be a complete resurfacing and there are still a few areas that are left unrepaired.

Following this work however there have been a spate of accidents on the new surface, leading on one evening to a road closure by the Police. A Freedom of Information request was made to ask whether the relevant skid tests had been undertaken before opening the road after the resurfacing, this is to ensure that the road surface meets the relevant road standards. These have not been done. We await a response as to whether they have been completed now. In the meantime please take care on these new sections.

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 also 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. This has had a good take up. The Community Council has decided to keep the fund open for a while yet so there is still time to apply for a grant. To help householders meet these new regulations the Ardross Community Council are offering up to £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.commmunity? 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.

PLANNING & WIND FARMS

Wind Farms

EnergieKontor have indicated that they are intending to apply for a new wind farm at Strathy on the same site as the previously consented one, this time with taller turbines. They claim the original heights means the site might be uneconomic. There has been a limited Pre-Application Consultation where people in Strathpeffer and Evanton (who won't see the wind farm) were informed before people in Ardross, some of whom were informed by letter after the end of the limited online consultation. Details of the proposals are difficult to ascertain as the weblinks are broken, but it will involve 7 turbines, 4 of which will be 180m high, but it does not state the height of the other turbines. This will be submitted as a new application for us to go through the whole process again. Please look out for this on our website, local papers and our Facebook page.

EnergieKontor have also asked for a Condition to be changed for their existing consent. Our reading of the proposed change is that it will give less input to the local communities as to the Traffic Management Plan and we have objected.

Planning

We have notice of the intent to build a large, what we assuming, is a battery storage facility at the Alness substation adjacent to the B9176 so please look out for this one.

We have considered a proposal for a mobile mast next to the existing one at Lealty. We have asked for evidence that the existing mast cannot be shared which is current policy.

Several older Applications have come up for consideration in light of recent information. 3 Planning in Principle housing applications at the Dalnavie cross roads. Although road widening has now been proposed, the Community Council still have concerns of visibility at the Dalnavie junction.

A forestry access on the Strathy Road is also due to be considered at our April meeting as new drawings have been submitted. The original proposal did not give long enough sight lines for forestry traffic joining the public road.

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 £1,000 towards the Lunch Club for this year.

We are pleased to tell you that the Ardross Hall PV Project has now been completed on time and on budget part funded by the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme and funding from Community Benefit administered by the Community Council. Initial readings indicate that the Hall are now making 50% savings on their electricity imports.

Between April 1st 2021 and 31st March 2022 the Community Council have distributed £29,192.90 of Community Benefit to eligible projects.

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 Alness, IV17 0YQ

Tel/Text 01 349 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 46 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

