



# What's On in Ardross

Edition Seventy One  
January to March 2023

For more information of events in the hall please check the Ardross Community Hall website -  
[www.ardrosshall.com](http://www.ardrosshall.com) Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/ArdrossCommunityHall>  
<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](mailto:ardrosshall@hotmail.com) or click the link on the hall website for bookings.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL

Saturday 4th February 7pm

Burns Night

£10 (children under 12 free)

For tickets message **Imogen 07826 302469**

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday 25th February 8pm

**Claude Bourbon - The Wee Gig**

*Musical artist (rescheduled from 16<sup>th</sup> September).*

*Claude has performed twice before at Ardross Hall to packed audiences.*

*Not to be missed.*

**Tickets: 01349 880591 £10/£8/£4, at the door or**

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/ardrosscommunityhall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ardrosscommunityhall) (booking fee)

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday 17th March 8pm

Ivan Drever

*We welcome back Orcadian folk singer, Ivan Drever, who will be performing at Ardross Hall from his extensive traditional repertoire and virtuoso guitar playing. With a career spanning over four decades, Ivan has released some 15 solo albums, and is famed not only for his solo work, but duo partnerships with Duncan Chisholm, & Ian Cooper (known collectively as The Knowe O'Deal), amongst others, as well as eight years fronting Celtic rock band Wolfstone, in the 1990s.*

*Originally from Sanday, one of Orkney's north isles, Ivan is now resident in Norway, and regularly tours Scandinavia, the USA and the UK. Ivan's songs and tunes are renowned the world over, with one of his collaborative works, Heart & Soul, co-written with Duncan Chisholm, featuring in the Robin Williams film, Good Will Hunting. He also penned one of Orkney's best known folk songs, Orkney Anthem (with the chorus: "Isles ne'er forgotten..."). Ivan continues to produce new material and perform live. The Orcadian's new 12-track album, Decade, is the latest instalment in a glowing, stylish career. Ivan said: "Decade was recorded in Andy Harrison's hoose in Kristiandsand, South Norway."*

**Tickets: 01349 880591 £10/£8/£4, at the door or**

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/ardrosscommunityhall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ardrosscommunityhall) (booking fee)

### **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](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC027764) (instead of the usual amazon.co.uk)

### **POST OFFICE**

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

### **ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL NEWS**

**The next Hall Committee meeting is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm.**  
**All Welcome**

For information about the hall please go to [www.ardrosshall.com](http://www.ardrosshall.com) or give us a like and follow on Facebook  
at <https://www.facebook.com/ArdrossCommunityHall>

For bookings and general enquiries please email [ardrosshall@hotmail.com](mailto:ardrosshall@hotmail.com)

Rory Bews, Chair, Ardross Community Hall Management Committee  
[randgbews@hotmail.com](mailto:randgbews@hotmail.com)  
07880 701974

### **ARDROSS HALL YOGA**

Yoga classes are held on Wednesday evenings  
**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](mailto:juliette@dalreioich.co.uk)

### **ARDROSS TODDLER GROUP**

The Ardross Toddler group is held 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 restart on Tuesday 17 January 2023 & will be held fortnightly thereafter.

Dates and times are advertised via social media

Please check the hall website or Facebook page for updates.

### ARDROSS SWI

We meet again on the 12th Jan and welcome old and new members

We will have a talk and show of quilts by Elizabeth Alexander.

Feb 9th - SWI History Project by Phyllis Hannah.

Feb 24th - Our Annual Basket Whist. Book a table or join one £2.00 per person 7pm for 7.30pm start.

March 9th - Demo and hands on making rough mats from Montbretia leaves.

March 25th - Federation Bulb and Baking Show in St Clements Hall Dingwall.

Contact Joan Scott 882914 or Betty Fraser 830 689

### ARDROSS LUNCH CLUB

Our first Lunch of 2023 will be on 8th February at 12.30

Please come along and enjoy a soup and sweet lunch.

We are looking for some help so if you have spare time on the first Wednesday of the month , please get in touch.

Contact Joan Scott 882914 Jackie Davies 880994

### Crop Swap - Ardross & Surrounding Areas

Crop Swap - Ardross & Surrounding Areas is a community group that is simply opening the virtual door to offer our neighbours something that we might not need.

It is just an online offering at the moment, but hopefully, if the interest grows, then in 2023 we will have 'pop up' swaps at the Ardross Community Hall..

The theory is you can offer anything you have that is to do with food, gardening or farming.....

Examples: Eggs, Fruit, Vegetables, Herbs, Jams/Chutneys

Books on relevant subjects, Tools

Plants, seeds & seedlings

Jars, Netting & poles

Gardens grow in cycles, we might not always have something to offer as a swap but don't let it deter you from getting involved.

If you have something to offer and do not use Facebook please contact Emma Chisholm on [upperachandunie@gmail.com](mailto:upperachandunie@gmail.com) or 07900556213.

### ENERGY GRANT & FIRE & SMOKE ALARMS GRANT

The closing date for applications for the £100 Energy Grant & the one off payment of up to £200 for the purchase &/or installation of fire & smoke alarms has been extended to 28th February 2023.

If you haven't applied already for either please contact Alison Gordon for an application form.

[alisongordon56@icloud.com](mailto:alisongordon56@icloud.com) or 07770 325 507

**ARDROSS ARK  
(ARDROSS CHURCH)**

As 2022 came to a close there has been a flurry of activity at the Ark.

Ardross Ark has been open with great success from 12.00 to 15.00hrs on all four Sundays of Advent.

We opened again on the last day of this year 31<sup>st</sup> December & on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

for music, candles & hot drinks.

The return of the Ardross Family Carol Service on 11th December 2022 after the Covid restrictions was very well supported. The trustees would wish to thank the Ardross Community and people from far and wide who braved very poor weather to attend. We would also wish to thank all who put in a great effort to make this service such a success. **Kristine Freidenfelde** spent many late evenings making a tremendous job of decorating the Ark and creating the designs for social media, flyers, and posters. **Struan Hull** provided scaffolding to facilitate the Ark decorating. **Michael Mackenzie** also put in many late hours assisting in the decorating of the Ark and removal of window covers. **Simon Arnold** for assisting with scaffold erection and removal of stain glass window covers. **Jenny Wychrij** for her musical input and her husband **Pete** who led the singing and performed a stunning solo. The S2 Academy pupils **Tilly McMym** and **Zia Johnstone** played jingle bells and Jingle bell rock on violin. **Carla Stanke** on keyboard. **Jane Smith** provided tea, coffee, and a tremendous spread of eats. **Claire Walsh-Jones** who supported our efforts on social media. **Hugh Kirkwood** (Invergordon) who led the service in an inspired manner. It was a great team effort by the Ark Support Team.

Two days later on 13th December, the Ark was once again hosting Ardross Primary pupils performing their school concert. We were pleased to welcome so many parents, grandparents, and supporters. Thank you everyone of you. Ardross Ark trustees and the Ardross Ark support team intend to meet in the near future to plan the next steps in bringing the Ark back to life. Anybody wishing to join the **Ardross Ark support team please contact Richard Smith on 880229 or message us on social media.** By working together everything is possible.

**Windfarm Community Fund**

The Ardross Community Council have agreed to lower the age to qualify for the twice yearly electricity payments.

If you have lived in Ardross for more than 6 months and **a member of your household is aged 65 years or older** you will qualify for the Windfarm Community Electricity Payment. The Ardross Community Council have agreed to make the twice yearly payments a standard £100. If you have not claimed this payment previously (member of household over 70 years) and a member of your household is 65+ years of age please get in touch.

For an application form and information about how to apply please contact:

**Alison Gordon, Treasurer Ardross Community Council**

**07770325507 or [alisongordon56@icloud.com](mailto:alisongordon56@icloud.com)**

## ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS

### ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

At the moment the Ardross Community Council has vacancies for two Members. The Community Council has yet to decide whether to try to fill these places by co-option for instance. If you are interested in the work of the Community Council please do come along to our meetings to get involved.

We are aware that the Ardross Mobile Post Office has had issues connecting to the mobile network to undertake various transactions. Although the Hall internet connection was offered as a solution, The Post Office preferred to get a dedicated line into the Hall with an external connection point. This is now in the Post Offices hands to get arranged.

### IMPORTANT NEWS ON MEETINGS

The Community Council are now holding their meetings in the Ardross Community Hall. All are welcome. Blended meetings have proved difficult to fully involve those who wish to join remotely; comments have to be made via Chat for instance. Without someone dedicated to looking after the virtual meeting it is difficult for full participation of all the Community Council.

We meet on the second Monday of each month so: **9th January 2023 8.00pm, 13th February 2023 8.00pm, 13th March 2023 and 10th April 2023 8.00pm.** Updates on our meetings will be posted on our website: [www.ardross.community](http://www.ardross.community) and our Facebook page. Copies of Minutes and the Agenda are also available here. Agendas are published online the week before the meeting.

The Ardross Community Council is acutely aware that those without internet connections or find it difficult to attend on a Monday 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

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.

Just a reminder that some years ago the Winter Maintenance Schedule was changed for Ardross. There is now no weekend service to the Secondary Route: Strathrusdale Road north of Dublin. The other roads in Ardross which are treated as and when are the Boath Road, the Scotsburn Road and the Strathy Road. The B9176 is treated as a Priority Route. Obviously as we all know during some winter conditions particularly freezing rain, the roads can quickly become treacherous despite earlier treatment.

### 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 a one off payment of up to £200 towards the cost of the alarms and/or installation. Like the Energy Grant this will close on the **28th February 2023 so applications must be in by then.** 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.

## **ENERGY GRANT**

This is a one off grant for £100 towards energy costs, this is open to eligible households until the end of February 2023. **Last applications must be in by the 28th February 2023** as the fund will be closing on this date. Details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

## **WEBSITE**

Have you visited our website [www.ardross.community](http://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 Archived 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 applied for a redesign of the Strathrory Windfarm comprising of 5 turbines up to 180m and 2 up to 149.9m. This has been refused under delegated powers by the Highland Council.

EnergieKontor have also asked for a Condition to be changed for their existing Windfarm consent. This is for the site entrance on the B9176. The Ardross Community Council were concerned that the sight lines were not sufficient, the entrance being on a corner. This has now been consented by the Highland Council.

### **Planning**

In December we considered an application for a battery storage facility at Balnacraig. The Community Council had concerns as to the amount of screening, the management of the fire risk, access arrangements past the site, the transport arrangements for the heavy transport and the wisdom of using so many resources for a limited storage of electricity.

There have been two Public Information Events held in the last quarter. SSE held an event regarding the routing of the power connection for the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Rebuilding/Extension (which we have not been informed of). The SSE preferred routing of an underground cable from the site to a new substation close the current overhead pylons near the Aultnamain was supported by the Community Council; the alternatives being wooden poles through some sections of Ardross which we did not want to see. We did note however that SSE were still using out of date maps which not only didn't show some dwellings or even a recent wind farm, this is an ongoing complaint as despite assurances on a previous consultation that the maps would be updated they haven't been. The planning application for either the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Extension/Rebuilding nor the power connection have not been submitted yet.

Another Public Information Event was held regarding a hydrogen production plant off the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm access track. The hydrogen would be produced using electricity from the National Grid. The Community Council had concerns on the traffic movements, operation of the plant during snow gate closures, the actual foot print and appearance of the plant and in particular the water required for the production of the hydrogen. The Community Council were concerned that the large amounts of water required should not be taken locally and possibly jeopardise Private Water Supplies in the area. The Applicant explained that the millions of litres of water required would be arranged by Scottish Water and taken from Loch Glass by running a new water mains. This would be a separate planning application and the route had not been planned, and incidentally the carbon cost not established. The planning application for either the hydrogen plant or the water mains have not been submitted yet.

## 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 in 2022 by 50%. We also fund electricity payments to eligible households.

The eligibility for the electricity payments has now been extended to households with anyone over the age of 65 years old. It has also been decided to make a flat amount paid twice a year. If you think you are eligible please get in contact with the Treasurer Alison Gordon 882740, [alisongordon56@icloud.com](mailto:alisongordon56@icloud.com) Details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

In December the Community Council agreed to make a grant to the Ardross Community Hall for the purchase two wheelchairs.

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.

Between April 1st 2022 and 9th January 2023 the Community Council have distributed £26,541.20 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 [TreasurerAcc2021@outlook.com](mailto:TreasurerAcc2021@outlook.com) or 07770325507/882740 or the Secretary John Edmondson 884440, [secretary@ardross.community](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@ardross.community)**

**[www.ardross.community](http://www.ardross.community)**

### 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](mailto: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 52 newsletters emailed.**

If you would prefer to have your newsletter emailed to save on postage 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](mailto:alisongordon56@icloud.com)

The Ardross Community Council has agreed to meet the cost of posting out a newsletter to households 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](mailto: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](mailto:alisongordon56@icloud.com)

**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](http://www.cfwn.co.uk) or phoning them on **01349 805040** or emailing them at [enquiries@cfwn.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:john@ardross.online)

Director

Ardross Online CIC

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

