



What's On in Ardross

Edition Seventy Two
April to June 2023

For more information of events in the hall please check the Ardross Community Hall website - 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 or click the link on the hall website for bookings.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL

Pub Night at the Hall

The bar is open!

Come and join the craic at the bar on the last Saturday of every month*.

Cash and card payments accepted.

We hope to see you there!

* excluding July (for a private function).

Help Needed for Entertainments in the Hall

We are looking for anyone in the community who is interested in joining the Entertainments Committee to give ideas, help toward supporting and organising regular events at the hall. The plan would be to hold a first meeting in April/May 2023. For further information & to express interest please contact Petria Brooke-Carr by emailing petria@hotmail.co.uk

ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL NEWS

The next Hall Committee meeting is on Tuesday 18th April at 7pm.
All Welcome

We have a meeting every 6 weeks and would like to encourage anybody with an interest in the hall to please come along and get involved. The hall belongs to the community and your involvement will help us ensure that we continue to meet hall-users needs.

For information about the hall please go to 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

Rory Bews, Chair, Ardross Community Hall Management Committee
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 £10 and £8 concessions.

Information about classes contact Juliette Lowe 07835458623 or juliette@dalreoich.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 restarted on Tuesday 17 January 2023 & have been held fortnightly thereafter.

Dates and times are advertised via social media

Please check the hall website or Facebook page for updates.

ARDROSS SWI

25th March at the Bulb Show in Dingwall Ardross SWI won four trophies for their entries.

April Visit to Prickly Thistle Evanton followed by meal at the Station Hotel.

New members welcome.

Contact Joan Scott 882914 or Betty Fraser 830 689

ARDROSS LUNCH CLUB

5th April We are having talk on a Strength and Balance Exercise called Otago by Julie Brown.

3rd May Quiz and annual outing.

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

POST OFFICE

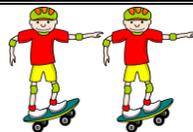
The mobile Post Office van will be in Ardross Community Hall car park

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



From 18th May Gary will be attempting to skateboard from John O'Groats to Lands' End - unsupported! He plans to be in the Ardross area on or around the 22nd May. He is raising money for Children with Cancer UK., Follow him on

Instagram **@gary.skateboard.jogle**. to make a donation.

Please look out for Gary on the road, cheer him on, have patience and drive carefully.

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

ARDROSS ARK

(formerly Ardross Church)

SPRING FAIR GATHERING

27TH MAY

11 AM - 4PM

Music by local students 12pm onwards

Local Stalls : Crafts, Produce etc

Teas, coffees, cakes & more

All warmly welcome

Courtesy Community Bus

from Alness Heritage Centre to Ardross Church building at 11.30am

Anybody wishing to join the **Ardross Ark support team** please contact **Richard Smith on 880229**
or message us on social media.

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, Plants, seeds & seedlings, tools. jars, netting & poles also Books on relevant subjects. 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 by emailing **upperachandunie@gmail.com** or phone/text **07900556213**.

ARDROSS ONLINE

Ardross Online, run by volunteers in the community was set up to get fast broadband to all of Ardross. After many frustrating years with the support of the Ardross Community Council a wireless network was constructed to serve Ardross. The network is being run by Cromarty Firth Wireless [CFWN]. Ardross Online is still operational if only to ensure that Ardross remains connected to high speed broadband connections.

At the design and build stage the core backbone was funded to facilitate faster speeds in the future. It is because of this vision and progress with technology that CFWN are now offering an enhanced service just below 100mb/s to all existing customers. Conditions apply.

Some Ardross households close to Alness for instance might not have been part of the initial project, but might be interested in the enhanced service. It is better to get in touch with CFWN direct as there are sometimes connection charges, but they are trying to connect everyone in Ardross.

Although our project is closed there is plenty of capacity on the network and an extensive network built to cover Ardross. If you want to get connected to broadband please contact Cromarty Firth Wireless direct by visiting them at www.cfw.co.uk Phoning them on 01349 805040 or emailing them at enquiries@cfwn.co.uk

CFWN 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 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

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

At the moment the Ardross Community Council has vacancies for two Members. The Community Council will be co-opting a new member at our May meeting . 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, and they work slowly.

IMPORTANT NEWS ON MEETINGS

The Community Council hold their meetings in the Ardross Community Hall. All are welcome. Blended meetings have proved difficult to arrange.

We meet on the second Monday of each month so: **10 April, 8 May, 12 June (AGM), 10 July & 14 August all at 8pm.** Updates on our meetings will be posted on our website: 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.

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 after a reasonable time.

We are currently chasing the following: Lealty Bridge, Strathrusdale cattle grid and the barriers on Stittenham corner. We have also requested that the new sections of tarmac on the B9176 are top dressed to prevent the spate of accidents occurring on these stretches of road.

ELECTRICITY PAYMENTS

The Ardross Community Council have extended the eligibility for the electricity payments to households with anybody over the age of 65 & resident in Ardross for more than 6 months.

There are more details elsewhere in the Newsletter. But please get in touch with Alison Gordon on 07770325507, TreasurerACC2021@outlook.com if you think your household is eligible.

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.

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

PLANNING, WINDFARMS & PYLONS

Windfarms

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. But EnergieKontor have appealed this decision to the Scottish Government; unusually the Reporter did not ask for any new information from the interested parties.

Pylons

SSEN have announced their preferred routes for a large new pylon line running from Beauly to Spittal. Using out of date mapping and patchy mail shots SSEN are proceeding with a presentation of their plans. These are the large pylons the same size as the Beauly Denny line at 60m high, they are a lot larger than the existing pylons which will not be removed. The preferred route cuts through Ardross running through Boath and across the middle of Strath Rusdale. SSEN have admitted that they have indicated their preferred route by using a desktop exercise only, they haven't even gone to look at the route. The Community Council have stated that their preferred route is far to the west, missing Ardross altogether. Many communities all the way down the line are very concerned about this transmission route. There is a campaign group, here is the link.

<https://sites.google.com/view/strathpeffercontinbettercable/home>

You can find more details on the project on the SSEN's own website or by following the link

<https://www.ardross.community/ssen-ohl-project.html> You can also write to Martin Goodwin the SSEN representative at martin.godwin@sse.com or call or text **07467 399592** to make your views known. The Community Council's view that this route should be buried and not rely on technology and design from 1930's. It will change Ardross' landscape forever.

Planning

A re-application for a mobile telephone mast at Lealty has been discussed, there was no change to the previous application and the Ardross Community Council objected to this application as the proposed site is a few 100m from the existing telephone mast and there is a requirement for telephone companies to share sites.

We have also considered an external compost toilet at Ardross Church [ARK]. We are currently considering an application for a house and annex on the Strathy 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 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 & resident in Ardross for more than 6 months. 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 07770325507 or TreasurerACC2021@outlook.com. Details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

We made a grant to the Ardross Community Hall for ground works for the refurbishment of the Play Park at the Hall and also to the Ardross Pipe Band.

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

Between April 1st 2022 and 31st March 2023 the Community Council have distributed **£33,170.62** 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 or 07770325507/882740 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 www.ardross.community

There are now 55 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

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

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

