



What's On in Ardross

Edition Seventy Six
April to June 2024

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>
Tickets: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ardrosscommunityhall>
01349 880591 or at the door

Dates for your diary

Gold!

Friday 10th May

8pm Tickets: £12/£5 U18's

A comedy theatre show - by Stafford Collett Productions - 4 star reviews at Edinburgh Fringe 2023

Fresh from a successful run at Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Gold! is a sharp new comedy, with a cracking soundtrack. Featuring Kate Stafford and Nicholas Collett as Julie and Dave, a middle-aged couple who find themselves in a very sticky situation. For four decades they have been hiding a secret behind their comfortable suburban lifestyle: a huge stash of gold bars, originating in an infamous heist. A comedy with a big heart, this is a fun night out at the theatre, with a huge dollop of nostalgia for anyone who was young in the 1980s.

Frankie Morrow

with support musician Morrie Dolan

Monday 3rd June

7.30pm Tickets: £14/£5 U18's

Rocking guitars and electric bass lines from Scottish alt-rock band. The five-piece have moved away from the hazy indie-folk of their debut EP (Blue Parrot Backpackers Hotel, 2022) and will be ramping up the amps, bringing their emphatic sound and full live show to the Highlands. Musicians Maz McMillan, James Smith, Duncan Carswell, Samuel Nicholson and Neev stormed Glastonbury last year and have received airplay from the likes of BBC Radio One.

Rachel Walker & Aaron Jones

Fri 28 June

8pm Tickets: £12 / U18 £5

Award winning duo 'Rachel Walker and Aaron Jones' were nominated in the 'Band of the Year' 2023 MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards. They have also been named in The List Magazine 'Hot 100' for 2023, recognizing their contribution to Scottish culture. Rachel Walker acclaimed in the Hands Up For Trad 'Women in Culture 2024'. Rachel and Aaron come to Ardross Hall for a night of exceptional traditional and contemporary folk repertoire as two of Scotland's finest celebrated musicians. They have joined forces after years of writing, touring and performing with many of traditional music's best singers and musicians. Rachel has previously recorded her own solo album, Gaol, and has played with much loved folk bands, Cruinn and Skipinnish. Aaron has recorded on multiple projects, including his own band, Old Blind Dogs and previously played at Ardross Hall with 'The Alistair McCulloch Trio'. Rachel and Aaron have celebrated their song writing partnership by releasing their critically acclaimed debut duo album, 'Despite The Wind And Rain' which premiered at Celtic Connections 2023.

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.

Thank you to everyone that came to the bar nights in 2023, you helped to make it a great success. It's been lovely to see so many familiar faces and meet some lovely new ones too. We've even got some 'regulars' now. We have a small selection of non-alcoholic drinks for any drivers or non-drinkers as well as the usual selections of beverages available. Please do come along, bring some friends, or snacks, or board games, whatever you like!

We are open on the last Saturday of every month except JULY. The dates are as follows:

27th April, 25th May, 29th June, 31st August, 28th September, 26th October, 30th November & 28th December.

Put them in your calendar now and plan a night out. We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

ARDROSS HALL YOGA

Yoga classes are held on Wednesday evenings

7.30-9.00pm 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 SWI

April Outing to the Floral Hall in Inverness,

May AGM & Bring and Buy

New members welcome

For more information **Contact Joan Scott 882914 or Betty Fraser 830 689**

CEILIDH DANCING

Dates and times are advertised via social media .

Please check the hall website or Facebook page for updates.

ARDROSS LUNCH CLUB

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

May Get together

June A meal out T.B.A

For more information **Contact Joan Scott 882914 or Jackie Davies 880994**

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.**

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 available

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 2024 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 Primary

Rag Bag Fundraising - Textile Recycling

Raise £400 per tonne for your school.



Ardross Primary is participating in the Rag Bag Textile recycling scheme which provides regular fundraising for our school and raises awareness about recycling. There are two outdoor clothes banks located in the playground for you to drop off donations in a securely tied plastic bag for collection as soon as possible so we don't lose this help. Good quality clean **men's, ladies and children's clothing, belts, bags and paired shoes** (tied together). The bags will be collected and transported to the Rag Bag factory where they will be sorted and graded for reuse or recycling. The school then receives payment for these collections which goes towards our school funds. Thank you!!

Windfarm Community Electricity Payment

If you have lived in Ardross Community Council area 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 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 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** or email 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 HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Hall AGM & Management Committee Meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 30th April 2024.

All welcome.

The Ardross Hall Committee are pleased to announce that installation of the new play equipment in the play park is nearly complete.

However, although we are excited to start enjoying the park again, we still have a fair bit of work to do before we can open again. We need to re-seed the areas under the grass mats which have been damaged during installation, replace/repair some of the fencing and gates, clear old equipment and add benches, litter bins etc. This might take a while because it will be done by volunteers and is of course, weather dependent.

The Park is currently fenced off and we thank everyone for their patience. We hope to have a grand opening event as soon as the grass is strong enough and will keep everyone informed of progress.

In the meantime, please do join the Hall for bar nights on the last Saturday of every month (except July). Come along and enjoy a chat and a pint, all welcome.

We are also looking for volunteers so have you got any time to spare to help out at your community hall? Please come along and join the meetings, we are a friendly bunch and we have biscuits (and sometimes cake).

We are looking for more people to be involved in the hall entertainments - your ideas/time/contacts/expertise (maybe you're a sound engineer!). **Please email/phone to express your interest to Petria** - email: petriabrookecarr@gmail.com - phone: **01349 883641/07723096435** or speak to one of the hall committee members or come to the next hall committee meeting. We have a fabulous local hall and we would love to see it being used more by the community for things you want to be taking part in or bringing in and where it doesn't have to cost too much!

We are also looking for volunteers interested in creating a film group to programme and screen films in our hall. Film Hub Scotland, called Spotlight will give support and will meet with an interested group. **Please email/phone to express your interest to Petria** - email: petriabrookecarr@gmail.com - phone: **01349 883641/07723096435** or speak to one of the hall committee members or come to the next hall committee meeting.

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 user's needs.

For bookings and general enquiries please email ardrosshall@hotmail.com or check the Ardross Community Hall website - www.ardrosshall.com or Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/ArdrossCommunityHall>

Rory Bews, Chair, Ardross Community Hall Management Committee

randgbews@hotmail.com 07880 701974

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.

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 ARK

(formerly Ardross Church)

125th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

Ardross Ark has been part of our community for 125 years.

You are invited to come and celebrate this historic occasion of Ardross Ark being gifted by Mr Dyson-Perrins to our community in August 1899.

As part of the anniversary commemorations, an interdenominational service will be held in the Ark on **Sunday 25th August at 3.00 pm.**

Everyone is warmly Welcome.

Richard Smith
(Trustee)

Scottish Charity No: SC043806

CLEANING SERVICES

* Home * Apartment * Office * B&B *

Services available in Ardross, Alness, Evanton, Invergordon and local area.

Call 07821108255 – Kasia

or email kasiazietara70@gmail.com

for free quotation and arrange your services.



ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Community Council business this quarter has been mainly taken up with renewable projects. You can find further details below.

It seems that the access issues at Loch Dubh have been partially resolved with a wider entrance by the gate being constructed.

We are currently looking at the viability of community transportation in co-operation with the Ardross Primary Parent Council.

We are also looking at having a Nature Sites survey done for Ardross.

MEETINGS

The Community Council hold their meetings in the Ardross Community Hall on the second Monday of the month at 8.00pm. These meetings are public and all are welcome.

Our next meeting is on the **8th April** at 8.00pm thereafter on **6th May**, **10th June** which is also our AGM and the **8th July**. Updates of our meetings will be posted on our website: www.ardross.community and our Facebook page. Copies of Minutes and the Agenda are also available on the website. Agendas are published online, the week before the meeting and are also available on our Facebook page. Currently there is one vacancy in the Community Council.

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 still pursuing the safety of the Struie Road just beyond the Strathy road junction and other matters to do with the roads around Ardross including the Dalnavie cross-roads, where we have finally received the Highland Council Report requested. The Stittenham bends barriers have finally been done. One of the major areas of concerns is the Lealty bridge on the Boath road. The Highland Council have had the "bridge team" working on a scheme of repair for the bridge, and we are currently pursuing the Highland Council to expedite the repairs to this lifeline bridge as soon as possible.

ELECTRICITY PAYMENTS

The Ardross Community Council have extended the eligibility for the electricity payments to households with anybody over the age of 65. There are more details elsewhere in the Newsletter. Please get in touch with Alison Gordon on 07770325507/882740 or email TreasurerACC2021@outlook.com if you think your household is eligible.

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

WEBSITE

Have you visited our website www.ardross.community ? 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. Of course we still have our Facebook page which tends to have more up to date information.

PLANNING, WINDFARMS & PYLONS

Windfarms

Last month we dealt with a 120m met mast on the Glen Calvie Estate. On Wild Land. RWE the developer have indicated that they are intending to apply for permission for a wind farm on a site close to the Glenmorie wind farm form 11 years ago.

Pylons

SSEN have announced their preferred routes for a large new pylon line running from Beauly to Spittal and held a Public Information Event in March. It should be noted that neither OfGEM or SSEN have still not demonstrated that there is a need for these pylons. The Ardross Community Council do not support the proposed route by SSEN preferring a route further west. However we are still engaging with SSEN.

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>

Cromarty Hydrogen Project

We have objected to the Cromarty Hydrogen Project. It makes no sense to build this industrial plant on a hillside so far from the market for the hydrogen; namely the distilleries and the water that is required. The construction period will mean large volumes of HGV traffic above the accepted limits; and during the period of operation significant HGV movements carrying liquid hydrogen on the B9176, volumes of which we find unacceptable . During the construction period the traffic problems will be compounded as under a separate planning application the water pipes will being built. Laying this pipe will mean road closures and single file traffic on the Struie Road for a period of up to 18 months. This is something that has not been considered by the applicant of the Cromarty Hydrogen Project.

Planning

We also considered a second battery storage plant next to the earlier consented battery storage plant at Balnacraig. We were concerned about the fire and explosion risk of the large battery plant, next to another battery plant. We also thought that the existing entrance to the substation should be used rather than enlarging a field entrance and effectively creating a new entrance.

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. 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 of £100. If you think you are eligible please get in contact with the Treasurer Alison Gordon 07770325507/882740 or email

TreasurerACC2021@outlook.com Details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

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

Between April 1st 2023 and 31st March 2024 the Community Council have distributed **£112,446.83** of Community Benefit to eligible projects. This quarter we have distributed fruit trees to those eligible households that have applied as well as the Energy Grants.

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 alisongordon56@icloud.com or John Edmondson 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 61 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



Looking back at the Archives

Ardross Community Newsletter

"The voice of the Community"

The Ardross Community Newsletter was first published in May 1997 and was produced by Iain Black with the help of Alison Gordon. There was already a newsletter produced by the pupils of Ardross Primary school in June & December called the "Ardross Parrot" so in order to avoid clashing with this publication it was agreed the community newsletter would be produced in October & March.

We thought you might be interested in some of the news that featured in the newsletter all those years ago. So here are some extracts from March 2003 & October 2005. (Anyone with old editions of the newsletter from 1999 to 2004 please get in touch).

March 2003 - Note of a Special Meeting held in **November 2002** where the Novar 1 Community Benefit Fund was discussed. The previous agreement for the disposition of the money from the Novar Windfarm had lasted 5 years since September 1997 and had now expired. The Community Council now needed to discuss what they wished to do with this money and any other money received from windfarm developers in the future.

It was agreed immediately that the half share at present given to the Ardross older residents to help with their heating bills, would continue. To qualify there had to be at least one member of the household over 70 years of age. The remainder of the money from the Community benefit would be called the Ardross Pot.

Ardross Primary School - at the end of December the school pupils performed a musical called "Hosanna Rock" in a packed Ardross hall. In January they gave another performance to senior citizens. On both occasions the children were wonderful both to look at and listen to. One angel in particular wore pink sparkly boots and the wise men were ever so slightly different with business suits and M & S carrier bags.

The children have had taster sessions of yoga and relaxation funded by Alness New Community School and thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. They say it has made them calmer and they do the exercises at home as well.

The New Community School also funded a "healthy" tuck shop on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with an appetizing choice of cups of mixed fruit, raisins, crackers and cheese and other things.

Ardross Lunch Club - We have been entertained by the children of the primary school and nursery, heard a fascinating talk by June Munro on a recent trip she and Robbie made to China and John Macleod demonstrated and talked about the benefits of reflexology and Indian head massage.

Ardross WRI - In January we all warmed up with a curry demonstration and tasting by renowned chef Ian Smith owner of the Caledonian Curry Company. In February we had a demonstration of reiki.

In March several members entered the Bulb & Baking show in Dingwall. Ardross were the winners of the Laiday Trophy for the institute gaining most points. Mrs Alix Allison won a special prize for 5 bulbs or less with her beautiful dark blue hyacinths. Beth Mackenzie and Meg Beattie enjoyed entering the Young Peoples competition and did us proud by winning gold, silver and red stars.

Ardross Youth Club - So far this year the youth club have had a bingo session, PlayStation evening and designed our own tea towels. The snowy weather meant we had to cancel our fly fishing with Pete but we hope to do that very soon.

Nursery & Playgroup - we had a fun day on Red Nose day & raised £75.00. We enjoyed a show at the hall called Journey to the Centre of the Earth. Next term we are going to Invergordon Arts Centre to join in the fun with Quangle Wangle who will tell poems from Edward Lear and an interactive show in June "Fun in the Sun" where the children will experience sensory theatre and creative play.

Fundraising night for Nursery & PTA - a dance was held with Latitude 57 (hot Latin soul sounds).

Ardross Community Hall - The Millennium Commission has awarded funding to landscape the area around the hall and to create an outdoor play area for the children.

The Sottish Arts Council awarded a grant of £3,000 towards concerts and plays in the hall. Over 1400 people enjoyed these vents in the last year.

A dishwasher has been donated to the hall and a photocopier won in a Forestry Commission competition.

A bench in memory of all the hard work Iain Black put into the community is to be set up this spring.

Events in Ardross Hall - "Blazin Fiddles" performed in March, a jazz violin quartet in April, there was a cartoon theatre production called "The Other Side" in May and the Bob Hall show in June.

11th October 2005 - Highland Archeology Event - As part of Highland Archeology Fortnight Hilary white will come to Ardross Community Hall to speak about local finds, from the wolf and deer carvings found at Stittenham more than a century ago to the Bronze Age forest that has just been discovered underneath the access road to the new wind farm on Beinn Tharsuinn.

If you have any copies of the first few editions of the Ardross Community Newsletter in your loft or at the back of a cupboard please let Alison Gordon know so we can keep a record of what was going on in Ardross & share the news from all those years ago.