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LATEST NEWS: Copperfield Cattery have started a pet food and products free delivery service for the Kirkhill area. We can bring you cat, dog, horse, rabbit, guinea pig, bird, wild bird food, litter and bedding products.

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Crannog

Winter 2012

Read it first online at www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk

BEAULY CARE PROJECT UPDATE

When Dr. James McLardy retired, he had an idea for improving the lives of people and their carers in Beauly and the surrounding area. This includes Kirkhill and Kiltarlity. Dr. McLardy's idea was to have a Care Centre for all those who needed help to stay within their community. In April 2012, 60 people attended a public meeting and a group was formed to take this idea forward. Further to that successful public meeting and consultation in the summer and analysis of the results, the leaders of the Beauly Care Project are currently developing their aims.

Two of these aims already identified will need volunteers for them to operate successfully.

Aim 1 is for a "morning call" telephone service for those who need the reassurance of a free daily call to check they are OK.

Aim 2 is for the development of a "car-sharing scheme" which will help people with shopping and social visits.

The next fundraising event is a Soup and Sandwich Lunch on Saturday, 8th December in the Beauly Church of Scotland Hall on Croyard Road, Beauly.

Lunch will be served between 12 noon and 2 o'clock and the cost is £3.00 per person.

Please come along and support this lunch as all the profits from this event go to the Beauly Care Project. If you would like further details, or wish to offer your time to assist in any of the aims outlined above, please contact the project's secretary Belle Maxwell on 783 867 as soon as possible.

DRAINAGE DOCTORS

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01463 741468

OR

ALI MATHESON

01349 877629

CONTRIBUTORS WANTED

If you have a local story or something to say that's relevant to local people, whether you are originally from the area or have just moved in, whatever your age or gender – we want to hear from you – the Crannog goes to every household in Kirkhill and Bunchrew, four times a year. If you know of an upcoming event of interest to the readers then please let us know. There is no charge. (Adverts for businesses are charged – see elsewhere for rates). It would be great if we could get articles from lots of different people and we could include a photo if there's room – all contributions can be put on the local website or sent to the email addresses shown overleaf.

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Why Crannog is called Crannog!

Crannog is called Crannog (we think, but do let us know if we're wrong!) because our local area is one of only two locations in Scotland where Iron Age water dwellings ('crannogs') were constructed on marine river estuaries rather than in lochs.

The remains of several of these have been discovered in the Beaully Firth, notably at Redcastle (marked on OS Explorer 1:25,000 map sheet 432 at GR 586489) and Phopachy.

The only other marine crannogs in Scotland were in the Firth of Clyde.

Crannogs were circular timber structures raised on stilts and could be used for defence, as hunting or fishing stations or as farmers' homesteads.

To find out more about crannogs and the people who lived in them, go to **www.crannog.co.uk** or better still visit the Scottish Crannog Centre near Kenmore on Loch Tay where you can see a reconstruction built out into the loch.

Advertise in Crannog

Do you have a business? Do you want to promote it to local customers?

Crannog is distributed to over 800 households in the Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council area, and is a cost effective advertising medium.

Our standard advertising rates are:

Single quarter page advert: £20

Single eighth page advert: £10

Series of 4 quarter pages: £70

Series of 4 eighth pages: £35

A series can start with any issue and text and artwork can be changed in the course of the series. Larger spreads may be available: contact us if you are interested in this.

Adverts for insertion should be sent in PDF, jpeg or Word format to advertising@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk. Queries about advertising should also be sent to this address.

We also offer free advertisements to voluntary and community groups.

Community Councillors

Chairman

Cameron Kemp, West Altnaceardaich ☎831552

Treasurer

Fred Geddes, Newtonhill ☎831324

Secretary

Jim Ogilvie, 22 Newton Park, Kirkhill ☎831316

Ian Weir, Groam Farm, Kirkhill ☎831750

Chris Heaton-Armstrong, Kirkhill ☎831779

Ally MacNeill, Tigh Cala, 4 Newtonhill ☎831339

Karen Young, Glen Rowan, Bunchrew ☎234128

Iain Urquhart, 58 Newton Park, Kirkhill ☎831278

Ian Cowan, Tigh-na-Beithe, Kirkhill ☎831344

Caroline Crawford, Gardener's Cottage, Kirkhill
☎831503

Judith Rumbold, Fearna, Birchwood, Bunchrew ☎225073

Nikki Maclean, Eileantulloch House,
Moniack, Kirkhill ☎831041

Crannog is published four times a year by Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council. All meetings of the community council are usually held in the Old North Inn on a Tuesday evening at 7.30_{pm} and are open to members of the public. If you have any concerns you would like raised please come along or alternatively speak to one of the councillors.

Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community website and facebook page

If you want to know what's going on in the community or want to share things with others then the community WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE is the place to go. Send your news and events to editorial@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk and "Like" us at www.facebook.com/kirkhillbunchrew (yes that is how it's spelt). And if you'd like to promote your club or activity we can set up a page on the site for you at www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk

Crannog contact information

Get in touch with the Crannog for the next edition at the following email address as appropriate:

advertising@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk

editorial@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk

If you do not have email then please send your comments to: Crannog, 4 Newton Place, Kirkhill, IV5 7QE, or by phone to 01463 831546.

Crannog Newsletter publication information

Print period: Quarterly

Circulation: 800 copies

Circulated to households in the Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council area and selected local businesses including some in the Inverness and Beaully areas

Next issue of the Crannog: Spring 2013

Contribution deadline: 13th February 2012

*any late submissions will not be included!



Your week at The Bog Roy Inn

MONDAY WHIST AFTERNOON

An afternoon of card playing from 2.00pm – 4.00pm
with tea, Coffee and cakes **£3.00**

MONDAY – THURSDAY KIDS EAT FREE

One 'under 10' eats free from 3.00pm – 6.00pm when
accompanied by an adult purchasing a 2 course meal

WEDNESDAY OVER 60's LUNCH

A two course meal followed by tea or coffee **£5.50**
Please book in advance as this lunch menu is very
popular!

SUNDAY CARVERY AND PUDDING CLUB

Enjoy a choice of two roast meats from our carvery
served with all the trimmings.
Introducing our **PUDDING CLUB** dessert: Four mouth
watering puddings from today's dessert menu all on
one plate – HEAVEN

THE BOG BOOK CLUB

From January 2013 we will be hosting a monthly Book
Club on a Tuesday morning from 10.00am – 12noon.
Tea /Coffee and cakes will be served.
Please contact us if you would like to get involved, or
if you have any ideas or books you would like to
recommend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

29th November Kirkhill Primary School Christmas
Fayre

21st December Davey Cowan – Live from 9.00pm in
the Bog Roy Public Bar

30th December SHIRE – Live from 9.00pm in the Bog
Roy Public Bar

Something special happened
on the 16th December when

Robbie and Jean Sheriffs took over the running of The Old
North Inn. This was a bold step for Robbie and Jean who have
owned Brockies Lodge for the last five years, but were keen to
take on an additional challenge.

From day one the 'locals' welcomed us with open arms and
have been invaluable in giving us the 'craic' about The Bog Roy.

As you will probably know, a number of the original team left
the hotel of their own choice, and we have spent a number of
months finding their replacements so that we can ensure that
we get the right food served at the right time in the right
atmosphere.

Since December we have had our ups and downs, but what has
been invaluable has been the contribution from our regulars
whose input has helped us to rectify any issues.

We now have a new head chef, Steven, who previously worked
as head chef at Brockies, and has spent the summer on the
road with our outside catering company but has come
'indoors' away from marquees for the winter. Steven is
passionate about his food and with his help we will be making
some adjustments.

A member of the team who has worked very closely with us is
Debbie Ross who I am sure you all know. Debbie has been a
fantastic asset and her positive approach has made the
transition much easier for us. So from Robbie and Jean –
Thanks Debbie!

Pre Christmas Menu

available from 1st - 24th December

Price per Person: 2 courses £15.00 or 3 courses £19.00

The Bog Roy Inn Inchmore, Kirkhill, Inverness-shire IV5 7PX

For bookings or further enquiries please contact us on **Tel: 01463 831296**

(continued from page 13)

munity, together with the beautiful scenery, will attract a Minister who will happily settle here.

In the meantime, please come and put the world to rights at our coffee mornings, held each Tuesday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. in the Wardlaw Church Guild Room. The home baking is truly excellent, and you will receive a warm welcome from Anne, Maris and Mary. Tuesday mornings at the church have become a very popular event, to the extent that people are noticing the cars outside, and coming in to see what's going on! This is not just for "Church" people, but for everyone who wants to come and meet friends in a cosy environ-

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

We do listen

I am delighted once again to represent Aird and Loch Ness Ward.

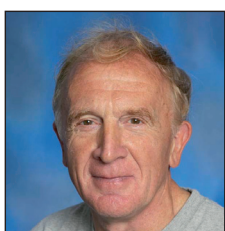
Visiting people in the area during the election this spring, one of the major issues raised was the lack of a garden waste collection.

On investigation it was found that the area is designated as rural and does not qualify for garden rubbish uplift.

This year as an interim arrangement the Council were asked to provide a skip service for garden waste.

We took on board people's comments and sponsored it by our own Loch Ness Ward Discretionary budget. Our next step is to change the Council's policy, and investigate how garden waste can be collected.

I like to hear from you – contact me on garden waste or any other subject that concerns you Hamish. wood.cllr@highland.gov.uk



ment. We were however, unable to persuade the Ladies to open for coffee on 25 December and 1 January, so after 18 December, the next coffee morning will be on 8 January 2013.

Come and join us, for a cup of tea, to sing hymns in good company, to welcome Christ's birth this Christmas – whatever you choose – but please do come!

Wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmas time, and a bright New Year,

The Wardlaw Church congregation

KIRKHILL TOTS

The Kirkhill baby & toddler group welcomes parents and carers with children from ages 0-5.

We meet every Wednesday and Friday during school term at the Kirkhill church from 9.15am to 11.15am. The group is friendly and your first visit is free. Snacks are provided for the children and there is tea and coffee for mums, dads and carers. There is a visit from the health visitor on the last Wednesday of every month to give advice and to check and weigh your baby. For more information contact Shelley Haigh via email: Shelley@shennachie.co.uk.

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KIRKHILL DISTRICT AMENITIES ASSOCIATION

Community Centre extension and renovation nears completion

Work on the renovation and extension of the community centre has been going well. Things are really starting to take shape and we can see what a fabulous facility we will have.

The centre will re-open for business on the 4th of January 2013 when the relocated Post Office will be available in the hall from 10am to 1pm. Thereafter the Post Office sessions will be every Tuesday and Friday at the same time.

But before that we are planning a Hogmanay ceilidh to kick off the New Year and a new future for the community. We don't have details yet but hope to include plenty of local talent in a true Highland style. If you'd like to do a turn please let us know. Keep a look out for further information in the school newsletter, notice boards, website and Facebook page.

Regular users will be keen to get back in the hall but we'd like to thank the other local venues, including Kirkhill Primary and the Kirkhill Church, that have accommodated groups over this period. We're now taking bookings for the new year, please contact Wilma as usual. We'll also be arranging induction sessions for new and regular users on the new facilities and equipment available.

So what's going to be available?

Well, firstly they'll be a new meeting room to complement the main hall which will be warm and cosy and will accommodate up to 40 people. It will be ideal for smaller groups and for meetings and will have a projector and screen available as well as tea and coffee making facilities. We're keen to attract new groups and activities to use this room so please get in touch if you have any ideas.

As well as the new meeting room the main hall will be completely renovated. We'll have a new, much more spacious and well equipped kitchen, new toilets, improved changing rooms and a bigger entrance hall with space for the post office/box office. The hall will be insulated throughout to give us a much more comfortable and economical building.

If you'd like to make a booking for the centre or find out more about what we can offer please contact Wilma Williamson on 831737 or email kdaa@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk. We'd be happy to arrange to show you round the facilities and discuss your needs.

Thanks again to our funders - Highland LEADER, Climate Challenge Fund, Robertson Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation and Highland Council.

Kirkhill MUGA

Kirkhill MUGA is operational during the community centre refurbishments. Clubs and groups are welcome to book regular sessions for football, basketball, shinty etc. and tennis membership is still available.

The floodlights will be available again when the centre reopens in January.

Contact Ken MacDonald on 01463 831479, email kdaa@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk or see

http://www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk/community_centre/kirkhill-muga/

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The above are just a few examples of the services I can provide, please call with your requirements no matter how small.

All work is carried out to the highest standards.

Please call Alistair for a free estimate on

01463 831320 or 07739 049640

KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY TRUST

Volunteering Saturday

On Saturday 27th October members supported the Kirkhill Village Market by running a car wash in the school playground. Several members took the opportunity to have their own cars cleaned as did those attending the market. Several members also ran stalls in the market, baked pancakes for the tea stall and bought items at the stalls to support local businesses and the school.



At the same time other members were trimming the willows in the Play Park. These were removed in the Highland Council Green Waste Collection – a very useful service that should be run on a regular basis. The willows were planted to provide natural play areas when the play equipment was replaced and they need regular pruning to keep them in shape. Many of the willows are now quite tall and difficult to bend over into a tunnel so further work sessions will now be planned to complete the task and make this valuable feature in the park more manageable.

After the market, 23 volunteers aged 5 – 60 took part in a Litter Pick around the village and local roads. Many bags of rubbish were collected and now the village looks very tidy for the Autumn. The back road to Beaully was included in the pick and several bags of rubbish collected. At this time last year we ran a project to deter fly tipping by collecting rubbish and erecting fences at

laybys with 'Dumb Dumper' signs and posters by children from Kirkhill Primary School. Several of the posters are still in place and there has been much less tipping than previously. A TV and 2 tyres were removed and another pile of tyres near Ferry Toll will be removed so we still need to be vigilant.

Woodland Group

The autumn session of Workdays has recently started in the Upper Reelig Community Wood on alternate Saturday mornings. The group will be undertaking practical woodland work including habitat enhancement and management of the tree resource – as well as improving the amenity aspects of the wood. We were fortunate to receive funding from the Forestry Commission Community Seedcorn Fund again this year and have already had First Aid and skills training for 8 members of the community as well as some new equipment. This funding will also allow us to run a Woodcarving course – originally planned for November 2012 – which will now be held in early 2013. We would like to involve more of



the local community in our activities and, as well as joining us at the workdays, we are keen to set up a photographic biological record of the woodland. So – if you're interested in any of the activities do get in touch with our co-ordinator Annie Griffiths 01463 831600 or crag-gach@doctors.org.uk

Cycle Path

We have a long-term plan for an off-road cycle path from Beaully to Inverness and have completed the first section from Moniak to Inchmore. We applied for funding for the section from Lovat Bridge to the Cabrich Junction but this was not successful and we are looking at other sources of funding.

Communications

We are continuing to develop our Community Web Site – www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk and the community Facebook page. This is a great facility to keep in touch

WARDLAW CHURCH NEWS

The summer of 2012 passed in the blink of an eye – almost literally – but we were heartened by a happy gathering at Eileanreach House in early August, for what now seems to be an annual garden party. Avril and Iain Marr opened their home and gardens to friends from the Kirkhill and Kiltarlity church communities, and their families and friends. Prayers were answered, and the weather stayed fair. Generous supplies of home baking, and tea from Avril's bottomless teapot, ensured an enjoyable afternoon, with over £750 being raised for church funds. August also brought sadness, as folk from Kirkhill and beyond gathered to say farewell to Tommy Rhind of Newton Park, Kirkhill, at his funeral on 15 August. Rev. Willis Jones's service was very uplifting, and a fitting tribute to a much respected gentleman.

A cold day in October saw the wedding of Marina Macleod and Paul Marlin. Marina arrived, almost on time, to a warm and welcoming church full of family and friends. Paul and Marina's wedding service was taken by newly ordained Minister Rev. Rory Stott, from the Free Church at Ayr, who is a personal friend of the bride and groom.

The new Guild season has started, with the guest speaker at our opening meeting in October being Ian Dearing, who brought tales from his time working with the Prison Service – some intriguing, some shocking, some sad, and some downright hilarious. By the time you read this, our November meeting will have taken place, featuring the work of local photographer Keith McClelland, and his wife Mary, showing pictures he has taken since moving to the Highlands in 2010. Our December meeting on 5 December will feature a demonstration of Christmas floral decoration ideas by Anne Lyle, who creates the lovely flower arrangements for the church. Our Third Sunday events continue on the third Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m. All ages are welcome to join us at this praise event which largely features the more modern hymns, with short readings and prayers. Our special guest in September was Joel Githinji, Church of Scotland Mission Partner based in Nepal, speaking about his work with people affected by HIV / AIDS. Joel also brought with him items made in Nepalese communities, the sale of which helps those communities – lovely beaded necklaces, ornate coaster mats and beau-



photo - Keith McClelland

tiful pashmina wraps. The next Third Sunday will be on 20 January 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

There will be no Third Sunday event in December, as on that date, 16 December, we will be welcoming the pupils and teachers from Kirkhill Primary School, along with their families, for their Carol Service, which starts at 6:30 p.m. The following week, 23 December, we will be holding our much loved Carol and Candle Service at 6:30 p.m. featuring the "Celestial Choir." After both these services, hot drinks and Christmas pies will be served. Our Sunday morning services will be at the usual time of 10.30 a.m. On Christmas Eve at 11:30 p.m., there will be a Watchnight Service led by the Elders and members of the congregation, with a brave "volunteer" going outside to ring the church bell at midnight.

The church has been without a Minister for all of 2012, but we have been blessed with a succession of different Ministers, deacons and readers, who have led our services during this time. This has been organised by our Interim Moderator, Rev. Edgar Ogston from Beaulieu. Edgar was appointed by Inverness Presbytery as Interim Moderator for Kirkhill and Kiltarlity, in addition to his responsibilities for Kilmorack and Erchless. Edgar has looked after us very well during all this time, and continues on into 2013, and we would like to thank him most sincerely. We have now been given permission to call a new Minister, but this is unlikely to be a short process. Keith and Mary McClelland, in consultation with the Kirk Session, have put together a short film of the churches at Kirkhill and Kiltarlity, which also features the two villages, surrounding countryside and the wildlife. We are hoping that the warm and welcoming church and village com-

(continued overleaf)

SEPA the local land owners have agreed to contribute to the cost.

The flooding in Wardlaw Road has been ongoing for several years and is caused by inadequate drainage as well as choked culverts and field drains.

Mr. Lundberg has been trying for a number of years to get a solution to this problem and through his efforts the flood team at Dingwall have become involved and some progress made. Michael Sinclair of the Dingwall Flood Team has walked over the route and used dye to check directions of flow. He is going to visit in the next few days with his boss Matt Smith to look at the possible route for a drain along the bottom of the field adjoining West Lodge from the Sunnyside corner and will have more information for us at the start of next week.

Traffic

Vehicles do not slow down as they approach Inchmore heading for Inverness particularly at the

rush hour with people anxious to get to work. This makes it very dangerous for local residents trying to get on to the road from their property or side roads.

It was agreed to ask for some traffic calming measures to be put in place whether it be a flashing speed sign or a reduction of the speed limit to thirty miles per hour. Also the Community Council will ask the police to give this matter some attention.

Speeding of vehicles through Kirkhill was also brought up and the Community Council would like to hear from residents if they would like to see traffic calming measures put in place at each end of the village.

If anyone has views on this issue please contact the Secretary of the Community Council.

The two Highland Councillors at the meeting Margaret Davidson and Drew Hendry said they would support all the initiatives.

Jim Ogilvie
Secretary KBCC

Friendly People Required to Re-Connect Communities

Befrienders Highland (BHL) offers safe and supported friendships to people in the community who are isolated and lonely, and have experience of mental ill health.

Having someone to meet up with regularly and have a chat and a coffee, go for a walk, or visit the cinema with, can make a real difference to someone, and goes a long way to making people feel valued and connected with their communities.

Initiated in 1993 BHL is an established charity working with volunteers across the Highlands to positively change the lives of many in our communities who are isolated and may feel lonely. We provide confidential 1-1 supported friendships through regular meetings in Inverness, Nairn and Ardersier.

Befriending someone with mental illness makes a positive difference by building confidence, improving self-esteem, and reducing feelings of loneliness. It can successfully overcome many of the hurdles to social contact associated with mental ill-health, and provide a stepping stone to greater



inclusion and involvement in the community.

YOU can be part of something positive in your community if you are over 18 and have an hour or two a week to spare.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and need no previous experience of mental ill health. We will

train you through our Scotland-wide recognised and acclaimed distance learning training course, and provide on-going support from the experienced co-ordinators at BHL. The service is safe and confidential for everyone involved. Once your assessment and training is completed we will match you with a compatible Friend. We take great care to match people effectively so there is common ground on which to develop a meaningful and genuine supported friendship.

If you would like to volunteer, call us for an informal chat, or to find out more speak to Debbie or Heather on 01463 712791 or email debbierupenthal@befriendershighland.com or heather.nairn@befriendershighland.org.uk. We look forward to speaking to you!

KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY TRUST

with what is happening in the community and for local groups to promote their activities. If you would like to put information on the site contact Archie Prentice on 831638.

Playpark -The park fence needs to be replaced and I am pleased to advise that we were successful in our application for 50% funding from the Highland Council Ward Discretionary Budget, with the balance from our own funds. The work is due to start on 15th November and should be complete by the end of the month.

Environmental Group

The Recycling Point in the Community Centre Car Park has bins for clear, brown and green glass and steel/aluminium cans and has continued to be well used during the building works at the Hall. Please put any bags/boxes used to bring the items to the site in the wheelie bin next to the glass bins and do not leave any other items next to the bin as someone else will have to remove them. Should any glass get broken please clean it up or inform the staff in the Community Hall. It is great to have this facility in the village but we must all remember this is a public car park with lots of children running about going to the hall and MUGA so care and respect is required.

The next Litter Pick will be in the Spring but don't leave any you see until then – pick it up and bin it to help keep

our village tidy over the summer!

Kirkhill Primary School Eco-School Committee

The Trust supports the work of the Eco-School Committee and its various activities in and around the school. They are expecting a visit shortly from Norman Houston re R U Up 4 IT project.

The Eco group were successful in growing 2.5kg of potatoes in the raised beds this year. There should have had more but vandals came into the grounds and uprooted some of the plants to use the potatoes as "ammunition". If you see anyone hanging around the school out of hours please tell the school so this can be prevented from happening again. They also tried growing leeks and we will try again this coming Spring. They have also applied to SSE for a "working party" to come to school to help tidy up the grounds and dig over the raised beds.

The group continues to monitor electricity use, paper recycling and waste minimisation in general. One of the P7s is charged with updating the electricity readings and keeping note in the form of graphs. The group will be putting together their new Eco code at the next meeting and placing new up to date posters and codes throughout the school.

If you have any queries or would like to get involved with Trust activities, call Erik Lundberg on 831742 or email erik.lundberg@btinternet.com.

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Offering a safe, spacious, stimulating and friendly environment for your child.

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MP'S CORNER

Ordering early can avoid fuel problems.

At this time of year our highland scenery is often at its most spectacular.

But recent severe winters have also brought difficult conditions and heightened the demand for heating fuel particularly for so many of our rural households which are not connected to the National Grid.

That's why I have welcomed the UK Government's introduction of the Warm Home Discount on top of the Winter Fuel Payment for pensioners, and Cold Weather Payments to eligible households through periods of cold weather.

This winter ordering fuel as early as possible and getting together with neighbours in a buying group of five or more can mean ensuring bulk discounts and avoiding the risk of running out of oil if deliveries are disrupted by severe weather.

Kirkhill's Post Office

The community has been aware that when the extension to the Community Hall is complete around Christmas time the Post Office facility will move to a special room in the refurbished hall.

The Post Office now tell me that the current service will

end on December 28 and the new one begin on January 4. With much better access this move has been generally welcomed, although there was concern about the limited opening hours, and a suggestion that as the village only has a small post box a new larger box could be fitted close to the hall or at the bus stop. This would save people with large envelopes having to travel to Beaulieu Post office. Having raised both of these issues with The Post Office they tell me they are confident that the new service will meet demand but I am waiting further response from them.

Meantime, please feel free to get in touch with me if you wish to discuss this or any other matter.

Seasons Greetings!

Danny Alexander MP

45 Huntly Street, Inverness IV3 5HR 01463 711280

danny@highlandlibdems.org.uk



Kirkhill and District Oil Club

Do you heat your home using oil fired central heating?

Are you worried about your household heating costs?

If you answer yes to the above questions then would you be interested in joining a Kirkhill and District Oil Club?

What might I save?

The Sunday Times recently estimated that the average household can save between £100 and £150 a year by purchasing oil through a club. By purchasing oil together we can source the cheapest supplier of oil and achieve significant savings per litre if we can collectively order approximately a full oil tanker load i.e. 11,500 litres. This works out about 13 households ordering 900 litres each.

How could it work?

We could establish our own independent oil club but that means that we would have to administer the purchase of oil ourselves. This is not impossible by any means but is likely to require a significant time commitment from an individual or a small group.

Alternatively we could join oil-club.co.uk who would undertake the majority of the administration of the oil club at no cost. An administrator for the Kirkhill oil club would need to co-ordinate each order for the village.

This person would e-mail the details of the order to oil-club.co.uk including for each household

- ☐ The address for delivery
- ☐ The volume of oil required
- ☐ Any specific delivery instructions – location of

oil tank, access for example

Oil-club.co.uk would ring round the oil suppliers and obtain the cheapest quote and then confirm with us the price and delivery details. Each household who require oil in a particular order would then pay oil-club.co.uk in advance of the delivery.

Ideally we would order oil on a regular basis so members of the club know when an order is likely to be placed. Members would also be sent a regular email enquiring about household oil requirements from the administrator. As every oil supplier has different rules for bulk purchases there can be slight differences how orders can be placed and minimum volumes for each household order.

However for the oil club to work best it does require households to place an order well before your tank is close to being empty.

Remember the more of us who join any oil club

- ☐ the greater the amount of oil we are likely to collectively order,
- ☐ this will give us the greatest savings,
- ☐ minimise heavy lorry traffic on our roads, and
- ☐ is likely to mean that orders are placed on a regular basis

If you are interested in joining, would like more information or helping to set up the oil club contact Bob Pettitt by email bob.pettitt@hotmail.co.uk or by phone 831356.

KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

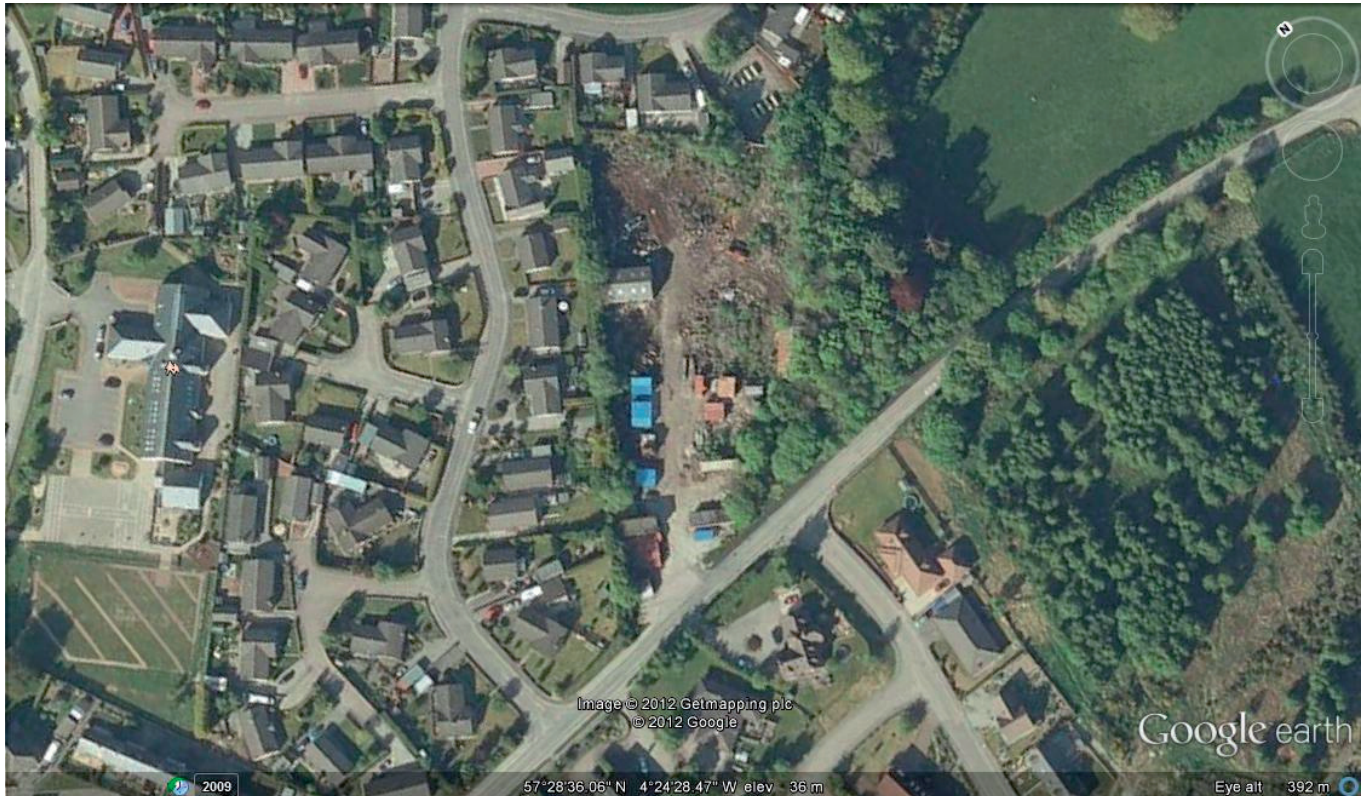
been applied for. Status pending.

Bunchrew Caravan Park had applied for and received planning permission for 174 ground mounted photovoltaic panels as well as a shed for the inverter equipment.

Jim Ogilvie.

Appendix Crane Yard

The meeting was then closed. Date of next meeting 6th November in the usual place and at the usual time.



Flooding and Traffic: Minutes of Meeting 6th November.

Several members of the public attended this meeting to express concern about the recent flooding in Inchmore and at Wardlaw Road which resulted in West Lodge being flooded for the third time.

Vehicles speeding through Inchmore and Kirkhill was also raised as an issue.

Flooding

During a day of heavy rain lasting 24 hours Inchmore was again flooded and this forced the closure of the A 862 for a short period. The main source this time was water pouring down the hill from Lentrane and the ditches and culverts could not cope. Many years ago they were kept clean by a roadsman but budget cuts have forced these services to be severely curtailed.

Chris Swift gave an outline of his continuing discussions with SEPA with the aim of having the Moniac Burn cleared. Part of the problem is that environmental issues must be addressed and no wildlife harmed or their habitat disturbed. If the burn was a canal then it could be dredged and the gravel which is causing the problem removed. It has taken a year of effort by Mr. Swift to finally get a scoping report and option 6 of this report would allow some gravel to be removed. The whole episode has been treated with no urgency but Mr. Swift has another meeting with SEPA on the 20th of this month and is hopeful that some progress can be made. Mr. Swift was thanked for his efforts.

When work can start money will be required and with limited funds available from the Council and

(continued overleaf)

KIRKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Friday 2nd November the whole school (staff included) wore their night clothes to school ! This event was organised by the JRSO's committee-Junior Road Safety Officers group.

Contributions were made by those who took part and were split between Mary's Meals and towards buying a fluorescent arm band for all children in school. They will receive these during Road Safety week which begins on Monday 19th November.

Some of our children, Caitlin, Sean & Stuart P7, Morgan P6, Georgina P5 & Angus P4 during their Golden Time worked with Mrs Stewart to make a Guy for the City Bonfire and entered the schools competition. Our entry called 'Winnie the Witch' won which gives us the honour of making the Guy for next year's city bonfire plus winning money to spend on new books. 'Winnie' looked wonderful but far too life like! The wooden structure was kindly made by Mr Rod Shannon (Leah in P2's dad) then the pupils aided

by Mrs Helena Stewart formed the body and chose a character which they then dressed and made the props and decoration. The model was kindly transported by Mrs Jon Ford ready for the judging. The result was announced at the start of the bonfire party at Bught Park.



Our annual fundraising Christmas Fayre will be held in school on Saturday 24th November from 10am onwards. We would be delighted if everyone in the village and local area could come along to support our school and make this event a success.

Our P7 class are singing for the charity Clic Sargent in the Eastgate Centre on Wednesday 12th December from 11 o'clock opposite Waterstones so if you are in town shopping come along to hear our carols.

Finally, we are holding our annual Carol Service in Wardlaw Church on Sunday 16th December at 6.30pm. Everyone welcome to attend to help you 'get into the mood' for Christmas.



KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

people and had sent them on to the consultants and to date no more had been heard.

The Secretary produced a Google map of the development area and after consideration of the layout thought that low level housing together with a retail shop would be most beneficial to the area and to the community at large. Consideration was given on how to make a retail shop pay its way and the idea of a proper community shop relying on volunteers for staffing would be most likely to succeed. The shop would stock up as a general store and could also supply fresh local produce from farmers and smallholders in the area.

The matter was left there for members to clarify their thoughts on the issue and to await further correspondence from the developer.

9). Small Communities Housing Trust.

Unfortunately no one had been able to attend the A.G.M. of the above organisation on the 28th September but Karen Young said she had been in touch with the organisation and asked to be kept in touch with its progress throughout the Highlands.

The trust's key objectives are as follows:

Find and buy sites for affordable rural housing development

The Trust has an extensive land bank of around 28 sites throughout the Highlands which has been purchased to provide affordable housing opportunities

Create serviced house plots and sell them at a discount to local people

The Trust has a number of self build plots available to sell to local people at a discounted price, to enable them to remain in their community rather than being forced to move away due to a lack of affordable housing.

Build highly sustainable affordable homes

The homes the Trust has built at Ardgeal, Kincaig in the Cairngorms National Park are a testament to what it can achieve in terms of sustainable affordable homes.

Assist landowners and community groups

Landowners and community groups have the opportunity to release land to the Trust safe in the knowledge that the Rural Housing Burden protects the homes built from being sold at exorbitant

rates as holiday homes and that it will remain in the community in perpetuity at a discounted rate.

It was reported that a recent development where 70 plots or houses were available brought 700 applications.

The Community Council thought it would be ideal if the trust could be involved with the development of the crane yard and provide low cost housing for local people.

10). The Secretary reported he had opened up a web site for the Community Council and this would be developed as time allowed. Jim Ogilvie asked for others on the Council to take an interest and become editors so they could uplink information as it came to light instead of waiting for a meeting. Any corrections needed can be carried out as we go along.

11). A.O.B.

a). Lindsey Stout raised the question of garden rubbish bins being provided in the area. Margaret Davidson said that another garden refuse day had been arranged for the end of the month and that Helen Carmichael and herself would continue to press for the brown bin scheme to be extended to the villages of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill. Some members said that the provision of another bin would cause problems in the country area where a small cluster of houses had to store and wheel bins to a collecting point but the Community Council was in favour of the scheme being extended to the main villages in the area.

b). The cutting of the playing field grass had not been satisfactory and this would be reported to TEC services.

c). The Community Council's Magazine Crannog requires people for delivery duties.

The Highland Councillors were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

4). Planning Applications.

The Secretary reported that the application 12/00441/FUL for 7 house plots at the old smiddy in Inchmore had been withdrawn.

12/03549/FUL for the building of one house on land to the north of South Lodge Achnagairn had
(continued overleaf)

KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairperson Mr Chris Heaton-Armstrong

Present.

C.C. Chris Heaton-Armstrong, Karen Young, Judith Rumbold, Nikki Maclean, Ally MacNeill, Ian Weir, Fred Geddes and Jim Ogilvie (Secretary). Margaret Davidson and Drew Hendry (Highland Councillors) and a member of the K.D.A.A. Lindsey Stout.

1). Apologies. Caroline Crawford, Cameron Kemp, Ian Cowan, Hamish Wood and Helen Carmichael.

2). Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 28th August was read and approved Ian Weir proposed and Karen Young seconded.

3). Matters Arising.

The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Mrs Joan McKay (Greenfingers 2006) who wished to thank us for the donation of £200 towards the cost of the new flower tubs one in the village and one at Inchmore.

Julie Burnside had raised a concern about the damp area on the A862 at Lentrán, this wet area never seems to dry up and it was investigated by Tec Services and here follows a copy of the report by Mike Stephens.

"I have visited the site, and have an initial appreciation of the problem, although I hope to see more when I revisit the site during heavy rain.

Even without much recent rain, the wooded embankment between the Lentrán development and the A862 was found saturated in places, below a certain level and mainly over a length of 50 to 60 metres. Ownership of the embankment lies with private properties. In the wettest areas a 25mm diameter pole could easily be pushed into the ground to a depth of over 1metre. As a consequence of this very wet ground, I have real concerns about the stability of a number of mature trees, bearing in mind their proximity to the road.

I am of the opinion that there has been a significant, recent change to ground conditions on the embankment. Although historically there are often minor ponding issues on the A862, the extent of the water problems we have had on the

public road are a relatively recent development. I also believe the trees themselves are evidence of this, as they would not have reached their maturity in the current ground conditions.

I met one resident on my visit, a Douglas Morrison; he believes that the problem is being caused by groundwater and the source of this water all lies to the south of the Lentrán House developments. Without knowing more about the existing drainage within the development, I cannot deny this as a possibility, but I do not share his conviction.

I will need to write further requests seeking answers to above questions which were raised by my visit. We need to know for example;

1. Has the soakaway from the treatment plant been constructed as per the Planning Approval?
2. Where is the surface water run-off from the development directed?
3. What is the nature of the new rodding eye and pipework visible to the north of the access road, which leads towards the wettest area of embankment?
4. There are miscellaneous sections of new pipework connected into the old septic tank arrangement in an unorthodox fashion. What is the nature and direction of overflow(s) from the old septic tank (which is clearly still in use)?
5. There are noticeable differences between the number and location of access covers on site, to those shown on the approved planning drawing. Can their purpose be resolved?

The legislation requires the owners of the grounds known as Lentrán House to carry out any works necessary to prevent the flow of water onto the public road - that is why Notice was served, under Section 99(1) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, on 23rd February 2012. Having said that, TECS are keen to assist with any investigation works they need to carry out to interpret and resolve the problem and co-operate in any way possible.

SEPA are to appoint an officer to deal with this issue, as they believe that they may need to become involved over a long time period.

KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

There are no roadside ditches or drains over the length of road that the worst flooding occurs, and no space within the existing road boundary for us to create a cut-off drain. At the very least the Council will have to erect permanent signs, before the winter, warning drivers of potential dangers on this stretch of road and I have asked the DLO to arrange."

Regards,

Mike Stephens

5). Post Office.

A letter has been received from the post office outlining their switch of the current office to the soon to be refurbished Community Hall and asking if there were any issues. The Secretary stated he had put up notices asking if anyone had any concerns about the move to get in touch with himself. The only comments he had received were mainly positive.

Erik Lundberg has been in touch asking if it would be possible to have extended hours and a larger post box in the village.

Danny Alexander the MP had also written asking if there were any problems he could help with and expressing an interest in what the inhabitants of the village thought.

After discussion it was agreed to ask the Post Office if hours could be extended by opening on the present three hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

It was agreed to write to Royal Mail Collection Manager and ask for a larger pillar box situated either close to the bus stop or near to the new post office at the Community Hall. The Secretary said he would copy these requests to Danny Alexander.

6). Consultation on small scale wind turbines.

This item was brought up at the meeting on August 28th and postponed to give members time to read through the proposals. After discussion it was felt that enough safeguards to the environment were included within the recommendations and the Community Council agreed with the safeguards built into the consultation. The noise levels should be closely monitored on any micro development considered for an urban area where noise could affect nearby housing. Micro development

is a single turbine not higher than 15 metres and below 50 Kw capacities.

7). Torvean and Ness-side Charrette.

This Charrette was aimed mainly at the people in that local area and was advertised as such. The workshops were about the route of the new bypass and the effect it would have on the playing fields.

Because of this the Community Council felt that this should have been more widely advertised as it affects people all over the area who use the rugby pitches and other facilities. It was also noticed that planning consultants had been employed on this work as well as Highland Council employees. Drew Hendry explained that because of the work load on the planning department and the desire to keep down overall costs it was cheaper to hire consultants for some of the work load.

8). MacMillan's Crane Yard: possible development.

Since the meeting on the 28th August GH Johnston Building Consultants got in touch with the Secretary saying they were being employed to design a scheme to clean up the old MacMillan's crane yard in Kirkhill and would like the views of the local community on what should be built on that now vacant plot.

A special meeting was arranged for the 18th September and the Community Council and any interested members of the community were asked to attend.

The meeting was chaired by Colin McKenzie of GH Johnston. Mr Henderson of 3A Partnerships and Colin MacMillan also attended.

The people present were asked for any concerns they had about the crane yard being developed and what they would like to see in that development as well as houses.

A retail shop was mentioned and concerns were raised about the possible inclusion of flats as well as the considerable site work which would have to be completed before any building work could start. Mr McKenzie emphasised that this was only a preliminary meeting. He thanked all for attending and asked for feedback forms to be returned to them before the next meeting which would include some concrete proposals.

The Secretary reported that since that meeting he had received several feedback forms from local

(continued overleaf)