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Crannog

Spring 2011

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

Community Website online and for you!



Image: Spring Daffodils

Following on from last edition's announcement regarding the local community web site we are delighted to announce that the web site is now live and up and running.

The Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust are taking a leading role in adding and updating the web site however we want to encourage everyone to get involved, contribute content and get involved in communicating with the rest of our great community. Watch out for the Gala edition of the next edition of the Crannog out by the end of May.

WHATS ON

Kirkhill's Got Talent - 2011

When: 1st and 2nd April 2011

Where: Kirkhill Community Centre

Inchmore Canteen Pot Luck Fund Raiser

When: 9th April 7.30pm

Where: Inchmore Canteen

(More information inside)

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KIRKHILL'S GOT TALENT 2011

Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd April

It's here at last and promise its been worth the wait.

This years shows will take place on Friday 1st April (Family night) and Saturday 2nd of April (Over 18's only).

The tickets for this years shows will go on sale on Sunday 20th March at 11am at Ardbeg, Inchmore (Jayne Macmillan's house). Ticket prices are £10 or £7 for concessions.

All profits will go back into the local community. (Please note that Saturday tickets will only be sold to over 18's)

School Dates

Tuesday June 7th school sports at Community Centre at 1.30pm - weather dependant

Wednesday June 8th reserve sports day if Tuesday wet!

Friday June 17th -Open afternoon for Parents and Community

Friday June 24th School picnic at 12.30pm and School Talent show at 1.45pm

Community Councillors

Ian Weir, Groam Farm, Kirkhill ☎831750

Chris Heaton-Armstrong, Kirkhill ☎831779

Ally MacNeill, Tigh Cala, 4 Newtonhill ☎831339

Fred Geddes, Newtonhill ☎831324

Cameron Kemp, West Altnaceardaich ☎831552

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

Arthur Lacey, 26 Newton Park, Kirkhill ☎831785

Secretary

Jim Ogilvie, 22 Newton Park, Kirkhill ☎831316

Crannog Newsletter publication information

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Next issue of the Crannog: End of May

Advertising deadline: 22nd May 2011

Editorial deadline: 22nd May 2011

2 Crannog Spring 2011

Senior Citizens' Clubs

The Kirkhill/Bunchrew Lunch Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the Community Centre at 12 noon. Contact No. Madda Georgeson 831521.

The Craft Club is weekly on a Monday 1.30pm - 3pm

Contact No. Wilma Williamson 831737

New Members always welcome

Kirkhill SWRI

The cold weather did not deter the Senior Citizens coming along to enjoy the Christmas Party on December 4th and the Institute is particularly grateful to all those who helped make it a successful event.

Unfortunately the snow did lead to the cancellation of our January meeting but in February we were given an informative talk about the work of the Inverness Harbour Trust.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Kirkhill Community Centre.*

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

The new look website was launched in January 2011 at www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk.

With the launch of the new website will come opportunities for everyone in the community from individuals to groups to contribute their comments, ideas, news and stories onto the website for everyone to view.

Crannog contact information

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

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.

Tipping Point-combatting the curse of Fly Tippers

by local Councillor Drew Hendry

Easter and particularly April is statistically the busiest time for DIY (or Damage and Injure Yourself as I have sometimes heard it called!)

All of the big DIY chains count on this period for a large percentage of their annual income; they know that people will be buying all sorts of thing for the home.

Kitchens will be upgraded and old appliances discarded, sofas and beds will be both purchased and the old ones thrown out and all kinds of floor coverings and bits of scrap wood will start to become surplus to requirements. All of this is a given. Another given is that the curse of Fly Tipping will increase.

Whilst the vast majority of people will responsibly take or have collected their waste there are some who go to the trouble of loading the junk into a van or onto a trailer and then actively seek out quiet, often scenic, spots to dump their rubbish.

This all too common activity is a crime. There is no charge for domestic waste disposal at Longman Road, or any of the other big recycling and waste depots in Highland and I often wonder why they don't simply do the easy thing and take it there.

It must be no more than the effort they put into the illegal dumping in the first place.

Of course, home collection for larger items is no longer free. I voted against charges for the collection of bulky goods by the council when they were introduced a couple of years ago, fearing increased tipping, but, although charges are now a reality, that is still no excuse for the dumping.

I am currently discussing a number of initiatives for tackling Fly Tipping and litter with both the police and the council, covering both better enforcement and some innovative ways of encouraging good behaviour, such as community "skip" weeks amongst other ideas.

These will take a bit of time to get going so in the meantime I am encouraging everyone to work together to prevent this problem escalating.

Dumping often attracts more of the same, so it is important to deal with it before more gets added to the pile.

If you see anyone in the course of fly tipping rubbish then please report this to the police or to me or the council. Similarly if you come across any fly tipping then please let me know and I will report this and in most cases, get it cleaned up quickly.



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Ladies, The Pudding Club Is Back !

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READER'S LETTERS

Dog Mess Problem in Newton Park, Kirkhill

On one day in mid-December I collected a full carrier bag of mostly dog mess (you can tell by the size and consistency of it) from the entrance of Newton Park to halfway down on one side only. Children often step in this and carry it indoors on their feet where it is ground into carpets.

If you don't pick up your dog's excrement then you probably don't worm your dog either, which can put children at risk of brain damage and blindness from toxoplasmosis.

Who is it who is walking their dog in Newton Park and does not pick up their dog's mess like everyone else? Would you like it if someone came along and emptied the contents of their toilet on your front drive?

Name and address supplied

Social Opportunities in Our Area

I'm in my 40's and have been living in Kirkhill for several years. I am convinced that there are people in our community who would like to spend some quality time together, sharing interests/hobbies and simply enjoying a good time. Are you in your 40's/50's and a pub crawl is not your idea of socialising? Do your friends live too far away, or have you just moved to this area and don't know anyone yet? Or would you simply like to make new like-minded friends? I am looking for local men and women who would be interested to meet new people, make friends, share interests and socialise. The idea is not to form a club, but to make new friends in our area and enjoy time together. Give it a try and let's see where it takes us.

Britta Harder, Kirkhill

Please send replies to Britta c/o Crannog, 4 Newton Place, Kirkhill and we will pass them on.

Please feel free to write to us (or e-mail) on any topic of interest to the local community or if you'd like to comment on anything you've seen or read in Crannog. Please include your name, address and a contact telephone number and do remember to let us know if you would like these details withheld from publication. editorial@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk

Canteen Productions raising money to keep Inchmore Canteen

Several individuals and organisations have shown an interest in using the old canteen on a regular basis which is great news for us because we don't like to see it lying empty when we're not doing a panto – and let's face it, we haven't done one for several years now.

We are planning to get together to write another script for performance at the beginning of next year. Meantime, in order to get everyone together and to raise some funds for the upkeep of the hall and for costumes and props for the panto we are planning a 'Pot Luck Supper' – that means you bring along something you've bought or created yourself to share with others and pay a wee fee (£5) for your dinner. If you want to sing for it then you'd be welcome to do so!

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Kirkhill Community Centre goes solar!

Kirkhill Community Centre has just had an array of solar photo voltaic (PV) panels fitted to the roof.

They will generate electricity from the sun which will help keep the costs of running the hall down and help protect the environment.

The solar PV panels create electricity from daylight. Our 21 panels are rated as a 3.96 kilowatt peak (KWp) array.

This means the maximum amount of electricity they are likely to produce is 3.96 kilowatts per hour. A typical kettle needs 2 kilowatts to boil.

The Kirkhill District Amenities Association (KDAA) will earn money for every kWh of electricity that the solar panels generate through the Feed in Tariff scheme. We also earn money from selling any extra electricity we don't use to the grid.

We will receive 41.3p per kWh for all electricity generated and 3p per kWh for electricity we export to the grid.

We also save money on our electricity bills because we generate our own free electricity and therefore buy less from the grid. We estimate that our solar PV panels will produce 3207 kilowatt hours



and save around 1.4 tonnes of CO2 a year. A tonne of CO2 would fill a double

decker bus! We will also save around £1700 in energy costs per year.

We were fortunate to be able to secure funding for 83% of the costs of installation of the panels from the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES).

We are very grateful to Community

Energy Scotland for all their help and assistance with the project.

If you'd like to learn more about how to generate electricity from the sun or see the panels and the electronic generation display in action, please contact Sandra Hogg 831674 or Dave Knox 831500.

Lost Cat, found!

Have you lost this tom cat, he is very affectionate and is fully grown.

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831121
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Church Of Scotland

Greetings message from the folks at Wardlaw Manse in Kirkhill



Kobus and Louise Smit

January saw the start to our social diary, with a total of 73 folk from Kirkhill and Kiltarlity parishes attending our third, and very enjoyable, Burns Supper at Brockies Lodge in Kiltarlity.

March, so far, has seen our World Day of Prayer on the morning of Friday, 4 March, with a fun quiz evening held at Kirkhill Community Hall that same evening, in aid of the Church's development fund. Sunday, March 20th sees the Church's Souper Sunday service, when morning service, led by the church elders, will be held at Kirkhill Community Centre at 10.30 a.m., followed by a soup and sandwich lunch. There is no charge for the lunch, but donations can be made on the day to the Church of Scotland's HIV / AIDS project which last year raised over £1m for this project.

A monthly men's social meal, with a drink, is organised at the Old North Inn, Inchmore and is open to all men from the parish to meet up for an evening of chat and fellowship. The next one is happening on March 25th at 7:00 p.m. and further details and dates can be obtained by contacting either Alasdair Morrison (831 185) or James Byham (831 143). The Church produces a monthly newsletter -The Parishioner - on the last Sunday of each month. Copies can be collected from the Church entrance, or you can visit the website at www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk to keep up-to-date with all the news and events that are happening at the Church, in the locality, and beyond.

Each year, we hold a joint Easter Sunday Communion service with Kiltarlity Church of Scotland. The service this year will be held on Sunday, 24 April at 12 noon at Kiltarlity Church of Scotland, and all are very welcome to join us on this special day. If you cannot join us on Easter Sunday, please do join us on any Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m. for morning worship, with tea and coffee being served after the service. Other services during Holy Week will be taking place and advertised on the Church noticeboard and at the Community Centre.

Musings from the Manse

The holiday trip back home to South Africa is now history and we are grateful to be back here and busy with the ministry. We are also very grateful that all our children

and grandchildren are well. We look forward to another baby boy being added to the family in July.

Some days we find it difficult to believe that that we have now been in Scotland over a year and we are now settled. Although the ministry here differs a lot from the Dutch Reformed Church, and although it is sometimes very difficult to fathom the deep waters of Scottish history and culture, I enjoy the challenge of the ministry and the people. The Scottish history and theology books help me to navigate these deep waters, giving me a better understanding of how to fit Sunday's text to the context. Slowly but steadily I am finding my way.

Louisa helps with the Sunday School and also writes children's features for the church newsletter, which she enjoys very much. She is particularly interested in working with children and the elderly.

You are most welcome to contact us at 831 662, or call at the Manse, if we can be of any help to you. We both look forward to meeting you before too long !

Kobus and Louisa

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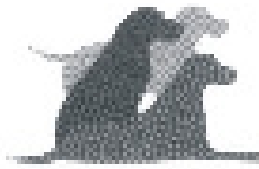
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7th Inverness (Kirkhill) Scout Group

Kirkhill Scout Group news

Exciting activities in store for Kirkhill Scout Group. Kirkhill Scout Group have an exciting and ambitious activity programme for the planned coming year. A grant of £1500 from Cashback for Communities will allow the activities to go ahead. The scouts have already attended a climbing wall session at Inverness Leisure which tested their nerve, strength, co-ordination and team work.

The Scouts will also be taking advantage of this year's great snow conditions at a snowsports weekend on Cairngorm Mountain. They will stay at the Badaguish lodges and take part in skiing or snowboarding with expert tuition.

The Cubs won't be left out as they will attend a weekend at the PGL Activity Centre at Dalguise, Perthshire in April. Just setting off on the train will be an adventure for the eight to ten year olds and that's before a packed weekend including climb-

ing, canoeing, mountain biking, archery and shooting.

The funding will also allow the group to buy new camping equipment that will be used at camps throughout the year.

The Beavers are also planning some exciting outings including a visit to the (furry) beavers at Aigas and maybe (if the leaders' nerves can handle it!) a sleepover.

Contact Group Scout leader Sandra Hogg, 831674 for more information of Beavers, Cubs or Scouts or visit <http://kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk/groups-and-clubs/>.

We always welcome new faces if you'd like to be involved.



Home News Crannog Community Organisations Groups & Clubs Local Information Contact SEARCH...

Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community

7th Inverness (Kirkhill) Scout Group

Kirkhill Scout Group is very active and provides a wide range of adventurous activity for young people.

There are 3 sections within Kirkhill Scout Group:

Kirkhill Beavers Scouts



Kirkhill Beaver Scouts are young people aged between six and eight years old. They belong to the first and youngest Section in the Scouting family. They can move to the next Section, Cub Scouts, between eight and eight ½ years. Easily recognised by their distinctive turquoise sweatshirts, Beaver Scouts enjoy making friends, playing games, going on visits and helping others. They meet together once a week in a Beaver Scout Colony.

Kirkhill Beavers meet on Tuesday evenings from 5.15 to 6.15pm at Kirkhill Community Centre during school term times. Contact Beaver Scout Leader: Mairi MacDonald – 01463 831116 – macm99@aol.com

Kirkhill Cubs Scouts



Kirkhill Cub Scouts provide loads of fun for eight to ten ½ year olds. You will have the chance to try lots of different activities like swimming, music, exploring, computing and collecting. If you do them well you will get a badge which you can wear on your uniform.

Kirkhill Cubs also get to go on trips and days out to Fun Days and Sausage Sizzles and places like the Police Station. Sometimes you will be able to go camping with the rest of your Pack. This will mean sleeping in a tent and doing loads of outdoor activities. Kirkhill Cubs meet on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 to 8.00pm at Kirkhill Community Centre during school term times.

Contact Cub Scout Leader David Hendry on 01463 831114

Aird Scouts Section



Aird Scout Section is for young people, aged between 10 ½ and 14 years from the Kirkhill and Kiltarity areas. Scouts take part in a balanced programme that helps them to find out about the world in which they live, encourages them to know their own abilities and the importance of keeping fit and helps develop their creative talents. It also



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Beaver Scouts are for boys and girls aged six to eight. Contact Beaver Scout Leader Mairi MacDonald 831116

Cub Scouts are for boys and girls aged eight to ten. Contact Cub Scout Leader David Hendry 831114

Scouts are for boys and girls aged ten to fourteen. Contact Scout Leader Paul Whitefoot 831422

Local News

Kirkhill Community Park

Now that the new equipment for babies and toddlers has been installed in the park, we just wanted to thank everybody who has been involved in the project, particularly Lindsey Stout who also did lots of local fundraising. And we couldn't have done it without the People's Postcode who donated £10,000 to the project. People's Postcode Trust Advisor Clare Oliver said "People's Postcode Trust were thrilled to award £10,000 to Kirkhill Community Park. The project is one which will hugely benefit the surrounding community, and we are delighted to be part of it." The rest of the money came from Aird and Loch Ness Ward Discretionary Fund and a donation from Kirkhill's Got Talent. The Highland Council also supported us in the construction phase.

For more information about the People's Postcode Trust please see www.postcodelottery.com

Caroline Crawford

National Bike Week



organising an event suitable for all ages on the

2011 18th June - 26th June

first Sunday of NBW - 18th June.

In our community there are a large number of individuals and families who enjoy cycling. Hamish Wood our local Councillor is also a keen cyclist & chair of Highland Cycle Campaign. He is trying to get a group of people together who would assist in

Anyone interested with ideas or the time to assist in arranging an event can in the first place contact Ged Church 831306. NBW information can be found at <http://www.bikeweek.org.uk>. Events registered with the organisers get free assistance and insurance cover.

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Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Trust

As ever there is lots on the go with the Trust. These include:

Playpark – having completed the extension to the playpark it's time to party! Or at least to open the extension. We plan to hold a joint opening with the Kirkhill and District Amenities Association of the new Multi Use Games Area they've developed at the hall and the Playpark extension.

The party is planned for Saturday 30 April in the afternoon and/or early evening and will involve a BBQ, various activities and games. More details will go out nearer the time.

Upper Reelig Community Woodland – we're well through our Winter programme of work now. In particular focussing on 3 activities.

At the lower end of the wood we're taking out

some adolescent beech to get more light to the woodland floor and particularly to encourage native ash trees to develop.

At the top of the slopes above the Forestry commission car park we're removing young beech seedlings and bigger Western Hemlock to encourage the native yew, birch and ash to develop.

Finally at the top end of the Community wood we're thinning the beech there to give the remaining beech the space to grow and develop into mature trees. Although beech is not a native tree in this part of Scotland it is a superb looking tree and the plan is to retain the mature beech whilst allowing the native ash, rowan, yew, birch, holly, aspen etc to develop.

Cycle Path – we're in the final throes now of developing plans for the two phases of the cycle

path between Inverness and Beauly. Once that's finished and we've caught our breaths we plan to begin the process of raising funds to develop the path itself. The increasing numbers of cyclists using the road prove how popular it will be.

Communications – as reported previously we're working on developing the community web site which the Trust hosts.

It should be good and we hope will become the main way by which news and information can be shared within the community.

AGM & Presentation

– finally the Trust's AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 28th March in the school.

We've been lucky to secure Jenny Graham and a colleague to tell us about the work of The Bridge and

how the community wood is being used for Forest School.

The Bridge is an establishment run by Highland Council as a school to meet the needs of youngsters with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties who are struggling in mainstream education.

We will be really pleased to see you at the AGM & Presentation.

Feel free to come along even if you're not a member of the Trust and you are interested in hearing what our speakers have to say or would like to find out more about the work of the Trust.

We look forward to seeing you there and will even offer you a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit – how good an offer is that!

Any queries please contact Trust Chairman George Hogg on 831674 or chair@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk

Bus Survey February 2011

In the last issue of Crannog the secretary of the Community Council invited comments from bus users concerning the 28/28A service. This was followed up when Alastair Goodall of Stagecoach was invited to the January meeting of the Community Council where he listened and responded to the comments.

It transpired that Stagecoach were revising their schedules in April. As it appeared that only one regular bus user had attended the meeting the Community Trust decided to assist in carrying out a quick survey to obtain a better picture of what local bus users wanted.

We only had a couple of weeks to do this and get the results to Stagecoach, so a general survey relating to times and frequency was quickly prepared. Surveys were carried out at the Kirkhill bus stop, the village market, by e.mail, on the school bus and through the primary school note home. Copies were also put into Bunchrew Caravan site and passed to friends and family by individuals.



(continued on next page)

Kirkhill and District Amenities Association

Kirkhill Community Centre - Development Project

The committee of the KDAA are moving forward with plans to develop the Centre following an initial consultation exercise with users of the Centre. The issues being addressed include improving the kitchen and toilet facilities, creating more storage space, improving the acoustics and insulation of the main hall and creating a meeting room for smaller groups.

Drawings of two possible options for the development have been prepared with the assistance of local architect Erik Lundberg, and the committee plans to seek the views of current and potential user groups and individuals about the proposals.

The current estimate for developing the hall is in excess of £200,000. This means the community will need to be engaged in a significant fund raising effort. We need to show evidence that developing the community centre is needed by and will benefit the local community. We need to know what

things are most important to you and what opportunities you think the development will bring.

So, if you have any interest in the centre and its facilities, please complete our survey so that we can find your views. We hope that we get a great response so that a strong body of evidence can be provided for the development. And perhaps do it now, before you forget. . .

The questionnaire can be accessed on the internet at: - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZGBWLJS>

For those without access to the internet the survey questionnaire will be available in the community at places such as the School, the Church, the Post Office and in the Centre itself. Alternatively, contact Ken MacDonald on 831479 or Alasdair Morrison on 831185.

Drawings for the proposed development will be on view at the Village Market in Kirkhill School on Saturday 26th March, along with copies of the survey questionnaire.

Kirkhill MUGA and KirkHill Community Park Opening

Kirkhill was lucky to have two new developments completed last year. Kirkhill District Amenities Association (KDAA) delivered a high spec multi-use games area (MUGA) and Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust raised funding for a new toddler area and swings in the park. Both developments represent an investment of nearly £100,000 into the community. To celebrate these achievements we propose to hold a community open day on Saturday 30th April. The idea is to demonstrate a number of sports in the MUGA along with a BBQ and activities in the park.

Timings and details have yet to be finalised but put the date in your diary now. Further details will go out with the school newsletter and be posted on notice boards and on www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk.



(Bus survey cont)

To date 64 responses have been received a great response considering the time constraints. A summary of the main demands and comments is shown below.

Main demands (Numbers of respondents in brackets)

Increase in number of services – Weekdays (35), Saturdays (23), Sundays (30)

Additional morning service to Inverness during working week from Kirkhill around 9.00am to reach Inverness by no later than 9.50am(19).

An early Sunday service to reach Inverness before 10.00am (14). Generally better service in both directions. From Inverness (18), to Inverness (17)

Better evening services Weekday (7), Saturday (6), Sunday (16)

An additional mid-afternoon service Weekdays (8)

Other demands were for evening buses around 8pm (3), & 10pm (3), for buses leaving Inverness at end of working day to leave on half hour rather than hour. Also a significant number (12) complained about the poor reliability of this service.

Our thanks to Cris Ford and staff at Kirkhill Primary school and all others who co-operated in getting the survey done in such a short time. Full results can be obtained from Ged Church 831306

Because of the short time available many bus users may not have seen this survey. If you are one of these and would like to add your own needs to the survey, or confirm any of the above findings please contact Ged at above number.

Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Trust.