



FIRST CHOICE
GARDEN SERVICES

CONTACT
Jim Goodman
fcgardensvs@btinternet.com

3-8 millfeach
Kirkhill, Inverness

T: 01463 831301
M: 07922 038868



Registered childminder
based in Cabrich
Covering Kirkhill and
surrounding areas.

EGM CHILDCARE

Offering a safe, spacious, stimulating and friendly
environment for your child.
Kirkhill Primary School and Nursery
drop off/pick-up available.
Please contact Emma MacRae to discuss your requirements.

Home: 01463 831157
Mobile: 07788 715445

ABC PLANT HIRE
DIGGERS & DUMPERS
SKILLED OPERATORS


Tel: ANDY or ALI
01463 741468
or
07999 352399

LOWER DRUMNAGARRACHAN, KILTARLITY

Willowcroft

Property Maintenance and Landscaping.

Knockbain, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7PL



- Kitchens and bathrooms installed
- Doors hung and locks changed
- Floor and wall tiling - Painting and decorating
- Skirting and Architrave - Laminate floors fitted
- Unfinished DIY Projects undertaken
- Shelving, curtain poles and rails
- Timber decking; CAD design and build
- Patios laid - Gravelled areas – Turf - Pathways
- General garden tidying - Grass cutting, strimming/brush cutting
- Garden walls built/repaired – Fencing
- CS31 chainsaw certified.

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

GARDEN TREE SURGERY

H & H Brown *Bunchrew*

Tree Felling & Topping
Removal or Make Safe Damaged Trees
Fruit Tree Care
Tree Management & Advice
Free Quotations
Public Liability Insurance

Phone: Hugh on
01463 713245
07845 468540

Crannog

Autumn 2012

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

Blooming Marvellous

Working to help you enjoy your garden

- Regular garden care
- Planting and pruning
- Summer and autumn tidy up
- Flowerbed and border makeovers



Elizabeth Shiach, Gardener
RHS Cert. in Horticulture

Call 01463 831591 or 07733 421039

Inverness, Beaulay & Kirkhill areas

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED

You would not be reading this valuable community publication if it were not for the hard work and commitment of a few unsung heroes who volunteer their time to distribute and post the Crannog through everyone's letter boxes.

This is a job for the community that is definitely best shared amongst as many as possible. If you want to be involved and could spare some time to help distribute Crannog, please contact Ken or Irene McColl on 831617.

Thank You!

J RUSSELL GARDENING SERVICES EST. 1969

Whinbrae, Lentran, IV3 8RJ

ALL TYPES OF GARDEN WORK EXPERTLY UNDERTAKEN

❖ GARDEN TREES, HEDGES & SHRUBS CUT

DOWN TO MANAGEABLE SIZE

❖ FENCING & SLABBING

❖ LAWNS UPLIFTED & GRAVELLED

❖ GRASS CUT

❖ PATIO & PATH LAYING

❖ GARDEN TIDY-UPS - RUBBISH REMOVED ON

COMPLETION [LICENCED BY SEPA]

**NO JOB TOO SMALL -
CALL NOW FOR A
FREE ESTIMATE**

**PLEASE PHONE 01463 831070
OR MOBILE 077 808 62035
jrusellgardenservices.co.uk**

ROBERT KINGHORN TREE SURGERY

**Fully qualified and insured
Arboricultural contractor**

All aspects of tree care undertaken.

Small garden trees to full site clearances

Hazard trees

Site clearance

Hedge trimming

Tree dismantling

Deadwood removal

Tree and hedge planting

All aspects of tree pruning

Urban / woodland forestry

Felling large and small trees

info@kinghorntreesurgery.co.uk

<http://www.kinghorntreesurgery.co.uk/>

01463 783241

07717 194 567

NEWS

Wood Carving Workshop

Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust Woodland Group are organising a wood carving workshop for late summer/autumn. You'll learn wood carving techniques and be able to contribute to carvings for the newly refurbished Community Centre. It's likely to be held over a weekend but dates have still to be finalised. Places are free but limited. If you're interested please get in touch with Annie Griffiths on 01463 831600 or crag-gach@doctors.org.uk.

Garden Refuse Collection

A Highland Council refuse collection vehicle will be at the Community Centre Car Park between 1 and 3pm on Saturday 25th August and Saturday 29th September for garden refuse only.

KIRKHILL SWRI

The 2012/13 syllabus has been finalized and the first event is a visit to Harry Gow in September.

The usual Thursday evening meetings will commence on 4th October with a talk on Santiago de Compostela.

All meetings start at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month usually in the Kirkhill Community Hall.

Whilst the Hall is undergoing refurbishment, meetings will be held at the Kirkhill Parish Church.

New members and visitors can be assured of a warm welcome.

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, Fearnna, 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 Beauly areas

Next issue of the Crannog: Winter 2012

Contribution deadline: 7th November 2012

*any late submissions will not be included!

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

The past few months have been rather hectic as the Highland Council elections involved canvassing as many doors as possible around our Ward which has a population of almost ten thousand and is one of the largest wards in the Highlands.

Over the month of April it was good to meet and listen to so many of you, and I would like to take this opportunity say how much I appreciated those of you who were so kind to offer this bedraggled candidate, hot soup on the many wet miserable days and tea with cake in the garden in the bright sunshine on the good days when the villages and Loch Ness looked amazing.



dents appeared with black bags full of their garden waste and, and I am told, went back home for more!

It was there I met Mark Williamson age 11 and his brother Joshua age 8 who were helping Lindsey Stout who was clearing the willow from the play

park. (see photo)

As the member on the Leader Strategic Group it was a delight to see the first class application which was submitted by the Community Group for the funding for the new extension to the hall. It has been a long haul but well worth it, my congratulations to all who helped with this excellent project.

If you have issues you want me to report please get in touch.

Councillor Helen Carmichael. Tel. 01463 782555
Email helen.carmichael.cllr@highland.gov.uk

The result of the election means your four Ward Councillors have been returned to serve you for a further five years so in Alphabetical order: Helen Carmichael, Margaret Davidson, Drew Hendry, and Hamish Wood. On behalf of my fellow Councillors I would like to thank you all and look forward to working for you as your representatives in the Highland Region.

When Cllr Davidson and I were out canvassing the area we were frequently asked about brown bins for Kirkhill so we took this message back to our first Ward Business meeting and arranged the uplift with the help of the ward discretionary budget.

This is a compromise for the time being to ensure the garden waste is collected this summer. We will endeavour to get the finance from Tec's to supply brown bins to your area. I am delighted your petition in support has been submitted to Highland Council.

Today I have just returned from the Community Centre where the Pilot Garden Waste uplift service was underway and what a success it appears to have been.

Over the two hour period from 1pm – 3pm there was approximately 35 cars, in addition many resi-

DAN FRASER **TREE SURGERY**

- Tree Surgery -
- Small Scale Mobile Saw Milling -
- Log Splitting -
- Woodchipping -
- Firewood Sales -

01463 831030
07703 517941
dfrasertreesurgery@hotmail.com

(continued from page 5)

Whilst we await authority to call a new Minister, the Wardlaw Manse has some welcome tenants in the form of the Rennie family who are having a new house built in the area. We are glad to have the Manse being lived in by a family, and bid a warm welcome to Sandy and Marion and their two boys.

Of course, we must mention our Sunday morning services, which are held from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m. A new crèche facility is now available within the church building, for parents who would like to attend church and would value the reassurance of knowing their child is being looked after safely by responsible church members. Our Sunday School runs during the school term for children aged 4 and over. Our Harvest Thanksgiving service will be held in late September. Please do join us any Sunday morning and stay on for coffee after, if you are able.

Our "Celestial" choir start practising on 8 September, building up their repertoire in readiness for the

Candle and Carol service in late December. The choir would welcome new members and voices. If this is something that you feel you might like to try, please contact Mary Robb on 01463 795 553, or just come to the church at 10:00 a.m. on any Saturday morning from 8 September onwards and speak to Mary.

Please note that during the alteration work at Kirkhill Community Centre, Wardlaw Church is available to accommodate meetings and group gatherings. The main church now has flexible seating i.e. it can be moved round, stacked to the side, etc. There is also a small modern kitchen available for preparing tea / coffee, sandwiches etc., together with an accessible toilet on the ground floor. Bookings should still be made via Wilma Williamson on 831 737.

We look forward to seeing you !

The Wardlaw Church congregation

AIRD (KIRKHILL) SCOUTS

Aird Scouts has been meeting at Kiltarlity Village hall for the last 8 years. Although, whenever possible, we are out and about exploring the local area. In the summer term, evenings were spent beach-combing at Rosemarkie, cycling at Strathfar-rar, and building shelters at Reelig Glen. The term ended with a day-trip in 15 open canoes down the River Beaully, organised by our local outdoor adventure company 'Boots and Paddles'. It was a fantastic day and we were even lucky enough to see the Aigas Ospreys.

Earlier in the year, 15 scouts, both girls and boys, enjoyed a weekend of adventurous activities at Badaguish Outdoor Centre, which was partly funded by an award from 'Cashback for Communities'. Activities included mountain biking, zip-wire trails, rock climbing and "weavling" - crawling under and over a field of boulders. It was an excellent weekend and most agreed that it was at least as exciting as the skiing that would have happened if there had been snow!

Next year, we are planning a very ambitious programme of activities around a theme of 'Exploring our Environment'. The programme will involve evening outdoor and hall-based activities, looking at aspects of our environment and planning for expeditions. Next spring, we are hoping to run a

three-day land/water based expedition where we can put some of the new skills into practice.

We are delighted to be at full capacity (25 scouts) but if your child is interested in joining us, please contact Paul Whitefoot, as we are running a waiting list.

Thanks to all the parents who have helped in recent terms with administration and fundraising, especially Jill Kent, Karen Blagden and Catriona Hilditch.

Helen Cowan (01463 831344) and Paul Whitefoot (01463 831422)

DRAINAGE DOCTORS

SEPTIC TANKS & SOAKAWAYS
REPAIRS AND INSTALLATION

TEL: ANDY BAWDEN
01463 741468

OR

ALI MATHESON
01349 877629

KIRKHILL DISTRICT AMENITIES ASSOCIATION

Work starts on Community Centre extension

Well, it's taken a while but we're happy to say the work starts on the Kirkhill Community Centre extension and refurbishment on the 20th August. So, by the time you read this things should be well on the way.

The Kirkhill Centre Forward project will provide the community with a new meeting room to complement the main hall. The new room will be warm and cosy and will accommodate up to 40 people. It will be ideal for smaller groups and for meetings. It also means that new groups can be accommodated who were previously turned away because the main hall was booked.

As well as the new meeting room the main hall will be completely renovated. We'll have a new much more spacious kitchen, new toilets, a bigger entrance hall with space for the post office/box office. And, thanks to funding from the Climate Challenge Fund, the hall will be insulated throughout to give us a much more comfortable and economical building.

This project has been a community aspiration for a long time and it's great that we are finally getting the community facilities that we need in this growing area. This couldn't have happened without the efforts of the Kirkhill Centre Forward sub-committee which has put in a huge amount of work and continues to put in many volunteer hours. It also needed the support of the community which has raised nearly £100,000 over the years through supporting Kirkhill Gala and other events.

The £334,000 project is funded from a number of sources including Highland LEADER, Climate Challenge Fund, Robertson Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation and Highland Council. Local company R&R Regeneration has been appointed as contractor.

The community centre is now closed and but access will be kept for the MUGA, recycling bins and football pitch. We should be ready to re-open in late December or certainly the New Year. Get ready for a massive party!

Kirkhill MUGA

Kirkhill MUGA is still 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. Contact Ken MacDonald on 01463 831479, email kdaa@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk or see http://kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk/community_centre/kirkhill-muga/

Willowcroft

SEWING SHED



**HORSE RUGS REPAIRED
LEATHER WORK
ALL GENERAL REPAIRS
LEATHER AND FABRIC
FRIENDLY LOCAL SERVICE**

**01463 831320
07736647197**

FIRST CHOICE DECORATIONS

**PAINTING
DECORATING
WALLPAPERING
TILING
PLASTERING**



Contact

JIM GOODMAN

tel

01463 831301

mob

07922 038868

**3-8 MILLIFEACH
KIRKHILL, INVERNESS IV5 7PH**

KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY TRUST

Woodland Group

The Woodland group had a successful year continuing our management work in the Upper Reelig Community Wood. We have benefited greatly by having the Log Building to use both as a base and meeting place. The local Bat Group has identified two species of bat that have taken up residence as well! Various areas of the wood are now showing good regeneration of native flora and woodland as a result of increasing the amount of light for plants and trees by the removal of non-native species. We have also improved the habitat for insects, birds, fungi and other organisms by increasing the amount of deadwood in the woodland.

Trust volunteers were delighted to support the Forest School sessions run by Ged Church for Kirkhill School pupils over the last few months. We helped pupils make 'dead hedges' – small enclosed areas that protect ash and other seedlings from deer - and will monitor these together over the next year to see the impact. The sessions were great fun for the group and really enjoyed by both staff and pupils – we all learned new skills together. Given the rainy summer the building came into its own as it provided shelter for the activities by the addition of tarpaulins to the gables.

Some of the equipment used in the Forest School activities was purchased with funding from the Forestry Commission Scotland's Community Seedcorn fund. We have been fortunate to again secure an award from the fund and will, in our next year, undertake a number of projects including running First Aid and Wood Carving courses – as well as purchasing some much needed equipment to support our work.

Regular visitors will know that there have been Forestry operations in the FCS woodland bordering the Community Woodland. The extraction work has now finished and hopefully all timber will be uplifted from the site soon. The Forestry Commission tell us that there is a second felling planned for 2012/13.

The Woodland Group starts its activities again in late September/early October and we would very much welcome new members. If you do not have time to attend on work days there are other ways in which you can become involved, so, if you are interested in contributing at all, please get in touch with myself, Annie Griffiths (831600/07884155635 or craggach@doctors.org.uk)

Trust members in the Clunes area are continuing to monitor the spread of Himalayan Balsam above the Reelig Glen. Areas where dense clumps of the invasive weed were pulled by groups of volunteers over the past two summers have been revisited, with only sporadic evi-

dence of the plant remaining. The operation has drawn praise from SNH but the volunteers are aware there is still work to be done. No evidence has been found of the plant spreading into the Moniack Gorge where it could be a serious threat to the rich flora and fauna. However it has been discovered on private property higher up the water course and these new areas are now being targeted with the kind co-operation of landowners.

Cycle Path

We have a long-term plan for an off-road cycle path from Beauly to Inverness and have completed the first section from Moniack to Inchmore. We applied for funding to the Climate Challenge Fund and Leader for the section from Lovat Bridge to the Cabrich Junction but heard recently that these applications have not been successful. We are now looking to see if we can rework the applications and seek other sources of funding and are determined not to give up.

Communications

We have been working hard to improve our Community Web Site – www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk and the community Facebook page. This is a great facility to keep in touch 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

We have now obtained quotes for the repair of the park fence and have identified funds from previous park projects to put towards the cost. We are applying to the Highland Council Ward Discretionary Budget for the balance of the cost and are grateful for the support of the Community Council and our Ward Councillors. If the grant is approved it is hoped the work will be complete by the autumn.

Environmental Group

The Recycling Point is now in the Community Centre Car Park and has bins for clear, brown and green glass and steel/aluminium cans. 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 autumn but don't leave any you see until then – pick it up and bin it to help keep our village tidy over the summer!

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.

WARDLAW CHURCH NEWS

At the time of going to press for the last issue of Crannog, Wardlaw Church was preparing for the Kirkhill Gala service. This was a happy service, conducted by Mrs Morven Archer, with a dramatic presentation by Chris Watt and Carol Hutchison from Out of the Box and their puppets. With the help of some of the younger folk in the congregation, plus Alasdair, a “not quite so young” Elder, the story of the Good Samaritan was told. The young folk enjoyed hamming it up with robes and cloaks.

Alasdair played the unsuspecting traveller on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he was well and truly set upon by the caped villains.

Our Third Sunday praise events continue to grow in popularity. These take place on at 6:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month, concentrating on newer hymns and songs, interspersed with short readings and messages. The tea and home baking served afterwards are always a big attraction, along with the chance to meet other people from the area. The event in June featured John Moores who talked and sang his way through hymns that have marked milestones in his life, including hymns written by John himself. The July event comprised a selection of favourite hymns, old and new, which were much enjoyed and sung very enthusiastically. These Praise events are open to everyone, and we are pleased to have been joined by visitors from other churches in the area. The next Third Sunday will be 16 September at 6.00 p.m. – please do come and join us !

Saturday, 30 June was nominated as Clear Up Day at Wardlaw Church. A team of 11 members of the Kirkhill congregation plus friends and family rolled up their sleeves to freshen up the church grounds. Several major improvements resulted from their hard work. The wire fence was removed from the top of the stone wall bordering the road and the pavement cleared of debris, making the approach to the church look somewhat friendlier and improving the appearance of the wall itself. The stone flags at the church entrance were dug up and re-laid, together with extra flags to extend the level



surface at the way in to the church. Several ladies spent a long time on their hands and knees weeding the gravel paths leading into the church grounds – back-breaking work, and a definite improvement. Very many thanks to all !

A party of sixteen joined together for an afternoon tea at the Dairy at Daviot in July. It was a good opportunity to sit and chat, and this obviously necessitated the consumption of jam and cream scones, washed down with numerous cups of tea ! Sadly, we lost two well-loved and much respected ladies during July. Nancy Paterson of Drumallan, Drumchardine passed away in the early hours of July 4, with Elizabeth Macrae of Stroma, Kirkhill passing away four days later on 8 July. Both Nancy and Elizabeth will be missed very much indeed by everyone who knew them.

The Tuesday coffee mornings have proved to be very popular, and are held every week, from 10:00 a.m. till 12 noon. Anne, Mary and Maris transform our Guild Room into a (very) upmarket teashop each week, with home baking provided by themselves and other members of the church congregation. Tables are set with immaculate tablecloths, china crockery (teacups and saucers here, not your everyday coffee mugs !) and flowers, and the home baking is tremendous. We have heard that some folk have been thinking that you have to be a churchgoer to come to the coffee morning. This is far from being the case - this coffee morning is open to everyone in the community and the only qualification needed is the ability to enjoy a cup of tea and a blether.

(continued overleaf)