

Lentran•Kirkton•Clunes•Reelig•Inchberry•Kirkhill•Inchmore•Englishton Muir  
Drumchardine•Altnacardich•Newtonhill•Knockbain•Bunchrew•Cabrach

# Crannog

Spring 2006

## Community Council

### Community Councillors

Ian Weir, Groam Farm, Kirkhill

Chris Heaton-Armstrong, Kirkhill PO

Ally MacNeill, Tigh Cala, 4 Newtonhill

Fred Geddes, New House, Lentran

Cameron Kemp, West Altnaceardaich, Lentran

Fiona Stoddart, 8 Fingask Drive, Kirkhill

Karen Young, Coach House, Bunchrew

Iain Urquhart, 58 Newton Park, Kirkhill

Raymond Khan, Blaven, Bunchrew

Janet Peterson, Blaven, Bunchrew

Secretary - Jim Ogilvie, 22 Newton Park, Kirkhill

### Date of next meeting

7 March 2006 at 7.30pm

All the meetings are held in the Primary School 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.

## Canteen Productions - The Knockbain/Kirkhill Panto

During the winter of 1989/90 a leaflet was dropped through the doors of folk living around Cabrach and Clunes inviting anyone interested in 'amateur dramatics' to attend a meeting in Knockbain School. Amazingly a group of between 12 and 20 people turned up, including Carol and myself. Most of us knew one another and it soon became clear that no-one was really keen on Janet Marshall's original idea but someone, I think it was John Palmer, said, "How about doing a Panto? That would just be a bit of fun". And so we started. From the outset Canteen Productions was set up purely to present the Panto, to involve members of all ages in the community in a bit of fun, and is purely non-profit making.

With the support of the staff at Knockbain School the canteen was made available for a couple of weeks. A dismountable stage, complete with Proscenium Arch, was built by John Swatman and painted by Cathy Richmond.\* Our first Panto: 'Cinderella', was performed at Christmas 1990; as well as adults of all ages living in

the Knockbain, Clunes and Cabrach areas, most of the Knockbain pupils also took part, acting or singing.

Canteen Productions moved from Knockbain Canteen in 1996 after the closure of the school there and became an associate member of the Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust shortly after that organisation was formed. We were fortunate to be able to take over the Inchmore School canteen and Cathy's Proscenium arch was moved down the road. Many of the Crannog readers will be familiar with our Panto format, which is somewhere between traditional 'Pantomime' and 'Monty Python'.

This year is our third production to veer from the 'traditional Panto' format, being something between a play, a 'whodunnit' and a farce, but there are some traditional elements of Panto, including a dame, a villain and a romantic interest. "Sherlock Holmes and the Eye of Horus", or "Up the Nile without a Paddle", will be the third production since the millennium at the Inchmore Canteen.

The cast and producers would like to acknowledge the huge support we get from the community and this year we were given a donation of £300 by 'Stars of Kirkhill' - money that has been mostly spent on costumes and fabric.

We look forward to seeing as many folk as possible over the weekend of 10th/11th March - there will be three performances, Friday evening and Saturday evenings at 7.30pm and a Saturday matinee at 2pm.

**Alan Humphries, Chairman, Canteen Productions**

*\*Some readers may remember Cathy Richmond. She lived at Drumreach for several years - sadly she died aged 57 recently in Glasgow after a long illness. During recent years she became an internationally recognised artist whilst lecturing at Glasgow School of Art. This was an amazing achievement for someone who only started to pursue her art qualifications locally whilst in her mid-forties .... and with three children to support.*

## **Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust** *Annual General Meeting*

Kirkhill Primary School,  
Monday 27 March 2006, 7.30pm

Slide show of local natural history  
Followed by AGM

All Trust members and interested members of the community welcome

Part of the business will be the election of Trust Board members and a new Treasurer to replace Sandra Hogg who is stepping down. Any Trust members interested please contact **Sandra on 831674, Donald Shiach on 831591 or Erik Lundberg on 831742**

### **Kirkhill/Bunchrew Senior Citizens' Bowling Club**

Members of the Senior Citizens' Bowling Club have enjoyed their Wednesday afternoon games which have been on-going since the beginning of October.

On 30th November, we had a match with the Inverness Post Office senior Citizens' Club. Now we are looking forward to a match on 8th March with the Craig Dunain Senior Citizens' Club. These are both friendly matches which are always enjoyable.

Our bowling afternoons are due to stop at the end of March and begin again at the beginning of October - look out for notices during September.

Club champion for the season was Neil Maclean.  
**Madda Georgeson 831521 or Ken MacColl 831617**

### **Kirkhill SWRI**

Our demonstrators and speakers up to Christmas were both local. Firstly our November meeting. Michelle Mac-Millan gave an excellent talk and hands on guiding the membership through the various stages of remedial massage. Most beneficial to both young and old. December, again a hands on night with our President (that's me!) when we had lots of fund cutting out Christmas materials and decorating and, dare I say, transforming plain t-shirts into very trendy garments!!

### **Elliot**

Peacefully in ward 6A, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on Monday 13th February, J Gordon Elliot FRICS and FLAS, former chartered land surveyor with HIBD aged 68 years of "The Hollies", 3 Cabrich, Kirkhill, beloved husband of Elizabeth, much loved father of Jenny, Jamie and Peter, loving grandpa of Ross, Dylan and Lucas, and much respected father-in-law of Ian, Sara and Caroline.

A celebration of Gordon's life was held on 21st February 2006 in the funeral home of William J Fraser & Son, Culduthel Road, Inverness followed by internment in Kilmorack burial ground.

Elizabeth and family would like to thank friends, neighbours and ex-colleagues for the overwhelming love and support that they have experienced over the past weeks through offers of practical help, flowers, gifts, telephone calls, cards and letters, far too numerous to mention.

The Senior Citizens Christmas Festive Bash as usual was hosted by the WRI and resulted in a good time being had by all. We catered for over 100 and also organised the entertainment and again I would like to stress how grateful we are to all the artistes who so kindly gave up their Saturday afternoon to be there for our pleasure and enjoyment, free of charge - something that doesn't happen very often these days. We are always on the lookout for different talent so if you yourself or you know somebody, please, please let me know, because before we know it we will be organising next year's party.

In January we always try to have someone local (just for the weather's sake) and we were very fortunate in procuring our very own Antique's Roadshow expert, none other than Mr Ian Marr, who very ably enthralled us all for the evening with the vast expertise he has gleaned, from as he says himself: "when he started as a boy, to the present day". No Ian I'm not going to tell them your age! That's a secret between you and the WRI ladies!

Our February speaker was Wendy Nganasurian from Culbokie, who delighted the audience with a potted history of greeting cards and considering the lucrative business they have become, it was fascinating to see her demonstrate how we could make our own cards, suitable for all occasions, from the simplest of recycled materials. We certainly picked up lots of ideas and tips.

Before our AGM in May we will have our annual trip to the opera to see this year's production of 'Westend to Broadway' and our March speaker is a representative from Mission Aviation Fellowship which certainly sounds interesting. Our April outing, like last year at this time, is still to be decided.

Once again I say to you, our syllabus is varied and lively to the extent that we won third place with this session's entry from all the entries for the whole of Inverness-shire and the islands. Guests are most welcome, so come along and see for yourself. For further details please feel free to telephone me, or contact any of the members, because none of us are ever going to be old enough to forget that LIFE IS FUN.

**Joan Mackay, President 831578**

### **A note from your councillor**

Hello all,

I thought in this issue with a few, possibly controversial planning applications in the pipeline, that I would outline the role of the local councillor in the planning procedure.

Whether it be for a massive housing estate, the Beaulieu to Denny pylons or an application by a young local couple who have been given a house plot on grandfather's croft, the principle is exactly the same.

Councillors are not allowed to show any commitment to an applicant or an objector on a planning application, or give the impression of making a commitment to the former or the latter. By the same token, a councillor is not allowed to visit a proposed site with an applicant unless a planning officer is present. I know the geography of the Ward pretty well so that is really not a serious problem.

The view of one side or the other is likely to represent an incomplete picture of the application. The planning officer will assess the views of the applicant, objectors, notifiable neighbours, Commu-

nity Council, roads department, SEPA, SNH, Scottish Water etc before he or she completes the report with a recommendation that will eventually go before the Planning Committee.

This can make life difficult for a councillor in a rural ward like this, where I am likely to know about 90% of the population therefore I am bound to know most of the applicants and objectors.

It is not uncommon for an applicant to say: "C'mon Jack, I have always voted for you," with the insinuation that if the application fails he won't vote for me again. I can only reply: "the objectors have probably always voted for me as well".

Therefore, if it is thought that I have committed myself one way or another and I feel may have done so then I have to declare an interest and withdraw from the debate.

So if you think your councillor is not showing due interest in your application or objection, then hopefully the foregoing will be of assistance.

Kind regards **Jack Sheils 831343**

### **The Woodcraft Folk coming to Kirkhill area**

#### **Who are the WCF?**

We are a unique progressive educational movement for children and young people - both girls and boys - designed to develop self-confidence and activity in society, with the aim of building a world based on equality, peace, social justice and co-operation. All ages are catered for up to 20yrs old. Through its activities, Woodcraft Folk tries to give its members an understanding of important issues such as the environment, world debt and global conflict, with a key focus in recent years being sustainable development. Unlike other traditional youth organisations, we do not have a set uniform; instead our members choose to wear clothing such as our "woodie hoodies" or t-shirts designed by young people from our organisation.

#### **Strange name?**

Contrary to the myths that surround our name, we do not under normal circumstances, hug trees or craft wood. The name 'woodcraft' was used by the influential writer and naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton at the turn of the twentieth century. Woodcraft in this context meant the skill of living in the open air, close to nature. The Woodcraft Folk, like other youth movements, traces its origins back to Ernest Thompson Seton's pioneering work with North American young people.

#### **What do they do?**

Woodcraft Folk groups meet weekly, enjoying a varied programme including games, drama, discussion,

projects, crafts, singing and dancing, as well as following an educational programme based on awareness of issues both local and global.

We organise hostelling and camping activities for two nights at weekends throughout the year and camping is a large focus in the summer holidays. Opportunities for international camps and exchanges are also open to young people. The organisation provides an informal and supportive environment for young people to develop their ideas, share experiences, explore opportunities and make life-long friends in their locality and beyond.

If you are interested in being involved with a group in the Kirkhill area for 6-12 year olds, please call **Marie Waugh on 831356** or email [marie.waugh@care4free.net](mailto:marie.waugh@care4free.net)

### **Aird Community Links**

Back in May 2003 Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust were delighted to be able to open a new path between Inchmore and Moniack and a network of paths around the area. Three years on we'd like to know how much you use the network and why and whether you'd like to see more projects like this in the area. We've inserted an envelope in Crannog with a survey form which we'd be grateful if you could complete and return. As an added incentive we'll enter you in a prize draw for £50! We've also included a leaflet for Aird Community Links to remind you of all the great routes available.

## 7th Inverness (Kirkhill) Beaver Scouts

Last term was very busy for the Beavers when some attended an Inverness Area Beaver Fun Day in November with the theme of Christmas where there were lots of things to do and make and they all had a great time. Then we had a Carol Service at Scout Head Quarters in Inverness at the beginning of December when Beavers and Cubs dressed up as Native Americans, at which there was standing room only and a week later we went to the Panto at the Northern Meeting Park with the Cub Pack to see Sinbad the Sailor. A very busy and thoroughly enjoyable time for all of us.

This term the Beavers are working on their Friendship Challenge Badge which involves finding out and meeting other people and their Creative Badge which is making things. A slightly quieter term.

If you are 6 or 7 years old, boy or girl, and would like to come and join us and have fun, we meet at 5.15 to 6.15pm on a Tuesday at Kirkhill Community Centre.

**Elaine Fisher 831540**



## Kirkhill Primary School - Update for Spring 2006

When Alison asked if I would submit an article from school I was thrilled to oblige. I am very happy to back at Kirkhill and would like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome. Although school has moved on in many ways it has been lovely to meet up with everyone again especially the children and return to be part of the 'Kirkhill team'.

It would be impossible to write about all the activities that are happening in our busy school so I have chosen just a few and added some sayings by pupils to make you smile.

Despite many having this awful virus that has been 'doing the rounds' everyone is working hard and looking forward to a busy term. We call the spring term our 'work term' because it is usually not broken into by too many holidays. The class projects for this term are as follows:- P1-Around our School, P2-Weather, P3- People who Help Us, P4 -Victorians, P5- Ancient Greece, P6 -Europe, P7 -Japan.

Upper school are currently enjoying having PE lessons from Mrs Thompson, a PE teacher from Charleston. This has been arranged to enable the children to get regular specialist teaching in this area.

## Big Heart Day

All schools in Highland were asked to take part in a fundraising event to mark the second anniversary of the tsunami with the funds raised helping the ongoing programmes. On Wednesday 8th February the whole school will take part in an aerobic workout organised by Ross County while wearing a silly hat!

We also had a collection by the Pupil Council of donations which raised over £200 for the charity. Thank you for your kind donations. To link this event with our ongoing Healthy School campaign we had Healthy Heart Poster competition. This was very popular and many of the posters are displayed around school to encourage us all to remain vigilant about our health.

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## School Clubs

We are lucky to have a wide variety of these for the pupils to participate in which range from shinty, badminton, football training to country dancing plus TOPS Club for the 'wee' ones. All these happen after school and at lunch time we have cross country two days a week, knitting and typing tutor classes and a recently formed Scripture Union class. Many thanks to all the staff and parents that give their own time to make these clubs happen and enrich our children's school days.

Highland Environment Network (HEN) and Community Service Volunteers (CSV) are holding their annual conference at the school on Saturday, 11 March from 10am to 4pm. There will be speakers and workshops - including Eco Schools, Grounds for Learning, Food Growing, Art activities, Wildflower Meadow Planting, setting up a wormery, willow planting in the park and school, community gardens and more. Look out for posters around the village and school. Please also keep an eye on our website on the calendar page for updates on information. Fees are £5/adults - children 15 and under free.

## The Tenth Anniversary (1996-2006)

To celebrate our 10th Birthday we hope to have a march around the village on the morning of Monday 27th March led by ex-pupils playing the bagpipes followed by a tea party in school for pupils and a few visitors.

**Finally one or two 'funnies' heard around school to make you smile...**P1 boy to his Mum -'At my school I work hard all day but my teacher just sits and does nothing!' (Sighs from the staff- we wish!)

During a visit from our local policeman to talk to the P3 class ..... 'My Dad says our car goes at 400mph!'; 'Do you put sellotape over the baddies mouths?'; 'Do you dress in black so the robbers can't see you when you shoot them?'

Now we cannot be held responsible for these ideas.....  
.....Can we? Kind regards

**Cris Ford - Head Teacher**

## Community Trust

The Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust continues to work hard to improve the local environment in lots of ways. Our Woodland Group is working in the upper Reelig wood every second Saturday - thinning trees and improving the paths and drainage.

We are always happy to see new faces, and can provide full training and equipment. Don't worry - you won't be handling a chainsaw! There are lots of jobs that just require a reasonable level of fitness and an enjoyment of being in the open air. Contact **Les Bates on 831320**

Our Park Group is putting together a funding package to transform the Park at Kirkhill. You'll see some early changes by the time this issue of Crannog comes out, and there are lots of other improvements in the pipeline. **Caroline Crawford on 831503.**

And the Trust's Environment Group is organising a Litter Pick on 29 April from 10 am till 12 noon. Meet at the Community Hall - bags and pick sticks are provided. **Erik Lundberg 831742**

## Fraser School of Highland Dancing

Kirkhill class - results of UKA Exams. Examiner, Mrs Mina MacKay, Thurson. All highly commended unless otherwise stated.

*Uni-Ted Badge Highland:* Claire MacLeod, Megan Meldrum, Melissa Fife, Rhiannon MacDonald, Lauren MacInnes, Catriona Dobie, Martin Edwards, Laura Urquhart, Emma MacKenzie, Rebecca Weston, Laura Urquhart, Jessica Golden.

*Intro 2 Highland:* Rebecca Weston, Rhiannon MacDonald, Lauren MacInnes, Catriona Dobie, Emma MacKenzie. *Intro 3 Highland:* Victorial Edwards, Ruth Smart, Rebecca Gallaher. *Intro 4 Highland:* Ruth Smart.

*Scottish National Master Plaque:* Laura Urquhart.

*Flora MacDonald's Fancy Intro:* Laura Urquhart.

*Blue Bonnets Intro:* Cara MacKenzie, Eilidh Tillman. *Blue Bonnets Bronze:* Eilidh Fife (distinction), Katie Wright (distinction).

*Scotch Measure Intro* Katie Wright. *Scotch Measure Bronze:* Eilidh Fife (honours).

*Sailors Hornpipe Bronze:* Katie Wright (honours), Cara MacKenzie, Eilidh Tillman. *Sailors Hornpipe Silver:* Eilidh Fife (honours).

Classes in Kirkhill Community Centre, every Friday, pre-school 2.30pm, beginners 3.15pm.

**01463 729477**

## Greenfingers 2006

On 1 February, a voluntary garden group was formed with the immediate aim of tidying and maintaining the existing Millennium Garden and plots in the village.

Future objectives will depend on the response and enthusiasm of volunteers. However, the hope is that the community can become a brighter and more colourful place for residents and visitors alike. To achieve this we need as many volunteers as possible. Suggestions, ideas and positive attitudes are also required.

One idea is that we would manage the maintenance on a rota basis. Another is that small groups get together and work on a patch of their own.

Our first "Big Dig" was at 10am on Saturday 4 March at the Millennium Garden. Please get in touch with any member of the committee with your offers of help and ideas, or else simply turn up on the day, complete with your gardening tools.

Chairman	<b>Mike Edwards</b>	<b>831172</b>
Secretary	<b>Yvonne Robb</b>	<b>831081</b>
Treasurer	<b>Joan Mackay</b>	<b>831578</b>
Members	<b>Margaret Birkbeck</b>	<b>831518</b>
	<b>Joan Mackay</b>	<b>831578</b>
Co-ordinator	<b>Margaret Shiels</b>	<b>831343</b>

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**or** **07841 516085**

**[HBrownFencing@hghd.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:HBrownFencing@hghd.wanadoo.co.uk)**

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## Kirkhill Tots Group

Kirkhill Tots Group meet every Wednesday in Kirkhill Community Centre from 10 am to 12 noon. We take a break for the school holidays.

Mums, Dads, and other carers are welcome with their little ones. We now have 35 children registered from the ages of newborn to three (a number which increases every term!), with older siblings coming along when nursery finishes at 11.30am. Some come from as far afield as Beaully and Muir of Ord, so feel free to combine our group with other ones on different days. If you are new to the area please come and meet us!

The atmosphere is very relaxed - three volunteers set out the toys and snacks while everyone else chats while they watch their children play. Our fees are set very low, at £1 a week or £1.50 per family. Nursery age children do not pay because they are not here for the full session. We also have an annual registration fee, £5, which helps cover improvements, rent and the fun days at the end of every term. We currently have a mum who is an excellent playleader and arranges a craft activity every week and are supported by Highland Pre-School Services, whose playleader visits every six weeks with new ideas.

The committee changes this summer as we move on to nursery days, so please feel free to offer your services!

We desperately need a Treasurer and a Secretary to continue after the summer break - in fact it is required by law under the charities regulations. At the moment we have a Chairperson lined up but she may not continue after the Christmas break.

We also need a strong team to continue to offer well-organised and well-run fun to our children, so please get involved! The sooner we get some volunteers, the more the current committee can relax and enjoy their last few months.

**Lindsey Stout, Secretary 831642 or just turn up!**

## Kirkhill Primary Parents' Association

Just to forwarn you of a great event coming to the Kirkhill hall on 25 March. The school has its 10th birthday this month, and to celebrate the PA is holding a 10th Birthday Party which promises to be a cracking family evening of good company and entertainment led by local resident and fantastic fiddler, Duncan Chisholm.

Tickets will be available soon. Keep an eye out for information around the area.

And if there are any other local residents who would be willing to participate as a performer on the evening, please get in touch.

**Margret MacRae 831319**

## CATS: DID YOU KNOW?



- ☛ Most cats have no eye lashes
- ☛ Domestic cats can spend 70% of the day sleeping and 15% grooming
- ☛ A cat can't see directly under it's nose
- ☛ Cats have 5 toes on each front paw but only 4 on the back
- ☛ The most toes known were 32 - 8 on each paw!
- ☛ Cats can rotate their ears 180 degrees

## COPPERFIELD CATTERY KIRKHILL

TEL: 831356

email [marie.waugh@care4free.net](mailto:marie.waugh@care4free.net)

- We can look after you cat whilst you go on holiday, work away, move house, decorate your house, get married, have visitors. Heated single, double and triple cabins available. £5 aday for one cat and £8.50 for two. Book early for school holidays!
- We also look after small pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters from £2.50 aday
- We have a selection of cat food and litter for sale.

**WANTED** - Casual relief person to look after cattery to allow owners a break from time to time! For more information contact Marie.

## Kirkhill District Amenities Association

This year's **Gala Day** is Saturday 17th June with some events taking place during the week leading up to the Gala Day.

We would welcome suggestions for this annual event. Our next meeting is 20th March so please pass on your suggestions to **Anne Wright 831769** or **Wilma Williamson 831737**. Full details will be published in the next Crannog.

## Thanks for reading *Crannog*.

The next issue - Summer 2006 will be out in early June in time for the Gala. If you have any news, views or adverts (£5 only!) please get in touch with the Crannog Editor:

**Alison Hay**  
**1 Groam Court**  
**Kirkhill**  
**IV5 7NW**  
**tel 831042**

email [alison@hay9480.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:alison@hay9480.freeserve.co.uk)

*With over 700 readers across the area we're always on the lookout for volunteers to deliver Crannog.*

*If you can help contact Ken MacColl 831617*