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Gala Edition

Crannog

Summer 2007

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

Community Councillors

Ian Weir, Groam Farm, Kirkhill ☎831750
Chris Heaton-Armstrong, Kirkhill PO ☎831779
Ally MacNeill, Tigh Cala, 4 Newtonhill ☎831339
Fred Geddes, Newtonhill ☎831324
Cameron Kemp, West Altnaceardaich, Lentran ☎831552
Fiona Stoddart, 8 Fingask Drive, Kirkhill
Karen Young, Glen Rowan, Bunchrew ☎234128
Iain Urquhart, 58 Newton Park, Kirkhill ☎831278
Raymond Khan, Blaven, Bunchrew
Janet Peterson, Blaven, Bunchrew

Secretary

Jim Ogilvie, 22 Newton Park, Kirkhill ☎831316

Crannog is published four times a year by Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council. The date of the next meeting of the community council is 19 June 2007. All meetings of the community council are usually held in the Old North Inn on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm 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.

News from the last community council meeting

Cycle route

Cathy Kay spoke about a Highland Council feasibility study she was carrying out into the options available for a cycle route from Beauly to Inverness as part of the Core Path Network plans for the Inverness area. This follows the earlier consultation session undertaken in the Community Centre last year. The study, which will look at all sorts of options is hoped to be concluded by the end of the summer.

She'd like to hear from anyone who has opinions or ideas. Cathy can be contacted at: Moray Council, Environmental Services, Academy Street, Elgin IV30 1LL or email: cathy.kay@moray.gov.uk

Post Office

Thank you to everyone who has signed the petition to keep our post office open. If you haven't had a chance to sign the petition, it's still available at Kirkhill Post Office.

Achnagairn House

The community council was informed of an application for the proposed change of use of Achnagairn House to a civil wedding venue. The refurbishment of the historic building was welcomed.

...a grassy dilemma for Newton Park

The ongoing problem as to who is going to cut the grass at the Newton Park amenity area was debated. The land, which is jointly owned by all the residents, is currently being maintained voluntarily. Helen Carmichael, one of our new councillors, who was present at the meeting, informed the community council that it would cost just under £25,000 for the area to be adopted by Highland Council.

A local landscape gardener will be approached to quote for the work on an annual basis and it is hoped to call a residents' meeting to try and solve the problem.

Jim Ogilvie 831316

Litter!

Litter! Litter! Litter! Wherever you turn it is there. Litter is a pain. It can turn a nice little village into a dark and dingy village. If you go and clean it up on Monday there is plenty more by Wednesday. Me and my friends in the eco-schools group try to get on top of litter, it is impossible.

Everybody drops rubbish. It is not hard to put your rubbish in the bin. It is not just the kids! The ADULTS have thrown their litter into the school grounds. So please put your litter in the bin. It's not hard. Look after the environment!

Alasdair MacRae, P6 Kirkhill Primary School

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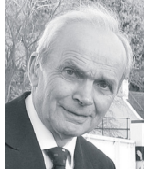
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From John Farquhar Munro MSP

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who supported me in the recent election. It is a great privilege to serve Kirkhill and Bunchrew as your local MSP, and I will continue to do my best for you - whether when taking up the problems and issues raised individually with me by local residents, or fighting for the interests of the Highlands in Edinburgh. The next few years will bring new challenges, and I am looking forward to getting to grips with them alongside local people. One of the first - which was in the news just a couple of weeks ago - is the fate of local post offices, as the Government presses ahead with a further 2,500 branch closures. Alongside Danny Alexander MP and Charles Kennedy, I have argued against this policy and the damage it could do to communities across the Highlands, hitting vulnerable older residents hardest of all. We will keep working hard together to make sure branches like Kirkhill have a secure future.

5 MacGregor's Court, Dingwall IV15 9HS
01349 862152
john.munro.msp@scottish.parliament.uk



Kirkhill Woodcraft Folk

The Woodcraft Folk - a progressive educational national youth group for 6-12 year olds - have been very busy this winter/spring. The programme has included Red Nose Day activities; Fairtrade education and activities/stall at Telford St Co-op raising awareness about fair-trade products; where food comes from and campfire activities. The 15 strong group have worked on their 'I Begin' and 'Health' badges. The summer term looks to be full of outdoor activity with sessions such as hiking, map reading, orienteering, countryside rangers' visit, campfire poncho decorating and some campfire skills. There are a few places left for new members to join. We meet on Thursdays in the Community Centre 6-7.30pm.

Marie 01463 831356 or Alison 01463 831042
marie.waugh@care4free.net www.woodcraft.org



Kirkhill SWRI

Our March meeting was an illustrated talk on Mercy Ships - what amazing work is done on these wonderful floating hospitals. It was interesting, moving and thought provoking. As is usual on our charity night, we had a special sales table and raised £150 to donate to them. The Opera Company's production of West End to Broadway was superb and we all enjoyed it very much. Our AGM was held on 17 May and the committee for 2007/08 is: President - Maureen Matheson, Committee - Sue Blaney, Sheila Cameron, Maris Elkin, Liz Elliot, Patsy Forbes, Hilary Forsyth, Elizabeth Fraser and Joan McKay. We had our usual pot luck supper - it just gets better and better! Our April outing was postponed to May as we decided on a trip to Inverewe and the best month to see rhododendrons and azaleas; it was, and we had a great day at this beautiful garden.

The syllabus for the new session is taking shape with, hopefully, something to suit everyone. The WRI will be manning the teas at the Gala and we hope to have our syllabus available then and the ladies on duty will be only too happy to tell you about us. Do think about coming along - even just to try it out - honest we are not all jam and knitting! We start up again on 6 September 2007 and you would be made very welcome. If you need any more information please contact me or any committee member.

Maureen Matheson 831426

A little bit of local politics - your new councillors

Helen Carmichael

The Haven, Ferry Lane, Beauly IV4 7EB
Tel: 01463 782555
email: helen.carmichael.cllr@highland.gov.uk



Margaret Davidson

Abriachan Nurseries, Loch Ness Side, Inverness IV3 8LA
Tel/Fax: 01463 861424
Mobile: 07818 015689
email: margaret.davidson.cllr@highland.gov.uk

Hamish Wood

14 Kennedy Drive, Inverness IV3 8QR
Phone: 01463 714844
email: hamish.wood.cllr@highland.gov.uk



Drew Hendry

Old Kilcoy House, Tore, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire IV6 7RZ
email: drew.hendry.cllr@highland.gov.uk

Councillor's corner - this issue Helen Carmichael

The local election for Highland Council is now over and the new ward of Aird & Loch Ness has four representatives on Highland Council. Margaret Davidson, and I were re-elected along with Drew Hendry and Hamish Wood who were elected for the first time. My success in the new enlarged ward was only possible because of the number of residents who turned out to vote, almost 60% (59.44%). Thank you for electing me as one of your councillors, please contact me if you have a problem, issue or a proposal which you think could benefit our community.

There is a lot of work ahead of us. There is the Public Local Inquiry (PLI) into the upgrade of the Beauly Denny Line and the extension to the Balblair sub station. The local session of the PLI starts on the 29 May at 10am in the Thistle Hotel Inverness and is open to the public. Kirkhill and Bunchrew will be severely affected by the Beauly to Keith line in the future. I look forward to representing you, so please feel free to contact me at any time with any problem or issue you think I should be made aware of. Remember it is all about local issues. local representation, local decisions made at a local level by local people.

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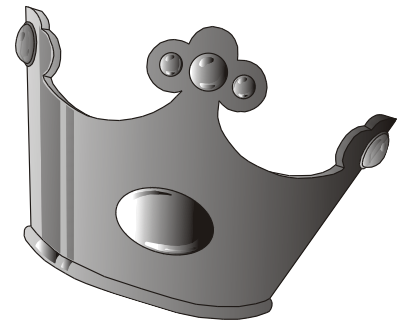
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Kirkhill & Bunchrew Gala Day 2007

Saturday 16th June

Gates open 12 noon

**Official opening at 1.00pm by
Calum MacSween,
Rector of Charleston Academy**



**Followed by crowning of
Gala Queen: Laura MacMillan**

Princesses: Julie MacMillan and Hazel Urquhart

Prize Draw will take place at 4.00pm

Charleston and Nairn Pipe Band in attendance, also the "Bra Seer" & St Andrews First Aid

Commentator: Iain Marr

Displays: Highland dancing, majorettes etc

Special attraction: Archery, Paint Ball, Primary Schools' Football Competition (Final), Track Events, Bicycle Challenge, Cross Bar Challenge and Sumo Challenge

Plant stall → Lucky Dip → Tombola → Face Painting → Home Baking → Toddlers' Bouncy Castle → Slide → Bouncy Castle → Tug o' War → Bungie Run → Coconut Shy → Temporary Tattoos → Pancakes → Speed Football...

Refreshments: Afternoon Teas by WRI Ladies; ice cream; crisps, soft drinks etc, Beer Tent & Barbecue.

Donations would be appreciated for the book stall, tombola, plant stall, home baking stall and teas

Enquiries to Wilma Williamson (Hon Secy) 831737



6-a-side football tournament & barbecue

Friday 15 June - meet at Kirkhill Playing Fields at 6.45pm



The annual 6-a-side football tournament for primary school age children will take place on the Friday evening before Gala day. All children are asked to meet outside the Community Centre at 6.45pm when they will be put into teams.

There will be three age categories: P1-3, P4/5 and P6/7



Each team in each age category will play against each other with three points awarded to the winning team and one point for a draw. Games will last 15 minutes (timings may be adjusted depending on the number of teams competing).

All primary school age children are welcome to attend and do not have to attend Saturday morning football training in order to participate.

A medal will be awarded to each member of the winning team on Gala day itself. Players should remember to bring shin guards.



Gala Week Events

Sunday 10 June

Golf tournament

Archie Chisholm Trophy
Arrive between 9.30am and 10.30am
Muir of Ord Golf Course
Contact: Colin MacMillan 831656

Monday 11 June

Prize Bingo Night

7.30pm Community Centre
Usual prizes on offer
Refreshments and prize raffle
Organised by Kirkhill Bowling Club

Wednesday 13 June

Pet Parade & Homemade Pet

6.00pm Community Centre
Organised by KDA A

Wednesday 13 June

Barbecue

From 6.00pm
Organised by KDA A

Wednesday 13 June

Fun Run

Community Centre
Registration from 6.30pm, starts 7.00pm
P1-P3 & P4-P7
Charleston pupils and adults
Medals and prizes for all competitors

Entry fee £1

For entry form and further information
contact: Aileen Armstrong 831558
Organised by KDA A



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<p>Budweiser 10 Pack 330ml nrb £5.99</p>	<p>Mackies 1Ltr Traditional Ice Cream £1.39 Less than ½ price</p>	

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(45 Thornbush Road, Inverness)
(2 Charleston Court, Inverness) [Instore Post Office]

Kirkhill Primary School



Thank you in to all grown ups and pupils who helped recently to dig our back garden and clear weeds!

If anyone has any plants in their gardens they are splitting and would care to donate to us for our garden we would be happy to accept.

In June we have number of events planned which might be of interest to the local community so please come along, join us and see what is happening in and around your local school.

- Thursday 7 June - **Sports Day** at Community Centre - as this event is weather dependant -next day if rained off!
- Wednesday 13 June - **Open Day** - Come in and see us at work! Enquire about visiting times in morning and afternoon from School Office.
- Friday 22 June - **Whole school Picnic and Fun Afternoon** as part of our Celebrations for Highland Year of Culture. Join us at the Community Centre,bring your own picnic and a rug plus a smile!
- Wednesday 27 June - **Primary 7 v Parents Rounders Match**.All support welcome
Cris Ford 831543

Kirkhill Toddler Group

Kirkhill Toddler Group meet every Wednesday and Friday in Kirkhill Community Centre from 10am to 12 noon during the school terms. Mums, dads and other carers are welcome with their little ones. We cater for ages from newborn to three, with older siblings coming along when nursery finishes at half-past eleven.

The atmosphere is very relaxed and friendly - three volunteers set out the toys and prepare snacks while everyone else chats and plays. Friday sessions are more informal, with everybody mucking in and providing their own snacks.

Our fees are set at £1.50 a session for one child or £2.50 per family. Nursery age children do not pay because they do not attend for a full session.

We also have an annual registration fee of £6, which helps cover improvements, rent and the fun days at the end of every term.

Care and Learning Alliance (previously Highland Pre-School Services) support the group. Their playleader visits every six weeks arranging different activities and providing new ideas for the group.

Please come and meet us, a warm welcome awaits.

Jennifer Kennedy 741039

Kirkhill Krew

If you are in S1 - S4 at Charleston and live in Kirkhill and Bunchrew

area, come along to the youth group on Wednesday nights - 7 pm - 9 pm at Kirkhill Primary School. There are lots of activities - football, badminton, dodgeball, games etc. Try out our new drum kit which we purchased with the help of a grant from Inverness Area Youth Bank. They're also helping to fund our trip to Fairburn Activity Centre on 20 June (last session until after the summer holidays), and a training session by Inverness Caledonian Thistle coaches on 29 May (that's a Tuesday!).

The drama group is having a break just now, but will start up again after the summer. Our quiz team came first in a recent competition, and we won medals for chess and darts. We have just been awarded funding from the Co-op Community Fund to help us buy a new pool table and karaoke machine!

Everybody welcome to come and have a go at our Crossbar Challenge at the Gala on 16 June.

Caroline Crawford 831503

Charleston Academy Year of '79 school reunion

Are you 40 this year? Did you attend first year in 1979 or enrol in our year later on? Then come and join your old classmates at: Loch Ness House Hotel, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on 29 September 2007, 7.30pm - midnight. Entry by ticket only - Cost £8.00 includes disco & buffet. For tickets contact:

Steven (Sweeny) Anderson Tel: 07809 635495/01463 242823
Donald (Duck) MacRae Tel: 01463 231549
Lorraine (nee Skene) MacRae Tel: 01463 741462
Mandy (nee Flynn) MacRae Tel: 01463 783668
Rosie (nee Miller) MacAlister Tel: 01349 862630

Please pass this information on to anyone who enrolled in our year.

Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Trust

Annual General Meeting

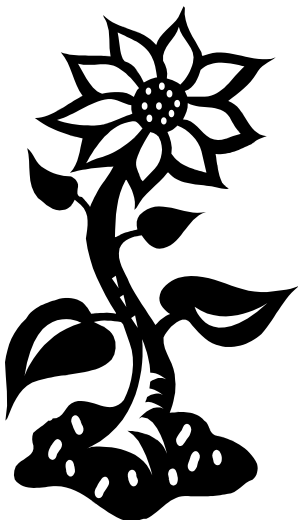
The Trust held its AGM on 26 March. As well as an interesting presentation and discussion on community renewable energy projects a new committee was elected.

The Board members for the coming year, some new and some old, are: Donald Shiach, Les Bates, Kathleen Quinn, Cris Ford, Caroline Crawford, Annie Griffiths, Alan Humphries, Ged Church, Sue Blaney and George Hogg. The Community Council will also be invited to nominate a representative to attend Trust Board meetings. At the subsequent Board meeting Donald Shiach stood down as Chair and George Hogg was elected.

Transport & Path Group

The group has been instrumental with others in encouraging Highland Council to undertake a feasibility study for a cycle path between Inverness and Beaulieu - see community council news p1.

The work on this is just starting and the group has already met with the consultant to give its early views.



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Inverness, Beaulieu & Kirkhill areas



Kirkhill Community Park
During a sunny Saturday on 28 April the Community Park was opened following a litter pick around the community organised by the Trust's Environment Group.

The park was formally and dramatically opened by Euan Crawford sliding down the aerial runway and bursting through a banner. There were some 80 or so adults and children gathered to celebrate and toast the end of a long period of hard work on the part of the Community Park group and picnic in the sunshine. Soup and hot dogs on the day were provided by Kirkhill Scout Group.



Special thanks go to Caroline Crawford and her tireless team who pulled the project

together; Colin MacMillan & Sons who own the land; the Highland Council, who managed the contract and will maintain the facility; and the many funders who supported the project. The previous tired and redundant play equipment has been replaced with a modern and challenging set of playthings together with interesting and fun willow structures planted by Les Bates of Croft 7.

Woodland Group

The Trust's Woodland Group has once again completed its programme of work in the upper Reelig wood. A considerable amount of firewood has been harvested and will be sold to cover the core running costs of the Trust. The Forestry Commission will shortly be

preparing its forest plan for the Reelig wood and the Woodland group will be working with the Commission on the plan. There will also be public consultation and we would urge anyone with an interest in the management of the woods to contribute to this.

Web Site

The Trust supports a community web site at www.kirkhilland-bunchrew.org.uk This isn't a Trust web site but is for the community. It is only as good as the information in it. Please contact us if you have information you'd like on the website. We are keen to hear from people who are interested in helping manage the website.

George Hogg, Chairman 831674 or hogg@rhuallan.wanadoo.co.uk

French and Spanish lessons

New French and Spanish classes will be starting after the summer holidays. If you're a beginner or just want to brush up on your what you already know contact:

K Thomson 831643 or k@calanasithe.wanadoo.co.uk

Happy Sunflower Month!

June is Sunflower month for Highland Hospice and in our 20th anniversary year it is a very special time indeed. The Sunflower is the symbol of the hospice movement all around the world, and June is also widely regarded as Sunflower Month for many organisations working in the palliative care movement.

In June Highland Hospice has many exciting events organised, and also heaps of ideas for those who wish to organise their own and contribute to the fundraising targets each month. The Junior Highland Games and Walk for Health is an excellent opportunity for young people to participate, while the Moonlight Meander on June 30 invites women to join together on a sponsored walk under the full moon sky.

Contact the Events Hotline at **01463 243 132** for more details on any of our events, or for tips on organising your very own Sunflower Month Event! Visit us online at www.highlandhospice.org

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Greenfingers

Progress has been made, as can be seen from the Millennium garden and the three village plots where in one of them the large fir tree has been beautifully pruned, giving more light and space to that plot.

A coffee morning was held in the Community Centre on 7 April to raise funds for ongoing projects. The amount raised was over £600, and grateful thanks to everyone who contributed both financially and physically. This amount, along with a substantial contribution from former councillor Jack Sheils' discretionary budget, means that we have a very healthy bank account. We now have the funds to proceed with completing the three existing plots in the village, and introducing some tubs around the parish, as well as meeting with any suggestions from the public. However what is required are more volunteers to help with the planting and maintenance of flowers, which can only enhance our wonderful area. If you can help a little bit, please get in touch with any of the existing volunteers.

Joan McKay 831578

Margaret Shiels 831343

Kirkhill Bowling Club

The end of March brought a close to our bowling season. We were narrowly beaten into second place in the league on the last game of the season. We all enjoyed our prizegiving night with Archie MacPhee on accordion and our talented bowlers all doing their party pieces. The Norman Williamson trophy was won by Peter Boa and Peter MacLean, both from Beauy, who played excellent bowls. Don't forget our bowling club starts off the Gala with a bingo night on the 11 June, come along and join in the fun. See you there.

Ken MacColl 831617

Craft Club

The final meeting of our club for the session 2006/07 was Monday 28 May. Monday 1 October is the date on which we intend to start our next session. The club meets in the community centre at 1.30pm and we would welcome new members. Come along and enjoy a "cup of tea".

Wilma Williamson 831737

Kirkhill/Bunchrew Senior Citizens' Club

Season 2006/07 has now finished. We enjoyed our usual afternoon tea outing. This involved a visit to Munro's Nursery near Munloch and then afternoon tea at The Anchor and Chain Hotel. Our annual bowling pairs competition took place in March. The winners being Ann Lyle and Grace Dingwall.

Madda Georgeson 831521

Kirkhill/Bunchrew Lunch Club

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month except school holidays. The club is for senior citizens and new members will be made most welcome. The first meeting for the next session will be Wednesday 5 September at 12.15pm.

Madda Georgeson 831521

George Ross

In memory of George Ross who died on 22 March 2007 aged 76 after a short illness in Raigmore Hospital. The funeral service was held in Wardlaw Church on 29 March and the church was full to capacity. It was a fitting tribute that Waddy Wilson played Geordie's favourite music. Geordie was born in Ardgay and moved to Kinlochewe at the age of three. He was very musical and learned to play the accordion and fiddle. He is survived by his wife Johan and daughter Anne. Geordie was an old worthy who will be missed by us all.

Ken MacColl

Thanks for reading Crannog

The next issue - Autumn 2007 will be out in September - deadline for contributions 25 August. If you have any news, views or adverts (only £10 for a quarter page or £35 for four issues!) please get in touch with the Crannog Editor:

Alison Hay, 1 Groam Court, Kirkhill IV5 7NW

tel 831042

email alisonhay@btinternet.com

As our community continues to expand, we are always on the lookout for more volunteers to deliver Crannog - particularly in Bunchrew! If you can help contact

Ken MacColl 831617