

Crannog MARCH 2004

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

We now have a newly constituted Community Council which will meet approximately every six weeks. The inaugural meeting will be on March 11th. At this meeting office bearers will be elected. The new community councillors are as follows:

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

The Community Council will meet approximately every six weeks, the dates of the meetings for the rest of the year (once agreed) will be posted on the Community Notice Board at the Post Office and will be published in the next edition of the Crannog. These meetings as always will be open to all in the Community Council area, and if anyone has any queries or concerns which they would like raised please do not hesitate to contact your local councillor, or please attend the meeting to raise your concern.

KIRKHILL TOTS

Kirkhill Tots Group meet every Wednesday in the Community Centre from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. We take a break for the school holidays. Mums, Dads, and other carers are welcome with their little ones ~ we currently have up to 15 children from the ages of newborn to three, with older children able to come along when Nursery finishes at half-past eleven.

The atmosphere is very relaxed ~ two volunteers set out the toys and the snacks and the rest watch their children play, with a cup of tea or coffee. 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, trips and the fun days at the end of every term.

We did really well with our fundraising, raising enough from the Christmas Raffle and other efforts to buy all the new mats and toys we need this year. Thank you everyone for supporting us and I hope you will continue to support us in future efforts. Anyone who wants more information on how the money raised was spent is welcome to attend our A.G.M. at the end of June.

If you are new to the area or you just haven't got around to visiting the Hall yet, please come and meet us!

COUNCILLOR JACK SHIELS

Hello All,
Hope you all wintered well now that we are approaching spring once again. As I am writing this it has been a most glorious day with a nippy morning and then bright warm sunshine. There is still an unploughed stubble field near the house where my dog, Tara, loves to be taken for a good romp.

It was great to hear that the Community Council has been re-established. There has been a continuous Community Council in Kirkhill and Bunchrew since councils were formed in 1976 when the first Chairman was Bob Weir, the farmer at Groam. It was interesting to note that the last Chair was his son Ian. Community Councils play a vital role locally and are a real link between people whom the members meet as they go about their every day business, the local councillor and the Highland Council. By law, councillors are invited to attend the Community Council meetings where current affairs are discussed. I have three CCs in my ward, Kiltarlity, and Muirtown as well as Kirkhill and Bunchrew, as a result some of the dates of the meetings may clash but I do try to attend each one as often as possible.

What do you think of the current property prices? They are at an all time high and it would appear the summit has still to be reached and with the new regulations making things even more difficult to build in the countryside, it is sadly almost beyond young married couples who want to live and bring up their children in the parish where they themselves enjoyed their childhood.

I was speaking to our local council roads Supervisor recently who reckoned the winter maintenance went

very well as the weather was reasonable given previous winters although the children did manage a few days off school which I'm sure proved very popular. Also I was pleased to hear that the Nursery School will be back in operation in the next few weeks after the disastrous flooding over the Christmas holiday. Congratulations are due to Mrs Jean MacDonald and the nursery staff for working so hard in difficult conditions and many thanks to Miss Shona Kelly and all the other teachers for mucking in to help. Great comradeship which shows why the school continues to excel.

I wonder if we shall have as good a spring and summer as last year, I hope so, but only time will tell!!

Regards, **Jack**

KIRKHILL INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

Kirkhill is fourth in the league and are now well into the season. We are always looking for new members to join our club.

Contact Madda on 831521

KIRKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Ladies Night - The next event being organised by the Kirkhill P.A. is a "Ladies Night" on Friday 26th March at Kirkhill Community Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. until midnight. Tickets will be available at the school or telephone Margaret on 870043.

At a cost of £5.00 per ticket this includes a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles with a Fashion Show from Off The Peg in Dingwall, beauty tips, makeovers, and cosmetics to try and buy and lots more.

So come and enjoy a night out with friends and help chase those winter blues away.

KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCHEON CLUB

The Senior Citizens Kirkhill & Bunchrew Luncheon Club takes place on the 1st Wednesday of each month during the school term. This is open to any pensioner (lady 60+ and gentlemen 65+). The Club meet at the Community Centre at 12.15pm.

If you are interested in joining please call -

Madda 831521

KIRKHILL S.W.R.I

We've had a great time recently. The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, as usual, hosted by the W.R.I. went

off very well. We catered for over 100 and organised entertainment by the Cnoc Band, Billy and George (or should I say Renee and Renata!) and Seonaidh Johansen, who sang so beautifully in gaelic.

In January, Eileen Watson of Virgin V Cosmetics demonstrated many of her company's products, and we all went home feeling much refreshed by the tips she had given. Eileen lives in Cabrich and it is always an added pleasure to have a local demonstrator. In February, we had three members of the Inverness Opera Company, Producer, Director and Anne, of the Company's leading singers. The "behind the scenes" stories were fascinating and Anne's singing a joy to listen to.

Before our AGM in May, we will have our annual trip to the Opera at Eden Court Theatre. The production this year being "The Merry Widow". We will also have a trip to The Music Box Company at Balnabean on the Black Isle as well as a talk from Colin Munro, Munro's Nurseries, Bogallan, also on the Black Isle.

There are now notices in Kirkhill Village, as well as the Bunchrew shop with details of our meetings, to which guests are always welcome.

For further details please feel free to telephone me.

Margaret Shiels, President: 831343

K.D.A.A.

KIRKHILL GALA 2004

A well attended meeting was held in January to discuss how Gala week could be improved. Those present came forward with some positive ideas, and those not able to attend expressed their willingness to assist as they had done in previous years. The KDAA appreciated all inputs.

Some organisations suggested that if profits from the events were to be split 50-50 there would be more motivation for their members to be involved in the event which they run. This, however, would not encroach on the KDAA's basic "money earners" e.g. BBQ, Beer Tent, Bouncy Castle, Ice Cream etc, but would perhaps make better use of the empty space on the field. It is hoped that the additional events would be to the mutual benefit of KDAA and the respective groups. It was agreed that this could increase the numbers coming through the gate, and provide more varied attractions. This change will be for a trial period and will be reviewed after the 2004 Gala.

Other organisations and individuals agreed that they would run an event and donate all their proceeds to the KDAA. We are grateful to you all for your agreeing to help in one way or another and for your continued support.

Gala day this year is 19th June, with some events being held during the previous week. Full details later.

Gala Ideas

Do you have any ideas to add to the attractions on Gala Day? Donations requested for the bookstall, tombola, home baking and plant stall. Offers of help for the rota at the BBQ, Bouncy Castle, and Bookstall etc would be very much appreciated.

Contact Wilma 831737 or Margaret 831518.

Hall Extension

A community survey is at present being undertaken to establish ways of tackling disadvantage in our area. Before deciding that an extension to the hall is appropriate, we need to know what kind of community activities would meet your needs.

A survey form has been produced, but so far we have only been able to target certain groups, e.g. Primary School, some youth, and present hall users. However, **your ideas** are very important. If you would like to contribute in any way, a survey form can be picked up at Kirkhill Post Office or by contacting Wilma or Margaret on the above numbers. We look forward to hearing from you.

Margaret Birbeck, Chairperson

KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY TRUST

The Trust has been active in several areas since the last issue of Crannog and has a busy few months ahead. The AGM on Monday 8th March will be held in Kirkhill Primary School at 7.30pm. This will be more of a social event with presentations by each of the Groups. Why not come along and hear what we are doing? We are always on the lookout for new projects (and members) so bring them along with you or contact Erik Lundberg on 831742

WOODLAND GROUP

We continue to carry out the thinning work amongst the Beech trees in Reelig Glen Wood. It is great to be in the wood and to see what we have achieved especially as a group working together proving that many hands make light work. I want to thank everyone who has helped in the work during the last three years. We have fun and get to share all sorts of literary, working and social `CRAIC` during our lunch breaks at the foot of one of the large Beech trees, planted in the 1860`s.

If you want to come and share in the work, please contact Les Bates on 01463 831320 e-mail Croft7@aol.com for workday dates and times.

We have firewood available for sale.

Tel:- 01463 831320

FOOTPATH GROUP

The Inchmore – Moniack footpath is complete and both sign and information boards have been erected. Further direction signs have been appearing in the area recently across the footpath network. Now that spring is coming, get out there and explore your area!

WASTE GROUP

The Recycling Facility in Inchmore is now operational and can take all your glass, drinks cans (aluminium and steel) and textiles. Paper and cardboard will be added as soon as the collection service is available from Highland Council. The site is provided with the generous agreement of the tenants of Inchmore Hall so please leave it tidy and remove any broken glass, carrier bags and boxes. Work continues with Kirkhill Primary School on the Eco-School programme. The Pupil Council recently gave a presentation on waste issues and a talk was made on the Ross-shire Waste-Free project. The next Community Clean-up will be held in April to remove the winter debris – watch out for the date in the school newsletter and local notice boards. Even better – take yours home with you!

WEBSITE

Development of the site is progressing well and we will soon be approaching local clubs for content for their pages. If you want to find out more now, contact Michael Strong on 831620. It is intended to post the minutes of the Trust and Community Council minutes plus news and photos of local events, like the gala.

TOP FOLK BAND SET FOR KIRKHILL

Internationally renowned folk band “Haggerdash” are set to appear in Kirkhill on 24th April 2004, on the second local leg of their Highland tour.

“Haggerdash” are Davy Lees, Billy Stewart, Jamie Stewart and Davy Logan.

Their repertoire includes a wide variety of tunes and songs; many of which are instantly known as well as a few that will be completely new to audiences. The main feature of “Haggerdash” however, is their enjoyment in playing and making sure listeners to their music have a night to remember.

Come and spend a night with “Haggerdash” – tickets can be ordered from the 1st March at £5.00 per person from Jacqui Yuill on 01463 831444. Part of the monies raised will go the local Nursery School, as well as a percentage of the band’s CD sales on the night.

It’s a “bring your own bottle” night but there will be refreshments sold at the breaks.

Doors open at 7.30pm.

HORSE RIDERS AND THE ROAD

Kirkhill is a beautiful rural area enjoyed by many horse riders; in fact within our small community we can boast a world class international endurance rider, Liz Booth who has represented Britain abroad, no mean feat by any standards. In November 2003 two "local girls" Louise Anderson and Mary MacArthur took part in a charity challenge, a cattle drive on horseback in Patagonia, South America having raised thousands of pounds for charity. Both have been involved with charity fund raising with horse events in the past.

However, there has been some confusion from both drivers and horse riders about the rules of the road regarding horse riders. The Highway Code clearly states that cars must slow down, pass wide and heed any signals given by horse riders. Horses can be startled by a simple thing such as a polythene bag blowing on a fence or a bird suddenly flying up, yet some drivers drive past at high speed without any regard for the safety of the horse and rider. Most riders have to ride two abreast to slow down the traffic for their own safety otherwise they risk being mowed down by speeding drivers who pass very closely when there is an oncoming car. Any hazard in the country, be it children on bikes, farm animals and wildlife or horse riders should be treated with great caution. Please remember Kirkhill is not part of the city. Please treat our countryside and those enjoying it with care. We horse riders always acknowledge with a nod or wave to the courteous careful drivers who pass us carefully – many thanks to them, it is greatly appreciated.

Harmony is the key for Kirkhill for country lovers to enjoy the beautiful setting and for commuters to take care of their home area yet be near to the city.

Mary McArthur, Balcarse

BURNS SUPPER

On Saturday 24th January everyone who attended the Burns Supper in aid of Charleston and Nairn Schools Pipes and Drums had a great night. Everyone was handsomely fed and many thanks to Simon Fraser and Ian Weir for the "neeps and tatties". A special thanks to "Fiona the Cook" of Kirkhill Primary School without whose help the night may not have got started. After the meal, everyone was entertained by some very talented performers from Kirkhill Primary School, Charleston Academy and Nairn Academy. Well done everyone.

All donations for the raffle were gratefully received and thanks to our own "Wheeler Dealer" Fiona Stoddart who auctioned some prizes and the generous people in attendance who helped us raise £950.00. Miss Hay, Piping Tutor, and the pipers wish to thank everyone

who attended and supported this event and hope you all enjoyed it as much as they did.

Izzy MacLean and Kay Horne

FRASER SCHOOL OF HIGHLAND DANCING

KIRKHILL CLASS

Results of Examinations

Examiner for UKAPTD, Miss Gillian Lawrence, Cruden Bay.

Master Uni-ted

Catriona Dobie	Kirkhill	H/C
Freya Lundberg	Kirkhill	H/C
Georgia Coleman	Beaully	H/C

Uni-ted Pas De Basque

Elsie Lyall	Kirkhill	H/C
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Uni-ted Highland Fling

Emma Mackenzie	Dunballoch	H/C
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Uni-ted Flora MacDonald's Fancy

Melissa Fife	Kirkhill	H/C
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Uni-ted Scottish Lilt

Melissa Fife	Kirkhill	H/C
Cara Mackenzie	Dunballoch	H/C
Eilidh Tillman	Beaully	H/C

Centenary Plaque

Debbie Grant	Kirkhill	H/C
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Highland Intro 2 Highland Fling

Eilidh Tillman	Beaully	H/C
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Highland Intro 3 Sword Dance

Cara Mackenzie	Dunballoch	H/C
Eilidh Tillman	Beaully	H/C

Highland Intro 4 Seann-Truibhas

Katie Wright	Lentran	H/C
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Highland Silver

Eilidh Fife	Kirkhill	H/C
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Scottish National -

Barracks Johnnie Intro

Katie Wright	Lentran	H/C
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Bronze

Eilidh Fife	Kirkhill	H/C
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Sailors Hornpipe

Pre Bronze

Eilidh Fife	Kirkhill	H/C
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Bronze

Eilidh Fife	Kirkhill	H/C
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SATURDAY 15TH MAY 2004

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COMMUNITY CENTRE, KIRKHILL

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Please note all articles for the next edition of
Crannog **must** be with the Editor no later than
the 15th May 2004. This deadline must be met,
as this edition as usual will carry the Gala
information.

Or if you have an advert that you would like us
to publish for you at a very reasonable cost.

Thank you: Martha McEwan

Email: crannogkirkhill@btopenworld.com

Or Martha.mcewan@btopenworld.com