

# Crannog

MARCH 05

## 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** - Martha McEwan

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14<sup>th</sup> April 2005

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.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Dolly Fraser, Muirtown of Clunes who was 90 years young at Christmas. Many thanks to Dolly for her very kind donation towards the Crannog costs. A good shindig wasn't it, see you at the next one.

**Kenny MacColl**

## **KIRK HILL S.W.R.I.**

Our Demonstrators and Speakers up to Christmas covered topics ranging from Fabric Boxes by Wendy Burgess from Balloch, Riding in Patagonia by our local Mary MacArthur from Balcarse Farm and Hands on Crafts by Fiona Boyd, again Balloch. All of which were thoroughly enjoyed by the membership.

The Senior Citizens Christmas "shindig" as usual was hosted by the W. R. I. resulted in a good time being had by all. We catered for around 100 and also organised the entertainment. "Bridging the Gap" young to old. Billy Horne and Euan Wotherspoon our young very adept pipers, Linda Ann Henderson who sang so beautifully and her daughter Amy such an

accomplished accordionist. The Heilan Toe Step Dancers with their tremendous display called "Papa Stoer". The Inchmore Broadway Stars, Jayne MacMillan and Helena Stewart with their amusing rendering of "A Couple of Swells". Donnie Riddell on the harmonica another joy to listen to and finally our W.R.I.'s "Variation on a Theme" team complete with Millie the Airedale Terrier (who knew she was in "show" and performed accordingly) with their selection of prose and poetry readings based on "Relationships".

I mentioned in the November Crannog that the team were going to Fochabers to compete in the finals of the "Variation on a Theme" competition; sadly our best at Drumadrochit wasn't good enough the winners being North Muir, Angus and Deerness, Orkney. However, it's all about participation and we had a most enjoyable day out including a visit to Baxters!!

In January we held a Quiz which got the addled brains working, and our February meeting we had the pleasure of Ian Morrison from Kiltarlity who gave us a talk on "Making Your Will" from which we gleaned lots of good sound advice, knowing the complications that the lack of such can regretfully create among families.

Before our A.G.M. in May there is a Coffee Morning which raised £610. Joint proceeds are the Senior Citizens Party and the Tsunami Disaster Fund. Our annual trip to the opera at Eden Court Theatre, will be to see this year's production of "Carousel". March sees a talk from Volunteering Highland and April our outing is still in the suggestion box!

As you read you will see we have a very varied and lively syllabus. Guests are made most welcome, so come and join us. For further details please feel free to telephone me. I've just taken the page off my daily thoughts and inspirations calendar and it says I quote "whenever you're wrong admit it, whenever you are right shut up" so that's what I'm going to do until the next issue "shutting up".

**Joan McKay, President, 831578**

**K.D. A. A.**

**GALA:** Gala Day this year its 18<sup>th</sup> June, with some events being held in the previous week. Full details

will be published in the next edition of Crannog.

**HALL EXTENSION** – The Committee is considering how to address the urgent need for storage space in the hall, as well as the looking at requests for the addition of a small meeting room.

**Margaret Birbeck, Chairperson**

**KIRKHILL & DISTRICT AMENITIES ASS.**

**CAR BOOT SALE**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2005**  
**10.00 – 12.00**

**COMMUNITY CENTRE, KIRKHILL**  
**Contact Wilma Williamson 831737**

***KIRKHILL INDOOR BOWLING CLUB***

Our bowling season is about to finish after a successful season. Club champion for the season is Kenny MacColl. Still on our bowling calendar is the competition for the Gala which we hope to play on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**Madda Georgeson**

***TSUNAMI APPEAL***

Maureen MacMillan, Carol Weir, Fiona Stoddart, Amanda MacGillivray, Shirley MacLean and Kay Horne held a Valentines Disco in the Village Hall on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February in aid of the Tsunami Appeal Fund. Everybody had a great night and it was well supported. The ladies would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped out with selling tickets, raffle tickets, providing raffle prizes and helped clear up at the end of the evening as an event like this cannot be run without the support of others.

Bob Weir celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Valentines Day. His family surprised him with a birthday lunch for a few of his relatives and friends. Bob's family wished donations to be given to the Tsunami Appeal instead of presents.

A combined £765 was paid into the Appeal Fund and once again we would like to thank everyone who attended the Disco and Bob's birthday bash for their generosity.

**Carol Weir**

***KIRKHILL AND BUNCHREW COMMUNITY TRUST***

***Swings and roundabouts for community park group***

A group of enthusiastic parents have been taking forward plans to improve the play facilities in the park in Kirkhill. Consulting children, families and park users has identified the most appropriate types of equipment. The group is working with the council to find a solution to ongoing maintenance, inspection and insurance of the park. The hunt for funding for the equipment can then begin.

**Contact Caroline Crawford, 831503**

[www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk](http://www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk)

Have you visited your community website yet? Well, when you do you'll find information on clubs, businesses, the church, school, the hall, events and even bus timetables. However, to make this is a really useful resource for our community we need you to tell us about your club, news or event. You might also want to advertise your business for only £5 year. The more input we get the better the site will be. If you've got ideas for developing the site we'd also like to hear from you.

**Contact Michael Strong on 831620**

***Trees, bugs and sausages!***

Like to get some fresh air and exercise? The Cub Scouts do and recently joined us at Upper Reelig Community Woodland to put up the bird boxes they had made. They also took the opportunity to hunt for bugs, identify trees and see how trees are felled. There was also an excuse for the traditional sausages and marshmallows over an open fire!

Volunteers are welcome to join work parties to thin the beech trees and improve the paths. We meet at 10am every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday from 5<sup>th</sup> March until the end April.

We're also hoping to host a woodland event in May with lots of activities for all the family. Keep a look out for further details.

**Contact Les Bates, 831320**

***Spring clean and recycle***

If you are fed up with litter that collects around the village or is thoughtlessly discarded along the roadsides then you might like to join the community litter pick on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April starting at 9.30am from the Community Centre. Equipment and bags provided. Come on, let's show the litter louts we're proud of our area.

Look out for a new paper bank at the Inchmore Recycling Point that we hope will arrive in June. Meantime you might like to know that you have recycled 13 tonnes of glass, 1.5 tonnes of textiles and 125kg of cans since last April. Keep it coming.

**Contact Erik Lundberg, 831742**

### ***K.B.C.T. AGM***

Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust AGM on Monday 21st March at 7.30 in the School. Including a talk by George Hogg, Area Manager for Scottish Natural Heritage on the new Access Legislation. Come and find out about your right to responsible access to land and water.

### ***LOST & FOUND***

Baby's blanket, blue, white & yellow (crocheted or knitted) found in Newton Park late December / early January.

**Call Lindsey 831642**

### ***KIRK HILL TOTS***

Kirkhill Tots Group meets every Wednesday in Kirkhill Community Centre from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. We currently take a break for the school holidays. Mums, Dads, and other carers are welcome with their little ones. We now have 30 children registered from the ages of newborn to three (a number which increases every term!), with older siblings coming along when Nursery finishes at half-past eleven. 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 ~ two volunteers set out the toys and the 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, trips and the fun days at the end of every term.

The Christmas Prize Draw was a great success, and the anagram competition well supported. Thank you to everyone, local businesses included, who helped us raise money towards new toys and equipment. We also ran a tombola stall at the Christmas Fayre. Altogether we raised nearly £400.

Jayne Devine from Highland Pre-School Services has been visiting us regularly, with Bookstart books

and other activities, such as arts and crafts and sing-a-longs. Santa came to the Christmas Party and raised a smile on everyone's faces. We all had a brilliant time and a bumper turnout!

**Lindsey Stout, Secretary, 831642**

### ***FRASER SCHOOL OF HIGHLAND DANCING***

#### **Results of Examinations:**

**Examiner for UKA – Mr. Joe Simpson, Elgin**

#### Master Uni-Ted

Martin Edwards – Kirkhill. Highly Commended

Rebecca Weston – Beaully. Highly Commended

#### Uni-Ted Badge – Pink

Elise Lyall – Kirkhill. Highly Commended

Rhiannon MacDonald – Kirkhill. Highly Commended

Melissa Fife – Kirkhill. Highly Commended

Catriona Dobie – Lentrane. Highly Commended

Emma Mackenzie – Dunbhalloch. Highly Commended

Rebecca Weston – Beaully. Highly Commended

#### Uni-Ted Badge – Light Blue

Catriona Dobie - Lentrane. Highly Commended

#### Uni-Ted Badge – Green

Melissa Fife – Kirkhill. Highly Commended

#### Olympic Medal – Bronze

Eilidh Tillman – Beaully. Highly Commended

Emma Mackenzie – Dunbhalloch. Highly Commended

Rhiannon MacDonald – Kirkhill. Commended

#### Intro 1

Victoria Edwards – Kirkhill. Highly Commended

Rebecca Gallacher – Kiltarlity. Highly Commended

Ruth Smart – Kiltarlity. Highly Commended

#### Intro 2

Melissa Fife – Kirkhill. Highly Commended

#### Intro 4

Eilidh Tillman – Beaully. Highly Commended

#### Intro 5

Cara Mackenzie – Dunbhalloch. Highly Commended

#### Highland Bronze

Serena MacRae – Kiltarlity. Highly Commended

### **Scottish National**

#### **Village Maid Intro**

Katie Wright – Lentrán. Highly Commended

#### **Village Maid Bronze**

Eilidh Fife – Kirkhill. Highly Commended

#### **Sailors Hornpipe – Pre Bronze**

Katie Wright – Lentrán. Highly Commended

#### **Sailors Hornpipe – Bronze Bar**

Eilidh Fife – Kirkhill. Highly Commended

#### **Irish Jig – Pre Bronze**

Katie Wright – Lentrán. Highly Commended

#### **Irish Jig – Bronze**

Eilidh Fife – Kirkhill. Highly Commended

Classes at Kirkhill Community Centre. Fridays.

Pre School Class – 2.30pm

Beginners / New Pupils – 3.30pm

Highland and Scottish National Exam Class from

4.15pm.

### ***A POEM !!***

What a thorny subject, that of horsey poo  
Dropping on the roads, oh what are we to do?  
Try a giant nappy or tow a wheelie bin,  
Train our horses to the loo ... oh where do we  
begin?

T'was in the distant past, the Kingdom of the Horse,  
Taken over by petrol guzzling cars of course,  
Puffing out pollution, making drivers mean  
But still managing to keep the tarmac sanitized and  
clean

If an accident does happen don't go in the huff  
Unlike the doggy walkers ours is purer stuff,  
If your garden flowers are dull or you veggies are too  
poor  
We have the perfect answer, just good horse  
manure!

**Kirkhill & District Horse Riders  
(Committee of Horse Riders in the Area)  
C/o Balcarse Farm**

### ***NEWTONHILL TRUST***

In January 2005 the residents of the Newtonhill Trust

area voted to proceed with the Community Right to Buy process for Newtonhill woodlands.

Results were as follows:

Number of persons eligible to vote	91
Those voting in favour	49
Those voting against	35
Total No of eligible persons who voted	84
Proportion of eligible persons who voted yes	58%
Proportion of eligible persons who voted no	42%
Percentage Turnout	92%

At present an application is being submitted for funding – this will be 94% maximum with the rest being raised by the community - various options for funding are available and the Community will soon be invited to a meeting where these can be discussed.

If funding applications/fundraising are successful then the community would own the woodlands with missives due to be exchanged in May 2005 – a very exciting prospect!

The feasibility study, after Community consultation, came up with three activities for the Trust to pursue and the Board have decided to develop all three – Woodland management, Affordable Housing and Access.

A website has been developed for the Trust – [newtonhilltrust.org](http://newtonhilltrust.org) and this contains a lot of information about the trust as well as various links.

A newsletter is being developed and this will be circulated to all residents of the area as well as also appearing on the website.

Trust directors are very keen that all members of the community should feel actively involved and engaged with the Trust – it can only develop if it is truly a Community owned project – so please become involved – details on membership are available on the website or from Fred Geddes and Cameron Kemp.

### ***LETTER TO THE EDITOR***

Dear All

There has, in recent weeks, been an increase in the amount of dog fouling on the pavements in Kirkhill, particularly around the school. I know most dog owners are very responsible and clear up after their pet, but unfortunately a small minority are not.

I, and other residents in the village, would be very grateful if those concerned would please do the

necessary and make Kirkhill a cleaner and nicer environment for all of us, particularly those of us with young children.

Many thanks.

**Newton Park Resident**

The next edition of the Crannog will be out in June in time for the Gala. If you have any submissions please get them to the Editor by 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Martha McEwan – 01463 831253  
[Martha.mcewan@btopenworld.com](mailto:Martha.mcewan@btopenworld.com) or  
[crannogkirkhill@btopenworld.com](mailto:crannogkirkhill@btopenworld.com)

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