

# Cranmog

November 04

## 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

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2004

All the meetings 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.

### **KIRK HILL TOTS**

Kirkhill Tots Group meet 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 Beaulay 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.

We hope to start a new, more informal session soon, as an experiment to see what demand there is. This could either be on MONDAY or FRIDAY morning in

the Community Centre. If you are interested, please call Sharon on 831698.

We are having a Christmas Prize Draw again this year and will be selling anagram competitions as well, so if anyone offers to sell you some, please dig deep and support Kirkhill Tots! We are also running a tombola stall at the P.A.'s Christmas Fayre.

**Lindsey Stout, Secretary, tel. 831642**

### **KIRK HILL COMMUNITY PARK**

This group came together relatively recently (Summer Term 2004) through a growing sense of frustration felt by some local parents at the deterioration of the equipment and fencing in Kirkhill playpark. We also felt that the equipment was very traditional and so not very challenging.

Our aim is to work together with the local community and Highland Council. At present we are still in the consultation process, collating information from questionnaires distributed at Gala Day, through the school and the mother-and-toddler group and those families living close to the park. We have met with representatives from playpark equipment companies and drawn up a shortlist of fun, exciting equipment. The next step is to consult with Highland Council and explore funding. We are under no illusions that it will be a long, drawn-out process, but hopefully in the end it will be worth it! The possibility of constructing a skatepark (suggested by many young people in the village) is also being explored.

We are holding an open meeting at the school on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30 to 7.30pm, with a presentation and a chance to talk to members of our group. We are looking for feedback from the local community on the equipment we have been quoted for, so this is a chance for you to choose what you would like to see in the park. Please come along and get involved. This is no sit-down presentation ~ it's a case of come along, browse and you could be home in 5 minutes or 1 hour ~ it's up to you how involved you get. If anyone, especially young people, would like to be involved in our group, please fill in your contact details on the

questionnaire on the website and post to the contact address or phone Lindsey Stout on 831642!

### **BOWLING**

Our bowling season started on Monday September 27<sup>th</sup>. We have got off to a promising start with several new members joining the club and we now look forward to the start of our league meetings.

**Club Secy: Madda 831521**

### **KIRKHILL S.W.R.I.**

Our 2004/05 session started on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September with a visit from Nicola MacLean and Euan Fraser of Historic Scotland. They concentrated on the north but especially Fort George and Urquhart Castle. Members found their talk both very informative and interesting.

At the Federation meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June, held at Drumnadrochit we had a team entered for the WRI's "Variation on a Theme" all were of a high standard but the adjudicators felt that Kirkhill were the best!! So we now proceed to the Finals on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November at the Public Institute in Fochabers. Fingers and toes crossed!!

In June the Gala Day teas were organised by the WRI and the sum of £266 was raised towards the Community Centre funds. The Coffee Morning held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October in aid of the Senior Citizens Christmas Party was a 'Best Ever' with over £500 raised. Many thanks to everyone who supported us in person or by donation, it is greatly appreciated.

The Christmas 'Shindig' will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 pm. Invitations will be delivered during November. If you feel that you qualify for one but do not receive one, please contact me or any of our members.

Our lead up to Christmas covers Fabric Boxes, Riding in Patagonia and 'Hands On' Crafts. We've had a few new members join us since my plea in the June issue but the more the merrier!! Next meeting Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm in Kirkhill Community Centre. See you there!!

**Joan Mckay, President**

### **LOCAL SPORTING STAR**

Kenny Lyall (age 16), from Newton Park, Kirkhill, who plays for Clachnacudden under 19s football team, was selected to play for Inverness United when they travelled to America earlier this year for an international tournament. The team is made up of players from Inverness Caley Thistle, Ross County and Clachnacudden football teams and Kenny was the only player selected from Clachnacudden.

Kenny had a great time and scored a goal for his team in the quarter-finals. They reached the semi-finals of the USA Cup in Minneapolis, and ended up losing out on penalties.

The United Chairman said on their return home that the boys had been tremendous ambassadors for the team and the Highland capital.

Kenny, an apprentice electrician with G&A Barnie in Inverness, also played a part in the fund raising for the trip by competing in the Inverness Fun Run. He came second overall and his team-mates raised a total of £250 in sponsorship for Highland Heartbeat Appeal.

### **CRAFT CLUB**

The above club started its new session on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October. A welcome awaits anyone who enjoys hand work e.g. sewing or knitting etc. so come along on Monday's at 1.30 pm for this 1½ hrs 'get together'.

**Enquiries to Wilma 831737**

### **KIRKHILL/BUNCHREW SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHEON CLUB**

There are 28 members in our Luncheon Club at present and any 'State Pensioner' is eligible to attend. The Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month during school terms at 12.15 pm in Kirkhill Community Centre.

**Enquiries to Madda 831521**

### **KIRKHILL/BUNCHREW SENIOR CITIZENS INDOOR BOWLS**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October was the first meeting of the above club for the winter season, 2 – 4 pm in the Kirkhill Community Centre. Are you a 'Pensioner' and interested in having a game of bowls?

**Contact Madda 831521**

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

The K.D.D.A committee members want to thank everyone who worked so hard during Gala Week to raise £2330 for funds for the upkeep of the village hall. And thank you for turning out to support us on a particularly cold and wet Saturday!

As usual there are too many individuals and groups to mention by name, but we want to assure each of you that we are very grateful for your contribution on Gala Day, as well as during the previous week's events.

As most people already know, an application was submitted to the 'Big Lottery Fund' in June for a grant to extend the hall. However, we heard at the beginning of October that the application was unsuccessful due to 'continuing pressure on their (Lottery) limited budget'. It was explained that their grants had to be 'targeted towards projects for which pressing needs had been identified and which would address areas of disadvantage' which, in their opinion, are not to be found in our community. They also stated that they cannot envisage being able to fund our project in the foreseeable future.

The Annual General Meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Community Centre at 8.15 pm and we look forward to seeing you then. It is YOUR hall and your continued support and suggestions will be much appreciated.

**Chairperson: Margaret Birbeck**

### **CAN ANY ONE HELP?**

I am interested in writing a history of Lentrán House particularly focusing on the time before it was a care home. If any readers have information, photographs or anecdotes I would be most grateful if they would share them with me. Any literature or pictures received would be returned.

I can be contacted at Lentrán House, Lentrán, By Inverness IV3 8 RL.  
The telephone no is 01463 831710 and E mail is [lentrán.house@fshc.co.uk](mailto:lentrán.house@fshc.co.uk)

I can also be contacted at [tianavaig@supanet.com](mailto:tianavaig@supanet.com)

**Norma Swatman, Home Manager**

### **VILLAGE SHOP**

It has been drawn to the attention of the Community Council that some of the residents are unhappy that there is now no shop within the village. However, there are local links to Beaulay and Inverness which appear to be well utilised. There is also internet access within the Post Office for anyone who would wish to do their shopping online.

However, if anyone has any suggestions as to how the issue of the lack of this amenity could be addressed please contact myself or one of the Community Councillors.

**Martha McEwan, Secretary**

### **KIRKHILL & DISTRICT AMENITIES ASS.**

**CRAFT & GIFT FAYRE  
SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER  
10.00AM – 3.00PM**

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

### ***FRASER SCHOOL OF HIGHLAND DANCING KIRKHILL CLASS***

Results of the Examinations:

Examiner for U.K.A. Jacqueline Aird, Merkinch, Fife

#### Uni-Ted Blue

Melissa Fife, Kirkhill Highly Commended  
Cara MacKenzie, Dunballoch Highly Commended

#### Uni-Ted Red

Georgia Coleman, Beaulay Highly Commended

#### Uni-Ted Yellow

Catriona Dobie, Lentrán Highly Commended  
Elise Lyall, Kirkhill Highly Commended  
Rhiannon MacDonald, Kirkhill Highly Commended

#### Uni-Ted Orange

Emma Mackenzie, Dunballoch Highly Commended

#### Uni-Ted Maroon

Catriona Dobie, Lentrán Highly Commended  
Elise Lyall, Kirkhill Highly Commended  
Rhiannon MacDonald, Kirkhill Highly Commended  
Emma Mackenzie, Dunballoch Highly Commended

#### Highland Intro 1

Melissa Fife, Kirkhill Highly Commended  
Debbie Grant, Kirkhill Highly Commended

#### Highland Intro 4

Cara Mackenzie, Dunballoch Highly Commended

#### Beginner's Sword Dance

Serena MacRae, Kiltarlity Highly Commended

#### Bronze

Katie Wright, Lentrán Honours

#### Silver Bar

Eilidh Fife, Kirkhill Honours

#### Scottish National

Silver Barrack's Johnnie

Eilidh Fife, Kirkhill  
Commended

Highly

Bronze Earl of Errol

Eilidh Fife, Kirkhill  
Commended

Highly

### *WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE FRIENDS WITHIN A SMALL GROUP?*

**A CONTACT THE ELDERLY** group consists of people over pension age who all meet together one afternoon a month.

There are two styles of get-togethers: One get-together is held on a Sunday afternoon once a month. Volunteer hosts invite the group into their homes, provide tea etc.

The other is called a Friendship Group, which meets one weekday afternoon a month. This get-together starts with a period of reminiscing which is followed by a cup of tea, a blether and sometimes the afternoon concludes with a good old fashioned sing song.

These outings are held, on a regular basis, for people who live on their own or feel lonely. If you are interested in being part of such a group either as a member or volunteer host or driver please **contact Alan Michael, the Highland Development Officer, at 28 Culloden Road, Balloch, Inverness IV2 7HQ - Tel. 01463-790410.**

### *COUNCILLOR JACK SHIELS*

Hello All

Well the nights are fairly coming in and a touch of frost in the morning means we are at the start of another winter. Did anyone spot the summer?

I am pleased to see the recycling bins at the Inchmore Hall are being very well used and that it is always neat and tidy round about it. I find it quite easy to get into the habit of putting aside and bottles and cans and take them to the bins every now again. Recycling of materials of any kind is the way ahead as the planet begins to run out of raw materials which in turn becomes ever more expensive to obtain. This area, of course, no longer has the Longman Tip for use as a landfill and all our domestic waste has to be taken by lorry to Perthshire. This is a very expensive exercise and, therefore the more waste we recycle the better it is for the environment and the Council Tax.

Has everyone gotten used to the new traffic lights at Bogroy? They are the final link in the safer routes to

school connecting the Drumchardine / Newtonhill road, the Moniack footpath to the pavement at Kirkhill and the school buses. This is a scheme introduced by the Scottish Executive on a national level and therefore there was no cost to Highland Council. Of course, its not solely for use by the school children as adults can use it as well!!

On a different tack you football supporters would have noticed the other week that Inverness Caley Thistle played their home game against Aberdeen. What is wrong with that some may say, but the game was played at Aberdeen! Is that really fair?? It just further reflects the current state of Scottish football and the "blazers" that run it!

I am sure everyone saw the amount that M.P.'s claim for expenses over and above their salaries. I'm sure the diddums are worth every penny especially the help they receive for their mortgages on properties in Central London. When their time comes they just up and sell.

Nice work if you want to do it!!

Well the shops are geared up for Christmas and it will soon be that time of year again. It seems to come round faster each year or am I just getting old??

Keep warm.

**Jack**

### *RUBY WEDDING*

SHIELS – MUNRO. At Wardlaw Parish Church on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1964 by the Rev A Fraser. Simon John son of Mr & Mrs H Shiels, 19 Corrie Terrace, Muir of Ord to Margaret MacBain, daughter of the Late Mr IC and Mrs Munro, Drumchardine, Kirkhill. Present address Northlea, Drumchardine.

**Congratulations Jack and Margaret.**

### *LETTERS TO THE EDITOR*

Dear Editor

The Village of Kirkhill an surrounding district does have a fantastic community spirit and that is because the majority of us are open and forthright, air our opinions and agree to differ where that may be the case.

The Newton Park resident who wrote the article in June Crannog regarding the inconsiderate parking in the scheme, set out all the facts, all logical and valid points so why hide under the cloud of "Name and Address Withheld". As the "Avon Lady" going around I get a lot of feed back and I can assure you no one said anything derogatory about the actual article, but I did hear plenty about "who did it"?

We do have freedom of speech so may I suggest to the editor that future letters where the correspondent isn't prepared to reveal his or her name are not published, otherwise sadly our community spirit will slowly erode!

**Joan McKay, Inchmore**

Dear Editor,

I write regarding previous correspondence in the Crannog from horse riders. Kirkhill is a beautiful rural area enjoyed by many people, as well as horse riders. Would it be too much to ask that the horse riders clean up the droppings left by their horses on the public roads and pavements throughout the village. This would allow pedestrians, cyclists and car drivers to walk, drive or cycle without having to go through it. After all dog owners have to clean up after their pets. All that is asked for is some consideration towards other pavement and road users.

**Name and Address Withheld**

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