

# Cranmog

November 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

13<sup>th</sup> December 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.

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

Our 2005/06 session started on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September with a breathtaking slideshow from Chile down to Sierra del Fuego ably portrayed by Elizabeth Blackburn from Conon Bridge. The scenery was spectacular and many parts of this beautiful country could be likened to our "Bonnie Scotland".

The Coffee Morning held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October in aid of the Senior Citizens Christmas Party exceeded last years "best ever" with over £650.00 being raised. Many thanks to everyone who supported us in person and by donation, it is greatly appreciated.

The Christmas "Festive Bash" will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Invitations will be delivered during November. Nowadays, it's difficult to tell our "pensioners" they are all so youthful looking!! So if you qualify for an invitation but don't receive one please contact me or any of our members.

Our lead up to Christmas covers Eyecare, and a

Croyty night. New members will be made most welcome so do consider joining our institute. Anyone wishing further information please contact a committee member or give me a ring on 831578. Please don't think yourself too young to join "We are all the same age inside". Next meeting Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Kirkhill Community Centre. See you there!!

**Joan McKay, President**

## *KIRKHILL AND DISTRICT AMENITIES ASSOCIATION*

The K.D.A.A. Committee would like to thank everyone who worked so hard during the Gala Week to raise the sum of £2,564.78p.

As usual there are too many individuals and groups to mention by name but we would like to assure you all that we are very grateful for the support you gave us again this year.

We would welcome suggestions of ways of improving the Gala Week programme. The next Committee Meeting is planned for 16<sup>th</sup> January 06 so please pass on your suggestions before that date to:

**Anne Wright, Chairperson – 831769**

**Wilma Williamson, Secretary – 831737**

**Erin Lowrie (Committee Member) – 831637**

## *CRAFT CLUB*

Winter activities have now commenced at the Kirkhill Community Centre. The above club meets on Monday afternoons 1.30pm – 3.00pm and a warm welcome awaits anyone who is interested in knitting, sewing, crochet etc. Come along and enjoy the chat and a cup of tea.

**Enquiries to Wilma Williamson 831737.**

## *KIRKHILL/BUNCHREW SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH CLUB*

This club meets on the first Wednesday of each month during the school term. Any pensioners

(men 65 or over, women 60 or over) are eligible to attend, commencing at 12.15 in Kirkhill Community Centre.

New members will be made very welcome.

**Contact Madda Georgeson, 831521**  
**KIRK HILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY**  
**TRUST**

Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust is currently involved in a number of activities which are intended to benefit the community and/or the local environment. Extra help and involvement is always welcomed!

Our woodland group has started our winter programme of forest management in upper Reelig wood, meeting every second Saturday. If you enjoyed our Woodland Fair in May, why not get involved now? Les Bates (831320) is the contact.

The Trust is also looking at putting together a bid for a project for Highland 2007. The theme will be the woods and trees in the area, and we'd welcome any interest from local people wanting to be involved. The first part of the bid is to commission a researcher or archivist to look into the history of tree planting and forest management in the Kirkhill and Bunchrew area, and we're particularly keen to offer that opportunity to a locally-based researcher if possible. So if you're interested in being involved in the group, or in bidding for the research work, please get in touch with Donald Shiach (831591) by 15 December.

The Highland 2007 bid will also include a series of workshops in photography, fabric art, writing, oral history, field walking, woodland sculpture, other woodland crafts and painting. If you're interested in getting involved in organising one or more of these, or in leading one, contact Donald Shiach (831591). Contact Donald for any general queries about the Trust and its activities, too.

Finally, some of the Trust members have made a beautiful patchwork double quilt, which is being raffled to raise funds for the Trust's work. The quilt is on display in Pat-Chis shop in Inchmore, and you can get raffle tickets there too, or from Elizabeth Shiach (831591). Don't delay – all counterfoils have to be returned by 2 December – but what a great Christmas present it would make!

**KIRK HILL TOTS**

Kirkhill Tots Group meet every Wednesday in Kirkhill 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 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 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 ~ 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 acts as playleader and arranges an activity every week and are supported by Highland Pre-School Services, whose playleader visits every six weeks with new ideas.

Thank you everyone who baked and supported us by buying from our home baking stall on Gala Day. We raised over £100, half of which went to Tots funds and half of which went to support Kirkhill District Amenities Association. We are looking forward to the Christmas Party at the end of the term – all the children enjoy meeting Santa!

**Contact number: Lindsey Stout, Secretary, tel. 831642 or just turn up!**

**KIRK HILL COMMUNITY PLAYPARK**

Thank you to everyone who helped us collect bottles for the bottle stall on Gala Day and who supported us on the day – we raised over £300, which was split between the park group and the K.D.A.A. You may have noticed that Highland Council have replaced the broken-down fence as a temporary measure. We are bogged down in paperwork at the moment, but intend to go ahead with grant applications soon. We would welcome new members, so if you are interested or would like information on our progress, please phone one of the contacts below.

Kirkhill Community Park Group (sub-group of K.B.C.T.)

James Ryham 831113

**TRAILER LOAD OF LOGS:  
IN 4 FOOT LENGTHS £20**

**Un-split logs     £30**  
**Cut and split     £40**

**Free delivery in "Crannog" area and Inverness**

**Phone Hugh on: 01463 713245**  
**0784546540**

**E-mail     [HbrownTrees@aol.com](mailto:HbrownTrees@aol.com)**

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

### Grampian Highland Dancing Championships September 2005

9 years Pre-Championship Trophy  
Katie Wright – Lentrán

11 years Pre-Championship Trophy  
Eilidh Fife – Kirkhill

8 years Intermediate  
Melissa Fife – Kirkhill

### North of Scotland Highland Dancing Championship Inverness Sports Centre - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2005

#### Trophies

1. Katie Wright – Lentrán 9yr Open Championship 2<sup>nd</sup>
2. North of Scotland Dancer with most points in Open Championship.
3. Winner of Confined to North of Scotland Championship with four first placings.
4. Overall Confined Championship Dancer.
5. Overall Premier Dancer of the Day.

Medal winners from North of Scotland Championships  
Melissa and Eilidh Fife – Kirkhill plus Trophy and Medal winners Inverness Class.

## ***IN MEMORIAM***

### **JACK MACKENZIE** **1918 – 2005** **Little Beechwood, Kirkhill**

Jack was born on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 on the croft at 3 Cabrich to Alex and Annie on the day the Armistice was signed to end the First World War. He was their second son.

He was educated at Knockbain Primary then the High School in Inverness (not the Crown Primary Building). He contracted rheumatic fever at the age of 12 and was at home for almost a year during which time he developed a life long passion for reading. He left school at 14 and served his

stonemason apprenticeship with his father – another of a long line of Mackenzie stonemasons. To this day you can see many bridges in the Highlands which were restored or repaired by Jack and his father.

He was called up in 1939 to the Seaforths. Six weeks of parade ground drilling in Dingwall was far too dull and so, when a request was made for volunteers to join a new special Independent Company Unit, he volunteered. This unit subsequently became the Army Commandos. He served with the Special Boat Service (SBS). He often recounted the night he and several colleagues were captured by Vichy French after blowing up the dock gates in Algiers, North Africa, having arrived by two man canoe from a Royal Navy submarine in the Mediterranean. They were locked up to await transportation to Germany for interrogation and, as a Commando, execution, when they were released by American Troops. He spent the last two years of the war in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and Burma with the No9 Commandos and the SBS.

After the war he developed the building business (A Mackenzie & Son) based at Reelig Mill. He married Maureen MacCallum from Beaulay in 1950 and they had two children John and Angie. At its height the business employed 20 local men.

In the mid 60s they sold up, subsequently owning various hotels/pubs in Caithness, Inverness and Muir of Ord (The Moorings, then a thriving pub from the investment in the Invergordon Smelter and Nigg).

In 1973 he returned to his building roots, working on bridge projects for the Council. He retired in 1994 at the age of 75.

Sadly Maureen died suddenly in 1998. He continued with his garden, reading and “projects” in his workshop. He also took great pride in his five grandchildren and his great grand-daughter and loved visitors to call.

His funeral in Wardlaw Church and Cemetery was very well attended.

**One of the last “Old School”.**

## ***MILLENNIUM GARDEN***

The Community Council is looking for a volunteer/s to maintain the Millenium Garden. A small remuneration is available. Please contact Ian Weir, Chairman or any of the Community Councillors.

## SECRETARY REQUIRED

The Community Council are looking for secretarial support on a part time basis (approximately 10 meetings per year). Duties would be to arrange dates of meetings, take and distribute minutes and deal with any resulting correspondence. There is a small remuneration available for this post. In the first instance please contact Ian Weir, Chairman or Chris Heaton-Armstrong, Vice President.

There will also be the need for some one to take over the Editorship of the Crannog. This would perhaps suit someone who is retired or semi retired with some time to spare. Contacts as above.

been Editor of the Crannog for their very welcome help.

I would also like to thank all the residents of Kirkhill and surrounds for making me very welcome in the village in the ten years I have lived here.

A special thanks to the Community Council and Ian Weir and Chris Heaton-Armstrong.

**Martha McEwan**

### **DEREK C IRELAND**

#### **Painter and Decorator**

#### **All Painting and Decorating**

#### **Free Estimates**

#### **Very Reliable**

**Derek C Ireland  
6 Newton Place  
Kirkhill  
IV5 7QE  
01463 831151  
07887838706**

### **KIRKHILL POST OFFICE**

#### **Opening hours**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday**

9.00am – 1.00pm and  
2.00pm – 5.30pm

**Wednesday**

9.00am – 1.00pm

**Saturday**

9.30am – 12.30pm

**Closed all day Sunday**

We sell all types of fancy stationery i.e. cards, wrapping paper and envelopes etc.

Now available Mobile Phone Top Up Cards - Including Vodaphone, O<sup>2</sup>, Orange, T-Mobile, also International Calling Cards.

**The Internet Café is now open and available**

*for use during Post Office Hours*

### **H BROWN**

#### **Tree Surgery:**

**Tree removal or pruning:**

**Parks, gardens, site  
clearance.**

**Phone: Hugh on 01463  
713245**

**07845468540**

**[HbrownTrees@aol.com](mailto:HbrownTrees@aol.com)**

#### **Fencing: Stock and timber fencing:**

**Phone: Hamish on 01463 713245**

**07841516085**

**[HbrownFencing@aol.com](mailto:HbrownFencing@aol.com)**

**Operators trained and insured.**

### **KIRKHILL SMIDDY** **Blacksmiths ~ Metalworkers**

**All fabrication & welding requirements  
Decorative & structural metalwork  
and welding repairs**

**Kirkhill Smiddy  
Kirkhill  
Inverness IV5 7PD**

**Contact:  
Kenny Beaton  
07711 266385**

**01463 831250**

### **THANK YOU**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped over the years I have