

Edderton Community Newsletter

Winter Edition - December 2016

Editorial

I very much appreciate all of the contributions that have been sent to me for inclusion in our Community Newsletter over the past year, and I look forward to more in the future.

Reports, comments and notices can also be sent to me at anytime for immediate posting to the Community Website - www.edderton.com.

Seasonal Greetings are extended to everyone who reads this Newsletter.

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Ted Venn

Edderton Community Council

Brief summaries of Edderton Community Council meetings can be found on the Community Website.

The next meetings are scheduled for December 6th and January 10th. The latter being the second Tuesday of the month, as the normal first Tuesday of the month coincides with the New Year holiday.

Remembrance Sunday at Edderton

November 13th, 2016

Following the 10.30am service at Edderton's Church, a wreath-laying ceremony was held at the War Memorial. Karl Weidner took the service and led the Remembrance Ceremony. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion and Edderton's Community Council. Alistair Sunderland kindly helped the

youngsters when they put their small crosses in the ground. The piper for the ceremony was Dr Sandy Gordon.



Gathering together for the Remembrance Ceremony



Campbell Smith for the Royal British Legion



Nikki Beesley for Edderton Community Council



The War Memorial after the Ceremony

Dawn Smith

Edderton Primary School

This year the Primary School held its own Remembrance Ceremony at the War Memorial. This took place on Friday, November 11th, and coincided with the Two Minute's Silence at eleven o'clock in the morning.



Children laying their wreath at the War Memorial

This edition of the Community Newsletter contains several contributions from our school children - which we very much appreciate - Ed.

War Memorial - On Friday, November 11th Edderton Primary School went down to the War Memorial for Armistice Day. Two boys from P7 laid a wreath at the memorial and our only P7

girl read a poem about poppies that was called "Why Are They Selling Poppies Mummy?" We then had a two-minute silence to remember those who were killed in the war and in all the other wars since. We also had a look at all the names engraved on the memorial. *Murdo & Ally*

World War 1

On Tuesday, November 8th everyone at school came together for a World War 1 Day. We held artillery shells, which were very heavy! Miss De Jonckheere brought the shells in from home. She also brought some little pellets called shrapnel that go in the shells. They killed many soldiers in WW1. We also held a (sighting) scope that the gunner used to coordinate where the target was. *Murdo & Ally*

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

As most of you know, Edderton Primary School had a Macmillan Coffee Afternoon on Friday, October 7th. Thank you to all who attended the coffee afternoon and helped us to raise a whopping **£454.08!** *Michael P6*

Bench Ball

On Tuesday, November 1st we took part in the Bench Ball competition at Golspie Games Hall - it was hard work! The team of six pupils from Edderton Primary School thought they had come second . . . - but we came first! Woo! Hooo! We felt amazing! *Ayleen*



The Bench Ball Winners!

Football Competition

We won the football competition in the mixed teams. We played Golspie, Dornoch, Brora,

Gledfield and Helmsdale. We beat everyone
and it was fun! *Keith & Ross*



The Football Winners!

Rocks And Minerals

With Miss DJ, the P5-7 class have been learning about rocks and minerals - it has been fun. We learnt that a sedimentary rock is formed within water and that fossils are usually found in them, such as Ammonites - squid-like creatures whose fossil remains are like a coil. Igneous rocks are made of (volcanic) magma and lava. We made crystals, an exploding volcano, a fossil and a sedimentary rock. *Alexander*

And Poems, too:

The Halloween Nightmare

*The beautiful day turned black
As the thunder struck back
And a tsunami attacked.
The village was in fear
With the sound of screams
And the lightening beams
The dark moon was rising
As a small child was crying
And the sun fell dying*

Caitlin

Class P5-7 wrote the following poem after having lessons about the First World War and Hallowe'en. A different child wrote each line of the poem - Ed,

THE THIRTEENTH HOUR

As the clock strikes the thirteenth hour
The chair I sat on spoke to me.
Old people celebrated being young.
Wolves howled,
Eyes glowed,
Glasses break,
Flowers die,
And monsters exist.
The road turned into a river of cement.
Windows smashed,
Doors opened
And a howl 'screaked ' out!
Gas leaked from mid air
All teachers popped.
Ploughing the field
Turning over murdered bodies.
On top of the hill a river of blood
Pours pieces of body.
And Pumpkin Pacmen eat people and buildings
As the clock struck the thirteenth hour!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE SCHOOL

November 18th is Children in Need day. We will be having a fun filled day to raise funds.

November 22nd: a girls' basketball competition.

December 6th: a boys' basketball competition.

We wish the primary 6-7 teams good luck.

This year our school nativity is called "Christmas with Aliens". The play will be held on **Friday, 16th December** at 6.30pm in Edderton Community Hall followed by a Christmas Ceilidh organised by Edderton Parent Council.

December 16th is also Christmas Jumper Day and this year we are raising money for The Highland Hospice. Everyone brings £1 and wears a Christmassy Jumper.

On December 22nd we are having a Christmas service in the church at 10.00am - all welcome.

We also raised £124.80 from Rag-Bag for School Funds. So thanks to everyone who contributed.

VOLUNTEERS

Our school would welcome anyone from the community who would like to help out in any way. Please contact the school if you would like to get involved.

Kirsten Macneil

Edderton Community Hall

There is to be a meeting of the Trustees on November 29th, and the AGM has been fixed for January 17th.

Currently all Hall bookings should be made by contacting Sandra Hall on 01862 821 556 or by e-mailing her using sandrahall1943@gmail.com.

Church of Scotland

Christmas time is here again!

Dear Friends,

Yes, we are nearly there again. Christmas is one of the two key festivals of the Church calendar (the other being Easter). I can remember being taken by my parents to Church for the 'midnight service' on Christmas Eve. In those days I sang in the church choir and was the lead chorister. It was always an exciting time with all the build up to the Big Day itself. Part of the attraction of going to Church on Christmas Eve was to be able to 'welcome' Christmas Day itself and to be the first to wish each other a 'Happy Christmas'. Boyhood memories of all the great carols we sang, the symbols of Christmas - the beauty of the Christmas tree and, the crib itself with all the characters of the Christmas story. Thank God, it is still as potent and meaningful today. People still make a special effort to gather with loved ones in churches across the country.

Why is this so? Ordinary people like you and I still need 'God'. The Christian Church still offers a message of 'hope' to the war torn countries of Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. A message of 'hope' to the starving and the homeless that shines out across the world! Of one thing we can be certain, the real *present* to aching human hearts is that of the love of God in the baby Jesus, who was born into this world to set us free. At the end of the old year and the gateway to the New Year, Jesus Christ offers us all a new beginning and 'hope' for the future. 2016 has been an exciting year with so many developments on the world stage. We join with our friends across the Atlantic and we pray for America as it faces a new dawn and a new presidency. The message of the angels at the first Christmas was "Peace on earth, goodwill to all people."

We hope that, amidst all the business of the season, you will once again find time to join us as we celebrate Christmas together in the Church at Edderton and with our friends in the neighbouring communities.

A Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year to you all!

Please remember if you would like me to visit you at home or in hospital, you can phone me and I shall be happy to call by on my regular rounds.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT EDDERTON

Thursday 22nd December at 10.00am - Edderton School Christmas Service at Edderton Church

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve) at 11.30pm - Christmas Watchnight Service at Edderton Church

Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day) at 10.30am - Short Family Toy Service at Ardgay Church (children, please bring a favourite toy to church).

Sunday 1st January (New Year's Day) at 11.00am - New Year Service for all the Kyle churches at Creich Church, Bonar Bridge

My contact details are:

The Manse, Ardgay

Tel: 01863 766 285

E-mail: revanthonyjones@yahoo.com

Rev Anthony M. Jones

Church in a Pub



Once a month at 12.00 noon on the third Thursday folk gather at the Crask Inn for a service of Holy Communion. The service takes place in the dining room. We usually have three or four hymns, a couple of readings from Scripture and a Psalm. After the readings, those present are invited to comment on the readings. Although an Episcopalian Priest takes the service every one is welcome both to the service and to receive Communion. After the service we retire to the Bar where we have soup and sandwiches and a good blether. Some folk bring biscuits and cake to add to the meal. Mike and Kai, our hosts, really go out of their way to make all of us welcome. Folk come from as far as Dingwall and Tongue. Because of the venue and Mike and Kai's hospitality the service has a special quality. Why not come along on one-third Thursday and sample this rather special act of worship? If transport is needed, please phone me on 01862 821 645.

David Balfour

Timber Extraction

Work is now currently underway to fell and stack timber within the woodland. No timber has yet been extracted. The footpath between Baileacharn and Admiral's Farm is difficult to use, so great care must be taken when walking along it.

The following pictures were taken at the end of October and show how just two men can clear a large area of woodland so quickly.



Felling and stripping trees mechanically



Collecting timber for stacking

Ted Venn

Community Broadband

Improvements to broadband for outlying properties are still awaited. BT is the problem, in that they are not prepared to release postcodes of areas where an alternative broadband system can be implemented. Despite requesting our MP and MSP to intervene, nothing has happened to give any hope that a better service will get to Edderton

any time soon! However, efforts will continue to be made to ensure that eventually everyone will have a more reliable and faster broadband connection.

Ted Venn

Planning Applications

Planning applications and decisions for Edderton are now being displayed on the Community Website. Only brief details are shown, including the planning reference number. More detailed information can be obtained from Highland Council's planning website, using the planning reference number.

Ted Venn

Edderton and District Gardening Club

The Gardening Club meets in Edderton Community Centre on the first Monday of each month, from September through to May, (except January when we go out for a social meal instead). Members enjoy a 50% discount on seed orders from Suttons Seeds, and a smaller discount on their other garden products. Members can also receive discounts at our local Scotsburn Garden Centre and Dornoch Garden Centre. A small raffle at each meeting helps to raise funds for gardening related charities, refreshments are provided and during the growing season there is usually a plant swap.

In a varied programme this autumn the club has had inspiration for bulb planting with an illustrated talk about Keukenhof Gardens in The Netherlands, as well as a fascinating talk about the development of plant life from prehistoric times, and an illustrated talk about the history of Amat House and Garden. On December 5th we have an informal Christmas social evening, during which member Steve Farquharson will share his experiences on his recent walk in the Grand Canyon, fund-raising for the Highland Hospice. After Christmas we

shake off the January blues with a lunch at Luigi's in Dornoch, followed by a gardening quiz evening in February and some help with seed sowing in March. In April we hope to visit the revamped Inverewe Gardens, with minibus transport available as well as car-share. Another evening meeting in May will close the winter session, but we hope to have more trips in addition to our regular summer social garden party and competitions.

New members are always welcome. More information can be obtained from Patricia (01863 766 061 and/or pahannah@hotmail.com) or from Esther (01862 811 381 and/or esther@bumblebeecottage.me.uk)

Patricia Hannah - Secretary

The Easter Ross Deer Management Group

The Deer Management Group met together as planned on November 4th in order to review how the implementation of the Deer Management Plan was going, and to take stock of the recently completed stag season.

The Group works closely with Scottish Natural Heritage who organised an aerial helicopter account across all the land included within the Plan. This enabled an accurate assessment of deer numbers, their locations and their impact on the various habitats they frequent. Each estate undertakes to carry out environmental checks and to cull an agreed number of stags and hinds to achieve the desired population numbers set down by SNH.

We also had a presentation from Ardgay Game, the local dealer who is supplied by all members of the Group. We are keen to support our local Game Dealer, during competitive times, and to help protect the jobs created in the area. It is an interesting fact that 6 years ago 95% of Ardgay Game's venison was being sold into Europe. This figure has now dropped to 65% with the remaining 35% being consumed by the domestic market. Indeed, the Waugh family has recently opened a restaurant in London,

called 'Mac and Wild', and this was recently described in *The Times* as 'the best restaurant in the world'. There are lots of opportunities for the promotion of the quality food product and the Highlands itself.

Specific targets within the Group relate to ensuring all stalking staff have the appropriate qualifications and perform to the highest standards.

The Helicopter count has shown that deer numbers have risen by 30% since the last count in 2010. Cull targets have been set to bring the numbers back to a more sustainable level, with Estates working together to achieve the correct balance.

We are happy to answer any questions from local residents and to share details of our aims and objectives. Please let us know if you have any concerns or need more information.

The issue of 'deer on the roads' is taken seriously, and whilst we do not appear to have the same safety concerns as similar groups on the West Coast, do let us know if problems occur.

Gordon Robertson
Secretary and Treasurer to the ERDMG
Mobile. 07825 371 324.
E-mail. swordale@gmail.com

Hallowe'en Party

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Halloween Party that was held in the Community Hall on Saturday, October 29th. It was great to see everyone and all the costumes were brilliant. We raised a fantastic £255.00 for The Highland Hospice, Thank You All.

Scott Goodlet & Donna Laing

Old Church Preservation Trust

The AGM of the Trust will be held on Thursday, November 24th in the Community Hall starting at 2.30pm.

Robert Wylie

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Theme Ladies Night

Hi Ladies, I am organising a Christmas Themed Ladies Night on **Saturday 10th December at 8pm in the Community Hall**, the plan is for everyone to bring along a dish associated with Christmas (starter, main or dessert), also could you all bring along a Christmas ornament (do not spend anymore than £5); we will have a wee lucky dip and everyone will receive an ornament that someone else has brought.

Could I please ask that you all bring £5 please this will cover the hire of the hall with the remaining balance going to the Highland Hospice. There will also be some fun games, a quiz and a chance for us all to get together and catch up. If you can make it will you please e-mail me on donn_66@hotmail.co.uk or text me on 07921 020 966 so I know numbers for setting up for the meal.

Donna Laing

Children's' Christmas Party

This year's party will be held on **Sunday, 18th December at the Community Hall from 2pm to 5pm**, All children in the Village from 0 to 18 years are welcome and of course Santa Claus will be taking time out of his busy schedule to pay us a visit. Donations of party food would be most welcome.

Donna Laing

Hogmanay

Bring in the New Year - **Saturday, 31st December** - at the Community Hall from 9pm until late. B.Y.O.B. Everyone Welcome

Donna Laing

You are warmly invited to attend the **Senior Citizens Annual Dinner** at The Carnegie Lodge Hotel, Tain, on **Friday, January 13th**, 6pm for 6.30. Any lady aged 60+ or gent 65+ who would like to attend should contact Lorna Sutherland at the Old Shop, Edderton or phone 821 312.

Sandra Hall

NEW HOME SOUGHT

Free 1 Ton Farm Roller

I have an old Vintage 1 ton farm roller if someone would like to give it a new home. **Free** - although buyer must collect it. I think Postie may have something to say if I sent it by post!!!!



Garden Roller looking for a new home

Maybe it can be used to roll a lawn or maybe it can feature as a garden ornament. Perhaps a farm museum would be interested?? It's ready to be towed away, as it's in an easily accessible place waiting to be hitched up. I am sure that someone will have a use for it. Either e-mail if you are interested - phillip.gane@ardmore-lodge.com - or just pop in.

Phillip Gane
Ardmore Lodge

And Finally

EDDERTON'S STONE CIRCLE

The recent clearance of bushes and scrub near the Distillery and the Clach Biorach Standing Stone has once again revealed Edderton's Stone Circle.

Its reappearance has led to a quest for more information, much of which has come from a booklet that Edderton Primary School produced in November 2000. The following extract, which was written by Douglas Scott of Tain, featured in that booklet.

"Within the village of Edderton there are the remains of a 3,500 year-old stone circle from which the setting sun and moon were observed throughout the year by our ancestors. These remains consist of an arc of five stones that is surrounded by a large ditch. Near the centre of the circle can be seen an open burial cist, which, when excavated in 1866, revealed a food vessel with some burnt bone and charcoal.

"About 80 metres to the southwest of the circle is a large standing stone called Clach Biorach (The Pointed Stone). This Class I stone dates from about 500AD and is carved with two Pictish symbols - a salmon with a double disc and a Z-rod.

"Two stones from the circle line up with Clach Biorach to indicate a hill on the distant horizon. This hill is where the sun sets on what were known in the later Celtic period as the festivals of Bride on February 4th and Samhain (*pronounced Sav'-im*) on November 5th.

"At one time there was another large standing stone, which stood to the northwest of the circle, near the farm of Dounie, and when viewed from Clach Biorach this stone indicated a notch on the horizon where the sun set at the summer solstice. This event can still be seen from the circle on June 21st every year.

"Using the flat side of Clach Biorach it is possible to sight an area of the Struie ridge where the moon sets during its most northerly position every 19 years in what is called the minor standstill. This occurred in 1996".

It is hoped that an information board will be placed near the Stone Circle and Standing Stone in the not too distant future - Ed.

Deadline for the March edition:

15th February 2017