

Weekly news update form 5th May 2023

Hi All,

Here is our weekly news from the Community Council and the Village Hall.

Ardentinny Community Council

CPR and Defibrillator Training

We had a very successful course given by St. John Scotland, with 25 attendees for the CPR/Defib course. Thank you for your donations which with a small contribution from the Community Council resulted in a donation of £125.00 being made to St. John Scotland.

Also, many thanks to Catriona MacPhail for all the home baking she brought along– yum!

Beach Clean

We had a very successful beach clean last Sunday with over 30 volunteers coming along in the pouring rain! Multiple bags were filled, and of course the obligatory tyre was found! Thanks to all who came along and got soaked but in doing so made Ardentinny a little bit tidier. Thanks to Dee Robinson for organising tea at the hall.

Ardentinny Community Emergency Plan

We issued the Emergency Plan last week, which was sent to all on this email distribution and a copy can be found on the www.ardentinnycc.co.uk website. A hard copy will be left in the Village Hall. Next week I will drop off a hard copy of the Volunteer List (at your door) to those who offered their help.

Cyber Fraud

Here are a few articles I have received regarding online and phone fraudster activity. There is also an attachment to this email on how to keep your personal information safe when recycling your old PC or smartphone.

Do be careful when online or taking phone calls, there are a number of dodgy things going on at the minute, hopefully you find the following information useful;

Fake emails often (but not always) display some of the following characteristics:

- The sender's email address doesn't tally with the trusted organisation's website address.
- The email is sent from a completely different address or a free web mail address.
- The email does not use your proper name, but uses a non-specific greeting like 'dear customer'.
- A sense of urgency; for example, the threat that unless you act immediately your account may be closed.
- A prominent website link. These can be forged or seem very similar to the proper address, but even a single character difference means a different website.
- A request for personal information such as user name, password or bank details.
- The email contains spelling and grammatical errors.
- You weren't expecting to get an email from the company that appears to have sent it.
- The entire text of the email is contained within an image rather than the usual text format.

- The image contains an embedded hyperlink to a bogus site.

If you have received an email that you're not quite sure about, you can forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): report@phishing.gov.uk . If you receive an email from Microsoft saying that your email inbox is full, delete it and don't click on the attached link, which you are advised will solve the problem. Microsoft has confirmed that this is a scam.

Scam Calls

There are also scam calls coming purportedly from HMRC, in some cases using 07771 565889, which is an automated voice that informs you that you have not paid your recent tax bill, and then telling you that if I don't pay it by a certain day, you would be taken to court. In order to pay immediately, you are asked to press a number on the phone, where payment would be arranged. If you receive such a call (from any number), hang up immediately, and under no circumstances press a number on your phone. **This call is definitely a scam; HMRC would never make such a call.**

Fraudsters are hacking **Facebook** accounts and sending convincing messages to friends, luring them into applying for a fake grant. These scammers use harmless conversation starters such as 'Hello, how are you doing mate?' and tell you about their day to convince you that you're talking to a friend. They go on to say you could be eligible for a grant worth thousands of pounds and send you a link to apply, DO NOT click on the link and change your password immediately.

Scammers are exploiting **PayPal's** 'request money' feature to scare customers into calling dodgy phone numbers and giving away their personal data. This scam involves fraudsters sending fake emails requesting payments for high-value items, such as Apple MacBooks, or posing as HMRC to demand 'overdue' tax payments. If you call the number in the email, you'll be ringing a scammer phishing for your personal information. If you receive an email out of the blue claiming to be from PayPal, don't click on anything or call any phone number. You can view any PayPal requests by logging into your account and selecting 'Activity'. From here, you can click on the fraudulent request and cancel it. If you suspect your account has been compromised, you can change your password and security questions by logging into your account.

Any suspicious emails can be forwarded to phishing@paypal.com and report@phishing.gov.uk

Fraudsters are contacting energy consumers saying that they can switch them to a cheaper tariff, and get them compensation if they had a pre-payment meter installed. Ignore these calls, as well as any texts or emails as they are all scams. If you're unsure, speak to your energy provider before agreeing to anything and don't follow any online links.

Ardentinny Community Council Facebook page and Website

Just to let you know we continue to revamp the existing Community Council website which you can find here - www.ardentinnycc.co.uk

The Facebook page has been updated, search for **Ardentinny Community Council** and we also have an Instagram site under the same name.

Regards

John

Ardentinny Village Hall

Hi Everyone,

Loft and underfloor insulation in the hall were completed last week so hopefully, we should notice a difference when the next lot of cold weather hits.

Neil has been sent some photographs from the installer and will put something together for one of the updates as he has been busy with work commitments.

Please see below for the rest of the information he sent last week which is the next job on the list and hopefully will be completed in the near future.

New instantaneous hot water systems in both the kitchen area and WC areas the old system will be removed.

New lighting in all areas including under the stage, these will be dimmable in the main hall.

A full electrical check and repairs on some of the poor electrical aspects of the hall this will also include the provision of an outdoor socket which will enable us to do more outside the hall.

A local electrician has been appointed to carry out the electrical works.

Future works include the installing of internet facility's this is not part of this fund and the hall has raised the capital to fund this installation which we hope will be up and running shortly just waiting on the BT engineers to do their bit.

Going forward we do have plans to refurbish and re-instate the kitchen area so we can once again look to use this facility and once a fund has been found we will look to renew the heating system in the hall.

Neil

Thank you to Babs Marshall who has collected the hall membership fees from Ardenfield.

If there is anyone who has not paid and would like to, please see the attached document which gives more information about hall fees and if there are any issues, please email Dee at ardentinyvillagehall8@gmail.com.

We currently have 4 volunteers to clean the hall on a rota basis. Thank you, this is very much appreciated, and I will draw up a rota as soon as possible.

If there are other people who would like to volunteer, this will also be appreciated as I would prefer 2 people to do this rather than 1 being on their own, obviously for safety reasons.

Beach Clean

Marian Norris (Ardentiny Heritage and Conservation Group) arranged a beach clean for Sunday 30th April at 12 noon and although the weather was miserable, there was a good turnout so thank you to everyone who gave their time to do this.

Hall Management Group AGM

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM.

Olwyn Calder/McShane who is currently going through the process of taking over from Susie as treasurer.

Once the minutes are finalised, I will attach copies to an update, there will be a copy in the hall and copies on the noticed boards.

Please note below the following events over the next few months

Grassed Area Tidy Up

We are looking for volunteers to finish this on Saturday 13th May **at 10am - 12 noon**. We are hoping to set up the teas and coffees at the site this time rather than everyone having to walk to the hall for this.

Quiz Night Saturday 13th May 7pm for 7.30 start

Bring your own bottle and snacks. A prize for the winners will be determined on the night.

Summer combined event This will be held on Saturday the 29th of July

For those that are unaware the outdoor centre is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. With this in mind we have decided to band together and run a large summer event over one day at the outdoor centre and on the beach area.

Another meeting with the Outdoor Centre took place this week so things are moving forward.

To make the event happen we do require a number of volunteers to help us coordinate and run certain parts of the day.

Once I have the latest information, I will add this to an update to keep you all informed.

As things are now, we have volunteers to do the burger stand, however, this could change due to holiday commitments.

More on this when we have finalised all events which are taking place.

New group for the hall

Ukulele/Music group

Hi Everyone,

The music group has been up and running for a number of weeks. We are learning the ukulele but are not restricting the group to just this instrument.

Other instruments welcomed, but not taught.

Please join us on Mondays from 18.00-19.30. Beginners to George Formby welcomed, spare ukuleles available. £2 per session, tea/coffee included.

Email us at ardentinny.ukulele@gmail.com for further info.

If you would like to organise a village hall event or have a specific theme for a quiz night please get in touch, either by email at: ardentinnyvillagehall8@gmail.com or just grab us around the village anytime

Kind Regards,

Ardentinny Hall Management Group Secretary