

Chairman's Report 2011

This is the end of our first year running April to March in line with the Highland Council year and the future requirements of Community Councils throughout the area. Our year now finishes on 31st March rather than in October as in the past.

Over the year your Community Council (CC) dealt with many of the concerns of village residents and we are grateful that our local Highland Councillor, Stuart Black, attended all our meetings and dealt with the many matters that were raised. In his capacity as a Board member of CNPA he also keeps us informed about any matters, regarding the park authority that may impact on our community. In October 2011 the members of your Community Council will need to be re-elected or indeed others may be elected and we would be interested to hear from anyone wishing to stand at that time.

Thanks are due to those of the members who organised our Christmas Party once again. The 2010 Party was one of the largest groups ever and greatly enjoyed by all those who attended. This year, Lord Reidhaven's Christmas donation to the Community Council was used towards the cost of the Children's and the adults' parties. As always the Community Council members have all worked hard at the various events that we promote to raise funds for the village. The Duck race, that is held in August, raised £1,269.62 towards the various Christmas Parties that the Council helps to fund. The Carrbridge Gathering + Carve Carrbridge was again a very successful event and contributed £8,979.06 this year for village improvements. Much of the money raised will go to improvements and repairs for the Village Hall this year which will protect a valuable asset to the village. It takes a huge amount of effort to organise and manage the event and we are greatly indebted to Carol Ritchie who has been taking over the role of Project Manager of the event from Gavin Gerrard. Gavin is still involved although no longer resident in the village but management of the event is passing to Carol. Linda Jolly once again excelled in getting great publicity for the 2010 World Porridge Championships breaking all records for worldwide media coverage. The judges give up their free time to attend the competition and judge the quality of the porridge and we are grateful for their input. Sadly, at the end of our CC year, Linda decided to step down from management of the Porridge Event and she will be difficult to replace in this role. The CC members appreciate the effort that is put into these events by a large number of local people and their involvement is essential to make all our events a success. Our thanks go to you all.

The information panel after a slow start was finally completed last year but since then the Tourist Information point blew down in the wind and will need to be replaced. We are working with the Carrbridge Tourist Association (CTA) to replace it.

We are slowly progressing the purchase of a permanent community shed which will allow us to store the equipment such as tents, marquees and the other paraphernalia of running events. We are hopeful that it could be in place prior to this year's Gathering.

Fergus Thom and his team have continued to operate the highly successful web site www.carrbridgenews.com which has largely taken over from our printed news sheet. The team won the 'Best use of journalism on the web' award at the Highlands & Islands Media Awards 2011. Fergus Thom and Joanne Wood picked up the award from Danny Alexander MP at a presentation in Nairn and we add our congratulations and thanks to them for all their hard work and achievement.

We are always keen to have new members of the Council and indeed are happy to have new office bearers so if anyone would like to join us or simply try out membership of the Community Council, please come forward. We will have elections in October for members of the CC so anyone interested in the longer term might now start to consider putting their names forward for election.

Finally I must thank all the members of the present council who put in a huge amount of unpaid work for the benefit of the community. Each year we have more and more to do and every members of this team works hard in your interests.

Scott Bruce