

## Spring Clean Success

Litter picking volunteers were out in force during the month of April in Ardler. A community spring clean event at the beginning of the month saw 15 local volunteers joined by Downfield Scout group tackle one of the stands of mature trees in the village. Their great effort produced over 15 bags of rubbish and was followed later that week by Ardler Environment Group tackling litter at the East pond. Brackens primary 7 pupils finished off the month's efforts by litter picking the soakaway behind St Fergus primary school. Their enthusiastic efforts really made a difference to that area.

Many local residents regularly care for areas close to where they live and everyone in Ardler benefits from these citizenship activities.



## Green Fingers Gardening Group

The gardening season is now fully upon us and members of the Green Fingers Gardening Group are keen to get on with new projects in and around each other's gardens. This happy group meet every Thursday evening at 6.30pm outside the Ardler Complex to plan and undertake projects in each other's gardens. The main purpose of the evening is fun friendship and learning new skills, no previous gardening experience is necessary so why not come along and make some friends and help your garden grow.

## Dundee Partnership Awards

Members of the Ardler in Bloom team were invited to the Ardler Village Trust offices recently to receive their own copies of the CD produced for the Dundee Partnership Awards. Both the work of the in Bloom group and the Chalmers Ardler Family project are featured in the 45 minute CD. Cllr Shimi who presented the CD to the team commented that people in the regenerated Ardler were working very hard to create a positive community spirit.

## Beautiful Scotland !!!



The Ardler in Bloom team are looking forward to this year's national competition and are working very hard to try and make sure Ardler pick up the regeneration award for the third time. Litter picks, the pond drystone dyke, school gardens and our community garden will all feature in this year's portfolio. During June and July judges will be making unannounced visits so if everyone who lives in Ardler would like to help out by taking care of their local area we can all help Ardler win.

Residents have lots more to celebrate in gardening competition terms this year as the organisers of the Dundee in Bloom committee have decided to include Ardler in the route for the Beautiful Scotland in Bloom judges. This prestigious competition sees Dundee up against Scotland's major cities including Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Members of the Ardler in Bloom group would like to invite any local residents who have an interest in the local green space to come along and join the team. Phone Ardler Village Trust for details Tel 831712

## Over The Sea to Skye

During April members of the Ardler Environment Group enjoyed a cultural and natural history visit to the Isle of Skye. The aims of the trip were to find out more about the history of the people of Skye and to gain a greater understanding of why Skye is such a great destination for wildlife enthusiasts. The group enjoyed visiting coral beaches, Armadale Castle, the Aros Sea Eagle Centre and an otter sanctuary. Everyone agreed the views over the beautiful Cuillin hills were well worth the long journey and all the sites visited gave the group great memories to take back.



## Ardler Tool Library

A new free garden tool loan scheme is now available to Ardler Residents. Operated by the Ardler Urban Ranger and Ardler Village Trust it provides a range of hand tools for 1 week loans. Tools Available include

*Forks and Spades  
Hedge Shears  
Garden Trugs  
Loppers  
Cylinder mowers  
Secateurs  
Universal rakes  
Lawn Shears  
4 prong cultivators  
Sack Barrows  
Tool carts  
Edging Tools  
Hoes and Multi prong cultivators  
Wheel Barrows  
Others to be added*



Tools available to be picked up / dropped off every

**Friday afternoon from 3 to 4pm**

To find out more and register phone the Ardler Village Trust Office on 831712

## Ardler Youth Café Residential

On the 31st March 2007, 5 participants from the Ardler Youth Cafe along with staff embarked on a residential weekend at Kinnloch Rannoch. We had organised the residential in partnership with Ancrum Outdoor Education Centre and had taken mountain bikes for everyone, so we set off into the Black Forest of Rannoch, several hours later we emerged tired (it's unfortunate you need to cycle up hill to enjoy the downhill!), exhilarated and with one bike that needed a new chain and gears!

Later in the evening we ventured back into the forest this time on foot to experience the forest in the dark, it took the participants a while to put their torches out and listen carefully to the sounds of the forest, but before long they got the hang of jumping out on the staff!

On the Sunday we visited the Loch and fish ladder and a few that hadn't stayed up all night managed a little more mountain biking!

All the participants chipped in and helped with the cooking and cleaning and a good weekend was had by all. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the participants and staff to thank Martin (Ancrum Outdoor Education Centre) for leading the activities during the weekend.

Lesley Wallace  
Communities Worker