

Ness - Barvas

FREE Community Newsletter

Issue No. 11 ~ Friday 28 August 2020

Published by Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn with volunteer support

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn is a company registered in Scotland No.273903 and a charity registered in Scotland No. SC036903

Campervan concerns put forward by the Comhairle

Most, if not all of us have noticed the increase in tourist traffic on the island in recent weeks and months. On the 18th August, the Comhairle released the following statement in response to the concerns of island residents that have been raised with reference to this type of traffic.

"Further to a meeting in July with Paul Wheelhouse, MSP, and Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, the Comhairle wrote to the Minister on 11th August expressing its concerns and those of its communities about the significant increase in campervans and motorhomes travelling to the Western Isles since the easing of lockdown. Health and environmental concerns and complaints from communities about 'wild camping' or 'roadside camping' were also put forward.

While the Comhairle's message to campervan and motorhome visitors has been, from the outset, **not to visit the Western Isles unless they have a booking at an official camp site**, given that facilities and services at camp sites are not open, it is apparent that this is being largely ignored, with resultant adverse impacts on the local environment.

The Comhairle reiterated that message in their letter to the Minister and asked that CalMac agree to post the following advisory notice on their website, on behalf of the Comhairle:

"Comhairle nan Eilean Siar requests that during the Covid-19 pandemic, visitors in caravans, motorhomes and campervans pre-book with official campsites on the Western Isles, before travelling. This is the message coming from our local communities and which has our full support to protect the health of visitors and our local communities, so that numbers can be properly managed and waste can be disposed of safely, without detriment to the local environment. This applies to all routes to and visitor destinations within the Western Isles."

The Comhairle is pleased to note that CalMac have agreed to display the message on their website. Cllr Uisdean Robertson, Chair of the Comhairle's Transport and Infrastructure Committee, welcomed the publication of the advisory note and stated that: "Any restriction on the numbers of campervans and motorhomes to the Western Isles during these unprecedented times, that can be brought about, represents a responsible approach which does not impact adversely on the local environment and public health, while still in the local economic interest".

Winner announced for commissioned artwork on Galson Estate

Sculptor and printmaker Virginia Hutchison has been announced as the winner of the commissioned artist's opportunity based on the Galson Estate.

The artist in residence opportunities



Virginia Hutchison at work

are part of a project entitled 'Artists and Community Landowners'. Led by Community Land Scotland and the Stove Network, the two will work across Scotland with the land trusts and artists selected. 'Artists and Community Landowners' aims to raise awareness of community landownership, both in communities and in Scotland, by taking new approaches to telling the stories of post-purchase community landowners, as well as the wider story of community ownership across Scotland. The project will explore what happens when a community takes ownership of an estate, woodland or urban farm and how that affects the community itself and its

continues on p12

Catherine raises £1,390 for WISCK and spòrsnis

Catherine Donner (North Dell), who two months ago set herself a target of running 100 miles and raising £500 for Western Isles Support for Cats and Kittens and the spòrsnis roof appeal, has exceeded both of her targets - raising a total of £1,390 and running 106 miles overall.

In issue 8 of the newsletter, we covered Catherine's running challenge, when, at that point (15th July), Catherine had raised £618. Clearly, she has gone from strength to strength, diligently completing her runs whilst also keeping her dedicated Facebook page updated with all the daily antics.

On Monday 17th August, Catherine and her family ran from their home in North Dell to spòrsnis to complete the milestone target. En-route, cars beeped as they went by and onlookers were in the gardens to offer their support. Many locals met the Donner family at the top of the road in Lionel to run the last stretch with them and, at spòrsnis, a surprise welcome party awaited, with a small, distanced crowd cheering her to the final. After a few words from Simon and Rona from spòrsnis, Catherine was presented with a certificate of her achievement and a few refreshments were served. Catherine later announced on Facebook that the family had celebrated with a meal at Borve House, and that the certificate was now hanging on her bedroom wall.

Well done Catherine on your fantastic achievement!



Catherine, outside spòrsnis, proudly shows off her certificate on the 17th August.

Clan Macquarrie polytunnel giveaway – free to good home!

As mentioned in a recent edition of the *Newsletter*, Clan Macquarrie Community Centre (CMCC) in Borge has reasonably advanced plans to develop a community garden/horticulture space. The planned project will include the erection of a new "Polycrub" at the Centre.

The CMCC committee met recently via Zoom to discuss the fate of the metal structure of the old polytunnel currently on the site, which is still in good condition. The committee decision was that the approximately 10M x 6M metal polytunnel frame, together with a good quality new cover for it, is to be offered **free** to the first resident in the Ballantrushal to Ness area who calls 07483833185 or 850751 AND commits to dismantling and removing the structure from the site by **30th September**. The request is to leave a voicemail with contact details, if either phone is unattended at the time of calling and someone will get back to you.

It is strongly recommended that any interested party visit the site and check for themselves what is involved in removing the structure before committing to taking it away.

Donald 'Ba' Macdonald



A photograph of the structure on offer

Time to evolve and adapt....



Could our Community Investment Fund support your organisation to adapt and take advantage of new opportunities?

Am b' urrainn ar Taic-maoineachaidh Coimhearsnachd, cuideachadh a thoirt don ghnìomhachas agaibh grèim a ghabhail air cothroman ùr?



Covid-19 has affected so much, but perhaps now is an ideal time to evolve and introduce new ways of working?

Tha Covid-19 air buaidh a thoirt air an t-uallachas ach, 's dòcha gur ann an dràsta a bu chòir atharrachadh a dhèanamh agus dòighean ùra obrach a thòiseachadh?

Is there a way to turn the situation into an opportunity?

A bheil dòigh ann an suidheachadh a chleachdadh mar chòrthom?

£1,000
Fund

£5,000
Fund

£10,000
Fund

Get in touch to discuss



Tel: 01851 850393 Email: info@uogitd.com
www.galsontrust.com

A company registered in Scotland - No. 272802 Company in Glasgow - No. 1154
A registered Scottish Charity - No. SC044860 Scottish Charity in Glasgow - No. 1154



Barvas Foodbank

(Dalbeg - Port of Ness)

HERE TO
HELP YOU!

The foodbank was set up to help you!
We all need a little help now and again, if you or someone you know needs this service, please get in touch!

To receive food parcel please contact any of the following numbers -

Sarah - 07927236450
Murdo - 07770824552/840 284
Louis - 07870362449

or message us via our Facebook page.

Please advise of any specific requirements you may have. We will tailor your box to suit your family's needs as much as we can.

ALL request will be dealt with discreetly and in confidence

Self Serve

LAUNDRY

MON TO SAT: 9AM - 7PM

at
Ness Charity Shop
by
Cross Stores

- MASKS must be worn in the Laundrette at all times
- Only TWO people allowed in Laundrette at a time
- Hands must be sanitised on ENTRY
- Spray and wipe machine handles and programme controls BEFORE use
- HANDS should touch only places needed to operate and load/unload the machines
- While clothes are being laundered please LEAVE the building.
- You must return BEFORE the cycle is finished to avoid handling other users' clothes
- Sanitise hands BEFORE leaving





Thank you

Angus Neil Maclean would like to thank all those that telephoned, sent cards and for the generous gifts received on the occasion of his 90th birthday. It is very much appreciated. He had a great day celebrating with his family.

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We would like to say a sincere thank you to all those who telephoned, sent cards, flowers and monetary gifts (which has been donated to Alzheimer Scotland) after Normanna's sad passing - a lovely and kind sister and auntie - she will be so sorely missed.

Mary Ann & family, 31 Cross

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Angus Mackenzie, family and sister of the late Murdina (*Murdag Bheag Chaluim Niceal*) 2 Lionel, wish to thank most sincerely all those who sent cards, monies and messages of condolence during their recent bereavement. Particular thanks to Peigi Mairi Murray for her care of Murdina and support to the family. It is greatly appreciated. Grateful thanks too to all her carers who did everything possible to keep her comfortable, Millie and Lynn, Sandra and Margaret, Murdina and Emma and Ina and Ivy. We are also indebted to Marion and Crossroads Care for all their support.



CROSS SKIGERSTA

Happy 21st Jonathon
Have a good one
Memories are made of this

TUPS FOR SALE

Texel 2 Shear £200
Black Face 2 Shear £150
Cheviot 5 year old £50
Call: 810 640

Condolences

LAURIE BRENNAN-SOFTLEY

We heard recently the sad news that Laurie Brennan-Softley, formerly of Road End Cottage, Port of Ness, had passed away on the 11th July 2020. Laurie was widowed around fifty years ago when her husband was tragically killed in a car accident. She came to Ness in 1988 and left reluctantly around twenty years later to be closer to her family. She missed her little cottage in Ness and the friends she left behind in Lewis. Latterly her health deteriorated and she spent her last year in a nursing home. We extend condolences to family and friends and to all who have fond memories of Laurie.

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### JOHN MORRISON

John Morrison was born at 4 High Street, Skigersta in April 1940. He passed away on 12 August 2020, the eldest in the family of Aonghas Iain Bhig and Agnes Tharmoid, both from Skigersta. When John was eight years old the family moved to Glasgow. When he first went to school in Glasgow he spoke only in Gaelic. On leaving school John began a career working for insurance companies. He was married to Beth and they had two sons, Graeme and Colin. John came to Ness every year on holiday and enjoyed walking on the moors. His younger brother, Norman, passed away in September 1993 and Beth died in December 2009. He is survived by his wife, Lynn, in Perth, his stepson Mark, son Graeme and his wife Paula and their family, Phoebe and Finn, son Colin and his wife Jane and John's sister, Christine, in Marybank, Ross-shire. We extend our condolences to them all at this sad time.

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CATHERINE MARY BURNS

Last weekend we heard the tragic news that Catherine had passed away suddenly in Chesterfield, aged 51. Catherine was the youngest of the family of Andy and Etta Burns, 12 Port of Ness, and sister of Andrea and Finlay. We remember Andy and Etta in their sorrow; Andrea and her husband William and their family; Finlay and his wife Angela, and all of Catherine's loved ones; her friends, and all who remember her growing up here in Ness.

Our final Ness - Barvas Free Community Newsletter

This edition will be the last of the Ness - Barvas Free Community Newsletter, as the team return to their original home at *fios*.

We would like to thank Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn for funding the newsletter initiative in the absence of *fios*, and to spòrsnis for the use of printing equipment.

Thank you to our writers and all of our guest contributors, whose words provided humour, comfort and insight during a peculiar and often worrisome time. Thank you to our proof-readers and to those who assisted with printing and distributing paper copies.

Thank you to those who supported the initiative financially, both through buying advertising and also through generous donations.

Lastly, we would like to thank our readers. We have received many messages during the production of the newsletter: some via word of mouth here in Lewis, and some all the way from Australia and America. We are grateful for your kind words and glad you have enjoyed reading the newsletter.

fios will re-commence in September, with Friday 11th September being the first post-lockdown edition.

Mòran taing, a h-uile duine.

Tom's Titbits

Roadside camping, wild camping, and Motor Home Madness seem to have taken over people's thoughts and comments and many headlines in the past few weeks, and rightly so, as we are being besieged by a different kind of tourist this year. Reports of all kinds of rubbish being discarded wherever people hang their hat are plentiful all over the island and that's annoying. I think the kind of travellers we are getting this year are the Lager Lout Brigade or the Benidorm Type (no disrespect to anyone who goes to Benidorm, but you know what I mean), who cannot go abroad this year because of Covid-19 so they headed for the land of the Teuchters. The sensible people that we normally get have stayed at home because that would be the sensible thing to do. Motor homes have been here in recent years in abundance but we haven't had this kind of hassle, and even if the facilities available are limited, common decency should prevent the kind of behaviour we've been witnessing. If I can train a puppy to do his toilet in a certain place surely it's not beyond any human of average intelligence to dispose of their waste properly. I spoke to a person from Harris who told me that a woman was seen crouching beside a car in a lay-by on a fairly remote roadside having a *dileag* and I don't have a problem with that. If I'm down in the faraway croft with the tractor and I need a Jimmy Riddle I'm certainly not going to run all the way home for a wee. There is a handy space between the big wheel of the Massey Ferguson and the driver's seat which allows me to do the business standing up without being seen and I wouldn't be the first guy to do it. It's been going on for years! Quite often we get instances of fly tipping here by locals, so all the blame doesn't lie with incomers, and we humans have a knack of messing most things up, particularly when it comes to beauty spots and the land that we occupy. Last year the Government of Nepal cleared 11 tons of trash off Mount Everest to the point where one now has to pay a deposit to climb it. This is refunded when you present your rubbish if you make it back to base. I don't think it would work here but maybe the infestation of midgies and the unpredictable weather will help to send the undesirables back to foreign soil next year. Either that or they change their ways and I'm sure they'd be very welcome here. We don't want to lose our famous island hospitality, but the place must be appreciated and respected.

I received a phone call the other morning which if I was a frail old person living alone would have certainly alarmed me. The guy in a very cultured voice asked me if I was Mr. Maciver, to which I replied that I was just one of the many, as apparently



by Tom Maciver

using the word yes on the phone can trigger something that may well empty one's bank account, which I don't need any assistance with, as we make a perfectly good job of that ourselves. He then went on to inform me that if I didn't press one on my phone a warrant would be issued with my name on it and I would be arrested shortly. I didn't panic, being an honest law-abiding citizen and all that, but I did give the odd nervous look out from behind the blinds waiting for the sirens and the blue lights to come screaming down the Borve hill. I decided to share the experience on Facebook in order to see if this was something that had happened to others and maybe receive some advice or sympathy. Huh! The prospect of me being incarcerated in Porterfield didn't evoke much compassion and brought out some very cynical remarks, which gave me an idea of my standing in this community. One person whom I used to think of as a friend remarked that it was not before time I got lifted and some other wag shared that he was glad they had caught up with me at last. I even had an offer of a cake with a file in it, probably a nail file. There was a similar attitude when I shared, along with a photograph, that I'd mowed a part of our croft and constructed two haystacks which were available free to a good home. I'm not an expert at making hay even when the sun shines and I must admit they did look a bit like Rod Stewart's hair on a bad day, but I did my best. No balers here, just the old fashioned racan and fork but all to no avail as the hay is still there and will probably be dumped or burnt. I'm not really that surprised as unlike most other things it's not wrapped in plastic and didn't come from Amazon. Our Country Music Guru suggested that Willie Nelson likes grass so maybe I could ship some of this high quality High Borve ganja out to him in the States along with a box of Rizla and he could share a blow with his President to see if it will bring some sense out of him.

I took a spin up to the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse to view the new parking improvements the other day as I'd seen a few moans about the finished job on Facebook, one of them coming from a local tour bus driver. It certainly is an improvement but only one bus space and I feel more could be done with the space available. However we have to understand that the Comhairle have little or no money and also that the land may have been needed to graze a few sheep. If the driver has any more problems parking his bus he could do worse than consult some of the Scottish Football Premier League team managers. They could certainly show him how it's done.

Beannachd leibh,

Tom

Free house numbers for residents of the Galson Estate

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn is inviting residents of the Galson Estate to apply for a **free** house number for the exterior of their home to assist and improve the efficiency of our First Responders and delivery persons.

After receiving funding from the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations Wellbeing Fund (SCVO), the Urras aim to offer all estate residents a free house number, which will make identifying properties easier in a time-critical situation. This includes Cross Skigersta Road. Local business Graphite Signs in Stornoway have been contracted to supply these tastefully designed, slate house numbers, which will measure approx. 100mm by 150mm.

There are a number of reasons why having a visible number on the exterior of your house is useful and potentially life-saving. These include:

- Improving and increasing the efficiency of first responders,

- Helping delivery drivers, especially those delivering prescriptions,
- Building a feeling of greater resilience and safety within the community.

Many of these statements were echoed by Martin Macleod, from the Scottish Ambulance Service, who, when approached for comment about the numbering project, said: "In a time-critical situation, finding the correct address without the need for maps or Google etcetera, could really be the difference between life and death. Knowing that every house is easily identified avoids wasted time en-route."

With this in mind, we would invite you to apply for a free house number by either visiting:

<https://www.galsontrust.com/housenumberingscheme>

and completing the form there, or by filling out the cut-out slip on the page adjacent and posting to:

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn, Sgoil Chrois, Cross, HS2 0SN



To assist emergency services find houses, Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn are providing estate households* with a fully funded reflective slate house number. To receive your number, please complete the following:

*includes Cross Skigersta Road

Name | Ainm:

Email/Phone | Post-d/fòn:

Address | Seòladh:

Postcode:

Please specify the house number you would like printed:

Numbers must be installed by the home owner. If you have health or mobility issues which prevent you from self-installation, please tick here to request assistance.

☐

Please return your form to Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn in the either of the following ways by the deadline of : Friday 30th September

Alternatively, a digital form is available online at www.galsontrust.com

Send a photo/scan to: office@uogltld.com

Cut this form out and post to:
Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn, Comunn Eachdraidh Nis,
Sgoil Chrois, North Dell, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0SN

For more info visit our website
www.galsontrust.com

DISCLAIMER: House names cannot be accepted. Installation, if required, will be outsourced to a local third party organisation and UOG will not be held liable for damage to property.

Walk the Hebrides this summer!

Are you ready to walk the length of the Outer Hebrides over six weeks this summer?

If so, this is your chance to join the NHS Western Isles' step count challenge. You will cover 172 miles, tracking progress along a virtual route of the Outer Hebrides using the Big Team Challenge app and web system. Last year's challenge attracted over 300 people from across the islands. Participants stated that they found the challenge helped them reach individual goals, such as taking part in more everyday walking and taking part in other local physical activity events. Some participants progressed to jogging and running. Many said they felt benefits to their health from the additional physical activity such as maintaining a healthy weight and managing stress.

While the residents of the Outer Hebrides are known for their resilience, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented changes and challenges which can have a negative effect on mental health. With the introduction of shielding, self-isolating and an increase in home-working, there has been a rise in sedentary behaviour and inactivity across the country. With people now able to move around more freely, the step count challenge offers the perfect opportunity to improve health through walking.

Dr Maggie Watts, NHS Western Isles Director of Public Health, said: "Although the weather can be difficult sometimes, getting out and about around our beautiful islands can make a big difference to our mental and physical health and wellbeing. This year's Step Challenge will help people return to walking after the long months of lockdown and travel limitations. So sign up and step out in 2020!"

Participants are encouraged to use The Big Team Challenge web and app system, logging steps and distance along a virtual route of the Outer Hebrides. Registration opens on Monday 17th August at 1pm and closes at midnight on 31st August when the six week challenge starts on Barra in the south and finishes at the Butt of Lewis in the north. The challenge is free and open to residents of the Outer Hebrides aged 13 years and over. Walking is a great way to improve your fitness and general health and wellbeing.

Participants can enter as an individual or as a team of two. Individuals should aim for 9,500 steps per day. Teams of two should each aim for 4,750 steps per day and combine their steps to reach the finish line. The team option may be most suitable for people who currently undertake no activity, low activity or with low mobility. An activity-to-steps conversion chart will be provided, allowing participants to add activities other than walking to their steps total.

Karen Peteranna, NHS Western Isles Health Improvement Practitioner, said "Last year's step count challenge saw over 48,000 miles of steps logged by walkers across the Outer Hebrides - that equates to walking around the world twice! This was an incredible effort from walkers and we hope new and old walkers will be encouraged to join in this year, as walking for just 30 minutes a day can bring benefits to our all round health: our physical, social and mental health."

To register visit:
walkonhebrides.com
bigteamchallenge.com

For further information on the challenge: -

Email: wi.walkonheb@nhs.net

Telephone:

Lewis & Harris - 01851 76 2015
Uists & Barra - 01870 602 588



Dè tha dol? Alex John Moiresdean

Gàrradh Coimhearsnachd

Chaidh a' chiad mhios agam aig an Urras seachad gu math luath. Ged a tha cùisean fhathast neònach dhuinn uile, tha e math gu bheil feadhainn de rudan a' dol air ais chun na h-àbhaist. Tha na sgoiltean air fosgladh agus tha sinn uile gu slaodach a' dol air ais a dh'obair is a' faicinn a chèile a-rithist. Ged nach eil sinn air ais anns an oifis, tha gu leòr phlanaichean a' dol airson ròiseactan eadar-dhealaichte agus nam measg, tha gàrradh coimhearsnachd ùr gu bhith air a thogail.

Thèid an gàrradh a thogail aig Talla Choimhearsnachd Sgìre Airidhantuim (Clan Macquarrie Community Centre). 'S e co-obrachadh eadar Urras Oighreachd Ghabhainsinn agus Talla Choimhearsnachd Airidhantuim a tha sa phròiseact agus tha sinn an dùil gun tèid toiseach tòiseachaidh a dhèanamh air obair a' ghàrraidh as t-fhoghar. Tha maoineachadh air fhaighinn bhò 'Action Earth' agus 'Maoineachadh Coimhearsnachd An Crannchur Nàiseanta' agus tha sinn gu math taingeil gu bheil sin againn. Bidh feannagan ann airson diofar lusan agus glasraich fhàs agus a bharrachd air an sin bidh lusragan is measan ann cuideachd. Tha sinn an dòchas gun tèid 'polycrubs' a thogail gu iomadh rud a chur agus tha iad seo seasmhach airson an tìde garbh as urrainn a bhith againn air Taobh Siar Leòdhas. Tha iad seo coltach ri 'polytunnels' ach nas làidire.

San fharsaingeachd, tha sinn an dòchas gur e gàrradh breagha a bhios an seo a tha math airson luchd-turais agus muinntir an àite fhèin tadhal air agus cuideachd àite a bhios na thogail don choimhearsnachd air fad.

Tha sinn cuideachd a' coimhead airson saor-thoilich a bhiodh deònach cuideachadh leis a' ghàrradh fhèin agus ma tha sibh airson sin a dhèanamh, cuiribh fios leis an fhiosrachadh a tha gu h-ìosal. Bidh seiseanan ann gach seachdain do dhuine sam bith aig a bheil ùidh ann an obair a' ghàrraidh agus thathar an dùil òraidean eadar-dhealaichte a bhith ann gach mìos aig Talla Choimhearsnachd Sgìre Airidhantuim, air cuspairean co-cheangailte ri tuathanachas le diofar dhaoine a' dèanamh òraid gach turas.

Ma tha ùidh agaibh a bhith an sàs ann an obair a' ghàrraidh, no ma tha ceist sam bith agaibh, cuiribh fios thugainn aig:

office@uoglt.com

Tha mi an dòchas gum bi seachdain math agaibh uile.



spòrs nis Updates from spòrsnis

by Simon Amos

When you come to spòrsnis you will see some improvements. The entire building has been painted outside (by Rona and Yallie Morrison), the inside has been painted (by Dods), the hall floor has been totally renovated, and the gym equipment all fixed. We have fixed broken lighting, cleaned carpets and chairs, polished floors and mended as many broken things as we could find. A team of volunteers and supporters have been busy helping out and lending us equipment along with the regular staff - thank you very much for all your hard work.

There will be restrictions at spòrsnis of course - alcohol gel everywhere, face coverings required (unless exercising), 2 metre spacings for exercise classes and we have had to modify how you are able to access the facilities. But let's not dwell on the challenges - spòrsnis is back!

Here is how it is going to work:

- You will need to book the gym or bowling. There will be one-hour slots and all you need to do is to phone (810039) or email (bookings@sporsnis.co.uk) to reserve your time. You can exercise or bowl with people in your 'bubble' but not with anyone else (yet).
- When you come to spòrsnis please respect the 2 metre distancing guidelines. We really don't want to be responsible for any kind of outbreak so will be quite strict to protect you and everyone else.
- For the time being there won't be changing or shower facilities available so please arrive in your training kit and bring a jacket to keep you warm on your way home. There will be drinks and water to buy as usual.
- We will give you a printed sheet with the guidelines for your use of the facility. They will cover cleaning and any Dos and Don'ts, so that you are clear about how to safely enjoy spòrsnis.

The temporary timetable will look like this:

| Mon | Chair Aerobics 11am - 12pm | Kids' Badminton - 6 - 7pm | Open Badminton - 7 - 8pm | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Tue | | | Circuits with Alison - 7 - 8pm | |
| Wed | | Kids' Club - 6 - 7pm | | Netball 8pm - 9pm |
| Thu | | | | |
| Fri | | Easy Circuits - 6.30 - 7.30pm | | |
| Sat | Kids' Club - 10am - 12pm | | Youth Club - 7pm - 9pm | |

Our congratulations to Shona and Calley on the safe arrival of their daughter earlier this week.

HABOST AMENITY SITE OPENING HOURS



| | | OPENS | CLOSES |
|----------|--|-------------|-------------|
| MONDAY | | 2PM | 4PM |
| THURSDAY | | 10AM | 12PM |
| SATURDAY | | 10AM 2PM | 12PM 4PM |

Notice from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar SWIMMING POOLS

Each of our facilities will be operating on limited capacity in line with Scottish Government and national guidance. We will update customers as soon as we can with more information about specific opening dates and booking arrangements and Sport and Health staff are grateful for everyone's understanding in these difficult times for us all.

Our pools at Lionel and Shawbost **will not be available until Phase 4 of the Scottish Government roadmap** because of operational reasons relating to their position within school sites.

PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A CROFT

ANGUS NORMAN MACDONALD is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 51 LOWER BARVAS, PARISH OF BARVAS, ISLE OF LEWIS, HS2 0QY to ALLAN MORRISON, SONAS, LOWER BARVAS, PARISH OF BARVAS, ISLE OF LEWIS, HS2 0QY.

If you consider you have a relevant interest in this application, you may submit comments in writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or email info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A CROFT

LEO REES-EVANS is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 3 EOROPPE, PARISH OF BARVAS, ISLE OF LEWIS, HS2 0XH to LEO REES-EVANS, 42 SWAINBOST, NESS, HS2 0TA.

If you consider you have a relevant interest in this application, you may submit comments in writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or email info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Have your say - invitation by the Scottish Parliament



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The financial impact of Covid-19 is being explored by Holyrood's Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee.

The Committee has already sought written evidence on the general impact of COVID-19 on the rural economy and connectivity. Now the Committee is focussing on the financial impact of the pandemic.

It is asking how future funding from the Scottish Government's budget should be used to support long-term recovery in the rural economy and across Scotland's transport and digital networks.

Responses to the call for evidence will help to inform the Committee's ongoing work to scrutinise public spending in these areas and to influence the Scottish Government's draft budget when it is published later in the year.

Committee Convener, Edward Mountain MSP said: "There is little doubt the pandemic has affected every sector of Scotland's economy. But for some areas, as we have already heard, these effects have been particularly significant.

"For sectors including transport and fisheries, there have been immediate impacts. In other key areas of the rural economy, such as agriculture, there are also long-term implications and challenges to consider.

"The Committee wants to hear from those most affected about how public spending needs to change to address these challenges. What support would make a real impact?

"What are the urgent priorities and what should be the longer term financial strategy to deliver a sustainable recovery in Scotland's transport systems, digital connectivity and the rural economy?"

The Committee is asking a series of questions. These include:

- How can future budgets best be deployed to develop resilient rural businesses, communities and supply chains?
- Is Brexit likely to pose additional challenges for the rural economy in recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and how should funding best be allocated to support recovery of the rural economy in this context?
- What, if any, specific financial support should the Scottish Government provide to transport operators while social distancing measures remain in place?
- How can future budgets best be deployed to lock in the shift towards active travel that has occurred during lockdown?

The call for evidence follows previous work of the Committee exploring the wider impacts of Covid-19. Information about that call for evidence, which closes on 21 August, can be found here:

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115229.aspx>

The current call for views will be open until **Friday 18 September 2020**. Responses should be sent to: rec.committee@parliament.scot

More information can be found via the Committee's webpages.

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Walkies

Us Brits like to think of ourselves as a nation of pet lovers, but the Germans are taking things to a whole new level by adopting a more holistic approach to their welfare. A soon-to-be-introduced law called the *Hundeverordnung*, or Dog Act will require owners to walk their pets at least twice a day. We are not talking here about a quick stroll around the petunias or, in my case, the dandelions. In fact, the Germans are being quite dogmatic with the new legislation, as it will require owners to take their pooches for twice daily, hour-long walkies!

The *Hundeverordnung* also demands that the family dog cannot be left alone at home all day and, additionally, they can't be kept outside on a long lead or chain for extended periods of time while their owners go off to work or attend to their own personal business. The Act, which is being introduced by the German agriculture minister Julia Klöckner, aims to ensure the country's 9.4 million dogs receive enough exercise to meet their physical and emotional needs, with Frau Klöckner stating that dogs require a "sufficient measure of activity and contact with environmental stimuli, including engaging with other animals, nature and people".

The proposed legislation is not universally welcome among German pet owners, with many complaining that it is plain barking mad and too much of an imposition on their lives and that of their pets. Opponents claim, among other things, that many dogs will not be able to undertake twice-daily hour-long walking sessions due to infirmity or the age of the animal.

Reflecting on life in the community back in the 1970s and '80s, most families in Ness would have had a dog around the house. At that time, when families tended to maintain more livestock than you see today, households typically owned a collie that could combine the family pet role with that of a sheepdog that was able to occasionally harass the livestock in a semi-controlled manner.

These dogs certainly didn't require a mandatory hour of exercise twice a day as they were rarely kept indoors during daylight hours, or spent their time chained to the washing line. Local dogs back then were typically 'free-range' - a term usually applied these days to chickens that lay premium eggs. Indeed, the vast majority of local chickens at that time were 'free range', with the dominant cockerel in each household being extremely protective of his harem and ensuring they didn't stray too far from home or, more importantly, crossing into the domain of a neighbouring cockerel. There was usually no need of a Rylock fence to keep the hens from straying too far from home.

Although local dogs were generally able to roam around the village, like the chickens they generally maintained their own territorial boundaries around the family home and croft. When a pooch wandered into a neighbouring animal's territory, there might be a bit of posturing, snarling and gnashing of teeth, with the occasional full-on fight to settle a few scores, but order would soon be restored.

At some point in time we became civilised in Ness and felt the need to tether our dogs and run behind them with a plastic bag, trying desperately to anticipate their next bowel motion. Dog fouling in public spaces became anathema within civilised society, and our dogs had to make do with a few turns around the sofa of an afternoon while their owners were away at work.

I do admit to a degree of nostalgia when I reminisce back to a time when the free-range dog cocked a leg at a neighbour's gate, marking it and challenging the resident mutt to pee higher up the post if it could. If the visitor was a big collie, and the incumbent was a wee terrier, it was hardly a fair contest as the latter wouldn't really have much of a leg to stand on.

For as long as I can remember, my own family always had a pet dog around the house, which was invariably pampered, pestered and loved in equal measure until, unfortunately, they succumbed to

either illness or traffic. Living in a 'council house' for many of these years, there was little scope to exercise an Afghan hound around the back garden. So, we tended to lean towards the 'Heinz 57' - a mongrel terrier that could have as many as 57 varieties in its gene pool. In every instance, these dogs were much-cherished by the family, and loyal companions that demanded little in return for their affection.

My gran's house in Lionel tended towards the collie, which could be equally loyal and loveable, but was more naturally suited to help gather the livestock, rather than disperse them, which my wee terrier would do given half a chance. The last of the line in my gran's house was a big, burly brown and white collie that my uncle Murdo acquired from local sheep aficionado and raconteur, Donald 'An Gibearnach' Macdonald from Habost. 'Brandy', as this fine animal was called, was with the family for many years until it finally died of old age. Although Brandy could not be described as instinctively or naturally gifted as a sheepdog, it never-the-less was able to provide the necessary shepherding services that were required to manage a small flock. He was a lovely, big softy of a dog and, unlike his previous owner, *An Gibearnach*, he was a bit of a ladies' man when the opportunity presented itself.

I recall one occasion when there was a lady dog on heat strutting her stuff around the villages, sending out pheromones and doggy signals that was apparently driving the local dog population to distraction. As nobody was going to be at home on this particular day, Brandy had been shut away in the kitchen, or 'scullery' as it was called, to prevent him doing a runner and getting up to no good with the canine floozy down the road.

On returning home later that evening, the resident uncle discovered a scene of utter carnage with the four-pane, timber-framed window well and truly smashed, and the tattered Venetian blind hanging precariously outside the window recess. The scene had all the hallmarks of an 'inside job' - this was evidently a 'break-out', not a 'break-in'. In the heat of the moment, primordial instincts had overcome the mutt and in a moment of madness he had leapt clean through the window. I can only assume that he was well aware that the old scullery was on the ground floor?

Another time, the dog was tucked safely away in the byre as all the signs were there that he was having these urges again. The building had a back door that had a small square cut out at the bottom, which had previously been used as a kind of 'hen flap' to allow chickens in and out of the byre, where they had been kept in the past. This recess, which had been covered over with a piece of nailed wood, hardly looked like a possible escape route for the dog. However, Brandy saw it all as yet another challenge. After spotting a possible weakness in the defences and chewing his way through most of the door, a rhinoceros could have ambled through that hole once he was done with it!

I wonder what Brandy would have made of the *Hundeverordnung*?

....and finally

One of the star attractions at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) has produced offspring for the first time since the original plant arrived way back in 2003. The Titan Arum is one of the world's most pungent plants, producing a stench that's likened to rotting fish, old bins, sweaty shoes and sewage. Also known as 'the corpse flower', because it gives off an odour that is not unlike the smell of dead and decaying animals when it comes into bloom.

Following a collaboration between the Botanic Garden in Edinburgh and the Eden Project, based in Cornwall, horticulturists have successfully grown the first "baby titan" from the original plant.

Paulina Maciejewska-Daruk said of their new botanical charge: "It is likely to produce a leaf each year until it reaches maturity, maybe around ten years from now."

I'll need to reach out to my Edinburgh connections to see if I can acquire a cutting. With one of these beauties, I can blame the plant every time I remove my shoes in the house!

Sporting Viewpoint

by Alastair Dunlop



Purple is the colour that occurs least frequently in nature according to Wikipedia. In the West it is the colour most associated with piety and religious faith as can be seen in our local churches. It is also closely associated with royalty and that is one of the reasons Real (Royal) Madrid had an away purple strip in 2016. In the same year so did Barcelona, probably to annoy them but it is also a combination of their two main colours red and blue. What is the point of this? I have just returned from walking on the moor and it seems to me the purple of the heather is exceptional this year.

I spent some days hill walking on the mainland again last week, no purple to be seen but the weather was superb with hot sunshine. The Forcan Ridge in Kintail which I mentioned in the last issue was exciting and not too difficult. As in most places there is usually a 'bail out' route to bypass tricky parts. I am pleased *fios* has hundreds of readers but probably not thousands so I will mention a special place without worrying it will be overwhelmed by visitors. I have been to Glenelg before but this time I went to the end of the road to Arnisdale to climb a steep hill. I have been to almost every part of the country but I cannot think of a more picturesque village. Of course the sun shone all day which helps. If you make it that far go to the wonderful coffee shop on the beach right at the very end.

I did watch the Champions League cup final and I was pleased Bayern Munich won as they are certainly the best team around at the moment. Perhaps not quite so impressive in the final but some credit for that has to go to the opposition. How annoying is Neymar Jr? If he spent more time on his feet than on his back he could surely repay some of his inflated transfer fee much quicker. He allegedly arrived in Paris with an entourage of about twenty hangers on. See Kieran Tierney, proper player, turns up himself, no inflated ego, Tesco bag in hand. I know who I'd rather have in my team.

I watched a small athletics junior event in town last Saturday. There were many good performances from youngsters from Ness and the Westside. It was inspiring and depressing as I noted the U-13 girls winner's 800m time. That is about my standard now. Seriously I am happy to be running and I know these youngsters are amongst some of the best in the country so it's not that bad.

Our young footballers are also doing well and youth training restarts this week on Wednesdays at the pitch. The latest guidance also states senior training can restart and friendlies for youth players can start after 11th September with the usual caveats. I know our local junior league are asking teams if they wish to start this year's U-15 and U-18 leagues in October if we get permission. It appears very unlikely there will be any senior football at a local level this year. There appears to be no great clamouring to salvage something from a disrupted spring / summer. Maybe a seven a side league for those most enthusiastic over the winter? All of course depending on the latest advice.

Tolsta to Ness event

This was cancelled in June along with everything else. Ness Runners applied to the Council to try again on the 3rd October. This time the participants would be allocated starting slots e.g five minutes apart. All would arrive at the start and depart from the finish on their own. All the entries would be local, entry is free and no medals would be given. Sadly and we fully understand permission has been denied but it is subject to review next month so you never know. Keep training anyway for a tough ten mile slog. If it does go ahead we will need some marshalls. In the meantime you can enter the virtual Westside 10K to be run on the weekend of the 26th Sept.

BBC ALBA launches new digital only women's sports programme

BBC ALBA has launched a new digital-only women's sports show – the first of its kind in Scotland.

The programme, '360', will showcase the women and empowering stories in Scottish sport and will be available simultaneously on both BBC ALBA, YouTube and the BBC website.

BBC ALBA positions itself as the home of Scottish women's sport, and '360' represents significant further investment in coverage of women's sport in Scotland.

This announcement comes shortly after the channel's agreement to double its output of women's domestic football in Scotland over the next season, in an agreement with Scottish Women's Football.

The new magazine show launched its first programme on Thursday, August 20th at 8pm. '360' is presented by Iona Ballantyne, and will focus primarily on BBC ALBA's core sports of football, rugby and shinty. Iona (26) from Glasgow, said: "It's very exciting to be involved with this pioneering new programme from BBC ALBA, which is the first of its kind in Scotland."

"Hopefully '360' spurs things on for women's sport in Scotland so that it gets the platform it deserves. Change is definitely happening now and it's wonderful to be part of it."

'360' will celebrate the extraordinary talent within Scotland and beyond, and highlight key issues of the day. It will include interviews with the biggest names in Scottish women's sport, exclusive highlights and unique behind-the-scenes features.

The first edition of '360' included a focus on Glasgow City FC and their fixture against Wolfsburg in the UEFA Women's Champions League quarter final. The match was then shown live on BBC ALBA on Friday 21st, the day following '360's first edition. Viewers also heard from Angel City, the newly formed National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) team in Los Angeles, and South African Captain Janine Van Wyk.

Closer to home, Iona will find out how SWPL clubs have been preparing for getting back to football and she will be joined in the studio by Gemma Fay, former Scotland goalkeeper and Head of Women and Girls Rugby at Scottish Rugby.

Iseabail Mactaggart, Director of Multiplatform Content at channel partner, MG ALBA, said: "We are proud to be strengthening our coverage of women's sport in Scotland even further with '360'."

"The show will add a further rich dimension to complement our extensive live game coverage . . .

"Increasing numbers of viewers are consuming on digital platforms, including YouTube, and we are proud to pioneer the creation of even more women's sports content in this format."

"'360' creates an opportunity for us to increase the profile of women's sport and ensure that BBC ALBA output is on digital platforms, with high quality, relevant output."

'360' is available on YouTube (YouTube.com/bbcalba) and on the BBC website at bbc.co.uk/alba360.



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Changes to system - Habost Surgery prescription deliveries

From **1st September** there will only be **ONE** delivery to each area each week. Days are as follows:

Tuesday: Eoropie; Fivepenny; Knockaird; Port of Ness; Lionel; Skigersta; Eorodale; Adabrock

Wednesday: Cross Skigersta Road; Habost; Swainbost; Cross; North/South Dell; Galson

Friday: Borge; Shader; Barvas

If you would prefer to collect your prescription from the Habost Clinic then please inform the staff at the time of ordering. You can collect your prescription between **2.00pm - 4.00pm**. Masks must be worn when entering the building. You must also keep your 2 metre distancing. Please ensure that you order your prescription **3 days in advance** to allow time to dispense and restock.

Many thanks for your cooperation at this difficult time.

Changes to system - Langabhat Surgery prescription deliveries

From **1st September** there will be a slightly reduced service with prescription deliveries in the Brue to Ness area on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons only**.

Many thanks for your continued support and also to all the volunteers.

LOCH STIAPABHAT LNR

Our Nature Observatory is now open!



Please adhere to these safety guidelines as we move out of lockdown.



STEP 1 - HAND SANITISER

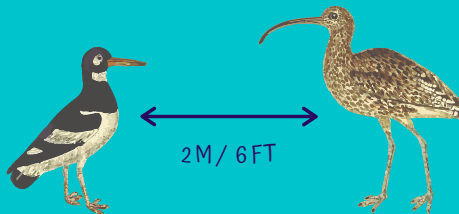
Clean hands with alcohol-based hand sanitiser provided at the gate & door.



STEP 2 - PHYSICAL DISTANCING

A maximum of two people or one household in the hide at any one time.

Maintain at least 2 metres distance between yourself and anyone outwith your household.



STEP 3 - CARD SYSTEM

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Please **flip the card from green to red** when you leave the gate so others know it's occupied, and **remember to flip back to green on your return**.

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reflections

by Revd. Dougie Wolf

Missing Church?

If you are like me, you will be missing church. I know we have had a great time listening to the many different sermons online, and from all over the globe. Yet, it is not the same as physically going to church and listening to the word of God preached. Or perhaps you have already returned and just beginning to enjoy the different way in which we approach this 'new norm' we are faced with? Either way, you will remember that key and central to whatever way we now find ourselves, the word of God has and is paramount to our survival as believers.

Look at what 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV) tells us:

'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.'

Notice there are four headings we can see emerge from this verse with great encouragement for ourselves, no matter our situation – 'Teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.'

So firstly, 'teaching' is something we never cease to need, no matter what age we are. Whether we are young or getting on in years we need teaching, and that has been made very apparent over the lockdown period. People doing home-schooling have needed teaching, so have their children; people using technology have needed teaching; people understanding the Covid-19 pandemic have needed teaching. There is one thing that we get from the word of God: that is truthful, purposeful, constant teaching - God-breathed and useful teaching. The literal meaning is God's Holy Spirit spoke (breathed) these words to those who wrote the bible, that is how much difference this teaching should make, it comes straight from God.

Secondly, 'rebuking' can be a difficult prospect to think about. Nobody really wants to be rebuked. So why would this also be 'useful' as the verse instructs? This is where the context of the verse is useful. So let's look at the whole chapter where it is found, chapter three. The chapter starts by explaining what is coming, and Paul says, verse one, 'But mark this: there will be terrible times coming'. He wasn't wrong, and then

he goes on to tell how this will come. That is through people. Look at verse two: 'People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. He wasn't wrong, and that is why 'I miss church', because when we meet together at church there is order, fellowship, worship, prayer, teaching. Without these things we often get into our own little ways of doing things that are listed previously.

Thirdly, 'correction' is therefore needed. So we, and I include myself in this, can get back to the ways Paul explains in verse ten: 'faith, patience, love, endurance'. These are fruits of the Spirit, and these are ways in which we need correction. Why? Because we get out of the habit of having faith – if we don't see it in action; patience is something learnt, because we rub up against people; love is shown and experienced, because of godly human interaction; endurance is a race of longevity, and not a sprint. Every single one of us needs correction, especially if we are out of the habit of doing something like church. Just like not driving a car for a few months, and then jumping back into the car and expecting to remember. We all need correction.

Fourthly, 'training in righteousness' is probably our most important aspect we need God to 'breathe' into us through the power of his Holy Spirit. Remember only Christ is righteous; only he was without sin.

Dr Ravi Zacharias came up with a true witty story of a New Zealand Shepherd who was happy on a Christmas morning, sad in the afternoon but once again happy in the evening. What exactly contributed to his mood swings?

In the morning two of his ewes "A" and "B" gave birth to two lambs "a" and "b" respectively which brought joy to his heart, understandably, as his flock-size grew. However by afternoon he was sad and confused not only because one mother ewe "B" and one baby lamb "a" had died, but also because surviving mother ewe "A" was now refusing to feed suckling lamb "b" when the latter was brought to it for feeding. By evening the Shepherd was smiling ear to ear because finally "A" accepted "b" but only after the Wise Shepherd had cut the skin of the dead lamb "a" and had put it on "b".

Father God also accepts us only when we come to Him clothed with Holy robes of His Sinless Son Jesus Christ who died on the Cross giving us access to the same (2 Cor 5:21/John 14:6).

If you are missing church, please remember to read the word of God. 2 Timothy 3:15 tells us 'the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.'

Amen.

Winner announced for commissioned artwork on Galson Estate

continued from front page

relationship to the land. Commissioned works will be created across Scotland working with a range of land trusts, including Abriachan Forest Trust, the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, North Harris Trust, South West Mull and Iona Development, Bridgend Farmhouse in Edinburgh and Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn.

Virginia Hutchison, from Lewis, will work with the Urras here in north Lewis to create an installation in the form of waymarkers representing personal and collective conversations about the community ownership of the estate. Speaking about her commissioned installation, she said: "Countering a fractious history of private landownership in Scotland, community landowners like Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn have embarked on a strategic programme of development that involves the whole community in the processes of decision making. I'm delighted to be collaborating with the Urras to find creative methods of recounting the collective experiences of the buyout

and the events that led up to it. How this narrative is developed alongside the Stove Network and Community Land Scotland will be invaluable to the development of the Urras and to other communities who are about to embark on the process."

Lindsay Chalmers, Development Manager at Community Land Scotland, went on to give some overview as to the scope of the project and its expected outputs:

"We are bringing artists and community landowners together to work collaboratively over a period of four months finding creative and active ways to hear, learn and share their stories.

"The relationship between people and the land inspired Scottish artists and musicians for hundreds of years, but the story of modern community landownership is yet to be fully explored. We wanted to work with artists to tell this important part of Scotland's modern history.

"We have had a terrific response from a wide variety of artists across Scotland working in very different mediums, and it has been a privilege to read their proposals and very hard to select the final successful three. We hope the project will ultimately culminate in an exhibition of their works for everyone to see."

New support to help island youngsters into work

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has welcomed a new Scottish benefit that will help 16 to 24 year olds into work if they have been unemployed for over six months.

The SNP Scottish Government's Job Start Payment is a one-off grant of £250 to help with the costs of starting a new job. The upper age limit rises to 25 for care leavers and the payment rises to £400 if the person has a child.

It is estimated around 5,000 young people across Scotland will benefit from this new financial support in its first year.

Alasdair Allan MSP said: "The job prospects of young people have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and so this announcement of extra support to help our young people into work really couldn't come at a better time.

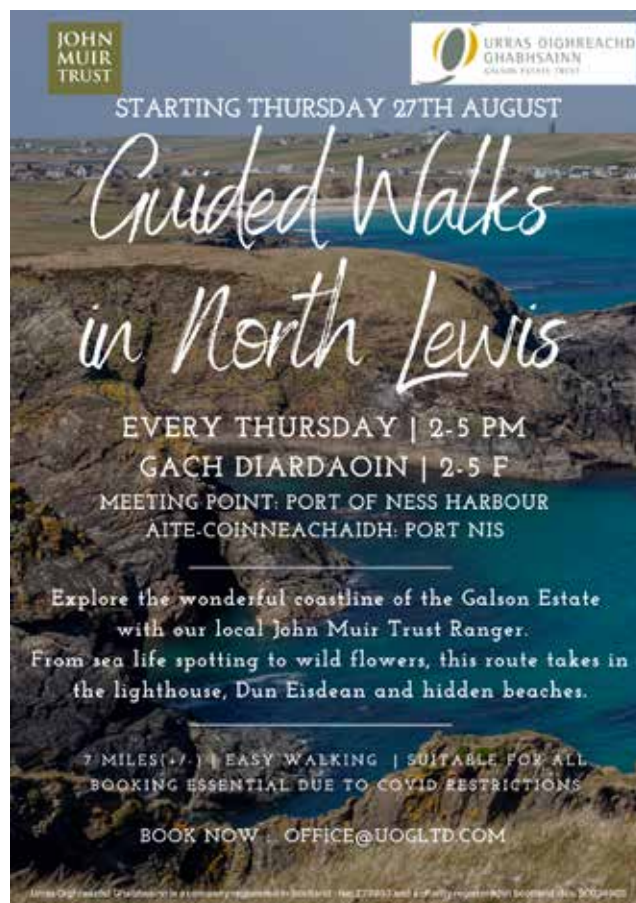
"This payment will help local people with the extra expenses that are often attached to a starting a new job, such as travel costs, new work clothes or even childcare.

"In Government, the SNP is working hard to create new opportunities for work as we rebuild our economy. I'd encourage anyone in the Western Isles who thinks they may be eligible to apply online."

Visit:

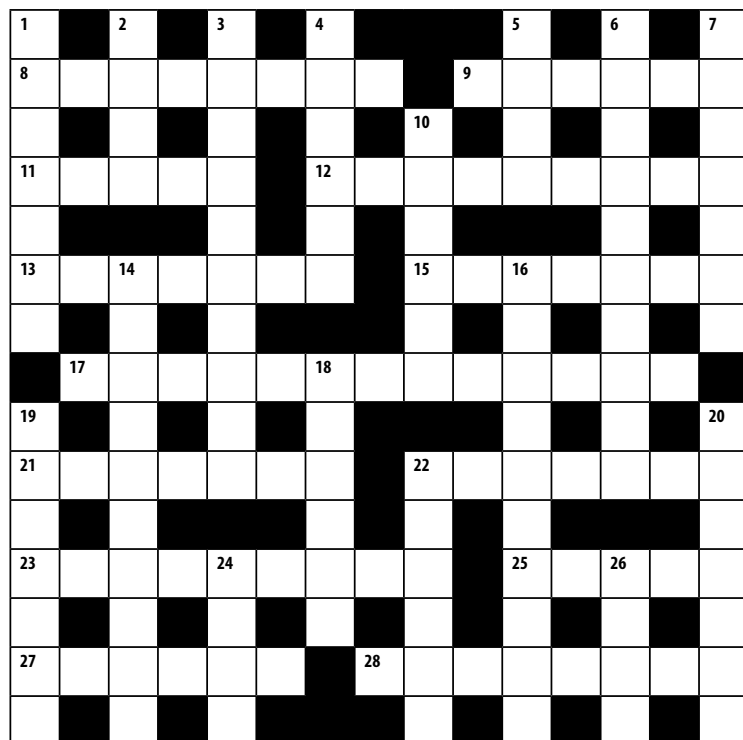
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Ness-Barvas No.11 Crossword 28 August 2020



ACROSS

- 8 Bold, resolute (8)
- 9 Omega elicits our language (6)
- 11 Not hidden (5)
- 12 Prods peer who did well (9, anag)
- 13 Red shade - almost an offence, lad (7)
- 15 Intrigue within an intriguing story? (3-4)
- 17 Confident denial (3,2,3,5)
- 21 Antique, expensive - disrespectful term! (3,4)
- 22 Comes out of sleep (5,2)
- 23 A cat has these (4,5)
- 25 Bode (5)
- 27 When power goes off (6)
- 28 Zone gels with cough sweets (8, anag)
- 6 Ones who hold more than one office (10)
- 7 Aid city with sourness (7, anag)
- 10 Sounds like elk in the dessert (6)
- 14 Excessive (10)
- 16 Local eatery - though you can't actually do this! (10)
- 18 Grow, do well (6)
- 19 PM is Mac Iain (7)
- 20 Film file (7)
- 22 Do swim - good sense! (6, anag)
- 24 Falls behind convicts (4)
- 26 Bird spared this year! (4)

No. 10 Crossword 14 August 2020 solution



DOWN

- 1 Re Covid, end of marriage (7, anag)
- 2 Pig's home in the east is eye condition (4)
- 3 Sh! trip here in part of Scotland (10)
- 4 Adornment in menswear (6)
- 5 Florence carried this (4)

Togaibh, a gheatachan, ur cinn, agus bithibh air ur togail suas, a dhorsan siorraidh, agus thig Rìgh na glòire a-steach.

Salm 24: 7 [ABG1992]

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

1 John 5: 1 [ESV]

Western Isles Lottery celebrates 3rd anniversary having raised over £250,000 for the Isles

By Janet Paterson

There are big celebrations taking place in the Lottery Team camp this month as they cruise past the huge milestone of raising over quarter of a million pounds for local communities across the Western Isles.

This is no small feat for the team of five, considering the local lottery was launched just three years ago in August 2017. Its aim was specifically to raise much needed funds to improve the aesthetics and amenities within communities as well as to provide and support public events. The total figure of £251,696 is compiled of the distribution of £170,977 for community projects with £80,719 being shared out in weekly cash prizes to many happy winners. Numerous locals have now won individual prizes over £1,000 each.

Janet Paterson and her husband, Cally, founders of the lottery, intended the main purpose of raising income being to fund both the Christmas light displays and the summer planting projects around the town of Stornoway. However, they decided to include all Western Isles islands so every area could benefit.

Janet said, "We are delighted to have achieved our goal, and so much more, over such a short period of time. The project grew from the seed of an idea to replace the depleting community funding. The possibility of the initial plan was researched and, once we became aware of its potential, we approached Tony Robson to join us in the venture. We began the setting up of The Western Isles Community Society to facilitate the lottery, with Tony as Chairman of the not-for-profit organisation. Emma Fraser was our next recruit who became Secretary and was quickly followed by Shona MacLeod who is our Treasurer.

"The functioning of a lottery is complex with multiple legal and financial aspects to it. We had to be confident of having a professional set-up with secure banking systems in place so we sourced, and partnered with, Gatherwell Ltd, an External Lottery Management company who have extensive expertise in all areas. Without their guidance and ongoing support, the Western Isles Lottery could not exist and we have gone from strength to strength by having them work alongside us."

Janet continued: "We were clear in our view that each area should receive proportionate funding, so we devised a postcode system whereby the proceeds of every ticket purchased would return to the supporter's own community. With a community group identified in each area to manage the local funds, we were on our way. Proceeds are paid directly into each area's bank account at the start of each month. There are currently around 2,600 weekly ticket supporters and this level is steadily rising. The more that join in, the higher we can raise the weekly prize pot!"

Emma Fraser, Secretary, said: "There has been a lot of hard work going on over the last three years, but there have been many highlights to show for everyone's efforts. We teamed up with Stornoway Amenity Trust to finance and organise the Festive Light displays in the town over the last three years and have helped upgrade the Switch-on Events. The delighted faces on the children at the Peat & Diesel gig in the Nicolson last November made all the hard work worthwhile."

There have been numerous and innovative projects carried out across the Isles. As well as supporting local groups' events, in September 2018 the Lottery Team brought Disney Day to Town which proved to be a resounding success and benefitted businesses by bringing large crowds into Stornoway town centre. A Multi-National Day had been planned for this month, on an even larger scale than Disney Day, to bring all residents together to showcase the best of their own country, with international acts

from the mainland lined up to provide bespoke entertainment. Unfortunately, current circumstances put paid to these plans but the event will go ahead in the future.

Shona MacLeod of the Lottery Team said: "The joy of being part of this team is seeing the funds being put to such good use throughout all the areas. Lots of improvements have been made and a variety of equipment purchased to provide amenities for all ages. When you look at the lists of awards to date, you can see just how beneficial the lottery has been. Working alongside the Stornoway Amenity Trust has been valuable in identifying where funds can be best used to give positive impact and these ideas have been shared with other communities.

Tony Robson continues to chair the Team and emphasised that: "The Western Isles Lottery continues to make an impact on community projects from the Port of Ness to Castlebay in the Isle of Barra. The islands need positive things in these times and the local lottery is here to do its bit! We would not have been successful in the establishment of the lottery without the vital initial support from local businesses and individual supporters joining in to support their communities. We send our sincere thanks to each and every one who has played their part"

The lottery is on track to raise over £75,000 for community projects during its fourth year. To join in and help increase this amount, you can log into www.westernisleslottery.co.uk OR phone their dedicated helpline on 0300 30 20 444 (local rates apply). Three cash prizes currently totalling over £600 are won each Saturday night at 8pm. In addition, the 1st prize is raised to £1,000 once per month. All updates are posted on the Western Isles Lottery Facebook page and their website is live in "real-time" showing all ticket purchases and funds being raised.



Janet Paterson said: "Our moto is ringing true – "Where there's a will, there's a way"

SPOTLIGHT ON: NESS & WESTSIDE

This area covers the boundaries from Carloway to the Port of Ness and the Committee of the Westside Football & Recreational Club have managed the funds from the outset. As in all other areas, the locals in the community are best placed to identify where there is a need and distribute the funds to those who have applied and meet the criteria. A total of £16,235 has so far been raised for the area and the following awards have already been distributed:

- Eoropie Playpark received £1,615.80;
- Carloway Community Centre purchased a Gazebo and BBQ equipment for community use with a grant of £1,347.00;
- Westside Agricultural Show received a grant of £2,128.80 for the purchase of a large gazebo and the necessary landscaping works to site it;
- Balantrushal Community Council received £1,930.20 to upgrade the site of the Clach An Truiseal tourist attraction;
- Westside Football Club received £1,830.60 to purchase mobile goal posts for use throughout the community;
- Comunn Eachdraidh Nis received £2,093.30 to provide disabled parking and signage to complete their new building;
- The delighted youngsters of Taigh Dhonnchaidh in Ness received £800.00 to purchase new musical equipment; and
- Alzheimers Scotland received £750.00 to provide additional resources in the Westside area.
- Current funding will be utilised by Shawbost Community Association who are planning to provide 3 picnic sites, one each in Shawbost, Bragar and Dalmore communities for locals and visitors. A further application to purchase outdoor play equipment for children with additional support needs in the area has also been accepted.

The Lottery Team express their sincere thanks to Local Councillor John MacLeod, "Corrags", who has helped identify suitable projects in the community and helped assist projects receive the funding."



NESS FC SOCIAL CLUB

Opening Hours

Thursday 5pm – 8pm

Friday 5pm – 8pm

Saturday 4pm – 10pm (Minibus available)

Payment by card is preferable.

The bus will be available as usual on Saturday night. Face masks will be necessary on the bus.

Please note that pool and darts are not available at this time.

The weekly bingo will not be starting yet but we hope to get this up and running when we are able to do so.

We are following all government guidelines and will update any changes as we get them. We'd like to thank all our customers for their compliance with all the changes and restrictions we've had to put in place.

Superdraw will be **this Saturday, 29th August at 9pm.**

Open the box

15th Aug – Andy 46 Habost key 1 and he opened the box and won £200!

22nd Aug – Agnes 1 Habost key 4 but key 5 opened the box.

29th Aug – 8 keys and £200

LOCAL BUSINESS UPDATES

Cross Inn TEL: 810152

Cross Inn Beer Garden is open:

Monday - Friday from 4pm.

Saturdays Beer Garden is open from 1pm.

Weather dependent.

Takeaways are available:

Thurs 4-7pm, Fri & Sat 4-8pm.

Drinks are available with food orders and will also be available for takeaways, 7-10pm.

Orders taken from noon. Can phone all orders on 810 152 and payment can be made on the phone. Further details available on Facebook.

The Decca TEL: 810571

The Decca is now open again for B&B. We continue to offer our homemade bread and rolls for sale and can now also offer evening meals to our guests and non-residents. We have undertaken a risk assessment will be working in a way to comply with the COVID19 regulations for keeping ourselves and our guests safe.

Porkies

Continuing to visit Barvas.

Borve House Hotel TEL: 850 223

Borve House Hotel can be called between 12-8pm Monday – Saturday for takeaway.

Orders and card payments can be taken over the phone. The hotel will then supply all customers with a pick-up time so as to control any waiting time on collection.

As of this weekend (18th July), customers can sit-in but **booking is essential.**

The Breakwater TEL: 811 001

As of 15th July there will be 2 indoor tables, and 4 outdoor tables for when the weather is kind. We have new procedures in place as per the latest guidelines to keep us all safe and would ask everyone to bear with us as we all get used these new ways of working.

We would encourage any households (or extended households) wishing to visit to give us a call in advance on **811001** to book a table to avoid disappointment and also to enable us to stagger arrivals.

We will be returning to our previous opening hours which are:

Monday to Wednesday 12pm to 6pm

Thursday to Saturday 12pm to 9pm

and takeaway will still be available as usual.

Wobbly Dog TEL: 810838

Now open Monday - Saturday 10.00-17.00

The Wobbly Dog is closed from 27th August - 10th September.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Ness Fire Service have a collection point for Western Isles Food Bank outside the station in Dell.

Any donations of food or (non-alcoholic) drinks will be made available to families in need.

WANTED

Sgoil Araich Lionail are looking for 2 garden benches for the outside play area. If anyone has anything that might be suitable, please call us on 822707. Many thanks.

Our thanks on this final edition to:

Jasmine M Wilkie,
Donald A. Morrison,
Hugh Macinnes,
Samantha Hawkins,
Simon Amos,
Christine Amos,
Lisa Maclean,
David Green,
Alistair Dunlop,
Tom Maciver,
Alex John Morrison,
Donald 'Ba' Macdonald,
Shona Morrison,
Heather Beaton,
Rev. Dougie Wolf,
Janet Paterson.



Corncrakes - late season

by Heather Beaton, RSPB
Scotland Warden, Uists

The summer cacophony has calmed: the nights are quieter, the dawn chorus more relaxed and the days have lost their high energy frenzy that's the hallmark of early summer. Now, it's the time for raising broods, fledging them and building up energy for the long autumn migration. And corncrakes are no exception to this rule.

They arrived in a hurry in late April and early May, and the males' noisy call has been the soundtrack to our summer nights. However, for them, life has now taken on a new priority and although we still hear the occasional call, both males and females are living their lives out cryptically, hiding in the still-long vegetation, and preparing for their mammoth journey.

The females still have broods; indeed, they spend more time with their second brood of the year now that there's no rush to breed again. And they can be later breeders than we often expect: there have been chicks seen in late August and, rarely, even into September. However, one of the commonest refrains I hear about corncrakes is how secretive they are. Yes, but that doesn't mean they're not there and some positive action from us can make a real difference as to how they survive to the following year.

It's easy to protect the big, the noisy, or the cuddly. But what about this species that has been so vocal, and is now hidden in amongst the late cut silage? If it's not calling, how are we meant to know it's there? One of the best things to do is presume its presence. Mow slowly, mow in the wildlife friendly manner, and be patient. Do not good things come to those that wait? If we delay cutting, or cut slower,



we increase the chances of corncrakes surviving this summer to return to breed next year and although we may never know if it was our direct action that helped the individual, at least you can be sure it wasn't causing harm.

For now, they're feeding up. They eat insects, worms, small amphibians, slugs, snails and arachnids which means our biodiverse meadows are perfect for them and they particularly love the wet ditch edges that teem with small animal life. They need the energy for their migration will not be an easy journey for them. They will fly thousands of miles, stopping off in Europe and western Africa for breaks, prior

to reaching their wintering grounds in the Congo. Predation, hunting by humans and collisions, at any point on route, may bring a permanent halt to their journey.

Corncrakes fly at night, presumably to avoid predation from the sky, and join with other birds to form a mixed species flock – quails and spotted crane may be companions in flight. There are no borders for these birds, but that means they may fall prey to hunters in Europe, or predators in the Congo – not all their population problems rest in our hands. That doesn't mean we cannot do our best, both to provide suitable habitat and to ensure our subsequent actions at harvest protect the population. The grass silage fields would be missing the soundtrack of summer if we allowed corncrake numbers to plunge, for once it's gone, who would remember the remarkable call and the mysterious presence of the cryptic bird of the cornfield?

RSPB Scotland has launched Corncrake Calling, a four-year project working with farmers, crofters, communities and Scottish Government to safeguard the future of these rare birds. Educational activities, events and a touring exhibition will share the corncrake story. It is supported by a £375k National Lottery Heritage Fund grant.

*Our thanks also to Shona Morrison, RSPB
Corncrake Warden in Lewis, for bringing
Heather's article to our attention*

Galson Estate Trust Calendar Competition

There is still time to submit an image for the Galson Estate Trust 2021 Calendar.

This year, the theme is '**Connections | Buntaineas**'. This theme can be interpreted however you wish, including, but not limited to:

- connections you make to the landscape of the Galson Estate - perhaps through work (fishing, crofting, for example) or hobbies (wildlife watching),
 - connections within the community,
 - methods you use to connect to people,
- modern ways people connect to the Galson Estate,
- historic ways people connected to the Galson Estate, (e.g., crofting).

The photographs must be taken on the Galson Estate and should be in JPEG or Tiff format. We ask that you send no more than 3 photographs per entry. As always, there will be prizes for the best entry over the age of 16 and for the best entry under the age of 16. Both prizes are a **£50 Amazon voucher**.

The closing date for submissions has been extended to:
Monday 31st August.

Submit your entries to: office@uoglt.com

Galson Estate Trust Calendar 2021 Photography Competition

ENTRIES NOW OPEN!

The theme for 2021 is: **Connections | Buntaineas**
with a focus on lockdown perspectives

Open to all ages. Prizes for best over 16 & under 16 entries.
Maximum of 3 photographs per entry.

Please send high quality jpegs/Tiff (5mb+) if possible to:
office@uoglt.com

Connections to people, to community, An airnneachd

Daoine to sea, Coimhearsnachd to land, to wildlife

Happy snapping!

Closing date for submissions: Friday 28th August

A Bòrd Buidhneachais na Gàidhealtachd 2020s A Bòrd Buidhneachais na Gàidhealtachd 2020s