



muaitheabhal

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Pairc and Kinloch



Issue 5
February 2016

Funding boost supports dementia cafés in Lochs

Alzheimer Scotland Lewis and Harris are delighted to announce the launch of two new monthly Dementia Cafés in the Lochs area with funding support from the Muaitheabhal Trust.

The trust approved a grant to deliver a 12 month pilot project to increase support and contact for people with dementia and their carers and families living in and around the Lochs area.

Dementia cafés offer a 'dementia friendly' place for people with dementia, their partners, families and friends to meet up for a chat and a coffee. People who attend Dementia cafés state they find it useful to have access to helpful information or advice about any issues relating to dementia from trained staff and volunteers. Dementia cafés are on a drop in basis and there is no admission fee.



Alzheimer Scotland began fundraising to deliver community activities such as Dementia cafés in 2013 and currently run events in Stornoway, Carloway and Ness as well as supporting the Musical Memories Café in Tarbert. Community activities allow people an opportunity to reestablish community connections and remain a part of their local community.

Marion MacInnes (Service Manager) from Alzheimer Scotland would like to thank the Muaitheabhal trust for their interest and support to date and requests that if anyone would like to get in touch for more information they can contact staff at the Alzheimer Scotland Lewis and Harris Dementia Resource Centre, 18 Bells Road, Stornoway on 01851 70 2123 or email Ellen Donnelly (Community Activities Organiser) on edonnelly@alzscot.org

Please visit our website www.alzscot.org for information on dementia and support available.

Welcome to issue 5 of the newsletter for Pairc and Kinloch, produced by MCWFT, and full of the latest news and events in the area.

It's your newsletter so remember to send us any news, events, projects and anything else that you think needs sharing!

March issue: out 25 February


Contact Us:
Kershader Resource Centre,
Kershader,
Isle of Lewis,
HS2 9QA

Tel: 01851 880296

email: news@muaitheabhal.org.uk

Do you care for someone who has Dementia?
Are you living with Dementia?

Would you like the chance to meet others and get information and support? ...then why not drop in to a Dementia Café in your area...



North Lochs

Balalain Community Hall	Wednesday: Third Wednesday of every month.	Between 2pm-3.30pm
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South Lochs

Ravenspoint Cafe	Wednesday: First Wednesday of every month.	Between 2pm-3.30pm
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For further information or enquiries please contact
Marion MacInnes (Service Manager) 01851 702123 or email
mmacinnnes@alzscot.org

The Staff and Trustees of the Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust would like to wish all residents a very Happy New Year. The funding allocation for 2016 is £200,000, to support community based projects benefitting residents of the Muaitheabhal Trust area. Please do come to us with your ideas for projects and discuss how to apply. We already have some applications in the pipeline and look forward to seeing these projects, and many more, coming to fruition over the next few months.

We are also taking the lead on a number of projects, including the re-print of the community telephone directory, crofting courses and investigating the possibility of a community transport project.

We are also hoping to build on this community newsletter to try and include some 'lighter' news stories from around the area, so if you have anything you wish to include in a publication then please get in touch. The Newsletter is already getting some good feedback from people, but if you have any ideas on how to make it better, let us know!

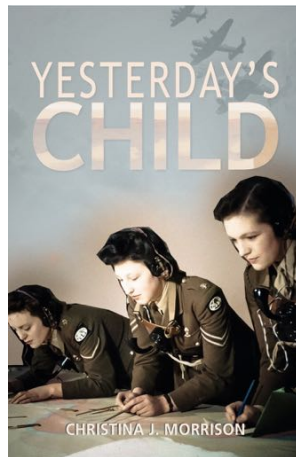
Naidheachd na Sgìre... Around the area...

The Islands Book Trust

It was with great sadness that we at the Islands Book Trust learned of the death of Christina J. Morrison, whose memoir, 'Yesterday's Child', we are due to publish next month. Christina was a determined, courageous lady with a great love of life, and a talented writer who was very much looking forward to seeing her first book in print. Our sympathies go to her family and friends in Inverness, Skye and Lewis.

Christina, the middle child in a family of ten, was brought up in Innes Street, Inverness, in the 1930s. It was a happy and lively household; her father was a Pipe Major of the British Legion, her brothers were pipers and Christina and her sisters were dancers.

Christina had many fond memories of holidays spent at her maternal grandparent's home at 19 Gravir, some of which she relates in this book. Christina joined the Auxiliary Training Corps just before the outbreak of World War II.



Once war was declared, Christina was instructed to go to London, where she discovered that she would be working for Intelligence Services at Whitehall, decoding top secret messages for the government. Christina frequently deciphered messages headed 'For Mr Churchill's Eyes Only', some of which related to events which, in hindsight, proved to be of great historical significance.

Christina's tales of her adventures in wartime London (including meeting Winston Churchill in his pyjamas!) are a fascinating first-hand account of a by-gone era, retold with modesty and humour.

Yesterday's Child will be published on the 19th February. To purchase a copy visit our website www.theislandsbooktrust.com.

Balallan Charity Shop



Opening Hours

Wed - Fri 1-3pm
Sat 11am-3pm



The Old School, Balallan

Email your event to: news@muaitheabhal.org.uk
 Telephone : 01851 880296
 Call into the office: Kershader Resource Centre

Who do we think we are?

Boats, footballs, the sun and even the occasional alien have appeared as the children of the Kinloch Campaigners group have been asking themselves that very question. Currently the group identifies itself with a logo which belonged to the UK-wide Campaigners movement until it was wrapped up two years ago.



That didn't spell the end of this group locally though, and it is now run under the auspices of Kinloch Free Church and Kinloch Church of Scotland. When the opportunity came up to purchase new group sweatshirts, our young creatives put their heads together to design a new visual image for their group.

Meeting on Monday evenings in the Balallan Hall, lively games, creative crafts, and learning from the Bible form the core of each get together. Taking their inspiration from these and also our local area, they're now putting the final touches to their new image. This will then be developed as a graphic design before being applied to our new sweatshirts. Watch this space!

With children aged from 5 – 14 in the group this crew are very used to working together to accommodate each other. Monday evenings at Kinloch Campaigners are guaranteed to be noisy, energetic, funny, thought-provoking and to leave the leaders hoarse!

All children from the area are welcome to come along. Mondays 6.30pm – 7.45pm, Balallan Hall.

Realising the opportunities

Next steps for Pairc Trust

Now that the immediate euphoria of finally purchasing Pairc Estate has receded, Pairc Trust want to push ahead quickly - with the input and help of everyone in the community - to draw up and then successfully implement plans to improve the quality of life in Pairc.

This is a huge opportunity, and we need your involvement so that we can properly reflect the wishes and priorities of the whole of the community. As I said in the last newsletter, we wish to be as open as possible and will develop plans for priority projects in full consultation with other local groups and local crofters and residents. Here are the next steps we plan:

*Appointment of new staff – the job adverts placed before Christmas for new full-time Development Manager and Administrative Officer posts have attracted a lot of interest. We are currently sifting through the applications and arranging interviews, and we will make the appointments as soon as possible. The new staff will initially work from the Pairc Trust's office in the Resource Centre, Kershader – although in the longer term we plan to use office space incorporated into the Pairc Hall Committee's plans for a new community hall between Kershader and Garyvard if the resources can be attracted to implement this



* Firm up arrangements for crofting business – discussion are at an advanced stage with solicitors Anderson MacArthur to provide legal support to Pairc Trust in carrying out our new responsibilities as crofting landlord. This will ensure continuity and expertise while our Directors and staff build up our own experience and skills in the administration of crofting business.

* Appointment of new Directors – a date for the next AGM of Pairc Trust will be announced in the next few weeks, together with arrangements for the nomination of new Directors. All current Directors of the Trust will stand down at the AGM. While some of the current Directors intend to stand for re-election, we would greatly welcome others in the community putting their names forward – whatever your background, age, and experience. We particularly need younger people and more women to make the Board more representative of the community as a whole. Do please give this your serious consideration. As I said at the public meeting held on 14th December, now is the time for new blood and fresh thinking if we are to make the most of the opportunities for Pairc.

*Consultation on priority projects – once our new Development Manager is in place, we plan a series of consultation meetings during the first half of 2016 with other community organisations and through open meetings to get ideas, receive feedback, and decide on priorities for the next two years, and – in less detail – the longer term. This will include consideration of improved community facilities, housing, renewable energy projects, and initiatives to attract more visitors to the area – with a positive spin-off to Ravenspoint and other parts of the local economy.

We already have a draft business plan as a starting point, but this needs revisiting, updating, and amending in the light of the views of others. It will be necessary to seek additional funding from sources such as the Big Lottery Fund to take forward the priority projects. Our overall aim, in line with the community plan, is to create more local jobs and improve the quality of life for people of all ages in the community.

We will keep our members and all local residents informed of progress through regular updates in the Muaitheabhal community newsletter, through an improved Pairc Trust website, and by other communications. This is a great opportunity for everyone in Pairc – please help us to turn aspirations into reality.

AnSus McDowall

Chairman
Pairc Trust

Let us know
if you have:

News
Events
Notices

Deadline for next edition:

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY

GRAY'S
General Builders

GRAY'S
General Builders
loofgray@btinternet.com
01851880795
Lochs
Isle of Lewis

GRAY'S GENERAL BUILDERS
For all your building needs

New Build, Renovation, Extensions

Commercial and Emergency Repairs

Carpentry, Bespoke Joinery, Brick/
Blockwork, Plumbing, Plastering,
Fencing, Tiling, Decking, Roofing etc...

Emergency 01851 880795

**ADVERTISE
HERE**

contact:
news@muaitheabhal.org.uk

Dè tha dol...

What's on...

Friday 12 February

Talk/Slides Evening

Kinloch Historical Society

7.30pm

Balallan Old School

Ravenspoint News

Changes....

In the Chinese calendar 2016 is the year of the monkey, but already in the Ravenspoint calendar it's shaping up to be the year of the chameleon. Yes, it's all change; we've said goodbye to familiar faces with Margaret retiring, Seonag moving to a new job with the Langabhat Medical Practise and finally, at the beginning of the year, Catriona taking up a new post in Stornoway. They've all contributed a great deal to the centre in their time and we wish them all well with their future plans.

We've also had the pleasure of welcoming a new member of staff, Al Reed to the team, and he joins Mairi and Allyson in the shop. The three of them have been very busy spring cleaning and reorganising the shop and they look forward to feedback on their efforts.



A fond farewell to Catriona!

Work is now underway to further develop the hostel and re-arrange some of the space in the Centre, with the welcome support of MCWFT. All the plans for this year are focused on delivering services in the context of a very tight financial plan. It will be a tough year, but as a team of staff, directors and volunteers, we believe it is achievable.

Whether it's a monkey or a chameleon, there's still plenty to look forward to. Bookings are coming in steadily for the hostel, the shop hours will extend again after Easter, the cafe space will have a refresh, and working with the Comunn Eachdraidh we're hopeful that the Museum will soon become accredited by Museums Galleries Scotland.

If you feel you can help out in any way with these or any other projects at Ravenspoint do get in touch. More hands definitely do make for lighter work.

And finally a date for the diary. On the evening of Saturday 30th January do come along and join in to mark Margaret's many years of service at Ravenspoint, beginning at 7pm.



Beagan Gàidlig

New Year... what about a new challenge? Learning a new skill apparently helps to sharpen the grey matter and, while whittling the waistline usually tops the resolution charts, honing our mental skills is surely an honourable contender for the top spot!

So why not think about joining us on a Gaelic course? Think of it - even the ever-present topic of the weather could become a whole new world to explore, if you embrace it in Gaelic. 'Tha I robach an diugh' won't have you thinking that there's been a burglary locally, and you'll be able to confidently reply, most likely in the affirmative while hanging on to your hat, 'S i a tha!'



Some of last year's Gaelic students enjoying the island

We offer a very special course at Ravenspoint, where you get a chance to immerse yourself in the language and the culture while meeting with other learners from all over Scotland and the world.

With a course planned for 16th-23rd July, directly after the Hebridean Celtic Festival, there's still time to make your resolutions and hit the Gaelic learning ground running!

Visit www.ravenspoint.net for more information.