



muaitheabhal

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Pairc and Kinloch



Issue 6
March 2016

Large turnout to wish Margaret a happy retirement

A large number of people from across South Lochs and beyond gathered at Ravenspoint recently to pay tribute to one of Co-Chomunn na Pairc's longest serving volunteers.



Margaret MacLennan, the Assistant Manager at Ravenspoint, who retired at the end of the year, has been involved with the Co-Chomunn since the eighties. Both the business and the Centre at Ravenspoint have seen many changes over that time and as Dave Phillips, a colleague for many of those years, pointed out in his speech, Margaret's knowledge and her little book of contacts proved to be invaluable.

evening was marked by laughter, friendship and shared memories. A presentation was made to Margaret by Rachel MacLeod and Calum Nicolson. In thanking everyone, Margaret said that she had enjoyed her many years both as a volunteer and as an employee, and that she was especially grateful for all the support that she had received from the community following the sad loss of her son, Colin.

From the days when livestock supplies were delivered via the Centre, Margaret recalled how she had to build up a detailed mental database of the complicated croft-based address system in the area.

While Margaret plans to settle into retirement, she doesn't plan on hanging up her volunteering hat completely, and we hope that the community of Pairc will continue to enjoy the benefit of her knowledge and experience for many years to come.

This, together with the stories of the place and the people she gained from growing up in the area, has made Margaret a wonderful asset to visitors wanting to get a flavour of local life or those coming to the Museum in search of roots and relatives.

With a buffet prepared by volunteers, the

Welcome to issue 6 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!

April issue:
out 24 March

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

Tel: 01851 880296

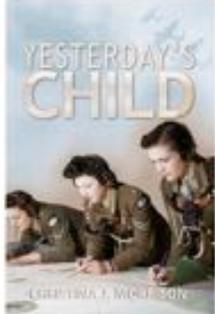
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Vote for Gravir Playpark!

See page 3...



Training Support for Crofters

MCWFT Trustees are working with Chrissie Gillies, the Local Development Officer (LDO), to put together a program of courses, training and support for active crofters in the Pairc and Kinloch area. This project is in response to feedback to MCWFT from crofter engagement in the Community Planning process.



So far, we are looking at courses that include pesticide certification, land management, shearing and digital skills (the official title for learning to use computers, tablets, etc!). These options are some of the training events being looked into.

Chrissie is working to put together options throughout the year but needs to establish the level of interest among crofters and when to put the courses on. We cannot at this stage guarantee that we will be able to organise things to suit everyone but we will work to support as many people as possible. We are going to try and keep all options as affordable as possible – in order to do this, the more feedback we have from local crofters, the better.

For more information or to express your interest in the training program, please contact Chrissie by Thursday the 3rd of March on 860 296, pop into the office or email Chrissie@muaitheabhal.org.uk. Chrissie works in the Kershader Resource Centre Monday to Wednesday and in the Old School in Balallan each Thursday and Friday.

Pairc Trust appoints first new staff member

Following the recent job advert and interviews, Pairc Trust have appointed our first new member of staff to help us manage the Estate and bring benefits to all residents and crofters in South Lochs. She is Sandra Alston from Keose, who will fill the full-time Administrative Officer post based at the Trust's offices at the Resource Centre, Kershader. Sandra started work on Monday 15th February.



Sandra Alston

I am delighted to welcome Sandra to this important position. She has substantial administrative experience, mainly during her 9 years as Customer Services Manager at Inverness airport. She and her partner moved to Keose just over a year ago, since when Sandra has been working at the Western Isles hospital in Stornoway.

Sandra's main duties will be to assist in the crofting and other administration of the Estate, including dealing with correspondence, answering the telephone and emails, and keeping records on all aspects of Pairc Trust's business. She will also assist in upgrading the Trust's website.

Commenting on her appointment, Sandra said: 'I am very pleased to have been offered my new position. It is a most exciting prospect and I look forward to meeting and working with everyone in the Pairc community and making a positive contribution to improving the quality of life in the area.'

Reflecting good practice in other community landowner organisations, the Trust have established a sub-committee of two Directors (myself and Jim McLaughlin) to deal with confidential crofting transactions, with legal advice from Anderson MacArthur, and administrative support from Sandra. Crofters and others can be assured of an efficient and confidential service at all times.

We have yet to appoint a Development Manager and will make a further announcement as soon as possible.

Angus McDowall

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



Take a break

Meet others who understand
Get information and support



Drop into a **Dementia Café** in your area

Balallan Community Hall	
Third Thursday of every month	2.00-3.30pm
Ravenspoint Café	
First Wednesday of every month	2.00-3.30pm

For further information please contact
Marion MacInnes (Service Manager) 01851 702123
email mmacinnnes@alzscot.org

Vote for Gravir Play Park!

Tesco has teamed up with Greenspace Scotland to launch its Bags of Help initiative in Scotland. The scheme will see three community groups and projects in each of these regions awarded grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag charge.

Bags of Help offers community groups and projects in each of Tesco's regions across the UK a share of revenue generated from the five pence charge levied on single-use carrier bags. The public will now vote in store from 27 February until 6 March on who should receive the £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 awards.

Paìrc Community Council were successful in their application; the project going forward is new equipment for Gravir Playpark. The more people who vote in store, the more equipment the playpark can get! Please remember to vote in store.



www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp

Fetch the emergency soup...

As the call for more soup went out at a recent fund-raising lunch in Stornoway, the response from the ladies of South Lochs was celebration rather than panic.

For over ten years women of all ages from Paìrc have got together once a year, to support Gravir girl Marsali Campbell in her vital work with the charities AIM and Dwelling Places rescuing children from a desperate existence on the streets of Kampala in Uganda.



With over £1500 raised in two hours, the generosity of everyone who attended this year's lunch is clear. Marsali hopes to be back home in Scotland for a visit soon to rest, and to share what it means for children who have known such hardship, to be supported by those near and far as they journey towards hope.

FREE Early Education for 2, 3 & 4 year olds Paìrc Playgroup

Are you looking for a playgroup that promotes learning through fun and play? Paìrc Playgroup, a parent run nursery, offers high quality Early Years childcare and education for children ages 2-5 years.

Why not pop in to one of our sessions, meet with our friendly professional staff and talk with other parents, whilst seeing what our centre has to offer? Or alternatively phone for further information. You won't be disappointed!

Playgroup runs Term Time, Monday-Thursday 9.15 - 1.15 and offers English and Gaelic medium education.

Paìrc Playgroup, Resource Centre,
Kershader, South Lochs
01851 880451
paìrcplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

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Let us know
if you have:

News
Events
Notices

Deadline for next edition:

THURSDAY 17 MARCH

news@muaitheabhal.org.uk



**Island
Bake Club**

March Meeting
Wednesday 17th March
At Ravenspoint
7 - 9pm

**Check Facebook for
this month's theme!**

www.facebook.com/islandbakeclub

Sgoil na Paire...

Review of the Christmas play

Last Christmas we had an amazing play called Santa and the Beanstalk.

There was a lot of people that came and they enjoyed it a lot. After the play was finished we had lots of food and juice. Everyone put a lot of effort into the play and they worked very hard. There was lots of cake and tea for the grown-ups.

A special thanks to all the adults for donating costumes and baking 😊!

By Austin and Ngairé



Tarbert Treat 😊

The big bus came to our school and took us all to the Tarbert swimming pool! The Tarbert swimming pool is a lot smaller than the Stornoway pool but a lot warmer. We started to get sorted in to groups by swimming around. We learnt new strokes like the butterfly stroke.

At the end of every session we got to do what we want. We were allowed to take flippers and floats to play with. We had great fun diving and swimming. I would like to give a big thank you to the Parent Council for raising money for the school to go swimming.

By Adam Cheesman



Park Primary School...

Young Leaders

Jenna came to the school last week and talked to us about Young Leaders. She told us this would mean we, P6-7, teach P1-5 to do activities during school like Tag, Dodge Ball and Jail Break. These are games that involve lots of running around that the kids would enjoy.

Our teacher said we would start up a Lunch Club during lunch break one day a week. We will encourage P1-5 to join in the activities by making it as fun as possible. It will be especially good at wet playtimes so the kids will have something to do to pass the time.

We, the leaders, will take turns presenting the games to the children by showing them and explaining to them how the games are played and the rules and how to get maximum points in the games.

Hopefully everyone will have great fun taking part in these activities when P6-7 get to work more with P1-5!

By Ewan MacIntyre

Amazing Authors

During January the P5-7 class began making books about a "Meeting with an Alien". At first we were put in groups to think about what would happen in our stories and things like where we would meet our alien and why it was on earth.

We have had many story ideas including an alien that has to pretend to be an exchange student from Belgium, who arrived on earth because his ship was hit by lightning and he crash landed in the middle of a croft much to the surprise of a boy doing chores on the croft!

We started drafting our prologue (the bit at the beginning of the book that is made to hook you into the book) and making a picture to go along with it. After we had done that we made a zig-zag book and stuck our prologue on a flap with the picture underneath it and a lovely border around it. The pictures were of what the alien would see landing on earth such as trees, churches, houses, lochs and crofts.

Most people drew it during the rain with lightning striking during the pitch black of night. Next time we are going to begin writing our story, some of us on the computer and some of us using a pen.

By Austin Stokes