



muaitheabhal

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Pairc and Kinloch



**Issue 16
October/
November
2017**

Huge crowd turn out to remember Maureen and Boy

A huge crowd gathered at Ravenspoint on Saturday 23rd September to remember Maureen and Boy Macmillan, who sadly passed away last year. The event was organised by Pairc Historical Society, and after welcoming everyone, Donnie Morrison, the Chairman, spoke of the couple's huge contribution to the community, and how deeply their loss is still felt. There followed a prayer and a psalm, led by Murdo Macleod and Angus Nicholson respectively. John Randall, Vice-Chair of the Historical Society, then launched a new publication about the history of the Gob na Milaid Light, which Maureen and Boy were researching prior to their passing. Everyone was delighted with a wonderful performance of Gaelic songs and poems by pupils of Pairc School.



Two beautiful new benches, inscribed in English and Gaelic and purchased with the aid of contributions from many groups and individuals from the area, were then unveiled. These will be situated on the decking at the rear of Ravenspoint café, offering users a lovely view over Loch Erisort.

The event finished with a warm and heartfelt vote of thanks from a relative of Maureen's, Morag Munro, who expressed gratitude from all the family for the support they have received from the community, and who was delighted with the memorial benches, which she said were another indication that Maureen and Boy would not be forgotten.

Pairc Historical Society would like to thank all those who helped organise the event, the helpers on the day, and all who contributed towards the cost of the benches. Photos from the day can be found on the Society's Facebook page or in the latest edition of *Tional*.

Welcome to issue 16 of the newsletter for Pairc and Kinloch, produced by MCWFT, and full of the latest news and events in the area.

December/ January issue out:
24 November

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

Tel: 01851 880296

email:
news@muaitheabhal.org.uk

Kinloch Community Tearoom 

 The Tearoom will be open again each Friday 11am—3pm,
for teas, coffees, homemade soup, sandwiches, toasties and delicious cakes

From Friday
6 October 2017
At Balallan School

Staffing

We were sad to say goodbye to Jen Ellis, our Development Manager, over the summer, who has moved to a permanent role in the group practice in Stornoway. Jen has worked tirelessly on so many projects in the last 18 months including; affordable housing; local produce, renewable energy; the resource centre; community consultation; historical walkways; and various legal issues as manager of the estate office. We are very thankful to her for her determination and wish her all the best in her new role.

Jen had a very conscientious, honest, and determined approach to progressing the development of the Pairc Estate, for the benefit of all in the community, it was a pleasure to work with Jen. The directors and Fiona wish Jen all the very best in her new role.

The directors are delighted to say that the trust's administrator, Fiona Stokes, has agreed to take over, on a temporary basis, some of the management roles that had previously been undertaken by the manager. Fiona now finds herself very busy as she still has to attend to her croft administration work.

The trust office remains open Mon – Fri, 9 -12.30 and 1.00 - 4.pm. Please drop into the office with any queries you may have on crofting or estate issues, or telephone on 880728.

Walkways

Improvements to the start of the Steimreway walkway have begun over the summer. Works, which include the siting of an information board, picnic bench and improved fencing, have been funded by the Scottish Community Landfill Fund and Tesco Bags of Help.



The Cromore walk has also been getting some regular attention and a plinth and walk board will also be installed in the village.

Many thanks to the Orinsay village association and the Cromore residents for their help with these projects.

AGM

We were pleased to see so many faces at our AGM in August to welcome the directors to their new term in office. The minutes of the AGM are on our web site and facebook page.

At the first board meeting after the AGM the following office bearers were voted into the various positions: Chair – Angus McDowall, Vice-Chair – Steve Mortimore, Treasurer – Ken Kennedy, with John Murdo Matheson, Kenny Mackay, Ishbel MacLennan and Alan Wilson making up the rest of the committee.



Keep up to date with our latest news via our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PaircTrust/>

Community Defibrillators

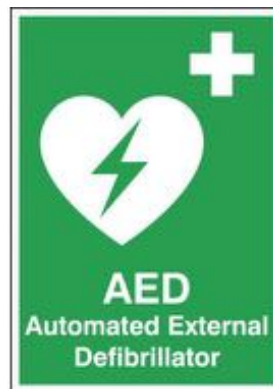
After months of preparation the Pairc community were presented with Community Defibrillators at a special training event at Pairc School on Thursday 31st August. Initially it was thought that there would only be two units purchased, but a last minute donation from MacAulay Askernish through Pairc Trust saw a further three units donated to the Community, which was a great addition.

Over 30 people, with representatives from every village in South Lochs, attended the training event delivered by Lucky2BHere, a charity established in Skye to increase the availability and coverage of Defibrillator units in the Highlands & Islands.

The training was very relaxed and informative. Another training event is planned for those who missed it. Keep an eye out for details on Facebook or at Ravenspoint.

The units are currently being installed in the following locations: Ravenspoint, 2 Cromore, Orinsay Hall, 13a Marvig and in Lemreway.

There is already a unit situated at the School in Gravir. Many thanks to those who have given permission to house the units on private property for the benefit of the community - it is very much appreciated.



Finally, the costs of installing the Defibrillator Units were unfortunately underestimated, and now with five units to install there are significantly more costs involved – around £1250. There is a donation box situated in the Shop at Ravenspoint and one at the Doctors Surgery. These will be used to help towards the costs of the installation and then to help with the costs of replacing the batteries of the units every five years (at a cost of £240 each). So please think of putting something in the box to help towards these costs.

Many thanks, Helen Sandison 880296

Lochs Gaelic Choir



60th Anniversary Dinner and Ceilidh

10th November 2017
Stornoway Town Hall
6.30 for 7pm

Please join us if you have ever sung with the choir.

Tickets £30. Please let us know by 27th October if you wish to come.

We very much look forward to seeing you there!

Donalda Mackinnon to give this year's Angus Macleod Lecture



Donalda MacKinnon, who was appointed as the first female Director of BBC Scotland last December, will give this year's annual Angus Macleod memorial lecture on the evening of Thursday 2nd November. The lecture will take place in partnership with the new Comhairle nan Eilean Siar e-Sgoil education initiative based in Stornoway and will be broadcast live to locations throughout the islands and the mainland using the technology now available from e-Sgoil.

Donalda was born and brought up in Harris and is a fluent Gaelic speaker. Her lecture, which will be given mainly in English, is on the subject 'The Role of the BBC in an Ever Changing Global Communications Industry'. She will reflect on how recent political, social, and technical developments have affected the environment in which the BBC works and its future role, with particular reference to broadcasting in Scotland.

There will also be short contributions in Gaelic and English from Elizabeth McGowan (Angus Macleod's daughter), Donnie Morrison (chairman of Comunn Eachdraidh na Pairc), Anna Murray (Gaelic song), and young people from the Nicolson Institute, with an opportunity to put questions to the main speaker. The evening will finish with a vote of thanks and a Gaelic psalm.

This year's lecture event will take place at 7.30pm in the e-Sgoil premises, Francis Street, Stornoway, on Thursday 2nd November.

The lecture will be broadcast live to Pairc School, Gravir, from where Donnie Morrison will be speaking. Doors open at 7pm, and refreshments will be available.

Please come along to support your local event. Admission free.

Balallan and District Recreation Association

Balallan & District Recreation Association had their AGM on Tuesday 12th September, and were delighted to see two new faces along with all the old ones! Welcome Linda and Nick.

The Pairc Trust and Calbost Classic 7 Miler

A great turnout of 33 senior runners and 5 junior runners signed-up at Ravenspoint for the Calbost Classic runs on Saturday 26 August 2017. A course record of 38 min 43 seconds was achieved by Connor MacLean. The first lady home was Marina Murray in a lady's record of 53 min 8 seconds. Both runners are members of the Stornoway Running Club. Lewis MacKean aged 11 was first boy home in the 5K run, and Abbie Maclean aged 9 was the first girl home. Both junior runners came from the west coast.



All the runners received goody bags and medals, those over 18 also received a whisky miniature from the main sponsor, Wm Grant & Son. At the prize giving in Ravenspoint, teas and cakes were laid on by the Pairc Trust.

Finally, a big call out and thank you to all the people who helped to make the day - the stewards, the time keepers, the bus driver, the caterers and the runners.

Join us next year for another fabulous and enjoyable day! For news etc, catch the Calbost Harriers on Facebook.

Keose and Glebe Community Association

Thanks to the fund-raising efforts of Keose & Keose Glebe residents and funding from MCWFT, Scottish Landfill and Awards 4 All, as well as donations by others, we have been able to improve the drainage in the Park and prepare it ready for installing new play equipment. This has now been ordered and should be arriving in a few weeks' time. There will be 2 swings, one basket swing, a double tower and a Rotabounce.

The next stage is the installation, and we are looking for volunteers to help with this to keep the costs down. Please contact the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer if you are willing to help, or to donate more funds towards the fencing and other aspects of finishing this stage in developing the Park area.

We would hope it will be operational before Christmas so that the youngsters can get some use of it and anticipate having a special official opening ceremony in the Spring.

Pairc School

Pairc School gains a Terrific Scientific Award

Sgoil na Pairc staff and pupils were surprised and delighted to receive the following good news last week:

I am delighted to inform you that as a result of the hard work and dedication of your pupils, we are awarding Sgoil na Pairc Terrific Scientific 'School of Excellence' status. This award is supported by the Primary Science Quality Mark and the BBC.

Your school will be receiving a special certificate to mark this outstanding achievement.

We are also presenting you with our Terrific Scientific 'School of Excellence' digital emblem, which you can use on your website, letterheads, social media or anywhere else you want to show it off! We hope you will display the certificate with pride,

Johannah Dyer
Executive Producer
BBC Terrific Scientific



Primary Seven pupils Morris Stokes, Saorsa Macleod, Leroy Jones, Destiny Gray and Ngairé Mundeé, who completed all five Terrific Scientific challenges, are pictured with the certificate.

South Lochs Cubs and Beavers

1st South Lochs Cubs and Beavers welcomed two visitors from Australia to the pack recently.

Eilidh and Kirsty Doig, grand-daughters of Donnie & Marilyn Macdonald 7 Kershader, enjoyed two nights at Cubs and Beavers whilst on holiday.

Kirsty and Eilidh were also welcomed to Pairc School for a day and especially enjoyed the Gaelic singing with Mr MacIver!



Sea Eagle Talk



On Monday the 18th of September 2017 Robin Reid came to talk to us about Sea Eagles. He was with the RSPB. He came in to show us a power point about Sea Eagles and a few other birds. He brought in some skulls of birds and some feathers to show us. The sea eagles feathers were very big and smooth too. The sea eagle weighs 5 or 6 kg. Two small children stretched out is the size of its wingspan or two desks put together. The sea eagles had markers put onto them, so everyone would know they are safe.

They became extinct because they ate all the food we wanted, so we killed and hunted them until they were extinct in Scotland. Then after a while, around 1970, they were brought back to Scotland from Norway. The first sea eagle that was brought back to Scotland got put on an island just off Skye. We saw their nest on the island it is enormous inside and can fit a fully grown adult. At the end we were given badges with sea eagles on them.

Destiny Gray P7 and Ngairé Mundeé P7

P5 - P7's visit to Scalpay Lighthouse



On Thursday 31st August P5-7 went to Eilean Glas lighthouse because our topic is lighthouses. We had to walk 2.1km and when we got there we had to write booklets. We had a walk round the lighthouse in groups with Mrs Finnegan and Mrs Nicolson. We saw the fog horn. It was very big. Also there was tonnes and tonnes of MIGDES.

We saw the store houses and the crane at the dock. The lighthouse itself had RED and WHITE stripes and was 30m tall, and the light was first lit in 1789. The light is yellow and it was run by three keepers. The lighthouse was built by Thomas Smith. It was really fun

By Cormac Sandison and Fergus Malcolm P5