



# muaitheabhal

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### Pairc and Kinloch

## 'S math a rinn sibh Sgoil na Pairce!

Sgoil na Pairc are extremely proud of every child who had the courage to stand up and perform in front of large audiences at last week's Mod. The school had children who sang solo songs, recited poetry, performed in a folk group and sang in the choir.

They all worked extremely hard to learn all the words in their poems and songs, and all the children performed amazingly well in the face of a lot of tough competition. Some of the children were awarded in the top three in their competitions, but they are all winners in the school's eyes!



**Issue 7**  
**April 2016**

Welcome to issue 7 of the newsletter for Pairc and Kinloch, produced by MCWFT, and full of the latest news and events in the area.

We'll be bi-monthly from the next edition.

June/ July issue out: 26 May.

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Sgoil na Pairc Choir

2nd place in Unison Singing

Matilda Cheesman

3rd equal for reciting a poem for learners aged 5-6



Lily McDowall

1st place for reciting a poem for learners aged 5-6

Cormac Sandison

3rd place for reciting a poem for learners aged 7-8



Ellie Cameron

3rd equal for reciting a poem for fluent speakers aged 7-8 and 3rd place for solo singing for fluent speakers aged 7-8.



Well done to each and every one of you!

The school would also like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Iain Maciver and Mr David MacIennan for all their help in preparing the children for the Mod.

## Balallan Charity Shop



**Opening Hours**  
**Wed - Fri 1-3pm**  
**Sat 11am-3pm**

**The Old School, Balallan**

## More groups benefit from Muaitheabhal support

Three groups in the area have recently benefitted from some significant funding support from the Trust.

Work is due to start on the renovation works at Balallan Hall, supported by a £40,000 award from the Muaitheabhal Trust. The project will insulate the building, repair some damage to the small meeting room and renovate the toilets.

A £3,200 grant to support investigative work at the Marvig Pier has also been awarded. This will enable the Pier Users Group to effectively plan a larger scale capital project to upgrade the pier and investigate the possibility of installing pontoons at the Pier.

Finally, Keose Glebe Buyout group have received both grant and short-term loan support from the Trust towards their efforts to purchase the Glebe. £15,000 was awarded as a grant towards the costs of the buyout and a short-term bridging loan was also awarded to help with cash flow through the buyout transaction.

## High speed broadband update

### How does it all work and when can I get it?

In our lifetime it could be said that nothing moves faster than technology and telecommunications. However, if you are on a slow connection it feels like a lifetime waiting for a faster service to become available.

Our local exchanges at Balallan and Gravir have been served by fibre optic links for many years; indeed Balallan exchange was one of the first in Scotland to have a fibre connection back to a main exchange, at Stornoway. Most other small exchanges continued to be served by microwave, some to the current day.

Over the last couple of years, new undersea fibre has been laid in the seabed across the Minch with connections from Stornoway to Ullapool and from Carnan in Uist across to Skye. This dual routing is designed to maintain a continuous service even if one cable is damaged by trawlers or other maritime event. These undersea fibre cables have overcome restrictions in capacity across the Minch and are designed to provide enough connectivity for at least 25 years.

### But what about my local internet connection?

New fibre based internet services are delivered to small green roadside cabinets so in future it won't matter if you are too far from your exchange to get a fast service. Proximity to these cabinets becomes the controlling factor and these cabinets are connected by fibre to the main exchange which in our case is in Stornoway.

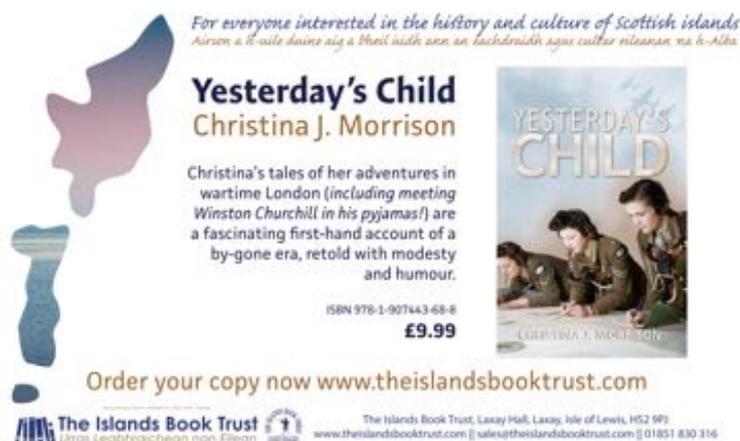


Your telephone lines are intercepted by these cabinets and your new service is delivered to your home over the same telephone line as before. The big difference made possible by these new cabinets and the fibre connection is the dramatic increase in speed. If you are within 500 metres of a cabinet, you can get speeds of up to 80Mbps, quite a difference from the previous services which were more likely to be between 1 and 5Mbps if you were lucky enough to be close to the local exchange. The optimum range for one cabinet is circa 1.5 kilometres, which means that in some villages more than one cabinet is required.

The first stage in the process is now complete, with new fibre cables having been laid in existing ducts to both Gravir and Balallan exchanges. In the next few months you will see the green cabinets being erected, and once they are commissioned, new faster services will become available - but not to everyone.

While the locations of these cabinets are still in planning, they are most likely to be limited to the main fibre routes in this first phase. Eventually, new roadside ducts will need to be laid into villages not currently on the main route. This work is still to be commissioned, and will be subject to new tenders being issued to meet State Aids guidelines. In effect this means that Cromore, Marvig, Calbost, Lemreway and Orinsay are more likely to be connected in a future phase.

*Donnie Morrison*



*For everyone interested in the history and culture of Scottish islands  
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## Jennifer Ellis appointed as Pairc Trust Development Manager

We are delighted to announce that Jennifer Ellis is our new Development Manager, a key appointment in taking forward the development of the Pairc Estate in consultation with the local community.

Jennifer is a qualified psychology teacher and has worked in a number of training and management roles in the public, private and voluntary sector. She grew up in Stornoway and left to attend University. She lived on the mainland for a number of years, attending University in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Keele. She says she always knew she would return home to bring up a family.

She returned to Stornoway in 2007 with her husband Jamie, and they now have two young daughters. Jennifer was originally a Hepburn and has family connections in Lochs. Latterly, she has been working at the Comhairle developing a programme of training for Harris Tweed weavers.

Commenting on her appointment, which she will take up on Monday 4th April, Jennifer said: 'I am looking forward greatly to my new role as Development Manager and am very excited about the opportunity to develop the Estate and bring about positive changes in the community.'

This completes the appointment of our initial staff team (along with Sandra Alston, our Administrative Officer) and we can make a real start on the important tasks which lie ahead. During the last couple of months, we have been working hard on some complex issues hanging over from the purchase of the Estate, for example VAT and a claim for compensation received from Mr Lomas in relation to our 2010 Part 3 applications. An update on all these matters and our plans for the future will be set out at the AGM, details of which will be announced as soon as possible.

At the AGM, all current Directors will be standing down and some will stand for re-election. These will include Lis Drew (resident in Cromore and a crofter in Lemreway) who has recently been co-opted onto the Board. Lis has a lot of experience in her previous job on the Scottish mainland of attracting grant funding for development projects, so should be a great asset to the Trust.

We hope that others will also put their names forward to become Directors. Nomination papers will be sent out with the notice of the meeting. In total there will be 10 vacancies for elected Directors plus scope for 2 more as co-opted Directors. We hope you will consider joining the Board to help the community realise the potential which our ownership of the Estate now opens up. We particularly want fresh blood and new ideas as we embark on the exciting work ahead.

*Angus McDowall*

*Chairman*



Jennifer Ellis

## New publication to chart the history of the Pairc Trust buyout

Pairc Trust, who finally took ownership of Pairc Estate in Lewis in December 2015, have commissioned Dr Bob Chambers to write a history of the buyout, which we hope will be published in 2017.

This reflects the widespread interest locally and nationally in the experience of the Pairc buyout, which took some 13 years to complete. The purpose is to provide an accurate and dispassionate account for future reference of the various stages of the buyout since early 2003, and an independent assessment of lessons to be learned from the experience. We believe this will be of interest to Government, other communities engaged in or contemplating land ownership, and to the people of Pairc.

Bob Chambers recently completed a PhD at the Centre for History at UHI on land settlement schemes during the inter-war period in the Hebrides, and is familiar with the Pairc and other recent community buyouts. The views expressed will be his own.

In undertaking the research for the project, Bob will wish to consult a range of people who have been involved in the Pairc buyout over the years. This will include past and present Directors of Pairc Trust, the previous owner of Pairc Estate, other crofters and residents of Pairc, officials in national and local government and their agencies, and others involved with community land organisations. We hope you will co-operate with Bob if he approaches you. If you wish your views to be treated as confidential, this will be respected.

Bob Chambers started work on the project in March 2016 and plans to complete the project in early 2017. Most of the consultation will take place in Summer and Autumn 2016. If anyone would like to contact Bob, his email address is [bobc1951@greenbee.net](mailto:bobc1951@greenbee.net)

# Naidheachdan na Sgìre...

# Around the area...

## Kinloch Historical Society Launderette

"What a great idea! " .....

"A lifesaver, as my washing machine has broken down!" .....

"What a wonderful local resource....I'll be back!".....

Some of the heartfelt sentiments from the "Comments" book in the recently opened Launderette.

The Launderette has two coin operated ( £1/ £2 ) industrial size washing machines and two large dryers. Machines are able to take duvets.



The old School, Balallan. Open Monday to Saturday, 7.30am - 7.30 pm.

Saturday 26 March	Saturday 26 March	7 - 11 April
Bonanza Fun Day	Easter Fayre	Communion Weekend
Keose & Glebe Community Association	Balallan and District Recreation Association	Pairc Free Church
Egg Hunt Baking Evening film show	Face painting Teas, coffees Raffle	Everyone welcome to join the services or after-church fellowships
From 3pm	From 2pm	
Keose	Balallan Hall	Gravir

## Dè tha dol...

## What's on...

### PAIRC FREE CHURCH COMMUNION WEEKEND 7 – 11 APRIL 2016

#### SERVICES

Thursday 7 April – 12 noon & 7pm  
– Gaelic (am) English (pm)

Friday 8 April – 11.30am  
7pm Gaelic in the church  
7pm English in the hall

Saturday 9 April – 12 noon  
English in the church

Sunday 10 April -11.30am  
Gaelic in the church, English in the hall – Joining together for the Lord's Supper  
6.30pm  
English in the church,  
Gaelic in the hall

Monday 11 April – 11.30am  
Gaelic service in the hall

#### VISITING SPEAKERS

Rev M Macdonald (Callanish)

Rev M Macdonald – Question Meeting  
Rev Alasdair Macleod (Gairloch)  
Rev Iain Thomson (East Kilbride)

Rev Iain Thomson

Rev I Thomson & Rev A Macleod

Rev I Thomson & Rev A Macleod

Rev Alasdair Macleod



## Keose & Glebe Community Association

We are actively working to raise funds to improve and renovate the play facilities in our Community Park. We want to provide a better, drier and safer environment for our local children and for other visitors.

As part of the fundraising, we are holding a Bonanza Fun Day on Saturday, 26th March, starting at 3.00pm and continuing into the evening. It will be based around our Meeting Place near Keose Bay.

There will be games and activities for the youngsters, including an egg hunt. Adults will be able to buy baking and other items as well as enjoying a tea/coffee and baking. The social gathering will continue with a supper and silent film show for members.

We look forward to an enjoyable opportunity to chat with friends and neighbours as well as raising money towards our park.

Everyone in the community is very welcome to come along to any of the services or after-church fellowships