



# muaitheabhal

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Pairc and Kinloch

### Pairc Playgroup celebrates boost to childcare provision

Pairc Playgroup has been celebrating recently with the announcement that their application to extend current provision has been approved, thanks to a £107,000 funding injection.

The funding from Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust (MCWFT) and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) covers a three-year extended hours project which brings with it three new employment opportunities in the area, and hopes that increased childcare could attract new families to South Lochs.

"Sourcing adequate childcare is a major problem for many families in the area, with many having to look to Stornoway for provision as there is nothing available locally," said Helen Sandison, Pairc Playgroup Committee.

"There is just a desperate need for full-time provision locally, and we're delighted that soon we will be able to provide that," she continued. "With work being undertaken to look at housing in the area, we hope childcare will no longer be a barrier to attracting more families to come and live in South Lochs."

Funding 55% (£58,941) of the £107,166 pilot, Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust are 'proud to be supporting' the project. "This is a fine example of the innovative and proactive projects the Trust aims to support, tackling the main issues in our community of retaining our population, encouraging families to live here, as well as supporting local job opportunities," said a Trust spokesperson. "We wish the Playgroup every success in the pilot project and hope it leads to great things," they added.

Jane MacIntosh, Head of Strengthening Communities, HIE, said: "While we do not generally provide long term support for childcare, we do support community

development initiatives and social enterprise. She continued. "If sustainable, the nursery will continue beyond the lifetime of the project, creating and retaining jobs and generating income in the local economy."



The three-year Pairc Playgroup project will see the community run nursery's hours, currently mornings only, Monday to Thursday, increase to cover Monday to Friday - 8am to 6pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 9am to 4pm on Wednesday and Friday. There will also be the introduction of breakfast and after-school clubs, expanding the age range to cater for school children.

Three new employment opportunities for the area have also been created. Joining the team are:- 28hr post: Lyndsay Montgomery from Garyvard; 19hr post: Tracy Jacques from Calbost; Admin post: Coleen Macleod from Laxay. Helen said: "We are delighted to have made the appointments to get the new service up and running, and we can now start to take bookings for afternoon childcare and the breakfast and after-school clubs."

For more details on the provision available, see the leaflet inside or contact the Playgroup on 880451, or email paircplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk.



**Issue 11**  
**December 2016/ January 2017**

**Welcome to issue 11** of the newsletter for Pairc and Kinloch, produced by MCWFT, and full of the latest news and events in the area.

**February/ March issue out:**  
**27 January**

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

**Tel:** 01851 880296

**email:**  
news@muaitheabhal.org.uk

### Balallan Launderette

**Open**  
**Mon - Sat**  
**7.30am - 7.30pm**  
**The Old School, Balallan**

## Housing Needs Report

Our Housing Needs Analysis of the Pairc Estate is now complete and we would like to thank MCWFT for their financial assistance. We would also like to thank CnES for helping us analyse the results. The Report is available on our website, and hard copies are available in our office.

The Report shows that the community strongly support our aim to create affordable housing in the Estate, and there is a desire to bring empty properties back to life.

We have recently submitted a bid to CnES to purchase the empty Care Unit in Gravir and we will know by Christmas if we have been successful. We intend to renovate the property and make it a family home for affordable rent.



Jen Ellis, Development Manager of Pairc Trust presenting Iain Watson, Housing Services Manager, CnES with the Pairc Trust Housing Needs Report.

## Gaelic Classes

Are you interested in learning Gaelic? Would you like to join a regular Gaelic learner class? Times and dates will depend on demand. Please get in touch if you are interested.

## Renewable Energy Project

The Trust has secured funding from Local Energy Scotland to carry out a feasibility study, which will investigate how to provide low carbon energy to local business Hebridean Sea Salt.

Natalie Crayton, the Managing Director has told us 'As a business Hebridean Sea Salt uses a reasonable amount of energy in our production process, so we are really looking forward to working together with the Pairc Trust and the local community to help deliver their renewable energy project and install solar panels on our premises. We are always aware of our carbon footprint and are constantly looking for ways to reduce it and make our processes more sustainable'.

We have recently appointed Community Energy Scotland to carry out the feasibility study on our behalf. We look forward to working with Hebridean Sea Salt and see the feasibility study as the first step in an exciting project, which will link local energy generation with local demand.

### Get Involved:

If you would like to join a Working Group focusing on: Tourism; Renewable Energy; Housing or Crofting please get in touch.

**Website:** [www.pairctrust.co.uk](http://www.pairctrust.co.uk)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/pairctrust](http://www.facebook.com/pairctrust)  
**Telephone:** 01851 880 728  
**email:** [info@pairctrust.co.uk](mailto:info@pairctrust.co.uk)  
**Visit:** Kershader Resource Centre, HS2 9QA

## Award for IBT volunteer

Recently, staff and volunteers representing the Islands Book Trust met with Bellann O' Brien at the Woodlands Centre in Stornoway to present Martin Smith with the Clisham Award. The Clisham Award has been developed by the Volunteer Centre Western Isles to recognise outstanding commitment to volunteering.

Martin was nominated for working tirelessly to promote and further the work of the Islands Book Trust. As a charitable organisation, without the dedication of those like Martin it just wouldn't be possible to carry out all the work we do.



Alayne Barton our publications officer had this to say, "Martin deserves the award because he has volunteered with IBT for more than a decade, driving around restocking books and putting up posters at his own expense.



## The Islands Book Trust

He was still working for a good amount of that time too so all the IBT work was done after hours as it were. He is always cheerful and willing to help with anything the trust needs done – and anything you ask him to do he does quickly! He is really the star of the show – but such a quiet understated little star no-one notices that it's actually Martin that keeps the show on the road! "

### Special offer

To celebrate the launch of our new website, developed with the aid of funding from MCWFT, we are offering:

*free delivery on all orders to people in the Western Isles.*

Visit the website to register for a customer account and qualify for the discount, and have a positive experience of island delivery charges for a change!

[www.islandsbooktrust.org](http://www.islandsbooktrust.org)

## Balallan Hall

Balallan Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who supported them during their recent hall renovations. Their patience and understanding meant a lot us. Balallan Hall is now a very cosy venue for any group.

Our recent Ceilidh had to be postponed but we hope to reschedule it in the early spring.

To book a table for the Christmas Fayre (£10) call 07760348748 or speak to any member of the Hall Committee.

## Angus Macleod Lecture

A very successful 13<sup>th</sup> Angus Macleod Memorial Lecture took place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October in the Council Chamber in Stornoway – the venue was changed from Lochs this year to coincide with the Mòd. The speaker was Deputy First Minister of Scotland, John Swinney, who has held Cabinet responsibility for Gaelic since May. The title of his lecture was 'The Place of Gaelic in a Modern Scotland'. Speaking to a large and enthusiastic audience which included local people and visitors to the Mòd, Mr Swinney emphasised the Scottish Government's and his own personal commitment to the future of Gaelic:

Following the lecture, Mr Swinney took questions from the audience. A Vote of Thanks was proposed by Donnie Morrison of Comunn Eachdraidh na Pairc. John Randall, who chaired the event, thanked Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for hosting and supporting the lecture, and An Comunn Gàidhealach for promoting it as part of the Mòd Fringe. The meeting closed with a Gaelic psalm presented by Kristine Kennedy.

## Pairc and Kinloch Telephone Directory

The updated Pairc and Kinloch Telephone Directory is currently being compiled, with support from MCWFT.



Community groups and businesses are welcome to advertise, at low rates (free for community groups).

For further information, email [news@muaitheabhal.org.uk](mailto:news@muaitheabhal.org.uk)

## Dè tha dol... What's on...

**Christmas Fayre**

**Balallan Hall**

**Saturday 3rd December, 2pm**

Santa will arrive at his fantastic new Grotto at 2.30pm with a wee present for all the children.

Tea/coffee with warm mince pies and shortbread.  
Bumper Raffle, tombola, Baking stall.  
Various sales tables.

Admission £4 and £2 for children  
(this includes Santa present)

**The Great Ravenspoint Xmas lights switch-on!**

Stalls from 3pm


Carol singing!

More lights!

Santa's coming at 5pm!

Saturday 10th December

Mince Pies!

 **Alzheimer Scotland**  
Action on Dementia

**Christmas and New Year programme alterations**

There will be no singing group in Stornoway in December.

There will be no Ravenspoint Dementia Café in January. The next one will be Wednesday, 1st February.

**CAROL CONCERT**

Sgoil Na Pairc are hosting a Christmas carol concert on Monday the 12th of December 2016 at 7pm. Come along and join in with our carols and enjoy some festive refreshments.

# Sgoil na Paire

## It's not every day that you get to meet an astronaut!

Pupils from Pairc School met British astronaut Tim Peake at the UK Space Agency Principia Schools Conference in York on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Lily McDowall, Matilda Cheesman, Robert Cameron, Jack Sandison and Ruairidh MacLeod travelled to attend the conference, and gave a presentation. Tim Peake addressed the Conference and outlined in detail his recent mission on the International Space Station before meeting with every school group in attendance.

During the school session 2015-2016 the pupils of Pairc School took part in various projects linked to the European Space Agency sending the first British astronaut to the International Space Station. By taking part in these projects and through watching the video clips from Tim Peake on the ISS, Matilda Cheesman had been inspired, and her imagination was fired to such an extent that when asked to write a story 'The Magic Carpet', Matilda wrote about her carpet taking her to a rocket where she met Tim Peake. This story was submitted along with photographs of the children's involvement in the other projects to attend the Principia Schools Conference run by the UK Space Agency.



As a result of her successful application, Matilda and five other pupils aged 6-7 years were invited to attend the conference in York, and gave a presentation called 'Up, Up and Away with Mission Starlight', based on the Mission Starlight project, and culminating with Matilda reading her story.

The pupils were praised for how well they spoke and presented themselves as well as the science described in their presentation. The highlight of the day came when the pupils met and spoke to Tim Peake, asking him questions and having a photograph taken with him.

On the Sunday pupils took part in an action packed Activity day which included visiting a Planetarium and Mission X - training as an astronaut.

We would like to thank the UK Space Agency and the Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust for their funding towards the cost of the trip. We also acknowledge a grant from the Ross and Cromarty Educational Trust.

## What the children said...

'We learned a lot of things about being an astronaut. They recycle any liquid on board the space station because there is no water up there. They have to exercise or their bones get weaker and weaker because they don't use their legs a lot, they just float about. I enjoyed meeting Tim Peake and speaking to him and shaking his hand.'

Matilda P2

'The P3's and Matilda P2 went to York and we met Tim Peake. He is an astronaut and very tall and very friendly. He was very good at talking to us. He was really interested in the Western Isles.'

Lily P3

'Some pupil's in P2 and P3 from Pairc School went to York to do a presentation to Tim Peake. Our presentation was about the best material for astronaut's suits and visors. Yellow and red were the best for keeping out UV light for the visors and the best material for astronaut's suits were tinfoil, cotton and Harris Tweed! I really enjoyed doing our presentation. I was not scared to do it and I was happy to be there.'

Jack P3

Chaidh sinn chun an oilthigh agus bha sinn a' dèanamh bùth-obrach mu dheidhinn ròbotan. Bha an turas agam cho math air sgàth 's bha sinn a' dèanamh pròiseact anns an clas mu fànas agus bha sinn a' coimhead ri Tim Peake a' dol suas dhan speuran air an telebhisean an uairsin choinnich sinn e ann an York, 's e duine toilichte agus cool a bh' ann.

Le Ruairidh clas 3

Choinnich sinn Tim Peake agus bha e uabhasach math, bha e tòrr nas fheàrr na bhith a' dèanamh obair sgoile. Fhuair sinn an cothrom faicinn cò ris a bhiodh e faireachdainn gun gravity, bha e èibhinn. Rinn sinn presentation a' sealltainn dè bha sinn ag ionnsachadh ann an saidheans mu dheidhinn stuth a bhiodh math airson deise-fhànais a dhèanamh agus 'b e Clò Hearach agus tin foil an rud a b' fheàrr.

Le Robert Clas 3

## Christmas Stamp

Keep an eye out for more details about our special festive Christmas stamp that can be bought at Ravenspoint or through the school. The Christmas stamp was a competition for the pupils at Pairc school and it was a tough decision for the staff and our local postie Mark stokes to decide on the winner..... it was Stephanie Frobisher who won the competition and she was very surprised!



Pairc pupils are busy in their workshop making some lovely Christmas crafts. Look out for their goodies at Ravenspoint Christmas fair on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. All the profit will go towards the school funds.