



North Harris Community Recycling Site

As the nights are drawing in, we will shortly be moving on to our winter schedule at the site. Short day-light hours mean more heating and more lighting. Luckily for us, the wind turbine is generating enough to cover the majority of our demand. We're making sure that we only make Biodiesel on windy days, when there's plenty of free electricity!

This month we plan to install a portacabin next to the shed to provide office and kitchen facilities on site for the first time. The existing caravan is no longer watertight. We have ordered the largest cabin that'll fit, and plan to rent some of the space to one of the other organisations that has been displaced with the closure of the Old Hostel building.

Trading Company Update

Bunavoneader Hydro Scheme

Despite many application forms and many hours spent on the phone, we haven't made much progress on the project finance since the last update. The goal posts moved once again this month when the rules of the Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) changed once more. Now you can't use any grant money if you want to claim FiT. This will force community groups like us to borrow more money for their renewable energy schemes; thus cutting the community benefit and increasing the benefit to the banks. As we go to press, it's looking as though the Trust's own bankers are finally going to lend on the scheme. This, alongside the Co-op Bank, will complete the funding package and allow us to start work in 2012.

Zero-Carbon Business Units

Our architects, AffordableTM from Findhorn are hard at work finalising the plans for the business units we hope to build on the outskirts of Tarbert. We hope to submit a planning application in November. This will include three detached units on land adjacent to the showground on the road to Scalpay.

2012 Calendar now available

The Trust has produced a calendar for 2012. It is available from several local outlets, and from the Trust office.



To order your copy email admin@north-harris.org or info@north-harris.org or phone 01859 502222. Calendars cost £8 each plus Postage and Packaging. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or credit/debit card.

Electronic newsletter

The Trust would like to offer Members and Friends of North Harris the chance to subscribe to an electronic edition of future newsletters. To subscribe please email the Trust at info@north-harris.org or admin@north-harris.org

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1. Participants on Laurie Campbell's photographic workshop, 2. Sron Uladail, 3. Start of the Community Walk, 4. Red Deer in Harris.

Isle of Harris Mountain Festival

The first Isle of Harris Mountain Festival was held recently, running across seven days from Saturday 24 September to Saturday 1 October. The Festival is a new and exciting event that featured a host of outdoor and indoor activities for visitors and locals alike.

The main crowds were drawn on Wednesday 28 September when Cameron McNeish gave an evening presentation titled "Mountains: Earth's Enduring Monuments". Cameron took his audience on a tour of the world's famous mountain ranges, beginning and ending in the famous, Scottish, Nevis range.

On Thursday 29 September the audience was introduced to celebrated natural history photographer Laurie Campbell, who is completing a yearlong photographic commission for the North Harris Trust. Laurie gave a 90-minute evening presentation of some of his life's work, including his landscape photography and his work photographing iconic species such as the Golden Eagle and Red Deer. The previous day, participants joined Laurie Campbell for a one-day photographic workshop. Those who took part were treated to one on one tuition from Laurie to improve their photographic skills, a real privilege for those who took part.

A guided walks programme during the Festival week showcased some of the remote and beautiful areas of Harris that are accessible via the island's extensive paths network, including Gleann Crabhadaill and Sron Ulladail. The highlight of the programme was the 12 mile walk along the Miabhaig-

Bogha Glas path on Saturday 1 October that brought the Festival to a fantastic close. Marshalling along this route was provided by Hebrides Search and Rescue, who did a fantastic job of making sure everyone was on track, and provided walkers with a cup of delicious, homemade, soup at the end of the walk!

Indoors, and away from the wind and rain, a high quality film package from the Best of Kendal Film Tour 2011 was shown. Also showing was the Triple Echo production the Triple 5. In preparation for the Great Climb in 2010, Dave MacLeod and Tim Emmett attempted to climb 5 routes, on 5 Islands, in 5 days - a world first.

Festival Friday was set aside for a Ceilidh, with the Anna Fraser Band, held in the ever popular Bays Community Centre in Leacklea. There were a few pairs of bleary eyes at the start of the Community Walk the next day.

Unfortunately, the changeable Harris weather meant the sea-kayaking taster sessions, and the guided walk to Molinginish, had to be cancelled. However, the interest shown in these events mean that they may feature in next year's programme.

Planning for next year's festival has begun already. If you have any ideas or feedback you would like to share then get in touch with us via email, robin@north-harris.org, follow us on Twitter @HarrisMountFest, or like us on Facebook, Isle of Harris Mountain Festival. Programme details will be available on the Mountain Festival website www.harrismountainfestival.com

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New land manager

The North Harris Trust is delighted to announce that a new Land Manager has been appointed following the departure of Duncan MacPherson. Mark Lazzeri, former Development Manager for the Assynt Foundation, started work for the Trust in mid-October. Mark looks forward to meeting Trust members and Friends of North Harris in the course of his work with the Trust.

New Home for Harris Voluntary Service and Western Isles Community Care Forum

Following the closure of the Old Hostel Building, two of the organisations who were based there are now renting office space from the North Harris Trust in Tigh an Urrais. Harris Voluntary Service, including Crossroads Harris, and the Western Isles Community Care Forum are both situated in the Trust boardroom. Their telephone and email details remain the same. Pedestrian access to these offices is through the door at the side of the building, via the disabled access ramp.

5 Peaks Challenge

For those looking to exert themselves while out and about in Harris, the Isle of Harris Mountain Festival saw the launch of the Harris 5 Peaks Challenge.

For the Festival week only there was a free dram, and a complimentary Mountain Festival Miniature, for those who climbed three or more of the 5 Peaks.

The 5 Peaks Challenge leaflets can be found in a number of local outlets and route information and further details are available on the website www.harrismountainfestival.com/5peaks.

Go on, give it a go!



Young, Gifted and Rural

Two members of the Harris Youth Council, David Morrison, Scalpay, and Karen MacKay, Luskentyre, attended an event organised by SCVO and Carnegie UK Trust in Comrie, Perthshire.

The event was organised as a networking event for youth groups and organisations involved in youth development in rural areas.

Karen and David presented a short film on what's great about living in Harris. The film was very well received by all those at the event. The Trust and the Youth Council are hopeful that some exchanges with other rural youth groups will be possible, as a result of some of the links made at the event.

The Youth Council filmed and edited the piece by themselves. The short film is part of a larger project that the Trust is working on with the Youth Council. The Trust has received funding from Carnegie UK Trust to complete an appreciative enquiry into Young people's views on life in Harris.

The film can be watched online via the Trust website or the Carnegie Fiery Spirits blog: www.north-harris.org or www.fieryspirits.com

Crofting Connections Update Prize winning carrots

As mentioned in the previous issue of Caraidean, pupils at Sir E Scott School are involved in the Crofting Connections programme.

From the wide selection of fruit and veg that the pupils have been growing, carrots, mange-tout, potatoes and courgettes were entered into competitions at the North Harris Agricultural show in August this year.

The pupils, and volunteers involved in the project, were delighted to receive a rosette for third place in the carrot competition. Here's to more successful growing next year!



Tigh an Urrais Official Opening

The official opening of the building was carried out during the Isle of Harris Mountain Festival on 29th September. A large number of invited guests and Members of the Trust attended the opening ceremony. The St Kilda Tartan ribbon (donated to the Trust by Harris Tweed, Isle of Harris) was cut by Cameron McNeish, celebrated author, broadcaster and mountaineer, and Stuart Morrison a young member of the community.

Speeches were made by Calum MacKay (Chair, North Harris Trust), David Cameron (Chair, Community Land Scotland), Sandra Holmes (Highlands and Islands Enterprise), and Cameron McNeish. A blessing was given by retiring Harris minister, Reverend Norman MacIver.

Refreshments followed the ceremony, and were provided by the Tarbert Community Centre.

Many thanks to everyone who attended and took part in the ceremony.



Calum MacKay, Chair NHT, Stuart Morrison, Cameron McNeish, CB Morrison, vice-Chair NHT

Eagle Hide Construction Underway

The North Harris hills hold one of the highest densities of golden eagles in Europe and the open nature of the landscape makes this a fantastic place to watch this spectacular bird. In recent years eagle walks run by the North Harris Ranger Service have proved to be a very popular draw for visitors and residents alike. In order to further promote our unique natural heritage and enable more people to see eagles we have embarked on a project to construct an eagle viewpoint.

The viewpoint will be a small weather proof shelter situated in Glen Miabhaig in the heart of the territory of a pair of golden eagles. We aim to build a structure that will blend into the natural surroundings with a turf roof and larch cladding.

Seven large panes of glass will provide excellent views of the glen and ridges frequented by the golden eagles. The viewpoint can be reached by a short walk along a 4X4 track from the nearest road and will be open all year round. An interpretation board will provide information about the eagles and tips on how

to spot them. The viewpoint is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

This will be the first year round eagle viewpoint in Scotland and we would like to thank SNH, Leader and the Brown Forbes foundation for funding this project.



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