

# The Horshader Herald

The Horshader Community Development Trust Newsletter  
End of Year 2019



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Nollaig Chrìdheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr



The festive season has arrived and everyone at Horshader has enjoyed being involved in events and projects that bring people and resources together for the benefit of all. Recently, we've collaborated with neighbouring community groups to arrange some great events. More on the Christmas Party, skill sessions and workshops inside!

Similarly, HCD Community Fund grants have been awarded to organisations doing great things in our area, enabling them to continue and expand their work. Over £40,000 has been awarded to 14 organisations over the course of the year, an amazing sum being invested in the local area through community-led projects. Bursaries were awarded to 5 people to assist with costs relating to their studies. And driving lessons were funded for 2 young people - a massive help as anyone learning to drive will know.

The Community Programme at Raebhat House has continued to increase the number and range of opportunities locally. After the flurry of activity during summer it seemed things might quieten down, however there hasn't been a week without a number of events taking place! If you haven't yet called in, make sure to do so in the new year.

Best Regards,  
Euan MacLeod

## Christmas Lights Switch-on & Party

The annual Christmas Party was held at the very end of November at Ionad na Seann Sgoil. A lively crowd attended and enjoyed delicious food before counting down the festive lights switch-on, which certainly helped bring on festive cheer and good spirit. And, despite being very busy at this time, Santa made a special appearance, handing out gifts to all - he was later spotted enjoying some well-deserved mince pies.



After Don and Chris made such a big effort in erecting and decorating the Christmas tree, it was great to see the Old School packed with young and old. While the young ones enjoyed themselves dancing, and generally running around, the grown-ups sat catching up with friends and neighbours. Food was prepared by Kathleen Murray and her team as a fundraiser for local charity Western Isles Cancer Care Initiative. The spread was fantastic, with plenty beautiful sandwiches and other party snacks, we were spoiled. Thanks to these efforts £500 was raised for WICCI who greatly appreciated the funds.

HCD wish to thank The Old School Trust for working with us in planning and running the event. Thanks to the kitchen team: Kathleen, Lena, Catherine, and Jayne. Finally, thanks to Santa who kindly donated his fee to local causes, split between Hebridean Men's Cancer Support Group and Bethesda.

## Exhibition by Iain Murray 'Basher'



Iain Murray's exhibition closed in November after what had been a much enjoyed 3-month run at Raebhat House. Staff and visitors alike have appreciated the artwork, a diverse range of subject and techniques used, which highlight Iain's talent.

The total raised through sales was £2,600 which went as a donation to Hebrides Alpha project. Basher, Shona Macleod, manager at Heb Alpha, and other representatives of the group, joined us at the recent Blasta Lunch Club and were presented with a cheque to great applause. A visiting group from Carloway included a fellow artist and old friend of Iain's, this was a recurring theme of the exhibition as numerous friendships rekindled as a result.

## Scrap Car Scheme 2019

The Scrap Car Scheme was a huge success with 30 households from Dalmore and North Shawbost benefitting. A total of 33 cars have been removed along with a large amount of smaller bits of scrap such



as old trailers, car tyres, agricultural scrap and various other bits of scrap metal. HCD are currently investigating additional ways of expanding the scheme and improving our local environment in 2020.

## An Eathar CRC

In October, rowers from An Eathar headed for Loch Tummel near Pitlochry for the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association AGM and regional fresh water sprints. The following month a crew of 5 had perfect weather for rowing, and took advantage of it to get Yackydoola back out on the water with a great trip from Crosbost, past Tanaraidh and the Barkin Isles before a coffee stop at Cromore harbour.



The club have recently held indoor skills sessions at Raebhat House Community Space and Ionad na Seann Sgoil. These have focused on passage planning, wind, tides, chart reading and direction of buoyage. The sessions are designed support trainee coxes by building knowledge and confidence, and have attracted members of other rowing clubs. Thanks to Murdo MacLeod for leading the sessions.

An Eathar have recently produced (and completely sold out) a bilingual photo calendar featuring some of the breathtaking places the Yackydoola has visited over the last year along with Gaelic sea proverbs. The Gaelic name on Lewis for the shortest day of the year, upon us on Sunday 22nd December, is *Oidhche nan seachd suipearan* - Night of the seven suppers.

## Community Growing Update

As there's not a great deal of growing at this time, it's a chance to start cleaning out! All crubs will be dealt with on a rolling programme as discussed with the allotment holders - we appreciate your cooperation in keeping things tidy during the process. Repairs and upgrades will also take place so that everything is in order before the season properly gets underway. After the shortest day, it won't take long for the solar dome to warm up - seeding starts in January.

A number of allotments at the Dalmore site are still to be completed, while there's also a bit of work needed on the outdoor areas at Grinnivat Rd. Current allotment holders have let us know their plans for continuing with their plots next year. As such we expect to have a number of allotments and outdoor areas available to rent for 2020 - these are limited and highly sought after! Letters will be sent out to HCD members in January with details of available plots, but let us know asap if you are interested. Priority will be given to HCD members and residents of the Horshader area.



New Head Gardener Chris Humphries hosted a Growers Meeting at the end of November which was attended by 12 enthusiastic allotment holders who discussed their growing plans, at the same time providing Chris with a lot of useful information to help improve our service and engagement with users. A Community Growing event will take place on Wednesday February 5th featuring guest speakers with serious horticultural skills, and tea and baking of course.

## Support and Connect

Other than Don's regular community runs, the bus has recently transported Shawbost School Sgoil-àraich to An Lanntair for a pre-school session, as well as taking the pupil council to town to visit the toy shop before dropping gifts off at the hospital.

It was a pleasure to provide fans (and half the board!) of Westside FC with a bus to their annual awards dinner after the club's league and cup winning season. Passengers were perfectly well behaved despite everyone enjoying the evening to the fullest.

The Christmas Community Spin in December headed to Ness for a busy day. Visits to Comann Eachdraidh Nis and Borge House provided the sustenance needed to keep on shopping and pick up last-minute gifts. Ness has quite the collection of shops and other interesting venues - who needs Stornoway?

## Project Management Workshop

On Thursday December 5th, Raebhat House hosted a full-day workshop for 6 budding project managers. Jordan and Euan attended from HCD and were joined by representatives of Urras Coimhearsnachd Bhràdhagair agus Àrnoil, Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn, and An Eathar. This was a great opportunity for local development workers to focus on relevant skills collectively, while the course itself was full of fascinating insight, practical advice, and templates that can be used while planning future projects.

The workshop was delivered by HCD director Alisdair Wiseman who has worked for many years as a management consultant and now runs his own business, Innovation Zone. Alisdair kindly shared his experience of working on and managing complex projects across the world, and delivered a workshop packed with useful info. Further project management workshops are being planned for 2020, if you have an interest in attending future workshops then register an interest by emailing or phoning HCD office.

## Westside Art Show

Next year will see the first Westside Art Show, an initiative led by HCD which will give local artists a chance to display and sell their work as part of an exhibition at Raebhat House. The exhibition will be manned by HCD staff, Monday to Saturday, for 3 weeks in March, extending the shoulder season before the busy summer for local artists. A special community preview event is planned before the public opening. HCD will take a reasonable commission from sales, which will be reinvested into community art projects. Details for artists interested in exhibiting their work will be published in January.

## Sgoil Shiaboist Partnership

During the last quarter HCD has developed its partnership with Sgoil Shiaboist, aiming to support the school in providing activities. During the winter after-school clubs programme Euan delivered 2 weekly Lego Clubs for the younger classes. The clubs aim to encourage the pupils to use Gaelic outside the



classroom in a fun, social situation. Working in teams on challenges helps build communication skills and, occasionally, conflict resolution. The club for older pupils begins in January and will run for 6 weeks.



The weekly Gaelic music session for the sgoil-àraich continues and led to a performance at the school's Christmas Concert. The young ones were very brave in performing in front of full house of parents, grandparents and friends. We sang *Seall an Sneachda* and *Rinn Sinn Bodach Sneachd An-Diugh*.

### Community Programme

It has been great to trial a number of activities and events since the opening of Raebhat House Community Space. The refurbished building has been the venue for the HCD community programme which includes the weekly coffee morning (Fridays from 11am) and monthly Blasta Lunch Club. Available for hires, we have welcomed partner groups running a great range of activities - from maritime skills sessions to Gaelic storytelling evenings. As designed, the space is providing new opportunities for residents to socialise, and to learn as a community.

We have a number of exciting events planned for the first quarter of 2020. Firstly, a number of Margaret Ferguson's lolaire portraits will be exhibited from January. These haunting pieces of art capture the men who were lost in the terrible tragedy on new year's day 1919. The collection was exhibited at An Lanntair as part of the centenary remembrance events last year. Now, 10 portraits of men from the Westside will be exhibited at Raebhat House, open to all Monday to Friday from 10am-4pm (except public holidays). An evening event will take place on Friday January 31st to mark the exhibition.

The Book Club will launch on Tuesday February 11th and is a great opportunity for bookworms to come together to pick, read, then discuss novels. Another 5-week block of Gaelic classes will commence Wednesday 19th February. And, some slots are available to those interested in music lessons (Guitar, Fiddle, Ukulele). Contact HCD office if you'd like to be involved in any of our activities.

### Winter Fuel Scheme

The Winter Fuel Scheme had another successful year with 61 Horshader households receiving £150 worth of fuel to help with the winter weather. Residents chose between the common types of fuel (coal, gas, etc), or opted for a food voucher instead.



*Weekly Coffee Morning - Fridays from 11am - From January 10th 2020*

### Grants Provided By The Trust Recently

Shawbost Old School Garden – Replace Garden Fence and Pergola

Carloway Community Association – Cover printing costs of the monthly Carloway Community Association newsletter

The Old School Trust – Assist with the costs of the annual fireworks display

Lewis & Harris Youth Pipe Band – To assist with the costs of employing a tutor to teach Drumming across the islands

### In Conclusion

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. Look out for the next one in March.

Best Regards,  
All staff and Directors at Horshader Community Development