

# The Horshader Herald

The Horshader Community Development Trust Newsletter  
October 2019

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## Harvest Time



August saw the grand opening of the newly refurbished Community Space at Raebhat House, and what a fantastic event it was! Many local residents, along with visiting friends and family were present and suitably impressed with the new design. Good food, live music, and the launch of an art exhibition by Iain Murray (Basher) made for a great day. Keep reading for more on the party, and some photos!

After collating the results of the recent survey, we plan to establish a number of activities at Raebhat over the next quarter. These clubs, classes, and get-togethers are for the benefit of all ages and interests, and should provide plenty of incentive to get out of the house during the Winter months. You'll find information on Beginners Gaelic, Horshader Book Club, and our Weekly Coffee Morning, in the Community Programme section.

Since the last newsletter, HCD Community Fund grants have been awarded to deserving local projects including: the local Sheep Dog Trials; Gluasad Còmhla, and Westside Runners and Fitness Club's 5k and 10k event (pictured above). Training grants have been awarded to groups and individuals to enhance skills and work opportunities locally. And, as the students return to studying, bursaries awarded to aid with academic supplies offer welcomed support to our young people.

Best Regards,  
Euan MacLeod

## Summer Party – Grand Opening of Raebhat Community Space



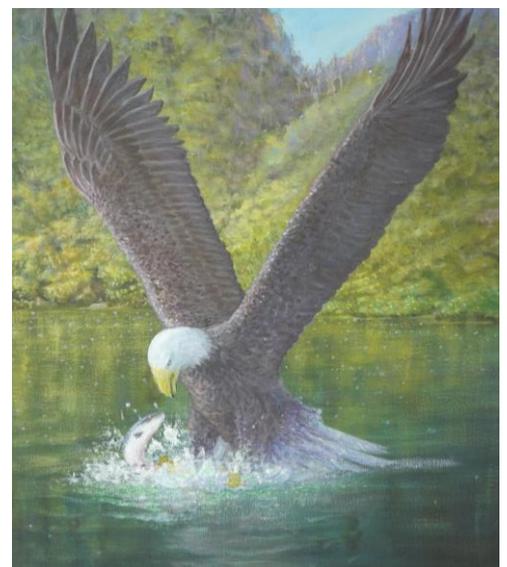
On 24th August over 120 guests joined us for the Horshader Summer Party, which was also the official opening of our new Community Space. The designing and refurbishment works that began at the end of May were completed expertly in time for the event. The upgraded space features lower and upper areas divided by a partition, both areas are suitable for a wide-range of events and activities. The entire building, along with the outdoor pollycrubs, will now be fully accessible.

After the reception, David Graham of Hebrides Alpha spoke about the project's objective of providing therapeutic employment and supported accommodation for those in need.

David thanked HCD for their support and explained that the partnership between the groups led to the planning of the art exhibition by Iain Murray (Basher) who has previously worked with Hebrides Alpha. Fittingly, Iain was on hand to cut the ribbon before curious attendees rushed in to get a better look at the new design, and Iain's wonderful paintings.

Community members then enjoyed a lovely afternoon, with live music from Stephen Drummond – who was quickly informed of his Shawbost ancestry – on accordion, and Carol Miller who performed some beautiful clàrsach pieces. Children were entertained with party bags and facepainting, and got a good enough day to play outside. BBQ food was served followed by some amazing homemade desserts. The conclusion of the raffle signalled the end of proceedings as guests made their way home. All in all it was a great effort by everyone who helped with the event, and we are now looking forward to the next party!

## Exhibition by Iain Murray 'Basher'



Iain Murray's exhibition will remain open until Friday 1st November, available to view from 10am to 4pm on weekdays, excepting public holidays. With all proceeds from sales going to Hebrides Alpha, over £2,300 has been raised to date. Hebrides Alpha is a project dear to Iain's heart, having received kind and caring support that has allowed him to produce an astonishing body of work – 36 paintings using a range of styles and subjects.

It has been a pleasure to support Iain with his first official exhibition. It is also the first exhibition hosted by HCD and has brought visitors from near and far afield. The Community Space will continue to be used to exhibit artwork by local and visiting artists, a feature which we hope will continue to inspire us all. Get in touch if you are interested in exhibiting artwork in the space.

## An Eathar CRC

For 3 days at the end of June, An Eathar hosted its annual rowing festival. First up was a voyage and camping trip to Pabbay and Little Bernera. The fleet consisted of 4 St Ayles skiffs, a drake and a Sgoth Niseach, all accompanied by Michael Skelly in the safety boat. The number of participants was between 20 and 25 as boats joined and departed throughout the day. Representatives of Row Porty were present, along with local skiff Florence, a Uist rowing club, and six Australians, mostly Tasmanians, who are veterans of open boat raiding.



The Family Funday was an opportunity to take children, parents and beginners out rowing on sunny Loch a' Bhaile. This was followed by a sumptuous lunch prepared by Clann an Latha an Dè at Ionad na Seann Sgoil before a return to the loch for competitive racing. The day finished in rip roaring fashion with a lively ceilidh with music from Stephen Drummond. The highlight of the event was the impromptu 'Danns an Rathaid' (Road Dance). On Sunday, the 9 rowers attended the Gaelic service at Siabost Free Church where they were warmly welcomed by Rev Callum MacLeod and the congregation and were privileged to listen to Psalm singing in the heart of the Hebrides.



The club took part in Feis Mara na Hearadh in Scalpay on 27th July, and then returned to Harris on another trip to the Island of Taransay. Finally, Yackydoola headed to Barra for the Barrach's inaugural regatta, this was a great success – complete with Vatersay Cèilidh.

Over the summer An Eathar held additional beginner sessions on Loch a' Bhaile and now have 4 new trainee coxes. An Eathar are grateful for the continued support from HCD, without which many of the activities and events would not be possible.

## Westside 5/10k Event

Westside Runners and Fitness Club held their annual 5k and 10k race on 21st September at Ionad na Seann Sgoil, where there was amazing weather and a great day all round. This was the most successful year ever with entries for the 10k race doubled to 75, and also increased numbers for the 5k. In total there were 207 runners, an incredible turnout!

The project, aiming to be a friendly, well organised, family orientated event, actively encouraged local school children and their families to participate – Shawbost, Breasclate, Sgoil an Taobh Siar, and Lionel schools all received 'starter packs' to get them underway with advertising the event, and registering runners.

The atmosphere on the day was brilliant, with the event amply supported by the catering team and by first-aiders Christine and John Macdonald. Club Secretary Jayne Miller said, "We have really appreciated the financial assistance from Horshader for this project as it is our main way of raising funds to keep providing a range of different fitness groups and classes for different groups of people on the Westside."



## Support and Connect

Don and the Horshader bus have been busy over the last quarter since the schools went back. In addition to the regular school run, P7 classes have been visiting local organisations to learn about the employment opportunities in our community, as arranged by CNES Community Learning and Development, while the Sgoil-àraich recently attended a special pre-school event at An Lanntair.

Clann an Latha an Dè meetings have started up again, with the twice-monthly meetings making good use of our bus. The service is available for community hire, contact the office to arrange a booking. Pictured to the right is the bus providing transport for the local Triathlon event.



## Glusad Còmhla – Epilepsy Awareness Training



On Friday 4th October, Epilepsy Scotland delivered a training session for youth and community workers from the Westside, raising awareness of a condition which can leave many isolated and unable to attend everyday events, social clubs, etc. The session was arranged by Glusad Còmhla – a group of local parents aiming to create safer environments for young people living with Epilepsy – with support from HCD.

Nicola Milne, chief Training Officer for Epilepsy Scotland, delivered the informative session to a group of over 30. This included: studying the wide-range of seizures that affect people; a focus on the

effects of Epilepsy on the lives of children, adolescents, and adults; and a demonstration of how to administer the correct treatment in event of a prolonged seizure (Status Epilepticus).

Maureen Macdonald of Glusad Còmhla said “I thought the event went incredibly well and the feedback has been great. For us it means Riley can now attend youth clubs with the rest of his friends. We are so grateful to Horshader for their assistance with the grant and hall hire.”

## Growing Project

As the days draw in, the prospect of long days spent working outdoors seems less appealing. However, we still have plenty of maintenance work to do at Raebhat, Grinnivat Rd, and Dalmore growing sites. This time of year makes us all appreciate our polycrubs and the shelter and warmth they provide, enabling the community to grow their own produce all year round.

The Grinnivat Rd site has been somewhat neglected recently and we hope you bear with us as it returns to the high standard that such a good facility deserves. Outdated equipment will be upgraded, and





supported growers sessions will be arranged to encourage allotment holders to keep growing! As we approach the end of the year, keep an eye out for information on available plots if you are interested in getting involved.

After a patient wait over the holidays, Shawbost School Growing Club finally got to pick their produce at Raebhat House. Cabbages, potatoes, carrots, and tomatoes aplenty!

## Farewell David Murdo



After almost 6 years at HCD, David Murdo is leaving for pastures new at the end of October. Over the years David Murdo has seen a lot of changes to the organisation, but his own friendly nature – ever ready to assist with any gardening problems, or plant some trees – has been a welcome constant.

A key figure in developing the community allotments scheme, David Murdo has also led the Shawbost School Growing Club for the last few years, passing on his knowledge and inspiring our young people.

More recently, the focus has been on developing the Hebridean Ark Tree Project, collecting and propagating native tree seeds and cuttings, and has become much sought after as a speaker at conferences and other events. The recent community project of planting Hebridean Aspen at the Norse Mill leaves a legacy to be proud of, and something for David Murdo to keep an eye on whenever he comes to visit us.

Everyone at HCD wishes David Murdo the very best for the future, we are sure he'll get on very well with his new ventures. Mar sin leat a charaid, na bi fada a' tilleadh!

## Sgoil Shiaboist Partnership

In order to further strengthen the partnership with Sgoil Shiaboist, HCD will be working with the school to provide a range of regular activities. A Gaelic music session is now being run for the pre-school children on a weekly basis. Club Lego will be run from November to March as one of the school's Winter clubs – the club encourages all students to use their Gaelic in a fun, relaxed environment. Finally, David Murdo and Don have been busy installing 2 new raised beds on the school grounds to enable additional outdoor learning opportunities for all the children.



## Community Programme



The MacMillan Coffee Morning held on 27th September raised £280.50 in total, it was lovely to see so many in attendance, and the donations of baking were amazing. Our Weekly Coffee Morning was launched on Friday 11th October and will continue to be held every Friday between 11-12. Once again we had a great turnout as people enjoyed the new space, Basher's artwork, and had a good blether.

Beginners Gaelic starts Wednesday 30th October 7-8pm. The initial block of 5 classes is suitable for complete beginners, and for those in need of a refresher.

Horshader Book Club begins on Tuesday 12th November at 7pm, we plan to meet every month to pick and discuss novels.

And, with recent funding awarded by Eat Well Age Well, HCD will be running a monthly Lunch Club from November. We are working with a chef who'll cook delicious nutritional meals, while attendees will have an opportunity to take part in activities (Art, Indoor Bowling, Yoga) at each Club. As well as being a great social event for all residents, the project aims to reduce risk of malnutrition and isolation for the most vulnerable in our community, so please let us know of anyone that we can support in attending.

For any queries, or to register an interest for any of the activities, contact 01851 701225, or email [admin@horshader.com](mailto:admin@horshader.com).

## Freecycle

Our Freecycle page is still up and running and with Christmas not too far off it's a great place to pick up some bargains or donate. Some examples are: outgrown bikes; or unused books, dvds and games. The page has enabled people to get new furniture, accessories and clothes.

We'd like to see more of this as it's a great way for our community to come together and reduce waste. If you're not a member of this group then join us by searching for 'Horshader Freecycle' feel free to invite friends and family as well. If you have any questions about this then feel free to contact us.



## Grants Provided By The Trust Recently

Westside Runners and Fitness Club – Assisting with costs towards the Westside 5/10k event.

Glusad Còmhlà – Funding for Epilepsy Scotland training and travel costs.

Local Dog Trials – Assisting with costs towards the Sheep Dog Trials.

Joshua Morrison – Strength and Conditioning training grant.

HCD has also recently provided student bursaries to Seumas MacLeod, Sharon MacLeod, and Leonidas A Clifton.

## In Conclusion

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. Look out for the next letter at the end of December.

Best Regards,  
All staff and Directors at Horshader Community Development