

The Horshader Herald

The Horshader Community Development Trust Newsletter

February 2022

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A warm welcome to your latest newsletter. I hope you find this both informative and interesting. As the newsletter is for you, our members and readers, please feel free to provide suggestions to enhance future editions. This will help ensure that content always remains relevant.

In this edition we highlight some of the benefits of Horshader membership. We felt these were worth highlighting. Given the rising costs of virtually everything, it is good to know that there are ways to cut household bills, be this via reduced fuel prices or growing your own vegetables - just 2 of the ways in which we are able to support our community.

In closing I would like to offer a personal welcome to our 2 new staff members, Laura & Nick. They have both settled in well and working well towards the success of the Tree Ark project. I would also like to offer my thanks and appreciation to Anna & Chris, both of whom have moved on to new opportunities since our last newsletter. I and my fellow directors wish them both every success in their chosen careers.

Best Regards,
John Gordon
Chair

STV Appeal Grants for Local Families

In partnership with STV Children's Appeal, grants are available to help families meet rising costs of living. We are delighted to have secured £4,000, which will be given out as vouchers that can be used for the purchase of food and other household essentials. This comes after £3,800 was distributed by Horshader through the same scheme in 2021. Grants are for families living in the Horshader area, or the neighbouring villages, with at least one child (0-18) in the home. If you meet the criteria and would like more information, contact the office by email or phone.

Restarting Community Events

We are delighted that the office and Community Space at Raebhat House have reopened to the public, following the loosening of covid restrictions. Although this was a shorter period of closure and home working, the staff are now able to return to the office, with precaution, which makes almost all aspects of work easier! The return of community events is also very welcome, after we all missed out on the normal festive social occasions.

Weekly events return from Thursday 3 February, with the open music session – 7.30-9.30pm every Thursday. This is a lovely evening event open to all musicians and singers, and those who enjoy sitting in the comfy seats and simply listening to the tunes. There is always an eclectic blend of music, folk, rock, Gaelic song, gospel. After that, the Coffee Morning returns on Friday 11 February – weekly, from 11-12 each Friday. Come along for a hot drink, home baking, and good company.



Having secured funding from the CalMac Community Fund, our monthly Blasta Lunch Club will begin again soon. Planning is ongoing with talented local chefs who will showcase tasty, nutritious 3-course menus. The lunch club is open to over-65 living on the westside and was very well-received when it first took place in the months leading up to March 2020. Highlights included George's Philly Chicken, the deliciously garlicky French Pistou Soup, and plenty of cake and ice-cream.

As we emerge from another quiet period, the trust is working to make a range of interesting and useful events and classes available to all. Other initiatives which will be launched over the coming months are a

series of IT workshops, the re-start of our Speak Gaelic evening classes, and music lessons. We are also delighted to have secured funding to continue the Slàn san Dachaigh health and wellbeing project; this means more fitness and outdoor events.

To ensure that everyone is kept up to date with events, a new mailing list has been set up. Those on the list will receive regular updates on community events, either by post or email. All HCD members have been added to the mailing list, however we will add those who live outwith the area but enjoy attending our events.

Logo Competition

A new logo has been on the cards for some time now. The original has served the group well, although it does show three turbines, while we only have one. The existing design is also generic, without any local features, or reference to our beautiful villages, or heritage. As such, it is a great time to commission something new!

The board of directors have launched a competition open to all ages and artistic abilities. We would like design ideas, which can be submitted in any form, from a pencil sketch to a digital image, along with a brief description of the proposal. Once a shortlist of the best proposals has been decided, we will launch a public vote to determine the winning design. An artist will then turn the winning design idea into a professional quality logo. All shortlisted designers will receive a prize.



Submit all entries to the trust office, by email or post. The deadline for entries is 31 March.

Staff Spotlight – Laura McEwan & Nick Coward



A warm welcome to two new staff members, Laura and Nick, pictured here on their tour of the tree nursery. Both are now working part-time in the Tree Ark and have been busy getting to grips with day to day maintenance. They started in post at the start of the year and have had lots to do in preparation of a few big orders due in the first quarter of the year.

Laura: I moved into New Shawbost in April last year. I've lived in a few places in my life, like South Africa and Australia but none so lovely as here with its wonderful community. I feel very privileged to be living here and extremely lucky that my job is growing and caring for trees. Agus a h-uile latha latha sgoile!

Nick: I have a myriad of Horticultural experience mainly stemming (pardon the pun) from years as a Golf course manager. I am growing trees from seed, these will eventually make their way on to the croft. My hobbies include music, melody, and creative writing and have published a few wee books.

Horshader Oil Bulk Buying Group

Horshader commits to its members purchasing an amount of oil per annum from local suppliers. This allows Horshader members to purchase oil at a discounted price.

For example, Daily Price = 42.8p per litre => Bulk Buying Price = 38.8p per litre (4p discount per litre)

Joining the Oil Bulk Buying Group is very simple for Horshader members:

1. Set up a Direct Debit with Highland Fuels/Certas Energy if you don't already have one. If you are not a current customer, you can become a new customer.
2. Get in touch with Horshader to request addition to the Oil Bulk Buying Group.
3. Horshader will then add you to the group and notify Highland Fuels/Certas Energy.
4. Your heating oil will then be delivered as part of the group at intervals of approximately 14 weeks and will be charged at the discounted price.

If you have any problems or need further information, contact the office.

Allotments at Grinnivat Rd and Dalmore

Are you interested in renting growing space at our sites in South Shawbost or Dalmore? The window for existing allotment holders, and those on the waiting list, to sign up for 2022 has now passed. Each allotment rental comes with indoor polycrub space and an outdoor raised bed. Priority is given to Horshader residents. Contact the office to register an interest in time for the growing season.



**PLOTS
AVAILABLE**

**Grinnibhat Road &
Dalmore**

Outdoor and indoor
£25 per year

For more information
Phone: 701 225,
E-mail:
admin@horshader.com



Loom Rentals

In 2015 Horshader bought three Griffith Rapier Looms and have been renting them out to local weavers since 2016. The looms provide additional employment opportunities in the area, while also supporting the

island's tweed industry. Three residents are currently renting these looms in the villages of South Shawbost, North Shawbost, and South Bragar. We have continued to support the weavers throughout the Covid-19 pandemic by pausing the monthly loom rentals while workloads were uncertain to avoid any additional financial stress. Having been in touch with the weavers recently, they are now happy their workloads have returned to normal levels and the loom rentals will once again resume.

In Conclusion

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. So far in 2022 the trust has embarked on a number of important projects that were designed based on recent consultations. We have hired new staff and are in the process of recruiting a few more! The office and Community Space IT has been upgraded to benefit our own development activities, as well as other local groups hiring the space for meetings and events. Our next step is to hold a planning day for directors and staff where we will review the trust's development plan and strategies.

This newsletter is sent by email and post – let us know if you'd like to change format. It's also available as a Gaelic version. The next edition will be sent out in April.

Best Regards,
All staff and Directors at Horshader Community Development