

The Horshader Herald

The Horshader Community Development Trust Newsletter
August 2020



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Summer is here, yet the weather doesn't seem to agree! Never mind, there have been plenty of things to keep everyone at Horshader active. The continuation of our Covid-19 services, along and with the easing of lockdown restrictions, have enabled a return to some kind of normality - albeit with increased consideration for the safety of staff and residents.

This edition of the newsletter features updates on our on-going projects, some fantastic photos of the work that's taken place around the villages, and details of exciting online opportunities for education and entertainment.

While plans are being developed to ensure that the re-opening of Raebhat House is done safely, the offices and Community Space at Raebhat House remain closed to the public. The Growing Facilities at Dalmore and Grinnivat Road remain accessible on a rota basis to registered allotment holders only.

Everyone at HCD appreciates your cooperation with these efforts. Stay safe, cum sàbhailte!

Finally, I look forward to welcoming members to the Annual General Meeting of HCDT. The AGM will be held at Raebhat House, at 7pm on Tuesday 25 August if the lockdown rules allow it.

Best Regards,
Flora Macleod

Digi Tech Grants

The newly launched grant scheme provides grants of up to 100% of costs towards purchasing a new laptop or tablet. Applications are open to individuals in the fund's priority categories - over-65s and children of school age - however applications from individuals that are not in priority categories will be considered if exceptional need can be evidenced. Application forms and full terms and conditions can be found on the [website](#).

Comments from one of the first grant recipients:

"We are very grateful for Horshader's Digi Tech Grant. It was easy to apply for and the office staff were extremely helpful with our application. We have used the grant towards the purchase of a laptop. This is going to be of great benefit to our child who will be starting his exam years at the Nicolson in August.

Now, more than any other time, the ability to complete and research school work at home is vital. We are so thankful to Horshader for the opportunity to achieve this for our child with a laptop of their own"

Westside Art Show – Virtual Exhibition

There's been a huge response to the launch of the virtual exhibition, an idea that quashed the disappointment felt after the physical exhibition, planned for May, was postponed.

Of course, holding the event at Raebhat House Community Space is still in the plans, but engaging with art-lovers around the world has opened up new possibilities for the group of talented local artists participating in the virtual show!

Enjoy a selection of the artwork below and check out the full exhibition on the [website](#) as well as Murdo Macdonald's excellent contemplation on art history from a Hebridean perspective.



Lesley Wiseman



DK Macleod



Iain Murray

Beach Facilities Consultation

In July, an initial request for views on the facilities at Dalmore, Dalbeg, and Shawbost beaches was sent to all residents of the villages. A lot of interesting comments have already been received and, with a final deadline for feedback being the start of August, time will be spent reviewing the responses.

Using the valuable information provided by the community, a full consultation will take place in order to

decide how best to proceed in upgrading beach facilities. Work will not begin before the consultation has reached its conclusion, at that stage residents will be notified of any planned developments.

The team assisted Shawbost Gardening Club in brightening up the villages



Covid-19 Services

Once again, a massive 'thank you' goes out to everyone who has contributed to the delivery of services designed to ease the pressures and challenges the community is facing at the moment. Without voluntary assistance it simply would not be possible to provide support to so many households.

The **Community Support** service supports vulnerable residents by putting them in touch with volunteers that can assist with shopping, posting mail, and other tasks.

Shop and Drop has grown rapidly since the first delivery in April, with over 60 households having benefitted from the fortnightly deliveries of food and other essentials. Most households have used the service consistently since the start of lockdown, whereas others opt in and out as their circumstances change.

In partnership with 40 North Foods, **Blasta Ready Meals** has delivered over 500 delicious meals since April. A much-needed treat, and lovely social occasions during a difficult time for us all.

Elsa McTaggart and Mr Lister kicked off the **Virtual Engagement** programme, hosting a cèilidh on the Horshader Facebook page, watched by hundreds of viewers from around the world. The next virtual event is a talk on Kitchen Medicine by herbalist and forager Natasha Lloyd on Tuesday 11th August, 7pm.

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like more information about any of the services. Here's a few quotes from some happy Horshader residents.

'We are totally spoilt and cannot thank you enough for all the services provided during the very difficult and surreal times we live through at this time'

'Well done to all involved in this project... you're doing a great job in testing circumstances. Mòran taing dhuibh uile'



HCD Community Fund

As a result of Covid-19, many charities are struggling to generate income in the ways that have traditionally been most effective. Hosting fundraising events, along with running all kinds of innovative activities, to a large extent, has not been possible since March.

In response to these pressures, the HCD Board of Directors has fortunately been able to approve funding applications received from groups such as Western Isles Kidney Patients Association.

'I would to pass on our grateful thanks to your board for the very generous donation to our Charity. This will certainly relieve the pressure on our resources this year as we have just set up a monthly meal supply to our patients during this lockdown period' - Angus M Macleod, Chairman WIKPA

Coastal Walk Upgrade

Despite the difficulties in sourcing materials during the lockdown, work to ensure the upgrade is completed as soon as possible continues. Replacing way markers, stiles, and bridges is part of the project to upgrade the Dalmore to Shawbost section of the Westside Coastal Walk.

A Community Walk event is planned for Saturday 5th September, in line with the Scottish Government's COVID key dates. We hope you'll join us for the walk, an appreciation of one of the most spectacular routes in the world.



Summer Student Spotlight – Lauren NicMhathain



Is mise Lauren NicMhathain, tha mi a' fuireach ann am Barabhas, Leòdhais agus tha mi air Sgeama Greis Gniomhachais nan Oileanach an-dràsta aig Horshader Community Development. Tha mi air ceum ann an Gàidhlig agus Leasachadh a chrìochnachadh agus às dèidh an t-samhraidh, tha dùil agam a dhol a dh'oilthigh Srath Chluaidh airson PGDE a dhèanamh ann an teagasg bun-sgoil.

Tha math an obair seo fhaighinn oir tha e a' còrdadh rium gu mòr a bhith ag obair tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus tha mi an còmhnaidh a' sireadh chothroman airson a' chànain a chleachdadh agus a leasachadh.

I'm Lauren Matheson from Barvas and I've just completed my degree course in Gàidhlig agus Leasachadh (Gaelic and Development). After the summer, I'm hoping to attend University of Strathclyde to do a PDGE in Primary School Teaching.

Getting this placement has been great as it's allowed me to work with an organisation that's doing important community work, and where Gaelic is spoken every day.

In Conclusion

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter.

Best Regards,
All staff and Directors at Horshader Community Development