



# Horshader Community Development Newsletter October 2017

## Welcome to the October Newsletter!

From now on we will be producing a monthly newsletter, we feel there is a lot of information that needs to be delivered to you faster than the quarterly news we were sending out previously. We also understand that many of you do not use Facebook, which is where you would find the latest updates. If you do have Facebook, don't forget to follow us by searching for Horshader.

What a busy few months we have had! Lots of produce now available at the Polytunnels, the Hebridean Ark Project, Funding applications, lots of grass cutting and mini-bus trips to name a few!

## Polytunnels

Have you visited recently? Go and say hello to Frank our resident gardener. The Polytunnels are bursting with produce, from Tomatoes to Garlic, to Leeks and Herbs.

If you would like any produce delivering, just let us know and we can deliver to your front door. A few members of the community are taking advantage of this home delivery and we now do a weekly delivery to them. If interested, call us on 701225 and place an order.



*Who will buy my locally grown leeks? Just 50p each...*

*Who will buy my sweet red tomatoes? Just £3 for a kilo*



We also have winter bedding flowers available shortly, lots more fruit and veg, various types of Apple trees and perennial's. There seems to be something new every day!

## Hebridean Ark Tree Project

This has been a long time in the making. We completed research over the past few years with Mark Bradley and the Woodland Trust and are now in a position to let you all know a few more details. The press did get a jump on us though! We took part in a 5-minute interview with BBC Radio Scotland, we usually do a regular spot about the polytunnels and happenings in Horshader on a monthly basis. Our 5-minute interview about the Hebridean Ark has now been picked up both locally and Nationally by various press outlets, including The Times and The Scotsman. The project clearly captures the imagination of people both here in our community, the Island and on the mainland. We have new tunnels being erected and intend to grow saplings from seed, ready to be planted on crofts and in gardens as Windbreaks. A windbreak can reduce heating costs, reduce erosion and protect the property.

We know that many trees were destroyed by Vikings seeking to deny islanders wood to build boats and later cleared for grazing land and growing crops. The Hebridean Ark Tree Project involves taking cuttings and seeds from surviving trees and growing 100,000 saplings to plant in Shawbost. The trees involved are rowan, aspen, birch, willow, hazel and juniper.

Interested? If so, let us know, we would love volunteers from the Community to be involved, even if it's just for an hour every now and again. Call the office on 701225 and let us know! David and volunteers have been out around the Islands recently seed collecting.



As you can see, the native trees grow in the most unusual places where they are safe from Deer and Sheep! This is David our resident Tree Man!



## Happenings over the past few months!

**Shawbost Primary School** pupils completed a sponsored walk and Horshader Community Development were on hand to supply their refreshments of fruit, drinks and crisps. It was good weather and they ate their snacks on the shore.

**Western Isles Triathlon** took place towards the end of July, the weather was more Autumnal than Summer but this did not put the athletes off with every participant completing the gruelling course and then enjoying refreshments afterwards and a warm in the old school. Well done to all participants and organisers.



## Harris Tweed Hebrides

Horshader Community Development recently revamped the garden area at the Harris Tweed Hebrides offices and mill in Shawbost, with plants from the polytunnels and supplied new pots especially for the Royal visit. Princess Anne opened the new extension for Harris Tweed Hebrides and we were lucky enough to be invited along to meet her.



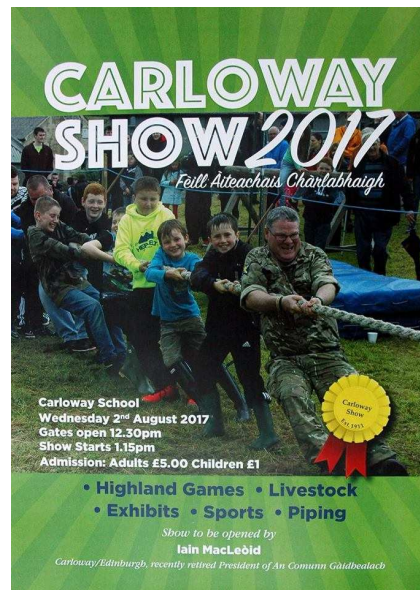
**Nicolson Institute visit** – Around 16 learners visited Raebhat House just before the Summer break and listened to a talk on the tree project, plans for the future and the history of Horshader Community Development. They had the chance to learn about all the herbs we grow, how hydroponics work and took away lots of information.

## Funding over the Summer

**Hebrides Alpha Fund Raising Evening**, Horshader helped to fund the evening that took place in the Old School and was very successful. There were some great prizes on offer and proceeds were for a great cause.

## Carloway Agricultural Society Show

Horshader once again supported the show by funding their show programme. What a lovely Summers day it was, the show was as ever very busy with lots of goings on and a great success.



**Shawbost Community Council** – Bragar War Memorial, we have helped to fund the much loved memorial. There are quite a few repairs needed, without Horshader Community Development funding a significant part of the cost, the repairs would have been unable to go ahead. We look forward to seeing the results.

**Five Bursaries** were awarded to members of the community, the applicants are in further education at Inverness, Glasgow, Dundee and Lews Castle College. We wish them all the best for the future.

## What Else?

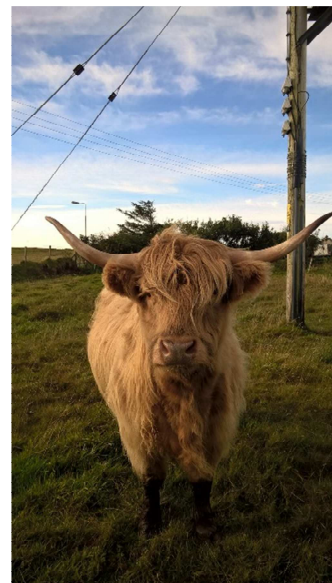
Phone 01851 701225 Web: [www.horshader.com](http://www.horshader.com) email: [admin@Horshader.com](mailto:admin@Horshader.com)

**Director vacancies and PEG vacancies** – Do you have a free hour once or twice a month and want to get involved in what is happening at Horshader and the community? Why not become a Director or part of the PEG group? Please contact the office on 701225 for more details.

**Handyman and Bus Service** – Don is coming to the end of his season for grass cutting, he has been very busy with the Minibus, and other Horshader projects. Don't forget the Handyman programme can also complete small jobs for you such as hanging curtains, changing lightbulbs, bringing in coal deliveries. Let us know if you need any small jobs completing.

The Mini Bus service has been busy again, including school runs, taking children to and from school, trips to Air an Lot and Nursery trips to the Castle and softplay centre in Stornoway. We have 2 spare seats on the Mini Bus due to a family moving out of the area. Call the office to book a spot or to discuss further.

Don, our driver met a new friend on the schools trip to Air an Lot!



**Volunteers** – Are you interested in volunteering with us a few hours a week? Do you have an interest in all things community based or in Horticulture, growing Trees or just looking for some work experience? Let us know or call into the office.

**Porkies** – Don't forget Porkies is here every other Tuesday from 4.30pm

**Fish van** – The Fish van also visits every Tuesday a 5pm

Got something for the monthly newsletter? Contact the office on 701225