

Title in Gaelic

The Horshader Community Development Trust Newsletter
May 2018



A few words from the Chair



Hello and welcome to the new-look newsletter - the new board of Horshader Community Development hope you enjoy reading it. We aim to produce a newsletter on a regular basis with information on everything we will be doing including current and new projects. The directors and staff are looking forward to working together with the Horshader community and making the Trust something that we can all be proud of.

By the by, all you budding photographers, we'd like to put a new photo of our beautiful part of Lewis on the front cover of each future edition of the newsletter. Just e-mail your pictures to admin@horshader.com with 'Newsletter pic' in the subject line. If your image is selected, you'll be front-page news and you'll get a voucher for £10 to spend on whatever takes your fancy.

And this isn't the only opportunity to win something in this edition. To date, the Horshader Community Development Trust newsletter has been called just that which has been fine – it does what it says on the can, as the old saying goes. However, we'd like to make it sound like it's a really interesting read. So, we'd like to stage a competition to come up with a name for our newsletter. Something witty, something clever, something thoughtful? As the majority of the community has Gaelic as their first language, we thought it would be good to have a Gaelic name. Send your suggestions with your name and address to the Community Office – you can make as many entries as you wish. The prize for the winning entry is highly desirable – that's all we can say at the moment. Good luck!

Flora Macleod

Community Meeting : Saturday 9 June at 2.00pm, The Old School, North Shawbost

It's been a while since the last Community Meeting and we thought it was about time to ask, once again, what you would like to see the Horshader Community Development Trust doing. However, we want to make this more than just a 'business' meeting. So, you are all cordially invited to afternoon tea in the Old School, North Shawbost at 2.00pm on Saturday 9 June 2018. The meeting is open to all members of the community, not just members of the Trust. If you know anyone that's not a member and would like to come along, let them know – the more people, the merrier.

There are a series of questions that we would like to pose during the community consultation:

- In an ideal world, with no constraints, what would you like to see the Trust doing or providing?
- When would you like to see these things happening?
- What do you expect from the Board of Directors?
- How would you like the Trust to communicate with you?
- How frequently would you like to have Community Meetings?
- What else could we do at Community Meetings to make them something to really look forward to?

So, get your thinking heads on ahead of the meeting – remember, there's no such thing as a bad idea.

We'll arrange the teas, coffees and soft drinks but it would be wonderful if we could get some of you famous bakers in the community to provide cakes, scones, pancakes, whatever you'd like to see getting served up for afternoon tea.

Other things on the agenda will include: introducing our new Development Officer; an update on current Trust activities; and a local knowledge quiz (with very desirable prizes for the winning team).

We'd also like to run a raffle during the afternoon – the proceeds will go to the school. If you have anything you would like to donate as a raffle prize, just bring it along to the office. Once again, the more the merrier. We're going to do our best to make the Community Meeting a great afternoon out and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

Update on the Trust growing activities



- Alan has been in touch with Scottish Water to see about installing a proper water connection to the polycrubs at Dalmore, as the current improvised arrangement is no longer working.
- The locks have been removed from the polycrubs so people can access their allotments whenever they wish.

As the growing season gets into full swing, we're going to need more people to help with watering duties in the polycrubs. If you're interested in volunteering, just get in touch with the office (01 851 701 225 or admin@horshader.com) and we'll add you to the list and let you know what's involved.

Lots more will be happening in the coming months – so look out for future newsletters for more information.

Meet (some of) the new Board



You will know that seven new Directors were voted in at the last Community Trust General Meeting on 3 April 2018. They have been extremely busy over the last 6 weeks, meeting for nearly 3 hours each Monday evening to deal with a pretty substantial to-do list. However, they managed to take a few minutes off to introduce themselves to the community. That's Alan Murray, the new Development Officer on the left, then Mary, Jimina, Flora and Sharon – Alisdair is behind the camera!

Flora Macleod (Chair) Flora has lived in Dalmore for 16 years and worked in the care sector before becoming a Day Care Officer for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. She looks forward to working with the new board of trustees and everybody involved within the Horshader trust.

Sharon Macleod (Vice Chair) Sharon was born and brought up in Shawbost. She attended the first Gaelic croileagan and followed through with Gaelic medium education in Shawbost School. She left the Nicolson Institute in 2016 and is currently studying Pharmacy at the University of Strathclyde. She spent last summer working at Lews Castle College UHI organising summer schools for university students studying Gaelic and working on a new Gaelic degree. This summer she has a student placement with Hebridean Housing Partnership.

Mary Maclean Mary is married to Kenny. Together they have a daughter Angela who is married to Graham and a son Donnie who is married to Alice. Between their two children they have been given five gorgeous grandchildren – four girls and a boy. Mary recently took early retirement from Western Isles Council where she worked at Carloway Day Centre and Ardseileach Residential in Stornoway. She has been involved with community groups in one way or another for nearly 40 years. She also volunteers with The Leanne Fund.

Jimina Macleod Born and brought up in Stornoway, marriage to a Siarach brought Jimina to South Shawbost, where she and her husband, Chris, are bringing up their two boys in the house they built a stone's throw from his family home. With a young family she serves on Sgoil Shiabost parent council and is very involved in events associated with the school and community. She has worked in the Carloway surgery for the last 5 years. If work or family didn't keep her busy enough she has been involved in some epic fundraising events for The Leanne Fund. Most well known being "500 Miles for the Leanne Fund", where in July 2013 she and her 4 fellow Leanne ladies walked 100 miles non stop from South Harris to the Butt of Lewis and then last year they tackled the "Magnificent7 for the Leanne Fund" which was climbing 7 Munro's (the Lochaber Traverse) in 24 hours.

Alisdair Wiseman (Secretary) After a short time in the Royal Navy, Alisdair worked as an Operations Manager in two multinational food companies. He then spent 4 years as a management consultant before setting up and running a medium-sized consultancy specialising in helping organisations perform better. In 2000, he set up the Innovation Zone and has worked with people at all levels in organisations big and small all over the world. He moved up to the islands permanently in 2010 to help his wife Lesley set up and run Hebrides Art, a VisitScotland 5-star gallery and coffee shop in Seilebost on the Isle of Harris. They built their new house at Dalbeg in 2017 and opened The Beach House Gallery in 2018.

More on the remaining Directors in the next newsletter.

Update from the Shawbost Heritage Trust

You have probably heard quite a lot about the museum project over the past few years but things have been quieter since the beginning of the year. We asked Di Hesketh, one of the Trustees, to give us a round-up of where things are at – this is what she had to say...



Urras Dualchas Shiaboist (UDS), often referred to as the museum project, was established in 2012 to purchase, restore and refurbish the Old Church on behalf of the community. The aims of the trust are to: establish a community-owned heritage centre; promote the heritage and culture of crofting life; secure and advance the role of Gaelic; provide opportunities for employment and volunteering; inform visitors and residents of the geography and history of the area; and provide a facility for recreation, education and leisure.

The Horshader Trust has provided both practical and financial support so far. In 2017 UDS was awarded a grant from Horshader, a grant from the Architectural Heritage fund and received a generous donation

from Mr Angus MacIannan. These covered the £32,000 fees for the design team and pre-contract costs. The plans meet the criteria of the Heritage Lottery and ensure the character of the existing building is maintained and preserved. The addition of an extension ensures there is space for a retail area, a small café (two tables), toilets and an information desk. The plans have been on display in the Old School and can now be seen in the Horshader office.

UDS has fully costed these plans and has a building warrant which is valid for the next three years. The estimated cost of the project is approximately just over one million pounds.

The renovated and extended church will have space to show case artefacts that are currently in the Old School or stored in sheds and will provide an interpretation area for the Norse Mill. There will be exhibition space for the Norman Morrison Archive of photographs and a demonstration space for the history of Harris Tweed. UDS is working in partnership with CEATS (Comunn Eachdraidh an Taobh Siar) and liaising with the Norse Mill Trust, Harris Tweed Hebrides and Shawbost School to make sure we do the best for all organisations.

In 2017 the committee was very grateful to Horshader for pledging £100,000 to the project as part of a funding consortium which included the Scottish Government, CNES and Leader. Sadly we were unable to get all the funding in place within the required time scale and so were unable to take up these offers. However, we are determined to try again.

We have been supported by Donna Smith from TIG with all previous funding applications and are grateful for all her experience and commitment to the project. Donna will continue to lead on the funding applications; we have already made a new enquiry to the Heritage Lottery (HLF) and have also received a grant of £7,000 from the William Grant Foundation. We are also grateful for the advice and support from David Macleay (CNES Economic Regeneration Officer) and Nick Smith (CNES Heritage Officer).

We have along way to go and we're keen to involve the community in activities that promote the importance of heritage. We'd love to hear your ideas. Could you get together and record conversations about the artefacts, stories or songs? Could you record the past by writing, drawing or painting? Could you guide visitors around the village? All suggestions are welcome.

There are four trustees on the committee Diane Smith, Catriona Macleod, Di Hesketh & Iain Macarthur) with vacancies for a further six. We can be contacted at udsiabost@gmail.com or in person.

Staying in touch

We have grand plans for the newsletter! We're very keen to make sure that everyone in the community knows what's going on. We won't be too ambitious to start with but longer term we'd love to have lots more information in the newsletter and contributions from all sorts of people in the community. For instance, we'd like to have a gardening corner where people can share tips and stories. There will be a what's on piece where you can tell everyone about an event that you're organising. We'll look at placing adverts for community enterprises and post offers of assistance. And we'll give updates on funding applications and live projects. If it's going on, we'd like to make sure you know about it.

Still on communication, we'd like to find out how you would like us to share information with you. Obviously, using e-mail saves money and gets the message out to everyone in the shortest possible time. However, not everyone has access to e-mail and some people prefer more traditional means of communication. When we have the community meeting in June, we will confirm your personal communication preferences so that we can ensure you are always totally up to date in a way that works for you.

Finally, you might like to know that a paper copy of the minutes of the Board meetings are available for anyone to look at in the office – they are normally available by Friday of the same week of the meeting. A paper copy has also been posted on the Grazings noticeboards in the community.

Stories from the community

In those long winter nights, when the fire is blazing curtains are shut tight, we've always made it through each day by telling and retelling stories – funny stories, sad stories, enlightening stories, stories with a moral or a twist, stories that grew and grew with each telling. To maintain this tradition and to begin building an archive of life in the community, we've decided to include a story from the community in each edition of the newsletter. If you have one you'd like to share, just e-mail it or drop it in to the office and we'll take it from there.

News in brief

Calling all you budding young reporters. We would love to include stories and reports from the young people in and around the community. So if you've got something you'd like to share, send it in to the Trust office and we'll see about getting your name in lights. A picture to go with the story would be great as well – a drawing or a photograph or whatever.

Midas driver training. We urgently need to extend the list of back-up drivers for the Trust minibus so that we can continue to do the school runs and provide the minibus for other requirements. If you are interested in being a relief driver, the Trust will pay for you to get your Midas qualification. The more the merrier. Just e-mail Alan to get your name on the list for the next training session.

Rotavator for hire. Back in 2017, the Trust purchased a petrol-driven rotavator but it has still to be used. If you would like to hire the rotavator, get in touch with David and he will let you know the hire charge and show you how it works.



For Hire: Ifor Williams Trailer. Galvanised and ideal for skip runs. 750kg maximum weight. Please call office for more information.

Spring cleaning at the Grinnivat Road polycrubs. Despite a little help from the Directors and others, there's still quite a bit of work required to get the polycrubs looking spic and span again after the winter. Get in touch if you'd like to join our group of volunteers.

One allotment at Dalmore. There is a single allotment at the Dalmore polycrub available. If you're interested, just get in touch with the Trust office.

Call for spare tea sets and crockery. Do you have any tea sets or crockery that you no longer require? Julie and Rachel in the Horshader Shop & Café might be able to use them and would greatly appreciate your donation!

Calls for help...

Need some help with something? Sorting out a problem with your computer, an hour's help with a garden project, anything really that you can't quite manage on your own. Just let us know and we'll pop a call for help in the newsletter – perhaps someone with just the right skills is out there right now, waiting to help. And to get things started, here's our first call for help...

Alisdair and Lesley Wiseman took over Croft 6, Dalbeg in the late part of 2016. "It's a magical place," says Alisdair, "And we're keen to know as much about its history as we can." So, if you know anything about the people that lived in and worked on the croft, the history of the place, Gaelic place names that no longer appear on the Ordnance Survey maps and anything else for that matter, Alisdair and Lesley would love to hear from you. The reward? Tea and cake and scones looking out over the bay at Dalbeg. You can contact them on 01 851 710 549.

In conclusion...

That's all for this edition of the newsletter. The next one will be in 5 or 6 weeks' time. Remember, if there's anything you'd like to see in future newsletters, just let us know and we'll see what we can do.

Thanks for reading and see you next time!