

The Horshader Herald

The Horshader Community Development Trust Newsletter

April 2021

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Here we are, one year on and still in lockdown. At least the vaccination programme is progressing effectively, giving us all hope that we can soon reunite with friends and loved ones. The past year at Horshader has been full of challenges. Despite that I'm hopeful that, as Spring gets underway, things are becoming brighter on all fronts and that we - as a community - can look forward.

During the first quarter of 2021 it's been lovely to see our Support and Connect bus loaded with children returning to school. The Garden team has done a fine job in preparing the sites at Grinnivat Road and Dalmore for 30 local growers who have rented allotments for the coming season. I've also been pleased to welcome new faces to the organisation, staff brought to fill important new positions, created with support from funding partners.

The 5 Covid Services have now become a core part of our work. The benefits brought to the community, by delivering initiatives like Shop and Drop and regular prescription deliveries, have been clear to see. However we are now in a process of redesigning each service to be sustainable, both financially and in terms of staff - as our workers expect a partial return to pre-Covid duties over the coming months.

We had anticipated holding the Annual General Meeting at the usual time, the end of March, but the preparation of last year's annual accounts has been delayed till mid-April. The provisional AGM date is now mid-May, which gives us a chance to share a fuller picture of the Trust's progress. Invitations will be sent out to all members in due course.

Best Regards,
Flora Macleod

Covid Services Update

Staff have been busy working on the 5 Covid Services, setting them up sustainably for long-term use by the community, as well as securing funding to cover the costs. Here are updates on each of the services, but don't hesitate to phone or email the office if you have any queries.

Horshader Shopper

Replacing the fortnightly Shop and Drop, the Shopper service will provide weekly deliveries of shopping - food and other essentials. Open to all over 70s, residents with certain health conditions, and those self-isolating at home. For more information email sarah@horshader.com or phone 01851 70 1225.

Blasta Ready Meals

Well over 1000 delicious ready meals were delivered to over-65s on a monthly basis last year. With funding from Foundation Scotland's Communities Recovery Fund, we are delighted to extend the service in 2021, with 2 deliveries per month planned, starting on April 9th. The project aims to raise awareness of malnutrition, an issue that's been exacerbated by the lockdown, while also providing a much-needed occasion to look forward to. Menus and instruction on ordering will be posted on our facebook page eage month.

Virtual Engagement

A series of interesting online events have already taken place this year, and we've got plenty more in the pipeline. These video events have been streamed live from Horshader facebook page, and all are available to watch again.

Prescription Deliveries

Deliveries from Carlway surgery continue three times per week, each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A new initiative will see us trialling a carbon-friendly method of delivering meds - using an electric cargo bike!

Community Support

This service was well-used during the first months of lockdown last year, however the number of users dwindled as our other services grew busier. Community Support has been redesigned to make it available to all, and as useful as possible for users. Assistance is offered in: posting and collecting mail; putting out bins and other small outdoor household jobs; emergency gas/fuel runs; and taking items to the local skip. Contact James on 07776411923 or email taic@horshader.com with any requests for support.

Turbine Update – from the Chair

The replacement cable is on track and it's expected that the turbine will be able to generate at full capacity from August. At the moment generation is curtailed to around 10% of the 900kW capability of the turbine. Due to this, the income Horshader receives in annual payments from Risort Power Group will be far lower than normal. The first payment of the insurance claim has been received, with the final payment due in June. Despite expecting to hit the the maximum claim covered by our insurance policy, turbine income across the 12 months following the cable failure will be around 50% of regular income.

Throughout this difficult period, the priorities for the Board of Directors are to: maintain the current staff; continue to deliver valuable community services; run the bursary scheme for local people in further education; and to meet the twice-yearly bank loan payments for the loan taken out to cover the initial costs of the turbine. To this end, difficult decisions have been made regarding the 2021 budget, with significant cuts from the previous year's expenditure. Budgets for Trust Projects and for HCD Community Fund Grants will not return to previous levels until the income returns, and we are sourcing external funding to run projects until that point.

It's disappointing to report that the CNES-run Emergency Support Fund - set up to aid the charities most affected by the cable failure - has, to date, granted no funding to Horshader, or any other charity in our

area. From the £300k+ ESF pot that was available to charities in 2020, more than 90% was awarded to Stornoway-based charities. As the 4 groups that are suffering the most are based in rural communities - Horshader, Tolsta, Galson, and Point and Sandwick - the CNES decision is unacceptable. We have appealed the original decision to reject our request for funding and will continue to fight on behalf of our residents and local charitable groups.

An additional issue has come about with the news that future sub-sea cable failures will not be covered by insurance. This is due to an increase in insurance claims relating to similar cable failures across the globe. The consequence of the change to our insurance cover isn't yet clear, although it is certain that we'll have to review our reserves policy with the worrying knowledge that a future cable failure could leave us with virtually no income.

We remain in regular contact with the other affected island generators and Community Energy Scotland. Having support in this form has been reassuring, allowing us all to compare notes and agree appropriate responses to CNES and SSE. Updates will continue until the turbine is operating at full capacity.

Covid Activities Coordinator – James Mackenzie



James Mackenzie has recently been appointed as the Covid Activities Coordinator - a critical role in developing and delivering Covid Services throughout the Horshader community. The post is short-term, till June, and funded by HIE Communities Recovery.

James lives in North Shawbost with his fiancée Katie. Originally from Back, James moved to Glasgow after leaving school to study music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He lived in Glasgow for a number of years working as a professional musician and was a member of folk band, Breabach, who he played pipes and wooden flute with for over a decade. He has toured and performed at concerts in many countries around the world.

Having returned to Lewis last year, James continues to be involved with music tutoring as well as working on a new album and a book of tunes. James said: "I'm delighted to be working with Horshader. I look forward to meeting and working alongside more people in the local community."



Background

HCD operates in one of the few areas of Scotland where the majority residents speak Gaelic – 65% of residents. Despite support for Gaelic being included as part of one of the Trust's charitable objects, at present there is no formal Gaelic Plan stating how the development of the language will be carried out. We will develop a draft plan, consult with the community, agree, and share a formal Plan with the community.

GAELIC PLAN AIMS

- Increase opportunities for residents to speak Gaelic
- Support Gaelic Education
- Take an active role in local Gaelic Development
- Provide Employment with Gaelic requirement

THEME 2 – OPPORTUNITIES

- 4 Gaelic focus events pa. – e.g. Ceilidhs, Talks, etc
- Gaelic class for adult learners – 2x 4-week blocks (Jan and Sep)
- Support Shawbost School in delivering 20 Gaelic sessions pa. – e.g. Club Lego, Sgoil-araich music
- Support parents with children in GME – e.g. Homework Club and online support
- Gaelic focus events for young people
- 1 Funded Gaelic Staff Position pa. – e.g. Project Officer, Student Placement

THEME 1 – COMMUNICATION

- Newsletters will be produced each year in English and Gaelic versions.
- Social media posts will be bi-lingual where possible, though English-only and Gaelic-only posts are also fine
- Media items and press releases will be distributed to local English and Gaelic media. eg Fuaran

THEME 3 – PROJECTS

- Deliver 2 projects pa. with Gaelic Development as a primary aim
- Deliver 1 intergenerational project with Gaelic element
- Participate in wider island and national language development projects/initiatives – e.g. Bòrd na Gàidhlig/Scot Gov. Consultations

One of our 2020 projects was to consult with the community regarding the local approach to Gaelic Development, with a view to publishing the Trust's first formal Gaelic Plan. The process began with a detailed survey, and then by including some more general questions as part of the wider 2020 Community Consultation.

The views of respondents chimed with peer-reviewed research published by Soillse in Summer 2020 - which projected that, without intervention, a severe decline in Gaelic speakers based in the vernacular communities would occur over the next ten years.

Too often critical efforts in supporting Gaelic speakers - of all abilities and ages - are not formally agreed and built into the structure of community groups, like ours, that operate in an area where a large percentage speak the language. Because of this, we have drawn up a simple plan to guide our work on this important issue. The plan will be reviewed in November 2021 and updated as necessary.

This is the first edition of the newsletter available bi-lingually. If you'd like the Gaelic version, simply contact the office.

Tree Ark Nurseryperson – Ruairidh MacIannan

Ruairidh MacIannan was appointed as Tree Ark Nurseryperson. The role is a new seasonal position funded by CNES Crown Estate Fund. A Shawbost native, Ruairidh has lived in the village his whole life and is excited to begin a new role at Horshader, having previously assisted with Support and Connect grasscutting.

Some may know Ruairidh as a fine young footballer for the Westide. He also drives around the village in a noisy car – his pride and joy. We're delighted to welcome Ruairidh to the team.



Slàn san Dachaigh (Healthy at Home)



Slàn san Dachaigh aims to improve the mental and physical well-being of residents by creating new opportunities for exercise, as well as raising awareness of ways to keep fit outdoors in the beautiful local environment.

HITT the Beach classes have recently restarted, after the first block of sessions took place in December. Personal trainer Joshua Morrison keeps everyone on their toes! For youngsters, Chrissy MacLeod and Emily Mackay ran Easter fitness classes at Raebhat for children of pre-school and primary ages. Short health walks, suitable for all abilities, will start on Friday 23rd April, from 10-11am. This activity requires booking, so get in touch if you're interested.

A series of interesting talks have taken place, with more coming up over the next few months. The events are streamed live from Horshader facebook page and can be watched again at any time.

First up, photographer Murdo MacLeod gave a talk on 5 March entitled 'Orpheus am Brataigean' based on his experiences of local climbing spots along the coastline of Shawbost, with bits of local lore mixed in for good measure. Colin S MacLeod followed up by sharing stories and amazing footage of his swimming adventures, raising thousands of pounds for charities in the process.

Sgìre Thorsìader Music Video



Local artist and film-maker Robbie Thomson with Gary Lister as they shoot the music video for Sgìre Thorsìader - a new community anthem written by Elsa J MacTaggart and Gary Lister.

The track has been recorded; we can't wait to share it!

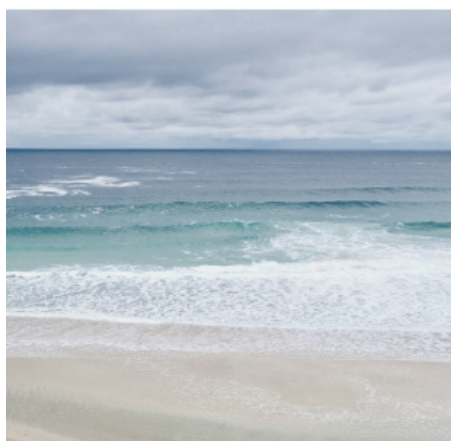
WIN AN ATLANTIC LIGHTS CANDLE SET

FARPAIS DEILBH



PHOTO COMPETITION

TAG HCD & ATLANTIC LIGHTS IN YOUR PICTURES OF OUR
COASTAL WALK BETWEEN DAIL MÒR - SIABOST
COMPETITION CLOSSES ON SATURDAY 10TH APRIL



Atlantic Lights

#SGÌRETHORSIADAR #ATLANTICLIGHTS



In Conclusion

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. Stay safe, cumaibh sàbhailte.

Best Regards,
All staff and Directors at Horshader Community Development