

The Horshader Herald

The Horshader Community Development Trust Newsletter
July 2019

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Summer is here to stay!



Despite the need for wooly hats and raincoats during the *An Eathar* rowing session for Shawbost School, summer is now here! It's been an exceptionally busy time since the last newsletter. Local groups supported by HCD have organised some great activities for the community; at the same time we are delighted to welcome new members of staff to work with the team at Raebhat House; and exciting new developments are underway. More on all this later in the newsletter.

Our existing services continue to be well used. The Horshader bus has been all over the island, providing members with community-led transport, enabling affordable access to events and services for residents of all ages. The Growing Project is attracting more local growers all the time, offering facilities and support from our expert horticultural team. Our growing sites are lovely places to visit and spend a few hours.

Through the Community Fund, HCD has supported some fantastic local projects including: the works to the exterior of Shawbost Free Church; helping the athletes of the Western Isles Island Games Association attend this summer's games in Ynys Môn; and Shawbost Gardening Club who do a great job in brightening up our villages with wonderful floral displays.

The Horshader Summer Party will be on Saturday August 24th. There will be music, food, and the launch of an exhibition by a local artist. Make sure to save the date, this event is not to be missed!

Best Regards,
Euan MacLeod



The community space refurb has begun! The space will now be fully accessible, energy efficient, and fit for purpose. It will consist of kitchen facilities, perfect for community event catering, and versatile upper and lower areas joined by a ramp.

The upper area will have comfy sofas, chairs and coffee tables. The lower area can be divided into two sections using large double doors, allowing the space to cater for all needs and requirements. There will be tables and chairs available for use within the lower area as well. This will create a flexible space suitable for a wide-range of activities and events. New ladies, gents and an accessible toilets with baby changing facilities will also be installed.

Walls have been insulated, ceilings have been installed and plumbing and electrical works are on-going. We have arranged for flooring to be installed and have begun ordering large furniture items whilst sourcing utensils and other equipment for the kitchen facility. The space will be welcoming with the use of light, fresh colours, and comfortable furniture making it suitable for all ages and occasions.

HCD will continue to develop its programme of community activities based on the needs of our members. The use of the refurbished space will include: the existing community activities that take place at Raebhat house, including HCD Growing Project events, fitness classes, etc; it will be used by local community groups at low cost; and will be available for community and private hires. A Community Space Survey was recently sent to all members and we've enjoyed the brilliant ideas and comments that have been returned.



Summer Party

The opening of the refurbished community space will be the Horshader Summer Party on 24th August 2019. It'll be a great event with music, food and good company. And ideally a bit of sun. An exhibition of the art of Iain Murray (Basher) will be launched to coincide with the event. Many of you will know of Iain's artistic talents and will share our excitement for this event.

Local musicians will be on hand to provide music for the party, feel free to bring along any instruments. All residents are warmly invited to attend, let us know by phoning the office if you require any assistance with transport to and from Raebhat House.



HCD Board of Directors recently established the Horshader Growth and Development Award. The annual prize, which consists of a trophy and gift vouchers, will be awarded at the Shawbost School end of term summer assembly. Teaching staff will assist in selecting a deserving pupil, with the criteria being a child who has developed as a classmate, a pupil, and as a community member during their time at the school.

The first recipient of the Horshader Growth and Development Award is Iona Matheson, pictured above being presented with the trophy by Laura Armstrong (HCD Projects Manager). Iona thoroughly deserves this award and everyone at HCD wishes her the best for the future. We also wish all P7s the best as they take a well-earned rest before starting secondary education in August.

An Eathar CRC

Sgoil Shiaboist pupils boarded Yackydoola for rowing sessions with An Eathar Coastal Rowing Club (pictured on the front of the newsletter). The trips on freshwater Loch a' Bhaile are within sight of their school beside which Yackydoola was built in a gardening club shed four years ago. Many of them remember visiting the build at the time and participated in the naming competition as well as sea themed workshops led at the time by Ali Grant from the SCRA. It was tremendous to finally get so many of them behind the oars along with their rowing teacher Amy Gillies.

The club provides opportunities to take part in the growing coastal rowing scene, in one of the best places in the world to try it! Rowers gain confidence through learning new skills and being involved in team exercises.

Pictures (clockwise): Loch a' Bhaile Community Skills Session, Yackydoola ready for maintenance work in Horshader's Boatshed, Shawbost school rowing session, Summer Solstice Row



Turbine Update

We are pleased to say the turbine is now back up and running at full capacity and that our insurance claims have been processed. Although this was an unfortunate episode, HCD take heart in the support received from local partners. Special thanks goes to Kathleen Macdonald (Community Energy Scotland) and to our MSP Alasdair Allan, without their help we may not have reached a satisfactory conclusion. Thanks also go to Jordan Morrison, who has been in regular communication regarding the turbine, and to former Development Officer Allan Murray.

Support and Connect

The school holidays also means a bit of a break from the usual routine for Don and the Horshader bus. The children in Shawbost love this service, to and from Shawbost Primary each day, and a run home from Stornoway for Nicolson students on a Friday. Don't worry though, there are plenty of other hires by local groups to keep Don on his toes.

Over the past few months, Clann An Latha An-Dè enjoyed a community spin to Bernera, then back to Eleven in Stornoway for lunch. They also had a great day in Uig in the sunshine with lunch at the new Uig Sands restaurant.

Shawbost School has made good use of our minibus service with transport for the weekly gardening club lessons at Horshader, a trip to cut peats at Grinnivat and various other activities. And Shawbost Sunday school enjoyed a picnic at Coll beach where they had a sand castle building competition.



Growing Project



As we approach the school summer holidays the polycrubby at Raebhat is packed with sunflowers, strawberries and many other plants that Shawbost School Gardening Club have enjoyed seeing grow. The outdoor beds are full with potatoes, leeks, onions and carrots, all planted by an enthusiastic and colourful group of children with support from their teachers.

Thursday 20th June provided an opportunity for children and parents to visit the site and share the experience of all the children's' dedication. Typically, the afternoon was a wash-out with constant, torrential, rain and those who braved the weather ended up soaked!

David is keen to encourage the children to continue putting their skills to use during summer. Plants (Strawberry, Lupin, Lettuce, Peas) can be collected from the School's polycrubby and taken home to look after. Call in during the day, or phone the office if you'd like to arrange to pick some plants up.

Over the Summer David, Don and John will be busy creating a growing area at Shawbost School. Having raised beds that all pupils will see each day throughout the growing season will encourage the children further, and will provide invaluable outdoor learning opportunities in addition to the weekly visits to Raebhat House.

The Growing Project sites at Grinnivat Road and Dalmore have been converted to allotments. With such great demand we have built a new polycrubby at Dalmore which is due to be completed shortly, along with additional outdoor growing areas. These developments will provide opportunities to grow for 28 families, which we are very proud of. Contact HCD office if you are interested in an allotment.



Hebridean Tree Ark

We have been encouraged by the great demand for local trees from around the island, as well as the media interest across the UK! The latest seed batch, collected from all over Lewis and Harris last autumn, is growing well in our tree polycrubby. The project has gathered a lot of interest as a conservation programme ensuring aspen trees that are becoming increasingly rare on the Atlantic coast of the islands are grown by future generations.

There will be trees for sale from August including rowan and birch and alder. Contact the HCD office for more information.



On Monday 3rd June bright and early with the sun shining Clann an Latha an De set off from Shawbost School heading for the ferry on the first stage of their annual mainland trip. At Ullapool we boarded a D & E Coaches bus with our usual driver Billie Melville who would remain with us for the duration.

This year the Best Western Invercarse Hotel Dundee was base for the 4 nights. An excellent choice, situated in its own grounds, spacious comfortable rooms, massive portions of wholesome food and friendly welcoming staff, perfect!

Tuesday morning was spent in St Andrews and after lunch we headed off to Edinburgh with a visit to Edinburgh Beer Factory for those who were interested in that procedure and the remainder onwards to spend their time at Ocean Terminal Leith.

Wednesday morning in pouring rain, our first stop was Gleneagles Hotel for tea, coffee and shortbread where we were welcomed and treated like royalty by members of staff. (Maybe we should have booked in there for the 4 nights!!) Our next stop was the Crieff Visitor Centre and then back to Crieff for lunch. From there we stopped off at Cairn O'Mohr Winery, Errol for a guided tour of the Winery and of course a tasting session, extremely enjoyable experience with a Tíre lady Linzey Cairns as our hilarious guide.

Thursday morning a couple of free hours for some retail therapy in Dundee before heading off to the amazing brand new V & A Museum on a guided tour with a young lady who brought it all to life, explaining every step of the way from the initial plan to its completion making things so much more interesting than just a wander on our own. From there to the Verdant Jute Works for lunch in its Weavers room and afterwards a tour of the Works partly guided and individually. A full day well spent in Dundee.



Thursday evening was Ceilidh night. Friends of Clann an Latha an De, Donny Tia Smith and Diane, Perth, brought along Donny's grandson Archie (12) who entertained us on bagpipes while his sister Flora (11) accompanied him on drum – extremely talented brother and sister who have accumulated quite an impressive collection of silverware and medals for their young years. Gaelic singers Ann Bennett (Dundee) and Alec Macdonald (Breasclete and Cumbernauld) sang an enjoyable selection of well-known songs throughout the evening while Johnny Duncan (Dundee) a famous accordionist friend of Donny set our feet a-tapping. MC for the evening was Donny Tia who had us in stitches with his choice of Lewis happenings stories. We were delighted to also have the company of Iain "Sgadan" and Christine, Donny Tia's brother Donald and John Morrison, Ness and Broughty Ferry who came along to visit and enjoy the ceilidh. Friday morning we bid Dundee a fond farewell and headed off towards Ullapool with a stop at Pitlochry and Inverness.

Clann an Latha an De are indebted to Horshader Community Development Board of Directors for the extremely generous grant of £4000 awarded each year which is an amazing boost to our funds and without which this much looked forward to annual trip might not be possible.

Thanks to Clann an Latha an-Dè for the report, nice to see they had such a good trip!

Car Scrap Scheme 2019

The aim of the scrap car scheme is to improve the local environment by removing scrap cars/agricultural scrap from within the community. Initially a letter went out to all households in the Horshader area on 2nd April letting them know about the scheme and the deadline for responses was set as 15th April, in total there was 28 requests for cars to be removed as well as various bits of agricultural scrap and scrap metal around houses/crofts in the Horshader area and North Shawbost.

The collection work began recently, the first load was made up solely of tyres! This will continue until all scrap has been collected and disposed of appropriately.

Staff Update



Laura Armstrong has recently moved to the Isle of Lewis and is thrilled to take on the position of Projects Manager. Working alongside Euan to ensure that projects are running smoothly and being delivered successfully whilst managing budgets, areas in which she is fully competent. Laura previously worked on global deployments for an Edinburgh based company, so juggling various projects and workloads is something she is used to.

As well as this she took on an additional role as Charity Champion, jumping out of a plane and off a bridge are a couple of the fundraising activities Laura has taken part in. She certainly isn't afraid of getting herself out there!

Laura attended University in Dundee and is originally from Fife, but, after visiting her future mother in law on the Isle of Lewis, fell in love with the beautiful beaches and wildlife. She is currently heavily involved in the community space refurb but is hoping to be more involved with the other projects soon and looking forward to working with Euan and the Directors to get some new projects in place for the future.

Laura is a keen fisher and nature lover and has fished the Scottish nationals for the past 2 years. In her spare time, she also enjoys going to the gym, hiking, climbing and painting. She is hoping island life can provide a bit more time for these activities. Laura is friendly so feel free to pop in for a chat and grab a cup of tea.

General Meeting

Thank you to those who attended the General Meeting of Horshader Community Development Trust, held on Thursday 4th July. The purpose of the meeting was to review proposed changes and then adopt the new Governing Document which a working group, comprising two Directors and two Members, had met a number of times to draft. The aim being to create a new Governing Document that: eliminates inconsistencies and duplications; follows best practice; is easy to read and understand; and introduces some new elements that enable the Trust to run properly in future.

A list of the proposed changes was provided to attendees along with a list of all resolutions. There was an opportunity to pose questions or seek clarity after each proposal had been explained, leading to some helpful points being raised regarding wording and implementation of certain proposed amendments. The agreed alterations to the proposed changes will be included in the new Governing Document. Directors and HCD staff will now prepare the new Governing Document. All Members will receive a copy of this in a readable booklet form once it has been produced by the Trust.

Grants Provided By The Trust Recently

Western Isles Island Games Association (WIIGA) – Assisting in travel costs for young athletes taking part at this year's Island Games in Ynys Môn

Acair – A grant towards the publishing of *Donald Smith – Dealbhan le Eileanach/Paintings of an Islander*

Clann an Là an-Dè – Annual mainland trip

Bragar Fitness Group – Training costs for new tutors

In Conclusion

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. Look out for the Autumn letter at the start of October.

Best Regards,
All staff and Directors at Horshader Community Development