

# Raasay Community Newsletter

January 2016

50p (where sold)

**Entry is by  
invitation only**

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## Settling down in the New Stone Age

In the second of a series of historical articles, *Margaret Moody* examines evidence of Neolithic sites on Raasay.

We are lucky on Raasay to have a number of Neolithic sites. This era, the New Stone Age, covers roughly the years c.4000-2500 BC.

The population was now living in settled communities working on the land, although there is little evidence of the sorts of dwellings they occupied.

Burials would appear to have been communal in barrows or chambered tombs (dolmen or *cromleac*) and stone circles or standing stones can be found in sacred or ritual areas.

Several sites located between Kennel Wood and Eyre show evidence of at least chambered tombs. Eyre seems to have been a burial area for



Dolmen or cromleac in the Orchard. © Robin Millar

at least 900 years.

Artifacts of this period sometimes found include stone axes, arrowheads and pottery.

Calum MacLeod of Arnish

found a beautiful stone axe in the ground at Arnish. Experts said it had come from the English Lake District.

John Nicolson also found one in Mill Park, which I understand is now in Inverness Museum.

*Forestry Commission Scotland has arranged for retired archaeological surveyor Martin Wildgoose to visit Raasay to mark all known archaeological features in the area prior to the P. ramorum felling. For more information, join the Raasay Forest Group page on Facebook – see Page 2.*



Fallen standing stone on the top above the Creachan Road.  
© Margaret Moody

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# Project Updates

BY LLOYD GUDGEON

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## Forestry

The Facebook page that serves as our bulletin board for new information about the tree disease is now up and running. You have to be "invited" to get access to it, as it is a closed group on Facebook, rather than open to the whole world. Just email Artemis or Lloyd requesting that you join, and we will sort it out for you.

The scientists have discovered more cases of the disease, this time in rhododendrons. They are scattered around the forest, at sites including the top of the Burma Road, the War Memorial and the Avenue. These sites will have to be cleared of rhododendron to 20m around the infection. We expect clearing work to start very soon after the holidays.

Bearing in mind the current uncertainties for the future of the forest, the Forestry Commission have given us until the middle of 2017 to decide if we do want to go ahead and buy it.

## Hydro Scheme

The public meeting in the Hall on December 1 listened to the various options we have for trying to sell all the electricity we could

produce with our two small schemes. The overall feeling was that we should continue to try to find local uses for all the electricity that is not sold to the Grid. RDT will work on that with help from Manitoba.

Meanwhile, we have set up trading subsidiary of RDT which, being a charity, can not trade in its own name. The new company is called (for the time being at least!) Inverarish Hydro Limited.

## Pontoon

As before, we are still waiting to get approval for our plans from the Harbour authorities of Highland Council. Meanwhile, RDT is still trying to find some money to cover the costs of seeking planning approval for a pontoon at the Harbour.

## Boathouse/Boatbuilding

A couple of local volunteers have been working quietly to get the bank account of RMA sorted out, and we hope this work will be finished soon. At that point we will be able to transfer the legal ownership of the Boathouse to RDT, get public liability insurance, carry out repairs and start using it for the boat building project.

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## WEST HIGHLAND COLLEGE UHI—PORTREE Part time courses coming up

**Food Hygiene** Friday January 29 9.30am-4.30pm £90

**Emergency First Aid** Friday February 5 9.30am-4.30pm £90

Phone 01478 611310 or email Katrina MacLeod at [Katrina.MacLeod.whc@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:Katrina.MacLeod.whc@uhi.ac.uk) to book.

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# Could you represent Raasay?

BY DELLA CHESHIRE

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Raasay Community Council was one of 27 councils in the Highlands which failed to attract nominations totalling half the maximum membership in November 2015.

The next opportunity for nominations to be made will begin in January 2016.

The notice of Election and Nomination Form will be published on Tuesday, 19 January, and nomination papers can be submitted to Ward Manager Willie Mackinnon between Wednesday January 20 2016 and 4 pm on Wednesday February 3 2016.

Community Councils are voluntary organisations that act as a voice for their local area. They aim to express the views and concerns of local people within their area on a wide range of issues.

For more information, see Highland Council's Community Council page [http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/772/politicians\\_elections\\_and\\_democracy/364/community\\_councils](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/772/politicians_elections_and_democracy/364/community_councils).





An unexpected sight on December 30 after a pretty rotten day. © Davie Carlaw

Best wishes for the New Year to all our customers.  
Thank you for your continued support.

**Raasay Community Stores**  
29/30 Inverarish Terrace, Isle of Raasay IV40 8NS  
01478660203 [raasaystores@aol.com](mailto:raasaystores@aol.com)  
[facebook.com/RaasayCommunityStores](https://www.facebook.com/RaasayCommunityStores)

Community of Raasay Retail Association  
2762RS

(Davie's photo has gained 32 likes on Facebook and on Twitter it's been liked 19 times and retweeted 9 times. Are you following the shop online? *Ed.*)

## Useful Contact Numbers

### Business Gateway/Highland Opportunity/ Princes Scottish Youth Business Trust:

Alistair Danter, Tigh na Sgìre, Park Lane, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9EP. Tel 01478 611501, Mob 07921 758451 Email alistair.danter@highland-opportunity.com

### MP:

Ian Blackford MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Tel 0207 219 5292 Email ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk

### MSP:

Dave Thompson MSP, Thorfin House, Bridgend Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9SL. Tel 01349 864701, [www.twitter.com/@davytmsp](http://www.twitter.com/@davytmsp)

### Local Councillors:

- Hamish Fraser, 8 Scullamus, Breakish, Isle of Skye, IV42 8QB. Tel 01471 822929
- John Gordon, 3 Mill Park, Staffin Road, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9EY. Tel 01478 611783
- Drew Millar, Ibrox, 6 Carndearg Place, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9PZ. Tel 01478 612895
- Ian Renwick, Lochside, Brookside, Clachamish, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9NY. Tel 01470 582386

### Ward Manager:

Willie Mackinnon, Tigh na Sgìre, Park Lane, Portree, IV51 9GP. Tel 01478 613849

## **JANUARY RAASAY COMMUNITY NURSING COVER**

No poster has been provided as yet, but I have been informed that the only out-of-hours nursing cover that has so far been arranged for January is from the evening of Thursday December 31 to the morning of Monday January 4.

Interviews for the new nurse are scheduled to take place on January 20.

## **New Year, new contributors?**

BY DELLA CHESHIRE

Happy New Year!

If you're still racking your brains thinking of an achievable New Year's resolution to make, why not resolve to become a contributor to the Raasay Community Newsletter?

Perhaps you'd like to write an article about the current problems we're having with broadband, or pen a review of a book you've read recently, or send us a photo from a walk you took over the festive period.

We're open to ideas, so if you fancy the idea of contributing to the community and seeing your name in print, send us your submissions!

If you'd like to learn more about community journalism, I'd highly recommend a free online course by Cardiff University which starts on February 8 2016. For further information see <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/community-journalism>.

The deadline for articles, adverts and notices for the January newsletter is **Monday January 25**.

Please send any newsletter correspondence, including feedback, to Della Cheshire at Creachan Cottage, Isle of Raasay IV40 8NT, tel 01478 660380 / 07952 806176 or email [dellatfcheshire@gmail.com](mailto:dellatfcheshire@gmail.com).

## *De tha Dol? Talla Ratharsair*

### What's on at Raasay Community Hall

- **Arts & Crafts** – Mondays 2.00pm-4.00pm restarting January 11.
- **Football** – Tuesdays 7.00pm.
- **Knitting Bee** - Thursday evenings 7.30pm. All welcome.
- **Lunch Club** – Next lunch Wednesday January 20.
- **Yoga** – Tuesday morning 9.00am-10.15am and Thursday evening 6.30pm-7.45pm, dates TBC. Best to practice before you have your evening meal, or at least one hour after. All welcome, bring a mat and a blanket and wear comfortable clothing; £3 per session. Please contact Tekela on 660 253 or 07810 480972 if you are interested or to book. Other times can be arranged to suit a group of 3 minimum. As usual visitors and newcomers welcome.
- Contact details for the hall bookings: Katherine on 01478 660233/358 or Ann on 01478 660388.
- If you are planning an event and would like to publicise it, please get in touch with Della as soon as possible on 01478 660380 / 07952 806176 or email dellatfcheshire@gmail.com for a mention in the newsletter.

### Local Services

- **RDT Surgery** every Wednesday 10.00am-12.00pm or by appointment. Contact Lloyd on 01478 660358 or email lloydraasay@gmail.com
- **NHS Nurse** – 9.00am to 5.00pm on 660204. Emergency calls to 999; minor injuries or illness to 111 (NHS 24).
- **GP Surgery** – Wednesday mornings by appointment through Portree Medical Practice on 01478 612013.
- **Vet Surgery** – Rhona Campbell, Veterinary Surgeon on 01478 611269.
- **Recycle Rag Bag** Raasay Primary School - Please place all items of clothing securely inside a bag.
- **Pensioner's Bus Service** – Contact Theresa or David on 660337. Next trip Thursday January 14.
- **Refuse collection** – alternate Wednesdays. Next collections due: Green Bins: January 13 & 27; Blue bins January 6 & 20.
- **Mobile Library** every third Wednesday – 9.55am Inverarish Terrace Phone Box, 10.30am Inverarish Terrace, 10.45am Raasay Primary School (teachers and pupils only), 11.35am Raasay House, 12.00 Raasay Ferry terminal - next due: January 13.
- **Murdina Hairdresser** – Alternate Thursdays on 07799315756.
- **The Alexander Technique** – Call Winnie Ireland on 660227.
- **Coal** will be delivered fortnightly to Raasay. Coal lorry also delivering/selling garden coverage.
- **Split fuel logs** £35 a load for community members from RHCC on 660226.
- **Isle of Skye Fish** van deliveries weekly on Friday afternoons.

# What's On Raasay and beyond – January 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 2pm-4pm Arts & Crafts	<b>5</b> 7pm Football	<b>6</b> BLUE BINS	<b>7</b> 7.30pm Knitting Bee	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 2pm-4pm Arts & Crafts	<b>12</b> 7pm Football	<b>13</b> GREEN BINS Mobile Library	<b>14</b> Pensioners' Bus Service 7.30pm Knitting Bee	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 2pm-4pm Arts & Crafts	<b>19</b> 7pm Football	<b>20</b> BLUE BINS Lunch club	<b>21</b> 7.30pm Knitting Bee	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 2pm-4pm Arts & Crafts	<b>26</b> 7pm Football	<b>27</b> GREEN BINS	<b>28</b> 7.30pm Knitting Bee	<b>29</b> 9.30am- 4.30pm Food Hygiene (£90 UHI Portree)*	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

- Yoga dates TBC

\* Call 01478 611310 or email [katrina.macleod.whc@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:katrina.macleod.whc@uhi.ac.uk)

## Church Services

Free Presbyterian Church – Sundays 12 noon & 6.00pm

Free Church of Scotland – Sundays 12 noon & 5.00pm. (Check Church noticeboard for any time alterations)

The Episcopal Church Service – No service in January as Rosemary Bungard will be away.

Catholic Celebration of the Word and Communion at 37 Inverarish Terrace, Sundays 11.00am.  
Dave/ Teresa Tel 660337.