NHS Highland fails to appoint nurse to Raasay

BY DELLA CHERSHI

NHS Highland has failed to recruit nurses to serve the island following the advertising and interview process.

Tracy Ligema, deputy director of operations for NHS Highland, said that although two people applied for the nursing posts, one withdrew and the other, who was interviewed on January 20, “did not demonstrate the required skills or experience to meet the needs of the post”.

In a statement issued on January 26 (see full text on P3), Raasay Healthcare Matters (RHM) said: “We fear that a fixed term rather than permanent post will be off-putting for prospective applicants and that the grading and expectations may be too rigid to meet the urgent needs of the island.”

NHSScotland policy requires NHS Boards to issue permanent contracts of employment unless there are ‘defined exceptional circumstances’.

Ms Ligema said: “The post is fixed term on the basis that there is Highland wide redesign of Out of Hours services along with the national out of hours review so we know that there will be change ahead in out hours provision.”

Lloyd Gudgeon, development officer for Raasay Development Trust, said: “Once again, it looks as if a national, centralised scheme for running public services breaks down when it gets to a small remote community on the edge.

“Some creative thinking or flexibility with the rules could go a long way to solving things here.”

The National Review of Primary Care Out of Hours Services, published in November 2015, states that health boards should consider all options to ensure sustainable out of hours services, including recruitment and retention premiums for ‘hard-to-recruit-to posts’.

However Ms Ligema said: “It is likely that further recruitment would result in the same outcome and further delay the opportunity for us to work constructively with the community to find alternative solutions.”

RHM Chairperson Anne Gillies said: "NHS Highland keep saying how difficult it is to recruit staff and failing to appoint appears to reinforce that idea.

“The greatest danger is that, if a year or so of minimal out of hours cover passes without any fatalities, they will conclude that it is not required and we will never get it back.

“The damage that could do to the economy and sustainability of the island, in spite of massive amounts of public money spent over the last 10 years, could be catastrophic.”

RHM has requested a meeting with NHS representatives to discuss the way forward.
Community Arts and Craft Project: The Hanging Group

As part of the project to set up the newsletter/website there was also a small grant to involve the community as a whole in creating a piece of craftwork.

A start-up group has volunteered to take this forward and have come up with the idea of a wall-hanging based on a map of Raasay. We envisage the finished size to be at least ten foot high and being displayed in the stairwell of the Hall.

A Skye-based multi-media artist, Emma Siedle-Collins, has agreed to work with the Community to help us create this.

The group would like involvement from all sections of the Community: young, old, men, women – not just knitters and embroiderers! The project will hopefully involve a variety of media: wood, metal, fabric, plastics, beach finds, natural materials from the island.

The first part of the project will be to build a frame and paint a base canvas as well as devise some means of hanging the finished creation.

SO .. get your lateral thinking caps on ... what could YOU make to add to the hanging to represent the heritage/culture of the Island? ... the places/things which you feel are important for others to see now and in the future. What skills do you have?

We are having a Community Launch Meeting in February to explain our ideas further and answer any questions which you may have. The bulk of the work will take place between then and the proposed unveiling of the hanging at the beginning of July.

There will be opportunities to attend a number of workshops/crafting afternoons as well as working from home.

For more information contact Lloyd Gudgeon on 660358 or Elizabeth Simpson on 660277.

The Launch Meeting will be on Wednesday February 10 at 7.30pm in the hall.

News and Events

Valentines Weekend Friday 12th, Sat 13th and Sun 14th

Enjoy a romantic meal with your loved one over Valentines weekend. Please book your table a couple of days in advance. Thank you!

February & March Opening Times

Please check our Facebook page or join our local email list for the most up to date opening information. If you aren’t on our local email list then please email info@raasay-house.co.uk to be added.

www.raasay-house.co.uk info@raasay-house.co.uk 01478 660 300
Raasay Healthcare Matters statement issued January 26 2016:

“Raasay Healthcare Matters is continuing to maintain its role to see the appointment of a nurse for the island following great disappointment at the news that NHS Highland interviews, scheduled for 20th January, had been unsuccessful. We fear that a fixed term rather than permanent post will be off-putting for prospective applicants and that the grading and expectations may be too rigid to meet the urgent needs of the island. A more flexible approach, perhaps offering support and on-going training for an otherwise qualified person, would allow a swifter resolution to a dire situation. Potential first responders are reluctant to step forward for training when there is no nurse in place. As the weather worsens and ferry sailings are missed, even 9 – 5 weekday cover is compromised. Raasay has had very little out of hours cover for over 6 months which we find unacceptable. It has resulted in hospital admissions for people who would have much preferred to stay at home and could have done so had a nurse been available. We cannot allow this to go unchallenged and seek to do anything we can to have this essential service re-instated as soon as possible.”

Update on First Responder Scheme

BY DELLA CHESHIRE

Murray McEwan, Resilience Advisor for the Scottish Ambulance Service, said he has received three formal applications for the Community First Responder Scheme on Raasay. Mr McEwan will be in touch with applicants in due course.

Training is currently planned for April 2016. However ideally there would be at least six applicants for training to go ahead.

If you are interested in becoming a First Responder, please contact Mr McEwan on 0131 3445678 / 07500 952052 / mmcewan@nhs.net.
Looking for someone Special

In 2015 Andrew Gillies retired from the Special Constabulary after having served just over 36 years.

All this service was dedicated to the safety and security of the people living working and visiting the Isle of Raasay. Police Scotland is actively looking for volunteers from the area to join the Special Constabulary and carry on this good work.

The role of Special Constable on Raasay is challenging and recognised by the Police Service of Scotland as strategically important. Special constables are part-time volunteers who have police powers and responsibilities. The Special Constabulary is embedded within the structure of Police Scotland and provides efficient and effective policing in keeping people safe.

It is a unique body of people who voluntarily give up their personal time to contribute positively to the wellbeing and safety of their communities.

There’s no “typical” special constable.

Your success will depend on who you are as a person, not your background or age. Your attitude, enthusiasm, honesty and commitment are extremely important to us. Without doubt it is a challenging role. You’ll need integrity, patience and the ability to think on your feet. Treating people fairly will be second nature, so will respect for diversity.

You’ll have a reasonable standard of education, be at least 18 years of age, and have an interest in police work.

Training and equipment will be provided. The role currently attracts a recognition award of up to £1200 p.a. and out of pocket expenses.

You should have a mature outlook too and great people skills – interacting with your community is a big part of the job.

If it’s for you, we can guarantee you a unique experience and plenty of opportunities to develop new skills.

If you would like to learn more please visit the Police Scotland Web Site or contact Inspector Lynda Allan at lynda.allan@scotland.pnn.police.uk or Sergeant Andrew Shaw at andrew.shaw@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Andrew ‘Cuddy’ Gillies (pictured) was awarded the Queen’s Police Medal in the 2015 Queen’s Birthday Honours, and was presented with it at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Dubbed “a real-life Hamish Macbeth” by The National, he received the medal in recognition of his “continuous and unblemished service”.

© Anne Gillies
Valentine's Day!
Candles and candlesticks for the dark nights.

Also many Christmas items now reduced!

Raasay Community Stores
29/30 Inverarish Terrace, Isle of Raasay IV40 8NS
01478660203 raasaystores@aol.com
facebook.com/RaasayCommunityStores

Community of Raasay Retail Association
2762RS
‘Knitting B’ Ladies Seasons Greetings Board

A big thank you to all who exchanged greetings on our board in the local Community Shop over the festive season. We would also like to thank the pupils of Raasay Primary School who donated the proceeds from their “Non Uniform Day”.
The magnificent sum of £425 was raised for “Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland” in memory of our friend Jane.

6 January 2016

Dear Ann,

A very happy new year to you and on behalf of everyone at Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland please accept our sincere thanks indeed for getting in touch about your community collection for CHSS in lieu of Xmas Cards in memory of an islander. We very much appreciate this thoughtful, kind and positive gesture which I can assure you will only have a positive impact on our ability to support people who are affected by debilitating illness. Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved on Raasay who contributed in any way to this valued donation; having been to the island on a number of occasions, this only reinforces the warmth of the local community.

We are able to say that the donation will be allocated to CHSS services in the West Coast/Islands so I hope that will be meet your hopes of being a ‘local’ area.

Once again, our sincere thanks for your most valued support.

Kind Regards

Paul Corrigan

CHSS Regional Office

West Suisinish, south Raasay common grazings new stock fencing

Peter MacDonald, Rural Buildings Officer for SGRPID based in Portree, reports that the Scottish Ministers working along with the south Raasay common grazings are working together on a fencing contract and minor works on the cattle grid to remedy the problem with sheep straying into Inverarish village.

The new fence will stretch along a line on the south side of the grid, lying between the public road and the foreshore, a distance of about 220 metres.
The fence contract will shortly be put out to tender and once the work on the grid is complete by the grazings committee the fencing will get underway.

Courses at West Highland College UHI – Broadford

Elementary Food Hygiene £90 Friday 19th February 9.30-4pm
2 day Chainsaw Maintenance & Cross-cutting £295 Thursday 25th – Friday 26th February
Emergency First Aid at Work £90 Friday 4th March 9.30-4pm
Linocut FREE with help from Highlife Highland funding Saturday 5th March 10-4pm
5 day Chainsaw Maintenance & Tree Felling £595 Week beginning 11th April
Contact Abigail Manvell Szőke on 01397 874530.
Raasay Community Newsletter
February 2016

Saturday 6th February 2016
10.00 am—4.00 pm
West Highland College UHI, Struan Road, Portree

FREE
Book NOW as places are limited

Our one day workshop introduces participants to the key principles of wellbeing, offering some core practices to help cultivate a life of wellness.

Call Katrina or Evelyn at West Highland College UHI on 01478 611310 or 01397 874500

www.whc.uhi.ac.uk
West Highland College UHI is a company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC029180)

1 Day First Aid

Friday 5th February 2016
0930—1630
West Highland College UHI Struan Road Portree

£90* ILA Approved
Book NOW as places are limited

The Health & Safety (First Aid) regulations 1989, place a responsibility on all employers to provide adequate and appropriate first aid provision for their employees. This course is ideal for low-risk environments (e.g. offices, shops, libraries) or where you identify a requirement for a first aider trained in emergency first aid at work. The certificate is valid for 3 years. HSE highly recommends that annual refresher training takes place yearly during the 3 years of the valid certification.

Call Evelyn or Katrina at West Highland College UHI on 01397 874500 / 01478 611310

www.whc.uhi.ac.uk
West Highland College UHI is a company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC029180)

Absolute Beginners Computing

Monday 29th February—21st March 2016
(4 weeks)
09.30—11.00 am
West Highland College UHI Struan Road Portree

FREE

Learn how to use your PC or laptop, learning the basics of your Mouse, Keyboard and Word. This will build your confidence in using your PC.

Call Maggie, Katrina or Evelyn at West Highland College UHI on 01478 611310

www.whc.uhi.ac.uk
West Highland College UHI is a company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC029180)

Learn how to Knit

Saturday 6th February 2016
10.00 am—3.30 pm
FREE WORKSHOP
West Highland College UHI Struan Road Portree

Book NOW as places are limited

Whether you have never picked up a knitting needle before or whether your skills are now so rusty and you can’t remember your purl stitch from your knit stitch, this course is for you.

Call Katrina or Evelyn at West Highland College UHI on 01478 611310 or 01397 874500

www.whc.uhi.ac.uk
West Highland College UHI is a company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC029180)
News from Raasay Primary School

We started off the session 2016 with electing new members for two committees within our school – the Pupil Council and the Eco Council. All pupils were given a vote to elect office bearers and the new committees were formed.

In the first meeting of the Pupil Council it was agreed that Lauren would organise an audit of the playground equipment. Primary 6&7 identified items which were no longer usable and Georgia researched the prices for new equipment as identified by all members during the meeting. The items have now been ordered and should be with us shortly. The Pupil Council also agreed to organise the Comic Relief event and Ethan, Leia and Emily have been researching the information pack which arrived at the school.

The Eco Committee have agreed that sometime after the February break they will organise a litter pick as part of the national schools’ initiative ‘Clean for the Queen’. Other items on the agenda identified were the development of the school grounds e.g. bilingual signs, developing the swing area, sponsored walk or cycle and holding a craft fair.

The Committees will now meet fortnightly on a rotational basis and we wish them every success.

On Friday 29th January, Raasay Primary School look forward to welcoming Elgol Primary for an all day drama workshop focusing on the works of Robert Burns. This will be delivered by One Day Creative, a drama company based in Edinburgh and promises to be a fun and action-packed experience. Parents are welcome to come along to the hall from 2.30pm to 3.00pm to see their children take part in the workshop.

This term Raasay Primary School are studying the Jacobites and as part of the project we have arranged a visit to the Clan Donald Centre in Sleat on Thursday 11th February. The Centre have very kindly arranged to open especially for us. They have a whole area of the Centre dedicated to the story of the Jacobite period which tells the story of the end of the Lordship of the Isles all the way to the battle of Culloden. The day will involve a tailor-made tour and presentation and also some group work involving, fact-finding competitions and a visit to the old castle.

School holidays 15th and 16th February and In Service Day 17th February.
The story of the Each-uisge

BY CALUM GILLIES

A little known folk tale is apparently associated with Loch na Mna, The water supply on the summit of Dun Caan- the story of the Water Horse (or Each-uisge). In An Encyclopedia of Fairies, Hobgoblins, Brownies, Boogies and Other Supernatural Creatures, Katherine Briggs wrote:

"The Each-Uisge, a supernatural water horse found in the Highlands of Scotland, is supposedly the most dangerous water-dwelling creature in the British Isles. Often mistaken for the Kelpie (which inhabits streams and rivers), the Each-Uisge lives in the sea, sea lochs, and fresh water lochs".

Our island actually comes up quite prominently in the legend. Dr. Samuel Johnson was told of it during his tour, in which he was told by his guide:

"He (their guide) said, there was a wild beast in (Loch na Mna), a sea-horse, which came and devoured a man’s daughter; upon which the man lighted a great fire, and had a sow roasted on it, the smell of which attracted the monster. In the fire was put a spit. The man lay concealed behind a low wall of loose stones, which extended from the fire over the summit of the hill, till it reached the side of the loch. The monster came, and the man with a red hot spit destroyed it. Malcolm (the guide) showed me the little hiding place, and the row of stones. He did not laugh when he told me this story."

It was also told in a more detailed and well known form in McKay’s More West Highland Tales:

"A blacksmith from Raasay lost his daughter to the Each-Uisge. In revenge the blacksmith and his son made a set of large hooks, in a forge they set up by the loch side. They then roasted a sheep and heated the hooks until they were red hot. At last a great mist appeared from the water and the each-uisge rose from the depths and seized the sheep. The blacksmith and his son rammed the red-hot hooks into its flesh and after a short struggle dispatched it. In the morning there was nothing left of the creature apart from a jelly-like substance."

Apparently, Loch No Mna also carries the name "The Woman’s Loch" for this reason.

No wonder we have such a big water treatment plant- we have to filter out all those pesky Each-Uisges!

Calum originally published this article on the Isle of Raasay Facebook page. You can find his blog and more of his writing at CalumGillies.com.
Project Updates from RDT

Forestry
DANGER!! Some very large machinery is at work in various parts of the forest, and it will be there for several weeks. Under no circumstances should anyone approach working forestry machinery. Please make sure that all children – including visitors – are aware that they must keep well back. That said, the contractors are trying to keep paths and roads open as much as possible, so you should be able to take a walk still. Occasionally you may be asked to turn back, but restrictions shouldn’t last long.

There will be a public meeting on Tuesday 2nd February at 7.30pm in the Hall to discuss the options for re-stocking the forest. Everyone is welcome. This is the meeting that was originally planned for 28th January but which was postponed due to storm Gertrude.

Meanwhile, we have been told that the experts are not sure how quickly infected larch will infect nearby rhododendron, and vice versa, but they will try to find more information and share it with us. Also, we asked FCS to investigate if cutting the infected trees down and leaving all the timber here for us to use as firewood would be cheaper to the public purse than cutting it and exporting by ship. The answer is that the whole operation is going to cost several hundred thousand pounds (exact figures are commercially confidential) but by shipping the wood to a sawmill FCS can recoup enough to offset the cost of the shipping and a little bit more. This makes it about £50,000 cheaper to ship the wood rather than leaving it all here. Also, if they do end up having to cut 10,000 tonnes, that would create a pile big enough to be seen from space, which is probably more timber than we want! We will however be left with a pile of 1000 tonnes of end wood and smaller logs to be used for firewood locally.

Hydro Scheme
We are still investigating the options for sale of our surplus electricity. There are several such options, ranging from the relatively simple – sell the surplus to a single commercial customer – to the relatively complex – sell the surplus to dozens of houses in Inverarish. Over the next 4 to 6 weeks we hope to be carrying out some research into each of the options and we will then present the findings to the community so you can make a decision.

Pontoon
Lloyd met with the Highland Council Harbour Master, who likes the proposal for a community-owned pontoon on Raasay. He asked that we make sure there is a fool-proof system for directing pontoon traffic when the ferry is approaching or leaving the pier.

Website
This part of the Community Engagement Project (which also includes this Newsletter and the community artwork – see separate notice) is now ready to start. The idea is to set up a single website with a “page” for each community group that wants one. At least one volunteer from each group will help design the site and be trained in how to update the group’s page. There will be links to local businesses and local information. Contact Lloyd if you are interested in taking part.

Planned interruption to electricity supplies on Raasay

BY DELLA CHESHIRE
Many of us have had interruptions to our power supplies over the last few days, which have thankfully been resolved relatively quickly by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) – once involving the assistance of the RNLI!

I understand that all properties beyond Inverarish Forest will have their electricity supply disrupted twice in February, on Wednesday 17 between 10.30am and 1.00pm, and again on Wednesday 24. Each interruption should last up to 15 minutes.

This is to allow SSE to connect a mobile generator, probably situated near the water treatment plant, which will power these properties while the Forestry Commission cuts trees in the Orchard to Balmeanach area.

If you have any questions, contact Neil Macdonald on 07810 858024.
Raasay’s First Settlers

BY MARGARET MOODIE

Most of the evidence we have on Raasay of pre-Christianity occupation is from the period c.2500 B.C. to 900 A.D. when permanent settlements were being created.

The Bronze Age c.2500 B.C. – 700 B.C. saw the first appearance of the use of metals, i.e. gold and silver.

In the Iron Age c.700 B.C. – 300 A.D. iron, a much stronger component, was being used in metal work. Smiths were very important members of the community, very much admired for their special skills.

It is said that when the Fearns road was built it cut through a “bloomely” – an area where smelting took place.

By Pictish times (Late Iron Age), different tribes were emerging as separate communities.

Pre-historic buildings

People interested in archaeology are aware of Duns and Brochs of this era but do not know so much about the dwellings where most of the population lived. These were known as Round Houses because of their shape and their remains can often be found on moorland under peat and bracken.

They varied in size from 3.5m to 18m in diameter, up to 1m high, walls were from 1-2m thick, inner and outer walls rock faced and rubble filled inside. The roof was thatched, probably conical in shape.

On Raasay remains are found in Screpadale, Balachuirm, the Glen Suisinish and Eyre (Bronze Age pottery was found near the Laundry).

A recently published booklet “Prehistoric Round Houses of Wester Ross and Parts of Skye” by Anna Welti of Ullapool with advice from Martin Wildegoose is well worth reading.
Lunch Club

Lunch Club Festive Lunch
On Wednesday 16th December the Lunch Club had their annual Festive Lunch at Raasay House. Thirty two of the Lunch Club regulars attended and were greeted with a drink before heading through to the dining room where, once seated, the school arrived to entertain us with some festive songs and handover a wonderful hamper of food for the raffle.
We then tucked into a fantastic traditional lunch with all the trimmings, followed by tea and coffee.
We would like to say thank you to all the staff and management at Raasay House for a wonderful afternoon and fantastic food, to the school for their singing and the hamper, to CORRA and Ann Oliphant for the other raffle prizes and to Raasay House Community Company, Raasay Crofters Association and Portree High School via the Community Council for their donations towards the Festive lunch.

Regular Lunch Club
Lunch club usually takes place on the third Wednesday of each month, confirmation of the date is put on the notice board in advance.
We serve a filling lunch of bread and soup followed by dessert, tea and coffee and usually have around 25 guests. The cost is £5 to regular guests and £6 to less regular visitors / non full time residents.
All adults in the community are invited to attend, if you would like to give it a try please contact Ann Oliphant or Tekela Koek. Regular guests only need to let us know if they are unable to attend one of the lunches, otherwise their place is reserved for each lunch.

Reviews of Raasay Community Association Events
The Raasay Takeaway Night
Friday 28th November saw the second Raasay Takeaway Night. We had 24 orders for The Fat Panda and after the cost of the food and expenses for collecting it this made approximately £30 towards the halls funds. Whilst the majority of people took their food home, several groups stayed at the hall to eat making it an enjoyable social evening.
A huge thanks to Darryl and Elizabeth for collating the orders and payments and collecting the food. There is a huge amount of work involved in organising this event and as the weather was rather windy around this time it was touch and go at the last minute as to whether they would be able to get there and / or and back!

Festive Dance
Unfortunately as most of you will be aware we had to cancel the festive dance at the last minute on Monday 28th December. This was a huge disappointment for all of us. As well as looking forward to the evening a lot of volunteers time as well as some expenses by RCA go into preparing for such an event. However at the cut off time for us to let the band know whether or not to start travelling the advice from the ferry crew was that there were unlikely to be further sailings that afternoon and we had to rely on that information and advise the band accordingly. We hope that The Incredible Fling band, who were due to play that night, will be able to make it over to play at another dance later this year.
Upcoming Raasay Community Association Events

Volunteers and Ideas
The Events Committee are currently putting together this year's program of events. As always these rely on volunteers to organise them and help on the night - regardless of how well attended the events are they cannot go ahead without enough volunteers to help out.

We are always looking for more people who can help at the events so that we can continue to run them - the more volunteers we have the less there is for any one person to do! You can just offer to help at an event - you do not have to join the committee (although if you would like to you are very welcome). If you are interested in joining the committee and / or helping at an event please contact Katherine Gillies or Ann Oliphant.
If anyone has any suggestions of events or bands that they would like to see on Raasay please also let us know.

£10 Monthly Sports deal
A reminder that the £10 monthly deal is still running in February. For £10 per month this allows a family (or group of up to 4 friends) unlimited use of the hall. All bookings must be made by an adult and an adult must be present when the hall is being used. Please contact Katherine for more details or to make a booking.

Jane's Coffee Day - Saturday 6th February
Jane will be holding a coffee day on Saturday 6th February, please see the notice board for details.

Yugen Puppet Company's "The Fisherman and the Seal" - Thursday 24th March 6pm
We are delighted to have the Yugen Puppet Company at the hall for a performance of The Fisherman and the Seal.

Based on the myths and legends of the Scottish Selkie, Yugen Puppet Company tells the comic tale of a lonely fisherman, falling in love with a seal and how in matters of love things don’t always go according to plan.

Using hand-crafted puppets and striking shadow silhouettes, with music from the past, Yugen Puppet Company puts its own twist on this usually tragic Scottish fairy tale.

This show is advertised as suitable for ages 5+ (but younger children are very welcome) and is a great family show which lasts 45 minutes. Tickets are £5 per adult / child or £20 per family on the door and there will be refreshments after the show.

First dance of the year - Easter
We hope to have the first dance of the year during the Easter holidays. Further details will be announced as they are confirmed.

Useful Contact Numbers

Business Gateway/Highland Opportunity/ Princes Scottish Youth Business Trust:
Alistair Danter, Tigh na Sgire, 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/@davytmmsp

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 Sgire, Park Lane, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9GP. Tel 01478 613849
Your newsletter is a work in progress

BY DELLA CHESHIRE

Happy Valentines Day! As you might have noticed, we have received several Valentines messages this month. Next year we will introduce a formal opportunity to place a Valentines Day ad for £3.

Many thanks for all your contributions this month. Whether it’s been a tip-off, a photograph or a complete article, from an individual or a group, it all helps to make your newsletter as interesting, informative and entertaining as possible.

The deadline for articles, adverts and notices for the January newsletter is Friday February 26.

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.


Raasay Refugee Appeal – a BIG THANK YOU!

BY ARTEMIS PANA

On Wednesday 9th December many of Raasay’s residents braved the stormy weather to attend a curry night fundraiser at Raasay House. The event was in aid of Re-ACT Scotland which provides support to refugees arriving in Greece and travelling through Europe. Raymond from RE_ACT wrote on our Facebook page: “Many thanks to the folk on the Isle of Raasay who organised a curry night fundraiser, raising over £500, 20 bags of donations, and a very small child in the process.”

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is looking for volunteers to help complete their non-estuarine waterbird survey by mid-February. Highlights of surveys on Raasay so far have been two Golden Eagles and Little Auks. For more details see their website www.bto.org or contact BBS National Organiser Sarah Harris on 01842 750050 or sarah.harris@bto.org.
De tha Dol? Talla Ratharsair
What’s on at Raasay Community Hall

- Forest re-stocking public meeting on Tuesday February 2 at 7.30pm.
- Jane’s Coffee Day on Saturday February 6 2.00pm-4.00pm.
- The Hanging Group Community Launch on Wednesday February 10 at 7.30pm.
- Pancake People youth group on Monday February 29 at 7.00pm.
- Arts & Crafts – Mondays 2.00pm-4.00pm.
- Football – Tuesdays 7.00pm.
- Knitting Bee - Thursday evenings 7.30pm. All welcome.
- Lunch Club – Next lunch Wednesday February 17.
- Yoga – Tuesday mornings 9.00am-10.15am and Thursday evenings 6.30pm-7.45pm. 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 – Currently closed until further notice, while Raasay Primary School awaits collection dates. Apologies for any inconvenience.
- Pensioner’s Bus Service – Contact Theresa or David on 660337. Next trip TBC.
- 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: February 3 & 24.
- 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 £40/£60 a load for community members from RHCC on 660226.
- Isle of Skye Fish van deliveries weekly on Friday afternoons.
### What's On Raasay – February 2016

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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>2pm-4pm Arts &amp; Crafts</td>
<td>9am-10.15am Yoga</td>
<td>BLUE BINS Mobile Library</td>
<td>6.30pm-7.45pm Yoga</td>
<td>2pm-4pm Jane’s Coffee Day</td>
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<td>2pm-4pm Arts &amp; Crafts</td>
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<td>GREEN BINS 7.30pm The Hanging Group Launch</td>
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<td>Raasay Primary Holiday</td>
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<td>BLUE BINS Raasay Primary In-Service Day Lunch club</td>
<td>6.30pm-7.45pm Yoga</td>
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<td>2pm-4pm Arts &amp; Crafts</td>
<td>7pm Pancake People youth group</td>
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### Church Services

**Free Presbyterian Church** – Sundays 12 noon & 6.00pm

Free Church of Scotland –
February 7 at 12.00pm John Caldwell
February 14 at 12.00pm & 5.00pm Donald Ferguson
February 21 at 12.00pm John Caldwell
February 28 at 12.00pm Rev Donald MacLeod

The Episcopal Church Service – February 16 at 11.00am in the Community Hall, followed by refreshments and fellowship.
- Pancake People youth group discussion with Della Cheshire on how to spread news. February 29 at 7.00pm in the hall.

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