Ness - Barvas

FREE Community Newsletter

Issue No. 6 ~ Friday 19 June 2020

Published by Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn with volunteer support
Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn is a company registered in Scotland No. 273903 and a charity registered in Scotland No. 5C036903

Nicola's determination benefits Autism Eilean Siar



For 31 days, Nicola E Finlayson from Ness has been walking in all weathers in aid of Autism Eilean Siar.

Setting herself a target of £1000, Nicola coincided her fundraising challenge with Mental Health Awareness month. She is "delighted" to announce that she has beaten this target, managing to raise £1090 for the charity. Nicola said in a Facebook message to the newsletter that she is "over the moon" to have had the support and generous donations of the community, and "can't believe" she managed to exceed the target set.

On the last day of my walk, Nicola said, "I got a bit emotional. But I was happy to have completed the walking challenge. Thank you all for your generous donations throughout – it is greatly appreciated."

Pictured here with Nicola, Claire Morris gratefully accepts the funds on behalf of Autism Eilean Siar, saying that the charity were "overwhelmed" by the amount that Nicola has raised during lockdown. "Nicola has walked every day in all weather and we are very grateful for all of her efforts", Claire Morris said. "She really is a star. Thank you, Nicola."



Donald S. Murray wins prestigious literary award

onald S. Murray has won the Paul Torday Memorial Prize 2020 for his novel 'As the Women Lay Dreaming'.

As was mentioned in the fourth issue of our community newsletter, Donald was up against fierce competition for this national award, with notable BBC producers, presenters and similarly talented individuals accompanying

him on the shortlist. The award celebrates first novels of authors over 60 and is presented by the Society of Authors (SoA).

The announcement was made on Thursday 18th June as part of the SoA 2020 Awards Ceremony. Usually an in-person event, an online awards presentation was held instead (continued on page 7)

Recognition for our Modern Apprentices

n the face of the Covid-19 virus, staff in the Social Services sector have shown great resilience, compassion and determination to protect the rights of and keep safe their service users. Across the country, key workers have offered their skills and expertise to ensure efficient service provision in a constantly changing environment. So too have they offered their time through working extra hours, and some have even altered their own personal situations as they have had to distance themselves from their loved ones to continue working.

These are difficult and unprecedented (continued on p.3)



Erin Campbell and Katie Murray



PORT OF NESS

Happy 21st Birthday to Kathryn Ferguson, 1 Port, from all your family and friends xx.

EOROPIE

Happy 50th Birthday to Kenny 'Flip' Macleod. With love from all the family at home and away x

LIONEL

CONGRATULATIONS to Angus (Aonghas Bàn) and Murdag of 2 Lionel who celebrated their 60th (Diamond) Wedding Anniversary on Monday 15 June. With best wishes to Angus and Murdag on this momentous occasion from all the family, their friends and neighbours. Also extending the couple their best wishes was Comhairle Convener, Norman A. Macdonald, who sent them a card and some flowers on behalf of the council.

The family also wishes a Happy Birthday to Angus, who celebrated his 89th birthday the following day (16 June).

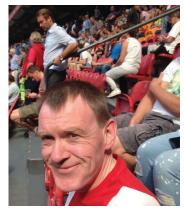
CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTT MACKENZIE, 9 Lionel (Angus and Murdag's grandson, 2 Lionel), on graduating with 1st Class Honours in Computer Science from Strathclyde University in Glasgow. Welldeserved and so very proud! Mum, Dad and Cameron.

HABOST

Happy 5th Birthday to Edith Hope on the 6th July. Love from Mammy, Daddy and Finlay



Edith Hope



Kenny Flip



Aonghas Bàn above and below who celebrated his 89th birthday on 16 June





Wedding Day for Murdag and Angus



Kathryn Ferguson



Angus and Murdag on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary

If you have any greetings, birthdays or well wishes you would like to include in the newsletter, please email: jasmine@uogltd.com

Tourism website launch



Photo credit: Simon Amos, UOG, Christina Morrison

'Visit Galson Estate', a new tourism website for the north of Lewis, was formally launched on 8th June 2020. Developed over several months by staff members of Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (UOG), the website serves as a handy resource for future visitors, showcasing the natural beauty, local businesses, walks and sights of our wonderful area.

Whilst it was hoped that the launch would coincide with the 2020 tourist season, the travel restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic mean that it is unlikely that we will see the same volume of visitors as previous years. In the interim, however, the website will serve as a useful tool, helping our future visitors to plan their visit to the Galson Estate more efficiently. Listing places to visit, sleep, shop, and eat local to the Galson Estate, the website will help to retain expenditure within our area, giving a boost to local businesses.

Christine Amos, Operations Manager for UOG, said: "The aim of the website is to encourage tourists to spend time on the Galson Estate when they can visit once more. Generally, tourists visit the Estate for the day. They sightsee at the popular attractions but do not always stay overnight or eat out. Through the website, we hope to encourage visitors to make use of our fabulous facilities, eat out in our cafes and restaurants and buy their gifts from our local artists and shop owners. This in turn will bring revenue to the businesses here who have been so badly affected by the Covid-19 crisis."

Alongside these listings, the website also features a series of blog posts, inspiring visitors to visit lesser-known sites and to see more of what the Estate has to offer. These blog posts cater to a wide range of audiences and hobbies, from bird watching to art trails, from the best kids' activities to beautiful local walks.

Fiona Rennie, Communications Officer at UOG, added: "I was very excited to be able to design a site that showcases all the fabulous tourism opportunities that are available on the Galson Estate. Despite the lack of tourism right now due to the Covid-19 lockdown, I am excited to see how we'll make use of this resource as a community in the future, and its potential to develop from here."

Go to:

www.visitgalsonestate.com to see the new website, or follow us on Instagram: @VisitGalsonEstate.

If your business is not already listed on the website and you would like to see it appear, please contact office@uogltd.com

'People of Small Boats' - Online Lecture

r David Gange will host an online lecture on Thursday 25th June, entitled 'People of Small Boats'. Dr Gange's lecture forms part of an interdisciplinary research programme of seminars and blog articles called 'The Edge', led by the University of the Highlands and Islands which will culminate in a conference in January 2021. 'The Edge' seminars explore the boundaries, associated perceptions, and possible tensions of 'the edge', whether this be physically or culturally speaking.

Dr Gange is the author of 'The Frayed Atlantic Edge' (2019), an account of a recent sea-kayaking journey he made from Shetland to Cornwall. At each location, he discusses the unique histories of communities at the edge of the Atlantic, interweaving poetry, folklore and natural heritage from the area in an attempt to 'interpret Irish and British pasts from the perspective of Atlantic coasts.' Rather than seeing coasts as 'disconnected edges', Dr Gange writes, the book sees this 'island group as the edge of an interconnected Atlantic world.'

When on this epic journey, Dr Gange visited the Isle of Lewis, and he devotes quite a substantial amount of his chapter on Lewis to the community of Ness. In it, he gives an account of the natural heritage he came upon in our area and interactions he had with members of the community, as well as an historic overview and acknowledgment of the important work of Comunn Eachdraidh Nis.

The lecture on the 25th June will touch on the findings of 'The Frayed Atlantic Edge', and will link to his new project, 'Afloat: Small Boats at Sea in the North Atlantic World', which focuses on travel in traditional craft.

The lecture takes place online between 1 and 2pm, Thursday 25th June, and is free to join. Search for 'People of Small Boats, David Gange' to find the link. You can also follow 'The Edge' on Twitter to see information on upcoming lectures and, in some cases, to catch recordings of previous ones - @IDR_UHI

If you have any enquiries about 'The Edge', please contact Joanna Rodgers on joanna.rodgers@uhi.ac.uk. Blog article submissions are also welcomed on a rolling basis.

Recognition for our Modern Apprentices

(continued from front page)

times to be working in, and some keyworkers are bravely doing all of this at the very beginning of their careers, working as Modern Apprentices. This is the case for two of our local young people, Erin Campbell (Cross Skigersta) and Katie Murray (Port of Ness), who are working in Dun Berisay Care Home as part of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Apprenticeship Programme.

Erin and Katie, along with other Modern Apprentices in the sector, have shown great "resilience", "adapting to the ever-changing needs of the care services", say Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. "We are grateful to our Modern Apprentices for their dedication and are proud to know that we have such a highly-skilled future workforce", the Comhairle said in a statement. Norren Murray, Senior in Dun Berisay Care Home, only echoed this, adding: "Our Modern Apprentices are doing so well and they're certainly an asset to our staff team. The care staff are delighted when they are allocated to their shifts. They've been absolutely brilliant over these past weeks and coping so well with all the changes and complying with Infection Prevention and Control Procedures to very high standards. If there was an award for diligence and high standards of care at the end of all this, the girls sure deserve it!"

To all social services Care Workers and Modern Apprentices in Social Services in Healthcare, we thank you for all you do.

Tom's Titbits

There were mutterings early on as globally the 'Virus Crisis' progressed amongst us that people's attitude would probably change for the better as we realised the fragile state of our lives and struggled to come to terms with a new way of living. All sorts of charitable gestures were popping up everywhere as people actually thought of the needs of others before themselves and our communities came together in a similar way to the good old days. It looked so good for us, and to an extent still does, and the way people

knuckled down was all very admirable and highly commendable to the extent that faith in human nature was slowly returning. When a policeman killed a man in America it seemed to spark a wave of madness in certain people which they thought gave them license to loot and pillage and damage property at will. The scenes on television were horrific to the point where watching them eventually became a no-no. There were peaceful demonstrations as well, but they never seem to get media publicity because that kind of ews is not sensational enough. My heart sank as I realised that nothhing has really changed for some people, such is the nature of the beast. To crown it all some *gee honk* down south decided to go berserk with my credit card details and spend considerably more than my pension in Sports Direct and various ladies outfitters to the point where I had to spend more than an hour on the phone with the fraud people to sort it all out. This all resulted in my card having to be binned which gave me no access to ordering anything on Amazon or eBay for nearly a week and resulting in Woody's having to take a van off the service to this area. Sandy Jack eat your heart out. In our own little corner of the world though, life goes peacefully on. Senior son is back to work and the blone is running the Council from the downstairs bedroom. It has been a strange time and oddly enough I have spent more time with my sons during the pandemic than I have since they went to secondary school and subsequently to work. We've been together morning noon and night every day and it has been a blast, being able to do things together around the homestead that we've been meaning to do for years. Quality time as they say. Chan eil gaoth nach lion seol cuideigin.

I have been given a sneak preview of a Radio nan Gaidheal programme which is scheduled to be broadcast on the 23rd of July. It involves an interview with Angus Graham (A' Misean) of Borve. It's a fascinating story beginning with his upbringing in Borve and

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mrs Catherine Macleod has registered her croft 8 Swainbost, Swainbost, Barvas, on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 11 December 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C6910.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mr Iain Murdo Macleod has registered his croft at 23 Cross, Cross, Barvas on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 6 December 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C6908.



by Tom Maciver

then over forty years of service at sea. He travelled the world and many other places besides as they say, and it's all told in lovely old-fashioned Gaelic and with humour. The programme was first recorded in the late eighties and if you live around these parts and are interested in local history and a good yarn well told, don't miss it. I may be biased as my good lady is the interviewer, but to be fair she didn't have much to do as Mr. Graham was a good talker and an entertaining one as well. One to put in your diaries.

I've been doing a fair bit of tidying up and dumping of rubbish around the place recently as I have plenty of time on my hands for obvious reasons. Most of the males that I know who are furloughed have been slowly converted into semi-professional interior decorators by their dominant female partners, but as I am retired I qualify for some leisure time. In a darkened corner of my man cave I found my fishing rods and tackle which have been fairly redundant since I moved over here thirty years ago and got sheep and started having babies. The sheep have been long gone, and so have the babies, and as I rifled through the fishing gear, memories of ones that got away came flooding back. Most of my fishing was fresh water and the location was usually South Lochs or places like Loch Langavat, usually starting from Aline Lodge, and it's where I caught my first and only salmon which weighed in at 7lbs. The lochs I frequented in these places were very remote and really got me away from it all and of course there is more to fishing than catching fish. Now, as there is no local or professional football available, which did take up a fair amount of my time, the plan is to get stuck in, get some worms and commence a revival of the fishing. If all the vegetables I have planted come to fruition and I supply the fish, I can feed the family entirely by my own efforts at no expense at all. What can go wrong? The worm thing reminds me of a story about a digger driver working for one of the local contractors who had a young labourer apprentice working with him. He asked the lad to grab a spade and clear some surplus from the trench he was excavating and the youngster stood holding the spade and looking at it as if he'd never seen one before in his life. When questioned he admitted that he'd never used a spade as he'd never had a reason to. "What do you do when you need worms to go fishing?" asked the older man. "I buy them at Engie's," was the reply. That's the world we

Mar sin leibh an drasda Tom

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mrs Catherine Macleod has registered her croft 6 & 7 Swainbost, Swainbost, Barvas, on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 3 December 2020 .

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C6885.

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mrs Catherine Macleod has registered her croft 17 Swainbost, Swainbost, Barvas, on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 2 December 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C6886.

Macmillan charity single

Acclaimed musician Calum Martin has released a fundraising album for Macmillan Cancer Support, in memory of his mother, Catherine.

Having previously played a fundraising concert for Macmillan last year in the Town Hall with the help of similarly talented family and friends, Calum decided to raise even more money for the charity by recording a new album. Released on the 22nd May 2020, the album, called 'STOIRM' and released under the band name 'The O.L.C.O.T.E Connection, has gone from strength to strength, raising over £1,000 thus far for the charity and racking up the plays on music streaming platforms.

Other notable musician friends and family join Calum on the album to form a mixture of tracks and styles, creating a very moving tribute to his mother, Catherine. The first track, 'Feels Like a Storm', is sung by her grandson, Do Martin and is dedicated in her memory, whilst her granddaughters Isobel Ann and Catherine Joan also lend their beautiful voices to the album, singing songs that were 'close to her heart'. Maggie Martin, Calum's daughter-in-law, thanked him for his kindness and hard work, adding: "Myself and all the wonderful ladies from the Macmillan Cancer Support Committee are all very grateful to have this amazing fundraising opportunity."

The album can be downloaded and/or streamed on music streaming platforms such as Apple Music or Spotify, as well as purchased as a CD. All proceeds from the CD go to Macmillan Cancer Support and it can be bought in local filling stations and shops, or by visiting the Macmillan Cancer Support donation page for the CD. Search for 'STOIRM CD Macmillan Cancer Support' and follow the instructions below:

"To receive a copy of the CD a minimum donation of £10 (per cd) will be required plus £1.50 for P&P. You will receive a confirmation email of your donation which you will need to forward to the following email address - stoirmmacmillanwi@gmail.com. In that email you should include the postal address you would like the CD to be sent to and amount of CDs purchased."



DELIVERY SERVICE FROM LEWIS CROFTERS TO GALSON ESTATE DURING COVID-19



Please note we will only be able to take relatively small /essential orders across in a transit van. We ask for your patience while we trial this service which is in an effort to support the crofting community during this time of crisis. We expect to run the service on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week and we will review on an ongoing basis. If you can get items on the estate then please do so, This service is for items that need to be brought from town and is primarily to support those who aren't going to drive to town for just a few items.

DELIVERIES WILL BE:

MONDAY WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY

YOU MUST LET US KNOW YOU WANT A COLLECTION BY CALLING US BETWEEN 10AM AND 1PM ON ONE OF THESE DAYS. WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO COLLECT ON THE SAME DAY.

OUR DRIVER

PLACE **TELEPHONE ORDER WITH** LEWIS CROFTERS, PAY, ADVISE IT'S A COMMUNAL ORDER TO BE **COLLECTED BY UOG AND** RECEIVE YOUR ORDER NUMBER

CALL US **BETWEEN 10AM AND 1PM ON DELIVERY DAYS** ONLY. CALL 07469189449

PROVIDE US WITH YOUR ORDER **NUMBER AND** PREFERRED DROP **OFF POINT**

YOU WILL BE ADVISED OF A TIME TO BE AT YOUR DROP OFF POINT AND **SHOULD BE** PREPARED TO **COLLECT YOUR** ITEMS

WILL COLLECT YOUR ORDER AND BE AT ONE OF THE THREE **OUTDOOR DROP OFF POINTS AT** THE SPECIFIED DROP OFF TIME SLOT.

YOU SHOULD ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING **GUIDELINES AT ALL** TIMES. OUR DRIVER **WON'T BE ABLE TO** LOAD ORDERS INTO **VEHICLES. GLOVES WILL BE PROVIDED** TO ALLOW YOU TO **COLLECT YOUR OWN** ORDER.

BARVAS COMMUNITY CENTRE

CLAN MACQUARRIE COMMUNITY CENTRE

SPORSNIS

DROP OFF

POINTS



Làithean Math

Choimhead mi sìos madainn an-diugh agus thàinig e a-steach orm nach fhaic mi m' òrdagan tuilleadh. Abair thusa gu bheil gluasadan beaga a-nis feumach air oidhirp mhòr 's gun ach dà mhìos gus am bi am bèibidh bruich! Cuiridh mi aodach ùr air an leabaidh agus bidh agam ri suidhe greis às a dhèidh gus m' anail fhaighinn air ais. Thuit cnag orm 's mi aig an ròp-aodaich agus tha e a-nis air chall gu sìorraidh oir chan fhaighinn air lùbadh gus a thogail. Ag èirigh sa mhadainn? Feumaidh mi deich mionaidean a bharrachd. A' dol innte air an oidhche? Chan fhaigh mi a chadal gus am bi mi rudeigin cofhurtail agus cha tig sin gu furasta, agus tig dìochuimhn' agam air a bhith nam shuain gu madainn oir bidh cuideigin ag èirigh romham agus le breab chun na h-aisnean agus dòrn chun aotraman, bidh mi na mo dhùisg a-rithist! A dh'aindeoin na tha sin, feumaidh mi a ràdh gu bheil e a' còrdadh rium a bhith trom agus bidh mi a' gabhail iongnadh le gach breab agus dòrn.

Samhradh

Tha sinn air a bhith uabhasach fortanach a-rithist leis an t-sìde. Tha sinn air a bhith ag ràdh cho duilich 's a bhiodh cùisean nam biodh sinn air a bhith sa ghlasadh-sluaigh sa gheamhradh seach aig an t-àm seo den bhliadhna agus tha e cho fìor – smaoinich fhèin mura biodh na làithean fada a' sìneadh, 's sinn a' faighinn cothrom a bhith air ar cois rè solas an latha. Tha mise air mo dhòigh buileach leis gu bheil na h-ealaichean air Loch a' Bhaile air na h-iseanan fhaighinn mu dheireadh thall agus abair gu bheil e na thlachd a bhith gan coimhead a' snàmh còmhla, le ceathrar iseanan bheag a-nis rin taobh. Cha shaoil mi gum biodh iad air àite na bu shàmhaich no na bu chiùin a lorg airson an cuid òigridh a thogail. Tha bogha-fhrois de dhathan nam ghàrradh cuideachd, le sìthein dhearg, ghorm, bhuidhe, gheal agus phurpaidh a' nochdadh, agus nam measg-san bidh seillein agus eòin de gach seòrsa. Feumaidh mi beagan rannsachaidh a dhèanamh feuch am faigh mi a-mach dè dharìreabh a th' agam!

Teaghlach

Chaidh mi a chèilidh air Mam agus Dad air an deireadhsheachdain agus iad cho sona 's a bha iad riamh. Bha làn dhùil againn gum biodh Dad air an t-sitig o chionn fhada (no co-dhiù a' fuireach san Airbnb air falbh bho Mam) ach 's ann a tha iad nas dòigheil – phàigh sinn tè gus dealbhan a thogail dhiubh còmhla airson ceann-bliadhna eile a chomharrachadh agus thàinig na dealbhan air ais thugam fhìn. Rinn mi gàire mhòr a' faicinn dìreach cho toilichte 's a bha iad nan dithis, a' suidhe air a' bheingidh, a' seasamh aig cùl an taighe taobh ri taobh agus aig an doras le na deòir a' sruthadh 's iad a' lachanaich. Creididh mi gu bheil seo air a bhith na dheuchainn do chuid nach eil cleachdte ri bhith còmhla gach mionaid de gach latha – mas e deuchainn a th' ann dha-rìreabh, tha Mam agus Dad air A fhaighinn còmhla! Tha e cuideachd air toirt air Mam tòiseachadh a' bèicearachd, agus leis gur mi as fhaisge orra, bidh mi a' faighinn a' chiad ultach de chèicichean. Gu dearbh chan eil mi a' gearain! Chan fhada a-nis gus a faigh sinn air a bhith cruinn còmhla ann am buidhnean nas motha agus gum faic sinn ar teaghlaich a-rithist airson ùine nas fhaide – tha fadachd orm fhìn gus am faigh sinn air copan teatha a ghabhail còmhla ris na daoine as cudromaiche agus as fhaisg oirnn.



Deer management

In my past few articles I've mentioned deer management and the measures we are taking to try to manage the deer population on the estate. We have now been granted an out of season authorisation to support management of the deer population on the estate. Our local volunteer shooters have been placed on the fit and competent register and work has already been undertaken to reduce numbers.

As previously reported, we will continue to monitor and continue to manage numbers until we reach a level that ensures much less damage to agricultural ground. When we move into the open season, management will become less restrictive and hopefully by that time we will be in a new phase with Covid-19 restrictions too. As ever, thanks to our volunteer shooters/chasers and also the wider community for their patience with this matter.

Habost household waste and recycling centre

We opened the site last week and continue to operate on a reduced timetable. The site has had a steady flow, but we are thankful to not yet be overwhelmed with visitors to the site – this would be unhelpful at the current time due to the constraints placed on us with limited skips etc. Thank you to all for adhering to the guidance. Please continue to monitor the website and the newsletter for changes to the restrictions. Thanks to the site staff team for getting things up and running again so efficiently.

Consents in place for underground cable works

Affected tenants and grazings will have received details of proposed works to reinforce the electricity network by installing an underground electric cable from Galson to Ness. Please contact the office number or email me directly on lisa@uogltd.com if you would like any further information on this work. We seek to have all consents in place by the end of June and will then work with the developer to seek a date of entry for works to commence.

Please remember our own staff are working from home. If you wish to discuss anything relating to the COVID-19 response from UOG or indeed any usual UOG business then please contact: office@uogltd.com or call 01851 850393 (this number diverts to a mobile). You can also visit the website at www.galsontrust. com for further information or to read our official response and an update on current activities in relation to Covid-19).

HebMRT to the rescue

Members of the Hebrides Mountain Rescue (HebMRT) team were called to Stoth on Sunday morning (14 June) to assist in the recovery of a lamb. The lamb, which had fallen into a deep gulley adjacent to the beach, had been spotted the previous evening by a local fisherman who had raised the alarm. Two members of the team were



lowered to the site and managed to successfully secure the lamb in a bag after which it, and the team, were brought safely back to the cliff top.

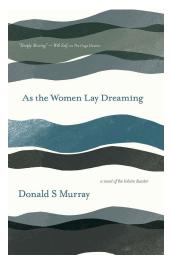
HebMRT are made up entirely of volunteers and serve the whole of the Outer Hebrides from the southernmost isle of Mingulay to the Butt of Lewis, and from St Kilda to the Shiants. Afterwards, Charlie Greenwood, Team Leader told the newsletter: "The rescue went very smoothly, the lamb was quickly captured and reunited with its mother. Given the current government guidelines relating to Coronavirus, the team have been unable to perform the regular training programme.

"These animal rescues have allowed team members to remain familiar with their Mountain Rescue skills over past months. The team are looking forward to returning to normal operation and will continue to assist any person or animal who is in need of assistance."

Donald S. Murray wins prestigious literary award

(Continued from front page)

owing to Covid-19 associated restrictions, and videos created by prize-winners were uploaded over the course of the day. Firstly, the runner-up prize for the Paul Torday Memorial Prize was announced, which was given to Gaby Koppel for 'Reparations'. Subsequently, the prize winner was announced. Praise from the judging panel was read before the video moved to Donald's acknowledgements and thanks, which he delivered in both English and Gaelic. Ceitlin Lilidh (Aird Dell) then lent her beautiful vocals whilst Margaret Ferguson's portraits of the Iolaire men were shown on screen,



interspersed with readings of the book by the author. On Twitter, the Society of Authors thanked all involved for a 'beautiful' video.

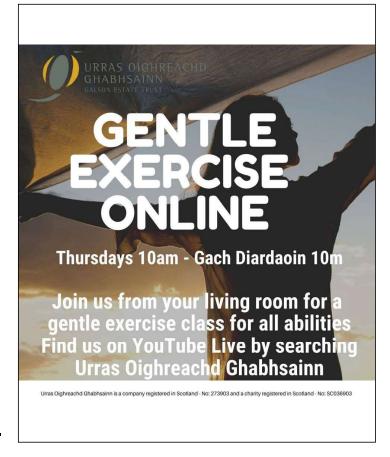
Alongside the accolade, Donald will receive £1,000 and a set of Paul Torday's collected works.

On the same date, Donald revealed his upcoming book titles. His follow-up novel, 'In a Veil of Mist', will be published by Saraband in the spring, and focuses on biological and chemical warfare in Northwest Scotland. After this, 'For the Safety of All', a book on the subject of lighthouses and published by Historic Environment Scotland will be released. This title is currently delayed, however, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many congratulations to Donald.

NOTICE

If those responsible for causing damage to Lionel School property would like to spend their time wisely, Janny has plenty of jobs they could do......during the day!



Spòrsnis Roof Appeal

As you are aware, the roof at Spòrsnis is in urgent need of repair and in March an appeal was launched at https://localgiving.org/appeal/Sporsnis-roof/ This online appeal has now raised over £2000 with other donations being made directly to Spòrsnis. We are extremely grateful to our four local councillors who have each pledged £500 from their ward funds and to the Urras who have promised support.

We would also like to thank Carthannas Nis, the Ness Charity Shop, for their generous gift of £500. These donations have allowed the purchase of new PVC guttering which Simon has been busy installing. He is also preparing to order new pre-cut roof panels to oversheet the corroding ends of the present panels. There are many associated costs with this, including adhesive and stainless steel screws so every donation makes a difference, no matter how small, and is much appreciated.

We hope to get this work completed as soon as possible before rain gets in to cause further damage. If you are able to offer your time and labour to help with this, especially if you are a skilled tradesperson, your help will be very welcome.

We have been busy during lockdown so please go down to Spòrsnis to see the external improvements already taking place, and to view the corrosion which has occurred .

We thank everyone for their donations and continued support and help with these repairs.

New Bookbug Schedule



English with Lindy, 10.30am

Diciadain / Wednesday

Sgeulachdan le Shona, 10.15am

Storytime with Lindy, 10.45am

Dihaoine / Friday

Gàidhlig le Shona, 10.30am

Find us on **Youtube Live** by searching Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn!

Thig còmhla rinn airson seinn. sgeulachd agus spòrs!
Come along for singing, stories and fun!

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NEW NORMAL

People are apparently spending a lot more time in their garden sheds and garages during lockdown than they would normally do, using them among other things as an office, reading room or study. According to a survey of 2,000 people by Co-op Insurance, one in six people revealed that they are using their sheds as a place to escape to for a few hours during these challenging times when people are forced to spend most of the day stuck within their own homes.

Meanwhile, Harris Tweed weavers, who normally spend an inordinate amount of time stuck in their sheds, are reportedly desperate to escape back each night to the confines of their own homes.

Welcome to the 'new normal'.

HEATSTROKE

While reading outdoors last weekend, as the hot sun passed slowly overhead, I unfortunately experienced a form of sunstroke! Well, it wasn't actually me, it was my iPhone that happened to be struggling in the heat. There I was, listening in to Radio 5Live on an app I have on my mobile phone, when the programme suddenly fell silent. I can't honestly recall what subject was being discussed on the show as I had my head focussed more on a book that Catherine the postie - courtesy of Amazon - had dropped off at the house the previous day. Although I cannot claim to be one of life's great readers any more than I can claim to be one of life's great writers - I do occasionally like to dip my snout into a good book. I will often have a radio or some music playing in the background, which I guess acts a bit like 'white noise' to help filter out any other distractions to the senses, like a bird chirping nearby, or Danda's tractor taking the corner at Taigh na Casag.

Anyway, back to the heatstroke, with my iPhone radio unresponsive, the sound of birdlife and Danda going through the gears suddenly came in to sharp focus, tearing me away from the pages under my nose. I glanced towards the mobile phone lying beside me and noticed a giant 'Temperature!' written across the screen, accompanied by a rather ominous looking graphic of a thermometer – my phone had apparently succumbed to the heat!

After cooling the mobile phone down with a damp cloth, the device thankfully sprang back to life after a few worrying minutes. I've had my current mobile for several years – an iPhone 7, for those of a technical disposition who like those kinds of details; or, for younger, more sophisticated readers of this column – a 'brick'!

I was grateful that I was able to salvage it as I was in no hurry to buy a replacement phone. The one I have can do all that I require of it, and far more than I will ever demand of it without having to ask for the assistance of the seven-year-old who lives down the road.

PROTECT THE NHS

Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently appointed the intriguingly named Dido Harding as his 'Test and Trace' guru which, as the name suggests, is a programme aimed at tracking and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in England.

Dipping in to the online resource, Wikipedia, to get a more informed handle on this latest asset to the Boris 'dream team', it confirmed my limited knowledge that Dido normally rests her posterior on the red benches of the Lords, where she goes by the more formal moniker, Baroness Harding of Winscombe. Dido not to be confused with a certain English singer-songwriter - is currently Chair of NHS Improvement, which oversees NHS trusts and private providers of NHS-funded care. The baroness has a background in business, having formerly been chief executive of the TalkTalk Group. A keen equestrian and owner of the 1998 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Cool Dawn, she also has a seat on the board of the prestigious Jockey Club.

Baroness Harding's *Wiki* entry further advises that she is married to John Penrose, who was elected MP for Weston-super-Mare in 2005 and held a number of junior ministerial posts between 2010 and 2019. There is no suggestion, however, that his parliamentary constituency of *Weston-super-Mare* had anything to do with his wife's elevation to the Jockey Club board.

With Baroness Harding currently Chair of NHS Improvement, what struck me most about her other half is that Penrose sits on the advisory board of the influential think tank '1828', which is calling for Public Health England to be scrapped and the NHS to be replaced with an American-style insurance system!

With power couple Penrose and Harding at the heart of our health service, it certainly gives a whole new dimension to the Tory government mantra, 'Stay at home, Protect the NHS'.

FOOTBALL FOCUS

Football, like everything else in life, has been seriously impaired by government responses to the Coronavirus pandemic as restrictions on play have huge repercussions for the professional game, with some longestablished clubs now facing serious hardship and possibly financial ruin. There have been various proposals on the table to try

and save or revitalise the Scottish game, with some of the more laudable of these proposals scuppered by majority vote amongst the 42 clubs that make up Scotland's senior divisions. Any serious attempts at improving the top tier of Scottish football to try and make teams more competitive on the European arena will be dismissed out of hand as self-interest and, indeed, survival for some clubs taking precedence over footballing excellence and better entertainment for the

The English Premiership makes £1.665bn per season from selling the television rights to its matches, which is nearly £630m per year more than the second richest league in Europe, Ligue 1 in France. Meanwhile, the Scottish Premiership, in 19th

place on the Euro rich list, has to scrape by with, by comparison, a miserly £32m a season for its TV rights.

A report on football finances concluded that 43% of revenue in the Scottish top flight during 2018 came from gate receipts, while the European average was around 15%. With the less well-supported clubs absolutely dependent on every body that passes through their turnstiles, the return of spectators to the grounds cannot come soon enough for some clubs. Stirling Albion, for example, can almost double its crowd attendance every time Alastair Dunlop attends a home match when visiting his mum in Kippen, Stirlingshire.

Germany, which handled the Coronavirus threat far more efficiently and effectively than our mob in London commenced professional football last week, but without the presence of the fans in the grounds that normally give 'the beautiful game' its excitement. England followed suit this Wednesday.

However, to mitigate the lack of atmosphere in those cavernous, empty grounds, the football authorities have come up with a few gimmicks to mimic the missing crowds. I was watching a game last week and thought for a minute that thousands of fans had somehow snuck in to the ground to support their team until I realised that I was looking at cardboard cut-outs of fans! Not only that, they were in all shapes and sizes to reflect the ethnic and gender diversity you might expect to see at a match. Watching another match last weekend, they had taken it a step further by piping in realistic crowd noises that 'oohed' and 'aahed' at the right times, reflecting tackles, near misses and refereeing 'errors'.

With the recommencement of football in Lewis possibly now on the horizon, I wonder if there'll be any chance of enforcing the 2 metre social distancing rule around the Ness goal this season?

CUTTING EDGE

My work colleague at Fios is apparently not a natural when it comes to DIY after a failed attempt at cutting through a bolt at her home. A good workman – or woman for that matter – never blames their tools when a job goes awry. The tool required for this

particular job was a hacksaw, which she duly purchased at Cross Stores. However, back home, as she started cutting through said bolt there was little sign of progress despite her best efforts. No matter how hard she pushed and pulled on the saw, the bolt remained unscathed, as if made of diamond.

However, there followed some kind of epiphany (or she happened to look at the accompanying instructions) and realised that the serrated cutting edge of the blade was facing

upwards, not downwards as one might expect in a saw. For safety reasons, the blade on a hacksaw is often reversed in the saw when purchased, requiring a 180-degree rotation before retightening and use.

If there is ever a time for Paddy at Cross Stores to get rid of that old tin of tartan paint....

Sporting Viewpoint

by Alastair Dunlop



Isi Oakley

Most people will be aware of the West Highland Way which is a ninety-five mile walk from Milngavie (I only realised recently from the Gaelic for windmill) to Fort William using a variety of tracks through some very impressive scenery. At this time of year there is a race from start to finish which obviously had to be cancelled. Instead there is a virtual race where competitors have been given nine and a half days to complete it by covering the distance in their own areas. There are three points where competitors must email their times, after 36 miles, 63 miles and the finish. After each leg, all runners / walkers can see on the leader board where they stand. You can run solo or in a 3-person team or a mixed relay team.

Isi Oakley and I are in the solo group along

with 1084 others. We have both made

Inversnaid (36 miles). It is necessary to run / walk at least ten miles a day which I readily admit to be finding it hard especially as if I finish it will easily be the most mileage I have ever covered in a week. It is an off-road event so in the spirit of the competition most of the miles should be run off road. The road might be faster but with my new hip I would have chosen grass anyway due to the softer surface. I have completed many laps of the pitch and the neighbouring machair readily admitting to avoiding hills although we still have to face strong winds. I



Thomson and Katarina

note from the current leader board I am in 3rd place in the over 60 section but only 4 minutes behind the leader after approx. 5 hours of running. If my hip holds out, I have plenty time to overtake. There are no prizes at the end just the satisfaction of completing a

challenge.



Ingrid

We also have a local team in the mixed relay section. The Macaulay family, Cross Skigersta Road. Mum, dad and three youngsters – Ingrid, Thomson and Katarina - under the name of Macaulay Marags. According to the current leader board they are 48th out of 84 teams - well done to them. Only another 59 miles to go for all of us.

This Saturday would have seen the first Tolsta to Ness run organised by Ness Runners. It will be slightly annoying if it turns out to be a perfect day for it i.e warm (and sunny with a cool breeze to keep the midgies away). The organisers have not given up on this year yet so look out for new information.

Premiership football begins again this week. As you will know there wil be no spectators in the grounds. I have not watched any live games from other countries so after this week

not watched any live games from other countries so after this week I will have an opinion on how much I enjoyed it. I think if Man City lose on Wednesday evening Liverpool can win the league at Everton on Sunday. It will be hard to stop their supporters congregating outside the ground. It is good to talk about football again and I would very much like to see some live action on our island sometime this year.

I should make mention of these white crosses sprayed on the road. I noticed today they are also on grass on the way to the cairn across from our house. They were all marked during the early hours and maybe next issue we will have the answer.

Race for Life... at home!



The Sgoil Lionail Parent Council would like to say a huge thank to everyone in the community that got involved with the school's Race for Life at home and donated to Cancer Research UK.

The sunny weather was most welcome as the children took part in their own races at home, running their own routes and distances. It was great to see so many photos of the enthusiastic children, proudly showing off their medals. Lovely to see a granny also showing off her skills in the potato and spoon race and really capturing the spirit of the event.

Johan Macritchie, of the Parent Council, said: "We had planned to hold the original Race for Life in April but Covid-19 soon put a stop to that. It is a difficult time for everyone just now, including charities, so we felt it would be good to still go ahead with the race in some way and it was adapted to the Virtual Race for Life at Home. We were delighted with the response and are so grateful to everyone that donated to this worthwhile charity. Our Justgiving page is at £425, which is fantastic. I hope all who took part enjoyed it and are proud of their achievements crossing that finish line."

There are still medals at the school office if anyone didn't get one or still wishes to take part. The Justgiving page will also stay open until Wed 24th June if anyone else wishes to donate to Cancer Research UK.

Visit: https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/lionel-school

(contributed article)

LOCAL MEDICAL PRACTICES

Delivery of Prescriptions for

Langabhat Medical Practice, Borve & Habost Surgery

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (UOG) are assisting Langabhat Medical Practice, Borve and Habost Surgery by delivering prescriptions to the residents of the Galson Estate.

Kind volunteers will be collecting the prescriptions from the clinic at 2pm and delivering them throughout the estate.

The volunteers will place the prescriptions at your door, knock at your door and then move two metres back before the door is opened. The volunteers will be adhering to strict hygiene practices to protect the safety of those receiving the medication.

Habost Surgery: Due to current circumstances, it would be helpful if patients could order their prescriptions by telephone. From 1st April, if you order your prescription, we will be issuing a two months' supply. Prescriptions will be delivered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.







Comunn Eachdraidh Nis AGM

Thursday 23rd July 2020

7:30pm

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Comunn Eachdraidh Nis will hold its Annual General Meeting digitally using the Zoom conference platform.

Please email <u>office@cenonline.org</u> before Monday 20th July to register attendance and to receive the online meeting link and supporting documents.

Fàilte oirbh uile

Corncrake surveys commence

RSPB staff have been receiving a large number of reports of Corncrakes this year during the lockdown from people in the local community who have been excited to hear Corncrakes from their houses and crofts. It's been wonderful to experience such interest in one of our rarest and noisiest summer visitors.

We have also been grateful to receive reports of Corncrakes as they arrive on breeding territories as we were not able to start our surveys in May as planned due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Now that the Scottish Government has lifted restrictions on outdoor working, we are resuming survey work under strict guidelines and look forward to following up on the reports that we have



Photo credit: Thanks to Cliff Reddick

We would like to appeal for further sightings and reports from the local community to help us with this survey. Unfortunately, Corncrakes have been in decline across Scotland over the last few years, but the Hebrides continue to be the UK stronghold for the species, with a small population also present at Durness on the mainland. Corncrakes are particularly susceptible to early cutting of silage fields which can destroy nests and chicks. We use the survey information to help target our habitat management for the species and our work with crofters to incentivise late and corncrake-friendly cutting of silage through the Corncrake Initiative.

Male Corncrakes make themselves known from late April when they arrive on their breeding grounds and start shouting to attract a mate. They prefer to stay in tall vegetation and are rarely seen but they have a loud, repetitive rasping call which they make through the night and occasionally during the day.

In order to locate territories, our local surveyors turn nocturnal and spend the early hours of the morning between midnight and 3am listening for and recording calling Corncrakes. If you happen to see a car out at that time of night, repeatedly stopping and listening, chances are high that it is someone doing a Corncrake survey! Especially if it is a warm, still night.

Please contact one of the following RSPB staff if you hear a Corncrake in your area or would like advice on habitat management for the species:

Skye: Shelagh.parlane@rspb.org.uk Uist: Jamie.boyle@rspb.org.uk

Lewis and Harris: Shona.Morrison@rspb.org.uk Durness: Catherine.Owen-Pam@rspb.org.uk

Volunteers and contributors who supported this issue of the Ness-Barvas Community Newsletter:

Donald A. Morrison, Jasmine M. Wilkie, Hugh MacInnes, Samantha Hawkins, Lisa MacIean, Simon Amos, Shona Morrison, Johan Macritchie, Rona Morrison, Shona Macmillan, Tom MacIver, Alistair Dunlop, Christine Amos, David Green.

Na làithean geala the halcyon days

'It is through **education** that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that a son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president...'

Nelson Mandela President of South Africa 1994 - 1999

Twenty years ago *fios* was a weekly publication and relied on events in our schools to help fill the eight A3 sheets. The story here was from Cross School.

We wonder if any of the salmon survived and where the children involved in the project are now? Send us your story.

Messing about on the river [fios 24 March and 30 June 2000]

In February 2000, two biologists from the Western Isles Fisheries Trust visited Cross School to install a new aquarium. The Trust representatives, Mark Bilsby and Helen Cowell, also visited several other primary schools around the island as part of an SNH funded environmental project.

On her initial visit, the children had watched eagerly as Ms Cowell set up the tanks. Once the aquarium had been filled with clean water and equipment installed to help sustain and nourish the eggs, about a hundred salmon eggs were added.

The pupils were given extensive advice on how to nurture the eggs and the newly stocked salmon aquarium would be monitored regularly by the schoolchildren as part of their learning.

By the end of March 2000 all the surviving eggs had hatched and matured enough to enable the children to transfer them to a nearby stream and Ms Cowell returned to Ness to supervise this crucial stage in the development of the salmon.

At the Cross River, the salmon, which had developed from eggs into alevin, were lowered gradually into a rocky section of the stream. Several pupils were given an opportunity to set some of the salmon free.

The salmon should remain as river salmon for anything up to two years, by which time they will have developed from alevin to parr and subsequently into smolt. From there they will graduate from river salmon to sea salmon where they shall remain for a further four years at least.

When salmon reach the smolt stage they generally start their journey to sea – although some do remain in the river. As the fish go downstream they are gradually growing bigger and bigger. Once they reach the ocean they begin to feed, grow and mature.

Provided that they are not eaten by predators, salmon return to where they were hatched. The fish are not likely to return to Cross River for up to six years.

At the end of June 2000 the pupils witnessed the next stage in the life of the salmon alevin they introduced to the stream in March.

On Wednesday 28 June, Helen and Mark, checked the river to see if any of the tiny fish had survived and developed to the next stage. Mark used a special electrical device to attract the fish and net them. In just a small section of the river there were many brown trout, eels and some of the salmon. Once they were netted and placed in the bucket the next step was to identify the species and measure the small fish. The alevin have now developed into salmon fry on the stream bed and are about 6cm long (2.5 inches). Commenting on the success of the project Mark said: "This is a very, very healthy stream, with very clean water. We judge how healthy the river is by the number of fish in the section we look at."

Over the next year or two the salmon fry will develop into parr and smolt before migrating to sea. Any that survive should return to the river after about 3 years as much bigger fish. Some of the trout caught will also go to sea. Mark explained "Brown trout and sea trout are one and the same but when they reach about 20cm long they make a decision about whether the will stay in the fresh water as brown trout or become sea trout."

Helen and Mark then showed the children how much life there was in the river by identifying some of the insects and larvae the fish feed on. One of the teachers commented afterwards that the children were obviously very interested in the project and "it was an important



Introducing the salmon alevin into the stream by Cross School on 20 March 2000

environmental learning experience for the future custodians of our natural resources."

The Western Isles Fisheries Trust is a charity set up in 1996 to look after the freshwater fish stock in the islands. Part of their present work is to develop the fisheries to try and attract more anglers to the islands. Helen Cowell said: "the Western Isles has the cleanest and healthiest wild fish in the country - it is a very valuable resource."

Salmon eggs being placed into the Cross School aquarium in early February 2000 with Helen Cowell of the Western Isles Fisheries Trust



Cuideachadh a dhìth gus an Tobar a Lìonadh

Tha pròiseact tasglainn fuaim a' sireadh taic bhon choimhearsnachd gus daoine bhon Taobh Siar a lorg a bha an sàs le craolaidhean Radio nan Gàidheal agus Radio nan Eilean eadar 1984 agus 2001.

Tha faisg air 50,000 clàraidhean aig Tobar an Dualchais (Kist o Riches) rin cluinntinn air loidhne aig www.tobarandualchais.co.uk, a' gabhail a-steach faisg air 1,500 clàraidhean de dhaoine bhon Taobh Siar, air an clàradh le Sgoil Eòlais na h-Alba (Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann), Iain Latharna Caimbeul (Cruinneachadh Chanaigh), agus am BBC (Roinn na Gàidhlig). Ged a tha sinn air 300 daoine bhon Taobh Siar a lorg mar-thà, tha 101 daoine rin lorg fhathast.

B'e Hamish Henderson bho Sgoil Eòlais na h-Alba a rinn na clàraidhean as tràithe de mhuinntir an Taobh Siar ann an 1952. Chlàraich Calum Iain MacIlleathain, Seumas Ros, agus Eric R. Cregeen daoine cuideachd anns na 1950an agus na 1960an. Bho na 1970an air adhart, tha cruinneachadh farsaing de chlàraidhean de mhuinntir an Taobh Siar a rinn am BBC aig a' Mhòd, cuide ri iomadh clàradh bho prògraman rèidio a' BhBC Dealan-Dè, Fàilte air a' Bhaile, agus Prògram Choinnich.

Mar a tha Friseal MacRaibeirt, Oifigear Cheadan dhan Phròiseact ag ràdh, "Feumadh sinn lorg fhaighinn air a h-uile duine a chaidh a chlàradh gus cead a shìreadh bhuapa gus na clàraidhean aca a chur air an làrachlin againn. Tha cuid de na clàraidhean gu math sean, agus leis a h-uile bliadhna a thèid seachad bhon àm clàraidh, tha e nas doirbhe a bhith a' lorg dhaoine, gu sònraichte mura h-eile na daoine neo an teaghlaichean a' fuireach san sgìre tuilleadh. Nuair a tha daoine air caochladh, tha sinn a' feuchainn ri na càirdean as fhaisge dhaibh a lorg. Tha eòlas na coimhearsnachd air leth cudromach dhomh gus daoine a lorg, agus bhiodh fiosrachadh sam bith a th' aig a' choimhearsnachd glè chuideachail dhomh."

Thuirt Flòraidh Forrest, Stiùiriche a' Phròiseict, "Tha cuid de chlàran far a bheil sinn a' lorg cead bho fhiosraichean, mar na clàran bho 'Prògram Choinnich', nas ùire na cuid de na clàran eile air an làraich ach tha iad ceart cho cudromach mar eachdraidh shòisealta an Taobh Siar agus thairis air an eilein air fad. Bidh iad gu sònraichte prìseil airson nan ginealach ri thighinn anns an eilean ."

Ma tha fiosrachadh sam bith agaibh mu dhuine sam bith a tha air an liosta neo air an teaghlaichean, nach cuir sibh post-d gu Friseal aig fm.smo@uhi.ac.uk, neo cuir fòn thuige air 01471 888603 (Diluain gu Diciadain, 9m - 5f.

Tha na clàraidhean rin cluinntinn air an làrach-lìn againn a' gabhail a-steach beul-aithris, òrain, ceòl, eachdraidh, dualchas, sgeulachdan, agus bàrdachd. Tha barrachd fhiosrachaidh agus na clàraidhean fhèin rin lorg air an làrach-lìn againn, tobarandualchais.co.uk.

Can you help unlock the Kist o Riches?

An oral archive project is looking for help from the local community to find people from the West Side of Lewis featured in BBC Radio nan Gàidheal / Radio nan Eilean broadcasts between 1984 and 2001.

Tobar an Dualchais (Kist o Riches) has almost 50,000 Gaelic and Scots recordings online at www.tobarandualchais.co.uk including almost 1,500 tracks featuring contributors from the west of Lewis recorded by the School of Scottish Studies (University of Edinburgh), John Lorne Campbell (The Canna Collection) and the BBC Gaelic Department. Although around 300 contributors from the west of Lewis have been traced, there are still 101 contributors whom the project would like to find

The earliest recordings on the Tobar an Dualchais website of people from the West Side of Lewis were made by Hamish Henderson of the School of Scottish Studies in 1952. Other early fieldworkers to visit the area to record local residents included James Ross, Calum Iain Maclean, and Eric R Cregeen. From the 1970s onwards, there are extensive collection of recordings of people from the West Side from the BBC recordings of the Mòd, as well as many recordings from the BBC radio programmes Dealan-dè, Fàilte air a' Bhaile, and Prògram Choinnich.

As Fraser McRobert, Copyright Officer for the project explains: "We need to trace all contributors to seek permission to use their recordings on our website. Some of the material is fairly old and the passing of time can make it more difficult to find people, especially if they or their families have moved away. Where contributors are deceased, we are trying to find their next-of-kin. I very much depend on local knowledge to track people down and any information which people can give me will be a great help."

Floraidh Forrest, the Project Director, added, "Some of the recordings for which we are trying to trace the contributors come from programmes such as 'Program Choinnich' and are more contemporary than some of the other material on the website. They are however just as important as a social history of the West Side of Lewis and the island as a whole. They will be especially important to future generations of islanders."

If you have information about any of the people listed or their next-of-kin, please e-mail Fraser at fm.smo@uhi.ac.uk or call him on 01471 888603 (Mon. - Wed., 9-5).

The type of material available on the website includes folklore, songs, music, history, traditions, stories and poetry. To find out more about Tobar an Dualchais and to listen to recordings, please visit tobarandualchais.co.uk.

Tobar an Dualchais is seeking permission from the named contributors or next of kin to include the recordings on its website

	Given Name(s)	Surname	Place	Source(s)	No. of Tracks	Year of Recording	Contributor Info (If available)
1	Colin	Stewart (traveller)		SOSS	33	1956	Recorded by Hamish Henderson in 1956. 33 tracks.
2	Roderick	Morrison	Lower Shader	SOSS	2	1964	Recorded by John MacInnes in 1964. Two songs - 'Thogainn Fonn air M' Uraidh Mhòr' and 'Hò Chan e Mo Rùn am Parsail'. No details other than village.
3	Roderick	Morrison	Shader	SOSS	5	1964	Recorded by John MacInnes in 1964. Five songs. Same person as 9853, or relative at least?
4	Donald	Maclver	Barvas	BBC	3	1975	Winner of childrens' silver medal at the Mod in East Kilbride in 1975. 3x'Nighean Donn na Mala Chrom'.
5	Murdo	(Murchadh Iain Bhig)	Galson	BBC	1	1984	Fàilte air a' Bhaile. Possibly Murdo Morrison, Am Block, father of Alex.
6	Murdo	Fàilte air a' Bhaile	Ness	BBC	1	1985	Fàilte air a' Bhaile. It was in Murdo's house (no surname given) in 1976 that the idea first arose for Ness Social Club. Possibly Murdo MacRitchie (info from Annie MacSween in 2017).
7	Joanne	Graham	Barvas	BBC	1	1985	Dealan-de. Talking about her work in the Agricultural College in Stornoway.
8	Rev. Kenneth	MacLeod	Garenin	BBC	1	1985	Failte air a' Bhaile. Originally from Gearrannan in Lewis. Minister in Nigg for 40 years. Came to Tain in 1965 and was still there at the time of the recording in 1985. Brother Calum worked for Ford Motors in Detroit and wrote the song 'An Till Mise Chaoidh do na Glinn's an robh mi òg.' This contributor was a minister (in Australia as well as Scotland.)
9	John	Graham	Barvas	BBC	1	1986	Dealan-dè. Coinneach talks to him at a ram show in Lewis. Copyright notes: Possibly John Murdo.
10	Farquhar	MacAulay	Shawbost	BBC	1	1986	Dealan-dè. Had been working in the mill for nine years. Sounds young (late 20s).
11	Donald	Macleod	Shawbost	BBC	1	1986	Dealan-dè. Had been working in Shawbost mill for 14 years.
12	Donald	MacLeod	Ness	BBC	1	1986	Dealan-dè. Child filmed wearing clothes which would have been worn 100 years ago. "probably" from Ness.
13	Calum	MacLeod	Galson	BBC	1	1986	Dealan-de. One of 9 young men taking part in the new course about crofting and weaving at Lews Castle College.
14	Donald	Morrison	Ness	BBC	1	1986	Dealan-dè. Sounds elderly. Talking about good weather for fishing and bad weather for fishing. Talks about two fishing accidents which resulted in several drownings in Ness in late 19th century.

	Given Name(s)	Surname	Place	Source(s)	No. of Tracks	Year of Recording	Contributor Info (If available)
15	Murdo	Morrison	South Dell	BBC	1	1986	Failte air a' bhaile. Postman in 1986. Was also on the coastguard and a fireman in the South Dell area.
16	Alexander	Murray	Shawbost	BBC	1	1986	Dealan-de. Had been working in the mill in Shawbost for 10 years.
17	Murdo	MacDonald		BBC	1	1987	Dealan-de. Trucker from the west side of Lewis. Drives a globetrotter and CB call name was Big Yin.
18	Calum	MacDonald		BBC	1	1987	Dealan-dè. Talking about proposed snail farm in Carloway, Lewis. Explains the process of farming snails, and how Chernobyl has affected the rearing of snails for the French market.
19		MacKay	South Dell	BBC	1	1987	Dealan-de. Pupil at Cross School in 1987. Talking about their play on life in the 'olden days' which was perfromed for 'Aithris na Cloinne' in the Town Hall.
20	Kenny Murdo	MacLeod	Brue	BBC	1	1987	Dealan-dè. Truck driver.
21	Alasdair Donald	MacLeod	Barvas	BBC	1	1987	Dealan-de. Pupil of Lews Castle School speaking about visit to TVEI (Technical and Vocational Education Initiative) in 1987.
22	Murdo	MacLeod	Ness	BBC	1	1987	Dealan-dè. Hand welder at Arnish Fabrication Yard in 1987.
23	John Angus	MacLeod	South Dell	BBC	1	1987	Dealan-de. Pupil at Cross School in 1987. Talking about their play on life in the 'olden days' which was performed for 'Aithris na Cloinne' in the Town Hall.
24	Donald	Smith	Ness	BBC	1	1987	Dealan-dè. Explaining the process of cleaning plates for welding at the Arnish Fabrication Yard in 1987.
25	Donna	Smith	Shader	BBC	1	1987	Pupil of Lews Castle School on public administration course in 1987.
26	Andrew	MacArthur	Barvas	BBC	1	1988	Dealan-Dè. Recorded at Lewis Mod singing 'Eilean Uaine fo Cheò'. He won the singing competition for boys P5 - P7.
27	Mary	MacDonald	Shader	BBC	1	1988	Dealan-dè. Married in 1921 when she was 27 (b. 1894). She was working in the herring industry. She had 4 sons and 2 daughter, and her eldest son was killed in the war.
28	Finlay	MacKenzie	Habost, Ness	BBC	1	1988	Dealan-de (recorded by Jo MacDonald). Recorded talking about being in the Home Guard in Ness.
29	Kathleen	MacLeod	Barvas?	BBC	1	1988	Dealan-dè. Recorded discussing knitting when she was 28. Possibly from Barvas as she learnt from a woman in Barvas. Could be the daughter of Emily MacLeod who was in the item.
30	lain	MacLean	Shawbost	BBC	1	1989	Recording when a teenager. Had been to CnaG's summer camp and took part in an event at the Stornoway Mòd ir 1989 where the children performed the plays they had written at the camp.
31	Murdo	MacDonald	Shader Barvas	BBC	1	1990	Retired maths and science teacher originally from Shader, Barvas. Living in Canada (Winnipeg, Manitoba), where he had been a teacher for 30+ years. Taught in Invergorden before he emigrated. (Dealan-dè). Was working in Moosomin, Manitoba.
32	Donald	Morrison	Ness / Point	BBC	1	1990	Originally from Ness, but living in Point at time of recording. Used to live in Edinburgh, and is on Dealan-De discussing his work as a furniture maker and restorer.
33	Anna	MacKenzie	Fivepenny	BBC	1	1991	Look around Dun Berisay and Dun Eisdean care homes in Lewis. Information about how the care homes are run, and a conversation with two of the residents. Anna MacKenzie was a resident at the care home in 1991 - she had been there for three years. (Dealan-dè)
34	Donna	Morrison	Bragar	BBC	1	1991	Recorded for Dealan-dè talking about her work in Mumbai, India, with the Christian group Intermission. She also discusses Mumbai as a place and its people and culture. According to the notes she worked as a social worker in Aberdeen before going to India.
35	Chrissie	Morrison	Melbost	BBC	1	1991	Chrissie worked in the canteen at Lews Castle Cottage in 1991. She had been there for eight years and was going to work for another two. Living in Stornoway but originally from Melbost.
36	Ruairidh	Campbell	Bragar	BBC	1	1992	From Bragar and patient in the Lewis Hospital. Sounded elderly (Dealan-de).
37	Calum	MacKay	Ness	BBC	1	1992	From Ness but lived in Point. Middle aged when patient in hospital in 1992. Talking about the hospital closing and moving to the new one.
38	Murdo	MacPhail	Bragar	BBC	1	1992	Murchadh Iain Phàil. Elderly and patient in the County Hospital. Was at sea for 12 years in his younger days. (Dealan-dè)
39	Roderick	Morrison	Ness	BBC	1	1992	Roddy Gormail. From Ness, but lived in Lemreway. Patient in the County Hospital in 1992. Was a rigger on the Clyde for 15 years. (Dealan-de).
40	Dolly	Murray	Ness	BBC	1	1992	At the time of recording she had been a midwife in the Lewis hospital for 7 years. Before that she was a district nurse in Ness. She was speaking at an open day at the maternity ward in 1992. Talking about the move to the new hospital (Dealan-dè).
41	Catriona	Smith	Shawbost	BBC	1	1992	Look round county hospital in Lewis for the last time before the new hospital opened. This contributor was a patient there (Dealan-dè)
42	Calum	MacLeod	N. Shawbost	BBC	1	1994	Prògram Choinnich. Describing the arrival of snow geese in Shawbost, birds rarely seen in Lewis.
43	Alex Dan	MacLeod	Lionel, Ness	BBC	1	1994	Prògram Choinnich. Lives in Lionel, Ness (1994). Searching for people via teletext.
44	Ann	Murray	Ness	BBC	1	1994	Prògram Choinnich. Not the singer.
45	lain	MacLean (buster)	Ness	BBC	2	1995	Prògram Choinnich. Tain speaking on behalf of Ness Social Club. Speaking about new drink driving law in Ireland, and speaking about minibus scheme he has set up in Ness.
46	William	MacLeod	Barvas	BBC	1	1995	Prògram Choinnich. Spoke about spiritual awakening in Lewis in the 1950s
47	Dorothy	MacRitchie		BBC	1	1995	Prògram Choinnich. Lived in Barvas at time of recording. She was on her first year of an Open University course in Social Sciences. Discussing Open University as a way to study.
48	Mary	Morrison	Shader	BBC	1	1995	Prògram Choinnich. Artist speaking about her work which was exhibited at Grinneas nan Eilean in An Lanntair, Stornoway.
49	Margaret	Morrison	Ness	BBC	1	1995	Prògram Choinnich. Mature student at Lews Castle College who had raised a family before going to college.
50	Donald	Morrison	Ness	BBC	1	1995	Prògram Choinnich. Describing walk over moor from Ness to ? At least 63 at time of broadcast. It seems like he



THANKS

WE, THE FAMILY OF DONALD JOHN SMITH (Domhnall Iain Chaluim Dhomhnaill Gladdie), aged 74 years, originally of Glen House, Arnol, and latterly of Essex and most recently Tom Na Ba, South Galson, would like to thank our neighbours and friends for the kindness shown at the time of our sad loss on June 1st.

Thanks to all who gave condolences, sent messages, cards, flowers and gifts. Thanks also to all at Borve Surgery for their kindnesses over the last year, and to the Macmillan nurses, and the district nurses who helped in the final days.

Donald was cremated privately, and a memorial and ashes scattering will be organised for 2021. Anybody who wishes to be notified in order to attend, please email his daughter at beverleysmith 100@gmail.com, and we will be sure to get in touch nearer the time.

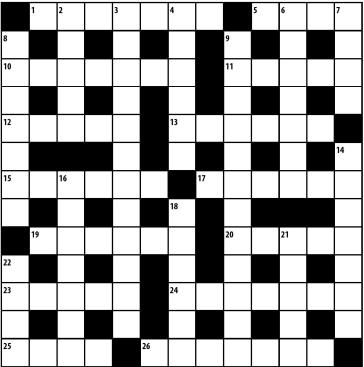
DOLAIDH AND SEONAG would like to thank all those who remembered them on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Family and friends who called at the house, phoned, sent cards, gifts, flowers and monies. We were absolutely delighted with the surprise musical treat from Mary Duff, Anna and Ronan. It rounded off a lovely day. Moran Taing

127 Cross Skigersta

THE NEWSLETTER would like to give thanks to Mary Burgerhout for her kind donation.

If you are languishing in lockdown at home with time on your hands, do try and solve the puzzle and text or email your solution or attach a photo of the completed grid. It will encourage our compilers to produce more hand-woven puzzles and you may even get your name in the next issue of the freesheet! email: jasmine@uogltd.com mobile text: 07460 853 728

Ness-Barvas No.6 Crossword 19 June 2020



ACROSS

- 1 See clip of celestial shadow (7, anag)
- 5 Exchange paws (4, anag)
- 10 Wrap up (7)
- 11 Asian democratic republic (5)
- 12 Italian sauce (5)
- 13 Support beam (6)
- 15 Ease pain (6)
- 17 Orbiting body (6)
- 19 Physically strong (6)
- 20 Island smallholding (5)
- 23 Italian island (5)
- 24 Gunner (7)
- 25 Furthest from the west(4)
- 26 Imitate (7)

DOWN

- 2 Caverns (5)
- 3 Famous for tweed and gin (4,2,6,)
- 4 Able to move and bend easily (6)
- 6 Freshwater duck (7)
- 7 Have fun at the show (4)
- 8 Play in the storm (7)
- 9 Village academy(6,6)
- 14 Standing quality (7)

- 16 Sea bed crawler cops out (7, anag)
- 18 Plaster of Paris (6)
- 21 Four by two musicians(5)
- 22 Measure of land area (4)

No. 5 Crossword 5 June 2020 solution



solved by:

Bernadette Darbyshire Alasdair Smith

Dhubh mi as, mar neul, d'euceartan; agus mar cheò, do lochdan; till rium, oir shaor mise thu.

Isaiah 44: 22 [ABG 1992]

Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.

HELP & SUPPORT

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE - BENEFIT REVIEWS AND REASSESSMENTS SUSPENDED

Reviews and reassessments for disability benefits are being suspended for the next three months. [Last checked 03/06/2020, no further updates at this time]

NHS SCOTLAND CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnessesand-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/ coronavirus-covid-19

HMRC SCOTLAND CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronaviruscovid-19-information-for-individuals-andbusinesses-in-scotland

DWP SCOTLAND

Coronavirus support for employees, benefit claimants and businesses

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ coronavirus-support-for-employees-benefitclaimants-and-businesses

CITIZENS' ADVICE SCOTLAND

Coronavirus – What it means for you https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/ health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you-s/

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH INSURERS

ABI Coronavirus Information Hub https://www.abi.org.uk/products-andissues/topics-and-issues/coronavirus-hub/

PARENT CLUB

Information for parents on what to do if you have to stay at home with kids and some useful advice on coronavirus and how it might affect you and your family

https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/health/ coronavirus?age=0

PHONE ADVICE

Coronavirus: if you feel the symptoms

NHS 111

NO Coronavirus symptoms advice

NHS Scotland

0800 028 2816

ELDERLY

Age Scotland 0800 470 8090

FAMILIES

Parentline Scotland 0800 028 2233

FINANCIAL AND DEBT ADVICE

Money Advice Scotland 0141 572 0237

BUSINESS

Business Helpline 0300 303 0660

MND Scotland

0141 332 3903

SAMARITANS

116123

TAKEAWAY MEALS

Cross Inn TEL: 810152

Takeaways available Thurs 4-7pm, Fri & Sat 4-8pm, collect or deliver, both hot and cold food. Drinks are available with food orders and will also be available for takeaways only, 7-10pm. Orders taken from noon.

Cross Inn is now closed Sun - Wed. However, for those 'at risk' or in vulnerable categories, an exception can be made and cold food can be made available on these days. Can phone in all orders on TEL: 810152 and payment can be made on the phone. Further details available on Facebook.

The Decca TEL: 810571

Fresh artisan bread made to order. Please phone to place an order by 10am that day. We can offer loaves, rolls and bagels. Loaves (about 600g) are £2.50, rolls - 50p each, bagels -60p each.

Bread orders can be collected from The Decca (usually ready about lunchtime) or non-contact delivered (50p extra). You can pay over the phone by card.

We can also provide prepared food for same day or for the freezer - can be collected or delivered.

Porkies

In future the Porkies takeaway kiosk will be at Spòrsnis on Thursdays between 4.30-6.30pm.

The move away from the Ness Hall is due to the lack of a signal required for the card payment machine.

BorveHouseHotelTEL:850223

Borve House Hotel is open Thursday, Friday, Saturday for takeaways from 4-7pm. Orders and card payments can be taken by phone. The hotel will then supply all customers with a pick-up time so as to control any waiting time on collection.

The Breakwater TEL: 811 001

The Breakwater is open for takeaways: Wednesday 3-6pm

Thursday, Friday, Saturday 12pm (midday) -

Place your order and make payment over the phone. If customers wish to limit their social contact, restaurant staff will bring orders out to the car. Deliveries also available within Ness for those unable to visit The Breakwater.

Wobbly Dog TEL: 810838

Cheese scones, cake, coffee and brownies will be available for take away from 12.00 - 2.00pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Come to the front door of the Wobbly Dog and your cakes will be brought out to you.

Message on FB or call us on 01851 810838 to order! Or we can deliver your order in the Ness area for just £1 extra.

NESS FC SOCIAL CLUB

MONTHLY DRAW

Our next draw will be on Tuesday 30th June at 7:30pm LIVE on our facebook page. If anyone would like to join our superdraw please feel free to contact the club for details.

£5 monthly entry

MAY RESULTS

1st prize - £100 - Neil MacLean - Cross Skigersta Rd

2nd prize - £50 - Dorothy Morrison - Skigersta 3rd prize - £25 – Johan MacInnes – Cross Skigersta Rd

£5 bonus went to Peter Clarke - Oban

Congratulations to our winners.

WEEKLY DRAW

We are still looking to set up a weekly draw.

£2 weekly entry

Again, contact the club for details and we'll get it going as soon as we have enough people!

CASH PAYMENTS

If you would like to pay by cash for our draws, we can now take payments via Cross Stores. Please leave an envelope with your: Name -

Contact number -

What the money is intended for, eg. £20 for four months.

Contact us on:

nesssocialclub@yahoo.com Private message via our facebook page.

Contact us on: nesssocialclub@yahoo.com or private message via our facebook page.



WANTED

Petrol mowers, dead or alive! Cash waiting! Also servicing and repairs done.

Tel Jonny on 07900254494



TALKING NATURALLY by Samantha Hawkins

When we parted company at the end of the last newsletter, I mentioned the reported sighting (2 June) of a Rosecoloured Starling in Fivepenny. It was not until the following day that I



got the opportunity to go and see if I could see the bird for myself. Despite several searches through Fivepenny at different times of day, there was unfortunately no sign. The next day, when I was walking on Lionel Machair and not looking for anything in particular, not one, but two Rose-coloured Starlings flew right in front of me! They perched on fence posts, then dropped into the longer grass of Fivepenny Machair before settling onto a newly mown lawn. Bingo! Unbelievably two eventually became three, a record matched by Portland, Dorset as per Rare Bird Alert. They flitted between Fivepenny and Knockaird and it was good to witness the pleasure folk had at seeing them for the first time. The last time I saw them was again on Lionel Machair on 7 June. A few days to enjoy and remember.

And it was while I was on Lionel Machair most days last week that one particular Redshank came to my attention, perched on a fence post marking the border between there and Fivepenny Machair. Redshanks, a medium-sized wader, are well-named given their striking bright orange-red legs. Like their legs the bottom half of their bill is a similar bright orange-red with the other half being a darker black/brown. The plumage on the brown back and wings is speckled with much paler underparts. The species is also known as the 'warden of the marshes', and anyone who has been in their vicinity will know the reason why - they emit a loud and piercing tirade of warning calls at the slightest hint of threat or danger. Loch Beag and the surrounding area on Fivepenny Machair are a perfect breeding ground for these and other waders, being as it is less intensively grazed so providing plenty of cover for nests and afterwards developing young. A good thing when there are only an estimated 25,000 breeding pairs left in the UK, 40% of which are in Scotland. Like so many other species they have suffered from habitat loss, changes in agricultural practices and wetland drainage to name just a few.

Anyway, I took some photos of the Redshank and when I returned home and downloaded them onto my computer, I could see that the bird had a metal ring on its right leg. In fact, since then I have been taking probably an inappropriate number of photos of the Redshank's legs! Given the wariness of the bird – the 'warden of the marshes' – and despite having a relatively good camera, I have, as yet, been able to decipher any information. This is



Left: Redshank with leg ring on the machair Above: Two Rose-coloured Starlings with some of our own local birds

frustrating although not entirely unexpected as my maximum default position it allows me into its presence is about 70 feet, before it takes to the skies loudly shrieking. At the time of writing I am waiting to hear back from the British Trust for Ornithology if they can give me any more information about Redshank ringing schemes.

Of things flying other than birds, this time of year is a good one to look out for Damselflies and Dragonflies. UK-wide there are 57 species, only 9 of which can be found in the Outer Hebrides. Perhaps the easiest to find, and more than likely in your garden, is the Large Red Damselfly. They have quite exotic names, and if you hunt hard enough you may just find one of the other 8 species – the Common Blue Damselfly, the Blue-tailed Damselfly, the Common Hawker, the Four-spotted Chaser, the Black Darter, the Common Darter and two species which are both much rarer – the Golden-ringed Dragonfly and the Emerald Damselfly.

I have enjoyed hearing about your sightings over the last couple of weeks, and to those who have contacted me - thank you. Even a text from Culloden to tell of a sighting of a Yellow Wagtail! Closer to home, a Lapland Bunting was seen on the wall of the Lighthouse compound on 14th June by John Burgis (Fivepenny). The week before, a Linnet (or Linties as they are known north of the border) was seen in a garden on Cross Skigersta Road. You will forgive me if I repeat this again, but like so many of our other bird species, these too are on the decline and are listed as 'Conservation Status-Red'. The bird in the photo, seen on Cross Skigersta, is a male in his striking summer plumage – grey head, chestnut back and bright pink forehead and breast. To keep this on a pleasant footing I will refrain from telling you how so many Linnets suffered, caged by the Victorians because they



wanted to enjoy their beautiful song.

I found myself in Port of Ness last Sunday afternoon which was totally out of character for me. I received a phone call from a gentleman who was watching a Whale which was approximately half mile out to sea. I gladly joined himself and his wife at their vantage point overlooking the harbour and the beach, and what a view it was. You might recall what a beautiful day it was – calm, clear and warm - and sure enough, following what looked to be primarily a flock of feeding Kittiwake was indeed a Whale. I was going to say, 'what a fabulous sight', it was, but I was more blown away with the sound of air being expelled from its blow hole as it broke the surface of the water. That sound will stay with me for a long time – absolutely amazing. The general consensus of opinion was that it was more than likely a Minke Whale and it seemed to follow a similar behaviour pattern – surfacing a few times in guick succession, then diving for a few minutes. I did take photos, but I won't embarrass mysef by sharing one with you here, save to say I don't think Sir David Attenborough's camera crew need to worry about their job security for now.

From one of the biggest marine mammals I will end with one of the smallest land mammals - the Pygmy Shrew. Like our Dragonfly and Damselfly species, land mammals in the Outer Hebrides are few and far between with Red Deer probably being the most conspicuous, as are Rabbits now by their absence (almost). I was really delighted to receive a few photos and a video of a Pygmy Shrew taken in Penny and John Walkinshaw's garden in Galson. The video is particularly good, and while I'm not given to the anthropomorphism of wildlife, or phrases such as 'cuteness overload' - it's cute! What distinguishes them in particular from mice and voles is the long, pointed snout, plus they are tiny, the smallest mammals in the UK, about 5.5cm from the tip of the snout to the base of the tail. Brown on top, they are greyish white underneath, and being so small they need to eat every couple of hours, a diet which includes spiders, beetles and slugs. The video is available to view on my Facebook page 'Ness Nature.' So there we have it - a 'cuteness overload'!

Left: Linnet, Cross Skigersta

Right: Pygmy Shrew, Galson

