



URRAS OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN
GALSON ESTATE TRUST



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023 / 2024

A company registered in Scotland No: 273903 and a registered Scottish Charity No: SC036903



A FOREWORD FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON AGNES RENNIE

'S e bliadhna shonraichte tha romhainn airson baile Ghabhsainn le ceud bliadhna bho chaidh tac mòr Ghabhsainn a bhristeadh. Is t-earrach 1924 fhuair 52 teaghlach cothrom dachaigh ùr dhèanamh far nach robh ach taigh an tac agus dà thaigh ciobair roimhe sin.

Mar a dh'inns mo sheanmhair, Seònaid 'an Martainn, dhomh fhèin se bha seo ach cothrom na gabh a thuigsinn furasta an diugh sa liuthad cothrom a th'againn. Aig àm far na gabh na mìltean eileanaich òg an cothrom falbh gu taobh eile an t shaoghail, fhuair an sluagh a thànaig a Ghabhsann cothrom gun an eilean fhàgail. Thànaig iad bho iomadh baile eadar Càrlabhagh agus Eoropaidh. Gu leòr nach robh air a chèile a choinneachadh a riamh, cuid a bh'air fulang gu cruaidh tro bliadhnachan a Chogaidh Mhòr, ach dhan aon inntin gu robh cùisean gu bhí nas fhearr.

Tha an Urras, comhla ri buidhneanan eile san sgìre, an dòchas a bhliadhna shonraichte seo a chomharrachadh an dòigh iomchaidh. Feuch ma tha ceangal sam bith agaibh ris a bhaile, an diugh no tron teaghlach, gu lorg sibh a bheil dealbhan no cuimhneachain eile gu leig sibh fios chun Urras no gu Comunn Eachdraidh Nis. Bidh tuilleadh fios mu tachartasan a nochdadh tron bhliadhna.

Gheibh sibh tuilleadh fios mun seo agus iomadh rud eile s na duilleagan a leanas.

This is a very special year for the villages of North and South Galson and Melbost as we commemorate 100 years since the township was created. In the Spring of 1924, most of the families who had successfully applied for and were allotted one of 52 new crofts, arrived in the village.

Speaking to my grandmother, Seònaid 'an Màrtainn, many years ago she explained this was an opportunity that's difficult to comprehend in today's world. Significantly, this was at a time when thousands of young islanders travelled to the other side of the world to seek a better life, but those who came to Galson from villages as far apart as Carlaway and Eoropie did not have to leave the island. Many of those arriving had never met before, and most had been affected, to some extent, by the tragedies of WW1 as priority was given to returning servicemen and their families.

UOG, together with other partners in the community, intend to mark this special year in an appropriate way, and we and Comunn Eachdraidh Nis are very keen to hear from anyone with photographs or family stories from the early years after arrival. Look out for more information about other events through the year.

17 years ago, on the 12th of January 2007, a large gathering assembled at Galson farmhouse to witness the official transfer of the land to a community owned trust. Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn was born. Thank you for your continued support which allows the Trust to work for your community.

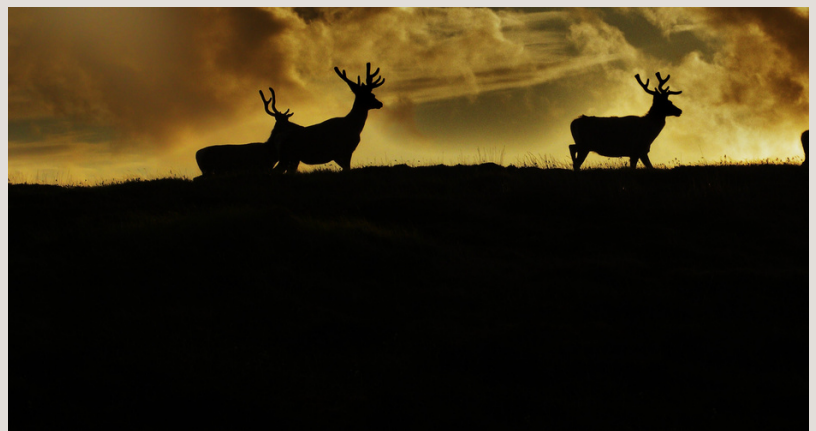
I hope you enjoy reading about this, and much more, in the following pages.

LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Photo Credit to Katelyn MacIver

Deer Management

As the deer stalking season closes, we are pleased to report that our volunteer stalkers have been working hard this season to reduce the number of deer on Galson Estate. Despite the harsh winter conditions, early mornings and challenging, boggy terrain, they have made great progress in reaching our target numbers which are advised by NatureScot. We recognise the pressure our volunteers are under to carry out this role on behalf of the community and are appreciative of their commitment, effort and the personal equipment they have used. Although it may not be apparent to residents at this stage, deer numbers are being reduced, having a positive impact on the estate's ecosystem and residents' crops. Please continue to drive carefully as the deer will continue to gather at the side of the roads, especially during the winter months.



Goose Management

We have recently had confirmation that the Scottish Government has once again allocated funding to the Lewis and Harris Goose Scheme. The aim of the scheme is to manage the greylag goose population with a coordinated shooting effort from local licensed volunteers.

We don't have specific dates confirmed but it is most likely that the scheme will operate through March and April in the usual way. Existing volunteers will be notified in the next few weeks.

The aim of the project is to reduce agricultural damage seen by crofters and farmers, while maintaining a sustainable goose population.

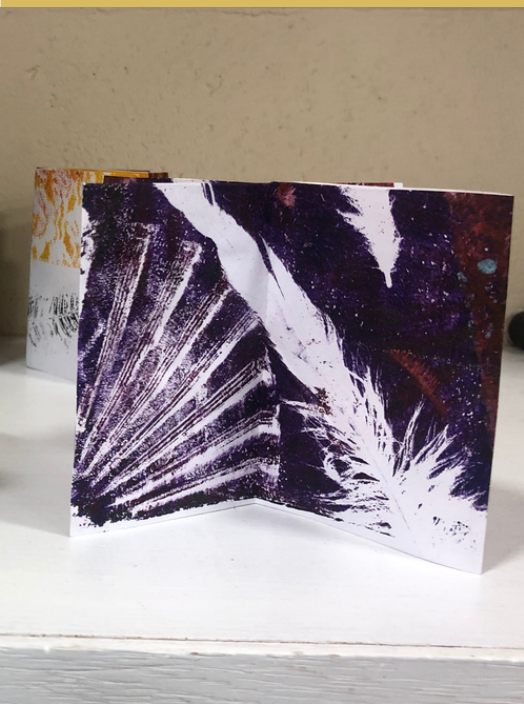


SUNND IS BACK! | THA SUNND AIR AIS!

Sunnd, our health and wellbeing programme is back for its 6th year, with more activity than ever. It is running throughout the winter months to keep us fit and active while the weather is challenging. Check out our sunnd booklet for the latest fun filled classes to see what interests you. Visit www.galsontrust.com to view or download the programme.

To book please visit www.bookwhen.com/sunnd

All regular fitness classes are subsidised to £2 during the Sunnd programme.





COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

This winter, UOG has continued initiatives to help ease the ongoing cost of living crisis in our community. Kids classes continue to be subsidised to £1 for all activities, with a fantastic range of classes, from sports to music and just for fun sessions delivered by our community partners. For adults, all classes during Sunnd are subsidised to £2 to ensure being healthy and active is available to all.

Heated blankets were so well received by over 80s last winter we have lowered the age range to 75 this year so more can benefit. We hope this has helped to keep our community warm, without worrying about the expense of additional heating.

We do still have limited stock available so if you or someone you know would benefit, including those in cold homes or recovering from illness, regardless of age, please get in touch.

We are working closely with professionals in social work and health visitors to assist in sourcing necessary items for those most vulnerable in our communities.

To celebrate the joy of new babies to the estate, baby essentials such as nappies and wipes remain free to collect from the UOG office. This is open to all so please pop in and collect what you need when you are passing.

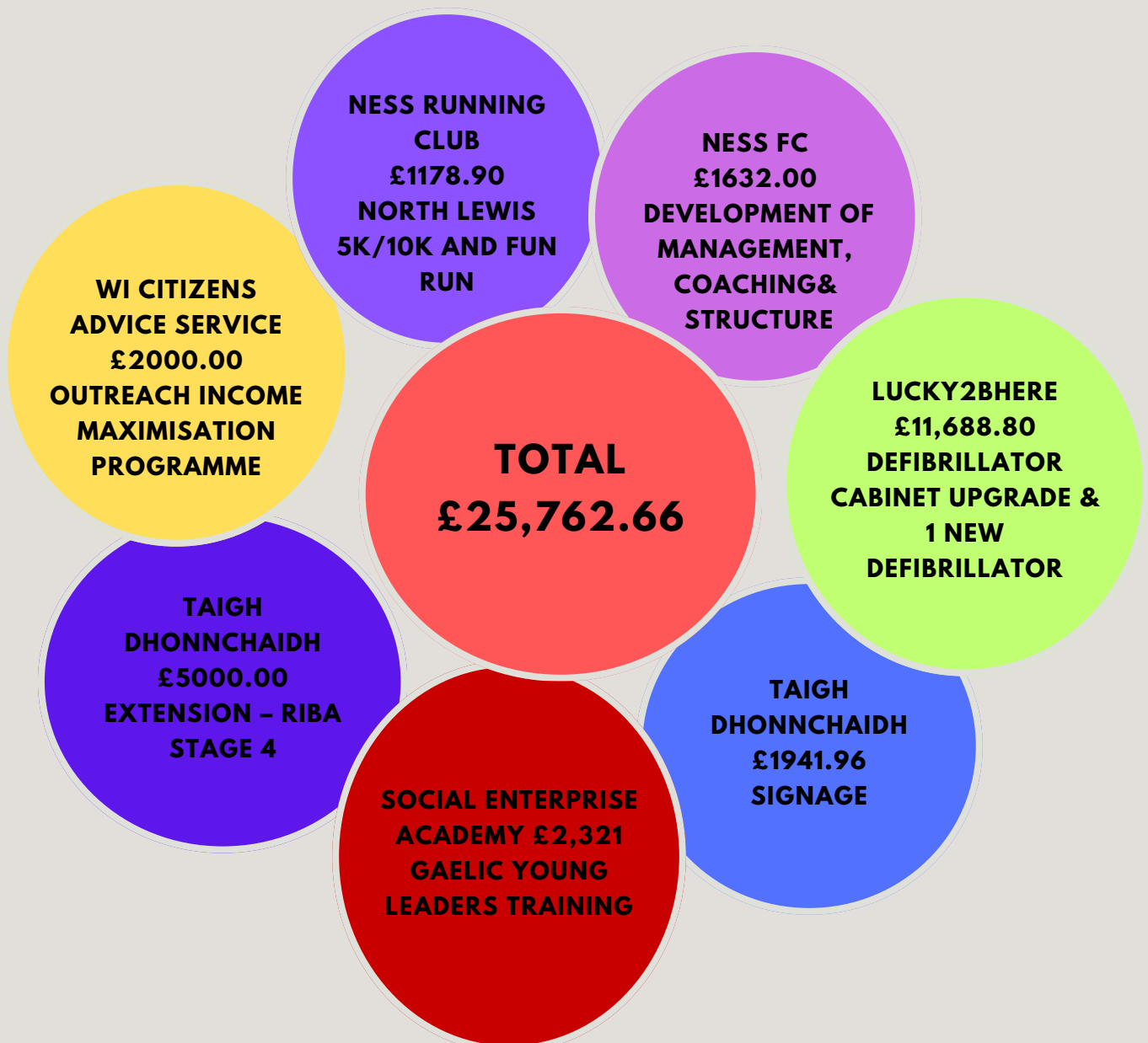
Our next steps are to look at how we can assist with transport in the area - thank you to all who filled in our survey. We are busy reviewing all the suggestions in order to come up with an initiative to keep everyone connected and where they need to be.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

We fund a diverse range of community projects, focusing on skills development, health improvement, poverty relief, environmental conservation, citizen engagement, promotion of local heritage and culture, and growth in industry sectors.

AWARDS GRANTED FROM OCTOBER 23 - FEBRUARY 24





FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Plòigh
MHÒR!

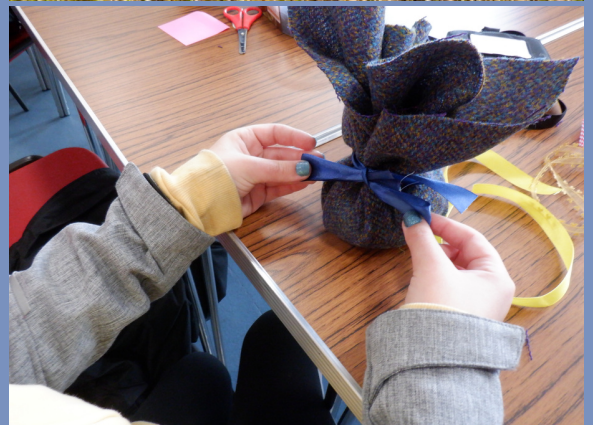
JOHN
MUIR
TRUST

Plòigh

After a busy and successful 2023, we have a busy schedule of events planned for 2024.

Coming up in Spring 2024, we have our annual John Muir Trust Primary 7 transition programme from 19th-21st March, where P7s from Lionel, Sgoil an Taobh Siar, Shawbost and Breasclete primary schools work together to gain their John Muir Trust Discovery award over three days. They get to know each other, discover more about where they live and explore new places through outdoor learning. This year we have 30 pupils from all four schools and it's set to be a great few days for all involved.

Ploigh 2024 will start with our Easter programme from the 1st - 5th April. It will be packed full of activities for children from age 4 + with our favourite Sporsnis Play, and we are introducing new activities including Table Tennis at Barvas hall. Be sure to keep your eye on our social media for information on how to book. Remember, that kids activities are subsidised to £1 per activity for children residing on The Galson Estate



The Plòigh programme is collaborative effort in partnership with Sporsnis, Taigh Dhonnachaidh, CnaG, RSPB, Clan MacQuarrie Community Centre, The Hebridean Community Centre and Barvas & Brue Community Centre.

UOG Staff Updates

FÀILTE!

We'd like to give a big welcome to two new members of staff who joined the team last week.

Heather Macleod has joined us as a Development Officer and will be working across several projects, specifically tourism focused projects. Katie Mackenzie is our new Marketing & Communications Officer and will focus on promoting the work of UOG.

If you see Heather & Katie at one of our events soon please say hello!



Heather Macleod,
Development Officer



Katie Mackenzie,
Marketing & Communications Officer



na Dorsan

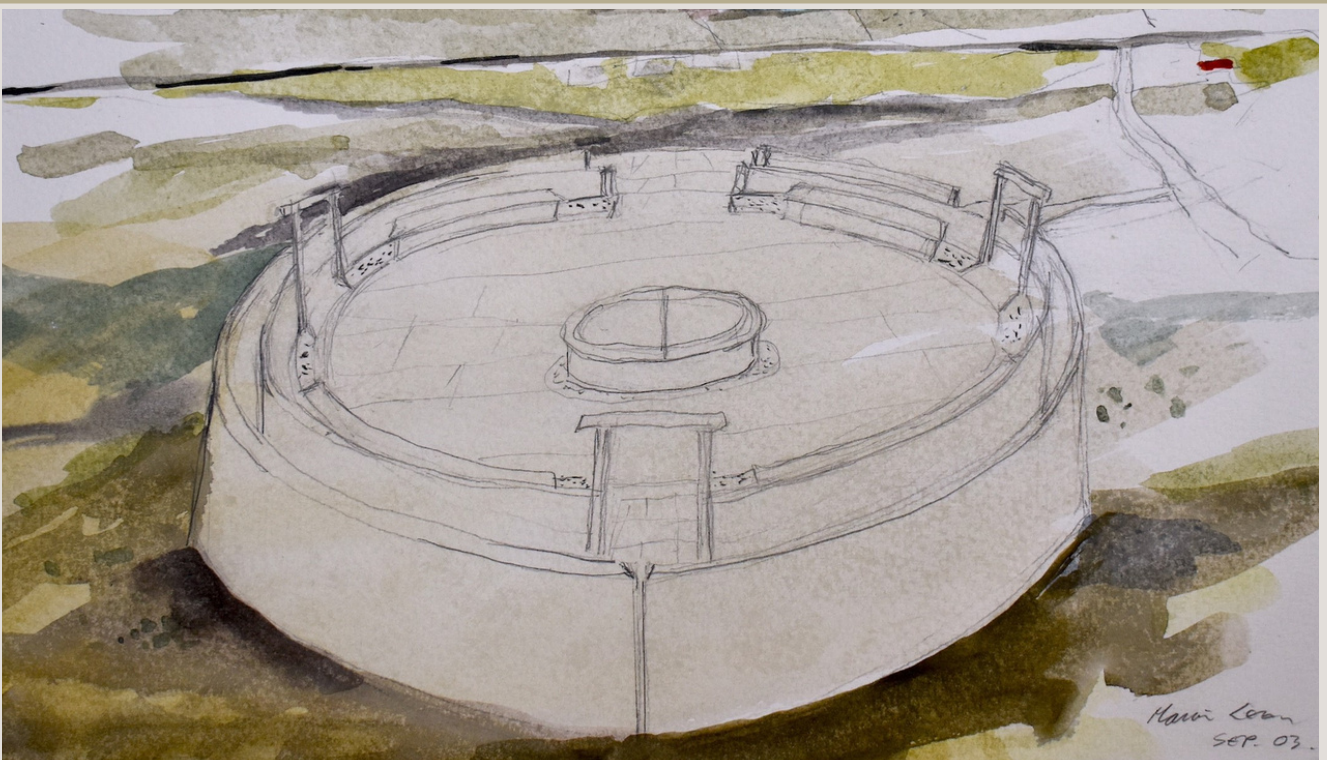
We are working in collaboration with Airidhantuim Community Council, Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, and Galson Grazing Committee, to commemorate the centenary of the resettlement of Galson village. This historic endeavour, marking 100 years of transformation and community ownership, will culminate in the unveiling of a captivating memorial sculpture named "na Dorsan" in the Autumn of 2024.

In 1924, Galson's story underwent a profound transformation as 52 families found new homes in Melbost, South Galson, and North Galson. This momentous event marked an unforgettable homecoming for Galson's sons and daughters, who had scattered across the land, hailing from Dell, Borve, Shader, Carloway, Fivepenny Ness and further afield. It was a homecoming that spanned decades, punctuated by significant confrontations in 1887-8 and 1919-23.

In 2024, exactly one hundred years later, we plan to gather to pay homage to their unwavering spirit and dedication. The "na Dorsan" monument will be unveiled as a poignant space for reflection on our shared history and a chance to immerse ourselves in the landscape we proudly call home. This is more than just an event - it's a tribute to the past, a celebration of the present, and a promise for the future.

The design is guided by recognised artists, Will Maclean and Marian Leven, celebrated for their work on memorials such as the lolaire and Sùileachan. They lead the creation of this forthcoming monument, which promises to seamlessly blend art and history into a breathtaking masterpiece. The monument's unveiling will be accompanied by a thoughtfully curated program of local events, ensuring that the centenary is commemorated in a meaningful and memorable way. Look out for the events - due to be announced very soon!

The planning permission application for this monumental sculpture has recently been submitted, marking a significant step forward in the realisation of this project.



BECOME A PROUD MEMBER OF YOUR COMMUNITY LAND TRUST!

Are you a resident of the Galson Estate for over nine months each year? Are you eager to play an active role in your community's growth, support local initiatives, and stay in the loop about all things community land trust related?

Membership Perks:

- **Voting Power:** Have your say and vote at the AGM
- **Your Voice Matters:** Opportunities to voice your opinions
- **Get Involved:** Take part in various local working groups
- **Stay Informed:** Get registered for our E-Newsletters

Becoming a member is easy and costs just £1 for a lifetime membership!

If you're 16 or older and fall into any of the following categories, you're eligible:

- Live within the Galson Estate Trust area
- Reside on the Isle of Lewis and registered with the Crofters Commission as a tenant of a croft within the Galson Estate area
- Live elsewhere but registered with the Crofters Commission as a tenant of a croft within the Galson Estate Trust area and actively work on that croft

**Join us today and help shape the future of our wonderful
Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn!**

**Become a member at www.galsontrust.com, visit us at our
office in South Galson or call us on 01851 850393**



URRAS OIGHREACHD
GHABHSAINN
GALSON ESTATE TRUST

A company registered in Scotland - No: 273903
A registered Scottish Charity SC036903

HABOST HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE

Bulky Household Waste Disposal and Recycling Point for the disposal of Household Waste Only

WINTER OPENING HOURS

30 OCTOBER 2023 TO 30 MARCH 2024

MONDAY

10AM TO 12 NOON

2PM TO 4PM

TUESDAY

CLOSED

WEDNESDAY

10AM TO 12 NOON

2PM TO 4PM

THURSDAY

10AM TO 12 NOON

2PM TO 4PM

FRIDAY

10AM TO 12 NOON

2PM TO 4PM

SATURDAY

9AM TO 12 NOON

1PM TO 4PM

Operatives will be onsite during the opening times.

Please refrain from disposing of items outwith these times as this will be treated as fly tipping.

Contact Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn - 01851 850393



Are you on the app?



If you want your business to be included on the Visit North Lewis website and app, please get in touch at tourism@uogltd.com

SEND US
YOUR
LEAFLETS!

We are currently creating local information packs for visitor accommodation. If you want your business to be included, please get in touch.



tourism@uogltd.com



URRAS OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN
GALSON ESTATE TRUST

Keep in touch with our latest news, updates & events by following us on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter. You can also read our regular updates in *Fios*.

CONTACT US



01851 850 393



office@uogltd.com



Urras Oighreachd Ghabhainsinn, Tom na Bà,
Gabhainsann bho Dheas Eilean Leòdhais, HS2 0SH

www.galsontrust.com