



URRAS OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN
GALSON ESTATE TRUST

Summer Newsletter

August 2018



Fàilte!

Welcome to our Summer 2018 newsletter.

Updating you on what's been happening since the last newsletter and information on our upcoming events.

New Staff



We welcomed Kathryn Ferguson to the team back in June as part of the CNES Gaelic placement scheme. Kathryn has been working on developing packs of tourist information, coastal routes, and helping with the running of the outdoor sessions.



Louise Senior (left) and Ally Maciver (middle), joined us at the start of August as Energy Officers as part of a new scheme: 'Community LED by Energy Champions' in partnership with Carloway Estate Trust. The project is funded by the Climate Challenge Fund.

Ceangal



Back in June we hosted a group of S6 from the Nicolson as part of 'Ceangal.'

We spoke about what we do as a land trust, then presented them with a short activity based around tourism on the estate and how sites such as the lighthouse could be improved or changed. Lots of good discussion was had.

Beatha air a' monadh Exhibition

The 12th of July saw the private launch of 'Beatha air a' Mhonadh' (life on the moor), at the UOG Business Centre by local amateur photographer Roddy John MacDonald. The photographs depict life on the moor on the estate. Lots of wonderful photographs are on display, so please come along to visit while you still can! Open Mon-Fri 9-5pm until the end of August.



Beatha air a' mhonadh
'Life on the moor'

Health Walks



Pictured are some of our walkers

Since March we have been running a weekly health walk, initially we walked short routes in Borge that lasted around 30/40 minutes.

As our walkers became fitter our walks have increased to an hour and we have walked all over the estate from Barvas to the Butt and enjoyed the summer sun that's blessed us this year.

Due to the success and feedback from these walks we hope to extend the programme to another walk that is aimed at those who are starting out or who can manage a short 30 min walk.

We also hope to start up a buggy walk for those with small children that want to get out and do some gentle exercise with other people and be able to take babies and toddlers along.

For more information on the current Friday morning Health Walks or the new walks we will be starting, contact Lindy on 01851 850393 or email Lindy@uogltd.com.

Sunnd Programme

Our Sunnd pilot programme for over 60s finished in July. We had a varied programme of events from health walks, fire safety, and line dancing!

The programme will be evaluated and we hope to run it again in the coming months.



Thanks again to the Stornoway ladies who helped with our line dancing classes. Pictured are Maud (left), Mary, who instructed the classes (middle), and Joey (right).

Outdoor Sessions

Our 4 week block of Outdoor Sessions kicked off on the 3rd of July with a family walk. As well as our popular bushcraft, mini beast hunting, and rock pooling sessions we had a number of new events this year: mountain biking, storytelling and an indoor session making pop up books.

Lots of fun for everyone involved! See below for some pictures.



Rockpoolers with their finds.



Minibeast hunters and their certificates.



Playing on the beach at bushcraft.



Parachute fun!



Looking for sea creatures

Volunteering Opportunities

We have recently opened up a number of volunteering roles. If you are interested in any of these roles or want to find out more then get in touch at: office@uogltd.com or call 01851 850393.

Walk Leader Role

- Lead or be a back/assistant walk leader.
- Welcome all walkers.
- Take a register of those in attendance.
- Attend required training.
- Ensure risk assessments have been read and adhered to.
- Ensure walks have been planned and risk assessed.
- Create a warm and friendly atmosphere on your walks.

Environmental Volunteer

- Clearing paths.
- Maintaining paths.
- Habitat management works – such as cutting back rushes, clearing ponds, litter picking, clearing invasive species.
- Biological recording – of butterflies, birds, whales and dolphins.

Outdoor Session Assistant

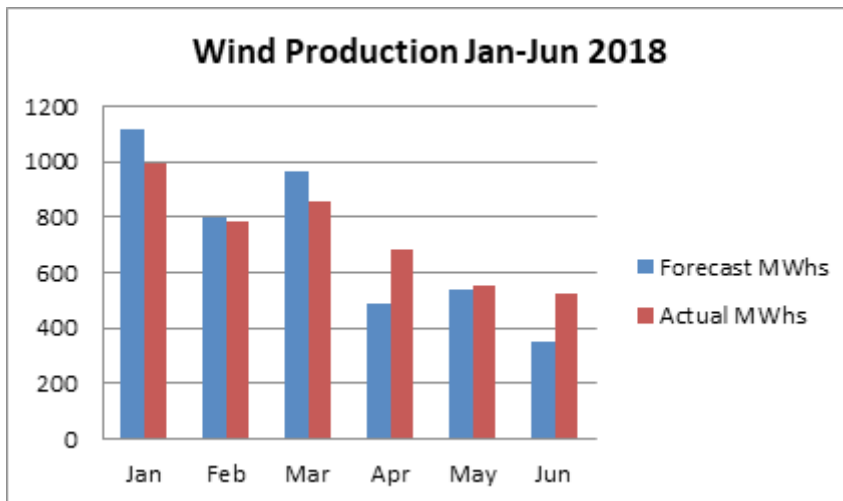
- Assist session leader in activities such as fire lighting, den building, child led play, games, arts and crafts.
- Help move equipment to site.
- Set up and tidy up site.
- Ensure all equipment is returned and in good order.
- Welcome all adults and children.
- Create a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Path Warden

- Assist with the monitoring of an agreed section of path or route within the Estate once every quarter.
- Report back to UOG using the issued monitoring forms.

Summer Breezes Boost Turbines

The half-year performance below for the Ballantrushal turbines again shows the increase in spring/summer wind in recent years. Autumn/winter performance is now close to forecast whereas spring/summer months produce electricity ahead of forecast.



Changing Face Of CEN



Redevelopment works at Sgoil Chrois have continued apace over the summer and are nearing the halfway stage.

A new extension to the front of the property has recently commenced which will help to transform the former school into the planned community heritage hub. Improvements to the former Croileagan building at the front of the site are nearing completion, whilst the renovation of the former schoolhouse section is well advanced.

Comunn Eachdraidh Nis remains open during the construction works with the café and shop operating from the rear of the building and customers are encouraged to continue making use of the facilities to provide much need income.

Access to the facilities is now through the rear of the site and the public is requested to be aware when approaching the premises and especially when driving to the temporary main entrance at the rear of the cafe.

Community Land Week Event

As part of Scotland wide Community Land Week celebrations we are hosting an open afternoon on Thurs 16 Aug at the UOG Business Centre. Join us from 2pm for a short talk followed by a history walk round Galson. Free event, all welcome!



Your Local Event:

URRAS OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN OPEN AFTERNOON Thursday 16th August, from 2pm



Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn invites you to join us on our OPEN DAY to learn a little about the history of our community owned estate and some of our successes over the last 11 years.

at 2:00pm// a brief talk of the history of the estate & the buyout, followed by showing a mini movie of some highlights since the buyout in 2007.

at 3.15pm// a guided walk to explore key sites of interest relating to the buyout celebration and the history of Galson.

at 4.30pm// a guided visit the wind energy project in Ballantrushal.

FREE TO ATTEND - TEA / COFFEE / REFRESHMENTS

Wear suitable outdoor clothing for the walk & turbine visit.

www.galsontrust.com Tel: (01851) 850 393

Please meet at the UOG Business Centre,
Tom na Ba, South Galson, Isle of Lewis

Find out what else is happening in Community Land Week at: www.communitylandscotland.org.uk

Community Land Week is being run in partnership by the Scottish Government and Community Land Scotland

COMMUNITY*
LAND SCOTLAND

Dùthchas - Heritage Week

We are excited to announce that Dùthchas, Galson Estate Heritage Week, will be taking place in a few weeks time. A number of events will be running throughout the week, keep an eye on our social media and around the estate for more information!



DÙTHCHAS

Galson Estate Heritage Week

31 AUGUST - 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

This **week-long festival** will celebrate the heritage of our communities.
Our **schedule of over 20 events** will revolve around:

GENEALOGY & HISTORY,
MUSIC & DANCE, TRADITIONAL SKILLS,
FOOD & DRINK, AND LANGUAGE & WRITING.

Some of the scheduled **events and workshops** already run regularly, and we've also added some **additional events** such as **talks, pop-ups and workshops** specifically for Dùthchas Heritage week.

If you have an event running that week that you'd like to add to our schedule, let us know asap!

Keep an eye on our **WEBSITE** and **SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**
for the **FULL SCHEDULE** of events and more updates!

WWW.GALSONTRUST.COM

Tel: 850 393

E-Mail: office@uogltd.com

Some organisations
we are working with:



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Lewis Castle College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaisde a' Chaisteil





Intro to Drystone Walling and Drystone Skills

Fri 31st Aug - Sat 1st Sep 2018

UOG Business Centre, South Galson, Isle of Lewis

A hands on practical course in
stonewalling for the beginner.



Cost: £80.00
3 Funded places
available for
ages 16-25

This 2 day course at UOG Business Centre provides the practical skills and confidence necessary to repair and build stone dykes. It will allow you to develop your dyking skills for use in your own garden, croft, or as the basis for carrying out dyking in a work environment. Wellies and waterproofs are essential!

For further information or to book a place contact:
01851 850393 | office@uogltd.com



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