



Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn

Spring Newsletter 2021



GALSON BUSINESS CENTRE UPDATE

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DUTHCHAS
Galsion Estate Heritage Week

Duthchas is a week-long festival held annually in the first week of September that celebrates the heritage of the community of the Galsion Estate. Events focus on:

History & Genealogy, Music & Dance, Traditional Skills, Food & Drink, and Language & Writing.

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn partners with organisations and businesses in the community to highlight events and workshops that are already running and to put on additional events such as talks, pop-ups, and food demos that further emphasise the heritage topics mentioned above.

To be involved, to host an event or to attend, or for more information about the project, visit:

Pg11 www.duthchas.com

DUTHCHAS 2021 PUBLIC MEETING



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CLAIM YOUR FREE HOUSE NUMBER



TOURISM PACKS - P9

WWW.GALSONTRUST.COM

Facal bhon Chathraich

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Tha na h-uain bheaga a' ruith mun cuairt agus na h-eòin na màl a' togail neadan. Dìreach dhà dha na comharran tha a' cur nar cuimhne gu bheil mìosan an earraich againn. Comharran tha cuideachd a' toirt togail dhuinn uile às dèidh bliadhna a' ghlasaidh.

Bho thaobh an Urrais se fìor chomharra air ùrachadh th'ann a' coimhead an togalach ùr a' dol suas an Gabhsann agus dòchas gu faigh an sgioba air ais ro dheireadh na bliadhna.

Tha e math cuideachd bhith faicinn gnìomhachasan de gach seòrsa tron sgìre a' faighinn cothruim dorsan fhosgladh agus fàilte a chur air luchd tadhail. Tha feum ag muinntir an àite fhèin air beagan togail cuideachd agus chan eil càil coltach ri bhith coinneachadh ri nàbaidhean 's caraidean. Abair gu robh plòigh aig an òigridh bha gabhail pàirt am Plòigh na Càisg agus gu dearbha chan e an droch rud a th'ann am beagan plòigh aig àm sam bith.

Tha obair àbhaisteach an Urrais a' dol air adhart gun maill sam bith ged is ann bhon taigh tha h-uile duine ag obair. Tha mi an dòchas ma tha ceist agaibh no càil a' dèanamh dragh dhuibh nach bi leisg oirbh fònaigeadh no post dealain a chur thugainn.

There are young lambs running around the crofts and birds are busy with their nest building. These are just two of the many signs that remind us that spring is here again and that despite Covid 19 and the many lockdowns of the last year the cycle of the seasons continues.

Specifically from the Urras perspective it's a very encouraging sign for everyone to see work progress on the new building in Galson and we look forward to its being ready for handover before the end of the year.

It is particularly encouraging, with the easing of lockdown, to see businesses opening their doors and once again being able to welcome customers back. The local community needs places to meet with friends and family, as much as visitors need places to stay and eat, and we wish everyone well. Plòigh proved a great success during the school Easter holidays with the young participants showing once again that everyone enjoys some plòigh!

The Urras staff continue to maintain all the usual work although everyone continues to work from home. I hope that you will find this newsletter informative and if anyone has any questions or queries that you will not hesitate to phone or e-mail.



NEW BUSINESS CENTRE UPDATE

Construction in South Galson has reached completion of the timber kit and the contractor, CalMax Construction, is now focusing on fitting the external cladding. Internal framing is well advanced and services are being led in to different areas of the building. Key milestones are completion of the external building envelope by the middle of May and installation of services throughout the structure by early July. Handover to Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn is scheduled for September. The building is similar in size to the previous premises but the layout has been remodelled to create more flexible and open-plan accommodation. Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn staff continue to work from home until restrictions are eased, currently estimated by the Scottish Government as the end of June.



DEER MANAGEMENT ON GALSON ESTATE

There have been many reports of deer in villages over recent months. We have for the second year applied and been granted an out of season licence to try to help us deal with the deer population and manage it effectively. This licence has been granted on the grounds of public safety and also damage to agricultural land. In order to be granted the out of season licence we have to adhere to a number of regulations, but we also have to prove we are doing all that we can during the season.

We are pleased to see much work was undertaken in the season last year with three times the number of deer despatched. This has been a tremendous effort by the volunteer shooters. We are awaiting a helicopter deer count, which has been postponed twice due to Covid-19. We hope this will take place in late summer 2021. It is thought there has never been a helicopter count for the whole of north Lewis. We take a collaborative approach to landscape scale deer management and work with other estates as part of the Lewis and Harris Deer Management Group. We recognise the need for ongoing control of the deer population and will continue to ensure the necessary work carried out is to the highest standards.

We would remind everyone that it is not safe to encourage deer in any way, as they can potentially carry disease and cause road accidents, which is something else we are asked to record. **Please report any Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVCs) to the office as this too supports us in being able to access out of season licences to support ongoing management.**

We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers who support our deer management plan by controlling numbers and also those who support and carry out impact monitoring



© Roddy Macdonald

VISIT GALSON ESTATE

Tadhail air Oighreachd Ghabhsainn

Do you have friends or family visiting the Galson Estate this year?
Remind them to use our dedicated website for tourism in the north west of Lewis:

www.visitgalsonestate.com

Would you like to see your business or holiday home listed on the page?

Email: office@uogltd.com

SHOP LOCAL
Tadhail air ar bùithtean



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FÈIS NA FAIRGE 2021

Late March saw the launch of our new maritime heritage festival, 'Fèis na Fairge', 'Festival of the Sea'.

Between 25th- 27th March, a series of events pertaining to the maritime heritage of the Galson Estate community got underway. These included a community beach clean-up, a sea-themed Bookbug session for toddlers and pre-school children, and a series of online illustrated talks and events. Artist and author Ian Stephen led a session on the craft of the Sgoth Niseach, diver and amateur archaeologist Chris Murray gave a talk on his finds in lochs across the Isle of Lewis, and a screening of the 1996 film 'Ringers' Glory' was held, after which the film's producer Angela Mackinnon joined the audience for a Q&A session. Murdanie Macleod and Alasdair Smith also gave a well-attended talk on their experiences working in the Merchant Navy.

Attendees across the Estate and from throughout the United

Kingdom came in on these free-to-join events, with many participants subsequently writing to us to say that they had thoroughly enjoyed the 'Fèis'. We are delighted so many of you enjoyed the events and would like to give thanks to all who participated. We are equally thrilled to announce that owing to its success, 'Fèis na Fairge' will return again in 2022.

Remember you can watch any of our recorded events from the 'Fèis' by going to www.galsontrust.com/news and clicking the link for 'Fèis na Fairge'.

If you would like to give any feedback about 'Fèis na Fairge' or to offer ideas for the next 'Fèis', please send us an email on office@uogltd.com with the subject line 'Fèis na Fairge'.



THE HEBRIDEAN COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

Spring is always an exciting time for any garden or gardener. With the cold and dark days of winter behind us, there is a sense of joy in seeing tulips and daffodils sprouting in colourful shades and the soil warming up for fresh growth and planting. The Hebridean Community Garden has seen many new developments as we move into the warmer months.

This April we managed to hold the first of our outdoor sessions at the garden as part of Plòigh. We were fortunate that the sun was out and we had blue skies on this day for a productive morning of seed sowing and plant exploration. Each of our young attendees took home with them two pots, one with a flower seed planted – cornflowers and cosmos – and the other containing a delicious vegetable seed – kale, spinach and lettuce.

The infrastructure for the garden is coming along nicely and once

there is enough in place for us to start growing, we look forward to welcoming you all for open days, volunteer days and teaching sessions. The sensory garden that we are building in conjunction with 'rgs landscapes' will very shortly begin the first stage of its construction – island contractor AMK will be coming in to do the landscaping side for us. On top of this, our two polycrubs will soon be fully kitted out with raised beds and workbenches for the coming growing season.

Remember you can find all the most up-to-date information on the garden – including a number of interactive, digital and video resources – on our website (galsontrust.com/gardening)



Find us on instagram and facebook @HebrideanCommunityGarden

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HOUSE NUMBERING PROJECT

We are still accepting submissions for free house numbers for properties on the Galson Estate.

We have had 300 applications thus far – a big help to our emergency services and delivery drivers when they are operating on the Galson Estate.

House numbers are free to all properties on the Galson Estate and Cross Skigersta Road. They can be applied for on behalf of yourself or someone else on the Estate. Remember, we can only accept house numbers – house names cannot be accepted.

To apply, go to:

www.galsontrust.com/housenumberingscheme



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SUBSEA CABLE UPDATE (MAY 2021)

Scottish and Southern Electricity (SSE) expects a replacement subsea cable to be delivered in June this year and installation is still scheduled to be completed by the end of August. In the meantime, island renewable generators remain significantly curtailed and only able to produce limited amounts of electricity for local consumption.

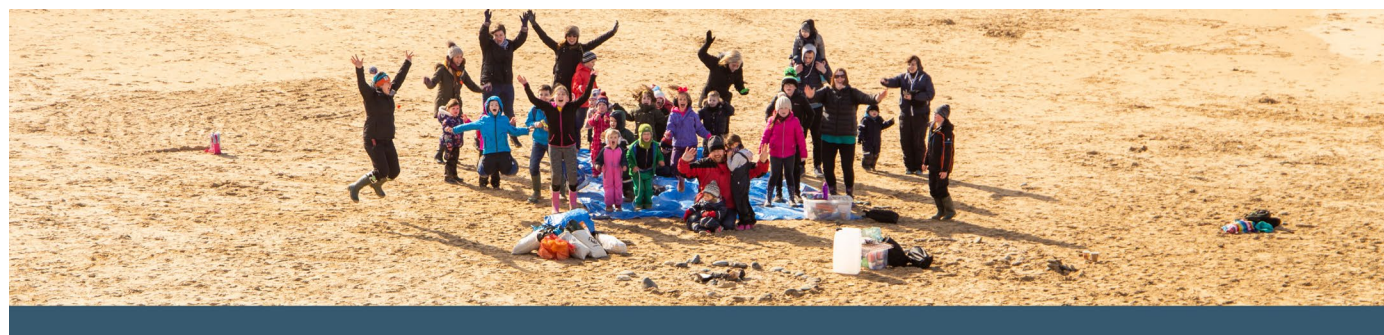
SSE has recently permitted increased production for wind energy generators during daytime

hours. Additional capacity has been allocated amongst local generators based on size and Galson Energy has only received a small increase. This is only likely to offer negligible additional income each month and may be withdrawn during the summer months as demand typically falls when domestic heating loads decrease.

Whilst the replacement cable is welcomed, local generators are concerned that one cable does

not provide any added resilience to the electricity network in the event of future failures and are in discussions with both Ofgem and SSE to identify what additional investment can be considered to address this.

Negotiations to finalise the insurance sum due for loss of income are underway, an initial payment has been received and the final instalment is due imminently. The six month claim period expired in mid-April.



Plòigh

SEISEANAN SAMHRAIDH | SUMMER ACTIVITY SESSIONS

**5 - 9 AGUS 12 - 16 AN T-IUCHAR
5TH - 9TH AND 12 - 16TH JULY**

**AIR OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN
ON THE GALSON ESTATE**



PLÒIGH & PLÒIGH MHÒR EASTER 2021

What a week we had for Easter Plòigh! Showers, wind and sunshine - a typical Hebridean school holiday.

Between the 29th March and the 2nd April 2021, we had a jam-packed Plòigh schedule. We had five Spòrsnis Play sessions, ten outdoor sessions, including cycling and woodland play, and two creative sessions - a spring crafts session at Eorpie Play Park with Guth Airson Iarrtasan Nis (GAIN), and a gardening session with Christopher from the Hebridean Community Gardening Project. We also had kayaking at Loch Duin in Shader with the Scaladale team as part of Plòigh Mhòr.

We had a total of 249 children attend events throughout the week, with the majority of these sold out within hours of going live.

A massive thanks to all the partners involved - GAIN, Spòrsnis - and of course to everyone for coming along and making it such a good week. We are looking forward to summer Plòigh and Plòigh Mhòr and bringing you lots more exciting and fun activities.



Fàilte air ais, Mairi!

We are pleased to give a very warm welcome back to Mairi Graham, our Development Officer, who returned from maternity leave in early March.

Mar sin leat, Shona!

We are sorry to say goodbye to Shona Macmillan, our Gaelic Development Officer, who leaves us to move over to the Isle of Skye.

We wish Shona and her family all the very best wishes and hope she will come back to see us when she's back for holidays.



SUNND 2021

'Sunnd 2021', our health and wellbeing programme took place from January to March this winter. We ran a programme of online events, which included once-monthly gardening Q&A sessions with Christopher, our Community Garden Project Coordinator, and a series of once-monthly online talks in partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), with speakers from a variety of disciplines. These events were recorded and can be found on our vimeo page - Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn.

On top of this, each week on our social media channels, we shared winter gardening worksheets and useful health-related information to keep you both active and well during the winter months. The worksheets are still available on our own or Clan Macquarrie's Facebook page.

The Health Walks are continuing twice weekly, Monday at 1.30pm and Friday at 10am, in different locations throughout the estate. Please visit our social media sites, website or contact us for more information. The walks are adapted to suit a variety of ages and abilities so please join us.

Keep your eyes peeled for further Sunnd events later in the year.

BUGGY WALKS

EVERY MONDAY AT 1:30PM

MEET EVERY MONDAY AT EOROPIE PLAY PARK FOR A FAMILY BUGGY WALK AND STORY TIME AFTERWARDS.

HEALTH WALKS

Our walks are suitable for all ages and abilities, families and individuals. Walks vary in length and time according to abilities/needs of those attending. Please feel free to get in touch for further info.

MONDAYS 1.30PM: MEET EVERY MONDAY AT EOROPIE PLAY PARK FOR A FAMILY BUGGY WALK AND STORY TIME AFTERWARDS

FRIDAYS 10.00AM: MEET AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

28/05/21 - PORT OF NESS
04/06/21 - EOROPIE PLAY PARK

FACAL BHON OIFIGEAR GÀIDHLIG

PASGAIN FIOSRACHAIDH TURASACHD

Tha sinne mar bhuidheann aig Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn air a dhèanamh na dhleastanas brosnachadh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig sa choimhearsnachd ann an iomadh dòigh. Chruthaich sinn pasgain fiosrachaidh le ultach de stuth inntinneach agus cuideachail annta a tha math airson gnìomhachasan anns a' choimhearsnachd. Tha na leanas rin lorg sna pasgain:

Bileag-iùil Gàidhlig Bheò – An cois na pasgain seo, bidh fiosrachadh ann mu na dòighean anns a bheil Gàidhlig na bhuannachd nur

gnìomhachais agus cuideachd farsaingeachd de bhriathrachais a bhios iomchaidh agus cuideachail gus còmhraidh a dhèanamh còmhla ri luchd-tadhail.

Cairtean-puist – An seo, bidh pasgan ann de chairtean-phuist a chaidh a dhèanamh san sgìre, le dealbhan bhon sgìre fhèin. Thèid iad seo an reic ann an gnìomhachasan sa choimhearsnachd.

Cairtean-fiosrachaidh Gàidhlig – Bheir na cairtean-fiosrachaidh criomaganseachadagusdòighluath beagan ionnsachadh sa chàinain. Tha fuaimneachas litreachaidh ann airson cuideachadh le fuaimneachadh farsaingeachd de

bhriathrachais, co-cheangal ris a' choimhearsnachd, airson eadar-obrachadh le luchd-tadhail.

Sanas-leabhraan agus Postairean – 'S caomh leinn brosnachadh a thoirt do luchd-tadhail cleachdadh bùithtean gu h-ionadail, a' fuireach san sgìre agus a bhith ag ithe san sgìre. Tha fiosrachadh a bharrachd mun seo air an làrach-lìn againn www.visitgalsonestate.com. Tha cuideachd postairean sna pasgain ag innse mu na fèisean agus tachartasan bliadhna a tha a' dol aig Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn tron bhliadhna leithid Plòigh agus Dùthchas.



TOURISM PACKS

We at Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn have made it our duty to sustain the use of Gaelic in the community in various ways. As part of this commitment, we have created Tourism Packs with a variety of interesting and helpful Gaelic resources for businesses in the community. The following materials are in the packs:

Living Gaelic Booklet - In this booklet, you will not only find information about how Gaelic can

be of use to your business, but also a wide range of vocabulary to help interact in Gaelic with visitors and customers.

Locally-made Postcards – Sample packs of postcards, with photos from the estate. These will be sold at businesses on the estate.

Gaelic Flashcards - The flashcards will allow a quick way of learning words in Gaelic. Each word will have phonetic spelling to help with pronunciation with vocabulary

used in relation to the land and the community.

Visit Galson Estate Brochures & Posters – We like to encourage visitors to the Galson Estate to shop, eat and stay local with information on these on our award-winning website www.visitgalsonestate.com. There are also posters in the packs about the various festivals and events we have on throughout the year at Galson Estate Trust such as Dùthchas and Plòigh.

DRYSTONE WALLING COURSE

FRIDAY 4TH & SATURDAY 5TH
JUNE 2021
@ SPORSNIS, NESS

£80 PER PERSON

To book your place visit:
www.bookwhen.com/uogevents

Email: office@uogltd.com Phone No.: 01851 850 393

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URRAS OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN 2022 CALENDAR

Please upload high quality JPEG/Tiff photo
files (5mb+ if possible) to our website:
www.galsontrust.com
Images must be taken on the Galson Estate.

PHOTO CREDIT: MARI SMITH
Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn is a
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registered Scottish Charity
No: SC036903

DÙTHCHAS *Galson Estate Heritage Week*

Dùthchas is a week-long festival held annually in the first
week of September that celebrates the heritage of the
community of the Galson Estate. Events focus on:

**History & Genealogy, Music & Dance, Traditional Skills,
Food & Drink, and Language & Writing.**

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn partners with organisations
and businesses in the community to highlight events and
workshops that are already running and to put on additional
events such as talks, pop-ups, and food demos that further
emphasise the heritage topics mentioned above.

To be involved, to host an event or to attend,
or for more information about the project, visit:

www.duthchas.com

Dùthchas 2021 Open Planning Meeting



Hi there folks! Ciamar a tha sibh!?

With Dùthchas 2021 on the horizon, YOU are invited to join a digital
planning meeting next week, to start organising and brainstorming
events for our 2021 Galson Estate Heritage week.

This year Dùthchas will launch on

Sat 4th Sept and will run to **Sat 11th Sept 2021.**

with events running each day on the themes of

**History & Genealogy, Music & Dance,
Traditional Skills, Food & Drink,
and Language & Writing.**

The open meeting will be held on ZOOM at

3 pm on Tuesday 25th May

TO JOIN, PLEASE VISIT BOOKWHEN.COM/UOGEVENTS



URRAS OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN
GALSON ESTATE TRUST

HABOST HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE

BULKY HOUSEHOLD WASTE DISPOSAL AND
RECYCLING POINT FOR THE DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE ONLY

SUMMER 2021 OPENING HOURS
29 MARCH 2021 TO 30 OCTOBER 2021

MONDAY

11AM TO 1PM
4PM TO 6PM

TUESDAY

CLOSED

WEDNESDAY

11AM TO 1PM
4PM TO 6PM

THURSDAY

11AM TO 1PM
4PM TO 6PM

FRIDAY

11AM TO 1PM
4PM TO 6PM

SATURDAY

10AM TO 1PM
2PM TO 5PM

Operatives will be onsite during the opening times to assist you, if required.
Please refrain from disposing of items outwith these times as this will be treated as fly tipping.
Contact Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn - 01851 850393

OUT OF HOURS
Zero Waste Western Isles (CNES): 01851 709900
SEPA: 01851 706477
SEPA 24 hour pollution report line: 0800 80 70 60
UOG: 01851 810792 / 01851 810544
Site Licence Number: WML / N / 0220269

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn
c/o Comunn Eachdraidh Nis
Cross
Isle of Lewis
HS2 OSN

Tel: 01851 850393

www.galsontrust.com



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