

JULY 2022

UOG SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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URRAS OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN
GALSON ESTATE TRUST

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Contact Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn - 01851 850393

OUT OF HOURS
Zero Waste Services: 01851 850393

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Facal bhon chathraiche

A note from the Chairperson

Fàilte oirbh chun chuairt litir againn. Se samhradh rudeigean mì-chinnteach th'air a bhith again an iomadach dòigh ach s math nach robh again ri sabaid ris an teas mhì-nàdurra th'air a bhith an cearnaidhean eile dhan dùthaich. Tha blàthadh na cruinne air tòiseachadh na shealltainn fhein dhuinn an iomadh dòigh agus feumaidh sinn uile adharp a dhèanamh air smachdachadh an truailleadh tha ga adhbharachadh. Tha e math faicean obair an t-samhraidh dol air adhart air na lotaichean agus anns na leasan. S math abhith faicean uidhear dol air ais gu bhith fàs co-dhiù beagan sailead agus glasraich is measan eile. Chaneil buntata a dh'itheas tu fad na bliadhna cho milis ris a chiad bunatat ùr le crathadh math salainn is ìm. Tha dèagh obair dol air adhart a's na crubs aig a thalla am Borgh agus grunn a nise cleachdadh oisean dhaibh pein.

Bha e math faicean rathad a Phuirt air a chàradh agus sàbhailt a nise son feidhinn aig a bheil eithrichean bhith dol air. Chaidh obair mhath a dhèanamh agus bidh an Urras ag obair gu dlùth leis an luchd cleachdaidh son an rathad a chumail sàbhailt agus an deagh òrdugh son luchd cleachdaidh agus luchd coiseachd dol chun tràigh. Chaneil dìth nach eil luchd turais mun cuairt agus tha e math bhith cuir fàilte orra dhan sgìre. Tha mi'n dòchas gu bheil a h-uile gnìomhachas san sgìre air beagan togail fhaighean ri linn iad a bhith ann.

It's been a very mixed summer of weather here in the Hebrides, but I must be honest and say that I am very glad that we have been spared the heat extremes that have affected large parts of the UK. This has been a very real reminder that climate change is not something affecting other countries, but is right on our doorstep.

In the cool of the Hebrides, it is good to see summer activity on crofts and in gardens. For some time now it's been encouraging to see so many more people growing their own vegetables and salads. I don't think there is anything to beat the sweetness of home-grown early potatoes. The polycrubs at the Hebridean Community Garden are being well used and they are giving many folk an opportunity to take a section to "grow their own".

The Urras has been pleased to work with local contractors, Duncan Mackay and sons, to reinstate the access road to Port harbour. This was an expensive repair and the Urras will be working closely with boat owners to manage a safe access for boat owners and walkers.

It has been extremely pleasing to welcome so many visitors to the community over recent months and I hope that businesses throughout the area have benefitted from increased activity.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Agnes Rennie

UOG Chairperson / Cathraiche UOG



Great success for John Muir Trust Programme

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn and Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh are celebrating the recent success of a jointly co-ordinated Primary 7 John Muir Trust Award transition programme. From Tuesday 31st May – Thursday 2nd June, Primary 7 pupils from Sgoil an Taobh Siar, Shawbost, Lionel and Breasclete schools were working hard to attain their John Muir Award by completing a number of different activities, discovering, exploring, conserving and sharing their local areas.

Children from the four schools were involved in a whole host of exciting activities including mountain biking with Scaladale Centre, a guided walk with local RSPB wardens, planting and growing with the Hebridean Community Garden, litter picking at Barvas shore, learning about the shipwreck of the Clan Macquarrie, and many more.



Sally Reynolds, Development Manager for Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh, said: "Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh were delighted to be part of this project; it was great to see the young people working together on the different activities and making new friends. It is a great opportunity not just for the young people but for our organisations and staff to work together on something so worthwhile. We wish all the young people well as they start secondary school and congratulate them on their awards."

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn and Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh were grateful to all staff involved across the three days, and would also like to thank all other partners and helpers involved, including:

Comunn na Gàidhlig, the RSPB, Scaladale Centre, the Hebridean Community Garden, HM Coastguard-Western Isles, Skye and Lochaber, staff of Sgoil an Taobh Siar, Breasclete, Shawbost and Lionel schools, Murdo Nicholson, Carola Bell and Juliette Desportes.

Litter picking on Barvas machair!

Re-launch of the Community Investment Fund

We are delighted to announce that the Community Investment Fund re-opened on 1st June 2022.

The new look Fund has been simplified and streamlined in line with feedback received from previous applicants. The main products offered now comprise a Small Grant and Development Grant, plus a Supporting Growth package for more strategic initiatives.

If you have an enquiry pertaining to the Community Investment Fund, please contact us on: **cif@uog ltd.com** or call **01851 850 393**.



Updates from the Hebridean Community Garden



The Hebridean Community Garden has been transformed over the last few months. Our three polycrubs are bursting at the seams with organically grown vegetables, herbs and flowers. It is especially lovely to see our community polycrubs now at full capacity, with locals embracing our vision for a sustainable horticultural space in this part of Lewis.

Local stonemason Chris Barrowman has completed two sets of drystone walls for the project and the grounds at Clan Macquarrie – creating visually striking seating areas and windbreaks for our expansion into outdoor raised beds. The sensory garden is a sight to behold at this time of year – I encourage you to come down before the wildflower meadow loses its pristine hue of whites, blues and reds from all the poppies, cornflowers, yarrow and daises. It is a lovely green space to spend time in.

Our re-vamped honesty box has now been launched – it is located next to the war memorial at Clan Macquarrie. Come on down for some affordable organic produce and fresh cut flowers – the latter make beautiful floral arrangements, if you have a vase kicking about – this is the time to bring it out. We had great success recently with our inaugural set of beginner garden classes – our participants learned all about sowing, transplanting, deadheading, watering and harvesting.

www.hebrideancommunitygarden.co.uk

Christopher Smail

Project Manager -

The Hebridean Community Garden

Household Survey 2022

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn is conducting a household survey during July and August 2022.

We welcome all those resident within the area to complete the survey (Upper Barvas – Port of Ness, including Cross Skigersta Road).

Everyone who completes the survey will have a chance to win a £50 voucher for a local shop. For more information, please see the poster on the back of this newsletter.



To complete the survey, please visit:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/UOG2022 or www.galsontrust.com

Alternatively, pop into our Business Centre in South Galson or call **01851 850 393** to request a paper copy.

Vacancy *Dreuchd Bàn*



URRAS OIGHREACHD
GHABHSAINN

GALSON ESTATE TRUST
www.galsontrust.com

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

Executive Manager

Improving the lives of the people in North Lewis

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn is seeking an enthusiastic pro-active individual to provide effective and dynamic ideas, leadership and management and lead the organisation in the next transformative stage of regeneration to deliver against major aspirations across the community.

- Permanent contract
- 37 hrs per week
- £35,000 - £40,000 per annum *
- Location - UOG Business Centre (flexible & agile working options)

*Closing date for applications is 5pm on
Friday, 5th August 2022*

CV and letter of application
outlining suitability for the post
(max 3 A4 sides) to:

Claire Macleod
Orbit Agency Ltd
claire@orbit.agency

* Dependent on experience



Summer Plòigh 2022

All Plòigh partners were so pleased with the uptake of activities between Plòigh & Plòigh Mhòr, the school holiday activity programme on Galson Estate, between 11th - 22nd July. For younger ones, there were games at Spòrsnis, cake baking with Comunn Eachdraidh Nis (CEN), a treasure hunt with Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnAG), a film at Taigh Dhonnchaidh and more.

For older kids there was paddle boarding with Spòrs Gàidhlig, rock climbing with Isi Oakley and even a cookery demo at Clan Macquarrie Community Centre with Alan Macritchie, the Niseach Chef! We look forward to seeing you all again in October.

Plòigh and Plòigh Mhòr are run as a partnership between: Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn, Spòrsnis, RSPB, Taigh Dhonnchaidh, GAIN (Eorpie Play Park), CnaG, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and CEN.

Chì sinn anns an Dàmhair sibh!





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Zero Waste Western Isles (CNES): 01851 709900

SEPA: 01851 706477

SEPA 24 hour pollution report line: 0800 80 70 60

UOG: 07469 189 449

Site Licence Number: WML / N / 0220269

Goodbye to Colin

At the end of June, we said goodbye to Colin, our Graduate Tourism Administrative Officer.

Colin was a fantastic asset to the UOG team, leading on much of the campsite development and many of our tourism initiatives. Colin said:

"I really enjoyed my time here at Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn, despite it being a short stint. It is hard leaving such a welcoming and fantastic group of staff, but now they can enjoy the peace and quiet and not experience any of my pranks anymore! I wish the team all the best in the future and hopefully they don't celebrate my leaving too much!"



Hello to Catherine!

Tha sinn a' cur fàilte mhòr air Catherine gu sgioba UOG! We are delighted that Catherine Thomson is joining us for the summer.

Catherine's role is Project Assistant, and she has already been an excellent help to us during the Primary 7 John Muir Trust Award transition programme that we co-ordinated with Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh (see page 3 of this newsletter).

Catherine has also been a helping us with Plòigh, assisting us with our admin, and covering holidays throughout the summer.

Welcome, Catherine!

Drystone Walling Course - 8th & 9th July

Thanks to our Drystone Walling Course Tutor Chris Barrowman for his expertise on another successful Drystone Walling Course, held at the Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn Business Centre on the 8th and 9th July.

Well done to all of our participants - we look forward to seeing photos of your own walls soon 😊!

Thig a' chèilidh oirnn a dh' fhaicinn am balla ùr! Come and visit us to check out the new wall!

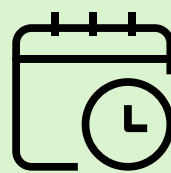
Mairi Graham
Development Officer



Calendar Competition 2023

Don't forget our Calendar Competition will be closing on **22nd August!**

If you'd like a chance to win £50 in photography vouchers and see your photo printed in Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn's 2023 Calendar, visit **www.galsontrust.com**, or visit us in the Business Centre where we can scan your images.



*2022's Adult Winner photo by Philly Hare.
Do you reckon you can beat Philly's photo?
Enter now!*

Household Survey 2022

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/UOG2022



Deadline - 31 August 2022

Are you resident within Galson Estate?

Would you like to help Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn build a better picture of the needs and priorities of our community?

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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us via the methods below.

email. office@uogltd.com tel. 01851 850 393

www.galsontrust.com



URRAS OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN
GALSON ESTATE TRUST

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn
Business Centre,
Tom na Bà, South Galson
HS2 0SH
Tel: 01851 850393
Email: office@uogltd.com

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn's Business Centre in South Galson is now operational.

Staff are working in a hybrid manner, with their working days split between the Business Centre and home.

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