

NOVEMBER 2021

UOG AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

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A note from the Chairperson

Welcome everyone.

It's been excellent to see the youth activity programmes Plòigh and Plòigh Mhòr running so successfully during the school holidays. These were run with the usual partner organisations and gave a real sense of things returning to normal after the disruption of the last year. The Dùthchas festival was a good success as well and it was heartening to see that many of the events organised by the Urras and local partners were mostly well attended, although not surprisingly there is still some reluctance felt by some to come out to events.

We are looking forward to the Urras team being able to move into the new building at Tom na Bà in Galson. We are looking forward to providing a warm welcome to the community back to a building where staff will be on hand to deal with any business queries and to share the facilities available.

We were saddened recently at news of the death of our friend James Macleod. James had been a stalwart of the Urras from the days of the initial working group and went on to serve on the Board until his retirement just a couple of years ago. We extend our sincere condolences to Effie and the family at this sad time (*see page 4 to read Agnes' tribute*).

I hope that many of you will attend the upcoming AGM, either on-line or in person. We will be really pleased to see you and reflect on the past year and look forward to the year ahead.

Fàilte oirbh.

Bha e math faicinn gun deach Plòigh agus Plòigh Mhòr a ruigh le na co-pàirtichean àbhaisteach agus òigridh na sgìre a' faighinn cothruim tilleadh gu gnothaichean àbhaisteach às dèidh mar a bha cùisean an-uiridh agus toiseach na tè seo. Bidh sibh air iomradh a leughadh air Dùthchas na bliadhna ann am Fios agus anns nam meadhanan sòisealta. Bha àireamh math aig gach tachartas ach tha e follaiseach gu bheil cuid de dhaoine fhathast faiceallach mu thighinn gu tachartasan. Chan eil sin na iongnadh leis mar a tha an galar fhathast nar measg ach nach math gu bheil uimhir air a' bhanachdach a ghabhail agus sin a' cumail àireamhan s na h-ospadail sìos.

Tha an Urras a' coimhead air adhart ri faighean a steach dhan togalach ùr an Gabhsann. Tha sinn a' dèanamh gàirdeachas ri bhith coimhead solais 's na h-uinneagan agus cothrom bhith aig an sgioba tilleadh a dh'obair còmhla, agus togalach a bhith againn far an urrainn muinntir na sgìre tadhal oirnn airson ceilidh no air ceann gnothaich.

Chaill sinn ar deagh charaid Seumas MacLeòid bho chionn ghoirid. Bha Seumas am measg a' bhuidheann bhig a thug an Urras gu bith agus bha e air a' bhòrd gu bho chionn bliadhna no dhà. Tha ar co-fhaireachdainn a dol gu Effie agus an teaghlach aig an àm duilich seo. Tha mi an dòchas gun tig sibh chun choinneamh bhliadhnail an dàrna cuid san togalach no air-loidhne. Bidh sinn toilichte ur faicinn.



Our new business centre in South Galson. Picture credit: Domhnall 'Sweeny' Macsween

New business centre & interim arrangement information

Handover of the new business centre to Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (UOG) is imminent. After handover occurs, UOG staff, who are currently working from home, will adopt a hybrid working pattern in a blend of home-based and office-based activity from early November.

This comes ten years after UOG took occupancy of the original business centre which was sadly destroyed by fire in early 2019. By the beginning of 2020, designs for the replacement business centre on the same site had advanced to tender stage, with prices submitted by local contractors, however, it was not possible to finalise a contract at that time with COVID-19 looming and the process was discontinued.

Following the COVID-19 lockdown, the project was re-tendered, with CalMax Construction (Stornoway) emerging as the most competitive contractor. Works commenced in December 2020, with CalMax employing a variety of local and off-island sub-contractors as the project progressed. By mid-February 2021, the timber kit had arrived on site in South Galson, and despite major delays with the external cladding material, which saw contractor CalMax Construction having to create an alternative approach to keep the structure wind and watertight during the summer months. Cladding was finally completed in August, and in the same month, all services were led through the building, with completion of the main office building achieved by mid-October. Some external works are continuing until later this month.

To contact staff:

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 on UOG activities.

Updates from The Hebridean Community Garden

There has certainly been a change in the weather of late and the russet and gold colour palette brings with it many new developments for our project. It has been wonderful to share the Garden with more of the community, through the classes that we ran in conjunction with Dùthchas and Plòigh. These involved tulip planting and vegetable harvesting with the younger children and autumn sowing and transplanting with adults.

We received some fantastic funding news in recent weeks, which will help to transform the garden and lead it in all kinds of new and exciting directions. The Hebridean Community Garden has been selected as one of 29 projects from the Island Communities Fund, with a grant of £48,000. This will allow us to greatly improve the infrastructure at our Clan Macquarrie Community Centre location- a new polycrubb; improved ventilation in the existing ones, fresh tarmacking for the parking area adjacent to the garden and lots

of new growing space!

Our recent grant from The Finnis Scott Foundation has allowed us to start work on the new drystone wall.

This is being built with the help of local stonemason,

Chris Barrowman and will act as a crucial windbreak for a series of raised beds that will be put in. Chris had some helping hands back in September on the drystone walling course that UOG runs.

We very much look forward to sharing more of the garden with you over the coming months (and years).

Christopher Smail

Community Gardening Project Coordinator



James Macleod (Laoidhridh) - a tribute

The board and staff of UOG were saddened to hear of the death of former board member James Macleod (Laoidhridh). We remember him with great affection and are grateful for his support and friendship over the years. Our Chairperson Agnes Rennie wrote the following tribute:

"I first met Laoidhridh over 40 years ago, when the original Comunn Eachdraidh Nis shared a base in the Dell Hall with his squad. Like the Comann Eachdraidh his squad was also a *job creation* team, and his quiet good humour and practical skills ensured no matter what the job got done.

During this time Co Chomunn Nis was formed and in due course Laoidhridh brought these same practical skills to the role of manager. Here again his quiet personality and knowledge of the community served him well with staff and customers alike.

It was no surprise then that when the first working group was set up to explore the possibility of a community purchase of Galson Estate, Laoidhridh was one of the first to volunteer and in due course was elected to the Board. Once again, his practical skills, his experience of managing a community owned business, and wide knowledge of the crofting townships and the history of the area was a tremendous asset to the newly formed Urras. He was often the willing hand who was ready to help with jobs as diverse as draught proofing the original office in Bùth Lisa and helping understand the complexities of crofting regulation.

He was determined to get an appropriate stone which, suitably inscribed, would record the day on which the community took ownership of the estate. Only a very large piece of Lewisian gneiss, chosen for its shape and its colour, and taken from the shore in Swainbost would do. The stone was centre stage on the 12th of January 2007.


When he stepped down from the Urras Board, due to ill health, he was without doubt our senior Trustee by dint of time served and wide knowledge. News of his death was received with great sadness. I can truly say that all staff and trustees at the Urras remember him with great affection and are grateful for the support

and friendship he showed to all of us over the years. One day soon the great stone will once again sit at the entrance to the business centre at Tom na Ba just as he wished. We send our sincere condolences to Effie, Murdo, Mairi and Margaret at this very sad time.

Bidh sinn gad ionndrainn a charaid choir."



Picture credit: Sradag Creative



**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
URRAS OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN
WILL BE HELD ON:**

**30TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7:30PM
AT THE
UOG BUSINESS CENTRE,
TOM NA BÀ, SOUTH GALSON,
HS2 0SH**

**MEETING ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM.
PLEASE EMAIL:
OFFICE@UOGLTD.COM
FOR THE LINK**

**THE AGM COMMENCES AT 7:30PM
THE PUBLIC MEETING WILL OPEN AT 8PM
(ALL WELCOME)**

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn is a company registered in Scotland No: 273903 and a registered Scottish Charity No: SC036903

Plòigh & Plòigh Mhòr - October 2021



2021's October Plòigh & Plòigh Mhòr saw a jam-packed week of sessions for children aged 5-18 years old.

A total of eleven sessions were run across the week, from the steadfast Spòrsnis Play, to our newest partners Comunn Eachdraidh Nis hosting a heritage trail and Taigh Dhonnchaidh hosting a film afternoon. We also had some very cold and wet raft building sessions with the Scaladale team to end the week!

In total we had 176 young people attending Plòigh and Plòigh Mhòr sessions this October. 134 of those were resident on the Estate, and 42 came from outwith.

Thank you to all our Plòigh partners - Guth Airson Iarntasan Nis (Eorpie Play Park), Spòrsnis, Comunn Eachdraidh Nis and Taigh Dhonnchaidh, who as always did a great job and helped children to have a fantastic October holiday.

Health Walks and Buggy & Toddler Walks

Our Health Walks are a safe and sociable way for anyone of any ability to get some exercise and meet people on the Estate. On a Monday we run a Buggy and Toddler Walk followed by Bookbug, and on a Friday, a Health Walk.

Mondays 1:30pm

We meet every **Monday** for a Family Buggy Walk and a Bookbug session afterwards. Walk begins at **1:30pm**. Walks take place alternately between Spòrsnis and Clan Macquarrie Community Centre:

1st November - **NO WALK**
8th November - Spòrsnis
15th November - Clan Macquarrie
22nd November - Spòrsnis

December dates to follow - see our website for most up-to-date information:
(www.galsontrust.com)

Fridays 10.00am

We have an established group of Health Walkers who meet every Friday at 10am in locations throughout the Estate. See adjacent for meeting locations if you'd like to join us.

The meeting points for November and December are:

Meeting points:

12th November - Spòrsnis
19th November - Clan Macquarrie Community Centre
26th November - Spòrsnis
3rd December - Melbost Borge
10th December - Airidhantuim Old School

If you have any questions or queries concerning Health Walks, please contact us:
office@uogltld.com or 01851 850 393

URRAS OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN'S
2022 CALENDAR

**ON
SALE
NOW**

FOR SALE IN OUTLETS ON THE ESTATE AND ON
OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.GALSONTRUST.COM/GALSON-GIFTWARE

Thank you to all who entered this year's competition!

**URRAS OIGHREACHD
GHABHSAINN
GALSON ESTATE TRUST**
Email: office@uogltld.com
Phone No.: 01851 850 393

A Reminder of Our Address

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn
Business Centre,
Tom na Bà,
South Galson,
HS2 OSH

VISIT GALSON ESTATE

Tadhail air Oighreachd Ghabhsainn

www.VisitGalsonEstate.com

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TO HELP YOU SHOP, EAT AND STAY
LOCAL TO THE GALSON ESTATE

STAY LOCAL FUIRICH

Find accommodation listings to suit any budget. Whichever doorstep you choose, a warm welcome isn't far away.

EAT LOCAL ITH

Discover the local delicacies of our vibrant community, or fill your belly on a budget - there's plenty to suit your tastes.

SHOP LOCAL CEANNAICH

From artists' workshops to produce grown fresh on the croft. Our community is hard at work - come and see the fruits of their labour.

SEE LOCAL FAIC

Local events, inspirational blog posts, local heritage sites and landscapes to visit and explore.

Be Inspired Thig is Faic

What inspires you? Blooming wildflowers or towering cliff tops?
Neolithic cairns or handmade wares? Dramatic sunsets or driving rains?
All of this and more can be found on the Galson Estate. See our website for details.

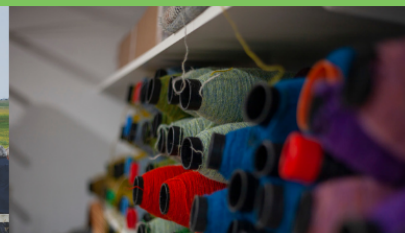


**2020 Winner of 'Gaelic
as an Economic Asset'**



URRAS OIGHREACHD GHABHSAINN
GALSON ESTATE TRUST

www.galsonestate.com office@uog ltd.com



Are you a local business and do you want to be listed on our tourism site, free of charge?

Business Name:

Description:

Web link:

Address:

Contact (email & Phone)

Opening Hours:

Please return this to the address on the back of the newsletter, or send this info via email.

Dùthchas 2021

Dùthchas, the annual week-long festival looking at the heritage of the Galson Estate community, was a great success this year.

Running between the 4th and 11th September, the week saw a wide and varied programme of events, including an archaeological walk with Ian McHardy between South Galson and South Dell, a guga talk and taste with Dods McFarlane, live music in the Comunn Eachdraidh Nis and a series of outdoor classes and events, including our fully-booked drystone walling course, traditional scything, and a morning fertilising crofts using seaweed with Corncrake Warden Shona from the RSPB.

We also had a special Dùthchas service in St Moluag's church on Sunday afternoon, which provided a moment of quiet reflection in the busy week.

Although a few events could not go ahead owing to poor weather and a local bereavement, we were delighted with the events and turn-out over the course of the week. Thanks to all our Dùthchas partners and participants for making this year's Dùthchas one to remember.

If you would like to host an event as part of Dùthchas, please contact us using the form found at the website below.

To see photos and some recordings of this and previous year's events, please visit:

www.duthchas.com

Picture captions: St Moluag's church, habitat management at Loch Stiapabhat Local Nature Reserve, and live music in Comunn Eachdraidh NIs.



Colin takes up Graduate role

We are delighted that Colin Morrison of Fivepenny, Ness, will be joining us on 1st November as Graduate Tourism Administrative Officer.

The post encompasses a variety of tourism projects, as well as managing the booking of our campervan site behind the new business centre. Colin's role will last for one year.

Tha sinn a' cur fàilte mhòr air Colin gu sgioba UOG!



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

WINTER OPENING HOURS

1 NOVEMBER 2021 TO 26 MARCH 2022

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. COVID-19 guidelines remain in place. 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 (CHES): 01851 709600
SEPA: 01851 706477
SEPA 24 hour pollution report line: 0800 80 70 60
UOG: 07489 189 449
Site Licence Number: WML / N / 0220289

CUMAIBH SÙIL A-MACH KEEP AN EYE OUT



AIRSON PROGRAMME ÙR SUNND
FOR OUR NEW HEALTH & WELLBEING
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS!
PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER
JANUARY - MARCH 2022
WWW.GALSONTRUST.COM

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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

We continue to work in a blended and flexible way, holding some meetings in person, if appropriate, but also continuing to make use of online meetings.

Our staff will continue to work from home until our office construction at Tom na Ba is completed.

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