

Keep safe and well!
Cùm sàbhailte 's slàn

Free!

Sgoil Uig polycrub ©
Richard Davies



School Polycrub

Some new buildings have been springing up in our small part of the world recently, the most obvious one being at Uig School. There, Dolu, Richard Davies and Iain Andrew have constructed a Polycrub, from a kit supplied by Nortenergy in Shetland, to create an indoor/outdoor area for lessons. In this way, the children can feel closer to nature and learn how to grow food, whilst sheltering from our so often harsh weather.

These structures, based on a polycarbonate tunnel supported by arches utilising redundant plastics from fish farming, can be incredibly versatile. They provide an oasis where fruit and vegetables can be successfully grown despite our capricious climate, or simply somewhere to sit and enjoy the (at times tropical) warmth.

WI Test & Protect phonline

Any Western Isles resident (over 5 years old) with symptoms of COVID-19 (new, persistent cough, high temperature or loss/change in sense of taste/smell) can have a test booked using the local NHS Test & Protect phonline: 01851 601 151. This will be staffed during office hours, with voicemail out-of-hours. An online booking form is also available at: www.coronavirus.wi.nhs.scot/?page_id=2195 Callers will be asked for details of the person to be tested and, if appropriate, a test appointment arranged at the community assessment hub in Stornoway (WI Dental Centre) The person with symptoms (or guardian/carer) will be contacted with the test result but he/she should self-isolate until this is available. If a test returns positive, NHS Western Isles will ask the individual to identify people they have been in close contact with. They will be telephoned and have a discussion about self-isolating, and what assistance is available to help them do this.

Visitors

At least two regular summer visitors managed to sneak into Uig from Africa, in breach of the lockdown. The Cuckoo has been heard in five different places; from Valtos to Mangursth, since early May. So, either we have 5 cuckoos or one that is extremely hyperactive. Also, the Corncrake has been keeping the residents of Timgarry awake for the past couple of weeks. Not sure about the Carinish one yet?

Keep an eye out for Ospreys - there was at least one sighted several times last summer but only one fuzzy photograph to prove it. Someone did manage to snatch a good clear picture of a Slow Worm though, in mid-June. Taken next to the bridge it is the first one ever reported, I think? Although they look like snakes they're actually legless lizards, and completely harmless, but very difficult to spot.

EM

Community update

An additional £5,700 for Uig has been secured from the 'Supporting Communities Fund'. This will pay for kids' packs and the free *Uig News*-sheet printing and distribution.

The fund will also enable provision of the frozen community meals, to the end of September. A team of volunteers has been very busy cooking in the Centre (following social distancing rules!) – with an impressive 953 meals prepared so far – and they have been hugely appreciated by all recipients. For further information please contact Elaine Macleod, Community Centre Coordinator on 07434 622 524.

Having just celebrated Volunteers Week from the 1st-7th of June, Elaine would like to thank you all for the work you do in the Community, whether this be with the Community Centre, clubs, or even helping your neighbours at this time of need, THANK YOU!

School News

At Skills Day, my favourite activity was seeing the ambulance. First, we got to see the back. Freddy volunteered to be a patient. He put his finger in an item which measured his pulse and oxygen levels which I found very interesting. Next, we got to use a stethoscope. Zach used it first but couldn't hear anything! Then someone else tried and could hear with it.

Next, some of us went to the front. It was a bit of a squash, but it was certainly worth it. We got to see buttons which made the ambulance's lights flash, and make the siren go off! When we went to the back again, Freddy had a pretend broken leg. We learned how they take patients out of the ambulance which was very interesting. I loved the experience of seeing the ambulance, the learning will definitely come in handy in the future.

Minnie, Primary 5

Dove's Wing, Baby Bank

'Oisean a' Chalmain', Banca Paisde (Dove's Wing, Baby Bank) continues to provide help to families, by supplying key items for baby/toddlers between 0-36 months. It also provides targeted assistance for older children and young adults and has been pleased to help a growing number of families over the past few months. The service may be accessed by telephoning the confidential contact number: 07903 311 934.

'...inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me...' ,
Matt 25:40



Mrs Chrissie Macdonald

The news of the passing of Mrs Chrissie Macdonald, at Harris House, Tarbert, on Sunday, May 24th, was heard with sadness by friends and relations in Uig. At this sad time, we extend the sympathy of the local community to her 2 sons, Angus and Iain Murdo, and their families. Chrissie, née Macleod, (better known here as Chrissie an Ilich) who was 93 last October, was from 8 Geshader, and was the wife of the late Angus Macdonald, 13 Breacleite, Bernera, where their home, *Lochside*, was a haven of Christian hospitality through the years. She was a lady who was well known throughout the island of Lewis for her Christian walk in life, having come to faith in the island-wide revival of the early fifties. She was very much missed from the Bernera community when increasing frailty meant leaving her home and going into Harris House, to be near her son, Rev. Iain Murdo and his family, and where she was lovingly cared by the staff during her remaining years. Her funeral, which in more normal times, would have been in church and very largely attended, took place, very quietly, to Bosta Cemetery, and was remarkable for the way in which the Bernera community paid their last respects, by standing respectfully by the roadside as the cortege passed. A sign of the times, indeed.

Gàidhlig Shìmplidh / Easy Gaelic

Tha sinn uile sgìth den ghlasadh-sios seo, le fadachd gus am bi e seachad. Tha sinn ag ionndrainn nan daoine a b' àbhaist dhuinn a bhi faicinn agus na h-àitean dham biodh sinn a' dol. Ach, thèid e seachad mar a thèid a h-uile càil nar beatha. Nuair a bhios stoirm seachad, thèid a' ghaath sios, falbhaidh na sgòthan dorcha, fàsaidh an t-adhar gorm a-rithist agus thig a' ghrian a-mach uair eile. Tha am Bioball ag iarraidh oirnn a bhi làidir, le misneachd mhath agus gun eagal a bhi oirnn. Bithidh Dia còmhla rinn anns a h-uile ni. Mar sin, bu chòir dhuinn coimhead an-àirde agus cumail a' dol air an t-slighe.

Your Uig News

With the lockdown slowly beginning to lift, we are hoping to produce a full issue... sometime in July!

Watch out!

Further to the Test & Protect info overleaf, please be aware that scammers are using every opportunity to exploit the situation. You may be contacted if you have been in close proximity with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The Scottish government has said the contact tracers will always introduce themselves, state the reason for their call and identify you by name. However, you will not be told the identity of the infected person. Tracers will not ask for personal information or attempt to sell anything to you. The real contact tracers will *never* ask you any of the following: medical history; details of card or bank account numbers; to provide or fill in social media login details; to set up a PIN; or to download anything. The COVID-19 test is *free of charge*.

Uig Church of Scotland update

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, the churches closed. What was a threat has also become an opportunity for the Good News of Jesus to continue to be communicated at a time and in a way that none of us could ever have predicted. To bring the comfort and hope of the gospel to our community in Uig, several online initiatives have been established. They may be accessed in the following ways:

Sunday Service from 10:30am on Uig Church of Scotland Facebook at www.facebook.com/Uig-Church-of-Scotland-401145943347242/ or YouTube www.youtube.com/channel/UC1CKN06cQOhKqzF9DLpJHQQ

Online prayer meeting via Zoom each Thursday at 7pm; open to everyone – e-mail berneralwuig@btinternet.com if you wish to attend.

Online Sunday School via Zoom each Sunday at 12 noon; open to all families, presented in an interactive, multi-media bilingual format. Please e-mail berneralwuig@btinternet.com if you would like your child(ren) to attend.

Misc: daily 'Postings' on the church FB page of the church, plus a weekly reflection, by Friday of each week.

Pastoral care: the Minister is happy to provide pastoral care to anyone in the Parish. Contact, 24/7 on (01851) 672 388 or via the Church's FB page or Messenger.

Thought for the Moment

I recently came across an old scrapbook, bulging with cuttings from past years. Included in the mix was a handwritten letter from my father-in-law, Robert Macleod, dated October 1962. We had just returned to the mainland with our two young children and baby after spending quite some time in Carloway with Grandpa and Grannie. My father-in-law wrote, "We still feel very lonely since you left, and still, every morning, we seem to hear the patter-patter down the stairs, singing or counting the steps, and the two darlings with their teddies would make a dive to our bed. Oh, how we miss them, in this big house with only the two of us...indeed those were the happiest days since you (Fay) were a child yourself."

That expression of genuine joy and love influenced these two children, who have now grown up and have families of their own. Our actions affect future generations.

The bible says, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4 v20.

Many of us are missing seeing our loved ones in these days of lockdown. Love will defeat Covid-19. May God's strength keep you now and always.

Dr John Hay

Where is Tess?

In the last news-sheet, Tess was thinking about making a phone call from Miavaig.

Where do you think she is, in this issue's photo, taken by Alistair Pratt?



By the way, all the locations in this series can be seen from the road.