

PAIRC NEWSLETTER

PAIRCTRUST.CO.UK



February 2026



Credit: Aline Community Woodland

The Pairc Estate – February 2026

Read on for information on upcoming events, items of interest, and other opportunities across the Pairc community.

The Pairc Trust are pleased to bring you news of a charitable fundraiser from the Erisort Trust & Aline Community Woodland, a photography competition as part of the Pairc Landscape Project, an excerpt from an upcoming Islands Book Trust release, and more news and events from across South Lochs & Kinloch.

Top News

**Pairc Landscape Project
Photography
Competition & Event**

**Erisort Trust/Aline
Woodland Crowdfunder**

**Islands Book Trust
Excerpt**

Submit & Subscribe

If there is anything that you would like to submit to the newsletter, or if you would like to receive a copy digitally via email, please contact info@pairctrust.co.uk



Pairc Landscape Project: Then & Now

As part of the Pairc Trust's Pairc Landscape Project, we have launched a photography competition titled 'Pairc: Then & Now'.

The Trust is fortunate to have a significant number of historical photos of South Lochs dating back through the 20th century, and we have set a challenge for anyone living in Pairc to try and match the perspective of historical photographs with their own pictures taken in the current day.

The Pairc Landscape Project aims to capture people's historical, emotional, and personal connections to the landscape and fabric of South Lochs. From viewing the historical photos it is clear to us how much the landscape has changed in line with changes in land use, crofting, and housing, but the

distinguishing features of the landscape are still apparent in the current day.

We will continue posting weekly comparisons and highlights on our social media channels, and you can see the historical perspectives on our Pairc Landscape Project web page at: <https://www.pairctrust.co.uk/pairc-landscape-project>.

Photo submissions can be made via email at: info@pairctrust.co.uk and the best overall submission will win a £25 Ravenspoint voucher! Deadline: 5 March 2026.

Tigh Ceilidh Site Prep Underway

Further to our announcement last month regarding the successful funding of our redevelopment of the Tigh Ceilidh, Gravir, into a family home, the Pairc Trust is pleased to announce that Alex Murray Construction, the main contractor for the works, has begun setting up at the site in line for a March start date.

We look forward to bringing you further news as the redevelopment works proceed!



Deer & Goose Management

Deer management across the Pairc Estate is continuing, with the open season for does set to close on 15th February. We have been working with the Estate's shooting tenant to ensure a sustainable annual cull in line with recommendations from NatureScot to reduce the overall population year-on-year to a more sustainable level.

The current cull figures stand at 10 stags, 13 hinds, and 4 calves. Previous cull figures were: 8 stags and 8 hinds for the 2024-2025 season, and 5 stags and 4 hinds for the 2023-2024 season, so this represents a significant improvement.

We urge any Pairc residents and crofters who are experiencing problems with deer to contact us, and we will be happy to pass on information to our shooting tenant so that they can focus their

efforts on particular problem spots.

In addition to deer management, the Pairc Trust is also requesting information from crofters experiencing issues with high greylag and Canada goose numbers causing damage to croft land. We are working with locally based shooters and the Lewis & Harris goose management scheme to more intensively manage the goose population in South Lochs under the General Licence for the prevention of serious agricultural damage.

If you have any queries regarding deer management on the Estate, or you wish to contact us regarding goose control, please email info@pairctrust.co.uk with the relevant location and your contact details and we'll be in touch.

Erisort Trust & Aline Community Woodland Crowdfunder

The Erisort Trust & Aline Community Woodland have launched a crowdfunder on behalf of Pebbles Sawyer, aiming to raise £14,000 for a lightweight specialist wheelchair.

Pebbles is 12 years old and lives in Laxay. She has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair, enjoying shinty, wheelchair racing, and heading off on adventures with her siblings.

Pebbles says: "I am very active and love to go off on adventures with my brothers and sister, which includes on paths and



ground not good for my chair I have now. It makes it hard for me to keep up with them when we are not on flat solid ground. I would love to be able to go and explore lots of places I haven't been able to get to.

I don't let my condition stop me doing anything and just find my own way for things, but I would love to be more free to join my brothers and sister when we go out. We are a very active family but we are a little restricted as I get older and bigger because my mum and dad can't carry me as much if we want to go on ground that my wheelchair is not good on.

I really like to try out new sports. A new chair would help me compete in basketball, tennis, football, and continue to play shinty, which I have been playing now for a year.

I would like to try and live my life doing

all the things that keep me fit and make me happy.”

The Erisort Trust is raising funds for a GTM Endeavour powered, all-terrain wheelchair that can handle rough ground, beaches, moorland paths, and everything else the Isle of Lewis has to offer.

As Pebbles grows up her parents can no longer carry her over difficult ground as they have done in the past. The GTM Endeavour will mean that Pebbles can keep up with her siblings on family adventures across the island, access beaches, paths and terrain her current chair can't manage, continue playing shinty and try new sports with less strain and risk of injury, and have the independence and freedom every 12-year-old deserves. Pebbles will have the freedom to explore on her own terms.

Any excess money raised beyond the £14,000 goal will be donated to Pebbles to support her education and sporting activities.

Donations can be made via Crowdfunder:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/pebbles-specialist-wheelchair-fund>.

Inspiring Place Art Workshops

The Pairc Trust's first 'Inspiring Place' art workshops took place at the Resource Centre on Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th February. Local residents attended free workshops (funded by NatureScot),



hosted by local artist Emma Mackenzie, where they experimented with various forms of textile art techniques, including batik, dyeing and monoprinting.

The attendees worked on pieces which explored their connection and relationship to the landscape of South Lochs, in keeping with the aims and objectives of the Pairc Landscape Project. Several of the pieces will be displayed at 'New Place', the final event in a series outlining the South Lochs area and highlighting points of historical, environmental, and cultural interest within it.

The next set of workshops has one space left, and will take place on Tuesday 24th February & Thursday 26th February. If you're interested in attending, please email catherine.muir@pairctrust.co.uk The artwork from these workshops is to be completed for the 'New Place' event,



which will be held on 14th March at the Resource Centre. The art will be displayed and will demonstrate how much of an inspirational landscape Pairc is to the residents; it is enduring and will remain inspirational for entire generations to come.



'Between the Echoes' – Islands Book Trust

Angus MacMillan's memoir, published by the Islands Book Trust, will be launched at Ravenspoint at 7:30pm on Monday 11th May. Below is an excerpt of one of his earliest memories:

"I am slightly older. Maybe five, on a Sunday School outing to the fishing-and-shooting Eishkenestate, to the west of the village. This involved the group of village children and several adults being taken in the Isabella, a fishing boat owned and crewed by a local family, across Lemreway Bay and the channel of Loch Sealg. The day turned very wet, virtually from the time of our arrival, and our picnic was taken under an improvised tent – possibly an old sail. On a ridge high

above us, we saw a deer, probably my very first sighting of one, adding to a sense of strangeness, otherness, in the occasion, as I was aware that some of the men from the village were known to cross the waters to poach deer, obviously with risk of being caught.

In the afternoon, the wind rose and it was decided to return home earlier than planned. For the adults in the company, the conditions were probably unremarkable, but to my mind, there was an element of danger, as the waves began to swell, and I had feelings of anxiety and apprehension that my mother would be angry with me for having gone on the outing at all. My anxiety was heightened when we came to land, and the boat was unable to come sufficiently close to the pier for us to walk on to dry land. Instead, as the boat rose and fell on the swell, the children were lifted bodily over the gap at a suitable moment and caught by waiting arms on shore.

Awaiting my turn, I trembled with fear, visualising suspension over what seemed an ever-yawning gap between boat and shore, and slipping between the outstretched arms into the waves. As I was lifted, I looked down, through perhaps fifteen feet of water, to the very bottom, the clearest depth of water I had ever seen, with small fishes jittering through seaweed, and tiny brown crabs inching along the sea bed. It stilled my breath. What took place in seconds felt like an extended pause in my being. Then I was whisked across,



and my feet were planted on the quayside. Objectively, there had been little risk, but to me, the experience was terrifying, and it amplified my fear that I would get a row when I went home. Nothing like that, of course, materialised.

New Training Equipment for Lochs FC

After an early morning U14 friendly vs Stornoway for Lochs FC, the team got to work setting up their new training equipment at the Creagan Dubh.

The equipment was supplied by Bakkafröst and Bakkafröst manager Donnie Mado Macleod was on-site to supervise the setup.

The club are extremely grateful for the



donation and would like to record their thanks and gratitude to Bakkafröst for their support of the children in the Lochs community.

Thanks also go to the team coaches for helping to set up, and to the players for their enthusiasm at training having already played a match that morning!



Dè tha dol? Pairc Landscape Project: Changing Place

Leya, P7

Pairc pupils worked with Pairc Trust (alongside Nature Scot and Climate Hebrides) to illustrate how the Pairc landscape is changing by making a film. We were waiting to see the film and finally we got to see it, however it is not out to the public yet. I thought it was amazing and Zoe the film maker did an amazing job at editing.





Dè tha dol? STEM DNA Lesson

Callie, P7

On 23rd January, Pairc School pupils took part in a live lesson with Dr Rachael from Merck about DNA. DNA is found in our cells; it is a genetic material we get from our parents and relatives. We also learned that we have a code of four letters in our DNA which are A, T, C, G. We extracted DNA from a banana using chemicals to see the DNA. We could see it by adding the chemicals that made the cells burst open.

Dè tha dol? Swimming

Olivia, P7

Every Wednesday, Pairc school have been going up to town to the Stornoway

Sports Centre to go to swimming lessons.

We will go swimming for 8 weeks straight, starting from 14th of January to the 11th of March.

All the P7s are the best at swimming and have joined classes with Uig school.

Swimming lessons are particularly important as in case of an emergency when it might be important to know how to swim.



Dè tha dol? New Pupil

Leisha, P6

We would like to welcome a new student named Armainn MacDonald to Pairc school, he is from Lemreway. He is in P1 and is doing excellent, we are all very proud of him. It is great to have a new pupil in our school.

You are cordially invited to:

Pairc Landscape Project
New Place

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE WORK
OF THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE
PAIRC LANDSCAPE PROJECT

PAIRC LANDSCAPE PROJECT
BOOKLET RELEASE

THEN/NOW PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION WINNER

PAIRC TAPESTRY UNVEILING

SGOIL NA PAIRC 'CHANGING
PLACE' FILM SCREENING

FOOD & DRINK PROVIDED

Where?

Resource Centre, Kershader

When?

Saturday 21st March -
12-3pm





Viking Genes



Torcuil Crichton MP
Ag obair dhuibh uile



Dr Jim Flett Wilson



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Torcuil Crichton,
MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar,
and Dr Jim Flett Wilson,
Professor of Human Genetics,
University of Edinburgh,
invite you to an event
where they will share
important findings from the
Viking Genes 'Hebrides Study'
and make the case for
community screening in
the Outer Hebrides.

Galson Estate Event

Thurs 19th of February
3pm-4.30pm

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn Business Centre
Tom na Bà, South Galson, HS2 0SH

Stornoway Town Hall Event

Thurs 19th February
7:30-9:00pm

20 South Beach, Stornoway HS1 2BJ

Balallan Estate Event

Friday 20th February
10am-11.30am

Kinloch Historical Society Community Hub
Balallan, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9PN

Kinloch Golden Oldies

You are cordially invited to join
Kinloch Golden Oldies
for a

Tea Dance

Balallan Hall

2pm-4pm

Tuesday 24th March
2026

*Enjoy a lively afternoon
of dancing and
afternoon tea*

*Admission by
donation
All welcome*





South Lochs Seed Swap
Saturday 7th March 2026

10–4pm

Ravenspoint, Keshader HS2 9QA



Photo credits: The Real Seed Company. UK

Bring your own saved fruit,
vegetable, or edible flower
seed to swap or give a
donation.

Stand In the Gap
presents our first

JIGSAW COMPETITION

7:30pm

- Calling All Puzzle Lovers!
- Puzzles for all ages

Friday 27th Feb Gravir Church Hall

- Come along and put your puzzle-solving prowess to the ultimate test?
- Dive into a world of challenge, and camaraderie at our Jigsaw Competition!
 - Gather your friends or come solo—everyone is welcome!
 - See which team can solve the puzzle in the fastest time.
 - Whether you're an expert with a knack for speedy assembly or simply love the joy of piecing things together, this event is for you.

🏆 🎉 Prize for quickest team! 🎉 🏆



hebridean housing
partnership

TENANT ENGAGEMENT DROP-IN EVENTS MARCH 2026

Laura and our Housing Officers will be out in the community this month to catch up, listen and share a cuppa with Tenants

Drop-in with Laura and Kevin
North Lochs Community Centre
13 March 2026 11-12:30

Drop-in with Laura and Kevin
Pairc Resource Centre
23 March 2026 11-12:30

Tenants who attend either of these events will be entered into a draw for the chance to win £25 shopping vouchers.

Making Our House Your Home



HHP is a Registered Charity (No. SC035767); A Registered Society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 Reg No 2644R(S); Registered Social Landlord Reg No:359; Registered Property Factor: PF000183

Youth Enablement Award

DRIVING LESSON SCHEME



The Pairc Trust are offering support towards the cost of driving lessons. The award is specifically designed to reduce the financial barriers that often prevent individuals from accessing driving instruction. By subsidising the cost of lessons, the initiative supports young people in Pairc in gaining the necessary licences and driving skills aligned with their career or personal development goals.

By enabling access across multiple licence categories (available for standard car lessons, motorbikes, HGV training, and more!) the scheme increases flexibility for applicants.

Up to 3 lessons fully funded!



Applications are now open!

For further information and to apply please visit:
www.pairctrust.co.uk/youth-enablement-award

01851 880728

pairctrust.co.uk

info@pairctrust.co.uk

Basket Weaving Willow Workshop with Dawn from Hebridean Baskets:



Come and make this beautiful replica of a 'Herring girls' Basket

Saturday 28th February 10am-4pm

Pairc Trust Resource Centre, Keshader

£65 (Payment in advance).

All materials provided

Beginners and advanced weavers

(Maximum 8 Places) to book a place

Contact: Jill Ireland 07377 077151



DEER MARAUDING DRIVE WITH CARE

All drivers are urged to:

- Reduce speed in wooded and rural areas, especially near known deer crossings.
- Be alert for deer at the roadside—where one is seen, others are often nearby.
- Report any collisions or sightings of injured or deceased deer as soon as possible.
- If you are involved in a collision with a deer, please contact the local police station in Stornoway, who will then ensure the incident is passed on to the appropriate person responsible for dealing with the deer in that area.
- Your cooperation is appreciated in helping to ensure the safety of both road users and wildlife.

Pairc & Kinloch Calendar

Weekly Events

Mondays

- Dance Class, Resource Centre (7pm)

Tuesdays

- Pairc Craft Club, Resource Centre (1-3pm)

Wednesdays

- Ravenspoint Warm Hub (12-4:30pm)

Fridays

- Warm Hub, Kinloch Hub (12-2pm)

Saturdays

- Pairc Social Walk, see WhatsApp group for location (11am)

Fortnightly Events

Wednesdays (from 29th October)

- Pairc Social Lunch, Ravenspoint cafe (1pm)

Monthly Events

Every Second Wednesday

- Aline Woodland Development Group meeting, Resource Centre, Kershader (7pm)

Thursday 19th February

- Viking Genes events:
 - Galson Estate Business Centre (3-4:30pm)
 - Stornoway Town Hall (7:30-9pm)

Friday 20th February

- Viking Genes event, Kinloch Hub (10-11:30pm)

Tuesday 24th February

- Inspiring Place Art Workshop, Resource Centre (7-9pm)

Wednesday 25th February

- **Household waste collection**

What's on in Pairc?



Thursday 26th February

- **Glass recycling collection**
- Inspiring Place Art Workshop, Resource Centre (7-9pm)

Friday 27th February

- Jigsaw Competition, Pairc Free Church (7:30pm)

Saturday 28th February

- Basket Weaving Workshop, Resource Centre, Kershader (9am-5pm)

Saturday 7th March

- South Lochs Seed Swap, Ravenspoint (10am-4pm)

Friday 13th March

- HHP Tenant Drop-In, North Lochs Community Centre (11am-12:30pm)

Saturday 21st March

- Pairc Landscape Project: New Place, Resource Centre (12-3pm)

Monday 23rd March

- HHP Tenant Drop-In, Resource Centre (11am-12:30pm)

Tuesday 24th March

- Kinloch Tea Dance, Balallan Hall (2-4pm)