

PAIRC NEWSLETTER

PAIRCTRUST.CO.UK



April 2026



The Pairc Estate – April 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 an exciting opportunity to re-let a vacant croft in Lemreway, funding by Muaitheabhal Community Trust for An Taigh Ceilidh, a new Islands Book Trust release, and more news and events from across South Lochs & Kinloch.

Top News

**Vacant Croft Available
for Re-Letting**

**MCT Funding for An Taigh
Ceilidh**

**Islands Book Trust
Release: 'Between the
Echoes'**

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

01/19



The Pairc Trust AGM

The Pairc Trust would like to thank everyone who joined us at the Resource Centre on Tuesday 31st March for our Annual General Meeting. We had a good turnout to hear an update on the Trust's achievements and work over the last year - such as our efforts to update the Estate signage, developing artwork with local residents in the Pairc Landscape Project, and renovating the Tigh Ceilidh, Gravir, into a family home - and our plans for the future, including further renewal of picnic sites on the Estate, renewable energy projects, and continued control of gunnera and other invasive species on the Estate.

We would like to extend special thanks to Donna Smith, CEO of the [Scottish Crofting Federation](#) for taking the time to

attend and speak at our meeting. Her speech on the recently passed Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill, and what this means for crofting communities, was insightful and gave us a lot of food for thought.

Thanks again to our members and residents of the Pairc Estate for your continued support, and we look forward to continuing our work!

Vacant Croft Available for Re-Letting

A unique opportunity has arisen for The Pairc Trust to re-let a vacant croft on the Estate. We are now inviting applications from prospective tenants who are interested in taking on croft 9 Lemreway. Once a successful applicant has been selected, the Trust will begin the formal process of assigning the croft tenancy.

The croft extends to approximately 2.74ha (to be confirmed once registered) and includes a share in the Lemreway Common Grazings. Applicants should be aware that essential access and fencing works will be required, and the successful applicant will be responsible for all costs associated with completing the croft letting process.

If you are interested in taking on a croft and contributing to the future of our community, we encourage you to apply. Young and new-entrant crofters are particularly encouraged to apply.

Applications can be submitted online via



<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/FigDwKtFA4?origin=|prLink>

Paper application forms are also available from The Resource Centre, Kershader, and Ravenspoint.

The deadline for applications is 9am on Monday 27th April.

For further information, please contact The Pairc Trust via info@pairctrust.co.uk or 01851 880728.

Goose Management

The Pairc Trust is aware of the growing impact that greylag geese are having on croft and common grazing land across the Estate, and the issues this presents for crofting communities.

To aid in the control of the local goose population and to prevent serious agricultural damage being caused to croft land, we are looking for Pairc Estate

residents who possess valid public liability insurance and firearm/shotgun certificates to assist local crofters in managing the impacts of greylag geese. Experience in egg pricking/oiling would also be useful.

If you possess the skills and equipment to assist in this, or have any queries, please contact us via info@pairctrust.co.uk.

Pairc Landscape Project: Celebration Event

The Trust were delighted to welcome members of the community to our recent Landscape Project New Place event, and what a wonderful afternoon it turned out to be!

Catherine Muir, Project Manager for the Pairc Trust, opened the event with a short talk reflecting on the journey of the Landscape Project before handing out awards to some very deserving participants. Donnie Morrison was recognised for his outstanding Then/Now photograph comparison, while Izzy De Santis was voted the winner of the artwork competition by the Pairc Trust board of directors. The Sgoil na Pairc film was met with a huge round of applause, and teacher Maria Finnigan kindly accepted the award on behalf of her pupils.

The highlight of the afternoon was undoubtedly the unveiling of the tapestry. As the sheet was pulled away,



the room fell into an awed silence before breaking into applause – the Pairc Estate brought to life in a beautiful handmade relief map, the result of many hours of hard work by our dedicated Craft Club.

Ravenspoint provided a fantastic spread of cakes and sandwiches, and the hall was filled with great conversation, with artwork and photography from the Then/Now competition displayed for all to enjoy.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. When asked what the Pairc landscape means to them, responses included "unique beauty woven with the community" and "it means everything." Many also left commenting on the wonderful sense of community spirit and what can be achieved when people work together. Thank you to everyone who came along,



took part, and helped make the day such a success. Many thanks to NatureScot and Climate Hebrides who made the Landscape Project possible.



Forget Me Not Cafe SSEN Subsea Cable

We were pleased to welcome Alzheimer Scotland in hosting their monthly 'Forget Me Not' cafe at the Resource Centre on Wednesday 8th April. These events aim to keep residents connected and act as a means to make and maintain friendships, especially for those with dementia or other difficulties with their memory, and their carers, friends and families.

The event featured a sing-along and live music with Chrisanne Macdonald, and was well-attended.

The next Forget Me Not cafe will be held at the Resource Centre on Wednesday 6th May, running from 2-4pm.

For further information, please contact Angela on 01851 702123 or email Amacleod@alzscot.org

MAL Civils, contracting for SSEN, are nearing completion on works to install a new underwater electricity main across Loch Erisort between Laxay and Kershader, replacing and upgrading the previous connection which was installed in 1994 and is now reaching the end of its operational life. SSEN have been planning the replacement of the cable since 2023.

The new connection will provide enhanced resilience and reliability for power connections in South Lochs once it is commissioned and energised - this is planned for summer of this year.



Gunnera Management

The growing season is approaching, which means that Gunnera plants will begin to show themselves around the Estate. Gunnera is a highly invasive non-native plant which spreads easily and can shade out native vegetation, as well as blocking ditches and drains.

This year we are being supported by staff from the Stornoway Trust, building on the assistance we received last year from the North Harris Trust in spraying and controlling Gunnera on the Estate.

In order to target these efforts as effectively as possible, we ask residents on the Estate to please send us the location of Gunnera plants that they are aware of via info@pairctrust.co.uk, with a

what3words reference pinpointing the location if possible. The team will be checking locations previously registered for new/re-emerging plants - please contact us if you would like advance notice of their attendance, i.e. if you have stock you would like to move away from plants to be treated.

The Pairc Trust 10-Year Strategic Plan: Community Consultation

As part of our continued development of the Pairc Estate, the Pairc Trust is holding a community consultation drop-in event between 3-7pm on **Tuesday 19th May** for local residents to provide feedback on our proposed 10-year strategic plan.

We have developed a range of plans to develop the Pairc Estate in a way which will help promote a resilient, thriving, and well-populated community, covering Land Management & Crofting; Renewable Energy Projects; Housing, Local Services, and Depopulation; Tourism; Community Engagement & Development; Pairc Trust's Operational Strategy; and more.

The Trust represents the community of South Lochs, and it's vital that our strategic plan lines up with the needs, visions, and views of our members and residents, in order to build on the success achieved since the community buyout in 2015.



Muaitheabhal Community Trust Awards Grant to An Taigh Cèilidh in Support of Gaelic Culture

Muaitheabhal Community Trust is pleased to announce the award of a small grant to An Taigh Cèilidh, the celebrated Gaelic arts and community venue based in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. The grant will support An Taigh Cèilidh in its ongoing mission to nurture, promote, and celebrate the living traditions of Gaelic language, music, song, and storytelling that are woven into the fabric of island life.

An Taigh Cèilidh has long served as an essential gathering point for communities across the Western Isles,

offering a welcoming space where Gaelic culture can flourish across generations. From traditional music sessions and storytelling evenings to language learning events and community ceilidhs, the venue plays a vital role in keeping the Gaelic heritage of the Outer Hebrides alive and accessible to all.

Dr Teàrlach Wilson, An Taigh Cèilidh, said: *“This support from Muaitheabhal Community Trust means a great deal to everyone at An Taigh Cèilidh. We exist to be a home for Gaelic – a place where the language and its associated traditions are not simply preserved behind glass but lived, shared, and celebrated every day. Funding like this allows us to keep our doors open, to welcome more people into this culture, and to ensure that the Gaelic heritage of Lewis continues to thrive for generations to come. We are deeply grateful.”*

Muaitheabhal Community Trust was established to channel the benefits of community-owned wind energy into the social, economic, and cultural life of the communities it serves across Lewis. Supporting local organisations like An Taigh Cèilidh is central to the Trust’s vision of a resilient, thriving island community that values its unique identity and heritage.

Donnie Morrison, Muaitheabhal Community Trust, said: *“At Muaitheabhal Community Trust, we believe that a strong community is one that knows where it comes from. An Taigh Cèilidh is far more than a venue – it is a beating*

Between the Echoes

place — home — Lewis

Angus Macmillan

IBT Publication: 'Between the Echoes'

The Islands Book Trust is delighted to announce the publication of 'Between the Echoes', a compelling and sensitive new book by Angus Macmillan, the well-known Lewisborn poet and writer, and member of The Lochies folk group. It describes his upbringing in the Gaelic-speaking crofting village of Lemreway, viewed through the prisms of the four elements, earth, air, fire and water, to explore how we come to understand a sense of place, home and belonging.

The lived experiences he so beautifully evokes through poetic narratives are then viewed from psychological and philosophical perspectives which speak to universal concerns about social cohesion that resonate beyond the boundaries of the islands: the lures and traps of nostalgia - what we can and cannot return to, in the context of social change and the passage of time.

A launch event will be taking place at 7:30pm on Monday 11th May at Ravenspoint. The book is available at a price of £12.50 (plus P&P) from www.islandbooktrust.org.

heart of Gaelic culture on this island, and the work they do to connect people with their language and traditions is invaluable. We are proud to support them, and we hope this grant helps sustain and grow everything they offer to the people of Lewis and beyond."

Muaithéabhal Community Trust is committed to continuing its work alongside local organisations that strengthen the social and cultural fabric of the Isle of Lewis and looks forward to seeing the positive impact this funding will have on the community through An Taigh Cèilidh.



Lochs FC Relay Fundraiser & New Season

Lochs FC are grateful for the generous support they received during their 5 hour relay run fundraiser on 28th March - they successfully raised 92% of their £1,800 target, half of which will go towards pitch maintenance, medical supplies, and other essential running costs for the club over the season ahead, and the other half being donated to Pebbles Sawyer's specialist wheelchair fund.

The senior team also took on Ness FC at home on 13th April, winning 5-2, and Aths away on 15th April, which saw Aths come out ahead 6-0, as part of the ABC Cup - we wish the team every success in their future games!



Last week saw a busy start for the junior teams, with the U8s and U10s competing at a festival in Stornoway, and the U14s and U16s playing their opening games of the new season - well done all, and best of luck in the season ahead!



Congratulations, Mrs Macdonald!

On Thursday 16th April the pupils of Sgoil na Pairc had a wee celebration to congratulate our newly married, lovely Head of School 'Mrs Macdonald!'



Clean Coast Outer Hebrides

On Thursday 16th April Janet Marshall from Clean Coast Outer Hebrides, came to talk to the pupils about 'Climate Change.' They then measured and marked out sizes of the various types of whales and dolphins that are found in the seas around our islands. It was amazing to see just how immense these animals really are!

Soup & Pudding

On Wednesday 25th March, Sgoil na Pairc held a 'Soup and Pudding' Lunch to raise funds for the P7 pupils' trip to Fairburn Activity Centre. In preparation for the event pupils did baking and made soup. The event was well attended and made the grand total of £275!! We would like to sincerely thank all who supported the



event and all who contributed cakes and soups.

Vacant Croft Tenancy Now Open For Applications!



Tenancy of 9 Lemreway available for re-letting by The Pairc Trust

- The croft extends to approximately 2.74ha (to be confirmed once registered) and includes a share in the Lemreway Common Grazings.
- Priority will be given to young or new-entrant crofters.

Apply via our online form:

<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/FigDwKtFA4>



Paper application forms are available at our offices
at **The Resource Centre, Kershader** and at
Ravenspoint Centre.

Applications close at **9am** on **Monday 27th April**

☎ 01851 880 728

🌐 paicrtrust.co.uk

✉ info@paicrtrust.co.uk

The Pairc Trust Strategic Plan 2026 -2036

Community Consultation
Event



Tuesday 19th May

3pm - 7pm

The Resource Centre, Kershader

DROP-IN

Visit us and give feedback on The Pairc Trust's Ten Year Strategic Plan

We want to know what **you** think the Pairc Trust's priorities should be as we plan for the next 10 years.

ENQUIRIES



Our Ten Year Strategic Plan sets the Course for the Next Decade

The Pairc Trust represents the community of South Lochs, and it is vital that our strategic plan lines up with the needs, visions, and views of our members and residents.

01851 880 728

info@pairctrust.co.uk

Community for Growing

**Are you interested in
community growing and
food resilience?**

Would you like to meet
up with like minded
folk?

**Do you want to
gain knowledge
from island
growers?**

Look out for upcoming
workshops in Kinloch

Raised beds,
container
gardening, heirloom
crops, field
medicine, herbal
walks and more.

Let's grow
together

Beginners and
accompanied
children welcome

If you would like to register your interest,
please email lochsnews@gmail.com
or call 07554665549

Lochs Forget Me Not Café

Led by Alzheimer Scotland staff and supported by volunteers, this monthly get together is a great way to stay connected with others, make new friends, and enjoy a sing-along with our fantastic group of musicians led by Chrisanne MacDonald.

Our group is open to anyone experiencing difficulties with their memory or living with dementia along with their carers, friends and families too. We also welcome the wider community to join!

Dementia Friendly and Inclusive!

Please bring along a companion if you cannot attend independently and need some support. Light refreshments provided.

When?

6th May 2026
2pm – 4pm

Where?

The Resource Centre,
Kershader

For More Information:

Please call Angela on 01851 702123
or email Amacleod@alzscot.org

Partly funded by Pairc Area Forum



PAIRC AREA
FORUM

Our community groups are there to be enjoyed by anyone living with dementia or experiencing difficulties with their memory, and their families and friends. All are welcome, people who can attend independently and/or for those unable to do so should come with a companion who can provide any support for them. We don't provide transport for these groups and therefore it is your responsibility to get to and from the community groups safely.

Alzheimer Scotland - Action on Dementia is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland 149069. Recognised as a charity by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, no. SC022315 160 Dundee Street, Edinburgh, EH11 1DQ. 0131 243 1453. www.alzscot.org



PEBBLES SAWYER'S SPECIALIST WHEELCHAIR FUND

HELP PEBBLES

Pebbles Sawyer is a local 12 year old from Laxay who has spina bifida and has outgrown her current wheelchair.

She loves sport and being active with her siblings.

Managed through the Erisort Trust, we're raising £14,000 for a lightweight specialist wheelchair that will help her stay independent and keep doing the things she loves.



**Every donation,
no matter the
size, makes a
difference.**



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

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



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)

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)

Monday 27th April

- Applications close for croft 9 Lemreway re-letting (Resource Centre, Kershader)

Wednesday 29th April

- **Household waste collection**

Thursday 30th April

- **Glass waste collection**

Wednesday 6th May

- **Organic & mixed recycling collection**
- Forget Me Not cafe, Resource Centre (2-4pm)

Monday 11th May

- IBT book launch event, Ravenspoint (7:30pm)

What's on in Pairc?

