

# PAIRC NEWSLETTER

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May 2025



## The Pairc Estate – May 2025

The good weather continues! We hope you've been enjoying the largely unbroken streak of sunshine!

Read on for information on upcoming events, items of interest, and other opportunities. In particular, we have an item from the Islands Book Trust inviting you to events surrounding a major conference in Stornoway later this year, feedback on the proposed redevelopment of the Resource Centre Hall following a community consultation event, and summer dates for the return of Piotsa's wood-fired pizza wagon.

### Top News

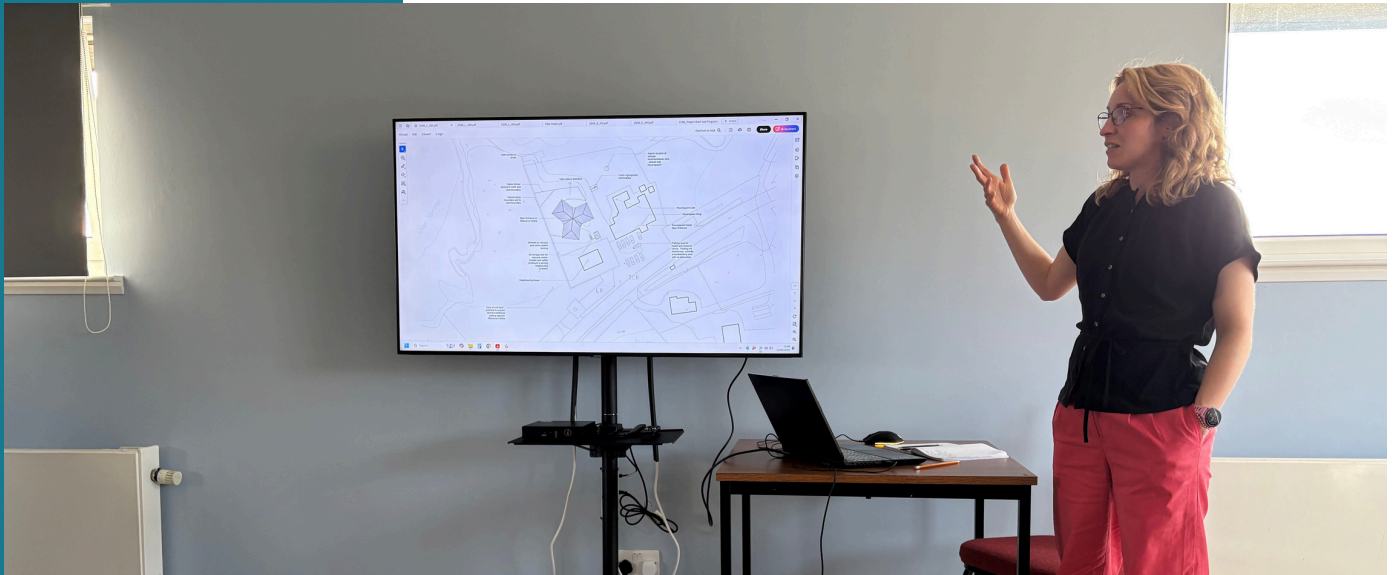
**Major Island Conference  
Invitation from the Islands  
Book Trust**

**Resource Centre Community  
Consultation**

**Piotsa Returning to  
Ravenspoint!**

### 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](mailto:info@pairctrust.co.uk)



## Resource Centre Community Consultation

We were delighted to welcome residents from Pairc to our Community Consultation event at the Resource Centre on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May to hear their thoughts and feedback on the Trust's proposal to redevelop the hall at the Resource Centre.

The Trust were fortunate to have received funding from CnES' Outer Hebrides Community Led Local Development Programme, and from Muaitheabhal Community Windfarm Trust, to fund a feasibility study into the redevelopment. Studio Hebrides, from North Uist, won the contract and were present to demonstrate different concepts and possibilities that the redevelopment could follow, such as sports & music facilities, office spaces,

and community growing areas.

We were pleased to see a good turnout, and Mhairi Dobbie, architect and partner at Studio Hebrides, took questions from attendees. The feedback we received was extremely useful, and will be factored into the decisions made on the redevelopment project going forwards.

If you weren't able to make it to the event please send your thoughts via: <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/3S3gEEhH5M>

## Charity Fundraiser

John J MacLennan marked his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in May by cycling from Arnish Lighthouse to the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse. To mark the challenge, he's aiming to raise funds for the Stornoway RNLI team, and Western Isles Cancer Care Initiative.

Donations can be made online via: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/johnjamieson-maclennan-4>





## Ralph Tonge to Join MCWFT

The Trust is disappointed to bid farewell to Ralph Tonge, our Projects Manager, who will be leaving the Trust at the beginning of June to take up a new position at the Muaitheabhal Community Windfarm Trust.

Ralph joined us in March 2024 and has proven invaluable in taking forward important projects on the Estate.

Ralph said: *“I’ve deeply enjoyed my time working in Pairc and getting to know local residents. I won’t be far away, and definitely won’t be a stranger! I look forward to making contributions to the area, and continuing to help out with community causes and projects at MCWFT. I wish my colleagues and the Board at the Pairc Trust all the best for the future.”*

We wish Ralph every success in his new role, and thank him for his time and efforts at the Trust. He’ll be an asset to MCWFT, and we look forward to working closely with him in the future!

Ralph’s final working day is 21<sup>st</sup> May.

## Lochs FC Football Festival

Lochs FC U8 & U10 teams enjoyed a day up in Fivepenny Ness at a festival hosted by Ness FC on 10<sup>th</sup> May, where they put in an excellent showing.

Well done to the teams, and thanks to the parents and coaches who helped organise and run the event.

# Building Sustainable Futures for Island Communities



## Opportunity for Local People to Attend Major Nordic Conference in Stornoway

Stornoway will host a landmark international conference over the period 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 bringing together participants from the Outer Hebrides, Orkney, and Shetland with residents of Nordic island communities – the Faroes, Iceland, Greenland, and coastal Norway.

Organised by the Islands Book Trust (IBT) in association with Nordic Atlantic Cooperation (NORA), this unique event will unite experts, community leaders, and stakeholders to address key challenges and explore sustainable opportunities for island communities in the North Atlantic. Do take advantage of the opportunity to take part if you can.

**Tuesday 1st – Wednesday 2nd July:** Venue UHI North, West and Hebrides, Stornoway Campus

The first two days of the event will focus on key themes like resilience, governance, innovation, and community engagement. Topics include population trends and challenges, strengthening traditional industries and embracing new opportunities, digital and physical inter-island transport connectivity, youth engagement, local enterprise and decision-making powers.

### **Thursday 3rd July: Hebridean Cultural Heritage Excursion**

This day-long coach excursion arranged by IBT will showcase and offer insights into the cultural and historical heritage of the Hebrides. Highlights include visits to Galson Estate Trust to explore community land ownership, and to Ness Historical Society to learn about the challenges and





Traditional Faroese village of Skarvanes, Sandoy

opportunities for crofting and to discuss minority language issues. The day will end with a Gaelic musical ceilidh, celebrating the island's rich traditions.

### Speakers and Booking Arrangements

We have attracted a wide range of expert speakers from the various island groups, including leading academics, Government representatives and officials, and island communities as set out below.

- **Ragnhild Ørnes & Kjersti Eline Tønnessen Busch**, SALT – Sustainable Coastal Development, Norway
- **John Goodlad**, Advisor to International Seafood Funds, and Author, Shetland
- **Naasunnguaq Beck**, Director, Arctic Circle Business, Greenland
- **Chris Moule**, Orkney, Head of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Robert Gordon University
- **Anna Karlsdóttir**, Associate Professor & Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholar, University of Iceland
- **Karin Marie Funding Lyster**, Faroe Islands
- **Firouz Gaini**, Professor in Anthropology, University of the Faroe Islands
- **Daniel Jarnæs Båtstrand**, Owner of clothing brand and leader of a local political party, Norway
- **Agnes Rennie**, Chairperson, Galson Estate Trust, Lewis
- **Tom Wills**, Director, VOAR Energy, Shetland
- **Laura Johanne Olsen**, Programme Leader for Green Islands Initiative, Lofoten Municipality, Norway
- **Þorsteinn Másson**, MD, Blámi Energy Initiative, Iceland
- **Miki Jensen**, Director, Innovation South Greenland, Greenland
- **Gestur Hovgaard**, Professor, Department of Arctic Social Science & Economics, Greenland/Faroe Islands
- **Vilfill Karlsson**, Associate Professor, University of Akureyri, Faculty of Business Administration, Iceland



# TRADITIONAL HEALING PRACTICES OF THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS

FRIDAY 16 MAY  
KINLOCH COMMUNITY HUB  
ENTRY BY DONATION  
7.30PM

An interactive and  
informative talk by Jess  
Wood on traditional  
healing practices with  
items common to the  
Lochs landscape

- **Póroddur Bjarnason**, Professor, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Sociology, Anthropology and Folkloristics, Iceland
  - **Thomas Mogensen**, Director, Nalik Ventures, Greenland
  - **Johnny í Grótinum**, Economist, and Chair of Faroe Islands Economic Council
  - **Iain Maciver**, Crofting Commissioner and Stornoway Trust
  - **Hanna Jensen**, Member of Parliament, Faroe Islands
  - **Romi Schmitz**, Young entrepreneur, Iceland
  - **Aviaja Lennert Olsen**, Chair of Student Association, Greenland
  - **Natuk Lund Meire**, Permanent Secretary for the Department of Agriculture, Self-Sufficiency, Energy, and Environment, Greenland
  - **Dorsteinn Másson**, Managing Director, Blámi Energy Initiative, Iceland
  - **Laura Johanne Olsen**, Programme Leader for Green Islands Initiative, Lofoten Municipality, Norway
  - **Inga Burton**, Orkney Islands Council
  - **Calum Iain MacIver**, formerly Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
  - **Lesley Riddoch**, Journalist and Broadcaster, Scotland
- Tickets for the whole conference programme are already sold out, but it is





THE  
ISLANDS  
SCOTLAND ACT 2018  
ACHD  
NAN EILEAN  
ALBA 2018

# SCOTLAND'S NEW NATIONAL ISLANDS PLAN

Come and join the **open** conversation  
on the proposed priorities and direction  
of the new plan



## KINLOCH, ISLE OF LEWIS



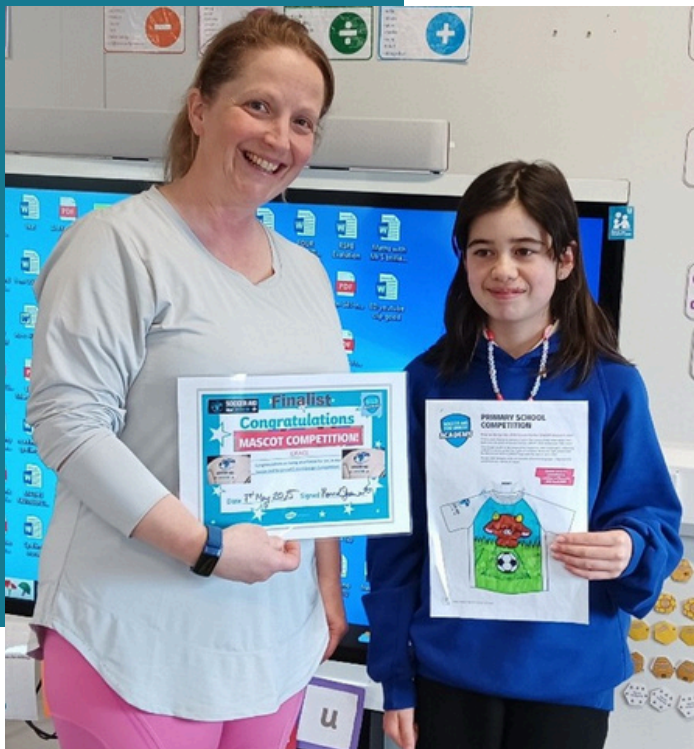
**22 May | 7–8:30pm**  
**Kinloch Community Centre**



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



[info@islandsteam.scot](mailto:info@islandsteam.scot)



## Soccer Aid

Grace Denny, from Sgoil na Pairc's P7 class, is a finalist in UNICEF's Soccer Aid design a t-shirt competition. Grace is photographed with Hannah Stewart, Education Attainment Apprentice, who launched the competition in the school.

Congratulations, Grace - and good luck!

still possible to book for individual sessions of the conference on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July and/or the Hebridean Cultural Excursion on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Do come along if you are interested. Details of prices and how to book places are at <https://islandsbooktrust.org/2025-conf> or contact John Randall at [john673randall@btinternet.com](mailto:john673randall@btinternet.com)

After Piotsa sold out over their first visit on the Easter weekend we're eagerly looking forward to seeing them again!

## Piotsa Return!

Ravenspoint are delighted to announce that Piotsa will be returning throughout the summer! They'll be serving wood-fired pizza on the following dates:

1. **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May**
2. **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June**
3. **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July**
4. **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August**

Details on ordering and payment will be released closer to the dates.

# PIOTSA





## Residential Trip To Fairbairn Activity Centre

Grace, P7

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April the P7's went to Fairbairn from Wednesday to Friday. There were 3 teachers with us and 12 children. It was 2 hours on the ferry and 1 hour on a bus. Once we got there the

instructors introduced themselves to us and showed us to our rooms to put our bags down since we would not be needing them for the activities we were doing. After we put our bags away the fire alarm went off as a practice, so we all had to go through the fire exit.

When everything got sorted out we started with the first activity which was orienteering. Some of us used just maps while others used maps as well as compasses. Soon after finishing with orienteering we split into 3 teams of 4 and built rafts and got onto them. Some fell off the rafts and struggled to get back on while others did not fall off, but everyone still got wet. On Thursday we got into teams of 2 and stacked crates on top of each other to see how high we could get. There were 25 crates in total however only 24 crates were used, due to the odd number. Next, we did Jacob's ladder. The ladder is between two tall trees with 10 slats which are quite far apart.

When we finished we did archery. We had to hold up the bows with one hand and make sure our arms are straight. On the last day we did paint ball. We got into teams of 6. Some of us hid while the others searched. At the end everyone was on their own for the last round. For the last activity we did the highland games. We threw a boot backwards into the air to see how far we could get it. After that we picked up

After that we picked up two buckets of sand and ran around cones to see how fast we could get them. Lastly, we did tug of war. We split back into teams of 6 and started. For the last round of tug of war all the children went up against the adults including the instructor, but the children won.

Fairbairn was really fun, and I hope more people have fun there as well.

## Book Reviews – The Boy, The Witch & The Queen of Scots

Olivia, P6

The book I will be reviewing is “The Boy, The Witch and The Queen Of Scots”.

‘The Boy the Witch and the Queen of Scots is such an interesting book. The book is about, 12-year-old Alexander Buchan from Strathbogie who had an order from the Earl Of Huntly saying he had to spy on the Queen after she came to Scotland all the way from France. Although Alexander wanted to spy on the Earl instead, and help Mary defeat him. The author of the book is called Barbara Henderson, and she has the same birthday as Mary Queen Of Scots!

In my opinion, I think that this book would be good for anyone, and I bet

everyone would like to read this. I love the book because, while I read it, I can imagine what is happening in my head. My favourite character is Lizzie because, she has her own unique personality, and she is always so confident in what she does.

I would definitely recommend “The Boy, The Witch and The Queen Of Scots” as when you read it, your head gets so sunk in, that you don’t even know what your supposed to be doing anymore! If I had to rate this book, I would give it 5 stars since I love to read it. “The Boy, The Witch and The Queen Of Scots” has a lot of interesting and amazing historical facts behind the whole story.

IT’S FANTASTIC!



## Leya, P6

'The Boy the Witch and Queen of Scots,' by Barbara Henderson.

This book has many chapters and pages therefore it is full of adventures. It has many characters, and they all have their own unique story; however, Alexander didn't have much of a story, he lived with his uncle who wasn't so rich. Although everything changes when he meets the Queen, he ends up being one of her falconers. However, while settling into his new room he meets a girl called Lizzie and they become friends. After a while he is called in by the Earl and he has been told to spy on the Queen and although he doesn't want to he agrees. However, he decides not to as it is treason.

I like this book because it has so much to it and its very fun to read. While you read you are waiting for something to happen, and you will be drawn in.

My favourite character is Lizzie because she is funny and she is always her own person, she is so confident and if she was real I think she would be so fun to be around. She's also a great friend to Alexander.

## Leisha, P5

The Boy the Witch and the Queen of Scots By Barbara Henderson.

This story is about a boy who had to spy on the Queen. Rather than saying

Then Alexander said 'Anywhere but the palace, not the palace,' because he didn't want to go back to the palace to spy on the Queen. He meets the Earl's spy and gets frightened, he asks, 'Who are you?' but the spy doesn't talk but threatens Alexander with a dagger on his throat.

I like the book because it is adventurous and fun to read and because it has so many pages.

My favourite character is 'The Cloak' because of how mysterious he is. I would recommend it to other people because it is really cool and because you can find really shocking parts in the whole book.

I would change the Earl of Huntly to be on the Queen's side. The book is for every age.

I would give this book 5/5 because it was so adventurous.



# Pairc & Kinloch Calendar

## Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May

- Kinloch Cafe Warm Hub (12-2pm)
- Traditional Healing Practices of the Highlands & Islands, Kinloch Hub (7:30pm)

## Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May

- Pairc Social Walk, Location TBC (11am)

## Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May

- Dance Class, Resource Centre (7pm)

## Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

- National Islands Plan consultation, Kinloch Hub (7-8:30pm)

## Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

- Kinloch Cafe Warm Hub (12-2pm)

## Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May

- Pairc Social Walk, Location TBC (11am)
- Piotsa @ Ravenspoint (times TBC)

## Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May

- Dance Class, Resource Centre (7pm)

## Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May

- Pairc Social Club lunch, Ravenspoint (1pm)
- **Glass waste** & **Household waste collection**

## Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

- Kinloch Cafe Warm Hub (12-2pm)

## Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May

- Pairc Social Walk, Location TBC (11am)

# What's on in Pairc?



## Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

- Dance Class, Resource Centre (7pm)

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June

- **Organic waste** & **mixed recycling collection**

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June

- Kinloch Cafe Warm Hub (12-2pm)

## Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June

- Dance Class, Resource Centre (7pm)

## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June

- Pairc Social Walk, Location TBC (11am)

## Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June

- Pairc Social Club lunch, Ravenspoint (1pm)

## Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June

- Kinloch Cafe Warm Hub (12-2pm)

## Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June

- Pairc Social Walk, Location TBC (11am)