

PAIRC NEWSLETTER

PAIRCTRUST.CO.UK



March 2026



Historic photo of Calbost

The Pairc Estate – March 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 the Trust's 2026 Annual General Meeting, assistance from the Trust's Community Benefit Fund for a portable defibrillator for Lochs Football Club, an excerpt from an upcoming Islands Book Trust release, and more news and events from across South Lochs & Kinloch.

Top News

The Pairc Trust AGM 2026

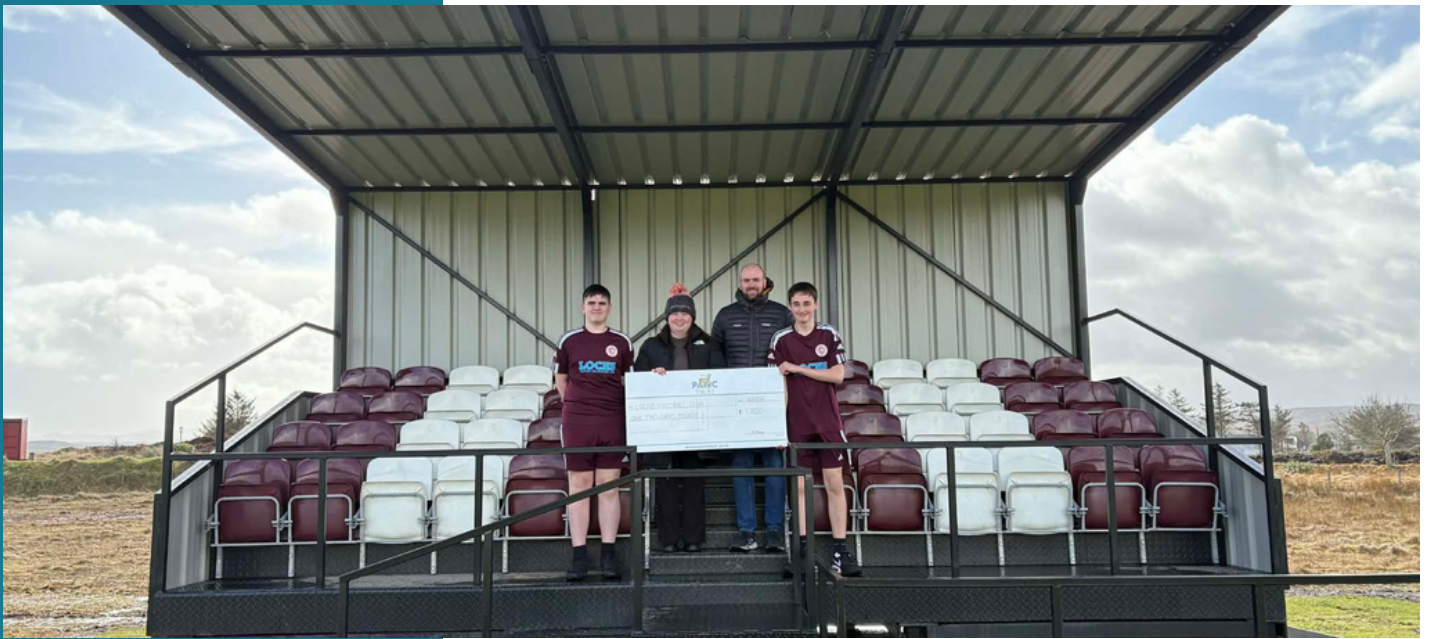
**Community Benefit Fund:
Lochs FC Portable
Defibrillator**

**Islands Book Trust
Excerpt: 'Our New
Crofting Life'**

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

01/22



The Pairc Trust Community Benefit Fund: Lochs FC Portable Defibrillator

The Pairc Trust is delighted to award Lochs Football Club £1,000 from The Pairc Trust Community Benefit Fund, delivered in collaboration with Mowi Scotland, to support the purchase of a portable defibrillator. The funding will allow Lochs FC to purchase the equipment as soon as possible, ensuring it is available for the upcoming season. This will significantly enhance emergency preparedness at matches, training sessions, and community events, offering vital reassurance to players, volunteers, families, and spectators across Lochs and throughout the Western Isles.

As Lochs FC regularly competes across the islands, having a portable defibrillator ensures that lifesaving assistance can be delivered quickly wherever the team is playing. Emma Mackenzie, Estate Manager at The Pairc Trust, said: “We are delighted to help Lochs FC secure this

lifesaving piece of equipment. A portable defibrillator is something you hope never has to be used, but having one available brings enormous reassurance to everyone involved with the club. Supporting projects like this is central to the purpose of the Community Benefit Fund, and we are pleased to help the club strengthen its emergency preparedness and contribute to a safer environment for the whole community.”

Lyndsay Montgomery, Chair of Lochs FC, said: “We are incredibly grateful to The Pairc Trust for helping us secure this vital piece of equipment. Having a portable defibrillator available at all our games and training sessions gives real peace of mind to players, volunteers, and supporters. We hope this encourages other clubs to consider investing in these lifesaving devices too.”



Pairc Landscape Project: New Place Event

On Saturday 21st March, the Pairc Trust will be hosting New Place, the final event of the Pairc Landscape Project, funded by NatureScot, at The Resource Centre from 12pm-3pm.

There will be the first screening of the Changing Place video, created with pupils from Sgoil na Pairc (with Climate Hebrides). We will announce the winners of the Historic Place Then/Now Photography Competition, as well as other prizes and awards being handed out. The Craft Club have produced a tapestry to illustrate the landscape of Pairc and the key landmarks/sites of interest around Pairc. This will be unveiled as well as other pieces of artwork created at the Inspiring Place workshops held by local artist Emma Mackenzie. A booklet

will be handed out to commemorate the project. If you have been involved/attended any of the events we would love to see you there!

Tigh Ceilidh Renovation Work Progresses

Works on the Pairc Trust's renovation of the Tigh Ceilidh in Gravir, transforming the empty property into a family home, are progressing very well. Alex Murray Construction have now completed the full internal strip-out of the property, clearing the way for the main phase of redevelopment. Some major structural elements, including the trusses for the new roof, have already been delivered to site.

It is encouraging to see the project moving forward at pace, and we look forward to sharing further updates as the redevelopment continues to take shape.



Deer & Goose Management

Deer culling across the Pairc Estate has concluded for the time being, with the open season for hinds now closed as of 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, 19 hinds, and 8 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.

The Pairc Trust AGM 2026

The Pairc Trust are pleased to announce that our Annual General Meeting for 2026 will be held on **Tuesday 31st March** at the **Resource Centre, Kershader, starting at 7:30pm.**

The meeting will be available to join via Microsoft Teams, please email info@pairctrust.co.uk by Monday 23rd March for further details.

We currently have 5 elected Directors. Our articles state that up to 10 individuals may be elected as Directors at a General Meeting. As such, there are 5 vacancies for elected Directors on the Board. We would encourage members with particular skills that would be useful to



the Trust's aims to consider putting themselves forward for nomination to work on the Board of our community owned estate. Director nomination forms are available via our website at <https://www.pairctrust.co.uk/our-trust>.

We also ask that you submit a typed candidate statement (up to 250 words) along with your form. Please ensure that we receive this by 4pm on Monday 23rd March.

The AGM will include reports by the Chairman and the Pairc Trust accountants CIB Services. Also, an update on recent estate developments will be reported. Financial accounts for the year to 31st March 2025 will be made available for the meeting and online via: <https://www.pairctrust.co.uk/agm>. We are also delighted to report that Donna Smith, CEO of the Scottish Crofting Federation, will be our guest speaker for this year's meeting.

All members of the Pairc Trust are

are encouraged to attend this Annual General Meeting. If you are aware of any residents or crofters in Pairc who are not yet members of the Trust, please encourage them to join. A membership form can be collected from the Trust office and is available from our website at <https://www.pairctrust.co.uk/our-trust>.

We ask that you notify us of your attendance/apologies no later than Monday 23rd March. We look forward to having your attendance at this year's AGM.

'Our New Crofting Life' – Islands Book Trust Extract

'Our New Crofting Life', by Isabella De Santis and David Bartles-Smith, will be published by the Islands Book Trust and launched at the Resource Centre, Kershader, on Saturday 27th June.

It was a dreich late summer night as our car limped into a layby on the A9, high up on the Drumochter pass in the Scottish Highlands. Thoughts of past travels through this landscape were not far away as many times we had previously made this drive heading to climbing adventures amongst the Cairngorm corries. Now however we were set to pass by those looming hills as we headed further North and then West. Our car, a recently purchased pick-up was dragging our twenty-foot caravan, sheep hurdles, wind turbine, solar panels and a whole list of 'must haves' for our new adventure on a



remote croft on the Isle of Lewis.

We had been preparing and planning for this first part of our move for almost two years and now it all seemed ready to fall apart. The dogs, Lhotse and Pixie, rose from their slumber as the stress started to overtake us. The ferry was to depart Ullapool in ten hours and now steam was belching from under the bonnet and scary red lights lit up the dashboard. Our stress levels had risen in time with the temperature gauge and now it appeared to be ominously stuck in the red.

Our friend Morné was hitching a lift with his mountain bike to ride the islands whilst we were to spend a few days setting up the caravan on the croft, secure it, raise the turbine and get our off-grid plans working and generally make it home before our final move in November. Thoughts of our finely tuned plan and timeline being disrupted were almost too much to bear, but Morné has a knack of

making calm out of a crisis. Something we have grown to learn well over these past two years since, and we soon got into a better frame of mind once the happy gang of lads from the breakdown company arrived to help us out. We had not expected our breakdown call to be met with such swiftness. Miles from anywhere in the early hours we got the dreaded look and 'tut tut' but sandwiched with a real sense of can-do. 'Think the head's gone but keep the water topped up and you can make it'. 'To Lewis?' we asked. 'Aye'.

That was good enough for us and no sooner had we lurched to a halt we were on our way again. Izzy cuddled the dogs. David drove slowly and carefully, whilst Morné watched the temperature gauge. The long downhill into the Spey valley felt good and even the climb up from Inverness towards Ullapool showed no problems. Maybe we will make it. We parked up and grabbed a couple of hours sleep in a layby then joyfully swept into Ullapool well in time for the afternoon ferry. Whatever happens, we thought, at least we will get the caravan to Lewis. Even a minor prang with an expensive Jaguar sports car, carelessly parked on the main road, failed to impede our upbeat feeling. The driver was understandably irate, but nothing was going to stop our wagon train now.

Boarding the ferry was complete and we soon sailed. Stornoway beckoned dark and cool and we waved Morné goodbye with a plan to welcome him to the croft in a week's time and we started the drive to



Lemreway. The drive takes about an hour, and we would be leaving the main roads for single track roads for the last few miles, hopeful that we would meet few other cars as our long 'train' snaked its way along the winding Pairc roads to our destination. The sense of joy and apprehension was overwhelming. The changes we had embarked on in our lives were immense and these were the first actual steps we were taking.

Suddenly gloom enveloped us once more. The red light flashed, and the temperature gauge rushed to the right. A sudden swing into a layby brought concern and worry for both of us. We quickly scrabbled amongst the back seat detritus of our long drive from Durham to find a full bottle of water. This would have to do. We waited an hour for the coolant to cool and then after carefully topping up, slammed the bonnet shut and turned the key. Temperature OK and good to go.

For how long though, we both silently worried, trying to support each other with distracting chat.

Five miles was the best we managed and so the night, now breezy and cool, looked on as we sat in silence yet again, letting the engine cool and feeding it water, leapfrogging our way to Lemreway. In the early hours we eventually swung around the hill above the village and descended steeply around the bends and crept unseen, quietly into Croft Seventeen. No one would see us as, happily and with some huge relief, we landed at our new home. We briefly slept. Darkness soon turned to twilight and the day dawned. Our first day on our croft.

Lochs FC Relay Fundraiser & New Stand

Lochs FC have launched a pre-season fundraiser to raise money towards the club's running costs for the season, such as pitch maintenance, medical supplies, and referee fees. The team will be running a 30-mile relay on 28th March, running a route to and from the Creagan Dubh around the Ranish circular six times.

The team are also generously splitting all funds raised with the Erisort Trust & Aline Woodland crowdfunder for a new specialist wheelchair for Pebbles Sawyer.

Donations can be made to Lochs FC via <https://shorturl.at/4MdXq>. The crowdfunder for Pebbles' new wheelchair can be found at:



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

Lochs FC were also delighted to announce that the new stand at the Creagan Dubh has been erected and is ready for use. The new stand was funded via a combination of Crown Estates and Community Led Local Development funding.

In addition to the above, the team saw success with a 1-2 away victory over Carlaway on Saturday 14th March in a pre-season friendly - a promising start for the season ahead!

Erisort Trust Fundraiser

An amazing Table Top event on Saturday 14th March organised by Jill Ireland raised the huge sum of £836. A huge thanks to everyone who contributed baking, an incredible array of over 90 tombola prizes. Several tables of bric a brac were also very popular and a new experience locally. Thanks to Flora Ann for getting the tombola

sorted and to Audrey for the teas and coffees. Thanks to Sasha for organising the home baking table and to Francis and Lesley for all their help.

Thanks for all the baking from Christina, Sasha, Maxine, Lana, Angela and all the others who dropped off baking throughout the day. Thanks also to Pairc Free Church for the use of the hall and finally a huge thank you to Jill for organising this amazing community supported event. To all those who tidied the hall after the event sincere thanks as well.

Erisort Trust will soon be announcing a raffle with some of the amazing raffle prizes already donated by individuals and local companies so there will be plenty opportunities to buy tickets over the next few weeks.

All of this is in support of local fundraiser for Pebbles Sawyers's wheelchair fund. https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/gr/7nPr8del?utm_campaign=sharemodal&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=shortlink





Inspiring Place Art Workshop

Leya, P7

On Thursday the 9th of February we did an art workshop with local artist Emma Mackenzie and the Pairc Trust. The theme was 'Inspiring Places' and we were representing our local environment.

The art technique we used was called block printing. We used fabric and chose an outside area, and we painted over things like grass, gravel, and patterns on the ground. We also used natural materials such as flowers, moss, trees, leaves and painted them. After that we used rollers and rolled them over to make the pattern on the fabric.

When we had all finished painting our plants and patterns, we used glue to stick

them on to the sheet of fabric at the end which was to be the tapestry. Emma Mackenzie said she would stitch them properly and would show us it when it was done.

We look forward to seeing the finished product.

Bikeability Training

Leisha, P6

On Monday 2nd of March Jenna Macleod, Active Schools Co-Ordinator, came to our school and did bikeability training with Callie, Olivia, Leya and me. Callie knew how to ride a bike but the rest of us didn't. However, after a while Leya learned to ride a bike. Olivia and I were still learning. She told us that we would be allowed to train every day if the teachers allowed us



to. The day after she left, I got on my bike, and I pushed my foot off the ground and started to ride, and I was so happy I was in shock. I tried again and that time I managed to do it I rode on my bike. I hopped off my bike and went to the teacher. I told the teacher and she was so happy for me.

After that day I went on my bike every day until I got really good, I could go so fast. The next day, Olivia started riding her bike. I was so happy for her I rode to her and said, 'Well-done Olivia.'

In April Jenna is coming back to do our Bikeability Level 1 assessment.

Sgoil nan Loch Science Workshop

Olivia, P7

On Thursday 5th March 2026 Pairc School pupils went to Sgoil Nan Loch for a Science workshop organised by Skills

Share Scotland!

First, we went to our tables, and we were greeted by the two presenters called Tim and Moray. Then, we all talked about where we got our electricity from, we suggested solar panels and wind turbines.

After a while, they demonstrated how to make different things using circuits and components we were to be working with.

After that, we got to try the challenges such as creating police sirens, alarm clock buzzing sounds, and car indicator lights. It was quite hard but really fun! We all worked in teams of four, helping each other in difficult parts.

We enjoyed the day and it was really fascinating!



World Book Day

Olivia, P7

On Friday the 6th of March, it was World Book Day, usually we all dress up as our favourite character from a book and have to share it and tell a bit about the story. However, only four of us were in school because the others were ill. So, we told everyone what our book was and what character we were, Olivia was Chloe from 'Dorks Dairy,' Tianna was Flora from 'Rory the Snack Dragon,' Phoebe was

Mildred Hubble from 'The Worst Witch,' and Callie was Roxxie from 'Bratz.' Mrs. Nicolson was Bo-peep and Mrs. Finnegan was Harry Potter.

Then we all watched a video on the World Book Day site about the play 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' in the Palace Theatre in London. We got to meet all the amazing people behind the magic, and we got to meet the cast as well as the people who did all the special effects.

After that we all took a group photo. We all enjoyed the day.



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





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



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

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*

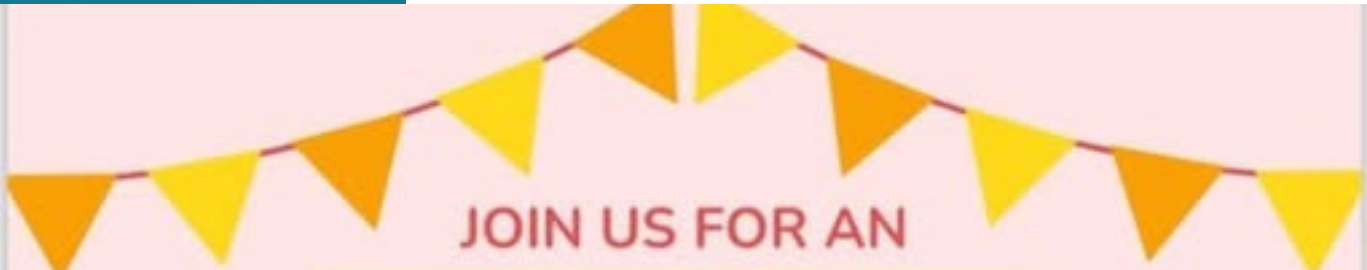




**Paire School
Soup & Pudding
Lunch**



**12.30-2pm
Wednesday 25th
March**



JOIN US FOR AN

Easter Fayre

Light Lunch

Entry
Adults £5
School age children £1

Baking sales table

Tombola

Raffle

Easter egg hunt



Balallan Hall
Saturday 28th March
1pm-3pm





Annual General Meeting

TUESDAY 31ST MARCH

7:30PM

THE RESOURCE CENTRE, KERSHADER, HS2 9QA

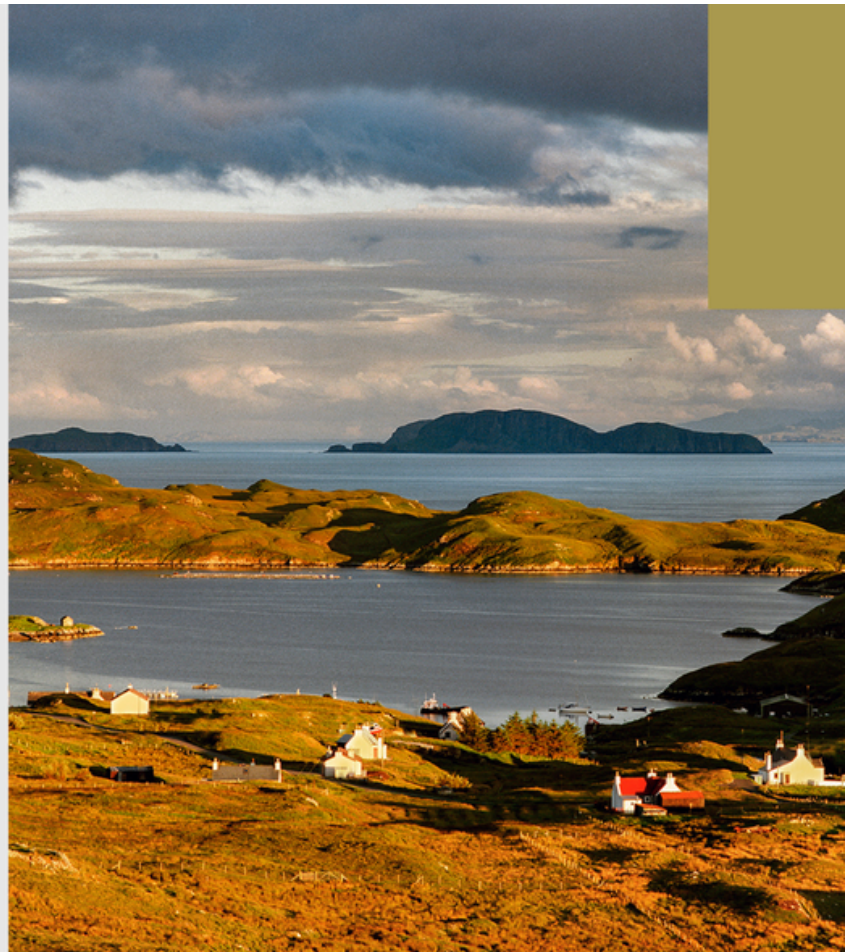
*The Pairc Trust would like to invite you to join us for our Annual General Meeting which will be held at **The Resource Centre, Kershader**, as well as via online video call link, on **Tuesday 31st March at 7:30pm.***

Membership

All members of the Pairc Trust are encouraged to attend. If you are not a member but would like to join, a membership form can be collected from our office at the Resource Centre.

We look forward to having your attendance at this year's AGM!

✉ info@pairctrust.co.uk



Guest Speaker

In addition to AGM business, our guest speaker this year will be **Donna Smith**, CEO of the **Scottish Crofting Federation**.

Online Attendance

If you would like to attend the AGM via Microsoft Teams, please contact the Trust via email at info@pairctrust.co.uk by **Monday 23rd March** for further details.

Director Nomination

We would encourage members with particular skills that would be useful to the Trust's aims to consider putting themselves forward for nomination to work on the board of our community-owned estate. If you are interested in becoming a director please get in touch. A director nomination form can be collected from our office.

☎ 01851 800 728

🌐 www.pairctrust.co.uk



**Alzheimer
Scotland**
Action on Dementia

Lochs Forget Me Not

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!

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

When?

8th April 2026
2pm – 4pm

Where?

The Resource Centre,
Kershader, South Lochs

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. Recognized 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

For More Information:

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

Dementia Friendly and Inclusive!



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)

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)

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)
- Tourism Group Meeting, Resource Centre (6-8pm)

What's on in Pairc?



Wednesday 25th March

- **Organic & mixed recycling collection**
- Soup & Pudding Lunch, Sgoil na Pairc (12:30-2pm)

Saturday 28th March

- Easter Fayre, Balallan Hall (1-3pm)

Tuesday 31st March

- Pairc Trust AGM, Resource Centre (7:30pm)

Wednesday 8th April

- **Household waste collection**
- Forget Me Not event, Resource Centre (2-4pm)