

PAIRC NEWSLETTER

PAIRCTRUST.CO.UK



January 2026



Historic photo of Lemreway

The Pairc Estate – January 2026

Happy New Year!

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 an exciting update on our project to renovate the Tigh Ceilidh in Gravir, further plans for deer & goose management on the Estate, updates from the Islands Book Trust, Aline Community Woodland, and Muaitheabhal Community Windfarm Trust, and more news and events from across South Lochs & Kinloch.

Top News

**Tigh Ceilidh, Gravir,
Housing Update**

**Islands Book Trust &
MCWFT Updates**

**Small Grants Funding
Available from Pairc Area
Forum**

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



Tigh Ceilidh Renovation Update

The Pairc Trust working in partnership with Tighean Innse Gall (TIG) is delighted to announce that full funding has now been secured for the Tigh Ceilidh Renovation and Extension Project in Gravir, a housing project that will bring a long-vacant property back into use as a high-quality, energy-efficient family home offered at social rent levels. This marks a significant milestone in the Trust's ongoing work to address the shortage of affordable housing in the Pairc area and to support the long-term sustainability of the community.

The property, purchased by The Pairc Trust from Pairc Community Council in 2023, will be transformed into a 3-bedroom, 6-person family home, with a downstairs bedroom, bathroom, living space and kitchen area, and two further bedrooms upstairs. The renovation will prioritise energy efficiency, including the

of an air source heat pump and improved insulation, helping to reduce fuel poverty and ensure long-term affordability for the future tenant.

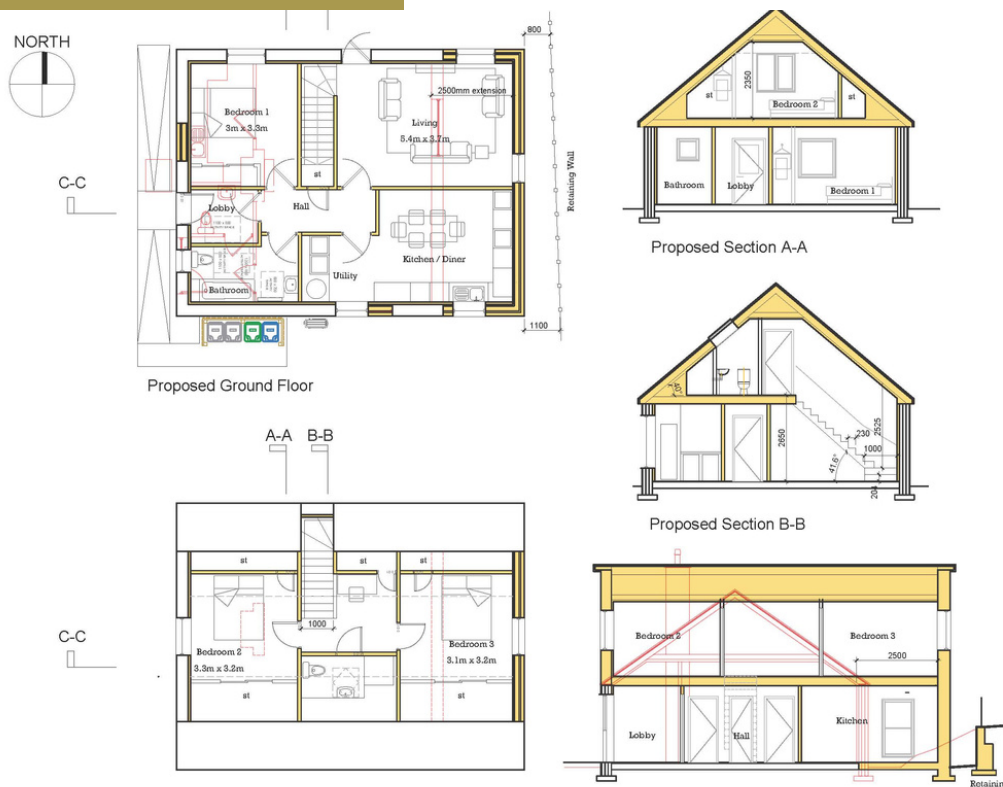
The Trust is pleased to confirm that Alex Murray Construction (AMC) has been formally appointed as the project contractor following a competitive tender process. Construction is scheduled to begin shortly, with completion expected in October 2026. This milestone marks the beginning of the construction phase of a project that will help address long-standing housing challenges in the Pairc area, support population retention, and strengthen the sustainability of local services including Sgoil na Pairc, Gravir surgery, and other community facilities.

This development builds on the Trust's successful renovation of the former Gravir Care Unit in 2019, which created two affordable homes. The Tigh Ceilidh project represents the next step in expanding the Trust's community-owned housing portfolio and strengthening the resilience of the Pairc Estate.

The Pairc Trust extends its sincere thanks to all funders who have recognised the importance of this project for the future of Pairc. The Tigh Ceilidh development has been funded by:

- Rural and Islands Housing Fund
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Muaitheabhal Community Trust
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
- Community Led Local Development
- Western Isles Development Trust

The Trust has also contributed over



REV	REVISION/NOTES	DATE	INITIALS
1	ISSUED FOR TENDER	10/01/2020	TTG
CLIENT:	Tighean Inne Gall		
PROJECT:	Gravir Tigh Ceilidh		
FILE:	Proposed Plans		

£17,000 of its own unrestricted funds towards the purchase, feasibility work, and legal costs associated with the project, demonstrating its commitment to the long-term future of the community.

Emma Mackenzie, Estate Manager of The Pairc Trust, said:

“We are delighted to have secured the full funding for the Tigh Ceilidh project. This is a major achievement for the Pairc community and a significant step forward in addressing the long-standing housing challenges in Pairc. We are also delighted to have kept our word in delivering a much-needed 3-bedroom family home for the community, a commitment that has taken time, perseverance, and careful redesign to ensure we got it right. This development will provide a warm, energy-efficient and genuinely affordable home for a local

local family, helping to stabilise our population and support essential services such as Sgoil na Pairc.

The project continues the momentum from the Gravir Care Unit renovations in 2019 and reflects our commitment to revitalising local infrastructure, supporting families to remain in the area, and ensuring that Pairc continues to thrive for generations to come. We are extremely grateful to all our funders for their support and belief in this project and look forward to working with AMC as the renovations progress.”



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.

We also request that residents be mindful of deer while driving, as they are especially active in darkness. If you are involved in a collision with a deer, even in minor cases where the animal appears unharmed and leaves the scene, please contact Stornoway police station with the location and time of the collision and they will pass this on to a competent person in the local area to monitor the deer's welfare.

In addition to deer management, the Pairc Trust is also requesting information from crofters across the Estate 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.

A poster for 'Inspiring Place Art Workshops' featuring a background image of a landscape with water and hills. The text is overlaid in various colors and fonts. At the top, 'Inspiring Place Art' is in large blue letters, followed by 'Workshops' in white. Below that, 'with Emma Mackenzie' is in blue. To the right, 'Part of the Pairc Landscape Project' is in white. In the center, 'Try out' is in white, followed by a list of activities: 'Batik', 'Stitching & Embroidery', 'Dyes & Printing', and 'Monoprinting'. The workshop dates are listed in two sections: 'Workshop 1: Tuesday 10th February & Wednesday 11th February - 7-9pm' and 'Workshop 2: Tuesday 24th February & Thursday 26th February - 7-9pm'. At the bottom, it says 'To book please email: catherine.muir@pairctrust.co.uk' and 'Join us at the Resource Centre, Kershader'. A note says '*Wear clothing you don't mind getting messy!'. Logos for 'NatureScot NàdarAlba' and 'the PAIRC TRUST' are at the bottom.

We look forward to bringing you more information soon!

Inspiring Place Art Workshop

Join us for *Inspiring Place*, an art workshop capturing the inspiring scenery of Pairc as part of the Pairc Landscape Project funded by NatureScot. Emma Mackenzie, a local artist from Pairc, will be guiding participants in the unique batik method of 'wax resist', where tjanting tools (pen-like tools that hold hot wax) are used to 'write with wax' on fabric and then paints and dyes are laid on top to create unique artwork. Added elements such as stitching, embroidery and collage can also be incorporated. Every participant will create their own distinctive piece of artwork that has been inspired by their individual responses to the landscape around them.

Each workshop consists of two sessions lasting around 2 hours. The first workshop sessions will be held on Tuesday 10th February and Wednesday 11th February from 7-9pm. The second workshop will be held on Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th February from 7-9pm. No experience is necessary and materials will be provided. Please make sure you wear clothes that you are not afraid to get messy!

To book, please contact Catherine at catherine.muir@pairctrust.co.uk

Pairc Trust Strategic Plan

The Pairc Trust has been developing a 10-year strategic plan to guide our future efforts and projects in South Lochs as we aim to combat depopulation, protect the natural environment, and promote opportunity and development in Pairc.

We plan to hold community consultation events in early Spring where the community and Trust membership can give their thoughts on what they'd like to see prioritised and areas where the Trust can aid in enhancing the social, cultural, and economic spheres in South Lochs.



Islands Book Trust 2026 Programme

The Islands Book Trust has announced its programme of events and publications for the year ahead.

Several are of direct interest to Pairc, for example:

- Talk and visit to Eilean Chaluim Chille at Crobeg planned for Saturday 13th June.
- Boat trip to Swordale from Keose on Saturday 15th August.
- Book 'Between the Echoes' by Angus Macmillan (ex-Lemreway) to be launched in late April/early May.
- Book 'Our New Crofting Life' by Izzy De Santis and David Bartles-Smith (17/18 Lemreway) to be launched in May/June.

Note that some dates are provisional

keep an eye on www.islandsbooktrust.org for details as they become available.

MCWFT Carer Grant Funding

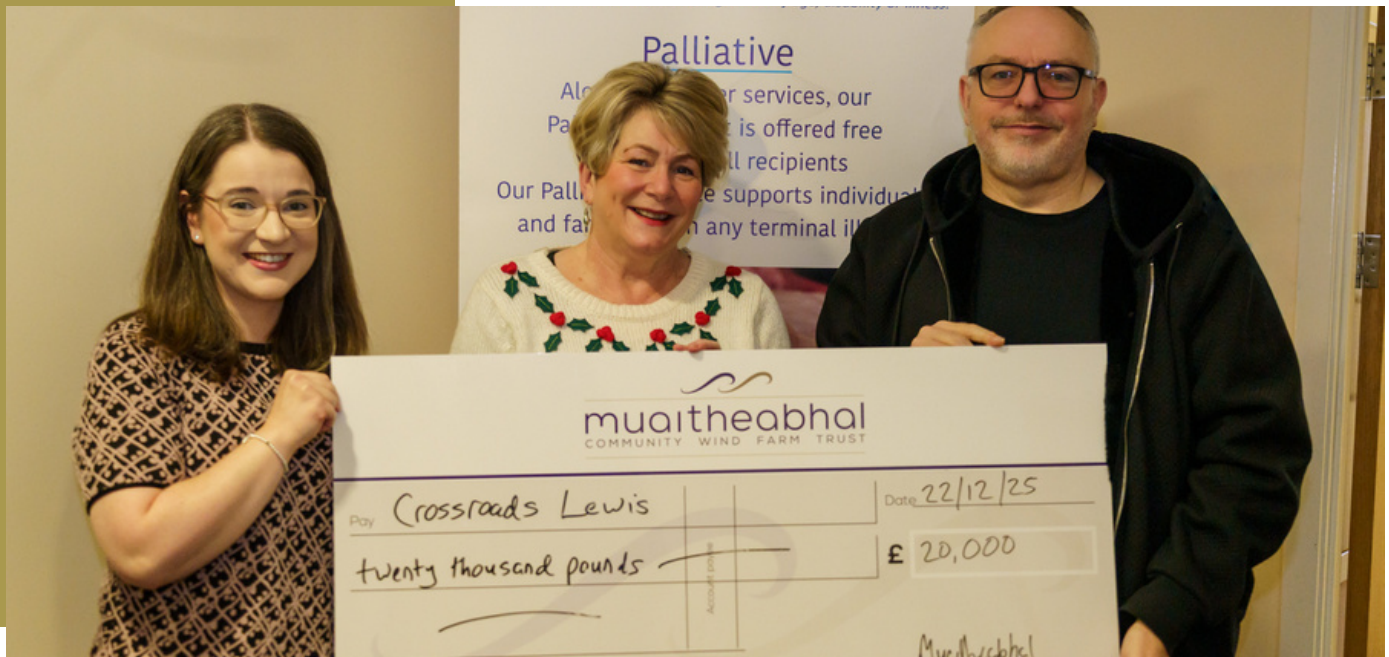
Muaitheabhal Community Trust Awards £20,000 Grant to Support Vital Carer Services in Rural Lewis Communities.

Trust funding will enhance respite care services for unpaid carers in Kinloch, Pairc, and North Lochs.

Muaitheabhal Community Trust is pleased to announce the award of a £20,000 grant to Crossroads Lewis, a vital organization providing essential respite care services to unpaid carers across the Isle of Lewis. This significant funding will specifically support families and carers living in the communities of Kinloch, Pairc, and North Lochs, helping to sustain and expand crucial support services in these areas.

The grant represents a major investment in community care infrastructure, enabling Crossroads Lewis to maintain current service levels while working to address the growing demand for support among unpaid carers in these remote communities. The funding comes at a critical time when many families are struggling to access the respite care services they desperately need.

Crossroads Lewis provides essential respite care services that give unpaid carers – often family members caring for loved ones with disabilities, chronic



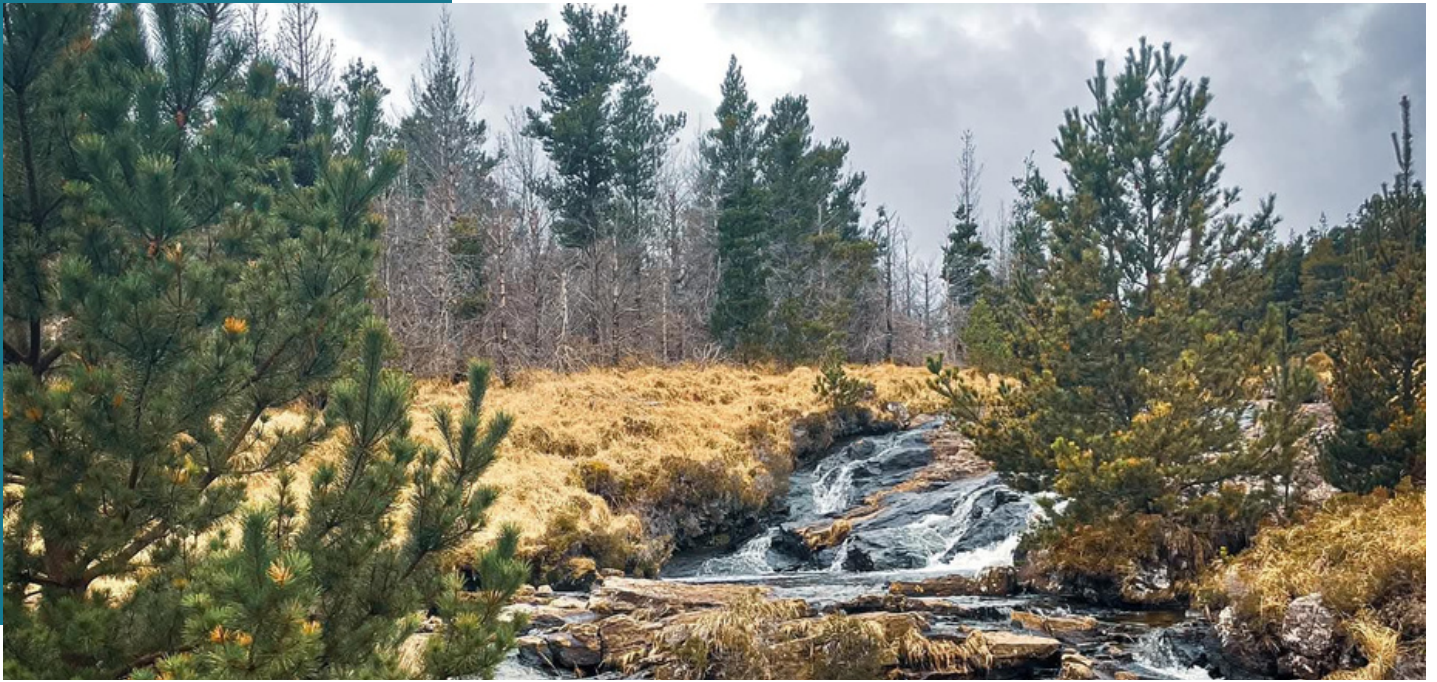
illnesses, or age-related conditions – the opportunity to take breaks from their caring responsibilities. These services are particularly vital in rural communities where access to support can be limited due to geographic isolation and resource constraints.

Lorna Morrison of Crossroads Lewis expressed her gratitude for the Trust's support: "We are incredibly grateful to the Muaitheabhal Community Trust for this funding, which recognises the vital role unpaid carers play in our communities. The grant will be used to help our service sustain the current level of respite within the area, ensuring that unpaid carers continue to have vital opportunities for rest and support. In addition, the funding will allow us to begin addressing the growing waiting list, reaching more families who urgently need support. This support from the trust is more than financial, it is a commitment to valuing unpaid carers and will make a real difference for families."

The Muaitheabhal Community Trust was established to support projects and initiatives that benefit local communities across the Isle of Lewis, with a particular focus on addressing the unique challenges faced by the rural and remote areas of Pairc, Kinloch, North Lochs and North Harris. This grant award reflects the Trust's commitment to supporting essential services that enhance quality of life for island residents.

Unpaid carers provide an estimated £193 billion worth of care annually across the UK, yet many receive little support in their caring roles. Services like those provided by Crossroads Lewis are essential in ensuring these dedicated individuals receive the breaks and support they need to maintain their own wellbeing while continuing to care for their loved ones.

The grant will enable Crossroads Lewis to expand its reach in the targeted communities of Kinloch, Pairc, and North Lochs, areas where geographic isolation



can make accessing support services particularly challenging. By focusing resources on these communities, the funding will help ensure that rural carers have equitable access to vital respite services.

About Muaitheabhal Community Trust:

Muaitheabhal Community Trust is dedicated to supporting projects and initiatives that benefit communities across the Isle of Lewis, with particular attention to the needs of rural and remote areas. The Trust focuses on funding projects that enhance community wellbeing, support vulnerable populations, and strengthen local infrastructure.

About Crossroads Lewis: Crossroads

Lewis provides essential respite care services to unpaid carers across the Isle of Lewis. The organization is committed to supporting carers by providing professional, reliable respite care that enables them to take breaks from their

caring responsibilities while ensuring their loved ones receive quality care.

Aline Community Woodland – Ten Year Strategy

Over recent months a group of volunteers have been meeting to develop a ten year plan for the Aline Community Woodland. Picking up from the long-term leadership of Donnie Morrison and Angus McDowall, the plan aims to continue to restore the health and biodiversity of the woodland and encourage the addition and development of woodland-based amenities that will enhance its already established position as a major outdoor attraction for residents and visitors alike.

There is already a group of enthusiastic volunteers who work every week to maintain and develop the resources of the wood and the new plan and team managing this will ensure this work is supported and enabled.



Vision Statement

“To maintain a healthy woodland that provides year round amenity provision and economic value and wellbeing for the communities of Lewis and Harris and visitors to the island’.”

Aims

- To enable the woodland to diversify its tree species base, adopt island provenance and to increase its bio diverse habitat value and to diversify economic outcomes.
- To model and educate future woodland creation and maintenance and reciprocal support on similar island settings.
- To provide opportunities to promote the health and wellbeing of island residents and visitors.
- To contribute to the promotion of opportunities for economic development, specifically the creation of jobs and the support of small woodland based enterprises.

- To ensure the economic and social sustainability of the woodland by exploring and developing potential collaborations with existing Island organisations such as Islands Deal, NHS, CnES, Tourism promoters.

Objectives

Aligning with our vision and core aims the objectives of Aline community woodland fall into three key work streams:

- Woodland management and access infrastructure – looking after the woodland.
- Amenity development – developing resources and attractions for visitors.
- Community action – looking after and enabling our band of volunteers.

Each of these workstreams have an objective list and need your help.

If you can offer some time or would like to know more please get in touch via info@alinewoodland.org

Inspiring Place Art

Workshops

with Emma Mackenzie

Part of the Pairc
Landscape Project

Try out

Batik

Stitching & Embroidery

Dyes & Printing

Monoprinting

Workshop 1: Tuesday 10th February &
Wednesday 11th February - 7-9pm

Workshop 2: Tuesday 24th February
& Thursday 26th February - 7-9pm

To book please email: catherine.muir@pairetrust.co.uk

Join us at the Resource Centre, Kershader

*Wear clothing you don't mind getting messy!



Lochs Community Drop-in Events

Pop in to find out more and give your feedback for our community plans and local place plan.

Wednesday 11th February:

North Lochs Community Centre, 2-8pm

Arts and crafts for children after school

Tea and cakes

Thursday 12th February:

Gravir, location tbc, 2-4pm

Ravenspoint, 5.30-8pm

Tea and cakes

Friday 13th February:

Kinloch Community Hub café, 10am-2pm

Tea and cakes





💡 SMALL PROJECTS FUND – NOW OPEN 💡

How could your group or organisation use up to £1,000?

The Pairc Area Forum has £3,000 available to support local community projects.

- ✓ Fully fund a purchase
- ✓ Pay for a service
- ✓ Use as match funding for a larger project

The possibilities are endless – and we want to hear from you!

📧 For more information and an application form:

Contact Angus Nicolson

✉️ angu29a@hotmail.co.uk

🕒 Closing date:

Friday 30 January, 5pm

Please share with any local groups who might benefit 🙌



THE KINLOCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY REQUEST THE
PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY FOR

LATHA NA BAINNSE

A CELEBRATION OF WEDDINGS
THROUGH THE YEARS

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY

14

AT 12 NOON

Kinloch Community Hub
Balallan
Isle of Lewis

RSVP

gemma@kinlochhistoricalsociety.co.uk

KINLOCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS EXHIBITION

AN EXHIBITION CELEBRATING THE
HISTORY OF THE SEAFORTH
HIGHLANDER REGIMENT



Kinloch Community Hub
Monday - Friday
10am - 4pm

Scottish Charity Number: SC006858





WE'RE UPGRADING YOUR LOCAL NETWORK

From **February 2026**, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks will be carrying out an essential upgrade of the local distribution network by replacing a submarine cable across Loch Erisort, connecting Laxay to Kershader.

Our team will begin preparations on site from early February, and the replacement submarine electrical cable will be installed and energised by Summer 2026 ensuring security of supply for local communities.

COME ALONG AND MEET THE TEAM

If you would like to find out more about the project, come along to our Community Information Event:

**Tuesday 3rd February
2.00 pm – 7.00 pm**

**The Resource Centre
Kershader
Isle of Lewis
HS2 9QA**

CONTACT US



Website
projects.ssen.co.uk



Email
submarinecables@sse.com



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

working with



MALCIVILS

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

Horticultural workshops 44 Ranish

Funded and supported by Climate Hebrides, Ideas in to action Fund!

Whole day workshops with **Lunch provided.**

Workshop one Date: 17th January 9.00-15.00

Croft/ Garden Planning horticultural focus

- Overall site planning
- Dealing with the climate and adding biodiversity
 - Budgeting and working with grants
 - On site tour of 44 Ranish
- Group support and ideas for you own projects

Workshop two Date: 24th January 9.00-15.00

Produce planning and spring planting

- Equipment and tools
- Transplanting and direct sowing
 - Crop planning and rotation
- Propagation and transplanting practical session
- Group practical discussion time planning crops that work for you

Workshop three Date: 31st January 9.00-15.00

Soil preparation, health and composting

- Looking after soil
- How to make compost
- Building permeant beds and garden layout
- Group practical session making compost
- Group discussion time planning your own garden layout and bed design

Cost Per workshop £50

Location Address: 44 Ranish, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9NN

Sign Up: please email johnhamilton573@gmail.com

Limited spaces available so please sign up soon!



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 24th January

- 44 Ranish Horticultural Workshop (9am-3pm)

Saturday 31st January

- 44 Ranish Horticultural Workshop (9am-3pm)

Tuesday 3rd February

- SSSEN Consultation Event, Resource Centre (2-7pm)

Wednesday 4th February

- **Household waste collection**

Tuesday 10th February

- Inspiring Place Art Workshop, Resource Centre (6-8pm)

What's on in Pairc?



Wednesday 11th February

- **Organic waste & mixed recycling collection**
- Local Place Plan Community Drop-In, North Lochs Community Centre (2-8pm)
- Inspiring Place Art Workshop, Resource Centre (7-9pm)

Thursday 12th February

- Local Place Plan Community Drop-In
 - Gravir, location TBC (2-4pm)
 - Ravenspoint (5:30-8pm)

Friday 13th February

- Local Place Plan Community Drop-In, Kinloch Hub (10am-2pm)

Saturday 14th February

- Latha na Bainnse, Kinloch Hub (12pm)

Tuesday 24th February

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

Thursday 26th February

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

Saturday 28th February

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