PAIRC NEWSLETTER

PAIRCTRUST.CO.UK

the PAIRC TRUST

November 2026



The Pairc Estate - November 2026

Welcome to the November edition of the Pairc Newsletter, bringing you news and community updates from across Lochs.

The Pairc Trust are pleased to bring you news of this year's Made in Pairc Christmas Craft Fair, updates on the Tigh Ceilidh redevelopment project, information on a Pairc Trust rental property in Gravir which is available to let, a touching story of someone reconnecting with their heritage while visiting from abroad, and more.

Top News

Made in Pairc Christmas Craft Fair

Tigh Ceilidh Nearing Completion

6 Carn Aonghais - Rental Property Available

Submit & Subscribe

If there is anything that you would 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 Nearing Completion

The Pairc Trust is pleased to announce that works on the Tigh Ceilidh are nearing completion and the property will be available to let from late November. We are seeking expressions of interest from anyone interested in taking up the tenancy of the Tigh Ceilidh, Gravir, once the renovation works are completed.

The Tigh Ceilidh has been completely redesigned and transformed into a three-bedroom family home based at Carn Aonghais in Gravir. The building fabric has been updated to improve the insulation and add an entire second storey to the building, providing a warm, spacious living space.

The Trust is asking interested parties to fill out an online form - please scan the QR code below - providing their contact details and describing their current living situation and connection to South Lochs. This information will then be passed onto Tighean Innse Gall (TIG) who will provide you with an application form for the property.

If you have any questions regarding the development or the expression of interest process, please contact the Trust at info@pairctrust.co.uk.



Pairc Trust Rental Property Available

The Pairc Trust are pleased to announce that applications are open for the re-letting of 6 Carn Aonghais, Gravir. The semi-detached home is well-insulated and offers comfortable, energy-efficient living with underfloor heating, air source heating, a bright kitchen-living space, a ground-floor bedroom and bathroom, and an upstairs bedroom with en-suite.

Applications can be made by emailing Tighean Innse Gall (TIG) at lettings@tighean.co.uk

YEA Driving Lesson Funding

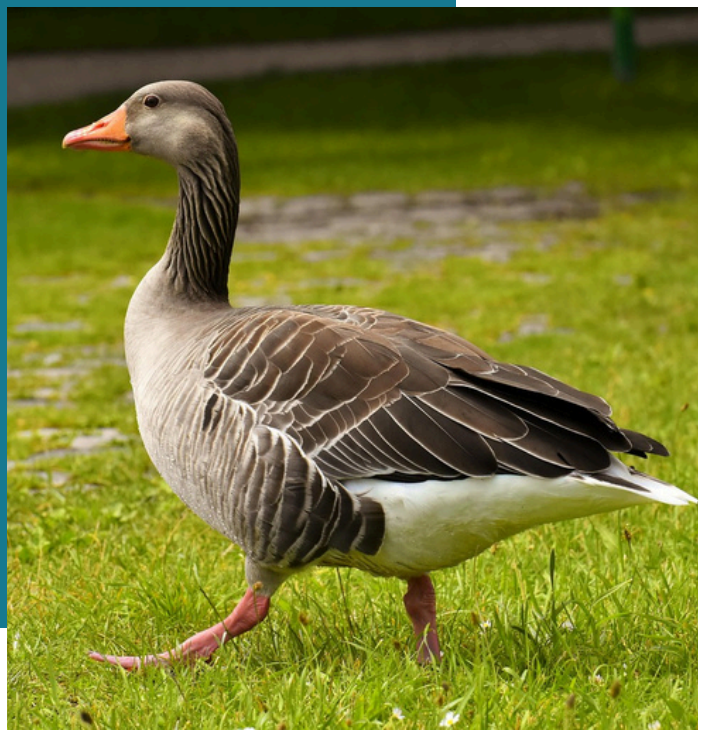
The Pairc Trust are pleased to have just provided the cost of three driving lessons to Melissa Macdonald, Lemreway, who is learning to drive. She has noted that this will make it easier for her to stay living in Pairc and to socialise with family and friends in different parts of the island. The buses can make it difficult to get back home and in winter can be cancelled due to weather.

Fergus Malcolm, Marvig, has also provided the Trust with an update from the award given last year: *"The award was very helpful to me, as it gave me several free driving lessons which allowed me to save some money. Not long after that, I passed my test which gave me the opportunity to drive in to work every weekend, so I would say that it was very beneficial to me!"*

For further information on the Youth Enablement Award Driving Lesson Scheme, and how to apply, please see https://www.pairctrust.co.uk/youth-enablement-award.

Pairc Trust Strategic Plan Survey

The Pairc Trust have launched a community survey asking for local residents' priorities and feedback as we seek to finalise our 10-year strategic business plan, following on from our community consultation event earlier in the year which led to valuable feedback from those who attended, covering: Crofting and Land Use; Renewable Energy and Climate Action; Tourism and Visitor Experience; Housing and



Population Sustainability; Community Wellbeing, Care, and Social Support; Youth & Education

The survey can be accessed online via: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RsN9fMLG8t and physical copies can be collected from the Resource Centre.

Goose Management

Further funding to continue the Adaptive Greylag Goose Management Scheme in Lewis and Harris, administered by Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh, has been secured from NatureScot. The scheme will run from 2nd November 2026 through to 3rd May 2027 and contributes towards ammunition costs for a series of approved shooters across the island.

If you are experiencing issues with agricultural damage caused by greylag geese, please contact the Trust via info@pairctrust.co.uk with your contact details, the area where the damage is being caused, and, if possible, an indication of goose numbers present and the times they are active - we will pass this information on to the controller for South Lochs.

To provide greater coverage for the Estate, we encourage Pairc residents who possess valid public liability insurance and firearm/shotgun certificates to join the scheme and 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 the Trust via info@pairctrust.co.uk.

Gunnera Spades

Gunnera spraying on the Estate has now finished for the year, and we are in the process of identifying areas requiring treatment next year.

If you are aware of surviving gunnera plants on your property, please inform us via info@pairctrust.co.uk, with a what3words reference pinpointing the location if possible.

Community Land Outer Hebrides are planning training for purpose-made gunnera spades which could be borrowed from a Pairc Trust tool library and used to extract smaller plants. If you would be interested in using these tools, please email us via info@pairctrust.co.uk



SCF Meeting - Ballallan

The Scottish Crofting Federation are holding a crofters' meeting at the Kinloch Hub, Balallan on 11th November at 7pm.

They wish to speak to crofters about the key issues of protecting the rights of crofters on common grazings and ensuring their use, and to discuss the election of regional commissioners to the board of the Crofting Commission in early 2027.

Places can be booked via: crofting.org/upcoming-events/ - booking isn't essential, but the SCF would appreciate an idea of numbers in advance.

Deer Control

Soval Estate, the Trust's shooting tenant, has informed us that they have culled 7 stags in South Lochs throughout the stag season. In the previous season, Soval culled a total of 10 stags and 20 hinds and are aiming to match the total of 30 culled deer this year by targeting additional hinds throughout the rest of the deer season.

If you are experiencing issues with deer causing damage to croft or garden ground, please contact the Trust via info@pairctrust.co.uk with the location the issue is occurring and the rough number of deer involved and their times of activity, if possible, and we will pass this on to the team at Soval.

Pairc Craft Club Running Until Spring

There's a Craft Club in the Pairc Trust building next to Ravenspoint every Monday from now till the end of March from 1.00 pm till 3.00 pm!

We pay £2.00 each to cover cost of supplies including tea, coffee and biscuits.

Everyone welcome. If you're knitting, sewing, embroidering or want to learn a new hobby, please come along or even just come for some company and a cuppa.



Orinsay

From Cape Breton to Orinsay: Excerpt

This October, my husband and I travelled to Scotland, embarking on a 1,200-mile road trip that became one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. While my husband looked forward to returning to Aberdeen, where he had lived and worked for more than four years as an offshore oil rig saturation diver, I had my heart set on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, the homeland of my MacLeod ancestors.

I had spent years researching vital records and genealogical documents, determined to discover where my family had originated in Scotland.

My grandmother had passed away several years earlier, and unfortunately, she had never known the specific area of Scotland from which her MacLeod family came. I wanted to learn more about the people who had come before us and the journey that had brought them across the Atlantic.

Through correspondence with people who were helping me locate my fourth great-grandfather's croft, I connected with Donnie Morrison, founder and chairman of the Hebridean Connections website.

We arranged to meet Donnie at the Ravenspoint Museum in Kershader, South Lochs, on the Isle of Lewis. I will always be grateful that he offered to drive my husband and me to the remote, tiny village of Orinsay.

As we approached the remains of the old croft, I was overwhelmed with emotion. This was not simply a place I had read about in historical records. This was the land where my ancestors had lived, the croft passed down from my fifth great-grandfather, Norman MacLeod (1761–1845), to his son, my fourth great-grandfather, Donald MacLeod (1790–1871).

This was once a living community where families and neighbours worked, fished, raised their children, and endured hardships and injustices that would eventually force them to leave their homeland.

We drove up to the site associated with the croft at Old Orasaigh, the place I had come to know as the home of my MacLeod ancestors. There, the remains of the stone walls of the old blackhouse still stood on the croft that had belonged to Donald MacLeod, who was born in Harris and later died at North River, Cape Breton Island.

Heritage is not simply something we inherit; it is something future generations can actively reclaim.



I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Donnie Morrison, whose generosity and knowledge helped make this unforgettable experience possible. I am also sincerely grateful to Donnie and his team for creating and maintaining the Hebridean Connections website, and to the volunteers who support the Pairc Historical Society and the Angus Macleod Archive at the Ravenspoint Museum on the Isle of Lewis. These are invaluable resources for anyone tracing their Hebridean roots.

Garol and Gerry Langille

Read the whole story in the December issue of Tional, quarterly magazine of the Pairc Historical Society.

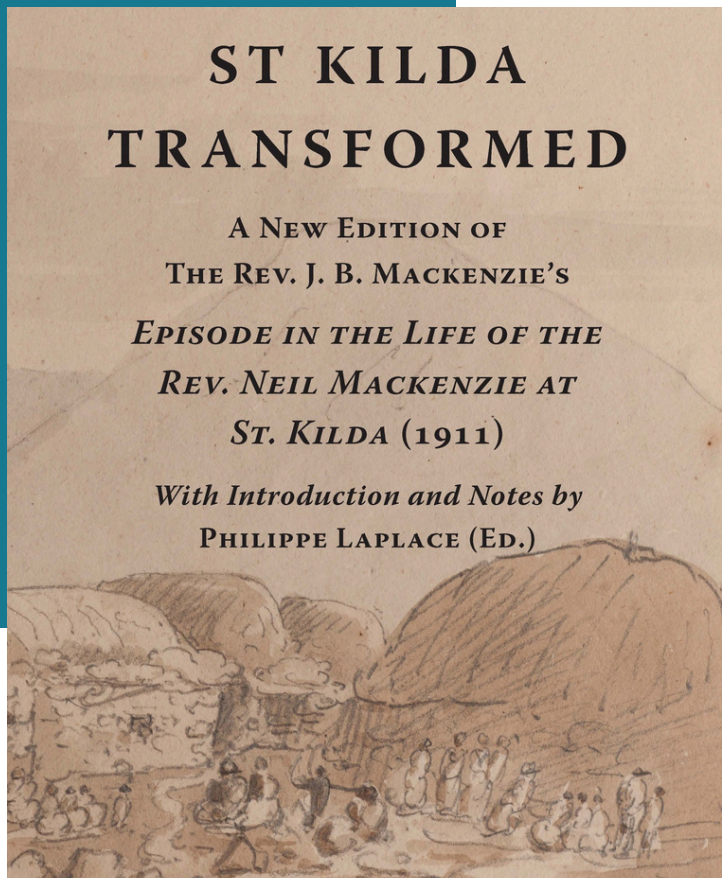
Made in Pairc Craft Festival - Gravir Church Hall

A gentle, community-focused 'Made In Pairc' Craft Festival has been organised to take place at Gravir Church Hall with the kind support of Scott Macleod, the Minister. The event will be held for one day and will feature locally made crafts from Pairc with Christmas in mind. Some contributors will be donating part or all of their takings to local charities and good causes. The Craft Festival will also have craft demonstrations, home baking, refreshments and some entertainment from local singers and musicians during the day.

We would like to invite you, your neighbours and our friends and communities from throughout the Lochs area to come along. Updates and news about the festival will be published through our local WhatsApp group 'WhatsOnInPairc', Facebook and local media closer to the day.

This year, the event will be held at Gravir Church Hall on Saturday 28 November between 10am and 4pm. Entry is free and any donations will be given to Gravir Church and local charities. There is plenty of parking available.

Get in touch with David Simpson on 07762 730401 or Mary MacDowall 07766 211534 for more information or to offer support on the day.



'St. Kilda Transformed' Book Launch

This important addition to the literature about St Kilda will be launched in Edinburgh on Saturday 21st November. The first launch (only for members of the St Kilda Club attending their annual Reunion) will be at Edinburgh Zoo in the afternoon; and the second launch (open to the wider public) will take place at 7.30pm at the French Institute, West Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 1RN. This building is located at the junction of George IV Bridge and the Lawnmarket, close to St Giles Cathedral. Philippe will be present at both launches to speak about the book and sign copies. For more details of the launch events and bookings, please contact karen@islandsbooktrust.org.

The 1911 first edition of this rare book, based on notes made by Neil Mackenzie when he was the Church of Scotland Minister in St Kilda from 1830-1843, was privately printed by J B Mackenzie (Neil's son) in 1911 and only a few copies now exist. We want to make its content more widely available to all those many scholars and enthusiasts throughout the world who are deeply interested in the history of St Kilda.

The importance of the 1911 book reflects the fact that it is based on one of the few accounts of life in St Kilda as seen by someone (Rev. Neil Mackenzie) who lived onthe island for over a decadein the first half of the 19th century. It consists of three chapters of less than 60 pagesin total: General Observations; Religious State; and Notes on the Birds.

Moreover, Neil Mackenzie had a central role in the economic and social, as well as religious, life of the St Kilda community during his time on the island. His observations are therefore of great historical interest. In line with the prevailing 'improvement' philosophy of the time, he was also the main instigator of an initiative to improve the housing conditions of the islanders and change the way they managed the land - by re-locating the population from the former nucleated 'run-rig' village north of the present graveyard to new houses



situated on individual crofts dispersed along 'The Street'. These changes (which were not universally welcomed by the islanders) can truly be described as a transformation of the community – hence the title.

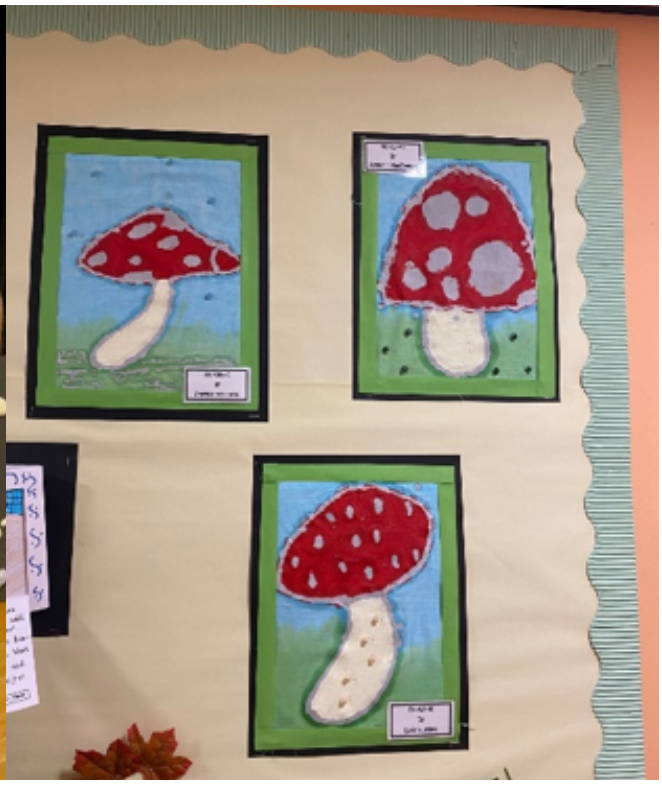
Philippe Laplace, now Professor at the University of Marie and Louis Pasteur, Besançon, France, first approached IBT about preparing a new annotated edition of the 1911 book in 2023. We were keen to co-operate, given the historical value and limited availability of the earlier edition. The new book will contain a full introduction by Philippe, a faithful reproduction of the text of the 1911 edition, additional illustrations (notably a drawing by Sir Thomas Dyke Acland of the former St Kilda village in 1812, and a reproduction of Henry Sharbau's detailed later plan prepared in 1858 of the new crofts and settlement), and a series of substantial endnotes by Philippe whichcomment on or add furtherinformation to the 1911 text. We gratefully acknowledge financial support from the Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires et Transculturelles, CRIT (University of Marie and Louis Pasteur).

Lochs FC Success

Congratulations to Ellie May Macdonald and Gemma Murray of the Lochs FC U14 & U16 teams, respectively, who were both received Female Player of the Season awards from the Lewis & Harris Youth Football Association.

Well done both!





News from Pairc School

We began our new school session with a visit to An Lanntair to experience *Atharrachadh: Transmutation* by Johnathan Bell. His work encompasses light and sound installations, sculpture, land art and assemblages, often created from detritus collected from land and sea, which he recycles and repurposes to transform the gallery into a unique and inspiring environment.

We followed our visit with a workshop, where we created our own lovely finished piece to take home.

It's wonderful to be able to enjoy more of these enriching cultural experiences as part of our learning journey.

New Skill

This term, we have learned an exciting new skill! We have been experimenting with batik, using a wax kettle and tjanting tools to create some spectacular A1-sized pieces of artwork.

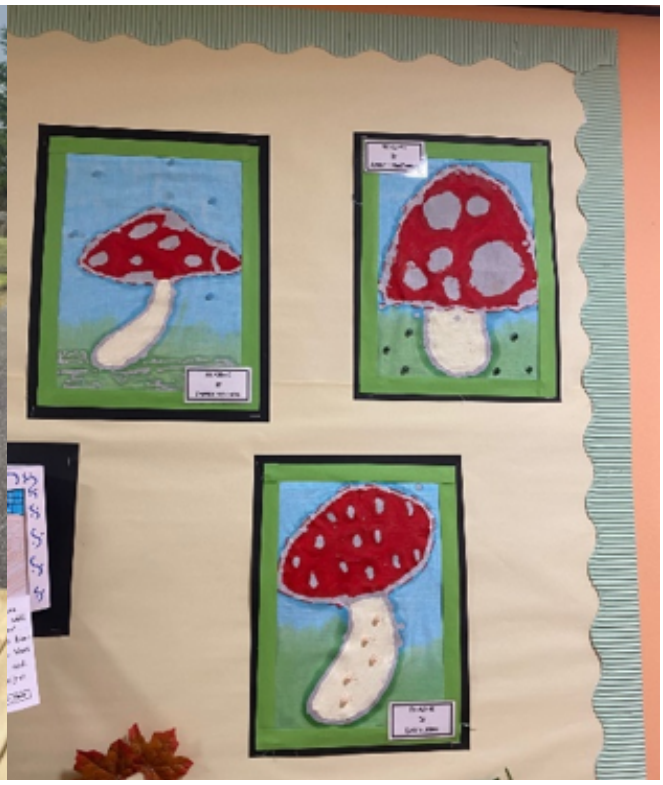
Inspired by our topic, The Secret Garden, we carefully applied hot wax to create beautiful leaf and flower designs before bringing our work to life with vibrant fabric paints and cold-water dyes.

We showed great care, patience and creativity throughout the process, learning a wonderful new technique along the way!

To use up some of the wax we also made beautiful fly agaric mushrooms on fabric using the same technique. Our finished results look absolutely smashing!

We even managed some running stitch to highlight part of our work – and some beading!





RSPB Wild Challenge

We are delighted to announce that Pairc School has achieved the Bronze Certificate in the RSPB Wild Challenge Award!

We have thoroughly enjoyed taking our learning outdoors, exploring the natural world and discovering ways to help protect and care for nature. Through a range of fun and engaging activities, we have developed a greater appreciation of the wildlife and environment around us.

The RSPB Wild Challenge encourages children to take part in activities across two key categories: Experiencing Nature and Helping Nature. To achieve the Bronze Award, we completed six activities in total, with three from each category.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, curiosity and commitment shown to learning about the natural world. This achievement is a wonderful celebration of outdoor learning and the importance of caring for our environment. We are of course aiming to complete the next stage, which will earn us a silver award!

MacMillan Coffee Morning

What a busy time we had preparing for this marvellous event! The two older girls worked tirelessly all morning, manning the tables and taking orders. Armainn was in charge of welcoming visitors to the school and gratefully accepting their donations!

We are delighted to say that Pairc School raised just over £400! Not bad for a





morning's work!
...And don't we look professional in our aprons?

Food Preparation

A new task for us this term has been helping to prepare some of the lunches we eat at school.

We have all been learning new skills, particularly around food hygiene and how to cut and slice ingredients safely. So far, we have prepared salads, made coleslaw using our own ingredients, and created fruit salads, which we have enjoyed sampling after our main meal.

We hope to continue developing our skills next term, under the watchful eye of Rhoda, our school cook. We're looking forward to learning even more!

Our first term has flown by so quickly! We hope to share even more of our work with Pàirc readers next term.



the PAIRC TRUST

CROFTING NOTICES

The Crofting Commission has approved the Pairc Newsletter as an authorised publication for crofting notices within the parish of Lochs.

Notices are published both online and in print at a cost of £40 plus VAT. A proof will be issued for approval before publication, and the publication schedule can be viewed on the Pairc Trust website.

TO PLACE A NOTICE, PLEASE CONTACT US VIA INFO@PAIRCTRUST.CO.UK

THE PAIRC TRUST

THE PAIRC TRUST HOUSING PROJECT
LANDLORD REG NO 1055130/235/10061
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO:SC035193

RENT



APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR 6 CARN AONGHAIS, GRAVIR

2 bedroom semi-detached house for rent at 6 Carn Aonghais available now. Fully insulated throughout, underfloor heating, air source heating. Ground floor: Kitchen /living room, bathroom, bedroom. Fist floor bedroom with en-suite. Rent: £402.81 per calendar month

- AIR SOURCE HEATING
- TWO BEDROOMS
- GARDEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- EPC RATING C

EMAIL: LETTINGS@TIGHEAN.CO.UK
LARN 1908008

Expressions of Interest Open!

Tigh Ceilidh, Gravir

the PAIRC TRUST





The Tigh Ceilidh redevelopment is progressing well, and The Pairc Trust is now inviting expressions of interest from anyone who may wish to rent the property once works are complete.

The property has been redesigned as a modern three-bedroom family home with upgraded insulation, an ASHP heating system, and a full range of living spaces including a living room, kitchen, utility area, bathroom, shower room, and built-in storage. It also offers a garden, two parking bays, and an EV charging point. Conveniently located opposite Sgoil na Pairc and the Langabhat surgery, it is only a short drive from further amenities in Kershader.

For further information, and to register your interest in the property, please fill out our survey:

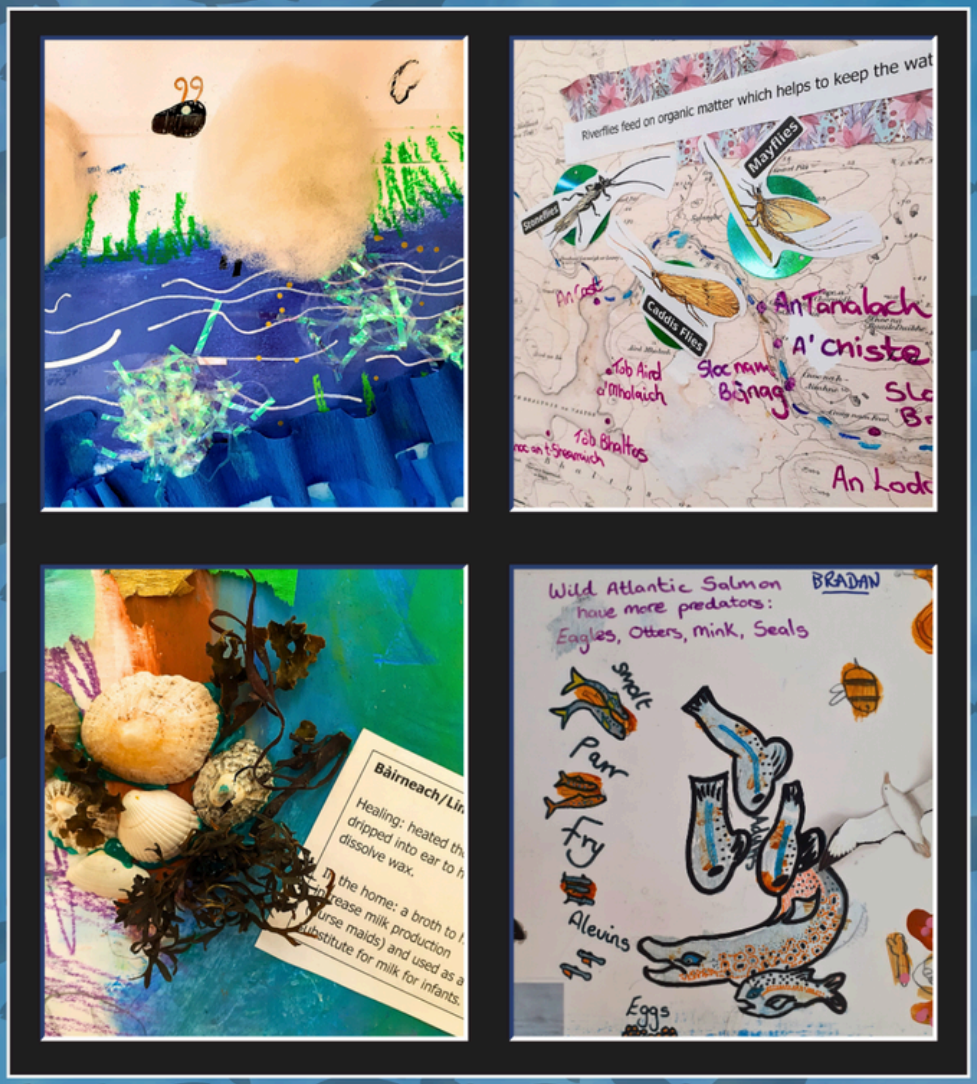
01851 880728 pairctrust.co.uk info@pairctrust.co.uk


LOCHS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
FIREWORKS
Night
SAT 7TH NOV
FROM 630PM
LAXAY
SHOWGROUND
BBQ
FOOD
TEAS
TICKET
RAFFLE
ENTRY BY DONATION

Abhainn Lacasaidh

An exhibition exploring the various species and ecosystems surrounding the Laxay River, and the cultural connections held by the community, both past and present

Monday-Saturday, 10am-4pm
Kinloch Community Hub



Sgoil nan Loch

SPECIES on the EDGE
Gnèithean air an Oir

Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Willow Christmas Decoration Workshop

WITH DAWN FROM HEBRIDEAN BASKETS



01 WILLOW WREATH



02 WILLOW STARS

DATE & LOCATION

Saturday 21 November 2026

10AM – 4PM • Gravir, South Lochs

£65 per person

Limited places available

CONTACT JILL TO BOOK

croft36gravir@gmail.com

ISLANDS BOOK TRUST

URRAS LEABHRAICHEAN NAN EILEAN

NEW ANNOTATED AND ILLUSTRATED EDITION OF RARE ST KILDA BOOK

St KILDA TRANSFORMED' - A NEW EDITION OF THE REV. J B MACKENZIE'S

'An Episode in the Life of the Rev. Neil Mackenzie at St Kilda (1911)' with an introduction and notes by Philippe Laplace.



The Rev. Neil Mackenzie played a central role in the transformational changes made to the housing and layout of the village on St Kilda in the 1830s and 1840s, but his privately printed memoir is not widely available.



This beautiful new edition, including iconic images such as Sir Thomas Acland's drawing of the old village in 1812 and Sharbau's plan of 1860 showing the new layout, will be published later this year by the Islands Book Trust

BOOK LAUNCH to take place at the St Kilda Club Reunion in Edinburgh on 21st November.



The book will also be available price £15 plus P and P from islandsbooktrust.org


GAMES NIGHT
Get your aim face on!
Let's see what face you make as you line up that shot for carpet bowls, darts and (coming soon) pool!
LOCHSIDERS
DARTS
KINLOCH CARPET BOWLS
Every Tuesday 7-9pm
Over 16s welcome
Balallan Hall £3 hall entry
JOIN US!

LOOKING FOR INTEREST!

BECOME THE DIFFERENCE.

START YOUR JOURNEY. MAKE AN IMPACT.



JOIN AN IN PERSON

REFEREE COURSE

THIS WINTER!

LEARN. DEVELOP. LEAD.

BUILD CONFIDENCE. MAKE FRIENDS. STAY ACTIVE.

BE PART OF THE GAME.

WHY BECOME A REFEREE?

- Gain valuable life skills
- Give back to your community
- Flexible hours
- Great for students
- Earn while you learn

IN PERSON COURSE
Classroom and field sessions in your community

THIS WINTER
Dates and locations coming soon!

OPEN TO ALL
No experience needed. We'll teach you!

INTERESTED?

LET US KNOW!

CALL OR TEXT:

07917572781

WE'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH MORE DETAILS!

SCOTTISH FA
SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

NOSRA
NORTH OF SCOTLAND REFEREES ASSOCIATION

BE THE DIFFERENCE.
GET INVOLVED. GET STARTED.

Youth Enablement Award

DRIVING LESSON SCHEME

APPLY NOW

the PAIRC TRUST

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


LEWIS & HARRIS
DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP
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

- Pairc Craft Club, Resource Centre (1-3pm)
- Dance Class, Resource Centre (7pm)

Tuesdays

- Game Night, Balallan Hall (7-9pm)

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)

Wednesday 4th November

- **Household waste collection**

Thursday 5th November

- **Glass waste collection**

Saturday 7th November

- Remembrance service, Kershader (11am)
- Bonfire Night event, Laxay showground (6:30pm)

Wednesday 11th November

- **Organic & mixed recycling collection**
- SCF Crofters' Meeting, Kinloch Hub (7pm)

What's on in Pairc?

Saturday 28th November

- Made in Pairc Christmas Craft Fair, Gravir Free Church Hall (10am-4pm)

Friday 30th October

- Sgoil na Pairc Halloween Community Party, 2-3:30pm

Saturday 21st November

- Willow Christmas decoration workshop, Gravir (10am-4pm)

Wednesday 25th November

- **Household waste collection**

Publication Schedule

Edition	Submission Deadline	Publication
November 2026	26th October	2nd November
December 2026	30th November	7th December
January 2027	23rd December	11th January
February 2027	25th January	1st February
March 2027	22nd February	1st March
April 2027	29th March	5th April
May 2027	26th April	3rd May
June 2027	31st May	7th June
July 2027	28th June	5th July
August 2027	26th July	2nd August
September 2027	30th August	7th September
October 2027	27th September	4th October

Please send submissions to: info@pairctrust.co.uk