

PAIRC NEWSLETTER

PAIRCTRUST.CO.UK



July 2026



The Pairc Estate – July 2026

Read on for information on upcoming events, items of interest, and other opportunities across the Pairc community.

The Pairc Trust are pleased to bring you news of an exciting summer activity programme for local children, the opening of expressions of interest for the Tigh Ceilidh, trips to Scarp and Swordale with the Island Book Trust, a reminder that this year's Lochs Show will be held at the Laxay Showground tomorrow, and more news and events from across South Lochs & Kinloch.

Top News

**Pairc Youth Summer
Activities**

**Tigh Ceilidh – Expressions
of Interest Open**

**Islands Book Trust
Launch Event: '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

01/25



Tigh Ceilidh Update & Expressions of Interest

The Pairc Trust are pleased to announce that 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.

Alex Murray Construction have completed the exterior and structural works on the property, most recently the exterior rendering, and are now moving

on to the internal fit-out of the building. We look forward to sharing further updates as the work progresses.

At this stage the Trust are asking interested parties to fill out an online form - see: <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/mJK71zeKRB> - providing their contact details and describing their current living situation and connection to South Lochs. Further information on the property will be provided once works progress further.

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



Kayaking, Bushcraft & Games with Scaladale



Date: Monday 27th July
Time: 10:30am-3.30pm
Location: Loch Odhairn, Gravir

Moth and Butterfly Themed Art Workshop



Date: Tuesday 4th August
Time: 10am-12pm
Location: The Resource Centre, Kershader

Island Corner Fitness – Children's Boxing Class



Date: Thursday 6th August
Time: 12pm-1pm
Location: The Resource Centre, Kershader

For further information on each activity and to book a space, please see the Events page on our website:



Fully funded thanks to funding from Western Isles Development Trust Youth Summer Activities Fund

Pairc Trust Youth Summer Activities

The Pairc Trust are delighted to announce that we are offering several summer holiday activities for children, funded by the Western Isles Development Trust and working with local groups to bring a range of fun activities to Pairc!

We have the following fun activities to join over the next few weeks:

- **Monday 27th July, 10:30-15:30:** Sea kayaking on Loch Odhairn, followed by bushcraft activities and group games. Organised and run by staff from the Scaladale Centre.

- **Tuesday 4th August, 10:00-12:00:** A moth & butterfly-themed art workshop at the Resource Centre, led by the team from An Lanntair.
- **Thursday 6th August, 12:00-13:00:** A youth boxing fitness class at the Resource Centre, led by Island Corner Fitness.

All of these events are free to attend, and booking is essential. For further information, and a booking link, please see the Events page on our website: <https://www.pairctrust.co.uk/event>.



Stimreway Walk Entrance Closed

Please note that the entry track from Orinsay to the start of the Stimreway walking route is closed until further notice. The path has degraded to the point of being hazardous to walk on, and the Trust advises walkers against using it.

We are looking into sourcing funding to repair and update the entrance to the walk and hope to share further information with you soon.



Goose Management

Following on from our requests for local shooters to assist crofters in South Lochs who are experiencing issues with high numbers of greylag geese causing damage to crofting land, the Pairc Trust is pleased to announce that Soval Estate, the Trust's shooting tenant, is happy to provide assistance in cases of agricultural damage.

If you are experiencing issues with geese causing damage to croft land and/or common grazings, please contact the Trust via info@pairctrust.co.uk with your contact details and the location that the damage is occurring at, and we will pass this on to the team at Soval for them to discuss with you.



Gunnera Management

Efforts to continue invasive gunnera control within the Estate continue over the summer.

This year the Trust are being supported by staff from the Stornoway Trust, who have completed an initial sweep of the Gunnera locations that have been reported to us.

Please send us the location of Gunnera plants that they are aware of via info@pairctrust.co.uk, with a what3words reference pinpointing the location if possible. The team will be checking locations previously registered for new/re-emerging plants - please contact us if you would like advance notice, i.e. if you have stock you would like to move away from plants to be treated.



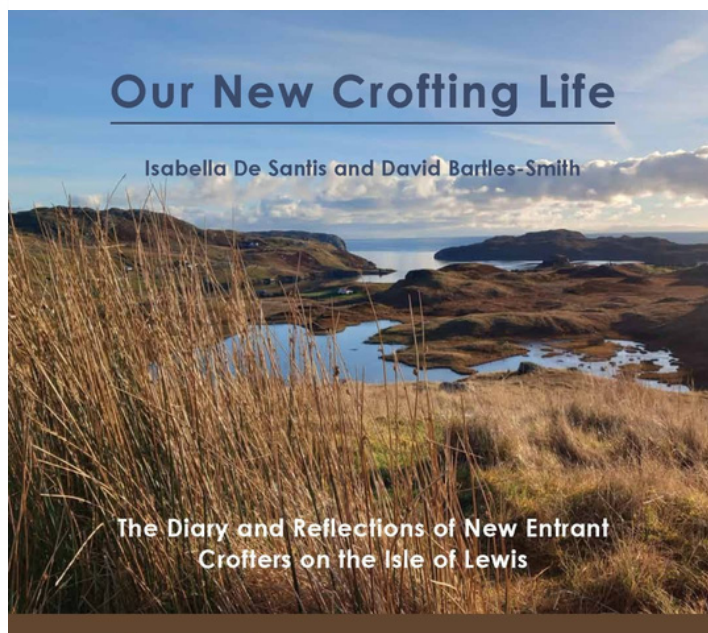
'Our New Crofting Life' – Book Launch

The Islands Book Trust was delighted to celebrate the publication of *Our New Crofting Life* by Isabella De Santis and David Bartles-Smith.

Based on extracts from the authors' diaries, this beautifully illustrated book follows their journey as new crofters establishing a sustainable enterprise in rural Lewis. Blending personal reflections with practical experience, it offers an honest and engaging account of modern crofting, exploring everything from livestock and biodiversity to rural enterprise and community life.

The launch brought together readers, crofters and supporters to celebrate the publication and was followed by a guided visit to the authors' croft in Lemreway, giving attendees the opportunity to see their story brought to life.

Congratulations to Isabella and David on



a wonderful publication, and thank you to everyone who joined us to mark its launch.

Our New Crofting Life is available from the Islands Book Trust website and selected booksellers.

Scarp & Suardal Trips

The Islands Book Trust are planning two interesting boat trips in August to previously-inhabited settlements.

The first is to the island of Scarp off Harris - always a popular event to see the cemetery, former houses, mission hall.

The second (still subject to confirmation) is to the former settlement at Suardal in Lochs.

Places on both trips are still available - contact info@islandsbooktrust.org or phone 01851 450104. Both events are weather dependent, with the charges payable on the day, but advance booking is required.



Lochs FC

Congratulations to the U8 & U10 Lochs FC teams for their performance in Stornoway on 11th July. Special praise goes out to Seumas and William, who both picked up player of the day awards in their groups!

The club is also seeking donations for their bottle stall at the Lochs Show - these can be dropped off with committee members and senior players, or at the Creagan Cafe, North Lochs Community Centre on Wednesday. Any volunteers who can help man the stall rota would be greatly appreciated.

Lochs Show 2026

The 2026 Lochs Show will be taking place on Saturday 25th July. The Lochs Agricultural Society have issued a final call for booking stalls and tables and

appealing for volunteers to help set up over the preceding week and manage the event on the day, even an hour would be appreciated. If you can assist, please contact them via their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LochsShow>

Gaelic Conversation Sessions

Kinloch Historical Society will be holding a series of Gaelic conversation classes at the Resource Centre through until September, alternating weekly on Thursdays & Fridays starting from Thursday 23rd July at 11:30am. The Thursday classes will be Gaelic Taster sessions, and the Friday classes will consist of a Gaelic Conversation Circle. For further information, contact Holley via: holley@kinlochhistoricalsociety.co.uk.



Castle Grounds Trip

Olivia, P7

On Friday 19th June 2026 Pairc School pupils went to the Castle Grounds for a school trip since we were learning about the Stone Age. When we arrived, we met up with our instructor called Fraser Lippok and he took us up a small hill, where he showed us a small camp space where we would be doing activities.

First, we sat around camp and talked about our 5 different senses which are sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste and we did a few activities to test them out such as putting on blindfolds and walking through the forest, but we had our hand on a

string so we didn't get lost. After that, we went into 3 teams, and one person had a blindfold on and the other hid and was making noises to see if the blindfolded person could find out where the other person hid.

A while later, we went down to the Woodland Centre to have our lunch for a couple of hours. After lunch we went back up the hill and when we were walking towards the hill, we saw a fire truck. At first, we thought it was just cool seeing it and we could carry on with what we were doing, we had no idea that they came for us. We climbed up the hill, and the fire men were surrounding our campsite with a hose and all of Fraser's stuff was all black and burned. Although Fraser's stuff was all burned, he didn't really mind as he was just lucky he had his car keys and his phone. A couple minutes later the police arrived and started looking around for clues close to the crime scene and were asking questions to Fraser.

Since we couldn't do any more activities we went back down to the woodland centre and played in the play park for a while, as we still had time left before going on the bus.

Unfortunately, they didn't find out who did it.

Fire at Castle Grounds



Remains of the Camp



On Friday the 19th of June children from Pairc school went to the Castle Grounds to learn more about Stone Age Life and the book they were reading, 'Wolf Brother.' They found a good camp area in the woods and their Leader Fraser Lippok set up a cauldron for fire-lighting later. After coming back from lunch, they were surprised to see that somebody had set it on fire and there were firemen putting the fire out. After the fire was out, the ground was

black and full of charred remains. After the firemen left police officers arrived up at the scene to see the damage and try to find clues about who might have lit the fire. They started to ask people who were near if they had seen anything or anyone suspicious.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing they had not found anyone.

Reporter

Leya Jones.



Taigh-Tasgaidh Museum Trip

Leisha, P6

On Wednesday 17th June, Christina invited us to Ravenspoint to do a quiz.

When we got there, David Simpson did an introduction and talked about some of the items on display. There was this pulpit that was apparently left under some stairs, and then it was brought into the museum by some people. It had a Bible on it, and it had real writing on it. Also, it had a picture inside of it to show how it was used in the olden days. I found out that it was more than 144 years old.

When we started the quiz questions, I read the first clue and wrote the answer down, I got all the questions

right. When I was in the kitchen, the teacher accidentally gave me a clue about the hot water bottles. I wrote it down super-fast. We also saw a neolithic axe head and found out what a Mate` is. If you want to find out, go to the museum!

Then we went outside to look at the 'Chariot' or mini submarine. It was tested here in Loch Erisort during World War Two. The one that is here isn't the real one; it is a replica of the real one. They were used to attack German battleships.

At the end of the visit, we enjoyed some juice and biscuits and had a nice chat with David and Christina.

Pairc School Prizegiving

Callie, P7

On Monday 22nd of June we held our prizegiving in the Pairc Free Church. When we all arrived, we were all greeted by the head teacher and Mrs. MacLeod, the Executive head teacher.

Shortly after Mrs. Macdonald gave a speech, every pupil took turns to say a poem. As well as that, the P7 read a 'Leavers' Song' saying 'goodbye' to their primary childhood. Then we got called up one at a time and were given our awards. The P7 were given a lot of certificates, and they also got given presents. There was also a display full of photos of their time in Pairc School.



We would like to thank the Minister, Rev. Paul Murry, for letting us use Pairc Free Church for our prizegiving, we also want to thank him for the amazing blessing to us all. Thanks also to Mr. David Simpson for giving the P7 pupils a Lifetime Membership of the Pairc Historical Society! Which was a real honour for them!

We would like to thank all who attended, all the staff of the school and the community, for always attending our events, all year round, We are so grateful.

Before people left, Mrs. Macdonald gave a speech about the P7s as well as our amazing teacher Mrs. Finnegan, who is sadly retiring and leaving as well.

Then we also had tea and juice as well as homemade cakes and tray bakes kindly donated by the

community and we all shared laughs and funny moments together. We also gave Mrs. Finnegan a bouquet of flowers and chocolates and the P7 were given a nice sports bag and a Bible as well as a calculator. In the end we all had so much fun and made so many new memories together. We will miss Pairc school, and we will miss Mrs. Finnegan and all the staff.

Expressions of Interest Open!

Tigh Ceilidh, Gravir



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



Activities

Kayaking, Bushcraft & Games with Scaladale



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Time: 10:30am–3.30pm

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Moth and Butterfly Themed Art Workshop

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Island Corner Fitness – Children's Boxing Class



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Fully funded thanks to funding from Western Isles Development Trust Youth Summer Activities Fund





COTHROMAN CABADAICH AIR NA LOCHAN

GAELIC CONVERSATION IN LOCHS TO END SEPT

Kinloch Hub/Balallan

Diciadain/Weds 7:00-8:30pm

05/08/2026

19/08/2026

02/09/2026

30/09/2026

Resource Centre/Kershader

Dihaoine/Friday 11:30am-1:00pm

31/07/2026

14/08/2026

28/08/2026

18/09/2026



All levels welcome! No need to book, just drop in!

Donations welcome.

RSVP gu: holley@kinlochhistoricalsociety.co.uk



A wee taste of Gaelic

Blasad na Gàidhlig

Want to try out a bit of Gaelic?

Come along to our bi-weekly
Gaelic taster session!



In this short one-off session, you'll learn everyday greetings, handy phrases, and a little about the culture and history of Pairc, all while enjoying a friendly atmosphere and beautiful views of Loch Erisort.

In the Resource Centre Boardroom, 11:30am-1pm on the Thursdays below.
No need to book, just pop along. Donations welcome.

- 23/07/2026
- 06/08/2026
- 20/08/2026
- 03/09/2026

Help for Parents of GME kids



Supporting you to bring Gaelic into everyday family life. Personal sessions or small groups available to support your learning. Reach out to learn more or arrange a time.

Contact: Holley, Lochs Gaelic development Officer
holley@kinlochhistoricalsociety.co.uk

ISLANDS BOOK TRUST



SCARP BOAT TRIP

A wonderful opportunity to visit the scenic island of Scarp, home to its own resident community until the early 1970s.

You will have up to 3 hours on the island to explore the former village and cemetery in the company of Calum John Mackay who grew up on the island.

Bring: packed lunch and suitable footwear.

August 01st at 11am

Boats will leave Husinish in North Harris as a 'shuttle-service' The sea crossing takes around 10 minutes.

£70 per person
Payable on the day
Advance booking required
Weather dependent. Numbers limited.

www.islandsbooktrust.org
info@islandsbooktrust.org
01851 450104



@ISLANDSBOOKTRUST

ISLANDS BOOK TRUST

TALK AND VISIT TO RUINS AT SUARDAL (SWORDALE)

with Iain Mackenzie

SATURDAY 15th
AUGUST



The Suardal area between Lochs Erisort and Loch Leurbost is now uninhabited and not accessible by road. It was the site of the first Presbyterian Parish Church of Lochs built in 1724 in succession to the old church on Eilean Chaluim Chille after the Reformation. The land was annexed from the Keose moorland to form part of the church glebe. The Suardal church seems to have been in use for less than a century, a successor building at Keose (on what is now the site of the MOWI shore base) taking over as Lochs Parish Church in the early 19th century.

Oral history suggests that the Suardal church was the scene of a notorious press-gang around 1802, allegedly with the co-operation of the minister and in cahoots with the Seaforth landlord at the time of the Napoleonic Wars. The possible remains of the church, manse, and a farm are still visible today.

Meet outside Keose MOWI Erisort shore base at 11.00am when Iain Mackenzie will give a short stand-up briefing, before we set off by boat to visit Suardal.

£10 for IBT members, £20 for non-members. Advanced Booking is required through sales@islandsbooktrust.org

www.islandsbooktrust.org
info@islandsbooktrust.org
01851 450104



@ISLANDSBOOKTRUST

Lochs Agricultural Society



CAR PARK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SHOW DAY 25 JULY 2026

We are looking for a team of volunteers to help us manage the three Car Parking sites on the Show Day.

Coordinating car parking and getting visitors safely into the Showground is essential in the effective running of the whole Show Day, so we need capable, confident individuals who can handle and manage the numerous vehicles arriving and situations as they may arise.

We are looking for a bank of around 12 volunteers to help with our core group of experienced volunteers, this should allow a rota system to enable access into the Show at some point during the day, where you will be provided with free entry and vouchers to use at food & drink outlets.

If you think you can help, please get in touch!

**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS** 2026



UNLOCK SCOTLAND THIS SEPTEMBER

The Outer Hebrides Doors Open Days Festival 04 - 06 September

**An annual nation-wide festival which
offers free access to over a thousand
venues across Scotland**

**Join various venues throughout the
Outer Hebrides over the first September
weekend for a variety of FREE events
and engagement**

**For more information, check out the events
programme on the Doors Open Days website**

WWW.DOORSOPENDAYS.ORG.UK

**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS** 2026



**HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND**

**ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA**



**European Heritage Days
Journées européennes
du patrimoine**

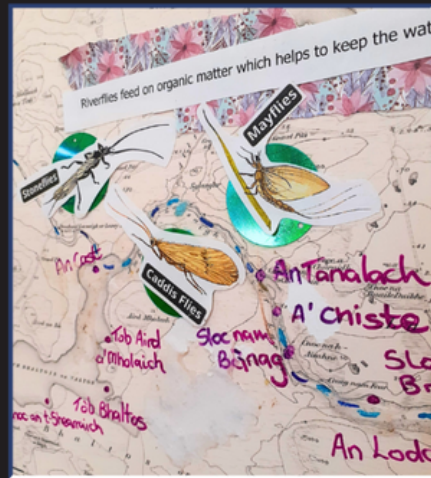
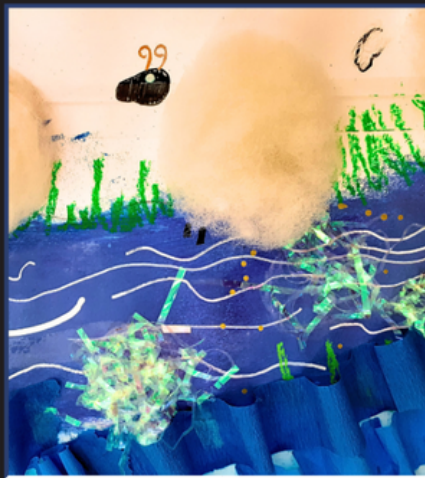


**SCOTTISH
CIVIC
TRUST**

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





NEED A GROWING
SPACE?



QUESTIONS ABOUT
GROWING
FRUIT/VEG?



WANT SUPPORT FROM
PEOPLE WITH THE
KNOW-HOW?



EMAIL: INFO@PAIRCTRUST.CO.UK
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Community for Growing

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

Would you like to meet
up with like minded
folk?

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

Look out for upcoming
workshops in Kinloch

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

Let's grow
together

Beginners and
accompanied
children welcome

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



Staff required for Soval Lodge

An exciting opportunity has arisen to work in Soval Lodge in 2026,
from now until the end of October assisting the Housekeeper
Mairi Macleod, on a part-time basis, mornings and/ or evenings to suit.
Soval Lodge is situated near to Balallan in a stunning position overlooking Loch Erisort.

Rate paid at £14.50 an hour plus gratuities.

Please apply to

Mairi Macleod, mairigravir@gmail.com / 07947 354995

Marie Kershaw mariedkershaw@hotmail.com / 07870 675342

Youth Enablement Award

DRIVING LESSON SCHEME



The Pairc Trust are offering support towards the cost of driving lessons. The award is specifically designed to reduce the financial barriers that often prevent individuals from accessing driving instruction. By subsidising the cost of lessons, the initiative supports young people in Pairc in gaining the necessary licences and driving skills aligned with their career or personal development goals.

By enabling access across multiple licence categories (available for standard car lessons, motorbikes, HGV training, and more!) the scheme increases flexibility for applicants.

Up to 3 lessons fully funded!



Applications are now open!

For further information and to apply please visit:
www.pairctrust.co.uk/youth-enablement-award

01851 880728

pairctrust.co.uk

info@pairctrust.co.uk



DEER MARAUDING DRIVE WITH CARE

All drivers are urged to:

- Reduce speed in wooded and rural areas, especially near known deer crossings.
- Be alert for deer at the roadside—where one is seen, others are often nearby.
- Report any collisions or sightings of injured or deceased deer as soon as possible.
- If you are involved in a collision with a deer, please contact the local police station in Stornoway, who will then ensure the incident is passed on to the appropriate person responsible for dealing with the deer in that area.
- Your cooperation is appreciated in helping to ensure the safety of both road users and wildlife.

Pairc & Kinloch Calendar

Weekly Events

Mondays

- Dance Class, Resource Centre (7pm)

Saturdays

- Pairc Social Walk, see WhatsApp group for location (11am)

Fortnightly Events

Wednesdays (from 29th October)

- Pairc Social Lunch, Ravenspoint cafe (1pm)

Monthly Events

Every Second Wednesday

- Aline Woodland Development Group meeting, Resource Centre, Kershader (7pm)

Saturday 25th July

- Lochs Show, Laxay Showground

Monday 27th July

- Pairc Youth Summer Activity - Kayaking & Bushcraft, Gravir (10:30am-3pm)

Wednesday 29th July

- **Organic & mixed recycling collection**

Friday 31st July

- Gaelic Conversation Circle, Resource Centre (11:30am-1pm)

Saturday 1st August

- IBT Scarp Trip, Huisinis (11am)
- 'Herring Stories of the Minch' screening, Resource Centre (7pm)

What's on in Pairc?



Tuesday 4th August

- Pairc Youth Summer Activity - Art Workshop, Resource Centre (10am-12pm)

Thursday 6th August

- Pairc Youth Summer Activity - Boxing For Fitness, Resource Centre (12pm-1pm)
- Gaelic Taster Session, Resource Centre (11:30am-1pm)

Wednesday 12th August

- **Household waste collection**

Friday 14th August

- Gaelic Conversation Circle, Resource Centre (11:30am-1pm)