

PAIRC NEWSLETTER

PAIRCTRUST.CO.UK



October 2025



Historic photo of Calbost

The Pairc Estate – October 2025

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

The Pairc Trust are pleased to invite you to the unveiling of new signage for the Estate as part of this year's Community Land Festival, as well as bringing you updates on the Pairc Landscape Project (including a visit to Sgoil na Pairc), a further community consultation event with SSE, and more news and events from across South Lochs & Kinloch.

01/20

Top News

**Community Land Festival
2025 – Pairc Signage
Celebration**

**Pairc Trust Landscape
Project**

**SSEN Community
Consultation – 25th October**

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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



The Pairc Trust Landscape Project: Kershader – A Historic Place

On Saturday 20th September, The Pairc Trust and Pairc Historical Society were delighted to welcome residents and visitors for a special afternoon celebrating the rich heritage of Kershader. Starting at Ravenspoint, we explored the village's past through stories, sites, and shared memories, all marking the launch of **A Brief History of Kershader**, a new publication capturing the voices, memories and milestones of this village.

Led by members of the Pairc Historical Society, the walk through Kershader offered a chance to reflect on how the landscape has shaped the lives and livelihoods of generations. The Trust also introduced Historic Place, a new project by that looks at how our landscape has shaped lives, livelihoods, and identity across generations.

After the walk, everyone returned to Ravenspoint for soup, sandwiches, and a chance to catch up with everyone. Huge thanks to the Ravenspoint Centre team for their hospitality!

Thank you to everyone who joined us. The Trust will be running a number of events as we explore the project. If you would like to be involved, please email info@pairctrust.co.uk.



The Pairc Trust – Sgoil na Pairc visit

As part of the ongoing Pairc Landscape Project, staff from the Pairc Trust and Climate Hebrides visited Sgoil na Pairc on Wednesday 1st October to speak with the pupils about Pairc as a '**Changing Place**', discussing how the landscape and local environment have changed and the array of issues the landscape is facing.

Funded by NatureScot and with the support of Climate Hebrides, this part of the project will look at the impact of climate change on the landscape in Pairc. The pupils at Sgoil na Pairc will help to produce a short film which examines

how climate change has already affected and will continue to effect the local environment, and what we can do to change this for future generations. Peat restoration, seaweed foraging and transport were all raised by the pupils as potential avenues of investigation for the film.

Future aspects of the Pairc Landscape Project include Pairc as an '**Inspiring Place**', focused on the emotional connections and memories that local residents have of the land, and Pairc as a '**New Place**', where the work and findings of Pairc as a place viewed through the lenses of history, change, and personal connection will be synthesised into a vision of Pairc for the future.

The Pairc Trust - Signage Celebration!



The Pairc Trust is gearing up to celebrate community ownership, as the biggest ever Community Land Festival takes place across the country next week.

Celebrating the new signage for the Pairc Trust is among dozens of Community-owned projects highlighting the aspirations and benefits of local empowerment as part of the Festival which runs from October 17 to November 2.

This event celebrates a meaningful milestone in the story of Pairc, correcting a long-standing boundary where the original signage was placed in the wrong location. After the unveiling, the community is warmly invited to the Ravenspoint community café for a lunch with locally sourced Pairc venison burgers and sausages.

Emma Mackenzie, Estate Manager at the Pairc Trust, said: “We are delighted to mark this year’s Community Land Festival by inviting the community to come together and celebrate the correction of a historical error in our boundary signage, a meaningful act that restores accuracy and honours the heritage and history of Pairc. We are thrilled to welcome everyone to celebrate together, and to enjoy a meal of locally sourced Pairc venison at Ravenspoint, another community-owned organisation within the Estate.”

The Community Land Festival is organised by Community Land Scotland and The Community Land Team. It developed initially from Community Land Week.

A record-breaking Festival

This record-breaking year sees more than 30 groups signed up to take part, from Shetland down to the Borders and Dumfries & Galloway and out to the Western Isles, and over half are taking part for the very first time.

Community Land Scotland Assistant Development Manager and Festival Organiser, Meg Taintor, says: “Community Land Festival is all about people – the communities who make it happen, and the wider public who get to join in and experience what they’ve achieved.

“Now in its seventh year, this is the biggest yet. The Festival continues to feel fresh and exciting because each community brings its own creativity, energy, and ideas to the table.

“That sense of new energy and involvement is incredibly exciting and really shows how vibrant and growing the community land movement is across Scotland.”

The 2025 festival sees a huge range of community activities, including; workshops, play

Community groups across Scotland prepare to celebrate biggest ever community land festival

play readings and Halloween dress-up parties. Some are using the Festival to celebrate with pumpkin trails, family days and woodland walks, while others are using it to spark conversations about future projects.

Stronger and Better Communities

“To me, as organiser, that’s the heart of the Festival”, Meg continues, “communities coming together, celebrating what’s already been achieved, and inspiring one another to dream about what comes next.

“The Festival creates a sense of momentum and possibility that lasts far beyond a single festival event, and it’s incredible to witness communities connecting, and inspiring each other to take on new projects. It’s a chance to celebrate the diversity, resilience, and energy of communities across Scotland, and a reminder of the power of people working together to make their places stronger and better.”

Community Land Festival Event

The Pairc Trust are delighted to have Domhnall Angie from Cromore, Pairc’s oldest crofter at the remarkable age of 102, to cut the ribbon at Saturday’s signage unveiling.

Born on Christmas Day in 1922, Dolangie is probably best known as the founder of Stag Garage in Stornoway. He had previously worked as an engineer in Glasgow and also worked at a tweed mill in Stornoway. He has been a lifelong crofter locally tending his sheep and has also been involved for many years in the local mart. His presence at the ribbon-cutting is a tribute to the generations of crofters and families who have shaped Pairc into the community it is today.

The ribbon-cutting will take place at 12pm, with a short speech by our Chairperson, Angus McDowall, reflecting on the significance of the signage and the legacy it honours. This will be followed by a community lunch at Ravenspoint around 12:30pm.

The new Pairc signage is located along the B8060 South Lochs Road and 600/m from the Balallan junction, at the head of Loch Erisort (Kinloch). For precise directions, the What3Words location is [///bothered.expel.starlight](https://what3words.com///bothered.expel.starlight). As parking at the site is limited, we kindly encourage attendees to car share where possible. Parking is available at the old road (old salt pile).

We warmly invite all members of the community to join us in marking this special occasion.

Community Land Festival



The Pairc Trust Signage Celebration

Join us for a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at the correct Pairc Estate Boundary, followed by a community lunch at Ravenspoint Centre

Sat 25 October * 12:00 - 16:00

THE PAIRC TRUST



bit.ly/pairc-clf

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COIMHEARSNACHD|LAND
NA H-ALBA|SCOTLAND



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

06/20

LOCHS FOOTBALL CLUB ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

AT THE NORTH LOCHS COMMUNITY CENTRE

DOORS OPEN AT 645PM BAR FROM 7PM



AWARDS PRESENTED BY LOCHS LEGEND

CALUM MURDO MACKENZIE

Live music, hot and cold food from The Good Food
Boutique, bar and raffle

Come and celebrate 30 years from the First League Title
win and celebrate 20 years from our 2nd win of the
Highlander Amateur Cup. Lets support the Club and
celebrate players past and present. Fun for all the
family.

18's and over £15

Under 18's £10

Tickets cost £15 for over-18s, and £10 for under-18s. Those interested in attending should contact the club via their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lochsfootballclub>

Lochs Bonfire 2025

Lochs Agricultural Society are hosting a bonfire night celebration at **Lochs Showground, Laxay**, on **Saturday 8th November**, with BBQ food and refreshments available. Further updates to be announced by the Lochs Agricultural Society.

Orinsay Thanksgiving

A short Thanksgiving service with Rev. Paul Murray (Kinloch) will be held at the Orinsay Mission Hall on Saturday 25th October at 10:30, followed by refreshments. The Mission Hall is due to be demolished to make way for a memorial to the Orinsay Drownings.

Pairc Craft Club

The Pairc Craft Club will be recommencing weekly Tuesday sessions, held between 1pm - 3 pm, at the Resource Centre from 21st October.

All are welcome to attend with whatever projects or items of interest they may have. The club charges a £2 fee/session to cover the cost of materials and refreshments.

Youth Enablement Award

DRIVING LESSON SCHEME



APPLY NOW

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

NORTH LOCHS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SCIO

Kids Halloween Parties

Friday 31st Oct 2025

- £3 per child and £2 for additional children
- Please book at www.northlochs.co.uk

NURSERY TO P3
4.30-5.30PM

P4 AND OVER
6-7.30PM

FANCY DRESS MONSTERS BALL

£50 voucher for
best costume

Tickets
£10

With Michael Libby (DJ set)

Complimentary drink on arrival

Sat 1st Nov 2025 8pm - late

Balallan Switching Station & Muaitheabhal (Uisenis) Wind Farm Connection

SSEN Transmission would like to invite you to attend our Feedback Event.

We are holding the second round of our statutory pre-application consultation (PAC) events for our proposed new Switching Station at Balallan and connection for the consented Muaitheabhal (Uisenis) Wind Farm. The pre-application process is a key first step in the Town and Country planning process for national planning applications.

To support the growth in renewable energy developments across the north of Scotland, that are supporting the drive towards Net Zero, investment in our network infrastructure is needed to connect this power and transport it to areas of demand.

As part of the investment, a new Switching Station at Balallan has been proposed and a 132kV overhead line connection between the new Balallan Switching Station and Muaitheabhal Wind Farm is planned. This is to allow the consented 150MW Muaithebheal (Uisenis) Wind Farm to export renewable energy generation to the transmission network.

At these events we will be sharing information about our final designs for our projects, including, layout details, visualisations and Environmental & cultural considerations taken into account within our planning. The project teams will be available to answer questions and discuss our proposals to which we are seeking and welcome feedback.

The feedback event will take place on:

Wednesday 22 October, 3–7pm

The Kinloch Historical Society
Community Hub, Balallan, HS2 9PN

Thursday 23 October, 3–7pm

The Resource Centre, Kershader, HS2 9QA

**If you have any questions,
please do not hesitate to contact
our Community Liaison Managers:**

Kevin Morrison

Battery Point, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2RT

Tel: 07586 237 814

Email: kevin.morrison@sse.com

If you are unable to attend this PAC event or wish to view the consultation materials these will be on display and available to download from the project webpages from **8 October 2025**.



To find out more about the Balallan Switching Station and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL:
sSEN-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/balallan-switching-station/



To find out more about the Muaitheabhal Wind Farm Connection and register for project updates, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL:
sSEN-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/muaitheabhal-wind-farm-connection/

 @SSENTransmission

 @ssentransmission

Late-Night **SHOPPING**

KINLOCH COMMUNITY HUB
THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER
6PM-8PM



MULLED WINE/HOT CHOCOLATE & MINCE PIES
GIFT SHOP & CHARITY SHOP OPEN
SELECTION OF LOCAL ARTISTS, CRAFTERS & BUSINESSES

11/20



KINLOCH80

EXHIBITION LAUNCH
 FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER, 7PM
 KINLOCH COMMUNITY HUB

An exhibition exploring the changes in the
 community of Kinloch over the past 80 years

KINLOCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER: SC006858

Museums
 Galleries
 Scotland
Supporting Scotland's Museums

Made possible with

 Heritage
 Fund

KINLOCH CONNECTIONS

TRANSPORT THROUGH THE YEARS



6 SEPTEMBER - 31 OCTOBER

KINLOCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Community Hub, Balallan

AN EXHIBITION EXPLORING THE
EVOLUTION OF TRANSPORT THAT
SERVED THE KINLOCH COMMUNITY

kinlochhistoricalsociety.co.uk Scottish Charity Number: SC006858

The views in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editorial committee.
Contribution, ideas and pictures gratefully received: lochsnews2018@gmail.com

ISSUE 44

OCT 2025

Lochs News ISSN 2633-402x

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October November WHAT'S ON!

Youth Cafe, S1-6

Saturdays at 7pm

Leurbost Community Centre

Creagan Cafe

Open Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays

Leurbost Community Centre

Kinloch Warm Hub

Every Friday

Kinloch Community Hub, 12noon-2pm

Warm Space

Every Wednesday

Ravenspoint Centre, 11am-4pm

Forget me Not Cafe

Wednesday 15 Oct

Kinloch Community Hub, 2pm-4pm

Autumn Craft: Leaf Wreath

Friday 17 Oct

Kinloch Community Hub, 2pm-4pm

Silver Darlings

Saturday 18 Oct, 01 & 08 Nov

Leurbost Community Centre

Kinloch Transport Exhibition

Saturday 18 October

Kinloch Community Hub, 10am-4pm

Charity Football Match

Saturday 18 Oct

Creagan Dubh, 2pm

Hogwarts Holiday Club

Tuesday 21 Oct

Balallan & District Recration Hall

10am to 12pm: age 5 – 8 / 1pm to 3pm: age 9 – 12

Balallan & District Recreation Hall AGM

Thursday 23 Oct

7.30pm

Lochs FC Award Night

Friday 24 Oct

Leurbost Community Centre

Kids Halloween Party

Friday 31 Oct

Leurbost Community Centre

Fancy Dress Monsters Ball

Saturday 01 Nov

Leurbost Community Centre, 8pm-late

Bonfire Night & Fireworks

Wednesday 05 Nov

Leurbost Community Centre

Bonfire Night

Friday 07 Nov

Keose & Keose Glebe, 7pm

Bonfire Night

Saturday 08 Nov

Laxay Showground

Remembrance Day Soup & Pudding

Saturday 8th Nov

Leurbost Community Centre

Kinloch80 Exhibition Launch

Friday 14 Nov

Kinloch Historicaal Society

Car Boot/Table-Top Sale

Saturday 15th Nov

Leurbost Community Centre

JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE COMMUNITY LANDOWNERSHIP PROJECT – CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT ON COMMUNITY LANDOWNERSHIP?

We are two social scientists working on a project exploring the effects of community landownership in Scotland. The project is led by the James Hutton Institute in collaboration with Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) and is funded by the Scottish Government.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT ABOUT?

Our project aims to understand more about the effects of community landownership over time. We are carrying out the research with four different communities across Scotland, including Pairc. The research will take place over the next 1.5 years and will involve 2-3 visits to the four different places

More about the project:



WHO DO WE WISH TO SPEAK TO?

We wish to speak to people who live within or near to Pairc Estate, have an interest in the Trust's work, or who are staff members or directors of the Trust. We are interested in a wide range of experiences.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

The interviews will take place face-to-face (where possible) in a location that is convenient for you, or online. Each interview will last about an hour and will be recorded. You will be asked to fill in and sign a consent form before the interview.

WHO TO CONTACT?

Annabel
(annabel.pinker@hutton.ac.uk)
or Carey
(carey.doyle@sruc.ac.uk)



Beach Clean

Tiana, P3

On Wednesday 24th September we did a beach clean with Janet in Gravir. We walked on the road, and we had Hi-Viz jackets on to keep us safe.

On the beach we picked up the rubbish, like bottles and rope. We put the rubbish in a bag and took it to school.

Pheobe, P3

We did a beach clean-up on Wednesday 24th of September in Gravir. We walked down the road, we all had Hi-Viz jackets just in case a car didn't see us.

There was lots of crabs because the tide was in. Tianna and I found lots of glass and plastic, but a crab came floating to us and it looked as if some

rope was wrapped around it.

Our bag was full of rubbish, and it weighed 7 kilograms. We saved the fish from dying in the rubbish.

Coffee Morning

Leya, P7

On the 26th of September we held a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. On Thursday, the day before, the school did some baking, the P7 and 6's made Mars bar squares and the P3's made Fifteens. To prepare for the Macmillan coffee morning we set four tables with Macmillan designed tablecloths and lots of cakes and biscuits. While Leisha and Pheobe were at the entrance welcoming people, Callie, Olivia, Tianna and I were serving all of the visitors.

We asked some of the visitors some



questions about the Pairc area for our project. As the Macmillan coffee morning was coming to an end we thanked everyone for coming and said goodbye, however, most unexpectedly we made £262.50, which was brilliant.

The Road

Callie, P7

Friday the 3rd of October Mr. David Simpson came to Pairc primary school to talk to us about the old South Lochs Road, going through Gravir, built a hundred years ago. Mr. Simpson had helped Pairc Historical Society with finding the information for the book 'AN RATHAD.' Before Mr. Simpson came, we all read a piece of writing to understand the story of the old roads. When Mr. David Simpson arrived, he asked us what we already knew about the historical old roads.

Mr. David Simpson showed us a

and he explained to us how lucky we are to have such a good road when a hundred years ago they had to do everything themselves. However, he asked if we knew why it was a bad thing that the old roads were so bad. All of the children told him it made a big impact on people in the villages and how everyone was so isolated because no one could see anyone unless they travelled a long way. He interviewed two people and one of them was called Dolina MacLennan, he asked her about how the roads were before the new road. Dolina MacLennan explained that when she used to go to get food or peat, she never wore her shoes, so it was painful walking in the rough road, so she used to put her feet into the cow pat to cool her feet and to soothe them. Although, he also told us about a man called Donnie Morison whose father had one of the first buses in Gravir. His son said he remembers his father who helped other people with



Climate Cup Award

The pupils at Sgoil na Pairc have been awarded the Climate Cup by Climate Hebrides, in recognition for going above and beyond in their climate action efforts throughout the last year. Congratulations!

getting to work, school and getting to Stornoway. He also took stuff to Stornoway and took stuff back.

He told us about the small shops they used to have when they had the old road a hundred years ago and he told us about farming and what kind of animals they had, and we said hens, cows, sheep, goats, and birds.

Mr. David Simpson said in 1920 the men used dynamite to break through the big hills then in 1925 they opened the new road. He asked us how the new road helped people and we all said that it stopped people feeling isolated and people in the villages could go to school, work easier than before. Not long after, grocery vans started coming through Gravir and Pairc. However, Mr. David Simpson showed us maps of Gravir before and showed us some photos of when the old people in the villages had to walk. He showed us some of his maps and what

maps were like in the olden days, he showed us one photo of a map that we all were really fascinated by.

He asked us about what jobs they could do after the new road was built, we all said that they could go to Stornoway and could do whatever jobs they wanted. We learned about all of the people who helped with building the old road and he give us a copy of the book 'AN RATHAD.' Just before Mr. David Simpson had to leave we got a lovely photo taken with him.

Then he had to leave, we said thanks, and I really found it all so fascinating, the whole school was so lucky that Mr. David Simpson came. We would all like to say thanks to Mr. David Simpson for coming to Pairc primary school.

Olivia, P7

Friday 13th October Mr. David Simpson came to Pairc School to talk about the

STEM Challenger Experience

On 4th September, four Sgoil na Pairc pupils undertook a challenge, organised by the Engineering Development Trust and sponsored by SSEN, to build a catch game with at least 3 different levels in the Scratch programming language.

For successfully completing the challenge, the pupils received an Industrial Cadets Challenger certificate.

Well done!



road in South Lochs, 'The Road' {An Rathad} that was built 100 years ago in 1925. He came to talk about the road with us because we had been studying about the road and we had read about it in a newspaper article called 'Focus on the story of a road in Lewis' by Anne Devlin.

First, we showed him our maps that we made that morning, they were 3D maps of Gravir, showing the school, the surgery, the church, the cemetery and some houses and we also put in the roads and the river and they were so colourful. He thought they were fantastic.

Next, we talked about the old road and looked at some pictures of what it looked like, who built it, and we also saw a picture of a really old school bus on the new road.

Then, he showed us two pictures of maps of where the road was and it was cool to look at and you could see other places around the road.

After that, we talked about a lady called

Dolina MacLennan who had a memory about the old road, that when she would walk on the old road it would hurt her feet so she would step in cow poo and then wash her feet in the river on the way home with her friend. We got to watch a video of her saying it, and it was kind of funny.

Then, we found out about the South Lochs area, and what it looked like 100 years ago. We also saw a picture of a man in a red truck who went around Gravir selling meat.

David wrote a book about the road called 'AN RATHAD: A journey through Pairc'. With a picture of the road on the front cover of the book.

When he was finished talking we had the chance to ask some questions. We had a lot of fun. After we took some notes about the information that we learnt so that we could do some writing about it.

We would like to thank Mr. Simpson for talking to us.

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)

Wednesday 22nd October

- **Household waste collection**

Thursday 23rd October

- **Glass recycling collection**

- SSEN Community Consultation Event, Resource Centre (3-7pm)

- Balallan & District Recreational Hall AGM (7:30pm)

Friday 24th October

- Lochs FC Awards Night, Leurbost Community Hall (7pm)

Saturday 25th October

- Orinsay Thanksgiving Service, Orinsay Mission House, (10:30am)
- Pairc Trust Signage Celebration, Balallan road end & Ravenspoint (12-4pm)

Wednesday 29th October

- **Organic waste & mixed recycling collection**

What's on in Pairc?



Friday 31st October

- Kids Halloween Party, Leurbost Community Centre (4:30-7:30pm).

Saturday 1st November

- Fancy Dress Monsters' Ball, Leurbost Community Centre (8pm-late).

Friday 7th November

- Bonfire celebration, Keose & Keose Glebe

Saturday 8th November

- Remembrance service, Kershader (11am)
- Bonfire celebration, Lochs Showground

Wednesday 12th November

- **Household waste & mixed recycling collection**

Friday 14th November

- Kinloch80 Exhibition Launch, Kinloch Hub (7pm)