

Spring Newsletter 2019

The Latest News From Portree and Braes Community Trust



Community Events Group to Take the Reins This Christmas

Since the formation of the Portree Community Events Group was announced much support has been offered to support this group to deliver a special Christmas event in Portree. The group's priorities are the delivery of a Christmas Lights Switch-on event incorporating *Light up a Life* and, if fundraising allows, a Hogmanay event. If you would like to get involved or join the bank of volunteers please send your name and contact information to Fiona - contact details below. If you would like to donate towards the cost of these events please keep an eye on the Trust's website and Facebook page - a Just Giving online donation page will be launching soon. The group would also like to hear from anyone who can lend their skills or expertise to these events.



We Need YOU

Securing funds for skate park equipment in 2018 was a huge success for the Outdoor Activities Group. The skate ramps cost £1800 per year to insure however and the Trust are now looking to form a dedicated skate ramps working group to fund-raise on an ongoing basis.

Role: Work with other group members to arrange fundraising activities and events annually.

Commitment: Approx. a few hours a month

Can anyone get involved? Yes. We would also like to hear from school groups interested in helping to support fundraising for this facility.

Contact Fiona for more information.



Three Cheers for Myra!

Myra Macleod has been a dedicated Trustee and Secretary for Portree and Braes Community Trust (PBCT) and previously Portree Area Community Trust (PACT) since 2011. Last month Myra decided it was time to stand down from these roles although will continue to be active as a member of the PBCT Health Services sub-group to drive forward the Sir Lewis Ritchie recommendations on Health Services in the north of Skye. Myra has volunteered countless hours and supported the Trust through many changes over the years. Myra - thank you for all of your hard work.

Ann-Marie Campbell has volunteered to step into the role and we wish her all the best of luck.

Trust on Track to Purchase Community Land in Portree.

After some delays the stage two Scottish Land Fund application for the purchase of land in Portree owned by Fearann Eilean Iarmain estate is on track to be submitted in June. The Trust are pursuing purchase of the KG5 Playing Field, the outer area of The Lump, Sulaisiadar Common Grazings and two plots of land at Bayfield.

Discussions Over the Future of the Community Centre Continue

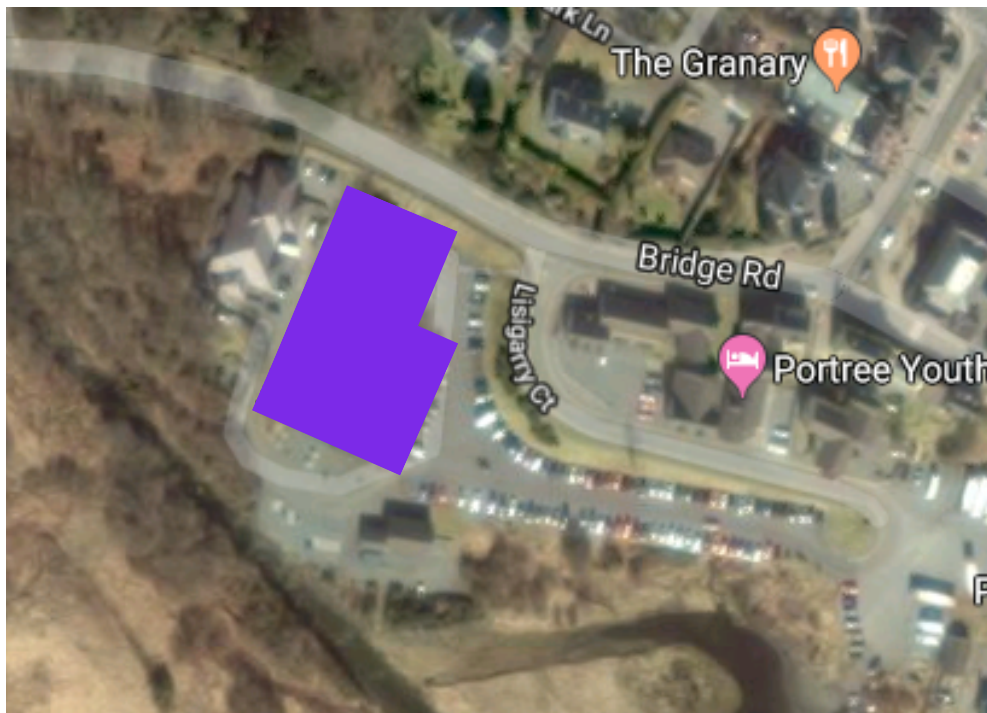


The Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association, PBCT, local Councillors, HIE and the Portree Community Centre Committee (PCCC) alongside representatives from Portree Nursery and Portree Primary have held a series of meetings to discuss the future of the Community Centre and the Camanachd Square / Park Road area. Since 2018 the PCCC has been working to improve the standards of the building with a view to re-opening. A recent survey however highlights that significant investment will now be required to secure the future of the building. An architect provided feedback stating that a re-build may be more cost efficient although a full condition report is required before further action can be taken. The benefits of the PCCC forming a subgroup under the umbrella of the PBCT are being discussed with the details of this arrangement to be confirmed. The Community Centre is currently closed with exception of access to Phil the Barber who continues to operate from the building as normal.

KG5 Playing Field

Big thanks to Calum Matheson for volunteering to cut the grass at KG5. The playing field is currently leased and managed by the Highland Council who have a limited budget to maintain the site. We hope this extra attention will lead to more people being able to enjoy this public green space.

Nearby, the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association are progressing a development in the site of the old bus garage. This will be completed in approximately 12 months and while ongoing a license has been approved by the Highland Council to occupy the old swimming pool site and half of the red pitch for additional parking. As compensation, the HA have committed to fixing the broken steps on the Red Pitch to create a safe access from the KG5 side.



Tennis and Squash Courts Land Purchase Progresses

In 2018 the PBCT, in partnership with the Portree Tennis and Squash Club submitted an application to the Rural Tourism Infrastructure fund (RTIF) with a proposal to develop additional car and motorhome parking and motorhome waste disposal facilities in the site of the now derelict squash courts and tennis courts. This site is currently owned by the Portree Tennis and Squash Club who are keen to sell the site to PBCT. A sale would be key to securing a new Tennis and Squash facility and protecting the future of the club. The outcome of the RTIF has not yet been announced however the Scottish Land Fund have invited an application from the PBCT to pursue the purchase of this piece of land.

The Trust are currently in the process of purchasing two other plots at Bayfield - to the west in the wooded area and to the east by the shore.

STORR 2 SLIG - SAVE THE DATE



This year's walking challenge will be taking place on Saturday the 31st of August. The "Storr 2 Slig" is a 25 mile route over mixed terrain from the Old Man of Storr to Sligachan Hotel. There will be an option for those who are less experienced walkers to complete the shorter Storr to Portree route. More information coming soon so keep an eye on the website.



Success for Easter 2019 Fun Day

The fantastic total of £600 was raised for the Outdoor Activities sub-group of the Trust this year. Thanks to Sharon Fenlon and Mo Taylor for organising, to Laura and all the staff at Tongadale Hotel for hosting and for donating the eggs for the hunt, to all the generous local businesses for donating prizes and chocolate eggs and to all the volunteers who helped out face painting, marshaling the egg hunt, and donating other raffle prizes and bottles for the bottle stall. A fun day was had by all and a great amount of money raised at the same time!

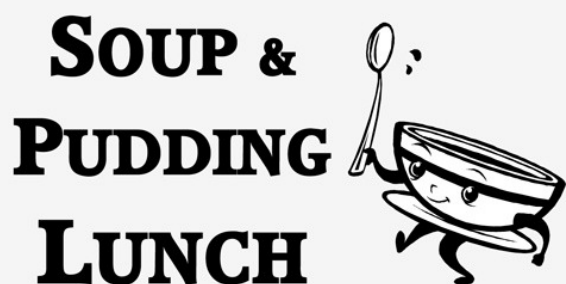


Full House at Curry and Quiz Fundraiser

The curry and quiz fundraiser this year was a fun-packed night with delicious food and entertainment all evening. Over £1000 was raised which goes a long way to supporting the Trust to continue operating. Huge thanks to everyone who helped organise and to those who attended and donated on the night. Here's chairman Donnie Nicolson with the winning team, who despite being the smallest team claimed 1st prize. Now can anyone tell me, who scored in the 1990 Camanachd cup final....? 😊

Braes Residents Cook up a Storm for Portree and Braes Trust

Thank you to all the Braes residents who gave up a sunny afternoon to hold a Soup and Pudding fundraiser in Braes Village Hall raising £120 for the Trust. Braes Village Hall Committee are currently fundraising for a new roof and would like to hear from anyone who would like to help.





Date Set for Portree Clean -Up

Join the Trust for a shore-side clean-up day at Bayfield on Saturday the 18th of May from 11am -1pm. All welcome. Under 16's must be supervised by an adult. Meet at the picnic benches. Gloves and bags will be provided however if you have your own please bring them along. Strong gardening gloves are recommended. Look forward to seeing you there. Thank you to Marianne Sutton and Portree High school pupils who kick-started the clean up this week.

Nature in the Garden and The Big Lunch



This issue, Lucy Cooke, the newly appointed Community Engagement Officer for Skye, Wester Ross and Kyle has been asked to write about her role and the activities that she enjoys being involved in around Portree.

"My name is Lucy and I am going to be spending the year getting to know the communities of North East Skye, Portree and Kyle of Lochalsh.

I have been fortunate enough to get to know the amazing organisation Viewfield Garden Collective and will be working with them throughout the year. Nature enthusiasts will be pleased to hear we are operating regular moth traps in the garden and have already found a wealth of wildlife being attracted to the patch.



Of course, the garden would be nothing without the project volunteers and we will be celebrating their achievements over a Big Lunch on Wednesday the 5th of June. Everyone is welcome to attend and will be hoping to attract some more volunteers. There will be a moth trapping session, garden tour, volunteer awards and a shared lunch (please bring something yummy to contribute!)



You will also have opportunity to buy garden produce (by donation). More information will be on the Gardens Facebook page shortly. Alternatively, you can email me about the event or if you have comments about community planning in the areas I mention above."

Lucy Cooke

Community Engagement Officer
for Skye, Kyle and Wester Ross
Lucy@highlandtsi.org.uk



Health Services Newsletter Launched

Sophie Isaacson, Project Support Officer for the Sir Lewis Ritchie Report Implementation Project has been busy working with community representatives to keep the north of Skye updated on project progress. A newsletter has been compiled and the first issue can be read here: <https://www.portreeandbraes.org/news>. Sign up to receive regular updates by visiting the Health Services page of our website or following this link: <http://eepurl.com/gks4RP>. Hard copies are also available. Please contact Sophie on sophie@portreeandbraes.org or 07716249584 for more information.

New Policies in the Making to Support Scottish Islands



This summer the Scottish Government are delivering an island wide consultation programme both on and offline to gather feedback for the first National Islands Plan. This process is being described as a historic moment in Scottish Policy. The event nearest Portree is being held in Uig on the 13th of June. Venue and time to be confirmed. If you can't make the event or have a suggestion or a concern you would like to Trust to raise on your behalf, please get in touch. There will also be an opportunity to contribute online at a later date.

Outdoor Activity Group Awarded Carbon Tax Funding



Huge thanks to Rabbies who have donated £1000 to the Trust's Outdoor Activities Group from their Carbon Tax Fund. Some of this award will support the ongoing insurance costs for the skate ramps while the rest will support the development of the woodland area to the west of Bayfield. The Outdoor Activities Group would like to improve access to this area for children and young people specifically and are discussing how it could be transformed into a fun and safe woodland space.

Harbour Group Seek Support From MSP's



Kate Forbes MSP met with the Portree Harbour Group back in March 2019 to discuss the funding challenges currently being faced by the group. Ms Forbes went on to arrange a meeting for the group with Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister of Energy, Connectivity and the Islands and Neil Rutherford, Senior Associate Director of The Scottish Futures Trust. This meeting took place on Friday 3rd May. The group are encouraged by support for this project and are determined to secure further backing at the highest levels with advice from these individuals. The groups current objectives are to work with the Highland Council and CERTAS energy to relocate the oil tanks at the pier head and to simultaneously secure funding for a masterplan and business case outlining a phased regeneration of the harbour and surrounding areas.

Thank you for reading. If you would like to work with the Trust or have any feedback we'd like to hear from you. Please contact Fiona Thomson, Development Officer on fiona@portreeandbraes.org / 07570652953 / Office 5, Jans, Broom Places, Portree, IV51 9HL. For more information on any Trust projects visit www.portreeandbraes.org/projects

Portree and Braes Trust exists to coordinate and stimulate the economic, environmental and cultural regeneration of the area in response to community identified priorities.

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