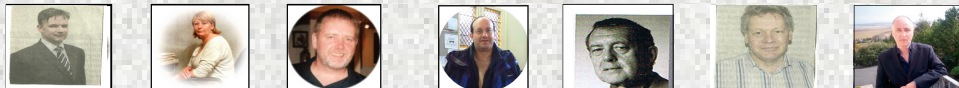




# MANOR & CASTLE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 150

APRIL 2016



## Manor & Castle Newsletter

### Special points of interest:

- Chairperson's Comments
- Councillor's Comment's
- Local information

### Chairman's Comments

Hello everyone and welcome to the fourth Newsletter of 2016

I was reading recently that the month of April is said to derive its name from the Latin verb *aperio*, which signifies *to open*, because all the buds and blossoms are now opening, and we have arrived at the gates of the flowery year.



I hope all went well with your recent trip to Pitlochry and that you all had a good time together with happy memories of all the different places visited and special thanks to Mary and Murdo and everyone else involved in making such trips a possibility.

Roddy Nicolson

### Inside this issue:

- Isles hustings **2**
- CAB & the election **3**
- Cook's Corner **4**

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## Councillor's Report

I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone in the Association that our thoughts are with the families who lost loved ones in the tragedy of Mingulay this month. Please remember them in your prayers.

The sale of work was a great success raising over £500 for our Spring trip and well done to all those who contributed baking, raffles. On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank the Co-op, Roberstons and the Lewis Crofters for their kindness year upon year.

Work has begun on Columbia Place Play park and here is hoping that we have a play park that is fit for our children to play. I have ordered bike racks and also a spotlight to shine into the park when it gets a bit darker. Some paintwork and fixing of the fence is still required and I will continue to monitor the progress.

## Councillor Gordon Murray

A series of public constituency hustings are being held across the Highlands & Islands for next month's Scottish Elections.

Organised by the [Federation of Small Businesses \(FSB\)](#), they will take place in Stornoway in The Nicolson Institute's Hall on Friday, 22nd April – 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

The hustings are public and free, and all are welcome, young and old. They will focus on how to create resilient local economies and communities by taxing fairly, regulating sensibly and spending locally, as called for in [FSB's 2016 Scotland's Scottish Elections manifesto](#).

The intention is to give business people and members of the wider public the opportunity to quiz candidates on a wide range of local issues – things like:

- Their views on mobile and broadband connectivity and what should be done to improve it.
- What can be done to help smaller communities in the constituency thrive?
- What more can be done to boost tourism?
- Their views on delivery charges and solutions.
- What more can be done to improve transport links to and within the Western Isles?
- What more can be done to ensure that, wherever possible, the public sector procures goods and services locally?
- What can be done to simplify the rules, regs and bureaucracy that so many business complain about?
- What can be done to better prepare young people for the world of work?
- What can be done to improve the local business tax system – commercial rates?

but the picture is not as bright as we would like and business confidence is sliding.

"Life is tough for many small businesses and their communities, so what should we do about it? Do we want more of the same old policies and solutions that bring mixed results, or should we think again about what our economy is all about and take a new line? FSB supports the latter approach.

"Politicians increasingly talk about the importance of smaller businesses to their communities and the economy, but actions speak louder than words, and it is the practical measures that they take to help businesses and the communities in which they operate that really matter.

"Many parts of this constituency are extremely fragile and our FSB manifesto calls for more to be done to create resilient local economies and communities capable of seizing opportunities and overcoming problems and threats as they arise. For this to happen we – government, public agencies and the general public – must do more to support and nurture our smaller businesses. They are the lifeblood that keeps everything going.

"I hope that business owners and local people will come along to question the candidates about what they and their parties will do to ensure that the Western Isles flourishes"

## Scottish Parliament Election 2016

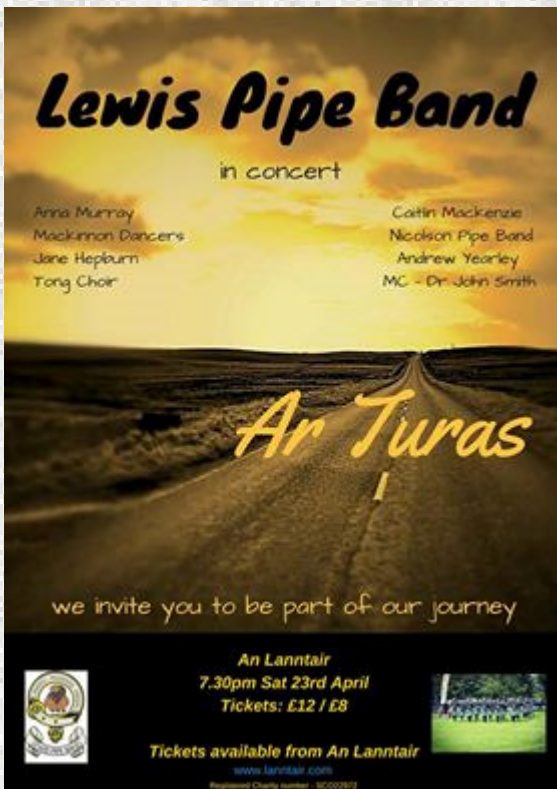
Citizens Advice Scotland undertakes work to influence the development of social policy in the UK.

Citizens Advice Bureaux identify trends in the kinds of problems that people bring to them. Once a problem has been identified as being prevalent, Citizens Advice Scotland then investigate why it is causing people hardship or difficulties.

Once CAS work out why the issue is a problem, they can then work out what course of action to take in helping provide a solution to the problem. One of the key ways in which CAS do this is by our evidence to inform government, and parliamentarians at all levels. In particular they:

- Participate in and attend official government and parliamentary working groups
- Hold meetings with government officials from both the Scottish and UK Governments
- Meet and brief politicians on their findings
- Influence legislation through briefing and proposing amendments
- Provide written and oral evidence to government committees

With the upcoming Scottish Parliament Election on 5 May 2016, CAS have been busy engaging with politicians' right across the political spectrum. Throughout February and March they attended a number of Party Conferences including the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Scottish Conservatives, SNP and Scottish Labour. CAS have also hosted and attended election hustings on a variety of issues from consumer affairs to social security and made sure that the CAB voice has been heard throughout



**Lewis Pipe Band**  
in concert

Anna Murray  
Mackinnon Dancers  
Jane Hepburn  
Tong Choir

Caitlin Mackenzie  
Nickson Pipe Band  
Andrew Yearley  
MC - Dr John Smith

**An Turas**

we invite you to be part of our journey

An Lanntair  
7.30pm Sat 23rd April  
Tickets: £12 / £8

Tickets available from An Lanntair  
www.lanntair.com  
Registered Charity number - 10002912



### Local man promoted in Police

Lewis man Calum Ian Macleod has today been appointed vice-chair of the Police Federation of England and Wales - the staff body for all police constables, sergeants and inspectors.

Mr Macleod, who hails from Bayble, Point, has been a police officer for 22 years.

His first six years in the force was spent as an officer in Strathclyde Police and the remainder with South Wales Police.

The vast majority of his service has been in frontline operational duties.

Mr Macleod, a sergeant in the force, takes up his responsibilities immediately.

His father, Western Isles councillor Norman Macleod, was the last convener of the Northern Joint Police Board before the formation of Police Scotland and is now a regular at our Association meetings living in Barony Square.

# COOKS CORNER

## Shortbread

### Ingredients

125g/4oz [butter](#)

55g/2oz [caster sugar](#), plus extra to finish

180g/6oz [plain flour](#)

### Method

1. Heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.
2. Beat the butter and the sugar together until smooth.
3. Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste. Turn on to a work surface and gently roll out until the paste is 1cm/½in thick.
4. Cut into rounds or fingers and place onto a baking tray. Sprinkle with caster sugar and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.
5. Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.



### Lighthouses of the Hebrides...a talk

The Islands Book Trust's first event of 2016 is a talk by the writer and journalist Bella Bathurst on the Lighthouse Stevensons with special reference to the Outer Hebridean lights. Many of the Stevenson lighthouses are well known, but none more so than that of the Flannan Isles, which in December 1900 was found abandoned, the keepers having vanished. Bella will talk about these hardy and determined men of the Stevenson family and the lighthouses they struggled to build against the odds, using limited Georgian and Victorian technology. She will pay particular attention to Hebridean lighthouses such as Skerryvore, where the 'ground rocks for the ... lighthouse were prepared by hand (even though the "gneiss could blunt a pick in three blows") in waves and winds "strong enough to lift a man bodily off the rock" and that "it took 120 hours to dress a single stone for the outside of the tower and 320 hours to dress one of the central stones."

**The Lighthouse Stevensons and the Outer Hebrides', a talk by Bella Bathurst organised by the Islands Book Trust will take place at 7.30pm on Saturday 30 April, at Museum nan Eilean, Lews Castle, Stornoway All welcome, price £8/£5. Please visit the IBT [website](#) or phone 01851 830316 for further details.**