



# MANOR & CASTLE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 151

MAY 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 meeting tonight.

#### SUMMER DAYS

I liked something I was reading recently which I am sure you will agree is very appropriate. "Lo, the flowery month is come! March winds and April showers have done their work". Yes as we look around us we see new life forming as the leaves come on the trees again and the flowers and beginning to bloom again and along with the sunny days we have had recently, the grey of winter is changing into all the colours of summer.

#### SCAMS

I do not think any of us will be immune to the scourge of scams that continue to blight our daily lives. Whether it is scams in connection with telephones, online matters, mail and doorstep even the most "savvy" among us can be easily conned into parting with cash and/or personal information. There are just so many unscrupulous people out there who do not care who they target and we all have to be on our guard as much as possible. The good news is that during the month of July, Citizens Advice Scotland along with member CABx will be running a Scams Awareness Month to raise awareness of current scams and empower the public to fight back.

Best regards, Roddy Nicolson, Chairman

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## Councillor's Report

Another month flies by and at last we are seeing pockets of good weather with more to come hopefully. The only downside to such sun is the grass cutting season is upon us and one of the chores that needs to be done. If any have difficulty with grass cutting due to infirmity, please let me know and I can try and arrange to have your grass cut.

The Columbia Place Play Park project is coming along nicely. We hope to have picnic benches and some nice games painted on the tarmac to give the area more colour. A spotlight will be added for when the nights draw in.

The Kennedy Terrace Play Park project is well underway with a meet up with a number of parents from the ward taking place this week. Hopefully, we can all work together and provide more safe playing areas for our children.

I have a surgery planned for Wednesday 18th May in the Grianan Centre from 5:30pm—6:30pm— if you wish to speak to me about an issue , please come along.

Councillor Gordon Murray



## Volunteering in the Western Isles

The Volunteer Centre Western Isles is an independent local charity with offices based in Lewis, Harris, Uist and Barra. We actively encourage, support and promote volunteering in our community and so far a massive 57% of our community have been involved in volunteering; that's almost twice the national average! This is something we should be extremely proud of as we can proudly say that we have a higher percentage of people volunteering than anywhere else in the country!

This high level of volunteering has inspired us to hold Volunteer Awards ceremony to celebrate and recognise the essential contribution volunteers made by the people and organisations in our communities. This year's ceremony will take place in Stornoway on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, during national Volunteers' Week which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June.

The event caters for up to 150 people depending on the area and will receive media coverage throughout our communities on radio, newspapers, community newsletters and social media.

Our categories this year are:

Young volunteer of the Year

Volunteer of the Year

Organisation of the Year

Services to Volunteering (For outstanding service)

## **Isle of Lewis War Memorial**

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has been awarded a grant of £132k from the War Memorial Trust's First World War Memorials Programme which, together with the Comhairle's capital allocation of £100K, will allow significant restoration and repair works to the Lewis War Memorial.

The Comhairle appointed Simpson and Brown Conservation Architects to prepare and co-ordinate the pre-contract and tender process, with Flemings Masonry Contractors from Glasgow being appointed as the successful contractor.

Comhairle Convener and Chair of the Local Remembrance Group, Cllr Norman A MacDonald, said: "The Lewis War Memorial has been one of the most iconic buildings in our islands since it was opened on Friday 24th September 1924. More than two thousand people gathered that day to witness the opening of the Memorial, dedicated to Lewismen and women who had lost their lives fighting for their country. Due to its prominent unsheltered spot on the top of Cnoc-nan-uan, the building has suffered damage to its stonework over the years, due to the Lewis weather. It is very important that we maintain such buildings, which are a constant reminder to us all of the sacrifices made by so many islanders and I am very pleased to see that the Comhairle has been awarded a grant to carry out necessary restoration works."



It is envisaged that the works will commence in April 2016, which will result in the memorial being externally scaffolded to allow the restoration works to be undertaken to all elevations.

The external works will primarily consist of stonework pointing, stone replacement where necessary, replacement of 15 slim windows with new louvres and refurbishment of 4 windows on the fourth floor. Restoration works will be undertaken to the three overhanging turrets and the turret steps, entrance door ceiling and slit windows will all be refurbished.

The internal work will primarily involve the removal of existing secondary material (cement render, plaster and paint) to expose the inner rubble stone surfaces to walls.

It is envisaged that the works will take most of the summer to deliver and on conclusion of the works the scaffolding will be left for a number of months to allow for further inspection.

## **HHP Tenant forum**

Local housing agency, Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP) is host its annual lunch event for Lewis and Harris tenants later this month.

The event will have a particular focus on energy efficiency and HHP partners such as TEAS will be in attendance to provide help and advice on how to reduce energy costs and save money.

Tenants can drop in, have lunch and chat to staff and also view the latest range of kitchens, windows and doors and heating systems being offered to tenants.

Iain MacMillan, vice chair of HHP said "This event provides an ideal opportunity for tenants to get advice on saving money and to see what HHP are doing.

"Tenants can come when they can and leave when they want - the emphasis is on informality. I would urge people to attend. We want to hear tenants' views on their homes and to work together to improve services." There will be an activity corner for pre-school children and a free-to-enter raffle for each household attending.

There will also be information available on services provided by a range of other local agencies and an opportunity for people to talk to officers about issues such as welfare reform and housing costs and worries they have about these.

HHP have appointed the Tenant Participation Advisory Service, (TPAS Scotland) to work with tenants and to help them get involved in how services are delivered.

The event takes place in Stornoway Town Hall from 12 to 2pm on Friday 27th May.



# COOKS CORNER

## Summer Cheesecake

### Ingredients

175g butter  
250g caster sugar  
4 large eggs  
200g self-raising flour  
50g ground almond  
75g full-fat natural yogurt  
2 tsp vanilla extract  
250g strawberry  
hulled and sliced  
handful flaked, toasted almonds  
For the cheesecake blobs  
200g full-fat cream cheese  
25g caster sugar  
1 large egg

### Method

#### Method

1.Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Grease and line the base and sides of a deep 23cm cake tin with baking parchment. Mix the ingredients for the cheesecake blobs together in a bowl until just combined – be careful not to overmix or it will become runny. Set aside.

2.Put the butter, sugar, eggs, flour, ground almonds, yogurt, vanilla and a pinch of salt in a large bowl, and beat together until smooth using an electric hand whisk.

3.Scrape half the cake mixture into the tin, then scatter with half the strawberries. Use the back of a teaspoon to create dips in the surface of the cake and dollop in spoonfuls of cheesecake mixture – saving about half for the top. Cover with the remaining cake mixture, being careful not to disturb the cheesecake and strawberries below. Scatter with the remaining strawberries and spoon on the remaining cheesecake mixture, using the same method as before.

4.Scatter with almonds and bake for 50 mins-1 hr or until a skewer comes out clean. Cool for 20 mins in the tin before turning out. Delicious served warm or cold.



**Councillor Gordon Murray is  
holding a surgery  
on Wednesday 18th May  
from 5:30pm—6:30pm**

**at the Grianan Centre**

**All welcome**