



ISSUE 152

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# MANOR & CASTLE NEWSLETTER



## Manor & Castle Newsletter

### Special points of interest:

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

### Chairman's Comments

Welcome to our last newsletter before the summer break and until our next meeting in September I hope you all have a good break and ample rest with nice weather for the coming months.

### Age Scotland Publications

Age Scotland produce a variety of free leaflets and factsheets about issues which affect older people, including care and paying for care, legal and family issues such as power of attorney, benefits, money and energy information specifically targeted for older people. They have recently updated their paying for care related factsheets. More information and free downloads are available online at: [www.agescotland.org.uk](http://www.agescotland.org.uk)

Roddy Nicolson

### Dates for the diary

### Councillor surgery—Cllr Gordon Murray

30th June from 5:30pm—6:30pm

Grianan Centre

### Community Skips

3rd September

Kennedy Terrace & Bain Square

From 10am—2pm

Volunteers needed

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## Councillor's Report

We have just completed the June series of council committee meetings.

I have requested a list of capital expenditure in education to see what spending will be for Stornoway Primary. The school roll has now increased to 430 pupils and it is getting very limited for space. I attended a Parent Council meeting and there was very little room where the meeting was held. This is causing stress for pupils and parents and I will keep asking for the investment required for storage, changing rooms and an extension of the gym.

Columbia Place Play park has now had two sets of picnic tables and benches added along with a bicycle rack. I have requested for some playground markings on the tarmac area to give more colour just in time for the summer holidays!

I expect to have some sort of proposal for the Kennedy Terrace space and its use as it is becoming more and more of a place for dog fouling and I hope that the community can bring it into use as some sort of play area.

Last month I had the opportunity to visit the Creed Recycling Plant to see the great work being done there. The staff (pictured right) are hardworking and so helpful and keen to stress the importance of recycling and the use of the correctly coloured bins. Thanks to Iain Campbell and his staff for all their good work!

Community skips have been booked for 3rd September for Kennedy Terrace and Bain Square and I am looking for any volunteers to do a two-hour slot between 10am-2pm—please let me know.

The Boundary Commission have publicised their proposals for boundary changes regarding wards. The changes to Stornoway North are that the number of councillors will be reduced from four to three. There are also changes to the boundary and I believe that in the next council election in May 2017, Columbia Place, Barony Square, Jamieson Drive, part of Westview Terrace bordering the school will be in Stornoway South.

Councillor Gordon Murray



## Benefit Changes

Welfare reform, public service cuts, and the economic climate are combining to place enormous pressure on public services and advice services. On top of this, reductions in benefit levels and eligibility will inevitably drive demand for advice provision at the same time as cuts are being felt across the public and voluntary sectors. Local government and voluntary services may have to pick up the pieces for those affected by welfare reform – all on a shrinking budget.

Welfare cuts create problems in many other areas of life including debt, housing, consumer and relationship issues and welfare reform changes will put exceptional pressure on advice services and other areas of the third sector across the country. Early intervention, such as good advice, ultimately saves money – debt and welfare advice is significantly cheaper than homelessness and bankruptcy, and the social outcomes for clients are far better. Local authorities, the Scottish CAB Service and other organisations across the third and public sectors have a shared agenda in helping local people avoid crisis point and are increasingly working in partnership to achieve positive outcomes for the people and communities of Scotland.

## Universal Credit – Testing Times

It has been some time since this benefit was first mentioned by the Government and much has been written about its delayed arrival and full roll out across the UK as it suffered from IT gremlins and various projections about winners and losers from the new system. Finally, with Universal Credit now “live” across Scotland, we are now able to see how it works for people who claim it – and already we have seen a long list of teething problems, ranging from people running out of money because of a six-week wait for any payment, being ping-ponged between different benefit claim websites, and running out of phone credit because of an expensive helpline before problems are resolved. In Scotland, around 830,000 people claim one of the six ‘legacy benefits’ that will be taken over by Universal Credit, compared to around 25,000 people who currently receive UC. Universal Credit combines six means – tested benefits which are: Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance; Income-related Employment and Support Allowance; Income Support; Child Tax Credit; Working Tax Credit and Housing Benefit

Most importantly it can mean that people face real hardship. Amongst all the talk of making efficiency savings, it should be remembered that the social security system exists to be a safety net for people who find themselves in a situation where they need some basic financial support. CABx seeing clients who face the choice between eating, heating or paying rent because their benefit payment has not arrived is always a concern, and is where we look to any new system or process to improve. The principles behind it remain worthy – particularly simplifying the complex benefits system that means many people who are entitled to support don’t claim it.

However with Universal Credit just scratching the surface – there are hundreds of thousands of Scots who have yet to move on to it, including people with complex health conditions, carers, families with young children and low paid workers.

## **Iolaire 100 Years On – Arts, heritage and publishing come together to remember the Iolaire, 100 years on from the tragedy**

In the Outer Hebrides, 6,200 men served in WWI, and some 800 died, the highest per capita for any community in Britain. And yet on the Isle of Lewis, it is the tragedy which occurred after the Armistice which defines that bitter experience. In the early hours of New Years Day 1919, HMY Iolaire sank at the entrance to Stornoway Harbour with the loss of 205 servicemen. There were but 79 survivors. The worst peacetime shipping disaster in British Coastal Waters this century and yet outside the islands remains relatively unknown.



An Lanntair, Acair Books and the new Museum nan Eilean at Lews Castle have come together to collaborate on a project that will finally open eyes and ears to this tragic event, 100 years on.

The project will be a multi-venue arts and heritage exhibition across Museum nan Eilean and An Lanntair arts centre during 2018 and 2019 of artist responses to the Iolaire event, the stories, the lives lost and the survivors. An intergenerational programme of educational workshops in the community will also invite young people to create and exhibit their own creative responses. And writers and historians Malcolm MacDonald and Donald John Macleod will work with Acair to publish in Gaelic and English the full story of all 281 men aboard, uncovering many hidden stories.

Comhairle Convener, Cllr Norman A MacDonald said:

“I am very pleased that the project has reached this stage. This is a very emotive event for the people of Lewis and Harris. The exhibition, the publication and the education programme will reflect on the impact of the disaster, bringing to light the many stories of those who were lost and those who survived.”

The project will explore the legacy of the disaster on the community itself. The sheer scale of it in the context of a small community gave it its extraordinary intensity. The timing and closeness to home made it incomprehensible and unbearable. Every village in Lewis and Harris lost fathers, sons, brothers and were left with scores of widows and fatherless children, creating a lasting trauma that runs deep into the community.

# COOKS CORNER

## Summer Cheesecake

### Ingredients

1 cup white sugar

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1 pound fresh rhubarb, chopped

2 pints fresh strawberries

1 recipe pastry for a 9 inch double crust pie

2 tablespoons butter

1 egg yolk

2 tablespoons white sugar

### Method

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).

In a large bowl, mix flour and sugar. Add strawberries and chopped rhubarb. Toss with sugar and flour and let stand for 30 minutes.

Pour filling into pie crust. Dot top with butter, and cover with top crust. Seal edges of top and bottom crust with water. Apply yolk to top of pie, using a pastry brush. Sprinkle with sugar. Cut small holes in top to let steam escape.

Bake at 400 degrees F (200 degrees C), for 35 to 40 minutes, or until bubbly and brown. Cool on rack.



*EU Referendum*

*23rd June 2016*

*Remember to vote*