



# MANOR & CASTLE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 158

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## Manor & Castle Newsletter

### Special points of interest:

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

### Chairman's Comments

#### Bayhead Post Office

Despite our best efforts as an Association and with the help of others we have been unsuccessful in our bid to keep the Bayhead Post Office open and it will close at 1 pm on Tuesday 14 March 2017. The reason given by the Post Office is that the current postmaster wishes to leave the post office network. So the two new branches will be at the Cearns Community Shop, Cearn Shulasgeir which will be known as Cearns Post Office and Campbells Service Station, Cannery Road which will be known as the Newton Post Office. There is of course the main Post Office in Francis Street. Unfortunately neither venue is really helpful for those of us in this area.

#### Npower

At a time when so many are struggling to pay their fuel bills comes the news from Npower of a proposed massive hike to their electricity charges which will hit customers very hard as bills are already very high. The knock on effect that the other power companies may try to follow this with a further hike in their own charges.

#### Gaelic Education

From 1 February 2017, a parent of a child under school age who has not yet started school can request that their education authority carries out an assessment of the need for Gaelic medium primary education (GMPE) in their area. Gaelic medium education is where Gaelic is used as the medium for teaching the language, rather than English. So in Gaelic medium education children are fully immersed in the Gaelic language.

If an education authority carries out an initial assessment and finds that there is the demand for GMPE for 5 or more children in the same year group in the area, then it must either carry out a full assessment of the need for GMPE in the area or actually take steps to provide GMPE in the area.

The assessment request application form is available on the Scottish Government website at [gov.scot/GMPEAssessmentForm](http://gov.scot/GMPEAssessmentForm). It should also be available on education authority websites, along with statutory guidance on Gaelic education and details of where to send the completed application form.

Roddy Nicolson

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## Councillor's Report

We had our final budget setting meeting of the term at the beginning of February. There was a lot of debate around the council tax rise, the cut to the Hillcrest/Action for Children facility. I, along with other members of the SNP group fought against the tax rise. The reason being that the Scottish Government had actually given the council more unexpected money and there was really no need for the rise in tax. I know how people struggle from week to week at the moment and paying extra money in tax for the sake of it is, in my opinion, wrong. Unfortunately we were defeated by the other councillors but received support from Donnie Steele, Uist and Barra councillor.

The Hillcrest facility continues to be a much valued facility for those with children who have special needs. It has consistently performed well in every inspection. This has been a facility that has been under attack from the council since I was elected and the SNP Group have fought against the cuts. Again, the majority of councillors voted to cut £350,000 from this establishment without knowing what the future holds for the facility.

On the fundraising front, we had an excellent day bag packing for our trip. Iain Hamilton, our treasurer, will announce the final amount at tonight's meeting but I would like to personally thank all those who helped bag pack, helped with the raffle, some donated very generously instead of bag packing and the business community who helped us out knowing we had a deficit in our fundraising due to the bad weather. Special thanks go to Lewis Builders, Macleod and Macleod, Fusion, Thai Café, Bridge Centre Café, Scottish Salmon Company, Caladh Inn, Spar who very kindly gave us donations. We also would like to thank the Co-op for their support time and time again.

Our offroad parking project took a bit of a hit when HHP decided not to partner us in trying to improve the amenity of the area and also address the clogged up streets. This was a very disappointing result but we aim to continue with the other homeowners who expressed an interest. The Health and Safety issues especially at Assaye Place with the emergency services struggling to get through the double parking is a real issue but unfortunately the board opted to withdraw their participation.

The safety of children coming from Stornoway Primary and crossing the road at the top of Perceval Road was brought to my attention last month and after a few meetings with Technical Services they are going to put a path linking Cross Street and Sand Street. There needs to be discussion with the churches and the potential business development in the area but this is a positive move and I will keep pressing.

This edition of the newsletter carries information about the tremendous work Crossroads Lewis do in our community.

After five years as the councillor for Stornoway North, I intend to stand again in the coming election on Thursday 4th May. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve this ward and I would like to thank the Association for all the guidance and also opportunities to meet people, work together and do the best for our area.

Councillor Gordon Murray

**CROSSROADS**  
Caring  
for Carers  
**LEWIS**



# Crossroads Lewis Care Attendant Scheme

## Crossroads Care Attendant Schemes

### History

The first Crossroads scheme was set up outside Birmingham in the 1970s as a response to a storyline in the television soap 'Crossroads' which highlighted the stress of full-time caring. Crossroads Lewis began in 1987, initially serving the people of Stornoway. It has since expanded to support the whole of Lewis.

### Aims of the Service

To provide carer respite, regardless of age, disability or illness. To provide overnight support for carers or individuals with palliative needs. To provide support for those living alone in exceptional circumstances.

### Crossroads (Lewis) Care Attendant Scheme Ltd.

Crossroads (Lewis) is an independent registered charity. It generates its own income, which is spent for the benefit of the people of Lewis. The Board of Crossroads (Lewis) has overall responsibility for the level and quality of the services provided.

### Crossroads Lewis

Crossroads Lewis provides care at home, regardless of age, disability or illness. Carers and individuals can receive regular support at a time they choose. Our aim is to value carers, providing respite to give them time to themselves e.g. to attend appointments, socialise or rest. Crossroads Lewis aims to prevent carers from becoming ill through exhaustion. We can give peace of mind as our Care Attendants take over the role of the family carer. Crossroads Lewis also supports those living alone in exceptional circumstances, who may be struggling with ill-health, disability or loneliness.

Most referrals are made by telephone, but our office is open 9am until 1pm Monday to Friday. Anyone can make a referral to Crossroads Lewis e.g. a carer or family member, GP, Community Nurse or organisations e.g. Alzheimer Scotland or Macmillan (as long as the person referred has their permission.)

### Staff

All staff are fully trained and paid for their work with Crossroads Lewis. Our team of Care Attendants are highly experienced and come from a range of caring professions. Our service is presently graded 'Excellent' by the Care Inspectorate for its Quality of Care & Support, Quality of Staffing and Quality of Management & Leadership.

### Our Services

We provide a valued **Palliative** service for individuals or carers, with Care Attendants on waking duty through the night.

We also have a **Short Breaks** service (for those unable to access statutory residential respite) offering 24/7 care over three nights/four days, thus allowing a carer time away to e.g. visit friends or attend a wedding.

Crossroads (Lewis) works with the Social Work Department to provide **Emergency Respite**. To find out more please contact the Social Work Dept. on 01851 822708.

We also accept **Direct Payments** for those wishing to access carer respite. If eligible, these will be issued to you by the Social Work Department.

### Get in Touch

If you are the main carer of a child or adult, and you feel you would benefit from regular respite, please contact the Manager. The Manager will be happy to meet you to discuss your needs and how we can best support you.

To find out more about Crossroads Lewis or to make a referral, please get in touch:

Telephone: 01851 705422

E-mail: [info@crossroadslewis.co.uk](mailto:info@crossroadslewis.co.uk)

Office hours: 9am – 1pm Monday to Friday, Grianan, Westview Terrace, Stornoway, HS1 2LD.

## **GREAT NEW PROJECT IN MANOR ALMOST COMPLETE!**

A fantastic project in Manor is almost completed which will be of great use to not only Manor residents but the whole of the Western Isles.

Local man, Alistair Glover, already running a successful business Bespoke Bicycles, has renovated the Glen House in order to create a cycling hub.

The Glen House had fallen into disrepair but Mr Glover has managed to bring it back into use.

Cycling is getting more and more popular in the islands and so this project has an excellent chance of success.

There will also be a café in the building which will be well utilised by everybody.

We wish Mr Glover and all his staff the very best in his new venture and we all look forward to seeing inside the Glen House once its finished.



### **New Air Weapon Licensing Laws**

New air weapons licensing laws came into force on 31 December 2016. From that date it will be an offence to own or use an air weapon without a licence, unless a person is exempt. Anyone found guilty of this offence could be fined or jailed for up to 2 years.

It has been possible to apply to Police Scotland for an air weapons licence since July 2016.

People who hold an existing firearms or shotgun licence will not need to get a new certificate until their existing licence is due for renewal, unless they obtain a new gun before that time.

The Scottish Government has advised that anyone submitting an application for a licence after 31 October 2016 will have their application processed in 2017. Until that time, they should make arrangements to place their air weapons with another certificate holder or with a registered firearms dealer.

More information about the licensing scheme and how to apply can be found at [www.airweapon.scot](http://www.airweapon.scot).