



ISSUE 160

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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

UK GENERAL ELECTION Thursday 8 June 2017

1. It's your right. The simplest reason of them of all, but perhaps the most important. Less than 100 years ago, women didn't have the right to vote and people died fighting for the privilege to place their cross on a piece of paper. A law was passed in 1918 that allowed female householders over the age of 30 to vote. It wasn't until 1928 that women over the age of 21 were given the right to vote. On June 14 1913, suffragette Emily Davison died after throwing herself in front of a horse at the Epsom Derby to highlight this inequality.

2. People in other countries still can't vote. There are people living in other countries who can't vote because they're poor, because of their gender or because they don't live in a democracy. They're still fighting for the right to vote. On 8 June 2017, vote for you and vote for them.

3. Not all perfect but. Political parties can represent your values and beliefs but you may not agree 100% with everything that they say or want to do. But if you broadly agree with a party's values and agree with most of its policies, get stuck in and vote. If you're waiting for perfection, you might be waiting a very long time...

4. 'They're all the same...' This is simply not true. A lot of politicians might LOOK the same or BEHAVE in a similar way. But even the most basic research shows that the main parties have very different views on a range of issues like the economy, the NHS, education, immigration, the economy and much more. Do your research and understand what and who you are voting for.

5. Don't let negative headlines put you off. It's good to read the news from a variety of different sources and be well informed, but don't let negative headlines put you off voting. Do your own research, think for yourself and come to your own conclusions. Use your vote in the right way for the right reasons and vote for policies rather than for personalities.

6. The winners represent you. Elected representatives have a duty to represent you so you should have a say as to the best person for the job. With issues close to home such as the abandoned car, the pot-holed road, the rubbish dumped on the grass verge, the planning development on the next street, the lack of public transport - the people standing for election on 8 June 2017 can all do something about the issues that affect your everyday life. And if you plan to hold them to account for what they do in office, it makes sense to play a part in their election by using your vote.



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Chairman's comments (cont)

7. You pay your taxes. So it's your money that is being spent! Each party has very different plans for how it wants to spend your money. By voting you can have a say on what happens to your hard-earned cash and lobby your elected representative accordingly. Vote and have your voice heard.

8. Big decisions are being made. Elected representatives at local and national levels make decisions which affect many aspects of our day-to-day lives. Local councillors still make important decisions about schools, children's services and social services and they can rule on planning applications and transport issues. Even more reason to use your vote!

9. Play your part in national politics. With the pollsters already suggesting how things will go, only you and your vote can affect the result. If you don't vote, nothing changes and some want things to stay the same. Sick of things how they are? The power to make a change is in your hands.

10. Voting is free and it matters. The outcome of the elections on 8 June 2017 will affect the lives of millions of people all over the country. It has a direct impact on how much money they have, whether they have a job, what sort of education they receive, the quality of their healthcare and so much more. Use your vote and use it wisely.

Roddy Nicolson

Councillors' forum

I would like to first of all ask you to remember Iain Mackenzie and his family in your prayers in his illness. It has all come as a shock to everyone the speed of the illness and pray for his recovery.

I would like to say a big thank you to all that voted for me and re-elected me for another five years/. It's been an absolute honour to represent the Stornoway North ward and I will endeavour to work hard for the community I serve.

Congratulations to the other successful candidates, Roddy Mackay, Iain Sheep Macaulay and Neil Mackay. I would also like to say commiserations to Lesley McKenzie who also put herself up for election.

It is a hugely busy time at the Comhairle as we look to elect out convener, leader and chairs of the committees in the coming week. I hope that good decisions are made and that those in positions of power improve our lives here especially those who are vulnerable and need help the most.

I will be holding regular surgeries as well as attending association meetings. If you need me for any issue or area of concern, please call me or contact me through :

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Council Notice

Trading Standards Warning

Trading Standards Officers from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar are aware of doorstep sellers currently in Lewis who may be offering various home improvement services.

We remind residents to say "No" to doorstep sellers and that Doorstoppers signage from the [Doorstoppers Campaign](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/doorstoppers/documents/sticker.pdf) can be printed off from the Comhairle's website <http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/doorstoppers/documents/sticker.pdf>

Doorstep sellers ignoring the displayed signage may be committing an offence.

Senior Citizen's trip to Aberdeenshire

(4th April—8th April 2017)

On Tuesday the 4th April , we set off on our annual trip. We were destined to Aberdeenshire and staying in Dyce. After a very smooth ferry journey, we had our first little hiccup—no bus!

Fortunately for me, everyone remained clam and we were told there was a slight delay in the traffic. About fifteen minutes later, our bus arrived and we met our driver,. Chris, for the first time. What a nice guy and so helpful, we were really fortunate and his professionalism and patient manner made our trip really special and we thank him for that.

As we journeyed on , we managed to get lunch at Baxters Fochabers. A real treat to see such a successful company dealing in Scottish traditional fayre.

Checking into the hotel went smoothly and we found out that we would be having dinner in a room by ourselves and that it would be a self service buffet. This was great and for the more hungry among us, we could go up several times. With a huge meal at the end of the day and a hearty breakfast, I fear that I put on a few pounds on my waistline but enjoyed doing it!

We had some great visits which I would really recommend such as the Maritime Museum, Transport Museum (which was a real treat) and the Gordon Highlanders museum. We were treated very well and all guides were so nice and enthusiastic about their subject.

My own personal highlight, which was a surprise, was the Old Peterhead prison. The guide was such a delight and he was so happy with our enthusiasm that he gave his a huge discount. He really enjoyed himself while telling us some of the gruesome stories.

All in all, I really enjoyed this trip and although the numbers were small, we were blessed with wonderful weather and good company. I am sure that for the next trip, we'll have to make sure there is a prison in the area !



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