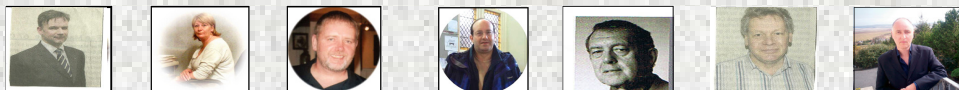




ISSUE 163

OCTOBER 2017

# MANOR & CASTLE NEWSLETTER



## Manor & Castle Newsletter

### Special points of interest:

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

### CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the October Newsletter and the following information is of utmost importance to ensure that people claim the benefits to which they are entitled. This is even more important as we head into winter and more money is needed for fuel and food and other necessities of life.



### Inside this issue:

- Benefits information 2
- Bus survey 3
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#### MANY OLDER SCOTS MISSING OUT ON UNCLAIMED BENEFITS

Hundreds of thousands of older people in Scotland are missing out on social security money they are entitled to because they are not claiming it, according to Citizens Advice Scotland.

The Scottish CAB network has joined with the Scottish government to launch a campaign urging people to seek CAB support in claiming the benefits they are entitled to.



Citizens Advice Scotland's Chief Executive Derek Mitchell says,

“Many people are entitled to claim financial support that could make a big difference to their lives, but they don't claim it because they don't know how to, and in some cases they feel embarrassed about claiming. This is often particularly true of older people.

“Our message today is that nobody need hold back from claiming what they are due. You've earned it, so claim it, and the CAB network is here to help you. Our trained advisers will assess what benefits you are entitled to and help you go about making the claim.

“The social security system can seem complex and intimidating, particularly to those not used to it. But if you are entitled to some kind of assistance that money is not charity, it is yours and you should claim it.


“If you dropped money in the street you would pick it up. If you won a competition you'd entered, you would take the money. This is just the same. You may be entitled to hundreds or even thousands of pounds. So take this opportunity and let us help you get what you are entitled to.”

“Every day at this CAB and at others across the country we see clients who are not aware of their benefits entitlements and the income they could be receiving, particularly if there's been a change of circumstances such as ill health or having to take on additional caring responsibilities.

“At your local CAB, we can undertake a benefits check and talk you through your benefits entitlements, and even support you to make an application if you would like to do so.

“As Scotland's largest independent advice network, our advice is free, impartial and confidential – so there's really nothing to lose by coming to see us.”

People can get the relevant advice from their local CAB. If they need assistance in finding where their local CAB is they can call 0800 023 2581 and they will be given details of their nearest CAB.



Councillor Forum

Just a note to say that the issue of Stornoway Primary came up at the Education committee and will now be included in the capital spending choices that councillors make. I hope that councillors will see that things need to improve at the Primary and support the work needed to ensure each pupil has equity of educational experience.

Councillor Gordon Murray

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# Local bus passengers urged to have their say in new survey

Western Isles Citizens Advice Service is urging local people to complete a new survey about local bus services.

The 'Your Bus, Your Say' survey aims to collect the views of bus-users on issues like cost, frequency and quality of service. The survey runs till 22 October and is available online, but paper copies are also available at the local Citizens Advice Bureaux in Stornoway, Tarbert, Balivanich and Castlebay.



A spokesman for WICAS says,

*“If you’ve ever wanted to complain about the local bus service, or if you’ve ever wanted to pay it a compliment, now is your chance. From today we are asking everyone in the Western Isles to complete our survey about bus services.*”

*“Thousands of bus journeys are taken locally every year. Some are just a few hundred yards, others last for miles. Many people get the bus to work every day, while others use it to make journeys to hospital, school or college, to shop or just to visit friends.*”

*“We are interested in the views of all bus users, regardless of how often you use the bus. The survey is anonymous and only takes a few minutes to complete, but the information you give us will be vital in helping us campaign for improvements to the service.*”

*“Our local survey here is part of a national survey of all Scots, so your views will help us build picture of bus services both here in the Western Isles and across the whole country. Remember it’s only by speaking up that consumers can effect change.*”

*“You can find the survey at [www.cas.org.uk/betterbuses](http://www.cas.org.uk/betterbuses) or you can pick up a paper copy at one of our offices in the Western Isles. But remember you only have until 22 October 2017 to take part, so don’t miss your opportunity to have your say.”*

**Roddy Nicolson**

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## The Lewis War Memorial—an article kindly used with permission from the Stornoway Historical Society

On September 5th, 1924, the Lewis War Memorial was formally opened by Lord Leverhulme, his last public act in Lewis. BY the next day he had sailed away from the island a very disappointed man.

The building itself is one of the most impressive of its kind in Scotland and may have been modelled on the equally impressive commemorative tower in Dingwall erected to honour General Sir Hector Macdonald.

Essentially the building is an expression of the great loss which Lewis suffered initially in the First World War, and then in the second World War.

Some 1151 names relate to the 1914-18 War including those who lost their lives in the “Iolaire” disaster. Of a total of 6712 serving Lewismen, 1151 made the supreme sacrifice, some seventeen percent. Almost every fit man in the island was early in the forces,

When the ratio of those killed to the total population (29,603) is taken into account, the island paid twice as much as the rest of the British Isles in loss. Some recognition of that fact was given due notice in the House of Commons by the late Lord Mannie Shinwell (pictured right), during the years of the war, when he highlighted the contribution made by Lewis.

The fact also echoes a statement made in 1801, in the “Naval Chronicle” written at a time when Great Britain was at war with the Northern Confederation of Russia, Sweden and Norway. “The inhabitants of the Western Scottish Isles or Hebrides are all so much accustomed to a seafaring life and retain so much of the native heroism of ancient Highlanders, that almost everything great and successful may be hoped from their gallantry during the war.

Lewis men formed practically the whole of the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders, and were in the 3rd Gordons and 3rd Camerons.

In 1958 bronze plaques were unveiled to commemorate the 376 names of Lewis men and women who had lost their lives in the second World War. The address of dedication was given by the Lord Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty, General Sir Richard O’Connor. “All the good things we enjoy have been bought at a price, and the price was the lives of these men and women”, he said.

The overwhelming majority of those who gave their lives in the Hitler war were lost at sea: 220 in the Royal Navy, 80 in the Merchant Navy. Losses in the Army were just over 50, and in the R.A.F. 15.

The Lewis War Memorial now contains the names of more than 1526 Lewis men and women.

