



# MANOR & CASTLE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 164

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## Manor & Castle Newsletter

### Special points of interest:

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

### CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the November meeting and the monthly newsletter. I would like to give some information on RSABI which I hope you can let others know about in case they may need the help of this organisation.

RSABI (Supporting People in Scottish Agriculture)

RSABI is a unique Scottish charity providing financial assistance and support to those that have been involved or are still involved with farming, crofting and growing, or their dependents.

If anyone in this area of work have any concerns or worries, need some guidance or someone to listen, then they can call RSABI on 0300 111 4166.

RSABI support crofters emotionally, practically and financially in times of need.

It is the only charity that supports people involved in Scottish agriculture, whether they are still working or unable to work due to heal or age and their dependants.

They can provide a Help for Heating Grant of £300 for those in fuel poverty (i.e. 10% or more of their household income spent on utilities)

They will consider all applications for financial assistance and have an occupational, savings and disposable income criteria. The only financial assistance they are unable to help with is for existing debts.



### Inside this issue:

- Benefits information **2**
- Bus survey **3**
- Local History **4**

## Warm Home Discount Scheme

You might be able to get £140 off your electricity bill under the Warm Home Discount Scheme if you're either:

getting the guarantee credit part of Pension Credit  
on a low income

Check with your supplier to see if they offer the Warm Home Discount - not all suppliers are part of the scheme.

If you've applied for the Warm Home Discount but you switch supplier before you get the payment, you have to apply again with your new supplier. Your new supplier might have different rules about who gets the discount. This doesn't affect you if you get the discount automatically, without having to apply.

Find out more about the Warm Home Discount Scheme on the GOV.UK website at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

## Winter Fuel Payment

A Winter Fuel Payment is a tax-free payment for older people.

Winter Fuel Payment is paid every year during the winter to help with your fuel costs. However, you can choose how you use the money. Winter Fuel Payment does not depend on how cold the weather gets. There are other payments that are only paid when the weather reaches a certain temperature, called cold weather payments. These are made to people on some income-related benefits during cold weather.

### Who can get a Winter Fuel Payment?

If you're a woman, you can claim a Winter Fuel Payment when you reach [State Pension age](#). You must be State Pension age in the **qualifying week** for the winter concerned. The qualifying week always begins on the third Monday of September.

If you're a man, you can claim a Winter Fuel Payment when you reach the State Pension age of a woman born on the same day as you. You must be this age in the **qualifying week** for the winter concerned.

You normally have to live in the UK to get a Winter Fuel Payment and have no immigration conditions on your stay that would prevent you getting help from the Department for Work and Pensions.

If you are not sure whether or not you can get a Winter Fuel Payment, you should consult an experienced adviser, for example, at a Citizens Advice Bureau.

### How much is a Winter Fuel Payment

For the winter of 2017/2018, if you were born on or before 5 August 1953 the Winter Fuel Payment is between £100 and £300, depending on your circumstances. You can [find details of the rates](#) on the GOV.UK website.

If you are not sure which rate of Winter Fuel Payment you are entitled to, you should consult an experienced adviser, for example, at a Citizens Advice Bureau.

### How to get a Winter Fuel Payment

Most people who are entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment do not need to make a claim. If you get State Pension, Pension Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, [Attendance Allowance](#), Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Incapacity Benefit, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance or a Bereavement Benefit, and you are getting one of these benefits in the qualifying week you do not need to make a claim. A Winter Fuel Payment will be made automatically.

If you successfully claimed a Winter Fuel Payment the previous year and your circumstances have not changed, you also do not need to make a claim.

If you are not getting one of these benefits in the qualifying week and you have not successfully claimed a Winter Fuel Payment before, you will have to make a claim. The Department for Work and Pensions may get in touch with you anyway and send you a claim form. If this does not happen, you can get a claim form from the [Winter Fuel Payments help-line](#) or from the [GOV.UK website](#).

You have until 31 March 2018 to claim for winter 2017 to 2018.

Roddy Nicolson

## Councillor's forum

The year is flying by and I cannot believe we are at the end of November already. There have been a few nice clear wintry nights but the weather has certainly deteriorated.

I have been chasing the main issue with Assaye Place and the rat-run that many have campaigned to see an end to and also the double yellow lines that have been requested at the corner going onto Macaulay Road. The council have all the information required from a data counting machine and I was informed that a meeting was held last Friday (17/11) to discuss the issue. I have since asked the director, Iain Mackinnon, for the most up-to-date position as we push again for what is required to make Assaye Place a safe place to live.

The festive season is almost upon us now and Santa will be visiting the following places on the 16th December delivering special goodies to all good boys and girls:

**Bain Square (12pm)**

**Manor Drive (12:15pm)**

**Assaye Place (12:30pm)**

**Macgregor Park (12:45pm)**

Please spread the news—approximate times!

I have requested the lights at Bain Square to be arranged. This is quite a costly expense and I am looking if anyone knows of an electrician in the ward that could help us out and reduce the cost going forward.

Still looking for backpacking volunteers so please get your name on the list if you feel you can help.

## Ward priority funding

Emptying of dog bins	£155.00
WIIGA 2017	£250.00
2017 Carnival	£150.00
Grasscutting/bush cutting at Torquil Terrace	£185.00
"Live" event streaming to Southern Isles (Stornoway Running and Athletics Club)	£150.00
Support of play - Hebrides Deeds not Words	£200.00
Purchase of tents (Laxdale Scouts)	£100.00
Swim to St Kilda	£50.00

## The Goody Shops—part 1 (used by permission from Stornoway Historical Society)

*The genesis of this article was Mr Murdoch Macleod's lecture on Stornoway Shopkeepers. From that starting point, I began to think about the goody-shops I knew as a child, and decided to write down some of my memories because pre-war Stornoway seems like another world.*

Stornoway in the thirties was a much smaller town than it is today and for children it was stratified by where they lived. BY virtue of having my home down town on Bank Street and a Grannie living in Bayhead I had a foot in two camps. We had tremendous freedom as children. I can remember walking up Cromwell Street quay by myself to my Grannie's house long before I went to school, there was little or no traffic in those days, haulage was, in the main, by horse drawn carts, with the notable exception of Calum Soda's lorry! Passenger transport was either by bus or by foot, and those people who had cars used them for expeditions to "the country" and never to run around town. Shopping was done in small local shops dotted all over town.

When I was a child in the thirties, there were four small shops between the site of Mitchell's Garage which was a small triangular shrubbery with hawthorn bushes, and Mackenzie Street, the bottom end was known as Craig's Close. We called them goody-shops because the fact that they sold other things was completely irrelevant to us and was therefore dismissed as being of no importance.

The first shop was Anabella Captain's it was dark and mysterious and rather bare. It also smelt strongly of paraffin. (The Stornoway Electric Company had just set up in business and most houses were still lit by oil lamps). In my memory she had a smaller selection than the others, but had the advantage, that if you wanted goodies on a Wednesday half-day you could knock on her door and she would bring a tray like a cinema usherette so that you could make your choice. Physically she was tall and dark and I was in awe of her.

On the corner of Stag Road was Johanna Kay's shop, (the irreverent denizens of the Stag Road called her Joo-joo-lala but my Grannie called her Johanna Kay and as far as I was concerned that was her name!) She was a plump cheerful lady with greying hair caught in a loose bun at the nape of her neck and her hands busy with her knitting. Her stock of sweets was set out on a tilted board in her window, and you made your choice outside, debating the merits of lucky bags, black sugar straps, ogo-pogo-eyes, tallygasset, hikers picnics (a superior kind of lucky bag), lollipops, mixtures (an assortment of soft sweets, fondants, jubejubes, coconut ice). Mixtures are still on sale, and my granddaughter loves them but they are now one penny each, instead of one penny for a bagful!



**The Goody Shops by  
M.Deirdre Macdonald**

**Part 2 next week**