



ISSUE 169

MAY 2018

MANOR & CASTLE NEWSLETTER



Manor & Castle Newsletter

Special points of interest:

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

CHAIRMANS VIEWS

Welcome to the meeting tonight and the May Edition of the Newsletter.

Very important legislation has now been passed by the Scottish Government which over the coming years will see changes to some Social Security benefits in that some benefits will be administered by the Scottish Government and some still by the UK Government.

An overview of which benefits are devolved to the Scottish Government and which remain reserved to the UK Government, following the Scotland Act 2016.

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Roddy Nicolson

The Social Security (Scotland) Bill

The Social Security (Scotland) Bill has now been passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament, following some final changes to the legislation. The Bill (soon to be an Act sets out the framework and underpinning rules for Scotland's new social security system. Due to CAB evidence, a number of positive changes were made to the Bill as it progressed through Parliament, which should improve the new system for CAB clients.

The Bill as passed sets out underpinning principles for the new system, a duty to promote take-up, restrictions on assessments for disability benefits, details of an independent Commission to scrutinise rules, and the process for applying, making decisions and challenging them.

Overall, all of the major issues that the Citizens Advice Scotland policy team were pursuing throughout the Bill were achieved in some form, with a couple more significant ones at the final Stage – a guarantee that funeral payments will be uprated in line with inflation, and a legal restriction on face-to-face assessments for disability benefits.

Since 2015, thanks to CAB evidence, the Scottish Government has made a number of positive commitments for the new system.

*From the Bill itself, the most significant successes were securing improvements to ensure:
A formal recognition of the role that independent advice plays in the social security system, and a requirement for Ministers to have regard to take steps to provide steps to make sure it is provided for people applying for or receiving support through the new system
A legal restriction on the face-to-face assessments for disability benefits that CAB clients and advisers have consistently told us are one of the most significant problems with the current benefits system.*

A duty for the new agency to make all information and communications with people inclusive and accessible. This is the first time a duty to use an inclusive communication standard has been included in any piece of legislation in the UK. (In partnership with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, Inclusion Scotland and Camphill Scotland).

The reconsideration and appeals system was altered in line with CAS' proposals, so that it is as a much less complex process to challenge a decision for people, removing a need to submit forms and evidence multiple times. This should remove a barrier to appealing incorrect decisions that exists in the current system

*That disability, carers, employment injury and funeral benefits are uprated in line with inflation
People who have been overpaid benefit as a result of an agency error don't need to repay the money*

CAB also supported more than twenty other amendments throughout the Parliamentary process on a range of issues, the vast majority of which were incorporated into the Bill.

As well as representing positive news for CAB clients, this process is also a great example of how CAB evidence can be used to make a difference. CAS was one of only three organisations specifically acknowledged in the Minister's closing speech, and she has written to us to thank us for our constructive help, so the contribution of the CAB network has been recognised as contributing to the development of the new system.

Councillor's forum

Time is passing as we near the end of the term for our students and pupils and hope for better weather—until after the exams!!!

We are still awaiting final discussions to take place with regards to Stornoway Primary. It is with sadness that the head teacher will be retiring this year and we can only thank her for her hard work and professionalism over the years. There is no doubt that the primary, biggest in the islands, needs investment and I will continue to fight for that.

At our May meeting, we hope to organise some summer trips for our senior citizens and our children. We hope that at the meeting we can arrange two trips and end our day with a joint dinner / buffet.

I had the chairman of the Transport and Infrastructure committee visit Assaye Place last month and there were a few representations made by residents directly to Councillor Uisdean Robertson. He has taken all these on board and I hope that our long outstanding issue can be moved along as quickly as possible. This was after a discussion on traffic management where I raised the issue of Assaye Place at the committee. I am very grateful to Councillor Norrie Tomsh Macdonald (Point) who spoke up for supportive of the residents concerns.

Councillor Gordon Murray

Peppa Pig Muddy Puddle walk

At the end of last month, two very special visitors came to Stornoway to help young children and parents and guardians walk in search of muddy puddles. On probably the few Saturdays where gorgeous sunshine beamed out, puddles were few and far between. However, a fantastic turn out ensued and the morning turned into a great fun day with a bouncy castle, Peppa & George, colouring books and juice.

A well done to the organisers who also raised a lot of money for Save the Children and a special mention to Bethany Macleod whose idea it was to have the walk. Here's a photo with my own Grace and her hero, Peppa Pig. We all



COOKS CORNER

Pepper and chorizo puff

Ingredients

- 1 (500g) pack puff pastry
- **For the filling**
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 red pepper, finely diced
- 1 yellow pepper, finely diced
- 200g chorizo or salami with black pepper, finely diced
- 200g herbed cream cheese
- 1 egg
- 5 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- paprika

Method

Prep:20min › Cook:30min › Ready in:50min

1. For the filling: Heat the butter in a pan and sauté the peppers over a low heat for a few minutes until they are soft. They should not brown.
2. Mix the peppers, salami or chorizo, cream cheese, egg and Parmesan cheese together, and season with paprika.
3. Roll the puff pastry into two large sheets and spread the filling on them.
4. Roll puff pastry up and freeze for about 1 hour in the freezer so that the mixture firms up and is easier to handle.

Preheat oven to 200 C / Gas 6. Line a baking tray with baking parchment. Remove the puff pastry rolls from the freezer and cut into 1.5cm thick slices. Place on the prepared baking tray, spacing them out well, as they spread out during baking. Bake in the preheated oven for 20-30 minutes until golden brown.



FRIDAY MUSIC
6-9PM
LEWIS RETIREMENT CENTRE