

# Scourie News



Edition 92

February 2014

## Dates for February

Mondays: Keep fit @ village hall

Wednesdays: Yoga @ village hall @ 10.30am

Thurs Camera club @ village hall

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Schools close for Feb break

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Pub quiz

Fri 21<sup>st</sup> & Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Feis

Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Ceilidh @ village hall



## Seen & Heard

At a recent Burns' supper in the village hall, a request came to the waitresses for a plate with just haggis and tatties but no neeps. It certainly raised a smile when the plate was then delivered to our local veg grower to enjoy.



## Village Hall

A very successful Burns' Supper was held in the village hall recently. Hosted by the hall committee, there was a great deal of community involvement with volunteers preparing the food, working in the kitchen and waitressing. The evening began with Piper Mark MacDonald leading the haggis-bearer, Pete Allen, into the hall where Allan Cunningham very ably addressed the haggis, despite interruptions from a mobile phone & iPad! Neil MacDonald gave the Selkirk Grace and a delicious meal was enjoyed by all. Then came the traditions of a toast to the lassies, written by the Scourie Poet & presented by Donald Fisher which was replied to by Aileen MacDonald. Sheilah Cunningham accompanied a group of primary children with some Burns songs and also sang a solo herself. Neil took to the floor again with a rendition of 'The Waters of Kylesku'. It was lovely to hear Liam Flett on his fiddle which he continues to play now he has moved to the high school and Ben Cherry entertained us with his tin whistle.

Once some floor space was cleared 'The Caithness Scories' took to the stage to provide some rousing music

for the dancing. The dance floor was busy all night with every age group taking part.

At the interval the raffle was drawn with a variety of donated prizes including a butchered hind from Reay Forest Estate. This was followed with more dancing, including a large 'Strip the Willow' which saw almost everyone in the hall on their feet!

Everyone present, including some visitors from Kinlochbervie, had a highly enjoyable evening which was truly a community event where everybody mucked in! Many thanks go to all how helped in any way, in the preparation, on the night and after the event. £500 was raised for hall funds and £100 from the raffle was donated to the primary school.

## Scourie Community Development Company

SCDC are pleased to announce that they have appointed Glenda Cairncross as local development officer following Angus MacKay's retirement. Angus will continue to oversee the changing rooms development. The committee would like to thank him for all his hard work and wish him well in his retirement. They welcome Glenda on-board and look forward to working with her.

## Vodafone

As many of you will be aware, the Vodafone reception in the Scourie area was off for quite some time recently. The reception first went down on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec and was only reinstated on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. It is important that all Vodafone customers contact the company on 191 to claim their compensation, quoting the dates above. This advice has come from our local councillor, Hugh Morrison.



# FÈIS AN IAR THUATH

Our fourth Fèis will be taking place on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We have another great line-up of tutors this year. Gordon Gunn (Fiddle) of Session A9, who enjoyed being in Scourie last year has managed to fit us in between Celtic Connections and Plockton. Addie Harper-a multi instrumental performer from Wick, who is best known for Accordion, will be teaching Guitar. Gordon and Addie often perform and teach together and we look forward to seeing them.

Our local tutors, Anne (Fiddle), Lindsay (Tin Whistle), Sheilah (Group work Keyboard) and Lisa (Fèis Bheag) will be part of the team as well as Joseph Peach from Achiltibuie teaching Chanter and Pipes and Rachel Harris, our Fèis link worker based in Inverness, teaching Beginners Fiddle. Vicky Maclean will be our Drama tutor and take the Gaelic Games session. As part of this session Sheilah will teach some fun Scots songs and Lisa a Gaelic song. These classes are open to children from 8-18 years and Fèis Bheag for children from 4 years -7.

The Stage Café this year will be run by Gina, Donna and Lynn so please pop in for lunch or tea/coffee and cake.

On Saturday there will be Gaelic classes for Adults tutored by Catriona Maclean who teaches Gaelic at Ullapool High. We are delighted to have her as she is an excellent tutor. So far seven people have signed up for this which is a good response.

The two day event will finish on Saturday with a children's concert from 4pm-4:30pm for family, friends and members of the community. You are all welcome to this concert.

For application forms and further details please contact Sheilah Cunningham on 01971 502 072 or e-mail [sheilahcunningham@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilahcunningham@btinternet.com)



## CEILIDH

There will be a licensed Ceilidh on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February in the Village Hall at a cost of £4 from 7.30pm.

Our Fèis tutors: Gordon Gunn (Fiddle), Addie Harper (Guitar and Accordion), Anne Wood (Fiddle), Lindsay Cherry (Tin whistle), Joseph Peach (Bagpipes, Accordion and Piano), Sheilah Cunningham (Song), Lisa MacDonald (Gaelic Song) will all be performing as well as playing for dancing.

There will also be a raffle. Tickets on sale in the shop and on the door.



## Local Telephone Directory



Despite some initial difficulties with draft directories going missing from the shop, a revised copy of the local telephone directory is now for sale in the village shop and at the primary school. Each directory costs £5 with all proceeds going to the primary school. Volunteers have worked hard to make the required adjustments, but if anyone spots any errors, please let us know so we can adjust future prints.

## Camera Club

On 9th Jan, we were entertained to a talk given by Roger Lister about his trip through America, with some wonderful pictures of Monument Valley, The Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Park. There were also shots of wildlife, plants, buildings as well as the fantastic countryside. Our thanks go to Roger for this. On 23rd, we looked at and chose entries for the Highland Challenge 2014 competition to be held in Nairn in March. Our next meetings will be on 6th and 20th February, where our Highland Challenge entries will be finalised. Our thanks go to Donald Fisher for help with this competition.



[www.scourie.co.uk](http://www.scourie.co.uk)

The website move to the Joomla editor has been completed and I can now edit the site around the village's needs. There is a calendar which will show village events (please keep me informed). Village committees have information pages, along with local amenities. There are also individual pages for B&B's, holiday homes and hotels. It is intended to be a first stop for information about the village, both for tourists and residents. Please have a look at the site, and see if your establishment is described to your liking and that information is correct and up to date.

There is a charge for this for small businesses of £10, and for larger establishments £20 per annum.

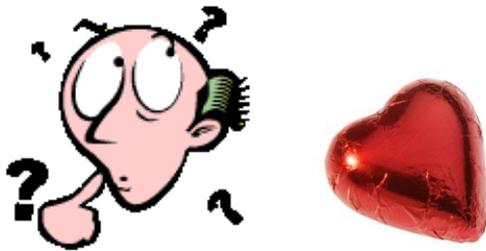
I can be contacted via the site (all e-mails come to me), or phone 502430.

Pete Tuck

Treat your partner on  
Valentine's day to a  
romantic evening



Come and join the  
fun and tax your  
brain at our  
Pub Quiz on  
Friday 14th February



starting at 7.30pm  
in Scourie Bar  
hosted by the  
effervescent  
Carol Anne  
£1.00 entry  
(no more than 4 in  
a team)



Business Gateway Sutherland  
@  
North West Training Centre  
Kinlochbervie

## Free Business Courses April 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Marketing on a Shoestring

- This morning workshop will:-
- Give you a good understanding what Marketing is and how it will contribute to the success of your Business
- Be able to produce a realistic Marketing Plan and much more

### Get Real Results from Your Website

- This afternoon workshop will:-
- Help with a good website for your business, or assess any existing website
- Start you thinking about your content and marketing

## Free 2-day Business Start-up course

18th and 19th February

Learn about:

- Getting the marketing right for your business
- Developing a realistic, working business plan
  - Deciding what finance you need
  - How to use financial information

For more information or to book your **free** place  
please contact Lesley on Tel: 01463 713889 or by e-mail:

[Lesley.allan@highland-opportunity.com](mailto:Lesley.allan@highland-opportunity.com)



Our local Business Gateway Regional  
Development Officer for Sutherland is

David Knight

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email [david.knight@highland-opportunity.com](mailto:david.knight@highland-opportunity.com)



T: 01971 521238 E: [northwest.tc@virgin.net](mailto:northwest.tc@virgin.net)  
 W: <http://northwesttrainingcentre.weebly.com>

**Creative Writing – started 31 January**  
 12:00-15:00 Places still available for newcomers.  
 Ring for dates & times February, March.  
**Measuring up for Sewing – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> February**  
 13:00-16:00 – Sewing machine and pattern basics.  
**Digital Skills at KLB Wed/Thur**  
 11:30-13:00 or 14:00-15:30  
 Do you need a hand with computing basics or help with a new IT device? Get in touch for friendly help and support.

*We are still looking for sufficient numbers to run the following courses March/April- please get in touch if you want to book a place.*

**Elementary Food Hygiene (REHIS)**  
**Emergency First Aid (One Day Refresher)**

## Scourie Weather

After the wettest month recorded for 20 years in December, January was the 4th driest January in that period with 66.8 mm of rain. This was less than half the average 151 mm. The average min and max temperatures were 5.8 deg C and 9.3 deg C, with a high of 12.6 recorded on 25th, and a low of 3.4 deg C on 5th. The solar panels have produced 21 kW, and average of 0.8 kW per day, and a high of 2.1 kw on 29th. Day length is now starting to increase, and is quite noticeable in the evening. Here comes summer!!

Aileen MacDonald has recently become a trader for the Phoenix Trading company, suppliers of high-quality greetings cards, wrapping paper, notelets & stationery. She has some cards in stock and will place an order once a month to fulfil anybody's requirements. Aileen will distribute catalogues locally and will accept orders at any time. If you have any queries, feel free to contact Aileen on 502371 or at [aileen.macdonald@btinternet.com](mailto:aileen.macdonald@btinternet.com)

## Assynt Learning Centre

### Up coming courses

- Digital Archiving**  
26th Feb, 5th, 12th, 19th, 27th March & 2nd April 2pm-4pm
- \*\*\*\*
- Reconditioning Old Photos Workshop**  
Saturday 1st March 10am - 3pm
- \*\*\*\*
- DIY Photo Mounting Workshop**  
Saturday 8th March 10am - 3pm
- \*\*\*\*
- Painting**  
Sundays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March & 6th April 2pm-4pm
- \*\*\*\*
- Sculpture**  
Saturdays 15th and 22nd March 12pm-5pm
- \*\*\*\*
- Archaeology**  
13th March Talk, 20th & 27th March Field trips 3rd & 10th April Field trips, 17th April Talk Thursdays 2-4pm
- \*\*\*\*
- Geology**  
11th March 7pm - 9pm Talk 15th March Field Trip, 22nd March Field Trip, 29th March Field Trip

To register for any of the courses or for further information contact Frankle on 01571 844123 or email [franklepogsonalco@gmail.com](mailto:franklepogsonalco@gmail.com)

## Volunteers Required

Christine MacDonald has kindly volunteered to rejuvenate the hall curtains with some alterations and would appreciate the help of any other budding seamstresses who could lend their time and expertise to this worthwhile cause. Please contact Christine on 502010.



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