**May 2015**

### Dates for May

- **Sat 2nd** KLB v Dornoch
- **Mon 4th** Schools closed for May Day
- **Mon 4th** Open meeting @ hall @ 7.30pm
- **Thurs 7th** General Election
- **Sat 9th** KLB v Embo
- **Tuesdays** Ju-jitsu @ 6pm
- **Thursdays** Running club & football training @ pitch

### Seen & Heard

Whilst discussing the terrain of local townships, a local crofter was heard to describe Badcall as being very hilly. This is, of course, compared to the flat fields of Foindle.

### Open Meeting

Dr Paul Monaghan, SNP parliamentarty candidate, will be holding an open meeting in Scourie Village Hall on Monday 4th May 7pm at 7.30pm

All most welcome to attend and hear Dr Monaghan, who will also answer any questions you may have.

### North West Community Bus Association

**Kinlochbervie-Tain on Thursdays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTWARD JOURNEY</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>RETURN JOURNEY</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KLB Ceilidh House car park</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>Depart Alness</td>
<td>14.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laxford</td>
<td>9.15</td>
<td>Lairg</td>
<td>15.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scourie bus stop</td>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>Laxford</td>
<td>16.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lairg</td>
<td>10.40</td>
<td>Scourie</td>
<td>16.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrive Alness</td>
<td>11.15</td>
<td>KLB</td>
<td>16.50</td>
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**May 14th, June 11th, July 9th, Aug 13th, Sept 10th, Oct 8th & 29th, Nov 12th, Dec 10th**

**Return Fare £12**

To book a seat call 01971521054
At least 1 week in advance

### Scourie & District Community Council

Scourie & District Community Council invites applications from interested parties to the Maldie Burn Hydro Scheme Community Benefit Fund. The funding can be used for charitable, educational, environmental or community purposes within the Scourie & District Community Council boundary only. Funding applications will be considered on their merit and benefit to the local community at the Scourie & District Community Council meetings. Letters of interest should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Scourie & District Community Council
2 Lochmore
Achnafay
By LAIRG
IV27 4NZ

Or email: [george.lochmore@btinternet.com](mailto:george.lochmore@btinternet.com) for a downloadable application form.

An application form will be sent and must be completed and returned by post or email. Please note: Applicants may be required to provide further relevant information in support of funding applications at the discretion of the S&DCC.
NW Highlands Geopark welcomes visitors to the Rock Stop

North West Highlands Geopark will open the doors of its new Rock Stop Coffee Shop and Exhibition on Friday May 8th ready for a busy summer season. The Rock Stop is located at Unapool from where, beneath the Assynt mountains visitors will enjoy spectacular views over Loch Glencoul. Sited on the main north-south road through the Geopark it is perfectly located for those exploring the Rock Route, a driving trail established by Scottish Natural Heritage to link together key sites of interest in the majestic landscape of the North West Highlands. The Rock Stop has a café with wi-fi, a shop and an exhibition telling the story of the landscape.

“The Rock Stop exhibition will be continually evolving and has something for everyone, helping all ages connect with the landscape around us. You can find out how mountains are made, how they are worn away and what gets between our toes when we visit the beautiful sandy beaches of the North West” said Laura Hamlet, Information Manager. Business Manager Pete Harrison added “We are really excited to have a dedicated facility to promote the landscape of the NW Highlands Geopark and pleased to be able to partner with local suppliers to provide arts, crafts, books and other merchandise within the Coffee Shop”.

As a hub for the Geopark team, the Rock Stop will promote both guided and self-guided tours throughout the North West Highlands to help visitors explore this ancient landscape. Events include Geo-tours by bus, short walks or Geo-rambles and Geo-hikes or Geo-kayaking for the more adventurous; a total of 43 events for the 2015 season. A highlight of the year ahead will be a climbing festival to be held at Lochinver from the 18th-20th September.

The innovative Geopark team used crowd funding to secure an initial backing of over £2000 from 70 sponsors. This has enabled the NWH Geopark to secure a base for the event which will feature climbing workshops, talks, a Ceilidh and a hog roast. They are keen to secure further funds to underwrite the costs of the event in advance of ticket sales so if you or your business would like to sponsor this tremendous event please contact Marketing Manager Mike Goodwin on 01971 521301 or email mike@nwhgeopark.com.

The Rock Stop has been opened as a pilot Geo-centre to test a range of business ideas with financial support from SSE and Nexen. Ultimately the Geopark has its sights on a purpose built facility based within Scourie and has recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Scourie Community Development Company to take forward plans to design and fund a new-build Geo-centre.

For more details of the 2015 calendar of events visit www.nwhgeopark.com or drop in to the Rock Stop at Unapool near Kylesku in North West Sutherland.
Highland Council
Guided Walks

Highland Council Guided Walks

Thurs 7th 10.30am - 1.30pm North Shore, Scourie
Guided coastal walk, outstanding views, moorland, seabirds, and a bit of geology. Meet at village pier car park. Grid ref: NC 155448. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00.

Tues 12th 11am - 3pm Drumbeg peat road
Stunning walk in the remote Assynt "cnoc and loch" landscape. We will be walking through the Drumbeg Common Grazing land full of history and teeming with wildlife. Meet at Drumbeg View Point car park. Grid ref: NC 120330. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00.

Thurs 14th 11am - 3pm Clachtoll coastal walk
Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting township rich in wildlife, to the iron-age broch. Hear the stories of skeletons, ancient saunas and "catastrophic collapse". Find extraordinary ancient life forms. Meet at Clachtoll Beach car park. Grid ref: NC 040273. Grade B. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00.

Tues 12th 10.30am - 1.30pm Castle Bharraich Walk
Guided walk to this enigmatic ruin and beyond. Meet at Tongue village car park near the bank. Grid ref: NC 592566. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00.

Mon 18th 2pm - 4pm Puffin Walk, Durness
Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head. Meet at Balnakeil beach car park. Grade B. Adults £4, conc £3 family £10

Tues 19th 11am - 3pm Bone Caves, Inchnadamph
This is a fascinating walk back in time to the ice-age where the bones of reindeer, polar bears and even humans were discovered in the caves. Stout footwear is essential. Meet at Bone Caves car park, 2.5 miles south of Inchnadamph. Grid ref: NC 254179. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00.

Thurs 21st 11am - 3pm Dubh Clais Clearance villag
We will search out the ruins of the clearance township at Dubh Clais and learn about how they lived. Lots of woodland and river edge wildlife to see as well. Meet at Assynt Visitor Centre, Main Street Lochinver. Grid ref: NC 094225. Grade B. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00.

Tues 26th 11am - 3pm Clachtoll Coastal Walk
Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting township rich in wildlife, to the iron-age broch. Hear the stories of skeletons, ancient saunas and "catastrophic collapse". Find extraordinary ancient life forms.

Meet at Achmelvich coastal walk. Grid ref: NC 040273. Grade B. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00.

Thurs 28th 11am - 3pm Achmelvich coastal walk
Come and see brilliant orchids, jewelled rocks and marvellous machair as we walk along a coastline steeped in crofting history, to the old mill at Altanabradhan. Meet at Achmelvich Beach car park. Grid ref: NC 058248. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00.

For more information contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk or Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk For up to date information on all Highland Council Countryside Ranger Events and the Long Distance Trails in Highland go to www.outdoorhighlands.co.uk or find us on Facebook Caithness and Sutherland Countryside Rangers

All the walks are led by one of the Rangers. It is important though that you think of your own safety and that of any children for whom you are responsible. Remember too that these are country walks in the Highland weather so please dress accordingly. Bring sturdy shoes, or boots, a picnic and a sense of fun. The Rangers reserve the right to cancel any of these events.

Walk Grades: A is easiest, D most challenging, including very rough ground and sometimes steep climbs. Sorry watching wildlife is not usually compatible with taking dogs.

The North West Sutherland Amateur Football Association's 2015 season kicks off on Saturday 2nd May. This year, the combined team, with players from Durness, Kinlochbervie and Scourie, will play under the title of Kinlochbervie and will host their home games on Scourie pitch. Teams from Brora, Dornoch, Embo, Golspie, Helmsdale, Lairg, Lochinver, Melvich & Tongue also play in this league and will visit Scourie throughout the summer months. Home games that are coming up include 2nd May KLB vs Dornoch, 9th May KLB vs Embo. There may possibly be a home game on May 23rd but this is not yet confirmed.

A new website for the league has been created where players and supporters can find information about news and results.

http://www.nwsafa.co.uk

Details of the MacKay Cup draw can also be found on the website. Kinlochbervie has been drawn to play Embo at home in the first round of this cup but a date for this match is not yet available.
April Weather

Cold and wet to begin with, a dry and warm week in the middle, and cold and wet again at the end. Hopefully the last snow of the winter fell on the 26th.

We had 97.8 (93) mm of rain, a little higher than the 20 year average of 83mm. The most fell on 17th with 19 mm. There were 8 days without rain. The average minimum temperature was 4.1 (6.9) deg C, with the highest min of 7 deg C on 7th, 21st and 23rd. The lowest min was 0 deg C, recorded on 1st and 27th. The average maximum temp was 9.1 (11.9) deg C with a high of 14 deg C on 11th and 20th. The lowest max was 5 deg C on 27th. The solar panels were repaired on 18th April, after the damage during the storm on 9th Jan. They have produced 209 kW of electric, and average of 7.75 (9.87) kW per day. (Last year's records in brackets)

Advance Notice
The Far North Shinty Sixes will be held on Saturday 6th June at Scourie pitch and pavilion, hosted by Kinlochbervie Camanachd. This will be followed by a dance to Blue Ridge in the village hall.

Disclaimer
The editor would like it to be known that any items featured in the Scourie News do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor or the community council. Articles are inserted at the contributors’ request. Edited & compiled by Aileen MacDonald on behalf of Scourie & District Community Council
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