

# Scourie News

January 2017

Edition 127

Anthony, Anne, Matu, Gillie & Bina O'Flaherty  
send all friends in the Scourie area  
the very best wishes for a  
happy, healthy & prosperous



## Festive Fundraising

The run-up to Christmas is always a busy and expensive time. However, along with all the fun & merriment, it is good to know that many worthwhile causes benefit from the activities held in our small village.

Scourie village hall made a profit of over £2000 from running a bar at three events in the hall over December. They also received £113 from the Scourie Greetings newsletter and have been given the substantial donation of £10,000 from Loch Duart Ltd towards the refurbishment of the hall electrics.

Scourie Primary School benefitted by £1200 from their Christmas fayre, £300 from the school show and £40 from local card deliveries.

The Highland Hospice was given £113 from the Scourie Greetings newsletter, whilst The Barnabas Fund received over £100 from the carol singing service.

## Festive Spending

Whilst all this fundraising was going on, the gala committee was busy spending the money they had raised throughout the summer.

The primary & pre-school children enjoyed lunch & a visit to the panto. All primary & younger children

received a present from Santa at the community party and the band was paid for at the festive dance, so that all money made could go directly to the hall.

Despite having paid for these various activities, the gala fund is still very healthy, so look out for some more spending in the new year!

## Camera Club

We would like to apologise to Mrs F Lyle who sponsored June in our calendar. An error has been made in her email contact, and should read "Enquiries to cambushinniecroft@gmail.com"

We are struggling to keep the club going with declining membership numbers. If you had a camera for Christmas, and would like to learn how to use all those settings, what each menu option does, and how to get the best composition, then come along to one of our meetings. Held fortnightly through the year, and hopefully alternate venues of Scourie Hall, and KLB Ceilidh House. Contact Irene Garrioch, Peter Tuck, or Donald Fisher for further details.

## December Weather

December seemed to be wet, cold and windy and the first winter storms Barbara, and Conor arrived over the Christmas break. But the rainfall for the month was less than the 20-year average of 152 mm with only 125 mm. The wettest day was 31<sup>st</sup> with 32 mm. This was also the wettest day of the year. There were 7 days where no rain was recorded.

Average temperatures have also been higher than the last few years, with the average maximum of 8.4 deg C (7.5 deg C average for the last three years). The highest temperature was 12 deg C on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The average minimum was 4.6 deg C (3.1 deg C average for the last three years). The coldest temperature was -1 deg C on 6<sup>th</sup>.

The solar panels have produced 12.79 kW, an average of 0.41kW per day. (no readings were taken from 4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, the total for that period taken on 14<sup>th</sup>)

# Weather Totals for 2016

The rainfall for June was nearly the lowest recorded (2009 was 4.5 mm less), while July was the wettest recorded since these records began in 1992. The rainfall for the year has been 1359 mm, 7 mm less than the average. There were 134 days where no rain was recorded. The wettest day was 31<sup>st</sup> December with 32 mm, and the wettest three day period was 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August with 65 mm, just in time for the Gala on 14<sup>th</sup>!

The average maximum and minimum temperatures for the whole year were 10.8 and 6.3 deg C. Both slightly lower than the three year averages (11.0 and 6.5 deg C). The warmest temperature recorded was 23 deg C on Aug 8<sup>th</sup> whilst the coldest was -2 deg C on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>, and Feb 14<sup>th</sup>.

The solar panels have produced 2804 kW, an average of 7.68 kW.



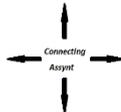
## Connect Assynt Ltd

FOR BOOKINGS Tel: 01571 844590

Or email: [info@connectassynt.co.uk](mailto:info@connectassynt.co.uk)

**January 2017 - Assynt Community Bus**

**- Scourie to Lochinver**



# Lost Property

Did any ladies lose a pair of black, suede pumps at an event in Scourie Village Hall? If so, please claim from Aileen MacDonald.

## North West Training Centre

Kinlochbervie High School  
Manse Road, Kinlochbervie  
By Lairg, Sutherland IV27 4RR  
Tel. 01971 521238 Regd. Charity SC019802  
Email [northwest.tc@outlook.com](mailto:northwest.tc@outlook.com)



## Winter Courses & Workshops

### What's coming up in 2017?

#### January



Pottery and Ceramics with Martina Macleod. Three Saturday sessions to design, create, decorate and fire a pot or other object. 21 Jan, 4 Feb, & 18 Feb. £45 per person.

#### February



A series of four Thursday evening talks with chartered geologist Donald Fisher exploring geological processes and how our understanding of them helps shape our lives. 9 Feb, 16 Feb, 23 Feb, & 2 March. £32 per person.

#### March



A short course of two Saturday workshops with Alison Wood. Enjoy experimenting with a variety of media and expressive mark making techniques, including etching and relief print making. 4 & 11 March. £30 per person.

We have already begun taking bookings for these so don't delay. Get in touch for more information or to reserve your place. Course fees listed are for the whole course, including any materials required.

For more information or to sign-up for any of our courses contact Gary Sutherland on 01971 521238 or email [northwest.tc@outlook.com](mailto:northwest.tc@outlook.com)



**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January**  
**- £1-£5 return**

Lochinver	Harbour
8.45am	
Scourie Shop arrive	9.45am
Scourie Shop depart	10.00am
Lochinver	Harbour
11.00am arrive	

We will return to Scourie after lunch at a time to suit all passengers.

All times are approximate. We will pick up/drop off along route as long as safe to do so. Please telephone/email to book your seat. Concession cards not valid as this is a trial route.

Connect Assynt is here to help any resident with transport issues whether permanent or temporary. We give priority to the following groups whether they have their own transport or not, but we will transport you if space permits:

- Over 60s and wheelchair users
- Those with a disability (attendant travels free of charge)
- Residents with no personal transport
- Residents with other entitlement card

**PLEASE JOIN TWO REGULAR SCOURIE PASSENGERS IN SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY BUS SO WE CAN REGISTER THIS ROUTE AS A REGULAR BUS SERVICE FOR ALL!**

Scottish Charity SC045852  
Company No 402621



# Knit & Natter



Knit and Natter is all about having fun, learning and developing new knitting or sewing skills, and having a friendly chat over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Whether you knit, stitch, crochet, or embroider (or want to learn) why not come along on Thursday afternoons and join in the fun!



The group meets in the Community Room at Kinlochbervie High School.

The first session will be on Thursday, 12 January 2017 from 2pm.

All are welcome! Maybe bring a friend or relative!

It's free to join but a donation towards teas/coffee is appreciated.



Knit & Natter is organised as an inter-generational social group by the North West Training Centre. SC019802  
Contact us on 01971 521238 or email [northwest.tc@outlook.com](mailto:northwest.tc@outlook.com)

# North West Highlands Geopark

## Appoints Two New Staff

The North West Highlands Geopark (NWHG) has recently employed two enthusiastic new team members. Alison MacLeod and Philippa Edwards will be job sharing a full-time position managing the business side of the Geopark. Their roles will encompass Geopark communications, marketing, financial management, fundraising and general administration. They will also be working closely with NWHG's other full-time team member, Dr Laura Hamlet, assisting with events, tours and information provision throughout the park.

Alison and Philippa come to the Geopark with diverse backgrounds and experience, each bringing different skills to the position.

Alison has recently completed a Masters in Marine Resources and Protection at Heriot Watt University and has returned home to Coigach. She is keen to explore and share the fascinating world of the marine environment, including the little known underwater geology within the Geopark. The sea around the Summer Isles particularly harbours a unique geological hidden landscape that has been identified as a Late Devensian fjord land system formed by subglacial erosion during successive ice-sheet cycles.

Philippa has a background in travel/tourism and museum exhibitions. "I live within the Geopark and my family and I enjoy spending time outdoors in this magnificent landscape. I am excited to have this opportunity to help visitors to the area engage with our unique environment, as well as contribute to the work the Geopark does to benefit local communities" said Philippa on her appointment.

NWHG Chairman Cllr George Farlow said; "We are delighted to welcome Alison and Philippa to the team. It is fantastic to see two young women with such valuable skills and experience employed locally. The NWHG has achieved so much over the past decade but we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. We must focus on making the UNESCO status work for the region's communities".

Dr Laura Hamlet said; "We have ambitious plans for the next year with a packed events schedule of walks and talks as well as Soil fertility research, improving our visitor centre and writing a new guidebook. I think we have a very strong team in place now to achieve these plans so I'm very much looking forward to working with Alison and Philippa."

Coigach Community Director, Ann MacLeod was enthusiastic about the new appointments. She said "Alison and Philippa have strong community connections; the knowledge and enthusiasm they bring is sure to be an asset to our unique UNESCO Geopark. Community Directors strive to ensure the the NWHG is an intergral part of life in the communities we serve and we look forward to the exciting opportunities our enhanced team plan to deliver in 2017 for the benefit of the whole area".

### What is the North West Highlands Geopark?

The North West Highlands Geopark is a social enterprise and charity whose purpose is to promote Geotourism, Conservation and Interpretation of the Geological Heritage of the North West Highlands. It is a UNESCO Global Geopark, a designation equal to World Heritage Site status.

The NWHG comprises an area of 2000 square kilometres in the most sparsely populated corner of Europe. It shares the common aim of all geoparks to tell the story of our landscape and make it accessible to visitors from primary school to research science and beyond. This in turn helps to bring resources into sensitive rural areas, creating jobs and supporting small businesses.

The NWHG exists to Explore Deep Time, Evoke a Sense of Place and Encourage Stewardship. This means encouraging adventures for everyone which helps people connect with the land and feel responsible for maintaining its beauty, wildlife and resources. It is currently implementing a five year plan to continue to promote landscape interpretation, adventure activities and educational projects.

For more information please visit [www.nwhgeopark.com](http://www.nwhgeopark.com) or contact Dr Laura Hamlet [laura@nwhgeopark.com](mailto:laura@nwhgeopark.com) 01854 622 754 or 07828 894 030



**Alison MacLeod and Philippa Edwards with baby Samuel looking at Quinag in the distance**



**The Rock Stop at Unapool, which houses a Café and shop and the Geopark visitor centre and exhibition**

# Fèis an Iar Thuath

## Bliadhna mhàth ùr !

A Happy New Year to you all from Fèis an Iar Thuath.

Our annual children's traditional musical event of the year will be taking place on the 20th Monday and 21st Tuesday February in Scourie Primary school and village hall.

Classes in Fiddle, Drums, Guitar, Keyboard, Chanter\Pipes, Drama and Accordion are being offered this year for children 8 - 18 years. There will also be a session on both days for Group work which has proved to be a favourite activity. Irene Fraser will tutor the Fiddle group, Addie Harper guitar, Lindsay Cherry Tin Whistle, Joseph Peach Piper\ Chanter and Accordion and Sheilah Cunningham Keyboard. We welcome back the popular TV star of the outstanding award winning Gaelic drama Debbie MacKay who also tutors drama for Create in Ullapool. This year we have an exciting new drum tutor

Fèis Bheag, the wee fèis for wee folk which attracts high numbers will be taken again by Lisa MacDonald keeping them busy with songs, activities and crafts.

The Fèis is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn Scottish traditional tunes on the instruments they already play or to try a new instrument. We wish to encourage every child to join in regardless of ability and to enjoy themselves.

On the Monday evening there will be a cèilidh in the village hall to which everyone in the community is invited. The music for the night will be played by our tutors who are also professional performers and will play for dancing. This cèilidh contributes to our fundraising during the year and there will be a raffle thanks to the generosity of local businesses and individuals.

The Fèis will close with a children's concert on Tuesday after the classes when they will play the tunes that they have learnt- the main event being the group performance. Parents and members of the community are invited.

Look out for posters during January and February or check the Scourie group on Facebook.

If anyone would like to help by donating raffle prizes, being at the Fèis or helping in any way please contact Sheilah.

8-18 years cost for 2 days £14

4-7 years cost for 2 days. £10 Fèis Bheag

For registration forms or further information contact sheilahcunningham@btinternet.com or phone 01971502072

Registration forms will also be available in local schools.

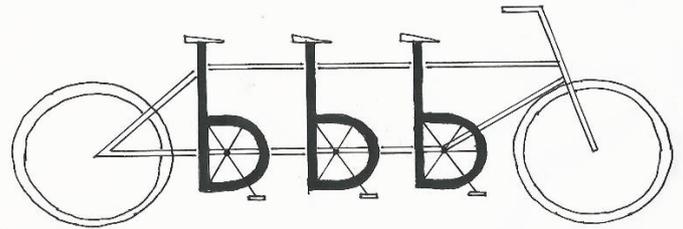
# Bin Collection dates

<b>December</b> 6th 13th 20th 27th	<b>January</b> 3rd 10th 17th 24th 31st	<b>February</b> 7th 14th 21st 28th	<b>March</b> 7th 14th 21st 28th
<b>2017 - 18</b>			
<b>April</b> 4th 11th 18th 25th	<b>May</b> 2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th	<b>June</b> 6th 13th 20th 27th	<b>July</b> 4th 11th 18th 25th
<b>August</b> 1st 8th 15th 22nd 29th	<b>September</b> 5th 12th 19th 26th	<b>October</b> 3rd 10th 17th 24th 31st	<b>November</b> 7th 14th 21st 28th
<b>December</b> 5th 12th 19th 26th	<b>January</b> 2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th	<b>February</b> 6th 13th 20th 27th	<b>March</b> 6th 13th 20th 27th

\*collection due on 2nd January will be on Saturday 6th January

## Recycling dates

## Refuse dates



## Barnes Bits & Bikes

Scott has set up a bike repair business and other bits and pieces in the greenhouse at Gardeners Cottage. Repairs, recycling and servicing, he will fix, check or sell you bikes. Contact Scott on 502259 to book in. Or check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/barnesbitsandbikes/> and <http://www.spanglefish.com/BarnesBitsandBikes>

## Fibre Optic Broadband

*Here is a recent Facebook post from Pete Tuck, regarding our faster broadband connection.*

I've just checked (following discussions via Craig and Pam) the Fibre Optic broadband connection. The Digital Scotland website says we are now connected, and you have to arrange your own connection with your supplier.

I've just contacted BT (our current supplier), and have arranged a package which will be activated on Feb 2nd. Suggested speeds of 54-55 mbps have been suggested, that's more than 100 times faster than we're getting now (just did a speed check and got 0.28 and 0.38 mbps on two tests).

# Real Homemade Bread

## By Richard & Iza

We are passionate about sourdough bread & have set up a bread baking business in our home kitchen.

We are members of 'Sustain' the Campaign for Real Bread.

Our bread consists of water, flour, yeast, salt and a sourdough starter. This is a fermented batter of water and flour, which thanks to the naturally occurring wild yeast, gives a yummy sourdough bread with a mildly tangy taste.

There are no added preservatives or improvers. Our recipes are simple and we use organic flour from, amongst others, Doves Farm.

### ***Our Bread***

*White sourdough (wheat & rye)*

*Seeded sourdough (wheat, rye & 6 different seeds)*

*Baguettes*

*Focaccia*

*Chocolate bread*

More options to be available soon.

To order fresh bread contact Iza or Richard on 502492 one day in advance of delivery.

We can deliver ourselves & bread is available from Tuesday to Saturday.

## Do you want to learn some first aid?

John Clarke from Trauma Resus and Neal Gregory from Reay Forest Estate will be hosting a drop in session on Saturday 14th January in Scourie Village Hall between 10am and 1pm for anyone wanting to learn about CPR and defibs. There will be practical and theory sessions using manikin and training defib.

For more details contact  
Neal Gregory  
Estate Foreman  
Reay Forest Estate  
07718037232

## Skipinnish



Kinlochberrie Village Hall are delighted and very excited to announce that Skipinnish will be performing for us on Sat 28th Jan. Come along and blow away the January blues with some of the best Scottish music on the scene just now. Tickets are £25 each and include a haggis supper during the interval. No U15s and U18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Tickets are available from Heather Paterson on 01971521170 or pm through Facebook. Don't delay as we are sure to sell out pretty quickly. Licensed BAR from 8 until late.

*Scourie News* [scourienews@btinternet.com](mailto:scourienews@btinternet.com)

*Compiled by Aileen MacDonald on behalf of Scourie & District Community Council*

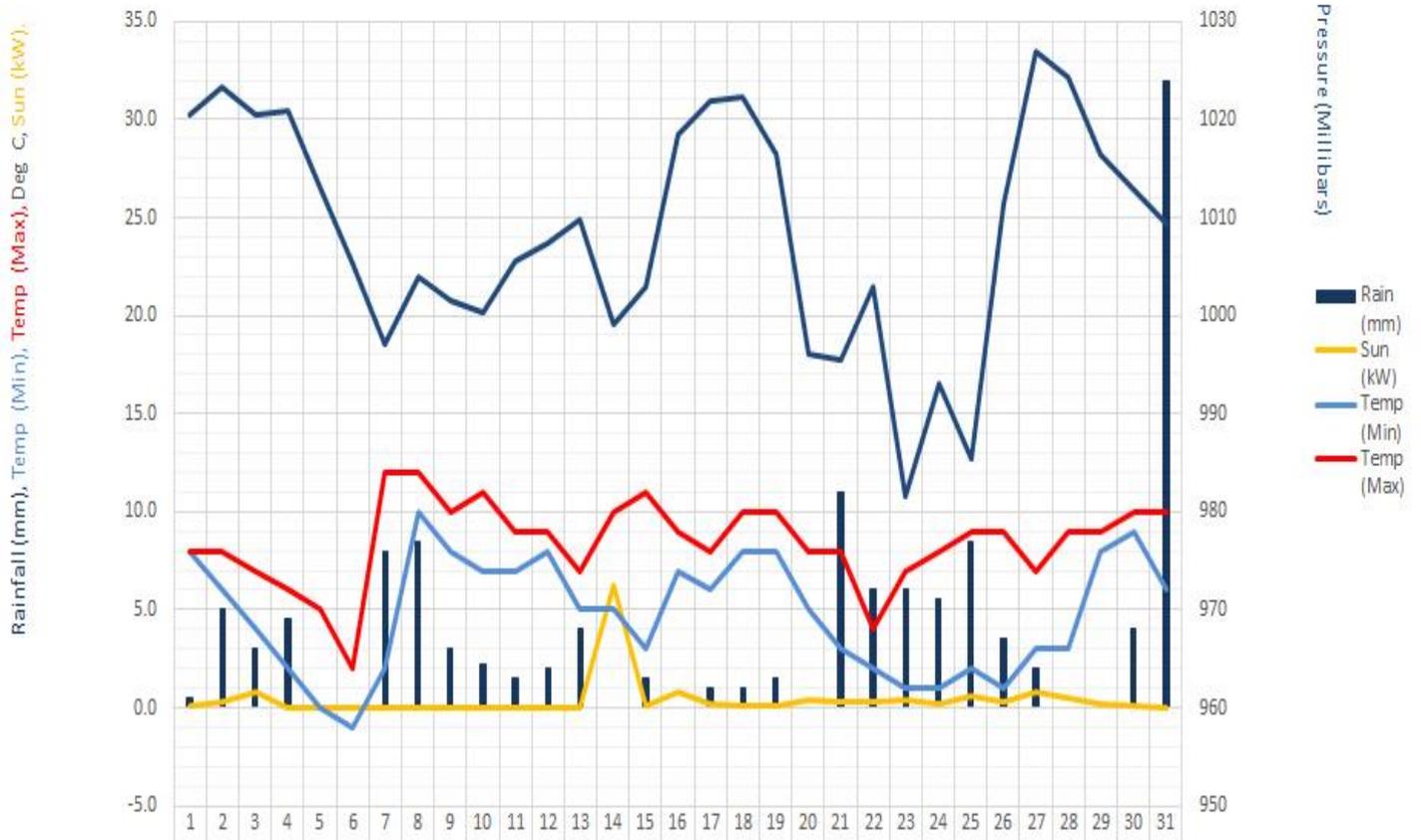
*Ink & paper supplied by Reay Forest Estate*

*Disclaimer: The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor or community council. Items are included at request.*

*If you have a news item, advert, thanks notice etc that you would like to insert into the Scourie News, please send it to the above email address*

*or contact Aileen on 01971 502371*

Scourie Weather - December



Scourie Weather - Monthly Totals & Averages, 2015

