**Dates for August**

Tues 1\(^{st}\), 15\(^{th}\) & 29\(^{th}\) Recycling bins  
Tues 8\(^{th}\) & 22\(^{nd}\) Refuse bins  
Mon 14\(^{th}\) School staff inset day  
Tues 15\(^{th}\) Schools open for pupils

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**Gala Success**

Scourie Gala Committee would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported the Scourie Gala 2017 in any way. From the brain-teasing pub quiz in the Anchorage on the Thursday evening, to the exciting duck race on Sunday afternoon, our events were well attended and supported by all ages.

Laura, Kip & the staff of The Anchorage made an excellent job of keeping everyone entertained with some tricky questions and interesting rounds at our opening event. An amazing 16 teams entered, with The Famous Five coming first.

Many hands made light work of setting up the football field on Friday morning as marquees were erected, staging created, lights fitted and chairs moved. It was really encouraging to see not only committee members & their families, but other residents and visitors coming along to lend a hand. A great big thank you goes out to all of you!

Friday evening saw Scourie's first ever fancy-dress float parade. An amazing 8 floats met at the former county depot before parading around the village and parking at the football field in preparation for judging. It was really encouraging to see so many people out on the roadside along the route, joining in the fun. Angus & Elizabeth of Scourie Lodge had the unenviable task of judging the floats and were required to choose a 1\(^{st}\), 2\(^{nd}\) & 3\(^{rd}\). After close inspection & much deliberation, 1\(^{st}\) place was given to The Creel (MacInnes family), 2\(^{nd}\) place to Wizard of Oz (MacKenzie & Fraser families), whilst 3\(^{rd}\) place was shared by The County Boys (local ladies) and Toy Story (MacDonald family). A great big well done goes to everyone who put so much time, effort, thought and resources into their floats. I wonder how we can improve on them for next year!

Friday evening was rounded off with lots of music & dancing led by The Impact. Great fun was had by all who attended.

Saturday morning started off promising as it was windy, but dry. The football field soon became busy with stall holders setting up their gazebos, tables being moved, inflatables being blown up....it was go, go, go! Then, just as Jana MacDonald was ready to make her opening speech following the Inverness British Legion Pipe Band's first tunes, the rain began.... gently to start with, but it got heavier as the afternoon went on and just did not stop!

However, the weather didn't hamper most of the activities continuing with a good attendance of people over the course of the afternoon. Many of the stall holders were very pleased with their trade, despite the poor weather. Our sincere thanks go out to everyone who supported the event in any way. Without your support and sponsorship from local businesses, our gala just could not go ahead!

Wood'n'Stone played to a packed village hall on the Saturday evening where the dance floor was full all night!

Sunday afternoon saw the sun shining in tie for the ducks to have their annual swim down the burn. Conditions were perfect for a leisurely race with some clear winners. Well done to those who bought the lucky duck numbers.

Most of the bills have now been settled and all the monies have been banked. The gala account is looking very healthy and the committee will be meeting later in August to decide on this year's shopping list. Keep a look out for further information in this and future editions of the Scourie News.
Guided walks in Northwest Sutherland

Bookings only. Adults £4.50 Concessions £3.50

Tues 1st...Faraid head by Durness; Beautiful leisurely walk along this stunning beach, returning through the amazing dunes. There is a small chance of seeing Puffins! Meet at Balnakeil beach car park at 10:30am. 2.5hrs approx. Map ref: NC 392686

Thurs 3rd...Oldshoremore – wildflower walk. Meet at Oldshoremore car park 2.5m north of Kinlochbervie at 10.30am. NC 203584. A fascinating & leisurely walk across the sand dunes and machair, amongst a wonderful array of flowers, with great views and a really good beach. 2hrs approx.

Friday 4th...Whale watch at Durness, 10am – 12pm, meet at the visitor information centre at 9.45am. There is a short car trip to the viewing point - a lift may be available. Identification guides, binoculars will be lent but bring your own if you have them. Booking essential, this is a weather dependant event and may/will be cancelled in poor weather. Donations to Seawatch Foundation.

Tues 8th...Kyle of Tongue archaeology tour, by foot and by car. Meet at Tongue village car park near the bank at 10.30am. NC 592566. 3hrs approx. Find carved Cup & Ring stones, visit a ruined Broch, good scenery too, some rough walking, bring outdoor clothing.

Thurs 10th...Scourie, superb coastal walk by the bay, some rough walking, great views, farm, moorland life, hill and sea – a bit of everything. Meet at the pier car parking area NC155449 at 10.30am. 3hrs approx.

Wed 16th...Arnaboll's old settlement; Meet at the gate-side half a mile west of Hope bridge by the A838 at 10.30am. Walking mostly on tracks, woodland, loch, archaeology, old cemetery, wildlife, views of ben Hope. 3hrs approx.

Thurs 17th...Scourie, the Loch Leathad trail; a beautiful walk along tracks, new woodland, heather moorland, burn and loch. Great view of Scourie & Handa island. Meet at Scourie old depot road 300m south of village sign at 10.30am, NC 157437. We may car share for the short trip to the start.3hrs approx.

Tues 22nd...To the Wheelhouse, by Laid – Durness. A hill walk [314m] to an amazing 2,000yr old drystone dwelling in the remote hills overlooking Loch Eriboll. Passing by the famous HMS Hood stones on the way up, returning down a beautiful little burn to Laid. 3hrs approx. Meet at roadside lay-by 7mls east of Durness on the A838 at 10.30am.

Thurs 24th...Scourie; cliffs, caves and otter signs. An undulating walk by a dramatic coast not often visited except by otters and seabirds. Meet at Scourie Free church car park at the south end of the village at 10.30am, NC 152434. 2.5hrs.

Tues 29th...Castle Bharraich; hill walk by Tongue, to the castle and beyond, over the hill returning along the quiet Kyle road, about 2.5hrs, wonderful views, rich woodland and an enigmatic castle! Meet at the village car park near the bank at 10.30am. NC 592566. The ruined castle has recently been ‘stabilised’ with a new built in viewing platform.

Thurs 31st...Tales of the riverbank; a walk along the banks of the wonderful River Laxford near Scourie; hills and moorland, rich woodland wildlife and a grand salmon and trout highland river. Meet at Laxford bridge cross-roads lay-by on the A 838 at 10:30am. Grade B. 2.5hrs approx.

Contact Donald Mitchell; Tel 01971 511756 or e-mail donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk

Highland Council Ranger Guided Walks in Assynt

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.

Thursday 3rd, 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 £9.00, conc. £5.00, family £24.00.

Tuesday 8th 11am – 3pm; Clachtoll Sand Sculpture Contest and Seashore Day Why not enter the contest for the best sand sculpture starting 11am? Judging and prize giving at 1.30pm. Or just come along to admire the many amazing sculptures for free! Loads of really good prizes. Followed by seashore activities in the afternoon. Meet at Clachtoll Beach car park. Grid ref: NC 040273. Adults £4.50, conc. £3.50, family £15.00.

Thursday 10th 2pm – 4pm; Treasure Hunt in the Culag Woods, Lochinver Family fun in the Community woodland. Search for animal clues and gather the evidence! Meet at Woodside car park, Culag Woods, past Lochinver Primary on the road to Inverkirkaig. Grid ref: NC 093215. Grade A. Adults free, kids. £3.50.

Monday 14th 10.00am - 5.00pm; Quinag Mountain Walk
Explore this fantastic Assynt mountain (808m). Look for Mountain Hares and Ptarmigan. If the weather is not good we will do a shorter low level walk. This is a joint walk with the John Muir Trust. Booking essential. Meeting place given on booking. Grade D. Adults £15.00, conc. £7.50.

Tuesday 22nd, 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, 2.5miles south of Inchnadamph. Grid ref: NC 254179. Grade B. Adults £9.00, conc. £5.00, family £15.00.

Thursday 29th 9am – 6pm; Suilven Mountain Walk
Join us on a walk to the top of Assynt’s most famous mountain, with some wonderful views. This is a strenuous walk. If the weather is not good, we will do a shorter low level walk. Booking essential. Meeting place given out on booking. Grade D. Grade D. Adults £15.00, conc. £7.50.

For more information contact the Highland Council Countryside Ranger, The Lochinver Mission, Culag Park, Lochinver IV27 4LE; Telephone: 01571 844654/07825 116516 Email: andy.summers@highland.gov.uk
On the last Friday in July Dr Alex Brasier of Aberdeen University gave a very interesting talk: *Fossils of complex life formed in Scotland’s most ancient lochs one billion years ago*. The next talk in the North West Highlands Geopark’s lecture series will be given by a representative of the John Muir Trust on Friday 25 August at 7pm at the Rock Stop, Unapool. Look out for a poster at the shop giving more information.

**Connect Assynt Ltd**
FOR BOOKINGS Tel: 01571 844590
Or email: info@connectassynt.co.uk

North West Community Bus Association

**Route 890**
**Kinlochbervie to Ullapool**
Operates first & third Thursdays of each month

**Route 891**
**Kinlochbervie to Dingwall**
Operates 4th Thursday of each month

| Tues 15th August - £1-£5 return | We have reduced this trip to once a month due to lack of demand. We will increase provision if passenger numbers increase!
| Lochinver Harbour 8.45am | Connect Assynt is here to help any resident with transport issues whether permanent or temporary.
| Scourie Shop 9.45am arrive | We give priority to the following groups whether they have their own transport or not, but we will transport you if space permits:
| Scourie Shop 10.00am depart | • Over 60s and wheelchair users
| Lochinver Harbour 11.00am arrive | • Those with a disability (attendant travels free of charge)
| We will return to Scourie after lunch at a time to suit all passengers. | • Residents with no personal transport
| 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. | • Residents with other entitlement card

**Scourie Calendar**

Following last month’s appeal for pictures, I’ve had a few pictures from one person only. The camera club, which has now ceased to exist, has produced and sold calendars for the village. Initially we used the Maldie Burn fund to cover the cost of printing, repaying the loan when calendars were sold. There are now enough funds to cover the printing without the need for a loan, and any profits will be ploughed back into the village, via the Gala committee.

However, for this to work, I really need pictures from you! I’m looking for a selection of pictures to choose 14 final ones from, one for each month, and a couple for the covers. The pictures need to be landscape format, and of a reasonable quality.

I’m looking for pictures taken from anywhere between Loch Assynt and Loch Eribol, and out to Achfary. They can include people, or just a nice scenic shot, and taken anytime in the last 5 years. It can be a collage, or even a work of art.

If you have pictures that you think are suitable, please get in touch. There is a time scale on this project, pictures may need to be edited, put into a template, sent to the printers, review a draft copy for errors, make corrections, return to printers, check the final draft, and then print.

I would like to have the final selection of pictures made by the end of the month. If I don’t get enough pictures, there’ll be no calendar this year. Over to you..!

Pete Tuck.

Please e-mail pictures to pj.tuck@btinternet.com
NWSAFA League Table

As of 29th July 2017

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Baking Donation Boxes

The gala committee would like to sincerely thank everyone who donated baking to the tea kitchen as part of the Saturday event. If you have not yet received your box/tray/tub back, please ask in Scourie Stores where they are all available for collection.

Panto 2017

This year, the gala committee are going to fund a whole-community trip to Inverness to watch Snow White, this year’s pantomime, in Eden Court Theatre. Transport will be supplied by a coach and all under 18s, resident in the Scourie Primary catchment area, will be eligible to a free ticket. Depending on costs & popularity, accompanying adults may be asked for a small donation, but it may prove to be fully funded by the gala. However, this will be calculated once we have a clearer idea of costs. No definite date has yet been set as we do not want to clash with staff parties, but it will certainly be a Saturday in December. Everyone is welcome to join in. An idea of numbers would be useful to help with planning & booking, so please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter & hand in to Scourie Stores, or message Aileen by email or through Facebook. This is only an initial show of interest, so does not commit you to anything just yet!

Playground Vandalism

Unfortunately, over the course of the first 3 weeks of the school summer holidays, there were at least two episodes of vandalism in the front playground of Scourie Primary School. There was wet sand thrown at windows, doors and playground fittings creating a lot of mess to be cleaned up by school staff. On the next occasion, all the flower tubs, which were originally filled by pupils, were purposely upturned and emptied around the playground and more sand was thrown around. Again, this has created a mess which will have to be tidied by staff, but has also destroyed the work of pupils. It is a real shame that such vandalism should happen in a small place like Scourie. If anyone has any information about this, the school would like to hear from you. Should there be any recurrence, the police will be contacted.

Free Church Services

A regular church service will be held in Scourie Free Church at 6pm on the first Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome.
Scourie Lodge

Part-time B&B help needed from now to the end of the season

Please contact us if you’re interested

Thanks, Elisabeth

scourielodge@icloud.com
01971 502248

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Scourie Gala Fund

2 and 3 seater sofas, arm chairs, decorative plates, and other household goodies available at Scourie Lodge on a donation basis to support the Scourie Gala Fund. Come along any time - we’re generally around, or phone 502248 to arrange a time. First come first served!

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July Weather

July was a little disappointing weather wise, seemingly grey, and wet. The new weather station is performing well, although failed to record during the power cut between 11:45 and 16:45 in the 18th.

Temperatures on average were 13.3 deg C, with a low of 6.8 on 1st, and a high of 24.3 on 18th. There were 4 days where the temperature was over 20 deg C, and 9 days where it was under 10 deg C.

Rainfall. We had 101.7 mm of rain, higher than the 20 year average of 83.4 mm. The wettest day was 15th with 20.1 mm. There were 12 days when no rain was recorded.

Wind. The average wind speed was 5.3 mph, with the highest gust of 40 mph on 19th. There were 11 days with gusts over 20 mph, and 3 days with average speeds over 10 mph. The wind direction averaged 171 degrees from the South.

Solar radiation. The average was 145.3 and 644.7 for UV per day. The highest solar was 236 on 4th, and highest UV was 1001.1 on 5th.

Pressure. The average barometer reading was 997 mB, with a high of 1009 on 24th, and a low of 978 on 27th.

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Disclaimer

The Scourie News is compiled by Aileen MacDonald on behalf of Scourie & District Community Council. The contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either and are included on request.

Paper & ink is supplied by Reay Forest Estate.

To include an item please email to scourieneeds@btinternet.com

or phone Aileen on 502371
Would you be interested in a community outing to Snow White in Inverness in December?

Name:

From this household, there would be [ ] eligible under 18s and [ ] adults interested in attending.

We would like to travel by coach. [ ]

We would prefer to travel independently. [ ]

Please complete & return to Scourie Stores.