



Scourie News

Edition 138

December 2017

Festive Greetings

Final call for entries into the 2017 Festive greetings newsletter. These will be printed on Friday 15th Dec, so you have until 12 noon on that day to have your message into the box in Parkers' Store, along with the appropriate fee. Forms are available at the shop counter.

Local Card Delivery

For those who prefer the more traditional Christmas card greetings, Scourie Primary School are running their annual local card delivery service stretching from Achfary to Unapool. After many years with no increase, the price has now gone up to 20p per card. This is still substantially less than the price of a 2nd class stamp and all money raised remains within the village. You will find the post box in Parkers' Store.



Christmas Carol Service

Everyone in the community is invited to take part in the carol service in **Scourie Church of Scotland** on **Sunday 17th December** at **6pm**. Tea, coffee, juice and mince pies will be served in the church hall afterwards.

Those who wish to may contribute to the Christmas appeal to support the work of Barnabas Fund which has projects to save Christians dying from hunger and thirst, as well as providing support and education for persecuted Christians.



Community Christmas Party

The community is invited to join the local children at their Christmas party in Scourie Village Hall on Thursday 21st December from 1.30pm. Tea will be served around 3pm, whilst a special guest is expected to arrive around 3.45pm.



CALENDAR 2018

Thanks to everyone who has already purchased their copy. There are still copies available in the shop. If they all sell, we will have made £2000 over the last 5 years. I will hold back money to cover next year's printing costs, but the remainder will be spent in the community. We have agreed to buy new chairs for the Hall Library, 20 new chairs. Rebecca is currently sourcing information, and if suitable we'll go ahead. I will try and carry on producing a calendar, but will need pictures from more people. So if you're out with your camera through the year, and think you have some shots suitable, keep the calendar in mind. Pictures are best in landscape mode, but I can also fit smaller pictures into a collage, as with the Gala shots.

Apologies to Rona Burton, her picture for May is credited to Angus Markland in error. The view over Eddrachilles bay was taken by Rona Burton.

Thanks again for making this project work,

Pete Tuck



Scottish Poppy Appeal 2018
Scourie District
raised £238.68

A big thank you to all that gave
so generously.



November Weather

November saw the first snows of winter on Foinaven and Arkle, and on the same day, we also had thunder and lightning. It was around the 8th, but the date is written on my calendar at home! We have seen some strong winds, but the month was very wet, and cold towards the end.

Rainfall was 183 mm with the wettest day on 16th with 24.9 mm. There were only two days where no rain was recorded.

The highest temperature was 12.3 degrees on the 6th, and the lowest was 0.9 on 23rd. Average max was 8.4, and the average min was 4.4. The second half of the month was noticeably colder.

The strongest gust of wind was 47.4 mph on the 9th, with the highest daily average was 17.4 on 20th. There were 14 days when the average speed was over 10 mph. The barometer dropped below 1000 mb on three occasions, and mostly at the end of the month. A low of 774 occurred on 22nd and a high of 1013 on 19th.

The sun hasn't been seen much, and we only had an average of just under 10 w/m2. Very low.

Pete Tuck

Pensioners' Dinner

The first pensioners' get-together of 2018
is planned
for Sat 13th January
in The Anchorage
where dinner will be served.

If you would like to attend, please contact
Gina (502410)
Lynn (502226)
or Donna (502078)
who will give you further details.
Transport will also be available.

Scourie Primary Christmas Fayre

The pupils, parents and staff would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported our recent Christmas fayre in any way, helping us to raise an amazing **£1165** for school funds.

We currently have 10 primary & 4 nursery pupils, so this is an amazing total!

Thank you for donating to the hamper and the tombola! Thank you for holding a stall! Thank you for supplying soup & baking! Thank you for coming along despite the terrible weather!

A great big thank you to all the local businesses who contributed so generously to Carolanne's raffle which raised an amazing £356 of our total.

Special thanks to Meg McCall & Christine MacDonald for helping in the kitchen and to all who offered help. The entire day had a community feel to it!



The Scourie & District Community Council has once again received complaints about a few irresponsible people allowing their dogs to poop on or near the Scourie playing fields, the Scourie Bay beach area and grass verges between the Anchorage and Scourie Primary School.

Can we ask the few allowing this to happen to please clean up after their pets? Bag it and bin it please! It is a health hazard, unsightly and an offence.

To the many that do clean up after their pets in Scourie we say thank you for helping in keeping our village clean.



All members and interested people are invited to the North West Highland Geopark AGM on **Saturday 20 January at 12 noon in Scourie Village Hall**. Soup will be provided. The Geopark is a registered charity and a social enterprise. It exists to promote the area through tourism, using our landscape and the underlying geology. We wish to slow people down as they speed around the NC500, so they spend money in our local communities.

This helps to sustain local businesses, thus making our local communities vibrant and populated, helping to keep our schools viable. We also have a mission to educate about our heritage so we can all value and preserve what we have for future generations. The Geopark is controlled by the local communities within its area, membership of the board comprises one representative from each community council plus 4 directors elected by and from within the membership.

We have 3 vacancies for election to the board at the AGM. We are looking for people with time they can devote to the running of the Geopark. Directors should be team players, and share our values and mission.

For more details please contact Jean Mackay, company secretary, jean@nwhgeopark.com, or by phoning 01971 502361.

SCOURIE VILLAGE HALL

present...

DANCE TO

BLUE RIDGE

ON FRIDAY 29TH DECEMBER

LICENSED BAR

£10 ENTRY

NO UNDER 16s

ROAR

BURNS' SUPPER

ON SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY
2018

Further details in next month's
issue.

War Memorial

Following the traditional Remembrance Day ceremony last month, Angus MacKay of Handa Terrace unearthed an old newspaper article about the unveiling of the Scourie War Memorial which he supplied for inclusion in this month's edition. It has been enlarged to aid reading, but if anybody would prefer the article emailed to them, please contact scourienews@btinternet.com

Article on final page.

Gala AGM

The annual general meeting of the Scourie Gala committee took place on Monday 4th December in The Anchorage. The former gala committee resigned and the new organising committee for the 2018 events was formed as follows :-

Chair - Linda MacDonald

Treasurer - Pete Tuck

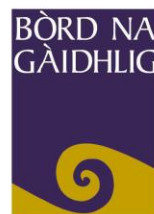
Secretary - Aileen MacDonald

Committee - Iona Shaw, Rebecca MacInnes, Lucy Pearce, Ashley Milne, Neil MacDonald, Carolanne Forsyth

Dates for 2018 events were set as

Fri 4th / Sat 5th May - mini gala events

Thurs 5th - Sun 8th July - main gala weekend



North West Training Centre
Kinlochbervie High School
Manse Road, Kinlochbervie
By Lairg, Sutherland IV27 4RR
Regd. Charity SC019802



Gaelic!

A course for beginners and those with a little more knowledge of the language.

Join our tutor, Claire Belshaw, for a programme of ten 90 minute evening sessions that will quickly help you to build your knowledge and confidence in the subject.



Whether you are an absolute beginner or have already taken some Gaelic lessons, we know you'll enjoy learning this fascinating language in a fun and sociable environment.

The first session will be on Monday, 19 February 2018 in Kinlochbervie High School from 7pm and it costs just £45 for the whole course.

For more details or to book a place contact Gary Sutherland on 01971 521238 or email northwest.tc@outlook.com.



The Anchorage

December Hours

16th Dec Quiz night

Normal times up to Christmas Day

25th Dec 1-4

26th Dec 12-3

Resume normal hours

30th Dec 6-11

31st Dec 12-6

Hogmanay bottle draw @ 2pm

1st Jan 1-4

Resume normal hours



Recycle your postage stamps!

Remember to collect used stamps from your mail and pass them on to

Christine MacDonald, Minch View

who will send them to worthy charities.

Panto Trip

Due to the arrival of snowy conditions along with Storm Caroline, on Fri 8th Dec, the coach booked for the gala-funded community trip to the panto in Inverness was unable to travel to Scourie. Some families decided to travel to Inverness themselves allowing 10 children and 6 adults to attend the panto in Eden Court, who have generously agreed to honour any unused tickets either for this year's show or to be carried forward to next year's performance.

Please get in touch with Aileen MacDonald if your children were to be attending the panto & you would like to use their tickets as part of a family outing during the holidays.

Summary of Nov Weather

	High	Low	Average
Temperature	12.3 °C	0.9 °C	6.3 °C
Dew Point	11.6 °C	-3.6 °C	3.5 °C
Humidity	98%	55%	82.1%
Precipitation	186.7 mm	--	--
	High	Low	Average
Wind Speed	70.2 km/h	--	15 km/h
Wind Gust	149 km/h	--	--
Wind Direction	--	--	SSE

Apologies to Pete Tuck.....I lost the graphs this month!

UNVEILING OF SCOURIE WAR MEMORIAL.

There was unveiled at Scourie on Friday of last week a Memorial of exquisite taste and artistic design, erected in memory of its unreturning brave who fell in the Great War. It was an event of unique experience to the old, a day which moved the hearts even of strong men to tears, and which made an indelible impression on the minds of the young people. From an early hour people had been gathering from the surrounding districts, but at one o'clock, the time arranged for the opening ceremony, the numbers had increased to something like three hundred, many of whom had come from districts fifteen and twenty miles distant. Along the oblong sides of the rectangular plot on which the Memorial is erected were lined the local ex-service men with a detachment from the Lovat Scouts at present under training at Laxford.

The day was dull, but calm, with a sky across which moved slowly banks of grey clouds from the north-east. There were intervals of bright sunshine when the silent hills which surround the village brooded unshadowed in a placid haze that filled the quiet April heaven with a stillness and serenity that could almost be felt.

The unveiling ceremony was opened with the singing of the 23rd Psalm, after which the Rev. W. J. Lundie, parish minister, offered up a prayer of invocation. Thereafter Capt. Cowie, called upon Colonel MacMillan, who had commanded the 5th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders during the war, to unveil the Memorial.

Addressing the gathering the Colonel said he felt a very great honour had been done to him in requesting him to perform this ceremony. Some of the men whose names were inscribed on that Memorial were attached to his own division in the Great War. He remembered these Scourie boys who offered their services to their country in 1914 coming to his regiment and he could sincerely say how much he was struck with their fine physique, their quick intelligence, their moral worth and their sterling integrity. Some in the blossom of youth were scarcely out of their teens; their brow betokened all the pride of manhood; the bloom was on their cheek for the roses of childhood still lingered there. Full of the quick of life they advanced with noble gait and head erect as if the awfulness of war had no terrors for them. Some again he remembered in their cradle and these he saw laid in their grave. It was difficult on an occasion like this to make a speech without lacerating wounds which the kindly effect of time had been healing. He would remind bereaved relatives of the noble cause in which their sons and brothers had made the supreme sacrifice, and he would seek to comfort them with the hope that their loved ones to whose memory they built that beautiful Memorial, had raised their standard on the side of truth and righteousness, when the enemy in a fit of madness sought to overwhelm us like a flood. The sun of their departed friends had set only to rise with more dazzling brightness in the regions which God in His goodness and mercy had prepared for such as they. One word more and he was done. He wanted to congratulate them on their choice of design. He had seen many of these War Memorials round the North and West, and he was sure Colonel Guthbert who was present with them would bear him out when he said that few, if any, would compare with theirs in appropriateness of design, and elegance and symmetry of proportion.

The unveiling ceremony over, Mr John Scobie played a lament on the pipes, and after a minute's silence, the Rev. Mr Lundie dedicated the Memorial to the glory of God and the perpetual memory of their departed friends. At this time a considerable number of floral tributes from friends and relatives of the deceased were laid at the base of the structure. After a part of the 144th Psalm was sung in Gaelic, Mr John Ross, Free Church Missionary, engaged in prayer, and Mr Lundie pronounced the benediction. The singing of the first verse of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close.

The memorial is an imposing structure consisting of three blocks of dark grey granite on which stands with reversed arms a kilted Highland soldier cut in marble. There is a square enclosure with a concrete floor around which is an iron railing with a gate entrance from the side next the road. The floor of this enclosure was covered with wreaths on which after the ceremony was concluded heaven's tears were distilled in a shower of soft refreshing rain.

The following is the inscription on the Memorial:—"1914-18. Erected by the Scourie District in grateful remembrance of their unreturning brave."

NAMES.

L./Sgt. William Elliot, Cameron Highrs.
L./Corpl. Alistair Elliot, H.L.I.
Pte. Duncan Mackay, Lovat Scouts.
Trpr. Donald Mackay, Gordon Highrs.
Pte. Alick Macleod, Seaforth Highlanders.
L./Cpl. John Hugh Macrae, Seaforth Hrs.
Pte. Donald Morrison, New Zealand.
Pte. John Morrison, Seaforth Highrs.
Pte. William Morrison, Canadians.
Pte. John Munro, A.S.C.
Sergt. Alexander Ross, Lovat Scouts.
L./Cpl. Duncan Ross, Seaforth Highrs.
Pte. Robert Ross, South Wales Borderers.
Sergt. Mackay Sinclair, Seaforth Highrs.
Pte. Robert Thomson, R.A.O.C.

"FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH."

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 scourienews@btinternet.com

or phone Aileen on 502371