

Scourie News

Edition 118



April 2016

Dates for April

Wed 6th/27th Mobile Library
Sat 9th Marty walk/cycle/dance @ Durness
Mon 11th Schools re-open
Sat 16th KLB v Helmsdale @ Scourie, 2nd round
MacKay Cup
Sat 23rd Car treasure hunt / BBQ / Fancy dress disco

Loch Eil Trip 2016



On February 8th-12th 2016, Kinlochbervie High School went on a school trip to Loch Eil, Outward Bound Centre, Fort William. We visited Outward Bound to gain confidence, build communication skills and learn more about ourselves, others and the environment. Some of us thought that Loch Eil was very challenging, but it made us start to appreciate the things we take for granted; our beds, warmth and shelter. The week consisted of team-building exercises, camping, canoeing, hill climbing and abseiling and rock climbing. We were split in to three groups that consisted of S1, S2 and S3 pupils. The expedition was one of the most challenging for some of us as we had to co-operate towards setting up camp and we had to work together to encourage and reassure others as they may have never experienced the activities before. After canoeing for 10 km, camping in the snow and abseiling down a rock face, we were proud of ourselves and happy to be home. Loch Eil was challenging, but we built our confidence and learnt more about ourselves and the environment around us.

Thanks to Mr Smart for organising the trip, Mr Cunningham and Mr Smart for driving the buses, Miss Macleod, Clare Harper and Mr Galbraith for joining us and a big thanks to all the instructors and staff at Outward Bound, Loch Eil.
By Roan Munro, S2

This High School trip benefitted from a £500 donation from the Maldie fund.



From Isabelle, Richard and Tom

We would like to thank everyone from Scourie and the surrounding communities for their patronage of the Eddrachilles Hotel and support we received over the past 11 years, Because of this support and the friendliness of the local communities; we decided to stay in the area. We wish everyone a good season and try not to work too hard.

We hope you will give as much support to the new owners Richard and Fiona Trevor.

School Band Success

Scourie School Band excelled themselves at the 2016 Inverness Music Festival gaining a distinction in their class. The band have been a string quartet this year and members Aurelia Zelinska, Morgan MacDonald, Liam Barnes and Jenny Allen have met weekly through the school year to practice together. This marks Scourie School Band's fifth consecutive prizewinning entry at the Festival. Many congratulations to them.

FÈIS AN IAR THUATH



Fèis an Iar Thuath held its last workshop for the year on the 19th March. It turned out to be a busy day for many children and parents and our numbers were lower than usual however the nine children participated enthusiastically and created some lovely sounds. We invited Steve Sharp of Drumfun who is a talented and energetic tutor and performer. He brought his home made xylophone as well as Djembes and various percussion instruments. The children especially enjoyed wearing the colourful drum covers as hats to inspire their playing. Sessions were held outside when the sun shone and we all had a great day. There was a short performance at the end of the day as the children showed what they had been doing to parents and family.



Kinlochbervie Camanachd



Both teams with KLB Coach Duncan Clark (far left who was also ref for the match)

Kinlochbervie Camanachd and Caithness Shinty club met last Saturday in Scourie for a friendly match. Caithness have entered the Strathdearn and Sutherland Cups this year so all match practise was welcomed. The KLB side was made up of high school pupils bolstered by some KLB alumni to make up the team, some more frequent players than others, however they have all played together at some point albeit not recently! After the rain the ground was muddy and wet in some parts and made play difficult for all on the pitch. Despite their being pulled together at last minute the KLB side came out to a strong start and dominated the first half. The second half a more determined Caithness team pulled together but couldn't get the upper hand of the home side. It was an interesting match played in good humour and sportsmanship with much banter aimed at a former KLB player who now plays for Caithness especially as his younger brother was goalkeeper for the KLB team. The youngest player on the pitch 14 year old Liam Flett certainly made his presence felt scoring a hat trick of goals, his elder brother James, one goal and their cousin Jack Hatherall another three. It was a family affair on Saturday with only one exception, KLB Camanachd original Iain Allison donned the red and black once again, scoring a goal taking the KLB score to 8 goals to the Caithness side's 1 scored by Fergus Silverwood. Everyone at KLB Camanachd wishes Caithness the best of luck in their cup games.

The youngest player on the field 14 yr old KLB's Liam Flett about to score one of his hat trick of goals.



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.
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on behalf of Scourie & District Community Council
scourienews@btinternet.com*

Highland Ranger Walks

Friday 01, 10.30am - 1.00pm

Ceannabienne Clearance Village Trail, near Durness
Guided walk around an old township site cleared of people in the 1820s - and beyond to a beautiful beach. Meet at Lay by on the A838. 2.5mils east of Durness. Grid ref: NC 437657. Grade B.

Tuesday 05, 10.30am - 1.30pm

Kyle of Durness Walk

Guided coastal walk, wild flowers, seabirds, beaches, fine views. Meet at Durness golf club car park. Grid ref: NC 389687. Grade B.

Thursday 07, 10.30am - 1.30pm

Scourie - Loch Leathad Trail

Guided walk over moorland track amongst lochs and woodland. Meet at Scourie Depot Road 300m south of village sign. Grid ref: NC 157437. Grade C.

Tuesday 12, 10.30am - 2.00pm

Talmine to Port Vasco Walk

Guided undulating beautiful coastal walk. Meet at Talmine Pier car park (please do not block pier access). Grid ref: NC 587632. Grade C.

Thursday 21, 10.30am - 1.30pm

Scourie Coastal Walk, North Shore by Hill and Moorland

Guided walk, hill and moorland, fine views, flowers, seabirds. Meet at Scourie Pier car park. Grid ref: NC 155449. Grade B.

Thursday 28, 10.30am - 1.00pm

Scourie Cliffs and Caves Walk

Guided undulating coastal walk, great views, otter signs, seabirds. Meet at Scourie Free Church car park at the south end of the village. Grid ref: NC 152434. Grade C.

For all of the above: Adults £4.50, conc. £3.50, family £15.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.

Marty Mackay Memorial Fund

Sponsored Cycle / Walk

In aid of cancer-related charities and other good causes in the North



Saturday 9th April 2016

Cycle: Lairg - Durness via Laxford (57miles)

Walk: Rhiconich - Durness (15 miles)

For sponsor form & further info please contact Donald 07729 314700 or kk60@btinternet.com

Auction & Raffle

Dance to follow in Durness Village Hall

Charity Number SC044264



Dry Stone Walling Training Opportunities

Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape group are working with the Learning Centre at Assynt Leisure to provide opportunities for Dry Stone Walling Training. We would like to hear from anyone already involved in Dry Stone Walling who is interested in working towards certification. You will have the opportunity to take part in an

Assessment Day

This will be led by a master builder Instructor who will give you help and advice and gauge your readiness for Level 1 or Level 2 certification. The Assessment day is likely to be held towards the end of April and if demand is high we may be able to organise a further date. This is a great opportunity to increase your skill so please register your interest with the Learning Centre on 01571 844123 or email assyntlearningcentre@gmail.com

March Weather

I'm sitting here writing the weather report with glorious sunshine pouring through the window, it's warm, and it feels like spring is finally here. I can still see snow on Foinaven and Quinag though. And the croft still has standing water. The first three days of March were wet, providing half of the months rainfall. In the middle of the month I recorded the highest barometer reading since I started recording the weather in Aug 2013, and temperatures crept into double figures. At the end of the month, storm Katy hit England, with little effect here.

The total rainfall was 119 mm, 8 mm above the 24 year average of 111 mm. The wettest day was 2nd with 27.5 mm, and there were 12 days when no rain was recorded.

The average min/max temperatures were 3.5 (3.1) and 7.5 (7.5) deg C. The highest temperature was 12 deg C on 15th and 16th, and the lowest was -2.0 deg C on 7th.

The solar panels have produced 202 kW, an average of 6.5 kW, the highest was 12.4 kW on 31st.

We've been having problems with the graphs, but now have it sorted. And nobody noticed I used the wrong graph from 2015 last month! Sorry.

Pete Tuck



Geopark Meeting

Join us at [The Rock Stop](#) next Tuesday evening at 7pm for our Extra-ordinary General Meeting. We are about to gain charitable status but need to pass a few resolutions (see below) to allow us to get there. There will also be a short talk on our new UNESCO designation, what it means and why it could make a difference.

We'll need a good turn out from our membership for voting. If you live in the Geopark you can become a member (it's free) if you're not sure how to join just e-mail laura@nwhgeopark.com
Hope to see you there!

- 1) Amendment of the Constitution to enable the Company to be registered as a charity
- 2) Amendment of the Constitution to admit Lochbroom Community Council as body entitled to nominate a director to the Board of the Company
- 3) Amendment of the Constitution to give member-elected directors a 3 year term of office, subject to at least one retiring at each AGM, commencing with the directors elected at the 2016 AGM



GAELIC EVENTS

**GAELIC CHAT
TUESDAY 12TH APRIL
5PM TO 6PM
ASSYNT LEISURE**

Come along to enjoy a cuppa and a cake and hear the Gaelic language spoken. Join in, whether you are Gaelic speaker or a Gaelic learner. The session is FREE - a small donation always appreciated.

**TRADITIONAL CRAFTS AFTERNOON
WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL
1PM TO 4PM**

ACHMELVICH YOUTH HOSTEL

See wool spinning in action and have a go yourself before joining in the spinning and waulking songs. A relaxed way to hear the Gaelic language as well as having a go yourself. The afternoon is FREE - a small donation always appreciated.

**EXPLORING GAELIC PLACE NAMES
THURSDAY 28TH APRIL
4.30PM TO 6PM
STOER VILLAGE HALL**

Learn about the influence of the Gaelic language on the landscape of Assynt - bring along an OS Map and begin to understand the meaning of names and their significance to the area's way of life and the people who live here. The session is FREE - a small donation always appreciated.

To book your place on any of these events please contact the Learning Centre at Assynt Leisure on 01571 844123 or email assyntlearningcentre@gmail.com

North West Training Centre
Kinlochbervie High School
Manse Road, Kinlochbervie
By Lairg, Sutherland IV27 4RR
Tel. 01971 521238 Regd. Charity SCO019802



Creative Writing Workshop

Saturday, 16 April 2016

10am till 4:30pm at the Kinlochbervie Hotel

Join writer Stephen Keeler for a creative writing workshop during which you will learn new skills, polish old ones, and share ideas!

Whether you're an old hand or new to writing, we think you're going to thoroughly enjoy this event. **Booking is essential** as there is a pre-workshop assignment to complete and bring with you - don't worry, it'll be fun!

The fee is just £20 per person which includes refreshments and a light lunch.



For more details or to make a booking please contact Gary Sutherland on 01971 521238 or email northwest.tc@outlook.com

What do you do with the used stamps on the letters you receive?

Last year the World Mission of the Church of Scotland raised £3511 for the HIV programme through collecting used stamps.

This year they hope to raise money to teach in the Church of Scotland in India about harvesting rain water, creating a biogas plant to power kitchens and develop small dairy and chicken farms. All of this can be done simply by collecting the stamps which we throw away.

Please collect your stamps and pass them on to Christine MacDonald. (502010)



Apologies from Orlando

Orlando would like to apologise to all the people in the Kylesku and Eddrachilles area who lost their electric power for 3 hours on Maundy Thursday afternoon. It was not really his fault that he ended up on top of an electricity pole for 4.5 hours, very miserable and frightened after being chased, in his own garden, by a boisterous dog. He has no intention of repeating the escapade, but would like to thank the Hydro Electricity Board for turning off the supply as he teetered between the wires and the top of the pole, trying to find a way down, and also Jenny next door and Shona from the Rock Stop who helped and supported Mary all afternoon while we waited for the engineers to arrive. Just before they finally arrived he managed to get into such a position that there was no going back and slithered his way down towards the makeshift trampoline, thoughtfully provided by Jenny. The engineers were as relieved as everyone else that he was safe and unharmed and is now recovering his usual dignity.

Mary Milne
PP Orlando

Scourie Gala Car Treasure Hunt

SATURDAY 23RD APRIL 2016

4.30PM MEET AT SCOURIE FOOTBALL PITCH

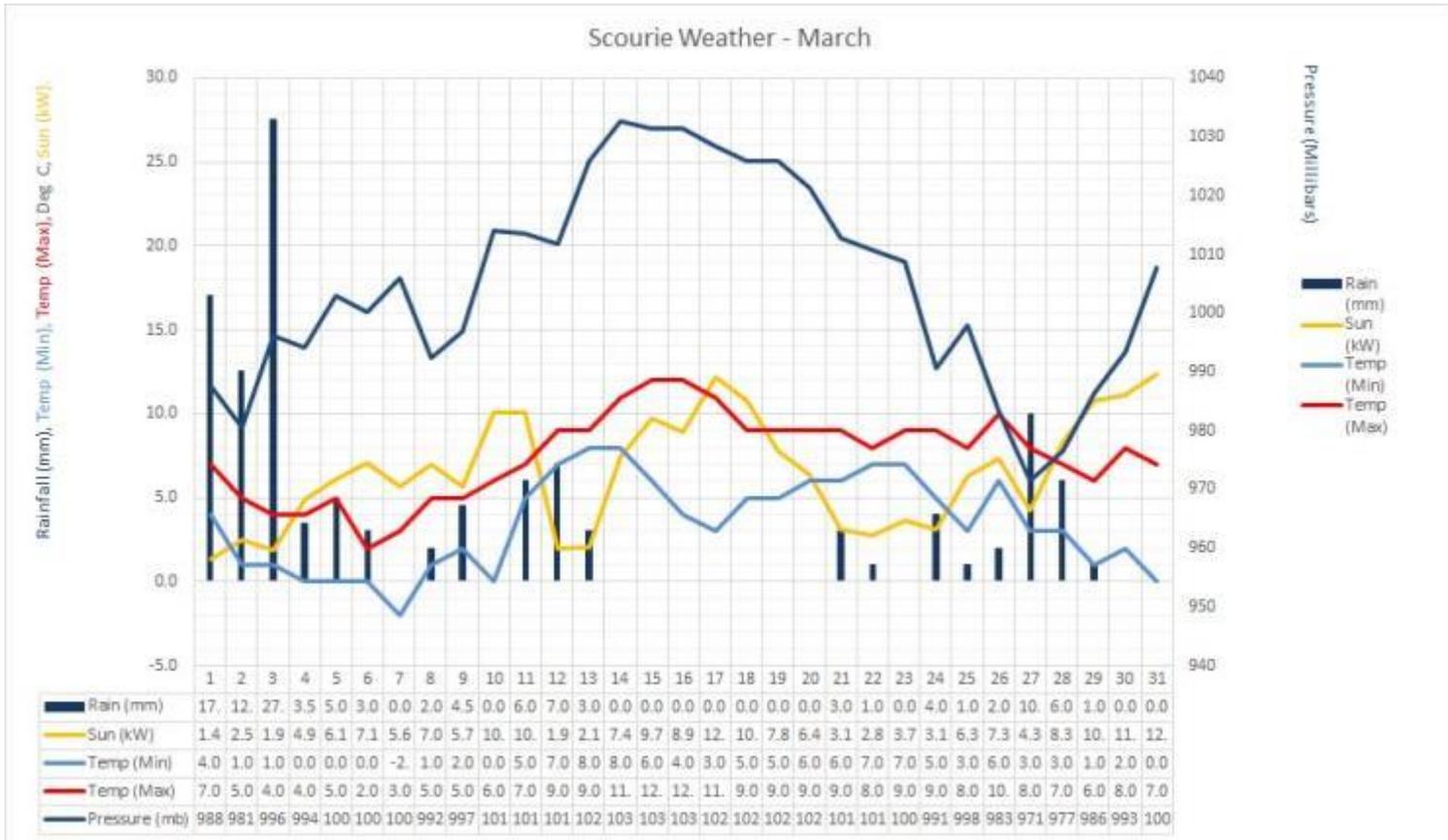
FOUR PER TEAM - £10 PER CAR

SPEED LIMITS APPLY

FOLLOWED BY BBQ AT FOOTBALL PITCH
AND FANCY DRESS DISCO IN VILLAGE HALL!

TO REGISTER TEAMS CONTACT

LINDA ON 01971 502474



Recycling and Refuse Collection Dates

*Your collection day is a **TUESDAY***

Recycling dates

Refuse dates

2016 - 17

April

5th	12th
19th	26th

May

3rd	10th
17th	24th
31st	

June

7th	14th
21st	28th

July

5th	12th
19th	26th

August

2nd	9th
16th	23rd
30th	

September

6th	13th
20th	27th

October

4th	11th
18th	25th

November

1st	8th
15th	22nd
29th	

December

6th	13th
20th	27th

January

3rd	10th
17th	24th
31st	

February

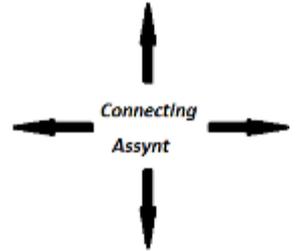
7th	14th
21st	28th

March

7th	14th
21st	28th



Connect Assynt Ltd
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 Culag Pier
 Lochinver
 IV27 4LE
 Tel: 01571 844590
 Email: info@connectassynt.co.uk



Assynt Community Bus – coming to Scourie!

Tues 12th and Tues 26th April 2016 – Scourie to Lochinver

The Assynt Community has been lucky enough to receive grants from the Scottish Government and the Big Lottery Fund in recent years to finance the purchase of a 16 seater minibus and the employment of staff to run it until 2018.

The Board and staff have been consulting far and wide to find out what local people want, and we are now trialling some routes based on these suggestions.

One of these is a fortnightly route on a Tuesday between Lochinver to Scourie via Skiag Bridge, and we can pick up/set down passengers at any point along the route as long as it is safe to do so. We estimate that the timetable will be as follows (all times are approximate at the moment):

Lochinver Harbour	8.45am	Lochinver Harbour	1.00pm
Kylesku Hotel	9.30am	Kylesku Hotel	1.45pm
Scourie Shop	9.50am arrive	Scourie Shop	2.05pm arrive
Scourie Shop	10.00am depart	Scourie Shop	2.15pm depart
Kylesku Hotel	10.20am	Kylesku Hotel	2.35pm
Lochinver Harbour	11.00am	Lochinver Harbour	3.15pm

The return fare will be a maximum of £5. As this route is being run as a trial at this stage, we are unable to accept concession cards, and members of the general public will not be able to use the bus due to conditions attached to our current bus permit (see box below for our current priority groups). Our aim is to register the route with the Traffic Commissioner as a local service (just like the bike bus summer service between Durness and Inverness) which means we will be able to accept concession cards and take members of the public, *but we need the support of local people to show these services are needed!*

We plan to continue this trial route every fortnight until June/July and will put an advert in the Scourie News each month with actual dates. Please note spaces will need to be booked in advance (see contact details above) at this early stage.

I urge you, if you fall into one of the groups below, to please make use of the bus – we have it to benefit the people of Assynt and surrounding areas! If you do not fall into one of our current priority groups, please encourage your friends and neighbours who do! If we have enough demand, we can create a registered local service which anyone, including our numerous seasonal visitors, can use! This will make Assynt and the north west a much more accessible place for everyone. Please contact Sheila or Kirsteen at the office for more information.

Priority groups:

- **Over 60s**
- *Those with a disability (plus attendant if required, who would travel free of charge)*

We may be able to accommodate you if you are (in order of priority):

- *Residents with no personal transport.*
- *Residents with other entitlement card.*