

Scourie News

June 2018

Issue 144

Dates for June

Tues 5th/19th Recycling bins

Tues 12th/26th Refuse bins

Mon 25th Comm Council AGM

Fri 29th Schools close for summer holidays

Ranger service guided walks in Northwest Sutherland

June 2018

Tues 5th...Scourie, garnets and dikes; A guided walk around the south shore of Scourie bay, fine views, seabirds, otter signs, wild flowers and a bit of geology. 3k approx. 10.30am – 1pm. Booking No. 000844KNBV

Tues 12th...Faraid head coastal walk at 2pm.[2.hrs] along the beautiful Balnakeil beach at Durness, returning through the amazing mysterious dunes; chance of seeing Puffins, wildflowers and superb views. 3k approx. Booking No. 000845KNBV.

Tues 19th...Laxford Bridge by Scourie; River and bogs! Guided walk along this beautiful river then carefully across the mysterious magical bog ending with a short climb for an overview of the whole area. Frogs, newts, bog plants, chance of seeing deer and an eagle. 10.30am – 1.00pm. 3k approx. Booking No. 000857KNBV.

Tues 26th...Talmine to Port Vasco; a beautiful peaceful undulating coastal walk with superb views, masses of wonderful wild flowers, seabirds, Moine rocks and garnets. 10.00am – 1.30pm. 5k approx.. Booking No. 000858FARR.

N.B. There is no charge for the walks but we rely on your donations to help us protect our highland wildlife and heritage. It costs £9.73 per visitor to operate our countryside ranger service. **Booking is required so please visit <http://booking.highlifehighland.com>** use the booking reference number for the event you would like to join and for information on where and when to meet. For further information contact; High Life Highland Countryside Rangers, Visitor Information Centre, Sangomore, Durness, IV27 4PZ. Tel; 01971 511756. Email: donald.mitchell@highlifehighland.com

Footpath Leaflets

If anybody needs any copies for their B&B's, Hotel, Shop, please let me know and I'll deliver copies.

Thanks to all the local businesses that have contributed to the next batch of printing, the latest being Scourie Camp site, we now have £390 towards the cost. More will always be welcome, please contact me if you'd like to contribute.

Pete Tuck, Treasurer SCDC

May Weather

Phew, what a scorcher, especially towards the end. But dare I say it, we could do with a little rain now! Temperatures have remained above 10 degrees since the 22nd, and we've had a high of 24.1 degrees C on 29th. The temp did drop on 22nd to 3.6 degrees, the lowest for the month. The overall average temperature (day and night) was 11.9 degrees. (I won't tell you how hot it got in the polytunnels, but quite a few strawberries got cooked!).

Rainfall has been very low with 41.1 mm for the month. The wettest day was 21st with 18.6 mm, and there were 18 days where no rain was recorded. The barometer averaged 1010 mb, with a high of 1026 on 16th and low of 983 mb on 1st. The highest average wind speed was 30.2 mph, with a gust of 37.4 on 11th. The average was 5.4 mph. Solar radiation averaged at 129.1 watts/m². UV factor 7 was reached every day in the last week of the month.

The last visible snow went from Conival/Ben More Assynt. Oh, and the midges arrived too! Let's hope this weather continues into June.

P Tuck

Duncanadrift

After some initial problems with transportation of the boat, Duncan Hutchison has set out on his amazing challenge of rowing single handedly across the Atlantic Ocean from New York to Lochinver in aid of WaterAid. You can donate using the link below and track Duncan's progress via the other links.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/duncanhutchison>
http://www.oceanrowing.com/Duncan_Hutchison/Duncan_dist.htm

<http://blog.mailasail.com/duncanadrift>
<https://share.garmin.com/JonMonks>

Keep Your Legs Crossed

In villages in Sutherland along the North and West

Public loos are shutting Scourie among the rest
Faced with this situation what are the folks to do

The countryside will be littered with stinking piles of poo

The decision to shut the toilets comes from the council in Inverness

Who have little knowledge of the area and care for it even less

They still charge the same council tax and keep grants they ought to share

It won't be spent in the north or the west it's handy for projects elsewhere

Our tilting platform on the Ness and painting the town house gold

Met with so much unfair opposition they had to be put on hold

But the imagination of the council to come up with projects new

Appears in the figures which led to the closing of your loo.



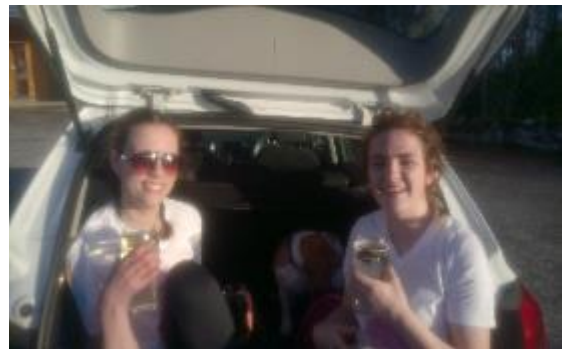
The above poem was written by a local poet in protest to Highland Council's planned closure of many public toilets in our area on 31st August.



On 12th May, Lily Allen and Iona Harper-Reynoldson walked 20 miles from Scourie to Inchnadamph in aid of Shooting Star Chase and would like to thank everyone for their donation and their support. We are pleased to announce that they raised a grand total of £396.

They would also like to say a big thank you to Inchnadamph Hotel for donating the refreshments.

Thank You



Scourie & District

Community Council

Annual General Meeting

Monday 25th June

in Scourie Village hall

at 7.30pm

All welcome.

It's your Geopark!

The NW Highlands Geopark stretches from Coigach to Tongue. And 5 of Scotland's 50 Best Places to See are right here. We are working with communities to promote the 2018 festival from April to October. Over 50 events are scheduled already with more being added. For more about the Geopark take a look at www.nwhgeopark.com.

Tuesday 5th June Scourie Bay & Bone Caves

10-30-1pm Guided walk around **Scourie Bay**

11- 2.30pm **Bone caves, Inchnadamph**

Details and booking for both at

<https://booking.highlifehighland.com/>

Thursday 7th June 7pm Flowers of the North West Highlands

Talk by Ian Evans at the Unapool Rock Stop. Ian is expert in the plant life of the Geopark. What to look for, where to find it, why it grows there, how to identify it, how best to photograph it. £5 at the door.

Saturday 9th June, 10.30 – 1.30pm Botanical Field Day at Knockan Crag

Examine and photograph the strata and the different plant groups with Lochbroom Field Club where two years ago an alpine mushroom new to Britain was discovered. Meet at Knockan Crag car park, , Grid Ref NC188091.

Saturday 16th June all day Trip on Stornoway ferry to look for sea birds and cetaceans

Organised by Assynt Field Club. Ferry leaves Ullapool at 10.30 a.m. (check-in for passengers closes 10 a.m.), arrives Stornoway 1 p.m.; leaves Stornoway at 3.30 p.m., (check-in for passengers closes 3.00p.m.) arrives Ullapool 6p.m. Buy your own ticket, cost £19.00 return. **Contact:** David Haines (01571 833361).

Thursday 21st June 11 - 3pm Clachtoll Coastal Walk

Ranger led guided walk through a crofting township rich in wildlife, to the iron-age broch. Hear stories of skeletons, ancient saunas and catastrophic collapse. Find extraordinary ancient life forms. Grade C, 4km. No unaccompanied children. Meet at Clachtoll Beach car park. £5 (£3.80 for HLH members). Booking essential at <https://booking.highlifehighland.com/> and use booking reference number 000710ULLA.

Friday 22nd June 7pm Stoer Broch Project Update

Historic Assynt Stoer Broch launch and project update. Stoer Hall preceded by Historic Assynt AGM.

Tuesday 26th June 11- 3pm The lost township of Dubh Clais, nr Lochinver

Ranger led walk to the ruins of this clearance township and learn about how they lived. Lots of woodland and river edge wildlife to see as well. Grade B, 8km. Meet at Lochinver Village Hall. This event is donations only. No unaccompanied children. Booking essential at <https://booking.highlifehighland.com/> and use booking reference number 000711ULLA.

Saturday 30th June 10:00-18:00 Explore Oldshoremore

Engage with the coastal community outdoors: learn how to raise a dyke, take different walks with specialists in geology, environment, birds. Understand marine plastic through art, go rock pooling or electrofishing or even learn to surf! Just enjoy and understand this amazing environment, some activities will require booking.

Contact julien.moreau@johnmuirtrust.org for more information



The Rock Stop

The Rock Stop is getting really busy now and we need an extra member of staff to help out Diarmid on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, serving customers and making soup, toasties, sandwiches and bacon rolls. Hours can be made to suit someone who can only work school hours. Normal hours are 10am to 4pm. We would also like to open 7 days a week, so are looking for 2 team members for Sundays and Mondays. Also needing staff for the school holidays and relief staff to cover staff absences. Further details from Jean, jean@nwhgeopark.com or by phone on 502361. The Geopark has now registered for Amazon Smile. If you are ordering anything from Amazon can you do it through Amazon Smile. Your purchases will not cost you any more, but the Geopark will get a small percentage of your purchase donated by Amazon. Whilst we don't expect this to replace the Scottish Government funding it will help us to keep going, and maybe keep staff in post a little longer.

Scourie Community Development Company

The development company requires assistance from willing volunteers to push forward with many different projects which will benefit the area and those that live here.

If you can spare some time to help in any way, please get in touch with Neil on 01971 502371.

North West Training Centre
Kinlochberrie High School
Manse Road, Kinlochberrie
By Laing, Sutherland IV27 4RR
Egpl.Charity@OUTLOOK



An Introduction to Bee Keeping

Saturday, 23 June 2018, 10am-4pm
Kinlochberrie High School



This course is an introduction to bee keeping and is specifically designed for beginners, covering both practical and theoretic aspects of the subject. Topics covered include:

- The importance of honeybees
- The different parts of the hive
- The life cycle of a honey bee
- Selection of a good apiary site
- Feeding your bees
- Spring & summer management
- Basic handling skills
- And much, much more!



This is a great opportunity to find out all about this fascinating subject. Don't delay - book today! The course costs just £33 per person.

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



North West Training Centre
Kinlochberrie High School
Manse Road, Kinlochberrie
By Laing, Sutherland IV27 4RR
Egpl.Charity@OUTLOOK



Creative Writing Workshop

Wednesday, 13 June 2018
7-9pm, Kinlochberrie H/S

Come along and join us for this evening workshop in creative writing with Janis Mackay.

In addition to being a published author herself, Janis teaches Creative Writing at Edinburgh University.

The theme of the workshop is mining the senses to create fictional writing: Sense Memory as Inspiration for Creative Fiction.



There is no charge for this workshop - it's **FREE** - but please book your place so we know how many people are coming. Contributions towards refreshments would be appreciated.

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



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NORTHSTAR CONSULTANCY



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BIIAB

PERSONAL LICENCE WORKSHOPS

NorthStar Consultancy offers BIIAB Personal Licence training workshops throughout the Highlands.

BIIAB is the awarding organisation of the British Institute of Innkeeping. Qualifications cover the syllabus at SCQF Level 6, as set by the Scottish government and will ensure learners understand the law, regulation and responsibilities attached to the retail sale of alcohol.

Workshops include face to face training followed by a multiple choice exam.

Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders

VENUE: North West Training Centre, Kinlochberrie
DATE: Thursday, 7th June 2018
TIME: 9am - 5pm
COST: £150 (includes lunch & refreshments, exam fee)

To register, contact Christine at NorthStar Consultancy

Email: christine@northstarconsultancy.co.uk

Phone: 01866 822746/07767 253912

WWW.NORTHSTARCONSULTANCY.CO.UK

BOOK LAUNCH

6 June 12:00 – 2:00p.m.
The Wee Gallery, Craft Village
Balnakiel



Free Raffle

Come and join us for the Authors' Toast!

North West Communities Creative Writing Group usually meet on the first Thursday of each month between 12:00 and 3:00 in Taigh Ceilidh, Kinlochberrie and welcome new members to join them for a cup of tea and a chat.

DNRC

<https://www.thednrc.org.uk/>

The DNRC (Defence & National Rehabilitation Centre) is a project which the Late 6th Duke of Westminster was instrumental in establishing. He wanted to do something to ensure that seriously injured soldiers, sailors and airmen would feel looked after and get the best possible care. This is a very worthwhile charity which has been continued to be supported by the His Grace 7th Duke of Westminster and the family.

Recently some Reay Forest staff had the opportunity to visit the DNRC before it opens later this year. These staff members have returned full of enthusiasm to support this project, which is Grosvenor's charity of choice, and intend to arrange a variety of events in the local area. Please have a look at the DNRC website & support any events you can as they come along.



End of Term Arrangements

As the summer holidays approach, so do the various annual end of term arrangements, as detailed below.

Thurs 28th KLB High School prize giving @ 2pm
in KLB High School

Fri 29th Scourie Primary prize giving @ 11am
in Scourie Village Hall

Everyone welcome to both events.





Gala Committee Update

Despite having to cancel the recent raft race due to weather conditions, the car treasure hunt and dance raised an amazing £800 which will be used to support the main gala event in July.

Many thanks go to Lynn MacDonald and family for organising a fun car treasure hunt which was well supported. Due to the generosity of Sophisticuuts sponsoring the prize money for the event, all entry fees were added to our fund raising total. Many thanks, Carolanne!

The re-scheduled date for the raft race has yet to be confirmed. We are watching the tide & weather forecast, but hope to incorporate it into our main July event, so keep those rafts handy!



INFORMATION MEETING

Tuesday 19 June 2018
Kinlochbervie Village Hall
7.30 pm

On August 31, the Highland Council will close 9 public toilets in Sutherland - Achmelvich, Kinlochbervie, Kylesku, Lairg, Rhiconich, Scourie, Smoo Cave, Talmine (near Tongue) and Tarbet (ferry to Handa Island). The total cost savings is estimated to be only £67,000. Other West Coast toilets on the closure list are Kinlochewe and Fort William.

ALL COMMUNITIES INVITED

Guests:

Kirstaen Currie, Hugh Morrison, Linda Munro (Councillors for Ward 1)
Andy Summers, Head of Environmental & Amenity Services
Debbie Sutton, Highland Council Amenities Manager
Phil Tomalin, Highland Council Ward 1 Manager

What is the current situation?
What will happen after August 31?
What is Highland Council doing now to ensure that there will be a proper distribution of toilets in the area in the future?
What alternative options are being explored?
Will the plan be ready by August 31?

For more information, please contact:
Graham Wild 01971 621717 grahamandlynn@theuphouse.co.uk
or Margaret Meek 01971 521288 mmkib@clara.co.uk

Scourie Gala 2018

Thurs 5th - Sun 8th July

Thursday 5th Pub quiz @ The Anchorage

Friday 6th Fancy dress float parade
BBQ, bar & music

Saturday 7th Main gala fun day
Dance to Wood'n'Stone

Sunday 8th Duck race

See posters & programmes for further details.

If your business would like to sponsor part of our gala, please contact any member of the gala committee.

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