

THIRD SECTOR UIST

the Newsletter JUNE 2019



Issue No3

THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Uist Council for Voluntary Organisations Thrift Shop volunteers received certificates of recognition for their volunteering and to celebrate National Volunteers week at a special celebratory afternoon tea.

Chair of UCVO Mrs Ada Campbell presented the certificates and thanked the volunteers for their enthusiastic, outstanding and long-serving contribution.

Mrs Campbell highlighted the generosity of the people of Uist in donating items and the vital role performed by the Thrift Shop volunteers.

Monies raised at the Thrift Shop goes to various good causes in the community.



Thrift Shop Volunteers with their Certificates

IOCHDAR PLANS MOVING FORWARD.....

Last year lochdar Community Council carried out a community consultation. This resulted in overwhelming support for investigating ways to make lochdar safer for walkers and cyclists - especially children. Funding was secured from Sustrans for a Feasibility Study and Consultant Scott McGarva from firm Pell Frischmann carried out the study during May 2019.

The main engagement with the Community was on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd May during drop-in sessions at Sgoil an Lochdair. The community were very supportive of the proposals with a large number of adults turning out in the evenings. All of the school children took part in group sessions to find out about the scheme. Other key Stakeholders are being consulted, with final recommendations for the project due soon.

Welcome to the Newsletter No 3

I hope you enjoy this summer newsletter of the Third Sector in Uist. It appears that many of you are busy preparing for both the annual and new events that keeps our community cared for and entertained during the summer months.

One of the various consultations UCVO is currently contributing to is the Islands Plan consultation. We have put forward the view that the Islands Plan should reflect the huge contribution that the Third Sector makes in our islands and that policy makers should always protect and where possible increase support and funding in this area.

I am pleased to report that our membership has increased dramatically in the last year and we have tried to reflect the work of some of our new members here.

Sheena Stewart

Manager UCVO

UCVO MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

1. You will receive advice and support regarding governance and charity law.
2. You will receive updates about e.g. Changes in Legislation, Funding, OSCR, GDPR and other Statutory Duties.
3. You will have access to Grant Advisor.
4. You will receive priority access on training that UCVO organises.
5. You will be able to hire the UCVO Boardroom at a discounted rate.
6. You will be able to keep in touch with the activities of, and influence the outcomes of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership.
7. You will belong to a wider community of Volunteer Involving Organisations.
8. You will be able to attend and contribute to Third Sector Forum meetings.
9. You will be able to articulate more effectively the extent to which your organisation is having a positive and sustained impact on the lives of the people it works with.
10. You will be able to network with others to identify real need and carry out improvements that will make a difference in people's lives.

For Membership details contact UCVO on 01870 602117 or e-mail development@ucvo.org.uk



Busy times for Uist Community Archaeology Group (UCAG)

Uist Community Archaeology Group (UCAG) was established in February 2019 to advance the awareness and understanding of the archaeology of Uist. It evolved from the earlier Access Archaeology group which fulfilled a similar role for North Uist.

The group currently has 37 members and to date has enjoyed two excellent evening presentations - one on multi period sites on the Lees (North Uist), and a second on the archaeology of windblown sand sites in Uist and Orkney. There are a range of events happening this summer including a talk and field trip around the theme of Scottish 'Rock Art,' an archaeology walk on Grimsay, fieldwork on South Lee, and fieldwork and talks in mid- August with the SCAPE team (archaeology and coastal erosion) from St Andrews University.

As well as attending talks, UCAG members are actively involved in reporting and recording sites all over the islands. Three members of the group have carried out extensive fieldwork in Uist over the past five years and an excellent guide book, 'Ronay -The Rough Island' has been published by David Newman (Grimsay). The intrepid three (known affectionately as 'Uist Summer Wine' (<https://uistsummerwine.weebly.com>) have recently been surveying structures around North and South Lee on the east side of North Uist. A final report is in preparation and expected to be ready by this autumn.

UCAG members also participate in archaeology projects instigated by commercial and academic archaeology groups and work closely with the County Archaeologist based in Stornoway and local archaeologists based at Lews Castle College, Benbecula.

Anne Wilson is the current UCAG chair, assisted by a committee of seven members.



UCAG Talks



Field Visit to Grimsay Wheelhouse

For further information and details of events, have a look at UCAG's web site <https://uistcommunityarchaeology.weebly.com>

Follow UCAG on Facebook: 'Uist Community Archaeology Group' or contact Anne on 07789306223 or at ucaginfo@gmail.com

STORAS UIBHIST NEWS

Following transfer from SNH to community ownership, the Loch Druidibeg RSPB Nature Reserve is attracting a large number of visitors already this season.

Work to date has included habitat improvements and trail creation carried out with help from local volunteers. Improved car parking, information and access to lochs, moorland and wildlife is all helping enhance the visitor experience on the Island.

Weekly guided walks run from the carpark during summer months, contact nsro@rspb.org.uk for details.



Loch Druidibeg

In May we had the pleasure of 2 Sgoil Lionacleit pupils join our game-keeping department to get a taste of work experience on the Estate. They took part in a variety of tasks including net sweeping to monitor wild sea trout health, accessed remote hill ground, deer management, butchery and launching angling boats. It was very refreshing to see the young folk appreciate the island and its natural assets as well as being so interested in learning about the Estate duties on the ground.



Game-keeping

UIST COASTAL ROWING CLUB NEWS

Uist Coastal Rowing Club has been busy working on the new Skiff build and continuing to raise funds.

A coffee morning with baking and crafts all contributed towards the fund-raising.

The Club is very grateful to the local businesses that continue to help and has also created an impressive new banner to show-off at events.

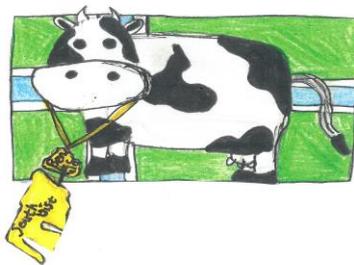
Members have shown a huge commitment and enthusiasm in raising funds and bringing the Skiff to a stage where the last plank has been fitted (picture below).

If you wish to contact the club about membership or any other matter their e-mail address is:

uistcoastalrowing@gmail.com



South Uist and Benbecula Agricultural Society



Saturday 20th July 2019
10.00am



Scarecrow Competition



The All New
Mini Mudder



Pet Lamb Race



Annual Show
Showground, Talla an lochdair

Judging commences at 10.30am

GRIMSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



The Grimsay Centre

The Grimsay Community Association (GCA) aims to be a social and practical focus for the Grimsay community which links with other Uist groups to support island traditions, skills and Gaelic culture, and to be a place where visitors can learn about island life and traditions.

GCA has several strands to its operations including the 'Centre', formerly the Grimsay Free Church and now known as Ceann na h-Àirigh. The Centre includes the Grimsay Post Office, a café- CIDSIN the Grimsay Kitchen, a weekly local produce market and serves as a venue for talks, workshops, events and exhibitions. A local history archive, with a focus on the unique Grimsay Boats, is also housed within the Centre. The GCA has also developed a Boat Trail which takes visitors to three venues where they can learn more about the Stewart boat builders and their story from the 1840's to present day. Food and local produce also forms a strong component of GCA's activities.

Work to extend the Centre is currently underway. A new 'Grimsay Boat Haven' is being created on the site to exhibit and further interpret the beautiful Grimsay boats. A new market and workshop space is also being built along with an activity room.

The CGA has run diverse events over the years including wildlife talks, walks, traditional ceilidhs, an open day at Kallin School and of course the famous Grimsay Boat Days. CIDSIN has now established itself as the 'go to' place to enjoy excellent cooking and baking, made from local produce and members of the local community benefit from having their own growing spaces within the GCA polytunnel.

In May 2019, the GCA appointed a Community Engagement Officer to help take the 'Grimsay Boat Story' to the next stage of implementation and an exciting programme of events is already in place. Whilst the boats are an important focus for the activities, the events will cover a range of topics related to domestic arts and crafts, crofting activities, horticulture and local food provision.

Details of workshops and events can be found on the GCA website and Facebook, and on posters displayed locally. You can also receive further information at:

**CEANN NA H-ÀIRIGH, Scotvein, Grimsay,
Isle of North Uist HS6 5JA**

**01870 603359 | info@grimsay.org |
www.grimsay.org | Find us on Facebook**



CChristmas Music at the Market

30 YEARS OF FEIS TIR A' MHURAIN

Feis Tir A' Mhurain is nearly upon us again, the Feisean movement has gone from strength to strength over recent decades and South Uist is no exception. Feis Tir A' Mhurain is celebrating it's 30-year anniversary and will be adding a few special features to encourage people to reflect, reminisce and celebrate this milestone.

The Feis offers high quality tuition entirely through the medium of Gaelic to promote and develop the Gaelic arts, participants many of whom live in the Uists, but also include many who travel here especially to join in classes which include instrumental choices, singing, drama, shinty, Highland dancing groupwork and media skills.

The fringe programme promises lots of fun and opportunities to come together to celebrate. The week opens in Stoneybridge Hall, with a fun run, with additional fun to be had in the form of a bbq, stalls, games and then a family ceilidh. On Monday we are encouraging people who have been involved in the Feis in years going by to attend the opening of our photo exhibition in Kildonan museum. There will be an opportunity for people to share their memories and look for familiar faces in the pictures.

On Wednesday there will be a joint event, we will host our tutor ceilidh followed by a Ceolas dancing ceilidh. On Thursday there is an opportunity to listen to some great traditional music in a more informal session in Lochboisdale Hotel, and the pupils will be showcasing their learning from the week at Ceilidh Na Cloinne on Friday. Abair deagh sheachdain air thòiseach oirnn!



Tir a' Mhurain ceilidh

The 30th Feis will run from 8th – 12th July in Sgoil an lochdair. The Annual 'Reis na Feis' (Fun run) will take place at Stoneybridge Hall on Sunday 7th July at 2.00pm with registration at 1.30pm onwards.

For further information e-mail Ceiteag@hotmail.com or visit our Facebook page.

COMANN EACHDRAIDH UIBHIST A TUATH

CARINISH PROJECT – UPDATE

Since the last newsletter, Comann Eachdraidh Uibhist a Tuath has completed its purchase of Carinish School, so now has responsibility for managing the building. We are grateful to the Scottish Land Fund for providing a grant to make this purchase possible. We have a team of garden volunteers who have been hard at work outside, pruning, cutting grass and carrying out repairs to the viewing platform. This we will keep as a feature – it provides wonderful views of Baleshare, Teampall na Trianaid and other historic landmarks.

With CEUT's collections currently stored in Torlum, another team of volunteers has been bringing our catalogue up to date, and will be holding events later this year for members of the public to handle items. It is important that we gather stories about each and every item so that we can preserve their history. Work is also ongoing on the re-organisation of our photo archive.

Our plans for the school building itself are moving ahead, with the generous support of the Architectural Heritage Fund Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. Fraser Architects have led the design team. We were delighted when in May the Comhairle approved plans for the building's redevelopment into a heritage centre. We are now awaiting costs from the design team, at which stage we will apply for further funding to make our dreams a reality.

Back in March, CEUT hosted a series of three coffee mornings at the old school. This was an opportunity for local people to view the plans and offer suggestions on how to make best use of the building for the community. It is obvious that not only is there a strong interest in our heritage, but there is a real demand for a comfortable space for people to meet, whether for craic or more organised events. One such event was led by Elsie Nicllleathain of Tobar an Dualchais, who shared historical recordings of Uibhistich including Ewen Morrison's Òran an Circular Road. We hope to welcome Elsie back to Carinish School in the near future.

If you would like to know more about events CEUT is holding at Carinish or elsewhere, please follow us on social media: Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Even better, if you'd like to join our volunteers: gardening, painting the walls or helping with our collections, contact Sue on 01876 580770 or by email at ceutproiseact@gmail.com



*Comann
Eachdraidh
Uibhist a Tuath
celebrating
school purchase
and garden
volunteer*



THIRD SECTOR BUILDINGS IN BALIVANICH



Uist Council of Voluntary Organisations (UCVO) and Community Energy Scotland (CES) are partnering with the Third Sector in Benbecula to commission a Feasibility Study to assess the suitability of premises inhabited by Third Sector Organisations and SMEs (including Sole Traders) in and around Balivanich, and to appraise options for providing non-residential accommodation in which the Third Sector and SME's can thrive, with an emphasis on employee & volunteer health, wellbeing and safety, and low running costs.

A recent survey of community groups who own or rent properties in or around Balivanich highlighted serious issues and problems facing community groups such as high energy costs, health & safety concerns and flooding. Of the 12 community groups who returned the surveys in 2018 it is estimated that they bring in an annual income of over £1.1m, employ over 70 people and enlist over 170 volunteers. Many of these organisations co-locate and therefore issues are shared or common among the groups. A number of SMEs are also reliant on renting rooms from Third Sector organisations.

UCVO and CES are inviting other Third Sector organisations based in and around Balivanich to come together to look at the problem collectively to ensure that individual community group's needs are taken into account but also the wider impact on the community, Balivanich Regeneration project and existing facilities are considered.

The Feasibility Study will include asset mapping of the Balivanich area (indicating where non-residential buildings are and who owns them) and community consultation with both the Third Sector and the Private Sector in and around Balivanich to get a sense of what the various organisations need and want. This information will be brought together in an Options Appraisal which will be presented to the whole community.

The main aims of this work is to provide a comfortable, safe and healthy space for Third Sector workers, service users and volunteers to work in and for the wider Uist community to enjoy. We wish to support community groups struggling with issues in and around their premises and enable the Third Sector to focus effort and attention on their core aims & objectives. For this project to be a success we need the views and input of community groups, private businesses and the wider community. If you would like to be involved in this project or added to a mailing list for updates then please contact Sheena Stewart on 01870602117 or e-mail sheena@ucvo.org.uk.

ÀS AN TOBAR – UIST BOOK FESTIVAL

November will see the third year of Às an Tobar, Uist's book festival, celebrated across South Uist, Benbecula, and North Uist. With events focused on writing and literature the festival has brought together organisations and individuals across the islands to collaborate for Book Week Scotland.

Às an Tobar was first run by Ceòlas as a Gaelic book festival in 2017. Gaelic remains at the core of the festival still, but with added organisers Cothrom and Taigh Chearsabhagh additional themes also include learning and art, as is reflected in the event programme.

Events will cover topics of all kinds including women's Gaelic poetry, the re-publication of Dòmhnall Iain Dhonnchaidh's *Uibhist a Deas* in partnership with Acair, creative writing workshops incorporating visual artists and writers, as well as events focused on highlighting the joy and importance of reading for children. As per previous years the festival is bilingual, with select events in Gaelic or English only.

The Às an Tobar Writing Competition which was established during last year's festival will be held again this year and will accept submissions on the Book Week Scotland theme of *blether* from August. Entries are welcome in both Gaelic and English, poetry and prose. Children's entries are eligible to win a £20 book voucher, of which there are six in total. Prizes for adult entries include the Katharine Barr Prize for poetry, and the Normal MacLean Prize for short story.

Two entries in each category – one in Gaelic and one in English – will win this £50 prize. Winning entries from the previous year's competition are available, among more information about this year's events and organisers, on the website UistBookFestival.org.

EDGE OF SCOTLAND PROJECT

Ambitious new Edge of Scotland project aims to make Western Isles homes and businesses more energy efficient.

Tighean Innse Gall have launched an ambitious new scheme targeting those that missed out on previous free energy efficiency measures across the Outer Hebrides. Their new project officer Adam Keltie will be delivering the scheme from his base at Cothrom Learning Centre in South Uist.

The Edge of Scotland project is designed to support the transition towards an energy efficient Scotland. It promotes the development towards those able to pay making a contribution for energy efficiency measures and to see what the take up of this will be. Edge of Scotland is an outreach project which focuses on businesses and community buildings across the Outer Hebrides, as well as households requiring energy efficiency who may not receive free insulation or heating systems. For those who can receive free measures, it acts as a referral for them too.

For more information about the Edge of Scotland project contact Adam Keltie, Project Officer on 01878 700910 or adam@tighean.co.uk



Self-Directed Support Advocacy - A new service from the long-established local charity Advocacy Western Isles is helping ensure that local people get the full benefit of changes in social care provision.

Self-directed support (SDS) was introduced in 2014 as part of the Social Care Act and established a new way of thinking about social care. SDS allows people to choose how their support is provided to them by giving them as much ongoing control as they want over the individual budget allocated for their support.

The new SDS Advocacy Service aims to support people to get the most from the new provision, helping them to become more independent, supporting them to live at home for longer and to improve their health and social well-being. For carers, the service can support them to maintain their caring roles and think about their own needs.

Kathy MacMillan, SDS Advocacy Project Co-ordinator, said: "We are delighted to be adding this vital service to our existing range of advocacy work, and grateful to Support in the Right Direction for funding the project. Supporting people to get the most from their social care plan, empowering them to exercise control and shape how their care budget is managed and delivered will help realise the full benefit of the self-directed support provision offered by our Comhairle."

Two new dedicated SDS Advocacy Workers are now in post to help the organisation deliver the new service. Based in Stornoway and South Uist the new staff members will cover the length and breadth of the Western Isles and will be available to support both carers and the cared for throughout the social care planning journey.

Telephone: 07495003784

E-mail: sdsuistandbarra@advocacywi.co.uk

Service activities include:

- informing people about rights to self-directed support
- supporting them through the care assessment process, including preparation for Single Shared Assessments
- identifying the personal outcomes they want to achieve
- supporting them to understand and choose the self-directed support option that suits them
- helping them to think creatively and plan flexibly to achieve personal outcomes
- supporting them to put measures in place to manage a funded social care package and sustain the choices they have made.

The SDS Advocacy service is offered to anyone with social care needs, including older people, people with dementia, people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities, people living with long term conditions, and anyone who cares for them.

The SDS Advocacy service is independent, free, fully confidential and is available regardless of whether the local authority eligibility criteria for a social care budget are met or not.

ADVOCACY WESTERN ISLES – WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!

What is independent advocacy?

Advocacy supports you to find your voice, protect your rights and promote your interests.

Advocacy is about:

- Being listened to and having your voice heard
- Having your rights and interests explored and upheld.
- Ensuring you are included in decisions that are made about you.
- Being treated as an equal and with respect.
- Empowering people.

Who are we?

Advocacy Western Isles is a registered charity affiliated to the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SC034774). We have been supporting local people to stand up for their rights since 2002. We offer a free, independent and confidential service to anyone resident in the Western Isles. Our head office is in Stornoway but a trained Generic/Mental Health Advocacy Worker covers Uist & Barra exclusively, and last year (2018) handled just over 150 cases in the region.

Who can we help?

Anyone living in the Western Isles - our free and confidential service is available to adults, individuals with learning difficulties, those experiencing mental health issues, children and young people (covered from Stornoway), and carers.

What can we do for you? Here are a few examples:

- Emotional support and practical assistance /exploring options/helping you understand your rights
- Planning for positive outcomes/gaining access to services
- Support at meetings and appointments/being your voice/helping express your views
- Help in writing letters/making phone calls

How can you access our service?

If you or someone you know could do with some support, get in touch with one of our trained, Independent Advocates and let us help you have your voice heard.

IN LEWIS & HARRIS Self-Directed Support General & Mental Health Children & Young People Telephone: 01851 701755 E-mail: office@advocacywi.co.uk	IN UIST & BARRA Self-Directed Support Telephone: 07495003784 E-mail: sdsuistandbarra@advocacywi.co.uk	General & Mental Health Landline: 01878 700000 Mobile: 07584 898480 E-mail: uistandbarra@advocacywi.co.uk
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Caraidean Uibhist Bringing US Together

It's been another exciting couple of months on the Caraidean front lines and there is a brilliant atmosphere amongst the staff and our visitors. More and more matches are being made and people are really starting to get involved in drop in sessions, group activities, film days and a diverse range of other events to get us all motivated and out and about. Friendships are blooming and there is a great sense of achievement in the office. Our social media platforms now boast more than 500 followers and it remains a useful tool for our community to find out about events and gather information about how to best help our friends and families in times of crisis.



Caraidean Uibhist remains committed to bringing the communities of our beautiful islands together in the interest of everybody living here. We want to continue promoting our inclusive population that helps each other out when ever and where ever possible. We hope that by encouraging everybody here to make one **Act of Random Kindness** at a time we can reach all of those in need in the Southern Isles, making this an even more prosperous and engaging place to live.

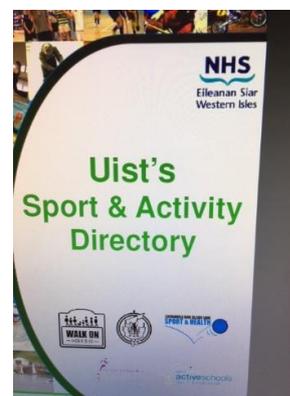
Can you Help?

We are currently looking for more volunteers to meet demand, in particular, those with access to a vehicle who can offer transport from **as little as once per month**.

Facebook: Caraidean Uibhist Telephone: 01870 603233
Email: admin@caraideanuibhist.org
Art Group: Every Other Thursday 2 – 3pm

UISTS SPORT & ACTIVITY DIRECTORY

Watch out later this month for the launch of the new Sport and Activity directories for Uist & Barra. Produced by NHS Western Isles Health Promotion Department, it mirrors the Lewis & Harris Sports Directory which is already in circulation. Alison MacDonald, Senior Health Promotion Officer said 'We hope these directories make people more aware of the opportunities within our communities and if someone is interested in an activity, they can contact the organisation direct to find out about classes or events which may be of interest to them'.



SEALLADH HIORT UPDATE JUNE 2019

The 'best value' design project, which sought to refine and reduce the cost of the community group's original design ideas for the St Kilda Viewpoint Centre, was completed by Fraser Architecture in January this year. The nearly £1m cost savings combined with an innovative building design met with universal approval of both Sealladh Hiort members and the joint funders of the work - Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and HIE.

Following consultations with Comhairle and HIE development officers on how to progress the project, Sealladh Hiort directors agreed the following list of actions at their January and April board meetings:

- To seek planning consent for the new design.
- To undertake local fund raising to improve the charity's underlying finances.
- To design and publish a brochure so that the Viewpoint project and charity's activities could be more widely understood.
- To increase Sealladh Hiort membership.
- To develop the group's initial exhibition ideas with professional help.
- To continue to work with the Harris and Lewis St Kilda groups on the joint Slighe Hiort project.
- To liaise closely with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar on the Islands Deal which at present represents the best chance of funding the major proportion of the capital cost.



All of these actions are being progressed. The revised planning application is being submitted shortly. The first fund raising event took place at Sollas at the end of March and raised nearly £400 as well as attracting 30 new members. The second is being held at Kildonan on June 13th.

The new brochure is now printed and ready for distribution. Membership now stands at nearly 60 and it is hoped this will be further increased at the event at Kildonan.

A consultant brief for support to the group on refining, developing and costing its exhibition ideas is being prepared and the plan is to have advisors appointed in time for a members' workshop in early September.

After a slight delay whilst the Harris St Kilda group finalised their plans, a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Uist, Lewis and Harris St Kilda groups under the banner of Slighe Hiort is now agreed and will be signed in the next few weeks. This sets out how the three groups – Sealladh Hiort, Ionad Hiort and Harris Development Ltd - will work together on their proposed developments, particularly on joint funding and marketing and ensuring that any duplication is avoided.

Sealladh Hiort is regularly updated on progress with the Islands Deal application by both Comhairle members and officers. The initial draft bid document is currently out for consultation with the three Outer Hebrides St Kilda groups shown sharing a funding bid under a tourism infrastructure heading of £8m. We are advised that the results of the application might be known by the year end.

Finally, the recent news that the Comhairle has bought Scolpaig Farm for a mini-satellite launch site is an interesting one for the St Kilda Viewpoint project as the new visitor centre overlooks the launch site which, if it goes ahead, will be situated around 2km NW of the visitor centre location. At present, and until more details are revealed, these proposals are being viewed as a potentially positive development as far as the Viewpoint visitor centre is concerned.

WALK LEADER TRAINING

Do you like walking? Do you have some spare time ... 1 hour a week or fortnight? Would you like to be part of a new walking group leading walks in your local area?

NHS Western Isles' Health Promotion department will be providing free Walk Leader training courses in North Uist later this year. The training aims to provide people with the skills and confidence to lead walks in their local area. Ongoing support and resources will be provided to trained Walk Leaders following the training.

For more information or to register contact: Karen Peteranna - Walk Leader Trainer, tel: 01851 762016 or email: karen.peteranna@nhs.net

New Legislation for Carers

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 came into force on 1st April. Carers can be a parent, a partner or a son or daughter or friend to someone who needs support as a result of their disability, condition or illness and provide them with help and support to manage their life. The Act provides new rights to carers in a number of areas.

<https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/community-care-and-criminal-justice/community-care/support-for-carers/>

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has been working with NHS Western Isles to prepare for the implementation of the Carers Act from April 2018 and a Carers Act Implementation Group has been established to co-ordinate the delivery of the key elements of the Act. This group is made up of representatives from integrated health and social care services, the Western Isles Community Care Forum and the Western Isles Carers and Supporters Network.

The Act places a number of duties on Local Authorities and NHS Boards that includes the involvement of Carers in the planning and delivery of services. Support for Carers is a core aspect of the Act.

At Western Isles level carers and partner agencies are reviewing and updating the Western Isles Carers Strategy, producing an Adult Carer Support Plan template, producing a Young Carer Statement template, producing local eligibility criteria, producing a short-breaks statement, involving and listening to carers, young carer's, care for people and carer organisations in all of the above.

Easy to read information leaflets for carers are available from the Social Work Department and NHS Western Isles locations. Short video clips for carers have been developed by [Coalition of Carers Scotland](http://www.carersnet.org/carers-act-resources/) <http://www.carersnet.org/carers-act-resources/>

Many thanks to all readers and contributors.

The next newsletter will be produced in early December 2019. Articles can be submitted to development@ucvo.org.uk any time before then.