

# LEADER INNSE GALL NEWSLETTER

## LEADER Innse Gall update

Issue 2, Autumn/ Winter 2011

2011 has continued to be a busy year for LEADER Innse Gall; The LAG held a successful Community Open Day in April and has approved a further 24 applications amounting to just under £1million.

With many projects now successfully completed and many more currently progressing well, we are beginning to witness the increasing influence LEADER projects are having in communities.

Our continued success in revitalizing communities does however mean that LEADER funding is rapidly decreasing and any upcoming innovative projects that are being generated should contact the LEADER team with their enquiries before LEADER Innse Gall funding is fully committed.



**Cothrom's 'Re-Store Mentorship' Programme has been very successful in South Uist.**

### Projects Approved in 2011

Isle of Harris Landscape Partnership Scheme	£158,783
East Camp Social & Horticultural Project	£37,383
Scalpay Community Shop	£49,472
Northern Scottish Touring Fund	£22,400
Island Youth Project	£30,682
Enclosed All Weather Arena	£125,000
Bringing Our History Home	£12,350
Harris Tweed Orb Centenary Promotion	£27,000
Life Story Work	£11,405
Lochside Arena	£70,000
Safeguarding Bill Lawson's Lifetimes Work for Posterity	£24,000
Feasibility Study for Institute	£12,500
Outer Hebrides Biological Recording	£5,783
Supported Accommodation Service	£125,000
Celebrating the People, Landscape & Wildlife of the North Harris Mountains	£23,850
Active Citizens Extension Project	£11,200
Eaglais Na h-Aoidhe Phase One	£50,000
Therapeutic Garden Project Manager	£25,788
A'Gleidheadh ar Dualchais	£4,150
Uig Community Shop Development	£17,592
Leverburgh Pontoon	£66,000
Barvas & Brue Senior Citizens/ Youth Cafe	£40,678
Outer Hebrides Community Energy Fund	£125,000
The Lochs Shed Project	£40,923

### LEADER LAG Update

During the past few months there have been a few arrivals and departures on the LEADER Innse Gall LAG.

We are delighted that we have managed to recruit new LAG Members to replace those that have recently stepped down. Our newest Members now include:

**Archie Macdonald**      **Highlands & Islands Enterprise**  
**Donald MacRury**      **Scottish Crofting Federation**  
**Carola Bell &**          **Community Land Scotland**  
**David Cameron**

Unfortunately we have recently lost the services of the following LAG Members and would like to thank them for all their work and invaluable input to the Programme:

**Anne Macaulay**          **Highlands & Islands Enterprise**  
**Neil Macleod**            **Scottish Crofting Federation**  
**Ella MacBain**            **Older Person's Partnership**  
**Manus McGee**            **Lewis & Harris Sports Council**

We currently require representatives for Young People, Older People and the Private sector. Should you be interested in joining the LAG as a representative for these Sectors, or are involved in another Sector that you feel should have representation on the LAG, then please do not hesitate to contact Kathlene Macdonald, LEADER Co-ordinator for more information:

Tel: 0845 600 70 90 ext. 211285  
 Email: [kathlene.macdonald@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:kathlene.macdonald@cne-siar.gov.uk)

## COMMUNITY ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Community Account Management Project was approved by LEADER Innse Gall in 2010 in order to assist Highlands and Islands Enterprise in employing Local Development Officers throughout the Outer Hebrides fragile areas. Currently Development Officers have been put in post throughout the Hebrides in Barra, Benbecula, North & South Uist, Harris and Ness with a further Officer being sought for the Carloway district.

Hugh Donaldson, Community Growth Manager, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, explains the project further:

“The Outer Hebrides has a long tradition of self help and resilience in addressing the effects of wider National and International peaks and troughs in economic and social development.

In 2009, HIE, after restructuring, put together a programme to support community led growth. This programme is known as ‘Community Account Management’ and is intended to support communities to have a say in the growth they would like to see within their community.

The programme has been implemented in seven communities with another three about to sign up to the process. In agreeing to a community account management relationship with HIE, communities are signing up to lead the development of their community through producing a development plan and implementing actions from that plan over a period of three to five years. It is crucial that the lead organisation is working effectively with other local organisations such as the community councils, community co-ordinators and established social groups who are often the bedrock of local solidarity and community actions.

A crucial part of the planning process is to identify projects where earned income can sustain the communities actions into the future. This may be via a number of actions but the best opportunity probably lies in renewable energy at this time. There may be opportunities in addressing energy awareness and assistance to those who may need it as well as opportunities in waste reduction and management. Some indications exist that the well established community co-operatives have worked hard over the last few years to rejuvenate and extend their commercial and social businesses and these may be a good foundation for future consolidation and possible expansion.

Early feedback from your communities illustrates just how significant this work is in addressing community concerns.”



### ***Development in Your Community:***

**A few of the Local Development Officers have kindly taken the time to update us on the progress they are making in their Communities since taking up their post:**

#### **LOCHS - *Helen Sandison***

“I have been in post since last October working as the Lochs Development Officer under the CAM project and have been involved in some great projects and been working with a real variety of groups since then. One of my first challenges was to produce a Community Development Plan for the Area, which was launched to the Community in March at an event in North Lochs Community Centre with over 40 people attending. The Plan aims to focus Community Development opportunities around different themes and to try and co-ordinate future projects for the benefit of the Area.”



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## Lochs *(continued)*

"I have been working with a number of groups on pretty diverse projects, assisting with funding applications (it's all about the money!), advice on setting up new groups, business planning, advice on constitutions and much much more.

Lochs is a vibrant, active community, with a large number of community groups doing a lot of good work, so life is never quiet! It is really great to see so much happening in Lochs and to be part of helping develop the Area for the benefit of those living here and for visitors too."

## HARRIS - *Coinneach Morrison*

"My anchor organisation, Harris Development Ltd formed in 1994 and has worked continually towards safeguarding the economic, natural and social environment of the Island. Since coming into post in August last year, I have been tasked to work specifically within the communities of South Harris and the Island of Scalpay, with my main focus being directed towards job creation and sustained economic development. My work involves a wide range of community projects with an estimated project cost of over £2m and with the combined potential to provide more than 14 full time equivalent jobs throughout the community.

It was in March this year that Scalpay Landlord Fred Taylor offered the small island community full ownership of the estate free of charge and I'm currently supporting the local steering group to commission a feasibility study ahead of a forthcoming ballot which will determine the specific model of community ownership the residents of Scalpay are in favour of adopting. The proposed community ownership of the Island has coincided favourably with the Scalpay Community Shop project and the shop committee are looking to open the store by March 2012. These recent, community-led initiatives seem to have provided Scalpay with an increased desire to take a greater level of control in their own affairs and we received an overwhelming level of community input from the recent consultation exercise carried out whilst designing the brief for consultants ahead of the forthcoming feasibility work.

A key aspect of my job is to help secure the future sustainability of the communities that I work alongside and the South Harris Community Wind Turbine Project aims to provide a guaranteed source of income capable of supporting future projects within the South Harris area for many years to come.

I also lend my assistance to the on-going Landscape Partnership Scheme which is an ambitious development comprising of a total of 16 individual projects largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, along with LEADER Innse Gall, designed to safeguard the heritage of Harris. Within the next two months a total of six students are due to begin weaver training apprenticeships in our Manish workshop as part of a project designed to provide sustainable, full time jobs and to rejuvenate the industry within the Island where Harris Tweed was born.

Whether it is community land ownership, wind turbines, pier developments, a community shop, weaving apprenticeships or a lobster hatchery, my key focus is always directed towards jobs and sustainability and I would hope that the CAM project will lend significant weight to securing the future sustainability of many fragile communities throughout the Highlands and Islands region."



Lorna Wheeler, Morag Macleod, Pete Dickson and Coinneach Morrison (HDL) pictured inside Scalpay Community Shop collecting the keys for the now Community-owned shop, which also received LEADER Innse Gall funding.

## **BARRA & VATERSAY - *Gerard Macdonald***

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“Since the CAM has come into being, several community developments have been supported and either brought to completion or are now approaching completion. The profile of projects has tended to reflect both local and national priorities.

Local priorities focusing on improving infrastructure and services for the community. The main national priorities featured have been in the reduction of fuel poverty; reduction of our carbon footprint and development of renewable energy resources. There are of course overlaps where local and national priorities integrate well.

This year we have seen the completion of three renewable energy projects which will enable community groups to reduce their energy bills, earn income from Feed in Tariff and reduce their carbon footprints. At Garadh a’Bhagh a’Tuath the turbine will meet all the community enterprises energy needs. In addition it will enable them to heat and light a polytunnel and in doing so extend the growing season at minimal environmental cost. Vatersay Hall’s turbine will have similar effects in reducing costs and carbon footprint, resulting in a more sustainable community asset and freeing valuable resources for other community developments. Barra Children centre’s heat pump, replaces the old oil based heating system with a more efficient renewable system. A further renewable energy development involving the upgrade of two existing turbines at Northbay hall is also underway. CAM has provided advice and assistance to all the above projects in various aspects of the development, helping to ensure they have come to fruition.

Northbay Inner Harbour, a £147,000 refurbishment of an existing facility, was officially opened in June. This development improved berthing facilities, increased the usable area of the harbour and improved shelter within the harbour. It also saw the construction of the only community owned and accessible slip on the island. The CAM officer worked with Northbay Port users Association to bring the project forward.

The CAM has enabled our community to access the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) and in doing so addressing real issues relating to the environment. In 2010/11 we worked with the Home Insulation Scheme (HIS) to ensure every home on the islands was surveyed for energy efficiency purposes. We achieved a 97% success rate which has translated into needy householders receiving free or low cost energy efficiency measures, reducing energy bills and fuel poverty. In 2011/12 we continue to work with CCF with a specific objective of improving hard to treat homes which could not be assisted under HIS.

We have many other projects on stream. We have set up four subsidiaries to undertake commercial activities. Barra and Vatersay Wind Energy will shortly reach financial close on a £1.7M community turbine project. Barra and Vatersay Research undertakes consultancy and research services for Western Isles based developments. To date it has focussed on environmental and renewable energy based work. This company enables locally based people who have specific expertise which is under used, the chance to gain economic benefit from their skills, while providing a service in the local community. Barra and Vatersay Waste will shortly be launched as the vehicle for our work with the Comhairle on recycling and waste reduction and hopes to employ two people in the medium term. Our final subsidiary Barra and Vatersay Heat will be activated when we have the outcome of feasibility work into small scale district heating systems in late August.

Projects in development include water sports facilities for the hugely popular Barra Water Sports Club, the purchase and refurbishment of the old primary school and the development of marine access in Vatersay Bay.

The CAM has proven to be a huge boost to Barra and Vatersay. It has enabled projects to be delivered and maintained a convoy of new, and often novel and innovative projects all of which are identified and brought forward by community consensus.”

## Urras Oighreachd Ghabainn—Galson Estate Trust Galson Business Centre



### New "0" carbon business centre at Galson

“Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn are in the very final stages of completion of the construction of a new low carbon multifunctional business centre. Work commenced on-site in February 2011 by local firm, Alex Murray Construction and work will be finished on site in mid October.

The development will include an office for the Trust’s staff team as well as a home for the crofting archives , offices for rent, meeting rooms and a specific area for crofters’ markets; giving producers the opportunity to showcase what they have to offer. The business centre will not only provide opportunities for the Trust, but will provide a much needed service for visitors and the community.

Alongside the main building development the trust have a new electric vehicle, part funded by LEADER and a 20KW wind turbine, which is being used to power the building and the vehicle.

The Trust is delighted with the development and look forward to moving in. The various projects have been supported by LEADER, The Big Lottery Fund, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Community Energy Scotland. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our funders.”

*Lisa MacLean  
Commercial Development Manager*



Wind Turbine used to help charge  
Electrical Vehicle



New carbon neutral Galson Business Centre

## LEADER INNSE GALL 2007— 2013

The LEADER Innse Gall programme has been instrumental in assisting many innovative projects to develop to enable them to provide benefits to local communities through supporting projects which will provide employment, training events, archiving and new marine services to name but a few.

The Scottish LEADER 2007-2013 programme accounts for approximately £53m, or 6%, of the Scottish Rural Development Programme and currently the LEADER Innse Gall (Outer Hebrides) programme has committed nearly £2.3m to over 60 projects varying from community-owned enterprises and renewable schemes to culture and heritage projects which will all help to revitalise Outer Hebridean communities. Moreover with limited funds still available further projects will receive LEADER support which will assist to empower communities to develop and realise projects which will provide extensive benefits to the area.

Across Scotland the LEADER Local Action Groups funding is now rapidly being committed and we are now beginning to shift our focus onto the next programming period of 2014-2020. Over the 20 years since LEADER was first launched the current and three preceding programmes have provided communities with the tools to proactively shape their futures and sustainability through developing and implementing bottom-up community-led projects which provide economic, social and environmental benefits to the areas. To allow these to be showcased a Scottish LEADER guide was published and copies are available from the LEADER team or can be viewed on our website.

The guide is intended to focus attention on both what LEADER and rural community development has already achieved and its future potential as the current programme draws to an end and the next one begins whether it is LEADER or a new rural development programme. The projects included also aim to encourage the exchange of good practice between projects and countries and help Scotland create fruitful partnerships with others throughout Europe through supporting and developing innovative co-operation projects across territories



People from various sectors travelled to our LAG Community Day which was held in Leac a'li, Harris.  
A big Thank You to everyone who attended, and to those who provided presentations.

### **LEADER Innse Gall Website Update**

The LEADER Innse Gall website has now been updated to include an advertisement section. Applicants and Community Groups are welcomed to provide details of Events, jobs and Tenders to be advertised on the LEADER Innse Gall Website.

Please contact a member of the LEADER Team, or visit [www.outerhebridesleader.co.uk](http://www.outerhebridesleader.co.uk) for further information.

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