



# Sgoil Lionacleit News

## Deasbad BT Alba 2013



Pictured above: Katie MacLennan S3 and Joanne MacLennan S6 during the BT Scotland National Schools Debate in Edinburgh

Aig toiseach an t-Samhain chaidh mi-fhin agus Joanne suas a Steòrnabhagh airson pàirt a ghabhail ann an Deasbad BT Alba. Bha aon sgoil air fhichead eile ann bho air feadh Alba. Airson a' chiad chuairt bha sinn an aghaidh Sgoil MhicNeacail C, a' deasbad "Tha còir a bhith seachnadh nan companaidhean nach eil a' pàigheadh chisean ann am Breatainn". An deidh latha de dheasbad thainig na breitheamhan gu co-dhùnadh gun cuireadh iad dà sgoil dheug troimhe chun an ath chuairt agus is sinne aon den na sgiobaidhean sin. Ghabh an ath chuairt àite an ath latha agus bha sinn an aghaidh Sgoil MhicNeacail agus 's e deasbad gu math faisg a bh'ann cuideachd. Aig deireadh an darn latha chan fhaodadh na breitheamhan ach ceithir sgoiltean a chuir troimhe chun an iar chuairt-dheireannach agus thagh iad, Sgoil Bhagh A' Chaisteil, Sgoil MhicNeacail A, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu agus Sgoil Lionacleit. An uair a choinnich sinn a-rithist ann an Dùn Eideann trì seachdainnean an deidh sin, rinn sinn ar deasbad an aghaidh Barraigh agus dh'inns na breitheamhan dhuinn gun dh'fhuair sinne is Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu troimhe chun a' chuairt dheireannach. Bha sinn cho toilichte ach bha fhios againn gun e sgioba laidir a bha aig Glaschu agus an uair a thachair sinn riutha ann am Parliamaid na h-Alba an ath oidhch' bha fhios againn nach biodh e furasta! As dèidh mòran deasbaid thill na breitheamhan air ais agus dh'inns iad dhuinn gun do bhuannaich Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. Ged nach do bhuannaich sinn chòrd an turas gu mòr rinn agus tha sinn airson taing a thoirt dhan h-uile duine a chuidich sinn anns na seachdainnean a tha air a dhol seachad.

*Ceithidh NicI IIFhinnein S3*

## Children In Need

This year Sgoil Lionacleit's Children In Need fundraising activities took a variety of forms. S6 pupils demonstrated their enthusiasm for getting involved and their organisational skills by arranging many of this year's Children in Need events. These included a teacher v Pupils fancy dress volleyball match, a mouth-watering bake sale, non-uniform day and 'sponge the teacher' a particular favourite of the pupils. The events were well supported by staff and pupils.

Cycling enthusiast Calum Fraser S4, decided to Spin Cycling for two gruelling hours with Calum Binnie and Fergus MacVicar. Between them they raised nearly £100 to contribute to the funds and S3 pupils Michelle



Pictured above: Megan MacKay, Iona MacRae and Hannah Campbell collecting donations during the volleyball game.

MacDonald and Alison Steele achieved the impossible by managing an entire day of sponsored silence. They raised over £100 between them to go towards the impressive Sgoil Lionacleit donation of almost £1000 for Children In Need. *More pictures on page 4...*

## Baton Bearer for the Commonwealth

Congratulations to Paul Morrison S4 who has been chosen to represent Sgoil Lionacleit as Commonwealth Games Baton Bearer. Having travelled across the world through 71 nations of the Commonwealth, the baton will be making its way through Scotland on the final leg of its journey. Paul will carry the baton during the Western Isles relay next June on its way back to Glasgow for the start of the Commonwealth Games on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014.

## December 2013



## HEAD LINES FROM Mr Miller MacDonald

A team of inspectors from the local authority and Education Scotland visited Sgoil Lionacleit early in December as part of Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE). VSE aims to support and challenge the work of education authorities through HMIe and the Council working in partnership. Our VSE visit gave pupils the opportunity to talk about the school and to describe some of the projects that they have been involved with this term. The inspectors were pleased at the range of Skills for Work courses on offer and said there were some very good examples of leadership activities throughout the school community as well.

I will be consulting with parents in January on plans to alter the curriculum in Sgoil Lionacleit by introducing a 3 + 3 curriculum model. Years S1, S2 and S3 form the Broad General Education and S4, S5 and S6 form the Senior Phase. The new range of SQA National qualifications suits the 3 + 3 curriculum model.

May I wish all pupils, parents and staff a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Pictured above: Paul Morrison S4



Many thanks to members of the community, pupils and staff that supported, attended, donated to and organised the 2013 school bingo event on Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. A massive £4,200 was raised, which will go towards educational excursions and school social events.

## Old photos appeal

Attention all parents, grandparents and other members of the community! Do you have any interesting old photos that only *you* know the story behind? Would you like to share the photos and the stories with the younger generation? Do you know of others in your community who would be willing to share their photos?

We are beginning an exciting new project at Sgoil Lionacleit that will bring people from the community together with our pupils to collect some of these photos and stories.

We invite you to join us in the school library where we can work together on scanning the photos, recording the stories and putting them on a special website. The plan is to hold these informal sessions on Monday afternoons, about once a month launching on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm** in Sgoil Lionacleit Library. We *really* need your contribution to make the project a success.

If you have any photos that you would like to share please contact the school office on **01870 603690**, or bring them along to the launch. All are most welcome.



## School Contact Information

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## Making the right Move



Pictured left: Hugh Paterson S2 and Christopher Palmer S2 playing out their tactical manoeuvres with Callum Aucott waiting to see who will join him in the final.

Throughout this term the library has played host to the Sgoil Lionacleit 2013 Chess Tournament organised and run by S4 pupils Sean Francis and Brendan May. They are hopeful that the tournament will become an annual event. Twenty pupils across all year groups have battled during lunch breaks for a place in the final. The library has generously provided trophies and medals for the tournament champions.

This year's junior champion, narrowly beating Hugh Patterson, was Callum Aucott. The senior game is to be replayed as the final ended in stalemate. Ryan Peteranna S6 and Brendan May S4 will thrash it out on 19/12/13 to establish the victor.

## Piping Workshops



In November the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band played on Lochboisdale Pier to welcome Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band to the islands! They had come to deliver piping and drumming workshops to pupils from Uist and Barra.

The workshops were a great success with over 80 students attending. Lead drummer Allan Craig and Pipe Sergeant Keith Bowie were teaching us along with other band members from Lomond and Clyde. Unfortunately Pipe major David Wotherspoon was unable to attend.

The workshops on the Saturday were followed by a ceilidh that night in the Dark Island Hotel with performances from both bands. We are all very hopeful that Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band will return for more workshops next year.

We would like to thank Allan and David for their ongoing support of the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band.

**Chloe Steele S4**

## Island Youth Project

A new filmmaking project gets underway at Sgoil Lionacleit. The Island Youth Project asks pupils to come up with ideas for original short films and related media and develop those ideas through learning a range of production skills including script writing, filming and editing. The project funded by Big Lottery Young Start, may go on to be showcased at film festivals and at the redeveloped Museum nan Eilean in Stornoway, which is expected to open in 2015.

Facilitator of the two year project, Paul Steele, said: "One of the hopes for the project is that it will allow the participants to become more enterprising and develop production skills which will be transferable to other areas of their future careers whilst potentially developing careers related to media and media production."

"I personally see the group as a small production team with the opportunity to be as creative as possible in producing content that entertains both themselves and others. It should be fun and enjoyable for everyone taking part." Said Paul. *Ryan Peteranna S6*

## Film G — It's A Bit Of A Mystery

Sgoil Lionacleit pupils have submitted a film in this year's Gaelic Film G competition. The script was written by S6 pupils Nicky Spears and Matthew Curtis and then translated into Gaelic. It is a murder mystery with a surprising twist at the end. Former pupil Cailean Collier assisted the pupils with filming and editing. He commended the sophistication of the script and the professionalism of the pupils involved.



Pictured left: Mary Rose MacIsaac S1, Nicky Spears S6, Hamish Rodger S1, Cailean Collier, Katie MacRury S6, Georgia MacMillan S1, Alison Steele S3 and Matthew Curtis S6.

Also involved but not pictured: Kenny MacKillop S1, Katie MacLennan S3, Kate Steele S6 and Ceitidh Martindale S6

## Lunch With Mairi Hedderwick

On Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> I went to Daliburgh School to meet Mairi Hedderwick. She writes the Katie Morag books. Katie Morag is a girl who lives on a tiny island. My favourite story is the one about the wedding. Mairi read a story to all the children about Katie Morag and the grand concert. After, I sat with Mairi in the library and watched her sign the Katie Morag books.

Then I went outside and I was skipping. I found a skipping rope in the courtyard. I read a story to the children about farmyard animals. I had great fun with the children. I saw some children I know.

When we left we were all very hungry so we went to the Island Deli in Balivanich for something to eat and had a lovely lunch. I had a fun day. *Catriona MacPhee S4*



Pictured above: Mairi Hedderwick and Catriona MacPhee S4 during the story telling and book signing at Daliburgh Library

## Sharing Our Experiences With The Community

In November pupils travelled to Kildonan Museum to give a presentation to the community about their trip to France where they visited First World War sites and war memorials.

In June this year we went to The Somme to follow in the footsteps of wartime poet Wilfred Owen and to lay wreaths during the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate and at the Loos memorials.

At Kildonan Museum we gave a slide show of pictures that we had taken when we were there and we told stories about our trip and how we felt about what we had seen.

Members of the public were also invited to tell stories about their experiences of the War. Because we had actually been to the places where the war had been fought and seen the many grave stones standing to attention looking out over the world, it felt like we could share our experiences and understand more clearly what it must have been like for the soldiers who fought there and the people who were waiting for them to come home. *Connor Ewen S5*

## Hats For The Homeless

Every Tuesday lunchtime a group of ten students ranging from S1 to S4 have started a small knitting group. With the help of Mrs Townsend, Mrs Pedrana and Mrs MacEachen, we are learning to knit by making hats and scarves for homeless people. These hats and scarves are sent away to Edinburgh to former Sgoil Lionacleit pupil Sarah MacIsaac, who coordinates a Hats For The Homeless project. The team in Edinburgh gives hot meals, drinks, hats and scarves to homeless people to keep them warm during the cold winter. The biggest challenge so far has been casting on!

*Rosslyn Palmer and April MacLellan S1*





## Youth Voice

Recently five S5 and S6 pupils went on a trip to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh as part of the Uist Youth Voice. We met with Alasdair Allan and other MSPs and discussed issues that effect our community and our country. We also attended First Ministers Question Time and met with the Presiding Officer. The Uist Youth Voice is a group that was formed early this year through which we are able to meet with our local councillors and represent the voice of young people in Uist.

*Ceitidh Martindale and Katie MacRury S6*

## A St Andrew's Day of Hospitality for Primary 1 pupils



Pictured above: Pupils from Balivanich Primary School being entertained in the theatre. Inset picture: Some of the creative baking produced by the S4 Hospitality Group for the event.

On Thursday 28th November 2013 the S4 Skills for Work Hospitality group held an event for the P1 pupils from Balivanich School. The event was a party for St Andrews day. This event was part of the Skills for Work Hospitality course. We made a selection of food and drinks and played games with the children. The event was a success!

The pupils involved were Carrie MacDonald, Emma Skinner, Nicola Cameron, Kathryn MacInnes, Natasha MacPherson, Megan McIntosh, Natasha MacMillan and Rachel MacIsaac.

We would like to thank Stepping Stones and the Dark Island for their continuing support for Hospitality pupils during their work placements.

*Kathryn MacInnes S4*

## From Machair to Menu



Pictured above: S3 Hospitality and Crofting pupils working together on their delicious alternative recipes.

<http://www.uist.co.uk/goose-recipe-development-and-tasting-in-sgoil-lionacleit-today>

On the 7<sup>th</sup> November our S3 Hospitality class teamed up with the Crofting Course to prepare school meals using locally sourced wild Greylag Goose. We decided to use popular recipes that we already use in the HE Department and adapt them using goose meat. We then asked a group of staff and pupils to come and taste the meals. We came up with four main meal ideas which were curry, burgers, lasagne and bolognaise.

After carrying out a meal evaluation survey we found that the most popular dish was the curry. The goose curry will appear on the menu at the school canteen in January. *Rhianna Gordon and Catriona MacLeod S3*

The drive to take Greylag off the Machair and onto the menu has been developed due of the increase in the number of geese on Machair land in recent years. This has become an increasing problem for the crofting community because of the damage done to grazing and crops.

## Raising Awareness On World AIDS Day

In November the National 4/5 Geography class learned about the spreading of HIV and AIDS across the world. We learned that the aim of UNICEF was to create an AIDS free generation.

With world AIDS day coming up on the first of December what better way to highlight this event than to make everyone in the school HIV and AIDS aware. To do this we gave a short assembly to each year group, and to show our support and raise awareness our class made large zeros to represent an AIDS free generation and asked pupils and teachers to sign their name on a ribbon and stick it on to the zeros. They each received a KitKat or a Chomp to thank them for taking part.



Pictured above: Catriona MacLeod, Joanne Walker, Rhianna Gordon, Kayreen MacLeod, Fiona MacDonald and Mairi MacKintosh

<http://www.worldaidsday.org/about-world-aids-day.php>

We would like to thank everyone that showed their support towards World AIDS day.

*Fiona MacDonald S3*

## 'Jam Boy' Inspires Pupils

Fraser 'Jam Boy' Doherty, age 24, was invited to the islands by Gordon MacDonald of Include-Us. Fraser told the story of his entrepreneurial experiences to S3 and S4 students.

Fraser started his 'jam business' aged just 14 in his parents kitchen perfecting his grans recipe after an inspirational afternoon with her learning how to make jam. Initially selling 'Doherty's Jam' to farmer's markets he invested in his business and rebranded to the now 'Superjam' after spotting that jam sales were falling because of the large amount of sugar in the product. He devised a recipe that was 100% fruit. Fraser said "I love going to schools and sharing the adventure I've been on for the last ten years. I started my business when I was 14, so the kids of that age can think, if he can do it so can I."

*Iain MacPhee S4*



## Rome Trip Fundraising

This term many of the pupils involved in going to Rome next year have been involved in various fund raising events. Mrs MacInnes, mother of Crisdean MacInnes S4 raised funds by having a Bonus Ball in her local community. On Saturday 16th November a fund raising tea was held in Sgoil Lionacleit; many thanks to everyone who came along and contributed. Bag packing has been carried out in Eriskay and Daliburgh by pupils and parents involved in the trip. The total raised this term for the trip is £1155. Well done everyone.

Thanks to all who supported the MacMillan Cancer Support World's Biggest Coffee Morning event on Friday 22nd November. A total of £163.01 was raised.



## Making a Personal Statement

In November Jemma Harlow, a university applications adviser for St Andrews University, came to talk to senior pupils about writing personal statements for their UCAS applications.

Jemma's experience and insight in this area was invaluable and her talk was interesting and very helpful to those applying to further education courses this year.

Jemma also offered individual sessions for those who wanted to discuss their own personal statements. Her advice was appreciated by all students who attended.

*Catrin Evans S6*





Pictured above: Katie MacRury and Ceitidh Martindale S6

Along with four other Youth Ambassadors from Lewis and Harris, we attended a conference on the Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December in Sgoil Lionacleit, introducing us to the aims of Young Ambassadors.

At the conference we looked at ways to improve sport within our schools and ways to encourage others to take part. A representative from Sports Scotland and one of the Young Ambassadors from Ayrshire, delivered the presentation. Our mentor Mrs Beaton and representatives from Active Schools were also present.

Ceitidh Martindale and Katie MacRury S6

Cross country athletes Paul Morrison S4, Owen Vesey S3 and Finlay MacVicar S1 have been selected to run for the North District at the Scottish Inter-district and Celtic Nations Cross Country Championships in Holyrood Park on the 11<sup>th</sup> January where many of the world's best runners compete



Junior Football

Congratulations to our junior football team who won 5:3 Against Sir E Scott Secondary in Harris on the Friday 8th November. Thanks To Neil MacDonald and Mr Murphy for organising the trip.

SL Keeping Fit

Bikram yoga

The PE department would like to thank to Judith Levack Macdonald who introduced senior girls and staff to Bikram Yoga. Judith has become a Certified Bikram Yoga teacher after completing nine weeks of training in America.

Zumba

Thanks also to Mrs M M Steele who has been doing Zumba sessions with S4 girls this term after completing a recent training course.

30 x 3km

Staff have also been encouraged to keep fit this term through the 30 x 3km initiative. Designed to promote good health and fitness habits, approximately 15 members of staff have taken part in a variety of sporting ways. These have included, walking, running and cycling.

Hangin' Out at Widow Twanky's



In early December the cast (pictured above) and crew of Uist Youth Theatre put on a wonderful, mystical production of Aladdin. The cast, consisting of 22 talented Youth Theatre members, dressed in colourful and flamboyant costumes and took on interesting and funny roles.

Some of the things we liked most about being in the pantomime were the teamwork, the atmosphere during the performances, the songs, the 'Jay-ho' dance, the bubbles blown by the audience and coming up with designs for the costumes and set. It was a fun-filled performance with amazing actors, a fantastic set and hilarious costumes.

Lena Carter, who has been the Uist Youth Theatre's director from the start, sadly had to leave part way through rehearsals so Catrin Evans S6 took her place directing with Mrs Wright.

Uist Youth Theatre is a family within its self. It is a great experience and we make new friends. Anna Campbell S1, Georgia MacMillan S1, Kara Creighton S2 and Isabel Fountain S2

We would like to thank everyone who came to see this year's pantomime and everyone who helped make it happen including former pupils Nyree Troughton and Sarah Campbell who brought their expertise to the sound and lighting; Iona MacRae and Cassandra Humphrey who were indispensable as backstage crew. We would also like to say farewell and thank you to Lena Carter for her invaluable support over the last six years.

Photos right and below are from Children in Need fundraising events.



Pictured above top: Calum Binnie, Calum Fraser and Fergus MacVicar during their 2hour spin. Above: Miss Galbraith, Mrs Flannagan, Miss Boyle, Mrs Morrison, Mrs Carter, Mr Gilles and Mr Fraser taking a soggy sponge for the team.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Junior Christmas Dance Thursday 19th December 7.30pm - 10.30pm
- School Christmas Assembly Friday 20th December 11.00am
- School Closes for Christmas Friday 22nd December
- School Opens Tuesday 7th January
- S4/5/6 Prelims Monday 3rd February