



## New Flats for Stornoway

In the photo are the Maciver Family who are descendants of Cllr Abraham Langley, Mr and Mrs Burgess and Mrs Johnson (neighbours).

Aileen Campbell, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government visited the Outer Hebrides in April. As part of her visit she officially opened Langley Apartments on Stag Road, Stornoway.

The 12 flats have been built on the site of the former Stag Bakery. Stornoway Historical Society suggested the name to remember the late Abraham Langley, a former Town Councillor and Bayhead Sub-Postmaster.

The development cost £1.34 million

of which £868k is funded by Scottish Government Grant.

Our Chair, Norman Macleod said: "It was a pleasure to attend the opening and see the difference HHP has made on Stag Road. The former bakery was disused for a significant period of time. I am delighted to see HHP and Lewis Builders transform the site to provide high quality, affordable homes in a high demand area."

Communities and Housing Committee

Chair, CNES, Kenny John MacLeod commented "The Comhairle are delighted to see the transformation of Stag Road. We also thank Stornoway Historical Society for suggesting such a fitting name for the development and ensuring Abraham Langley's name will live on."

Aileen Campbell said "I am delighted to officially open these new homes. Everyone deserves a warm, safe place to call home. It gives people a sense of belonging and creates strong, connected communities."

## Business Plan Summary

Our new 5-year Business Plan, which runs from April 2019 – March 2024, has recently been approved. The Business Plan highlights our four main goals, along with a delivery plan and key performance targets in order to achieve these goals.

In preparation for the plan, a Business Planning Day was held in October 2018 and consultation events were held to gauge what our key stakeholders (Tenants, Members, Staff and the Community) thought and gave them the opportunity to comment on our goals. Our vision remains: "To provide good quality and affordable homes and to secure consistently excellent housing services throughout the Outer Hebrides"

The plan looks at how we can build that

vision in to tackling the decreasing, aging population within our islands working alongside local partners.

### Our four agreed strategic goals are:

- **Placing tenants at the centre of everything we do**
- **Investing in an environmentally sustainable way in tenants' homes**
- **Being a good employer that attracts and retains high quality staff**
- **Working with partners to contribute to the wellbeing of communities throughout the Outer Hebrides**

The full Business Plan is available on our website or you can call in to one of our offices in either Stornoway or Balivanich if you would like a copy.





# Investment News

As always the spring edition of Homeward is where we give the good news - that this years' Investment works have been approved by our Board and are now out to tender. Works including kitchens, bathrooms and heating systems will soon be starting and letters will be sent to tenants advising them of start dates.

This year we will be also be installing new fire doors in flats and tenements and over the next 2 years we will be upgrading smoke and fire alarms throughout our stock to meet new Scottish Government standards.

This year sees the start of our new framework contract that will last from 2019 to 2023. A major part of this contract will be

bringing community benefits to the areas where work is taking place. Any ideas from tenants will be welcomed so please get in touch with us.

Last years' works have been concluded and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our tenants for their patience, understanding and generosity throughout the year. Our contractors have worked in over 1000 homes and have nothing but praise for our tenants and that has been reciprocated as you have, once again, scored our contractors 9 out of 10 for tenant satisfaction. Thank you for taking the time to return these forms.

The popular Green Book detailing works for the next 4 years is now ready and will

be sent to tenants so that they can plan ahead and know when to expect works in their homes.

The house is really warm and needs very little heating now the new windows have been put in. New doors were also installed last year and I'm really happy with the investment works to my property. The work was without any problems

Mr Tom McLaughlan,

12 Columba Place, Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula

## Legionella

We have implemented a new policy on legionella and water systems. We will now carry out legionella checks when properties become empty.

The risk of legionella in our homes is low, especially for those with air source heat pumps, infrared and gas combi-boilers but the following advice should help tenants understand and avoid issues with legionella.

### WHAT IS LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE?

Legionella is the name given to a type of bacteria that is sometimes found in water in the UK. It is usually found in streams and rivers but sometimes it can end up in the water in your home. Legionnaire's disease is the name given to the illness which people can get when they come in to contact with the legionella bacteria.

### Is it harmful?

Small amounts of it are not harmful. It is only dangerous if the bacteria is allowed to grow. If it grows and you breathe in the

water droplets containing the bacteria then it can make you very ill.

### HOW CAN I KEEP MY WATER SAFE?

Legionella grows best in water that is not too cold or not too hot. It also grows when the water in your pipes and taps is stagnant. This would be if you have not used your taps or shower in a while.

### TO KEEP YOUR WATER SAFE:

Clean your taps and shower regularly as the bacteria can grow on rust and dirt. Shower heads should be disinfected and cleaned at least once every three months.

If you have not been at home for seven or more days, when you return home you should run all taps and shower for a few minutes before drinking any water. This will make sure you get fresh and clean water in your pipes.

The chances of legionella being in your home are very small and there is no need to worry if you follow this advice.



### Dates For Your Diary

HHP Board Meetings for 2019/20 are:

22 May 2019

19 June 2019

28 August 2019

29 August 2019

20 November 2019

All Board meetings are held from 5.30pm to 7:30pm

HHP and The Forum's Fun Day on 9th August 2019 from 12.00 to 4.00pm at Back Community Centre

The AGM is on 29 August 2019 in the County Hotel at 12.15pm.

## Housing (Scotland) Act 2014

### Changes to your Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST)

The first of the changes to the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 come into effect on 1 May 2019:

- **Ending of a Scottish Secure Tenancy on Anti-social or criminal behaviour grounds**

- **Recovery of Adapted Properties**
- **Conversion of a Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST) to a Short Scottish Secure Tenancy (SSST) on grounds of Anti-social behaviour**

Changes to Subletting, Succession, Assignment or adding a joint tenant to your tenancy agreement come in to effect on 1 November 2019.

To protect your tenancy rights, it is important that you let us know in writing, of any changes in your household.

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact us on 0300 123 0773, or email [info@hebrideanhousing.co.uk](mailto:info@hebrideanhousing.co.uk)

# A Tenant Since 1979...

Jasmine Sutherland and her family moved to the islands 42 years ago after husband Robin, a builder, secured work in Uist.

At first, they stayed in a chalet in Dunganichy with their young family of four, and applied for social housing.

Jasmine and Robin were allocated a new house in Baile Na Cille and were the first tenants to move into the property.

They created a beautiful garden and made the house their home. They brought up their family which has grown to include nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren!

Jasmine has seen many changes. When she first moved in the gardens were open plan. Later fencing was erected to provide individual garden areas. Later still, the fencing was replaced with walls which 'look nice' and provide shelter for her garden plants!

There have been improvements to her home, such as a new Air Source Heating system, which is economical to run and keeps her home nice and warm. Jasmine is really pleased with the new heating



system. She also enjoyed choosing her new kitchen and found the workman to be really helpful and tidy.

Jasmine has volunteered at the Thrift Shop for over 7 years and enjoys helping in the community. She takes the time to make people feel welcome when they visit the shop. She is also a fantastic knitter and makes beautiful baby blankets, hats and cardigans for the premature babies at Raigmore Hospital.

After Jasmine's husband passed away 2 years ago she appreciated the help from our staff, who were very kind and sympathetic and helped her to change the tenancy from a joint tenancy to sole tenancy.

Jasmine has a lovely sea view from her kitchen window and her neighbours are really friendly and are always there when needed. She loves living in her home and she said she just wouldn't be anywhere else!

## ARE YOUR ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES REGISTERED?

When was the last time you bought a new washing machine, toaster, kettle, phone charger or other electrical appliance? Did you register it?

### Is it Important to Register Your Appliances?

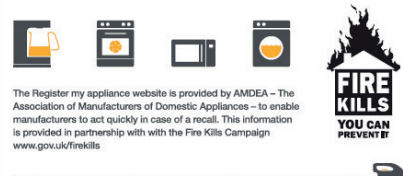
Faulty appliances can cause electrical fires which if undetected put your home, belongings and lives at risk. Registering your appliances is important because it can reduce potential electrical hazards in your home.

**Register my appliance**   
Right now  

**Register your appliance for a safer home**

- Ensure manufacturers can contact you if a safety repair is needed
- Go to [www.registermyappliance.org.uk](http://www.registermyappliance.org.uk)
- Register appliances bought in the last 12 years
- Update your details if you or your appliances move

**For peace of mind register now**



Each year there are many product recalls for electrical items. Registered owners are informed that their appliance may be

faulty. However, many households will have unregistered faulty appliances and will be unaware of the potential risks.

By registering your appliance, manufacturers can contact you if your appliance model has been recalled or been noted as faulty or dangerous. Arrangements to return or repair the appliance can then be made.

### How To Register

You can register your new and old appliances, including chargers & adapters, on the manufacturer's website or using the warranty card that came with the appliance. You will need the make, model, serial number and date of purchase to hand to register.

To keep updated with product recalls, you can also register any old, new or second hand appliance online at [www.registermyappliance.org.uk](http://www.registermyappliance.org.uk) for most major manufacturers.



# NEW BUILD PROGRESS

## Sealladh a' Chliseim, Leurbost, Isle of Lewis



10 new homes at Sealladh a' Chliseim, Leurbost, Isle of Lewis were completed in April 2019. Tenants have now moved into their new homes. The houses were built by Calmax Construction Ltd.

## Langley Apartments, Stag Road, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis



The flats built by Lewis Builders on the site of the former Stag Bakery, Stornoway are now complete. Tenants are expected to move into their new homes late April 2019.

## Mackenzie Avenue, Parkend, Isle of Lewis



22 homes in Mackenzie Avenue were completed in January 2019. They were a mix of rented and Shared Equity homes.

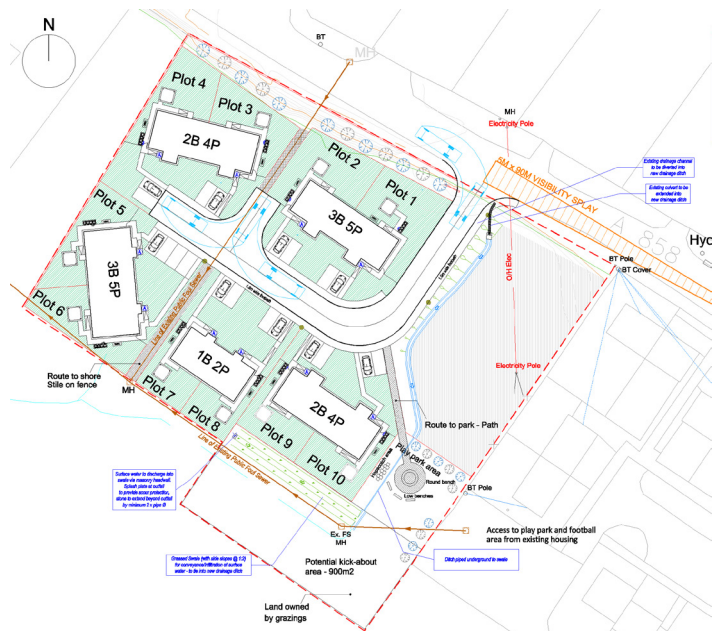
The final phase of this development is well underway and the remaining homes are due for completion in December 2019.

## Corran Ciosmul, Isle of Barra



6 new homes were completed at Corran Ciosmul, Barra in April 2019. New tenants have signed up for their new homes and will be moving in before the end of April.

## Breascleite, Isle of Lewis



Work is due to get underway on the new development at Breascleite, Isle of Lewis. The scheme will be a mix of 2 and 3 bedroom houses with 4 available to buy as part of the Scottish Government's Shared Equity scheme.



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[@HebHousing](https://twitter.com/HebHousing)



# New Supply Shared Equity – (NSSE)

We are gathering notes of interest for Shared Equity for Breasclete. Isle of Lewis. The Shared Equity scheme aims to help first-time buyers, people living in social housing, Armed Forces or veterans, widows/widowers, disabled people and people living in private rented housing.

The property that you buy must be your only home. The scheme is aimed at low to moderate income households. The amount you contribute must be the maximum mortgage you can obtain plus any personnel contributions.

**We also have immediate availability on a**

**3 bedroom property at Mackenzie Avenue, Parkend, Isle of Lewis.**

**If you are interested in the Shared Equity Scheme please contact Christina Macleod at Tighean Innse Gall on 01851 706121 Ext 4 or email [christina@tighean.co.uk](mailto:christina@tighean.co.uk)**

## 25 Mackenzie Avenue, Sandwick



### NEW SUPPLY SHARED EQUITY

- For first time buyers
- Detached 3 bedroom/5 Person house
- The **Shared Equity Scheme** allows applicants to **purchase** between **60%** and **80%** of the market value if the applicant meets the criteria.
- You must be able to provide 3 mortgage quotes.

If you are interested in this Shared Equity Property , Please contact Tighean Innse Gall for further information on 01851 706121 option 4

or email [christina@tighean.co.uk](mailto:christina@tighean.co.uk).

### New Supply Shared Equity – (NSSE)



**Hebridean Housing Partnership** are gathering notes of interest for **Shared Equity** for **Breasclete, Isle of Lewis**

The Shared Equity scheme aims to help first-time buyers, People living in social housing, Armed Forces or veterans, widows/widowers, disabled people and people living in private rented housing.

The property that you buy must be your only home. The scheme is aimed at low to moderate income households. The amount you contribute must be the maximum mortgage you can obtain plus any personnel contributions.

If you are interested in the Shared Equity scheme Please contact Christina Macleod at **Tighean Innse Gall** on 01851 706121 ext 4 Or email on [christina@tighean.co.uk](mailto:christina@tighean.co.uk)

# Magnus Retires After 33 Years

Earlier in the year Magnus Johnson one of our best known and longest serving Housing Officers announced his intention to retire once he reached 60. To mark the occasion our Chairman, Norman Macleod presented him with a memento at the Board meeting in March. The following week friends and colleagues gathered for a very enjoyable retirement dinner in the Cala. Magnus has given 40 years to public service in the Outer Hebrides with 33 of those years dedicated to housing. Magnus was presented with a variety of gifts including an ipad and slippers! Magnus will be greatly missed by all his colleagues, Board Members and tenants.

As Magnus begins his next adventure we hope he continues to enjoy excellent health so he can have many days out on the golf course improving his golf handicap.



Magnus Johnson receiving memento from Norman Macleod, HHP Chairman



# Charity Donations

Throughout the year our Staff have held a number of events in order to raise money for charity. These include: monthly raffles, dress down days and a variety of other events.

Due to the generosity of staff members we were delighted to hand over £500 to Western Isles Association for Mental Health (WIAMH) and the Andrew Macleod Memorial Fund (AMMF).

Representatives from both charities were invited to attend a presentation at HHP on 25 January 2019.

Del Gunn represented WIAMH. WIAMH promotes the importance of mental health within the local community.

Murdo Macleod represented AMMF. AMMF is part of the Cardiac Risk in the Young National Charity, who offer heart screening to young people aiming to reduce the frequency of young sudden cardiac deaths. We wish them every success with their respective causes.

Throughout the year HHP Staff have also been involved in national fundraising events such as Wear it Pink for Breast Cancer UK, Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning and Sport Relief Dress Down Day.

The Staff Social Committee would like to thank all the Staff of HHP for their generosity with fundraising throughout the year.



# Trees for Calabhaigh



L-R. Viv Halcrow (Woodlands Trust), Tony Walton (tenant), Julie Walton (tenant), Fiona Macdonad (Housing Officer), Sarah Faint (tenant), Lisa Woodin (Housing Officer), Jean Turner (tenant)



The scheme in Calabhaigh has some wonderful views of the harbour. At the back, however, it overlooks Lochboisdale Mart.

Last year Calabhaigh tenants created a lovely flower boat display in the grass embankment area alongside the Mart fencing. Calabhaigh tenants were interested in planting trees in this area to further improve the view. Trees would provide a noise barrier on busy sale days and also attract wildlife, such as bees and birds.

Housing Officer, Fiona Macdonald approached Viv Halcrow from the Woodland Trust for advice about the Free Trees for Communities Scheme. Viv visited the site and checked the soil for suitability and advised on the type and number of trees to suit the land.

Mr & Mrs MacAulay who own the land, were happy to allow the tenants to go ahead with the project and the Mart committee had no objections.

The order of 150 native trees, tree guards,

fertiliser and stakes arrived at HHP Balivanich office ready for planting on 14 March. Fiona raided her husband's shed for tools, buckets and brought along a shredded paper mulch.

Fiona said 'I was delighted that so many tenants turned up to help plant the trees. We had an enjoyable couple of hours. You could feel the community spirit well and truly alive in Calabhaigh'.

Viv Halcrow commented 'The Croft Woodland Project, funded in the Western Isles by Point and Sandwick Trust, is happy to have helped the residents of Calabhaigh to brighten up their surroundings. Woodland Trust supplied a carefully tailored 'Free Trees for communities and schools' pack, with native tree species suited to the location and soil type: downy birch, rowan, hazel, hawthorn, elder and dog rose. These will not grow too tall, and will produce flowers in spring and fruits in the autumn, for both people and wildlife to enjoy'

The tenants were given a care leaflet by the Woodlands Trust to help them look after the fledgling trees.

Photographs were taken and provided by Mike Faint

We are new tenants of Hebridean Housing Partnership and it was great to be a part of the tree planting day. It was a fun way to meet members of the wider community and very kind that the trees were donated. Looking forward to watching them grow and flourish!

Sarah & Mike Faint



# TENANT PARTICIPATION

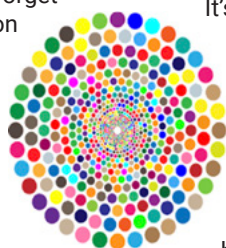
## The Singing Circle

The inspiration for the Singing Circle came from a music session at the 2017 National TPAS conference. Tenants from the Western Isles attended this workshop and enjoyed it so much they went back for another go in 2018. The session was called 'Forget Me Notes' and focussed mainly on people experiencing Alzheimer's.

The general aim of the singing group is for people who enjoy singing and music to come together with no auditions, no questions asked, no obligation, just for pure enjoyment! Singing with others has been proven to stimulate good feelings and help with anxiety, depression, mood swings, general woes & more.

Dolina who sings in the circle said "I have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the singing circle. After each class I felt refreshed and

rejuvenated especially after a stressful day. I highly recommend participating in the singing circle as you meet new people, its relaxing but most of all its a lot of fun with plenty of laughs."



It's okay for people to come anonymously, say nothing or sing nothing and to just listen. You don't need to be able to read music.

Mairi Morrison, leader of the Circle, says "Teaching music, especially singing, has always been a joy for me, seeing singers grow as they discover their voice they didn't realise they had."

We are looking to the future and are planning to have weekly Thursday sessions – if you are interested give Jane Ballantyne a call or sing her a song on 07487 891 242.



## Casimir Community Garden

We recently formed a tenants and residents group in Daliburgh. They have taken on a scrubby piece of land in Casimir Place. We are hoping to turn this neglected piece of land into a lovely Permaculture garden.

There has been quite a flurry of activity recently with clearing some trees, and tidying up the place.

The plan in the short term is to plant a variety of native trees, install raised beds for growing herbs and vegetables and to erect a board walk through the site for easier access.

In the longer term we hope to create a calm, relaxing space. This will include a space to grow food, a couple of benches for people to sit, chat and relax. A shed to allow people to store tools, a pagoda or similar for shelter and an oven for baking bread.

Ursina Hack-MacIellan, a group member, said "this garden provides an opportunity to bring tenants and residents together from this area for a common shared purpose. We want to share experience and skills. We know that community gardens can reduce isolation and increase health and wellbeing"

Anyone can join the group; you do not need to be a HHP tenant to join. All you'll need is enthusiasm for nature and for the community. Please call or email me, Jane Ballantyne on 07487 891 242.

Permaculture is a design process. It helps design intelligent systems which meet human needs whilst enhancing biodiversity, reducing our impact on the planet, and creating a fairer world for us all.

## The Western Isles Housing Association Communities Forum

I will be supporting the Forum with their work programme again this year. They have set out some ideas about what they would like to do this year in their latest newsletter. Take a look at their newsletter and let us know what you think.

### Something inside so strong

I have been working with tenants and residents on two projects. I have included some information on both. It's important to look at things from a different perspective. It's about people and communities. How do we work together and develop opportunities to do things together? How do we learn about new things? How do we be person centred in our approach and in our work? The Singing Circle and the work at Casimir Community garden are two examples of this.

If you have some ideas that you'd like to see happen, please call me on 07487 891 242 or 01851 700811.



For more information about Tenant Participation and getting involved in how services are delivered contact Jane  
**Email** [jane.ballantyne@tpasscotland.org.uk](mailto:jane.ballantyne@tpasscotland.org.uk)  
**Telephone** 01851 700811,  
**Mobile** 07487 891 242 Facebook  
Jane generally works Monday – Thursday 8am -12.30pm. She is also available to meet with people in the evening or on a Saturday.

## Drop-in Clinics

HHP Benbecula Office Area Manager, Katie Walker and Housing Officers, Lisa Woodin and Fiona MacDonald are planning regular drop-in clinics for Barra\*, South Uist, Benbecula, North Uist & Harris. We would appreciate feedback from you about your preferred time of day and venues. Please contact your Housing Officer, call 0300 123 0773

\*Dates and times will be posted in the Guth Barraigh



## Mindful Parking

There are limited parking spaces available in many schemes. Understandably tenants and residents prefer to park close to their own properties. Please remember that this will not always be possible due to the availability of parking spaces at any given time.

Parking spaces in parking areas are not assigned. Only marked disabled spaces have restrictions and are set aside for any disabled drivers that may need to use them.

When parking your car consider your neighbours and ensure you do not block access to driveways or restrict access for emergency service vehicles.

Tenants are reminded that unlicensed vehicles are not allowed to be parked in HHP car parks or gardens – this includes vehicles with a SORN declaration. Unlicensed and derelict vehicles are taking up limited spaces

### End of Life Vehicle Recycling

There are two End of Life Vehicle schemes – Car Take Back and Rewarding Recycling currently available in the Outer Hebrides. More information is available on the Comhairle website <https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/end-of-life-vehicle-recycling>. Alternatively call Cartakeback on 08000 717 191 or Rewarding Recycling on 0800 542 2002.



## Dog Fouling Act 2003

The majority of dog owners are responsible and take good care of their dogs and pick up their dog's waste and dispose of it properly. Unfortunately, those who do not clean up their dog's waste are not only creating a mess but are also creating potential health hazards for other people, including children. Not cleaning up after your dog is unacceptable.

It is an offence under The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 for dog owners who do not clean up their dog's mess immediately from a public place and dispose of it properly.

Roundworm infection may be found in dog foul which spreads toxocarasis. The symptoms include dizziness and nausea, but in worse cases, eye damage and seizures.

Tenants who do not clean up after their dog could have their permission to keep the dog removed. The Comhairle also have the power to issue on the spot fines.

If you see this type of behaviour in your area including in open grassed areas, pavements, footpaths, parks and play



· Grab it, Bag it, Bin it  
· Let's ditch the dirt

areas please contact CnES Consumer and Environment Services. They can be contacted on 01851 822694 or email [eh@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:eh@cne-siar.gov.uk)

**DITCH THE DIRT**

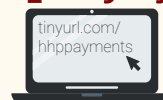
[www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/cus](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/cus)



PART OF THE  
Keep Scotland Beautiful  
CHARITY

## Ways to pay your rent

**Did you know that you can now pay your rent online?**



To access this method of rent payment go to:  
**[tinyurl.com/hhppayments](http://tinyurl.com/hhppayments)**

This takes you to the Comhairle's 24 hour secure internet payments service. Select HHP Housing Rents and you can make your rent payment using this secure site with most major credit or debit cards.

You can also pay by the following options:

- // By rent payment card at any Post Office or Paypoint/Payzone
- // At your local HHP office
- // By Direct Debit mandate on a weekly or monthly basis
- // By Bank Standing Order
- // By telephone using your debit or credit card – phone 01851 600502
- // At your local Comhairle office

