

Update on latest developments

The Nurses' Cottage Visitor Drop-In Centre in Backhill is now open for business! Please call in any Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 11am and 2pm.

Office for rent at Nurses' Cottage.

The building includes a nicely-refurbished office facility which is available for rent. Please pass the word to anyone who might be interested. Contact John Angus MacCuish, Secretary.

Latest News from Berneray Development Group

At the meeting held on 23rd June, the following projects were in hand:

Nurses' Cottage Building Works

There are still a few minor jobs outstanding on the building, notably a cap for the chimney, vents to be fitted at old fireplace positions, mesh on access handrails to be fitted with wire.

Toilet Maintenance Contracts

The Harbour and Ardmaree contracts are operating satisfactorily. Parking at the Harbour is a problem and should be addressed.

Skip Management Contract

There is a proposal to construct a loading ramp to enable easier loading of rubbish into the skip.

Wheelie Bin Enclosures

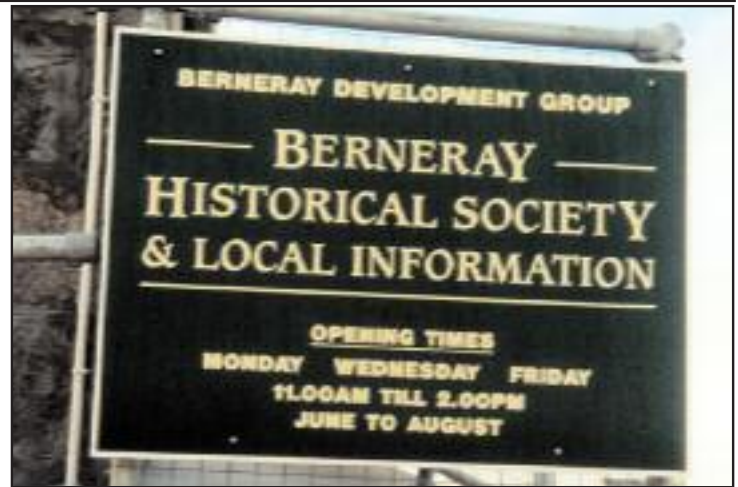
Drystone wall enclosures have been built at four locations for wheelie bins.

Siabaidh Cemetery Road

Improvements have been carried out to this 250 metre stretch of road. Shrubs have been planted at the Cemetery car park. (A pilot planting of daf-fodils has also taken place in the roadside verge near the causeway.) A new tool shed is required for use at the cemetery, which will be situated within the new car park.

Fishing

It is planned to set up a fishing sub-group to promote, monitor and improve the recreational fishing potential in and around Berneray.



Good progress on the Youth Cafe

Berneray Development Group is making one of the three main rooms in the Nurses' Cottage available for use as a Youth Cafe.

This is made possible by funding received from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar as part of the national Youth Cafes in Action programme, developed in turn by the Prince's Trust and its partners. It aims to develop a sustainable and inclusive network of youth cafes throughout the north of Scotland.

Youth Cafes are places where young people can meet and participate in a range of activities. They tend to be established in response to an expressed need by young people for a safe, secure, non alcoholic environment.



Work on the Berneray Youth Cafe is still at an early stage, but equipment and furniture has been installed within the last fortnight. It is anticipated that the Youth Cafe will be open for business very soon.

Berneray Development Group is very grateful to the following funders:

**Western Isles Enterprise
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Lloyds TSB Foundation
Crofters Commission
The Gannochy Trust**

Report from the Comunn Eachdraidh Bhearnaraigh (Berneray Historical Society)

The inaugural meeting of the Historical Society was held on 27th November last year, when the chairman (John Maclean), treasurer (Fred Macleod) and I as secretary got together to sort out the basics, such as the aims and constitution.

The first public meeting was held on 17th February, when various procedures were approved and ideas discussed. We applied for and received a per capita grant, although this is only a very small amount (£1.13 per member), and we set the subscription level for members at £5 per annum.

The first project we undertook was to update and elaborate the Berneray Historical Guide, which was originally produced many years ago. We had the revised version ready for sale before the start of the tourist season. It is proving to be very popular and of course helps to raise money for the Society. It is currently on sale at Ardmaree Stores, Quay Stores, The Post Office, The Nurses' Cottage and the Pottery.

The next task for the group was to get something going in the Historical Society room at the Nurses' Cottage. This was a more tricky task, but we were ready to open the doors at the beginning of June. Currently there are on display features on Giant Macaskill, the construction of the Causeway, along with other photos and maps. There are also four boxes of photos containing various items from Berneray's past, as well as material provided by SNH and the RSPB.

If you would like to join the Historical Society, please contact any of the officers. Or look out for notices advertising the next meeting!

John Forshaw

Do drop in!

The Historical Society room and Visitor Centre are currently open three days per week for three hours at a time. We would like this to be more. We need more volunteers to help run the premises. If you could spend just a few hours a week over the summer months, it would be most appreciated. You will probably also enjoy meeting the visitors and locals who call in for a chat and to see the exhibition.

Many thanks to John Angus MacCuish, Don Alick MacKillop and Ena Parkin who are running this facility at present. The Nurses' Cottage is open to the public on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11am to 2pm until 1st September.



Nurses' Cottage office for rent

The BDG would be interested to discuss terms with individuals or groups who might be looking for short or longterm lets.

The building has the following specifications: car parking, full disabled access, toilet for the disabled, modern kitchen facilities.

The office to let has the following specifications: dimensions - 12sq m, new furnishings - desk, operators chair, visitor chairs, two bookcases and filing cabinet, new carpeting, ample power points and access to phone line, use of kitchen and toilet facilities.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact John Angus MacCuish. Rental income from this office space will help secure future community projects of the Berneray Development Group.



Berneray Development Group (BDG) was formed in October 2002 and is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status

The objects of the BDG are for the benefit of the general public in Berneray and the surrounding area, as follows:

- To provide facilities for recreation and leisure with a view to improving conditions of life.
- To advance education and promote opportunities for learning.
- To protect and preserve the environment.
- To promote the advancement of education by the study of local history and provide a base for the research and display of local photographs and documents.
- To relieve poverty
- To promote the trade and industry of Berneray and surrounding area.
- To promote, establish, operate and/or support other schemes and projects of a charitable nature.

BDG Board members: Gloria MacKillop (Chair), Fred MacLeod (Treasurer), John Angus MacCuish (Secretary), Meg Rodger, John Forshaw, Alan Tissiman