

BERNERAY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Nurses' Cottage, Backhill, Berneray, North Uist, HS6 5BD
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Company No. SC 238574

Scottish Charity No. SC 034041

No.4 November 2004

Latest News from Berneray Development Group

The following projects are currently in hand:

Nurses' Cottage Building Works

As you will no doubt be aware, The Nurses' Cottage is 'up and running' and has proved a useful resource especially during the tourist season, However there remain a few minor jobs still to be completed on the building, in particular a cap for the chimney, vents to be fitted at the old fire-place positions, and mesh on access handrails to be secured with wire.

Toilet Maintenance Contracts

The Harbour and Ardmaree contracts are operating satisfactorily. It is proposed to provide a chemical toilet disposal point at Ardmaree Terminal, and hopefully this will be ready for the 2005 camper van season.

Skip Management Contract

The proposal to construct a loading ramp to enable easier loading of rubbish into the skip is being progressed. An 'ACE Option Grant' of £4,372 has just been approved for this work. Further progress depends on planning approval.

Ardmaree Terminal Port of Entry Enhancement Scheme

The Comhairle has asked our group to apply for funding and to project manage this enhancement scheme. The main work is the provision of dry stone walling, bin enclosures and a waste disposal point. An application for funding has been made and we await a response.

COMUNN EACHDRAIDH BHEARNARAIGH BERNERAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Slide show and historical talk by John Alick MacLean, followed by a ceilidh. One Pin Bowling. Raffle. Light refreshments will be served. Free admission, although donations to support the work of the Society will be invited. All welcome.

Friday 19 November, 8pm at the Community Hall.

Historical Society enjoys a successful first year

Berneray Historical Society, which uses the back room of the Nurses' Cottage, has enjoyed a successful first year since its re-formation. The aim of the Society is to promote interest and knowledge of local history, both amongst locals and visitors.

To this end, the island Historical Guide was revamped at the start of the year and has been available for sale at Ardmaree Stores and a small number of other outlets. About 600 copies have been sold. With the next re-print, the Guide may well benefit from a further update and revamp. A result of the success of the Guide is that the Society now has sufficient funds to progress its work in the new year. So look out for further events.

At a recent meeting in Balivanich, the Society also agreed to affiliate to the Uist & Barra Historical Society which will no doubt provide further opportunities in the future.

Crofting Communities Development Scheme

We have at long last received estimated costs for the Stock Handling Pens, and Mr Alan MacIsaac has been asked to start work as soon as possible.

A successful first season for The Nurses' Cottage

The Nurses' Cottage in Backhill remains a core focus of activity for the Berneray Development Group. The general feeling of those who have been involved is that it has been a success so far and has become an asset to the community, as well as a useful resource for visitors to Berneray.

One room is used as a 'Youth Cafe' and is equipped with a computer, television and sound system. Young people have been making good use of this facility since the summer, although the way this room is used is likely to evolve further in the coming months.

A second room is still available for commercial rent. If anybody knows of any companies or organisations which might be interested in using this room, please encourage them to contact the Secretary of Berneray Development Group!

Perhaps the most public element of the Nurses' Cottage operation has however been the visitor centre. This is housed in the Historical Society room and has proved to be quite a popular attraction for visitors to Berneray during the summer season.

They have enjoyed the photographic displays available for inspection and also the opportunity to pick up leaflets and information about Berneray, to enable them to make the most of their stay.

The numbers of visitors to the Cottage have fluctuated during the season, but on the busiest days in July up to 20 have called in at some point during its opening hours.

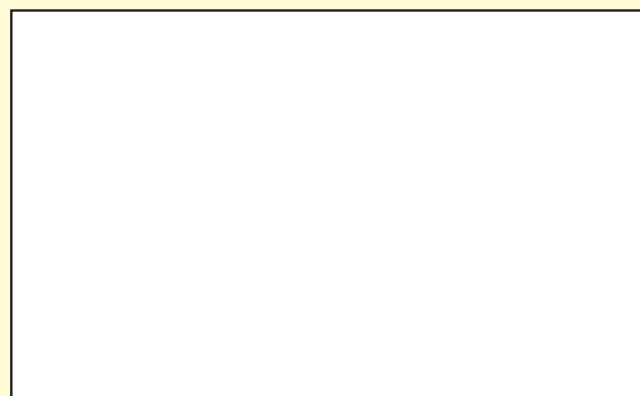
Undoubtedly a key attraction for visitors has been the opportunity to meet a local in the Cottage who is able to provide local knowledge and help 'fill in some of

the gaps' particularly for those visitors with island connections. Our ability to have the Nurses' Cottage open for three hours on three days a week has only been made possible due to the commitment of Ena Parkin, Don Alick MacKillop and John Angus MacCuish. It is very much hoped that next year a few more volunteers might come forward, who might be able to give a few hours a week and enable us to extend the opening hours at the Cottage.

So, all in all, an encouraging start!

BERNERAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Berneray Development Group welcomes the formation of the new Berneray Community Council, and looks forward to the two organisations working together for the benefit of the community.



Harvest Assembly at Berneray School, October 2004. Just five pupils in the School now. Look out for notices publicising the annual Christmas Assembly & Concert.

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