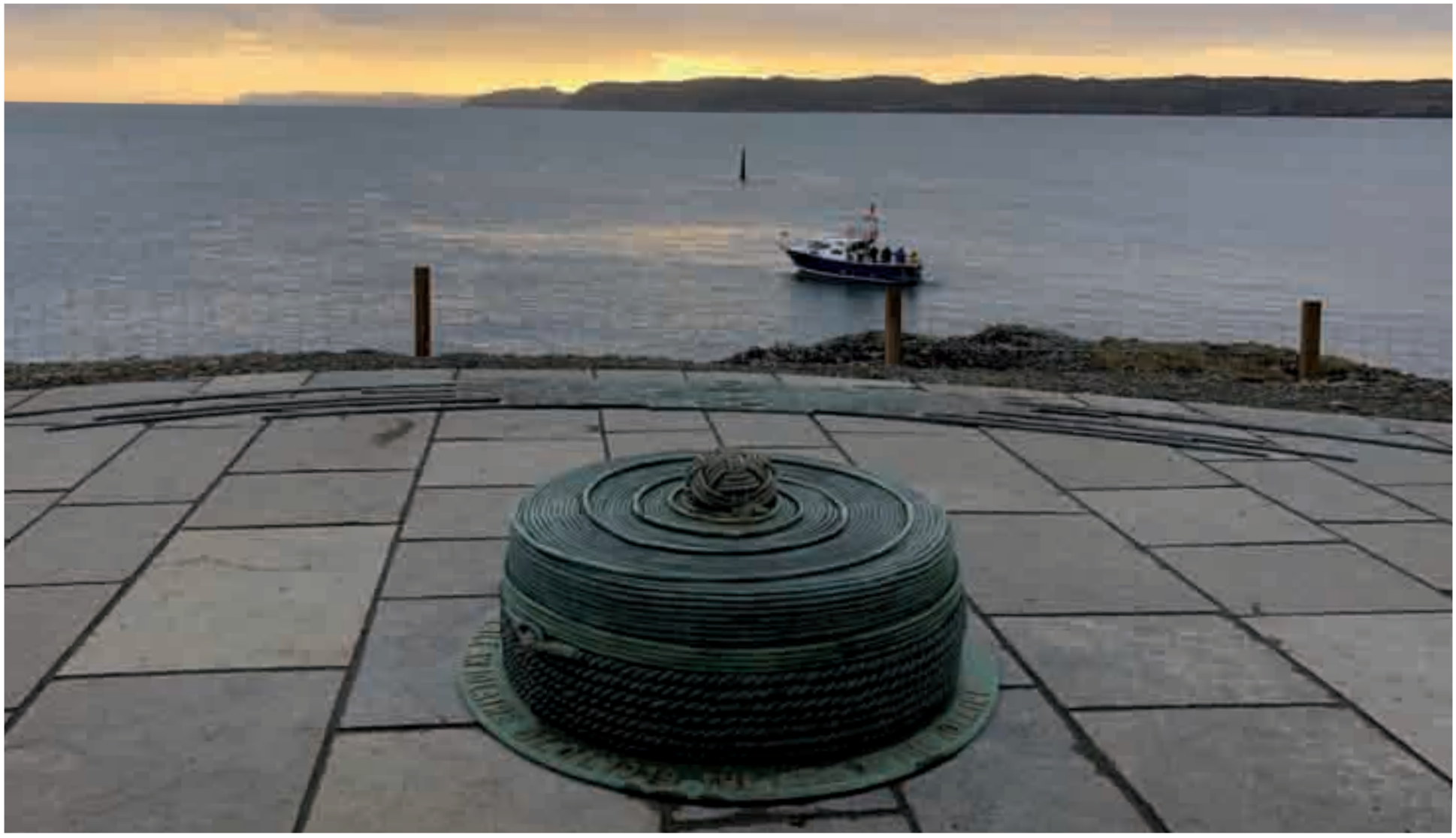
# Remembering the Iolaire



## *01.55, January 1st, 1919…12.00, January 1st, 2019*

*Commemorative Supplement supported by Stornoway Port Authority, Amity House, Esplanade Quay, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2XS Tel: 01851 702688 www.stornowayportauthority.com*

# Underwater wreath completes tributes

**The final act of remembrance on January 1st 2019 took place underwater, after most of those who had attended Iolaire commemorations on land and sea at Holm had gone home.**

Former Royal Navy diver Chris Murray and a team of supporters took a small boat out to the Beasts of Holm, and Chris quietly entered the water carrying his own wreath in tribute to the 201 men who lost their lives in the tragedy.

Many bodies of those men who died when the Iolaire foundered were never recovered and the wreck is considered informally to be a war grave, although it has never been officially designated as such. Chris is the only diver to have regularly visited and photographed the wreck and he has recovered several small items from the site.

Chris said: "It is the centenary and I have dived on that ship more than anyone else. I understand the story and, especially for all the people who lost their lives, I feel a lot of respect. I feel humbled and have a feeling of peace and calm when I am down there."

At 1pm on New Year's Day, the Stornoway Seafari vessel Azula, skippered by former harbour-master Tony Morrison, moved into position beside the Beasts. Chris's diving partner was Gordy Maclean and the poppy wreath was supplied by HM Coastguard Western Isles, Skye and Lochaber, who also provided safety cover for the dive. They said: "We were pleased to support Chris's act of remembrance, his dive took place right after the main ceremony where he placed a wreath on the wreck itself."

Chris attached the wreath to the remains of the Iolaire's prop shaft, which was sheared away by destructive salvage in the early 1920s. He said: "We have to remember that there is only two per cent of the ship still there – the rest was desecrated by the Royal Navy themselves during salvage.

"On behalf of us all I am honoured and proud to lay this small wreath on what is left of HMY Iolaire, This is a token of our respect to all those brave men who perished at the Beasts of Holm 100 years ago."

Wreath in position on the prop shaft Photograph by Chris Murray

# A church remembers

**At 2.00am on 1 January 2019, the bell of St. Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church in Francis Street was rung for three minutes, along with other church bells in Stornoway.**

Also being rung was a replica early Christian handbell (pictured) made from recast World War One munitions and gifted to St. Peter's in 2017.

At 1.00pm on Sunday 6 January, a wreath was laid at the Iolaire memorial in memory of John Alexander Macaskill (Jack), a young cadet member.

A service of Choral Evensong will be held at St. Peter's on Sunday 24 February at 6.30pm, the Sunday closest to his burial, to honour Jack's memory.

His photograph and biography are reproduced with the kind permission of Acair Ltd.

# Appeal for Iolaire archive photographs

**Thousands of pictures were taken by ordinary people during the commemorations of 100 years since the sinking of HMY Iolaire – and now the Iolaire Working Group want to make sure as many as possible are saved for posterity.**

They plan to create a digital archive, recording all the events surrounding the centenary, and are asking for anyone with pictures they are prepared to share to get in touch with them.

In a social media post on Monday January 7th, a spokesman for the group said: "The Iolaire Working Group hopes to create a digital archive of photos relating to HMY Iolaire commemorative events and would greatly appreciate if people were willing to send us any photos taken. All photos submitted would receive the appropriate recognition."

There are likely to be many pictures taken from unusual vantage points during the New Year's Day events. A large number of people watched the boats leave Stornoway harbour from Arnish Point and there were passengers aboard fishing boats and other small craft in the water, for example.

Anyone who has pictures they wish to send is asked to send them via private message on the working group's Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/AnIolaire/ or by email to p.scott@cne-siar.gov.uk

# Coastal walker honours heroes

**A former serviceman who is dedicating himself to fundraising for others joined serving soldiers and sailors at New Year to honour the victims of the Iolaire tragedy.**

Chris Lewis is 18 months through an epic walk around the whole coastline of the UK, raising funds for SSAFA, the military charity which supports all former servicemen and their families. An ex-member of the Parachute Regiment, he benefited from the support of SSAFA – formerly known as the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association – during hard times in his own life.

Chris chose to spend his winter in Lewis and Harris, arriving in Stornoway in November. Hearing about the Iolaire tragedy during his walk around the coastline of Lewis, he came back to Stornoway on Monday December 31st to take part in all the events surrounding the Iolaire centenary commemoration.

Welcomed by serving soldiers and sailors wherever he went, Chris was invited to watch the civic commemoration in the Nicolson Institute hall on Monday evening (December 31st). He walked in the torchlight procession that preceded the event and was at the Iolaire memorial at Holm on Tuesday January 1st for the service.

Chris is accompanied by his dog Jet, who has walked most of the route with him. He carries little, sleeps outside and depends on the kindness of strangers for food, shelter and the all-important donations to the charity. He's aiming for a total of £100,000 and is more than halfway there.

Posting on social media on Wednesday January 2nd he described his few days in Stornoway as "the best New Year I could have asked for. I have so many people I want to thank and acts of kindness from you here on Lewis.

"(I was) carrying torches parading through the streets on New Year's Eve and part of the ceremony that took place with Prince Charles, given the honour of laying a wreath with a select few. I have never witnessed two entire islands dedicate their entire New Year to remember their own – humanity at its best. Thanks for letting me be part of it.

"This is my second Christmas and New Year walking in Scotland and I want to thank the people of Lewis and Harris for your festive hospitality."

Chris is pictured laying a wreath at the memorial at Holm together with his dog Jet, and with officers of 7 Scots regiment based in Stornoway: Lt Col Crawford Maclellan (left) Captain Malcolm Dalzel-Job and submariners from the Royal Navy's Faslane base.

You can donate to support Chris's fundraising at https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chriswalks and follow his progress at https://www.facebook.com/chriswalksuk/

# Known Unto God, by art teacher William Wallace

**A visual artist with Lewis connections has marked the HMY Iolaire anniversary with a commemorative painting on a grand and traditional scale – an 8ft x 4ft oil painting on canvas. entitled 'Known Unto God'.**

William Wallace, an art teacher at Thurso High School for almost 30 years, originates from Stornoway and wanted to create a piece of art to commemorate the tragedy in which he also lost a distant relative, Malcolm Martin, from Balallan.

As the recently published work on the Iolaire, The Darkest Dawn by Malcolm Macdonald and Donald John Macleod explains, Malcolm Martin was born in 1879 and was a single man living and working in Puntas Arenas in Chile. He only became involved in the war because he happened to be at home when it started. His body is said to have been one of the first recovered after the tragedy and he is interred in Old Laxay cemetery.

William Wallace graduated in 1990 with BA (Hons) from Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen where he was under the tuition of Joyce W Cairns and Alexander Fraser.

He has taught at Thurso High School since 1991. His work has focused on still life painting in oils, with subtle viewpoints, distorted perspectives and conflicting spatial relationships between objects. Recent works include figurative and landscape images as well as still life elements and often feature bold areas of colour or texture.

Of his Iolaire work, he says: "I chose to work on a large scale, 8ft x 4ft, to emphasize the scale of this disaster that many Scots have never heard about.

"I can only imagine the horror of watching these heroes drown so close to the shores of home. I chose to depict a sailor shrouded in an enigmatic mist holding the Iolaire in a fragile glass bottle.

"To add to this tragedy further, some men were never formally identified and now lie in graves with the inscription 'Known Unto God'- the title I thought most appropriate for this work.

"I wanted to also show personal items of these men, the human side of War. Objects like photos of loved ones and memories of home such as the Callanish Stones, black house and Lews Castle."

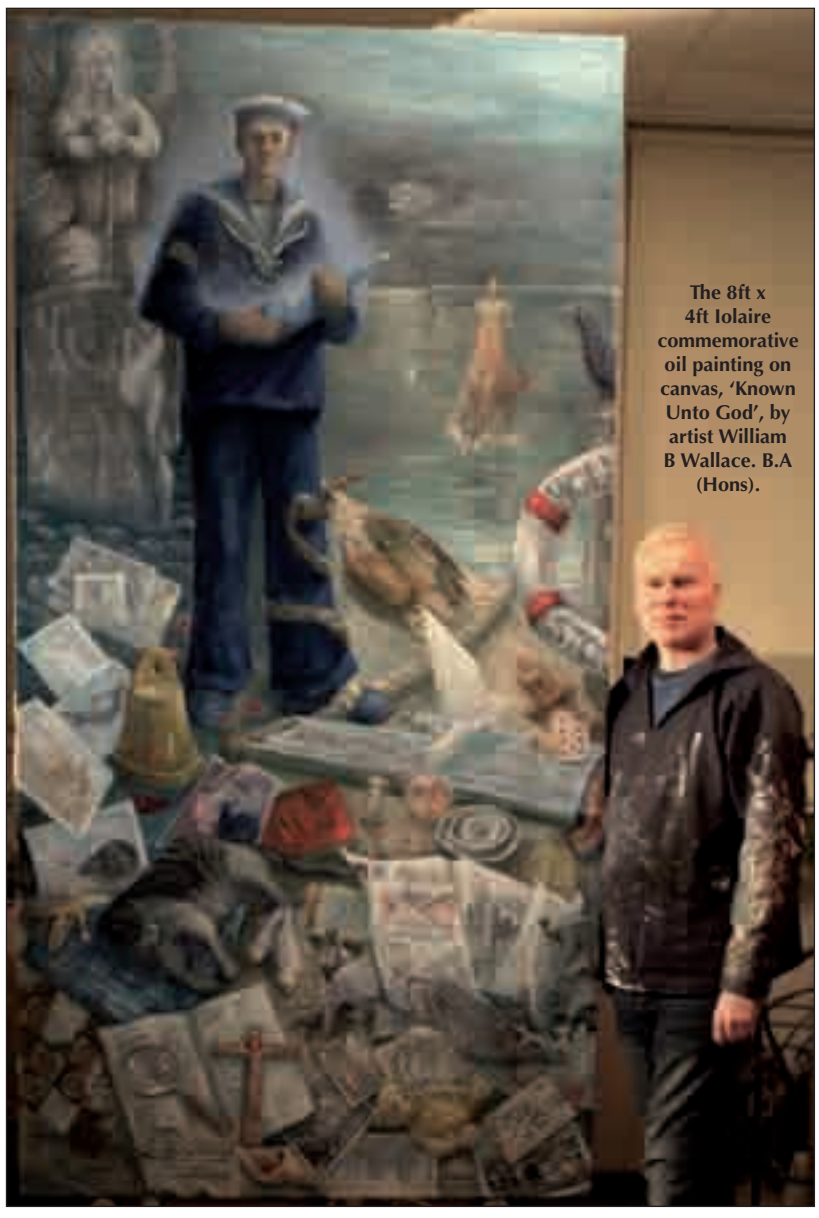
"As they were returning on New Year's morning, 1919, they also had simple presents for their children such as the toy teddy bear, which Wallace has featured in the bottom right.

"Symbolism is a big aspect of the painting and features superstitions associated with sailors, black cats, renaming of ships and groups of crows. Symbolism in general is used to show the rocks that the ship struck on that fateful morning, known as 'The Beasts of Holm' which are depicted in the form of a mournful centaur."

The image of the dead bird in the centre of the composition is an eagle, the yacht's name in Gaelic.

Wallace added, "We are all indebted to those who have fought and are serving their country and I am impressed with all the work being done by the people of Lewis to commemorate this disaster 100 years on and in their efforts to make a wider audience aware of this tragedy.

"It would be great to have the painting shown in my home town of Stornoway and ideally on display as part of a permanent public collection."



**The 8ft x 4ft Iolaire commemorative oil painting on canvas, 'Known Unto God', by artist William B Wallace. B.A (Hons).**

# One artist, 100 portraits...stunning!

*By* **Fred Silver**

**A gasp of astonishment was the universal reaction from people crammed into An Lanntair's main gallery on Saturday afternoon, December 29th, for the launch of Margaret Ferguson's amazing artistic tour-de-force, Iolaire 100.**

More than 100 paintings – all dedicated to and derived from the Iolaire disaster and almost all being portraits of victims from across Lewis and Harris – form the show.

These are the product of more than three years of work – and are a feat of inspiration that few could hope to match.

The gallery has never seen such a launch…with the throng being more akin to an airport reception area during weather delays!

Reactions on welovestornoway.com's Facebook Page included Christine Murray saying: "A wonderful tribute to those who were lost and those who survived.

"Very pleased to hear that the exhibition will be running up until March as it will take many visits to appreciate all of the portraits.

"I feel that my father would have been very proud to see the portrait of his father that he never saw.

"Thank you for all the hours you spent honouring these men.

And Seonaid Clarke Macleod said: "Beautifully poignant tribute to all who were aboard, including our great-uncle Angus Macleod.

"A time for reflection and respect for the very precious lives lost and also a huge amount of gratitude for everyone who put their lives on the line for peace."

Margaret, pictured above right, explains: "It's so important to commemorate them now. I feel I'm honouring them in a way, what they went through.

"When people look at these paintings I want them to make a human connection.

And to feel moved, of course."

The value of the project became clear when a relative of Malcolm Macleod of Ness whose body was never recovered, viewed Margaret's portrait of him and told her 'I feel you've brought him home at last'.

It all started with a project called Dol Fodha na Greine in October 2014 when she was commissioned by Comunn Eachdraidh Nis to create artwork to mark the centenary of the First World War. This was to include local soldiers and sailors and also some family members– the reference photographs were from the book "Dol fodha na Greine'.

She remembers: "As the painting neared completion, I realised I wanted to honour my subjects in a more personal way, so started painting single subjects as well.

"I ended up with eight individual portraits, also in oils. Their stories were powerful; a beautiful young woman Christina Campbell, had lost four brothers and her father by 1920.

"Following my experience with "Dol Fodha na Greine" I decided in 2015 to commemorate the sailors who were lost in the 1919 Iolaire disaster."

The project was partly crowd-funded with more than £1500 raised through justgiving.com and it won support from the ward funds of quite a number of councillors on Comhairle nan Eilean Siar It was also supported by Creative Scotland, An Lanntair, Acair, and other groups.

The event was introduced by Roddy Murray, An Lanntair's Head of Visual Arts and Literature, who said the work on the display had gone on until the very last minute – the paint was still wet in some places, he said. And the hanging of the exhibition had lasted into the early hours of Saturday. "This is a monumental body of work," he commented.

Malcolm Macdonald, co-author of another Iolaire artistic tour-de-force, the book The Darkest Dawn, the Story of the Iolaire Tragedy, spoke of the way they had worked together sharing the images collected for the book. He spoke of his astonishment at the scale of the work and the way she brought the eyes of the men to life. "It has culminated in a tremendous achievement by Margaret."

He mentioned how the availability of photographs had been affected by the fact that there were photograph shops in Chatham, Portsmouth and other naval bases at the time.

Margaret welcomed everyone in the crowd and thanked them all for coming. She said of the three-year project, "I just started painting and I didn't stop until yesterday morning…they are still wet!" Those she has pictured also included some relatives, including widows. She pointed out that despite the number of paintings, they only represented only about half of those lost.

Also forming part of the exhibition is a cart representing those used to carry the bodies of those lost in the tragedy, along with 201 decorated stones, one for each victim; plus a recreation of an Island hearthside, to manifest the idea of the homes waiting for those returning 100 years ago.

Margaret Ferguson about the Iolaire 100 project on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWoiz6JRkJ8

# DILEAB...CONCERT COMBINES TALENT AND REMEMBRANCE

*By* **Fred Silver**

**A sombre two-minute silence, a heart-rending list of villages and victims, a line-up of talented performers ranging from Primary School pupils to those for whom all that is a very distant memory…and a great exuberance of music and song.**

That was the formula for the Dìleab concert, hosted by The Nicolson Institute and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Department of Education, Sport & Children's Services, which took place on Friday, 14th December 2018 at Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais.

Missing from the event were a 15-strong group of singers, musicians and dancers from Castlebay Community School and the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band, their islands stormbound and isolated.

As Frances Murray, Rector of The Nicolson Institute, commented in her closing remarks about the event which marked the approaching centenary of the Iolaire tragedy, this was "a very poignant reminder" of the impact of bad weather on island life.

Those leaving the concert – having given the performers and organisers a long and sincere standing ovation - will also have appreciated the darkness and stormy weather enveloping Stornoway – and, looking across the harbour, seen how, despite modern electric lighting ashore, the sky and the sea were joined together as dark as ink and as remorseless in their movements as a century ago.

This event was the culmination of the Dìleab project which schools across the Western Isles have been engaged in during 2018. Pupils mostly from The Nicolson Institute but also from Laxdale School, Stornoway Primary School and Sir E Scott School in Tarbert, along with a host of local musicians reacted to the Iolaire tragedy through music, drama, dance and song.

The event began with Fanfare for the Common Man by the American composer Aaron Copland. This was written in 1942 for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and performed last night by The Nicolson Institute Wind Band.

Performed and introduced mostly in Gaelic, the concert ended with the traditional Eilean Fraoich song performed by The Nicolson Institute Trad Orchestra, Wind Band and choir along with many members of the audience.

The event also included big screen displays on both sides of the stage showing close-ups of the performers, aspects of the story and related images, including a newsreel of the Melbost Bard, Murdo Macfarlane, talking about the morning after the tragedy. There were readings of eye-witness accounts and a re-creation of the Ross Battery band as it would have been at the time.

Speaking at the end, Frances Murray said that while the event was about remembering those lost in and affected by the Iolaire Disaster: "Tonight was also about hope for the future as personified by these young people which you have seen performing here. Their talent, their exuberance and their faithful acknowledgment of their heritage has all been evident in their

preparation for tonight's concert and in their performance." She said that on a night of many emotions, her primary one was pride in the young people involved. She praised all those involved – who were far too many to list in detail. She talked of "passing the baton of remembrance on to the younger generation" and said we "entrust to them the duty of continuing to honour those lost on the First of January 1919."

Commenting on the welovestornoway.com Facebook Page, Mary Ann Macleod said: "It was an absolutely stunning evening to commemorate the Iolaire tragedy with the most amazing local talent including masses of schoolchildren. A credit to the community!"

And Marina MacDonald said it was a "fantastic performance. Hats off to all the organisers and performers!" And Dolina Mackenzie Maclean commented: It was an amazing performance right through. Thoroughly enjoyed the concert from beginning to end. Teachers and pupils must be very tired tonight!"

The event also formed part of the Comhairle's engagement in the national Year of the Young Person.

# Emergency services honour Iolaire

**All of the emergency service vehicles operating out of Stornoway were from Wednesday December 19th proudly carrying the commemorative poppy emblem of the Iolaire.**

An Iolaire design red poppy was first carried by Stornoway police vehicles in November, after an initiative by Constable Rick Henderson was taken up by Police Scotland and Poppy Scotland.

Chief Inspector Ian Graham, area commander for the Western Isles, said at the time: "The Iolaire Disaster is a hugely significant event in the history of the Western Isles and we are proud to be able to make this small act of remembrance for all those affected by the tragedy a century ago."

Police Scotland has since supported other emergency services to order the stickers, produced by Graphite Signs of Stornoway. Now all police, coastguard, fire and ambulance vehicles are carrying the signs, as is the Stornoway RNLI lifeboat.

Norman A MacDonald, Chairman of the Iolaire Working Group, said: "The Iolaire Working Group is delighted that the emergency services have chosen to adopt the Iolaire poppy in recognition of the loss of HMY Iolaire. We are also very grateful for all their continued support in the lead up to the commemoration events which took place on the 31st of December and the 1st of January."

The pictures show emergency vehicles and their crews on parade at Stornoway harbour, and close-up views of the Iolaire poppy emblem on coastguard and police vehicles.

# Fiona looks down all the years since...

**Pictures at an exhibition…how the Iolaire tragedies are woven into time.**

That's the impact of an exhibition which opened on the evening of Wednesday December 12th at Ionad Spòrs Leodhais.

It brings the faces of the Iolaire tragedy to life through inherited resemblances and family memory.

The photo-portraits by Fiona Rennie capture a missing generation and the lasting sense of loss felt by generations after the sinking of the Royal Navy yacht on January 1st 1919.

The work was commissioned from 26-year-old Fiona, of Galson, by the Iolaire Working Group, who wanted a series of artworks to accompany the live performance and memorial elements of the civic centenary events.

Fiona's work studies the genealogy of the tragedy, with a series of portraits of Iolaire descendants. The men and women, ranging in age from 20s to late 80s, each has an ancestor who was aboard the Iolaire.

The event was formally opened at an event in the Ionad Spòrs Leodhais dance studio by the Director of Education and Children's Services, Mr Bernard Chisholm, in the absence of Convener Councillor Norman A. Macdonald who was detained by the continuing Budget debate in the Council Chamber.

Bernard welcomed the guests, many of whom, like Fiona herself, had family connections with the Iolaire.

He spoke of how the Iolaire Working Group – and people young and old throughout the community – had come together to mark this centenary through a series of events.

He said the Working Group had sought out a local artist to mark the event with sensitivity and skill in a series of photographs. They wanted to mark how those people who lost their lives lived on still today in their families and in the communities."

Fiona explained how each of the people involved in the exhibition is holding a portrait of their Iolaire ancestor and said it was fascinating to see similarities in the shape of the eyes, perhaps the shape of the jaw, the nose or the lips, even the way they sat or stood.

Her own great-great-uncle was among those lost on the Iolaire.

"It was a great privilege to be involved in this project, I felt honoured to be asked as a young photographer."

She said she always had emotional connections with her subject matter and she had begun to feel very intensely that she was coming to know many of those who were involved in this one.

The portraits are displayed in the main corridor at the sports centre.

# Disaster vigil at Holm

**A vigil was kept at Holm in the early hours of Tuesday January 1st to mark the moment when HMY Iolaire struck the Beasts of Holm, 100 years earlier.**

Armed forces representatives and civic dignitaries were among those standing watch at the monument at Holm from 1.30am.

As the moment approached when the Iolaire went aground, at 1.55am on January 1st 1919, lights were beamed on to the rocks where she foundered, carrying 201 men to their deaths.

A spotlight from the land and the RNLI lifeboat searchlight joined to illuminate a scene which, 100 years ago, was one of stormy darkness and chaos.

Later, wreaths were laid on the waters from the RNLB Tom Sanderson.

# Commemoration in Harris

**At 1.45am on Tuesday 1st January, a crowd gathered at the Tarbert War Memorial to pay their respects to those involved with the tragic HMY Iolaire .**

The occasion was co-ordinated by John Murdo Morrison, and at 1.55am, he rang a bell that he had installed that day to mark the start of a two-minute silence.

This was reflecting the moment 100 years earlier when the ill-fated HMY Iolaire struck the Beasts of Holm on the approach to Stornoway harbour.

After the bell sounded, a large assembly representative of all age groups, estimated to have been more than 300, stood in reverent silence around the War Memorial and also congregated on Main Street, Tarbert, Harris.

The two minute silence was broken by the haunting sound of three local pipers, Alasdair Morrison (Maaruig) , Geoff Calvert (Scarista) and young Hamish Scott (Tarbert) playing the very appropriate and evocative slow airs 'Togail Curs air Leodhas' 'An Ataireachd Ard' and Chi Mi'n Tir, while from the distant shore of the East Loch sounded the tolling Church of Scotland bell, rung by Donnie Martin.

Two Royal Navy representatives stood guard throughout, signifying the fact that almost all the islanders who drowned in such heartbreaking circumstances had served in either the Royal Navy or Royal Naval Reserve.

After a welcome and introduction from John Murdo Morrison, there followed an address by Rev Iain Murdo Macdonald, minister of Tarbert Church of Scotland who, after setting the occasion in context, conducted a short service of Bible readings and prayer.

Firstly the names of the four Harris survivors were called out: Alexander Campbell, Plocropool; John Mackinnon, Tarbert; Robert Mackinnon, Tarbert and John MacCuish, Northton.

Then, prior to the laying of wreaths the names of the seven Harris men who were tragically lost in the catastrophic Iolaire shipwreck were read out: Finlay Morrison, Scalpay, age 25; Kenneth Maclean, Northton, age 18; Norman Mackay, Leverburgh, age 18; Finlay Maclennan, Meavaig, age 20; Farquhar Morrison, Stockinish, age 35; Norman Mackillop, Berneray, age 19; Donald Paterson, Berneray, age 18.

Wreaths were then laid on behalf of HM's Lieutenancy Western Isles; Comhairle nan Eilean Siar; by Scalpay Community Association; relatives of Finlay Morrison; by the Mackay family, Leverburgh; by the relations of Kenneth Maclean, Northton; and by Rev David Macleod in memory of his great-grandfather and survivor, Lewis and all others lost.

Following expression of thanks to all who participated in and assisted with organisation of the event – including the local Coastguard team who supplied lighting on the night - and to the large number in attendance, the service was concluded with a solo performance of the piobaireachd Lament for the Iolaire by Alasdair Morrison, a fitting end to a poignant and memorable occasion.

## Public notices

**Garrabost & New Garrabost Common Grazings**
Formal intimation under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993

Notice is hereby given that The Stornoway Trust has applied to the Scottish Land Court for an Order authorising resumption of 0.162 hectare of the common grazings of the township of Garrabost & New Garrabost. The purpose of resumption is to sell the said area for use as an additional amenity ground for the property known as 19 Garrabost Allotments.

On 19 December 2018 the Court appointed this intimation by newspaper advertisement and ordered the Applicant to send to the Clerk to the Grazings Committee copies of the application, associated productions and the Court's Practice Note No 4 (which emphasises the need for crofters to protect their own rights). The Court ordered any shareholder or other person having a legal interest who opposes the application or who wishes to claim compensation or a share in value of the land to be resumed, to lodge Answers, including details of any such claim, with the Principal Clerk, George House, 126 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4HH, within fifteen days from the end of the period covered by this edition of Events. Copies of the application, productions and Practice Note have been sent to Mr Murdo Macleod, 15 Garrabost, Point, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0PN and these documents may be inspected either there, at the Court's offices in Edinburgh, or at the offices of the applicant. Copies of the Practice Note may also be obtained from the Principal Clerk (Tel: 0131 271 4360). It should be noted that any further Orders of the Court, including the Final Order, will be intimated to those persons who have lodged answers to this advertisement and to the Clerk to the Common Grazings Committee. Copies of any further Orders may be obtained from the Principal Clerk upon request.

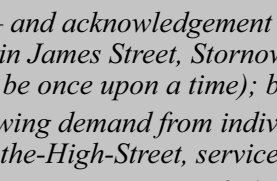
Iain M Maciver, Estate Factor, Stornoway Trust,
Leverhulme House, Perceval Square,
Stornoway Isle of Lewis, HS1 2DD
(Agent for the Applicant)
of which intimation is hereby made.

## Renewable energy

Lewis Builders Ltd
Tel: 01851 705015 info@lewisbuilders.co.uk
Rigs Road, Stornoway HS1 2RF www.lewisbuilders.co.uk

**Renewables – Install and Service**
**Ground Source/Air Source Heat Pumps,**
**Solar Pv and Solar Thermal.**

## Religious services



**Stornoway Baptist Church**
Service's Lords Day 11am & 6pm
Bible Study Thursday 7.30pm
60 Seaforth Road Tel: 01851 704770
www.stornowaybaptistchurch.org

## Songs of Praise - January

I came a wanderer and alone,
My way was dark as night;
I looked to Thee O' blessed One,
And then I found the light.

I came with all my doubts and fears,
No hope but in Thy Word;
And while I gazed upon the blood,
Thy pardoning voice I heard.

Oh may the Spirit's power be felt,
In this poor heart of mine!
And make Thy World my lamp and light,
My shield and strength Divine.

Oh teach me, Lord,
Thy voice to know,
Amid the surging throng;
Be Thou my hope, my life, my joy,
My everlasting song.

*(submitted)*

## Situations Vacant

**Uig Development Trust SCIO**
Charity number SC047581

**Isle of Lewis**
**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**
**Full-Time 37 hours per week**
**Salary in the region of £24,000**

This post is funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Government and is fixed until March 2021. It will be based at Timsgarry. The envisaged start date is February 2019.

The locally elected Board of Uig Development Trust will recruit an energetic and self-motivated individual to act as a catalyst for innovative and sustainable community development.

The successful candidate will work with the Trust's Enterprise Steering Group, and the wider community, to develop and implement a community growth plan, which takes account of opportunities to enhance income generation and the socio-economic, cultural and environmental welfare of the local area.

The Enterprise Steering group and its Local Development Officer will form a strong relationship with their local H.I.E. office and the wider community planning body.

The longer-term sustainability of the Uig Development Trust will also be a key objective as community capacity develops.

The applicant will have a good understanding of the issues affecting fragile rural areas and be IT literate.

A relevant qualification or prior experience in community-led development would be advantageous, as would a knowledge and affinity for the locality.

The ability to work on your own initiative is essential.

Application is by CV and covering letter.

For a job description, further information and applications please contact:
admin@uig-enterprise.org.uk

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 20 January 2019

18 Bells Road, Stornoway HS1 2RA Tel: 01851 702123 Mob: 07771 925 730 www.alzscot.org

## Family Announcements…on-line and in print

***We have a new service now available from EVENTS newspaper and welovestornoway.com***

*You can now place Birth, Death & Marriage – and acknowledgement – notices with us… by coming into our new office in James Street, Stornoway (where ND's parts, repairs and accounts used to be once upon a time); by phone; or by email.*

*This new service responds to growing demand from individuals and families for a local, on-the-High-Street, service.*

*By combining our information outlets – the welovestornoway.com daily news website and the monthly EVENTS newspaper – we believe we can give customers the chance to gain from both the instant news and long-term information provision.*

*And for a reasonable rate!*

*BMD Notices start at £40 plus VAT (approx 60 words) while Acknowledgement Notices are from £70 plus VAT (approx 140 words)*

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# Torchlight highlights losses

**Stornoway's town centre was packed with onlookers on the evening of Monday December 31st 2018 as the Iolaire Commemoration moved towards its climax.**

There were hundreds of people in attendance as Francis Street was filled with the sights and scents of the torchlight procession led by the Lewis Pipe Band which made this a New Year's Eve like no other.

The parade went from the Town Hall to Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais via Francis Street, Matheson Road and Sandwick Road. The procession had participants in sailors uniforms who held 201 torches representing each of the men who lost their lives and the press of numbers as the marchers lined up for the first time in Point Street beside the Town Hall was intense.

The event began from Perceval Square earlier where people were gathering from before 7.30pm. The Pipe Band formed up there and paraded through to the Narrows to the Town Hall, setting off around 7.40pm. Then there was a gap while major TV interviews took place in the street.

After that there was a period of expectant calm and then an audible gasp from the crowd as the torchlight parade gathered in Point Street, filling the street and spreading up towards An Lanntair – built on the site of the former Imperial Hotel which was the Naval HQ on the night of disaster. This was because of the fire on 2nd March 1918, when the iconic Town Hall was destroyed; nothing was left standing except the walls of the town biggest building (the original building was one storey higher than today's).

Finally, with torches filling a huge length of street, the formal march began, streaming up towards the former museum buildings which housed The Nicolson Institute at the time of the tragedy, and then into Sandwick Road, before ending outside the Sports Centre about 8.35pm, where the torches were doused in special vats on each side of the roadway as the audience was gathering to get into the performance there and in The Nicolson Institute hall.

# How new centre will keep Iolaire story alive...

**The building of a world class visitor centre in the Hebrides, which will tell the story of the Iolaire tragedy has taken a step forward after unanimous agreement within a working group of stakeholders to move the project to detailed planning and funding stage.**

**A thorough project scoping exercise, facilitated by the Iolaire Working Group, has established that there is a viable and sustainable business case for the proposed Iolaire Visitor Centre on Stornoway's Number One pier.**

**A project summary was set out in an Iolaire Centre Project Overview document released on Friday December 21st.**

**Recruitment of a project manager is now planned to take place to progress the detail of the project plan, business case and funding package required to build the Centre.**

**Project funding has been committed by Highlands and Islands marine equipment firm Gael Force Group with matched assistance and resource support agreed by HIE and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to fund the detailed development of the project plan through 2019.**

**Announcing the next stage, Gael Force Group founder Stewart Graham said, "The unimaginable grief that the island suffered as a consequence of the Iolaire tragedy has had a profound and lasting, though largely unspoken of, impact on every aspect of our island life and culture, our population and our island economy.**

**"Although quietly marked and told, the story has not had the wider national or international recognition that it should. As well as tragedy there are, of course, stories of heroism, fortitude, resilience and the quiet dignity shown by islanders in the wake of this tragedy**

**"Our shared vision is for a world class visitor centre built in the heart of Stornoway which will along with the wider story of the island's maritime history and war involvement, tell the story sensitively and with due respect, over a century after the tragedy.**

**"We should expect that what we create will encourage people from all over the UK and further afield to make visits to the island to take in this visitor experience as part of an island visit. Not only would this be a lasting commemorative introspection, but as a world class visitor experience the Centre would provide a major, transformational, economic boost for the Islands and look positively towards the future."**

**"We are grateful to the public for sharing their enormous support and valuable feedback on the project vision during the initial consultation period earlier this year".**

**A web site (www.iolaire.org) was prepared for the launch last month along with social media support which will provide the opportunity for members of the public to support the project financially and also keep in touch with the project's development.**

**Funds raised through the website will be set aside until such time as the building of the centre gets the final go-ahead.**



# On South Beach... a tragedy recalled

**This should be permanent…that was one of the main reactions among the crowds of people assembled in Stornoway during Saturday afternoon, December 29th to remember HMY Iolaire.**

They were reacting to the public 'Tidal Viewing' of 'Sheòl an Iolaire/The Iolaire Sailed' which is Stornoway Port Authority's visual tribute to the Iolaire.

A total of 201 men perished of the 280 aboard the ship taking Royal Navy and other seagoing veterans back home. 'Sheòl an Iolaire' symbolically brings the Iolaire back to port, completing the final mile of the voyage for the men who never made it home.

Between 200 and 300 people gathered on South Beach between 2pm and 3.15pm to talk to relatives and descendants of those involved – including some who only recently became aware that they had relatives involved in the disaster.

The installation on South Beach, between piers 1 and 2, marks out the Iolaire's hull, pinpointed in the sand with 280 illuminated wooden posts. The sculpture is 189ft from stem to stern, with a 27ft beam and shows the actual size of the vessel.

The installation is due to be removed in February – but there was a feeling both on-site and on-line that this should not be done.

One talked of replacing the wooden posts with aluminium ones; others suggested it could play a part in the proposed Iolaire Centre on No 1 Pier. Still others felt it should be retained for longer to enable visitors and Islanders unable to be at home at this time of year, to see the installation.

'Sheòl an Iolaire' is being covered and uncovered by tides and waves and illuminated for the duration of the installation over December and January.

It is positioned on the beach at a distance from the shoreline which represents how close the boat was to the Holm shore at the time of the disaster.

The adjoining South Beach sea wall is top-dressed with information boards numbering the losses and survivors from each district of Lewis and Harris.

Stornoway Port Authority commissioned and constructed the installation from a concept by Lewis journalist Torcuil Crichton and artist Malcolm MacLean. The wooden posts, each representing an individual on the ship, were donated by Stornoway Trust and cut from trees felled in the Castle Grounds, providing a physical and symbolic link between the island and sea.

Torcuil Crichton, pictured centre below left, who was at the open event, said: "We thought of many ways to mark the Iolaire centenary but this is the simplest and most powerful way to tell the story. 'Sheòl an Iolaire' speaks very directly to people about the ship and those who were aboard that fateful night.

"The way the sculpture is covered and uncovered by the tide, the way that final mile to harbour is closed, is very moving. Even during the installation period we had many visitors to the site who have a direct connection to the Iolaire men.

"We'd like as many people as possible to come and share their experiences."

'Sheòl an Iolaire/The Iolaire Sailed', the title of the installation, is a poignant sentence borrowed from the Norman Malcolm MacDonald book, 'Call na h-iolaire' as he describes the ship leaving Kyle of Lochalsh.

The idea also owes thanks to author Malcolm MacDonald who has written the definitive book on the Iolaire men, 'The Darkest Dawn' and whose research supplied a blueprint of the vessel.

# COMMUNITY GATHERS TO REMEMBER

## Annie Delin reports

**Almost 1,000 people were gathered together in the last hours of 2018 to commemorate 100 years since the worst tragedy to befall the isles of Lewis and Harris.**

In an atmosphere of reflection and collective commitment to remembrance, crowds packed both Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais and the Nicolson Institute's assembly hall on Monday December 31st for an evening simply titled An Iolaire: A Community Remembers.

Lewis Pipe Band led a parade of torch-bearers from the town centre to open the event, with live performance inside the sports centre and broadcast images on screens in the Nicolson Institute. Joint presenters Agnes Rennie of the publishers Acair and the BBC's Angus Macdonald also welcomed a large national and international audience, who were able to watch the evening via live-streamed coverage and to listen on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal.

Many in the audience had already been arrested at the sight of 20 young men, wearing Royal Naval Reserve uniforms, standing in silence outside the performance venues. The poignant reminder of the youth and lost potential of those men who died 100 years ago moved some to tears as the same young men paraded out of the sports hall, following Lewis Pipe Band, as the programme began.

The evening had been crafted to provide a dignified and reflective community tribute in music, song and poetry, with original commissioned pieces performed alongside traditional music and psalm. Gaelic was the first language of the evening, with English introductions seamlessly included in the well-orchestrated presentation.

A novel contribution for island audiences came from the 15-strong team representing the Royal Marine Band, who played tunes both uplifting and sombre during their interludes in the programme. Buglers from the Royal Marines played the Last Post which introduced the two-minute silence, and the Reveille which followed.

For the majority of the programme the musical directors were Anna Murray, Andy Yearley and Jane Hepburn Macmillan. All were also performing– Jane less than a week after the birth of her daughter Florence Macmillan, who arrived on Christmas Eve.

On the stage was an outstanding line-up of more island musicians including Neil and Rhona Johnstone from Lochs on cello and fiddle, piper and singer Calum Alex Macmillan of Point, singer Isobel Ann Martin of Back and Tolsta singer-songwriter Willie Campbell. Willie's composition for the Dileab Year of Young People project, My Time Wasn't At Hand, was one of the opening songs of the evening.

Using the available floorspace of the sports hall to its utmost, performers were also programmed below the stage, with Coisir

Bhan na Hearadh, conducted by Iain Maciver, singing two songs by Donald S Murray. Later Coisir Sgire a Bhac, together with members of the Nicolson Institute choir and other choirs, were conducted by Avril Allen singing 'Na Balaich' – a new composition by Anna Murray naming and honouring all those men lost in the wreck of the Iolaire.

Clare Wilson's fleet-footed dancers interpreted a new set of tunes by Jane Hepburn Macmillan entitled 'Cianalas', linking the homesickness of men serving abroad, and their joyful expectation of homecoming, to the tragic outcome of the Iolaire's wreck.

There were opportunities for the audiences to join the proceedings – Reverend Calum I Macleod and well-respected singer-songwriter Calum Martin led a precenting group for the psalms which bookended the evening. Prayers were said, in Gaelic by Rev James Maciver of Stornoway Free Church and in English by the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison.

Sean Harrison, Anna Murray and the choirs also led the audience in singing, with the Skipinnish song Òran an Iolaire gently leading into the Isle of Lewis anthem Eilean Fraoich.

Island community leaders attending the event included MSP Alasdair Allan – who doubled as a choir member – Lord Lieutenant Donald Martin, who read part of the song Òran na h-Iolaire and the convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Councillor Norman A Macdonald, who introduced the evening's proceedings. Also attending were senior representatives of the armed forces including Scotland's most senior naval officer, Rear Admiral John Weale OBE and executives from ferry operators CalMac.

Those who stayed after the performance for the bells were entertained to the traditional dram and other light refreshments and to tunes including Auld Lang Syne from the house band. Those who left found that Stornoway was lit by fireworks and echoed to the sound of ships horns.

Rear Admiral John Weale OBE, pictured right

# At the Memorial on Iolaire Day

**The wind blew, the sun shone, clouds threatened but produced nothing…and the cold was bitter as hundreds of people gathered on the windswept, shelter-less coastline at Holm to commemorate the Iolaire tragedy on January 1st 2019.**

From before 10am, this was very clearly not a regular New Year morning as people were waiting expectantly in the car park of The Nicolson Institute, gradually filling the lines of buses aiming to transport all the spectators, participants, visitors and guests.

Despite the diffi culties of manoeuvring lines of buses up and down the single-track road, by 11.30am, there was serried order out by the Iolaire Memorials with spectators on the nearby hillside; the Honour Guard, made up of sailors from HMS Prince of Wales and submariners from Faslane naval base, lined up on the approach path; wreath-layers were marshalled in one spot on the inland side of the monument, and the media corralled on the opposite side.

At sea the event was joined by the mv Loch Seaforth and veritable flotilla of small boats. And still below, the waves beat on the shore, a sotto voce echo of the sea's power.

HRH The Prince Charles, Lord Of The Isles, and Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon laid the first wreaths at the Iolaire Memorial to remember those involved in the tragic sinking of HMY Iolaire early on New Year's Day 1919, a few hours more than 100 years earlier.

Scotland's most senior Naval Officer Rear Admiral John Weale, and the Convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Norman A Macdonald, also laid a wreath, followed by representatives of a host of local organisations – mostly related to the military or the emergency services.

Conducted by The Very Revd Dr Angus Morrison the service included a reading of Isaiah 43 1-7 by Prince Charles; The Iolaire Lament played by Stornoway Piper Finlay Macleod; and The Iolaire Centenary Prayer that was composed and led by the Minister.

The end of the solemn two-minute silence was marked with

the reveille by Royal Marine Bugler James Trowbridge.

A new sculpture to commemorate the Iolaire, adjacent to the earlier Memorial which has been restored and landscaped, was unveiled by Prince Charles. Commissioned by An Lanntair arts centre, the sculpture features a bronze depiction of a coiled heaving line that references the heroism of John Finlay Macleod who swam ashore with a rope to rescue 40 of the 79 men who were saved.

It was created by artists Will Maclean, Marian Leven and Arthur Watson and the display bears the names of those lost and of the communities they came from as well as a bronze wreath composed of maritime insignia.

Both the prince and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon met Iolaire descendants and the 29-strong Royal Naval Guard. Descendants included Anne Frater whose great-grandfather perished and Malcolm Macdonald whose grandfather died in the disaster. Malcolm is also co-author of 'The Darkest Dawn' which tracks the stories of all those on board. Prince Charles wrote the Foreword for the book.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, said: "As we welcome in the New Year, today in Stornoway we rightly look back 100 years and remember those lost on the Iolaire – a tragedy that involved so many, so close to shore and, for most of the men, so close to home.

"We reflect on those who perished and how survivors, family, friends and the wider communities on Lewis, Harris and Berneray must have felt. It may have been a century ago but the legacy of the Iolaire will never be forgotten. I was honoured to be part of the commemorations and meet descendants."

Professor Norman Drummond, chair of WW100 Scotland and the Scottish Commemorations Panel, commented: "Today was a very poignant and fitting WW100 Scotland Commemoration of the Iolaire tragedy as we remember the events of 100 years ago.

"Trying to imagine the relief and excitement of the men and their families on their return and the sorrow that was to follow is beyond comprehension for many of us.

"The Iolaire remains one of the worst UK maritime disasters of the 20th Century."

Convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Chairman of the Iolaire Working Group, Norman A Macdonald, said: "This was a very poignant service that chimes very much with the events that have already taken place and will continue to take place into the future, throughout the communities from the Butt to Barra, in memory of the men who lost their lives so close to shore.

"The events of that terrible night in January 1919 impacted on communities throughout the Western Isles and remain a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by our young men in the service of their country. It is the worst tragedy to befall our Islands and its effect reverberates to this day."

The Flag Officer for Scotland & Northern Ireland, Rear Admiral John Weale, said: "Today's commemoration was very appropriate and I am very happy that the Royal Navy was able to participate.

"The men who perished in the tragedy were sailors and it is absolutely fitting that the Royal Navy pays tribute to their sacrifice. It's something we do, as a Naval Service, when we lose people on operations and we weren't able to do that 100 years ago. So today was particularly important to us, and I speak for all of the sailors and marines who were here today, when I say that we are privileged to have taken part, to be able to pay our respects to fallen comrades and to be able to meet their descendants. I applaud the local community for their determination to keep the memory of those men and the disaster alive today and for tomorrow."

For many taking part, the service had a particular poignancy. One of the wreath bearers, Lieutenant Alison Ross of the Royal Navy is the great-great niece of John Finlay Macleod who brought ashore the rope that is depicted in the new Iolaire sculpture.

Lieutenant Ross, who is part of the Capability Assurance Group working on aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales, spent her childhood on Lewis and has a personal connection to the Iolaire disaster.

The 29-year-old said: "My great aunt is the daughter of John Finlay MacLeod who was on HMY Iolaire. He managed to swim ashore with a heaving line which helped save 40 men. My great aunt will be there for the service with her son so it will be nice to see her."

Lieutenant Ross handed the wreath to Prince Charles. She added: "I am really honoured to be involved with the commemorations and to see the Royal Navy taking part too. It is really important for the community because I don't think it was talked about at the time as much as it could have been. But for the centenary so many people are coming together and there are lots of services happening which I am pleased about."

OF THE IOLAIRE

Air Thuilleamheadh le
A Mhòraichd Bhanhail,
Am Prionnsa Teàrlach, Triath nan Eilean
air 1 Faoilleach 2019
Unveiled by
His Royal Highness
The Prince Charles, Lord of the Isles
on 1 January 2019

# Unique voyage for Loch Seaforth

*By* **Annie Delin**

**The Loch Seaforth's shortest and most solemn voyage was completed without a hitch on Tuesday January 1st as 499 passengers made the pilgrimage to the Beasts of Holm to mark the Iolaire centenary.**

The sailing of the Loch Seaforth was organised by CalMac with shore staff working voluntarily to marshal foot passengers and a small number of cars on a day when they would ordinarily have had a day-off as there were no scheduled sailings for the vessel crew.

On board the ferry were relatives and descendants of those lost, dignitaries, children and ordinary men and women for whom the centenary held significance for many reasons. They included CalMac senior executives – managing director Robbie Drummond, head of service delivery Robert Morrison and area operations manager Finlay Macrae.

Stornoway's ferry port manager Iain Don Maciver also participated, both as a CalMac representative and as a descendant – his grandfather was John Maciver of 19 Lower Bayble, who was lost on the Iolaire and whose body was never recovered.

The atmosphere on board was both solemn and contemplative, passengers sharing a sense of rightness and purpose in a trip to acknowledge the islands' great loss a century ago. Many headed straight for the outside decks to view the whole scene as it unfolded, a quiet murmur of conversation and New Year greetings exchanged as the crew made ready to sail.

This was not a gloomy day – unexpected warmth from the sun seemed to echo the sense that people could at last speak about a loss which has been shrouded in silence for 100 years. Passengers smiled and enjoyed the beauty of their surroundings, the unique sense that there was cause for pride in the stories which had brought each family and individual to this ship, on this day.

On calm waters and in bright sunshine, the CalMac ferry left her berth in Stornoway harbour at 11.20am under the command of Captain John Gillies. Watchers at Arnish waved her from the harbour mouth and the Loch Seaforth was accompanied by leisure and fishing vessels from the Stornoway fleet, including FV Comrade and FV Sheigra, flying special flags of mourning commissioned by their skippers and created by Helen Macaulay of the Tong business Stitch in the Ditch.

Stornoway Lifeboat RNLB Tom Sanderson followed the ferry to Holm – her second trip of the day, after a mission of tribute at 1.30am to mark the moment of the Iolaire's sinking on January 1st 1919. Now the lifeboat took up a guardian position beside the Beasts of Holm, where the Loch Seaforth came about and settled into position.

Tight manoeuvring was needed to hold the ship's position against the tide and to maintain safety among the numerous small vessels moving around the ferry. For this part of the sailing, night-master Captain Ronnie Nicolson took command to allow Captain Gillies liberty to participate in the formalities of the day.

Rev James Maciver conducted the centenary remembrance service for the loss of HMY Iolaire on board, with almost all the proceedings in Gaelic, as Rev Maciver explained, "the language spoken by most of the men who perished here."

Loudspeakers relayed the service to internal areas of the ship, while many remained out on deck to witness a historic moment for the islands.

The short service began with Psalm 77, verses 13-19, precented by Norman Morrison, and continued with prayer and scripture from Rev. Maciver. Robbie Drummond, managing director of CalMac recited the Ode of Remembrance and a bugler from the Royal Marine Band played the last post before an impeccably-observed two-minute silence.

On deck, piper Ashley Macdonald played 'Lament for the Iolaire' and the on-board service concluded with the Iolaire centenary prayer and Psalm 46, verses 1-5, sung in English and led once again by Norman Morrison.

Following the benediction, children from across the isles of Lewis and Harris cast 201 red carnations into the waters, each representing the life of one of the men lost in the tragedy 100 years ago.

CalMac had arranged for hot drinks and snacks for all passengers, served free of charge by the stewarding staff on board, as they were quietly brought back to the ferry terminal at 1pm.

For CalMac's Stornoway port manager Iain Don Maciver the trip had offered moments of reflection and introspection, as well as pride in the smooth running of the whole operation.

He told EVENTS: "All the CalMac staff felt the solemnity of the occasion and they approached this voyage with great positivity. I am so grateful for how my staff performed, both on the day and in the run-up to the event.

"I myself am really proud to have been involved. Professionally it was important to me that everything went well, but from a personal point of view it was very special and I have certainly had moments over the whole centenary commemoration of intense emotion.

"For example, I had never seen a photograph of my grandfather until Malcolm Macdonald's book The Darkest Dawn was published and that affected me very deeply.

"I feel that there has been a collective feeling of great emotion across the entire community, regardless of whether people have a direct blood link to this tragedy. There was a feeling on board the Loch Seaforth that at last we were able to do something to mark this. Yes, there have been commemorations before, but this was huge and there was a real feeling that people were glad to be remembering the event, the tragedy and the people that it affected in this way."

**Pictures show scenes on board during the service and wreaths laid over the model of HMY Iolaire at the CalMac terminal in Stornoway. The model is by John Campbell, Portvoller.**

*Photographs by Annie Delin, Anita Maclean and Chris Murray*

# Salute from skiffs

**The final event of the commemorations came on January 2, 2019 at midday when six Lewis rowing St Ayles skiffs - joined by Sgòth Niseach Jubilee, Stornoway yachts and other vessels - rowed out to the Beasts of Holm.**

The groups involved included Stornoway Rowing Club; the Staran community organisation; An Eathar from Shawbost and the West Side; Eala Bhàn from Arnol and Bragar; Row-flo skiff enthusiasts group; and West Side Rowers.

The event was also the maiden voyage for Bragar and Arnol's new skiff - Eala Bhàn.

Rowers released paper boats as Kirsty Watt led singing of Eilean Fraoich and finally skiffs saluted their oars.

An Eathar club members also paid their own respects with a short wreath-laying ceremony at the Iolaire memorial, with a reading of Murdo MacFarlane poetry followed by a minute's silence.

The skiff fl eet was Fir Chlis, Eala Bhàn. Madadh Ruadh, Florence, Blue Moon and Yackydoola.

One of the participants commented: "The Beasts of Holm were circumnavigated by the skiffs whilst the rest of the fleet looked on, it really did bring home to us just how close the Iolaire had been to safety.

"Paper boats, one for each of the lives lost were launched, a song sung, and as a fi nal mark of remembrance a raised oar salute was performed by the skiffs.

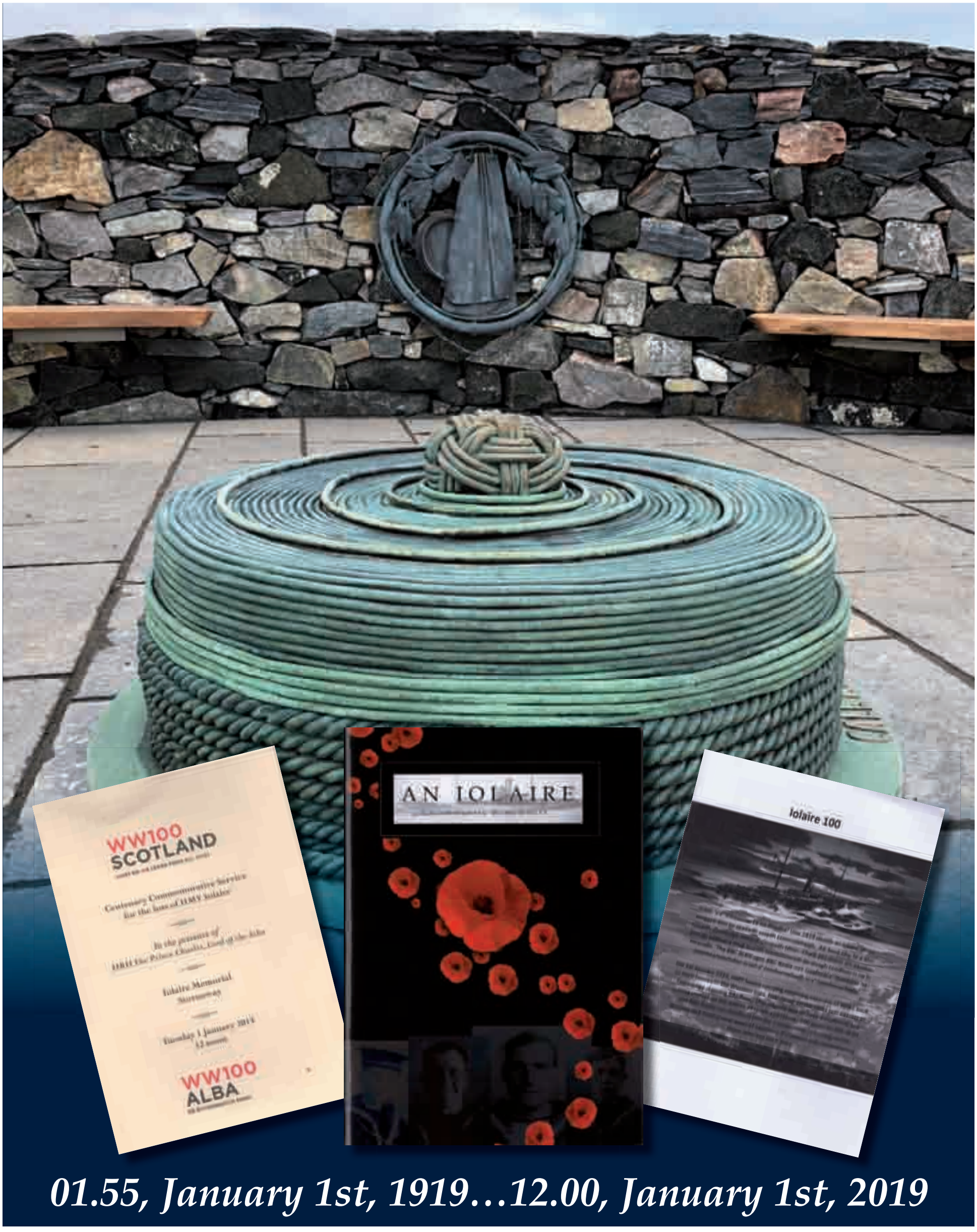
Also taking part was Jubilee, last survivor from the era of the working sgoth Niseach. She was built by John Finlay Macleod, the man who swam ashore with a rope from the stricken Iolaire in the first hours of 1919, thus saving so many.

Participants in the annual New Year's Day climb to the top of Beinn Ìomhair in Carloway to unfurl the Carloway flag. Part of this year's event was the commemoration of the Iolaire disaster

Donald MacIver, Knock Carloway plays 'An Eala Bhàn' at the top of Beinn Ìomhair in Carloway on New Year's Day.

A wreath is laid at Carloway War Memorial by grandchildren of two of the Carloway men who were lost. Mairi Cameron and her sister Christine Murray are granddaughters of Murdo McKenzie, Garenin; and Donald John MacAulay is a grandson of Donald MacPhail, Borrowston

Rev Duncan MacAskill lays a wreath at Tolsta Chaolais War Memorial. Rev MacAskill is a relative of the one man from Tolsta Chaolais who lost his life, Alex A MacLeod




*01.55, January 1st, 1919…12.00, January 1st, 2019*