Angus B MacNeil MP

The Constituency Office is closed due to COVID-19 measures. However, we are still working and constituents are able to contact me to raise issues or concerns by calling 01851 700272 or by email: angus.macneil.mp@parliament.scot

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More Plant hire on page 36
AGM Notice 2021

The Annual General Meeting

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Will be held by Zoom on Tuesday 10th August 2021 at 7:00pm

If you wish to register to participate via Zoom, please email your request to mail@lewisandharrisauctionmart.co.uk by Tuesday 3rd August 2021. A link to join the meeting will be emailed to you during the week before the meeting.

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First Registration of a Croft

Angus Macleod has registered their croft 44 Back, Isle of Lewis on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 9 March 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts/ros.gov.uk/register/home.

The croft registration number is C7776.

Public notices
First Registration of a Croft

Iain Finlay Mackay has registered their croft, 18 Upper Carloway, Uig, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 3rd March 2022.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home.

The croft registration number is C7760.

Proposed Assignations of Croft

Proposed Assignation of a Croft

Mrs DOLIE ANN MACLEOD, Crofter, 17 Marybank, Isle of Lewis, is applying to The Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 12 Marybank, Isle of Lewis, to MICHELLE MACLEOD, of 5 Maryhill, Marybank, Isle of Lewis.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofting.gov.scot) by 5th August 2021.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Proposed Assignation of a Croft

Jessie Buchanan is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 3 Carishader, Uig to Donald Macaulay of 2 Carishader, Uig.

If you consider you have a relevant interest in this application, you may submit comments in writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or email info@crofting.gov.scot by 5th August 2021.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Margaret McNiven has registered their croft at No. 36 Upper Carloway, Carloway (upper), Uig on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 01/01/2022.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home.

The croft registration number is C7620.

First Registration of a Croft

Rosemary Macleod has registered their Croft 10 Gress Stromoway on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 03/December/2021.

Details of the registration can be found at http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home.

The Croft registration number is R4032.

Proposed Assignations of Croft

Proposed Assignation of a Croft

EVELYN MACLEAN, Crofter, 1b Lower Sandwick, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0AE, is applying to The Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the crofts at 2/A and B Sandvale, Point, Isle of Lewis, to KIRSTEN ALISON MACDONALD, of 20 Sandvale, Point, Isle of Lewis.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: info@crofting.gov.scot) by 5th August 2021.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Proposed Assignation of a Croft

John Macarthur is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 40 South Shawbost, Isle of Lewis to James Lindsay Johnston residing at 40A South Shawbost, Isle of Lewis.

If you consider you have a relevant interest in this application, you may submit comments in writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or email info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk by 5th August 2021.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Proposed Assignation of a Croft

FINELLA KENNEDY is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 31 North Bragar, Barvas, Isle of Lewis to DONNA CAMPBELL, 5A Arnol, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9DB.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8AW, info@crofting.gov.scot by 5th August 2021.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Proposed Assignations of Croft

Proposed Assignation of a Croft

Mr Seamus Macsween Macdonald, residing at Mi Casa, Aird, Timsgarry, Uig, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0UA, is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 9 Kirkibost, Uig, Isle of Lewis, to Matthew Graham Wilson, residing at 4 The Square, Newton Harcourt, Leicestershire, LE8 9FQ.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk by 5th August 2021.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Proposed Assignation of a Croft

Mrs Helen Murray, residing at 30 Beech Drive, Cambridge, CB2 9PR, is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 62 North Tolsta, Isle of Lewis, to Stylianos Kafantaris-Maciver, residing at 75B Hill Street, Tolsta, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0NG.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk by 19th August 2021.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Proposed Assignation of a Croft

John Clark is applying to sublet the whole croft at 23 Upper Coll, Back to Erica Clark of 60 Upper Coll, Back for 10 years.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or email info@crofting.gov.scot by 5th August 2021.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.
New front opens in beach litter battle

By Annie Delin

Environmentalists and volunteers tried a new tack in the battle to rid the islands of marine pollution last month.

Representatives from campaigning organisations Clean Coast Outer Hebrides (CCOH), Surfers Against Sewage and the John Muir Trust joined local volunteers and media observers to take a view of marine litter from the water.

The day-long trip, aboard chartered excursion vessel MV Monadhliath with skipper Tony Morrison and his crew, took the group along the coast of Point to make landfall on inaccessible shores.

Some small coves can’t be accessed in any way other than by sea, surrounded as they are by high, steep cliffs and rocks.

CCOH chair and founder Janet Marshall said: “A lot of our shores are inaccessible from land, so unlike local beaches that the communities help maintain, these less accessible areas have a lot of marine waste banking up.”

“We secured funding from Fauna and Flora International to charter MV Monadhliath in order to take a team to a remote shore, clean it up and remove marine litter.”

Serving how bad the marine litter is on some of the shores there is a crying need for more remote cleans. This is a pilot project to discover what works, what else we can do, and the best way to adapt these findings to remote shores more throughout the island.

A sample landing on a rocky shore near Rubha nan Sgairbh, Swordale, yielded a haul of microplastic, fishing debris and large plastic containers, as well as bullet cases from offshore clay pigeon shooting—one of the activities offered aboard many cruise ships.

In the event, weather and sea conditions made it impracticable to land on more than one shore, with Janet describing the trip as ‘a learning experience’.

She said: “We learnt a lot about running this sort of thing, especially as we were not able to do as much as we’d hoped. We have a much better idea of what to bring, vessels to use, and alternative plans if the weather or sea state worsens.”

Janet will now submit reports to funders and other environmental organisations, working on further plans to reach inaccessible spots for the continued clean-up around the islands.

Cappuccino and Porridge

Reviewed by Annie Delin

This is a book which starts in war-torn Italy and ends with cappuccino and porridge for breakfast. Running through it, like a golden thread in the complex weave of Harris Tweed, is a true love story that begins improbably, but forms the natural and right resolution to all the stories laid out in these pages.

Duncan Mackenzie, perhaps like many of his readers, is a person of a certain age, brought up surrounded by the myriad stories of the Second World War. We (I am one of those readers) listened to our parents recounting the privations, tedium, fear and excitement of wartime life and watched numerous black and white films in which heroic allied soldiers defeated dastardly Nazis.

Perhaps unlike many of us, Duncan Mackenzie was paying attention. Many years after the repetitive ‘normality’ of war as a background to childhood, he realised he was remarkably well-supplied with excellent material, good not just for the romantic context of his own happy marriage, but perhaps to share in written form.

His father, Iain Alick (John) Mackenzie from Quidinish in Harris, had served as a driver with the Royal Air Force and become a prisoner of war in Italy, returning home to the Bays of Harris, finally, via Odessa after being liberated by the Russians.

After his father’s death, Duncan’s mother eventually remarried, providing her two sons with a stepfather, former army padre John Fletcher of Skye. He had been seconded to the London Scottish Regiment in the war and, with that regiment, was stationed in Tuscany. There John Fletcher’s duties led him to a close working relationship with an Italian medic, Dr Gori, and his family.

Dr Gori’s son Nazareno forms the third of a triumvirate of remarkable men who shape this story. Quite apart from all his own experiences as a teenager during the chaos of war in rural Italy, it was he who took it into his head to set out for Scotland in 1974, packing his wife and four children into a Citroen and driving from Tuscany to Edinburgh in search of John Fletcher, the Highland padre who had been his father’s friend and wartime companion.

If he had not, Duncan and his wife Alessandra (Ale) would never have met; the rich and complex web of social, historical and cultural experiences that fill these pages could not have come together – the cloth, in effect, could never have been woven.

Mackenzie is a direct storyteller with a gift for camcorder, neither dressing up the truth nor embroidering a story which is already so remarkable.

Through it all we share the exceptional warmth of a huge network of family, cousins, friends and comrades, expanding through the years. Duncan Mackenzie is a fortunate man and the reader comes to appreciate that he is conscious of his good fortune.

Capuccino and Porridge has a subtitle — Tuscany and Harris, the Lands of our Fathers, but spare a moment too for the three remarkable women without whom it would not have been set to paper. Ale, one of four children packed into the back of a car to travel from Tuscany to Edinburgh in 1974, became Duncan’s lifetime love, wife and main supporter in his writing.

Ale’s redoubtable, traffic-stopping mother Cipriana and Duncan’s own mother Margaret were language teachers. They intended to write a background to childhood, he realised he was remarkably well-supplied with excellent material, good not just for the romantic context of his own happy marriage, but perhaps to share in written form.