

Soirbheas

Investing in the communities of Glen Urquhart & Strathglass

Community Energy Activities

Soirbheas had a busy Autumn hosting a very successful Green Living Day to celebrate the launch of the Local Energy Plan for Drumnadrochit and a Hard to Treat Homes session for those with older properties in partnership with Home Energy Scotland.

With help from Abriachan Forest Trust pupils from Balnain Primary School took centre stage with their inspiring plastic reduction puppet show at the Green Living day. All those that attended the day received useful advice and support on energy saving, recycling, food waste, electric bikes and more.



Further to the development of the Drumnadrochit Local Energy Plan a local Energy Group has been formed to take forward actions to help address energy efficiency, energy generation, transport and smart energy systems in our community.

A number of projects are already underway including a transport feasibility study and an improved heating scheme for the care centre. We are seeking enthusiastic individuals that are keen to join the Energy Group.

For further information about the group please contact Carol Masheter.

A copy of the Local Energy Plan can be found at <https://www.soirbheas.org/local-energy-plan/>.

Tattie Day 2019

Our Tattie Project is back again, celebrating its 5th birthday! As well as supplying seed Tatties to the local schools and Childcare Centre we are holding a Tattie Sale Day on **Saturday 2nd March from 2pm – 4pm** at the Glen Urquhart Hall. This is a great chance to purchase a wide variety of seed potatoes from Firsts to



Main crops! Bring along your favourite recipes to swap, pick up some new ideas for cooking your potatoes and join us for a cuppa! This time Abriachan Forest Trust are also coming along to rustle up some tasty outdoor tattie treats to enjoy! If you need some tips and advice on growing tatties The Glen Urquhart Horticultural Society will be on hand to help you. For more info go to <https://www.soirbheas.org/soirbheas-tattie-project/>.

Grant Deadlines

In 2018 the Glen Urquhart Childcare Centre was awarded £9,600 for outdoor play equipment. Audrey MacLennan from the Centre stated 'We were thrilled to have received funding from Soirbheas. The climbing



frame has been a massive hit with our children. It was the most wonderful Christmas present encouraging everyone outside in the colder weather'.

Since 2014 seventy two grants valuing a total of over £170,000 have now been awarded, benefiting 1000's of people living in Strathglass and Glen Urquhart. Throughout the year the Tier 1 (up to £500) grant programme will remain open. The Tier 2 (£501 to £10,000) deadlines for 2019 are: 4th April, 15th August & 21st November. Tier 3 (£10,001 – £30,000) has a two stage application process, with the first round closing dates in 2019 being 7th March & 19th September subject to available funding.

Support for local businesses - our Apprenticeship Scheme aims to encourage local employers to take on a modern apprentice, funding is available to support salary costs for up to 3 years. The next closing date for applications is 2nd May.

If you want advice you can come along to one of our funding surgeries on **28th Feb & 25th April from 6.00pm – 7.15pm** at the Glen Urquhart Library.

Soirbheas Board Meeting & AGM Dates

Thurs 28th February 2019 @ 7.30pm—Balnain Hall

Thurs 25th April 2019 @ 7.30pm—Craigmonie Centre

Thurs 29th August 2019 @ 7.30pm—Cannich Hall

AGM on Thurs 27th June 2019 @ 7.30pm—Balnain Hall

All Members welcome!

Community Partnerships

The Elderly and Young Partnership met in early February to update their five year action plan and agreed some exciting initiatives for 2019 including plans for a new befriending service supported by Soirbheas. The new service will be delivered by the Glen Urquhart Care Centre in partnership with Highland Hospice Helping Hands, Beaulie Care Project and Soirbheas. The service will pair up volunteers with individuals who are isolated or lonely. If you are interested in learning more or would like to become a volunteer please contact the Glen Urquhart Care Centre at manager.gcentre@btconnect.com or phone 01456 459077.



Energy bills starting to bite?

The Affordable Warmth team from Changeworks can help. Its friendly, experienced advisors provide advice and support to reduce energy bills and stay affordably warm at home. They can do a free home visit to provide tailored advice on heating your home, provide expert assistance on getting the best from your heating system and tips on energy efficiency at home, information on who is offering the cheapest energy tariff and how to switch, help applying for grants and assistance from the Scottish Government and energy companies plus advocacy support with fuel debt and billing issues, building confidence to resolve issues with energy suppliers.

To find out how Changeworks could help, call or email Anna Scott - ascott@changeworks.org.uk, 01463 259712 or Johann Roden – 01463 259707, jroden@changeworks.org.uk.

Would you like to give something back to your community?



Join our Team! Board Members work alongside our Community Development Officer to manage Soirbheas and help to distribute funding. The

charity works across the whole community and has now distributed over £170,000 of funds and is involved in numerous community development projects and initiatives. We are particularly keen to recruit a new Board Member from Strathglass but would welcome new directors from either communities. If you would like to support our work and learn more about becoming a board member visit <https://www.soirbheas.org/soirbheas-directors-vacancies/> or contact Carol or have a chat with one of our directors <https://www.soirbheas.org/staff-directors/>.

Club Directory

To help spread the word about what activities are on, increase participation and highlight volunteering opportunities we have updated our list of groups and clubs which is available on our website at <https://www.soirbheas.org/resources/>. You can also ask for a copy at the Glen Urquhart Library. If your group is not included or your details have changed please get in touch at info@soirbheas.org.

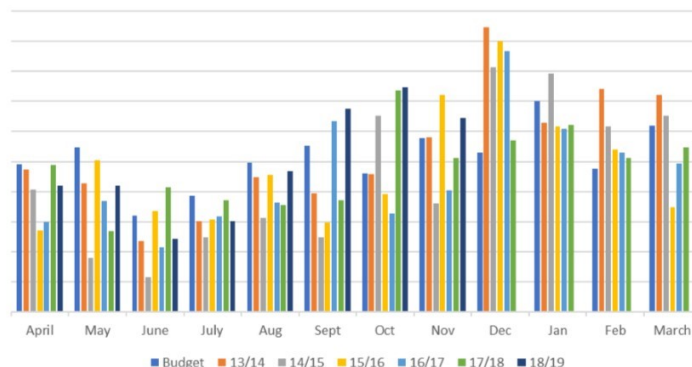


Have you heard about Oil Clubs?

Many of you will rely on oil as a heating fuel. As prices have been rising, the good news is that there are savings to be had by joining an Oil Club. CAB published a report in 2018 and it suggests Highland residents join together in creating and joining oil-buying clubs, with the aim of making the purchasing of oil cheaper, estimating savings between 6% - 20%. For more info how this area can benefit go to <https://www.soirbheas.org/energy-saving-renewables/> or speak to CAB.

Latest Wind Farm Data

Corrimony Wind Farm
Results in billable MWh



Are you a member? — Membership is free and open to anyone 12+ who is a local resident. Input from the members is important to ensure we remain in touch with what our communities need. If you are already a member, please make sure we have your up-to-date contact details.

How to get in touch

Phone: Carol Masheter,

Community Development Officer on 0751 445 2783

Email: carolmasheter@soirbheas.org

visit the **website:** www.soirbheas.org

Or find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter